

The BULGE BUGLE®

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

VOLUME XLI NUMBER 4

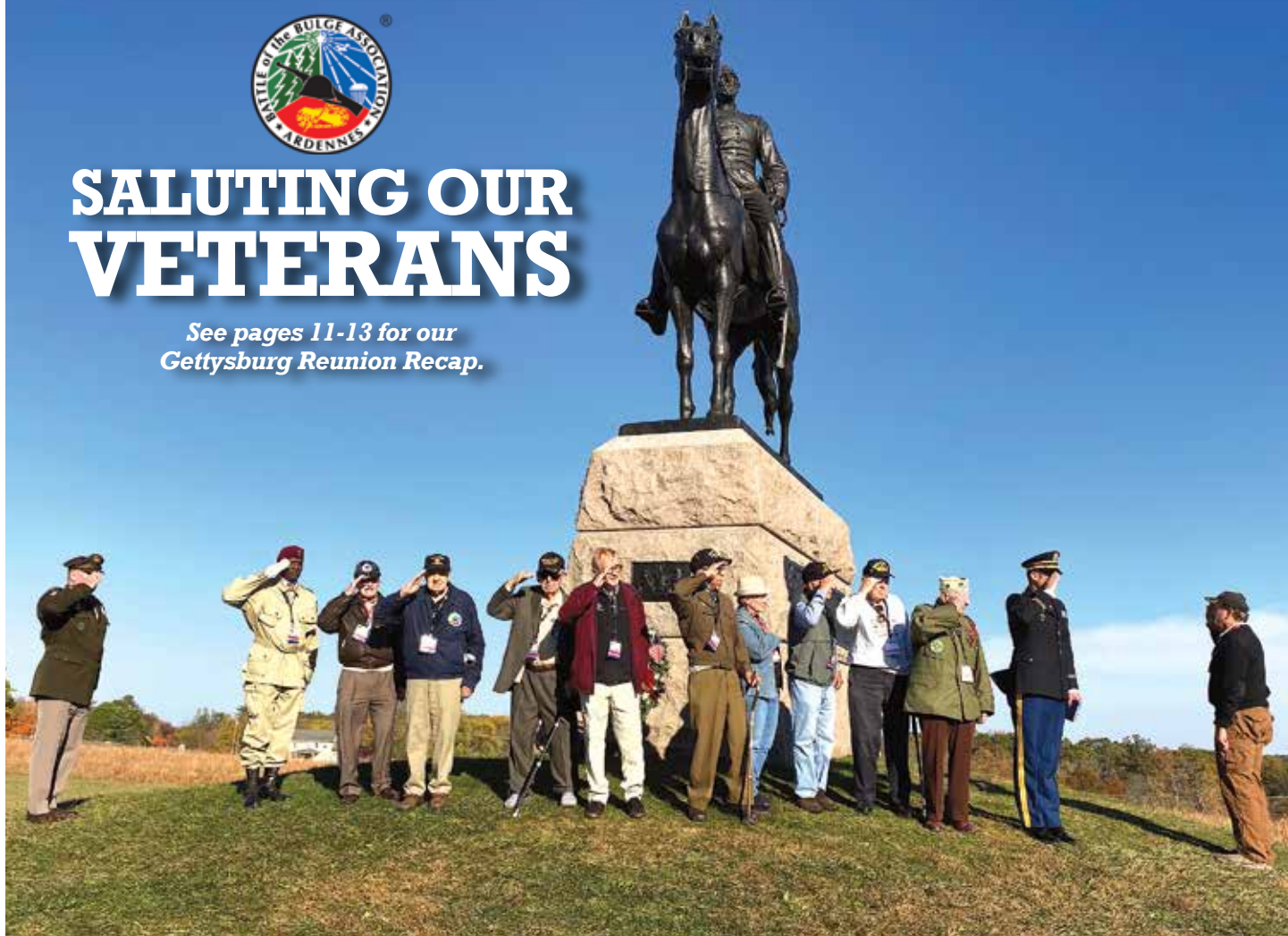
THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

FALL 2022



SALUTING OUR VETERANS

*See pages 11-13 for our
Gettysburg Reunion Recap.*



OUR ANNUAL COMMEMORATION OF **THE BULGE**

Washington, DC and Arlington, VA
January 24-26, 2023

See page 9 for details.



Battle of the Bulge Association® , Inc.

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

The Battle of the Bulge Association® (BOBA) is a membership organization instituted to: perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices 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

Incoming Editor: Leon Reed (EMAIL: boba.editor@gmail.com)

BOBA MEMBERSHIP OFFICE

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

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

VISIT THE BOBA WEB SITE: www.battleofthebulge.org
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Executive Vice President:

Barbara Mooneyhan

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Vice President Chapters:

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Vice President Military &

Veteran Affairs: Kevin Hinkle

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Recording Secretary: Gail Larke

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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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George Chekan* 1986-88;
2003-05

William Greenville* 1988-90

Darrell Kuhn* 1990-92

William Hemphill* 1992-93

William Tayman* 1993-94

Grover Twiner* 1994-95

Stanley Wojtusik* 1995-97;
2005-07

George Linthicum* 1997-99

John Dunleavy* 1999-01

Louis Cunningham* 2001-03

Demetri Paris* 2007-10

David Bailey 2010-12

Douglas Dillard* 2012-14

Alan Cunningham 2014-16

Gary Higgins 2017-19

* Deceased

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

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

The following is a list of the present chapters, the state in which they are located, and their Chapter President's name.

Please contact BOBA at audra.boba@gmail.com or 703-528-4058 for their local meeting times and contact information.

CALIFORNIA

Golden Gate (10): Doris Davis

CONNECTICUT

Yankee Chapter (40):

Richard Egan

INDIANA

Central Indiana (47):

Chris Schneider

KANSAS

Kansas (69): Greg Penfield

MICHIGAN

West Michigan (23):

Gary Higgins

MISSOURI

Gateway (25): Dave Schroeder

Visit website gatewayvbob.org

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Fort Monmouth (56): Larry Lynch

Fort Dix/McGuire (60):

Donald "Coach" Brien

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Staten Island (52): William Abell

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

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Leonard Skonecki

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 CONTACT UPDATES TO:

audra.boba@gmail.com

.....

SEND CHAPTER NEWS FOR BUGLE TO:

boba.editor@gmail.com

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: JANUARY 13, 2023

ON THE COVER



Top photo: Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge with honored dignitaries salute during the playing of *Taps* to remember all those who fought and died for our freedom. Where they stand is the monument to Major General George Gordon Meade, which is located south of Gettysburg on Cemetery Ridge, looking out over the field where Pickett's Charge was turned back in what would come to be called the high water mark of the Confederacy. The monument was dedicated by the State of Pennsylvania on June 5, 1896. *Pictured L to R:* Brigadier General John R. Pippy, Albert El (Delaware Valley Chapter member), Bob Welsh* (87 INFD 347 REG K), Dan

Santagata* (5 INFD 10 REG 7 CMBT BN F), Gerald White* (2 INFD 23 REG M), David Bailey* (106 INFD 422 REG F), Ben Berry* (Quartermaster Corps 3rd Army), Mary Ann Smith (VA Crater Chapter President), Anthony Pagano* (8 ARMDD 49 REG C), Joe Landry* (776 AAA AW BN SM), Jacob Ruser* (4 INFD 12 REG MEDIC), CH (CPT) Justin Thomas, Andy Waskie (Event Organizer and Delaware Valley Chapter President). Photo: Betsy Rose

**denotes Bulge veteran*

Bottom photo: As we approach the 78th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, we remember the soldiers who fought in the bitter cold, defending freedom. More than one million men fought in the heavily-forested Ardennes region of eastern Belgium and Northern Luxembourg where the Bulge took place from Dec. 16, 1944 - Jan. 25, 1945. Support BOBA and help us honor those who fought at the Battle of the Bulge so that their sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Photo: U.S. Army Center of Military History

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 500 words or fewer. 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: boba.editor@gmail.com, or by mail: Battle of the Bulge Association®, Inc, P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: JANUARY 13, 2023

QUESTIONS? Please contact *Bugle* editor Leon Reed at boba.editor@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

WE HAD A RECORD-BREAKING reunion in Gettysburg, with more than 170 registered attendees (11 WWII veterans registered, 10 attended). I'd like to thank all who attended along with the volunteers for their support of this year's reunion. I'd also like to share my condolences with the Soria family who lost Marshall Soria the week he was supposed to join us at our reunion. Condolences to him and the veterans' families who are listed in our memorial section.

The annual membership meeting selected our 2023 Reunion site in New Orleans next July/August. We'll all be in the Higgins Hotel immediately next to the National WWII Museum. The membership also approved a one-year exception to the by-laws, which will allow me to serve a fourth year as president. As your Association President during the Covid pandemic, I appreciate the opportunity to serve for an additional year as President and CEO of BOBA.

The longevity of the organization depends on us all continuing to be financially responsible. We're doing the best we can; even with the cost of inflation, we stayed pretty darn close to our budget. Our treasurer, Ken Larke, provided a great update on the organization's finances at the annual meeting.

One hard decision made at the meeting was to recognize the huge bite from printing and mailing costs. From now on, if you want a hard copy of *The Bulge Bugle*®, it's going to cost an additional \$20 (except for WWII Veterans); otherwise you need your e-mail on file with the BOBA office, so we can get your electronic copy out to you. A rate increase was also approved for 2023, with more details to follow on exact amounts after we figure out a couple things on our committee. The tiered membership approved in 2020 has proven entirely too difficult to implement on our current computer system. In order to ease implementation, all membership renewals will be due as we enter into the next calendar year of 2023.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We hope you can join us next year for the January 24-26, 2023 Commemoration event in Washington D.C. BOBA continues to perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices made so long ago. So how about helping recruit new members into the organization? In just a couple more years the 80th Anniversary Commemorations in Europe will take place. We'll start planning it in 2023.

