

THE ARDENNES * THE RHINELAND * CENTRAL EUROPE

The **UB**

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR

*The Veterans of the
106th INFANTRY
DIVISION*

of the
GOLDEN LION

Vol 59 - No. 3

APR - MAY - JUN 2003



Major Steven Wall, of TACOM's Brigade Combat Team presents John M. "Jack" Roberts, "Michigan's Mini-Reunion Organizer" with a WWII Memorial Flag. See story in Mini-Reunion Section

The CUB

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106th Infantry Division Association, Inc.
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Life Vets/Associates ... \$75 Auxiliary \$15
Annual Vets/Associates... \$10 Auxiliary \$2
Annual Dues payable by June 30 each year.

"106th Infantry Division Association"
in care of Treasurer. See address above.

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87 Spier Road, Scarsdale, NY 10583-7318
914-723-8835 Email: irwin.c.smoler@verizon.net

President's View . . .

We recently returned home after a stay at The Drawbridge Inn and Conference Center and found it to be a very nice place for our reunion. We have very accommodating people to work with for the upcoming reunion 10-15 September. I am very excited about it and looking forward to the date with much anticipation. I feel that I must tell you something about the reunion.

The Drawbridge is very conveniently located near Exit 186 on I-71/75 so if you are driving, the route is well marked all the way. No in-city driving. If you are flying, the Drawbridge shuttle bus will pick you up at the airport at no charge.

The hotel is not "high-rise." The buildings are two or four stories. The rooms are clean and well kept and equipped with all of the little things that one would expect in a modern day hotel. We had our meals there and were very pleased. They do have a good cook ("Chef," of course.) If you want to have a meal on your own, there are restaurants convenient in The Drawbridge with a variety of menus.

There are also shopping areas nearby if you wish to visit them.

We toured the area around, and in, Cincinnati. It is referred to as the "Greater Cincinnati Area" and includes the Kentucky side of the Ohio River; Covington, Newport, etc. Like most of the larger cities, Cincinnati has undergone urban renewal and many changes have occurred in recent years to clean up and restore important parts of the big city. We had a guided tour (an option for you) and enjoyed it all. I could fill the Cub with descriptions of the places that we visited.

The Drawbridge Inn has hosted countless military associations in the past and has been given high praises. While there we met with the owner, Mr. Gerald Deters, who is a real "down home" guy and Army veteran himself. He has promised his personal cooperation to see that we have a good time.

The next item on the agenda is the trip to the Andersonville, Ga. National Historic Site. As you read in the last Cub, your Memorials Committee Chairman, Dr. John Robb, 422/D, has arranged for the 106th Infantry Division Association POW Memorial to be manufactured, and installed at the National Prisoner Of War Museum. We will travel there for the dedication ceremony to be held on May 25, 2003. We already know that some others of our membership will be in attendance. I would like to see a big crowd, but I realize that traveling such distances at this stage of our life is not as easy as it once was.



John R. Schaffner, President 2002-2003
106th Infantry Division Association
"A" Battery, 589th Field Artillery Battalion
1811 Miller Rd, Cockeysville, MD 21030-1013

President's View . . .

I would like to see projects of this nature to be high on the priority list for the Association during the next few years. Some day in the future our Association will no longer exist and we will be remembered only by the history books and the memorials that we can establish while we are here. We must do all that we can to preserve our proud history. Again, I urge you to put on paper what ever you would like your survivors down the line to know about who you were.

Pass on your memoirs in some form. The later it gets, the later it gets.

This issue of our Cub features accounts of the various "Mini-Reunions" that were held around the country last winter. Harry Martin, 424/L, Mini-Reunions Chairman, is doing a splendid job of promoting this activity. If it is at all possible I urge you to participate with one of these groups. It will make it possible for you to stay in touch with some of those close buddies that you served with. You have a lot in common that will make talking about your past a lot easier. Believe me, it works.

I thank you for being there for OUR Association. May God bless and keep us all in good health and make it possible for us to meet again and again for a long time to come.

John R. Schaffner, 589/A President 2002-2003

106th Infantry Division Association

***** Important Announcement from John Robb, Memorial Chairman *****

106th Infantry Division Memorial

11:00 AM Sunday May 25, 2003

Unveiling Ceremony/Dedication - Andersonville National Historic Site

In addition to a morning dedication service, Andersonville will have a

2:00 PM service with a major speaker and band.

Picnicking is permitted in designated areas.

Nearby places of Interest:

The National Prisoner of War Museum

Jimmy Carter National Historic Site

Habitat For Humanity International Tour Center and Museum

Nearby accommodations in Americus, GA:

Holiday Inn Express (229) 928-5400 - Jameson Inn (229) 924-2726

Ramada Inn (229) 924-4431 - Windsor Hotel (229) 924-1555

**Association costs for the monument are nearly \$5,000
plus there will be donations for upkeep in the following years.**

To contribute to the cost of the memorial make check payable to

"Andersonville Memorial"

Mail it to Richard L. Rigatti, 106th Association Treasurer

113 Woodshire Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15215-1713

Chaplain's Message . . .

I was looking at some photos in my Email the other day - pictures of our troops in Iraq, all dressed up in cumbersome camouflage garb, covered by additional protective clothing and masks, toting equipment that must have weighed as much as I weighed when I was a soldier. I tried to imagine being so heavily clothed and burdened in the blistering desert temperatures. I couldn't quite relate to it, or to the suffering from that climate that they must be enduring - even when no one was shooting at them.

Then I thought back to December 1944 and to the opposite extreme which we endured. And it reminded me once again of something that the civilian public doesn't seem to comprehend... **THAT SUFFERING IS A PART OF SOLDIERING.** It always has been and always will be.

An acquaintance of mine who fought at Korea's Chosin Reservoir once told me that sometimes when he and his frozen companions would wonder if they could survive that terrible winter, they remembered those of us who had done so in the Bulge, and they vowed: "if they could do it, we can do it." So, suffering is a part of soldiering, and has been since soldiering began. Stephen Ambrose recognized this when he wrote:

"Just one night in Belgium in December 1944 was memorable. Ten, twenty, thirty nights was hell. Night lasted longer in the northern latitude - 16 hours. It was frequently below zero, with a fog blowing in from the North Sea... when it wasn't snowing. When it was, the wind blew like a gale, driving pellets of snow in their faces. It was northern Europe's coldest winter in forty years. Many G.I.'s without shelter, did not even attempt to sleep. They just stayed awake, stomping their feet through the 16 hour nights - or they froze. The G.I.'s went through worse physical misery than the men at Valley Forge. Washington's troops at least had tents, some huts, fires to warm by and provide hot food. And Washington's troops were not engaged in continuous battle. But the conditions in the Ardennes during those weeks were as brutal as any in history."

So, as we once endured suffering for others, it is now tragic that another generation must endure suffering for us. But we are now the ones "back home." We are the beneficiaries of their sacrifices. So it matters not what our politics are, or our attitude toward the conduct of the war, or whether we are hawks or doves - or even whether the cause is right or wrong. **WE OWE TO THE SOLDIERS OVERSEAS EVERY PRAYER AND EVERY ACT OF SUPPORT THAT WE CAN MUSTER!**

Once - to our nations disgrace - it treated with disdain our comrades who were returning with deep hurts from an unpopular war in Vietnam. Let that never happen again to men and women who respect the same code that was once our code... **DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY.'**

God bless 'em !



Chaplain

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Email: jpk@mm.com

ATTENTION!
**Be sure to watch PBS on
May 28.**

BERGA: SOLDIERS OF ANOTHER WAR
is playing. See the nine page article on
page 39. If you miss it, a tape is available,
read about it in this CUB.

A TRIBUTE to Charles Guggenheim 424/E

Charles died 10 days after the film he shot
in Germany was finished. A very moving
story of the POWs of Berga. I previewed it
and it bought back memories forgotten.

A tribute to his comrades. Charles did not
make it overseas because of an illness just
as we left the states. This film was his way
of making it up for his buddies. He could
have been with them at Berga.

**BERGA was a Hell-Hole - read about it as
you have never read about it before.....**

Donations

Since Jan-Feb-Mar 2003 Cub
Your generosity is appreciated
Andersonville 106th Monument

John Robb	50
John Roberts	100
Frank Lapato	50
Frank Trautman	50
Winford Boatright	50
William Johnson	25
Albert Oelschig	20
Hal Taylor	50
Bob Howell	50
Pittsburgh Anonymous	20
Paul Trost	25

Veterans of Co. B 424th in Honor of Roger
Rutland and in memory of Mattie Rutland 100
Irwin Smoler 424/B memory Mattie Rutland 50

Special Donation - Cavanaugh papers

Donald Becker	35
Harold Blalack	35
Holly-Lynn Busier	35
Walter Bridges	35
Daniel Drooz	35
John Gatens	35
Phil Huffine	35
Joseph Petito	35
Charles Reeber	35
Irving Schrom	35
Dean Sandahl	35
Rick Sturdevant	35
John Swett	35
Robert Thompson	35
Raymond Twardzik	35
Robert Wood	35

General Donations

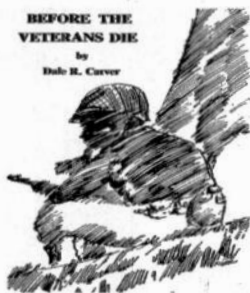
Paul Wayslon	50
Wisc Mini-Reunion	50
Joseph A. Petito	15
Art Hanke	10

Head Count 04/25/2003

Life Members (Vets)	697
Annual Members (Vets)	623
Total Vets	1320
Life Associate Members	130
Annual Assoc Members	137
Total Associates	267
Comp Members	17

GRAND TOTAL 1604

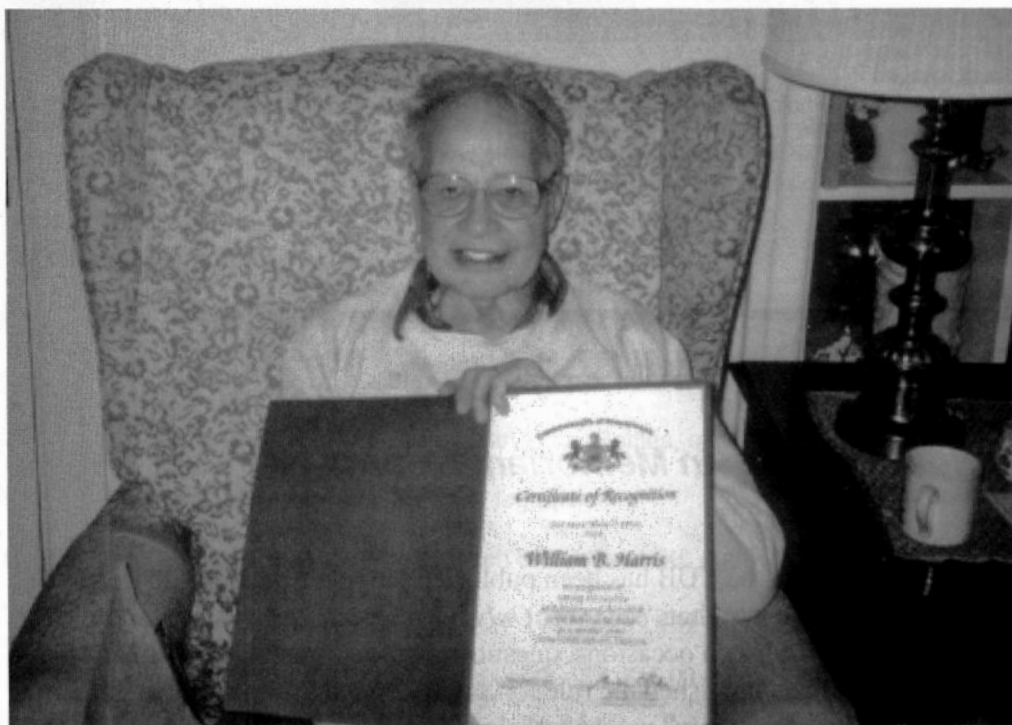
BEFORE THE
VETERANS DIE
by
Dale R. Carver



