

The BULGE BUGLE®

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

VOLUME XLIV NUMBER 2

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

SPRING 2025



THEN AND NOW:

PRESERVING THE BULGE LEGACY



43rd Annual Reunion Time: See Pages 12 – 13



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.

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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!**

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):
Jan Buerhle
Visit website gatewayvbob.org

NEW JERSEY

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 INF

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

BOBA, INC. BOARD ELECTED OFFICERS

President and CEO: Steve Landry

Executive Vice President:

Kevin Hinkle

Vice President Membership:

Joe Wollet

Interim Vice President Chapters:

Leon Reed

Vice President Military &

Veteran Affairs: Doris Davis

Treasurer: Mary Ann Coates Smith

Recording Secretary: Gail Larke

PAST PRESIDENT:

John Mohor

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

David Bailey

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Madeleine Bryant, Chaplain

(Appointed Duty)

Kristin Faller

Ken Larke

Craig Stiegemeier

Jim Triesler, Historian

(Appointed Duty)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Finance: Mary Ann Coates Smith

Membership: Joe Wollet

Outreach: Leon Reed

Records Management: Gail Larke

Strategic Planning:

Craig Stiegemeier

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 2020-23

* Deceased

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

PLEASE SEND CHAPTER UPDATES TO:

bulge.bugle.editor@gmail.com

Thanks to our vendors who provide valuable services to support BOBA:

Apple Press, Inc. (Printing/Fulfillment);

Martha Wasik Graphic Arts (Layout/Design)

ON THE COVER



TOP ROW:

1. Nurses from 77th Evacuation Hospital (see page 19)
2. Battle of the Bulge Veteran James "Jim" Glen Graff (see page 22)

BOTTOM ROW:

1. Richard Weaver (17th ABND) at Carlisle Monument (see page 11)
2. Ohio Monument Restored (see page 9)
3. Norbert Morb  (90th INFD) Luxembourg (see page 9)
4. Jake Ruser, Combat Medic 4th INFD, at Cape May Monument. (see page 8)

"THE FARM BOY" PRODUCERS DONATE TO BOBA

BOBA IS EXTREMELY grateful to the Hanging Mudflap Production Co. and George Woodard, director, of the film Farm Boy, for their generous donation.

The Farm Boy is based on the true-life story of Woodard's parents, who met, fell on love, and were separated by the husband's service in WWII. The film is shot in black and white and simulates many film-making techniques of the era.

The movie had a series of screenings in Vermont this past winter and the producers agreed to share a portion of the proceeds with BOBA. This led to a donation of \$1500. BOBA is extremely grateful for this donation. The connection between the film's story and BOBA's mission made the gift especially meaningful.



**The Farm Boy Movie
Premiere Poster**

Arrangements can be made for a showing by contacting: joan@hangingmudflapproductions.com or 1940farmboy@gmail.com.

How to submit stories for *The Bulge Bugle*®

PLEASE SEND YOUR IDEA FOR A STORY PRIOR TO SUBMISSION.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING STORIES AND PHOTOS:

Stories and letters: Send TYPEWRITTEN text via email, 500 words or fewer. We reserve the right to edit for length or clarity. Clippings/articles from newspapers or other periodicals must contain the name & date of publication. Original stories will be given preference over reprinted articles. NOTE: We cannot reprint from books or pamphlets, unless you are the author.

Photographs: 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), for cellphone photo send us LARGEST digital file possible. **All items WILL NOT be returned, do not mail originals.**

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: JULY 25, 2025

QUESTIONS? Please contact Bugle editor
Christine Guidry Law at bulge.bugle.editor@gmail.com



DONATIONS

*Thank you for your generous donations
from February to April*

Jonathan R. Allen	Thomas E. Rodgers –
David Bailey –	Memory of Thomas E. Rodgers
Memory of Hope and George	(106th INFD 422nd REGT CO L)
Arlene Bjerke –	Leon Reed –
Memory of Howard Bjerke	Monument Restoration Fund
Civil War Roundtable –	Mary Ann Coates Smith –
Delaware Valley Chapter	Gift Memberships to:
Doris Davis –	James H. Coates, Jr.
Gift Membership to Ken Mar	BOBA Veteran Ralph Dinin
Barbara A. French	(82 ABND 740 TK BN D)
Cheryl Gordon –	BOBA Veteran Anthony Pagano
Memory of Fred B. Gordon	(SGT T5 1255th ENG BN C)
George Greenhalgh	James L. Rock
Steve Landry –	John Cameron Wood
Monument Restoration Fund	TowneBank –
Kerry A Lynch –	\$1000 (matching funds for Mary
80/80 (\$80 for 80th Anniversary)	Ann Coates Smith)
Ms. Beverly Malone –	Woodchuck Theatre Company –
14 Bugles for her family	½ proceeds from "Farm Boy"
members from quartermaster	movie
Colleen Marinucci –	Vally J. Wyman
Memory of Brundo Marinucci	

*Please use the form on the back cover to make a donation today!
Or go to our website: battleofthebulge.org/store/donate/*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Steve Landry, President and CEO

GREETINGS VETERANS AND MEMBERS

In 2024, our Outreach Director and then-Bugle Editor, Leon Reed, launched an important initiative to identify and document all known Battle of the Bulge monuments. He encouraged members to visit local monuments and report on their location, condition, and accessibility.

One notable discovery was that the monument at Carlisle Barracks had been removed and placed into storage to make way for new construction at the Army War College. Member Tom Vossler generously volunteered to lead the effort to restore this monument to public view. I'm proud to share that on April 25, we rededicated the monument at its new location on the Army Heritage Trail at the Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Thank you, Tom! (See the full story on page 10).

Let's build on this success! We encourage all members to continue locating, evaluating, and—when needed—helping restore our Battle of the Bulge monuments. Donations to the Monument Restoration Fund are still being accepted. As a special thank you, our Vice President of Veterans Affairs, Doris Davis, is offering a commemorative BOBA Coin to anyone who donates \$150 or more. Thank you, Doris!

In recent Bugle editions, we've introduced a Unit Spotlight feature, which has been very well received. This edition continues that tradition, highlighting the Separate Tank Battalions and their contributions during the Battle of the Bulge. You'll find the full article on pages 16 - 17.

There have also been a few leadership changes within BOBA. Our VP of Chapters and Regional Coordination, Andy Waskie, stepped down for personal reasons. I nominated, and the Board



approved, Leon Reed to serve as Interim VP. Additionally, our Social Media Director, Kayla Smith, has resigned. We are now actively seeking a replacement. If you have experience with Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), or similar platforms, please consider volunteering to help strengthen BOBA's online presence.

At the November 2024 General Membership Meeting, members approved a change in the Association's bylaws to shift our fiscal year from the calendar year (January 1–December 31) to April 1–March 31. This adjustment required a one-time, shortened fiscal year from January 1 to March 31, 2025. I'm pleased to report that we ended that period

with a net positive income of \$1,200, a welcome outcome compared to the projected \$4,000 deficit. This turnaround was made possible by more than \$4,000 in member donations. Thank you for your support!

Please remember: BOBA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and all donations are tax-deductible in accordance with IRS regulations. If you're eligible, you can also direct a contribution from your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to support our mission.

That said, membership dues remain essential to BOBA's financial health. Dues for the 2025 calendar year were due by December 31, 2024. If you haven't renewed yet, please take a moment to do so today.

Thank you for supporting BOBA and helping us preserve the legacy of our veterans—not only their courage and sacrifice, but also the integrity with which they lived their lives.

— Steve Landry, President and CEO

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Mary Ann Coates Smith, Treasurer



WE HAVE JUST concluded the first quarter of calendar year 2025 and have now transitioned to a fiscal year reporting system, effective April 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026. As of March 31, 2025, BOBA's total balance was \$113,841.99. This includes \$87,335.52 in the checking account, \$25,261.54 in a Certificate of Deposit, and \$1,244.93 in the Navy Federal Credit Union account.

This total reflects several key contributions, including \$1,802.04 from the closing of the New Jersey Chapter, a \$1,000.00 donation designated for BOBA's software and insurance, and various additional donations from members.

In April 2025, we paid \$2,625.00 in copyright renewal fees. Since then, BOBA has received several significant donations, including \$1,487.00—half of the proceeds from the showing of *The Farm Boy*, a WWII-based film—and \$1,000.00 from TowneBank as matching funds for my prior contribution. These gifts help us maintain operations and expand outreach efforts as we prepare for the annual reunion and continue our mission.

