

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR

of the
GOLDEN LION

OCT - NOV - DEC 2000



Attending the ceremony L/R Sherod Collins, Robert Hanna, William Jenkins, John Kline, Reverend Ewell C. Black, Jr., as well as many family and VA staff members.

The CUB

*A quarterly publication of the
106th Infantry Division Association, Inc.
A nonprofit Organization - USPO #5054
St Paul, MN - Agent: John P. Kline, Editor
Membership fees include CUB subscription.
Paid membership November 27, 2000 - 1,606 members*

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Life Vets/Associates ... \$ 75 Auxiliary \$15

Annual Vets/Associates ... \$10 Auxiliary \$2

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Send checks to Treasurer - see address above.

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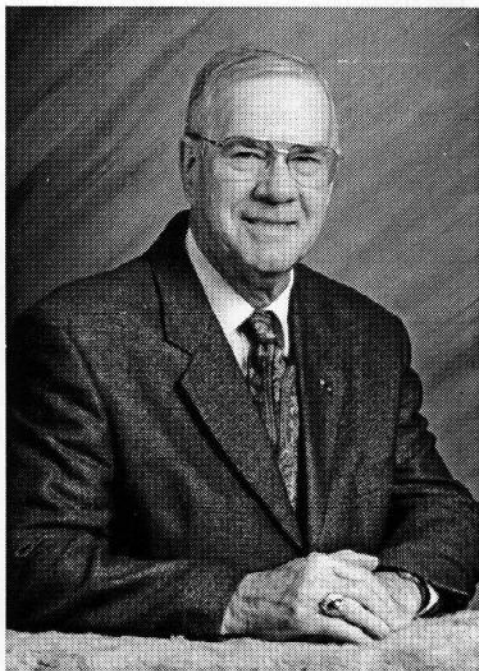
Recently, at our 54th Reunion in St. Louis, I was elected to serve as your President. Having been one of those members assigned to the division at Fort Jackson, SC and served with Company D, 424th Infantry Regiment until taken prisoner in Germany, I feel great pride in being one of you and a part of the division.

I, like many of you, joined the Association seeking answers as to "what happened" back there in the winter of 1944. I wanted to find those with whom I had served and built a friendship. All during my service with the 106th, I sent home many items that were given to me and that I used. There were copies of orders, our company menu for Christmas Dinner on the 25th December 1942. Every member of the unit at that date was listed, and many days later in life, I tried to somehow find and contact each member. My sister carefully entered each item into a "scrapbook" and carefully scanned each

publication of our local newspaper. There was my notification to appear for physical exam, a copy of the first military orders with my name, assigning me a serial number and granting me seven days leave and when and where to report. Most of the names on the list were my high school classmates, including one of my teachers. There was also friends who had attended the local catholic high school, with whom as a child, I had played baseball. The scrapbook also informed me of those friends and acquaintances who had been killed in action or missing in action. One of those listed and pictured was a childhood friend and neighbor, listed as missing in action, later to be identified as killed in action.

Each time that I look through the scrapbook, it causes a tug in my stomach and my heart skips a beat. Each time that I learn of the passing of one of our members and friends, I feel a great loss. Recently we, our association, suffered two great losses. One when Pete House passed away and the other on the passing of Col Joseph Matthews, former 422nd Infantry Regiment, Executive Officer and long time Association member.

Pete was a solid 106er. He had joined the association way back in 1947, when we all received those invitations to join and attend the first reunion in Indianapolis. Pete served on our Board of Directors for 24 years total. He served as our President in 1969-70 and held a successful National Reunion in Jacksonville, Florida, in July 1972. Then, later agreed to serve as Adjutant. He put together an Operating Manual to guide each of us on the Board of Directors and those serving as an officer or chairman of a committee. Pete gave us much, and served us with dedication.



Marion Ray, President 2000-2001
106th Infantry Division Association
"D" Company, 424th Infantry Regiment
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President's View ...

The Association Board of Directors awarded him the Order of the Golden Lion in both Officer Class in 1996 and Commander Class in 1998.

Colonel Joe Matthews had been a staunch supporter and worker in the 106th Infantry Division Association organization. He was one of the original planners for holding annual meetings of the 106th group as he met with others in late 1946 for the purpose on planning Annual Reunions for the Association. He became very active in Association affairs in 1954, after his retirement from the U.S. Army. He attended every reunion until his declining health stopped him in 1991. In the late sixties he was elected to the Board of Directors and served until 1988 at which time he was made an Honorary Lifetime Board Member. He was elected President in 1965 and presided over the July 1966 Annual Reunion at Indianapolis, Indiana. He was to be awarded the Order of the Golden Lion, Commander Class at the St Louis Reunion, 2000. However, due to his ill health, a group of dedicated 106th Association members delivered the medal to him at the Durham, North Carolina VA Hospital. It was feared that he would not be able to attend the St Louis Reunion in September. Colonel Joe died on September 24, 2000, just two weeks after the 54th Annual Reunion at St Louis.

Very soon, it will be December and the memories will come flooding back. Many of us will be attending one of our Mini-Reunions held in many locations through out the United States. These are wonderful get togethers at which we can once again meet old friends, as well as making new friends. We can introduce our wives to those with whom we have served, enjoy a nice meal and remember those that have joined "The Silent Corps."

As your president, I have asked John Schaffner who served with A Battery, 589th Field Artillery Battalion, and living in Cockeysville, MD, to serve as Mini-Reunion Chairman. I couldn't think of a more qualified person to serve. John has, for a number of years, served as the local Host for that area around Washington, D.C. in Maryland and Virginia. He always seemed to bring about an increasing number each year as well as a wonderful program. If John seeks you out to lead a Mini-reunion in your specific area, I encourage those of you in that area to respond to John's personal invitation to serve as a Host. It's really a lot of fun, especially when those former "Golden Lions" show up and give you a warm smile and a firm handshake, and a "Thank you for inviting me."

John Kline, our busy Cub Editor, serves our Association in many ways and assumes many responsibilities that most of the time go unrecognized. I have asked John to serve as Membership Chairman since he gets many inquiries through his 106th Internet Web site. I would also like to ask a favor of each of you. You all had buddies while serving with the 106th Division. If they are not Association members, send their name and last known address to John and see if he can find them and convince them to become a member.

In closing, I hope all of you give consideration to attend our 55th Reunion.

**It will be our Nation's Capitol Reunion, meeting at the
Fairview Park Marriott Arlington, VA, September 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, 2001.**

Hope to see you there!

Marion Ray, President

"If ye go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresseth, you shall blow a blast with the trumpet, and ye shall be remembered before the Lord your God" - Numbers 10:9

Those of you who are members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars may recall the May 2000 issue of the VFW Magazine. It contained a series of paintings titled "Remembrance."

These paintings by artist Robert A. Fletcher depict funeral scenes from all of America's wars from the Revolutionary War through the Persian Gulf War. They communicate a powerful message about the sadness and grief that results from warfare.

I happen to be privileged to count the artist, Bob Fletcher, as a personal friend. He lives here in my town less than a half-mile from my home. He's a Korean War veteran himself.

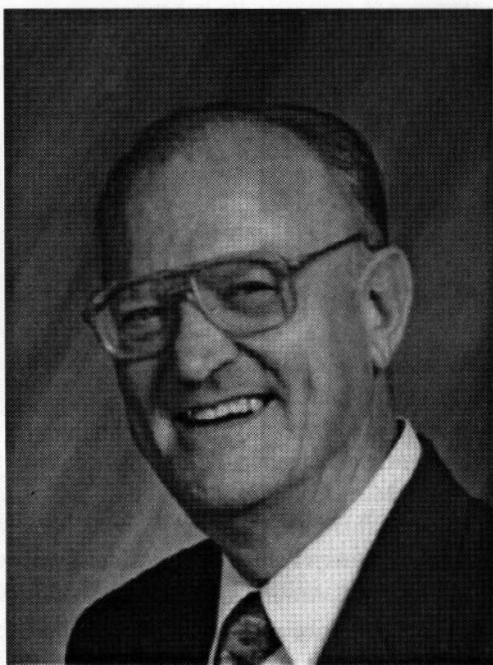
A further coincidence is that the largest of his paintings appearing in the VFW Magazine - a centerfold - depicts the funeral of Revolutionary War Colonel David McCamly in 1817. This same colonel was the man who owned large tracts of land in New York State, and donated the land upon which my church still stands.

It is also appropriate that in our recently completed new education building and hall, four large Fletcher paintings hang on the walls. Local veteran's organizations are beginning to count this church as a kind of "special place" to them. A sort of "spiritual home," for perhaps some of them have no other. They come for services and memorials at certain times of the year, and our regular congregation always treats them as honor guests and serves them light refreshments afterward. From different religious backgrounds they come.

Being the pastor, of course, I can encourage this and make it happen. But you too can encourage this in, your town and in your church or your synagogue.

Talk with your spiritual leader and help him/her understand that its purpose is not to glorify warfare, but rather to administer to veterans in a unique and meaningful way. And it affords your congregation an opportunity to share with these men, to express thanks in a significant way, and to say most of all, "We do not forget."

Lots of ideas may come to you. For those who have gone to war against our country's enemies, let's keep on "blowing the trumpets" so they and their deeds will be remembered before the Lord. *Dr. Duncan Trueman, Chaplain*



Chaplain

Dr. Duncan Trueman, 424/AT
29 Overhill Lane, Warwick NY 10990
TEL: 845-986-6376
FAX: 845-986-4121



M-8 Armored Car

John, Here's the promised story of the 3 captured Germans:

We had just taken a small village which I will not try to identify for fear of being mistaken (My memory fails me). Around midday we heard what we thought were German tanks out on our front, but still some distance away. It was decided that we should move two anti-tank 57mm two or three miles down the road where they would be hidden by an old barn, but would have a good field of fire if tanks came around the bends in the road.

Taking my sidekick, Carl, into the Jeep, we raced down the road and stopped near the barn to check it over. First we checked out the barn itself. Carl went inside first as I tried to cover him. When we were both inside we were surprised to find an abandoned M-8 armored car inside the barn. We began to circle around it when we heard soft-spoken voices; one was saying in English "We surrender."

Seated on the floor of the barn in front of the M-8 were three Germans with their hands on their heads. Of course, we took them prisoner. Then we checked out the vehicle. The battery was fine; it had run out of gas and been abandoned. With the five gallon Jerry can on the jeep, we filled its tank and decided to take it back to our company headquarters. To my dismay I learned for the first time that Carl had never learned to drive. He couldn't drive the jeep while I drove the M-8.

So I asked the English speaking prisoner if anyone could drive. Yes, one of them had been a truck driver. Therefore, using one prisoner to interpret to the others, we instructed the German to drive the armored car back, following closely behind me. I was to carry the other two Germans in the jeep. Carl was worried. What if the driver decided to turn and run with the M-8? We would have no way of stopping him.

Our solution? We unloaded the M-8s weapons, but left the 37mm ammo because the driver couldn't possibly drive and load at the same time, I gave Carl a grenade, and told him to ride on top. We informed the German that if he veered away from the direction I was going, Carl would drop the grenade and jump off. So we got back to our Company Headquarters.

The Old Man was glad to see the prisoners and the vehicle that we had retrieved, BUT when he saw German soldier driving it, we thought he would explode.

It took about a half-hour before he ever saw any humor in the situation. By that time everybody was laughing and joking about our new driver... Duncan

In Memory of two Outstanding Association Members . . ."



Col. Joseph Matthews Executive Officer 422nd Infantry Regiment

Born July 18, 1907

Died September 24, 2000

(See notice in this CUB's Memorial section)

Colonel Joe, as he was known, is shown in this photo being congratulated for his receiving the *Order of the Golden Lion*, Commander Class, the highest Association award available. This award is given only for services

rendered to 106th Infantry Division Association. Colonel Joe was a patient in the Durham, S.C. VA Hospital. (See front cover for other details). In this photo left to right: Robert Matthews, his son; John Kline, Cub Editor in background; Sherod Collins, Treasurer, congratulating Col. Joe and (right) Reverend Ewell C. Black, Jr, former 106th Infantry Division Chaplain. Since he was unable to attend the Annual Reunion, a group met with him at the VA Hospital. In Durham, North Carolina for the presentation.

His *Order of the Golden Lion* Citation read (in part): He was one of the original planners for the holding of Association Annual Reunions. He became active in Association affairs in 1945. In the late sixties he was elected to the Board of Directors where he served until 1988, at which time he was made an HONORARY LIFETIME member of the Board. He was elected President in 1965, and the residing officer of the Indianapolis Reunion in 1966. It is well known that he always loved the Association and its members and has enjoyed travel to various reunion cities, with the renewing of friendships at each gathering. He has been a faithful and loyal member over the years.

Pete House

A Battery, 590 FAB

(Died September 29, 2000,

(See notice in this CUB's Memorial section)

Pete, a member of the Division Association since 1947, served on its Board of Directors for 24 years. He was elected and served as President for the year of 1969-70. He presided over the 24th Annual Reunion at Davenport, Iowa in 1970.

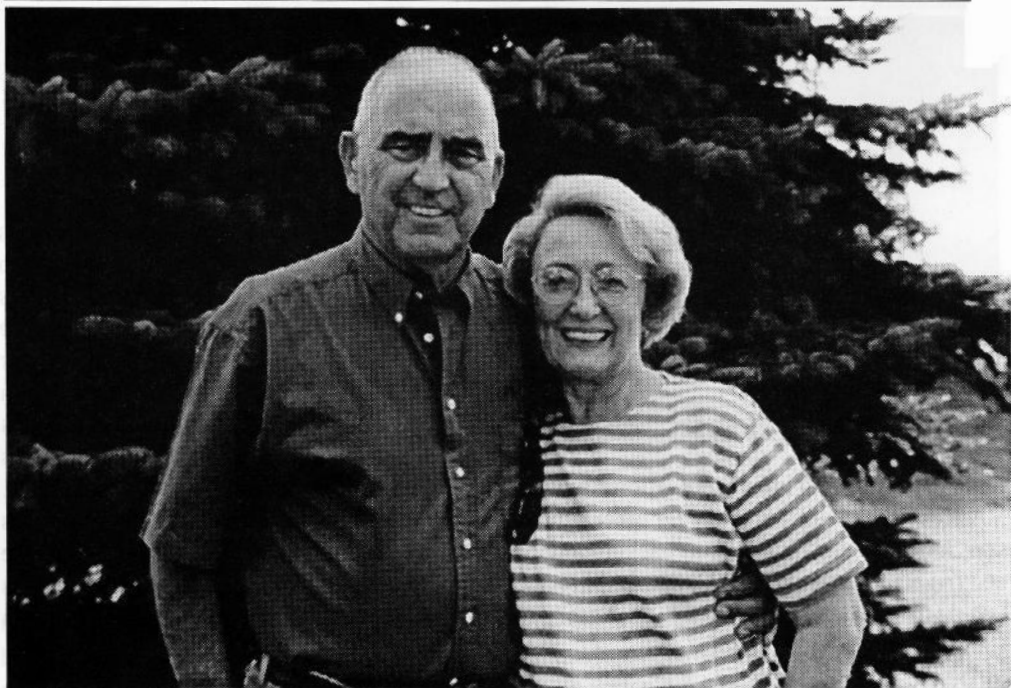
He planned and with his wife, Joanne, held a successful annual reunion at Jacksonville, Florida in July 1972. He also hosted a number of mini-reunions in his home town, and attended other such meetings in various locations in Florida

He organized an Annual President's Breakfast at some later annual reunions, the last being at Schaumburg, Illinois in 1999.

