

The CUB

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR

*The Veterans of the
106th INFANTRY
DIVISION*

of the

GOLDEN LION

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December 2023 – March 2024

Mini-Reunions: You Can Make It Happen!



(Photo from Brian Welke)

A mini-reunion was held in Lady Lake, Florida on Dec. 11, 2023. Holding the flag from left to right are John Glenn Beville, L/424, and his wife Etta, and Everett Howland, L/422. Standing at rear: Brian and Teresa Welke.

For the cover story, see [page 24](#).

The CUB

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Editor's Message . . .



There are many reasons why volunteering to be the Editor of *The CUB* is a worthwhile

activity for me. One of the main reasons is that I get to help make it possible to put this publication together, knowing it goes out to an audience who, like me, want to remember the lives of those men who fought, and in many cases, gave the ultimate sacrifice, to preserve our freedoms — both here and abroad.

There is one area though of doing this publication that is difficult for me... maybe a better word is “bittersweet.” Whenever I put together a new edition and get to the *In Memoriam* section, I am deeply affected by the stories I read. Yes, its moving too when I read stories sent in from Veterans who we are still fortunate to have among us, as you will see in this edition with the second part of John Mock’s heart-wrenching experience as a POW. But reading about the lives of those who have passed always causes me pause and deep reflection. What I’ve noticed are some common threads in what is said about these men. Though I can’t imagine how difficult life must have been for these Veterans, both during the war and after they came home, their stories for the most part are ones

of courage on the field and stateside. Many are about lives lived to the fullest when they returned home. I’m sure there were struggles getting a foothold again, and many, it seems, could not or did not want to talk about the war again, not wanting to relive the horrors they endured or saw. But most created lives of continued service to others and to our country in one form or another. It shocks me how many were POWs, but then again, not surprising when you know the story of the 106th Golden Lions. And for those who got married soon after arriving back home, I’m amazed to see the longevity of the marriages which endured a lifetime... 60+ years. It is heart-warming to read about how many children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren there are to carry on the family’s legacy. And it provides some sense of acknowledgement to know how many received medals of honor in one form or another. In fact, in doing some fact checking for this edition, I found on the U.S. Army Center of Military History website some statistics for the 106th for the following awards: 1 Distinguished Service Cross, 6 Legion of Merit Awards, 64 Silver Stars, 20 Soldiers Medals, 325 Bronze Stars and 10 Air Medals. That doesn’t include other medals like the POW Medal or Purple Heart, nor does it include stories like Robert “Bob” Woods, who on March 15, 2023,

Editor's Message . . .

received the Bronze Star, the POW Medal, and the Purple Heart 78 years after his service at the age of 97.

I find inspiration in their stories, and at the same time I'm filled with emotion reading about how these Veterans were able to build good lives (the "sweet") after everything they went through (the "bitter"). It is gratifying to read about wives and children, and how family and friends memorialize them. Doing justice to their stories is an honor. It fills me with reasons to appreciate each day, knowing how much someone else gave for us and our families to have the ability to pursue our dreams. So, while obituaries are sad in the fact that they acknowledge someone's

passing, they are also a means to celebrate someone's life, and take pause to say a silent "thank you."

You'll find many good stories in this edition of *The CUB*, including our regular updates from the President, the Adjutant, the Pastor and our foreign correspondent. I hope they bring you enlightenment, appreciation and inspiration to be the best you can be. And to remember to remember... reach out if you can like Brian Welke and his wife did with a mini-reunion for two Veterans. Place a phone call or write a card. And if you're a Veteran, we'd love to hear from you.

Lisa Dunn, *Editor*
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Just a reminder . . .

If you have pictures, an article, or some other form of information you would like included in a future issue of *The CUB*, the due dates are as follows:

April 22, 2024 — mail date: mid-June, 2024 (issue will include reunion paperwork)

October 1, 2024 — mail date: late November, 2024 (to include reunion photos and remembrances)

January 31, 2025 — mail date: late March, 2024 (issue may include reunion paperwork)

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President's View . . .

Hello and welcome to another edition of *The CUB*. The 106th Infantry Division Association Board of Directors has been hard at work these past few months. Since the reunion in Buffalo this past August, we have had several Board meetings via Zoom to discuss some very important items — one of which was selecting a location for our 77th reunion planned for 2024. After careful consideration and much discussion, it has been decided that we will meet in Dallas, Texas the third week of September.

We have been busy researching locations of interest that we hope all who attend will find interesting and enjoyable. Dallas is well known for its world-class museums, art scene and many restaurants to suit everyone's taste. It ticks off all the boxes for what we believe will make a memorable and affordable reunion. Look between the pages of *The CUB* for further information as it becomes available.

