PURPOSE OF THIS NEWSLETTER
For some months now, I have procrastinated about putting together this newsletter. Having received nice letters from a number of you and sometimes not having answered them, but hopefully I gave you a phone call to let you know that I liked your letter. For years I had thought of Phil Rosenthal, wondering if he made it out of Prison Camp alive and well. The last time that I had seen him was when they called out a special group of Jewish GI’s for shipment to another prison from Stalag XIIIA at Limburg. When I saw his name in the Association directory I sat down and wrote him a letter. It was wonderful to hear from him, both by letter and phone. See you Phil.

I have for all the time I have been home from Europe, kept in touch with Burnie and Rozetta Sutter. We hit Co. D at the same time and became friends with Paul Morris and Kenny Dux which most of you will not remember because he gave up the infantry and went to the Air Corps. He wanted to be a “fly boy” but turned out to be a gunner. We all four got together one summer in Wisconsin which was home to Dux and had become home for Morris after his discharge.

FORMER COMMANDER PASSES
Robert W. Preucel
Sunday, January 8, 1995, 12:15PM, our former Commanding Officer passed away. Shortly before Christmas 1994, Bob was operated on for cancer of the colon. It had entered the liver and death was much quicker than expected.

Major Preucel, who after separation from service after WWII had completed his medical studies at the University of Pennsylvania and become a doctor of Gynecology. He later became head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He was named Associate Professor in 1985 and after retiring from teaching, made Emeritus Associate Professor in 1985.

Doctor Bob is survived by his wife Ruth and three children, Robert Jr., William and Ruth Jr.

A memorial service was held Friday, January 20th in Harrison Auditorium, U of Penn, followed by a reception in the Chinese Rotunda. Frank Koehler and myself attended. Paul Sutich, son of Christian P. Sutich (deceased) made a gallant effort driving in from N. Bergen, NJ but tied up in traffic and arrived late. We had a good talk afterwards.

I had the pleasure of spending two days with “Captain” Preucel on the 6th and 7th of July 1994. At the time he looked great and spoke of his intentions of retiring from active practice and spending time with Ruth his wife, traveling and being involved with those activities they both enjoyed. Bob was an avid flower grower and won numerous prizes for his orchids, azaleas and camellias.

Those two days were very enjoyable and we talked about Camp Atterbury, and his assignment to the 106th Division and to Company D, 424th Regiment. We talked about the boat trip across the Atlantic and our eventual arrival at Banbury, England. Bob told me of going back with his wife Ruth, while on a business trip. He said that while we were there in ’44, he had acquired a bicycle to ride back and forth, from his quarters in a private home to our company area, rather than use a military vehicle. He described to me, with a big smile on his face, that when we were packing up to go over to the continent, he had given the bicycle to one of the young English boys who came each day to watch us and talk to the Yanks. A short time later, the mother of the lad arrived at the company area (with lad and bicycle) to return the bicycle. She thought
FORMER COMMANDER PASSES

her son had taken the bicycle. When Capt. Preucel explained to
the mother, that he certainly had given the bicycle to her son,
that we were leaving - she was flabbergasted. Crazy Yanks
giving bicycles away!

I told him that our section quartered in one of the Quantset
huts had cleaned out our pockets of English coins, which we
certainly couldn't use in France or Belgium, and had then
thrown them on one of the bunks and called in the attached
young English lads who came to our hut each day. We told the
boys to fill their pockets as their eyes opened widely. What do
you think their parents thought when they arrived home with a
pocket or pockets full of coins. Crazy Yanks - giving money
away. He had a hearty laugh.

He then told me of his being wounded and handed me the
round that the doctors had removed from his thigh. I looked at
it, and it was the size of a fifty caliber which I felt could have
been one of our own. He then said, "If it had hit me an inch
higher I would have lost my manhood." He laughed and said,
"We're really lucky to be alive." He was wounded on Dec.
17th in Winterspelt. He proceeded to tell me one of the most
amazing stories of how after he was wounded and the Germans
overrunning Winterspelt, he was taken prisoner. When the
Germans saw the extent of his wounds, they left him and the
amazing story unfolded. He tended his wounds as best he could
and then began to crawl to the rear. He crawled through the
forest for two days. The second night as he crawled, eating
snow for water. About ten yards off to his right, a large deer
kept pace with him all night. When he would stop, the deer
would stop and seemingly wait for him. At dawn, as he came
to a clearing, the deer left him. As he looked down across the
clearing he saw an American ambulance stop and the driver got
out with a map in hand, and began to read the map. His voice
was to weak for the driver to hear him. He said to himself,
"He's lost" and continued to crawl. The driver got back into
the ambulance and drove on. Bob continued to crawl towards
the road and when he got close to the road, the ambulance
returned and saw him. They picked him up and put him into the
ambulance with two other wounded men. The story didn't end
there. As the ambulance sped along, it was stopped by a group
of Germans. They made the driver and the aid man get out.
They opened the back door of the ambulance and looked in.
There they saw the three wounded Americans. They closed the
door and told the driver to "GO!"

