Chapter 05465A 1944

WALTER JOSEPH BOLEMBACH Early family and WW2 years

Brooklyn and Staten Island, NY

Edward Pearce branch #3, generation #7.



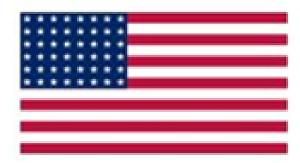
BATTLE OF THE BULGE

12/16/1944-1/25/1945

3rd Army (Gen. Patton), 6th Armored Division, 15th Tank Battalion, Company B, The Wolf Pack.



Walter J. Bolembach

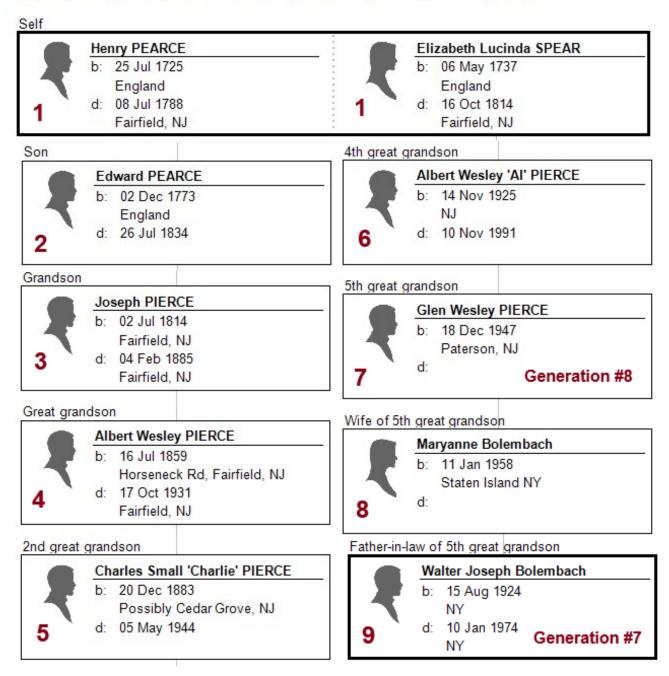


5/19/2025

| ł | Franciszek 'Frank' Bolenback b: Abt. 1863 d: Bef. 1939 | Agneszka 'Agnes' Harra b: 25 May 1863 Bunisz, Austria, Poland d: 25 May 1943 St Mary's Cemetery, Staten Islan |
|---|---|---|
| - | Leon 'Leo' Bolembach b: 09 Apr 1888 Galicia, Austria d: 25 Aug 1960 St Peter's Cem, West New Bright | Julia Kowalska b: 31 May 1896 Poland d: 20 Apr 1979 St Peter's Cem, West New Bright |
| ł | Walter Joseph Bolembach b: 15 Aug 1924 NY d: 10 Jan 1974 St Peter's Cem, West New Bright | Dorothy Helen Brower b: 09 Apr 1927 d: 25 Mar 2016 St Peter's Cem, West New Bright |

Relationship: Henry PEARCE to Walter Joseph Bolembach

Walter Joseph Bolembach is the father-in-law of 5th great grandson of Henry PEARCE



8/20/1907 Agnes arrives from Austria to NYC.



8/20/1907 Agneszka "Agnes" Bolenback age 40 arrived in NYC on the SS Gertie. She married Franciszek 'Frank' Bolenback about 1886.

Glen—Not sure about this timing.

Her son Leo Bolembach left Gelsenkirchen, Westfalen, Austria in 1910 for America. He was about age 22 in 1910.

He arrival 10/20/1910 New York, New York on the **President Grant**, Hamburg-America ship line.

Confused.

1917 newspaper AD by Leo.

Leo was age 28 at the time. He married 8/21/1916 to Julia Kowalska.

Their first child Sophie Helen Bolembach would be born 6 months later.

BOILERMAKEE, good experience, wishes position. Leo Bolembach, 137 E. 3 st., basement.

