

The BULGE BUGLE

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

VOLUME XLIII NUMBER 1

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

WINTER/SPRING 2024



41st ANNUAL REUNION
St. Charles, MO
September 20, 2024

PLUS: Report on
January 2024
Commemoration

Reports on Veterans,
Chapters, and Divisions





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

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; and support Chapters of BOBA. BOBA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Donations to BOBA are tax-deductible.

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

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

BOBA MEMBERSHIP OFFICE

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

EMAIL: BobaMembership@gmail.com
Battle of the Bulge Association®, Inc.; P.O. Box 330,
Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330

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

BOBA, INC. BOARD ELECTED OFFICERS

President and CEO: Steve Landry

Executive Vice President:

Barbara Mooneyhan

Vice President Membership:

Joe Wollett (*Interim*)

Vice President Chapters:

Dr. Andy Waskie

Vice President Military &

Veteran Affairs: Doris Davis

Treasurer: Mary Ann Coates Smith

Recording Secretary: Gail Larke

PRESIDENT EMERITUS:

David Bailey, 106th INFD

BOARD MEMBERS

Madeleine Bryant, Chaplain

(*Appointed Duty*)

Kristen Faller

Ken Larke

Betsy Rose

Jim Triesler, Historian

(*Appointed Duty*)

APPOINTED OFFICERS

(*non-voting*)

Correspondence Coordinator:

Mary Ann Coates Smith

Public Relations: Gary Higgins,

Past President

Social Media Manager:

Caroline Paviot

Webmaster: Carl Carraway

PAST PRESIDENTS

Clyde Boden* 1981-84

Robert Van Houten* 1984-86

George Chekan* 1986-88;
2003-05

William Greenville* 1988-90

Darrell Kuhn* 1990-92

William Hemphill* 1992-93

William Tayman* 1993-94

Grover Twiner* 1994-95

Stanley Wojtusik* 1995-97;
2005-07

George Linthicum* 1997-99

John Dunleavy* 1999-01

Louis Cunningham* 2001-03

Demetri Paris* 2007-10

David Bailey 2010-12

Douglas Dillard* 2012-14

Alan Cunningham 2014-16

Gary Higgins 2017-19

John Mohor 2019-24

* *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 BobaMembership@gmail.com 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): Jim Gormley
Visit website gatewayvbob.org

NEW JERSEY

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

Fort Monmouth (56): Larry Lynch

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

NEW YORK

Mohawk Valley (28):
Julian Scatko

Hudson Valley (49):
Matthew J. Swedick

Staten Island (52): William Abell

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

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

OHIO

Blanchard Valley (42):
Leonard Skonecki

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):
Nelson McLeod

VERMONT-NEW HAMPSHIRE-MAINE

Tri-State (17): Edward Deverell

VIRGINIA

Crater (43):
Mary Ann Coates Smith

WASHINGTON

Northwest (6): Jim Pennock

**Do You Have a New Chapter President?
Or a President in Transition?
Forming a New Chapter? Let Us Know!**

**PLEASE SEND CHAPTER
UPDATES TO:
boba.editor@gmail.com**

ON THE COVER



Top photos, left to right: Andrew Biggio with veteran Andy Valero; veteran Ben Berry poses with “The Rifle”; Luxembourg Ambassador Nicole Bintner-Bakshian at Arlington National Cemetery; Leon Reed and veteran David Bailey.

Middle photo: Battle of the Bulge monument at Jefferson Barracks Park, a site we’ll visit during the 2024 Reunion.

Bottom photos, left to right: Veterans Jake Ruser, Ben Berry, Joe Landry, David Bailey, and Andy Valero (seated); St. Louis Gateway Arch.

Photos by Christine Guidry Law, Leon Reed, Walter Reed

How to submit stories for *The Bulge Bugle*®

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: JUNE 15, 2024

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)

IN THIS ISSUE

2. Contacts, Board, Chapters
3. On the Cover
 - How to Submit Stories for *The Bulge Bugle*®
4. President’s Message
 - BOBA Announcements
5. BOBA Outreach
 - Alan Cunningham Honored
 - Donations
6. DC 2024 Commemoration
8. First BOBA Bulge Conference
9. PA Resolution
 - New Members
 - Golden Lions Good Idea
10. 2024 BOBA Annual Reunion
14. INFD Spotlight:
 - 35th Infantry Division
16. 2024 Division Reunions
18. 17th Airborne Gettysburg Meeting
 - PA Military Museum
19. BOBA Member Books
20. ETO in 1944: The Best and Worst of Times
21. Upcoming Events
 - Veteran Milestone
 - Gerald White in Wereth
22. Veterans Stay Busy
23. Chapter News
24. In Memoriam
 - Tribute to Heroes
25. Parting Words
27. Membership Application



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Steve Landry

ON BEHALF OF THE ALL THE ELECTED officers and Board members, I wish to thank each of you again for your trust and support as we lead BOBA into 2024, a year of transition. We've begun to implement the Bylaw changes approved at the General Membership meeting last November. In particular, we've transitioned *The Bulge Bugle*® distribution to a largely electronic format (although the Bulge Veteran members will continue to receive printed and mailed copies) and we're in the process of transitioning the administrative duties to volunteers. These changes will achieve significant cost savings, allowing us to hopefully return to quarterly publication of the *Bugle*.

As noted in the last edition, the membership also approved a change to the way we collect association dues. Dues for this calendar year (2024) were due by the beginning of the year (January 1, 2024). The current rate is \$20 per year for Veteran members and \$40 per year for non-Veteran members. If your dues are in arrears, please submit your payments as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, our recently elected VP of Membership Wayne Jacobs resigned his post shortly after taking office for personal reasons. In his place, I nominated Mr. Joe Wollet as Interim VP of Membership, and the Board elected him on January 24, 2024, in accordance with the Bylaws. Joe has taken charge of the Membership Committee and I expect the committee's initiatives will soon bear fruit in the form of new members and existing member retention. I also want to thank



Betsy Rose, John Mohor, Craig Stiegemeier, Scott Rayl, Kevin Hinkle, and Millie Minvielle for joining the Committee.

As noted elsewhere in this issue, our terrific *Bugle* Editor and Outreach Coordinator Leon Reed and others have been actively promoting BOBA to the public, and our energetic VP of Military Affairs Doris Davis has been working to strengthen our ties with other affiliated military associations, such as the 35th Infantry Division Association.

I'll also highlight the great job Executive Vice President Barbara Mooneyhan and Board Member Kristen Faller have done arranging a fantastic program for the 2024 BOBA Reunion in St. Charles, MO in September. Please plan on attending if you are able.

Later this year, we will celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. The 2023 Board selected J.P.P. Holdings (who also ran the 75th Anniversary Tour) as the BOBA-preferred tour provider. Please see the notices and flyers in the *Bugle* and on the BOBA website, and consider joining us on what is sure to be a great tour.

Finally, I know change is sometimes hard, but I believe we are turning the corner with respect to BOBA's finances, thus ensuring our long-term viability. With the continued support of you, the members, we'll continue to celebrate and honor the legacy of the brave men and women who fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

—Steve Landry, President and CEO

BOBA ANNOUNCEMENTS

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

After facing down a series of challenges in the past two years, the Battle of the Bulge Association (BOBA) is entering 2024 with a real sense of optimism. The 80th anniversary of the battle is approaching and activities to celebrate our veterans are planned throughout the year – in the U.S. and abroad.

BOBA enters the year with new leadership, improved financial stability, and many exciting new activities. Among these are efforts to forge closer relations with the division associations and a new emphasis on promoting awareness of the Battle of the Bulge – through appearances at public events and schools.

One area where we could use some help is in putting a speakers bureau together. Today's students are not growing up surrounded

by World War II, as my generation was. For today's high school junior studying U.S. History, the Battle of the Bulge is as far away in time as the first inauguration of Grover Cleveland was from my desk when I was studying U.S. history – and watching a steady diet of *Sink the Bismarck*, *Longest Day*, and *Guns of Navarone*. Sadly, but inevitably, it has become "history." Helping educate today's students is an important part of our mission to "perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices made by those who participated during the Battle of the Bulge."

We're preparing a couple PowerPoints presenters can choose from. What we need is a group of volunteers around the country who can make local contacts. If you want to be a part of this effort, write me at boba.editor@gmail.com.

Leon Reed, *Bulge Bugle* Editor

2024 DUES ARE PAST DUE

Membership dues for 2024 are now past due as of January 1. If you have not paid your 2024 dues yet, please navigate your way to battleofthebulge.org and click on the "Join BOBA/Renew" button underneath the banner. Dues for Bulge veteran members are \$20 per year. Non-veteran member dues are \$40 per year. If you paid your dues late last year, you're covered through 2024.

BOBA encourages all current members to invite others with an interest or a connection to the Bulge to join. Our goal is to share the stories and personal history of Bulge veterans with a new generation of members, especially grandchildren of those who served. What better way to keep alive the memory of their loved ones and the sacrifices they made in the fight for freedom?

MEMBERS PROMOTING BOBA

One essential mission of BOBA is “To perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices made by those who participated during the Battle of the Bulge.” As the 80th anniversary of the Battle passes, fewer and fewer people who are alive have a personal memory of the Battle. BOBA members are active in making presentations on the battle and related topics.

Person	Date	Place	Topic
Leon Reed	January 27	Battle of the Bulge conference	Third Army Closes the Southern Bulge and Liberates Bastogne
Leon Reed	March 11	Adams Co. Public Library	Arsenal of Democracy
Leon Reed	March 12	Institute for Retired Persons	<i>Life Magazine</i> : Window on World War II
*Jake Ruser	December 7	Central PA Roundtable	Hurtgen Forest and Bulge Stories
*Dan Santagata	February 25	New Castle (NY) Historical Society	Personal experiences in Third Army
Mary Ann Coates Smith	January 27	Battle of the Bulge conference	Exhibit on Malmedy Massacre
Jim Triesler	January 27	Battle of the Bulge conference	Victims of the Malmedy Massacre
Jim Triesler	March 2	Virginia Council of Social Studies	Sorting the Mail
Tom Vossler	January 27	Battle of the Bulge conference	Eisenhower and Allied Expeditionary Force Leadership During the Battle of the Bulge

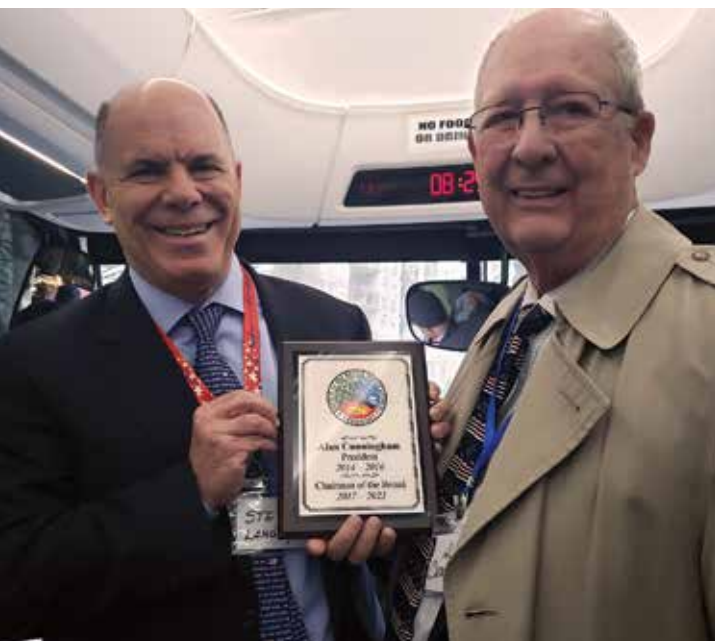
**Those with an asterisk are World War II veterans*



Veteran Jake Ruser talked about his experiences in the Bulge and the Hurtgen Forest, which he revisited in 2023.



