

The UB

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*The Veterans of the
106th INFANTRY
DIVISION*

of the
GOLDEN LION

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January – March 2013

Walking With Lions

By Doug Mitchell



***Exploring the living history of the Battle of the Bulge during the bitter winter
of 1944-45 in the footsteps of 106th Infantry Division veterans***

Article and additional photos begin on page 20

The CUB

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**See enclosed Reunion paperwork
and Registration forms in
the center of this CUB!**

Mail them in today!

**For additional information about the reunion
and to register online visit:
www.afr-reg.com/106inf2013**

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

President's View . . .

During this past year, and now this year, I have never witnessed so much passion, honor and recognition given to the World War II servicemen. Our Division was honored this past year on December 16 in St. Vith, Belgium at the **First Annual Flag of Freedom Ceremony** which you can read about in this *CUB*.

A resident of the St. Vith area, Doug Mitchell, and Carl Wouters, our 106th Infantry Division Association's Belgium Liaison, worked together to create the First Flag of Freedom Ceremony. Carl and Doug were instrumental in honoring the soldiers of the 106th Infantry Division. The Mayor of St. Vith, along with other dignitaries, was there. A United States Air Force Color Guard and a large group of Belgium re-enactors in American uniforms, shoes, etc. served as part of the Ceremony. A wreath was laid. Carl and Doug and the Mayor of St. Vith were speakers. The 106th Infantry Division Association provided a United States flag for the ceremony as requested.

This was an impressive ceremony in St. Vith. On the 16th of December, and afterwards, each year, there are a number of memorials being held in the area: at Malmady, Bastogne and other locations . . . and now, there is a ceremony held in St. Vith that honors our 106th Infantry Division. Our thanks go out to Carl Wouters and Doug

Mitchell and all those involved in



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the first annual Flag of Friendship Ceremony event.

This coming April 13–14, Lt. Eric F. Wood a member of the 589th Field Artillery will be remembered and honored by the Valley Forge Military Academy, the school from which he graduated. John Schaffner, John Gatens and Murray Stein will be there representing our Division. Other members of the 589th Artillery and other 106th veterans are encouraged to be there. Contact Association Historian John Schaffner for details.

A number of new events honoring veterans have taken place in the United States as well. One new event



continues top of next page

that honored veterans this year was sponsored by the Daughters of World War II Veterans. We veterans are certainly being recognized.

The big event, though, will be this summer, the 67th Annual 106th Infantry Division Reunion that will be held in New Orleans, August 21–24. All present and past 106th veterans will be honored. By now, you must know that we are brothers...only we can share what “we” went through . . . both the bad times and the good times with the 106th Infantry Division. Do you remember the steep road that we walked up, with a heavy duffel bag on our back after leaving the water front at Le Harve, France?

We couldn't do that now. Back then we were young and strong as an ox. For most of us 106th veterans, remember, back then, we were young kids.

I hope and expect to see most of you at the Reunion. Don't miss another chance to enjoy these reunions and get to see and to talk to our buddies and friends of the 106th Infantry Division.

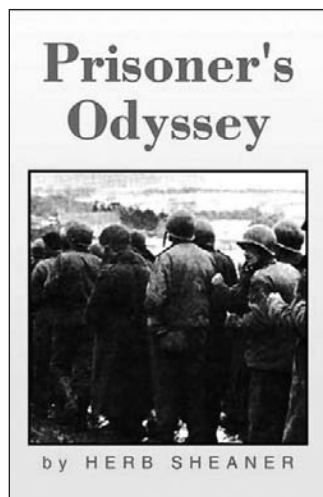
See you in New Orleans this summer. Plan now on being in New Orleans . . . I'll look for you.

Herb Sheaner

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.

Chaplain's Message . . .

For this issue of *The CUB*, Janet Wood has submitted her brother Randy Wood's speeches provided throughout the September 2012 Annual Reunion of the 106th Infantry Division Association.

Invocation:

THESE THINGS I DO NOT KNOW:

The sound of a bullet
The power of a blast
The blood of a comrade
The depth of your wound
The dread of dawn
Your fear of pain

THESE THINGS I KNOW:

The sound of your honor
The power of your courage
The blood of your wound
The depth of your strength
The terror that binds you
The dread that remains
You dignity and your valor

FOR THESE THINGS WE PRAY:

The sound of your laughter
The power of your voice
The blood of your yearning
The depth of your healing
The joy that frees you
The hope that remains
Your wholeness and your love

AMEN

Memorial Message:

Why Did We Fight?

I heard a story of a 24-year-old German Prisoner taken during a certain battle asked his captor, in unbroken unaccented English, where he was from. The American soldier said he was from the United States. Where in the United States? From the north east, where in the north east? Connecticut he said. Where in Connecticut? Waterbury, Conn. Oh yes, at the junction of the Naugatuck and Madd Rivers. You would have to know a bit about the area. The Naugatuck river was a substantial River and the Madd River you could jump over. The American said how did you know that. The German prisoner said he was being trained for administration. The Soldier asked administration of what? The administration of the Territories . . . That's one reason you fought, you had no choice and you accepted the challenge.

We have now come to this point in our reunion where we recognize and honor the recent passing of our comrades. I asked myself why did we come here? We came in part to make sure that all who had not had the opportunity could visit the National WW II Memorial. Why... It is a fitting tribute... grand and enduring... like the achievements and lives we are honoring.

As the Second WW began there were those who believed that our democracy was finished and they

Chaplain's Message . . .

thought that we the people will need a severe doctrine and stern discipline from a regimented society to survive the war. Not so fast! The United States was not a rich nation, we were not a great power “we had the 17th largest army in the world.” To fight and win on two fronts, Americans had to Work, and Save, and Ration, and Sacrifice as never before. Those of you of that generation operated war production factories around the clock, your families planted victory gardens producing 40 percent of this nations produce. A full 2/3^{rds} of your families put money into war bonds. America gained enormous strength when women began to labor for victory in the war production plants, cared for the wounded, and wore the uniform.

Americans had never been as UNITED and together as when you began and completed the largest single task in our country's history. More than 16 million Americans put on the uniform. You had ships on every ocean and armies on five continents, and on a good day you moved the equivalent of a major city across the English Channel. You were not warriors by nature. All you wanted to do was get the job done and go home. There were those of you in uniform who were celebrities and those who were everyday hard working men and women trying to protect and take care of your families. Most of you we could proudly call you “DAD or MOM”.

You gave the best years of your lives to the greatest mission our country ever accepted. You faced the most extreme danger which took some and

passed others for reasons only known by God. Yet thru all of this you were remembered by many for your goodness and decency, even though you were not exactly angels. You were flesh and blood with all the limits and fears that comes with it. Even with that, your achievements were remarkable. The courage shown in the face of conflict that claimed more than 400,000 American lives.

When your generation secured victory you neither asked for or expected a memorial to be built. You came home and went to work and you built a NATION that remains the **most powerful example of democracy and freedom in action**. The memorial **was built** so that future generations of Americans never forget what the WW II generation was called to do. It was built so we would never forget that freedom is not FREE. Of the 16 million in uniform, it was estimated that 12 million would not live to see the memorial. I look out at our gathering. I see that we too are less in number. We say a prayer for resting peace as we remember those who have passed as we who are living go to see THE MEMORIAL, and let's remember those ordinary men and women who still survive. Let's answer the questions asked by the first stanza of the STAR SPANGLED BANNER... The answers are: Yes our Flag still flies, and we come from the land of the FREE and AMERICA is the HOME of the BRAVE.

continues on page 6

Chaplain's Message . . .

Benediction:

When the last soldier passes on,
when armies are disbanded and militias
discharged, your mission will at last
be over.

For you know the soldier's secret.
Yours was not a mission of war, nor a
mission of ruin. Yours was not a mission
of destruction, nor a mission of death.

Your mission was safety, security,
protection. Your mission was Honor,
loyalty, service.

Your mission was to end violence,
tyranny and despair.

What the last soldier passes on when
the uniforms are retired and the final
grave is filled, we will remember all
who served and sacrificed for our nation.

Until then, GOD, please watch over
our soldiers and our veterans.

Renew their courage, rebuild their
strength, heal their wounds.

Bind their hearts with your steadfast
love.

Remember them. Bless them.
Sustain them.

And give them peace,
AMEN

Thursday Night Invocation:

Thank you for this food. Bless
the hands that prepared it

Bless it to our use and us
to your service

And make us ever mindful
of the needs of others

Thank you o' GOD,
AMEN

Friday Luncheon:

Our FATHER in heaven, for this meal
you have given,

We want to thank you from our hearts

Bless the ones who prepared it and as
we share it. Will you stay with us as our
guest of honor

In your name.
AMEN

Banquet Blessing:

Father of us all,

This meal is a sign of your love for us

Bless us and bless our food,

And help us to give you glory each day

In your name,
AMEN

The position of the Association's Chaplain is currently vacant and the Board of Directors would like to hear from any interested members (Division veteran or non-veteran) regarding their desire to serve as a replacement for the 2012–2013 year of service.

Please contact any board member whose contact information is listed on the inside front cover of this *CUB*.

The Adjutant's Message . . .

My Brothers and Sisters,

This year 2013 — more than 68 years since the “Battle of the Bulge” I think how fortunate, and unbelievable, that we are still here, meeting, talking, reminiscing, and yet, I remember those so very young men like Sgt. Marvin ‘Sammy’ Pate (423/I) killed on that first day — Dec. 16, 1944 — and all those others, who never came home to grow old with us. At the reunion in New Orleans I will suggest to the Board, that we hold a special memorial service to all our Brothers we lost in the “Battle of the Bulge.”

I have made some trips this past year. In July, I visited with my fox-hole Buddy “Sparky” Songer (423/I) at his home in Danville IL. In the mid 1990s Sparky spearheaded the building of a fantastic WW II museum in Danville. His story was in the last issue of *The CUB*.

After our reunion in Arlington, Va., I was invited with other XPOWs, by the “Rolling Thunder Bikers” to attend the POW/MIA Recognition memorial in Andersonville Ga. We visited the Museum and the Solemn Ceremony at the Cemetery. We then enjoyed a beautiful Saturday night Banquet where each of us was attended to by a gracious Biker. They were our hosts for three days of lodging and food. These extraordinary people, proved to be respectful, attentive, caring and true Patriots.

Mr. Brian Welke and his son were with us in Andersonville. Mr. Welke is researching and preparing to write a book of the 423rd Reg. of our 106th Division. I have had the pleasure of



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meeting with him a couple of times at my home. In Nov., I traveled to L.A. Calif. to visit with some beautiful family friends and was able to contact Mrs. Donna Wentz (widow of my 106th buddy Martin ‘Chic’ Wentz 423/I). Donna and Chic and the Steins had become good friends at a number of reunions. Donna and I had lunch a couple of times and we talked of how Barbara and Chic always started off our reunion with that Vodka Martini.

I attended the BOB luncheon on Dec. 16, 2012, and I met Ms. Genevieve Verbeek, Consular-General of Belgium who was the guest speaker. I spoke with Ms. Verbeek in Dec. and asked her about the award to be offered to veterans like our 106th who fought in Belgium. She promised to send me the information. In mid Jan. if timely, I will probably have it listed in this *CUB*.

continues on page 8

The Adjutant's Message . . .

On Dec. 17, I was invited by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Scholten to attend the mini-reunion being held in Sarasota, Fl. Donald served with 423/G. He and his lovely lady Mary Ann were gracious hosts. I attended and spoke for a few minutes, asking those there to consider coming to our reunion in New Orleans.

I met with eighteen 106th veterans and their families and especially enjoyed meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Boris Stern, their daughter and two lovely granddaughters. I have been truly blessed.