BOBA is sustained through the generosity of our members and supporters. Every donation—regardless of size—is equally valued and deeply appreciated. It is an honor to volunteer for this remarkable organization, whose impact extends far beyond the numbers on a balance sheet.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Christine Guidry Law



GREETINGS, READERS! It's an honor to bring you this first issue as solo editor of The Bulge Bugle. I'm proud to serve in this role, helping preserve the legacy of those who fought with courage and conviction.

This issue is filled with timely features: a call to our annual reunion in Philadelphia, September 18–22; moving monument restorations and ceremonies (pp. 9–10); special journeys

tracing our veteran ancestors' footsteps (pp. 14–15); a spotlight on tank battalions in the Battle of the Bulge (pp. 16–17); and heartfelt Bulge memories (p. 19).

I'm proud to continue the excellent work of our past editors and to bring my own passion for storytelling and historical preservation to these pages.

If you're a new member, welcome. If you've been here a while, I look forward to continuing this journey with you and honoring our shared mission.

Please feel free to reach out with story ideas, updates, or reflections at my new email address: bulge.bugle.editor@gmail.com.

OUTREACH REPORT

by Leon Reed

BOBA'S OUTREACH PROGRAM is a cornerstone of our mission to honor the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and ensure their legacy is never forgotten. While the Outreach Committee coordinates some efforts, many members actively engage in events on their own. Recent activities include:

Barbara Mooneyhan spoke to Bob Knight's Battle of the Bulge class at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina on April 9. The class of approximately 40 students responded enthusiastically to Barbara's presentation, which featured about 20 video clips of interviews with her father, illustrating the story of the 502nd Engineers from D-Day through the Battle of the Bulge.

Bruce Cotner, South Carolina Chapter member, presented on the Doolittle Raid—highlighting its roots in Columbia—to the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation. The talk was held under the wing of a restored B-25 bomber at Columbia's Jim Hamilton – LB Owens Airport.

John Baker gave a presentation at George Mason University about his father's World War II experiences, from the triumph of carrying the American flag in the 28th Division parade through Paris to the harrowing escape from Clervaux.

Alice Hinkle is organizing BOBA's participation in the Reading Airshow (June 6–8), marking our largest public event presence to date. A team of about six BOBA volunteers will staff our exhibit table.

Leon Reed will be a featured speaker at the Reading Airshow, presenting daily at 11 a.m. He will deliver two talks: one on the 80th Division's role in the relief of Bastogne, drawn from his published soldier memoirs; the other based on his latest book, focusing on the small-scale battles in the campaign's opening days that ultimately disrupted the German advance.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Joe Wollet

THE ASSOCIATION HAS 564 paid-up members as of April 28, 2025, including 64 Ardennes veterans and exactly 500 non-veteran members. The total includes 163 remaining lifetime members and 401 annual members, according to a report to the board from Joe Wollet, VP of Membership.

Results continue to come in from the membership team's phone call and email campaign to lapsed members. Since January, the number of renewals for lapsed members is 37. Thanks to Rosemary Corbett, Carol Higgins, Jeanne Thornton and Doris Davis for their tenacity.

Phone calls are continuing to the 98 individuals who lapsed at the end of 2024. If you have not renewed your membership for 2025, please send in your dues immediately. A total of 107 membership payments have been received year to date 2025, compared to 62 payments through the same period in 2024.

Pay your dues today! Visit battleofthebulge.org/store/join-boba/

WELCOME MEMBERS!

New or Reactivated Members (Feb. – Apr. 2025)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Gerard Brown | Fred Kurz, Jr. |
| Barbara Buescher | William Kuziel |
| Geoffrey Burrows | Leonard Levie |
| Matthew Callahan | Kenneth Mar |
| Rep. Salud Carajal | John Markuns |
| David Collins | Rep. Michael McCall |
| F. Gary Cunningham | Norbert Morbé |
| Virgil Davis | Greig Moyer, Jr. |
| James Dean | Laura Miron Napiewocki |
| Uta Dillard | Marilyn Newman |
| Raymond Dipietro | Sherry Owen |
| Marjorie Duffield | John Peniche |
| Tom Dunn | Judith Peter |
| Wayne Dunn | Ralph Pistone |
| Andrew Eisenberg | James Pomfret |
| Rep. Jake Ellzey | Christopher Poppe |
| Patricia Fader | Joseph Quagliano |
| Mary Fenocchi | Monte Roder |
| Rep. Scott Fitzgerald | Thomas Rodgers, Jr. |
| Julie Friar | Stephen Ruhlen |
| Luke Galambos | Roberta Russo |
| Ted Glogovac | Rep. Keith Self |
| Judith Gorman | Pauline & Doug Sharp |
| David Hartzell | David Shaw |
| Frank Hartzell, Jr. | Rep. Mark Takano |
| Hon. Harris Hollin | Monique Taylor |
| John Hollywood | Lillian Voigt |
| Jean Dasburg Jacobson | Col. William Vossler |
| Laura Jacobson | Rep. Ann Wagner |
| Marilyn Kirtley | Tom Ward |
| Linda Davis Krier | Linda Watts |
| Michael Ksycki | |

SCIONS OF THE 17TH AIRBORNE (ARBN) DIVISION: PILGRIMAGE TO THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE AND OPERATION VARSITY

by Patty Bowers

FROM MARCH 14–26, 2025, I had the honor of returning to the European Theater to retrace the footsteps of my father, Thomas Miller, who served with the 17th Airborne Division, 193rd Glider Regiment, HQ Company. This marked my second journey—my first was during the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. Like many veterans, my father never spoke of his wartime experiences. But with years of research behind me, I arrived this time with a deeper understanding—and a full heart.

The trip, tailored specifically for descendants of the 17th, was organized with great care and generosity by the 101st Airborne Belgian Friendly Group. It brought together sons, daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of veterans—each of us carrying our father’s or grandfather’s legacy close. We gathered from across the U.S. and met in Brussels, then made our way to Bastogne, which became our base for a journey that was as emotional as it was unforgettable.

We toured key battle sites where the 17th fought—Morhet, Magerotte, Houmont, Renuamont, “Dead Man’s Ridge,” Flamierge, and Mande-Saint-Étienne. Each place bore quiet testimony to sacrifice. At the 17th Airborne Memorial in Flamierge, we held a solemn ceremony, then visited Peace Wood, where a tree honors every veteran who returned after the war. Laying flowers at my father’s tree was one of the most profound moments of my life—standing in the same soil where he once stood, now holding space for memory.

I joined the 10-mile Dead Man’s Ridge Walk, following the same path the 17th Airborne took 80 years ago. The weather was mild, but in my mind, I saw the bitter snow, the weight of gear, and the fear they must have carried. Later that day, we helped dedicate a new memorial in Renuamont to the 550th Infantry Airborne Battalion—another layer of remembrance.

We honored the 761st Tank Battalion in Tillet and visited the Medal of Honor Memorial to Isadore Jachman. The 101st Airborne Museum in Bastogne was stirring—its vivid exhibits gave shape to stories we’d only heard in fragments. At the Luxembourg American Cemetery, emotion welled up in all of us. We laid wreaths in Hosingen and Clervaux, remembering lives cut short and battles hard fought.

In Houffalize, we paid tribute at the 17th Airborne plaque and Panther Tank, then closed the day with a moving ceremony at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery. The final stop brought us into Germany for the 80th Anniversary of Operation Varsity—the largest single-day airborne assault in history. In Wesel, we stood on the ground where they crossed the Rhine and helped turn the tide of war.

For those who haven’t made this journey—it’s more than a pilgrimage. It’s a passage of the heart. We came to honor the past, and we left with new friendships, fuller stories, and a deeper gratitude for the men whose courage shaped the world we now live in.



Patty Bowers standing next to her father’s tree at Peace Wood



17th Airborne ceremony at Renuamont Memorial

EMBASSY OF BELGIUM PAYS TRIBUTE AT ARLINGTON BULGE MONUMENT

by **Frederik Langhendries, Belgian Press and Communication Officer**

TO COMMEMORATE THE 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day, Belgian Defense and Foreign Trade Minister Theo Francken and Ambassador Frédéric Bernard visited Arlington National Cemetery. There, they joined Defense Attaché Brigadier General Bart Verbist, military representatives, members of the Battle of the Bulge Association, and the 101st Airborne Division Association & Screaming Eagle of WWII Foundation to lay a commemorative wreath at the Bulge monument. The ceremony honored American service members who fought and fell during World War II—especially those lost in the freezing forests of the Ardennes during the Battle of the Bulge.