Have you seen the link to our survey? The board has painstakingly created a survey to get the "pulse" of our members and with the hope of encouraging future members to join. I am so pleased at the response to date. Suggestions and ideas were very positive and creative. Of the survey suggestions, one recurring theme was that we consider an educational enrichment component to our reunions. Another common thread was about individuals looking



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for information regarding a specific Veteran's battle experience. *The CUB* is a great resource for those who are looking for information. The board is made up of Veterans and individuals with a depth of knowledge regarding the history of the 106th and its experience during the Battle of the Bulge. If an individual board member does not know the answer, they may be able to point you in the right direction.

In recent years the members of the Board of Directors have been proactively taking steps to steer the 106th Infantry Division Association in the direction that will be a resource

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for family and friends of Veterans of this prestigious organization. It is up to us to continue this legacy and never forget the sacrifices WWII Veterans made 80 years ago. With your suggestions from the survey, the Board hopes to use the information to help the Association evolve into an organization of family members and friends of Veterans who will keep the legacy of those Veterans alive. If you haven't taken the survey and want to, it is still active and can be found on the 106th Infantry Division Association's website: www.106thInfDivAssn.org/survey2023.html

This past fall I was asked by the board if I would take on Membership Chair responsibilities, which I was happy to do. There have been a number of *CUB*s returned since our last mailing so I am working with past president and 106th webmaster Wayne Dunn to review the accuracy of our master roster and mailing list. We have been carefully working to assess the reasons involving these returns and to resolve the issues that will eventually cut down on mailing costs. Sadly, a large part of *The CUB* returns has to do with deceased members. If you had a Veteran that has passed away and you still want to receive *The CUB*, please contact Membership via email (membership@106thInfDivAssn.org) or phone (603-401-3723) and we will gladly change the addressee

information to reflect the member's current status.

The CUB's production and its postage are the largest operating cost we have. If we can fine-tune this function, we will save on costs in the long run. If you would prefer to receive *The CUB* electronically, that can be arranged as well. Also, I would encourage you to invite any family or friends who are not members to consider joining the association. Please contact us and we will add their information to our database.

I would like to recognize our former Membership Chair Jackie Coy for her years of dedication and hard work to maintain the Association's membership operations. Thank you, Jackie, for your dedication to serving our Veterans and our members.

With the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge coming up in December 2024, it would be wise to consider your plans for what you will do to mark the occasion. If planning a visit to Belgium to mark the occasion, it's not too early to start making arrangements.

Our Belgian liaison Carl Wouters and his team are organizing and creating an itinerary that will allow visitors to participate in all or some of the planned events. They are working hard to make sure this momentous event will be commemorated with the deep respect and recognition it deserves in an effort to memorialize

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the great sacrifices our honored Veterans made for our country. Look for further information regarding events for the 80th anniversary of Battle of the Bulge

in this *CUB* ([see page 27](#)) and in future editions in coming months.

Respectfully,
Henry LeClair (father 422/G)

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

The original meaning of military tattoo was a military drum performance, but subsequently it came to mean army displays, or a form of gathering more generally. For our Association, letting members know that someone would like to speak with them is why we do this!

Please send any requests to the Editor at: CUBeditor@106thInfDivAssn.org

Note from the Editor: As our President, Henry LeClair stated, we received a number of responses to the survey indicating people want a way to find information about a specific Veteran's wartime experiences. This section of *The CUB* is meant expressly for that purpose. Please send your requests to me, and I'll put them in the next edition of *The CUB*. If you want someone to be able to contact you directly with any information they may have, please provide your email address and/or phone number. You never know who will get back to you with the information you seek!

**Watch (again!) the 74th Annual Reunion's
2020 Virtual Memorial Service**

Remember the men of the 106th at <https://youtu.be/6S4Ke-Tftg>

Want to help the 106th Association?

Please take a few minutes to take our new survey. We are asking just a few questions to find out how we as an organization can better serve you.

**Click on this link from the PDF or type this into your browser
to be connected to the brief survey on our website:**

106thInfDivAssn.org/survey2023.html

Chaplain's Message . . .

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. Psalm 23:4 NKJV

At noon on March 15, 1943, a gleaming limousine pulled up in front of Fort Jackson's Theater 2, carrying the governor of South Carolina, Olin Johnston, who took his place on a stage next to Major General William Simpson, commanding general of the XII Corps. Brigadier General Alan Walter Jones sat on stage along with the senior staff of a new division about to be created. In the body of the theater were cadres of soldiers who had arrived over the past few days. The average age was 21, including all officers, and an experienced group of men from the 80th Infantry Division.

The 106th Infantry Division, which had been constituted on paper in May 1942, was formally activated, with 16,000 personnel from nearly every state in the union. Allied High Command had recognized the need for more land forces in preparation for the eventual invasion of Europe, and the 106th, an exceptional group of soldiers who had scored highly on intelligence tests, would be the last infantry division created during the Second World War. The division adopted the motto "To make history is our aim."

