

# The CUB

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR

*The Veterans of the  
106th INFANTRY  
DIVISION*

*of the*

## GOLDEN LION

Vol 70 – No. 1

December 2013 – March 2014



## Have You Visited the Golden Lions' New Website?

To complement the great  
websites already up, including

106th Infantry Division Association member Jim West's [www.IndianaMilitary.org](http://www.IndianaMilitary.org)  
and Belgium Liaison Carl Wouters's [www.106thinfantry.webs.com](http://www.106thinfantry.webs.com),  
the 106th Infantry Division Association has launched its own website at  
**[www.106thInfDivAssn.org](http://www.106thInfDivAssn.org)**.

Thanks to Webmaster Wayne Dunn, this is where you can find information  
about upcoming events; membership applications for your family to join;  
and *last but not least* the complete latest COLOR issue, plus additional photos  
and articles from *The CUB*. See the rest of the article, on page 15.

# The CUB

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

**Total Membership February 1, 2014 – 1,204**

Membership includes *CUB* magazine subscription

**Annual Dues are no longer mandatory: Donations Accepted**

Payable to **“106th Infantry Division Association”**  
in care of the **Treasurer** — See address below

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**Please Note:** At the business meeting on Friday, September 16, 2011, at the 65<sup>th</sup> Reunion in Baltimore, MD, the 106th Association Board members approved the new By-Laws that now allow “Non-106th Veterans” [as we will now be calling the formerly named Associate members] to serve on the Board and as elected officers.

## President's View . . .

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Well it's a new year and a few months closer to our next reunion. As you know, it will be in Norfolk, Virginia, **September 3–7, 2014**. They have not released the names of the tours that will be offered yet, but there will be many from which to choose. We could visit the Norfolk Botanical Gardens, the USS *Wisconsin*, the Chrysler Museum of Art, the MacArthur Museum, Norfolk Naval Base (one of the oldest naval ports in the United States), and we are not all that far from Williamsburg VA, or Jamestown. Any or all of these would be worth the effort to visit.

One thing to remember is that the sites and tours I mentioned are all interesting things to do, but the most important reason to come is to get our families together again.

Some of you remember that when your Veteran came to a reunion he brought his family, now it may be time for your family to bring your Veteran. I have seen the Veterans sit and reminisce of days gone by as if they were just a few years home from the war. They need to do it again and they may need your help in getting it done. It's not too early to plan for the vacation time needed, determine how long it takes to get there, the mode of transportation, and just who are the lucky ones to get to go. Just as important is for you and your family to come even if your Veteran is unable to attend. Many families have attended the reunions to celebrate the life of their



**Randall M. Wood**  
**(Robert M. Wood 423/I)**

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Veteran and this important time of their life. My family and I are one such group. We find it very rewarding to visit our Veteran's friends and their families. We have made many friends and look forward to this yearly event. My wife Patty has been brainstorming how to make the luncheon exciting for the Ladies in attendance. She has some good ideas she is working on. I'm sure you will be pleased. More on that later.

In an effort to make sure you all have access to *The CUB*, please share it and pass along the fact that you can read it on line at our Association new web site [www.106thinfdivassn.org](http://www.106thinfdivassn.org). We did this so that your entire family could have access to the full-color *CUB* and its history telling stories. On our website we also have color images of the **new 106th Infantry Challenge Coins**. We still have coins for sale. They make an



## President's View . . .

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excellent remembrance of the 106th Infantry Division and all it stands for. There you will find ordering instructions. There have been requests for 106th Division flags. As of now we have not found a source for them at a quantity we can use and at a price we can support. If you have any contacts in that regard, please let me know and we will follow up.

A few days ago, I started to review what I knew about the time frame of the Battle of The Bulge, and the events following. I'm sure that most of you Veterans revisit the same events, the cold, the fighting, in some cases the capture and march to the train cars,

the prison camps, the fear, the loneliness you surely felt. I think about it every year as the winter sets in. I do not pretend to have firsthand knowledge, but I remember my Dad and I remember some of what he remembered. The 106th I.D. defined the Battle of the Bulge and to a degree it defined you who were there, at least for a time. Those of you who survived were resilient and you became successful members of society. I always relish the opportunity to listen to or read of your experience. I am proud to be your association President. See you at the reunion.

Randy

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## New 106th Challenge Coin — *They're Here . . . and Over There!*

By Carl Wouters

"Sofie was very excited to get the token in the mail today. A great looking challenge coin. She is very happy with it and will keep it with her for good luck. Thanks so much!!"

Greetings from Belgium,  
Carl

You can read more about it and see a color image of the coin on our association's new website at [www.106thInfDivAssn.org](http://www.106thInfDivAssn.org).

The coins are available and costing \$10 each.

President Randall Wood will be the contact person for the purchase of the coins and you may order them at any time. They will be sent directly to you when the money is received.

Any questions or orders may be emailed to Randy at [woodchuck01@sbcglobal.net](mailto:woodchuck01@sbcglobal.net) or call 765-346-0690.



## Chaplain's Message . . .

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WWII was before my time, but I have relived the events time and time again within the pages of history books and from the stories of the heroes that were there. I am the proud grandson to **PFC Nelson Charron 422/D** who passed away November 19, 2012. I remember "Pop" as a quiet, hardworking, reserved man. When I found out, at a young age, that he was a POW in the Battle of the Bulge he became my hero. I did not try to pry too much information from him but I really wanted to know if the history books had it right and what it was actually like. I know that there were sights, sounds, and smells that the history books cannot portray adequately. I read everything I could and did all the research I could find on WW II, more specifically the Battle of the Bulge. This new love for history and my family connection to it enhanced my own military experience.

I am a 14-year U.S. Army vet and have never seen combat but always made it a point to train as if I was going to endure as the men in the 106th had. I remember one early morning in Ft. Lewis where we had to conduct a 25-mile foot march. I was brand new to the unit and was not prepared for such a task. Without complaint I "rucked-up" with full battle rattle and set out with my new family. I was about six hours into the march when I began to doubt that I was going to make it. Then, I remembered reading about the long march that the POWs had to make and the conditions of that dreadful trek and I remembered how my grandfather made it through. It was that memory that gave me the strength to pick myself up and push through the pain and cold. From



**Vincent Charron**  
**(PFC Nelson Charron 422/D)**  
Chaplain

Senior Pastor, Grace Covenant Church  
Ogdensburg, NY  
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that day forward when I had a task in front of me, whether it was mental or physical, I simply remembered the life of my grandfather and the men who endured so much, and I find the strength to dig deeper and accomplish whatever it is I have to do.

I say all of this as a way of introducing myself and making a connection point between the 106th and myself. I also want to encourage the soldiers of the 106th to keep telling your stories because the influence that they will have on other generations will be life changing. I prefer to hear the stories from the men and women who were there as opposed to reading it in a history book. It makes it more personable and real for me.

As for me, I pastor a church in Ogdensburg, NY with my wife of 19 years. I fathered three children — Jessica, Abigail, and Josiah. They are the ages of 17, 15 and 14 respectively.

## Chaplain's Message . . .

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I was called to ministry and leadership at the age of 14. At the age of 18 I joined the U.S. Army and served proudly for 14 years. Serving our country as an engineer, and a logistician, in locations such as Ft. Lewis, GITMO Cuba, Honduras, Bamberg, GE, Vicenza, IT, and two tours in the mighty 82nd Airborne Division at Ft. Bragg, NC.

In 2006 I felt that my calling to the military was over and ended my time in the service and pursued God's calling on my life. I joined the staff at Manna Church of Fayetteville, NC, where I served as the administrative assistant to one of the site pastors. In 2011, I

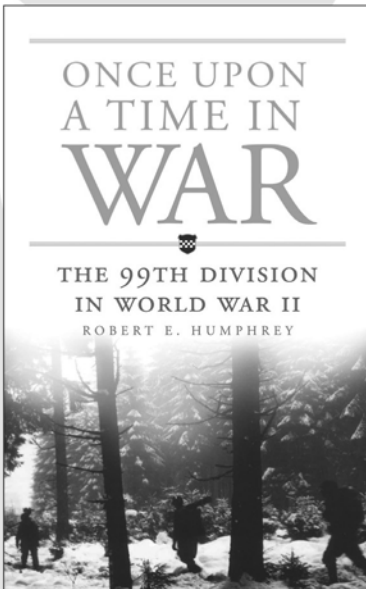
became the senior pastor of Grace Covenant Church in Ogdensburg, NY.

I graduated from Liberty University in May of 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and in 2013 I graduated with a Masters of Arts in Religion with a concentration in Christian Leadership, also at Liberty University.

My prayer is that I can be as forceful in my life as the soldiers of the 106th were in theirs. *Matthew 11:12 — "From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force."*

Forcefully Advancing,  
Vincent Charron

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### 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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## *The Adjutant's Message . . .*

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My Brothers and Sisters,

HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR — (always appropriate). “December 16, 2014,” the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the “Battle of the Bulge,” will certainly not be a celebration, but rather a remembrance of the 19,000 young men who gave up their lives for our country. Those of us who have survived, have so much to be thankful for. We will forever remember those we served with, those who did not come home, and those we remain friends with these 70 years. We will make every effort to hold hands again in Norfolk, Va. September 3–7 2014.

I spent the majority of this past Christmas Holiday in a hospital and rehab facility. I had my left hip replaced, and all went well. I am now walking with a cane and hope to be driving again soon (I’m writing this article Monday, January 6.) I thank the Good Lord, and those of you, who sent me your good wishes and prayers.

As I watched the arrival of 2014, with family and friends, I kept thinking, wasn’t it yesterday that we were worried about the problem of “2000” and what effect it would have on our computers and all our electronic equipment? That was 14 years ago!!!

Start planning to attend our **68<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion**. We can count on President Randy and his beautiful Patty to plan some interesting innovations. I guess we are all anxious to meet with the Sheaners, and hear of their marvelous visit in Belgium this past winter. We’ll plan a few good tours and



**Murray Stein, 423/I,  
Ex Comm, Adjutant**  
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hopefully an interesting Guest Speaker. I miss you all, so please meet me in Norfolk (I need some hugs).

I have continued acting as the Coordinator for the X-POWs’ speakers bureau at the VA in West Palm Beach, FL. We recently spoke at a high school fundraiser to send veterans to Washington, D.C. on the Honor Flights. They raised enough money to send a plane full of Vets. We were part of a POW float on Veterans Day 2013. We will continue to visit high schools and colleges to continue our story of WW II.

Once again. Happy Happy Happy.

Love ya,  
Murray

## Historian's Message . . .

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The 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the now famous Battle of the Bulge has come and gone. At Christmas time 2013, I received a great many greetings from people here and in Europe. A few of my friends in Belgium and Luxembourg can remember being involved, not too many anymore. Some friends here in the States were interested in my thoughts on that anniversary. "Where were you when it started?" is the most asked question. On December 19, 2013 I was asked, "Do you remember where you were on this day 69 years ago?" Of course, if you were there, you think of it most every day. It never goes away. You just have to live with it. It is now relegated to history and one has to live in the present.

In 2004, the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the battle, I returned to the place that took on the name of "Parker's Crossroads." I was with my 589<sup>th</sup> FA buddies, John Gatens and Barney Alford, plus our unofficial guide, Dave Ford, so we experienced quite a nice celebration organized by our Belgian friends.



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

Before leaving we are always presented with gifts that honor our participation in the battle that took place there. One of those gifts that I brought home is a framed poem written by Gerard Zinner, and freely translated from the French, titled "1944." It goes like this:

JRS

continues on page 8

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## The Lion's Path

By C.J. Kelly

In December 1944, a raw American infantry division has its baptism of fire in the Battle of the Bulge. Caught up in this maelstrom of death and destruction are two very different Americans. Trapped behind enemy lines, they experience the horror of war and a humanity borne of sacrifice.

