

The BULGE BUGLE®

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

VOLUME XLV NUMBER 2

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

SUMMER 2026





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*® the official publication of the Battle of the Bulge Association®, Inc.

Editor: Christine Guidry Law

EMAIL: bulge.bugle.editor@gmail.com

BOBA MEMBERSHIP OFFICE

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

EMAIL: BOBAmembership@gmail.com

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

VISIT THE BOBA WEB SITE: WWW.BATTLEOFTHEBULGE.ORG
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

BOBA, INC. BOARD ELECTED OFFICERS

President and CEO: Steve Landry

Executive Vice President:

Kevin Hinkle

Vice President of Membership:

Joe Wollet

Vice President of National and

Regional Coordination (Chapters)

Leon Reed

Vice President of Military &

Veteran Affairs: Doris Davis

Treasurer: Mary Ann Coates Smith

Recording Secretary: Gail Larke

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

John Mohor

BOARD MEMBERS

Kristin Faller

Carol Higgins

Ken Larke

Craig Stiegemeier

Jim Triesler

APPOINTED POSITION

William Sean Lee, Chaplain

Jim Triesler, Historian

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Finance: Mary Ann Coates Smith

Membership: Joe Wollet

Outreach: John Baker

Records Management: Gail Larke

Strategic Planning: Kevin Hinkle

PAST PRESIDENTS

David Bailey* 2010-12

President Emeritus

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

Douglas Dillard* 2012-14

Alan Cunningham 2014-16

Gary Higgins 2017-19

John Mohor 2020-23

* Deceased

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

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

The following is a list of the present chapters, the state in which they are located, and their Chapter President's name. Please contact BOBA at BobaMembership@gmail.com for their local meeting times and contact information.

CALIFORNIA

Golden Gate (10):

Doris Davis

CONNECTICUT

Yankee Chapter (40):

Richard Egan

INDIANA

Central Indiana (47):

Chris Schneider

MICHIGAN

West Michigan (23):

Gary Higgins

MISSOURI

Gateway (25):

Jan Buerhle

NEW YORK

Mohawk Valley (28):

Julian Scatko

Hudson Valley (49):

Matthew J. Swedick

Staten Island (52):

William Abell

Duncan T. Trueman (59):

Elliot Hermon,
87th Chem Mortar Bn

Long Island (63):

William Mueller, 106th INFD

OHIO

Blanchard Valley (42):

Leonard Skonecki

Alton Litsenberger (68):

Tom Tomastik

PENNSYLVANIA

Eisenhower Chapter,

Gettysburg (70):

Leon Reed

Delaware Valley (DelVal) (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?
A President in Transition?
Forming a New Chapter?
*Let Us Know!***

PLEASE SEND CHAPTER UPDATES TO:
bulge.bugle.editor@gmail.com

ON THE COVER



Top Image (L-to-R): H.M. King Charles III of England greets Bulge veteran Harry Miller during ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery on April 30, 2026.

Bottom (L-to-R): H.R.H. Grand Duke Guillaume of Luxembourg sits with Bulge veteran Sydney Levit during special visit honoring four Battle of the Bulge veterans on April 15, 2026.

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: Typewritten in a WORD document and sent as an email attachment. Word count of 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: Send high res images via email in jpg/jpeg format. Identify the place and/or people in the photograph. Scan original photographs at high-resolution (300 dpi), or take a cellphone photo and send us largest digital file possible. Photos copied on a copy machine, or printed on a laser printer, are not suitable for publication. **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: By email: bulge.bugle.editor@gmail.com (preferred method) or by mail: Battle of the Bulge Association®, Inc, P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: JULY 25, 2026

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

IN THIS ISSUE

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>2. Contacts
Board
Chapters</p> <p>3. On the Cover
How to Submit Stories</p> <p>4. President's Message
Treasurer's Report</p> <p>5. A Note from the Editor
BOBA Budget Charts</p> <p>6. Membership Report
Welcome Members
Donations
Division Reunion Update</p> | <p>7. Little Known Military Museums
BOBA 2020</p> <p>8. BOBA Vet Greets H.M. King Charles III</p> <p>9. H.R.M. Grand Duke Guillaume Honors Vets
Memorial Day Ceremonies</p> <p>10. Battle of the Bulge Conference in
Gettysburg, PA</p> <p>12. Reunion Hotel Registration</p> <p>13. Reunion Registration Form</p> <p>14. Spotlight: 86th Chemical Mortar Battalion</p> <p>15. Voices of the 86th Chemical Mortar
Battalion</p> <p>16. Chapter News</p> <p>17. The 29th Infantry Division</p> | <p>18. When History and Film Connect</p> <p>19. Gettysburg-Bastogne Partnership
America 250</p> <p>20. BULGE MEMORIES:
The Man Who Put His Rifle Down</p> <p>21. A Tribute to the Wereth 11</p> <p>22. IN MEMORIAM:
Warren William Allen, Jr.
David Poole
Taps</p> <p>23. PARTING WORDS:
PFC Frank Chambers</p> <p>24. Membership Form
Donation Form</p> |
|--|---|---|

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

Apple Press, Inc. (Printing/Fulfillment) • Martha Wasik Graphic Arts (Layout/Design)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Steve Landry, President and CEO

GREETINGS, VETERANS AND MEMBERS!

I hope you are all enjoying the change in seasons. Here in the Mid-Atlantic, we're having a whipsaw Spring, with temperatures varying by as much as 60 degrees in 48 hours. Please be prepared as we enter the travel season and be safe out there on the highways and byways of our great Nation.

Speaking of travel, the delayed Battle of the Bulge Conference—jointly sponsored with the WWII American Experience Museum in Gettysburg—took place on February 28, 2026. Outreach Director John Baker assembled an outstanding lineup of speakers, and nine WWII veterans joined us for the day! Please see page 10 for the full story. Planning is already underway for next year's conference, which will likely be held later in the year to avoid winter weather complications.

Our Historian James Triesler, Treasurer Mary Ann Coates Smith, and BOBA member Betsy Rose are hard at work planning the 2026 Reunion in Richmond, Virginia. Please save the dates of October 14–18 for what promises to be another memorable gathering. Registration details are available on our website and on page 13.

On April 15, Joe Wollet, Christine Guidry Law, and I had the honor of representing the Association at a reception commemorating the Battle hosted by HRH Grand Duke Guillaume of Luxembourg. Four WWII veterans attended, including my father, Joe Landry. Please see the story on page 9. Likewise, HRM King Charles III visited Arlington National Cemetery and met with our veteran Harry Miller. You can read more on page 8.

The Board formally approved the FY 2026 budget at our April 13 meeting. The budget keeps expenses aligned with projected income. While we welcomed ten new members during the Battle of the Bulge Conference, membership reports



continue to reflect a steady decline in renewals, along with the heartbreaking loss of many of our cherished veterans. Please continue recruiting new members and encouraging renewals. We cannot preserve the memory and legacy of the Battle without your continued support. See the Treasurer's Report below and the Membership Report on page 6.

Our outreach efforts continue on many fronts. International Correspondent Joel Lamberty attended a memorial honoring the Wereth 11 (page 21); our chapters remain highly active (pages 16 & 17); and Vice President of Chapters Leon Reed has been working to establish a sister-city relationship between Gettysburg and Bastogne (page 19). If you would like to become involved in our outreach initiatives, please review the recommendations from Vice President of Membership Joe Wollet in the Membership Report on page 6.

As always, we honor our history throughout this issue. We take a special look at the 86th Chemical Mortar Battalion in this issue's Division Spotlight (page 14) and reflect on the wartime experiences of PFC James C. McGuire Sr. through the eyes of his son (page 20).

Finally, as members of the Veterans Day National Committee, the Association participated in Memorial Day observances at Arlington National Cemetery. During his remarks, the President of the United States mentioned the Battle of the Bulge twice and also acknowledged Bulge veteran and BOBA member Harry Miller. The observance helped launch the celebrations marking the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding. May we always remain free.

Thank you for the privilege of serving this remarkable Association.

— Steve Landry, President and CEO

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Mary Ann Coates Smith, Treasurer



APRIL 1, 2026 was the start of our new fiscal reporting year, keeping our two main BOBA events, Annual Commemorations and Reunions, within the same reporting period. Unfortunately, we missed the tax deadline for the shortened FY 2025 due to a miscommunication and misunderstanding; however, we are on track to get that resolved.

Financially, BOBA remains stable at the end of FY 2025-2026, with a current balance of \$140,355.93. In addition, our Outreach Fund balance stands at \$632.97, and the Monument Fund balance is \$118.61. The Finance Committee has created a new budget that has been approved by the Board. (See budget charts on page 5.)

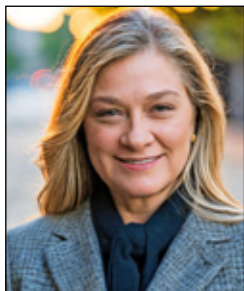
However, sustaining this strength depends on growing our membership and continuing to receive donations. One meaningful way to give is by celebrating a birthday—your own or that of a beloved veteran or loved one—by donating an amount equal to their age. Please note on your check whom you are honoring, or donate easily through PayPal. Members who qualify also have approximately five months to consider remembering BOBA through their Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs).

All donations, regardless of size, are deeply appreciated. And please—don't forget to thank a veteran. Give a BOBA gift membership to a friend, family member. I support what I believe in. It is an honor to serve in this position.