We (Immediate Past President Gary Higgins and I) honored both Tracey Diehl and Betsy Rose on behalf of the organization for all their years of support running day-to-day operations and editing *The Bulge Bugle*®. It's the first opportunity we've had to do so in a long time, as



they were both present at this year's reunion.

The 80th Infantry Division connection previously brought us Betsy Rose, who shall remain a member of BOBA, but has resigned as our Editor to return to full-time work in healthcare. Now it's brought us Leon Reed, who has been offered and accepted the role of *Bugle* Editor, with transition beginning immediately. (Betsy and Leon are both 80 INFD association members and worked together on this issue.) Leon lives in the Gettysburg area, he's a published author, and he was our tour guide on one of the buses in Gettysburg. Like all the soldiers that served in the Battle of the Bulge, those who served at Gettysburg more than earned our respect. I look forward to seeing folks in Washington, DC, as well as enjoying our next *Bulge Bugle*.

Stay healthy everyone! Thank you all for remaining members of BOBA.

—John Mohor President & CEO

WELCOME NEW 2023 BOARD MEMBERS

A motion was made and supported by the membership, at our General Membership Meeting at the Annual Reunion in Gettysburg, to accept the following Board officers and Board members for 2023.

John Mohor was elected for a fourth term as President, making a one-time exception to our bylaws because of the effects that COVID had on our membership meeting in 2020. Craig Stiegmeier (also a member of the 87 INFD) was nominated during the meeting and unanimously approved to replace veteran David Bailey (also Past BOBA President) who is retiring from the Board.

OFFICERS

President and CEO:

John Mohor

Executive Vice President:

Barbara Mooneyhan

Vice President Membership:

Doug Howard

Vice President Chapters:

Dr. Andy Waskie

Vice President Military & Veteran Affairs:

Kevin Hinkle

Treasurer: Ken Larke

Recording Secretary:

Gail Larke

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Madeleine Bryant, Chaplain

Kristen Faller

Steven Landry

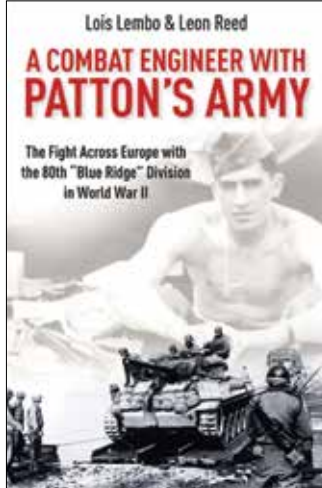
Craig Stiegmeier

Jim Triesler, Historian

BOBA ANNOUNCEMENTS



LEFT PHOTO: Leon Reed and his wife Lois Lembo celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary at the 80 INFD Association Reunion in August 2022. They are pictured with WWII veteran Burt Marsh (80 INFD 319-M). **RIGHT PHOTO:** Lembo and Reed's WWII book.



WELCOME LEON REED

Please welcome Leon Reed as the new *Bugle Bugle* Editor! Leon is a former defense consultant, former congressional aide and history teacher. You might remember him presenting in our 2020 Livestream program, or met him in Gettysburg at our 2022 reunion. He lives there and is extremely knowledgeable about the area, Civil War, and many other historical subjects. He and his wife Lois wrote a book about WWII entitled *A Combat Engineer with Patton's Army* (Savas Beatie, 2020). It is about Lois's father and his fight across Europe with the 80th "Blue Ridge" INFD. There's an excerpt in the Summer 2020 *Bugle*, but go to Amazon and buy the book, because it is amazing. I just can't wait to read the next *Bugle* with Leon as Editor!

Betsy Rose, *Bugle Bugle* Editor

FAREWELL FROM OUR EDITOR

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as *Bugle* Editor these past few years. I can't count how many times I have cried reading the harrowing stories of our veterans' sacrifice, many firsthand accounts. I have made so many wonderful friends through BOBA. As I was assisting our then BOBA historian John Bowen to set up his displays at my first BOBA Commemoration in 2017, in walks Francis Chesko (combat engineer) who proceeds to call me 'Rosie' and did so from then on. I learned so much about life and the Battle of the Bulge from both of them. They are both in heaven now. I still love chatting regularly with my veteran friends David Bailey, Fred Faulkner, Joe Landry, George Merz, and many others. As with most veterans of The Greatest Generation, their conversations always inspire me and remind me about what's important in life. Most of all, I am amazed by how humble they are and how they take everything in stride, with a smile, yet they have been through more than any of us can imagine. Now I pass the baton to Leon Reed, who is extremely qualified for the role.

I learned about BOBA at an 80 INFD Association reunion where I

met Leon, and learned about my grandfather's service from Bob Burrows (80 INFD 317-HQ), the first Bulge veteran I ever met. His name was Edward Wallace Hughes (80 INFD 317-K) and he was killed in action on Christmas Eve in Kehmen, Luxembourg. His grave was moved in 1949 from there to Arlington and his name is inscribed on the Virginia War Memorial and courthouse building in Orange County, VA. If you have information about this unit, I would love to learn more. I hope to fill in more of the gaps about his service so I can submit his story to a future *Bugle*—which reminds me of BOBA's mission. It is OUR responsibility to perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices made during WWII. That means we need to submit stories to the *Bugle*, invite friends to join and donate in memory of our loved one to help keep this important organization alive. Thank you for allowing me the privilege to help share your stories! I will continue to be active with BOBA and my local VA Crater Chapter. Lastly, thank you to the BOBA Board, all Chapter presidents and Tracey Diehl (longtime *Bugle* designer and past editor) for all your support!

Betsy Rose, *Bugle Bugle* Editor



Betsy Rose with Francis Chesko and Joe Landry at the 2017 BOBA Commemoration in DC.

CORRECTION: On page 14 of the Summer 2022 *Bugle*, the restaurant where Darrell Bush received his medal was Texas Ribs & BBQ (and not Mission BBQ). We apologize for the error.

NOTICE: DUES NOW \$40

At our General Membership Meeting at the Annual Reunion in Gettysburg, our members voted to increase our annual dues from \$20 per year to **\$40 per year**, effective as of January 1, 2023. We no longer offer Lifetime Memberships. (Those already purchased will be honored.) The Budget Committee will meet in 2023 in an effort to review future membership dues structure.

BOBA is now operating at a deficit, and we need your support to keep us going! Sign up your family and friends! See membership application on the inside back cover.

Memberships make great gifts! One year for just \$40!

THE RIFLE

By Andrew Biggio, BOBA Member



Excerpts from Chapter Three: "No Stalag" about Clarence Cormier 106 INF 422 REG and his amazing story of survival during and after his capture in the Battle of the Bulge.

"Surrender" is a forbidden word in the U.S. military, an avoidable topic amongst veterans and proud historians. It isn't in America's vernacular. After all, there is this image that our armed forces win every battle of every war—the Revolution, WWI, WWII, and Korea. Many people do not realize that in WWII, the United States had one of the biggest surrenders since the American Civil War. In December of 1944, some 7,000 U.S. soldiers surrendered to the German

army just outside the town of St. Vith, Belgium. However, not all 7,000 were rescued. "Surrender was only half the key to survival," Clarence explained.

....The 106th moved over 300 miles into a small Ardennes Village known as St. Vith to meet and relieve the 2nd Infantry Division. They were told the area was known as the "honeymoon sector." It was so quiet and boring with no heavy enemy presence, that each of the men of the anti-tank company was given only one clip of ammunition. "We were barely given any ammo, moving into Belgium. One clip for the M1 and one clip for the .45. We were told trucks would resupply us the next day." On December 9, the 106th officially took over for the 2nd Infantry Division in the so-called "vacation land." Their resupply, however, never came.

At the crack of dawn on December 16, Clarence and the rest of the company were violently awakened by enemy artillery. The trees that provided them cover suddenly burst into flames. Pine cones, branches, and bark fell on their heads. An artillery barrage of cannons, railway guns, and tanks tore into woods east of St. Vith, turning "vacation land" into nightmare land. Some soldiers did not have a chance to wake up before being killed instantly. The Germans had begun the offensive of what would be known as the "Battle of the Bulge." Clarence's location was the exact spot where the battle broke....

....With less than two weeks in Europe, the 106th was introduced to combat in the most extreme measures. They were outnumbered 20 to 1. In the woods east of St. Vith, Clarence prayed for his life. Artillery rained on him and the rest of the anti-tank men of the regiment. The bombardment continued throughout the day with no break period. Trees branches and body parts were strewn out along the snow.

As soon as Clarence had the courage to rise in an attempt to get a glimpse of the enemy, an artillery round landed in front of him. Dirt and rock collided with his body. Clarence went deaf. Both men in front of him were blown into several pieces. The explosion was so close it knocked him over. A piece of shrapnel snapped into his right shin. Clarence hugged the ground figuring the next artillery shell would be a direct hit on him.

After several minutes, he began to crawl towards another foxhole. Minutes turned to hours. The artillery ceased at dusk. Enemy soldiers began to appear in the distance and the Americans expended what little

ammunition they had. The one clip of ammunition they were given did not last long as the German Army's 294th Volksgrenadier Regiment closed in on them.

....A desperate soldier ran over to Clarence with a white rag. The Army captain instructed the surviving anti-tank crewman to surrender themselves to the first Germans they saw. Clarence began to tie an extra cloth liner from his jacket around the bleeding wound on his shin. When he looked up, he could hardly breathe. He was staring up at an enemy soldier who pointed a Mauser rifle in his face....

After his capture, the Germans marched the men into Stalags, except for Clarence and fifty others who were marched farther into Germany.