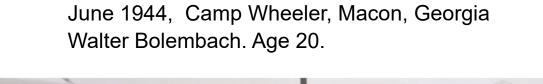
New York American. Tues, 3/13/1917, New York, NY Page: 17

Leon 'Leo' Bolembach 4/9/1888 - 8/25/1960 (72). Born in Galicia, Austria. 1942 home of Leo and Julia Bolembach, parents to Walter age 18.138 Van Pelt Ave, Staten Island, Richmond County, New York.





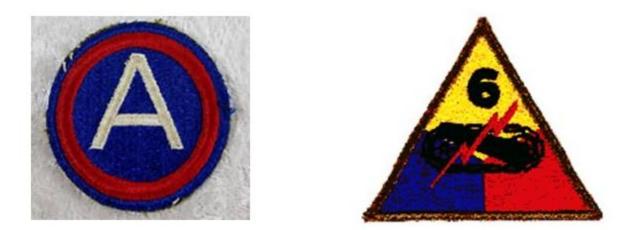
| REGISTRATION CARD (Men born on or after January 1, 1922 and on or before June 30, 1924) SERIAL NUMBER N MARC (Print) N MARC (Print) N MARC (Print) NAME (| U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947 for Walter Joe Bolembach New York (City) > Binstock-Breuer > Boland, Joseph-Bolobanic, Nicholas |
|--|---|
| 4. TELEPHONE 0593 6. B. AGE IN YEARS 19923 1992 | RECISTRATION CARD (Men born on or after January 1, 1922 and on or before June 30, 1924) SERIAL NUMBER INAME (PTID) Marce Iname INAME INAME (PTID) Marce Iname INAME Iname |





June 1944, Camp Wheeler, Macon, GA

Walter Bolembach



3rd Army (Gen. Patton), 6th Armored Division, 15th Tank Battalion, Company B, The Wolf Pack.



Corporal

A Tec 5" rank grade is between a Corporal and a Sergeant.

| 1. LAST NAME-FIRST NAME-MIDDLE INITIAL Bolembach, Walter J |
|--|
| 2. ARMY SERIAL NO. 3. GRADE 4. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 32870925 5. PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS (Street, City, County, State) |
| 138 Van Pelt Ave, NYC, NY (Richmond) 6. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE 7. DATE OF SEPARATION 8. DATE OF BIRTH |
| 29 Mar 43 15 Jan 46 15 Aug 24 |

The 15th tank battalion landed on Normandy Beach, France, a month after the famous battle. This time, tanks safely landed. Walter was the primary tank #54 driver.



The 15th tank battalion tanks were numbered as follows:

- HQ Company: 11 19
- A Company: 21 38
- Who was tank 39?
- B Company: 40 58
- C Company: 61 78
- D Company: 81 98

Walter was tank #54.

Walter J Bolembach

in the U.S. WWII Hospital Admission Card Files,

1942-1954

| œ_ | Name: | Walter J Bolembach |
|---|-------------|---|
| ATIONAL | Race: | White, includes Mexican (White) |
| RCHIVES | Rank: | Enlisted Man |
| Adm | ission Age: | 20 |
| Birth Date: Admission Date: Discharge Date: | | abt 1924 |
| | | Nov 1944 |
| | | Nov 1944 |
| Milita | ry Branch: | Branch Unknown (or code could mean Coast Artillery, general or unspecified |
| | Diagnosis: | FirstLocation: Foot, generally; SecondDiagnosis: Cellulitis; SecondLocation: Foot, generally; ; CausativeAgent: None or Unknown |
| Type of Injury: Injured in Line of Duty: | | Injury, non-battle |
| | | In line of duty |

Discharge 11/1944 from the hospital (tent probably) and back in action for the 12/16/1944 Battle of the Bulge.

Walter's photo possibly take in Paris France about 1944. Years later, Walter would have 5 girls and 1 boy. Photo taken with horse statue in rear.





