

# The BULGE BUGLE®

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

VOLUME XLII NUMBER 1

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

WINTER 2023



**OUR REMEMBRANCE and COMMEMORATION**  
**78<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY of THE END OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE**  
*January 24 - 26, 2023 | See page 14 for story and more photos.*



**PLUS: BOBA Annual Reunion | New Orleans, LA | July 28 - Aug 1, 2023 | Read more on page 10.**



**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.

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**(EMAIL:** [boba.editor@gmail.com](mailto:boba.editor@gmail.com))

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

**VISIT THE BOBA WEB SITE:** [www.battleofthebulge.org](http://www.battleofthebulge.org)  
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**BOBA, INC. BOARD ELECTED OFFICERS**

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**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

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Alan Cunningham

**PRESIDENT EMERITUS:**

David Bailey, 106th INFD

**ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS**

Madeleine Bryant, Chaplain

Kristen Faller

Steven Landry

Craig Stiegmeier

Jim Triesler, Historian

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*(non-voting)*

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**Social Media Manager:**

Caroline Paviot

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Robert Van Houten\* 1984-86

George Chekan\* 1986-88;  
2003-05

William Greenville\* 1988-90

Darrell Kuhn\* 1990-92

William Hemphill\* 1992-93

William Tayman\* 1993-94

Grover Twiner\* 1994-95

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](mailto: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](http://gatewayvbob.org)

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**Fort Dix/McGuire (60):**

Donald "Coach" Brien

**NEW YORK**

**Mohawk Valley (28):**

Julian Scatko

**Hudson Valley (49):**

Matthew J. Swedick

**Staten Island (52):** William Abell

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

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

**OHIO**

**Blanchard Valley (42):**

Leonard Skonecki

**Alton Litsenberger (68):**

Tom Tomastik

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**Delaware Valley (4):**

Dr. Andy Waskie

**Lehigh Valley (55):** Steve Savage

**Reading (64):** George Moore,

1252nd ECB

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

**South Carolina (7):**

Nelson McLeod

**VERMONT-NEW HAMPSHIRE-MAINE**

**Tri-State (17):** Edward Deverell

**VIRGINIA**

**Crater (43):**

Mary Ann Coates Smith

**WASHINGTON**

**Northwest (6):** Jim Pennock

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**[boba.editor@gmail.com](mailto:boba.editor@gmail.com)**

**NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: APRIL 13, 2023**

## ON THE COVER



**Top left photo:** Bulge Veterans Joe Landry and Darrell Bush lay a wreath at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during commemoration ceremonies, January 25, 2023. Photo courtesy US Army, Elizabeth Fraser

**Top right photo:** Soldier plays TAPS to honor the end of the Bulge campaign. Photo courtesy US Army, Elizabeth Fraser

**Bottom left photo:** National World War II Museum, New Orleans, LA

**Bottom right photo:** French Quarter, New Orleans, LA.  
Photo courtesy Bigeasy.com

## 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](mailto:boba.editor@gmail.com), or by mail: Battle of the Bulge Association®, Inc, P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330

**NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: APRIL 13, 2023**

**QUESTIONS?** Please contact *Bugle* editor Leon Reed at [boba.editor@gmail.com](mailto: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

HAPPY NEW YEAR, BOBA MEMBERS! After the record-breaking reunion in Gettysburg, let's see if we can set another record in New Orleans, LA, this summer. It's looking like several other Division Associations are considering joining us. We're still working out details and will provide additional information in *Bulge Bugles* as well as the website.

The January 2023 Commemoration Event in Washington, D.C., was another successful event. I'd like to thank the Crater Chapter members and especially their President, Mary Ann Smith, once again for her efforts in coordinating this event. Getting the same room rate a year later was no small feat. The wreath-layings went smoothly, though the weather wasn't the best. Thanks to *Bugle* editor Leon Reed and Old Dominion University professor Alicia DeFonzo for interesting after-dinner talks about their books, and thanks to BOBA historian Jim Triesler and Bulge veteran Joe Landry for a fascinating conversation on Joe's experiences with the Red Ball Express and other parts of the war in Europe. [See more on pgs. 14-15.]

*A polite reminder:* effective immediately at the start of 2023, membership annual dues are now \$40, which includes a printed copy of the *Bulge Bugle*. Please make sure the BOBA office has your current e-mail on file. If you're a Lifetime member and want a printed copy in 2023 moving forward, please send \$20 for a print subscription to the *Bugle*. This helps defray the cost increases in printing and mailing. If instead you'll accept your copy of the *Bugle* via e-mail copy only, there is no increase to Lifetime members. Lifetime Bulge veterans will continue to receive a printed copy free of charge.



Our primary goal for Membership is to keep things as simple as possible while also keeping the organization self-sufficient. The board is discussing possible membership discounts, which will be fleshed out further by the new 2023 board.

The longevity of the organization depends on us all continuing to be financially responsible. We're doing the best we can with increasing costs. Donations were down significantly in 2022. Both the Commemoration and Reunion events are more than covering their respective costs, even making some money. The quarterly *Bulge Bugle* and our staff support are our largest costs. Both are well worth it. We need to raise more money in support of the Battle of the Bulge Association®. Remember we are a 501 (c)(3), tax exempt non-profit with the IRS. Donations and contributions in honor of someone are always welcome.

Thank you to our outgoing board members David Bailey and Scott Rayl, along with a hearty welcome to our new board members Doug Howard and Craig Stiegmeier. Happy 101st Birthday, David Bailey!

Now this edition of *The Bulge Bugle*® is brought to us by our new Editor Leon Reed. I hope you continue to enjoy the content brought by our fellow members.

Stay healthy everyone!

As we continue our mission to honor and remember those who participated in the Battle of the Bulge, planning for the 80th Anniversary Commemoration will begin.

Thank you all for remaining members of BOBA.

—John Mohor President & CEO

## Treasurer's Report

These are challenging times. Although our year ended with a loss of \$25,647, that was not entirely unforeseen. The financial committee's initial forecast at the beginning of the year was an approximate \$14,000 loss based on the expenses required to cover all of our operating expenses and the costs involved in the quarterly printing and mailing of our exceptional *Bulge Bugle*.

When the financial committee prepared our budget at the beginning of the year, we were unaware of the cost increases and hardships that 2022 would bring. As a result, our projected income forecast from individual and memorial donations fell far short of expectations. Additionally, we fell short of expected revenues from existing and new membership dues.

Now, for some good news: We came in \$1,434 under our \$33,000 budget for all of our Operating Expenses. In addition, our commemoration held in Washington, D.C., in January 2022 and our Annual Reunion held in Gettysburg in October helped significantly to add much-needed additional income for BOBA. Due to the uncertainty of attendance at these events, we are not able to forecast income when we plan our

budget; our plan is to at least break even. Thanks to all the individual volunteers from our local organizations, the Crater Chapter in Virginia, and the Delaware Valley Chapter in Pennsylvania, we had a net income of over \$2,000 from the commemoration, and over \$8,000 from our annual reunion, which provided a much-needed \$10,000 to add to our income total for the year. We were unable to do much to increase income, but we were successful in keeping expenses down.

As we forecast the 2023 budget, the financial committee will be looking for ways to increase our membership revenues, and to reduce the expenses associated with printing and mailing *The Bulge Bugle*®. Even though the financial status of our country for 2023 looks about the same, you can be assured that the financial committee continues to be good stewards of the BOBA finances.

We want to thank all of our members who donated financially to BOBA through the wreath fund, individual donations, and membership during this past year, and all of those volunteers that continue to help make BOBA a viable organization in the future.

—Ken Larke, BOBA Treasurer

# BOBA ANNOUNCEMENTS

## NEW BULGE DOCUMENTARY IN PREPARATION



43Films, an award-winning documentary producer, is developing a documentary honoring the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

The producers are interested in presenting “as many Bulge veterans from all units and positions as possible.” They are reaching out widely to veterans and their families. People who speak for a veteran interested in participating should contact the individuals leading the effort:

Sammy Jackson’s cell: 570-236-2929  
or email: sammyjackson43films@gmail.com  
Tracey Connors cell: 570-236-8489,  
or email: traceyconnor43films@gmail.com

43Films has been a leading producer of documentary films for more than 20 years. It is perhaps best known for the Emmy-winning History Channel series, “World War II in HD.” Other series they’ve produced include “Vietnam in HD,” “The Air War,” and the 9/11 documentary, “The Day the Towers Fell.”

## A NOTE FROM THE NEW EDITOR

I’m thrilled to be offered the opportunity to edit *The Bulge Bugle*® and tell the continuing important story of the Battle of the Bulge and the soldiers who fought in this battle. I’m grateful to Betsy for mentioning the opportunity to me AND for handing over such a great magazine.

Living in Gettysburg, I know what it’s like to say a word that instantly resonates with almost any American. Over the past few months, I’ve mentioned my pending new job to a number of people and nearly everyone knew of a father, uncle, or cousin who had been involved in this campaign. There are a handful of places/events that instantly summon a patriotic response from all Americans (Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Pearl Harbor, Omaha Beach). They form an important part of our national story and our “try to see once before you die, if possible” pilgrimage sites. The Bulge is one of these and I am so pleased I’ll be able to play a small part in telling this story.

