

# The BULGE BUGLE®

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

VOLUME XLIII NUMBER 2

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

SUMMER 2024



## POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

Events Abound Honoring Veterans' Service in the Bulge





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

### BOBA MEMBERSHIP OFFICE

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

EMAIL: [BobaMembership@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.battleofthebulge.org)  
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**Vice President Chapters:**

Dr. Andy Waskie

**Vice President Military &**

**Veteran Affairs:** Doris Davis

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(*Appointed Duty*)

Kristen Faller

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Betsy Rose

Jim Triesler, Historian

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(*non-voting*)

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Mary Ann Coates Smith

**Public Relations:** Gary Higgins

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**Webmaster:** Carl Carraway

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2003-05

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

### NEW JERSEY

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Jerry Manning

**Fort Monmouth (56):** Larry Lynch

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

Donald "Coach" Brien

### NEW YORK

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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):** [President in Transition]

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

## ON THE COVER



**Top photo, left:** Belgian Prime Minister, His Excellency Alexander De Croo, lays wreath at Tomb of the Unknown. (See article on page 9.)

**Top photo, right:** Honoring the Wereth 11. (See article on page 20.)

**Bottom photos, left to right:** Veteran Fred Faulkner introducing his composition "The Ardennes March," and the Florida Symphony Orchestra performing it. (See article on page 14.)

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

**NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2024**

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

**Thanks to our vendors who provide valuable services to support BOBA:** Apple Press, Inc. (Printing/Fulfillment); Eye D Communications (Layout/Design)

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Steve Landry

GREETINGS BOBA MEMBERS! As I write this, we've kicked off a season of celebrations, commemorations, and remembrances for the 80th Anniversary of the Allied liberation of Europe. This past June, several BOBA members joined world leaders to celebrate the anniversary of the D-Day landings. In October, the Dutch will commemorate the liberation of their country during Operation Market Garden. And in December, we will remember the sacrifices of our brave Veterans in the Battle of the Bulge and celebrate their ultimate victory over the Nazis. Please see the notices and flyers for the 80th Anniversary tour in this *Bugle* [see page 8] and on the BOBA website, and consider joining us on what is sure to be a great tour.

In September, we'll also hold our 42nd Annual Reunion in St. Charles, MO. Our Executive VP Barbara Mooneyhan and Board Member Kristen Faller, with support from Diane Husk, Craig Stiegemeier, and other Gateway Chapter members, have put together a terrific program of events. Please take this opportunity to gather with the Veterans and their families!

As we continue to transition our business model to a largely electronic format, it is vitally important that we have your email address. Going forward, all communications from BOBA will be



electronic, with the exception of the printed *Bugles* mailed to our Veterans. In particular, we will require your email address to send out voting instructions and credentials for future elections, invitations to virtually attend future general membership meetings, and receive the *Bugle*. Please send your email address to BOBAMembership@gmail.com as soon as possible!

I want to personally thank you for your patience as we implement the Bylaw changes approved at the General Membership meeting last November. We've

experienced a number of hiccups as we transition most of the Association's administrative functions to volunteers, and I humbly apologize for any delays or miscommunications that may have occurred. In particular, it became necessary to change PayPal accounts, and we temporarily lost access to some transaction information. I believe we have since successfully recovered all the lost data. I want to particularly thank our Interim VP of Membership Joe Wollet, our Treasurer Mary Ann Smith, and Board Member Betsy Rose for their herculean efforts over the last several months.

On behalf of the all the elected officers and Board members, I wish you a safe and enjoyable summer and fall.

—Steve Landry, President and CEO

## FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

The Finance Committee has been extremely busy in the first six months of 2024, with more to come. The committee consists of Steve Landry, President, Betsy Rose, board member and myself, Chair.

BOBA's income (\$22,454) slightly exceeded expenses (\$19,451) in the first six months of the year, and total bank balance grew from \$83,463 to \$86,466. Because several expense items trail income (for example, paying the *Bugle* editor's stipend), the true financial situation the first half of the year was probably break-even.

This shift toward financial solvency largely reflects expenditure reduction in three categories:

- Office expense, as we transitioned to a volunteer model for membership and administrative tasks
- Savings on printing and mailing costs from eliminating printed *Bugles* for most members
- Expenditure reduction from various management improvements and belt-tightening exercises

Income in several categories has exceeded the budget, including donations and wreath fund donations, coin sales, and *Bugle* hard-copy sales. The most significant shortfall in income is membership renewal.

The Finance Committee and the Board are acutely aware that the Association's financial future cannot be forecast from a single half year's financial results. This is especially true because income from coin sales, sales of *Bugles*, etc., are non-recurring and subject to wide fluctuation

and our lifeblood – membership renewals – is far short of goals.

Our primary financial – and management – challenge is to grow membership by securing renewal memberships and finding new members.

Other challenges include solidifying the income base from donations and putting the annual commemoration and reunion on businesslike footings.

We took several steps to improve operations. These include:

- A certified CPA of Mechanicsville, Virginia, has been acquired to do our quarterly accounting, filing of annual taxes and 1099-misc forms etc.
- A PayPal account has been open under BOBA's name and the previous one has been closed. All our operating expenses have been paid and are up-to-date.

If you haven't already done so, please share your email addresses. Questions? Please send your email to: bobamembership@gmail.com. Mail, to our post office box, is gladly accepted also.

I'm honored to serve as a 100% volunteer. I accept no compensation or reimbursement for my time, travel and supplies needed to perform my duties that goes beyond Treasurer.

*The full financial reports can be reviewed at <https://battleofthebulge.org/about/>*

—Submitted by Mary Ann Coates Smith,  
BOBA Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair

# BOBA ANNOUNCEMENTS

## FROM THE EDITOR

I continue to be impressed at how many of our veteran members: President Emeritus David Bailey, Ben Berry, Darrell Bush, Fred Faulkner, Joe Landry, Jake Larson, Ken Mar, Harry Miller, Henry “Robby” Robinson, Jake Ruser, Dominic “Dan” Santagata, Andy Valero, undoubtedly others, who are still active. By this, I mean traveling, making public appearances, writing articles, etc. It’s an impressive set of people.

For younger members and for members who can’t travel to national reunions and commemorations, there are any number of activities that can allow them to be involved in their own hometown. This year, we are encouraging

individuals and local chapters to hold a local mini-commemoration on some date of special significance: Veterans Day, Bulge anniversaries, Memorial Day, VE Day. This is a chance to recognize the sacrifices of our fathers and grandfathers and can be a strong recruiting tool as well.

One possible location for such an event is any of the 30+ Battle of the Bulge monuments. *(A list is provided on page 22.)*

Another opportunity is to speak to a U.S. History class. BOBA is developing sample Powerpoint presentations our members can use.

*If you need resources from BOBA, write to [boba.editor@gmail.com](mailto:boba.editor@gmail.com).*

**Leon Reed, Bulge Bugle Editor**  Veteran Harry Miller autographing a book.



## BOBA OUTREACH

## MEMBERS MAKE APPEARANCES

Our members are active in making presentations and appearances on the Battle of the Bulge and other World War II topics.

