

THE ARDENNES * THE RHINELAND * CENTRAL EUROPE

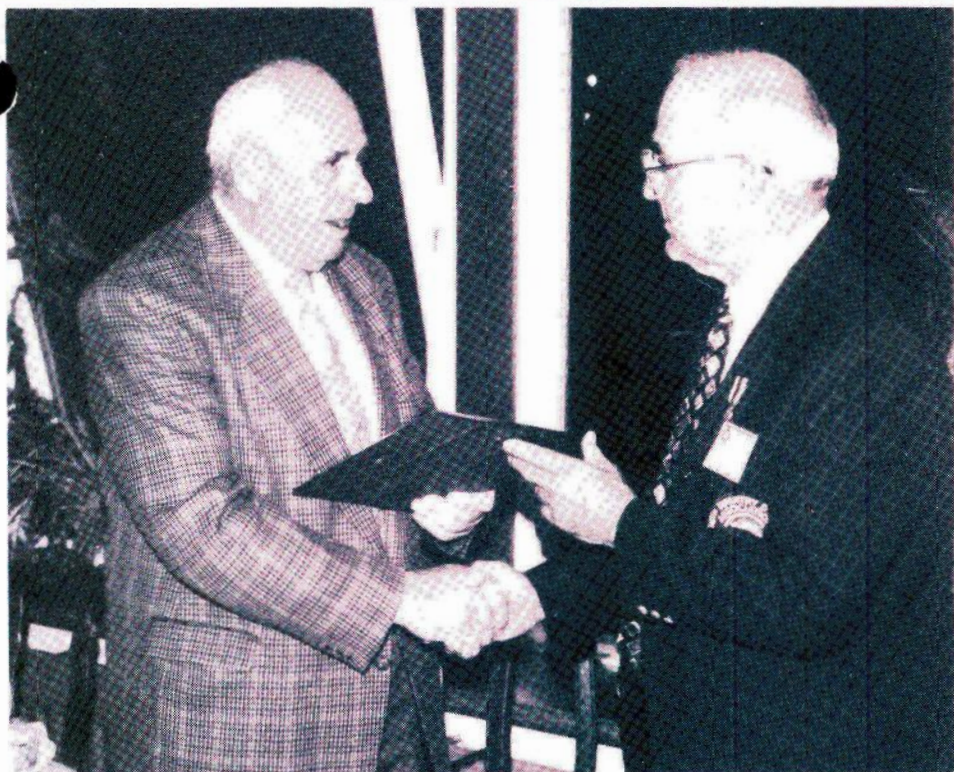
The CLUB

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

of the
GOLDEN LION

Vol 52— No. 2

JAN-FEB-MAR 1996



President Andre HUBERT, C.R.I.B.A. (left), accepting a plaque of appreciation from the 106th Infantry Division Association's 2nd Vice-President John Kline.

23 Sept 1995 - Parker's Crossroads - See complete story pages 23 to 35

(Photo by Dan Walters, Associate Member, Historian)

The CUB

*A quarterly publication of the
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Membership fees include CUB subscription.

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106th Infantry Division Association
Richard L. Rigatti, President - 1995-1996
"B" Company, 423rd Infantry Regiment
Photo circa 1943-44

The Orlando Reunion Committee surprised all attendees with a video of the reunion, which was really great. This reunion was so successful that they were able to send our Treasurer \$5,600. Again, my congratulations to the Orlando Committee.

The December Mini-Reunions were really a success. There were over 577 members and guests that attended 22 local Mini-Reunions. I think there are a couple that have not reported yet. If so, they will be included in the next *CUB*.

This year we are refining our efforts by soliciting members by zip-code instead of state, due to the wide-spread population of members. State-wide, which was the method used this year, created some disparity of population. Hubert Crook is particularly to be con-

gratulated, as he tried to have a reunion of five states and 114 members in really scattered locations. He arranged a two day affair to induce them, but was not successful. I really want to thank Hubert for the valiant effort.

We are seriously considering having a catalog sheet of war memorabilia, pins, patches, accessories, etc., and advertising them in *The CUB*. We would also have a reputable vendor maintain a booth at the annual reunions.

At the moment, we are polling the Board of Directors, and waiting on their decision which could enable us to have the catalog sheet in the next issue of *The CUB*. Most of you have seen this type of advertising in the AX-POW Magazine, the VFW Magazine and other national service organization publications.

I am writing this report in the middle of the worst BLIZZARD of '96 in Pittsburgh. For the first time in history we have had to close down three interstate highways. Reports say the snow may keep coming...

Wishing you all a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.....

Dick Rigatti, President

106th Infantry Division Association



A White House Invitation for Veteran's Day...

by Richard L. Rigatti, President 106th Infantry Division Association

Upon invitation from the White House, I represented the 106th Infantry Division Association in Washington, D.C. for the various services commemorating Veteran's Day on 11 November 1995.

It started on Friday afternoon with a memorial to the victims of "Operation Tiger." In the evening there was a musical concert of WWII music performed by the Medical Musical Group Orchestra, choir and related services at the DAR Convention Hall.

Saturday morning started with breakfast at the White House, followed by a laying of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery. After lunch at the NCO club at Fort Myers, Virginia we were bussed to the site dedicated for the WWII memorial between the Washington Monument and the Reflecting Pool at 17th Street. There followed a reception at the Sheraton Hotel.

Sunday morning services were at the National Cathedral for the closing ceremony. The Cathedral is a non-denominational facility and the services were conducted by the Episcopal Ministry. Our President was honored by being the "Bearer of Gift" during the ceremony.

He had an opportunity to discuss mutual item of interest with past and current executives of the VBOB, AXPOW and DAV. He felt honored to be accepted among this notable group and enjoyed the rapport.. *Richard L. Rigatti*

Most of us, no matter what our religious background, went through our own private hell some 51 years ago in that December of 1944 and the months which followed. Those of us who survived and continue to survive understand that God has used us in many different ways since then but that we, too, have a place reserved for us with God.

Dr. Charles E. Fuller of the Old Fashioned Revival Hour radio broadcasts received the following letter from his friend, Dr. Harry Rimmer, who was dying of cancer:

“My dear Charlie:

“Next Sunday I understand you are to talk about Heaven. I am interested in that land, because I have a clear title to a bit of property there for over 50 years. I did not buy it, for it was given to me without money and without price. But the donor purchased it for me at tremendous cost. I am not holding it for speculation, for the deed is not transferable. It is not a vacant lot, for I have been sending materials there for over 50 years, out of which the greatest Architect and Builder of the Universe has been building a home for me which will fit me perfectly and will never need to be repaired. Termites cannot undermine its foundation, for it rests upon the ‘Rock of Ages.’ Fire cannot destroy it. Floods cannot wash it away. No locks or bolts will be placed upon its doors, for no devious person can ever enter that land where my dwelling stands, almost completed. It is ready for me to enter in and rest in peace eternally, without fear of being evicted.

“There is a valley of deep shadow between the place where I live in California and that to which I shall journey in a short time. I cannot reach my home in that city of gold without passing through this dark valley of shadows. But, I am not afraid, because the best friend that I ever had went through this same valley long ago and drove away its gloom. He has stuck with me through thick and thin since we first became acquainted 52 years ago, and I hold his promise in printed form never to forsake or to leave me alone. He will be with me as I walk through the valley of the shadows, and I shall not lose my way when he is with me.

“I hope to hear your sermon on Sunday next from my home here, but I have no assurance that I shall. My ticket to heaven has no date stamped upon it, no return coupon, and no permit for baggage. I am all ready to go, and I may not be here when you are talking next Sunday, but if I am not, I shall meet you there some day.”

From Al Smith's Treasury of Hymn Histories, by Al Smith, Copyright 1965

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

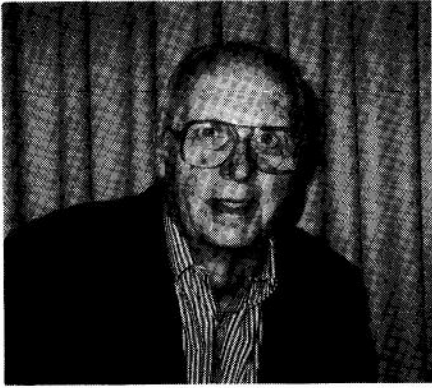
May God be with and bless each of you in this new year!

Gracious Father continue to be with and to guide us in this new year as you have in the years past and use us to your glory this and all the years that remain for us. AMEN.



Rev. Ewell C. Black Jr., Chaplain
Order of the Golden Lion 1995

“A” Company, 422nd Inf. Reg.
212 Ridge S, Bishopville, SC 29010
803-484-6861



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

An expert interviewed by USA Today noted that it is normal for two people to remember things in different ways, or maybe not remember certain things at all.

"Nobody's memory is glitch-proof," the paper pointed out, quoting Dr. Barry Gordon as saying: "You may notice a woman's earrings and store that observation in your mind. I may not have noticed the earrings at all. That doesn't mean you have a better memory than I do; it just means you filed that particular memory better than I did."

Maybe this is why some of our 1944-45 memories are still sharp, though they only deal with trivia. I remember Maj. Glenn Miller's band playing "Flying Home" one night while listening to the radio in our hut in England. The music I was excited about went in one ear and out the other for the guy in the next bunk, most likely.

I don't remember army paydays, oddly enough, except for vague memories about greenbacks in little enve-

lopes. I should remember something about the two weeks I spent at Fort Meade in the summer of 1944, but don't. All I recall is going to Washington on a bus, or maybe a train. It was the Fourth of July but there was no parade. I got a free hotdog and a Pepsi from a stand set up for GIs. That's it.

What did our outfit do in England? I remember being in London, getting a haircut in the Picadilly Hotel and hearing a buzz bomb go off one morning, miles away. But I don't recall any training except for a movie about booby traps and going to a range to fire our rifles after they had been taken away to be "blued." Mine never shot the same after that procedure.

These old memories, coming mostly in flashes, entered my mind after I saw an exchange of letters in the VBOB "Bugle" in which two vets agreed about C and K rations. C rations came in larger cans than K rations, I'm sure. C rations came in three varieties but I always got vegetable stew, while the other kinds (whatever they were) looked tastier.

People at home thought all the GIs got to see an endless parade of big name entertainers, from Crosby and Sinatra to Bob Hope. It wasn't that way in the infantry, as I recall it. My entertainment, such as it was, came from jukeboxes in the PX. There was no jukebox at Stalag IV-B, I'm certain, but an English guy playing an accordion and wearing funny hats entertained us one afternoon.

Memories fade, whether they deal with long-ago ball games or the *Battle*

of the Bulge. Most of them become a blur in time, if retained at all. Yet I do have vivid memories of the first dead German we encountered, and the buzz bombs that flew over our huts in the Siegfried Line. I don't recall ever seeing my platoon sergeant up front, but he may have been there.

I recall gliding past the Statue of Liberty on June 11, 1945, "just like yesterday." But I can't remember the name of our platoon lieutenant. Or seeing him up front, either.

As a writer, I'm fortunate to have a backlog of memories, although I'd like to forget some of them. I realize that the Infantrymen who spent months or years on the line would do just about anything to flush the worst of it out of their minds.

Forty years ago, someone told my boss I had "a nose for news." I'm still "nosy," more so than a lot of men with talents I can't claim, such as selling stocks and bonds, playing the piano, tuning up a car engine or, for that matter, changing their own oil.

Articles such as this one are supposed to provoke something worthwhile when people read them. This makes sense to me, but I still can't figure out why my memory is so selective and, therefore, not "glitch-proof."

Maybe some of you can figure out why I can't recall things I should remember, and vice versa. To me, that would be worthwhile..... *Dan Bied*

The BAR Man

Dale R. Carver
424th Headquarters
A&P Platoon Leader
742 Druid Circle
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

BEFORE THE
VETERANS DIE
by
Dale R. Carver



*He wore GI glasses and a worried grin, was five feet six, and bony thin.
One cheek framed a shrapnel scar; one shoulder sagged with a BAR.*

*I offered to carry the thing for a while; we walked through mud for many a mile
and the day looked old in the murky light
as we walked through the curtain and into the night.*

*"Keep your hands to yourself, you great big slob.
It's mine to carry and I'll do my job.*

I'll lug the thing on my back till dawn and I'll be there when the big men are gone."

Editor's Note.....

Due to an tremendous number of December 16 "Mini-Reunions" and other material of timely matter, this *CUB* reached a size of 60 pages. I attempt to keep the size to 44 pages, but the volume of material, much of it many months old, does away with any pre-planning. I estimated that I would need at least 100 pages if I attempted to publish all the recent stories and photos that I have received. Bear with me, we will crunch it out somewhere down the line. We are considering changing the format to an 8.5 X 11 size, which would allow more room for decent size photos and three columns. It's a big step, but under consideration. Any ideas, let me know..... J. Kline

Errors & Omissions

Missed in Orlando Attendance List:

Aldon Russell, 424/D

Americo Fusco, 423/HQ, instead of George Fusco, Associate member.

Robert Grimes, 423/HQ, instead of George Grimes, 424/CN

Also Art Schymanski is 423/ I&R instead of 424/HQ

Missed in photo page 12, Nov CUB

James Wells, first row, right - next to Sherod Collins

Thanks for sending old CUBs:

Herbert Meagher

Glynn G. Ragby, Jr.

Russell Gunvalson

also received a small box (like a shoe box) of CUBs. I have misplaced the name of the sender. Please drop me a note with your name.

If any other person sent CUBs since last November, let me know. I'll try to do better next time. I'll have to find one of my cats, who was in charge of that detail..

Bolo-Ties

I need a couple of Bolo-Ties. Pete House says that the Bolo-tie is no longer available from the former manufacturer who went out of business and junked the dies. I gave mine away on our European trip. I sold one to a good CRIBA member and had to send back his money. He would rather have the Bolo-Tie.

If any one has an extra, or one that was left in an estate, please drop me a post card or call. Regular price will be paid for a bolo-tie that is in decent shape.

John Kline, editor. Address on inside front cover..

Memorial & Scholarship Fund Donators

Since 12/1/1995

Alys Jones, widow of General Jones, \$500
Clifford Doxsee, \$100 memory Colonel Cavender.
Richard Rigatti, \$100 Scholarship
John Uveges, Jr., \$50 Scholarship
Ephraim Goldberg, \$50 Scholarship
Paul Pender, \$25
John McDevitt \$5
Douglas Rubnitz, \$5
Eddie Legerski, \$20
William Hemelt, \$50 memory Larry Walden
Arthur Hanke, \$25

NOTICE FOR THE ROANOKE REUNION

The editor has not received any advertising material for the 1996 Roanoke Reunion. There should be advertisements in the May CUB.

In the meantime: The official date of the 50th Annual Reunion is August 30 - September 2, 1996.

There will be two hotels, within a short distance from each other.

Roanoke Airport Marriott
2801 Hersgberger Rd, NW
Roanoke, VA 24017
1-800-228-9290

Sheraton Inn Roanoke Airport
2727 Ferndale Drive, NW
Roanoke, VA 24017
1-800-325-5353

As usual, First Class Mail announcements with all the proper registration material and agendas will be mailed to each paid up member of the 106th Infantry Division Association, well before the Reunion. I understand the men's luncheon and banquet will be at the Marriott.....


DISCLAIMER:

"Stories and articles published in *The CUB* are views and thoughts by the writer and are not necessarily the views of the 106th Infantry Division Association or its officers, unless it is in reference to Association business, and/or contains the name of the officer reporting." *The Board*

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.

His address is on the inside front cover of this, and every, *CUB*. Do not send requests and checks to the editor, send them to the Treasurer.

FEED-BACK..

Note from the editor: These comments not intended to be argumentative about the subject matter. Rather, it is meant to broaden the knowledge of the subject and to invite participation in a subject of which you have knowledge. That way we all learn, which includes the editor, author and supplier of the new information....

**Dan Bied Column,
page 14 November 1995 CUB.**

Submitted by W.F. (Lefty) Diefenthaler, W5606 CTH EH, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020.

Dan Bied had an interesting article on Lt Col Kent, which brought back some special memories, because I had the privilege to work with Ltc Kent several times.

