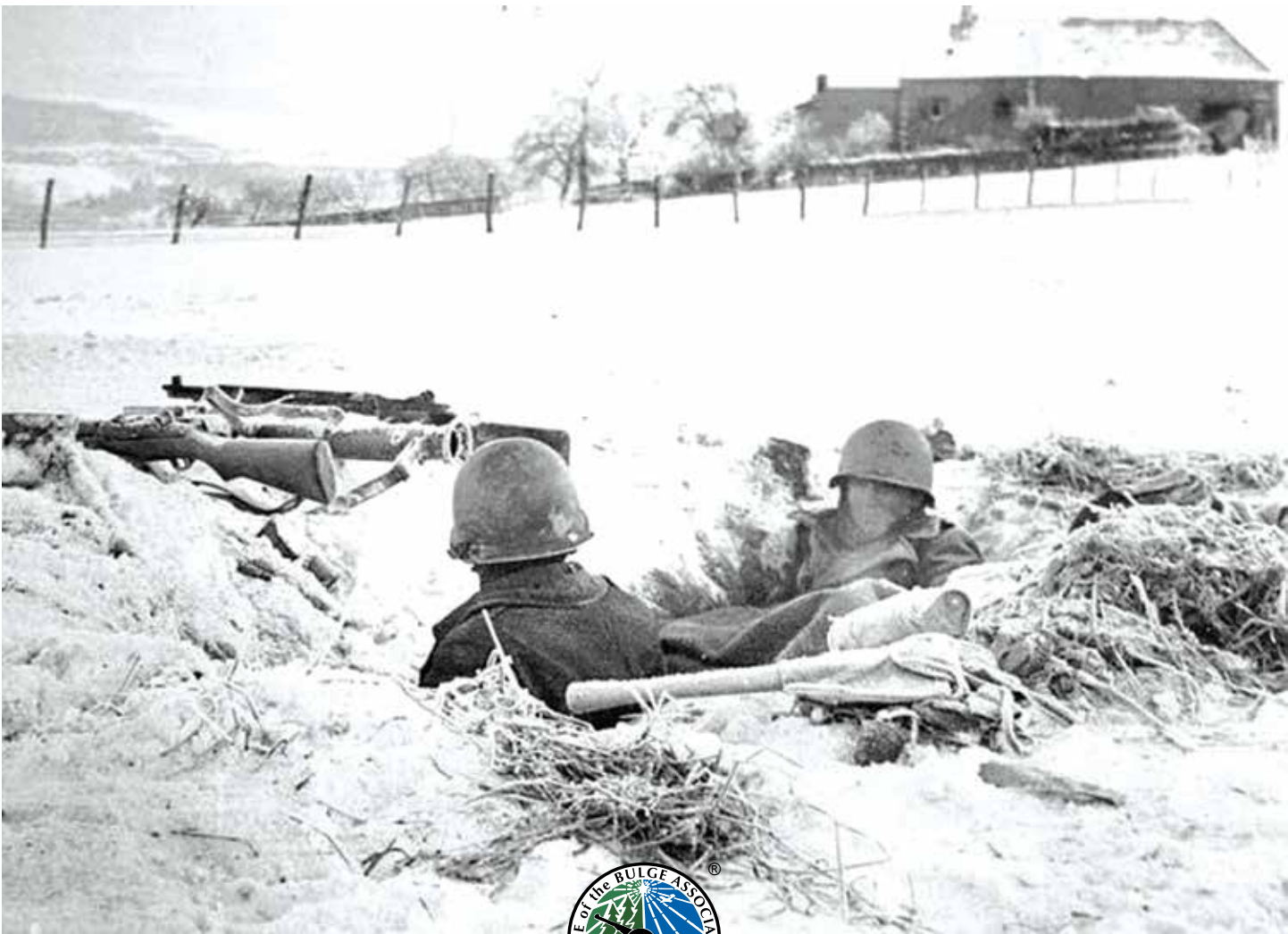


The BULGE BUGLE®

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

VOLUME XLI NUMBER 1 THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN WINTER 2022



Our DC Commemoration of
**THE 77TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE END OF THE
BATTLE OF THE BULGE**

See article and more photos on p. 12



Photos: U.S. Army (Bulge), Curtis Waechtler (group)

BOBA 40th Annual Reunion | Gettysburg, PA | October 21–23, 2022 | 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® 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.

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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
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BOBA, INC. BOARD ELECTED OFFICERS

President and CEO: John Mohor

Executive Vice President:

Barbara Mooneyhan

Vice President Membership:

Scott Rayl

Vice President Chapters:

Dr. Andy Waskie

Vice President Military &

Veteran Affairs: Kevin Hinkle

Treasurer: Ken Larke

Recording Secretary: Gail Larke

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD:

Alan Cunningham

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Madeleine Bryant, Chaplain

Kristen Faller

Steven Landry

Jim Triesler, Historian

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(non-voting)

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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

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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

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: A pair of soldiers from the 319th Infantry Regiment/80th Infantry Division occupying a snow-covered fighting position near Dahl, Luxembourg during the Battle of the Bulge. The building in the background at right is Am Aastert – where SGT Day G. Turner earned the Medal of Honor on January 8, 1945. (Official U.S. Army photograph). See page 10 to learn more about the 80 INFD.

Bottom photo: At the Battle of the Bulge Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery from left to right: William Stroud, Mary Ann Coates Smith, Deputy Chief of Missions Luxembourg Giles Bauer, H.E. Nicole Bintner-Bakshian, Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the U.S., Darrell Bush (75 INFD 290 REG 2 BN F), John Mohor, David Bailey (106 INFD 422 REG 3 BN F), and Chief Warrant Officer of the Embassy of Belgium Tanguy Watteeuw.

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: APRIL 1, 2022

QUESTIONS? Please contact Bugle editor Betsy Rose, at 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, President and CEO

BATTLE OF THE BULGE MEMBERS, I hope this still finds you all well and healthy! Covid 19 and all its various forms is still amongst us as we continue learning how to navigate in a post Covid world! I'm pleased to report we resumed our Commemoration event in person again in Washington DC with over 40 members in attendance over the three days. Unfortunately, late in our planning the Luxembourg Embassy was unable to host our group at the Embassy due mainly in abundance of caution beyond Ambassador Nicole Bintner-Bakshian's control in making sure we erred on the side of keeping everyone as healthy as possible. We were able to visit with her at the National Army Museum the day before our 77th Commemoration of the last day of the battle. Everyone did receive a nice goody bag from the Luxembourg Ambassador.

The National Army Museum was a great way to start our time together. We even made a little time to celebrate David Bailey's 100th Birthday a couple weeks late at Mission BBQ en-route to the Museum. We had three wreath-laying events with three WWII Bulge Veterans in attendance at Arlington National Cemetery. From Gold Star Children laying wreaths at our first event to our youngest member at 13 years of age helping present our third wreath at the WWII Monument. I'd say we certainly had a great and memorable day for it considering the weather before and after that Tuesday. Thanks to the four inches of snow Mandy and I had in North Carolina at home, she ended up remaining home with our four dogs while I drove up to DC that Sunday. Speaking of Dogs... How About those National Champion Georgia Bulldogs?! (Lifelong fan — my dad retired from UGA).

A Huge Thank You goes out to our Virginia Crater Chapter and their Chapter President Mary Ann Smith! She did a great job coordinating the hotel and bus reservations. We did another great job for this commemoration event keeping it just under budget even with last minute cancellations and making some money for the organization moving forward. It's very hard trying to get to that magic break-even point. Many of us were able to take part in another Jim Triesler led presentation Monday evening. Congratulations to all the officers and members of the Board that were sworn into another term in office on January 24th. Congratulations to our new Vice Presidents of Membership and Military Affairs after the board approved their service in those capacities until the membership can vote on them during next Fall's election.

Our next Reunion will be in the October timeframe in Gettysburg, PA. The 87th Infantry Division Legacy Association will be joining us this year along with some others. The 28th Infantry Division PAARNG has already volunteered some support. Our National VP of Chapters Dr. Andy Waskie will be leading our efforts in planning the 2022 Reunion. See page 11 for more details.

I still have a goal to get four generations or more as members of the organization moving forward. It's still in our best interest to continue to grow membership. As some legacy Veteran groups are starting to close or shrink, I'm hoping we can support them so that we can continue to honor their loved one's service!

As I've said before the longevity of the organization depends on us all



being financially responsible. The outcome and details are provided in this 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 as we continue in 2022.

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 over 77 years ago now.

To all the Veterans in the organization from Battle of the Bulge and beyond: Thank You for your service! I hope you'll enjoy some great articles in the *Bugle* once again! 110th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division motto "Cuiusque Devotio est Vis Regiment" (The Devotion of Each is the Strength of the Regiment).
—John Mohor

Battle of the Bulge Association®, Inc.

BALANCE SHEET

As of December 31, 2021

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

First Bank 97,375.44

Navy Federal Credit Union

Navy Federal Checking 212.42

Navy Federal Savings 17.37

Total Navy Federal Credit Union 229.79

PayPal 4,348.79

Total Checking/Savings 101,954.02

Other Current Assets

Undeposited Funds 3,015.00

Total Other Current Assets 3,015.00

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS 104,969.02

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Unrestricted Net Assets 94,535.42

Net Income 10,433.60

Total Equity 104,969.02

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 104,969.02

BOBA LETTERS

THANK YOU, BOBA!