BATTLE OF THE BULGE

Entered Combat 7/28/1944 at Normandy, France, led by 3rd Army Gen. George Patton. Capt. Clarence Prenevost commanded the 6th Armored Div, 15th Tank Battalion, Company 'B' at 1/2/1945 Wardin, Belgium.

Corporal (Tec5) Walter Bolembach was a Company 'B' SHERMAN M4A3 tank driver, #54 Black Knight.





"Super Sixth"



Walter landed at Normandy France a month after the famous D-Day. July 1944 headed to Paris France.



THE THIRD ARMY IN WORLD WAR II GENERAL GEORGE S PATTON 74682

About July 1944 15th Battalion company B headed East towards Paris France.





Walter's photo of his #54 tank.



Tank driver straight ahead view.



There is Walter's #54 tank in center.

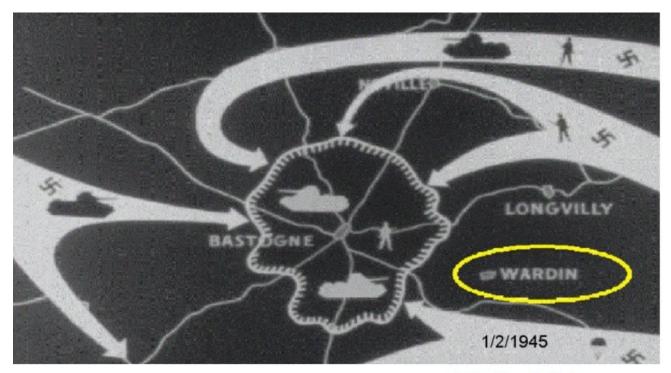




Looking for mines.

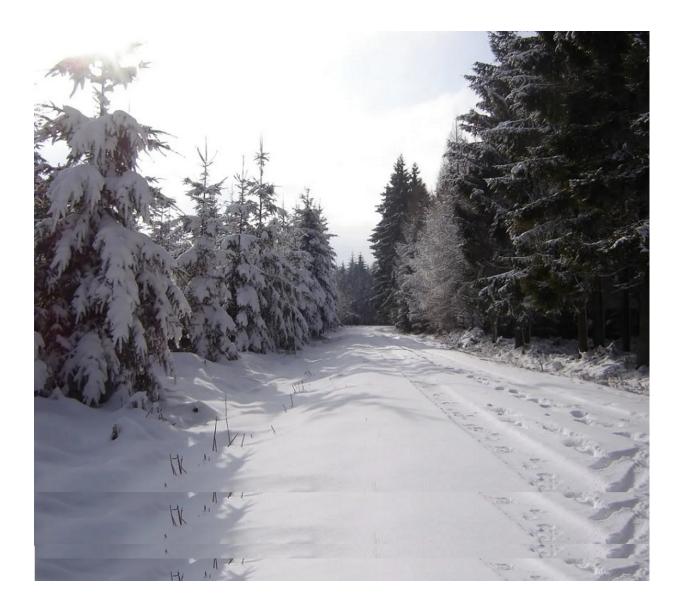
After landing in Normandy in July 1944, plus a trip to Paris, Walter's 15th tanks were South of the Battle of the Bulge. The tanks raced North towards Wardin, Belgium which is about 20 miles from Bastogne.





Wardin, Belgium







Typical Sherman tank at the Bulge.



Chapter 24 in the Hugh Cole book that is noted at the end of Glen's chapter.

"At Wardin Belgium, 20 miles East of Bastogne.

The tanks of the 15th Tank Battalion gathered in the woods northwest of Wardin, then struck for the village, but the German antitank guns on the surrounding ridges did some expert shooting and destroyed 7 of Lt. Col. Embrey D. Lagrew's tanks.

It was planned that the armored infantry would sweep the enemy out of the wooded ridges which overlooked Wardin from the southwest and south, whereupon the tank force would storm the village from the north."

(Glen: I need to learn about the 7 tanks destroyed, Were they Company B ??)



Wardin, Belgium farmland. 15th tanks in snowstorm.



