‘Thundering Herd’

Newsletter of the 8th Armored Division Association



Ardennes, Rhineland,
Central Europe

Winter 2025 - 2026
Vol. XII No. 2

Welcome to the 8th Armored Division Association Newsletter

The ‘Thundering Herd’

Winter – 2025/2026 Edition

Dear Friends; Members; Families and Supporters of the 8th Armored Division Association
The ‘Thundering Herd’

As we celebrated this season of Joy, Love, Peace and Celebration, we share our deepest appreciation for your generous support of our mission. We supported the nation’s celebration of the 250th Birthday of the United States Army. Now, we are looking forward to 2026 when we will honor the American Soldier’s role in securing the birth of our country, our Independence bringing us freedom and the fruits of Liberty.

We could not do our work and efforts to promote the memory of the veterans of the 8th Armored Division and ALL WWII Warriors without you. Thank you for honoring everything our Soldiers have contributed and sacrificed since 1775. All of us who have proudly worn the uniform of our American Armed Forces are especially grateful.

On behalf of ALL members and Friends of the 8th Armored Division Association, we wish you a peaceful and Happy New Year!

We hope you will continue to support our Association with your membership!

Andy Waskie, PhD
President, 8th Armored Division Association

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 2026

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 checks 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:
Association 'Facebook' page (maintained by webmaster Scott Thorpe)
http://www.facebook.com/groups/269231523148647/


Winter 1945 Battle of the Bulge

8tyh Armored Division Association Souvenirs

We still have 8th Armored Division caps:
Gratis to 8th Armored Division veterans
$20 to all others (Plus postage & handling $20)

8th Armored Division Challenge Coins
$20 per piece

8th Armored Division shoulder patches
$15 a piece

8th Armored Division License plates
$25 apiece (Plus postage & handling $20)

8th Armored Division Decals
$5 a piece

Photo

Belgium 1945. Sgt. Tommy Lyons just back from a week in the front lines near the town of Mürringen during the Battle of the Bulge. LIFE Photographer: George Silk (my colorization). He holds a Garand m1 rifle in his hand, a Mk 2 grenade also nicknamed the “pineapple” grenade at his side.

The 8th Armored Division memorabilia items are available for purchase to help support ongoing commemorative and educational projects. All proceeds contribute to the preservation of the division’s legacy and remembrance of those who served. Whether you’re a collector, a descendant, or a supporter of military

history, your purchase helps keep these important stories alive for future generations.

Margraten American Soldiers Cemetery, Netherlands
Grave adoption programs—some part of structured, longstanding projects, others more individually driven—offer a touching layer of history that takes many visitors and even seasoned war experts by surprise. Courtesy of Faces of Margraten

Meet the Dedicated Volunteers Who Honor World War II's Fallen American Service Members by Adopting Their Graves

Europe will commemorate the 80th anniversary of Nazi Germany's surrender on May 8. But thousands of locals remain committed to preserving year-round the memories of those killed while fighting in the ETO (European Theater)

Grave adoption programs—some part of structured, longstanding projects, others more individually driven—offer a touching layer of history that takes many visitors and even seasoned war experts by surprise. Courtesy of **Faces of Margraten**
https://www.abmc.gov/news-events/news/faces-margraten/

netherlands@abmc.gov

In Memoriam

Jacob 'Jake' Ruser 1924 – 2026 (101 yrs.)
PFC Combat Medic, 12th Infantry; 4th Division D-Day through the Battle of the Bulge

We are all saddened and mourning the loss of our dear Comrade, WWII Veteran Hero, Jake Ruser, Combat Medic, 4th Division and a member of the 8th Armored Division Association. We wish to express our profound sympathy to his family, friends and fellow veterans and extend heartfelt condolences at his passing to his reward in heaven.