He served as Association Adjutant from 1994 to 1998.

The Board of Directors awarded him the *Order of the Golden Lion* in both Officer Class in 1996 and Commander Class in 1998.





HAPPY HOLIDAYS and a HEALTHY NEW YEAR

John Kline, 423/M, Editor, and wife Margot

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This is my thirteenth year to serve as your editor. I've enjoyed your company, your warmth and your comradeship. These years have been the BEST years of my life.

I, like many of you, went underground for many years after the war. I know, now, that was because I hadn't taken the time to really learn and understand about what happened in those dark days of December 1944 in the Ardennes.

Those are easy words to say. Could be, realistically, that it would have been hard for me to come to this realization earlier, except in due time, as life went on, when the truth really came out about the situation we were thrown in, there in the beautiful forests of the Ardennes.

I want you to know, that my experiences as editor, have brought me close to many other soldiers, from many other Infantry Divisions that fought in the Bulge. From them I hear very reassuring words about the 106th. How they

probably would not have done any better under the same circumstances. They praise the way the 424th Infantry carried on the fight, the way the 422nd, 423rd and all the supporting units held as long as they possibly could. How our artillery units pounded the hell out of our enemy as long as they had ammunition.

They recognize that we were spread over a 21 mile front and that the U.S. Army "Book" calls for a defensive front of only five miles. I see no grand plan for them using us as bait, nor that our officers failed in their duties.

They, the guys from other divisions, say nothing about us being inexperienced, young, or afraid. All I hear are praises and thanks for doing the job the best we could. I am proud to have been a 106th soldier. I want all of you to know that. I am proud to be a member of our Association. Thank you for your comradeship.
J Kline, editor

Washington D.C and Upcoming Reunion Report

By Jack Sulser, 423/F
Washington DC
and Armed Forces Reunions Inc Liaison

106th Infantry Division Association

54th Annual Reunion Washington D.C.

Full details will follow in the February CUB magazine.

Hotel - Fairview Park Marriott located inside the Washington, D.C. Beltway on the Virginia side in the Fairview Park Office Complex on US Route 50.

Official dates: September 5 -10, 2001. Early bird arrivals on the 5th. Rate \$84 rate, plus tax, for single or double will be extended three days before and after if rooms are available. The Banquet will be Sunday, Sept 9, Farewell Breakfast on 10th.

Make your reservations now. The telephone numbers for the Fairview Park Marriott reservations are (703) 849-9400 - the direct number - or (800) 228-9290 , the central Marriott reservations number. Be sure to mention **106th Infantry Division Reunion to obtain the special rate.....**

What's Happening in Future Reunions ...

Reunion 2002

At the St.Louis Reunion, the Membership accepted the Board recommendation to hold the 2002 Reunion at the Hampton Holiday Inn and Conference Center, Hampton, Virginia, September 17-22, 2002.

Further details will be announced at the 2001 Reunion.

Reunion 2003

The "New" Board at St.Louis expressed an interest in holding the 2003 Reunion at the Drawbridge Inn at Ft.Mitchell, KY, in the Greater Cincinnati area. The hotel has offered an attractive rate of \$85 for the Main Building and \$75 for the Garison Building (100 yards away), plus tax.

Of the dates the hotel had available during our usual reunion period, the members of the Board's Executive Committee preferred September 8-14, 2003, which the hotel is now holding for our reunion, subject to confirmation by the full Board of Directors and the General Membership Meeting at the 2001 Reunion.

During that second week of the month, in addition to the regular attractions of the area, the Northern Kentucky side of the Ohio River will hold its annual Oktoberfest, which members would enjoy.

The Drawbridge Inn is a unique property with an unusually warm and cosy atmosphere our members would enjoy. It offers free airport shuttle from the #1-passenger-rated airport, free parking at the hotel, inexpensive public transport to the attractions of downtown Cincinnati and both sides of the river, 10% discount in the hotel's three dining rooms, the dedicated use of the London Hall wing of the Main Building, which has its own entrance and lobby, for our hospitality room, meeting rooms, memorial service, banquet, etc.

Our members would have a great time at this location and in this mid-America city.

Jack Sulser

*Washington DC and Armed Forces
Reunions Inc Liaison*

The Melody Booth Orchestra

Dr. Vance Jennings, 106th SIGNAL

Vance wrote, The Melody Booth Orchestra played for the BIG Saturday evening dance at the 48th Annual Reunion held in Orlando-Disney World, 1995. Many people "raved" about how good the band was. Well it is even better now. We've cut a new Compact Disk. Maybe the troops and their ladies would like to reminisce over the songs it plays.

In the Mood? Moonlight Serenade, Begin the Beguine, Night and Day, String of Pearls, etc - that's got to excite you...

The cost is \$15.00 plus \$3.20 Priority Mail. Send your money to:
Vance Jennings (106 SIG)
PO Box 290604
Tampa, FL 33687

Donations

Ervin Szpek, Jr. Associate	15
James E. Wells 81st Eng/C	3
John Plenskofski	5

A note from Les Helmich that the \$30 I listed in a recent CUB as a donation from him, was "in fact" from the South Florida Mini-Reunion group." My apologies Lester. J. Kline

REMEMBER, Annual Dues are payable by June 30 each year.

Membership Statistics

Current Membership; 1,606

As of July 2000- 1,698

As of July 1999 - 1,671

As of July 1998 - 1,661

As of July 1997 - 1,641

As of July 1996 - 1,640

As of July 1995 - 1,689

As of July 1994 - 1,646

As of July 1989 - 1,417

As of July 1987 - 745

As of July 1984 - 555

As of July 1979 - 450

As of July 1977 - 415

As of July 1947 - * **1,600**

* date of First Annual Reunion

Camp Atterbury Museum

I have a new project at the Camp Atterbury Museum that perhaps you and your association could help with. I want to dress a mannequin in the appropriate Division uniform and place him next to that Division's "wall" in the museum.

Last Wednesday I dressed one for the 31st Division and it looks good, if I do say so myself. The 31st, like the 106th, has several items in their display case, but not much hanging on the wall. This helps alleviate that. This coming Wednesday I will dress one for the 28th Division, who, unfortunately, has nothing on their wall, except for some generic Korean War documents and photos.

We have no 106th uniform that I am aware of. Perhaps you might consider a small article in your CUB, asking if someone might have a complete (or nearly so) uniform to donate for such a purpose. It looks like the biggest problem is finding original brown shoes or boots. All available today is black, and the visitors notice. Thanks for any help you can give.

James D. West VP Atterbury Memorial Assoc.

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Plant a Seed

By John R. Schaffner
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Plant a seed and watch it grow. We have all done that at one time or another in our lives. It's certain you discovered that it didn't take a whole lot of effort on your part to get something going. The results were very rewarding. Won't you try again?

Read on, because the whole point of these few words is to tell you how to spend just a very little energy and reap the reward ten-fold.

Am I trying to offer you something important? Yes. I'm telling you that if you want our 106th Infantry Division Association to survive to its maximum potential then YOU, and others, are going to have to help it along. We are talking Mini-Reunions in your area, be it a few people, a neighborhood, or a greater territory. The game is the same.

Recognizing that every member of our Association cannot attend the annual reunion for various reasons, the next best thing is to have one in your own neighborhood. If you have ever thought that it would be fun to get together, have a nice meal, shoot the breeze with real friends, and go home realizing that you had a great time, then let me share with you how you can make it happen.

Here is how you can plant that seed and pick a ripe tomato. Say to yourself, "I want to make that happen!"

Select a place that will host your group. Get prices and menus. What's that? You don't know how many people will come? Don't worry about that at this time.

Write or call our Cub Editor, John Kline, and request a list of Association members in your area. He will do that, and he will print

sticky labels for you to use for a mailing. Start off small if you want to and just telephone what appears to be the logical or interested people.

Do step 2 well in advance of the date, which is usually December 16th. Six months is not too soon. Of course you will have to write a short letter of announcement indicating what to expect, and the cost, and a return of their intentions and a check to you by a specific date. Your meeting place will need to know how many to expect.

If at all possible, provide someone to speak to the group. You will be surprised that many qualified speakers will jump at such an opportunity.

I have done this for a few years now and have found that, after the first one, it is a piece of cake. Get someone to work with you. This is a case where two heads are better than one. Associate members are not excluded from doing this. Chances are you are younger than I am and have a lot more energy. Look forward to encouraging results and know that fellow veterans will deeply appreciate the opportunity for such an enjoyable gathering.

There may be some questions or guidance needed. If so, feel perfectly free to contact me.

Write, e-mail, or phone. **DO IT !!**

John R. Schaffner
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Cockeysville, Md. 21030-1013,
e-mail jschaffn@bcpl.net
Phone: 410-584-2754

"The Story of TWO-BRACELETS"

Murray Stein "I" Company
423rd Infantry Regiment

During the Vietnam War, my wife Barbara and I wore bracelets, that identified MIA-POWs. One for a Capt. John Fer missing (2-4-67), and one for Capt. Jerry Singleton, missing (11-6-65). I was a POW in Germany, during WWII, captured in the Battle of the Bulge in Dec. 1944. For the past 2 years, I have been involved with a support group of ex-POWs at the V.A. Hospital in West Palm Beach, Florida. We meet once a month with our group leader-MS. Betty Barnett, to share experiences, problems and advice when needed from MS. Barnett.

A few months ago, preparing to go to a meeting, I rummaged thru some old memorabilia, and found the two bracelets. I decided to try and find out if Capt. Fer had made it and was alive. I went on the Internet and after some hours of searching, I located two John Fer's in Lubbock, Texas. I called both of them and on the second call, Mr. Fer indicated that the John Fer I was looking for was his cousin in Sumpter, SC. He e-mailed me the phone number of the school that Capt. Fer was working in.

A few days later I called the school and asked for a Mr. John Fer. The lady who answered, indicated that Mr. Fer was the principal. I asked to speak to him, and she asked my name. I told her that Mr. Fer would not know my name, but that I was someone involved with his life. I can imagine this lady thinking who is this character! Mr. Fer got on the line, and I explained who I was, and about the bracelet. It was a most gratifying phone conversation for both of us. We have since e-mailed each other with a short resume of our family and who we are.

A few weeks later decided to find Capt. Singleton. I went back on the Internet, and located a review of a book written in 1991 called "THEY CAME HOME." Stories of Vietnam vets who were MIA-POWs. I clicked in and asked for any story on a Capt. Jerry Singleton. Sure enough, Capt Singleton's name appeared on the screen, with his story. After more than 7

years as a POW, he was released. He returned to the Air Force, took a leave for 3 years went back to school, picked up a law degree, returned to the Air Force and became a Chaplain. Finally retired from the service and the story ended there.

I went back to the Internet, searching for a Jerry Singleton and found 13 Jerry Singletons. Three of them lived in the Dallas, Texas area. My son and his wife live in Dallas, and I asked my daughter-in-law, to call the three in the Dallas area.

Unbelievably, she found the Capt. Singleton I was looking for. She told him about me, and the bracelet and told him that I would be calling. I called Capt. Singleton a few days later, and again, after a great conversation, and my terrific feeling of joy to have found both the MIA's whose bracelets we wore, an even more unbelievable story began to unfold.

I mentioned to Capt. Singleton that I had also contacted Capt. John Fer and how happy we were to find him alive and well. Jerry asked—"did you say John Fer?" After confirming that I did—Jerry said you may not believe this. John and I graduated the Air Force Academy together, became helicopter pilots, were shot down in Vietnam, and actually shared the same cell in prison camp for more than a year!!

Imagine the unbelievable odds that my wife and I could have worn these two bracelets! I then called John Fer and told him the story of my contacting Jerry Singleton and after a few minutes of conversation, John told me that he and Captain Singleton were interviewed almost a year ago for a soft cover book entitled "RETURN WITH HONOR" with a FOREWORD by Mr. Tom Hanks.

I shared this story with my fellow ex-POWs at the VA and we all experienced a very emotional meeting discussing this

"Story of the Two Bracelets."

Murray Stein "I" Company,
7614 Charing Cross Lane
Delray Beach, FL 33446
423 rd Infantry,
106th Infantry Division.

A Christmas Remembered . . .

■ This story sent to me, a couple years ago, by **Fred Pilkington, 422/HQ**

Fred says this story was written by Dean A. Sipson, a squad sergeant in the 422nd I&R Platoon. J. Kline, editor

Sipson's story

"A Christmas Remembered" follows:

The train of unmarked box cars crammed with American Prisoners came to stop at a rail yard in Limburg, Germany December 23rd, 1944. On board were the remnants of two infantry regiments - overrun in the initial days of the German Offensive, later to be known as *The Battle of the Bulge*, that started December 16, 1944. Each wooden planked four wheeled boxcar held 60 dispirited, starving, guilt tortured, exhausted men who had to take turns standing or sitting because of lack of space.

Captured on the 19th of December, stripped of most of their personal belongings, followed by a 16 hours march in below freezing temperatures, given a chunk of coarse bread with molasses (first food in three days) and with diminishing hope, the train had taken us, east, deeper into Germany.

While still locked in the boxcar, I looked out of the small openings on either end of the box car and saw a flat car on the adjacent track with a German 88 artillery piece aboard. It was painted bright yellow. I wasn't the only one to see this. Three American B-26's passed over and one came around for a look-see and as he did, the thought crossed my mind that unless we moved, we might have another visit by air, the next time as a target!

