

'Thundering Herd'

Newsletter of the 8th Armored Division Association



Ardennes, Rhineland,
Central Europe

Fall/Winter 2024 - 2025

Vol. X1 No. 4

Welcome to the 8th Armored Division Association Newsletter

The 'Thundering Herd'

Fall/Winter 2024 – 2025 Edition

Merry Christmas – Happy Holidays – Happy New Year!

Hello to everyone in the 8th Armored Division Association, families, and friends. We wish you ALL very Happy Holidays: Merry Christmas – Happy Hanukkah – Happy New Year!

Hopefully, you are along with me looking forward to our joint 8th Armored Division Association & Battle of the Bulge Association Reunion in 2025

September 26 – 27 – 28, 2025 in Philadelphia at the Chapel of the 4 Chaplains at the Navy Yard in Philadelphia, PA.

Details to be announced. As the details emerge, I will communicate them to you. Please SAVE the date

Go to the Battle of the Bulge Association website: <https://battleofthebulge.org/>



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 2025

Individual Member - \$20

Family - \$35

Donations of any amount are gratefully accepted.

The 8th Armored Division Association is a non-profit 501C3 and donations are tax deductible

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

Send CHECKS made out to '***8th Armored Division Association***' to
8th Armored Division Association

**2345 E. Dauphin St
Philadelphia, PA 19125**

Many THANKS

**Andy Waskie, Ph.D. president 8th Armored Division Association
Battle of the Bulge Association (BoBA)**

WELCOME to new members:

Our 8th Armored Division Web page with ALL details on the Division and its veterans. Please donate photos; stories and details of your members.

<https://www.8th-armored.org/>

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/>

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' Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe 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!



Battle of the Bulge Association (BoBA)



REGISTER TODAY - 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge



OUR REMEMBRANCE *and* COMMEMORATION

January 21-24, 2025 we will once again gather in Arlington and D.C. with our Bulge veterans and their families to recognize all those who participated in the Battle of the Bulge. We have exciting events planned including an educational program, wreath ceremonies and a reception at the Luxembourg Embassy in DC. Check out the highlights below and then click for itinerary details to register on our website and to access the discounted hotel rate. Event registration is \$150. Space is limited so be sure to sign up ASAP before all spots are gone.


JANUARY 22, 2025 - A full day of featured speakers and WWII displays PLUS ***BOBA Historian Jim Triesler*** will host a panel of our WWII veterans who will be in attendance.

JANUARY 23, 2025 - A full day guided tour to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge with wreath-laying ceremonies at the **Battle of the Bulge Memorial, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and WWII Memorial**, then celebrate with a reception hosted by the **Luxembourg Embassy!** We'll also be making a stop at a local historical museum on the way back.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE SCHEDULE AND TO REGISTER](#)

JANUARY 25, 2025 - Extend your trip and attend the Battle of the Bulge Conference in Gettysburg. [Click here for details and to register.](#)

If you are unable to join us, please consider [donating to our \\$80 dollars for the 80th Anniversary Campaign or any other amount to our Wreath Fund](#) in memory of a Bulge soldier. [CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)



EIGHTY FOR EIGHTY CAMPAIGN

For the Veterans who served...
For the families they longed to return to...
For future generations to learn and remember...

Show your support for the Battle of the Bulge Association by donating \$80 dollars for the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.
Let's keep the organization that our Veterans founded alive!



Holidays During World War II

TUESDAY | DECEMBER 10, 2024 | 10:30 AM

As World War II continued across Europe and the Pacific, the holiday season looked different for service members than what they experienced at home. As they dealt with the realities of war and separation from loved ones, Americans abroad did their best to celebrate. Join Virginia War Memorial Director of Education Jim Triesler and Archivist Sylvia Marshall as they use letters, menus, photographs, and more to illustrate holiday traditions, celebrations, and Christmas truces on the war front during World War II.