Three days later, Brigadier General Alan Walter Jones would



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be promoted to major general and appointed commander of the 106th Infantry Division, known as the Golden Lions. The divisional insignia would be a yellow lion's face on a bright blue background encircled by white and red borders. The blue represented the infantry; the red, the supporting artillery; the lion's face was symbolic of strength and courage.

As the units left the theater, the commanding officer of troops turned to his adjutant and recited some words of poet Richard Hovey: "I do not know beneath what sky, nor on what seas shall be thy fate: I only

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know it shall be high, I only know it shall be great.”

The 106th were strong as they joined the lines and marched into battle holding off the overwhelming onslaught of tanks, artillery, and enemy troops with only their rifles, wits, and willpower. Time after time they demonstrated great courage in the face of death in the largest and bloodiest battle of World War II. They may have been “green soldiers” but at extreme cost they took the fight to Hitler and won the day.

Everything the Golden Lions hoped to be they would become and more. Their aim was high. Their result was great. We stand in awe of them.

This December marks 80 years since the Battle of the Bulge began. Much has changed and far too many of our World War II heroes have left us. What hasn't changed is the enduring strength and uncommon courage the greatest generation demonstrated in battle — and as citizens. Their fierce love for freedom and goodness inspires us all. Their extraordinary lives are still a blessing. Their path of righteousness is still in view.

It's the path we need to follow today. Our times are as dangerous and dark as theirs. The drums of war are loud. Hatred is still strong and still wrong. The brutal savagery of humanity is in full array. There's no peace at home or on distance shores. It seems like the goodness and

mercy of God is nowhere to be found.

But that is not true, we are not alone. I pray the holy words of a mighty warrior named David, King of Israel will inspire us all.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Psalm 23:1-6 NKJV

Like our brave boys of the 106th and all of the greatest generation, we too can stand on the side of God's goodness and mercy. We too can look to the LORD for help. We can let Him lead us. We can draw strength from Him as we face these fearful days. We too can walk the righteous path of blessings the LORD and His Golden Lions have blazed for us. Surely goodness and mercy will follow us now and forever.

Let's march!

The Adjutant's Message . . .

The 106th Infantry Division Association is working hard to find new informative presentations to make it more intriguing for you and your family to attend our next reunion and assist us in preserving the legacy of our Veterans. We are interested in educating you further as to the actions and challenges that our grandfathers and fathers experienced as combatants in the Battle of the Bulge. My father, mom, my wife, and I have been traveling to the reunions since 2001. I saw first-hand the camaraderie my dad experienced when he got to visit with others from Camp Atterbury, England, Belgium/St. Vith and German prison camp. The most dramatic was when dad and Russ Lang first met again after they had left the prison camp and headed to Lucky Strike and then home. Other than seeing each other, what were they thinking about, what were they remembering? Dad passed away in 2006. Mom, my wife and I continued to attend the reunions until mom could no longer endure the travel. We had a sense of presence when we were around dad's friends, but the things I still did not know fully about were the hardships and horrors they suffered through. I recently watched all the segments of the *Band of Brothers*, a movie about a group of soldiers who were part of Easy Company of the 101st Airborne Division. They jumped into the war behind enemy lines on D-Day. The documentary shows



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what they must have gone through fighting their way to Belgium where they rested a day or two. Then the Battle of the Bulge began. Our 106th soldiers were on the front line by Dec. 11, near the St. Vith area, where they were attacked by the full force of the German Panzer divisions. The Band of Brothers were tasked to defend Bastogne where the fighting was just as cold and violent. It gave me a fair impression of what took place in the war against the Germans, except for the part about being captured — the experience that dad and his comrades had to endure. This comparison is not to say that the *Band of Brothers* and the 106th Division are the same by any means; however, the documentary

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The Adjutant's Message . . .

depicts similar hardship our guys had to over- come to survive the Battle of the Bulge.

So, we as a board are pursuing ways to communicate and share what these Veterans went through. There are stories, books, and movies giving us an idea of their plight. The *Band of Brothers* is a good source of what really happened. Other than the documentation already described, the next best source of information on surviving the Battle of the Bulge is to ask your Veteran, read their diaries, then share your discoveries with us to be posted in *The CUB* for all to learn. If possible, record your Veteran's responses telling you their story. An excellent example of that is my contact with John Mock. He called one day asking if I would accept his library of *CUB* magazines and of course I said "Yes." At the following reunion, his library was displayed for all to enjoy. Later he called and wanted to know if I could help him get his story published in *The CUB*, so we began to pursue his request. Then he called and said he had forgotten to tell several things in his story, so we recorded the "rest of the story." Half of his written story was published in the last issue of *The CUB* and the second half can be found in this issue. The full written portion of John's story and the verbal portion are now accessible on our website.

