

87TH INFANTRY DIVISION

GOLDEN ACORN NEWS



LEGACY EDITION



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION LEGACY ASSOCIATION

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MARCH 2026



2026

ARDENNES • RHINELAND • CENTRAL EUROPE
VETERANS OF GENERAL PATTON'S 3RD ARMY & THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

News and Announcements

**The 2026 87th Infantry Division Legacy Association Educational Forum and Reunion
Wilmington, NC October 29—November 1, 2026**

Note from the Editor

Dear Reader,

In this issue, we honor those veterans who have passed over the last 15 years that we did not recognize at the time of their passing. Our apologies to their families and friends for this oversight.

We continue to honor our 87th Division veterans who were taken Prisoners of War and their stories of survival outside of combat with the story of then Corporal Mahlon Krum (B-346), who was captured in Jenneville, Belgium in January 1945.

We have put together a great program for the 87th IDLA Reunion in Wilmington featuring four Educational Forums that cover The Bedford Boys, Ship Building, Coastal Defense and the USO.

Sincerely, George Welsh, son of Bob Welsh (87th Recon)

**High School Seniors, College and Trade School Students
Apply for the Tim Higgins Scholarship on Pages 27-28**

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Cover: Members of F-347 headed home in boxcars

Cover image credit: From “F Company:347th Infantry Regiment 1942-1945”

Compiled by Barbara Strang (daughter of Ted Anderson, B-912FA)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear 87th IDLA Members,

As I write the third month of 2026 is coming to a close. As we, as those who rightly should help carry forward the deeds, record, and memory of those of the World War II 87th Infantry Division, think back eighty-one years, we recognize some of the events of that latter part March of 1945. For those then with the Golden Acorn Division, they were experiencing something the division had not experienced before—forward progress, progress toward home, measured not now in yards but now in miles. They were east of the Rhine and in the last seven days of March had advanced forty-five, 45, miles. They were part of the Third Army's and First Army's drive into central Germany. The future to them, of course, was then unknown and those then in the ranks who had endured the horrors of the fight through the Siegfried Line or the Ardennes or the Saar, or maybe more than one of those, or all of them, and more, *and* the winter of 1944-1945, there was certainly the knowledge and fear that more terrible days could, almost certainly would, be ahead, and for those Replacements, Reinforcements as the Army was then trying to have them called, who'd joined the division in the last couple of weeks, like my father, there was the fear of any combat at all. In "the fatherland" the armed forces of Nazi German might certainly fight as tenaciously as they had in the in the Siegfried Line or in the Ardennes or the Saar might they not? We, of course, know the outcome, know the horrors of the Nazi mentality that the spring, April, of 1945, revealed to not only the men of the 87th but to all the world as well. They were Stalwart and Strong and we must be too in carrying forward the Legacy of the Golden Acorn Division.

GANLE Editor George Welsh has prepared another fine edition of the association's official publication. In addition to historical content and memorials to more of the division's veterans, you will find information about the Association Reunion and Educational Forum being planned for October in Wilmington, North Carolina. Reunion Coordinators Dennis Lennon and Karen Lilley have lined up a fine program to help us remember and memorialize the deeds of the 87th and to help us learn about the many varied threads of life that when woven together with many others became the Stalwart and Strong 87th Infantry Division. I hope many of you all will be able to join us.

Jim Ogden, President

Son of Jim Ogden, L-346





Necrology

*In Memory of The 87th Veterans
Who lived their lives
In devotion to their families,
In service to their communities, and with true patriotism for
The United States of America*

In a recent review of the roster, we learned of the passing of a number of 87th Veterans we had not acknowledged since forming the 87th Infantry Division Legacy Association in 2010. As part of the Necrology and in lieu of “Those Who Made the Ultimate Sacrifice”, we will pay tribute to the those 87th veterans.