....Days turned into weeks. Clarence was surviving off eating snow, grass, and rotting vegetables they found in fields or ditches. The winter nights grew colder. The Germans took up shelter in different homes, leaving the American prisoners outside. "They warned that they would be watching us."

One German was assigned to watch the prisoners from inside the home. The Americans went several months without having a roof over their heads. To sleep, they formed a pig pile in order to keep warm with each other's body heat. "It got so cold at night; we took turns sleeping on the bottom." However, their techniques did not stop men from becoming sick from constant exposure to the elements. Frost bite, infection, and hunger were killing the men. It wasn't uncommon to wake up some mornings and discover his buddies did not make it through the night, succumbing to whatever illness they had contracted.

Clarence and his fellow captives become cleverer at night, sneaking into the fields to retrieve rotting crops or chicken eggs. Their hunger grew worse. Finally they came across a field that was once occupied by livestock. There were no crops whatsoever; the only thing left behind was cow manure. With no other choice but to starve to death, the men ate the cow dung.

"I'll always tell people, cow dung is very sweet,"

Clarence said, with a trace of humor still intact. Those who didn't give in to the disgusting diet continued to die. Every day was a challenge. "We woke up every morning and said how we can beat the guards? That's what kept some of us alive."

...After a few months of the same routine of marching, eating snow, tree bark, cow dung, and rotted vegetables, it was evident they weren't just prisoners, but were on some sort of death march. The Germans refused to put these particular fifty men in a Stalag prison camp....He became violently sick from the things he attempted to eat along the ditches of what was later determined to be Southern Germany. Many civilians approached the captured men and attempted to give them food, only to be turned away by the German guards. By late March of 1945, Clarence was close to giving up....

Read more about Clarence's harrowing story of survival and how he met General George S. Patton. Of the 50 prisoners with Clarence, only 14 remained when they were rescued. His family had received a telegram stating he was killed in action before learning he survived, and after recovering, he was ironically given new orders to monitor a German POW camp in Maine. Before his death at age 96 in October 2020, "Clancy" had a long career as an engineer; was an avid golfer and heavily involved in many civic organizations. To learn more and to get a copy of the book, The Rifle by Andrew Biggio, visit thewwiirifle.com.



"We thought we were going to a Stalag, instead we were on a death march." —Clarence Cormier (106 INF 422 REG)

SURVIVING BASTOGNE

by Louise Endres Moore, BOBA Member

I casually asked my father, “What was the worst part of the war for you?” He hesitated and quietly responded, “Bastogne.”

The timeline for the Battle of the Bulge was from December 16, 1944 to January 25, 1945. However, on January 18, most of the 35th Infantry Division left the Bastogne area and were trucked in strict secrecy to Metz, France, where they cleaned up, ate hot meals, and picked up replacements. Eisenhower’s headquarters had ordered the 35th to move to the Vosges Mountains, about 90 miles from Metz, to await another possible German offensive, sometimes called a “Little Bulge.”

The snow was eight to ten inches deep, and the soldiers slept in abandoned German foxholes. Artillery flew overhead, but it was headed to other targets. The troops finally received shoeboxes, which could have prevented frostbite in the Ardennes.

The possible German breakthrough never developed, so this assignment was a very brief, yet welcome, relief for the 35th Division compared to what they had just been through near Bastogne. By the end of January, the 35th was ordered north to accomplish their next mission.

Since my father had said Bastogne was the worst part of the war, I was surprised to find the photo of him, seemingly confident and relaxed so soon after Bastogne.



LEFT PHOTO: Alfred Endres in the Vosges Mountains, January 1945. **RIGHT PHOTO:** Members of the 35 INFD 320 REG. Front row: Mitchell, Alfred Endres. Back row: Earl Lynch is 2nd from left. Other possible names are Horn and Nelson, January 1945.

The nephew of a Bulge veteran shared with me that his mother received a letter from her brother after his experiences in the Battle of the Bulge. There was a celebratory tone to his letter because her brother felt the war had been decided with the Ardennes Campaign. It was just a matter of time before the war would be over.

That letter helped me understand the photo of my father, standing alone. He is wearing his wedding ring, probably now believing he

would make it home to see his wife and meet his four and a half month old daughter, born during his absence. Earlier in the war, my father had said, “I never thought I would live through it.” Now he felt he had a better chance of survival.

The story about my father (Alfred), those in the photos, and the 35th Infantry Division is documented in *Alfred: The Quiet History of a World War II Infantryman*, available through www.AlfredtheBook.com and Amazon.

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 issue of *The 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 October 31, 2022, that these BOBA Veteran members have recently passed away:

Clarence Bachand	284 ENGR CMBT BN C	Thomas Hoke	87 INFD 312 MED BN C
Jack Bornstein	78 INFD 308 SRV BN	Raymond S. Jevitt	87 INFD 335 FA BN B BTRY
Carmine “Buzz” Burzumato	235 SALVAGE CO	William Ross Meacham	99 INFD 393 REG
John R. Coyne	634 AAA AW BN	Robert P. Nadeau	84 INFD 335 REG CO L
Victor Cross	87 INFD 345 REG B	James W. Phares	35 INFD 134 REG 2 BN HQ
Frank Dick	80 INFD 317 REG I	Harry Reed	3 ARMDD 83 RECON BN B
Raymond Dorsey	4 INFD 22 REG L	Marshall V. Soria	28 INFD 110 REG 3 BN CO C
Warren C. Fisher	28 INFD 109 REG	Jack Van Eaton	78 INFD 311 REG CO M
Kenneth Fullom	83 INFD 322 BN		



BOBA EVENTS

STAY TUNED! **JULY/AUGUST 2023** **BATTLE OF THE BULGE** **ASSOCIATION® REUNION**

Tour the National WWII Museum
with us and our Bulge veterans in
New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Full details to come in future issues of
the *Bugle*, and on our website:
battleofthebulge.org**



A Higgins boat on display at the National WWII Museum.

JUST DAVID

by J. David Bailey, 106 INFD Bulge Veteran Member—with additions by Barbara Mooneyhan, BOBA Executive VP

When I got out of the service, I told my Mother to give my uniform away and that I was proud to give three years of my life to my country, stateside or abroad—but it wasn't anything more than any of the 16 million who served—and I wanted no adulation. And from that day forward no one knew of my service. I worked in Pittsburgh, New York City, and Washington, D.C., and I never once mentioned being in the Army and particularly in time of war.

What happened that suddenly I was “out of the closet” as a Veteran?

The only way I could attend the opening of the WWII Memorial, I joined the “Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge” to be seated. Afterward, they asked me to attend one of their meetings, and six years later, I was elected National President over 64 chapters nationwide. I was elected to the President's Council overseeing the White House veteran events, and became a Veteran advisor at the Veteran Administration. In my new role, I kept alive the sacrifices made by my fellow soldiers that served with me.

My mother would turn over in her grave at the attention I was getting, knowing how much I wanted to keep my service private. But others would confirm I did not do this for my personal edification, but I did it to keep the memory alive of my fellow serviceman. Today, in accepting awards, I am doing it to keep the flame alive—not for myself, but to keep the memory alive.

After the War, I took advantage of the GI Bill of Rights and did not go to work until after my 27th year. My father, who was asked, “Is



J. David Bailey (left) was presented with the French Legion of Honor medal by Ambassador Philippe Etienne (right) on Bastille Day, July 13, 2022.

David ever going to work???” said, “Yes, someday, but, different from most of you, he will be working when your time has passed.” I wouldn't change him for the world. In later life, he depended on me for financial advice and safety.

I love living alone and have never been lonesome.

David continues to accept recognition and honors for his service and the other WWII veterans for which he advocates. He recently was presented with the French Legion of Honor medal by Ambassador Philippe Etienne on Bastille Day, July 13, 2022 for his fighting the Nazis to help liberate France. The ceremony was held at the French Ambassador's residence and was very intimate, with the deputy US Secretary of State also attending. Along with four other WWII veterans (only 3 were in attendance), David was remembered by the French announcer: “As a member of the 106th Infantry Division, he was part of the resistance support troops who succeeded in slowing down and even stopping the German advance.” In response, David stated that “I am 100 years old. It wasn't very pleasant. We landed on the beach and ... in the worst world, and it wasn't very, very pleasant.”

We congratulate David on receiving this prestigious honor and wish him all of the best in the coming days and years!

—Barbara Mooneyhan

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION® , INC.
Invites You to Join Your Friends for the “Events of Remembrance and Commemoration” of the
78th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

JANUARY 24-26, 2023 | ARLINGTON, VA/WASHINGTON, DC

The Embassy of Luxembourg will host a reception for veterans, family and friends on the afternoon of Wednesday, January 25, 2023 to commemorate the end of the battle. Also included are 3 wreath-laying ceremonies at the Battle of the Bulge Memorial, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and WWII Memorial! We secured a special Battle of the Bulge Association® rate of \$159/night (plus taxes) at the Embassy Suites Crystal City/National Airport in Arlington, VA 22202. This rate includes a discounted self-parking rate of \$30/night, free transportation to and from Crystal City METRO and Reagan Washington National Airport, free hotel wi-fi, and complimentary breakfasts.