As new members of BOBA, my husband Wayne and I want to thank you for an excellent and well-run organization. We had the pleasure of attending the BOBA reunion in Charleston and thoroughly enjoyed every moment of the journey. As many attendees said, the capstone of it all was the Q & A session on Saturday afternoon with the Bulge veterans; oh my... an unforgettable experience and such an honor to be in the same room with those wonderful men!

We do enjoy your well-written and produced *Bulge Bugle*. Kudos! Our best wishes to you and yours for a healthy and Happy New Year.

Kathi Jacobs, BOBA Member, NC

From the Editor: Kathi, Thanks for your compliments of BOBA, the Bugle and of our reunion program. Our BOBA Historian Jim Triesler always leads great discussions with our veterans!



Kathi with one of her dearest friends Col. Guy Troy, US Army Ret., 98 years young, West Point Class of 1946, and an Olympian — as well as being a heck of a nice guy. “We pick him up every Sunday morning for church and he delights us with memorable stories. These men are, indeed, our Greatest Generation!!!”

7 AD & THE WORLD WAR II REGISTRY

As the Historian of the 7th Armored Division Association, I have sought to compile the definitive list of the 7AD men who died during the war. I began this task decades ago by transcribing the June 30, 1947 list published by the Adjutant General of those who died in WWII.

I soon learned that there were men who had died but were not on that 1947 AG list. And I have since recognized a pattern that was particularly relevant to men who were captured in the Bulge (or anywhere else) and died as prisoners of war. If their deaths had not been reported by June 30, 1947, they were omitted from the AG’s list.

And this results in the World War II Registry of the National WWII Memorial not having these men’s names unless a family member has created an entry for them in the Registry. This is because the “National



Archives’ entries on the WWII Registry are all from the June 30, 1947 Adjutant General’s list.

Thus far, I have removed 9 men who belonged to other units and added 48 men who had died but were not on the June 30, 1947 Adjutant General’s list. While 48 is a small percentage (3.5%) of the 1,371 deaths thus far identified for 7AD, it is a large enough number so that it is clear that a lot of men who died will not appear on the World War II Registry.

So, for those who are seeking information on the death of a family member who died in the war but do not see him on the World War II Registry, the most likely reason is that he died as a prisoner of war and that his death was not confirmed until after June 30, 1947.

The man whose death led me to write this is Michael J. Jaworek of 7 AD 23 AIB A. He was captured December 22, 1944 when the first penetration of the depleted defensive perimeter around St. Vith, Belgium was made by a much larger German force that overran the positions of A/23 and B/23 southeast of the town. The Germans took him to Stalag IV-B at Muehlberg, Germany. He apparently was ill in March 1945 and taken to a hospital at Leipzig where he died March 16, 1945. The German record gives no cause of death. He left a wife and two children.

Sadly, his wife received her first letter from him in April 1945 telling her that he was a prisoner and was doing well. But by the time this letter reached her, he had already died. He was recovered from Leipzig East Cemetery and reburied July 3, 1945 at the temporary US Military Cemetery at Margraten, Netherlands — nearly 2 years before the June 30, 1947 publication of the AG’s list of World War II dead. His widow received notification of his death July 17, 1945 so that he had been identified quickly. So, it does not make sense that he was not included on the June 30, 1947 list, but that is what in fact happened.

Learn more about Michael Jaworek at battleofthebulge.org.

Wesley Johnston, BOBA Member and Historian, 7th AD Assoc.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP VP SCOTT RAYL

History tells us about the Battle of the Bulge, but only the veterans and those on the home front can tell us their personal stories. When the decision was made to transition into the BOBA a conscious decision was made to open our membership to a wider audience. As one of the newest members, I am grateful for this decision. No one in my family fought in this battle, but I have served with many of the units that did.

I am also the VP of Membership, which could be tricky as a new member, and I want to respect the decisions that were made to create this community. To do this, I want to hear from you! The closer you are to the living history the more I want to know about your thoughts of BOBA’s future. I want that future to look like something you remember. Something you and our fallen heroes fought and died for should have your approval.

If you are newer to this community, your thoughts are also important to me, and I invite you to reach out as well. Bad ideas do exist, and I will define every decision I make as a bad idea, if it is not informed by the larger community and especially our vets. The following is my vision for the future of Membership, it is not the reflections of anyone beyond myself, and it is what happens when you have directionless initiative.

I believe we are the central voice for dozens of units, not all of which
(continued on next page)

YOU CAN'T GET MUCH CLOSER THAN THIS

By Andy Adkins, Jr. (80 INFD 317-H) and son
Andy Adkins, III (80 INFD Association Historian)



The following are excerpts from the book "You Can't Get Much Closer Than This" which describes some of the brutal conditions that the 80th Division experienced during the Battle of the Bulge.

One of the rifle companies was relieved about every other night. The men went back about a mile into the woods, got up, and moved around a little. Not so much with the machine gun platoons, though. There was no one to relieve them and the men had to stay in their holes day and night. There, they were stuck in foxholes with limited, if any, physical activity - ideal conditions for getting trench foot or frostbite. When you're on the front line, somebody is always watching, and usually it's the enemy. It's a necessity of life to stay in your hole whenever you can.

The mortar crews were a bit more fortunate. We were in a little gully shielded from direct observation by the Krauts. Occasionally, when there was a lull in the firing, the men could get out of their holes and build small, smokeless fires and try to restore some of the warmth to their bodies. The water in our canteens stayed frozen.....

.....Every night, Kraut patrols worked around our area. They managed to get through our lines and raise a little hell before they were taken care of. It was a miserable existence - a cold hell on earth. We had to stay all day in two-man foxholes without getting out. Someone had to be awake in the hole at

all times, so one man would try to sleep for an hour while his buddy kept watch, and then they'd switch out throughout the night. If they both went to sleep, a Kraut could easily kill them without a sound and that was not uncommon. To make sure both men in a two-man hole would not sleep at the same time, they were allowed only one blanket between them. That way, one man could gain any semblance of warmth. The other had to stay awake or freeze to death.

It is impossible to fully convey what we experienced in the Ardennes. The word "miserable" does not describe those thirteen days. The men would say, "For God's sake, let us attack. We'd rather attack and die trying to take something than stay here and freeze to death." Even some of our weapons froze on us. We pissed on them to get them working again. It was a temporary, yet effective solution. But, it played hell with the weapons.....

January 21, 1945 on the way to Bourschied - We had only moved a short distance when things started getting worse. I am not exaggerating when I say that the slope of the hills we were trying to cross was just a little less than vertical. It was covered with trees and there were several feet of snow on the ground. After a few people had walked on the snow and packed it down, it was as slick as glass. One could only take a few steps without slipping. The only way to move halfway decently was to pull yourself up by grasping trees and roots. It was an exhausting, freezing, nightmare that was about to get much worse.....

.....The Germans were clever bastards. Every few yards we moved, someone would step on a trip wire the Krauts had buried in the snow. There was no way to avoid those wires; they were invisible buried in the snow. Some were attached to antipersonnel mines that blew a man's foot and leg off if it didn't kill him outright. Most of them, however, were attached to flares, and every time one of them was set off, the Krauts knew exactly where we were. These flares sent a chill up and down our spines. Some burst above the tree tops, like a roman candle sending yellow, green or red fire scattering in all directions. Within seconds the Krauts would lay down a concentration of fire that had already been zeroed in on that spot. It would either be mortars, artillery, or screaming meemies. Every time this happened, someone would get hurt or killed....

.....While we were waiting (for our men), the Krauts laid down one of the worst barrages I've ever been in. It was apparent that they could see the men coming slowly down the opposite hill and climbing slowly up the one we were on. The artillery came first, then the damn screaming meemies. The barrage was a continuous shell burst that lasted for about ten minutes. It was deafening.....

.....It's hard to describe the bonds that form between men during war. We're all destined to Fate - whether we live or whether we die. Behind the lines we can laugh and take it easy. But up on the front lines we depend on our buddies and our buddies depend on us. In the heat of battle, some men rise and perform far beyond what you think they can do. It doesn't matter who stands out or who doesn't, as long as we all stick together as a team. But those men who fight the front lines together form a strong, never-ending bond, a relationship of respect, admiration, and loyalty that stays with you throughout your life. I believe it stays with us in the afterlife, too.

Andy Adkins, Jr. passed in June 1989. He married Dorothy Wynn in 1951 and they had two children. He practiced law for 39 years and was active in Rotary and American Legion. He mentioned that being in the Army helped him mature as a man and appreciate life to the fullest. The book is available on Amazon. Also, check out his son Andy Adkins III's most recent book, Never Forget: A Veteran's Journey for Redemption & Forgiveness at azadkinsiii.com/book_never.html. Veterans and their families can download the book for free!

Read more about the 80th Infantry Division on page 10.

BOBA LETTERS (continued)

are American. I believe the Battle was fought on foreign soils with the immediate thoughts of liberating multiple peoples. With this in mind, I am going to ask the greater community to lend me their contacts in the many unit associations they are a part of. We need to engage them through their publications, and encourage them to participate in our shared history. For those associations that no longer exist, we need to find their members and allow them to use us as the platform for their continued remembrance practices.