Although free, register early for this **ONLINE ONLY** event:
vawarmemorial.org/events



621 S. Belvidere St



Richmond, VA 23220



804.786.2060



www.vawarmemorial.org



The Virginia War Memorial is a division of the Department of Veterans Services



Battle of the Bulge Association®, Inc. | [Website](#)

P.O. Box 330



Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Battle of the Bulge Association®

Honoring the Veterans, Preserving Their Legacy

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The Commemorative Memorials to Honor the Veterans and service of the 8th Armored Division

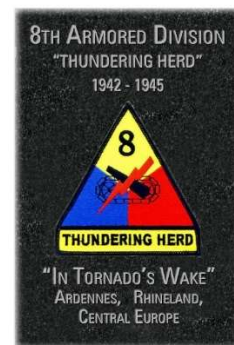
Our Commemorative Stone for the 8th Armored Division was placed at the Army History and Education Center (AHEC) at the Army War College, Carlisle, on Saturday, June 26, 2022. A large crowd was present at the dedication.

Below is a photo of the Commemorative Stone to honor the veterans and service in the 8th Armored Division. Also the Memorial at the Museum of the Army, Ft



Belvoir, VA

Army War College (AHEC) at Carlisle, PA



Memorial at the Museum of the Army, Ft Belvoir, VA



Memorial Brick at the Chapel of the 4 Chaplains at the Philadelphia Navy Yard



T/5 Al Ricci, left. Unik, right, dog Tanto, at 8th Armored Memorial in Pilsen. 88-Hq.

8th Armored Division Memorial Pilsen, Czechoslovakia (now Chechia)

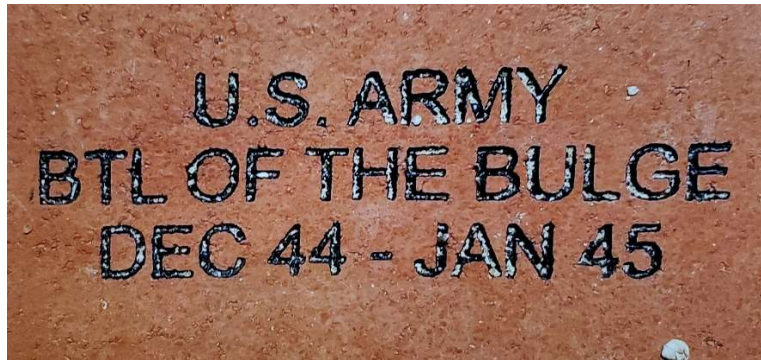
Tour of Pilsen, Czechia & the Pilsner Urquell Brewery

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPKYCVw43sl>

Units of the 8th Armored Division were stationed in Pilsen in June 1945 on Occupation duty. The HQ of the 130th Ordnance/Maintenance Battalion and Medical unit were stationed in a school a few 100 meters away from the Pilsener Urquell Brewery.



Map of the Campaigns of the 8th Armored Division in the ETO (European Theater of Operations) January 1, 1945 – July, 1945



Battle of the Bulge Memorial Stone at the WWII Museum in New Orleans

8th Armored Division Merchandise

We still have 8th Armored Division caps:

Gratis to 8th Armored Division veterans

\$20 to all others (includes postage & handling)

8th Armored Division Challenge Coins

\$5 per piece

8th Armored Division shoulder patches

\$10 a piece

8th Armored Division License plates

\$20 apiece (includes postage & handling)

8th Armored Division Decals

\$5 a piece



In Memoriam



Harold Theodore Ahrendt, 101 (1921 – 2023), Svc. Btry., 399th AFA, 8th Armored Division

HAROLD Ahrendt DIED ON Aug. 9 2023

PO Box 1058

Woodland Park, CO 80866-1058

Obituary

Harold Theodore Ahrendt, 101 (1921 – 2023), Sv. Btry., 399th AFA, 8th Armored Division

Harold Theodore Ahrendt, 101, passed away peacefully at his home in Woodland Park, Colorado, on August 9, 2023. His parents, Theodore and Elsa Ahrendt, lived with the family in southern Minnesota when he was young and then Harold moved with his family to Sioux City, Iowa. He graduated from high school in Sioux City and then served in the military with the 8th Armored Division in the European Theater for three years. After returning home, he married Lois Schmidt of Ocheyedan, Iowa. Three children were born from this union.