"During the Battle of the Bulge, the fighting took place amidst a significant snowstorm, with heavy snowfall covering the battlefield and creating extremely harsh winter conditions for the soldiers, significantly impacting visibility and mobility for both sides; this severe weather played a key role in the German offensive strategy, allowing them to initially surprise the Allied forces due to poor aerial reconnaissance caused by the snow and fog." (Wikipedia)

1/2/1945 Battle of the Bulge area, **Wardin, Belgium** : These are **15th Tank Battalion Company** 'B' tanks in battle during a freezing snow storm.

Tank driver **Corporal Bolembach** drove tank **#54**. Company 'B' had 18 tanks numbered 40 to 58. <u>7 tanks were destroyed</u> at Wardin.

Walter developed foot frostbite which required attention after the war at Maryland USA.







HEADQUARTERS THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY



O each officer and soldier in the Third United States Army, 1 wish a Merry Christmas. I have full confidence in your courage, devoitoto duty, and skill in battle. We march in our might to complete victory. May God" blessing rest upon each of you on this Christmas Day.

G. S. PATTON, JR

9 Lieutenant General, Commanding, Third United States Army

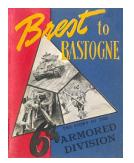
12/25/1944 Xmas in Belgium. Battle of Bulge is 9 days old.

Commanding General

Maj. Gen. William H. H. Morris, Jr. (Feb 42 - May 43) Maj. Gen. Robert W. Grow (May 43 - Apr 45) Brig. Gen. George W. Read Jr. (Apr 45 - May 45) Maj. Gen. Robert W. Grow (Jun 45 - Jun 45) Brig. Gen. George W. Read, Jr. (Jul 45 - inactivation)

Campaigns

Normandy (6 Jun 44 - 24 Jul 44) Northern France (25 Jul 44 - 14 Sep 44) Rhineland (15 Sep 44 - 21 Mar 45) Ardennes-Alsace (16 Dec 44 - 25 Jan 45) Central Europe (22 Mar 45 - 11 May 45)



Walter was there.

A DSC was won by Capt. Clarence E. **Prenevost**, Red Lake Falls, Minn., commander of **Co. B**, **15th Tank Bn**., who was shot through the chest while leading his dismounted tankers to clear a minefield.

Knocked off his feet, he resumed leadership, ordered wounded evacuated and briefed platoon leaders before allowing himself to be evacuated. **Walter Bolembach** was one tank behind Clarence.

S/Sgt. Peter Turko, 15th Tank Bn., New Hyde Park, N.Y., demonstrated coolness and gallantry, receiving a Silver Star.

The first posthumous DSC was earned by 2nd Lt. James L. Durden, Mt. Vernon, Ga., reconnaissance platoon leader with the 15th Tank Bn. in the Huelgoat France action.

Lt. Durden was greatly responsible for the success of the attack when he went forward on foot to clear a mine field and direct tank drivers along a safe path.

Pfc C.F.B. Warner, 15th Tanks, Alliance, Ohio, destroyed an 88mm gun and crew with a grenade.

Pvt. Thomas E. Clark, 15th Tanker medic, Silver City, N.C., braved withering fire in crossing a bridge 5 times to evacuate wounded. Driving to an aid station, his ambulance struck a mine. Clark was killed, the wounded were saved.

In the entire war, the 3rd Armored Division suffered **2,147 deaths** and **7,096** wounded, missing, captured or diseased.

