

The BULGE BUGLE

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

VOLUME XLI NUMBER 2

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

SPRING 2022



40th ANNUAL REUNION GETTYSBURG, PA OCTOBER 21-23, 2022



PLUS: Our Veterans Tell Their Battle of the Bulge Stories





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 (EMAIL: bulge.bugle@gmail.com)

BOBA MEMBERSHIP OFFICE

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Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330; (703) 528-4058

VISIT THE BOBA WEB SITE: www.battleofthebulge.org
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William Greenville* 1988-90
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Grover Twiner* 1994-95
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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): Chapter President in transition

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

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Visit website gatewayvbob.org

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Staten Island (52): William Abell

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

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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: One of the highlights of our upcoming 40th Annual Reunion will be visiting the Civil War battlefields of Gettysburg. See page 12 for more information. (Photo: Destination Gettysburg)

Bottom photo, pictured from left to right:

1. Dr. John Kerner (35 INFD 320 REG, Medic) is 103 years old and lives in California. 2. Horace “Jim” Sharp (1 INFD 18 REG B) (The Big Red One) is 98 years old and lives in Kansas. 3. John Althuisen (7 ARMDD) (The Lucky 7th) is 97 years old and lives in California. 4. Eldon Gracy (87 INFD 345 REG 1 BN) (The Golden Acorn) is 96 years old and lives in Kansas. Read more about these veterans and their service on p. 10-11.

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: JULY 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

To all of you, I hope this finds you healthy and well. By the time you receive the 2022 Spring issue of *The Bulge Bugle*®, we will be well on our way to having coordination complete for our Fall Annual Reunion in Gettysburg, PA on October 21-23, 2022. We will be sharing our resources with additional Veteran organizations this year. One of them, the 87th Infantry Division Legacy Association, has agreed to attend our Reunion in place of their own after having to cancel their planned European Reunion in 2022. Who knew then that

Russia would invade Ukraine? For more details about our event see pages 12-15, or on our website. Please book your rooms now as it's first come, first serve. I hope everyone is finally enjoying Spring weather again along with all that goes with the season.

As we celebrate Memorial Day, it reminds me of all the sacrifices our service members made who lost their lives in service to our nation especially the soldiers that died during the Battle of the Bulge. I think of the veterans we have lost this past year. Two that I am honored to have known were: Lawrence "Larry" Michaelis (101 AB) glider infantryman, husband, and father. I am thankful his kids (Donna, Karen, and Jack) brought him to the reunion in Charleston. Also, A. Wayne Field (6 AD) who was the Rocky Mountain Chapter President of BOBA and a regular at our national events for many years. The Battle of the Bulge continues to have an impact on the family dynamic throughout the generations, while BOBA continues to perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices made so long ago.

I would like to publicly thank Solange Dekeyser, US Memorial Wereth V.O.G. President and Secretary for her invitation to attend the Ceremony being held May 21, 2022, that honors the sacrifices of The Wereth 11 as well as the victims of Covid this year. I want to also thank member Joel Lamberty for his willingness to represent the Battle of



the Bulge Association®, along with his wife and youngest daughter, at this event. Some of you may remember Joel from our 75th Anniversary European Tour.

With the organization's purpose of preserving the memory of the folks involved in the Battle of the Bulge, please feel free to donate in honor of your loved ones anytime. The Wreath Fund helps cover all the costs associated with the wreaths we present at our Memorial Services and our annual Commemoration event held in Washington

D.C. The longevity of the organization depends on us all continuing to be financially responsible. We appreciate all the extra donations sent in. We list your donations, tributes and memorials in every *Bugle* edition. In Fall 2020, the membership approved an increase in our fee structure due to the rising cost of printing and mailing hard copies of *The Bulge Bugle*®. The Association is still working on the implementation so until then, keep up to date on your dues and please help recruit additional members!

As our Bylaws include "...to perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices made by U.S. Military personnel during the Battle of the Bulge," I'd like to highlight another Bulge Veteran, Maj. Gen. Fred Castle, Medal of Honor Recipient. He died December 24th, 1944, while last seen at the controls of his B-17 after giving his crew the command to bail out. Five crew members were able to survive while no Belgian civilians nor US ground troops died because he didn't jettison his payload of bombs over them. The Wreath Fund continues every year for our annual commemoration event in Washington, DC, please when you send it, mark it for the Wreath Fund. Stay healthy everyone!

Thank you all for being members of BOBA! "Three Rounds" 333rd Field Artillery Battalion, part of the US VIII Corps in support of the 106th Infantry Division.

—John Mohor President & CEO

BOBA ANNOUNCEMENTS AND LETTERS

SEEKING SURVIVORS OF THE S.S. LEOPOLDVILLE

BOBA Member Michael T. Naya, Jr., a nineteen year old Kean University sophomore is seeking any help from our members and our surviving veterans. He is seeking anybody who might have been aboard the S.S. Leopoldville and who survived her December 24, 1944 sinking. Since 2016, Michael has interviewed over 150 World War II veterans including several BOBA members. BOBA members he's corresponded with over the years include but are not limited to Richard Brookins, Harry Miller, Daniel Santagata, Jeanne and Christian W. de Marcken. Michael joined the association as an associate member in 2018 after being informed about it by his friend the late Richard W. Brookins (1922 - 2018). Michael is currently pursuing his B.A. in history alongside his teaching certification. *Please notify the BOBA office (703-528-4058, audra.boba@gmail.com) if you'd like to contact Michael.*



LEFT: The S.S. Leopoldville. ABOVE: Michael Naya (middle) with Bulge veteran Christian W. De Marcken and his wife the late Jeanne de Marcken (Photo: July 17, 2019). The flag was made by Christian's mother while the family was under German occupation in Belgium. Christian and Jeanne were members of the Major Lamar Souter M.D., Central Massachusetts Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge chapter. Christian is still alive at the age of ninety-four, and Michael speaks with him almost daily.



SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS

My uncle, Julius Misuraca, was a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge and I have taken on the challenge of writing a story of his experiences in World War II. Uncle Julius was an ambulance driver assigned to Co B of the

80th Medical BN of the 10th Armd Div. He was with Combat Command B in Noville then in Bastogne. He was awarded a Bronze Star for his service at the Battle of the Bulge. He was also awarded the Combat Medic Badge.

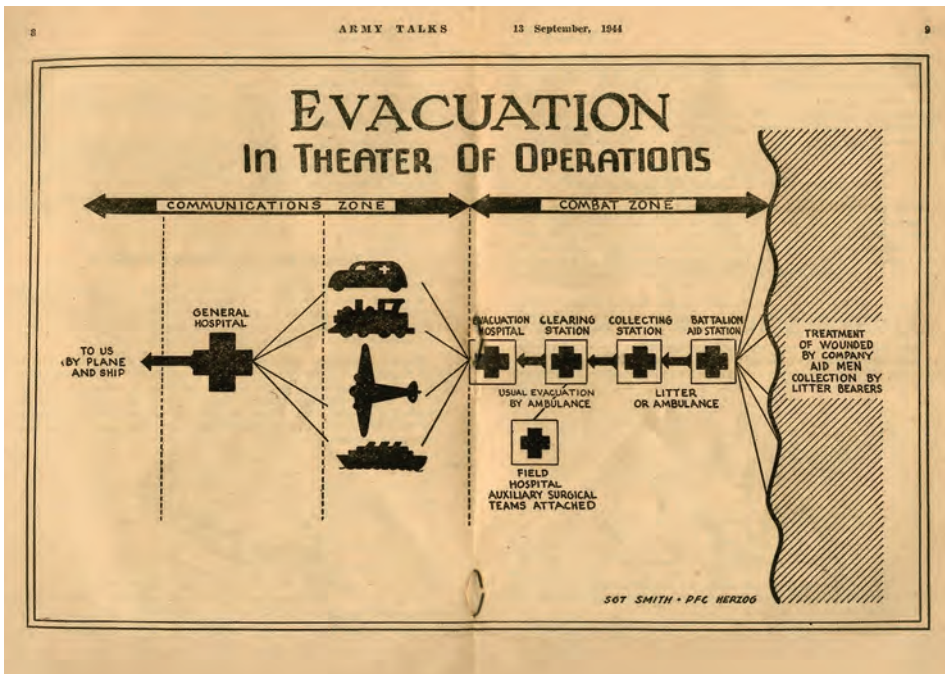
I am trying to find information about actions of ambulance drivers and medics in Noville and/or Bastogne Belgium between December 15, 1944, and January 30, 1945.