I believe that we are in danger of forgetting the very people we fought to liberate and those that fought with us. With this in mind, I want to make it a primary goal of establishing another European chapter. I want the continued existence of that chapter to be viewed as a vital and integral part of BOBA's future. To do these things, I again need the community's participation! *If you find yourself with the ambition and access to assist me, please contact me at Scott.rayl@storiesbehindthestars.com. I am also on most major platforms (LinkedIn and Facebook), where I post regularly and solely about the field of Remembrance.*

Scott Rayl, BOBA Vice President/Membership

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 February 15, 2022, that these BOBA members have recently passed away:

GEORGE F. BLISS	2 INFD 462 AAA AW BN B	MURRAY LEFF	35 INFD 137 REG E
ALFRED BROADHEAD	26 INFD 263 FA BN MED DET	SAMUEL LOMBARDO	99 INFD 394 REG 3 BN I
DALE COOKSEY	28 INFD 110 REG A	EARL W. SAMUELSON	99 INFD 395 REG
MAURICE DIAMOND	87 INFD 347 INF I	I. HAROLD STOREY	5 INFD 10 REG C
EUGENE GANZ	1 INFD 18 REG 1 BN M	JACK A. SULSER	106 INFD 423 REG F
RONALD RAY KIMLER	9 AF 366 FIGHTER GROUP 389 FIGHTER SQUADRON	RAY WENNING	30 INFD 117 REG A

MALMEDY MASSACRE DESCENDANTS MAKE EXTRAORDINARY CONNECTION ON ANNIVERSARY TOUR

by Steven Stack, BOBA Member

I was fortunate enough to take part in a tour commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge and the Malmedy Massacre. What took place on this trip was in a word, amazing. The reason why I wanted to make the visit and learn more about these historic events was because my father, 1st Lt. Thomas F. Stack, was assigned to the 291st Combat Engineers Battalion during the Battle and through the end of combat operations and his eventual discharge.

After arriving in Frankfort to meet up with the rest of the tour group, I assumed it would be a relatively uneventful bus trip to Luxembourg as we had all taken overnight flights from the US and could use the time to relax before being acquainted at dinner that night. I was traveling alone and seated near the rear of the bus. Directly in front of me was another solo traveler, a woman named Lou Ann Shirk.

During our bus ride, I overheard her talking to a man across the aisle about a book she had just read, *Fatal Crossroads* by Danny Parker. I had just become aware of this book myself but had not had the chance to read it. I knew the 291st was a key element of the story and that my father was mentioned a few times. I came to find out later that my father had communicated with Danny during the writing of the book and contributed his recollections. I took the opportunity to interject that fact to Lou Ann. She starts to tell me how her father, Pfc. William Reem, was a member of the 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion which had seen 84 of its members slaughtered in Malmedy. She goes on to tell me, without knowing anything about my father, that her dad was rescued by



Steven Stack, son of Thomas F. Stack (291 CBT ENGR BN) made a new friend in Lou Ann Shirk, daughter of William Reem (285 FAOB), on a 75th anniversary tour of the Battle of the Bulge and the Malmedy Massacre.

members of the 291st and more specifically she believed by the Commanding Officer, Col. Davis Pergrin. At this point, my heart began to race as I had a strange sense of where this conversation was going.

I knew that my father, Pergrin and several members of the 291st had responded to gunfire that they would later learn was the Massacre. The following is a passage from *The Damned Engineers*, a book that chronicled the 291st and its men:

Pergrin and his men were horrified, but they hustled the survivors into the jeep and Crickenberger raced for Malmedy and the Company B aid station with them.

At about this same time, Lt. Tom Stack and another officer were probing down the road in front of the roadblock when three men rose up out of the ditch alongside the road like muddy ghosts and frantically flagged them down. None of these men were wounded. Who they were is not precisely known but it seems likely they were William Reem and his companions. Stack raced them to the aid station, also.

My father wrote more about this encounter in an article for the February 15, 2015 edition of the *Bugle*. In total, scouting parties of 291st discovered 17 survivors of the Massacre. As you might imagine, both Lou Ann and I were overcome with emotion at this revelation and coincidence that is almost beyond astounding. It became the talk of the tour and certainly the highlight for me.

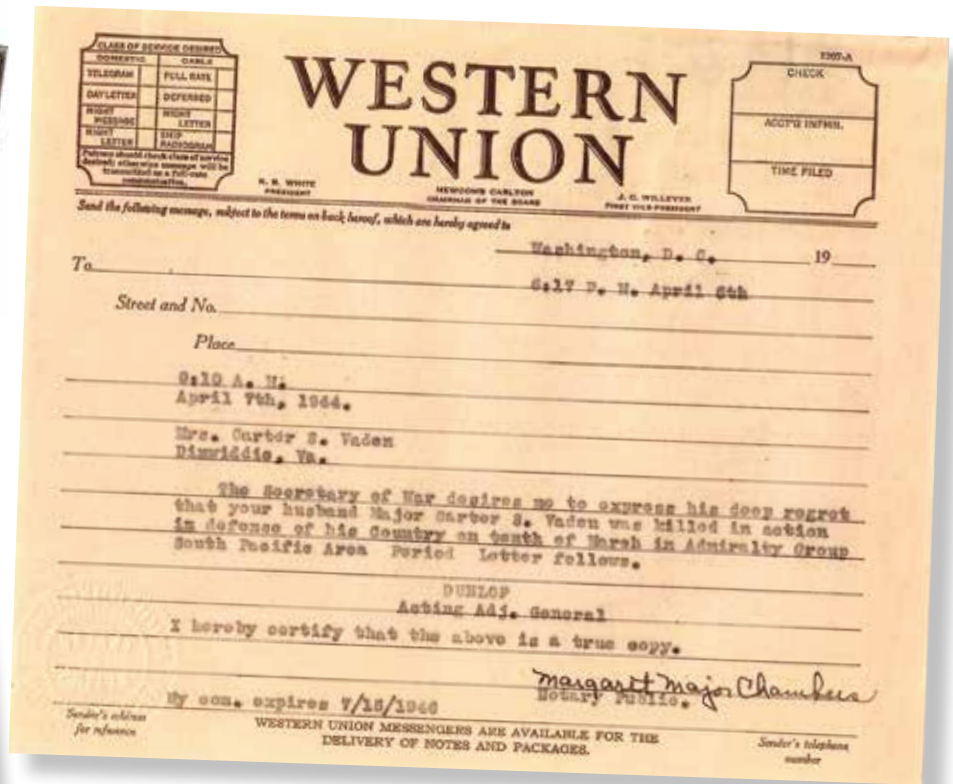
I'm happy to say that we've kept in touch, and we were able to get together in Florida a few months after the trip to share our memories.

“WE ALL HAD A JOB TO DO”: A CONVERSATION WITH BILL AND FREDA ANKROM

by Jim Triesler, BOBA Historian



Freda and Bill Ankrom (above), and a telegram about someone who was killed in the South Pacific (Mrs. Ankrom mentioned receiving/sending telegrams from the South Pacific while she worked for Western Union, and while her husband fought in the Battle of the Bulge). Major Vaden was from Dinwiddie County and is honored in the Shrine of Memory at the Virginia War Memorial collection. (Telegram photo: VWM)



A truck similar to the one that Mr. Ankrom would have traveled in on his way to the Battle (above). Map showing where Mr. Ankrom was located in Lanzerath, Belgium (right). The red dashed lines show the movement of German tanks from East to West as they were advancing. (Photos: Wikipedia)



I had the pleasure of sitting down with Bill and Freda Ankrom at the Columbus, Ohio Battle of the Bulge Commemoration on September 13, 2008. Bill served with the Second Infantry Division and Freda worked for Western Union. The following words are a summary of that conversation.

Bill Ankrom was an Ohio farm boy with an eighth grade education. In September 1944, he married the love of his life on a Wednesday and shipped overseas two days later. He landed in France on his nineteenth birthday, December 16, 1944, unaware that the last great German offensive had begun. He was given an M-1 rifle and quickly moved to Belgium in what he called, “air conditioned six by six trucks in the dead of winter.”

His first combat experience occurred in Lanzerath, Belgium, while standing guard at an outpost on top of a hill. “That is the first place I found out what bullets sound like when they are looking for you. They go by pretty close and they make kind of a snapping sound.” Although he had gone through basic training, Ankrom said he absolutely knew nothing about being in combat. “You go in combat and most people will tell you if you survive thirty days your odds of living are much better because you have learned many things.”

Bill Ankrom experienced several narrow escapes during the Battle of the Bulge. He knew that if one German 88 shell fell short and the next one went long, that the third shell would head in his direction. He waited for that

third shell and hugged the ground so tight that he felt four inches thick. “And when the shell went off, I thought that it had torn my right shoulder off. I was right in the smoke of the explosion.” The shell missed him, but a piece of frozen ground had injured his shoulder. Ankrom recalled, “It was numb, but I got over it.”

Regarding another encounter, Ankrom said, “I don’t know of any more scary sound than a Tiger Tank in the fog or the darkness. You cannot see it and you do not know where it is going. You are standing there with an M-1 rifle, a BAR or a Thompson Sub, which I carried all three at different times. You are helpless as far as any defense against that tank. It is a scary feeling when you hear it.”

Fighting the weather was as difficult as

fighting the Germans. "I think it snowed every day and was below zero. We did not have any warm winter clothing. We were either outside all the time or in a foxhole, half-full of snow. If you had four hours off you went back to the foxholes, crawled through snow into two soggy blankets, and tried to sleep.