He had been captured twice and due to the condition of his
wounds, had been released twice.

I looked into his eyes and felt that he was telling me something
that he had told very few people, because who would believe
that a deer had stayed pace with a wounded soldier all night. I
told him that I believed that it was more than a deer with him,
watching over him. He then told me of his movement to a field
hospital, and then to Paris where they worked on his wounds.
The round had broken the femur, deflected downward and
lodged there in his leg. As I said previous, the doctor handed
him the round and told him that did the damage.

We had a wonderful two days together and those two days
confirmed in my thinking that here was one fine gentleman, and
human being. We took a walk through the reservation that a
family had left for the people in that area and Dr. Bob was on
the board of directors. As we walked down a path in the
woods, quietly looking about, he suddenly lifted his arm for me
to stop and my eyes followed the direction he was pointing.
Back among the trees and bushes stood a mother deer and it's
fawn. Off to the left stood a large "buck" and as I turned and
looked into the face of Dr. Bob, I saw a strange expression in
his eyes.....then I remembered him telling me about being
wounded and the deer keeping pace with him as he crawled.
We stood there for some time and even though I looked at the
deer, I was more interested in looking at the expression on Dr.
Bob's face. It was fascinating.

Later, when he took me into Philly, to the train station we
talked about the men of Company D and I told him as much as
I could, for I myself had been searching for information myself.
When we shook hands and said our goodbyes, I encouraged him
to send in his application to join the 106th Association. He said
he would, and he did.

Later at his memorial services when I met his children, I found
that this wonderful man had not really told his children about
his military experiences. Maybe he didn't want to talk about
war and how it had affected him, or possible the past was the
past and it was better to talk about the future. But one other
thing I did find out, that after my visit with him, he set about
putting some of those experiences on tape to be translated at a
later date. I hope his sons never let the tapes be destroyed,
what ever he put on them.

With his passing, humanity has lost the services of a wonderful
person. I loved this gentle man who was a good military man,
a fine doctor and above all, a wonderful father.

REUNION 1995

The 1995 Reunion was held in Orlando, Florida, Sep. 7-9. There
were six former D/424 men in attendance, the largest group
attending according to Bob Landis who has attended just about
all of them in the past ten years or so. Attending were Mr
and Mrs Alden Russell, Mr and Mrs Phillip Rosenthal, Mr and Mrs
Lee Steele, Mr and Mrs Bob Landis, Mr and Mrs Walter
Bridges and Mr Marion Ray. Judge Walter Bridges was elected
to the Board of Directors to serve a five year term.

Speaking for myself, I had a terrific time and a lot of fun
making and renewing friendships. I attended the first reunion of
the division association in 1947 which was held in our old
friendly city of Indianapolis, IN. That meeting was a happy one
with many, many questions to be answered. By now, it was
more of a fun time, but still many questions as I met a few of
the fellows, and they began to fill me in as to what our
company went through after I was taken prisoner. I had
expected a larger turnout than we had and I won't put down
any names because each of you had your own reasons for not
attending. Next year, the reunion will be held in Roanoke, VA
and is scheduled for August 30 thru September 3, 1996. I
certainly hope more of you can see your way to attend.
FORMER COMMANDER PASSES

ROBERT W. PREUCEL, M.D., '50

Robert W. Preuel was appointed to the staff of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP) in 1954, directly following his training at the School of Medicine and its residency program. He was named Associate Professor in 1970 and remained in that position until his retirement from teaching, as Emeritus Associate Professor, in 1985. During his career, Dr. Preuel authored numerous original papers on a variety of subjects in his area of expertise. Between 1956 and 1965, he served as Administrative Assistant to the Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at HUP and, for one year (1964-1965), was Acting Chairman of that Department.

From 1960 to 1964, he was Associate Chief of Obstetrics at Philadelphia General Hospital and, for seven years, chaired the Board of Trustees of the Marriage Council of Philadelphia, the forerunner of the present PENN Council for Relationships. Dr. Preuel was Director of HUP's Maternal and Infant-care Program from 1964 to 1980 and, from 1977 until his death, was HUP's Associate Administrator for Medical Affairs and Quality Assurance. He was Chairman of the HUP Medical Board from 1975-1977 and served on myriad Hospital committees and boards during his over forty-year career at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center.

