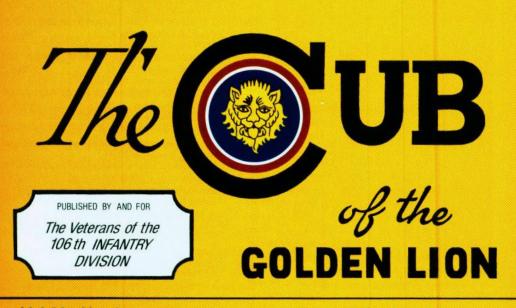
THE ARDENNES * THE RHINELAND * CENTRAL EUROPE



Vol 60 - No. 4

JUL - AUG - SEP 2004



Baraque de Fraiture, Belgium May 14 Parker's Crossroads Return to the Battleground - 2004 L/R John Schaffner, 589/A; Florent Lambert, Belgium; John Gatens 589/A; Barney Alford 589/A; Gilbert Sion, Belgium photo by Dave Ford, 106th Associate member and traveling companion

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

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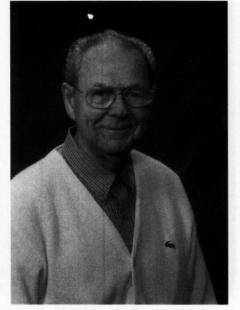
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Newton Weiss (423/HQ 3Bn) (2008) 400 Morse Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ 08027-1066 856-423-3511 newtruth@worldnet.att.net

President's View ...

This is the final column I will be writing as president of the 106th Infantry Division Association. To say I was proud to serve this great organization would be putting it mildly. It was a rewarding position to hold. It gave me the opportunity to become personally acquainted with many of you which perhaps would not have happened otherwise.

As we celebrate our 58th annual reunion in 2004 the year itself highlights what happened just a short 60 years ago when we gallantly fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Most all of us came from a generation that was born during the Roaring Twenties, survived the Great Depression, and came of age while the world was at war. We served out country without hesitation, going off to fight in unknown lands against a battlehardened enemy. At times it appeared in our own minds that we might not win this fight. However, for the time we spent on the front lines facing these odds we persevered in our



John M. Roberts, President 2003-2004 106th Infantry Division Association "C" Battery, 592nd Field Artillery Battalion 1059 Alter Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 Phone: 248-338-2667 Email: jmr810@aol.com

own individual way, as well as collectively, we helped turn the tide of the war in Europe. Ultimately our efforts helped lead to an Allied victory over fascism.

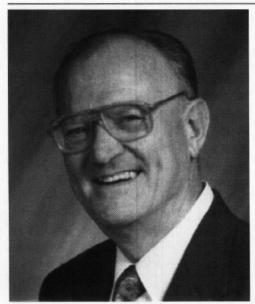
Then after we fulfilled our duties, those of us who were survivors, came home to help build America and rebuild the world. We - like the rest of the men and women who were in the service did this quietly without any bravado and without once asking for recognition. Now, 60 years later that recognition was finally given to all veterans of that Great War with the Dedication of the WW-II Memorial in Washington, DC.

We can all be proud and gratified for the job we did as a member of the 106th Infantry Division. The historians will some day laud the efforts and accomplishments of that young new green Division as it upset the German's timetable and made it possible for reinforcements to arrive to stop the enemy's offensive. I salute you and the other 16,000,000 veterans of WW II for making it possible for me and all Americans to live in a free world.

Thank all of you for you confidence when electing me to this office. Our incoming president, Walter Bridges, will serve the Association with honor and distinction. We have a great number of well qualified men in key positions to continue serving this great organization for many years to come.

May God Bless You and May God Bless America!

Chaplain's Message . . .



Chaplain Dr. Duncan Trueman, 424/AT 29 Overhill Lane, Warwick NY 10990 TEL/FAX: 845-986-6376 dttrueman@yahoo.com

Author Gerald F. Linderman, in "*The World Within War*" speaks of what he calls the "wine-of-danger emotion."

This expression he uses to describe the combat soldier's heightened sense of excitement and intensity experienced during battle... or... "the attraction in risking all."

He compares it to "gambling with luck, facing God, taking a dare from the universe." Or an intensifier, an intoxication, being intensely alive. One person whom he quotes said "Living close to death was heightened living." Correspondent Eric Sevareid once wrote: "There will be many (soldiers) who will remain but half-alive when this war is ended."

Do you find this amazing? I can't remember such feelings, but somehow I can understand them. The dangers soldiers face profoundly alter the priorities of their

daily lives. Danger simplifies living because it renders irrelevant so many commonplace and burdensome concerns. All that is important in battle is whether that enemy machine gun can cover this corner of the woods, or whether that barn ahead is empty or filled with foe, or what lays around the next corner of the road. Simple and basic questions!

Moral values are also changed. Material things are devalued. Ernie Pyle wrote that "the very simple, uncomplicated life of the battlefield is devoid of all jealousy and meanness that floats around back at headquarters." And Bill Mauldin emphasized "how little bickering and jealousy exists in combat outfits."

I think the country longs for the spirit of the men of combat - a spirit motivated by bravery, honor, compassion and sacrifice..... with the absence of pettiness, envy, jealousy and falsehood.

Soldiers, their senses sharpened by danger, look about them with new eyes. Ernie Pyle again wrote: "There is a intoxication about battle and ordinary men can sometimes soar clear out of themselves on the "wine-of-danger emotion."

So it is as Isaiah predicted. Those simple things in life like bravery, honor, compassion and sacrifice are the very things that open our eyes and our understanding to the good priorities of God - and make them our own priorities.... a new wine as exciting and intoxicating in peace as in war.

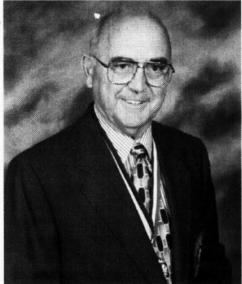
Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes: lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts... - Isaiah 6:10

Here I am late again. I know that many of you have said, "Not to worry." Well I have taken your word. I have had a Summer of mixed emotions and delightful times. We have a daughter-in-law that has had serious health problems. Then on the other hand I decided that I was going to enjoy a Summer of golf, while I can still do it. That and the unusual Summer of yard work has keep me busy. I hope to do better, for you, this Fall and Winter. I hope you have had a delightful year so far.

The 58th Annual reunion crept up on me a little faster than I had planned. I had a scheduling problem on "The CUB" and couldn't get it to the print shop before I left for the Reunion September 1-5, 2004.

Association President, John Roberts, his Officers and the Armed Forces Reunions staff did an excellent job organizing the 58th Annual Reunion. Now it is past history and I will make a complete report in the Oct-Nov-Dec issue of the CUB Magazine.

Our "new" President, Walter Bridges, 424/D and his officers are already planning the "Year



Editor, John Kline, 423/M 11 Harold Drive Burnsville, MN 55337-2786 Tele: 952-890-3155 Fax: 952-426-1131 Web site: http://www.mm.com\user\jpk Email: jpk@mm.com

2005" Reunion in New Orleans. More on that as time progresses.

We have had several new members join. We would like to welcome them (see the "**New Member Section**"). We also have a good "backup list" of "prospective" members that are being contacted. Most of the activity on "**New Members and Prospects**" are coming from ads that Adjutant Marion Ray (424/D) has placed in various National Service Organization magazines, and from my website on the Internet. http://www.mm.com/user/jpk

Unfortunately we have had many of our good buddies show up in the "**Memorial Section**." Considering that is has been "60 years" since the "**Battle of the Bulge**" that is not unusual., but it is still sad to see them appear there. Those of us surviving should be thankful we are still in there fighting. Our condolences go to the surviving families. Bless you all.

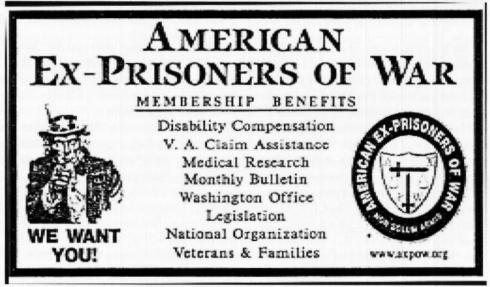
Thank you all for the support, and help, you have given me through my years (since 1987) as an officer and editor of The CUB quarterly magazine. There is a lot of material in this CUB. Thanks to Past-President John Schaffner and the 589th group, that went overseas this Summer, for an excellent report on their activities during that trip. You will see "Part I" in this CUB, with "Part II" to be published in the Oct-Nov-Dec CUB magazine . John Kline, Editor.

09/11/2004
699
587
1,286
158
140
298
14

GRAND TOTAL

1,598

Don	ations since April-May-June 2	004 Cub Your generosity is appr	eciated	
In Memory of Sherod Collins		Donations – General, Continued		
Starmack, John	25	Grossman, Irving	2	
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Andersonville Memorial		Kingery, Hugh Colbert	10	
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		Leonard, James C.	5	
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Brislin, Joseph P.	5	Richie, Leonard F.	15	
Britton, Rosemary	5	Rinkema, George J.	10	
Cormier, Clarence J. 8		Roach, Mildred E. 1	0	
Cosby, Carl H.	5	Rosenberg, Herbert A.	10	
Emmert, Phyllis M.	25			
Gallagher, John I.	10	Russo, Rudolph	5	
Gottshall, Edwin A.	5	Stein, Murray	10	



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3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010 Fone: (817) 649-2979 Fax: (817) 649-0109 email: axpow@sbcglobal.net

Special NOTICE 106th PX has been discontinued

John Gilliland PX Manager, announced that the PX is closed. He said that some items may be ordered from:

Leslie L. Brown, 4132 E 36th Place, Tulsa, OK 75135 Phone: 918-742-7133

Such items as Bolo Ties, Silver & Black; Gold and Black; with Gold and Black rope at \$19.50 each delivered. Leslie also has Miniature and Regulation Medals. Leslie is a Ex-POW having fought in the South Pacific War.