The funeral will took place on: Tuesday, January 20th, 2026

At **St Matthew's Catholic Church**

3000 Cottman Ave.

Philadelphia, PA 19149

Burial with military honors

Resurrection Catholic Cemetery

5201 Hulmeville Road

Bensalem, PA 19020

https://archdioceseofphiladelphia.org/cemeteries/resurrection-cemetery/

Obituary - Jacob 'Jake' Ruser,

Jacob (Jake) Ruser was born December 27, 1924 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the son of a Great War veteran. His parents moved to the nearby town of Conshohocken when he was young, and that is where he and his sister grew up, all against the backdrop of the Great Depression. Like many kids, Jake did not understand those economic realities: he remembers school and the movies, and radio comedies and sledding down the hilly streets. He does recall the news of Pearl Harbor, the event that would define him and his generation. Jake received his letter and reported for duty when the time came, and the army trained him as a combat medic. Jake went overseas on the *Queen Mary*, arriving in Glasgow en route to Liverpool. They arrived in March 1944 and were stationed near Manchester until early June, when they were moved to Portsmouth. Jake crossed the Channel and hit Utah Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944. He had been trained to set up an evacuation hospital on Utah Beach, but the exigencies of combat led to a reassignment, and he was sent to the front to aid the 4th Division. Jake moved with the division through the Brittany peninsula, and then at St-Lo he took part in the Normandy breakout, where much of the fighting took place in the infamous Bocages country, replete with hedgerows. On one occasion Jake was knocked unconscious from the blast of a Tiger tank 88 gun, and he was reported as killed. He was back on the front lines the next day, treating his comrades as they

advanced on and liberated Paris and moved through to Belgium. They then moved through the Siegfried Line and into Germany, where they were engaged in the intense Battle of the Huertgen Forest in November 1944, where Jake was wounded. They came out of that unit under strength and were sent to rest in the Luxembourg area in December 1944 – right where the Germans began the Ardennes offensive. Now Jake found himself at the center of the Battle of the Bulge. He remembers it as a confusing time, with considerable retreat and advance until the Americans reset the line – he also recalls a Christmas turkey dinner that took place on his 20th birthday! Next came the drive into Germany in the final months of the war, as Jake crossed the Rhine on March 31, 1945. Not long after he was summoned to the regiment and told that he was being sent home on a 45-day temporary duty assignment: the *SS America* (the *USS West Point)* shipped out on May 1, so Jake was home when VE Day was declared. He was assigned to the Thomas M. England Hospital in Atlantic City, where he worked to nurse wounded soldiers back to health. He did that until he was discharged, at which time he returned to Conshohocken and used his GI Bill benefits to study accounting. He also met Claire, and the two of them married and started a family, finding their way in postwar America.

LEONARD J. BONER,
91, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012, at the south Bay Hospital, in Sun City Center, Fla. Born Jan. 26, 1923, in Fort Wayne, he was a son of the late Clarence and Iva Boner. He was an Army veteran of World War II serving in Germany and a purple heart recipent. He retired from General Electric in 1985. Surviving are his daughter, Patricia Fischer of Springfield, Ohio and Sandra Bonner Robinson of Fort Wayne; son, Len Bonner of Wimauma, Fla.; four granddaughters; and 11 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Clarice Boner, in 2002; second wife, Paula Porter Boner, in 2010; and an infant brother. Service is 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20, 2012, at Covington Memorial Funeral Home, 8408 Covington Road, with calling two hours prior to service. Burial in Covington Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, memorials to donor's choice. To send online condolences, please visit www.covingtonmemorial.com .

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/131909964/leonard_j-boner?fbclid=IwY2xjawL7HqFleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBicmlkETB3MVJjVlI1dEdDcFBrU2tBAR5xwdVgjJUsTLtndv2R5VKQVPZVvIAsKTlSFkU6GmQHaBKnG_9geiQxXcTHeQ_aem_0DKqwGBhgsEju2LOaVRpeQ

Published in Fort Wayne Newspapers on December 18, 2012

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During World War II Leonard Joseph Boner, registered with Selective Service on June 30, 1942 in Ft Wayne, Indiana, at the time employed by General Electric in Ft Wayne. He was enlistment into the U.S. Army on March 23, 1943 in Camp Perry, Lacarne, Ohio, Army Serial Number 35551217. He trained in North Camp Polk, Louisiana, with the 8th Armored Division, and deployed with them to the European Theater of Operations on November 7, 1944.

Tec5 Boner served in combat with Headquarters Company, 7th Armored Infantry Battalion, Combat Command A (CCA), 8th Armored Division. On March 28, 1945 Tec5 Boner was wounded in action during the assault on Dorsten, Germany with artillery shrapnel wounds to his abdominal wall, pelvis and back. He was evacuated to an aid station for treatment and recovery returning to duty and his unit in March 1945 His awards include but are not limited to: Combat Infantry Badge; Purple Heart Medal: European–African–Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Medal with 3 bronze campaign stars for combat service in the Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe Campaigns; American Theater Medal: World War II Victory Medal; Good Conduct Medal.

