

The CUB

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

of the **GOLDEN LION**

Vol 66 – No. 1

January – April 2010

A Soldier's Christmas

Soldier's Christmas is a time-line event held annually at Historic Fort Mifflin on the Delaware River (located near the Philadelphia International Airport).

The event is meant to show the public how soldiers from all eras celebrated the Christmas season and to teach the public about the era in which they served. Learn how the 106th was honored...

See more starting on page 22

Come and Celebrate a
SOLDIER'S CHRISTMAS



FRIDAY DEC. 4th

...Walk thru the Fort and see how Soldiers lived & celebrated Christmas in each Era...

5pm - 10pm

ADULTS - 6.00 * CHILDREN - 3.00 * VETS - 3.00

FOR INFORMATION AND TICKETS PLEASE CALL
215-685-4167

at Historic Fort Mifflin



The CUB

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

Paid Membership March 1, 2010 – 1,260

Membership Fees include CUB magazine subscription

Annual Vets/Associates \$10

Annual Dues payable by June 30 each year

Payable to **"106th Infantry Division Association"**

in care of **Treasurer** — See address below

Elected Offices

President **Rev. Ewell Black, Jr.**

Past-President (Ex-Officio) **Harry Martin, Jr.**

1st Vice-Pres **Newton W. Weiss**

2nd Vice-Pres **Sy Lichtenfeld**

Business Matters, Deaths, Address changes

First Name = Chairman / Second Name = Backup

Adjutant: Murray Stein

7614 Charing Crossing Lane, Delray Beach, FL 33446
561-499-7736 greg0803@bellsouth.net

Treasurer: Lyle Beeth

2004 Golf Manor Blvd., Valrico, FL 33596-7288
Tel: 813-689-9621 Fax: 813-655-8952
Toll Free Number 1-888-644-4337
beeth2@hotmail.com (*new e-mail address*)

Chaplain: Dr. Duncan Trueman / Rev Ewell Black, Jr.

29 Overhill Lane, Warwick, NY 10990

Tel/Fax 845-986-6376 dttrueman@yahoo.com

Memorial Chairman:

Dr. John G. Robb / Frank Trautman

238 Devore Dr., Meadville, PA 16355

814-333-6364 jrobb238@hotmail.com

CUB Editor: William McWhorter

166 Prairie Dawn, Kyle, Texas 78640

512-970-5637 williammcwhorter17@gmail.com

CUB Publisher: Susan Weiss

9 Cypress Point Court, Blackwood, NJ 08012

856-415-2211 sweiss@gccnj.edu

Historian **John Schaffner/William McWhorter**

Atterbury Memorial Representative . . **Frank Trautman**

Resolutions Chairman **Reverend Ewell Black**

Order of the Golden Lion. . . **John Swett/Joseph Massey**

Nominating Committee Chairman **Sy Lichtenfeld**

Mini-Reunions. . **Edward Christianson/Dr. Ralph Nelson**

ADA Liaison. **Joseph Maloney/Gifford Doxsee**

Membership Chairman **Lyle Beeth**

Board of Directors

Rev. Ewell C. Black Jr. (422/A) (2010)
2000 E-W Conn - Apt 212, Austell, GA 30106
770-819-7212 ecb@avillager.org

Edward Christianson (331st Med/C) . (2010)
303 Harper Hollow Lane, Winchester, VA 22603
540-877-1643 deconed@webtv.net

Gifford B. Doxsee (423/HQ 3 Bn) (2010)
1 Canterbury Drive, Athens, OH 45701-3708
740-592-3472 doxsee@oak.cats.ohiou.edu

Dr. Ralph Nelson (422/CN) (2010)
10437 Prestwick NE, Albuquerque NM 87111
505-275-3044 ralph-rhoda@comcast.net

Lyle Beeth (424/AT) (2011)
2004 Golf Manor Blvd., Valrico, FL 33596-7288
1-888-644-4337 beeth2@hotmail.com

Harry Martin Jr. (424/L) (2011)
121 McGregor Avenue, Mount Arlington, NJ 07856
973-663-2410 hmartin19@optonline.net

Charles F. Rieck (422/H) (2011)
7316 Voss Parkway, Middleton, WI 53562-3776

Ellsworth H. Schanerberger (331st Med D) .(2011)
15964 N Swathmore Ct., Livonia, MI 48154-1005
734-591-7851 eh_schanerberger@att.net

Dr. John G. Robb (422/D) (2012)
238 Devore Dr., Meadville, PA 16355
814-333-6364 jrobb238@hotmail.com

John M. Roberts (592/C) (2012)
1059 Alter Rd, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-1401
248-338-2667 jmr810@aol.com

John Schaffner (589/A) (2012)
1811 Miller Rd., Cockeysville, MD 21030-1013
410-584-2754 pumexim2@verizon.net

Frank S. Trautman (422/D) (2012)
600 Morningside Dr., Zionsville, IN 46077-1903

William "Bill" Stahl (422/K) (2013)
211 Arapaboe Ct., Junction City, KS 66441
785-238-2364

Herbert "Mike" Sheaner (422/G) (2013)
P.O. Box 140535 Dallas, Texas 75214
214/823-3003 Herbsheaner@SBCGlobal.net

Donald F. Herndon (424/L) (2014)
8313 NW 102, Oklahoma City, OK 73162-4026
405-721-9164 oklastamps@aol.com

Bernard Mayrsohn (423/CN) (2014)
34 Brae Burn Drive, Purchase, NY 33138
914-428-8200 Ethelbarn@aol.com
Web site: www.mayrsohn.com

Dr. Duncan Trueman (424/AT) (2014)
29 Overhill Lane, Warwick, NY 10990
Tel/Fax 845-986-6376 dttrueman@yahoo.com

Newton Weiss (423/HQ 3Bn) (2014)
400 Morse Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ 08027-1066
856-423-3511 newtruth2@verizon.net

President's View . . .

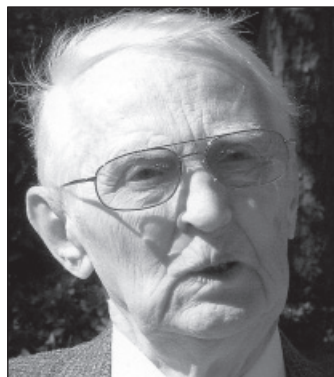
December, January and February in Atlanta have reminded this “old Southern boy” of Germany during that winter of 1944–45. That was a time which, I doubt, many of us will ever forget no matter how long we live. Hard to believe that was some 66 years ago when we all were “just” a little younger. When I look back, remembering what many of us experienced, it is amazing how many of us are still around. I am glad that I live in a retirement home where all of my needs could be met without having to go out. Checked the snow on top of my car one time and it was 5 inches.

But enough about the weather — know that many of you had much worse conditions than we experienced!!!!!!

Hope that each of you enjoyed a great holiday season with your families and friends. These special months when we celebrate Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas and the arrival of a New Year hold great meaning for all of us.

Reminding us, once again, of how fortunate we are.

As I get older, time seems to fly faster. Just think, in only a few months will have the pleasure of joining together for another of our great 106th Association Reunions. Once again we will have the pleasure of seeing old friends and, maybe, some new ones. To swap tales and remember the fun we have experienced together. We never



Rev. Ewell Black Jr., 422/A
106th Infantry Division Association
President 2009–2010
2000 E-W Conn – Apt. 212
Austell, GA 30106
770-819-7212 ecb@avillager.org

know when an old friend may pop-up. At a recent X-POW meeting in Florida, one of my friends was approached by another member, and asked if he knew me. This man was one of my friends from A/422, whom I hadn't heard from in many years, who now lives in Florida. We just never know when one of our old 106th friends will turn up!

May each of us enjoy a great spring and summer. Looking forward to seeing each of you in September.

Ewell



Committee for the Future of our 106th Infantry Division Association

At its Board Meeting in Indianapolis, the Board of Directors set up a Committee to study the future of our Association and report back to the Board at our 2010 Reunion. This committee asks each member to express their feelings concerning our future. The discussion is whether to allow our Association to end when the last Veterans are unable to attend, or to allow our Associates to continue the 106th Division Association.

I have appointed the following Committee to gather this information:

E.H. Schanerberger, Chairman, e-mail: *eh_schanerberger@att.net*

Bernard Mayrsohn, e-mail: *whhass@earthlink.net*

John Schaffner, e-mail: *pumexim2@verizon.net*

Newton Weiss, e-mail: *newtruth2@verizon.net*

Please contact one of the members of the Committee as soon as you have made your decision on this important matter concerning the future of our 106th Division Association.

Rev. Ewell C. Black Jr., President (422/A)

For Dr. Duncan Trueman —

After living this long, one has met and known a great number of people. Many have had some influence on our lives. A few have had a very positive effect on us. Our dear friend, Duncan Trueman, was one of the latter. Duncan's participation in our Association was always expected and anticipated by all of us. His messages in each of our *CUB* magazine, as our Chaplain, never failed to inspire us to love each other, and to be kind to everyone. His part of our annual reunions always affected us with the feeling that every one of us

did our part to rid the world of despotic dictators, and preserve the freedoms we cherish most for America and the whole of Europe. We were all a hero in his eyes and he was quick to let us know that.