For those with Internet capability I found a manufacturer that Gilliland mentions: Hoover's Manufacturing Company, 4133 Progress Boulevard, PO Box 547 Peru. IL 61354. Phone 815-223-1159. I searched the Web: They have a website at www.hmchonors.com an impressive list of WWII medals and other items that would be called "PX Items." Their website lists this: YOUR NUMBER ONE SOURCE FOR MILITARY PINS, BELT BUCKLES, AND HATS SINCE 1963. Order Toll Free 888-223-1159 Hours Mon. through Friday am to 4:30 pm CST. Also: Medals of America 800-308-0849 www.usmedals.com

Medals of America, 800-308-0849, www.usmedals.com and H.J.Saunders, 800-442-3133, www.SaundersInsignia.com **Ralph Wyss, 424/L**

Heads UP

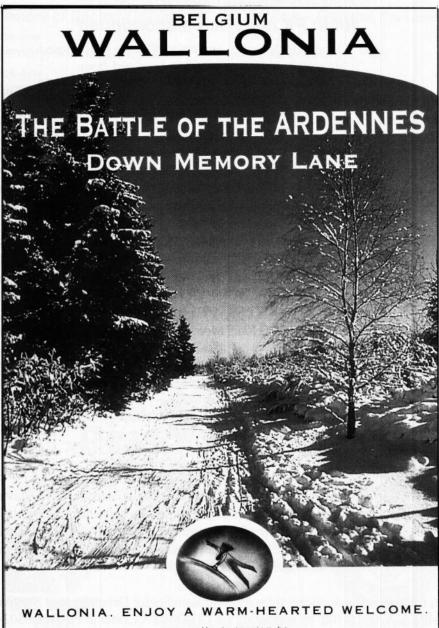
If you are 100% - Listen Up ...

The spouse and children of a veteran who has been adjudicated by VA as having a total disability, permanent in nature, resulting from service connected disabilities may be eligible for medical benefits under the Department of Veterans Affairs program commonly referred to as CHAMPVA (Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans affairs).

You may obtain an application for Medical Benefits for Dependents or Survivors - CHAMPVA, VAF 10-10d by contacting the CHAMPVA Center at PO Box 65024, Denver, CO 80206-5024 or by telephone (toll free) at 1-800-733-8373.

This could save you thousands of dollars in Drug and Secondary Insurance premiums. Prescribed Drugs come by mail - regular as clock work.

Check it out - you may want to drop your spouse's supplemental Hospital Policy, when she is covered by CHAMPVA. That is a decision you have to make.



www.wallonia-tourism.be

Thanks to André Hubert, Past-President (Président d´honneur) C.R.I.B.A. "Center for the Research and Information - Battle of the Bulge" for informing us of this great booklet.

44 pages - 5.5 x 8 inches with descriptions of the battle and colorful maps of the monuments (over 50 locations - in Belgium) is available here in the U.S.
 Contact the "Belgian Tourist Office"
 220 East 42nd Street. Room 3402, New York, NY 10017

Telephone 1-212-758-8130 www.visitbelgium.com email: info@visitbelgium.com

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

Editor's Note:

We have over the years listed books in "The CUB" as a service to our 106th Infantry Division authors, as well as to other persons with a story to tell about World War II. Especially about "*The Battle of the Bulge*."

Our representation of "any book" in The CUB Magazine does not express acceptance of or an official opinion by the "106th Infantry Division Association, or it's officers or Board of Directors or Editor." It's up to you to judge for yourself whether to purchase or not purchase.

ESCAPE ! ! !

The True Story of a World War II P.O.W. The Germans Couldn't Hold

Association Past- president John M. "Jack" Roberts, "C" Battery, 592nd Field Artillery Battalion, recently published a book about his experiences during the "*Battle of the Bulge*" in December 1944 where he was ambushed and captured by the Germans. The book, 237 pages, with a colorful cover, gives a detailed account of his harrowing experiences telling how he was able to escape his German captors, while behind enemy lines, before reaching a POW compound. Early chapters in the book gives the reader an overview of his youth, including his military training leading up to his capture. The book then concludes with his adjustment to civilian life with it's rewards after discharge from the Army.

John M "Jack" Roberts, 1059 Alter Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304. email: jmr810@aol.com Telephone: 1-248-338-2667 Price: \$27.95 includes shipping and handling. Payable to John M. Roberts

HINDER FORWARD (HINDER = CODENAME ON FRONT LINE)

456 pages \$50.00 + \$6 shipping

Author Dean F. Jewett 168th Combat Engineers, PO Box 148, Saco ME 04072 Author made two trips to St. Vith, Rhine River, Armor School Library, Military History Institute, plus personal information from 168th Combat Veterans

168th Combat Engineer Battalion, was attached to the 106th Inf Division at St. Vith. Their three line companies were defending the Prumerberg. A battalion of 600 men suffered 335 casualties, 33 KIA, the others wounded, POWs or MIA. The 168th is credited with Normandy Invasion, Northern France, Rhineland, assault crossing of the Rhine River, Central Europe. Ending up near Czechoslovakia.

A TEENS WAR ... TRAINING, COMBAT, CAPTURE

Author: Hal Taylor, 423/CN 2172 Rockridge Dr. Grand Junction, CO 81503 970-245-7807 <u>email: hal1271@bresnan.net</u>

Available <u>http://www.1stbooks.com</u> as a hard copy or electronic transfer. It's also available from most bookstores using ISBN numbers 1-58500-491-X (soft cover) or 1-4107-0632-X (hard cover). Prices vary depending on the source. Check your source for the current price. Generally \$4.50 electronic transfer; Soft cover \$10.50 and Hard cover \$20.00.

A Teen's War describes the experiences of a small town boy in the latter stages of World War II. Portions originated from letters written home about induction, training, and time overseas with the 423rd Regiment of the 106th Infantry Division and that unit's short period of combat in the Battle of the Bulge.

The story is unique compared to most war books, for it contains none of the pedantic pretenses of most military histories, filled with strategy or the so-called 'Big Picture.' Instead, *A Teen's War* tells how a young, private soldier became aware of reality and the world around him despite his limited view.

All readers who have ever heard the words, 'missing in action,' will find this book interesting. Readers who were prisoners of war themselves, particularly of the Germans, will recall those hellish times and understand that recollection enables one to live and to cope with the realities of today.

MEMORIES OF A TOUR OF DUTY WWII IN EUROPE

Author: Earl S. Parker 423/E

1st Books Library, 1663 Liberty Drive, Suite 200 Bloomington, IN 47403 Tel: 1-888-280-7715 <u>www.1stbooks.com</u>

ISBN: 0-75966-530-3

100 Pages \$9.95

Any book store can order the book by Title, Author or ISBN Number

Here is the story of a young draftee in World War II who experienced life in the Armored Force, the Army Air Force pilot training program and the reality of combat in an Infantry Division. On line with the 106th in a quiet sector of the Ardennes, these foot soldiers were in the direct path of the massive German offensive that became known as *The Battle of the Bulge*. Overwhelmed by the sheer might of numbers and firepower arrayed against them, they managed to upset the enemy timetable until forced to surrender on the fourth day of what has been called the greatest battle of the war in terms of men and machines. This book is about an individual and his experiences under fire and as a prisoner of war; liberation by the Russian Army and his adventures on a hike across country to rejoin the American Army. Here, an attempt has been made to create the feeling of the times in addition to the problems of the moment. It is a book about real people in a tragic period of history.

Helen von Erck's THE WARMTH OF A SONG

A Love Story About Freedom Set During The Battle of the Bulge - World War II

Check your local stores and the Internet for prices.

Available at www.barnesandnoble.com and www.amazon.com Her book is also available on her website wwwwarmthofasong.com

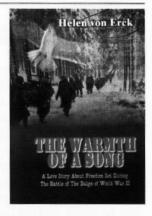
ISBN: 1-4017-9656-6 (Soft Cover) ISBN 1-407-9655-8 (Hard Cover)

Almost as if torn from today's headlines comes the riveting story of patriotism and courage, love and comradeship, as told in The Warmth of a Song. Set against WWII's The Battle of the Bulge, this adventurous tale is inspired by actual eye-witness accounts. As Hawk Clarke fights for God and country, when the platoon he leads narrowly escapes from the German Panzer battalion that has them surrounded, he also learns the greatest freedom of all -the courage it takes to free the human spirit. Returning to Boston after a sniper's bullet penetrated his spine, Hawk mourns the loss of his once strong legs. Can he break free from the cage he feels his life has become in time to help an old woman release a miracle?

Helen von Erck lives in Atlanta, Georgia (helenve@cs.com) with her daughter, Hayley. While growing up in South County, Rhode Island, she began cultivating a lifelong fascination with history. She has turned that interest into a passion, and has conducted in-depth research into the life and times of the 1940's and World War II. She attended the University of Rhode Island and the University of Denver where she studied Business Management with a minor in Creative Writing. As a child, Helen started cultivating her storyteller skills, while she entertained the other kids on the playground with her stories. She later began her professional writing career as a restaurant reviewer writing for an entertainment newspaper in New Hampshire. This is her debut novel. warmthofasong@yahoo.com.



Stalag 9-A Zeigenhain, Germany. These German soldiers were your hosts in 1945.



The CUB of the Golden Lion

SOLDIER BOY

A Chronicle of Life and Death and Survival During World War II By George K. Zak, 422/M

This book is available from the author for \$13.00 (includes shipping cost). 6159 Brookside Lane, Apt A, Willowbrook, IL 60527. Copies are also available from <u>Amazon.com</u> for \$10.95 plus S & H.