“The 80th anniversary of the end of WWII in Europe offers us a moment to reflect on the extraordinary courage of the soldiers who helped liberate Belgium and restore peace to a continent torn by war,” said General Bernard.

The Battle of the Bulge, fought from December 1944 to January 25, 1945, was the deadliest single battle for American forces during the war. Over 19,000 U.S. soldiers were killed in action, with another 47,500 wounded and 23,000 reported missing. Belgium was fully liberated on February 4, 1945, after four long years of Nazi occupation.

Across Belgium, monuments stand as stone testaments to that sacrifice—including the iconic Battle of the Bulge Monument in Bastogne. These sites, like the wreath laid at Arlington, are symbols of lasting remembrance.

“Belgium will always remain thankful to the American veterans who helped secure our freedom,” said Minister Francken.



Left-to-Right: Gerlinde Vervolet, General Verbist’s wife; Mary Ann Coates Smith, BOBA Treasurer holding photo of her father James Coates (Bulge veteran); Christine Guidry Law, Bulge Bugle Editor; Brigadier General Bart Verbist, Belgian Defense Attaché to the U.S.



Left-to-Right: Randal E. Underhill, MSG, USA (R) 101st Airborne Division Association and Screaming Eagle of WWII Foundation; Christine Guidry Law, Bulge Bugle Editor; Mary Ann Coates Smith, BOBA Treasurer; Theo Francken, Belgian Defense and Foreign Trade Minister; Ambassador Frédéric Bernard; and Brigadier General Bart Verbist, Defense Attaché.

MEADE SOCIETY AND POST 405 HONOR BULGE VETERANS IN CAPE MAY, N.J.

by Andy Waskie

THE MEADE SOCIETY and American Legion Post 405 traveled to Cape May, New Jersey, for a special 80th Anniversary ceremony and wreath-laying at the Battle of the Bulge Memorial in the Cape May County Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Saturday, May 10, 2025.

The South Jersey Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge (VBOB) originally sponsored the memorial, which was dedicated in 2018. One of the keynote speakers at the original dedication was Battle of the Bulge veteran Dr. Elmer Umbenauer of the 8th Armored Division. He served as Secretary of the Chapter and as an officer of the 8th Armored Division Association.

This year's ceremony featured Battle of the Bulge veteran Jake Ruser, a combat medic with the 4th INFD and member of the Delaware Valley Chapter of VBOB. His stirring remarks inspired attendees to reflect deeply on the meaning of service, selfless sacrifice, and the enduring fight to secure liberty during times of crisis. The event took place on a beautiful spring day and drew thirty-five participants, including many veterans—especially from Legion Post 405 at the Union League of Philadelphia, which co-sponsored the commemoration.



Meade Society, American Legion Post 405, and BOBA members at wreath laying ceremony

LITTLE KNOWN MILITARY MUSEUMS IN THE U.S.

by Doris Davis, Vice President of Military and Veterans Affairs

ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, small but dedicated museums help preserve the history and legacy of World War II. These institutions offer unique insights into the lives and sacrifices of the men and women who served—and many welcome donations of artifacts and personal stories from Veterans and their families. We encourage you to visit and support these hidden gems:

MID-ATLANTIC

Eldred WWII Museum, Eldred, PA

80 mi. south of Buffalo, NY
<https://www.eldredpawwiimuseum.com/#/>
 Toll free 866-686 9944

Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum

4141 Fifth Ave • Pittsburgh, PA 15213
<https://www.soldiersandsailorshall.org/museum/>
 412-621-4253

Pennsylvania Veterans Museum

12 E. State St. • Media, PA 19063
<https://paveteransmuseum.org/museum/>
 610-566-0788

SOUTH

Camp Van Dorn WWII Museum

138 East Main • Centreville, MS 39631
<https://www.vandornmuseum.org>
 601-645-9000

Mississippi Armed Forces Museum

Bldg. 850, Forrest Ave. • Camp Shelby, MS 39407
<https://msarmedforcesmuseum.org/>
 601-558-2757

MID-AMERICA

Army Air Corps Museum, Dallas, TX

2 Sister Mobile Museums: Travels to schools, corporate, veteran and civic events
 Army Air Corps Museum: www.armyaircorpsmuseum.org
 Sons of Liberty Museum: www.sonsoflibertymuseum.org

Montana Military Museum

1956 Mt. Majo St. • Fort William Henry Harrison, MT 59636
<https://montanamilitarymuseum.org/>
 406-324-3550

George Patton Museum of Leadership

4554 Fayette Ave • Fort Knox, KY 40121
<https://generalpatton.org/>
 502-624-3391

Missouri History Museum

1315 Chestnut St. • St. Louis, MO
<https://mohistory.org/memorial>
 314-818-6780

WEST COAST

General George S. Patton Memorial Museum

2 Chiriaco Summit Rd • Chiriaco Summit, PA 92201
<https://www.generalpattonmuseum.org/>
 760-507-4143

We invite BOBA members to share additional small or lesser-known WWII museums. Email museum names and contact details to bulge.bugle.editor@gmail.com for inclusion in a future issue. Submissions will be acknowledged.

A PERSONAL TRIBUTE IN STONE: HONORING THE 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION

By Norbert Morbé, Luxembourg

IN 2010, AT THE age of 58, I built a monument in my village of Berlé to honor the brave men of the 90th INFD. They liberated our town on January 9, 1945—a moment we will never forget. I constructed the memorial myself, as a personal tribute to the soldiers who fought and sacrificed for our freedom during the Battle of the Bulge. I wanted to share this with the membership of BOBA and let you all know that we hold ceremonies each year to commemorate the anniversary of our liberation and to honor the memory of those who never came home.

The building seen in the background of one photo is the old village dairy, which miraculously survived the fighting in 1944–45. The jeep pictured was ours as well, a symbol of remembrance, though I've recently had to part with it due to health issues.

Even after 80 years of peace, our gratitude remains as strong as ever. We in Luxembourg will always remember and honor what the American soldiers did for us. Their courage gave us the gift of freedom.



Bulge Monument constructed by Norbert in Berlé, Luxembourg to honor the 90th Infantry Division. Old village dairy is shown in the background.



Norbert shown building the new monument.

RESTORED AND REMEMBERED: VBOB/BOBA MEMORIAL AT OHIO WESTERN RESERVE NATIONAL CEMETERY

by Joe Wollett

THANKS TO THE EFFORTS of Tom Tomastik, president of the Alton Litsenberger Chapter in Central Ohio, the VBOB/BOBA memorial at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery has been beautifully restored. Over the years, weather had worn away the lettering on the stone, rendering parts of it illegible. Tomastik coordinated with a local monument company to have the memorial relettered, returning it to its original, dignified condition. The project was completed just in time for spring visitors and upcoming commemorative events.

Located in Rittman, Ohio, the cemetery is the final resting place for more than 40,000 veterans and their eligible family members. Its serene landscape of rolling hills and farmland provides a peaceful backdrop for reflection. A winding path through the cemetery features over 130 commemorative stones, including this one from VBOB/BOBA, ensuring that the legacy of the Battle of the Bulge and those who served will not be forgotten.

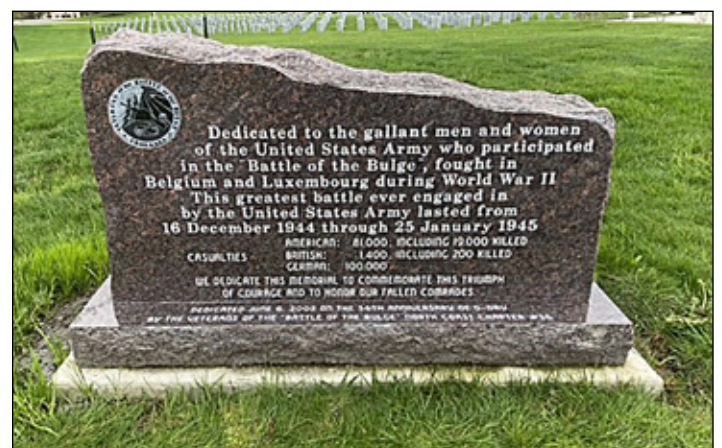


Photo courtesy of Tom Tomastik.