I suppose a word of introduction is in order. Like all boys my age, I’ve been a World War II nut my whole life. I’m not sure we drew much distinction between Toland’s *Battle: Story of the Bulge* and “The Guns of Navarone,” but for my generation, our father’s war was a fascination – perhaps because our fathers and uncles had so little to say about it.

Except for a 10 year stint at the end of my career as a school teacher, I’ve been involved with national security my whole career – as a US Senate staffer and defense consultant. I’ve been writing, editing, and publishing books, articles, and reports and I’ve been the photo editor, the publisher, or an editor for many publications. This is the first time I’ve been THE editor, but I’m sure we’ll figure things out. I’d like to thank the whole BOBA family, most particularly Betsy Rose, John Mohor, Al Cleghorn, Barbara Mooneyhan, Mary Ann Coates

Smith, and Jim Triesler for the warm welcome.

*If you have news, photos, memories, or a suggestion for something you would like to see discussed in a forthcoming issue, email me at [boba.editor@gmail.com](mailto:boba.editor@gmail.com).*

**Leon Reed, *Bulge Bugle* Editor**

## MAIL MISERIES

We apologize for the delivery problems with the Fall 2022 issue. Our printer delivered the inventory of magazines to the post office right on schedule on December 5, and the magazines seem at that point to have departed this sphere for a different dimension. We have worked diligently with the post office to try to figure out what happened and locate the copies. However, the post office has been only minimally cooperative and seems helpless to deal with a lost delivery.

Theoretically, this should have been impossible. Our mailing service attached bar codes to all the magazines, which meant the postal service should have been able to locate them with a few keystrokes. We will continue to pursue this, but we are not optimistic.

Meanwhile, all members with an email on file have received an electronic copy. We know this is not the same, but it does at least give members a copy to page through. All BOBA members continue to have access to our most recent issues as well as every issue since 1982, available on our website. A second full printing is cost prohibitive; however, several board members have made generous contributions to underwrite a small quantity to deliver to as many veteran members as possible.



Also, to avoid future problems, we are instructing our printer to find a new post office that does not have these reliability problems. Again, we sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this has caused and thank you for your continued support and understanding.

## 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!**

## Welcome, New Members!

We are happy to welcome these new members who joined BOBA between November 1, 2022 and January 31, 2023:

Ruddy Adam	FRANCE	Gloria Layne	NJ
Joshua Bell	PA	Derek Lyons	PA
Rebecca Brown	PA	Edward R. Milford	PA
Matthew Callahan	MA	Steve Moorhead	PA
James F. Chesko	NJ	Shawn Nevel	PA
Jeffrey A. Dacy	SC	Linda Rocheleau	VA
Nathan de Ridder		Patricia Saddlemire	FL
Justin Disodoro	SC	Bob Welsh	NC
William Geiser	FL	Elly Welsh	LA
James Heikkinen	OH	Nathan Welsh	LA
Sammy Jackson	PA		

### NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



(Rear, L-R): Nathan de Ridder, Ken Mar (2 INFD), Doris Davis, President of the Battle of the Bulge Golden Gate Chapter (Front, L-R): Dr. John Kerner, medic; John Althuisen (7 ARMDD).

Nathan de Ridder is a 12 year old student and one of BOBA's youngest members. He attended the meeting of the Golden Gate chapter and was thrilled to meet three Bulge veterans:

Afterwards, he said he wanted to write a statement about his experience. "As a Belgian," he said, "it was a great honor to meet these veterans. If the Allies had lost the Battle of the Bulge, I would not have been born. Belgium would have probably never been liberated and almost all of Europe would most likely be under the Nazi regime. Belgium and most of Europe owes everything to the men who fought for humanity."

You should have seen the tears in his father's eyes when Nathan was getting his photo taken with the Veterans. He was beyond proud. Kinda made me tear up, too.

Nathan was going to take the story back to his classmates that he actually met three WWII veterans. His dad said that he'll offer him some information about the war, and Nathan will come back and say, "I know that, Dad!" and he'll offer his Dad more information. I asked Nathan if he knew why the Battle was called "the Battle of the Bulge," and he knew.

— Submitted by Doris Davis, Golden Gate Chapter President

## 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 rugged 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 this battle never would be forgotten. Among our activities, we visit the Ardennes battle area on group tours; have dedicated memorials commemorating the battle and its veterans at Arlington National Cemetery; conduct ceremonies, reunions and other events; and publish a magazine 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 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; 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 activities. 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.

**THE TIME LEFT BETWEEN US**

By Alicia DeFonzo, BOBA Member

Participants in the January 2023 Bulge Commemoration were treated to a presentation by the author, Alicia DeFonzo, on her ten year search to recover her grandfather's WWII story. This is an excerpt from her book.

On December 17, the 629th Army combat engineers received orders to move from Butgenbach to Malmédy, Belgium. The CO sent Private First Class DelRossi to survey for rock quarries in order to build bridgeheads and paths. For two days, Del traveled back and forth to Berg Quarry using the Malmédy/St. Vith crossroads. But after a return trip, a fresh crater appeared on the path. It could not have been a mine, he thought; there was no body or vehicle. It seemed unusual since he had neither seen nor heard another person in the vicinity. Then his peripheral caught a gray mass moving fast. A German fighter pilot was on him.

Del hit the brakes and jumped out of the truck – the larger, more flammable target. He ran across the field and crouched behind the closest rock formation. The jet began to strafe a shower of steel. He pressed against the slate tightly, clutching his helmet, listening to the shells reverberate off the rocks. A stray

bullet then ricocheted off an adjacent stone and sparked inches past his ear. White noise filled his skull.

Suddenly, the hail stopped. One fly over.

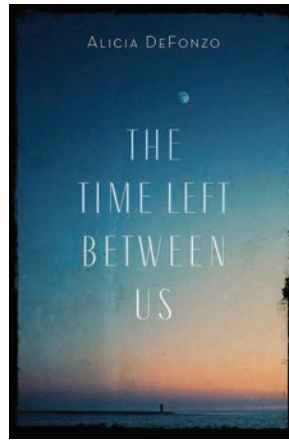
The 1st Infantry Division came across Del as he completed his mission hours later. An officer asked him, “What the hell are you doing here? You shouldn’t be here, the Germans just pulled out of this area a few days ago.”

“There was nobody here when I got here.”  
“Well, you got lucky, Private,” the officer replied.

Del laughed out loud. “Lucky?”  
If the Germans were just here, he wondered why he was ordered to Malmédy in the first place.



Anthony “Del” DelRossi (629 CMBT ENGR), and the book his granddaughter Alicia DeFonzo wrote about his WWII story.



\*\*\*

The Malmédy Massacre occurred the same day: December 17, 1944. Battery B of the 285th Field Artillery Observation was met with heavy artillery by the 1st Waffen-SS Panzer Division. One hundred and fourteen GIs became prisoners of war for an afternoon. The unarmed men were then taken to the Malmédy/St. Vith crossroads where machine guns opened fire for three minutes in a snowy field. Those still breathing were then clubbed to death or executed at close range. Only a few managed to feign death and escape to tell of the account.

Del was two miles away.

When he returned from Berg Quarry, German armored units set to attack their headquarters. The camp was completely evacuated. Del said: “In the mess hall, there was a bread loaf on the counter. Guy just left the knife in the middle of cutting a slice!”

The first platoon of their company was separated from the other platoons as well as the First Army altogether. The cargo truck radios had a three-mile radius of operation, but all was silent, enveloped by a quarter million Germans in the greatest land battle to befall American troops.

He quickly collected what food was left and packed the munitions truck with three other engineers left behind.

Del prayed the CO would still be alive when they found him just so he could kill him.

## ★ VETERANS STAY BUSY ★



**David Hubbard (HQ ADV SECT COMM ZONE SIG)** celebrated his 100th birthday January 24, 2023. David is a member of the SC Chapter of BOBA. He is still active in woodworking in his home shop.

“A few days prior to D-Day, I was assigned to Headquarters, Advance Section Communications Zone, being fully staffed in Bristol, England and placed in The Plans, Training & Operations Division of the Signal Section. Units under our command would furnish communications on or about D-Plus three. I was one of eight in the PT&O Division, and were tasked to issue orders set out in Operation Overlord, the most secret Document of WWII. Eisenhower gave orders that anyone who had access, or knowledge of this Document would be required to be tested and given a Security clearance higher than Top Secret. I am one of a select few given Top Secret Bigot clearance.

My situation in 1944 was quite different from the way Classified documents are dealt with today in our Nation’s Capital. I would have faced a firing squad summarily had I misspoken even a tiny bit. I’m glad to still be around to tell the story.”

# 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 January 31, 2023, that these BOBA Veteran members have recently passed away:

Leo Barris	6 ARMDD 86 CAV RECON D	Charles R. Posey	2 INFD 9 REG M
Carrol R. Joy	406 FGHTR GP	Darold Rice	90 INFD 359 REG D
Charles McGuire	187 ENGR CMBT BN C	Wilbert Young	99 INFD 372 FABN BATT C
George F. Mills	28 INFD 109 REG E		



Frank Dick (L) and Bob Burrows (R), both from 317 REG, at 75th Bulge anniversary ceremonies in Luxembourg, 2019. Both men were lifetime members of BOBA. In rear, Maj. Gen. Bruce Hackett, commander, and Jay Thomas, CSM, 80th Training Command.