This is a fascinating, eloquent account of a 19year old trying to grow to manhood in the middle of a deadly world war. After briefly describing his rigorous training as an infantry soldier, including some semi-comic events while learning to drive a jeep, he and his buddies were finally off to war as well-trained, confident members of the 106" Infantry Division.

Shortly after arriving at the battle front in December, 1944 during a bone-chilling, bitter cold winter, the majority of the Division was surrounded and finally overwhelmed in a bloody battle by a much larger, more powerful German force. This was part of a massive surprise attack marking the beginning of the *Battle of the Bulge*.



Thousands of young soldiers, including Zak, were forced to surrender.

The rest of the book describes his life in three different camps as a prisoner of war. He gives a gripping account of the fear, the misery and the many dangers he often faced. As a prisoner he escaped death from bombs, machine gun fire, and a German guard's rifle bullet shot at him. He was hungry all the time, always under guard and powerless, and unsure of his ultimate fate. And he mourned the death of many of his fellow soldiers during the battle, some at his side. And he constantly worried whether his parents knew if he was alive or dead. Zak ends the book with his description of the arrival of the Russian army and the surprising and disappointing beginning of the Cold War with the Russians. A well-told, remarkable story.



591st FAB, on line Dec '44 - supporting the 424th Infantry Regiment.

Listen UP, You ex-POWs and COMBAT Vets This is for you.

I am repeating this because it could be of importance to you and your family.

There are new regulations pertaining to benefits available to former Prisoners of War. I know there are some of you ex-POWs who, for one reason or another - have not taken benefit of the existing programs furnished by the VA System. Forget your beefs and complaints about the VA system. I know for a fact that the VA system is working, and it will work for you, whether you were fortunate enough not to be captured or fall into the Ex-POW classification.

The modern VA System has a new awareness of the injuries and types of disabilities suffered by **ALL combat veterans.** You owe it to yourself and your loved ones to take advantage of the existing services. If you have any doubts about it - give me a call.

My email address, my home address and telephone number are listed under my photo in this FRONT & CENTER Section. I am not authorized by the VA, I can only give you my personal experiences with the VA.

The following reading was taken from VA literature that was at my disposal. So read the following and get with it.

Get in touch with POW Coordinator in the nearest VA facility nearest you, OR get in touch with one of the Service Organizations, like the DAV, or whatever National Service Organization you belong to.

John Kline Editor, The CUB

From VA Literature

Who are former prisoners of war?

Since World War I, more than 142,000 Americans, including 85 women, have been captured and interned as POWs Not included in this figure are nearly 93,000 Americans who were lost or never recovered. Only one third of America's former POWs since World War I are still living (about 36,500). More than 90% of living former POWs were captured and interned during World War II. Over 21,000 former POWs are in receipt of compensation for service-connected injuries, diseases, or illnesses.

In 1981, Congress passed Public Law 97-37 entitled "Former Prisoners of War Benefit Act." This law accomplished several things. It established an Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War and mandated medical and dental care. It also identified certain diagnoses as presumptive service connected conditions for former POWs. Subsequent public laws and policy decisions by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs have added additional diagnoses to the list of presumptive conditions.

What are the presumptive conditions for former POWs?

Today, former POWs are generally entitled to a presumption of service-connection for five diseases, regardless of the length of captivity, if manifested to a degree of 10 percent or more after discharge or release from active military, naval or air service. These diseases are:

Psychosis - Any of the Anxiety States; Dysthymic disorder, or depressive neurosis; Cold Injury; Post-traumatic osteoarthritis

If a former POW was interned for 30 days or more, the following additional diseases are presumed to be service-connected;

Avitaminosis; Beriberi; Chronic Dysentery; Cirrhosis of the Liver; Helminthiasis; Irritable Bowel Syndrome; Malnutrition, including associated Optic Atrophy; Pellagra and any other nutritional deficiency; Peptic Ulcer Disease; Peripheral Neuropathy, except where directly related to infectious causes; Ischemic Heart Disease*

* Ischemic Heart Disease (coronary artery disease), applies to former POWs who suffered from edema (swelling of the legs or feet) during captivity, also known as "wet" beriberi.

How should a former POW apply for VA Compensation?

Former POWs can apply for Compensation for their service-connected injuries, diseases or illnesses by completing VA Form 21-526 (Veterans Application for Compensation or Pension), and submitting it to the VA regional office serving them.

They can also apply on the Internet at <u>http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp</u>

Are there medical benefits for POWs?

The VA health care system affords priority treatment for former POWs. Those who have a service connected disability are eligible for VA health care. This includes hospital, nursing home, and outpatient treatment. Former POWs who do not have a service-connected disability are eligible for VA hospital and nursing home care - without regard to their ability to pay. They are also eligible for outpatient care on a priority basis - second only to veterans with service-connected disabilities. While former POWs are receiving treatment in an approved outpatient treatment program, they are eligible for needed medicines, glasses, hearing aids, or prostheses. They are also eligible for all needed dental care. There is no co-payment requirement for former POWs at VA pharmacies.

Are there benefits for survivors of former POWs?

Yes. The major benefit is Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) which is a monthly benefit payable to the surviving spouse (and the former POW's children and parents in some cases) when the former POW:

- was a service member who died on active duty; or
- died from service-related disabilities; or

• died <u>on or before</u> September 30, 1999 *and* was continuously rated totally disabled for a service connected condition (including individual unemployability) for at least 10 years immediately preceding death; *or*

• died after September 30, 1999, *and* was continuously rated totally disabled for a service connected condition (including individual unemployability) for at least 1 year immediately preceding death.

DIC is terminated for a surviving spouse who remarries, but can be resumed if the remarriage ends in death, divorce or annulment.

Also, a surviving spouse who remarries *on or after* attaining age 57, and *on or after* December 16, 2003, can continue to receive DIC.

However, a surviving spouse who remarried before December 16, 2003, *and on or* after attaining age 57, must apply no later than December 15, 2004, to have DIC restored. VA must deny applications received after that date.

Are there related benefits for former POWs and their dependents/survivors?

The following are other significant VA benefits to which certain veterans may be entitled: disability pension, medical care, education and training, home loan guaranty, and burial benefits.

Certain disabled veterans may be eligible for vocational rehabilitation and employment services, insurance, clothing allowance, special adapted housing assistance, and specially adapted automobile equipment. Certain dependents/ survivors may be entitled to health care, death pension, education and training, home loan guaranty, and burial in a national cemetery.

Contact your VA for more information. Is special assistance available to former POWs?

Each VA Regional Office has a coordinator for former POWs. Any former POW who needs special assistance should ask to speak to the POW Coordinator.

Additional POW information is available at

http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Benefits/POW/index.htm.

FRED BROUSSARD, 423\L VA Claims Volunteer worker

Fred J. Broussard, (former 423/L soldier), 4218 N Murray Avenue, Shorewood Wisconsin 53211-2012 works with the Department of Veteran's Affairs, as a volunteer in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He works with veterans that are seeking help from the VA system. Hopefully we can have a little more information from him for the next CUB. His telephone number is 414-961-0104. Where ever you live he is capable of giving you some good advice about filing claims and getting the proper care under the VA System. Feel free to contact him.

He was present at our 58th annual reunion and would like to hear from any "L" Company, 424th veterans. Fred was appreciative of the time he was given at the Men's Luncheon to say a few words to our comrades about the VA System. He was emphatic about the fact that the system is working and is better than ever.

Those words were to emphasize the importance of using the VA system, of filing claims for disabilities, some of which you may not have realized you have.

The "system" has gotten with it in the years since 1987. The realization of what the Combat Vet and the Ex-Pow Vet have gone through is alive. The VA - regardless of your early "after the war" experiences- is working. It's there for your service.

He says, "Everyone should be enrolled in the VA Hospital Program, even if you have health insurance. If you have had some sad experience in early days after the war - the whole picture has changed dramatically in the new VA System."

The VA is taking care of us. Fred vouches for that, I your editor will vouch for that - as will hundreds of other 106th Infantry Division Association veteran members. Get with it

ABRAHAM, V. CAROL ASSOCIATE

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FORD, JAKE F. ASSOCIATE

4445A SW SEXTON MTN BEAVERTON, OR 97006 Tele: 503-643-0930 Email: jake@easystreet.com

I am the eldest son of Benjamin I. Ford 422/I. My father, Benjamin was born July 21, 1919 in Danville, Indiana, and he died on D-Day in 2004. He was the son of a Methodist minister and grew up in half a dozen cities in Indiana, including Terre Haute, Hammond, Greencastle and Frankfort where we graduated from high school in 1937. He was living in Muncie, Indiana, with his parents in 1942 when he joined the service. After the war, in 1946, he moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana and spent the rest of his life there.

Dad was captured at about 1:00pm on 19 December 1944 and marched to Prüm where he was searched and put into a boxcar. He was held at Stalag IX-B, Bad Orb until January 24th when he was put on a box-car and transferred to Stalag IX-A at Zeigenhain, where he spent the rest of his POW life until liberated on March 30, 1945.

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MARKARIAN, PETER 422/E

3 MAY STREET MILLBURY, MA 01527 Tele: 508-798-2192

Peter gives his Winter address as: 611 E Washington Way, Estero, FL 33928. We were five brothers in WWII and one in the Korean War. All happy to serve and grateful to return safely.

When I joined there were only four soldiers left in "E" Company. The rest were either captured or killed (This was what I was told).