Duncan Truman will not be with us any longer when we assemble to talk about the days when we were tried to the limit of our endurance. He will never be forgotten by those of us who knew him. He was a good man.

His 106th Brothers

It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of Chaplain Dr. Duncan Trueman 424/AT. Please read the full memorial on page 34.

Chaplain's Message . . .

It's interesting the way myths can seem to become reality. Happens all the time! One of America's most enduring myths involves those who faced combat during World War II. (Only one out of 15 was actually engaged in combat). The Greatest Generation fought valiantly (so the myth goes) and returned home to marry, raise children, get a job and education...and they did so happily and well-adjusted. Well, maybe 14 out of 15 did, but that lone combat vet was often different. In many of their families, "He was never the same after the war," became a common complaint. In still other families the emotional tolls did not begin to appear until years had passed. No one had heard of or understood the term PTSD and the V.A. was understaffed to deal with it, and still struggling to find its way.

Tom Brokaw, who included my name in one of his Greatest Generation books for no reason other than "being there" never hinted at these troubles that were so familiar to combat vets. Broken marriages, broken lives, alcoholism and dozens of other problems flourished. So did the flashbacks, nightmares, other symptoms — but the myth prevailed.

It has always, always been true that returning warriors need to find a way to "cleanse" their memories, their psyches, their souls from the horrific brutal affects of war that they may have experienced. Some cultures, like the Native American cultures, provide a means for doing this for every returning warrior. A Vietnam veteran once said that he wished he had been "untrained" after the war. Even in Greek mythology the need for "untraining," or finding yourself again is demonstrated in Homer's "Odyssey." In it, Odysseus takes an entire decade to "arrive home." There are times when we are NOT home even yet. A Vietnam vet once blurted out to me, "Doc. I've lost my soul." He used the word soul even though



Chaplain Dr. Duncan Trueman 424/AT
106th Infantry Division Association
29 Overhill Lane, Warwick, NY 10990
Tel/Fax: 845-986-6376
dttrueman@yahoo.com

he had no idea that I was also a minister.

But today we have begun more than ever before to take into account the soul... that spiritual aspect of human nature which is also damaged by trauma. A good friend with whom I have worked is the Lt. Colonel in charge of the psychology department at West Point military academy. He welcomes involvement of chaplains when men are dealing with issues like guilt, forgiveness and the many spiritual issues that arise. He himself is a lay preacher.

Perhaps, although the Greatest Generation did experience the same emotional trauma as did subsequent veterans, their ability to overcome it as well as they did is related to the fact that their lives — our lives — had a spiritual and religious component much stronger than that we observe in society around us today.

ISAIAH 26:3

*"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace
whose mind is stayed on thee."*

Chaplain, Duncan Trueman

The Adjutant's Message . . .

My Brothers,

Only yesterday we were preparing for the new century 2000 — and here we are at 2010. Where did the 10 years go? We all just got a little older, and lost so many of our 106th Brothers. How fortunate, those of us still here, have another opportunity to be together again in September in Minnesota.

At our last reunion, we again appointed a Commission to report back at our 2010 reunion — “The ongoing future of the 106th Association.” Having complete confidence that we will go on, we are examining sites for our 2011 reunion! Also at the 2010 reunion, our Memorial Chairman, Dr. John Robb requested donations to 1.) The National POW Museum at Andersonville, Ga. 2.) The Memorial at Camp Atterbury 3.) Two Flags for the 106th Memorial at St. Vith, Belgium, all were approved by the Board.

A recent request was made to identify the Charter and Incorporation of our 106th Assoc. I called on our Treasurer, Lyle Beeth, for his assistance, and within 24 hours Lyle directed me to the information he found on the Internet. We were Incorporated in Baltimore, Maryland, July 16, 1959. A copy of the Certificate is being prepared for our Treasurer. How fortunate we are to have Lyle Beeth as our Treasurer and Membership Chairman; he is always available in helping me to address questions from our membership.

For the past 15 years, I have been working with the X-POW Speakers Bureau at the V.A. in West Palm Beach, FL. As the coordinator I was asked recently to bring some of my X-POWs to visit with a Prof. Robert Watson and



**Murray Stein, 423/I,
Ex Comm, Adjutant**
7614 Charing Cross Lane
Delray Beach, FL 33446
561-499-7736
Greg0803@adelphia.net

his history classes, for two days at Lynn University in Boca Raton, FL. Our visit there was noteworthy, in that, one of the full-time students was a veteran of WW II (84 years young). Prof. Watson and the students were in awe of a couple of our speakers. Dr. Mort Brooks, who was a prisoner in the infamous “Berga” in Germany. And Col. Leo Gray who was a member of the Tuskegee Airmen. They claimed to have never lost a Bomber, that they escorted as Fighter Pilots, to Europe. Leo flew 200 MISSIONS!

Prof. Watson and the students were treated to an extraordinary educational understanding of WW II. We have visited Public Schools, High Schools, Colleges and Universities, and have been welcomed and thanked for our service,

Reunion material is being prepared and will be mailed in the near future. Start making plans to be with us in Sept. We will be celebrating our 64th Reunion, and another chance to spend a few days with our “Band of Brothers.”

Love ya, Murray Stein

Historian's Message . . .

There are several things to talk about in this issue. Perhaps they are old news now, but that is what history is all about, right?

First is a dear friend of the GI who is no longer here to welcome us to her Belgium home with kisses and open arms. Of course I am talking about Adelaide (Adda) Rikken. She passed away on January 7, 2010. Adda and her husband Willy were awarded the Order of the Golden Lion in the year 2003 for the attention and time that they freely gave to our members during visits to the battleground. We were always welcome. Adda and Willy worked diligently to organize a group of Belgian citizens to honor a group of eleven soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion who were captured by the SS during the Battle of the Bulge, tortured, and subsequently murdered, and their bodies left in the road at a place called Wereth. This group of Belgian citizens mounted a campaign to erect a monument at Wereth to make sure that these Americans will not be forgotten. It was completed and dedicated in 2004 with full military honors. This is only one of many acts of remembrance that became a most important part of their life. What ever the future holds, we will not forget the Rikkens.

WOW!!!! There is just no other word for the time that we had 12–17 December 2009 in Washington, D.C. If you were there to attend the “Events of Remembrance and Commemoration of the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge,” I am sure that you feel



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

the same way. Well, I have to tell you that the full schedule was not easy on the old timers, but we soldiered on. It is a characteristic of the infantry. I am so glad that I attended. I could fill the pages of *The CUB* with descriptions of everything that we did, but you would think it was fiction. We were recognized everywhere we went. The two Embassies, Luxembourg and Belgium, were especially gracious in the honors paid to the veterans. The Belgian Royal Military Band greeted us at the various events. For the inside gatherings the Band set up their “combo” for entertainment. And, the Doubletree Crystal City Hotel was convenient and provided our needs.

The 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, “The Old Guard” entertained us at the Fort Myer Field House with their band, Drum Corps, Drill Team, and Continental Color Guard. M/Gen. Karl Horst, C.O., honored the veterans with a short speech from the floor. Wreaths

continues on page 6

Historian's Message . . .

were placed by the veterans, and also the Belgian Minister of Defense, M. Pieter de Crem, at three locations: the VBOB Memorial in Arlington Cemetery, the Tomb of the Unknowns, and the World War II Memorial. In addition to the above, visits were made to the White House, the Capitol, and the Newseum. We visited Union Station where Norway had erected a huge Christmas tree in the concourse dedicated to the American service men & women responsible for restoring their freedom. All of this, and more, was arranged by the group known as "The Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation, Inc." We owe them for their efforts to make it a memorable occasion for the veterans. They succeeded. There were nine 106th Infantry Division veterans in attendance, more than any other one unit. It is too bad that every one of you could not have been there.

Before long our Association will



Standing L-R: Lou Cunningham, David Bailey, Jim Bowman, John Gatens, Frank Troutman, Christian Truman. Seated L-R: Phil Hannon, John Schaffner and John Blanden

be making it possible for Associate Members to step up and answer the call for active participation in the operation of the organization. We have members who believe that the Association should die when the veterans no longer can, or are able to perform those duties

necessary to keep it going. I do not listen to that kind of talk. If you are an Associate Member and have an interest in picking up the flag and carrying on in our place, please let us know.

No organization is an organization very long without the active (emphasis on active) participation of its members. We have now entered into another year and heartfelt thanks are due to the nucleus of people who work for the rest of us to maintain our Association. We are very fortunate to have them. These are the folks who we rely on to do the tasks that are necessary. Support them with your attendance.

In the last issue of *The CUB* you will find an ad for a book titled *The Lion's Path*, authored by C. J. Kelly. I have a copy and can tell you that it is a real "page turner." Chris "C.J." Kelly has captured the chaotic situation that we associate with the Bulge and has written about the experience of two American soldiers, one of the 590th FABn and the other of the 333rd FABn. The two main characters are fictionalized, but much research went into the book, and you will recognize the names of the places and many of the names of the 106th Division commanders. Get a copy to hand to your kids and grandkids.

Regards, John Schaffner

Association Historian John Schaffner has supplied more photos (similar to the last issue of The CUB) that he has retrieved from the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, MD. This new batch of photos represents various aspects of the division in combat during and after the Battle of the Bulge.