PLEASE NOTE: ITINERARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS NEEDED

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2023

1:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Hospitality Room Open
2:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Registration Open
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	DINNER ON YOUR OWN
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Special Program - speakers include Jim Triesler (BOBA historian and Director of Education at Virginia War Memorial) and Leon Reed (WWII author and new <i>Bulge Bugle</i> Editor), plus others TBD

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023

6:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Complimentary Breakfast with your hotel reservation
7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Registration Open (Hotel atrium)
8:30 AM	BUS BOARDS
8:45 AM	BUS DEPARTS HOTEL Arlington National Cemetery, WWII Memorial, Embassy of Luxembourg
2:30 PM	Bus departs from the Embassy of Luxembourg back to the hotel
3:00 PM	Arrive at hotel. Gathering in atrium to socialize the remainder of the evening. DINNER ON YOUR OWN.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023

6:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Complimentary Breakfast with your hotel reservation Depart or stay longer and enjoy the DC metropolitan area
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DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR THE EVENT AND HOTEL DISCOUNT RATE:
JANUARY 2, 2023

1. HOTEL RESERVATIONS: *YOU MUST MAKE ROOM RESERVATIONS DIRECTLY WITH THE HOTEL BY JANUARY 2, 2023 to get the BOBA special rate of \$159/night plus taxes. Go to battleofthebulge.org / click on “Bulge Anniversary Events” to find the hotel link. OR call Embassy Suites Crystal City/National Airport at 1-800-257-6009 or 703-979-9799 and mention the **Hotel Discount Code: BBA**. Complimentary breakfast each morning, free wi-fi, and free airport shuttle every 20 minutes is provided to and from Reagan Washington National Airport and to and from Crystal City METRO. Please make your reservations early to secure a room, especially if you want a handicap accessible room. Hotel reservations are based on availability so don’t delay!

2. EVENT REGISTRATION: Due to timing of this mailing, event registration is **ONLINE ONLY, BY JANUARY 2, 2023 DEADLINE**, at battleofthebulge.org / click on “Bulge Anniversary Events.”

\$120 price includes registration, Tuesday night program/gathering, Wednesday wreath-layings and Embassy event. All meals are on your own.



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

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

MEMORIALIZING FALLEN GOLDEN ACORNS OF WWII

by Scott Rayl, BOBA Member

For those that don't know yet, I am a repatriation specialist and member of the Battle of the Bulge Association. In my retirement, I have committed my time to honoring our nation's promise to bring all our service members home in whatever capacity possible. Most often this involves digital repatriation or memorialization, the process of elevating one's profile and deepening their historical footprint to ensure their individual agency survives the national narratives we have created.

Our reunion gave me the motivation necessary to do my first unit-based project. I decided to honor our friends in the 87th INFD Association by building a database of all fallen Golden Acorns of WWII and compiling as many of their photos as I could in October. I determined there were 302 soldiers buried abroad with no readily available photo. I then established a goal of finding 50-100 of these brave men in 30

days, preferably before the BOBA reunion in October 2022.

I could have picked any unit, but it was important to keep a focus on units who participated in the Bulge. I had two to choose from, but the 87th reached out to me, and I was inspired. Seven days into the project, and I surpassed my goal already! I post exclusively about these types of independent programs online, and in a week, I had months of material to use. In honor of Pennsylvania being the host site of our reunion, I included some of her brave children in this article.

I want to thank the folks of the 87th INFD Association for the wonderful reunion and the inspiration to make them my first unit project. Apparently, they have been collecting their own materials for a long time. I haven't seen their collection yet, which will undoubtedly hold dozens of additional photos, and I hope my efforts stirred up a lot of interest in their history after the hundred emails I wrote living family members looking for evidence of their relatives.

I'll probably do something similar in the near future for the 28th INFD "Bloody Bucket." I would hope to find a supportive community ready to participate and assist me. As a long-standing National Guard unit for the state of Pennsylvania, they have a lot more people who share in their history. The number of Pennsylvanians who served in this conflict might shock you, even for a populated state, I was surprised by their contribution to the nation's record of service and sacrifice.

I can not verify that the men I have chosen fought in the Bulge, but the evidence is clear that they were all shaped by the event. We must find more ways to collaborate and share the legacies of our fallen. Units that were relegated into Reserve, National Guard, or complete inactive status are in danger of losing the one thing that created them, their history. National narratives only have room for groups and select individuals. I believe history made them all heroes, and heroes deserve to be remembered! Their community and their family histories are incomplete without them, and so is our country's. Ask your association how to do your part, and let's bring them all home together.



SGT Kenneth O Schuman entered the service from Lackawanna, PA, in 1942. In February of 1945 he sustained life-threatening combat injuries while fighting in Belgium. He was evacuated to a military hospital in Scotland where his wounds proved fatal. He fought in an anti-tank unit with the 345th Infantry, 87th INFD. Imagine a veteran of WWI watching your son leave for another war never to return! SGT Schuman died 3 May 1945, and now rests at Cambridge American Cemetery at plot B, row 1, grave 55.



PFC Vincent E. Wagner entered the service from Allegheny County, PA, in 1943. He served with C Co, 1st Bn, 345th Infantry, 87th INFD and died during the Battle of the Bulge on 15 January 1945 while fighting in Belgium. Originally buried at Grand Faily Cemetery in France, PVT Vincent E. Wagner was moved to rest in Luxembourg American Cemetery at plot G, row 5, grave 29.

For additional KIA soldier profiles, visit battleofthebulge.org.

A DAUGHTER REMEMBERS

by Vicki Cool, BOBA Member

It was January of 1945. I cannot remember the exact date, but my brother Ron, was in the first grade, and I was 8 years old and in the third grade. A relative came to our school and asked if we could be excused to go home. I was wondering why we had to miss school. Upon our arrival home we heard the bad news. Our dad, Victor LaCount, was MIA. He was a PFC in the 101 Airborne Division 506 PRCHT INF. Our family (mother and 4 children) was devastated. We later got the news he was KIA.

Life was difficult. We were extremely poor. We never received the \$10,000 families received after their loved one died. I remember hearing our dad say that if he fell in battle, he wanted to be buried with his comrades.

Our mother, despite being poor, raised the four of us



Victor LaCount (101 Airborne Division 506 PRCHT INF) and his wife Norma.

with caring and compassion, with a special emphasis on prayers and church attendance. She even started a church which is currently well attended now.

As the four of us grew older we received the GI bill to get a college education (\$110/month). Fast forward many years, in 2012 my husband, youngest son, and myself took a bus tour visiting the battle sites of The Battle of the Bulge. We visited my dad's burial site in Luxembourg and the death site in Belgium. We had a grave side funeral service for our dad. It was a heart wrenching experience. I will always remember our trip to Europe, especially the appreciation shown to us by citizens of Luxembourg and Belgium.

I will never forget the sacrifices made by the men (about 19,000) who gave their lives so that we could live in a free democracy. My dad was a true hero.



1. At the Meade monument, L to R: BG John Pippy, Bob Welsh*, Albert El, Gerald White*, Dan Santagata*, John Mohor, Ben Berry*, Jacob Ruser*, Anthony Pagano*, Joe Landry* and CH (CPT) Justin Thomas.
2. Thanks to our Gettysburg Battlefield tour bus guides - Dave Loose, pictured with BOBA President John Mohor, and to Andy Waskie and Leon Reed!
3. Gettysburg National Cemetery.
4. Delaware Valley Chapter member Albert El with the Battle of the Bulge wreath.
**denotes Bulge veteran*



BOBA ANNUAL REUNION RECAP

by Leon Reed, BOBA Member

Over 150 members of the BOBA, including 10 Bulge veterans, visited Gettysburg in October 2022 for a weekend of fun, reunion, and education.

The veterans represented a wide range of Bulge experiences and, for men in their mid-90s and up, were surprisingly spry. After arrival, check-in and a reception on Friday, the visitors boarded buses on Saturday for tours of two of Gettysburg's prominent WWII sites: the Eisenhower Farm and the brand new World War II American Experience. "We always enjoy hosting veterans," said the museum's Director of Outreach, Jodi Wilson, "but this was a particular honor for us. These guys are real heroes."

Several veterans expressed particular admiration for "Ike," their old commander, and expressed joy at seeing vehicles they had used during the war. After a brief stop to lay a wreath at the Meade statue, a hearty dinner at General Pickett's, and a good night's sleep, they re-boarded the buses for a battlefield tour. Besides telling the story of the 80 years earlier battle, tour guides also pointed out some World War II sites: the

German POW camp (just south of Pickett's Buffet), the old armory (where the POWs stayed while building the camp), and the Louisiana and Mississippi monuments (sculpted by Don DeLue, who also created "American Youth Rising from the Waves," the central sculpture at the Omaha Beach American Cemetery in Normandy). Andy Waskie, who led one of the battlefield tours, commented, "Our veterans appreciated more than most visitors the incredible sacrifices of the soldiers who fought here."

John Mohor, president of BOBA, said "It's always been an honor attending BOBA Reunions. We started attending reunions while my dad, Arthur B. Mohor Jr. was still living. He died in October 2015, a couple months shy of turning 92."

He was pleased with the outcome of the conference. "When we were planning the Reunion, Andy Waskie, VP of Chapters, and I thought we'd have a good reunion if 60 registered. We ended up with over 170. The Town of Gettysburg treated our organization great. We certainly enjoyed the tour locations, hotels, and eating establishments."



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1. Jacob Ruser* and Ben Berry* at the new WWII American Experience Museum. **2.** L to R: Carol Mullins, Mary Ann Smith, Madeleine Bryant, and Jerry Mullins. **3.** Gerald White* with Caroline Paviot. **4.** Reunion participants pictured with Ben Berry* and Jake Ruser* at Quality Inn hospitality and breakfast cottage. **5.** Thanks to Brigadier General John R. Pippy, Land Component Commander, for leading our wreath-laying ceremony! **6.** Joe Landry* at the new WWII American Experience Museum. **7.** Treasurer Ken Larke presents the financial report to a packed house at the Annual Membership Meeting.

**denotes Bulge veteran*



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8. Dan Santagata with “The Rifle” signed by 100s of WWII veterans. **9.** Eisenhower Farm Park Ranger Dan Vermilya led BOBA members during the Eisenhower National Historic Site tour. **10.** 87 INFD Association members meeting in their Golden Acorns hospitality room. **11.** Dino (aka Diane Landry) popped by at the BOBA social to surprise everyone, including BOBA Member Tom Roberts. **12.** David Bailey* with our *Bugle* designer and past editor Tracey Diehl. **13.** Ready to tour Gettysburg are BOBA Historian Jim Triesler, Gerald White*, Ben Berry*, Jake Ruser*, Mary Ann Smith, Bob Welsh*, Anthony Pagano* and Joe Landry.* **14.** BOBA members enjoyed dinner at General Pickett’s Buffett, including a performance by the West Point Alumni Glee Club.

