Dear Members & Friends,

The life blood of any organization are the dues and funding received for expenses, etc.

**It is time to send in your DUES for 2022**

Individual Member - $20

Family - $35

Please send check made out to **8th Armored Division Association**

Send to

8th Armored Division Association

2345 E. Dauphin St

Philadelphia, PA 19125

Use the E-Mail address: 8thArmoredDivision@gmail.com

To communicate further, we also feature a ‘Facebook’ account and ask all interested to enroll in order to stay in contact and share comments and information:

New Association ‘Facebook’ page

[http://www.facebook.com/groups/269231523148647/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/269231523148647/)
We are in need of volunteers to assist with the following:
* Future Reunions - a volunteer committee to work on the details of a potential annual reunion/Association meeting where yearly business and elections and planning can be conducted.
* Newsletter – help and contribute articles and reports to the semi-annual newsletter – the ‘Thundering Herd’

We need articles, photos and stories for the ‘Thundering Herd’ newsletter. Please help us by sending in stories, photos and recollections of the veterans and your family members who served!

Many THANKS!
Andy Waskie, president

**The Commemorative Memorial Stone to Honor the Veterans and service of the 8th Armored Division**

GOOD news!
Our design of the Commemorative Stone for the 8th Armored Division to be placed at the Army History and Education Center (AHEC) at the Army War College, Carlisle, PA has received approval and we will dedicate the Memorial on Saturday, June 25, 2022 at 1:30pm.
We would like to hold a dedication ceremony at AHEC for the dedication of the Memorial on June 25th and invite all members and friends to attend and participate. Please RSVP if you intend to attend and participate.

On the June 25th Legion Post 405 Day Trip to Carlisle, PA to visit the War College, a new **memorial to the veterans of the 8th Armored Division will be dedicated** at AHEC (Army Heritage & Education Center) at 1:30pm

Below is a photo of the Commemorative Stone to honor the veterans and service in the 8th Armored Division.
SUCCESS! The Memorial for the 8th Armored Division and its gallant veterans has finally been placed in honor at the Army War College – Army Heritage & Education Center (AHEC) in Carlisle, PA

On June 4, 2022, yours truly (Andy Waskie, president of the Association) and wife Carol (treasurer of the Association) and the crew from Laurel Hill Cemetery travelled from Philadelphia to Carlisle to install a beautiful expression of our respect and commemoration of the supreme service and sacrifice of the veterans of the ‘Thundering Herd’ at the most appropriate place to honor their memory.

Profound THANKS to the 8th Armored Division Association, veterans, members, friends and sponsors for their contributions which made the memorial possible and to the skilled crew of masons from Historic Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia who transported the memorial to Carlisle and positioned it beautifully in the Memorial Garden of AHEC where it will rest in perpetuity.

All sponsors are listed on a plaque on the back of the Memorial.

Special Thanks to the crew: Bill Doran, superintendent of LHC; Arie Danz; Bill Elmans; Shawn Jacobsen; and to Col. Mike Perry, president of AHEC.

On the June 25th (2022) the new memorial to the veterans of the 8th Armored Division will be dedicated at AHEC (Army Heritage & Education Center) at 1:30pm, Carlisle, PA.

At the dedication, an endowment check will be presented to AHEC by the 8th Armored Division Association.
American Legion Post 405 at the Union League; the 8th Armored Division Association and members of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge will travel to Carlisle, PA to visit the AHEC & the War College and assemble in the Memorial.
Garden to commemorate the men of the ‘Thundering Herd’!
ALL members of the 8th Armored Division Association and especially its veterans are invited to attend and participate.

Update & Report on our project to create memorial to the 8th Armored Division and its veterans at the War College (AHEC) in Carlisle, PA

Dear Veterans of the 8th Armored Division, Association Members and Friends,

Background
We would like to send more details on the status of our 8th Armored Division Association stated goal of erecting a memorial marker to the Division and its veterans. We had hoped to place a marker at Arlington National Cemetery. But, we were informed several years ago, that due to political and space considerations, our application to place the marker at Arlington was denied by the Secretary of the Army, then Eric Fanning. In October, 2015, I and my colleague LTC (ret.) Jon Peterson, representing the 8th Armored Division Association were invited to address the Arlington National Cemetery Advisory Committee (ANCAC) and present our appeal to place a memorial marker as soon as possible.
We both spoke passionately in support of the project. The Committee listened attentively, asked a few questions and in general seemed well disposed to our presentation and the project. There was one negative comment, stating that we were requesting a marker for a Division, and that given the ever decreasing space available at Arlington, the emphasis is now being placed on marking the burial of individuals. This Committee member felt that the marker might be better placed at the proposed Museum of the US Army, or elsewhere.
As a result, I contacted officials of the Museum of the US Army, and consulted with them about placing a Granit memorial marker there in a prominent location. They have placed a gateway display leading up to the entrance of the Museum and it is being lined with granite memorials to individual units and divisions of the US Army through history. A Memorial Granite marker for the 8th Armored Division was placed there and dedicated at the 2021 Reunion of the 8th Armored Division
Association at the Museum of the Army at Ft. Belvoir on August 21, 2021 during our Reunion trip to Virginia. The president of the Museum, LTG Roger Schultz was present and made appropriate remarks, as well as a moving, poetic statement by living 8th Armored veteran – Joseph Ciniero of Co. A, 7th Armored Infantry Battalion ‘Footsteps’.

Therefore, with donations, we planned to place and dedicate a Stone Memorial with granite plaque at the War College (AHEC) in Carlisle, PA in the future when it will become a prominent and honorable memorial on display at the Museum, which is expected to be a huge success and attract millions of visitors who will view the memorial and honor the 8th Armored Division and its veterans.