I was battalion gas non-com attached to HQ 1st Bn, 422nd Reg., so I could be with my twin brother, who was armorer and asst. supply Sgt. I was also an asst-armorer. Joe Kiersky was Supply Sgt.

The Colonel needed a light in his C.P. so I ran a wire from a Jeep into the bunker over his map table and used the Jeep headlight to light the area. Kent said he would give his Luger pistol for a generator, so my brother and I went into the big pill box that Dan Bied mentioned to find one. The outfit before us had bulldozed the opening shut. We squeezed into a small hole and found a generator. I then hooked up the generator and a couple of bulbs and he had light. Kent insisted I take the Luger. Unfortunately I had to give it up when we were captured.

I was outside the C.P. when it was hit. Our 6x6 tarp was torn. I remember some men putting the Colonel in a 3/4 ton truck with white flags flying on it. When they started to the rear some kind of shell hit the truck. The feeling of all of us was great sorrow. I didn't know if the Colonel was dead or not....

From Richard Marino:

With regards to the article on page 14 of the November *CUB* (The death of LTC Thomas Kent). My father, Anthony Marino (422/HQ/1BN), was there when the 88's hit the log covered extension on the pill box. It wasn't mortar rounds and the colonel was not immediately killed. I do not wish to discredit Dan Bied's account, but in a historical sense it should be told in an accurate manner. My father's address is 100 Horton Ave, Valley Stream, New York 11581. Sincerely Richard Marino.

**National Order of Battlefield
Commissions**

is trying to locate all men who on the field of battle against an armed enemy received a commission from enlisted or Warrant status to a commission status. Contact John Angier, 67 Ocean Dr., St. Augustine, FL 32084
904/471-7695

From Jack Sulser, Past-President and 50th Anniversary Chairman

Dateline January 10, 1996 - (the editor's 71st birthday), via e-mail...

John, a couple of items of interest.

French President Francios Mitterand

Many of our comrades spent the last couple of months of their POW confinement at the French built Stalag IX-A. How many are aware that President Mitterand, who died January 8, 1996 at the age of 79 and had been President of France for 14 years until last year, longer than anyone for more than 150 years, had also been a POW there?

He escaped from IX-A and joined the French Underground before the Americans arrived at that camp in January of 1945.

The Veteran's Day Ceremony at Arlington Cemetery

Veteran's Day was very busy. There was a huge crowd at Arlington, a sunny, cool morning. Just a few drops of rain. The afternoon dedication of the site of the WWII Memorial was a different. It was clear that rain was coming, and the turnout was small. I did not see Rigatti, Jones or Hannon, but they were probably there in the crowd with all the umbrellas. The sea of umbrellas made it impossible to see any of the speakers until the President's turn came and the rain promptly stopped. The location of the Memorial is THE prize spot on the Mall, just at the east end of the reflecting pool and midway between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. Much more prominent than the Korean or the Vietnam memorials. It is hoped to have it built in five years, before all of us have disappeared. They passed out pledge cards at the ceremony, but the few people there cannot provide the major funding. A WWII Memorial Advisory

Committee has been appointed, and it has launched a Capital Campaign to raise money payable over five years. Their address is **World War II Memorial Capital Campaign, PO Box 75701, Washington, D.C. 20013**. Contributions are tax deductible. Like the Korean and Vietnam memorials, it will be financed by private donations. I notice the Korean Committee was established in 1987, and the memorial was only dedicated this summer. I hope it doesn't take that long for the WWII Memorial; after all, there was a lot more people involved.

Jack Sulser

Memorials Committee Report

The new 106th Infantry Division Memorial was completed in the Summer of 1994 and was dedicated in September 1994 when a group from the Association visited St. Vith. The new memorial is located on the grounds of the Bischoff School near the original edifice.

On Sunday July 16, 1995 the Annual Camp Atterbury Memorial Services were held at the Memorial Park. President Thomas J. Riggs gave the keynote speech.

Any Association member traveling near Camp Atterbury should visit the Memorial. It is a moving tribute to all the units that trained there during World War II. *John Robb, Memorials Chairman*

CUB PASSES IN REVIEW FINAL REPRINT ORDER RECEIVED.....

New order of 250 received. Send \$25.00 to Treasurer Sherod Collins for your "post-paid" copy. This is the final reprint. Order for your family, friends and local library.

This will be the last reorder, so there will be NO MORE AVAILABLE after these are gone....



LL, HARRY H 422/F

4103 Franklin Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39507
601-863-5390

Retired Vice-President, Engineering,
Mississippi Power Company. Now owner
- Bell Travel Services, Inc.

BUCHER, JR., WILLIAM ASSOC.

430 Bob White Run
Salisbury, NC 28147
704-633-2769

My father, **Bill Bucher** (pronounced "Booker", 424/AT, survived *The Bulge* and died in 1978. Some years later, my mother discovered a trunk full of his war-time letters, photos and memorabilia, which she gave to me. One thing led to another, and now I am working on a book about his war experiences. He was captured briefly with a group of about 15-20 on the morning of 17 December and returned to his unit a few days later. I think he was in the third platoon. His platoon leader was "Rupert" and there was a driver named "Skinner" Irwin. If any of you AT men were with this group, I would like to hear from you. I will let you know when the book is done, but it may be a while! Meanwhile, thanks for letting me add my name, on my father's behalf, to your membership list.

GOODWIN, JOSEPH N. 424/D

850 ABBEY DRIVE
GLEN ELLYN, IL 60137
708-858-2038

Joined the Division at Fort Jackson in March 1943, went through to Atterbury. Left the 106th August 1944, joined the 90th Infantry Division in September as a replacement. I was wounded 10 December 1944 just before the Bulge. Rejoined the 90th February 1945. Our Division was assigned to guard prisoners until November 1945. Left France in December and was discharged January 1, 1946. Married June 29, 1946.

KLINE, PVT JOHN (TODD) ASSOCIATE

Somewhere
In Korea

(Editor's Note: - Todd is my first grandson (I have four). He joined the service, this summer, at age 27. His wife, Suzy is also in the service. Todd trained at Fort Knox, was transferred to Fort Jackson for specialized training. After the training was complete he was assigned to Korea after Christmas leave. Suzy, a Sergeant, will be stationed at an east-coast base. When Todds returns from Korea they will have their choice of three locations -Alaska, USA or Hawaii.

While at Fort Knox he received an award for "Top Man" in Physical Training, scoring 298 points out of a possible 300, beating his comrades of 19 and 20 years of age by many points. His six cadre Sergeants used him as an example to get the younger soldiers into better physical fitness. Todd says, " I caught a little razing in the barracks, but I was proud of my award." He repeated this at Fort Jackson with a score of two points less. On graduation he received the "Top Soldier Award" during the graduation ceremonies, and was advanced a grade. Of course, his grandfather is proud of him. So I take this "editorial" privilege to talk about my great grandson, wouldn't you?... J. Kline, editor)

LUGENS, FREDDY ASSOCIATE

25, ROUTE DE CIERREUSE
B-6690 SALMCHATEAU, BELGIUM

(Editor's Note: - Freddy, is a member of CRIBA and a good friend of Adda & Willi RIKKEN. He has much interest in the *Battle of the Bulge* and knows the territory well. I just received a bayonet and the remains of an M-1 Carbine that was discovered in the 423rd area near Schönberg. Naturally they are very rusty and not recoverable. It appears that the safety is on with the possibility of a cartridge in the chamber. The bolt is closed (rusted solid). It is recognizable, lacking only the clip and the stock. Could it be mine??? Thanks Freddy for your help and for the items from the battlefield... J. Kline, editor)

PIERSON, RANDOLH C. 589/HQ

PO Box 965
Monticello, FL 32345
904-997-0747

Sherod, Enjoyed talking to an ole "comrades at arms" this afternoon. Hope you voice clears up. As we discussed I am



New Members ...

interested in joining the Association and receiving the book, *The CUB of the GOLDEN LION: Passes in Review*.

I was in "Fire Direction Center" of the 589th Field Artillery Battalion as a T/4. On January 24, 1945 I received a "2nd Lt. Battlefield Commission, St. Vith, Belgium" until the Division left Europe. I was 589/A Forward Observer and later "Executive Officer."

(Editor's Note - Randolph's name appeared in the November CUB as a NEW MEMBER, but I had not - for some reason - received the letter above., J. Kline, editor)

RIKKEN, ADDA & WILLI

LIFE ASSOCIATE CRIBA

RUE D'OURTHE 31A
6670 GOUVY, BELGIUM

(Editor's Note - Adda and Willi have been Associate members for some time. Recently they upgraded their membership to a LIFE MEMBER status. Sorry I failed to mention this in the last CUB. You have read several stories, in The CUB, about Adda & Willi in the last year. They are great people and have been very helpful to many 106th Infantry Division members as they return to Belgium. They live close to St. Vith. They are very familiar with the various monuments that are dedicated to *The BULGE*. While not as familiar with the foxholes and unit positions, they were very helpful to Sy Litchenfeld, 423/I and his son Norman. In October 1994 they returned to the battle area. Their story about the help given by Adda & Willi appear in this CUB. I use the story, not only to tell Sy's story but supplement my own story on how helpful CRIBA and it's members (like Adda & Willi) have been to the American soldiers as they return to the area. The feelings expressed by Sy and his son are the exact feelings that our group expressed when we visited with CRIBA members in September 1995 in St. Vith and Parker's Crossroads. See Part Two, starting on page 32, of this CUB, for story where I use Sy's story to reinforce our thanks to CRIBA for all that they have done... J. Kline, editor)

RYALL, WILLIAM F. (COL, USA, Ret) ASSOCIATE

3031 BROOKEHAVEN
NEW ALBANY, IN 47150
812-944-0488

John, Thank you very much for your "Service Diary." I enjoyed talking to you on the phone. I saw Adda and Willi RIKKEN on 15 October when she spoke to the SHAPE Officers Association about her experiences during the war. This was a panel which John GREENE had arranged for the conference in Belgium.

On the 16th of December my wife and I are hosting a *Battle of the Bulge* dinner party to remember you and all the men that were over there. On the 17th our son graduates from Purdue University. So those days will be special to us.

Should you and Margot ever be in Southern Indiana, we'll be pleased to have you visit us. Thanks for your "*Soft Sales Pitch*" to join your Association. Enclosed find my application and a check for the fee. Signed Bill Ryall Indiana University Southeast, Adjunct Professor

(William Ryall just finished a tour of duty in Belgium and has returned to civilian life in my home State - Indiana. He was friends with John Greene. Both he and John are retired US Army officers. Greene lives in Waterloo, Belgium.

Bill, thanks for your interest in the 106th Infantry Division.. J. Kline, editor)

RYAN, WILLIAM P. ASSOCIATE

45 ELDER DRIVE
PALM COAST, FL 32137

Dick Sparks signed on his brother-in-law as an ASSOCIATE member.

He says in a letter will Ryall's application, "Bill is the fellow that did the video and photo work for the Orlando Reunion Committee. He did the editing on the souvenir video that all Orlando Reunion attendees received.

"Bill is a former Navy man who spent his civilian life in photographic sales to

Professional photographers. He is a known expert in photographic lighting and has worked with several noted professional photographers. He is also a "Military History Buff" and has taken great interest in the 106th and *The Battle of the Bulge*." signed *Dick Sparks*

SHOWERS, DELMAR I. 81st ENG/C

PO BOX 780
ROCKAWAY BEACH, MO 65740

A letter from Geroqe Hammond, 81st ENG/C: "I wish to pay and sponsor a membership for Delmar Showers, 81st ENG/C.

"He saved my life in *The Battle of the Bulge*. My wife and I just spent several hours with him and his wife. They gave us a Grand Tour of Branson and treated us to three shows. Del and I hadn't seen each other in 50 years. It was an emotional meeting. He never joined the Association.

"On our way back we stopped by the Camp Atterbury Memorial." signed *Gerge Hammond*

STROUD, ALVIE W. 423/AT

220 SHYVIEW LANE
BATESVILLE, AR 72501

Membership by Clifford Broadwater. An application will be sent to Alvie for details. Clifford says Alvie was in Bad Ord and Ziegenhain with him.

SOLADAY, ROBERT E. 422/SV

6000 KNOLLWOOD DRIVE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87109-6932
505-821-4594

Bob signed on as a LIFE MEMBER.

TROJAN, WILLIAM 106 SIG

25614 PARKWOOD
HUNTINGTON WOODS, MI 48070
810-398-0838

Dear Sherod, In the current issue of *The American Legion Magazine* I finally discovered mention of the 106th Infantry Division Association. After a few phone calls I got Ted Slaby's phone number. To

my chagrin the reunion was last September, but I am ready for Roanoke in '96.

I joined the 106 Signal Company near St. Vith in mid-December '44 just in time to start running. I came from the 9th Replacement Depot Headquarters at Fountainebleau, south of Paris, and had been with them since March of 1944.

Slaby gave me your name as well as John Kline's. John is sending me a copy of *The CUB* and a copy of *The CUB of the Golden Lion: PASSES in REVIEW*.

I am looking forward to meeting you, Ted Slaby and John Kline and all the guys of the 106 SIG CO. If there are any personnel lists available I would appreciate receiving them. Signed *Bill*

ULRICH, WENDELL A. 424/C

3947 WESTERN AVE
WESTERN SPRINGS, IL 60558
708-246-4582

I am married with three children and three grandchildren. I owned a Commercial Art Studio for 30 years and have been retired for three years. I enjoy golf, walking and traveling.

WOOD III, ERIC F. ASSOCIATE

310 COOPERS DRIVE
CHARLESTON, WV 25302

Eric is the son of Eric Woods, Jr of the 589th Field Artillery.

Welcome Eric, I know some of the 589th veterans will be glad to welcome you.. J. Kline, editor

ZEIGLER, JOHN W. 422/HQ

51 ROMEO STREET
MOONACHIE, NJ 07074

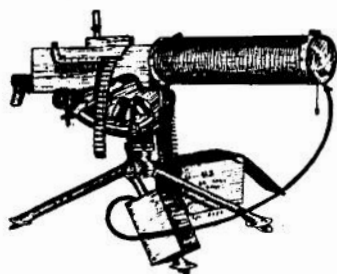
From John Zeigler's son, John F. Zeigler - "Sherod, It was a pleasure to talk to you about the 106th. My dad seemed excited to hear that there was another group out there. I also talked with Pete House who was most informative about Stalag 9-B. Enclosed is ten dollars to get dad started."

Preface

by J. Kline, 423/M
CUB editor

Early in the year of 1995 I received a letter from Jean-Louis SEEL, a young man from Theux, Belgium. I recognized Jean as part of the team that had discovered four of the 99th Infantry Division's Missing-In-Action (MIA's). I had read a news article, a few years ago, about them discovering a 99th ID soldier who had been MIA since 16 December 1944. Their story and more follows in this article.

Before I went to Belgium/Germany in September (see page 38 of the November 1995 CUB) I wrote Jean-Louis and told him that I would be staying at the Goldener Stern Hotel in Prüm during the German-American meetings. He met me there and proceeded to tell me and my guests, (present were Don Patton, Jim Renner and Dan Walters, all Associate member historians of the 106th ID Assoc.) about the efforts that he and his partner Jean-Phillipe SPEDER had gone through to discover artifacts and MIA bodies since 1978. He had albums full of pictures with precise dates and locations found. Many artifacts have been found in the 106th ID area. He ask me if I would assist him in locating some of the persons. These items are mostly dog-tags and other items that had names and ASN inscribed on them. He had a list of the 106th Infantry Division MIA's



whose remains have never been found. I asked that I publish this list and ask our members to assist in describing the last known location of the MIA. This method has been successful. They have located four 99th Inf Div MIA's and six German MIA's throughout the years.

Since I met Jean-Louis I have assisted him in identifying the owners of several articles that were found on the Ardennes battlefields. I furnished Jean-Louis with a computer disk that contains the 423rd and 424th Combat Infantry Badge orders of 1945. He checks the ASN that is on the article against the CIB Orders, then sends me the name and I search for the name in our Association membership file, if not there, then on the CD-rom telephone disks that I have which contain over 80 million names and addresses. Recently we identified the owner of a set of dog-tags that were found at Losheimergraben. The owner a 424/D veteran, says he will become a member of our Association. 424/D was attached to the 82nd Airborne in that area as they drove back through Germany.