**denotes Bulge veteran*



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MANY THANKS to Dr. Andy Waskie for planning the event, our tour guides - Andy Waskie and Leon Reed, who were also bus captains, and to Dave Loose for volunteering last minute to be the tour guide on our third bus. Kudos also to our Bulge veterans’ bus captains Mary Ann Smith and Rick Hurst, and to our registration desk volunteers and many others who pitched in onsite to make the event run smoothly!

THANK YOU to these units for partnering with BOBA for our annual reunion in Gettysburg! Your participation helped make it a huge success!



8 ARMDD



28 INFD



87 INFD



ARE YOU COLD?

by Bulge Veteran Fred Faulkner, BOBA member

Many times,
when we were “out and about”
I have heard some people say,
My, how cold it is today.

I seldom ask but often think
They must have never ever
truly been cold, or
experienced real win-ter cold.

Because of metrics made by me,
it was not cold, not really cold.
When is it cold, I ask myself?
And the answer came without delay.

Here is when it is cold I thought:
When the thermometer is hardly
read-a-ble
When the wind blows off your hat and muffs

When your coat seems far too light and thin
And your scarf seems almost with-out value.
When the birds don’t sing
all day long
and there are no stray dogs
or vendors on the street.
When the sky is clear in the morning
and the night.
Is it really cold or just a topic of conversation?

When I was a kid
Near Lake Mi-chi-gan,
It got pretty cold,
By any useful measure.
But then, I joined the Army and found
that it’s also cold in the morning,
In an unheated barracks
or on a field trip.
With a tent full of buddies and
no wood burning stove,
When it’s raining cats and dogs
And you are last
in a chow line reaching
‘round the en-tire block.
When walking Guard in winter snow,
in the early morn-ing hours.
When it is snowing on the Range and
you are firing rifles,
Or pulling targets or throwing grenades.
On a 20 mile hike
with only Rations called “K”
On a train without heat
or on an un-heated ship dodging submarines
or waiting to land.
On the ground, and being showered
with falling shells and dainty snow.
Being in a Foreign land
with a language you do not know.
When-ev-er snow is falling,
The beautiful, clean white cleansing snow



Being cold is not just a temperature reaction but also one of loneliness, hopelessness and failure of a mission. Consider all of the above and ask yourself – HAVE I REALLY EVER BEEN COLD?

Fred Faulkner (3257 SIG SVC CO) lives in Florida. He is a member of BOBA Chapters 23 & 32, and has composed 3 pieces for concert band that recognize and honor the participants of Pearl Harbor, The Battle of the Bulge and Viet Nam. To listen, go to battleofthebulge.org and type “Ardennes March” in the search window.

We Salute These New Members!

We are happy to welcome these new members who joined BOBA between June 30 – October 31, 2022:

Hersch Bornstein	NY
Robert Brothers	NY
Dafina Celai	NY
Kathleen Dunleavy	MD
Tamara Elliott	CA
George Gauzza	ID
Bob Harverstick, PH.D	TX
Connie Lane	WA
LT Francis Lee	MD
Jack McCarty	IL
Beth Miller	CO
Michael Miller	PA
L. Steven Minvielle	LA
James V. Morgia*	CT
Antoine Nouens	NETHERLANDS
Errol J. Olson	IA
Daniel J. O’Neill*	ME
Fr. William P. Saucier	AL
Charles Schiereck	NJ
Jerry Shannon	AR
Coleman Shaughnessy	NC
John L. Skeans	IL
Mike Smith	SC
Lars Struck	CA
Courtney Weaver	AL

**Denotes Bulge Veteran Member*

Special thanks to these members who have recruited new members and/or purchased gift memberships: Al Cleghorn, Diane and Steve Landry, Moira O’Neill, Eugene Sansone & William Stroud.

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Welcome LT Francis Lee, pictured with our youngest BOBA member Charles Allen Cleghorn. Francis is on the staff of the U.S. Naval Academy.
Thank you for your service!

CELEBRATING LANDMARK BIRTHDAYS

Menige Photo: The Lodge at Truitt Homestead

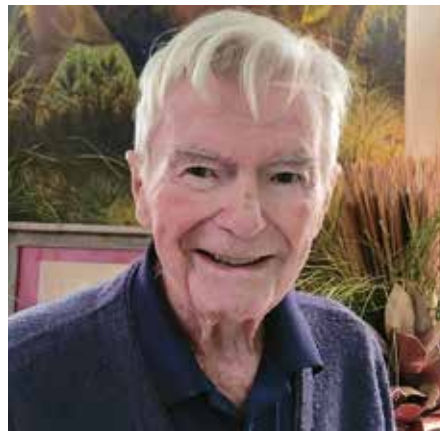


Charles (Chuck) Menige (84 Infantry Rail Splitters) celebrated his 100th birthday June 26, 2022. He was assigned to accompany tanks heading to the front line and arrived in the middle of fighting on Christmas Eve 1944 during the Battle of the Bulge. Chuck, who was the first resident of The Lodge at Truitt Homestead near Rehoboth Beach, DE, grew up in the Philadelphia area, where he lived for 80 years.

Irving Locker (116 AAA GUN BN, 4th Div, VII Corps) celebrated his 98th birthday on Nov 8, 2022. He was the youngest of seven children and was drafted in the Army right after finishing high school in 1943. His Battalion was selected to be the first gun battalion to lead the invasion on D-Day (Jun 6, 1944) because intelligence reports showed that the beach area would be fortified with tanks to prevent the Allies from landing. Also, anti-aircraft capability was urgently needed to protect all ships and men bringing in supplies and equipment. At age 19, Staff Sgt Locker led his men on the deadly shores of Utah Beach. He was in charge of four 90 mm guns and 65 soldiers who managed the guns. Three foot shells weighing 45 pounds were discharged from the guns every 2.5 minutes. Irving took part in five major battles - the worst being the Battle of the Bulge where freezing rain, snow and ice prevented supplies from being brought in. He was known for his ability to maintain the morale of his men and for finding fresh supplies of food and anything that could help make their lives easier. He was referred to as a "Giant of a Little Man." Many stories and interviews are available on the internet about Irving Locker. Google "Irving Locker" to hear more of his testimonies.



Bob Welsh (87 INFD, 347 REG) celebrated his 100th birthday on Nov 7, 2022. He's still a great story teller and can weave humor in his stories. He said his closest call was when he was in an armored vehicle about to cross a bridge and the Germans blew it up right before him. Fortunately, he could duck in his vehicle as the boulders fell on him and his buddy. Another time, a German "88" whizzed by his ear and just missed him. He feels divine intervention saved his life more than once. Bob was a Tiger Patrol leader and was also involved in Operation Paper Clip - a top secret rocket program. His experiences are documented in a book entitled *Two Foes to Fight* (available on Amazon). After returning from the war, he took photos for friends and this turned into a very successful business for him. He became quite famous as a photographer and retired after 50 years in the business. He attended the Battle of the Bulge Reunion in October, 2022 in Gettysburg, PA and really enjoyed it.



Joe Landry (776th AAA AW BN) celebrated his 98th birthday on Oct 14, 2022. Joe enlisted at age 18 in Jan 1943 and was trained on anti-aircraft artillery and truck driving. His battalion arrived with trucks and heavy equipment on Omaha Beach on July 18 and set up in Insigny, France (about 13 miles from Omaha Beach). He remembers being in a convoy moving either troops or supplies through Bayeux, Saint-Lô, Mont Saint-Michel, Le Mans, Saint-Hilaire, Paris, Reims, Verdun, Étain, Malmédy, St. Vith, Luxembourg City, Saarbrücken, Bad Münster, Nuremberg and Munich. He spent a lot of time on the Red Ball Express to transport supplies to Patton's Third Army. He returned home in Dec 1945. Not only did Joe serve, but all of his 6 siblings served in the war at one time or another—some at a later time (Korea and Vietnam). He married his sweetheart in 1953 and raised 3 children. He currently lives close to his daughter in Shirley, MA. He loves coming to the reunions with his son, Steve, and enjoyed the recent one in Gettysburg, PA. Happy belated birthday, Joe!

—All profiles except Menige submitted by Doris Davis, President of the Golden Gate Chapter



Dan Santagata (5 INFD 10 REG Combat Team) had his 98th birthday on August 23, 2022. He was born on Long Island and was one of eight children. He enlisted in the army just before his 17th birthday. He was trained as a combat engineer and remembers making 26 river crossings during the war. After returning from the war, he became a stonemason/bricklayer and recently received an award for 75 years in the Local #8 bricklayer union. He was also an accomplished saxophone player in a jazz band for many years. He currently resides in Stamford, CT, in the house he built in 1952 with his companion of 49 years, Adrienne Hopkins. He enjoys driving his new car, doing crossword puzzles and visiting family and friends, and seeing his fellow veterans at reunions.



3RD ARMORED DIVISION

BOBA is proud to feature the 3rd Armored Division (3rd ARMDD), as many of our past & present BOBA members are heroes of this brave unit.

BRIEF HISTORY

Reactivated: 15 April 1941 at Camp Beauregard, LA; The Division later moved to Camp Polk, LA (now Fort Polk) in June 1941 and to Camp Young, CA, in July 1942. From Aug - Oct 1942, they took part in maneuvers in the California-Arizona Desert Training Center; In Jan 1943, they moved to Indiantown Gap Military Reservation in PA. In Oct 1992, the 3rd ARMDD was formally inactivated as part of a general drawing down of U.S. military forces at the end of the Cold War.

