

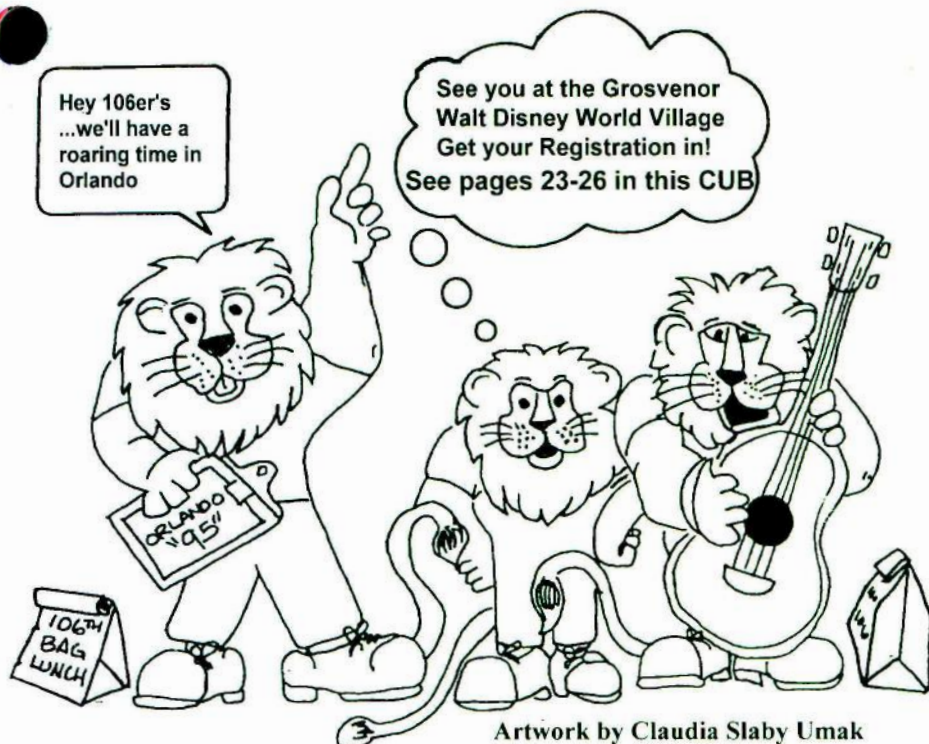
The CUB

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

of the
GOLDEN LION

Vol 51 — No. 3

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Artwork by Claudia Slaby Umak

49th Annual Reunion, Orlando, Florida Sept 7-8-9, 1995

The CUB

*The official publication
of the
106th Infantry Division
Association, Inc
1994 - 1995*

Membership fees include CUB subscription.

Association membership 04/23/95 1,667 members

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Send editorial matter and photos to:

John P. Kline - CUB Editor

5401 U. 147th St. W., Apple Valley, MN 55124-6637
612-423-4837

Business matters, deaths, address changes to:

Pete House - Adjutant

5662 Clifton Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32211
904-724-8316

Memorial matters and inquiries to:

Dr John G. Robb - Memorial Chairman

238 Devore Dr., Meadville, PA 16355
814-333-6364

Membership dues, Memorial Fund
contributions and Historical items to:

Sherod Collins - Treasurer

448 Monroe Trace, Kennesaw, GA 30144
404-928-3207

**The Life Membership fee is payable one time
only, with no annual dues thereafter.**

Life Membership \$ 75.00
Life Auxiliary \$ 15.00
Life Associate \$ 75.00

**For those choosing to pay Annual dues, pay
by July 1 each year. (July 1 to July 1 term)**

Annual Membership \$10.00
Annual Auxiliary \$ 2.00
Annual Associate \$10.00

Make checks payable to

"106th Infantry Division Association."

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Alphabetical by year term expires.

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916-481-3353

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605-983-5827

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Col. Joseph Matthews 422/HQ (Life)
4706 Western Blvd. Raleigh, NC 27606
919-851-4851

President's Mid-Year Report ...

The months of December and January were largely a battle between a severe case of bronchitis, antibiotics and doctors. Final tests with X-Rays, Cat Scans, EEG, and MRI's determined that I was free of the bug. My energy level has returned along with a weight gain. Since my severe cancer operation in 1985, I have no problems in life - only "Challenges and Opportunities."

Our staff and Board Members kept things rolling, as they usually do, in that period.

Most of us were given a severe stress lesson in December, 1944. The 50th Anniversary provided some of us with opportunities to attend celebrations, both domestically and in Europe.

I would like to use my column, in this issue, to make a MID-YEAR report. I have been working closely with all of the chairman. I am proud of the work they have accomplished and thank them for that. To do so I will give you a synopsis of each of their reports.

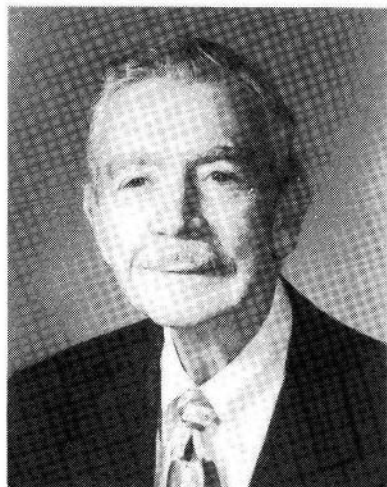
Richard L. Rigatti, 1st V.P. - Rigatti is progressing nicely on establishing some guidelines to keep a smooth progression of the 16 December Commemorative get-togethers, by soliciting volunteer chairmen in the areas that have not, in the past, held these "mini-reunions." He would like for the existing "organizers" of these territorial reunions, as well as any new sponsor, to establish a back-up committee in case the present sponsor should become unable to continue the local gatherings. As we get older and the national reunions get harder to attend, we feel that the "mini-reunions" will be the supportive groups for the veterans of the 106th Infantry Division.

Dick is also acting as liaison with the Roanoke, Virginia reunion Committee, which will be under his presidency in '95 - '96.

Elizabeth Bowles/Fred J. Farris, Co-Chairs , Roanoke, 50th Annual Reunion Committee - report - In the heart of the Shenandoah Valley of historic Virginia, you will be welcomed to the 50th Annual Reunion. Southern hospitality awaits you and your families at the adjoining Marriott and Sheraton Hotels. Mark your calendars now! Complete information will appear in the Jul-Aug-Sep issue of *The CUB*. **The dates for the reunion are : August 14-18, 1996**

Major Hill, 2nd V.P. - Hill, along with a group of 106th veterans, attended a dedication ceremony of the new memorial, that is replacing the aged one, in St. Vith. Hill's activities were reported in the Oct-Nov-Dec 1994 CUB magazine.

John Kline, CUB editor - continues his excellent work with *The CUB*. The last two issues were crammed with worthwhile stories. He is starting the research



106th Infantry Association President
Thomas J. Riggs, Jr., 1994-1995
CO, 81st Combat Engineers Battalion

work on his next book which will contain material from the two file drawer stories, reports and miscellaneous information that he has accumulated since 19 the year he took over as editor. He apologizes that he hadn't gotten deeply into the project, which he intended to do during the winter, for he had sort of a bad "personal year" which interfered with the start of his new works. The book will be of the same quality and size as *The CUB PASSES in REVIEW* that he produced in 1991. Nearly 2,250 copies of that book have been printed, with only 40 left in stock.

Kline also delivered to me, recently, the minutes of the South Dakota Board meetings. There are always two board meetings, the old board and then a day later the new board with the new members. Because of Rutledge's death it was decided that we would use a local court reporter to transcribe the minutes, which is a word for word report. As it turned out there were two booklets, 68 pages each, of transcriptions that were presented to Kline, our acting adjutant. He condensed each of these 68 page reports into two eight page reports, with copies to each of the board members and the new adjutant, Pete House.

Pete House, Adjutant - our new adjutant, who is working closely with me, in his mid-year report, states that he is finally starting to get into it. House, who was appointed at the South Dakota Reunion, replaced the late Boyd Rutledge, he says, after a slow start due to ill health, and then a learning curve on a new computer along with absorbing the new duties that ended up in his lap, has by now integrated all the prior adjutants records into his computer. The roster of over 1,667 members is also supplemented by the rosters updated by Sherod Collins, treasurer and John Kline, editor who uses his copy for the mailing labels. This gives us redundancy in the case any information is lost.

House reports that he has obtained a plastic laminator to be used for the Membership cards. This process used to be done at a local shop and House found the new laminator to be efficient and precludes him running back and forth to the print shops.

In closing his mid-year report he House states that he is looking for an "assistant" adjutant to carry on his work in case something prevents him from doing so. If you have an interest, let him know.

Sherod Collins, Treasurer/Historian and Chair of the Order of the Golden Lion Award - has the rewritten "*Order of the Golden Lion*" in hand. This was modified slightly by the board at the South Dakota Board Meeting. The major change being that the required vote for the "Golden Award" has been reduced from 100% to 90% to preclude a board member from voting for himself, and to preclude the exclusion of a worthy nominee being excluded by the vote of one dissenting person. Also, a new committee consisting of five members was appointed to manage the input and screening of potential nominees for the "Order." All nominees pass through the committee, then those screened pass to the adjutant to take a roll count of the board.

Jack Sulser, 50th Anniversary Commemoration Representative - attended the 50th Anniversary Celebration meeting of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. There were over 2,300 veterans in attendance at the St. Louis meeting. The

106th Infantry Division was well represented with 106th veterans from all over the USA.

John Robb, Memorial Chairman - has been following the memorial activities, with nothing new pending at the moment.

Jerome Eisenman, Chairman, Scholarship Committee - reports an increase in "Scholarship" requests, a record number, and a broad request to establish a "Scholarship Fund" for voluntary contributors. Since the St. Vith Memorial will be maintained by the St. Vith School, funds normally allocated to it could be used for the Scholarship Fund. At least any new contributions could be used. This will be discussed at the next Board Meeting in Orlando.

Gil Helwig, Chairman, Memberships - Gil has recruited 443 members from January 1988 through February 1995. He reports that he has sent only 35 letters for the fiscal year Sept 94-95, but will continue to seek out new members. The 50th Anniversary Year with it's many TV film clips did create some interest from veterans, but it appears that this interest is dwindling as time rolls on. He gave me a complete detailed report of which an updated copy will be read to the board at the Orlando Reunion. Gil's efforts in replenishing the membership is instrumental in the membership standing at this moment at 1,670. It reached a peak two years ago at 1,703. Remarkable considering the "Battle of Time."

O. Paul Merz, Atterbury Memorial Representative - reports that Memorial Services will be held on July 16, 1995 at 11:00 A.M. at the Memorial Wall. Please mark your calendars and attend, if possible. A business meeting will be held at 9:00 AM. the same day. It lasts for one hour. I have accepted an invitation to attend the Memorial Service as a representative of the 106th Infantry Division Association.

John A. Swett, Chairman, Nominating Committee - reports that the board will have four vacancies to fill. To date there have been eight recommendations to fill those positions. The committee will screen these recommendations and will choose four, by May 31, 1995, to fill the vacancies, with some alternates in case one of the four cannot fulfill the obligation.

John Riels, Chairman, Orlando, 49th Annual Reunion Committee - 1995 - reports due to increased activity on registrations, that they have increased their "set-aside" rooms reservation from 300 to 350. As of the first part of April there were 260 room reservations for 490 occupants. However, there were only about 150 "Reunion Registrations" that had been sent in. Please mail your "Reunion Registrations" in now. It is important that the committee have your registration in-hand.

Looking forward to seeing you at Orlando. Again, thank you for your support during my recent illness.

I especially want to thank all the committee persons for their timely submissions of the mid-year reports.

Thomas J. Riggs, Jr., president

106th Infantry Division Association 1994-1995



Reverend Ewell C. Black Jr., Chaplain
422/A - 106th Inf. Div. Assoc.
212 Ridge St., Bishopville, SC 29010
803-484-6861

There was a saying during World War II ... "there are no atheists in Fox Holes." The meaning of this was that those in combat situations understood the need for faith in a Supreme Being. Thus it was understood that whether one was in a plane, on a ship, in a Fox Hole, a POW, or other such dangerous situation; that person recognized the need to believe in a Power greater than self. **The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."** (Psalm 14:1)

Not one of us at that particular time in our life would have passed for a "Fool" although there may have been times before or since when faith may have wavered.

The story is told of an evangelist named E.L. Hyde who was conducting revival meetings in New Jersey a number of years ago. In the course of his remarks he would say that he could prove, to the satisfaction of any atheist, in ten minutes, that he was a fool. He little expected that he would have the opportunity to do so.

The next morning while out walking a man accosted him abruptly by saying, "Aren't you the evangelist preaching up here at the church?" "Yes, Sir," replied Mr. Hyde.

"Well I supposed you were a gentleman." Hyde replied, "I claim to be one."

"Well, I don't think you are one. Didn't you say last night that you could prove, to the satisfaction of anyone, within ten minutes, that all atheists are fools? If you do prove it to my satisfaction, I will publish you in all the city papers as the most consummate liar that ever struck this city."

Seeing that there was no possibility of reasoning with the man, Mr. Hyde said, "Where is your atheist?" "I claim to be one," the man replied, "and I want you to know that I am no fool, either." Hyde countered, "You mean to say there is no reality in God?"

"I do, Sir, I have studied all phases of the subject. I have traveled and lectured against God for more than twelve years, am prepared to say there is nothing to it."

"You are certain there is nothing to it." "Yes, Sir, there is nothing to it."

"Will you please tell me," said My Hyde, "if a man will lecture for twelve years against nothing is not a fool, what in your judgement, would you constitute a fool?"

The man turned away in a rage. Mr. Hyde, drawing out his watch, insisted he still had six minutes. But the atheist would not hear him, nor was Mr. Hyde published in the city papers to be a consummate liar.

(copied from Wesleyan Methodist)

"Father God, help us to know you in times of danger and, also, each day in our lives that we may walk close to you and be in your care day and night."

Thanks for all the Cubs

To all of you who responded for the past CUBs I requested in this column, last issue. THANK YOU. I was amazed at the number I received.

Thanks to:

Anderson, Toby
 Ashburn, Nolan
 Barsema, Don
 Beaver, Johnnie
 Bickford, Flo - in memory of Tom
 Bradfield, Kenneth
 Carr, Ed
 Checca, Mario
 Dahlen, William S
 De St Aubin, Robert
 Dickerson, Myrton
 Gunvalson, Russ
 Howell, Robert
 Kenney, Francis T.
 Laursen, Al
 LoMonaco, John
 March, Albert R.
 Mathews, Walter A.
 Mosilf, Bill
 Mosley, Rev. Ronald
 Peterson, Dr. Richard W.
 Raby, Glynn
 Richter, Ralph
 Schlessner, John P.
 Schuetz, Ken
 Stephens, George
 Tuorila, Dr. James
 Van Moorlehem, Dennis
 Vezina, John

Wojahn, Edward - and to any I may have missed.

Many of the above sent multiple copies of old CUBs. They will used, as time goes by, for others seeking information.

Again, THANKS!!!

John Kline, CUB editor

FLASH - 1995 ORLANDO REUNION BULLETIN !!!!!!!!!!!

As of March 11, 1995 there were 442 people that had made HOTEL reservations for 226 rooms, but only 113 have sent REUNION REGISTRATIONS to the committee..

It is **IMPORTANT** that you let the committee know that you intend to go, by submitting your registration blank.

You can always cancel your registration, in case of illness or other emergencies, **WITH FULL REFUND** up to August 6, 1995. see page 27 of last issue of the CUB. **DON'T WAIT, SEND YOUR REGISTRATION FEES AND PAPERS TO THE COMMITTEE NOW!**

Registration packets for the **49th ANNUAL REUNION** in Orlando, Sept 7-8-9 were sent in January.