Tom Vossler spoke at the Battle of the Bulge conference in Gettysburg.



ALAN CUNNINGHAM HONORED FOR SERVICES TO BOBA New president Steve Landry (shown, left) honored past presidents John Mohor and Alan Cunningham (shown, right) for their years of valuable service and leadership to BOBA.

THANK YOU FOR THE DONATIONS

Marianne Cibulas

A member of the Greatest Generation has left us, and we honor our 103 year old uncle, Herman Skerlong, who served as a machine gunner in the 80th Division under General Patton. Herman received the Bronze Star for pulling an injured fellow soldier to safety.

Paul Eiden

In Honor of The Greatest Generation

Mr. and Mrs. David Hartzell

Richard and Sandra Hurst

Gavin and Adrienne Landless

Joe Landry

Steve Landry

Betsy Rose

In Memory of Herman Skerlong, 80 INFD 317-K, Passed Dec. 16, 2023

Amanda Stern

In Memory of my grandfather and WWII veteran Chester Mullins

Carolyn Truesdale

In Honor of David Bailey, 106th INFD, 422nd REGT

Vally Wyman

In Memory of Lloyd Watson, 87th INFD 346 REGT Co. D



1. Chargee d' Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium Sophie Karlshausen (right). 2. Bulge veteran Jake Ruser (right).

DC 2024 COMMEMORATION – SIX WWII VETERANS ATTENDED!

by Mary Ann Coates Smith

We received an overwhelming response to the DC/Arlington 2024 Commemoration event. Guests started arriving at Crystal City Embassy Suites on Wednesday afternoon, January 24, for an evening of guest speakers. The following day, wreaths were laid at the World War II Memorial and in Arlington National Cemetery, followed by a luncheon at the Belgian Ambassador's residence. Mary Ann Smith has served as DC event planner for the past three years, with support from Betsy Rose, Jim Triesler, and Alan Cunningham of the Crater Chapter.

Jim Triesler, BOBA Board member and Historian, who also serves as Education Director of the Virginia War Memorial, displayed artifacts of his father-in-law. He has served as Master of Ceremonies for the past three DC events. Jim also interviewed our five veterans present on Wednesday evening; David Bailey, Joe Landry, Jake Ruser, Ben Berry, and Andy Valero.

Our sixth veteran, Darrell Reed Bush, joined us at the Arlington ceremonies and Belgian ambassador's luncheon, arriving by stretch limousine, provided by retired Col. Lynn and Grace Hollerbach.

The featured speaker Wednesday night was Andy Biggio, author of *The Rifle and The Rifle*. Andy is a former US Marine Corps Combat infantry sergeant. He is a member of the

police force in Boston and a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan. He is the founder of Boston's Wounded Vet Run, New England's largest motorcycle ride dedicated to severely wounded veterans. Andy gave a presentation on his journey with the M1 Garand Rifle and meeting WWII veterans and hearing their stories. Andy had the M1 rifle on display for all to view as well as signed copies of his book for purchase.

Glenn Ivers of New York is the author of *Angels of Bastogne: A Remembrance of World War II*. The book is based on a true story of a U.S. Army doctor and two Belgian nurses who volunteered in his aid station during WWII, in Bastogne Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge. [See page 19 for more on the book.]

Glenn also provided some entertainment to guests while, in the adjoining room, the BOBA Board was having a meeting and John Mohor was swearing in 2024 Board members.

Dan Ocko of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, presented a proclamation to Battle of the Bulge Association which was accepted by WWII veteran, Joe Landry.

Leon Reed, newly appointed Outreach chair, spoke briefly about his Outreach plans, including exhibits at airshows and World War II events as well as classroom presentations.

Jim Triesler displayed artifacts of his father-in-law and Mary Ann Smith displayed

artifacts of her dad, Pvt. James H. Coates, who was a POW and KIA on December 17, 1944, during the Malmedy Massacre in Belgium.

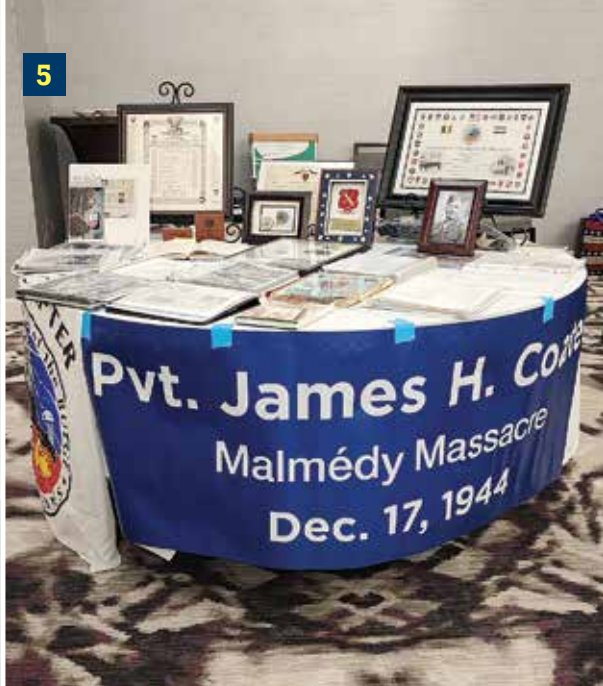
On Thursday morning January 25, our group departed, by two chartered buses, for Washington, D.C., to lay a wreath on the WWII monument. We then continued on to Arlington National Cemetery.

We were joined at the BOBA monument and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by Sophie Karlshausen, Charge of d'Affairs, Kingdom of Belgium, and Nicole Bintner-Bakshian, Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg for the wreath ceremonies.

Afterwards, everybody boarded the buses to continue to the Belgian Ambassador's residence for a delicious buffet luncheon and honoring our six precious WWII veterans attending: David Bailey, Ben Berry, Darrell Bush, Joe Landry, Jake Ruser, and Andy Valero.

Sophie Karlshausen, Charge of d'Affairs, honored each veteran and presented each a gift bag. Dorothy Bush was presented a bouquet of flowers honoring her recent 80th Anniversary with veteran Darrell Bush.

During the two-day event, plaques were presented to Alan Cunningham and John Mohor by Steve Landry, which were generously donated by Barbara Mooneyhan. Steve also gave a challenge coin to Dan Ocko plus four others during our event.



3. Veterans Joe Landry, David Baily, and Andy Valero (seated.) **4.** Luncheon at the Belgian ambassador's residence. **5.** Mary Ann Coates Smith's Malmédy exhibit. **6.** Delaware Valley Chapter President Andy Waskie, Veterans Jake Ruser and Ben Berry, with BOBA President Steve Landry. **7.** Veterans salute at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. **8.** Andy Valero talks with a guest. **9.** BOBA historian Jim Triesler looks at an exhibit in the hospitality room. **10.** Jim Triesler and panel of veterans.



FIRST BOBA CONFERENCE IS SUCCESSFUL

BOBA's first annual Battle of the Bulge Conference, held on January 27 at the World War II American Experience museum in Gettysburg, was attended by more than 150 people.

The conference was organized by BOBA's Outreach Committee chair, Leon Reed, who also spoke on Third Army and the Liberation of Bastogne. Other BOBA speakers included historian Jim Triesler, who spoke about victims of the Malmedy Massacre, and member Tom

Vossler, who spoke on Ike and leadership.

The headline attraction was Andy Biggio, author of bestsellers, *The Rifle* and *The Rifle 2*. He spoke on his experiences meeting with veterans and traveling with them back to the battlefields where they fought. Other speakers discussed the 106th Division and burials at the Gettysburg National Cemetery.

Five veterans attended the event, including Richard Weaver, 17th Airborne; Jake Ruser,

4th Infantry; Ben Berry, Quartermaster Corps; Joe Landry, 776th AW AA BN; and Harry Miller, 740th Tank Battalion. They mingled with the visitors, gave interviews for the museum's oral history project; and participated in a lunchtime Meet and Greet.

The host World War II American Experience was extremely pleased and agreed to host the 2nd annual conference on Saturday, January 26, 2025. Photos: Christine Guidry Law, Leon Reed



The crowd listens to a speaker at BOBA's first annual Battle of the Bulge conference in Gettysburg.



Veterans Joe Landry and Ben Berry talk with other attendees at lunch time.



Veteran Harry Miller (right) and Christine Guidry Law



BOBA Historian Jim Triesler speaks about Malmedy.



NEW MEMBERS

BOBA welcomed or welcomed back a number of new members or former members who reactivated their membership after a prolonged hiatus.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Ethan Allen | Gary Hurwitz |
| Steve Appleby | Timothy Jones |
| Carol Banasik | Mercy Lawler |
| John Baker | Seth Mansur |
| Chloe Beatty | Trevor Moss |
| Patty Bowers | John O'Boyle |
| Steve Brantley | Don Patton |
| David Collins | Ralph Pistone |
| Richard L Clouser | John Reeve |
| Anna Crooks | Seter Rigby |
| Ash Duncan | David Shortt |
| Alan Friedland | Eileen Sokolowsky |
| Janet George | Tom Thomason |
| Ted Glogovac | Marjorie Tucker |
| Sue Greaves | Tom Vossler |
| David Green | Doug Zadra |

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



Pennsylvania Legislative staffer Dan Ocko reads the resolution.

PA RESOLUTION

Pennsylvania legislative staff member Dan Ocko attended BOBA's commemoration and conference to bring us important news. The Pennsylvania House of Representatives approved House Resolution 275, proposed by State Rep. Chris Pielli, (D-Chester).

Representative Pielli's resolution recognizes the efforts and sacrifices of thousands of U.S. troops during the Battle of the Bulge. The resolution also requests that the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs create, publish, and present materials about the Battle of the Bulge and the special heroism displayed by Pennsylvania soldiers, airmen, and military units in time for the 80th anniversary in 2024.

"Without the courage of and sacrifice of Pennsylvania troops, in particular our own 28th Infantry Division, the history of this battle and the war might have been told very differently," Pielli, an Army veteran said. "I'm proud to have passed this legislation with the help of my colleagues in the state House. Because of their support, we can highlight the heroism of Pennsylvania's 28th Division units toward this crucial effort and will enable the DMVA to start preparing for commemorating the 80th anniversary of Pennsylvania's tremendous contribution to this historic battle."

BOBA is working with other stakeholders to help plan a meaningful Pennsylvania event.