Historian's Message . . .



First patrol of infantrymen of the 106th Infantry Division (15th U. S. Army) crosses bridge built by Germans for passage of our troops at St. Nazaire, France, after surrender of the German garrison in the pocket of resistance. German bridge builders are at edge of bridge.



Crew of 105mm howitzer looks on as Round 50,000 is loaded in the breach. (A posed picture)



Infantryman of the 424th Infantry Regiment, 106th Infantry Division on the alert at the edge of a clearing near Medell, Belgium. 25 January 1945. Note the soldier is wearing the new snow camouflage suit.



Combat infantrymen of Company A, 1st Battalion, 424th Infantry Regiment, 106th Infantry Division, 1st U. S. Army, clean weapons in snow covered Wanne, Belgium, 14 January 1945.



At Logbierme, Belgium, Cpl. Tony D'Addio, 22 Hasbrouck St., Newburgh, NY., sights a 75mm pack howitzer. Battery D, 460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion, 106th Infantry Division.



Demonstration by members of the 106th Infantry Division of removal of injured soldier from field under fire during infiltration course at Fort Jackson, S.C. 6 Aug 1943

Historian's Message . . .



German soldiers made prisoner by U.S. Forces. (Unknown location)



Lt. Ivan H. Long, Pontiac, MI, (center) talks to members of his Intelligence & Reconnaissance Platoon of the 423rd Infantry Regiment, 106th Infantry Division. Trapped by the sudden German thrust, the platoon maneuvered through 18 miles of German concentrations of infantry and armor units without the loss of a single man. Lt. Long attributes the success of the march to the scouting ability of Pvt. Sam Bordelon, Birmingham, AL, who acted as First Scout. 16 December 1944.



Children of Anthisnes, Belgium, flock around Sgt. John J. McCauley, 2286 West 30th St., Cleveland, Ohio, who is attached to an Ordnance Company of the 106th Infantry Division. On left is Cpl. Joseph Legg, Jr. of Detroit, MI. 30 December 1944



This L-4 Piper observation plane crashed on landing at Stavelot, Belgium, 19 January 1945 106th Infantry Division

NEW CD #5 due out Next Year

Jim West and John Schaffner are once again undertaking the huge task of putting together another CD containing more of the history and stories of the 106th Infantry Division.

If you still have a story to tell, contact either of these gentlemen and let your tale be told.

Please see the inside back cover of this *CUB* for the current CDs available.

Treasurer's Report . . .

Association Membership As of March 1, 2010

Veterans	900
Associates	360
Total Members	1260

REGULAR DONATIONS:

106 SIG	Kernitzky, Lennie I.
81ST ENG/C	Grooten, Ralph R.
ASSOCIATE	Schiro, Joe M.
424/H	Auerbach, Sid
424/A	Shearin, Hugh G.
81ST ENG/C	Aalsburg, John

LIFE PLUS DONATIONS:

422/A	Fournier, Roger C.
424/F	Mess, Kenneth A.
ASSOCIATE	Mcmahon, Leo T., Jr. (Col.)
422/H	Snovel, Robert I.
969TH FA	Johnson, Charles
592/C	Roberts, John M.
422/I	Grossman, Irving
422/G	Ginther, Keith

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Pamela Defoe, In memory of husband
Fred Defoe (423/SV)

NEW MEMBERS

422/H Monter, Sol
Associate Weiner, Adams L.
Associate John W. Keeber
Associate Thomas D. Roberts
6296 Donnybrook Drive
Shelby Twp., MI 48316

I am enrolling my son Tom as an Associate Member in the 106th Infantry Division Association for several reasons. The first reason is that he has been so helpful to me, since I became legally blind, to do much of my computer work for the Mini-reunions I hold annually as well as the articles I send to The CUB magazine. In addition, Tom attended the 106th national reunion in Indianapolis, IN in 2009 and really enjoyed all of the activities as well as being able to meet so many of the attendees. He is looking forward to taking me to the 2010 reunion in Minneapolis.

*John M. "Jack" Roberts
Current Board Member
Past President, 2003-2004*

YOUR DUES MAY BE DUE

If you are an ANNUAL member (not a LIFE member), your annual dues may be due. Our fiscal year ends on June 30 of each year. That is when you should pay \$10 for the next year. Please look at the first line of the address label on this issue of *The CUB*, it shows your "Paid To Date" date. If it is less than 6/30/2010, PLEASE send the proper amount to the following:

Lyle Beeth, Treasurer, 2004 Golf Manor, Valrico, FL 33596

If you would like an electronic list of the members' addresses, please contact Lyle Beeth, Membership Chair and Treasurer, at the address above or by e-mail at beeth2@hotmail.com.

Front & Center . . .

Announcements from the editor of The CUB of the Golden Lion

Hello, my name is William A. McWhorter, and I am the editor of *The CUB of the Golden Lion (The CUB)*. I am an admirer of your outfit and hope that I can assist in keeping open the lines of communication for our Association. With John Kline's retirement, he is graciously no longer accepting new items for publication in *The CUB*. Please, however, send news items that you would like reviewed for potential inclusion in upcoming issues of *The CUB* to me. Whenever possible, please send them to my e-mail address

(located on the inside cover of this issue). If you do decide to send them via postal mail, if possible, please **print** your messages (it helps me get names spelled correctly). Thank you.

Please report all changes of address and deaths to Lyle Beeth (424/AT) Treasurer and Membership Chairman.

Finally, Sy Lichtenfeld (422/I) would like you to contact him if you are interested in serving on future Boards of the 106th Infantry Division Association. Sy's contact information is on the inside cover of *The CUB*.

Just a reminder . . .

If you have pictures and information you would like included in a future edition of *The CUB*, the due dates are as follows:

- For the edition coming out in AUGUST 2010, all material is due by JUNE 15
- For the edition coming out in DECEMBER 2010 — to include pictures from the 2010 reunion, all materials are due by OCTOBER 9

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

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

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

Editor's Notification:

Correction: The last issue of *The CUB* indicated that **Frank V. Sziber (81st ENG)** date of death was November 14, 2009. Mrs. Frank Sziber contacted the staff at *The CUB* and informed us that this should have read 2008.

Learning To Be A Soldier

by Dean Franklin Childs (106th Signal)

Eleanor Childs, Mr. Dean F. Childs' widow, contacted the editor of *The CUB of the Golden Lion* and asked that this article be printed in the publication in honor of her husband. The Childs have been members of the Association since 1987 and have hosted mini-reunions for members living in the State of Arizona.

"I was drafted into the service at Camp Dodge Iowa on August 15, 1942, and was sent to Camp Bowie, Texas for basic training. After basic training I asked for and received a transfer to the Air Corp, as there was a shortage of pilots and aircrew. I, with 1,100 others, was transferred to Amherst Massachusetts for 20 weeks of air cadet college training. When we finished the Cadet training, we were told that the shortage of aircrew did not materialize, and everyone was to be transferred to other Army Units. Many of us went to the 106 Infantry Division, which was getting ready to go overseas.

How can it be so ironic, I thought to myself as I leaned on the rail of the troop ship watching it clear the harbor and head out to sea, here I am going overseas to fight a foreign war on the day our country set aside to be remembered as the war to end all wars, November 11th.

Seven days later, we arrive at South Hampton England and for the next three days we were busy being assigned new vehicles, and loading them on an L.S.T to cross the English Channel. Finally the day comes. The rumor has it we are going to La Havre France. We sailed out and by the middle of the day we could

see France. Our L.S.T.'s were run up on the beach and the front let down to where we could drive our vehicles off the ship onto the land. We all met at a certain point to wait until everyone was unloaded. Two days later, everyone was unloaded and we started a three-day convoy trip across France to St. Vith, Belgium.

In St. Vith, we were to take over the position of the 2nd Infantry Division, which was already in place. This part of the line had been inactive for several weeks so were told this would be a good place to get combat experience. We were assigned a 21 mile front to patrol instead of the 3 miles that was usually assigned. Everything went pretty smooth for about 10 days. On December 16, right after 5:30 AM chow, we started to receive incoming fire from the German line. We were told to disperse, but do not leave the area. My buddy Dale and I went to a small knoll where we could see all around and laid on the ground. He said this would be a good time to light his pipe, and as he rolls over to get his pipe out with the tobacco, which was a cardboard can of Half & Half. He said "what is this?" And when I looked he was holding a piece of steel about the size of my thumb. It was a piece of shrapnel still too hot to hold in your hand. It had gone through his pants pocket, through the cardboard tobacco can into the tobacco.