We are still raising funds to cover the costs of the memorial. At the Army Heritage & Education Center (AHEC) at the Army War College in Carlisle, PA, they also feature an outdoor Army History Center where they are placing individual memorials to Army Divisions.

AHEC and its president (Col. Mike Perry) are delighted to accept the donation of the 8th Armored Division stone & bronze memorial, which is attached to a large granite stone (5’ high) on the front will be secured our Bronze Memorial Plaque; on the rear will be secured our Donor’s Plaque. This memorial was erected on the Army History Trail in the Memorial Garden at AHEC near the well-travelled I-81

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ALL members of the 8th Armored Division Association and especially its veterans are invited to attend and participate.

The placement memorial came at a high cost to the Association.
Therefore, the **fundraising campaign** will continue to raise the necessary funds to help defray the costs.
The Bronze memorial plaque design is the one which was sent out for approval in 2015 and gained that approval. It is a beautiful bronze sculpture of elements of the 8th Armored Division in action in the spring of 1945 in Germany. It is 31” x 38” and is attached to a granite stone 5’ high. The sculptor is a friend and a Vietnam veteran well known in the military art community – **Andrew Chernak**.

We continue to encourage all members and friends of the 8th Armored Division Association to make a donation. The memorial stone, attachment of plaques, transportation, placement, endowment for AHEC and funds for a dedication & reception has cost over $15,000.

**THANK YOU in advance! For your dues and donations**
Please make the check out to:
8th Armored Division Association
Mail to:
8th Armored Division Association
2345 E. Dauphin St
Philadelphia, PA 19125
Livestream
https://vimeo.com/665770171

David Clare’s Travel log for his recent trip to the Netherlands and Margraten Military Cemetery, May 2022

So my trip had three objectives...
1) Our Memorial Wreath (which is delivered day before) no unit wreaths on
ceremony anymore per ABMC new rules. Then visit all my family requests and several 8th AD Graves.

2) Visit Rheinberg Germany and document a few places a) St Peter's Church featured on website (where Capt Kelly drove his tank 'round front area..first in the city). Visit spot & tell story of Lt Erickson tank crew killed down the block from Church. Visit & take pics of Combat Commands HQ(former Zur Post hotel) for Rheinberg battle in Lintfort.

3) Visit & document with pics & map co-ordinate website the Linne-Merum battle....then visit the various towns/villages the 8th AD were scattered during same battle & kick off of "Operation Grenade"

On Monday Memorial Day I visited Henri Chapelle Military Cemetery in Luxembourg to Honor 3 8th AD men on Walls of Missing placing single yellow rose & American flag

David would like to announce that he would like to get of group of 8th Armored Division Association members together for tour next year (2023) (presumably for Memorial Day)

He may be going back late December mid-January to visit and tour Nennig, Sinz, Berg, Germany...8th AD had its baptism by fire there alongside 94th I.D. with the 3rd Army in the Saar/Mosel Triangle
2022 Reunion of the 8th Armored Division Association in partnership with the Battle of the Bulge Association (BoBA) on October 21 – 22 – 23, 2022 in Gettysburg, PA

The Registration FLYER follows.


40TH ANNUAL REUNION GETTYSBURG, PA October 21 - 23, 2022
Join us for our 40th Annual Battle of the Bulge Association Reunion! During our 3 day/2 night gathering, we’ll reunite with our Bulge veterans and BOBA friends and remember the Battle of the Bulge. We’ll also have the opportunity to explore historic Gettysburg and get to know some of the personalities that influenced what occurred there during the Civil War for a truly remarkable and meaningful experience.

REGISTRATION FEE: All attendees must pay the registration fee (see Registration Form). This covers expenses for office staff, programs, hospitality room, decorations, name tags, etc.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2022
Registration opens in the afternoon. In the evening, join us for a Welcome Reception with opening remarks. Also, participate in an optional 1-hour walking tour of the historic surroundings.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2022
After breakfast, take a short walk to the Gettysburg National Military Park (top), a trip to the Eisenhower National Historic Site (bottom left), and gatherings at the Gettysburg Heritage Center (bottom right).

Highlights of our annual reunion will be a motorcoach tour around the Gettysburg National Military Park (top), a trip to the Eisenhower National Historic Site (bottom left), and gatherings at the Gettysburg Heritage Center (bottom right).

“Eisenhower stayed as a retreat from The White House and later retired there. After the tour, depart or stay for additional days to see the rest of Gettysburg. In the vicinity there’s shopping, souvenirs, bar-restaurants, historic sites, etc. The hotels are not far from the center of Gettysburg and there’s a convenient shuttle service.”

“This is undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever famous American victory.”

—SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL, addressing the House of Commons following the Battle of the Bulge.
# Friday, October 21 - Sunday, October 23, 2022