If you have not received your packet, maybe because you are a new member, or the packet got lost in the mail, contact the committee at the following address and you will receive a packet by return mail.

106th Infantry Division Reunion
c/o Focal Point
2867 Stonewall Place
Sanford, FL 32773 OR

Call Dick Sparks 904-789-4692 for the packet or any question on the reunion facilities or schedule. TOURS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE REGISTRATION FEE.

There are so many Tours and attractions (TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE HOTEL) in the nearby Walt Disney World, EPCOT Center, Disney/MGM Studios and Disney resorts that there are tours leaving the hotel every hour or so. We felt that groups of you could pick your own entertainment/tours rather than have scheduled Association tours.

ANNUAL PAY MEMBERSHIP CARDS

THIRD NOTICE: This notice appeared in the Oct-Nov-Dec 1994 CUB. As directed by the annual board meeting decisions, members paying ANNUAL DUES will not receive a membership card. The expiration date of your membership will appear, and has been for a long time, on The CUB envelope. Be sure to check that label. If there are any corrections to made please notify the Adjutant, Pete House.

ADDRESS CHANGES ARE IMPORTANT:

It costs 2.99 to retrieve a CUB that has been sent to an expired address. Please let us know your winter address. PLEASE....

PLEASE NOTE !!!!!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES
are due and payable by July 1, 1995.

**PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES
PROMPTLY.** They are due the same time each year. Each year a special notice has to be sent out to collect past due memberships.

**REMEMBER - ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP FEES
ARE DUE AND PAYABLE
BY
JULY 1, 1995**

**SEND YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES
TO**

Sherod Collins, Treasurer
448 Monroe Trace
Kennesaw, GA 30144

MISSING IN ACTION - LISTING

If you know any details on the follow, please write to the CUB editor whose address appears, always, on the inside front cover of every CUB.

The following CUB envelopes from the last issue, were returned:

Kenneth Thiesen, 806 ORD, Racine Wisconsin.

Edward Zabkar, 81st ENG/B, Fort Myers, Florida..

Eugene Schmalzried, 422/A, Huntington, Indiana.

William Darby, 422/D, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Anna Maria Matthews, ASSOCIATE, Greenville, North Carolina.

Golden Lion Patches

Shoulder patches \$2.50

Blazer patch \$6.50

The Blazer patch is four inches in diameter, with the Association name circle around the regular shoulder patch.

These are replicas of the original, not an exact match, but very close

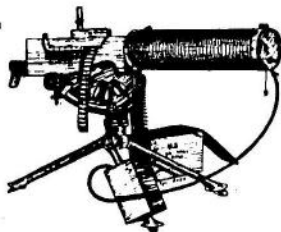
Order from the ADJUTANT. Address on the inside front cover of CUB.

CUB PASSES IN REVIEW

Less than forty left in existence (for sale). Send your \$18.50 to the Treasurer.

After they are gone, there will be no more printed.

Treasurer's address on inside front cover of CUB.



Statement of content of articles appearing in *The CUB*...

Information contained in this magazine is for the reading enjoyment of the members of the 106th Infantry Division Association. Articles and letters appearing in this publication by members **are not edited for historical accuracy**, they are the thoughts and beliefs of the member as he remembers the facts as he writes them.

We are not all historians, (EVENTHEY ARE NOT CORRECT AT TIMES), we are merely one of the players in the vast experiences of our life and enjoy sharing our life and thoughts with our comrades who seem to enjoy reading our views and comments..

On different occasions, as the *CUB* editor, I have been accused, in writing, of furthering the lies about the facts revolving around the 106th Infantry Division in Europe. (Reason: I published some facts that a person felt was incorrect.) The same statement was made, by the same person, when I announced that I was compiling information from the old *CUBs* and other sources, to write the book *The CUB of the Golden Lion: PASSES in Review*.

These statements were made to me in a personal letter, or in another case as comments in a personal letter to another person after which copies of the original letters were distributed to the kibitzer's "unknown mailing list." This person, an Association member, refuses to divulge, to me, his mailing list recipients in order for me to refute, correct, or argue the point. What is fair? I think a statement is in order:

The facts as I state in the last paragraph give me reason to say, "That the stories and articles published in *The CUB* are not the views of the 106th Infantry Division Association or the editor unless it is in reference to Association business."

John Kline, editor

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Annual Membership cards are no longer being issued. Look on the label of your *CUB* magazine to see the expiration date. If you are a LIFE members it will say "LIFE."

If you are an ANNUAL Member it will say "06/30" the year you are paid up to eg: "06/30/96." or "06/30/95."

IT'S TIME TO RENEW (if you are an annual member)

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR JULY 1, 1995 to JUNE 30, 1996 MEMBERSHIP FEES, PLEASE SUBMIT THEM BY JUNE 30, 1995.

EXTRA COPIES of *CUB*

The cost for each extra copy of any issue of *The CUB* is \$2.50 payable to the **106th Infantry Division Association** and mailed to the treasurer. See his address in the inside front cover of this *CUB*.

Do not send requests and checks to the editor.

BOARD MEMBER NOMINEES WANTED

If you have a desire to become a Board Member of the 106th Infantry Division Association, write to:

Board Nominating Committee

John Swett, Chairman
19W229 Old Tavern Rd
Oak Brook, IL 60521
Tele: 602-722-6016

When you write, give John a resume of your experience that you think would qualify you as a Board Member.

Any nominee to the Board of Directors must be a paid-up active member of the Association, having had served as a member of the 106th Infantry Division.

Important 1995 Scholarship Committee Announcement

Scholarships will again be given in 1995 to descendants of living and deceased members of the 106th Infantry Division Association.

Descendants have been defined by the Board of Directors to include:

Children and Grandchildren

Children are defined as the member's natural children and children acquired through marriage or adoption or as foster children **AND** who live in the member's household when they were minor's.

Grandchildren are defined as the children of the children defined above

Nieces, Nephews, Grandnieces and Grandnephews

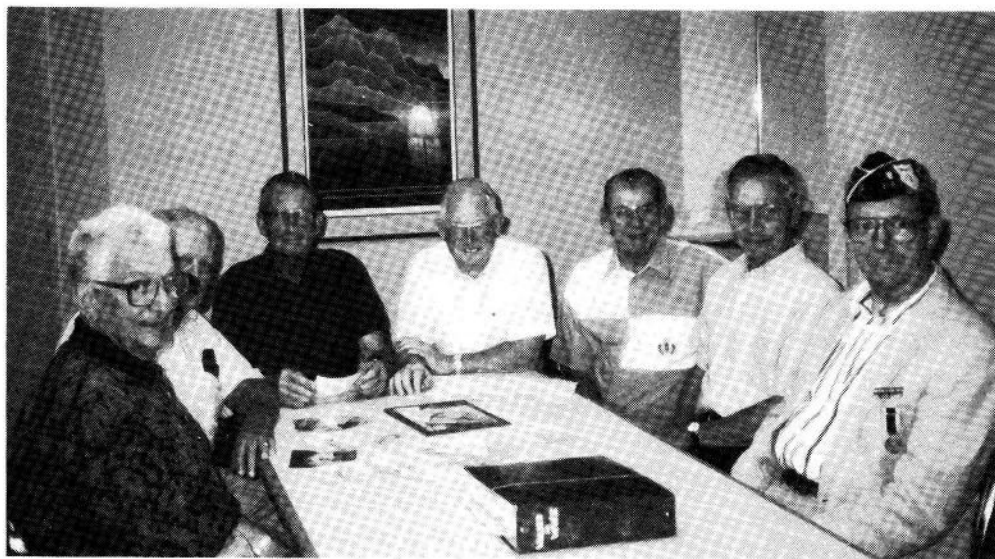
Applicants must be nominated by a member of the Association or his widow, if he was a member at death. Member's letters of nomination must state their relationship to the applicant.

Scholarship Value

The Board of Directors has authorized \$4,000 for scholarships. Depending on the number of successful candidates, there may be anywhere from eight scholarships of \$500 to four of \$1,000. To receive an application for the scholarship please write to:

**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
106TH INFANTRY DIV. ASSOC.
JERRY EISENMAN, CHAIRMAN
227 BUENA VISTA AVENUE
DALY CITY, CA. 94015-2120**

Deadline for submitting application and accompanying material is 30 May 1995.



Seven former Prisoners of War, 106th Inf Div. met in Chattanooga, Tenn. Two of them, John Forsyth and Martin Jones were with the group for the first time in 50 years.
L/R - Louis Nardonne, PA; Ivon York, GA; Lee Darby, GA;
John Forsythe, PA; Billy Moore, LA; Martin Jones, KS; and Walter Adams, TN

BOOK REVIEW - *GENERALS OF THE ARDENNES*

American Leadership in the Battle of the Bulge

Authored by J.D. Morelock, Institute for National Strategic Studies

National Defense University, 1994

Reviewed by Jack Sulser, 423/F, Assoc. Pres., '92/'93

This book is a serious attempt to assess the performance of US generals from Eisenhower through Bruce Clarke. The author, an Army colonel, devoted ten years of research during several assignments; it earned him his current post as Director of the Combat Studies Institute of the Command and General Staff College. He believes that, while Bastogne captured public acclaim for 50 years, it was St.Vith and Elsenborn Ridge which doomed the German plan to failure.

Morelock recounts the life and previous experience of each general before evaluating their contribution to the initial setbacks and eventual, limited success of the Battle. "Limited" because Ike failed to "energize" Montgomery, in particular, to launch counterattacks to prevent the escape of sizable German forces. The US Army's decision at the onset of the war to limit itself to 90 divisions and Ike's insistence on maintaining the offensive on both northern and southern fronts meant that some sector had to be thinly defended. He and Bradley chose the Ardennes because it was least suited to offensive action and exposed few strategic objectives. "While these conditions afforded the enemy prospects of success, Ike is credited with reacting promptly and directing troop movements over Bradley's initial objections that sealed off the German advance. While Morelock did not use such grades, his conclusions suggest that Ike earned an A- or B+, Bradley and Hodges a D or F, and Patton a C at most. Of the three army commanders involved, Ninth Army's Simpson emerges with an A for responding quickly and offering the bulk of forces that stemmed the tide.

Army's Hodges is faulted for everything, including failing to expedite road clearances for the 7th Armored that might have gotten it to St.Vith sooner.

Corps Commander Middleton, who had tried for weeks before the 106th arrived to get First Army approval to withdraw the two regiments from the Schnee Eifel, is blamed for not ordering their withdrawal the day the assault began. He is credited with managing delaying actions by remnants of the 28th Division and limited engineer reserves that made the defense of Bastogne possible and earns overall, perhaps, a C+ or even B-. General Jones and the 106th are effectively granted an "excused" as "victims of adverse circumstances over which they had no control," including loss of 6000 of their trained infantrymen before going overseas, lack of time to train fill-ins, newly arrived at front in poor positions not of their choosing, unluckily placed at key point of enemy attack, and lack of guidance from more experienced higher headquarters. Clarke emerges as the outstanding leader of the Battle, clearly deserving an A or even A+, for his "masterful mobile defense" of St.Vith. Clarke, the only commander still alive during the author's research, spent hours with him and made available his unpublished writings. Of the few officers cited below the rank of general, our current Association President, Tom Riggs, earns very honorable mention.

Morelock's overall judgment: leadership failures at the strategic level gave the enemy chances and led to the surrender of two regiments, but actions at the tactical, operational level, such as the defense of St.Vith and Parker's Crossroads, combined to turn a potentially disastrous situation into victory.

Generals of the Ardennes is available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Mail Stop: SSOP, Washington, DC 20402-9328.



Headquarters Co., 423rd Combat Infantry Regiment

John Riels, who submitted this picture three years ago, is Chairman of the 49th Annual Reunion, Orlando, Florida, 7-8-9-10, September.

You might compare this with the actual person, that is, if you attend the reunion.

Top Row - Pfc Gilbert F. Hardesty; Pvt Harry J. Kauffman, Jr; Sgt. Clair A. Renninger;
Bottom Row - S/Sgt Paul A. Palo; Cpl Francis E. Keener and Cpl John O. Riels



Charles Johansen

10 Dellacono Rd RD#1

Lake Carmel, NY

10512-9811

914-225-3736

writes:

I was with the 106th from March 1945 to Sept 1945. I am on the left in picture. I was with the 592nd FAB at Heilbronn.

Does anybody recognize any of the other three 592nd FAB men.

It would help me identify what Battery I was in.

Tribute to a Father

Submitted by Ted Slaby 423/HQ I&R

Written by Dan Johnson (1994)

son of John C. "Johnny" Johnson
423rd/HQ I&R Platoon

I am Dan Johnson, son of John C. "Johnny" Johnson, who served in the 423rd Inf Reg I&R Platoon.

A few months ago, I wrote a letter to my father for Father's Day (1994). It occurred to me that the thanks I gave him, belong not only to him, but to all that served with him. It may be a decades late, but better late than never.

Dad, On this Father's Day, 1994, I write to give thanks for something that you and the men of your generation did before I was born. In the decades since World War II, there has been no other conflict of such importance, and it has been easy for those of my age to forget the cost of victory.

Those of us now in our 30's and 40's learned our ideas of war from Vietnam - an obscure country's civil war, a country with no historical ties to us, in which many of the people our soldiers went to defend, did not want their help.

Right and wrong in that war was hard to define. Vietnam had no Pearl Harbor, No Holocaust, no German submarines off our coast, no fear that the Japanese would bomb San Francisco.

Those a little older than me, grew up with Korea, which ended in stalemate and frustration.

Those younger than me know only an easy victory - the Gulf war was over in the blink of an eye.

Since from your war, there has been no need for an entire generation of men to risk their lives to preserve freedom, so it has been easy to forget that anyone did so.

Oddly, your war seems much closer now than it did in my youth. World War II ended only 12 years before my birth; it seemed long ago. Now we approach 50 years, and it seems a recent thing. I see pictures of the Cliffs of Normandy, with the beaches below, and imagine with awed horror how thousands of young men waded ashore with nothing to protect them from the fire from the cliffs. I know I have never done anything remotely as courageous, and probably never will. I have never faced such hardship and I realize that all those happy Christmases since could have never happened without the self-sacrifices made by you and other like you.

To many people my age, the phrase "The price of freedom is buried in the ground," seems like a cliché. It is NOT a cliché - it is TRUE. I know that 50 years ago Allied soldiers, truly, did save the world. Dad, I thank you for it.

With love and admiration..... Dan

**To All Of You, who have not paid your
1995-1996 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES.**

**PLEASE SUBMIT THEM NOW!
YOUR CUB WILL NOT BE MAILED
UNLESS YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES
ARE PAID BY JULY 1, 1995 !!!**

Don't Miss Your CUB

Don't Miss Your CUB



Northern California - 1994

Michael Thome, 1712 - 40th Street, Sacramento, CA 95819

Sorry for the late report - The luncheon was held at the Beverly Garland Hotel, Scaramento, CA, hosted by John Gregory and Michael Thome.

Men: **l/r Rear Row** - John Carrico; Monroe Duke; George Johnson; William Fowler; Frank Nausin; Melvin Kipnis; Clarence Meltesen. **Front Row** - Ed Prewett; Jerome Eisenman; John Gregory; Joseph Gross; Walter Johannes; John Stauff; Michael Thome

Women: **l/r Rear Row** - Reddie Prewett; Ruth Eisenman; Mrs. Carrico; Mrs. Meltesen. **Front Row** - Mrs. Gross; Louise Johannes; Shirley Gregory and Mrs. Johnson



Northeast Ohio 16 December Commemorations

by Charles Garn, 424/H
1937 Highbridge Rd
Cuyahoga, OH 44223-1828
216-923-3370

John, Great CUBs!!

