

The CUB

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR
*The Veterans of the
106th INFANTRY
DIVISION*

of the
GOLDEN LION

Vol 54— No. 1

OCT - NOV - DEC 1997



106th Vets, left to right -Jack McDevitt, 81st ENG/A, Joe Scotti, 423/B and Carl Messina, 81st ENG/A with one of the popular "Afghans" that can be ordered (see page 13). This photo was taken during a visit at the Jack McDevitt home at Rehobot Beach, Delaware where they, with wives, had a fun filled week.

The **CUB**

*A quarterly publication of the
106th Infantry Division Association, Inc
A Non-Profit Organization- USPO #5054
St Paul, MN - Agent: John P. Kline, Editor
11 Harold Drive, Burnsville, MN 55337*

Membership fees include CUB subscription.

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What a year this has been. See the 51st Annual Reunion report on following pages. What a fantastic group of people to work with. We should be proud of our history, the life we have lived and the camaraderie we share with each other in our closing years. It seems to get more intense each year. Every time I go to a reunion I hear more about the past. It is too bad that we couldn't have shared some of these views earlier, after the war.

Each and every one of us have the right to be proud. We did the best we could under the circumstances that prevailed. I've had men from other divisions tell me, "John, we would have done no better than the 106th had we been in your exposed positions when the Bulge hit."

I want to thank Major Hill, Past-President 1996-97, Pete House, Adjutant for their support and guidance during the last year. Especially I would like to thank each of the Board of Directors, and you members for sharing your wisdom, experience and support.

I have no great plans for the coming year. Yes, there are areas that need tending to, but the impetus for all of us in this and the forthcoming years is to keep the ship in the water and keep it going as it is.

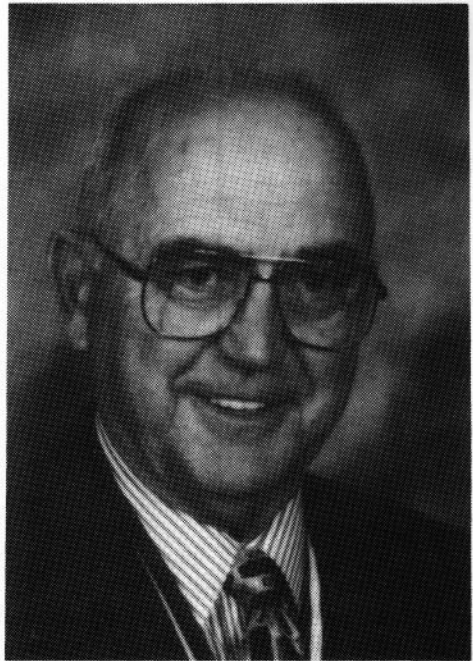
The Association was strong after the war, then membership dwindled as we tended to family business and unconsciously put the war aside. For those of us who were not knowledgeable that the Association existed, we did the same. In the middle years interest dwindled, then as we got older the desire to find out what happened increased, we began seeking old comrades. The Association in 1987, when I joined, had a membership of about 745. In the late '80s and early '90s it began to grow, we leaped up to 1,700, then mother nature began to take toll. Even in the face of that we have maintained a membership of nearly 1,650 members. Most of this is due to us looking back and asking the question, "What happened?" The freedom of information proved that we did a good job in '44/'45. We learned more about each other and the facts surrounding the battle. We learned that the 422nd/423rd just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, that the 424th carried on our battle and carried the flag high. We learned that all of our supporting units, Artillery, Cannon Companies, Anti-Tank, MPs, Signal, Recon, Engineers, Quartermaster, Service Companies and , oh yes- those wonderful Medics did a tremendous job.

I didn't join until 1987, but in the ensuing years I have noticed how proud we have become. Like our Puerto Rican representative, Humberto Aponte, 422/M wrote recently, "All those national veterans organizations may be all O.K., but for me the 106th Infantry Division Association is the greatest group of people that I know."

I think so. Thanks for your support. The CUB is my first love, but I am so very proud to be your President for the fiscal year 1997/98.

John Kline, Editor/ President

106th Infantry Division Association -1997-98



John P. Kline, President/Editor
106th Infantry Div. Assoc. - 1997-98
"M" Company, 423rd Infantry Regiment

New Address: 11 Harold Drive
Burnsville, MN 55337
(612) 890-3155



Chaplain
Dr. Duncan Trueman, 422/AT
29 Overhill Lane, Warwick NY10990
914-986-6376

From my boyhood school days I seem to recall a few lines of verse which I can no longer identify:

*Breathes there a man with soul so dead
Who never to himself hath said:
“This is my land. My native land...”*

These are times when to many of our generation the fires of patriotism seem to run low. Pride and Love of country find little expression. In many quarters Patriotism is not admired. It is increasingly difficult to detect among the young. Even religious institutions sometimes criticize and discourage our feelings of National pride and Patriotism.

But, consider how the people of the Bible long ago loved the land the Lord had given them. When they were carried away into exile in Babylon, they wept as they thought of their homeland. They could not even bring themselves to sing those songs of Zion, their songs of faith, there in that foreign land. Remember Psalm 137 ?

By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.

There on the willows we hung our harps, for there our captors asked us for songs; tormentors required mirth, saying, ‘sing us one of the songs of Zion

How shall we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land ?

Addressing a gathering of Civil War veterans in the year 1894, the Most Reverend John Ireland, Roman Catholic Archbishop of St. Paul, Minnesota, spoke these stirring words to old warriors of his day:

“Patriotism is the vital spark of National Honor; it is the fount of the Nation’s prosperity, the shield of the Nation’s safety. Take patriotism away: The Nation’s soul has fled, bloom and beauty have vanished from the Nation’s countenance...next to God is country, and next to Religion is Patriotism. From whom primarily does this Republic expect this patriotism ? From her veteran soldiers !

This we need to remember. Where and from whom will patriotism be learned, communicated, transmitted from generation to generation? If not from our veteran soldiers, then from whom? Having offered our blood, our pain and our lives...at least our testimony rings true.

Lord. May our love of country always ring true.

Help us stand and fight for whatever is right, and with equal strength oppose that which is wrong.

But in all things. May we be faithful to our Country and to our God. AMEN.

Those of you with good memories can recall the long, hot summer of 1944 in Indiana with a lot of bitching about the 106th being "the bag lunch division."

It was also "the hungry and sick." I joined in the gripes from FF deck in the bowels of the Aquitania where, in fact, everyone was hungry and/or sick in the mid-Atlantic.

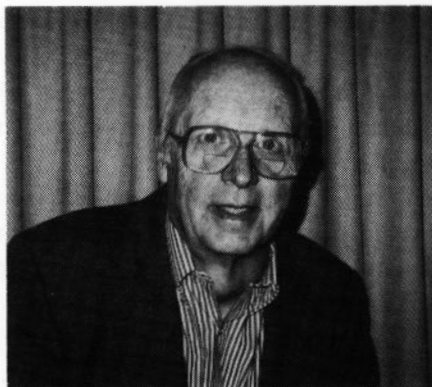
Like most others, though, I always stuck up for the 106th when it was maligned and always will. It was my outfit, as well as yours, and I am convinced that the 15,000 of us were as patriotic and willing to fight as the 15,000 guys in any other outfit in the ETO.

Occasionally, I sound off in print. This happened after I wrote about my experiences in the 106th for *The Des Moines Register* on the 50th anniversary of the Bulge. My article drew fire from an Iowan who served with another division and was irked that the paper had allowed someone from a unit with such a high POW count to reminisce about the battle. He responded:

"It was comforting to read, amid his tirade against the 106th Infantry Division, that (the writer) does not blame me, a Pfc. at the time, for what happened in the Battle of the Bulge. In letting me off the hook, he went off the deep end in what was pretty much a blanket indictment of my World War II outfit.

"The result was an insult to many genuine heroes with the 106th. While it is true that some 7,000 of us were ordered to surrender; this left many others to fight. The 424th Regiment and our Combat Engineers, in particular, held firm against the Germans for more than a week. More than 400 men were killed and 1,200 wounded in the 106th's ranks.

"My only regret, after re-reading my article, is that I neglected to note that the 106th was in 'inherited' positions up front. This meant, according to a military historian, we occupied 'old German positions, the exact coordinates



Dan Bied "A" Co., 422nd Infantry
108 Leffler Street, West Burlington, IA 52655
Tele: (319) 752-5708

and dispositions of who were, of course, known to the enemy to the nearest yard."

My item could-have mentioned, I added, that according to our division commander the 106th was "hit by four German divisions, two panzer and two infantry," along a 28-mile front the historian (Col. R. Ernest Dupuy) termed "an invitation to disaster."

My critic was correct, I admitted, in identifying the 106th as "a new division on the line, not a veteran outfit." He was also right in saying that our POW count was not typical of other US units in the Bulge.

"I believe as much as I did a half-century ago," I continued, "that green troops who died with the 106th and other new outfits deserve as much respect as the men who died with divisions in battle long enough to become combat veterans. Others must Judge for themselves with regard to the POW experience.

"One thing is certain," I summarized. "The US Army considers its prisoners as casualties, along with the wounded and dead, and honors all of them with medals, whether they were captured singly or en masse."

As I mellow with age it seems natural to be more tolerant of all the men and women who served in our war, not just the GIs in the infantry.

From West Burlington, Iowa....

We all had our assignments. We were all expected to do our jobs, whether we were armed with M-1 rifles and bazookas or driving trucks, pounding typewriters or mopping hospital floors.

I was a bit sheepish when, after only being up front a few days, I received my several combat medals, including a Purple Heart for frozen feet.

Now, I realize, the Army has a prudent criteria for issuing medals. I doubt if anyone with the 106th received any medals through "political pull." We were, as I remember it, a bunch of pretty ordinary guys.

The length of time a soldier serves up front is beside the point if he is blinded by shellfire, gets a leg blown off or is killed. That can, as we all know, happen in a split-second.

Dan Bied

TREES

*Fir trees like a child would draw
against the western sky —
somber cones on the skyline,
a day about to die.*

*He gazed for one long moment
at the dusky vale so fenced,
at the bowl of murky twilight
in the texture of which he sensed
a silence now so foreign
as to grate his very soul.*

*He put aside his rifle
and slumped within his hole.*

*In agony of hopelessness
he fervently longed to die. . .*

*Fir trees like a child would draw
against the western sky.*

BEFORE THE
VETERANS DIE
by
Dale R. Carver



BEFORE THE VETERANS DIE

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Silver Star recipient 1945
424th Headquarters
A&P Platoon Leader
742 Druid Circle
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
504-767-3111

Treasurer's Report 1996 - 1997

INCOME

Annual Member Dues	10,090.00
Life Member Dues	4,125.00
Auxiliary Dues	607.00
CUB Review Books Sold	919.50
Interest Earned	3,912.23
Surplus - 50th Reunion	3,500.00
Quartermaster Commissions	603.91
Insurance Refunds	40.12
Extra CUBs sold	114.82
Patches Sold	401.20
Donations	25.00
	<u>\$ 24,338.78</u>

EXPENSE

CUB Expense:	
Printing	11,044.90
Layout	1,830.00
Mailing	2,372.52
Covers	1,278.00
Total	16,525.43
Postage	1,769.11
Office Supplies & Printing	747.16
Phone	879.69
L. Citations	225.00
O.G.L. Medals	470.00
Grant Ladies Luncheon- 50th	500.00
Computer Supplies	1,020.60
Advance - 51st Reuno Comm.	2,500.00
Refunds, no show 50th Reunion	570.00
Advance Book- (new equip)	1,500.00
Liability & Bond	866.00
Registration Fees- 4 officers	420.00
	<u>27,992.99</u>
Decrease	<u>\$ (3,654.21)</u>

FUNDS ACTIVITY

General Fund Recap.....	
Brought Forward	71,822.30
Net Increase	3,654.21
Fund Total	<u>\$ 68,168.09</u>

Memorial Fund Recap	
Brought Forward	13,995.03
Contributions	1,917.16
Interest Earned	418.71
Fund Total	<u>\$ 16,330.90</u>

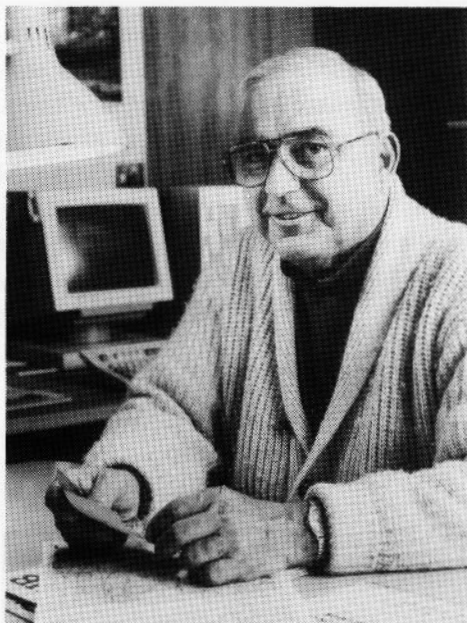
Less Paid Out:	
Scholarships	5,000.00
Donation Atterbury	
Maintenance	250.00
Flowers- CRIBA	50.00
Total deductions	<u>5,300.00</u>
Fund Total	<u>\$ 11,030.90</u>

Banks of Deposit	
Westside Bank	2,868.23
Edw. D. Jones Co.	56,330.76
Edw D. Jones CD	20,000.00
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	<u>\$ 79,198.99</u>

639 LIFE MEMBERS as of June 30, 1997

CHANGES IN CASH POSITION

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>MEMORIAL FUND</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
This Year	68,168.09	11,030.90	79,198.99
Last Year	<u>71,822.30</u>	<u>13,995.03</u>	<u>85,817.33</u>
() = decrease	<u>\$ (3,654.21)</u>	<u>\$ (2,964.13)</u>	<u>\$ (6,618.34)</u>



John Kline, 423/M, editor, The CUB
e-mail: jpk@mm.com

Home Page: <http://www.mm.com/user/jpk>

PLEASE NOTE Change of Address
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Telephone 612-890-3155

Apologies for late Nov 98 CUB

Margot and I just completed a move from our town home in which we had lived for 11 years, to a single level home eight miles distance. We were negotiating the sale of the town home and the purchase of the new home (1962 era) right after the 1997 Reunion in Nashville. Why does one accumulate so much? We closed on both places on 9 October and made our final move on 13 October. In the interim between my two sons and I hauled 20 pickup truck loads of small items and boxes, plus two small trailer loads. When the mover loaded on the 13th it took two men - non-stop - three and one-half hours to load their truck with furniture. Even then they had to leave eight items that I hauled later in a pickup.

We love our new location. A beautiful lot with six Oak trees that have to be at least 100 years old. All of this took over a month of my time - therefore the late CUB, sorry.....

The 106th Infantry Division Home Page that I installed on the World Wide Web 3 April 1996, still continues to draw interest.

Over 14,400 visitors have viewed my Home Page as of 11/1/97. Many new members, relatives and interested historians have been contacted through this media.

GO TO:

<http://www.mm.com/user/jpk>

PLEASE NOTE!!!

NEW ADDRESS

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER

11 Harold Drive
Burnsville, MN 55337-2786
612-890-3155

FEATURE STORIES IN THIS CUB

Col. Puett's *PUETT'S WAR, 423rd Infantry Regiment, 2d Battalion in The Ardennes Battle*. In connection with that story, Brig Gen Oliver Patton (USA Ret) has furnished important and supportive supplemental information. By using personal documentation of their personal experience of the the action, during the first days of the battle, a clearer picture evolves of those dark days of the Ardennes Offensive, later to become known as the *Battle of the Bulge*.

COMING UP IN FUTURE CUBS

Time and space control the placement of feature articles in The CUB. Recent issues have had some very interesting and well received stories. Stories that should be heard, or read.. Stories that need to be saved for history. Interest sparks interest, so I have been blessed with several feature articles for future issues to come.

February 1998 CUB: I will feature information on the 424th Combat Infantry Regiment using personal information from veterans of the 424th Combat Infantry Regiment in combination with a US Army "After Battle Report" of that period of time. If you 424th vets have any personal stories you would like to see in print, please forward them to me for consideration. I will use what space permits by presenting "glimpses" or "capsules" of information from each veteran. J. Kline, editor

PLEASE NOTE

**Bulge Reenactment,
Indiantown Gap, PA
January 30, 1998**

by Richard Rigatti, 423/B, Past-President
Telephone 412-781-8131

UPCOMING REENACTMENT!

A Reenactment of the *Battle of the Bulge* will be held by the World War II Historical Preservation Federation on the weekend starting Friday January 30, 1998 at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania.

A group of twelve 106th Inf Div veterans were spectators at the one held in 1997. Refer to pages 10-14 of the Apr-May-Jun 1997 CUB magazine for story and photos. They reported they had an immensely enjoyable time (good therapy also) at a "startling" cost of \$35 per head, which included two nights in a heated barracks, breakfast and dinner Saturday and entrance to the reenactment.

Indiantown Gap is an Army Reserve Post close to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania who houses the reenactors in barracks which you are entitled to visit and talk to them about their weapons and equipment, etc. There will be tanks, armored personnel carriers, motorbikes, jeeps, trucks, etc. Also lots of memorabilia for sale.

In early October 1997 call or write John Bowen at (301) 384-6533. His address is 613 Chicester Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904-3331. For Registration Forms, write the Federation at: Box 1360, Leesburg, VA 20177-1360. The VBOB were hosts last time and will probably be this next year. You may also check their Bulletin for details.....

Editor's Note: *I am going to attend this. I will be visiting with some of the Pittsburgh area vets, then going with them to Indian Town Gap. I am looking forward with a lot of interest. To be submersed into the same enviroment as in 1944. According to the photos Dick Rigatti furnished last year, it looked very realistic. No incoming 88's or mortar shells, but the weather looked the same....JK*

**There's Nothing like Running
Out of Gas Short of the Runway**

Not only am I a month behind, but I have run out of space and time. Yes, I could cut some of what I have laid out, and use some of the material that is on my desk, but I must get this CUB to press.

My apologies to those of you who sent photos of the Reunion and to O. Paul Merz for the material he sent for the Atterbury story and to others who furnished material to be included in the CUB magazine.

I had to stop or add another four pages and I promised the printer he would have this CUB on his desk tomorrow, Monday November 17. I usually mail The CUB on the first of the month - so I am a month behind. That's what moving to a new location will do to you.