Mr. Welke was the guest speaker at this mini-reunion. I'm hoping to convince Brian to attend our reunion, to share with us his amazing presentation of the newspaper reports of the Battle of the Bulge.

Once again, I want to thank Susan and William for the outstanding work they do for our 106th in preparing our *CUB*. Also, how fortunate we are to have them and now our new Treasurer Mike Sheaner and our Membership Chairlady Jacquelyn Coy. Their title "non-veteran" seems inappropriate — maybe something like Executive Group — whatever!!

Start now and make your plans to meet in New Orleans for our 2013 Reunion.

And lastly, remember — donations to Life-Plus.

Love ya,
Murray

Golden Lions During World War II—A Photo Article

Requested by Association Adjutant Murray Stein (423/I)

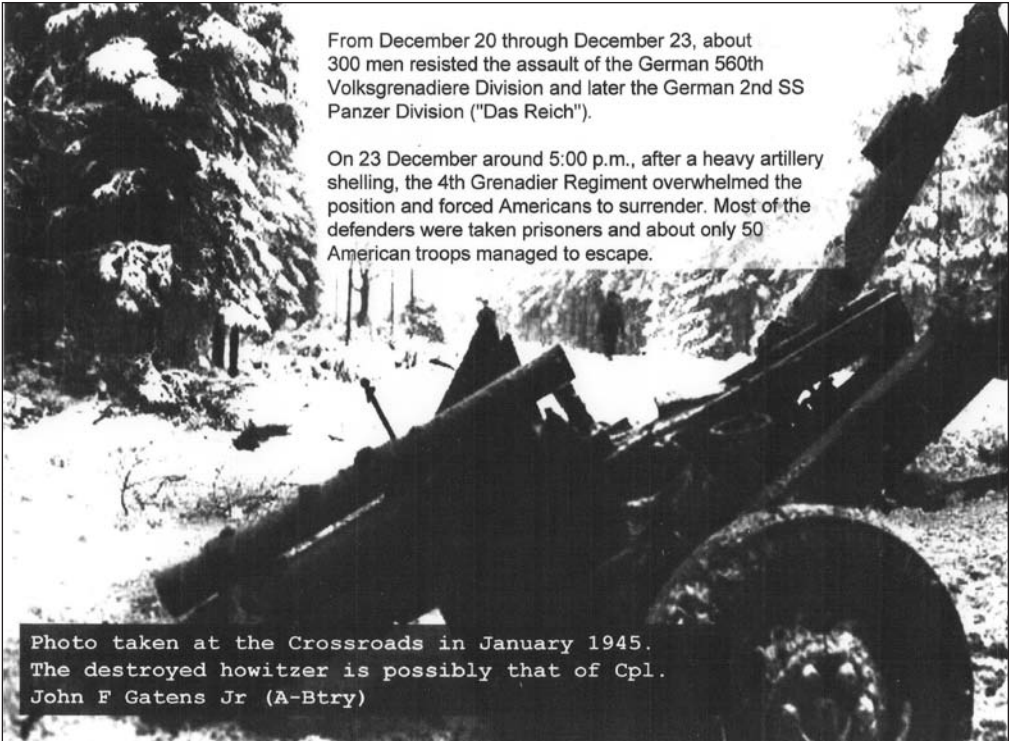
Every so often, I see a picture in *The CUB* of one of us as a young soldier. In a previous issue (Vol. 67, No. 1) I thought it would be fun to have as many of our soldiers' photos as are available, to be published in *The CUB*. Editor William McWhorter agreed to my request to continue this series in subsequent issues of *The CUB*. Look for the following photos and throughout the magazine and keep sending them in!

M29 Weasel



Jim West submitted this photo of a M29 Weasel moving supplies up to the men of the 2nd Battalion, 424th Infantry Regiment on February 29, 1945. The photo was taken outside of Losheimergraben, Germany. Association Historian John Schaffner (589/A), who has seen the photo before, believes the Golden Lions pictured are on their way to the Car Wash!

The Adjutant's Message . . .



From December 20 through December 23, about 300 men resisted the assault of the German 560th Volksgrenadiere Division and later the German 2nd SS Panzer Division ("Das Reich").

On 23 December around 5:00 p.m., after a heavy artillery shelling, the 4th Grenadier Regiment overwhelmed the position and forced Americans to surrender. Most of the defenders were taken prisoners and about only 50 American troops managed to escape.

Photo taken at the Crossroads in January 1945.
The destroyed howitzer is possibly that of Cpl.
John F Gatens Jr (A-Btry)

J105mm Howitzer

Golden Lion John Gatens (589/A) submitted this photo of “what is most likely” his knocked out 105mm howitzer at Parker’s Crossroads. In this photo you can see that the region around the crossroads was quite wooded when elements of the 589th Field Artillery Battalion, joined by an assortment of other units, put up what *The CUB* editor William McWhorter describes as, “One Hell of a Fight.”



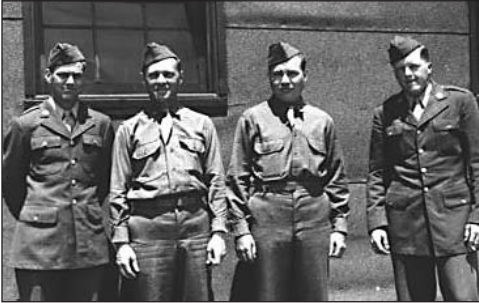
Sgt. Roy W. Wandell

A veteran of the Battle of the Bulge, Golden Lion Wandell (424/K) was awarded a Silver Star for Bravery, four (4) Bronze Stars, the Combat Infantry Badge, and a Purple Heart. Submitted by his sister, Elizabeth Nielsen of Highland Falls, NY.

The Adjutant's Message . . .

Anthony J. Urban

Edward Urban submitted the following article and photos about his father's service with the 106th Infantry Division entitled, *World War II Military History of Anthony J. Urban, Jr., 106th Infantry Division, 423rd Infantry Regiment, Co "I," Prisoner of War at Stalag Ix-B (Bad Orb) and Berga.*



(L-R) Allen, Anthony Urban, Lint, Mackey

My father, Anthony J. Urban Jr., was born in Pittsburgh, PA on May 9, 1916 to Lithuanian immigrants. He married in 1939, and like most men of the period, joined the Army during WW II, enlisting on March 21, 1944, leaving behind a wife and two small children, one of them being just two months old. At the time of his enlistment he was serving the City of Pittsburgh as a police officer where he walked a beat on the North Side of the city.

My father's stateside training took him initially to Fort George Meade for Basic Training and then to Camp Atterbury for infantry training where he was assigned to the 106th Infantry Division. His last stop in the U.S. was at Camp Miles Standish to await transport to Europe. His group shipped out on October 17, 1944. After 6 days at sea they reached Scotland on October 23, 1944, then another day at sea arriving

in England on October 24. After several weeks of staging in England he was transported to Le Havre via the English Channel arriving in France on December 4, 1944. The 106th then moved on to Belgium and on to Germany reaching there December 11, 1944.

During the Ardennes Offensive the 423rd Infantry Regiment, of which my father was a member, was encircled and cut off from the remainder of the Division by a junction of enemy forces, resulting in the capture of my father by the Germans at 4:30 on December 19, 1944. The small diary kept by my father indicates that while being transported by train to Stalag IX-B (Bad Orb), they were bombed by forces unknown to him at the time on December 23, 1944. He arrived at Stalag IX-B (Bad Orb) on December 28, 1944. My father's diary also indicated that he received a Red Cross gift on January 31, 1945, and that his camp was strafed on February 6, 1945.

The most troubling entry in his diary tells of how he and 349 other American POWs were labeled for "special treatment." This "special treatment" meant being packed into boxcars and shipped to Berga. The train trip took five days arriving at Berga on February 13, 1945.

Berga an der Elster (Berga) was a slave labor camp where my father and the other 349 U.S. soldiers were beaten, starved, and forced to work in tunnels for the German government. The soldiers were singled out for "looking like Jews" or "sounding like Jews," or dubbed as undesirables according to survivors. The POWs were forced to dig tunnels for an underground ammunition factory. This was in contravention of the

The Adjutant's Message . . .

provisions of the Third Geneva Convention. Many of the POWs died as a result of malnutrition, sickness, and beatings. As Berga was about to be liberated, the Germans forced the remaining U.S. POWs on a march. More than 100 soldiers perished at the camp or on this forced death march. My father received wounds as he was being liberated on April 23, 1945, in Cham, Bavaria.

Upon his return to our family and the United States, my father was sick all of the time. His chronic illness was the result of his treatment and suffering while a POW. My father died on May 25, 1956, less than two weeks after his 40th birthday, leaving his grieving widow and four small children. My father's story only recently came to light with the discovery of the diary that



(L-R) Lint, Unknown, Anthony Urban

he maintained while in the Army. Many thanks to Mr. Charles Guggenheim, now deceased, for uncovering the mystery of Berga and its secret history through his research and documentary film entitled "Berga: Soldiers of Another War." *May God Bless America!*



(L-R) Lint, Anthony Urban



(L-R) Anthony Urban, Unknown



(L-R) Anthony Urban, Lint, Unknown

The Adjutant's Message . . .

Charles (Red) Reeber

Golden Lion Charles (Red) Reeber submitted, "these old pics" all related to Camp Atterbury in 1944. The photos with one person in them are of Reeber and the one photo with two men in it is of Reeber and Billy Higginbotham. According to Reeber, "We were together when captured in December 1944 and in the same prison camps. Billy saved my life in Stalag VIIIA in Gorlitz, Germany. I became very ill and Billy somehow obtained my daily ration of soup. I am sure I would have died without this. Russians were coming and the camp vacated. I was left with others in my condition. Billy was in the terrible march that lasted on the road from February 1945 to the war's end in May. He died as did many others on the march from hardship and starvation."



Historian's Message . . .

In the last issue of *The CUB* I spoke about a pending visit to the Valley Forge Military Academy. The event was washed out by Hurricane Sandy, but is re-scheduled for 13–14 April, 2013. Any 106th Division veteran is cordially invited to attend this affair. The purpose is to honor those alumni of the Academy who have distinguished themselves as members of the U.S. Armed Forces. The connection that we as veterans of the 106th Division have is because of our association with 1st. Lt. Eric F. Wood, Jr., Executive Officer of A Battery, 589th FA Bn. Wood is not only noted for his action during the Battle of the Bulge, but as a cadet at the Academy he performed in an exemplary manner, graduating Magna Cum Laude in addition to being an outstanding athlete and Cadet Leader. Those of us who knew him personally had the highest respect for him as an officer and leader. As of this writing I will attend, as will John Gatens (589/A), Murray Stein, Association Adjutant, plus several others who have expressed a desire but have not committed at this time. Family and friends are also cordially invited. The keynote speaker will be Paul Galante who, you will remember, was our speaker two years ago at our reunion in Baltimore. Events such as this tend to carry on and perpetuate the history of our Division. Anyone who is able should make an effort to participate.

December 9, 2012, the Maryland/D.C. Chapter of VBOB, along with the few local members of the 106th Infantry Division Association, (dual members of both organizations) held their annual Christmas meeting at



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Patrick's Restaurant in Cockeysville, MD. There were 27 present to enjoy a delightful luncheon and social time. We were privileged to have as our guest speaker a gentleman now familiar to most of us, our good friend and eminent historian of events local and worldwide, our good friend and traveling companion for the tour last May, Bob Mullauer. Bob spoke about the events that occurred during September 1814 around the city of Baltimore when the British land and naval forces mounted their offensive to capture the city and thus impose their presence on American citizens. I am sure that we all learned a lot about those citizens, mostly recruits from the city and the surrounding area, who organized, armed, trained at a minute's notice, and bravely defeated a supposedly invincible enemy. Of course, the most memorable thing that resulted

continues on page 14

Historian's Message . . .

from the siege of Fort McHenry by the British fleet was the writing of a poem by Francis Scott Key, later to be adopted as the National Anthem of the United States of America, the *Star Spangled Banner*. Our proud nation's history is full with stories of those citizens who took up arms to defend our freedoms when threatened. If it should happen again, whenever, I am convinced that

the nation will be defended as before by those who know the value of freedom. Without it you are lost. Before the meeting ended the Christmas present swap was held, a 50/50 raffle netted a few \$ for the Chapter, and a drawing for a new TV was won by a person not present.