In Memory of Dale Carver
Poet Laureate of the 106th Inf Division Association
424/HQ 3rd Bn A&P Platoon leader
Silver Star recipient 1945
61 pages - \$8 + \$2.50 S&H
This book available from Ruth Carver
742 Druid Circle
Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4734

THE "STRATEGIC" WITHDRAWAL

A sullen river of flesh and steel
wound sluggishly to the rear --
machines and zombi men who could not feel
their own mechanical legs, nor hope nor fear,
smoking tanks, half tracks, Jeeps, men weary, liming and lame,
insensate, but in their eyes, disbelief and shame.



*Certificate of Appreciation for BOB service
Presented by Local Pennsylvania Senator Mike O'Pak
In Memory William B Harris, 423/Service Company, 423/SV
See Memorial, this issue*

*Bill was not able to attend the December 6, 2002 Reading, PA Mini-Reunion
Condolences to Lillian, his wife and to his family.
409 Sunset Road, West Reading, PA 19611*



Photo of a Belgian member taken at the "Mardossan" in Bastogne.
The 106th Infantry Division name is prominent among all the others.
That is Claude Billiet, Liemeux, Belgium, a Vietnam vet.
Photo taken March 3, 2003.

One year from the day that he joined our ranks.

Thanks Claude.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Rule changes in Memoriam Listings

In all the years that the CUB has been published the rule for listings of deaths of Association members was that "*Veterans Only have been listed*".

It was a rule that was, on occasions, questioned by our members. In all the years that the CUB has been published the rule for listings of deaths of Association members was that "**Veterans Only**" would be listed.

It is difficult rule to change, for some of you have requested the listing of your spouse in the past. Due to the time, general opinion of veterans of our age, and overall age of our organization this rule is being relaxed.

Any Association member's death, that means Veteran, Associate or Auxiliary) will be published in this "Memoriam" section, when requested.

If there are any of you who wish the recent past death of a spouse listed, please write the editor, John Kline with the details.

106th Infantry Division Association - PX Items ...

Send Order to our PX Manager John Gilliland, address below

No credit cards - make your Checks payable to:

John Gilliland
140 Nancy Avenue
Boaz, AL 35957-6060
256-593-6801

If you call seeking information please refer to the line number of the item listed below.

1 0 6 T H P X I T E M S

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Cap, ball, mesh back, adjustable, 106th Logo/Washington | \$10.00 + \$3.50 S&H |
| 2. Cap, ball, mesh back, adjustable, 106th Logo/WW II Memorial | \$12.00 + \$3.50 S&H |
| 3. 106th shoulder Patch, duplicate of original, 2½" | \$3.00 PP |
| 4. Patch, pocket, etc. 106th Inf. Div. Assn., 4" | \$3.00 PP |
| 5. Flag Set, US & 106th w/base, miniature (limited) | \$10.00 PP |
| 6. Address Index, expandable, magnetic, credit card size, w/106th Logo, Gold, | \$3.00 PP |
| 7. Decal, 4", like 4" Patch, peel and stick | \$2.00 PP |
| 8. Decal, 4"x 6", 106th Logo on Red & Blue Flag, peel & stick | \$2.00 PP |
| 9. Decal, 4" x 10", Combat Infantry Badge (CIB), peel & stick | \$2.00 PP |
| 10. Decal, 1-3/8", Lion's Head, 60 to sheet, peel & stick | \$3.00 PP |
| 11. Lapel Pin, Hat, etc. St. Louis, w/106th Logo (15 left) | \$3.00 PP |
| 12. Lapel Pin, Hat or tie or dress (raised Gold) in red & blue circle | \$3.00 PP |
| 13. Lapel Pin, same as above - with bar and chain for tie tac. | \$4.00 PP |
| 14. Scratch Pads, 5" x 8", (50 sheets) w/106th Logo, Battles, etc. | \$3.00 PP |
| 15. Planner, Two Year, pocket size, w/106th logo (Nice) | \$3.00 PP |
| 16. Windbreaker, lined, Blue w/106th 4" patch on left front XL and XXL | \$25.00 + 4.50 S&H |
| 17. T/Shirt, Jerzees w/ colored Artist Photo of 106th Logo and WWII Memorial on front | |
| Med, Large and Xtra Large | \$12.00 - 2X \$14.00 - 3X \$15.00 Plus \$3.50 S&H each |
| 18. Colored Artist Photo, 8x10 inch, suitable for framing | \$2.00 each PostPaid |

Your choice showing: 1. World War II Memorial 2. 106th WWII locations, as detailed on Afghans. State your choice and how many you want. Order both at this low price.

New Members . . .

CARR, EDWARD E. 423/HQ 3BN

136 LAKE POCHUNG ROAD
SUSSEX, NJ 07461-4127

**FRAMPTON WILD, ELIZABETH,
ASSOCIATE**

16512 Thunderhead Cougar Ct
Wilwood, MO 63011-1853

Daughter-Durward Frampton 422/CN.
See footnote below

**FRAMPTON WILLIAMS, TRACEY
ASSOCIATE**

240 S. REYNOLDS ST. #408
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22394-4462

Daughter-Durward Frampton 422/CN

Thanks to Durward (D B Frampton, Jr.) for these memberships. He appears on the "Honor Roll" in the early history of the Association. Durward, born in Pittsburgh attended Culver Military Academy where he completed four years Senior Infantry ROTC. When in his first year of Chemical Engineering at Cornell, war broke out and in 1942 he enlisted in the Infantry. He was on inactive status assigned to Culver for nine months. He was then assigned to the 106th at Atterbury, June 1944. He was Chief of Section of the Cannon Company, 422nd Infantry. Taken POW. After his return to the States he was sent to West Point as an Infantry Instructor and stayed there until discharged in December 1945. Thanks Durward for enlisting your whole family as 106th Infantry Division Association members. Looking forward to seeing you at Fort Mitchell.
J Kline, editor.

GELLER, ROBERT 424/C

6818 North Avenue
Middleton, WI 53562

I was a member of 424/C from the time it was activated. It is a rather long story, but I was reached recently by John Kline, Editor of The CUB. He gave me the name and address of Peter Taddeo who I thought was killed in the Battle of the Bulge on 16 December. I have contacted Peter. We plan to get together this Summer. This has been the nicest thing that has happened to me in years. I am so excited about the Association. I have given this information to another alumni, Ammon Kersteter of Gautier. MS.

KERSTETER, AMMON W. 424/C

8900 Boxwood Ln
Gautier, MS 39553
Pittsburgh, PA 39553
Tele: 228-497-6367
Email: pak@datasync.com

I was in the Weapons Platoon.

KINGERY, HUGH 590/A

5102 COLONY PARK DR.
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35243
Tele: 205-970-4309

KOOK, DAVID ASSOCIATE

PO BOX 234
FLORENCE, NJ 08518-0234
Tele: 609-499-3471
Email: dlkook@juno.com

David, The papers I received did not have any message from you other than saying you were a historian. Welcome to the Association. Editor John Kline jpk@mm.com

LEONARD, JAMES C. 423/SV

22486 SE 42ND TERRACE
ISSAQUAH, WA 98029
Tele: 206-391-2607

MARQUET, ROGER ASSOCIATE

CHENOEGNE 1D
6640 SIBRET, BE

MCLEOD, DONALD 423/F

4515 GRAHAM RD #113
HARLINGEN, TX 78552
Tele:
Email:

OJA, DAN ASSOCIATE

22 W BRYAN ST #240
SAVANNAH, GA 31401
Tele: 912-236-1139
dan_oja@mediatechnics.net

My uncle, Carl Arthur Koski, was a corporal in Company A of the 424th Regiment of the 106th Infantry. He was originally part of the 332nd Engineers, but at some point was transferred to the 424th Infantry. He was discharged from

New Members . . .

the 424th Infantry and his uniform bears the Golden Lions patch from the 106th. He had mentioned that he was in both the engineers and the infantry during the war. He landed the day after D-day (presumably with the Engineers), participated in the Battle of the Bulge (where his leg was frozen), and apparently did get to Hitler's Bunker in Berchtesgaden.

PAANANEN, WILLIAM ASSOCIATE

18905 WAXEN ROAD
MILL CREEK, WA 98012
Tele: 425-485-4839

Dear Sherod, I was given your name by Chuck Rieck. I would like to become I would like to become an Associate members. My father, Eugene Paananen, 422/H was a member. He just passed away. He attended the 1993 Reunion and greatly enjoyed it.

Alzheimer's and Parkinson's hit him hard in the 90's, so he did not attend another. I learned a lot from The CUB and would like to continue my education about the 106th Infantry Division.

PISSANOS, BECKY W. ASSOCIATE

656 FLANDERS AVE
COWLING GREEN, OH 43402
Tele: 419-372-6891
Email: bpissan@bgnet.bgsu.edu

ROMP, CHESTER 423/F

12700 LAKE AVE #905
LAKEWOOD, OH 44107
Tele: 216-228-0276
Email: L-romp@att.net

STAUFFER, JAMES ASSOCIATE

282 E OREGON RD
LITITZ, PA 17543
Tele: YES
Email: Jimimi282@GoNowMail.Com

How I wish I had come across the "grunts.net" website years ago when more members of the 106th Infantry Division had not yet gone to their ultimate "R&R"

with the Creator who had mercifully spared them during the brutal, dark winter of 1944. One of my childhood heroes was one of them, a beloved, talented cousin.

Pfc. Harold E Witmer, my 1st Cousin, was a member of Company E, 424th Infantry Regiment. After basic training, he was assigned to a searchlight section of a Coast Artillery Battalion.

He applied for, and was accepted into the Army Air Corps Halfway through multi-engine flight training, the changing tides of war shot Harold became a ground-pounding. "Golden Lion" infantryman at Camp Atterbury. Indiana and shipped out to the ETO.