What I have missed I will try to make up for in the next CUB. Can't be right all the time..... John Kline, Editor

OLD CUBS, Memorabilia

I receive requests for copies of old CUBs often. I appreciate those of you that have sent me your old ones. It is sad but nice receive CUBs and memorabilia from one of deceased members family, for you know that he had given instructions to his survivors to pass along his treasured books, CUBs and memorabilia s to sharewith others.

**THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO
SENT OLD CUBS RECENTLY. THEY
ARE MUCH APPRECIATED BY
THOSE SEEKING BACK ISSUES.....**

A special thanks to Samuel Leibowitz, 424/HQ
George E Fusco, Associate
John Rosalia, 423/C
who sent me three large boxes of old CUBs. Many of these are already in the hands of others. Rosalia also sent an Atterbury Photo Album which was much needed.

I can always use old CUBs. I still have a few missing from my archives, but do have photo copies of those missing issues.

A couple of years ago I sent the CARLISLE BARRACKS MUSEUM a set of CUBs. The set is not complete, but I am filling them in.

.....JK

MEMORIAL FUND DONORS

Since the JUL-AUG-SEP 1997 CUB

423/M vets In memory of comrade Paul Kotlarich	70
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Ballowe, Thomas	10
Bayles, Darrel R.	5
Bickford, Florence	2
Black, Jr. Ewell C.	100
Blodgett, John	10
Bradbury, Richard	3
Breite, Victor	20
Bullard, Margaret R.	5
Cosby, Carl H.	10
Coss, Sr., Kenneth	10
Dashner, Robert	10
Deffenbaugh, David	5
Dovell, Clark	10
Dunlap, Jan	10
Fisher, Robert	5
Gottschall, Edwin	5
Gray, James A.	5
Grimes, George	5
Hanke, Arthur	10
Helmich, Lester	2
Hiltbrand, Walter	10
Hohenadel, Jr., Frank	20
Hoinash, LaDonna	10
Howard, John H.	10
Jackson, James	10
Janson, Phyllis, in memory of Paul Kotlarich 423/M	40
Jones, Jr. Alan	100
Jones, Mrs. Alys P.	500
Lockhardt, Richard	25
Mason, John	5
Mathews, Walter A.	10
Mayrsohn, Bernard	25
Morell, Eugene	10
Ocvirk, Otto	15
Phelan, William	15
Pierce, Waldo	10
Plumly, Francis	10
Richter, Ralph	5
Rigatti, Richard	100
Rossin, Leo	10
Seevers, Ralph	3
Simon, Ernst	5
Snyder, Walter M.	25
Sowell, Robert F.	10
Weigel, Levene	10



Rev. Ewell C. Black Jr.,
Past - Chaplain
Order of the Golden Lion 1995
"A" Company, 422nd Inf. Reg.
212 Ridge S, Bishopville, SC
29010
803-484-6861

A SALUTE to our PAST CHAPLAIN

Ewell, we hope that all is going well with you now.

We missed you at Nashville. Hope that you may be able to attend the next reunion.

Ewell wrote me a letter September 2, 1997, as follows.

John, Congratulations on becoming

President. I know your term will be a good one for the Association. Please pass along the following:

Dear 106th Friends.

Deb, Dave and I wish to express our gratitude to each of you for remembering us in so many wonderful ways at Dot's death. The wreath that the Association sent was beautiful and many commented on it. The cards, prayers and calls did much to undergird us in our time of sorrow.

I don't think that I need to tell you how much The Association and each of you means to me.

Yours in the Faith,
Ewell C. Black, Jr.

FYI - ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Membership as of 11/15/97 = 1,577

MEMBERS: ANNUAL 827 LIFE 605

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: ANNUAL 81 LIFE 64

We cut the following names from the roster for non-payment of membership fees. They will not receive this CUB or any following. This list is not meant to interfere with any persons rights. But, after a direct mail letter they have not responded. We are concerned about reporting the welfare of our valued Veteran friends. If you know of any of the following listed people, please contact them. Let me know if you have any news about any of them. We may have missed their payments for membership. Like the ad says in the local newspaper, "NO salesman will call." But we are truly concerned about hearing word about the following veterans. John Kline, editor

ANDERSON, CHARLIE G 422/L
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ANDREWS, LOWRY B 422/HQ
SOUTHAMPTON NJ
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PORTLAND OR
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EPHRAIM SR, HARRY M 591/HQ
ALAMOGORDO NM
ERBES, RICHARD C 423/HQ
WILDOMAR CA
FOSTER, GEORGE C 424/I
W COLLINGSWOOD NJ
FOSTER, JESSE H 422/HQ
KINGWOOD TX
FRICKMAN, WERNER E 106
RECON
FT LAUDERDALE FL
GILLAN, JAMES J 424/SV
SOUTHAMPTON PA
GRANTHAM, RUFUS D DIV/ARTY
ANDALUSIA AL
GRENNIES, VINCENT 592/B
VALPARAISO IN
HALL, WALTER A 422/HQ
BIG BEAR CITY CA
HEAD, DONALD H 423/G
SPOKANE WA
HUCKABEE, CHARLES W 423/F
MANTECA CA
KEILMAN, ELSBY H 589/B
TWIN CITY IN

LABER, CHARLES P 422/A
FT THOMAS KY
LANG, WILLIAM 422/I
ROCK CREEK OH
LIPKIN, MARSHALL 424/HQ 1BN
CANOGA PARK CA
LOOS, ARTHUR E 422/I
BROAD BROOK CT
LOVEJOY, LEONARD L 590/C
STAUNTON IL
LOWE, CHARLES B 423/C
MADISON WI
MARINO, JOSEPH 423/G
NEW YORK NY
MATO, ANDREW J 424/E
FARMINGTON HILLS MI
MCCARTHY, LEONARD J 424/HQ
1BN
CORNWALL PA
MCVOY, ROBERT E 423/SV
POLAND NY
MEAGHER, JAMES L 422/H
SALISBURY MD
MOORE, HF 423/C
WYLIE TX
NAUGHTON, MARK P 422/G
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS IL
NEVANDRO, JOSEPH A 806 ORD
BROOKLYN NY
NIEMITZ, HOWARD P 422/SV
VALPARAISO IN
PACHECO, MANUEL P 590/C
ACUSHNET MA
PATRICK, GEORGE S 423/HQ 3BN
LAKELAND FL
PENDER, PAUL S 81ST ENG/MED
EAST LANSING MI
PERENO, AUGUST J 590/A
HIALEAH FL
PETERS, LEWIS M 422/HQ
SAN FRANCISCO CA
PETERS, REV EMANUEL 422/CN
ELKINS PARK PA
PLENSKOFSKI, JOHN J 424/C
WARMINSTER PA
POWERS, WILLIAM M 422/H
NEEDHAM MA

RISTEEN, RICHARD N 424/K
PARACHUTE CO
RUSSIN, PETER 424/H
STUEBENVILLE OH
SCHIEFERSTEIN, FRED 424/A
CLARK NJ
SHOWS, CLIFFORD M 422/A
MOSELLE MS
SMITH, WILLIAM B 423/L
COLUMBIA NJ
STROUD, ALVIE W 423/AT
BATESVILLE AR
SWENLIN, VICTOR H 423/HQ
1BN
VINELAND NJ
VAN MORLAN, EDWARD
ASSOCIATE
OLATHE KS
VARNADORE, C V 424/B
JACKSONVILLE FL
VEITH, FRED R 423/C
FT THOMAS KY
WEGLARZ, ROMAN J 422/HQ
HEBRON IN
WILKINSON, HENRY T 592/B
PEARL MS
WILSON, THOMAS D 423/D
INDIANAPOLIS IN
YOUNG, DONALD J 422/I
APTS CA
YOUNGBLOOD, CHARLES 423/D
MYRTLE BEACH SC
ZEIGLER, JOHN W 422/HQ 3BN
VERONA NJ_

If your payment crossed in the mail or was not recognized, our apologies please.....

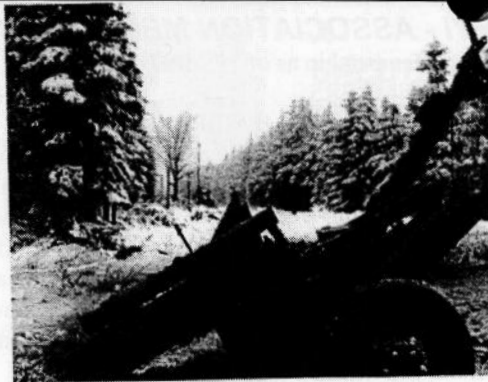
Abandoned 105mm Howitzer found near Manhay...

Could this be one of the 589th FAB Howitzer's from Parker's Crossroads

As a follow up on the 589th FAB story that appeared in *The CUB* - Here is a 1944-45 photo of an abandoned 105mm Howitzer found near Manhay after the battle at Parker's Crossroads. Could it be that the Germans used this gun until they ran out of ammo?

I received copies of this photo via e-mail from two of our Belgian CRIBA members, Henri REGISTER who is on the CRIBA Board, and Eddy MONFORT another member who has an intense interest in the battle at Parker's Crossroads.

Thanks to these two gentlemen we add another bit of interesting information about that very important battle. **Interested in the "Other Side,"** of the story - read the article below which was submitted by Henri REGISTER. It shows how important "Parker's Crossroads" was to the enemy.....



Das Reich's Panzers at Parker's Crossroads Submitted by Henri REGISTER, CRIBA

from a story written by Miles Krogfus, AFV News, January 1987



Ostuf Gresiak

Battle of the Bulge. When the Ardennes Offensive began, Das Reich's panzers (28 Pz.IV's, 59 Panthers, 28 assault guns, and some 20 Jagd-Pz.IV/70) were held in reserve to be used to exploit any significant German breakthroughs in its battle sector. This was slow to occur, so on Dec. 23rd the 7th Pz. company (it and the 8th had Pz.IV's, the 5th and 6th Pz. companies

had StuG's) was attached to II "Der Fuehrer" and an assault gun company to III "DF", and given the task of seizing the important crossroads at Baraque de Fraiture.

Obersturmbannfuhrer (Ostuf). Gresiak in Pz. #701 led eight Pz.IV's north to the crossroads just after 4:20 p.m., battling a platoon of Shermans from the U.S. 3rd Armored Division, knocking out 2 and losing 2 panzers to the Shermans and 2 more to a howitzer. Some of the panzers then approached from the east, finished off the Shermans, and overran the the crossroads by 6:00 p.m. Gresiak's company claimed a total of 17 armor kills for the day. Seriously wounded the next morning, he received the Knight's Cross a month later. His photo appears above.

On December 24th around 10:00 p.m., 7th Armored Division tanks and other vehicles were retreating NW of B. de Fraiture to the moonlit Manhay crossroads. Hscha. Franz Frauscher in Panther #431 and another Panther of his platoon slipped unnoticed into the American column. On the ascending S curve of Highway N15 just south of town, the Panthers swung out of line and shot up the column and some partially dug-in Shermans, scattering the American armor in confusion. Nine Shermans were destroyed. During the takeover of Manhay, the 4th Pz. Company's c/o, Hstuf. Ortwin Pohl, was wounded, and early the next day (the 25th) Ostuf. Reeb in Pz.IV #711 was killed.

The following few days saw Das Reich futilely trying to continue its advance against regrouped and reinforced American units. For Enseling's panzers the rest of December and early January 1945 became a battle of attrition, in which Ostuf. Veith was killed while commanding Panther #301 and posthumously awarded the K.C.

In the period Dec. 23 to Jan. 15, Das Reich claimed 324 armor kills to its own losses of 68 panzers, including 34 Pz.IV's and 28 Panthers. -xxx-



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Dixon L. Poole, Q.M.

1997 Mini-Reunion Schedule

If you are seeking information on where to attend one of the 1997 Mini-Reunions, please call the nearest location listed. This list was current as of September 1, 1997. It is possible that some of the Chairpersons have changed of which the person you contact will tell you. Enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow veterans . Happy Holiday Seasons to all - John Swett, Mini-Reunion Chairman, 1st Vice-president. Telephone 520-722-6106

AL Joseph Massey Remlap 205-681-1701	MT Call nearest location
AR Herbert Crook Baton Rouge 504-924-4368	NC Wade Toy Columbia SC 803-772-0132
AZ Dean Childs Phoenix December 15, 1997 Traeulich's Steak House, Phoenix 602-985-3687	NE Dean Sandahl Lincoln 402-466-3564
CA Milton Weiner South December 7, 1997. 1PM Szechwan Chines Restaurant 310-544-0470	NH Kachadore Berderian Northboro MA 508-393-6604
CA Jerry Eisenman North 650-756-8330	NJ Carl Messina Linden 908-486-2927
CO Nolan Ashburn Ft. Collins 970-416-9930	NM Armando Velasquez Albuquerque 505-821-8434
CT Kachadori Berberian Northbrook, MA 508-393-6604	NV Call nearest location
DC John Schaffner Baltimore 410-584-2754	NY Carl Messina Linden NJ 908-486-2927
DE Carl Messina New Jersey 908-486-2927	OH Call nearest location
FL Pete House Jacksonville 904-724-8316	OK Clint McClure 918-252-7777
FL Major Hill Cape Coral 941-945-4087	PA John Gallagher Reading December 5, 1997, Dutch Colony Inn, Reading, PA 610-929-2887
FL Lester Helmich Sarasota 941-955-3571	PA Charles Datte Philadelphia 610-626-1866
GA Sherod Collins Kennesaw 770-928-3207	PA George Vance Pittsburgh 412-653-1724
HI George Iwamoto Honolulu 808-536-9991	PR Humberto Aponete Corozal 787-851-1717
IA Call nearest location	RI Call nearest location
ID Call nearest location	SC Wade Toy Columbia SC 803-772-0132
IL John Mikalauski Mt Vernon 618-439-3867	SD Gordon Pinney Whitney NE 308-665-1785
IL Marion Ray Alton 618-377-3485	TN Hubert Crook Baton Rouge 504-924-4368
IL Russell Villwock Chicago Dec 13, 1997 Arvey's Rest. Niles, Ill 708-452-8628	TX Ted Jones Dallas 972-239-8795
IN Call nearest location	VA John Schaffner Baltimore 410-584-2745
KS William Stahl Junction City 913-238-2861	VT Call nearest station
KY Call nearest location	VT Kachadore Berberian Northboro MA 508-393-6604
LA Hubert Crook Baton Rouge 504-924-4368	WA Fred Pilkington Camano Island 360-387-6063
MA Kachadore Berberian Northboro 508-393-6604	WI Charles Rieck Middleton 608-831-6110
MD John Schaffner Baltimore 410-584-2754	WV Call nearest location
ME Call nearest location	WY Call nearest location
MI Russell Mayotte Livonia 313-421-4059	
MN Howard Flen Minneapolis Held November 13, 1997... 507-282-0409	
MO Hubert Crook Baton Rouge 504-924-4368	
MS Hubert Crook Baton Rouge 504-924-4368	

“Committee Report - 51st Annual Reunion ”

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE August 29 to September 2, 1997

From John Gilliland, Reunion Chairman

I wish to thank all of you who attended the Nashville Reunion. We appreciate all the cards and letters of thanks. We, as a committee, were well pleased with the reception of the Reunion. You were cooperative and interacted with enthusiasm with the programs. You made our job easier. It takes over a year to get a reunion lined up. When the final results are appreciated, we feel that all the hard work was worth it.

I especially wish to thank my hardworking committee. They were just great and without them I could not have put such a nice reunion together.

Sincerely, *John O. Gilliland*

NEW TAPESTRY “WALLHANGING”

The “Wallhanging” Tapestry sold well, both at the reunion and in from the CUB advertisement. We wish to continue this offer. Send your order in NOW!

See following page for order blank for our new “Tapestry Wallhanging.” It is the same design as the original AFGHAN, but is smaller in size. It measures 30 X 36 inches with hemmed borders instead of fringes. It comes with two brass plated rods and hardware for wall mounting. It makes an attractive wall covering. Cost: \$50.00 (for delivery in the USA. Send your money to:

John O. Gilliland, Nashville Reunion Chairman

605 Northside Drive, Enterprise, Alabama 36330-1024 (334-347-7730)

We also have a few of the larger Afghans, (50" x 65") left from the Reunion.

We can ship for \$53.00 in the U.S.A.

Testimonial from Pete House, Adjutant

John O., Gilliland -Thank you for another great Reunion... Your hotel choice was excellent. Rooms were clean and spacious. The food was tops. All of your committee members were helpful and friendly.

The trip to Jack Daniel’s was a lot of fun and the food was outstanding, particularly the “fried catfish.” This was my third trip there.

The Grand Ole Opera was, as usual, pure corn pone and a lot of fun. Of course more commercials than the last time I attended.

The Music is always great at Opera Land. We were able to see four shows, go on two rides, shop and have some ice cream. What more could a guy want?

You and your committee should pat yourselves on the back - for a job well done.

Pete House, Adjutant

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51st Annual Reunion - Nashville 1997 - Attendance Count

421/HQ	1
106 MP	5
106 SIG	8
422/HQ	6
422/AT	1
422/CN	5
422/HQ 1BN	2
422/A	1
422/B	1
422/C	2
422/D	10
422/HQ/2BN	0
422/E	2
422/F	1
422/G	7
422/H	15
422/HQ 3BN	0
422/I	3
422/L	1
422/M	9
422/MED	3
423/HQ	7
423/AT	1
423/CN	1
423/SV	4
423/HQ 1BN	2
423/A	6
423/B	7
423/C	7
423/D	12
423/HQ 2BN	1
423/E	7
423/F	1
423/G	1
423/H	10

423/HQ 3BN	3
423/I	3
423/K	5
423/M	6
423/MED	8
424/HQ	4
424/AT	1
424/CN	2
424/SV	1
424/HQ 1BN	4
424/A	1
424/B	11
424/C	2
424/D	12
424/HQ 2BN	2
424/E	2
424/F	4
424/G	7
424/H	4
424/HQ 3BN	1
424/I	3
424/M	4
424/MED	2
81st ENG/HQ	2
81ST ENG/A	3
81ST ENG/B	5
81ST ENG/C	5
81ST ENG/MED	1
401ST FAB (attchd)	1
589/HQ	3
589/A	4
589/B	3
589/C	1
590/HQ	3
590/A	6

591/HQ	5
591/B	1
591/SV	3
592/HQ	2
592/A	2
592/B	1
592/C	1
592/SV	3
ASSOCIATE	6

DIV/HQs & units	14
422nd	69
423rd	92
424th	70
81st Eng	14
589th FAB	11
590th FAB	9
591st FAB	9
592nd FAB	9
401st FAB (attchd)	1

106th Veterans	306
Includes Associates and Attached Units	
Guests/Wives	281

GRAND TOTAL

587

Attached Medics counted
with organic units

Where did they come from to attend Nashville..