It happened that night, (Dec 23) as bombers came and there was terror in the box cars. The soft whistle of the falling bombs followed by the unbelievable shock

of the explosions - fragments carving their profiles in the box cars and even into steel wheels. No one was hurt in our car, others were not so lucky. There were burials the next day. I heard that 80 men had been lost.

Now it was the evening of the 24th - Christmas Eve. Huge snow flakes were drifting down in complete silence, on a picture post card village scene, when our train began to move. As we pulled out of the yard someone started sing "*Silent Night*" and voices up and down the train took up the carol. It must have sounded strange to the townspeople who happened to hear such a familiar tune, sung in a foreign voice.

Christmas morning, early, the train stopped at a crossing in the road that led up a hill. There were a few houses nearby. As we unloaded and were in the process of forming ranks, a movement at the door of one of the homes caught my attention. It swung open and an elderly lady rushed out with a cup in hand. She wore a long black dress with long sleeves and a high white collar. She went to the nearest G.I. And gave him the cup. It was milk. It was then that I noticed the tears running down her cheeks. As soon as the G.I. had finished the cup, she hurried back in the house for more milk. It was a mother's love for a son, beyond family, beyond country, beyond war and toward humanity.

We lined up and started up the steep hill to our prison camp.

As apprehensive as I was about what the future would bring, I had seen the ever-renewing story of Christmas, played out in this unlikely place - and on ***Christmas Day***.

Dean A Sipson, Sgt, I&R Platoon, Headquarters Company, 422nd Infantry.

BEFORE THE
VETERANS DIE
by
Dale R. Carver



**BEFORE
THE VETERANS
DIE**

61 pages - \$8 ppd

Poet Laureate of the 106th Infantry
Division Association;
Silver Star recipient 1945
424th Headquarters,
A&P Platoon Leader
742 Druid Circle
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
225-767-3111

HOUSE GUESTS...

*If you think you've been imposed upon
by guests who were impolite;
if they shined their shoes with your best towels,
set your mattress afire at night;
if they shattered your antique stemware,
dropped live cigarettes on the floor,
complained about your liquor
(with their glasses held out for more);
if stains on polished mahogany and burns
in brocatelle
have converted you to misanthropy,
hear the story I tell:*

*There were homes in war-time Germany
that housed the U.S. Infantry.
There may have been malice in those boys,
for they did not behave like Fauntleroy's.
Through a house they would make an initial pass
the windows then were minus glass,
for bursting shells and glass do not mix –
with pillows and blankets the holes they would fix.*

*The food they'd devour till all were fed –
rough, round, rye loaves of heavy black bread,
hams in the chimneys, cheeses yellow,
then on wine they would wax mellow.*

*They'd drink till they could not drink any more
(the surplus smashed on the cellar floor)
Growing sportive, filled with wine,
they'd scratch on the polished floor a line
and through the air the knives would soar
at the oil on the wall, perhaps a Renoir.*

*When low on the grate the fire would burn
for fuel to the furniture they would turn;
then from the hearth a warming glare
as flames consumed a Louis Quince chair.*

*Drowsy then with warmth and booze,
they'd settle down for a sodden snooze –
muddy boots and muddled heads
between white sheets on Empire beds.*

*(If a Nazi item somewhere roused ire,
departing they'd set the house on fire.)*

*If you think you've had tribulations
by guests with manners distressing,
re-read my factual narration,
be thankful and count your blessings. ♪*

I N C O M E

Member Dues	13,040.00
Life Member Dues	4,500.00
Auxiliary Dues	626.00
Surplus-53rd Reunion	5,267.91
Refund of Reunion Advance	2,000.00
Interest Earned	3,552.29
Donations	2,167.55
Memorial Fund Donations	128.00
Sale - St Vith Books	6,743.06
Sale CUB Passes in Review	435.00
Extra CUBs sold	6.00
	<u>\$ 38,465.81</u>

E X P E N S E

CUB Expense:	
Printing	9,482.00
Layout	1,620.00
Mailing	2,255.16
Covers	3,517.00
Envelopes	671.00
Photo Scan	77.00
Postage	17,622.16
Office Supplies & Printing	2,519.95
Telephone	1,016.65
Registration Forms-Envelopes	1,270.02
Insurance - Liability & Bond	765.00
Cost of St Vith Books	571.00
Reunion Notice mailing	4,143.24
OGI Medals	727.52
Computer Supplies	276.00
Camp Atterbury Memorial Fund	73.49
Dues Request Letters	250.00
	310.83
	<u>29,545.86</u>
	<u>\$ 8,919.95</u>

F U N D S A C T I V I T Y

General Fund

Brought Forward	\$ 71,089.06
Net Increase	<u>8,919.95</u>
Fund Total	<u>80,009.01</u>

Banks of Deposit

Westside Bank	1,268.65
Edward. Jones Co.	18,539.73
Edward Jones Co. Cds	<u>60,200.63</u>
TOTAL	<u>80,009.01</u>

There are 755 LIFE members as of June 30,
2000 out of a total of 1,676 members.

C H A N G E I N C A S H P O S I T I O N

GENERAL FUND TOTALS

THIS YEAR	\$ 80,009.01	\$ 80,009.01
LAST YEAR	<u>\$ 71,089.06</u>	<u>\$ 71,089.06</u>
	<u>\$ 8,919.95</u>	<u>\$ 8,919.95</u>

106th Infantry Division Association - 54th Annual Reunion

DIV/HQ	1
106 MP	4
106 SIG	7
331/MED D	1
422/HQ	7
422/AT	1
422/CN	4
422/HQ 1BN	3
422/A	2
422/B	3
422/C	2
422/D	10
422/HQ 2BN	1
422/G	4
422/H	15
422/HQ 3BN	
422/I	4
422/K	2
422/M	4
422/MED	2
423/HQ	3
423/AT	1
423/CN	2
423/SV	3
423/HQ 1BN	4
423/A	1
423/B	5
423/C	4
423/D	10
423/HQ 2BN	
423/E	2
423/F	1
423/G	1
423/H	9
423/HQ 3BN	3
423/I	5
423/K	2
423/M	5
423/MED	2

424/HQ	3
424/AT	1
424/CN	3
424/SV	2
424/HQ 1BN	1
424/B	8
424/D	8
424/HQ 2BN	
424/E	2
424/F	2
424/G	7
424/H	2
424/HQ 3BN	1
424/K	2
424/L	4
424/M	1
81ST ENG/HQ	1
81ST ENG/A	10
81ST ENG/B	6
Attached Units	
401st FAB	1
333rd FAB/C	1
DIV/ARTY	1
589/HQ	2
589/A	4
589/B	3
590/HQ	4
590/A	4
591/HQ	3
591/B	1
591/SV	2
592/HQ	1
592/C	1
592/SV	3
ASSOCIATES	16
Unit not known	3

Div/HQs & units 13

422nd	65
423rd	63
424th	47
81st Eng	16
Div/Arty	1
589th FAB	9
590th FAB	8
591st FAB	6
592nd FAB	5
Attached Units	2
Unknown Units	3

Veterans	238
Associates	15
Sub Total	253
Reunion Guests	21
Total	465

Attached Medics
counted with units.

Luncheons-Banquet

Men's Luncheon	260
Ladies Luncheon	200
Final Banquet	473

Tours- Activities

Ball Game	39
City Tour	156
Dinner Cruise	245
Show Boat	240
Grant's Farm	169
St Louis Arch	78

7/HQ
MCCOLLUM, VOLLIE L

106 MP
FACEY, COL KENNETH
HANKE, ARTHUR K
KORTLANG, CHARLES E
KRANTZ, ALBERT R

106 SIG
BENNETT, JACKSON Z
CHILDS, DEAN F
DIRENZO, PETER L
HAMILTON, LAWRENCE
KUPS, STANLEY
SCHOECK, RICHARD J
TWARDZIK, RAYMOND

331/MED D
SCHARNERBERGER,
ELLSWORTH H

422/HQ
BLACK, T WAYNE
GASSES, JOSEPH J
HANNA, ROBERT R
JOSEPHS, ROBERT H
LANKFORD, WILLIAM
LAPATO, FRANK
PILKINGTON, FRED A

422/AT
WLUK, WALTER S 422/CN
THER, JACK L
NELSON, DR RALPH
PURCELL, THOMAS I
ROOS, ARTHUR K

422/HQ 1BN
DESANTIS, JOSEPH M
POWERS, ALVIN T
THOME, MICHAEL

422/A
BLACK JR, REV EWELL C
POWELL, EUGENE M

422/B
BAUSWELL, VICTOR D
COLBERT, HUGH L
SANDAH, DEAN E

422/C
MASSEY, JOSEPH A
RODRIGUEZ, DR JUAN G

422/D
BRANKIN, WILLIAM J
CHARRON, NELSON J
HILLIARD, REV ROY H
ROBB, DR JOHN G
SANDERS, JOE T
SAUCERMAN, EUGENE L
TRAUTMAN, FRANK S
WILLIAMS, LAWRENCE R
YORK, ROBERT E

ZIMAND, GERALD P
422/HQ 2BN
LOSEY, WALTER F
422/G
ELDRIDGE, ROBERT D
GINTHER, KEITH
NEWMAN (S), SAUL A
SHEANER JR, HERBERT

422/H
DORN, EDWARD W
IVY, WILLIAM F
JENKINS, WILLIAM D
JONES, WILLIAM B
LATA, WALTER J
MEADOWS, GERALD D
PERKO, EMIL A
PHELAN, WILLIAM R
PODLASKI, EDMUND P
POST, LAWRENCE W
PRESCOTT, EUGENE L
RACSTER, JOHN R
RIECK (S), CHARLES F
ROPER, EDWARD Y
SNOVEL (S), ROBERT I

422/I
BLAHER, WILLIAM S
BREITE, VICTOR W
KELCH, EUGENE B
MALONE, WILLIAM E

422/K
BLOCH, JACQUES W
TOY, WAID S

422/M
ADOLPHSON, MAYNARD HOFF,
RUSSELL D
MASCONI, ATTILIO A
SYKES, MORRIS G

422/MED
DEAN, VERNER W
SCALZO, SALVATORE A

423/HQ
MCCLURE, CLINT
TARANTINO, JOSEPH C
ZICKER, GORDON B

423/AT
SWARTZ, HARVEY L

423/CN
COLLINS (S), VIRGIL L
TAYLOR, HAL R

423/SV
COLLINS, SHEROD
HECK, HOWELL H
STARMACK, JOHN S

423/HQ 1BN
BEAN (S), RALPH L

BRYAN, KENNETH V
GREVE, WALTER C
MALUEG, RUSSELL J

423/A
EZELL, JOHN E

423/B
CROWELL, EDWARD R
FORBES, FONTAINE C
GILBERT, DANIEL W
PINNEY, GORDON B
RIGATTI, RICHARD L

423/C
BLADEN, JOHN A
GOLDBERG, EPHRAIM
HALLADAY, MAURICE A
THOMAS, JAMES B

423/D
ANGELO, MARIO J
BURRELL, JAMES V
HAWKINS, HAROLD W
HUNTER, DAVID
MARSH, ROBERT H
VOGEL, JAMES
YINGST, WILLIAM J
YOUNG, DAMON F
YOUNGBLOOD, C EDWIN
ZENN, MIKE

423/E
BARNES, RALPH K
KRONMUELLER, WILLIAM W

423/F
SULSER (S), JACK A

423/G
JONES, L MARTIN

423/H
BASEL, THEODORE
DIEHL, LLOYD J
JOHNSTON, RAY A
KURZEJA, MICHAEL F
MCCARY, WILLIAM "HUGHES"
PETERSEN, WALTER A
SMITH, KENNETH M
SWETT, JOHN A
TROST, PAUL M L

423/HQ 3BN
HINKLE, RAYMOND A
MARCUM, GEORGE C
WEISS, NEWTON W

423/I
HOLDEN, ROBERT R
LANG, E RUSSELL
PETERSON PHD, DR. RICHARD
RAPP, ALBERT T
WENTE, MARTIN L "CHIC"

106th Infantry Division Association - 54th Annual Reunion

423/K
BRAX, RICHARD J
CAPSHAW, CLIFTON

423/M
BURNSIDE, JULIAN B
EDELMA, LOUIS
KLINE, JOHN P
KUHMANN, CLEMENT A
VENEGONI, VINCENT J

423/MED
COSTA, ANTONE
COSTA, LAWRENCE

424/HQ
HELMICH, LESTER A
KEATING, WALTER W
MALONEY, JOSEPH P

424/AT
TRUEMAN, DR DUNCAN

424/CN
CLOWER, ROBERT G
HOFFMAN, HAROLD
LIBMAN, OLIVER

424/SV
CHEZMAR, JOHN P
ICE, ORVA L

424/HQ 1BN
KUCHOLICK, STANLEY J

424/B
ARVOLD, NORMAN W
HILL, MAJOR H
HINSLEY, VERNON R
PASSARIELLO, LOUIS J
PREWETT, EDWARD A
SMOLER, IRWIN C
STREIB, MARSHAL P
VITALI, ALFRED L

424/D
BRIDGES, WALTER G
DICKERSON, MYRTON B
HOMAN, ROBERT C
KOEHLER, FRANKLIN R
LANDIS, ROBERT J
RAY, LTC MARION
RUSSELL, ALDEN F
SIMMONS, NORMAN

424/E
FITZGERALD, GILBERT
GREGORY, JOHN A

424/F
HUMINSKI, EDWIN C
SCHOBEL, MILTON J

424/G
DALLMAN, JOSEPH G
GEIB, GEORGE

KEEBER, WILLARD H
MORGAN, AUBREY D
REDIGER (S), DELBERT G
SALEMINK, RICHARD J
SWISHER, RALPH A

424/H
MIKALASKIS, JOHN L
MURRAY JR, GEORGE

424/HQ 3BN
CARVER, DALE R

424/K
BEVILLE, JOHN G
CAPLAN, BERT

424/L
BISHOP, ALAN G
HERNDON, DONALD F
MARTIN JR, HARRY F
WOOD, JOHN

424/M
CULLINAN (W), CHARLES V

81ST ENG/HQ
STEVENSON, ROBERT L

81ST ENG/A
AGOSTINI, ORFEO E
COLLINS, JOHN P
HANNO, PHILIP A
JONES, HOWARD W
LACEY, DAVIE
NESTER, GEORGE
PRAZNIK, LOUIS
SHEETS, ROY S
STONE, PAUL E
ZIMMERMANN, JOSEPH W

81ST ENG/B
CARPENTER, EDGAR R
HANSON, ROBERT J
KREZMINSKI, EDWARD S
NAGLE JR, EDWARD J
TETZLAFF, JAMES E
WOJAHN, EDWARD C