Articles that are found are returned, if wanted, to their owner. As Jean-Louis says, "Many times the owners of these articles have said that they did not know they lost them, yet they were found on the battlefield. Some ask for them to be returned and others allow the finders to keep them for their collection."

Special Note:

I will list the 106th Infantry Division's known MIA, as given to me by Jean-Louis SEEL, at the end of this article. If you were with, or know the last location, or circumstances involving the person that is still missing, please contact me and I will forward your information to the Search Team.

My name, address and telephone number are always on the inside cover of every CUB. *J. Kline, editor*



Left - Jean-Louis SEEL with his partner Jean-Phillipe SPEDER, both from Belgium, On-Site Search Team members. As you will read, they have been very active in searching the battlefield, not only for MIA from both American and German armies, but for articles remaining on the battlefield such as ammunition, dog-tags, personal belongings and weapons.

THE 99TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S MIA PROJECT STORY

Jean-Louis SEEL (Part 1) and
Jean-Phillipe SPEDER (Part 2)

On-Site Team Members

99th ID MIA's Project, Belgium

The story is in two parts. The first one explaining how I met Jean-Philippe SPEDER (32). It explains the beginning and the aim of our search. The second one is the 99th ID MIA's Project itself, from the recovery of Alphonse SITO in September 1988 to the two last bodies found in July 1992. Please note that Jean-Philippe, my partner, wrote the second part.

Part One, Jean-Louis SEEL

For many years I have been interested in military history. I met Jean-Philippe (Phil) SPEDER in 1978 while we were in College. Phil was already a collector and searcher. He showed me at that time how to use a metal detector on the ex-battlefields of the Battle of the Bulge. At the beginning, the search was just a way to

complete a WWII collection with all kinds of artifacts dug out like rifles, pistols, knives, bayonets, hand grenades, helmets... But, a little while later, I found my first set of dog tags. This set was left with a lot of souvenir coins along a firebreak in the woods of Rocherath. The dog tags bearing the name of Max WISNIESKI with a NOK address from Waukesha, Wisconsin. At that time, I just put them in my collection and didn't do anything else. In 1984, I met a British living in Belgium. His name is William C. C. CAVANAGH. Will is a well known WWII historian and a real specialist on the *Battle of the Bulge*. He just finished writing the official story of the 99th ID Dauntless and he's also the author of *Krinkelt -Rocherath: The Battle for the Twins Villages*. I asked him to find the WISNIESKI's whereabouts because I had no idea how to do that. It took a few months to find Max WISNIESKI's widow. I learned that WISNIESKI was in Co. A, 38th Inf., 2nd Div. and that he had died in the early seventies. With that letter, My collection had just turned into something

Searching for the Missing In Action (MIA's)...

new and very interesting: the possibility to know a SOLDIER STORY, not the one of a four star Generals but the one of a man who was there on the front line. Then, we changed the way of searching the battlefields, looking only for identification items like dog tags, ID bracelets, mess kits or canteens with names and numbers engraved on them.

In 1986, I contacted for the first time, through Will Cavanagh, the 99th ID Association- I asked Bill Meyer, editor of the Checkerboard (99th ID Association Newsletter) to look in the roster of their membership if it could have some match with the names I provided him. Of course, many owners were 99ers and members of the Assoc. It was the beginning of our big collaboration with the 99th ID veterans. In 1987, we joined the Association as members.

Over the years, we not only searched the 99th ID front line but also a few other battlefields of the North shoulder, including the ones of the 106th ID: Schnee Eifel Schwarzermann, where we found also identification items.

The search for one owner is even more difficult than the finding of the dog tag itself in the woods !! Sometimes, It would take a few years to trace a man! Sometimes within 2 weeks, I have a positive answer of the owner in my mail box. But for a few, I wasn't able to find the whereabouts of the person. There are various reasons: the veteran's hadn't applied for VA benefits or because the file was destroyed in 1973 during the big fire at the National Personnel Records archive. I ask also help of national organizations like the American Legion, VBOB and VFW.

It is still amazing to me that, with a full name, a complete ASN and sometimes a complete Next of Kin address, there is no way to find the whereabouts of a man!

Part Two, Jean-Phillipe SPEDER

The very start of the MIAs Project occurred on Thursday September 29, 1988 with the discovery of the remains of Alphonse M. SITO from Baltimore, MD. Five days earlier, by a cool and sunny fall afternoon, Jean-Louis and myself decided to explore another sector of the 99th ID front, located between the German town of Losheim and the custom houses of Losheimergraben. This road coming from Losheim was one of the major routes of invasion on Dec. 16, 1944 and is known as the Losheim Gap. This heavy wooded area was held by the 1st Battalion, 394th Infantry, 99th Infantry Division on Dec. 16, 1944.

Given the large front occupied by the 1st Battalion and the thickness of the forest, platoons and squads were scattered all over the forest. They were covering shallow depressions, fire breaks or little clearings. One of these squads was the LMG (Light Machine Gun) squad of Co. B's weapons platoon. The squad was under Sgt George BALLINGER and was dug in about 800 yards into the forest, covering a shallow ravine. Due to miserable weather and living conditions, the place was gloomy and the doughs nicknamed it "Creepy Corners." On Dec. 16, 1944, shortly after the German barrage lifted, the position was attacked by Volksgrenadiers of the 48th V.G. Regiment of the 12th V.G. Division. Pfc SITO was covering the squad's right flank and after repulsing several attacks, he was hit in the head and fell dead in his fox-hole. The rest of the squad was soon forced to surrender. The body remained there until Sept. 29, 1988, when Jean-Louis and I found it in the same fox-hole, and like he fell 44 years earlier.

The fox-hole was carefully emptied, the skeleton removed as well as SITO's personnel effects, including his billfold, a rosary, a bible, five religious crosses and

Searching for the Missing In Action (MIA's)...

sets of dog tags. Lots of articles were recovered from the hole, including a fifth dog tag bearing the name of Robert L MUYRES from Minneapolis, MN.

Contact was first established with Bill MEYER, editor of The 99th ID Association's Checkerboard, asking him to contact MUYRES who was member of the Association. We then contacted the Mortuary Affairs of the US Army, based in Frankfurt, Germany. On October 11, 1988, we met with Michael TOCCHETTI and one of his men, both members of the Mortuary Affairs. They came for a look-see, looking for the personal effects, exact location of the fox-hole and looking for the kind of bones recovered. a week later, Michael TOCCHETTI came back with his Search and Recovery team. They searched again the hole and its immediate vicinity but found nothing else. We had done a good job. The S&R team picked up the body, went back to Frankfurt to report and sent the body to the US Army Central Identification Laboratory In Hawaii for positive identification. On December 6, 1989, it

was done, Pfc SITO was positively identified, turned back to his family and finally buried on Dec. 18, 1989 in the St Stanislaus Cemetery, Baltimore, MD. On October 13, 1991, we met with Alphonse's brother, Richard SITO. A few days earlier, Richard called Jean-Louis from Germany, asking to visit the place of the recovery. Once on the site, there was a lot of emotion but we knew that something good had been done. Bob MUYRES came back also in July 1990 to visit the place. Bob had a very good memory. He directly found his fox-hole (not the one of SITO) and explained us all the details of fight before his capture. Bob MUYRES died on December 26, 1991.

For a few years, we had good contacts with the 99th Inf. Div, Ass'n, welcoming and guiding groups of Veterans on the Battlefields. For obvious reasons, the story was not published in the Checkerboard, but in two Veterans's minds, Richard H. BYERS and Rex WHITEHEAD, both members of the Ass'n Archives Committee, and a third man, Bill WARNOCK, a business Major at Ohio State University, the idea



Jean-Phillipe SPEDER on "88 Hill" in the 99th Infantry Division area. In front of him are his discoveries. M3 knife in the scabbard, 1 smoke grenade (Willie Peter) and clips for a sniper rifle, (Springfield). The owner of the knife from the 395th Infantry Regiment was located and his knife returned to him.

Searching for the Missing In Action (MIA's)...

that something should be done grew up rapidly. With a more "scientific" approach of the situation, it could be possible to find other MIA's. The 99TH ID's Project was born.

Bill WARNOCK compiled a list of 33 names, all 99ers listed as missing during the Bulge. It was published in the Check-board and information was asked for that would help locate the missing men. The search is a real coordinated effort between WWII veterans and men born 20 years after the war. Jean-Louis and myself are the inspection team, the 'On-Site Search Team' as we have been nicknamed, who search the woods, helped by maps, photographs, aerials, overlays, witnesses, morning reports, after action reports, etc.

Some of this information led to create a map showing the probable site where 2nd Lt Lonnie O. HOLLOWAY Jr. from Corpus Christi, TX was killed. Six eyewitnesses had helped to pinpoint the location. In October 1990, Dick BYERS came to Belgium with a group of 99ers for the 99th ID monument dedication, in the village of Krinkelt-Rocherath. We spent some extra days together working with the map he delivered to us. One month later, on 9 November, 2nd Lt HOLLOWAY's remains were found about 10 yards from the location he was last seen the Dec. 18, 1944! From witnesses we had learned that he was last seen lying half up the steps of a roofed over hole. Apparently, the Germans who used that hole had pulled the body out, took it to a nearby slit trench. Afterwards they threw a lot of debris (mortar containers) on top of it. Lt HOLLOWAY was wearing an overcoat, field jacket, trousers and boots. We found his wallet with officer's identification card, It was recognizable until it dried out and then the ink disappeared. His dog tags were also found entwined in tree roots. On Lt HOLLOWAY's shirt collar were the Infantry crossed rifles and a Lt's

bar. We sent those two last things to S. HOLLAND, Lt. HOLLOWAY's sister, the only Next of Kin alive. A few days later, we met again with Mike TOCCHETTI and his S&R team. Like for SITO, Lt HOLLOWAY's remains were picked up, sent to Hawaii and positively identified. The Lt HOLLOWAY file was definitely closed on September 6, 1991 when he was buried with full military honors at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, TX.

One must keep in mind that such a search is not as simple as it looks. Veteran's witnesses, though correct, must be sometime interpreted. Obviously, a clear recollection of 50 years old events is very difficult and a wrong detail can send us to a wrong direction. All the opportunities are searched and verified. Most of this important part of the search is done in the States by Bill WARNOCK, the MIA Project Chief researcher. Searching the forest, our part of the job, has had to avoid a major obstacle. Digging battlefields is strictly prohibited in Belgium. We took this calculated risk and after some troubles with forest rangers, a few of them agreed with our motivation and gave us an unofficial permission. When an MIA's Project started, two rangers even worked with us, helping us as much as possible. Looking for MIA's in the woods is like finding a needle in a hay stack, the "chance factor" is important. It was like this on June 25, 1992. Jean-Louis drove to the home of Chief Ranger, Mr. Erich HONEN, to secure permission to continue searching a place in the forest for the remains of another MIA. While talking with Mr. HONEN, Jean-Louis learned that earlier that month, a lumberjack had discovered human bones lying near a fox-hole, with rusty remains of German equipment. Mr. HONEN went directly on the place to verify this and, after returning

Searching for the Missing In Action (MIA's)...

ne, he phoned to local authorities to ask what to do with those bones. It was decided to intern the bones of the German soldier in the pauper's common grave at the Rocherath Cemetery. However, at the time of Jean-Louis's visit, no such action had taken place. Jean-Louis immediately suggested a search of the fox-hole for identification. Chief Ranger HONEN agreed and a date was set for the following week.

On July 3, 1992, Mr. HONEN showed us the fox-hole. The tell-tale remains of Battlefields relic hunters were unmistakable. The fox hole was turned over with dirt and bones strewn all around it. Not more than six months had passed since it had been haphazardly ravaged. We began to carefully search the area and, as we culled the dirt in and around the fox-hole a sizeable collection of bones began to accumulate. Besides the bones we also unearthed pieces of US Army winter combat uniform and vestiges of .30 Cal cartridge belt and s for M-1 rifle. Unfortunately no dog tags were found. In the back of our mind, it became obvious that the German bones were in fact the remains of an American soldier.

On top of all, a single set of a deteriorated US Army sergeants stripes was found among the uniform shreds. By day's end, a skeleton, almost complete, had taken shape. To complicate the matter, there were duplicate bones. Thus the remains were not of one but two individuals. Another matter of equal importance concerned the individual's identities. The only clues immediately apparent were the shreds of a winter combat uniform with the Sgt stripes. This evidence pointed toward one possible conclusion: the remains were of two Americans, one of whom was a Sergeant. Regarding the site of the discovery, we knew only two unresolved casualties cases for whom one of them was a Sgt.



Jean-Louis SEEL with an early American Bazooka found in the Losheimergraben area where Col. Jochen Peiper launched his attack- north of Auw a few miles.

With this in mind, Dick BYERS, Coordinator of the MIA's Project was contacted and it was decided to call Mr. TOCCHETTI again.

On July 21, 1992, Mr. TOCCHETTI and his 4 men team re-examined the recovery site but found nothing more than one tooth and several small bones. The remains were repatriated to Hawaii but, to this date, no positive identification has been made.

Deep in their mind, all members of the MIA's Project are convinced about the identity of these remains, too many details match together to happen fortuitously.

The MIA's Project is still going on and

Searching for the Missing In Action (MIA's)...

several are under investigations. If no other case is resolved in the future, at least, four American GI's doughboys would have been repatriated and given a decent burial, three of them as a direct result of the MIA's Project.

We've been asked, often, what was our aim, what was our motivation in this MIA's Project. Beyond the historical interest and war facts, the MIA's Project is so far the only way we know to repay the supreme sacrifice of those young boys that died for a country and for people they never

heard of before, The feeling of guilt toward all those white crosses in the American Military Cemeteries, in our country, is still present in the mind of people who lived the events, but almost non-existent in the younger generations. Jean-Louis and myself are two drops in these younger generations, but we decided to remember and to teach our children respect and gratitude. To forget the past is to agree with its return.

Jean-Louis SEEL

Jean-Phillipe SPEDER

REMAINS UNRECOVERED - 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Dates of Death shown with an asterik are dates that the MIA is legally judged to be dead. Usually one year and one day from the estimated time of death.

422nd Infantry Regiment

GALLETTA, Gili P., SGT, 32820585, NY, 16 DEC 44
PATTERSON, Joseph E., PVT, 33577587, PA, 23 JAN 45
PORTER, Robert G., PVT, 33667449, PA, 16 DEC 44
THOMAS, George E., S/SGT, 06834871, IL, 16 DEC 44

423rd Infantry Regiment

HERBERT, Charles W., PFC, 35750002, OH, 22 DEC 45*
HOARD, Harvey, PVT, 34798897, 22 DEC 45*
KISTNER, Paul L., CAPT, 0-467919, MO, 23 DEC 44
NEWMAN, James C. Jr., 1/LT, 0-550095, IL, 23 DEC 44
OBERG, Worrell F., PVT, 36618746, IL, 22 DEC 45*

424th Infantry Regiment

COLLINS, Robert T., PFC, 329126256, NJ, 17 DEC 45*
FOUST, Dalton E., PFC, 33850080, PA, 17 DEC 44
GEYER, Joe E., PVT, 38591498, OK, 24 DEC 45*
TUCKER, Robert W., PVT, 39857012, AZ, 18 DEC 45*

106th Reconnaissance Troop

JEKA, Joseph R., PFC, 36228705, WI, 17 DEC 45*
VAREAM, George H., 1/LT, 0-1030621, IL, 22 JAN 45

589th Field Artillery Battalion

MITCHELL, Berton F., Jr., PVT, 37533017, KS, 17 DEC 44
SKUPAKA, Mike, PVT, 37533017, KS, 20 DEC 45*
WHEELER, Robert A., 32844226, NY, 23 DEC 44

590th Field Artillery Battalion

SOULLIERE, Carl R., PVT, 36579585, MI, 25 DEC 44

Contact John Kline, CUB Editor (Address and Telephone on inside cover page) if you have any knowledge of the last known location of any of these men. The smallest detail could lead to the location of the person that is still MISSING IN ACTION.....