Won the 1943 animation Academy Award

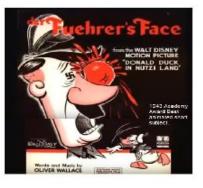
Der Fuehrer's Face, song

When der Fuehrer says we is de master race We heil, heil right in der Fuehrer's face Not to love der Fuehrer is a great disgrace So we heil, heil right in der Fuehrer's face

When Herr Goebbels says we own the world and space

We heil, heil right in Herr Goring's face When Herr Goring says, they'll never bomb this place We heil, heil right in Herr Goring's face

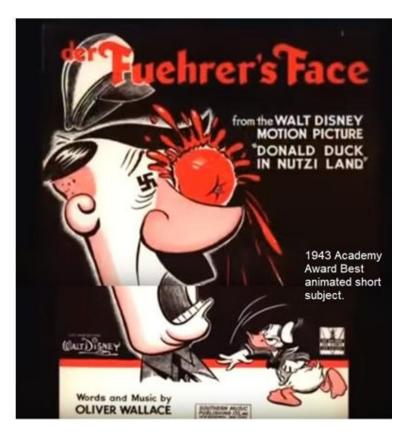
Are we not the Supermen? Aryan pure Supermen? Ja, we are the Supermen (Super duper Supermen)



Is this Nutsy land so good? Would you leave it if you could? Ja, this Nutsy land is good We would leave it if we could

We bring the world to order Heil Hitler's world to order Everyone of foreign race will love der Fuehrer's face When we bring to the world disorder

When der Fuehrer says we is de master race We heil, heil right in der Fuehrer's face Not to love der Fuehrer is a great disgrace So we heil, heil right in der Fuehrer's face.











2025—As a teen, **Mrs. Maryanne Bolembach Pierce** remembers singing this 1942 song several times with her dad Walter. Especially the '**Super Duper Superman'** part.









3rd Army (Gen. Patton), 6th Armored Division, **15th Tank Battalion**, Company B, The Wolf Pack. Tank #54, Black Knight.

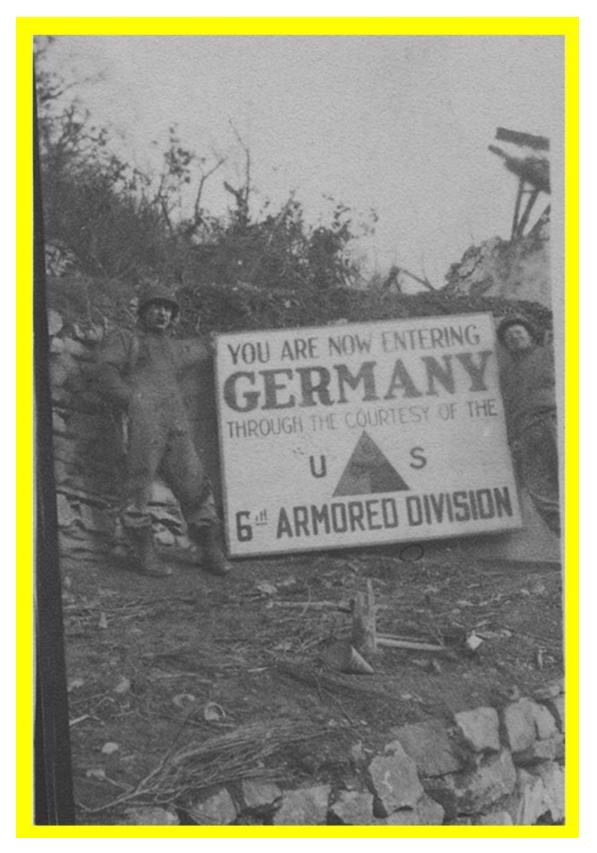


2019 diorama made by Glen Pierce for his future wife Maryanne Bolembach.



Tank #54 Black Knight photo taken by Walter Bolembach about 1944.





This sign is on the outskirts of the destroyed town of **Dasburg**, where 6th Armored penetrated the Siegfried line.



Walter would have driven his tank up this German road.

Tank #40 at Frankfurt Germany. Walter's #54 should be nearby.



M4A3 (105mm) Sherman near Frankfurt, March 1945, This is vehicle #40 of 'B' Company, 15th Tank Battalion, 6th Armored Division.



15th Tank Battalion from 7/18/1944 to 5/8/1945:

102 killed, 306 wounded, out of 751 soldiers.