The first German he saw up close "was a man that had paid the price of war with his life, frozen stiff lying there in a hedgerow." Ankrom reflected, "The farm boy that had never been more than 100 miles from home was now thousands of miles from home with dead people around and it really wasn't a pleasant experience."

As Bill Ankrom walked, rode, and crawled

across Germany, his young bride Freda went to work for Western Union in Washington, D.C. She sent and received telegrams, and especially remembered the frantic days at work following the battles of Okinawa and Iwo Jima. Freda lived with rationing and shortages. "Things were not easy to come by, but no one complained." She worked during the day and each evening she wrote a letter to Bill. She put all of her allotment money in the bank and waited for the day that he would return. There were many prayers, and she never believed he would not come back to her.

A popular song during the war was *When the Lights Go On Again All Over the World*. Freda said, "I was in our capital city when the

lights came on again and that was a beautiful night, to see those lights lit up in the Capitol dome and know that we were free."

Bill Ankrom was in Czechoslovakia when Germany surrendered in May 1945. He returned to the United States where he was to prepare for the invasion of Japan until the atomic bomb ended the war in the Pacific.

In closing, Bill said, "It was a rather hard time, but we all had a job to do and we all did it, including my wife, of whom I am very proud." Bill Ankrom died in 2018 at the age of 92. He and Freda were married for 73 years.

Jim Triesler is the Director of Education at the Virginia War Memorial and serves as Historian for the Battle of the Bulge Association.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

We are so grateful for the many donations received between November 1, 2021 – February 15, 2022:

Avri Adleman

Paul R. Allen

In Memory of father Robert (Bob) Allen (106 INFD)

Madeleine Bryant

In Memory of father Fritz Kraemer (84 INFD)

Clayton Christensen* (99 INFD 324 ENGR CMBT BN A)

In Memory of John Bowen

Leonie Condon

In Memory of husband Ed Condon (87 INFD 334 FA BN C)

Grady Crawford

In Memory of father W. D. Crawford (987 FA)

Gary Cunningham

In Memory of Lt. John H. Cunningham (11 AD)

Barry Eggleston

Denise Gennari

In Memory of Daniel F. Mathus (3 ARMD 3 ORD MAINT BN)

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Ruth Hamilton

Mary Harrell

In Memory of Orfeo Agostini (106 INFD 81 ENGR A)

Thomas Hodges

In Memory of father Samuel Roy Hodges (2 INFD 28 REG)

Hon. Harris Hollin

In Memory of the 45 INFD 145 AAA BN BTRY B

Douglas Howard

In Memory of f-in-law Robert C. Miller (691 TK DEST BN A)



Thank you BOBA member Dr. Linda Miller! Dr. Miller donated a wreath for the 77th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge events in DC. Dr. Miller discussed the events of the 77th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge at her Nevada Daughters of the American Revolution Meeting in February. She is pictured wearing her blue BOBA t-shirt, next to her Chapter Regent veteran Vivian Surwill. Several members of this chapter have joined the BOBA because of their relatives who served in the Battle of the Bulge. Dr. Miller previously attended the 75th anniversary in Washington DC two years ago, the 2004 trip to Belgium and Luxembourg, and the 2010 Alsace-Lorraine campaign trip. Thanks for your continued support!

Jocelyn Kirby

Marilyn Kirtley

In Memory of husband John M. Kirtley (160 CMBT ENGR)

David B. Marinucci

In Memory of father Brundo Marinucci (44 ENG CBT BN)

Mark McCullough

Andre Meurisse

Roger Park, Jr.

In Memory of father Roger D. Park (28 INFD 109 REG C)

Robert Pope* (106 INFD

590 FA BTRY A)

Paul Puff

Lois Robinson

In Memory of Richard Kinard

Cathy Rogers

Gregory Rubin

Mary Ann Smith

In Memory of father James Coates KIA - Malmedy - (285 FAOB BTRY B)

Frank Steinberg* (84 INFD

333 REG A)

Amanda Stern

Rex Stoops

Peter Weisenberger

In Memory of my uncle

(KIA - 80 INFD 317 REG)

Edward Zimmer* (440 TP CARR GP 96 SQD)

In Honor of J. David Bailey's 100th Birthday

Mildred Salvaterra

Neil A. Salvaterra

Sally Sangassan

Wreath Fund

Ayn Maddox

E.M. Beck

BOBA - Crater Chapter

BOBA - Lehigh Valley Chapter (VBOB)

Darrell Bush* (75 INFD 290 REG

2 BN F) and Dorothy Bush

Kristen Faller

In Memory of father Tom

Ingram (90 INFD 359 REG L)

William H. Gordon, IV

In Memory of William H. Gordon III (106 INFD)

Kevin Hinkle

Dr. Linda Miller

John and Amanda Mohor

Rachel Park

Harold Storey

In Memory of father

Harold Storey and in Honor of mother Rena M. Storey

Butch Stump

DeNeele Walker

In Honor of Alfred Morfee (1 INFD 16 REG L)

George P. Waters

Linda Winer

Elaine W. Winters

In Memory of father Mahlon Krum (87 INFD - POW)

28th INFD Memorial Fund

Alisa Kosla

In Memory of grandfather

Louis C. Wdowiak

**Denotes Bulge Veteran Member*



DEC 21, 1944. STEINSEL, LUXEMBOURG: While in Division Reserve, 317/H found billets with the friendly locals. Here, Lt. Saul “Kad” Kadison (balcony), looks down at the (L-R) house “host,” Pfc Bernard “Junior” Haraksin, Sgt John Quinn, Pfc Clifford Ward, and the host’s young son. Photo by Lt. A.Z. Adkins, Jr. who wrote, “I hung my dirty & torn field jacket and lay down on the floor for the night. The next morning, I reached for my jacket and noticed the tears had been mended and the dirt scrubbed away.”



(Above) Former 80th Division National Commander Bob Burrows standing next to Day G. Turner’s grave at the American Cemetery in Hamm, Luxembourg. Turner was part of the 318th, Co B. He earned the Medal of Honor award for valor in Dahl, Luxembourg on January 8, 1945. He was killed one month later near Wallendorf, Germany. See cover of this *Bulge Bugle* which shows the location where SGT Day Turner earned the Medal of Honor. (Photo from 319th Infantry Regiment Facebook group)



(Left) Frank Dick (80 INFD 317 REG I) and Bob Burrows (80 INFD 317 HQ) in Europe for the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge in 2019.

80TH “BLUE RIDGE” INFANTRY DIVISION

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 80TH “BLUE RIDGE” INFANTRY DIVISION IN WWII

Reactivated: July 15, 1942 at Camp Forrest, TN. The Division later moved for training at Camp Phillips, near Salina, Kansas and in the California-Arizona Desert Training Center, near Yuma, AZ.

Overseas: Arrived Greenock, Firth of Clyde, Scotland on July 7, 1944. Landed on Utah Beach August 2-6, 1944.

Major Campaigns: Northern France, Ardennes-Alsace, Rhineland, Central Europe.

Days of Combat: 277

Distinguished Unit Citations: 6

Awards: MOH: 4; DSC: 48; SS: 671; LM: 13; DFC: 5; SM: 30; BSM: 3,357; AM: 121

Commanders: General Joseph D. Patch (July 1942- March 1943);

Maj. Gen. Horace L. McBride (March 16, 1943);

Maj. Gen. Walter E. Lauer (October 1945)

Returned to US: January 5, 1946

During WWI, the 80th Division recruited soldiers from Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia, hence the division’s nickname: “Blue Ridge Division.” The Division also adopted the Latin Motto, “Vis Montium” or “Strength of the Mountains.”

After arriving in the ETO on July 7, 1944, the Division proceeded south to Northwich, England via trains for additional training. Training included learning how to waterproof equipment for the upcoming channel crossing. The Division crossed the English Channel in LSTs and liberty ships, landing in Normandy on Utah Beach shortly after noon



on August 2, 1944, D-Day + 57 and assembled near St. Jores, France. A few days later on August 8, 1944, the 80th was initiated into battle when it took over the LeMans bridgehead in the XX Corps area.

By the end of the war, May 7, 1945, the 80th Division had seen 277 days of combat. It had captured 212,295 enemy soldiers. The 80th Division returned to the U.S. in January 1946, after spending time in Europe helping to restore and keep peace after the war. The 80th Division had been one of the stalwarts of Patton’s Third Army, but it cost them dearly. During their 277 days of combat, the 80th Infantry Division had 17,087 casualties (KIA: 3,038; WIA: 12,484; MIA: 488; Captured: 1,077).

Highlights — if you call them that — included the Battle of Argentan, Crossing the Moselle River, Piercing the Maginot Line, Battle of the Bulge, Relief of Bastogne, The Siegfried Line, Crossing the Rhine River, and the liberation of the Buchenwald & Ebensee Concentration Camps.

TO LEARN MORE: Visit the 80th Division Veterans Association website at www.80thdivision.com. More than 150,000 documents, images, oral histories & personal accounts (written & video), and PDF collections include Morning Reports (AUG ’44 through MAY ’45), General Orders, Unit Histories, After Action Reports, and Miscellaneous Reports all available to download.

JOIN THE 80TH DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION by contacting the Association National Secretary, CSM(r) Doris M. Wollett at csmwollett@verizon.net. The Association holds annual reunions in Richmond, Virginia in July/August.



