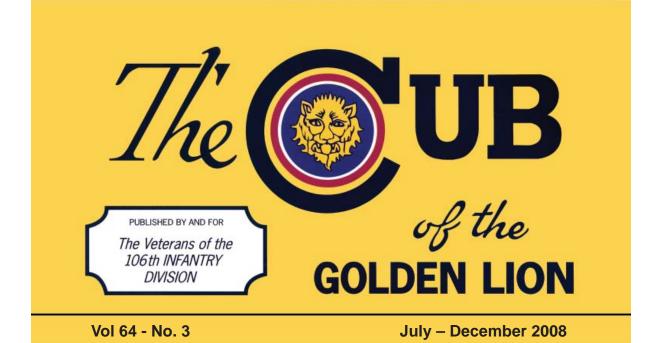
#### THE ARDENNES \* THE RHINELAND \* CENTRAL EUROPE





Your esteemed adjutant Murray Stein—"The closing act" of the 106th Infantry Division Association's 2008 Annual Reunion banquet

# Golden Lions Reunite for the 106th Infantry Division Association's 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Reunion in Louisville, Kentucky

Additional photos from the 2008 Reunion may be found on pages 38 & 39



A tri-annual publication of the 106th Infantry Division Association, Inc. A nonprofit Organization

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Membership Fees include CUB magazine subscription

#### Annual Vets/Associates \$10

Annual Dues payable by June 30 each year Payable to "106th Infantry Division Association" in care of Treasurer — See address below

#### **Elected Offices**

President	. Harry Martin, Jr.
Past-President (Ex-Officio	
1st Vice-Pres R	ev. Ewell Black, Jr.
2nd Vice-Pres	

Business Matters, Deaths, Address changes First Name = Chairman / Second Name = Backup

Adjutant: Murray Stein

7614 Charing Crossing Lane, Delray Beach, FL 33446 561-499-7736 greg0803@bellsouth.net

Treasurer: Lyle Beeth

2004 Golf Manor Blvd., Valrico, FL 33596-7288 Tel: 813-689-9621 Fax: 813-655-8952 Toll Free Number 1-888-644-4337 Ibeeth@hotmail.com

Chaplain: Dr. Duncan Trueman / Rev Ewell Black, Jr. 29 Overhill Lane, Warwick, NY 10990 Tel/Fax 845-986-6376 dttrueman@yahoo.com

#### Memorial Chairman:

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CUB Editor: William McWhorter 166 Prairie Dawn, Kyle, Texas 78640 512-970-5637 williammcwhorter17@gmail.com

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- Historian ..... John Schaffner/William McWhorter
- Atterbury Memorial Representative . . . . . . Philip Cox
- Resolutions Chairman..... Reverend Ewell Black
- Order of the Golden Lion. . . John Swett/Joseph Massey
- Nominating Committee Chairman ..... Sy Lichtenfeld
- Mini-Reunions. . Edward Christianson/Dr. Ralph Nelson
- Membership Chairman ..... Lyle Beeth

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- Sy Lichtenfeld (422/I) ......(2009) 19450 NE 21st Ct., North Miami Beach FL 33179 305-932-4467 slich44@bellsouth.ne

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- Edward Christianson (331st MED/C) (2010) 303 Harper Hollow Lane, Winchester, VA 22603 540-877-1643 deconed@webtv.net
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Ellsworth H. Schanerberger (331st Med B). . (2011) 15964 N Swathmore Ct., Livonia, MI 48154-1005 734-591-7851 EH.Schanergberger@worldnet.net

**Dr. John G. Robb (422/D)** ......(2012) 238 Devore Dr., Meadville, PA 16355 814-333-6364 jrobb238@hotmail.com

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Frank S. Trautman (422/D).....(2012) 600 Morningside Dr., Zionsville, IN 46077-1903

Herbert "Mike" Sheaner (422/G)....(2013) P.O. Box 140535 Dallas, Texas 75214 214/823-3003.Herbsheaner@SBCGlobal.Net

### President's View ...

It is indeed an honor to be chosen your President for this year. I am greatly indebted to the past Presidents and members of the Board of Directors, who served so ably over past years, and who continue to inspire and to assist me in this new endeavor.

This year we also have a new Adjutant, Murray Stein. He is proving invaluable, having assisted me during our last Reunion and is already on the job helping me to organize for the next. And speaking of reunions, I think our get together in Louisville was one of the very best. This is not only my opinion, but echoes those of other members who welcomed the closeness and camaraderie that defines our special group of people.

In addition, I am so happy to see the many new, young faces — who accompany their Moms, Dads or other relatives — that help to invigorate our organization. I feel, in fact, that our whole Association is being revitalized, and that it will continue on in one way or another for many more years.

The vote taken at the Men's Luncheon puts our 2009 Reunion at the Hilton Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana.



Harry Martin Jr., 424/L 106th Infantry Division Association President 2009-2010 121 McGregor Avenue Mount Arlington, NJ 07856 973-663-2410 hmartin19@optonline.net

While there we will have the opportunity to revisit Camp Atterbury, where most of us began our missions. I know that many of you have not had that opportunity since leaving there in 1944, and I expect that it will be a treat for all.

In upcoming issues of *The CUB*, we will keep you abreast of any important developments, as well as updates on the next Reunion. Thank you again for your confidence in me.

# Chaplain's Message . . .

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." There probably has been no nation that has not at some point in its history felt itself to be favored by God. Today, we tend to be a little more cynical about politics and even about patriotism. Still, when an Olympic gold medalist from the USA mounts the stand, we will feel a swell of pride as our national anthem is played. But that pride is not enough. How should we respond? It seems to me that three responses are appropriate:

The first is *gratitude*. To be grateful to the Lord of all lands for this land of our own. Some of us live in the beauty of golden wheat rippling in the wind. Or the simple beauty of the early crocus on the prairie. Others have come to love the great cities of our nation. Some have tapped a square dance with soaring fiddles and tapping spoons. Still others enjoy the stunning scenery as mists have broken on the seas, both its eastern and western shores.

A second response is *humility*. "When I consider the works of Thy hands, what man that Thou art mindful of him?" A look at our lands gives us the perspectives we need for true humility. Humility means that we are not to think less of ourselves, but to think much of God. The vastness of His creation, alongside the sweep of time gives us the viewpoint that the Psalmists had when they caught the spirit of humility in countless memorable verses.

The response needed today is *hope*. A look back at our history as a nation should provide hope. Think of the travails it has faced and conquered down through two hundred plus years of history ... the early struggle for



Chaplain Dr. Duncan Trueman 424/AT 106th Infantry Division Association 29 Overhill Lane, Warwick, NY 10990 Tel/Fax: 845-986-6376 dttrueman@yahoo.com

freedom against British tyranny ... and again in 1812 ... the struggle that the early pioneers and settlers faced in establishing homes and migrating across the west ... the war between North and South that tore our nation apart ... and all those wars and economic woes that we endured during the last century.

This nation survived all of those and this nation will survive the problems that it faces today. Though our Constitution is continuously being tested, it remains the force today with all its guarantees of freedom. Equality for all races and religions and ethnic identities is becoming more of a reality. A serious look at our history provides hope for the future. But the hope we speak of has its roots in deeper soil. God speaks to national life through the words of Isaiah: "Listen to me, O coastlands, and hearken you people from afar ... I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation shall reach to the ends of the earth." Like Israel, we are to be such a light!

### The Adjutant's Message ...

The 106th Infantry Division Association is alive and well!! Our 62<sup>nd</sup> Reunion was a huge success. We had 191 people attended, of which 83 were 106th Veterans! President Doxsee opened the Old Board meeting at 2 p.m. on Wednesday September 3, 2008 and 12 board members were present: President Doxsee, V.P. Martin, Treasurer Beeth, Chaplain Black, Adjutant Stein, Newton Weiss, Sy Lichtenfeld, Ed Christianson, Ells Schanerberger, Dr. Robb, Jack Roberts, John Schaffner, Frank Trautman, and The CUB publisher Susan Weiss. A motion to eliminate **Future Life Memberships was** approved. Motion to reduce the number of The CUB issues from 4 to 3 per year was approved. Request to publish Life Plus in *The CUB* to attract donations was approved. A motion to drop the \$2.00 Auxiliary dues was approved. Publisher Susan Weiss offered a number of mailing changes that will result in reducing costs. Nominated to the Board for 2008–2013, Herb Scheaner (422/G), and William Stahl (422/K). The Board nominated for President: Harry F. Martin Jr., for V.P.: Ewell Black and for Treasurer: Lyle Beeth. President Doxsee adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

A lovely *Welcome Dinner* was held on Thursday night September 4, at 7:00 p.m. What a wonderful moment, seeing Don Herndon walking in with his lovely wife Joan after their horrible auto accident two years ago!

The Men's Luncheon was held on Friday September 5, at 12:00 noon. All committee chairmen reported and our Treasurer Lyle Beeth made an emotional report concerning his work for the Association. We are lucky to have him!



Murray Stein, 423/I, Ex Comm, Adjutant 7614 Charing Cross Lane Delray Beach, FL 33446 561-499-7736 Greg0803@adelphia.net

Editor of *The CUB* William McWhorter discussed *The CUB*, and advised of the date of submission of articles. Twelve Mini-Reunion certificates were handed out by Chairman Harry Martin. Pres. Doxsee introduced a guest speaker Mr. Lee LeTellier. He discussed the "Honor Flight" program and invited our members to contact Local Chapters for information and possible donations. V.P. Martin proposed two sites for the 2009 Reunion — Colorado Springs, CO and Indianapolis, IN. The members chose Indianapolis as our 2009 reunion site.

At the *New Board* meeting on Saturday, September 6, V.P. Martin announced that **the Reunion in Indianapolis would run from September 8–13, 2009**. Dr. Robb, our Memorial Chairman, asked for approval of donations to the St. Vith Memorial (two U.S. Flags), the Camp Atterbury Memorial Fund (\$250) and the National POW Museum at Andersonville (\$100). All were approved. Adjutant Stein

#### Continued from page 5

asked for a donation of \$50 to the Louisville ROTC, who acted as our Color Guard at this year's memorial services (see picture on page 38). This too was approved. Historian Chairman John Schaffner reported on the sales of the first 3 CD's of the 106th memories and indicated that a fourth would be produce in the very near future. He turned over a check for more than \$400. We elected our officers for 2008–2009: President Harry F. Martin Jr., V.P. Rev. Ewell Black and Treasurer Lyle Beeth. A motion was made to allow Editor McWhorter and Publisher Weiss to charge up to \$150 for a full-page ad to any non-106th member for future issues of The CUB. This was approved.

The Banquet on Saturday night was a huge success. An Award for Outstanding Service, as our Adjutant and Board Member was presented to Marion Ray by President Doxsee. Adjutant Stein presented a plaque to our outgoing President Gifford Doxsee for his outstanding service this past year. Order of the Golden Lion Chairman John Swett presented a Commander award to Adjutant Murray Stein and a Companion award to Mrs. Barbara Stein for her work with the ladies luncheon the past two years. We accepted with our heartfelt appreciation. Adjutant Stein then swore in our new President Harry F. Martin Jr. for the year 2008–2009. After President Martin's remarks and acceptance the 2008 Reunion was adjourned.

The question of the "Future of the 106th Association" was answered by the attendance of our 2008 Reunion. A RESOUNDING STATEMENT we will continue on. The warmth of the greetings — the hugs and kisses, the smiles and handshakes really makes life worthwhile! The marvelous families that attend, those beautiful Schaffners, the lovely Woods family, (honoring their deceased husband and father). Russ Hoff and his sons, Tom photographing everyone and everything, the Stahls and their lovely daughter, the Weiss family, the Martin family, the Saucermans and many others make it all worth it. My Foxhole Buddy Harold "Sparky" Songer chatting old times about "that foxhole" we were in Dec. 1944. How sad, if we were not able to see each other again. Yes, the 106th is alive and well!

We're a family and we will make every effort to meet again in Indianapolis September 8–13 2009!