This was our first time to be under fire, so no one knew what to do. About three o'clock in the afternoon, we had a

continues on page 12

Company Formation to tell us what was going on. The Company Commander asked all the single guys to form up to his right. I think there were five of us, then he told us we had just volunteered to stay behind and guard the Headquarters while they were shredding papers and other records. At this point needless to say tension was very high, friends had to leave friends behind not knowing if they would ever see them again. A Sergeant took us to a schoolhouse where the Headquarters was and along the way we picked up a few other men. My guard post was under a tank parked by the side of the road with instructions to watch both ways. I had to find some ammunition for my M-1 as I was from the Motor Pool and was told I wouldn't need any ammunition and our supplies had not arrived as yet. About 3:00 AM the Sergeant came and relieved me with a new guard and told me to go inside where there were some bunks and try to get some sleep. The next thing I heard was someone in a loud voice saying: Is there anyone in here? I immediately stood up and looked around and found I was the only one there. The Lt. said come on son everyone else is gone. I guess they couldn't sleep so were up milling around and when they said load the truck we are leaving, they got on the truck, but no one woke me up. So I was the last one to leave St. Vith before the Germans came. The truck went downtown St. Vith and, turning down one of the streets, we came face to face with a German tank looking at us with a big gun pointed right at us. Everyone jumped off the truck and ran into a house that was right beside of us. We thought this wasn't so good if they

should fire on the house so the Lt. told the driver to go out and turn the truck around, and when that was done, the rest of us would get back on. The driver refused to go back out there. A fellow we called Bunny said he would go turn it around and after Bunny got the truck turned around the driver wouldn't let him drive. The driver was so scared he jumped into the driver's seat and started down the road but didn't give Bunny time to go to the back of the truck and climb over the tail gate. We got the driver to slow down so Bunny could catch up and helped him on board. We witnessed a tank battle going on in a clearing along the side of the road and a lot of soldiers digging foxholes. I guess someone knew where we were going. We got on some roads that had a lot of snow on them and it was drifted real bad so the first truck would go as far as it could, then another one would come up behind and push it through. We finally found the rest of our Company.

One day we watched as a group of B-24 Bombers was shot out of the sky. We couldn't have been too far from the A.A. guns that were shooting at them. We watched the tracers go up and we counted the parachutes as they came down. It was good when we could count to 10, then we knew that the crew had all gotten out. In watching all of this it made me glad they had made me transfer out of the Air Corp.

I can't remember what town we were in in Belgium but our officer said that we would be there for a few days. So we thought this would be a good time to catch up on our laundry. We asked a lady who lived in the area we were staying in, if she could wash our clothes.

Front & Center . . .

She said she would, and we agreed on a price, which wasn't very much. We went back to where we had parked the truck and got our clothes. The next morning Sgt. says pack up we are moving out. We went back to get the laundry and she had just put it all in the washing machine. She felt real bad that we had to take the washing wet, but it wasn't too long before it was all solid ice.

We were lucky to always find a building (if only a lean-to) to do our mechanic work. We were only doing first echelon maintenance. Everything else had to be taken back behind the line. This is where we slept and ate.

Since I was from the Motor Pool, I was given the job of hauling gas to our front line units from the gasoline depot. This depot was generally 30 or 40 miles back from the line. The gas came up to the depot in 5-gallon cans so I would take a load of empty cans and exchange them for full ones. This was another job no one wanted to do. We always thought that a load of empty gas cans would blow as high as full ones. Didn't have to worry much about ground fire it was pretty much all gone, but we had to watch for airplanes strafing the roads. One day we could see this German airplane flying over the town just ahead of where we were going. My Buddy said we had better watch him: he circled around and got behind us and lined up on the road. I was watching him all

the way. When he got lined up on the road and coming toward us, I told my Buddy we had better get out of here. He stopped the truck and jumped out on his side, and I took off from my side, there was a ditch on both sides of the road so we ran down the ditch a little way to get away from the truck. He never fired a shot. Just looking us over I guess!

As soon as the Germans started to surrender life was a lot different at the front line. You never knew when you would see a white flag. It could be only one or could be a group. There was a problem of what to do with them, as we were not set up to handle a group of prisoners. They were like we had been at one time, no food for several days, cold and wet. But we didn't have to worry about this we turned them into our Company Headquarters and it became their job. At this time the 106th Division was transferred to Bad Ems Germany to guard a POW Camp.

One day the Sergeant told me to pack my bags, that I was going home. I had received enough points on my service record that I would be rotated to the states. I don't know how I had more points than the rest but I never questioned it. I was transferred to another unit that was going home for Christmas. I arrived back in the states on December 15, 1945 and was given my separation papers at Camp Grant Illinois on December 20, 1945.

The Worst Christmas

The following newspaper article from The Cincinnati Enquirer, December 16, 2009 edition, was submitted by Philip A. Fazzini [424/L] of Hamilton, Ohio. The article was written by Mr. Howard Wilkinson

“As much as Frank Bates (422nd) enjoys Christmas, surrounded by family and friends, it is impossible for the 84-year-old Fairfield Township, OH man to forget a December 65 years ago. As the time, he was a young soldier, fighting in the frozen forests of Belgium and in the process, sacrificing his freedom. And it was the worst Christmas ever. That was when Bates, along with thousands of his fellow American GIs, became prisoners of war in the first few days of the Battle of the Bulge, which led to a winter and spring of hardship, starvation, abuse and finally liberation. ‘It was a long time ago,’ Bates said recently, sitting at the kitchen table of his Fairfield Township home. ‘But those are the kind of memories that never leave you.’ In December 1944, Bates, a 19-year old corporal from Madison, Indiana found himself smack in the middle of one of the longest, largest and bloodiest battles American troops ever experienced. For six months, ever since the Normandy invasion, Allied troops had been slowly fighting their way across Europe, aiming for the heart of Germany’s Nazi empire. On December 16, in the midst of a snowstorm and sub-zero temperatures, the Germans launched an offensive, striking the Allied lines in the Ardennes Forest in Belgium, creating a ‘bulge’ in the Allied

lines and giving the battle its popular name. The battle ground on for nearly six weeks; and in the end, it was a victory for American (and Allied) forces, who forced the Nazi forces to withdraw from the Ardennes. But the cost was high. . . . Bates saw very little of the battle, although what he saw was horrific.

...By December 19, the situation had become desperate. Men were running low on ammunition; Bates’ own company commander was killed in action. At that point, the commander of Bates’ regiment, Col. George Descheneaux, made a difficult decision — the decision to surrender the regiment.

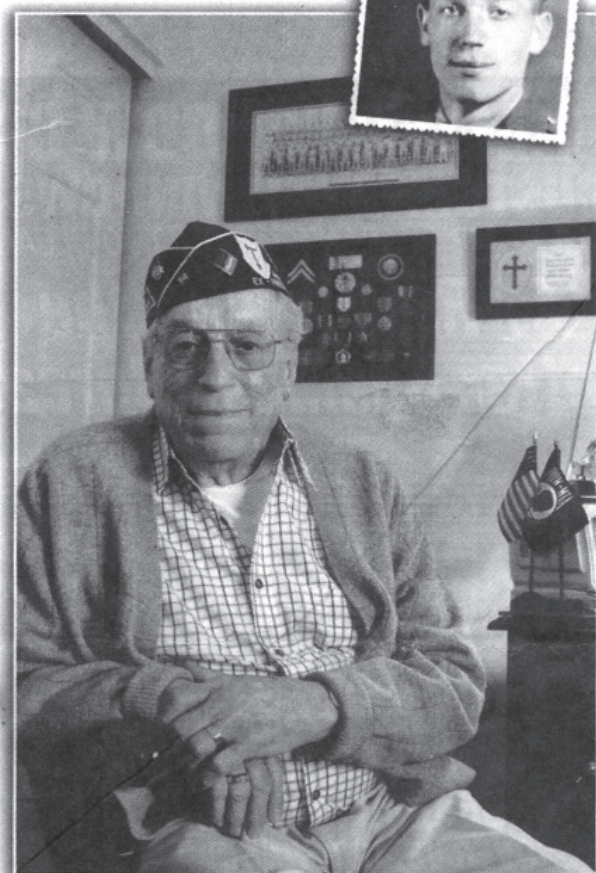
...For decades after the war, Bates could barely bring himself to talk about the war and his time as a prisoner. Not to his wife, not to his sons, not even to his fellow veterans. ‘One day, 20 years or so ago, my son said to me that I ought to come talk to the kids in the grade-school class he was teaching.’

...Bates said, ‘I could see those kids’ faces light up [as he spoke].

...Since then, Bates has told his story dozens of times in classrooms around the Cincinnati area. ‘I realized it was a story worth telling,’ Bates said, ‘It was a time in history worth remembering.’”

*'It was a time in
history worth
remembering.'*

Frank Bates



The Enquirer/Mallinda Hartong

Frank Bates, 84, of Fairfield Township, was a prisoner of war 65 years ago after being captured in the Battle of the Bulge.

The worst Christmas

Veteran recalls days as Nazi prisoner of war

By **Howard Wilkinson**
hwilkinson@enquirer.com

As much as Frank Bates enjoys Christmas, surrounded by family and friends, it is impossible for the 84-year-old Fairfield Township man to forget a December 65 years ago.

At the time, he was a young soldier, fighting in the frozen forests of Bel-

gium, and, in the process, sacrificing his freedom.

And it was the worst Christmas ever.

That was when Bates, along with thousands of his fellow American GIs, became prisoners of war in the first few days of the Battle of the Bulge, which led to a winter and spring of hardship, starvation, abuse, and, finally, libera-

tion.

"It was a long time ago," Bates said recently, sitting at the kitchen table of his Fairfield Township home. "But those are the kind of memories that never leave you."