MCWHORTER, WILLIAM A ASSOCIATE 800 NORTH JBJ #514 SAN MARCOS, TX 78666 Tele: 512-970-5637

MITSCH JR., GEORGE J. 424/AT 512LONGLANE

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MOSHER, CARL ASSOCIATE

VAMC SECTION148 A/D HAMPTON, VA 23667 Tele: 757-722-9961 Ext 2323 leave message

My Uncle Michael Mosher was a member of "L" Company, 424th Combat Infantry Regiment. I have done research onmy Uncle Mike Mosher's WWII military carrer and am now hoping to add to my present information through your Association, for our family to have as part of our history.

I would appreciate any help, such as books, articles, anything that would lead to information on him or his unit.

As for myself I was drafted into the

Army for the Korean War. I was sent to Korea prior to the "Truce" after graduating from the Electronic Signal Corps School at Camp Gordon, GA. I have also researched the Korean War in it's entirety. I was assigned to the Eight Army unit at an airstrip (Asian Command) near Inchon, Korea.

OROPELLO, FRANK J 2ND RANGERS

11196 ELMONT RD ASHLAND, VA 23005 Tele: 804-798-3998 Email: oropello@aol.com

During my last two years of high school, I had worked in the coal mines. On Graduation day I moved from my home town of Peckville, Pennsylvania, near Scranton, to Manchester, Connecticut. My first job was in the tobacco fields. I moved on to other places ending up at Colts Patent Firearms and worked on the 30 and 50 caliber machine guns. Uncle Sam called me up and I chose the U. S. Air Force. I was on a train with seventeen hundred other men in the heading for our destination. As we traveled south guys would holler out the different air bases until we got to Columbia S. Carolina. That's when the M P told us we were all going to the 106 Inf. Div. After 12 years of pledging allegiance to the flag in school, it was quite a shock to many guys who were already pilots and those who dreamt of being one.

I became a squad leader and during our training I was made a squad leader. The C.O. called a meeting and announced that and NCO's were to stay as Cadre and the rest were to go overseas as replacements for the 100 Division etc. I was downhearted and told the C.O.. I wanted to go with my men. He told me, "Pete I take my orders from someone above me and so will all of you."

One Sunday about three months later I

was walking the base when I saw a sign on a building. "JOIN THE AIR FORCE" I investigated it and the Air Force recruiting sergeant told me " you take a written test and then a physical. Then you are interviewed by a psychologist". He also said that when my C.O. found out about it I would get grounded and ALL the lousy details. I signed papers, took all tests, did all the details and ten days into a fourteen day maneuver is when I got a letter from the Air Force. I passed all tests and reported to Miami Beach, Florida to the Air Corps base, then I spent one month at Sheppard Field, Texas. The Air Corps published a memo stating that all men from Ground Forces had to return. We shipped out to Camp Beauregarde, Louisiana. We swapped Air Corps clothes for new regular army clothes. After interrogation we were shipped out to different outfits.

I went to Camp Bowie, Texas, the 679th Engr. Topo. Company. A map making outfit.

I was in Supply and was the only physically fit man in the outfit. The sergeant said I was #1 on the list if the Army needed troops. All of the other men in the outfit were older and some had handicaps. However they were all experts in their field.

We went to Alderlly Edge England, near Manchester. The V1 and V2 bombs were falling all over the place. We organized and went to Camp Lucky Strike in France and then were sent to Nancy France in 40 X 8 (40 men or 8 horses) box cars. The French railroad screwed up and sent us to Numur Belgium after the Battle of the Bulge. We had three days rations and were in the boxcars for seven days 32 to 34 men per car with full gear, including rifles. We stopped in farm lands and uncovered frozen vegetables. Several times we had another train stop next to us. We filled our water cans with wine from the open barrels on the cars. Boy did we get drunk. once a train stopped full of oranges with a G. I. guard on top. He fired a

round at one of our men and he fell backwards. The guard told us he had orders to shoot anyone trying to steal oranges. We reached Nancy France and a few days later convoyed into Kaiserslauten, Germany. Later our outfit was attached to General Patch of the 7th Army. We had four platoons : Headquarters, photo mapping, survey, and reproduction.

I was assigned to head quarters and had to rotate with my sergeant to go for supplies needed for map making. The presses were capable of printing 20,000 went to Nuremburg to visit my old buddies. I had a weapons carrier and a driver and my orders were written in English, French, German and Russian to enable me to travel through all the sectors.

I went home in March and was discharged March 29, 1946.

I went to Pennsylvania to see my childhood sweetheart and found out she had died of double pneumonia the day I hit port and was buried three days later. I was a week too late.

I went to work in Connecticut as a maintenance mechanic repairman until 1957. I was recommended by a good friend who worked for Burgomaster, a tool machine builder. They hired me, even though they had to wait six months for me to be available for the job. I worked for them until I retired as a service engineer, then Quality Control Mgr. and Service Manager and also gave maintenance classes for customers purchasing our machines.

I retired in 1985, married in 1985. We courted for eighteen years and have been married for eighteen years. I have to adult sons and 5 grandchildren. My wife has five children, her husband died of cancer at a young age.

For the next ten years I ran my own repair business. In addition to PA and Connecticut I have lived in Chicago, Illinois, Redondo Beach, CA. then Crestline near Lake Arrowhead, CA. Now ten years in Palm Desert, California

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SIEDSCHLIG, ARNOLD C. 423/AT 3219 E EARLL DR PHOENIX, AZ 85018 603-956-0173

I was a replacement to the 106th Infantry just before it shipped out of Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

In Stalag 9-B I shared a bunk with a man from Eirie, Pennsylvania. His name was *Art Helmbrek*. That is all I know of him. We were in touch a short time ago and I got involved with my life and lost contact with him. A while back I found an EX-POW Bulletin at the VA Hospital. It was dated Oct 1. I didn't know such an organization existed. But now with all the the "Commemorations" of WWII, the memories have been awakened.

It is my desire to get in touch with Art. I hoped he might be a member of the 106th Association. Editor's note:

Amold, Art was a member of the "Anti-Tank Company" of the 423rd Combat Infantry Regiment (as you know). I am sending you a list of the current members of that unit, so that you can send them a letter asking if they know of the "whereabouts" of your friend "Art Helmbrek."

Hopefully they will read this and get in touch with you. ZARLENGO, DOMINIC J. 423/I 651 BRUNSWICK PIKE LAMBERTVILLE, NJ 08530-2724 Tele: 609-317-2035

ZORDELL, JACK W. 422/M

One Cuenca Lane Hot Springs Village, AR 71909 501-915-9908

I enlisted in the Signal Corps, June 1943. I was sent to a Radar School in Ashland, Wisconsin. I was then transferred to the U of Wisconsin, Madison. Then that program was killed and I was sent to Ft Benning, then on to the 106th in March 1944 - Drove for Exec Officer in 422/D, then transferred to 422/M as an "ammo bearer." Captured, sent to Stalag 4-B (IV B) worked at a brick factory 3km south of Wittenburg. In April 45 marched back and forth between Russian and American lines and was liberated by the 104th Infantry at Bitterfield.

After discharge graduated BSE (EE) from U of Michigan in 1950. Married 55 years, 4 children (3 boys and a girl). Retired as a PE in December 1992.

Traveled US and canada 1993-2001 in a pick up with a 25 foot fifth wheel for 6-8 months a year. Love Golf, Baseball and Bridge.

Correction to NEW MEMBER Listing in the APR-MAY-JUN 2004 CUB. I listed Walter Phalen as 423/G It should be: 422/G My apologies, Walter.

Here is the correct Listing:

PHELAN, WALTER 422/G

5547 Southwood Memphis, TN 38120-1953 wjphelan@aol.com 901-683-7847

Thanks to Herb Sheaner, 422/G.

Herb, It wasn't Walter that "lost his marbles." You can blame that one on me. John Kline, editor



The travel group prior to departing for the "Battlegound area." L/R Barney Alford, John Gatens, John Schaffner; all 589/A Vets and David Ford, Associate member

RETURN TO THE BATTLEGROUND - 2004 Commentary and story by John Schaffner, 589/A

MAY 12, 2004 WEDNESDAY

We depart Ford's house 12:30 PM taking a Shuttle van to Dulles International Airport.

"I'm traveling with three veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. They are going to the Ardennes to revisit the places they were in action during WW II. Their battalion was wiped out. One was taken prisoner, but the other two escaped to carry on........"

Whatever else Dave Ford told the airline employee, as we waited for our departure time, I don't know. But it surely worked. Only a few moments had elapsed when he beckoned to us to follow. He escorted us to the first-class waiting Lounge and said, "Make yourself comfortable and help yourself at the buffet." He also said, "The first class Section is full on your flight, or I would bump you up, enjoy." Then he disappeared into the maze of the departure area of Dulles International Airport. What a nice treat this was, and it was to be an omen of things to come for the next three weeks. One never

knows what will happen when he travels to Europe with Dave Ford.

Here we are, nearly sixty years later, and motivated to return to the places where we could have very well lost our lives. That is hard to explain, especially to someone else who was there and has the feeling, "I don't care if I *never* see that place again." This makes the fifth return to the battlefield for me. John Gatens has been back six times. This is the first time for Barney Alford, but Dave Ford has visited Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland, and Germany more times than the average tourist, and knows Europe like a tour guide.

MAY 13, 2004 THURSDAY

Arrived Brussels Airport 7:10 AM On our arrival at the Brussels Airport, we met our good friend, Henri Rogister, waiting in the terminal. Henri is a member of the CRIBA organization (Centre de Recherches et d'Informations sur la Bataille des Ardennes) and someone whom we have known long enough to consider "part of the family."

Henri speaks English of course, and has always been helpful to us when we plan our visit(s.)

