

The UB

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR
*The Veterans of the
106th INFANTRY
DIVISION*

of the
GOLDEN LION

Vol 45 —No. 3

APR—MAY—JUN 1989

43rd Annual Reunion

Thursday August 31, 1989 to Sunday September 3, 1989



Hyatt Regency Hotel
1800 East Golf Road Schaumburg, Illinois
(See details in this CUB)

The CUB

a publication of the
106th Infantry Division
Association, Inc
1988—1989

President **Dr. John G. Robb**
1st Vice—Pres **Orfeo E. Agostini**
2nd Vice—Pres **John O. Gilliland**
Treasurer **Sherod Collins**
Adjutant **Boyd A. Rutledge**
Historian **Sherod Collins**
CUB Editor **John Kline**
Memorials Chairman **Douglas Coffey**

The CUB is the official publication of the Association. Membership in the Association includes subscription to the CUB.

Send editorial matter to:

John P. Kline—Editor
5401 Upper 147th Street West
Apple Valley, MN 55124
612-423-4837

Send business matters, inquiries, death reports, address changes to:

Boyd A. Rutledge—Adjutant
10132 Goodrich Road
Bloomington, MN 55437
612-831-5559

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE BY JULY 1 EACH YEAR.

Send membership dues and contributions to the Memorial Fund to:

Sherod Collins—Treasurer
448 Monroe Trace
Kennesaw, GA 30144
404-928-3207

Make checks payable to

"106th Infantry Division Association."

Membership Dues \$10.00 per year
Associate Dues \$10.00 per year
Auxiliary Dues \$2.00 per year
Boyd A. Rutledge—Adjutant



Board of Directors 1988—1989 showing year term expires in parentheses

Orfeo E. Agostini A/81st Eng (1990)
202 Elizabeth St., Hinesville, GA 31313
912-876-5424

Col Samuel P Cariano DIV/HQ (1990)
(W) Parkside Pl, Indian Harbour Bch, FL 32937
407-777-2876
(S) PO Box 938, Maggie Valley, NC 28751
704-926-1090

Sherod Collins SV/423 (1991)
448 Monroe Trace, Kennesaw, GA 30144
404-928-3207

Fred J. Farris DIV/HQ (1991)
104 Pinehurst St., Salem, VA 24153
703-389-2674

John R. Fritz HQ/424 (1989)
170 Shore Acres, Vermilion, OH 44049
216-967-9976

Robert A. Gilder HQ 1BN/424 (1989)
36303 Behm Drive, North Ridgeville, OH 44039
216-327-4492

John O. Gilliland SV/592 (1990)
605 Northside Drive, Enterprise, AL 36330
205-347-7730

John A. Gregory E/424 (1990)
4624 Ashton Drive, Sacramento, CA 95864
916-481-3353

Glen O. Hartlieb SV/592 (1990)
1805 Olive St., Highland, IL 62249
618-654-7382

Gilbert Helwig M/423 (1991)
2006 Ontario Rd #55, Niles, MI 49120
616-683-8714

John P. Kline M/423 (1991)
5401 U. 147th West, Apple Valley, MN 55124
612-423-4837

William Lucsay B/423 (1989)
12612 South Moody Ave., Palos Heights, IL 60463
312-388-8989

Thomas J. Maw A/592 (1989)
436 Beech Street, Rockland, MA 02370
617-878-1796

John F. McDevitt A/81st Eng (1990)
188 Queen Lane, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971
302-227-3111

Casimir Prokorym HQ/81st Eng (1991)
2520 Chestnut St., Stuebenville, OH 43952
614-264-6245

Dr. John G. Robb D/422 (1990)
238 De Vore Drive, Meadville, PA 16335
814-333-6364

Roger M. Rutland B/424 (1989)
6632 Arcadia Woods Road, Columbia, SC 29206
803-787-6996

Boyd A. Rutledge D/422 (1991)
10132 Goodrich Rd., Bloomington, MN 55437
612-831-5559

N. Duke Ward HQ/81st Eng (1989)
2140 West Carlyle Court, Marietta, GA 30062
404-971-8594

Edward C. Wojahn B/81st Eng (1991)
1553 West Young Dr., Onalaska, WI 54650
608-783-3670

Edward Zoll HQ/424 (1989)
1016 Milford Street N.E., Canton, OH 44714
216-454-4312

Col. Joseph C. Matthews HQ/422
(Honorary-Life)
4708 Western Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27606
919-851-4851

President's Message

After enjoying a family get-together Easter vacation week in Louisville, Ky, Marilyn and I are anxiously awaiting spring in Pennsylvania.

On a recent outing to one of our favorite birding areas, we sighted four Bald Eagles, Eastern Bluebirds, Kingfishers, Great Blue Herons, Red Breasted Mergansers and other migrating ducks. This is a sure sign that I can once again think about starting my vegetable garden.

April 2nd was an anniversary which I will always remember. On that day in 1945, the day after Easter, Stalag IX-B, Bad Orb was liberated by the advancing American Army. The joy was beyond description and the memory of that liberation will be retained forever.

Recently I talked with Russell Villwock, 1989 Reunion Chairman, about that event to be held in Schaumburg, Illinois in August. He assured me that the plans are being finalized and the registration forms will soon be mailed. There is other information in this CUB.

It sound like a great meeting, so be sure to get your registration in the mail. I was informed by our editor, John Kline, that our membership was up to 1136 members in mid-April with more on the way. The Chicago area reunion could be the largest yet.

If you have something for the good of the organization that you want brought before the Board of Directors or the general membership, contact me or one of the Directors or Officers so that we can put it on the agenda. Addresses and phone numbers are on the inside front cover of this CUB

Enjoy the summer, we will see you in Schaumburg.

John G. Robb

President



106th Infantry Division Association
President Dr. John G. Robb, 1988 - 1989
D Company, 422nd Regiment

Extract from Board of Director's meeting September 19, 1987 is published for your information and guidance:

"No member of our Association may use the name of, or the emblem of, the 106th Infantry Division Association in the conduct of private sales of items and raffles at anytime without the approval of the Board of Directors."

A beautiful garden of life is possible . . .



Reverend Ewell C. Black Jr., Chaplain
106th Infantry Division Association
Box 66, Bishopville, SC 29710
† 803-484-6861 †

While John T. Loveless Jr., was our Chaplain, he wrote many fine columns. I am presently in the process of retiring and moving. I want to take this opportunity, with permission from Kay Loveless, to share one of his columns with the Association again. This column is from the CUB of Oct-Nov-Dec 1970.

Ewell C. Black, Jr.

Upon our return from vacation a few days ago, we saw something in our garden which for us, at least, was unusual. Since the area is small, any change in appearance is noticed almost at once.

One section of the lawn looked as if it had been patterned in curving ridges and hollows. The grass was

alternately brownish on the ridges and green in-between.

We had acquired a ground mole, perhaps several. Our efforts to catch the underground worker have been unsuccessful so far. I have seen the movement of the turf at a spot where the creature was doing his "thing" under the lawn. But he has eluded me.

He may have a purpose in this world, but for me his burrowing means only a spongy and damaged lawn which may take months to repair. His labors in the dark seem to me to be of little value. But, I do not know.

I wonder if some of us are not a bit like the mole in our activities. At times we grope in the dark, having little idea of the direction our labors will take, having no thoughts as to what we wish to achieve, using our time and talents moving from place to place and idea to idea and accomplishing little for ourselves or others.

Perhaps all of us could expend some time and effort in reviewing our day to day existence.

Do we recognize that we have been created by a higher power than we are?

Do we acknowledge that by our own feeble efforts we can accomplish only infinitesimal results?

Can we understand our dependence upon others, much as we would like to ignore it, and our responsibility to others who look to us for guidance, assistance and inspiration?

As human beings, made in the image of God, as we read in the Good Book, our destiny is not like that of the mole, burrowing, undermining and tearing down the garden of our lives. Rather, our earnest endeavor should be to build the best and most beautiful garden of life which we can by the fullest use of the gifts given to us. We thus will not only enrich our own lives, but most certainly have a small share, at least, in bringing joy, beauty, peace, love, compassion and faith to all whom we know and even to the ends of the earth. By the grace of God, man can succeed.

"For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations." —Isaiah 61:11

John T. Loveless, Jr.

From the editor's outpost

Feature story— The Roanoke Reunion was over, and I was killing time in and around the lobby of the Hotel Roanoke, waiting for time to board the shuttle bus for the airport.

I came across **1st Sergeant Joseph Gross, C Battery, 591st Field Artillery Battalion**, now living at 7782 Topaz Lake Avenue, San Diego, CA 92119.

Joe had earlier, during the reunion, mentioned that he had some photographs taken during his return to the battle area.

He took this opportunity to show me the album of pictures he had taken.

They were excellent, and the story he told me of the activities of the **591st FAB** were very interesting. I spent a good hour and one-half deeply engrossed in listening to him and following along by looking at the pictures.

I ask him if I could use his story and some of the pictures in a future **CUB**.

The feature story of this issue of **The CUB**, comes from that meeting.

In October of 1988, Joe sent me all the material. This issue is the first opportunity that I had to use it. The Reunion coverage and Association reports were featured in the November **CUB**, and then in February, an excellent story by **Lt Donald Beseler**, of 424/A, covering his return to the battle areas of LaVaux, Grandmenil, Manhay and Wanne was featured. I had both of these stories in hand prior to the February **CUB**. I was like a kid with two new toys. But I could not run both stories. Instead I chose Beseler's for it had arrived earlier.

Joe sent several pictures, some material that appears in **Dupuy's** book **A Lion in the Way**, and a copy (in part) of a de-classified "After Action Report" that originated from the Headquarters of the 591st Field Artillery Battalion, APO #443, c/o PM, NY, NY, Belgium, 31 December, 1944.

This report, which covers 10 December through 31 December, 1944 will bring back many memories. Joe also includes a page from a later report which cover from 4 January to 15 January, '45. This report includes some detail on his becoming a "casualty" on 14 January, 1945 during an attack on **Coulee** (Joe says his unit was on an attack toward **Huenemont**, which localizes his location more than the general area of Coulee as mentioned in the report). He was acting as a Forward Observer (FO) in order to become eligible for a battlefield appointment. Unfortunately he was caught, as I recall from his conversation, in some unexpected cross-fire from a wooded area.

Our thanks to **1st Sergeant Joseph Gross, 591/C** for submitting such a fine group of photos and the material to go with them.

Next issue, AUGUST— At the airport on my way out of Roanoke I had lunch with **Donald Wischmeir**, 423/SV, and his lovely wife **Eileen**.

It was my lucky day, for he too had an album of pictures, and a story of his return to the area where the 423rd Service Company was located in the Ardennes. Don is also mentioned in **Dupuy's Lion in the Way**. Read the part where some Service Company men were driving down the road and came upon the Germans, then later were flushed out of a farm house by a couple of German tanks, then you are reading part of the story told me by Don Wischmeier. We hope to use his photos and his story in the August **CUB**.

A reprint of **Dupuy's Lion in the Way**, recognized history book of the 106th Infantry Division, can be obtained from Battery Press, PO Box 3107 Upton Station, Nashville, TN 37219. Around \$27.50 plus \$2.00 shipping- It is the story of the **106th Infantry Division**, before, up to and after the Bulge.

To the 106th Infantry Division Association

Reunion plans for 1989 are now just about complete, the only thing missing are you the participants. I'm sure each of you will take care of that.

You will receive, under separate cover, a hotel reservation form and a reunion reservation form.

Program and schedule of events, and an Air Tran booklet on transportation from the O'Hare Airport.

Registration fee for the 1989 reunion is 89.00 each for you and your wife or guests. There will be one optional tour "A Day at the Races." The cost of the tour, \$25.00 each, includes busses to the Arlington Race Track and lunch. Please note the schedule on the back page of this CUB with a schedule of other doings.

Hotel rooms are \$52.00 a day for either a single or a double, including two double beds or one king-sized bed.

Woodfield is the world's largest Shopping Mall under one roof, with over 250 stores, 15 restaurants, and is just across the road from the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Movie theatres, additional dining, night clubs, golf courses and many other activities are within a short distance of the hotel.

I'm sure you will find everything of deluxe quality, from the food to the accommodations. Your reunion committee is looking forward to making your days from August 31 to September 3, 1989 at The Hyatt Regency Hotel in Schaumburg, Illinois, an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

Russell Villwock 106 Recon SIGAL

Reunion Chairman

HYATT REGENCY WOODFIELD

SCHAUMBURG (O'HARE), ILLINOIS

1800 EAST GOLF ROAD
SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS 60195
312 885 1234 TELEX 270247



From O'Hare International Airport

Take 90 West (Northwest Tollway) to exit 53 South, exit at Woodfield Drive and turn right onto Woodfield Drive. Turn right at first stoplight (called East Entrance) and follow curving road to Golf Road sign, turn right and cross intersection into Hyatt Regency Woodfield.

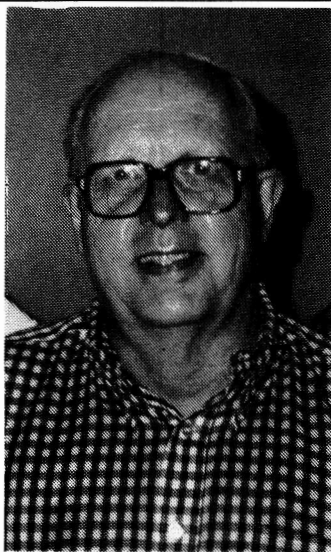
United Airlines is pleased to offer the attendees of the 106th Infantry Division Association a 40 percent discount off unrestricted coach fares or 5 percent discount off lowest applicable fares, including first class. This special offer, available only to attendees of this meeting, applies to travel on domestic segments of all **United Airlines and United Express** flights. These fares are available through United's Meeting Plus Desk with all fare rules applying.

United Meeting Plus Specialists are on duty 7 days a week, 8:00am to 11:00pm. Et to make your reservations. Call today, as seats may be limited. Please refer to Account Number **423TL**.

United States and Canada 1-800-521-4041

As a United Meeting Plus attendee you also qualify for special discount rates on Hertz Rental cars.

Mileage Plus members receive full credit for all miles flown. Tickets will be mailed by United or you can pick them up at your local travel agency or United Airlines ticket offices.



Some of the Good Things. . .

By Dan Bied 422/A
151 Holiday Terrace
West Burlington, IA 52655

I was in a mellow frame of mind, adjusting to my retirement, when I went to my old-fashioned Royal 440 to write this article.

My typewriter, a manual I bought about 10 years ago, is good enough for me. I'm a one finger typist but, having done so much of it in the past 40 years, I can fly across the keyboard, typing as fast as my mind will work.

Some of the good things that happened to me in the Army were on my mind as I wrote.

Things that occurred to me included the great Thanksgiving meal our mess crew, headed by a Sergeant from Indiana named Richardson, served us in England in 1944. It was the only Thanksgiving I've been away from home in my life. The turkey was, I can honestly say, as good as my mother fixed. But there were, unlike home, no opportunities for ravenous "seconds."

An urge to travel seemed to run in my family. My older brother, who had been killed in a plane crash in Costa Rica a few months before I went to service, had left Iowa to work in a B-25 factory near

Los Angeles. My sister had also lived in California, in addition to Chicago, Minneapolis and Washington, DC, before I went to Camp Wolters for my basic training.

Finally, I had an opportunity to travel. It wasn't much of a train ride in January, 1944, down to Texas. But when the spring came it was pretty at the camp, near Mineral Wells. Much of what happened to me was a bum experience, but it was a thrill to be somewhere other than Iowa or Illinois.