The request for help from John and the results that were achieved sparked

the thought that we should find more stories and especially more recordings to publish for all to read and listen to in an effort to enhance the legacy of our Veterans for generations to come. With that in mind, I am asking you to record these conversations with your Veteran and to send written stories that you hear from them to *The CUB* so we can make them available to all, including your children and their children. Time is of the essence to get these stories told and recorded . . . so we have to hurry. Can you help? We sure hope you will and we thank you in advance. If you have questions, please contact me or Wayne Dunn.

I am happy to announce that the next Reunion will be Sept. 18–22, 2024. It is planned to be in Irving, Texas, located on the outskirts of Dallas. More information will follow, but please [see pages 28–30](#) in this *CUB* for what we do know. Please plan to come, we need you and we want to meet you or see you again and most of all we want to expand the 106th family to include you, your Veteran and all of your descendents. Our goal is for the legacy of the members of the 106th Infantry Division to live forever.

Thank you to those that took the time to respond to our recent survey, it is quite helpful. If you have not responded, you still have time ([see link on page 6](#)).

Randall M. Wood, Adjutant
106th Inf. Div. Association
My Veteran: Robert M. Wood 423 Co I

WE HEARD YOU!

We recently posted an online survey about what things you'd like to see from our Association at our annual reunions. One recurring suggestion was to provide information on specific Veterans or events of historical interest pertaining to the 106th.

We heard you and have an exciting news!!

Get Your Questions Answered at the Reunion!

If you are planning to attend our next reunion, and have questions about events involving a specific individual or unit of the 106th, the Association will conduct the research and present the results to you in person! While we are aware of approximately 20,000 soldiers that were part of the 106th, it is estimated that as many as 45,000 were attached at some point — even if only for a day or two. Finding information can often be difficult with conflicting or insufficient results

Let the resources of the Association help! We have many different ways to gather information and will share what we find with you at the reunion.

Not only will you get the answers you've been looking for but you'll get to mix and mingle with Veterans and their family members who may have even more knowledge to share.

Please submit your request to Host106th@106thInfDivAssn.org with the following information:

- You name, phone number and email address
- Name of Veteran or the historical event you want information about
- Unit #, Date of Birth, Birthplace of the Veteran
- Any other information you already know
- What would you like to know? Please provide what it is you are looking to learn about this person or event

You will be notified upon receipt of your request.

This offer is ***only being extended to people who register for the reunion being held in Dallas, TX Sept. 18–22, 2024!***

It's not too late to make your opinion count! Take the survey now at:
106thInfDivAssn.org/survey2023.html

Historian's Message . . .

Editor's Note: As we continue to look for someone to fill the Historian position, we are taking the opportunity to share stories of historical significance from our readership. In this edition, we offer the second and final installment from one of our Veteran POWs about his personal experience in the war.

The Story of John Mock, Part 2

by John Mock

Place of Birth: Eureka, Kansas
Active-Duty Date: 1943
Unit: 3rd Plt., L Company;
3rd Battalion, 422nd Infantry,
106th Division
Location: Auw, Germany
Arrival ETO: December 10, 1944
POW: December 22, 1944
Rank: Corporal

You can read Part 1 of John's incredible story in the last edition of *The CUB*, which is available at: https://www.106thinfdivassn.org/CUB/CUB_Vol79_no3_Nov2023_color_web.pdf



John Mock.
(Photos
supplied by
John Mock.)



We left off on December 16, 1944 . . .

The Germans came into the little town Auw, behind us in the Valley, and I think the 81st Engineers were there also. The Germans took them prisoners. We came down out of the Hill and chased them back about a mile. It started to get dark, and we were ordered to make a lot of noise. So, we started to make noises, banging on trees and things we could find. As soon as it got dark, we put a dead man on a stretcher and moved out. We went back to the little town

where our 105 was. The gun crew had not gotten caught. There was a stone wall around the barn. The 105 got right in behind the rock wall and was pretty well protected. We dug foxholes around this area and all around the edges of the town.

About 11 p.m. that night, the trees where we had made all the noise were hit by German artillery fire and they made toothpicks out of them. They were up on a hill and they did not know what we were doing. We waited a while but the Germans figured out

where we were, or someone of the town told them. They were dropping rounds outside all of the buildings, but they didn't seem to want to hit the buildings in the town. The next morning there were two small tanks that came around the hill. The 105 got both of them. They were good because it was about a half-a-mile shot. The next day there was a convoy that came out of the trees into an open field. There were two trucks and the 105 got them. Everything behind them was a team and wagons and that was their convoy. The 105 also blew up one of the team and wagons stopping the convoy.

The next day there was a tank coming toward us. He just came up over the hill to get the 105. We didn't hear him until he started shooting. I was out of my foxhole but sitting close by. You had to use your rifle as a crutch to slide yourself in, but my feet did not make it. A shell hit five feet away. You couldn't hear anything. You feel pressure, your ears ring and you are stunned. You can't move or do anything for a while. In time, we could hear the shells going off. We were in front of the 105 and they were shooting at the tank.