Total Membership – State Count Sept 1997

AL	32	LA	11	PA	141
APO	3	MA	48	PR	1
AR	13	MD	45	RI	14
AZ	36	ME	8	SC	29
BELGIUM	20	MI	68	SD	5
CA	75	MN	44	TN	48
CO	13	MO	24	TX	52
CT	28	MS	16	UT	3
DC	3	MT	1	VA	27
DE	6	NC	29	VT	5
FL	161	NE	11	WA	14
FRANCE	2	NETHERLANDS	1	WI	75
GA	42	NH	4	WV	15
HI	4	NJ	81	WY	2
IA	25	NM	8	Grand Total 1667	
ID	1	NOVA SCOTIA	2	Note: Membership Count	
IL	105	NV	4	at Reunion time before cut	
IN	44	NY	81	off due to non-payment of	
IND	1	OH	76	July 1 membership fees.	
KS	19	OK	15	Membership as of	
KY	15	OR	11	November 15, 1997 - 1,57	

51st Annual Reunion - Nashville 1997 - State Attendance Count

Veteran and Associate Count from the State of origin.....

AL	12	LA	1	PA	24
AR	2	MA	6	RI	3
AZ	4	MD	7	SC	3
BELGIUM	2	MI	16	SD	1
CA	10	MN	5	TN	17
CO	2	MO	4	TX	7
CT	4	MS	4	VA	6
DE	3	MT	1	VT	1
FL	29	NC	1	WA	2
FLA	1	NE	4	WI	12
FRANCE	1	NJ	12	WV	5
GA	9	NM	2	Grand Total 306	
IA	6	NV	2		
IL	30	NY	16		
IN	5	OH	14		
KS	3	OK	2		
KY	4	OR	1		

51st Annual Reunion Nashville - 1997

DIV/HQ

MCCOLLUM, VOLLIE L

T06 MP

FACEY, COL KENNETH
HANKE, ARTHUR K
JENNINGS, CHARLES R
KORTLANG, CHARLES E
KUHN, EUGENE L

T06 SIG

CORBETT, EUGENE
DIRENZO, PETER L
HAMILTON, LAWRENCE D
KUPS, STANLEY
ROSE, ** NED
SCHOECK, RICHARD J
TWARDZIK, RAYMOND J
VILLWOCK, RUSSELL H

422/HQ

GASSES, JOSEPH J
JOSEPHS, ROBERT H
LAPATO, FRANK
SWETYE, JOSEPH
SEXTON, MAYNARD H

422/AT

PAWLUK, WALTER S

422/HQ

TIMMONS, DONNAL

422/CN

BOWLES, RALPH K
CATHERMAN JR, LTC GUY W
GAITHER, JACK L
NELSON, DR RALPH
PURCELL, THOMAS I

422/HQ IBN

DIEFENTHALER, WILLARD F
THOME, MICHAEL

422/A

BROWN, CP

422/B

COLBERT, HUGH L

422/C

EDWARDS, CARL E
MASSEY, JOSEPH A

422/D

CHASE, FRED B
HILLIARD, REV ROY M
OLECKI, EDWARD J
ROBB, DR JOHN G
SANDERS, JOE T
SAUCERMAN, EUGENE L
TRAUTMAN, FRANK S
WALKER, ROBERT F
WILLIAMS, LAWRENCE R
ZIMAND, GERALD P

422/E

ESPOSITO, TEO D.
KELSO, MURREL E

422/F

ARMOLD, ROY A

422/G

BOGGS, OLIVER B
CHESNEY, LONAS L
GINTHER, KEITH
NEWMAN (W), SAUL A.
SALEMINK, RICHARD J
SHEANER JR, HERBERT
SILVIA, MANUEL C

422/H

DORN, EDWARD W
HAMPTON, BENIE P.
IVY, WILLIAM F
JENKINS, WILLIAM D
JONES, WILLIAM B
LATA, ** WALTER
MADSEN JR, ANDERS N
MEADOWS, GERALD D.
MILLER, GLENN C
PODLASKI, EDMUND P
POST, LAWRENCE W
PRESCOTT, EUGENE L
RACSTER, JOHN R
RIECK, CHARLES F
SNOVEL, ROBERT I

422/I

BLAHER, WILLIAM S
MALONE, WILLIAM E
PATTERSON JR, FLETCH

422/L

BATES, FRANK F

422/M

ADOLPHSON, MAYNARD
BIELSKI, RAYMOND J
KOPATZ, ALFRED E
LARSON, GILBERT R
LEICHTE, JOSEPH H
MASCONE, ATTILIO A
MEAGHER JR, HERBERT
STOEHR, MARTIN G
SYKES, MORRIS G.

422/MED

DASHNER, ROBERT F
DEAN, VERNER W
SCALZO, SALVATORE A

423/HQ

AVERY, CHARLES W
CROSSLAND SR, WILLI
DAVIS JR, SAM E
MCCLURE, CLINT
SARTORI, CHARLES
TARANTINO, JOSEPH C
ZICKER, GORDON B

423/AT

SWARTZ, HARVEY L

423/CN

VAUGHN, RAY R

423/SV

COLLINS, SHEROD
GRASSO, SALVATORE V
HALL, JOHN L
STEWART, JOHN T

423/HQ IBN

BRYAN, KENNETH V
MALUEG, RUSSELL J

423/A

BEHLING, JACKSON D
EZELL, JOHN E
LANE, WILLIAM M
MARTIN, THOMAS C
POOLE, JAMES L
YANCHIK, PETE

423/B

DRAKULICH, PETER
FORBES, FONTAINE C
GILBERT, DANIEL W
PINNEY, GORDON B
RIGATTI, RICHARD L

51st Annual Reunion Nashville - 1997

SCOTTI, JOSEPH
VAN MOORLEHEM, ARTHUR

423/C

BLADEN, JOHN A
GOLDBERG, EPHRAIM
HALLADAY, MAURICE A
KELLY, JOHN H
KLEVEN, JOSEPH B
ROSALIA, JOHN
SPENCE, JULIUS A

423/D

ANGELO, MARIO J
BURRELL, JAMES V
HAWKINS, HAROLD W
HOFFMASTER, WENDELL
HUNTER, DAVID
KAHLER, JOHN K
MARSH, ROBERT H
MATTHEWS, JOE N
TIMM, EUGENE A
YINGST, WILLIAM J
YOUNG, DAMON F
ZENN, MIKE

423/HQ 2BN

LANE, WELDON V

423/E

CARMICHAEL, B JAY
DALHEIM, ** ROBERT
EDWARDS, H STOREY
JOHANNES, WALTER E
MCBRIDE, ** ROBERT
RAILA, DR FRANK A
RUSSELL, RAYMOND E

423/F

SULSER, JACK A

423/G

GRESHAM, JOSEPH W

423/H

BASEL, THEODORE
BENNETT, ROBERT F
DIEHL, LLOYD J
JOHNSTON, RAY
KURZEJA, MICHAEL F
LAWSON, WILLIAM J
PETERSEN, WALTER A
SMITH, KENNETH M
SWETT, JOHN A
TROST, PAUL M L

423/HQ 3BN

EISENMAN, JEROME
HINKLE, RAYMOND A
WEISS, NEWTON W

423/I

BLOOMINGBURG, GEORGE
MILLS, JAMES M
TERRIO, HOWARD J

423/K

ANDERSON, ** HAROLD
BRAX, RICHARD J
CAPSHAW, CLIFTON
DAVIS, JOHN R.
GRIVETTI, LOUIS G

423/M

COOPER, LOUIS M
EDELMAN, LOUIS
HOHENSTEIN, JOHN J
KLINE, DR ROBERT E
KLINE, JOHN P
WALKER JR. (W), NEFF

423/MED

COSTA, ANTONE
COSTA, LAWRENCE
HUNT, KENNETH
JARLOCK, EDWARD S
MCCARRON, DONALD J
REYENGA, WILLIAM T
TOMASES, DR RALPH
WILLIAMS, TED

424/HQ

BURKES, ROBERT A
GAFFNEY, FRANK W
HELMICH, LESTER A
MALONEY, JOSEPH P

424/AT

TRUEMAN, DR DUNCAN

424/CN

CLOWER, ROBERT G
LIBMAN, OLIVER

424/SV

CHEZMAR, JOHN P

424/HQ 1BN

BRATTON, HAROLD K
FRIEL, MYLES B.
KUCHOLICK, STANLEY J

ODOM, JOSEPH C

424/A

VAN DE BOGART (W), HER-
MAN

424/B

ARVOLD, NORMAN W
CALL, GEORGE
CROSBY, LLOYD R
HILL, MAJOR H
PASSARIELLO, LOUIS J
PREWETT, EDWARD A
RUTLAND, ROGER M
SMOLER, IRWIN C
STOPPER (W), STANLEY A.
STREIB, MARSHAL P
VITALI, ALFRED L

424/C

KIRKPATRICK, PAUL E
MOSS, MELVIN A

424/D

DICKERSON, MYRTON B
GERLACH, PHILIP E
HOMAN, ROBERT C
KOEHLER, FRANKLIN R
PARVIN, GLENN R
RAY, LTC MARION
ROSENTHAL, PHILLIP N
RUSSELL, ALDEN F
SATRANG, RUSSELL G
SIMMONS, NORMAN
STEELE, KERMIT L
SUTTER, BURNETT

424/HQ 2BN

CONNORS, JOHN C
HOWELL, ROBERT F

424/E

GREGORY, JOHN A
SOWELL, ROBERT F

424/F

HUMINSKI, EDWIN C
LORD, MALCOM E
MAYOTTE, RUSS J
SCHOBER, MILTON J

424/G

BROKAW, RICHARD L
DALLMAN, JOSEPH G
GEIB, GEORGE
MORGAN, AUBREY D

51st Annual Reunion Nashville - 1997

REDIGER (W), DELBERT G.
SWISHER, RALPH A
WYATT, VAN S

424/H

ASHBURN, NOLAN
COLLIER SR, JAMES E
MIKALOUSKIS, JOHN L
MURRAY JR, GEORGE

424/HQ 3BN

CARVER, DALE R

424/I

GOLDFINGER, IRWIN N
HENNING, CHARLES E
THOMAS, JR, GEORGE D

424/K

CAPLAN, BERT
MAGEHEE, GLEN U
VELASQUEZ, ARMANDO

424/M

MUELLER, WILLIAM H
PELL, SIDNEY
PUSKARICH, CHARLES H
TANNER, MILTON

424/MED

BENGEL JR, CHARLES
MANFREDI, JOHN

81st ENG/HQ

ANDERSON, JR, LC
RIGGS, JR, COL THOMAS J

81ST ENG/A

LACEY, DAVE
SHEETS, ROY S
ZIMMERMAN, JOSEPH W

81ST ENG/B

HANSON, ROBERT J
TETZLAFF, JAMES E
VALENSTEIN, COL EARL

WOJAHN, EDWARD C
ZABKAR, EDWARD F

81ST ENG/C

CARR, FRED A
GALLAGHER, JOHN I
HAYDEN, HENRY V
HINRICHS, DON M
SZIBER, FRANK V

81ST ENG/MED

KULTZOW, JOHN

401ST FAB (atta

BACHMURSKI, STANLEY M

589/HQ

GOLDSTEIN, ELLIOTT
SCOTT, EARL A
TACKER, FRANK

589/A

ALFORD JR, BARNEY M
GATENS, JOHN
SCHAFNER, JOHN R
SNYDER, WALTER M

589/B

KUIZEMA, HAROLD
RAND, ANTHONY J
STROHMIEER, BERNARD C

589/C

BRUMFIELD, VERNON E

590/HQ

BOSCHERT, PAUL V
STOLP, ROBERT R
WOODWARD, JACK

590/A

CREEL, E V
HICKS (W), HARRY
HOUSE, PETE
KINGERY, HUGH M.
PEROS, GEORGE

YOUNG, EDWARD E

591/HQ

BOOKHEIMER, MERRILL
MCMICHAEL, BRYCE D
PANICE, RAYMOND H
VANDERHEYDEN, DONALD
WILLIAMS, OLIVER G

591/B

STAUFF, JOHN H

591/SV

DATTE, CHARLES
HOWARD, JOHN W
RINGER, ROBERT C

592/HQ

ELLIOTT, ADAMS E
LAUMAN, CLARENCE (PETE)

592/A

BREUKER, ALBERT
HARTMAN, WILLARD G

592/B

WHITE, ROBERT L

592/C

ROBERTS, JOHN M

592/SV

GILLILAND, JOHN O
HARTLIEB, GLENN O
JOHANSEN, CHARLES H

ASSOCIATE

BETHEA, CHARLES A
FORD JR, DAVID J
GERARD (BELGIUM), VIN-
CENT
MAES (BELGIUM), ROGER
PIERCE, MARJORIE J
ROUGEOU, KENNETH E

ORDER OF THE GOLDEN LION

Awards made during the 51st Annual Reunion at Nashville, Tennessee September 1997

Richard L. Rigatti, 423/B, Commander Class

Joined Association 1987; Elected to the Board of Directors during the Huntsville Reunion 1991 to 1996; Served on several committees; was active in arranging the very successful 1992 Pittsburgh Reunion; made his way through the chairs and attained presidency during the Orlando Reunion in 1995; made arrangements with Poole for the Quartermaster Store; represented the 106th at the 50th Anniversary Celebration, Washington DC; initiated a strong drive on activating more interest in the annual Mini-Reunions (Dec 16 Commemorations); iniated the Long Range Planning Committee and insisted on establishing a backup person for each of the active Officers.

Thoms J. Riggs, Jr., 81st ENG, CO, Commander Class

Joined the Association in 1972 during which time he was instrumental in enlisting many of the 81st Engineers into the organization; elected to the Board of Directors in 1993; elected as president in 1994 at the Orlando Reunion; attended Memorial Services at the Camp Atterbury Memorial and was guest speaker in July 1995; overhauled the Order of the Golden Lion and insisted on rewarding several Order of the Golden Lion recipients that had been overlooked.

Michael Thome, 423/HQ 1Bn, Commander Class

Joined the Association in 1985; was elected to the Board of Directors in 1989 to 1992; Acted as Chairman of the 44th Annual Reunion at Sacramento in 1990, was taken ill the first day of the reunion, but had laid in place an excellent reunion. Edward Prewett took over after Mike went to the hospital and executed the plans to the accomplishment of a great reunion. Mike represented the 106th Infantry Division at the Dedication Ceremony of the Camp Atterbury Memorial 15 August 1992; was very active in the local Mini-Reunions.

H I S T O R Y O F A W A R D S

GOLD-COMMANDER		SILVER-OFFICER		BRONZE-COMPANION	
'48	David Price	'47	Herbert Livesey, Jr.	'64	Majorie DeHeer
'62	Douglas Coffey	'78	Robert Scranton	'66	Kay Loveless
'64	Richard DeHeer	'86	Walter Bandurak	'72	Wilda McMahan
'66	John Loveless, Jr	'86	Robert Pierce, Jr.	'75	Maydean Wells
'72	Leo McMahan	'90	Sam Cariano	'87	Jackie Villwock
'73	Sherod Collins	'91	John Kline	'87	Jean Gilder
'74	John Gallagher	'93	Boyd Rutledge	'94	Mattie Rutland
'75	James Wells	'93	Gilbert Helwig	'94	Lee Gilliland
'87	Russel Villwock	'95	O. Paul Merz	'95	Dan Bied
'87	Robert Gilder	'95	Richard Peterson	'96	Reddie Prewett
'94	Roger Rutland	'95	T. Wayne Black	'96	Jack M. Janicke
'94	John Gilliland	'96	Pete House	'96	
'95	John Kline	'96	Duward Frampton Jr		
'95	Jack Sulser			NON-MEMBERS	
'95	Ewell Black, Jr.		Cedric Foster	'47	Gold-Commentator
'95	John Robb		Duward Frampton	'47	Gold-Agony Grapevine
'95	Kenneth Bradfield		Annette Frampton	'47	Gold-Agony Grapevine
'96	Edward A. Prewett		William Simpson	'47	Gold-Indianapolis Hosts
'97	Richard L. Rigatti		Florence Simpson	'47	Gold-Indianapolis Hosts
'97	Thomas J. Riggs, Jr.		Joe E. Brown	'47	Bronze-Movie Star
'97	Michael Thome		Marjorie Rathbone	'47	Bronze-Asst Sec. Assoc.
			George Denny	'47	Bronze-Mayor, Indpls
			Ralph F. Gates	'47	Bronze-Governor, Ind.
			Howard Maxwell	'47	Bronze-Adj. Gen, Ind.
			Frank Henly	'47	Silver-VWV Memorial
			Robert Tyndall	'47	Bronze-Mayor, Indpls
			Ben Watt	'47	Bronze-Supt Schools Ind.
			B.G. Elmer Sherwood	'47	Bronze-Ind. State Guard
			Dr. Maurice DELAVAL	'62	Silver-Belgium friend 106

IMPORTANT 1998 SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scholarships will again be given in 1998 to descendants of living and deceased members of the 106th Infantry Division. Descendants have been defined by the Board of Directors to include the following:

CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN Children are defined as the member's natural children and children acquired through marriage or adoption or as foster children AND who lived in the member's household when they were minors. Grandchildren are defined as the children of the children defined above. '

NIECES, NEPHEWS, GRANDNIECES AND GRANDNEPHEWS

Applicants must be nominated by a member of the 106th Infantry Division Association or his widow, if he was a member at death. A members' letter of nomination should state the following: I nominate (*followed by the applicant's name*); The relationship of the member to the person nominated.; The member's 106th Infantry Division affiliation (unit).

SCHOLARSHIP VALUE

The scholarships awarded will be in the amounts of \$500 or \$1,000.

To receive an application for the scholarship please write to:

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE - 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

John A. Gregory, 4624 Ashton Dr., Sacramento, CA 95864 - 916-481-3353

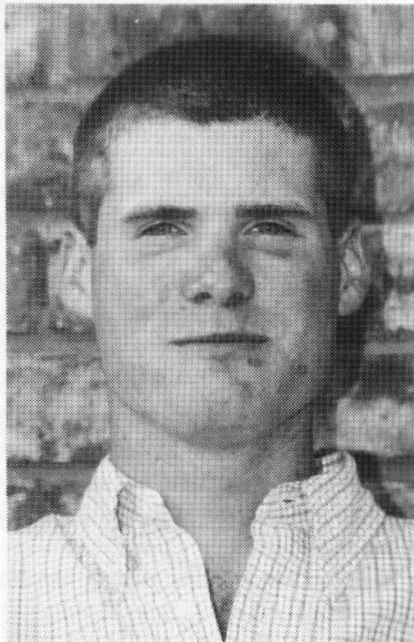
Deadline for submitting an application and accompanying material is 30 April 1998.