Specifically, I am trying to determine the conditions in Noville and Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge that could lead to a humble ambulance driver to be awarded a Combat Medic Badge.

Please contact me by email: jpalazzolo@outlook.com if anyone has any insight about this. Thank you.

Joseph Palazzolo, BOBA Member

BELOW: A diagram from "Army Talks," dated 13 September 1944, shows the chain of evacuation for casualties from the battlefield to the United States, starting from the Battalion Aid Station through to the plane and ship. RIGHT: Julius Misuraca (10 ARMD 80 MED BN CO B).



CORRECTION: On page 17 of the 2022 Winter *Bugle*, William P. Tayman's unit should have read: 87 INFD 345 Reg C (not 354). We apologize for the error.

**COMBAT ENGINEER –
The Life And Leadership of Colonel
H. Wallis Anderson, Commander of the
Engineers at the Bulge and Remagen**

By John Racoosin, BOBA Member

JOHN RACOOSIN



COMBAT ENGINEER
The Life and Leadership of Colonel H. Wallis Anderson,
Commander of the Engineers at the Bulge and Remagen

The following is excerpted from the 2021 book, “Combat Engineer – The Life and Leadership of Colonel H. Wallis Anderson, Commander of the Engineers at the Bulge and Remagen” by BOBA member John Racoosin (retired Navy). Anderson was the author’s grandfather; and commander of the 1111th Engineer Combat Group during the Battle of the Bulge.

“Hensel had his men place about a dozen antitank mines atop the road, around a curve and thus out of sight to any on-

coming panzer until it rounded the curve and was on top of the (hopefully unavoidable) mines. He established his bazooka team behind the mines, and his machine gun behind them. Hensel sent Private Bernard Goldstein up the road in front, as sentry. Goldstein, a big, rangy man with wide shoulders, hailed from Brooklyn; Hensel likely deemed him a good choice to first face any oncoming Germans. It was a wise decision.

Less than an hour after Hensel prepared his position, at around 1930 hours (Sunday, December 17, 1944, the second day of the German Ardennes offensive), Peiper’s lead panzers inched forward in the darkness, down the hill toward the stone bridge that crossed the Amblève and into Stavelot. The panzers carried infantry on their decks, anticipating a fight for the bridge. As the panzer column approached the cliff along the road, Private Goldstein heard the engines and the voices of the riding soldiers, stepped out from a small hut along the road, and with his M1 rifle at the ready shouted a sentry’s command to Kampfgruppe Peiper: “Halt!”

Astoundingly, the panzers complied. Then all hell broke loose. The lead panzer opened fire with machine guns and then its main gun, a 75 mm cannon. Goldstein somehow managed to avoid getting shot, and ran up the steep slope to the west, escaping unscathed from surely one of the most lopsided encounters imaginable.

Hensel had been approaching Goldstein from behind, bringing



Colonel Wallis Anderson (right) in Normandy hedgerow country with VII Corps Engineer Colonel Mason Young (left).



Colonel Wallis Anderson, Commander of the 1111th Engineer Combat Group during the Bulge.

a second man to place as an additional sentry. These two heard Goldstein’s “Halt!” and the panzer engines. They threw themselves to the ground, fired a couple rifle shots, then ran back around the curve. The bazooka team fired one round blindly in the commotion.

Peiper’s column, stopped by a single rifleman’s challenge, an errant bazooka round, and a few hurried rifle shots in the dark, now waited. They had been in recurring running combat for more than twelve hours, and now showed signs of fatigue and faltering aggression.

Ahead in the darkness lay Americans armed and apparently willing to fight; everything else was unknown. From their vantage point above the town, the Germans could see and hear a hive of activity, with hundreds of vehicles moving about the town below, although in the dark the SS men could not know



LEFT PHOTO: Author John Racoosin pointing to where Private Bernard Goldstein challenged Peiper’s SS Panzer column above Stavelot on 17 December 1944. RIGHT PHOTO: The SS Panzer crew’s view of Goldstein’s solitary sentry posting, down the road toward the Stavelot



bridge. Both photos were taken during the author’s visit to Belgium in 2016 for his book research. Both shots are of the road leading to the Stavelot bridge, where Peiper’s SS Panzer column halted, as related in the article. (Photos by Robert Racoosin)

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 April 24, 2022, that these BOBA Veteran members have recently passed away:

Marvin S. Bargar	87 INFD 347 REG 3 BN K
A. Wayne Field	6 ARMDD 86 CAV RCN SQD D
Wilbur "Web" Halvorsen	6 ARMDD 50 AIB A
Lawrence A. Michaelis	101 ABND 327 GIR 1 BN C
Robert W. Shaw	4 ARMDD 177 FA BN C



Wayne Field

IN MEMORY OF WAYNE FIELD, 6 ARMDD 86 CAV RCN SQD D* Rocky Mountain Chapter President

Wayne Field was born May 31, 1926 and passed on March 10, 2022. Wayne was seriously wounded during the war. By the grace of God and the kindness of a courageous German family who hid him from the enemy in their basement, he survived. As a result of his injury, he was confined to a wheelchair. He lived in Colorado Springs for many decades and was President of the Rocky Mountain Chapter for 18 years. On Feb 20, 2015, he received the Congressional Gold Medal for his efforts in building the Civil Air Patrol. After the war, he flew many search and rescue operations in MA, CT, NY, IL, MO and CO as a mission pilot. He was a Squadron Commander in several states and loved working with the cadets. He participated in Wheelchair Olympics and won more than 200 gold medals in 25 years of competing in

national events like the Veterans Wheelchair Games. He was formidable! He lived a full life filled with love, adventures, business endeavors, and had enough stories to fill volumes. When he was asked "How are you doing?" he'd respond "I'm too blessed to be distressed!" His deep faith in God was the source of joy, comfort and strength. He left this world looking forward to reuniting to those he loved and missed for so long. He met his final journey with grace and dignity. We will miss your smiles and laughter, Wayne. You were an inspiration to all of us.

**6th Armored, 86th Cavalry, Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized, Company D*

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



that all of this involved units retreating in near panic.

Peiper came up the column and, reaching the lead panzers, decided to bring up more forces to take Stavelot, and to pause to rest. The delay sealed the fate of his *kampfgruppe*.

Private Bernard Goldstein of Brooklyn — still unaccounted for — had done his part to save the American army."

The book is available on amazon.com.

Private Bernard Goldstein (left) of Brooklyn, NY. (Photo from the book *First Across the Rhine* by David Pergrin)

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.



BATTLEGROUND ARDENNES

Tuesday, June 28, 2022, 1:00 to 4:00 pm (Eastern Standard Time)



June 28 marks the anniversary of the assassination of Franz Ferdinand in 1914 and the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919. The Ardennes would become a battleground in 1914, 1940, and during the Battle of the Bulge in 1944 – 1945. Join BOBA Members Chris Kolakowski, Director of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum and Jim Triesler, Education Director at the Virginia War Memorial, and a group of historians and veterans as they explore the connections between World War I and World War II, and discuss the importance of the Ardennes as a battleground for both World Wars.” Stay for all or part of this three-hour Zoom event.

For more information and to register, visit www.vawarmemorial.org/events.



THANK YOU FOR THE DONATIONS!