## REUNION PROGRAM ITINERARY
*(subject to revisions as needed)*

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2022**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM - 7:30 PM</td>
<td>Registration <em>(Quality Inn Gettysburg Lobby)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 PM - 8:00 PM</td>
<td>Reception sponsored by the BOBA Delaware Valley Chapter <em>(Quality Inn Hotel Breakfast Room)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Light refreshments included</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 PM - 8:00 PM</td>
<td>Optional 1-hour walking tour of the vicinity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2022**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 AM - 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Complimentary Breakfast for guests staying at the Quality Inn or Best Western on Steinwehr Ave. Breakfast rooms reserved for BOBA &amp; Divisional units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM - 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Late Registration <em>(Best Western Gettysburg Lobby)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM - 11:00 AM</td>
<td>BOBA Annual Membership Meeting <em>(Heritage Center)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 AM - 12:45 PM</td>
<td>Lunch on your own (there are many places within walking distance along Steinwehr Ave., or take shuttle to town), and free time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45 PM</td>
<td>Bus loads for tour of Battlefield <em>(parking lot behind the Gettysburg Heritage Center)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 PM Sharp</td>
<td>Bus departs Heritage Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM</td>
<td>Bus tour of Battlefield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Bus returns to Heritage Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15 PM</td>
<td>Short walk to National Cemetery to lay wreath in the National Cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 PM - 8:30 PM</td>
<td>Buffet Dinner at General Pickett’s Buffet *(short walk from hotel), Speakers TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 PM</td>
<td>Short walk back to Hotel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2022**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 AM - 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Complimentary Breakfast for guests staying at Quality Inn or Best Western on Steinwehr Ave. Breakfast rooms reserved for BOBA &amp; Divisional units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 AM</td>
<td>Bus loads for tour of Eisenhower National Historic Site <em>(parking lot behind the Gettysburg Heritage Center)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM Sharp</td>
<td>Bus departs for Eisenhower National Historic Site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM - 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Tour Eisenhower National Historic Site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Bus returns to Heritage Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Depart or stay longer and enjoy the Gettysburg battlefields and other attractions!

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**BOBA is proud to partner with the following association units for our annual reunion event in Gettysburg!**

- 8 ARMDD
- 28 INFD
- 87 INFD

Each unit participated in the Battle of the Bulge, and each unit will have small informal gatherings during our BOBA reunion weekend. Contact your unit for more information re: unit-specific gatherings. If your unit fought in the Battle of the Bulge and would like to participate, please contact Awank61@gmail.com. Thank you!
BOBA REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION FOR REUNION: Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Steps to Register: 1. Contact Hotel to reserve room(s) yourself either online via the chosen hotel website or via phone (see page # for instructions). 2. Complete the BOBA REGISTRATION FORM either online via battleofthebulge.org > click on “Attend Reunion” or mail your registration form and check to BOBA, PO BOX 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111. Registration for the reunion must be received no later than September 21, 2022. Please note that any registration cancellations will result in a donation of your registration fees to the Battle of the Bulge Association, in order to cover costs of bus reservations, as well as event fees, office staff, decorations, etc. (See page # for hotel reservation information.)

Name

Additional/Guests

________________________

Address

________________________

Phone: ____________________ BirthDate ____________________

Email

________________________

BOBA Chapter Association (if any)

________________________

Division Association (if any)

________________________

Arrival date & time ____________________ Departure date & time ____________________

Nights at the hotel ____________________ Indicate which hotel you booked:

Check here if you need a wheelchair Q. Check here if you will be using your own wheelchair Q. Motorized? Q Yes Q No

IMPORTANT: Please indicate No. of Persons attending free events as well!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Persons</th>
<th>Cost per Person</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration Fee (all attendees must pay the non-refundable Registration Fee)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (21 and Over)</td>
<td>____________________</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child (17 and Under)</td>
<td>____________________</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late registration fee after September 21 - add $20 per person</td>
<td>____________________</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, October 21, 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evening reception at Quality Inn</td>
<td>free</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional walking tour</td>
<td>free</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, October 22, 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOBA Annual Membership Meeting</td>
<td>free</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afternoon Bus Tour of the Gettysburg Battlefieild &amp; Museum</td>
<td>____________________</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afternoon Wreath-laying</td>
<td>free</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania Dutch Style Buffet Dinner at General Pickett’s Buffet</td>
<td>____________________</td>
<td>$45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, October 23, 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus tour to the Eisenhower National Historic Site</td>
<td>____________________</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax-deductible donation for Wreath Fund (indicate amount)</td>
<td>____________________</td>
<td>____________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor a Bulge Veteran’s event participation</td>
<td></td>
<td>$170</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 by PayPal, register online at www.battleofthebulge.org, click on “Attend Reunion”
In Memoriam

U. Joseph Ciniero, Co. A, 7th Armored Infantry Battalion
Mar 16, 1926 - Apr 26, 2022

Buried: Riverside National Cemetery
22495 Van Buren Blvd.
Riverside, CA 92518
SECTION 70 SITE 1368

Ubaldo Joseph Ciniero served as a private first class with the 8th Armored Division during World War II. He lived his life with the characteristic humble and quiet perseverance of the Greatest Generation, sharing little specifics of his wartime experience with his family, not even that he was awarded the Bronze Star for "meritorious achievement in active ground combat.” But he has never actually been presented with the medal. This precious World War II hero finally got the recognition he so very much deserves, even if he had to wait 75 years for it. Congratulations Mr. Ciniero! We are grateful for all your sacrifice. Heroism knows know age.

James Kendall Jones, age 97, of McKinney, TX
Battery B, 405th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, 8th Armored Division