We have been holding Annual 16 December Commemoration parties since 1962 for the Northeast part of Ohio.

Many years they were held at the Gilders home in North Ridgeville, then once in Hudson at the Barlows, and a few times in our home in Cuyahoga Falls. The last five years Lyle and Vivian McCullough of Sheffield Lake arranged everything at the Elyria, Holiday Inn.

Lyle is no longer with us, but Vivian continues as hostess and we all enjoy getting together for a long afternoon and dinner.

Our group, at one time included members from as far east as Pittsburgh to Southern Michigan - but old father time has started restricting our territory and numbers. Only 14 of us made it to the 1994 Commemoration, but it is still fun to gather and exchange news and war stories with our old comrades. Some of the stories are like catching fish - they always get bigger, as time goes on.

My main reason for writing, John, is to let you know that we do have a **16 December Commemoration Party every year**. Over the past few years we seem not to be able to come up with pictures. Please put a reminder the **1995 Party** will probably be on 3 Dec 1995.

Contact: Vivian McCullough
685 Roberts Street
Sheffield, OHIO 44054

If you notify her, she will send you a reminder with the exact time and place.

Sherod Collins, Treasurer-Historian

Sherod has some suggestions on locating persons. He submitted a copy from a newspaper part of which follows:

Missing Persons Locator:

Past and present military personnel can locate a person who has been in the military. Each Branch of service has a world-wide locator number that you can call for information. The operator needs the full name, and if available, the birth date and Social Security number of the military person you are trying to locate. This service is free for military personnel or members of the immediate family. All other users must pay a fee of \$2.85 and submit their request by mail. Sherod is not sure this applies to non-current ex-vets, like our buddies. But, this info may help you for your present time needs.

Air Force: 512-652-5774

AFMPC/MPCD003, 9504IH35N,
San Antonio, TX 78233-6636. Checks payable to Air Force, Randolph AFB

Army: 317-542-3647

USAEREC, ATTN: Locator Branch,
Ft. Harrison, IN 46249-5301. Checks payable to U.S. Treasurer

Marine Corps: 202-694-1861

CMCMMRB-10, HqQs US Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380. Make checks payable to US Treasury

Navy: 202-694-3155

To find non-family: Naval Military Personnel Command, N 0216, Washington, D.C. 20370-5021. Checks payable to US Treasury

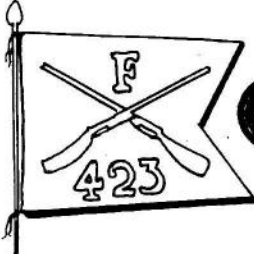
To find family members: Naval Military Personnel Command N 036CC, Washington, D.C. Checks payable to US Treasury.

A Salute to Art Kuespert, 423/F

Editor, COMPANY F GUIDON

We salute Art or his years supplying members of his "F" Company, 423rd Combat Infantry Regiment with news pertaining to their comrades..

In March 1995 he published this last 6 page newsletter, closing out the COMPANY F GUIDON in a "FINAL EDITION."



Art Kuespert, Editor

Final Edition
COMPANY F
GUIDON

CO. F, 423rd INF., 106th INF. DIV. MARCH 1995

COMPANY F GUIDON SURRENDERS...TO TIME

The COMPANY F GUIDON was mailed to the members of Company F, 423rd Infantry for almost four years way back in 1946 through 1950. Since we are celebrating or should I say "observing" the 50th Anniversary of our participation in "the most decisive battle on the Western Front during World War II and the greatest ever fought by the U. S. Army" according to Charles McDonald, Official historian of the U. S. Army, we might as well close out the GUIDON in true spirit by publishing a "Final Edition."

With the encouragement from JACK SULSER, who said "that's a good idea," we're off and running! Remember, the GUIDON was a mimeographed publication and everything had to be typed or drawn on stencils. In fact, it was published "B.C." (Before Computers). This final edition also has avoided the

computer, but is taking advantage of the electrostatic process. Don't look for any photographs or fancy stuff.

The objective of this effort is to avoid writing many letters I owe and to advise any of you who may be inclined to head for Sarasota, Florida on March 24th to meet up with some old soldiers of Company F. Time is short for planning, but if you can, we would like to have you join us. "Us" is JACK and HELEN SULSER, CHARLIE and ALICE ZULLIG, BILL and PAT LACY and myself--ART KUESPERT. We meet at the Olde Heidelberg Castle at 5 P.M. We have done this for a few years since the above group is usually in the area at this time of the year. If you are interested, call CHARLIE ZULLIG at 813-947-6010 or BILL LACY at 813-446-6316. We have to reserve a place for you. We meet, we talk, we eat and then scam. This isn't a meeting--it's a chance to see one another after all these years. The subject matter is your choice. We don't usually do any Service experiences. We do compare medical history, cataracts, arthritis and the current interest rate on CD's. Please come and steer us into new subjects.

BELGIAN TOURIST OFFICE OFFERS FREE "BATTLE OF THE BULGE" POSTER

Belgium's commemoration of the liberation by Allied forces is supplying informational booklets and maps of Ardennes battle sites. The office has a free "Battle of the Bulge" poster that you might like to have in addition to other posters and maps of the country. You can write the Belgian Tourist Office at 780 Third Avenue, Suite 1501, New York, NY 10017. The packet is worth the \$2.00 donation they request in the letter. Save a stamp and enclose a check for \$2.00 when you request the package. They are not making any money on this since it cost \$2.39

for them to mail it. I could not find the town of Medell on either of the two maps, so I'll ask JACK SULSER to point out the approximate location. He's an expert who has traveled in Belgium while working for the Foreign Service.

COL. CAVENDER VS. GEORGE BURNS

COL. CHARLES C. CAVENDER and GEORGE BURNS are going to make their 100's. At 97 years young, COL. CAVENDER is the oldest surviving officer of the 106th Combat Infantry Division. He lives in an Air Force Special Care Center in Riverside, California.

Jack Sulser, 423/F wrote to Art, "Art, you did a great job keeping the former members of Co F in touch with each other via THE GUIDON for years after WWII and I know the boys will appreciate receiving the final 50th Anniversary issue." Art in the opening column of this last issue says, "The COMPANY F GUIDON was mailed to to members of Company F, 423rd Infantry for almost four years way back in 1946 through 1950." Thanks Art for sharing this one last newsletter with the Association J. Kline

No matter how much a guy reads about World War II and the Battle of the Bulge. Wally Martin pointed out in a recent note, "he still finds out things he didn't know before."

Wally, a former UPI newsman who served with the 423rd Regiment, was responding to an article I had written for the Des Moines Register. What I wrote was partly recycled from earlier writings of mine dating back to 1956, when I got into newsworld. My article also included some facts based on recent probings into books, magazines and newspapers.

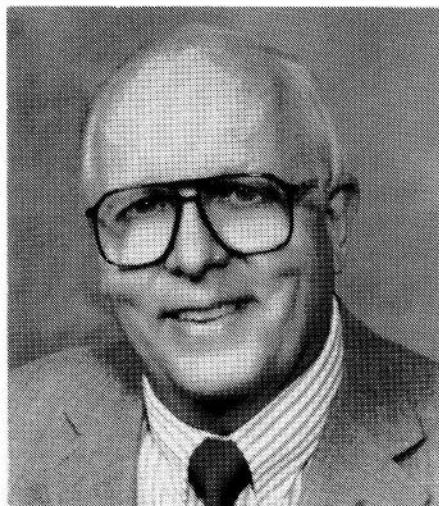
There wasn't room for everything I've learned the past 50 years in my new book, "1945," of course. But I included some facts, new to me, gleaned from such historians as Charles B. MacDonald and John Eisenhower, who both encouraged me to "keep writing" about the war.

My book, which was just about ready for the print shop when I typed this article mid-February, won't be a thick volume. I'm going to refer to it as "a remembrance" of duty with the 106th. It will be a memoir, actually, in that it tells my story about a brief, but very important period in my life.

Many of my pals from the 106th are mentioned in "1945." It was a tough job trying to recall what was said a half-century ago in the prison camps. But I tried to capture the spirit of what was said, if not the exact words, in a way to reflect each man's personality.

The book will include an epilogue covering the period from June 11, 1945, when I landed in New York on a merchant ship called the Sea Robin, through 1994. This was hard to write, since I had to try to accurately relate how I feel now about pivotal events that happened to me when I was a teen-ager.

I suppose a hundred or more people have asked me how the Germans treated me, in the prison camps. I gave a hundred



Dan Bied, "A" Co., 422nd Combat Inf. Reg.
108 Leffler Street, W. Burlington, IA 52655
Tele: (319) 752-5708

different answers, depending on how I felt at the moment the question was popped. "There wasn't much to eat.." I might tell one person. "It wasn't too bad," I might tell another under a different circumstance. A guy talks differently to another war vet, certainly, than he does to his mother, a girl friend or a school teacher.

In "1945," I tried to summarize 50 years of memories, with emphasis on the POW experience, in a way that will explain what all of us in the 106th went through in the Ardennes and, later on, in interior Germany.

The book will also include some end notes dealing with technical stuff, such as details about V-2 rockets, various hand weapons, the Siegfried Line and other things, in the text that will be hard for a lot of readers to grasp. I'm recalling Esquire magazine's curvaceous Petty girls, to inject a bit of sex, and itemizing the contents of a Red Cross parcel. (One of my pen pals told me the book "had" to have some sex in it. I told him I don't recall any sex from the POW experience but do remember a lot of dreams about candy, hamburgers and chocolate sodas).

From West Burlington, Iowa (cont.)

There'll be photos in the book, certainly. It's too bad I didn't have my press camera with me from December, 1944, through April, 1945. But I do have some nice photos, including some from the Eisenhower Library, and shots I took around St. Vith, Houffalize and Schonberg in 1977.

The hardest part, I guess, is putting everything together, reading the proof and making it all fit into the book's format. This will be my tenth self-published book, and surely my last. What used to be fun is getting, at age 69, to be work.

It's worth the effort, though, because I think men who lived through wars are the best ones to write about them,

"There are no romantic sub-plots, breathless intrigue or fictional heroics," I'll note on the back cover. "Anyone looking for that stuff should read a novel or a comic book." \$\$\$

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Office of the Secretary of the Army
Washington, D.C. 20310-0107

April 11, 1995

Mr. Jack Sulser, Chairman

50th Anniversary of World War II

Commemorative Community Committee

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your March 14, 1995 letter informing us of your highly successful gatherings to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. We were delighted to see each gathering was so well attended

The 106th Infantry Division Association has led the way in honoring our veterans and family members throughout this commemorative period. You and your Association are commended for your hard work in this endeavor.

We wish you and the Division Association a most rewarding and memorable reunion in September. Please pass my regards to the members of the Division.

In conclusion we applaud your willingness for continued service to your country and your desire to advance the 50th Anniversary of World War II.

Very respectfully,

(signed) *Mick*

Claude M. Kicklighter

Lieutenant General

United States Army Retired

Executive Director

50th Anniversary Commemorative Committee



Ahrens, Gary A. ASSOCIATE

5675 N. Bay Ridge Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217
414-277-0656

My father Raymond L. Ahrens was a member of "C: Company, 424th Infantry Regiment, 106th Infantry Division.

Baron, Robert F. 422/K

16611 Carousel Lane
Huntington Beach, CA 92649

Editor's Note - Bob, You didn't write any of your history for this first introduction. However, I did see, as I was looking for another name, that you were listed as one of the first that signed into the Association (Stateside). See page 306 of *The CUB of the Golden Lion: PASSES in REVIEW*. Under the heading "Frampton First-Peace-Time Member" I have listed several 106th vets that signed on early in the organization's history. You are one of them. Nice to see you back. You lived in Hollywood, California at that time.

Fred Farris is shown just under your name - He is Co-Chairperson, for the 1996 Reunion which will be held in Roanoke, Virginia. Other Co-Chairperson is **Elizabeth Bowles**, she is wife of **Ralph Bowles**, 422/CN. He doesn't show his name as Co-Chairperson, but I know he will be greeting everybody at the reception desk. This is the second reunion sponsored by these fine people. The first was in 1988, and it was a "dandy." I can still remember the nice juicy, delicious, taste of the "PIG ROAST."... J. Kline)

Bigelow, Gordon G. 81st ENG/A

2032 So. 11th Ave
Maywood, FL 60153-3114
708-344-5590

Capalbo, Frank 81st ENG/HQ

36 Myrtle Ave
Nutley, NJ 07110

Carmichael, B. Jay 423/E

1906 Clatter Bridge Rd
Ocala, FL 34471-8373

Please send me information on the Orlando Reunion and any other news about our Division would be appreci-

ated.

(Editor's Note - B. Jay, by now you should have received the last issue of *The CUB* which had registration blanks and information on the Orlando Reunion. I also always include to new members a list of the men that belonged to the new member's unit, that now belong to the association. Then I include a list of books available on *The Battle of the Bulge*, as well as other data sheets on World War II and equipment used during the Bulge. Thanks for joining, nice to see you back in the 106th... J. Kline)

Dudley, Junior (Bill) 592/B

PO Box 263
Pineville, NC 28134
704-889-9227

Graham, David L. ASSOCIATE

7121 Davis Rd
Hilliard, OH 43026
614-771-9120

Sherod, I am enclosing my DD214 and a letter that was sent to my parents when I went on an overseas assignment in Europe. I was a Communications Operations Specialist with the 6931st Security Group at Iraklion Air Station, 10 miles east of the city of Iraklion, on the northern coast of Crete, Greece. I served there for two years.

While in Greece, I explored the numerous coastal pillboxes that were built by the Germans during the occupation of Crete.

I recently bought a beautiful Kodak picture puzzle of a picturesque spot, with fishing boats and mountains, a spot I remember visiting. I found clearly visible in the background of the photo a German bunker that I visited. I still have a photo taken thirty years ago of me standing beside that bunker. I am now planning on finding a bunker on the Schnee Eifel where "A" Company, 422nd Regiment was located.

New Members

I really enjoy visiting the World War II battlefields. You gain a sense of information that you cannot get from reading.

(Editor's Note - Thanks for the picture you sent me David. Hope you find what you are looking for. All of the Schnee Eifel bunkers were dynamited and covered with barb wire, they are now covered with brush and small trees....J. Kline)

Hudock, Stephen M. 423/A

2012 Reading Blvd
West Wyomissing, PA 19609

Jones, Raymond L. DIV/HQ

RR #4, Box 113
Winona, MN 55987
507-643-6897

I was a T-5 truck driver in Division Headquarters Company. I drove a ration truck during the Bulge. I was very lucky!!

I was discharged at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin in November 1945.

I entered the construction field and worked as an iron worker from 1946 until retirement.

Married my wife Anna on December 27, 1941. We just celebrated our 53rd Anniversary. We have two children, a daughter, Patricia and a son Michael and two grandchildren, Christopher and Curtis.

I have lived on the banks of the mighty Mississippi for 44 years. I joined the association to reminisce.

Littel, Joseph F. 422/I

3710 Lakeridge Rd
Fallbrook, CA 92028
619-728-2361

Sherod, I am enclosing my membership application. I have not been active in veteran's affairs, but have recently started to retrace my steps in the

Battle of the Bulge and the POW camps.

Over the years I have kept in touch with two very close friends, **Don Young** and **Victor Briete**. Along with you, I was on the front line when the Germans attacked on 16 December. I was hit by shrapnel near Schönberg and was taken to the Battalion Aid Station. I still have a scar 1" wide and 4" long on my left leg -for which the medics saw that I got a Purple Heart.

After being captured I got caught with others in the bombing of the box-cars in Limburg, then went on to Stalag 4-B, Bad Orb, Germany. There I became assistant to Johaun (Hans) Kasten, the American Man-of-Confidence. He quickly got into deep trouble with the German commanders for refusing to reveal the names of all the Jewish prisoners, and we both shipped off to Berga on 8 February, 1945 in a train-load of about 350 prisoners.