Warren “Bill” Allen, Jr.	C335-FA
Edgar Hermann	E-345
Raymond Jevitt	B335-FA
Silvio “Tom” Martnelli, Jr	I-345
Jesse Leonard	D-346
Roger Britt	A-345
Robert McNamara	346-AT
Raymond La Casse	C-345
William Vandivort	M-347
Henry Schumacher	A-312 ENG
Paul Fett	D-347

87th Division Necrology

Mark Cady	A-346
William Cook	L-346
Glen Stockman	M-345
Robert Sternberg	F-346
Benzion Ginn	MED-345
Howard Scheinholz	E-345
Charles Selim	E-346
George Ehrmann	HQ-336FA
LaVerne White	549AAA
Ed Sterle	E-345
John Church	F-345
Harry Bonallo	D-347
Forrest Schaekel	HQ3-345
Donald McKersie	L-347
Howard Shelley	D-312 MED
Walter King	SV-345
Clifford McComas	HQ 87th Artillery
Isadore Vallorani	HQ3-347
James Girard	87th RECON



Stalwart and Strong



Warren William “Bill” Allen, Jr (C-335FA) passed away peacefully at home in Kirkwood, MO on February 12, 2026, at the age of 102. He is survived by his loving wife, Diana Thomas, with whom he spent four wonderful years.

He was the beloved father of Bill Allen (Terri), Peggy Allen (Dennis) and John Allen (Julie), devoted grandfather of Christopher Allen (Jodie), Matthew Allen (Audrey), Jack Allen, James Allen and Kate McGee (Paul), and much-loved great grandfather of Bailey Allen, Parker Allen, Grayson Allen, Olivia Colby, Aidan Colby, Bill McGee and Louis McGee. Bill was preceded in death by his first wife Ruth Lee Reddish Allen and second wife Mary Knickmeyer, as well as his brother Richard Allen (Jane) and sister Joan Dirth (Jim).

Bill was born in Webster Groves, MO on January 2, 1924, and grew up in Webster, attending school there. He spent his first year of college at Purdue University before joining the US army at the beginning of WW II. He served three years in the Army as a member of the 87th Infantry Division and he served in the Battle of the Bulge, as well as the further liberation of Europe.

After returning from Europe, he completed his education at Washington University in St Louis, MO earning his degree in Chemical Engineering, before starting his working career with Prestite Engineering. He started work in the Quality Control lab until the president of the company noticed that he walked “with such vigor and a good stride” and promoted him to a role in the Research Lab. That vigor lasted his entire life and was one of his defining traits.

Bill married Ruth Lee Reddish in 1949. Their first home together was in Kirkwood before relocating to Cleveland, OH, and later to Indianapolis, IN, before eventually returning to Kirkwood. They raised three children, who all attended Kirkwood High School.

Bill later moved to a role with Hydraulic Press Brick Company, starting as a salesperson and rising through several roles until becoming President, and eventually retiring at age 77. During his time with Hydraulic, Bill served as a leader in his industry with leadership roles in industry groups, including serving as President of ESCSI (Expanded Shale, Clay and Slate Institute).

Later in life, he continued to share the lessons learned during his military service with high school students in Webster and Kirkwood, participating in both school’s Veterans Day events for many years. Bill’s volunteer work was extensive throughout his life and included long-term participation in the Big Brother program and serving as a Stephen Minister.

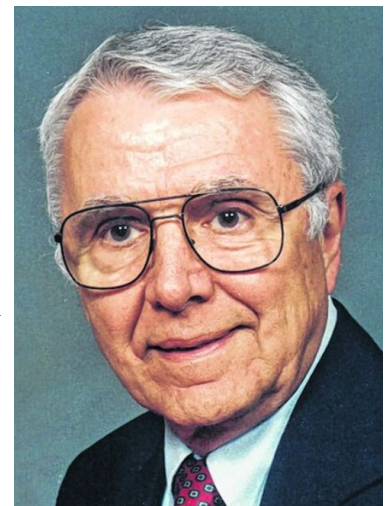
Bill lived his life as an example to others – positive, energetic and curious, all delivered with a great sense of humor. He exuded kindness and he treated everyone he met with great respect. He developed many close friendships along the way and was an inspiration to everyone who knew him. Bill had the belief that his mission in life was to help make his generation a little bit better than the preceding generation. He thought that if each generation could do just a little bit better, this could be a wonderful world down the road.

A memorial service was held at Aberdeen Heights in Kirkwood, MO on February 19, 2026. If desired, memorial gifts may be made to Greater St. Louis Honor Flight (<https://gslhonorflight.org/>).

Edgar Warren Hermann (E-345), 99, passed away peacefully at The Woodlands of the Methwick Community on May 15, 2023. He was interred at the columbarium at St. Paul's Methodist Church.