CORPORAL WALTER BOLEMBACH

Entered Combat 7/28/1944 at Normandy France, led by 3rd Army Gen. George Patton, 6th Armored Division, 15th Tank Battalion, Company 'B', Wolf Pack, Sherman M4A3 tank #54. Trained Camp Wheeler, Macon GA. Served 3/29/1943 to 1/15/1946.





American Campaign Metal





EAME—European, African, Middle Eastern Campaign Medal



Battle of Bulge Commemorative metal





WW2 Victory Medal





Super Duper Superman

HAL EUROPE MEDAL GO 33 FRANCE RHINELAND WORLD WARTI VICTOR NORTHERN MEDAL CALL EAME SERVIN NONE MAGAZINA IN ACTION 2 EAME SERVME OFL BOOD CONDUCT MEDAL 1 APRAL NENTAL U.S. AND RETURN NENTAL U.S. AND PATE OF ARRIVAL DATE OF ARRIVAL US Richmond County Clerk's Office 1946 at 10 JAN 46 UE OTHER (spacity) RS MORTHS DAYS TMAR45 YEARS HONTHS 30 MAY 44 orded in the Richmond NONE 20 T/5 AL SERVICE SCHOOLS ATTENDED DEMOBILIZATION 224 44 RR1 LONGEVITY FOR PAY PURPAR NAME OF DISBUR HARRIS COL FD Y2RS 44. MUL TOT 300 MUSTER DAY24 PAY 318.98 A NEL PAY THIS DOMENT IMPORTANT NONE 4.55 AN TO IF PREMIUM IS NO PAYABLE TO THE T Serv. U.S. Covt. | Nene PAID WHEN 49 Allo 6750 DEC 15 of other items specified in W. D. Directives) Application for LAPEL BUTTON ISSUED ASR SCORE (2 SEP 45) 65 TO 28 MAR 43 INAC ERC FROM 22 MAR 43 Readjustment Allowance Made on JAN 191946 Through New York State Dept. of Labor Interployment losurance 57. PERSONNEL OFFICES (Type name, grade bad SIGNATU TEING SEPARATED no J COLOSINO CWO USA 21 This form supersedes all previous editions of WD AGO Forms 53 and 55 for enlisted persons entitled to an Honorable Discharge, which will not be used after receipt of this revision. o FORM 53-55 mber 1944

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| 1. LAST NAME-FIRST NAME-MUSC | Army is furnished to the soldier when he leaves the service. In its prepara- der by personal interview. The information about civilian education and ray prove beneficial to him. |
| Dolembach. Walton - | II. MONTHS 11. GRADE 12. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS |
| 2. ARMY SERIAL NO. 3. GRADE 3. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 3. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 3. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 3. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 5. PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS (Street, City, County, State) | 4 Pvt. Basic Ing. Armored Force |
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Walter's daughters often attended an **annual event** in Staten Island NY honoring Vets of the Battle of the Bulge. Mom Dorothy attended some years. She received this award in memory of Walter.

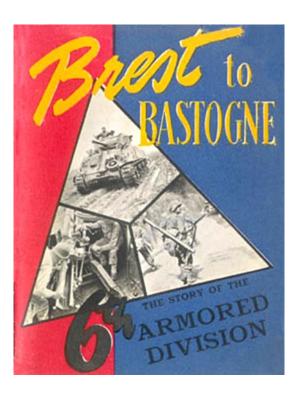


It was always cold outside.

The 15th Tank Battalion : a record of action

| Author: | Charles D Byrd |
|-----------------|--|
| Publisher: | [Place of publication not identified] : [publisher not identified], 1945 |
| Edition/Format: | Print book : English |
| Rating: | ☆☆☆☆☆ (not yet rated) ① with reviews - Be the first. |
| Subjects | <u>Yost, Karl.</u> <u>United States Army Tank Battalion, 15th History.</u> <u>World War, 1939-1945 Regimental histories United States.</u> P <u>View all subjects</u> |
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Book is at the NYC Library.



I think this is a different book.

The Ardennes: Battle of the Bulge



Hugh M. Cole