He was critically wounded on 17 December. Allegedly when a shell hit a house in which he and several others were hunting a sniper. The building collapsed on him and he was given up for dead, but medics go him to a clearing station and he was shipped to Paris and eventually flown to the USA for treatment at the Ft. Pickett. Virginia base hospital.

After making good progress in recover, he suddenly lapsed into a coma and died on 12 March. 1945, the first out of over 3,000 patients to die there of wounds.

We would deeply appreciate hearing from any members of his unit who may remember Harold_ and could give us details about how he received his wounds - their nature, and additional information about his service

After active duty as a photographer with 82d Airborne Signal Company. 82d Airborne Division (1954-1956) I retired as 1st Sergeant from Company B, 103d Medical Battalion, 28th Infantry Division, Pennsylvania Army National Guard (1970-1992). Active duty with 82nd Airborne Signal Company 1954-1956. Ironically, for much of my career, our field medical clearing station had sup

New Members . . .

ported the 112th Infantry, who were tied in with the right flank of the 424th on the fateful morning of 16 December, 1944, and subsequently fought through the Bulge with them after becoming separated from their divisions. It is also spooky that during frequent annual training at Fort Pickett, I used to jog through the same grass grown asphalt streets where the huge base hospital had once stood, the very grounds where Harold died.

My mother made some copies of the poem. I have become a serious student of WWII unit histories, and have read extensively about the Bulge. The sacrifices made during the dogged defensive stands of isolated, incredibly outgunned and outnumbered GIs of the 28th and 106th Infantry Divisions during the desperate days of the Bulge, equal those of the handful of fliers (less than a battalion) who held off the Luftwaffe in the aerial *Battle of Britain* and echo the immortal words of Winston Churchill.

"Never in the annals of human conflict, have so many owed so much to so few."

God Bless you all, *James Stauffer*

STEWART, WILLIAM E 423/M

605 NELS ADAMS ROAD
DICKSON, TN 37055
Tele: 615-763-2168

WIER, JOSEPH ASSOCIATE

900 LORETTA AVENUE
WATERLOO, IA 50702
Email: joeileenw@mchsi.com

My wife and I would like to start an Associate membership. My wife's father, George Klobberdanz recently died and if his memoriam is in this CUB we don't want to miss it.

WAITE, JANET B. ASSOCIATE

490 DRESHERTOWN RD
FORT WASHINGTON, PA 19034
Tele: 215-646-0262
Email: jbw325621@msn.com

Are one of the 29,000 former prisoners of war
who do not belong to AXPOW?

AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



**WE WANT
YOU!**

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V. A. Claim Assistance
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Monthly Bulletin
Washington Office
Legislation
National Organization
Veterans & Families



www.axpow.org

For information on who we are and what we do, please contact us at

American Ex-Prisoners of War

3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010

Fone: (817) 649-2979 Fax: (817) 649-0109 email: pow@flash.net



Michigan - Nov 24, 2002

John M. Roberts (592/C) 1st Vice-Pres 1059 Alter Rd, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 248-388-2667 jmr810@aol.com

Our Mini-Reunion dinner was held at Meriweathers Restaurant in Southfield, Michigan with 34 in attendance. In past years the dinner was held in Detroit, but due to the sudden death of former mini-reunion chairman Russell Mayotte in September, I took over as chairman and found this restaurant..

Sixty-four veterans were invited. We had 15 in attendance and 19 other guests which included our guest speaker, Major Steven Hall of the Tank & Automotive Command. It was my honor to accept a World War II Commemorative Flag from Major Hall on behalf of our Michigan 106th Infantry Division veterans. This flag will be displayed at all future Michigan Mini-Reunions.

We had an outstanding Mini-Reunion this year. Following this page, as a PREFACE to this year's 106th Infantry Division Association Mini-Reunion reports, is an unsolicited article written by Randy Talbot, Staff Historian of the U.S. Army Tank & Automotive Command in Warren, Michigan. Randy was in attendance, and is the person who furnishes me with military speakers each year. His article is being published in the U.S. Army Tank Command local newsletter. He gave me permission to use it in "The CUB."

Men Standing L/R: Eugene Timm 423/D; Mario Angelo 423/D; Dr. Willard Keeber 424/G; John Plotowski 422/HQ 1Bn; Jack Roberts 592/C; Jack Gillespie 422/G; Dr. Jay Ice 424/SC; Wilbert Paquette DIV Arty
Sitting L/R: Charles Reeber 423/D; Harold Ortwine 592/C; Paul Wasylon 422/HQ; Francis Cook 422/H; Anthony Rand 589/B; Present, not in photo; Ellsworth Schanerberger 331 Med/D

Ladies Standing L/R: Jean Ice; Mary Lou Roberts; Lois Timm; Bea Keeber; Gloria Plotowski
Sitting L/R: Audrey Ortwine; Shirley Gillespie; Jean Schutte; Ruthanna Cook.





Major Steven Wall, of TACOM's Brigade Combat Team presents John M. "Jack" Roberts, "Michigan's Mini-Reunion Organizer," with the BCT Commander's Coin for Excellence.

Battle of the Bulge veterans honored

By Randy Talbot, TACOM Staff Historian

They are older now, much older than they ever thought they would become.

Each year for the past fifty-eight years, the surviving members of the 106th Infantry Division's "Golden Lions" hold a mini-reunion with their brothers in arms. Every year, their ranks become smaller. This year, only fifteen of the more than fifty members in Michigan were able to attend. But like they have every year, they made it. The room for the reunion was small but comfortable. One veteran remarked that it was like having dinner in his den. And this year, they were in for a pleasant surprise.

Maj. Steven T. Wall of the Brigade Combat Team, "eagerly" accepted "the honor of speaking" to these warriors of a day long gone. The task of talking to them, he said was both awesome and intimidating. The 106th's history he told them and "your lives, your actions, and your memories are my history." His introductory remarks concluded with a special tribute to those present. Wall told them that he had studied their lessons, and applied them to his troops in past assignments and in his current position.

Then Maj. Wall presented them with a breath-taking overview of the Stryker program. He spoke about the capabilities of the U.S. Armed Forces new vehicle the "Stryker" (See Page 12). He explained how the fighting vehicle related to those vehicles the 106th used in WWII. You saw them in the Iraqi FREEDOM news.

The 106th Vets were amused that the Stryker still used the same type of .50 caliber machine-gun used during the "Battle of the Bulge."



The STRYKER Fighting Vehicle

Of particular interest to one old medic were the fuel capabilities of the vehicle and wondered about the capacity to use alternate fuels. Others gave a noticeable sign of approval at the thought of having a heater in the vehicle. It sure beat riding in an open half-track or jeep that was customary during World War II. Many audibly gasped at the thought of the Mobile Gun System and its 105 mm canon. One mentioned that they sure could have used that in 1944!

Some were amazed at the speed of the vehicle, which is twice that of the vehicles of their era. But the "jaw-dropper" was the thought of arriving in the theater of operations across the ocean in ninety-six hours. They remembered the voyage they had when they departed for France so many years ago. For two weeks, they were huddled aboard a transport ship; lonely, seasick and with a lot of time to think about what awaited them once they arrived.

As the evening concluded, Maj. Wall put up the last slide of his presentation. He was unable to read the words on the screen in front of this gathering, but they knew his meaning. Leaving them with words "that define the ties that bind," Wall honored those present and "everyone who wore your Lion, and everyone who has worn a uniform."

"This story shall the good man tell his son, and this day shall ne'er go by, from now to the ending of the age. But we in it shall be remembered... We few... We very few... We Band of Brothers. For he who shed his blood with me today shall be my brother."

Tears filled the eyes of all present; for buddies killed combat that could not be there this night; for loved ones and comrades that have lost their own personal battles through the years; for the memory of pain, wounds, captivity, escape, cold, hunger and rescue that each experienced and struggled with over the years. And some of the stories will bring tears to your eyes.

There were three former prisoners of war in attendance. Jack Gillespie was captured on December 16th. He was marched to a rail station, brought to Berlin and interrogated. He later was sent to Bavaria and marched to Czechoslovakia. He was imprisoned there until the Russian guns could be heard moving west. He then was marched back to Germany and placed in another prisoner of war camp. He was rescued by the British under Gen. Bernard Law Montgomery, and flown to northern Germany on "Monty's" private plane. He weighed less than 90 pounds when he was released. He still suffers from his captivity.

Mini-Reunions . . .

The reunion organizer, Jack Roberts was captured early on the morning of December 16 after his patrol was ambushed. He later escaped from the Germans. For five days, Jack and his team evaded capture, sometimes with other Americans who were caught behind the lines, at other times by themselves. They were without food, weapons and ammunition. They had only two things that they could rely on, each other and a desire to get back to their lines. In the confusion of unstable lines, mobile warfare and the "fog of war," they made their way back to the lines.

It was there that he realized the extent of the battle on his Division. The German thrust into the Ardennes Forest pierced into their meager lines. The 106th Division was spread along a front of 22 miles. Having just arrived in country a week earlier, they were sent to a "quiet sector" of the front. This quiet sector is where the German army launched their attack with devastating ferocity on the 106th. Over 7,000 were missing in action; another 2,000 were wounded or died during the opening three days of the battle.

In 1996, Jack was sent a photo from the German Archives. It was the other vehicle in his patrol that was ambushed. It brought the horror of this day and his captivity and escape back to him. It also brought the memories of those who lost their lives that morning with him.

This brotherhood of the 106th extends beyond just the veterans who fought side by side in World War II. One widow still attends, twenty years after her husband passed away. At this reunion, one introduced himself as the son of a vet from the 106th and he was hoping to find out information about his father. Like all there, he promised to return as long as reunions were held. One old-timer brought his son, a former Marine, who had nothing but praise for these wonderful men and a look of pride as he stood by his father's side.

As the evening closed, Maj. Wall presented each veteran and family member with Stryker coins. Jack Roberts was presented with The Brigade Combat Team's Program Managers Coin "for Excellence" for all his efforts to arrange this reunion after their chairman passed away. But before the evening ended, Maj. Wall had one last presentation to make for the members of the "Golden Lion" Division.

Reaching into a briefcase, Maj. Wall pulled out a folded piece of blue material. As he carefully unfolded the World War II Commemorative flag, he presented it to the members of the 106th to fly at all their future reunions. Thunderous applause greeted this simple act of remembrance from one soldier to another.

By their undying loyalty to each other, this real-life "*Band of Brothers*" is more than deserving of the words that surround the "ruptured duck" in the center of the flag, "A Grateful Nation Remembers."

For the lineage, honors and combat history of the 106th Infantry Division, see <http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/lineage/cc/106id.htm>.

To read about the organization of the Division, see <http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/documents/eto-ob/106ID-ETO.htm>.

Other information on this division can be found through the official website of the 106th Infantry Division.

For further reading on the *Battle of the Bulge* see *A Time for Trumpets: The Untold Story of the Battle of the Bulge* by Charles B. MacDonald; *Battle: The Story of the Bulge* by John Toland; *The Bitter Woods: The Battle of the Bulge* by John S. D. Eisenhower and *The Ardennes: The Battle of the Bulge* by Hugh M. Cole, http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/books/wwii/7-8/7-8_cont.htm.