Brief military bio courtesy,

Scott Muselin, Vindicator I, F-G ID 49013635

Historian, 8th Armored Division Association

Inscription

T-5 LEONARD J
BONE
8 - ARM - 7 - INF

Romeo A. Battilana

Aug 23, 1923 - Jul 25, 2015 (Age 91)

Romeo Battilana at 2014 Reunion of the 8th Armored Division

Norman Ingebreth Olson (1922 – 2020) HQ Company 49th Armored Infantry Battalion

Norman Ingebreth Olson peacefully passed to his eternal home on June 25, 2020, with his wife Barb at his side. Born July 11, 1922 in Faith, South Dakota, of Norwegian immigrant parents, Norm grew up with his five siblings on a farm near Faith. He attended the School of Mines in Sturgis and graduated from Augustana College. After serving in the US Army in Europe during World War II with the 8th Armored Division, 'Thundering Herd', Norm farmed with his brother Enoch near Platte, South Dakota. He received his Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, and then answered the call to serve as missionary to Japan. In May of 1951 he married Nellie Mortensen, and they soon sailed for Japan, where they served as missionaries until 1973. Norm and Nellie raised four children in Japan, and pioneered several churches there. After returning to the US, Norm served in pastoral ministry in Sisseton, SD; Florence, SD; and Watertown, MN. After the death of his wife, Nellie, Norm married Barbara Kunze. They enjoyed 21 years of marriage and traveled to many countries. A dedicated runner, Norm continued to run 4Ks and 5Ks until well into his 90s. In retirement, Norm took a scholarly interest in WWII, and was active in reunions with his former unit, the **8th Armored Division.** Norm's interest in overseas missions never ceased. In 2000 he returned to Japan, where he was honored at the 50th anniversary of the Lutheran Church in the Tokai Region, and preached in Japanese to his former congregations. Norm deeply cared for those in his life, and loved connecting with friends, congregation members, mission community and family. He often traveled and phoned to maintain those connections.

Graveside Interment took place at Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery in Watertown, MN.

Please visit Norman's Memorial Facebook page to share memories, tributes and photos. https://www.facebook.com/NormIOlson

Charles Pershing “Charlie” Harris (1919-1971)

Company C, 49th Armored Infantry Battalion, Combat Command B (CCB), 8th Armored Division

May he rest peacefully. No photo of this 8 AD veteran was found. Obituary published by 'The Cincinnati Post' Cincinnati, Ohio on Saturday, June 19, 1971.

Brief military bio compiled from available source for F-G:

Charles was born on December 30, 1919 in Cincinnati, Ohio, son of Lucy F (nee Wiley) and Edward Alfred Harris.

During World War II Charles Pershing Harris registered with Selective Service on July 1, 1941 in Cincinnati, Ohio, at the time employed by Andrew Rolfow, in Batavia, Ohio. He was enlisted into the U.S. Army on May 4, 1942, in Cincinnati, Ohio, Army Serial Number 35454024. He training in North Camp Polk, Louisiana, with the 8th Armored Division, deployed with them to the European Theater of Operations on November 7, 1944.

Tec5 Harris served in combat with, **Company C, 49th Armored Infantry Battalion, Combat Command B (CCB), 8th Armored Division**. Post VE-Day Tec5 Harris served occupation duties in Germany and Czechoslovakia. His awards include but are not limited to: Combat Infantry Badge; European–African–Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Medal with 3 bronze campaign stars for combat service in the Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe Campaigns; American Theater Medal; World War II Victory Medal; Good Conduct Medal.
Thanks to ‘Turk’ Nilsum

Marcel Omer Sabourin (Sgt) Company D, 36th Tank Battalion

born - 19 May 1914; Pascoag, Providence County, Rhode Island

died - 23 Dec 1997 (aged 83), Putnam, Windham County, Connecticut

burial - Saint Mary Cemetery, Putnam, Windham County, Connecticut

During World War II Marcel Omer Sabourin, registered with Selective Service on October 16, 1940 in Burrillville, Rhode Island, at the time employed by Oakland Worsted Company in Oakland, Rhode Island. He was enlistment into the U.S. Army on September 17, 1942 in Providence, Rhode Island, Army Serial Number 31180748. He trained in North Camp Polk, Louisiana, with the 8th Armored Division, and deployed with them to the European Theater of Operations on November 7, 1944.