**Frank Dick** passed away September 5, 2022. He was in 80 INFD 317 I and lived in Adrian, MI.

Bulge battlefield guide Joel Lambarty, shared his memory: “Frank Dick was a wonderful person. So sweet with everybody. I was lucky to meet him during the Battle of the Bulge Association 75th anniversary trip. Frank told us how he was sent as a “replacement” to the 80th Infantry Division in the middle of the Battle of the Bulge in Luxembourg. After weeks of suffering during this terrible winter he was severely wounded and had to be sent back to the states. Thanks to the GI bill, he was able to study, and then had a successful career. He devoted his life to the others through many charities and donations.”

**Charles E. (“Chuck”) McGuire** passed away November 18, 2022. He was a part of Company C, 187th Engineer Combat Battalion. He was a lifetime member of BOBA and Vice President of the WA Northwest Chapter (#6).

## 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!

# SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS WITH AN 87TH INFID CONNECTION

The 87th Infantry Legacy Association's missions are to preserve the memory of the World War II contributions of the 87th Infantry Division and to educate the public about the significant sacrifices and contributions of the Division's soldiers during this pivotal global war. The 87th was an instrumental unit in General George S. Patton's Third Army success in the Battle of the Bulge. To help preserve this legacy, the association offers the annual 87th Infantry Division Tim Higgins Scholarship.



Timothy D. Higgins was the son of John (Jack) W. Higgins. Jack was with Company A of the 346th Regiment of the 87 INFD. Tim was the fourth President of the Legacy Association and worked tirelessly to help

plan, conduct, and document annual reunions/educational forums. Tim faithfully attended reunions with his Dad and brought along his brother and children in hopes that they would continue the mission. Tim passed in 2021, and this Scholarship Fund was set up in his name to honor all those who strive to ensure that the Division's contribution to a free world is not forgotten.

The scholarship is available to high school students in their senior year who plan to attend an accredited 2- or 4-year educational institution.

*Further requirements and the application can be found at [87thinfantrydivision.com/news/](http://87thinfantrydivision.com/news/).*

*Email: [Scholarship@87th-Inf-Legacy.org](mailto:Scholarship@87th-Inf-Legacy.org)*



**Four scouts of a reconnaissance squad of the 14th Field Artillery Observation Battalion, 87th Infantry Division, 3rd U.S. Army, race through a snow-covered field to avoid enemy small arms fire near Malscheid, January 1945.**  
Photo: Elk/U.S. National Archives

## THANK YOU FOR ALL THE GENEROUS DONATIONS!

*We are so grateful for the many donations received between November 1, 2022 and January 31, 2023.*

Albertine Alm

*In memory of May A. Buelow-Alm 3RD ARMY*

John C. Baker

*In memory of my father Master Sergeant Glenn E. Baker 28 INFD 110 REG*

Madeleine Bryant

*Wreath Fund*

Christopher Churylo

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Robert Croye

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*In honor of my father Dick Daniels 634 AAA AW*

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*In memory of my husband John Kirtley 160 CMBT ENG*

Joe Landry (776 AAA AW BN)\*

*In memory of Mary Ann & John Bowen and Francis Chesko*

Michael LoPiano

*In memory of my dad Michael A. LoPiano 9 ARMDD*

*131 ORD MAINT BN*

Mark McCullough

*In memory of my dad Herbert McCullough 87 INFD 345 REG E*

Charles Menige (84 INFD 335 REG I)\*

*Wreath Fund*

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Avis R. Millett

*In memory of my husband, Paul Millett 168 INFD*

Marilyn R. Newman

*In memory of my dad Wilbert A. Young 99 INFD 372 FABN BA C*

Roger Park, Jr.

*In memory of my dad Roger D. Park Sr. 28 INFD 109 REG*

Betsy Rose

*In Memory of James Hampton Coates KIA-Malmedy Massacre, 285 FAOB BTRY B*

*Wreath Fund - In Memory of my grandfather, Edward W. Hughes KIA 12/24/44, 80 INFD 317 REG K*

Stephen Rosser

Mary Ann Coates Smith

*In memory of my father, James Hampton Coates KIA-Malmedy Massacre, 285 FAOB BTRY B*

Amanda Stern

Carol Truesdale

*Wreath Fund*

Peter Weisenberger

*In memory of my uncle PFC Charles A Weisenberger 80 INFD 317 REG*

Vally Wyman

*In memory of my father Loyd E. Watson 87 INFD 346 REG*

*\*Denotes Bulge Veteran Member*



# BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION®

## 41ST ANNUAL REUNION NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Friday, July 28 – Tuesday, August 1, 2023

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Join us in New Orleans, LA, nestled in a crescent shape along the Mississippi River. Known as “the Big Easy,” possibly a reference by musicians in the early 20th century to the relative ease of finding work there. Still renowned for jazz and blues music, the historical heart of the city is the French Quarter, known for its French and Spanish Creole architecture and vibrant nightlife along Bourbon Street. It is also known for hosting the largest Carnival celebration, Mardi Gras, which begins on or after the Christian feasts of the Epiphany and culminates on the day before Ash Wednesday, which is known as Shrove Tuesday.

#### FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

Our Reunion begins with Registration on Friday afternoon with an **opening reception** in the Arcadia Terrace at the Higgins Hotel and Conference Center ([www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)). Found in the Warehouse/Arts District, it is next to The National WWII Museum and is the official hotel of the museum.

#### SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023

Saturday starts with a self-guided tour of the **National WWII Museum** ([www.nationalww2museum.org](http://www.nationalww2museum.org)), which features immersive exhibits, multimedia experiences, and an expansive collection of artifacts and first-person oral histories, taking visitors inside the story of the war that changed the world. Lunch is at the **Stage Door Canteen**. The Victory Belles, a delightful vocal trio, perform the music of the 1940s. Continue our tour of the National WWII Museum with a showing at the **Solomon Victory Theatre**, home to *Beyond All Boundaries*, a 4D cinematic experience produced exclusively for The National WWII Museum by Tom Hanks, who narrates the film. Dinner will be on your own to explore the many restaurants and cuisines that make New Orleans famous.

#### SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2023

On Sunday, we will have our **annual membership meeting**, to be held conveniently at the Higgins Hotel. After lunch, we will host

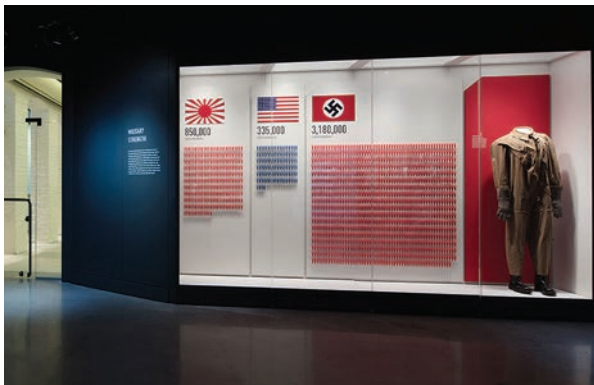
**three, hour-long informational sessions** that will enlighten you to the Battle of the Bulge. (*Details of the topics to be announced closer to the event.*) That evening, a special treat for our reunion guests is a **private reception and dining experience** at the Louisiana Memorial Pavilion. This will be a slightly different take on our annual banquet! Enjoy the tunes of the Victory Orchestra and soloist as you enjoy an evening of dining and dancing. The three stories of the American Sector will be open to our guests. This will be an event you will not want to miss!

#### MONDAY, JULY 31, 2023

No trip to New Orleans would be complete without a **sightseeing trip** around the city! In the comfort of our air-conditioned bus, on Monday, we will see the beauty of this area at a leisurely pace. As you ride around the perimeter of the **French Quarter**, your guide will reconstruct the first days of the old French City. We will stop at the **Café du Monde** ([www.cafedumonde.com](http://www.cafedumonde.com)) for the best coffee in New Orleans as well as their famous pastries, beignets (individual pay). Visit **St. Louis III Cemetery**, called “the city of the death”, and beautiful **City Park**. The heart of **Uptown** showcases some of the city’s loveliest neighborhoods, while the **Garden District** is distinguished by its Greek Revival architecture. Travel through Lakeview on **Lake Pontchartrain**, one of the hardest hit areas by Hurricane Katrina. We will stop for lunch at **Felix’s Oyster Bar** ([www.felixs.com](http://www.felixs.com)) along the Lakefront (lunch buffet included). The bus will return us to our hotel in the afternoon. After a light dinner provided at the hotel, walk next door to the newest attraction at **The National WWII Museum Parade Grounds**, *Expressions of America*. An outside sound and light experience, enjoy an unforgettable evening of music, special effects, and entertainment as projections 90 feet tall transport you back in time.

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2023

As our reunion comes to an end on Tuesday, safe travels home or feel free to continue to enjoy all New Orleans has to offer.



Highlights of our annual reunion in New Orleans will include a self-guided tour of the National WWII Museum (top left); and a sightseeing bus tour around the French Quarter (top right) and the Garden District (bottom left.)

Photos: National WWII Museum (top left); Bigeasy.com

# BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOMS TODAY!



1000 Magazine Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
Reservations: 833-357-1172



## DEADLINE TO RESERVE AT GROUP RATE: **JULY 6, 2023**

### ROOM RESERVATIONS

The special reduced rate of \$159 per night is available for King or Queen/Queen rooms. Accessible rooms are also available. Amenities include Complimentary High-Speed Internet throughout the hotel, Comp Fitness Center, and Business Center.