**Recent and Upcoming Appearances** *(those names with an asterisk are Bulge veterans)*

Person	Date	Place	Topic
*Ben Berry	July 28 Sept 20-22	Gettysburg WWII Weekend Eisenhower WWII Weekend	
VP/Chapters Doris Davis	June 20 July 18	Luxembourg Day Belgian Flag Raising Ceremony	
*Fred Faulkner	May 12	Tampa Pops in the Park	Performance of “Ardennes March”
*Joe Landry	May 25	Shirley, MA	Memorial Day Parade Grand Marshal
President Steve Landry	May 25 May 31	Shirley, MA Arlington Cemetery	Memorial Day Parade Wreath Laying with Belgian PM
*Harry Miller	July 26-28 Aug 1	Gettysburg WWII Weekend Central PA WWII Roundtable	Presentation
Editor Leon Reed	May 11 Aug 9 Sept 14-15 Sept 20-22	WWII American Experience 80th Division Veterans Assn. Army Expo 24 Eisenhower WWII Weekend	Arsenal of Democracy 80th Division/Bulge Display Display
*Henry “Robby” Robinson	May 11	Unserviceable Flag Ceremony	Unserviceable Flag Ceremony
*Jake Ruser	July 28 Sept 20-22	Gettysburg WWII Weekend Eisenhower WWII Weekend	
Treasurer Mary Ann Smith	March 8 May 27	Clinton, MD Arlington Cemetery	Medal award from Belgium Memorial Day wreath laying
Historian Jim Triesler	June 4-5 July 16-18 Aug 7 Nov 14	Simpson MS, Leesburg, VA VA War Memorial 80th Div Veterans Assn D-Day Museum	Presentation about veterans Summer Teacher Institute (D-Day +80) 80th Division Battle of the Bulge
*Andy Valero	June 7-8	Reading Airshow	
Member Tom Vossler	July 26-28 Sept 14-15 Sept 20-22	Gettysburg WWII Weekend Army Expo 24 Eisenhower WWII Weekend	
VP/Chapters Andy Waskie	July 28	Gettysburg WWII Weekend	



# 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION

## BRIEF HISTORY

Formed on 10 Dec 1917 at Camp Greene, NC, and having served in five campaigns in World War I, the 4th INFD was Reactivated 1 Jun 1940 at Fort Benning, GA. Over the next three years, the 4th INFD continued to train and prepare for war, and participated in the Louisiana and Carolina Maneuvers. In Aug 1940, they became an experimental 4th Motorized Division at Camp Gordon, Georgia. Converted back to an Infantry Division at Fort Dix, New Jersey in 1943, they moved to Camp Gordon Johnston, FL in September 1943 for amphibious training. 4th INFD departed for England on 18 Jan 1944 to train for the invasion.

**Overseas:** Landed on Utah Beach 6 Jun 1944 at H-Hour (0630)

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

**Days in Combat:** 299 days – D-Day to VE Day

**Casualties:** 22,660 (KIA 4,097; WIA 17,371; MIA 461; POW 731)

**Distinguished Unit Citations in WWII:** Belgian Fourragere 1940, Cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for action in Belgium and for action in the Ardennes. Five Medals of Honor; Distinguished Service Cross (60); Distinguished Service Medal (2); Silver Star (1,283); Legion of Merit (15); Soldier's Medal (22); Bronze Star (6,795) and Air Medal (78)

**Commanders in WWII:** MG Raymond O. Barton (3 Jul 1942 – 26 Dec 1944); MG Harold W. Blakely (27 Dec 1944 – Oct 1945)

**Nickname:** The "Ivy" Division – derived from the divisional insignia developed during WWI: four ivy leaves on a diamond field, symbolizing the Roman Numeral "IV"

\*\*\*

## Normandy Invasion

Chosen as the spearhead amphibious division of the D-Day landing on Normandy, the 4th INFD stormed ashore on Utah Beach at H-Hour (0630 hours) on 6 Jun 1944. The 4th INFD was the first seaborne division ashore, and its Assistant Division Commander, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr, was among them. For his actions that day, he earned the Medal of Honor.

Relieving the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions who had jumped in during the night, the 4th INFD fought on the Cotentin Peninsula and, along with the 9th INFD, seized the port of Cherbourg on 25 Jun. They continued fighting through the hedgerows and, along with the 2nd Armored Division, broke through at St Lo on 25 Jul. They continued the fight across France and on 25 Aug, the 4th INFD's 12th REGT, along with the French 2nd Armored Division, liberated Paris.

On September 11, 1944, a patrol from the 22nd REGT of the 4th INFD became the first Allied ground force to enter Germany. The 4th INFD's MG Raymond Barton was the first Allied general to enter Germany, on Sept 14. Slow progress into Germany continued in Oct and on 7 Nov, they entered the Battle of Hürtgen Forest where they



Siegfried Line bunker, Hürtgen Forest. Photo: Wikimedia Commons/Rurseekatze

were engaged in fighting until early Dec. Relieved by the 83rd INFD on 3-5 Dec, the division was sent to a defensive position in Luxembourg – only to meet the German Army's winter Ardennes Offensive head-on (in the Battle of the Bulge) starting on 16 Dec 1944. They managed to hold the Germans at Dickweiler and Osweiler. General George Patton wrote to MG Barton, "Your fight in the Hürtgen Forest was an epic of stark infantry combat; but, in my opinion, your most recent fight — from the 16–26 December — when, with a depleted and tired division, you halted the left shoulder of the German thrust into the American lines and saved the City of Luxembourg and the tremendous supply establishments and road nets in that vicinity, is the most outstanding accomplishment of yourself and your division."

They fought back across the Siegfried Line in February, were slowed at the Prum River by heavy enemy resistance, captured the city of Prum on 12 Feb, and continued to move deeper into Germany. After a short rest in mid-March, the 4th INFD moved across the Rhine on 29 Mar at Worms, attacked and secured Wurzburg and by 3 Apr had established a bridgehead across the Main at Ochsenfurt.

Pushing southeast across Bavaria, the 4th INFD had reached Miesbach on the Isar on 2 May 1945, when it was relieved and began occupation duty. They were at the Austrian border when the war in Europe ended

8 May 1945 (V-E Day).

The 4th INFD returned to the US in July 1945 and was stationed at Camp Butner, NC preparing for deployment to the Pacific. However, they were not deployed due to the dropping of the atomic bombs in Japan which officially ended WWII in August 1945. They were deactivated on 5 Mar 1946.

\*\*\*

The 4th INFD was reactivated as a training division on 15 Jul 1947, changed back to an Infantry Division, and in 1950 was the first division redeployed to Germany during the Cold War, where they

remained until 1956 and then moved to Fort Lewis, WA.

The 4th INFD was deployed to Vietnam from Jul 1966 – Dec 1970, maintained the largest area of operations of any division, and served as the first line of defense against enemy coming down the Ho Chi Minh trail. After Vietnam, the unit was assigned to Ft. Carson, CO and was transformed into a mechanized division. They participated in multiple Reforger missions (Return of Forces to Germany) during the Cold War. They moved from Ft. Carson to Ft. Hood, TX in Dec 1995.

They were deployed to Iraq four times between 2003 and 2011. During Operation Red Dawn, the 4th INFD, along with Special Operations Soldiers, captured Saddam Hussein (the former President of Iraq) on 13 Dec 2003.

From 2009 – 2018, they were deployed to Afghanistan three times, followed by deployment to Poland and Eastern Europe (Operation Atlantic Resolve) working with NATO countries to address the growing Russian threat. In 2023, 4th INFD HQ had command of the NATO mission deployed to Poland.

With Ft. Carson as their home base, its Soldiers remain the Mighty Fourth – America’s Best, always Steadfast and Loyal and Fit to Fight in defense of freedom and justice.

\* \* \*

#### Tidbits

- The 4th INFD is featured in the film *The Longest Day*.
- Authors Ernest Hemingway and J.D. Salinger (*Catcher in the Rye*) were with the 4th INFD in WWII.
- Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy’s, served as a cook with 4th INFD in 1950s Cold War Germany.
- Four 4th INFD Commanding Generals later served as Chief of Staff of the Army, including GEN Randy George, serving as of this writing in 2024.

\* \* \*

**TO LEARN MORE**, go to: [www.4thinfantry.org](http://www.4thinfantry.org).

- Book: *Fit to Fight – the 4th Infantry Division in WWII* by Robert O. Babcock, author of *War Stories*.
- The 4th INFD’s next reunion is Sept 16- 21, 2024 in San Antonio, TX. (Deadline to register is Aug 19, 2024).