After graduating from the University of Washington in 1942, Dr. Preuel served as a combat infantryman during World War II. He fought and was injured in the Battle of the Bulge and received the Purple Heart for his bravery.

An ardent flower grower, Dr. Preuel was Vice-President of the Henry Foundation for Botanical Research, was a member of the board of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and was Chairman of the Philadelphia Flower Show for the years 1981 and 1982. He earned numerous prizes at the Show for his orchids, azaleas and camellias and, in 1979, won the Emile H. Geshick Memorial Award for his orchid exhibition. Dr. Preuel served on the board of the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania and, until his death, was co-Chairman of the Arboretum's Centennial Fund.

Robert W. Preuel was a genteel, gentle man who was held in highest esteem by his colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center and Health System. He was a modest champion of his medical school and his fellow alumni and was beloved by his devoted, appreciative patients, whom he treated from 1956 until his final day in the office, November 30, 1994. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Ruth Garrett Preuel, sons Robert W. Jr., William N.G. and daughter, Ruth B.G. Preuel.
FOOTLOCKER NEWS

During my captivity, George Hurley (Guidon Bearer and Commo Sgt) and I were together the entire time. After we were released by the Russians and got home, we spent our leave together. George lived in St. Louis with his family, and I lived a few miles away in Illinois. We visited back and forth, sometimes daily having a lot of fun and spending our money. Then when the money ran out and our leave ran out, we reported back for duty. Then they turned us loose and it was even more fun. George met a terrific young lady, tall like he was, with lovely black hair and beautiful. Needless to say, it didn’t take long for George to get serious and even though we continued to get together, George with Dottie in tow, our time together became less and less. After all we had spent enough time together in prison camp, I could understand his preferring Dottie’s company to mine.

George and Dottie got married and eventually with son in tow, moved to Arizona. We lost George Glen Truman Hurley because of a heart problem in 1988. He is missed.

Through Burnie Sutter I got Norman Simmons address and got him into the Association. He and his wife flew out to Fargo and enjoyed the convention last year. I was hoping that I would hear from him to get his reaction to the convention. I hope that I will see him in Orlando for this year.

I hear from Oscar Scott and Lee Steele. I believe that they both plan to be in Orlando. After my release and arrival at Camp Lucky Strike in France, I ran into Scottie. He was stationed there and we had quite a talk. When looking for former members for the Association, I found Scottie in N.Little Rock, Arkansas, retired from the Air Force. Being a “gravel agitator” teaches one to look elsewhere after an experience like the Bulge. Seams that when Lee Steele got hit by mortar fire, Scottie and James Scarsone carried Lee back to the aid station. That was the last time Scottie saw Lee, not knowing if he made it alive. When I told Lee that it was Scottie and how to get in touch with him, Lee made the move to contact Scottie. I haven’t been able to locate Scarsone.

I “found” Lt. Alden F. Russell, former platoon leader, second platoon (during basic) and for a period of time, Company Commander of D Company. He had become a school teacher teaching agriculture and a retired Major, USAR. I looked in a diary that I had kept at Ft Jackson, found his address which he had given me then, checked my computer and found him in the same area. It was good talking with him. Seams Lt. Russell when he left Company D was transferred to H Company and then to M Company. He was still in the regiment when we went on maneuvers and was finally transferred out when we got to Atterbury. He told me where to find Lt. Terry and that Lt. Twellie (first platoon leader) had been KIA in Europe.

I continued to try to find Lt Terry and did find his son. He told me that his father had passed away from a massive heart attack. He had stayed in service and had served as an ROTC instructor at West Virginia U. He passed away in 1987.

Our EXO under Capt Preucel and later in combat to serve as Company Commander, 1Lt Charles H. Costigan, I thought I had found in Florida, retired. The man I found was his son, same name and retired from the Air Force. He didn’t know much about his father during WWII, so I told him a few things about his father. He told me that his father had stayed with the army and had retired as a Lt Colonel. He passed away at the Army General Hospital, Ft Benning.