On March 2, after SS Lieutenant Hack, at Berga, threatened to have Hans torn apart by dogs because he was a traitor to the Reich. (Hans had a German sounding name of Johaun Carl Frederick Kasten, being a German-American from Milwaukee.) Hans and I along with Ernst Sinner (spelling?) escaped from Berga.

Our main purpose was to get back to the Americans and get word to the U.S. Army and the Red Cross about the plight of the prisoners at Berga. We were captured two days later, were grilled intensely and threatened with death. We were finally taken to Stalag 9-C at Bad Sulza (a sub-camp of Buchenwald) where we rotted in soli-

tary until we were liberated by Patton's Sixth Armored on April 11, 1945.

I returned to the States in June and spent two months at the R.A.M.P. R&R Center in Asheville, North Carolina, where I regained a lot of the 44 pounds I had lost as a prisoner.

Well there's a lot more to tell, but that's all I will relate to you now. I'm glad to become a member of the 106th Infantry Division Association, at last. I preferred to forget my experiences and try to get on with my life. Now that I am retired I have to go back to that period, finally.

If you happen to have a copy of the latest CUB, please send it to me.

(Editor's Note - Joe, hope you enjoyed the CUB and the other material I sent you as a new member. Thanks for sharing your experiences with us... J, Kline)

Michael, Bryce D. 591/HQ

409 Woodrow NW
No. Canton, OH 44720
216-497-1843

I was with the 106th from Fort Jackson until after VE Day. After that I was in the Cigarette Camps waiting for shipment back to the states. I was temporarily assigned to an M.P. unit and a Labor Supervision Battalion in Ruen.

After getting back to the States I reapplied as a student to Carnegie Tech. Rather than wait six months to get in Carnedie I went to Allegheny College where I got a B.S. degree in Physics, then I attended the Univ of Buffalo to get a M.S. in Physics. I was employed by Bell Aircraft Corporation, Cornell Aeronautical Lab, the University of Buffalo and lastly at the Hoover Company.

My wife and I have three sons and one daughter, all scattered about the U.S.A. I am looking forward to attending the Orlando Reunion in September.

I wish to thank another member of the association, **Charles Booda**, of Cherry Hill, N.J. I now have a list of several members of the Radio Section of Headquarters Battery of the 591st Field Artillery. A final comment, while at Camp Atterbury I had at least tried to be an instructor at the Division Artillery Radio School, so as usual probably more people might know my name, than for whom I know theirs.

Monaco, Frank A. 42/HQ

118 Berkeley St.
Waltham, MA 02154
617-899-1113

Miller, Franklin O. 422/M

2642 Townline Rd
Medina, NY 14103
716-798-5108

Was surrendered by a Major Roberts, not sure of the date but I think it was December 21, 1944. I was in the motor pool and was ordered to St. Vith, but before were organized, St. Vith fell.

We were forced to fill in German bomb craters on the highway and put loose branches in the bottom with dirt on top. A German chow truck sank into it and we got their food. At first we were put into a barn and it was shelled by our own artillery. Two German guards who were trying to open a trap door to the cellar were killed along with four of our own. I was laying between two guys and was not injured. David Mueller was on my left and Franklin Crittendon on my left. David was killed and Frank was severally wounded. David told me

New Members

to help Frank and in a few minutes he (Frank) was dead. I will never forget either man and writing this brings tears to my eyes.

Our troopship lost an engine half-way across. We had to go back to Le-Havre and wait for another ship.

We have four children, twelve grandchildren and two great grandchildren

Moore, H.F. 423/C

PO Box 62
Wylie, TX 75089
214-442-5249

Nelson, Clarence T. 423/I

3174 Spruce St
Racine, WI 53403
414-554-5246

(Written by Betty Nelson, Clarence's wife)

Dear John,

A cousin of mine who lives in Minneapolis sent me the December 13, 1994 Star-Tribune that featured your story on the front page.

I was so happy to read this for me and my children have tried to find information about my husband's experiences during the war. Clarence has Alzheimer's disease and I have to write for him.

Our family has lost past years due to Alzheimer's. We have some news clippings, camp addresses.

We know he enlisted August 1941, went to Camp Callen, (?) CA, then to the 65th AA Coast Artillery. He was Chief Radar Operator Instructor for two years in California Camps.

Sent to Ft Wood, Missouri, 97th Division, then Fort Benning, then Fort Meade and Camp Shanks. He had 106th patches on his uniform before going

overseas. He was in WEIR, Germany in occupation. Came home 10/15/45 on ship SOMMELSDIJK, Camp Shanks.

(We would like to welcome Clarence. Betty says he is able to walk and get around, but the memory, that he has some memories of the war. Betty is asking for letters from those who might have known her husband. I spotted his name in the 423/I Combat Infantry Badge Order #51.. J Kline)

Paquette, Wilbert F. DIV/ARTY

28931 Beste
St. Clair Shores, MI 48081
810-776-4609

Pellish, John E. 422/G

1805 Ridge Ave
Arnold, PA 15068

I believe I was close to being a charter member, but dropped out somewhere along the line. Glad to find I can get back in.

(Editor's Note - John, nice to see your application in the mail. Hope you liked the shoulder patch.)

I looked in *The CUB of the Golden Lion: PASSES in REVIEW*, page 305, (Association History) where I listed the Charter Members. I don't see your name. Could be you signed up right around the first reunion in 1947. Nice to see you back.

For you who are reading this - Shoulder patches are available at \$2.50 each post-paid. Order from the Adjutant. J. Kline)

Ramsey, Helen D. ASSOCIATE

857 Lookout Point Dr.
Columbus, OH 43235-1243
614-885-2961

My husband Tech Sergeant Harold Ramsey died from a heart attack on December 30, 1966, at the age of 46. I have been interested in finding some of his buddies that went on cadre from Fort Jackson to form the 106th Infantry Division.

I was with him at Fort Jackson, and at Camp Atterbury. I have numerous pictures with names on them that I am going to send to the editor, Mr. Kline.

Smythe, Mrs. Karl ASSOCIATE

W6454 Cty, Hwy P
Pardeeville, WI 53954

Stokes, Herbert F. 422/HQ

34 Hoylake Dr.
Abilene, TX 79606
915-695-3557

I joined the Division in April 1944 at Camp Atterbury. Trained as a radio operator. I was not captured during the battle. I was reassigned to the 106th Signal Company in January 1945. The reassigned to the 424th HQ Co. in March 1945, then to the 422nd HQ Co. in April 1945. I was discharged in February 1946.

I graduated from Hardin Simmons University in Abilene, Texas in 1948. A BA in Chemistry. I graduated from Texas Tech in 1951. MS in Chemistry.

Worked as a manager for Procter & Gamble 1951-1980, lived in Dallas, Texas, Chicago, Kansas City, MO, Cincinnati, OH, Albany, GA and Frankfurt, Germany while with Procter & Gamble.

Retired in 1980, operated a cattle breeding operation and consulting business in Texas, 1980 to present.

Married Dorothy Francis in 1948, four sons, all Texas A&M Alumni.

Tooke, William A. 424/HQ 3Bn

6289 So. Sundown Dr.
Chandler, AZ 85249
602-695-8459

Dear John, (not the dreaded letter received by

many in WWII), **Richard Behr**, 423/SV, sent your name.

I transferred to the 106th during the summer of '44, but can't remember the exact month or day. I spent a short time with 424/K. Since I had trained in a anti-tank platoon with the 65th Division at Camp Shelby, I was transferred to the AT Platoon, HQ, 3rd Bn, 42th Regiment and went overseas with that unit.

I developed trench-foot and came back through the hospitals. Our Platoon Leader was Lt. Abriel (sp?). Platoon Sergeant was Sgt Davis from Nebraska, and one prince of a man. The Squad Sergeant was Sergeant DeVault (or something like that) He was the first man wounded just a couple of days after the first German attack.

Please send me information so that I can get back with the outfit.

(Editor's Note - Dick, in the 424th Combat Infantry Regiment -Order #2, dated 4 January 1945, the order awarding Combat Infantry Badge Medals, I see S/Sergeant Ralph C. DeVault, 2nd Lt. William E. Abriel.

I cannot find Davis' name listed. As a matter of fact, there are no Tech-Sergeants or 1st Sergeants listed on that order. Just Staff/Sergeants (6) There are five Sergeants (three-strippers), Carnutt, Gunderson, Mills, Raw and Strife.

I'm happy to say that I do not see any of the above, including Davis, listed on the KIA list I have that is dated June 1947.

I did find in the officer's list the name of a close friend, Lt. Dale Carver. Dale was the A&P Platoon Leader, he received a *Silver Star* for his heroic actions. He been a member of the Association since 1988. Look in the "Book Review" I sent you. His book of poems, *Before The Veteran's Die*, has been a best seller.. J. Kline)

New Members

Wilson, Thomas D. 423/D

7223 Whitehall Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46256-2272
317-849-4308

Zimmerman, Joseph W. 81st ENG

589 Aberdeen Rd
Frankfort, IL 60423
708-201-1424

Dear Sherod,

I was a member of the 81st Engineers in WWII and was captured. I was in Stalag 9-B and then was transferred to Stalag 9-A. I would be interested in hearing from any of the vets from those camps, and from the 81st Engineers.

Since that time I have never heard from the 106th Infantry Division. I did not know if it was wiped out, or what happened to it.

Last month my brother-in-law mentioned the name of a friend, **Jack Sulser**, past-president of the 106th Infantry Division Association.

Jack sent me a letter with your name. I enclose membership fees for a LIFE MEMBERSHIP. I would be interested in information concerning meetings and reunions.

(Editor's Note - Joe, I sent you a list of all the 81st Engineers to help prompt your memory as to which unit you were in. Sherod Collins has probably sent you a letter about your other questions. I'll repeat some of it here for others. There have been annual reunions held each year since 1947. Also during that period there have been local meetings held around the country, we call them 16 December Commemorative Parties, for the lack of a better word. Local vets get-together and enjoy comradeship, a dinner, story-telling, and re-fight the *Battle of the Bulge*. All of these events are publicized in *The CUB* magazine. The first CUB was printed in September 1946. There were monthly issues for most of the first year, then since then there have been quarterly issues. The CUB is mailed to you as part of your membership fee.

The membership, at first in 1947, was around 1,600. It then started to drop as members got further into family life and work. In the mid-1970's the membership dropped to a low of approximately 250. When I joined in 1987 there were 745 members. We reached a high a couple of years ago of 1,703. It is at the writing of this column (15 April, 1995) at 1,662. We are losing more members each year due to our age. We also have 50-60 members who do not renew their membership each year, many times it is probably due to a death not reported to us.

Take a look at the list of 81st Engineers, that I sent, and see if you can find the unit you were in. I need to know for the membership listing, otherwise you will be shown as **81st ENG/?**

Col Thomas J. Riggs, Jr. Commander of the 81st Engineers, WWII, is our current association president. **Pete House**, our adjutant, is involved with an association known as Stalag 9-A-B-C, his address, along with other officers and board, is on the inside front cover of every CUB. Contact **Russell Villwock**, 106 Signal, 8560 W. Foster Ave #510, Norridge, IL 60656, Telephone 708-452-8628 for information on the 16 December Chicago Area Commemoration Party. Russell and his friends have held the parties for years. He also has held, over the years, of the Association, reunions in 1959, Villwock, Walden and Robasse; 1979, Villwock, Henning and Lucsay; 1989, Villwock, Lucsay and wives, and is shooting for 1999, God willing. The wives were probably involved in the others, but I just don't have them listed in *The CUB of the Lion: PASSES in REVIEW*, on pages 462-463. There was also a reunion in Chicago in 1949, sponsored by Luzzie, Boratyn, Frache, Johnson, May, Wright and Wood.

The CUB of the Golden Lion: PASSES in REVIEW is a compilation of interesting and historical stories taken from 185 issues of the CUB from Sept 1946 to mid-1991. A four color 8' x 10' cover, 496 pages, crammed with information about the 106th. It costs \$18.50 ppd. I have about 40 copies left out of 2,250 copies that were printed by West Publishing, St. Paul, Minnesota. They did a fantastic job on the book and members have purchased the book for themselves, as well as for their children and local libraries.

There will probably not be a re-print... J. Kline, editor)

HEADQUARTERS
106TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
APO USA

GENERAL ORDERS) 1 MAY 1995
:
NO. 1995)

* * * * *

1. Pertains to Off and EM asgd units
106th Inf. Div. : WWII
2. All personnel reld par 1 reld dty
atchd civilians and asgd dty 106th
Inf Div Assn this date
3. All personnel reld par 1 ordered to
fall in 0700 hrs 7 Sept 1995 at
Grosvenor Resort, Orlando FL for dty
49th Annual Reunion 106th Inf Div Assn
4. Purpose this exercise - engage in
R & R w/ wives and guests
5. Dty this GO to terminate 10 Sept 1995

By command of President and CO
106th Infantry Division Associatio

>Chairman
John Riels, 423/HQ 2Bn
626 Del Rio Street
Orlando, FL 32839 (407) 859-4568
See following pages for other committee persons

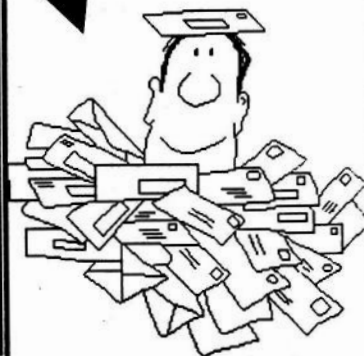
REMINDER!



Keep those registration forms coming
49th Annual Reunion
106th Infantry Division
September 7,8,9, 1995
Orlando, Florida

For Registration Information call
Dick Sparks 904-789-4692

Registration information was mailed in early January.
Also, watch the "CUB" for details.



Art and Graphics work by Ted Slaby's daughter Claudia Umak.

Registration/Finance
Richard Sparks 423/HQ I&R
3180 Hanley Street
Deltona, FL 32738 (904) 789-4692



FUN THINGS TO DO IN ORLANDO WHILE YOU'RE AT THE 106TH REUNION!

ARABIAN NIGHTS
performing horses and
riders, three-course
dinner show.

BUSCH GARDENS
eight African-themed
areas, free-roaming
animals, thrill rides.

CYPRESS GARDENS
water-ski shows, flower
displays, miniature
railroad, museum,
butterfly conservatory.

**DISNEY-MGM
STUDIOS***
production studio and
theme park, backstage
studio tour, shows.



**DISNEY MAGIC
KINGDOM***
Main Street USA, Liberty
Square, Adventureland,
Frontierland, Fantasyland,
Tomorrowland, Mickey's
Starland; parades &
shows.

EPCOT CENTER*
showcase of technology
and foreign cultures in
Future World and World
Showcase.

**KENNEDY SPACE
CENTER**
exhibits of spacecraft,
space science
demonstrations,
Astronauts Memorial
Space Mirror.



KING HENRY'S FEAST
entertainment with
comedy, musicians,
jugglers, jesters, and four-
course dinner.



**LEU BOTANICAL
GARDENS**
beautiful gardens
and guided tours.

MEDIEVAL TIMES
four-course dinner,
knights in armor compete
in jousting and tournament
games.

**ORLANDO MUSEUM
OF ARTS & SCIENCES**
exhibits and audio-visual
overview of Pleistocene
Florida.

**PLANET
HOLLYWOOD**
cosmic dining experience,
features memorabilia from
film and TV industry.

PLEASURE ISLAND**
nightclub & restaurant
complex.

**RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT
OR NOT!**
exhibits of oddities.

**SEAWORLD OF
FLORIDA**
marine-life theme park.



SILVER SPRINGS
glassbottom boats, animal
shows, jungle cruise.