Indiana was no particular source of joy for me in the summer of '44 which, many of you will remember, was hotter than blazes. But I had been to Fort Meade, Maryland, on the way to Camp Atterbury and got to do some sightseeing in Washington on the Fourth of July.

That fall, it was a genuine treat to see Cape Cod while we were at Camp Myles Standish. I got two passes into Boston and will never forget seeing Stan Kenton's band — which became one of my post-war favorites — at the RKO Theater.

Better yet, in a way, I got to see a burlesque show at the historic Old Howard Theater on Scollay Square, and managed to get a few beers (after the sailors were served first) at Jack Sharkey's famous bar.

You know all about the scenery in Europe, so I won't dwell on that other than to say I still take pride in mentioning to people that I was in war-torn London on my 19th birthday. This is a handy thing to be able to talk about when, on an occasion, I'm in a group of people bragging about their recent vacations to Europe.

That's about it in an obvious way when I think about the good things that happened to me in the Army.

But there were many more subtle experiences, most notably those having to do with several friendships that continue

with such Army-era pals as Frank Raila in Mississippi, where he is a Physician, and Ed Brewer in Maryland. I'm looking forward to seeing Frank in Chicago this fall. Ed and I have been in touch since 1946, and phone each other every year on each other's birthday.

If someone asked me to pinpoint the best thing that happened to me in the war I would, very likely, say it was my good luck in getting through the entire experience without a scratch.

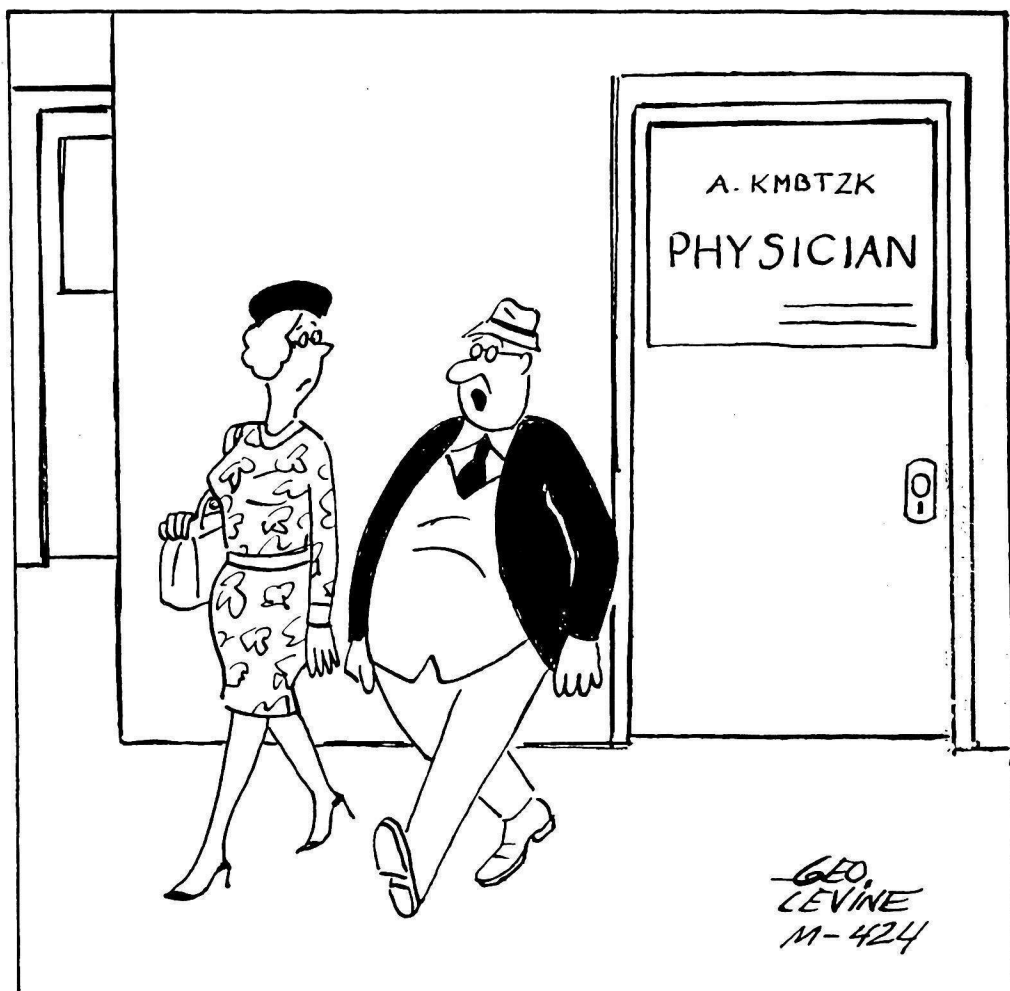
My feet were frozen badly enough to get a Purple Heart medal in the fall of 1945, when I needed five points to speed up my discharge.

But I was never hurt the way I feared I might be, such as losing my eyesight or an arm or a leg. As time goes on I'm more and more thankful for that.

The Ardennes Forest? It's a nice place to visit, I found out in 1977, but I don't think I'd want to live there again. X

CUB Laughs

by George Levine 424/M



"He said I'm in good shape for one who was in the 'HUNGRY and SICK'"

From 1st Sergeant Joseph J. Gross
591st Field Artillery Battalion, C Battery.

7782 Topaz Lake Ave
San Diego, CA 92119

John,

Here is the information promised. It was nice talking to you in Roanoke and sharing the information and photos of our trip in June of 1988 with you. We visited battle areas where the 591st fought in the *Battle of the Bulge*. The Roanoke reunion was my third, and it was most thoroughly enjoyed. It was a pleasant surprise meeting you and I look forward to seeing you again in Chicago. You are doing a good job on **The CUB**. Keep up the good work!

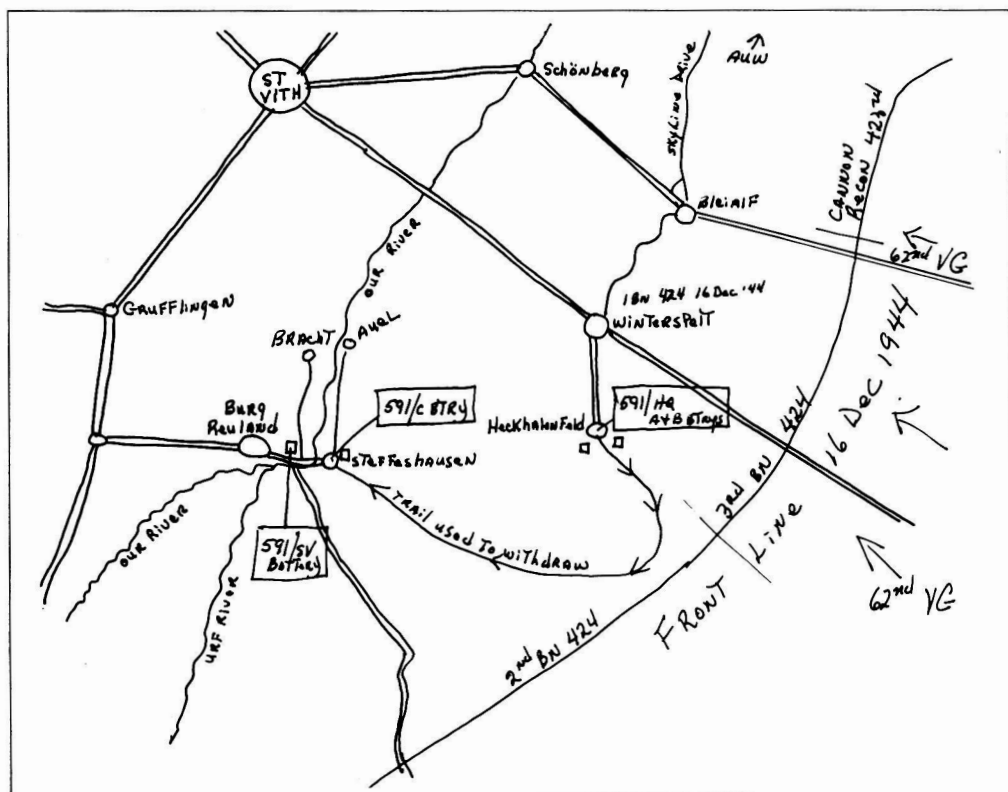
The rough sketch shows the position of the 591st on 16 December. Since the 424th was pushed out of **Winterspelt** twice on the 16th and 17th, the 591st had no way to withdraw except through the little trail back to **Steffeshausen**. We tried to take that trail on our trip, but had to turn back because of the swampy terrain. We went back through **Heckhalenfeld**, **Winterspelt** and took the narrow road through **Auel**.

Upon entering **Steffeshausen** from the north, the first building I recognized was the old schoolhouse where battery members slept. My office was located in the tool shed behind the schoolhouse.

Any person who read Dupuy's *St Vith, Lion in the Way* or other books on the *Battle of the Bulge*, knows of the historic stand made by the 589th Field Artillery at what was to become known as **Parker's Crossroads**, hence the two snapshots of that intersection as it appears today.

I think the pictures along with the "After Action Report" will explain the rest.

Best Wishes, Joe Gross.



After Action Report — 591st FAB, December 31, 1944

submitted by 1st Sergeant Joseph J. Gross, C Battery

HEADQUARTERS 591ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

APO #443

c/o PM, NY, NY

Belgium

31 Dec 1944

Subject: **After Action Report**

To : The Adjutant General

Part I. Narrative Action Report

The **591st F.A. Bn.** relieved the 37th F.A. Bn. 2nd Inf Div in position 10 Dec in the vicinity of **Heckhalenfeld**, Germany (coord 90.2-78.8). A, B, and Hq Btry were situated in and around Heckhalenfeld. C Btry was in position at **Steffeshausen** and Service Btry was located at **Burg Reuland**.

The first round was fired by B Btry, commanded by **Capt Robert A. Likins**, at 1653, 10 Dec 1944.

The Bn was engaged chiefly in firing harassing fires with a primary mission of direct support for the 424th Inf until the early morning of 16th Dec.

The enemy began shelling the front lines shortly after 2400 15 Dec and also started sporadic counter battery fire on our positions about 0530. This later continued for about two hours and then Germans launched a determined attack all along the Division front. No casualties were suffered in this unit from enemy shellfire at this time, but communications were continually disrupted.

During the next 24 hours the Germans moved up and attacked with heavy forces, including tanks, infantry and artillery.

Considerable horse drawn artillery was seen in this area.

The Bn fired 2622 rounds of HE during that time in support of the infantry and could have fired more if it had been available.

Late in the afternoon of 16 Dec the 1st Bn 424th Inf was committed at **Winterspelt** to fill a gap caused by the overrunning of the Inf Cannon Co. and the Div Recon Troops. **Capt Edward R Scheringer**, his wireman, **Lt John MacKinnon**, the forward observer and two men from his section, **Cpl Harold B. Walker** and **Pvt Frank Carey** were reported missing in action during this operation.

While the Combat Team awaited assis-

tance from the 9th Armd Div advancing south from **St Vith** and held doggedly to its position along the 2nd and 3rd Bn fronts, the enemy succeeded in driving the 1st Bn from **Winterspelt** in a savage, costly attack by tanks and infantry.

With the loss of **Winterspelt** the only good route for withdrawal was lost. Div Arty relinquished control of the 591st F.A. Bn to **Col Reid**, commanding the 424th Inf. Col Reid, still counting on support from the 9th Armd Div, decided to hold his position and the Bn remained in support.

Fighting continued throughout the night and considerable enemy patrol activity was encountered on our north flank and to the rear.

The following day, 17 Dec, the situation remained critical and the 9th Armd Div made no headway.

During the day some of the forward observers with the 2nd and 3rd Bns. were cut off but managed to withdraw back into our lines.

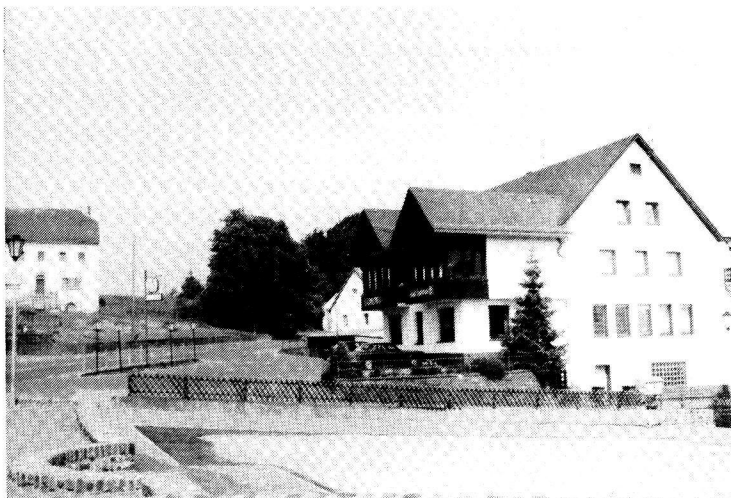
In spite of their inexperience, all FO's displayed a marked courage and coolness under fire and did a superb job.

1st Lt James J. Kelly, FO of C Btry, was cut off twice. The first time he was rescued in a counterattack by our infantry and 193 prisoners were taken in and around the battered house in which he was situated. The second time he managed to crawl back to safety under cover of darkness.

1st Lts Herbert A. Pihl, John H. Stauff, Peter F. Fleischman, Lawrence O. Meyers and Bernard Rosentahl and 2nd Lt William Nolan all had similar experiences and in several instances during the day were compelled to defend their OP's with their pistols and carbines while conducting artillery fire on the attacking enemy.

The infantry of the 424th Regt fought savagely and heroically, and a firm bond of mutual respect and confidence between them and the artillery was cemented in the cooperation and support that existed throughout the battle.

In the artillery Bn the critical item was ammunition. The main supply route had been cut off and the only alternative was across country route to Sv Btry at **Burg Reuland**. Due to the heavy mud this route was impassable to all but light vehicles. All day long ammunition for both the artillery



WINTERSPELT

Late in the afternoon of 16 Dec, 1944, the 1st Bn 424th Inf was committed to Winterspelt to fill the gap caused by the Germans overrunning the 424 Cannon Company and the Division ReCon Troops

WINTERSPELT
Both CCB, 9th Armored and Division Artillery were informed at once of the situation at Winterspelt and the village was taken under fire by what supporting artillery could be brought in.

The 591st Field Artillery, in direct support, was hammering it already.



HECKHALENFELD

A short distance south of Winterspelt, where the 591st Field Artillery had located its Hq Btry, A and B Btry. With Winterspelt falling to the Germans, these units withdrew over a very narrow trail east to Steffeshausen, then reuniting at Burg Reuland and then proceeding to Grufflingen





The 591st Field Artillery Battalion relieved the 37th FAB, 2nd Division in position on 10 December 1944 in the vicinity of Heckhalenfeld.

HQ, A and B Batteries were located in and around the village. C Battery was in place at Steffeshausen and the Service Battery was located near Burg Reuland.

B Btry fired the first round at 1653 10 Dec 1944.

STEFFESHAUSEN

A view of the village of Steffeshausen where C Battery was located just east of the Our River and Burg Reuland.



STEFFESHAUSEN

A school house where C Battery had their sleeping quarters

After Action Report — 591st FAB, December 31, 1944

submitted by 1st Sergeant Joseph J. Gross, C Battery

and the infantry was hauled over this route in jeeps.