I remain, in honor and memory, a very proud Gold Star daughter.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

By Christine Guidry Law



AS ALWAYS, it is a great honor to work with this incredible organization and to help preserve the stories of those who served. Veteran support has always been very important to me and remains something very dear to my heart. Each story we share, each memory we preserve, and each name we remember ensures that the sacrifices of the Greatest Generation are never forgotten.

For many years, I felt that while I held a deep respect for the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, I did not have a personal family connection to the battle itself. My grandfather, Pvt. Dupre Lejeune, was wounded in northeastern France just weeks before the Bulge began. His service and sacrifice inspired much of my passion for military history, but I believed my family's connection to this particular chapter of World War II ended there.

However, through my ongoing research last year, I discovered a remarkable connection. My cousin Elton Richard—the very man who helped save Dupre's life in battle—continued serving and was later wounded during the Battle of the Bulge, earning a Purple Heart for his sacrifice. Then, with the generous

assistance of BOBA member Patty Bowers, I uncovered even more family connections through my father's side: Donald Felix Guidry and Lawrence Guidry, both Battle of the Bulge veterans who continued the fight and ultimately gave their lives during Operation Varsity just a few months later.

These discoveries reminded me of something very important: the stories are still out there. There are still connections waiting to be found, names waiting to be remembered, and heroes whose legacies depend on us to keep them alive.

This summer issue is filled with meaningful content honoring the sacrifices made by every veteran who served during the Battle of the Bulge. From royal honors (page 8), to unit spotlights and veteran features (pages 14 & 15), to important upcoming reunion information (pages 12 & 13), every page reflects our continued mission of remembrance, education, and gratitude.

As editor of *The Bulge Bugle* and a member of the Outreach Committee, I consider it my responsibility—and my privilege—to help carry these veterans' stories forward for future generations. But this mission cannot continue without you.

We need your help.

We must keep our membership active, engaged, and growing. Share your stories. Encourage your family members, friends, and fellow history enthusiasts to share theirs. Talk about the Association, invite others to join, and help us reach the next generation. Every conversation, every memory, and every new member helps ensure that the legacy of the Battle of the Bulge veterans lives on.

Their stories survived because they served. Their legacy survives because we remember.

BOBA FY 2026 Board-Approved Budget	
First Bank Checking Balance 3/31/2026	\$ 88,153.38
First Bank CD 3/31/2026	\$ 51,163.35
Navy Federal Balance 3/31/2026	\$ 1,019.20
PayPal Balance 3/31/2026	\$ -
Actual Total Assets Balance 3/31/2026	\$ 140,335.93
EXPENSES	FY 2026 Budget
Bugle editor payroll	
BUGLE design	
BUGLE print/mail	
Total Bugle	\$ 14,720.00
Accounting Fees	\$ 900.00
PayPal Fees*	\$ 2,000.00
Insurance	\$ 1,000.00
eBlast (Constant Contact)	\$ 1,000.00
Website (Bluehost)	\$ 750.00
Membership Marketing	\$ 1,000.00
Outreach Expense (Donations-based)	\$ -
Monument Restoration (Donations-based)	\$ -
Wreaths	\$ 1,250.00
Postage and postcards	\$ 700.00
Trademark Renewals	\$ 2,950.00
Misc office expense	\$ 200.00
Total Operating Expense	\$ 11,750.00
COMMEMORATION event expenses	\$ -
REUNION event expenses	\$ -
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ (26,470.00)

INCOME*	FY 2026 Budget
Membership dues	\$ 15,000.00
Donations:	
General	\$ 3,500.00
In Memoriam	\$ 3,500.00
Sponsorship (Gift Memberships)	\$ 300.00
Wreath fund	\$ 200.00
Outreach	\$ -
Monument Restoration	\$ -
Coin sales	\$ 150.00
Bugle hardcopy sales	\$ 700.00
Certificate sales	\$ 150.00
First Bank Checking Account Interest	\$ 564.00
Navy Federal Accounts & CD Interest	\$ 2,000.00
COMMEMORATION event income	\$ -
REUNION event income	\$ -
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 26,064.00
Net Income/Loss for 2025-2026	\$ (406.00)
Net Income/Loss for FY 2026	\$ (406.00)
Expected Total Assets	\$139,929.93

First Bank Checking Balance	
Navy Federal CD	
Navy Federal Balance	
PayPal Balance	
Actual Total Assets Balance	
*Income is net of PayPal fees	\$ -

NOTE: The annual Commemoration and Reunion are assumed to break even for budget purposes.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Joe Wollet, VP of Membership



OUTREACH DIRECTOR John Baker and VP of Chapters Leon Reed did a great job organizing the Battle of the Bulge Conference, held on February 28 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in partnership with the World War II American Experience Museum.

We recruited ten new members that day, along with several renewals, which prompts me to ask: Can you organize a local BOBA event?

Outside of the annual commemoration and reunion, many successful recruiting and outreach events can take place locally.

Here are a few ideas:

- Use *The Bulge Bugle* series on little-known military museums to establish a partnership. Ask the museum to work with you on a commemoration on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, December 16 (start of the battle), or January 25 (end of the battle). Leave behind BOBA materials for interested visitors.
 - Ask the director of a national military cemetery in your area—or your own local cemetery—about participating in a ceremony on one of the above dates.
 - Contact the history department at your local high school, community college, or university, and offer to give a 15-minute presentation on the Battle of the Bulge. BOBA has PowerPoint presentations ready for you to use.
 - Similarly, ask to speak to a local Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, VFW or American Legion post, or senior center, using the same resources.
 - Connect with local military reenactor organizations, not just WWII groups.
- All of us can serve as BOBA ambassadors, raising local awareness, preserving the memory of those who served, and encouraging others to join our Association.

If you'd like to help, reach out to me at BOBAmembership@gmail.com. I'll gladly assist you in obtaining resources.

We are also looking for surviving Ardennes Campaign veterans who are not BOBA members or whose memberships have lapsed. As mentioned in the last *Bugle*, the board authorized "adopting" these veterans for 2026, with their dues covered through donations.

If you know a Bulge veteran who has not joined BOBA, please help them complete a membership form and send it to me at BOBAmembership@gmail.com.

As of March 30, 2026, we have 467 paid-up members, including 127 lifetime members and 340 annual members. Since last year, we have lost 24 veteran members.

	Lifetime	Annual	Lapsed *	Total
Veteran	23	18	0	41
Non-Veteran	104	322	0	426
Other**		1	0	1
Sub-total	127	341	0	468
Paid-up 2026+ Members:		467		
* Expired 12/31/2025		** Not incl. in paid-up #		

WELCOME MEMBERS!

New & Reactivated Members: Jan. 30 – April 20, 2026

Dennis Bak	Robert McKinniss
Rick Bilz	John Plumhoff
Marc Birkbichler	David Smith
Frederick G. Brems	Linda Smith
Linda Del Rossi	LTC Dirk Storms
Robert Dunbar	Richard Weaver
Albert El	Nina Willner
Claire Fleisher	Debra Wood
Mary Hodson	M/Sgt. Jan Wynants
James C. McGuire, Jr.	



DONATIONS

JANUARY – MAY 2026

Jonathan Allen – General Donation
John Belville – General Donation
Donald Best – General Donation
The Blackbird Giving Fund – General Donation
Rosemary Corbett – General Donation
Aaron Danis – General Donation
Jay Hebert – In honor of Joe Landry
Donald McGinnis – General Donation
George Welsh – General Donation (Reunion Refund)
Gregory Wolanin – In memory of Chapter 29
Joe Wollet – Gift Membership for Mathilde Meeuwissen

Make a donation today at: battleofthebulge.org/store/donate/

DIVISION REUNIONS PLANNED FOR 2026 UPDATE

(See full list of Reunions in Spring 2026 issue)

87TH INFANTRY DIVISION LEGACY ASSOCIATION

October 29-31, 2026 • Wilmington, NC
 Hotel Regis deadline: September 28, 2026
 Contact: Armed Forces Reunion
 1-800-562-7226
 Featuring four educational forums
 Website: 87thinfantry.org
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61566163145731>



95TH DIVISION LEGACY ASSOCIATION

August 19-23, 2026 • Dayton, OH
 Deadline: July 20, 2026
 Contact: Mike Flora • mike.flora.1717@gmail.com
 Website: 95divassociation.com
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/95thDivisionLegacyAssociation>



LITTLE KNOWN MILITARY U.S. MUSEUMS

By Doris Davis, Vice President of Military
and Veterans Affairs

THIS ARTICLE MARKS the fifth column in our ongoing exploration of military museums within the U.S. It is part of a continuing mission to introduce readers to a wide range of institutions—both well-known and lesser known. These museums quietly yet powerfully keep military history alive for future generations. All of them rely on visitors and your support to thrive. We invite you to visit and see what they offer. Some have interactive experiences that will make a lasting impression. Many are family friendly so children and grandchildren will learn history.

If you know of a little-known military museum anywhere in the U.S., please let us know and we'll reach out to the Museum to ask if they would like to be featured in a future issue of *The Bulge Bugle*.