401ST FAB
BACHMURSKI, STANLEY M

333 FAB/C
ALPHONSE, WILLIE R

DIV/ARTY
TWINN, JAMES H

589/HQ
SCOTT, EARL A
TACKER, FRANK

589/A
GATENS, JOHN
HOLTZMULLER, J DON
SCHAFFNER, JOHN R
SNYDER, WALTER M

589/B
HOFFMANN JR, BRIGGS A
KUIZEMA, HAROLD
RAIN, JOHN C

590/HQ
BOSCHERT, PAUL V
MARTINEZ, FRED T
REED, JAMES W
WOODWARD, JACK

590/A
BROWN, RAYMOND
CREEL, E V
PEROS, GEORGE
YOUNG, EDWARD E

591/HQ
MCMICHAEL, BRYCE D
PANICE, RAYMOND H
VANDERHEYDEN, DONALD

591/B
STAUFF, JOHN H

591/SV
DATTE, CHARLES
HOWARD, JOHN N

592/C
ROBERTS, JOHN M

592/SV
GILLILAND, JOHN O
HARTLIEB, GLENN O
JOHANSEN, CHARLES H

UNIT UNKNOWN
DEDIAN, ARA
ROBINSON, RICHARD
WRIGHT, DENNIS L

ASSOCIATE
FORD JR, DAVID J
BRASFIELD, PAUL W
BURKES, FRANKIE
FLEHARTY, DHARLYS
GIBSON, THOMAS A
GRUCE, JAMES R
HAGAN, RONALD E
HOHENSTEIN, IONA
HOOGLAND, L'MYRA A
KOPATZ, IDA L
LAUMAN, DOROTHY
LAWSON, JAMES W
LICHTENFELD, DR. NORMAN S
MCCARY, JIM
MEISSLER, CHARLES G
PALAIA, RALPH

106th Association Membership- September 2000 - State Count

OVERSEAS	30	MI	65	SD	4
AL	30	MN	42	TN	37
AR	13	MO	30	TX	53
AZ	42	MS	14	UT	4
CA	77	MT	3	VA	24
CO	12	NC	29	VI	1
CT	20	ND	1	VT	5
DC	1	NE	10	WA	15
DE	7	NH	5	WI	74
FL	157	NJ	74	WV	13
GA	49	NM	6	WY	2
HI	1	NV	5	Total Membership September 2000 1,603	
IA	24	NY	82		
ID	3	OH	68		
IL	104	OK	16		
IN	41	OR	10		
KS	20	PA	124		
KY	15	PR	1		
LA	7				
MA	42	RI	14		
MD	40	SC	28		
ME	9				

Attendance - 54th Annual Reunion - St Louis, Mo - By State

BELGIUM	2	MO	8	VT	2
AL	5	MS	2	WA	2
AR	1	MT	1	WI	24
AZ	10	NC	3	WV	5
CA	12	NE	7	WY	1
CO	7	NJ	9	Total Attendance 54th Annual Reunion Veterans-Associates 316	
CT	4	NM	3		
DE	1	NV	1		
FL	20	NY	11		
GA	7	OH	11		
IA	9	OK	4		
IL	35	OR	1		
IN	8	PA	23		
KS	2	RI	2		
KY	2	SC	5		
LA	3	SD	3		
MA	6	TN	2		
MD	3	TX	11		
MI	19	UT	2		
MN	11	VA	7		

ORDER of the GOLDEN LION

By John O. Gilliland, Chairman
Order of the Golden Lion Award Committee

Any recipient of the Order of the Golden Lion or any member of the Association Board may nominate a candidate for the *Order of the Golden Lion* (reference: pages 331-336 "The Cub of the Golden Lion: PASSES in REVIEW" or the "Officer's Field Book."

The purpose of the *Order of the Golden Lion*, is to honor members who have rendered outstanding and exemplary service to "the Division" in peacetime, ie: President, member of the Board, Chairman of a Mini-Reunion or anything contributing to the welfare and enhancement of the membership for the Association.

Nominations, with reasons for the award, must be submitted in writing, be received by no later than May 1, 2001.

Send to: John Gilliland
140 Nancy Avenue
Boaz, AL 35957-6060
1-256-593-6801



The Order of the Golden Lion
The ribbon is red, white and blue.
The medal either Gold, Silver or Bronze
Gold for Commander's Class
Silver for Officer's Class
Bronze for Companion Class
The terms "Commander" and "Officer" have no military meaning as to rank or association to any prior holding of such rank. The award is for service rendered to the Division Association, after the war. However, the ranks do designate an order of commitment, **Gold** the highest; **Silver** and **Bronze**.

Order of the Golden Lion Awards - 54th Annual Reunion

Awards this year were to:
Colonel Joseph Matthews, 422/HQ and Robert F. Walker 422/D and his wife, June.
See page 5 and the front cover for Matthew's citation.

Walkers's citation for the *Order of the Golden Lion*, **Commander Class**, Gold, read in part; *He has been a member of the 106th Infantry Division Association since 1966 and has attended 33 of its reunions. Elected to the Board of Directors in the early 70's and served on many committees, was elected President and served ably in that capacity for the year 1976-77. In 1969 and again in 1974 he joined a group of 106'ers on their return to Europe to retrace their paths. Along with his wife, June, he attended several commemorative dinners in Chicago. In 1984 he started holding the December reunions in his home for the southern Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky areas and continued to do so for ten years.*

His wife June was awarded the **Companion Class**, Bronze, for her support and participation in all the events mentioned in Robert's citation. She and Robert have been very active volunteers at their local Cincinnati VA for years...
Congratulations to all ...

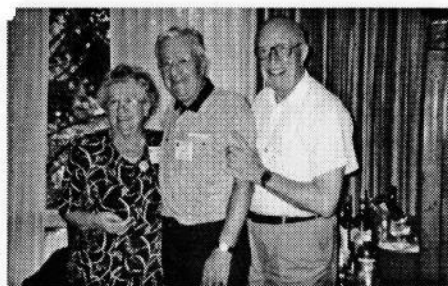
Photos from the 54th Annual Reunion . . .



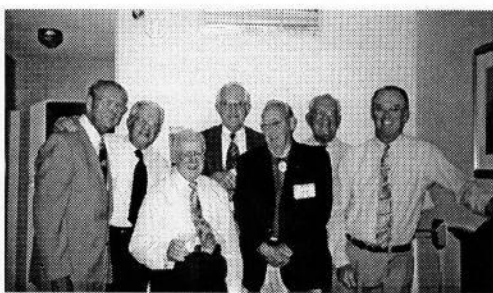
William Yingst, 423/D furnished this photo with the comment, "Here's James Vogel with his CADILLAC. Showing that a disability should not stop a person from attending a reunion."



Joseph DeSantis, 422/HQ 1BN and wife. They furnished several photos for this display.



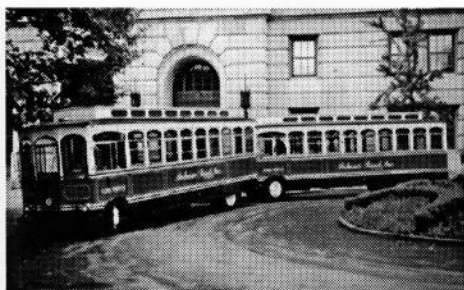
Adda and Willie RIKKEN, Gouy, Belgium. John Schaffner, 589/A in the middle.



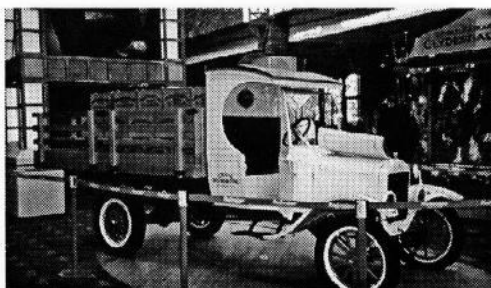
L/R: Jack Roberts, 592/C 589/A; John Schaffner, 589/A; John Gatens, 589/A; Harold Kuizema, 589/B; Phil Hannon, 81st Eng/A; Walt Snyder, 589/A; and Dave Ford, Associate.



L/R: Harry Martin, John Wood, Grayson Bishop all 3rd Squad, 3rd Platoon, "L" Company, 424th Infantry. First meeting since "Combat."



Two of the Anheuser Busch courtesy buses that helped haul us around the large plant area.



An old beer delivery truck at the Anheuser Busch Museum

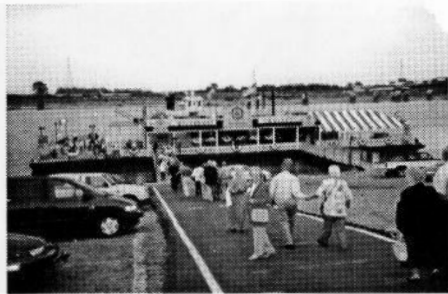


John Gatens, John Schaffner, 589/A and Phil Hannon, 81st ENG/A at the end of the tour. Gatens furnished many photos for this display.

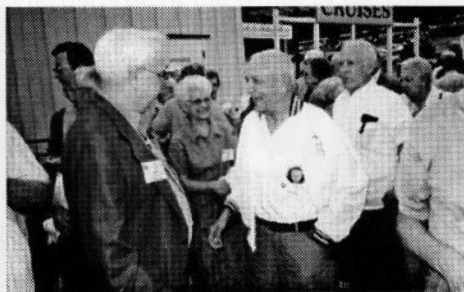
Photos from the 54th Annual Reunion . . .



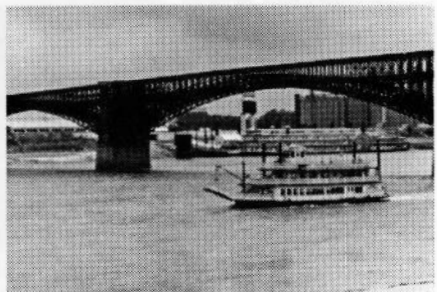
Mary Vandermast, Lillian Schaffner and Jean Hannon



106th people boarding for the RIVER BOAT CRUISE Dinner. A leisurely cruise upstream to Alton, IL and back to St Louis, MO on the Mississippi.



106th people boarding the Dinner-Cruise Boat



Cruising along the Mississippi. I don't know, maybe the photographer got out and ran alongside.



The St. Louis Railroad Station, where many of us passed through, on our way to various duties. Now, a fantastic Market Place.



Earl Scott, 589/HQ with wife Catherine outside the Rail Station. Earl was an aerial observer for the 589th FAB.



John Gregory
President of the Association 1999-2000
at the Men's Luncheon



Scene from the Men's Luncheon



Scene from the Men's Luncheon



Scene from the Men's Luncheon



Scene from the Men's Luncheon



Closing Banquet l/r John Kline, (Editor) 423/M Adda and Willie RIKKEN, Associate Members from Belgium



Standing: Ed and Natalie Goldberg
Sitting l/r- Vets from 423/C.
John Bladen and wife Mary; Bud Haladay
and wife Maurice. Scene from Closing Banquet



Scene from Closing Banquet



Scene from Closing Banquet



Scene from Closing Banquet
Back l/r: John/Lillian Schaffner; John Gatens and
guest and Adda and Willie RIKKEN sitting.

Photos from the 54th Annual Reunion . . .



The Colonial Fife and Drum Corps of Alton, Illinois dressed in uniforms of the Revolutionary War



These teenaged boys and girls entertained the 106th group by marching and playing tunes of that time period.



The Ladies' luncheon had a German Band that entertained them.



The Eagles Elite Drill Team, from Edwardsville, Illinois, composed of young ladies, brought the house down with their performance



When they performed with their rifles, you could hear the crowd gasp.



This group has performed for many veteran groups, they were absolutely marvelous.



The youngest was six years old, she performed like a Pro. All donations, made by the crowd, went to the Washington DC, WWII Memorial.

I wish to thank Jack Sulser, John Gatens, Ed Goldberg, Al Vitali, Joseph DeSantis, William Yingst, Harry Martin and all the others that sent Reunion photos by mail and email.

Without your help these four pages would not have been possible.

John P. Kline, Editor

Family Reunions, Spend them with the 106th . . .



L/r: Jason Keech; CWO Stanley M. Bachmurski, 401st Field Artillery Battalion attchd;
Rosemary Bachmurski-Fosdick and Sarah Keech
54th Annual Reunion, 106th Infantry Division Association

mitted by: Rosemary Bachmurski-Fosdick
assistance from: CWO Stanley M. Bachmurski,
U.S. Army (Retired), 401st FAB

Family traditions. We all have our own unique and special ways to celebrate the bringing together and gathering of our family units. While some families travel over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house for reunions, dinners, picnics, and other traditional family affairs, our particular family (and various attached units!), come from far and wide, over hill and dale, I-70 and rail, to converge and met each year at the annual September reunion of the 106th Infantry Division.

Even before Time Magazine listed "The American G.I." in the top twenty people (Heroes and Icons) of the past 100 years, my Dad, Mom, sisters and I, mastered the logistics, coordination, transportation, and other strategies required to meet some unspoken standing order to come together annually for the 106th Reunion. (And, sometimes, reunions of other units in which Dad was in combat in the

ETO or Korea.) Whether it be Roanoke, Nashville, Indianapolis, Schaumburg, or St. Louis, we travel, sometimes great distances, to be with each other and with the "brothers" and heroes of the 106th. We celebrate their history, bravery, and personally pay tribute to these great Americans who sacrificed so much in the "Battle of the Bulge."

All together, we attend luncheons, flag ceremonies, and stand in "chow lines" for banquet seating. We ride shuttles (a great place to take a little nap!), see the local sites, and hear old jokes about how much "God must love the infantryman, because he sure made a lot of 'em!" We watch close-order drills, sing patriotic songs, pray aloud, and learn the location of "post everlasting." We hear taps, see the laying of the wreath, and listen intently to Chaplain Trueman's words about how the 106th is the closest thing to "holiness" there is on this earth. And sadly, each year, we see and hear the 106th deceased roster grow a little bit longer and wonder just how many more times the 106th and our family will be able to met and celebrate together at these annual affairs.

Family Reunions, Spend them with the 106th . . .

But amid the respect and admiration for the old, brave, and holy, this year's reunion held special meaning for our family. My sister's son, Jason, and fiancée, Sarah, residents of St. Louis, decided that the timing and coordinates of the 54th Annual Reunion were the perfect time and place to get married. With Grandpa, Mom, aunts, and cousins already in town for the reunion, why not just tie the knot the weekend of September 9th and 10th?