Sgt Sabourin served in combat with Company D, 36th Tank Battalion, Combat Command B (CCB), 8th Armored Division. On March 5, 1945 Sgt Sabourin was wounded in action during the assault on Rheinberg, Germany with a bullet wound to his forearm. He was evacuated to a Theater of Operations Convalescent Hospital for treatment and recovery He was released to duty and returned to his unit in March 1945 His awards include but are not limited to: Purple Heart Medal: European–African–Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Medal with 3 bronze campaign stars for combat service in the Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe Campaigns; American Theater Medal: World War II Victory Medal; Good Conduct Medal.
Marcel was a retired municipal water treatment facility employee.

Brief military bio courtesy,
Scott Muselin, Vindicator I, F-G ID 49013635
Historian, 8th Armored Division Association

Samuel Harry Hendley – 88th Armored Cavalry Recon Battalion, 8th Armored Division
born - 27 Dec 1921
died - 8 Jan 1994 (aged 72)
buried - Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, Riverside County, California, USA

May he rest peacefully. Obituary published by 'The Tyler Courier Times' Tyler, Texas on Sunday, January 16, 1994.

During World War II Samuel Harry Hendley was enlistment into the U.S. Army on January 12, 1940 in the Oakland Municipal Airport, California, Army Serial Number 6954964. He initially trained and served in Fort Bliss Texas as a military policeman. On February 06, 1943 he married Barbara Jean Macy of Attica, Kansas. He later trained in North Camp Polk, Louisiana, with the 8th Armored Division, and deployed with them to the European Theater of Operations on November 7, 1944.
Pfc Hendley served in combat with Troop D, 88th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized), 8th Armored Division. Post VE Day Pfc Hendley served occupation duties in Germany and Chrást, Czechoslovakia. His awards include but are not limited to: European–African–Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Medal with 3 bronze campaign stars for combat service in the Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe Campaigns; American Theater Medal: World War II Victory Medal; Good Conduct Medal. Pfc Hendley was honorably separated from the U.S. Army on September 28, 1945.

Thanks to Turk Nilesum
https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/778785/samuel_h-hendley?fbclid=IwY2xjawMK3PZleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBicmlkETFjR2M5bGUwNk1YeGloMnZJAR6DDzRZaWmPdDVAMS7HyHyC-

g7EkEON3Qlcg9HrAJhWtJ-YuSnuRbRFh3HWkg_aem_HEum_JbFkl8awYjyUNObuA

Jack A. Scheffer - Company C, 58th Armored Infantry Battalion, 8th Armored Division

Born - 3 Dec 1924; Bradford, McKean County, Pennsylvania, USA

Died - 21 Oct 2000 (aged 75)

Buried - Willow Dale Cemetery, Bradford, McKean County, Pennsylvania

During World War II Jack Arnold Scheffer, registered with Selective Service on December 28, 1942 in Bradford, Pennsylvania, at the time employed by Bradford Dinner & a student in Bradford. He was enlistment into the U.S. Army on March 16, 1943 in Erie, Pennsylvania, Army Serial Number 33435089. He trained in the Armored Communications school, Fort Knox, Kentucky with final training in North Camp Polk, Louisiana, with the 8th Armored Division, and deployed with them to the European Theater of Operations on November 7, 1944.

Pfc Scheffer served in combat with Company C, 58th Armored Infantry Battalion, Combat Command R (CCR), 8th Armored Division. His awards include but are not limited to: Combat Infantry Badge; European–African–Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Medal with 3 bronze campaign stars for combat service in the Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe Campaigns; American Theater Medal: World War II Victory Medal; Good Conduct Medal. Pfc Scheffer was honorably separated from the U. S. Army on November 20, 1945.

Postwar, in accordance with the 1950 Census Jack was employed as a mechanic with an oil field supply factory.

Brief military bio courtesy - Scott Muselin, Vindicator I, F-G ID 49013635
Historian, 8th Armored Division Association

Thank you for your service with Company C, 58th Armored Infantry Battalion, Combat Command R (CCR), 8th Armored Division. You are not forgotten. Rest peacefully.

Thanks to Vindicator

Chester Cushing "Chet" Stone – Capt. 130th Ordnance/Maintenance Battalion 8th Armored Division

Born - 12 Mar 1920; Auburn, Worcester County, Massachusetts, USA
Died - 17 Jun 1986 (aged 66)
North Oxford, Worcester County, Massachusetts, USA
Buried - Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Thanks to Turk Nilesum

May he rest peacefully. No obituary was found for this 8 AD veteran. IAW the 1950 Census Chester was employed as a university mathematics instructor, while residing in East Brookfield, Massachusetts with his wife Jane and five children.