**Available at Amazon.com or barnesandnoble.com**

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## ***Historian's Message . . .***

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Hello GI, you're back again.  
Sixty years that we had not seen you.  
You came here, you and all your friends  
You came from far away, from the United States.  
You were young and strong, you were twenty  
You had landed by the end of spring.  
To come over here, hard was the fight.  
How many of your friends did you leave here?  
We did love you, we did cheer you.  
You were the victors and we were the allies.  
The girls all jumped at your neck  
Then many of us were jealous.  
One day you pushed along  
You went further for the fights went on.  
One day at last the war was over.  
Too bad many of you did not come back.  
Then you went home  
But you left your friends among us,  
Those who have laid down here  
But will stand up on Judgment Day.

Hello GI, you're back again  
Years have passed but we recognize you.  
To meet your pals, we will go with you  
And bend deep before their graves.

Hello GI, we will not forget you,  
We will forever know what we owe to you.  
For when you came over here, you brought along  
The most important thing for us: Freedom.

### Order of the Golden Lion Committee

*John R. Schaffner 589/A, committee chairman*

This award is provided in three classifications depending on the qualifications of the recipient. The most prestigious is “Commander Class” issued in gold finish. This award is usually provided to someone who has served the Association faithfully over an extended period of time and is a Veteran of the 106th Infantry Division.

The second is “Officer Class” issued in silver finish. This award is usually provided to someone who has served the Association faithfully over an extended period of time and is not necessarily a Veteran of the 106th Infantry Division.

The third is “Companion Class” issued in bronze finish. This award is usually provided to someone who has served the Association faithfully in the capacity of assistance in the operation of the Association.

The specifications for making the award are intended to fit many instances where an individual is deemed worthy. *The award should be determined by the recipient's contributions to the Association.*

The Chairman of the Order of the Golden Lion committee will poll the members of the Board of Directors for recommendations for the OGL awards. The President or Chairman may select additional members to the committee.

Nominations will be submitted in a format suitable for composing a formal citation to accompany the award of the medal. This must be done in ample time prior to the next Reunion in order for the manufacturer to produce the medal(s) on time.

All citations should be kept confidential between the nominator and the Committee Chairman prior to the actual awarding ceremony. **LEAD TIME – THREE WEEKS, MINIMUM**

John Schaffner is the Chair of the Order of the Golden Lion Committee. Send nominations to:

John Schaffner (589/A)  
1811 Miller Rd., Cockeysville, MD  
21030-1013  
410-584-2754  
pumexim2@verizon.net



**Left: “Officer Class” issued in silver finish.  
Right: “Commander Class” issued in gold finish.**

## Treasurer's and Membership Chair's Report . . .

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Make checks payable to “*106th Infantry Division Association*” and mail them to the Treasurer:



**Mike Sheaner, Treasurer**  
PO Box 140535  
Dallas TX 75214  
sheaner1@airmail.net  
214-823-3004

Please report all changes of address and deaths to the Association Membership Chair:



**Jacquelyn S. Coy, Membership**  
121 McGregor Ave.  
Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856  
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973-663-2410

### Your Annual Dues Are No Longer Due

In 2010 the Board of Directors voted to dispense with annual dues, however, we continue to ask for donations, whatever you can give, to help defray the cost of printing and mailing *The CUBs*, which go out three times a year. For the Association to be able to meet not only yearly expenses, these donations make possible the enjoyable time at each Annual Reunion.

We will also continue to collect *Memorial, Honorary and Life Plus donations*. Any contribution that helps defray cost and sustain the association is greatly appreciated. Please consider donating to the Association.



“*We were once Brothers...*” and will remain so forever. Once, brother carried brother through the trials of training at Camp Atterbury and endured in battle on the Schnee-Eifel of Belgium and Germany. Support the 106th Infantry Division Association by making a Memorial or Honorary contribution in the name of your brother, friend, father or spouse.

New membership applications are available for everyone in your family. Membership is only \$10 and is open to all veterans and non-106th veterans (of every generation)

and comes with full voting privileges. We encourage all family members to join to help honor our veterans and continue the legacy of the 106th.

Contact: Membership Chair, Jacquelyn S. Coy, [JSC164@aol.com](mailto:JSC164@aol.com) or Treasurer, Mike Sheaner, [sheaner1@airmail.net](mailto:sheaner1@airmail.net).



## **Life+ and Memorial/Honorary Contributions Essential for Keeping this Organization Going**

Your gifts are essential to maintaining *The CUB* magazine in its current format with high-quality content and tri-annual delivery. The cost of printing and mailing each edition of *The CUB* exceeds our current level of giving. Therefore, we encourage all readers to make an annual contribution, as you are able, to help defray the cost of printing and mailing.

Contributions make it possible for the Association to meet yearly expenses and host Annual Reunions. Please consider making an annual Life+, Memorial or Honorary donation to the Association today.

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**The Annual Dues of \$10 are no longer billed or collected. We are now accepting only donations for membership, memorials and LIFE PLUS. 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 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, and as often as you like. By donating, you are helping perpetuate the 106th Infantry Division Association.**

**To those Members from whom we haven't heard for a long time — please take the time to join this exclusive club. *Thank you!***

Send your contribution, check made payable to *106th Infantry Div. Association*, to:

**Mike Sheaner**

**Treasurer, 106th Infantry Division, PO Box 140535, Dallas TX 75214**

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### **Treasurer's Report:**

**Oct. 1, 2013 – February 1, 2014**

<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$21,850.19</b>
Money In:	\$3,214.56
Money Out:	\$7,771.48
Difference:	\$(4,556.92)
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$17,293.27</b>

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## ***Treasurer's and Membership Chair's Report . . .***

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### **Association Membership As of February 1, 2014**

<b>Total Membership</b>	1,204
Membership Veterans	732
Membership Non-106th Veterans	472

#### **LIFE PLUS and REGULAR DONATIONS:**

Kachadour "Kracker" Avedisian	Non-106th Veteran (28th Div)
William S. Blaher	422/I
Xavier Bryche	Non-106th Veteran Member
William M. Bucher, Jr	Non-106th Veteran Member
C.R.I.B.A	Non-106th Veteran Member
Lloyd J. Diehl	423/H
Gifford B. Doxsee	423/HQ
Henry E. Freedman	422/HQ
Jeff Garn	Non-106th Veteran Member
Robert W. and Jean Himberg	Non-106th Veteran Member
Barney Johnson	Non-106th Veteran Member
Royce E. Lapp	424/C
Lee R. Lively	591/FA/HQ
Albert C. Oelschig, III	Non-106th Veteran Member
Glynn Raby	423/1stBN/HQ
Hugo Rietveld	Non-106th Veteran Member
Herbert A. Rosenberg	424/L
John Schaffner	589/FA
Herbert M. Sheaner, Jr	422/G
John T. Stewart	81st Eng/H
Jack A. Sulser	423/F
Alvin P. Swanson	424/I
Wilma E. Wood	Non-106th Veteran Member

#### **NEW MEMBERS:**

Arthur E. Schultz	423/K
B. Jay Carmichael	423/G
George C. Marcum	423/HQ
Frank Armiger	Non-106th Veteran
Xavier Bryche	Non-106th Veteran
Jeff Garn	Non-106th Veteran ( <i>son of Charles S., 424/H</i> )
Madelynn Garner	Non-106th Veteran n
Barney Johnson	Non-106th Veteran
Max Poorthuis	Non-106th Veteran
Hugo Rietveld	Non-106th Veteran

## Treasurer's and Membership Chair's Report . . .

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### MEMORIAL DONATION:

Susan C. Hight and Mike Ortmeier

*In honor of my father, Jesse Hight, who passed away in February of 2013. My Dad was a First Sergeant in Company A of the 424th Regiment, fought in the Battle of the Bulge, and was a member of the Association. My Dad greatly appreciated efforts such as yours that made it possible for the Association to continue serving him and all the Veterans of the 106th.*

Grace Trueman

*In memory of Duncan Trueman, 424/AT, to whom the 106th was so special.*

Jean H. Bloch Living Trust

*In memory of my husband, Jacques W. Bloch, 422/K - Stalag XI-B*

Seymour L. Lichtenfeld

*In memoriam for Natalie Lichtenfeld*

Valerie P. Wyman

*In memory of husband, David S. Wyman M.D., 422/D, who was a companion of John Robb at the prison camp in Bad Orb, IX-B, unit 422/D.*

Jeannie Schutte

*In memory of Phillip F. Schutte, 424/F.*

### HONORARY DONATIONS:

Dolores Mikalauski

*In honor of my husband, John Mikalauski, 424/H, who passed away Dec. 30, 2010. My husband was in WW II's Battle of the Bulge and the Korea conflict.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** Membership Chair Jacquelyn Coy is working to update the Association's roster with veterans and their units. If you use email, please email her directly at the address above with the following in the subject line: **"To 106th Membership Chair."** Then in your email, please let Jacquelyn know your name and your 106th Infantry Division unit. Thank you.

Ms. Coy would like to acknowledge Rick Barrow (non-106th veteran), who has been researching names for her, as well as Herb Eidelman (424/SV) for his continued assistance. Ms. Coy asks, "If anyone else wants to join in, it would be most helpful."

To the widows of Golden Lions, if you would wish to continue to receive *The CUB* after the passing of your husband please let Membership Chair Jacquelyn Coy know. Her contact information is located on page 10.

## **Returned Issues of the Latest *CUB of the Golden Lion***

Membership Chair Jacquelyn Coy asks that the following names (and partial addresses) be listed in this issue of *The CUB* in hopes that anyone reading this issue might know the people listed and can get word to them that their address listed with the Association is incorrect or out-dated. If you know anyone on this list (or if you know they are deceased) and can get word to them, please ask them to **contact Jacquelyn directly at the address listed on page 10 of this issue** with an updated mailing address. Thank you.

**James W. Reed**, Orangevale CA 95662-2222

**Anna M. Hutchinson**, Mifflintown, PA 17059-8763

**Harry D. Azadian**, Wolcott, NY 14590-9310

**George K. Zak**, Willowbrook, IL 60527-2916

**Norman J. Cote**, Camden, ME 04843

**Armand De Vito**, Belmont, MA 02478-4303

**Irvin Schecter**, Quincy, IL 62301-7804

**Don M. Hinrichs**, Alton, IL 62002-4560

**Theodore R. Adriance**, Hendersonville, NC 28793-0771

**Dr. Bernadette Lauber**, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

**Beverly Emick**, Clifton Park, NY 24503

**James L. Ulrich**, Gibsonia, PA 15044-5321

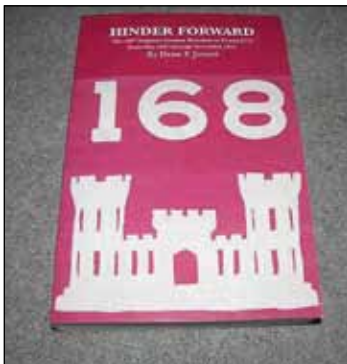
**John W. Thurlow**, Mayfield NY 12117-3409 (moved. No forwarding address)

**Alton C. Carithers**, Circleville, OH 43113-0664

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## **Hinder forward: The 168th Engineer Combat Battalion in ZI and ETO from May 1943 through November 1945**

*By Dean F. Jewett (168th Eng)*



**Note:** the cover may not look like the pictured image.

Dean F. Jewett has written a book about the 168th Engineer Combat Battalion, which was attached to the 106th Infantry Division during the Battle of the Bulge. The book is 456 pages and sells for \$75, which includes postage, sales tax, etc.