—Compiled by Doris Davis, Vice President  
of Military and Veterans Affairs, and  
Robert O. Babcock, 4th Infantry Division Historian

## VOICES OF THE 4TH DIVISION

After being relieved in the Hurtgen Forest our division was to enter Luxembourg, Belgium, as our rest area ... so our 3rd platoon with Lt. Pearlstein went to sleep in this large two story house the night of December 15-16, outside of Berdorf.

At about 6 a.m. myself, the orderly on guard duty and Lt Pearlstein observed heavy mortar shells dropping around the house. As the shells became heavier and closer, I told the orderly to go upstairs and awaken Lt. Pearlstein. When he came down and saw the shells hitting, he awakened everyone and told me to get my squad and protect the left side of the house which I did.

Shortly afterwards we could see the Germans coming out of the woods about a hundred or so yards directly in front of the house. At this time everyone started firing our M-1 and carbines at the advancing Germans. A few moments later a recon jeep appeared and the officer in charge told us to retreat and he would cover us with his mounted 50 caliber machine gun. We now retreated south to the town of Beck, where we tried to regroup.

—Urban T. Masucci, 12th REGT, 4th INFD,  
“But it could have been worse,” Bulge Bugle, Nov. 1995

The Grande Parke was a five-story building, the pride of Berdorf, and sturdily built, like Luxembourgers themselves. Turned into a fortress, it lived out the role like its medieval forerunners, giving away a floor a day under the relentless pounding of mortars and artillery. Each day, with monotonous regularity, the Americans moved their snipers and observers down another floor until by the fifth day their only shelter was the basement.

The miracle of the Parke Hotel is the slight wounding of only three men. Almost miraculous was the morale of the men throughout those five days — explained by two factors still outstanding in the minds of officers and men. One centers around a cook named Casey, with a slogan, “Chow at eight, twelve, and four.” The other was their own deadly marksmanship ... practiced against an estimated three battalions thrown against them. An Irishman speaking Yiddish to his German captors, a hunter of the Adirondacks practicing running-deer shots, a

jeep driver roaming the enemy-held woods for seven days. Casey, the cook, and 50 other heroes—all these elements add up to another saga among American fighting men.

Berdorf was one of six fortified villages held by the 12th Infantry Regiment, spread out over a 12-mile front. On December 16, D-day of the big German counter-offensive, a newly-equipped Volksgrenadier division poured out of the Siegfried Line and across the Sauer River, with the intention of widening the base for the bulge. The City of Luxembourg offered a road network to the west and the south.

—Bill Shadell, 4th Infantry Division, “Fortress Hotel,”  
Bulge Bugle, Nov. 2000



My job was a litter bearer, which was to remove seriously wounded soldiers from the battlefield. My most vivid memories of the Bulge were close calls! On the morning of December 21, 1944, there was a call for two litter teams to Company F in Berdorf. We had two jeeps with a litter team on each. The road from the woods outside Consdorf to Berdorf was about four miles without any shelter. Our jeep drivers stopped, at the edge of the woods, to decide what they would do. As the driver of the first jeep pulled out, at a high speed, we were right behind.

All of a sudden out of nowhere, two soldiers appeared, shouting to stop. They were the outpost. We were able to get the first jeep to stop and turn around. The outpost guards told us the company pulled back during the night, and if we kept going — we were in “No Man’s Land” heading into the German lines. We were taken to the two wounded soldiers, and we transported them to the 2nd Battalion Aid Station. We almost became prisoners or being killed.

—Jake Ruser, 12 REGT, 4th INFD, Medical Detachment



# Battle of The Bulge Association Tour

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# BOBA SUPPORTS PLANNING FOR COMMEMORATION

BOBA is participating with Pennsylvania State officials in planning for a major statewide Battle of the Bulge commemoration due to take place December 16. The Pennsylvania House resolution establishing December 16 as Battle of the Bulge Day and instructing the State to prepare a major commemoration this year directed the organizers to make special note of the role of the 28th Division (Pennsylvania's National Guard division) in the battle. The planned ceremony will be centered around the 28th Division Memorial in Fort Indiantown Gap.

People who attended last January's commemoration or Gettysburg conference will remember legislative staffer Dan Ocko filling us in on this event.



**28th Division Memorial at Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery.** Photo: Leon Reed

# BULGE VETERANS HONORED AT ARLINGTON CEREMONIES

On May 31, the Belgian Prime Minister, His Excellency Alexander De Croo, became the first sitting Belgian PM to visit the Battle of the Bulge Monument at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) in 20 years. Along with the Belgian Ambassador to the U.S., Jean-Arthur Régibeau, Belgian Defense Attaché Admiral Carl Gillis, and the ANC Superintendent Charles Alexander, Jr., he laid a wreath at the monument in honor of American soldiers.

The PM also laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. BOBA President Steve Landry greeted the Belgian party on behalf of BOBA at our monument. He presented the PM and the



**Memorial wreath placed at Arlington National Cemetery Bulge monument by Belgian Prime Minister, Alexander De Croo.** Photo: Steve Landry



**BOBA Treasurer Mary Ann Coates Smith and Memorial Day wreath.**

Ambassador with BOBA challenge coins.

Following the ceremony, Admiral Gillis described a plan he is developing to cohost a Battle of the Bulge event at the Museum of the U.S. Army at Ft. Belvoir in Virginia. He has already talked to the Museum and AUSA about cohosting.

BOBA Treasurer Mary Ann Coates Smith also participated in the official Memorial Day ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, laying a wreath on behalf of BOBA.

# “DAY TURNER WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN”

by David Nagle

Those are the sentiments of sisters Monique and Danielle Leners of Dahl, Luxembourg.

Recently, a group of travelers from North-eastern Pennsylvania stopped by their home as part of a WW2 Battlefields of Europe Tour. The Leners’ home, Am Astert Farm, is where Day Turner of Nescopeck exhibited unimaginable bravery that resulted in him being awarded the Medal of Honor.

There during the battle of January 8, 1945, he and his squad fought off several German advances, ultimately engaging in hand-to-hand combat to protect their line of defense. They were successful and the Germans never retook the town.

Sea The World Travel of Luzerne, sponsors of the trip, had visited the farm two years previously. Meeting Monique for the first time then, they learned of the family’s deep commitment to keeping Day Turner’s memory alive. The sisters’ mother Lucie had dedicated herself to ensuring all American visitors were warmly greeted at her home.

“It was truly the highlight of our trip,” notes owner Karen Monko Nagle. “We became instant friends with the family and have shared our story to many of our traveling companions.” Since



The Leners family greets visitors from Pennsylvania.



Am Astert Farm, where Day Turner earned the Medal of Honor.

Lucie’s passing, daughters Monique and Danielle have continued the tradition.

This year when the travel group arrived, they were greeted with warm smiles, homemade pastries, and beverages. But this time the guests had something in return for the Leners family.

Karen’s husband, David, had contacted the 80th Infantry Division (Day’s unit) and they provided him with copies of their newsletter, a card of appreciation and an 80th ID commemorative coin for presentation.

Additionally, the town of Nescopeck furnished a copy of the Day Turner Day Proclamation, a Certificate of Appreciation, and the flag that flew over Nescopeck’s Day Turner Memorial. Fittingly, it was presented to the Leners sisters by Doug and Chris Davis of Nescopeck, who were part of the tour group.

Also present to welcome the travelers were Christian Wagner of Quadriga (a Luxembourg military association) and Christian Pettinger, a Luxembourg military historian. Like the Leners, both are committed to continuing the memory of Day Turner and honoring American troops.

The former told a riveting story of his family’s ordeal with the Nazis and how two of his uncles were forced to fight in the German Army. Sadly, only one returned home after the war.

The following day, the group visited the American Cemetery in Luxembourg. Maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC).

At the cemetery, the ABMC played *Taps* while the Davis’ placed a flag at Day Turner’s grave. It was followed by the playing of the Star-Spangled Banner. Once again, emotions ran high.

As the group was leaving the cemetery, an ABMC administrator told them of another side of the Day Turner story, a side few people know of. She referred them to an article written by Josh McAuliffe for the *Scranton Times* some 10 years ago. In it he interviewed Ike Refice of Scranton who fought with Turner in the battle of Dahl.