SPLENDID CHINA
theme park of more than
60 miniature replicas of
China landmarks.

UNIVERSAL STUDIOS
movie-TV production
studio and park.



**WALT DISNEY
WORLD
MARKETPLACE****
complex of shops and
restaurants.

WEEKI WACHEE
mermaid shows in
underwater theater, river
cruise, tropical birds.
dinner.



CAMPGROUND INFORMATION

*Fort Wilderness at
Walt Disney World
407-824-8000

*Free brochure from
Kissimmee/St. Cloud
Convention & Visitors
Bureau call
1-800-327-9159

*If you have the following
Guidebooks sites are under
"Lake Buena Vista" or
"Kissimmee":
Woodall Campground
Guide; Trailer Life
Campground Guide



*Complimentary Disney Transportation to all Disney Attractions

**Pleasure Island & WDW Marketplace are within walking distance

REMEMBER: Guest Services at the *Grosvenor* can make all your arrangements for you!

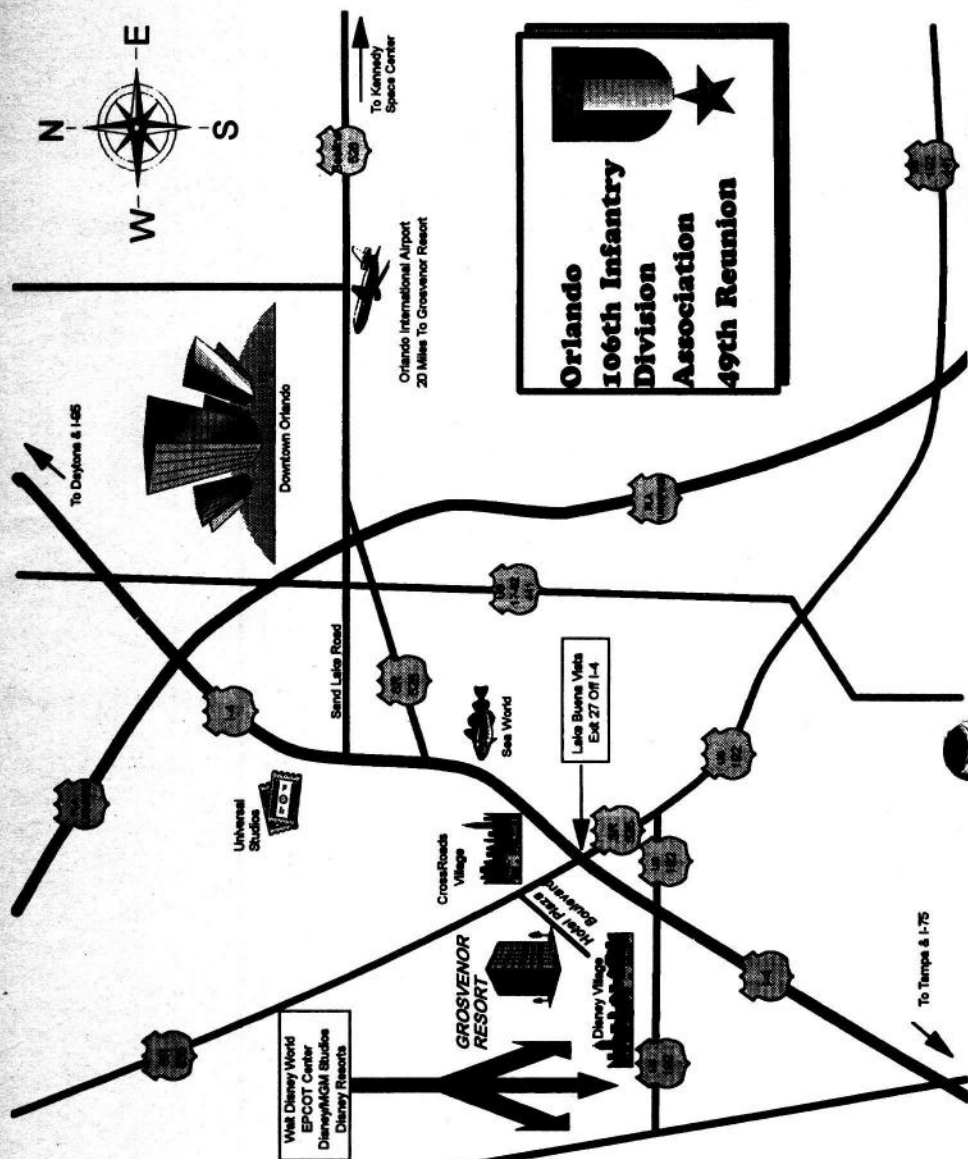
Division/Public Information

Ted Slaby, 423/HQ I&R

1103 Arbor Glen Circle

Winter Springs, FL 32708 (407) 695-6164

See following pages for other committee persons



Art and Graphics work by Ted Slaby's daughter Claudia Umak.

Other Committee Members

Sam E. Davis, CO 423/HQ, Orlando, FL (407) 282-7057

Gordon Zicker, 423/HQ I& R, Port Orange, FL (904) 756-8868

The Christmas we did not Celebrate - Reyenga, 423rd Medics ...

EPICURE: *It was interesting to receive a some letters from William Reyenga, 423rd Infantry Medics, especially since he was one of those that volunteered to stay with the wounded, even though he would be captured. Secondly, I learned, in these later years, that Lt. Oliver Patton, 423/F (who later attained the rank of Brig. Gen.) had been captured as he lay, wounded for the second time, on Reyenga's aid station floor. Reyenga thinks that the aid station was at Bleialf. He is asking for any of those that remember being in the same aid station as Lt. Patton, or, in case you recognize him (Reyenga), to contact him.*

It's one thing to try to continue to fight, then be captured - at least you have a chance. But to know, with much certainty, that you will be captured with the immobile wounded, and to volunteer to do so shows the character of a man. We owe a debt of gratitude to men like Reyenga, and to men like his litter carrier Leo Piasecki, who had move out under fire and pull in the wounded. As we now know, there are many unsung heroes in war. Reyenga and Piasecki, are - in my eyes - in that category. Thanks Bill for sharing your story with us...
J. Kline

John, the back cover of the Jan-Feb-March 1994 CUB, showing the results of the bombing raid at the Diez railroad yards, next to Stalag XII-A brought back many memories for me. I am sure it did for others as well.

One of the large craters was by the side of the box-car I was in. A German guard and myself were outside the car just as the target flare lighted the entire rail center. The guard grabbed me by the arm and we ran down the railroad tracks to a building that had a porch and a basement. We dived under the porch just as the bombing started. I was looking directly at another building just as a bomb demolished it. The picture on page eight (8) of a bombed building took



**William T. Reyenga, 423rd Medics ('43-'45)
Photo dated 1961, Korea, 1st Cavalry Div.
He was then a Master Sergeant.**

me back. In my mind's eye that is the building that I was looking at. The guard pushed a basement window open and we fell into a room filled with Germans. One soldier with a rifle came after me. The English speaking guard moved between us and prevented me from being shot.

For fifty years I have wondered who the wounded soldier was that asked for me by name. He saved my life and many others, I believe. Because a large bomb hit beside our car and blasted large holes through its sides and derailed several cars. A bomb fell into the prison yards and killed many of our officers.

The pictures of the Medics in Stalag 9-B (pages 43 & 44). Some were from the 423rd Regiment, Captain Joshua Sutherland, 2nd battalion Surgeon is the one with a steel helmet on, far right (page 43). Thanks for helping me locate him and many others. Next to Sutherland is Chaplain Neel. I have received many nice letters from former "106ers." Many I never knew, but the message is the same. They write with very strong feelings indicating a bond of love for each other - "A great feeling." Thanks to those like you, we grow.

I was a member of the baseball team, 1943 Fort Jackson and 1944 Camp Atter-

bury. We won the Indiana State Semi-Pro title. As a result our team was sent to the national Semi-Pro tourney at Wichita, Kansas (1944). Several of the teams were major league players, van Lingle Mungo, Brooklyn Dodgers; Mickey Livingston, Chicago Cubs, Andy Anderson, St Louis Browns and the Copeland twins were St. Louis Cardinals in the days of Dizzy and Paul Dean.

John, I am sending you a picture of myself. It was taken in 1961 in Korea with the 1st Cavalry Division. I was with the 106th (the highest numbered division in the U.S. Army) from activation and was privileged to served with the lowest numbered 1st Cavalry Division, Korea and "Red One" 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas 1955-56. Col Puett, our Battalion Commander in Germany, was the Chief of Staff of the 1st Division, Fort Riley, Kansas. It was great for me to serve with him again, and recall all of our experiences.

Today as I write you, on 19 December 1994, my mind takes me back to the Christmas I forgot to celebrate. Survival was my goal. Today I give thanks for all my blessings and wish you and your family the richest of God's blessings.

(Bill Reyenga, 423rd Medics, enclosed with the above letter a copy of his diary, then later a follow up to add to some of the details. I know there are some of you that will be very interested in his comments... J. Kline, editor)

FROM HIS DIARY:

This is a diary of my memories leading to my "Longest Night." The night of our surrender and to the Christmas we did not celebrate. The 2nd Bn 423rd Regiment was in 106th Infantry Division reserve, Col. Joseph Puett, Commanding.

16 December 1944: 4 A.M. Sgt Maj, Hq. Co. 2nd Bn informed me the 2nd Bn Aid Station that the Germans had attacked our positions, cutting lines of communica-

tion, and knocking out artillery. We were ordered to pack personal equipment in a school house and prepare to move immediately. We marched all day. A tank battle stopped the column. We entered a large building. I laid on the floor next to several bodies - a soldier informed me that all these men were dead - I moved away and slept.

17 December 1944: We marched all day - we moved into pine forests at dark - dug foxhole and slit trenches. Germans fired tree burst artillery and mortars, "screaming meemies," and buzz bombs. A few casualties occurred.

18 December 1944: We marched in columns and were met and surrounded by German units. The aid station was set up in a small barn-like building at Bleialf (?). The Germans threw all available forces into the battle. Shortly after noon, our aid station was filled with wounded soldiers. Lt. Miller told me that we were "taking a licking." He had fought in Africa and was an experienced decorated soldier. Leo Piasecki, one of the litter bearers, came to the aid station and said, "Sarge, we are being murdered. The hillside is covered with wounded crying for help. Our units are pinned down. I'm going to move them out of danger and let some one else bring them to the aid station." Leo Piasecki was a brave soldier and I regret that he was never duly rewarded. After the war, Leo was a police lieutenant in Detroit. I know he was a great one. He died in 1993.

Col Puett, CO 2nd battalion, called a meeting after dark. Captain Sutherland and myself attended the Aid Station. Col. Puett said that we were pulling out of position to join the regiment, and must be mobile. He asked for a casualty count. (We had eight litter and 14 walking in the aid station. He asked for a volunteer to stay with the wounded, to surrender and care for them. The only one available, at that point, was me. All others had special assignments

The Christmas we did not Celebrate - Reyenga, 423rd Medics ...

in companies and in the Aid Station. Captain Sutherland also volunteered. We had critical and seriously wounded in the station. Col. Puett stated that Doc should go with the troops. The Aid Station personnel moved out with the battalion, leaving me alone with the wounded. Two or three hours later one of our aid men returned to the aid station saying he wanted to help me with the wounded. I was certainly glad to see him! His name was Richard Whitney who is now deceased. Later in the night, Sgt. Robert McBride, came to the aid station with his machine gun squad. They were; Frank Raila, Bob Dahlheim, Ray Russell and (?) Newton. *(Editor's note- Bill, there is a Pvt William J. Newton in the 423rd Combat Infantry Badge Order #51, in same Company as Raila and the others. Maybe that's your man.. J. Kline)* The machine gun had jammed. They moved into a building to clean the gun. When they returned the Germans had taken over their positions. I was happy to see him also! I needed all the help I could get. Later, all the above were taken prisoner).

19 December 1944: Early in the morning German troops were all around us. I surrendered our wounded and other to the Germans. We hand carried the litter cases. Two men carried each litter due to the shortage of help. I can only remember the names of two of the wounded. Lt. Brownell of "F" Co. He was critically wounded and

would die. He had facial wounds, a broken leg and a concussion. Lt. Oliver Patton of "F" Co. was the other that I remember. He, too, was seriously wounded.

We carried the patients for several hours before transportation was available to move them. Then those of us that could walk were herded like cattle and began a forced march. This was the beginning of "Hell on Earth." A time of great heartaches and tribulations. This was one of the greatest adversities of my life. A time for soul searching, living, learning and growing. The fruits of the ordeal has been one of life's great blessings.

I was in POW camps 4-B at Mühlberg, 3-B, Furstenburg, 3A, Luckenwalde, 11-A, Altengrabow. I was liberated by the American Army on 8 May 1945. Army trucks carried us to Hildesheim, Germany. C-47 planes flew us to Nancy, France, on to Lucky Strike, and at last to the U.S. Sea Robin to ship to America.

P.S.. One of our casualties was a wounded German Sergeant. He later saved the life of Frank Raila and possibly others by preventing a German soldier from shooting into the Aid Station window. Yes, war does create strange bed-fellows, also eternal bonds of love and compassion. Thank you, John, and may you be blessed as I have been. □



Reyenga, at Fort Jackson, South Carolina - 1943

The following was contributed by **Donald F. Herndon, 424/L**. He showed these at the South Dakota Reunion, along with a lot of other very informative information he has collected from the archives in Washington, D.C. and other sources.

Thanks Don. I have a member of the 18th Volksgrenadier Division, near the Schnee Eifel, looking for Lt. Opitz. It would be interesting if we could find him.

Thanks for your contribution, and particularly for the fine show you made at Rapid City, South Dakota. If you have other such information, pass it along.

Taken from a declassified document - G-2 Periodic Report No. 41 (U.S. ARMY)

DIARY OF LEUTNANT MARTIN OPITZ, 1st Co. 295 Volksgrenadier Regiment, age 24 years, single.

(Lieutenant OPITZ was wounded and captured by the 119th Infantry on 16 Jan 1945.)

During the period July 1944 to November 1944 he attended the Officers Candidate School at THORN.

22 Nov: Graduated as a Leutnant.

13 Dec: ... 20 officers will leave for the front. They will be platoon leaders in a Volksgrenadier Division under Army Group B. We shall travel via REMAGEN (RHINELAND). I have very much enjoyed working with the Hitler Youth organization and silently hoped that this would become my permanent assignment. Besides, I also hoped to spend Christmas at home. Yet, what is all that I can go to the front again after having been in the rear areas for more than six months!

15 Dec: The train to REMAGEN is overcrowded. At 0730 we arrive. We get orders to go back to KOBLENZ to Offi-

cers Replacement Pool, Army Group B. The sight of KOBLENZ is terrifying. Ruins on both sides of the Rhine. By truck we finally arrive at BENDORF where we get billets in private homes. The afternoon is sunny; Anglo-American bombers travel east, undisturbed by the fire of a Flak battery...

17 Dec: Today is a sunny Sunday. The Anglo-American flyers arrive early. Alert signal, Alarm, All Clear, another Alarm, so it goes all day long. The first officers leave for the front. We hear that Army Group B is advancing since 0300 this morning. There is a general feeling of elation, everybody is cheerful... The official communiqué is still cautious...

18 Dec: 0630, the flyers are attacking already. Transferred to 18th Volksgrenadier Division at MAUTENSCHIED, EIFEL. I leave at 1230 during an air raid. 1700 at Army. Our Army Group is advancing west.

19 Dec: The roads are crowded with advancing columns. Via PRÜM we slowly reach SCHÖNBERG. Traffic is extremely heavy. Prisoners and more prisoners. All Americans. Buzz bombs fly toward the west. I talk to German civilians and ask them how the Americans behaved during the occupation. They were all favorably impressed. Our attack coincided with an American relief and a regrouping of their forces.

20 Dec: Clear sky - Jabo (aircraft) weather, yet none turn up. All the advancing units are picking up American vehicles, to become motorized. It is like a gigantic flood forward which gives proof of German power and German organization. We would have expected a German attack like this one, right before Christmas. Everybody is enthusiastic, especially the Landsers (German equivalent to G.I.'s)

21 Dec: The attack on ST. VITH begins at 1515 after an assault by the engineers, a new division -62nd Volksgrenadiers - passes through. During the day so many airplanes. Official Communiqué: Winter battle in Belgium -7,000 PWs in the Schnee Eifel, 20,000 altogether.

22 Dec: I was rudely awakened and ordered to go to ST. VITH immediately to assist in regulating traffic there. The MPs are unable to keep things moving and for the reason officers are detailed to keep order. O'Boy, What a job! It is raining and snowing during the night.

23 Dec: We move to ST. VITH and are billeted with a German family. The women sleep in the cellar and we have a room upstairs.

24 Dec: Christmas Sunday. We stay at the house all day in the cellar. At noon a bomb landed immediately in front of our house. The cellar holds out, but this house ruins. The bombing goes on all day. In the evening most of the people pack their things and leave - and that on Christmas Eve. This night we sleep in the cellar. Two bombs land close by, but nothing happens.

25 Dec: We move to HINDERHAUSEN. We prefer to walk instead of using a car on the main highway. The American Jabos keep on attacking anything which moves on the roads. Lucky for us that we got out of ST. VITH. We walk across the fields from hedgerow to hedgerow, the Jabos are driving us from the roads. Even so we have hit the dirt time and again. One time a bomb landed 30 feet from us. Fortunately the terrain is muddy so only dirt flies around, but there are no fragments. We stop at a farmhouse between RODT and HINDERHAUSEN.

This is a brilliant day. The sky is clear, the sun shining. Only the Jabos hang in the air like a swarm of wasps. High up in the

formations of bombers pass without any interference from us, going east. Which German city will suffer today? Thousands of bombers go by.

At 1600 American bombers destroy ST. VITH completely. Within a few minutes they unload their bombs which level whatever was left of the town. Many don't see the end of the Christmas Day.

Yet my luck lasts: yesterday a bomb landed on the house with me in the cellar, today a bomb lands 30 feet away, then the fact that I did not remain in ST. VITH.

26 Dec: ST. VITH still burning. At noon 15-20 German fighters turn up. For a while everything is quite, later in the afternoon - like yesterday - formations of American bombers come from the SE and again ST. VITH is the target. The bomb carpets come close to our village. (I have never seen anything like this in my life). The whole countryside is covered by one big cloud of smoke and fire.

In the evening I walk back to ST. VITH. The devastation is hardly believable. All streets are burning. Where once houses were one can see nothing but big holes. Only very few people are here trying to rescue some of their belongings. Cattle are howling, ammunition exploding, tires burst; there is a strong smell of burnt rubber. Delayed action bombs go off and we have to seek cover frequently.

27 Dec: Over ST. VITH and NEUNDORF there is a thick cloud of smoke. Again the Jabos are over us like wasps. From 1000 to 1730 I direct traffic. The Jabos keep attacking. Flak gets a few of the planes, among them two of our fighters. It gets colder and colder. There is heavy fighting in BASTOGNE. ECHTERNACH? MALMEDY? Who is there? Artillery fire is coming closer.

28 Dec: Cloudy day. No Jabos. What a relief!

29 December Clear day, but only a few Jabos.

On the afternoon big formations of American bombers fly towards the east again.

New Years Eve: Thanks to the providence the Fuhrer has been with us and has given us strength to endure and fight for victory. My prayer on the threshold of the New Year; With the Fuhrer's and our strength to end this war victoriously. A Volksgrenadier Division marches by. (694 Regiment, 340th Division)

2 Jan: On foot to HINDERHAUSEN, by truck to ST. PIEL and BLANCHFONTAINE. Corps has moved. From there to PETIT LANGLIER. I report and they send me back to my old place.

4 Jan: It snows all night. We go skiing. We are lucky and find some wine in the cellar of a deserted house.

When I get back, there are orders waiting for me to go to BLANCHFONTAINE again and to report to G-3 of Felber.

5 Jan: Corps decided to send me back again.

7 Jan: I am definitely leaving now. heavy artillery hits our village by day and night.

8 Jan: Artillery fire all day. In the evening it gets quite. The night is quiet. It is snowing.

9 Jan: The CP of Engineers B moves into the house. 50 bottles of wine from LIGNEUVILLE help to put us in good mood. At 1600 artillery starts coming in. It does not bother us, but the engineers move out. The Americans break through from STAVELOT in the direction of WANNE-GRANDHALLEUX-VIELS ALM.

10 Jan: Bombers in the morning, why don't we use ski troops and sleds. We would be definitely superior to the Americans who are fully motorized. I leave for

LOGBIERE to take over 1st Co, 295 regiment.

11 Jan: I have oriented myself. 7 Co. 295 regiment comes to relieve us. Two American patrols were captured. The American behave impossibly. (He refers to the carelessness of patrols crossing open fields under German observation.) We go back to COULEE. Artillery keeps coming in during the night march.

12 Jan: HQ Co moves in. Everything looks hopeless. Towards evening we start marching to KROMBACH.

Leutnant OPITZ was wounded and captured by the 119th Infantry on 16 Jan 1945.

Added notes to this G-2 report:

German propaganda is being broadcast to the effect that Americans are using German uniforms and War decorations in order to deceive and overwhelm German soldiers. The broadcast indignantly added that "such practices are a severe violation of the International rules of warfare." (Source: Third Army PW Monitoring Report 158-W)

The following was an excerpt from a First Army interrogation report on a major from the 54 Werfer Regiment, supporting the 560 Volksgrenadier Division:

The use of Werfers for Gas Warfare: PW doubts that Germany will ever resort to gas warfare. He claims he has not seen or heard of any chemical shells to be used with Werfers and labeled "Pressluft Granate" as a fantasy of the enemy. He holds the use of this type of ammunition with present type Werfers as technically impossible because of the great heat generated by the Werfers upon firing would explode the ammunition. PW explains the expansion of the Werfer branch by stating that it is more economical to build a Werfer than an artillery piece and results achieved with the Werfers have been sat-

Diaries and Misc. info from de-classified documents, 1945 ...

isfactory. (Source: 1st Inf Div)

PWs taken in COURTIL from the 3d Bn, 20 SS PGR (9 SS Pz Div) stated that the 3Bn CP and one Company CP had been in COURTIL last night. PWs sleeping in a cellar believed that they had heard some movement during the night, but paid no particular attention to the noise. When they awoke in the morning, they found that their entire unit had left, where upon they settled down to wait for the Americans. (Source VII Corps)

Security: Two days before the present offensive the CG of the 1 SS Pz LAH issued a secret order stating that any CO could be reduced in grade if any of his men or vehicles are not well camouflaged or visible in the assembly areas. (Source XVIII Corps)

For the first time, 75th Div CIC encountered a member of the HITLER JUGEND, originating from enemy occupied territory. Reports already received from other CIC Detachments indicates that the enemy made frequent use of these youths, their missions being the caching of arms and espionage. It is recommended that unit S-2s be advised of this situation so that suspicious youths who appear to be seeking information from American soldiers, will be reported at once to this Detachment. It should be brought to the attention of all concerned that SHAEF Blue Pass has been compromised and all such passes have been recalled effective 15 January 45 (Sources: 75th Inf Div)

Taken from a declassified document - G-2 Periodic Report No. 41 (U.S. ARMY)



Submitted by Paul Thompson, 106th RECON - Last September 28 vets of the 106th Recon Troop gathered in Joplin, Missouri. Dale and Jean Sweet hosts

Front L/R - Two guests; Claire & Joe Haines; Helen & Joe Knight; Carmel & Cal Izzi

2nd Row - Sophie Beltz; Laura Thompson; Barbara Madsen; Jean Sweet; Vivian Selve; Mildred Rogers; Lorraine Ortner; Mary Bosi; Tony Nolan

3rd Row - Dick Beltz; Ken Booz; Paul Thompson; Bob Madsen; Dale Sweet; _ Beltz; Wil Selve; Jim Rogers; Guest; Art Bosi; Bob House.

The main event was a bus trip to the Osmond Brothers in Branson, including a stop at Bass Pro Shops.



Mr -CRIBA members, Marcel Nijst, Joseph DeJardin, Daughter/Son-in-Law, Bob/Betty Johnson; Milt Schober; CRIBA member, Jules Hurdibise; and Schober's Son, Allan at Hurdibise's "Little Museum" at Logbierme, Belgium.

WHEN MILTON SCHOBBER TOLD ME HE WAS RETURNING TO BELGIUM, I ASKED HIM TO GIVE ME A STORY. THANKS, MILT.....

HIS TRIP COINCIDED WITH THE GALAXY TOURS GROUP THAT ATTENDED THE RE-DEDICATION OF THE ST-VITH MEMORIAL (SEE OCT-NOV-DEC 1994 CUB PAGES 27 THROUGH 40.) HE ALSO FURNISHED PICTURES OF THAT EVENT LIKE THE ONES PRINTED IN THE ABOVE MENTIONED CUB WHICH I HAVE NOT REPLICATED.

THIS STORY, AS DO MANY OTHERS, INDICATE THE WILLINGNESS OF THE BELGIAN PEOPLE, IN PARTICULAR CRIBA, TO WELCOME MEN OF THE 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION IN THEIR COUNTRY. THE 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, ONCE AGAIN, WISHES TO THANK CRIBA FOR ALL THAT IT HAS DONE FOR OUR VETERANS... JOHN KLINE, EDITOR

Back to Belgium

by Milton Schober, 424/F

The words "50th Anniversary" seemed compelling enough as an invitation to turn once more to the Ardennes battlefield, particularly when combined with the urging of CRIBA friends Joseph DeJardin and Marcel Nijet whom I had met in May 1992. At the 1993 Division reunion there were several organizations touting 50th Anniversary tours but I dismissed these as being too limiting -easy for me to do since I have a son living in Amsterdam a mere three-hour drive from the Ardennes.

When fall airline price cuts were headlined in our newspapers I made inquiry and discovered Amsterdam fares weren't slashed but those to Brussels were. Since my daughter Betty and her husband had expressed an interest in seeing the battleground that her father never seemed to tire talking about, this was an opportunity for them to join me for a few days in a 50th Anniversary special. They would rent a car to get us to Amsterdam and have it for

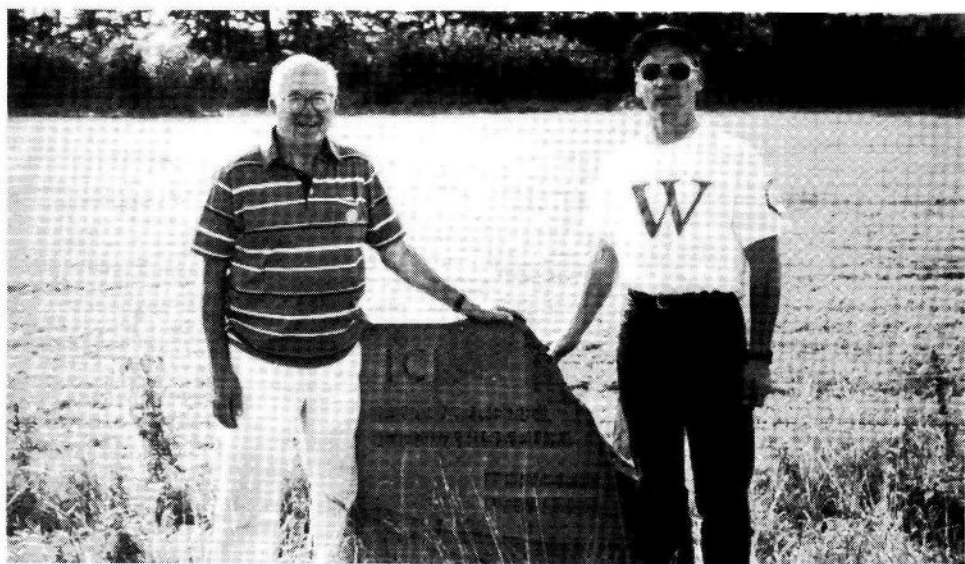
Milt Schober, 424/F, returns to Belgium with Son ...

their use -when they left to tour later on their own,

I was aware that Galaxy Tours was operating a tour in September but it was strictly coincidence that the date I selected matched their dates. What a surprise to leave the customs area of Brussels Zaventem Airport and see a tour representative holding high a sign saying "106th DIVISION." I didn't see any of the 106th Division men at that time, but by design met up with them the next day at Henri Chapelle Cemetery, where 119 men of the Division are buried. There was to be a Memorial service at the cemetery on Saturday, September 24 at four o'clock, and our group was racing down the roads from Amsterdam with the intent of meeting our CRIBA friends about a half hour in advance. Good intentions notwithstanding, we were somewhat later than that and with the rainy weather forcing an early start to the program, we arrived in the parking area in time to see 106th Division men walking back to their bus. I spotted Major Hill, 424/B, and he confirmed that the

ceremony was over. We did meet Joseph and Madeleine DeJardin and received information from them as to the next day's ceremonies. And wouldn't you know that generous Madeleine presented us with a shopping bag of cookies, candy bars and numerous other snacks. Then with the rain still much in evidence, my little group of four took flowers we had brought from Amsterdam and placed them on the graves of three men from my company, 424/F, that I knew were buried in Henri Chapelle, namely George Evansco, a member of my squad who was about thirty feet from me when he was killed on Christmas Day 1944; Eugene Lenihan, who was killed in our January 15, 1945 attack on the village of Ennal; Harry Stokes, executive officer of the company who was killed by artillery fire on Christmas Day at Manhay.

We had no advance hotel reservations but left the Cemetery with the intent of staying at a little hotel/restaurant at Oberhausen, Belgium, on the Our River in the vicinity of Weidig, where F Company moved across the river in its retreat on the



Milt Schober with Son-in-law, Bob Johnson at a marker on the northern edge of Manhay which denotes the furthest advance of German forces. The 2nd Battalialon of the 424th Combat Infantry Regiment advance to this field on Christmas Day 1944.



Left, Schober with CRIBA member Pierre Mawet at a "Happy Hour" gathering at Parker's Crossroads. Alfred Vitali, 424/B on the right.

evening of December 17, 1944. Chains blocking the parking lot clued us that we needed to try elsewhere, so we motored back to Burg-Reuland. Here, near a sign marking "Lutzkampen 6 Km" we found a very modern little motel which was seeking lodgers. How peaceful it was here now in the valley tucked in among the hills, compared to the chaos of December 18, 1944, when we were feverishly digging defensive positions on the nearby heights of the Our Berg.

Next day, we motored the 16 kilometers to St. Vith, that town so important and so vigorously defended a half century ago. Church services were underway when we arrived and a handful of American servicemen were assembling along with a small local band. As the congregation recessed the church it gathered across the street around a memorial to German war dead where a brief ceremony included 106th Division members. The band then formed up and marched off in the direction of the new 106th Division Memorial several blocks distant. Here a very formal ceremony included comments by the Bür-

gemeister of St. Vith. Major Hill, 424/B, representing the 106th Infantry Division Association and Dr. Cremer of the Bischofflicke Schule. Our national anthem and bugle salutes were included in the program.

I was surprised to see John Gregory, 424/E, who was also traveling independent of the Galaxy Tour. Numerous photos were taken of the 106th group and others standing at the now memorial. A video team from ABC was present throughout getting pictures presumably to be used in a December Battle of the Bulge Program.