1996 SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scholarships will again be given in 1996 to descendants of living and deceased members of the 106th Infantry Division. Descendants have been defined by the Board of Directors to include the following:

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 lived in the member's household when they were minors. 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 106th Infantry Division Association or his widow, if he was a member at death. A members' letter of nomination should state the following: I nominate (*followed by the applicant's name*); The relationship of the member to the person nominated; The member's 106th Infantry Division affiliation (unit).

SCHOLARSHIP VALUE

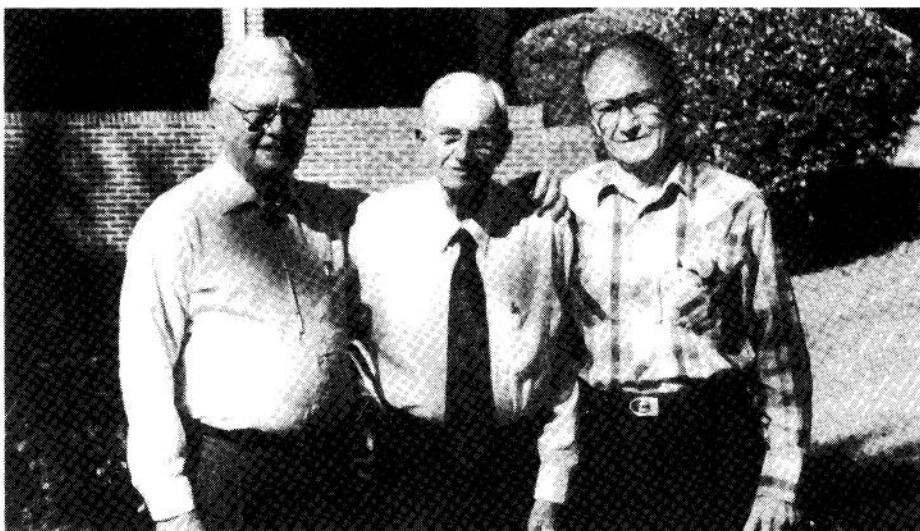
The Board of Directors has increased the authorization to \$5,000 for the 1996 Scholarships. The scholarships awarded will be in the amounts of \$500 or \$1,000.

To receive an application for the scholarship please write to:

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE - 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
JERRY EISENMAN, 227 BUENA VISTA AVENUE, DALY CITY, CA 94015-2120

Deadline for submitting an application and accompanying material is 30 April 1996.

A Self Addressed Envelope Must Be Included! *Jerry Eisenman*



by Joseph P. Maloney (left)- 424th Regimental Headquarters

I recently flew to Atlanta, Georgia to spend the week-end with my "ole" Company Commander, Captain Robert A. Burkes (middle in picture). While there Sherod Collins, 423rd Service Company visited us and had dinner. We enjoyed reminiscing about the war as well as all of the nice reunions that have been held since. We hope that all of you had a Happy Holiday Season. *Joe Maloney*

From the Ladies...



1945



17 October 1995

by **Donna Hanson, wife of Bob Hanson, "B" Company, 81st Combat Engineers**

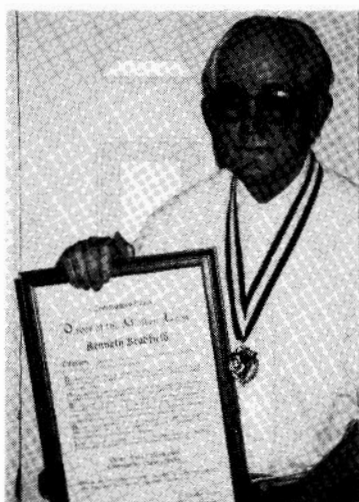
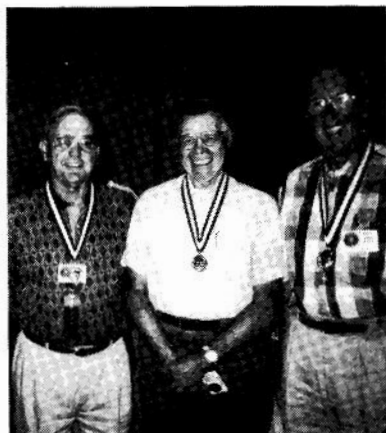
The interesting article by Anne McDevitt in the November CUB prompts me to write and tell about our recent 50th Anniversary which occurred on 17 October 1995, just three days before theirs.

We were married in San Antonio, Texas where Bob reported after his POW leave. We were high school sweethearts in Wisconsin. I took the train from Marinette to San Antonio to be married. We had no "old friends" there to stand up for us, so Reverend Crowe, the minister, and his wife and daughter witnessed the event. Because our wedding was small and simple we decided to renew our vows for our 50th Anniversary. We did this before our five children, their spouses, our 16 grandchildren, my sister and family. Bob's sister in Hawaii could not make the event, but she air-mailed leis for Bob and I to wear at the marriage renewal ceremony and reception.

We, in 1945, had a brief belated honeymoon in Monterrey, Mexico after Bob was discharged November 30th. Since his retirement, in 1987, Bob has been doing pro bono work in developing countries. So 45 years after our marriage we found ourselves back in Monterrey for six months while Bob worked on water pollution problems. In the interim Monterrey had grown from 50,000 to about 300,000 and the hotel we stayed at then had been demolished to make way for the Grande Plaza which now graces the city. We celebrated our 45th there with our Mexican friends.

However, our most unusual anniversary was our 44th. We were in San Francisco attending a Water Environment Federation convention and were on our way, by convention bus to a party, when at 5:11 P.M. on 17 October, well you guessed it, the earthquake struck. The earth moved for us, though not in the way as described by Papa Hemingway in *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. So we ended up back in our hotel on Fishermans Wharf eating cold sandwiches by candlelight, as there was no power.

Donna Hanson



1995 Order of the Golden Lion Recipients Top - l/r: John Kline; Dr. John Robb; Jack Sulser; Dan Bied. **Center:** l/r: Assoc. Pres. Thomas J. Riggs, Jr.; O. Paul Merz, OGL recipient and Sherod Collins, Assoc. Tres. at the 1995 Camp Atterbury Reunion. **Bottom- l/r:** Dr. Richard Peterson; Kenneth Bradfield. See page 3 for Rev. Ewell Black. Jr. award. T. Wayne Black received his OGL by special mail. See next page for more>>>

HISTORY OF AWARDS

ORDER OF THE GOLDEN LION

For more information read pages 331-336
CUB of the GOLDEN LION: Passes in Review

Recipients of the Order of the Golden Lion

GOLD-COMMANDER		SILVER-OFFICER		BRONZE-COMPANION	
'48	David Price	'47	Herbert Livesey, Jr.	'64	Majorie DeHeer
'62	Douglas Coffey	'78	Robert Scranton	'66	Kay Loveless
'64	Richard DeHeer	'86	Walter Bandurak	'72	Wilda McMahon
'66	John Loveless, Jr	'86	Robert Pierce, Jr.	'75	Maydean Wells
'72	Leo McMahon	'90	Sam Cariano	'87	Jackie Villwock
'73	Sherod Collins	'91	John Kline	'87	Jean Gilder
'74	John Gallagher	'93	Boyd Rutledge	'94	Mattie Rutland
'75	James Wells	'93	Gilbert Helwig	'94	Lee Gilliland
'87	Russel Villwock	'95	O. Paul Merz	'95	Dan Bied
'87	Robert Gilder	'95	Richard Peterson		
'94	Roger Rutland	'95	T. Wayne Black		
'94	John Gilliland				
'95	John Kline				
'95	Jack Sulser	NON-MEMBERS			
'95	Ewell Black, Jr.				
'95	John Robb		Cedric Foster	'47	Gold-Commentator
'95	Kenneth Bradfield		Duward Frampton	'47	Gold-Agony Grapevine
			Annette Frampton	'47	Gold-Agony Grapevine
			William Simpson	'47	Gold-Indianapolis Hosts
			Florence Simpson	'47	Gold-Indianapolis Hosts
			Joe E. Brown	'47	Bronze-Movie Star
			Marjorie Rathbone	'47	Bronze-Asst Sec. Assoc.
			George Denny	'47	Bronze-Mayor, Indpls
			Ralph F. Gates	'47	Bronze—Governor, Ind.
			Howard Maxwell	'47	Bronze-Adj. Gen, Ind.
			Frank Henly	'47	Silver-WW Memorial
			Robert Tyndall	'47	Bronze-Mayor, Indpls
			Ben Watt	'47	Bronze-Supt Schools Ind.
			B.G. Elmer Sherwood	'47	Bronze-Ind. State Guard
			Dr. Maurice DELAVAL	'62	Silver-Belgium friend 106

Enjoying the Hospitality of C.R.I.B.A.

106th Vets travel to Ardennes - Sept 1995 - Part Two...

Continuation of Part One that appeared in the November 1995 CUB....

By John Kline, editor

I would like to preface the story of our visit with CRIBA:

This story relates to the continuation of our American group's Belgium/German trip, to visit with members of the Belgian organization known as "*Center for the Research and Information on the Battle of the Ardennes*." Short form = (CRIBA)

There have been many articles about CRIBA since I became editor in 1987. It was at that time that many of our veterans were beginning to travel back to Belgium to revisit the scenes of their activities of 1944 and 1945. They found willing hosts in the way of CRIBA. Help beyond what you would normally expect. Help on travel plans, help on where to stay. CRIBA members serving as guides to lead you to your Ardennes fox-hole. Every act, by the CRIBA member, was a unselfish display of thanks to the American soldier who they saw as "liberators." The Belgian people were suppressed and under the heel of the German boot for four years. Understandably there are still feelings of deep emotions.

Our veterans were then, and still now, being blessed with attention by the CRIBA members. Their help in finding the source of, what in many cases was a "life time of trauma," seemed to close the book on the subject of the war for many veterans. In doing so many new friendships were established. Some veterans later returned the host country, Belgium, to pursue those friendships. The word coming from the returning veterans was, "They're just great, they cannot do enough for us!"

In 1988, because of the stories that were given to me by our 106th veterans, I petitioned the Board of Directors to authorize a LIFETIME HONORARY MEMBERSHIP to the CRIBA organization. The Directors authorized this. Aside from the CRIBA organization itself we now have several CRIBA members who chose to sign on as ASSOCI-



ATE members in order to keep in touch through our magazine, *The CUB*. Some chose to be LIFE MEMBERS.

I have for the many years, since 1988, been asked by various CRIBA members to visit their country so that we could meet face to face. It had been, for several reasons, not possible for me to travel to Europe. Only within the last two years did I feel that I could. Margot, my wife, and I had decided that 1995 would be the year. Bypassing the 50th Anniversary Celebrations in Europe in 1994 because we felt that conditions would be extremely crowded. Also, Margot has a sister-in-law in Frankfurt that we wanted to visit. Then, along came the proposition of a possible visit with the German veterans as described in the Oct-Nov-December CUB. Two couples who we thought would travel with us had decided not to go. So, had it not been for that veteran's meeting becoming a reality, Margot and I would have been alone. Even then, Margot and I would have met with Andre HUBERT, President of CRIBA and some of his organization. We also were anxious to meet, personally, Adda and Willi RIKKEN, with whom we had talked, and corresponded with many times during the summer. *So the story continues, starting on:*

22 September, 1995

All of the American Group that had attended the German-American meeting checked out of the hotel at Prüm and traveled

Enjoying the Hospitality of C.R.I.B.A. **106th Vets travel to Ardennes - Sept 1995 - Part Two...**

to the 106th Infantry Division Monument in St. Vith to meet with Andre HUBERT and some of the CRIBA members. The schedule which unfolded gave us an opportunity to visit some of the towns and villages that, up to this time most of us, except the 424th vets, only knew by reference in some history book. Names like Malmedy, Vielsalm, Stavelot, Trois-Ponts, La Gleize, Spineux and finally our historical and prominent spot on the Belgium map, Baraque de Fraiture, better known to Americans as "Parker's Crossroads." The memories of these points of history now are reinforced by actual visions in our mind, and not from a picture in a book. Today they look like ordinary, beautiful Belgian cities and villages, but their names carry very deep and significant meanings in the history of the "Battle of the Ardennes," known to us as *The Battle of the Bulge*.

St. Vith...

Assembling at the 106th Memorial in St. Vith we followed Andre HUBERT in convoy (remember we had nine Opel rental cars). Another CRIBA member, I believe it was Henri ROGISTER acting as "rear guard. The purpose of this tour was to follow the path of Colonel Jochen Peiper's Kampfgruppe (Battle Force) in his efforts to reach the Meuse River, then to finally end up at Maria Le-Haire's Hotel in Parker's Crossroads.

First stop:

Lingueville...

Our first stop was Lingueville which is on the road from St. Vith to Malmedy. A monument standing near the Hotel du Moulin is dedicated to eight American soldiers captured on 17 December by the leading elements of Kampfgruppe Peiper and were slaughtered by an SS Sergeant. This action happened after a defensive action by a few tanks of the 9th Armored Division. The Germans had lost three tanks in a few minutes.

Baugnez...

Our next stop was near a crossroads between Malmedy and St. Vith, known as Baugnez. Here we viewed the memorial there for those who were slaughtered on 17 Decem-



Viewing the 89 names on the "Wall of the Dead," at Baugnez Crossings - The Massacre of Malmedy.
l/r Pete Lauman, Willi RIKKEN, Dean Childs, Dean's sister Be, Ken Coss, Eleanor Childs (plaid coat), Bea Coss.

ber in the infamous *Massacre of Malmedy*. This story has been replete in many books and articles. I will not repeat all that they have said. I can say, that to stand there in the Memorial Park, at Baugnez gave all of us a great sense of emotion. Many of the 106th veterans in the group had been POWs and realized that it could be his name on the Wall of Dead.

I should remark that while on the trip I acquired a book, at La Gleize, about Colonel Jochen Peiper who was brought to trial for this act. It is entitled *The Devil's Adjutant: JOCHEN PEIPER, PANZER LEADER*. Publisher, SPELLMOUNT, Staplehurst. I think is available in the States. I suggest it as very interesting reading. Written by a Britisher, Michael Reynolds, it is very informative. I find it, inconclusive about the "Massacre," but with many details that I had not read about in any of the other articles. It is a comprehensive background on Colonel Peiper and how he came to be.



Henri ROGISTER, CRIBA, explaining the Massacre of Malmedy. Back of Henri is Dean Child's sister Be. To his left is Anett Vaughn, Ray Vaughn, Dan Walters. Back of Anett is Amy and Toby Anderson

Enjoying the Hospitality of C.R.I.B.A. 106th Vets travel to Ardennes - Sept 1995 - Part Two...



A 106th convoy, led by Andre' HUBERT, President of CRIBA. We are on the Peiper Trail overlooking Stavelot. There were nine cars in the column, no casualties.



From Peiper's Trail, looking over Stavelot in the valley and on the hills to the left.

Malmedy...

We did not stop, but there are five black marble plaques standing in the park to the right of the Malmedy Cathedral. They were erected after public subscription to the memories of 214 Malmedians and other refugees who lost their lives on December 23, 24 and 25th, 1944. These bombing also killed many American soldiers. How many is still unknown. The Belgians still question why was Malmedy, uninterruptedly held by the American troops, bombed by the U.S. Air Force on three different occasions? This question remains unanswered today.

Stavelot...

Our next stop was outside of Stavelot to view the city from the same road that Peiper's Panzers were on. It seems inconceivable that Peiper could have navigated those small roads to make his attack. They are narrow, hilly and with sharp curves. Here we were in the 424th Regiment territory, for they

came back through this area as the Germans were pushed back. next stop, La Gleize

La Gleize...

La Gleize, sight of the La Gleize Historical Museum, where the only remaining German Tiger II Tank, that was in combat, is on display. Many military history books recall the tremendous battle around and in La Gleize. We were shown a TV tape that explained it all. As I recall, after the battle there were over 135 pieces of war matériel scattered around the village of La Gleize.