1st Sgt. William F. Hughes, Jr., of Headquarters Battery, 399th AFA Battalion, Hann-Munden, Germany, May 1945.

MSGT William Franklin Hughes Jr. Veteran of the 8th Armored Division
Birth - 29 Jul 1908 - Florala, Covington County, Alabama, USA

Death - 6 Jun 1966 (aged 57) - Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, USA
Burial - Greenwood Memorial Cemetery - Florala, Covington County, Alabama, USA

> May he rest peacefully. Obituary published by 'The Tampa Tribune' Tampa, Florida on Friday, June 10, 1966. Brief military bio compiled from available sources.
> During World War II William Franklin Hughes registered with Selective Service on October 16, 1940 in Montgomery, Alabama, at the time employed with the Alabama State Highway Department. He was enlisted into the U.S. Army on November 25, 1940 in Montgomery, Alabama, Army Serial Number 20421922. He trained in South Camp Polk, Louisiana, with the 8th Armored Division, deploying with them to the European Theater of Operations on November 7, 1944.
> First Sergeant Hughes served in combat with Headquarters Battery, 399th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, Combat Command B (CCB), 8th Armored Division His awards include but are not limited to: European–African–Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Medal with 3 bronze campaign stars for combat service in the Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe Campaign; American Theater Medal, World War II Victory Medal; Good Conduct Medal.
> Postwar, First Sergeant Hughes reenlisted, switching military branches to the Army Air Forces on November 18, 1945 in Fort McPherson, Atlanta, Georgia. Advancing in rank Master Sergeant Hughes served with the 3201st Boat Squadron, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. During his service here he was awarded the Air Medal. Master Sergeant Hughes was honorably separated / retired from the United States Air Force on September 11, 1953.

Thanks to Turk Nilsen

Robert Joseph Blanchette C.

Tech-5 Co. C 58th Armored Infantry Battalion, 8th Armored Division

Birth - 1 Jan 1924, Plymouth, Grafton County, New Hampshire, USA
Died - 1 Jun 1947 (aged 23) Plymouth, Grafton County, New Hampshire, USA
Buried - Riverside Cemetery, Plymouth, Grafton County, New Hampshire

Two Veterans Meet Death in Plymouth Crash.

Two young men, both veterans of World War II were fatally injured in an automobile accident about midnight Saturday in Plymouth. They were **Robert J Blanchette,** 23, of Plymouth, who was killed outright when his car crashed into a tree in front of Arthur Chase's house on the Daniel Webster Highway, and Grant Chayer, Jr, 22, of Beebe River, passenger in the car, who died at the Sceva Speare Memorial Hospital shortly after being admitted. The car which was reported headed towards Plymouth apparently went out of control, leaving the highway and crashing into the huge maple tree. According to Dr Leon M Orton of Ashland, medical referee Blanchette died instantly and Chayer succumbed to injuries about 45 minutes later at the hospital.

Robert Blanchette was born January 1, 1924, in Plymouth, son of the late Arthur Joseph Blanchette, and Ruth (Morse) Blanchette. He received his education in Plymouth schools, graduating from Plymouth High School. He served 3½ years in the armed forces, serving with the **8th Armored Division** in Europe. Since his honorable discharge from the Army he has been employed by Stone's Express in

Lynn, Massachusetts. He married Miss Eleanor Koban of Danvers, Massachusetts, who survives him.

Final tribute was paid the young veterans Tuesday in Plymouth, with many braving the downpours of rain to attend the services. The services were largely attended and there were many beautiful floral tributes. The first service was held Tuesday morning for Robert Blanchette, at St Matthews Church, with Reverend Adrien Verrette officiating. A military service was also conducted by officers and members of the newly organized Pemigewasset Veterans' Association. Burial was in Riverside Cemetery under the direction of Nichols Funeral Home. Bearers were friends of the deceased, veterans of World War II, including Edgar Lessard, Irwin Richelson, Robert McCormack, Earl Westover, Newell McCormack and Charles Dustin. A military service was conducted by the Pemigewasset Veterans' Association in the cemetery. Color bearers were Henry Boyce and Kenneth Hobart, and color guards were Edward Burtt and Albert Kruger, commander, Plymouth Amvets, Bugler was Harold Freeman. A salute was given by a firing squad, Harold Sherburne, Jr, Lawrence Blake, Robert Gross, Norris Prescott and Malcolm C MacKenzie, commander of Mt Prospect Post VFW. Maurice J Berry, commander of Durand-Haley Post, American Legion, directed the firing squads at both services. Deepest sympathy is extended the bereaved families in their great loss by their many friends.