BOBA EVENTS

BOBA REUNION SET FOR OCTOBER 2022 | GETTYSBURG, PA



Our VP of Chapters Dr. Andy Waskie, the Delaware Valley BOBA Chapter, along with several association units, including the 87 INFD and 28 INFD, are working on the next amazing BOBA reunion, which will take place in Gettysburg! The tentative plan is to arrive Friday, October 21, 2022 with reunion events planned over the weekend, and departing on Sunday afternoon. Some highlights will include a driving coach tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield and Historic area, featuring Civil War, WWI and WWII sites of interest. We will also visit the Eisenhower Farm and have a banquet dinner with a guest speaker (TBA). There will also be free time in town for shopping and visiting sites.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for details in the next issue! If you are interested in volunteering to help with the event, contact Andy Waskie at awaski01@gmail.com or 267-240-3659.

★ REMEMBERING THE FALLEN ★

THE WERETH 11: IN MEMORY OF FALLEN AFRICAN-AMERICAN SOLDIERS

On December 10, 2021 the U.S. Memorial Wereth committee was very happy to welcome from the United States Embassy to the Kingdom of Belgium: Mr. Nicholas Berliner, Chargé d’Affaires a.i., Mrs. Berliner, Colonel Edward Dupont, Senior Defense Official & Defense Attaché, Mrs. Amy Grier, Acting Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Brian Dick and Mr. Serge Vandendriessche, Office of Public Affairs, plus drivers & police to honor Hermann Langer’s memorial dedicated to the “Wereth Eleven.” The presence of snow especially enhanced the honor given. Together we honored the destiny of those 11 men who gave their lives for our freedom. May they all rest in peace!

The U.S. Embassy website mentioned: 77 years ago, the second day of the Battle of the Bulge, 11 U.S. soldiers sought shelter from the brutal cold by knocking on a farmhouse door in Wereth, Belgium. Last weekend, we visited the home where they were warmly welcomed, and the nearby field where later they were tortured and murdered by Nazi SS troops — a deeply moving experience. Chargé Berliner paid his respects to eleven African-American soldiers murdered in Wereth, and visited graves of fallen soldiers resting at Henri-Chapelle, which include those murdered in the Malmedy Massacre.

In Memory of the Wereth 11:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. SSG Thomas Forte | 6. PFC James Leatherwood |
| 2. SGT William Pritchett | 7. PFC George Moten |
| 3. SGT James Stewart | 8. PFC William Turner |
| 4. CPL Mager Bradley | 9. PVT Curtis Adams |
| 5. PFC George Davis | 10. CPL Robert Green |
| | 11. PVT Nathaniel Moss |



Mr. Nicholas Berliner, Chargé d’Affaires a.i., and his wife, with the U.S. Memorial Wereth committee at the memorial.

Despite the current increase in the number of infections, after two years of lockdown, we want to look ahead. In addition to the memory of the African-American soldiers, the celebration on May 21, 2022 will also be dedicated to those who passed away of Covid-19. Even if there is no planning security due to the pandemic, we would be very happy to welcome you in Wereth. *Learn more at wereth.org.*

—Submitted by Solange Dekeyser,
President/Secretary of the US Memorial Wereth V.o.G.

1. BOBA members visit the National Museum of the U.S. Army in Fort Belvoir, Virginia during the Annual BOBA DC Commemoration.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 2022 DC COMMEMORATION

by Mary Ann Coates Smith, VA Crater Chapter President

After many weeks of staying updated with covid mandates and an anticipated snowstorm that missed DC, members and guests began arriving Sunday for our planned 77th Anniversary of the end of the Battle of the Bulge. To all that traveled near and far from Oregon, Arkansas, Florida and Massachusetts and beyond, the Crater Chapter wholeheartedly thanks you.

Monday, after morning registration, our group traveled to Mission BBQ for a great lunch that included the playing of the National Anthem at noon. David Bailey was recognized for his service with a standing ovation. Theresa, the manager, and staff showered him with praise. John Mohor presented him with a gift of a golf-style BOBA logo knit shirt and a 100th birthday card signed by all.

The afternoon was spent at the National Museum of the U.S. Army at Fort Belvoir. Nicole Bintner-Bakshian, the Luxembourg Ambassador, joined us there. After a group picture, we went in small self-guided groups, to tour the three stories of exhibits. Framed BOBA certificates were presented to Nicole Bintner-Bakshian as well as Pauling Bonilla of the

museum. Upon leaving, each was presented with a gift bag of Luxembourgish treats and a message card from Nicole Bintner-Bakshian.

The evening started with a brief Board Meeting and the swearing-in ceremony. Members picked up the preordered blue BOBA logo t-shirts, thanks to John Mohor's efforts.

After the raffle, 50/50 tickets were purchased and the silent auction of three items, numbers were drawn by various attendees. Betsy, *Bugle* Editor, donated 3 military books that were given to her when she was the office contact, and contributed surplus back issues of the *Bugle*, which were sold at \$5.00 each. A variety of other items were donated for the raffle.

Jim Triesler gave a presentation on preserving our veterans' legacy with a Q&A afterwards. Jim and his two guests displayed an exhibit of their military collections for all to enjoy.

Tuesday, we arrived at the BOBA Memorial in Arlington Cemetery for wreath laying—a memorable and emotional time. Veterans Darrell Bush (97) and wife Dorothy, and Howard “Joe” Trowern (97) and son Steven, joined the

ceremony. Ambassador Nicole Bintner-Bakshian again joined us along with Belgium's Representative. Then on to the Tomb of the Unknown wreath laying by David Bailey, and Darrell Bush accompanied by John Mohor for the sacred ceremony. Ed Lundeen and his grandson Trey layed the wreath at the WWII Memorial. All wreath presenters were selected by John Mohor. After the group photo, the group departed for the hotel.



Ray, our dedicated bus driver for over 10 years, came from retirement to safely transport us to our events. Thank you, Ray!!

The rest of the day was spent with laughing and enjoying each other's company before leaving the next morning. Thanks to our behind scenes but always there, Betsy and Audra, who handle a great deal unknown to the rest of us. I tip my hat to them. Also, John Mohor and Alan Cunningham for helping with the finer details and decisions during a trying time, but a successful event in the end. It was an honor and I am grateful. We look forward to the next reunion in Gettysburg in October 2022!



2. BOBA President John Mohor presents certificate to Paula Bonilla, Director of Visitors Engagement & Programs at the National Museum of the U.S. Army. **3.** At the museum, BOBA member Jeanne Thornton stands in front of the very first tank to enter Bastogne on December 26, 1944 from the Third Army as part of the 4 ARMD. **4.** Bulge veteran David Bailey (pictured with his niece Carolyn Truesdale) celebrates his 100th birthday during the BOBA reunion at Mission BBQ. **5.** This letter from the Luxembourg Ambassador accompanied treats for our attendees. **6.** Military display at the hotel by BOBA historian Jim Triesler and BOBA members John Eaves and Michael Bell. **7.** Past BOBA Presidents David Bailey and Alan Cunningham (also current BOBA Chairman) at the National Museum of the U.S. Army pointing to BOBA, listed under the Circles of Distinction for significant contributions to the museum!

5

Dear Friends,

As we mark the commemoration of the end of the Battle of the Bulge on 25 January 2022, I am honored to be in your presence today, representing the people of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

In these difficult times, we regret not to be able to open the doors of the Embassy to receive you and convey our gratitude to the Veterans for their services rendered during WW II securing the liberation of the Grand Duchy.

In anticipation of returning to more social times, enjoy this little token of appreciation with some Luxembourgish seasonal treats to take with you:

Verwuerelter: a knot shaped fried cookie enjoyed by Luxembourgers during Carnival (Mardi Gras) time, also known as Verwuerelt Gedanken (scrambled thoughts).

Madeleines: the traditional shell shaped delicacy originating from the Lorraine/Luxembourg region.