Harold operated two separate Coast to Coast hardware stores for 12 years, one in Janesville, Minnesota, and then in Red Oak, Iowa. He loved to tell the stories of how he took what people called “failing businesses” and made them profitable by providing the best customer service, showing integrity, being honest, and even making house calls. Working side by side with Lois, the stores thrived. He was offered a move to Denison, Iowa, to sell life insurance for Aid Association for Lutherans, and he did so for the following 18 years. He was originally told that there was no business left in the territory and proceeded to prove them wrong by making the top-seller’s club with AAL year after year. He and Lois retired to Woodland Park in 1984 and were members of Faith Lutheran Church. Lois passed away following a surgery in 1991. Harold married Karen (Sander) Breitenfeld in 1992, and the couple continued to make their home in Colorado. Harold was an active member of Faith Lutheran, and Karen continues to serve the church in many capacities.

Harold had a deep faith and would often say how he had felt God with him throughout all stages of his life. He instilled a great love of traveling in his wife and children. When the kids were growing up, camping trips to Colorado were one of the favorite getaways. He also loved taking trips back to Iowa to visit family. The children would wait patiently (sometimes) for him to drive out of town, where he would let out a big “Wahoo!”, signifying they were finally on the way. He was still safely driving up to two weeks before his death and proud of the fact that his license was good until he was 106!

Having made his living as a salesman, he definitely possessed the gift of gab. His stories were endless and he could engage just about anyone in conversation. Throughout his entire life, his sense of humor always stood out. He would get an ornery twinkle in his eye and a smirk on his face that his family and friends knew so well.

Harold had an amazing ability to make people smile and he will be deeply missed. Memorial donations can be made to Faith Lutheran Church in Woodland Park. Please share with us any condolences, memories, photos, etc. that you might have of Harold in the memory book on this website.

Rest in final peace. You have earned it, oh good and faithful servant. We love you!!

Burial Location

Evergreen Cemetery
1005 S. Hancock Ave.
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80903

https://gazette.com/pikespeakcourier/american-legion-to-celebrate-wwii-veteran-harold-ahrendts-100th-birthday-in-woodland-park/article_acc77b0-2852-11ec-961d-df210786d4a1.html

<https://www.echovita.com/us/obituaries/co/woodland-park/harold-ahrendt-16782041>

David McClellan Harrington (Pvt) , Co. C, 49th Armored Infantry Battalion, 8th Armored Division

1925–2006 Age 81

BIRTH 24 AUG 1925 • East Worcester, Otsego County, New York, USA

DEATH 1 NOV 2006 • Oneonta, Otsego County, New York, USA



David McClellan Harrington

Entered Army service December 9, 1943.
18 Years old.

Private in World War II.
8th Armored Infantry Division, 49th Infantry
Battalion, Company C.



David McClellan Harrington (served in World War II)
Early photo of his enlistment. December 9, 1943.



David McClellan Harrington (served in World War II)
Early photo of his enlistment. December 9, 1943.



David McClellan Harrington
Estimate photo taken March 1944. 18 years old.

Oneonta Man Is Wounded

BINGHAMTON PRESS BUREAU
ONEONTA, APRIL 20

According to a War Department telegram received by Mrs. Mary A. Harrington of 48 Clinton Street, her son, Pfc. **David M. Harrington**, was slightly wounded in action in Germany April 5.

Private Harrington entered service Dec. 9, 1943, and went overseas in October, 1944. He had served in France, England, Holland and Belgium. Before joining the army he was employed by the Spaulding Bakery Co.



David McClellan Harrington. 1943.
(Highlighted in Yellow).

CO. C. 54TH INF. TNG. BN. CAMP WALTERS, TEXAS.
CAPT. L. R. POREBSKI. COMDg.