James Kendall Jones, age 97, of McKinney, TX went home to spend eternity with his Lord and Savior at 12:20 PM on January 22, 2022 following complications from TBD. James Kendall was born on October 17, 1924 near Dyer, Tennessee to the late Elishue Marvin Jones and Georgia Anna Raines Jones. He is preceded in death by his parents, 4 brothers, Kirby, Floyd, Vance and Thoyce and 4 sisters, Bessie, Relma, Verna Maye and Violet. The aforementioned Kirby, Thoyce and Relma all died as very young children before James Kendall was born. He is also preceded in death by his loving and faithful wife (Martha Frances Gooch Jones) of exactly 67 years and 4 months. James Kendall was the youngest of 9 children (maybe 10). He is survived by his son Richard Jones of McKinney, Texas and 1 nephew, Rodney Puckett of Houston, TX plus various great nephews and great nieces in Arkansas, Tennessee, Alabama, Pennsylvania,
Maryland, Texas and the Northeast. After the 11th grade, James Kendall joined the Army in May 1943 to participate in World War II. After extensive Army training in Texas and Louisiana, James Kendall landed (as a member of the 8th Armored Division (The Thundering Herd)) in Le Havre, France in very late December 1944. During Winter and early Spring 1945, James Kendall earned 3 bronze stars for his service in the Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. To support the post war effort, James Kendall remained in Europe until February 1946. He then passed a GED exam and proceeded to receive a BA in Psychology from Michigan State University in 1950. In the late Summer or early Fall of 1950, James Kendall met the love of his life, Martha Frances Gooch in Selmer, Tn where he was working as a social worker. He soon moved from Selmer back to his hometown of Dyer and then on to Memphis, TN all the while commuting to Selmer every weekend to date Martha Frances. Martha and James Kendall were married in Selmer on October 11, 1953. After a honeymoon in the Great Smoky Mountains, the newlywed couple settled in Memphis, Tennessee. During the 1950s, James Kendall worked as/for an industrial engineer in Milan, Tn, Britling Cafeteria near downtown Memphis and 2 small insurance companies in Midtown Memphis. After 3 years of night school, he received a Law degree from Southern Law (now a part of the University of Memphis Law School) in 1961. In June 1961, James Kendall and Martha welcomed their firstborn and only child Richard Jones into their world at 4780 Hummingbird Lane in East Memphis. In the Fall of 1961, James Kendall joined General Accident Insurance where he spent the next 22 years working as a Claims Manager. During his first 13 years with General Accident he was physically located at the Sterick Building in Downtown Memphis, and then in 1974 he moved to the Ridgway area of East Memphis very close to the I-240 and Poplar Ave intersection. James Kendall concluded his career at Walter Gray Insurance in Memphis in Spring 1987. James Kendall and Martha then moved to Port Charlotte, Florida in 1987 where they spent the vast majority of their retirement years until moving for a brief period to Huntsville, AL and on to McKinney, TX. In his younger years, James Kendall enjoyed traveling around the country in a travel trailer with his wife and son to various locations as Florida, Colorado, California and Western
Canada. During his time in Memphis and Port Charlotte, Fl, he was a member of Mullins United Methodist Church and Port Charlotte United Methodist Church, respectively. James Kendall will be sadly missed by his family and friends. To share fond memories or expressions of sympathy for the Jones family, please visit Stonebriarfh.com.


130th Armored Ordnance Battalion

130th Armored Ordnance Battalion was responsible for the maintenance of vehicles in the Armored Divisions. What is an Ordnance battalion? The battalion was an extension of the Ordnance Branch of the U.S. Army. The broad mission of the Ordnance Corps is to supply Army combat units with weapons and ammunition. For this discussion we will focus on the WWII period. The Ordnance Branch is one of the oldest branches of the U.S. Army, founded on 14 May 1812. However, the duties and responsibilities of the profession date back to the colonial era. In 1629, the Massachusetts Bay Colony appointed Samuel Sharpe as the first Master Gunner of Ordnance.

The story for the Ordnance Department between WWI and WWII is filled with both good news and bad news. The decreased budgets limited the amount of money it spent on research, in lieu of maintaining war reserves. In spite of this, several legendary weapons were developed, including the M-1 Garand and the 105mm Howitzer, although tank development significantly lagged. The development of the Ordnance school system is another success story during the interwar years. Schooling for Ordnance officers and enlisted was streamlined during the period and consolidated by 1940 at Aberdeen Proving Ground at The
Ordnance School, a single location where all Ordnance education would occur. This location would be center of the soul of the Ordnance Branch for the next 68 years.

The Ordnance Department swelled exponentially in WWII and applied the lessons it learned in WWI. The Ordnance Department was responsible for roughly half of all Army procurement during World War II, $34 billion dollars. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s ‘Arsenal of Democracy’ depended on the Ordnance Department to become a reality. In January 1944, the Ordnance Department accounted for 7 manufacturing arsenals, 7 proving grounds, 45 depots, and 77 government-owned, contractor operated (GOCO) plants and works. Of the 77, all of them focused on ammunition and explosives except one. The Detroit Tank Arsenal was built in eight months while engineers simultaneously designed a new medium tank, the M3. By the end of the war, the Detroit Tank Arsenal built over 22,000 tanks, roughly 25 percent of the country’s tank production during the war. The Arsenal continued to operate as the Detroit Army Tank Plant until 2001. Ordnance Department strength increased from 334 to 24,000 officers, 4,000 to 325,000 enlisted, and 27,088 to 262,000 civilians, all in an army of approximately 8 million. Women Ordnance Workers (WOWs) accounted for approximately 85,000 of all civilian employees. Ordnance soldiers and civilians worked across the globe, in places such as Europe and the Middle East. Aberdeen Proving Ground expanded exponentially and headquartered The Ordnance School, the Ordnance Replacement Training Center, the new Bomb Disposal School, and the Ordnance Unit Training Center. The Ordnance mission in the field operated on a scale never experienced previously by the Ordnance Department. During WWII, the Ordnance Branch gained its third core competency, Bomb Disposal (renamed Explosive Ordnance Disposal after WWII) added to its previous missions of ammunition handling and maintenance. By war’s end, there were more than 2,200 Ordnance units of approximately 40 types, ranging in size from squads to regiments. The Ordnance Department applied the maintenance lessons it learned in WWI and devised a five-echelon maintenance system ranging from base shop maintenance to organizational maintenance, all in an effort to return materiel to operational status as near to the front line as possible. To complicate the maintenance mission, in 1942 the responsibility for motor transport was shifted from the Quartermaster Branch to the Ordnance Department. The complexity of maintenance for such a wide variety of vehicles spawned several innovations which continue to the present; a system of preventative maintenance and the publication of Army Motors, renamed PS Magazine in 1951. This maintenance challenge remained one of the largest hurdles in WWII. The Detroit Tank Arsenal in Michigan built more than 22,000 tanks, which was roughly 25 percent of the Nation’s tank production
during World War II. Here, M3 medium tanks were finished at the Detroit Army Tank Arsenal.