**In-room amenities:** Complimentary Coffee, Tea, Bottled Water, Mini Fridge and Safe.

**Group rate** available three days before and three days after the official reunion dates (based on availability). Hilton Honors members earn points for their stay.

#### Booking link for group rate:

<https://group.curiocollection.com/feey0u>

**Toll-free reservation line:** 833-357-1172 and give them the Group Name “Battle of the Bulge Association” to reserve your room.

**Reservations must be confirmed** with the individual’s valid credit card to guarantee the reservation. Guests have up to 72 hours in advance of arrival date to cancel without penalty of first night room rate plus tax.

**Deadline to register:** July 6, 2023.

Reservations after this date will be subject to prevailing rates and availability.

### DINING

**Cafe Normandie:** While breakfast is not included in the room rate, you may choose to enjoy breakfast or lunch here, serving a French-inspired menu.

**Provisions Market, Grab and Go:** Open daily, you can grab a coffee and pastry or a snack, located on the Lobby Level. Try New Orleans’ own Community Coffee. Also available: soft drinks, beer and wine by the bottle.

**Kilroy’s Lobby Bar:** The go-to spot for small plates and craft cocktails from 4 pm – 10 pm daily.

**Rosie’s on the Roof, the rooftop bar and grill:** Celebrating the women who built the ships, planes, and war machines of WWII. Enjoy casual dining, beer on tap and superlative craft cocktails along with the spectacular view of the Museum’s Canopy of Peace and the skyline. Open daily 4 pm – 11 pm.

### PARKING

While parking in New Orleans is at a premium and expensive, we have discounted overnight self-parking in the adjacent garage at **\$32 per night + tax when charged to the room.**

### HOTEL LOCATION

In the heart of the Warehouse/Arts District, on the campus of the National WWII Museum (which owns the hotel). The staff is knowledgeable about the city and the Museum. The French Quarter is within a mile, and the historic St. Charles Avenue Streetcar is just two blocks away—ride the streetcar through the Garden District and enjoy the gorgeous homes and live oak trees.

### DIRECTIONS

**From the Airport:** There is no complimentary hotel airport shuttle, so rideshare app (such as Uber) or taxi are the best options. It is about a 25-min. drive (14.8 miles) from Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport:

- Get on I-10 E from Terminal Dr
- Continue on I-10 E to New Orleans
- Take exit 12B from US-90 BUS W
- Drive to Andrew Higgins Blvd
- At Magazine St., turn right, hotel is on the left (1000 Magazine St). The parking garage is adjacent to the hotel.



# 2023 BOBA REUNION • NEW ORLEANS, LA

## BOBA REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION FOR REUNION: Wednesday, June 28, 2023**

There are two options for registering for the reunion: **Complete this form OR register online at [www.battleofthebulge.org](http://www.battleofthebulge.org)** (Click on the “Attend Reunion” and complete the Registration Form.) Registration for the reunion must be received no later than **June 28, 2023**. There is no penalty for canceling up to two days before your scheduled arrival for the hotel, but we ask if you cancel the events, that you allow us to use your registration fees to be donated to the Reunion Fund. (See page 11 for hotel reservation information.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Guests \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Division, Regiments, etc \_\_\_\_\_

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
<b>Registration Fee</b> (All attendees must pay the Registration Fee)			
Adult (21 and Over)	_____	\$80	_____
Child (20 and Under)	_____	\$40	_____
<b>Late registration fee after June 28 - add \$20 per person</b>	_____	\$20	_____
<b>Friday, July 28, 2023</b>			
Evening Wine & Cheese reception in the Hospitality Room (Generous donations to offset expenses by the BOBA SC Chapter, the SC Military History Club, WWII Museum, and 80 INFD VET ASSN)	_____	\$15	_____
<b>Saturday, July 29, 2023</b>			
Tour of the National WWII Museum	_____	\$35	_____
Victory Belle Matinee Lunch and Show (buffet included)	_____	\$45	_____
Viewing of <i>Beyond All Boundaries</i> (4D Movie)	_____	Included	_____
<b>Sunday, July 30, 2023</b>			
Annual Membership Meeting	_____	Free	_____
Box lunches (please indicate choices:)			
Ham sandwich	_____	\$40	_____
Turkey sandwich	_____	\$40	_____
Hummus veggie wrap	_____	\$40	_____
Battle of the Bulge historical programs (3 sessions)	_____	Free	_____
Cocktail Reception – Louisiana Memorial Pavilion (individual pay)	_____		_____
Banquet – Louisiana Memorial Pavilion (Nat'l WWII Museum) (With Live Orchestra, vocalist and dancing)	_____	\$95	_____
<b>Monday, July 31, 2023</b>			
New Orleans City Tour (stop at Café du Monde, individual pay) (Lunch at Felix's Oyster Bar – included)	_____	\$85	_____
Lite Dinner at Hotel	_____	\$35	_____
<i>Expressions of America</i> – WWII Museum Parade Grounds (outside)	_____	\$25	_____

Sponsor a Bulge Veteran's event participation \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

**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 or PayPal, register online at [www.battleofthebulge.org](http://www.battleofthebulge.org), click on “Attend Reunion”

# Friday, July 28 – Tuesday, August 1, 2023

## REUNION PROGRAM

### FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

3:00 PM – 7:30 PM Registration (Arcadia Ballroom A)  
3:00 PM – 10:30 PM Hospitality Room open (Arcadia Ballroom A)  
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Wine & Cheese Reception (Arcadia Terrace)  
Dinner on your own

### SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023

Breakfast on your own  
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM Registration and Hospitality Room open (Arcadia Ballroom A)  
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Walk across the street for tour of The National WWII Museum  
11:30 AM – 2:00 PM Lunch in the Stage Door Canteen with entertainment of the Victory Belles  
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM Continue tour of the National WWII Museum  
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM 4-D Movie - *Beyond All Boundaries* (48 minutes long)  
5:00 PM – 10:30 PM Hospitality Room Open (Arcadia Ballroom A)  
Dinner on your own

### SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2023

Breakfast on your own  
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM Late Registration and Hospitality Room open (Arcadia Ballroom A)  
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM Annual Membership Meeting (American Red Cross/Chartwell Meeting Rooms)  
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM Box Lunch (Arcadia Terrace)  
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM BOBA historical program – Session 1 (American Red Cross/Chartwell Rooms)  
2:15 PM – 3:15 PM BOBA historical program – Session 2 (American Red Cross/Chartwell Rooms)  
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM BOBA historical program – Session 3 (American Red Cross/Chartwell Rooms)  
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Reception at the Louisiana Memorial Pavilion (drinks paid by consumption)  
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Banquet at the Louisiana Memorial Pavilion, National WWII Museum  
(with entertainment and dancing)  
9:00 PM – 10:30 PM Hospitality Room open (Arcadia Ballroom A)

### MONDAY, JULY 31, 2023

Breakfast on your own  
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM Hospitality Room open (Arcadia Ballroom A)  
9:15 AM Bus loads for Sightseeing in New Orleans (loads at Andrew Higgins Blvd. side entrance)  
9:30 AM – 2:30 PM Tour of New Orleans with stops at Café du Monde (individual pay)  
and cemetery (lunch at Felix's included)  
2:30 PM Bus Returns to hotel  
2:30 PM – 10:30 PM Hospitality Room open (Arcadia Ballroom A)  
6:00 PM – 7:15 PM Light Buffet (Arcadia Terrace)  
7:15 PM – 8:30 PM *Expressions of America* – The National WWII Museum Parade Grounds

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2023

Breakfast on your own  
Depart or stay longer and enjoy the beautiful city of New Orleans!



(L-R): Mary Ann Coates Smith, The Honorable Nicole Bintner-Bakshian, Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Bulge Veteran Joe Landry, BOBA President John Mohor, William Stroud, Bulge Veteran Darrell Bush, and Sophie Karlshausen, Chargee d' Affaires, Kingdom of Belgium.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 2023 DC COMMEMORATION

*More than 40 members of the Battle of the Bulge Association gathered at the Embassy Suites Crystal City hotel in Arlington, VA, on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, for the annual commemoration of the end of the Battle of the Bulge.*

### 2023 Commemoration Begins With Presentations

After registration, a business meeting, and dinner, attendees gathered in the hospitality room for a series of presentations. New Bugle editor Leon Reed gave a presentation about the role of Third Army and in particular of infantry from the 80th division in breaking the siege of Bastogne. It was based on a book Reed co-authored with his wife about her father's experience as a squad leader of the 305th Engineer Combat Battalion, part of the 80th Division. He quoted from letters describing Lembo's sadness at the loss of buddies, his experiences in the column that broke the siege of Bastogne, and, as 1945 dawned, his hopes for the future. *[See page 18 for more.]*

BOBA historian Jim Triesler continued an

oral history project by interviewing BOBA member Joe Landry about his experiences waiting to cross the Channel, his first experiences with the sights and sounds of warfare in Normandy, as a truck driver with the legendary Red Ball Express during Patton's breakout across France, and during the Battle of the Bulge. Landry reminisced about his time with the famed "Red Ball Express," the round-the-clock transportation service that tried to keep allied armies supplied after Patton's breakout from Normandy. It was a one way "drive-until-it-breaks" system. Landry observed, "The problem is that Patton was moving so fast that he wasn't where he was supposed to be. The supplies couldn't keep up. We moved a lot of supplies but we couldn't fully keep up."