In December 1944, Bates, a 19-year-old corporal from Madison, Ind.,

See **VETERAN**, Page **A12**

A selection from the book of poetry —

Before the Veterans Die

by Dale R. Carver

The Chaplain

He came to us straight from school,
book-filled with notions of self sacrifice
and service to God through Man.
Brisk, cheerful and, above all, uncensuring,
a Man of God and a good fellow.

When first the shells rained upon us
he took his place at the side of the surgeon,
cheering the wounded, comforting the dying,
helping with the bloody patchwork.
A Man of God in action.

All night the walking wounded streamed in;
the litter cases, some shrieking with pain,
some dumb with shock, some quietly sobbing,
like shamed children.
A Man of God among hurt men.

No rest the day, nor the night;
no experience from which to learn
the value of strength withheld;
all he gave, till he too went with the wounded,
a hurt Man of God.

John M. 'Jack' Roberts and Four Other Michigan World War II Veterans Receive the French Medal of Honor

6 from Michigan are presented with the Legion of Honor

By ERIC D. LAWRENCE
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

More than 60 years after they fought for France's liberation during World War II, six Michigan veterans were given that country's highest honor during a ceremony Wednesday in Detroit.

Chester Miles of Brighton, William McKeon of Hartland, Valerian Przygocki of Bay City, John Roberts of Bloomfield Hills, George Vidusic of Livonia and James Conrad, grandson of the late Otis Conrad of Columbiaville, were presented with the Legion of Honor by Jean-Baptiste de Boissiere, consul general of France, in front of friends and relatives at the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center. Boissiere pinned the medal on the lapel of each man, except for Conrad, who received his grandfather's award in a box.



Consul General of France, Jean-Baptiste de Boissiere, is shown pinning the Medal of Honor on John Roberts of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan on Wednesday, October 28, 2009

Roberts, 85, said he was accepting the medal in recognition of others who had served, many of whom had died.

"I would consider this a distinct honor to receive it," he said.

Roberts described his experiences during the war, especially when he was captured and made a "harrowing escape" through enemy lines

during the Battle of the Bulge, a last-gasp, German offensive in December 1944, as life-changing.

"It made a man out of me," he said.

Calling the men heroes, Boissiere said the award recognizes the important example set by the men.

"You saved us, and we will never forget," he said. "Grati-

tude and remembrance are forever in our souls."

Boissiere said the men were selected based on their service records — all had received numerous medals and other awards from the U.S. military — and all served in France during at least a portion of their service.

CONTACT ERIC D. LAWRENCE: 313-223-4272 OR ELAWRENCE@FREEPRESS.COM.

Six Michigan men are awarded the Legion of Honor Medal for their wartime heroics

BY STEVE PARDO
The Detroit News

Detroit — They fought in Normandy, in the Ardennes and Northern France campaigns and helped liberate towns from Nazi occupiers in the pivotal months of World War II.

For those efforts, six Michigan veterans were awarded for their wartime heroics Wednesday with the French Legion of Honor Medal, the highest honor the county bestows. It was created by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802 and is widely considered one of Europe's most prestigious civic honors.

"Thanks to your courage, to our American friends and allies, France has been living in peace for the past six decades. We shall never forget," said Jean-Baptiste de Boissiere, Consul General of France, based out of Chicago.

They served with different divisions and different roles: field artillery, infantry, military police and bombardment. They were, however, united in their efforts in beating back the Germans, de Boissiere said.

About 30 people gathered at the John D. Dingell Veteran's Affairs Medical Center to witness the ceremony honoring Chester Miles, 86, of Brighton; William McKeon, 86 of Hartland; John Roberts, 85, of Bloomfield Hills; George Vidusic, 85, of Livonia; Valerian Przygocki, 86, of Bay City; and Otis J. Conrad of Columbiaville, north of Lapeer. Conrad was given the medal posthumously. He died last September at the age of 85.

"Our countries have been together a long time," said Roberts, as de Boissiere pinned the medal to his lapel.



John Roberts of Bloomfield Hills proudly wears his Legion of Honor medal for service during World War II in France.

"It's like a marriage. You don't always get along — there are a few disagreements — but you survive."

The award was previously only awarded to American military personnel from World War I. But in 2004, the 60th anniversary of

D-Day, France began honoring World War II American soldiers. About 800 medals have been awarded over the last five years.

The six honored Wednesday served in dozens of campaigns and collected more than 40 medals and other accolades for their service. The medals included Purple Hearts, Bronze Battle Stars, and Good Conduct medals. There were tears from audience members and from the veterans themselves during the medals presentation.

"I was petrified all the time I was there," said Miles, who enlisted in January of 1943 at the age of 19. "Anybody who says that they weren't — they're lying. But I had a job to do and I did it. I was lucky."

"This is the greatest generation, no doubt about it," said Vidusic's son, Ralph.

"There never was a generation like that. And there probably will never be again."

spardo@detnews.com
(734) 462-2191

Why We Fight

D. F. Young (SFC), a Veteran member of the 106th Infantry Division submitted the following entry along with his comments at the end.

WHY

*A mother asked President Bush,
“Why did my son have to die in Iraq?”*

*A mother asked President Kennedy,
“Why did my son have to die in Vietnam?”*

*A mother asked President Truman,
“Why did my son have to die in Korea?”*

*A mother asked President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
“Why did my son have to die in World War II?”*

*A mother asked President Woodrow Wilson,
“Why did my son have to die in France?”*

*A mother asked President Abraham Lincoln,
“Why did my son have to die at Gettysburg?”*

*And yet another mother asked General George Washington,
“Why did my son have to die at Valley Forge?”*

*The answers to all of these are very, very, similar; So that others may have life,
and dwell in Peace, Happiness, Liberty and Freedom.*

Young states the following, “In my view, all this adds up to “Why We Fight.” Our fight is for the Freedom of people and countries. We have paid a heavy price, keeping our Freedom and also that of obtaining Freedom for our friends and allies.

106th Infantry Division Veteran Receives Long-Over-Due Purple Heart in Texas Ceremony

Harold Power (423/M) of Houston, Texas receives the Purple Heart with three Oak Leaf clusters from U.S. Representative Ted Poe. In addition, he was awarded a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol Building in honor of his service to his country during the Battle of the Bulge.



JANICE SMITH: FOR THE CHRONICLE

PROUD MOMENT: Harold Power of Spring, left, is awarded the Purple Heart with three Oak Leaf clusters at his home by Congressman Ted Poe. After receiving the Purple Heart from Poe, Powers was awarded a flag flown over the United States Capitol in recognition of his brave deeds surrounding the Battle of the Bulge.

Yet Another Fine Example of How Belgium Citizens Still Remember What the U.S. Army Did for Their Country

106th Veteran and former *CUB of the Golden Lion* editor Mr. John Kline received the following touching message from a Belgium family, and he asked that we share it with you in *The CUB*. Michel Lorquet (a Belgium teacher) contacted John Kline and said, "I was contacted by a veteran of the 28th ID who asked me to adopt the grave of his cousin buried at the Henri-Chapelle U.S. cemetery here, in Belgium. The soldier was Donald SCHULTZ (424/106th ID).



The Lion's Path

By C.J. Kelly



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

Available at Amazon.com or barnesandnoble.com

An Article from Murray Stein

The words in today's post are not mine, but rather the words of Dr. Brad Bradford. After reading this for yourself, I think you will agree why I wanted to share it with you. Some of you may have already heard this amazing and sincere story and word of thanks. I am sure you will not mind reading them again though. (Thank you Dr. Brad for allowing me to share.)

Dr. Brad Bradford read the following at his father's funeral recently. I will say no more and let you enjoy and take in what a great and honorable man not only Mr. Bradford was but all of the men of Company B as well. (I am pretty sure that he would want to honor these men at any opportunity that he got ...).

Dear Men of Company B,

"On behalf of the Bradford and Smith families, we would personally like to thank each of you for being with us today. Your presence in and of itself is a gift. Instead of the typical eulogy, the context of what I have to say today is in the form of a thank you note — that would have been written by my father. But before I say thank you, I need to tell you about the life my father lived.

Dad was born on May 28, 1920, to Catherine Johnson Bradford and Charles Raymond Bradford, Sr. of Hollywood, Alabama. He grew up a country boy in a small cotton town. A person of small stature but big ego, who according to him was always getting into fights. He rode the train to Scottsboro to attend Jackson County High School, and then attended Alabama Polytechnic Institute (Auburn University) in 1938. Dad flunked freshmen English but managed to graduate magna cum laude, loved his fraternity, Pi Kappa Alpha and graduated in 1942. As one of the 4 highest ranked officers in R.O.T.C. at API, he, like all of his classmates, went off to train for WWII. 1944 found Dad a 1st Lt. in field artillery training with his officer classmates

from AU. Having been denied permission for leave to come to Scottsboro to marry Ruth Moody, Dad went over his commanding officer and obtained permission from his post commander for leave. Upon his return, his commanding officer immediately transferred him to the 106th Division, a replacement division made up mostly of soldiers who had never trained together. He was sent to port of embarkment in Taunton, Massachusetts where he and mother spent the next few months awaiting his deployment to Europe. his division eventually arrived in Ardennes forest in Belgium in December 1944, to replace the 2nd Division, a battle-hardened group that had been fighting since D-day.