EASTERN REGION

29TH DIVISION MUSEUM

566 Lee Highway • Verona, VA 24482
540-248-0116
Email: 116thdirector@gmail.com
Website: 29thdivisionmuseum.org
<https://www.facebook.com/29thDivisionMuseum>

MIDWEST REGION

AIR AND MILITARY MUSEUM OF THE OZARKS

2305 E. Kearney St. • Springfield, MO 65803-4970
417-864-7997
Email: airandmilitary@gmail.com
Website: www.ammomuseum.com
<https://www.facebook.com/ammomuseum>

IOWA GOLD STAR MILITARY MUSEUM

7105 Northwest 70th Ave. • Johnston, IA 50131
515-252-4531
Email: goldstarmuseum@iowa.gov
Website: goldstarmuseum.iowa.gov
<https://www.facebook.com/IowaGSMM>

SOUTHERN REGION

ARKANSAS AIR & MILITARY MUSEUM

4290 S. School Ave. • Fayetteville, AR 72701
479-521-4947
Email: Frontdesk.aamm@gmail.com
Website: www.arkansasairandmilitary.com
<https://www.facebook.com/arkansasairandmilitary>

MISSISSIPPI ARMED FORCES MUSEUM

Building 850, Forrest Ave. • Camp Shelby, MS 39407
601-558-2757
Email: tommylofton@mafms.us
Website: www.msarmedforcesmuseum.org
<https://www.facebook.com/mafmsmuseum>

MUSEUM OF VETERANS AND MILITARY HISTORY

53 N. Mt Olive Rd, Vilonia, AR 72173-9529
501-796-8181
Email: linhicks_old@windstream.net
Website: www.veteransmuseumvilonia.com
<https://www.facebook.com/Vets.Museum.Vilonia/?fref=ts>

U.S. ARMY TENNESSEE WINGS OF LIBERTY MUSEUM

400 Wings of Liberty Way, Clarksville, TN 37042
270-798-8965
Email: Foundation@fortcampbell.com
Website: www.fortcampbell.com/wings-of-liberty
<https://www.facebook.com/FortCampbellHistoricalFoundation>

SOUTHEAST REGION

MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM

900 W. Marion Ave. • Punta Gorda, FL 33950-5308
941-575-9002
Email: info@militaryheritagemuseum.org
Website: www.militaryheritagemuseum.org
<https://www.facebook.com/MilitaryHeritageMuseum>

MILITARY HISTORY CENTER OF THE CAROLINAS, MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER

14 Airport Road Extension • Greenville, SC 29607
Email: MHCC1945@gmail.com
Website: www.milhcc.org
<https://www.facebook.com/militaryhistorycc>

BOBA 2030

By Kevin Hinkle, Executive Vice President



AS I MENTIONED in the last *Bulge Bugle*, BOBA President Steve Landry has asked me to undertake the task of looking beyond our current status and projecting what BOBA should—or could—look like in the future. I think most members would agree that significant transformation lies ahead in many respects, including membership, communications, and our dwindling veteran population.

This effort differs from a traditional strategic plan. Rather, it is a collection of ideas and perspectives that can help shape BOBA's future and provide a roadmap moving forward. There is no single right or wrong answer, nor only one path ahead.

Over the next several months, I encourage members and leaders alike to consider what your vision for BOBA should be. Examples might include chapter growth or consolidation, revamped membership dues and incentives, or new and different ways to communicate. In my opinion, all ideas have merit. Please forward any comments or ideas to me at kevin_hinkle@icloud.com.

I hope to provide periodic status reports through *The Bulge Bugle* or at BOBA events. If you have any question, please feel free to reach out to me at kevin_hinkle@icloud.com.

BOBA VETERAN HARRY MILLER GREET'S H. M. KING CHARLES III

By Leon Reed, VP of National & Regional Coordination

740TH TANK BATTALION Veteran Harry Miller had the honor of representing all American WWII veterans in greeting King Charles III during his recent visit to Arlington National Cemetery. Harry, 98, chatted briefly with the King at the cemetery's Canadian Cross. "He was very nice," said Harry. "He asked if I really enlisted at age 15 and when I said yes, he asked me why I did it. I told him, 'well, there was a war to win and I thought I could help.' He said, 'Well, you certainly did a good job.'"

Harry fought in the Battle of the Bulge and later battles through V-E Day. The 740th compiled an enviable record after a tough start. "We were originally assigned a classified mission and had special Sherman tanks with intense lights instead of a turret," Harry explained. "We were supposed to light the way for our boys in a night attack or blind the Germans if they attacked." But the mission was cancelled, their modified Shermans were taken away, and they arrived on the mainland of Europe shortly after D-Day without tanks. "The beachmaster was a Navy guy and he said, 'I don't know anything about tanks, you'll have to get them from First Army,'" Harry said. "But wherever we went they didn't have tanks."

Finally, by December, they were in Belgium—still with no tanks, working as MPs. The front wave of the German attack in the Battle of the Bulge was approaching and the battalion was ordered to go to the village of Stoumont. "Col. Peiper's tanks were going to get there in the morning and there was only infantry to hold them. The colonel said, 'We don't have any tanks,' and they said, 'No problem, you can go to the depot and draw whatever you like.' We thought 'Oh boy, new Shermans,' but it turned out to be a bunch of junk. They were battle-damaged, cannibalized, and there were no gunsights, no radios," said Harry. "But the boys spent the night welding and scrounging and by daylight, we had two more-or-less functioning Shermans and one M36 tank destroyer."

As they arrived in the village, Peiper's vanguard was coming in from the other direction. "Our first Sherman got off one shot and set the lead Tiger on fire. His gun jammed so the second Sherman pulled up, fired one shot, and hit a second Tiger. The tank destroyer had one of the best gunners in the battalion; he got off three quick shots and set a third Tiger on fire." With three burning Tigers blocking the way, Peiper had to draw back and divert to the village of La Gleize, where he was finally blocked and gave up, telling his men to abandon their vehicles and try to walk back to Germany. "After that, we were pretty popular," Harry chuckled. "We spent most of the rest of the war working with the 82nd Airborne. They were great guys. We had a lot of laughs."

Harry made a career in the Army, retiring in the mid-1960s. He recently moved to York County, Pennsylvania. He is active in the Battle of the Bulge Association, speaks regularly on his experiences in WWII and Korea, and volunteers regularly at the WWII American Experience museum in Gettysburg.



H. M. King Charles III greets Bulge veteran Harry Miller



H. M. King Charles III and Harry Miller at Arlington

H.R.H. GRAND DUKE GUILLAUME HONORS BULGE VETERANS

Honoring Heroes. Remembering Sacrifice. Celebrating Friendship.

DURING THEIR RECENT visit to New York City, HRH Grand Duke Guillaume and Luxembourg's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Xavier Bettel made a meaningful stop at Luxembourg House to pay tribute to four remarkable American World War II veterans—Joe Landry, Sydney Levit, Frank Stellar, and Russell Sattazahn—whose service helped liberate and defend Luxembourg during the Battle of the Bulge.

Also attending on behalf of the Battle of the Bulge Association were BOBA President Steve Landry, Vice President of Membership Joe Wollet, *Bulge Bugle* Editor Christine Guidry Law, and members Barbara Mooneyhan and Patty Miller Bowers.

The recognition served as a powerful reminder of the lasting gratitude Luxembourg continues to hold for the American soldiers who fought during one of the most significant and costly battles of the Second World War. The courage and sacrifice demonstrated by these veterans helped preserve the freedom of countless Luxembourg citizens and forged bonds that have endured for more than eighty years.

For those in attendance, the ceremony was more than a diplomatic occasion—it was a heartfelt expression of thanks from one generation to another. As the number of surviving Battle of the Bulge veterans continues to decline, opportunities such as this become increasingly meaningful, ensuring that their service and sacrifices are remembered and honored by both nations.

The Battle of the Bulge Association is proud to see these veterans recognized and remains committed to preserving their stories for future generations.

Top right: HRH Grand Duke Guillaume of Luxembourg greets Bulge veteran Joe Landry. Bottom right: Bulge veteran Frank Stellar and U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg Stacey Feinberg.

Photos by Russ Rowland, Maison du Grand-Duc



BATTLE OF THE BULGE RECOGNIZED DURING MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES



BOBA President Steve Landry, BOBA Chaplain Sean Lee, Rev. Sarah Lee, and Mrs. Diane Landry lay a wreath in memory of our fallen soldiers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE Association participated in the 158th National Memorial Day Observance at Arlington National Cemetery as a member of the Veterans Day National Committee.

The day began with a Presidential Armed Forces Full Honors Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, followed by the National Memorial Day Observance in the Memorial Amphitheater. Representing BOBA were President Steve Landry, Chaplain Sean Lee, Rev. Sarah Lee, and Diane Landry, who laid a wreath in memory of America's fallen service members.

During his remarks, President Donald J. Trump referenced the Battle of the Bulge twice and also recognized Battle of the Bulge veteran and BOBA member Harry Miller, bringing national attention to the service and sacrifice of the men who fought in one of World War II's most pivotal battles.

The observance also helped launch the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, linking the sacrifices of past generations to the nation's continuing story. For members of the Battle of the Bulge Association, the recognition of the Battle of the Bulge and one of its surviving veterans served as a meaningful reminder that their legacy continues to be remembered at the highest levels of our nation.

2026 BATTLE OF THE BULGE CONFERENCE

By John Baker, BOBA Outreach Chair



WWII veterans (left-to-right): Richard Weaver, Frank Stellar, Harry Miller, Jack Meyers, Irv Gers, Benjamin Berry, Joe Landry, and Russell Sattazahn (not pictured is Sam Worley)

BOBA'S THIRD ANNUAL Battle of the Bulge Conference was held at the World War II American Experience Museum in Gettysburg, PA, on February 28th. A major winter storm required us to reschedule the event from January 25th to the next month; however, it was worth the wait. We had well over a hundred participants, including presenters and speakers, several World War II veterans, exhibitors, and audience members. As with the prior conferences, BOBA was responsible for the program while our partner organization, the World War II American Experience, provided the conference facilities and services.