We picked up our rental car, loaded our baggage, and traveled (with Henri leading the way) to the home of Albert and Annie Fosty at Fleron, near Liege. They were expecting us and it was like coming home, with warm hugs and kisses (three on the cheek) all around. Annie and Renee (Rogister) had a very nice lunch set out for us, and we temporarily forgot about our jet lag. The early afternoon was spent catching up on family matters and personal "stuff." You know how that is.

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From Fleron we drove to the Auberge du Carrefour at Baraque de Fraiture, where we would be staying for the next three nights. Again it was like returning home. We were greeted by Madame Maria LeHaire, former manager of the Auberge, Bernadette and Claude Lejeune-Lengler, current managers, and their Daughter, Esmeralda, future manager of the Auberge. This place has been passed down in the same family since 1880. Since 1944-45 it has also become known as "Parker's Crossroads," named for Major Arthur C. Parker III, who commanded the 589th Field Artillery Battalion there 19-23 Dec. 1944. Gatens, Alford, and I were participants in that event and the local people treat us like it is hard to describe.

After settling in to our accommodations, we again had more people coming in to greet us. The rest of the day was spent circulating, shaking hands, smiling a lot with those who didn't understand English, and absorbing the warmth of their friendship.

Here I should mention that the "Crossroads" is still a busy traffic intersection. Although a modern divided highway parallels the old road, there is a great deal of commercial and auto traffic using these routes to connect the many small villages in the area.



May 13, 2004 L/r John Gatens, Barney Alford and John Schaffner - 589/A vets A warm reception at Marie LeHaire's "Auberge du Carrefour" Look at that delightful cake with American flags. The "sign" apparently one from the "old days."



Three generations of "managers" at the Baraque de Fraiture Restaurant/Hotel "Auberge du Carrefour" Maria LeHaire 1956-1981 Bernadette LeJuene 1981-? and Esmeralda de LeJeune (future manager)

MAY 14, 2004 FRIDAY

Lodge at Baraque de Fraiture I woke about 6 AM, suffering from the time difference, and looked out the window. The weather was foggy with visibility down to about a hundred yards. Except for the warmer weather this is what we remember about December '44 at this place. I almost expected to hear the sound of a tank moving up the road. (Just "almost," I have gotten over that.) The sun soon burned away the fog.

We met with two Belgian gentlemen, Florent Lambert and Gilbert Sion, at the Auberge this morning. They were there to escort us to an area of the battlefield that we were not familiar with. Both are English speaking so we had no language problem. We traveled first to Manhay, then Grand Menil where a German Panther tank sits on a concrete pad, still leaking oil from the engine compartment. Then on to Sadzot, the scene of bitter fighting between the Germans and the 509th PIB and other American troops. We visited Soy where the 3rd AD fought, and Erezee. Here I have to tell you a little bit about our guide, Florent Lambert. Florent is not only a historian about the battle, but he is , also an artist who has illustrated his own books.

His latest one is titled, von Rundstedt in the Vallies of the Ourthe and the Aisne.

Florent has personally erected monuments in the area in several locations. This one at Melines is dedicated to an American G.I., Cpl. John Shields, (23rd AECB) who was killed here. It is massive, made of stone, cement block and slate. It is enhanced with the likeness of John Shields engraved on slate and fronted by a high stone obelisk. (see photo)

It was time for a bit of lunch, so we took advantage of a local place out here in the sticks. The building was a one-time barn, but has been made over into a nice restaurant. After eating, the owner showed us his small collection of Harley-Davidson motorcycles, stored in another barn across the road. The most unlikely places sometimes yield the most unusual things.

We drove on to Hotton and LaRoche, both places of bitter fighting and almost totally demolished during the war. Looking down from the wooded hill on LaRoche, with the Ourthe River slowly flowing through, one would never imagine that this was once not a peaceful place.

Well, today is when we were expected to make a showing at the office of the Bourgmestre of Vielsalm, M. Jacques Gennen.



May 14, 2004: Reception in the office of Jacques Gennen, Bourgmestre of Vielsalm.

We hurried on back to the Auberge and changed into some more decent clothes for the reception. At the Hotel de Ville (City Hall) in Vielsalm we found more old friends and acquaintances and some new faces. (Claude Orban for one, who we will meet again later.) Greetings were made all around, the Mayor gave a nice speech welcoming us as returning veterans, and a toast was made to a peaceful future. We were honored indeed to be the subject of such heartfelt attention. Before the reception ended Bourgmestre Gennen presented each of us with a book that he autographed. The book was written by Maurice DeLaval of St. Vith, now deceased, but a friend of more than one 106th veteran who returned to St. Vith. (We try to not forget that we are receiving this attention on behalf of all those Americans who were here to restore freedom to this country. We are the lucky ones.) Early to bed

MAY 15, 2004 SATURDAY

Over the last several years I had been email corresponding with one of our USAF service men, M/Sgt. David Westhausen, who is stationed at Spangdahlem Air Base, near Bitburg, Germany. Dave is a member of a group of Air Force people who are interested in the history of WW II.

They are situated in an area that gives them easy access to the sites of many *Battle of the Bulge* events. Their group, known as the WW II Society, participates in many of the memorial ceremonies honoring U.S. Army units and individuals who fought in that battle. They are serious history buffs.

Dave, along with a group of his comrades, was to meet us at the Auberge this morning for a discussion, and "walk around," about our experiences here 19-23 Dec 1944.

Unfortunately for the WW II Society, the morning hours were occupied by a TV crew from the Belgian Network. This crew tended to monopolize our time until noon when we were to have lunch with our Air Force friends. Media people always tend to create a problem but we managed to see them off.

After lunch we did get to associate with our American friends. We all loaded into cars and drove to the village of

Poteau to visit the WW II Museum there.

This now peaceful area was once the scene of back and forth fighting involving the 7th AD, The 14th Cav, the 424th I&R, and elements of many other units. After reading accounts of the actions here, it is moving to me to be able to stand in this place with the sun in my face, look around at the peaceful country scene, and try to imagine what went on during those dark days of 16-25 December 1944.

The owners and curators of the museum, Jacqueline & Rob de Ruyter, welcomed us at the door and escorted us through their collection of vehicles, weapons, personal military gear, and other relics. It was a delightful afternoon getting acquainted with our American and Belgian friends. One of the American WW II buffs, Mike Colman (USAF) brought out the remains of a Colt M-1911 Pistol that he recently dug out of the ground in the area that the 106th originally occupied on the Schnee Eifel. Although it was in seriously bad condition, it was easily recognizable.

This was only the first of the official museums that we were to visit and I might mention here that all of the WW II Museums in Belgium are open free to American veterans when they visit. One only needs to say that he was there during the war. No questions are asked.

We returned to the Auberge for dinner to find that we were being honored again with a reception by our Belgian friends, along with the Bourgmestre of Vielsalm, Jacque Gennen, Christian Kraft, current President of CRIBA, Andre Hubert, President Emeritus, and many CRIBA members. After the dinner a toast was proposed with the drink in a small glass boot.

A cake was brought out with small American and Belgian flags in the corners, our names on the icing, and the one word, "Merci." Needless to say that we certainly appreciate the attention. It's like the inscription on the old postcards of years ago,

"Having a great time, wish you were here."

No problem getting to sleep after they all went home.

MAY 16, 2004 SUNDAY

We slept in just a little bit late this morning. I believe that we were finally adjusting to the jet lag condition.After breakfast we met with our friend of many years now, Eddy Monfort, of the village of Malempre. Eddy wanted to accompany us this day and guide us around the places he is most familiar with. Eddy is well known in the CRIBA organization and has published a book on the battles that took place at Baraque de Fraiture, Manhay, and the village of Malempre, his birthplace and current home. It is titled L'Offensive des Ardennes. The book includes memoirs of a few of the soldiers of the 589th FA and others who were there. Unfortunately for us it is printed in French, the local language. We met Eddy about 10 AM and drove off to the town of LaRoche en Ardennes to visit the museum there. We had met the curator, M. Bouillon Gilles, the day before and he graciously invited us to visit his museum for a personalized tour.

This town is situated on the Ourthe River, nestled between high rising hills, and was a strategic site for both sides during the *Battle of the Bulge*. Having and holding the bridge was a dire necessity for both sides. As a result, the town was almost totally demolished by bombing and artillery. It has since been rebuilt in the traditional style, and although modern in the technical sense, it retains its serene "old country" atmosphere.

It is a popular tourist site, complete with a castle from the 9th century, and I

am sure that I could enjoy some relaxing time there. Though one would not suspect at first glance, most of the buildings and houses in these towns are no more than 60 years old, having been rebuilt after the end of the war.

While there, the curator snapped photos of each of us that he intends to display as "*Then and Now*."

Yes, we provided him with copies of "*Then*" photos that we carried with us (not realizing how important they would be.)

Of course, finding that you are "museum material" is like getting kicked in the head. Are we *really* that old?

After leaving LaRoche we drove to Bastogne, the place mentioned in every book that has been published about the



106th Inf Div "Marker" on the Mardosson Monument, Bastogne

Battle of the Bulge. There is a very complete WW II Museum, and an

adjacent Memorial known as the Mardasson. This memorial is a massive, star shaped, open structure, built on a prominent site. It contains the names of all of the United States engraved around the top perimeter, and each of the supporting columns displays the names and insignia of all of the combat units that fought in the *Battle of the Bulge*.

The inner sides of the columns are engraved with the history of the battle. There is a stairway leading to the top where an observer can be acquainted with the various locations of the battle engagements. Any visit to the museums of Belgium should include this one.

From here we drove to the village of Bizory, just a short distance. A *natural* monument exists here to American Veterans. A grove of trees has been planted in the design of the UNICEF logo. Each tree will eventually be dedicated to an American soldier. When a veteran visits this place, a tree will be marked by a post beside the tree, with a plaque containing the veteran's name and unit. Of course, prior notice of the visit must be made. Trees are already marked for several of our 106th vets: Ken Smith, John Swett, John Gatens, Hugh Colbert, me, and probably more that we did not find.