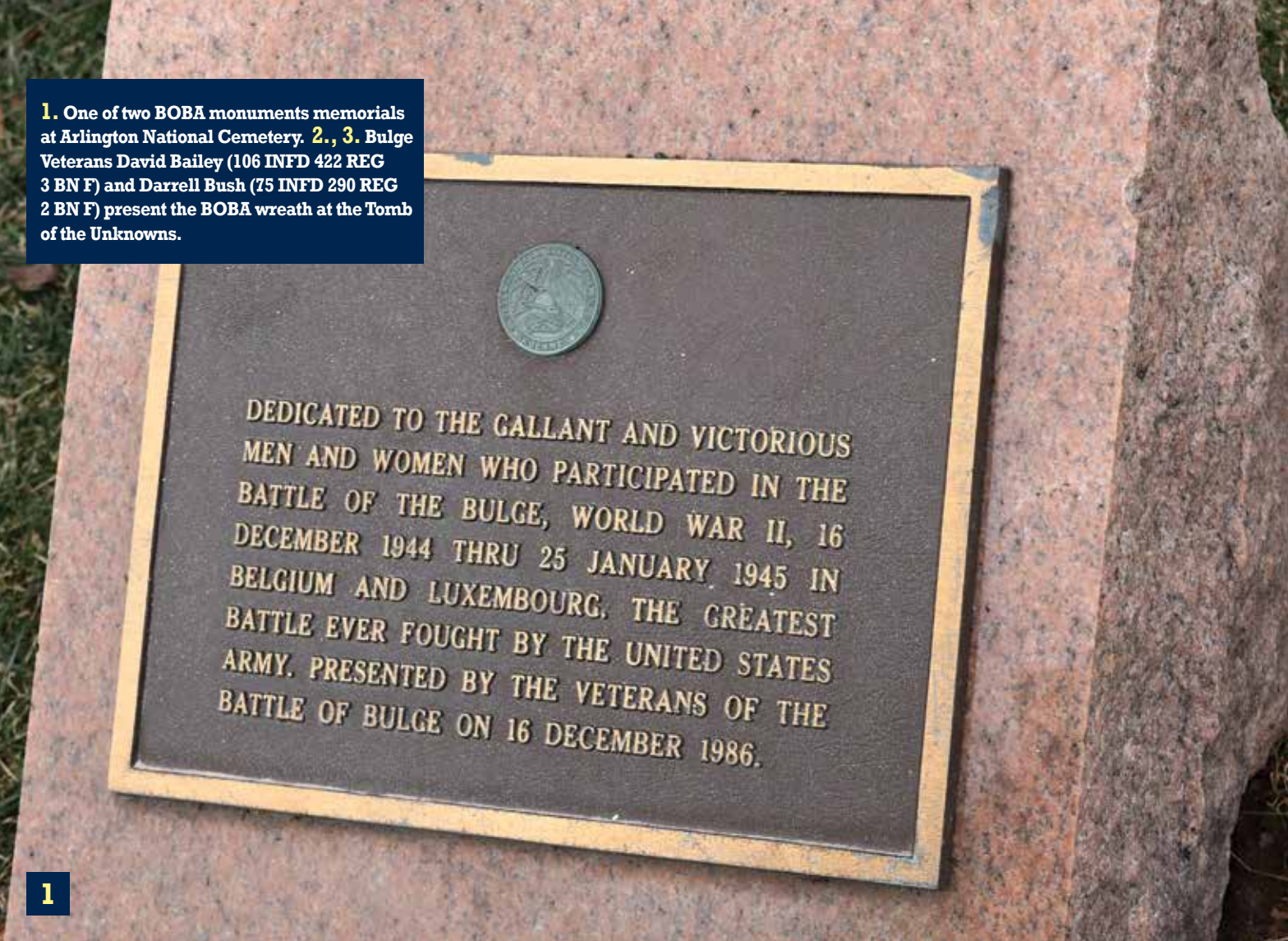
Truffle chocolates: just simply because they make everything look sweeter in life and everybody enjoys them, Luxembourgers being particularly fond of their chocolates.

Wishing you a great year and looking forward to welcoming you soon to the Embassy,

Nicole Bintner-Bakshian



1. One of two BOBA monuments memorials at Arlington National Cemetery. 2., 3. Bulge Veterans David Bailey (106 INFD 422 REG 3 BN F) and Darrell Bush (75 INFD 290 REG 2 BN F) present the BOBA wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.



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4. At the Battle of the Bulge Memorial, from left to right: William Stroud, Mary Ann Coates Smith, Deputy Chief of Missions Luxembourg Giles Bauer, H.E. Nicole Bintner-Bakshian, Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the U.S., Darrell Bush (75 INF 290 REG 2 BN F), John Mohor, David Bailey (106 INF 422 REG 3 BN F), Chief Warrant Officer of the Embassy of Belgium Tanguy Watteeuw, and Julie Martin. 5. Trey Lundeen with grandfather Ed Lundeen (BOBA and SC Chapter member) presented the BOBA wreath at the National WWII Memorial. 6. DC event coordinator and Crater Chapter President Mary Ann Smith with Howard "Joe" Trowern (87 INF 345 INF G) who is wearing his actual helmet with a bullet hole from the Battle of the Bulge. 7. Ray from Rexbus Bus Service came out of retirement just to transport BOBA members, as he has done for many years!



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8. BOBA members pose with the BOBA wreath next to the Battle of the Bulge memorial at the National WWII Memorial.

★ OUR HEROES STAY BUSY! ★



At a Veterans Day ceremony in Boulder, Colorado, Ambassador Nicole Bintner-Bakshian bestowed, on behalf of His Royal Highness the Grand Duke Henri, the Order of Merit of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to **Louis Zoghby (194th Glider Infantry Regiment, 17th Airborne Division)**, for his participation in the Battle of the Bulge. Later, Louis joined the 82nd Airborne (325th Glider Infantry Regiment), and after serving for five months in Berlin, he returned home in January 1946.



George Merz (8 Corp MP) had an amazing trip to Bastogne in December 2021 (left). The town of Gouvy, Belgium honored him with “George Merz Day” and dedicated the visitor’s center in his name with an exterior plaque.

(Right) George Merz with Christian Gabriel, grandson of the family George lived with during the time he served in Gouvy, prior to going to Bastogne. The building shown, now a store, was the home George lived in on the third floor. Christian lives in France.

(Photos: Wanda Stump)



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!



William P. Tayman

**87 INFD 354 REG C,
PAST PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL VBOB**

Moircy, Belgium, December 30, 1944: Part of this night of horrors is not documented anywhere other than the indelible memory in my mind. I am the Company Communication Sergeant (MOS Communication Chief No. 542). I am always with the Company Commander, a Captain, the Executive Officer, a 1st Lieut, and four to five runners, they carry messages that I write to the rear (Battalion Headquarters).

It is near nighttime, we have been under attack all day. At one time I was caught by a sniper while running across an open field. I pretended I was hit and laid still. As long as I laid still he would stop firing, I guess thinking I was finished. My captain laughed at me later because there was an ammunition box near me and I tried to crawl to it thinking this would give me some protection! My captain, who was behind me, sent a whole platoon to a group of trees to flush the sniper out. After this, the rest of the company crossed this open field. Later in the day we were pinned down by a German tank with surrounding infantry. Like a miracle from the Almighty, an Army fighter aircraft flew over at a low altitude sensing we were in trouble, he made two strafing runs using his 50mm machine-guns that proved to be very effective at this close range. I'm sure this was the tank I directed artillery fire on the next morning.

Night is approaching, and in accordance with the Geneva Treaty on engaging the enemy in warfare, each side pulls back at least 100 yards to rest, eat, get supplies, and transport the wounded to the rear. There were times in the thick of battle the Germans would wave a large white flag signaling they want to talk. Everyone would stop fighting and an officer and sergeant would go forward trying to meet in the middle so neither side could come too near to the others main body of men. They would ask let's stop firing until an agreed on time, watches are synchronized, and the wounded are carried off the battlefield. If anyone has crawled over to the other side after being hit they are now exchanged. And, then the war resumes! Somebody has to be crazy! General Patton always said I want my men to sleep in a town whenever possible. Take a town, fight on, but come back to the town to sleep. We had taken the town (Moircy) from the Germans but not cleared it, that means going from house to house hunting for the enemy. The Germans had a large ammunition dump there, mainly large artillery shells.

We pulled back to Moircy and selected a house with a basement for the Company CP for the added protection. We later learned there were only two houses in Moircy that had basements. During the night, the Germans counterattacked. Artillery shells started raining on the village like this was a second D-Day. Little did we know that the main shelling was from our artillery, a whole corps (see Captain Lunsford's letter). The village people came running for shelter in the basement of the house we were in. At the thick of this fire storm my Captain and Executive



Officer went down in the basement also.

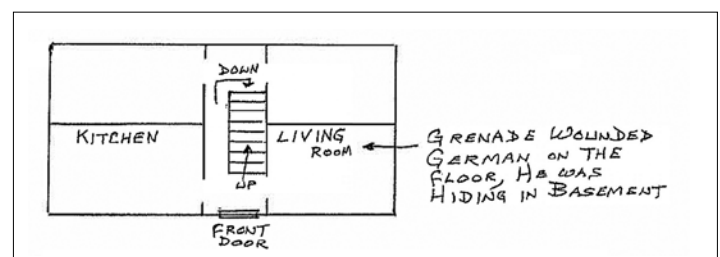
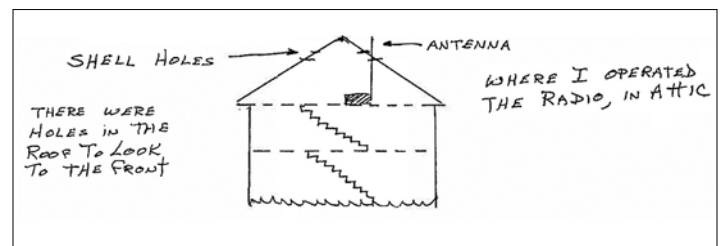
Outside is like daytime from the light of the burning buildings. The barn across the street from us was where the Germans had stored their artillery shells and this was soon hit. It was a sight one could never forget, the shells were shooting up into the sky with a trail of fire and then exploding, it was the greatest 4th of July fireworks display I have ever seen. There are now at least 40+ villagers in the basement.

We have one guard on the front door, his name is Patton, for humanitarian reasons we let the villagers take refuge in the basement, crying babies and children, women and men. There are about six of us in the kitchen trying to get some rest, one small candle burning on the table in the center, when like a blast out of hell, two Germans came charging in, the table went over, people were trying to defend themselves and then the Germans left. As they did, the one threw a potato masher (Grenade) back in the room with us, the noise was deafening, shrapnel flew everywhere. Patton who was at the door received enough to kill him instantly. God was with him, his body shielded the rest of us.

At this time Captain Lunsford hollers up at me, "Sergeant Tayman, Sergeant Tayman, what's happened, come down here".