Published by 'The Plymouth Record', Plymouth, New Hampshire on June 5, 1947.

During World War II Robert Joseph Blanchette, registered with Selective Service on June 30, 1942 in Plymouth, New Hampshire, at the time unemployed while residing in Plymouth. He was enlistment into the U.S. Army on March 10, 1943 in Manchester, New Hampshire, Army Serial Number 31267864. He trained in South Camp Polk, Louisiana, with the 8th Armored Division, and deployed with them to the European Theater of Operations on November 7, 1944.

Tec5 Blanchette served in combat with Company C, 58th Armored Infantry Battalion, Combat Command R (CCR), 8th Armored Division. His awards include but are not limited to: Combat Infantry Badge; European–African–Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Medal with 3 bronze campaign stars for combat service in the Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe Campaigns; American Theater Medal: World War II Victory Medal; Good Conduct Medal.

Brief military bio courtesy of Scott Muselin, Vindicator I, F-G ID 49013635
Historian, 8th Armored Division Association

Vincent Anthony Spano, Co. A 78th Medical Battalion 8th Armored Division, Combat Medic
Born -9, March, 1925 Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

Died - 24 Oct 2007 (aged 82) Media, Delaware County, Pennsylvania

Buried - Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery, Springfield, Delaware County, Pennsylvania

During World War II Vincent Anthony Spano, was enlistment into the U.S. Army on March 26, 1943 in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania, Army Serial Number 13177855. He trained South Camp Polk, Louisiana, with the 8th Armored Division, and deployed with them to the European Theater of Operations on November 7, 1944.

Pfc Spano served as a Combat Medic with Company A, 78th Armored Medical Battalion, 8th Armored Division. For his actions on March 25, 1945 Pfc Spano was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic service. His awards include but are not limited to: Combat Medical Badge; Bronze Star Medal for heroic service; European–African–Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Medal with 3 bronze campaign stars for combat service in the Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe Campaigns; American Theater Medal: World War II Victory Medal; Good Conduct Medal. Pfc Spano was honorably separated from the U. S. Army on January 7, 1946 in the Separation Center, Indiantown Gap, Military Reservation Pennsylvania.

Postwar, in accordance with the 1950 Census Vincent was employed as a real estate salesman, while residing in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania with his wife Freda.

Brief military bio courtesy, Scott Muselin, Vindicator I, F-G ID 49013635

Historian, 8th Armored Division Association

Lt Richard C Barnum, Co. C, 58th Armored Infantry Battalion

Birth 5 Jul 1918; Louisiana, Pike County, Missouri, USA

Death 21 Aug 1985 (aged 67); Fort Myers, Lee County, Florida, USA

Burial Fort Myers Memorial Gardens; Fort Myers, Lee County, Florida

Thanks to Scott Muselin, Vindicator

*Gino Eugene Bartolomeo (PFC) 1922 – 2009 Co C, 58th Armored Infantry Battalion, Combat Command R (CCR) remembered here

May he rest peacefully. No photo of this 8 AD veteran was found. Obituary published by 'Pittsburgh Post Gazette' Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania · Sunday, March 08, 2009.

During World War II Gino Eugene Bartolomeo registered with Selective Service on June 30, 1942 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, at the time employed by Pittsburgh Railways Company shops, Pittsburgh. He was enlisted into the U.S. Army on August 15, 1944 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Army Serial Number 33924124. He trained in an Infantry Replacement Training Center assigned as a replacement rifleman assigned to the 8th Armored Division, deploying to the European Theater of Operations on January 31, 1945.

Pfc Bartolomeo served in combat with Company C, 58th Armored Infantry Battalion, Combat Command R (CCR), 8th Armored Division. Pfc Bartolomeo was wounded in action with artillery shrapnel wounds to his knee near Dorsten, Germany on April 1, 1945 during the 8th Armored Divisions reduction of the Ruhr Pocket. Pfc Bartolomeo was evacuated for treatment and recovery, released to duty and returned to his unit. Post VE-Day Pfc Bartolomeo served occupation duties in the Harz Mountains area of Germany and Plzeň, Czechoslovakia. His awards include but are not limited to: Combat Infantry Badge; Purple Heart Medal;

European–African–Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Medal with 2 bronze campaign stars for combat service in the Rhineland, and Central Europe Campaign; American Theater Medal, World War II Victory Medal. Pfc Bartolomeo was honorably separated from the U.S. Army on July 5, 1946 in the Separation Center, Fort Dix, New Jersey.