Just prior to the fall of **Winterspelt** the Bn Executive, **Maj Carl H. Wohlfeil** managed to get a detail of three trucks back to **Elcerath** to get the ammunition left there by the Inf Cannon Co. This ammunition was used by the artillery batteries. About this time, too, **Pvt Bill T. Ervin, B Btry**, driver of an ammunition truck displayed great courage and heroism in hauling a truck load of ammunition through the enemy fire which knocked off the right front shock absorber and riddled the truck with holes.

Finally, about 1500, 17 Dec, **Col Reid** decided that the situation was no longer tenable. The enemy was pouring into the gap at **Winterspelt** and the 112th Inf Regt of the 28th Inf Div on the right flank was being hard pressed and falling back. **Lt Col Hoover** called in the BC's of Hq, A and B Btries, **1st Lt Bernard L. Lockridge, Capt Arthur W. Corcoran, and Capt Robert A. Likins** respectively, explained the situation and showed them the route of withdrawal.

This route led back to within 300 yards of the then known front lines and proceeded northward to **Burg Reuland**. He then left with **Capt Wetherill**, the liaison officer from the reinforcing 965th F.A. Bn, who had been over the route, the S-3, a route-marking party. The remainder of the Bn under the Bn Exec followed about a half hour later.

During the march the route was under sporadic nebelwerfer fire. About 1900 the infantry withdrew on a compass of 270. At approximately 2330 the Bn was reunited at **Burg Reuland** and proceeded to **Grufflingen** where the batteries were put into position.

Except for three vehicles and some personal equipment abandoned at **Heckhalenfeld**, the Bn remained intact and no casualties were suffered.

C Btry abandoned one truck and howitzer at **Steffeshausen** but returned the next day, 18 Dec, and retrieved the howitzer, the truck had been burned. (Here 1st Sergeant Gross inserted into this report "6 guys and myself" he also added they picked up all their kitchen equipment.)

At **Grufflingen** the Bn again rendered direct support to the 424th Inf which had taken up a defensive position along the high ground between **Bracht** and **Burg Reu-**

land. The Bn commander adopted one platoon of the Inf Cannon Co. which had managed to escape and employed it as a fourth battery. This platoon remained attached to the Bn for the following two days and, under **Lt Buedingen**, the Cannon Co. Exec did a magnificent job.

While in position at **Grufflingen**, all batteries of the Bn were continually under enemy artillery fire and two linemen, **Pvt Richard D. Savage** and **Pvt John R. Panizza**, both of Hq Btry, were wounded. The Bn Cmdr decided to displace to **Braunlauf** and this was accomplished the night of 21 Dec.

That night the enemy again broke through at **St. Vith**, thereby threatening our flank and rear once more. The Bn received orders to withdraw to the vicinity of **Commanster** the following day.

During the occupation of **Braunlauf** the Bn continued to receive hostile enemy fire but no casualties were reported.

At daybreak 22 Dec the Bn Commander with the S-3 led the Bn less C Btry to the new positions in the vicinity of **Commanster**. The Bn Exec with a section of the FDC was left behind with C Btry to give the infantry artillery support until such time as the infantry withdrew. Visibility was limited to approximately 50 yards and radio communications was very poor - only one FO was in the net.

No missions were fired for almost three hours and finally the FO reported that the infantry was moving to the rear.

C Btry fired and unobserved mission to the front of the infantry to cover its withdrawal and then, having received permission by radio from the Bn Commander, executed a march order and proceeded to its position at **Commanster**.

The Bn remained in this position, attached to the 7th Armd Div, and continued to support the 424th inf until the morning of 23rd Dec when a general withdrawal was ordered to the west of **Salm River**. At 0800, 23 Dec, the Bn Cmdr and S-2 left to reconnoiter a rendezvous area in the vicinity of **Ville, Belgium**.

The Bn, under control of the Bn Exec, followed at 1130 crossing the river at **Vielsalm**. At about 1600, the Bn closed in **Ville** and were quartered in civilian homes. The next day, 24 Dec, was spent in reorgan-

After Action Report — 591st FAB, December 31, 1944

submitted by 1st Sergeant Joseph J. Gross, C Battery

izing, cleaning equipment, and replacing supplies.

At 1900, 24 Dec, the Bn again moved up to the vicinity of **Chene-al-Pierre** to go into action behind the 7th Armd Div. Since the position was exposed to threatened enemy armor attack, positions were reconnoitered by the Bn Exec to the rear in the vicinity of **Fays**. These positions were occupied on the morning of 25 Dec with the Bn CP at **Sodelheid**.

Meanwhile the 424th Inf was again committed on the front of the 7th Armd Div and the Bn rendered them direct support. This situation continued until the 75th Inf Div relieved the 424th Inf about noon 28th Dec at which time the Bn again displaced to the vicinity of **Chevron** and was attached to the 82nd A/B Div with a mission of general support.

In this position replacement supplies are being received daily and replacement personnel are on the way. By midnight, 31 Dec the Bn had lost in 21 days of continuous action against the enemy, 2 enlisted men wounded; 2 officers and 3 enlisted men missing in action; and 7 men evacuated sick or injured as non-battle casualties.

No material was lost with the exception of one howitzer which B Btry was forced to abandon and destroy in the general withdrawal on 23 Dec. This howitzer has since been replaced and the Bn continues to perform its mission at 100% efficiency.

Part II.

- a) Personnel - 2 officers and 3 EM MIA; 2 EM WIA; 7 evacuated sick or non-battle casualties.
- b) Awards - Recommended for citations: **Pvt Bill T. Ervin, B Btry; 1st Lt James J. Kelly, FO, C Btry; 1st Lt Lawrence Myers, FO, B Btry.**
- c) Command Personnel Changes - None.
- d) Supply and Evacuation - Ammo Officer, **1st Lt Robert R. Ringer**, and Bn S-4, **Capt Morris M. Dolitsky**, with assistance of the Bn Motor Officer, **2nd Lt Howard W. Kriz**, rendered outstanding service to the Bn, especially in the

early stages of the battle at **Heckhalenfeld**. Bn Surgeon, **1st Lt William Davies, MC**, rendered valuable service to the Infantry medical sections by assisting the Regimental Surgeon in caring for and evacuating infantry casualties. The Artillery Bn suffered only 2 minor casualties. Wounded were evacuated often through roads which were reported under fire from enemy patrols.

- e) Unit Journal - Accompanies report.
- f) Supporting Documents - None.
- g) Overlay of Operations, Marches, etc - See attached overlay (includes routes, positions, and zones of fire of positions fired from.)

Part III

a) Battle Lessons

1. Particularly in a stable situation, a company will try to maintain communication to the platoon and thence to each squad on line with its power phones. By hooking on to their line, you have unlimited possibilities for keeping abreast of the situation and firing missions from any point. This gives you a party line with all the infantry, the FO, the Ln O and Fire Direction. Any infantryman can adjust fire if the FO is on line to convert what he wants to a proper sensing. One draw-back with this set-up is the extra pull on the Ln O-FO line makes ringing very faint and sometimes negligible. This is easily taken care of by arranging whistle signals between two parties and keeping the ear-piece within easy hearing range

(editor's note)—That completes that portion of the "After Action Report," but 1st Sergeant Gross included a part of another, possibly a continuation of the former, that included the action where he was wounded and taken out of action—it follows. J. Kline editor)

..... from the reinforced artillery units and periodic registrations when observation was permitted. During the four final days of the attack from 4-7 January inclusive, the Battalion fired 749 missions with an expenditure of 4,997 rounds—which is an average

After Action Report — 591st FAB, December 31, 1944

submitted by 1st Sergeant Joseph J. Gross, C Battery

of a mission every 7.5 minutes.

The Battalion rejoined the 424th Inf again on 8 January, 1945 under 106th Division control and moved to **Moustier** (68.0-04.0) and **Roanne** (67.8-03.7) from the vicinity of **Odrimont** (62.7-91.6) and **Arbrefontaine** (64.7-90.8), which latter positions had been occupied on the night of 7 January. No firing was done from **Ordrimont-Arbrefontaine** positions.

At **Moustier**, the Bn relieved the 229 FA Bn and took over their positions. We worked alongside this Bn at the time the Germans started their offensive, and now, as then, we found them very helpful and cooperative.

From 8-12 January the Bn fired very few missions in comparison to the last week's activity. Blinking snowstorms and heavy ground haze were constantly hindering the observation of the forward observers (FO's).

Again on 12 Jan the Bn Exec and the BC's reconnoitered for forward positions near **Ster** (69.5-00.9) and **Parfondary** (70.5-00.5). the positions were occupied in the evening of the next day, the Bn moving by echelon, first C Btry, then A and B Batteries as soon as C Btry had completed registration. The burned and mutilated bodies of three civilians found in **Parfondray** were mute testimony to the cruelty of the German SS Troops who had been there.

The weather cleared considerably on 13 January as the 424th Infantry jumped off in an attack against **LaVaux**. The Bn fired 1198 rounds in 235 missions in support of the infantry this day. Although the regiment advanced steadily, resistance was stronger

than had been expected and progress was slow. The following day in an attack on **Coulee** several of the FO parties suffered casualties from enemy artillery, mortar, and direct fire from tanks.

2nd Lt Paul H Seehausen, A Btry FO; 1st Sergeant Joseph J. Gross, C Btry, who was acting as FO, in order to qualify for battlefield appointment; Cpl McLure, Hq Btry radio operator of the Ln section No. 1.

It was during this attack that **Lt Herbert A. Phil**, artillery Ln officer with the 1st Bn distinguished himself by such courageous leadership in reorganizing a badly decimated and lost group of infantrymen, and in evacuating wounded under fire that he was recommended for the Silver Star decoration.

Several other officers and Enlisted men were also recommended for Bronze Star decorations as a result of their performance during the day's attack. **M/Sgt Howard D. Crank**, Bn Sgt Major, also led an FO party during this engagement and did a superb job.

Clear weather and heavy firing by the Bn continued on 15 January. Our aircraft had a field day knocking out German vehicles and equipment streaming out of the dwindling salient. The infantry gained all but one of it's final objectives by nightfall and dug in.

B Btry was moved forward to vicinity of **Aisemont** in order to register on the 16th, but visibility was so poor it was impossible. A and C Batteries continued to fire harassing missions from . . . (end of report, as received.... editor) ■

*Pay Your
Association Dues
by July 1 for '89/'90*



STEFFESHAUSEN

A tool shed behind the Steffeshausen school where 1st Sergeant Gross had his office.

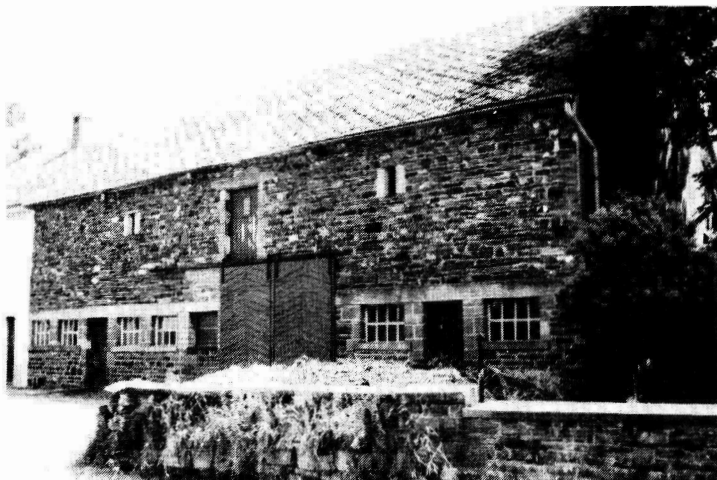
The office was located behind the door that is under the ladder in this picture

STEFFESHAUSEN

This building was the C Battery Mess Hall.

This is where kitchen equipment was left as they pulled out on 17 Dec.

1st Sergeant Gross along with 6 men returned to retrieve the kitchen equipment on 18 Dec.



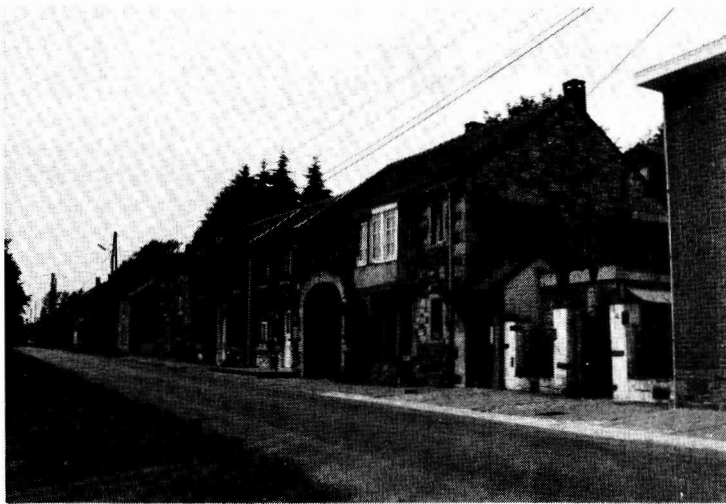
STEFFESHAUSEN

A field in which the firing battery was located, near Steffeshausen.

A Howitzer was left here along with a 6X6 truck. The Howitzer along with the kitchen equipment in the above picture were retrieved by 1st Sgt Gross and 6 men on 18 Dec '44.

The ground had frozen enough to allow the use of a prime mover.





PARFONDARY

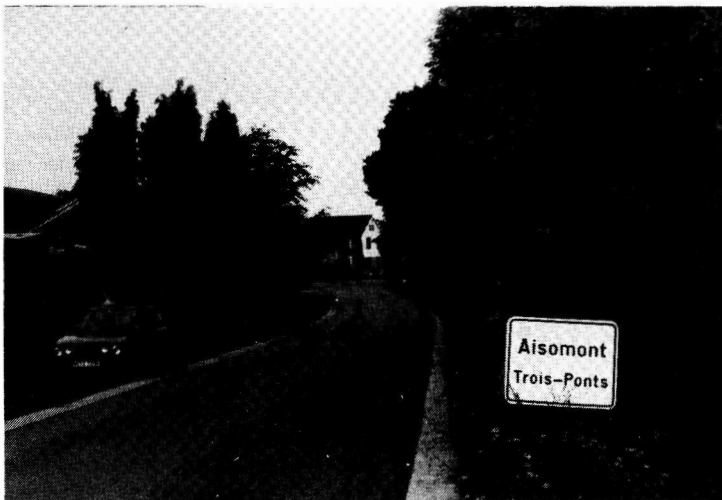
This is the home of the sister of Serge Fontaine, who was 1st Sgt Gross' guide during his return to the battle field area.

Serge Fontaine is a friend of the 106th and is acquainted with the history of our Division (see past CUBs)

The 591st Batteries were located near this village on 12 January 1945.

Road to Huenemont

On 13 January 1945 the 424th launched an attack on La Vaux. The following day, during an attack on Coulee, several Forward Observer parties suffered casualties. This road is where 1st Sergeant Gross was wounded. He was acting as a Forward Observer in order to qualify for a Battle Field Commission.



AISOMONT

Where an Aid Station was located on 13 January 1945.

1st Sgt Gross was taken to the Aid Station here.