New copies are only available through Mr. Jewett at P.O. Box 148, Saco, ME 04072 or by phone at 207-284-6778.

Used copies are available online through outfits, such as Amazon.com or Ebay.com.

## E-Mail Bag . . .

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### ***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 (The CUB)*. I am an admirer of your outfit and hope that I can assist in keeping open the lines of communication for our Association. Please send news items that you would like reviewed for

potential inclusion in upcoming issues of *The CUB* to me. Whenever possible please send them to my email address ([CubEditor@106thInfDivAssn.org](mailto:CubEditor@106thInfDivAssn.org)). If you do decide to send them via postal mail, if possible, please **TYPE OR PRINT** your messages (it helps me get names spelled correctly). Thank you.

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### **Just a reminder . . .**

If you have pictures, an article, or some other form of information you would like included in a future issue of *The CUB*, the due date is as follows:

**For the April–July 2014 issue: Material due by May 31**

For the August–November 2014 issue: Material due by September 30  
*Remember to send in your Reunion photos!*

For the December 2014–March 2015 issue: Material due by January 31

### **Articles and pictures can be mailed or emailed to:**

**CUB Editor:** William McWhorter  
166 Prairie Dawn, Kyle, TX 78640  
512-970-5637

[CubEditor@106thInfDivAssn.org](mailto:CubEditor@106thInfDivAssn.org)  
or [williammcwhorter17@gmail.com](mailto:williammcwhorter17@gmail.com)

**CUB Publisher:** Susan Weiss  
9 Cypress Point Court  
Blackwood, NJ 08012  
856-415-2211

[CubPublisher@106thInfDivAssn.org](mailto:CubPublisher@106thInfDivAssn.org)

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## **106th Association has a New Website!**

*By Wayne Dunn*

To complement the wonderful websites that are already out on the Internet, including our own members' Jim West ([www.IndianaMilitary.org](http://www.IndianaMilitary.org)) and Carl Wouters ([www.106thinfantry.webs.com](http://www.106thinfantry.webs.com)) the association has just launched our own website at [www.106thInfDivAssn.org](http://www.106thInfDivAssn.org).

This is where you can find: info on upcoming events; copies of the membership application for your family to join; the complete latest issue plus additional photos and articles from *The CUB*.

Also look for our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/106thInfDivAssn](https://www.facebook.com/106thInfDivAssn).

This is where you can find up-to-the-minute information and where you can connect with friends and make plans for the next reunion.

If you have any additional reunion photos or information that you would like to see on the website or Facebook page, please contact the new Webmaster, Wayne Dunn at [waynedunn@comcast.net](mailto:waynedunn@comcast.net) or 410-409-1141.

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## Jim West and the [www.IndianaMilitary.org](http://www.IndianaMilitary.org) Website

Associate member, Jim West (OGL-Officers, 2004) has created an excellent website at <http://www.indianamilitary.org>. It is hoped that this website will increase awareness of the 106th Infantry Division Association and perhaps our membership. The site has had 1,674,874 visitors to date. It is rated as the largest private site in Indiana at more than 50 gigabytes of unaltered history and is the largest depository of local historical photos. Check it out at your earliest convenience.

In addition to a very large section devoted to the 106th Division, it also contains information on Camp Atterbury (Indiana) and all the divisions that trained here in World War II and Korea. They include the 28th, 30th, 31st, 83rd and 92nd Infantry Divisions, plus Fort Benjamin Harrison, Freeman AAF, Atterbury/Bakalar AFB, the German and Italian POWs held at Camp Atterbury and Wakeman General Hospital. There is also a section for the several German Prisoner of War camps where some 106th members were held. There are dozens of 106th diaries and personal remembrances.

The 106th Roster at <http://tinyurl.com/106thRoster> now contains information on 16,934 Veterans with 363 individual photos. If you visit the website, listed above, and a photo is not shown for an individual and the family has one available, all they need do is email a scan of him to Jim West.

All 106th General Orders have been reviewed and all the information has been added to the Roster. These General Orders allowed for the addition of 513 previously unknown names to be added and a huge amount of service numbers and other data were added. All the original General Orders are available for viewing on the website. These were made possible by a friend, John Bowen, of the 31st Division Association (Camp Atterbury, Korean War).

Every available issue of the 106th *CUBs* are available on the site, in addition to the Camp Atterbury *Camp Crier*, published when the 106th was there. Find the *Camp Crier* under the section for Camp Atterbury. You can email Jim at [jimdwest@centurylink.net](mailto:jimdwest@centurylink.net).

Jim would like to thank the "AmVets of Indiana." Through their generosity of support and hosting of the entire website, they are making it possible for the 106th to have a presence on the Web.



## More Photos from the 2013 Annual Reunion

The 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion of the 106th Infantry Division Association was held last year at the Doubletree by Hilton in New Orleans, LA (August 21–25, 2013). The staff of *The CUB* ran a group photo on the cover of the last issue [Vol. 69, No. 3], where a few veterans were accidentally cut out. Please enjoy this photo, submitted by *CUB* Publisher Susan Weiss, where all 33 Veterans at the reunion are visible.

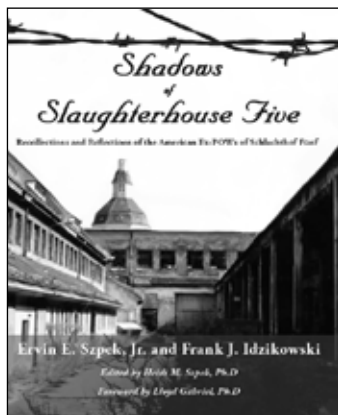


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## Shadows of Slaughterhouse Five

*From Ervin Szpek Jr., Non-Veteran Member*

Ervin Szpek Jr. (Non-Veteran Member) is pleased to announce after many years of research that his and his colleagues' book on the infamous *Arbeitskommando Slaughterhouse Five* has been released. Nearly every man of this POW work camp (near Dresden, Germany) originated from the 106th Infantry Division including former 106th Association President, Gifford Doxsee. The book is their story, in their words, and accounts for nearly every POW at the camp. It also chronicles the recollections and reflections of the 150 American Ex-POWs, many of whom are members of the Association. Newly released by iUniverse press at [www.iUniverse.com](http://www.iUniverse.com), the book is also available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and [www.BarnesandNoble.com](http://www.BarnesandNoble.com). With best wishes for 2014 and with appreciation for your efforts — thank you.



## Searching for Annabel-Snooky's Driver

By Xavier and Clotilde Bryche

Xavier and Clotilde Bryche, who live in France, have located and restored a U.S. Army Jeep that saw service in the Battle of the Bulge. HOW LUCKY ARE THEY! The Bryches are looking for the driver of the Jeep, which has the name Annabel on one side and Snooky on the other. Association Historian, John Schaffner (589/FA) has seen photos of the Jeep's bumper that indicates it was once with Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion of the 424th Regiment.

In November 2010, Xavier and Clotilde bought a Willys Jeep that belonged to friends, now deceased, who had bought it just after World War II, sometime between 1946 and 1948. It served, at the beginning, as a personal car and after as a tow truck until about 1970. Then it went into storage in a garage. The Bryches' initial purpose



was to repair the Jeep to the memory of their friends.

At the beginning of its restoration, they were pleasantly surprised to discover its military markings under several layers of paint. On the back bumpers they discovered that the Jeep belonged to the 106th Infantry Division, 424th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion, Headquarters Company. It was the sixth vehicle in the column. The hood number is 20618564-S. On the left-hand side is the inscription "SNOOKY" and on the right side is "ANNABEL."

The Bryches have read up on the history of the Division and its soldiers through books, websites, *The CUB*, etc. They have traced the Division's travel and positions in the U.S.A., in England, in France, in Belgium and in Germany. Ten days ago, the Bryches took their son (then 10 years old) to points in the Ardennes field used by the 106th Division troops, particularly 424th Regiment soldiers' positions near Baraque de Fraiture; Parker's Crossroads; Manhay; Grandmesnil; Chêne al Pierre; Trois ponts; Aisomont; Spineux – Wanne; Ennal' Grosslangenfeld; and the Schnee Eifel.



Today, the restoration of this vehicle is almost complete. The Bryches have restored the Jeep to look as much as possible as it would have at the end of the war, in memory of the 106th Division and especially the 424th Regiment's soldiers.

On December 15, 2013, the Bryches went to Saint-Vith and Vielsalm for the 106th Division's commemorations. Association past president Herbert M. Sheaner (422/G) was there and they met Eddy Montfort, Eddy Lamberty and Jean-François Noirhomme.

The Bryches hope to hear from any veterans or Association members that can tell them more of the story of the 424th Regiment, and perhaps stories of any veterans

who drove or used the Jeep. If you have any information to share with the Bryches please write to them at their email address [mb356775@laposte.net](mailto:mb356775@laposte.net). In return, they "remain at your disposal to provide any additional information or answer any questions about this jeep."



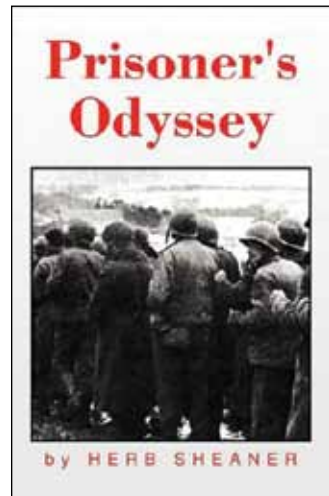
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## Prisoner's Odyssey

by Herb Sheaner (422/G)

*Prisoner's Odyssey* is a story of survival, hunger and reflection from a teenaged prisoner of war inside Germany near the end of WW II. From capture at the Battle of The Bulge to the final escape from his German guards, Herb Sheaner allows us a glimpse into the despair and agony of being a prisoner in a foreign land. During World War II, Herb Sheaner served as a private first class in Company G, 422nd Regiment of the 106th Infantry Division.

After receiving ASTP training at University of Alabama, he joined the 106th at Camp Atterbury in Indiana where he earned Expert Rifleman honors and was designated Co. G Sniper and Regimental Scout. Fifty years later he recalls his experiences.



**Available through Barnes & Noble, Amazon.com and Xlibris online.**

## **Walls of World War II Veteran's Apartment Tell Rich Story**

*(Story by Ben Russell, originally aired on NBCDFW.com, Channel 5 in Dallas/Fort Worth)*

*Submitted by Hal Power, 422/H*

A Plano, TX, veteran with four Purple Hearts has survived more brushes with death than any man should. Harold "Hal" Power survived being held a prisoner of war following the Battle of the Bulge, the costliest battle for the United States during World War II. "We were like ducks in a shooting gallery," he said of the surprise attack by the Germans.

Power, 89, received four Purple Hearts for wounds he sustained in combat. German soldiers tortured Power and pulled his arms from their sockets. He was hit by shrapnel from mortar fire, he sustained broken ribs during an explosion from a friendly fire, Allied aircraft bombing run at a hospital where he was being treated, and he endured frostbite in both his hands and feet during the brutal winter. "They're usually dead or you're in very bad shape," Power said of service members who receive a Purple Heart.

There is an effort to get Power a fifth Purple Heart for an amazing stroke of fortune involving a sniper's bullet that pierced his helmet, traveled around the inside of the metal, cut his eye and dropped out to the ground. The walls of Power's apartment at the Legacy at Willow Bend are adorned with framed displays of his medals, which include a Bronze Star with a "V" for valor pin that he earned for saving the lives of four fellow soldiers during a death

march he recalls with vivid detail. "If you dropped out of the line, you were shot," he said. "If you could not keep up, you were shot. And so I was helping people as best I could, carrying them, dragging them, by whatever means."