> Stay well Everyone, Love ya, Murray Stein, Adjutant

### Historian's Message . . .

"Oh, were you in the Battle of the Bulge," someone would say? That question is rarely heard these days. But, I have to tell you about my recent experience. Each year, during the first weekend in June for quite a few years now, the Mid-Atlantic Air Museum (www.maam.org) located on the Reading, PA Airport has hosted what they call "the World War II Weekend." It is a big event and attracts many thousands of spectators. They have many static displays, some in vacated hangers, some in tents and canvas shelters, and what I call the big stuff out in the open. Aircraft of many WWII types, restored to pristine flying condition, are flown in for display. Re-enactors representing fighting men from all of the services that participated in WWII are there with their WWII equipment. Even lots of things like personal equipment are for sale to collectors in a Flea Market setting.

Among the many examples of restored WWII aircraft that fly in are some that one can buy a ride in and fly around the patch a few times, such as a Boeing B-17G, a Stearman PT-17 Trainer, or North American AT-6. The rides are usually pre-arranged and paid for ahead of time. The rides are a bit pricey but it is a rare opportunity for a buff and helps to "Keep 'em Flyin." The American and German troops stage a very realistic fire fight in a "prop" village that is rather unnerving if you have ever experienced the real thing. It is noisy but everybody goes home afterwards. (I wonder if they really appreciate what they are doing? Or, is it like when we were kids playing Cowboys and Indians? I have never had the nerve to ask.) There is something about the guys in



John R. Schaffner 589/A, Historian, Past President 2002-2003 1811 Miller Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030 410-584-2754, pumexim2@comcast.net

the German uniforms that gives me a chill. I have never had a conversation with any of them. Why is that?

Now, to get back to the question. When I go to this event I always wear my 106th patch on something. Each time that I have attended our patch has been recognized, and someone has approached me for my comments about the 106th Division. In 2007, it was a small group of men and girls in their early twenties. Before they went on their way I was asked to sign their programs and pose with them for pictures. This last time it was a group of re-enactors representing Scottish troops and wearing the authentic WWII uniforms of their unit. My friend (a 36th Infantry Division veteran) and I spent some time with these folks in the welcome shade of their tent, talking about our personal experiences, and sharing their cool water. While walking around I was even singled out by a TV crew working the event and appeared on the Evening News in Allentown, PA. (Another minute of fame.)

The contributions to the oral history of our 106th Division that once came to Jim West and me have slowed to a crawl. I am sure that we have peaked but, rest assured, not finished. I am encouraging any one of you who has not recorded your WWII experience to please do so. You can send it to Jim or me via any means convenient. Paper copy or E-mail works good, and be sure to include pictures. If you want your material returned we will do that. Else, after copying to the Web site the material will be eventually delivered to the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center at Carlisle, PA for perpetual safe keeping and research. This is a modern facility built and used specifically for this purpose.

The CD disks containing all of the issues of *The CUB* through year 2006 and the memoirs of our contributors collected through year 2006 are still available from your Association Historian and you can look forward to another CD (#4) sometime in the near future containing the subsequent contributions and latest issues of *The CUB* at the time of creation.

#### Fort McHenry

What you have never had you can never miss. I relate this statement to the folks out there who have no personal computer. When we were growing up not every home had a telephone either. Sooner or later just about everybody had a phone. Now look at us. Once you get used to using these conveniences, and they are conveniences, it is hard to give them up. What does all this have to do with Fort McHenry?? Well, I'll tell you. I do use a personal computer and I receive all kinds of correspondence with it and stay in contact with a great number of people that I would not otherwise. One of my friends sent me a message, via computer, that connected to an audio presentation of the origination of our National Anthem, *The Star Spangled Banner*. The narrator described the battle at Fort McHenry and how it happened that a Baltimore lawyer, sent to negotiate the exchange of prisoners, witnessed the fire between the British fleet and the defenders at the fort. The event inspired him to write the poem on the spot that eventually became the National Anthem.

If you ever get in this neck of the woods I would like to take you to visit Fort McHenry. The Park Service building sits just outside of the fort proper, and they show a film that depicts the War of 1812 action of the British Army marching on Baltimore, coincident with the fleet lying off Fort McHenry. The British had sacked Washington, burned the White House, and were attacking toward Baltimore. This is where the story begins. The British fleet comes into the Patapsco River, lies off the Fort, and begins the shelling. The defenders frustrate the British and force their withdrawal since the British Army was also stopped short of the city when their commanding general (Ross) was killed. As the film ends with the playing of the Star Spangled Banner, a curtain is drawn back from a glass wall, the huge flag flying over the ramparts comes into view. I've seen it many times and it never fails to tear me up. It is emotional. The buildings have been reconstructed to the 1812 era and contain many displays and dioramas of the event. Over the years the fort has been a military hospital during the Civil War, WWI and

WWII. If you have a computer click on this URL for an overhead view and info on the NPS Web site (http://www.nps. gov/archive/fomc/home.htm) or you could get a good look from Google's satellite picture.

See you next year. That is a statement, not a question. I have no doubt at all that I will be in Indianapolis September 8–13, 2009 for our next reunion. I am really looking forward to a visit to Camp Atterbury. To be sure, I can no longer walk as fast and as far, and as for carrying a pack and weapons, forget it. If my suitcase didn't have wheels I would need a couple of coolies to help me travel.

#### Report on the death of Associate Member of the 106th Infantry Division Association

Josef (Jupp) Reusch (a former German soldier)

I would like to take the time to note the death of an Associate Member of the 106th Infantry Division Association Josef (Jupp) Reusch (a former German soldier) and to honor him after his recent passing. A great number of the members of our Association have passed on to that final resting place and we honor them as best we can at the annual reunions. This gentle man was a bit different as he was once considered our enemy. I want to tell you a few things about him. Reusch, as a teenager like most young German boys then, was conscripted into the German Army regardless of his personal ambitions. His division, barely trained, was sent out to fight against the Americans in the Ardennes. During one cold, wintery night he, with a few other German soldiers, approached the

American positions with one thing in mind. They wanted to surrender. They found the Americans asleep in their foxholes. Poking one G.I. awake with a stick, they were able to make their intentions known without any commotion. They were taken into custody and eventually finished the war in a POW camp in England.

John Kline (423/M) reminisces: "I have been thinking about how we got acquainted with him. It was through those two German/American meetings that he and I got together (with much help from our friends Adda and Willie Rikken in Belgium). That was where my friendship with Joseph started. I was his house guest three times and Margot was with me on one of those trips. We sort of lost touch in the last couple of years, probably because of his health. I still remember the squeaking stairs in his home — It was, as I remember, 150 years old. As you know, he and I appeared together on an Oliver North "War Story's" segment. (That one on the "Battle of the Bulge" is still playing from time to time.) I have fond memories of his visit over here, with Mia, his wife, to do that filming by Oliver North in Florida. That in itself was one of the highlights of my later life. Now that I have my mind to it, I will say a few things about "Jupp" (as he was called.) Some details are a little fuzzy, but at least verbally I can dedicate a memorial to his friendship (as a former German soldier) with the 106th Infantry Division Association. I know he was in attendance in at least two reunions after the film was shot — now that was a

few years ago. He is pictured on the front page of The CUB magazine (Vol 64 #1.) Josef was a good friend over the past years. He helped us a lot when our soldiers returned to the area. His daughter is a doctor here in the States. I was back to the battle area five times total (can't keep up with Schaffner) and a house guest of Josef's three of those times. He attended some of our reunions and was well accepted. He also built a Memorial to our Infantry Division in his small village of Grosslangenfeld. It was a joint memory memorial, for our division and the German division that we fought against in his village. The story showed up in *The CUB* (Vol. 61 #2.) The story was written by his son-in-law, Doug Mitchell. He will be remembered by many of us

as a close warm hearted friend."

It was in 2003 at our 57th reunion in Cincinnati that I first met Jupp. He could speak English well enough so that we easily understood one another. It was then that he extended the invitation to visit with him should we come to Germany. We held him to his word and in 2004 John Gatens 589/A, Barney Alford 589/A, Dave Ford, Associate, and myself, did visit Grosslangenfeld and were warmly welcomed into his home. That trip is outlined in *The CUB* (Vol 60) #4). Again in 2007, Gatens, Ford and I made another visit to Grosslangenfeld. Again we were treated like long lost family. That story is published in *The* CUB (Vol 64 #1). Jupp will be missed.

> John Schaffner 589/A Association Historian

# Just a reminder . . .

If you have pictures and information you would like included in a future CUB, the due dates are as follows:

- For the edition coming out in MARCH 2009 all material is due by JAN. 31
- For the edition coming out in JULY 2009 all material is due by MAY 31
- For the edition coming out in NOVEMBER 2009 to include pictures from the 2009 reunion, all material is due by SEPTEMBER 15

#### Articles and pictures can be mailed or e-mailed to:

CUB Editor: William McWhorter 166 Prairie Dawn, Kyle, TX 78640 512-970-5637 williammcwhorter17@gmail.com CUB Publisher: Susan Weiss 9 Cypress Point Court, Blackwood, NJ 08012 856-415-2211 sweiss@gccnj.edu

#### Announcements from the editor of The CUB of the Golden Lion

Hello, my name is William A. McWhorter and I am the editor of The CUB of the Golden Lion. I want all the veteran members to know that although I am relatively new to my editorial duties I am an admirer of your outfit and hope that I can assist in keeping open the lines of communication for our Association. With John Kline's retirement he is graciously no longer accepting news items for publication in The CUB of the Golden Lion. Please send news items that you would like reviewed for potential inclusion in upcoming issues of The CUB of the Golden Lion to me. Whenever possible please send them via e-mail (located on the inside cover of this issue), if you do decide to send them via postal mail, if possible, please print your messages. Thank you.

Please report all changes of address and deaths to Lyle Beeth, Treasurer and Membership Chairman. John Kline has also turned over the membership duties of the Association to Lyle Beeth.

Sy Lichtenfeld (422/I) would like you to contact him if you are interested in serving on future Boards of the 106th Infantry Division Association. Sy's contact information is on the inside cover of *The CUB*.



William McWhorter and Susan Weiss working on this *CUB* at the reunion in Louisville.

#### \*Please note the following Call For Information\*

From a Mr. Ken Beebe: "Theo Brendel, one of my relatives, is a historian and museum director in Iggelheim, just south of Böhl. The museum is preparing a display and historical document that includes material about a POW camp that was set up outside of Böhl in the Pfalz in the spring and summer of 1945. My understanding is that it held about 50,000 German POWs. In order to make sure things are historically correct, the museum society has asked me to see if I can locate anyone who might have served in the detachment at the camp. We have found that it is likely that a detachment from the 106th Division was in charge. This has led me to the 106th I.D. Association to see if there are members who recall the camp and could add a firsthand description. We know two of the servicemen/ guards were Sal Morale, originally from Ridge Street in New York City, and George Holston from West Chester, PA. They, along with two others whose names are known only as John and Andre, were quartered in Friedrich Brendel's home at Eisenbahnstr. We would really appreciate any help you might be able to give us in finding anyone who remembers being at the camp. I may be reached at kenbeebe@aol.com

#### \*Please note the following correction\*

In the last issue of *The CUB* (Vol 64 #2), under **Front & Center, Regular Donations** a mistake was made: The correct spelling should have been "Sidney" Auerbach of the "424th" Regiment.