Mini-Reunions ...



Southern California - Dec 14, 2002

Milton Weiner, 424/M, 28121 Ridgethorne Ct, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275 - 310-544-0470

This was the Sixteenth Annual Southern California Bulge Commemorative Event. As usual we started by reading Dale Carver's "*My First Reunion*." This will always be appropriate at any and all reunions. Twenty-one attended including six sons of 106th members. Everyone introduced themselves. The 106th veterans gave a brief summary of their experience during that "*Winter Long Ago*." The 2003 event will be December 14, 2003 at 1:00PM. Please write or call to be added to the mailing list. My telephone and address appear above.

Above: clockwise from left: Milton Weiner 424/M; Larry Heider; Douglas Rand; Bernard Weiner; Eric Vanderhorst 423/F; Frieda Vanderhorst; Leo Krueser 81st/Med; Aki Yamazaki; James Yamazaki 590/MED; Ted Litvin; Joseph Litvin 423/D;

Below: Start with the lady on the left, above the gentleman's white hair; Bella Weiner; Dave Fournier; Greg Drumm; Dienta Wentz; Chic Wentz 423/I; Jeanette Josephs; Mary Lou Marsh; Randy Marsh; Carol Casey and Sheenan Casey.



Mini-Reunions . . .



Northern California - Dec 16, 2002

Col. T.M. Barrick, 424/I - 19907 Bonnie Ridge Way, Saratoga, CA 95070 Tele: 408-867-3161 macnjean@aol.com

The Northern California contingent of the 106th Infantry Division Association met on December 16 2002 in the Milan Room of the Embassy Suites, Milpitas, California. This location more southerly encouraged eight people to come from Fresno, Porterville, Watsonville and Santa Cruz for their first time. They thoroughly enjoyed meeting everyone. Twenty-two of the twenty-six who signed up were present for roll-call, despite one of the worst storms California has seen in years. After seating a moment of silence was observed for those no longer with us. Notes were read from those that could not attend and who wished us a pleasant reunion.

Clearly, the younger generation - three daughters, one granddaughter, one son and the husband of one daughter were genuinely interested in the events of the *Battle of the Bulge* in which their relatives had served.

Seated: Seeber Bullock **Ladies: I/r:** Debbi Vanatta, Allison Van Zant Aldrich; Noel Vanatta; Reddie Prewett; Barbara Brendlinger; Elaine Epling; Helena Meltensen; Shirley Gregory; Donna Mae Murphy; Heather Bullock. **Men: I/r:** Rian Aldrich; Clarence Meltensen; Norvell Conner; Robert Bredlinger; Mac Barrick; Ed Dunn; John Gregory; John Stauff; Ed Prewett and Mike Thome.

Thanks to my wife Jean Barrick for the photography.

Below: I/r Honored Guests - Past-Presidents 106th Infantry Division Association and holders of the *Order of the Golden Lion* for services rendered to the Association, after wartime, John Gregory, 1999-2000; Mike Thome, 1991-92; Ed Prewett, 1993-94



Mini-Reunions ...



Mesa, Arizona - Dec 2002

Dean Childs, 106 Signal, 245 South 56th St. Sp 75, Mesa AZ 85206 - 602-985-3687 elede3@cox.net

Plans were trying to be made to meet together with the Bulge group. The majority of the 106th Vets wanted to meet together as we had in other years. Since we had done it back in 1989, Eleanor and I decided to help reform the group. Eleven veterans stated they would like to meet again. We did, with the group you see in the photos. We had a speaker, Sergeant Chris Gant. We all had a good time meeting and will try again next year. Dean Childs.

Men L/R Front Row: Tom Bugner, 590/B; Toby Anderson, 106 Signal; Jim Stamm, 424/F.
Standing L/R: Richard Behr, 423/SV; Sergeant Chris Gant (Speaker) and Dean Childs, 106 Signal.
Ladies - Below L/R: Eleanor Childs; Sergeant Chris Gant; Bea Behr and Amy Anderson.



Mini-Reunions ...



Nebraska-Western Iowa - Dec 16, 2002

Dean & Della Sandahl, 3041 N 61st Street, Lincoln, NE 68507 402-466-3546 sandydandd@juno.com

We met on, Monday 16 December 2002 at 11 AM at the USA Steak/Buffer in Lincoln. A moment of silence in respect to our buddies and/or spouses who have departed. A delicious buffet dinner with lots of visiting and reminiscing. Neighbors if you read this please come and join us on Tuesday December 16, 2003 at 11 AM. Three couples were not able to be with us because of illness.

Each veteran told where and what he was doing 58 years ago on this date. Each had their "own" story as they remembered it! Very Interesting!

L/R Leonard//Evelyn Tyser 423/I, Wilber NE; Harold/Lorraine Hawkins 423/D, Omaha; Charles/Jane Henning 424/B, Peru; Eugene/Marcy Kuhn 106 MP, Columbus and their daughter Mrs. Jeanne Luker; On the far right, Dean/Della Sandahl (Hosts) 422/B, Lincoln



Washington, The State of - Dec 19, 2002

Myrton Dickerson 424/D, 2500 South 370th St, Federal Way, WA 98003 253-661-9325 myrtond@aol.com

Top Row L/R: Alvin and Dorothy Powers 422/HQ; Charles and Betty Coorigan 591/SV

Bottom Row L/R: Myrton and Beatrice Dickerson 424/D; Ray Johnston 423/H

Our meeting was held on 19 December 2002 at the Falls Terrace Restaurant in Tumwater, WA in conjunction with the Christmas Town Chapter of the American EX-POWs. There were about 32 members attending. We all had a good time and enjoyed the Falls, just outside the room we were in. Our group "Washington/Oregon" is getting smaller by the year due to illnesses and travel.

Mini-Reunions . . .



New Mexico - Dec 14, 2002

Dr. Ralph J. Nelson, DDS 422/Cannon, 1 Acoma Lane, Los Alamos, NM 87544, 505-622-9787

The New Mexico contingent of the 106th Infantry Division Association, held their annual Mini-Reunion in Albuquerque, New Mexico on December 14, 2002. Three veterans and four guests were present. A very good time was enjoyed by all attending, socializing and remembering.

Veterans above l/r: Dr. Ralph Nelson, 422 Cannon, Los Alamos NM; Robert Soladay, 422 Service Albuquerque NM; Walter Peters, 331st Medical Battalion, Co B Albuquerque NM

Ladies, below: l/r: Christine Nelson Lee daughter of Ralph Nelson; Margaret Velasques widow of Armando, 424/K; Helen Peters and Beverley Soladay.



Mini-Reunions ...



Long Island, NY - Nov 11, 2002

Ephriam Goldberg, 555 Franklin Blvd., Long Beach, NY 516-432-7136 Email: edg555@juno.com

We had a Mini-Reunion on Long Island on Memorial Day, Sunday, November 11, 2002.
It was hosted by Ed Goldberg.

Men Front Row l/r: Eugene Powell; Ed Goldberg; John Rosalia; Jacques Bloch; Sal Grasso
Standing: Al Sussman; Irv Schrom; Julius Brandi; Charles Johansen; Charles Condike; Sol Kravitz;
Charles Kortlang; Carlos Weber; Eugene Powell; John Starmack

Women Front Row: Jennie Guadagno; Adel Johansen; Neva Powell and Jean Bloch
Standing: Ann Kravitz; Rhoda Schrom; Lynda Sussman; Grace Starmack; Rosemary Rosalia DiVito;
Natalie Goldberg; Barbara Guadagno; Gerry Brandi and Mary Grasso



Mini-Reunions ...



Maryland, D.C. and Virginia - Dec 12, 2002

John Schaffner, 589/A, 1811 Miller Rd, Cockeysville, MD 21030 - 410-584-2754

The Mini-Reunion covering Md., Va., & D.C. area was held 12 December 2002 at the Club Meade at Ft. G.G. Meade, Md in observance of the anniversary of *The Battle of the Bulge*.

The room was set for a buffet luncheon with a choice of fish, fowl and meat, along with the usual very nice selection that the Club offers at their regular buffet, including beverages and desert.

The Guest speaker was Mr. Robert Mullauer, well known military historian and speaker. Bob's subject was "*The Battle of the Bulge - The German Generals*" which was very well received. We heard many compliments about the affair.

Also present was Kay (Loveless) Kemp (Associate) and her husband Ray and son Tom.

They brought several personal items from the POW experience of Kay's father, John T. Loveless, Jr. 422/HQ, who was held at Stalag IX-B after his capture. We had a head count of 46 not bad considering the weather.

The Men: Richard W. Tennant 422/K; Philip A. Hannon 81st Eng/A; John R. Schaffner 589/A; Alan W. Jones Jr. 423/HQ 1Bn; Edward McGinty 589/C; Grayson Bishop 424/L; John F. Gatens 589/A; Clark W. Dovell 422/M; Donald Regier 422/SV and Earle L. Valenstein 81st Eng/B (missing from photo)

The Ladies; Seated; Lynn Jones; Catherine Regier; Kay Kemp; Bettie Tennant

Standing: Gerlinde Yeater; Lillian Schaffner; Thelma P. Dovell; Mary Vandermast; Jean Hannon;

Norman Asendorf. Hiding in the back: Gina Houghton; Barbara Schaffner; Jean Buchanan



Mini-Reunions ...



Atlanta, GA - Dec 8, 2002

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

On Saturday December 8, 2002, twenty-three members and their guests gathered at the Steak & Ale Restaurant near Northlake Mall, Atlanta, GA to enjoy the festive fellowship of the season as well as the good food and the atmosphere furnished by the restaurant. The group seemed to especially enjoy each other this year.

Shown are Earnest Earls, Carl Canup, Morris Piha, Lee Darby, Bob Howell, Bill Jenkins, Doug Coffey and Sherod Collins.

Ladies attending were: Isabella Coffey; Martha Brocato; Louise Howell; Frankie Burkes; Sarah Piha; Sue Canup; April White; Elaine Darby; Jean Shirley; Mary Ruth Kinsey; Cathy White and Peggy Kelly



Mini-Reunions ...



Oklahoma Area - Dec 16, 2002

Clint McClure 423/HQ - 8607 E 77th Place Tulsa, OK 74133-3710 918-252-7777

The area members and their wives attended a noon luncheon at the Fountain Restaurant in Tulsa, OK, on 16 December 2002. This event is looked forward to, each year.

Men l/r: Don Herndon, Oklahoma City, 424/L; Lyle Russell, Ochelata, 422/I; Clint McClure, 423/HQ; Howard Bryant, Coweta, 424/F; David Deffenbaugh, Claremore, 423/D; Leland Turley, Tulsa, 423/H

Ladies l/r: Standing - Joan Herndon; Betty Bryant; Anita Turley and Peggy McClure
Seated: Pauline Russell



Mini-Reunions . . .