Letter sent to the Museum of the Army and LTG Roger Schultz as a result of his article on PFC Joseph Ciniero, Co. A, 7th Armored Infantry Battalion, 8th Armored Division and his beautiful poem read at the dedication of the new memorial stone for the ‘Thundering Herd’ at the Museum in August, 2021

March 7, 2022

THE ARMY HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
Attn: Lieutenant General Roger Schultz
1775 Liberty Drive, Suite 400
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

In a recent issue (Fall 2021) of "On Point - The Journal of Army History" I read the account of PFC U. Joseph Ciniero of Company A 7th Armored Infantry Battalion in the write-up "From the President's Desk". While I don't remember Joseph Ciniero during my time with the 7th Armored Infantry Battalion, I felt compelled to reach out to Joseph and yourself since our numbers are declining. I joined the Army in September of 1943 starting my career in the Army at Fort Dix, New Jersey. I was assigned to the 9th Company of the Forth Training Regiment at Fort Benning. As part of my training, I was selected to be part of the Army Specialist Training Program (ASTP). We were formed into platoons alphabetically and I found that I was assigned to the 2nd platoon. In March of 1944, I joined the 8th Armored Division at Camp Polk, LA., and was assigned to Company "A" of the 7th Armored Infantry Battalion (AIB). I was assigned to the Headquarters Squad of the Second Platoon. On November 7, 1944, the Battalion boarded the RMS Samaria (British flagged transatlantic ocean liner utilized during the war as a troopship in the Royal Navey) bound for England. We arrived at Southampton after our two-week voyage and was transported to camp (Pennings Camp). The camp was located near Tidworth which was an old garrison town for the British Army. In January of 1945 the unit was alerted to move to the continent. We embarked on a small transport from the southeast coast of England and arrived at a harbor in France (Le Havre). On January 17, 1945, we were temporarily attached to the Third Army and XX Corps for our initiation into combat.
Combat Command "A" of the 8th Armored Division consisted of Combat Command Headquarters 7th Armored Infantry Battalion
18th Tank Battalion
398th Armored Field Artillery Battalion
"D" Battery, 467h AAA AW/SP Battalion
"A" Troop, 88 Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron
"A" Company, 78th Medical Battalion
"A" Company, 53rd Armored Engineer Battalion
"A" Company, 130th Ordnance Maintenance Battalion

During our fighting for Nennig, Berg and Sinz it was reported that the Company had sustained 65% casualties. With our depleted ranks it was necessary that some reorganization take place and that the many vacancies in the NCO ranks be filled. I was promoted to Staff Sergeant and took over the 2d Squad of the 2d Platoon. The division was then transferred from the Third Army and assigned to the Ninth Army. In spite of everything we were still “A” Company. We had been bent a little but in no way broken. The months of training together and made us into a strong unit with a lot of pride in our unit and in ourselves. The esprit de corps that had grown during our months together held us together and as a unit we were ready to continue in combat and take whatever the enemy was going to throw at us.

While with the Ninth Army during our offensive to take Telerath, while giving my report of Lieutenant Albaneese of what I could see to our front, I was injured by a mortar round that dropped into the tank ditch. I was initially transported to the Field Hospital to receive medical care and surgery to wounds to my legs and back and was later transported to the 94th General Hospital and it was located at Ponte de St. Cloude in Paris for additional surgery and recovery. After about three weeks they had taken out most of the stitches and the wounds had healed enough for me to get out of bed and to try walking. On the 8th of May the surrender of the German forces was announced and the war in Europe was over. My main concern became how I could get out of the hospital and back to “A” Company. I still had some dressings on my leg but I talked to the doctors and convinced them that I was well enough to go back to my unit and would have the dressing changed regularly. I was discharged from the hospital and sent to the Replacement Depot that was close to Paris. Once back into the division area it was not difficult to find where the 7th AIB was located and from there to find out where “A” Company was located. The next day I was back with “A” Company. “A” Company was located in St Andresburg, Germany in the Harz Mountains. It was great to be back in the
When we arrived back at the Company, in the early part of September, we found that there had been many changes in the ten days or so that we were away. Many of my friends had been shipped out to other units and we were told that the Division was going home to be deactivated and would serve as a carrier unit for high point men. We received a large influx of men from the YD (Yankee Division, 26th Infantry Division) who would be going home with the division. Within a few days I received orders transferring me out of the Company.
I left the Company with many fond memories. In later years I left many other units; but I never had the same feeling of regret, and "A" Company of the 7th was still my unit. The Company had been together almost three years and I had been with the Company for eighteen months. Most of us formed strong bonds with other members of the Company, bonds that had been forged in good times and during adverse times. The Company was broken up but that did not end our ties with the members of the Company. Beginning in 1947 we began having small reunions with members of the Company. When the Eighth Armored Division Association was formed many of our Company joined and regularly attended the annual meeting and many times our Company had the largest representation of any of the other companies. Bill Bopp, our Assistant Company Clerk/Bugler became President of the Association in the 1960s. Bill had obtained a copy of the original Company roster at the time the unit deployed for Europe. The roster contained the home addresses of the members of the Company. About 1948 Bill Bopp began sending out newsletters two or three times a year to the original members of "A" Company. He put together a large scrapbook containing pictures of the members of the company during the war and in the years after the war. Bill continued to put out his newsletter until 1995 at which time he turned over the task of putting out newsletters to me. By the turn of the century the newsletters were still going out and although our numbers were greatly reduced, we still looked forward to getting together with our old friends. The last newsletter was sent out in 2007. Arnie Moe, my friend and who I still remain in contact with, presided over the Association from 2008 to 2009. In 2009 the Association became inactive. Arnie had joined the Eight Armored from the 18a Tank Battalion in June or July of 1944.