When I got back into my foxhole, I found a piece of metal that had gone through my shoe. It didn't bleed too much, but the rest of the day, I just sat and started shaking and couldn't help it. I told Lieutenant Christiansen there was something wrong. I'm

shaking but I am not cold. The sun was shining. He told me to sleep in the hay mound that night where it was nice and warm. I did and was warm, but still shaking. Sometime in the night an old sheep came up there. He was noisy and snoring! The next morning, I was over it.

Then the Captain said to go take Schönberg before the Germans got there, but they were already there and they started shooting at us. Then they started hitting us with tree bursts and it made a lot more shrapnel. So, L Company asked, what are we going to do?

Lieutenant Christiansen said, "We're going to head south and get back to the American lines." In the daytime we hid and tried to find some evergreens and put the limbs over the snow to help us get warm. Then during the night, we would go single file through the snow. We saw a little town on our left and we could hear the Germans and saw the lights. It was night and they shot up flares and started shooting at us. The whole company was eventually surrounded. Lieutenant Christiansen was leading, and he got shot in half, then they hit Capt. Renata Spadola [422/H Commander] and others. Another boy and I were about halfway down the line and we got on our hands and knees with our arms through the slings of our rifles. We were going through there fast and we were going

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to get out of there. All the ones that were hit were carrying on quite a bit and crying for help. We looked at each other and said, "We can't leave them," so we went back and stayed with them. We were then taken prisoner near Auw.

The Germans put us in an old schoolroom. They had straw around the outside walls for us to lie on. The next day, the Germans came in and asked if anyone was wounded. Eight or nine of us got up but I did not want to leave. The Sergeant said, "You better go and get that foot taken care of or you are going to be in big trouble." So about 10 of us went to the first-aid station. One guy had shrapnel in both legs and we ended up carrying him piggyback. They cleaned my foot up and put black coal tar salve on it, the same kind of salve my grandmother used back home in the '20s — "black coal tar salve." They wrapped it in crêpe paper bandages, because Germany didn't have cotton fields to make regular bandages. I didn't get any infection in it. Our feet and legs were also frozen.

The Germans didn't know what to do with us. We were wounded and one day we stayed in the hospital. Then on Christmas Eve, we stopped in a German first-aid station. It was a house and barn with a big, enclosed hallway between them. There was straw on the ground and we got a bowl of soup and a slice of bread. The Germans ate the same thing.

About 11 p.m., three German officers came in with a bottle of schnapps. We took a drink and they gave the wounded Germans a drink. They started singing "Silent Night" in German. We sang it in English. It sounds the same.

The boy who had shrapnel in his legs had to be carried piggyback. We told the guard about him. The guard said he would take him to the hospital. The next day we asked how he was and we were told he died. You don't die overnight from something like that, so we don't know what happened to him.

We went from town to town along the Rhine River. We went through Koblenz five times and we saw that big church with spires each time. A lot of times we were on regular passenger trains. One time, one of the Germans got really upset because he had lost his family in a bombing. We had to go back to another car. Generally, the German guards were usually good to us. They didn't abuse us and they didn't want to walk either. One day, we were riding in a truck and it started misfiring. So, they pulled over. There was a big stove hanging on the side of the truck. They opened the top, put in wood chips and sealed it up. It had screws in it. Then they lit a fire under the bottom one. There was a tube that ran from it into the truck tank on the top of the cab. They were making wood alcohol. They ran the stove for about a half-hour

until they got enough alcohol, then started the truck and away we went.

When we crossed the Rhine River, they had little flat-bottomed barges. They had no motors, but they had an anchor up in the middle of the river with a cable. They would use the rudder to go from side to side carried by the current. They could get a team and wagon, a Volkswagen, or some cows across on the barges. This is how they got across the Rhine because most of the bridges were blown up. When crossing bridges, there was usually only walking traffic. We walked around bomb craters in the middle of the bridges.

About January 18, we ended up in Stalag XIIA, Limburg, Germany. I spent the rest of the war there. First thing in the morning we have roll call and they would count us. If we were short, we would stand there while they went in to check the barracks. Some of the men couldn't even get up and walk anymore. They would count them, and then us again, to verify everyone was present. We would get a bowl of grain-like paste that they had roasted and then we would get a loaf of bread to a six-man squad.