We then drove on to the home of Jean-Francois Noirhomme. JF was expecting us, so he had his latest projects ready to show off. There was a recently acquired Jeep that he located in Sweden, a Kubelwagon that he was currently working on, and many smaller items of battlefield relics laying about. He showed us three 105mm shell casings that he had unearthed at the site of Barney's gun emplacement at Baraque de Fraiture.

What a great surprise it was to see these after almost sixty years. Jean-Francois presented one to Barney for a souvenir. How can you beat that? Yes,

Barney packed it in his luggage and brought it home. (I wonder if his wife is going to look kindly on having that thing sitting around in the living room? He could at least polish it and fill it with flowers.)

Not far is the home of Robert Noirhomme (JF's Dad and Mom.) Robert is a local artist working in several media. We already have several souvenir items, representing the battle that he has presented to us. They welcomed us to their home and set us down to a large helping of Belgian, apple filled, waffles. The Noirhommes have a building on their property dedicated to the storage of their collection of Battle of the Bulge weapons, personal items, uniforms on manikins, and a vast variety of GI and German issue equipment. They have easily enough to stock a respectable size museum. It is their goal to do exactly that, establish a museum. The only piece missing is a building in a logical location that is affordable.

From the Noirhomme's we drove on back to the Val d'Hebron, a very nice Inn and restaurant where we had supper with Eddy Monfort.

We had rooms for the next four nights at the Hotel Waldblick in Bleialf. We also had an appointment to meet with Josef Reusch at the hotel that evening. You may remember that Josef is the German veteran of the Battle of the Bulge who visited with us at the 106th reunion at Fort Mitchell. Although once an enemy, Josef is now a friend, a good friend, and offers us the hospitality of his heart. You will never meet a nicer gentleman. We talked about our plans for the next few days, and Josef made himself available to be our guide. He knows the area well. He lives in the village of Grosslangenfeld in the family home that was built in the 1700's.

MAY 17, 2004 MONDAY

After a nice breakfast at the Hotel Waldblick we walked about one city block to the church in Bleialf. I know that when the Germans came through Bleialf they had made prisoners of many Americans.

The prisoners were herded into this churchyard and guarded until it was decided to march them east, deeper into Germany. Much suffering, both mental and physical, is attached to this churchyard. It is now very peaceful there.

About noon we traveled the short distance from Bleialf to Grosslangenfeld to meet with Josef and his family and to have lunch with them. Josef's wife, sister, brother, daughter Anita, and sonin-law, Doug Mitchell, were all there. We had much conversation as Doug is an American and Anita had spent the last twenty years in America. Josef also can converse in English so there was a lot that we could talk about.

Josef offered to drive us in his car to the places we wanted to visit. Our first stop was at the cemetery in Auw, where we saw the graves of many young German men. We stopped at "88 corners" on the road between Auw and Schoenberg, and felt a bit exposed there, but there was no sign of an "88" on this sunny day. We also slowed down, but didn't stop, in the area along the road to Schoenberg where the 589th went into its second position. Looking at the place today it is hard to figure the logic of that decision in December 1944.

Obviously it was not a good idea since "B" Battery lost all four of its guns there and "A" Battery only got back on the road by sheer luck and back breaking work. It would not be a good place for artillery even if the weather had been beautiful.



88 Corner, an intersection between Auw, Bleialf and Schonberg. Dave says, "They were right over there."

Next we drove through Schoenberg and to Meyerode and checked on the monument in the woods dedicated to Lt. Eric F. Wood, who was 589/A Exec Officer. (The legend of his exploits during the battle have been better told in many books centered on the battle.)

Then we drove to the ridge near St. Vith known as The Prumerberg where the 81st ECB was in action with the 168th ECB in the defense of St. Vith. The remains of many foxholes and dugouts are still in evidence here in the woods. They have not quite filled in over the years.

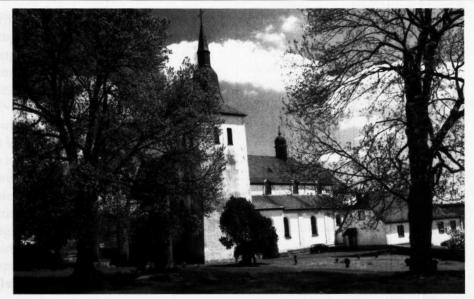
There is a bridge over the Our River at Hemmeres where there is a sign lettered in both the French and German languages. The French part has been defaced and torn off. Even though this area is inside the Belgian border, the heritage is German. The German language is spoken here and the residents don't want one to forget that. This place was a part of Germany prior to WW I, but was awarded to Belgium as part of the war reparations. This does not make these folks any more Belgian that it does me. The "Ardennes" is also known as the "Schnee Eifel" in this area. Maybe having the same currency now (the Euro) will be a positive step toward unity.

That same afternoon we put more miles on the car looking at the "Dragon's Teeth" at Heerstrasse near Grosskampenberg, stopped for refreshment at Buchet, and checked out the house that Ernest Hemmingway stayed in before notice of the attacking Germans sent him packing back to Paris.

We finished up the tour back at the Reusch's home at the computer looking at digital photos that Josef had been making every time we stopped. Then, of course, we sat down at the dining room table with the family for desserts and a recap of what we had been doing all day.

Before leaving the village of Grosslangenfeld we walked to the local church nearby that is about 850 years old. I don't think that any of the churches in the USA are quite that old.

Back in Bleialf, Dave looked up a resident he had met on a previous trip, a fellow whose name is Eddy. So, after supper at the Zwicker, we all sat around at the outside café table and had a Bier with Eddy. (That's the way they spell it over there)

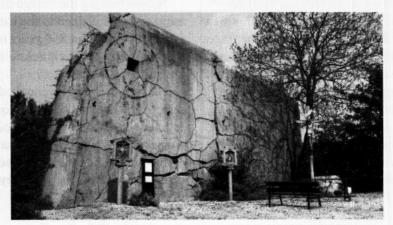


The churchyard at Bleialf. Many of the 106th, as POWs, spent their first night in captivity in this building and church yard. If you ever go back you have to stop and view this beautiful site.

MAY 18, 2004 TUESDAY

After breakfast at the Hotel Waldblick we again met with Josef Reusch for a trip to inspect a German bunker that is still reachable and, although cleaned out of everything, is still intact. This area is now forested where the guns once had a clear field of fire, so we drove up a logging trail to reach it. It was not an easy reach. We slipped and slid on the steep path finally coming to the entrance. Then that was another slip and slide down a large pit to a square hole in the concrete. Josef had brought along flashlights for each of us and we sure did need them once inside. The bunker was nothing more than dark, damp, and empty rooms. I am glad that we made the effort, but one time is enough of that.

In Sevenig, a bunker had been blasted by a huge charge. The roof of reinforced concrete came to rest on is edge, neatly balanced. So, there it stands today as a monument to Hitler's Folly, the "West Wall." I wouldn't stand too close, it may decide to fall down.someday.



Ar Sevenig - A West Wall Bunker Roof, sitting on edge after being blasted.

We made a stop at Eschfeld Church and Military Cemetery. This church is lavishly decorated inside with religious murals and motifs that had been painted by a priest who once served there.

There is a place where the three countries of Germany, Belgium, and Luxembourg come together called "Drieland." There is another huge bunker here, but it is also known for the Driefrontier Flags/Monument, and is the site of the original European Council meeting that was convened to talk about establishing a European Union.

We parted this afternoon from our German friends and went to lunch at a "fritterie" near Malmedy.

On stopping at the 106th Memorial in St.Vith, we met the gentleman who lives directly across the street, Herr John Gennen, (no relation to the Bourgmestre of Vielsalm.")

Herr John Gennen offered to take a photo of the four of us at the Memorial, and we stayed a few minutes to talk with him. I asked him if he should be addressed as "Herr" or "Monsieur?" He just broke up laughing, and we all laughed with him. I think that I can guess what his answer would be had he offered it. Although a part of Belgium, St. Vith is definitely German in heritage. No two ways about it.

We spent the rest of the afternoon at places of note mentioned in all of the books; Lingueville, Monument, the Baugnez Monument, Saurbrot, (Camp) Elsenborn, Bullingen, Honsfeld, Bucholtz, Lanzerath, Manderfeld. Then we returned to our lodging at Bleialf, the Hotel Waldblick. MAY 19, 2004 WEDNESDAY

In the morning we had a date to meet with Ron van Rijt in the town of Schmidt in Germany. Ron is a Hollander, about 43, single, drives a motorcycle with a sidecar, and is a dedicated WW II buff with his main interest in the Huertgenwald area. His time is devoted to touring the area with visiting WW II veterans from both sides and he can show and tell about all of the aspects of the bitter fighting in the Huertgen Forest area. Best of all, he is fluent in English.

When we arrived Ron was waiting for us with several of his German friends; Ludwig Fischer, the Mayor of Schmidt, Dieter "Bomber" Falter, who is a specialist with defusing and disposing of unexploded ordnance of all kinds, and Fritz Tillmanns, the German veteran of the (German) 89th I.D. who was involved in the fighting nearby in the Kall Valley between the towns of Vossenack and Schmidt. Also we had a new friend with us that day, Bob Huffacker, a retired U. S. Army Major, living in Europe, whose hobby is studying WW II. We had met Bob along with the WW II Society at Spangdahlem Air Base. After introductions all around and a little bit of small talk to get acquainted, we began our tour of the area

In our estimation this area was another one of those places that, looking at it today, you would never think it to be a likely place for two opposing armies to fight over. The terrain is densely wooded and laced with steep ravines; poor, unimproved roads make hairpin turns going up and down, the hard shale ground is next to impossible to dig in, and the enemy was already in place and well prepared. And then one has to think about the weather. A lot of "Monday morning quarterbacking" can take place here.