Ed was born in [Waterloo, Iowa](#), to Elizabeth and George Hermann on Jan. 28, 1924. He graduated from West High School in Waterloo. He then served in Europe with the 87th Division during World War II. After leaving the service, he graduated from Iowa State Teachers College (UNI) and received a graduate degree from the University of Iowa. He taught at Estherville, Iowa, and then for many years at Franklin Junior High in [Cedar Rapids, Iowa](#). After retirement, he volunteered at the Cedar Rapids Library, the Tool Library and UnityPoint Health -St. Luke's Hospital.

Ed was survived by his wife, Pat; and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his son, Joel; his parents; his in-laws, Stella and Clare Broshar; brother-in-law, Robert (Joyce) Broshar; sister, Dorothy (Bill) Faber; and brothers, Charles (Colleen), George (Mary), Leask (Ruth), Stanley (Mary) and Philip.



Memorials may be made to The Methwick Community or Camp Courageous. To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](#).

Howard William Nelson Shelley (D-312 ENG), 88, of Williamston, died January 7, 2011 at Hospice House of Mid-Michigan. He was born August 15, 1922 in Detroit, Michigan. Howard was a WWII veteran, serving as a medic in the 87th Infantry Division during the Battle of the Bulge. He retired, as Deputy Revenue Commissioner, from the Michigan Department of the Revenue after a long and distinguished career. In fact in 1973 he was recognized as the outstanding Revenue employee. After retirement he traveled extensively, with his wife Amy, in his beloved motor home. He was also an avid animal lover who delighted in dog sitting his daughter Pat's dogs. He was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years Amy; his parents, Joseph and Katherine Shelley; his step-father John Deward and an infant daughter. He is survived by his daughter Pat Shelley and his son Bill Shelley both of Williamston. The funeral service was held on January 11, 2011 at Gorsline Runciman Funeral Homes in Williamston, MI with the Rev. Steven Makranyi officiating. The family received friends at the funeral home on January 10, 2011. Many thanks to the wonderful staff at the Hospice House of Mid-Michigan for the loving care he received. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to the Hospice House of Mid-Michigan, P. O. Box 30480, Lansing, MI 48909 or the Capital Area Humane Society, 7095 W. Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906.



Walter A King (SV-345), age 87, a lifelong resident of Miamisburg, OH, passed away December 2, 2010. He was born March 15, 1923, to the late Aaron E. and Ida A. (Oyer) King. Walter was a W.W. II ~ U. S. Army Veteran serving in the 87th Infantry. After returning home from the war, he opened a new car dealership and auto body repair shop; and was also associated with the Dayton Half-Way House. In his retirement years, he owned and operated Walt King's Auto Sales in Miamisburg. He is survived by his son, Gary (Ginger) King; his daughter, Kris (Jim) Bailey all of Miamisburg, OH; 3 Grandchildren & 3 Great-Grandchildren; 2 sisters, Mildred Raisch of Germantown, OH and Magdalene Raisch-Bowermaster of Forest City, NC; numerous nieces and nephews; and special longtime friend, Patricia Keller of Miamisburg and her family. The Family would like to thank Dennis Powell of Germantown and the Dayton VA Hospice for their kind and compassionate care. Services were held, December 8, 2010 at the Dalton Funeral Home in Germantown with Pastor John Naylor officiating. Burial was at Highland Cemetery. If desired memorial contributions may be made to VA Hospice or the Charity of your choice.

Clifford A. "Pete" McComas (HQ 87th Artillery), 86, of Kansas City, MO, joined his wife Pat-ty for their eternal life together on October 18, 2010. Pete was born December 22, 1929 in Oak Grove, MO, the son of Ray Franklin and Cornell Truitt McComas. Along with his parents, he is preceded in death by his beloved wife and best buddy, Helen F. "Patty" McComas; and brothers, James William "Bill" McComas and Raymond Victor "Jack" McComas. As a young man, Pete worked with his family in operating the McComas Dairy in Independence, MO, until he graduated from Wm. Chrisman High School in 1941. In 1943, he became a member of the 87th Infantry Division, which fought its way across Europe to meet the Russians in Czechoslovakia. Pete proudly served in European Theater Operations during World War II. He was known as a "Battling Bastard of Bastogne" with General Patton's 3rd Army, in that famous Battle of the Bulge. Sergeant McComas was awarded a good conduct medal, three battle stars and a bronze star. On September 28, 2010, he was flown to Washington D.C. on an Honor Flight for Veterans, to the World War II Memorial, where he was treated like a Hero - he always was a HERO to us. We have been told that Dad was very attentive, soaking up all the knowledge his Honor Flight Attendant Guardian