One of his most pleasant memories came

when he noticed the vehicle ahead of him in a long line had his brother's unit number. "I got out to see if I could find out where he was and how he was doing, and it turned out to be my brother. The convoy wasn't going anywhere and we got a chance to have Thanksgiving Dinner together."

One of his most vivid memories is hauling things (everything from logs to paratroopers) during the Bulge campaign. His first experience in this campaign involved defending a railroad bridge. Landry emphasized that he understood who had it roughest. "I take my hat off to the infantry," he said. "They had it rotten. We at least had a place to sleep inside."

Finally, Old Dominion University senior lecturer in English Alicia DeFonzo spoke about her book, *The Time Left Between Us*, which is

in part the record of her grandfather's experiences in WWII. But it is also a story of family and discovery and her 10 year journey to reconstruct her grandfather's experiences. She described a common challenge faced by many children and grandchildren of WWII veterans, that of reconstructing the old soldier's experience through "the box in the attic," official records, and faded memories. The audience gave rapt attention as she read her grandfather's descriptions of the war or described how she tracked down details of his experiences. [See page 7 for more.]

## Veterans Honor Bulge Sacrifices

Wednesday, January 25, 2023, was the 78th anniversary of the date the German Ardennes counter-offensive (better known in the United States as the Battle of the Bulge) was pronounced to be completed. Despite giving the Allies a scare at the start of the campaign, the Germans wound up accomplishing none of Hitler's goals and losing enormous quantities of men and materiel. Two Battle of the Bulge veterans, Darrell Bush, a rifleman with the 75th Infantry Division, and Joe Landry, a veteran of the 776th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion and a truck driver with the famed Red Ball Express, accompanied the group and placed the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Early that morning, the commemoration attendees boarded a bus for wreath laying ceremonies at the Bulge Memorial in Arlington Cemetery, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and the World War II memorial. The group was joined at the Arlington Amphitheater, near the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by General James C. McConville, chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

The day concluded at the Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, where the Ambassador, Honorable Nicole Bintner-Bakshian, hosted a reception. Ambassador Bintner-Bakshian expressed her country's continuing gratitude:

"The yearly commemorations of the Battle of the Bulge are not only very dear to my heart, but they are important for Luxembourg. The reasons are clear: if it wasn't for the collective sacrifice and strength of the American soldiers, Luxembourg would not be the free and democratic country it is today.

"The ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery offers us an opportunity to convey our profound gratitude and to pay tribute to the American soldiers who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Luxembourgers of all generations will always remember this sacrifice."



Bulge Veterans Joe Landry and Darrell Bush compare Bulge stories.



Guest speaker Alicia DeFonzo talked about her grandfather's WWII experiences.



Outgoing *Bugle* editor Betsy Rose and incoming editor Leon Reed.



Joe Landry (far right) holds the rapt attention of BOBA members during a conversation with Jim Triesler (far left).



Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville visits with Bulge Veteran Darrell Bush.

# GENERAL JAMES ALEXANDER ULIO: THE MAN WHO BUILT THE ARMY DURING WWII

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



Adjutant General Maj. Gen. James Ulio meets with a delegation of Ladies' Auxiliary.

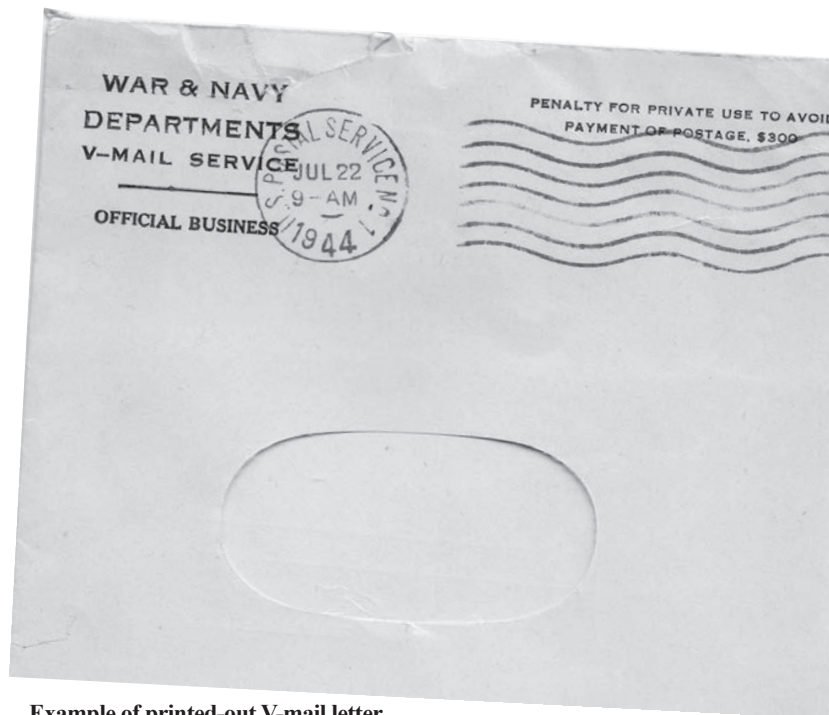
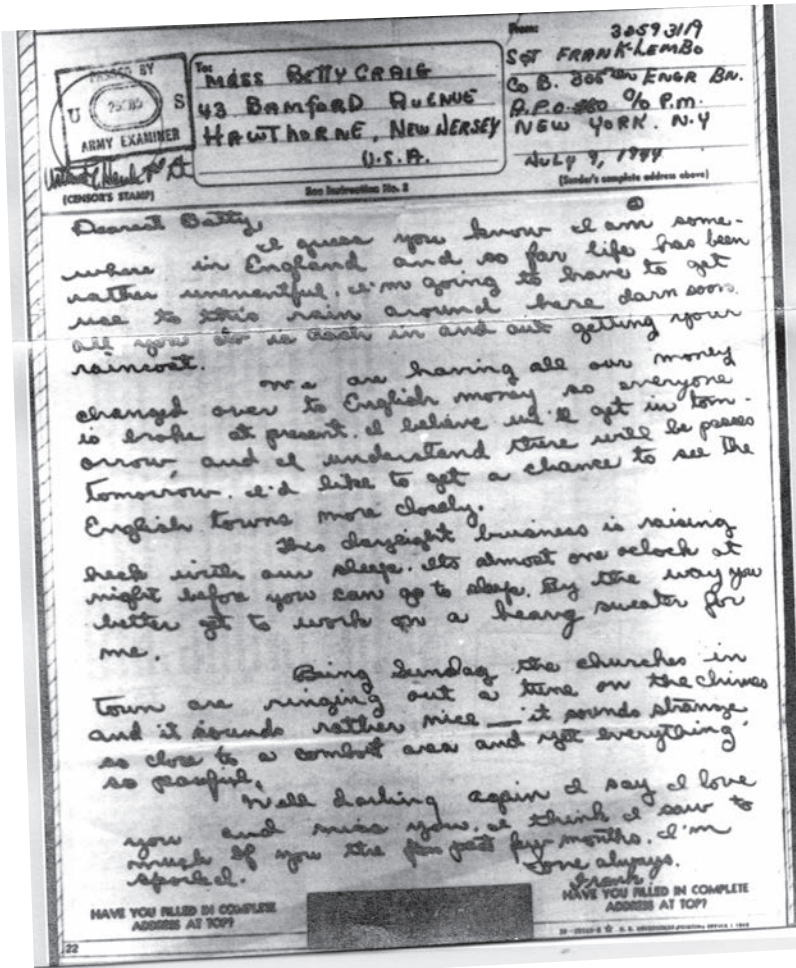
The following article stems from a livestream interview with CW4(ret) Alexander F. Barnes, Virginia Army National Guard Command Historian. The interview can be viewed in its entirety at <https://vimeo.com/778127463>.

During the forty days of the Battle of the Bulge there were 75,000 American casualties, according to the U. S. Army Center of Military History. Each family received a personal telegram from the office of the Adjutant General of the U. S. Army, Maj. Gen. James A. Ulio. Thousands of families knew the name Ulio, but who was this man with the responsibility for notifying families that their loved ones were casualties of war?