Another war memory proudly displayed on Power's wall is a framed copy of an 8-by-10 photograph of his then-fiancée that the 19-year-old private kept close to his heart during his entire time in the war. "I had that taped to my chest," Power said. "When they would see that, I think I got better treatment." His fiancée, then-16-year-old Rita, went on to be his wife when he returned to the United States. They raised three children.

Power said he has seen most Veterans Days pass with little to no recognition of the sacrifices he and other military members made. It has been only recently that veterans have gotten their proper attention, he said. "Before, it was a holiday to go make hamburgers and hot dogs and enjoy yourself," he said. And Power is concerned recognition of Veterans Day could return to that in the years to come. "You see, now it's popular," he said. "Will it be popular five years from now or 10 years from now? What will these young kids now that are coming back, what will they be in their life when all of this fanfare disappears?"

## **World War II POW Chosen as Distinguished Veteran of the Year**

*(November 4, 2011 as published in the Atascadero [CA] News)*

*Submitted by Alphons Lerno*

In 2011, the Atascadero Veterans Memorial Foundation named Alphons P. Lerno (unit not provided) as the distinguished veteran of the year at its third annual Veterans Day Ceremony at the Faces of Freedom Memorial at Atascadero Lake Park.

Lerno joined the U.S. Army at the age of 20 after being deferred at the beginning of World War II when he was 18. The military decided that his work then as a rancher and farmer keeping food going to the war front was more important than drafting him into the U.S. Army.

Serving with the 106th Infantry Division in the Battle of the Bulge, on December 23 he and his buddies found themselves being overrun by German forces. Held up in the basement of a barn, German Panzers destroyed the structure above, raining debris down on them. The Germans then took them prisoner. Stripped of their boots and jackets, they were marched back into Germany and held at Stalag 12. When he arrived at the front lines he was 250 lbs, but by the end of his imprisonment he was down to 150 pounds. He says, "I guess ranch work makes you tough." While captive for 103 days, he escaped three times, but each time he was recaptured. He was eventually rescued by troops from the 9th Armored Division.



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## **MY WAR**

*by Fredrick Smallwood*

This is the story of my experiences as a young boy from a small town in south Georgia with the 106th Infantry Division during World War II. I was initially in the A&P Platoon of 1 Bn. Hq. Co. of the 423rd Regiment. I was one of the few who made my way through the German lines back to the Allied lines at St. Vith.

Books are \$15 plus \$4 for shipping. You can contact me at [fsjs@mchsi.com](mailto:fsjs@mchsi.com) or P.O. Box 1923, Bainbridge, GA 39818.



## World War II “Thank You” Waited Sixty-Eight Years

*By Bill Bucher, Jr., November 10, 2013 as published in the Salisbury [MD] Post*

It was a “Thank you” over sixty-eight years in the making, but it was well worth it. After my father’s death in 1978, I inherited a neglected box of his letters home from World War II. Since then I have been doing research in the hopes of completing a book about his wartime experiences. Dad was a GI — a “regular Joe Private” — in the ill-fated 106th Infantry “Golden Lion” Division, which was overrun by German forces in the opening throes of the Battle of the Bulge on December 16, 1944.

A native of Mount Lebanon, Pennsylvania, Bill Bucher was among the many young replacements that were transferred into the 106th in the months leading up to their deployment overseas. Considered a “replacement division” up until almost the moment that they went across, many of the men who had completed maneuvers and training in Tennessee earlier that year had been transferred out to other divisions, and men like Bill — from all of the services except the Infantry, it seems — were transferred to replace them at Camp Atterbury, Indiana where the division was headquartered. The 19-year-old buck private was assigned to the 424th Infantry Regiment, Anti-Tank Company.

History records that the

Belgian winter was among the coldest on record that year. The soldiers of the 106th, some of the youngest and least experienced soldiers in the U.S. Army, had only arrived at their positions five days before the attack began. The military planners had judged the area to be a “quiet sector,” so battlefield preparation was minimal and ammunition was conserved behind the lines. At 5:30 am the Germans unleashed a major artillery bombardment on American positions along an 80-mile front and followed it with a lightning invasion led by panzer tanks and hoards of “volksgrenadier” infantry soldiers.

Issued only a minimum of ammunition and poorly equipped for fighting in the intense cold, American outposts held out as long as they could; many were quickly overwhelmed. My father’s position, a small group of foxholes on a hill overlooking the tiny Belgian village of Heckhuscheid, was overrun by 8:30 am that first morning. The Germans rounded up the American GI’s who weren’t killed and pressed them into service at gunpoint, tending to the wounded German soldiers in a nearby farmhouse and barn.

In what the regimental history would later call “a magnificent bluff,” Captain Lee Berwick of the 424th Regiment’s 3rd Battalion and



*William Bucher Sr.*



*Billy Jackson age 18, 1943*

a handful of I Company men surrounded the farmhouse and barn. Berwick shouted a challenge to the Germans hiding in the buildings, but he was answered with a volley of bullets. His men replied with a barrage of their own. Again, Berwick bellowed an invitation to surrender, and this time the Germans — all 107 of them — started filling out with their hands up. Along with the Germans were just 15 American GIs who had been captured earlier in the day. My father was one of them.

Though my father returned safely from the war where he met and married my mother, he died in 1978 from a heart condition he had suffered with since his childhood. Much of what I knew of my father's experiences was pieced together from what little he revealed from childhood bedtime stories or random conversations. But through an educated guess and a hopeful phone call just last month, I was able to find a veteran in Brady, Texas who was captured along with my father on that bitter cold day in December. Now in his eighties, Billy Jackson had written a brief account of his wartime experiences for the Division Veteran's Association newsletter, *"The CUB of the Golden Lion,"* and I recognized his account as being that of one of the 14 Americans who were captured along with my father. Though he too had escaped the Germans, this man had been seriously wounded in the conflict just a few weeks later, and he had been lucky enough to be retrieved from the battlefield and evacuated to



**"Thank you" from Bill Bucher, Jr. (right) to Billy Jackson in Texas, October 2013, 68 years late.**

a field hospital. "I was pretty badly wounded in the hip by a mortar shell," says Billy Jackson, now 88 years old, "so what happened afterwards is a blur in my memory." Jackson was taken first to a field hospital, and then on to Paris where his wounds were tended to in a more advanced hospital. The surgeons managed to save his mangled leg, even if he was later awarded disability pay by the military. "I knew one of my fellow soldiers had gone the extra mile to get me to the field hospital, but after all this time I couldn't remember the man's name, and I never got the chance to thank him for what he had done for me."

Although I had hoped to learn nothing more than the details of my father's capture by the Germans, I was rewarded with an extra bonus. I discovered that one of the letters my father wrote home revealed key details about what happened to Mr. Jackson on that bitter cold night in January, 1945:

continues on page 24

*“By the way we got good news from one of the boys still with the 106th that Billie Jackson of my squad is walking at Johns Hopkins, without any help with his new leg. He was hit as he slept on the bench in the rear of the truck only a few inches above me on the floor during a nasty combination of wind rain snow and hail storm. He mentioned me and thanked me. I had nearly to kick the hell out of an ambulance driver to go up and get him since it was some three mile hike back to the aid station I decided I was going to ride back if I had to drive the ambulance myself. The road was zeroed in with eighty-eights but after sweating them out a day & most of the night firing from the same position I could judge when to expect them and we made it....”*

Although a few of the things in the gossip Dad had heard were wrong — Jackson had not lost his leg after all, and never visited Johns Hopkins — the fact that someone had written home about helping him was all the evidence that Jackson needed. I told him what I had found. “Your dad was my hero,” he said, his emotions clearly evident in his voice. He took a moment to compose himself. “He was undoubtedly the one who saved my life and saved my leg, and is responsible for the good life I have lived ever since.” Jackson had wondered most of his life if he would ever be able to thank the man that saved his life. Though he missed the chance to do it in person, he now knows whom to thank for the efforts made to evacuate him after he was wounded.

I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Jackson a few weeks ago at his home in Brady, Texas. Jackson is humble about his own accomplishments, as most of

his generation are, but his story is one to be proud of. Not yet 19 years old, he left his Texas home in 1943 to join the Army as the country prepared for war. Like my father, he was sent as a replacement to the 106th “Golden Lion” Infantry Division a month before the division was shipped overseas. The division was assigned to positions along the Belgian border just five days before the massive German attack later known as “the Battle of the Bulge.” Two of the division’s three regiments — the 422nd and the 423rd — were overwhelmed and most of their number surrendered in the largest mass surrender of the European conflict.

Though the remaining 424th Regiment — of which my father and Jackson were a part — was never forced to surrender, it bore the brunt of the rest of the German attack in the sector it defended near St. Vith, and consequently quite a few of its number were wounded or killed in the conflict. The regiment suffered the highest battlefield casualty rates of the entire division. I’ve always had a great deal of respect for my father. Though he has been dead for over 30 years, it still matters very much to me to know what kind of man he was, because I bear his name and I still walk in his shadow. Now that I have met Mr. Jackson and heard his story, I now know a little more about the courage that he and my father possessed and the trials that they faced before their 20th birthdays. Mr. Jackson says that he can rest easier, now that he knows the name of the man who saved his life. And I have a new acquaintance, another American veteran I can truly call an American hero.



## “They Killed the POWs Who Couldn’t Make It”

*By Chuck Conley around Tom Bugner’s personal notes*

“Are there any reporters here, any correspondents? If there are, I don’t want to be recorded. What I want to say is that things are going very well and there is a possibility, at this point, as I see it, that we could be in Berlin by Christmas.”

General Omar N. Bradley, Normandy, June 1944

The winter of 1944 was the worst Europe experienced in many years. As it settled down around us — cold, wet and foggy — we were stretched thin from the Baltic Sea to Northern Italy — smack-dab up against the Siegfried Line, out of gas, low on ammunition and badly in need of replacements. The famous Red Ball Express could not deliver supplies fast enough from Omaha Beach, still the only seaport we had open, way on the other side of France. Our enemy, on the other hand, was dug in closer to his factories and his storehouses than he had been in years. Brought to bay on their own doorstep, German soldiers fought back with renewed ferocity. Not only did they bring our race across France to a screeching halt, but they also resisted every effort we made to get past them to the Rhine. Casualty figures rose and the ULTRA intercepts dried up. Our vast intelligence-gathering network failed us, deluded into thinking the Germans were defeated.

This was true, of course, but we no longer expected to be home by Christmas. Only in the Ardennes region of Belgium did the two sides maintain a relatively serene coexistence, each cautious about disturbing the peace of the other. Charles B. MacDonald, Official Historian of the U.S. Army in World War II, won a Purple Heart and Silver Star during the Battle of the Bulge. He wrote, “The Ardennes was at once the nursery and the old folks home of the American Command. New divisions came there [to get] a battlefield shakedown, old ones to rest after heavy fighting and to absorb replacements...”

The 28th Infantry Division (Pennsylvania National Guard) and the 4th Infantry Division (Regular Army), both of whom suffered enormous casualties in the Hurtgen Forest, recuperated and bound up their wounds upon abnormally-wide frontages assigned to them on the southern shoulder of the Ardennes. Their shot-up

continues on page 26



*"Chow Time" in the Ardennes, 1944.*

companies could not close the gaps between platoons, nor were there any reserves to call up in case the line was penetrated. The 28th had five-thousand soldiers killed in the Hurtgen. Hundreds of bodies with the "bloody bucket" insignia of the Keystone State sewn to their overcoats went unrecovered until the following spring.