PA State Rep. Donna Scheuren · Follow

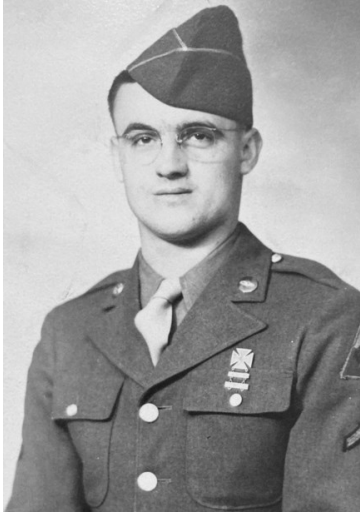
Sep 26, 2025 · 🌐

Last week I had the honor of celebrating the 100th birthday of Mr. Philip Kretschman at [Arbour Square o Harleysville!](#) 🎂

A proud WWII veteran who bravely served in the Battle of the Bulge, Phil went on to found Kretschma Engineering, coach youth baseball, and give back to his community in countless ways. He and his late wife Lucille were blessed with 64 years of marriage, five children, and a beautiful legacy of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

It was my privilege to present him with an official House citation recognizing his lifetime of service, leadership, and devotion to family. Congratulations, Phil, on this incredible milestone, you are truly part o the Greatest Generation!

The 87th POW Experience: Sergeant Mahlon Krum



Then Corporal Mahlon Yordy Krum (B-346) was taken prisoner on January 3, 1945 at Jenneville, Belgium at the height of the Battle of the Bulge. In action prior to his capture, he was wounded and his foxhole mate was killed. Mahlon's helmet had four bullet holes, through and through, with one bullet creasing the top of his head. He did not notice he had been wounded until a German soldier knocked his helmet off his head.

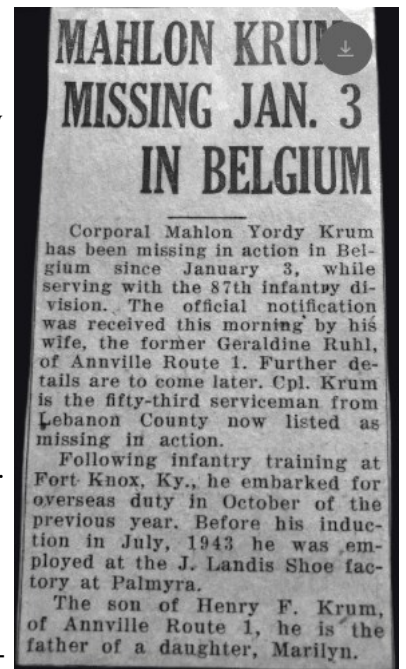
He was initially taken to an aid station and due to lack of supplies the Germans only had his personal first aid kit to treat the wound. His first stop was the POW camp IX-B near Bad Orb, Germany, where he was ultimately separated from the privates and taken by train to another camp IX-A in Ziegenhain, Germany. While waiting for transit by train, all the German guards cleared the station during an Allied bombing run. Mahlon was left on the platform during the air raid but did not even know where to go if he had decided to escape. The guards returned when the bombing stopped and put Mahlon in a boxcar. He was starved due to the lack of food and as a result never received the contents of the Red Cross packages.

He spoke of being fed horrible black bread stored in sawdust and an unidentifiable broth. All the prisoners were lice infested. Mahlon remembers seeing them hopping. They had no winter clothes and had to sleep tight up against each other to stay warm. The prisoners were often sent off on work details, most frequently repairing the bombed out railroads. Most were immediately blown up again right after the prisoners had got them back in operation. There were also lots of interrogations. The Germans pulled out all the tricks, including the enticement of women. Mahlon only gave name, rank and serial number even after the interrogator told him all the things they already knew. Someone had already talked.

On Good Friday, March 30, 1945, the 80th Infantry Division liberated the camp. They threw rations over the fence to the starving POWs, who had been so underfed that many became sick from overeating the rich food. They were deloused and given new, poorly fitting clothes. Mahlon was flown from Germany to LeHavre, France, where he recovered before returning

home. While on the water on his way back to the States, Germany surrendered and the war in Europe was over. Once back home, he took the train to Harrisburg, PA. His family kept passing him up, because they did not recognize him due to the serious loss of weight.