A Self Addressed Envelope Must Be Included!

FIVE 1997 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Claire A. Brannstrom, Granddaughter of Arnold Brannstrom (deceased) 422/E
University of Wisconsin-Madison



William Venegoni, Grandson of Vincent Venegoni,
423/M - University of Texas, Dallas

Photos and descriptions continued on Page 46

**Sheraton Music City Hotel
Nashville, Tennessee
August 28 - September 2, 1997**

WHEREAS, members of the 106th Infantry Division Association have assembled, renewed old friendships, and celebrated with pride their 51st Annual reunion, and met to pray for and honor with respects comrades who have passed on before, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the association assembled does hereby recognize and express sincere thanks and appreciation:

TO: Convention Chairman JOHN and LEE Gilliland with Committee members WALTER and BARBARA BRIDGES, JOE and HAZEL MASSEY, FAYE LAMBERT, together with Nashville assistance from BILL and MARGE MALONE, and others for their unstinting and devoted work in planning, organizing, and conducting this reunion.

TO: CINDY FRUEND and her staff at the Sheraton Music Center Hotel for their hospitality and friendly service

TO: ANNE MARIE FORD, Opryland Speciality Sales, and STEVE WHITLEY, Opryland Manager for Tours, for courteous and effective assistance in those events

TO: The Nashville Metropolitan Police, LT STONE, for the impressive Color Guard Ceremony

TO: MARK KINSEY for his delightful entertainment at the reception

TO: ROGER BRASHER of the Jack Daniels Distillery for assistance with the tour and entertainment

And finally be it

RESOLVED that these resolutions be published in THE CUB and a copy sent to each of the persons and organizations cited above.

Given this 1st day of September, 1997 at Nashville, Tennessee.

For the Resolutions Committee
Earl Creel, Acting Chairman

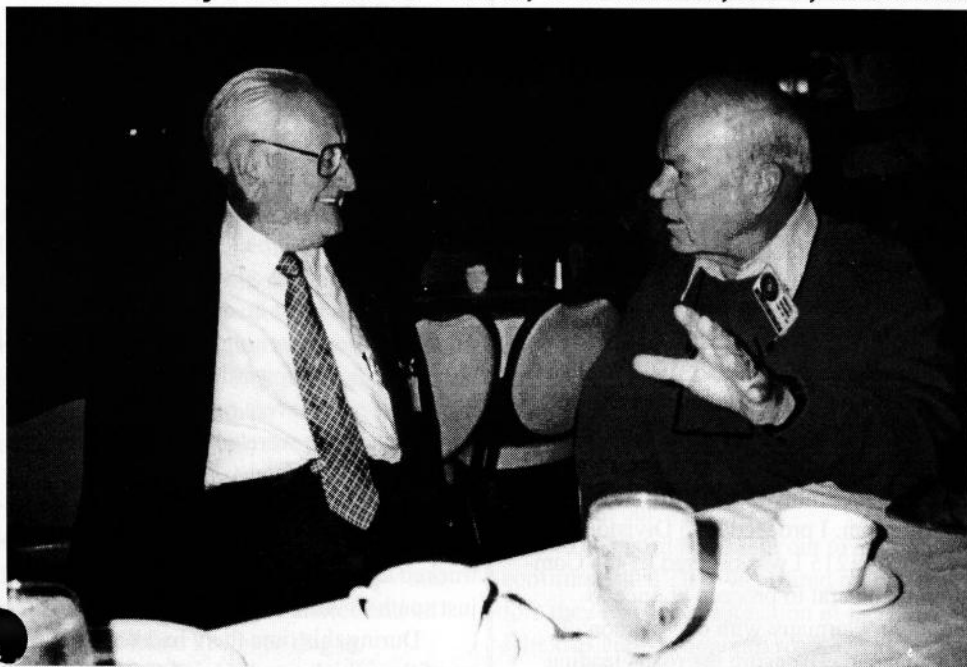
Attested by
Pete House, Adjutant

2ND BATTALION, 423RD INFANTRY, 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION.

ACTION 16-19 DECEMBER 1944.

By Lt Col Joseph F. Puett, Bn C.O.

With Notes By 2/Lt Oliver B. Patton, CO 2nd Plat, Co F, 423rd Inf.



Colonel Joseph F. Puett, (left) CO, 423/HQ 2Bn and Brigadier General Oliver Patton, (USA Ret) CO 2nd Plat, Co F, 423rd Inf., at one of the 106th Infantry Division Association's Reunions. Patton noted on this photo, "Years later, Lieutenant Patton was still trying to explain to his Battalion Commander how he loused up the ambush of a German patrol the morning of 18 December on the Auw-Bleialf road. Colonel Puett is more amused here than he was in 1944."

In 1945, probably early in April, Lt Col Puett wrote or dictated a report to a member of the staff of the Adjutant General, 106th Inf Div. Col Puett must have made this report shortly after he was freed from a German POW camp.

On 17 April 1945, Lt Col Puett and Capt Joshua P. Sutherland, Battalion Surgeon, 2nd Bn, 423rd Inf, were interviewed by John G. Westover who identified himself only as "Historian." Some forty years later I came into possession of copies of these two reports by Lt Col Puett. The content of the interview by Westover appears to be an expansion of the earlier report by Lt Col Puett.

As a 2nd Lt, commanding 2nd Platoon, Company F 423d Inf Regt, I took part in the

action of Lt Col Puett's battalion and I set about annotating his first report, adding my own memory of the action described and details from other sources.

Lt Col Puett's first report or "CERTIFICATE" as annotated by me is quoted verbatim below. *My notes are in no sense an attempt to contradict Col Puett but only to add my personal recollection of the events reported and pertinent comment by various historians.* While studying his report I tried to check my memory and that of Col Puett against historical sources available to me and those sources are listed in the "Notes" following the annotated copy of Col Puett's first report. His second report with no notes by me appears verbatim following the first.

O.B. Patton
Brig Gen, U.S.A., Ret.
3 November 1994

FIRST REPORT BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOSEPH PUETT

"C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

MOVEMENTS AND ACTIONS OF 2nd BATTALION 423D INFANTRY FROM 16TH TO 19TH DECEMBER 1944

On 16th of December 1944 the battalion was billeted with Co's G, H, and Hq Co at Born Belgium and E and F Co at Medell, Belgium in Division

Reserve. At approximately 0700, the Bn was alerted for immediate movement, upon receipt of 30 2-1/2 ton trucks, furnished by Division Headquarters.

Upon receipt of 28 trucks the Bn was ordered to an assembly area 1 mile north of St. Vith, Belgium. I proceeded to Division Headquarters. At 1215 I was ordered by the Commanding General to proceed at once to Schonberg, Germany with one platoon of TD's attached. To secure the roads leading north and east from Schonberg. This was done and the advance elements of the Bn arrived at Schonberg at 1315, and immediately began digging in. The defensive set up of the roads and Schonberg was completed at 1730. Telephone communications with Division had been effected at 1345. At 1400 reconnaissance [reconnaissance] patrols both foot and motorized had been put out, and reported each half hour. All roads to the North and East, till contact with front line friendly units were established.

At approximately 0830¹ the Bn was ordered by the Commanding General to proceed to the high ground just South of Auw Belgium and to extricate the 589th FA Bn and to release the trucks upon arrival at this point.²

Just before receipt of this order, 2nd Bn patrols had reported the fast withdrawal of Cavalry and Engineer units from their positions between Andler and Auw. This was reported to Division. Two of my patrols had

skirmishes with German patrols about 1-1/2 miles to the North of our positions at Schonberg, with our receiving two casualties.³ This was reported. At 0845⁴ the Cavalry and Engineer units came streaming from the North through Schonberg retreating towards St Vith. At 0900.⁵

I stopped the Commanding Officer of the Cavalry Troop and ask him if he were going to make a stand. He informed he that he was, and that they were laying a mine field at Andler. I informed him of my orders to move and also told him if he let Schonberg fall into enemy hands that two Regiments would be cut off. He said that he could hold—he knew till late the next morning. However, this officer proceeded on toward St Vith. Those facts and conversation were reported to Division, and I ask if there were any change of orders. There were none.

The 2nd Bn was withdrawn from its dug in positions defending Schonberg and entrucked and proceeded to the high ground just south of Auw at 2200.⁶

During this time there had been no let up of the vehicles and men of the Cavalry and Engineer units retreating toward St Vith. This was reported to Division as late as 2200 as telephone communications was broken for the move. The move was made in complete blackout with a drizzley rain and without loss of a vehicle.

The Bn arrived at the 589th Bn CP at 0030 17th December and detrucked and the trucks released as ordered at 0045.

The Bn at once went into position between the 589th FA Bn and the enemy except for one Btry which was impossible to do as the enemy was well dug in and with armor on side of a hill overlooking the Battery's positions. At 0200 telephone communications were established with Division and the situation was thoroughly explained to the Commanding General and I ask to launch a night attack to relieve this battery. This was denied and instructions were given that I should not get so heavily engaged that I couldn't break contact with the enemy.

We endeavored to divert the enemy's attention from the FA Battery by a patrol in force but then discovered that the Battery was so stuck in mud that it was impossible to get out but three trucks, with aid of bulldozer. This would be impossible to do by daylight. Permission was then granted the Artillery Battalion Commander by Division to destroy guns and equipment at 0615, just before day-break.

Upon arrival at the 589th Area patrols had been sent out and one patrol to our right flank had the mission of contacting the unit on our right, the 422d Infantry whose rear was about 2500 yards to our right flank. This was done, and contact was made with Cannon Co 422d Infantry. This patrol also discovered 3 German Tiger tanks,⁷ on the road that lead off of our right flank toward the East.

At 0530 our patrols to the front reported that the activity of the enemy it seemed that they were getting ready for an armored attack along the road that ran south from Auw into our positions. All units were alerted and all anti-tank weapons had been dug in.

At about 0700 (daylight) the three enemy tanks that the patrol had reported on road to our right flank came up. The three were immediately knocked out at very close range (300 yards) 1 by our 57mm Bn anti-tank gun and 2 by the attached TD platoon. Two of these tanks burned where hit.

A few minutes after this action it was noted that German Armor was approaching along road to our front. In this engagement I noted 4 more tanks that were knocked out and the road practically blocked by them. Enemy infantry were riding these latter tanks. Along our left enemy Infantry attacked at the same time as the tanks, however these attacks had been beaten off by 0830. In this action we had lost 2 of the three 57MM Anti-tank guns and 2 of the 4 guns of the attached TD platoon.⁸ These had been hit by enemy Armor in place about 8000 yards to our left flank on high ground. We had suffered only 5 dead and 10 [or 15? Original illegible] wounded in this attack. Communications with

Division had been lost at 0645. Three batteries of the 589th FA Bn had gotten out. So to obey orders not to get heavily engaged and with both flanks exposed, I ordered a withdrawal to Schonberg at 0845 and immediately sent reconnaissance to Schonberg. At 0930 this patrol returned with two members of a five man patrol which I had left in Schonberg. Their members of a five man patrol vehicle had been destroyed by enemy fire with the other three casualties.⁹ These men had come on foot from Schonberg, and stated that German armor in force had arrived in Schonberg at about 0300 17th December and had knocked out the last two vehicles of the withdrawing 589th FA Bn as it passed through Schonberg, and that German armor was also there hub to hub on the Bleialf-Schonberg road from the junction of the Radscheid road into Schonberg.¹⁰ This was the road we had to travel in our withdrawal.

The patrol I had sent out to Schonberg confirmed this. They were fired on just before they reached the junction of the Radscheid-Bleialf-Schonberg road.

Realizing, then that I was cut off from any withdrawal in that direction to west to St. Vith by at least a German Panzer Division, and from 10 prisoners we had captured learning they were from two different Panzer Divisions.¹¹ I didn't think I had the power to try and break through them. I had no communication with Division as my only radio had been hit early in the morning. I decided to withdraw to the rear of my Regiment (423d) which way was clear, and place myself under command of Regiment. This I did and by his¹² order formed with the rest of the Regiment formed a perimeter defense, my Bn facing West and southwest. This was accomplished by 1430 17th December and remained in these positions until 1000 18 December.

At about 0600 the Bn received regimental orders to move out as the advance guard of the regiment and move to the south-west and do as much damage as possible to a German Armored Column which was on the St.

Vith Schonberg road with head about 5 miles from Schonberg. We moved out at 1000 with "E" Co leading. "F" "H" and "G" Company in Column.¹³

The leading elements were fired on at the cross roads of cut off road [Engineer Cut-off?] and the Auw-Bleialf road at 1110.¹⁴ "E" Company deployed to the left of our advance, and attempted to push enemy to south and clear road. It was very open country and "E" Company encountered very heavy MG, Motor [mortar?] and rocket fire. "F" Company (less 1 platoon at St Vith attached to Div Hq¹⁵ was deployed to "E" Co's right. After very heavy fighting "E" Co with 1 MG platoon and 81MM Motors [mortars?] of H Company succeeded in taking hill 1500 yards to south of cross Roads. During the engagement "E" Company had approximately 60 casualties. "H" Company 37 casualties and "F" Company 16 casualties.¹⁶ The Hill was taken at 1320. Just before this time the enemy reinforced their troops and we were fighting a reinforced enemy regiment and could gain no more, but inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. "G" Company at 1345 with 1 MG platoon of "H" Company and supported by an 81 MM platoon attempted to break through to the Bleialf-Schönberg road. They got to this road after heavy fighting, but were unable to advance farther than this road which ran west [northwest].

In the meantime the 3d Bn had been committed to our right [north] but could not advance across the road.¹⁷

We continued to attack till dark with all companies committed. By dark on [at] about 1900 the Bn had suffered approximately 300 casualties and had no 81 MM ammunition and only 2 rds per mortar of 60 MM ammunition. We had lost 5 heavy MG's and 4 light MG's. We had 375 rds of ammunition per MG left and 16 officer casualties.¹⁸

At dark we consolidated and dug in for the night.

At 2330 orders were received to pull out and cross Auw-Schonberg road about 1000 yards to north of our engagement and assem-

ble in rear of 3d Bn.¹⁹ This was accomplished by 0400 of 19th December along with 1st Bn.

At 0915 [19 Dec] orders were received to attack Schönberg at 1000 and do as much damage as possible for the "good of the nation."²⁰ At 0930, as we were preparing to move out, we received a very heavy enemy artillery concentration and many casualties were suffered. However at 1000 we moved out with 1st and 3rd Bn leading and the 2d Bn following echolnd [echeloned?] to right rear. Woods were very heavy and about 1115, the 1st and 3d Bns met resistance, at edge of woods. The 2d Bn had side slipped about 500 yds to right of 1st Bn and we came up on their right at this distance with a deep draw between us.

At 1300 seeing that the other Bns were held up by fire to our left front, I sent message to regiment [regiment?] asking to be allowed to attack these enemy positions. At 1400 not having received any kind of communication, and realizing how difficult communications were due to heavy woods and hill terrain, I gave orders to attack to relieve pressure on 1st and 3d Bn at 1430. At 1425 the 422d Infantry came up on us from our right rear and mistook us for enemy and disrupted our plans for attack before we could get them to stop firing.

During the reorganization I sent out patrols to our front and right. At 1515 [1515?] these patrols returned while I was in conference with regiment commander of 422d Infantry and informed me that to our right about 1500 yards were 35 German tanks and several self-propelled artillery pieces. And to our front were strong German armored forces,²¹ and that 2000 yards to our right front German artillery was going into position facing our formations. I immediately went on reconniacence [reconnaissance] to check this information and when I returned was informed by the Regt Commander 422d Inf [Colonel George L. Descheneaux, Jr.] that he had ordered all arms destroyed and had sent an immersery [emissary?] to the en-

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FOR THE 51ST ANNUAL REUNION 1998.**

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Arrival Date: _____ Arrival Time: _____

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Additional Guest(s): _____

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Room type preference:

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- Deluxe Guest Room
- One Bedroom Suite
- Hospitality Suite

Single	Double	Triple	Quadruple
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Signature of Card Holder

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FOR THE 51ST ANNUAL REUNION
SEPTEMBER 9 - 13, 1998.**

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emy to surrender, in order not to waste lives needlessly. I then ask permission to withdraw my Bn, around the draw to our left and join my Regiment. (423). This was denied as it might cause the 422d to be shot up needlessly.

I then gave orders that anyone in my Bn could try to reach American lines in small groups who so desired. About 50 took advantage of this.

At 1700 the Germans came up and took us in custody.

At the time of my return from reconnaissance [reconnaissance] I had only 387 men left in the Bn and 14 officers, 3 heavy MG's 2 light MG's and 2 60 MM Mortars with 3 rds each.

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Joseph F Puett

/s/ Vollie L. McCollum

/t/ JOSEPH F. PUETT

/t / VOLLIE L. MCCOLLUM

Lt Col, Inf,

CWO, U.S.A.

Bn Comdr 2d Bn 423d Inf

Asst Adj Gen till 19th Dec 1944."

PATTON NOTES REFERENCE LT

COL PUETT'S 1ST REPORT

1. Time given seems unlikely. Must be either 1830 [6:30 pm] or 2030 [8:30 pm] . My guess is 2030 [8:30 pm] . See Note 6, below.

2. Just after receiving this order, Puett sent me with a jeep patrol to locate 589th FA Bn. I reached 589th late that night via Schönberg-Bleialf road to Engineer Cut-off, through Cut-off to Bleialf-Auw road, then northeast to 589th just south of Auw, evading a German patrol in vicinity of Engineer Cut-off. I picked up a guide from the 589th and returned to Schönberg by same route. Saw no enemy on return trip. [See Eisenhower, pp. 200-202, for earlier account of this].

I wish Col Puett's account shed more light on the order he received from General Jones to leave Schönberg late on 16 December and go to the assistance of 589th and 590th FA Bns near Auw. Cole [p. 156] says

"Apparently General Jones intended that the battalion should turn north to Andler and push aside the enemy along the Auw-Andler-Schönberg road. Puett, however, got on the wrong road and turned south, leaving the northern approach to Schönberg open." Eisenhower [p. 200] says Jones "intended to close the gap between the 422nd Infantry and the cavalry at Andler and cover the open northern flank of the 422d. But in the 'fog of war,' Jones' intentions seem to have been misconstrued by the battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph F. Puett."