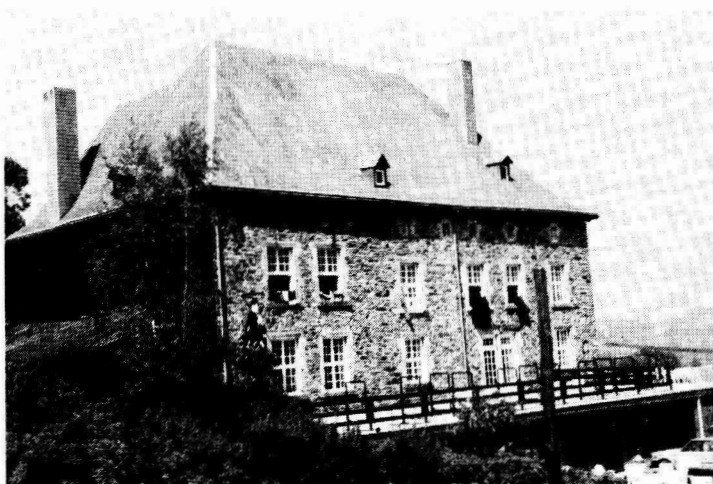
PARKER'S CROSSROAD

see pages 182-190
St. Vith, Lion in the Way

Baraque de Fraiture was the name of the height where the cross roads hamlet stood. In the winter it was a dreary, snow sifted patch in the middle of the Ardennes marsh area, the place is and always will be known by the 106th as PARKER'S CROSSROAD



PARKERS CROSSROAD



CHATEAU de WANNE

591st FA C Btry
OP

now being used as
a Gasthaus.

The Battery OP
was in a large stone
barn behind the
Chateau.



Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania December 16th Commemoration

by George Vance 422/AT
283 Dutch Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15236
412-653-1724

On December 11, 1988, a group of the 106th Infantry Division veterans, with wives and friends gathered at the Brentwood VFW Post No. 1810, Pittsburgh, PA and enjoyed a noon buffet to commemorate the anniversary of the *Battle of the Bulge*."

A delicious hot buffet was served by Mrs. Alberta Ritter and her kitchen staff. During the serving Christmas tunes were played, which added warmth and thoughts of the coming festive season. Friendship and camaraderie prevailed.

Mr. Joseph Maloney, 424/HQ, spoke to the group about his recent visit to Saint Vith which brought back memories of the battle. The meeting began with a pledge to the flag, followed by the singing of the National Anthem.... aided by a "Kate Smith" recording. We wish to thank Mr & Mrs Harry Jackson, 423/MED for providing the records and equipment. We also wish to thank Pete Yancik, 423/A, for the photography work.

In attendance, thirty-five in all were:

Bosle, Robert H./Gloria, 422/I
Devaty, Raymond S./Eileen, 423/MED
Fazio, Joseph/Mary, 423/M
Fischer, Lewis P./Jane, 423/HQ 2BN
Jackson, Harry/Franny, 423/MED
Jones, James G./Dolores, 422/C
Koluezez, Harry/Jennie Rose, 423/HQ
Kwaczek, Carl S./Lillian, 422/C
Lowenberg, Howard/Dorothy, 423/E
Maloney, Joseph P./Vivian, 424/HQ
Repos, Stanley J./Irene, 424/MED
Rigatti, Richard L./Patricia/, 423/B
Vance, George T./Norma, 422/AT
Yancik, Pete/Diane, 423/A
Ulrich, James L., 423/MED
Liska, Rudy, 423/G
Martin, Dr. John B./Pearl, 422/MED

Guests:

Chapman, Joann
Miller, Robert/Mary, 28th Inf. Div.

Not attending, but in touch:

Collins, John S., 422/F
Connelly, Dr. Michael, 589/MED
Flick, Robert F., 81st ENG/C
Langham, Francis S., 422/C
Lapato, Frank, 422/HQ
Shidemantle, John D., 422/HQ
Straub, Ted J., 422/M
Yelochan, Albert, 422/HQ

Heard as we left, "Let's get-to-gether this summer, for sure next December." ■

D Company, 422nd Infantry . . .

by Sherod Collins

One infantry company has proved to be very special in its service to the 106th Infantry Division Association. There are currently 20 of these GI's who belong, most of them attend reunions regularly.

More to the point, special people from this heavy weapons company are as follows:

Gene Saucerman:	Served as president in 1973-74. he is the only person to serve as president in two administrations. he took over in 1972-73 after the untimely death of our beloved Doctor George Bullard.
Robert F. (Bob) Walker:	Served as president in 1976-77.
Fred B. Chase:	Served as president in 1979-80.
Dr. John G. Robb:	Presently serving as your president, 1988-89.
Boyd A. Rutledge:	Presently serving as your Adjutant.

Other members from this unit have been very active in all areas including the December 16th Commemoration meetings. These include the late Harold Brummer, Charles Smith, Bob York, and Frank Trautman. Roy Hilliard, a retired Methodist Minister, delivered the memorial address at the Mobile, Alabama reunion in 1987. Newer members are beginning to come to the fore.

This company "D Company, 422nd Infantry" is one of distinction. We salute them, they are much appreciated.

From Before the Veterans Die

by Dale R. Carver
424/HQ A&P Platoon

THE SHELLING OF L COMPANY

The captain called for artillery at Willy minus five.

*The liaison officer relayed the call,
and the guns to our rear came to alive.*

The captain called for artillery at Willy minus ten.

*"Crossed Cannons" checked his map,
then called the order in.*

The captain called for artillery at Willy minus a score.

*"Crossed Cannons" spread his chart,
and called the colonel over:*

*"Who the hell is commanding L? A mad man to be sure!
I hate to shell his position,
but that's what he is calling for."*

*The frantic captain called again, "Fire everything you've got!
You won't hurt us. We're in holes.*

The enemy is not!"

New Members

Platoons of NEW MEMBERS!!!"

The cut-off date for this "NEW MEMBER" column was April 1, 1989. Any applications for new memberships received after that date, by this editor, will be shown in the next CUB. The next CUB will be mailed in early August, hopefully the first week, in order to reach all before the Chicago Reunion. Please submit any correspondence that you want to appear in that issue before September 1, 1989. Thanks, John Kline - editor)

Eldridge, Robert D. 422/G

Rte 2 Box 279 Res. 39
Bradenton, FL 34202

I belonged to the Association in the 50's. My wife **Jean** and I will be married 40 years this coming June.

I was captured near Schoenberg 12/21/44. Marched to Gerolstein, put in box-cars which were strafed on the 24th of December. I was wounded and had frozen feet, so was left at a railroad station, finally getting to Stalag 6-G, Bonn where we were bombed out and moved to Stalag 12-A, Limburg. Moved out of there in box-cars and was liberated from those box-cars a few days later.

Was hospitalized in France for nearly two months. Served with an MP outfit at Camp Wilker (?) N.J. when the 106th came home in '45.

I worked for the Boston, VA Hospital as a surgical technician until 1976 and retired due to a ruptured disc. I belong to two POW Chapters and serve as a Chaplain in each, trying to serve our Lord who has done so much for us. We have three daughters and 7 grandchildren.

Thanks for contacting me.

Thorsen, Devon C. 424/A

715 1st Ave
Charles City, IA 50616

Smith, Robert W. 424/CN

1124 Flanders Rd
Mystic, CT 06355

Hancock, Daniel R. 423/G

2329 Sparrow's Point Rd
Baltimore, MD 21219

I joined the 106th in March of '43. I left Ft Jackson in September after basic, went to Camp Pickett, VA and joined the 28th Division. From there to Boston POE. I am 66 years of age and often think about the guys I took basic with. Wonder how many made it home safe.

My heart and prayers go out to all who served. I received an application from a **Mr. George White**, 2330 S. Brentwood Blvd., St. Louis, MO. I found George's name in a 1987 American Legion magazine.

Thanks.

Crawford, John D. 592/HQ

3147 Melrose Ave NW
Roanoke, VA 24017

John, received the CUB. I noticed you did not have my unit. I was a Tech Sgt, Communications Chief of HQ, 592 FA. I was with the 80th Division and went to Ft Jackson as cadre, to form the 106th. I stayed with the Division until the end.

How well I remember December 16th, 1944. **Fred Farris** lives 6 miles from me and comes by often. We exchange our experiences. I have some good souvenirs that I brought back. He could tell you about them.

Please excuse my writing. I have 100% service connected disability with arthritis. I am 70 years old and a retired teacher (11 years ago). I go to the VA every week for shots. We have a man there from the 592th, he is a full time bed patient, named Goodman.

I sure enjoyed the meeting here at Roanoke. I feel I am lucky to be here today after the *Battle of the Bulge*. Hope to hear from some of the members.

Hempel, Robert W. 591/C

6031 W. Bernice
Chicago, IL 60634

New Members

Huber, Edward J. 424/CN

1133 N. Ironwood Dr.
South Bend, IN 46615

Dobe, Francis J. 422/C

877 Howe St
Manchester, NH 03103

Walden, Lawrence 424/H

7801 N. 44th Drive #1139
Glendale, AZ 85301

Harwell, Harry 423/H

7320 E. 61st Place
Tulsa, OK 74133

Dear Gil, It certainly was with a great deal of pleasure that I received your letter of October 28. I can honestly say that I had no idea that an Association existed for the veterans of the 106th Infantry Division. Nor did I know that a memorial existed for the Division at St. Vith. I also was pleased to see that the Association is supporting educational programs.

I have not been active in service organizations. I belonged to the VFW and American Legion for years, but never really participated. The VA didn't hear from me for forty years, that is until my health began to give me problems.

I now see that there is a lot more to the veteran's organizations than just being a "a social club." I recently joined the American Ex-POWs, and that is where you came across my name.

I was discharged from at Brooks General Hospital in San Antonio in November of '45. I pursued a degree in Accounting at Oklahoma University which I completed in '49. I have been engaged in that field all my working life. I sold my accounting business in 1987. In '82 I purchased a chain of fast food restaurants and sold them in '85.

My wife, **Betty**, and I have a home here in Tulsa, and a lake cottage on one of Oklahoma's super lakes about 65 miles from Tulsa. We spend about one-half our time at each place.

I was born in February of '25, my health

is not good due to diabetes I developed about twenty years ago.

I don't like to complain, for when I am around the VA Hospital I see a lot more that are far worse than I, so I should have something to be thankful for.

I have received a few letters since my name appeared in the Ex-POW magazine, one of them was from an organization of Ex-Stalag 9B prisoners. It seems that most of these organizations have a group of dedicated veterans and my respect goes out to them, like to you, for the service that you give to keep an organization alive.

I certainly appreciated your letter and hope to see you in Chicago.

Harvey Harwell

Tower, William O. 106 RECON

7659 Comstock
Temperance, MI 58182

Van De Bogart, Herman 424/A

1655 W. Ajo Way
Tucson, AZ 85713

Dear Mr. Kline, I received another reminder from **Bill Beseler** about a membership group of the 106th Infantry Division. I was a T-5 in 424/A.

We have been traveling around the upper continent the past four years from Florida Keys to Yukon and Alaska. We do usually spend winters at the Tucson Address. Thank you for all that you are doing.

(editor's note)—Thanks Herman, Lt. Beseler told me about you. Nice to see your name back on the 106th roster. I really appreciated the nice story Beseler gave us for the Jan-Feb-Mar 1989 CUB. Stories like that are great. I know that a lot more of the members have experiences like that, I only wish I could get a few more of them to write and send pictures. Again, thanks for joining, hope to see you at one of the reunions. J. Kline)

Szpek, Ervin 423/I

3219 West Drury Ln
Milwaukee, WI 53215

Gil, am retired from AMC for 9 years now. Will celebrate 35 years of mar-

New Members

riage to my wife **Dolores** this summer. We have six children and five grandchildren. My wife returned to teaching and I spend most of my time helping her in her classroom with my artistic talents (she call them) designing and creating her "Bulletin Boards."

We enjoy traveling and are looking forward to an anniversary trip to Hawaii, for which our children have been saving since our 30th anniversary.

This last summer I finally traced down my old army buddy **James Mills** of Vandalia, Ohio. We and our wives got together and did a lot of reminiscing. For the records, I was in 423/I and was a prisoner in **Dresden, Slaughter House V.**

(editor's note)—Ervin, maybe your artistic talents could be of use in **The CUB**. You asked about the memorial, asking "What is it?" There is a memorial at St Vith. It is located at a school known as the "Bischofliche Schule," and is dedicated to the men of the 106th Infantry Division. The memorial is kept up by the director of the school E. Cremer. He is assisted in his efforts by the Mayor Wilhelm Pip, of St. Vith. There was a picture of them on the cover of the last **CUB** placing a wreath on the memorial, and another picture on page 22 of them discussing the "Battle of the Bulge" with the students of the school.

Hayden, Henry V. 81st ENG/?

6730 N. Catalina Dr
Tuscon, AZ 85718

Barbara and I have three children and ten grandchildren. I am in the electric motor sales and service, have been since 1948. I am planning now to sell the business.

Youles, Jr., Owen K. 424/CN

2704 N. Oak St., Bldg G
Valdosta,, GA 31602

Have been back here in Valdosta since I first got out of service. I am a physician- OB-GYN. My wife **Joann** and I have four children, one of them married and expecting our first grandchild. I enjoy golf, fishing and wood-working in my spare time.

Eidelman, Herb 424/SV

15905 Harden Circle
Southfield, MI 48705

Kenyon, James F. 424/CN

Star Rte Box 3209A
Manistique, MI 49854

(editor's note)—Jim, I see a few 424/CN men joining lately. Write and tell us a little about yourself.)

Stengel, Richard 592/B

18721 William Street
Lansing, IL 60438

Butterfield, Wallace 423/C

6870 Willow Way
Salt Lake City, UT 84121

I spent my career as a diesel mechanic for the Pacific Intermountain Express Co. Later I spent 15 years as their shop foreman. I had to quit working in 1981 due to health. I survived two open heart operations. I am now 63 years of age. I have 10 special grandchildren. We lost one granddaughter from a strange accident. As you aware- your grandchildren are the *spice of life*. Very special! I have a loving wife who has put up with me since November of 1946.

Liskiewicz, Michael W. 106 RECON

4 Clifford Heights
Amherst, NY 14226

Since 1944 I have completed four years of college at New York University School of Business, worked for the Federal Government with the Defense Contract Agency. Retired in 1980 after 30 years of service.

Presently active with the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Holy Name Societies.

Married 1950, have four daughters and seven grandchildren.

LaCroix, Arthur P. 106 RECON

1803 Morningside Dr
Rapid City, SD 57701

Currently enjoying retirement after 20 years in business and as Mayor of Rapid City for 12 years ('75-'87). I am a retired

New Members

Major, combined active duty and reserve of 28 years 8 months.

My wife **Trude** has *All Continents Travel Service*, have one son **Mike** and two grandsons.

I enjoy golfing, fishing, carving and sculpturing.

Segassie, Edward E. 423/I

8616 Kildare Dr
Knoxville, TN 37923

Henderson, Augustus A. 422/C

Young Lake Rd RFD #1
Westfield, ME 04787

I was born and raised in Dexter, Maine. After getting out of the army in 1945 I spent three years in a VA Hospital. I have had a lot of operations and have a 100% disability. I use a walker to get around the mobile home, but outside I have a motor wheel chair. In the winter I don't get out much and when I do get out they push me around in the wheel-chair.

I have one son and two grandchildren. One granddaughter is in the Air Force, at Tinker AFB. Also have one great Grandchild, a boy.

(editor's note)—Augustus, it is nice hearing from you. I hope some of the members see this note and drop you a line.

Wright, Wilfred C. 106 RECON

6 Birch Street
Danvers, MA 01923

Gil, Thanks for contacting me. I started my own building business in '47, retired in '73 to become a Building Inspector for Danvers. Still working full time.