Overseas: Arrived 15 Sept 1943 ETO; Landed on Omaha Beach 29 Jun 1944 (D/18)

Major Campaigns: Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe

Days in Combat: 231 days

Casualties: 16,122 (KIA 2,540; WIA 7,331; MIA 95; Captured 139.

Distinguished Unit Citations: (20) Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) - 17; Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) - 3

Awards: Legion of Merit 23; Silver Star 885; Soldiers Medal 32; Bronze Star 3,884; Air Medal 138

Commanders: Major General Leroy Hugh Watson (Aug 1942 - Aug 1944); Brigadier General (Brig. Gen.) Maurice Rose (Aug 1944 - Sept 1944), promoted to Major General (Sept 1944 - Mar 1945); Brig. Gen. Doyle O. Hickey (Mar 1945 - Jun 1945); Brig. Gen. Truman Everett Boudinot (Jun 1945 - July 1945); Brig. Gen. Frank A. Allen, Jr (Jul 1945 - Nov 1945)

Returned to US: 1 Oct 1945

Hürtgen and the Battle of the Bulge

On 10 September 1944, the 3rd ARMDD, nicknamed the "Spearhead Division," fired what it claimed was the first American field artillery shell onto German soil of the war. Two days later, it passed the German border and soon breached the Siegfried Line after taking part in the Battle of Hürtgen Forest (19 Sept - 16 Dec 1944).

While well into Germany in late Dec 1944, the 3rd ARMDD had the unenviable task of splitting its forces and rushing backwards into Belgium. On 17 Dec, the Division mounted up, left a skeleton crew on the Hürtgen Forest line and made a mad push to support the 82nd Airborne and other 1st Army units now struggling to hold the line against the massive Blitzkrieg attack. This unexpected German thrust through the Losheim Gap the night before would become the largest battle ever faced by US forces in our history. In the days and weeks that followed, 3rd ARMDD fought not only the best of Hitler's Waffen SS (namely the 1st and 2nd SS) troops during the coldest winter in 100 years. Few 3rd ARMDD tankers would survive this trek and division numbers, as December turned to January, were so depleted that entire task forces were down to their last Sherman tank. The 3rd ARMDD, like so many other units in the northern area of the Bulge, fought the highest numbers of tanks and elite German soldiers and thus sustained the highest casualties and loss of equipment of the battle. While popular histories chose to focus on Bastogne and Patton's push from the south, the Spearhead of the first Army, the 3rd ARMDD was fighting literally the largest numbers and best equipped and trained German forces ever fielded in the west. 3rd ARMDD veterans overwhelmingly agreed that it was the worst

fighting they experienced in the war. As the division history states, "Even the bitterness of that terrible campaign, the cold, the pain, and the horrible weariness of unending combat flowed together and was fused in one vast foggy recollection. It was an Arctic nightmare in which on the most jagged edges of pain can be recalled."

Locations where the 3rd ARMDD fought

The 3rd ARMDD fought far north of the deepest German penetration during the Battle of the Bulge. The division worked its way south in an attack designed to help bring First Army's line abreast of Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army, which was fighting northward toward Houffalize. It severed a vital highway leading to St. Vith and later reached Liernu, Belgium, where it halted to refit. After a few weeks, they bolted across the Roer River and seized several towns, crossed the Erft, and at last broke through to the Rhine River to capture Cologne by 7 Mar 1945. Two weeks later, they crossed the Rhine at Honnef, a town south of Cologne.

After Cologne, the division swept up Paderborn in its advance to shut the back door to the Ruhr Pocket. In Apr 1945, the division crossed the Saale River north of Halle and sped on toward the Elbe River. On 11 Apr 1945, the 3rd ARMDD discovered the Dora-Mittelbau concentration camp. The division was the first to arrive on the scene, reporting back to HQ that it had uncovered a large concentration camp near the town of Nordhausen. With help from the 104 INFD, they immediately began transporting some 250 prisoners to nearby hospitals.

The division's last major fighting in the war was the Battle of Dessau, which the division captured on 23 Apr 1945 after three days of combat. Following the action at Dessau, the division moved into corps reserve at Sangerhausen. Occupational duty near Langen was given to the division following V-E Day, a role it filled until inactivation on 10 Nov 1945.

TO LEARN MORE: Visit www.3ad.org. To join the Association, complete a membership application on their website or contact the Secretary of Membership Everett Spencer 3adsecretary@gmail.com. Membership is open to all who are interested in the 3rd ARMDD. Dues are \$40/year and are renewed every January.

The 3rd ARMDD holds annual reunions and their most recent reunion was in Alexandria, VA, Nov 3 - 6, 2022. They had nearly 90 attendees at this reunion.



For an interesting account of one Veteran who served in the 3rd ARMDD in WWII, there is a book called *Louch: A Simple Man's True Story of War, Survival, Life and Legacy*, which can be purchased on Amazon. Part of the sale of each book goes toward worthy veterans' charities. The book is a very touching account of a man nicknamed "Louch" (pictured left) who grew up in a small town in the Midwest during the Great Depression and later fought in WWII in five major campaigns. The story will make you laugh and cry.

See the documentary entitled *Path of the Past* (Louch's grandson traces his footsteps): <http://vimeo.com/ondemand/pathofthepast>

—Compiled by Lou Baczewski, Author, Public Speaker and Historian for the 3rd ARMDD. Submitted by Doris Davis, President of the Golden Gate Chapter and Associate Member of the 3rd ARMDD

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!



Robert S. Radspinner 28 INF REG 447 AA

The following is a secondhand account of memories that were pieced together from what I could find from family letters and historical records for the 447th. My father would not share his war experience. He passed in 2011.

On Dec 16, the 28th Division was badly overrun. Their headquarters was located at Wiltz, Luxembourg where Dad was located on this day. The following day the Germans drove almost to Wiltz. By Dec 18, the 28th was unable to stop the enemy in its zone and became completely disorganized. On Dec 19, the division was ordered to abandon Wiltz and return to friendly lines by infiltration; withdraw from Diekirch area.

A Dec 18th letter written by Mart (my mother) to her folks states "I'm still hearing real well from Bob." Mart has left Richmond, VA to spend Christmas with her folks in Pembroke, VA, from Dec 23, until returning to Richmond for New Years. The whole family is aware of the new German offensive and has no news from Bob. Writing to her folks on Dec 27, Mart says "Nothing from Bob but he had ordered a dozen pink roses for me which had come Saturday." Bob's mother, Catherine Radspinner, wrote diary entries indicating that Martha and Cottie help out at the local USO during the holidays.

It is not until Jan 6, 1945, that a letter written on Dec 28 arrives to Mart. She sends a letter to her folks in Pembroke, VA dated Monday Jan 8, 1944. On the back side of the envelope she wrote: "Tues. Jan, 9 – Bob is safe in Belgium and lucky to be alive – will write the details soon."

From a letter written by Mart to her folks on Jan 17 we learn: "We are very much relieved about both the Bobs now. Bob Snow (Dad's brother-in-law) evidently wasn't affected so much but Bob Rad really



had to scurry—He left his jeep—(anyway he doesn't have it now) and little dog." He said people along the way were wonderful to feed them etc. One family, with two little children, gave them a rabbit dinner then had to pack and leave with Bob and his outfit right behind them. He went to France, but was in Belgium for Christmas and stayed in a Catholic priest's home.

Military records (General Orders # 63, June 11, 1945) indicate that Bob was wounded on Dec 20 for which he received the Purple Heart. Further research indicates that on that date, the 28th had established defensive lines between Ettelbruck, and Oberfeulen, Luxembourg. These positions were southeast of Bastogne. Southwest of Bastogne, 28th HQ personnel and remnants of the 110th Infantry block the Neufchâteau – Bastogne highway. Dad would have been with this group on the day of his receiving a wound.

Bob wrote to his folks on Dec 26 about his Christmas presents "I was lucky about my Christmas package—some of the fellows lost all they had."

In the last letter dealing with this period of time, Bob writes to his folks on Jan 6, 1945. "Living with a family—They have so little, yet with what we give and what they grow, the meals sure are good. We have another jeep and dog after losing both the other day. It was close for us all but my time to go had not arrived yet. Don't worry about us, for we have the best the army has and don't suffer any. This time next year all this will be over and forgotten. Hope the winter is not too hard on your people. We sure had the snow and ice lately. Take care of yourselves and thanks so much for writing me so often. Lots of love, Bob."

—Submitted by Bob Radspinner, BOBA Member

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 method) your responses to boba.editor@gmail.com
or mail to: BOBA Inc., P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330.

★ Herman L. Skerlong 80 INFD 317 REG K

This story was told by Herman L. Skerlong in his own words to staff at the VA Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

“When I enlisted, I left my wife in Pittsburgh and went off to Fort Meade. Most all recruits went there. That’s where they fitted you with most of your clothing. The guy looked at you and knew exactly what size you wore. Then he threw the clothes at you. They picked me for the infantry. I was shipped down to Tennessee where they had just activated the 80th Infantry Division. After that, all we did was train. We went out to the desert in Yuma, Arizona because we thought we were going to the Pacific. We trained there for almost a year, then found out we were going to Europe.

We sailed over on the *Queen Mary* and landed in Glasgow, England. There was bombing every night; buildings, factories, and homes on fire. Then the invasion was coming up (of Normandy) so we started training on the LST. People these days don’t know about the LST. It’s built out of steel; all steel, with a big door in front of you. You can’t see nothin’. As soon as the door falls open you jump out. You can’t see where you’re jumping



or nothin.’ We bailed out and from there on, we were in France.