Personally, I don't know of any other young married couple who would choose to "honeymoon" with a bunch of old soldiers, but a great time was had by all. And the reunion will always hold special memories of a beautiful wedding, a new life, and love. Adding to the efficiency and organization of the wedding, the reunion, and the troops, Grandpa didn't have to go out and rent a fancy tux or buy a new suit, he just showed up at the wedding in his uniform! Mom and aunts could wear the same new dress to the wedding and then to the reunion banquet the following evening—just as long as all the colors were coordinated to match Dad's dress blues for the pictures.

Like I said, each family has its own unique and special traditions and reunion practices. Our family unit has been well-trained, can work together well when we have to, and were fortunate enough to be raised and reared by a father and mother who, like General Patton, knew how short the distance was between a pat on the back and a kick in that "other place" and used them both liberally.

The busy wedding weekend, the 106th reunion, and our mission to accomplish both were extremely successful. Dad never, ever, once had to raise or exercise his "bad" knee for kicks in that "other place," and pats on the back abounded. Or, perhaps, God's love of the infantryman prevailed, because we sure felt His presence throughout the hectic weekend.

In another tradition, and not at all to slight the infantry, the artillery, or any other unit, company, battalion, or other group belonging or attached to the 106th or the United States Army, I did promise Mr. Robert Stevensen that I would mention in this story the accomplishment of the 81st Eng. Bn, 106th

Infantry Division. Mr. Stevensen and a unit of 14 men in Winterpark, Florida single-handedly directed, sought personal funds and donations, and erected (in record time I might add), a Memorial to the Veteran's of the *Battle of the Bulge*. It was dedicated on that very special day, 16 December of last year.

So the next time you visit Disneyland, or hold a family reunion in Florida, stop by and see what 14 old soldiers can do in their continued courage to their cause and their war. Perhaps Tom Hanks, Wal-Mart, and the others involved in building the national memorial can call this great bunch of guys for direction and advise on how to "get a move on" the national memorial to WWII veterans in Washington, D.C.

So, at the next reunion, should you see a "distinguished old soldier," his "younger" daughters, grandchildren and other attached units, it's probably our uniquely "special" family celebrating a "reunion" within a reunion while paying tribute to the veterans of the 106th, honoring their sacrifice, and celebrating their courage and continued loyalty. They have, most definitely, earned it. The remainder of our members may age and tire, but like our flag—they may fade, but they will never run.

See you for the 55th Reunion in Falls Church, Virginia!

Love and gratitude to all,

Rosemary Bachmurski-Fosdick,

Rosemary is a daughter of Stanley and Rose Bachmurski. CWO Stanley M. Bachmurski; U. S. Army, Retired; 401st FAB.

Note: The 401st Field Artillery Battalion was attached to the 106th Infantry Division from March 16 to June 23, 1945. The 401st, 105mm Howitzers, trained at Fort Riley Kansas April 1944 - deactivated at Camp Kilmer, NJ 23 March 1946. Port of Embarkation 8 Mar 1945; France 18 March 1945. Campaigns: Northern France and Central Europe. Last position: Heilbronn, Germany. J. Kline, editor

story and the one following, 591st Field Artillery Battalion, S-2 Report, were submitted to your editor by Dr. Lawrence Myers, Colonel, USAR Retired, formerly 1st Lieutenant, Lawrence Myers, Forward Observer, B Btry, 591st FA Battalion, part of the 424th Regimental Combat Team of the 106th Infantry Division in late December, 1945.

The first story - Trivia - occurred the night and morning of December 17-18; and is reproduced here as written without editing.

The second story was originally written and mimeographed by Capt Verner Gaggin, S-2, 591st FA Bn. Retyped without change by 1st Lt Lawrence Myers, FO, Btry B, 591st FA Bn. The photos in this story "591st Field Artillery Battalion - S-2 Report," were submitted by Raymond Kurth, B Battery, 591st FAB several years ago, just waiting on these stories.

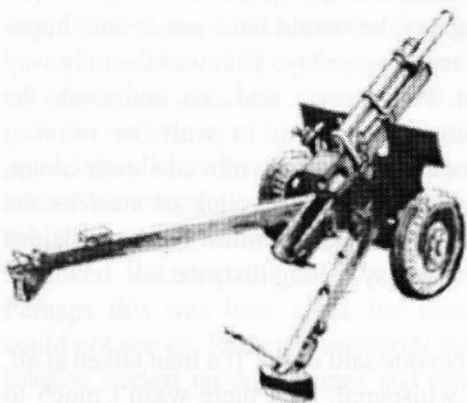
Thanks to all of you for your input.

J Kline, CUB Editor)

The 591st Field Artillery Battalion was an integral part of the 424th Regimental Combat Team. You probably have acquired its official history and can relate it to the regiment. But on the possibility that you may not have it, I am enclosing a copy. The history, originally prepared and mimeographed by our S2, received very limited distribution. In fact, I made copies to give to 12 members of Battery B, to which I was originally assigned as Forward Observer, at their reunion in 1996, and discovered that none were aware of its existence. Make use of it as you think appropriate.

(By the way, Battery B currently has 27 members, plus 7 wives of former members, on its roster. It has held an annual reunion since 1949, the next affair occurring in August in New Orleans. I fear that very few are active in the 106th.)

I'm also enclosing a short episode, Trivia??, which I wrote shortly after our initial encounter with the Germans in the Battle of the Bulge. As a front-line forward observer, we thought we were doing very well on December 15th and 16th, and on the 17th captured nearly 200 Germans in their unsuccessful attempt to storm our positions. Other sectors were less fortunate; and we received a message at



about 1600 hours to pull stakes at dusk and "begin a retrograde movement" to the rear.

Regards,
Lawrence Myers COL-USAR Retired
151 Cambridge Street
Syracuse, NY 13210-2205

TRIVIA

It was one of those incidents which, upon reflection, seems so small and insignificant when compared with the Big Picture of things. But to some 150 stragglers on that chill drizzly black night in December, it was an eternity.

If one wanted to be sarcastic, one might have called it a motley crew—that bunch of 150 weary men. For it was composed of men from several infantry companies, a few artillerymen, several combat engineers, and some others thrown in for good measure. There was no particular organization; they merely had the same thought in common—to get back to safety without being cut off entirely from their comrades. Because they loved life, and because they had been taught to do so—a curious combination of civil and military life—they followed the few officers present with hope and trust.

The senior officer present, a captain, took the lead, knowing only that if he

followed a compass heading of 310 degrees, he would have reasonable hopes of reaching safety. That was the only way out. To the north, and east, and south, the Huns were lying in wait, or moving forward. As the line moved slowly along, one could hear the clink of steel as the Germans dug foxholes in the hillsides within easy calling distance.

No one said much. If a man talked at all, he whispered. And there wasn't much to say anyway. They were already tired, having filtered back several thousand yards to the point where they could re-group.

To this day, I shall always admire Capt. X for the magnificent job he performed in leading the men back. He must have decided that a creek leads to a stream, then to a river, eventually to an ocean; and that was the direction for us to take. We followed that creek, we crossed it several times, occasionally we waded it. It's constant bubbling was the only thing present to give any kind of moral support.

Eventually that creek did reach a stream, then a small river. (L.M. Note: it was the Our river) By now it was near midnight and the soldiers were exhausted. The physical being will carry one a long way in an emergency, but sooner or later it demands rest.

We stopped and threw our sore bodies onto the ground. We were on a steep pine-covered hill. I loaned my helmet to my sergeant, who had lost his along the way, pulled my knit cap over my ears and my hood over my face in a futile attempt to ward off the mist which managed to filter through the pines. Some of the more hardy slumbered immediately. I was too tired to sleep.

Then we heard that sound. The shrill whistle of shells unmistakably heading our way. I turned over and dug into the ground.

But fingernails are poor substitutes for a shovel. So I closed my eyes tightly to blot out what couldn't be seen anyway, waited breathlessly for three seconds, and said a hundred prayers during the short interval. The 88's cracked all around us. Some were tree bursts, showering fragments of hot steel about us. One shell landed not twenty yards away, the concussion bouncing us in the air like a child would bounce a rubber ball. Then it was over.

Call it luck. Call it what you like. Only one man in that 150 suffered a slight leg wound. We ran out of the blackness of the forest into the semi-blackness of the trail like scared deer, reformed in single file, and trudged on.

At six in the morning we can to a small village. It had been deserted the day previously by the populace. The only living things were a few cows that the people could not take along. We commandeered three shelters and slept until mid-morning. By mid afternoon we were back to safety. (L.M.. Note: St. Vith)

Ours was not the only instance. Four days later, small groups were still straggling back. As I mentioned previously, the whole incident was rather insignificant. And the shelling took but a few seconds. But I will remember that night as long as I live. And will shudder each time the memory flashes back. Einstein is correct when he says that Time is relative. I now have proof that three seconds can be an eternity.

My only regret is that it took a war to discover the fact.

*Dr. Lawrence Myers, Forward Observer
'44-'45 - B Btry, 591st FAB*

HISTORY OF THE 591ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

(Editor's Note: Originally written and mimeographed by Capt Verner Gaggin, S-2, 591st FA Bn. Retyped without change by then 1st Lt Lawrence Myers, FO, Btry B, 591st FA Bn]

Before the combat history of the 591st Field Artillery Battalion is started, it would be a good idea to know what this battalion did immediately preceding its entry into combat. It was activated at Fort Jackson, South Carolina along with the 106th Infantry Division. Basic training was completed in South Carolina. Three months of maneuvers in Tennessee came next. The outfit then went to Camp Atterbury, Indiana. At Camp Atterbury men were sent out to help out the divisions already overseas and preparing to invade France. Replacements were received and the battalion went through its final stages of training before shipping.

On the 9th of October 1944 the battalion left Camp Atterbury by rail and proceeded to the staging area. On 11 Oct 1944 it arrived at Camp Myles Standish and immediately started to prepare for shipment on a transport. All the men had a last fling at civilian life in Boston before shipping. A long wait which made many men doubt if we would ever ship across then came. On the 9th of Nov word finally came down to pack and get ready to board a transport. By rail the battalion went to Boston harbor and boarded the USS Wakefield. A band and Red Cross workers were the only people to observe our departure from the United States. On the 10th of Nov the Wakefield was fully loaded and the ship slipped away from the docks at 1600. The men crowded the decks for a last glimpse of America, the last one for many months.

The battalion acted as guard for the Wakefield. It was not so bad the first day, but pulling guard while deathly seasick was no easy detail for most men. On the trip over the only thing to bother the men was seasickness, lack of food, and lack of much to do. No enemy action was encountered on the whole trip. Rainy weather and mist followed the ship all the way across. Perhaps this was best, since the enemy could not see us. Practically everybody in the battalion stocked up on cigarettes and candy. They had heard that there was a shortage where we were going. The destination was announced as Liverpool, England.

On 17 Nov 1944 the Wakefield steamed into Liverpool harbor. After dark the battalion unloaded and boarded trains for Gloucester. After an all night train ride the battalion arrived at Gloucester and went to a small camp on the outskirts of town. Equipment was received almost immediately and the dull routine of unpacking all that we had packed a month ago was started. Vehicles were drawn and equipment prepared for a motor march. A few men received passes to surrounding towns, but the majority of the men had little chance to get to know England. Bad weather seemed to dog the footsteps of the battalion. Ever since we left Camp Atterbury, the weather had been bad except for a very few days.

On the 30th of Nov the battalion went by motor to Weymouth. It was here that we embarked on our last leg of the journey. On the morning of 1 Dec 1944 the battalion loaded its vehicles and men into LST's and started across the English Channel. Very few men got seasick this time. We arrived off the mouth of the Seine River at Le Havre and anchored for the night. All the next day we stayed anchored near Le Havre while we watched many other ships go ahead of us. The trip up the Seine River

started on 4 Dec 1944. Just a few miles from Rouen the anchor cable of the LST we were in fouled on the propeller. After a day the propeller was cleared and we proceeded to Rouen where we unloaded and went to Yerville, France. There we received more equipment and got everything in shape for a motor march across France to our final destination.

After spending three nights at Yerville the battalion started on the final lap. We left on the morning of 8 Dec 1944 and spent

the 2nd Inf Div and take over a quiet sector where we could gain a little combat experience without suffering too much.

The 591st FA Bn relieved the 37th FA Bn, 2nd Inf Div in position on 10 Dec 1944 in the vicinity of Heckhalenfeld, Germany (coord: 90.278.8). A, B, and Hq Btry were situated around and in Heckhalenfeld. C Btry was in position at Staffeshausen, and Sv Btry was located at Burg Reuland. The first round was fired by B Btry, commanded by Capt Robert A. Likins, at



591st Field Artillery Battalion, "B" Battery, 2nd Gun Section, Roanne, Belgium
left/right: 1. Irwin; 2. Tate; 3. Lacarno; 4. Isener; 5. Scalisi
Photo credits Raymond Kurth B-591st FAB:

that night at Rosee, France. The following day we went through the rear of France, a corner of Luxembourg, and entered Belgium. The night of the 9th was spent in deep snow near St. Vith, Belgium. We knew that we were not too far from the front lines because the sound of artillery could be heard where we were. The next morning we were told that we were moving into the line against the Germans. We were to relieve

1655, 10 Dec 1944. (Lawrence, then 1st Lt. Lawrence Myers, forward observer, B Btry, adjusted the fire.)

The battalion was engaged chiefly in firing harassing fires with a primary mission of direct support of the 424th Inf until the early morning of 16 Dec 1944. The enemy began shelling the front lines shortly after 2400 15 Dec 44 and also started counterbattery fire on our positions

Out 0530. This latter continued for about two hours and then the Germans launched a determined attack all along the division front. No casualties were suffered in this unit from enemy shellfire at this time (although there were some casualties in the infantry), but communications were continually being disrupted. During the next 24 hours the Germans moved up and attacked with very heavy forces, including tanks, infantry, and artillery. Considerable horse drawn artillery was also seen in this area. The battalion fired 2622 rounds of HE during this time in support of the infantry and could have fired more if it had been available.

Late in the afternoon of the 16th Dec the 1st Bn, 424th Inf was committed at Winterspelt to fill a gap caused by the overrunning of the Inf Cannon Co. and the Division Recon Troops. Capt Edward A. Chateaufauf, the liaison officer with the 1st Bn, Pvt Harold R. Schneringer, his wireman, Lt John D. MacKinnon, the forward observer, and two men from his section, Cpl Harold B. Walker and Pvt Frank Carey, were reported missing in action during this operation. While the Combat Team awaited assistance from the 9th Armd Div advancing south from St Vith and held doggedly to its position along the 2nd and 3rd Bn fronts, the enemy succeeded in driving the 1st Bn from Winterspelt in a savage, costly attack by tanks and infantry.