The book I mentioned *The Devil's Adjutant* by Michael Reynolds, quotes "The inn keeper's wife, Jenny Geenen, was a far seeing person who decided that La Gleize should keep at least one major memento to the battle. When she saw an American armored recovery team removing Tiger II, number 213, from the Weremont farm she offered them a bottle of cognac for it - they accepted! It is the only remaining Tiger II in Europe that was actually involved in combat. Today it still menacingly covers the eastern approaches to the village, just as it did fifty years ago."

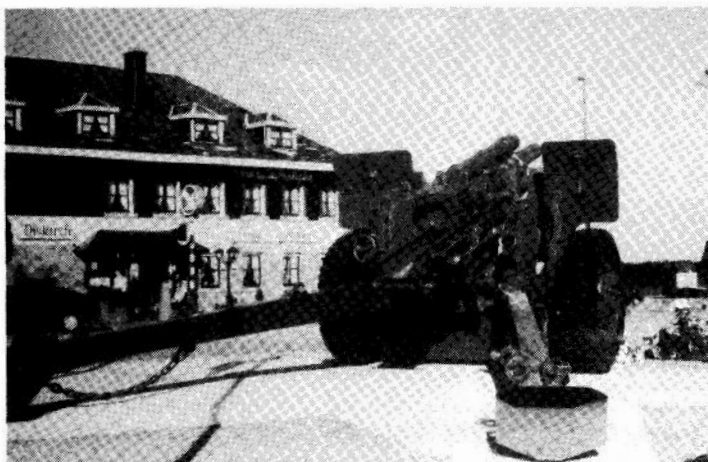
The museum contains many displays, behind glass, of American and German uniformed soldiers engaged in various duties, such as operating a radio, a machine gun etc. An impressive display of hundreds of pieces of German and American equipment and war machinery.

If you travel to Belgium, make this a "must" on your agenda.



German Tiger II at the La Gleize, Belgium Museum

Enjoying the Hospitality of C.R.I.B.A. 106th Vets travel to Ardennes - Sept 1995 - Part Two...



View of the Hotel Auberge du Carrefour, Parker's Crossroads, Baraque de Fraiture, Belgium

The 105 mm Howitzer is displayed in the village at the junction of the major highway leading to Liege. This is the approximate position of the gun manned by John Gatens of the 589th FAB, in 1944.

This Howitzer was dedicated during the 50th Anniversary Ceremonies in 1994. It was procured for this location by the dedicated work of Pierre MAWET, CRIBA.

Parker's Crossroads...

From La Gleize we headed for Parker's Crossroads (Baraque de Fraiture) anxiously waiting to see it come into view. We were not disappointed, it looked like we have seen it in several articles written by John Gatens of the 589th FAB and others who have visited it. A quite village with a hotel and a few business places. A 105mm Howitzer is displayed in the village center, and was dedicated in 1994. The existence of this gun is the result of the very hard work of Pierre MAWET, a CRIBA member. (more about Pierre and the gun in another CUB.) It was the only 105mm gun left in the U.S. arsenal that had an intact shield in place.

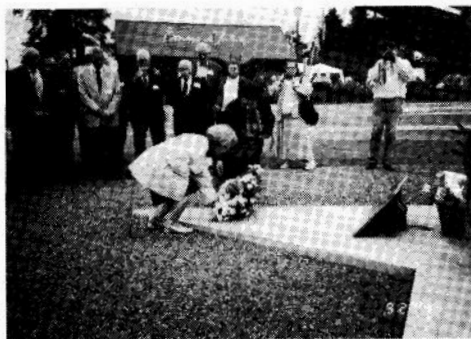
The three guns of the 589th FAB and other units led by Major Parker, wrote some great history there as they defended, valiantly, the crossroads at Baraque de Fraiture. This battle was later named *The Battle of*

Parker's Crossroads, in honor of Major Parker, the Battalion Commander.

The 589th FAB's defense of Baraque de Fraiture is written up as *The Alamo Defense*.

The Field Artillery Battalion with its valiant stand have earned a place of honor in the Fort Sill Artillery School and has influenced its teachings. *The Alamo Defense* will appear in the May CUB.

Arriving at Parker's Crossroads (Baraque de Fraiture), after a very enjoyable tour with Andre HUBERT, we checked into the *Hotel Auberge du Carrefour*, owned by Madame Maria LeHaire. Maria and her daughter, Bernadette greeted us. There were several CRIBA members in the lobby awaiting our arrival. After checking in we had an opportunity to see, first-hand, who we had been corresponding with over the years.



Margot Kline, in white coat, and Madame Maria LeHaire placing a wreath at the base of the 105 mm Howitzer Parker's Crossroads, 23 September 1995.



A view of the villagers, wives and guests of the 106th Veterans during the wreath laying ceremony. The second gentleman from left is the Mayor of Manhay, talking to Bernadette, daughter of Madame Maria LeHaire.

Enjoying the Hospitality of C.R.I.B.A. 106th Vets travel to Ardennes - Sept 1995 - Part Two...



Parker' Crossroads
A view of the 106th Infantry Division veterans by the Howitzer after the wreath laying ceremony on Saturday afternoon, 23 September 1995.
L/R: Howard Bagby, James Hiers, 424/M; Dean Childs, Toby Anderson 106 Signal; Ray Johnston, 423/H; Pete Lauman, 592 FAB/HQ; Ken Coss with just his eyes showing -right of gun; John Kline, 423/M; Richard Peterson, 423/I; Left rear of Peterson, unknown veteran of another unit; Bill Mueller, 424/M; Tiller Carter, 424/HQ is hidden by Bill Mueller; Ray Vaughn, with cane, 423rd Cannon, who was gunner on a 105mm Howitzer like this.
John Hoag had left the tour, and apparently Ken Smith 423/H was AWOL.

23 September 1995...

Spineux...

Andre HUBERT had scheduled us to visit the village of SPINEUX, where the villagers had built a monument to the 424th Infantry Regiment and the 112th Infantry Regiment of the 28th Division. The two regiments had, after their respective divisions were scattered during the Bulge, formed as a Combat Team. They liberated, among other towns, the village of SPINEUX. For obvious reasons the villagers think the 424th men are just great. Our meeting with the villagers turned out to be, not to slight other activities we participated in, one the warmest, most satisfying and memorable events of our whole European trip...

I will never forget the warm, genuine handshakes from the the friendly villagers, the luncheon served by the villagers of home-cooked food and pies, the beautiful songs of Madame HURDEBISE as she sang *Madelon* (sweetheart of the regiment) and other songs to all of us from the porch of the Reception Hall across from the monument. The unashamed display of emotions as we honored the "Monument" with the American and Belgian National Anthems. It was a great day, at SPINEUX, for all the Americans. Every letter I received from my comrades, after coming back home, conveyed the same thoughts.



The Monument at SPINEUX, Belgium was dedicated in September 1989.
Here, six years later in 1995, are some of the participants of the original dedication.
All from 424th Combat Infantry Regiment.
l/r: Kenneth Coss; S/Sgt, Section Leader, Heavy Machine Gun, 424/ML James Hiers; S/Sgt - Mess Sergeant, 424/M; Tiller Carter, Major, 424th Regimental Supply; Bill Mueller, PFC Gunner, 81 MM Mortar, 424/M; and Howard Bagby, PFC Gunner, 81MM Mortar, 424/M

Enjoying the Hospitality of C.R.I.B.A. 106th Vets travel to Ardennes - Sept 1995 - Part Two...

In front of the SPINEUX Monument

Far left: Ms. Christine LACAILLE in front of the flag, who at the age of nine, participated in the September 1989 dedication as the "Flower Girl." She repeated those duties here in 1995.

Andre HUBERT, President of CRIBA is to the left of the lady in black coat. To Andre's left holding a white paper is Jules HURDEBISE, CRIBA a 106th Associate. He lives in Stavelot and has a fantastic museum of WWII mementos.

To his left are 106th vets, Vaughn, Johnston, Coss, Peterson, Kline, Belgian, Hiers, Toby (with the hat), Smith, Mueller, Bagby, Lauman and Carter.

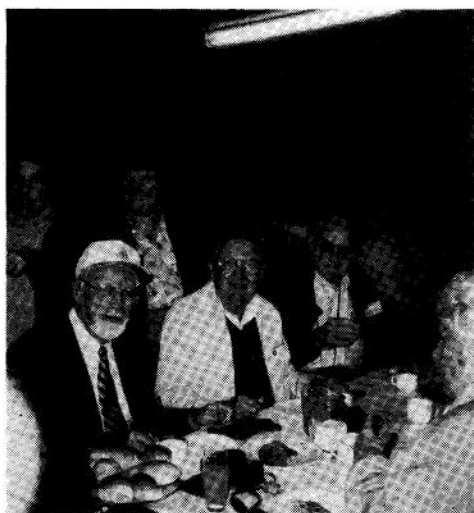
My apologies to those that I could not identify.....



The wife of Jules HURDEBISE, CRIBA singing three songs to us. La Madelon, a World War One song *Sweetheart of the Regiment*, and two other of which I do not have the name.

Madame HURDEBISE, who is blind, singing without accompaniment, brought tears to the eyes of those listening.

Jules HURDEBISE, with arms crossed, in front of the Spineux reception hall, with some of the villagers back of him.



Bill Mueller, Howard Bagby and Jim Hiers of 424/M, with Irmgard, Bill's wife, on right edge of picture enjoying the SPINEUX villager's hospitality, in the reception hall.



Ken Coss, 424/L, just swapped a cap for a CRIBA bolo-tie with Paul Linden, CRIBA. He found "Poppy Conner's" barracks bag recently and returned it to him. He lives in Grand Halleux, Belgium.

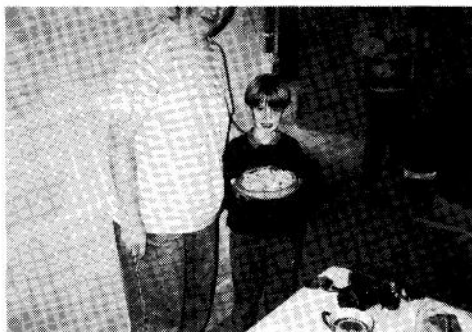
Enjoying the Hospitality of C.R.I.B.A. 106th Vets travel to Ardennes - Sept 1995 - Part Two...



A view of the crowd at SPINEUX



Madame HURDEBISE singing to the crowd.
The monument is on the right side of road back of
Ray Johnston (in light jacket.)



Lunch Time! a petit Belgian youth with the Pie, Yum!



Chow Time, l/r Tiller Carter; Carolyn Carter; Agnes Bagby,
Irmgard Mueller; On right, Jim Hiers and Howard Bagby.



Toby and Amy Anderson, with Ken and Bea Coss (white
sweater), another 106er to Ken's right. Sorry can't think of
name - too long ago...



If you ever want to find Don Patton or Dan Walters, you
look at the map board. Don pointing to map and Dan
looking. The map shows the Battle of LaGleize.



Left Henri REGISTER, with another CRIBA member behind
him. (sorry I don't remember the name) Right, me - John
Kline, a vet from another unit, to my right, then Ken Smith,
with Ray Johnston standing.



l/r: Near the monument in SPINEUX: Jim Hiers (white cap);
Henri REGISTER; Jim Renner; Joseph DeJARDIN;
Jennifer Vaughn back by door; Amy Anderson (white hair);
two Belgian veterans and a Belgian lady

Enjoying the Hospitality of C.R.I.B.A. 106th Vets travel to Ardennes - Sept 1995 - Part Two...

23 September, 1995

Parker's Crossroads

A Dinner Banquet with CRIBA..

In the picturesque hotel owned by Madame LeHaire, over 70 people, 29 American vets, wives and guests, and the rest CRIBA members, sat down to an evening meal to celebrate their friendships together.

Again, the warm Belgian hospitality, the sharing of customs and tales of how the Belgians survived the war brought us closer together. There is no question that the Belgians are grateful for the liberation of their country. There is no question that they respect the 106th veterans, just as we respect them.

The banquet was a show of friendship and respect that will be remembered by all of us, forever. Again, CRIBA, thank you from all the 106th veterans...

24 September 1995

As I wrote in Part One, this group of 106th veterans, wives and guests, was a mixture of three different groups. Some changed personal "pre-planned" European travel plans to coincide with the dates of the several meet-

ings we had planned.

Most all, except Margot and I, had plans for travel after the CRIBA dinner meeting. Some went to Frankfurt, some to Munich for the Oktoberfest, others visited POW camp sites to the east.

Margot and I ended up nursing terrible head colds for three days. We left Parker's Crossroads and literally "sacked out" for two days in the hotel at St. Vith, then the last night at the Brussels Airport Sheraton. We missed a trip to Bastogne with Andre' HUBERT. We had been invited to the home of LTC John Greene in Waterloo, Belgium, for the night before we flew home, but had to forego that because of our condition. Hopefully we can go back one of these next couple of years and catch up on what we missed.

Many letters, and phone calls have been sent between the American vets, all saying the same, "It was a great trip, a wonderful experience, I wish we could do it again..." J. Kline

**SEE FOLLOWING PAGE
FOR MORE PHOTOS...**



A view of the table decoration with two helmets and an American flag.
The writing says, "Welcome and Thank You to our Liberators. Maria and her family."

Enjoying the Hospitality of C.R.I.B.A. **106th Vets travel to Ardennes - Sept 1995 - Part Two...**



23 Sept 1995 CRIBA Dinner, John Kline, left, 106th Inf had presented Madame Maria LeHaire, Parkers Crossroads with a be-lated plaque from the 50th Anniversary Committee. Andre HUBERT is explaining it to CRIBA Members.



John Kline had just presented Andre' HUBERT, President of CRIBA with a plaque of appreciation from the 106th Association. Pierre GOSSETT, CRIBA Secretary looks on. Margot Kline to John's left.



An overview prior to dinner. Ray Johnston, fore; Dick Peterson on right, with Rita and LTC John Greene behind; Margot and John Kline seated back, Adda RIKKEN standing with Guy BLOCKMANS, Belgian Tourist Office



Bill Mueller, left with CRIBA member, Pierre MAWET. Pierre is the person responsible for the procurement of the 105MM Howitzer that sits in the village center.



Madame LeHaire shows the plaque to her daughter, Bernadette. The LeHaire's own the hotel at Baraque de Fraiture (Parker's Crossroads)



We are all getting a laugh out of ADDA RIKKEN's reading of the inscription from English to Belgian. The plaque had a brass plate inscribed, with a Bronze Order of the Golden Lion Medallion placed above the inscription plate.



Left: Be Barnes, Dean Child's sister; Den and Eleanor Childs; Dorothy and Pete Lauman; Toby and Amy Anderson, rear of table.



A good time was had by all. The cake that topped off the delightful dinner. Thank You CRIBA Members!



Sy Lichtenfeld, "I" Co. 422nd Combat Infantry Regiment with his son, Norman, in front of the 106th Infantry Division Memorial, St. Vith, Belgium - October 1994

Sy Lichtenfeld's story arrived just in time for me to use it as an excellent accessory to my story about the return of fifteen 106th vets to Germany and Belgium in September 1995. It is obvious that Sy, in 1994, and my comrades, in 1995, experienced the same feeling of respect for the help that members of CRIBA extend to the 106th veterans as they return to their beautiful country in search of their past. John Kline, editor

RETURN TO THE ARDENNES

by Seymour (Sy) Lichtenfeld
"I" Co., 422nd Combat Infantry Regiment
106th Infantry Division
19450 NE 21 Court, No.
Miami Beach, FL 33179
305-932-4467

PREFACE: In 1973, the family took a trip to Europe and made a short stop in St. Vith. However I was not ready at that time to seek out the truth as to what happened to me and the rest of "I" Company those fateful days of Dec 16, thru the 19th, 1944.

For the October 1994 trip our plans started in the Spring to gather as much information as we could including names of people from CRIBA members and The Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation at Ft. Meade, MD. We wrote to and obtained from the Center of Military History of the US Army, books, & situation maps, regarding the European Theater of Operations from Normandy through the Ardennes: Battle of the Bulge. We spent untold hours studying and planning an itinerary for the venture.

We finally set a date in early October 1994. We were aware of the many reunion tours that were going to be there, but wanted the freedom to wander and explore without time restraints in order to get the answers that we were seeking.