STONE BY STONE PRESERVING THE LEGACY

BOBA REDEDICATES MONUMENT IN CARLISLE

By Leon Reed

WITH SUPPORT FROM the Base Commander Carlisle, the Army Heritage and Education Center (AHEC), and other Army organizations located in Carlisle, PA, BOBA held a brief ceremony on April 24 to celebrate the return of the Bulge monument to public display. The monument had been erected in 1997 on the campus of the Army War College. But the monument was moved into storage a few years ago to make way for construction of Root Hall.

BOBA learned of this in September when I asked at the AHEC information desk. When I asked about the monument at the AHEC Information Desk and found it was in storage, I notified the BOBA Board. They approved a resolution to attain the monument and have it placed in an area where it can be seen. Thanks to the effort of Tom Vossler, a BOBA Member, the monument is

now standing in the Memorial Grove at the end of Army Heritage Walk at Army War College.

The ceremony happened on a bright, warm spring day. AHEC provide a tram to bring guests to the site. The ceremony opened with Patty Bowers leading the Pledge and Steve Landry reading a lovely invocation written by our Chaplain, Madeleine Bryant. Speakers included BOBA president Dr. Steve Landry, Base commander LTC Priscilla Nohle, and BOBA member Tom Vossler (Col.-Ret.). Vossler, retired head of the Army Military History Institute, was a speaker at the original 1997 dedication ceremony. The ceremony closed with Bulge Editor, Christine Guidry Law, reading the Benediction that was read at the 1997 ceremony when it was originally dedicated.

Top to bottom, L to R: BOBA members present at monument rededication. Battle of the Bulge Monument reinstated at Army Heritage and Education Center (AHEC). BOBA member Patty Bowers holding a photo of her father Thomas Miller (17th ARBN, 193rd HQ CO Glider Infantry Regiment). BOBA veteran Jake Ruser and Base commander LTC Priscilla Nohle
(Photos submitted by Christine Guidry Law & Patty Bowers)



SCIONS OF THE 17TH AIRBORNE MEET IN GETTYSBURG

By Leon Reed and Patty Bowers

BOBA WAS REPRESENTED at the 17th Airborne Convention in Gettysburg, April 11-14. The Historic Gettysburg Hotel served as conference headquarters. While many associations struggle to maintain interest and membership, the 17th is thriving.

A central feature of the reunion was a caravan to Carlisle, 30 miles away—home to the Army War College and the Army Heritage and Education Center (AHEC). While there, the 17th made the first official visit to the newly re-installed Bulge monument and held a brief ceremony. The Scions were also received at AHEC, where they toured the museum and viewed archival materials related to the 17th Airborne.

A highlight for many descendants was a roundtable event at the Gettysburg Hotel. Attendees were asked to bring a photo of their hero, and one-by-one, each shared the story of their veteran's life and military service. It was remarkable how many had been able to speak with their veteran before his passing—or had since done the research to fill in the gaps. The room held few "I wish I knew more" moments. There were detailed accounts, emotional reflections, and many tears.

As he returned home from the trip to Carlisle, Bulge veteran Richard Weaver remarked that it had been one of the best days of his life.

The reunion closed with a solemn Candlelight Memorial Service at Gettysburg Presbyterian Church.



Top right: U.S. Congressman Scott Perry (PA-10) greets Bulge veteran Richard Weaver. Perry gave the address at the Bulge monument ceremony in Carlisle.



Right: 17th Airborne Reunion attendees at Gettysburg Presbyterian Church after candlelight ceremony.



Diane Balderson who spoke about her father, Ray Brown, a Bulge veteran who did not get his Bronze Star until 80 years later. Ray passed only a few months ago.



17th Airborne Reunion attendees at the Bulge Monument at AHEC in Carlisle, PA.



2025 BOBA REUNION • PHILADELPHIA, PA

BOBA REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION FOR REUNION: MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025

Please complete and mail this registration form 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 18, 2025**. Detailed itinerary will be included in registration packet upon arrival.

Name..... BOBA Member: Yes No

Additional Guests

Address.....

Phone..... Email.....

Division, Regiment, Chapter, etc.....

Dietary Restrictions:

IMPORTANT: All attendees must pay the non-refundable registration fee. Each day's fee is ALL-INCLUSIVE.

		NO. OF PERSONS	TOTAL COST
REGISTRATION: (REQUIRED)	\$190	_____	_____
Hospitality/Meeting rooms, Banquet room. AV equip, Buses, etc.			
Late Registration fee after August 18, 2025	\$20	_____	_____
Friday, September 19, 2025	\$90	_____	_____
Open Board meeting Historic Presentations, Lunch, Dinner Banquet			
Box lunch: No. of Turkey _____ No. of Cranberry Chicken Salad _____ No. of Veggie Wrap _____			
Saturday, September 20, 2025 (Dinner on own)	\$110	_____	_____
Independence Hall, Liberty Bell, Lunch Cruise, Museum Tours			
Sunday, September 21, 2025 (Dinner on own)	\$30	_____	_____
Memorial Service, Mission BBQ Lunch, Valley Forge Ceremony			
Help Sponsor a Veteran or Reunion Experience		_____	_____
Help Support our Bugle Publication		_____	_____

Mail this form and check (payable to BOBA) to:

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

To pay with a credit/debit card or PayPal, register online at www.battleofthebulge.org, click on "Attend Reunion"

2025 BOBA REUNION • PHILADELPHIA, PA



BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOMS TODAY!

Hilton Garden Inn, Philadelphia, PA

Thursday, September 18 - Monday, September 22, 2025



\$159 + TAX - Standard King or Double (2 Queens)
Link for reservations below.

BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION

**DEADLINE FOR BOOKING WITH OUR DISCOUNT IS
AUGUST 22, 2025**

Hilton Garden Inn - Philadelphia PA
(Center City)
1100 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
1-215-923-0100

RESERVATIONS:

1. Call the property at **215-923-0100 option 2** or central reservations at **877-782-9444** and mention the **Group Name: 2025 BOBA Reunion OR Group Code: 90W**.
2. **Weblink:** [2025 Battle of the Bulge Association Reunion Booking Link](#)
3. Scan the **QR code** on the right
4. Check in: 3pm / Check out: 11am



AMENITIES:

- Handicapped rooms available upon request (based on availability)
- Relax in the heart of downtown Philadelphia
Reading Terminal Market is next door and Independence Hall is minutes away
- Two blocks from Jefferson Station and 13th St Trolley Station – hitch a ride to explore the wider city or reach the airport, 12 miles away
- Fitness center
- Free WiFi
- Digital Key
- Connecting Rooms
- Smoke-free
- On-site restaurant
- **Full Breakfast for additional fee**

PARKING:

Self-Parking Garage – Convenient parking for hotel guests is located in the covered parking garage below the hotel. The parking fee is **\$40** per vehicle, per night. The parking garage is a separate entity and not associated with the hotel.

MY FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS COMPLETING HIS UNFINISHED CHAPTER

By Kevin Hinkle, BOBA Executive Vice President

AS MANY OF US know, those who served in World War II often spoke very little about the war. My father, Kenneth D. Hinkle, was no different. He never talked about what he did or witnessed, didn't share his military documents, never mentioned his battle buddies. Even as a child, I sensed his experiences had been horrific. He had terrible nightmares. My mother would whisper, "Dad is okay," trying to soothe my fear. But I knew he wasn't.

He carried visible marks of his injuries, though I never understood how or why. It wasn't until a few years before his death in 1990 that he began to reconnect with some of his comrades. He'd served in the 159th Combat Engineers, Company B, alongside friends who'd been drafted together. The surviving men began to meet again—not just to recount war stories, but to talk about their lives and how hard it was to readjust in postwar America.

For my father, that struggle was profound. His injuries left him with a 90% disability, yet he refused VA benefits, saying others had it worse. He was, in his words, lucky. After convalescing for a year in an Army hospital, he found steady work as a painter for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

When my mother passed in 1997, I inherited a large collection of photos, letters, mementos, and service records—items I hadn't even known existed. That discovery launched my journey to trace my father's wartime footsteps. How I wished I could have spoken to him about it—father to son, veteran to family.

I began gathering everything I could find on the 159th. Thankfully, the unit had compiled a comprehensive diary chronicling their movement from Normandy to Germany. I was surprised to learn that Dad had served in the Battle of the Bulge. The 159th was attached to the 4th INFD (The Ivy) and was near the village of Echternach, Luxembourg when the Ardennes Offensive began.