With the loss of Winterspelt the only good route for withdrawal was lost. Div Arty relinquished control of the 591st FA Bn to Col Reed, commanding the 424th Inf. Col Reed, still counting on support from the 9th Army Div, decided to hold his position and the battalion remained in support. Fighting continued throughout the night and considerable activity was encountered on our north flank and to the

rear. The following day, 17 Dec 44, the situation remained critical and the 9th Armd Div made no headway. During the day some of the forward observers with the 2nd and 3rd Bns were cut off but managed to withdraw back into our lines.

In spite of their inexperience, all FO's displayed a marked courage and coolness under fire and did a superb job. 1st Lt James J. Kelly, C Btry FO, was cut off twice. The first time he was rescued by our infantry and 193 PWs were taken in and around the house in which he was situated. The second time he managed to crawl back to safety under cover of darkness. 1st Lts Herbert A. Pihl, John H. Stauff, Peter F. Fleischmann, Lawrence Myers, and Bernard Rosenthal and 2nd Lt William Nolan had similar experiences and in several instances during the day were compelled to defend their OPs with their pistols and carbines while conducting artillery fire on the attacking enemy. The infantry of the 424th Regt fought savagely and heroically, and a firm bond of mutual respect and confidence between them and their artillery was cemented in the cooperation and support that existed throughout the battle.

In the artillery Bn the critical item was ammunition. The main supply route had been cut off and the only alternate was a cross-country route to Sv Btry at Burg Reuland. Due to the heavy mud this route to Sv was impassable to any but light vehicles. All day long ammunition for both the artillery and infantry was hauled over this route in jeeps. Just prior to the fall of Winterspelt the Bn Executive, Maj Carl H. Wohlfeil, managed to get a detail of three trucks back to Kleerath to get the ammunition left there by the Inf Cannon Co. This ammunition was used by the artillery batteries. About this time, too, Pvt Bill T. Ervin, B Btry, driver of an ammunition truck, displayed great courage

and heroism in hauling a truck load of ammunition through enemy fire which knocked off the right front shock absorber and riddled the truck with holes.

Finally, about 1500, 17 Dec, Col Reid decided that the situation was no longer tenable. The enemy was pouring into the gap at Winterspelt and the 112th Inf Regt of the 28th Inf Div on the right flank was being hard pressed and falling back. He gave the order to evacuate as soon as darkness closed in. Lt Col Hoover, commanding officer of the 591st FA Bn,

965th FA Bn who had been over the route, the S3, and a route-marking party. The remainder of the Bn under the Bn Exec followed about a half hour later. During the march the route was under sporadic nebelwerfer fire. About 1900 the infantry withdrew on a compass of 270. At approximately 2330, the Bn was reunited at Burg Reuland and proceeded to Grufflingen where the batteries were put into position. Except for three vehicles and some personnel equipment abandoned at Heckhalenfeld, the Bn remained intact and



591st Field Artillery Battalion, "B" Battery, 3rd Gun Section, Roanne, Belgium
left/right: 1. ?; 2. Randall; 3. ?; 4. Bettancourt; 5. Welch; 6. Flemmons; 7. ?; 8. Cornwall
9. Smile; 10. Drake; 11. Claridge

Photo credits Raymond Kurth B-591st FAB:

called in the BCs of Hq, A, and B Batteries, 1st Lt Bernard L. Lockridge, Capt Arthur W. Corcoran, and Capt Robert A. Likins, respectively, explained the situation, and showed them the proposed route of withdrawal. This route led back to within 300 yards of the then known front lines and then proceeded northward to Burg Reuland. He then left with Capt Wetherill, the liaison officer from the reinforcing

no casualties were suffered. C Btry abandoned one truck and howitzer at Steffenhausen but returned the next day, 18 Dec, and retrieved the howitzer. The truck had been burned.

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

Switzerland. [L. Myers addition to narrative:] Bn Hq was established in a former tavern in St Vith. It was soon visited by Brig Gen Leo McMahon, 106th Div Arty commander, who placed the 592nd FA Bn under control of the 591st Fire Direction Center.] The 591st (also) adopted one platoon of the Inf Cannon Co which had managed to escape and employed it as a fourth battery. This platoon remained attached to Bn for the following two days and, under Lt Buedingen, the Cn CO, did a magnificent job.

While in position at Grufflingen, all Batteries of the Bn were continually under enemy artillery fire and two linemen, Pvt Richard D. Savage and Pvt John H. Paninea, both of Hq Btry, were wounded. The Bn Cmdr decided to displace to Braunlauf and this was accomplished the night of 21 Dec. (LM addition to narrative: In its new location, the FDC discovered a cave from which pigeons had been released with intelligence information of use to the enemy.) During the occupation of Braunlauf the Bn continued to receive hostile artillery fire but no casualties occurred.

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

At daybreak 22 Dec the Bn Cmdr with the S-3 led the Bn less C Btry to the new positions in the vicinity of Commanster. The Bn Exec with a section of the FDC was left behind with C Btry to give the infantry artillery support until such time as the infantry withdrew. Visibility was limited to approximately 50 yards and radio communication with the front was very poor—only one FO was in the net. No missions were fired for almost three hours

and finally the FO reported that the infantry was moving to the rear. C Btry fired an unobserved mission to the front of the infantry to cover its withdrawal and then, having received permission by radio from the Bn Cmdr, executed march order and proceeded to its position at Commanster. The Bn remained in this position, attached to the 7th Armd Div, and continued to support the 424th Inf until the morning of 23 Dec when a general withdrawal was ordered to the west of the Salm River. At 0800, 23 Dec, the Bn Cmdr and S-2 left to reconnoiter a rendezvous area in the vicinity of Ville, Belgium. The Bn, under the control of the Bn Exec, followed at 1130, crossing the river at Vielsalm. At about 1600 the Bn closed in Ville. Members were quartered in civilian homes. The next day, 24 Dec, was spent in reorganizing, cleaning equipment, and replacing supplies.

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

Meanwhile the 424th Inf was again committed on the front of the 7th Armd Div and the Bn rendered them direct support. The situation continued until the 75th Inf Div relieved the 424th Inf about noon, 28 Dec, at which time the Bn again displaced to the vicinity of Chevron and was attached to the 82nd A/B Div with a mission of General Support. In this position replacement supplies were received daily and replacement personnel joined the unit. By midnight, 31 Dec, the Bn had lost in 21 days of continuous action against the enemy 2 EM's wounded, 1 Off and 3 EMs

missing in action, and 7 men evacuated sick or injured as non-battle casualties. No materiel was lost with the exception of one howitzer which B Btry was forced to abandon and destroy in the general withdrawal on 23 Dec. This howitzer was replaced and the Bn continued to perform its mission at 100% efficiency.

The New Year found the Bn on positions near Vaucy La Marteau, which had been occupied on 28 Dec, and the mission continued as General Support of the 82nd

reinforcements, and this brought the Bn strength up to normal.

On 2 Jan, Maj Carl H. Wohlfeil, Bn Exec, went forward to Basse Bedeux to reconnoiter for new battery positions and to check the condition of the roads. Arriving in town, he proceeded to saunter about, thinking the place was well under control because he had seen Maj Gen Gavin, 82nd A/B Div commander, strolling down the street. As he came around the corner of a battered house where Nugget CP was



591st Field Artillery Battalion, unknown which gun section or location
Battle of the Bulge

Photo credits Raymond Kurth B-591st FAB:

A/B Div Arty. The news from the Bastogne sector was heartening and the morale of the men was higher than it had been at any time in the past two weeks. Brig Gen Leo T. McMahon, the 106th Div Arty commander, visited the CP in the AM and brought along a good German made radio which he presented to the Bn. At 1715, 2nd Lt Kaulitz and 18 EM arrived as

located, he almost stumbled over a soldier lying in the snow peering intently out toward the edge of town. The Major asked him how come. Without turning to see who addressed him, the paratrooper said, "For Christ's sake, get your ass in the ditch. They're shooting down this alley." It was good advice and the Major complied. Having selected positions around the outskirts of town, he returned to the CP

The following day, Maj Wohlfeil took the BCs into Basse Bedeux on reconnaissance. As the party split up to inspect their respective position areas, the enemy threw about 6 rounds of heavy artillery into the town. One of these, a tree burst, caused injuries to 1 Off and 1 EM. Pfc Minured R. Burke, A Btry, was hit twice in his leg and once in his arm. He was removed immediately to the paratrooper aid station in a building across the street. Lt Peter Fleischmann, A Btry, was blown through a doorway by the blast and suffered a broken bone in his right hand. [L Myers addition to narrative: To commemorate the incident, Capt Bob Likins, B Btry commander, penned a perceptive Kipling-like 8-line verse. Attached at end of narrative.]

On 3 Jan the Bn moved into the positions at Basse Bedeux and continued in General Support of the 82nd A/B Div Arty until 8 Jan. During this entire period heavy snows had been falling and visibility was very poor. As a result most of the Bn fire missions were harassing fires with a few targets of opportunity which were adjusted by the infantry or forward observers from the reinforced artillery units, with periodic registrations when observation permitted. During the four final days of the attack from 4-7 Jan inclusive, the Bn fired 749 missions with an expenditure of 9997 rounds, an average of one mission approximately every 7.5 minutes.

The Bn rejoined the 424th Inf again on 8 Jan under 106th Div control and moved to positions around Moustier and Roanne from the vicinity of Odrimont and Arbrefontaine, which latter positions had been occupied the previous night. No firing was done from the latter. At Moustier, the Bn relieved the 229th FA Bn and took over their positions. We had worked alongside this Bn at the time the Germans started their

offensive and now, as then, we found them very helpful and cooperative. From 8-12 Jan the Bn fired very few missions in comparison to the previous weeks activity. Blinding snowstorms and heavy ground haze were constantly hindering the observation of the FOs.

Again on 12 Jan the Bn Exec and the BCs reconnoitered for forward positions near Ster and Parfondray. These positions were occupied in the evening of the next day, the Bn moving by echelon: first C Btry, then A and B Batteries as soon as C Btry had completed registration. The burned and mutilated bodies of three civilians found in Parfondray were mute testimony to the cruelty of the German SS troops who had been there.

The weather cleared considerably on 13 Jan as the 424th Inf jumped off in an attack against Lavaux. The Bn fired 1198 rounds in 135 missions in support of the infantry this day. Although the regiment advanced steadily, resistance was stronger than had been expected and progress was slow. The following day in an attack on Coulee, several of the FO parties suffered casualties from enemy artillery, mortar, and direct fire from tanks, including 2nd Lt Paul H. Seehausen, A Btry FO, 1st Sgt Gross, C Btry, who was acting as FO in order to be eligible for battlefield appointment, and Cpl McClure, Hq Btry radio operator of Ln section 1. It was during this attack that Lt Herbert A Pihl, artillery Ln Off with the 1st Inf Bn, distinguished himself by such courageous leadership in reorganizing a badly decimated and lost group of infantrymen, and in evacuating wounded under fire that he was recommended for the Silver Star decoration. Several other officers and EM were also recommended for Bronze Star decorations as a result of their performance of duty during the days attack. M/Sgt Howard D. Crank, Bn Sgt

Major, also led an FO party during this engagement and did a superb job.

Clear weather and heavy firing by the Bn continued on 15 Jan. Our aircraft had a field day knocking out German vehicles and equipment streaming out of the dwindling salient. The infantry gained all but one of its final objectives by nightfall and dug in. B Btry was moved forward to vicinity of Aisemont in order to register on the 16th, but visibility was so poor that it was impossible to do so. A and C Batteries

The Bn CP moved to La Neuville on 16 Jan and A and C Batteries moved to positions in Spineux and Lavaux, respectively. B Btry moved into position in Lavaux on the 19th. It was necessary to clear the mines out of the roads leading to Spineux and La Neuville before the batteries could move in. The Engineers were busy elsewhere so a volunteer crew from Hq Btry consisting of Cpl Creath, S/Sgt Hostler, Maj Brousseau, 1st Lt Smith, Maj Wohlfeil, and 1st Lt Lockridge undertook the job and cleaned the road. Lt



591st Field Artillery Battalion, "B" Battery, Roanne, Belgium
left/right: Davenport; Jablonski; Ellerton; Grillo; Gunderman
Photo credits Raymond Kurth B-591st FAB:

continued to fire harassing missions from their positions near Ster. The Bn was reaching out near the limits of its range and communications was weak both by radio and wire. The infantry took all of its final objectives on 17 Jan and proceeded to consolidate its positions. The 30th Div on the left and the 75th Div on the right were now making contact and squeezing the 424th Regt out of the line as planned.

Lockridge volunteered to drive the first vehicle over the road and did so in spite of the knowledge that known booby-trapped materiel was in the area and along the roads and that a jeep with 2 officers and 2 EM had been blown up by a mine on an adjacent road the night before. However, no mines were encountered other than those previously removed and the Bn moved into position safely.

On 19 Jan 2 officers and 9 EM left to go on 72 hour passes to Paris. These were the first passes issued in the Bn since the unit left the United States.

The Bn remained in position near La Neuville until 23 Jan, cleaning and repairing equipment and getting ready for the next operation. Lt Col Hoover, the Bn CO, contacted a mild case of intestinal flu on 21 Jan and was evacuated to the clearing station. Maj Wohlfeil, the Bn Exec, assumed command.

On 23 Jan at 0815 Maj Wohlfeil went forward with the Btry Execs and Asst Comm O to reconnoiter positions in the vicinity of Ondreval. One piece from B Btry was taken along in order to register as soon as possible. Plans were previously made with the Air Observer to conduct this registration. Maj Louis D. Brousseau, S-3, brought the remainder of the Bn forward under the BCs since they had reconnoitered the route the day before. The Bn cleared La Neuville at 0900 and went into position with B Btry and Hq Btry at Ondreval, and A and C Batteries at Thirimont. The mission was Direct Support of the 424th Inf which was attached to the 7th Armd Div. 1st Lt Lawrence Myers, FO from B Btry, reported at the CP about 1400 and notified the CO that the front lines were then about 8000 yards from the Bn position. C Btry was then ordered to displace to the vicinity of Montenuau immediately and occupy a position alongside C Btry, 460th FA Bn, which was planning to move out the next day. Again a single piece was sent forward ahead of the remainder of the Btry and completed registration before the Btry arrived. This registration was conducted by a forward observer because the weather had closed in and flying was impossible.