GOLDEN LIONS GOOD IDEA



I came across an excellent idea while reading the 106th Division's excellent magazine, *The CUB*: mini-Reunions. The article described the idea:

"As it becomes more difficult for those older gentlemen to travel, so it is even more important we attempt to connect with our veterans. Any way you can, even doing so virtually, would be a great way to honor, cherish, and remember all our veterans." The article then described a get-together at a restaurant involving two 106 INFD veterans, one spouse, and a past president of the association.

The reunion gave the two veterans a chance to meet each other and share their stories.

—Leon Reed, Bugle Editor



BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION®

2024 BOBA REUNION | ST. CHARLES, MO
Friday, September 20 – Tuesday, September 24, 2024

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

We welcome members of the 87th INFD and 8th ARMDD, who will serve as co-sponsors, and encourage other groups to join us as well.

Did you know that St. Charles, MO was founded in 1769 and served as the first state capital from 1821-1826? In 1804, Lewis and Clark considered this settlement the last “civilized” stop before they headed upriver to explore the western territory that the United States acquired from France in the Louisiana Purchase. Join us for the 42nd annual BOBA Reunion and find out what makes this region so special! All aboard the free St. Charles Trolley, this 40-minute loop makes 7 stops. See www.StCharlesTrolley.com for more information.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

We will begin on Friday evening at our host property, the Embassy Suites, St. Charles with a “Taste of the Region.” Enjoy such delicacies as gooey butter cakes, toasted ravioli and other craft beers and wines of the region at our opening reception. After being welcomed by Jim Gormley, president of the Gateway Chapter, we will hear from Dr. George Despotis, physician and WWII author, as he introduces our honored veterans, including some from the region. He will tell us about Lyle Bouck, who was in charge of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th INFD, which was the most decorated platoon of WWII for action defending a key road in the vicinity of the Losheim Gap, on the first morning of the Battle of the Bulge.

Both before and after the official presentation, we have the pleasure of welcoming Myra Miller, Founder of Footsteps Research, who will work with her assistant to see if she can access any information about your veteran’s service record (free of charge). As a licensed researcher at NARA St. Louis, she has access to some back files that may provide information about your veteran, even if you have been told the “records burned up in the fire.”

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

Saturday will begin with a wreath laying ceremony at the **Battle of the Bulge Monument** in Jefferson Barracks Park and Cemetery overlooking the Mississippi River. With assistance from the Jr. ROTC and a small squad of 2nd Rangers in uniform, our veterans will place a wreath. We will conclude with a Grand salute



Jefferson Barracks Cemetery

& Taps in memory of our fallen heroes.

Next will be a stop at the **POW-MIA Museum** (donations accepted). Additionally, we will have a windshield tour of **Jefferson Barracks Cemetery**. We will have a step on guide for each bus tell us about the historical significance of this national cemetery. It includes both Confederate and Union dead. World War II casualties introduced a new focus to the cemetery as the central repository for group interments resulting from national disasters, when individual remains cannot be identified. Three WWII Medal of Honor Recipients rest here.

Lunch will be at the **Royale Orleans Restaurant**. We will enjoy an Italian themed buffet while being entertained by background singing of WWII-era songs and a program being planned by the Gateway Chapter.

After returning to the hotel for a quick rest, we will leave for the **Smartt Airfield** where the Commemorative Air Force will host a hangar dance in the beautifully restored WWII hangar. Flying overhead will be the B-25 Mitchell “Show Me,” a TBM-3 Avenger, an L-3S, and PT-17 Stearman, all WWII military planes. There is the opportunity for 40 people sign up for the VIP Experience, which includes food, beverages, hat, and a commemorative coin. Others who want to attend will pay a reduced price and purchase food and beverages separately.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

Prior to the **Open Board Meeting**, Myra Miller and her assistant will again help you track your veteran’s service information. As for the meeting, please be present to make your views known for the future of our important organization. After a box lunch in the Hospitality Room, and the drawing of the raffle prizes (you do not have to be present to win), we will have

3 educational sessions. Refer to the Reunion Program for the titles of each presentation and the presenters. Sunday evening will be our **annual banquet**. With the presentation of the colors and other invited guests, we welcome again our keynote speaker Myra Miller, PhD.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

“See you in St. Louis, Louie!”, located near the confluence of the Mississippi and the Missouri Rivers, St. Louis hosted 1904 World’s Fair and the Olympics, becoming the first non-European city to host the games. Our first stop will be the **Gateway Arch**, a 630-foot-tall monument, the world’s tallest arch and Missouri’s tallest accessible structure. Building began in 1963 and the arch opened in October 1965. While we will not be able to go to the top of the arch, we will have time for a photo opportunity. Next is a visit to the **Soldier’s Memorial Military Museum**. Dedicated by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1936, the Museum opened on Memorial Day of that year.

The **St. Louis Zoological Park** was opened in 1910 and is home to over 160,000 animals and remains one of the top-ranking zoos in the country. The Flight Cage was constructed by Frank Baker in 1904 for the World’s Fair and currently houses 20 different species of North American birds. This tour will be self-led.

Our time together will be coming to an end but not before having one last chance to have a taste of St. Charles. For those that want to join us, we will take the hotel shuttle to one of the local restaurants on **historical Main Street, St. Charles**. Located along the Missouri River, this street is known for its historic architecture, specialty stores and antiques, lovely parks, various restaurants and a monument to Lewis & Clark.



Historic Main Street, St. Charles

REUNION PROGRAM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

4:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Registration (outside Hospitality Room)
4:00 PM – 10:30 PM	Hospitality Room Open
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Research your veterans records – Myra Miller, Footsteps Researcher & Producer
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Manager’s Reception (Atrium)
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	“Taste of the Region” Reception (Hospitality Room)
8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Research your veterans records – Myra Miller, Footsteps Researcher & Producer Dinner on your own

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

6:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Complimentary Hot Breakfast with Cook to Order Breakfast
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Registration and Hospitality Room Open
9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	Bus loads for sightseeing
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Wreath laying at Jefferson Barracks Park and Cemetery at BOBA Monument
11:00 AM – 11:45 PM	Visit the POW-MIA Museum (donations accepted)
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM	Windshield tour of Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery with guide
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Luncheon at Royale Orleans
3:15 PM – 3:45 PM	Bus loads at Royale Orleans and returns to Embassy Suites
3:45 PM – 10:30 PM	Hospitality Room Open
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Manager’s Reception (Atrium)
5:00 PM	Bus loads for Hangar Dance with Big Band Orchestra (Smartt Field)
5:45 PM – 8:30 PM	Hangar Dance with Big Band Orchestra (40 people VIP Experience, General Admission)
8:45 PM	Bus returns to Embassy Suites

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

6:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Complimentary Hot Breakfast with Cook to Order Breakfast
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Late Registration and Hospitality Room Open & Research your veterans records
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Open Board Meeting (Portland Room)
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM	Box Lunch – 2nd Ranger Battalion Reenactors exhibit (Hospitality Room)
12:30 PM – 1:00 PM	Drawing for raffle (Hospitality Room)
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Christmas 1944 and Life as the Daughter of a POW Presenters: Barbara Mooneyhan, Diane Husk (Portland Room)
2:15 PM – 3:15 PM	POW-MIA Experience – Video of Lt. Blassie’s Journey Home (told by his sister) Presenter: Paul Dillon, Curator, POW-MIA Museum (Portland Room)
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Mail Delays during the Battle of the Bulge Presenter: Jim Triesler – (Portland Room)
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Manager’s Reception
6:00 PM – 6:30 PM	Reception outside Windsor Room (drinks paid by consumption)
6:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Opening remarks by invited guests & Presentation of Colors (Windsor Room)
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM	Banquet at the hotel – Myra Miller, speaker (Windsor Room)
8:30 PM - 8:45 PM	Retiring of Colors and Flag Folding Ceremony
8:45 PM – 10:30 PM	Hospitality Room open

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

6:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Complimentary Hot Breakfast with Cook to Order Breakfast
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Hospitality Room open
9:15 AM	Bus loads for Sightseeing
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Stop at St. Louis Arch and Cathedral for photo opportunity
11:00 AM – 12:00 N	Soldier’s Memorial Military Museum
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch at The Boathouse at world-famous Forest Park
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Forest Park – St. Louis Zoological Park (self-guided)
4:00 PM	Bus Returns to hotel
4:00 PM – 10:30 PM	Hospitality Room Open
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Manager’s Reception
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Dinner at Restaurant along the River on Historic Main Street, St. Charles Hotel Shuttle – individual pay

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

6:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Complimentary Hot Breakfast with Cook to Order Breakfast Depart or stay longer and enjoy the beautiful city of St. Charles!
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IMPORTANT:
Please continue
to check the website
for the most
up to date information!



2024 BOBA REUNION • ST. CHARLES, MO

BOBA REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION FOR REUNION: MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2024

There are two options for registering for the reunion: **Complete this form with check (preferred method to avoid extra charges) OR register online at www.battleofthebulge.org (Click on the “Attend Reunion” and complete the Registration Form.)** Registration for the reunion must be received no later than August 19, 2024. 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 donate your registration fees to the Reunion Fund.

Name _____

Additional Guests _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Division, Regiment, 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!

Registration Fee (All attendees must pay the Non-Refundable Registration Fee)

Adult/Older Child _____ \$75 _____

Child (6 and Under) _____ Free _____

Late registration fee after August 19 - add \$20 per person _____ \$20 _____

Friday, September 20, 2024

Evening “Taste of the Region” reception in the Hospitality Room _____ \$20 _____

Saturday, September 21, 2024

Bus Transportation for Jefferson Barracks, luncheon _____ \$45 _____

Wreath laying at Jefferson Barracks Park _____ Included _____

Windshield tour of Cemetery & POW-MIA Museum _____ Donation _____

Buffet Luncheon Royale Orleans (coffee, tea, water included) _____ \$35 _____

Bus Transportation for Hangar Dance _____ \$25 _____

WWII Hangar Dance and VIP Experience (limited to 40 guests) _____ \$50 _____

WWII Hangar Dance General Admission (food on your own) _____ \$25 _____

Sunday, September 22, 2024

Open Board Meeting _____ Free _____

Box Lunch in Hospitality Room Turkey _____ Veggie Wrap _____ \$30 _____

Battle of the Bulge historical programs (3 sessions) _____ Free _____

Reception – Windsor Room (individual pay) _____ Free _____

Banquet with Military Honors & Special Guests – Keynote Speaker: Myra Miller

Salmon _____ Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____ \$60 _____

Monday, September 23, 2024

Bus Transportation for all day _____ \$45 _____

Drive by St. Louis arch for photo opportunity _____ Included _____

Soldier’s Memorial Military Museum _____ Included _____

Box lunch at The Boathouse, located at Historic Forest Park

Turkey _____ Pulled Pork _____ Mediterranean Veggie _____ \$30 _____

St. Louis Zoological Park (Self lead) _____ Included _____

Dinner on Historic Main Street, St. Charles (Hotel Shuttle) _____ Individual Pay _____

HELP SPONSOR A VETERAN OR LEGACY REUNION EXPERIENCE _____

HELP SUPPORT THE *BUGLE* PUBLICATION _____

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, click on “Attend Reunion”

BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOMS TODAY!

EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON, ST. CHARLES, MO

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024



Embassy Suites by Hilton – St. Charles, MO

Two Convention Center Plaza

Saint, Charles, MO 63303

1-636-946-5544

Weblink: [BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION](#)

\$169 – Standard suites for single or double (group rate available 3 days prior or following reunion dates) Link for reservations below.

[BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION](#)

DEADLINE FOR BOOKING WITH OUR DISCOUNT IS SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

- Handicapped rooms available upon request (based on availability)
- Complimentary hot breakfast buffet with made to order items
- Nightly managers reception with beer, wine, cocktails and light refreshments
- Complimentary wireless internet in guestrooms and meeting rooms
- Complimentary self-parking
- Indoor pool and fitness center
- On-site restaurant & room service

While there is no complimentary shuttle from/to the airport, taxis and Uber are available from St. Louis Airport.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Battle of the Bulge Association® is planning its 42nd Annual Reunion to be held in St. Charles, Missouri in September 2024. We want to honor in grand style the few remaining heroes from this important World War II battle who are still able to travel, and provide financial assistance for any that want to attend. They are in their late 90s and early 100s, as this battle was fought almost 80 years ago. Please help preserve their legacy in appreciation for the freedoms they guaranteed through their sacrifice.



BOBA Veterans at Reunion in New Orleans, 2023

HOW CAN I HELP?

- \$2,500.00** Sponsors banquet with visiting dignitaries from Belgium & Luxembourg
- \$2,000.00** Sponsors transportation for wreath-laying ceremony and city tours
- \$1,750.00** Sponsors a WWII Veteran to attend reunion, with transportation
- \$1,250.00** Sponsors a WWII Battle of the Bulge Veteran to attend all events
- \$500.00** Helps as partial sponsor for the Opening Reception
- _____ Any amount will help offset costs for all events

Make your tax-deductible donation to:

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

www.battleofthebulge.org

Please note that this is a donation to the reunion

Battle of the Bulge Association®, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization



35TH INFANTRY DIVISION

BRIEF HISTORY

The 35th Division was organized in 1917 at Camp Doniphan, OK, as a unit of the National Guard, with troops from MO and KS. It was inactivated in 1919, but Division HQ was reconstituted in 1935. It was reactivated December 23, 1940.

Training: Began at Camp Rucker, AL, April 1, 1943. Participated in the Second Army Tennessee Maneuvers from November 1943 to January 1944. Arrived in England May 25, 1944 for further training.

Overseas: Arrived July 5-7, 1944, Omaha Beach. Entered combat July 11 in the hedgerows north of St. Lo.

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

Days in Combat: 264 days

Casualties: 15,822 (KIA 2,485); WIA 11,526; MIA 340; POW 1,471)

Distinguished Unit Citations: 7; Meritorious Service Unit Plaques: 22

Awards: Medal of Honor 1; Distinguished Service Cross: 44;

Distinguished Service Medal: 1; Silver Star: 688;

Legion of Merit: 10; Distinguished Flying Cross: 1;

Soldier's Medal: 22; Bronze Star: 3,435; Air Medal: 133

Commanders: Maj Gen Ralph E. Truman (Oct 1938 - Oct 1941);

Maj Gen William H. Simpson (Oct 1941 - April 1942);

Maj Gen Maxwell Murray (May 1942 - Jan 1943);

Maj Gen Paul W. Baade (Jan 1943 - inactivation)

Inactivated: December 7, 1945, at Camp Breckinridge, KY.

Re-established as a KS and MO National Guard Division in 1947.

The 35th INFD was featured in the 1970 film *Kelly's Heroes*.

Baptism by Fire: the 35th Enters Combat

The 35th INFD entered combat July 11, 1944, joining the fight to liberate St. Lo. It entered St. Lo a week later. After St Lo, they pushed across the Vire River and secured the Mortain-Avranches corridor.

After the chase across France, the 35th crossed the Moselle River on September 13 and liberated Nancy. The division then fought its way across Lorraine, arriving at the German border on December 8.

The 35th INFD and the Battle of the Bulge

After fighting their way across France, the 35th crossed the Blies River on the morning of December 12 and captured Habkirchen, Germany. The enemy had fought ferociously along the way and the 35th suffered heavy casualties. The Division moved to Metz, France, December 22-23 for rest and rehabilitation. By this time, the Santa Fe boys had fought continuously for 162 days. On Christmas Day, 1944, the troops, billeted in warm buildings in the city, ate a hearty meal, and were given passes into the town. This rest did not last long. On Christmas night, the order to move was received and within 24 hours of leaving Metz they were in the thick of battle near Bastogne, Belgium.

In the early morning hours of January 4, 1945, Co. C, 134th Inf Regt launched an attack from the village of Marvie, toward Lutrebois, Belgium. They "jumped off" in the semi-darkness with the snow and wind driving in their faces, cutting visibility down to a minimum. Moving through knee deep snow in the bitter cold, they overran their objective



35th INFD soldiers near Bastogne, January 1945. Photo: Army Signal Corps

and became trapped behind enemy lines. The German's attacked, killing 10, wounding and capturing many more. By the next morning, fewer than 40 of more than 120 men of Co. C made it back to friendly lines, although a few others were able to return over the next several days.

On January 12, 1945, elements of the 134th Inf Regt cleared an area southeast of Lutrebois, Belgium. On January 18, the rest of the 35th INFD moved back to Metz, France. The 134th, now attached to the 6th ARMDD, continued to fight in the Ardennes as Combat Team 134 until January 31, when they rejoined the rest of the Division in the Ninth Army sector in Holland. While in the Ardennes, the 35th INFD suffered 449 battle deaths. VE Day, May 9, 1945, marked the end of 304 days in combat in World War II for the Division, during which it fought in five campaigns in France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Holland, and Germany.

TO LEARN MORE about the 35th ID, here are some websites:

- www.coulthart.com/134
- The official unit history: www.coulthart.com/134/35id-wwii/PresentingThe35thID-OCR.pdf
- The History of the 35th Inf Div during the Battle of the Bulge (written by a military historian): *35th Infantry Division in the Battle of the Bulge - Ardennes* (coulthart.com)

The reunion will be in Leavenworth, KS, September 6-8, 2024. Deadline August 5.

To contact the division association: 35divassn@gmail.com

—Compiled by Roberta Russo, 35th INFD historian.

Edited by Doris Davis and Leon Reed



35TH DIVISION: METZ TO THE BULGE

Several veterans of the 35th Division shared their experiences in the Bulge over the years. In addition, John Kerner published a memoir, *Combat Medic, World War II*. In this excerpt, several 35th Division veterans discuss the division's brief rest stop in Metz and the abrupt end of this rest period.



On December 20, the 35th was pulled out of the line and sent to Metz. The plan was to take a little time to absorb replacements, rest, and repair or replace equipment. After 162 days of near-continuous combat, the boys looked forward to the time away from the front lines.

It lasted about four days.

"It was Christmas Eve. We put up a Christmas tree and decorated it with all kinds of stuff, including cotton. The Christmas Eve meal includes turkey, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, etc. I still do not know how they got it to us. During that wonderful dinner, we received word that all plans had changed. The Germans had broken through our lines, had surrounded Bastogne, and were headed toward the sea. There would be no reinforcements, no rest, and no refitting."

—John Kerner 320th Regiment, *Combat Medic, World War II*

"We were upset at having to leave Metz and our plans for a pleasant Christmas. Fortunately I had accumulated a good supply of warm clothes, and I needed them all. My truck had no doors, so that we were exposed to the air. I put on two suits of long underwear, two pairs of socks, wool pants and a shirt, a field jacket, an overcoat, two pairs of gloves, and a fur hat covered by my helmet. Still, I was none too warm."

—John Kerner 320th Regiment, *Combat Medic, World War II*

"We departed Metz early on the morning of December 26 by truck. We traveled all day in the rain and cold until sometime after dark when we were finally able to bed down in an old barn. We were awakened in the early morning by an artillery barrage (our own) and after a hasty breakfast we departed for the front line passing through several badly shelled towns, one of which was Bigonville, Luxembourg. This was the last time we had a warm meal or slept in anything other than a foxhole for the next ten days. The weather turned colder and it started to snow."

—Bob Hagel, L Company, 320th Regiment, "*Keep the Road From Arlon to Bastogne Open*," Bulge Bugle, February 1992

"On the 26th of December, the 134th Regiment moved to the vicinity of Arlon, Belgium. From there we pushed on in conjunction with the 4th Armored Division to relieve the 101st Airborne Division that was surrounded in Bastogne. We opened and held open the road so that supplies and ammunition could be brought into Bastogne... We fought in and out of Luxembourg and Belgium. While I was with them we freed Bigonville and Boulaide in Luxembourg. In Belgium we liberated Tintange, Viller-La-Bonne-Eau, Lutremange (where we



dedicated a plaque to the 35th Division and to General Patton on Saturday the 14th of September 2002), Lutrebois, and Marvie."

—Michael Linquata, D Company, 134th Regiment, "*The Expendables*," Bulge Bugle May 2012

"The 35th Division's job was to keep the road from Arlon to Bastogne open so the Third Army and supplies could continue to flow north. We found out later that we were facing the infamous 1st SS Panzer Division and their orders were to cut the supply road no matter what the cost."

—Bob Hagel, L Company, 320th Regiment, "*Keep the Road From Arlon to Bastogne Open*," Bulge Bugle, February 1992

"We probably didn't move more than a mile or so in the next 10 days. Every day was almost the same. Around 2 p.m. we would attack the enemy position, push them out with small arms and mortar fire, dig in, fight off counterattacks, care for and carry back our wounded and bring up supplies. We were fighting in heavy pine forests and mountainous terrain with no roads. Everything had to be moved either by carrying it or pulling it on sleds that we had found in towns along the way."

—Bob Hagel, L Company, 320th Regiment, "*Keep the Road From Arlon to Bastogne Open*," Bulge Bugle, February 1992



"We heard a lot of German when we entered the woods. We proceeded through the woods and discovered we were about 60 feet above a road where there was a large group of German Soldiers running for trucks, and an officer giving all sorts of directions. We did not start shooting because we were only too glad they were on the run. I returned and made my report to the Company Commander. He said, "Thanks, Sergeant. Get your men into a truck – we are moving out." After my next reconnaissance, there was a member of the Red Cross waiting for me and handed me a telegram informing me of the birth of our little daughter. Mother and daughter were both doing fine."

—Norvin Vogel, Company L, 134th Regiment, "*First Reconnaissance + Good News From Home*," Bulge Bugle, February 2018

"My daddy always taught me to never pray a selfish prayer if I expected it to be answered. My Mother and Daddy had lost two grandfathers in the Civil War and my Daddy had served in World War I. My Mother had lost her only brother in World War I. I was their only son with a sister serving in the Air Corps. I said, 'Lord, spare my life and let me return home alive no matter what condition, one arm, one leg, or whatever gone, because my Mother and Daddy don't need to suffer any more heartbreak or sorrow from war.' I thought further and I said, 'Lord, I shall walk straight and upright the very best that I possibly can and live among my fellow man in peace and quiet if you will grant me this request.' I prayed that over many times in the next couple of days, and a quiet calm came over me. That is not to say that I wasn't scared half to death most of the time, like all the rest of us on the line. But I was never too scared to do my duty as it was needed through the rest of combat."

—Ray Huckaby, G Company, 134th Regiment, "*A Soldier Remembers*," Bulge Bugle, February 2008

DIVISION REUNIONS PLANNED FOR 2024

The following reunions are scheduled for 2024. Please feel free to contact the individuals noted for further information. Some Divisions require membership in their organization in order to attend a reunion. Feel free to inquire. Many Divisions welcome Associate Members.



SOCIETY OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

Albuquerque, NM, July 31-Aug 4, 2024 (Deadline: June 30, 2024)
Contact: *Phyllis Fitzgerald, Executive Director,*
sfid1919@gmail.com; (785) 579-6761
Website: *www.1stid.org*

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION FIELD ARTILLERY

Ft. Sill, OK, Apr 22-24, 2024 (Deadline: April 15, 2024)
Contact: *jprichard47@gmail.com or 1stidfieldarty@gmail.com*
Website: *www.1stid.org*



2ND INFANTRY DIVISION

Columbus, GA, Sept 25-28, 2024
(Deadline for hotel res: Aug 22, 2024)
Contact: *Bill Schultz, 2nd Vice President, cmbt2b20@hotmail.com;*
(716) 804-4791; Website: www.2ida.org
Note: 2nd ID has branches in the Greater Midwest,
MidAtlantic, CA, FL, TX)
(CA and TX branches hold annual reunions)



2ND ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Ft. Cavazos, TX, Jul 12-13, 2024
(Ft. Cavazos is formerly Ft. Hood)
Deadline: June 1, 2024 (Reunion/Access to Fort);
Hotel deadline: June 25, 2024
Contact: *Sylvia Nino, snino782@gmail.com or*
Ramiro, 2ndarmoreddivisionassoc@gmail.com
No Website



3RD ARMORED DIVISION

Columbus, GA, tentative dates: Oct 20-22, 2024
(Deadline: Sept 1, 2024)
Will include a visit to Ft. Moore (formerly Ft. Benning)
Contact: *Don Davis, kycolonel1@aol.com; (770) 367-9507*
Website: *3ad.org*



4TH INFANTRY DIVISION

San Antonio, TX, Sept 16-21, 2024 (Deadline: Aug 19, 2024)
Contact: *Armed Forces Reunion (AFR)*
www.events.afr-reg.com/e/4thInfantry2024; (757) 625-6401
Website: *www.4thinfantry.org (Details of reunion are on website)*



SOCIETY OF THE 5TH DIVISION

Harrisburg, PA, Sept 19-22, 2024 (Deadline: Aug 23, 2024)
Details will be posted on website after April 8, 2024.
Contact: *Hal Roller; hal.roller@sbcglobal.net*
Website: *Societyofthefifthdivision.com*



8TH ARMORED DIVISION

St. Charles, MO, Sept 20-24, 2024 (Deadline: Aug 19, 2024)
(Combined with the Battle of the Bulge Association Reunion)
Contact: *Anthony Waskie, 8tharmoreddivision@gmail.com*
Website: *8th-armored.org*



12TH ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION

St. Louis, MO, July 17-21, 2024 (Deadline: June 25, 2024)
Contact: *Peggy Anne Vosseler, sixty-sixthaibn@yahoo.com;*
(610) 558-2163
Website: *www.12tharmoreddivisionassociation.us*
12th AD Museum in Abilene, TX: 12tharmoreddivisionmuseum.com



17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION

Gettysburg, PA, March 22-24, 2024 (Deadline: Feb 21, 2024)
Contact *Scionsofthe17thairborne@gmail.com*
or scion17th@gmail.com
For information about their 2025 Reunion, check their website late
summer and fall 2024; Website: *17thscions.org*



26TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Danversport Yacht Club, Danvers, MA, May 15, 2024
Contact: *Shirley Bogdan, bogdanshirley@gmail.com;*
(781) 233-1677
No website



28TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Carlisle, PA, Oct 19-20, 2024 (Deadline: Sept 19, 2024)
At U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center. Memorial Service
at Ft. Indiantown Gap
Contact: *gwennu45@gmail.com; (717) 497-0765*
Website: *28id.org*



29TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Staunton, VA, Aug 15-18, 2024 (Deadline: July 15, 2024)
Contact: Frank Armingier; natexecdir@29div.com
Website: 29thdivisionassociation.com



35TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Leavenworth, KS, Sept. 6 - 8, 2024
(Deadline: Aug 5, 2024; Hotel Deadline Aug 7, 2024)
Contact: Executive Secretary, 35divassn@gmail.com;
(913) 772-8130
Website: www.35thinfdivassoc.com



65TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Poughkeepsie, NY, Sept 25-29, 2024 (Deadline: Aug 22, 2024)
Contact: Jackie Hanson bluegrass@abe.midco.net; (605) 229-2812
Website: 65thdiv.com



70TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Reunion planned for Sept 2025.
Details will be provided at a later date.
Website: trailblazersww2.org



80TH DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Richmond, VA, Aug 9-11, 2024 (Deadline: July 17, 2024)
Contact: Brian Faulconer, Sr. Vice Commander;
Email bfaulconer@me.com; (919) 986-0186
Website: 80thdivision.com



82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Orlando, FL, Aug 13-17, 2024 (Deadline: July 11, 2024 for hotel res.)
Contact James Grimes Execdir@82ndairborneassociation.org;
(910) 223-1182; Website: 82ndairborneassociation.org

**82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION
ALL AMERICAN WEEK**

Ft. Liberty, NC (formerly Ft. Bragg), May 20-23, 2024
(Deadline: May 5, 2024)
Contact: 82ndairborneassociation.org/aaw; (910) 223-1182
Website: 82ndairborneassociation.org



83RD INFANTRY DIVISION

Harrisburg, PA, Aug 14-17, 2024 (Deadline: July 12, 2024)
Contact: Keven Smith, kevensmith@centurylink.net
Website: 83rdassociation.com



87TH INFANTRY DIVISION- LEGACY ASSOCIATION

St. Charles, MO, Sept 20-24, 2024 (Deadline: August 19, 2024)
(Combined with the Battle of the Bulge Association Reunion)
Contact: Tom Hewlett hewlettthom@gmail.com; (618) 830-8430
Website: 87thinfantrydivision.com



90TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Fort Worth, TX, Oct 25-26, 2024 (Deadline: Sept 20, 2024)
Contact: Nancy@90thdivisionassoc.org; (970) 227-2744
Website: 90thdivisionassoc.org



94TH INFANTRY DIVISION WWII HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Battle Creek, MI. (Site of Ft. Custer),
June 10-13, 2024 (Deadline?)
Contact: John Clyburn 94thistsociety@comcast.net; (609)
699-6280
Website: 94thinfdiv.com



95TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Oklahoma City, OK, May 16-19, 2024 (Deadline: May 2, 2024)
Register through the website: 95divassociation.com
Facebook: 95thDivisionLegacyAssociation



101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

Reunion was held Feb 14 - 17, 2024 in Tampa, FL.
For information about their 2025 Reunion, check their web site late
summer, 2024; Website: Screamingeagle.org



106TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Dallas, TX, Sept 18-22, 2024 (Hotel deadline: August 18, 2024)
Contact: Henry LeClair henryleclair13@gmail.com; (603) 401-3723
Website: 106thinfdivassn.org

—Compiled by Doris Davis, BOBA Vice President of Military and
Veterans Affairs and President of the Golden Gate Chapter

17TH AIRBORNE MEETS IN GETTYSBURG



The Scions of the 17th Airborne held their annual reunion in Gettysburg from March 22-24. Unlike many World War II groups, the 17th is growing, with more than 100 in attendance. At their opening night get-together, member David Shortt conducted a “paratroopers jump school” for thirteen first time attendees.

Other activities included a presentation on the history of the 17th Airborne and a banquet at the Dobbin House, during which WWII veteran Richard Weaver was presented a red paratroopers beret. The concluding event was a candlelight memorial service, held at the local Presbyterian church. The service was in memory of: 17th Division soldiers who fell during the war; those who passed in the past year; and widows of 17th Airborne veterans who rejoined their husbands this year. The highlights included a remarkable bagpipe performance of *Taps* and *Amazing Grace* and a benediction delivered, from memory, by Trooper Weaver.

If you are a descendant of a 17th trooper and would like more information, please contact Scion17th@gmail.com.



TOP PHOTO: Attendees of 17th Airborne Reunion. **BOTTOM LEFT PHOTO:** David Shortt leads “jump school” for first time attendees. **BOTTOM RIGHT PHOTO:** Amanda Baughman plays “TAPS.”

PENNSYLVANIA MILITARY MUSEUM



TOP LEFT PHOTO: Sherman tank and Hurtgen Forest exhibit at the Pennsylvania Military Museum. **TOP RIGHT PHOTO:** Bulge monument, with the museum in background. **BOTTOM PHOTO:** Mortars on exhibit in the museum.

The property in Boalsberg where the Pennsylvania Military Museum sits was originally part of the Boal estate, then a training ground for World War I troops, and then a monument park. The museum was founded in 1969 and honors the key role of Pennsylvania troops in every war since the American Revolution. The excellent small museum contains exhibits of military vehicles and gear and houses an active educational program.

The grounds contain an extensive shrine to Penn-

sylvania’s National Guard division, the 28th, which earned eternal fame with its gutsy, outnumbered stand in the early days of the Bulge campaign, which threw German schedules hopelessly off and allowed the 101st Airborne and other units to slip into Bastogne.

The 28th was assigned to this “quiet” sector after being badly mauled in an earlier fight in the Hurtgen Forest. A very nice feature of the museum grounds is a several acre planting of forest with a Sherman tank, intended to evoke the Hurtgen Forest fight.

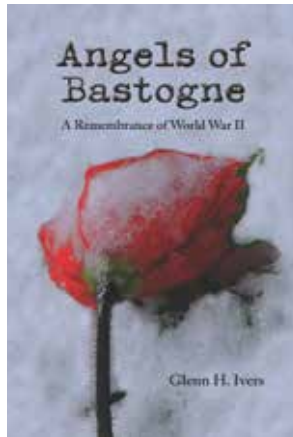


Photos: Leon Reed

ANGELS OF BASTOGNE: A REMEMBRANCE OF WORLD WAR II

By Glenn Ivers

Glenn Ivers is the author of *Angels of Bastogne: A Remembrance of World War II*. He discussed the book at January's Commemoration. The book is based on the true story of an American doctor and two Belgian nurses who volunteered in the doctor's Bastogne aid station, which was destroyed by German bombs on Christmas Eve, 1944. This excerpt describes the doctor's return to Bastogne in 1994, 50 years after.



the 20th AIB 10th Armored Division where over thirty US wounded and one volunteer, Belgian nurse Renee Lemaire, were instantly killed by a German bomb, December 24, 1944.”

There is polite applause from the townspeople, nods of appreciation from the veterans, and a discreet thumbs up from Sarge. After an assistant to the mayor produces a hammer and tacks the plaque to the building, the mayor steps forward. “Now Doctor, if you will permit me to read your words in French.”

As the mayor translates the plaque, Jack scans the crowd. The people give him many smiles in return. There is no sign of Chiwy, but the old man in the wheelchair is there, gripping his newspaper and studying Jack's face with watery eyes.

* * *

“Doctor! Doctor Prior!”

He turns to see a lively woman of a certain age stepping through the dwindling crowd, but he does not recognize her. She gives him a hand.

“It is Maggie.”

“Maggie?”

Then he spies the pendant of the angel Raphael holding an infant around her neck. There must be only one like it in the world. Jack is whisked back in time once again.

“Marguerite?”

Marguerite follows his eyes to the pendant.

“Yes, yes, from Renee. You remember.”

“Yes, I remember.”

“Look who is staying with me.”

Marguerite's half turn opens the way for a tiny woman shuffling toward Jack, clutching a cane. Marguerite tries to assist her, but Chiwy shoos her away. She will make this journey of five meters and fifty years to reunite with Doctor Prior without any help. Jack thought so then, and he is no less certain now. There is only one Augusta Chiwy.

“Nurse Chiwy.”

“Doctor Prior.”

As they step closer, Chiwy wobbles a bit. Jack responds automatically to her infirmity, and Chiwy waves him off as well. She regains her balance and approaches Jack. He bends down to her and they share kisses on each

other's cheeks, and doesn't he get another whiff of her perfume once again? He breathes in and breaks out in a smile. She wobbles once more, and he takes her free hand to steady her. This time she accepts the support.

* * *

Suddenly Jack feels remiss and calls out to the veterans standing by. “Fellas, meet Marguerite, Renee Lemaire's sister. And this is Nurse Augusta Chiwy.

“Marguerite is quick to add, “An angel of mercy.” And Sarge is even quicker. “The unsung heroine of Bastogne.”

“Shush, stop it, both of you.”

In spite of her modesty, Chiwy is beaming with pride. The veterans speak almost as one.

“It is an honor to meet you Madame.”

“Doc Prior told us all about you.”

“You saved so many of our boys.”

* * *

On the verge of boarding [the bus], he hears the voice of a young woman calling out:

“Sir? Your pardon?”

It is the teenage health aide, pushing the old man, whose eyes are wide as he points his rolled up newspaper at Jack. The girl is very agitated, almost in tears.

“I am sorry, sir. But I think he tries to see you.”

“Why would he want to see me?”

The old man tries to speak but cannot. Instead, he proffers his newspaper to Jack, who finds his name circled in a notice about the plaque dedication. He looks up into eyes that are beginning to sparkle, within an ancient body that becomes as energized as it can, despite severe limitations.

“Perhaps he just remembers the war. What is his name?”

“He is Monsieur Jaquin.”

“Jaquin? Can it be?”

The old man has yet another surge of energy and, to his aide's great dismay, rocks with excitement in his chair. Jack carefully wraps Jaquin's body in his arms. It is a tender moment witnessed by the veterans on the bus. . . . It is time for the bus to go, but . . .

Jack searches for words to say. He finds that there is no way he can express how vital the pharmacist was to his sanity during the siege. . . . Jack rises and says, “May I come visit tomorrow?” Jaquin's eyes, eyes that have seen nearly a century of horror and hope, fill with tears of joy.

Bastogne 1944

Renee was full of life. Then she was gone. It is a void that is difficult to contemplate. But as time passes, and painful memories soften, Jack and Chiwy will remember her much as the soldiers will who were touched by her during some of the most critical hours of their wartime experiences. Renee, the one the men called the Angel of Bastogne, was gentle and compassionate. The world can ill afford to lose so much goodness at one time and all in one person.

Bastogne 1994

Jack's mind is elsewhere. The small crowd disappears in the mist, and the hollers of desperation from men trapped in the burning building echo up the street. . . . Jack has tussled with dark thoughts throughout the years since that fateful night, but this time he feels completely surrounded. . . . Sarge is fully aware of the significance of this day's event, and of the tug-of-war Jack must be feeling, and intuitively gives Jack a brotherly pat on the shoulder.

* * *

With the exception of the veterans from the pub who have assembled at the rear of the crowd, Jack is among strangers. But thanks to the town newspaper they know all about him and the aging Americans, sons of Bastogne one and all, who have returned to their second home after fifty long years.

A hush falls over the crowd. The mayor offers a few words of introduction then invites Jack to share what he has in his shoulder bag. Jack pulls out a bronze plaque he commissioned before departing for the reunion. He clears his throat, finds his voice, and reads the inscription:

“In memoriam. Site of the AID station of

ETO IN 1944: THE BEST AND WORST OF TIMES

by John Baker

My father, Glenn E. Baker, served in the 110th Infantry Regiment of the 28th Division during 1944. For many soldiers of Pennsylvania's "Keystone" division, this fateful year was the proverbial "best of times" and the "worst of times." This piece, honoring the 80th anniversary of World War II events during 1944, recounts how my father and three fellow soldiers, while serving in the European Theater of Operations (ETO), experienced both the best and worst of times.

BEST OF TIMES: Paris Parade

On the gray day of August 29, 1944, U.S. troops paraded through recently liberated Paris. The 28th Division's infantry regiments (109th, 110th, 112th) marched along the Champs Élysées and around the Arc de Triomphe in a split, twenty-four soldier formation. Passing the reviewing stand, they received salutes from General Charles de Gaulle, General Omar Bradley, and other senior officers. The Parisian spectators wildly cheered on the American troops.

The parade resulted from General de Gaulle's request for U.S. troops to keep things calm in Paris. Considering the larger picture, General Eisenhower ordered one U.S. division to conduct a victory parade through Paris. General Bradley selected the 28th Division, which he had earlier commanded, for the parade. Top U.S. commanders viewed the march more as a tactical movement to reposition the division for a prompt return to combat operations.

A color guard unit preceded each regiment in the parade. For the 110th Infantry, that unit was led by Master/Sgt. Glenn Baker, who was the National Color (U.S. flag) bearer. Other unit members were Tech/Sgt. James 'Chad' Hanna, the regimental Color bearer, and two Color Guard riflemen, Tech/Sgt. Robert P. Miller and Sgt. Gordon L. Keeler. For every American soldier in the Paris parade, including my father, this was an extraordinary experience, one too briefly enjoyed but long remembered.

WORST OF TIMES: Ardennes Offensive

Four months later, the 28th Division was in the direct path of Hitler's large-scale Ardennes counteroffensive. Deployed in what was presumed a 'quiet sector' along the Belgium and Luxembourg borders, the 110th regiment's units were stretched thin among several strongholds near the Our River facing the enemy.

The new commander of the 110th Regiment, Colonel Hurley Fuller, established his regimental command post (CP) in Clervaux, Luxembourg, at the Claravallis Hotel. Among the CP support personnel were the four soldiers who had been the regimental color guard unit in Paris: Sergeants Baker, Hanna, Keeler, and Miller.



U.S. Signal Corps photograph showing the 110th Infantry Color Guard, 28th ID, marching past the Arc de Triomphe, during the August 29, 1944, victory parade. The author's father is carrying the American flag. Photo: National Archives

Early on December 16, 1944, the Germans launched their counteroffensive. The 110th Infantry's frontline positions were repeatedly attacked by German infantry troops, along with the 2nd Panzer Division forces. The regiment's forward units strived to 'hold their ground,' as ordered, despite being outnumbered and outgunned.

The next day German forces reached Clervaux's outskirts. For most of December 17, the outmatched American tanks and infantry held off the German attackers. But with nightfall, the situation turned dire as six German tanks entered the town. One tank pulled up next to the regimental CP. Years later, a 110th veteran who was at the CP recounted how Sergeant Baker rushed into the hotel lobby, warning everyone, "There's a Kraut tank out there!" The enemy tank began firing its cannon and machine gun point-blank into the building. German soldiers assaulted the building, soon capturing Americans.

On an upper floor, Colonel Fuller decided it was time to withdraw. He

wanted to keep fighting by relocating his CP farther west of Clervaux. Following Fuller's lead, American soldiers used a third floor exit to escape onto the steep cliff behind the hotel. Not everyone made it out. Sergeant Miller was seriously injured in a fall. Unable to scale the rocky cliff, he was captured and ended up in Stalag 9B Bad Orb. By the next day, German troops captured Colonel Fuller and few more soldiers as prisoners of war.

But other 110th Infantry personnel did establish the regiment's fallback CP at Allerborn, a key crossroads on the way to Bastogne. However, German tanks and infantry arrived after dark. They captured more Americans, including Sergeant Hanna, along with Colonel T.A. Seely, the 110th Infantry Regiment's acting CO. Both men were eventually imprisoned at Stalag 2A.

The other two color guard unit members experienced their own close calls. Sergeant Keeler received a head wound when a German bullet struck his helmet. Yet, he somehow avoided being captured. Sergeant Baker led a few soldiers back to the American lines. Years later, my father reluctantly told our family members about the close calls he survived while evading capture by the enemy.

This is only one story in the larger mosaic of the experiences of American soldiers who served in the ETO. Fortunately, all four soldiers survived the war. Glenn Baker became a career Army officer. He retired in 1969 and passed away in 1984. Bob Miller graduated college and became a National Bank Examiner, passing in 2002. Unfortunately, I do not know what became of Chad Hanna and Gordon Keeler after the war. But undoubtedly, like most Americans who returned home, what they all experienced in 1944 was among the best and worst of times of their lives.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 19, 2024** Pennsylvania Military Museum
28th Division commemoration
- May 25-26, 2024** Pennsylvania Military Museum
World War II weekend
- May 27, 2024** Memorial Day, National D Day Museum,
Bedford, VA
Veterans National Museum, Columbus, OH
- June 7-9, 2024** Mid-Atlantic Air Museum WWII Weekend
(Reading air show)
- July 26-28, 2024** WWII American Experience
World War II Weekend
- July 27-28, 2024** 6th Annual Schaefferstown, PA
WWII Weekend
- August 15-17, 2024** D-Day Conneaut (Ohio)
- September 20-24, 2024** BOBA Reunion, St. Charles, MO
(See pages 10-13)
- September 20-22, 2024** Eisenhower National Historic Site
WWII Weekend
- October 12-13, 2024** Battle for the Airfield,
American Heritage Museum, Hudson, MA
- October 19-20, 2024** Army Expo 2024, Carlisle, PA
- December 10-19, 2024** BOBA Bulge Tour
- December 16, 2024** 80th anniversary of start of Bulge
campaign; Battle of the Bulge Day
in Pennsylvania
- January 26, 2025** 2nd Annual Battle of the Bulge
conference, Gettysburg, PA



GERALD WHITE PARTICIPATES IN CEREMONY HONORING WERETH 11

Sunday, December 17, 79 years ago, “The Wereth Eleven” lost their lives fighting for our freedom. Eleven African-American troops who had sought shelter from a local family were captured, tortured, and massacred by German troops. Our association works on keeping their destiny alive. Not only for the eleven victims, Curtis, Due, George, George W, James, Jim, Mager, Nathaniel, Robert, Thomas, William but for all their brothers in arms! Too many died, too many were wounded and the ones who returned were forever wounded in their heart.

Thanks to Raph Giot, Wanda Stump, Nancy Steenssens and two Dutch photographers, we were very happy and honored to welcome Gerald White, US WWII Veteran from the 2nd INFD to Wereth. Four young guys from Pilzen joined us. We had great talks in the Langers’ house, laid flowers at the monument, and went to the 106 INFD ceremony in St Vith. Once, however, Gerald had to rest and Haus Tiefenbach in Bullingen was perfect for a well-deserved break. The visit of the mayor, Mr. Wirtz, surprised him, as well as a “mousse au chocolat” as a farewell gesture. We were honored to have Mr. White represent all the American GIs who fought for our liberation. —Submitted by Solange deKeyser

Editor’s note: Sadly, Gerald White passed away shortly after his visit to Wereth, on December 25, 2023. Read more about Gerald’s service on page 26.



VETERAN MILESTONE

Belated congratulations to Joseph Binni, 264 FABN, for passing his 100th birthday, January 5, 2023.

BENJAMIN BERRY HONORED



Benjamin Berry, esteemed 2023 Grand Marshal of the Philadelphia Veterans Parade & Festival and a distinguished 100-year-old World War II Veteran, was bestowed with the prestigious French Legion of Honour on March 18. The award, the highest decoration of the French government, recognizes Berry's exceptional service and unwavering commitment to the veteran community. The Ceremonie Legion d'honneur was hosted at The Chapel of The Four Chaplains in the Philadelphia Navy Yard.



The Ceremonie Legion d'honneur was hosted at The Chapel of The Four Chaplains in the Philadelphia Navy Yard on March 18.

The French Legion of Honour, reserved for the most exemplary individuals, is a distinction bestowed upon only 300 recipients annually. Berry's induction into this legion, which comprises 79,000 members from both French and international backgrounds, marks a historic milestone in his illustrious military career.

Corporal Benjamin Berry, serving in the 3rd U.S. Army (ETO) Quartermaster Corps from 1943 to 1945 during World War II, displayed unparalleled courage and dedication. His remarkable journey, from landing in Normandy on Omaha Beach to serving in France, Belgium, and Luxembourg during the Battle of the Bulge, exemplifies his commitment to duty and honor. Besides this honor, he was recently inducted in the Army Quartermaster Hall of Fame.

PHILADELPHIA VETERANS PUSH FOR PROJECTS



Jake Ruser

Ben Berry, 100, and **Jake Ruser**, 99, have been extremely active and have generated very favorable news coverage in the Philadelphia area. They appeared at Eisenhower Farm and at BOBA's Arlington commemoration and Gettysburg conference. They were grand marshals of Philadelphia's Veterans Day parade and Ruser spoke (without notes) to 100+ people at the Central Pennsylvania WWII Roundtable.

Instead of just seeing their names in print, the two veterans decided to use their newfound platform to push for two favorite projects. They are drawing public awareness to the ACES Museum, which honors black World War II veterans (the name is derived from the derogatory term "spades," which was applied to black GIs during WWII). The museum is located at the site of the segregated black USO club in WWII. Ruser and Berry have made several appearances at the museum and speak frequently about it.

They are also speaking in favor of a World War II monument for Philadelphia. The Delaware Valley chapter is advocating and raising funds for a Battle of the Bulge monument in Philadelphia, which has no such monument today. The chapter intends to place the monument in Aviator's Park at Logan Circle where there are already several war memorials, and where the heaviest traffic of adult and school visitors can most easily access it while in the vicinity of the Franklin Institute. A few years ago, they were part of the successful campaign to build a monument to the 8th Armored Division in Carlisle, PA.

—Submitted by Andy Waskie, Delaware Valley Chapter President

WWII VETERAN SGT. DOMINICK SANTAGATA SPOKE TO HISTORIC SOCIETY

Dominick "Dan" Santagata trained as a Combat Engineer (bridge building, laying minefields, handling explosives, and constructing barbed-wire fences) at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia and was assigned to the 5th Infantry Division. Dan's division fought in five major campaigns in Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, the Ardennes in the Battle of the Bulge, and Central Europe under General George Patton.



On February 25, 2024, he gave a lecture on his experiences to the New Castle Historical Society in Westchester County, NY. The local *Examiner-News* summarized his talk: "A somber memory was when Santagata's division found a concentration camp in Czechoslovakia. 'I just couldn't look at the ovens,' he said. 'I just couldn't.' When a prisoner walked out of the camp, Santagata said he was crying. 'He hugged me and I gave him my coat. He was skinny as a rail.' For about 90 minutes, Santagata never tired or lost energy as he shared both funny and sad stories."

His Battle of the Bulge memoir, originally published in *The Bulge*



Bugle®, was reprinted in the 2014 VBOB book, *Battle of the Bulge: True Stories of the Men and Women Who Survived*.

"We left Metz and drove all night to stop the German attacks. The weather was one of our enemies and the snow made it hard to move our jeeps, trucks, and tanks. The roads were covered with ice and snow and when we arrived in Luxembourg our company also was billeted in an old barn.

"It was Christmas Eve and there I was standing guard duty; it was bitter cold and I can still remember the full moon shining down on the landscape.

"Many Christmas Eves have gone by; however, my thoughts still go back to the old barn and Christmas Eve in 1944. Moving on, we had to cross the Sauer River at Diekirch in Luxembourg and this is where I lost a great friend, Don Nickles from Chicago. He was wounded and died there on the riverbank. Each year the townspeople of Diekirch reenact this river crossing that resulted in the liberation of this town."

SC CHAPTER (#7)

The South Carolina Chapter held its quarterly meeting at the McLeod Bunkhouse in Elgin, SC, on March 16, 2024. As guests arrived, they had an opportunity to view an Army Humvee and an Army M274 Utility Platform Truck (aka Mule) on display. Sharlene Shuler and K J Rose greeted and registered guests as they arrived.

President Nelson McLeod called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Vern Brantley led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Rick Hurst led a prayer and Robin McLeod gave instructions for the meal. A meal of chicken spaghetti, salad, green beans, banana pudding, and cake was enjoyed by the attendees.

Following dinner, Nelson began the business meeting by recognizing some of the people present. World War II veterans present were Vern Brantley and Bruce Cook. Guest and first-time visitors included Steve and Darla Corley, Sandy Hurst (Rick's wife), Patrick Doyle, Teri Delfino, and Rick Spears. Chapter Officers and Board Members included President Nelson McLeod, Vice President Ed Moore, Co-Vice President Vern Brantley, Treasurer Mike Davidson, Co-Treasurer Cindy Day, Board Members Rick Hurst and Ernie Kirby. Former Chapter Presidents present included Vern Brantley, Ernie Kirby, Nelson McLeod, and Rick Hurst. National President Emeritus John Mohor was present and gave a brief report on the National BOBA happenings, including discontinuing the phone line and submitting tax paperwork.

Nelson discussed the upcoming National Reunion in St. Charles, Missouri, September 20-24, and encouraged all to consider attending. John Mohor and others provided additional input. Nelson made preliminary schedules and reunion information handouts available. Nelson also discussed that Wanda Stump was looking for additional World War II veterans who would like to go to Belgium.

Rick Hurst read a poem "Old Army Hat" which was provided by Chaplain Christie Lomas. This poem and song were written by Columbia native Whispering Bill Anderson and has been performed by Bill Anderson and Billy Ray Cyrus.

Nelson then discussed the passing of two members of our Chapter who have passed away since our December 8 meeting. David Hubbard passed away on December 15. His



Speaker Sandy White (foreground) and chapter members open with the Pledge of Allegiance.



LEFT PHOTO: Display of a few of the souvenirs Gerald White brought home from his December trip to Belgium. RIGHT PHOTO: WWII veterans Vernon Brantley, 75th INFD, and Sst Sgt Bruce Cook, 379th Bombardment Group.



services were held on April 13 at Shandon Methodist Church. Nelson distributed the pre-publication obituary to the Chapter via email recently. Gerald White passed away on December 25. His services included a funeral at Ashland United Methodist Church on February 3, and a memorial service at American Legion Post 93 on February 10. Chapter members attended both services, and Wanda and Butch Stump travelled from West Virginia to attend the funeral.

Recent and upcoming events were discussed. Bruce Cook gave a report on the premier of Episode 5 of *Masters of the Air* at the National Museum of the Mighty 8th Air Force in Savannah on February 16. Buck and Sharlene Shuler also attended. Robin McLeod talked about a Saturday "field trip" to The American Heritage Foundation Motor Pool near the Columbia Metropolitan Airport. Gay Suber discussed a potential upcoming meeting that would include a tour of MGS's new office and viewing the historical military related items on display there.

Nelson gave a report on World War II veteran Jim Hubble. His son Bob reports that Jim

continues to be homebound but is doing well and receiving excellent care from wife Susan.

Nelson introduced Sandy White. Sandy gave a review of all of the stories that her father Gerald had shared about his wonderful December trip to Belgium with Wanda Stump. Sandy shared pictures of the events that Gerald participated including school visits, cemetery ceremonies, and Battle of the Bulge commemorations. Sandy also displayed numerous gifts and mementos that Gerald brought back. A highlight was the amazing story of the Czech military historians who drove 400 miles to visit Gerald and show him a children's book that he and other members of his company had autographed in 1945! Sandy also told of Gerald's accident, hospitalization, and passing. Rick Hurst and Dr. Ed Moore gave accounts of their visits with Gerald after his return from Belgium.

Nelson announced that the target date for the next meeting is June 15. Visitor Steve Corley provided the benediction and the Chapter stood as *Taps* was played.

—Submitted by Nelson McLeod, South Carolina Chapter President

• IN MEMORIAM •

ANDRE GABRIEL BEAUMONT,
83RD INFANTRY DIVISION

ARNOLD GOREN

DAVID HUBBARD

FRED OLSON, K CO.,
333RD REGT, 84TH INFD

“Fred is mentioned repeatedly in Harold Linbaugh and John Campbell’s *The Men of Company K: The Autobiography of a World War II Rifle Company*. His astounding and extensive World War II book collection is now a part of the research library at the National Museum of Military History in Diekirch, Luxembourg.”

HERMAN SKERLONG, 80TH INFD

VINCE SPERANZA, 101ST AIRBORNE

ROBERT THOMPSON, 2ND INFD

GERALD WHITE,
23RD REGT, 2ND INFD

JAMES WILSON

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 email: boba.editor@gmail.com.

TRIBUTES TO HEROES

André Gabriel Beaumont passed away on December 17, 2023 at the age of 97. In 1943, at the age of 17, he enlisted in the Army. He was assigned as a replacement to Company F, 331 Infantry Regiment, 83rd Division, which he joined in the snows of Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge. His unit fought through that campaign, crossed the Rhine River, and ended its combat by establishing a bridgehead over the Elbe River 45 miles from Berlin. Among other decorations, he was awarded a Combat Infantry Badge, a Bronze Star, and three Battle Stars: Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe. He was a proud member and Executive Board Chairman of the 83rd Infantry Division Association, Inc. André was a retired chief executive and officer of several non-profit organizations, with his most significant post for 22 years, as the President of the Council on Career Development for Minorities, a national, non-profit organization dedicated to the career advancement of minority college students and graduates. He was active in community organizations. His avocations were writing, opera and amateur theater, where he worked as an actor, director, and producer.