His division, the 106th "Golden Lions," was on the front for 2 weeks before they found themselves in the middle of the largest German offensive of WWII. In a blinding snow storm armored panzer divisions advanced and surrounded the U.S. Army, forming a "bulge." The 106th Division was in the middle of the "bulge" and found themselves immediately cut off from the rest of the army. Dad, a forward observer for field artillery, along with his newly

acquired friend, Eric Fisher Wood, found his division of 10,000 men cut off from the remainder of the U.S. Army. Dad was captured when they ran out of food and ammunition. His friend, Eric lost his life in service to his country and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions. Dad spent the next six months in P.O.W. camps. V.E. Day in May of 1945 found Dad weighing 105 pounds. When he returned to Hollywood, his homecoming wish was to have Christmas. Although, it was July, Dad's mother, Kate Bradford, had a Christmas tree, turkey and dressing and coconut cake.

For the next five years, like all veterans, he tried to put his life back together. In 1950, he and his best friend, Mark Skelton, recruited 164 eighteen to twenty year olds to join the local National Guard, Company B. Unbeknown to Mark and Dad they would soon be activated and sent as combatants to the Korean War. Dad and Mark were both given the opportunity not to return to combat. Both elected to continue their commitment to their country and community and to these young men that they had recruited.

The Korean conflict was a series of advance and retreat from the 38th parallel to Seoul (the capital). The Red army would bring millions of soldiers for three-day campaigns and drive the U.S. Army hundreds of miles before our forces could stop them and drive them back north. Jackson County Company B were combat engineers that put up bridges for the advance and took them down after the retreat.

On one such maneuver, Dad, Captain of Company B, found his

company presumably cut off on a mountain. From all reports he could obtain from prisoners and soldiers coming back from the front, his company of 164 men would be surrounded within hours. He repeatedly asked for orders to pull back off the mountain from his commander who was located miles to the rear and who continually denied permission to leave.

Dad's continued attempts to inform his C.O. of the impending onslaught were answered with accusations of his company's combat inexperience. Dad remembered his similar predicament in Ardennes when his company captured German prisoners who carried orders that foretold of the German advance and isolation of his company. based on this, Dad ordered his radio operator to send a message again asking for permission to pull back and then turn the radio off before they could reply. Risking court martial for insubordination, Dad made a decision that saved the lives of 164 Jackson County boys and in doing so endeared himself to each of those young men.

It is at this point where the Thank You note starts. Dad returned home in 1952 and tried again to put his life back together. It took him several years to convince himself that he had done his duty in the Battle of the Bulge. I think he felt that he should have shared the same fate as Eric Fisher Woods, since he was the only officer in his company to live through the battle. the men of Company B gave my Dad his life back by continually surrounding him through his next years with constant recognition of his role in their lives. The men of Company B have spent the last 59 years lauding

and praising my father for bringing them safely home. They have been present in mass at every major event in my father's life and constructed a monument on the courthouse square in his honor. They have continually thanked my father for their lives. But in the end, it was you through your devotion who gave my father his life back.

From the Bradford and Smith families, THANKS to all of Company B for giving my father his life. GOD BLESS THE SOLDIERS OF COMPANY B AND THEIR FAMILIES."

Charles R. Bradford, III.

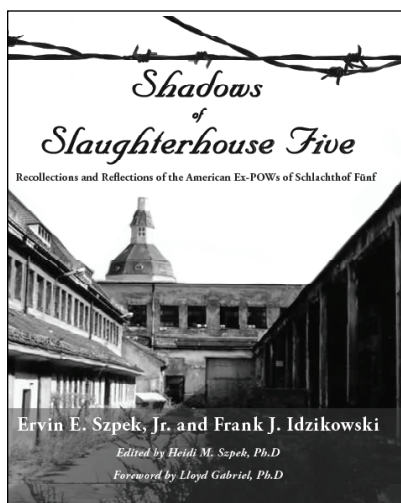
To honor Mr. Bradford and Company B, I will be giving away an American Flag for my Purse Prize this week. I love to drive by homes and see the flag flying. Gives you that 'reminder' that we all need — that we are extremely lucky human beings to live in this great country.

— CRB, III

Shadows of Slaughterhouse Five

from Ervin Szpek Jr., Associate Member

Ervin Szpek Jr. (Associate Member) is pleased to announce after many years of research that he and his colleagues' book on the infamous *Arbeitskommando Slaughterhouse Five* has been released. Nearly every man of this POW work camp (near Dresden, Germany) originated from the 106th Infantry Division including former 106th Association President, Gifford Doxsee. The book is their story, in their words, and accounts for nearly every POW at the camp; it also chronicles the recollections and reflections of the 150 American Ex-POWs, many of whom are members of the Association. Newly released by iUniverse press at www.iUniverse.com, the book is also available at www.amazon.com and



www.BarnesandNoble.com. With best wishes for 2010 and with appreciation for your efforts — thank you.

Soldiers Christmas

*by Matt Carroll
www.9thdivision.com
9th division WWII LHS*

Our group portrayed an allied POW camp. Since we were portraying the Christmas of 1944, we portrayed units such as the 106th. We explained the history of the 106th (I am an associate member, and I have read plenty of the archived CUB magazines) and life as a POW.

In addition, photos show Mr. Carroll's support of the Association. We hung the 106th flag prominently by the U.S. 48-star flag in our building. When people asked us, 'why is the 106th flag in your window, I thought your group was the 9th/60th?' The answer was the same — "the 106th, The Golden Lions," should be remembered

at any event that references the Battle of the Bulge.

We explained a small piece of the story because of limited time, but we gave the public POW ID cards, and hopefully a little bit of knowledge about POW life. There were Battle of the Bulge vets present and they also enjoyed the show. I hope that any 106th members from this area would come to this event next year. Our next event is the Battle of the Bulge reunion at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA.

Thank you for your time and for your service,

Matt



Sean Bergin, Matt Carroll with WWII vet in foreground (who wanted to stay with us after seeing the show) explaining the use of bed slats for firewood

Front & Center . . .



**Matt Carroll (106th Sgt)
and Ed Kane (head of the
FM historic Society)**



Dave Pucci, drinking ersatz coffee



**Matt showing 106th patch on
winter combat jacket**

Veterans and Family of the 106th Infantry Division's TATTOO Requests

With space in *The CUB* at a premium, yet **Reunited Buddies and their Families** being an **Important Commodity**, I have created the following list [*in their own words*, if you will] of inquires submitted to me (indirectly) in hopes of helping people get in touch with the 106th I.D. Association family. The following are requests for information; feel free to contact them if you believe you can be of assistance. I have received permission from all listed below to print their inquiry and their contact e-mail (phone and address when available).

In addition, Associate Member Connie Pratt Baseman, daughter of Lt. Gerald Pratt (Field Artillery) has been one of three people helping to manage the 106th's online 'message board' (set up by Jim West) for people to write an inquiry looking for comrades or for people who might have known a relative who is now gone. Sadly, some inquires sit unanswered when the answers may be out there with a reader of *The CUB* who doesn't use a computer. The list has gotten quite long and she has asked that whenever there is room in *The CUB* that we add a few of the requests.

You can find the following messages and other searches on the 106th Message Board at the following web address: <http://106thdivision.proboards.com/index.cgi>

Bill Colantuoni writes, "If there is anyone who might remember my Father, Pasquale (Pat) Colantuoni, 106th ID, 424/AT [CPL, 31458920, CIB, 27] from Boston, MA could they please contact me at wjcolxfile@verizon.net. He fought as an anti tank gunner, taking out 2 tanks. He fought behind lines, attached to different outfits until he re-joined what was left of the 106th. He finished his service guarding German POWs."

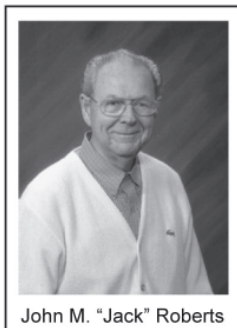
Wayne Groller writes, "My father is a 106th Veteran and I am searching for his information. In particular, I would like to know the number of the Regiment that Edwin Groller was in. I know he was in Company B. If you can add anything, please e-mail me at wglg_1999@comcast.net. This is a link to his Father's webpage: <http://www.indianamilitary.org/106ID/Diaries/None-POW/Groller-Edwin/Groller-Edwin.htm>

Brad Surby writes, "I am trying to find information on my grandfather. His name is Charles Clifton Bishop. We have had conversations about the war and it usually lasted 5 minutes then he would want to talk anymore. I wanted to know if there is a way to get info about him. Such as where and what did he do during the war. Thank you, Sincerely." Please e-mail me at obsnity27@yahoo.com

Announcing

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

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



John M. "Jack" Roberts



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

BOOK MAILING INFORMATION

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

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

Number of books _____ @ \$27.95 = _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED =

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

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

(Please print)

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

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

The Importance of a Mini Reunion

*by Ed Christianson 331st MedBn/C
Mini-Reunion Chairman*

The previous issue of *The CUB* (Sept-Dec '09 pg.2) included an article by Rev. Ewell Black Jr., President of the 106th Infantry Division Association whereby a Committee has been established to determine the future of the 106th Reunion Association. YOUR COMMENTS were solicited. If you sent in your input, we thank you. If not, please do so soon, all voices need to be heard.