I have three children plus two super grandchildren. Other than a bad stomach I inherited from Uncle Sam, I am in good health.

Curry, Robert B. 423/MED

Box 233
Mansfield, IL 61854

I am happy to be part of the 106th Infantry Division Association. My thanks to **Kenneth Hunt, Don McCarron and Anton Costa** for their in-

terest in contacting buddies of the 423rd Medical Detachment.

I am planning on attending the reunion in Chicago this year.

(editor's note)—Bob, it's nice to see the number of Medics that are joining now. You are right, the boys are doing a good job. They will have the 423 Medics as the top group in Chicago, if they keep it up.

Piazza, Lewis R. 423/MED

657 White Plains Rd
Eastchester, NY 10707

Sherod, I was not aware that our outfit was having reunions until I attended the POW Medal award ceremonies. I met **Bob Kelly's** daughter who works for the local newspaper. She informed me that her father was in the 423rd Regiment and Bob contacted me and gave me all the information.

I have contacted several of the 423rd Medics and we are all trying to get to the reunion in Chicago.

Here's a side note to the bombing that occurred in Deitz, Germany, that everyone seems to be unaware of. Several thought that I was killed. It is apparent that I was not.

We were laying over in box-cars at the rail-head on December 22nd, 1944 when a Mosquito Pathfinders dropped their flares - most of the men broke out of the cars and ran for cover when the bombs were dropped. We tried to tend to the wounded and tried to find shelter for them. I took one of our medics, who spoke German, as an interpreter and we directed to a camp near-by. We got a German escort and brought the men in. We walked right into Stalag XII-A. Took the men to a make-shift hospital barracks.

The bombing took place at 6:15pm according to a clock on a bombed out clock tower.

I found **Lt. Ed Hansfield** in this make-shift hospital, blackened, disheveled and with a concussion. He survived the bombing of a direct hit to a barracks with American Officers.

New Members

There were 62 killed and 2 wounded. I stayed over-night and was assigned as Identification Officer for those killed. I made a note in my diary of officers that I knew were killed; **Captain Ed Weinberg, M.C.**; **Captain Freis, 2nd Battalion HQ**; **Captain Pfiffer, M.C. Collecting Co.**; **Captain Paul Kirsten M.C. Medical Detachment (my Unit).**

Except for Ed Weinberg, the others were just fragments of bodies. The Germans placed them in blankets - and had me officiate their burial in a mass grave - along with some French and Russians. My progression: From Stalag XII-A on March 10 through Frankfurt to Bad Orb then on to Hammelburg Stalag XIII-B. (**Captain Weeks** was killed by the guards at this camp.) Also liberated for 24 hours by Patton's Task Force trying to rescue his son-in-law Captain Watters. I left the next day to Nuremburg Stalag III, then to Moosberg Stalag VII-A, and was liberated April 29th, 1945.

Finally returned to civilian life, started Dental Practice, later married **Mildred**, have two daughters, two grandsons and am still practicing, in good health.

Hope to see you in Chicago for my first reunion.

Schneider, Lorenz W. 424/SV

6097 Olive St.

North Ridgeville, OH 44039

(*editor's note*)— **Harvey Bradford**, who contributed the article on the AQUITANIA for the JUL-AUG-SEPT CUB, signed up his buddy Lorenz.

He says that Lorenz was a Dispatcher for the 424 Motor Pool. MIA Dec 20, 1944 and returned to duty January 20, 1945 at Tres Ponds, Belgium.

Harvey is also trying to locate more members of the 424th. Thanks Harvey, Might be an interesting story on Lorenz on what happened between 12/20/44 and 1/20/45.

Ahrens, Raymond L. 424/C

1419 Marion St.

Boone, IA 50036

Gil Helwig sent Raymond a roster that he ask for and Raymond also asked for a Division Patch - We are out of stock at the moment - I hope someone is looking for a new supply (J. Kline ed.)

Broadwater, Clifford H. 423/AT

146 Turken Lane

Roseburg, OR 97470

I was transferred to the 106th Division and assigned to the 423 Anti-Tank Company in June of '44. I had been Sergeant Major of the Enlisted Cadre Pool, Anti-aircraft Replacement Training Center, Fort Bliss, Texas.

As Master Sergeant in the Anti-Tank Company, I was excess rank and probably excess personnel. I took my infantry training under **Corporal Lloyd Hopkins** on a 57-mm antitank gun, and assisted **1st Sergeant Floyd Jeson** with paperwork and detail.

I accompanied Antitank Company through England, France Belgium and to the front lines at Bleialf, Germany. We had been at Bleialf only a couple of days when I was detailed to 423rd Headquarters with a Sergeant and about 30 men from line infantry companies to for a provisional Military Police unit. We were there only a couple of days when the *Battle of the Bulge* broke. We were given custody of about 30 German soldiers who had been captured. When the 423rd back off the line, we followed on foot with the prisoners and were with the 423rd when we were captured on December 19, 1944.

With many others, I was taken to Stalag 9-B at Bad Orb and then later moved to Stalag 9-A near Ziegenhain. We were liberated by units of General Patton's Third Army on March 30, 1945.

(*editor's note*)—Your comments are interesting, I would be interested in any other material that you have, whether for publication or not. I will be in touch - J. Kline)

Azzi, Alighiero A. 423/A

6022 Colmar Dr.
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Beane, Glen G. 423/HQ 1BN

D-20 Peacock St
Ft. Pierce, FL 34982

I cannot remember Company and Unit but my Company Commander was **Captain Moyer** and my Battalion Commander was **Colonel Craig**. I would appreciate any help I can get in obtaining this information.

After twenty years with Bankers Guarantee Title & Trust in Akron, Ohio, I retired as Vice-President and disposed of our home and an Art Store and now make our home in Ft Pierce.

I would like to hear from friends from the 106th and from Stalag IX-B, Bad Orb.

Braden, Reuben H. 422/K

1321 Bowie St.
Columbus, TX 78934

Gil Helwig, I would like to have the names of the men in the 106th Division. (editor's note)—*Reuben, I think you mean the names of the men in the 106th Infantry Division Association. If so, there will be a roster of all current members of the association that will be mailed with the August CUB. It will be prepared sometime in July. If you mean names of the Division we can't help you - there were 50,000 to 60,000 men that rotated through the 106th Infantry Division in its history. The founders of this association had to struggle with that large number in trying to gather together what became the 106th Infantry Division Association. It looks like it is time to run a story on the organizing of the association - we have hundreds of new members who should be brought up to date with the history.)*

Travis, Harry F. 423/MED

14570 Sunset Dr
Delray Beach, FL 33445

(editor's note)—*Another 423rd Medic - you guys are doing a good job. 423rd Service will have to get their act together at the reunion if they are going to be "TOP DOG." Hey, that sounds pretty good, maybe we need a "TOP*

DOG" award.

Jobe, Weyman E. 422/HQ 2BN

4212 Spring Valley Dr. So.
Mobile, AL 36693

I was a member of the Division from its start at Ft Jackson.

I was the Message Center Chief S/Sgt and was captured in the *Battle of the Bulge*.

I lost contact with the association after the first reunion in Indianapolis in '47. I am retired after 42 years, 9 months as Claims Manager for JCG Railroad Company.

Aborn, Joseph 590/C

210 Nahanton St.
Newton, MA 02159

Gil, I was a member many years ago by reason of request of Doug Coffey who was in the same unit. You asked for some background.

I organized an association as *American Prisoners of War of Massachusetts* of which I became Commander and later on Judge Advocate. In the interim I became a member of DAV and acted as Judge Advocate.

I was then appointed by the then governor of Massachusetts as Chairman of a committee for a special parade, entertainment and dinner gifts to Korean Ex-POWs.

I was then appointed by the Governor to honor, in the same manner, the Vietnam Ex-POWs.

I am now a member and Judge Advocate of Ex-POWs of Massachusetts. I was a delegate to the National Convention in Las Vegas in '88.

I am active in the American Legion whose members are mostly Chinese.

I also have been corresponding with an Ex-POW from 590/C, **Rudy Balog**. I wonder if he is an association member.

(editor's note)—*Joe, it doesn't look like Rudy is a member, why don't you ask him to join?*

New Members

Bell, Jr, Harry H. 422/F Weapons Platoon

4103 Franklin Ave
Gulfport, MS 39507

Retired January '88 as Vice-Pres Customer Services, Mississippi Power Company Headquarters in Gulfport, MS.

I visited former Stalag IX-B at Bad Orb in 1969. It serves as a summer children's camp.

Visited Adlestrop England in 1983. The Manor House and grounds now serve as a home for wayward boys. Not open to the public. Nothing left of our Quonset Hut encampment but the concrete slabs.

Visited the Port of South Hampton in '85, where we embarked for LeHarve in late November '44.

Berberian, Kachadore 422/K

2 Tomblin Hill Rd
Northboro, MA 01532

Married, two children, one boy, one girl. Self-employed since 1947 in market garden operation. Have been a private pilot for the last 20 years, flying my own plane for pleasure.

(editor's note)—Kachadore, nice to meet another pilot. I haven't flown for three years, but hold a Commercial Instrument license with a SEL Instructor's endorsement. Have about 950 hours, all Single Engine Land. Once owned a Cessna 182 Retractable. I miss flying, I am always looking into the air when a private plane goes over, and longing for that freedom. Happy Flying, keep the needle and ball rightside up.

Brockwell, Charles L. 422/M

808 E. Hillcrest Dr.
Johnson City, TN 37604

Chadbourne, Everett L. 422/E

18 Perley Ave.
Rowley, MA 01969

Canter, Henry 423/A

11 June Lane
Newton Centre, MA 02159

Cruz, Leo J. UNIT UNKNOWN

1739 Dana Place
Lakeland, FL 33801

After discharge in '45 returned to my former job as a fire-fighter for the U.S. Navy. Retired with 31 years duty in Key West, Florida.

We moved to Lakeland, Fla in 1979. We are now taking life easy and enjoy camping in different parks of the country.

Had our 51st Wedding Anniversary in December, 1988. Would like to see some of the old buddies again.

(editor's note)—Leo, do me a favor, call an old friend in Lakeland for me - name is James Tavrises, and tell him I miss the trips to LaPaz and Mazatlan, Mexico, especially remembering the time he scared off another fishing boat by waving a pistol around. It's an inside joke, but he is a good man and will get a kick out of it. We have mutual friends.

Fendlason, Spencer E. 422/A

421 Babin Lane
Ponchatoula, LA 70545

Ruck, Harvey A. 423/C

W166 N8532 Theodore Ave
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

I joined the Division in Camp Atterbury in 1944. I was the Company Runner attached to Battalion Headquarters and was captured in the Bulge on December 19, 1944. I spent time in Stalag IV-B, Muhlberg Germany.

I am a retired Inspector with the Wisconsin State Patrol and have one son, who was born when I was a prisoner. I am a member of the DAV and AX-POW.

Clements, Lawrence 424/A

Rte 5 Box 855
Appomattox, VA 24522

Bounds, Eldred L. 423/MED

RFD #8 Box 106
Salisbury, MD 21801

Gil, I was captured on December 16th, marched to Stalag XII-A reaching there December 24, 1944. We were bombed the next day by the British and my Commanding Officer was killed. I

stayed there a month and was moved to Stalag 2A in Poland later moved to Luft I and liberated in May by the Russians, flown to Camp Lucky Strike then home on a Hospital Ship.

After discharge I started working for a Ford Dealer. Worked for him 10 years and then went into a partnership for our own dealership. I have been a Ford Dealer for 34 years. My son is now running the dealership.

I was married to my first wife 37 years, she died in 1978 of cancer. We had one son and one daughter.

I remarried my second wife ten years ago, she had three daughters.

Byrd, Jr., Lloyd E. 422/HQ 1BN

PO Box 1305
Windermere, FL 32786

DeSoto, Philip 422/MED

22 Otis St.
Livermore Falls, ME 04254

I was held by the Germans at Stalag IV-B for about five months. After my release and re-habilitation I was stationed at Searsport, ME until my discharge in '45.

I went back to my home-town, Jay, Maine and back to work for International Paper.

In May of '55 I married **Marilyn Wills**. We had four children, 2 boys and 2 girls. We lost one son, Mario, 3/25/85.

The other son, **Philip Jr.**, is graduating in May from the U of Maine, Orono. He will have BS degree in Mechanical Engineering.

One daughter **Elizabeth** is still living at home and working.

I retired from International Paper in July, 1987 at age 62.

Johnson, Jr., John C. 423/HQ

1505 S. Pine
Pittsburgh, KS 66762

Kolbaba, Norman J. 423/G

256 Park Ave
Cary, IL 60013

Pink, John O. 422/B

1921-B Madison Court
Carmel, IN 46032

a) POW Stalag IV-B, Hospitalized in Leipzig, Germany, a convalescent camp 8 miles west of Leipzig.

b) Retired: former Federal mediator, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

c) Married: Wife **Bonnie** and four children.

J. Howard Tucker 422/H

PO Box 416
Pilot Mountain, NC 27401

Sherod, I received your letter and am glad I can clear this matter up for you. I was at the reunion in Roanoke and really enjoyed myself. I may not make the Chicago Reunion.

I was a POW three and one-half months. I did join the Association while I was at Roanoke.

I worked with the Southern Railway for 8 years, worked at construction for nearly 21 years.

I have been serving my Lord in the Gospel Ministry for 24 years.

May God Bless you, hope to see you sometime.

Westbrook, Scott S. 424/C

Rte 1 Box 3A
Newton Grove, NC 28366

Sherod, I was pleased to hear from you and to later talk to you on the phone.

Yes, I attended the Roanoke Reunion. It was a genuine pleasure to meet and renew the old friendships.

No, I didn't pay my dues at the reunion -I am now enclosing them.

My military history with the 106th was short. January 20, 1945 to the end of the war. Spent my time guarding German prisoners and a holding action during the final days of the war. Again thanks for contacting me.

Mail Bag

(editor's note) - During the last two CUB issues I cut some 'MAIL BAG' material due to the space that was available. The largest CUB up to February of 1988 was 26 pages. Since then they have been 44 pages. That is about the maximum I would like to use, that is just shy of the break point on postage and should be large enough to use most of the current material. In this issue I am going back as far as October '88 letters received from members. Because of the time element, and the fact that I cut eight pages from the last issue, there may be more than one letter from some of the members. Keep your letters coming, the MAIL BAG is one of the most popular columns in The CUB. - John Kline

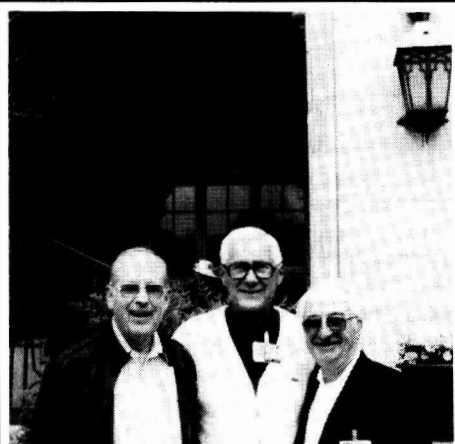
John,
Many thanks for sending me **Richard McKee's** address. I recall him as a Sergeant in 422/A and a fine guy.

I wrote to him, hoping to hear from him soon. I'm covered for the next two CUBs. (Dan writes a regular column for **The CUB**. See the one in this issue.. ed.)

Bied, Dan 422/A

151 Holiday Ter
West Burlington, IA 52655

Sherod,
Bill and I are sorry we could not make it to Roanoke this year. Bill had a little problem that prevented him from traveling. We are enclosing a donation to the Memorial Fund.