MY REGULAR ARMY PROGRESSION AFTER THE 8TH ARMORED DIVISION
I was transferred to "D" Company of the 33rd Infantry, 83 Infantry Division. The company was located in a small town named Simbach in Germany. Because of the division shoulder patch this division had the nickname of "Over the Hill in October" division. When I reported in to "D" Company I found that I was the senior NCO in the Company. I became a Platoon Sergeant. I took over the 81mm Mortar Platoon.
In December of 1945 it was time for personnel with my number of points to be deployed back to the states for discharge. I was transferred to "F Company of the
301 Infantry, 94 Division for the return to the states. About the 20 of January we boarded the transport for the trip back. It was a US Army transport and far different from the SS Samaria that we had traveled to Europe on. I had a lot of time on my hands during the voyage and I did a lot of thinking about what I was going to do. I had not minded my service in the Army and although there had been difficult and nasty times during the war I had enjoyed a good part of my service. I did not mind the discipline, the routine, and the restrictions at all. I enjoyed working with and training the men and it offered the opportunity to see other places and have some variety in what you did. True, the pay was poor, but as an NCO I was drawing good pay as an enlisted man and most of your needs were provided for. The opportunity for advancement did not look very good at that time but it did not seem any worse than what I could foresee in civilian life. By the time we reached New York and the ship pulled into the harbor I still did not have a good idea of what I wanted to do and whatever I did the decision would have to be mine. The ship docked in New York and as the troops cleared the transport, we were loaded on passenger trains for the trip to Fort Dix in New Jersey which was the processing center for returning troops. I felt that now was the time that I had to make a decision. I decided I would stay in the Army for another enlistment and see what happened. Therefore, I signed on for another three years in the Infantry. The next day, the 31st of January 1946 I was discharged from the 301 Infantry and on the following day, February 1 I was sworn into to the Regular Army. I retained my rank as a Staff Sergeant and the only difference was that my serial number was prefixed by RA. I received orders to report to Fort Dix on 3 May 1946. I received orders for the 526th Armored Infantry Battalion at Fort Knox, Kentucky. The 526th was an Armored Infantry Battalion in name only. The 526th had been a separate battalion during the war and may well have had a different TO&E (Table of Organization and Equipment) than the Armored Infantry Battalions that were organic to one of the Armored Divisions. Secondly, the battalion was part of the School Troops for the Armored School and the TO&E may have been modified accordingly. The battalion had one fully active company, "A" Company and the other two companies were used for different purposes. I reported to the battalion headquarters of the 526th Armored Infantry Battalion and was assigned to Company "A". About August I was checking the Company Bulletin Board, I noticed in one of the
bullets from Post Headquarters that applications for enlisted appointments to the Military Academy were being accepted. This caught my immediate attention. I drafted up a letter requesting that I be considered for an enlisted appointment. I was advised that my application had been approved and I had been selected to compete for an enlisted appointment to the Military Academy. This was followed by a set of orders for me to report to the United States Military Academy Prep School (USMAPS) at Stewart Field, New York.

On the morning of the 1st of July 1947, I signed out of the Company and proceeded to the Headquarters of the Military Academy. I was directed to the Sally Port of the West Academic building where a processing station had been set up to receive the new cadets. I received my discharge from the Regular Army and entered into the Corps of Cadets. Once the processing was completed, I was instructed to proceed through the Sally Port into Central Area. As I walked through the Sally Port, I was on cloud nine.

A dream that I had for many years was now becoming a reality and I was entering the Corps of Cadets. I knew that there was still four long years ahead of me before I would graduate but I gave little thought to that.

I could go on for several more pages detailing out my journey through West Point, the Korea war, and the Vietnam War, however, getting back to the reason I'm reaching out to you is:

The On Point article indicated that veterans and friends of the 8th Armored Division assembled around the Unit Tribute along the Museum's Promenade. Through the years, since the Eighth Armored Division Association dissolved and the last newsletter issued, Amie and I have lost contact with the remaining members of the 8th Armored Division. If you would forward this letter to Joseph Ciniero and to the individual that read his letter that day, it would be greatly appreciated. I'm unaware if any of the remaining members of the Association or their family members have revived what the Eighth Armored Division Association did in keeping surviving members aware of events.

Both of us are now living in assisted care facilities and can be reached at the following mailing addresses:

Arnold Moe
10030 Newton Avenue South
Bloomington, MN 55431
James McDonald  
507 Trailwood Drive  
Clinton, MS 39056  
I can also be reached through my son (Gerald McDonald) at phone number (281-507-7502).  
Sincerely  
LTC James W McDonald  
Lieutenant Colonel – Ret.