I do not believe Col Puett either "misconstrued" his orders or "got on the wrong road." His report indicates exactly what he thought about leaving Schönberg in the hands of retreating cavalymen and he reported those thoughts to General Jones, asking if there were any change in his orders. Puett says "There were none," and that indicates to me Jones knew what route Puett intended to take and made no objection. Note that Macdonald [p. 123] does not say Puett "got on the wrong road" and he alone of these three historians cites correspondence with Puett [p. 663] as one of his sources. Cole also says [p.156] Puett's battalion ultimately found its way through the dark across country to the 589th FA Bn, and that is wrong. The battalion truck column followed the same route from Schönberg to Auw as I had earlier, guided by an artilleryman I brought back for that purpose. Where Cole got his "cross-country" notion is beyond me; I do not believe it was possible to take a convoy of loaded trucks across country from Schönberg to Auw.

At a reunion in 1988 of veterans of the 106th Inf Div I gave Col Puett a copy of my annotation of his report. He approved of it and remarked on the above note: "You're right about that order I got to leave Schönberg. I told those people what would happen if I pulled out."

3. Exactly where this contact occurred is not clear. Andler is about 1-1/2 miles north of Schönberg and other accounts say B/18th

Cav Sqdn held the town until the morning of 17 December. Perhaps German patrols of the 18th VG Div were infiltrating around Andler during the night of 16 December.

4. "0845" here must mean 8:45 pm [2045].

5. "0900" here must mean 9:00 pm [2100].

6. "2200" is doubtless correct. Puett says in his next paragraph, "This was reported to Division as late as 2200 as telephone communications was broken for the move." If 2200 is correct here, the later times cited in Notes 1, 4, and 5 are correct.

7. I doubt these were Tiger tanks. I was there and I thought they were tanks but post-war reports prove me wrong. The left flank of the 106th Inf Div was attacked by the 294th and 295th VG Inf Regts, 18th VG Div, reinforced by a German Corps unit, 244th Assault Gun Bde. Some of the division's 1818th Tank Destroyer Bn was doubtless also present but 18th VG Div had no tanks. German assault guns and TD's were generally a tank chassis mounting guns or howitzers of various caliber. They looked like tanks to us and we were likely to call any German tank a Tiger.

8. Tank destroyers with us were probably 3-inch guns towed by half-tracks of the 820th TD Bn, which was attached to 106th Inf Div.

9. This sentence, "Their members . . . other three casualties." is hard to untangle but I think it means, of a five-member motorized patrol left in Schönberg, only two men survived. They were picked up by another motorized patrol sent by Puett toward Schönberg from the vicinity of Auw when he decided to withdraw from there.

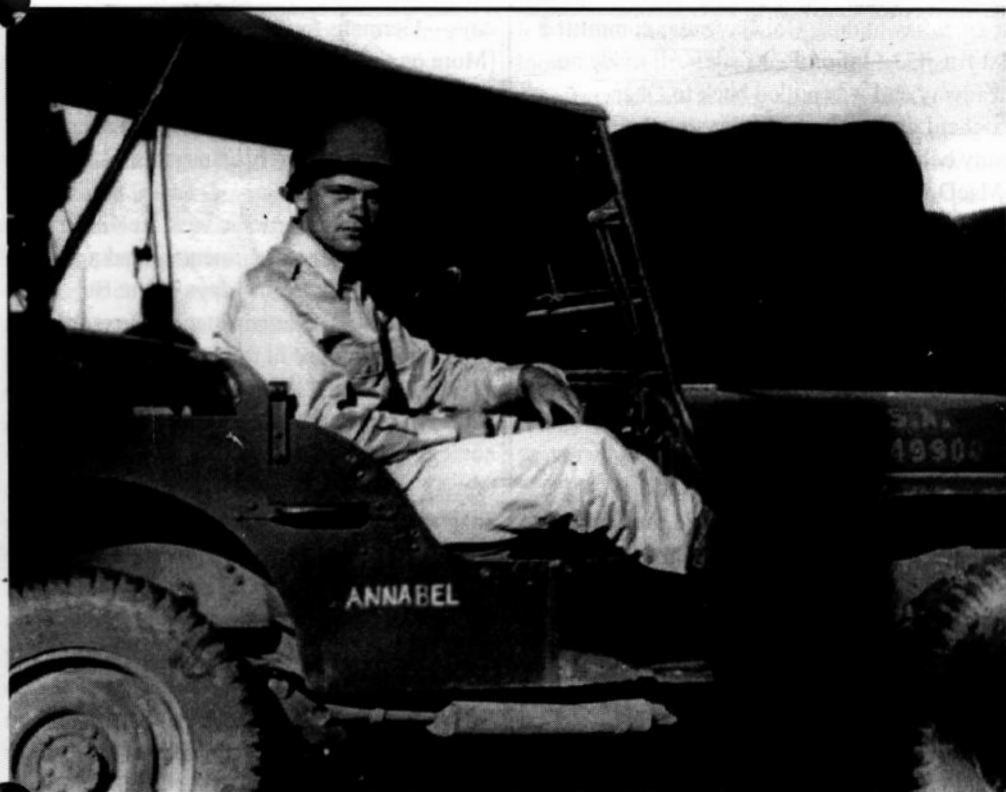
10. Most sources say elements of 18th VG Div did not reach Schönberg from Andler until about daylight 17 December. MacDonald [p.318] says the regiment [293d] of the 18th VG Div "supposed to move from Bleialf to Schönberg. . . were slow to push through little groups of Americans they encountered along the road, so that not until

nightfall [17 December] did the German pinners actually close at Schönberg." It made small difference to us. I think we knew of but one bridge back over the Our River at Schönberg and Germans from Auw seized that early 17 December.

11. Puett's estimate of German forces blocking his withdrawal from Auw to Schönberg seems high. There may have been other German units spilling into our sector from the north but most sources say the pinners closed behind his battalion and the two U.S. regiments on the Schnee Eifel consisted of the three reinforced regiments of the 18th VG Div. Perhaps prisoners taken by 2nd Bn had been drafted into the 18th VG from hospitals or other units and claimed they still belonged to those units.

12. Colonel C.C. Cavender, CO, 423d Inf Regt?

13. This order must have been Col Cavender's reaction to an order from Division to 422nd and 423rd Inf Regts at 0215 on 18 December to leave their Schnee Eifel positions and fight their way out of German enclement, destroying the enemy on the Schönberg-St. Vith Road [MacDonald p. 339]. According to MacDonald the order was ambiguous: the two regiments were "to destroy enemy by fire from dug-in positions south of Schönberg-St. Vith road." Col Cavender [423rd] and Col Descheneux [CO, 422d Inf Regt], according to MacDonald, concluded they were to attack southwest across Bleialf-Schönberg road to the Our River downstream from Schönberg in the vicinity of Setz, there to dig in and put fire on the Schönberg-St. Vith road north of the river. Cavender and Descheneux, said MacDonald, thought this was to support a relieving attack by 7th Armored Div moving southeast from St. Vith. According to MacDonald, Gen Jones, CG 106th Inf Div, named no overall commander for the attack. Cavender made no attempt to assert his seniority but he and Descheneux coordinated a plan by which the two regiments would attack 18 December in column of battalions,



Caption by Patton: Ollie Patton just before he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in June 1944. In September he joined the 423rd at Camp Attervury and in 1945 he married the girl the Jeep was named for.

423rd Regt leading.

14. Some time before 2/423d Inf moved out 18 December, Lt Col Puett gave me another patrol mission. With 11 men of my platoon and 16 men of the regimental I&R Platoon with an SCR 300 radio, I was to move west from the regimental perimeter to seek contact with the Germans. I set up a patrol base in a building near the intersection of the Bleialf-Auw road and a farm track leading northwest toward Schönberg; sent the I&R Platoon group up this farm road, three men north toward Auw and six men south toward the Engineer Cut-off. About 1100 Dec 18th, the get-away man of the I&R patrol returned to report a large body of Germans encountered, the remainder of the patrol lost. The patrol to the north returned, reporting no contact with Germans. The patrol to the south reported Germans moving north on the Bleialf-Auw road [perhaps from 293d VG Regt] and I set up an ambush. One or two

Germans entering the ambush were killed but others escaped and simultaneously Puett's battalion emerged on the Auw-Bleialf road, turned southeast and encountered more Germans near the upper exit from the Engineer Cut-off, killing four and capturing one. Returning what was left of my patrol to the regiment, I reported to Lt Col Puett, bringing him a rifle taken from one of the dead Germans, a semi-automatic weapon, the first such encountered. It was probably a Gewehr 44. [More on this in Eisenhower, pp. 251-252] .

15. This was 3rd Platoon, F/423 Inf Regt, commanded by 2/Lt Bertsche. It fought with the Engineer Task Force Riggs and shared in the defense of St Vith.

16. In this attack F/423 encountered hastily dug-in German infantry in heavy woods. I was slightly wounded, not seriously enough to go to an aid station. [More on this in Eisenhower, p. 252] .

17. Puett does not mention that other

sources say at dusk Col Cavender committed 1st Bn, 423d Inf on Puett's left. It made no headway and was pulled back to Oberlascheid during the night, leaving A Company behind, unable to withdraw. [MacDonald p. 340].

18. My notes on this action, written in January 1945 while a POW, add some details at platoon level [I commanded 2d Platoon, F Co]:

"After morning patrol [Note 14] re-joined platoon with F Company and led it in attack toward Bleialf-Schönberg road. Slight wound—grenade splinters in hand and wrist. About 1500 reached road but could not cross it. Many German trucks, assault guns and half-tracks with multiple AA guns. Infantry accompanying. Asked for support by Bn heavy weapons company but messenger reported none available; Capt Zullig, [CO F/423] and Schnitzlein [2/Lt, CO 1st Platoon, F Co] with his platoon were separated from company and 1/Lt Brownell [F Co Exec] was in command. Another messenger sent asking for help returned said Brownell badly wounded, 1/Lt Dempsey [CO, Weapons Platoon, F/423] in command. No help. H Company [Heavy Weapons] fully committed. Messenger wounded while returning. Sent him to aid station. About 1530 went to company CP to ask mortar support and found Dempsey wounded. Returned to platoon with Thompson [my messenger]. German MG and mortar fire. No contact with E Co on left, heavy enemy fire from that direction. 1 LMG and 1 60mm mortar with platoon but little ammunition left. H Co trucks and jeeps moving north behind us under mortar and artillery fire. Messenger from F Company 1st Sergeant [Dunbar] brought order to pull back from road and dig in. Went with Thompson to tell men in woods to fall back. About 1600 hit badly, both legs. Thompson got an H Co jeep to take me to aid station [Radscheid?]. Some time that night Doc Sutherland [Bn Surgeon] said regiment had orders attack Schönberg. Medical orderly stays with wounded who cannot walk. Next day—maybe two

days—Germans found basement aid station." [More on this in Eisenhower, p. 253.]

The medical corpsman, Kenneth Hunt, who stayed with the wounded in the abandoned aid station told his story in a letter of 6 October 1987:

"... I was a medic with the 423rd medical detachment, regimental headquarters. During the first few days of the Bulge we had established an aid station in an abandoned stucco house in the Schnee Eifel area, a few miles from Gerolstein. I don't remember if we were in the town of Radscheid or not. On both the 16th and 17th I spent most of my time helping carry litter cases to the aid station from various positions on the field. I was exposed to enough cold and snow to develop frostbite in both feet. By December 18th, we were treating about 25 or 30 wounded Americans. We had also captured 4 Germans who were only slightly wounded. What I remember about them is that they were very young, about 16 or so. They were smiling and joking among themselves. The war was over for them, they were going to an 'American rest camp.' Most of our men had severe wounds. Some had been hit in the stomach or chest. It was also on the 18th that the 423rd regiment was attacked on all sides. It was evident that we were surrounded and in an untenable position. It was either on the 18th or early 19th that Colonel Cavender [CO, 423rd Inf Regt] gave orders for the regiment to move out and try to escape the pocket. Major Fridline [Gaylord Fridline, CO, Medical Det, 423rd Inf Regt] was now faced with a problem; what to do with the wounded. We were cut off from the battalion field hospital so they couldn't be sent back there. And many would not survive the ordeal of moving with the regiment. The best decision was to leave them in the aid station with enough supplies to last a few days and to return for them as soon as possible. Major Fridline asked for two medics to stay with the wounded. It was no problem for me to decide to stay behind. My feet were really giving me trouble. I knew that I could never keep up if

we had to make a forced march. I have forgotten the name of the other medic who volunteered. I do remember that he was Jewish and I thought that it took a lot of courage for him to stay behind since he knew that he would be captured by the Germans. Several doctors also offered to stay behind, but the Major knew the regiment would need all the medical help it could get if they ran into trouble ahead. I was disappointed that we wouldn't have a doctor with us, but I was confident that some one would be back for us in a day or two. Major Fridline made sure that we were left with plenty of bandages, plasma, and drugs. He told us not to spare the morphine to relieve pain. The cooks gave us several cases of "C" rations, 'K' bars and about two dozen loaves of bread. There was a well and pump out side the house so we had plenty of water. The house we were in had only one story, but it had a large warm basement with a wood burning stove. All the wounded stayed down there. It was easier to care for them when they were all in one spot. 4 Germans were there, too, and they kept smiling and talking to each other. They looked forward to chow time. They really loved those 'C' rations. I remember that among the wounded Americans were two officers, a first and a second lieutenant [First Lieutenant Donald Brownell, Executive Officer, Company F, 423rd Infantry. He died of his wounds a few days later. Second Lieutenant Oliver Patton, CO, 2nd Platoon, Company F, 423rd Infantry]. They were both litter cases but they didn't give us much trouble. One of our men had a severe stomach wound which was bleeding. We discovered it is hard to find a vein of a person who has lost a lot of blood, but we gave him several pints over a three day period. Another patient had a broken arm and was in a lot of pain. He complained that his bandage was too tight and asked me to loosen it. I did but soon discovered that this was a mistake. His arm was badly shattered and the pain was unbearable. I gave him a stiff shot of morphine and tightened it again. It was not long after we were

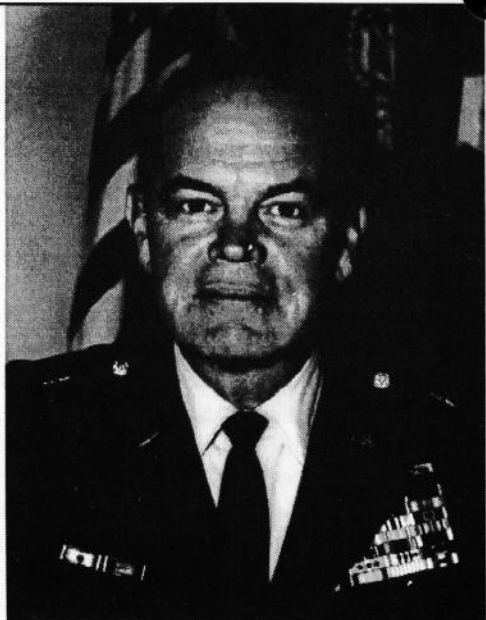
left behind that the proverbial hell broke loose outside. We heard rifle and machine gun fire and saw artillery flashing. Soon we heard vehicles, tanks, and trucks going along the road. I looked out the window and saw the entire German army passing by. Our patients in the basement could hear but not see the commotion. 'What's going on out there?' they asked. 'Those are our men,' I replied. 'They'll pick us up as soon as they can.' It was not until the 4th day that we heard a loud knock on the door. By that time our supplies were running out and our morale was low. Some of the men were in very bad shape. Luckily, or perhaps miraculously, we hadn't lost anybody, but there was plenty of moaning going on. I was hoping some nice Germans would come by and take everyone to a clean hospital. As I was going to open the door I was glad to see that our red cross flag was still flying outside and I straightened the band [medic's red cross arm band] on my arm. As soon as I opened the door I felt a rifle barrel in my stomach. It was held by a German sergeant, and next to him was a SS officer. They ordered that I raise my hands while they searched for weapons. When they discovered that I wasn't armed, they relaxed a bit. The sergeant said, 'Don't you Americans know that you should be home for Christmas?' He laughed sarcastically. Those were the only English words he knew. 'Do you have any wounded Germans inside?' the officer asked. 'Yes, four.' 'Let us see them.' We went into the basement. When the men saw the Germans they were silent. Even the German patients looked grim. 'How have you been treated?' the officer asked. One of the Germans replied, 'The medics treated us just like their own men. They even gave us white bread to eat.' The next four days which followed were among the saddest in my life. The Germans tossed the American wounded in a truck without regard to the seriousness of their wounds and drove off over an unpaved road. I am sure that many of them did not survive that trip . . ."

19. According to MacDonald [p. 340]

this must have been in response to the last message from Division received by 423d Inf: "Attack Schönberg; do maximum damage to enemy there; then attack toward St. Vith. This message is of gravest importance to the nation. Good luck."

20. 3D Bn on 18 December had pushed northwest along Bleialf-Schönberg road to within half a mile of Schönberg. Dupuy [p.126] says, here parts of F Co, 422nd Inf and F Co, 423rd Inf drifted into their perimeter [the night of 18-19 December]. After dark, says Cole [p. 168] what was left of 1st and 2nd Bns joined 3rd Bn. By that time, he says, the regiment had some 300 casualties including 16 officers [note these are same casualty figures reported by Puett in 2nd Bn alone]. Cole adds that 81mm mortars were out of ammunition, most of the machine guns were gone, there remained few rockets for the bazookas and rifle ammunition was low.

Jack Sulser says the part of F Co, 423rd Inf, mentioned by Dupuy [p.126]: "... was made up of five members of our machine gun section, including S/Sgt Wilkinson, Sgt Herrera and myself, and four men from our mortar section, including Pfc Hobbs and Pfc Howard Smith. However, we had no machine guns or mortars; only personal weapons. Wilkinson, Hererra and I had M-1's, the others had carbines or pistols. During the fruitless attempts to regain Schönberg the next day [19 Dec], Wilkinson and Hererra and others were wounded and went off to an aid station. The 'reserve platoon' Dupuy refers to [p. 139] with Capt J.S. Huyatt's L Company, 423rd Inf consisted of six F Company men, of whom I was the only NCO. Capt Huyatt was leading yet another assault on Schönberg when he heard my group under fire from the rear. He and his runner hurried back, and we counterattacked. After we drove the Germans off, according to a note I wrote in the margin of Dupuy's book in 1949, I counted 26 German dead and one American, not necessarily all from that skirmish. The American's head had been blown cleanly off; John Kline told me last year that he remembered seeing the



One his 2nd Lieutenants never forgot what Fighting Joe Puett taught him. Brigadier General Oliver Patton, (photo 1974) - 2nd Platoon, Company F, 423rd Infantry Regiment, 106th Infantry Division (1944)

headless American when his Company M group came out of the woods behind us after the surrender. After the rest of Huyatt's 'command' rejoined us in the woods above Schönberg alongside the Bleialf road, we were discussing what to do next when a German-American pair in a GI jeep with white flag arrived with written order from 3rd Battalion CO, Lt Col Klinck, to surrender. We smashed our weapons against trees and marched off with our lone German escort toward Bleialf, joined along the way by numerous GI's and Germans. I found some of our detritus when I revisited the spot in 1955."