Black Bread Recipe

Former prisoners of war of Nazi German may be interested in this recipe for World War II Black Bread. This recipe comes from the official record from the Food Providing Ministry published as Top-Secret

Berlin 24.XI-1941 from the Director of Ministry Herr Mansfield and Herr Moritz. It was agreed that the best mixture to bake black bread was:

- 50% bruised rye grain
- 20% sliced sugar beets
- 20% tree flour (saw dust)
- 10% minced leaves and straw

From our own experiences with black bread, we also saw bits of glass and sand. Someone was cheating on the recipe! This bread recipe could have some protein in. When the grain goes into the grinder, there could be some insects and maybe a mouse or two. You sliced it so each man would get the same and we took turns at picking first. At 4 p.m., we got a bowl of soup. It was cooked and the bugs floating on top because they had been cooked, and they didn't bother you any. We also got a small piece of cheese once a week. When we first got there, we got one cigarette a day. In February, we got two cigarettes a week and in March we got no more cigarettes. They were regular cigarettes. One man from Tennessee would trade his bread rations for a cigarette. He smoked his cigarette under his blanket so he could get every bit of smoke into his lungs. He finally died.

You could tell the ones that smoked because their thumbs and fingers would be black. They would put out the last little bit of cigarette and put it in their shirt pocket. When

continues on page 16

Historian's Message . . .

they had enough pieces, they would make another cigarette. We got one Red Cross package for 10 men and we got one only once. I know more were received because we unloaded them off the box car and put them in a warehouse. We spent one day flattening tin cans and that was the only work I did. There were thousands of men in XIIA. We just sat around the rest of the time. We picked lice and talked about food. It started out with breakfast talking about pancakes with marshmallows and sorghum, then a big steak and banana cream pie. Banana cream pie was a favorite of everyone's. Each person would talk about what they wished for.

Each day we watched the bombers go over. Some would get shot down and we would count parachutes, but we never saw a full crew get out. We would only see three or four at time because the plane would start spinning before all the crew could get out the door.

I was there about a week when someone came into the barracks and asked if anyone was from Kansas. I said I was from Eureka and he said, "That is where I'm from." It was Mr. Dunlap from Dunlap School near Hamilton, Kansas. We used to go there for track meets and things. I had never seen him before. Later, I was moved to another part of the barracks and I never saw him again. He made it home also.

If you had a "J" on your dog tag when you were captured, you were

taken up to the castle and never seen again. Jewish soldiers were segregated.

By March 21st, the Americans were getting close. One night they put us in a boxcar when the Black Widow bombers were flying at night by radar. The air-raid sirens were going off all the time and we had to go back to camp. The next night we got back on the train. We would go for a while and stop for a while. The next day a P-47 and P-38 strafed the engine. They didn't get the boxcars, but they got the engine so there we sat on the tracks. We were outside Bergholm, Germany. We were locked in the boxcars for about three days.

On the 27th, a train crew came along and unlocked all the doors. The guards were gone. We broke into their boxcar and found bread and canned goods. I didn't get any of the bread, I was too late, but I got a can of peas and carrots to eat.

There was an overpass over the railroad and it was the main street of Bergholm. The safest place we could get was under that overpass. It was covered with rock, but we laid down. It was the first time we had been able to lay down for a week. There were 50 of us in the boxcar. The cars are only 21 feet long and 8 feet wide, a Cadillac is about the same size. The first POWs sat down all around the sides of the car. The next group in sat down back-to-back down through the center of the car. We were just crammed in and could not lie down.

Historian's Message . . .

There was a big can by the door that was the toilet and the guards would empty it every day. That night, we heard some machine-gun fire and a grenade. Then we didn't hear anything else. The Americans had just bypassed us. The two POWs who could walk okay went out and got hold of the 99th Division. The rest of us were under the overpass popping cooties. We would take a louse and roll him around and when we dropped him, he would walk off. You had to put him on your thumb and put him under your other thumb and pop him.

C Company, 393rd Infantry, 99th Division liberated us on March 28, 1945. Here they came. We were just skin and bones. They looked like the fattest GIs we had ever seen. After our tears stopped, and we got our voices back, we started talking to them. When they saw us, they said they had seen a lot of dead bodies but had never seen anything like us. One of the GIs was Bill Tumblin who sent me a picture of the rescue.

That night, we stayed in a house. I had a canteen cup, the German cup that is about twice as big as ours, and I had a square piece of blanket I used to put over my head to keep my ears warm. I also had an old worn-out razor that would not cut anymore, all in the pillowcase. A chaplain with the 99th Division held a religious service on the side of the underpass.

I put an article in the 99th Division paper and talked to a lot of

people who remembered the train at Bergholm. I found one guy in New Jersey who was also on that train. The men were from all parts of the different divisions. That evening, the 99th Division came in with a weapons carrier. The whole back end was filled with fresh baked bread. It was great! There were 277 of us on this train. The next morning, ambulances started taking the ones that could not walk. Each ambulance could only take four at a time. It was late that night before they took me.