Thanks to Ted Stevens 12th Armored Division Association  
March 2022

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor & Museum

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor & Museum is a New York State Parks Site under the jurisdiction of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission located in New Windsor, NY. They are the “sole repository dedicated to the preservation and collection of the stories of Purple Heart recipients.” If you are a Veteran of the 12th AD, or relative of a Vet who received this award, we encourage you to apply to be included. It is free and without any obligation. Documents, such as the story of the incident for which the award was received, the location or battle, and photos of the Veteran can be archived and available for view online.

https://www.thepurpleheart.com/enrollment/

*Remembering the Battle of the Bulge Feature veteran and Battle of the Bulge participant, Vincent Sperenza (101st Airborne Division) Commemorating the Anniversary of ending the Battle of the Bulge, January 25, 1945

Written by Michael Naya, Jr., young historian  
12th Armored Division Association Newsletter ‘Hell Cat’ News. March 2002

In late December, 1944, a fierce battle was fought in the Ardennes Forest. The Battle of the Bulge as it would soon become known, was fought within the dense forest and engulfed Belgium and Luxembourg. This glistening, snow covered landscape was now filled with horror and devastation everywhere. Artillery shells came whistling in, gunfire rang out in the distance, troops were spread out everywhere. Oftentimes, due to the number of troops within the closely dense forest, prisoners and casualties were being taken on both sides rapidly. The 422nd and 423rd Infantry Regiment of the 106th Infantry Division were encircled and
taken prisoner. At first, the situation looked grim, even more so for the troops who did not have proper clothing or equipment. The coldest winter in decades tormented these men and little did they know they were on the frontlines of history. Perhaps one of the highlights of the battle, if there ever is one, would be when General Anthony McAuliffe wrote, “Nuts!” to the Germans who wanted them to surrender. Perhaps it came when reinforcements arrived, when the supplies from the 8th Air Force fell from the sky, or when word spread that the Germans had finally begun their retreat into Germany. Those living today may never truly understand what hardships those who fought in the Battle of the Bulge truly experienced. Today, Private First Class Vincent Sperenza, age ninety-six, who served in Company H, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, of the 101st Airborne Division, is one of those soldiers who can still recall the battle with such vivid detail. Vincent was born in Manhattan, NY, in March of 1925. He was four years old when the Great Depression began and only sixteen when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. In the summer of 2021, he recalled his experiences as a soldier during the Battle of the Bulge and the siege of Bastogne. “Well, I entered the army at age eighteen, 1943, and I was assigned to the Infantry School. I became an infantryman with nineteen weeks of basic infantry training, four more weeks of advanced infantry training and two more weeks of weapons training, which in those days were 60-millimeter mortars, bazookas, and machine guns. At any rate, I was ready. I was assigned to an infantry outfit, the 87th Infantry at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and was ready to go overseas when they would get to it. One day they took us out to a big field, and they said there is going to be a demonstration today. We asked, ‘What kind of demonstration?’ They told us to sit down, and while we sat in that field three C-47s came out of the sky and we saw the doors open, and we saw these men throwing themselves out of the airplane, little white things above them, and they were swinging down to the ground. They rolled up their parachutes, double timed over and stood in front of us. They were great, big, beautiful men with shiny wings, shiny jump boots, and their pants bloused and only paratroopers were allowed to do that. The Lieutenant comes over and says, ‘this is the United States Army Parachute Corps, and we are looking for good men. You have to have your nineteen weeks, four weeks, and two weeks of infantry training, who wants to volunteer?’ Those of us who were so ready to get into the fight we kept fretting about the trainee and the trainer. We said, ‘Wait a minute!’ and a sobering thought hit us, throw yourself out of an airplane? The Lieutenant said, ‘There is an extra fifty dollars jump pay’ and we all raised our hands! They selected seven of us and we went back to jump school at Fort Benning. We did our five weeks of jump training and went right over into the fight. I was sent overseas in November of 1943 and the situation looked rather bad. Germany had taken over much of Europe and was in Ukraine heading towards Moscow. The Japanese had
taken most of Asia and were heading down towards Australia, and we were anxious to get in and do something about it. It looked bad for the United States and all of us. When I got to the 101st they were just coming out of Operation Market Garden which was a disaster. The 101st lost three thousand men, left a lot of their equipment, and the 101st Airborne was supposed to get ninety days of rest, rehabilitation, food, and so on, but it was not to be. Three weeks after they came out of Market Garden, on December 16, a big surprise to everybody, not British intelligence, not American intelligence, but Hitler had saved 25 divisions with 18,000 men in each division. Nine of those divisions were panzers with their newest tanks, the Mark 4s, and the Tiger Royals, and fully equipped. It was wintertime and we were supposed to get our winter clothes, but we hadn’t gotten them yet. We went into that battle with summer clothes, jackets, and cotton pants and so on. We were later told that was the worst winter Europe had in 20 years. We were there for the first eight days in Bastogne, the temperature never went above zero. We had no gloves, hats, or winter clothes and it was pretty bad, let’s say uncomfortable. On the 17th we were woke up in our barracks and told to saddle up, we’re going up to the front. A lot of us, they later told us the figure was ten percent, who were unarmed. I was a machine gunner; I was supposed to be armed and we were told we were getting these things back. A lot of men didn’t have helmets, rifles, and when we complained to the sergeant that this is crazy! The ground is frozen, all of us are going to break our legs. The sergeant said, ‘You’re not jumping, you’re going up in trucks.’ The whole division was put on these big open trucks, for a day and a night, a nightmare ride to Bastogne where the four American divisions were holding the Ardennes line. The 4th Infantry, 28th Infantry, 106th Infantry, and the 9th Armored had been destroyed by the German army. Twenty-five divisions came at them, the Germans slaughtered them. The 28th held on for a while until fortunately while we were able to get there before the Germans hit. What the officers were told anyway, you go to Bastogne and hold it. The Germans are on their way to Antwerp, that was our point of entry where all our food supplies and ammunition came in. The Germans figured to capture Antwerp, split the Canadian and British Armies in the north from the American Armies in the south, take all the supplies that were meant for them, and ultimately change the war. Well, the reason that didn’t happen was that there was 12,000 Americans, 9,000 were paratroopers, 3,000 were from the 705th Tank Destroyers, and a battalion from the 10th Armored Division with 73 tanks while the Germans had 1,000. We went into Bastogne and said ‘No, you’re not getting into this town!’ Eight days before Patton finally got there, 12,000 Americans held off 56,000 Germans well-equipped with tanks. Their tanks were devastating and yet the Americans held them off. Patton came in on the 26th, formed a circle, we got our wounded out and then we went on the offensive. The rest of the Battle of the Bulge...
is history, us moving forward, pushing us back to Berlin, until May 8, when they surrendered. Most historians agree the Battle of Bastogne was one hell of a battle. 

You know, I was a machine gunner, you set the machine gun on a wooden block, you hold your own and you’re doing pretty good on holding off the German infantry when four German tanks show up. You wonder what the hell do you do now? And you fire your machine gun in frustration but those tanks coming up, the only thing you can do is dig yourself deeper into your hold. There was no thought of surrender or quit. There was the thought, okay, we’ll let you go by but your infantry is going to get a surprise. The tanks destroy the front lines, the infantry behind the tanks took the area and moved forward. Our General was General McAuliffe who was an artillery commander. Our commander was in the states making speeches, the deputy commander was in England making speeches, the only general with us was McAuliffe. He set up his guns so they not only fired in the permitter but so that they could fire across town to the other side, meaning that all of the guns he had could be concentrated in one spot and that’s what saved us. When the German tanks came up all we do is bury ourselves in our foxhole, but when they went by we stopped the infantry. When the infantry isn’t behind the tanks they could only go back, and when they went back the artillery just splattered them. A tank attack against lightly armed paratroopers is usually devastating, but not with McAuliffe’s artillery. The Americans found that the Germans attacked at night, early in the day, the Luftwaffe came in and attacked the field hospital, and so on. When their frontal attacks hit us, they figured they’d bomb us into submission. Of course, that didn’t work because this is the 101st Airborne Division! They expected to go through us like they did the other four divisions, we had a different idea. On January 5, 1945, I got hit. I was taken back to a British hospital because a piece of shrapnel hit my eye and thought it might have hit my brain, so they sent me to England instead. I spent six days in a British hospital, five days for recuperation, for eleven days I was out of it. The outfit, I was with them for the Battle of the Bauhaus Woods and Houffalize. While I was in the hospital, the outfit moved on to Haguenau and that is when my buddy, Joe, I went back to the outfit. From there we fought through Czechoslovakia, Austria, and Bavaria and into Germany. In each case we were like firemen, put on trucks, move out, there are Germans here, take care of them, move out. Of course, we were taking casualties all the way through. In May, we finally got to Berchtesgaden and that was the first town we went into where they were not shooting at us. They put white sheets, pillowcases, out their windows indicating they were surrendering. On May 8, 1945, most of the Division was up in the Eagles Nest and that is when we got the news that the Germans surrendered and the war in Europe was over.” Today, few veterans living who served at the Battle of the Bulge can share their recollections of what occurred during that time. Other surviving paratroopers such
as Daniel McBride, Thomas Rice, and Jim “Pee Wee” Martin are others who survived and still actively share their story today. Vincent Sperenza, a young man who was caught up in the uproar of World War II, is one of thousands who suffered so that we, along with citizens of France, Belgium, and Germany can live in peace and freedom today. It is up to these men, as well as the upcoming generation of young men and women, to carry the torch and share their stories for generations to come.”

End of article. Well, that concludes all that I have for today, other than my usual wise saying of the day. To succeed in life, you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone and a funny bone…. Reba McEntire. Enjoy life and remember, don’t sweat the petty things and don’t pet the sweaty things. George Carlin said that.

- If the Ardennes forest was heavily wooded as the Allies said, how did the Wehrmacht manage to penetrate it with an armored column?

Originally Answered: If the Ardennes forest was heavily wooded as the Allies said, how did the Wehrmacht managed to penetrate it with an armor column?

The Ardennes was heavily forested. The question seems to imply that the Allies were just imagining the existence of trees; but no, they really were there.
There were narrow roads surrounded by wooded hills on both sides preventing the armoured columns from moving easily off-road. The region was a serious military obstacle.

As such, what happened in May 1940 was a bluff that failed.

It was obvious to everybody that if the Belgian army defended the Ardennes in force, they could stop any German offensive cold. A handful of anti-tank guns blocking the roads, with some infantry in the surrounding forest to prevent them being outflanked, could hold up an entire Panzer division.

The Belgians knew the Germans were aware of this, so they assumed the Germans would not even consider attacking that way — it would be too much of a risk.

So, if the Germans were not going to attack through the Ardennes, there was no point wasting troops by putting them there to defend it. It was safe to concentrate the small Belgian army somewhere further north where it would be more useful. The French army reached the same conclusion: while they would not leave the French border opposite the Ardennes entirely undefended, it was seen as a low-priority front that could be left to second-line troops.
Unfortunately, Manstein and Guderian called the Allied bluff. They guessed that the Ardennes would be left almost undefended, and so decided to send their main offensive through there. They were taking a huge risk: if the Belgians or French had left a stronger defence force there — or even if they’d reacted faster and rushed a strong reserve to the region while the Panzers were still moving through it — the result would have been a major German defeat. They were lucky, or they judged their opponents correctly, and the high-stakes gamble paid off.

(As a side note: when wargame designers create tabletop or video games based on this campaign, the Germans will almost always do badly unless the game includes special rules to handicap the defenders. With the benefit of hindsight, the Allied player will always block the Ardennes, unless the game artificially prevents them from doing so. Instead the fighting devolves into a slugging match in northern Belgium; and while the Germans still have the tactical advantage, the results are rarely anything like as one-sided as in history.)

In short: no army can be strong everywhere, especially if its opponent outnumbers it. Strategy demands concentrating forces instead of spreading them out. In 1940 the Allies gambled that the Germans would not risk going through the Ardennes; the Germans guessed correctly that they would make that decision, and called their bluff.