South Carolina - North Carolina - Nov 30, 2002

Wald and Vannie Toy, 422/K - 4605 Wade Street, Columbia, S.C. 29210 Tele: 803-772-0132

On November 30, 2002 thirty four (34) members, wives and special guests, from the South Carolina/ North Carolina area, met at the Officers Club, Fort Jackson, South Carolina, for their Annual Luncheon and Mini-reunion. The group noted the absence of Reverend Ewell C. Black, Jr., a regular attendee, who has now relocated to the Atlanta, Georgia area.

Allison Toy Lee served as the Mistress of Ceremony. The normal protocol for the reunion continued to be observed. Marcia Layton Hempy, from the VA Regional Office presented up to date information for veterans. Two of the special guests furnished musical entertainment including an old fashion sing-a-long, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the group. The hosts continued their tradition of presenting door prizes and gift bags to those in attendance. It was perceived as being a most enjoyable occasion.

Men, front Row l/r: Frank Frierson; Charles Bethea; Scott Westbrook; Howard Terrio

Men, Second Row l/r: Joseph Frierson; Ed Terrio; Wald Toy; John Cooper; Rev. J. Howard Tucker;

Sam Schiavo **Men, Third Row l/r:** Hibbs Lydick; Claude Young; Wayne Lee; Calvin Albott; Howard

Tucker, Jr. **Ladies Front Row l/r:** Mildred Lydick; Laurau Bradshaw; Vannie Toy; Hazel Cooper

Ladies Second Row l/r: Mildred Frierson; Lucille Williams; Eleanor Coffey; Luvelle Terrio; Barbara

Sharpe; Guteen Schiavo **Ladies Third Row l/r:** Carolyn Abbott, Janice Beathea; Sarah Bradshaw;

Allison Lee; Shelvia Westbrook; Ruth Terrio Absent from the photo: Three people.





Alabama - Dec 14, 2002

Walter Bridges, 424/D 225 Laird Street, Hueytown, AL 35023 205-491-3409 wgbbridges@zebra.net

Seated L/R: Barbara Bridges; Hazel Massey; Frances Lacey; Norma Temple; Lee Gilliland and Janet Szofran

Back Row L/R: Walter Bridges; John Racster; Joe Massey; Davie Lacey; Lawrence Williams; John Gilliland (Past-President 106th Infantry Division Association (1990-91); Will Temple and Dr. Frank Szofran.

The *George S. Patton, Jr. (Alabama Chapter) Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge* held its annual commemorative luncheon on December 14, 2002. As its honored guests, were members of the 106th Infantry Division Association, shown above and speaker Dr. Frank Szofran with wife Janet.

Approximately 121 VBOB members and guests were treated to a tasty luncheon.

Our speaker was Dr. Frank Szofran of NASA Marshall Space Center - Huntsville, Alabama. He is a principal investigator for microgravity experiments for NASA. He used slides to show some of the current and potential developments that this technology is producing. He showed how the experiments are performed using the Space Station and Shuttle resulting in impressive results: better metals, crystals and matter. Dr. Szofran also traced some of the important scientific developments of the past century and how long their incubation period took before they became a practical and workable item.



Kansas - Oct 27, 2002

Bill Stahl 422/K 110 E. 8th Street, Junction City, KS 66441 785-238-2861

The 8th annual gathering of the group at the Coyote Canyon, Topeka. A Buffet, featuring Steak.

A good time was had by all. Our group is down to less than 20 members total.

Back: l/r: John Mock 422/I; Jake Underwood 590/A; Martin Jones 423/G; Tom Ballowe 423/K and Bill Stahl 422/K. **Front** l/r: Mary Mock; Phyllis Jones; Mary Louise Ballowe; Juaniya McCall wife of Theodore (Bud) McCall, 81st Eng/A Photo by Mary Lou Stahl.

Mini-Reunions ...



Wisconsin - Dec 2002

Robert C. Homan 424/D 1614 Holly Drive Janesville, WI 53546 608-752-6525

The Janesville, Wisconsin meeting was held in conjunction with "The Veteran's of the Battle of the Bulge" as we have done in the past. In total there were about 70 veterans in attendance at a breakfast held at the Elk's Club, Janesville, Wisconsin. Judge James S. Daley, Brigadier General, National Guard and Vietnam veteran was the guest speaker.

Bob also included long "landscape" photo of the whole crowd of BOB/106th Veterans 70 in all. Along with that he included a \$50.00 personal check to the Memorial Fund of the 106th Infantry Division Association.

Thanks Bob, appreciated the great photos. Do a little recruiting on those "non-members."

Men front row: l/r Harry Lasen 423/K (*); Kenneth Arndt 592nd FAB/C; Henry Thurner 589th FAB/HQ and Peter Dibernardo 424//? (*) **Men back row:** Victor Fuchs 591st FAB/HQ; Albert Kath 422/AT; Robert Homan 424/D; Harry McSorley 422/D; Robert Gospa 106th Inf Div. (*); Harold Joe Broderick 422/G expressed his regrets for not being able to attend. **editor's note:** the "(*)" indicates no name match on the Association roster.

Ladies front row: Mrs. Henry Thurner; Mrs. Albert Kath; Mrs. Harry McSorley; Friend and Vic Fuchs

Ladies back row: Mrs. Robert Homan; Mrs. Karl Ronnerberg (Kenneth Arndt) Mrs. Robert Gospa





New Jersey - Dec 18 2002

Harry Martin, Jr. 424/L 121 McGregor Ave. Mount Arlington, NJ 07856 973-663-2410 martinjr@localnet.com

The New Jersey Reunion was held on 18 December 2002 at the Picatinny Arsenal.

We had 32 members from the 106th in attendance. In addition there were 26 members of The Battle of the Bulge organization.

Dr. Myron Swack 422/HQ 1Bn presented a new video about Prisoners of War "*The Forgotten Heroes*." Dr. Swack appears in the video and it will be shown in the near future on The History Channel. I highly recommend viewing the the documentary.

Many of our members suggested that the "mini-Reunion" be held more than once a year. We are now planning a mid year reunion so those that go South in the Winter will be able to attend.

First Row l/r: Newton Parker; Steve Osciak; Henry Krajewski 424/L; Dr. Myron Swack 422/HQ 1Bn; Alvin Sussman 424/HQ 2Bn; Joseph DeSantis 422/HQ 1Bn; Gerooge Call 424/B' Harry Martin 424/L

Second Row l/r: Dr. Duncan Trueman 424/AT; John DiMeglio 424/I; Glen Lockenvitz 106 Recon; Paul Werkmeister 422/Med; John Gatens 589/A; Salvatore Scalzo 422/Med; Ralph Richter 331Med/D; Gerry Mount; Newton Weiss 423/HQ 3Bn; Kenneth Schuetz DIV/Hq; William Blaher 422/I

**Keep the Spirit Going
Support your local
MINI-REUNION Meetings**

**Contact Harry Martin - see address above
if you want to sponsor
A Mini-Reunion in your area**

Mini-Reunions . . .



Pennsylvania - Dec 6, 2002

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

We met at our usual meeting place, "The Dutch Colony Motor Inn" Reading, Pennsylvania.

We had snow the day before which made it difficult for some to attend. Several were ill.

We had a very enjoyable program. A wine toast, Pledge to the Flag, The National Anthem, an Invocation and a "Happy Birthday" to all with a birthday coming up in 2003.

We had Fish and Ham "No Spam or S.O.S." Dessert, Coffee, Tea, an Army Break, Picture Taking and "Opportunities Open Doors of Life."

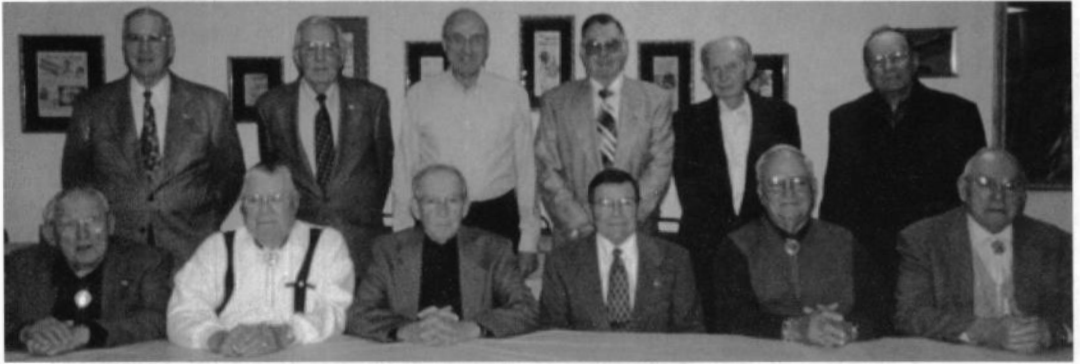
We had Prayers in closing: Father Cavanaugh's Christmas Eve 1944 Prayer to the 106th POWs in a German Box-car and Prayer of James A. Clark, Chaplain VBOB. Silent Night Holy Night was also sung. Our local State Senator Mike O. Pake provided us with a certificate of appreciation for Service in the B.O.B which I presented to Wanda Fava honoring her deceased husband Roy.

The next Mini-Reunion December 5th 2003 at "The Dutch Colony Motor Inn."

Men's photo l/r: Charles Datte; Jack McDevitt; Vince Sziber; Fred Carr; Joe Tarantino; Joe Yorkavitch; Daniel Eisenhard; John Gallagher

Ladies photo l/r: Wanda Fava; Nancy Datte; Muriel Sziber; Stella Gallagher; Anne McDevitt; Connie Tarantino and Betty Carr





Alton, Illinois - St Louis, MO - Dec 17, 2002

Marion Ray, 424/D, 704 Briarwood Drive, Bethalto, IL 62010 618-377-3674 Email: RayBugleboy@charter.net

December 17, 2002. The Banquet Hall, in Wood River, IL the location, for the annual December Mini-Reunion of the "Golden Lions," 106th Combat Infantry Division.

Eleven 106th Division Association members, one Associate member along with their ladies gathered to hear a guest speaker and enjoy renewing friendships. Kenneth V. Bryan 423/HQ 1 Bn, presently State Commander, *American Ex-Prisoners of War*, was the speaker.

A good time was had by all.

Thank you for attending!

Men, Front row, l/r: Emil Perko 422/H; Victor D. Bauswell 422/B; Paul V. Boschert 590/HQ; Jack Rain 590/B; Victor W. Breite 422/I and Kenneth V. Bryan 423/HQ 1Bn

Men, Back Row l/r: Marion Ray 424/D; Donalds M. Hinrichs 81 Eng/C; Carl Goering Associate; Gilbert DeGerlia 422/HQ; William Kronmueller 423/E and Geroge Foster 423/HQ 2Bn

Ladies, front row, l/r: LaDon Adams; Pat Hinrichs' Fran Ray; Avis Breite and Margary Bryan

Ladies, back row, l/r: Betty Rain; Emma Jane Boschert; Barbara Foster; Jean Perko; Debbie Bryan Hensley; Sharon Perko-Davis and Nelda Basuwell.