We are so grateful for the many donations received between February 16, 2022 and April 22, 2022:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| Melvin N. Allen
<i>In Memory of Robert (Bob) Allen</i>
106 INFD | Bernard Feigen* (84 INFD 333 REG A) | Timothy McCarthy
<i>In Memory of my uncle</i>
<i>Col Edward W. Haughney</i>
687 ARTILLERY BN BATT B |
| (Col) Ruth Collins
<i>In Memory of LTC (RET)</i>
<i>Samuel Lombardo</i>
99 INFD 394 REG 3 BNI | Rose Hicks
<i>In Memory of my husband Warren F.</i>
<i>Hicks 26 INFD 101 REG I</i> | Fred Nungesser, Jr.* (84 INFD 334 REG M)
<i>In Memory of PVT James Maloney</i>
<i>KIA - 84 INFD 334 REG D</i> |
| Robert Croye
<i>In Honor of Belgians who care for</i>
<i>American graves</i> | Gary Higgins
<i>In Memory of Homer Braddock</i>
544 ORD CO | Mary-Virginia Pittman-Waller
<i>In Memory of my father James E.</i>
<i>McCormick Pittman, MD</i> |
| Gary Cunningham
<i>In Memory of my father 1st Lt.</i>
<i>John H. Cunningham KIA - 11 AD</i> | Irene Johnson
<i>In Memory of my husband</i>
<i>Lester E. Johnson 11 AD 4 AD</i>
285 ENGR CMBT BN A | Paul Platek
Mary Ann Smith
<i>In Memory of my father James Coates</i>
<i>KIA 12/17/44 - 285 FA BN COB</i> |
| Virgil C. Davis
<i>In Memory of my father Virgil C. Davis, Sr.</i>
6 ARM D 69 TK BN | Jeffrey Krachun
<i>In Memory of my father Robert Krachun</i>
1 INFD 18 REG C | Susan Temple
<i>In Memory of Robert LaBrecque</i>
99 INFD 393 REG BN D |
| Ralph Dinin* (82 ABND 740 TK BN D) | Tom Leunig
<i>In Memory of SGT William Leunig</i>
285 ENGR COMBAT BN | Albert B. Wess, Sr.* (3RD ARMY) |
| <hr/> <i>*Denotes Bulge Veteran Member</i> | Kimberly S. Loughlin | |

INVESTIGATING THE BELGIAN BULGE: NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS FROM 1945

by James Triesler, Virginia War Memorial Director of Education and BOBA Historian

On January 5, 1945, Associated Press War Analyst Dewitt Mackenzie wrote, "The Battle of the Bulge, which bids to be one of the great and bloody engagements of the war, hasn't by any means hit its peak. It is growing in intensity hourly, but it is in such a state of flux that no man at this moment can forecast developments; although there is no doubt the Allies will win ultimately."

Hitler revealed plans for the attack during a secret meeting at his headquarters, near Frankfurt, in November 1944. At that meeting, the generals debated whether the German Army could divert enough gasoline and supplies from other operations to start an attack in the Ardennes. Most of the generals were opposed to the planned attack, but Hitler believed the attempt to break through the American lines was crucial.

The attack began during the early morning hours on December 16, 1944. Journalist Drew Pearson believed that, "Disastrous, overwhelming losses during the first two weeks of the Ardennes offensive extended the war. The German offensive had delayed victory in Europe by several months, leading to additional casualties and heavy losses of equipment."

In January 1945, three weeks into the battle, Dewitt Mackenzie reported that Field Marshal Von Rundstedt was still looking for a soft spot on the northern side of the Bulge. His goal was to "make another thrust towards Liege and thence on to Antwerp. Loss of the great communications center of Liege would be a terrific blow to the Allies, and if the port of Antwerp were out of commission, it would be an awful catastrophe." Fortunately, the Germans did not achieve their desired breakthrough.

Drew Pearson lamented the high number of American casualties during the Battle of the Bulge, estimated at 60,000 in 1945. Today, the National Veterans Memorial and Museum estimates 19,000 American soldiers killed in action, 47,500 wounded, and 23,000 missing. Thus, American casualties were much higher than originally determined in 1945. Pearson believed if Washington took warnings of the impending attack seriously, there would have been a reduction in the loss of life, the equipment lost, and the time needed to end the war. Pearson's article, *Belgian Bulge Battle Deserves Congressional Probe; U.S. Colonels Warned German Attack Coming*, appeared in numerous newspapers across the nation in September 1945.

Were the Allies aware the German attack was coming? According to Pearson, "Certain U.S. intelligence officers in Washington had warned that the Bulge attack was coming and nothing was done to prepare for it." Assistant Secretary of War, John McCloy had studied the map of the western front several days before the Germans launched their surprise attack. McCloy showed concern regarding the thinly held line in the Ardennes, but the General Staff told him that General Eisenhower knew what he was doing. "General Marshall made it a point never to give orders or suggestions to commanders in the field; so, the man on the job was left to run his show without advice from Washington."

In December 1945, Pearson wrote, "The one man who consistently warned his superiors that the Germans were going to attack was Colonel Benjamin Abbott Dickson, Chief of Intelligence for the Second Army. Based on interviews with German prisoners he wrote a



John J. McCloy, Assistant Secretary of War, arriving At Gatow Airport in Berlin, Germany to attend the Potsdam Conference, from NARA.

(Photo: Wikipedia)

report on December 10, 1944, six days before the attack, warning that it was coming. In response to Dickson's report, superior intelligence officer in the Twelfth Army Group, General Edwin L. Sibert, wrote a counter report stating no such attack was possible."

Additional warnings came from Colonel Truman Smith and Colonel Percy Blair, who approached General Clayton Bissell, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, a week before the Bulge attack and advised him what they feared was coming. Colonel Truman Smith was the most outstanding expert on Germany in the American Army. Having spent several years as military attaché in Berlin, he knew many German Army commanders personally, how they thought and how they operated. Colonels Smith and Blair urged General Bissell to tell General Eisenhower an attack was likely in the Ardennes. General Bissell restated the General Staff policy that it was not Washington's job to instruct field commanders.

Colonels Smith and Blair, their advice ignored, decided to write a memorandum putting themselves on record that there was grave danger in the Ardennes and that General Eisenhower should be apprised of that fact. The memorandum was never forwarded to General Eisenhower.

PFC Warren Fisher, 28th Infantry Division, 109th Regiment, was in Luxembourg when the attack was launched and he believes, "The German attack was NO SURPRISE at the Division level, but apparently a BIG surprise to Paris Headquarters. Two weeks before December 16, we were digging trenches," and were told, "This was the logical area for a German attack." Was General Eisenhower setting a trap, inside the Bulge, for the German Army? Whether some knew of the impending attack or not, American soldiers like Warren Fisher met the difficult challenge and prevailed on the battlefield.



Warren Fisher (28 INF, 109 REG) was in Luxembourg when the Battle of the Bulge began.

VISITING FOUR GREATEST GENERATION FRIENDS

by Doris Davis, President of the Battle of the Bulge Association Golden Gate Chapter

I had the privilege of visiting four Battle of the Bulge veterans in March 2022. Two of them live in Kansas: Jim Sharp and Eldon Gracy. My friend, Gary Laine, a skilled photographer and interviewer, accompanied me to Kansas (both veterans had given approval for the interviews). Two live in the San Francisco Bay Area: Dr. John Kerner and John Althuisen.

Jim Sharp (1 INFD 18 REG B - The Big Red One)



Jim arrived to LaHavre, France early Jan 1945 and was transported through France and Belgium to Germany in a “40 & 8” box car (which holds 40 men or 8 horses). His first encounter with battle was near Honsfeld, Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge. He rode on top of a tank while being attacked by the enemy with machine gun fire, artillery rounds, and tank fire. He said he still wonders how he survived this as some of his buddies did not. On Mar 15, 1945, his unit crossed the Rhine River at the Remagen Bridge after capturing Bonn,

Germany. After the war ended (May 8, 1945), Jim was selected to be one of the Sergeants of the Guard at the Nuremburg Trials. After 7 months of duty, he returned home to attend Kansas State University and obtained a business degree. Shortly after the war, Jim and all the men in his unit were awarded the French Fourragère (an ornament of cord worn on the shoulder. This is awarded as an honorary decoration to members of a regiment or unit that has received a requisite number of citations.) After returning from the war, he married his high-school sweetheart, Marilyn, and raised 3 children. They were married for 70 years. Jim will be 98 on April 25, 2022. He lives in Manhattan, KS and still operates a cattle farm (which we had the pleasure of visiting). The farm is located 40 miles from Jim’s residence. A few years ago, he was honored at a Kansas State College football game and received a standing ovation from thousands of people in the packed stadium. His family was proud to be there with him. [Read more about Jim on page 19.]