I go half way down the basement steps, at the bottom is my Captain and Ex Officer pointing their carbines up at me, the Captain says, "we're ready for them." I look straight in his eyes and say "A hell of a lot of good you are doing us down here". He then says, "We are no-good, you are going to have to run the company tonight". At this I turn and go back upstairs. I tell the men let no more people come in this house. I have one man on the front door armed with a "grease-gun"

(continued on next page)



William P. Tayman (continued)

small machine gun and tell him to fire to kill anyone who comes in. I then have two men go upstairs to look out the windows to tell if anyone coming is one of our men. Soon a medic comes in to tell me there are 40 wounded in the barn next door and if we can't get litter bearers up tonight we might have to leave them here, not knowing what the morrow would bring. I tell him my radio will not work, and he says, "Can't you use the Artillery Forward Observers radio that was left in the field after he was hit today?" With the situation worsening all the time, I decided I will go get the radio. There are both Germans and Americans running through the streets, machine gun fire never stops, and the burning buildings light up the night sky like daytime. I get the radio, bring it to the top floor, putting the antenna through a hole that has been made in the roof by an artillery shell shooting through.

I get the radio to work, what joy and courage I now feel. There are transmissions continuously!.....8 days later I would be hit by machine-gun fire while running across an open field, at Bonnerue, Belgium, January 8, 1945. The day I won a million dollars — that's an old infantry saying, when you are wounded but not killed!

Bill earned a Silver Star for his heroics during the Battle of Moircy. He was also decorated with a Bronze Star and Purple Heart, being wounded by machine gun fire, a Combat Infantry Badge, the European Service Medal with three bronze stars, Knight of the Order of the Crown from Belgium, and the Croix de Guerre with Bronze Star from France.

Bill died on November 2, 2021 at age 98 at his home in Staunton, VA. He served as VBOB President 1993-94, and organized the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary held in St. Louis, Dec. 1994. To read more of Bill's experiences, visit battleofthebulge.org.

—Submitted by his daughter Bonnie Tayman Powell, BOBA Member

ATTENTION VETERAN MEMBERS: SUBMIT YOUR BULGE MEMORY!



This is Bob Burrows (80 INFD 317-HQ). He was featured in our last issue, and sadly we lost him in November 2021. He was the first Bulge veteran I ever met (in 2017) and this photo was taken of us at the 80 INFD Association Reunion in Richmond, VA. He told me about BOBA, where I met many more of you at the 2017 Commemoration. It has been a privilege to hear all your stories and those who entrusted me to share them in the *Bugle*. I hope you read Bob's story (Fall 2021). He was a true hero and helped me learn what happened

to my grandfather's unit (80 INFD, 317th Infantry Regiment, Company K). I am still searching for a photo of my grandfather, Edward Wallace Hughes (KIA Luxembourg 1944), so if anyone has Company K photos, please contact me!

If you are a veteran who hasn't shared your story in the *Bugle*, I implore you to do so! Even if you submit just your photo and a caption, it will help future generations make important connections and help BOBA perpetuate the memory of the Battle of the Bulge and all those who sacrificed their youth for our freedom.

Thank you for your service! —Betsy Rose, The Bulge Bugle® Editor

**Send your Bulge memories to bulge.bugle@gmail.com or mail to:
BOBA, PO Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23116**



Harold Bradley

740 TK BN

Excerpt of Harold Bradley's journal entries published in Battle of the Bulge: Stories From Those Who Fought and Survived.

On December 16, at 5:30 am, all hell broke loose. It was bitterly cold on that dark Saturday morning. At first only whistles in the distance and pinpoint of fire along the 60-mile 'Ghost Front,' from Monschau on the German side of the Belgian border in the north to Echternach, a town in Luxembourg to the south, alerted the American outpost that something unusual was happening. Then explosions of big German guns lit up the sky like the fourth of July and we knew we were being attacked.



December 18: Orders were received from First U.S. Army Headquarters that we were to move to the ordnance vehicle depot at Sprimont, Belgium. There we would equip ourselves with whatever combat vehicles were available and advance to Aywaille. On the Ambleve River, a few miles southwest of Spa, we would take up defensive positions and slow the deadly German thrust.

Company "C" commanded by Captain James D. Berry moved out in GI trucks. We troops wondered about the location of the prized Sherman tanks we had trained on. Their 75-millimeter cannons could tear out the side of a building. A Sherman's 30-caliber machine guns could chop a sniper to splinters. The equipment was nowhere to be found. Panic spread up and down the front. This was no way to go into battle. How could we fight a powerful enemy that crushed everything in its way without tanks?

We arrived at the ordnance depot to grab what armor we could find. Colonel Rubel took off with his liaison officer for Aywaille to report on the Ambleve, then scouted the area to be defended. He learned an armored task force was 12 miles off, coming our way. As we still did not have any fighting machines, we desperately tried to make something to fight in from leftover tanks at the ordnance depot at Sprimont. The atmosphere was bedlam. There were perhaps 25 tanks of different types, including three M4 Sherman's medium tanks in which we had trained. They all had parts destroyed or missing.

What was left in the pile ranged from M5 and M24 light tanks to old M7 and open-topped M10 assault gun motor carriage and even a M36 tank destroyer with a high velocity 90-mm gun.

Working throughout the night, we took parts from one vehicle and put them on others. It was demoralizing, backbreaking, heart-wrenching work. For a while it looked like there was no light at the end of the tunnel. By the next morning we had put together what barely looked like a tank company. Captain Berry shouted, "All right, let's move 'em out!"

Harold lives in Texas.

—Submitted by Kayleen Reusser, BOBA Member and Author of *Battle of the Bulge: Stories From Those Who Fought and Survived* (July 2021; available on Amazon)



The Wisconsin Veterans Museum's exhibits feature a display showing some of Strickler's men fighting south of Clervaux. (Photo: Wisconsin Veterans Museum)

★
Daniel B. Strickler
28 INF, 110 INF REG

On December 16, 1944, the Pennsylvania National Guard's 28th Infantry Division stood astride the roads west to Bastogne, with the 112th, 110th and 109th Infantry Regiments deployed in order from north to south, all absorbing replacements after the Huertgen Forest battle.

The division was attacked by Fifth Panzer Army and elements of the Seventh Army. The 47-year-old Lieutenant Colonel Strickler was the 110th's second-in-command, and was sent from regimental headquarters Clervaux to command the regiment's southern half. The regiment sought to stand as long as possible and delay the German advance by holding key towns and road junctions. "There was no way of knowing the size of the force that the Germans had over there and there was no great panic in our little town. We just kept on fighting," recalled Wisconsin's Wayne V. Erickson, of the 110th.

Strickler ably directed the defense of the area around Consthun. Once Clervaux fell, he and his men fought their way back to Wiltz, where Strickler assumed command of the town's defense. His men held out all day on the 19th, when surrounded and under the cover of darkness, Strickler ordered the



Daniel Strickler, after the war as a Major General. (Photo: U.S. Army)

town's defenders to "get loose and join" the 28th Division south and west of Bastogne.

As his men sought escape, Strickler tore a map off the command post wall and set off on foot with a small party. For four days the fugitives moved by night and hid during the day, dodging German patrols and working their way westward. On the afternoon of the 22nd, Strickler and his men made contact with the 28th Division's positions northeast of Neufchateau.

The 28th Division's staff determined that over two-thirds of the 110th's 3,000 men were killed, wounded, captured, or missing. Strickler was thought to have been killed, and "was greeted like a ghost come to life" by the divisional staff. He was promoted to colonel and given command of the 110th's remnants.

"There were days and nights of incredible heroism," summed up Strickler after the battle. "Five enemy divisions drove through the 110th's sector, but the units of the regiment held so firmly at all costs that the Germans' plan was disrupted and their schedule thrown off balance. It was one of the epic stands of World War II and the 110th was responsible for stopping the enemy long enough for the 101st Airborne Division to get into Bastogne to make its stand until help came from the North and South."

Strickler brought the 110th home to Pennsylvania, serving as the state's lieutenant governor from 1947 to 1951. He commanded the 28th Division in Germany 1951-53, and held other posts in the Far East until the early 1960s. He died in 1992 and is buried in Lancaster.

—Submitted by Christopher L. Kolakowski, Wisconsin Veterans Museum, BOBA Member

CA GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER (10)

The Golden Gate Chapter of the Battle of the Bulge Association commemorated the 77th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge on Saturday, December 11, 2021. There were 42 people in attendance and this included 4 Veterans and family members. Speakers included Ms. Rita Bral, the former Honorary Consul of Belgium and The Honorable Daniel Da Cruz, Consul General of Luxembourg. Guests included representatives from Honor Flight of the Bay Area: Connie Johnson, RN, Medical Director; Gary Laine, Director and Brian O'Mara, Volunteer.

The program included short stories shared by the 4 Veterans, friends and family members. Everyone was silent when they spoke, taking in every word. Dr. John Kerner (age 103, 320 INFD Medic) told a story of being medic in the Bastogne during the Bulge. Ken Mar (age 96, 2 INFD), showed us the Chinese American Gold Medal he received last year and he was so proud. Ken was a POW during the war. Jake Larson (age 99, First Army, V Corp), told us how he registered for the draft at age 15 and no one questioned his age. He was part of planning the Normandy invasion, and was involved in the war from the invasion through the Battle the Bulge and came home 'without a scratch.' He considers himself the luckiest man alive. John Althuisen (age 97, 7 ARMDD), told us of his experiences working with the Dutch Resistance and being recruited by the 7th AD because he spoke German. He was injured during one of the intense battles, separated from his troops, had no ID (dog tags) and had quite an experience being shuffled between medical



(From left to right) Seated: Dr. John Kerner, Ken Mar. Standing: Doris Davis, President of the Battle of the Bulge Golden Gate Chapter, Dame Rita Bral, Belgian Consul Emerita, John Althuisen, Jake Larson and the Honorary Daniel Da Cruz, Consul General of Luxembourg.

units. Many members of the local Belgian Club were present and expressed their gratitude to the Veterans.