21. These Germans must have been on the Andler-Schönberg road. It is possible German tanks moving south across the Sixth Panzer Army boundary in search of roads had reached Schönberg but I think these armored vehicles were assault guns and tank destroyers of 18th VG Div, pushing through Schönberg toward St. Vith. Since I remained in the abandoned aid station, probably at Radscheid, I can make no comment on Lt Col Puett's account of the final action of the 423d Regt.

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SECOND REPORT BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOSEPH PUETT

My copy of this report is a xerox copy of an original typed on both sides of five pages of 8-1/2 x 14-inch paper. Obviously, more than one person has annotated the original. I have indicated in the copy below what I think are those made by the original interviewer (line-outs, strike-outs, and insertions); omitting those that appear to be by a later reader whose attention was fixed on reference to units of the 106th Division Artillery. Parentheses shown below are in the original. Interviewer's changes are in brackets. I think the interviewer, "**John G. Westover, Historian**" was probably a member of an Army historical unit, charged with obtaining first-hand reports from U.S. Army officers and enlisted men recently liberated from German POW camps.

**423 Infantry Regiment
in the Ardennes Battle**

This information obtained from an interview with Lt Colonel Joseph F. Puett, 0288767, CO, 423-2, and Capt Joshua F. Sutherland, 01726875, Bn Surgeon, 423-2, at Camp Lucky Strike (near St. Valerie-aux-Caen), France, on 17 April 1945. These officers are liberated prisoners of war awaiting shipment to the United States. Their statement was given without any of the records of their unit being at hand, but the historian furnished a 1/50,000 map of Germany, sheet 21, and showed the officers a copy of the 106 Division After Action Report for December 1944. As prisoners they had been in a camp with many other officers and men of the 106 Div and had discussed the events which had occurred many times. However, it is to be remembered that this is the first combat by the units of the 106 Div and there was no merging of this with any other combat experience. Puett had no difficulty in giving his story or remembering the events which had taken place, but frequently said that the map did not conform to the terrain. He was bitter in his feeling toward the events which had taken place as he had prepared for fifteen years to lead a battalion in combat—an experience which had lasted only a few days. He felt that

the ground was defensible against any force which could be thrown against it—had the ~~units~~ ["units" lined out and "defenders" inserted] been properly disposed. He denounced as foolhardy the positions given to the two regiments [422d and 423d Inf] and the order which forbade any change in the positions taken over from the previous units [2nd Inf Div]. He believed that the two regiments would have been capable of withdrawing if they had done so on the night of the 16th. ~~and that~~ [lined out] The order of defense in place showed a lack of understanding of the enemy strength and position of that time.

This information is not to be quoted without personal approval ["of Lt Col Puett." added]. (Which it was - J kKline, editor 1997)

John G. Westover, Historian

"On the 11 Dec the 106 Div relieved the 2nd Inf Div in place from their positions to the E of St. Vith. All three regiments were committed with Div res. consisting of 423-2 and a Bn from 424. ["Lt" inserted] Col Puett was the commanding officer of the 423-2, then at Born, Belgium. On the morning of the 16 Dec (0645) 423-2 was alerted for a move. At 0800 ["Lt" inserted] Col Puett received word from Div that trucks would arrive at Born, load the Bn, and take them to an assembly area NE of St. Vith. This was accomplished by 1000, at 1030 Puett reported to the Div Commander [Maj Gen Alan Jones] and was told to remain alert for further developments. About 1330, Puett was told by the CG to move to the vicinity of Schonberg (953888) and set up a defensive position which would defend the junction of the Auw-Andler Schonberg Rd and the Bleialf-Schonberg Rd. The move to this position was completed by 1500 and the men began digging in. One platoon of TDs were attached.

While at Div and waiting for assignment of his unit, Puett discussed the situation with many of the officers. Everyone believed the attack then being received to be a local one except Major General Jones, the Div Cmdr. A general officer from a higher head-

quarters (name, rank, and organization of this general officer are not recalled by Puett) visited the 106 CP but insisted that the attack was a ~~small affair~~ [lined out. "of local nature" inserted].

The position assumed by 423-2 was a semi-circle S and E of Schonberg. Company G was astride the highway a kilometer E of town, a platoon of F on the high ground of Hill 504 SE of town, Company E on the road a kilometer S of the town, a platoon ["of F was in" inserted] in Bn reserve in Schonberg, and another platoon of F was in St, Vith guarding a bridge.

At approximately 2100, 16 Dec, 423-2 was ordered to move to the high ground just south of Auw to extricate the 589 FA Bn which was being attacked by the enemy. Puett ["had been" inserted] by Div ["Comdr" inserted] that he should not get heavily engaged. The trucks previously used in moving the Bn were again used. Driving was black-out and the men detrucked at (003890) after a move to the SE from Schonberg to the road NE to Auw. At this detrucking point the trucks were released and did not remain with the ~~organization~~ [lined out. "battalion" inserted]. The companies immediately formed defensive positions on either side of the road. The Germans at this time held Auw and the roads were filled with their traffic. A small attack was launched on the left of the road leading into Auw ["but did not go far" inserted]. Btrys B and C ["A 589 FA Bn" inserted] were able to withdraw with ease, but A ["C" inserted] was unable to do so. The btry was located in a draw at (002896) and was badly bogged in a muddy area. Whenever motors were started in the area, mg and mortar ["fire" inserted] fell ~~within the area~~. [lined out, "nearby" inserted]. Toward daybreak it didn't seem possible for the btry to be withdrawn and Puett still had in mind his orders not to become heavily engaged, so Lt Col T. Payne Kelly asked and received permission to destroy the guns in the Btry A [lined out, "C" inserted] position. This was done. The other Btrys had already withdrawn.

During the night a patrol had been sent to make contact with the 422 Regiment at Schlausenbach. Enroute the patrol ran into three enemy tanks. In a small engagement the patrol leader was killed but the patrol continued on to meet the AT Co, 422. They then returned by a circular route which brought them back farther to the S. The information that there were enemy tanks at the RJ (010889) influenced Puett to put AT guns on his right flank during the night. Twice during the night the enemy made attacks S from Auw. These were at 0230 and 0430. All of the Div arty was ~~received~~ [lined out, "fired" inserted] on call and with small arms and automatic weapons fire they were turned back. A patrol to the left went to Laudesfeld and found Germans there. Two prisoners were captured and they reported the presence of a panzer CT and an infantry CT ["in Laudesfeld" added].

At 0600 a radio order from the Div Cmdr was received ordering 423-2 to withdraw through Laudesfeld. Puett told the general that this was impossible. He was then ordered to withdraw through Schonberg. The last of the 589 FA Bn was then pulling out and a motorized patrol was guarding it. The 590 FA Bn was to follow in column. The motorized column advanced to the RJ at (957867) but after most of the 589 FA Bn had turned W on the road enemy tanks approached in large numbers and fired on the RJ. The last few vehicles of the 589 were set ablaze and the 590 FA Bn was unable to get through. Lt Col Kelly, who was at the rear of his column of 589 vehicles did not get through. Puett made a reconnaissance of all roads to Schonberg and St. Vith and found that all were blocked either by enemy armor or mud. German columns were found to be moving N from Bleialf, almost far enough to make a junction with those coming S from Schonberg.

By 0600 Puett realized that his unit was cut off by vastly superior enemy forces including a large amount of armor. As daylight approached (app 0700) the three enemy tanks

which the patrol going to the 422 had observed, began to move W on the road to Auw. At the same moment fifteen to twenty enemy tanks with infantry riding on them began moving S from Auw. The 423-2 with their attached TD platoon took them under fire. The three tanks moving W were taken under fire by two 57mm guns of 423-2 and all of them were destroyed and burned. Another TD and a 57mm gun were on the Auw road and took the tanks moving S under fire. Four of these burned and probably many others were hit. The attack ceased within twenty minutes but from the direction of Hills 549 and 651 came flat trajectory fire which destroyed a TD and a 57mm gun and damaged another TD so that it could not fire.

About this time Puett decided to join the 423 Regiment. He knew that he was cut off from Div, he had no communication with them as his radios had all been damaged, and that to remain near Auw would mean immediate ruin. He therefore ~~withdrew~~ [lined out, "moved the 590 FA and his Bn"] to the E in good order and only had one casualty in the withdrawal when an ammunition truck was hit and blew up. During the fighting he had lost 1 TD, 1 57mm gun and had 2 KIA and 10 WIA. His force was still in good fighting shape.

The 423-2 reached the 423 Regiment by 1200. As Puett had no communication with Div he placed himself under the command of his Regimental Commander, Col C.C. Caverder. His troops were faced to the W to guard the rear of the encircled regiments; on his left (S) Puett had physical contact with 423-1 and on the right had patrol contact with the 422 Regiment. [inserted, "The line was along the high ground ? of the Alf R from Buchet to (998 . . .)"] 423-2 dug in and waited for orders. Puett privately figured that an attempt would be made by the two regiments to cut their way out almost immediately. Neither organization had any pressure at all against their front. However, communications were extremely poor as the enemy was jamming all of the radio channels and the standing or-

der of defense in place had not been rescinded. Col Cavender was the senior officer of those who were encircled but to the knowledge of Puett he did not take command of the cut off forces. Puett believed that this had a great deal to do with that which followed. As Puett's men waited they had very few casualties.

Early on the morning of the 18th (0430) 423 Regiment received a message from 106 Div which Puett said he heard was seventeen hours delayed because of channel jamming. The message said there was a panzer CT on the Schonberg-St Vith road with its head two or three miles E of St Vith. The 423 was to withdraw to the high ground S of this column and do as much damage to it as possible. The regiment should then withdraw over the Our River. The 423 was to inform the 422 in case they should not have received the message to withdraw.

Word was sent to the 422 in regard to the move and both regiments began their march at 1000. The 422 was on the right and moved independently of the 423 and no liaison or contact kept between these units to the knowledge of Puett. In the 423 CT the order of march was 2nd Bn, 3d Bn, 1st Bn and the 590 FA Bn. Route of march was Halenfeld-Oberlascheid-Radscheid. Just beyond Radscheid at the RJ (971862) heavy opposition was encountered. The fighting began at 1030 and by 1130 all of the 2nd Bn was committed. The enemy was entrenched on the hill S of Radscheid and E of the Bleialf [word missing?] (app 968850) and brought heavy fire on the CR. To get vehicles across this position Puett had to send most of his force toward Bleialf while yet pushing W. A few vehicles did move beyond the CR but did not get far. As 423-2 pushed S the enemy gave up their ground gradually. Around noon Puett called for help from the regiment but none was forthcoming until 1630 when 423-3 was committed on the right flank. Unfortunately, this Bn went too far to the right to aid 423-2 and left a considerable gap. Because of this it did not relieve any of the pressure from Puett's

force and he could not concentrate further. He therefore kept his force pushing to the S to hold off the Bleialf enemy, This developed into a heavy engagement. As soon as the hill (968850?) was secured Puett had command of the Bleialf Rd. On the 17th Puett had found a truck load of 81mm ammunition which belong to no one and had taken over the entire 450 rounds. This was to a large extent white phosphorus. All of this ammunition was expended in the afternoon. Four trucks brought reinforcements to the enemy from Bleialf about every thirty minutes. These replacements were hit by the mortar fire immediately. Puett figured that his battalion, mostly the mortars, killed about six hundred enemy in the afternoon. In one small area he counted ninety-five dead who had been killed by WP shells. The flesh was badly burned in every case. But Puett knew that he could not advance farther to the S and that he could not exert pressure to the W while holding off the enemy from the S. The battle became a stalemate in the 423-2 and remained so until the mortar ammunition was expended. Then the men continued the defense of the area using only small arms fire. [Inserted, "This day cost Bn from 250-300 casualties."] The first Bn was not committed until just at dark and it was then too late to employ them successfully as the night was very dark. During the day the 422 did not maintain contact with the 423.

Several hours after dark the ~~423 Regiment~~ [lined out, "1st and 2nd Bns" inserted] fell back to Radscheid leaving only a security guard at the RJ. At 2300 ~~it~~ ["they" inserted] again moved, this time to the NW to try for contact with the 3d Bn. The small trail which was selected for the motor transport to move on was too narrow and muddy so that all but a small number of vehicles became bogged and lost. Contact with the 3d Bn was reestablished. During the night a message came from Div which said "For the good of the nation . . ." the 422 and 423 will attack Schonberg and then head W. This message was not received by the 423 until daylight so they set

the time of the jump off as 1000. Puett figured that it was yet possible for an escape to be made. This was despite the fact that no mortar ammunition remained in any of the organizations and that the MG's were limited to two belts per gun. In second Bn there were now only 19 officers and 405 men and in preparation for the trip all of the wounded were left behind.

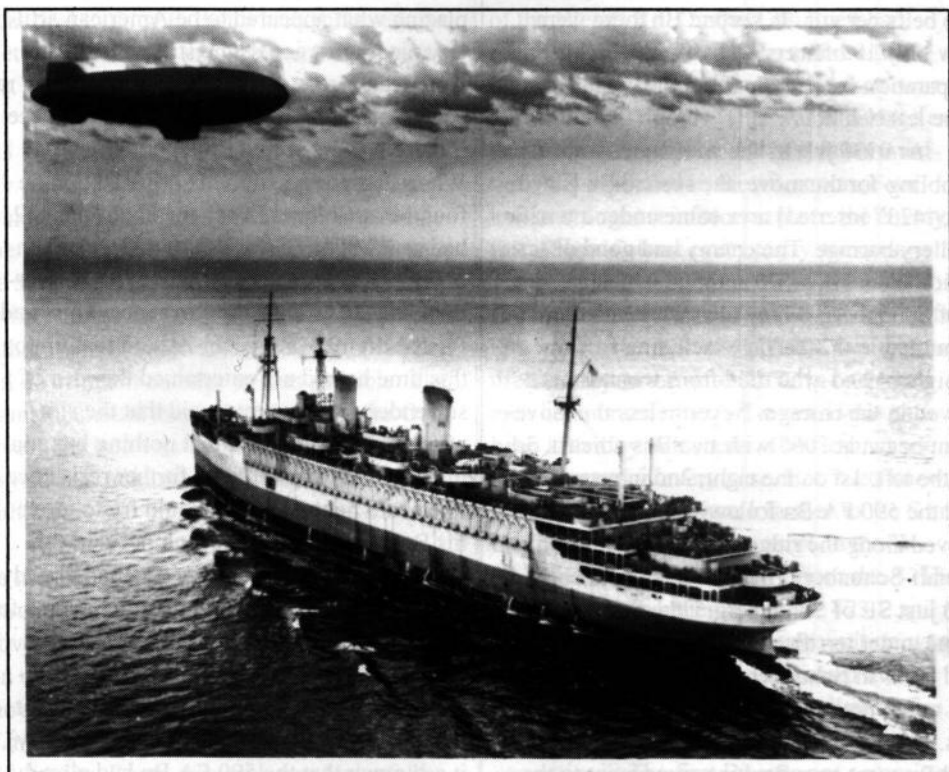
At 0930 just as the companies were assembling for the move, the ~~second Bn~~ [lined out, "423" inserted] area came under a terrific artillery barrage. The enemy had good observation from Hills 500 and 504 which are just S of Schonberg. Many men were killed or wounded in this barrage including Lt Col Craig of 423-1 who died from wounds received in the barrage. Nevertheless the movement began at 1000 with two Bns abreast, 3d on the left, 1st on the right, 2nd in reserve, and the 590 FA Bn following. The assault moved along the ridge to the right of the Bleialf-Schonberg road to the nose of Hill 506 just SE of Schonberg. Here the regiment came under terrific fire from an 88mm gun and tanks in Schonberg which they could see but could not reach with any of their weapons. The leading Bns could not go farther so 2nd Bn went on a flanking movement to the right to approach Schonberg from the E. The Bn went down a ravine and along a stream known as the Linne but suddenly came under intense fire from all directions. This fire came from the 422 Regt which had not been contacted since early the previous day. Puett realized the trouble and within five minutes had gotten his organization identified. But the damage was done. His men had become disorganized by the fire and the 422 further advanced into the area occupied by the Bn. Now both the 422 and 2nd Bn had become

disorganized and the move toward Schonberg was halted. The reorganization began immediately but took some little time. A patrol was sent toward the Our River and came back with the report that the enemy were replacing what appeared to be American artillery pieces just across the stream from the American forces. Puett personally went on reconnaissance between 1400 and 1500 to see if there was a covered route to Schonberg. When Puett returned to his organization he found that Colonel Descheneaux of the 422, had sent Major Garlo, XO of 423-2, and an officer of 422 under a white flag to the German lines to arrange the surrender. This made Puett extremely angry for he said that up to this time he had not entertained the idea of surrender. Descheneaux said that the situation was hopeless and that nothing but annihilation would result from further resistance. Puett said he thought he would try to move his Bn nevertheless. The Colonel said this was impossible as the white flag had already been sent out and it would go much worse for all. The enemy meanwhile was coming up from the S quite rapidly and while the situation with the 1st and 3d Bns, 423, was not too well known (they were 400 yards away), it is known that the 590 FA Bn had already been taken. Puett went to his men and told them that any who wished could try for an escape. Over a hundred took off. Puett planned to try it but was ordered by Descheneaux to remain. The surrender of this group was approximately 1600, the two Bns of the 423 an hour later.