Meanwhile, the northern shoulder of the Ardennes was defended by the 99th (National Army) Division, which had been in the line for five weeks but had not yet mounted an attack. Like most divisions that landed in Europe in late 1944, the 99th had been raided for replacements prior to embarkation; then, shortly before boarding ship, were filled up with involuntary transfers from the Air Force. Most were from the ASTP Program, since abandoned, whose lofty purpose had been to provide college training for men with high IQs.

South of the 99th, an armored cavalry group covered the Losheim Gap, the entry point the Germans would come thundering through on December 16, quickly booting the cavalry out of the way and sweeping

around the unguarded flanks of the 106th (National Army) Division that defended on the right of the gap. The 106th had no combat experience. Seven-thousand trained men (60 percent of the enlisted strength) had been taken from the division to replace losses overseas before the 106th left the States. In their place, arriving just before the division shipped out, were 1,200 men from the ASTP, 1,100 former Air Cadets, 1,500 from other divisions not yet scheduled for overseas shipment and 2,500 from various disbanded units. The unlucky 106th landed in Europe on December 6 and went into the line on December 11. It had just five days to prepare for attack by an enemy who was vastly superior in men, tanks and artillery.

Our Tom Bugner was in the 590th (105mm) Battalion of the 106th Divisional Artillery. He was one of the "originals" of the old 124th who served with us at Camp Forrest back in 1941. His Headquarters Battery became the 633rd Tank Destroyers Recon Company. Then, as a battalion, the 633rd trained troops at Fort Lewis, WA and Camp Hood, TX, then back to Fort Lewis. Tom says, "A so-called friend volunteered us for the Paratroopers at Fort Benning, GA; however, at the last minute, he took his name off the list and left mine on. I did not know about it until the transfer came through." Tom could not get out of it. He had to go through the paratroop training but got washed out before he finished because of a back operation. He was then sent to the 106th infantry Division at Fort Jackson, SC. The 106th was activated and began basic training on March 29, 1943. It went through the Tennessee Maneuvers in rain, sleet and



**S/Sgt. Tom Bugner, Ft. Lewis, WA.**

snow, then moved to Camp Atterbury, IN and overseas.

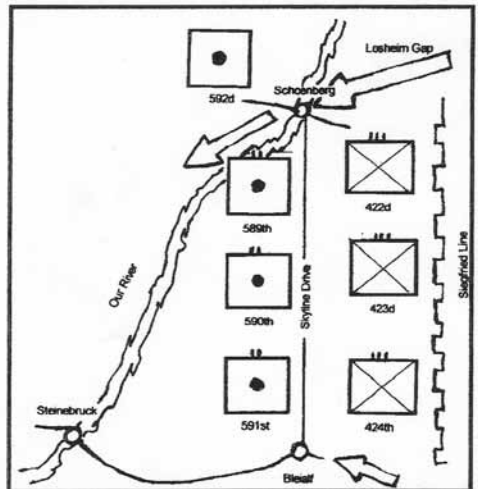
The basic flaw in the 106th's defense was the river at their backs and a bridge nobody thought to destroy until it was too late. The infantry was composed of the 422nd, 423rd and 424th Regiments; and the artillery in direct support, one to each regiment, was the 589th (105), Tom's 590th Battalion (105) and the 591st (105). The artillery battalion in a general-support/reinforcing role was the 592nd (155 How). These artillery battalions were in position along the Bleialf-Schoenberg Road (which the GIs nicknamed Skyline Drive), defending their infantry deployed in front of the guns. Schoenberg was to the north and Bleialf to the south. The only way out for two of the three artillery battalions was the bridge over the Our River at Schoenberg (see map).

During the night of December 16, the day the Germans hit the 106th, the divisional artillery commander ordered the 589th and the 592nd to displace

because they faced imminent capture. The 592nd made it out except for one 155 howitzer stuck in the mud and another destroyed by German assault guns at the crossroads. The 105s of the 589th tried to displace to the battalion's Service battery along Skyline Drive just short of Schoenberg. But because the Germans blocked the only road out of Battery C's position, none of that battery's guns got out. But the other two batteries (A and B) did make it out to the new positions only to find out that the new position was as bad as the first. The Our River was still at their backs.

Germans stormed across the unblown bridge at Schoenberg at 8:45 am on the 17th of December. Two regiments of infantry (422nd and 423d) and attached units, two divisional artillery battalions (589th and 590th), and three corps artillery battalions had no way of getting out unless someone came to their relief. The two surviving batteries of the 589th were in their new positions by daylight

continues on page 28



**Schematic drawing of units (not to scale) after the 592nd Artillery displaced late on Dec. 16.**

of the 17th; but, before they could begin firing, a truck tore down the road shouting that the Germans were right behind them. The battalion executive officer ordered withdrawal; however, in the scramble to get to the highway, the three remaining guns of B Battery got stuck in the mud and so did one of A Battery's howitzers. The other three raced downhill and into Schoenberg only minutes ahead of the Germans. But other members of A, following in 6X6 trucks, were not so lucky. Beyond the bridge they came upon a German assault gun that was blocking the road. Most who dove from the trucks and fled were later captured. Only a few reached American lines.

On the night of December 17, the 424th Infantry got its supporting 591st Artillery out by way of Steinebruck and then leapfrogged its three battalions to the west bank of the Our, abandoning much equipment and supplies. The last of the three artillery battalions, Tom Bugner's 590th, waited through the night for word from divisional artillery to displace; but communications were out and the word did not come down until the morning of December 18; then, as the battalion tried to get out, the first howitzers in the column received fire from German assault guns. Battalion commander Lt. Col. Vaden C. Lackey decided it would be better to stay where they were until relief came. He ordered the howitzers back to the positions they just left. This tied their fate to the 422nd and 423rd infantry they supported.

The 590th was overrun by Germans on the morning of December 19, while supporting an abortive attack by the 422nd and 423rd. The 590th had moved



*105mm Howitzer Battery in Winter setting.*

across Skyline Drive to support the attack. The Germans came up from Bleialf, to the south. Tom Bugner said, "We ran out of shells for the howitzers. Another fellow and I dropped grenades into the muzzles of the howitzers to blow out the breeches so they could not be used again.

"The Germans had all the men they had captured on the ridge around us. Then the order came to surrender and then not to surrender, that we were to fight on. The battery commander asked me what I had left to fight with? I told him I had one grenade and a clip of ammo. He had one clip also.

"The Germans who had the captured men said they would kill them all. They sent an officer with a white flag and told us to give up or else. It is a feeling you cannot describe. I took my carbine and wrapped it around a tree. I was holding it by the muzzle and there was a cartridge in the chamber. I could have killed myself, but I was so angry that I did not think about it at the time."

The losses to the 422nd and 423rd regiments, along with the 589th, 590th and 592nd artillery battalions and

supporting engineers, anti-aircraft, Medics and armored cavalry, came to more than 8,000 men. No one will ever know exactly how many surrendered on December 19. Over 6,800 were from the 106th, including Tom Bugner from the 590th.

“They marched us to the back of their lines,” Tom said. “They killed the ones who could not make it. Then they marched us about 40 miles in about 12 to 14 hours. We did not have anything to eat or drink except the snow on the ground.

“We were then put on a train. We stopped in Limburg, Germany, where we were caught in an air-raid bombing, and we lost a lot of men there. My friend and I got away, but the Germans caught us again and put us back in the boxcars, and they nailed the doors shut so we could not get out again.”

It was not a Merry Christmas for Tom. He was in captivity for nearly five months. “When I walked out of the prison camp in 1945, a free man once more, my weight had dropped from 175 pounds to 96 pounds.”

Relief never arrived to save Tom



**American prisoners captured in the Ardennes being marched away by Germans.**

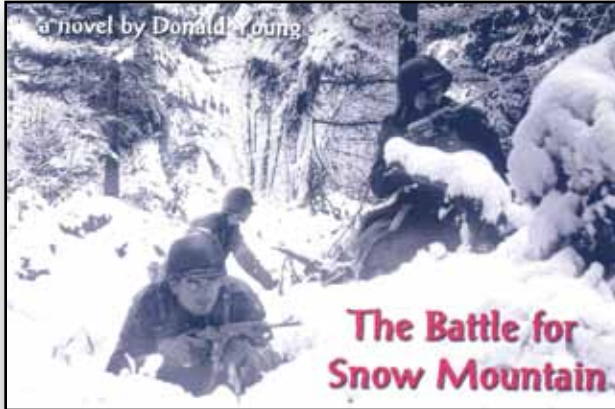
and the others who were forced to surrender on December 19. While individuals were collected and gathered up and units reorganized, Tom was already marching off to Germany. But the Germans ultimately lost many more — killed, wounded and captured — than we did. Besides, they never reached Brussels, their prime objective. They never even reached Liege, their secondary objective. Nor could they budge our airborne, stuck right in the middle of their way at Bastogne. Time was running out. On December 22, still short of the Meuse River, the Germans ran out of gas and left their wounded, over 60 abandoned tanks and other vehicles behind them as they fled back to Germany on foot. The skies cleared and the P-51s came out to hurry them on their way. Still, it would take a while longer to wind things up. A lot of the enemy got away. But as Charles MacDonald\* said, “We had no apologies to make. Rather, it was a time for the sounding of trumpets.” We Americans had stopped the Germans and we beat them — badly. On our own, we recovered from the brink of defeat and won the biggest battle in our nation’s history — maybe the biggest battle that the world has ever known. Then it was ‘on to Berlin’ — and there was no stopping us from then on.

*Be sure to read: “A Time for Trumpets, the Untold Story of the Battle of the Bulge, The Greatest Single Victory in U.S. Army History” by Charles B. MacDonald, Bantam Books, New York. NY 1985*

## **THE BATTLE FOR SNOW MOUNTAIN**

by Donald Young

*The Battle for Snow Mountain* is a comic novel — based on Young’s experience — which gives a surreal picture of the German attack on the 106th Division in the winter of 1944.



The story deals with two soldiers, their odd love affairs at home, their war experience in the Battle of the Bulge, their accidental capture, escape from POW camp, and return to freedom.

“I’ve never read a more powerful WW II novel than *The Battle for Snow Mountain*.”

JOHN DIZIKES, FORMERLY PROFESSOR  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

“Young’s novel is an instant war classic, much like Vonnegut’s *Slaughter House Five* and Heller’s *Catch 22*.”

WALLACE WOOD, BOOK REVIEWER

*The Battle for Snow Mountain* by Donald Young  
can be purchased by April 1, from Pocol Press, 6023 Pocol Drive,  
Clifton, VA 20124, 1-703-830-5862.

It can also be ordered at *Amazon.com*, \$17.95, ISBN 978-1-929763-48-1

## **Stories of the Men of the 106th Infantry Division**

In the Vol. 69, No. 2 issue of *The CUB*, then Association President Herb Sheaner (422/G), initiated a *very successful* effort to increase the attendance, especially of 106 veterans, at the 67<sup>th</sup> annual reunion in New Orleans (2013). Along with this effort came this new section in *The CUB*; and the stories continue below.

### **1st Lt. Don Houseman 423rd Regiment, Company D Dallas, Texas**

I enlisted in the U.S. Army while a student at the University of Texas at Austin and placed in the Enlisted Reserve Corp and was allowed to stay in school. Later I had to report to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. At Fort Sam Houston I was assigned to anti-aircraft training. I was sent to Camp Callan near La Jolla, California for basic training. As yet, I wasn't in the infantry and I wasn't in the 106th Infantry Division. Over time, that would change.

California was not as good as you would think due to being restricted to the base. However, I had a Texas friend of mine who was a real "ladies man," a "good looking" buddy who was in pilot training near LA that had arranged for dates with a couple of Hollywood Starlets for the two of us. Would you believe that I was assigned to KP duty for that weekend and in no way could get anyone to switch with me?