He was never reported as a POW to his family during his interment. All they knew is that he was MIA. When Ron was a young boy hunting around in the attic, he found all the letters his Dad wrote to his mother while he was a prisoner that were never delivered.



On January 27, 1945, the Stalag IX-A commandant ordered all Jewish POWs to report the next morning. The ranking noncommissioned officer at the camp, Master Sergeant Roddie Edmonds, ordered all his men to report and stand together, and told the Germans: "We are all Jews here." For his actions, Edmonds was made Righteous Among the Nations, the first American soldier to be so honored.

The main street of Stalag IX-A taken in 1942 (from the February 2016 Edition of the NCO Journal)



87th Infantry Division Monuments

Location/Description	GPS Coordinates	Address	Notes
Atlantic City, NJ	39.351667, -74.425639	3504 Atlantic Ave, Longport, NJ 08401	Monument in front of Headquarters Building
Camp McCain, MS	33.698058, -89.712572	3152 James H. Biddy Rd, Grenada, MS 38901	Monument in front of Headquarters Building
Carlisle, PA	40.127213, -77.347398	803 Centerville Rd, Newville, PA 17241	Monument
Charlotte, NC	35.222917, -80.845639	501 S College St., Charlotte, NC 28202	Monument at the Charlotte Convention Center with other units
Ft Belvoir, VA	32.7249, -77.17036	1775 Liberty Dr, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060	National Museum of the US Army, stone at the Warrior's Plaza
Ft Benning, GA	32.385315, -84.954157	Fort Benning Road, Columbus, GA 31905	Monument
Ft Jackson, SC	34.025850, -80.937700	13000 Jackson Blvd, Columbia, SC 29206	Sign
Rochester, NY	42.919922, -77.694475	I-390, Avon, NY	87th Memorial Highway
Bastogne, Belgium	50.009657, 5.739167	Rue de Clervaux, 6600 Bastogne, Belgium	Mardasson Memorial
Bonnerue, Belgium	50.004664, 5.486372	La Tourette, 6680 Sainte-Olde, Belgium	Piempre Crossroads
Boppard, Germany	50.231467, 7.602306	Rheinallee 8, 56154 Boppard, Germany	Rhein Crossing Plaque
Hamm, Luxembourg	49.611356, 6.18565	Val du Scheid, Luxembourg	General Patton's & 87th ID Soldiers Graves
Huldrange, Luxembourg	50.161503, 6.024044	1-23 Op d'Burrigplatz 9964 Troisvierges, Luxembourg	
Moircy, Belgium	49.994236, 5.474636	Rue de Jenneville 2, 6800 Libramont-Chevigny, Belgium	Plaque at the Moircy Church
Obergailbach, France	49.06359, 7.12432		
Rhens, Germany	50.283619, 7.618331	Am Rhein 7. 56321 Rhens, Germany	Rhein Crossing Plaque
St Hubert, Belgium	50.027222, 5.373611	Rue de Jenneville 2, 6870 Saint-Hubert, Belgium	St Hubert Town Hall
St Hubert, Belgium			Contact Olivier Gillard: olivier041@hotmail.com to visit
Tennevellesaufei, Belgium	50.107734, 5.484762	Rue Grande Champion 98, 6971 Tenneville, Belgium	Sign with photo of 87th link up with the British Army
Tillet, Belgium	50.010797, 5.530639	Tillet 18, 6680 Sainte-Ode, Belgium	Shoup Plaque, Tillet Church
Vesqueville, Belgium	49.998787, 5.381058	Rue des Rouge Fosses 6, 6870 Saint-Hubert, Belgium	Private Monument restored in 2004
Vesqueville, Belgium	49.993008, 5.406087	Rue de Freux 32, 6870 Saint-Hubert, Belgium	Private Monument not yet restored
Wasserbillig, Luxembourg	49.712725, 6.496453	18 Route de Luxembourg, 6633 Mertert, Luxembourg	Plaque in Memorial Garden
Wasserbillig, Luxembourg	49.710894, 6.491208	Rue de la 87e Division, 6620 Mertert, Luxembourg	Rue De 87th Street Sign



Billy Stiegemeier and Pascal Hainaut in Piempre



The 87th liberates Remagne after 22 days of combat



Craig & Barbara Stiegemeier at Vesqueville Monument #1



Wasserbillig, Belgium Street Sign "87th ID Street"



Vesqueville Monument #2

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