#### Association Membership As of November 1, 2008

1291
341
950

#### **REGULAR DONATIONS**

Adsit, James P.	422/D
Agostini, Orfeo E.	81st Eng/A
Avedisian, Kachador	Associate
Behr, Richard H.	423/Sv
Blackwell, Robert L.	422/D
Canup, Carl C.	424/C
Daniel, Mary M.	Associate
Fowler, William K.	Div/Hq
Griffin, Gerald	423/H
Idstein, Donald	Associate
Immes, Dr. Henry C.	423/A
Kegerreis, Jr., Raymond D.	423/E
Larson, Dorothy	Associate
Letellier III, Louis	Associate
Ostermeyer, Bernard	423/B
Pretzel, Albert J.	422/H
Rahm, Mary Ruth	Associate
Rain, John C.	589/B
Ruddick, Donald K.	423/E
Tuhoski, Stanley	423/E
Zullig, Charles	423/F

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

#### Veterans:

Cimaglia, Sam F	590/Hq
De Vito, Armand	422/B
Hass, Robert	424/Hq 3rd Bn
Mast, John R.	81st Eng/B
Shearin, Hugh G.	424/A
Weingarten, Jack	424/At

#### **Associates:**

Blitz, Timothy F. — Historian
Brinkhaus, Cynthia — Niece of
N. P. Brinkhaus
Hale, David
Hass, William — Son of Robert
Hass
Hewett, Mary Francis — Widov
of Clifton Capshaw
Jaccino, Louis
Keeber, Beatrice — Widow of
Willard Keebler
Martin, Pearl V. — Widow of
John Martin
Nester, Lucille — Widow of
George Nester

# YOUR DUES MAY BE DUE

If you are an ANNUAL member (not a LIFE member), you may need to pay your ANNUAL DUES. Our fiscal year ends on June 30 each year. That is when you should pay \$10 for the next year. Please look at the first line of your Name & Address printed on the back cover of this issue of *The CUB*, it shows your "Paid To Date." If it is less than 6/30/2009, PLEASE send the proper amount to the Treasurer:

# Lyle Beeth, Treasurer 2004 Golf Manor Valrico, FL 33596

#### Please Note the Following Updates on Memberships and Dues

At the September 2008 Reunion (Louisville) during the "Old Board Meeting" the topic of continuing to offer the 106th I.D. Association Life Memberships (\$75) was discussed. The Board decided that the likelihood of our Association lasting for several more years and the average age of our members made the Life Membership class unrealistic. Because so many members of the Association are Life Members, the Association is collecting very little dues, certainly not enough to cover yearly expenses (e.g. the cost of printing and mailing *The CUB*).

As a result, the Board voted to eliminate future Life Memberships and has asked the Editor and Publisher to run this announcement. The Association has **reactivated** the **Life Plus Program** (*please see the back cover*) in hopes of attracting donations from existing Association Life Members. Former Association Treasure Richard Rigatti (deceased) initiated the **Life Plus Program** a few years back. As a result, many Life Members have sent in contributions over the past few years, but not lately. This is why the Board at the 2008 Reunion in Louisville thought it might be a good idea to post an announcement.

If you are an ANNUAL member (not a LIFE member) your annual dues may be due. Our fiscal year ends on June 30 of each year. That is when you should pay \$10 for the next year. Please look at the first line of the address label on this issue of *The CUB*, it shows your "Paid To Date" date. If it is less than 6/30/2009, PLEASE send the proper amount to the following:

> Lyle Beeth, Treasurer 2004 Golf Manor Valrico, FL 33596

## Read about "An Alamo in the Ardennes"

This exciting account of a desperate struggle to slow the advance of the vast *German 5<sup>th</sup> Panzerarmee* during the Battle of the Bulge is written by a dozen members of the 589th Field Artillery Battalion who survived. After the initial attacks of the Wehrmacht along the Belgian/German border the remaining soldiers of this artillery battalion found themselves burdened with the task of establishing a road block and stopping a much stronger German force. From 19 Dec. to 23 Dec. 1944 they did just that, along with troops of several other units who just happened to come along at the wrong time and stayed and helped. This narrative was compiled from interviews with the participants by a former commander of the 589th who was also there.

Every reader of WW II history will find this book, *On the Job Training—The Battle of Parker's Crossroads*, a valuable addition to his library. It is a small part of a big battle from a GI's vantage point. Only a few of these hard-bound copies have been produced. Order now by sending a check in the amount of \$25.00, payable to:

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Veterans gather with Texas State Representative Dan Flynn in the House Chambers of the Texas State Capitol

# **EX POWs Reunite in Capital City, Texas**

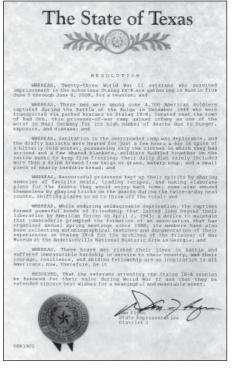


Photo of the formal Texas House of Representative's Resolution from the office of Texas State Representative Dan Flynn

Veterans and former prisoners of war at the notorious Stalag IX-B (near the town of Bad Orb, Germany) held a reunion in Austin, TX from June 5–7. These veterans have maintained their camaraderie through annual spring reunions since 1988. CUB Editor. William McWhorter who lives in Austin had the opportunity to spend two days with the veterans (many 106th I.D. veterans). The Reunion's events covered an impressive array. A formal Texas House of Representative's Resolution from the office of Texas State Representative Dan Flynn (District 2) was presented to the veterans during a special ceremony in the House Chambers of the Texas State Capitol on Friday, June 6. While in the capitol city the veterans also toured the Texas State Capitol, the Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry (Austin) and capped off their reunion with a boat ride and dinner on one of Austin's scenic



Veterans take a seat in the Texas House of Representative Chambers prior to the presentation of a formal Texas House of Representative's Resolution from the office of Texas State Representative Dan Flynn

treasures, Lady Bird Johnson Lake.

Golden Lion veteran El Creel's (590 FA) daughters helped make this reunion a reality. In the last decade, the Creel daughters have been attending many of the reunions. In fact, the past three reunions have seen more children of the veterans attending because they are so much fun and so very heartwarming. We were able to meet the men that share their memories, hear more stories and make sure our fathers have someone to watch over them as it got harder to attend the reunions.

The Austin reunion was organized

because Austin is a great city to visit. I was humbled to find that Mary Davidson with Austin Overtures, Smiley Garcia with Camp Mabry, Jeff Hunt with Texas Military Forces Museum and Jenni Franks with Representative Flynn's office contributed to this reunion to make it a trip to remember. If anyone wants help or encouragement with organizing a reunion, they are welcome to e-mail me. I care for these veterans and their families as though they really are my family now. I hope others can do the same. *Christi Creel Cerna at imagin2011@aol.com* 



Pictured right to left: Betty Schleusener, Rollie Schleusener, Dean Sandahl, Della Sandahl, Robert Cozeah, Pat Duca, Linda Peterson and Leona Hunter



Photo of Stalag IX-B Camp at Bad Orb, Germany (taken during the winter of 1944–45) where my father Donald Voglesong (association member) was a P.O.W. from 25 December 1944 to 8 May 1945.

### A Father, a Son and a Reunion in Bavaria

by Daniel Voglesong, daniel.voglesong@EUR.ARMY.MIL

106th Infantry Division Veteran Donald Voglesong and his wife Twighla of Brevard, NC, visited Donald's son Dan Voglesong, U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels–Safety Manager from December 19, 2006 through January 1, 2007, at Dan's home in Breitenbrunn, Bavaria. Later, their reunion was published in the bi-weekly edition of the *BAVARIAN NEWS* newspaper's March 21, 2007 edition for Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Vilseck military communities of the Joint Maneuver Training Center (JMRC) of U.S. Army Europe.

Donald Voglesong was a 19-yearold U.S. Army corporal of the 106th Infantry Division when he was captured during World War II by enemy forces at Schoenberg, Belgium. He was one of more than 7,000 American Soldiers captured at that time (around December 19, 1944). Voglesong's Nazi captors transported him and two of his buddies — all of whom shared the hometown of English, Indiana — by train to a prisoner of war (POW) camp at Bad Orb, a small village just east of Frankfurt, Germany. He spent the remaining four and half months of World War II at the Bad Orb POW camp until the Nazi surrender. There he lost much of his body weight and spent recovery time in a London hospital after his release.

During his second visit to Germany in June of 1999, Mr. Voglesong had a much more pleasant experience. Upon arrival at the Frankfurt Airport, he asked his son Dan Voglesong to drive him to the Bad Orb, POW camp site. Upon arrival at this Bad Orb camp (which is now a children's summer camp), Donald Voglesong, and his wife Twighla met a German elementary school teacher, who was visiting this summer camp with his schoolchildren from Frankfurt. Dan Voglesong explained to the German school teacher about his father's internment there, in the POW camp, as an American POW in Bad Orb, from Dec. 1944 to April 1945. The German school teacher then informed the school children (in German) that Mr. Voglesong was a hero for helping to liberate Germany from the Nazis in WWII, and that these schoolchildren should give him a round of applause, which they did. It was an emotional experience.

More than half a century later, Donald experienced another pleasant visit with his son, U.S. Army veteran and Hohenfels Safety Office Manager Dan Voglesong. The 81-year-old Voglesong visited his son in December, touring several World War II key locations. During a visit to Schoenberg, Belgium, he saw the memorial to the U.S. engineer soldiers who died defending the nearby city of St. Vith, and visited the memorials to the U.S. Army prisoners murdered by the Waffen SS Nazi soldiers at Ligneuville and Malmedy. "He was visibly moved with sadness," said Dan. Being at the battleground reminded Donald of seeing a young teenage German soldier dead, lying on the ground, with no signs of injury and looking as if he were just asleep. He said he remembered thinking that this young boy had a family who would never see him again.

They then visited the Bastogne Historical Center and U.S. memorial for the Battle of the Bulge victory at Bastogne, where Donald received a free admission as a Bulge veteran. They also visited Luxembourg's American and German military cemeteries. At the U.S. military cemetery, he visited the gravesite of General George S. Patton, Jr. who Donald said he admired for his courage and leadership during the Battle of the Bulge. Patton's 3rd Army relieved the surrounded 101st Airborne Division at Bastogne, which stopped the German attack in Belgium.

After touring Luxembourg, they returned to Germany to visit the U.S./ German Federal Republic Peace Memorial. "I felt that I needed to take my 81-year-old father to these sites where he fought and survived," said Dan. "Maybe it was like the lead character in the movie 'Saving Private Ryan' who returned to the U.S. military cemetery to visit the brave men who died so young and did not have a chance to live to maturity?

"Maybe that is why I also volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army, since my father suffered so much back then in World War II," said Dan. "I feel even closer to my father after visiting his World War II battlefield. He never spoke about his war experiences when I was young, only recently," explained Dan.



Seated are Twighla Voglesong (Daniel's father's wife), Donald Voglesong (middle), Daniel Voglesong (right) At the U.S. Army Garrison's (Hohenfels, Bavaria) Holiday Party on 22 December 2006. [Photo provided by Ms. Christina Wilson, Public Affairs Office at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels].

### Flashback to 1944:

### "We Have a Song Now — And Author Has \$25"

From The CUB of the Golden Lion, Ft. Jackson, S.C. Feb. 4, 1944

Winner of the 106th Division official marching song contest is T/5 Frank William Power of The Infantry Band. His song, "Onward Lions of 106 to Victory," was awarded first prize at a meeting of the judges held in the Officers' Club January 18, 1944. The judges were Gen. Herbert Perrin, Capt. Harvey, Melvin Hemphill, golf pro and Columbia's leading string musician, Mr. Burnhan, leader of the 106th Blue Band, and Sgt. Bill Donovan of Division Special Services.

First prize was \$25 and a three-day pass. Second prize, \$15 went to Cpl. William Cupp, Formerly of the 424th Inf. for his entry, "March to Victory." Private Ray Keeler of the 106th MPs received \$10 as third prize. Keeler's song was called, "We're On Our Way." Marching gave him the idea power. Some of the men were singing, "Infantry Kings of the Highway," and Power decided he would try and write a better tune. He wrote, "Onward Lions of 106 to Victory," in a day and a half.

Before entering the army, 27 months ago [1944], Power was a member and part owner of Bill Munday's cooperative band. He also toured for seven months with Benny Meroff's show, "Fun's Afire." He plays the trombone and his favorite orchestra leader is Tommy Dorsey. He does all special arrangements for the Dance and Concert Band and is the composer for several other songs. Among them are, "Blues Riff," "Lazy Melody," and "Wistful and Blue." The latter is used as the theme for the Dance Band.