After my anti-aircraft training I became an officer and requested a transfer to the Infantry. I took further training in Infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia. From there I was assigned to company "D", 423rd Regiment of the 106th Infantry Division at Camp Atterbury in Indiana.

Overseas, on the 19th of December,

1944 my combat experience became fast and furious. I was hit with shrapnel ... I grabbed my head. I noticed that my glove filled with blood. Friends, officers and others were killed. Due to the length of my 106th war experiences, seeing those killed, my becoming a POW and the trip to Cologne, and my stay in a German hospital where I narrowly missed having an amputation, my experiences are too long to tell here.

### **1st Lt. Bob O'Neal 422nd Regiment, Company G Arizona**

I was among the last of the men of the 422nd and 423rd Regiments to be surrendered on December 21, 1944 to the Germans. I and my captain, Captain Kielmeyer, voted "no" to surrender. We wanted to "hold out a little longer," as Captain Kielmeyer said, "to see what would happen" ... hoping that American tanks would come to our rescue. We didn't know at the time that American tanks were not coming to our rescue.

I, too, like the rest of the surrounded 106th infantrymen became a prisoner-of-war on December 21, 1944. I was placed in a prisoner-of-war camp in Poland. There were 1,500 officers in the camp, from a colonel on down. My captain, Captain Kielmeyer, was in the camp.

continues on page 32

I escaped from the German prison camp with a bunk buddy in January of 1945. The temperature was 5 to 15 degrees below zero. I avoided Russian troops. Russian troops lived off the land, they took any and everything that they wanted. The German girls and women were ravaged. I met the Russians in March, rode on a Russian tank. Death camps existed. A Polish officer took me to a death camp. There were frozen bodies. This was a soap factory. Two months later, after meeting the Russians, we reached the Polish border. I was asked, "Where is your Visa?" ... I was sent back to a war camp.

### **Tom Bugner** 590th Field Artillery Bn Phoenix, Arizona

Mr. Bugner originally served in the 633rd Tank Destroyer's Recon Company, later he went to paratrooper training. He ultimately ended up in the 106th Infantry Division at Fort Jackson, SC. During the Battle of the Bulge the 590th was overrun by Germans while in support of the 422nd and 423rd breakout attack on December 19th. "We ran out of shells for the howitzers. Another fellow and I dropped grenades into the muzzles of the howitzers to blow out the breeches so they could not be used again. The Germans had all the men they had captured on the ridge around us. Then the order came to surrender and then not to surrender, that we were to fight on. The battery commander asked me what I had left to fight with? I told him I had one grenade and a clip of ammo. He had one clip also. The

Germans sent an officer with a white flag and told us to give up or else. It is a feeling you cannot describe. I took my carbine and wrapped it around a tree."

### **Edward D. Urban** Munhall, PA

My dad [name not submitted] was a 106th Infantry veteran, in "I" Company, 423rd Regiment. I joined the Association a couple years ago. I am a Vietnam Marine veteran and I appreciate *The CUB* and the 106th Infantry Association.

### **Damon (Last name not provided)** 423rd Regiment, Company D

Prior to joining the 106th Infantry Division, Damon was in the 53rd Coastal Artillery Regiment, Battery D and was located on the beach at Fort Lauderdale, Florida. They manned 155mm artillery "Long Toms," as part of the harbor defense in 1943–1944. The unit was deactivated in March 1944 and he volunteered to join the 106th then at Camp Atterbury. I was an assistant manager for a 30-caliber machine gun in 3rd squad, 1st platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 423rd Infantry Regiment. He was taken prisoner during the Battle of the Bulge on December 18, 1944 and held until March 5, 1945, liberated by the 82nd Air Borne Division at Ludwigslust, Germany. Damon attended reunions from 1992 to 2006. He has also attended and represented the 106th Infantry Division at the Camp Atterbury Memorial Services from 1993 to 2006.

### **Wally W. Martin** 423rd Regiment, Company E Spring Hill, FL

*Deceased since January 2012*

Walter W. “Wally” Martin (423/E) entered the U.S. Army and served during the Battle of the Bulge where he was taken prisoner on December 19. “My rifle squad was coming back from patrol, ducking 88s, and we saw the rest of the guys burying their rifles and tearing up pieces of white cloth to make flags. Then the Germans were all around us.” He and his fellow prisoners-of-war were forced to march in the cold and then later transported in boxcars back east into Germany. He survived the Allied bombing of Dresden, and continued onto Stalag IVB. While on that boxcar he had with him a bible, given to him by his Sunday School teacher, but it was taken from him and he never got it back. In May 1945, Russians liberated his prisoner of war camp. While marching out, a Russian cart ran over his feet, so the Russians knocked a German off his bicycle and gave it to Wally. On the second day of this march, they met up with U.S. soldiers and he was soon sent home. “I always thought I’d make it, I try not to forget the ones who didn’t.”

### **Charles K. Booda Jr.**

591st Field  
Artillery Bn  
Lancaster, PA

I enlisted on March 5, 1943 and served through January 11, 1946. On December 17th, the second day



of the Battle of the Bulge, the German 2nd SS Division overran two of our Field Artillery Battalions and were shelling our position. Our batteries had fired nearly all of their ammunition. Under Division orders we began a withdrawal at dusk. I was left at the crossroads closest to the front lines to direct convoys down the proper road. Eventually nothing past my post, I was alone. I was close enough to the enemy position to see little red, green and white lights blinking in the forest. They were flashlight signals from the leaders of the advancing German infantry. Then the dark overcast sky began to glow with a blue-white luminescence. The enemy was directing their search lights toward the clouds over the area being attacked. Suddenly rockets came screaming from the forest towards my post, the crossroads was their target. They destroyed the barn about 200 yards away from me. The enemy never knew they expended 12 or more rockets on one lone G.I. and they missed me!

### **Richard L. Idstein** 424th Regiment, Company C Buffalo Grove, IL

I was drafted in November 1943 and sent to Fort Sheridan, IL. After basic and advanced training I was assigned to the 89th Infantry Division at Camp Butler, NC where I served in an I&R Platoon. From here I was assigned to the 106th Infantry Division at Camp Atterbury in June 1944. We then shipped overseas to Europe and upon making our way across France to the front lines in Belgium we relieved the 2nd Infantry Division.

continues on page 34

Our company was in the very small town of Hemmeres. After the fighting started on December 16, I met with Chaplain Edward T. Boyle, an assistant priest from St. Andrew's in Chicago, and I helped him serve Mass on the hood of a jeep. I had served Mass for the Father when I was an altar boy at St. Andrews. We moved by truck for a few miles and then moved out on foot into the woods. I was in the first squad of the 1st platoon so we were the first in our unit to run into Germans. When the mortar shells hit the trees they caused the trees to burst and the shrapnel rained down on us. Two of the men in the back of my squad were badly hurt. Our platoon shot its way through the German lines using

rifle grenades and machine guns. We moved on bunkers and captured 10 Germans and released about 30 GIs. We were behind the German lines from December 16–20 when we joined men from the 424th Regiment taking up the defense of St. Vith. On the morning of December 21, I received a wound from a German machine pistol. I tried to stay in the fight, but was ultimately evacuated to Verviers, then Liege. I ended up in a hospital in Paris and received therapy until March 1945. I rejoined the Division and entered Germany in April 1945 where we guarded a very large number of POWs. By January 1946 I had enough points to discharge, and I moved back to Chicago and my family.

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## Dr. John Robb awarded the Pennsylvania Council on Aging Service Award

*Submitted by Marilyn Robb*

Meadville, PA resident and Golden Lion Dr. John Robb (592/C) was presented with the Pennsylvania Council on Aging Service Award by Pennsylvania Department of Aging Secretary, Brian Duke, in a special ceremony in Gettysburg, PA. Dr. Robb was honored for his many years of service to the Northwest Pennsylvania aging community. Robb has been on the board of the Pennsylvania Council on Aging, Northwest region since 2004. Dr. Robb and his wife Marilyn are very active in many activities at Active Aging, Inc. Area Agency on Aging and the Meadville Senior Community Center. This award salutes his generous giving spirit, volunteering his time and talents for many events in our



***From left to right: Dr. Stuart Wesbury, Vice Chair, Pennsylvania Department of Aging, (PCoA); Sallie Parker, Chair-PCoA; Dr. John Robb, Secretary of Aging; Brian Duke; John Kordish, Chair-Northwest Regional Council, PCoA.***

community. He is also past chairman and current board member of the Active Aging's Veteran's Salute. Dr. Robb, a retired dentist, is also very active in the Pennsylvania Dental Association.

# My Grandfather's War

A Young Man's Lessons from the Greatest Generation

**"I, TOO, SERVED IN THE 106TH INFANTRY, WAS CAPTURED AT THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, AND SPENT TIME IN STALAG IXB. YOUR BOOK, *MY GRANDFATHER'S WAR*, IS THE BEST P.O.W BOOK I HAVE EVER READ!"**

**— JAMES A. REISS, CPL. 423RD INFANTRY, 106TH DIVISION**

**"*MY GRANDFATHER'S WAR* WAS EYE-OPENING...I LOVED THIS BOOK."**

**"JESSE COZEAN'S CONFIDENT VOICE TOES THE LINE BETWEEN NOSTALGIA AND HISTORY AND STEEPS EVERY PAGE IN RESPECT. HIS HUMOR AND CYNICISM CAPTURE THE VOICE OF HIS GENERATION."**

**"A CROSS BETWEEN *FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS* AND *TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE*."**



The exciting story of 106th member Robert Cozean's capture at the Battle of the Bulge, imprisonment in a Nazi POW camp, and liberation by the tanks of General Patton. Informative and emotional, the book is filled with information on the 106th Division, the Battle of the Bulge, and the prison camps that many Golden Lions found themselves in.

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## Sheaner Family Visits Belgium and Germany

By Mike and Herb Sheaner (422/G)



*Herb Sheaner speaking in St. Vith, Belgium.*

Dad (Herb) and I (Mike) just returned from a trip to Germany and Belgium where we attended the second annual Flag of Friendship Ceremony in the towns of St. Vith and Vielsalm. Events of the day were organized by friends of the 106th Infantry Division and included: Carl Wouters, Doug Mitchell and Hugo Rietveld with help from Eddy Monfort, Eddy Lamberty, Denise Oger and Anne-Marie Noël-Simon of CRIBA and many others. Next year's event is sure to be even bigger and better with the hopes that more veterans will attend. For those interested in learning more, here is a link to the Belgium television interview with Dad at <http://brf.be/nachrichten/regional/689339/>

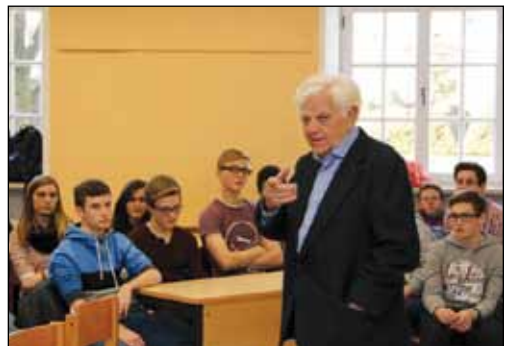
As Association Historian John Schaffner (589/A) once said, "no one can believe the reception veterans receive from our friends in Belgium until they experience it for themselves."

John, everyone asked about you and hope to see you again soon!

Two articles appeared in Belgium newspapers about the ceremony, and one reporting on Dad's visit to the high school in Prum, Germany where he spoke to students.

Herb shares,

"I want all to know that our 106th friends overseas go **"all out"** in presenting the 106th veterans to their Belgium Mayors and to their communities. I now have found out what John Schaffner already knew, that a 106th war veteran is treated like "a King." I can appreciate being a 106th war veteran because I, as well as the Belgium communities where the 106th served, know what sacrifice we 106th veterans went through. We are truly a band of brothers of a proud Division."