Mini-Reunions ...



Bradenton - Sarasota, Florida - Dec 17, 2002

Ray Twardzik, 106 Signal, 5518 Garden Lakes Oak, Bradenton, FL 34203 Phone: 941-756-1440

The Sarasota/Manatee area mini-reunion was held at Forest Lakes Country Club, in Sarasota, Florida. Thirty-eight were present. Each "106er" was asked to give a short presentation naming his "Company," Pow Camps (if any) and any important events during his tour with the 106th Infantry Division. Many exceeded their one minute time allotment. Letter from Joe Fischer, 81st Eng/A and Sam Tenbrink, 422/H, who could not attend, were read. Everyone enjoyed the presentations.

Men first row l/r: Bill Mangold, Ray Twardzik; Charles Fehnel; Boris Stern; Jim Cram; Herb Friedman. **Second row l/r:** Rocco Sergi; Bob Snovel; Gener Saucerman; Bob Fisher; Ken Smith; Murrel Kelso

Third row, l/r: Les Helmich; Jim Edwards; Don Scholten; Ed Creel; Dick Brokaw; Sid Auerbach; Milt Cram and Virgil Collins.

Ladies first row, l/r: Nellye Friedman; Laverne Sergi; Pauline Fehnel; Sally Saucerman; Isabel Twardzik; Jody Brokaw; Margery Stern and Lael Snovel **Second row l/r:** Mary Kelso; Mary Ann Scholten; Jill Auerbach and Carol Cram.





Madison, WI - Oct 19, 2002

Charles Rieck, 424/H, 7316 Voss Parkway, Middleton, WI 53562 608-831-6110

The Wisconsin 13th Annual Commemorative Meeting of *The Battle of the Bulge* was held at CJ's East, In Madison, Wisconsin. We had 28 people in attendance and they were:

Mr/Mrs James Tetzlaff; Mr/Mrs Howard Jones; Mr/Mrs Jerome Miller; Mr/Mrs Edward Nafle; Mr/Mrs Henry Wittenberg; Mr/Mrs Raymond Kurth; Mr/Mrs Al Kath; Mr Pete DiBenardo; Ms Nina Spence; Mrs Virginia Post; Mr David Post; Mr/Mrs Victor Fuchs; Mr Walter Donaldson; Mr Edward Wojahn; Mr Donald Handel; Mr Mike Cunningham; Mr Ralph Moore; Mr. Mel Martin; Mr Charles Rieck

The group spent time in sociability in lieu of a program. David Post was the photographer. By group action the 2003 meeting will be held on October 16, 2003 at CH's East in Madison, Wisconsin





Pittsburgh, PA - 2002

Joseph P. Maloney, 1120 Warren Avenue, Arnold, PA 25068 724-335-6104 maloney@salsgiver.com

The 25 attendees were treated to a report of how the 331st Medics fared at Saint Vith. Jim Wiggins, 331/MED gave the report. It was a great story of how they were able to continue their mission despite having to stay one step ahead of the Germans.

He told of how they came into possession of a 6X6 left by one of the units.

Dr. John Robb, 422/D spoke about the POW Memorial planned by the 106th Infantry Division Association at Andersonville. Doc also read the poem *In Flander's Field*. Ed Huminski read us a poem on the war. Many door prizes were given as a 50/50 was drawn.

Those attending:

Men l/r: Francis Langham 44/L; Al Yelochan 422/HQ; Ed Huminski 424/F; Frank Lapato 422/HQ; Jim Wiggins 331 Med; Bob Mattiko 424/E; Zane Donaldson 590/B; Howard Lowenberg 423/E; Dr. John Robb 422/D; Richard Rigatti 423/B; Pete Yanchik, 423/A and Joe Maloney, (Host) 422/HQ

Ladies l/r: Jean Langham; Dorothy Uhl (guest); Betty Huminski; Dorothy Lowenberg; Janice Donaldson; Diane Yanchik; Marilyn Robb; Pat Rigatti; Vivian Maloney (Hostess) and Calres Rhodes (Guest)

**Keep the Spirit Going
Support your local
MINI-REUNION Meetings**

Mini-Reunions ...



Dallas/Fort Worth, TX - March 13, 2003

Ltc John W. Miller (US Ret) 423/E 1511 Chochise Drive, Arlington, TX 76012 817-274-2773

Our Mini-Reunion held on March 13, 2003 at the Italian Villa restaurant, Arlington Texas

L/R: John W. Miller and Jean Miller; Ted Jones; Hugh Colbert; Dan Rhoades; John and Ruth Morrison; Don Houseman; William and Ruth Yingst. Ted Jones will sponsor the next Mini-Reunion in 2004.



Fort Myers, Florida - April 23, 2003 Special Mini-Micro Reunion

Ray Twardzik, 106 Signal, 5518 Garden Lakes Oak, Bradenton, FL 34203 Phone: 941-756-1440

Held at "Fridays" in Fort Meyers 106th Signal Company vets.

L/R: Dennis O'Brien, Lenny Krenitzky, Ralph Perri and Ray Twardzik. Old buddies together again.

A TRIBUTE to Charles Guggenheim 424/E . . .

Preface: Charles Guggenheim's 424/E death was announced in the Oct-Nov-Dec CUB Magazine. The following pages are a tribute to this great man. A comrade and a great gentleman. We will miss you Charles.

*Story and photos were furnished to me by and are used with the permission of Tim Fisher/Lori Lupinski, Fisher Company . berga@fishercompany.net
J Kline, editor*



Charles Guggenheim 424/E on location in Eastern Germany during the Berga filming.
photo by Grace Guggenheim

CHARLES GUGGENHEIM

Writer/ Director/ Narrator

Charles Guggenheim, a Washington, D.C.-based filmmaker, achieved an international reputation in the area of documentary films. Described by *The Saturday Review's* film critic Hollis Alpert as "probably the most accomplished maker of documentary films in the country," Guggenheim won top awards in every major international film competition.

Producing films for television and theatrical release, Guggenheim received the George Foster Peabody Award in broadcasting, 12 Academy Award nominations, and four Academy Awards. The Venice Film Festival's XI Gold Mercury Award for his *Monument to the Dream* marked the first time in the Festival's history that the award was given to an American.

The first of Guggenheim's four Academy Awards was received for *Nine from Little Rock*, which chronicles the Arkansas school integration crisis and the changes wrought in subsequent years. *RFK Remembered*, a film biography of Robert F. Kennedy that captures the late Senator's life and puts his death into perspective, received the second Academy Award. The third Award went to *The Johnstown Flood*, a film commemorating the 100th

A TRIBUTE to Charles Guggenheim 424/E . . .

anniversary of the famous disaster. Guggenheim's most recent Academy Award was received in 1995 for *A Time For Justice*, the story of the Civil Rights Movement.

Guggenheim was commissioned by three of this country's presidential libraries to produce their films. The film biographies of Presidents John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson and Harry S. Truman are on permanent exhibition in Boston, Massachusetts; Austin, Texas; and Independence, Missouri, respectively.

Recent Guggenheim productions include *Journey to America*, documenting the journey of immigrants to America through Ellis Island between 1890 and 1920, for PBS. *Island of Hope, Island of Tears*, on which *Journey* was based, is on permanent exhibition at Ellis Island in New York City.

Other films include *D-Day Remembered*, an Academy Award nominee in 1995, commemorating the invasion of France by the Allied armies and the liberation of Europe, produced for both PBS and The National D-Day Museum in New Orleans; *Clear Pictures*, a film biography of the American novelist Reynolds Price; the 1996 Academy Award nominee *Shadow of Hate*, a history of intolerance in America; and the 1999 Academy Award nominated film *A Place in the Land*, the story of three seminal American conservationists. Last year, Guggenheim released *The Art of Norton Simon* for the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena and *The First Freedom* for The Freedom Forum in Washington, DC.

Mr. Guggenheim had been a guest lecturer at Harvard's Loeb Fellowship in Advanced Environmental Studies, as well as a fellow at both Harvard and Yale. He was a member of the faculty at Harvard's Salzburg (Austria) Seminar in American Studies and received honorary doctorate degrees from Washington University in St. Louis and The American University in Washington, D.C. He was a trustee of the Danforth Foundation and the White House Historical Association, and was president of the Foundation for the National Archives.

GRACE GUGGENHEIM

Producer

Grace Guggenheim has been a producer and executive producer with Guggenheim Productions, Inc. for the past 17 years. Ms. Guggenheim has produced over 20 documentaries for both television and theatrical release. Many of these films are in permanent exhibition at museums around the country and have involved intensive archival research utilizing both private and public resources throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Her credits include: producer of *Harry S. Truman 1884-1972*, a film biography of President Truman which shows at the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library in Independence, Missouri; executive producer of the Academy Award nominated *A Place in the Land*, for the Woodstock Foundation in Vermont; executive producer of the Academy Award Nominated *D-Day Remembered*, for the National D-Day Museum in New Orleans and PBS; and senior producer of *The Johnstown Flood* (1989 Academy Award for Best Documentary), which was also broadcast on *The American Experience*.

Other credits include *Clear Pictures*, a biography of the novelist Reynolds Price; *LBJ: A Remembrance*, the story of Lyndon Johnson; and *A Life: The Story of Lady Bird Johnson*, a film biography on the former first lady.

A TRIBUTE to Charles Guggenheim 424/E . . .

STEPHEN SEGALLER

Executive Producer for Thirteen/WNET New York

Director of News and Public Affairs, Thirteen/WNET

Stephen Segaller is an author and producer specializing in journalism, media and technology. At Thirteen/WNET New York, he is responsible for overseeing and developing all the news and public affairs output of the station, including weekly news magazines such as *Religion and Ethics Newsweekly*; documentary series such as *Local News*, *Allies at War*, *Red Gold: The Epic Story of Blood*, and *United Nations: Center of the Storm*; the continuing output of *Fred Friendly Seminars*; and documentary specials such as multiple award-winning *Srebrenica – A Cry From The Grave* and *Sound and Fury*. In July 2002, he launched the primetime international documentary series, *Wide Angle*.

Prior to his arrival at Thirteen, Mr. Segaller was director of national and international production for Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB), where he produced *Nerds 2.0.1*, *A Brief History of the Internet*, and two other series featuring writer Bob Cringely: *Triumph of the Nerds* and *Plane Crazy*. For OPB, Mr. Segaller also served as executive producer of *Eyewitness*, *Running Out of Time*, *A Question of Genes*, and *The Machines That Won the War*.

Mr. Segaller has spent over 20 years as a television producer working chiefly in journalism, current affairs and documentaries. His work in England includes current affairs television for London Weekend Television and Granada Television, and numerous documentaries and series for Channel 4. In 1992 he was awarded the prestigious William Benton fellowship in Broadcast Journalism, and spent an academic year at the University of Chicago, graduating with a Master's Degree in international relations.