Thanks to Turk Nilesum

James Ray Greer 1925 – 2018 SGT Co C 58th Armored Infantry Battalion 8th Armored Division

Birth - 30 Aug 1925; Roan Mountain, Carter County, Tennessee

Death - 4 May 2018 (aged 92); Knoxville, Knox County, Tennessee

Burial - East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery; Knoxville, Knox County, Tennessee

James "Ray" Greer, age 92, of Knoxville went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Friday, May 4, 2018. He was a member of Beaver Dam Baptist Church and was an elder in the Presbyterian Church.

Ray was born and raised in Roan Mountain, TN. He was a graduate of Cloudland High School and East Tennessee State University. He was a devoted University of Tennessee fan. Ray served in the U.S. army from 1944-1946, where he fought with the Thundering Herd. He was a sergeant in Company C with the 58th Armored Infantry Battalion 8th Armored Division, where he fought in the Battle of the Bulge, and was the recipient of 3 Bronze Stars. Ray was a devoted husband and father.

Thanks to Turk Nilesum

I Robert Keller (S/Sgt) 1923 – 2003 Squad Leader, Company C, 58th Armored Infantry Battalion, 8th Armored Divisio

During World War II, I Robert Keller registered with Selective Service on June 30, 1942 in Missoula, Montana, at the time employed by the Wilma Theater in Missoula. He was enlisted into the U.S. Army on March 2, 1943 in Butte, Montana, Army Serial Number 39616507. He trained in South Camp Polk, Louisiana with the 8th Armored Division, deploying with then to the European Theater of Operations on November 7, 1944.

S/Sgt Keller served in combat as Squad Leader, Company C, 58th Armored Infantry Battalion, Combat Command R (CCR), 8th Armored Division. For his actions on February 26, 1945 during the assault on Merum, Holland he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic service. S/Sgt Keller was severely wounded on March 5, 1945 near Krefeld, Germany with artillery shrapnel wounds to his knee and leg. He was initially evacuated to a theater general hospital in France, and then to England. During June 1945 he was evacuated to the United States to Baxter General Hospital in Spokane, Washington, and then transferred to Oakland Regional Hospital, Oakland, California during October 1945 for rehabilitation and convalescent care. His awards include but are not limited to: Combat Infantry Badge; Bronze Star Medal for heroic service; Purple Heart Medal; European–African–Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Ribbon with 2 bronze campaign stars for combat service in the Ardennes, and Rhineland Campaigns; American Theater Medal; World War II Victory Medal; Good Conduct Medal. S/Sgt Keller was honorably separated from the U.S. Army on October 27, 1945 upon release from Oakland Regional Hospital.

December 1944: The Medics Who Saved Thousands at the Battle of the Bulge

U.S. Army infantrymen with medics in winter uniforms huddled around a map during the Battle of the Bulge. (U.S. Army photo)

Eighty-one years ago this month, on Dec. 16, 1944, German forces launched their last major offensive on the Western Front. The Battle of the Bulge would become the largest and bloodiest single battle American forces fought in World War II, with more than 80,000 U.S. casualties over six brutal winter weeks.

But behind the headlines about tank battles and infantry heroics, combat medics fought a different war. Working in frozen Belgian forests under constant artillery fire, they established battlefield medicine standards that shaped modern military medical care and laid the groundwork for today's Department of Veterans Affairs health care system.

Read More: The 106th Infantry Division's Forgotten Sacrifice During the Battle of the Bulge

Surrounded at Bastogne

On Dec. 19, three days into the battle, German forces captured the 326th Airborne Medical Company near Bastogne. Eleven officers and 119 enlisted men became prisoners of war. One medic, Pvt. Henry Sullivan, was killed. The loss gutted the 101st Airborne Division's medical capability right when casualties started flooding in.

The few doctors and medics who escaped capture set up aid stations in whatever buildings they could find in Bastogne. Two medical officers, two dental officers, four administrative officers and roughly 113 enlisted men remained to handle the division's wounded.