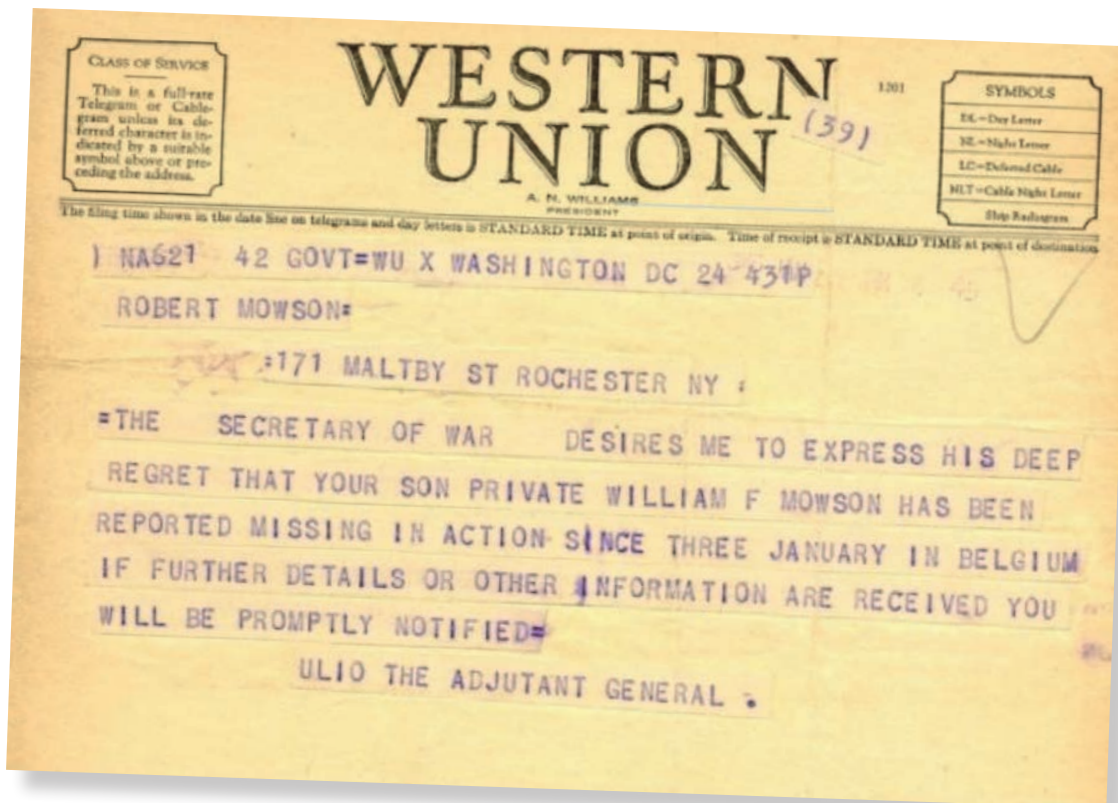
James A. Ulio may be the most important officer who served during WWII that almost no one today has heard of. Born into a military family in 1882, Ulio grew up on military posts throughout the West. After eleventh grade, he enlisted in the Army and in 1904 was commissioned a lieutenant. He spent a large part of his early military career in Hawaii and the Philippines, where he became immersed in Asian cultures. In 1916, Ulio served with the regular Army chasing Pancho Villa beyond the Mexican border. Then he was assigned as Adjutant at Camp McClellan, where he organized the 29th Division, comprised of National Guardsmen from New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia, and designed their division patch. After arrival in France, Ulio was transferred to the 35th Division, another National Guard unit, where he met future president Harry Truman.

Between the world wars, he served as military aide to Presidents Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt. In 1942, Ulio was given the responsibility for building an army that could defeat the enemy. The Axis powers had been building their military and consolidating their victories for a decade before James Ulio was given this monumental task.

As Adjutant General, James Ulio worked to expand the size of the



Example of printed-out V-mail letter.  
Letter by Sgt. Frank Lembo; Courtesy Lois Lembo



Example of a telegram from Maj. Gen. Ulio. Photo: U.S. Army

Army. The adjutant general was responsible for classification and assignment of soldiers.

In many ways, Ulio was ahead of his time. He recruited thousands of African American soldiers and in 1944, integrated all stateside Army posts four years before President Truman issued Executive Order 9981 to integrate the Army. General Ulio observed women were joining the Navy and the Marine Corps in numbers far greater than those joining the Army. He instituted equal pay for equal rank in the Army. Ministers, especially in the South, had spoken against women in military service. To combat these rumors, General Ulio worked with Hollywood to produce newsreel films showcasing the role of women in the Army. Under his guidance half of the Army's Military Occupational Specialties, including mechanics, drivers, and radio operators, were opened to women, giving them options beyond the traditional roles as nurses, aides, and postal clerks.

General Ulio adopted the Navy slogan, "Free a man to fight!" Through the effort of General Ulio and Oveta Culp Hobby, Director of the Women's Army Corps, the ranks of women in the Army increased.

The vast majority of Japanese Americans who lived in the Pacific region were patriotic Americans. General Ulio developed a process to allow them to join the Army. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team would be made up of 18,000 soldiers who would become the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in the history of the U. S. military (National WWII Museum). If Americans were willing to fight, General Ulio wanted them in the Army.

As adjutant general, Ulio also supervised the military postal system, a tool that was considered vital for morale. Ulio agreed it was "a necessity for the maintenance of morale" and described mail as "mental ammunition" for the soldiers. Mail to and from soldiers took up enormous amounts of space on ships and planes needed for soldiers and supplies. General Ulio oversaw the development of V-mail, a process where letters were reduced in size on film and then the film shipped across the ocean. Once printed, the physical letters were one quarter the size of

the original. Using this method delivery time for letters was cut from 45 days to 12.

By 1942, wounded soldiers were already returning home and separating from the Army. General Ulio saw a need for separation centers, created to assist veterans as they prepared to return to civilian life, often with a disability.

Telegrams were used to notify families their loved one in the Army had been killed, wounded, was missing or a prisoner of war. General Ulio had strict rules for these telegrams; each would be personalized with the soldier's name. No form letters would be sent to loved ones. Telegrams would not be delivered between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. The goal was to minimize the trauma on the family receiving one of these feared telegrams.

After his retirement in 1946, General James A. Ulio worked with colleges and universities to develop ROTC and OCS programs. He became the vice-president of a chain of grocery stores, where he developed training programs for veterans. James Ulio died in 1958 at the age of 76 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Sixty-two years later he was elected to the Adjutant General's Corps Hall of Fame. In life, his motto was to "always desire to give a little more than was expected of me, and in the best way." General Ulio developed so many systems that benefitted soldiers and veterans. He created the Army that liberated millions, defeated fascism, and made the United States a global power.

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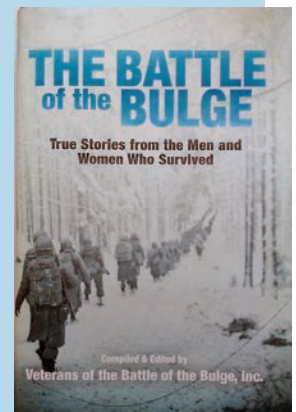
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# THE 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION AND ITS ROLE IN BREAKING THE SIEGE OF BASTOGNE

by Lois Lembo and Leon Reed

*This article summarizes the presentation made by Bulge Bugle editor Leon Reed at the January 2023 commemoration in Arlington, VA, based on the book written by Reed and Lois Lembo, "A Combat Engineer With Patton's Army: The Fight Across Europe with the 80th "Blue Ridge" Infantry Division in World War II."*

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Writing his fiancé, Betty Craig, on December 16 from HELLERINGER, France, Sgt. Frank Lembo of B Co., 305th Engineer Combat Battalion, 80th Division, wrote of a battalion show the night before complete with Red Cross girls serving donuts and the division band, an upcoming dance, and other interests of a soldier experiencing reserve status.

Things were about to get hectic. It would be another 9 days before Frank's next letter. In those 9 days, the 80th commenced its attack into Germany; was ordered to halt, pull back, and redeploy to the north; raced 150 miles over clogged, icy roads to a different country; went into defensive positions; and launched an attack on Ettelbruck and other towns. Separately, the 4th Armor was assigned to break through the German encirclement to the vital crossroads town of Bastogne.

The 80th division soldiers would have known that the 101st Airborne, along with selected units of armor and field artillery, were trying to hold the line at Bastogne. They would have heard about General McAuliffe's eloquent one word answer ("Nuts") to a German surrender demand. Relieving this garrison was a high priority.

On December 23, the embattled garrison expressed impatience with the slow progress of the relief column. McAuliffe commented, "I was disappointed I did not get to shake hands with you today." And a staffer commented, "A reminder, there is only one shopping day before Christmas."

On Christmas Eve, the 1st and 2nd battalions of the 318th pulled out of the Ettelbruck fight and were attached to 4th Armored. Both infantry battalions were severely depleted at the beginning of this effort and suffered further losses pounding on the door. Frank's platoon was assigned as the engineering complement for this detachment. 44 men would be responsible for clearing mines and other obstructions and keeping roads open. Sgt. Frank Lembo commanded 1/3 of the men.

The detachment trucked all night to join 4th Armor. Frank wrote Betty a letter Christmas Day. "I'm rather tired today, I didn't get to bed until 5 am (business stuff) and I was up at 8:30.