These two pictures by Mike Valovcin, 422/AT
L/R Mike Valovcin, George Vance
Walter Pawluk

Mike wrote "At the '88 Roanoke Reunion three members of 422/AT were reunited. Prior to the Reunion I met with our Platoon Leader, Richard Parker, an Association Member, who lives in Washington DC."

Best Wishes.

Devine, William J.

423/SV

175 Pinehurst Ave.
New York, NY 10033

Just finished *St. Vith, Lion in the Way*. Of all the books I have ever read it is the closest to what I remember about the battle. It tells of the fighting spirit of the 106th against great odds. I hope that all members have read it. Hope to see you in Chicago next year.

White, Robert L. 592/B

514 Oglesby Ave
Calumet City, IL 60409

Thank you for printing **Harvey Bradford's** story about the *Aquitania*. It was particularly interesting to me as I came home on that ship.

I was in the Army hospital in Paris when the Germans surrendered. I was flown to Glasgow, Scotland to another hospital, then on to the *Aquitania* and then to a Stateside hospital Staten Island NY.

I never really saw the *Aquitania* as I see it in the picture. However I thought it was a hospital ship when I came home. My bed was in what looked like a marble ceiling



L/R Don Kersteiner, Hamilton Ohio and
Walter Pawluk, Meriden CT.

Don and Walter were reunited for the second time. Don's assignment after the Bulge was with 424/ HQ 2Bn.

Thanks,
Mike Valovcin, 422/AT

room. The food was great, not like on the *Wakefield*, which I went over on.

Thanks Harvey and John
Williams, Aubrey J. 592/A

2201 Flair Dr
Oklahoma City, OK 73154

John,
Thanks much for all the material you sent. Your diary was very interesting.

The one thing that amazes me is the similarities of assignments of former 106ers that joined the division in April of 1944. As an example my history;

15 May 43 active duty
10 June 43 Camp Wheeler
25 Sep 43 U of Alabama ASTP
02 Apr 44 joined 106th
21 Dec 44 POW 314106
24 Dec 44 Gerolstein box-car bombing
31 Dec 44 Stalag 4-B Hut 56A
18 Jan 45 Leipzig Kommando
25 Apr 45 Liberation
06 Dec 45 Discharged

I am sure that these events were repeated many times by former 106th members. Your diary shows that our experiences were practically on track day by day.

Benigno, Russell A. 422/HQ 2BN

168 N. Passaic Ave
Chatham, NJ 07928

23 Sep 88 -Thanks for another fine issue of **The CUB**.

You've certainly analyzed the membership as never before. The current issue should make a good reference for many members. Your valuable contribution is greatly appreciated.

Hatch, H.M. DIV/HQ

2830 East Rd
Wayzata, MN 55391

(Jim has not had a pleasant year. He had a triple by-pass a few months ago and has spent another three weeks in the hospital recently. I just talked with him as I was typing this letter (January 8, 1989), and he asked that I pass along his greeting to all. We missed him at the Minneapolis get-together in December. Jim is a past president of the Association and has been active for many, many years. I am sure he would appreciate hearing from old friends..... John Kline - editor)

John,
Yes I was in the barracks at Koblenz that was bombed for two days. I was setting on the third floor when the first bomb that hit

blew the whole window frame into the room, in a thousand pieces, as the bombing progressed the guards moved us a floor at a time until we eventually got to the basement.

I was not interrogated until I got to Muhlberg 4-B. My POW number was 315475. I still have the tag.

When we left Koblenz we marched to Limburg 12-A, were put into box cars and shipped to Muhlberg 4-B, without water and food for days and never got out of the box-cars. Remember when the train stopped and we were strafed/ (yes I do ed.)

So far I haven't contacted any 422/I company men.

Thanks for the article in the last **Mail Bag**, maybe it will help me find some of my old buddies.

Phelps, Hugh L. 422/I

PO Box 508
Molalla, OR 97038

(Hugh's letter proves to me that he and I were together at least up to Stalag 4-B John Kline - editor)

John,
The last **CUB** was a beaut. I don't know how you can top that one.

Tom Riggs once told me that the worse thing that could happen to him was to loose a football game, that is until the day he was captured.

Here are a couple of hats that were passed out from the 1964 reunion that **Doug Coffey** and I put on in East Orange, NJ.

Keep up the good work. thanks for running the Aquitania story for me.

Bickford, Thomas DIV/HQ

311 Bloomingdale, Ave.
Cranford, NJ 07016

John,
I cannot tell you how much I appreciate receiving your letter and diary. I won't comment on it at this time, because I am right in the middle of trying to remember my experiences and trying to get it down on paper.

I don't know why I waited 44 years to do this, but since it has started I have heard from several others, and their remembrances help me bring back my own experiences.

I remember that night in the church yard southeast of Schoenberg (Bleialf). I have

Mail Bag

never been back to the battle area.

Let's keep in touch. I kept a diary in a small book I 'borrowed' from a German. I kept a list of towns and villages as we walked through them. I'll send you a copy as soon as I can. Thanks a million.

McKee, Richard 422/A

Box 45
Rochester, IN 46975

David's fourth grandchild, a boy was born to **Bruce and Janet Wyman** of Grosse Point Park, MI on April 10, 1987. Named **David Sumner Wyman II**. Hope you all had a good reunion.

Wyman, Mrs David (Valerie) ASSOCIAT E

568 Pleasant Valley Rd
Cumberland, ME 04021

(Valerie it is so nice to hear that news, hope you are doing well... John Kline - editor)

I was with 423/E from Sept '43 til Dec '43 when I transferred to the Air Corps. I then returned to the division in April of '44 and was assigned to Battery A/ 589th. I was in the only gun section captured from Battery A. I was caught at Schonfeld and was one of the last ones to see **Lt. Eric Wood** when he escaped capture and began his one man war against the Germans.

Also, while at the Unknown Soldiers Memorial Room at Arlington this summer I noticed almost all divisions were represented, but not the 106th. Perhaps I missed the plaque, but if we are not represented, perhaps we should be.

Holtzmuller, J. Don 589/A

202 Germantown Pike
Farmersville, OH 45325

In a recent issue of **The CUB** you had the name and address of the person to get in touch that had 106th Patches for sale. I gave my **CUB** away to a prospective member and need the address.

Keep up the good work on **The CUB**.

Williams, Richard L. 424/HQ 1BN

2600 Michigan Ave. #65b
Pensacola, FL 32506

(Bill, the Adjutant handles those. I think I might have answered you direct, but the other new member should know this. I believe that the supply has been depleted. The Adjutant is Boyd Rutledge and his address appears on the inside front cover in the Mast Head, try writing him... John Kline - editor)

The 42nd annual reunion will always be remembered for the men of Company B, 81st Combat Engineers. We finally got to see each other after 44 years. After much writing we found out about others. Thanks to **The CUB** it sure helps a lot.

I am already looking forward to Chicago in '89.

I was happy to see you again John and thank you for the good job you are doing with **The CUB**.

Wojahn, Edward C. 81st ENG/B

1553 West Young Dr
Onalaska, WI 54650

(Ed, who I first met at Mobile, sent a transcript of an old German document so that my wife could translate it for him. It was very interesting in that it was of the old German written language - not the same as written today. Margot said she came across words she had not heard or seen since early childhood. Ed, you're doing a good job keeping those Engineers together John Kline - editor)

Sherod,

Thanks for your note and concern. I seem to be getting back to normal after missing the reunion. No one at the hospital seems to know what happened. There is no proof of heart attack. It's just something that happened.

I would like to thank my old buddies from M Company for coming to the hospital. Thanks again Sherod.

Lennstrom, Edward A. 424/HQ 3BN

839 Highland Rd R.R.
Frankfort, IL 60423

(Ed collapsed in the front lobby or steps of the Roanoke Hotel, before the reunion really got going. Nice to hear you are ok Ed... John Kline - editor)

John,

I received your letter and the enclosures which brought back a flood of memories.

I found only three men whose names I recognized. (from a list I sent him ed.) **Lee Berwick**, a Captain at age 22 who was the finest soldier I have ever known. He saved our battalion several times by making decisions that the top brass could not make. **Lt. Abried** may deny one of my poems, but I recorded -in verse -his advice to his men (with a little poetic license, because you could get off about 4 rounds with a 57 before your position was known.) **Captain McN-**

Inch was noted for the fact that he never said anything, but M Company was a wonderfully adept fighting unit.

Carver, Dale R. 424/HQ

742 Druid Circle
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

(Read page 9 of Volume 45 No. 1 Oct-Nov-Dec 1988 for Dale's introduction in The CUB. We will be using a few of his poems in each issue. Thanks Dale for your contribution to The CUB... John Kline - editor)

While touring England earlier this month (10-88) I poked around Cheltenham looking for that stately old mansion on whose ground we camped on November of '44. Couldn't find it, but had fun looking.

Cooley, Don E. 423/HQ 1BN

140 Peckham Rd
Watsonville, CA 95076

From Ted Young - who advertised (in **The CUB**) that he had a watch he had gained in a trade for food in one of the camps. The widow of **Thomas Pitts** read the article in **The CUB**, and now has possession of the family watch, thanks to Ted - who wanted the rightful owner to have it - a miracle after 44 years.

Ted writes - John, just a few lines to say how much we enjoyed the Roanoke reunion.

Last night I sat down and read your diary again and seeing that you were at one point in Braunschweig. I was also there but my accommodations seemed much better than yours. We had a room in a big International Hotel on the second floor, with private sauna and breakfast in bed, plus a refrig full of drinks. The wife and I took a trip over there in '75 to see one of our sons who was stationed in Berlin.

The VA is working on my cholesterol, my teeth and now I am getting eye glasses - they are making a new man out of me.

Young, Theodore W. 423/SV

PO Box 1555
Ozark, AL 36361

(Ted, I at first thought you were serious about the accommodations. I too have a mouth full of VA teeth I would guess about \$3500 worth, two hearing aids. I have had three sets of glasses, but none of them have been successful. I think somebody better send an instructor to the Minneapolis VA, have no other complaints than that.... John Kline - editor)

John,
Thank you for sending the copies of the

Order for Combat Infantry Badge for the 423rd Regiment. The names really brought back some memories. I was surprised to find some of our Platoon Leaders missing from the list **George Hammer** of Brooklyn and **Mike Kenney** of Iowa come immediately to mind. I guess with all the confusion it is surprising to find the list as complete as it is.

I had a pleasant surprise a few weeks ago. We were preparing to board the ferry from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia to Bar Harbor, Maine when a chap came running over drawn by my POW license plate. Turned out he was **Bob Eldridge** Chaplain to both the Florida Gulf Coast and Manasota Chapters of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. We had a long chat about our experiences and our wives discovered a common interest in Genealogy.

He was a member of 422/C. We were at a couple of the same Stalags but at different times.

He used to belong to the Association but had dropped out. He said he would like to rejoin, so I offered to write you and ask you to send him a **CUB**. I think **The CUB** is one of our best selling points. If you will do so I would appreciate it.

I have recently read **Patton's Silent Snow** and recommend it highly. Some of the early parts of it were disquietingly familiar - not strange since he was a Platoon Leader in our company. Nonetheless it put a few shivers up the spine. After a while the book gets a little fanciful, but it is a novel.

Smith, Howard G. 423/F

PO Box 516
Forestdale, MA 02644

(Howard, I will write to your friend if I haven't already done so. I will have to check another file. I think we (the members) should make a special effort to tell those that they know, that the Association exists, and that The CUB alone is worth the fee. I suppose for those of us that do belong, it is hard to realize why a person would not join for \$10.00. Gil Helwig hit about 30% on his mailings last year, some 400 letters and signed up 113 members, some said they were going to wait until they retire before they spend \$10.00. Think of all the good CUBs, reunions and camaraderie they have missed... John Kline - editor)

I really enjoy reading **The CUB**. In the June issue my friend that I met at a POW meeting, **Howard Niemitz** wrote a short article about me. I would like to correct some of the information.

Mail Bag

First my name was misspelled it is **MURAWSKI**. Also I was not in 422/SV, but in 423/F.

I was inducted in Sept 43, was attached to the 833rd Co. B AA outfit in California. Transferred to Camp Carson, CO for advanced Infantry Training then to the division. Captured with the multitude on 19 December 1944. After many miles of walking we ended up in Berga Work Camp. Worked with Jewish civilian and American Jewish soldiers digging tunnels in the mountainside. After walking away from the American troops for many miles we were liberated by the 95th Division on 20 April, 1945. This was the greatest day of my life.

I would like to hear from any Berga prisoners.

I would like to receive back issues of **The CUB**, for I hear that there was an article on the Berga Work Camp.

I would also like to compliment you and your staff for doing a great job.

Murawski, Alexander 423/F

605 Marquette
Calumet City, IL 60409

(Alex, I can't recall any full articles about Berga in The CUB. Will have to do a little research. There are no extra copies of The CUB (back issues) available. At print time extra copies are printed and used for new members as they sign on. We do not stock pile a big supply. Other Berga Camp members that I know off-hand are Jesse Kershner, 17 Ridgewood Pkwy, Newport News, VA 23602 and Winfield Rosenberg, 36 Love Creek Park, Lewes, DE 19958. A letter received from Kershner follows in this column.

If there was an article on Berga, maybe one of our 1062 members will send you a copy.

As to my staff, I always like for people to congratulate my staff for it gives me an opportunity to try to get a little funny. My staff consists of myself, a 76 pound hunting dog and three cats. My wife contributes nothing to this project other than tea and sandwiches. The CUB is generated in my computer, printed on my Hewlett Packard Laser printer and the photo ready copy is taken to the printer who "drops" the pictures into the squares and photos the pages to make plates from which to print The CUB. I do everything except the pictures and the upper one-half of the front cover. Don't take me wrong, I accept your congratulations, that's what keeps me going... John Kline - editor)

I was a member of the Weapons Platoon and along with most other of the 423rd and 422nd was captured near St. Vith.

I plan to retrace the route of the 106th and also my route after being captured and would like to know where I could get this information.

I would like to know where we got on the train in Scotland, the route to **Camp Taddington**, the port we left England from, the road from LeHarve to St Vith also the road we walked down after capture and the railroad route to Stalag 4-B

If you could give me that information I would appreciate it very much.

Gresham, Joseph W. 423/G

Rte 1 Box 129-B
Lindale, TX 75771

(Joe, The 423rd Regiment and the 2d Battalion of the 424th went over on the Queen Elizabeth, the rest of the 424th and the entire 422nd Regiment went on board the Aquitania on 20 October, 1944. They landed at Greenock, Scotland on the Firth of Clyde eight days later and went to the mid-lands Adderbury, Banbury and Chipping Norton, England.

Division Artillery and Special Troops went on board the USS Wakefield on 10 November arriving at Liverpool on the 17th.

My diary shows the Queen Elizabeth departed early morning on 17 Oct, I was in 423/M, arriving at Greenock on 22 Oct. The above information comes from page 8 of St Vith, Lion in the Way the division history written by Colonel Ernest Dupuy and obtainable at The Battery Press, Inc., PO Box 3107, Uptown Station, Nashville, Tenn 37219, The price is over twenty dollars, you will have to call or write them for the exact price. In case you are looking in a library the number is ISBN 0-89839-092-3 or probably by just asking for the author or by name of the book. If you haven't read it, it is a good book and probably the closest to the truth of all that were written.