There was a special treat this year: most conference activities took place in the museum's "Motor Pool" venue for the first time. The presenters and audience members were surrounded by World War II vehicles, including a Sherman tank, dozens of cargo trucks and jeeps, and several other types of vintage Army equipment. These vehicles set the scene for the conference audience as historic reminders of what American military operations in Europe involved over 80 years ago.

The conference featured five expert presenters and a special activity to honor the World War II veterans who attended in person. The initial presenter was Stuart Dempsey. He spoke on how the capabilities of the German Army had steadily diminished by December 1944, following years of combat.

Next up was BOBA's own Leon Reed. His presentation traced how U.S. armored doctrine and forces evolved during the inter-war years and then were adapted to the challenges of combating German Panzer forces and anti-tank weapons. Leon invited World War II veteran Harry Miller to share highlights of his Battle of the Bulge story.

A major goal of the conference was to honor and learn from the nine World War II veterans who were there in person. Several had participated in the Battle of the Bulge, while others served in different World War II actions. The Bulge veterans were Benjamin Berry (863rd Quartermaster Company), Joe Landry (776th AAA Battalion and Red Ball Express driver), Harry Miller (740th Tank Battalion), Jack Myers (692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion), Russell Sattazahn (1st Infantry Division), Frank Stellar (302nd Airdrome Squadron and 36th Infantry Division), and Richard



Belgian Defense Attaché LTC Dirk Storms greets Bulge veteran Jack Meyers

continued on page 11

CONFERENCE... continued from page 10

Weaver (17th Airborne Division). The other World War II veterans were Irv Gers (146th Construction Battalion, U.S. Navy Seabees), and Sam Worley (82nd Airborne Division, Signal Company).

In addition, the Embassy of Belgium sent two military representatives, LTC Dirk Storms and M/Sgt. Jan Wynants, to take part in the special session. LTC Storms conveyed the remarks of gratitude from the Belgian Ambassador to the United States, Frédéric Bernard, to the American World War II veterans. He also revealed how his own family had been affected by the fighting that occurred in Belgium during the war.

The Belgium Embassy military representatives also joined BOBA President Steve Landry in individually thanking each World War II veteran for his wartime service. The special session continued with *Bulge Bugle* Editor Christine Guidry Law asking each veteran in turn to identify his World War II unit and to share some wartime experiences with the audience members. It was an enlightening process for the audience members to learn more about the individual veterans while honoring all those Americans who served in uniform during World War II.

During the lunchtime break, conference participants took the opportunity to visit the museum's diverse collection of military artifacts and vehicles, as well as its substantial gift shop. They also visited with various conference exhibitors and took the opportunity to speak with the World War II veterans, as they were available.

There were three additional presentations during the afternoon session. Dr. Christopher Carey spoke about the crucial role that the Red Ball Express truck convoys played in supplying the frontline American troops. He highlighted both the expedient benefits and operational challenges of heavily depending on Army cargo trucks to deliver much-needed supplies to the rapidly advancing Allied troops in late 1944. He also took the occasion to recognize Bulge Veteran Joe Landry for having been one of the Red Ball Express drivers.

Dr. Walter S. Zapotoczny, Jr., then explained how the fundamental beliefs of the 28th Infantry Division soldiers helped them to stand their ground against overwhelming German forces during the Battle of the Bulge. Due to high numbers of replacement troops, he contends that their commitment to American values

motivated most 28th Division soldiers to steadfastly defend against German attackers.

The final presentation, by author Peter Lion, featured a heartwarming documentary film about Corporal Richard Brookins. He played the role of the Saint Nicolas for the children of Wiltz, Luxembourg, just days before he would be fighting to survive the Battle of the Bulge. Mr. Lion recounted how Richard Brookins only had learned years later that the Wiltz citizens annually celebrated the day of American kindness to their town. They eventually persuaded Richard Brookins to return to Wiltz to reprise his role as the "American St. Nick" on several happy occasions.

Overall, the Battle of the Bulge Conference achieved its primary goal of raising awareness of this crucial historical event while expressing our deep gratitude to our World War II veterans, especially those who experienced the Battle of the Bulge firsthand. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone at BOBA, the World War II American Experience Museum, and all others who contributed their time, effort, and support to making the 2026 conference a success.



Bulge Bugle editor Christine Guidry Law interviews veterans Frank Stellar and Sam Worley



Belgian Defense Attaché LTC Dirk Storms gave a touching address, including his own family's stories during the Bulge



BOBA Vice President of Chapters Leon Reed presents at Bulge Conference

2026 BOBA REUNION • RICHMOND, VA



BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOMS TODAY!

Virginia Crossings Hotel (by Hilton) - Glen Allen, VA

Wednesday, October 14 - Sunday, October 18, 2026



\$125 + TAX (per night)
Standard King or Double (2 Queens)
Link for reservations below.

**DEADLINE FOR BOOKING WITH OUR DISCOUNT IS
SEPTEMBER 23, 2026**

Virginia Crossings Hotel
Tapestry Collection by Hilton
1000 Virginia Center Parkway
Glen Allen, VA 23059
1-804-727-1400

RESERVATIONS:

1. Call the property and mention the Group Name:
2026 Battle of the Bulge Association Reunion (code - BAT)
2. Weblink: <https://group.tapestrycollection.com/ajh0j5>
3. Scan the **QR code** on the right.



AMENITIES:

- Set on 20 acres near downtown Richmond
- Handicapped rooms available upon request (based on availability)
- Glen Restaurant (on-site) - open daily for breakfast
- The Tavern Bar & Grill (on-site) - casual dining option with flat screen TV's, outdoor dining deck, firepit. Southern-themed menu - open daily for dinner only
- Free WiFi
- Fitness center
- On-site restaurant
- Outdoor Pool
- Connecting Rooms
- Smoke-free
- **Full Breakfast for additional fee**

***Check in: 4pm / Check out: 11am**

PARKING:

FREE Self-Parking - Ample on-site parking for hotel guests conveniently located in the back of the building with easy access to entry/exit.



2026 BOBA REUNION • RICHMOND, VA

BOBA REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION FOR REUNION: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

Please complete and mail this registration form OR register online at www.battleofthebulge.org (Click on "Attend Reunion" and complete the Registration Form). Registration for the reunion must be received no later than **Sept. 23, 2026**. Detailed itinerary will be included in registration packet upon arrival.

QUESTIONS: Mary Ann Coates Smith (804-363-3400) - text preferred.

Name _____ BOBA member: Yes _____ No _____

Additional Guest: _____

Guest #3 _____ Guest #4 _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Division, Regiment, Chapter, etc. _____

Any dietary restrictions: _____

IMPORTANT: All attendees must pay the non-refundable registration fee.
Each day's fee is **ALL-INCLUSIVE**. Breakfast not included in room rates.

		Number of Persons	Total Cost
REGISTRATION: (REQUIRED)	\$150	_____	_____
Hospitality/Meeting rooms, Banquet room. AV equip, Buses, etc.			
Late Registration fee after September 23, 2026	\$20	_____	_____
Wednesday, October 14, 2026 (Dinner on own)	INCLUDED w/ REGISTRATION		
Check-in, SPECIAL Veteran Celebration, Presentation, Board Meeting			
Thursday, October 15, 2026 (Mission BBQ)	\$18	_____	_____
Presentations, Wreath Ceremony, VA War Memorial, Dinner on your own			
Friday, October 16, 2025 (Box Lunch)	\$25	_____	_____
(Banquet)	\$75	_____	_____
Fort Lee, History Tours, Box Lunch, Banquet			
Saturday, October 17, 2026 (Farewell Reception)	\$35	_____	_____
Local Tour, Lunch on own (local eatery), Farewell Reception			
BECOME A BOBA MEMBER	\$40	_____	_____
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

Or to pay with a credit/debit card or PayPal, register online at www.battleofthebulge.org,

Click on "Attend Reunion"



UNIT SPOTLIGHT

86TH CHEMICAL MORTAR BATTALION



Compiled by Christine Guidry Law, *Bulge Bugle* Editor

BRIEF HISTORY

The 86th Chemical Mortar Battalion was one of the most highly regarded support units to serve in the European Theater during World War II. Equipped with the powerful 4.2-inch chemical mortar, a weapon originally designed for chemical warfare but used primarily for high-explosive and smoke missions, the battalion provided critical fire support to frontline troops.

Unlike infantry divisions assigned to a single formation, chemical mortar battalions were attached wherever additional firepower was needed. Their flexibility, accuracy, and rapid response made them invaluable to commanders. After arriving in Europe in 1944, the 86th supported operations across France and Belgium as Allied forces advanced toward Germany. Its mortars concealed troop movements, screened river crossings, and disrupted enemy strongpoints and counterattacks.

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

When German forces launched their surprise Ardennes offensive on December 16, 1944, the 86th Chemical Mortar Battalion helped blunt the enemy advance. Throughout the Battle of the Bulge, the battalion supported American infantry units engaged in desperate defensive actions across Belgium and Luxembourg.