Power, who is 30 years old and unmarried, says his true love (for the moment anyway) is music and he intends to return to it permanently just as soon as Uncle Sam no longer needs his services. Records of the winning song will be made for each unit of the 106th Division and "Onward Lions of 106 to Victory" will in the future be used as the official division song.

Onward Lions of 106 to Victory On to victory, We will fight with all our might, For the land of the free. Like a roaring lion we'll pounce upon our enemy,

(Fight! Fight! Fight!) On to victory,
Yes we can repeat again past history, With infantry and artilleree,
We'll beat the Axis just wait and see. Onward lions to 1-0-6 to Vic-to-ree



Photo of the watch

### The Watch

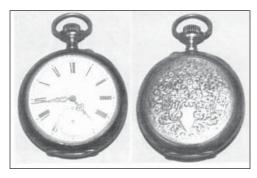
by Fredrick Smallwood, Bainbridge, GA

This is the story of a hundredyear-old watch that was returned to the rightful owners after a 50-year odyssey across the ocean. To the victor go the spoils of war. All through history you have seen pictures of victorious armies returning home with chariots full of loot and booty along with slave men and women chained, marching along beside the victorious soldiers on horseback. I guess every soldier that went to Europe during WWII wanted to bring home a German Luger pistol and a Swastika flag. I was never so lucky to be in the right place at the right time to have the occasion to secure one. I had initially been in the A&P Platoon of 1 Bn., Hq. Co., 423rd Reg. of the 106th Inf. Div. I was one of the "lucky" 300–400 who managed to slip through the German lines and make it back to the American lines at St. Vith on Dec. 21, 1944. I attached myself to A Co. of the 424th Reg. but they failed to notify Div. that I had gotten out. I was MIA — a telegram was even sent home stating so — even though I was with them all the time. When the MIA list came out,

I was anxious to see whose names, of my friends, were on there as killed and supposedly all the rest were POW. Lo and Behold my name was on the list as MIA. Alerting Div. that I was there, they attached me to the AT Co. of the 424th Inf. Reg. Sometimes during Jan.–March, 1945, I bought a Mauser .38 Cal. pistol from another soldier. I have no idea now who he was nor where he got it. Later I had it nickel plated and wearing it in a shoulder holster, I was hot stuff.

Skip now to Jan. 1946. The war is over and I am on a Liberty Ship coming home on a 30-day emergency furlough, and once home I was eligible for discharge. Another boy on the ship had a gold pocket watch he had "acquired." I don't know who he was, by name, or where he got it. We swapped and I brought the gold pocket watch home for my father. I had a jeweler clean it up and adjust it. My father wore it until 1958, when he died, and I reclaimed it and put it back in the dresser drawer with my other souvenirs and kept it there until 1990. My wife and I were going to the Passion Play at Oberammergau, in August, 1990, so I put it in my suitcase. Our guide was an Englishman and, showing the watch to him, I asked if there was any way I might find to return the watch to the family of the original owner. Opening the back you could read, Franze Huendgen and also Duren. We concluded Franze Huendgen was probably the original owner and Duren was the town in which he lived. Our tour guide told me that we wouldn't be going anywhere near there, so I put the watch back in my suitcase. Upon returning home I returned it to the dresser drawer, where it stayed for another 10 years.

We were preparing to go again to the Passion Play in June, 2000, so about March or April I thought I'd do some home work before going. I contacted John Kline, the 106th Div. (then editor) of our quarterly, asking if he knew how to contact the Burgermaster of Duren to see if there were any Huendgens still in Duren. John replied that, no, he didn't know how but to contact the editor of the 75th Inf. Div. quarterly, Rolf Wilmink, as his name and e-mail address was at their home page. I did and he answered me right back, that he was checking on it and might have some information the next day. As it turned out he was a Private Investigator and owned a security firm. He picked up a Duren telephone book and there were two Huendgens listed but neither knew anything about a Franze Huendgen or a watch. There was a Huendgen Jewelry store and, upon calling there, was told that the owners were out of town and would be back the next day. Upon returning the next day, the owners, Peter and Guido Duell, told him that they would check and see what they could find out. Their mother had been a Huendgen before marrying Duell. She vaguely remembered that her grandfather had a gold watch. When Duren was bombed on Nov. 16, 1944.



most of the inhabitants fled East and no one remembered anything about a watch. She was a child at the time and, upon returning to Duren following the war, they began to pick up the pieces.

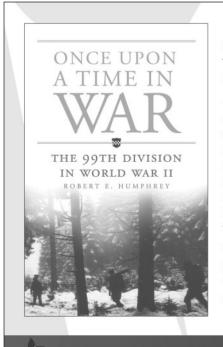
It turned out that the original Franze Huendgen married in 1896 and also opened Huendgen Jewelry Store in Duren the same year. He had four sons and a daughter. He had a grandson named Franze Joseph and it was believed the elder Franze gave the watch to him around 1910. Franz Joseph Huendgen was killed on Nov. 16, 1944 during the bombing of Duren. He also had a son named Theodor who was the father of Gerda. She married a Duell and is the mother of Peter and Guido Duell. The three now own and operate the family business, Huendgen Jewelry Store.

Following our tour to Oberammergau, we came back to Liege and Peter and Guido Duell met us on June 30, 2000, and I returned the watch to the family. Since neither of the boys spoke very good English, Guido's father-in-law, Harro Kutzer, accompanied them and did most of the talking. Upon receiving the watch, they told me that I was returning their 'old' watch and they gave me a 'new' watch along with several books about Duren before the war, then with all the destruction, and now the newly rebuilt city. We took pictures and they had an article placed in their local paper as well as I did about the watch exchange. Peter Duell, a Master Watchmaker, restored the watch and they now have it displayed in a special case with the story of the 50-year Odyssey of the Watch and how it was returned. Upon inquiry, it turned out Harro is one year older than I and was



Photo of Thomas Frederick Smallwood with Peter (left) and Guido (right) Duell as Smallwood returns the watch to them in Leige, Belgium (June 30, 2000)

a member of the 3rd Panzergrenedier Division who were attacking my Division in the Battle of the Bulge. He was wounded twice but not seriously. Following the war, he became a civil engineer and helped rebuild his country. He is now retired and does Etching some of which he sells in England and has given me a couple of prints of his etchings. We still correspond.



#### Once Upon a Time in War

The 99th Division in World War II By Robert E. Humphrey

Once Upon a Time in War presents a stirring view of combat from the perspective of the common soldier. Author Robert E. Humphrey personally retraced the path of the 99th through Belgium and Germany and conducted extensive interviews with more than three hundred surviving veterans. These narratives, seamlessly woven to create a collective biography, offer a gritty reenactment of World War II from the enlisted man's point of view. For readers captivated by *Band of Brothers*, this book offers an often tragic, sometimes heartwarming, but always compelling read.

\$24.95 HARDCOVER · 978-0-8061-3946-3 · 376 PAGES

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# A Fine Example of How Europe's Youth Still Remember

This year John Kline received a letter from two friends — Carl and Sofie. The letter reads as follows:



"Yesterday was the last day of the Easter vacation, so we decided to once again move out towards the Ardennes. Our first stop was Henri Chapelle, where we were practically alone. We took the opportunity to pay a visit to the graves of the five 589 FA men buried there. From there we drove to St. Vith, had lunch there and continued on to the Ommerscheid Forest to the monument General Wood had erected in honor of Eric Wood. It was a while since we had last been there, and the silence in those woods made us feel very humble. In the afternoon we had an appointment at Gouvy with Willy and Adda Rikken. We were welcomed like family and spent the remainder of the day sharing stories and talking about the 106th, especially about Lt. Wood and Wereth. It was nearly 7:00 p.m. when we left Gouvy — hours had seemed like minutes. The weather was very cold during the whole day. Early in the afternoon it began to snow. Luckily we were inside with good company, coffee and biscuits. On the way home we stopped at the Baraque and I took a quick snapshot of the monument. Hope you like it!"

All the best, Carl and Sofie

# A Visit to the Henri Chapelle American Cemetery in Belgium — Submitted by Bernard Mayrsohn (423/Cannon)

Bernard (Barney) Mayrsohn (423/ Cannon) and his son Mark went to the Henri Chapelle American Cemetery in Belgium in the Spring of 2008. With the help of Denise Oger they arranged a meeting with the Centre de Recherches et d'informations sur la Bataille des Ardennes (C.R.I.B.A.). The Mayrsohns presented the 106th I.D. banner to several members of the C.R.I.B.A. The C.R.I.B.A. has been attending to the graves of fallen Allied soliders in the region for more than



Bernard (Barney) Mayrsohn (423/Cannon) and son Mark presenting the 106th I.D. banner to several members of the C.R.I.B.A.

60 years and have a great respect for the effort made by the Golden Lions. The group also marks the beginning of the battle by having area churches ring their bells every December 16.

# My Darling Mother: A Soldier's Letters Home

by Susan Schenck Izard

On January 17, 1945, one day before my father's 22nd birthday, my grandparents, Charles and Dorothy Schenck of Englewood, N.J. received the following telegram:

THE SECRETARY OF WAR DESIRES ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET THAT YOUR SON LIEUTENANT CHARLES N. SCHENCK III HAS BEEN REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION SINCE TWENTY ONE DECEMBER IN GERMANY IF FURTHER DETAILS OR OTHER INFOR-MATION ARE RECEIVED YOU WILL BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED = DUNLOP ACTING THE ADJ GENERAL.

My father, Newt (Newtie to his parents), was a Second and then First Lieutenant for the United States Field Artillery, Battery B, 590th Field Artillery Battalion, a supporting unit for the 423rd Infantry of the 106th Infantry Division. My father served as a forward observer. This dreaded telegram was received by over 7,000 other parents with sons in the Battle of the Bulge confirming their worst fears that their beloved sons were either missing or dead.

The following is the story I have pieced together of my father's experience in World War II. My grandmother carefully kept all of the letters he wrote beginning with his first days of basic training. She placed them in a box that was passed on to my mother who kept them in her attic until last summer when I asked if I could sort through them. I was curious to see if these letters from Europe would offer any insight into my father's character and passion for caring for others.

The box contains much more information than I can begin to use in this paper, including the story of my grandmother's remarkable correspondence to discover if my father was alive. The contents are a testimony to my grandmother's love for my father and his love for her. In almost every letter and V-mail from Europe, he addresses her, "My Darling Mother."

#### Fall 1944

Like many men in the 106th Infantry, my father believed that he would never see combat. He knew he would travel to Europe, but assumed he would be a part of the Army of Occupation. In his only typewritten letter dated "Monday Night," written from Camp Atterbury, Indiana, my father writes home explaining his role as a forward observer. A part of the letter reads:

I'm battalion duty officer tonight and I'm using their typewriter just for practice. All the generals from Washington have been up to inspect and speak to us, and the inspections of one thing or another never seem to stop. Our big job at this time is no longer training but rather trying to get each man fully equipped and processed as well as packing all the battery equipment and straightening out the records. I'm making out a power of attorney to you and also a will. It's just one of those things along with an allotment that we

all have to do before leaving the country. I tried to argue that I really couldn't think of anything I had to will to anyone, but that doesn't seem to make any difference. I want to repeat again that I am very lucky in having two very good boys in my little section. We are equipped with a jeep and trailer, a little stove and set of pots, a five gallon water can, a set of entrenching tools, extra gas cans, a radio, two telephones with five miles of wire and accessories for laying it out, a big telescope with which to observe fire, various instrument and survey equipment, and so on. I personally carry on myself a compass, a two hundred dollar pair of binoculars, a gas mask, pistol, two extra clips of ammunition, steel helmet, field bag, dispatch case, ..., and so on. So you can see that I am very loaded down. If I have to do much walking with the infantry, you can bet I'll get rid of most of it. One of my men is a sergeant. He drives the jeep. The other is a radio operator — telephone operator and wireman. Most of the time they'll be busy bringing up the jeep and carrying communications, which is the toughest part of the job. A forward observer is no good to any one if he has no contact. My job splits up into two parts — first to find targets and fire on them, second to keep liaison with the forward elements of the infantry we are supporting. I'm supposed to be the eyes and ears of the artillery. So most the time I will be doing one of two things, either looking for observation posts from which I can fire or else helping the infantry commander decide how best to use his supporting weapons. As you may be able to see from what I have told you, it is usually an extremely interesting job.