Tanks roll into Berwick, PA for World War II Weekend July 2024

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgcaJG-q010>

Attachments area

Preview YouTube video Tanks roll into Berwick for World War II Weekend



American Tanks vs. German Panzers: The Untold Story of the M4 Sherman

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/reboot/american-tanks-vs-german-panzers-untold-story-m4-sherman-210174>

Messages from Hubert Troisfontaine, a Dutch national who lives near Margraten, NL American Military Cemetery. Hubert and his family have adopted the grave of an American soldier KIA in 1945. We met for Memorial Day at Margraten and Hubert helped to honor the 153 men of the 8th Armored Division who are buried there.

Hubert Troisfontaine <htroisfontaine@home.nl>

Date: November 1, 2024 at 9:14:15 AM EDT

Dear George, Susan and Patricia,

We received your nice long letter while we were in Crete.

The vacation in Crete (Greek island) was really about doing nothing for a while and not having to think about anything. We were well taken care of in terms of food, drink and entertainment. We have been doing this for years, once a year with our family (Annelies, Hubert and Renee) for a week of doing nothing. Lazing around and enjoying the sun it was still 23 degrees every day.

Yesterday (29 okt.) we returned home, from a sunny (23 degrees) Crete, to a colder (15 degrees) Holland. The flight from Crete to Maastricht airport takes about 3.5 hours. After putting away the suitcases and doing some shopping, we had some supplies in the fridge again. In the evening we just got food at a Chinese restaurant. and ate it together.

You have a beautifully tended garden with lots of colorful flowers and there is always work to be done. I myself have the most work on the hedges and hedgerows that have to be pruned twice a year.

I made myself some tools for that and a sharp eye which makes it all a bit easier. We have 3 flat plane trees in the garden and they have to be pruned in the fall. Since last year I hired a gardener to do it and he prunes the trees and clears away all the cut branches and I only have to clean up the leaves that are left behind. That's quite an improvement because gymnastics on a ladder and pruning is not possible for people of my age.

You should not be sorry that it took a little longer for me to get a reply. I have already written that in an earlier letter that at our age we have to visit doctors or hospital regularly with major and or minor complaints. George is pretty much in the rags to riches now and has to heal from all the treatments he has had, Susan, congratulations that after your 3 year check up you have been told that nothing of your breast cancer has come back and are now thankfully completely free of it. That gives peace and satisfaction.

The liberation is celebrated here every year but on the 80th anniversary date it was really quite elaborate with many reenacted situations and many restored original American war equipment such as jeeps, GMC (large and small), Dodge large and small, tanks and other heavy equipment (I don't know all the names). Lots of concerts and decorations in all the hamlets, villages and towns. The people here are still grateful to you for the liberation in 1944 and so am I because that is the year of my birth. December 17 liberated and December 2 born, It is not often and certainly not every year that the King and Queen come to Margraten then there must be a special reason for it. Memorial Day is every year on the last Sunday of May and is, for us Limburgers, a special day.

That there is a Presidential election on November 8 has not escaped our notice.

Here for weeks there have been whole discussions about who is and who is not suitable and should be elected.

It is also partly decisive for us so partly dependent on America. I hope that for you and for us the best candidate is chosen to lead America in these difficult and important next 4 years who is President in America because the Netherlands and Europe are alarmed.

Here were the elections, for a new parliament, at the beginning of the year. Did you go through everything carefully, read and checked it turns out after the gentlemen got together. Everything was decided differently. It is always a puzzle and we have to wait and see what the end result will be.

The Renee's birthday should be a real milestone for her. Normally Renee is not so much for parties because she never really wanted a party....

We did not know what we heard when she said she had rented a venue with all the trimmings. She has friends all in their 50s and they all had parties. So good example follows.

Renee had made it a beautiful and fun and successful party with family, friends, girlfriends and acquaintances.

I would like to say as far as our children's birthdays are concerned, may we have many more birthdays to come.

The weather is totally off not only with you but also here in Europe last week very heavy rain and flooding in southern France and yesterday a super emergency weather with very big floods in middle east of Spain with more like 100 deaths.

Renee is not married does not have a boyfriend either but only girlfriends who are all married and have children.