From there it was war after war, battle after battle. I was a machine gunner, part of Patton’s army. Only thing you had in the infantry was the holes you dug—the foxholes. That’s

all you had until you found a creek, where you’d wash up as someone kept guard, then switched. No time to eat or sleep. Time didn’t mean anything because you didn’t care. Day or night was all that mattered. You lived on two rations—K ration and C ration. That’s all you ever saw—no salt, pepper, or butter since you left the states.

Once we got into a pretty big battle—we were ambushed twice. Half the company was walking up one side, half on the other when we heard machine guns. It just so happened there were ditches on the side of the road and we all dove in. A sergeant ahead of me got machine gunned in both legs—bleeding in both legs badly. I was able to crawl back very slowly along the ditch until I came across the captain, a runner, and the radio man, sitting in the covert. So we were sitting in there and no one’s saying anything. The Captain says, “We gotta get that sergeant out of there.” No one says anything and finally, I said, “Captain, let me try.” I was scared. Not shaky, but scared—because what was I, 23? 24? So I crawled as slow as I could right on back, bullets flying overhead, got a hold of both his legs and dragged the sergeant back along the hill, too low for the Germans to notice. And boy, the captain, he smiled when he saw us coming. Right away, he got the medics working on the sergeant, and he patted me on the back and said, “You got the Bronze Star.”

Another time I was going back to the aid station because I was hit on the head, and I see a guy laying in the woods. I turned him over and it was Mike, a mailman from Pittsburgh! I picked him up, threw him over my shoulder. He had artillery shell with shrapnel through the chest, didn’t know if he was going to make it. Well, he did. He got back to Pittsburgh and was delivering mail and saw my last name, so he knocked on the door. My wife answered and he asked, “Do you know Herman Skerlong? He saved my life!” Anyhow, I didn’t save his life, the medics saved his life, but that’s how I found out he made it home.

Towards the end, we were moving into Battle of the Bulge, and they had us pinned down for about a day and a half. The fox hole was getting full of water. The next morning, I told my buddy I couldn’t move my legs. They



were purple and blue and the medic told me I had to go to the hospital in Paris. There were four of us in the ambulance and as it so happened, I was the one behind the driver. There was snow and ice and the truck was weaving back and forth along the road and I thought “that’s not good.” Then the truck swerved and hit an oak tree and my steel helmet flew off and knocked the driver right out of the ambulance! The tanks coming down the road saw us and had to get a winch to pull us back onto the road. We were all fine and just kept going to Paris.

There was a big vestibule outside the hospital and we were so dirty and muddy they made us strip down and threw everything we owned into a bonfire, two, three stories high. The only thing I remember about that hospital was that I could see the Eiffel Tower from my room. I was eventually shipped back to the states where the doctor told me, “Your fighting days are over, but don’t go get your legs and hands frozen again or you won’t be so lucky.”

I’m thankful I met my wife and I’m grateful I had a decent job to support her after the

war. We did everything together. We traveled a lot, went down to Florida the first nice day in January every year. We celebrated 54 years together before she died. The last 25 years I’ve lived alone in our apartment. My nieces and nephew live in town, and we get together on the holidays. I did a lot in my life, you know. No regrets. I didn’t cause anybody any big problems or anything like that. I did quite a bit, I tell you. You don’t forget those things; you just don’t.”

Herman is 102 and lives in Bethel Park, PA.

★ Calvin Friar 106 INFD 422 REG C

From the journal of a 106th POW...

Calvin Friar, age 22, C Company, 422nd Regiment, 106th INFD was wounded in action and captured on Dec, 19, 1944. Cal’s squad leader Robert Weidlin recalled: “...we needed to break out of an encirclement with a machine gun firing at us, and shell fire falling all around us. Captain Kulger called for mortar fire, we had two shells left. Carl Edwards (gunner) and Cal (assistant gunner) set up the mortar for direct fire on the machine gun. We fired the first shell to establish range, the second knocked out the nest and we could advance...We reached a wooded area and joined with LT Doheny...and were captured...shortly after...”

Cal’s POW journal chronicles internment at Stalag IIA, where he and 19 others became “...a work commando (POWs tasked with specific work) with yours truly as confidence man...” (Cal had the ‘confidence’ of his captors; he spoke German). They were transported on February 19, 1945 to a farm near Gustrow, Germany, for forced labor on a road.

Cal documented his commando cohort: Richard Diltz, Ira Korkigian, Hubert Stark, Barney Poole, Horace Bryan, Thurman Farley, Richard Hurley, James Mason, Arnold Cope, Eugene Retz, John Dunn, Russell Hughes, Leroy Fruge, Art Chadwick, Edmund Lilley, Gerold Cotlerman, William Downes, Ira Deaver, Damon Covall, and Calvin Friar.

The “commando” of “...20 men—living on a farm and working on a road...” spent twelve weeks together far from home under brutal conditions. Twenty started, twenty finished.

May 1: suddenly there were no German guards, their weapons abandoned, foretelling the arrival of Russian troops. By 1500, Russian recon soldiers arrived. Ira Korkigian later reported the Russians intended



to take them prisoner: “...the Americans would rather die than remain prisoners!” Cal Friar reported they had to quickly convince the Russians they were Americans, not Germans. It was a tense and fraught moment, loaded with risk for the GIs.

Remarkably, there’s a supplemental account of what occurred next. Ira Deaver wrote: “**May 2:** making preparations to leave the farm.” they stole horses, wagons and food. “**May 3:** hit the road,” a member of the Russian advance team accompanied them: “...0700 – first argument with Rusky as to which road we follow. Heading for Teterow...”

Along the way they lived off the land, taking what they needed, including bicycles and food. Deaver mentions two of the GIs by name: “Kork has the trouble again” and “Friar kaputs a bike in a fall under the wagon wheels.” Cal asked the Russian soldier to pencil his name on the back page of a precious letter from his fiancée. The Russian wrote: Vasily Gorbachev.

“**May 4:** 15km from Neubrandenburg.” **May 5:** up late, ate, etc.” Here, Deaver’s timeline ends. **May 8:** Germany unconditionally surrenders. **May 18:** the British flew Cal from Lüneburg, Germany to Brussels. His weight: 100 pounds.

May 22: arrival at St. Valerie, France, Cal ate ice cream. Then to Camp Lucky Strike for debriefing, rehabilitation, and to await transport back to the US, on June 5, 1945. His sweetheart had waited; they married on July 22, 1945.”

May 22: arrival at St. Valerie, France, Cal ate ice cream. Then to Camp Lucky Strike for debriefing, rehabilitation, and to await transport back to the US, on June 5, 1945. His sweetheart had waited; they married on July 22, 1945.”

Among his many awards, Cal received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

—Submitted by Julie Friar, BOBA member; daughter of Calvin Friar, 1922-1989

PA DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER (4)

The Delaware Valley (Philadelphia) Chapter celebrated the 99th Birthday of Bulge Veteran Benjamin Berry (QM Corps, 3rd Army) at the Chapel of the 4 Chaplains on the September, 28, 2022. Ben (at left, below) is the recipient of the Luxembourg Military Medal.

—Submitted by Andy Waskie, President of the Delaware Valley Chapter



CA GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER (10)

We are saddened by the loss of our Chapter member and Bulge veteran Marshall Soria (28 INF 110 REG) who was 102 years old. Marshall was born in Torreon, Mexico on July 3, 1920 and as a youngster, he worked in agriculture in Southern and Central CA with his siblings. He was a track and field star during his high school years (some of his track records were not broken until the 1960s!). He joined the Army in July 1944. He remembered the fierce battles in Alsace, Colmar Pocket, Vosges Mountains, Monshau Forest and Aachen. He was part of the replacement troops to help the 28 INF who suffered many losses in the Hürtgen Forest and the Ardennes Dec 1944. When he returned from the war, he married and raised a family of 8 children. He was a cement mason in the San Francisco area and after retirement, he moved to Fresno, CA. He has nearly 100 descendants (children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren) and they all adored him. He was so looking forward to attending the Battle of the Bulge Association's Reunion in Gettysburg, but the day before he was scheduled to leave, he had a medical issue that required hospitalization. Sadly, Marshall passed away October 27, 2022. Our condolences are with his family.

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



PA LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER (55)

On August 15th, 2022 the Lehigh Valley Chapter held a commemorative picnic at Macungie Memorial Park to mark the 77th anniversary of the surrender of the empire of Japan ending WWII. In attendance were WWII US Army veterans Herb Ridyard, Angelo Bokeko, Richard Schimmel, Bob Thompson, John Fleming, US Navy veterans Matthias Gutman, Victor Marulli, James Gallagher, Hank Kudzik and 100 year old "Rosie the Riveter" Dorothy Trate.

The dance troupe Magnolia Sadies and the Ritter School Andrew Sisters ladies (shown at right) provided some very lively entertainment and songs. Many thanks to bugler Tom Parsons for honoring the veterans, and to our friends at the local Mission BBQ for providing the great food. It was a great day for a great tribute to the heroes of the Greatest Generation!

—Submitted by Steve Savage, President of the Lehigh Valley Chapter



BOBA Crater Chapter members displayed their historical memorabilia at several local VFW Post events. Photo: John Payne

VA CRATER CHAPTER (43)

BOBA member Bob Seifert and career veteran/event planner of Mechanicsville VFW Post 9918, coordinated with Crater Chapter President Mary Ann Smith, to display artifacts at their VFW Post events. Chapter members Jim Triesler, John Payne, JC Wood, and Mary Ann Smith displayed their historical memorabilia on Tuesdays last July and August.

Each week, two episodes of HBO's *Band of Brothers* (20th anniversary) were shown with a Saturday viewing of the simulcast event at WWII Museum in New Orleans. The editor of the Mechanicsville Local newspaper, Christina Amano Dolan, covered the event and put it on the front page of September 13th issue, with photos. BOBA Historian Jim Triesler served as guest speaker, as did Dave Eaves and other VFW members.