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

A dozen or more years ago, *The CUB* would be filled with pictures and stories of men proudly gathered under a banner of the “Golden Lion.” I am sad to report that for the year 2009 only 14 mini-reunions were reported. For these groups, I am thankful and I encourage you to keep it up. For others whose interests may have dwindled, or haven’t gotten around to hosting a reunion yet, I invite you to do so this year. I assure you that it will be a satisfying experience for you. If you need further encouragement please contact me. My contact information is on the inside cover of this *CUB*.

Fraternal Regards,
Ed



Veterans, family, friends and guests in attendance at the October 18, 2009 Michigan 106th Mini-reunion dinner at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Livonia, MI

Mini-Reunions . . .

Mini-Reunion, Michigan

Submitted by Tom Roberts

Chairman John M. “Jack” Roberts with Major General Scott G. West at the Michigan 106th veterans Mini-reunion dinner, October 18, 2009 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Livonia, MI.

Major General West is the Commander of the Tank & Automotive Command in Warren, MI and was the guest speaker at the dinner. General West made an outstanding talk to the 60 attendees that included eleven veterans, guests and family members. General West did his homework on the 106th regarding where it organized and followed its progress from training at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, maneuvers in Tennessee, Camp Atterbury, Indiana and then overseas into battle.

He had nothing but praises for the stand the 106th made against the German counter-offensive, acknowledging that it was a green division but held its ground fighting and caused the German army to delay its timetable of reaching the American



Chairman John M. “Jack” Roberts with Major General Scott G. West at the Michigan 106th veterans Mini-reunion dinner, October 18, 2009 at the Embassy Suites in Livonia, MI.

supply depot. He made sure to comment on the horrible cold weather conditions where the division had to fight.

General West came early to the dinner and Jack Roberts personally escorted him to each table to introduce him to the 106th veterans and their guests. He took time to converse with each of them and answer questions. Major General West is a very personable officer and was well received as the guest speaker on October 18.

(Back Row L to R): Major General Scott G. West; Ellsworth Schanerberger (331/MED1); Command Sergeant Major Otis Cuffee; Ed Bohde (422/L); Jack Roberts (592/C); John Pllotkowski (424/H 1 BN); Colonel Jeanne Hooper and Lt. Colonel Steve Wall



(Front Row L to R): Herb Eidelman (424/SV); Bill Martin (424/C); Tony Rand (589/B); Francis Cook (422/H); Stanley Kups (106 SIG); Rudy Aittama (106 RECON) and Harold Ortwine (592/C)

Mini-Reunions . . .

Southern California Mini-Reunion

Held on December 13, 2009, reported by Mr. Milton Weiner. "In our 23rd Southern California mini-reunion we started by reading 'My First Reunion' by Dale Carver. Each veteran introduced themselves and gave a summary of their experiences in the Battle of the Bulge." Please write 28121 Ridgethorne CT, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275 or call 310/544-0470 for the 2010 event.



From left to right: Morris Chester (422/HQ), Milton Weiner (424/M) and Eric Vonderhorst (423/M).



From left to right: Miriam Chester, Morris Chester (422/HQ), Adam Weiner, Milton Weiner (424/M), Eric Vonderhorst (423/M), Daniel (Eric - Great Grandson), Lori Marsh and Randy Marsh.

Photos by Bella Weiner

Mini-Reunions . . .



589th Field Artillery Battery A Mini-Reunion

Submitted by John Schaffner

A mini-reunion was held on December 11, 2009 to celebrate the birthday of Walter Snyder, 589FA/A Btry, at the home of John and Lillian Schaffner. The group, with Lillian and Mary Vandermast, treated Walt to a nice birthday dinner. Many happy returns Walt. Walt is so old his birthday suit needs pressing.

Pictured are left to right: John Gatens 589FA/A Btry, Walter, and John Schaffner 589FA/A Btry.

New Mexico Mini-Reunion

Held on December 14, 2009, reported my Mr. Ralph Nelson. “My wife and I hosted the meeting at our home. There were four veterans, their wives, and our daughter in attendance. I opened our small gathering with a prayerful moment of silence in memory of that day and events to follow 12-16-1944. This was followed by lunch and conversation. We all enjoyed our reunion and will meet again in 2010.”



From left to right: Christine Nelson Lee (Ralph’s daughter), Rhoda Nelson, Beverly Soloday, Marti Twinn.



From left to right:
Jim Levin (DIV/ARTY),
Robert Soloday (422/
Service), Wendall
Albough (424/1st BN
HQ), and Ralph Nelson
(422/Cannon).

Mini-Reunions . . .

Florida Mini-Reunion

Held on December 16, 2009, reported by Mr. James L. Edwards. "I hosted this mini-reunion in Sarasota at the Dutch Heritage restaurant, where we all enjoyed a delicious "home-cooked" meal of roast beef and chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, stuffing and gravy, with a variety of pies. Our speaker was Kevin Begley, Supervisor of Medical Administration and POW Coordinator at Bay Pines VA Medical Center, Bay Pines, Florida. His background enabled him to answer the many questions about VA benefits that are particularly focused on WWII POW veterans.



Top Row from left to right: Clarence Buchman, Paul Bain, Robert Eldridge, Everett Howland, Robert Shovel, Don Scholten, Sid Auerbach, Charlie Fennel, Lester Helmich, and Richard Brokaw.

Front Row from left to right: Boris Stern, Jim Edwards, William Busier, Fred Parks, Dr. Vance Jennings, Lyle Beeth, Raymond Twardzik, and not shown, but attended Leonard Turgen.



Top Row from left to right: Kathleen Buckman, Mary Ann Scholten, Jill Blaufox (wife of Sid), Pauline Fehnel, Margurette Helmich and Isabel Twardzik.

Front Row from left to right: Jody Brokaw, Mable Beeth and Margery Stern



From left to right: Kevin Begley (speaker) and James Edwards.

Make your Travel Plans for the Reunion ASAP

by E. H. Schanerberger, eh_schanerberger@att.net

I have listed prices from several cities to Minneapolis-St.Paul (MSP). This will give you an idea of the difference in costs if you wait to get your tickets.

Also, the Web site for flight insurance is *AccessAmerica.com*. Be sure you tell them to read the insurance info before selecting the coverage. The coverage can range from \$10,000 to \$50,000. The basic coverage cost about \$15 per person.

Also, the Holiday Inn Select in MSP has a free shuttle every 1/2 hour, 24/7 that is free from the airport to our hotel.

I will still try to see if I can get discounts for flights or a ferry boat ride across Lake Michigan for those driving to MSP.

I did a little more research into flight cost for the reunions. I selected the Delta Web site because Delta has about 80% of all flights leaving Detroit.

My first search was to validate the \$900 figure that I was given a few days before. I tried to get a flight for that day from Detroit to MSP. The quote was \$729 RT plus taxes, plus \$25 for one bag and \$35 for two bags. That would be about \$785 plus taxes. Then I searched using two different flight

times. One if I were flying within four days and the second, if I were not flying until late September. I also tried a few different cities to see how much that would change the cost.

Delta had prices that varied depending on where you were going and when you were going. The numbers I collected might help in future planning for reunions. Also, the numbers change almost every day.

From To MSP	Flight within four days	Flight in late September
DTW	854.40	430.60
MCI	645.40	346.99
BUF	299.00 ?	317.10
MCO	282.40	259.40
BWI	1263.40	375.56
BOS	699.40	409.40
EWR	939.30	375.40
LGA	727.40	
ORF	407.30	214.90
OKC	923.10	369.90
DAL	808.50	347.40
SDF	649.90	385.10
ATL	714.40	321.40
SEA	347.40	
PHX	341.40	

Cities:

Detroit = DTW, Minneapolis-St.Paul.= MSP, Boston = BOS, Newark = EWR, Baltimore = BWI, Orlando = MCO, Buffalo = BUF, Kansas City = MCI, Norfolk = ORF, Oklahoma City = OKC, Dallas, TX = DAL, Louisville, KY. = SDF, Atlanta GA. = ATL, Seattle = SEA, Phoenix = PHX, NYC = LGA

Memoriam . . .

Trueman, Duncan 424/AT

—Date of Death: March 9, 2010

Reported by Steven Trueman

Rev. Dr. Duncan Trueman, a resident of Warwick, New York passed away on March 9, 2010 at Valley Hospital, Ridgewood, New Jersey. The son of Duncan Thomas and Harriette Webster Trueman, he was born on December 30, 1924 in Whitestone, New York. A graduate of Hofstra University and Drew University School of Theology, he was appointed by the New York Conference of the Methodist Church to serve churches in Livingston Manor, Parksville, Beaverkill and Lew Beach in Sullivan County and Goshen and New Milford in Orange County. He later received his degree in Education and his doctorate in ministry. His ministry spanned a period of 55 years.

He taught at the Warwick School for Boys and then at mid-Orange Correctional Facility where he held the positions of Education Director, Education Supervisor and finally as Deputy Superintendent of Programs. He retired after 20 years.

A veteran of World War II, he proudly served with the 106th Infantry Division, First Army in the European theater. He landed on Utah Beach on D-Day and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a recipient of the Combat Infantry Badge.

He was a member of the 106th Infantry Division and became Chaplain of the group, delivering memorial addresses across the country.