Refice tells the story that after the horrific battle he and Turner came upon a wounded teenage German soldier leaning up against a tree. Instead of leaving him for dead, Turner and Refice carried him to an aid station where he would be treated for his wounds.

Refice would, 60 years later, meet up with Horst Przybilski, the wounded German, and the two would become friends.

According to Refice, “Turner was a gung-ho guy. He was a good soldier and a likeable guy.”

The Day Turner story would not be complete without noting the parting words of Danielle Leners. As David Nagle was leaving her home, Danielle with tears in her eyes said, “If you ever see Day Turner’s family, please tell them we will never ever forget, we will never forget him.” Fighting back his own tears, he said “I promise you I will let them know.”

Sea The World Travel has plans to conduct another tour in 2026 with a stop at the Leners family farm a top priority. For the two owners that reunion can’t happen soon enough.



Day Turner Memorial at Am Astert Farm.



## FROM THE EDITOR'S MAIL-BAG

I had a chance to look at the “Thunderbolt,” the excellent magazine of the 83rd Infantry Division Association. Congratulations to John Markuns and his editorial team. Besides the usual content, two features stood out. First, a really neat “kids’ section” that can serve as a good reminder to all of us. Everyone involved with WWII laments “kids these days” and their lack of knowledge/interest. We need to remind ourselves constantly that WE need to make this conflict accessible and meaningful to younger generations. (As a start, see a few recommendations below for books about WWII for young readers.)

The second thing that caught my eye was the extensive section on how the 83rd was trained. This vital aspect of the war too often is overlooked in memoirs and unit histories.

A final note: the 83rd is celebrating its reunion in Harrisburg August 14-17, and will make a trip to the Army Heritage and Education Center (AHEC), where they will present a complete set of the “Thunderbolt” to the research library.

To join the 83rd Infantry Division Association: <https://www.83rdassociation.com/join-us/>

—Leon Reed, Bulge Bugle Editor



## RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR THE YOUNG READERS



Us older folks love to complain about “young people these days” and their lack of appreciation for history. Well, that’s partly true, but consider the fact that they aren’t surrounded by WWII, as we were when we grew up. WWII was a current event for us; it’s “history” to today’s teenager. All the more reason we should take steps to make sure they learn about the great crusade and the bravery and sacrifice of the teenage boys we sent overseas to save the world so they can understand why they’re called “The Greatest Generation.”

Do you ever want to talk to a youngster about the bravery and sacrifices of the teenage boys who fought so valiantly for the freedom we enjoy today? Do you ever want to explain the phrase “The Greatest Generation?” Here are some book recommendations that will help him/her learn history of WWII and learn about our brave soldiers who gave their all.

**Daring Deeds – WW II Short Stories for Kids. Family-Friendly Stories About Friendship, Bravery, Kindness & Love or 8-14 Year Olds.** More than 20 never-before-read short stories



from WWII. Stories of love, loss, bravery and kindness and other important morals. Published by KLG History (99 pages).

**World War 2 History for Kids – A Timeline of Fascinating Facts, Characters and Stories of Courage that Inspire and Educate.** The stories are told by parents who personally experienced the war. Explore life on the Homefront, where civilians had to cope with rationing, shortages, and the power of propaganda. Through its captivating stories, vivid

metaphors, and powerful lessons, this book ensures that the heroes and history of this era come alive for young minds. Published by History Brought Alive (185 pages).

The descriptions are from the actual books (available on Amazon).

Do you have any recommendations of books or other resources that would benefit a youngster who’s interested in WWII history? If so, please send them to [boba.editor@gmail.com](mailto:boba.editor@gmail.com) and we’ll feature them in future issues.

—Submitted by Doris Davis,  
Vice President of Military and Veterans Affairs



### ARE YOUR 2024 DUES DUE?

Dues are annual, from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 of each year. Partial-year dues are not pro-rated, that is, you must pay for the full year. If your 2024 dues have not been paid, you will have received an email from the Membership Committee. If you aren’t sure when your dues are due, please send a message to [bobamembership@gmail.com](mailto:bobamembership@gmail.com).

### HAS YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGED?

BOBA communicates with members primarily by email. If you haven’t received a current issue of *The Bulge Bugle*® or other news, we may need your current address. Please send a message to [bobamembership@gmail.com](mailto:bobamembership@gmail.com) with your new email address.



### MEETING AT A CIVIL WAR MEETING

What better place to run into a BOBA colleague than at a Civil War Roundtable? Bugle editor Leon Reed (left) was at the Eastern Pennsylvania Civil War Roundtable in Allentown to talk about his research on the lead-up to the Civil War, where he had a moment to meet with Lehigh Valley Chapter head Steve Savage (right).

## DONATIONS

Thank you to the following for their generous donations:

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The generosity of our donors helps us perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices involved during the Battle of the Bulge.

Donations can be made online to [battleofthebulge.org](http://battleofthebulge.org) > donate

OR mail a check to BOBA, PO BOX 330,  
Mechanicsville, VA 23111.

Use the donation form on the back cover to indicate an "In Honor" or "In Memory" donation, so that we can publish your tribute.

All gifts are greatly appreciated!

## BELGIAN EMBASSY HONORS DARRELL BUSH

Belgium's Defense Attaché, Rear Admiral Carl Gillis, and other Embassy officials, traveled to Texas Ribs and BBQ Restaurant in Clinton, MD, March 8 to present a Certificate of Appreciation to Bulge veteran Darrell Bush. Bush served in Bastogne during the December 1944 siege. BOBA Treasurer Mary Ann Coates Smith attended, representing BOBA.

— Submitted by Mary Ann Coates Smith



Darrell Bush's wife Dorothy, Darrell Bush, and BOBA Treasurer Mary Ann Coates Smith, at the award ceremony.



Mary Ann Coates Smith presents Battle of the Bulge Association challenge coin to Belgium's Defense Attaché, Rear Admiral Carl Gillis.



# BATTLE OF THE BULGE VETERAN SPEAKS AT DAR UNSERVICEABLE FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

by Dr. Linda Miller

Private First Class Henry “Robby” Robinson a proud Army Veteran, was the featured speaker at the 31st Annual Unserviceable Flag Retirement Ceremony, which was held at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery May 11, 2024. The ceremony was sponsored by the Valley of Fire Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). Michele Mueller is the Regent and Sharon Stingley is the Vice-Regent of Valley of Fire Chapter NSDAR.

Robinson was introduced by Gary Parriott, Signers Chapter Sons of the American Revolution, also an Army veteran. They were roommates on an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. in April 2022. Robby served during World War II as part of the 11th Armored Division, 22nd Tank Battalion. Robby played a crucial role behind enemy lines as a scout during pivotal moments including the Battle of the Bulge and the liberation of Mauthausen and Dachau Concentration Camps. After the war, he served as a guard during the Nuremberg Trials. Robby recounted taking the former prisoners back to their home countries and “touring Europe”. He said at age 99 it was hard to remember some of the events. He told



Bulge Veteran Henry “Robby” Robinson, Gary Parriott, and Dr. Linda Miller at Unserviceable Flag Retirement Ceremony.

the audience “you don’t know how lucky you are to be an American.” He also spoke very proudly of his Honor Flight experience. The packed chapel (one of the largest crowds for this event) gave him a standing ovation at the

end of his remarks. He was accompanied by his daughter Sylvia.

Dr. Linda Miller, VOF member and Honorary Governor of the National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, invited the speaker, Robby Robinson, to address the group. Dr. Miller is a member of the Battle of the Bulge Association and has attended several reunion trips to battle sites in Europe, including the former Dachau Concentration Camp site.

Other events included the singing of “America the Beautiful” and “God Bless America” by Madison Stevenson, a UNLV student; the Ring of Honor led by Gary Parriott; the reading of the “Thirteen Folds” by Bobi Pike-Oates accompanied by a flag folding demonstration by Boy Scout Troop 7; the reading of “Tattered Flag” by Dana Surwill, and assistance by Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and Rancho High Air Force JROTC. The ceremony began and ended with bagpiper Dennis Hangey, Scottish American Military Society. The retirement of the unserviceable flags was conducted outside as various people carried folded distressed flags outside to the fire pit to be burned.

## Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.

### MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

- I am pleased to report that we seem to have stabilized our membership and begun to grow.
- Our current total of dues-paid active members is **537**.
- We have received dues payments from **206** people so far this year, including **33** new members.
- In other news related to membership, we have completed the transition from Quickbooks to Excel and have instituted a regular check of obituaries.
- Now that we have stabilized our membership management system, our priorities are renewals and new members.

—Submitted by Joe Wollet,  
Interim Vice President Membership

## Welcome, Members!

*We welcome these new or reactivated members to BOBA:*

### BULGE VETERANS

Robinson, Henry “Robby”  
Valero, Andy

### NON-VETERANS

Amor, James  
Babcock, Bob  
Barton, Tina  
Bower, Cullen  
Butler, Steven  
Clampett, Stephen  
Clark, Bruce  
Corley, Stephen  
Crutchfield, David  
De Ridder, David  
Denson, Serena

Deutchman, Eric  
French, Willard  
Hallis, Eva  
Jensen, Rita  
Landaw, Sue  
Maiellano, Walter  
Perez, Diego  
Rasmusson, Nancy  
Silberstein, David  
Simpson, Sharon  
Smedley, Charles  
Smith, Kayla  
Sparks, Angela  
Steinmann, Kathleen  
Stern, Linda

*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.*



Fred Faulkner introduces his Ardennes March ...

### “ARDENNES MARCH” PERFORMED IN TAMPA, FL

In 2007, Bulge veteran **Frederick Faulkner** composed “The Ardennes March” for concert band. It was recently scored for a symphony orchestra and performed by the Florida Orchestra. Before the performance, Faulkner addressed the crowd.

“500,000 American troops served in the battle of whom 19,000 American boys, mostly 18-21, died in action. Clearly the United States saved Europe.

“The weather was horrible and it lasted 40 days, from December 16, 1944, to January 25, 1945. I was there the entire time. Temperatures were as low as 15 degrees below Fahrenheit. Additionally there was a blanket of 18-24 inches of snow and the wind blew constantly. It was acknowledged as being the worst winter in Europe in 50 years.

“We were constantly at the mercy of the Luftwaffe and their 88mm artillery, the most effective artillery piece in the world.

“There was never a hot meal or a warm berth. Our feet were always wet and we were always cold. Dry socks (when available) were carried in our helmet to keep them dry from our body heat. It’s amazing what the human body can endure.

“Ammunition, food and other supplies were slow to be replaced because the roads were destroyed by shell fire. The Red Ball Express, the system of 2 ½ ton trucks, driven mostly by black soldiers, had a difficult time driving over those destroyed roads.

“Imagine running out of food and ammunition during this horrible battle. Unfortunately it happened. Morale was challenged, but at the end of the day, we prevailed.

“It is my hope that this March will continue to be played after I am gone as a reminder of this terrible battle and how America stood tall. And as a reminder of the sacrifices of American youth. Hopefully, never again.”

To view the performance online, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wDs6QhhN8pM>



... and The Florida Orchestra plays it.

### RUSER ATTENDS D-DAY RECEPTION AT ARMY MUSEUM

**Jake Ruser** attended a D-Day reception at the National Army Museum, Ft. Belvoir, VA.

Ruser (shown at left in photo) served as a medic in the 4th INFD, which was the first division to land on Utah Beach on D-Day. Ruser came ashore on June 13 as a replacement medic and was assigned to the 4th INFD shortly after he landed. The reception was part of the museum’s “D-Day 80th Anniversary at the Museum.” Special exhibits include D-Day artifacts and soldier memories.





Andy Valero and Kayla Smith at the Reading Air Show.

## ANDY VALERO ATTENDS READING AIR SHOW, HONORED BY CRATER CHAPTER

9th Division veteran Andy Valero traveled from Norfolk, VA to attend the Reading Airshow. While there, he met with “General Eisenhower,” and visited a modern day version of the famed B-25 “Mitchell” medium bomber, *Briefing Time*. The original *Briefing Time* earned fame for its outstanding performance on numerous missions, including the Doolittle Raid.

Valero was also recently honored by fellow Crater Chapter members with a Battle of the Bulge certificate.



Crater Chapter members (front row): Andy Valero and Felix Maurizio; (standing): Leo Eugene Dorman, Hannah Winton, and Kayla Smith.

## WWII WEEKEND IN GETTYSBURG

Six BOBA members, in addition to veterans Ben Berry, Harry Miller, and Jake Ruser, met members of the public at the World War II American Experience World War II Weekend in Gettysburg, July 26-28.

Staffing information tables were Al Cleghorn, Steve Landry, Leon Reed, Mary Ann Coates Smith, Andy Waskie, and Tom Vossler.

At the same time, 17th Airborne veteran Richard Weaver celebrated his 100th birthday at the Deacon Richard Weaver Community Center in Bonneauville. Besides BOBA and the 17th Airborne, Weaver was greeted on this occasion by State Senator Doug Mastriano, Adams County Commissioner Randy Phiel, and Bonneauville Mayor Joshua Turner. The latter two officials presented resolutions declaring his birth date “Richard Weaver Day” in the Borough and County. Phiel also commented that he was impressed that Weaver had a building named for him while he was still alive.



ABOVE PHOTO: Veteran Harry Miller (right) talks to a guest. LEFT PHOTO: Adams County Commissioner Randy Phiel (right) congratulates Veteran Richard Weaver on his 100th Birthday.



Al Cleghorn (center), and Mary Ann Coates Smith (right) staffing the BOBA information table and speaking with an attendee.

Photos: Leon Reed

# BULGE MEMORIES

BOBA has been collecting memories and photos from veterans who were there so many years ago. If you are a veteran member and have not been featured in our magazine before, we want to hear from you!



## Warren M. Jensen 793 FABN

Warren Jensen's daughter, Kathy Blackman, received some surprising news a few months ago: the German town of Gießen, in which Jensen served after the war, intended to honor Jensen for his postwar work with displaced persons. Mark Schiefer from the town asked permission to use two photos "as part of an exhibition about DPs and refugees after the war." Ms. Blackman was thrilled and plans to travel to Germany to see the exhibition. She shared some additional material with the museum – and BOBA.

The Ardennes Offensive began on December 16, 1944. The weather was bitter cold, foggy and dreary. All was quiet until Dec. 16, when the Krauts attacked. There was chaos that slowly resolved itself into grim determination, desperation and numbness...you got it. "The Bulge" refers to the progress of the German offensive and to how far they pushed our lines back. Winston Churchill is quoted as saying, "This is undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever famous American victory." Two million men were involved in this, the largest land battle the US Army has ever fought.

We were brought down to the St. Vith area. Our missions depended on the targets spotted. We wouldn't fire non-stop unless necessary. We were limited to the ammunition available to us. Sometimes we'd get a FIRE MISSION at various times day or night. At chow time half of the gun crew would go to the rear to get fed so the rest of us had to carry out the mission. Then, sometimes, by the time we had a chance to be fed, all the food was gone so our dinner was sometimes just a piece of bread and coffee. Or we ate combat rations.

As far as getting any hot food from December 1944 to February 1945 our cooks were able, once in a while, to bring hot food up in insulated Mermite cans. The US Army has a tradition of always trying to get a turkey dinner to the troops on Thanksgiving and Xmas with all the trimmings. Kinda hard to serve it up properly in that cold weather with everything served onto one's cold mess kit all together with dessert slopped on top. That was special. Night time could be beautiful. The searchlights would go on to create artificial moonlight for our Infantry lads. There would be flares fired and the magnesium flares would light up an area as they came down on little



Bulge Veteran Warren Jensen and "Andrews Sisters" performers.



Warren M. Jensen, 1943

parachutes. Machine gun tracers from our anti-aircraft guns would make pretty patterns in the sky because every 5th round had the rear hollowed out and packed with a chemical that glowed when fired. All this was to help the gunner zero in on his target. And the sounds that filled the night: Of weapons firing by the Infantry machine guns, mortars going off and other artillery pieces firing. And then the krauts would send over "Checkpoint Charlie" at night. He'd come over, drop a few flares and take, we think, photos, drop a bomb or two, and with his distinctive engine sound disappear back to his own lines. Sounded like the engine needed a tune-up.

One memory I've had of this Xmas time was firing a mission and the FDC guys (Fire Direction Center) said, "You guys know that tonight's Xmas Eve?" That's how we found out during the winter of '44. Since our gun positions were generally in the open or at the edge of trees we were pretty well exposed to the chilling wind. Frostbite casualties were common due to a lack of proper clothing and boots. I wouldn't know how cold it got without having a thermometer but it was the coldest winter in Europe in 40 years. Records show that temperatures plummeted from 40 degrees down to minus 10 to minus 20 F at night. Brrrr.

Bradley and even Ike felt the war would be over by Dec. 1944 so they had the manufacturing and shipment of winter clothing stopped. Some supplies were in warehouses in France but the rear echelon guys got into those. All we had were leather boots and were supposed to massage each other's feet to prevent frostbite. The medical Dx was "frozen feet" but in WWI it was called "trench foot". Not much more than commiseration with my buddies held me together mentally during times of hardship as we were all in it together. Our bedding was just a wool Army blanket each. Yes, just one blanket. In December they issued us a mummy style sleeping bag, which was a blanket with an outer shell and a zipper. Eventually they got wool gloves, a wool scarf, a sweater and galoshes or overshoes to us at the front. It was joked that it was so cold that it would freeze the balls off a brass monkey. Don't know where that expression came from but it always got a laugh.

After we would get our howitzer into firing position, next we would dig a hole for the projectiles and powder charges, and then dig our personal fox holes, then dig a small slit trench, the width of a shovel blade, and thus we could squat and straddle the trench, cover it with some dirt we had dug. TP was slid onto the handle of the shovel, which was jammed into the dirt we had dug out. It was quite an experience to squat in icy cold weather and expose your butt to the cold.

The Belgians generally cleared out as they were fearful of the reprisals from the Germans. Those few who stayed opened their homes to the troops. If we stayed for a few days it would give us a chance to contact a farmer in France, N. Belgium, or Holland for cider, wine, or females. We tried to lure them to our area with promises of food or cigarettes. Not much success. We could not talk with any German for fear of a fine of \$65 (a months' pay for privates). On December 23, the skies finally cleared and all we heard were aircraft engines and saw contrails and there was cheering at the event. Our guys parachuted in ammo, food and medicine to the encircled troops at Bastogne but unfortunately, the Krauts got some of the chutes. After the war a German soldier reported that he found a canned Hormel ham hanging from a parachute and had dined with a Belgian family that Christmas.

We pushed the Germans back into Germany and the Ardennes Offensive ended the beginning of February 1945. When December weather comes in with its cold and fog, even after 68 years, my thoughts drift to the Bulge experience and I shiver as I remember those Bulge weather days of suffering. We moved eastward quickly and eventually found ourselves below Magdeburg, Germany in support of the 2nd Armored Division and the 83rd ID which both had bridges across and troops on the east side of the Elbe river until we were ordered to hold our positions. This is now April 1945.

We went "scrounging" in Germany but couldn't go far. Some guys found weapons or other souvenirs. If we found food we feared it might be poisoned. Krauts knew we scrounged for wine and schnapps and would urinate into those bottles. Once in a small town in Germany I went scrounging for a door to put over my foxhole to prevent shrapnel from coming in. The house was untouched with even a beautiful crucifix on the wall and I spotted this grand piano. I was angry at the Germans so, in a fit of adolescent stupidity, I destroyed a good part of the piano with my carbine, so the residents would have something to suffer

with. We prepared to move for occupation duties in Giessen, Germany.

We liberated several German concentration camps and witnessed the results of the atrocities. Unfortunately we gave the starving inmates our high calorie rations which caused them distress and even death. This liberating of POW and concentration camps came in our drive to the Elbe River. VE Day came May 8 and the Russians on the east bank of the Elbe River were celebrating. We could hear them yelling and firing into the air with their weapons. Flares were going off and an accordion was playing. I decided to take a lone journey across the pontoon bridge one day and got a ride in a jeep. On the east bank of the Elbe I saw a column of rough looking Mongolian troops, female traffic cops, and their kitchens pulled by horses. I thought, "I sure hope we never have to fight them." Ourselves, on the west bank of the Elbe River did no celebrating as we were due to ship out to battle in the Pacific.

In Giessen we guarded first the Polish and then the Russian DPs (Displaced Persons) or manned the checkpoints on the Autobahn. One time we took a trainload of Russian DPs packed into boxcars into the Russian Zone. The four of us had a boxcar to ourselves, which was loaded up with Ten-in-One rations. Our journey was overnight to the edge of Czechoslovakia. We'd distribute the ration boxes to each car at mealtime stops. Our unit was broken up based on an individual's point system and we were sent to one of the "cigarette camps" near Le Havre for weeks of idleness while we waited for transportation home by ship.

## VETERANS MEMBERS: SUBMIT YOUR BULGE MEMORY!



If you are a veteran who participated in this historic battle, please share a photo, a memory, and/or thoughts about the impact it has had. It can be a few sentences or short paragraph with a picture. We will

continue to share Bulge Memories in future issues of *The Bulge Bugle*®.

Email (preferred) your responses to [boba.editor@gmail.com](mailto:boba.editor@gmail.com)  
or mail to: BOBA Inc., P.O. Box 330,  
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# • IN MEMORIAM •

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## TRIBUTES TO HEROES

*From obituary:*

**Arnold Debrick** volunteered to serve his country during WWII and officially enlisted at Fort Leavenworth in Leavenworth, KS. After being assigned to the United States Army and completing basic training, he traveled the Atlantic aboard the *Queen Mary*, ultimately making his way through England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Czechoslovakia and Poland. Shortly after arriving in Europe in January 1945, he was separated from his original unit, leading him to Company B of the 9th Armored Infantry Battalion of the 6th Armored Division during the Battle of the Bulge. After weeks of battle with no sleep and through tortuous snow and terrain, Arnold fell victim to “trench foot” and nearly lost both his feet to amputation. This experience profoundly shaped his faith and established an unparalleled mental toughness that was forever a part of him. Upon recovery and rejoining his Company, he helped liberate the Nazi Concentration Camp at Buchenwald in April 1945. Though there are many memories Arnold wished to forget, he spent his last decades sharing his experiences in hopes that the atrocities of WWII would never be repeated. For his extraordinary bravery and courage, he was awarded the Bronze Star and the French Legion of Honor, the highest distinction that France can bestow upon those who have achieved remarkable deeds for the country.



**Dorothy Barre** worked as a private duty nurse until she enlisted in the Army in 1943. She was stationed at Camp Edwards on Cape Cod before joining the 16th General Hospital at Fort Devens.

In December 1943, her unit shipped out to Liverpool, England, with 100 nurses, 500 corpsmen and support staff, 60 male officers and four Red Cross volunteers.

“We were a complete unit with casts, dental equipment, X-ray machines, surgical equipment, everything,” she said.

The unit set up a hospital in Wales, then was shipped across the English Channel to Utah Beach.

“They put us in tents in a field in Normandy for six weeks, then sent us to Paris, then Liege, Belgium,” she said.

“The hospital was hit by V-1 bombs. Those buzz bombs were the worst. The Nazis sent them over at midnight. Many people were killed. We were hit three times by V-1 pilotless bombs in December and January, and on Christmas Eve 1944, we were bombed and strafed. It was awful. A lot of our patients were wounded,” she said.

The Battle of the Bulge is said to be the largest and bloodiest battle of World War II. There were 89,000 casualties reported, including more than 19,000 killed.

“They’d come in all bloody and in blankets. We’d clean them up, put them in pajamas, change their dressings, give them medicine and a hot meal, pin their chart to their pajamas and ship them out. They were dulled due to injury and exhaustion. A lot of them had frostbite. They kept coming. We handled 25,000 patients at the Bulge,” she said.

She worked from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days a week on the surgical orthopedic ward.

That bloody battle ended in January, but the hospital remained open until June 1945, a month after victory in Europe was celebrated on May 8.

“Some of the people were sent to the Pacific. We went to Chalons-sur-Marne and operated a hospital there until November 1945,” she said.

She vividly recalls Aug. 14, 1945, the day the war ended.

“I was working on the wards in Belgium. We all celebrated. Each patient got a shot glass of whiskey,” she said.

She landed in New York City in November 1945.

“We all cheered when we went by the Statue of Liberty,” she said.

Her parents came to greet her at the train station in Worcester, and life returned to normal.



She served at Cushing Army Hospital in Framingham for a year before leaving the service. She was a private duty nurse for a time, and then spent four years at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Newington, Conn., before returning to Oxford to care for her mother, who was ill.

From 1955 to 1983, she worked at Hahnemann Hospital in Worcester before retiring.

**George Moore** was born in Pottstown, PA on January 5, 1926, a son of the late Marguerite (Kaas) and George P. Moore. Husband of Marlene (Ellis) Moore. They were married for 52 years. Jiggs, as he was affectionately called, was a past president of the Berks County Battle of the Bulge Association, Reading, PA Chapter. He

loved bowling and rolled two 300 games 29 years apart. He also was an avid golfer. George served in the U.S. Army as a PFC in WWII. He served in Central Europe in the Ardennes and the Rhineland, and was in the Battle of the Bulge with Company A of the 1252nd Combat Engineer Brigade. He is one of the last Bulge Veterans in Berks County. After his service, he worked as a Diesel Mechanic for 47 years at Doehler-Jarvis in Pottstown, PA.



## 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.*

### George Merz

“Revisiting Gouvy, A Little Belgian Town,”  
*Bulge Bugle*, February 2016

I left for Europe from Boston two days after my 19th birthday on February 25, 1944. We set sail off the coast of New England and my young mind raced with manifestations of the old world waiting for me across the pond. Like the very ship I sailed on, I seemed calm and steady on the surface but had propellers of nervous excitement violently churning below. I had never lived outside my hometown of Louisville, Kentucky, and the thought of leaving the only place I had ever known was already intimidating enough without adding to it the thought of war.

After seven days at sea, we landed safely in the British Isles (at the Firth of Clyde in Scotland) and from there we took a train to Solihull, England. Then off to Northwich, England where I did my initial training. My training involved learning how to maneuver a '45 Harley because I was a 'lightweight'. I remember the roars of our military-issue Harley motorcycles competing with the bed check Charlies (German bombers) that flew over the English terrain during the late afternoons. Over the next year and a half, I took in enough sights and sounds to last a lifetime — including landing on the Normandy beaches (Operation Cobra, July 26, 1944), to the Cotentin Peninsula, to Brittany (Brest Peninsula), through Paris and Northern France to Neufchateau (near Bastogne)



and then the Battle of the Bulge. I was attached to the First Army in the Cotentin Peninsula and the Third Army while in the Battle of the Bulge — and both Armies saw plenty of action.

Even with all my military accolades (including the Bronze Star), the fondest memories I have from my time at war stem from the two quiet months I spent living with a family in the small Belgian town of Gouvy during the fall of 1944. As part of a unit assigned to guard the divisional food ration depot of Gouvy, I handled police duties as well as kept traffic flowing through the town. I stayed in the home of a local family called the Lallemands. I will never forget the kindness shown to me by Joseph and Ida Lallemand and their daughter Gabriella.

They put me up on the third floor of their flat in the middle of the town and I eased into their home like a long-lost American family member. They cooked me meals and embraced me as one of their own. Occasionally I would escort Gabriella to her various social functions and would fraternize with her friends and my fellow U.S. soldiers in the houses of the local townspeople. We were embraced more as acquaintances rather than soldiers ... Foreign law enforcers to a community that had never really needed policing in the first place. The father, Joseph, ran a sort of bistro outside of the building and was popular among the townspeople. He took a liking to me and was happy when I would take Gabriella out for the night. I believe he secretly wanted me to marry her, but my role was reserved to that of a guardian ... A big brother to the young 14 year old girl growing up war-exposed and restless, in what should have been the sleepest of small towns.



Capt. Thomas Ladron, Joel Lamberty, and relatives of Wereth 11 pose by monument.

## LAMBERTY REPRESENTS AT WERETH COMMEMORATION

by Joel Lamberty

I had the privilege of representing BOBA at the recent commemoration in honor of the Wereth 11 in Belgium. The ceremony was, as usual, very moving and brilliantly conducted by Solange Dekeyser, who is the local caretaker of the Wereth 11 legacy, and Mathilde Schmetz, owner of the Remember Museum 39-45. After a prayer by Chaplain Thomas Ladron, Capt USAF, and an introduction by local mayor Erik Wiesemes and the U.S. Embassy Brussels attaché, a moving summary of the lives of each of the murdered soldiers was read out.

This was a particularly intense moment. The life and death of each of the Wereth 11 was described by one of their family members in a text in the first person, with a presentation of their photo. The ceremony ended with the national anthems, a firing volley by the Spangdahlem Air Base Honor Guard, and songs by the Vogelweh Gospel Service Choir.

Astonishingly, I discovered that an old acquaintance of mine, a friend from my wife's native village, was one of the grandsons of Mathias Langer, the father of the family who welcomed the 11 soldiers.



ABOVE PHOTO: Color guard awaits start of ceremony.



RIGHT PHOTO: Mayor speaks while Solange Dekeyser and Mathilde Schmetz look on.

**CA GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER (10)**



*Two Veterans from the Golden Gate Chapter had the opportunity to go to Normandy for the 80th Anniversary. We are so proud of both of them!*

**Jake Larson** was in the First Army, 5th Corps. He was chosen by Col. John G. Hill to type up all the details of the invasion of Normandy. (Code name for this operation was Operation BIG-OT: British Invasion of German Occupied Territory). The details included personal numbers, equipment, vehicles and maneuvers.

Jake knew all the secret information about the invasion. He also participated in the invasion and continued to fight all the way through the Battle of the Bulge. He returned home without a scratch. He claims to be the luckiest man in the world and he has written a book with that title. He is 101.5 years young and charmed every audience he had in Normandy. He danced with the ladies and had a great time. He said he was interviewed countless times. He was flown from Oakland, CA to Atlanta by Best Defense Foundation and then caught ‘the big bird’ to France. He was happy to come back in one piece.

He always makes people laugh everywhere he goes. One group of children chanted “Papa Jake” when they saw him (they remembered him from prior trips). This was his 6th trip to Europe and he looks forward to going back next year.

To learn more about Operation Bigot, go to: <https://www.dday-overlord.com/en/d-day/preliminary-operations/bigot>



**Ken Mar** served in the 2nd Infantry Division, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd BN. He was accompanied by 2 daughters who describe the journey as a “trip of a lifetime.” Ken turned 99 in May and has no trouble with mobility. He is always smiling and grateful that he has no mobility issues. He said he stayed on a cruise ship and said the food was awesome. He and his daughters had the opportunity to take many excursions including seeing Amsterdam, Norwich, St. Edmonds (in the UK), Dunkirk, as well as Normandy (France). He said he

felt treated like royalty. The highpoint of his trip was to shake the hand of President Macron (President of France). Ken was awarded the Chinese American Congressional Gold Medal in December 2020. He has also received the French Legion of Honor.

We love and honor both of our Veterans of the Golden Gate Chapter of BOBA.

Doris Davis, VP of Military and Veteran’s Affairs and President of the Golden Gate Chapter, attended a reception to honor National Luxembourg Day in San Francisco on June 20, 2024. National Luxembourg Day celebrates the HRH, the Grand Duke’s birthday. Every year, people in Luxembourg come together to show their connection to the Grand Duchy and celebrate their home and traditions. The Honorable Consul General of Luxembourg, Daniel De Cruz, attends the Chapter’s Commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge every December.

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



Doris Davis, VP of Military and Veterans Affairs and President of the Golden Gate Chapter, attended the Belgian Flag Raising Ceremony at San Francisco City Hall on July 18, 2024. The event was well attended by the members of the local Belgian Club of which Doris is a member. Pictured are: Pierre Smit, President of the Belgian Club, Northern California, The Honorable Nathalie Delrue-McGuire, Honorary Consul of Belgium, and Doris Davis.



**WE NEED YOUR CHAPTER’S NEWS!**

Please send to:  
[boba.editor@gmail.com](mailto:boba.editor@gmail.com)

**NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE:  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2024**

## CHAPTER NEWS

### SC CHAPTER (7)

Dr. Jim Chow hosted an “impromptu and informal gathering” to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the June 6, 1944, D-Day landings. The group rallied at the State Museum for their D-Day commemorative event, then enjoyed some good BBQ at Little Pig’s courtesy of Doc Chow. The day concluded with a trip to Doc’s ranch for an interactive afternoon with WWII era armor, vehicles, weapons and film

—Submitted by Nelson McLeod,  
South Carolina Chapter President



World War II veterans Bruce Cook of the 379th Bomb Group and Vernon Brantley of the 75th Infantry Division at the South Carolina Chapter June meeting.



Bulge veteran Vernon Brantley and host Jim Chow look over some German military equipment.

### VA CRATER CHAPTER (43)

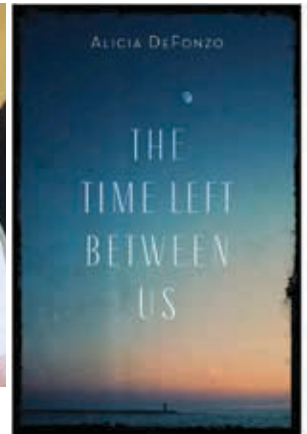
On Thursday, July 18, 2024, the Virginia War Memorial hosted Crater member, Alicia DeFonzo, Senior Lecturer, Fulbright, Dept of English, Old Dominion University, as a speaker for their lunchtime series. She discussed her book *The Time Left Between Us*, which describes her grandfather and his service in WWII in the Battle of the Bulge.

While not a formal chapter meeting, it provided a chance for members to get together and show support for one of the chapter members.

—Submitted by Mary Ann Coates Smith,  
Crater Chapter President



Author Alicia DeFonzo wrote a book about her grandfather, Anthony DelRossi, a Battle of the Bulge Veteran.



### VBOB/BOBA MONUMENTS

Local chapters have built more than 30 monuments to the Battle of the Bulge

**Arizona:** Phoenix (shown at left), Tucson  
**California:** San Francisco  
**Florida:** Boynton Beach, Eustis, Melbourne, Orlando  
**Georgia:** Thomaston  
**Indiana:** Merrillville, South Bend  
**Kansas:** Abilene

**Maryland:** Ft. Meade  
**Massachusetts:** Hyannis, Quincy, Winchendon, Worcester  
**Michigan:** Traverse City  
**Mississippi:** Hattiesburg  
**Missouri:** Jefferson Barracks (St. Louis)  
**New Jersey:** Ft. Lee, Port Monmouth

**New York:** East Meadow, Rochester, Schuylerville, Staten Island  
**Ohio:** Rittman  
**Pennsylvania:** Annville (Ft. Indiantown gap), Boalsberg, Carlisle (Window, monument), Greensburg, Wayne

**Texas:** San Antonio  
**Virginia:** Arlington Cemetery, Fairfax, Ft. Monroe (Hampton)

For more information and monument photos, see the February 2018 issue, or go to: [battleofthebulge.org](http://battleofthebulge.org).

1st Lt Walter Carr 318 INF REG, 2 BN 80 INFD Night Patrol Specialist Bastogne Mission	SFC Anthony E. Jannace 2 ENGR CBT BN, 2 INFD Presidential Unit Citation Battle of the Bulge
Charles Astor Cleghorn WW2 US Navy USS New Jersey Born and died in AL Love always, Charles Allen, Zen, Al	Sgt. Frank T. Lembo 305 ENGR CMBT BN 80 INFD Bastogne Liberator Silver Star
James H. Coates 285 FAOB In loving memory	Your tribute to a veteran goes here

### BOBA VIRTUAL BRICK WALL

A new way to remember your hero is by buying a brick for BOBA's virtual brick wall of remembrance.

Not long ago, it was relatively easy to honor the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. We could nod at them and say, "Thanks for your service."

Now that the Greatest Generation is passing slowly from the scene, BOBA is offering a new way to express your admiration and thanks: buy a virtual brick. Each issue, we will publish the greetings and respects for the men who saved democracy and then returned home and created the world we grew up in. The wall will be permanently featured on the Association's web page.

This project gives two options. Three lines, like traditional commemorative bricks, let you provide name and essential information. For a slightly larger fee, you can personalize your greeting with two more lines.

**Prices: 3 lines: \$25; 5 lines \$60**

**For more information, contact [boba.editor@gmail.com](mailto:boba.editor@gmail.com)**

## Another Way to Support BOBA: BUY AN AD

The BOBA board approved a policy to permit a limited number of ads in *The Bulge Bugle*®. Ads will be limited to 2 pages of external ads per issue, to make sure we don't dilute the content you have come to count on.

Do you want to announce your business to fellow BOBA members? Or just extend best wishes to BOBA? Our rates are \$120 for a quarter page, \$200 for a half page, and \$300 for a full page.

**To advertise, contact [boba.editor@gmail.com](mailto:boba.editor@gmail.com)**



### MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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

*Veteran membership is for those who have received the Ardennes campaign credit. Membership is for relatives, historians or others with an interest in preserving the memory of the Battle of the Bulge.*

- Yearly Membership: \$40**
- Yearly Veteran (Bulge Vet) Membership: \$20**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**If applying as a Veteran member (you are a Battle of the Bulge vet), please provide the following information about yourself:**

Campaigns \_\_\_\_\_

Unit(s) to which assigned during the period 16 Dec 1944 to 25 Jan 1945: Division \_\_\_\_\_

Regiment \_\_\_\_\_ Battalion \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**If applying as a Member, please provide the following information about yourself:**

Relationship to the Bulge Veteran (if any) \_\_\_\_\_  Historian  Other  
(wife, son, daughter, niece, etc. or N/A)

The Bulge Vet's Name and Units \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check or money order payable to BOBA, Inc. Mail with form to above address.**



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**SUMMER 2024**

**BOBA Reunion ★ Sept. 20-24, 2024  
ST. CHARLES, MO  
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

Go to our website: [battleofthebulge.org/2024-reunion/](https://battleofthebulge.org/2024-reunion/)



**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

As with all non-profit organizations, BOBA depends on the generosity of our donors to help support our mission. Please consider a donation to help sustain our mission of perpetuating the memory of the sacrifices made by those who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. You can also use the membership form on the inside cover if you have an address update or want to include a gift subscription to our magazine. All donations are tax deductible and are listed in *The Bulge Bugle*<sup>®</sup>. Battle of the Bulge Association<sup>®</sup>, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Donations can be made online at <https://battleofthebulge.org/store/donate/> OR complete the form below and include a check made payable to: Battle of the Bulge Association<sup>®</sup>, PO Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA, 23111.

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If desired, please choose:  Gift In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Service Units (if applicable)

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Name Service Units (if applicable)

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