His U.S. public television credits include the 1996 Emmy-winning documentary *Return to the Lion's Den: Terry Anderson Returns to Lebanon*; *Triumph of the Nerds*, for which he served as series producer; *Rain of Ruin: The Bombing of Nagasaki*; and episodes of the 1992 series *Columbus and the Age of Discovery*. In 2000, *Srebrenica – A Cry From The Grave* won the Rockie Award for Best History or Biography Program, Grand Prize at the Banff Television Festival, and the Amnesty International Media Award for television documentary.

He is the author of three books: *Invisible Armies: Terrorism into the 1990s* (London, 1986) – described by one reviewer as “the most authoritative study of its kind”; *Wisdom of the Dream: The World of C.G. Jung* (London and Boston, 1989; republished New York, 2000); and *Nerds 2.0.1: A Brief History of the Internet* (New York, 1998). The latter was republished in an updated edition in 1999, and was described by Thomas Friedman of *The New York Times* as “the best book in its field.”

He is a member of the Radio & Television News Directors' Association, BAFTA East Coast (board member), the New York and U.S.A. Triathlon Associations and The Groucho Club.

Book Excerpt

In April 2001, then New York Times Berlin correspondent Roger Cohen visited the eastern German location where filming of Charles Guggenheim's **BERGA: SOLDIERS OF ANOTHER WAR** was taking place. Cohen, well versed with Holocaust history, was captivated and inspired by this untold story of American GIs taken prisoner during the Battle of the Bulge and then shipped off to a slave labor camp in the small rural town of Berga. He is currently writing the book, "Soldiers of Another War," to be published by Knopf later this year, which will include a chapter on Guggenheim's personal story as it relates to the film. Roger Cohen is currently the foreign editor at The New York Times.

Following is an excerpt:

Before Germany was unified in 1990, the men of Berga, a small town on the Elster River in the eastern part of Germany, worked in nearby uranium mines that provide raw material for the Soviet nuclear industry. The women worked for the textile plant. Three shifts a day kept the people busy around the clock. But both industries, deprived of their markets, collapsed soon after unification, leaving a pall of gloom that the promise of capitalism has scarcely penetrated. The older people here, like these women, lived under a dictatorship, Nazi or Communist, from Hitler's rise to power in 1933 to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. The habits of mind of more than a half-century are not easily overcome.

For four or five old women who gather on a bench in the main square of Berga whenever the sun shines, the story of the town is principally that of the presence of work or its absence. Now many people are idle. But there used to be jobs in town, even before the war, when the textile factory was in private hands and more than 1,000 people worked there. At the time, the textile business belonged to a family named Englander, Jews, the women note in passing – who disappeared from Berga around the time of World War II.

At first Hitler's war consisted principally of the inebriation of victory, but then came the slow encroachment of a defeat never admitted by the Fuhrer. "Victory or Siberia" said some of the last slogans: desperate bravado. It was in this latter phase, in the final spasm of Nazi rule, as things fell apart, that the war visited Berga in a particular way, one that would mark these women who were witnesses.

The first indication of unusual stirrings came with the arrival in the late summer of 1944 of SS administrative staff led by SS Lt. Willy Hack, who requisitioned the central Ratskeller Hotel as headquarters. Engineers, mining experts and land surveyors came to Berga, too, inspecting the hills on the far side of the Elster, their topography, their rock formation, their potential to conceal a production facility in a planned underground complex of tunnels and chambers.

Such a flurry of activity had been unknown in the town before then; naturally it aroused curiosity. But asking questions – the old women sighed – was dangerous. The notorious Buchenwald camp was less than 60 miles away; it was easy enough to end up there. Still, in so intimate a town, it was impossible to overlook the construction of a concentration camp, on the site of part of the textile factory, between the Elster River and its tributary, the Muhlgraben.

The first prisoners arrived in Berga on November 12, 1944, pitiful, emaciated creatures in striped pajama-like uniforms, their faces hollow, eyes haunted, movements halting. Most of them were Jews who had been dispatched from Buchenwald. Still, the appearance of these frail figures, aged between 13 and 60, more dead than alive, was shocking. Some of the prisoners stuck newspapers in their pants to keep warm; others put papers around their necks. As a slave labor force, brought to Berga to dig tunnels into the hills, these men left much to be desired. Still, their number grew to over 1,000 inmates by the end of 1944.



American GIs surrender at
Battle of the Bulge on 17 Dec 1944.
National Archives

In the vast complex of the Nazi camps, the great sprawling labyrinth of detention and death, mayhem and murder, Berga, code name "Schwalbe 5," amounted to a detail. It was dwarfed by the Buchenwald camp alone, which held 84,500 prisoners at its Weimar complex by the fall of 1944. The Berga camp did not appear on most World War II maps, its activities were secret and its existence little known. After the war, Berga was subsumed into the Soviet-controlled part of Germany; nobody asked too many questions about its ephemeral little hell. But the camp lived on in these old women's minds, a discomfiting memory shoved aside, awakened only occasionally, perhaps by a wartime photograph of a lighted swastika in the main square flowing among trees heavy with snow.

A memory, as these women like to describe it now, of helplessness. "*Mann muss mit alles mitmachen*" – "*One must live through everything somehow.*" The prisoners were behind barbed wire, after all, or cordoned off by guards and dogs as they marched. It was impossible to talk to them, let alone help them. When shifts changed they could be seen crossing the Elster, trudging slowly out toward the tunnels being mined in the hills. If ever they passed nearby, the prisoners would put their hands to their mouths, a silent shriek for food. When they could, they would pick from the streets oats intended for the horses, or a discarded piece of potato peel, or an eggshell. Some local women, like Marie Scheffel, would spill buckets of oats as the prisoners passed. But that sort of impetuous gesture – the women shook their heads – could get you in trouble with the authorities.

Throughout the days and nights of that bitter winter, the dynamite charges detonating in the tunnels in the hills could be heard. Hundreds of the prisoners laboring there died – an average of more than two a day – during the brief existence of the Berga camp. The dead, often enough, could be seen as they were trundled on wheelbarrows past the goods station, half covered with pieces of cloth, a frail limb, already stiff, protruding here or there. It was best not to look too closely. War makes you mute in the end.

A TRIBUTE to Charles Guggenheim 424/E . . .

Most of the corpses were dumped in a mass grave in the woods on the other side of town, a place still known as the Jewish cemetery. The old women do not know if all the dead were Jews; the place simply took, and kept, that name. But, when asked, they say they do know that many American GIs were among the imprisoned at Berga and among those who died here.

In fact, Berga's little secret is that it was perhaps the most intense killing field for American prisoners of war in Europe, a place where Jewish American soldiers, and others deemed to resemble Jews, or simply to be "troublemakers," were sent by the Nazis soon after their capture, most of them at the Battle of the Bulge that began on December 16, 1944. Arriving here on February 13, 1945, three months after that first trainload of starving prisoners from Buchenwald, these Americans, too, were worked to death in the last months of World War II.



Some of the American GIs shortly after liberation being treated for starvation and injury in a beer hall in Fuchsmühl, Germany in April 1945 photo. Dr. Walter Hartzell

The Americans — stronger on arrival than the European captives sent from Buchenwald — initially called the pajama-clad, concentration camp prisoners they saw "zombies," as they were so disembodied, unseeing and skeletal. But the GIs, too, quickly learned the inexorable arithmetic of Nazi "*Vernichtung durch Arbeit*" — "*Destruction through work*": when, day after day, the outlay of energy exceeds that consumed, the body wastes away. In the end, survival came down to calories, calories and, of course the mysteries of the mind.

So it was that beside the gently flowing Elster River, as virtually nowhere else in Europe, the fate of captured GIs and persecuted European Jewry intersected, middle America and Mitteleuropa briefly joined in a dance of death. To almost all Americans, the Holocaust was an idea that coalesced after 1945: the immensity of the Nazi crime against European Jewry took form in its full proportions once it was completed. But to a group of 350 American soldiers brought to Berga in Hitler's last months, the crime was an immediate, agonizing reality. Of those 350 men, 70 would die in the space of two months, an attrition rate of 20 percent, one unknown among American prisoners of war elsewhere on the European continent.

Background Feature

In September 2002, Charles Guggenheim shared a copy of his film **BERGA: SOLDIERS OF ANOTHER WAR** with the historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough (*John Adams*, *Truman*, *The Johnstown Flood*). Then the two long-time friends sat down in Guggenheim's home to talk about the veteran filmmaker's most personal project to date. This was Guggenheim's last interview before he passed away one month later.

A TRIBUTE to Charles Guggenheim 424/E...

Following are excerpts from the two-hour conversation:

David McCullough: This has been a long journey for you, longer than most people might imagine. Somewhere along the line something must have just clicked for you, that you had to do this film. How did you get started? When did you go into the army? Let's start there.

Charles E. Guggenheim: I was drafted in the Army in May of 1943. I ended up with 106th Division, 424th Infantry Regiment. Company E, Second Battalion Company.

DM: And then your unit was sent overseas, and you were in the hospital.

CEG: I had an infection in my foot. It turned out to be blood poisoning. So I was delayed, and the delay saved my life, really.

DM: And your life then went on, but somewhere along the line you then got a hint of this story. But that was many years later, yes?

CEG: Actually, when the men were coming back after the war was over, I started to talk to some of my comrades – guys that I had been in the Army with and who I'd been friends with. I said, "What happened to so-and-so?" and they said he died in a German salt mine. I think he was explicit that it was a slave labor situation, but I was not alarmed at that point, because there were so many tragedies involved in that war. That was the first time I had any indication that something was sort of strange.

And then I kept running into articles, little ones in small newspapers, Arizona or Florida someplace. There would be a paragraph about some veteran digging tunnels for the Germans in a slave labor camp, or something like that. Finally I decided to look it up and go further into it.

DM: And where did you find the first real evidence?

CEG: National Archives war crimes file. There was a war crimes trial because an American prisoner had been shot trying to escape. He had obviously been recaptured and shot, and that violated the Geneva Convention.

DM: So when you saw those records at the Archives, you knew something was there, a story that had to be told.

CEG: Then I found books that were written much later, as late as 15 years ago. It was...enough to tell me that the genesis of this story was worth exploring. The majority [of the men] were not Jewish. Eighty out of 350 were Jewish. The Germans figured if his name is Rigerio or Zaccharias...they said that's a strange name it must be a Jew you know.

DM: There must be some part of your recollection of the war that makes you wonder, "Why me? Why was I spared?" Does it occur to you that maybe you were spared to make this film?

CEG: Oh, it goes through your mind, but you want to eliminate it pretty quickly because somehow there's divine providence that says you have an obligation here.

DM: In what way?

CEG: Well, once I talked to these people, I felt I owed them something.

DM: Had they been interviewed before?

CEG: Some of them had, sometimes by the local newspaper, maybe by the Army association.

A TRIBUTE to Charles Guggenheim 424/E . . .

DM: But you must have found that they themselves were recalling things that they hadn't thought of for a very long time. It is an extremely powerful film for anyone who sees it for the first time, and its impact, I think, is in large part because you're dealing with a relatively few people. To comprehend the scale of the larger atrocity of the Holocaust is almost more than anyone is capable of. The numbers are so enormous that it becomes...