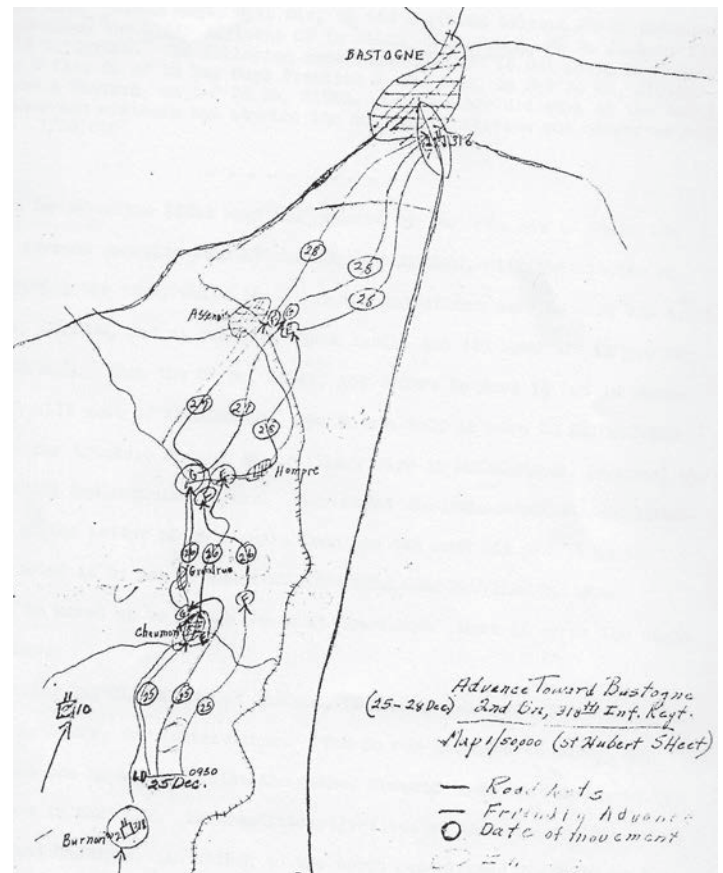
"There's fighting going on and over the next hill they are slamming away at each other.

"The past week has been jam packed with things to write about, but until a future date it will have to be kept here.

"We have seen some good dog fights and yesterday I saw a Heine plane take a nose dive."

The 2nd battalion/318 fought through the village of Chaumont on 12/25. The next day, they took Grandru: "ventilated buildings with 57 mm," then moved as if to bypass town, then doubled back. By then, F Co. was down to 25 men (1/2 a platoon).

On December 26, a detachment of tanks from Lt Col Creighton Abrams's Combat Command R of 4th Armored sprinted through German lines and linked up with the Bastogne defenders. Most historians consider this at least symbolically the end of the siege, though the supply line through Assenois was far from secure. In a show of Army parochialism, a 318th historian made it clear who he thought liberated



**Hand-drawn map of the approach of 318/2 to Bastogne (Source: 318/2 after action report).**

Bastogne. "Early on the evening 26 Dec tank elements of the 4th Armored Division were able to get into the beleaguered city but unable to return."

On 12/27, the Blue Ridgers fought through Hompre and to Assenois, on the outskirts of Bastogne. Frank dashed off another letter: "The battle that was going on Christmas day is still going on in increasing fury. I guess something has got to give soon, and I doubt it will be us."

Early on the morning of December 28, 2nd battalion linked up with the Bastogne defenders. Later that day, the task force members enjoyed a belated Christmas dinner in Bastogne. The author of an after action report identified one benefit of heavy casualties: "Since rations had been drawn for 350 men, there was ample food for all."

A 318th infantry history for December commented that "Casualties suffered by 1st and 2nd battalions were quite heavy, but nevertheless every mission was carried out successfully and every objective was reached. The limited number of front line personnel . . . 1st battalion 27 Dec had only 96 riflemen [note: Authorized strength: 324] makes the job done by the 318th an even better one."

After Bastogne, another month of hard fighting remained before the Germans were pushed back to their starting position. But a major milestone had been reached and the days of the Fuhrer's Thousand Year Reich were numbered.

# BULGE MEMORIES



## Stan Friday 80 INFD 317 REG HQ CO

In October 2022, Stan Friday received a special visit from his friend, Paul Oechsner. Paul was here for the Gettysburg reunion. In 1945, Stan helped liberate Paul's hometown of Niederzimmern, near Weimar. The two met at a 75th anniversary commemorative function in Normandy and have become close friends. Friday was a scout for HQ-Company of 2/317th Regiment. One reason why he became a scout is that he had extraordinary night vision.

Stan earned the Purple Heart for wounds received at Argentan, the 80 INFD's first major combat. Until September 1944, he formed a scouting team with his best friend and partner, PFC Kenneth Monday. Wherever Friday was, you could find Monday. Kenneth Monday was killed by a German artillery attack before the 317th Regiment crossed the Moselle River near Pont-a-Mousson. His last words were: "Is Friday ok?"

During the Battle of the Bulge, Stan was sent almost every night on patrols to the German lines to collect information and intelligence. He also was sometimes sent out to capture German POW's for interrogation. He was able to sneak behind enemy lines totally alone a few times and captured in all 5 prisoners on his own during the war.

During his patrols he ended up in hand-to-hand combat three times. One time a German surprised him and attacked him with a knife. The German hit the knife into Stan's chest, but luckily Stan's cartridge belt stopped the knife from penetrating deep into his flesh. Stan fell over backwards and shot the German three times with his pistol.

Although Stan survived all his hand-to-hand combat situations, they continue to haunt him in his dreams even more than 77 years after the end of WWII. "To go alone on a patrol between the lines during the Battle of the Bulge was scary. In the dark a German could wait behind any tree or shadow.... to return back to our lines was as dangerous as sneaking up to the German lines. But luckily I never experienced friendly fire." The Battle of the Bulge, with freezing cold conditions and endless artillery shelling, are the worst memories of Stan's life.

In December, Oechsner visited the grave of Friday's buddy, Monday, and carried a message from the old friend. The note said, "Greetings from your old buddy, Stanley Friday. Not a single day has passed in the last 78 years when I haven't thought of you."



(Left) Bulge Veteran Stan Friday. (Above) Paul Oechsner visiting the grave of Kenneth Monday. (Below) Letter from Stan Friday and other material left at Kenneth Monday's grave.





## SC CHAPTER (7)

After three years of dedicated service, Doug Patterson (ABOVE LEFT PHOTO, at right, with BOBA President and CEO John Mohor) has stepped down from his position as SC Chapter President. The new president is Nelson McLeod (ABOVE RIGHT PHOTO).

## VA CRATER CHAPTER (43)

On December 17, the Crater Chapter met at member John Payne's home in Powhatan, Virginia. He and his lovely wife, Sidney, prepared a delicious reception for us. Joining us were Christopher Bowers and Heidi Nunnally of the 8th AF.

Chris brought quite a few copies of the book, *Return to Base, Memoirs of a B-17 Copilot. Kimbolton England 1943-1944* and handed them out to members. The author, Jesse Richard Pitts, died in 2003.

Heidi read entries from her mother's diary, written during WWII. It was amazing how detailed her descriptions of WWII events were.

A belated thank you to Alan Cunningham for donating his last Battle of the Bulge challenge coin to present to veteran, Stewart Boone, at our previous meeting on October 6 at the Virginia War Memorial. Stewart has played the bugle at over 1,000 events. Stewart is becoming a TV star!! Greg McQuade of WTVR TV6 ("I Have A Story") included Stewart in another video about "TAPS" that originated at Berkeley, the historic 1600's home on the James River.

Congratulations to Betsy Rose for her dedicated service as BOBA's editor for 3+ years. Stepping down because she took a fulltime job, she will stay involved in Crater's projects and meetings.

— Submitted by Mary Ann Coates Smith, chapter president

(Foreground): JC Woods' grandson, Joseph. (Sitting L-R): Alan Cunningham (BOBA Chairman of the Board), Judy Cunningham, Jayne Sneed. (Standing L-R): Christopher Bowers (8 AF), Ron Peterson, Linda Guilmart, John "JC" Wood, Mary Ann Coates Smith (Crater President), Heidi Nunnally (8 AF). Photo: Sydney Payne



## CA GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER (10)

Golden Gate chapter of the Battle of the Bulge Association met on Saturday, December 10, to commemorate the 78th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. Approximately 40 people attended, including three Veterans and their family members. Speakers included The Honorable Daniel Da Cruz, Consul General of Luxembourg, and Pierre Smit, President of the Belgian Club of Northern California. Guests included Gary Laine, Director of the Honor Flight of the Bay Area.



(Back, L-R): Pierre Smit, President of the Belgian Club of Northern California; The Honorary Consul General of Luxembourg, Daniel Da Cruz; Ken Mar (2nd Inf Div); Doris Davis, President of the Golden Gate Chapter. (Front, L-R): Dr. John Kerner, medic; John Althuizen (7 ARMDD).

The three Veterans who attended shared short stories and while they spoke, you could hear a pin drop. Ken Mar (2 INFD) brought his Chinese American medal to show everyone. John Althuizen (7 ARMDD) was part of the Dutch underground and helped rescue downed pilots. Soldiers of the 7 ARMDD noticed him and realized he spoke several languages (including German) and they recruited him to help with interpretation. During a fierce battle, he was severely injured and separated from the soldiers he had befriended. After 3 months of recovery in various hospitals, he was walking on crutches outside of a hospital in Paris and one of his buddies noticed him and was thrilled to see him. The soldier helped him re-unite with the 7ARMDD, who were resting in Paris (the war had ended so it was safe to walk around). John has many interviews about his experiences available on the internet. The third veteran, Dr. John Kerner was a medic during the war. He volunteered to help in Bastogne when he learned that the troops were being overwhelmed. He's written a book about his experiences (*Combat Medic*) and his return home (*A Combat Medic Comes Home*) as well as 2 other books (all available on Amazon).

Many members of the local Belgian Club were present and expressed their gratitude to the Veterans. The Consul General of Luxembourg contributed a wreath that was later donated to the VA hospital in Palo Alto.