During the night of 23-24 Jan, with both positions registered in, the Bn fired

harassing missions while the 424th Inf relieved the 508th Paratroop Inf in the line. On 24 Jan the remainder of the Bn moved to the vicinity of Montenuau and relieved the 470th FA Bn. At 0930 one of our forward OPs occupied by Lt Ronald J. Kaulitz, S/Sgt Ray H. Blackwell, Tec 5 William L. Monroe, and PFC Homer W. Miller, all of C Btry, received a direct hit from an enemy mortar shell. All but Monroe were killed. Monroe received a severe wound in the head but managed to get back to a near by infantry aid station from which he was evacuated. These were the first known killed in action.

That evening, 24 Jan, orders were received for the 424th Inf to attack the following morning at 0715. A thorough plan for artillery preparation and interdiction fires was set up by the acting Bn Cmdr, Maj Wohlfeil, Maj Brousseau, S-3, and Capt Richard E. Raymond, Ln O with the infantry regiment. Capt McGinnis, Ln O from the 440th FA Bn, rendered his assistance in carrying out this plan, as did Maj Sanfer, S-3 of the 7th Armd Div Arty. The 424th Inf Cannon Co was attached to the Bn for this operation and did an excellent job. The attack jumped off on schedule following the preparation on the morning of the 25th and by the end of the first hour all companies had reached the first phase line. It was a good indication of the thoroughness of the preparation that very little resistance was encountered in this initial attack and 97 prisoners were taken.

Lt Col Hoover returned from the clearing station at 0930 and resumed command of the Bn.

A considerable amount of smoke, both WP and HE, had been fired on the high ground in order to cover the advance of the infantry across the open, snow-covered

fields. This hampered observation by the forward observers considerably but they moved up with the advance elements in order to overcome this disadvantage. During the day, 2162 rounds of ammunition were fired in 172 missions, one of which was conducted by Maj Wohlfeil from the air on a column of enemy troops on a road leading out of Meyerode.

The Bn remained in position at Montenau during the 26th, continuing to support the infantry which took the last of its objectives early in the afternoon. Good news about the operations of the Air Force against enemy motorized columns to the northeast and about the Russian advance on

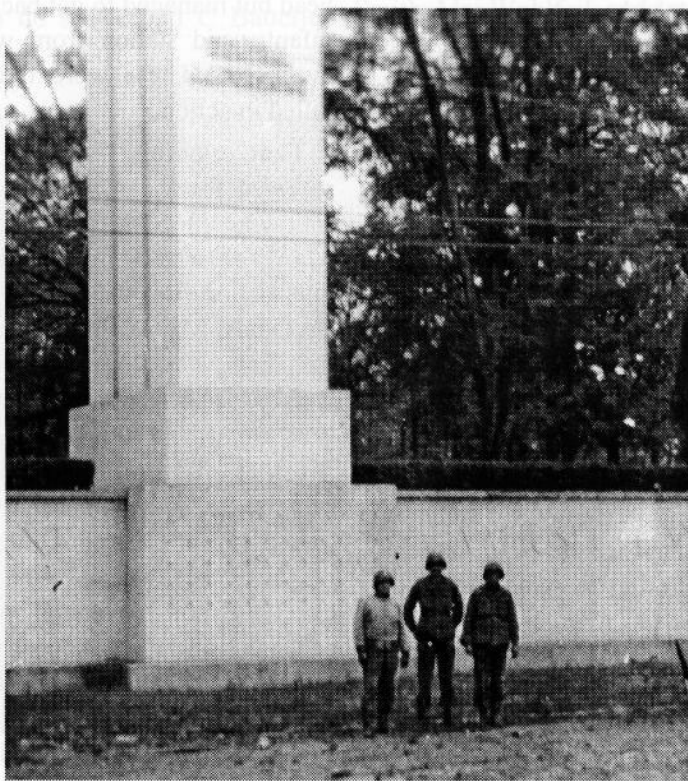
Berlin continued to come in over the radio hourly. On 27 Jan orders were received to send a billeting detail to the rear in the vicinity of Hestreux-Villers aux Tours to arrange for the Bn to move back to these areas while reverting to 106th Div control for reorganization. Maj Wohlfeil, with one enlisted man and a detail from each battery,

went back on this mission. Billets were obtained for Hq Btry in Hestreux, for A Btry in La Grange, for B and C Batteries in Targnon, and for Sv Btry in Limont. The Bn remained in position at Montenau until 1500, continuing to fire harassing missions, and then executed march order for the displacement to Hestreux, arriving about 2030.

From 29-31 Jan emphasis was placed on reorganization and care and maintenance

of equipment. A beer ration for the battalion and two PX rations, along with some movies and a show helped to relieve the tension of seven weeks of continuous action. Two more officers and 10 EM left on 31 Jan on 72-hour

passes to Paris. Recommendations for awards and battlefield promotions were submitted and the battalion settled itself to enjoy the hospitality of our genial Belgian hosts. For the first time since going into action on 10 Dec 44 the battalion was in a rest area in the rear in the vicinity of Hestreux, Belgium. This area had been



General J. J. Pershing Monument

left/right: Colonel Philip Hoover; T/5 Bill Brewer; Cpl Roy T. Jackson

Photo credits Raymond Kurth B-591st FAB:

Previously occupied by a British army unit, and pictures of the men and officers of that outfit could be found in almost every home attesting to the high regard in which they were held by the Belgian townspeople. In spite of the difficulties posed by the inability of the troops and civilians to understand each others language, they managed to get along very well. The Belgians were most hospitable, and the men did all in their power to demonstrate their appreciation for this hospitality. The movies and the G.I. variety shows were held in Limont and were well attended by both soldiers and civilians.

The weather continued to be warm and the snow disappeared rapidly; however, there were occasional raw, cold days with light showers. Particular attention was placed on motor maintenance and Lt Col Hoover organized and conducted daily inspections of motors and materiel in all batteries.

On 1 Feb 45 a formal ceremony was held at Hestreux for the presentation of awards. Brig Gen Herbert T. Perrin, Div Cmdr, attended the ceremony, and the presentations were made by Brig Gen McMahon, Div Arty Cmdr. At this formation the Bronze Star was awarded to Lt Col Philip F. Hoover, Bn CO, and to Cpl Peter A. Veetich, Btry C.

On 3 Feb 45 Lt Col Hoover attended a conference at the 99th Div CP where he received orders for the employment of this battalion in support of that Division in the vicinity of Bullingen, Belgium.

The following day, 4 Feb 95, Maj Wohlfeil took a reconnaissance party forward to select and develop battery positions for the battalion which would arrive the next day. This party included the Asst Comm 0, Lt Paul R. Kaster, the Btry Execs, Lt William H. McCue, Lt Charles C. McKinnis, and Lt Gordon H. True, and the

Bn Motor Officer, Lt Howard W. Kriz. Enlisted details from all batteries were also in the party to prepare the positions. Because of the size of the party, 15 vehicles, the extremely raw, rainy weather, and the poor condition of the roads, it took almost the entire day to reach the area assigned to the battalion just east of Hunningen. And when the party did arrive, it was discovered that available positions were very limited due to the fact that there were artillery battalions of the 1st, 2nd, and 99th Divs already in positions plus an artillery Group and some Corps artillery. The Bn CP was located in a shattered farmhouse in Hunningen, firing battery positions were selected on an open hill northeast of the town with Btry A, Btry B, and Btry C located close to each other. Lt Kriz selected a position for Sv Btry at Butgenbach, Belgium. On 5 Feb the Bn moved up and occupied the positions selected. The mission assigned was General Support of the 99th Div and Reinforcing the fires of the 371st FA Bn of that division.

The 106th Div became part of the V Corps on 6 Feb and moved up to Hunningen. The 924th Inf took over the sector held by the 99th Div on 8 Feb, with the mission of the 591st FA Bn to be Direct Support of the regiment. The following day the 106th Div took over control of the CP and the responsibility for the sector.

Meanwhile the batteries spread out a bit more and improved their positions. The sector being relatively quiet and the roads being in extremely poor condition, the ammunition allocation to the battalion was curtailed to 500 rounds per day. Subsequently activity was moderate for the remainder of the month with a few exceptions. On several days occasional propaganda shells were fired into the enemy lines with good effect.

Approximately 40 deserters came over during the period 9-28 Feb, all of them carrying safe conduct passes. Most of these Germans admitted that our artillery fire was very effective and the morale of the German troops very low.

On 21, 22, and 23 Feb the Div Arty fired a 10 minute serenade at 0430 which was also accompanied by heavy fire from

battalion but no casualties or material damage resulted. On 17 Feb 3 rounds of medium artillery landed approximately 200 yards short of the CP. From the shell reps it was evident that the enemy was right on the money for deflection, but his range was not so good. However, one of the greatest dangers encountered during the period was the presence of German mine



591st Field Artillery Battalion, "B" Battery, Villers-Au-Tours, Belgium
Two Forward Observers, Sgt. Herman Jansen (on sled); Cpl. Roy T. Jackson & cigar
Photo credits Raymond Kurth B-591st FAB:

infantry weapons to give the Germans the impression that an attack was imminent.

Relatively little fire from the enemy's artillery was received to the rear of our front lines. On 10, 11, 18 and 19 Feb light counterbattery fire was received by the

fields, particularly in the forward areas of the FO teams.

Tec 5 Solomon Gus man, Btry A, a wireman with an FO team, lost a leg on 9 Feb from an AP mine; and on the 21st 1st Lt John B. Stauff, Btry B, had a leg

When he stepped on a Soho mine near his OP at Neuhoof, Germany.

The static situation enabled the men and officers to take advantage of relatively frequent showers, the installation having been erected by the division's 81st Engineers. Considerable juggling was required in the temporary assignment of officers while some were on pass in Paris and Eupen, Belgium.

On 28 Feb the battalion supported an attack on an enemy held pill box. This operation was undertaken more as a demonstration and to determine the effectiveness of a new type flame thrower. Capt Herbert A Pihl, artillery liaison officer with the 1st Bn, coordinated the role of the artillery in the action which was successful, resulting in the destruction of the pillbox and three Germans and the capture of nine prisoners.

As the period closed the battalion was working up plans in conjunction with the infantry for an attack to the southeast in the direction of Scheid. The first few days of March saw complete plans being worked out for the attack of the 424th Inf Regt. A large number of combat patrols were sent out each day by the infantry to try to determine the strength and location of the enemy. Final plans were perfected and the 424th Inf jumped off on the morning of 5 Mar with the support of the artillery. Little opposition was encountered and the doughboys drove ahead steadily. A few prisoners were taken. Very few contacts with the retreating enemy were made in the next few days. The Germans seemed to be relying more on mine fields planted in every conceivable place to slow us up than by actual rear guard fighting. On 7 Mar the battalion moved up to new positions near Neuhoof, Germany. The areas were swept closely for mines and many were removed.

The 106th was pinched off by the 87th and 69th Inf Divs on 8 Mar. The entire V Corps was to be pinched off by the other corps in the following days. During this period, the 424th RCT of which the 591st FA Bn is its supporting artillery, held the flank of the 1st U.S. Army.

Both the infantry and the artillery were involved with sending out many patrols on the roads and into the surrounding countryside to pick up all German soldiers and stragglers who may have been missed during the advance. Several were picked up in civilian clothes. Pvt Bailey and Cpl Berneking lost feet as a result of stepping on AP mines. Mines remained an ever present danger to all personnel.

On 15 Mar the battalion left Neuhoof, Germany, for a motor march back into France. The convoy arrived in St. Quentin, France, early on the morning of 16 Mar after passing through Belgium. From 17 Mar to the end of the month the battalion was billeted in a large warehouse in town. Many passes to the UK, Brussels, and Paris were received during this time. This was the first real rest that the battalion had for months. Word was received that the division was now a part of the 15th Army, and that the 106th was scheduled to go further back in France for a complete reorganization of all of its units.

On 1 Apr 45 the battalion left San Quentin by motor convoy to go to Rennes, France. Here the 106th started its long job of completely reorganizing. A cadre for the reconstituted 589th and 590th FA Bns was sent out from this battalion. Maj Wohlfeil, the battalion Exec, became Bn CO of the 590th (Personal note: Lawrence Myers, B Btry FO, became Asst S-3; — McCue, ExO, A Btry, became CO, A Btry; and Robert Ringer, Ammo Train CO, Svc Btry, became CO, Svc Btry). At this same time

the 422nd and 423rd Inf Regts were reconstituted. The 159th and 3rd Inf Regts and the 627th and 401st FA Bns were attached to the 106th Inf Div to make a complete division while the reconstituted units engaged in a period of training.

The 591st FA Bn and the 424th Inf Regt were alerted for a possible forced march to the support of the 66th Inf Div which had been holding the Germans in the Lorient and Saint Nazaire pockets.

Trouble was expected from these

three rounds into they Lorient subma pens on May 6th prior to the official "cease fire."]

Leaving the reconstituted units to continue their training, the 106th Div moved back into Germany. On 22 Apr 45 the battalion (591st) began its march. After a motor march of three days the battalion arrived at its bivouac area near Mannheim. The first night was spent in the woods near a little town called Vierheim. On the following day billeting parties were sent



591st Field Artillery Battalion, "B" Battery, Machine Gun Section

left/right: Persall; Gundersman; Bettancourt and Kittredge

Photo credits Raymond Kurth B-591st FAB:

pockets with the conflict in Germany drawing rapidly to a close. All types of small arms were fired by the members of the battalion while at Rennes. [LM comment: As a symbolic gesture to demonstrate that the reconstituted 590th FA Bn was now ready for action, one artillery piece from A Btry, with Major Wohlfeil and Lts Myers and McCue, displaced from their training area and fired

out to different localities to locate and requisition billets for the personnel.

On 27 Apr the batteries moved to their respective towns and started to carry out their assigned missions. Hq Btry went to Huttenbach to carry on the administration of the battalion. Btry A went to a section of the Rhine River and guarded it and its bridges. Btry B moved to Saarbrücken and took over a section of the city to guard

remained near Vierheim for a few days and then moved to Heidelberg to carry on the function of supplying the battalion. Btry C moved to Worms and took over responsibility for guarding that city. No trouble was encountered by the batteries of the battalion in carrying out their guard missions. Gradually the firing batteries were relieved of their missions, but remained in place until further orders were received. It was known that the future mission of the battalion would be to operate prisoner of war stockades. The war drew to a close so rapidly that it was hard to follow. News of mass surrenders of German armies and the death or capture of high Nazi leaders continued to come through daily. It was hard for the men to see how the war could continue much longer.