Operating in freezing temperatures, deep snow, and difficult terrain, mortar crews maintained a relentless pace of fire. Their 4.2-inch mortars proved highly effective against German troop concentrations, assembly areas, and fortified positions. Frequently operating under enemy observation and artillery fire, the men of the 86th continued firing missions day and night, helping slow German attacks and support the Allied counteroffensive.

As the battle shifted from defense to offense in January 1945, the battalion advanced alongside American forces, providing suppressive fire during attacks to reclaim lost ground. Their service highlighted the important but often overlooked role of chemical mortar units during the campaign.

ADVANCE INTO GERMANY

Following the Ardennes campaign, the 86th continued supporting Allied operations during the final drive into Germany. The battalion participated in major offensives across the Rhineland and beyond, using its mortars to neutralize enemy positions, screen troop movements, and support river crossings.

The versatility of the 4.2-inch mortar made it one of the war's most effective support weapons, earning praise from infantry commanders who relied on its responsiveness during critical engagements.

By war's end, the 86th Chemical Mortar Battalion had established a distinguished combat record. Though often overshadowed by larger formations, its contributions helped secure Allied victory in Europe. Today, the battalion's legacy remains an important part of the story of the Battle of the Bulge and the soldiers whose skill, determination, and courage carried the fight from the Ardennes to Germany.

86th CHEM MORT BN RECAP

Activated: February 23, 1943

Branch: Chemical Warfare Service

Trained: Camp Swift, Texas (arrived May 15, 1943 for organization and training)

Primary Weapon: M2 4.2-inch Chemical Mortar – among the most accurate and effective support weapons used by U.S. forces in Europe.

Overseas: Trained in the U.S. through early 1944 and deployed to England Spring 1944 before crossing to Normandy in late June 1944.

Mission: High-explosive fire support, Smoke screening, Neutralization of enemy positions, Direct support of infantry assaults

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

Days in Combat: 150 consecutive days before Ardennes Offensive / Total of 315 days in the 11 months of actual combat on the continent.

Casualties: 419 Total / 40 KIA, 366 WIA, 12 MIA, 1 POW

Commanders: Major Richard C. Tanner—original battalion commander upon activation in 1943. Lieutenant Colonel Wesley B. Hamilton—assumed command on March 25, 1944 and led the battalion through the rest of the war.

Deactivated: November 1, 1946, Camp Campbell, Kentucky

Nickname – Weapon: “Four-Deuce” / “Good Gun”

UNIT SUPPORTED DURING THE BULGE

Armies: First, Third, Ninth

Corps: VIII, XII, V, VII, XVIII AB, XIX, III

Divisions: 1st, 2nd, 4th, 4th Armored, 6th Armored, 7th Armored, 8th, 9th, 9th Armored, 26th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 35th, 69th, 75th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 82nd AB, 83rd, 90th, 99th, 104th, 106th, 2nd Ranger Bn., 102nd Cav. Gr.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Fired its 100,000th round of ammunition on 1 December 1944.
- Expended a total of 152,257 rounds of HE and WP ammunition
- Completed more than 150 consecutive days in combat before the German Ardennes offensive.
- Earned a commendation from the 28th Infantry Division for actions in the Hürtgen Forest and the fight for Schmidt.

AWARDS

Distinguished Unit Citations: 3
Distinguished Service Cross: 2
Distinguished Service Medal: 1
Croix de Guerre: 3
British Award: 1
Silver Star: 30
Soldier's Medal: 2
Bronze Star Medal: 173
Purple Heart: 299

VOICES OF THE 86TH CHEMICAL MORTAR BATTALION

Harold S. Fischgrund, 86th CHEMICAL MORTAR BATTALION (MOTORIZED) COMPANY C

Bulge Bugle, August 2010

WITHOUT AN ARTILLERY barrage and seeking the element of surprise, the Germans attacked with everything they had on the morning of December 16, 1944. The U.S. 2nd Infantry Division was attacking toward the Roer River dams and caught much of the force of the German attack.

Withdrawal along the flank is a most difficult infantry maneuver, particularly under fierce German pressure. But the 2nd Division had to maneuver from the attack mode and to prepare defenses. Already the enemy was pressing closer. Slightly more than 200 yards separated the two sides.

The colonel of the 3rd Battalion, 99th Infantry, assigned to protect the 2nd Division's withdrawal while fighting off their own German attack, cursed vehemently when he was told that most of the artillery had pulled out. But when he saw that the 86th Chemical Mortar Battalion lieutenant was still present, he grinned and said, "Hell, we've still got the 4.2's. We'll lick the bastards anyway." The CO said that the mission had to be fired and fired fast. The fate of the battalion depended on it; the fate of the regiment depended on it; and you could carry it on from there.

LT Raymond C. Lindsey, and his radio operator, PFC Cook, left the CP and took off through the woods in a hurry. Lindsey was talking as he walked, giving the C Company fire direction center coordinates and orders to "fire like you've never fired before."

At the FDC, SSGT Jack Feldman and CPL Marvin Zuidema went into action. They knew that their data must be correct. Two hundred yards doesn't leave much of a margin for error. But most of all, speed was essential; so they computed their data and sent it to the guns without rechecking it. The words "Fire Mission!" rang out and the combat hardened men of Company C rushed to the gun position.

In a moment, the first volley was on its way. Eight mortars coughed with monotonous regularity, spitting out 25 pounds of white phosphorus, and in less time than it takes to tell, a deadly burning screen of phosphorus enveloped the Panzer tanks and infantry, blinding and searing. The tank drivers lost their sense of direction and charged blindly into each other, off roads, into trees, into gullies, into men. The infantry, caught in the same screen and flames, lost their will to continue the attack, beat at the flames, screamed and milled, vainly seeking cover.

To make the situation more interesting, the mortar men of Company C reached into their bag of tricks and pulled out high explosive shells, mixing them liberally with the white phosphorus.

From 1430 hours and 1600 hours, the 4.2 mortar men laid out their murderous mixture of smoke, flame, and HE. This allowed the infantry breathing space to move back to stronger defensive positions. As they passed the mortar positions, they waved and shouted greetings: "Attaboy!" "Give 'em Hell!" Other units too pulled out under the cover of the protective fire; the infantry, remaining artillery, smaller weapons squads, and finally the tanks. Company C remained in position, firing until everyone else had pulled out. Then the command was given "Cease firing" and "March Order," and it too began to move out.

The mortar men did not hurry. Methodically and meticulously, remaining ammunition, guns, food, water, gasoline and men were loaded into jeeps and trailers and moved back to a new position, already selected by the Company Commander, CPT Jack Dalton. Guns were dug in, ammunition prepared, slit trenches and foxholes dug. C Company was ready for the next German attack.

They did not have long to wait. Early on the morning of the 18th, LT William T. French called the FDC with an urgent fire mission. It was almost the same story as the previous day. The Germans had mounted a savage attack with panzers and infantry, pouring tanks, men, and supplies through a gap in the U.S. lines. In a period of only 45 minutes, C Company's mortars threw out 400 rounds of WP and HE and helped stop the Germans.

But the enemy reorganized and later in the day it was apparent that they would have to take up new defensive positions. At 1300 hours a new mission was received from Lt. French; four coordinates, HE and WP. Hold them off until the new defense could be reached.

For four long hours the mortar men hurled round after round of smoke and explosives at the Germans. Again, long files of U.S. infantry, smaller weapons, and tanks moved to the rear of Company C's position.

The company moved yet again into a protected area in Roerath, with a strong house for shelter. Within minutes, a German tank fired an armor piercing shell which passed completely through the house.

All that night the position was shelled. Enemy tanks had moved much closer. After an all-day attack, the town had to be evacuated. Company C's mortars conducted a final mission at the lowest range the company had ever fired, 780 yards. Then Company C, for the third time in less than three days, got out safely.

It was, as the 2nd Division commander, General Robertson, noted, "a pretty good day's work for any division. Leavenworth would say it couldn't be done, and I don't want to do it again." The commander of the First Army, General Hodges, told Robertson: "What the 2nd Division has done, will live forever in the history of the United States Army."

The 2nd Division, with major help from the 86th, had stopped Sepp Dietrich's Sixth Panzer Army, the main effort of Hitler's Offensive. That effort had failed to get more than three to four miles beyond the German frontier and had failed to open three of the five routes assigned to the 1st SS Panzer Corps for the drive to the Meuse. They never regained the momentum.



CHAPTER NEWS

GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER

By Doris Davis, Chapter President

THE GOLDEN GATE Chapter of the Battle of the Bulge Association commemorated the 82nd Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge on Saturday, January 24, 2026. Ken Mar, Co. B, 3rd Bn., 23rd IR., 2nd ID., was honored at the commemoration.

Speakers included Rita Bral, Former Honorary Consul General of Belgium; Ken Mar, Bulge veteran; Sandrine Scheller, representing Luxembourg Consul General Joseph Senninger; Pierre Smit, President of the Belgian Club of Northern California; and Doris Davis, Chapter President.

Ken turned 101 years old on May 5, and he still tells great stories.



(Left-to-Right): Rita Bral, Ken Mar (Bulge veteran), Sandrine Scheller, Pierre Smit, Doris Davis (Golden Gate Chapter President)

GATEWAY CHAPTER

By Jan Buerhle, Chapter President

THE MARCH MEETING was canceled due to forecasted bad weather. Eight members attended the April meeting.