—Submitted by J. Markuns on behalf of
the 83rd INFD Executive Board



David Ray Hubbard (January 24, 1923 – December 15, 2023), 100, died peacefully the evening of December 15, 2023, just in time to kiss his beloved wife Anne under Heavenly Christmas mistletoe. After graduating from McColl High School as President of the Class of 1942, David (D.R.) enlisted in the Army and was assigned to Company D, 205th Quartermaster’s Supply Battalion. Five weeks later, still learning who and when to salute, D.R. was Britain-bound. In 1944, he joined Signal

Section, Advance Section Communications Zone, the unit tasked with implementing the signal portions of Operation Overlord. D.R.

returned home in October 1945, five months after V.E. Day.

David was a proud World War II veteran, and a member and past president of the South Carolina Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Association. He wrote dozens of letters home, one of which was selected for inclusion in Tom Brokaw’s book *An Album of Memories: Personal Histories from the Greatest Generation*. More than 75 years later, D.R.’s voice would catch as he read the letter aloud, his mind no doubt returning to the sights, smells, and horrors he witnessed upon entering Buchenwald in the early days after it was liberated.

No story of D.R.’s life would be complete without sawdust. Woodworking was his lifelong hobby. After he retired, Hub spent most days in his shop. He made 3,000 plus personalized step stools in all colors and sizes, and more cradles (dozens), cutting boards (hundreds), charcuterie boards, and custom pieces than he could remember. Every time he would announce he was shutting down the shop to write his stories, another idea would burst forth, putting the writing on the back burner.

David’s final project became known as his Cross Crusade. During the pandemic, Dad started making simple wooden crosses to lift people’s spirits, and in doing so, he rediscovered his purpose. This story is the hardest to write because the Cross Crusade could not have happened without the love and commitment of dozens of people around the world. In the final three years of his life, David made more than 1,000 crosses. To all who helped, thank you! You gave Dad the greatest gift anyone can give a centenarian other than love – the gift of relevance.

—Submitted by Karen Morris

Herman Skerlong was born in the Lawrenceville neighborhood of Pittsburgh in 1920 and was drafted into the 80th Division of the U.S. Third Army. This, of course, meant that he got to serve under the famous General George Patton, who Skerlong says was a good commander. “I liked the guy myself,” said Skerlong. “I liked him because he was a gung-ho guy. And I kind of liked him for that reason. Some of the guys didn’t care for him, but I didn’t care about that.”

Skerlong was a machine gunner and in one of the first waves of soldiers to hit Omaha Beach during the Normandy Invasion. It was while fighting in France that he received the Bronze Star for dragging a wounded sergeant out from under a German gun emplacement and saving his life.

"I got all the way up there and I told him, I said, 'Don't make any false moves. Don't holler. Don't do anything because if they pick you up, noise or anything, they might open up and kill both of us.' It took me a good while, but I got him back there and the captain stood up and said, 'Herm, I don't know what to say about you,' he said, 'but I'll tell you what, you're a recipient of the Bronze Star.'"

During the winter of 1944 - 45, Skerlong found himself freezing in a foxhole during the Battle of the Bulge. It got so cold in fact, that he got frostbite on his feet and legs and had to be taken from the front to a hospital. Miraculously, doctors were able to save his feet and legs from amputation, but he spent the remainder of the war recuperating back in the States.

Vincent Speranza, a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge in World War II who became a hero in Belgium, died at Springfield Memorial Hospital August 2, 2023, after a short illness. The Purple Heart and Bronze Star recipient was 98. Speranza also participated in several oral history projects with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

At age 94, Speranza was one of two veterans who participated in a parachute drop marking the 75th anniversary of Operation Market Garden, an Allied military operation fought in the German-occupied Netherlands.

"We were just a bunch of kids, right out of high school, a lot of us like me, children of immigrant families," Speranza told a *State Journal-Register* reporter in 2017 about his enlistment. "Our parents were so proud of this country. My father was a patriot like you wouldn't believe. They expected their sons to defend the country, and we did."

His friend Doris Davis submitted this remembrance: One of his many stories described when visited a comrade who was lying wounded on a church floor. His buddy begged Vince to get him a drink. Vince promised his buddy he'd find something and found a nearly destroyed tavern in a devastated town- the tap was still



working! He had nothing to carry the beer so he used his helmet. He returned to his comrade and then other wounded soldiers wanted some. He returned to the tavern for the 2nd time. When he returned to the church, he was caught by a Regimental Sergeant and was told to stop. He put his helmet back on and spilled the beer over himself. Sixty-five years after this incident, (at age 84), Vince visited Bastogne with his daughter. Someone helped him find his fox-

hole. He found that quite emotional. After he regained composure, he said "let's go for a drink." After a few bottles of wine, he started telling stories (including this one). Someone said "that was you? - do you know you're famous in Europe?" The man asked the waiter to bring 4 bottles of Airborne Beer. The label on the beer had a soldier with a helmet filled with beer. Vince was shocked. Today, at "La Nuts" in Bastogne, Belgium, Airborne Beer is served in a small ceramic helmet (*shown, right*). Vince laughed when he shared this story in his later years because he said "I'm more famous for carrying that beer back to my buddy than all that I did in the war!"



Airborne Beer Helmet Mug

Photo by Doris Davis

His book *Nuts! A 101st Airborne Division Machine Gunner at Bastogne* is available on Amazon.

His live interviews can be seen on these links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vmAmSdZv5I>

<https://presidentlincoln.illinois.gov/oral-history/collections/speranza-vincent-1-1/interview-detail/>

The U.S. Embassy in Brussels called Speranza a "true inspiration to all of us and to many people across the United States and Belgium," in a tweet following his death. "A true force of nature, he was always present at every major ceremony commemorating the Battle of the Bulge, always ready to share stories of his service in World War II, and always humble."

Parting Words

All of our departing heroes left a legacy that will live forever in the memories of their family members, their fellow countrymen, and the peoples they liberated. Some left written memories. A few exit lines.

David Hubbard, "Preparation for D-Day," *Bulge Bugle*, May 2018

We were to begin implementing Operation Overlord, issuing orders to Signal units that were to provide communications beginning on D-Day. Those of us in this part of the Signal Section were checked and received TOP SECRET B-I-G-O-T designations. The documents, of course, contained very sensitive information, even giving unit departure dates beginning with D-Day.

Most of us were assigned in pairs to be billeted in private homes. About June 28, a military policeman came to my location around midnight, with orders to be ready for pickup in a half hour. Arriving at Hq, I was assigned to a two and a half ton truck loaded with bales of invasion money – the very first to be delivered to Normandy to pay the troops. I slept on those bales of currency (printed in French francs) for three nights and turned the truck over to another authority in an apple orchard, the day after our July 1 landing at Utah Beach.

The Germans took a stand at St. Lo, preventing departure from Normandy until after August 1. Major Thomas Howie was a Citadel graduate and wanted to be the first to (*continued on next page*)

Parting Words

(continued from previous page)

lead his troop into St. Lo. He was killed by a German bomb before the town fell. His commanding general gave permission for his body to be placed in a jeep and driven into town, to be placed in the ruins of a church.

Herman Skerlong: 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. 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 got ambushed twice. A sergeant ahead of me got machine gunned in both legs. I was able to crawl back very slowly until I came across the captain, a runner, and the radio man. The Captain says, "We gotta get that sergeant out of there." Nobody says anything and finally I said, "Captain, let me try." I was scared. Not shaky, but scared. 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. 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."

Vince Speranza served as a machine gunner with the 101st Airborne in Bastogne. At one point during the battle, he visited a wounded friend and the friend persuaded him to try to find some beer. Surprisingly, the second bar he went to, though the building was severely damaged, the tap worked and he was able to fill his helmet with beer, much to the joy of his buddy and the other patients. He returned to his foxhole, not thinking again of the incident.

In 1995, he returned to Bastogne for the first time. The story starts as he and some companions are returning from a spot Vince and his company defended in 1944. Because his platoon commander had labeled the machine gun position in a hand-drawn map, they had been able to show Vince the remains of HIS foxhole. Vince became very emotional and, after leaving the site, wanted to change the mood.

"In the car on the way back, I asked Marco and Johnny if I could take them to lunch. When we stopped at the Leo Hotel dining room, I ordered three bottles of wine. I wanted to change the moods and get happy. We sure did! We ate and drank and laughed and talked loud. People were looking, but I didn't care. We started telling each other stories and I told them the beer story.

"As I got into the story, Johnny and Marco at the other side of the table began to look mildly shocked. They pointed fingers at me. 'You were the G.I. who brought beer in his helmet to the wounded in the church during the battle?'"

"And Marco and Johnny said, 'no one thought that story was true, they thought it was just a rumor. But twenty years ago a Belgian brewer, right here in Bastogne, decided to dedicate a beer to this mythical G.I. And now,' said Marco, 'the guy is sitting in front of us. The story is real. What a coincidence.'"

Robert Thompson, "Repeating My April 1945 POW March in April 2016," *Bulge Bugle*, February 2016



I was captured in the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. This ended my time as a 2d ID ("Indianheads") combat infantryman, which had begun in Normandy and Brittany six months earlier.

As a POW, I traveled six days on foot and by train to my first POW camp, Stalag XIII-C in Hammelburg (between Frankfurt and Nuremberg). In the neighboring OFLAG (officer's camp) XIII-B was Colonel John Waters, Patton's son in law. In March 1945, a Third Army task force attempted to liberate Oflag XIII-B and Col. Waters. But it went disastrously wrong (Patton always denied all knowledge and responsibility). Although we were not aware of the raid, it was enough to persuade the German Army Administration to send all of us POWs in Stalag XIII by boxcar train to Stalag XIII-D in Nuremberg, about 90 miles away.

Gerald White, "A Pearl Found in the Army," *Bulge Bugle*, August 2018

On January 8, 1945, we left New York harbor on the Queen Elizabeth with approximately twelve thousand troops. On the ocean trip, we had two sub alerts. We landed at Glasgow, Scotland on January 13, 1945, and were sent directly to a port in southern England for transfer to a port in France. We were loaded on cattle cars (40 and 8s) for assignment to forward units.

I was assigned to M Company of the 23 REGT of the 2 INFD on January 15, 1945, someplace in Belgium. It was very cold, with lots of snow. Sometimes there was a lot of shelling by the Germans, and many battles around the Omdemolivildengin Pass near St. Vith, Belgium as part of the Battle of the Bulge. We would cut trees down with C-4 to use for bunkers, as the ground was so frozen that we couldn't dig foxholes. I was assigned as an ammo bearer, mostly mortars.

On January 31, while on the Siegfried Line near Wehlerscheid, Germany, I was wounded. I was working KP, but don't remember that I had done anything wrong to have to be there! I was told to burn up some excess food. So I finished piling up the food, applied some flammable fluid to it, and lit a match. A tremendous blast resulted, likely because there was an undetected mine beneath where the food had been piled. I was blown away from the foodpile. I suffered burns and plenty of singed hair, and was evacuated to Beaujon hospital in Paris. Two officers reported that I was MIA, and this was reported to my family. Ten days later I was back with the unit, but my family was never told that I had been located, leaving them in complete darkness about my status!

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