While at the bottom of the ravine on the small bridge crossing the Kall River, we were entertained by Fritz who played his harmonica for us and sang several verses of "Lily Marlene." Fritz is an accomplished musician and has a pleasing



Entrance to Bunker near Drieland flashlights are required



Monument at Schmidt, Germany - dedicated to peace between our nations. L/R Alford, Gatens, Schaffner and Fritz Tillmans a German veteran.

voice. We were touched by this performance. I suppose you "had to be there" to appreciate it as we did.

Certainly a highlight of this day was to be asked to place flowers at a monument in Schmidt, Germany. Our German friends provided the flowers and although we had no stirring speeches, John, Barney, and I placed the flowers with as much dignity as we could. The monument is dedicated to *all* of the soldiers who fought and died so that peace could come to the world. These moments always fill me with emotion.

We were conducted to a neatly mowed yard behind a house in the village of Kommerschied where a local family had a small museum of military refuse (I call it) displayed in a garage size building. Ron knew these folks well, and before we left he presented each of us with a small souvenir that he had made for sale to visitors.

We then went behind another house nearby to where there is a small monument in the backyard at the place where the remains of an American soldier was discovered in recent years. Pvt. Lemuel H. Herbert died here during the battle. His body was apparently covered over in his foxhole and only recently unearthed when the resident here was doing yard work. Authorities were notified, the remains were removed, positively identified, and a full-scale military funeral was held with burial in the military cemetery

This German family now maintains a small flower garden with a cross, topped with an American helmet and a small plaque dedicated to Pvt. Herbert.

A West Point class ring was found that belonged to Turney White Leonard who was awarded the CMH (posthumously) for action here. The ring was eventually returned to his family. Before leaving we visited the German Military Cemeteries at Vossonack, Huertgen, and Kesternich.



Site in backyard of a home at Kommerschied, Germany where the body of an American soldier, Lemeul Herbert was discovered a few years ago.

One of the cemeteries was undergoing renovation to make the grave markers more secure. The stone designating the grave of Field Marshall Walter Model had been stolen so many times by souvenir hunters that it was decided to redo the whole cemetery to make the markers more difficult to remove. One of the stones that we noticed especially was that marking two bodies, a man 61 years old and the other a girl of 16. Both died in 1944 and were buried in the military cemetery. Those had to be desperate times for the German Army. Most graves contain multiple bodies, as many as six, and many unidentified. One cemetery had traditional tombstones (instead of the ones flat on the ground.) engraved in the Russian language. We don't know the story behind that one.



German vet, Fritz Tillmanns, entertains, on the Kall River Bridge - Huertgen Forest, us by singing "Lily Marlene" - playing his harmonica. L/R Ford, Schaffner, Alford, Bob Huffaker USAF Retired, Gatens and Fritz

MAY 20, 2004 THURSDAY

This morning we met with M/Sgt Dave Westhausen for an escorted tour of Spangdahlem Air Base. This is a huge Flugplatz (airfield) inside Germany where the USAF maintains the F-16 and A-10 squadrons in readiness for any contingency. M/Sgt Westhousen had been in touch with us for some time and had extended the invitation to visit the airbase during our trip. We settled on May 20 & 21 as the dates.

When we arrived at the Air Base our CRIBA friends, Henri Rogister, Albert Fosty, Louis Jonckeau, and Leon Lambotte were already waiting for us. The eight of us were to be honored guests for the day. After being cleared through the very strict security check at the main gate we drove to the building that housed the offices of the unit of M/Sgt. Westhausen. This is a section charged with fueling the aircraft based here. We were introduced to the officers and men and given an orientation of their function. John, Barney, and I also had a chance to talk to these young airmen about our experiences in 1944-45, not very far from where we stood.

An Air Force bus soon arrived and we boarded along with our CRIBA friends and also some members of the "WW II Society," a group composed mainly of the Air Force people, their family members, and some Air Force retirees. (The mission of the Society is the study of the war in Europe and especially in their area of the continent.)

Our first stop was at the hanger holding the A-10 tactical fighter plane. The ground crew and pilot were there to give us an orientation of their specific mission and a close-up look at the aircraft. A platform was set next to the cockpit for us to get a good look inside and the pilot, Lt. Brian Wojcik, stood on the opposite side and explained how everything worked in his "office." M/Sgt. Tim Peasley walked us around the outside of the airplane and explained the weapons points and details about the plane itself. (Being an airplane "nut," I just eat this stuff up.)

From here we went to where the F-16s were housed. All of these hangers were built during the "Cold War" era and are very sturdy structures. "Blast Proof," they call them. (We all hope that they will never be put to the test.) On arrival at the hanger with the F-16 we were given the same opportunities as at the A-10. There was a good look inside the cockpit with the pilot, Capt. Travis Ruhl, explaining the functions of the many buttons, switches. displays, and control devises. (I think that I can fly this thing now! Well anyway, you can't blame a guy for wishing.) The ground crew gave us a walk-a-round and explained the external side of this verv complex machine.

It came time to have a little lunch so we were driven to the "Club Eifel." These military base clubs that were once "NCO Club" or "Officer's Club" are now combined into one facility, open to all members of the military and their guests, and are given a more generic name. On entering, we found ourselves to be the guests of honor. Once having loaded up at the buffet and seated with the members of the WW II Society and the Air Base brass, we had a very nice meal. We were engaged in conversation with many of our younger generation who were truly interested in our WW II experiences. It was a very nice time for us and we were privileged to be able to meet those people who are now our first line of defense.

After the lunch we once more boarded the bus for the ride to the "Pitsenbarger Airman Leadership School." This is another USAF function on the air base to train the military. It is named for an USAF medic who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor (posthumously) for his rescue work in Vietnam. While there we were asked to autograph the display of a POW diorama in a classroom hallway and John Gatens contributed his 106th bolo tie to their collection of medallions in a prominent display case.

We then appeared before a classroom of the Bitburg High School Junior ROTC students. The class of very clean and fresh looking teenagers were proudly dressed in their Air Force uniforms, looking very military. Each of us, in turn, spoke to the class about our war in the Ardennes, fielded questions from the class, and then we were interviewed, with video, for a future TV presentation on the air base network.

From the school area we were bussed to where our cars were parked at the Fuels Unit offices. Our Belgian friends, Henri, Albert, Louis, and Leon were bid adieu, and we drove to the base Lodge to claim our accommodations for the next two nights.

There was just time enough to unload our baggage and wash our faces before we met our Air Force friends in the lobby. The pending event was strictly informal, so all of the service personnel were in their civvies and had brought along their wives, and in some cases, their children. We drove to the village on the Moselle River, known as Neumagen-Dhron, to engage in what they said was a "Wine Probe/Dinner." It was all new to us, but it sounded like a fun thing. Everyone arrived at the Winery of Tomas Bollig, Vintner, and were ushered inside by Herr Bolig. The WWII Society was our hosts and the four of us were their guests. Herr Bollig started the affair by speaking to the group about the size of his vineyard and the wine producing operation. He then brought out, one type of wine at a time, and explained the unique attributes of each. A sample was then poured in everyone's glass for a taste. There was a short discussion time between each "taste," and bread on the table for



Trier, Germany - A Roman built gate to the city over 2,000 years old. Named the Porta Nigra. Parts of the civilization built when the Romans went up the Moselle River taking everything they came across. The "Porta Nigra Hotel" - if you are ever over there that's the spot to stay -can be seen through the arches. Behind the camerman's back is a beautiful shopping mall that has many great eating places. The streets of Porta Nigra are also lined with "outdoor restaurants"

refreshing the "taster." After about (let me think) six or seven different wines, a nice dinner of ham, potatoes, and sauerkraut was served. We were then privileged to be present for the meeting of the W II Society. Their President, Ed Lapotsky, a retired Lt. Col., conducted the short business meeting. Ed presented Dave Ford with a medallion representing the 82nd AB Division for Dave's avid interest and pursuit of the history of WW II.

Would you believe that we had to sample even more of Herr Bollig's wine before we left, and then we all walked around back to the storage building where our friends bought enough of the gentleman's stock to last them until the next visit.

On arrival back at the Lodge about midnight, a "Good Night" was said to all, and we had little trouble falling asleep.

THANKS TO YOU ALL . . .

This will continued in PART II, in the November 2004 CUB Magazine

Special thanks to the family of Lejeune-Lengler at Baraque de Fraiture, and our CRIBA organization friends. They always treat us like we are something special. We feel like they are our family.

To: M/Sgt. Dave Westhausen, USAF, and the WW II Society members.

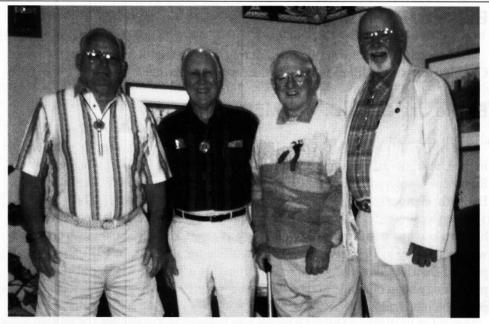
Thanks to the operators of the museums that we visited for their courtesy in guiding us around their exhibits.

Special thanks also to Mathilda and Marcel Schmetz for they always manage to touch our heart.

Thanks, to Ron van Rijt, a Hollander, for the special attention that he gives to returning veterans, both American and German, for he is a "Peacemaker."

Continued PART II next issue.... John Schaffner 589/A

Mini-Reunions 2004 .