NOTE: Dr. Kerner turned 104 years old in February. John Althuizen is 98 years old and Ken Mar will be 98 in May 2023.

—Submitted by Doris Davis, chapter president



## PA DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER (4)

Delaware Valley Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge meets at the Chapel of the 4 Chaplains in the Philadelphia Navy Yard. In December, the chapter greeted the Thorne Middle School, Middletown, NJ, via video and congratulated the students, faculty, and staff for their extraordinary efforts in support of the history of WWII, honoring our Veterans, and sponsorship of the Wreath Across America campaign.

On December 7, 2022, the Delaware Valley Chapter commemorated the attack on Pearl Harbor, which occurred 81 years ago in 1941. This attack began the direct United States military involvement in World War II. It was a worldwide conflict against tyranny and to preserve liberty and freedom.

Our Chapter is announcing its support for an effort to create a World War II memorial in Philadelphia, where none currently exists. It will honor the American veterans who served in the US Army's largest land conflict, 'The Battle of the Bulge,' in December 1944. Our efforts will support the national Battle of the Bulge Association, to erect a memorial on Aviator's Park at Logan Circle, which already features several veteran memorials. Details will follow.

—Submitted by Dr. Andy Waskie, chapter president



The Delaware Valley chapter met on January 25, 2023, at the Chapel of the 4 Chaplains at the Navy Yard in Philadelphia. Battle of the Bulge Veterans present included Tech 5 Benjamin Berry (99 yrs.), Quartermaster Corps 3rd Army; PFC Jake Ruser (98 yrs.), combat medic, 12th Infantry Regt. 4th Infantry Division. PFC Ruser landed on D-Day at Utah Beach, participated in the Liberation of Paris, Huertgen Forest, and the Battle of the Bulge.

An event was held on January 28, 2023, at the WWII Aces Museum and USO Hall in Germantown, PA, to honor veterans, especially of WWII. Several members of the Delaware Valley Chapter – Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge/ Battle of the Bulge Association were among those being honored, including Benjamin Berry (third from left), and Jake Ruser (fifth from left).



# ★ ATTENTION VETERAN MEMBERS ★ SUBMIT YOUR BULGE MEMORY (DESCENDANTS, TOO!)

This photo (at right) shows three of the first Bulge veterans I ever met: Burt Marsh (80 INFD 319-3), Bob Burrows (80 INFD 317-HQ), and Ben Rupp (80 INFD 318-3). I met all of them at the 2017 reunion of the 80th Infantry Veterans Association and was impressed with the stories each had to tell. It was a privilege to hear all their stories and I hope many more of you will share your stories with the *Bugle*.

I have also begun more and more often to encounter “the box in the attic,” that record that dad kept but wasn’t eager to look at or talk about with his kids. Both of our presentations after dinner during the 2023 commemoration hinged on efforts by daughters



(From left:) Burt Marsh (80 INFD 319-3), Bob Burrows (80 INFD 317-HQ), and Ben Rupp (80 INFD 318-3)

of WWII vets – Lois Lembo and Alicia DeFonzo – to piece together their father’s actual experiences. The one size fits all excuse, “Ah, we didn’t really do anything” to hold the inquisitive son or daughter at bay, often quickly became untenable if the kids read about combat at Stavelot. But as the old soldiers fade slowly away, we are left with these treasures and the question “What do I do with this?” comes to the fore.

A memoir that recently came to light illustrates the potential for rediscovering information years after the old soldier faded away. This has been an exciting time in the 80 INFD community of descendants and enthusiasts. Several European-based enthusiasts have discovered troves of photos and GI records. Several excellent combat memoirs have come to light. But the Walter Carr package is the important discovery.

Lt. Walter Carr was a “patrol specialist” with 80 INFD 318-2 when he got his scariest order yet. On the night of December 27-28, the brass had decided the attackers needed to make face-to-face contact with the defenders of Bastogne and get some current information. Carr led a four man patrol through three miles of enemy territory, linked up with the defenders, and came back with valuable maps showing troop dispositions. But Carr’s World War II was a series of adventures, never documented for the public. But shortly after Christmas, someone posted a “What can I do with this?” note and the family wound up getting linked with a writer/editor.

The point of this anecdote isn’t that Carr’s memoir is more or less significant than others. The point is that there is no telling what treasure will come out of the attic. I urge you to communicate with us. I hope we can become a resource for descendants, to help get them started on the job of recovering their Bulge veteran’s story.

Even if all you have is a photo and a caption, please let us hear from you. There’s no telling where this might wind up. In 2021, after listening to Bob’s stories, I told him he had a tale worth being told. After the obligatory “Oh, nobody would be interested in my silly stories,” I finally convinced him and he was able to review the last draft shortly before he passed.

— Leon Reed, Bugle Editor

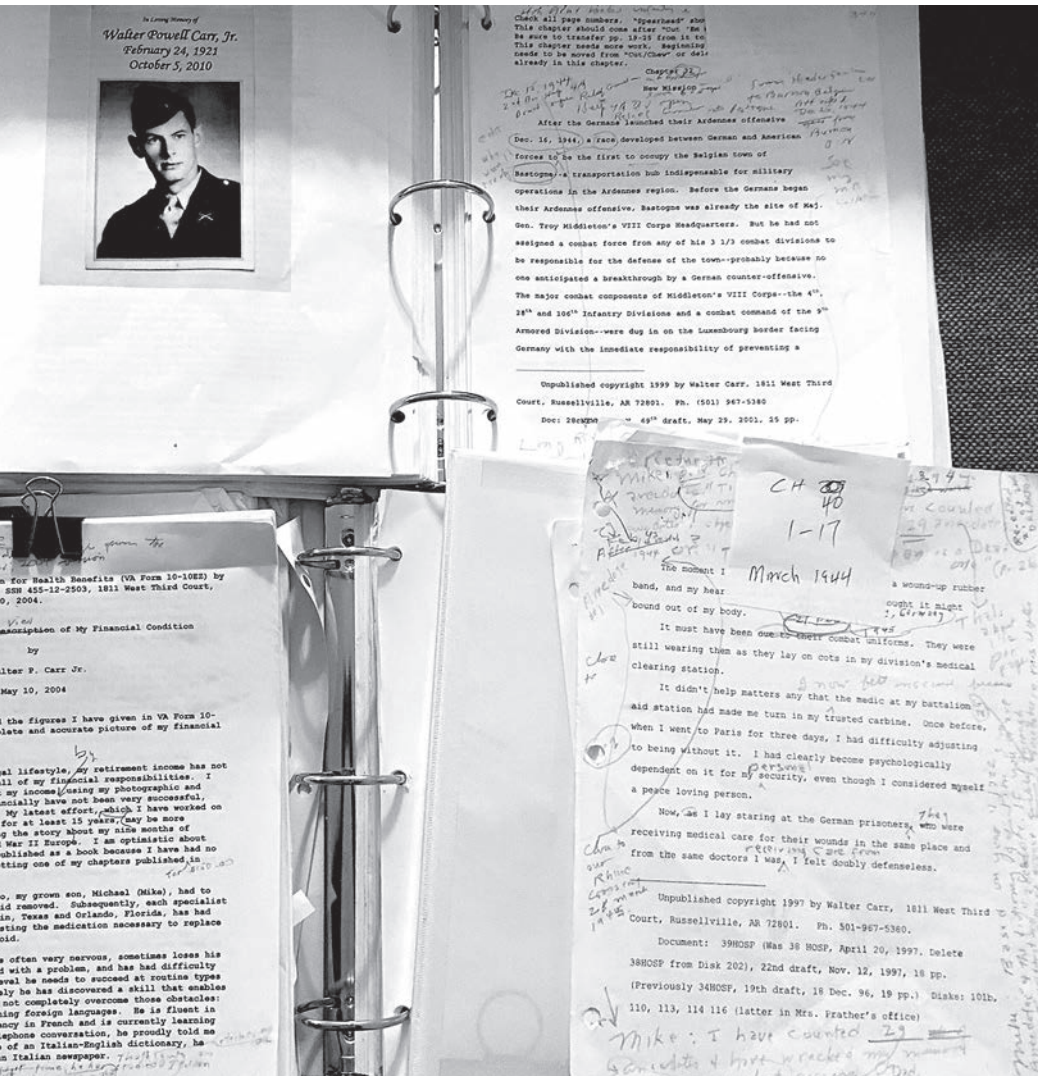
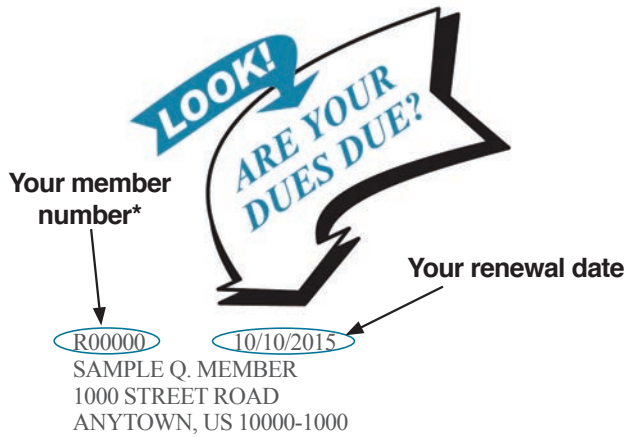


Photo showing some of Walter Carr’s memoir materials.

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