Eldon Gracy (87 INFD 345 REG 1 BN - The Golden Acorn)

Eldon arrived to LaHavre, France in Nov 1944 and was moved to Metz in a “6 x 6” open air truck and entered combat in Metz. He remembers the fierce fighting in the Saar Basin where the 345th had many casualties. The regiment left the Saar Basin on Dec 23 and continued to Rheims where they had a brief rest. They advanced through Moiricy (where they lost Captain Kromer whom



everyone loved). Then onward to “The Bloody Crossroads” and again, they suffered many casualties. He was severely wounded on Jan 10 and after recovering in a hospital in England, he was returned to the front line. He was glad to reunite with his old foxhole buddy, James (nick-named “Chief” because he was a Choctaw Indian). He and Chief became very close during the war. The war finally ended and he returned home, married his high-school sweetheart, Helen, and raised 3 children. They were married for 62 years. Many years after the war, he was awarded the French Legion of Honor (the highest French order of merit). He was also honored at a Kansas State University football game and received a standing ovation from the entire stadium about 5 years ago. He said that was an incredible experience that he’ll never forget. For many years, he tried unsuccessfully to track down Chief and thanks to a little help from a friend, he was able to locate him in Oklahoma - just 130 miles from where he lived. He described their reunion as ‘very emotional’ (it had been 67 years since they had seen each other). Eldon turned 96 in Jan 2022. He lives in Winfield, KS and enjoys being around friends in his assisted living facility. We had the pleasure of meeting his son, Mike, who lives nearby. Jim and Eldon know each other — they live 2 hours apart in Kansas.

Dr. John Kerner (35 INFD 320 REG, Medic)

Dr. Kerner was an MD in San Francisco about to perform surgery when called for active duty on Dec 23, 1943. He had 2 days notice to report to Carlisle, PA. After 3 months of training (Jan - Mar, 1944), followed by a brief leave to visit home, he left the US on May 12, 1944. He was eventually shipped to Omaha Beach on an LST and arrived one day after D-Day (on Jun 7, 1944). His first duty was to care for casualties of the 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions. His medical aid station was moved to the hedgerows of St. Lo but they had to keep moving it in order



to stay with the troops. He remembers a French woman who arrived at one of his aid stations. She was obviously in labor, and he delivered a healthy baby girl (his medical training was in obstetrics). He never knew what happened to the mother or daughter after that. In Jul 1944, he was in Mortain and continued to LeMans, Chateadun, Nancy, Lorraine, Metz and eventually Bastogne where he treated many casualties - especially of the 101st Airborne Division. In Apr, 1945, he came upon Gardelegen (a camp for slave laborers). What he saw there still haunts him today. The SS saw the troops coming and gathered the 1,000 prisoners in a barn and set the barn on fire. Finally, the war ended on May 8, 1945 (after 264 days of combat and 25,000 casualties). Dr. Kerner returned home and married his sweetheart, Gwen and raised 3 children. He was married almost 75 years. He has just finished his fourth book and all of his books are available on Amazon (his first book was *Combat Medic*). He turned 103 years old on Feb 9, 2022. When he left our annual Battle

of the Bulge commemoration event last December 2021, I asked him if we'd see him next year and he said "I hope so — I still have a lot to do!"

John Althuizen (7 ARMDD - The Lucky 7th)



John was living in the Netherlands when the country was attacked by the Germans in 1940. The Germans were forcing all young men to report to forced labor. Rather than do that, John hid for 2 years and worked with the Dutch Underground keeping downed Allied pilots out of the hands of the Germans and helping them get to the safety to the Allied lines in Belgium. In Sept 1944, he met up with the 7th Armored Division and they noticed he could speak German. They asked if he could accompany them and serve as their interpreter. After his parents granted permission, they granted him a uniform, helmet and rifle (but no dog tags no formal combat training). He was with the 7 ARMDD when they fought in St. Vith, and they continued east to the Rhine River to the Ruhr

Pocket. John was riding in a tank and was seriously wounded on 12 Apr 1945 (the same date as Roosevelt's death). He was sent to a US hospital in Paris. He had no dog tags and his uniform was destroyed by the hit that wounded him and no papers to vouch for his service in the US Army, so his identity was a mystery. An officer saw him in the hospital and asked the staff what was this "damn German" doing in his hospital and ordered him out immediately (his Dutch accent was misinterpreted as being a German accent). He was still in serious shape and was sent to a French hospital. After a month of recovering, he could get around on crutches and happened to be out and about in Paris when he saw fellow soldiers from the 7 ARMDD who were on leave (the war had ended). They were amazed to see John (they thought they were seeing his ghost!). They brought him back to the group because they loved John — he had loyally served their Division as an interpreter, rifleman, messenger, and automatic rifleman in Holland, Belgium and Germany. In Aug 1944, many of the 7 ARMDD were transferred to the 1 ARMDD, and John went with them to help them as an interpreter. He stayed with the US Army until 15 Nov 1946 and was eventually granted a Visa to live in the US. He lives in Novato, CA with his wife, Jeanne (also from the Netherlands) and is a proud father of 3 children. He turned 97 last December and still takes daily walks. He and Jeanne and a few family members will be visiting Europe (including the places where he fought) this summer thanks to the organization called The Greatest Generation (in Boston). They are looking forward to the trip.

MAKING UP FOR LOST TIME

by Katie Pierce, reprinted courtesy of Johns Hopkins University

Around Christmas in 1944, Army infantryman Paul Hessemer was staggering through waist-high snow in the forests of southeast Belgium. In the skies directly above, Francis "Bud" Holecheck - an Air Force second lieutenant who was then a stranger to Bessemer but would later become his groomsman (they both graduated from John's Hopkins Engineering program in 1949) - was piloting a Lockheed P-38 Lightning.

"We found out I was flying strafing and dive-bombing missions right in the area where Paul was trying to keep alive against ground soldiers as well as our bombs going off," Holecheck said in a recent interview, "It's an odd world."

That was the final winter of World War II, when both men were 19. In the years following, they became close friends as engineering students at Johns Hopkins, but it wasn't until they reunited recently that they learned of their counterpart locations during the Battle of the Bulge, the last major German offensive on the Western front.

As Hessemer recalls, veterans studying at Johns Hopkins in those days weren't inclined to talk much about their wartime experiences. "I think we put the war behind us," he says. "There was an attitude of 'Hey, let's stop



Paul Hessemer (75 INFD 290 REG C), left, and Francis "Bud" Holecheck reunited in 2021 for the first time since 1949. (Photo: Juanita Fox)

fooling around and not lose any more time."

Before Summer 2021, the last time the two friends saw each other was June 4, 1949, the date of Hessemer's wedding and the day after their last final exam. They loosely kept track of each other - "I knew where Bud was, and he knew where I was," Hessemer says - but on a recent phone call, they decided it was high time to reunite in person. On August 10, 2021, Holecheck, who still drives at age 96, made

the two-hour trip from his home in Chester, MD to see Bessemer in New Holland, PA. The two men spent the afternoon reminiscing.

Hessemer and Holecheck say they first met as part of a Johns Hopkins program allowing World War II veterans to compress their freshman studies into an accelerated schedule. "There was no social life on campus, just work your tail off," Holecheck says, "We were there for a mission."

But the two became friends and sometimes met off campus for double dates. They both got married while at Hopkins, then started careers and families. Holecheck and Hessemer cherish their long marriages - each lasting more than 60 years - but are now widowers.

After the August visit, the two friends found a second time to meet up in September. They share a sense of making up for lost time. During an interview, Hessemer directed an aside to Holecheck: "I'm determined to get together again - aren't you?" Holecheck agreed. "All we need is the good Lord's presence," he said.