The 106th group and a number of CRIBA members flowed back to what became a very congested Pip-Margraf Hotel for a reception that included an abundance of wine and hors d'oeuvres. What a friendly atmosphere for discussing the battle we knew so well.

The Bürgermeister distributed statements of appreciation to those of us who were not attending special luncheon. It was comforting to see the words "BELGIUM REMEMBERS" on the statement.

Milt Schober, 424/F, returns to Belgium with Son ...

motor caravan formed up in the afternoon to visit places of interest to the tour members like John Roberts, 592/C and John Gatens, 589/A which influenced the places visited, such as Schönberg, Andler, Auw and Lodesheim. Some of the men were quite certain in spotting the location of their gun emplacements while others vacillated. The caravan moved thru Prüm, a beautiful city which at the time of the breakthrough was within range of our artillery, and terminated at Gerolstein. Both of these locations are familiar to those who were taken prisoner. One of them located the warehouse where prisoners had been gathered for rail shipment into Germany.

Once more we retreated to our little motel in Berg-Reuland to await the excitement of the next day when the scene of action would be Baraque De Fraiture, known also as Parkers Crossroads.

We spotted the 105 mm howitzer as we approached the crossroads and noted the speech making was already under way. Gendarmes were blocking the access roads, but we could see 106th and CRIBA in the large group assembled. The ABC

video crew was once more in evidence, but now we saw another video cameraman. We learned that he was born in LaRoche, Belgium but now resided in France. He operated as a free lance video producer. John Gatens, 589/A, got a lot of attention as a participant in the battle of Parker's Crossroads 50 years ago. Following the ceremony and the eternal picture taking we were invited into the hotel restaurant on the site of the battle for complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres. One of the first things noticed was a picture of Major Parker who gives his name to the intersection of the two major highways. The woman who operates the facility, Madame Marie LeHaire, was mixing with the guests but a knowledge of the French language was essential in understanding her. Her family, living at this location for many years, experienced the destruction, by the Germans, of their home here in the fall of 1944, because of Belgian resistance activity. After the Germans withdrew construction started on a new home when once again damage resulted from the battle here in December 1944.



L/R - Schober's daughter, Betty; Son, Allan; Betty's husband, Bob Johnson; CRIBA member, Marcel Nijist and Joseph DeJardin; Milt Schober; in DeJardin's home.

Milt Schober, 424/F, returns to Belgium with Son..



Battle of the Bulge Commemorative plate
courtesy Pierre Mawet, CRIBA

Joseph and Madeleine DeJardin introduced me to other CRIBA members. One of them, Pierre Mawet, was instrumental in securing from the U. S. Department of the Army, the 105 mm howitzer now on location at the crossroads. Another, Eddy Monfort, a 24 year old man who lives in Malmedy (near Manhay) is the author of a 213 page book, in French *L'Offensive Des Ardennes*. The book contains comments by John Gatens, 589/A, and John Schaffner, 589/A, concerning the action at Parkers Crossroads, as well as an article I had written on the Christmas Day 1944 attack on Manhay.

In the afternoon we drove a short distance to Grandmenil to view the Panther tank on display and to spot the section of the road between Grandmenil and Manhay where company, 424/F, had dug in on December 27 1944. I walked across the field where I had been pinned down by tank fire on that never to be forgotten Christmas. While in this area the free lance video cameraman appeared with the De-Jardins and requested that I make comments on my recollections of the battle.

The following day, Tuesday, saw the

Galaxy tour group headed for Bastogne and then into Luxembourg. Our little group of four stayed in the area where I had fought. In this area, in 1992, I had the assistance of CRIBA members Joseph DeJardin and Marcel Nijst. Our day started at the DeJardin home where Madeleine, as usual, lavished food on us. I had indicated that I would like to see the museum of Jules Hurdebise in Logbierme, an area where the 424th had action in mid-January 1945. We also followed the route of SS Panzer 1 leader Peiper over the blown bridge in Stavelot (later reconstructed by Company A, 81st engineers) and on to La Glieze where one of Peiper's Tiger tanks remains as a tourist attraction near a very good war museum which we visited.

Our departure from the DeJardin household was preceded by partaking of



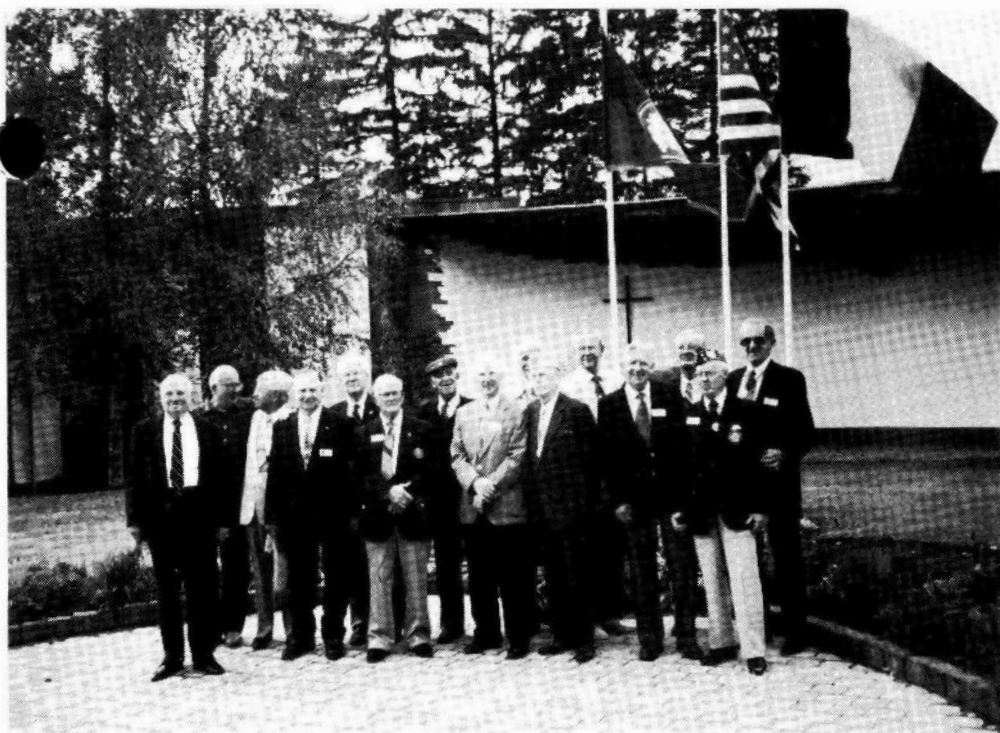
Obverse and Reverse
of "Bulge" wine bottle, courtesy of Joseph
and Madeleine DeJardin, CRIBA

Milt Schober, 424/F, returns to Belgium with Son ...

adeleine's usual "spread," and receiving from Joseph, who knows of my interest in philately (stamp collecting) a large bundle of stamps. We then drove with Marcel to his house in Malmedy for the purpose of again meeting his wife, Marie Jose. Surprised, again, I received from her several large envelopes full of stamps. What a pleasant way to part company with our very good friends.

The following day we said goodbye to my daughter and her husband as they decided to spend time in Luxembourg hiking the various trails, while my son and I headed north to the area where my company ended its combat activity. Company "F," 424th Combat Infantry was at rest in Plainevaux, Belgium the first few days of

February, 1945. Rumors were widespread that our next move would be westward into France for the purpose of reconstituting the Division. This was to happen later, but now our assignment was to move eastward to the pillboxes and woods near Neuhoef, Germany. I remember the difficulty in reaching these positions through hilly terrain infested with enemy mines. Engineers had cleared lanes marked by white tape and we knew we had to move around very carefully. This situation made supply a problem and I remember being on K rations for the better part of a month. The front line here was a stable one and relatively safe except for patrol activity and occasional artillery fire, but I recall a number interesting occurrences here. One



In front of the new 106th Infantry Division Association Memorial

Alvin Skardon, 590/B; Milt Schober, 424/F; John Gregory, 424/E Walter Johannes, 423/E; Major Hill, 424/B; Richard Dill, 422/HQ 2Bn; Charles Jacelon, 589/A; Leo Gregory, 424/HQ 3Bn; Ted Kiendl, 589/B; Horace Mansfield, 424/A; Jack Roberts, 592/C; John Schaffner, 589/A; Walter Snyder, 589/A; John Gatens, 589/A and Harold Kulzema, 589/B — If this looks familiar, I left out Schober and Gregory in the Oct-Nov-Dec 1994 picture on page 36...



Schober, left, by the Pillbox, near Neuhoof, Germany. This area was occupied by the 424/F in February 1945. He located the ruins of the pillbox on this return trip.

of them stemmed from manning an outpost. I was told one day to plan on taking two men the next morning to a bombed out schoolhouse several hundred yards forward. While observing the outpost from our pillbox, a single German shell landed on it, indicating they had it perfectly zeroed in. That was somewhat unnerving, but before daylight on the next morning we crawled out with binoculars, a BAR and a sound-powered phone to a spot behind the crumbling foundation wall. As daylight came we spotted a platoon size group of enemy milling about in woods about 300 yards to our front. Using our phone to contact our first sergeant at the company CP we reported our findings and requested artillery fire. This was a mistake - the artillery fire that came appeared to be bracketing our outpost and soon our phone connection was severed I told the other man to race with me back to our pillbox, which I hated to do in daylight, but which I felt was safer than undergoing an artillery barrage. We made it back safely, but after an hour or so of rest, the first sergeant

suggested that we return to the outpost, still in daylight, with the added hazard of locating the break in the phone cord and splicing it.

Now here, with my son, I was looking to locate the pillbox and the schoolhouse foundations. From the local road on which we were driving we spotted a pile of rubble about 300 yards away in a farm field. From the road it didn't look like the remains of a pillbox but we crawled through the barbed wire fencing. As we reached the rubble we could see the exposed reinforcing rods and knew that it was a blown-up pillbox. I took a piece of the conglomerate as a souvenir. Our search for the schoolhouse wall was futile. A new house had been constructed in the area, apparently on top of the outpost location. As we surveyed the tranquil surroundings it was hard to believe that this was such a hazardous place - 50 years ago.

Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation dedicates Stavelot Memorial

by Milton Schober, 424/F

As you have read, I regularly correspond with Joseph DeJardin, who is a member of CRIBA, and a member of the 106th Infantry Division Association.

In 1994 Joseph sent me some pictures concerning the work of a craftsman in his hometown, Stavelot, Belgium. many of the 424th Infantry Regiment will remember Stavelot as the village we moved through early in January 1945. This was where a number of us were able to get our first shower bath after the onset of the Bulge.

The Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation, located at Fort Meade, Maryland, in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the *Battle of the Bulge* decided to decorate a large room conference room with furniture from the region where the battle occurred. Accordingly, the Foundation petitioned a local artisan, Vincent Gaspar, to fabricate a very large oval table and twenty chairs, to be made of oak from the Ardennes.

Encrusted around the perimeter of of the table are replicas of shoulder patches of the 45 army units that participated in the battle. The cost of the table and chairs was covered by donations from various veteran organizations and individuals. The people of Stavelot underwrote the 21st chair.

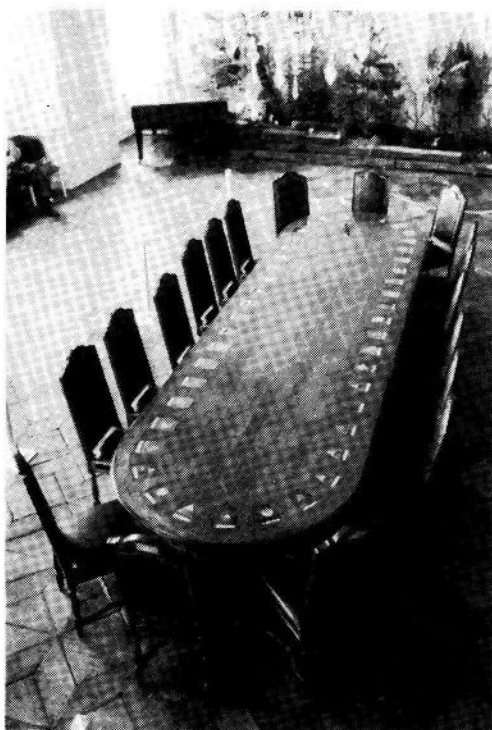
The unveiling of the furniture occurred in an impressive ceremony in Stavelot on 30 April, 1994 in presence of the U.S. Ambassador to Belgium and other dignitaries. The table now resides in its new home in Fort Meade, Maryland.

signed Milton Schober



The unveiling of the table by members of the U.S. Honor Guard in presence of, notably: J. MONVILLE, Bürgermeister of Town of STAVELOT; Honorable A. BLINKEN, Ambassador of the Unites States in Brussels; A. SHEHAB, member of the Committee of the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation; Mrs. D. DAVIS, Exec. Officer of the Committee; W. Greenville, President of the Committee; G. POTTIER, Master of Ceremony, President of the local Remembrance Committee; V. GASPAR, the conscientious and talented Cabinet maker

Commemorative Table, continued



Over all view -left. The commemorative "Lion's Head shoulder patch is on the curve of the table, just to the right of the head chair. A larger view of the patch shown in the right picture



Dedication plaque that is in placed on the table



Central Florida 16 Dec Luncheon - Lloyd Byrd, 423/H! 1Bn, Chairman

The Central Florida Luncheon was held on 17 Dec, 1994 at the Metro West Country Club in Orlando. Thirty-nine members and guests were in attendance.

Pete House, newly appointed Association Adjutant gave an interesting talk on the 16 Dec 1944 situation in the 106th Sector. His use of charts and the alignment of the 106th and adjoining units showed the force of the German thrust.

John Riels and Dick Sparks summarized the standing of the 1995 Orlando Reunion.

(Your editor apologizes for missing this in the front section) Attending were:

Harold & Edith Blalack
Lloyd & Dot Byrd
Cliff & Francis Capshaw
Louis & Peggy Cooper
E.V. Creel
Leo & Doris Cruz
Chuck Cullinan
James & Thelma Daniel
Sam Davis & Midge Ward

John & Norma Douglass
James Edwards
Robert & Jean Eldridge
George & Muriel Geib
Arthur Hanke
Pete & Joanne House
Paul & Dottie Lamb
Melvin Moss
Bob & Belle Niner

Delbert & Marion Rediger
John Reynolds
John Riels
Ted Slaby
Dick Sparks
Warren Thomas
Chick Wood

Robert A. Gilder

424/HQ 2Bn
36303 Behm Dr.
North Ridgeville, OH 44039

The Commemoration of *The Battle of the Bulge* was held on 17 Dec in a suburb of Cleveland. It was well attended by local veterans.

Presentation of the Colors was given by a US Coast Guard unit, Catholic War Veterans and Honor Guard by the 82nd Division Assoc. Introductory remarks were by Mayor Harbarger of Lakewood. Introduction of Speaker by Brig. Gen. Ed Sunyak. The keynote speaker being, Dante Lavelli,

former Cleveland Browns receiver of 1940-50 who was a rifleman with the 28th Inf Div during the Bulge.

He gave eyewitness accounts of the Bulge and praised the 106th Inf Div for their stand at St. Vith.

Representing the 106th were Frank Barlow, DIV/HQ; Peter DiRenzo, 106 SIG; myself, Robert Gilder, 424/HQ 1Bn; and Vivian McCullough, widow of Lyle, 422/SV.

We all thanked the Mayor of Lakewood for the honor of the ceremony.