Eastern Pennsylvania Mini-Reunion June 2004 Truman W. Christian, 424/D 27 Center Drive, Camp Hill, PA 17011 (717-763-4871) twchris@pa.net For four years now we have held of reunion at Exton, PA, Art and Ruth-Alice Potts drive approximately

1.5 hours from Manasquan, NJ to attend. Six of us in the Harrisburg PA meet and ride one-hour in Elmer Brice's van. Art Potts provided us with the photos you see here.

Men L/R: Elmer Brice, Sr. 422/L; Truman Christian 424/D; Norman Simmons 424/D and Arthur Potts 424/K

Ladies L/R: Janet Brice; Betty Simmons; Ruth-Alice Potts and Anne Christian



Bennett, Robert F. 423/H

730 Yucca Drive, Blythe, CA 92225

Date of death not known. Reported during 58th Annual Reunion. Details in next CUB. Wife's name: Billie, as listed in the Association roster.

Burke Jr., Basil C. 423/MED

General Delivery, Reva, VA 22735

Date of Death: October 16, 2003: Daughter Patricia Burke wrote: "My father died in the University of Virginia Hospital. He was a Medic in 423rd Combat Infantry Regiment. Captured in the "Battle of the Bulge" he was held POW in Stalag IX-B, Bad Orb, Germany.

"After serving in WWII he married, graduated from UVA Law School and started his own law practice in rural Virginia. He was elected Madison County's commonwealth attorney in 1951 and served in that office for 12 years. In 1973 he was appointed District Court Judge and retired from that office in 1984. He also loved publishing and at one time in the 1950's and early 1960's owned three local newspapers which he later sold.

"April 1 was always a special date for him because it was the date he was liberated from POW camp, the date he set up law practice, the date he presided over his first trial and the date he was scheduled to retire in the Spring of 1984. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Patricia C. Burke and his four sons and one daughter."

Farris, Philip B. 423/H

1729 Nagle Avenue, Chicago, IL 60707

Date of death not known. Reported during 58th Annual Reunion. Details in next CUB. Wife's name: Gwen, as listed in the Association roster.

Hulbert, Carl M. 424/HQ

2711 N Halifax Ave #286 Daytona Beach, FL 32118

Date of Death: June 6, 2004: His wife, Marjorie Joan Hulbert wrote: I am enclosing a write up of my husbands death that appeared in the Daytona Beach News-Journal."

Excerpts from that News-Journal follow:

At the tender age of 12, Carl Hulbert climbed to the stage of the Peabody Auditorium and performed a solo on his cornet.

In sense it was the start of a lifelong relationship with the auditorium. Hulbert, 90, who went on to become a recognized music educator, concertmaster and chairman of the Peabody Auditorium Advisory Board, died at the Hospice Care Center in Port Orange.

The native of Schuylerville, NY, was a Volusia County resident most of his life. He moved to New Smyrna Beach with his family in the early 1020's, earning the nick-name of "Peanut," for his small stature.

Hulbert's early musical talent spurred him to pursue a music education degree, graduating from Stetson University in 1939 and getting a master's degree from there five years later.

Memoriam . . .

That was the start of Hulbert's teaching career, which lasted until he retired in 1972. adjutant for the 424th Infantry Regiment of the 106th Infantry Division at the *Battle of the Bulge*.

Hulbert had the distinction of playing trumpet with the Daytona Beach Municipal Band at it's first concert at the band shell in July 1937, marking the start of a 40-year relationship with the band, first as a performer and later as director at the final concert in 1980.

A chairman of Peabody's advisory board, he worked tirelessly for improvements to the facility. He retired in 1991 from that post after serving with the board since 1968."

Survivors include his wife of 33 years, Joan; and one sister, Sarah West, Macon, GA.

Kurzeja, Michael F. 423/H

3829 Rosemear Ave, Brookfield, IL 60513

Reported during 58th Annual Reunion. Details in next CUB. Wife's name: Carol - as listed in the Association roster.

Lazzoroni, Anthony J. 590/HQ

412 Scarborough Court, New Lebonan, OH 45345

Date of Death: August 3, 2004 Death was reported to the CUB editor, with no other details revealed.

LeMonde, Richard 424th Infantry, unit unknown

84602 Ojai Avenue, Sun Center, FL 33573

Date of Death: April 3, 2004: His CUB magazine was returned. Date of death established by phone call to his wife Anne. No other details revealed.

Rahm, Carroll 422/E

1415 South Elm, Casper, Wyoming 82601

Date of Death: May 29, 2004:

In a letter from Mary Ruth, his wife, she included an obit and said, "Carroll and I enjoyed many Reunions with the 106th and had hoped to attend the 58th in Milwaukee this September. However after 54 days in the hospital, Carroll died the very day the Washington Memorial was dedicated - May 29th. He had struggled with double pneumonia since April. Carroll is forever in my heart!"

From the Obit: Born Sept. 20,1922, in Daniel, he was the son of Gottfried and Viola (Westfall) Rahm; was raised and educated in Pinedale; and graduated from Pinedale High School. While in high school, he earned all-state honors in football and basket-ball. He attended Black Hills State College on a football scholarship and interrupted his education to enlist in the U.S. Army in 1943. He served in the106th Infantry, known as the Golden Lions; and fought in the *Battle of the Bulge*. In 1946, he was honorably discharged with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

He married his sweetheart, Mary Ruth Walker, on June 30,1946, in the Chapel of the Transfiguration in Moose. He then continued his education at the University of Wyoming and earned Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees. He began his education career teaching mathematics and coaching football and basketball at Laramie High School. In 1952, he moved to Casper and was principal of Washington Elementary School. Later, he became principal of the old McKinley Elementary School. He was named director of rural education for Natrona County School District No. 1 in 1972 and retired in 1985.

His community service included the Sandbar Urban Renewal Commission, Casper Recreation board of directors, and as past president and director for CATC. He helped es-tablish the Scottish Rite Foundation of Wyoming to provide scholarship assistance to students at the seven community colleges and UW; and served as its board member and president. At his re-tirement as an active board member, he was elected director emeritus of the foundation.

Survivors include his wife of almost 58 years and daughter and son-in-law, Mary Carroll and Neal Johnson, all of Casper; a brother; a sister; and his two long-haired Chihuahuas, Sarge and Sweetie Belle.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother. Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice

Shudarek, Elmer J. 424/L

1251 Jordan Road, Stevens Point, WI 54481

Date of Death: June 18, 2004: Eric son of Elmer (*whose address is list above*) reported his death in a note written June 24th stating,

"I include my father's obituary as you requested. I know my father was proud to have served with the 106th Infantry Division. He was also proud of those he served with." Signed Eric P. Shudarek

The funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday at St. Peter Catholic Church. Burial will be in St. Bronislava Parish Cemetery, Plover.

Elmer was born June 25, 1922, in Plover, a son of the late Phillip and Josephine (Kijews-ki) Shudarek. He attended local grade school and PJ. Jacobs High School. After his schooling, he entered the service of the CCC for 18 months and was stationed at Camp Rib Mountain, Wausau. He then was employed with Lullabye Furni-ture Co. until he entered the service Jan. 5, 1943, at Fort Sheridan, Ill.

He was sent to St. Petersburg, Fla., for basic training in the U.S. Army Air Force, then was assigned to other air bases and served in supply section until October 1944, when he was transferred to the Army infantry for ad-vance infantry training at Camp Gordon, Georgia.

In January 1945 he was sent overseas to Europe and assigned to the 106th Infantry Division, 424th Regiment, Company L, as a rifleman. He served in Northern France and the Rhineland and received the Combat Infantry Medal, Amer-ican Theater Service ribbon, European Theater Service rib-bon with two bronze stars, one overseas service bar, the Car-bine Marksman badge and the Sharpshooter badge, along with the Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged as a private first class Feb. 27,1946, at Camp McCoy.

His marriage to Mary Ann Klismet took place on May 15, 1954, at St. Peter Church. The couple settled in the Stevens Point area. His wife, Mary, survives.

After their marriage, Elmer returned to work at Lullabye Furniture for a short time. In 1954, he started employment with the Wisconsin Highway Commission. He worked for more than 30 years as an engineer technologist with the Department of Transportation and retired in 1985. Elmer enjoyed fishing, hunting, golf and traveling. He was a member of the Stevens Point American Legion Behrens-Scribner Post 6. Survivors include his wife, Mary Ann Shudarek of Stevens Point; one son, Eric

(Jennifer) Shudarek of the town of Hull; three daughters, Cynthia (Charles "Chuck") Reed of Hoffman Estates, Ill., Sandra (Eric) Niffenegger of Stevens Point, and Karen Thompson of Burlington; six grandchildren; and one broth-er, Ervin (Alice) Shudarek of Plover.

He was preceded in death by one brother Ralph, who was killed in action in Italy during World War II while serving with Company C, 142nd Infantry Regiment, 36th Division.

Zeman, Rudolph J. 423/CN

2933 Biskra Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262

Date of death Year 2004 - exact date unknown.

Rudy was a POW in the infamous German camp at BERGA. The POWs there were forced to do "slave labor." They were forced to work on a series of tunnels being dug into a mountainside. Those tunnels were going to be used in the production of "Heavy Water" which would have been used in the production of atom bombs. The Berga project was a camp under the control of the staff from "Buchenwald," a camp that was instrumental in the killings of thousands of Jewish people.

The 58th Annual Reunion was a great success Photos, Articles and news of that event in the Next CUB

For you ANNUAL Members who have not paid your July 1, 2004 to July 1, 2005 Annual membership fees

Please send your dues (\$10 per year) To: Treasurer, Richard Rigatti 113 Woodshire Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15215-1713