Col Dupuy did make one mistake on page 8. He said the 2d Battalion of the 424th left New York on 18 October on the Queen Mary, I don't think a 106er ever set foot on the Queen Mary, and even though Dupuy doesn't mention the 423rd, I know we went on the Queen Elizabeth.

Now, landing at Greenock, Scotland we probably boarded trains in or near Glasgow to go to the mid-lands in England. When we left England we went from the port of Southampton and arrived on the continent at Le Harve, France. Some troops went on up to Rouen before leaving the vessels. Our group got off at Le Harve.

I can't tell you the route from Rouen to St. Vith.

I do have a diary with the route from the front lines to Limburg. On the train from Limburg to Muhlberg, Stalag 4-B I know we passed through Mulhausen and Leipzig.

I was only in 4-B a few days and then shipped, via deluxe

overnight sleeper, to Gortitz, Stalag 8A. Joe, I hope this helps you. I am sure some of the members will fill you in on the rest.

I will send you a copy of my diary, it has some maps that could help you..... John Kline - editor

John

Am enclosing material that may be of interest to you about the USS Wakefield, which was one of the largest ships manned by the Coast Guard during World War II. One picture shows her heading home with over 6,000 troops aboard. It was a big one, the caption of one of the pictures says she is capable of hauling 7,500 troops.

Our oldest son Lt. Commander Randall K. Corrigan looked up this material for us. If you want to use it, please do so.

Corrigan Jr., Charles K. 591/SV

3366 Ken Lake Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98502

(Thanks Charles, for sharing the material with us. I know you must be proud of your son's attaining the point that he has in his career.

I purposely put your letter behind that of Gresham, above, because in my answer to him you will find some information relative to the USS Wakefield. Again thanks. If I have room I will print a picture of the USS Wakefield, if not I will try to do that next time.... John Kline - editor)

John,

Love the job you're doing. And I am sure it is hard work, judging the way you put things together, it looks easy.

I am responsible for over twenty five new members either directly or indirectly. I have just located another 81st Eng/A man, Ivy Deane. He has neither heard from anyone, or knew the 106th Infantry Division Association existed.

What I am getting at is, couldn't we start our own missing persons dept? Also shouldn't we also work out on drop-out members. I am sure we still have their addresses. I'm sure many drop outs are not deliberate. Sometimes it's something that comes up, and puts the dues on hold and they just let it slide, or my be too embarrassed or just loose interest.

Now with the new informative CUB it might make a world of difference in members holding their interest.

It looks like if a member fails to pay his dues, he is just dropped from the roster. If some of his immediate buddies knew he was

delinquent, they might get after him to renew his membership.

Warmest regards, stay well.

Carl Messina "A" Co. 81st Combat Engineers

The fighting "Four-F"

Messina, Carl 81st ENG/A

926 Seymour Ave
Linden, NJ 07036

(Carl your letters are always great. At the risk of overplaying my hand, that is in too many "editors notes" in this issue I have to fill you in on part of the program.

First I think the idea of advertising the drop-outs is a good idea. One of the reasons you didn't mention is "death." There are some who are alone, or whose family after death have no inclination to correspond with the 106th Association. We have found this to be true on follow ups of delinquents.

No, we just don't drop members. Let's take this last year. After the reunion, which was in September there were still 253 members who had not paid their July 1988 dues for the 88-89 year.

I was directed in October to drop their names from the rolls. Instead I prepared a post-card warning them that they would be dropped. This mailing cut the delinquent list down to 93. Not too shabby - but remember, prior to the Post Card we mailed a self addressed envelope, first class, along with the registration blanks to all members advertising the Roanoke reunion. No chance of wrong address because it was "first class." We always mention the dues in the CUB. I don't remember how far in advance of the reunion this was, but in sufficient time for the majority of members to respond. You would think that a Self Addressed envelope would do the job.

Again the Post card after the reunion cut it down to 93. Then being the salesman that I am I still could not see 93 members dropping out. I prepared another first class letter just a few weeks ago and the list is now down to 37 drop-outs. Out of the 253 delinquents we found 4 deaths that had not been known.

We have since cut the 37 members out of the roster. It is obvious six months after the dues are really due, we are working behind the curve. As it is said "What is a man too do?" Three mailings specifically requesting payments.

I have been told that as the reunion moves about the country that there are the "one-timers" that join just to go to the local reunion, then drop out the next year. There are probably more reasons than we both can figure out.

I just had to say "No we just don't drop them Carl." Your thoughts are well taken, and I invite comments from the membership on the subject.... John Kline - editor

AA

Mail Bag

Sherod,

I rejoined the Association last fall. Gray's article on page 18 of the November CUB is just the way I remember it.

We had hoped to make Roanoke but moved from Illinois to Arizona instead. It's great to be back with the Association and receive the great copies of **The CUB**.

Watters, J. H. 423/G

9559 W. Menadota
Peoria, AZ 85345

Enjoyed the last CUB, as usual read it from cover to cover.

The Roanoke reunion was my first. I was the only one from 423/AT, I hope there will be more of us at the Chicago reunion in '89. I have written four AT Co. men about it.

I enjoyed my talk with you at their reunion. If you recall we think that we were on the same plane from Paris to the Azores on to New York landing on 5 May 1945. You mentioned that you had some information that you would send me.

I was transferred from Stalag 4B to the Berga Work Camp. You helped me locate Winfield Rosenberg at the reunion, I had a nice talk with him but do not remember him at Berga. Again Thanks John.

Kershner, Jesse O. 423/AT

17 Ridgewood Parkway
Newport News, VA 23602

(Jesse, I sent the information a few days ago, sorry for the delay. You probably have read the letter from Murawski in this column, he too was at Berga. Hope to see you and other AT Co. men in Chicago.. John Kline - editor)

Dear Sherod,

Thanks for sending me the application.

Ever since the days in the 106th I have not gotten the word about the Association. I even missed the reunion in Virginia and so close by.

I was in the original bunch that started out in the 106th Signal Company, then because of some differences I was transferred to 424/HQ still laying wire. I lost track of most of the guys when I went with the 35th after the 424th was no more. By then the war was at end and that was that.

Later - I just returned from Germany. I visited some of the areas around St. Vith and found the 106th Infantry Division Memorial. When they put the autobahn

through to the Belgium border the country took on a different look. The CP at Winterspelt looked different. Maybe it is convenient that some of those things are put out of our minds.

It was raining hard during our visit and we did not do much in the way of getting out to look around. I was visiting my Airman son who is stationed with NATO. He is up for Tech Sgt soon.

Been married 43 years, 4 boys and 2 girls, ten granddaughters with one on the way. I retired in 1987 after 33 years in the professional service of the Boy Scouts of America. We have very little spare time with all the volunteer work and singing in the church choir and visiting grandchildren. Would like to hear from some of the guys in the 106th Signal and 424/HQ.

Joseph P. Maloney

Maloney, Joseph P. 424/HQ

1120 Warren Ave
Arnold, PA 15068

(editors' note) As part of my clean up on correspondence received I came across a letter from Myles that he had written in October 1988. It was in answer to a letter I had sent him after I found his picture in a very early CUB. It was in a newspaper format and was published at Ft Jackson.

Myles is one of the charter members of the Association. His letter follows, and I apologize for not publishing it sooner.

Oct 6, 1988

Dear John,

I received your letter enclosing a copy of the CUB page. The picture is me. I will admit that there was a little 'drag' involved in getting the picture in the CUB paper. The inquiring reporter, Paul Mignard was a member of the MP Platoon, of which I was Staff Sergeant. Paul, who had some newspaper experience, wanted to get on the CUB staff. So I mustered what influence I could to get him on the staff. To show his appreciation he sought me out for an interview.

I saved every copy of the CUB. I was with the MP Platoon from start to finish, having come from the cadre of the 80th and staying until the division was deactivated at Camp Shanks. The Provost Marshal Major Mowlds, and I, were the only ones who had this distinction. When our 106th Organ was being set up after the war, Col Livezey (Chemical Warfare Officer) corresponded with me. He wanted to establish a complete

file on the CUB, but was short two issues, #10 and #16. Apparently I was the only one who had them, so I donated them. (I should have had photostats made of them)

Excuse my delay in answering you, but I was in the hospital. If I could get photo copies of #10 and #16 (on condition that the bill was sent to me) I would be grateful. I would like to have a complete set. I have quite a few copies of Stars and Stripes and Yank.

Brazill, Myles 106 MP

Rd 2, Box 157
Lamdisburg, PA 17040

(editor's note) - George Phillips, along with Myles Brazill (above) was one of the charter members of the 106th Infantry Division Association after it was officially formed on 15 Sept, 1945. He was our Red Cross representative. In September of 1988 I sent him a letter with a copy of a page from a CUB that was published in Karlsruhe.

Thanks John, for the copy from the Karlsruhe CUB of 1945.

It brings back memories of the 106th and the many friends I had in the division. You are correct in your letter - yes, this is the same George Phillips - but some 43 years later.

When I left the 106th I went to Heidelberg with the 7th Army as a Field Supervisor, then on to the 3rd Army, Munich, as an Asst. Regional Director.

Then on to Regensburg as a Regional Director for Southeastern Germany and Austria to Lintz.

In July of 1946 I returned to the U.S. I spent one year at Camp Atterbury and then to Fort Benjamin Harrison, returning Pennsylvania served as Executive Director for the Red Cross in Fayette County through 1955.

I then went back to the schools - served as Guidance Counselor, High School Principal for a school of over 1,000 and then on to be a school administrator until I retired in 1977.

My wife has been critically ill for the past year.

I have some interesting and somewhat exclusive stories of the 106th that I hope to get time to write one of these days.

Thanks again for the info.

George F. Phillips DIV/HQ

37 Linden Pl Belmont Cir
Uniontown, PA 15401

Congratulations for a job well done! Your expertise has made **The CUB** a fascinating magazine. I look forward to receiving each issue.

I notice with interest that several of the new members, upon joining the Association, have written and stated that they were not aware of the 106th Infantry Division Association until they read about it in the CHICAGO TIMES, which caused them to join.

You and I know that there a lot of guys out there that would like to join if they knew the Association existed. I guess all of us "old soldiers" have reached the age where we have a little time and would enjoy "going back" to those days to remember the good times and the good fellowship. Of course, we all want to forget the bad times that most of us went through, in one way or another.

Had it not been for contacting a long lost friend of mine in my home town of Hamilton, Ohio, **Don Kersteiner, 424/HQ 2BN**, whom I had not seen or talked to for over 35 years, I probably would not have known of the existence of the 106th Association.

Do you think that some of our members might have the influence, or the know how, whereby they could talk to people like the Associated Press or other National coverage outlets, that could put out a wire that the 106th Infantry Division is alive and looking for its old members?

To me that would be of the "human interest" variety on their part, and would be doing something for the former men and women of this country, who not only interrupted their careers, but risked their lives in order that this nation could be free.

Keep up the good work! I admire you for taking on such a great task.

John M. Roberts, 592/C

1059 Alter Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013

John, thanks for publishing the picture and the story of our return to Anthisnes, Belgium (Oct-Nov-Dec 1988 CUB). You did a bang up job of it with **The CUB**.

In fact **The CUB** has been simply terrific ever since you took the job over. I know it's not any easy task, but you sure have the talent for it.

We may go back to France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Hungary in April 1989, but don't suppose we'll get back to Belgium on that trip.

Mail Bag

Keep up the good work — best regards
George Sutter, 423/AT
9148 Elmwood Dr
Munster, IN

The Oct-Nov-Dec CUB was a great one, as usual. Congratulations - you can be proud of a first class publication, second to none.

Of course I am saddened that I can't get to those far-away (for me anyhow) reunions. My fragile health is the reason, but I am happy all who attended the Roanoke Reunion enjoyed it.

I enclose two more cartoons for **The CUB**. Let me know when the supply gets short.

Since re-joining the Association I've had lunch with two local 106ers, **Bill Mueller** and **Mike Cunningham** both from 424/M. I also phone a number of people, including my old company commander **Captain James B. McNinch**. I have also been in touch with Gen. Oliver B. Patton and have read his first-class book *The Silent Snow*.

Please write and add anything not covered in the current issue of *The CUB*, about the Roanoke Reunion. I must say the turnout could be considered remarkable for a reunion of its kind.

Be waiting to hear from you.

George Levine, 424/M

120 East 31st Street
Mew York, NY 10016

(editor's note) - George is a contributor to The CUB. He is a cartoonist of national and international renown. We have published his cartoons in the last several CUBs and hope to continue to do so. Thanks George for your contribution.

The above letter was from George in December - I received another in March with two more cartoons.

(George I will start publishing two cartoons in each issue.) He mentioned in this last letter that he had a "Display ad that he illustrated for a clothing shop, that appeared in a recent issue of the New York Magazine.
- John Kline

John, I have been going to write you since you took over **The CUB** from Mrs. DeHeer. Dick DeHeer and I were very close friends from K Company, 424th. He was my Mortar Sergeant and we were captured together. At Stalag IV-B we were separated. Another friend, **Mike Borello**, Wakefield, Michigan and I ended up at Stalag VIII-A, Gorlitz, Germany. I firmly belief that we were on the

same forced march as you were. We left VIII-A on Valentine's Day Feb 14th, 1945 and were liberated on April 13th at Diffurt. I am interested in seeing your list of those on the march.

I have been a member of the 106th Infantry Division Association since 1953 and served as Adjutant when our membership was less than 300. In my eight years our membership went up and I received the *Order of the Golden Lion*.

My wife **Mildred** and I have missed recent reunions because of other commitments. We have a second love - Michigan Football and the Rose Bowl.

We are planning on going on the 1989 Trip to Europe with Doug Coffey and will see many long time members of the 106th. Any thing that you can part with (about Stalag VIII-A) will be appreciated.

Robert L. (Bob) Scranton, 424/K

9441 Lee Road
Brighton, MI 48116

(editor's note) - Bob, I sent my war diary, a list of Stalag VIII-A prisoners and some other material to you on January 31st, hope you enjoyed the material. Tried to give you a call Easter, but no answer. will try again John Kline.

John, It is the right day (December 16, 1988) to write you and tell you all **The CUBs** have been great since you called me in Quincy, Illinois last year and re-enrolled me in the Association. However the Oct-Nov-Dec issue just received was the best yet!

Lord, how the memories came back as I read every word. Jim Gray's *Who's the Enemy in POW Camps?* is just exactly like it was! I've told that story many times. I would add that I recall the ersatz tea having sweetener in it every other day. So I would wash and shave with it on the off day and drink it when it was sweet.

Also the rumor in our barracks was that the guy or guys that broke into the kitchen were trying to get supplies to escape. Later that day they were caught but I never heard what happened to them. As Jim said, we did get all the fire-wood as well as the soup and black bread that evening. He neglected (probably due to space) that cigarettes were the medium of exchange. I traded my watch for two packs at the French dental office. Those cigarettes kept my buddy Jim Jones, now deceased, and me in extra soup for about a month. Guys with the "GI's"

wouldn't eat but would smoke. Hard to understand. Our goody box was stolen while we slept one night in March of '45.

Is there any better picture of Stalag IV-B? The picture in **The CUB** is the first I have ever seen of where we were.

We didn't get to Roanoke, but we are sure looking forward to Chicago. See you there.

J.H. (Jack) Watters, 423/G

9559 West Mendota
Peoria, IL 85345

(editor's note) - Jack, I don't know of any other pictures of Stalag IV-B, there is one floating around showing about a thousand guys breaking out of the camp as it was liberated. I do not have a photo of it to publish, but I would bet that a large majority of those in the picture were 106ers, along with some of the 28th Division, who were known to be there.