There are 6 of them and they all know themselves since high school and college and all 6 have done the same education. Renee is pretty hefty and that is because she has the misfortune to have Lipedema her friends know that and for them it is not a problem.

It's not easy for her and for us but that doesn't mean you can't have a good life.

Enough about this, how is the situation with George in terms of his teeth, operated hand and surgeries on neck and head.

I hope that all will be well again and relieved of medical discomfort for now.

We and you too are now at an age where bigger or smaller physical problems are surfacing that need medical treatment

I am going to end slowly now and hope to enjoy life for a long time to come.

Furthermore, I wish you good health and happiness after the election on Nov. 8 with the new President....

With kind regards,

Annelies and Hubert Troisfontaine

11/24/24

Hello Patricia,

Thank you for your beautiful and sweet letter with a wonderful attachment. The meeting with Andy all went well and went well. We only should have had more time then I could have shown him more, also about the Battle of the Bulge. I did a little research for your group and when I get back to Bastogne I will take some pictures.

There is all kinds of stuff there about the war like: Bastogne War museum, the Crypt de Mardason, 101st Airborn museum "The Mess", the Monument 501 PIR 101st Airborn Div. BoisJacques Foxholes 101 ste Easy Compagny and the WW2 Native American Monument.

Near the village of Foy, a little north of Bastogne, is a German war cemetery and opposite it was the temporary cemetery of the U.S. Army after the Battle of Bastogne and the end of The Battle of the Bulge. These soldiers were eventually all permanently buried in the American Cemetery Henri Chapelle (Belgium) and the American Cemetery In Sandweiler (Luxembourg).

I happened to be at Henri Chapelle yesterday and took some pictures, of The American Cemetery, for you which I am sending along.

We are doing well we stay under control and hope that it stays well.

I wish you much strength for the surgery, hip replacement in December hope your hip is doing well after the surgery.

Kind regards and best wishes you,

Annelies, Hubert and Renée Troisfontaine



News & Articles

Battle of the Bulge Takes Heavy Toll

Army Magazine December 2024

<https://lsc-pagepro.mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?i=835103&p=34&view=issueViewer&pre=1>

Battle of the Bulge Association (BoBA) News

Fall 2024 Bulge Bugle magazine online

https://battleofthebulge.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Fall2024_Bugle_FINAL_REV_low.pdf

Archive

<https://battleofthebulge.org/2024-members-only-access-newsletter-archive/>

Bulge Anniversary Events

You are cordially invited to join the Battle of the Bulge Association® for our

SAVE THE DATES for the

80TH ANNUAL COMMEMORATION

of the Battle of the Bulge

ARLINGTON, VA and WASHINGTON, DC

Tuesday, January 21 – Friday, January 24, 2025

Washington D.C. Ceremonies: Thursday, January 23, 2025

<https://battleofthebulge.org/bulge-anniversary-events/>

WWII American Experience – Gettysburg Museum

Battle of the Bulge Seminar

January 25, 2025

8:30am-5:00pm

The site of one of the US Army's greatest battles hosts a day-long seminar on the other. Gettysburg's World War II American Experience has organized a powerful day-long lineup of speakers for the second annual Gettysburg Bulge conference.

Speakers include Leon Reed, Glen Ivers, Walter Zapotzynski, Jonathon Cordish, and Ms. Susan Eisenhower.

Several WWII veterans of the Battle of the Bulge will be in attendance for a meet and greet.

Saturday, January 25, 2025

Registration begins at 8:30am.

Conference begins at 9:00am.

Tickets available online with a donation of \$50.00 for Non-Members and \$30.00 for Members of WWII American Experience. Museum Admission included. Our Pub will be open all day for lunch and other items.

REGISTER

<https://checkout.square.site/buy/OS5PIMK5JUZEJAL3KNSTTTA>

American WWII veteran, 101, warms hearts in France while commemorating 80 years of liberation

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN STARS AND STRIPES • November 26, 2024

Ceo Bauer (101 yrs.) , a Michigan native, was drafted into the Army in 1943 and assigned to I Company, 377th Regiment, 95th Infantry Division.