We rode a long time but soon we stopped at a field hospital. There were a bunch of big tents with rows of cots. Two of us went to a tent and there was a nurse sitting at a desk. She just looked at us. We were walking skeletons, dirty and long whiskers and just skin and bones. I had on a German overcoat with the left pocket torn out. She did not say anything. We started speaking English and told her we were Americans and had been prisoners of war. She started to cry. And then she jumped up and took the man with me to another tent. She came back and took me to a cot. Then she left and came back with a bucket of warm water, soap, wash rag, towel, razor, a metal mirror and a new pair of pajamas.

I was to put my clothes in the middle of the floor because they were full of lice. After I got cleaned up, I shaved and was in pajamas,

continues on page 18

she came back with a coffee cup of sliced peaches. You cannot believe how good they tasted! We talked for a long time. We were the first prisoners of war she had seen. She said there would be an ambulance plane first thing in the morning to take us to the hospital in Reims, France. We got on the plane. There was one stretcher on the floor and then they were stacked up, one on top of the other, and on both sides of the plane, nothing but stretchers. At Reims, we were put on the third floor of an old schoolhouse that had been made into a hospital and we were assigned to bed.

One evening meal was served by two German POWs, and we didn't go for that and complained. We didn't see them again! French workers served our food and they gave us bars of soap and clean pajamas. We went to the nurse and told her we wanted GI soap because we were loaded with lice. We took shower after shower until we got rid of the lice.

We suffered from malnutrition, and I had trouble with my ears. They have been ringing for 65 years, and I can't hear out of my left ear. My feet had been frozen when we were walking in the snow. We had to cross a stream one night and it had ice on top. So we were walking in ice water and our feet could never really get dried out. When I got wounded in the foot, I had to march without a boot. In Reims for treatment, my feet were put in ice cold water and then warm

water. Then every day, they made the water a little warmer and that did more for my feet and circulation than anything else.

When we first arrived at the hospital, we had to eat in bed. We were wearing red clothes and had to stay in our room. We could see a chow line down below us in the yard and they had on blue clothes. After five days we got ourselves blue clothes (not issued to us.) The reds were served first. After finishing eating, we would go in the bathroom and change into the blues, go down the back stairs and get in line again. We would take Jello, fruit, pies and cakes — all the good stuff — because we were starved. One day, the nurse caught us. She said, "We are not serving you in bed anymore." While in blues you could go back for seconds and have as much as you wanted as long as you cleaned up your tray. We started to gain weight then.

I was not sent back to the states until May 25, 1945. They wouldn't or couldn't send us home since we were walking skeletons! I weighed 105 pounds and was 6 feet tall, and I could touch my finger and thumb when I put them around my arm.

From Reims, we went to Paris where a guide showed us some of the sites. We were there four days and issued new class-A uniforms. From Paris, we boarded an army DC-6 four-engine plane. We landed next in the Azores for fuel, just for a few

hours. There was a restaurant there but it was closed, but the lady running it asked if we were hungry. "Well, a little bit," we told her, so she opened it back up and made sandwiches and served pie. She wouldn't take any money when she found out we were POWs.

From there we flew on to Newfoundland, Long Island, Detroit, Chicago, Des Moines, and landed in Kansas City. Each man was sent to a hospital close to their home. The Army picked up three of us and took us to Winter General Hospital in Topeka, Kansas.

Of course, my family was there. My family only knew I was missing in action. For over 3 months I was a Gold Star in my mother's window. Gold Star: killed or missing. They first found out that I had been in a prisoner-of-war camp when I arrived at the Reims hospital. There they took our names and addresses of our folks and sent a telegram that we were okay. It had to be a shocker for the family, but a happy one. I was discharged October 1945.

When I was discharged from the Army, there were not many employment opportunities in my home community of Hamilton and Eureka, Kansas. I went to work in Hobbs, New Mexico. Everyone there was short of help. I worked overseas for oil companies for 19 years, so didn't marry. My job was chief mechanic for drilling rigs. I worked on offshore rigs, land rigs

and helicopter rigs.

I taught local mechanics to do maintenance and overhaul drilling equipment in the countries where I worked. We drilled wells in Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Singapore, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

After the war, each state received a Forty-and-Eight boxcar from France refurbished for display. The one for Kansas is located at the American Legion Post parking lot in Hays, Kansas and has been converted into a small museum.

I retired in 1984, married in 1993 to a retired schoolteacher and World War II Wave Veteran. We now make our home in Eureka, Kansas and have been very active in our community, especially Veteran's organizations. I am presently Commander of the Air Capital Chapter Ex-POWs in Wichita. I am also an active member in the Disabled American Veterans in Eureka and past Commander in Emporia. In addition, I am an officer in the Purple Heart, VFW Military Funeral Commander, and former member of the Lions Club. My hobby is show-cars.

John was awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, ETO Ribbon with three Battle Stars, American Defense Service Ribbon, and the Good Conduct Medal.

To read the entire story, you can visit our website at: 106thInfDivAssn.org/stories/john_mock.html

Treasurer's and Membership Chair's Report . . .