Sy

Return to the Ardennes, a phrase that has haunted me for over 50 years. Questions that have always been in the back of my mind: "Where and why did it happen to me and does anybody care"?

In October 1994, my son Norman and I, equipped with situation maps of the area of December 1944, letters from CRIBA, and historical information from the Army, found ourselves picking up a car, at the Brussels Airport, early one sunny morning. With an itinerary that had been carefully planned, we struck out to see if we could locate the actual positions of "I" Company, 422nd Regiment of the 106th Infantry Division that were occupied during that fateful December of 1944.

Much to our surprise, within one half-hour, we had cleared customs, got our car and found our way out of the airport and on the main expressway heading East. Our first stop was the American Cemetery at Henri Chapelle to pay our respects to members of the 106th who were buried there. We also were on a mission to locate a grave site for an acquaintance of my son. We were successful and the family was very appreciative of the

ures as no one had ever been over to visit the grave.

The modern road system and the proximity of all the towns and villages put us hours ahead of our time frame and we found ourselves in St. Vith about lunch time. What a change from the little cross road village that we had come to in December 1944. I can still recall the 2 ½ ton GMC that we rode, on a very cold snowy day, sliding off the icy covered road and almost turning over. Here was a city with modern buildings, stores, offices and full of people on this sunny afternoon.

We inquired about the town for lodgings and were trying to get our bearings and heading for the tourist office when out of nowhere a lady came running down the street yelling, "Was I Mr. Lichtenfeld." I was astonished that someone knew my name as we had not left it with any of the hotels we had been looking at. It turned out the lady was Mrs Adda RIKKEN, one of the many people whose name we had been given through CRIBA and with whom we had corre-

ended. We had told her in one of our letters we had hoped to be in St. Vith on or about the next day. She had been in the beauty parlor down the street, but her husband Willie had been in one of the hotels we visited having a beer and noticed these two Americans inquiring about rooms. He informed his wife of this American with a younger man and she put two and two together and came chasing us down the street. This was the beginning of an instant love affair with Adda and Willie RIKKEN. She told us that because of all the organizational reunions occurring the CRIBA people needed help and recruited her to assist us when we showed up the following day and to guide us to the monuments in the area.

They immediately took us to their recommended hotel. We had coffee and discussed plans for the next few days as to what we wanted to see. All of us then walked down to the 106th Infantry Division Memorial which had recently been re-dedicated. It was very nostalgic to see the 106th patch emblazoned

on the stone memorial. We understand that the 106th Infantry Division Association rebuilt the monument and it will be maintained by the Belgians to give thanks to the American liberators.

During our planning talk over dinner with the RIKKENS, it became obvious to my son and I that they were thinking of telling us about all the memorials in the area (there are over 108) and the story behind each. They were overwhelmed when we brought down our maps and saw that we wanted to go to the battlefields. They were very honest in telling us that they had never been up into the forest looking for battle sites, but would be honored to be our chauffeurs and using the maps to find what we looking for.

The next morning we met for coffee and with Willie driving in heavy fog (reminiscent of Dec 44) we set out for the first of many forays into the Ardennes. In order to get into the area of the Schnee Eifel, we first had to go into Germany, through Prüm and follow the back roads, past Obermaher and then after following forest ranger paths for 2 ½ miles, Willie announced we were at the point on the map that we had circled.

We were in the middle of the Ardennes forest, dark, foggy, cold as the sun was not fully up. We parked the car in a clearing and hiked to the side of the hill where our situation map said that I Company had been on the 16 Dec.

It was eerie knowing that I had been here 50 years ago. There were indications that dug-outs and foxholes had been here, but the loggers and the weather had pretty well eliminated the evidence. This was the first time that I realized that I had been fighting in Germany back in 1944, not in Belgium. I had always thought that I was West of the Siegfried line but here was proof positive I was East of it.

Coming out of the forest, we decided to follow my route as a prisoner since we were already on the German side. We drove along the Prüm road and into Prüm. I had always thought that my three day march took me into

Prüm where we were loaded into the box cars. Much to my surprise the railway station at Prüm did not have the large grey wall that I remembered being up against for the better part of a day awaiting the prison train. Also we could not find the church yard that I recall sleeping in amongst the tombstones. Willie said that there was a church in Gerolstein about another 22 kilometers further East. As soon as we came within the village proper I recognized the church yard and at the railway station there was the high grey wall alongside the tracks, the vision that I have recalled these many years. There was also an old box car on a siding that resembled the one that I had been locked up in for over 10 days with no food and water.

Leaving Gerolstein, we came back into the Schnee Eifel and with help of the maps followed the battlefield where the 423rd had been. Since "I" Company 422 was on the left flank of the 423rd, we could see the hills and valley and distances that were our positions. We came up the back side, and found the new positions according to the maps of the 422nd for the 17 & 18 Dec. It was at this time in our readings that we discovered the 422nd was ordered to about face and attack Schönberg. We also learned that "I" Company and "H" Company were ordered to take up positions in abandoned block houses in the Siegfried line as rear guard for the regiment. This clarified a nagging thought that always plagued me when discussing our time of capture. Many men from our regiment had told me they were in fox holes or in open fields when told to destroy their equipment. I can remember that I was in a foxhole, under fire, near a blockhouse. The answer was never clear as to how or why I was there.

Continuing through back roads and over trails that have subsequently been paved over, we parked the car and went into the dense wooded area. Our first find was a concrete bunker that was over grown with vegetation. Using sticks, we poked around and discovered an entry way and gun ports. It obviously had taken a hit as the concrete was

damaged and steel re-bars were exposed. I learned later that, in fact, the French had blown all the bunkers in 1947 and 1948.

After this discovery, we marched ourselves into the dense woods and practically fell into the first fox hole. Although they had been partially filled in with leaves and broken branches, the area appeared never to have been disturbed. In the fox holes, we found empty ammunition boxes, and remains of what appeared to be lanterns. There was no doubt in our minds that this was the area that had been occupied by "I" Company, 422nd Regiment of the 106th Infantry Division. The positions were a few hundred yards north of the highest point of the Schnee Eifel. A Radio/TV tower now sets there and it is named "Schwarzer Mann." There is a ski area north of the tower. The Schnee Eifel is renown for it's "Winter Sports."

After getting back to a main road, we found an access road that took us into the remains of the Siegfried line. The concrete dragon teeth were still in place and there was a warning sign in four languages indicating the area was not safe as unexploded mines and other explosives were still in the area. Needless to say we high tailed it out of there.

We then allowed our Belgian friends to take us to the memorial of Lt. Eric Wood of the 589th Field Artillery Battalion. Lt. Wood had avoided capture for over three weeks and with an unknown 82nd Airborne trooper created havoc in the German rear area. He was ultimately killed with seven German soldiers laying in the snow around him. We also visited Eve Maraite, who was a young girl at the time, and in whose house Lt. Wood had taken refuge during part of his activities.

After a very long day filled with many memories, we were invited to the RIKKENS for dinner, good food, talk of politics and the telling of war stories.

With a good nights rest under our belts, and a full breakfast, the RIKKENS met us for an early start to visit the northern shoulder of the Bulge. We stopped at the twin cities of Krinkelt and Rocherath and the area of the

Seim Gap where the initial penetrations were made by the Germans.

We visited the entire northern shoulder of the Bulge including the Elsenborn ridge and the little villages where heroic stands were the order of the day in those trying times. We followed the same roads that the 1st SS Panzer, Peiper's column, took. We re-read the history from the Army's book as well as from *ST. VITH: Lion in the Way*. The accuracy between the two was remarkable and we felt like we were reliving the action all over again. We stood on the bridges at Stavelot and Trois-Ponts where the 291st Engineers blew them literally in the German faces. We found the only remaining King Tiger tank at La Gleize and a marvelous museum containing much memorabilia from the fighting.

At Malmedy we paid our respects to the men that had been murdered there and who are remembered with a beautiful memorial. As night fall was descending on us, we made our way to Parker's Crossroads. In the fading light standing alongside the memorial made with a 105 Howitzer, we were enthralled with the commanding view that they had and how they were able to stop the German columns until they were overrun.

As the hour was late, we went across the street from the memorial to the Auberge du Carrefour for dinner. The restaurant was quite full but the owner's daughter Bernadette found a table for the four of us. Upon learning that I was a returning *Battle of the Bulge* vet, she informed her mother, Madame Marie LeHaire, who was ill and in bed. The Madame immediately got dressed and with an arm full of scrapbooks joined us while we were having dinner. In the course of over four hours approximately ten other customers pulled chairs around our table and in four languages we were listening to the most unbelievable stories I have ever heard. One even had a picture he carried in his wallet of a GI who had been wounded and was cared for in his house until the Germans took him away. There was considerable picture taking both video and still, including one of me in an old

GI helmet (without the helmet liner). It was an evening that both my son and I will never forget.

The next morning with tears in our eyes we said good-bye to our new friends and started south to retrace the *Battle of the Bulge's* southern action. At Clervaux in Luxembourg we visited the castle and museum where a great battle took place between American tanks and the Germans. The statue of the GI in the plaza is one that all of us vets can be proud of. At Diekirch we stopped at one of the most complete military museums I have ever visited. Not only have they collected and restored military equipment but have arranged dioramas with mannequins that resemble the actual battle field conditions during the winter of 1944.

At Arlon, Belgium, we visited the Victory Museum where there are, over 300 German & American vehicles on display in mint condition including a C-47 (I was in airborne before joining the 106th). As we traveled, we read the battlefield reports for each of the areas we were passing. It made the countryside come alive for us. We found the spot where Patton turned the 3rd Army North to attack from the South.

We now turned North ourselves, to Bastogne, and followed the 4th Armored Division's route. We found the stone bunker in the field where the relief of Bastogne took place. Standing in McAuliffe Square, evidence was all around us that the people remembered the Americans.

Finding we had an extra day due to the help of the RIKKENS in St. Vith, we decided to continue north into the Netherlands and follow the battlefields of Market Garden better known as a *Bridge Too Far*.

For my son and myself, this trip answered many of the questions that have haunted me these 50 years. Where did it happen? Why did it happen? And does anybody care? *Seymour (Sy) Lichtenfeld.....*

106th Infantry Division Association Mini-Reunions - 1995

President Richard Rigatti

The following pages show photos and reports from the 1995 December 16th Mini-Reunions held throughout the United States. We wish to thank those that played a part in organizing these get-togethers for the members of the 106th Infantry Division. Many of those who cannot attend the annual reunions have an opportunity through these wonderful parties to enjoy the camaraderie of their fellow veterans.

It is obvious that good will among the men and their wives and guests prevail during these events. We hope that if you that did not attend a local Mini-Reunion that you make note of the address and telephone number of this year's sponsor. Call them and join in the spirit next year when they will once again be held. If this year's sponsor is not organizing the next one, they can tell you who is.

If you would like to sponsor a "Get-Together," address labels of Association members in your area are available from CUB editor.

Next year's Mini-Reunions will be listed in the Aug-Sep-Oct 1996 issue of *The CUB*.

The Board of Directors feel that the December 16th Mini-Reunions will, in time because of our age, supplement and later replace the annual reunions. Thank you all for participating and a special thanks to you that sponsored these events. You are special people.

Richard Rigatti, 423/B

President, 106th Infantry Division Association

113 Woodshire Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15215

From Before the Veterans Die

a book of poems

by Dale Carver,

424/HQ 3Bn

BEFORE THE
VETERANS DIE
by
Dale E. Carver



*We were there, that winter long ago.
We survived; many of our comrades fell.
Twin enemies were the weather and the foe -
the never-ending cold and the bursting shell.
Conceived of this ordeal of fire and icy earth
this brotherhood of old men came to be;
a kinship stronger far than that by birth
was born when we were young, across the sea.
Of the ties that bind, others cannot know,
but we were there, that winter long ago....*



Southern California Area - 1995

Milton Weiner, 424/M 28121 Ridgethorne Court, Rancho Palos Verde, CA 90275 Tele: 310- 544-0470

As usual we started by reading 424th/HQ3Bn's Dale Carver's *My First Reunion*. This was followed by the *Memorial Prayer for Those Fallen* from the Armed Forces Prayer Book that was on my person in *The Battle of the Bulge*. A recording of *TAPS* was next. This was in memory of **Colonel C.C. Cavender**, who had attended each of our eight previous reunions. The Colonel loved coming and, for the past eight years, it was his only outing. When Army had beaten Navy he sang the *West Point Alma Mater Song*. Dick and Lynn Erbes always brought the Colonel from his quarters at the Air Force Skilled Nursing Care Center in Riverside, California.

All 16 enjoyed the dinner, the afternoon, the fellowship, and the memories of *When We Were Young Across The Sea*. In 1996, we are scheduled for 8 December at 1:00 P.M. Please write or call to be added to the mailing list.

Present on December 3, 1996 were: William DeBlase, 106 MP; Dick & Lyn Erbes, 423/HQ; Robert & Jeanette Josephs, 422/HQ; Cliff & Sarah Kincannon, 590/HQ; Joseph & Ann Litvin, 423/D; Neil Mahoney, 590/HQ; Robert & Mary Lou Marsh, 423/D; Al & Martha Siekierski, 592/C; Milton & Bella Weiner, 424/M





Madison, Wisconsin Area - 1995

Chuck Rieck, 424/H, 7316 Voss Pkwy, Middleton, WI 53562 Tele: 608-831-6110

The Wisconsin 7th annual commemorative meeting of the Battle of the Bulge was held at CJ's East in Madison, Wisconsin on October 7, 1995. We had 45 people in attendance.

Attending were: m/m Ed Wojahn; Dr/M Eugene Rodd; m/m Ray Kurth; m/m James Tetzlaff; m/m Jerry Miller; m/m Charles Puskarich; m/m Chuck Rieck; m/m Henry Wittenberg; m/m Larry Post; Edward Dorn; m/m Joe Broderick; m/m Robert Kane; Pete Di Benardo; Ms Nina Spenle; m/m Del Red m/m Arnold Brannstrom; m/m Robert Homan; Victor Fuch; Ms Marie Estes; m/m Albert March; m/m Michael Zych; m/m Ed Polaski; Richard Prendergast; John Mueller; Walt Donaldson; Fred Broussard. The photographer was Larry Post. By group action, 1996's meeting will be held on October 26 at same place - CJ's East, in Madison, Wisconsin.





Pittsburgh Area - 1995

Richard L. Rigatti, 423/B, 113 Woodshire Dr.- Pittsburgh, PA 15215 Tele: 1-800-344-7828

The 106th had a Mini-Reunion luncheon at *The Fountain Room*. 28 were present. Great food and great company.

P.R. MINI-REUNION-DEC.16,1995

**106th INFANTRY DIVISION
ASSOCIATION AT COROZAL**

ARDENNES



THE RHINELAND

CENTRAL EUROPE

By PFC Humberto Aponte
Corozal, Puerto, Rico
M Company (Mules)
422 Infantry Regiment
106th Infantry Division

Corozal, Puerto Rico - 1995

Humberto Aponte, 422/M, PO Box 1668, Corozal, Puerto, Rico 00783-1668 Tele: 809-859-7297

The 1995 Mini-Reunion took place in my home as scheduled. Present were Ex-S/Sgt Hector Colón Rios; Hector fought in Vietnam during the Tet-Offensive. He earned the *Bronze Star*, *Purple Heart w/cluster*, *Air Medal* as well as others. He is Inventory Controller Manager with Intel Corp. at its Las Piedras P.R. facility. With him were: His wife: Ana H. Santiago de Colón; His daughter: Ms. Rosana Colón Santiago; His mother: Ms. Carmen Rios Hernandez.

Also present was my beloved wife: Ms. Aida L. Rios Hernandez who for this special occasion prepared the following: White boiled rice (no grease or salt), Baby lima beans (dry) stewed with pumpkin & smoked ham, Sliced turkey breast in red sauce. California Chablis wine was served.

For dessert- Cointreau (cordial straight), Spanish nougat candy and Café au lait.