"We were so honored to be present at this significant event. You could feel the love and respect for the Veterans. We will remember this day for a long time."

—Gary Laine, Director, Honor Flight

More information about these veterans is available. Dr. Kerner has just finished his 4th

book. His books include *Combat Medic* and *Combat Medic Comes Home*. John Althuisen's interviews can be found on the internet (Google his name — his story is amazing). And Jake Larson's book was just published a few months ago: *The Luckiest Man in the World: Stories from the life of Papa Jake*. (Both Dr. Kerner's and Jake Larson's books are available on Amazon.)

—Submitted by Doris Davis, Golden Gate Chapter President



PA LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER (55)

After a nearly 20 month break of holding monthly meetings because of the pandemic, the Lehigh Valley Chapter of BOBA was finally able to get together on December 14, 2021 at the local Mission BBQ, to celebrate Christmas and to pay tribute on the upcoming anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Bulge.

It was great to see old friends and new faces. Special guests included WWII veterans US Army Cpl. Angelo Bokeko, US Army Air Corps Pearl Harbor survivor Staff Sgt Dick Schimmel, and US Navy CPO Mathias Gutman. Opening the event was singer Skylar Gutman, with her beautiful rendition of "God Bless America". Skylar is the granddaughter of Navy officer and chapter member Mathias Gutman. Thanks to all that attended and to the staff at Mission BBQ.

To learn more about Lehigh Valley Chapter (55), search "Lehigh Valley Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge" on Facebook.

—Submitted by Stephen Savage, President/Treasurer of the Lehigh Valley Chapter

MO GATEWAY CHAPTER (25)

WORLD WAR II GI STATUE REPAIRED

This bronze statue (below) is part of the World War II Memorial Plaza at Jefferson Barracks County Park. Over time, the attachment of the statue to its granite base had worked loose. The cause was ordinary wear and tear, not vandalism. Bids were obtained from contractors for the repair, the low bid being \$ 5,200. The membership wanted to see if the work could be done for less. Rod Goelz found us an experienced handyman Tom Newlon. He was assisted by his son in law, Andrew Chase. Also assisting were three BOBA members, James Wilson, Rod Goelz, and Jerry Jacobsmeyer. Scaffolding was erected around and above the statue. A hand powered winch was used to lift the statue. The statue was hoisted up, holes routed, anchoring dowels cleaned, and reset using epoxy cement. The work went quickly and was accomplished in just one and one half hours on December 9, 2021. All were surprised at how quick the work went. This was due to advance planning, good weather, and all five of us helping. The total cost to the VBOB was only \$145. Tom Newlon and Andrew Chase donated their time and the use of their personal tools without charge. They are not VBOB members. They did this in appreciation of our veterans. A big Thank You to Tom and Andrew.

—Submitted by Jerry Jacobsmeyer



IN MEMORY OF EUGENE GANZ



Eugene Ganz, 98, of Manchester, passed on Feb 5, 2022. He was the last veteran who was active in the local St. Louis Gateway Chapter. Eugene was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart for his service in the historic battle of World War II. He served with the Army's 1st Infantry Division ("The Big Red One"). At the Battle of the Bulge, Eugene was struck in his arm and leg with shrapnel. And while the bitter cold on the battlefield killed some soldiers, he has said the freezing temperatures may have prevented him from bleeding to death. After a stay in a military hospital, Eugene was transferred to Nuremberg, Germany, to

supervise captured Nazi officers. We will never forget his sacrifice and service to our country!

For more information on the Gateway Chapter, visit gatewayvbob.org.



On Dec 1, 2021, the chapter celebrated the 97th Birthday of VBOB Jake Ruser! Left to right: Jake Ruser (4th Infantry Division), Benjamin Berry (3rd Army Quartermaster Corps) and Albert El (82nd Airborne).

PA DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER (4)

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.



On Dec 3, 2021, the Annual Philly Pops Holiday Concert for the military, veterans and First Responders honored Tech-5 Benjamin Berry (3rd Army QM Corps), and Tech-5 Jake Ruser (Combat Medic, 4th Infantry Division). Both are 'Cavalier' (Knights) of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.



On Jan 26, 2022 we welcomed new Chapter member Brian Wilimette (far right), who is pictured with Jake and Ben and Chapter President Andy Waskie (far left) at the Chapel of the 4 Chaplains. (Photo: Pat Bradley)

A BIG SHOUTOUT TO OUR CHAPTERS WHO RECENTLY DONATED TO BOBA'S WREATH FUND:

Crater Chapter in VA - \$500

Lehigh Valley Chapter in PA - \$280

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

VA CRATER CHAPTER (43)

R.I.P. RON KIMLER

The VA Crater Chapter lost our dear veteran member Ron Kimler (9 Air Force) on January 11, 2022. Ron was 97 and was recently honored in December 2021 at the Mechanicsville Christmas Parade in Virginia (home of BOBA National Headquarters as well as the VA Crater Chapter). Ron served in the 366 Fighter group, 389 Fighter Squadron of the 9th Airforce. He flew a Republic P-47 fighter plane during the Battle of the Bulge and also in defense of the Remagen Bridge. We will never forget his sacrifice and service to our country.



DECEMBER MEETING

VA Crater Chapter members met in December 2021 at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, VA. Pictured L to R (back row): Alan Cunningham (Nat'l Chairman), JC Wood, John Payne, Ron Peterson, Jim Triessler (Nat'l Historian); (front row): Judy Cunningham, Linda Sings Gebhart, Mary Ann Smith (Chapter President), Audra Yerian (Nat'l Member Services), and *Bugle* Editor Betsy Rose. 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.



Welcome Aboard, New Members!

We salute these new members who joined BOBA November 1, 2021 - February 15, 2022:

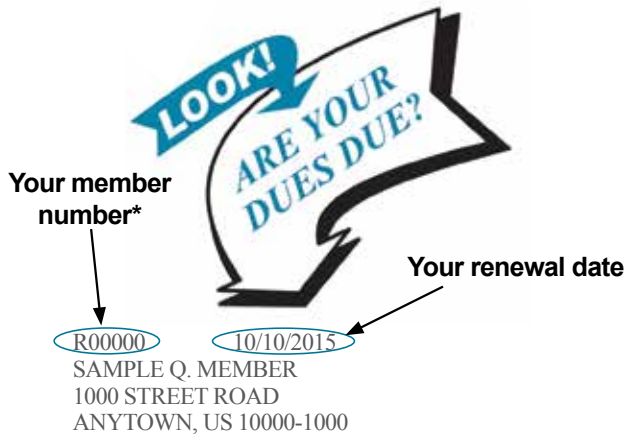
Robert J. Alberts	MD	Douglas Lynch	NJ
Bruce Baker	WA	Patrick McCranie	VA
Richard Churchill	MA	Gregory Melahn	NC
Jodi Copeland	GA	Kevin Melahn	NV
Coby Crump	UT	Myra Miller	MO
David Culp	PA	Peter Mitchell	SC
Cheryl Diday	MD	James O'Leary	NY
Lotte Dula	CO	James Oaks	AL
Margaret Spencer Egan	RI	Mary Patano	IL
Aimee Fogg	NH	Shannon Pendergraff	TN
Jeff Glascock	MD	Bonnie Tayman Powell	VA
Mike Gray	TX	John Racoosin	VA
John K. Hall	MN	John Reddington	IN
William Hogan	FL	Irving Schneider	TX
Steven Johnson	NY	John D. Smith	VA
Bob LeClair	NH	Ian Spurgeon	VA
Susan Leikin	FL	Lynda Suwala	VA
David Lincoln	PA	Thomas Taylor	OH
Rob Lowe	TX	Michael Van Ness	OH
Kenneth Luther	PA		

Special thanks to these members who either recruited and/or purchased gift memberships: Al Cleghorn, Kevin Goheen, Audra Yerian

Members, please consider purchasing gift memberships and recruiting new members to help BOBA continue its vital efforts to perpetuate the memory of those who sacrificed their youth at the Battle of the Bulge!

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!



ATTENTION BULGE VETERANS!

Did you serve in Luxembourg during the Battle of the Bulge? BOBA wants to know. Please identify yourself by letting BOBA know by e-mail, mail, or phone call. You could be eligible for an award from Luxembourg, so we'd like to assist in getting your information compiled. If you can provide a little more information to go with it, then your story may be published in an upcoming *Bugle*.

PLEASE CONTACT BOBA OFFICE: Audra Yerian,
audra.boba@gmail.com, (703) 528-4058
Battle of the Bulge Association®, Inc.; P.O. Box 330,
Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Battle of the Bulge Association®, Inc.
P.O. Box 330
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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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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

WINTER 2022

BOBA Reunion ★ October 21-23, 2022
GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
Read more on page 11.



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 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)

Gift In Honor of: _____
 Name Service Units (if applicable)

ALL GIFTS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!