Paul and Bud are both graduates of Johns Hopkins University Class of 1949. Paul served in the 75 INFD 290 REG C and Bud served with the 9 AF 474 Fighter Group, 428 Fighter Squadron.



BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION

40TH ANNUAL REUNION GETTYSBURG, PA October 21 - 23, 2022

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Join us for our 40th Annual Battle of the Bulge Association Reunion! During our 3 day/2 night gathering, we'll reunite with our Bulge veterans and BOBA friends and remember the Battle of the Bulge. We'll also have the opportunity to explore historic Gettysburg and get to know some of the personalities that influenced what occurred there during the Civil War for a truly remarkable and meaningful experience.

REGISTRATION FEE: All attendees must pay the registration fee (see Registration Form). This covers expenses for office staff, programs, hospitality room, decorations, name tags, etc.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2022

Registration opens in the afternoon. In the evening, join us for a **Welcome Reception** with opening remarks. Also, participate in an **optional 1-hour walking tour** of the historic surroundings.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2022

After breakfast, take a short walk to the Gettysburg Heritage Center to gather with BOBA members. Our **annual membership meeting** will be held immediately after breakfast (this is a change from previous years). We've also allocated some time for our partner associations (8 ARMDD, 28 INFD and 87 INFD) to meet in the morning before the start of the tour. Please be present at the BOBA annual membership meeting and have your vote counted as the organization conducts important business vital to the continued success of our group. After lunch on your own with friends, **board the bus with your personal guide to get acquainted with Gettysburg** and the historic 3-day Civil War battle. Check out **Little Round Top, Pickett's Charge, Gettysburg Cemetery** and more! The night will conclude with dinner at **General Pickett's Buffet** and a short program (speakers to be announced soon).

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2022

Our morning begins with a trip to the **Eisenhower National Historic Site** where President



Eisenhower stayed as a retreat from The White House and later retired there. After the tour, depart or stay for additional days to see the rest of Gettysburg. In the vicinity there's shopping, souvenirs, bar-restaurants, historic sites, etc. The hotels are not far from the center of Gettysburg and there's a convenient shuttle service.

Highlights of our annual reunion will be a motorcoach tour around the Gettysburg National Military Park (top), a trip to the Eisenhower National Historic Site (bottom left), and gatherings at the Gettysburg Heritage Center (bottom right).

“This is undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever famous American victory.”

—SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL,
addressing the House of Commons following the Battle of the Bulge

Friday, October 21 - Sunday, October 23, 2022

REUNION PROGRAM ITINERARY

(subject to revisions as needed)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2022

3:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Registration (Best Western Gettysburg Lobby)
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	Reception sponsored by the BOBA Delaware Valley Chapter (Quality Inn Hotel Breakfast Room) Light refreshments included
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Optional 1-hour walking tour of the vicinity

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2022

7:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Complimentary Breakfast for guests staying at the Quality Inn or Best Western on Steinwehr Ave. Breakfast rooms reserved for BOBA & Divisional units
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Late Registration (Best Western Gettysburg Lobby)
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	BOBA Annual Membership Meeting (Heritage Center)
11:00 AM - 12:45 PM	Lunch on your own (there are many places within walking distance along Steinwehr Ave., or take shuttle to town), and free time
12:45 PM	Bus loads for tour of Battlefield (parking lot behind the Gettysburg Heritage Center)
1:00 PM Sharp	Bus departs Heritage Center
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Bus tour of Battlefield
4:00 PM	Bus returns to Heritage Center
4:15 PM	Short walk to National Cemetery to lay wreath in the National Cemetery
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	Buffet Dinner at General Pickett's Buffet (short walk from hotel), Speakers TBD
8:30 PM	Short walk back to Hotel

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2022

7:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Complimentary Breakfast for guests staying at Quality Inn or Best Western on Steinwehr Ave. Breakfast rooms reserved for BOBA & Divisional units
9:45 AM	Bus loads for tour of Eisenhower National Historic Site (parking lot behind the Gettysburg Heritage Center)
10:00 AM Sharp	Bus departs for Eisenhower National Historic Site
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Tour Eisenhower National Historic Site
12:00 PM	Bus returns to Heritage Center Depart or stay longer and enjoy the Gettysburg battlefields and other attractions!

BOBA is proud to partner with the following association units for our annual reunion event in Gettysburg!



8 ARMDD



28 INFID



87 INFID

Each unit participated in the Battle of the Bulge, and each unit will have small informal gatherings during our BOBA reunion weekend. Contact your unit for more information re: unit-specific gatherings. If your unit fought in the Battle of the Bulge and would like to participate, please contact Awaski01@gmail.com. Thank you!



2022 BOBA REUNION • GETTYSBURG, PA

BOBA REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION FOR REUNION: Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Steps to Register: 1. Contact Hotel to reserve room(s) yourself either online via the chosen hotel website or via phone (see page 15 for instructions). 2. Complete the BOBA REGISTRATION FORM either online via battleofthebulge.org > click on "Attend Reunion" or mail your registration form and check to BOBA, PO BOX 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23116. Registration for the reunion must be received no later than September 21, 2022. Please note that any registration cancellations will result in a donation of your registration fees to the Battle of the Bulge Association, in order to cover costs of bus reservations, as well as event fees, office staff, decorations, etc. (See page 15 for hotel reservation information.)

Name _____

Additional Guests _____

Address _____

Phone _____ BirthDay _____

Email _____

BOBA Chapter Association (if any) _____

Division Association (if any) _____

Arrival date & time _____ Departure date & time _____

Nights at the hotel _____ Indicate which hotel you booked: _____

Check here if you need a wheelchair Check here if you will be using your own wheelchair Motorized? Yes No

IMPORTANT: Please indicate No. of Persons attending free events as well!

	No. of Persons	Cost per Person	Total Cost
Registration Fee (all attendees must pay the non-refundable Registration Fee)			
Adult (21 and Over)	_____	\$40	_____
Child (17 and Under)	_____	\$25	_____
Late registration fee after September 21 - add \$20 per person	_____	\$20	_____
Friday, October 21, 2022			
Evening reception at Quality Inn	_____	free	_____
Optional walking tour	_____	free	_____
Saturday, October 22, 2022			
BOBA Annual Membership Meeting	_____	free	_____
Afternoon Bus Tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield & Museum	_____	\$50	_____
Afternoon Wreath-laying	_____	free	_____
Pennsylvania Dutch Style Buffet Dinner at General Pickett's Buffet	_____	\$45	_____
Sunday, October 23, 2022			
Bus tour to the Eisenhower National Historic Site	_____	\$35	_____
Tax-deductible donation for Wreath Fund (indicate amount)	_____		_____
Sponsor a Bulge Veteran's event participation	_____	\$170	_____
		TOTAL=	_____

Mail this form and check (payable to BOBA) to: Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.®, P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330
Or, to pay with a credit/debit card by PayPal, register online at www.battleofthebulge.org, click on "Attend Reunion"

BOOK YOUR HOTEL TODAY!

DEADLINE TO RESERVE AT GROUP RATES: Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Choose from two hotels within walking distance to Gettysburg Heritage Center:

QUALITY INN

380 Steinwehr Ave, Gettysburg, PA 17325
Phone: 717-334-1103
Website: www.gettysburgqualityinn.com
\$165/per night (11% tax not included)



BEST WESTERN

301 Steinwehr Ave., Gettysburg, PA 17325
Phone: 717-334-1188
Website: www.gettysburgbestwestern.com
\$183/double, queen or king
\$203.00/2-room suite (11% tax not included)

Individual must book their own hotel reservations in either hotel. Mention that you are attending the **Battle of the Bulge Association (BOBA) 2022 Reunion**.

We have 30 rooms available at each hotel at the Battle of the Bulge Association discount rate. Rooms are 'First Come – First Registered' until the rooms are all booked. To reserve your room, book online or call the hotel directly and book with the front desk staff.

To reserve your room online, go to our website: battleofthebulge.org then go to "Attend Reunion" page and find "Click here to book your hotel room at the group rate for Battle of the Bulge."