Of course, we remembered our fallen comrades of the 106th, my other outfit, the 298th Combat Engineer Battalion and the 101 Screaming Eagles. Enclosed you will find a small sign 18" x 12" prepared by the writer on vegetable parchment paper for the affair. Photos will follow... *Humberto Aponte, 422/M*

1995 December 16th Mini-Reunions...



Detroit, Michigan Area - 1995

Russell Mayotte, 424/F, 9628 Cavelle St., Livonia, MI 48150 Tele: 313-421-4059

All pictures Left to Right:

Men - Back Row: John Shalhoub; Bob Rowe; Jim Fonda; Jack Roberts; Will Hartman; Jack Gillespie; Will Paquett and John Jambor

Men - Middle Row: Bob Dashner; Bill LeClair; Lou Passarriello; Harold Ortwine; Tony Rand and Marshal Wenslow **Men -Front Row:** Russ Mayotte and Paul Wasylon

Ladies - Back Row: Ann Frankini; Mary Lou Roberts; Mary Jane Fonda; Pat Wenslow and Ruth Rand

Ladies -Middle Row: Mrs Dashner; Furme LeClair; Audry Ortwine; Lee Rowe; Betty Passariello; and Shirley Gillespie **Ladies Front Row:** Jean Schutte





New Jersey Area - 1995

Carl Messina, 81st ENG/A, 926 Seymour Ave, Linden, New Jersey 07036-2942; Tele: 908-486-2927

On November 12, 1995 the New Jersey group met. There were 59 in attendance. The place was *The Coachman Inn* in Cranford, N.J. Pictures by Bill Blaher. The M.C. was Paul Werknesiter who was helped by Nick Ricoli, John Gallagher, Col. Thomas Riggs, Dr. Baird, Duncan Trueman and Orfeo Agostini. Joe Scotti handled the door. Carl Messina was presented a beautiful trophy of a *Flying Eagle* for his work on the reunion over the years. His wife Alice was also the recipient of an award. A good time was had by all.

ATTENDING: Carl & Alice Messina; Col. Thomas Riggs, Jr.; Orfeo Agostini; William Daly; Frank & Miriam Sziher; Ephriam & Natalie Goldberg; Joseph & Dorothy Krafchik; Duncan & Grace Trueman; Jacker Avedisian & Marilyn Wolfson; Charles & Daisey Walsh; Ken & Marion Schuetz; William & Miriam Blaher; Dr. Harry & Betsy Baird; Charles Saxton; Irving & Rhoda Schrom; Nick & Candid Risoli; Paul & Lucille Werkmeister; Roy & Wanda Fava; John & Stella Gallagher; Fred & Charlotte Schieferstein; Jacques & Jean Bloch; Charles & Pauline Fehnel; m/m Howard Kushner; m/m Jack & Anne McDevitt; m/m Arthur Potts; m/m Eugene Powell; m/m Salvatore Scalzo; M. Elston; m/m N. Haefner; m/m Joseph Scotti; E. Slotkin; M. Elston; J. Puzio



1995 December 16th Mini-Reunions...



Texas Area - 1995

Ted & Beth Jones, 4646 Mill Creek Rd, Dallas, TX Tele: 214-239-8795

On 16 December, eleven members of the 106th and nine guests met at the Steak & Ale Restaurant in Dallas, Texas to observe the 51st Anniversary of the *Battle of the Bulge*. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and an Invocation. Good fellowship was enjoyed by all. Mick "Pappy" Conner, 84 yrs of age, (592/B) was unable to attend for health reasons. He would appreciate hearing from "anyone" in the 106th. His address is Arlington Villa, Room 272, 2601 W. Randol Mill Rd., Arlington, TX 76012.

Front l/r: Aubrey D. Morgan, 424/G; John S. Nesbit, Jr., 424/F; Hugh L. Colbert, 422/B; Herbert Sheaner, Jr., 422/G and William J. Yingst, 423/D.

Back: Leamon H. Hammontree, 422/HQ 2Bn; Reuben H. Braden, 422/K; Ted N. Jones, 424/A; Thurl L. Fox, 422/B; Robert N. Lyons, 424/HQ and Arthur C. Thomasson, 424/A.



Geneva, Illinois 1995

Phil & Gwen Farris, 432/H, 368 C Brittany Ct., Geneva, IL 60134

A 423/H Pre-December Get-Together at the Farris home: l/r: Phil Farris; Mike Kurzeja; John Swett and Walter Peterson.



Albuquerque, New Mexico - 1995

Armando Velasquez, 424/K, 9616 Avenida De La Luna N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87111

We met for a Mini-Reunion at Shoney's at Eubank and Montgomery NE for an enjoyable luncheon. A news article about the reunion brought forward two new members. We enjoyed meeting with former 1960ers and had just an enjoyable time.

Men - l/r: Ralph Nelson, 422/CN; Robert Soladay, 422/SV; Armando Velasquez, 424/K; Wilbur Parker, 424/H and Louis Baca, 422/L.

Guests - l/r: Tillie Baca; Adda Larson; Margaret Velasquez; Rhoda Nelson and Kenneth Parker.



1995 December 16th Mini-Reunions...



Mt. Vernon, Illinois Area - 1995

John Mikalauskis, 424/H, Box 31 306 W. Blake, Benton, IL 62812 Tele: 618-439-3867

On December 8th, a group of the 106th attended a reunion celebrating the Anniversary of the *Battle of the Bulge* at the Holiday Inn in Mt. Vernon, Illinois. We had 47 reservations, but only 19 were able to attend due to bad weather. An enjoyable time was had by all. It was decided that the 1996 Anniversary Celebration be held on December 13, 1996.

Men, back-row l/r: Bill Daugherty, Bob Shaw, John Hohenstein, Cebert Turner, John Mikalauskis, Pete Lauman, Al Kopatz **front-row:** Glenn Hartlieb, Ken Bradfield, Vic Breite.

Women, back-row l/r: Elaine Shaw, Angela Daugherty, Iona Hohenstein, Avis Breite, Ida Kopatz, June Bradfield. **front-row:** Nadine Hartlieb, Dolores Mikalauskis, Dorothy Lauman.





Arizona - 1995

Herman Van De Bogart, 424/A, HCR 1, Box 2000 NSC-023, Tucson, AZ 85736 Tele: 520-822-2296

Dateline 16 December 1995- Our reunion took place at the Cortez/Balboa room in the Holiday Inn, Tucson, Arizona. The tables were decorated in red and green. There was a nicely decorated Christmas Tree with 13 gifts, donated by local businessmen, to be awarded as door prizes. There were 30 members, wives and guests. Following a flag salute we observed a moment of silence for our departed comrades, including our good friend Larry Walden, who hosted last year's luncheon.

We welcomed special guests Jim Conroy, 2nd Div. and wife Joyce, and Wayne Conright (not pictured) from the 82nd. Other special guests were my daughter, Carol Ramar, Seattle and our friend Dort Haney

For our program I showed TV clips of the 106th in combat and also of the ceremony in August of 1995 I was awarded the Bronze Star. Reminiscences of those long ago times were enhanced by Jim Conroy of the 2nd Division which the 106th relieved on the line in December 1944. Toby Anderson and Dean Childs talked about their recent trip to Belgium. Toby brought lot's of pictures for us to enjoy.

Men- Front l/r: Michael Membrila, Emilio Membrila, Emor Pretty, Toby Anderson, Dean Childs, Jim Conroy. **Back Row:** Morton Shafton, Henry Hayden, Ralph Bean, Herman Van De Bogart, Glen Kennedy, George Stephens, Gene Barker, Richard Behr, Jack Waters and Floyd Friend.

Ladies- Front l/r: Joyce Conroy, Dorothy Waters, Helen Van De Bogart, Barbara Hayden, Amy Anderson Carol Ramar. **Back:** Eleanor Childs, Bea Nehr, Francine Shafton, Pearl Kennedy, Sheba Stephens, Rosemary Barker, Dort Haney.





Chicago, Illinois Area - 1995

Russell Villwock, 106 SIG, 8560 W. Foster Ave, #510, Norridge, IL 60656 - 2772; Tele: 708-452-8628

Again, this year, former members of the 106th in the Chicago area gathered on December 2nd to commemorate our days in Belgium during the winter of '44-'45.

We met at the Elk's Club in Des Plaines. During the cocktail hour we remembered some good times, and some bad times, during and after *The Battle of the Bulge*. It seems as we age, our memories dim, but we all remember our days together.

After a turkey dinner with all the trimmings, a few dinner drinks, we talked about what to do next year, and of the upcoming reunion in Roanoke, Aug 30 to Sept 2nd. With Holiday Wishes and hopes that we would all be together next year, we departed for home.

Each year I mail 50- 60 letters with about a 30% return. I was disappointed with the turn-out this year as many had said they would attend as we visited during the Orlando reunion. I will send a questionnaire within a few months to see who would like to be notified next year. It may make planning a little easier.

Attending were: m/m Maynard Adolphson; m/m Clarence Binder; Antone and Lawrence Costa; m/m Joseph Dallman; m/m Major Hill; m/m Thomas Kapsalis; m/m Oliver Libman; Mrs Florence Lucsay; m/m Herbert Meagher; m/m Raymond Panice; m/m Edward Rydzinski; m/m Ted Swier; Mrs Millie Holder; m/m Milton Schober; m/m Earl Parker and m/m Russell Villwock.





Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Area - 1995

Charlie & Nancy Datte, 591/SV, 231 Davis Ave, Clifton Heights, PA 19018 Tele 215-626-1866

16 December 1995: Those of us who were able, gathered together for our Annual Commemorative *Battle of the Bulge* Dinner, here in the Phila. area, at "Our House." We have been most fortunate to share this time of year with the men and ladies of the 106th Infantry Division. Nancy and I thank them all for their help. They all have such warm and pleasant personalities, which, in it's-self seems to motivate us to prepare for this event each year.

We also realize that, as we travel through the "Golden Years," we'll have a few empty seats. Ray Smith, 591/HQ passed away this year. Harvey Bradford, 424/SV is in a convalescent home. Ernst Savage 424/HQ in station recovery, Jim Bard, 423/I and Charlie Harvey 424/A were on detached service and Ray Ulmer, SV was AWOL!! Gentlemen, we missed you and pray that God will watch over all of us through this year. We are looking forward to seeing you in Roanoke Aug 30-Sept 2, 1996.

MEN seated l/r: Herb Whitehead, 81st/A; Fred Vitali, 424/B; Charlie Datte, 591/SV; Newt Weiss, 423/HQ; Harry Albertson, 422/H; **standing:** Jack McDevitt, 81/A; B. Wilson, 591/SV; Russ Hoff, 422/M; Stan Wojtusik, Jr. 422/G; Joe Ansel, 422/AT.

WOMEN l/r: (seated) Becky (waitress); Anne Mcdevitt; Ruth Weiss; Jessica (waitress); Nancy Datte; Gladys Albertson; Mickie Vitali; Joan Hoff





Reading, Penn. 1994

John J. Gallagher, 81st ENG/C, 4003 Francis St., Temple, PA 19560 TELE: 610-929-2887

The Reading Area held its annual Memorial Dinner, 1 December 1995 at the Dutch Colony Motor Lodge. For those that stayed overnight we had breakfast together on Saturday A.M. Members attended from our area as well as from New Jersey and Delaware.

Good food, good fellowship and sharing of memories from Christmas 1944 for the families at home and with the 106th. We endured ice, snow, mud, enemy and POW camps. We all reflected on how Faith helped us find "*Presence of Inner Peace while in the Fox Hole or Prison Camp*"

We referred to the story of Father Cavanaugh and Col. Joe Matthews during their prison camp experience.

Next years dinner will be held Friday, December 6. For information contact me at the above address or telephone number. Photos by Fred Carr. Nancy Datte not shown in pictures.

Men l/r: Phil Harris, Stanley Kowalski, Fred Carr, Vince Sziber, Martin Dorminy, Curtis Deisher, Jack McDevitt and Charles Datte. **Seated:** Carl Messina, Donald Showalter. Norman Kaufman. **On floor:** John J. Gallagher.

Ladies front: Robbie Showalter, Doris Dorminy, Alice Messina. **Back l/r:** Florence Deisher, Ida Frank, Mary Lorah, Anne McDevitt, Betty Carr, Lillian Harris, Stella Gallagher, Erma Kowalski, Muriel Sziber.





Northern California - 1995

Edward Prewett, 424/B, 7831 Lone Tree Way, Brentwood, CA 94513 -Tele: 510-929-2887
John Stauff, 591/B, 139 Danefield Place, Moraga, CA 94556 - Tele: 510-376-2870

Another great December 16th gathering of the Northern California Group. John Stauff and Ed Prewett hosted this one. We were honored to have as our guest speaker, former Colonel Dupree Sassard, Intelligence Officer at the 12th Army Group Headquarters. He gave a very informative talk.

Present were:

Men - Standing: Robert Brendlinger; Ed Dunn; C.R. Meltensen; Frank Nausin; William Fowler and Fowler's friend; Michael Thome and Clarence Epling.

Seated: John Stauff; John Gregory; George Johnson; Walter Johannes; Colonel Dupree Sassard (guest speaker); Edward Prewett **On floor:** Jerome Eisenman.

Ladies: Ruth Eisenman; Aileen Sassard; Reddie Prewett; Helena Meltensen; Elaine Epling; Shirley Gregory and Lucille Johannes.

Missing from our presence, but in our hearts were Vera and Joe Salber, 423/SV. Joe passed away September 4. He served with me as Co-Chair of the first Northern California gathering, 12/15/1986.

See picture on next page>>>>



1995 December 16th Mini-Reunions...



In Remembrance of Joe Salber, by Ed Prewett - Northern California Group....

On Labor Day September 4, 1995 Joe Salber passed away. He had been ill for some time. His wife Vera expressed his death as, "This is a very sad time in my life, but I know Joe was ready to go to Heaven."

Joe Salber served with the 423rd Regiment Service Company. He filled in as Regimental Supply Officer with the 424th during the battle. At the urging of Sherod Collins, Joe and I organized the first gathering of the California 106th Veterans. The picture above, of Vera and Joe, was taken at the pre-reunion meeting on the Prewett patio in 1986. This gathering was held on December 15, 1986 in Sacramento and was attended by the following six veterans and three wives:

Mr & Mrs Ivan Long; Mr & Mrs Joseph Salber; Mr & Mrs Edward Prewett; John Gregory; John Stauff and Michael Thome. Vera now resides at 195 Town Center Way, Vacaville, CA 95687



Alabama - 1995

Joseph A. Massey, 422/C and Judge Walter G. Bridges, 424/D

% Massey - 4820 Spunky Hollow Rd, Reamlap, AL 35133 Tele: 205-681-1701

Dateline: 16 December 1995: The Commemorative December 16th meeting of the 106th Infantry Division veterans of Alabama was held at *The Pioneer Cafeteria* in Birmingham, Alabama. It was a combined meeting with *Battle of the Bulge* organization membership. Six members of the 106th Infantry Division and wives attended. The combined meeting had approximately six veterans and wives attending. Dinner and a musical program were enjoyed by all. Present were (see photo l/r):

Judge Walter Bridges and wife Barbara, Hueytown; Wil and Norma Temple, Birmingham; Dave and Frances Lacy, Birmingham; Joseph (Joe) and Hazel Massey, Reamlap; John and Mary Racster, Cullman; John and Lee Gilliland, Enterprise.

1995 December 16th Mini-Reunions...

Sarasota Florida - 1995

Lester A. Helmich, 424/HQ, 2600 Belvoir Blvd, Sarasota, FL 34237 Tele: 813-955-3571

The 16 December Remembrance of the start of the Bulge was held at VFW Post 3233 with a luncheon and socializing from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM by 22 members of the 106th Infantry Division and its affiliated units and one member of the 806 Ordinance Battalion. The wives of all 106 members were in attendance for a total of 43 people.

The first hours was set for mixing and general get together. It seemed to be slowing down waiting for lunch, so I asked each member to tell something of his experiences with the 106th. There were many and varied stories. Several wives came forward and said it was the first time they had heard their husbands talk about his service. They thought it added to our program.

The menu consisted of a salad table where each made his own. This was followed by Honey Baked Chicken or Roast Beef, mixed vegetables and French Baked potatoes. All of this was capped off with Apple or Cherry pie Ala Mode. The Lounge Bar was available for all who desired. Cost of the Dinner was \$10.00

Pastor TenBrinks opened with the invocation that not only blessed the food, but also reminded all that we were here to remember those that did not return. He closed with a benediction that asked for safe travel and care during the coming year.