The men of 423-2, though new to combat, had fought skillfully and courageously throughout. By the 19th the men felt that they were seasoned soldiers and could no longer be classed as green." □

The Triumph Of The *U.S.C.G.S. Wakefield*

by Bill Bucher, Jr., Associate Member



The U.S.C.G.S. *Wakefield*, fresh after her conversion to a troopship in 1943.
(photos courtesy of the United States Coast Guard, Public Affairs Staff, Washington, DC)

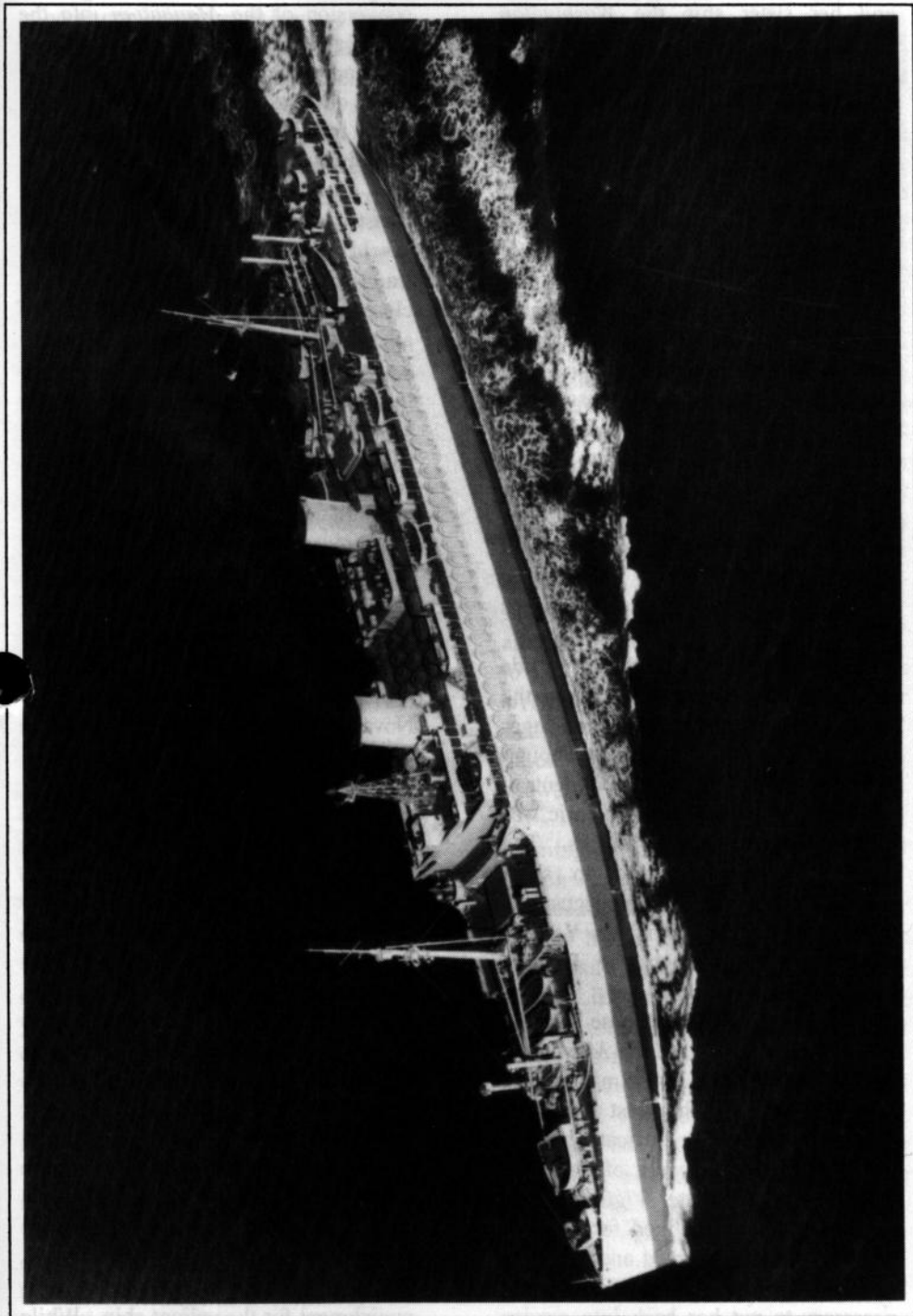
Of the stories told about the ships that carried the Golden Lion Division overseas to battle, the story of the *Wakefield* - a ship which overcame devastating circumstances to make a lasting contribution to history - is the one that most resembles that of the 106th Infantry "Golden Lion" Division itself.

The ship that would later earn her laurels carrying troops began her life as a luxury passenger liner. Launched amid much fanfare in 1931 as the United States Lines *Manhattan*, this huge pleasure ship was the country's newest entry in the growing

transatlantic passenger business. She was christened in the New York harbor by Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt; famous passengers on her early voyages included ballplayer Babe Ruth, track sensations Jessie Owens and Glenn Cunningham (on their way to the 1936 Olympics in Germany), former New York City Mayor Jimmy Walker and U.S. Ambassador to Germany William E. Dodd.

At 705 feet long and 85 feet wide, the *Manhattan* was one of the largest American passenger ships ever built. Six state-of-the-art geared steam-driven turbines drove her at 20 knots sustained speed. Compact and modern-

The Triumph Of The *Wakefield*



An aerial view of the USCGS Wakefield (formerly the Manhattan). At 705 feet long and 85 feet wide, she ranks among the largest American passenger liners ever built.

The Triumph Of The *Wakefield*

looking, the magnificent *Manhattan* and her sister ship the *Washington* embodied the hopes and dreams of an American public still reeling from the Depression. She sported two raked funnels, twin propellers, six main decks and eleven watertight bulkheads. Her peacetime passenger load consisted of 582 cabin class, 461 tourist class and 196 3rd class, and she carried a crew of 478.

The *Manhattan* ran profitably during the prewar years, carrying wealthy passengers along the New York - Channel ports - Hamburg route. In January of 1940 the growing crisis in Europe caused her owners to reroute her instead to Genoa, but not before the big ship, with huge American flags painted prominently on her sides and topdecks, made several transatlantic runs to pick up American citizens fleeing from Europe.

By June of 1940 the rising tide of German aggression had caused the United States Lines to cease passenger service to Europe altogether. Though America was still considered neutral, all shipping in the North Atlantic was threatened by U-boat attacks. The *Manhattan* was restricted to short cruises for a while, and in August she began a new route from New York to San Francisco through the Panama Canal.

It was on one of these journeys in January of 1941 that the *Manhattan* encountered her first major mishap; she ran aground off the east coast of Florida. Unable to extricate herself, her 199 passengers were offloaded to the Coast Guard cutter *Vigilante*. The great ship remained fixed for 22 days before she could be freed and towed to New York for repairs. The costs necessary to put her back into service amounted to some \$2 million.

In June of that same year President Franklin Roosevelt signed the

executive order that resulted in the conversion of the *Manhattan* into the troop carrier *U.S.C.G.S. Wakefield*. She was commissioned to perform her new duties on June 15, 1941 and soon began naval training as a troopship manned entirely by the Coast Guard.

While not widely known, the Coast Guard's responsibilities during World War II stretched well beyond its traditional role of patrolling shores close to home. Coast Guard vessels of all sizes were used all over the world for everything from Atlantic crossings to amphibious landings. Many of the LST's - "landing ship tanks" - and LCI(L)'s - "landing craft, infantry, large" - used at Normandy and other amphibious landings were manned by Coast Guard personnel.

Active service for the *Wakefield* and her crew began during the Autumn of 1941 when she and three Navy-manned transports loaded some 20,000 British troops at Halifax, Nova Scotia, for transport to the Near East by way of the Cape of Good Hope. It would be a fateful trip.

The convoy arrived at Cape Town on December 8th, the day after the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. Japan's belligerence caused the group to be diverted to Bombay and Singapore, but even this measure failed to save the *Wakefield* from attack. On January 30, 1942, while the ship was refueling at Singapore after discharging her troops, Japanese bombers attacked the waterfront. A bomb exploded in the sick bay, killing five men and wounding fifteen more. Once again the *Wakefield* was patched together and steamed for New York for more extensive repairs.

But even this was not enough punishment for the valiant ship. While in a westbound convoy on September 3, 1942, the *Wakefield* caught fire and her crew abandoned ship. Amazingly, the

The Triumph Of The *Wakefield*

blazing ship didn't burn for long; a salvage crew later towed her to Halifax, Nova Scotia. Only two weeks later the Navy bought the ship and had her towed to Boston, where she was rebuilt yet again as a troop transport. Rising as a phoenix from her own ashes, the *Wakefield* resumed troop service in April of 1944. Only seven months later she greeted the Golden Lion Division at the Port of Boston.

The men of the Golden Lion Division who met the *Wakefield* at the docks that day were among the last of the Division's men to be shipped overseas. Advance parties had sailed for England on October 8th, and the rest had boarded ships on October 18 and October 20, 1944. Division records show that the 590th, the 591st and the 592nd Field Artillery Battalions, Headquarters Battery, Division Artillery and the Division Special Troops were assigned to ride the *Wakefield*.

Now it was November 10th. At Camp Myles Standish near Taunton, Massachusetts where the division had massed in preparation, the last of the Golden Lions boarded a troop train. Though they didn't know exactly where they were going or how soon they would get there, they knew with certainty *why* they were going. The young soldiers - many of whom were only eighteen or nineteen years old - were on their way to the European Theater of Operations (ETO) for their first taste of battle.

By all accounts it rained miserably the day that they boarded the *Wakefield*. Even the weather, however, couldn't dampen the excitement of those boarding the ship for their first transatlantic crossing. In the years leading up to World War II only immigrants and the wealthy had made such crossings, but now young soldiers

were traveling the world and the government was paying for the ride! Most tried not to think much about what might be waiting for them upon their arrival in Europe.

Pushing into cramped compartments, they stowed their gear in bunks stacked like sardines, five-high from floor to ceiling. The berths were made of heavy canvas sewn around tubular metal frames which folded up against the wall when not in use. Ventilation was inadequate, but then again the *Wakefield* was carrying more than eight times as many passengers as she was built to accommodate.

Just as on other troop carriers during the war, the number of wartime passengers aboard the *Wakefield* far exceeded its peacetime loads. Some seventy-six inflatable rafts were hung along the sides of the great ship to add to her lifeboat capacity, and the new arrivals were told that everyone was to wear a "Mae West" floatation vest at all times except when they slept or showered.

By around 10:30 a.m. that morning preparations for the trip were completed. Her living cargo safely secured, the *Wakefield* pulled out of the Boston harbor and into the driving wind and rain of a North Atlantic storm. Like other crossings of the time, necessity required the *Wakefield* to make this trip alone rather than in a naval convoy. Although German U-boats had not been seen off of the American coast for months, traveling unescorted across the North Atlantic was still a very dangerous gamble.

It was not an easy trip. For the first few days the ship was tossed unmercifully around by the stormy waves. "As the screws (propellers) came out of the water at the aft end they would race like crazy out of the water and vibrate the entire ship until

The Triumph Of The *Wakefield*

they dropped back in the water again,” says **John M. Roberts (592FAB)**. Seasickness was rampant among the passengers, many of whom had never experienced anything even remotely similar to this before.

As if the towering waves and the pouring rain weren't enough to unsettle even the strongest stomachs, the ship constantly changed course to avoid becoming an easy target for German U-boats. “Two meals a day were served to those who were able to eat,” observed **Francis Aspinwall (589FAB)** in his 1953 battalion history. The mess hall line extended half the length of the ship and required more than an hour's wait. Though the Coast Guard crew prepared the meals, KP “volunteers” were pulled from the enlisted men among the passengers.

The latrine was an experience all by itself. Consisting of a simple trough containing water and waste, the “head” quickly taught the men to take special care when the seas were rough. “You never sat on one of the holes at the end,” writes Roberts with wry humor. “As the water hit the wall at the end of the trough, the water (and whatever was in the water) splashed and sloshed up through the holes.”

A day later, however, the sea calmed and the eerie glow of phosphorescence in the water around the ship that night revealed to the passengers that they had followed a southerly route. Many went topside to escape the constant stench of stale food, tobacco and seasickness which permeated the compartments below decks. Flying fish and porpoises cavorted alongside the ship, providing, for a time at least, an interesting diversion from the monotony.

On the afternoon of November 16th the English coast emerged from the mist, signaling that they had successfully crossed the Atlantic. The

Wakefield was met by a destroyer escort and proceeded into the Saint George's Channel, where she anchored for a mercifully quiet night.

Before the war, the deepwater port of Liverpool had been a popular passenger destination. Now, as daylight faded to dusk, one could clearly see the damage wrought by German bombing. The English were obviously prepared for Nazi air attack; anti-aircraft batteries were mounted

“Two meals a day
were served to
those who were
able to eat....”

along the shoreline of the Channel and the city, under blackout conditions, was strangely dark and silent.

The next morning an English pilot was brought aboard, and the lumbering *Wakefield* began her slow approach to the docks at Liverpool. A brass band played in greeting as the ship approached the pier, the first taste of English hospitality and a moment that many G.I.'s would long remember.

Grateful for their safe passage - and yet still eager to plant their feet on dry land - the passengers readied to disembark. Standing once again in long lines with their duffel bags, all they could think about were the incredible experiences they would have in England. Though none could possibly have known it, these same young and carefree men would be thrown headlong into one of the greatest battles of the war only thirty days from this very moment.

The Triumph Of The *Wakefield*

The *Wakefield* made many more trips as a troop carrier, but she was never again to sail as a luxury passenger liner. She continued her exemplary wartime duties until May of 1946, when the need for American troop transports was deemed to be over. The ship was laid up in reserve on the Hudson River by the U. S. Department of Commerce, and there she remained for many years, a slowly rusting hulk.

Eighteen years passed. In May of 1964 the deteriorating *Wakefield* was sold to be broken up for scrap to Union Metals & Alloys Corporation in New York. The once proud ship arrived at her final destination, Kearny, New Jersey to be broken up on March 6, 1965.

The *Wakefield* ranked among the largest American passenger ships ever built. After her conversion to wartime service she became the largest ship ever manned by the Coast Guard and one of the fastest. A history of the Coast Guard during World War II would not be complete without including the history of this great ship.

Though her career was marred with misfortune, the *Wakefield* was nonetheless a stirring example of American "can-do" spirit during the war, rising repeatedly from disaster to safely deliver thousands of American soldiers to Europe and back again. Those who crossed the Atlantic in her care will always feel a special affection for her and for the crews that guided her through the days and nights of travel on the open sea.

The era of the great transatlantic superliners is gone now. In its place is a hustling world in which intercontinental travel is measured in hours rather than days, and the need for speed has made all but the fastest modes of transportation obsolete. The thousands of servicemen and women

who remember what it was like to be passengers on these great ships are a vanishing breed, and many of their stories are vanishing along with them.

The *Wakefield*, however, shall not be forgotten. Her immense size and her value to the war effort made her unique among American troopships. She and her Coast Guard crews toiled bravely to deliver her desperately needed cargoes of manpower to the ETO, and like the battered men of the 106th Infantry "Golden Lion" Division, she withstood the most destructive forces on earth to become one of the many inspiring legends that make up the story of American victory in World War II.

◆ ◆ ◆

-Bill Bucher, Jr. is the son of 106th Infantry Division veteran Bill Bucher (424/AT, deceased). He can be reached at (704) 633-2769 or e-mail him at BUCHERB@cbiinternet.com.

SCHOLARSHIPS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21



Kristen Ball, Granddaughter of William Yingst, 423/D; University of Texas, Austin



Elizabeth Schober Dayton, Granddaughter of Milton Schober, 424/F; Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois



Emily Seaton Spitzer, Granddaughter of Joseph E. Corman, 423/L; Western Washington University, Bellingham

ALFIER, MAJOR JEFFREY
ASSOCIATE

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(Editor's Note - Major Jeffrey Alfier, Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany has been an e-mail correspondent with me for quite a long time. He has been very helpful to me in the way of history and observations of the Ardennes area. Always a delight to chat with, I have sponsored an ASSOCIATE membership for him. As you will see, in reading the following paragraphs from his e-mail letters, he is not a new-kid on the block when it comes to the study of the Ardennes history. Not many people, who have the urge to study the Ardennes have the opportunity of living nearby as he does and he is taking advantage of the closeness to history, not only of the Ardennes, but of all the actions in that territory, including World War I history sites. . . . J. Kline, editor)

From one of Jeff's recent e-mail letters:

I enlisted in the Air Force in 1974 and served one enlistment as a security policeman, stationed at McChord AFB, Washington. I returned to college in 1977 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in March, 1981, and re-joined to active duty.

I am an air battle manager and served at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, Rockville, Iceland, Tyndall AFB, Florida, Geilenkirchen AB, Germany, Shaw AFB, SC, and currently serve as the chief of aerospace control in the 32nd Air Operations Squadron, Ramstein AB, Germany.

I am responsible for setting up a theater air defense network as part of an air campaign within the European Command's (USEUCOM) areas of responsibility. I have 4,000 hours of experience as an air weapons controller aboard the Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft.

I received my MA in Humanities in 1990 from California State University. I am a member of The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, and have had seven articles published in military professional publications. In addition, I taught history for City Colleges of Chicago, European Division. Outside of that, my dad is a WW II vet also, A USAAF bombardier from the 100th Bomb Group (Dec 44 - May 45). I have one wife (married twenty-one years) and a daughter, 14 years of age.

From another, earlier, e-mail he sent this, which I would like to share with you.

John; I want to thank you again for sending me those issues of the Cub. I really enjoy reading the brief recollections of the 106th veterans, the gleanings of Dale Carver's poetry, and the other reminiscences of such men as Paul Fussell. I'm going to try to find the bibliographical data for his book, *Doing Battle*; it sounds quite interesting.

On page 5 of the Jan-Feb-Mar 97 issue of *The Cub* is the photograph of Cpl Howard Hoffmeyer, who gave his life. In that unfortunate repose he looks exactly like the photograph of a Michigan soldier lying on the field of Gettysburg, captured forever by Matthew Brady's camera. The similitude is almost eerie, and sort of gives a different angle to a line from Rene Arcos' poem, 'Pays du Soir': "*The dead are all on the same side.*"

Last weekend I toured through Bitche, France, the area in which the 100th Infantry Division fought. There is an auberge there that bears the plaque of the division. That's one of great things about being stationed overseas, getting to see sights such as these.

There is a humanities journal published by the English Department of the Air Force Academy entitled *War, Literature, and The Arts*. Its quite a unique publication in my opinion, and has articles that would interest many veterans. A recent issue (Vol 7, No 2) has an article entitled, '*The Boatman's Story*', which is written by a Vietnam veteran who is comparing his experience with that of his father, a fellow rifleman from another war. They both had many things they could not talk about, but both approached the subject of men in combat in a divergent ways.