1Lt. G.K. Flewelling, was killed in action at Winterspelt. He was my platoon leader. 2nd Lt. John P. Kilkenney, 3rd Platoon Section Leader had been taken prisoner. He was with us at Gerolstein and moved to Limburg, Stalag XIA. There on the night of 23rd December, 1944 he was killed when the British bombed the railroad yards at Limburg. The prison camp was not far from the railroad and as the “pathfinders” strayed over the prison camp, the bombers following the flares, bombed the prison camp as well. They made a direct hit on the building that Lt Kilkenney and Capt Roberts were held. There were also a large number of men from the 106th locked in boxcars as the British bomb the railroad yards. The next day and on Christmas day, it was rather sickening to those who were still alive. Quite a few of us were detailed to clean up the area and recover bodies. In the same building that I was held was a long time friend from my home town, with whom I had been inducted and sent to the 106th. He had been a member of the 81st Engineer battalion. His name was John J. Hickey. John lived through it and went to work for the daily newspaper in our hometown, Alton, Ill.

I have been looking high and low for Anthony “Yank” Yanulaitus. Yank did alright for himself, for he received a battlefield commission as a Second Lieutenant. There is no record of him in the computer telephone directory in the Scranton, PA area or anywhere in the U.S.A. If any of you have information about “Yank” I would appreciate hearing from you regarding him.

I found our former mail orderly Robert Huchko in a nursing home in New Rochelle, NY. Bob can’t talk but can hear and read, so any of you who have a few moments, please drop him a few lines. Likewise I found Robert Sabiston in a nursing home in Glen Arm, MD. Bob has MS. I don’t know how many of you remember him. He was in 3rd squad, 1st platoon and transferred out to the Air Corps to be a “fly boy.” When they decided they didn’t need any more pilots, he got sent back to the infantry and to OCS. He ended up in the Pacific.

I have been trying to find James Scarsorie for Lee Steele, but so far I have only found his son. His son told me that his mother and father have been divorced since he was three years old and he hasn’t had much contact with his father, but would do his best to contact him so that I could communicate with him. It was James Scarsorie and Oscar Scott who picked up Lee Steele after he was badly wounded and carried him back to an aid station. When I found Scottie, he didn’t even know that Lee was alive after they carried him back. When I was able to talk to Lee, they got together by telephone and later Lee and his wife Frances drove to Little Rock, AK for a visit with Scott.
FOOTLOCKER NEWS

Bob Homan, third platoon, stopped off in southern Indiana to see Lee when he was on his way back to Wisconsin from Texas and they had a reunion of their own. I know they had a good time rehashing, because Bob and Phil Gerlach along with their wives had taken a trip back to Belgium in early summer of 1994. Phil had started out in the first platoon and later became a squad leader in the second platoon (maybe he was my replacement?).

I just had a telephone conversation with a good buddy from way back, Paul Morris. Knowing Paul, he may not want me to talk or say too much about our conversation but I'm going to let you know that 1995 has not been too kind to Paul. He had two very serious operations, the second of which caused him to have a stroke while on the operating table, but the operation was successful and he is fighting back. Paul and his lovely wife are avid golfers and this has eliminated Paul's golf games. So if any of you Company D men out there want to do your Boy Scout "deed for the day" drop Paul a card and a few lines. You'll feel better knowing that you have done it, and I'm sure Paul would like hearing from you.

Now, if you would like to have another issue of this newsletter, write me a few lines and tell me what you are doing, or have done, or who you have seen or been in contact with OR, if you would like to fill us in on your part of the Bulge, write me and I'll put it together in another issue of THE BUGLE. Why call it THE BUGLE? Because in this publication, anyone can toot his horn. I like that!

Since putting together the majority of this newsletter and my inability to get it finished, I have late information to add about some of our former Company D members. I am very sorry to inform you that Bob Huchko who must have been known to all of you, because he was the Company Mail Clerk, and a good friend of mine, passed to the Silent Corps in July of this year. The Occupational Therapist in the Nursing Home where Bob resided the last couple of years was kind enough to write to me. I had written to Bob and later made tapes and sent the tapes and a tape recorder so Bob could listen to them. Bob died of heart failure, after living with Parkinson's Disease for a few years. It made it difficult to speak, but he could listen and was interested in the association. I miss Bob!

After some months of searching, I finally found "Swede." My trusty computer gave me quite a list of Howard Swensons, and I was lucky to get him on the second call I made. "Swede" had left us (I don't want to say deserted, feeling the effects of later becoming an artilleryman) to transfer to the Air Corps to become a pilot. Swede became one of those late entries that became excess, when they didn't need many more pilots, so he got sent back to the infantry. Swede told me that he spent his life after service in the law enforcement field and retired from the same. I don't believe there was anyone in the first platoon who didn't have a good feeling for Swede. It's good knowing that he is still alive and any of you who might want to contact him, you can find his address elsewhere in this newsletter. If you wish to talk with him, I'll be glad to supply the phone number to you.