I was very pleased with the way everything turned out, except no one would accept to head up the get together for the next year. All said they would return next year if they were able. Pictures were taken but no one wanted to stay around to give names as we were grouped.

Present were: Stanley McDonald, 806 Ordinance Battalion, who wants to become a member. He hauled ammo to the 106th in the Bulge; **All the following with wives:** Reme Bottcher; Richard Brokaw; Virgil Collins; Milton Cram; Jesse Curtiss, Jr.; Arthur Hanke; Harold Harmon (Ltc Ret); Barney Mayerson; Franklin Miller; Raymond Reed; Joseph Sanders; Eugene Saucerman; Rocco Serge; Reverend Samuel TenBrinks; Raymond Twardzik; John Thurlow; Presslye Walters; Howard Zilmer; Lester Helmich.

Edward Lewis had a stroke just prior to the dinner so he and his wife did not attend. Two other members canceled hoping to make it next year. *signed Lester Helmich*



Colorado-Wyoming Area - 1995

Co-Chairmen : Nolan L. Ashburn, 424/H and Stanley Tuhoski, 423/E, both of - Ft Collins, Colorado

Held at the Holiday Inn, I-25 and East Mulberry, Ft Collins, CO. An Excellent turkey dinner accompanied by Glen Miller music was preceded by informal discussions of each veteran's recollections of where he was on 16 December 1944.

Harold Zimbelman, 422nd Regiment displayed his Prison Camp records that he brought out of camp as he was liberated. He speaks German.

Present were: Joe and Lillian Cucarola, Sterling, CO -422/B; James and Mary Dunn, Wheatridge, CO-424/A; Robert and Thelma Kline, Lyons, CO- 423/M; John and Margaret Reifenrath, Colorado Spgs, CO-423/B; Harold Zimbelman, Denver, CO- 422nd Regiment; Stanley and Marion Tuhoski, Ft Collins, CO-423/E; Nolan Ashburn, Ft Collins, CO- 424/H

1995 December 16th Mini-Reunions...



Orlando, Florida - 1995

Lloyd Byrd, 422/HQ 2Bn, PO Box 1305, Windermere, FL 34786 Tele: 407876-5586

The luncheon was held at the Metro Country Club in Orlando with Lloyd Byrd as Host. Dick Sparks acted as master of ceremonies and rendered this attendance report.

The Orlando Reunion Committee took a few minutes to tell about some of the "behind the scenes" activities and humorous events that made the committee's life "interesting" at the 1995 Reunion.

Those attending were then asked to identify themselves and describe their "civilian life" after the war. A wide variety of professions and occupations were mentioned which showed that the 106ers were as successful in civilian life as they were as a fighting force in WWII.

Attending were: ** = First time attend

Men- Front l/r: Ted Slaby, 423/HQ; Sam Davis, 423/HQ; George Gieb **, 424/G; Del Rediger, 424/HQ; Lloyd Bird, 422/HQ 2Bn; John Riels, 423/HQ 2Bn; Milton Stolan; 423/HQ; William Potts, 424/K.

Men- Back Robert Niner, 590/HQ; Pete House, 590/A; El Creel, 590/A; John Hall, 423/SV; Harold Blalack **, 423/C; Paul Lamb, 423/AT; Cliff Capshaw, 423/K; Melvin Suttle **, 424/I; Dick Sparks, 423/SV.

Ladies- Front: Marion Rediger; Kathe Suttle; Dorothy Lamb.

Ladies- Back: Belle Niner; Joanne House; Midge Ward; Muriel Gieb; Beth Riels; Mary Capshaw; Edith Blalack; Thelma Potts; Dot Byrd.





Broken Arrow, Oklahoma Area - 1995

Jack Behling, 423/A, 5519 East 114th St., Tulsa, Oklahoma 74317 Tele: 918-299-74137

Ten of our 16 surviving Oklahoma 106th Infantry Division Association members and their wives attended a get-together lunch on 16 December 1995, at the Indian Springs Country Club in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma (a suburb of Tulsa).

I was assisted as host by Marianne, my wife. Each veteran gave a 10-15 minute summary of his military service including his and his units action at the beginning of the Bulge. All were enthusiastic about having another get-together next year. It will be held in Oklahoma City. A.B. Waters and Joe Haines volunteered to be Co-Hosts with Don Herndon assisting as time permits. Following the meeting we invited the group to my home for coffee and dessert.

Men- Standing l/r: Dave Deffenbaugh, Claremore, 423/D; Don Herndon, Oklahoma City, 424/L; Howard Bryant, Coweta, 424/F; Joe Haines, 106 RECON; Leland Turley, Tulsa, 423/H. **Seated:** Clint McClure, Tulsa, 423/HQ; Bob Woods, Oklahoma City, 423/A; A.B. Waters, Duncan, 106 SIG; Jack Behling, Tulsa, 423/A; Lyle Russell, Ochelata, 422/I

Ladies- Standing: Janice Waters; Pauline Russell; Anita Turley; Marianne Behling.

Seated: Peggy McClure; Betty Bryant; Maria Woods; Carolyn Deffenbaugh



1995 December 16th Mini-Reunions...



Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota Area - 1995

John P. Kline, 423/M, 5401 U. 147th St. West, Apple Valley, MN 55124 Tele: 612-423-4837

The Mini-Reunion for December 16 Commemoration was held on 6 December 1995 at the Germanic-American Institute on Summit Street, St. Paul, Minnesota. There were 46 present with vets, wives and guests. A delightful luncheon of Rouladen and all the side dishes was served, especially for the 106ers, by Helga Parnell, Food Manager of the Institute. Kline showed slides of the three-day meeting with German veterans that occurred on September 19-21, 1995 in Auw, Germany. No definite date was set for 1996, although all agreed that we should meet then.

Present were: Albert Bruecker 592/A and Della Mae; Lloyd Brunner, 424/A and Audrey; Richard Cartier, 424/K; Phil Gerlach, 424/D and Shirley; Russel Gunvalson, 590/A and Idelle; John Kline, 423/M and Margot, and grandson Sean Kline; Albert Krantz, 106 MP and Patricia; Dalton MacFarlane, DIV/ and Marion; Charles Riedell, 423/I and wife; Duane Risberg, 423/HQ; Richard Ritchie, 423/MED and Carol; Donald Ruddick, 423/E and Janis with an Australian guest; Lex Schoonover, 422/HQ and Anne; Alvin Swanson, 424/I and Dorothy; Paul Thompson, 106 RECON; Ted Williams, 423/MED; and Arnold Zahratka, 424/L. ASSOCIATE members: L'Myra Hoogland, daughter of Myron Anderson, 424/AT (deceased); Loren Borgwardt, a Navy Captain and Jean; Howard Flen, Historian; Charles Haug, 28th Div 112th Reg and son; Gene Solfelt, 84th Inf Div 333rd Bn; Doug Bekke, Don Patton and Jim Renner of the World War II Round Table, Fort Snelling, MN.; GUEST: Roland Seboldt of the Germanic-American Institute.





Fort Jackson, South Carolina - 1995

Roger Rutland, 424/B, 6632 Arcadia Woods Rd., Columbia, SC 29206 Tele: 803-787-6996

We were delighted with the turnout for the local Christmas Luncheon for North Carolina and South Carolina here at the Fort Jackson Officers Club on 16 December 1995. Thirty-one persons were present, and I believe a good time was had by all. Many expressed thanks that we finally got one started. I expect more will come next year as we had 15 reply that they could not come this year, but wanted to be informed of future meetings.

Robert Landis and wife Mary Jane from Albrightsville, PA were in South Carolina for the winter, so they joined us.

Those in attendance were: Ewell C. Black, Jr., our Chaplain; James and Julia Burnett; Chris and Alma Carawan; Johnnie B. Floyd; James L. Hiers; Arthur and Julia Hinson; Robert and MaryJane Landis; John and Betty Murphy; Dean and Peggy Redmond; Edward Y. Roper; Bill and Shirley Shipley; Tom and Kay Grove, guests of Bill Shipley; Alvin W. Skardon; Alexander W. Taylor; Howard and Luvelle Terrio; Ryan E. Tomlinson; Wade and Vanni Toy; J. Howard Tucker, Sr. and J. Howard Tucker, Jr.; Roger and Mattie Rutland. We will notify all in this area of the next one for 1996, when we decide the date.



1995 December 16th Mini-Reunions...



Atlanta, Georgia - 1995

Sherod Collins, 423/SV, 448 Monroe Trace, Kennesaw, GA 30144 Tele: 770-928-3207

The Golden Lion roared and everybody smiled as a small group of 106'ers gathered at their annual meeting, 10 December 1995, at Dobbins Air Force Base Open Mess, for fellowship and a good meal.

Gathered from in and around Atlanta, Georgia were the following:

Morris and Sarah Piha; Carroll Padgett & Ernestine Holland; Hank & Betty Freedman; Douglas & Isabelle Coffey; Bill & Sandra Jenkins; Bob & Frankie Burkes; Jim & Maydean Wells; Sherod Collins & Martha Brocato The three 106th Regiments, the 106 QM, the 590 FAB and the 81st Engineers were represented.



In Memoriam

ey, Hampton J. 422/K

3900 France Place, Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

I received a call from Shirley, his wife, stating that Hampton had died on 19 November 1995. He was planning on attending our Dec 6 mini-reunion. I learned at the reunion that Hampton died from a fall. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, son, John & wife Jane; daughter, Mary & husband Kenneth Fischer; mother Ruth Smith of Huntsville, AL; two brothers, and two grandchildren. He was interned at the Glen Haven Memorial Gardens.

Higdon, Herman L. 422/E

122 Querecho Ln, Albany, GA 31707

Herman died in a VA Hospital at Dahlen, Georgia on August 27, 1995

Hucko, Robert W. 424/D

676 Telham Rd, New Rochelle, NY 10805

The CUB was returned from the Dumont Home reporting that Robert died July 15, 1995.

Johnson, Donald E. 422/HQ

Box 156, Center Ossipee, NH 03814

Kirk E. Johnson of Ossipee informed us that Donald passed away July 3, 1995.

Henry, Patrick Francis 424/CN

409 Auburn Dr., Little Rock, AR 72205-2770

Alice, his wife, reports that Pat died 13 November 1995. That she and Pat enjoyed the 106th reunion at Fort Jackson. and at Orlando. Survived by sons James, Upland, California and Michael and his wife Cindy and grandson Brian Patrick of Little Rock. Yes, Alice I remember meeting you and Pat. God Bless you.....

Lee, Russell 589/C

624 Ludington St #503, Escanaba, MI 49829

Dolores, his wife, informed us that Russell passed away at the Bishop Naa Home in Escanaba. She thanks all for their kindness and that Russ enjoyed the CUB before he got to ill.

McLeieer, Jack S. 422/C

1493 NE 60th Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33062

Date of death August 22, 1995. Survived by his wife Fredericka.

ner, William A. 424/I

1012 Oakwood Rd., Haddonfield, NJ 08033

From a letter from Eleanor, William's wife, "Bill passed away on May 15, 1995. One of his greatest pleasures was the reading of *The CUB* so that he could keep track of his buddies. He was so very proud to have served in the 106th Infantry Division."

Phalen, John P. 423/M

137 North Battin, Wichita, KS 67208

The editor learned from Mary Phalen, his wife, that John had died on March 22, 1995.

Ricci, Armondo A. 81st Engineers/B

1711 31st St. NE, Canton, OH 44714

Edward Wojahn reported Armondo died July 30, 1995.

Roy, Charles J. 589/A

71740 Chini Orchard Rd., Flushing, OH 43977

We received a report Charles died October 25, 1995.

Salber, Joseph P. 423/SV

195 Towne Center Way, Vacaville, CA 95687

Edward Prewett reported that Joseph died 4 September 1995. See article in 16 December meeting section. Joe and Ed Prewett organized the first California meetings in 1986.

Smith, Charles L. 422/D

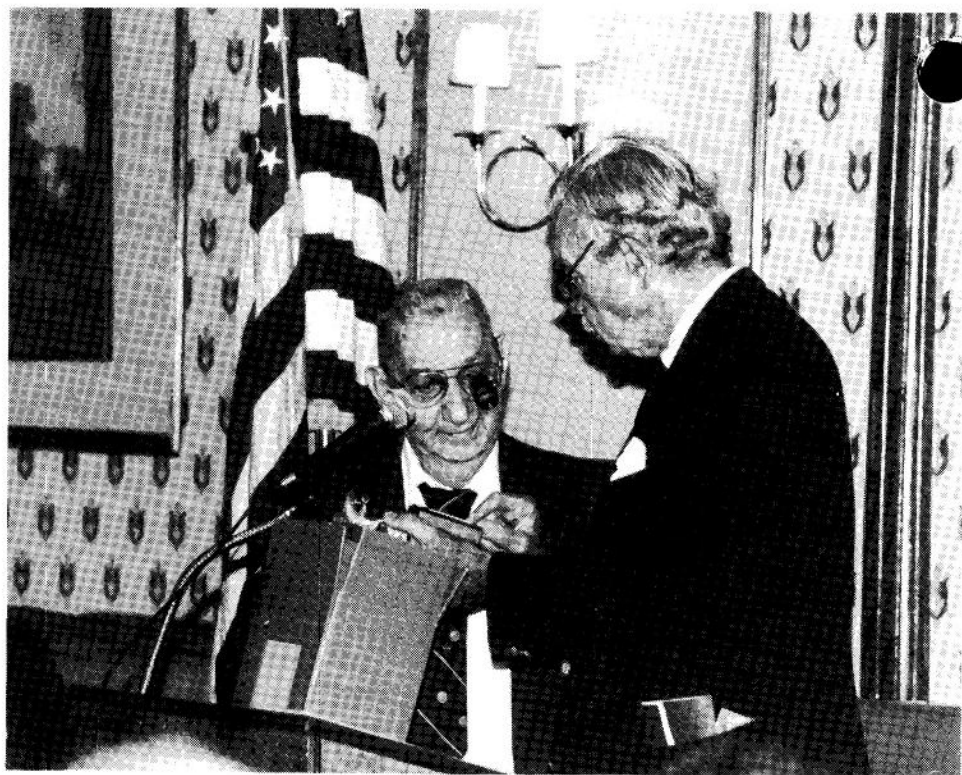
PO Box 324, Fort Loudon, FL 17224

Charles was interned at the Stenger Hill Cemetery. He died of a heart attack on October 20, 1995. Frank Trautman, 422/D wrote, "We have lost another member. Our "Big Guy" as we all called him. He was dressing to go to a home coming at Hersey High School were he had been a director for years. He had supported several young men to attend the school." Gene Saucerman and Sally, Robert York and Thelma, Roy Hilliard and Frank Trautman attended the service. Frank said from the number attending he must have touched a lot hearts.

Walden, Lawrence 424/H

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

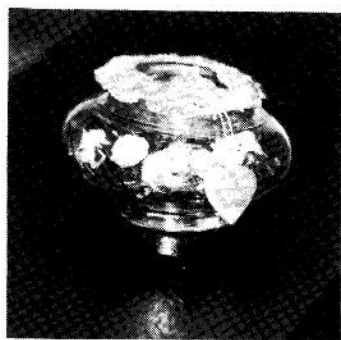
William G. Hemelt, 424/H, notified us that Larry passed away on November 7, 1995.



Thomas J. Riggs, Jr., Commander of the 81st Combat Engineers Battalion presenting Carl Messina, "A" Company, of that battalion, a beautiful pewter Eagle for his devoted services to the members of the 106th Infantry Division Association in the New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania areas. Alice, his wife, was awarded a pewter potpourri dish inscribed "Thank You Alice."



On one side of the base is the Division patch, on the other- the 81st Engineers insignia.



The pewter potpourri dish awarded to Alice.

Inscribed on the Eagle's base plaque
Carl Messina

In recognition of his singular efforts and significant contributions in keeping alive the camaraderie and indomitable spirit of the Battalion — his comrades salute him.