*Herb Sheaner speaking to students at Regino-Gymnasium High School, Prum, Germany.*

As Treasurer and a Board Member of the 106th Infantry Division Association, Mike Sheaner said a few words of thanks for honoring and remembering the men who were there in 1944. His remarks read:



**Mike Sheaner speaking in St. Vith Belgium.**

*Let me begin by saying we are happy to be here today to take part in today's events. I want to thank our gracious hosts and event organizers who have made us feel so welcome as well as the many new friends we have made the past two days. In America we call our fathers and grand-fathers who lived during that time the "Greatest Generation." We affectionately refer to them in this way because of the collective sacrifices they made to make the world a better place to live. I remember my first visit to this area some 20 years ago; I came to see where my father had been during the war, and to pay my respects to those*

*who were here. I came to a local cemetery in Auw, where inside I saw, mixed in with the new and the old grave markers, headstones for young German or Belgium men who died on December 16, 1944, then some more who died on December 17, & 18 and so on throughout December and January of '44 and 1945. It reminded me of the devastating effects of war on both sides including the local people. And so it is with this memorial and more importantly with your active participation in this ceremony we remember. On behalf of the 106th Infantry Division Association, I wish to thank Mayor Krings (Deblire), the citizens of St. Vith and Elie Deglire, Bourgmestre of Vielsalm and the surrounding villages and towns for continuing to remember and honor those who were here during that time and who sacrificed all they had.*



**Schlaussenbach Group photo – Herb on left, Mike on the right, Eddy below and not named behind the sign, in Schlaussenbach, Germany.**

## **Veterans and Family of the 106th Infantry Division TATTOO\* Requests**

With space in *The CUB* at a premium, yet Reunited Buddies and Their Families an important commodity, the editor of *The CUB of the Golden Lion* created the following list [*In Their Own Words, most often*] of inquiries submitted to him in hopes of helping people get in touch with the 106th I.D. Association Family. The following are requests for information. Feel free to contact them if you believe you can be of assistance. *The CUB* staff has received permission from all listed below to print their inquiry and their contact email (phone and address when available).

In addition, Non-Veteran member Connie Pratt Baesman, daughter of Lt. Gerald Pratt (Field Artillery), has been one of three people helping to manage the 106th's online "message board" (set up by Jim West) for people to write an inquiry, looking for comrades, or for people who might have known a relative who is now gone. Sadly, some inquiries sit unanswered when the answers may be out there with a reader of *The CUB* who doesn't use a computer. The list has gotten quite long and Connie has asked that whenever there is room in *The CUB* we add a few of the requests. You can find messages like these below, along with other searches on the 106th Message Board at the following Web address: <http://106thdivision.proboards.com/index.cgi>

\*The original meaning of **military tattoo** was a military drum performance, but subsequently it came to mean army displays, or a form of gathering more generally. For our Association, letting members know that someone would like to speak with them is "why we do this! So keep sending in your stories, as an old friend may find you!" — Susan Weiss (Publisher of *The CUB*) and William McWhorter (Editor of *The CUB*)

NOTE: We did it again! Please see the story on page 24 of this *CUB*!

### **Rudy Hirsch**

Golden Lion veteran of the 589th Field Artillery and a resident of the Bronx, New York would like for anyone who has stories about the Division efforts near Lorient and taking the surrender of the German submarine bases 'pocket,' or stories about the Division training in France as it prepared to go to the Pacific theater to submit them to the *CUB* for future stories.

### **Don Lewis, Jr.**

Mr. Lewis started researching his grandfather's (Milton Lewis, Medical Detachment of 1st Battalion, HQ Company, 424th Infantry Regiment) in 2013. He has the following photos of his grandfather with friends from the 106th, probably the 424th. He has either first or last names but not both for the men in the photos. He wants to see if anyone may recognize any other members in the photo.

*(Please see photos on next page.)*

## Front & Center . . .

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*Palace of Versailles, France. Group photo taken in May or June 1945. There are several 106th soldiers in this photo that I have identified. One is Don's grandfather Milton Lewis.*



*Hundley, N.C., Me (Milton Lewis), Jimenez-Cal., Crawford-Texas Taken at Stanislaus Square, Nancy, France.*



*Milton Lewis (Left), Brannin(Center), George(Right) War just ended in Germany 1945.*



*Milton Lewis (Left), Not Sure (Center), Charles E Reed (Right) At training camp either Camp Roberts, California or Camp Atterbury.*



*Milton Lewis (Top Center) with Army buddies in training camp.*

### The Importance of a Mini Reunion

Of corollary importance to the Annual Reunion are the individual “mini-reunions” which are held throughout the year in various locations around the country. In the past, a reunion provided a social event whereby men of the 106th and their ladies gather close to that infamous date of 16 December to remember fellow men with whom they served.

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#### Lone Star State – Mini reunion

Golden Lion Don Houseman (423/D) set up the Lone Star State’s mini-reunion luncheon at the Edgemere (a large complex for retired folks) in Dallas, Texas. According to Herb Sheaner (422/G) who attended, “We old 106th Veterans couldn’t stop talking about our POW experiences. With us was the President of the Daughters of World War II, Laura Leppert the wife of the former mayor of Dallas, and Mike Sheaner, our Association’s Treasure. We had a meal that was out of this world! It was suggested that we get together again in the future.”

Herb went on to say, “After a long planning period with the locals and our *CUB* Editor William McWhorter, it was decided that January 24, 2014 would be the date to have a mini-reunion for local Dallas 106th Infantry Division Veterans. So it was. On January 24th, 2014 we were all seated at the beautiful Edgemere being served a most delicious meal, all paid for with all the trimmings by our Host Don Houseman (423/D) . . . missing was the *CUB* Editor, a planner for this event. He was still at home outside of Austin, Texas, of all



*Four Golden Lions seated are Herb, Hugh, Don and Hal Power, listening to Mrs. Leppert speak. Also seated were Hal Power’s daughter, Elise and Mike Sheaner not shown in the photo.*



*Left to right are Herb Sheaner (422/G), captured on December 21st; Don Houseman (423/D), he received mortar fire and was injured on December 16th; Hugh Colbert (422/B), captured on December 19th; and Hal Power (422/H), captured on December 21st.*

things “Iced In” by the weather, He tried twice to make the trip to Dallas but each time the Highway Patrol stopped him and made him go home. You don’t get icy roads in Central Texas very often. We veterans had a good time. Probably we over-talked and had a longer Reunion than all of us had planned. We were all 106th Infantry POWs and had interesting stories to tell.



*The six people standing, left to right are Herb Sheaner, Don Houseman, Hugh Colbert, Mrs. Laura Leppert (wife of the former Mayor of Dallas, Tom Leppert) President of the Daughters of World War II and very active in veterans activities, Hal Power, and Association treasurer Mike Sheaner.*

## Sarasota, Florida – Mini reunion

On December 16, 2013 a 106th ID Mini Reunion was held at the Der Dutchman Restaurant in Sarasota, Florida. There were 33 in attendance with 12 being members of the 106th. Also, Jim Edwards K/423 and William Busier K/423 did not make it due to transportation issues. Mr. Busier was snowed in in Vermont. A great family style meal was enjoyed by all. Also in attendance was Mark Stolzberg representing his father Seymour Stolzberg of M/423 and representing his grandfather Bob Eldridge G/422. It was also announced that Leonard Turgeon L/423 who attended the mini reunion for many years passed away in March.

The guest speakers were Randal West and Kat McLaughlin from the “Ride Home.” It is an organization that has an annual gathering in Andersonville, Georgia and sponsors hundreds of former POWs and MIAs and their families for a four-day event to honor them. They also spoke about the plight of Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl who was captured June 30, 2009 in Afghanistan and is still being held.

Bernard Mayrsohn also spoke to the group about the 106th Infantry Division Association and the annual reunion. He encouraged all to attend. Next year’s Mini Reunion is scheduled for December 16.



**Don Scholten**



**Randal West, guest speaker.**



**Clarence Buckman, Glenn Beville, Josh Fleischer, Michael Beville and Matthew Beville.**



**Sidney Auerbach and Jill Blaufox**

**Back row L-R Everett Howland H/422, Boris Stern HQ/424, Don Scholten G/423, Lester Helmich HQ/424, Raymond Twardzik Div. Sig. Co., Clarence Buckman Div. Art.**

**Front row L-R Dr. Vance Jennings Div. Sig. Co., Glenn Beville K/424, Jay Carmichael E/423, Bernard Mayrsohn CN/423, Fred Parks K/423, Stanley Colby 99th ID**

**Not in picture but attended Sidney Auerbach H/424. After wards several of the attendees visited Bob Eldridge, who was restricted to bed, at his home and took him some of the great food that was served.**



## The Red Lions

By Jim West

Association member Jim West has submitted this very interesting period article about the PW guard duty in the Rhine Valley. The article was in the July 26, 1945 issue of “Outfit”



**106TH . . .** The Red Lions, who have operated under a partial news blackout since suffering more than 8000 casualties in the Ardennes breakthrough, were reported guarding German prisoners in the American Zone. But the higher-ups didn't know how big a job it would be when they made the assignment. With headquarters at Bad Ems, the division operates 16 PW enclosures, which, at their peak, contained 910,000 men, nearly 15 times the total of prisoners taken by the US in World War I. To handle this job, which extends from Holland to Switzerland, 4000 men were added to the division. In February and March, the division held down the western flank of the 1st Army before going to Tennes, for a rest.—☆

magazine. Have a read (above).

For your reference, Association Belgium Liaison Carl Wouters added, that ‘Tennes’ should be spelled Rennes. Carl also sent in this image of the *Baltimore News-Post* (left) that informs its readership about the 106th Infantry Division's “experience” in the Battle of the Bulge.

Excerpt from *Before the Veterans Die* by Dale R. Carver, 424/HQ 3 BN

## The Ardennes

Majestic firs, snow-laden,  
in rank-and-file stand.  
A man amid the pungent boughs  
in this ancient, subdued land.

Needled boughs, star-laden,  
pressed by a grimy hand —  
ice against an anguished brow,  
alone in a troubled land.

## Memoriam . . .

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### PLEASE REPORT ALL CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND DEATHS TO: ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:

**Jacquelyn Coy**

121 McGregor Ave., Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856

Phone: 973-663-2410

Email: JSC164@aol.com

**ALLEN, HAROLD D. 424/A**

—*Date of Death: February 13, 2013*

Golden Lion Harold Allen was born on October 20, 1925 in Trumann, AZ. He retired from the US Postal Service, and was a veteran of the US Army during World War II. Mr. Allen fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He loved his country and the flag and thought the flag was a beautiful sight to behold. He was a member of Trumann American Legion and member of the Stone Street Church of Christ. Mr. Allen was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Edith Pritchard Allen, and one daughter, Vickie Rae Allen. He is survived by two daughters, Beverly and Gail, and two grandchildren.

*As reported in find-a-grave.com*

**BRICE, ELMER A 422/L**

—*Date of Death: unknown*

*Reported by Jackie Coy*

**CLARK, HERBERT H. 422/CN**

—*Date of Death: December 31, 2012*

Golden Lion Herbert Harwood Clark was born on October 28, 1924. Herb was assigned to the 422/Cannon as a vehicle driver in northern France. He arrived in Europe on his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and when the war was over and he returned to the U.S. He arrived on February 16, 1946 greeted at the train station by his father and fiancée. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was not wounded, captured or taken prisoner. He was proud to be a veteran of World War II though was always modest about what he did saying, “The real heroes were the men who lost their lives.” He maintained that he went to Europe as a boy and came back as a man. He was thrilled to have made an Honor Flight to Washington D.C. with 98 fellow World War II veterans where he finally received the hero’s welcome he so deserved more than 60 years after his return from the war. He married Phyllis Heisinger in June of 1947. Phyllis preceded him in death. He loved her until his dying day. He is survived by his daughters, Cathleen Smark (Walter) and Susan Clark, two grandchildren, Phyllis and Stephen Smark, his sister Jeanne Shiras and many nieces and nephews. He will be missed by his family and friends.

*Reported by his daughter, Susan Clark*

## Memoriam . . .

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### **CREEDE, FRANK Jr. 423/H, 2nd Bn**

—*Date of Death:*  
*January 2, 2014*

Golden Lion  
Frank Creede Jr.  
recently passed  
away. Born in 1925  
in San Francisco,  
in his 25 years



as a Fresno (CA) County Superior Court Judge, he regarded every case as important. A decorated World War II veteran, Judge Creede was taken prisoner of war during the Battle of the Bulge. After returning to the U.S. he earned a BA from Stanford University, followed by his law degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law. Judge Creede worked in law in Fresno for close to half a century, first as a lawyer for 20 years. He was appointed as a Fresno Judge by Governor Ronald Reagan in 1973.

*Reported by August Macaluso (424/K)*

### **FISHER, ROBERT WILLIAM**

**106TH RECON**

—*Date of Death:* *October 16, 2013*

*Reported by his son*

### **FORSYTH, JOHN L., SR. 424/A**

—*Date of Death:* *February 22, 2010*

*Reported by son John L. Forsyth, Jr., and  
Donna Forsyth Haeberle, daughter*

### **JOHANSEN, CHARLES H. 592/SV**

—*Date of Death:* *November 24, 2013*

Golden Lion Charles Henry  
Johansen, Sr., 88, of Carmel died at  
Putnam Hospital Center. Mr. Johansen  
was born on January 2, 1925 to George

and Elizabeth (Schwartz) Johansen in Mt. Vernon, NY. During World War II, **he proudly served his country** with the U.S. army. On January 18, 1948, he married Adele Barbara Schloer. Mr. Johansen was very active in his community, and was a member of the VFW, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and Putnam County Joint Veterans. Mr. Johansen worked as a Nuclear Technician for Gulf United in Pawling, NY and he also worked as an Assistant Engineer for Metro North at Grand Central Terminal in NYC. He is survived by his devoted wife, Adele, his three loving children, eight adoring grandchildren, and four wonderful great-grandchildren.

*Reported by his wife, Adele*

### **JOHNSON, PAUL S. 423/K**

—*Date of Death:* *November 21, 2013*

Golden Lion Paul Johnson was captured at the Battle of the Bulge at St. Vith and was held captive in Stalag 9B and 9A, where he was carried out of 9A on a stretcher on April 1, 1945. He was a Disabled American Veteran. Burial took place at Waterford Cemetery, Waterford, PA, alongside his wife of 65 years, Magdalene Johnson. He is survived by 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. He was generous, personable and unashamed of his faith and trust in God. He was a police officer for two years in Cranford, NJ and then owned his own construction/remodeling business in Cranford before retiring to Vermont and then moving to PA.

*Reported by his daughter,  
Paulette Johnson Brown*

## Memoriam . . .

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### **JOHNSTON, RAYMOND A. 423/H**

—*Date of Death: October 12, 2013*

Born on October 31, 1923, Golden Lion Ray Johnston was an ex-POW in Stalag 9B.

*Reported by his daughter, Patti Hilberg*

### **MATHE, CLARENCE**

**Unit Not Provided**

—*Date of Death: February 9, 2014*

He left me with many teachings about life, hard work, and his wisdom will always live with me. God speed, grandpa.

*Reported by his grandson David Wysocky*

### **MEADOWS, GERALD D. 422/H**

—*Date of Death: January 9, 2011*

Golden Lion Gerald Meadows was born in Little-Rock, Arkansas on July 12, 1924. He married Shirley A. Thomas in September 1981. He served in the 106th U.S. Army, and was awarded a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart and an American Legion Medal of Merit. Meadows was a POW in World War II and a Commander of the American Legion #110 in Port Charlotte, FL. He was Vice President of Blue Oil Co. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, six children, 11 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

*As reported in the Flint Journal,  
Flint, Michigan*

### **PRESTON, WALLACE M.**

**422/HQ, 2nd Bn**

—*Date of Death: September 30, 2003*

Golden Lion Wallace Preston enlisted in the U.S. Army at age 17, and was assigned to the U.S. Army Specialized

Training Program (reserve) in July 1943. Sent to the University of Maine at Orono, ME for education. In December 1943, the program was shutdown and he was inducted into service at Fort Devens. After finishing basic in March 1944, he was sent to Camp Atterbury, IN and was assigned to the 422nd. A veteran of the Battle of the Bulge, he never saw a German soldier or fired his weapon during his short time on the front line. On December 19th, his unit was surrendered and he was marched off as a prisoner of war at Stalag IV B in Muhlberg, Germany. He would not be liberated until April 12, 1945.

*Reported by his daughter Maryann Preston*

### **SMITH, JAMES T. 81ST ENG/A**

—*Date of Death: July 2013*

Golden Lion James Smith and I served together from March 1943 in Ft. Jackson, SC until we were liberated at Stalag IX-A Ziegenhain and Camp Lucky Strike. He lived his life as a farmer and machinist. “We will miss him. There are only four of us remaining.”

*Reported by Veteran Paul Stone,  
his old buddy*

### **SONGER, “SPARKY” HAROLD**

**423/I**

—*Date of Death: January 12, 2014*

Sparky’s story was in the Sept/Dec 2012 issue of *The CUB*. He served in WW II, Korea and Vietnam too. He was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He truly was my Foxhole Buddy!

*Reported by Murray Stein (432/I)*

continues on page 46

## Memoriam . . .

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### **TUREK, CASIMER SYLVESTER** 422/H

—*Date of Death: December 7, 2013*

Casimer (Casey) Turek was born on 12/31/24 and served in World War II with fellow soldiers of Company H. Although he has had many career successes in his life, he was most proud of serving in the Army. He received a Purple Heart, two bronze gold stars, a Character Medal and several other honors and awards. After being discharged from the Army, Casey moved to Chicago with his wife Leona. He worked for the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) until he retired and moved to the Florida Keys in 1980. In Key Largo, Casey started his NEXT career! From 1980-2013 he was the owner/ manager of “The Turek Building,” an apartment building with business offices. He worked there tirelessly, almost up until his recent death. Casimer is survived by a son, Andrew (Andy) and two grandsons, Jake and Cody Turek. He enjoyed telling war stories to his grandsons about the time he spent in the military and the shrapnel that was still left in his leg! He had seven brothers and sisters who preceded him in death. He will be remembered as an honorable, trustworthy, loyal gentleman and soldier who was kind to everyone. He was buried with military honors and the sound of TAPS playing in the background.

*Reported by his daughter-in-law,  
Chris Harris*

### **TURGEON, LEONARD A.** 423/L

—*Date of Death: August 12, 2013*

Golden Lion Leonard Turgeon passed away at 87 years of age, peacefully in the company of his family in Saint Petersburg, FL. He was born in October 1925 in Adams, FL. A patriotic Leonard enlisted in the U.S. Army upon graduation from high school. He was awarded the Bronze Star for actions in 1944. Upon return to the U.S. he attended Boston University, where he attained his Juris Doctorate. He was very active in community affairs. He is survived by his wife of 57 years Evelyn Turgeon, his son, granddaughter, and great-grandson

*Reported by his wife, via Brian Welke*

### **ZARLENGO, DOMINIC J.** 423/3RD BN

—*Date of Death: November 26, 2013*

Golden Lion Dominic Zarlengo of West Amwell, NJ recently passed away. Born in Trenton, NJ he was a salesmen with Mercer Industrial Gases for over 50 years. Prior to that he served with the U.S. Army during World War II and was captured at the Battle of the Bulge. He is buried at the Washington Crossing National Cemetery in Newtown, PA in Section 6, Site 2775.



*Reported by his daughter Stacy (Zarlengo)  
Herrick and William Blaher (422/I)*

## Memoriam . . .

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### **ZIMMERMAN, JOSEPH 422/M**

—*Date of Death: March 29, 2010*

Golden Lion Joseph Zimmerman was born May 5, 1916 in Quincy, Illinois, the son of Otto William and Martha Harriet Dunn Zimmerman. On June 1, 1946, he married Marie Hase in Peoria, IL, who preceded him in death in 1997. Mr. Zimmerman was owner and operator of Quincy Auto Trim for over 60 years as an upholsterer. He served in the U.S. Army during WW II from August 27, 1941 to September 27, 1945. He was a member of Faith Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Mariners Group, and a charter member of the Quincy Outdoor Club. He was an avid CUB fan all of his life.

*Reported by Murray Stein and Hanson-Spear Funeral Home*

room open, clean and well supplied with goodies, including coffee all day. We stayed open until 10 pm each evening. The reunion tape shows a good amount of the interviewing took place in the hospitality room. You will see Betty running around in the background, resupplying the tables with goodies. Nothing but good memories. Betty was a very energetic, thoughtful and efficient person. Once involved, she put 110 percent into it. She was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary and held many positions through the years. At a recent national VFW convention, she received a 55+ year award. She raised a family of three daughters, and we are so proud to have had her as a wife, mother and friend.

*Reported by her husband Joseph*



### **DOLLMAN, BETTY J.**

—*Date of Death: June 26, 2012*

Betty J. Dallman is the wife of Joseph Dollman (424/G 2Bn). The two attended 106th reunions in the past; and her shining hour came at the 1999 reunion when chairman Russell Villwock asked me to be hospitality room chairman at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Schaumburg, IL. Betty and I spent most of the reunion keeping the

### **EMMERT, PHYLLIS M.**

—*Date of Death: February 8, 2009*

Phyllis Emmert was born on July 30, 1923. She worked as a secretary in the local Social Security office in Hagerstown, MD. She was a member of Zion United Church of Christ (Hagerstown) where she served on the Altar Guild and the Service Workers, and was a member of the Morris Frock American Legion #42 Ladies Auxilliary, and a member of the Hits and Misses and the Precious Stones Bowling League where she served as the team's treasurer and statistician. She is survived by two daughters, Alice and Barbara and a son, David. Phyllis was predeceased by her husband, David S. Emmert, 422/HQ.

*Reported by Jackie Coy*

continues on page 48

## Memoriam . . .

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### MASSEY, HAZEL V.

—*Date of Death: November 11, 2013*

Hazel Massey was married to Joe Massey (422/C) for 65 years. They co-hosted reunions in Mobile, Huntsville, and Nashville. She is survived by her husband, her son, her daughter, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

*Reported by John and Sandra Gilliland, as well as her granddaughter, Ashley Jones*

### VAUGHT, JEANNE E.

—*Date of Death: March 13, 2010*

Jeanne Vaught was born on March 25, 1925.

*As reported in death-record.com,  
via Jackie Coy*

### Correction

In the Vol. 68., No. 3 (Sept.-Dec. 2012) issue of *The CUB*, Captain William J. **Hynes** (81st ENG/B) name was misspelled as Hines. The correction was submitted by his daughter Frances Hynes.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

To the widows of Golden Lions, if you would wish to continue to receive *The CUB* after the passing of your husband please let Membership Chair Jacquelyn Coy know. Her contact information is located on page 13.

To see a full-color version of this issue of *The CUB*, please visit our new website at:

***www.106thInfDivAssn.org***

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**GOLDEN LIONS**

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