This sector—the southern shoulder of the Bulge—rarely receives attention in history books, but it played a key role in slowing down the German advance. On 21 December 1944, my father was severely wounded defending Hill 313 near the village. Company B wasn't trained as infantry. They were combat engineers, yet they learned on the spot how to fire rifles, machine guns, even bazookas, holding the line under brutal conditions. When the smoke cleared, the company was decimated. Every man was either killed, wounded, or captured.

By the time I examined his records, most of his fellow soldiers had passed. But one detail caught my eye: Dad had been a member of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge (VBOB). That connection drew me to the Battle of the Bulge Association (BOBA), and eventually into its leadership.

When I retired in 2022, I finally had time to dedicate to research. I secured the services of a military historian who combed through the National Archives and sent me an extraordinary amount of material about the Ardennes Offensive. Around the same time, I attended a BOBA reunion in Gettysburg and met Jake Ruser.

What first drew me to Jake was the Combat Medic Badge he wore. We began talking, and I was stunned to learn he had been



Kevin and Alice Hinkle at roadside memorial near Hill 313.

in Luxembourg at the same time as my father. We met again at other events, and that's when I learned something remarkable: Jake had been assigned as the medic to my father's company.

He described his time working from a small church in Altrier, just a few kilometers from Hill 313, helping treat wounded soldiers and send them to the rear. He couldn't confirm treating my father directly, but that hardly mattered. Knowing Jake had been there—saving lives in those same freezing woods—only strengthened my determination to travel to Luxembourg and complete the journey of solving the mystery of Dad's time there.

In December 2024, my wife Alice and I joined a small group traveling through Belgium and Luxembourg. We visited many of the well-known sites: Bastogne, St. Vith, Malmedy, Stavelot. But we also went off the beaten path. At Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in Belgium, we paid respects to three men from my father's company who were killed the same day my father was wounded.

On December 21, we climbed Hill 313—the same hill where my father had fought and fallen. The terrain was harsh, scarred with remnants of foxholes and makeshift bunkers. The freezing wind cut through our coats, and waist-high snow clung to the ground. It was easy to imagine the unimaginable.

Standing there, on the same day and place 80 years later, a strange calm washed over me. It was not peace, exactly, but a reckoning. No film, no book could convey what those men lived through. My father's nightmares—so abstract to me as a child—suddenly had form.

continued on page 15

My Father's Footsteps... continued from page 14.

Near the hill, we found a roadside memorial dedicated to the 159th Combat Engineers and the regiments of the 4th and 5th Infantry Divisions. Placed by the citizens of Echternach, it honors the men who stood in defense to slow the German advance. We left a small memento in the time capsule. I felt a deep need for others to know what happened on that hill.

The next day, we met with town officials in Echternach. A retired professor—the mayor's father—shared more details about the battle that raged between December 16 and 25, 1944. Before leaving the U.S., I'd compiled a booklet of material on the 159th. I gave it to the town officials, hopeful it could be a future reference for other visitors.

In March 2025, we attended a veterans gathering at a local

retirement community. Jake was there. I showed him photos of Echternach, Hill 313, and the Altrier church. As he looked through them, he seemed to return to that long-ago December. His memory was sharp, his recollection vivid. Whether or not he treated my father directly, his heroism helped save lives that day—including, perhaps, my father's. I'll never forget that. To me, Jake will always be a hero of 21 December 1944.

Many people have called this the "trip of a lifetime." But for me, it was more than that. It was the final chapter of my father's story—the one he couldn't write himself. I will always remember the icy wind, the sting of the snow, and the stillness of that hill. I walked in my father's footsteps. And now, at last, that chapter is complete.



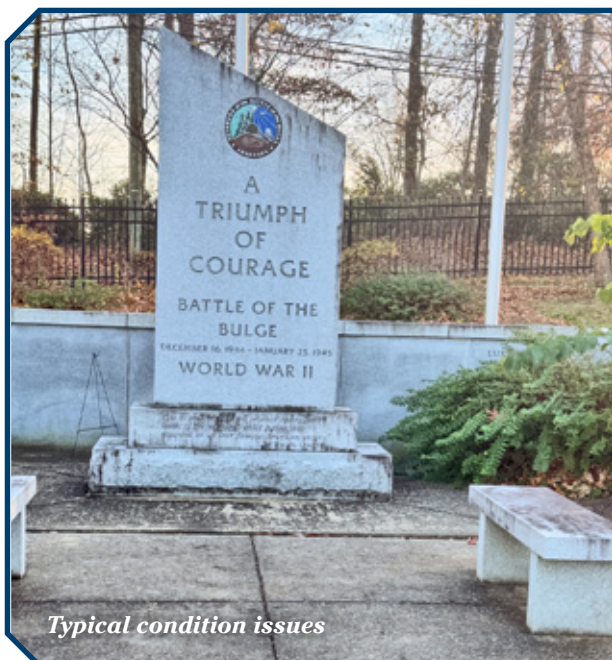
Kevin thanking his dad's company commander at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in Belgium.



Discussions regarding the liberation of Echternach, Luxembourg with the secretary of tourism and a retired professor.



Church where 159th took refuge in Altrier.



Typical condition issues

MONUMENT FUND

THE BOARD APPROVED a Monument Restoration Fund. Funded by donations, this fund will be available to maintain, repair, and care for the 46 U.S. monuments installed by VBOB/BOBA.

A survey of this inventory showed that many of these monuments are in fine shape but that some have deteriorated over time and need a little restoration work. The monument at Valley Forge Military Academy (left) shows some of the concerns we have discovered: the red segment of the seal has faded and there is a covering of mold.

Please help us keep the memory of our soldiers alive by donating to the Monument Restoration Fund.

Donors who contribute \$150 or more to the fund will receive a BOBA coin and a photo of the restored monument.

Please consider donating to this worthwhile fund to keep our history alive.



UNIT SPOTLIGHT

SEPARATE TANK BATTALIONS IN THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

by Member Aaron Danis, LTC, USA, (Ret.)



BRIEF HISTORY

THE U.S. ARMY BEGAN developing Separate Tank Battalions (STBs) in 1940 to provide armored support to infantry divisions that lacked organic tank units. STBs were tasked with direct fire support, assisting infantry in clearing defensive positions and urban areas, and engaging enemy armor. Some were also equipped with specialized gear, such as duplex-drive tanks for amphibious landings, river-crossing tractors, and mine-clearing equipment.

In practice, however, the concept was challenging. With only 28 STBs available in the European Theater to support 42 infantry divisions, the battalions were frequently reassigned based on need. While Corps headquarters attempted to habitually attach certain STBs to specific divisions, such pairings were often short-lived. The longer an STB remained with a division, the more effective their combined arms coordination became.

A typical STB fielded three companies of M4 Sherman medium tanks (15 tanks each at full strength, though this was rare in combat) and one company of M3 Stuart light tanks, which proved ineffective against German armor. Often, individual tank companies were “farmed out” to infantry regiments, leaving little time for joint training. Though designed as battalion-sized units, STBs were rarely deployed intact, and their pace was dictated by the foot soldiers they supported.

Separate Tank Battalions Engaged in the Ardennes Campaign, 16 December 1944 to 25 January 1945

(Primary units of attachment in parentheses; ID=Infantry Division)

70th TK (4th ID)	741st TK (2nd & 99th IDs)
702nd TK (80th ID)	743rd TK (30th ID)
707th TK (28th ID)	745th TK (1st ID)
709th TK (8th & 78th IDs)	746th TK (9th ID)
712th TK (90th ID)	750th TK (75th ID)
735th TK (26th & 35th IDs)	759th TK (Light) (4th Cavalry Group)
737th TK (5th ID)	761st TK (87th ID)
738th TK (mine-exploder) (independent)	771st TK (84th ID)
739th TK (mine-exploder) (independent)	774th TK (83rd ID)
740th TK (30th ID & 82nd Airborne Division)	

Compiled by the author from Harry Yeide's compilation of STB profiles found on his webpage: <https://www.yeide.net/new-page-17>; Danny S. Parker, Hitler's Last Gamble, 16 December 1944 – 2 January 1945, Historical Summary and Analysis, and various individual STB After Action Reports found at the Ike Skelton Combined Arms Research Library Digital Library here: <https://cgsc.contentdm.oclc.org/>.