CEG: ...incomprehensible.

DM: ...and for any of us who see the film as Americans, to see our own guys in this nightmare strikes home. It strikes the heart in a way that nothing that I've seen quite does. What was it about them that increased your feeling of responsibility that you had to make the film? It certainly wasn't their self-pity, was it?

CEG: No, it never was self-pity. It was never, "Why me?" Never. I think one thing that drew me to the picture was the Holocaust. The Holocaust was so huge, incomprehensible, and when you get things in front of you that are just so large, you're unable to absorb it in any kind of normal way, and you have a tendency to push it aside. This was the first time Americans who spoke like I did, who looked like I did, who grew up in the same country I did, were part of something that I never comprehended as being close to me. And I decided to do a film about this thing that was done to Americans – not only Americans, but American soldiers.

DM: I think that one of the most compelling sides of the film is the seamless way you combined historic, archival material with footage that you shot in Germany in order to evoke the scene. I assume that many of those people who are playing the silent parts as extras are Germans.

CEG: They are.

DM: Now, that must have posed certain problems. Was it as difficult as you expected it to be?

CEG: It was less difficult than I expected it to be for a couple of reasons, which have to do with contemporary history. This is a story that took place in East Germany. East Germany was locked in time for 50 years. When I went to Germany to film in March two years ago, the Berlin Wall had come down [only a few years before]. So these young people had [until recently] been under Russian rule for 50 years. Forty percent of them were unemployed. There was very little future in their lives.

There were some older people in the towns we were working in who would come up and tell me how many American planes they shot down. But the townspeople, generally speaking, were grown people in their middle age, and I realized they hadn't even been born when the war started. So the answer to your question is we had total cooperation.

DM: Just finding the men that you interviewed for the film must have been a task in itself. It wasn't as though they all came to a reunion or something.

CEG: Biggest problem we had – how do you start finding these people? And then you don't know where they live, or whether they're living or dead.

DM: You don't know whether they'll be willing to talk.

CG: Most of them, with mitigating circumstances, did. The thing that saved us was the National Archives, which had a list of everybody who was at Berga at the slave labor camp – some obscure document. And we knew there are still records at the



James Watkins, a Berga survivor, being treated at Fuchsmuhl, Germany shortly after his liberation on April 20, 1945.
National Archives

Veterans Administration. They said, "We'll tell you if they're living, but we won't tell you where they are, because that's a violation of privacy."

So we took a circuitous route – we had help from someone on the Hill who wrote to them to see if they'd be interested in doing this film. We got a pretty good response – 30 or 40 percent said they'd participate. And we had great help from an army captain, Mac O'Quinn, who I'll always be indebted to. He was doing a thesis on this story and he helped us find these people.

DM: There's a point in the film where one of the survivors talks about how painful it is to remember. And then he pauses and says, "But you have to remember." We must remember. You're making it possible for all of us to remember.

CEG: I don't think anybody would doubt it if you say you must remember the Holocaust. But these were Americans, and we can identify with them. They're the people next door. When you hear these men testify, they're not somebody they imported from someplace. I mean they were shopkeepers, one's a doctor, the other one is an architect, another guy is a salesman. So you say, "This could happen any place with a mindset and with a sickness." It comes upon the world every so often.

Tim Fisher /Lori Lupinski
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Kellie Specter
Thirteen/WNET
212 560-3009
specter@thirteen.org

In Memoriam . . .

As reported in the FRONT & CENTER section of this magazine:

In all the years that the CUB has been published the rule for listings of deaths of Association members was that "**Veterans Only have been listed**". It is difficult rule to change, for some of you had requested the listing of your spouse in the past and were refused. Due to the time, general opinion, and overall age of our organization that rule is being relaxed.

Association member's deaths, Veterans always, Non-Veterans by request.

It should be understood that our sympathy always goes out to one of our group including those that are non-veterans.

Antonovich, Jacob B. - 423/H

20406 Sonnet Drive, Sun City West, AZ 85375

Date of death: January 2, 2003. Reported in AX-POW magazine. He is survived by wife Agnes, one son, one brother and three sisters.

Arndt, Kenneth E. - 592/C

318 Mohawk, Janesville, WI 53545

Date of Death: March 13, 3003. Reported by Jack Roberts 592/C. Kenny had been in poor health for some time. Details on his death are sparse. He had six children and his wife preceded him in death.

Bishop, Jesse - 423/G

PO Box 759, Oakwood, GA 30566

Date of death: August 2, 2002. Reported in AX-POW magazine. Was held in Stags 4B and 8A.

Boyd, Thomas - 422/C

1113 Winslow Circle, Longmont, CO 80501-5225

Date of death: February 16, 2003. Thomas was a 2nd Lt. in 422/C. His death reported by Robert O'Neill, 2nd Platoon Leader 422/G

Cemer, Samuel - 424/D

225 N Valleyview Dr #77, St George, UT 84770

Died September 8, 2002

Falkenheiner, William C. - 422/M

408 Georgia St, Vidalia, LA 71373

Date of death: December 7, 2002. Wife Dorothy wrote, "He was a 1st Lt. Mortar Platoon leader. He was held as a German POW. He would have been 79 years of age on January 3. He was retired State District Judge. He wrote an interesting account of his wartime experiences. If anyone is interested I would be happy to share."

Freedman, Elizabeth (Betty)

115 Harness Trail, Roswell, GA 15202

Wife of Henry (Hank) 422/HQ passed away January 6, 2003. Betty and Hankl were members of the North Central Georgia chapter of AX-POW. She leaves two sons and four granddaughters.

Rest In Peace

Gilliland, Lee - Auxiliary

140 Nancy Street, Boaz, AL 35957

Wife of John Gilliland, 592/SV - Past-President, *Order of the Golden Lion*, Officer's Class (1994). Lee died April 28, 2003 of a heart failure. She was holder of the *Order of the Golden Lion*, Companion Class (1994). She and John hosted the 1987 Reunion at Mobile, Alabama along with the Bridges and Masseys and the Huntsville, Alabama Reunion in 1991. John and Lee were regular attenders of the 106th reunions. She will be missed by all.

Harris, William B. 423/SV

409 Sunset Road, West Reading, PA 19611

Date of Death: April 13, 2003. Reported by John Gallagher. William, born August 7, 1924. Died in his home. Survived by Lillian (Workman) Harris his wife, two sons Bruce, Farmington Hills and James B. Chambersburg. Four sisters and five grandchildren. He was employed from 1946 to 1952 as a clerk by Texas Machine Works, Wyomissing and last as production scheduler Continental Can Company, Reading. a 1942 graduate of West Reading High School

Hoffmaster, Wendell "Windy" 423/D

West 12654 Pleasantview Rd, Lodi, WI 53555

Died March 3, 2003. Reported by Joe Schiro son of Frank 424/E. Windy died peacefully. He was born September 23, 1923 in Belleville, Wisconsin. He was active in all sports. Taken prisoner during The battle of the Bulge he kept a journal of daily activities and food rations. His journal was written on the back of German "accounting" papers. He attended Platteville State College after the war, still active in sports. He went into business with his parents and brother in 1952 and helped run the National Hotel in Mount Horeb for 16 years, later he and his brother built the W&W Bar at the old feed mill site. A members of many clubs, Masonic Lodge, Nomads, Madison Zor, VFW, AX-POW, American legion and AARP.

He is survived by a daughter Tina, a son Tim, and a host of grandchildren.

Kloberdanz, George D. 424/E

1022 Denver Street, Waterloo, IA 50702

Date of Death: 02-27-2003 Reported by Eileen Mary Kloberdanz Wier, the daughter of George & Luella. George Donald Kloberdanz was born Jan. 5, 1924, in Osage, Iowa, son of German parents, Joseph M. and Katharina Frank Kloberdanz, who emigrated from Rothammel, Russia. He married Luella M. Marley in 1941, at St. Peter Catholic Church in New Haven, Iowa. He worked for Rath Meat Packing Co. in Waterloo for 43 years as a foreman and later as a security guard, retiring in 1985.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and fought with the 106th Infantry in the Battle of the Bulge at age 20. George, a cook, had a cake in the oven when the three German armies launched a surprise attack.

Survivors include: his wife; two sons, Gary (Lynn) of Waterloo and Gregg (Jeanne) of Jesup; nine daughters, Eileen (Joe) Wier, Connie (Tom) O'Rourke, Joann (Dan) Woodley, Debra (Mike) O'Neil, Diana Kloberdanz, Barbara (Dan), Vicki (Rod) Hemsath and Lisa (Van) Blair, all of Waterloo, and Jane (Jon) Shirk of Warrens, Wisconsin; 20 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Magdalene Wagner of Osage, Iowa.

Rosalia, John 423/C

632 Grant Avenue, Baldwin, NY 11510

Date of death: April 22, 2003. Ed Goldberg, 423/C reported the death of John on April 23. No other details have been reported other than the funeral Mass was held April 25.

Rutland, Mattie Auxiliary,

6632 Arcadia Woods Rd, Colimbia, SC 29206

Wife of Roger Rutland 424/B, Past-President, *Order of the Golden Lion*, Officer's Class (1994) passed away March 7, 2003. She was holder of the *Order of the Golden Lion*, Companion Class (1994) and a constant attender of the 106th Annual Reunions along with her husband. The Rutlands had been married 60 years. She is survived by Roger, Chief Warrant Officer Third Class (Ret), two daughters six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Roger and Lee hosted the Fort Jackson Reunion in 1986 along with the Terrio family and the 1993 Fort Jackson Reunion in 1993.

The veterans of "B" Company, 424th Combat Infantry Regiment sent their condolences along with with a generous donation for the Andersonville Memorial.

Shirk Walter E. 424/M

1093 Alleghenyville Rd, Mohton, PA 18540

Date of death: January 29, 2003 Preceded by his wife Mary in 1991.
Internment: Allegheny Union Cemetery.

He retired as a hydraulic assembler Parish Structural Products Division of Dana Corp, Reading, PA in 1968. He held various offices in Alleghenyville Grange 2065. Survived by a son Dale, two brothers and a sister.. He was a regular "attender" of the 106th Memorial Dinners.

Tomilson, Ryan 423/HQ 2Bn

1718 Madison Rd, Columbia, SC 29204

Date of Death: January 23, 2003. Born in Olanta, he was the son of the late Eugene Irby and Lucille Tomlison. A graduate of The Citadel, class of 1942 and served as an officer. He retired as assistant to the South Carolina Commissioner of Insurance. Surviving are his widow Elizabeth, Randy Tomilson of Atlanta and Finklea Tomilson of Columbia, Grandchildren, Harry Tomilson Jr. Joe and Ashley Sprott; nieces and nephews.

Varhola, Steve 424/D

6650 Royal Palm Blvd #311C, Margate, FL 33068

Died March 25, 2003, reported by Marion Ray 424/D. Survived by widow Irene. Steve was retired from White Motor Company, Cleveland, Ohio



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