I'm completely on my own and can go wherever I want so long as I carry out my mission. With the equipment I've got I'm pretty well self-sufficient and often will not return to the battery for days at a time. I'm frankly itching to get my chance. But we'll probably end up as the army of occupation.

By November 12, 1944 my father was at sea. In part of a letter dated 12/ Nov/44 my father writes.

Well, Dear, here I am at sea for the first time in my life. I can't tell you which ocean, from where I came, or what date I sailed, where I'll land — so you can see there isn't much I can say. I can't even say much about the ship. It's all very interesting to me as you may guess. We eat only two meals a day, but the food is excellent. I have good quarters and all facilities such as a locker and a shower. I spend most my time on deck where the air is wonderful. The first day out I felt pretty sick, but now I'm fine. We have no organized activity as there is no room, but I can read, write, or play cards. However, I'm usually satisfied to be on deck and just look. The ocean changes all the time and is all I could ever have expected it to be.

#### Two days later, a V-mail was sent.

I'm still at sea and still enjoying the trip. But I'm slowly getting to miss my beer and all the little extra bit of food I need to get. My main complaint is that I'm continually hungry and guess I'll remain that way until I get back to the States. I spend a lot of time each day talking to the men in the battery. They have pretty crowded, uncomfortable quarters, but most of them are enjoying the trip very much. Boy, will I ever be glad to get my first letters from you all. I issued out K rations today for our first day in shore (wherever that will be). I guess I'll be eating a lot of K rations from now on. The weather's not so nice today so I saddle soaped all my leather equipment and washed all my clothes. I don't know when I'll see my footlocker again. It went on ahead of me and I'm living out of a valpack. Love, Newtie

This is the first time my father talks about being hungry. Like most POWs, hunger will become a theme in the letters and V-mail he wrote over the following months. My father was 6' 4" and very thin most of his life. He never forgot how hungry he was during prison camp, but he often spoke with compassion as he explained that everyone in Germany was starving by the end of the war. It is clear from these letters that he had no idea how much he would suffer during his months in Europe. After a short stay in England, my father traveled across the English Channel on an LST. In V-mail written on December 1st, my father writes:

Dear Mother, Well here I am on an LST bound for France across the Channel. And so its goodbye to England after so short a stay I only saw enough to make me want to come back to see more some day. An LST, you know, is more or less a landing barge used to transport trucks, tanks, and guns. It's not very big and it's a pretty rough trip although I guess it won't last long. Nanny can tell you what the Channel looks like. It sure will be strange to be in a country where every body speaks a different language. Am well and happy. Love, Newtie During the next two weeks, my father and his unit traveled across France and Belgium to the Siegfried Line in the Schnee Eifel in Western Germany. He was stationed just outside St. Vith in a little German town named Bleialf. He sent two V-mails home dated December 11th describing his journey. While he is homesick and longing for mail from his family, he is also in remarkably good spirits.

My Darling Mother, Well, since I wrote last I've been through France into Germany all in the short span of time, so you can see how rushed I've been. I'm in Germany now and guess I'll stay here awhile. You mustn't worry about me as I am fine and my life is not bad at all. I'm forward observing from a pillbox which gives me plenty of protection and at present I see little chance of our advancing, so I'd have to move from the pillbox. I take shifts with the reconnaissance officer and when I'm off duty I sleep in a farm house, where we have fourteen cows so I've had some wonderful fresh milk. The food is coming in good, but I've still got no mail from you. The weather is freezing with snow and rain every day and I have yet to see the sun. Love. Newtie

Dear Mother, This is a continuation of my other letter. I had a very interesting time on the LST and I certainly think that Navy Officers have a cinch compared to us. Then we had a long ride by truck through France which was also very interesting to me. I ran out of gas in the middle of the night so we climbed out, made a fire and cooked a can of turkey and ate it with synthetic lemonade and a loaf of French bread Continued on next page

which I bought for an American nickel I still had. Then later on after we got more gas, we got stuck in a ditch so I borrowed a tow chain from a broken down tractor and had an armored car pull us out and finally we arrived safe and sound in Germany. We're on a pretty static front and life could be a lot worse, but oh how I miss you all. Let me know all the news and keep writing me. All my love, Newtie

#### The Battle

The Battle of the Bulge came as a complete surprise [to many soldiers]. While history records that some officials had noticed movement of troops and supplies in Western Germany, no one took these observations seriously. The young, rapidly trained 106th Infantry was placed along the Belgium border because it was considered the "Quiet Front" — the perfect place for an inexperienced Army to guard until the end of the war. In a V-mail my father wrote home in mid-December 1944, he referred to his position along the Siegfried Line as "static." His deepest concern was hearing news from home and making sure his financial allotment was being tended to. On December 14, 1944, he writes:

Darling Mother, A little mail came in today, but none for me. I'm beginning to get worried about hearing from you. Well I'm quite happy here. I'm on the Siegfried Line you know and my observation post is a pillbox — so strong that there's nothing to worry about. The situation is static so I go back to wash and rest every other day. The only trouble is I get no exercise. The morale of the men is very high. I may increase my allotment as there is nothing to spend my money on. Remember I should get \$100 a month in the bank plus my bond. Now don't forget to let me know what I have in the bank as I have no idea. We get a free cigarette ration over here — one pack a day. I've got a couple of ribbons and stars I can wear now, but they don't interest me much. ... All my love, Newtie

Various history books have helped me to piece together what might have been my father's experience during the Battle of the Bulge and the days before his capture. We are fortunate that he was able to write one letter home after his liberation describing his experience before the letters from liberated soldiers were censored of all war experiences. In a part of his first letter home after liberation, dated Monday, April 16, my father writes:

Well, now that I've brought you up to date a little on my present condition I'll go into a little of the news on what happened to me from Dec. to April. As you remember we arrived on the Siegfried line about Dec. 13 or so and my last letter told you what a wonderful set up it was for living comforts. My promotion had gone in, I had just wangled for my driver my favorite soldier in the battery and altogether I guess things were looking too good. I have fired some interesting targets, but none of us had any idea a big attack was coming from the Germans. One morning I just awoke to a terrible barrage landing all around and over my pill-box. *That was the beginning. The barrage* ended and all was quiet on my sector, but we could hear the main attack going on in a little town called Bleialf,

so I left my Sgt. in the pill box with a phone and took off for Battalion headquarters to get permission to go down into the town where I could be of some use in directing fire. There I learned my old Battery Commander, Captain Pitts, had been killed through shell fire. He was the only officer in the battalion who was killed. All the rest were captured. I went into the little town and in a pretty thrilling counterattack we drove the Jerries out. I tasted my first small-arms fire (as well as mortars and grenades) and I was scared nearly to death. I must have smoked continuously from then on until capture. I was that tense. That night I stayed at an Infantry command post in a building in the town. I had my two men with me and we planned to *continue artillery support of the infantry* the next day, but that next morning the Germans attacked with several divisions including the famous Hermann Goring Division and easily drove our few companies out of the town. I and 12 other men and officers were surrounded in that building for four hours. We really caught hell from every platoon of Jerries that went by. I won't try to describe my feelings at this time and the whole thing is hard to tell on paper, but during a lull we rushed out, jumped in my jeep, and took off back to the Battalion command post. The jeep arrived with plenty of holes in it, but I and my crew were okay except for minor cuts. After that I thought nothing worse could happen to me, but I hadn't been a prisoner yet.

While there is no letter recording the experience of my father's capture, it is likely he was captured on December 19th. In the official Army record of the Battle of the Bulge, *The Ardennes: The Battle of the Bulge*, the author, Hugh Cole, records that after a fierce battle on December 16th and 17th around the tiny village of Bleialf, the 423rd infantry regrouped on Ridge 536 in the Schnee Eifel just southeast of Schonberg with the orders to take Schonberg. The losses to the 423rd infantry and their supporting units had been high and there was very little ammunition left to fight with, the "590th Field Artillery Battalion had only about 300 rounds for its 105-mm. howitzers."<sup>1</sup> Hugh Cole writes:

"The 423rd still was attempting to form for the attack, when, an hour or so after dawn on 19 December, German field pieces along the Bleialf-Schonberg road open fire, sweeping the southeastern slope of Ridge 536. Soon the shelling ceased and the enemy infantry closed in, overrunning the 590th Field Artillery Battalion and other heterogeneous units which had been moving in the rear of the rifle battalions."<sup>2</sup>

If, by some chance my father was not with the firing positions of the 590th Field Artillery that morning, the 423rd Infantry and all its attached and supporting units surrendered to the Germans at 4 p.m. on the afternoon of December 19th.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Cole, Hugh. *The Ardennes: The Battle of the Bulge*. Konecky and Konecky, Old Saybrook, CT., p. 166.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, p. 168.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., p. 345.

#### Prison Camp

After being captured on December 19th, my father was marched, along with other prisoners, to a box car that transported him to prison camp. The only remaining record we have of this experience was recorded in the War Crimes Questionnaire my father filled out during his stay at the 206th General Hospital in Mourmelon, France. From the Questionnaire, we know that between December 19th and December 29th, 1944, my father was held in "3 or 4 German clearing stations in and around Prum." Later, he was moved to "a Russian, English Stalag outside of Hanover" for January 1945 and then moved to Oflag 13B and a Serbian Hospital in Hammelburg, Germany for the remainder of his imprisonment. In the War Crimes Questionnaire, my father explains the treatment he received:

*In general, on trip to camp the* following items: 60 men in 1 box car for 8 days without exercise. Insufficient drinking water which had to be drunk from helmets. Helmets also only latrine available. Atrocious shortage of food at all times. Forced march from 0400 to 2400 to camp at Bad Orb outside of which officers were held in ranks standing until 0800 following morning. In camp — I spent two months in Serbian officers hospital at Hammelburg with dysentery and pneumonia. 1 cup ersatz tea or coffee for breakfast, thin soup for lunch, 1/7 loaf of black bread and thin soup for supper. No heat in ward throughout winter. Two torn, worn out blankets, lice and bedbugs. For wounded Germans supplied only enough paper bandages to change dressings twice a

week. Lt. John Coleman, A Btry, 590th FA Bn, 106th Div., died of pneumonia as direct result of improper care in hospital. I could cite a number of other similar incidents, if space permitted.

When my father first arrived in prison camp he was permitted to send home two short postcards and a letter, along with a preprinted postcard stating that he had been taken prisoner of war. The letter, dated New Year's Eve, is slightly censored, but the majority of the content still remains:

Dear Mother, I print so I can get more on. I am a prisoner of war. I was captured Dec. 19 as I spent Xmas in a concentration camp. All I've done is think of you at home. Don't worry about me. I am well and see no reason why I should get sick, although we get (rest of sentence is wiped out). We get exercise by chopping our own wood. Our daily ration of black bread and soup is tremendously (rest of sentence is wiped out except "Red Cross packages which arrive weekly). ... with 12 American and 4 British officers. There is a small library and weekly church services so I have something to occupy my mind. Also we play a little bridge. I sleep at *least twelve hours every night — there* being no light. At least I have no responsibility anymore and I can't tell you how lucky I was to escape with my life, being knocked out by a shell blast for one thing. But that story I'll tell you in person. It was a sad experience. I lost some close friends. My promotion was in when I was captured, but I expect I'll never get it now. I love you more all the time and think of you all constantly. I can only write once in a long time.

You can write me all the time, but I may never receive it. Don't worry, please. At least I'm out of combat. Newtie

In a postcard dated January 7, 1945. My father writes:

Darling Mother, I was only lightly wounded when captured — just in one finger — all healed now. I have no way of knowing what happened to all my friends — am with nobody I knew before capture. Hope soon to move out of this transit camp to a permanent American Officers Camp where life should be much better. I write every time they let me. Until next time — my love, Newtie

The only other mail from prison camp was written on February 28, 1945. By then my father was in Oflag 13B and recovering from pneumonia.

Darling Mother, I hate to tell you but I have been quite sick with bronchial pneumonia for the past three weeks. I am in the American ward of the Serbian Hospital here at the camp. I am much better, though not well yet. There is an American doctor taking care of me. Love, Newtie

Other than a few letters and the War Crimes Questionnaire, we know very little about my father's experience in prison camp. It was interesting to learn that his answers to the questions in the War Crimes Questionnaire are remarkably similar to historical descriptions describing the conditions in Oflag 13B. While my father rarely spoke of his experiences in prison camp, every now and then he would tell us a story. He spoke reverently of a Serb who nursed him back to health when he had pneumonia by spoon feeding my father the

thin soup that was given to the prisoners. He deeply regretted that he was unable to return the favor. The Serb died some time after my father had recovered. My father also told us that during the freezing winter nights, he and other prisoners would sleep on top of each other to keep each other warm. Even in my teens, my father's face would grow dark when he talked about how hungry he was throughout that winter. He said they lived to receive the Red Cross packages - he loved getting the books, chocolate and cigarettes. Every now and then my father would tell us the story that is now known as the "Hammelburg Raid." On March 9, 1945, American officers who had been imprisoned in Oflag 64 in Schubin, Poland, arrived at Oflag 13 B. Included in this group was General Patton's son-inlaw, Lt. Col. John Waters. In late March 1945, General Patton organized Task Force Baum for the purpose of liberating the officers imprisoned in Oflag 13B. The Army believed that there were about 500 officers in Oflag 13B. In reality, there were almost 1300. General Patton ordered Captain Abraham Baum and 300 of his very best infantry to travel ahead of the front about 100 miles in 57 tanks and jeeps in order to liberate Oflag 13B. While Patton never admitted it, my father and others believed that the purpose of this highly dangerous mission was to liberate his son-in-law. The mission was a disaster. All 57 vehicles were lost, 32 men were killed, 35 made it back to the front and the rest were taken prisoner. Captain Baum was wounded while retreating back to the front and ended up in the same Serbian hospital my father had been in. Lt. Col. Waters was

also wounded when a German guard shot him as the task force smashed through the fences surrounding the camp. Because of his wounds, he was unable to be liberated and ended up in the Serbian hospital for the remainder of his imprisonment.<sup>4</sup>

Task Force Baum arrived in Hammelburg without any German resistance, liberating the camp on March 27th. However, while retreating back to the front, Germans surrounded the small unit and destroyed it. When Baum entered Oflag 13B, he told the prisoners, including my father, that they could ride on top of the tanks back to the front, but not in them. They just did not have the room for all those men. In addition, the men were covered in lice and sick with dysentery and they did not want to contaminate the healthy men. My father climbed on a tank with the hope of escaping. He was fed by the Americans, although he couldn't keep the food down, and jumped off into a ditch when the fighting began. He made his way to a German farm where he spent the night in a barn. The next day, the farmer returned my father and those with him to the prison camp.

I have discovered that this night in the barn my father often talked about probably saved his life. All the healthy prisoners who were returned to Oflag 13B on March 28th, as well as those who never left, were placed in box cars that night and shipped to Nuremburg and other prison camps in southern Germany. Many died from the cold and lengthened imprisonment. Being returned to camp the following day, my father was allowed to stay at Oflag 13B with those in the hospital and a few other lucky ones. Patton and the 14th Armored Division liberated the camp about a week later on April 6th. Patton arranged for his son-in-law to be evacuated by air, leaving a great sense of bitterness among the prisoners and those who fought in Task Force Baum. After each telling of this story, my father would always comment that he thought Patton should never have ordered the Mission.

#### Liberation

V-mail and letters my father wrote as a patient in the Army hospital in Vittel, France, speak of some war experiences but they are mostly filled with my father's attempts to persuade his mother that his health was fine. He also expresses his yearning to see his family again. The first V-mail home, he writes:

My Darling Mother, Here I am free to write you again and say what I please. Being a prisoner of war for four months was hard enough for me, but I dread to think of how you must have suffered when you received that telegram "missing in action." But it's all over now and I can say luck in our lives going through regular channels of evacuation to the states where I should arrive in about a month or two. Sometime in early summer I will receive a 30 day leave, and I imagine we'll all have one grand time together. I am well, but very thin, naturally. In this first letter I won't waste space on German treatment, but it will make your hair stand on end. You cannot write me or telegraph me vet as I have no address. As soon as I can, I will ask for a telegram from you telling me how you all are. Naturally I'm starved for news of you all and pray all is well with the family. It's like being

4 Ibid, Task Force Baum

reborn — the liberation. Everything is new and full of interest to me, and every old experience is now a new pleasure, from good food to a bath to delousing to a field movie to a Red Cross girl, and so on ad infinitum. I will try to find an airmail stamp and write a more complete letter as soon as possible. Hope you received my two telegrams. All my love, Newtie

As days pass, my father continues to inform my grandparents about his condition and situation. In a V-mail dated April 22, my father writes:

My Darling Mother, As I wrote in an airmail letter the other day, I am now very comfortably fixed in a big general hospital. I am feeling better every day but still have a long way to go and feel I will never get all my weight back until I can exercise strenuously again as I don't gain weight very easily which you well know. Already though, what with all the vitamins and shots they are giving me, there is a tremendous improvement in the condition of my skin and hair and in general energy. The weather is still beautiful and I walk around outside as much as possible. I hope by the end of this week that maybe I can be on my way someplace else along the route home. I find that because of censorship regu*lating I can write very little about my* experiences in Germany, so I'll wait to tell you about them in person. I wonder if the packages you sent me and I never received have been returned to you by the post office. I hope so. Each day a few liberated P.W.'s arrive at the hospital and of course I am always looking for men I know out of the old outfit. Most of those still alive I'm afraid are still prisoners

down around Munich. Life is really very happy for me now that I have nothing to worry about and know that I will get a long leave in the states before I ever go on active duty again. All I have to do is drift along until the army decides our future. The sooner they get me home the better, but until they do I can have a very good time just being in American hands again. They have me in for a Purple Heart which I will receive in a few days, although all I have to show for it now is a small scar on my hand. I will write again soon. My love to all, Newtie

By May, my father's letters were focused on coming home and dreaming about his future. His spirits remain remarkably bright given the circumstances. He is chatty and reflective. On May 7th, he writes:

My Darling Mother, It is a beautiful May morning here at the hospital and I am taking this opportunity to write you another air mail letter. I am feeling fine, better all the time. I have had no trouble with my stomach for about a week now and hope my digestive tract is swinging back to normal at last. I am always hungry now, which is certainly a sign of returning health. The time has come when G.I. food no longer appeals to me like it did when I was first liberated. I long now for all the variety and good cooking of food at home. What we miss in our diet here is fresh food such as salads and vegetables and eggs, etc. Of course ninety percent of what we eat is canned or dehydrated. So when I get home your food bill is really going to soar, because I'll eat you out of house and home. I don't think I have written you that the

war dep't now authorizes a 60-day leave for all liberated PWs. Can you imagine that! I'll have 60 days with you all this summer and you can make your plans on that basis. Isn't that wonderful? Now I've just read in the army newspaper that P.W. leaves may be extended to 90 days and that all PWs will definitely have jobs in the states for the first six months after their leaves are ended, so you don't have to worry about my seeing any more combat for a long, long time if ever again. I should be leaving the hospital and on my way home within the next three days, maybe tomorrow, so I am getting quite excited. They tell me I have a very good chance of flying all the way since I have a top priority. When I arrive in the states, I will have to go to a special camp to get all my records, back pay, etc. straightened out, but within a few hours of landing in the states I ought to be able to contact you by phone and I guess we'll have plenty to say to each other. Then as soon as I'm cleared through the camp, my leave will start, and I hope and know being with you all for 60 days will more than make up for the unpleasantness of the last five months. Be sure to take good care of yourself for I love you very much. Your son. Newtie

In a telegram dated June 13, the Army informs my grandparent's that my father was being returned to the United States. Since most of the telegrams from the Army arrived considerably later than letters and telegrams from my father, it is likely he returned to the United States in early June. When my grandparents went to an Army hospital on Staten Island to pick him up, they walked right past my father. They did not recognize him because he was so thin.

#### Conclusion

After attending Columbia Law School on the GI Bill, my father was redrafted during the Korean War. He was fortunate to get a position as legal officer in the office of the Army Counselor in Washington D.C. where he was awarded The Army Commendation Ribbon for his work. As he was finishing up his time in Washington, my father was recommended to be the personal assistant for General Luke W. Finlay, Deputy of Defense Affairs in the Office of the United States Special Representative in Europe where he worked on administering the Marshall Plan and shaping the NATO alliance. Three days after landing in Paris, General Finlay invited my father over to dinner where he met the General's oldest daughter, Anne.

My parents were married in the American Cathedral in Paris on December 5, 1952. They moved to New Haven, CT the following fall where my father began his life long law practice with Wiggin and Dana. His extensive work as a public servant throughout the second half of the 20th Century gained him the reputation of being the quintessential lawyer citizen.<sup>5</sup>

My father passionately believed in caring for others. He was a remarkably generous man sharing his talent, time and money. It is not clear in these letters home that the seeds of this generosity were sowed as a result of surviving the War and prison camp, but the letters do give us a glimmer into the resilient

5 Robert F. Cavanagh and the NHCBA CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE, From the Colonies to Today: Over Three Centuries of Law and Lawyers in New Haven., p. 46.

spirit that my father carried with him throughout his life. He firmly believed that if we were lucky enough to be alive, American and educated, it was our duty to give back to the world. Having been given the chance to live his life, he lived it fully. About the Author: Susan Schenck Izard is the third of Newt and Anne's five daughters. She is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and co-author of "Knitting Into the Mystery: A Guide to the Shawl-Knitting Ministry" West Hartford, CT.

# Jim West and www.IndianaMilitary.org Web site

This Web site currently contains a very large section devoted to the 106th Infantry Division. Mr. West is always looking for historical news, current news and photos, and he welcomes anything you may come across.

You may be aware that every issue of *The CUB*, beginning with the first issue in 1945, is available on this Web site. Mr. West waits a respectable amount of time and then scans each page of each issue he receives in the mail. In addition to this work with electronic filing of *The CUB*, Mr. West is working on a re-constructed Roster for the 106th Infantry Division and it is likewise available on the Web site. The Roster now stands at nearly 13,000 names. Mr. West is slowly beginning the latest revisions to the 106th Division Roster. As he goes through the timeconsuming process of up-dating the Web site, he is high-lighting the unit name in the index in violet color so as to indicate that this unit has been updated and you are viewing the current information.

Mr. West has established a way for the public to interact with one another via the **106th Infantry Division discussion board** on the Web site at the following internet address: *http://106thdivision.proboards84.com*. Here you can see the many questions that have been "posted" and some really great answers. Remember — when you try to go to the new 106th Message Board you will need to REGISTER the first time. You cannot LOG IN without registering first. Your old login and password are not connected with the new board.

## **2008 Order of the Golden** Lion Recipients

Order of the Golden Lion Chairman John Swett presented a Commander award to Adjutant Murray Stein and a Companion award to Mrs. Barbara Stein for her work with the ladies luncheon the past two years. The Steins accepted, "with heartfelt appreciation."



# **Battle of the Bulge Veterans Memorial Highway Dedication**

Article written by Michael Duck (Morning Call, Allentown PA), submitted by Bob Faro

Cold rain pelted 82-year-old Morris Metz as he stood beside Route 145 in Lehigh Township, PA on a cold Tuesday morning (May 20, 2008), shoulder to shoulder with dozens of his brothersin-arms from the Battle of the Bulge. Above their heads, a soaked canvas tarp was yanked back to reveal a new sign: "Battle of the Bulge Veterans Memorial Highway." It was a moment Metz said he never could have imagined as a 19-year-old soldier with a bazooka on his shoulder, fighting for his life in the bitter cold and snow of Belgium against the last-ditch German offensive of World War II.

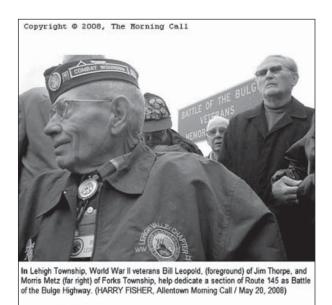
"We did our jobs," said Metz, of Forks Township, PA who's now president of the group Lehigh Valley Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. "At that point, we didn't realize the impact." Politicians and road workers joined the veterans in a soggy field beside the highway to unveil and dedicate the signs. The ceremony also marked the anniversary of Metz's group, which has met regularly for 10 years at The Terrace restaurant on Route 145 in Walnutport, PA. Signs marking the new memorial highway are in Walnutport, just north of The Terrace, and near the Treichlers Bridge at the southern edge of Lehigh Township. "To me it was fitting ... [so] everyone would remember where this group began," said Bob Faro of Upper Nazareth, PA an associate member of the group and the one who pushed for the highway dedication. "Every time I drive by it, it'll just be more poignant."

Faro, a Vietnam-era veteran, had two relatives at the Battle of the Bulge: His uncle Thomas Reda of West New York, N.J., was taken as a prisoner of war at the start of the campaign, while his mother's cousin, Thomas O'Brien of Middleborough, Mass., was shot and killed by a sniper at the very end of the battle. However, Faro said, "this is not about my family." His goal is to remind younger people about the battle and help honor its veterans. "These guys are disappearing fast, you know?" More than a year ago, Faro took his idea to PA State Reps. Julie Harhart, R-Northampton, and Richard Grucela, D-Northampton. The pair co-sponsored a bill to rename the stretch of Route 145, which passed unanimously and was recently signed by the governor. "Every person who drives by this marker will be reminded of the price of freedom," Harhart said Tuesday, joining Grucela, Metz and others behind a waterlogged Penn DOT podium. "I know many of you veterans have endured a whole lot worse than a few raindrops," Harhart teased the crowd of veterans, who were mostly in their 80s and clutched canes, walkers and umbrellas.

In 2002, the PA State Legislature also named Route 33 in Northampton County the Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe 101st Airborne Memorial Highway. McAuliffe commanded the 101st Airborne Division in Bastogne, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge. On Dec. 16, 1944, the German army tried to break through American and British defenses in the Ardennes forest of Belgium, in an attempt to push back and splinter the Allied forces which fought to contain that bulge in the Allied line over the following 41 days. They succeeded, at the cost of almost 81,000 American casualties, including 19,000 dead. "You lose a lot of your friends. ... Just like that — boom, boom, 'oom,'' recalled 89-year-old Louis H. Vargo, who was a 23-year-old mess sergeant during the Bulge. The soldiers were dying at a rate of "450 a day, if you average it out. ... It must have been so frightening," said Judy Greenhalgh of Hilltown Township, Bucks County. Greenhalgh, whose stepfather fought in the battle, is the veterans group's vice president, and her father and uncle also served in the war.

After Hitler's defeat, many American soldiers tried to leave the horrors of combat behind them. "We came home, we put all our stuff away, we forgot about the war," Metz said. That started to change on May 19, 1998, when Metz and a handful of other Battle of the Bulge veterans gathered at The Terrace. They quickly decided they needed to share their experiences with others. To date, members of the group have addressed more than 42,000 students at roughly two dozen schools across Lehigh, Northampton and Carbon counties, said Greenhalgh, who's also the group's educational coordinator. Greenhalgh said she hopes the new, green highway signs will also stir more interest in the pivotal battle.

The signs are also a kind of monument to the veterans, who have become family through their bonds forged on the battlefield, Metz said. And even for veterans in their 80s or 90s, it would take far worse than Tuesday's rain to dampen that solidarity. "You don't let weather interfere with your love for your country," Metz said, "and your love for your fellow veterans."



# Honor Flight by Lee LeTellier

Attending and addressing the 106th Infantry Division reunion in Louisville was an unforgettable experience. I was honored to meet the Golden Lions. I hope to further interest in the World War II Memorial and help more veterans visit the monument they earned.

The World War II Memorial is located between the Washington and Lincoln Monuments on the National Mall. Opening in 2004, most of the veterans it was built to honor were over seventy five years old. The monument is a sweeping, open pavilion surrounding a fountain and ringed by 56 pillars representing the US states and territories. Unlike most monuments focused on a single object, fountains, waterfalls, sculptures, bas-relief panels, arches and inscriptions offer hours of study.

Honor Flight is a volunteer organization dedicated to honoring World War II veterans by flying them at no cost to Washington, D.C. to visit their memorial. Captain Earl Morse, Honor Flight's director, pioneered the organization May 21, 2005, flying twelve veterans in six private planes from Ohio to Washington. Today, nearly thirty regional programs fly veterans and volunteer guardians in chartered airliners from cities around the country to D.C. Veterans are provided all transportation, meals, T shirts, goody bags, and any medical aids at no cost while trained guardians and medical personnel pay full fare. The trips begin early morning and return late the same day and include visits to other national monuments.

My father, a 106th Division combat engineer, and father-in-law, a B-17 pilot



and POW, were two of the many veterans who did not live to see the completion of their monument. I feel every surviving WWII veteran is owed an opportunity to visit their monument and remember their departed comrades. I volunteered as a First Coast HonorAir (Jacksonville, Florida area) guardian the day I learned of the program. May 31, 2008, I flew to Washington with First Coast HonorAir's third flight. Our chartered flight included over 100 veterans and 35 volunteers. Among our veterans were two married couples and a 100-year-old man. Each guardian is assigned two or three veterans to assist. I was responsible for a navy veteran and an artilleryman from the European theater. One enjoyed his time with fellow vets while the other shared much of his time with me. We boarded three busses in Orange Park, Florida and were escorted to Jacksonville Airport by Highway Patrolmen and about fifty motorcyclists. Along the way large groups stood by the road and saluted the veterans holding signs and waving flags. At the airport we were greeted by cheering USO folks with flags, flowers, hugs and handshakes. On the runway the fire crew saluted us with a water arch sprayed over our plane. In flight there was a mail call with the veterans receiving letters from elementary school students.

Upon arriving in Washington

another fire crew saluted us with a water arch. When this spray was lowered to beat against the side, several of the vets moved to the windows to shake their fists at the firemen. Departing our plane we were greeted by an applauding crowd and an orchestra. We were entertained by several patriotic and big band songs. We boarded busses and saw many sites including the Washington Monument lawn on the way to the World War II Memorial. The site affords excellent handicap access and unlimited places to sit and observe the many views. We placed a wreath at our state's pillar and spent several hours observing the site in small groups. I think everyone in our group would have enjoyed even more time. On our way to a tent for our lunch lightning struck the Washington Monument over our heads as a violent storm appeared. A strong wind sent branches falling around us and blew rain through the tent wetting us and turning the ground to a slick mud. Lightning and thunder and the crash of folding chairs blown into wheel chairs sent us running for our veterans. Most refused help and many directed the guardians to secure the tent. I was surprised to not see one show of fear.

Later I realized these were men who had experienced much more than rain, wind, thunder and lightning. Compared with being bitter cold in snow and shells exploding and shattering trees overhead, our storm was mild.

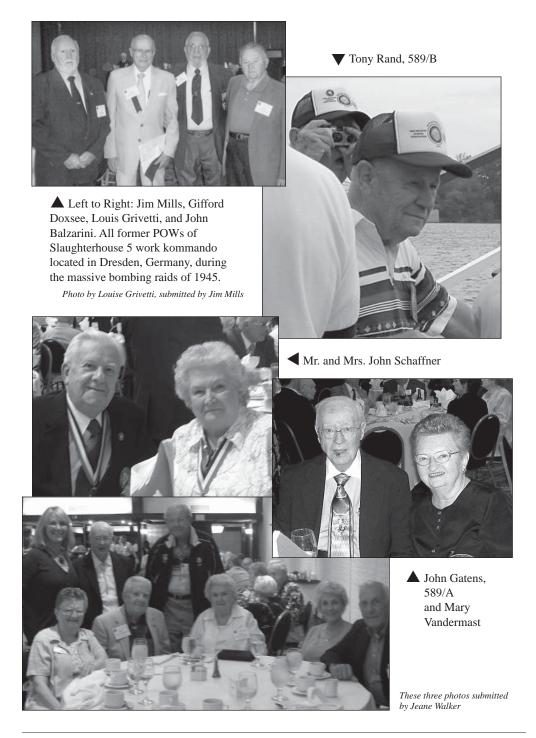
The weather cleared enough for us to tour Arlington Cemetery from our busses. We attended the impressive changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Four of our veterans participated in a ceremony placing a wreath from First Coast HonorAir at the tomb. On the way to the Iwo Jima Memorial we passed the interesting stainless steel Air Force Monument and saw the area of the Pentagon struck in the 911 attack. We enjoyed walking around the huge Iwo Jima statue. Some in our group had fought on Iwo Jima and were seeing the monument for the first time. They had some interesting stories. Our next stop was the Korean War Memorial where we walked around the life size figures depicting a squad on patrol. It was an eerie experience.

After sightseeing through Washington we returned to Reagan International and appreciated being quickly escorted through security. Honor Flight groups from Texas and Alabama waited for their flights at gates adjacent to ours. It was quite a sight seeing 300 veterans in one large group enjoying themselves for over an hour. We were entertained by several unruly vets on the flight back. I never saw a tired veteran and was harassed about my short nap. Returning around midnight, we were met by over 100 anxious family members. The happy looks on all the veterans' faces convinced me of how grateful they were. I hope they understand how much more grateful we are for what they have done for us.

I hope I have encouraged some veterans to visit their monument and take advantage of the *Honor Flight* Network. We would also appreciate volunteers and donations from non veterans. My contact information is **Lee LeTellier**: (904) 923-0023, the *Honor Flight* Main Office number is (937) 521-2400, the *Honor Flight* Web site is *www.HonorFlight.org* and the *Honor Flight* e-mail: **info@HonorFlight.org** 

## Front & Center . . .

## **2008 Annual Reunion Photos**



## Front & Center . . .



Local High School color guard during the memorial service. Photo submitted by Joe Maloney

▲ Left to right back row: Daryl Brown, Steven Haise, Marilyn Robb, Mary Brown, Bobbie Haise, Corky Haise, and John Robb. Second row: Ryan Haise and Wyatt Brown. Front row: Reagan Haise. Photo by submitted Marilyn Robb



▲ The family of deceased veteran, Robert Wood, 423/I. Pictured from left to right Patricia and Randall Wood (son and daughter-in-law), Beth Garrison and Janet Wood (daughters), Wilma Wood and Dean and Carol Faulkner (daughter and son-in-law). Missing from the photo is son-in-law Ron Garrison serving in Afghanistan.

## Front & Center . . .

Amouncing	the arriv YOU CAN'T	al of the book <i>PUT DOWN!!!</i>
	s had while in with the 106 <sup>th</sup> g WWII which mbushed and ns on the first f the Bulge in ember, 1944.	ohn M. "Jack" Roberts
Escape!!! The True Story of a World War II P.O.W The Germans Couldn't Hold by John M. "Jack" Roberts	his harrowing e marched behind Prisoner of War. you learn a including milita up to his capture	letailed account of scape while being d enemy lines as a Early chapters let about Jack's youth my training leading e and finishes with to civilian life with its rewards.
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QUESTIONS? Contact Jack at Price of book ("ESCAPE!!!") is :		
Number of books@ \$27.95 =	AMOUNT EN	CLOSED =
Make check payable to John M. Robe the bottom of this form to him with you	ur check to :	John M. Roberts 1059 Alter Road Id Hills, Michigan 48304
Please print)		U U
our Name:		
our Address:		

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#### The 106th Association's Atlanta, Georgia Mini-Reunion, Dec. 16, 2007

Our mini-reunion was held at Steak and Ale in College Park, GA. We had a great meal and afterwards the 106th men, attending, told of their experiences while they were in the service. Afterwards, we made pictures of those in attendance.

Submitted by Mrs. Frankie C. Burkes



Pictured are: (Back row, left to right): Woody Harriman, Bill Jenkins, Stanwood Portney and David Black. (Front row, left to right): Unknown, Carl Carrup, Ewell Black and Bobby Ridley.



Pictured are: (Back row, left to right): Sue Carrup, Frankie Burkes, Jean Saldally and Mary Ruth Kinsey (Front row, left to right): Peggy Harriman, Susan Ridley, Glenice Pearson (widow of R. H. Penson) and Dorothy Portney.

#### The 106th Association's Southern California Mini-Reunion, Dec. 16, 2007

We started by reading *My First Reunion* by Dale Carner and a "Memorial Prayer for those Fallen in Battle" (from Milton Weiner's World War II prayer booklet). The 106th Division's "Golden Lion" flag was proudly flown. Fourteen people attended, including four 106th Veterans who each gave a brief summary of their experiences in the Battle of the Bulge. For information about the 2008 event please write or call Milton Weiner at 310/544-0470 or 28121 Ridgethorne Ct, Ranch Palos Verdes, CA 90275-3253.

Submitted by Milton Weiner



Pictured are (left to right): Eric Vonderhurst 423/F, Milton Weiner 424/M, Joe G. Mejra 592 FA and Morris Chester 422/HQ.

# The following Mini-Reunions were recognized at the Men's Business Luncheon at the 2008 Annual Reunion:

- Walter Bridges (424/D) Alabama
- Dean Childs (106th Signal) & Calvin Wright Scottsdale, AZ
- El Creel (590/A) Sarasota, FL
- Col. Joseph C. Haines (106th Rec) Oklahoma City, OK
- Harry F. Martin Jr. (424/L) Picatinny Arsenal, NJ
- Dr. Ralph Nelson (422/CN) Los Alamos, NM
- Marion Ray (424/D) Alton, IL
- Jack Roberts (592 FA) Michigan
- John Schaffner (589 FA) Maryland
- Bill Stahl (422/K) Kansas City, KS
- Dr. Duncan Truman (424/AT) Warwick, NY

## **Division Artillery /Medic Connections**

by Connie Pratt Baesman (a soldier's daughter)

In April, a cake sporting the 106th Division's Golden Lion, finished off an unlikely reunion dinner along the Washington-Oregon border. Sharing the meal were members of three families with ties to the 590th FA BN of the 106th Division. Dr. James Clark and Dr. James Yamazaki and his wife Aki carried their own memories of 1944-45 to that dinner. Two daughters brought memories gleaned through conversations and work with their father's letters. Dr. Yamazaki's daughter Caroline was one and I was the other, arriving as the representative carrying the memories of my late father, Lt. Gerald Pratt (Service Battery 590th FA BN at the time of the break-thru.)

Work with Dad's letters from the war started a cascade of connections to the past that still take my breath away. This gathering celebrated two of these treasured connections. Dr. Clark, accompanied by his son Bob, logged over 2, 200 miles by train (each way) and another 105 miles by car to make the initial Pratt — Clark connection. Together the Clarks and I added another 330 some miles to join the Yamazaki family. Dr. Yamazaki, his wife, daughter, and a granddaughter had a restaurant dinner with champagne and the amazing cake waiting for us the evening of our arrival. This gathering represented the crossing of more than just miles. It bridged 64 years of elapsed time.

A young medic at Camp Atterbury in 1944, Jim Clark remembered Lt. Yamazaki as a doctor just out of med school. Lt. Pratt penned Dr. Yamazaki's



Taken in Spring 1945 when Lt. Gerald Pratt (Service Battery 590th FA) returned for a brief visit to the home of the family who had housed him in Dolembreaux, Germany. Pratt is on the left with two little girls. The other man is Bob Ervin, Battery Commander of the Service Battery 590th FA).

name in a letter home as he bobbed in an LST off the shores of France in early December of 1944: "Doc" (Lt.) Yamazaki got a rush order for a medic from another ship last night. I went on deck to watch the transfer and no easy job was it ..." And, in 1945, as Pratt tried to piece together the whereabouts of missing friends and comrades, Yamazaki's MIA and then his POW status were noted.

Clark and Pratt's paths converged when, in January, Pratt was assigned to the 592nd and again when both men were assigned to a reconstituted 590th FA BN. Clark was certain I would find no mention of his name in Dad's papers, but on this point alone (his memories

Continued on next page

## Feature Stories ...



Pictured from left to right (around the cake) are Dr. James Yamazaki, Connie Pratt Baesman, Aki Yamazaki, and Dr. James Clark

were clear and detailed!) he was happy to be mistaken. Clark's name showed up in Pratt's notebook in a handwritten list of proposed promotions. And, Dr. Clark and I were able to fill in some blanks for each other on details of an encounter at the site of a terrible explosion. During a move in France on May 13, 1945, one of our ammunition trucks hit a land mine (on the road over which Pratt had just passed). Pratt and his driver rushed back to help evacuate the truck before it blew. Clark arrived to treat the survivors while the blown truck was still smoking. Lt. Pratt's hand burns were among these last "enemy fire" wounds treated by Jim Clark.

I'd like to add two observations of general interest. First, I want to express my gratitude to those who have kept the 106th Division Association alive and

to those who have personally helped me. Without your help, (and perhaps a little help from beyond ...) this connection and other connections that have mattered deeply to all involved would never have happened. My second thought is a reminder to you of the value of the memories you each hold. If you haven't done so already, please write down, or dictate on tape, what you remember; and store these and other keepsakes where they will be recognized as valuable. (And, perhaps back this up by sending copy to someone like Jim West.) Apparent lack of interest may not mean anything. Some of us are slow at beginning to grasp the importance of what is so close at hand. Please help save us from ourselves by preserving your memories for us!

Brandi, Julius 423/CN —Date of Death: July 7, 2006 908 Greenway, Woodbury, NY 11797

Davis, Clyde W.422/A—Date of Death: July 11, 20081738 N. Spencer Ave, Indianapolis, ID

### Diefenthaler, Willard F. 423 1stBn/HQ —Date of Death: May 14, 2008 W5606 Co. Rd. EH

Elkhart Lake, WI 53020

#### Goldberg, Ephrain 423/C

—Date of Death: July 9, 2008 1711 Cody Drive Silver Springs, MD 20902

### Frye, Norwood A. 81 ENG/A

—Date of Death: May 16, 2008 1069 Manchester Road Glastonbury, CT 06033

## Hall Jr., Howard S. 590/B

—Date of Death: October 9, 2008 1210 Lakeview Dr., Valdosta, GA 31602

> Reported by Howard Dugger (grandson)

## Hunt, Kenneth R.

423/Medical Detachment

—Date of Death: June 6, 2008 437 Grayfriars Lane Inverness, IL 60067

### Keeber, Willard H. 424/G

—Date of Death: December 11, 2007
131 River Drive, Milford, MI 48381 Bill Keeber was a man who took life as it came — both good and bad. In World War II, he enlisted into an officer training program right out of High School. He had one semester at college in that program when the war effort needed more boots on the ground, so he was transferred into the Infantry as a buck Private. He participated in, endured and survived the Battle of the Bulge.

## Kelly, T. Paine, Jr. 589/HQ

—Date of Death: August 5, 2008 5426 Lykes Lane, Tampa, FL

## Molinari, Frank C. 422/C

-Date of Death: August 3, 2008 304 Pearl St., Malden, MA 02148

## Morgan, Aubrey D. 424/G

—Date of Death: January 9, 2008 2335 Patriot Hts., Apt. 2311 Colorado Springs, CO

## Nester, George 81st Eng/A

—Date of Death: October 24, 2007 10753 Saint Xavier Saint Ann, MO 63074

## Pace, Herman W. 422/H

—Date of Death: December 29, 2007 9952 N. Valley Pike Harrisonberg, VA 22802

> Reported by Carla Goecks and Richard Pace (son)

#### Phelan, William R. 422/H

—Date of Death: August 3, 2008 32 Essex St., Waltham, MA 02451

#### Quiggle, Romanse (Rowe) W. 424/I

—Date of Death: February 7, 2008 19888 Calumet, Clinton TWP, MI 48038

#### **Reusch**, Josef

—Date of Death: March 2008 Im Luxacker 4, 54608 Grosslangenfeld Denmark

#### Savage, Ernest C., Jr.

424/HQ 2<sup>nd</sup> BN

—Date of Death: October 26, 2007 405 Crosslands Drive, Kenneth Square, PA 19348

#### Schoelkopf, Jack W. 424/I

—Date of Death: Unknown 8 Sunrise Lane, Ocean View, DE 19970

#### Schroer, Charles J. 422/F

—Date of Death: May 18, 2008 10695 W 17th Ave. #150, Lakewood, CO 80215

#### Sparks, Richard D. 423/HQ

—Date of Death: August 20, 2008 3180 Hanley St., Deltona, FL Straka, Edward C. 106th Sig.Co. —Date of Death: February 16, 2007 6453 So. Karlove Ave. Chicago, IL 60629

Called in by Mr. Len Kernitzky-106th Sig. Co., Miami, Fl. 33179

**Thomas, George Dewey Jr. 424/I** —Date of Death: June 8, 2008 4232 Wallace Lane, Nashville, TN

### Vogel, James

423/D

—Date of Death: March 15, 2008 1403 Plantation Circle, # 109 Plant City, FL 33566-1504

#### \*\*\*Editor's Special Notification\*\*\*

## Emma B. Ferguson Life Associate Member

—Date of Death: May 5, 2008 2896 New Haven Ave., Milford, CT 06460

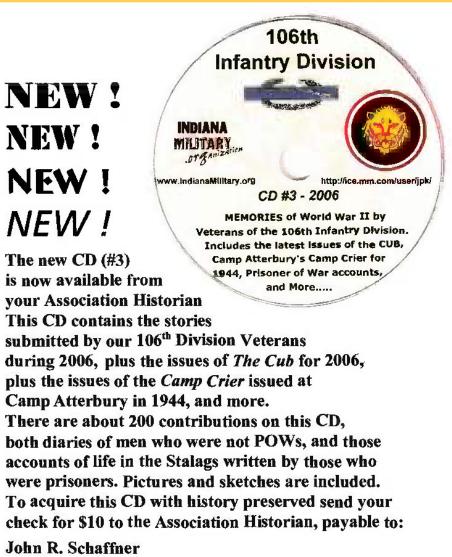
Her husband Richard served with the 590/HQ, was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held prisoner. She is survived by her husband, two daughters, four grand children, and six great-grand children.

\*Please notify Treasurer Lyle Beeth if you are aware of any 106th I.D. Association member's death announcement. Unless otherwise noted above, Treasurer Beeth reported all announcements for inclusion in this CUB. Thank you, Lyle for your hard work.

# Coming Soon!

## Orders are now being taken for the NEW CD #4

This CD will include audio featuring the 106th Division band and the complete Bob Hope radio show when he appeared at Camp Atterbury, along with issues of *The CUB and more!* 



John R. Schäffner 1811 Miller Road Cockeysville, MD 21030-1013

(The 2-CD set of The Cub of the Golden Lions is still available at \$10 per set, pp)

We are all feeling the effects of the current financial upheaval, including the 106th I.D. Association. The cost for producing *The CUB* for 2007–08 was \$16,672. The Annual Dues of \$10 and the previously allowed payment of \$75 for Life Membership creates a financial shortfall as our expenses exceeds our income. *Our solution?* 

# We are asking you to join the LIFE PLUS+ Club

Those LIFE Members who contribute to the LIFE PLUS+ Club will have their names (only, no amounts will be shown) published in the next CUB.

You can donate as much or as little as you can. By donating, you are helping perpetuate the 106th Infantry Division Association. To those LIFE members who we haven't heard from for a long time — please take the time to join this exclusive club. *Thank you!* 

Send your contribution to: 106th Infantry Div. Association c/o Lyle Beeth, Treasurer 2004 Golf Manor Blvd., Valrico, FL 33596-7288



**106th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**