Four buddies reunited at the South Dakota, 48th Annual Reunion. L/R - Russel Hoff, Willard (Lefty) Diefenthaler, see Lefty's story below - Maynard Sexton and Bill Malone. Hoff and Malone slept in upper bunk and Lefty and Sexton in the lower bunk at Stalag 9-A

Willard Diefenthaler, 424/HQ 2Bn

W-5606 Cty Trk E.H.
Elkhart Lake, WI 53020

My twin brother and I were drafted 7 December 1942. I went to Fort Bragg, NC to the 101st Div., 327 Glider Inf. My twin brother, Wilbur J. went to Camp Phillips, KS, 919 FA, 94th Inf Div.

We were separated for three months for the first time in 20 years.

I transferred to the 94th Inf. Div. in March 1943. We both went to Air Cadets, Walnut Ridge, Arkansas. We trained as fighter pilots for six months, then we were both sent to the 106th Inf. Div at Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

We were both captured on 19 December near Schönberg. We reach Stalag 9-B, Bad Orb, Germany 25 Dec 1944.

I moved to Stalag 9-A on 25 Jan 1945. Wilbur was too sick to go. I received word that he died on 21 February 1945. He is buried in St. Avold Cemetery, France.

I was liberated by the 6th Armd Div on Good Friday, March 30. I went to Camp

Wheeler, GA and trained rookies for six months and then was discharged on 5 Dec 1945 at Camp McCoy, WI.

I attended my first 106th Reunion in Rapid City, South, Dakota. There I was honored to display a special flag. My special buddy, Maynard Sexton and I displayed a flag that was sent to my parents in 1946 from the St. Avold Cemetery, where Wilbur is buried. The flag was never removed from its box until we took it to the Stalag 9A-9B-9C Reunion in Washington, D.C. in April 1994.

It has 48 gold stars on front with 47 gold stars and one white star on the back. We think this white star represents Wisconsin. It is indeed special to me, since it covered my twin brother's casket when he was buried at St. Avold. We are glad to have had the opportunity to share it with our old buddies of World War II. The picture taken of me with the flag was too dark, so I sent the best I had. *Lefty Diefenthaler*



Service Company, 423rd Inf. Reg., Rapid City, S.D. L/R Sal Grasso; John Starmack; Hal Taylor; Clete Noon; Don Wischmeier; William Ulin; John Stewart Mrs.: Grasso; Starmack; Taylor; Wischmeier; Ulin and Stewart

Ruth Carver

742 Druid Cir
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Ruth wife of Dale, 424/HQ 3Bn. Dale was Platoon leader of the A&P Platoon. For you that don't recognize it, that's the bridge that pull German mines off bridges while standing knee deep in icy water. If you want to go back and try it, maybe you will get a Silver Star, like Dale did.

Dale wrote a best seller (at least in the 106th Inf Div Association). It is a book of poems about his remembrances of how it was during those dark days in 1944-45.

The book entitled *Before the Veterans Die* is still available. Send \$6.00 to Ruth and she will tell Dale to send you a book. You won't regret it - it's great!

Ruth wrote the local newspaper in Rapid City, after the reunion, it was published as follows:

As a wife of a veteran of the 106th Infantry Division which recently held its 48th Annual Reunion in Rapid City, I want to report a charming incident.

At a restaurant, my husband, Dale Carver, a veteran friend (Don Herndon,

who was featured in a picture in the R.C. Journal about the 106th), his wife and I were approached by a young man. He introduced himself (unfortunately I did not jot down his name). He thanked the two veterans for their services in World War II, and, upon leaving, we were told he had paid for our meals.

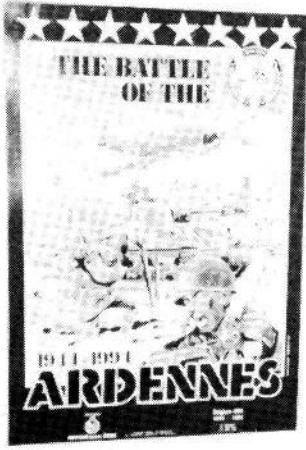
This is a fine example of the friendliness and warmth the good people of Rapid City extended to us. signed Ruth Carver

In another article that Ruth passed along to this editor —

Before they are gone:

The horror of war, is indeed, front page news, as deserving of attention and respect as the soldiers who suffered and died. Yet, Gordon Hanson, brought neither life nor the shattering reality to his Sept 5 article on the 48th Annual Reunion (not the 50th) of the 106th Infantry in Rapid City.

My father-in-law was with the 424th and was not taken prisoner. He merely fought on without food, warmth, shelter or protection - cut off by the relentless German advance. The POWs suffered physi-



The above picture is of **Milton (Pappy) Conner**, 592 FAB, Battery "B." 2601 W Randal Mill Rd Rm 272E, Arlington, TX 76012. He writes as follows, " Mr. John Kline, editor, I was looking at your picture in *The CUB*. You look like you could walk out 12.5 miles and back 12.5 miles with a pack on your back I mailed you one of these photos and tell you that I am too young to remember the fall of Texas at the Alamo, but I remember **The Ardennes**. Then, I had hair on my head, had my own teeth and could see better. It could not be my age for I am just 84. I sure do enjoy *The CUB*. I look first for **Dan Bied**. I loved the article on Jazz, for I have all of Glen Miller's records. I am proud of this picture of *The Ardennes* and I just received a newspaper from Luxembourg. signed "Pappy"

cally, mentally and emotionally. Those not captured also suffered physically, mentally and emotionally. The POWs survived with determination and dignity. Those "on the outside" bravely continued to the fight that would liberate the continent - ultimately the world.

Hanson's article swung from disconnected statistics to ignoring the heroism in ingenuity that these gallant men displayed. He spoke little of the internalized horror and daily struggle of those teen-

agers and twenty-somethings.

I suggest the Journal interview these soldiers and record their incredible experiences, because they will soon be gone. Then, truly much will be lost. Hanson should learn to write with his soul and the Journal should devote a special section to this war's last living historians. signed Nikkia Wyer, Seattle Washington



Anti-Tank Co., 422nd Inf. Reg. Taken 6 August '94

50 year reunion at the home of Rene Pigeon, Warwick, RI. Photos by Merritt.

1st Row, L/R - J. Blake Floyd, South Carolina; Walter Pawluk, Connecticut;

2nd Row - Louis Tarantino, Massachusetts; Jim Wilver, Pennsylvania;

Rene Pigeon, Rhode Island; Anthony Giglio, Connecticut; and Jim Merritt, Maine

(Better late than never, guys.. J. Kline) Merritt wrote that He and Pigeon were original recruits at Fort Jackson. Pigeon was the A.T. Co. Commander's driver.

He, Merritt was a squad leader of an A.T. crew. Pawluk, was the cook

Dean Childs, 106 SIG

245 S 56th St #75
Mesa, AZ 85206

John, I thought my ego was high when we all received those Belgian Medals in Phoenix, AZ, at the Belgian Ambassador's Ceremony, but to see me wearing it on the front of a national publication (Jan-Feb-Mar 1995 CUB) was almost more than I could handle.

Thank you for printing it. I am proud to be a 106er. *signed Dean*

Howard L. Hughes, 106 RECON

1302 Crotty Ct. #5
Cincinnati, OH 45255

I was among the first of the recruits on the 106th Reconnaissance Troop, being there when the 106th Infantry Division was activated.

I was lucky not to a casualty of the "Bulge." In a few days the commanders got a handle on things, gathered up the stragglers. I was first sent to the 106 Signal

Company, then on to the infantry.

I spent the majority of combat time with the 424th Headquarters Battalion under **Lt. Dale Carver**, but then back to the Recon Troop, near the end of March 1945. I have a picture of seventeen of the Troop that was taken back in France where we moved to re-man and re-equip.

After the middle of May we moved to Germany, along the Rhine River, training to go to the Pacific. After the war with Japan was over I was assigned to the 83rd Armd Recon Sqdrn, then to the 112th AAA Battalion, driving a bus and working the motor-pool.

Have been married 57 this coming June. Have a daughter, worked in retail before the war, contracting and construction for 23 years after.....

Sorry Howard, the 1945 picture at the Hotel Rausch, Eupen, was too dark for reproduction..
J. Kline, editor

Mail Bag and catch-up on other items ...

William M. Potts, 424/K

1985 NE Collins Cir #1
Jensen Beach, FL 34957

Bill, what do I say? You, or is it your twin brother, have sent me so much material that I can never seem to get at.

I am trying to get this CUB done. Have never had any "Mail Bag" material for several issue, even though I have over 150 letters stacked in an alphabetical sorter on my back desk.

I don't control production, it controls me. Bill Mosolf sent me a plaque recently that says "*I finally got it all organized... Now I can't find it!*"

Thanks, Bill, at least I am going to use the letter you sent in June 1994... J. Kline

Bill wrote:

On a Cold mid-February day of 1945 a 424/K cook stopped at every snow covered bunker with one jelly-doughnut for each person. I wondered how this could be accomplished in a field kitchen and thought "why not something hot," but I savored the doughnut.

In 1978 while reading *On to Berlin* by General James Gavin, I found the answer in these excerpts from *Winter War*, page 229.

"On December 21 I visited the Command Post of the U.S. 106th Infantry Division..... There were two huge trailers containing doughnut making machines.... I could not recall when I have seen such fine looking new equipment before...."

The doughnut equipment may not have survived to February, but the wonder of those doughnuts never cease.

I am equally impressed with the first-rate CUB, Membership Card and correspondence from officers and members, so widely dispersed..

Thanks to all of you, signed Bill Potts, 424/K

Dick Peterson, Ph. D. 423/I

1285 Rubenstein Ave.
Cardiff by the Sea, CA 92007

Dick, a member of the 106th Inf. Div. Assoc. Board, author of a book, and a friend, has spent his later years consulting Vietnam vets in the VA System

His book *Healing a Child Warrior*, (available at \$27.50 ppd) gives all of us some insight as to the trauma, soul searching and physical torment of the battle and the POW experience. He has traveled to Europe to attend several reunions of the French at Stalag IX-A, Ziegenhain..

On one of his trips he leisurely toured the area visiting cemetery's. As he did , he jotted down some thoughts: —

Quote:

The men of wars are old-as am I.

The places where we offered our youth

To God and Country are old.

The monuments are being renewed

To keep the old men alive in years to come

When someone who never knew them will speak aloud

The names of the Divisions, Regiments, and Battalions.

And in so doing bring them back to life for that instant.

Then the sound, as were their lives, will be swallowed up in time

Just as was the energy of brave deeds,

Lost to the greater forces of time.

Only the stones will remain.

—0—

The memories in my mind fade.

The feelings in my heart grow.

And I am at peace with the exchange.

—0—

I have no desire to visit the battlefields of my youth.

I will go to see the scenes of my father's war.

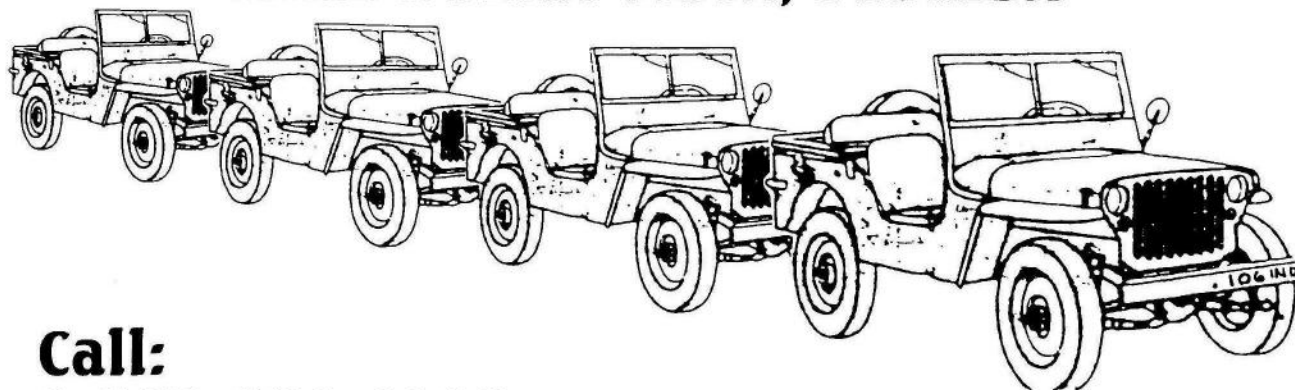
Perhaps then I will understand him-and me.

There are no great feelings of sadness left
in any of these places I visit.

I am now a man of my own, at peace with myself.

Richard Peterson, Europe 1992

**The
106TH INFANTRY DIVISION
GOLDEN LION CONVOY IS HEADED FOR
THE 49TH REUNION IN ORLANDO
SEPTEMBER 7-8-9 1995
TO BE HELD AT THE GROSVENOR RESORT
Walt Disney World Village
LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLORIDA**



**Call:
1-800-624-4109**

Designed by Claudia Slaby Umak

In Memory of...

Reuben Hay 423/M

I received word from Reuben's sister, Catherine Hay Smith, 2605 Chad St., No. Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29582, that he had died suddenly on 22 January, 1995. Catherine and another sister Lucille Hay Sommerwerck, both of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., attended the Rapid City Reunion with him. Reuben, a jeep driver for 423/M has been present at most of the reunions in these later years, mingling with his beloved "M" Company buddies. A quite, deeply sincere gentleman, he shall be missed by all of us.

Reuben, a retired Armour Food Company, Pacific contract manager, and husband of the late Kate Harris Hay, had lived in Asheville, N.C. since 1983. He is survived by their sons, Roger and David of Asheville; a daughter Marsha Draper, the two sisters named above and another sister Sally Brink; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; two nieces; a nephew; several cousin and many friends. He was a member of the Asheville Downtown City Club, Asheville Civilian Club and a member of the Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Richard C. Echenstahler 423/M

39770 Stonebridge Ct., Antioch, IL 60002

It was reported to the Adjutant that Dick passed away on April 12, 1995 at the Chicago area VA Hospital. As an "M" Company buddy, I know that he is preceded by his wife. At the moment I know of no other details.

Ray C. Smith 591/HQ

1471 Church Road Rte 3, Malvern, PA 19355

Charles Johansen on 30 January sent a notice that Ray, a lieutenant, died at the age of 74. No date of death was given in the article. Ray was a graduate of Purdue University and for many years served as vice president of marketing at Sinclair Petrochemicals, Inc, New York City. Later he executive vice-president of Sinclair Koppers Co., in Pittsburgh. Then Ray served as vice-president of Stryrene Products, ARCO Polymers, Inc in Philadelphia. He retired in 1978.

In 1946 he and Beth Drozda were married in Vienna, Austria. Ray is survived by his wife, a son, Clayton of Louisville, Colorado; a daughter, Elizabeth of Seattle; one brother, three sisters and a grandchild.

Robert F. Stoll 589/C

Sue MacNeil, Robert's daughter writes that he passed away on 12 December 1994. A CUB was returned with a change of address: 3830 Thistle Knoll CV, Bartlett, TN 38135-7425. I presume this is his daughter's address. No other details were given.

Freddie E. Baker 422/A

112 East Maxwell, Dewitt, Arizona

Word received that Fred died 28 January 1995. No other details.

Arthur P. McPoland 422/M

1305 Ridge Rd., North Huntingdon, PA 15642

Word received that Arthur died 21 January 1995. No other details.

Earl H. Schmude 423/F

1305 Lansing Ave, Jackson. MI

Art Kuespert writes that he was informed by Earl's daughter, Shelia Zurek, that he died Thanksgiving, Day, 1994. Earl attended the reunion at Fort Jackson.

Other deaths reported, not current Association members:

Albert Monaco 423/CN; March 1994; **John Coggin, 423/G** December 1994

Robert "Red" Hanaka 424/C; November 1994; **Clennie Johnson 424/H** 1994

Lorenz Schneider, 424/SV, July 1994; **William "Wild Bill" Donovan,** 1994