You must provide a major credit card to guarantee rooms. The cost of a room per evening ranges from \$165 (plus tax) at the

Quality Inn to \$183 (plus tax) at the Best Western. A limited number of Queen or King and Handicapped rooms are available at additional cost.

To reserve your room via phone:

Quality Inn, 380 Steinwehr Ave.,
Gettysburg, PA 17325
Phone: 717-334-1103
\$165/per night (11% tax not included)

Best Western, 301 Steinwehr Ave.,
Gettysburg, PA 17325
Phone: 717-334-1188
\$183/double, queen or king
\$203.00/2-room suite (11% tax not included)

Hotel Information:

Complimentary Breakfast included 7 am – 10 am in the Breakfast rooms in each hotel.
Complimentary BREAKFAST ROOM

reserved as Hospitality Room in each hotel and for a Friday evening 'Reception' at 6:30 pm and Saturday Divisional Association gatherings times (TBA).

Each guest is responsible for their own room charges. Any rooms not reserved by Individual reservation by SEPTEMBER 21, 2022 will be dropped from the reserved room block and sold to the public, so please reserve early!

If you wish to extend the stay, you may arrive on Thursday, October 20, and/or remain until Monday, October 24, 2022 at the same Reunion rate. Ask the Hotel when reserving. In the vicinity, there's shopping, souvenirs, bar-restaurants, historic sites, etc. The hotels are not far from the center of Gettysburg and there's a convenient shuttle service.

CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Do you believe in angels? J. David Bailey does! And it was his guardian angel that was looking out for him on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, when the city of Alexandria, VA chose to honor him in celebration of his 100th birthday. It had rained for days but during the 3-hour window for the celebration, David's guardian angel cleared the skies for an outside ceremony. Organized by Mayor Justin M. Wilson, David was flanked by high ranking officials from the Commonwealth of Virginia as well as the City of Alexandria. Mayor Wilson started off the ceremony by saying that not only was it important to honor David's 100th birthday, but also to thank him for his incredible commitment to our world and certainly to our nation. He noted David's participation in the Battle of the Bulge "one of the singular experiences that has protected our world from tyranny that occurred on this planet and this gentleman, right here was part of that."

State Senator Adam Ebbin (District 30) presented a resolution from the house and senate of Virginia that said in part, "The general assembly hereby commends J. David Bailey on the occasion of his centennial birthday and be it resolved by the clerk of the senate that a copy of this resolution be given to J. David Bailey as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the service to

his country, in high regard for this public and inspirational life".

And the accolades did not end here! After being presented with a key to the city, flags flown over our nation's Capital and the State Capital, multiple challenge coins, U.S. Representative Don Beyer came to the podium with a different message. He remembered what an outstanding year 1922 was — being the first year to use insulin to treat diabetes, the year Mussolini took over Italy, Egypt obtained its independence and life expectancy was 50 — something David doubled. He concluded with thanking David and his fellow GIs for their patriotism and endurance, who undoubtedly triumphed and brought us all freedom.

After a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday" by the Alexandria City High School Jazz Band under direction of Doug Rogers, David was inundated with requests for photos and people just wanting to shake his hand and thank him for his service to our country. Also, he was interviewed by two TV stations. (*Links to the broadcasts are located on our website: battleofthebulge.org.)*

The evening ended at David's favorite restaurant in Old Town Alexandria, with about a dozen of his family, friends and Battle of the Bulge members. It is a day that won't be forgotten by this centenarian! Congratulations and Happy Birthday, David and may your guardian angel continue to watch over you for many years to come!

—Submitted by Barbara Mooneyhan,
BOBA Executive VP



In April, **Bill Werckman (99 INFD 394 REG)** celebrated his 100th birthday. He was born in 1922 in Chadron, NE and raised in Pierre, SD. He originally enlisted in the Army Air Corps aviation cadet program but was drafted into the Army because they needed men for the infantry. He later went back to the Air Force.

Bill joined the Army as a replacement rifleman and was sent to the Battle of the Bulge. During this time, he was moved from the 69 INFD to the 99 INFD 394 REG A. After the battle, Bill crossed the Rhine river at Remagen. In March of 1945, Bill was transferred to Cannon Company (99 INFD 394 REG) where he stayed until the end of the war. He was honorably discharged on Nov 7, 1945. Several years ago, Bill made the journey back to the scene of the battle in Belgium. As one may imagine, many memories and feelings flooded back. Congratulations on your Centennial Birthday, Bill, and thank you for your service!



J. David Bailey (106 INFD 422 REG 3 BN F) speaking at the city of Alexandria, VA's ceremony celebrating both his 100th birthday and his service to our country. Distinguished Virginia presenters included Alexandria's mayor Justin M. Wilson, State Senator Adam Ebbin, and U.S. Representative Don Beyer.

(Photo: courtesy of Curtis Waechter)

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.





Welcome Aboard, New Members!

We are happy to welcome these
new members, who joined BOBA
February 16, 2022 - April 22, 2022:

John C. Baker	VA
Yuri Beckers	DENMARK
Chris Coates	VA
Bruce Fry	CA
Gary Gillette	MI
Irene Johnson	MN
Brandon Johnston	NY
Janice McCauley	VA
Susan Nelson	TX
Frederick Robinson	NH
James Rock	VA
Kirk Smith	IL

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
- Promoting our website: www.battleofthebulge.org
- Sending us articles to be included in *The Bulge Bugle*®
- Attending our annual reunions and DC events

**Special thanks to these members who either recruited
and/or purchased gift memberships:
Mary Ann Smith and Janice McCauley**

*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!*

ATTENTION NEW MEMBERS: BOBA OVERVIEW

*“This is undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war and
will, I believe, be regarded as an ever famous American victory.”*
—SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL, addressing the House of
Commons following the Battle of the Bulge

It was one of America’s greatest hours in the field of battle. And
helped turn the tide of war.

Three powerful German armies plunged headlong into the rug-
ged mountains and dense forests of the Ardennes determined to
break the American line of defense, and trap the Allied Forces in
Belgium and Luxembourg. They met fierce opposition the minute
they engaged the thinly spread American line. And paid a heavy
price for every inch of ground they gained. The battle raged for
three consecutive days until powerful Allied reinforcements arrived
to join the fighting, and keep the Germans from breaking through.
The fighting then continued for four weeks in bitter cold and snow,
and all the Germans could accomplish was to put a small bulge in
the line. And at the end, the line held firm and the Germans suffered
a terrible loss of men, tanks and planes.

Those who fought in the Battle of the Bulge will never forget it.
On December 16, 1981, The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge
(VBOB) was organized to make certain that it never would be for-
gotten. Among our activities, we visit the Ardennes battle area on
group tours; we have dedicated memorials commemorating the
battle and its veterans at Arlington National Cemetery; we conduct
ceremonies, reunions and other events; and publish a newsletter 4
times a year. We have also maintained contact with patriotic groups
in Belgium and Luxembourg who are interested in the battle, and in
the liberation of their respective countries.

In order to more accurately reflect our evolving membership,
we changed our name from “Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge”
(VBOB) to “Battle of the Bulge Association” (BOBA) in 2017.

BOBA’s objectives are to: perpetuate the memory of the sacrific-
es 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 re-
lations and good will with all Allied countries who were a part of the
battle; and support Chapters of BOBA.

BOBA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization which
does not engage in any political, lobbying, or propaganda activi-
ties. Those who were in this historical battle never forgot. Let us
recall it together and make it memorable for all time. Our dues are
modest, the aims are high.

BATTLE OF THE BULGE FACTS

Where: The heavily-forested
Ardennes region of eastern Belgium
and Northern Luxembourg

When: Dec. 16, 1944 – Jan. 25, 1945

Who: More than 1 million men
• 600,000 Americans
• 3 American Armies and 6 Corps
• 500,000 Germans
• 3 German Armies and 10 Corps
• 55,000 British
• 3 British Divisions plus contingents
of Belgian, Canadian and French
troops

Casualties: German - 100,000;
American - 81,000 including 19,000
killed; British - 1,400 including 200
killed

Equipment: 800 tanks lost on each
side; 1,000 German aircraft

The Malmedy Massacre was
the worst atrocity committed
against American troops in Europe
during the war.