The Crater Chapter's quarterly meeting on October 6 was held at Virginia War Memorial in Jim Triesler's classroom. WWII veteran, Stewart Boone, traveled with his daughter, Brenda Street, from Virginia Beach. Six of his family members also attended. Stewart talked about his service and played his bugle, including the

National Anthem and the Boogie Woogie song. A local news reporter, Greg McQuade, of TV6 CBS and his photographer interviewed and took videos which was broadcast on Veteran's Day (thanks to Jim Triesler for coordinating this!).

The Crater Chapter was also honored to participate in the BOBA reunion in Gettysburg. Bugle editor and Crater Chapter member Betsy Rose, served at the registration desk and as coordinator of the three bus captains in Gettysburg. Mary Ann Smith, a gold star member, along with Andy Waskie (BOBA Board member) was appointed by President John Mohor to have the honor of presenting a wreath at the Meade statue. Also attending from Crater Chapter were Jim Triesler and Scott Rayl and his daughter.

—Submitted by Mary Ann Smith, President of the Crater Chapter



LEFT PHOTO: Crater Chapter President Mary Ann Smith was featured in a local paper. ABOVE PHOTO: The Chapter met at the Virginia War Memorial, and included WWII veteran and bugler, Stewart Boone (front), with several family members. Photo: Susanne Feigley/VWM

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

We are so grateful for the many donations received between June 30, 2022 – October 31, 2022:



Louisa P. Amor

In memory of my husband James Amor 87 INFD

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In honor of my dad John Bardolf

Stewart Boone (99 INFD 924 FA BN SERV)*

In memory of my comrades in the 99 INFD and the Lucky Eleven

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Gerald A. White (2 INFD 23 REG 3 BN CO M)*

Elaine W. Winters

*Denotes Bulge Veteran Member

COLONEL PATTON IN THE ARGONNE: A REMEMBRANCE OF THE GREAT WAR

by James Triesler, Virginia War Memorial Director of Education and Battle of the Bulge Association® Historian

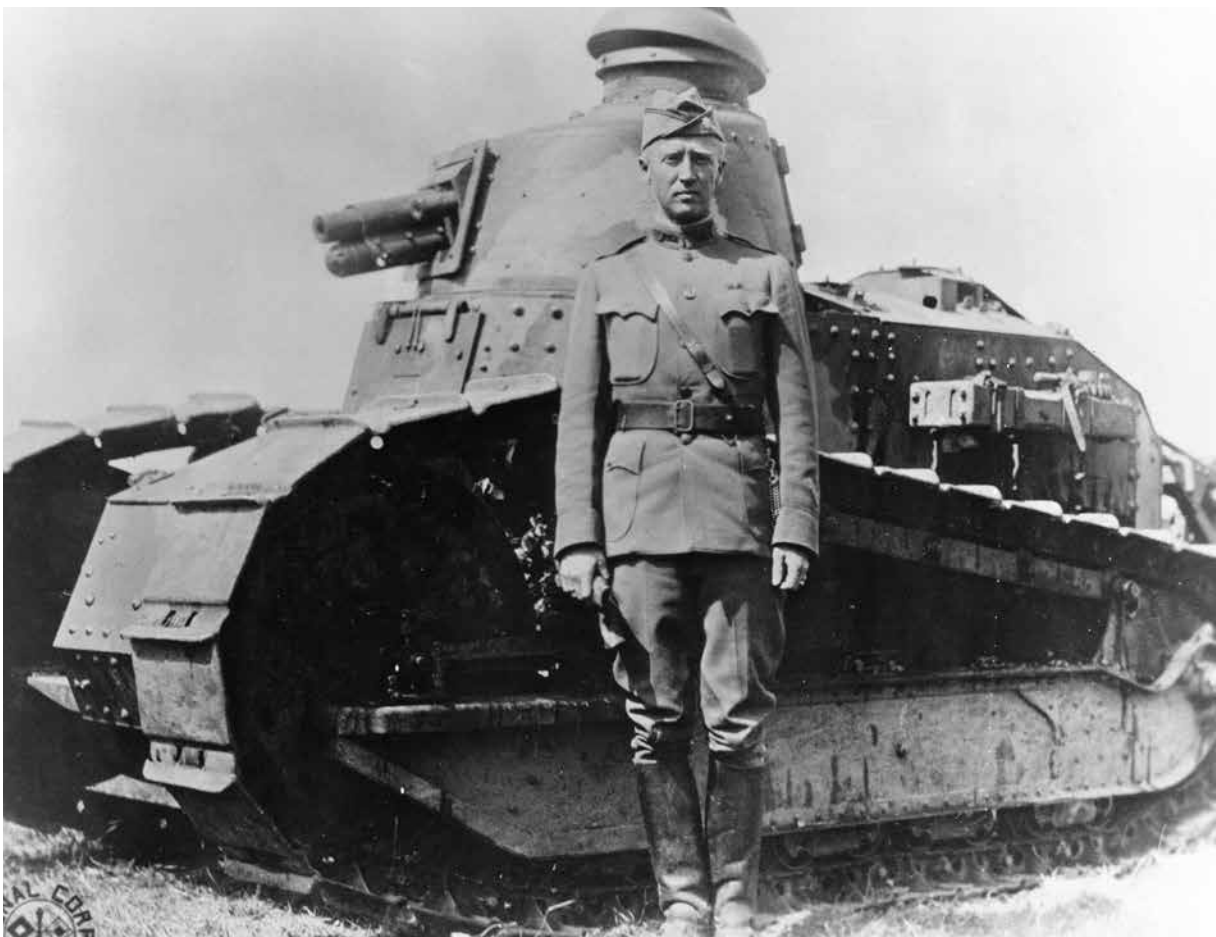
In late December 1944, news correspondent Bob Considine reflected on the year about to end. "Patton was one of the greatest comeback stories of 1944. The historic march of his Third Army across France to Metz, over World War I battlefields like the Argonne, Chateau Thierry and the Marne, swung public sentiment to him as never before. Then Patton swung his force dramatically northward to the rescue of the embattled U.S. First Army."

Considine's words referencing World War I may have caused older Americans to recall that Patton had fought on those battlefields before. As a young Lieutenant Colonel in the Great War, Patton used French tanks, known as light tanks, which carried two men armed with a machine gun and small caliber cannon.

"The battle of the Argonne forest was one of the most glorious victories won by American arms," declared Colonel George S. Patton in 1919. Colonel Patton spent twenty-one months in France as commander of the 304th Tank Brigade. His brigade, which consisted of 140 American and 206 French tanks, wiped out the St. Mihiel salient and conquered the Argonne. Colonel Patton, who commanded the greatest number of tanks under a single command in the battle, stated his brigade "attacked 21 times between September 26 and November 4." This was the greatest number of attacks made by any tank brigade in the Argonne. "The work of the tanks is worthy of the highest praise," Colonel Patton stated. "It broke up the German opposition, giving the infantry the opportunity to carry all set objectives."

During World War I, officers walked outside their tanks and provided them direction. The tanks went ahead of the infantry and would crush barbed wire and straddle the trenches of the enemy. The appearance of tanks near the battlefield was a clear indication of an impending attack. When possible, tanks were moved under the cover of darkness in order to mask that an attack was about to take place. During the day, tanks covered with foliage helped prevent enemy observation. Dummy tanks, hidden in a manner where aviators would recognize them, tricked the enemy into falsely believing an attack was imminent. Prior to the Normandy invasion, the Allies used similar diversionary tactics opposite Calais in 1944.

A machine gun bullet struck Colonel Patton above the thigh, during the fighting in the Argonne. A nest of eight German machine guns was



Patton at Bourg, France in 1918 with a Renault FT light tank. Photo: Wikipedia

slowing the American advance and Colonel Patton was determined to wipe out this position. Ordering several tanks to follow him, Patton advanced on foot toward the machine gun emplacements under steady fire. Hit just forty feet from his goal, an orderly dragged him to a shell crater where he lay for an hour. From there Patton directed the attack until his men destroyed the machine gun nest. For this action, Colonel Patton received the Distinguished Service Cross. His wound kept him in the hospital for seven weeks. Patton returned to duty two weeks before the Armistice on November 11, 1918. After the war, he developed the belief tanks should be an independent fighting force. During World War II, the name Patton became synonymous with North Africa, Sicily, and Bastogne, making him the legend that we remember today. Let us also remember Colonel Patton, who guided his tanks in the Argonne and fought to end the Great War.

Sources:

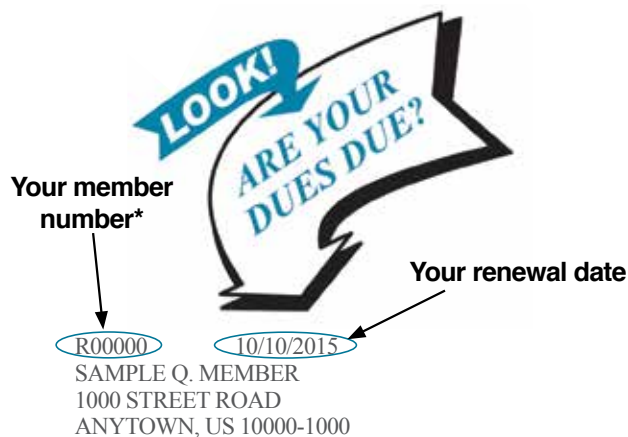
"Argonne Fight Was a Glorious Victory." *Rockford Republic* (Rockford, IL), March 21, 1919, p. 10.

Considine, Bob. "44 Appalling Year As 4 Horsemen Ride Tandem." *San Antonio Light* (San Antonio, TX), December 21, 1944, p. 1.

"Treating 'Em Rough or U.S. Tanks in Hot Battle." *World-Herald* (Omaha, NE), April 13, 1919, p. 46.

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