It is a very poignant article in which the author, Robert MacGowen, wrote this poem about his late father:

*Were you so inured to the dead and cold that
you sat atop black hummocks in the snow - men
whose blood no longer flowed, and ate your
rations?*

*Was your battlefield commission gained in
those Ardennes forest and plains because you
were so brave, or because you were one of the
few alive?*

New Members ...

Did the terribleness of the cold and the hum-mocks in the snow reach around your heart to numb it like your toes?

Was it your memories of war or the unfealty of your wife that caused those starbursts in your brain These I would have asked you. Though, of all I might have told you, listen:

I learned this from the river -I am your son, Orestes. You are my Agamemnon.

You can contact the journal at <http://www.usafa.af.mil/dfeng/wla.htm>

From there you can view the cumulative index. I am not sure why it's published by the Air Force Academy since overall, the articles have little that deals directly with air power.

Take care. Jeff

BISHOP, HIRAM H. ASSOCIATE

4014 STERLING STREET
MIMS, FL 32754
407-269-3937

BISHOP, VESTER UNIT UNKNOWN

PO BOX 207
SCOTTSMOOR, FL 32775
407-269-2825

(Editor's Note - If any of you remember Vester please let us know so we can identify him with a unit.... J. Kline, editor)

DE MEYER, ROBERTA ASSOCIATE

7341 DIAN
LEXINGTON, MI 48450-9748
810-359-7632

DENNIS, DAVID W. 422/HQ

PO BOX 375
OLD LIME, CT 06371

DIMEGLIO, JOHN P. 424/I

118 POTOMAC DRIVE
BASKING RIDGE, NJ 07920

DONNINI, JAMES M. 423/HQ 2BN

87 OAK STREET
CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327
850-926-5269

EDWARDS, ROBERT M. ASSOCIATE

812 WINTERBREEN CIRCLE
STATE COLLEGE, PA 16801
814-238-4305

(Editor's Note - In an e-mail letter after viewing my

Web Site, Bob wrote, " John, I would like to purchase *The CUB of the Golden Lion: PASSES in REVIEW*. Thanks again, John, for responding to my e-mail. He is the son of David H. Edwards, 422/HQ and the cousin of Blair Colby, 423/C. I have mis-placed Bob's e-mail address. OOPS-found it. You can contact Bob at his e-mail address: rmenu@engr.psu.edu.

EMONS, PATRICK J. ASSOCIATE

11030 ASCOT CIRCLE
FREDRICKSBURG, VA 22407
540-786-9496

(Editor's Note - Patrick - so nice to see you as an ASSOCIATE member. Pat and I have been corresponding by e-mail since 9 December 1997. Refer to THE CUB "Front & Center Column" page 11 of the JUL-AUG-SEP 1997 issue. Patrick seeks information about his father **William Michael Emons, Jr.** He doesn't know which unit of the 106th his father served in, but does know he was a PFC and in the battle for St. Vith. Please refer again to page 16 of the JUL-AUG-SEP CUB and see if you can help this fine young man.... J. Kline)

FLETCHER, BEN P. 424/HQ 1BN

PO BOX 251
LYNCHBURG, TN 37352-0251

Mr. Collins, I was in Headquarters Company, 424th Reg, 1st Battalion Anti-Tank Platoon. I was recently contacted by **Harold K. Bratton**, who was in 424/HQ 1BN. It had been 52 years since we last saw each other. I was a POW captured with **Clarence Bardense (deceased 12/90)** and **Robert Logan** of the same unit.

FRIEL, MYLES B. 424/HQ 1BN

483 KARL DRIVE
ZANESVILLE, OH 43701

GERARD, VINCENT ASSOCIATE

66 RUE DES PLATANES
B-5651 SOMZEE, BELGIUM

KINNEY, LAWRENCE M. 423/I

1319 NO 2ND ST
ARKANSAS CITY, KS 67005-1519
316-442-9016

LAWSON, JAMES W. ASSOCIATE

821 GREEN PASSAGE LN
APEX, NC 27502
919-941-0430 x225

Dear Sherod,

My dad, Bill Lawson, was in the 106th, Company H, 423rd Regiment and a POW as were

many of his fellow GI's. I had the opportunity to meet some of the members of Company H last year in Roanoke. It was enjoyable to put faces with names I had heard from my dad over the past few years and what a group they turned out to be!

My dad never talked about his experience in the Ardennes forest; all I ever knew as a child was that he was a POW in WWII. It was only several years ago when he was contacted by one of the members of H company that he began to discuss and share the terrible experience that all of the Division had in the Bulge. For all the years in between, he kept to himself the memory of a time and place far from home where horrible, unspeakable circumstances led to suffering and death. I guess I inherited some of that silence from my dad as I tend to be more introverted than not. But having said that, I will always be thankful for the knowledge I have gained about the American war experience in WWII through your association and I am never so introverted enough to not be able to say, I love you dad...glad you made it safely back.

Sincerely,
 Jim Lawson
 e-mail: jimatcmac~worldnet.att.net

LUGENBILL, CHRIS H ASSOCIATE

361 SILVER SPRINGS COURT
 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80919-1777
 719-593-0034

Mr. Collins,
 It was a real pleasure talking to you this morning about the 106th Infantry Division Association. As I mentioned my uncle, **Werner C. Schnitzer**, was a Corporal when according to Colonel Dupuy's book, he volunteered to provide covering fire during the retrograde operation in December 1944. It was during this encounter with the Germans that he was wounded and taken prisoner. He was held as a POW in Meiningen, Germany, along with a captured British hospital outfit until the end of the war. His experiences remain personal and virtually unshared, but I know he is proud of his service in World War II.

I have enclosed a check to cover my uncle's LIFETIME membership and my ANNUAL

ASSOCIATE membership. (See **Werner Schnitzer, Division Headquarters** membership below in the alphabetical list)

MARTIN, LAWRENCE M. 424/E

RTE 1, BOX 64
 BOWLING GREEN, IN 47833

I would like to join the Association and receive The CUB magazine. I have been in contact with **Gilbert Fitzgerald**, Waynesboro, Virginia, and **Capt George Thigpen**, my Company Commander in Kerrville, Texas. I would like to meet some of the people again. I was a prisoner in Stalag 12-A, then two days after Christmas I was taken to Luchenwalde, Stalag 3-A.

MEADOWS, GERALD D. 422/H

243 GOLD TREE STREET
 PANTA GORDA, FL 33955-1163
 941-575-1742

Gerald was in the 2nd Section, 2nd Platoon, 2nd Battalion of the 422nd Combat Infantry Battalion. His wife's name is Shirley and they have both signed on as **LIFE MEMBERS**.

MERNIER, JACQUES ASSOCIATE

48 CHEMIN HENROTTE
 B-4900 SPA BELGIUM, BELGIUM

MILLER, LINDA L. ASSOCIATE

15395 SW 178 TERRACE
 MIAMI, FL 33187-7729

Linda is the daughter of the late Chancy C. Newsom M Company, 423rd Infantry. Linda, as a member of your father's unit, I welcome you to the Association. I know your father would be proud of you representing him. Thank you.

ORD, CHARLES R. 423/E

PO BOX 187
 NEW HAVEN, WV 25265

ROGISTER, HENRI ASSOCIATE

22 RUE DU PROGRES
 B-4032 LIEGE, BELGIUM

SCHNITZER, WERNER C. DIV/HQ

79-10 35TH AVE APT 4C
 NEW YORK, NY 11372

(Editor's Note - See **Chris Lugenbill, Werner's Newpew** membership above. Chris purchased a

LIFE MEMBERSHIP for his Uncle, **Werner Schnitzer** who says he was in the Defense Platoon of Division Headquarters. Welcome back to the 106th Werner. We are an Association of nearly 1,600 members who love to see our comrades join in with us after all these years. We are proud of the 106th and proud of it's men.

Please allow me to expound on history here:

I joined the Association in 1987, after having been "underground" for all those years, not realizing that an Association of the 106th Veteran's existed. A reunion was held 80 miles from my home in 1980 and I didn't realize it. The Association has existed since 1945 when it was formed at Camp Lucky Strike, it's first reunion was held in Indianapolis, Indiana in July of 1945, ***The CUB of the Golden Lion***, commonly called ***THE CUB*** has been published since August 1946. I have been editor of the magazine, after a long string of great volunteer editor's, since I first joined in 1987. I have had the time of my life publishing the **CUB**. The mebership in 1987 was 745 members. Over the years, since then, it grew to over 1,700. Last year we held our own at over 1,650 and this year, at this date, we are over 1,550 -still double that of the 1987 membership.

A Reunion of the 106th Veterans has been held every year since July 1947 - somewhere in the United States. **The 51st Annual Reunion will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, at the ADAMS MARK HOTEL**, Indianapolis, Indiana near the Airport the dates of the Reunion are September 9-13, 1998, with the \$78 rate available from September 6 to 14. Many people reserve rooms well in advance - a page giving **REGISTRATION Information** is included elsewhere in this CUB. Attendance to the reunions in the last five years has been averaging from 550 to 680, including veterans, wives and friends. We think that the 51st Annual Reunion at Indianapolis, with our **Memorial Services at Camp Atterbury**, will be large. It might be a good idea to reserve space soon.

Several old World War II buildings are being renovated at Camp Atterbury, which is a very active base. There is a beautiful memorial there - for all the Divisions that passed through Camp Atterbury during World War II. The Indiana National Guard outdid itself in the construction of the Memorial Park. Our 106th Infantry Division Association were prime contributors to the finances which enable them to carry the great project forward. More about the 1998, 51st ANNUAL REUNION in CUBs to follow. There will be **NO DIRECT MAIL** registration forms mailed this year. All Hotel and Reunion registration blanks will appear in the CUB magazines. Hotel details in this one, A repeat of that plus Reunion Registration forms will be in the February 1998 . CUB and a repeat of all the information in

the May 1998 CUB. J. Kline, editor)

SUSSMAN, ALVIN 424/HQ 2BN

900 PALISADE AVE
FORT LEE, NJ 07024
201-224-5086

I was in the 2nd Platoon of Headquarters Company, 424th Infantry Regiment. I enlisted in the Signal Corps in October 1942 and was called to active duty in February 1943. After nine months I was able to transfer to the Army Air Corps Cadet Program, however, when the program was broken out I was sent to the 106th Infantry Division - How lucky can one guy get? - I arrived at Atterbury in May of 1944, I trained with the Division and went overseas with them. A wonderful truck ride to Belgium, then the Bulge. Oue "super green" troopos fought them off and left dozens of dead and wounded German soldiers in the snow. Fortunately we lost only one man.

In 1950 I went to work in a new industry "television" and have remained there until today. I have been fortunate in my career to head up some major television entertainment companies. I currently own a production and distribution company serving the TV Networks, cable industry and independent TV stations.

I am married to the former Lind Seif and we have one daughter, Patricia, who lives in San Jose, California.

My sorrow is that I didn't know there was a 106th Infantry Division Association until recently.

SYKES, MORRIS G. 422/M

PO 278 GREEN
SPRINGPORT, MI 48284
517-857-2671

TETRAULT, ARTHUR 422/HQ

50 WEST AVENUE
MAXION, MA 02738



Men of the 589th FABn Met at Nashville to Plan Book

Submitted by John Schaffner A/B Battery, 589th FAB

Under the leadership of (Major) Elliott Goldstein, former Bn Exec Officer of the 589th AB, a group met on Sunday, August 31, 1997 to discuss incorporating the memoirs of the 589th veterans into book form. The very appropriate title will be *On The Job Training*.

Recollections of the fighting at *Baraque de Fraiture* (Parker's Crossroads) are especially being sought from those who were present there. Now is the time to act on this and send your words to Elliot Goldstein to be incorporated into the text of the book. You will be making a very important contribution to the records of the history of *The Battle of the Bulge*.

On the photograph above, standing left to right:

Bob Ringer (591 FABn, Service Battery); Walt Snyder (589th A Battery); Bernard Strohmeier (589th B Battery); Harold Kuizema (589th B Battery); John Gatens (A Battery); Earl Scott (589th HQ Battery, L-4 Pilot)

Seated L-R:

John Schaffner (589th A/B Battery); Frank Tacker (589th HQ Battery); Tony Rand (589th B Battery); Elliott Goldstein (589th HQ Battery) and Barney Alford (589th A Battery)

Write to Elliott at:

Mr. Elliott Goldstein

c/o Powell, Goldstein, Frazer & Murphy LLP

191 Peachtree St. N.E. 16th Floor

Atlanta, GA 30303

In Memoriam

(Please note: Information for the listing of deaths of 106th Infantry Division Association members comes from many sources, many times not from the family. We try to list what information we receive plus any personal information that we know about. Many times the information is sparse. Our apologies for that, but in that case that is all we know. I would suggest that all of you let your next of kin know that the Adjutant, Treasurer or Editor of the 106th Infantry Division Association be notified in the event of death. Association members only are listed... editor)

Bond, Howard 423/M

2150 Gateway Terrace, Apt 206-C, Easton, PA 18045

Date of death: May 1997. Howard was the M Company Mess Sergeant. Reported by M Co. Vet Gordon Grantham.

Brannstrom, Arnold J. 422/E 11523 W Bobolink Lane, Mequon, WI 53092

Date of death: 12/15/96. Wife, Dorothy

Brown, Arthur 589/B 1235 Lynbrook, Charlotte, NC 28211

Date of death: 07/31/94

Browning, Roy 423/D 2525 - 15th Street, Columbus, GA 31906

Date of death: 08/29/97. Wife, Olivia

Burnham, Fred W. 106 BAND PO Box 1696, Marco Island, FL 33969

Date of death: 09/15/95. Wife, Priscilla. Fred died four days before his 89th birthday.

Cooper, James A. 424/AT 3602 Reading Lane, Bacliff, TX 77518

Date of death: 09/15/97

Dodge, William L. 424/M 4065 Wayne Ridge Rd, Zanesville, OH 43701

Date of death: 06/02/97. Wife, Betty Jean

Duvall, Aaron 423/HQ 69 Woodridge Rd., Rogers, AR 72756

Date of death 05/13/94

Harwell, C. Harry 423/H 7320 E 61st Place, Tulsa, OK 42324

Date of death: 05/30/97. Wife Betty wrote, "Although Harry was blind, he enjoyed hearing the contents of The CUB magazine. Harry was with other servicemen from other wars since WWII as he was in the Muskogee VA Hospital the last week he was on earth. He leaves behind his wife of 16 years, two daughters, two step-children and a total of six grandchildren, last but not least his faithful loving dog, Barry. He is now with his friend and Savior, Jesus Christ."

Hawkins, Marlin H. 422/F 141 LaPlaza Drive, Hendersonville, TN 37075

Date of death: 06/07/97. Wife Katie. He served two terms as commander of the Middle Tennessee Chapter and one term as commander, Dept of Tennessee AXPOW Chapter. At the time of his death he was Senior Vice Commander of the Alvin C. York AXPOW Chapter. Survived by Katie his wife, a son, a daughter, four grandsons, a brother and two sisters (AXPOW Bulletin)

Rest in Peace

In Memoriam

Herring, Dr. George 422/HQ 2003 Evergreen Lane, Hattiesburg, MS 39401

Date of death: 08/08/97. Wife, Dawn wrote, "My husband died of heart failure, age 74. We had planned on coming to the Nashville Reunion. We have enjoyed several in the past."

Dr. Herring was a practicing pediatrician at the University of Virginia Medical School for more than 30 years. Survivors include, Dawn his wife, one son Bill, two daughters Carol and Kay, one sister Mary and three grandchildren.

Jones, George W., Jr., 423/SV 5652 East Main Street, Loris, SC 29569

Date of death: 11/04/97. Sherod Collins reports that his good friend, George, passed away. George was a Rural Mail carrier and a former funeral director. He is survived by his wife Lois. They had two sons and four grandchildren

Kotlarich, Paul 423/M

Date of death: 08/22/97. Paul lived in Ramsey, NJ. He had signed on for the Nashville Reunion. His daughter Carolyn lives in Nashville and another daughter Mary Ann lives in Thompson Ridge, NY. He has a brother Mark (Bud) that also lives in Ramsey, NJ. Paul was a mortar section Sergeant and was captured with others of his company on 19 December 1944. A horse lover and one who always kept the action alive. Our 423/M Company men shall miss and always think of Paul, who kept our spirits high.

Moon, Jr., Ltc William 422/HQ 1BN 501 Ves Rd Apt B-104, Lynchburg, VA 24503

Date of death: 07/07/97. Wife, Dawn.

Piazza, Louis R. 423/MED 145 Steephill Road, Weston, CT 06883

Date of death: 09/08/97. Michael "Mickey" Gruce, 423/D, wrote, "John I noted the death of this 106th vet, who I had not met. I paid my respects to the family of my fellow soldier because he was part of what we all went through in the Bulge. Only we can know what happened. His wife and two daughters were very grateful. I was there. John, tell our members that if they see a veteran who was a member of our division, that passed away and live nearby to pay their respects. The bereaved family really appreciate this gesture.

Schiro, Frank J. 424/E 4486 Crescent Rd, Madison, WI 53711

Date of death: 06/13/97. Wife, Marjorie. Frank was Platoon Sergeant of Company E. A member of of the Badger AXPOW Chapter. He was liberated by the Russians, interned at Limbrick, Neubrandenburg and Stalag XII-A. He leaves his wife of 55 years, three daughters, two sons, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Son, Bob served 19 months with the U.S. Marines during the Vietnam War.

Smyth, Lester S. DIV/ARTY 1055 West Joppa Rd. Apt 308, Towson, MD 21204

Date of death: 04/04/97. Verified by Sherod Collins.

Williams, Richard L. 424/HQ 1BN 2600 West Michigan Ave #65B, Pensacola, FL 32526-2260

Date of death: 12/03/96. Reported to Pete House by his wife Wanda.

Rest in Peace



CUB Cover - Volume 9, No. 5 - JUNE-JULY 1953

It's Indianapolis in 1998

with a visit to Camp Atterbury

The 52nd Annual Reunion of the Golden Lions

September 9 - 13, 1998

We're staying at the Adams Mark Hotel near the Airport

\$78 buck a night, available from Sept 6 to 14th.

See the Advance Hotel Registration form in this CUB.

PLEASE NOTE!

There will be no "Direct Mailing" of HOTEL or REGISTRATION FORMS.

FOR YOU EARLY BIRDS there is an **ADVANCE** Hotel Registration form inserted in the middle of this CUB.

It will also appear along with REUNION REGISTRATION FORMS

and REUNION Activity Schedules in **THE CUB** magazines of

FEB 98, MAY 98 and **AUG 98**.

REMEMBER - NO DIRECT MAIL REGISTRATIONS WILL BE SENT