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!



Leif E. Maseng 507 PRCHT INF 82 ABND

Leif Maseng was a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division and participated in major engagements from “D” Day — parachuting behind the lines the night before the assault — to the Battle of the Bulge, where he was wounded. This article is about Maseng’s Battle of the Bulge experience. Leif passed away July 1, 2021.

I Remember It Was Cold...

“In 1944, my military effort during the Battle of the Bulge was limited by my PFC rank. I could only do what I was told, when I was told, and go where I was told. Shooting was my decision and done without reservation.

We were in Belgium without adequate winter clothing. We had no gloves, no overshoes. All the stateside soldiers got winter boots. The army in Europe didn’t receive those boots. We did have the knit cap that we wore under the steel helmet. General Eisenhower insisted on using both the 82nd and 101st Airborne division to help “plug up” holes in the lines of the Battle of the Bulge, which was the German offensive launched December 16, 1944. We all knew that the godless enemy had to be stopped. Paratroops



were capable of doing almost anything with almost nothing, and that’s what we had to do. Our training gave us complete confidence that Hitler’s troops would rue the day that they came our way.

It was reported that meteorological charts for 16 and 23 December 1944 show that a modified cold maritime polar air mass was over the Ardennes-Eifel area when the Battle of the Bulge began. Weather related instances on the battlefield are noted, particularly where fog or snow reduce visibility and where thaws or freezes influence trafficability.

It was extremely cold, and we had few supplies. We had no change of socks (critical in avoiding “trench foot” or frostbite), little food and limited ammunition. For the longest time, our only food was K-rations, which were intended for short duration use only. The land-based supply chain had been disrupted by the “Bulge.” It also was impossible to get needed items by air as there were no air supply drops or air support because of bad weather.

We dug shallow foxholes in the frozen ground which forced us to lay down in the snow. The only way we could see the enemy advancing was at ground level under the trees. The dense forest had a clearing where the deer had eaten all the low branches and it was there that we could see the legs of the enemy when they would advance. It was chaotic and miserable. I was very cold, surrounded by snow, and very hungry. As the snow leaked through my boots, I developed “trench foot” (frost bite).

We weren’t advancing but we weren’t retreating either. Then we got the news that Gen. Patton was coming. Then it was like the sun came out, the sky cleared, and it was like manna from heaven. He didn’t know the words ‘can’t do it.’ He did it and it proved to be a lifesaver for us later on. “— *Video Asset | A Path to Victory, Part 3 - General Patton | South Carolinians in WW II | Knowitall.org*

...Anytime you could find cover was so much better than sleeping in a foxhole. Christmas Eve, we slept in a horse stable. The horses were missing of course but it was a shelter from cold sleeping in that straw. When we hit the hay in that stable, the only thing that I remember was warmth. It was warm and soft. No snow. I remembered how inter-



esting it was that Jesus slept in a stable too at that time of year. And I went to sleep right away. I was comfortable with that. Sometimes I couldn’t sleep but that time I did. It was wonderful.” —*Video Asset | A Path to Victory, Part 7 - Battle of the Bulge | South Carolinians in WW II | Knowitall.org*

Having suffered frostbite in both feet, I was evacuated to England for treatment. On the Atlantic crossing from Europe to England, Allied soldiers shared their space with German POWs. It was incongruous to have been

fighting them and yet, here they were onboard the ship with us. Many of the POWs had gangrene and the resulting odor was terrible.

In May 1945, Germany surrendered. To be able to return to the United States, a soldier had to have accumulated sufficient “points.” Soldiers were given one point for each month of military service and one additional point was given for each month of overseas service. Each battle star or decoration earned a soldier five points. A total of 85 points was needed for eligibility to return stateside. Soldiers who had earned that number of points were to be demobilized as soon as a transport back to the United States was available. I had enough points to do that. After treatment, regardless of points you were declared as either essential or as non-essential personnel. Because I had been assigned to the transportation corps, I was declared essential and therefore could not go home at the time.

While in England, I applied for and entered the Officer Candidate School (OCS) and the Corps of Engineers. I completed OCS but refused my commission as a way of exiting the Army. I ended my military career, returned to the United States, finished college, met and married my wife, and started a family.

I hope that our generation will be remembered as an example for young men and women nowadays. That they would engage in positive, life-affirming activities, and serve their country.”

—Submitted by Leif’s daughter Lisa Maseng and Rick Hurst

★ Horace “Jim” Sharp

1 INF 18 REG B

After 50 years of relative silence regarding his BoB WWII experience, on Christmas 2000 my father Horace J. (Jim) Sharp presented our family with a manuscript of his time serving as an infantryman in that terrible war.

He had kept a pocket-size notebook the Red Cross gave him when he shipped out, and scribbled notes in it as time allowed of his time on the front lines. It was from these notes that the manuscript was written, and later his book *Diary of a Combat Infantryman*. The following excerpt is from this book and provided with his permission. Dad will soon turn 98 years young, and still loves life. His family is very proud of him. — Submitted by his son Doug Sharp

To the Front Lines in a Blizzard

“At midnight we were awakened (from our sleep in a barn near the front lines) and told, “we would be moving to the front lines within 10 minutes and to meet outside the barn door”. It was very dark in the barn as we packed our gear and prepared to “move up”. It was bitterly cold, and a raging blizzard. I began to have some inner fear of what I was getting into as machine gun, artillery fire and tracer bullets filled the air. We were told we were going to the front lines on an “ammunition and hot chow” jeep which would take us within a few hundred yards of the front. It was very dark and cold with snow already about 18 inches deep and drifts 4’ high. We could not use lights or talk and it was very rough terrain. The jeep was loaded with supplies for the front, a driver and a Sgt who had been back to the first aid station, plus 4 replacement soldiers with our rifles and our full field pack. It was difficult not only to get on the jeep but to stay on after we started moving. We were told there were German patrols out and to be prepared at all times to “fight our way to the front or fight our way out”. There would be no smoking or talking. The jeeps muffler had been “muffled” to eliminate noise. I began to wonder if there was some way out of this ordeal. It was becoming a bitterly cold and frightful situation.

We started off on a dirt road but we soon hit a path or trail and slowly wound our way into a forest with tall trees. The moon was being muted by clouds and visibility was almost zero and so was the temperature. With over a foot of snow it was slow going—the jeep was slipping and sliding and it was tough just hanging on.

The good part was the Germans couldn’t see us any better than we could see them, but if there were patrols out, they could be waiting in ambush and we would be sitting ducks. Many other thoughts and direful scenarios went through my mind, but we kept moving slowly forward toward the front lines.

We finally arrived at a point in a forest (later found to be the Ardennes) where the jeep stopped and we were motioned to get off. It was very dark in the forest. The Sgt got us close together and whispered that we were to “move out” in single file, have our rifles in one hand “at ready”, and the other hand on the soldier ahead so we wouldn’t get lost. Since we couldn’t see (except when an occasional flare would go off) we would stop every 100 paces and listen for enemy patrols. We moved slowly, stopping frequently to listen and noticed we were getting closer to the flares, rifle, machine gun and artillery fire. We also noted between the sounds of war, there were other odd and unknown sounds in the forest as we neared the front lines.”

Jim’s book *Diary of a Combat Infantryman — From Bulge to Bavaria* is available (hurry, the supply is limited). An autographed copy is \$22.50 (includes postage & handling). 2 copies \$39.95. Contact Jim at: Jim Sharp, 508 Wickham Rd, Manhattan, KS 66502-3753. Phone (785) 587-5767 (Central Standard time)



WWII EVENTS

Mid Atlantic Air Museum’s 31st Annual WWII Weekend Reading, PA - June 3-5, 2022

One of the most comprehensive WWII living event featuring WWII Special Guest veterans, period military vehicles, reenactors, entertainers, aircraft, huge militaria flea market, and airshow! Our Lehigh Valley Chapter President Steve Savage and chapter members volunteer their time for this event, so look for them while you’re there! More details, visit maam.org.