JRS



Veterans of the Bulge present include: (L-R): Milt Bromberg, Dee Paris, Al Darago, Milt Dierker, Charles Stinchcomb, Donald Regier. Seated: John R. Schaffner, David Bach;

Order of the Golden Lion Committee

John Schaffner is the Chair of the Order of the Golden Lion Committee. Mr. Schaffner invites any member to nominate for the award a member who is unquestionably qualified to be a recipient, earned through their contributions to the Association. Send nominations to:

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



Treasurer's Report . . .

As of the 2012 Annual Reunion, the 106th Infantry Division Association has two great people (one new) working on our Association's Treasurer and Membership duties. Golden Lion Harry F. Martin Jr. (424/L) has retired, and Jacquelyn Coy who has been assisting Harry this past year will remain as our Association's Membership Chairman. Joining Jacquelyn is Mike Sheaner, current Association President Herb "Mike" Sheaner's son. Both of their contact information is listed on the following page, as well as the inside cover of this issue of *The CUB*.

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-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 or
Treasurer, Mike Sheaner, sheaner1@airmail.net.



| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Total Contributions for the period: 33 equaling | \$1,920.00 |
| Cost of Publishing and Mailing <i>The CUB</i> : | \$2,987.62 |

Treasurer's Report . . .

Make checks payable to "106th Infantry Division Association" and mail them to the Treasurer at:

Mike Sheaner, Treasurer

PO Box 140535
Dallas TX 75214
Sheaner1@airmail.net
214-823-3004

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

Jacquelyn Coy, Membership

121 McGregor Ave.
Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856
JSC164@aol.com
973-663-2410

**Association Membership
As of March 1, 2013**

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Total Membership | 1220 |
| Veterans members | 773 |
| Non-Veterans members | 457 |

LIFE PLUS and REGULAR DONATIONS:

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| 422/Cannon | H.H. Clark | 422/I | Donald J. Young |
| Non-Veteran | Wendy Jansen | 423/D | Don M. Houseman |
| 424/ | James A. Dunn | 422/Cannon | Clifford D. Armgard |
| Non-Veteran | Jean Schutte | Non-Veteran | Lorraine J. Hawkins |
| 422AT | Donald B. Prell | 422/G | Herbert M. Sheaner, Jr. |
| 589/A | John Schaffner | 423/I | Murray Stein |
| Recon | Calvin W. Shiffley | 422/B | Robert N. Bare |
| Non-Veteran | Christian W. DeMarcken | Non-Veteran | Gary A. Ahrens |
| 422/I | William Blaher | Non-Veteran | W. Gene Miller |
| 423/HQ | Gifford B. Doxsee | Non-Veteran | Jackie Coy |
| 589/FA | Rudolph Hirsch | 422/F | L. H. Berkelhamer |
| 422/D | Frank Trautman | 422/G | Keith Ginther |
| 423/E | Frank A. Raila | 424/AT | Patsy J. Lopardo |
| | | Non-Veteran | Pearl Viola Martin |

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.

Treasurer's Report . . .

MEMORIAL DONATIONS:

Betty Jane Hunt

In loving memory of my husband, Kenneth R. Hunt, who died June 6, 2008. He was born on October 2, 1923 and served in the Medical Detachment, 423rd Infantry Division at The Battle of the Bulge, December 16–23, 1944 and was an ex-prisoner of War in Stalag IV-B. He received the Purple Heart, Combat Medical Badge and the Prisoner of War Medal.

Jean H. Bloch Living Trust

In memory of my husband, Jacques W. Bloch, 422/K, Stalag XIB, a veteran of The Battle of the Bulge, who died September 20, 2011 at the age of 91.

Loretta Fournier

In memory of my husband, Roger C. Fournier, 422/A, who died December 1, 2012. Roger was a great husband, father and soldier. We will miss him very much.

Dr. J.F. Uchino

In honor of my brother, Dominic Michael Uchino, 423/I.

Arlene M. Rolfs

In honor of my husband, Glen E. Rolfs, 424/D.

Delores Mikalauski

In honor of my husband, John Mikalauski, 424/H, who passed away December 30, 2010.

NEW MEMBERS:

Non-Veteran Margorie “Jean” Pierce
Non-Veteran Robert A. “Rick”
Barrow

Non-Veteran W. Gene Miller
Non-Veteran Robert Stern
Non-Veteran Sarah Stern

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 the inside cover of this issue with an updated mailing address. Thank you.

James W. Reed — Orangevale, CA

Armand De Vito — Belmont, MA

Merlin F. Theisen — Waukesha, WI

William F. Wanless — Mahtomedi, MN

I. Dale Patrick — McHenry, IL

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 (***williammcwhorter17@gmail.com***). 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

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 April–July 2013 issue: Material due in by May 31

For August–November 2013 issue: Material due in by September 30

For December 2013–March 2014 issue: Material due in by January 31

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

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

CUB Publisher: Susan Weiss
9 Cypress Point Court
Blackwood, NJ 08012
856-415-2211 sweiss@gccnj.edu

Correction for issue Vol 68, No. 3 (September-December 2012)

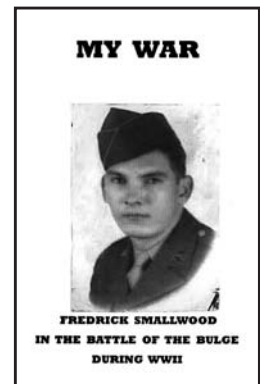
Golden Lion Frank Grasberger submitted the following correction. His name and unit appeared in the above mentioned issue as Frank L Grassberger, 423/SV. The correct name and unit is **Frank J. Grasberger, 424/G**.

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 or P.O. Box 1923, Bainbridge, GA 39818.



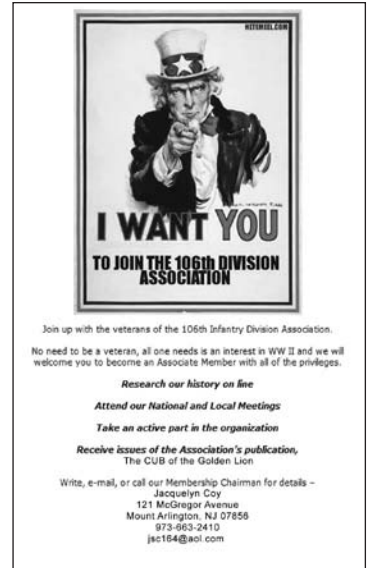
Jim West and the *www.IndianaMilitary.org* Website

Non-Veteran member Jim West has created an excellent web page at the following address:
<http://www.indianamilitary.org/106ID/Cubs-106/InfoRequest.htm>

It is hoped that this new web page will increase awareness of the 106th Infantry Division Association and perhaps our membership. Check it out at your earliest convenience. To join the Association visit: ***<http://tinyurl.com/join106th>***

Jim West has been adding photos to the website's roster. He is nearly finished going through all the old issues of *The CUBs* and will start adding names from other sources, such as the Camp Atterbury Photo Album. However, he will not be able to find every veteran's photo without your help. If you visit his website, listed above, and a photo is not shown for an individual, and the family has one available, all they need do is email him a scan. Preferably a single person and not in a large group, and accurately identified. You can email Jim West at his new email address ***jimdw@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.



Update from Jim West

In the last issue of *The CUB*, Vol. 68, No. 3 (September-December 2012), we made an announcement that Jim West had placed ALL of the past *CUBs* up on the Internet. However, the Web

address shared in the article has not worked out and Mr. West has notified *The CUB* staff that the readership should continue to use the old Web address ***www.IndianaMilitary.org***.

A Video Tour of Parker's Crossroads (on You Tube)

Submitted by John Gatens (589/A)

Ken Johnson sent Golden Lion John Gatens (589/A) this link ***http://youtu.be/ZfzHM_kHIBw*** to a short video clip he created as a special present to John. He calls it, "A Looking

Glass." According to Mr. Johnson, "this will take the viewer back almost 70 years to the very place and time [Gatens and others] were at Parker's Crossroads.

Walking With Lions

Exploring the living history of the Battle of the Bulge during the bitter winter of '44-'45 in the footsteps of 106th ID veterans

*Submitted by Doug Mitchell,
Member of the 106th Infantry Division Association living in Grosslangenfeld, Germany*

[An ex-pat American living on the Bulge front lines, I'd like to extend a hearty "hello" to all my fellow history fans. This story — the first of an ongoing series — offers an overview of battlefield explorations with men who fought here. Loaded with pictures, these regular reports from "over there" will entertain and inform anyone who enjoys stories about WW II history then and now. If you want behind-the-scenes glimpses at battlefield tours, tank and vehicle restoration in Bastogne, monument dedications, ceremonial events and ongoing field research in the woods of the Eifel-Ardennes — investigating the history and hardware of the European conflict — stay tuned... — DM]

Nestled against the southwest end of the Schwarzer Mann ridge, among a landscape of forests and fields all too familiar to the men of the 106th Infantry Division, the village of Grosslangenfeld sits squarely at the apex of the German offensive that began on the fateful morning of December 16th, 1944. The farmhouse where I live today was the American HQ while the 106th Recon was in town.

It was during my first Eifel adventure in 1997 that a lifelong interest in history collided head-on with cold, hard reality. Two years earlier, my father-in-law Josef "Jupp" Reusch first shook hands with 106th ID veteran John

Kline during a 50th Bulge anniversary ceremony in the nearby village of Auw. There, two men separated by their uniforms during the war stood face-to-face — as former POWs and fellow survivors — becoming comrades in forgiveness and forging a powerful friendship.

Fast-forward a few years and a steady stream of Bulge veterans and their families are visiting Jupp's decommissioned dairy farm during their Eifel pilgrimages, enjoying mother-in-law Mia's homemade cakes thanks to John Kline's reports in *The CUB*, the 106th division journal he edited for many years.

Since those early visits, the individual stories of the courageous souls who braved the fire and fury of '44-'45 first hand have transformed my life in the Eifel into a single, continuous history lesson. Even a mundane trip to the market in the next-door town of Bleialf feels like a battlefield tour.



My Eifel neighborhood... right in the middle of the Battle of the Bulge

The personal histories of the soldiers who weathered that harsh winter have become a functional part of my life, piling up like shell casings alongside a busy artillery battery. First-hand accounts of German 88s waking 106th Recon troops in German trenches circling Grosslangenfeld at precisely 05:30 on Dec. 16th. The mother-in-law's family barn — used as the ammo dump — going up like a fireworks factory when struck directly by an enemy shell. Tales of frigid marches over icy rivers and through frozen woods to Prüm, then on to the train station in Gerolstein, bound for the stalags.

Among the most frequent flyers were two very charming gentlemen, a certain pair of Johns — Gatens and Schaffner. Like a certain famous rock and roll band, they kept making “farewell tours” every few years. Then, in early 2012 an excited message from Mr. Gatens arrived: “I’m coming back. . . again!”

While he and Schaffner’s regular European guide Dave Ford wasn’t able to make the journey this time, a tour was in the planning stages. Sadly, according to his initial report, Mr. Schaffner’s shiny new knees would preclude his participation in the Bulge adventure beginning to take shape.

Mr. G then put me in contact with Tim Blixt, the man who motivated him to give Europe another whirl, who explained the overall strategy; a well-orchestrated week of official ceremonies, events and guided exploration organized by respected



Maria Reusch, Dave Ford, John Schaffner, John Gatens and Josef Reusch at the Grosslangenfeld monument in 2007

historical guide Patrick Hinchy via MilSpec Tours. Soon after my communications with Tim, I was offering Patrick local expertise in the Eifel to aid his planning process and summarily recruited.

Patrick arrived in late March to conduct field research. We were joined by young Antwerp resident Carl Wouters — a walking encyclopedia of 106th ID information — for our recon of the group’s “front line” explorations to build the daily schedule. On the second day, minus Carl, Belgian Ardennes expert Eddy Monfort helped us retrace the 424th withdrawal route across the Ardennes, ending a few clicks north of Manhay

before they were to advance toward the now famous events at Parker’s Crossroads.

Meanwhile, encouraging messages to John S. were starting to pile up. A couple weeks later, a message arrived from Team Schaffner HQ. His family had rallied behind him magnificently.

Not only would John make the trip, he would also have three of his kids — and



Schaffner shows off some serious surgery scars

continues on page 22

a grandson — in tow. A strong advocate of the “use it or lose it” school, he was supremely confident all his hard work during rehabilitation would pay off during the tour.

Fast-forward again to the 14th of May. On a luxury coach inbound from Brussels, the group enjoys a bright blue spring morning. Taking in the verdant Belgian countryside, they motor east toward Marcel and Mathilde Schmetz’s “Remember ’39–’45 Museum” near the twin villages of Thimister-Clermont in Belgium, known as “M&Ms” by their friends, frequent visitors and regular volunteers.

A schoolboy throughout the long German WW II occupation, Marcel remembers clearly how his family farm quartered 110 American 1st Division soldiers briefly, late in the war. When they were forced to leave in a hurry, a large pile of gear stayed behind, including a Sherman tank. Over the years, primarily through generous donations, the private museum



**Artisan and craftsman extraordinaire
Marcel Schmetz**



**Patrick and Carl hard at work
in Grosskampenberg**



**Gatens and Schaffner left their mark
on M&Ms**

he and Mathilde operate has assembled an impressive array of

military and period artifacts.

Remarkably, Marcel handcrafts nearly every non-historical item in the facility, right down to the plaster mannequins, modeled after individual German and American soldiers found in their extensive photo collection. Another highlight of the display hall adjacent to their residence is the most unique autograph

collection you’ll likely ever see: many hundreds of veterans’ signatures covering most of a large troop transport vehicle — featuring a forty-plus seat theater in back.

A bus filled with eager, jet-lagged Americans arrived

at M&Ms right on schedule with two Johns, but without John Gatens. The third John with our VIPs was John Swett, a 106th veteran captured in Bleialf during the first wave of the German attack on Dec. 16th. Delayed stateside, Mr. Gatens was due to arrive that morning on a later flight. His rescue from Brussels airport was led by another of his loyal European friends, the resourceful Jurgen Raedt. They landed at M&Ms as the group was touring the main museum hall, which completely fills a large, renovated multilevel barn on their property.

For more information about M&Ms:
www.remembermuseum.com/en/



John S., Mr. Gatens' lady friend, John G. and fellow 106th vet Barney Mayrsohn all finally together at the museum



Magnificent Henri-Chapelle

Excitement bubbled through the entire entourage as the third John appeared, handshakes and hugs stoking the camaraderie. Soon after, Patrick gave the load-out signal for a scheduled appointment with ABMC (American Battle Monuments Commission) Superintendent Bobby Bell just a few kilometers away at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery. One of three ABMC facilities serving the Bulge region, 7,992 un-repatriated Bulge casualties are interred at his immaculate facility.

The visit began with a detailed introduction from Mr. Bell, followed by a solemn wreath-laying ceremony, featuring a Color Guard from Spangdahlem AFB in



American Cemetery Spangdahlem AFB Color Guard in action



Gatens waits his turn while Schaffner fields questions



Barney talks about his war experiences

Germany I'd arranged for all four ceremonial events during the tour. The program included a presentation at the grave site of Lt. Eric Wood — a young officer in the 589th Forward Artillery Battalion John G. and John S. served with during the Bulge — who famously evaded the German encirclement in Schönberg and went on to wage a "Rambo-style" guerilla campaign against the enemy advance in the woods above St. Vith for several days.

Our fourth distinguished 106th vet, Barney Mayrsohn, spoke about his war experiences and offered background on his commanding officer, Capt. James L. Manning of the 423rd Infantry Regiment. Then the group splintered, many simply

continues on page 24

taking in the magnificent work of the grounds-keeping staff, while a crew from AFN (Armed Forces Network) Benelux interviewed both Gatens and Schaffner.

For more information about ABMC and Henri-Chapelle:

www.abmc.gov/home.php

The sun angling slowly toward the horizon and our thoughtful time at Henri-Chapelle at an end, the coach proceeded to Aachen, where Patrick led a walk through the Old City to Charlemagne's octagonal 8th Century cathedral, before retreating to the hotel for dinner and a well-deserved rest.

Tuesday, May 15th dawned cool, cloudy and threatening. A brief morning stop at the 99th Infantry Division monument in Krinkelt-Rocherath in East Belgium was followed by our first meeting with the Center of Research and Information on the Battle of the Bulge (C.R.I.B.A.) and Acting President Denise Oger, at a monument outside the village of Wereth, a project originally spearheaded by dear friend and late C.R.I.B.A. President Adda Rikken. Dark clouds approaching, colleague Anne-Marie Noel-Simon told the "Wereth 11" story, a summary execution involving 11 African-American soldiers



Chased by clouds, our intrepid group enjoys a few moments of sunshine with Anne-Marie Noel-Simon in Wereth

escaping the Bulge and their encounter with a brutal German SS unit. Featured in a documentary film and a more recent Hollywood production, General Kip Ward attended the 2004 unveiling ceremony.

For more information about C.R.I.B.A. and the Wereth 11:

www.criba.be/

Back on the bus, the winding route continued through the fertile East Belgian hills, visiting the site of the infamous "Malmedy massacre" before tracing the eastern edge of the Our river valley south toward the postcard canyon



Camille at the Clervaux U.S. memorial

town of Clervaux, Luxembourg. An afternoon ceremony and wine reception in the castle hosted by charismatic CEBA (Study Group on the Battle of the Bulge) leader Camille Kohn elaborated on the brutal five-year German occupation of his nation. All the more harsh because — exactly like German-speaking East Belgium — their native language is a German dialect. Hitler considered the Luxembourgish "Germans." Camille's heartfelt thanks to the veterans for their sacrifices rang clear in his emotional speech nearly seven decades after the battles he witnessed personally as a young boy.

For more information about CEBA:

<http://homepage.internet.lu/ceba-lux/ceba/default.html>



**Carl describes
the action in
Grosskampenberg**

The four-star Hotel International in Clervaux served as the group's base of operations in the Eifel. Wednesday's first stop touring the front lines was a remaining section of West Wall "dragon's teeth" in Grosskampenberg. Carl Wouters discussed

the 106th's over-extended positions paralleling the Schwarzer Mann to the northeast and the adjoining 28th ID south along the Luxembourg border.

A short hop to Grosslangenfeld and the Bulge memorial built and maintained by my family, followed by a visit to the 15th century vernacular chapel in our care, left us four kilometers from the Hotel Waldblick in Bleialf, for a rest stop with hot coffee and pieces of my mother-in-law's famous apple cake for the veterans and a lucky few.

Tracking along the 698-meter high "Schwarzer Mann" ridge, we viewed a West Wall bunker as I described the hydraulic demolition process used to blow the re-bar concrete roof clean off. I also shared the war story of 561st FAB officer Lt. Hoben Rogers, trading 24 hour recon shifts behind enemy lines on the Schwarzer Mann with Lt. Karl Holliday, to sight their unit's three 155 "Long Toms" positioned above Schlierbach in Belgium.



**John explains how little
the soldiers were told
in '44**

Today, Lt. Rogers is a wiry 94 and living in Oklahoma. Lt. Holliday fell in Medell, Belgium and is interred at Margraten ABMC cemetery in Holland. The sons of these courageous officers are good friends who visit Grosslangenfeld each time they return to Europe for business or leisure.

Descending through Schlausenbach, the tour advanced to Herzfenn, Schaffner and Gatens' 589th FAB forward position. John Schaffner explained how genuinely uninformed the regular GIs were before and during the battle, then we clambered off the bus

to visit the field where John Gatens' gun was positioned. The only one in the battery with a swivel base, John described how he had to swing the barrel around in a hurry to fire "rifle shots" at the first German armor advancing from nearby Auw.

After the midday meal at the Waldblick, a short walk up to the parish church in Bleialf gave John Swett a chance to describe his Bulge

experiences, including the miserable conditions captured GIs endured in the snow blanketing the church courtyard. Leaving Bleialf, the coach passed what GIs referred to as "Coffin Corner" or



**Gatens points out
his position when
the tanks rolled in**

continues on page 26



John Swett recounts the miserable conditions in the church courtyard directly behind him in Dec. 1944

“Purple Heart Corner” — an exposed ridgetop junction along the Schönberg road above Bleialf. German artillery positions occupying high ground in Brandscheid, due east of Bleialf on the Schwarzer Mann, owned a commanding view of the entire southwest Schnee Eifel. Enemy sights fixed on the junction necessitated building the “Engineer’s Cutoff” — a steep forest track hastily improved so vehicles and troops could avoid the deadly intersection.

Navigating the narrow roads between Bleialf and the strategic crossroads town of St. Vith, Belgium, our VIP’s were then honored by a civil ceremony led by Mayor Christian Krings at the 106th memorial erected by C.R.I.B.A. Krings’ father was among the many forced German conscripts taken from the German-speaking canton of East Belgium during the first years of World War II, so his thanks to the veterans for their service and sacrifices was also personal, and once again we were supported by the Spangdahlem Honor Guard.

Following a generous cake and coffee reception hosted by Mayor Krings and the town council and worn out by the action-packed explorations,

the three Johns and their entourage retreated to Clervaux for a good night’s rest. The next day would bring the main event: a large ceremony at Baraque de Fraiture, also known as “Parker’s Crossroads,” followed by a gala lunch at the Auberge du Carrefour inn and restaurant — in the exact building where John Gatens was captured by a German tank on the crossroads in 1944.

Eddy Monfort joined us in Clervaux early the next morning. Our northward route retraced the withdrawal of the 424th Infantry, not encircled by the German pincer at Schönberg that trapped much of the 422nd and 423rd. Moving through the villages of Beho and Commanster to intersect with the Lienne river at Vielsalm, we rolled upstream to Werbomont, where the 424th bivouaced briefly before returning to action near Manhay.

Before our VIPs could be enthusiastically feted at the Crossroads, they were welcomed by the mayor of Manhay at a civil ceremony arranged by Eddy. Mounting a motorcade of beautifully restored American WW II vehicles, a tour of battlefield sites around Manhay was followed by a twenty minute ride south to Baraque de Fraiture.

Their anticipated arrival met a



The Spangdahlem CG and the vets together again in St. Vith



The Three John's raise a toast at Manhay City Hall

large crowd of well-wishers, dignitaries and friends, including the mayor of nearby Vielsalm. Each return to the spot is like a homecoming for Schaffner and Gatens, who refers to the 105

Howitzer memorial on the crossroads as “his gun,” since it rests in the same position his did during an intense five-days at Parker’s in December ’44. On each successive tour they return to this pivotal point in their lives, where Schaffner was fortunate enough to evade capture, while Gatens eventually found himself pinned down by German armor inside the fourth-generation family-owned Auberge.

Current owner Madame Bernadette treats “her Boys” like royalty, pulling out all the stops for the veterans and their guests during each visit, and this year was no exception. From the Belgian chocolate bars featuring wartime pictures of each 106th vet in dress uniform to



Rolling toward Parker's Crossroads in VIP style

her bottomless wine cellar, all were very glad to have a professional driver steering the bus back to Clervaux after the festive two-hour multi-course lunch at her fine establishment.

The pomp and circumstance began with the mayor of Vielsalm and Eddy thanking the veterans once again for their effort and sacrifice, stemming the German tide inundating the Eifel and Ardennes as the Third Reich made a last desperate attempt at gaining British and Allied capitulation in the west.



Team Spangdahlem was in position when we arrived

Spangdahlem AFB Color Guard OIC (Officer in Charge) Capt. Corinne Stewart personally led her team at Baraque de Fraiture at my invitation, so that she might join us for lunch at the Auberge.

Family members and stateside friends touring in Belgium for the first time were astounded to see the old soldiers treated like “rock stars” at the crossroads. Shaking every hand and signing all objects placed before them, we eventually had to separate them from their admirers so they could eat. As both John G. and John S. like to recount, nobody back home ever believes their “tall tales” about how they are treated

continues on page 28

at events like these in Belgium. Until they witness it firsthand, as John Schaffner's family did during this tour.

So powerful is the bond between Bernadette and her boys that when the group climbed back on the bus, bound for Bastogne by way of the key bridge where the US 84th ID and 11th Airborne met and officially closed the Bulge on January 16, 1945 — she grabbed hold of Gatens and Schaffner and wouldn't let go. While the bus moved steadily through Houffalize and the Bois de Nimblamont along the way to the massive Mardasson memorial on a prominent hill just outside the famous town of Bastogne, she kept the VIP party at the Auberge rolling until well past dark according to reliable reports.

Meanwhile, everyone aboard the tour bus was flagging quickly after such a spectacular lunch and the abundant French wine and Belgian beer.

An exploration outside Bastogne to the Bois Jacques, where the 101st Airborne's "Band of Brothers" so famously hunkered down in the snow under heavy German artillery fire during the siege of Bastogne, was enough to drain our batteries. Steering the bus



Bernadette, C.R.I.B.A., local dignitaries, old friends and new admirers warmly welcomed all three Johns



Madame Bernadette and "her Boys" reunited once again



A mighty big cake for a mighty big celebration

straight back to the safety and comfort of the Hotel International in Clervaux, a good night's sleep guaranteed by our generous hostess' hospitality — especially after four exhaustive days of exploring the Bulge.

An early evening was enjoyed by everyone, in preparation up for a final wreath-laying ceremony at the ABMC Luxembourg National Cemetery facility in Hamm the following morning

One key site not visited on the 17th, for the lack of easy access with the coach, was the Bizory Peace Wood, constructed as a living memorial to cities famously laid siege, destroyed or terrorized by invaders — like Bastogne — over many centuries of European and world history.

What makes the Peace Wood special is a grove in the center, where each tree bears the name of a veteran who has personally visited. Many of the vets we've hosted in Grosslangenfeld, including Gatens and Schaffner, have a tree in the wood that they visit each time they return. It's worth a look, as the circuit of signs there illustrate clearly the horrific effects of war on civilian populations.



**ABMC Superintendent
Scott Desjardins**

Hamm Superintendent Scott Desjardins greeted us at the gates of Luxembourg American Cemetery the next morning, supported one last time by the Spangdahlem AFB Honor

Guard. He explained the sites' history, before founder of USVFL (U.S. Veterans Friends of Luxembourg) Constant Goergen delivered a powerful speech. The vets laid their fourth and final wreath of the tour and again saluted their fallen comrades.

We then moved down the grassy slope to the final resting place of tour member Vicky Cool's father, PFC Victor LaCount, where she and her husband Jerry presented a bouquet at his memorial cross. LaCount was killed in the Bois de Nimblamont area during the long defense of Bastogne. After the informal ceremony — with the Honor Guard again offering solemn support — the USVFL offered tokens of their nation's appreciation to Mrs. Cool's fallen father posthumously, as well as the three Johns of the 106th Infantry Division.

Mr. Desjardins then offered to present us an oral biography of legendary 3rd Army General George S. Patton, also interred at his Luxembourg facility. The witty account of Patton's life was informative, insightful and funny. Clearly he's invested lots of time and effort crafting such a well-rehearsed

and entertaining dialogue. If you visit his prestigious facility, be sure to ask if he will share with you or your group this oral history of General Patton.

After a short exploration of the attractive grounds at Hamm, we boarded the bus for a midday jaunt in Luxembourg City. VBoB trustee Madeleine Bryant and I even became honorary members of Team Schaffner for a couple hours, joining them on a relaxed stroll along the fortifications and around the pedestrian zone in search of a restaurant serving crepes.

Our last scheduled stop was Roland Gaul's National Museum of Military History in Diekirch. Housed in a former brewery and packed floor-to-ceiling with machinery and memorabilia, the



**John Gatens thanks
the Spangdahlem
Honor Guard**

museum's collection is unrivaled in Luxembourg or western Europe. Roland is also a walking library of Bulge history and the facility's research center contains thousands of volumes.

A literal treasure trove of "big iron," munitions of every size and shape and a superb collection of both German and American war-era electronics grace the museum, which also houses examples of medical supplies and equipment, field rations, exhaustive displays of uniforms and insignias, period propaganda, even Nazi china and tableware — with an entire upstairs loft dedicated to

continues on page 30

the military legacy of the Dukes of Luxembourg and their diminutive but economically powerful nation.

Including several well-composed static dioramas depicting the difficulties experienced by all sides during the Bulge, the detail-minded and those who enjoy close-up photography should reserve a minimum of a half-day to peruse room after room and cabinet after cabinet of historical minutiae revealing much about the changing nature of western industrial society during the 20th century.

For more information about the Diekirch museum: www.mnhm.lu/

The final hurrah on Friday was a well-planned farewell dinner at the Hotel International. Cordially invited by Patrick to join the festivities, I couldn't say no to the salmon after nearly a week touring with old friends and making new ones. It was such an interesting, informative time that I'm already looking forward to next year's tour and once again exploring the living history of the Bulge.

On the final travel day, Patrick and the group moved toward Frankfurt, re-tracing the route from Prüm in the Eifel to Stalag XIIA near Limburg-Diez, currently a German army facility. The same route traveled by the hundreds of American POWs from the 106th captured or surrendered during the early days of the German offensive. Arrival in Frankfurt signaled the official end of the tour.

Since the tour, a week doesn't go by that I don't think back about some detail of our adventures or hear from someone who participated, already contemplating their next visit to the Eifel. Thankfully, the 2013 VBoB tour schedule has



Finishing the 2012 VBoB Bulge Tour on a high note at the National Museum in Diekirch

already been announced.

This year's Bulge events include both the "northern shoulder" region our group covered in 2012, as well as a "southern shoulder" tour extending into Luxembourg, in tandem with the U.S. Veterans Friends of Luxembourg's annual "Friendship Week" festivities.

Once again organized by Oxford history graduate Patrick Hinchy and Philadelphia-based MilSpec Tours, if your interests include European, World War II and Battle of the Bulge history, pay a visit to the VBoB website and click on the "Tours" link at the top for all the necessary details.

For information about VBoB and their tour schedule:

www.veteransofthebattleofthebulge.org/

Doug Mitchell is an ex-pat Seattle boy married to an Eifel girl and living in a family farmhouse (c.1751) that served as the 106th Infantry Division Recon HQ on the front lines of the Bulge in 1944. Surrounded by history, from Caesar and Charlemagne to General Patton, he and his Eifel family regularly host visiting veterans, family

continued on next page

members and serious history buffs, guiding them to the many monuments, memorials and historical sites around the Eifel-Ardenne, including their own small Bulge memorial in the village of Grosslangenfeld. If you're curious

about Eifel or Bulge history, he's always available to answer questions at: doug.mitchell@t-online.de

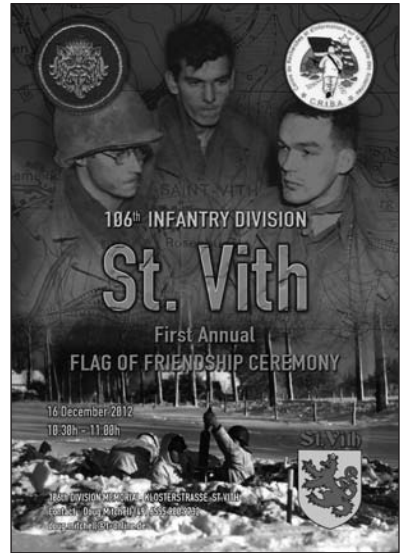
To see this article with the pictures in beautiful color, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2012-106th-ID-Bulge-Tour>

First Annual 106th Division Flag of Friendship Ceremony

By Carl Wouters, 106th Association Belgium Liaison

16 December 2012, marked the 68th anniversary of the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge. With large scale commemorations taking place in Bastogne, a small ceremony was held at the 106th Division memorial in St. Vith. Despite the frigid temperatures and occasional sleet, Belgian, German, Dutch and American friends of the 106th assembled to honor the brave actions of the division during the terrible battle that raged through the Belgian Ardennes in the winter of 1944–45.

At around 10:15 AM, two vintage WW II GMC deuce-and-a-half trucks, fully laden with re-enactors dressed in vintage GI kit rolled into St. Vith and stopped at the 106th Division memorial in the Klosterstrasse. These men,



members of a Dutch re-enactment group, had volunteered to provide a backdrop for the ceremony. Their original gear and vehicles really added to the atmosphere of this December 16th. The U.S. Air Force Color Guard and Flag Detail of the Spangdahlem airbase was present as an honor guard for the ceremony and to assist in the actual lowering and raising of the U.S. "Flag of Friendship," donated by the 106th Infantry Division Association. Besides myself and Doug as representatives of the 106th Division Association, also taking part in the ceremony were Mayor Christian Krings of St. Vith as well as several of his council members, a flag detail consisting of Belgian war

continues on page 32

veterans, Denise Oger and Anne-Marie Noel-Simon of CRIBA. With the inclusion of the re-enactors there must have been up to 60 people attending.

After disembarking their vehicles, the re-enactors marched up the Klosterstrasse and stood at attention in front of the monument. After an order was given, they were repositioned to the back of the monument, where they presented arms.



Doug welcomed everybody and told a few words about the intention of the ceremony in honor of the 106th. The meaning of the 'Flag

of Friendship' is the U.S. veterans of the 106th thanking their loyal Belgian friends for their service of commemoration. This year's flag was to be donated to Mrs. Denise Oger, acting president of the Center of Research and Information on the Battle of the Bulge (CRIBA). She has done a great deal for returning veterans and their families and as president of CRIBA she is well liked. CRIBA, of course, is the organization behind many of the monuments and commemorations for the Battle here in Belgium.

Doug passed the word to me and I spoke briefly on the events which occurred in the St. Vith area 68 years ago and how they affected the lives of the civilians and soldiers in the area. Then,



mayor Krings gave a very nice speech about the importance of remembering. This concluded the speaking part of the ceremony. Next was the actual "Flag of

Friendship" donation.

Anne-Marie and Denise first laid a wreath at the memorial on behalf of CRIBA. Then the Spangdahlem Flag team moved in and lowered the US Flag of Friendship, which had been raised prior to the ceremony. The flag was carefully folded into the traditional tri-cornered hat and handed to Denise with a word of thanks. Following this, the US flag of the town of St. Vith was then raised by the flag team and saluted. This concluded the ceremony after which photos were taken and all attendees were invited to the Pip-Margraff hotel in the center of town, where a warm beverage (which was very welcome) was provided, courtesy of Mayor Krings and the town council of St. Vith.

The remainder of the day was spent by a drive along the front lines after which we attended a wreath laying ceremony by CRIBA at Baugnez, the



continued on next page



*Photos and Poster shared by
Carl Wouters and Doug Mitchell*

infamous site of the so-called Malmedy Massacre.

We're very happy to report that this first annual event went very well and was also received very well by the town of St Vith, which is thanks to all those who participated. My main thanks goes out to our good friend Doug Mitchell. He is the driving force behind the ceremony.

Mess Tin Found in Schönberg Forest

Submitted by Stefan van Dissel

Dutchman Stefan van Dissel, who has lived in Germany for a couple years, now submitted the following request for information. Mr. van Dissel is a World War II researcher and a metal detecting enthusiast. For two years now he has been in the possession of a World War II-era mountain mess tin. On the backside of the tin the name **“Waity”** is carved.

Mr. van Dissel found the item in the Schönberg Forest in the Ardennes, Belgium, and he believes that the chances are pretty big that it belonged to a 106th Infantry Division soldier. He would like to return it to the original owner or his relatives, and at the same time to collect some info of the man it belonged to. He found the name Waity on the U.S. National Archives and



Records Administration website at the following: <http://aad.archives.gov/aad/record-detail.jsp?dt=893&mtch=1&tf=F&q=waity&bc=sl&rpp=10&pg=1&rid=7810452>, but has no way of proving that Waity was a Golden Lion. If you recognize the mess tin and the name, feel free to reach out to Mr. van Dissel at: Diktrom82@hotmail.com

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

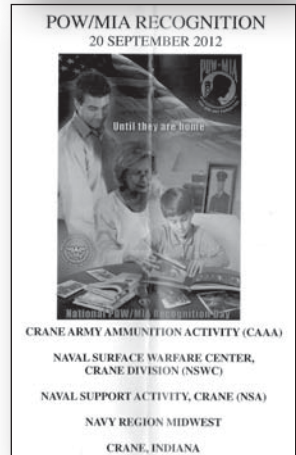
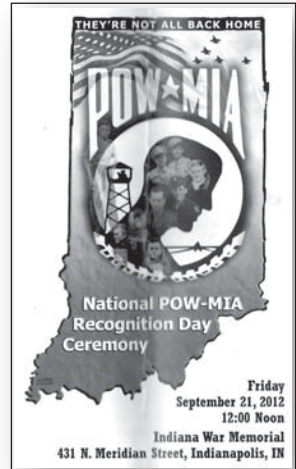
Prisoner of War Recognition Ceremonies

One of the duties of Memorial Chairmen and Golden Lions Frank Trautman (422/D) and Dr. John Robb (422/D) is to attend various functions of recognition honoring veterans in the Indianapolis area. Along with this article are images from the ceremony programs for two recent events Trautman attended and represented the 106th Infantry Division. The first, the National POW-MIA Recognition Day Ceremony was held on September 21, 2012 at the 'Soldiers and Sailors Monument' in Indianapolis (located on Meridian Street). Trautman was joined by Paul Wagner (423/B).

The second event held the day before and called the POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony was held on September 20, 2012 in Crane, Indiana. At this ceremony, Trautman notes that the following Golden Lions joined him as honored guests: Gene Saucerman (422/D) and a past president of the Association, and Paul Wagner (423/B).

Mr. Trautman has also included a ceremony program (see pictured) for the Fort Benjamin Harrison state park near Indianapolis. The program is entitled, *The Battle of the Bulge: 12 Days of Christmas with the U.S. Army in Belgium 1944*. As indicated in the title, the program's displays focus on a time line for each day of the battle. The 106th Infantry Division is a part of the first days of the battle's timeline beginning on December 15th. Mr. Trautman volunteers and represents Golden Lion veterans who took part in the battle. He gets a lot of attention from visitors to the displays when they learn he was there on the 15th and four days later, on the 19th, he was taken prisoner. Mr. Trautman ended his report by say, "I consider [this] a pleasure as well as a privilege as a survivor. I also consider it a part of my duties as Association Memorial Chairman with John Robb."

Finally, Mr. Trautman planned to represent the 106th Infantry Division at the Veterans Parade in Indianapolis on November 10, and, if at all possible, looks forward to visiting with attendees at the Association's 2013 Reunion in New Orleans.



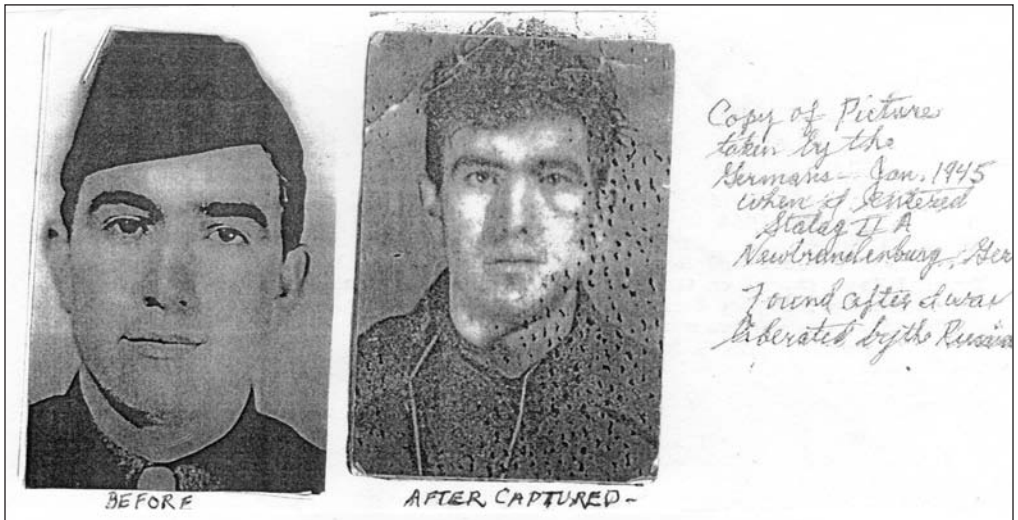
A Golden Lion Reflects on his Battle of the Bulge Experience

Submitted by James W. Gardner (424/2nd BN/HQ Co.)

In this article Golden Lion James W. Gardner (424/2nd BN/HQ Co.) reflects on his time in combat and as a prisoner of war by the Germans. In his words, "I was wounded and captured the evening of the 19th of December 1944. Several days later, on the 24th of December I found myself in a barn-like structure awaiting my turn to go into a little room where a German medic, or doctor, was. I had a wound just above my ankle; my left hand was hit with shrapnel; I also had stinging in my left rear. A piece of steel had gone through my billfold, cutting my four leaf clover in two. I had been carrying it for 'good luck.' This happened during the Battle of the Bulge.

"There were both German and American wounded in this barn-like

structure. I assume it was meant to be a field hospital. I watched Germans and Americans come and go from a smaller room. Many of them looked worse after they came out than when they went in. When it came my turn I did not much want to go in, but the German guard poked me with his rifle, so I thought he meant business; I went hopping into the room. I saw two people next to a table. I don't know whether they were doctors, or just medics, but they gave me an order to get up on the table. Thoughts ran through my mind like, 'Will I still have two legs if I get out of this; or will I be leaving them here?' They ordered me to lie down on the table; I did, but I sat up immediately to see what they were going to do. They pushed me back



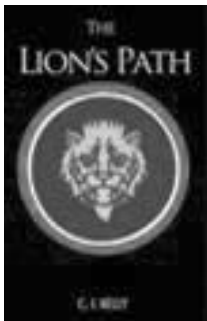
In this side-by-side photo, you can see what Golden Lion Gardner looked like before becoming a POW and after he was captured. The photo on the right was taken by the Germans in January 1945 when he entered Stalag IIA near Neubrandenburg, Germany. The photo was found after the Russians liberated Gardner and others in the camp.

down again, and I sat up again. I decided I was going to kick them with my good leg if they tried something funny. One of them hit me across the nose with a medical instrument. Thank God it was the blunt side of the instrument that hit me. I decided I was the loser, so I laid back and cocked my head so I could watch. They immediately opened up my wounds with a sharp instrument to allow them to bleed, and then wrapped my leg and hand with paper bandages. They did not put any medication on my wounds. They then ordered me out into the bigger room again. I hopped out on my good leg and took my place on the floor.

“In a few hours I was ordered to hop outside and was then put in the back of a truck with several other wounded. We did not know where we were going, but we were headed somewhere. Several times the truck stopped; the driver and his partner would dive for the ditch as our planes strafed us. We were not allowed to take cover. This happened a few times, but we lucked out. We thought we saw Red Cross trucks headed toward the front with supplies. Our truck did not have a red cross on

it. We finally came to a railroad yard; here we were placed in a boxcar that had wooden bunks in it. I suppose this was ‘hospital train.’ At one end of the car above the door was a big picture of Hitler. Our guard, or medic, was older than the average. He looked both ways before he pointed to the picture and said, ‘Him no good, him no good.’ There were Germans in the car behind us, so the guard was careful when he said this about Hitler.

“I remember, even though we were all wounded, we sang Christmas songs, since it was Christmas Eve. I couldn’t help wondering what my family was doing at home. I doubt that they were enjoying the Christmas of 1944 anymore than I was. I spent Christmas Day in the boxcar and then we were at Stalag 6G for a few days.” After having our paper bandages changed (no medication provided) we were loaded into boxcars for a six-day stop-and-go trip to Stalag IIA, north of Berlin. I consider myself darned lucky to be alive today. I was Liberated by the Russians on April 29, 1945.”



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

To the Men of the 106th

Submitted by John Gilliland of AZ,

*Written in 1998 by Hazel Massey, wife of Joseph A. Massy (424), from Alabama,
for the reunion in Indianapolis, IN*

In March of Nineteen forty-three
Fort Jackson was the place to be
And member of the one-o-six
All knuckled down, no time for tricks

From reveille till the day was through
Each man was given a job to do
Having to do what the sergeants ask
To train for war is a tiresome task

As soon as their training job was through
The “overseas rumor” they’d heard came true
They stiffened their lips and hitched up their pants
From Standish to Scotland to England then France

Not fully knowing what they had to do
But determined no less to see it all through
Wound up in the Battle of the Bulge
Something they had no desire to indulge

Up to the front in open truck:
“We’ll weather the bumps with a bit of luck”
“We’ll just dig in and try to survive”
“No fighting to do, we’ll all stay alive”

What they wished to believe was too good to be true
They found keeping warm was the hard thing to do
December sixteen the whole world exploded
Time to make sure all guns had been loaded

They fought the good fight . . . finally had to give in
Before it was over the boys became men
So here’s to the men of the hundred and six
Who in the Bulge Battle took many hard licks

Alas, by the time all the fighting was through
Most were all POWs with not much to do
“Lord, keep us alive” became their hearts cry
Some were left in the barracks to live or to die

War’s no piece of cake, no need to pretend
War’s a horrible thing from beginning to end
Which side doesn’t matter — if you lose or you win
War is hell no matter what part you are in

Some made it through and never were caught
But that didn’t mean they weren’t being sought
By enemy supplied with both gun and tank
And mattering not whatever your rank

’Twas over at last — they’d all done their part
How good to get home and have a new start
And going to work they tried to forget
But that’s not so easy as well you can bet

This group was formed to meet every year
And my, oh my, the tales that you hear!
Each year it’s off to a different state
Mostly it’s on or about the same date

To honor the ones who didn’t come back
And then tell their stories and yak-yak-yak
Still trying to cope and shake off their fears
Tho’ war is behind some fifty-odd years

While raising their families with some leisure days
They find that old age is becoming a phase
And we’ve all mellowed from day to day
But at least we’re breathin’ anyway

Reunions are bonding together with talk
And many would come if they had to walk
To see their old friends and make new ones, too
And help heal their wounds, that’s all they can do

continues on page 40

We wives have fun as we come along too
Just figuring out which stories are true
And sometimes we laugh till our sides are sore
And try to decide “who did win the war?”

So many tell stories like they won it, too
Now what do you think that we women should do?
No need to keep trying to figure it out
If it helps them to talk that’s what it’s about

So let’s keep attending as long as we’re able
And not be concerned about who’s at the table
But just be content where ever we sit
“Bloom where we’re planted” and make it a hit

So let’s whoop it up and have a good time
Enjoy it so much there’s no time to whine
We won’t think about our aches and our ills
And heavenly days! Don’t take any spills

Our steps aren’t as peppy as they used to be
But we’re doing okay as well you can see
“Indianapolis or Bust” in ninety-eight
We’re sure you’ll agree it’s bound to be great

We hope that you’re having a super good time
For we’ve done our best to make it all shine
As a group we’ve worked hard, there’s John and Lee
Faye, Walter and Barbara, Joe, Hazel (that’s me)

So Adios Comrades, it’s all been such fun
Before too much longer we’ll all have to run
Each back to the place that he calls his abode
But being together has lightened our load

By God’s Own Good Grace we’ll see you next year
Just getting together you’ve all grown so dear
As the clock’s ticking down just let me say it’s been keen
With parting advice, “Don’t buy bananas too green!”

Announcing

. . . the arrival of the book
YOU CAN'T PUT DOWN!!!

This book was written about the experiences Jack Roberts had while in combat when serving with the 106th Infantry Division during WWII which highlights being ambushed and captured by the Germans on the first day of the Battle of the Bulge in December, 1944.



John M. "Jack" Roberts



He goes into a detailed account of his harrowing escape while being marched behind enemy lines as a Prisoner of War. Early chapters let you learn about Jack's youth including military training leading up to his capture and finishes with his adjustment to civilian life with its rewards.

BOOK MAILING INFORMATION

QUESTIONS? Contact Jack at jmr810@aol.com or telephone (248) 338-2667

Price of book ("ESCAPE...!!!") is \$23.95 (plus \$4 for shipping and handling) = \$27.95

Number of books _____ @ \$27.95 = _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED =

Make check payable to **John M. Roberts** and return the bottom of this form to him with your check to :

John M. Roberts
1059 Alter Road
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304

(Please print)

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Your City: _____ Your State: _____ Your ZIP: _____

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 Baseman, 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*)

Thomas Barbarite — Cindy Zvolensky is interested in learning more about her grandfather, Golden Lion Thomas Barbarite. She has shared these photos of her grandfather and hopes someone may know more about his service. According to Ms. Zvolensky, Barbarite was a part of the 592nd Field Artillery Battalion. He was not deployed overseas with the 592nd as he was discharged in October of 1944. A few of the photos associated with this article indicate that they were taken at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Only one photograph has a name listed on the back, which reads, "My Buddy Frank, Detroit Michigan" Ms. Zvolensky was unable to make out the last name with any certainty. You can reach Ms. Zvolensky at czvolensky40@gmail.com



Thomas Barbarite is standing on the left.
Photo credit citation, "From the collection of Thomas Barbarite."

Earnest H. Earls — United States Marine Adam Earls is looking for information about his grandfather, Golden Lion Earnest H. Earls. (Staff Sergeant). If you happen to have answers to the questions below, or more info please contact Adam Earls at adam_earls11@yahoo.com or by phone at 714-482-7658.

Staff Sergeant Earnest H. Earls was born on 10 May 1923 in Corbin, KY and died on 9 April 2007 in Austell, GA. He served in the U.S. Army from 25 January 1943 to 6 October 1945. While in the Army he was assigned to the 60th Military Police Company from the time he arrived in Oran, Algeria in June 1943, throughout his service in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Southern France, and the Rhineland.

He is believed to have joined Company E, 422nd of the 106th sometime after the Battle of the Bulge (maybe in either January or February, as his DD214 states 8 months service as a rifleman, staff sergeant). He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, Europe/N. Africa/Mid-East Medal with 4 campaign stars (Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Southern France, Rhineland), and honorable discharge lapel pin.

Mr. Adam Earls would specifically like to know the following:

1. When did he join Co. E, 422nd Infantry Regiment of 106th? (Believed to be sometime after the Ardennes Campaign)
2. Did 422nd see action after being reconstituted? If so, when/where? If not, was POW handling their main job?
3. What additional awards should he have received? (CIB, BS, WW II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal with Germany clasp)?
4. If anyone has any additional stories (good or bad) I would enjoy hearing from them.



This photo of Earls was taken in Naples, Italy in 1944

106th Infantry Division Merchandise for Sale

Golden Lion, recipient of the Golden Lion Award, Commander Class, and former Association President John Gilliland (592/SV) has run previous ads in *The CUB* about merchandise he has for sale. He has a Blue & White Baseball Cap with the 106th Infantry Division logo and campaigns, also Battle of the Bulge lettering over the top of Lion's head with World War II below, limited quantity available. Price is \$15 per hat plus \$4.95 S&H in the USA.

Mr. Gilliland also offers a **NEW** lapel/hat pin for the 2013 reunion in New Orleans made in the shape of the State of Louisiana (1 1/4 x 1 1/4 inch) with a blue



and red background, and golden colored edges. The pin's lettering is with epoxy coloring. There is a limited quantity available. Price is \$5 post paid in USA.

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Mr. Gilliland has a half dozen items from previous years for sale including:

- 2 – 106th afghans with fringe (50" x 65"), \$100 each
- 1 – 106th wall hanging with similar image as the afghan (28"x36"), \$95
- 1 – 106th Laser-cut wood mahogany plaque with same image as the afghan (10 5/8" x 16"), \$75
- 1 – 106th flag (no pole, 36" x 48"), \$75
- 2 – 106th 4" blazer patches, \$5 each
- 1 – 106th shoulder patch, \$2 plus

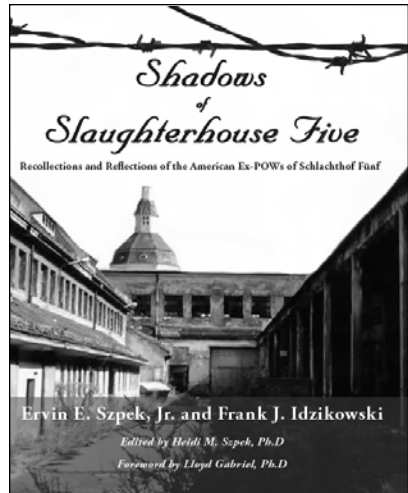
All prices listed are "plus postage for in the USA"

These items will be on sale at the 2013 Reunion or may be ordered now from John Gilliland at 411 Thomas Ave, Boaz, AL 35957-1725. You can reach Mr. Gilliland at 256-593-6801 or by email at samitc@charter.net.

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, the book is also available at www.amazon.com and



www.BarnesandNoble.com. With best wishes for 2013 and with appreciation for your efforts — thank you.

In the Army Now . . .

I was born at an early age and by the time I was 18 I thought that I knew everything that I would ever need to know. Then I was drafted into the U.S. Army.

The Army gave me new clothes to wear and taught me a lot of new words. Some I never heard before. They lumped me with a bunch of other guys and, you know, we all looked alike, from a distance, that is. We had to walk different and talk different, whenever they let us. Mostly we just stood around and waited. Whenever we went anywhere it was always in a group and we were always late. I guess we were always late because they made us run a lot. Of course, when we got there we just stood around until somebody decided that we should be doing something else.

There was this guy who had stripes on his sleeve and whenever he talked you had to listen and if you didn't do what he said he got awful mad. We soon learned that he was only trying to help so we always did what he said. My Daddy never had a car so I didn't have a license to drive one. So, guess what? I was told I was going to be a Jeep driver. Don't that figure? First I had to take a test to see if I had depth perception, whatever that was. I had to set on a stool with a string in both hands and try to line up two sticks about 20 feet away. I pulled them back and forth a few times and the guy with the stripes

told me OK, and he took me to the Jeep. He showed me what to do and gave me a little card with my name on it. It said I could then drive anything with wheels or tracks. Well, that came later. I guess they didn't have gas for the Jeep. Later I got to drive for real and I never crashed anything but, boy, did I ever make strange noises when I shifted gears. Finally I caught on to how to do that.

When I was growing up I always slept in a house. That was going to change. One day this fellow, who we didn't see too much of so far, called us all together and started talking. He said, "Men," I looked around all I saw were boys. Well, he went on at a great rate about how we were going into the field and stay a few days. That didn't sound so bad since we had these neat little tents to use. Then he said that after that we would go into the field and stay a couple of weeks, hummmmm.

After that he said that we would travel to a maneuver area and stay three months. I thought that he was not really serious since it was going to be winter by then and it got cold where we were going. He was serious all right and we did it and it was gosh awful miserable. I was complaining to one of the guys and he said, "Cheer up, it could be worse." So, I cheered up, and sure enough, it got worse.

Signed, Anonymous

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.

Sarasota, Florida Mini-reunion

Submitted by Golden Lion Don Scholten, G Co 423rd

On December 17, 2012, Golden Lion Don Scholten (423/G), Division veterans and those attached to 106th, wives, family members, and friends joined together at the DER DUTCHMAN RESTAURANT for the Sarasota Mini-Reunion. The day’s events began with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag, followed by an opening prayer from Golden Lion Bob Eldridge (423/G).

Mr. Scholten wrote, “We returned for another successful gathering in beautiful Sarasota to renew our camaraderie and remember our friends who made the ultimate sacrifice in our historical mission in WW II. Unfortunately some of our group were under the weather and unable to enjoy the fine dinner and especially those wonderful pies. James Edwards, Clarence Buckman, and Ross Sidney, were on the missing list. Fifteen vets, 21 family and friends, attended the reunion. Fred Parks brought a display of various items for our enjoyment.

“We were fortunate to have our Division Association, Adjutant Murray Stein and his friend Dr. Morton Brooks (EX POW) attend and inform us of the 2012 convention events and plans for 2013 in New Orleans. Murray has contributed so much to our organization. Thanks Murray!

“Our speaker was Brian Welke, a 106th Division Association board member who has been writing a book about the 423rd Regiment. Brian has interviewed several of our men and has done a tremendous amount of research to present the activity and our personal participation through this period of WW II. Brian presented a part of the war we have never seen.

Wartime newspaper reports which were under wartime restrictions were so limited in news of what was going on where we served. He had searched numerous articles from several papers, scanned these from libraries and old records, and really opened our eyes to what the folks back home were receiving. We were so amazed and appreciated seeing these projected from his DVD and his comments on each display. Brian’s family (two handsome sons, Chris and Alex and his attractive wife, Teresa) assisted in bringing us this most interesting program. Great job Brian.

“Our 2013 gathering will be scheduled for Monday, December 16, 2013. God be with you all.”



Don Scholten’s wife Mary Ann and Brian’s wife Teresa Welke at the reception-check in desk receiving a big thank you for their fine job with the name tags and personal greetings.

pictures continue on next page

Mini-Reunions . . .



Ladies: Isabelle Twardzik, Margarey Stern, Evelyn Turgeon, Elizabeth Gregson, Jill Auerbach, Mary Ann Scholte, Gloria Colby, Jere Stern, Sallie Stern, Sarah Stern, and Teresa Welke.

Front Row: William Busier, Borris Stern, Leonard Turgeon, Fred Parks, Raymond Twardzik, John Glen Beville, and Robert Eldridge. **Back Row:** Stanley Colby, Lester Helmich, Robert Stern, John Gregson, Sidney Auerbach, Don Scholten, Brian Welke, Murray Stein, Everett Howland, and Morton Brooks.