Medics with Company A, 110th Medical Battalion, evacuate wounded during the Battle of the Bulge near Lutrebois, Belgium in January 1945. The 110th Medical Battalion is credited with saving many lives during World War II. (Photo via DVIDS courtesy of the 134th Infantry Regiment)

By Dec. 21, Germans had cut off the last road out of town. Surrounded, the medical teams worked with rapidly dwindling supplies of medicine and plasma. Buildings serving as hospital wards took constant artillery fire, periodic bombing and strafing runs. The medics worked anyway.

Surgery Under Fire

Surgical teams flew into Bastogne by glider to augment the overwhelmed aid stations. One surgeon performed 15 surgical procedures in 36 hours straight. The teams had to work fast because wounded men kept arriving faster than they could be evacuated.

Between Dec. 19 and Dec. 26, when Patton's Third Army finally broke through to relieve the siege, medical teams in Bastogne treated 943 American casualties and 125 German prisoners. They did it with minimal equipment, under enemy fire, in freezing conditions that made every procedure harder.

Medical supply drops became critical. Surgical teams, penicillin and plasma arrived by air when roads were cut. Without those drops, casualty rates would have been far worse.

The Cold Killed More Than Bullets

Trench foot was more common than combat wounds during the Bulge. Soldiers spent days in frozen foxholes with wet boots. Their feet went numb then turned black. Medics inspected feet constantly, but the sheer number of cases overwhelmed treatment capacity.

The 77th Evacuation Hospital had beds for 750 patients. During the battle, it handled twice that number. Hospitals across the region faced the same problem. The 110th Evacuation Hospital at Esch received 300 casualties per day, with surgical backlogs exceeding 300 patients at times.

Cold weather complicated every medical procedure. Plasma froze. Morphine syrettes stopped working. Wounds that would have been manageable in better conditions became life-threatening. Medics had to innovate constantly.

Medical Innovations Born From Necessity

The Bulge pushed battlefield medicine forward through sheer necessity. Penicillin, still relatively new, saw widespread use. Medics gave it for everything from minor infections to serious wounds. Sulfa drugs prevented infections. Blood plasma saved lives when whole blood wasn't available.

The triage system that medics developed under fire became standard practice. Sorting the wounded by severity, treating those who could be saved first, stabilizing others for evacuation. These decisions happened in seconds, often under enemy fire, and saved thousands of lives.

Evacuation procedures refined during the Bulge established the model for modern battlefield medicine. Get wounded soldiers to surgical care fast. Stabilize them close to the front. Move them to better facilities as soon as possible. This system, perfected in frozen Belgian forests, still guides military medicine today.

The Legacy Lives On

When wounded soldiers came home from the Bulge and other World War II battles, the military medical system didn't stop caring for them. Rehabilitation programs for men who lost limbs, sight or hearing were innovations of the 1940s. These programs became the foundation of modern VA health care.

The survival rate for wounded soldiers in World War II far exceeded any previous war. Credit belongs to penicillin, plasma and rapid evacuation. But mostly it belongs to the medics who crawled through snow and fire to reach wounded men; who set up aid stations in buildings being shelled; who performed surgery by candlelight when the power went out.

Combat medic John Burch, who served with the 101st Airborne at Bastogne, never considered himself a hero. That honor belonged to the doctors and the men who didn't come home, he insisted. But Burch

and thousands of medics like him saved lives under impossible conditions and built the system that takes care of veterans today.

Eighty-one years later, the lessons they learned in December 1944 still save lives.

The 8th Armored Division at Tidworth Barracks, England

The 8th Armored arrived in England in October, 1944 and were assigned to Tidworth Barracks in Wiltshire, UK, for training before they departed for France. Tidworth Camp was established when the War Office acquired Tidworth House and large tracts of land to the north of the house in 1897. Southern Command was established at Tidworth Camp in 1905. area. The branch returned to military control in 1955 and was closed in 1963. Tidworth Military Cemetery was set up to serve the barracks. It includes the graves of 417 Commonwealth service personnel of the First World War and 106 of the Second World War. Southern Command left the Camp and moved to Erskine Barracks near Fugglestone St. Peter, in 1949. The Military Hospital closed in March 1977. Extensive reconstruction at the Camp involving 160 new or refurbished buildings was carried out under Project Allenby Connaught between 2006 and 2014. After training at Tidworth, the Division left England and were transported to Le Havre, France, landing there on Early January, 1945 in time to join the Allied Forces Campaign in the Battle of the Bulge and Colmar Pocket.