John, enclosed is a clipping notifying of Harold Brummer, 422/D death. I just talked to him a week or two ago on the phone.

I would like to suggest that for the next reunion, we have a sheet printed up to mailed with **The CUB**, for each member to send to the local newspapers, about the dates and location of the reunion and who to contact - maybe we can bring a few more members in. I think there should be more put in the service organizations magazines, I think we are missing a bet there.

Keep up the good work and stay well.

Carl Messina, 81st ENG/A

926 Seymour Ave
Linden, NJ 07036

(editor's note) - Carl, thanks, that is a good suggestion and I hope that when you receive this that I will have put one of those letters in with The CUB.

John, we are sorry we could not make the Roanoke Reunion, but from all the info in **The CUB** it looked like it was a good one. I was with Co. E, 116th Regiment, 29th Division in ETO after leaving the 106th in April of '44. The 106th went over after and came back before me. The 29th had their reunion in Charleston S.C. at the same time as you did in Roanoke.

I attended Morgantown, Columbia and Mobile and have only been lucky enough to meet one member I knew from Ft Jackson to Atterbury with the 106th. He was **Robert Rutt** with his wife **Lucille**. My wife and I **Margaret** saw them in Columbia, S.C. We were so happy to meet them.

My wife and I have met some beautiful

people of the 106th replacement division since our first reunion.

I was Comm Officer of the 2nd Battalion, 422 Infantry with **Colonel W.C. Scales** as my CO. I have been in correspondence with him for three years after **Col. Joe Matthews** gave me his Sweetwater, Texas address. He is now 86 years of age.

John, I want to let you know that of all the CUB publications that I have received, you have put things into perspective and with historical excerpts better and more complete than all others.

I wish to thank you personally for all the hours that you must put in.

I would very much like to hear form any of the men that were in my communications platoon from activation at Ft Jackson through Atterbury. Thanks, we hope to see you and the others in Chicago during the 1989 Reunion. I am looking forward to it.

(editor's note) - Thanks William, it's words like yours that keep me and the others that do service for the Association going. Look me up in Chicago. John Kline.

William P. Rickard Jr., 422/HQ 2BN

5500 Pineland Rd.
Richmond, VA 23234

Here is one of many, no doubts, who appreciate the good job you are doing.

The Roanoke reunion was my first and was a wonderful experience.

I have a 1944 roster, having found it on the battleground in our company area in July of 1945. This roster will returned to **Sgt James Wheeler** at the Chicago reunion this coming September.

On the roster you sent me, there appears the name "Correal, A. Donald," with the notation "424/UNIT ?" Please list him as belonging to Cannon Co., 424th Infantry Regiment.

Robert C. Maddox, 424/CN

154 Goldfinch Drive

Hackettstown, NJ 07840 *(editor's note) - Thanks for the unit designation for Correal, I have changed it to 424/CN.*

I was pleasantly surprised to get a post card from **Edward Huminski**, a former 424/F member. I had not heard from him for 45 years. Quite a thrill! Please change my name to Everitt, and city to Mantua. (it's done Everitt, sorry for the mistake in spelling, J. Kline ed.)

Mail Bag

Everitt M. Williams, 424/F

249 Wenonah Ave
Mantua, NJ

Sherod, here are my dues for 1989 and 1990.

I read an article in **The CUB** about **Allen W. Kerr** and **Bob Fitzgerald**. I don't know why Bob is not in the roster.

I met him at Morgantown the first time and again in Roanoke. He is from upper state New York. If you have his address let me know. Hope to see you in Chicago.

Your friend always, Gilbert M Fitzgerald.

(editor's note) - Anybody help Gilbert with Bob Fitzgerald's address?

Gilbert M. Fitzgerald, 424/E

521 South Linden Ave
Waynesboro, VA 22980

John, I received your letter and a copy of your diary. I enjoyed reading both of them.

There is a **William Matthews** who belongs to the same Ex POW chapter as me. He said that he was in the same camps as you and was on the long march from Gorlitz Stalag VIII-A. I loaned him your diary about a month ago, gave him a copy of **The CUB** and an application. I sent an application to **Alvie Stroud** and haven't heard from him. I also sent one to **Joe Istok**. Joe said he would not join, but sent the application to **Clifford Broadwater**. I don't know Broadwater very well. However, he did send me a letter stating that he had submitted the application.

In the March '89 Ex POW bulletin, page 19, there is a photo of **Joe Guigno**, **Dan Steckler** and **Ray Moser**. They were in Berga with me. There were three hundred and fifty of us and those that were still alive marched from there in April '45. We marched south and a **Bob Gusse** and I escaped near Hof, Germany. We were back in American hands on about April 21, 1945.

Under the Ex POW picture it states that only 120 survived. I don't really know how many died or how many were shot.

I see names of people of the 106th, but don't remember too many names, but when they tell me something about themselves I remember them. I did not remember Clifford Broadwater by name, but when he stated he joined the Anti-Tank Co. as MSgt in June '44, about the time I did, then I

remembered him.

As I told you, I stayed in the Army 26 years and retired in 1969 as a Sergeant Major. I was back to Germany from Oct '47 to Oct '48, then January '49 to July '52 and then again from June '59 to January '64.

Both the second and third tours I traveled a lot, especially on the last one.

I never re-visited the battle area and had no desire to do so. I visited Stalag IX-B several times, I never visited Berga primarily because it is in East Germany.

I was in Bleialf, Prum and Gerolstein then by box-car to Bad Orb, then marched to the camp about 5 Kilometers. I think we arrived sometime during Christmas Night and marched to the camp on the day after Christmas. The train was bombed and strafed during the trip to Bad Orb.

In February of '45 350 of us were transferred to Berga. We worked digging tunnels in a mountain. We worked seven days a week and got the third Sunday off.

We lived in a barracks on the hill and marched to work. We moved to another barracks much closer to the tunnels. At this barracks we were close the Jewish Concentration Camp, but the guards would not allow us to talk to them.

I landed back in the States on May 5, 1945. I believe we landed at LaGuardia. Were supposed to land at Mitchell Field, but couldn't for some reason, so we landed at LaGuardia and were taken to Mitchell for the week-end and on Monday I went to Tilton Army Hospital at Fort Dix, NJ.

From 1947 to '52 I was assigned to Intelligence and did some traveling. I spent a few days at **Oberursel** which was used by part of our Headquarters. It had been a **Dulag Luft**. During the '59 to '64 tour I traveled through **Limburg**, **Nienburg** and other places. I didn't know that there had been a prison camp at **Nienburg**.

My wife is from Frankfurt am Main. We returned for a visit of about 25 days in October of 1985.

I believe if I ever go to Europe again I will try to visit **Bleialf** and **Gerolstein** and maybe **St. Vith** and some of the battlefield areas.

I believe there were two IX-C camps because on a map I saw I saw IX-C was at **Bad Sulza** and we were at **Berga**. Also I see in the EX POW Bulletin are listed as being at IX-C and I don't remember any Air Corp

boys at Berga.

Keep up the good work as editor, I hope to see you in Chicago.

(Jesse O. Kershner

17 Ridgewood Pky
Newport New, VA 23602

editor's note) - Jesse, thanks for the nice letter. I am sure many of the 106ers will get a lot of information from it. It's hard at times to print some of the longer letters for they are repeats of other letters that appear along the way, but this one from you was so informative that I chose to print it in almost all of its entirety.

A couple of personal notes. I spent my first night as a prisoner in the church yard at Bleialf. I did not get aboard the trains at Gerolstein, but spent some time in an old army installation outside town, marching on Christmas day towards Koblenz, then on the Limburg.

It is interesting that you landed on May 5, 1945 for I did also. I landed at Mitchell Field, Long Island. Our plane, a C-54, had an engine changed in the Azores on the way back, or was it Newfoundland, anyhow we landed at Mitchell, for they told us LaGuardia was closed. We landed just before breakfast and twenty three of us finished off a basket of bananas while the cooks were preparing our breakfast. We later, after cleaning up, were allowed to go to homes in the area for Sunday dinner. I then was flown on Monday to Indianapolis, Indiana (Billings General Hospital).

If you ever get back to the battle area, look up the fellows from CRIBA, who were mentioned in Lt. Donald Beseler's feature story in the Jan-Feb-Mar 1989 CUB. They are very helpful in finding the remaining visible signs of the areas and they also are well versed on the 106th's part in the battles.

Dear Mr. Kline, I have only recently become a member of the 106th Infantry Division Association, having heard about it from a newspaper item in the **Chicago Sun Times**.

Could you please send me something on the 106th Infantry Division Memorial at St. Vith.

I am sure **The CUB** must have had some information about its construction and when it came into being. It is my hope to travel back to that area in early 1990 after my retirement.

I enjoyed the article on the **AQUITANIA**. I had the good fortune of returning on this same ship in late April 1945 when it made a return voyage as a Hospital Ship. Of course the amenities were much different than on our trip over to Europe in late October 1944. It was taken out of service and

scrapped in February 1950 according to a **NEWSWEEK** article that I read in 1950.

Bernard E. Ingersoll, 424/E

14804 South Michigan Ave
Dolton, IL 60419

(editor's note) - Bernard, I will try to look up some of the articles about the Memorial in the old CUBs. I don't think we have a brochure on the subject. I am sure they (the articles) are there. I know that many of our members have traveled back there and I do recall seeing articles by Douglas Coffey, our Memorial Chairman, about his returns to Europe and I believe there was one CUB that was devoted most entirely to the dedication. I will send a photostat copy of it. If I don't have it I am sure Doug would. His address is 2236 Arnet St., Port Charlotte, FL 33948

John, thanks for another fine issue of **The CUB**, the life line of the organization.

I don't know of another magazine I read from cover to cover as I do **The CUB**. You certainly put together a lot of interesting information. We are fortunate to have your inspiration and talent to produce it for us.

I'm sorry I missed the December Minneapolis gathering celebrating December 16th. I was in the hospital and had no choice.

Please know that you are appreciated and not taken for granted. The day **The CUB** arrives all other mail is set aside.

Thanks for your kind phone call.

Jim

H. M. Jim Hatch, DIV/HQ

2830 East Road
Wayzata, MN 55391

John, first of all I must say that you must be a big part of the success of the 106th organization. Everything done on time and orderly.

I joined, received my membership card, **The CUB** magazine and in the second one you already had me listed as a new member, with a neat note with your touch to it - thank you.

When my mother died a couple of years ago, I cleaned up the house and found a V-Mail letter that I sent to my father.

I drew the picture on V-Mail and sent it July 6, 1945 from France. The copy I am giving you is a photostatic copy which I would like to see in the May issue if possible, that is if you have room.

Thanks.

Mail Bag

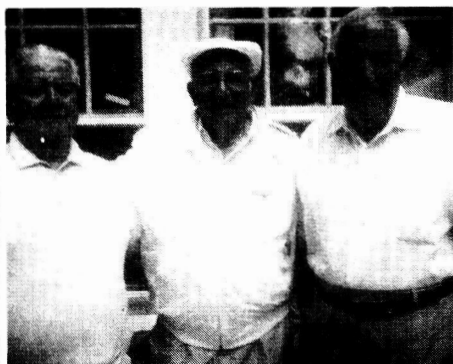
James J. Klein, 589/HQ

1315 Travis Street
LaCrosse, WI 54601

(editor's note) - Jim, I know others would like to see what talent you had in the year of '45 - do you still do art work? We could use a few sketches once in a while. My intentions are to print the picture - I think other members would enjoy it. It certainly carried the theme of the times and shows that you have talent with the pen or was it pencil.

Jim,

I ran out of room on this CUB, will publish the fine drawing in the next one. Sometimes it all don't come out the way I plan it. At the last minute I have to cut and paste.



L/R John Cassidy, John Rosalia, Roger Sisson
First meeting in 30 years with Sisson, Rosalia and Cassidy have been meeting for 44 years..
Want to hear from 423/C men

1991 REUNION Where?

New Port, Rhode, Island?

Manuel C. Silvia, 422/G writes; Suggestion for the 1991 reunion if the Association is interested. A beautiful spot by the water. They are equipped to handle the Association plus the tours. Manuel also included a picture of the beautiful area.

St. Louis, Missouri?

George G. White writes — St. Louis is an ideal spot for the 1991 reunion for the 106th Infantry Division Association. Plenty of hotels, centrally located in respect to the U.S.

The St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission will assist in every way.

If you are interested in coming to St. Louis, I will be happy to host a meeting at my office to form a local committee. There is an active group of 106th veterans that meet in Mt Vernon, Illinois, near here.

Do let me know if you wish to further consider the fine facilities and the central location that St. Louis offers for the next open Annual Reunion.

(editor's note — The St. Louis Convention Commission have forwarded a convention packet of information.)

NASA Space Center, Huntsville, Alabama?

John Gilliland, 592/SV called — He said, that the NASA Space Center has a lot to offer for a reunion of our type. Tours, Exhibits and the whole ball of wax. He asked that we mention this in The CUB.

Any other ideas? I have also received a packet from the Minneapolis, Minnesota Convention Center Bureau. All volunteers take two steps forward.

Think about where you would like to meet.

by Dale R. Carver 424/HQ A&P Platoon

*Shattered trunks and branches littered the forest floor.
The Pine Tree trembled, whispered "I will rise once more."
Standing by itself, riven, and black with smoke,
"Man plays with fire; I will rise," a promise from the Oak,
I heard their lesser sisters in the forest sigh
"We only know to always lift our branches to the sky."
In the shell-torn meadow, a murmur from the grass
"I am Earth's great healer; all of this shall pass."*

In Memoriam

Carthel E. "Tex" Noe, 423/M

565 Harvard
Gladstone, Oregon 97027

Carthel and his wife, Julia, were charter members of the Williamette Valley Chapter of the American Ex-POW. At the time of his death, March 9, 1989, Tex was the Commander, Julia was Secretary.

James D. Downing, 424/M

PO Box 642
South Haven, Michigan 49090

Frank Borberly, 424/M reported that James died February 18, 1989. He was born August 3, 1924. No other word or details.

Col. John J. Madden, 590/HQ

1305 Oakhurst Ave
Los Altos, California 94022

Word was received of Colonel Madden's death, but no other details. We believe it was during 1988.

One of the children of Leo J. Brogan, 87 Mount Vernon St, Lowell, Mass 01854 writes that Leo's wife Alice passed away on Christmas day, 1988. Leo is an Association member from 423/D.

**106th INFANTRY DIVISION REUNION
AUGUST 31st to SEPTEMBER 3rd, 1989**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1989

12 Noon - 5:00 p.m. Registration

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 1989

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration	
10:30 a.m.	Board busses for a Day at the Races	} (Optional Tour)
	Arlington Race Track with lunch	
7:00 p.m.	Welcome Reception — Beer, Wine, Cheese & Snacks with a Disc Jockey	

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1989

8:00 a.m.	Sit-down Breakfast
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration
9:30 a.m.	Board busses to Long Grove — lunch on your own
4:30 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1989

8:00 a.m.	Sit-down Breakfast
10:30 a.m.	Memorial Service
12:30 p.m.	Women's Luncheon and Entertainment
12:30 p.m.	Men's Luncheon and Business Meeting
3:30 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting
6:00 p.m.	Cocktails — Cash Bar
7:00 p.m.	Dinner
9:00 p.m. - 12 Midnight	Dancing to Ron Smolen and his Orchestra

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1989

7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Buffet Breakfast & Farewells — "till we meet in Sacramento, CA"
-----------------------	---