STBS IN THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

SEPARATE TANK BATTALIONS were engaged from the first day of the Battle of the Bulge. The 707th STB, attached to the 28th Infantry Division, was nearly destroyed along with much of the division, which was thinly spread over a 30-mile front. The 740th STB was rushed forward with tanks pulled from a repair depot and played a pivotal role in halting SS Task Force Peiper.

As reinforcements poured in from the north and south, more STBs joined the fight. My grandfather served in the 771st STB, attached to the 84th Infantry Division near Marche, Belgium. On Christmas Day, Company B of the 771st repelled an attack by a German armor company from the 116th Panzer Division near the town of Verdenne, destroying nine Panthers and Mark IVs at the cost of one Sherman tank—the battalion's largest tank-on-tank engagement of the war.



Tanks of the 771st Tank Battalion in Berismenil, Belgium, on 14 January 1945.

This pattern was common across STBs. Though designed to support infantry, many found themselves in direct armor combat—a role that required intense gunnery training not always possible under combat conditions. An estimated 733 Allied tanks and tank destroyers were lost during the Ardennes Campaign, many likely from STBs. After the war, the Army phased out STBs in favor of more integrated armored units.

Sources and Further Reading

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 - FM 17-33: The Tank Battalion, 19 Dec 1944
 - FM 17-36: Employment of Tanks with Infantry, 13 Mar 1944

VOICES OF THE TANK BATTALIONS

“THE 740TH TANK BATTALION IN THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE”

By Alex McCrae, *Bulge Bugle* August 2009

TAYLOR WAS A MEMBER of the 740th Tank Battalion, a specialized unit which was assigned to different infantry divisions whenever extra armored support was needed. Because the 740th was not permanently attached to a division, it was known as a “bastard battalion.”

The battalion traveled through Paris and passed through several French towns on the way to Neufchateau, Belgium, where they prepared men and equipment for the battles ahead.

On December 16, the call to action arrived when a huge German force pushed deep into Belgium on the first day of the Battle of the Bulge. The 740th headed for the ordnance depot at Sprimont, Belgium and, after spending the night taking on fuel and arms, rolled for the Ambleve Valley, where the unit faced enemy fire for the first time.

On 19 December, 1944, the 740th encountered one of Germany's toughest tank units, the 1st SS Panzer Division. By then, every American soldier was aware of the 1st SS Panzer Division and not just because of its battlefield reputation. The 1st SS Panzer Division was also notorious for executing more than 80 captured American soldiers at the town of Malmedy. Americans knew about the “Malmedy Massacre” and the 740th was ready for some revenge. “We all knew what had happened at Malmedy and we were fighting mad,” Taylor says. “We hadn't been in battle before, but we went after them with all we had.” Taylor said the first enemy encounter was an eye opener. “At first we were all scared as hell,” he says. “But you got hardhearted pretty quick. Especially when you started seeing your friends get killed.”

Once the battle began, the vaunted 1st SS Panzer Division was no match for the 740th, and began to retreat. Taylor's unit chased the Germans for miles until the crippled 1st Panzer Division escaped. No one in the 740th was killed in that initial action, but the unit lost six tanks and had 10 wounded.

The 740th moved on to Spa, Belgium, and joined with the 82nd Airborne Division. For weeks the fighting was fierce and the weather was worse, as northern Europe was gripped by record-breaking cold. Infantrymen hitched rides on tanks when the snow was too deep to walk in. Inside the tank, things were not much better. The tank's head was supplied by the engine, but the engine sucked cold air through the tank for combustion negating most of the engine's potential heat. “Usually it was too cold to sleep,” Taylor says. “All we could do was curl up in the tank like dogs. You even learned to sleep standing up.”

The American Sherman tanks had enough firepower and maneuverability to go toe-to-toe with smaller German tanks. But Taylor says they were completely outmatched by the German massive Tiger tanks, heavily-armored monsters armed with the feared 88 mm guns. Taylor says there was only one way to take on a Tiger.

“First of all, you hoped you saw it first,” he says. “If you come around a corner and ran into one of those things, you were in trouble. We had to attack the Tigers in a group. One tank would knock off the tracks to make it immobile, and then others would take it on and tear it up. We were more maneuverable so once we got moving they couldn't keep up, but you couldn't go one-on-one with them.

On one occasion, Taylor's worst nightmare came true when he rounded a bend in the road and found himself staring straight at a Tiger tank. Luckily, the Tiger's gun turned the other way and before Taylor had time to give the order, his gunner blew out the Tiger's tracks. Moments later, another American tank joined the attack. “We did what we could, but if that other tank hadn't showed up, I wouldn't be here today,” Taylor says.

When the BoB ended late January 1945, so many tanks had been destroyed, the 740th was at half strength.

“BULGE MEMORIES”

By Harry Miller, *Bugle*, July 2024

FINALLY ON THE 17TH, we got the word from First Army that we're supposed to join the 30th Division. We said we don't have any tanks. Oh that's no problem, we can get you tanks. Go down to the ordnance depot and you can have whatever you find in there. And we thought, “Oh boy, new tanks.”

It was a bunch of junk. We had to put together what we could. The problem is none of the tanks had gunsights, none of them had radios. That was just part of the problem, that was the biggest problem. So we worked all night finding what we could and we managed to put together two tanks and one tank destroyer and waited for orders.

They told us to go down to the railroad station at the town of Stoumont. And they said the First SS Panzer Division is trying to break through. 30th Infantry is in ditches beside the road and they're sweating blood and need tank support fast.

So we took the two Shermans and the tank destroyer down to the train station. There was a big long curve by the train station. The infantry was there and the Germans were just coming up the road.

So we sent the first tank down and he came face to face with a Panther. Our first tank pulled up and he knocked it out with the first round. He started to reload and the round got stuck in the breach. So he had to wait for the second tank.

So the second tank pulled up. He came around real slow. He ran into the second German tank. And he fired and knocked that one out.

Then it was the tank destroyer's turn. He had a 90 mm gun and one of the best gun crews in the battalion. They put three rounds of 90mm into that tank and tore it up.

After that that word got around and everyone had heard of us and everyone wanted us with their team. They knew we were the best tank crew to get hold of.

VETERAN 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 your responses to:

bulge.bugle.editor@gmail.com

DIVISION REUNION UPDATE

THE FOLLOWING IS AN addition to the list published in our Winter issue of *The Bugle*. Please contact the individuals noted for further information. Some Divisions require membership in order to attend a reunion. Many Divisions welcome Associate Members.

8TH ARMORED DIVISION

SEPT 18 - 22, 2025 • Combined with the Battle of the Bulge Association Reunion

DEADLINE: August 22, 2025

CONTACT: Anthony Waskie

8tharmoreddivision@gmail.com

WEBSITE: 8th-armored.org

29TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

SEPT 18 - 21, 2025 • Williamsburg, VA

DEADLINE: August 18, 2025

CONTACT: Frank Arminger, natexedir@29div.com

WEBSITE: 29thdivisionassociation.com

87TH INFANTRY DIVISION

SEPT 18 - 22, 2025 • Legacy Association, Combined with the Battle of the Bulge Association Reunion

DEADLINE: August 22, 2025

CONTACT: Tom Hewlett hewlettthom@gmail.com

WEBSITE: 87thinfantry.org/

95TH INFANTRY DIVISION

OCT 29 - NOV 2, 2025 • New Orleans, LA

DEADLINE: September 29, 2025

REGISTER THROUGH THE WEBSITE: 95divassociation.com

FACEBOOK: 95thDivisionLegacyAssociation

Complied by Doris Davis, Vice President of Military and Veterans Affairs and President of the Golden Gate Chapter.

OWN A PIECE OF HISTORY: BOBA CHALLENGE COIN AVAILABLE NOW!



COIN FRONT



COIN BACK

Battle of the Bulge Association Challenge Coin

\$20.00

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EMAIL: _____

COIN - \$20 each x _____ qty	sub total:	\$ _____
U.S. SHIPPING & HANDLING (1 - 5 coins)	+ \$5.00	\$ _____
U.S. SHIPPING & HANDLING (6 + coins)	+ \$10.00	\$ _____
INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING	+ \$12.00	\$ _____
	TOTAL DUE	\$ _____

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 Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.
 Mail to: BOBA Inc., P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330
Questions? bobamembership@gmail.com

SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR VETERANS! BUY 1 FOR \$30, GET 2ND COPY FOR \$10! 2 FOR \$40

HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR VBOB CERTIFICATE?