Also a member of the national Battle of the Bulge association, he served as president of the local Chapter in Orange County. He was also a



member of the V.F.W. In retirement, he devoted time to counseling veterans and in particular those suffering from Post Stress Trauma.

Survivors include his beloved wife and helpmate of 62 years, Grace; his beloved son Steven and his fiancé Joy, beloved daughter Anna Trueman of San Anselmo, California; sister Harriette Hart of Tampa Florida. In addition he is survived by his brother-in-law, the Reverend Robert Reiners and his wife Elizabeth; his sister-in-law Margaret Reiners and many nieces and nephews who were very dear to him. The family will be present to receive friends on Friday March 12, 2010 at the Warwick United Methodist Church, Warwick New York at 2-4 P.M. and 6-9 P.M.

A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday March 13 at 10:00 A.M. at the Warwick United Methodist Church. Arrangements are under the direction of Lazear-Smith and Vander-Plaat Memorial Home.

In lieu of flowers gifts may be sent to the New Milford United Methodist Church Building Fund in his honor. The church address is PO Box 137 New Milford, N.Y. 10959.

Memoriam . . .

Childs, Dean F. 106th/Signal

—Date of Death: June 21, 2009
245 South 56th St. #75, Mesa, AZ
85206-1540

Reported by Eleanor Childs (widow). Mr. Childs past away on Fathers Day last year, two months shy of his 89th birthday and his 62nd wedding anniversary. He volunteered his time to the American Red Cross, his church, and the Legion Post #83 Honor Guard. He enjoyed hosting 106th Association mini-reunions in Arizona. He joined the Association in 1987 with his wife and have attended many reunions. He is survived by his wife, two sons, five grand children and nine great grand children.

Defoe, Fred W. 423/SV

—Date of Death: January 3, 2010
P.O. Box 179 Eldred, NY 12732-0179

Fitzgerald, Gilbert M. 424/E

—Date of Death: January 24, 2009
560 Edwardian Ln Waynesboro, VA
22980

Born Oct. 18, 1925, in Nelson County, he served in the European, African and Middle Eastern theaters of operations, and the 106th Division, during World War II. He saw active duty in the Ardennes and Rhineland, receiving a Purple Heart for battle related injuries. He also earned a Bronze Star.

Grou, Joseph 423/E

—Date of Death: October 27, 2009
4518 E Emerald Cir. Mesa, AZ
85206-2613

Karnes, Herbert M. 589th/C

—Date of Death: December 30, 2009
Reported by fellow trooper Clifford N. Austin of Vergennes, VT. Born in 1925, Herbert Karnes passed away in his home, surrounded by children, in Okeechobee, Florida. Captured during the Battle of the Bulge, he was held with other American soldiers in Stalag 11B. Blessed with 4 children, 17 grand children, 3 great grand children and many friends.

Kronmueller, William W. 423/E

—Date of Death: October 26, 2009
1516 Woodbury Dr. O'Fallon, MO
63369-8638

Reported by Helen Kronmueller (widow) and fellow trooper Marion Ray. Born in St. Louis, his final weeks were full of happiness as we enjoyed the fall and the changing of the seasons. Bill was very proud of his service to his country is now resting in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. He is Survived by his wife Helen of 55 years, their children, his 12 grandchildren plus 2 great-grandchildren. He wants to be remembered as a good engineer, competent craftsman and perfectionist. We remember him as a loving, caring and giving husband, father, grandfather and great-grand-father.

Memoriam . . .

Paulson, Dorayne M. 423/HQ 2BN

—Date of Death: January 4, 2009
1913 260th Ave. Luck, WI 54853-3732

Reported by Betty J. Bohn (widow). Dorayne was with the 106th Division and proud of it. He captured in that Battle of the Bulge and spent his Christmas Eve in the boxcars being bombed. He was taken to Stalag 4B and had many 'tales' to tell of life there (later in life). He escaped three times while being marched to different areas, and finally the Russians met up with them.

He leaves a brother, son, daughter, wife/partner, and seven stepchildren with their families.

Shipman, Elmer H. 423/I

—Date of Death: December 7, 2009
14102 E. LINVALLE PL #203 Aurora, CO 80014-3710

Reported by Dorothy Shipman (widow).

Sofarelli, Jonn 424/L

—Date of Death: November 29, 2009
704 34TH Street SE Largo, FL 33771-2702

Todd, Dave 424/L

—Date of Death: April 16, 2009
700 Mease Plz Apt 645 Dunedin, FL 34698-6625

Tule, George W. 423/C

—Date of Death: November 10, 2009
1843 Kyrle Terrace The Villages, FL 32162

Weber, George A., Jr 423/G

—Date of Death: November 13, 2009
2833 Redstone Dr. St. Louis, MO 63125-5136

Reported by Jacqueline Weber (widow). Mr. Weber was taken prisoner during the Battle of the Bulge and finally liberated in April 1945. He is survived by his beloved wife of 61 years, four children, 7 grand children and 5 great-grand children.

106th Veteran Dick Lockhart (423/AT) reported the following:

"Mrs. Serge Dubois in Liege, Belgium that her husband (Serge Dubois) died on January 1, 2010. Mr. Dubois and his father before him, took care of the graves of two American soldiers at the U.S. Military Cemetery in Liege."

Mentioned previously in John Schaffner's Historian's Report, Dr. Norman Lichtenfeld (son of Sy Litchenfeld - 422/I) wanted to express the following about Adda Rikken: "Adda Rikken, wife of Willie Rikken in Gouvy, Belgium died suddenly on January 7, 2010. Willie and Adda were Honorary Life Members of the 106th Infantry Division Association. Adda helped 106th Veterans organize the German/American meetings held in the "Battle of the Bulge" area in 1994 and 1999 held in AUW, Germany. She had informed Sy Litchenfeld (422/I), that the Germans wanted to arrange a meeting of the 106th Veterans that had participated in the Battle of the Bulge. Adda and Willie were true friends of the 106th Infantry Division. Adda's home was always open to 106th Veterans. She and Willie would drop everything to host veterans who showed up in St. Vith, drive them around and then bring them home for one of her great home cooked dinners. She would do anything for American veterans and never forgot that they liberated her from the Nazis. It is a sad loss to those of us that are acquainted with these "True Friends" of the 106th soldiers."

Available Now! NEW CD #4

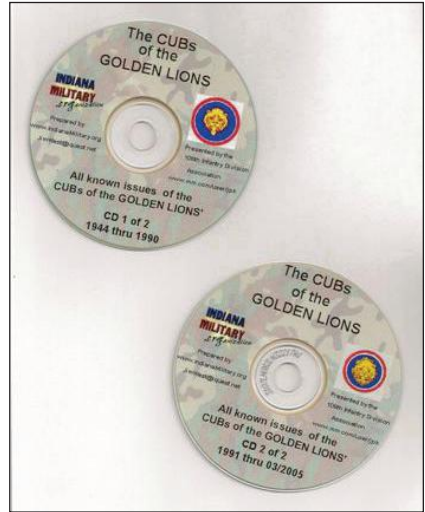
This CD includes audio featuring the 106th Division band and the complete Bob Hope radio show when he appeared at Camp Atterbury, along with past issues of *The CUB* and more!

Your 106th Infantry Division Association is the one WW II Association involved in the preservation of your history as no other like organization. It is a labor of love and at the same time has several benefits that we consider seriously important. The prime repository for our stories and memoirs is the Web site www.indianamilitary.org.

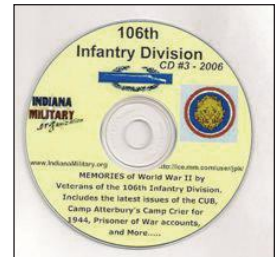
The material contained on the disks has been gleaned from that Web site for the convenience of quick access and is made available to any user of a personal computer. The original hard copy that has come through us has been, and will be, deposited at the U. S. Army Heritage & Education Center in Carlisle, PA. There it is made available to any researcher with an interest in WW II history. Also, this facility at Carlisle is one of the prime resources for research for the training of U.S. Military Officers studying for promotion to the higher ranks. One last thing is that our future generations can use these CDs to find out just, "What did you do in the big war, Grandpa?"

Acquire these CDs while they are available.

Set of #1 & #2 CDs -----	\$10
CD #3 -----	\$10
CD #4 -----	\$10



2-disc set, CDs #1 & #2



Disc #3

Send your personal check made out to:

John R. Schaffner
1811 Miller Road
Cockeysville, MD 21030

Phone: (410) 584-2754
e-mail: pumexim2@verizon.net



Disc #4

SAVE THE DATES!!

Mark your calendars and start making your travel plans
to join us for the

64th Annual Reunion
of the
106th Infantry Division Association

at the

Holiday Inn Select, International Airport Hotel
3 Appletree Square, Bloomington, MN 55425

Minneapolis, MN

from

September 21 to 26, 2010

Information and registration packets will be mailed to you in April.
Please see page 33 for interesting information about your travel planning.

106th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION



* THE ARDENNES

* CENTRAL EUROPE

* THE RHINELAND

GOLDEN LIONS

Lyle Beeth — Membership Chairman
2004 Golf Manor Blvd.
Valrico, FL 33596-7288

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED