

# John M. Krol

*1st Lieutenant*

*422 I & R*

*106th Infantry Division*

KIA between 44-12-16 & 4-12-21.

Email from daughter 2/2008.

My father graduated with a Bachelor degree from City College. of New York. The only thing he wanted was to teach. He was drafted in 1942 (90-day wonder). He always said, "I have 50 men depending on me; I'd rather lose my life than to have one of my men lose theirs."

They arrived at the front on December 11-all green troops. Since officers were allowed to ship an additional trunk....my father did. His men thought it wasn't like him to do that. When he got to the front lines, he opened it up. It was filled with long johns and dry socks for his men. That's the kind of man he was.

Around Dec 16, he was on his way (to or from) headquarters when he and other soldiers were captured and taken prisoner. One man escaped-got back to his lines-and told them Lt Krol had been taken prisoner. A rescue party was formed. (with many volunteers).

From his men we heard.....There was a group of 11 to 16 GI's being guarded by a Nazi soldier. The soldiers were in the open-forced to lie down in the snow. As the rescue party drew near.....my father saw them and ran in the opposite direction to draw the attention of the Nazi guard. He succeeded. He was killed, the rescue party saved the others. He earned a Purple Heart and a Silver Star.

From the Wallace's from Hattiesburg Ms...who wrote to my mother, their son was young and vowed to them he would never volunteer for any mission. He broke his word to them when he volunteered for the rescue party...because.... several days earlier.....he was a driver....and was left outside in a jeep to guard it...and it was bitter cold. My father was inside HQ and called Pvt Wallace inside....told him he could watch the jeep from there. Pvt Wallace came inside, and within minutes the jeep was shelled and destroyed..but Pvt Wallace was safe, warm, and alive. His family was ever so grateful to my dad.

My Dad's Captain and Sgt Pilkington wrote us lovely, heart warming letters. My earliest childhood memory was at age 5. I was at Pinelawn National Military Cemetery in Long Island when my father was re-interred in the US. I remember rows of flag-draped caskets and the 21 gun salute. It was 1949.

I passed on the 6x9 foot flag to my oldest son last year. He's 37 now. I gave him the 106th Lion patch I still had, the silver bars, the dog tags and letters we received. Our family history rests on a single warm caring man, intelligent, conscientious, and dedicated, who died in the service to his country, and in deference to the lives of his men.....and we sorely miss never getting to really know him. I'm still emotional and cannot bear the sight of a flag-draped casket without breaking down. I'm proud of him, but I'm also bitter about his loss.

What is stranger still.....all of my life....even through the narrowest of escapes from

whatever, I have always felt his presence. He has been my guardian angel.....and believe me.....he should be pretty well worn out by now...I take chances.....I fall down..... he's always been there to pick me up. We do have the strongest, strangest spiritual connection. And I thank him just for being there. In those famous words lies our truth...

"Johnny, we hardly knew ye!"



This picture of Dad and me in Indiana is my favorite.  
Mom and I moved back to Pennsylvania in September 1944



FOR DELIVERY TO

PAR

HEADQUARTERS 422D INFANTRY  
CAMB MIDDLETOWN, INDIANA

SPECIAL ORDERS )

28 August 1944

NUMBER 150 )

## 1. The fol named Off are granted lv of abs as indicated:

	ASN	UNIT	No. days	Eff o/a
CAPT STEWART, NEIL T.	0 316 106	Co F	15	28 Aug 44
WOJG HOLLAND, THOMAS H. JR.	W2 109 508	Regtl Hq Co	15	1 Sept 44
✓ 1ST LT KROL, JOHN M.	01 309 025	Regtl Hq Co	15	1 Sept 44
2D LT KEEFE, ROBERT E.	01 060 506	Co M	15	2 Sept 44

## 2. The fol reductions in units indicated are announced:

TO BE PRIVATE	ASN	MOS	MCO	UNIT
Sgt Taylor, James E.	6 383 699	653-SSK	321	Co B
Cpl Damsma, Peter J.	32 767 816	786-SSK	050	Hq Co 2d Bn

## 3. The fol named EM are rel'd fr stchd unsgd and are asgd to units indicated:

	ASN	MOS	MCO	FIELD FR	ASGD TO
Pfc Belfield, Alfred H.	33 750 662	745-SSK	010	Co K	Co K
Pfc Lizanecz, Theodore J.	33 766 529	641-SSK	480	Co K	Co K
Pvt Ailant, Clarence S.	36 837 553	745-SSK	010	Co I	Co I
Pvt Ameen, Samuel J.	31 426 213	745-SSK	480	Co I	Co I
Pvt Hollar, Virgil R.	35 295 792	745-SSK	590	Co C	Co C
Pvt Kulesik, Bernard J.	33 709 099	745-SSK	590	Co L	Co L
Pvt LaJoie, Robert R.	36 837 580	745-SSK	590	Co C	Co C
Pvt Honkus, Michael	33 709 308	745-SSK	345	Co L	Co L
Pvt Miser, Samuel T.	35 771 329	745-SSK	010	Co A	Co A
Pvt Nelson, Wallace A.	37 726 731	641-SSK	010	Co F	Co F
Pvt Polidora, Joseph P.	33 704 472	745-SSK	590	Co L	Co L
Pvt Reiter, John E.	33 709 237	641-SSK	355	Co E	Co E
Pvt Satterly, Jackson S.	35 809 046	745-SSK	345	Co F	Co F
Pvt Schaefer, Robert W.	36 773 054	745-SSK	480	Co A	Co A
Pvt Walters, Neal D.	33 709 577	745-SSK	590	Co B	Co B
Pvt Yates, Bruce R.	33 750 673	745-SSK	186	Co G	Co G
Pvt Zander, Arthur H.	36 773 183	745-SSK	010	Co E	Co E

## 4. The fol named EM having reported fr 24th Hq &amp; Hq Det Sp Tr 2d A Shelby Miss and having been asgd to this regt per par 6, SO #204, Hq 106 Inf Div, dated 26 Aug 44 are asgd to units indicated: EDCME 27 Aug 44.

	ASN	MOS	MCO	UNIT
T Sgt Sands, Charles R.	20 729 724	651-SK	352	Co F
T Sgt Ireland, Lyle L.	37 051 785	651-SK	247	Co L
S Sgt Jcbe, George H.	20 727 344	542-SK	014	Co A
Tec 3 Olson, Firman G.	37 050 373	861-SK	186	Med Det
Sgt McHenry, John H.	20 729 312	505-SK	316	Sv Co
Sgt Simpson, Don	20 727 163	744-SK	373	Co H
Tec 4 Young, Daniel O, JR.	20 727 052	776-SK	480	Regtl Hq Co
Cpl Dunn, Jack V.	19 082 657	668-SK	244	Co H
Cpl Watkins, Edmond I.	36 513 176	542-SK	590	Co G
Tec 5 Graef, Henry P.	37 084 311	186-SK	590	Co I
Tec 5 Drexler, Russell D.	36 053 457	056-SK	310	Co A
Tec 5 Balkoski, Frank M.	39 388 153	409-SK	590	Med Det

HEADQUARTERS 422D INFANTRY  
Camp Atterbury, Ind.

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 150 )

28 August 1944

E X T R A C T

5. The fol named EM in Hq Co 2d Bn, having been recommended by their Co Comdr for exemplary behavior, efficiency and fidelity, are hereby awarded the Good Conduct Medal:

1st Sgt Lloyd J. Pasney	39 829 274
T Sgt Lester L. McCool	33 247 282
Tec 4 Merton R. Mills	31 256 717
Tec 4 Savini G. Savini	33 320 991
Cpl Harold W. Montgomery	36 862 066
Cpl Henry F. Williams	16 148 053
Tec 5 Moran O. Burns	35 687 753
Tec 5 Norman Rasmussen	32 641 500
Tec 5 William L. Scott	38 412 790
Tec 5 Norman R. Szalaj	36 725 433
Pfc Rosolino A. Benigno	12 163 673
Pfc John T. Bizub	33 422 866
Pfc Burt M. Doane	37 479 813
Pfc Seth I. Everett Jr.	39 618 640
Pfc Jack L. Grauer	36 725 089
Pfc Walter E. Hoffman	32 559 920
Pfc Ralph O. Jensen	36 819 155
Pfc Frank Nausin, Jr.	39 044 354
Pfc Stephen E. Patchett	32 845 352
Pfc Paul K. Peterson	37 562 574
Pfc Richard E. Saylor	35 173 732
Pfc Irvin M. Schechter	35 554 889
Pfc Byron A. Smith	39 411 826
Pfc Donnal M. Timmons	38 344 434
Pfc Frank G. Varga	13 179 273
Pfc Paul A. Young Jr.	39 195 325
Pvt Ernest L. Bacon	11 104 611
Pvt Charles H. Bearman	37 241 019
Pvt Herbert Brody	12 206 416
Pvt Lloyd E. Byrd Jr.	31 391 846
Pvt Harry A. Ford	36 665 315
Pvt Norman Gans	11 091 994
Pvt Edward C. Garman	33 776 709
Pvt Howard B. Hurt	34 883 615
Pvt Walter S. Joseph	39 135 604
Pvt Charles L. Keck	33 433 166



Pdr #5 (Cont'd) SO#150 Hq 422d Inf Cp Atterbury, Ind.

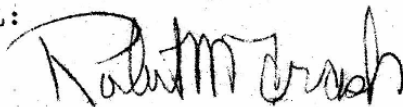
Pvt Claude L. Mullica	32 753 782
Pvt Robert M. Pilkington	16 175 284
Pvt Wallace M. Preston	11 108 256
Pvt Shelby E. Rich	16 175 197
Pfc Myron R. Luscinski	31 030 569
Pfc James L. Parler	34 657 634

The good conduct medal not being available, the EM named hereon are authorized to wear the appropriate ribbon in lieu thereof.

By order of Lt. Col. DESCHENEUX:

ROBERT M. FRASH  
1st Lt, 422d Inf  
Adj.

OFFICIAL:



ROBERT M. FRASH  
1st Lt, 422d Inf  
Adj

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

GET SIGNATURE

See filing time shown in

PB

P-NP489 LONE GUY DE TD-WUX BNA BROOKLYN N  
MARIE C KROL=  
11 AMBROSE ST PITTSBURGH PENN=

**MONEY IN A HURRY**

TO SEND IT...  
OR GET IT

**Telegraph it!**

QUICK AND SAFE.  
ECONOMICAL...NO RED TAPE

#### CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

## WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

1201

#### SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter  
NL=Night Letter  
LC=Deferred Cable  
NLT=Cable Night Letter  
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

Mrs. John Krol  
11 Ambrose St.  
Port Suffeth, Pa.

Pilegram this morning Mac prisoner.  
Hope John is with him.

Pat.

Sc 42 - Feb. 5, 1945  
Thurmont, Maryland.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE



THE NEW YORK TIMES, T

# From Metropo

## Bank Ex-New Yorker Killed In Action in Germany

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WAR DEPARTMENT

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THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

AG 201 Krol, John M.  
PC-N ETO 066

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

16 March 1945

Mrs. Marie C. Krol  
11 Ambrose Street  
Pittston, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Krol:


It is with profound regret that I confirm the recent telegram informing you of the death of your husband, First Lieutenant John M. Krol, 01309025, Infantry, who was previously reported missing in action.

An official message has now been received which states that he was killed in action on 21 December 1944 in Germany. Recently provisions were made whereby there will be sent directly to the emergency addressee or the next of kin a letter containing further information about each person who dies overseas in the service of our country, and if this letter has not already been received, it may be expected soon.

I realize the burden of anxiety that has been yours since he was first reported missing in action and deeply regret the sorrow this later report brings you. May the knowledge that he made the supreme sacrifice for his home and country be a source of sustaining comfort.

My sympathy is with you in this time of great sorrow.

Sincerely yours,

  
J. A. ULLO  
Major General  
The Adjutant General

1 Inclosure  
Bulletin of Information



Spartanburg S.C.



Sept 3, 1942





John & Marie Krol







May 9, 1944