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Certificate Order Form

I have enclosed a check for: **One certificate: (\$30)** **Two certificates: (\$40)**

I request an 11" x 17" certificate and certify the veteran named below received credit for the Ardennes campaign. Please include the following information on the certificate:



FIRST NAME _____ MIDDLE INITIAL _____ LAST NAME _____

SERIAL NUMBER _____ RANK _____ UNIT _____

ORGANIZATION _____

Usually Company, Battalion and/or Regiment and/or Division. Please check one if applies: **KILLED IN ACTION** **DIED OF WOUNDS**

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

MAILING INFORMATION: (SPECIAL PRICE SHIPS TO 1 MAILING ADDRESS ONLY)

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

BOBA MEMBER: YES NO (MEMBERSHIP NOT A REQUIREMENT)

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ORDER ONLINE: WWW.BATTLEOFTHEBULGE.ORG • NO PHONE ORDERS • QUESTIONS: bobamembership@gmail.com



MARGARET HAMMOND WALENSKI 16TH GENERAL ARMY HOSPITAL

“A CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER,” BULGE BUGLE, FEB 2010

THERE WAS SNOW, plenty of snow. The air was cold and crisp and clear. A picture- perfect setting for the Christmas season. But this was December 1944, and this was Belgium.

Located between Liege and the German border, the 16th General Army Hospital was in a most precarious position at this time. Row on row of army ward tents clearly marked with big red crosses on each roof stood in the field at the top of the hill. The chateau which housed female personnel was about a quarter mile away. Although the chateau appeared to be a medieval fortress, even surrounded by a moat, we were well aware of our vulnerability.

For weeks, we had watched the glow from artillery fire light up the horizon and had followed the track of anti-aircraft fire as it streaked across the winter skies. The V-2 rockets sputtered at intervals every night. It was when their put-put-put stopped that we held our breath waiting to hear the blast of the landing. When on night duty, someone would race out of the tent at the sound of an approaching buzz-bomb to see what track it was traveling. Once seen beyond our area or on either side, we knew it was not our route and we were not doomed for destruction with that one.

Casualties continued to roll in. Work continued and so did the snow and cold. That week before Christmas could hardly be called festive but we did manage a few decorations for the wards and a party of sorts at the Officers Club. The enemy had been advancing steadily. We had been ordered to pack our musette bags with supplies for three days and be prepared to leave all else behind should we be forced to evacuate the area.

Some nights we would go to the top floor of the chateau to watch “dog fights” or the trails from anti-aircraft guns as they repelled the attackers. Christmas Eve was different. It was not too noisy. Or had we not heard as we tried to enjoy ourselves? Laughter was there but underneath was the yearning for home and Christmas past. The feelings were not expressed, but each one was aware of what could happen should the Germans suddenly move closer to their objective: Liege.

In our room at the chateau, a tall slender tin water pitcher was bedecked with a few scrawny green boughs and decorated with an odd assortment of small items. A sad imitation of a Christmas tree, but loaded with Yuletide spirit.

Since mail from the States had been delayed, there was little hope of presents from home. Each of us managed to find some small token for the others, although we knew that the gifts would be left behind if we had to move out. Poems and stories accompanied each present and lifted our spirits for a while as we shared them and laughed together.

The roaring sound of approaching aircraft interrupted our masquerade of merriment. The planes, too close and too low, very definitely were not ours! Repeated rounds of machine gun fire echoed through the Holy Night. Seven stalwart army nurses became motionless and speechless. Slowly conversation resumed with questions tumbling over one

another, wondering what was going on. Had the enemy reached our area? Was anyone hurt? Would we be loaded into trucks and moved? We sat and waited.

It was not until the evening nurses returned to the chateau at midnight that we heard the grim facts. Two enemy planes had made a fast run over our tented hospital, raining down their deadly missiles as they flew. A couple of German renegades had disregarded Christmas Eve and all the rules of the game. Using the big red crosses for targets.

Two corpsmen were killed as they carried coal to fill the pot-bellied stoves in the ward tents. Others were injured, but the toll could have been worse. This tragic news was all we needed after an evening of suppressed sadness.

One by one we wept. Clinging to each other or sobbing quietly alone, huddled in a blanket. The tears flowed without shame. All of the loneliness of Christmas away from home and family, all the fear of imminent invasion, all the weariness of long hours of work, and all the stress of being brave and courageous were released in the streams of tears, as we mourned for our dead and wounded comrades.

Not your traditional holiday season, but then the worst was over. We began to hear good reports from the incoming wounded. There was a breakthrough and our forces had the Germans on the run. The holidays were over and we had survived the Battle of the Bulge!

Now, in a land far away, where there is no snow, no cold, crisp air. Yuletide will see only sun, sand, and heat. Thousands of young men and women will again struggle with loneliness and thoughts of home, not knowing when they will be called upon to give their all.

Perhaps this present time of Silent Night-Holy Night will bring a breakthrough as it did years ago and they will survive and again give thanks for Peace on Earth-Good Will to all.

Available in BOBA's newest booklet, Nurses and Guardian Angels, cost, \$12 plus shipping. Contact leonsreed@gmail.com.

Nurses from 77th Evacuation Hospital (L-R) Marion Cross, Enid Wherley, Mary Ewing, Dorothy Gillette, Bessie Walker, Esther Sipple.



REPORT FROM THE INTERIM VP, CHAPTERS

By Leon Reed

FIRST, A HEARTFELT thank-you to my predecessor, Andy Waskie, who left me some very big shoes to fill.

It is no secret that many of our local chapters have declined in recent years. Looking at the situation optimistically, we still have ten chapters currently active.

There is good news: after reaching out to all listed chapters, I heard from two that I hadn't realized were still active: Alton

Litsenberger, Ohio (Tom Tomastik, president) and Central Indiana (Chris Schneider, president). That's encouraging.

In the next few months, I'll be exploring how the VP for Chapters, along with other Board members, can better support our chapters; how active chapters can recruit new members; and whether it's feasible to establish new chapters in areas with interest and potential.

CHAPTER REPORTS

ALTON LITSENBERGER, OHIO

Tom Tomastik, Chapter President

The Chapter is still active, but down to only four members. Tom Tomastik is the President. The Chapter meets from May through December at the MCL Cafeteria in Upper Arlington, Ohio. The Chapter recently undertook a project to rehabilitate the Bulge monument in the Rittman (OH) National Cemetery.

CENTRAL INDIANA

Chris Schneider, Chapter President

The Chapter meets in Indianapolis. It has no veterans, but the members continue to participate in events such as Memorial Day parades. Each year, they present a Bulge exhibit during December and January at a nearby state park.

DELAWARE VALLEY, PHILADELPHIA REGION

Andy Waskie, Chapter President

The DelVal Chapter meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. in the Chapel of the Four Chaplains at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. Please note: there are no meetings in July, and the holiday meeting takes place on the second Wednesday of December, with no meetings at the end of November or December. Meetings are free and open to all who are committed to preserving and promoting the legacy of our WWII veterans.

On March 8, 2025, WWII and Battle of the Bulge veterans Jake Ruser and Benjamin Berry were honored at the annual 1st Regiment NGP Dinner at the Union League of Philadelphia. This year's event also marked the 278th Anniversary of the 103rd Engineer Battalion, known as "The Dandy First." The evening was organized and sponsored by the Veteran Corps of the First Regiment Infantry and the First Regiment Infantry Corporation.

Jake Ruser, Chapter President Andy Waskie, and member Christine Guidry Law also represented BOBA in Carlisle, PA, where Jake participated in a WWII history presentation at Carlisle High School and then all three attended the rededication of the Carlisle BOBA monument. (See pages 8 & 10 for full stories.)

Jake continued his outreach efforts by joining the Meade Society and Post 405 on a commemorative trip to Cape May, NJ, which included a special 80th Anniversary Ceremony and wreath-laying at the Battle of the Bulge Memorial in the Cape May County Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Saturday, May 10, 2025.



BOBA veterans Jake Ruser and Benjamin Berry at the 278th Anniversary of the 103rd Engineer Battalion event in Philadelphia. (Photo submitted by Andy Waskie)



Albert El, Christine Guidry Law, Jake Ruser, and Andy Waskie represent the Delaware Valley BOBA Chapter at Carlisle High School WWII History event.