Kennesaw, Georgia Mini-Reunion

Submitted by Frankie C. Burkes

Our 106th mini-reunion was again held at Rafferty's Restaurant in Kennesaw, GA on December 16th, the day of the break-through. We all had a great time with 16 in attendance, which included Carl Canup, Sue Canup, David Crocker, Donna Crocker, Peggy Harrison, Woody Harrison, Kathy White, Jeff Spring, Deland Cochran, Frankie Burkes, Glenice Patterson, Susan Bidley, Ron Mosley, Sylvia Mosley, Jan Mitchell, and Richard Mitchell Jr.



After the meal, Rev. Ron Mosley gave us an interesting program, and then Carl Canup talked about his experience in service. Hopefully, we can meet again next December, but most of our veterans are disabled and not able to attend. We really did miss Reverend Ewell Black this year, but he wasn't able to attend.

Two Golden Lion veterans in attendance (Left to right) Carl Canup and Rev. Ronald Mosley

Memoriam . . .

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

BLOCH, JACQUES W. 422/K

—*Date of Death: September 20, 2011*

Reported by his wife, Jean H. Bloch

CHARRON, NELSON 422/D

—*Date of Death: November 19, 2012*

Golden Lion Frank S. Trautman (Association Memorial Chairman and Board Member) writes, “this certainly is a duty that I do not look forward to fulfilling.

I am announcing the passing of Nelson Charron of Chatham, New York. Nelson passed away November 19, 2012. He was assigned to Company D, 422nd regiment a few weeks prior to the 106th departure to overseas assignment. As a POW Nelson was held at Stalag IXB Bad Orb and is listed in the 1998 roster produced by the late Pete House. I visited with Nelson at the last reunion of Stalags IXA, IXB, XIII B and Berga am Elster held at Stone Mountain, Georgia in mid June — another sad commentary that the 30th reunion will be the final one. Mario Checca (422/F) provided me with newspaper clippings on Charron’s passing. Upon reading the articles. I am certain it is a rare note that so few are remembered so strongly.”

Nelson Charron passed away at his home in Chatham, NY surround by his family. He was born in Pittsfield, MA on October 7, 1925. He was a 1942

graduate of Chatham High School. After the war he opened Charron’s Market which he owned with his son Wallace for 40 years. An avid golfer, he recorded 8 holes-in-one during his life. He is survived by his sons Wallace and David; four grand children; twelve great-grand children and other family members.

Reported by Frank Trautman, through Jackie Coy, Association Membership Chairwoman

DOPF, WILLIAM Unknown Unit

—*Date of Death: December 16, 2012*

Reported by his daughter, Cindy

FOURNIER, ROGER C. 422/A

—*Date of Death: December 1, 2012*

Roger C. Fournier, 88, passed away on December 2, 2012. He was born in North Troy, Vermont, and lived in Stuart, Florida, for 26 years while maintaining his family home in Barkhamsted, CT.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 61 years, Loretta Ringuette Fournier, three devoted children, David and his wife Carolyn, Janine Cimmino and James Fournier and his friend Andrea Lucas, four cherished grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Before retirement, he was co-owner and Vice President of Yankee Sheet Metal in East

Memoriam . . .

Hartford, CT. He was a communicant of Immaculate Conception Church of New Hartford, CT and St. Andrew Catholic Church in Stuart, Florida. He was a World War II Veteran and former POW, serving as a Tech Sergeant/Squad Leader in the 106th Infantry Division. He was awarded three Bronze Stars, a Good Conduct Medal and a Victory Medal and is enrolled in the National World War II Memorial. He was co-founder and past president of Laurel Acres Property Owners Association in Barkhamsted, CT; a member of Sheet Metal Association Local #40; V.F.W. Post 2390 and Elks Lodge #844 of Winsted CT, and a member of Martin County Anglers Club. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and friend. He was an avid gardener and fisherman, and loved to hunt and play golf.

Reported by his wife, Loretta

HOWARD, JOHN W. 591/SV

—Date of Death: January 25, 2013

Golden Lion John W. Howard passed away in Milwaukee, WI. His family stated that he enjoyed meeting with members of the Association for many, many years.

Submitted by his daughter Kathryn Howard and Ed Monser (son-in-law)

ICE, ORVAL L. 424/C

—Date of Death: February 2010

Reported by his wife, Jean

KINNEY, PAUL T. 423/C

—Date of Death: November 14, 2012

Golden Lion Paul T. Kinney passed away in Chico, California. He was born on September 27, 1925 in San Jose, California. Kinney joined the U.S. Army in July 1943. After basic training he joined the 106th Infantry Division at Camp Atterbury and was assigned to Company C, 423rd. When the division took up position near St. Vith, Kinney was selected to serve as a platoon runner. On one night patrol he suffered severe head injuries by German artillery shrapnel. After awakening, he learned his unit had to withdraw from the German medic looking after him. He spent months in German hospitals, finally liberated by the U.S. Army in April 1945. He spent more than two years total in hospitals in Europe and California. After the war he went on to earn his Ph.D. and worked as a professor of finance at the University of Illinois. Later in life he served as Chico State University's first Dean of the College of Business. In retirement he was honored as one of the first five people inducted into the Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff Association Hall of Honor. He is survived by his wife Fritz; sons Michael and Robert; daughter Loree; step daughters Kathy and Kristen; ten grandchildren; and five great-grand children.

Reported by his wife of 37 years, Fritz and submitted by Jackie Coy, Association Membership Chairwoman

Memoriam . . .

MYERS, CHARLES E. 422/K

—*Date of Death: January 5, 2013*

I am sadly advising the other members of the 106th Infantry Division, that T-Sgt Charles Ervin Myers has passed away at the age of 92 years, 8 months of age. Born May 4, 1920, in Warren, to Ervin and Glenna M. (Jones) Myers, he passed away at his home in Youngstown, Ohio where he lived for over 75 years. Charles enlisted in the U.S. Army upon completion of his education from Mineral Ridge Technical School and was deployed to Europe during World War II. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was captured by German forces and held as a Prisoner of War for 108 days in Stalag IX B, or as he would say “I was a guest of the Germans.” During this time he suffered frostbite and severe dehydration. Upon liberation at the end of the war, Charles returned to Youngstown and began working at Hynes Steel Roll Form Products in 1949, retiring in 1982. During retirement he was a very active volunteer for the Red Cross. Burial will take place at Calvary Cemetery. I would suggest that anyone who has lost a veteran utilize the VFW and the Patriot Guard to provide the appropriate services for the veteran. Thanks to all of you for your service and sacrifice for our great country.

Submitted by Charles’ son, James Myers

MYERS, CHARLES IRVIN 591/B

—*Date of Death: Unknown*

Reported by John Schaffner

ROLFS, GLEN E. 424/D

—*Date of Death: December 26, 2012*

Golden Lion Glen E. Rolfs was born on July 24, 1925 in Ellsworth, Kansas. He passed away at Hutchinson Hospital in Geneseo, Kansas. He graduated from Geneseo



High School in 1943 and enlisted in the U.S. Army. During the Battle of the Bulge he won a citation for meritorious performance of duty and was awarded the Bronze Star, that caught back up to him **58 years later**. In 1947 he married Arlene Lebsack and worked in farming until he retired in 1991. He is survived by his wife, daughter Glenda; sons Reed and Bradley; seven grand children; one great grandson and several family members. Burial was at Geneseo Cemetery with military honors by the Fort Riley Honor Guard.

Originally mentioned in the Jan.-April 2009 issue of *The CUB* (Vol. 65.

No. 1), the *Lyons Daily News’s* article (July 1, 2003) titled, “*Bronze Star Arrives on Doorstep 58 years later,*” tells the story of Golden Lion Glen



Rolfs and the return of his Bronze Star that arrived at his house 58 years after he performed heroically during World War II.

Submitted by his widow, Arlene M. Rolfs

SLABY, TED 422/CANNON

—*Date of Death: September 20, 2012*

*Reported by his daughter, Janet (Slaby)
Masarik*

SPARKS, RONALD C. 423/AT

—*Date of Death: January 19, 2012*

Reported by Murray Stein

TARANTINO, JOSEPH C. 423/F

—*Date of Death: December 4, 2012*



Joseph C.

Tarantino, 87, of Quakertown passed away December 4, 2012 in St. Lukes Hospice House, Bethlehem. He was the loving

and caring husband of Connie (Heydt) Tarantino. They were married 35 years in November. Born in Quakertown he was one of twelve children born to the late Frank L. and Anna (Asta) Tarantino.

Before his retirement in 1991, he was the last owner/operator of the family business F. L. Tarantino & Sons Memorials in Quakertown which began in 1916. Joe was a 1942 graduate of Quakertown High School where he learned to play the bass fiddle and played in the high school band. Joe continued his passion with music having his own band for over 25 years “The

Music Masters.” He also played in the Army Band, “Sharps and Flats Band” and “Mora Club Band.” Joe was a lifetime member of the North Penn Gun Club, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Disabled American Veterans Charter PA 7, the American Ex-prisoners of War, Congressionally Chartered. Joe served his country proudly in the Army Infantry 106th Division during WW II and was a POW in the Battle of the Bulge. He also was a Purple Heart and Bronze Star recipient, and a member of the Department of Veterans Affairs former POW and the American Legion Post 242 in Quakertown.

He was a member of Trumbauersville Betterment and Social Club and enjoyed and loved playing poker and hunting. Joe was a member of St. Isidores Catholic Church in Quakertown and was a Charter member of Knights of Columbus Cardinal Stritch Council 4649.

As told by his family, Joe was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. Survivors: In addition to his loving wife, he is survived by their children, Gary Tarantino and his wife Elaine of Randolph, NJ, Joseph M. Tarantino and his wife Sandra of Knox, PA, Debra Wahl and her husband Charles of Quakertown, and Terrence L. Solomon and his wife Carol of Allentown; daughter-in-law, Pamela Solomon of Northampton; two sisters, Lucy Moody of Arkansas and Mary Weyland of Florida. He was also survived by and enjoyed his eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. He was predeceased

continues on page 52

Memoriam . . .

by a son, Joseph V. Solomon; three brothers, William, Frank, and John; six sisters, Sue, Josephine, Ann, Claire, Grace, and Eleanore. Services: A mass was held on Monday, December 10, 2012 at St. Isidores Catholic Church, 2545 W. Pumping Station Rd. Quakertown, PA 18951. Contributions: In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Disabled American Veterans Chapter 84 c/o American Legion, 610 E. Broad St., Quakertown, PA 18951 or to the Purple Heart Service Foundation, P.O. Box 49, Annandale, VA 22003.

*Published in Morning Call on
December 6, 2012*

Reported by his wife, Connie

YORKAVITCH, JOSEPH W.

81st ENG/B

—Date of Death: unknown

Reported by Jackie Coy

ZULLIG, CHARLES

423/F

—Date of Death: unknown

*Report by Tom Kuespert, son of Wilfred
“Art” Kuespert (423/F), also deceased*

Editor’s Special Notification:

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 at the beginning of this Memoriam Section and the inside cover.

See your enclosed REUNION paperwork and Registration forms—in the center of this *CUB*!

They will NOT be mailed to you separately this year.

Mail them in today!

**For additional information about the reunion and
to register online visit:**

www.afr-reg.com/106inf2013

We are all feeling the effects of the current financial upheaval, including the 106th I.D. Association. 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**

If you haven't done it yet —
Make your plans NOW!!

to join us for the
67th Annual Reunion
of the
106th Infantry Division Association
at the
Doubletree by Hilton, New Orleans, LA
from
August 21 to 25, 2013

See enclosed paperwork and Registration forms!
Mail them in today!

For additional information about the reunion and
to register online visit: www.afr-reg.com/106inf2013

106th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION



* THE ARDENNES

* CENTRAL EUROPE

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GOLDEN LIONS

Jacquelyn Coy — Membership Chair
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