He served at Metz, with the 95th Infantry Division advanced through the Moselle region and liberated towns like Saint-Avold, not far from the current border with Germany. The town held its own liberation celebrations over the weekend. On Saturday, there was a screening of the documentary film "The Girl who Wore Freedom," which Bauer briefly appears in. "You are here with a living legend, and you will never get this opportunity again," Christian Taylor, the film's director, told the audience, visibly emotional. Bauer lightened the mood by telling Taylor she should have included more of him in her film. Despite the serious nature of his visit, Bauer kept those around him upbeat. After being made **a knight of the Order of Lafayette** at a ceremony in Saint-Avold on Sunday, he downed a shot of local spirit with World War II reenactors, then tossed the plastic shot glass in the air behind his head. The award recognizes individuals for strengthening relationships between the United States and France.

Saint-Avold is home to the Lorraine American Cemetery, the largest American cemetery in Europe, which honors the memory of nearly 10,500 military personnel who lost their lives during WWII. Of those, over 150 were assigned to the 95th Infantry Division.

Read more at: <https://www.stripes.com/theaters/europe/2024-11-26/us-veteran-bauer-metz-anniversary->

[15972843.html?utm_source=Stars+and+Stripes+Emails&utm_campaign=Daily+Headlines&utm_medium=email](https://www.starsandstripes.com/15972843.html?utm_source=Stars+and+Stripes+Emails&utm_campaign=Daily+Headlines&utm_medium=email)

Source - Stars and Stripes

‘I would do it again’: Battle of the Bulge veterans recount their actions in one of WWII’s bloodiest fights

By LINDA F. HERSEY STARS AND STRIPES • November 10, 2024

Harry Miller of the 740th Tank Battalion served in Belgium in Belgium, east of where one of World War II’s most famous battles soon would be waged near the border of Germany — the Battle of the Bulge, one of the largest and bloodiest fights of the war. “In the first half hour of combat for us, we stopped the 1st SS Panzer Division. These guys had been [Adolf] Hitler’s bodyguard and massacred a lot of people,” he said. “We were told: ‘Don’t take no prisoners.’ Our names became known all over the area.”

Retired Army Col. Frank Cohn, born in Germany who is Jewish (99 yrs.) served as an Army Linguist/Interpreter in Military Intelligence.

Read more at: <https://www.stripes.com/history/2024-11-10/battle-bulge-wwii-veterans-veterans-day-15800897.html>

Source - Stars and Stripes

World War II American Experience Museum Gettysburg Holiday newsletter 2024

Give your guests an unforgettable experience in a one-of-a-kind setting surrounded by tanks, jeeps and artifacts from the World War II era.

For more information call 717-253-3414 or email museum@visitww2.org.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzQXKNKvMQZcggdRDxjBQNSxTKdK>

Centenarians honored in Veterans Day event at WWII Memorial

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2024/11/11/veterans-day-wwii-memorial-ceremony/>

Artillery Museum, Ft Sill, OK

<https://sill-www.army.mil/famuseum/>

Battle of the Bulge veteran honored with replacement of his 'Ike' jacket

At 101, Army veteran Bernard “Barney” Mayrsohn considers himself a lucky man.

However, he was never luckier than in December 1944 when German troops overran the 106th Infantry Division at the start of the [Battle of the Bulge](#). He would survive those first few days of terrible fighting and, five months later, walk out of a German POW camp.

While forever grateful for having survived, Mayrsohn was always bothered by losing his brown, wool “Eisenhower” or “Ike” jacket to the enemy. Poorly clothed German soldiers, without

sufficient cold-weather gear themselves, stripped American POWs of their clothing, including Mayrsohn's Ike jacket.

https://www.army.mil/article/279986/battle_of_the_bulge_veteran_honored_with_replacement_of_his_ike_jacket

Merry Christmas -Happy Holidays- Happy New Year!



8th Armored Men at Christmas 1944 – Tidworth Barracks,
England