CHAPTER NEWS

SOUTH CAROLINA

Nelson McLeod, Chapter President

The South Carolina Chapter typically meets at Little Pigs Barbecue in Columbia on the second Saturday of March, June, September, and December, with average attendance ranging from 30 to 50 members. A record 139 attended the most recent meeting. Among the members are Battle of the Bulge Veteran Vernon Brantley, WWII 8th Air Force Veteran Bruce Cook, and Pacific Army Air Corps Veteran Charles Shealy.

Past meetings have also been held at the National Museum of the Mighty 8th Air Force in Savannah, a local collector's office, another collector's farm and parade field, and at both Nelson's home and church. The upcoming June meeting will take place at Columbia's Hamilton-Owens Airport in the hangar of the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation, home to a restored B-25 bomber.

The Chapter recently participated in a special commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, hosted by Dr. Jim Chow and his volunteers near Columbia. Four WWII veterans attended: Vernon Brantley (75th INFD), Bruce Cook (379th Bomb Group), Charles Shealy (71st Bombardment Group), and George Inabinet (U.S. Navy). The event featured a presentation by Ivo Rigter Sr. and Ivo Rigter Jr., owners of British American Infantry Vehicles (BAIV) of Eindhoven, Netherlands, a world-renowned company specializing in WWII military equipment restoration. Guests also toured an extensive collection of Allied and Axis vehicles and equipment, followed by a live demonstration.

Top right: WWII Veterans Charles Shealy, Bruce Cook, and Vernon Brantley at chapter meeting.
(Photo submitted by Nelson McLeod)

Right: Gay Suber driving a 1942 Jeep MB



VIRGINIA CRATER CHAPTER

Mary Ann Coates Smith, Chapter President

BOBA Historian and Virginia War Memorial Director of Education, Jim Triesler, has been actively organizing 16 events this year at the Memorial. One especially meaningful program, attended by Mary Ann in March, honored Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. Howard Lee Baugh (1920–2008), a native of Petersburg, Virginia, who flew 136 combat missions during World War II. His sons, David and Howard Baugh, now serve as President and Treasurer of the Petersburg Chapter.

A life-size statue of Lt. Col. Baugh was unveiled in November 2018, marking Virginia's first monument dedicated to a member of the Tuskegee Airmen. A light reception followed the unveiling.

Beyond in-person programs, Jim also produces numerous livestream events throughout the year. Most recently, Mary Ann appeared in "Say Their Names," a Memorial Day tribute by journalist Greg McQuade of Richmond's TV6.

(Photo right) Mary Ann Coates Smith, Crater Chapter President, at the Virginia War Memorial with Stephen Ross (left) and Greg McQuade (right), journalist for CBS TV6. Stephen crafts wooden American flags in memory of his Marine son, who is interred in Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery. Greg invited Mary Ann to bring a photo of her father for an interview

and video tribute, which aired May 2–3, 2025, on TV6/Scripps. Stephen happened to arrive during the filming. Mary Ann's father's name is etched on the Memorial's glass wall, among thousands of other Virginians who gave the ultimate sacrifice.



Photo by Enza "Camera Girl" Marcey. Submitted by Mary Ann Coates Smith

• IN MEMORIAM •

J. BURSON

2/24/2024
Oxford, Ga
428 MP ESCORT GUARD CO

BRANTLEY DAVIS

1/21/2024
Bellingham, WA
32 CAV RECON SQDN F

JAMES GLEN GRAFF

8/11/2024
Middletown, IL
35th INFD, 134th REGT, CO. C

CHARLES CORBIN, JR.

12/5/2024
Vass, NC
3 ARMDD 391 FA 1 BN A

CHARLES EARLY

2/24/2024
Freeport, PA
80 INFD 905 FA BN C

SGT. MAURICE "HAP" RENEY

3/14/2025
Hopkinton, NH
30th INFD, 117th REGT, CO. C

ROBERT E. GORMAN, JR.

2/8/2025
Exeter, RI
141 AAA GUN BN

TRIBUTES TO HEROES

JAMES GLEN GRAFF - 35th INFD, 134th REGT (CO C)

August 20, 1925 – August 11, 2024



Battle of the Bulge veteran James "Jim" Glen Graff was a lifelong resident of rural Middletown, Illinois. A graduate of Middletown High School and student at Lincoln College, he was inducted into the U.S. Army in 1944. Jim served with distinction in WWII, seeing combat in the Battle of the Bulge, Holland, the Rhine crossing, the Ruhr Pocket, and ending near the Elbe River. He returned home in 1945 and was honorably discharged from the 5th Division later that year. His awards included two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart.

Jim documented his service in his memoir, *Reflections of a Combat Infantryman*, a moving and personal account of his wartime experience.

He was deeply committed to the 35th Division Association, serving two terms as president and earning a place in its Hall of Fame. A passionate historian, he helped found the Reactivated Civil War 114th Illinois Infantry Regiment and the Springfield Civil War Round Table.

Though proud of many achievements, Jim's greatest pride was his military service—and his willingness to lend a hand to anyone in need.

Donations may be sent to the 35th Division Association, P.O. Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605.

ROBERT E. GORMAN, JR. - 141 AAA GUN BN

Robert E. Gorman, Jr., age 100, of Cranston, Rhode Island, passed away peacefully on February 8, 2025 at HopeHealth Hular Hospice Center. A proud member of the Greatest Generation, Robert served with distinction in the U.S. Army during World War II, attaining the rank of Sergeant.

He fought bravely in some of the most grueling campaigns of the European Theater, including the Rhineland, the Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge), Central Europe, Ruhr Pocket, Aachen, and Saint Vith. For his service, he was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon, the American Theater Ribbon, and the Victory Ribbon.

Military honors and committal prayers were held on March 3 at the Rhode Island Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Exeter. His life and service stand as a lasting testament to courage, sacrifice, and devotion to country.

SGT. MAURICE "HAP" RENEY - 30th INFD 117th REGT (CO G)

Maurice "Hap" Reney of Grantham (6/20/25 – 3/14/25), was a proud American and decorated WWII veteran. He joined the U.S. Army in 1943, training with the 10th Mountain Division before deploying overseas. He served with the 117th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, and saw combat in the second wave at Normandy and during the Battle of the Bulge. For his bravery on night patrols in Germany, he was awarded two Bronze Stars, one with an Oak Leaf Cluster.

Following the war, Hap and his wife Eleanor ran Reney's Store in Grantham for over 30 years, creating a cherished local gathering place. He also served 12 years as town selectman and remained civically engaged throughout his life.

Hap exemplified quiet patriotism, steadfast service, and deep devotion to his community.

To honor Hap's memory, the family suggested donations be made to the Battle of the Bulge Association.



A WARM WELCOME WITH SHINING LIGHT

by Robert E. Gorman, 141 AAA GUN BN

February 2016 Bugle

I AM A WORLD WAR II Army veteran who served in Europe from the Cherbourg peninsula beach landing near Saint-Lo France, to the Battle of the Bulge.

So to get to my story: our artillery training in Fort Bliss, Texas was completed in 1943. Now that our training was completed, we were transported to Camp Myles Standish in Massachusetts by troop train. The troop train ride was quite a long and exhausting ride from El Paso, Texas. I will never forget we were nearing the end of our transport from Texas. It was very late. I was seated at a window seat and in the distance I could see a bright, light on the horizon. Soon we came to a platform dock at the train station in Alliance that was very brightly lit. When the train stopped and we left the train, we were greeted with coffee, donuts and sandwiches by a group of women who told us that they were Gold Star Mothers, wives and others. There was plenty of food and we ate until we all had our fill. After we were finished eating, they told us to take anything that was leftover with us. While we were leaving, they were telling us, "God's blessings", and "We have lots of love and pride for you soldiers". This send

off was something that I have never forgotten over all of these years. It meant so much to me and all of the troops on the train.

I am now ninety-one years old, and I can remember and still see that shining light shining ever so bright for us on the horizon. About fifteen years ago, I wrote to the Alliance mayor and this wife of this ever-meaningful event on that evening in 1943. They were very happy to hear the story and they even called to talk with me one Sunday.

During our conversation, they mentioned that the platform in Alliance had just been replaced.

So in closing "THANK YOU ALL" and God bless all for the wonderful welcome that the community of Alliance gave to the troops who were heading overseas to fight for our country.



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

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Yearly Veteran (Bulge Vet) Membership: \$20

*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.*

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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Name Service Units (if applicable)

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