Members reported that the WWII Plaza at Jefferson Barracks remains in excellent condition following the spring clean-up led by Col. James Smith and family. Flags installed last fall continue to look good with minimal fading. The chapter plans to apply for participation in several local parades, including July 4 events in Webster Groves and Saint Charles, as well as Afton Days, Kirkwood Green, Florissant, and Staunton, Illinois.

The Annual Memorial has been rescheduled for Sunday, December 13, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at Royal Orleans. The chapter also voted to pursue 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status as a nonprofit educational organization.

Members remembered former VBOB member Bill Allen, who passed away on February 12, 2026, at age 102.



The Bulge Memorial and G.I. Statue at Jefferson Barracks cared for by Col. James Smith and several of his family members.

CRATER CHAPTER REPORT

By Mary Ann Coates Smith, Chapter President

IN THE LAST BUGLE, BOBA Treasurer Mary Ann Coates Smith noted that Marilyn Kertly, who recently turned 100, received a birthday card and BOBA challenge coin. Marilyn later shared a photo from her celebration, attended by more than 400 guests, and wrote that she would always treasure the coin.

Mary Ann attended the third annual American WWII Museum event in Gettysburg, displaying her father's artifacts and meeting with former Board member Betsy Rose and BOBA Historian Jim Triesler to discuss Reunion plans and updates.

She also attended a Virginia War Memorial event honoring WTVR journalist Greg McQuade's 25th anniversary. During the program, Greg shared one of his stories about her father, Pvt. James H. Coates, who was killed in action during the Battle of the Bulge on December 17, 1944.

The chapter also remembers longtime member and history enthusiast John Payne, who passed away in February. Along with his wife, Sidney, he helped inspire and support Mary Ann's artifact displays beginning in 2019.

DELVAL CHAPTER



Chapter members met at the Chapel of the Four Chaplains in Philadelphia on April 29 to discuss Memorial Day events. (Left-to-right): Pat Lowe, Sean Owen, Albert El, Pat Bradley, Michelle Nolfi, Andy Waskie, Christine Guidry Law, Chris Churylo, Lisette Tarragano, Ed McLaughlin, and Stephanie Ghoshrod

THE 29TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Compiled by Doris Davis, VP of Military and Veterans Affairs, and Joseph Balkoski, 29th ID Historian

THE 29TH INFANTRY Division (Blue and Gray Division) is based in Fort Belvoir, Virginia. It is currently a formation of the Army National Guard and includes units from Virginia, Maryland, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, and West Virginia.

Commanded by MGs Milton A. Reckord (February 1934 – 1942), Leonard T. Gerow (February 1942 – July 1943), and Charles H. Gerhardt (July 1943 – January 1946), the 29th participated in major campaigns across the European Theater, including Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. It consisted of the 115th, 116th, and 175th Infantry Regiments.

Activated on February 3, 1941, the 29th trained at Ft. Meade, Maryland, through August 1941. In September 1941, they moved to the A.P. Hill Military Reservation, Virginia, participating in the Carolina Maneuvers in September 1941 and the VI Corps Carolina Maneuvers in July 1942. From there, they traveled to Camp Blanding, Florida, in August 1942, before heading to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, in September 1942. That same month, they departed New York, arriving in England in October 1942.

On June 6, 1944, the 116th IR landed as part of the first wave on Omaha Beach, suffering 1,000 casualties under adverse conditions and concentrated fire. The 115th followed the same day and the 175th arrived the next morning. The 116th relieved the 2nd Ranger BN at Pointe du Hoc on June 8, while the 175th took Isigny and the 115th reached the Aure River at Longueville. The 175th continued across the Vire but was forced to withdraw from the Montmartin-en-Graignes area on June 13.

The 29th ID opened the push on St. Lô on June 12, 1944 as the 175th battled up Hill 108. Meanwhile the 115th and 116th pushed southward, reaching Martinville Ridge on July 11. Parts of the 3rd Armored Division were committed to reduce a salient north of St. Lô on June 29, but the effort failed. On July 12, the 116th was halted on Martinville Ridge after penetrating



German lines in front of St. Lô. The 175th and 115th attacked the next day. Parts of the 116th were isolated astride the Bayeaux-St Lô Road from July 15-17. The Division took St Lô on July 18 and was relieved by the 35th ID on July 20.

On July 29, the 29th attacked south of St. Lô, and captured Vire on August 6. The Division moved west by motor into Brittany to positions outside Brest, and attacked on August 25. The 116th and 175th assaulted Le Conquet Peninsula, containing the formidable Batterie Graf Spee. On August 29, the 29th seized the crest of key Hill 103, but the control of the hill took several more days. The all-out assault on the city began September 10, and collapsed the German resistance on September 18.

The Division relieved the 2nd AD in the Gangelt-Teveren area of Holland on October 1. The 116th was detached and participated in the battle for Aachen alongside the 30th ID. The 29th began the offensive for the Roer on November 16, led by the 115th and 175th. Setterich was taken by the 116th after heavy combat on November 19, enabling the 2nd AD to push through. The 175th took, lost, and recaptured Bourheim and held it in the face of strong German counterattacks on November 26. On December 1, the 116th began the battle for the Hasenfeld Gut farm building-maze and the Jülich Sportplatz. It was forced to withdraw on December 7. The 115th continued the battle and destroyed both on December 8. Through February 23, 1945, the 29th held defensive positions along the Roer. On the last day, they crossed the river in the Brioch-Jülich sector. Supported by flame-throwing tanks, the 175th captured Jülich and The Citadel on February 24. The 116th and 175th combined to seize München-Gladbach on March 1. The division then consolidated, and went into reserve on March 3.

On March 31, the 29th crossed the Rhine, and moved to Sendenhorst-Ahlen on April 6. The Division took responsibility for a large rear area extending from the Rhine to the Dortmund-Ems Canal, and extended it eastward. The 116th was detached for nearly a week to join in the effort to capture Dortmund. It then moved up to the front on April 17 to assist the attacking 5th AD and the 115th and 116th IRs, moving rapidly and encountering only light resistance. The Division reached the Elbe on April 24 and relieved the 5th AD. On May 2, the 29th captured an entire 10,000-man German division. The same day, patrols established contact with the advancing Soviet Army. The 29th moved to Bremen on May 6 for continued military government duty, and was there when hostilities were declared ended the next day.

The 29th returned to New York on January 16, 1946, and was deactivated at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, on January 17, 1946. During the war, soldiers from the 29th received 2 Congressional Medals of Honor, 44 Distinguished Service Crosses, 1 Distinguished Service Medal, 854 Silver Stars, 17 Legions of Merit, 24 Soldier's Medals, 6,308 Bronze Star Medals, and 176 Air Medals. With 242 days in combat, they sustained 20,620 casualties: 3,887 KIA; 15,541 WIA (899 DOW); 347 MIA; 845 POW; and 8,665 DNB.

The 29th Division has a museum, listed in Little Known Museums Within the U.S. (page 7). The Repository of their historical documents and artifacts is located in the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore, Maryland.

CHAPTER NEWS (continued)

EISENHOWER CHAPTER

By Leon Reed, Chapter President

THE CHAPTER IS exploring field trips to the WWII American Experience, Fort Indiantown Gap, Wheels of Liberation, the Ritchie History Museum, and Gettysburg National Cemetery.

Members approved a resolution encouraging partnerships among government, educational, and community organizations in Gettysburg and Bastogne.

Plans are underway to participate in several military-themed events, including the WWII AE Military Weekend (July 24–26), Army Expo (September 12–13), and Eisenhower WWII Weekend (September 18–20).

The Pennsylvania Military Museum in Boalsburg has invited BOBA to take part in its December “Ghost Front” event by hosting an information table and conducting a wreath-laying ceremony.

WHEN HISTORY AND FILM CONNECT: INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF WWII STORYTELLERS

By Eva Depoorter, External Communications Officer, Consulate General of Belgium in New York

THE POWER OF storytelling took center stage during *When History and Film Connect: Inspiring the Next Generation of WWII Storytellers*, a fireside discussion featuring Mathieu Billa, Director of the Bastogne War Museum, and Tim Gray, WWII documentary filmmaker and founder of the WWII Foundation.

The discussion reinforced an important truth: the legacy of the Battle of the Bulge lives on not only in history books, but through the stories we preserve and pass on to future generations.

We were honored to welcome Battle of the Bulge veteran David Marshall, whose courage during one of World War II's most pivotal battles helped shape history. His presence served as a living connection to the sacrifices made in defense of freedom more than eighty years ago.

A particularly moving moment was the tribute to Theodore "Ted" Novak. Ted landed on Omaha Beach in 1944 with the 83rd Infantry Division "Thunderbolts" and earned the Bronze Star for rescuing fellow soldiers under heavy enemy fire during the Battle of the Bulge on Christmas Eve, 1944. Wounded three times in combat, he received three Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars for his extraordinary bravery and service.

Although saddened by his recent passing, we were grateful to welcome members of his family to the Belgian Residence to accept, on his behalf, the knighthood in the Order of Leopold, one of Belgium's highest honors, recognizing his courage, sacrifice, and commitment to freedom.

The fireside chat also explored how younger generations can continue to understand the significance of World War II as the generation who experienced it firsthand leaves us.

Through their unique perspectives, attendees examined how museums, film, archives, and personal narratives can bring history to life. Both speakers emphasized that remembrance must continue to evolve through visual storytelling, firsthand testimonies, and immersive experiences that resonate with today's audiences.

Museums are more than places that preserve artifacts, and documentaries are more than historical records. Together, they educate, inspire, and connect past and present.

As David Marshall reminded us, "If you forget the past, you are not going to have a future."

More than eighty years after the Battle of the Bulge, the memory of Bastogne continues to resonate as a symbol of resilience, unity, and the enduring friendship between Belgium and the United States.

A heartfelt thank you to moderator Philippine van der Straeten, the Battle of the Bulge Association, Wallonia-Brussels International, the Consulate General of Luxembourg in New York, and all those who helped make this meaningful conversation possible. Special thanks as well to Mathieu Billa and Tim Gray for sharing their expertise and insights.

Representing the Battle of the Bulge Association were President Steve Landry, Executive Vice President Kevin Hinkle, Vice President of Membership Joe Wollet, *Bulge Bugle* Editor Christine Guidry Law, and BOBA members Alice Hinkle and Barbara Mooneyhan.

Together, we continue the mission of remembrance, ensuring that the lessons, sacrifices, and stories of World War II endure for generations to come.



(Left-to-Right): Mathieu Billa, Bastogne War Museum Director; Filip Vanden Bulcke, Consul General of Belgium in New York; David Marshall, Bulge veteran; Tim Gray, WWII documentary filmmaker and founder of the WWII Foundation



(Left): David Marsh, Bulge veteran and Christine Guidry Law, Bulge Bugle editor. (Right): Philippine van der Straeten, Event Moderator, listens to David's war stories.



David Marsh, Bulge veteran with BOBA officers and members.

BOBA SUPPORTS GETTYSBURG-BASTOGNE PARTNERSHIPS

BOBA'S DWIGHT D. Eisenhower Chapter endorsed a resolution calling for government, educational, research, and community organizations in Gettysburg and Bastogne to develop partnerships to help remember the two great battles that occurred in their towns and the sacrifices of the people who were there.

Leon Reed, chapter president, said, "We think closer relations between Gettysburg and Bastogne are natural, not just because of the two great battles, but also because the two towns are so strongly dedicated to researching, commemorating, and educating the public about these battles."

BOBA has had informal discussions with officials at the Belgian embassy and people in Bastogne. Efforts now are underway

to gain support from Gettysburg historical, veterans, and tourism promotion groups, and the WWII American Experience Museum has begun partnership discussions with Bastogne museums. Once local support has been developed, the proposal will be submitted to local government officials in both towns with the idea of pursuing twin-city status.

Glenn Ivers, who has spoken at several BOBA events about his book, *Angels of Bastogne*, stated, "I think it is a brilliant idea, finding common ground between locations that are sacred ground for Americans where so many of our soldiers died in the defense of freedom."

Joris Dequae, a Bastogne civic official, expressed enthusiasm for the initiative. "Both places are more than historical sites—they are symbols. Symbols of courage, of sacrifice, and above all, of the enduring struggle for freedom, equality, and human dignity. From the fields of Gettysburg during the American Civil War to the forests surrounding Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge, generations of soldiers stood against forces that threatened these fundamental principles. The proposed coalition offers a powerful opportunity to ensure that these values are not only remembered, but actively transmitted to future generations. In a world where the meaning of freedom and equality can sometimes feel distant or abstract, initiatives like this bring history back to life—and make it relevant again."

Reed insists that the important part comes after the agreements are signed. "It's easy to agree to a partnership," he said. "The important part is what we do to follow up. We need to promote scholarly exchanges, cooperative educational programs, promotions, and other follow-up actions."



Mathieu Billa (Manager, Bastogne War Museum) and Loni Buck (CEO, WWII American Experience Museum) after twin city discussions

AMERICA 250: FROM THE SPIRIT OF '76 TO THE FOUR FREEDOMS



BOBA AND THE Sons of the American Revolution have teamed up to celebrate America's 250th and to highlight the important role of the Battle of the Bulge in our history. The two organizations are sponsoring a series of presentations, entitled *From 'The Spirit of '76' to 'The New Birth of Freedom' to 'The Four Freedoms,'* which links together the 250th, Gettysburg's Civil War tradition, and BOBA's mission to honor and remember World War II. See complete presentation schedule below. To book any of the following presentation topics contact Leon Reed at leonsreed@gmail.com.

- African American Participation in the Army from 1775-1945 and President Truman's Desegregation Order (Feb. 14, 3 p.m.)
- Military leaders in Three Wars: George Washington, George Meade, Ulysses S. Grant, Dwight D. Eisenhower (April 4, 11 a.m.)
- Fighters: Dan Morgan, William T. Sherman, Stonewall Jackson, George Patton (April 18)
- Pennsylvania Military Leaders in Three Wars: "Mad Anthony" Wayne; John Reynolds and Winfield Scott Hancock; Jacob Devers from York, PA; Carl "Tooey" Spaatz (May 9)

- York, PA, in Two Wars: National capital, home of the Articles of Confederation (Revolution); York Plan and war production (WWII) (June 13)
- POWs, Spies and Spooks in South Central PA (WWII): Fort Ritchie, Camp Sharpe, Pine Grove Furnace Interrogation Center, Catoctin Mountain Park and the OSS, Letterkenny POWs (June 27). Presenters: Leon Reed and John Baker
- Changing Roles of Cavalry in the Revolution, Civil War, WWII (July 18)
- Pennsylvania Supplies Three Wars: Iron Furnaces, Pennsylvania Rifles, Carlisle Arsenal; Civil War Railroads; Pittsburgh and Philadelphia in WWII (Oct. 3). Presenters: Leon Reed and Scott Mingus
- Turning Point Battles: Saratoga, Gettysburg, Bulge (Oct. 17)
- Congress in Three Wars (date TBD)
- Soldiers Experiences: Jeremiah Lott, Morgan Snyder, Frank Lembo (date TBD)





THE MAN WHO PUT HIS RIFLE DOWN

By James McGuire, Jr.



James C. McGuire, Co. H, 110th IR, 28th ID

The Man Who Put His Rifle Down

He was just 25 in '44,
Snow and steel, the fog of war,
Fighting through that frozen ground,
Bullets flying, men going down.

Thirty-cal water-cooled and hot,
He held the line when others could not,
In the Ardennes where the thunder rolled,
He carried more than he ever told.

Through the Ardennes, the fire blazed
The Battle of the Bulge, forty-one days.

He was a solider, strong and proud,
Did his duty through the fire and sound,
But years went by, and the ghosts came 'round,
To the man who put his rifle down.

Back home in Maine, the years were kind,
He built a life, left war behind,
Till one cold fall in the morning haze,
He took his gun where the deer would graze.

Through the scope, he caught the sight,
A heartbeat steady, breath held tight,
But the more he looked, the more he saw,
Something human, something raw.
He was a solider, strong and proud,
Did his duty through the fire and sound,
But when the past came back around,
He put his rifle down.

No more smoke, no more sound,
Just quiet woods and sacred ground,
He felt the weight, he felt the pain,
And knew he'd never aim again.

He never spoke of what he'd seen,
But peace was found in letting be,
He gave his all, he gave enough,
To learn that mercy's stronger stuff.

He was a solider, strong and proud,
Did his duty through the fire and sound,
But grace came down without a sound,
To the man who put his rifle down.

No shame in peace, no lost crown,
Just a heart that finally found,
A better way — on higher ground,
For the man who put his rifle down.

I WAS SITTING in my deer stand one quiet morning, waiting for the woods to wake up. The stillness had that kind of silence you don't hear very often. The kind that makes you think. In that silence, I started thinking about my dad. James C. McGuire, a machine gunner with Co. H, 110th IR, 28th ID.

When I was young, I once asked him why he never hunted anymore. He had all the skills, knew every trail in the woods, but he never went. I'll never forget his answer. He said, "I had my sights on a deer's head one day... and the longer I looked, the more it looked human. That's when I put my rifle down."

As a kid, I didn't fully understand. I thought it was just a strange thing to say. But that morning in the deer stand, for the first time, it finally made sense. I remembered that my dad had been a heavy gunner in the Battle of the Bulge. Forty-one brutal days of freezing snow, constant shelling, and human lives in his sights. He carried a .30 caliber water-cooled machine gun—not a deer rifle, but a weapon of war. He was just 25 years old. He saw things no one should ever have to see.

And in that quiet moment, sitting with my own rifle resting across my lap, it hit me. When he looked through that scope years later, he wasn't just seeing a deer. He was seeing a face. A memory. A moment that never fully left him. That's when he walked away. Not because he lost interest in hunting, but because he had already seen too much. He didn't just put his rifle down that day. He laid down a piece of the war he had carried his whole life.

I wrote this poem in honor of my father and all who fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

A TRIBUTE TO THE WERETH 11

By Joel Lamberty, Belgian Correspondent

ON DECEMBER 17, 1944, the segregated 333rd Field Artillery Battalion was overwhelmed by a German offensive near the Our River in Belgium. Eleven soldiers became separated from their unit. They walked ten miles through waist-deep snow and freezing temperatures to escape capture. When they arrived at the tiny hamlet of Wereth, Belgium, a local farmer named Mathias Langer took them into his home, feeding them and offering shelter despite the immense risk to his own family.

A Nazi sympathizer in the village alerted the German forces to the presence of the Black American soldiers hiding in the Langer home. Troops from the notorious 1st SS Panzer Division surrounded the house. The soldiers surrendered peacefully to ensure that the civilian Langer family would not be executed. The SS marched the unarmed men into a nearby cow pasture. They were subjected to horrific torture, including having their legs broken, fingers severed, and faces battered, before being executed. Their bodies were left frozen in a ditch under the snow for weeks.

An annual ceremony is held to honor the memory of these brave soldiers, serving as a tribute from both the United States and Belgium to their sacrifice. Service members, Department of Defense civilians, Belgian military members and U.S. and Belgian citizens attend. This year, the ceremony was graced by the presence of the U.S. Ambassador, William "Bill" White.

Following an invocation by Chaplain Thomas Ladron (U.S. Air Force captain), remarks were delivered by the Mayor of Amel and the U.S. Ambassador, followed by the keynote address from Col. Kevin LaSharrne Jackson.

Students from local schools paid tribute to two members of the Wereth 11, Robert Leroy Green and George Davis.

The ceremony concluded with a blessing by the priest of Amel, musical selections from the Vogelweh Gospel Service Choir, the sounding of the Last Post, and a rifle salute presented by the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center Color Guard.

My connection to this ceremony is somewhat personal. I recently discovered that longtime friends living in my wife's hometown are the grandsons of Mr. Langer, the man who took in the soldiers at the risk of his own life. Claudy Gengoux, who can be seen in the accompanying photo with his two children, keeps the memory of this act alive in his family. His daughter, a law student, had insisted on being present that morning at the ceremony.

As always, this beautiful event was expertly organized by Solange de Keizer and the U.S. Memorial Wereth. It was an honor for me to represent the Battle of the Bulge Association and join in remembering the courage and sacrifice of the Wereth 11.



The Landstuhl Regional Medical Center Color Guard led by SGT Edward F Shield. On the right Mrs Solange Dekeyser, president of the U.S. Memorial Wereth Association.



Spangdahlem Air Base Honor Guard led by A1C Alex Jewett & SSG Maxim Tchekan, SrA, USAF.

Claudy Gengoux (center) Grandson of Mathias Langer who welcomed the Wereth's eleven in his house with his daughter Aïcha and his son Adrien.



• IN MEMORIAM •

WARREN WILLIAM “BILL” ALLEN, JR.

WARREN WILLIAM “BILL” ALLEN, JR. passed away peacefully at his home in Kirkwood, Missouri, on February 12, 2026, at the age of 102. He is survived by his wife, Diana Thomas, his three children—Bill Allen (Terri), Peggy Allen (Dennis), and John Allen (Julie)—along with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Ruth Lee Reddish Allen; his second wife, Mary Knickmeyer; his brother, Richard Allen; and his sister, Joan Dirth.

Born January 2, 1924, in Webster Groves, Missouri, Bill attended Purdue University before enlisting in the U.S. Army during World War II. He served with the 87th Infantry Division for three years, including combat service during the Battle of the Bulge and the liberation of Europe.

After the war, Bill earned a degree in Chemical Engineering from Washington University in St. Louis and began his career with Prestite Engineering. He later joined Hydraulic Press Brick Company, where he advanced through several leadership positions and ultimately served as President before retiring at age 77. He also contributed to the industry as President of the Expanded Shale, Clay and Slate Institute (ESCSI).

Throughout his life, Bill remained committed to service. He shared his World War II experiences with students at Webster and Kirkwood Veterans Day programs, volunteered with the Big Brother program, and served as a Stephen Minister.

Known for his energy, kindness, humor, and curiosity, Bill inspired those around him and lived by the belief that his purpose was to help make each generation better than the one before.

Memorial gifts may be made to Greater St. Louis Honor Flight.



DAVID POOLE

DAVID WHITFIELD POOLE, 101, died on May 10, 2026. David was born to John and Idora Poole on November 11, 1924 and grew up in Stony Creek, Virginia, where he enjoyed a childhood filled with hunting and fishing. After high school, he served in the troop carrier command of the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, where his missions included both D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge.

After leaving the military, he pursued his studies at Virginia Tech where he was a member of the 1950 graduating class. During his college years, David played professional baseball with the Chicago Cubs organization from 1947-1949. While still a Virginia Tech student and Chicago Cubs baseball player, David married Charlotte (née) Winfield, and they raised three children.

David spent his entire career with Dominion Energy, and was a Division Vice President upon retirement. An active Methodist church member, David also participated in community service with the United Way, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Boy Scouts, Rotary Club and State Chamber of Commerce.

A true southern gentleman, David loved adults and children, and people were naturally drawn to him and his easy-going personality. David and Charlotte enjoyed 66 years of marriage and were blessed with the good health to travel to every U.S. state and overseas. When not traveling, David enjoyed gardening, hunting, and fishing up to his 101st birthday.



• TAPS •

WILLIAM “BILL” ALLEN • 2/12/2026
Kirkwood, MO • 87 ID 335 FA BN BAT C

FRANK CHAMBERS • 7/19/2025
League City, TX • 75 ID 291 IR CO C

EDMUND BURKE • 2/3/2026
Ridgefield, CT • 7 ARMD DIV 38 ARMD INF BN

DAVID POOLE • 5/10/2026
Sutherland, VA • 442 TROOP CARR GP 9 AF

Please notify us when you hear that any member of our organization has recently passed away, so that we may honor them in a future issue of *The Bulge Bugle*®. Notify us of any errors or omissions. Send notices by mail: BOBA, Inc., P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330; or by email: bulge.bugle.editor@gmail.com.



PFC FRANK CHAMBERS CANNON COMPANY, 75 INF, 291 INF REG

BOBA Veteran Stories (April 21, 2012)

Frank narrated this story for the BOBA website archives (2012) which depicts his experience as a truck driver with the Cannon Company. This is an excerpt of his full story.

The Year 1945: More War? World Peace?

Time: January 1st, 1945

Place: Ardennes Forests of Belgium and Luxembourg

NEW YEAR'S DAY, 1945 dawned crystal clear and bitterly cold. Boughs of the Ardennes fir trees were strained under the weight of the recent snowfall. More snow had descended on the Allied troops during the night, adding to the misery of the intense cold. Lack of warm clothing and adequate footwear plagued the troops in their quest to shove the German army back to their homeland. Many soldiers, especially frontline infantry troops, suffered frozen feet.

The unexpected breakthrough by the German troops occurred two weeks ago. Hundreds of thousands of Allied soldiers were rushed into the Ardennes to blunt the German move. This included 15,000 men of the 75th Infantry Division, including the 291st Infantry Regiment, Cannon Company. The truck driver of Cannon 14 was counted in those thousands that had rushed north into the Ardennes from a camp near Paris, France. He had witnessed the blinding shell bursts as his motor convoy approached the front lines on that memorable night journey ten days ago.

The truck driver and his buddies welcomed hot coffee from the company's mess tent. Those cooks worked long hours to serve hot food under primitive conditions. While sipping the steamy liquid, they had several laughs about last night's spectacular bombardment. Every artillery piece in the Allied armies fired three rounds into the German lines at the stroke of midnight. The three 105 mm cannons of the Company joined in the New Year serenade to Hitler.

By late January the German army had been driven back to mid December positions near the Rhine River. The Ardennes campaign was now history. Thousands of Allied troops were killed. Thousands more were wounded, missing in action or taken prisoner. Many of the casualties resulted from the lack of proper clothing and footwear. The German army also suffered tremendous losses. The superiority of the Allied forces in equipment, manpower and planes seriously depleted Hitler's ability to wage war on two fronts. The tide had turned in favor of the Allies.

But that was not the end of heavy lifting for the 75th Infantry Division. Hitler created another breakthrough in southeast France near Strasburg. His strategy was to divert the Allies' attention from a possible Rhine River crossing by pushing into the Alsace-Lorraine city of Colmar near the Swiss border. Late January found the truck driver in a long convoy of military trucks and equipment departing Belgium and heading south through France. The convoy drove day and night, passing through the city of Nancy and over the treacherous Vosges Mountains. Extreme driving skill—and lots of luck—was required to navigate the narrow mountainous roads while traveling under complete black out conditions. The driver's



only guide was to follow the tiny slit of blackout light from the vehicle ahead. Deep snow-filled ravines reflected in the cold moonlight.

Several days passed. The Rhine crossing was completed and the German army was pushed further east. As Cannon Company prepared to depart the farmstead, the farm family was permitted to return. The farmer rushed into the barn, saw that his cows were in good health and had been milked properly.

With tears streaming down his face, he grabbed the truck driver, gave him a heartfelt hug and kissed him on both cheeks. The farmer's gratitude was beyond description. He attempted to thank the troops in broken English and with more hugs and kisses. The truck driver knew he would always remember milking cows while in the Army.

May 8, 1945—the truck driver was working on a warehouse dock. The loud speakers suddenly blared: "Germany has surrendered! The war in Europe is over!"

The surrender took place near Rheims, France, in the same building as the 1918 German surrender and the Armistice of the first war. The Nazi regime in Europe was history. Now all eyes were directed to the Pacific. When would that war end? At what cost?

Frank's FULL story can be found on the BOBA website under Veteran's Stories: battleofthebulge.org



Frank with his Legion of Honor medal (2014)

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 (electronic Bugle)**

☐ **Yearly Veteran (Bulge Vet) Membership: \$0 for 2026***

*** BOBA is gifting the 2026 membership fee to Bulge veterans.**

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.



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*® Battle of the Bulge Association® 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®, PO Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA, 23111.

Donation Amount: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ OTHER **Your Name:**

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

☐ **Gift In Honor of:**
Name Service Units (if applicable)

ALL GIFTS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!