106th Infantry Division 75th Reunion Arlington, VA - August 24-28, 2022



The 75th reunion of the 106th Infantry Division Association will be held August 24-28, 2022 in Arlington, Virginia. For information, visit <http://106thinfdivassn.org/reunion2022.html> or contact BOBA Member Wayne Dunn at 410-409-1141 or email Wayne-Dunn@comcast.net.

FREE SHIPPING — Buy 1 for \$30, or 2 for \$40

THE VBOB CERTIFICATE: Have you ordered yours?



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

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

The cost of 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:

First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Last Name _____

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 _____

Mailing Information: (SHIPS TO 1 MAILING ADDRESS ONLY)

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone number _____ E-mail address _____

BOBA member: yes no (membership not a requirement)

Make checks payable to BOBA, Inc.

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

THE HIGHEST DISTINCTION CONGRESS CAN BESTOW

by James Triesler, Virginia War Memorial Director of Education and BOBA Historian

The following article is a continuation of “No Mail, Low Morale: The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion,” which appeared in the Summer 2021 issue of The Bulge Bugle.

As a long-time member of VBOB/BOBA, I have listened to many veterans share their stories of serving in the military during WWII. During interviews, veterans consistently mentioned the importance of receiving mail from home. Their letters reflected the joy experienced when receiving mail and disappointment, even confusion, when no mail came. Are they not writing? Is there a breakdown in the delivery system?

Although not a participant in the Battle of



An unidentified member of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion after arriving in Europe.



Members of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion marching in a parade in France (1945).

the Bulge, James Goodwyn of the 15th Air Force perfectly stated the importance of letters to all military personnel serving overseas. In February 1945, Goodwyn wrote to his fiancé Elizabeth, “Didn’t receive any mail from you today, but will expect some tomorrow. I hope you are writing very regularly, as that is all I have to look forward to from day to day.” He concluded the letter with, “Please write every day.”

By February 1945, a huge backlog of mail existed in Europe. Major Charity Adams and 850 women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion solved the problem. “We worked three eight-hour shifts, seven days a week. When we began work in February 1945, there was a large backlog of mail, including six airplane hangars of Christmas packages, returned to the United Kingdom from the continent during the Battle of the Bulge. Our job was to get these packages to the troops.”

Senator Jerry Moran (R-Kansas) recently described the success of the 6888th when he stated, “The women of the Six Triple Eight processed millions of letters and packages during their deployment in Europe, helping connect WWII soldiers with their loved ones back home.”

To honor the success of the only all-female, all African-American unit to serve overseas during WWII, Representative Gwen Moore (D-Wisconsin) and Senator Jerry Moran (R-Kansas) introduced the “Six Triple Eight” Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021. Sponsors of the Bill included Representative Jake LaTurner (R-Kansas) and Senator Jacky Rosen (D-Nevada). The Bill unanimously passed in the Senate on April 20, 2021 and in the House of Representatives on February 28, 2022. President Biden signed the Bill into law on March 14, 2022.

According to Senator Moran, “The women of the Six Triple Eight have earned a special place in history for their service to our nation, and as of today, their sacrifice is enshrined into law with the highest distinction Congress can bestow.” There are still a few living members of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. Work has begun designing the coin and planning is taking place for a formal congressional ceremony to present the Gold Medal to these women and their families. Thank you to those who worked to honor Major Charity Adams and the women of the 6888th who demonstrated unwavering support for the morale of our Battle of the Bulge veterans.

CHAPTER NEWS

MI WEST MICHIGAN CHAPTER (23)



The Chapter asks for prayers for Victor Cross (87 INFD), who is ill as of this writing. Vic and I met almost 18 years ago and made numerous trips back to Belgium, France, and many functions here at home. He's also hunted often on our farms and been a

success. His son's have also traveled to Europe with Vic. For those who know Vic, he is a quite a dancer!

Our Michigan Chapter, like many others, struggles to find and keep members. Should you know anyone seeking membership, please contact me. Thank you!

—Submitted by Gary Higgins, Chapter President and Past National BOBA President

VA CRATER CHAPTER (43)

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.



Chapter Memories

Members of the Crater Chapter met for our quarterly lunch meeting in Ashland, Virginia on September 21, 2019. In attendance was our WWII veteran, the late Ron Kimler of the 9th Air Force. His fighter squadron was located in Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge. He is dearly missed by our Chapter. Standing L to R: Linda Sings Guilmart, Ron Peterson, JC Wood, John Payne, Mary Ann Smith (Chapter President), Helen Berry, Betsy Rose (*Bugle* Editor). Seated L to R: Ron Kimler (9 AF) and Betsy's son Scott O'Brien.

PA DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER (4)

Pictured at our March Meeting (standing): Andre McCoy, VP of the Delaware Valley Chapter, and LTC (CAP) Albert El, veteran of the 82nd AB; Legion Post 405 at the Union League. (Seated): Benjamin Berry, 99, 3 Army QM Corps, and Jake Ruser, 97, Combat Medic 4th ID, both Luxembourg Military Medal recipients.

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.



PA LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER (55)

The Lehigh Valley Chapter has resumed its monthly meetings. To learn more, search "Lehigh Valley Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge" on Facebook or contact BOBA national office to inquire about joining the group. —Submitted by Stephen Savage, President/Treasurer of Chapter 55



Chapter Memories

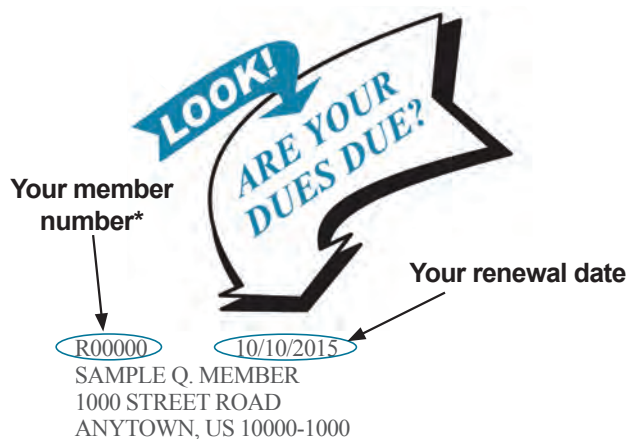
A monthly meeting from 2012 for all of our local members who were honored with the French Legion of Merit. Pictured are all Battle of the Bulge veterans, from L to R: Donald Burdick, Roy Minnerly, John Caponigro, Nathan Kline, Morris Metz, Jack Lippincott, Evangeline Coeyman, Mark Kistler, Frank Maresca, and seated, Bill Leopold. We miss and honor them all!



Chapter #55 picnic from June 6, 2014 for our WWII veterans. Only one veteran is still with us, Richard (Dick) Schermerhorn, who recently turned 100! (Dick is in the white jacket and hat, seated in the front row, 3rd from left.)

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 France during the war?
All living WWII veterans who served in France are now eligible to receive the Legion of Honor



The French government is on a mission to ensure that every surviving WWII Veteran who fought on French soil during the war has received the Legion of Honor. This medal is the highest French order of merit for military and civil merits, established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte and retained by all the divergent governments and regimes later holding power in France, up to the present.

In cooperation with The Normandy Institute, the National Museum, the United States Army has asked BOBA to inquire with our veteran members. If you have not received your Medal, please contact the 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. You must include a copy of your Veterans Discharge paperwork and either a copy of your Drivers License or Passport with Photo. We will share the information with the US Army, who will in turn share the information with the Chairman of The Normandy Institute and French Consulate closest to the Veteran's address. Once confirmed, the consulate will arrange an in-person presentation to award the Veteran with the Legion of Honor. This medal is not presented posthumously, so time is of the essence. Thank you!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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) _____
(wife, son, daughter, niece, etc. or N/A)

Historian

Other

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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SPRING 2022

BOBA Reunion ★ October 21-23, 2022
GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
Read more on page 12.



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!