On 2 May 95 the radio announced that Hitler was dead. The next day Berlin fell to the Russians after most of what was left had been destroyed by them. On 7 May the news came that Admiral Doenitz had surrendered the German armies and armed forces. No confirmation of this came through until the following day. On 8 May everyone found out that the war was over with Germany. The 9th of May was officially celebrated as V-E Day. This brings the official history of the 591st Field Artillery Battalion during its combat participation in the ETO to a close.

What the future holds is not known, but perhaps we will be in on the victory march into Tokyo.

*Dr. Lawrence Myers, Forward Observer
'44-'45 - B Btry, 591st FAB*



591st Field Artillery Battalion, "B" Battery,
Villers - Au - Tours, Belgium

The people of La Tours, when we came off line, took us in for rest and re-organizing. This gentleman claimed to have sung before the Council Heads of Belgium and Europe.

The signature on left upper of the photo
"Humblert Octavel?"
Below, not shown,
A mon meilleur ami

Photo credits Raymond Kurth B-591st FAB:

ADDENDUM: Verses penned by Cpt Robert Likins, CO, B Btry, 591st FA Bn, shortly after reconnaissance for new artillery positions vicinity of Basse Bedeux.]

ON RECONNAISSANCE

They battled at nine for the valley,

We took over Basse Bedeux;

And following short on the rally

They ordered my cannons to go.

Now I'm not an aged soldier,

But I'm also not on pap;

There's a hell of a lot of reconnaissance

That you can't get off a map!

ARMGARD, CLIFFORD D. 422/HQ

108 MAIN STREET
GENOA, WI 54652
608-689-2341

As soon as I turned 18, in my Senior year at high school, I was drafted. That was 20 December 1943. Captured 19 December 1944 I was liberated 17 April 1945. I worked at a couple jobs until I started work as a route man for a dry cleaning firm. I stayed with that until I retired, 41 years later. I also drove a school bus, part time, for 30 years. My wife and I have been married 54 years, have a son and two daughters. Have seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Cliff

BLAUCH, JOSEPH M. ASSOCIATE

2 GLASSMOYER LANE
NEWMANSTOWN, PA 17073
717-949-2218

I am the son of James Blauch, formerly with "A" Company, 423rd Infantry Regiment.

BROCKWELL, MARTHA L. ASSOCIATE

808 E HILLCREST DRIVE
JOHNSON CITY, TN 37604-4412

My husband, Charles was a member of "M" Company, 422nd Infantry Regiment. I was an Axiliary Member with him until his death July 31, 2000. Knowing his pride in being part of the Golden Lion Division, I want to continue to hear and read about this group.

BROWN, VIRGIL M. 424/A

63 SOUTH LOMA PLACE
UPLAND, CA 91786
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Rbsew6365@juno.com

CRAM (W), MILTON B. 423/CN

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SARASOTA, FL 34235-6605
941-955-5170

EBLING, GEORGE 424/HQ 2Bn

12900 90th TERRACE NO.
SEMINOLE, FL 33776
727-391-4982

GIBSON, BERNICE G. ASSOCIATE

403 WATER STREET
PINCONNING, MI 48650
517-879-6262

I am the widow of Albert S. Gibson, deceased, 422/H

GIBSON, THOMAS A. ASSOCIATE

403 WATER STREET
PINCONNING, MI 48650
517-879-6262

Son and Daughter-in-Law, Bonnie, of Albert Gibson, 422/H

GIBSON, JAMES R. ASSOCIATE

9472 HOPI LN,
FREMONT, WI 54940
920-446-3994
ECDICenergycontroldesign.com

Son of James O. Gibson, 424/F (deceased)

JOHNSON, WILLIAM S. 106 MP

112 MORSE
NORTHLAKE, IL 60164
708-344-9631

JOHNSTON, GARY D. ASSOCIATE

PO BOX 1262
WEST YELLOWSTONE, MT 59012

LAPP, ROYCE C. 424/C

35467 SCHAFFER RANCH RD
YUCAIPA, CA 92399-9479
909-790-6566
RoyceGeorgie@aol.com

MOHLER, SHIRLEY ASSOCIATE

2702 PEEL STREET
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35805
256-539-3660

My father was James W. Tucker, PFC, G Company, 423rd Inf Regiment, Stalag 9-B

PIERCE, MARJORIE H. ASSOCIATE

474 FEDERAL STREET NW
WARREN, OH 44483-3230

RUSSO, RALPH J. 422/K

140 STONEY CLIFF RD
CENTERVILLE, MA 02632
508-775-7307

My wife, Helen, joins as an Auxiliary member.

SCHLITTER, ROB ASSOCIATE

3100 3RD STREET
MARION, IA 52302
319-373-9836

My Great Uncle Arthur J Thomas, Sgt Battery A, 592nd FAB served from 1944-46. He died 10 years ago. I am doing research on his life so that our family can be aware of what he did and what he experienced. His military records were destroyed by fire in St Louis. I would like to ask if any of you knew him or know if there were other records available, I would like to know. Thank you for allowing me to participate in your organization.

THOMAS, H. WHEATON 423/M

35 VILLAGER RD
CHESTER, NH 03036
603-887-6788
WheatonT@aol.com

I took Basic Infantry Training at Camp Wheeler, Macon GA; ASTP Program at University of Alabama, engineering studies. Advanced Infantry Training Camp Atterbury, IN M Company, 423rd Infantry, machine gun squad leader. Wounded and taken POW in the Battle of the Bulge. Returned to USA in June 1945, Married in July. Re-assigned as a machine gun instructor to Camp Wheeler. Discharged on points in October and returned to college. Graduated Brown University 1947. Worked for the Old Stone Bank, Providence, RI. Left the bank and joined Amica Insurance Co in 195-53. Joined the LG Balfour Co, Attleboro, MA in 1953 and retired from there in 1979 as VP of Sales. 1979-1992 worked as an Independent Insurance sales agent in Durham, NC. Moved to Chester, NH in '92 where I presently reside. Along the way we had three sons and I developed an interest in boating, golf and tennis.

VINCENT, MERLIN 331 MED/B

19613 EAST SUN TAN BLVD
QUEEN CREEK, AZ 85242
480-987-3678

VOGLESONG, DONALD L. 422/F

PO BOX 101
PAOLI, IN 47454
812-723-2498

Daniel Voglesong purchased a LIFE Membership for his father, Donald, and Donald's wife Twighla. Donald Voglesong was a Corporal in F Company, 422nd Infantry.

WENTE, MARTIN L "CHIC" 423/I

1309 PASEO VALLE VISTA
COVINA, CA 91724-3202
626-332-5079

Joined the 106th Infantry Division at Atterbury, was in the machine gun section of I Co, 423rd Infantry. Cavender (423rd CO) made me his orderly prior to me being commissioned a 2nd Lt on 16 December. I received a slight shrapnel wound on 17 December and was taken prisoner on 19 December. What records we didn't destroy at Regimental Headquarters the Germans destroyed. I was Lt for 3 days and it was impossible to get my new dog tags. The Germans didn't believe I was an officer and put me with the enlisted men at Bad Orb Stalag IX-B. I was then sent to a slave labor camp at Berga/Elster. I was finally liberated at Freising (17 miles north of Munich) On 29 April 1945. I've been trying to get back my commission but I have been told I needed documentation to prove I was commissioned. I was at the Reunion in St Louis hoping to see Colonel Cavender. I learned he had died several years ago.

After discharge on 7 December 1945 I was a Los Angeles police detective for 33 years and have been a high school teacher, teaching law for the past 20 years. I had a great time at St Louis and am looking forward to Washington next year.

You guys do a Great Job - many thanks.

Martin "Chic" Wente

In Memoriam

Bean, Ralph 423/HQ 1Bn

Rte 2, Box 7820 - Winthrop, ME 04413

Date of death: 14 October 2000 at age 78. Cynthia said that Ralph died of an apparent heart attack after he came into the house for a drink of water. He had been cutting weeds in the yard.

Hal Taylor, 423/CN a very good friend of Ralph's notified us of his death. He and Ralph were with our group in Auw, Germany in May 1999 at the German/American Reunion visit. Ralph and Hal had gone back to Halle, where they were held as POWs and labored in a Kommando work shop. That story was featured in The CUB of Jan-Feb-Mar 1997 (pages 16-19)

Brockwell, Charles L. 422/M

Date of death: 31 July 2000. No details, but widow Martha continues her membership as an Associate.

Ciliberti, Michael G. 424/C

Michael's widow Eva wrote that he died 26 October 2000

Guintard, Robert O. 424/C

732 Blackman Street - Lake Charles, LA 706056

Cub returned. A call revealed that Ouida, his wife died 28 July 2000 and he died 2 August 2000.

House, Pete 590/A

5662 Clifton Ave - Jacksonville, FL 32211

Date of death 29 September 2000. Pete House, Sr., 76, passed away on Friday, September 29th. He was a graduate of Lee High School and a 1949 graduate of the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Education. He was a member of the Beta Zeta Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi and the Florida Blue Key. Mr. House was a veteran of the U.S. Army – WW II. He served in the 106th Infantry Division and was captured by the Germans during the Battle of the Bulge and held as a prisoner of war in Stalag 9B. Following his return to the states, he worked for Theatre Jacksonville in San Marco, where he met his wife of forty-two years. He worked in local television at WMBR and then WJXT and later as an audio-visual sales representative for the [redacted] Company.

His civic interests included the Boy Scouts of America where he served in Scout leader training for over 35 years and received the highest adult award in scouting – the Silver Beaver. He was also involved with the Ground Observer Corps, United States Power Squadron, 106th Infantry Division Association, and American EX-Prisoners of War. Survivors include his wife Joanne, son Peter, daughter-in-law Debbie, and grandchildren Ryan and Rachel.

A memorial service, with Rev. Greg Frazier officiating, was held at the Corey-Kerlin Funeral Home, 940 Cesery Boulevard in Arlington. Memorial contributions may be made to the Boy Scouts of America, 521 S. Edgewood Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32254.

Knighton, Glen 423/SV

3500 Morningside Drive - Fairfax, VA 22031

Date of death: 30 June 2000

Mills, Col Eric R. 422/HQ 1Bn

5007 Dian Woods Drive East - Jacksonville, FL 32210

Date of death: 5 June 2000

Matthews, Col Joseph 422/HQ

%Robert Matthews, 205 Weaver Drive, Williamston, NC 27892

Col. Joseph C. Matthews, Jr., (USAR) died September 24 2000. Born July 18, 1907, he was a Raleigh native and the eldest son of Joseph C. Matthews, Sr and Moddie Ellington Matthews. He was married to the late Anna K. Skarren of Beaufort, North Carolina for 45 years.

His youngest son, Bruce E. Matthews and his sister Dr. Mary E. Matthews, precede him in death. His sons Reverend Joseph C. Matthews, III of Waldorf, MD, and Robert F Matthews, Sr, of Williamston, NC; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and his brother Wilbur P Matthews of Raleigh survive him.

Rest in Peace

In Memoriam

Col. Matthews was a 1928 graduate of North Carolina State College and joined the North Carolina National Guard while in college. He subsequently was employed by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture as a chemist until 1933 when he was placed on active duty with the Civilian Conservation Corps, where he served as a camp commander in Southern Pines, NC, Tellico Plains, TN, and Lakewin PA. He remained on active duty and was assigned to the cadre of the 106th Infantry Division. While serving, as Executive Officer of the 422nd Infantry Regiment, 106th Infantry Division, he was captured near St. Vith, Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge and was a Prisoner of War for over five months. After the war, he served in Korea, Japan, and Jackson, MS, retiring in 1957 as a member of the staff of the Inspector General of the Third Army at Ft. McPherson, GA.

After retirement from the military he returned to NC State where he earned the Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics in 1905. He then joined the faculty of NC State serving as an Assistant Professor of Economics and a member of the staff of the Center for Occupational Education. He retired from teaching and research in 1973.

Since his retirement, he was a faithful assistant at the Shepherd's Table Soup Kitchen and also delivered Meals on Wheels until poor eyesight forced him to stop. He was active in the Golden K. Kiwanis Club, American Legion Post #1, American Ex-POW Tarheel Chapter #1, the Raleigh Sports Club, the NC State Alumni Association and Forever Club, the Retired Officer's Association, as well as the 100th Infantry Association on which he served as a lifetime member of the Board of Directors. The 106th Infantry Association had recently honored Col. Matthews with the Order of the Golden Lion, its highest civilian citation, for his dedicated service and commitment to the Association for over fifty years.

Funeral services were held September 29, 2000, at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd on Hillsborough Street in downtown Raleigh. Burial was at the Oakwood Cemetery.

Contributions may be made to the Shepherd's Table Soup Kitchen, c/o the Church of the Good Shepherd, 125 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, NC.

Pina, George A. 590/MED

69 Cavalcade Blvd - Warwick, RI 02889

Date of death: 18 June 2000. Ella, his widow wrote that she forgot to notify us. She said George had been in a nursing home for the past three years. She sent along \$20 so that she could continue to receive the CUB as an Associate member.

Ryan, Gerald W.

1425 Brookside Ave - Redlands, CA 92373

Date of death: 1 February 2000

Swier, (Ted) Thaddeus 591/HQ

228 South Wingate Drive - Schaumburg, IL 60193

Date of death: October 2000 (exact date not known). Ray Panice, 591/HQ wrote notifying us of his death. He said, in part, "Swier was with 591st Headquarters from the time the 106th formed until they come home. He was an unsung hero (though there were many). When our battalion was overrun and our condition was "no ammo" he and two other GI's plus our major, volunteered to go to the overrun gun sites and get whatever ammo they could find. They came back with a 2.5 ton loaded with 105mm Howitzer ammunition. He leaves behind his wife, Rosalie and three sons and a daughter and grandchildren.

Wendel, James W. Unit Unknown

918 South Cowen Street - Garrett, IN 46738

Date of death: 4 April 2000, reported by his son James, Jr. James gave his unit as 112th Regiment, Co I, 28th Infantry Division, first that we knew that.

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!**

**BEST WISHES
FOR A
HAPPY NEW
YEAR !!**

**From the Officers and Board of
Directors of your
106th Infantry Division Association**

REMINDERS FOR THE YEAR

**STAY WELL
BE GOOD**

PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES BY JUNE 30, 2001

**CHECK THE FEBRUARY CUB
FOR THE 55TH ANNUAL REUNION DETAILS**