RECRUITING

During the past year and a half, answering a challenge given to me by John Klein, Editor of The Cub, our fine 106th Association Magazine, I have been working to increase the membership in the 106th Assn. with former members of D/424.

When I came aboard, there were only ten former members in the Association. I had been a member way back in the beginning of the Association; attending the first convention held in Indianapolis. George Hurley and I drove up to Indianapolis, he living in St. Louis and I living near by in Illinois. In hunting those of you down, that have joined after being contacted, I used the Christmas 1943 Dinner menu, from Ft. Jackson. I have also used the Regimental Orders for Combat Infantry published January 1945. (If any of you were there at that time and want a copy, let me know.) It does however, leave a big gap because the orders list only those of you who were "present for duty" in January 1945. Those who were "Missing in action" were not included.

If any of you have copies of any orders that other members of D/424 are listed as well, please send me a photocopy. I have the Good Conduct and promotion orders at Atterbury dated, 5 October and 7 October 1944. I'm looking for Swenson's first name, can't remember if it was Howard or Harold and I thought he was from Minn. or possibly Wisc. I've been hunting in everything I could to find "Yank" Yanulaitis. Possibly Norm Simmons can check around the Scranton area for me. If you are interested in trying to find someone from the outfit that isn't listed in this issue, send me their full name, and if you can remember the state from where they hailed, I'll try to do some checking in my computer. Your assistance would be most valuable.

TEN QUESTIONS

HOW MANY CAN YOU ANSWER?
Write to me and let me know how many you can answer. Those of you who left early or arrived after we go to Atterbury, give it a try and answer as many as you can.
1. What was the name of the Opera Singer (USO Type) who crossed the ocean with us on the Aquatania?
2. Can you name any of her movies?
3. Who was our first First Sergeant? Give his full name, not just last name. (That makes it harder.)
4. What was the name of the hill in back of Battalion Headquarters that we had to climb from our training area to the company area?
5. During one period at Camp Atterbury, we had two (yes two) First Sergeants at the same time, can you name them both?
6. Can you name the First soldier, just prior to these two? (I'll bet most of you will say MacAlarney and that's not correct.)
7. Who was the Lieutenant who arrived for duty assigned to the company at Ft. Jackson--on a motorcycle?
8. Who was Aaron Bien and what was his assignment?
9. Who were the two individuals who went AWOL, came back in cuffs only to go AWOL the second time?
10. Who was the third Company Commander?

I would like to hear from all of you as to your answers, so give it a try.
OFFICERS CALL

Following are names of Officers who served with D Company and if you can supply additional names, please do so.

Capt John P. Foley (First CO)
1Lt John Berthiaum (EXO)
2Lt. Kenneth Tewell (1st Platoon)
2Lt. Alden F. Russell (2nd Platoon and CO)
2Lt. Russell Terry (3rd Platoon)
1Lt. Claude Vanemelen (2nd Platoon)
2Lt. E. C. Johnson
1Lt. Lawrence E. Randall
1Lt. Cecill Ayers
2Lt. Donald K. White
2Lt. Gene O. Yarnell
1Lt. Harry M. Woolridge
Capt. Wesley D. Griffin
Capt. Ralph K. Lee
Capt. Roy Burks
Capt Robert W. Preucel (CO in US & ETO)
1Lt. Charles H. Costigan (EXO US & CO ETO)
1Lt. G. K. Flewelling (2nd Platoon-KIA)
2Lt. John P. Kilkenny, Jr. (3rd Platoon-KIA)
1Lt. Plummer (1st Platoon)
2Lt. Jack E. Clifton
2Lt. William S. Boucouvala
2Lt. Allen G. Smith
2Lt. William C. Sanderson
2Lt. Anthony M. Yanulaitis

THE SILENT CORPS

The following names are those men that in my searching, I have found they have joined the "Silent Corps."

Pfc Herman Bavarisco KIA 1944
1Lt John Berthiaum KIA 1943
Pfc William H. Bingle KIA 1944
1Sgt Robert Bothe 1993
Pvt Eugene B. Clifton KIA 1944
LtCol (1Lt) Charles H. Costigan 1988
Pvt Joseph D'Antonio KIA 1944
Pvt James J. Dettore KIA 1944
Sgt Louis Ferretti 1981
1Lt. G. K. Flewelling KIA 1944
Pfc J. C. Frodge 1990
Sgt John P. Hart 1977
S/Sgt George G. T. Hurley 1984
T/Sgt Robert Huchko 1995

If you know of any other former members of D/424 who should be added to this list, please drop me a line with the information.