Make checks payable to “**106th Infantry Division Association**” and mail them to the Treasurer:



Mike Sheaner, Treasurer
PO Box 140535
Dallas TX 75214
sheaner1@airmail.net
214-823-3004

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



Henry LeClair, Membership
209 Range Road
Windham, NH 03087
membership@106thInfDivAssn.org
603-401-3723

Treasurer's Report: Oct. 1, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2024

Beginning Balance:	\$22,692.82
Money In:	2,560.17
Money Out:	2,937.00
Difference:	(376.83)
Ending Balance:	\$22,315.99

Association Membership as of January 31, 2024

Total Membership	682
Veteran Membership	192
Associate Membership	490

Show support for our mission by giving generously.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Send your contribution, check made payable to
106th Infantry Div. Association, to:

Mike Sheaner, Treasurer
106th Infantry Division, PO Box 140535, Dallas, TX 75214

Treasurer's and Membership Chair's Report . . .

LIFE PLUS and REGULAR DONATIONS:

David H. Bludworth	Associate Member
Everett W. Howland	422/L
Michael Mangiaracina	Associate Member
Dennis Shane Miller	Associate Member
Roxanne Vendegna	Associate Member
Jack Weingarten	424/AT

MEMORIAL and HONORARY DONATIONS:

In honor of my father, POW Virgil L. Collins, 423/CN

Given by Carolyn L. Riley

In honor of my dad, Staff Sgt. Charles S. Garn, 422/N

Given by Jeff Garn

In memory of my father, Carl W. Giesler (1911 – 2011), 591/FABN, 106th Infantry Division

Given by Jeffrey Giesler

In memory of my brother Alexander M. Lauro. Alex trained at Camp Atterbury, was a Corporal in the 592 FA during the Battle of the Bulge, and a member of the 106th from Camp Atterbury to the end of the war.

Given by Leonard F. Lauro

Membership Roster Update!

We are updating our roster with the most current information to make sure you are receiving *The CUB* the way you want it. If you have not received a printed copy of *The CUB* in the mail and you've indicated you want to, or you are still getting a copy and you've indicated you no longer want it sent but still enjoy reading it online, or if a family member who was getting it has passed, please let us know.

Please notify: Henry LeClair, membership@106thInfDivAssn.org

Memorial, Honorary and Life+ Contributions are Essential for Keeping this Organization Going

A suggested annual donation of \$25 to help underwrite the cost to publish and mail *The CUB* through the “Last Man Standing” and beyond is appreciated. The Association exists on donations from its members and interested individuals. Your gifts are essential to maintaining *The CUB* magazine in its current format with high-quality content and tri-annual delivery. The cost of printing and mailing each edition of *The CUB* exceeds our current level of giving. Therefore, we encourage all readers to make an annual contribution, as you are able, to help defray the cost of printing and mailing.

Those Members who contribute will have their names (only, no amounts will be shown) published in the next *CUB*. You can donate as much or as little as you can and as often as you like. By donating, you are helping perpetuate the 106th ID Association.

Planned Giving

Whether you would like to put your donation to work today or benefit the 106th Infantry Division Association beyond your lifetime, you can find a charitable plan that works for you. Popular means of life planning gifts include Wills and Living Trusts and Beneficiary Designations. Consult your professional advisor on how to extend support for the 106th Infantry Division Association to make a lasting impact.

Returned Issues of the Latest *CUB* of the Golden Lion

We have gotten many returned *CUB* issues in the past due to incorrect addresses or members who have passed away and therefore no longer reside at the address we have on file. If you happen to know of anyone who is not getting *The CUB* who should be, it may be because we have an incorrect address. Or if you know of a member who has passed away and whose family no longer wishes to receive *The CUB*, we want to know.

Please notify Membership Chair ***Henry LeClair***, ***directly at the address listed on the inside cover of this issue*** if you know of anyone who falls into these categories so that our records may be updated with accurate information. We would like to have your email address and/or phone number on file so that we can contact you if your *CUB* is returned.

Treasurer's and Membership Chair's Report . . .

106th Challenge Coin and Wooden Ornaments — *Have You Gotten Yours Yet?*

**\$10 each,
plus \$1 postage
per coin**



Front



Back



**\$10 each
plus \$2 shipping
per ornament**

*(Lower shipping costs will be applied
to orders of 10 or more)*



Lapel Pins

**\$10 each
plus \$1 shipping
per pin**



Please call or email Randy with questions.

Phone — 765-346-0690

Email — woodchuck01@sbcglobal.net

For purchase of items above,
please make check payable to *106th Infantry Division Association*
and mail to:

Randall Wood, 810 Cramertown Loop, Martinsville, IN 46151

All proceeds benefit the Association.

Mini-Reunions: You Can Make It Happen!

By Brian Welke

On Dec. 11, 2023, a 106th Infantry Division mini-reunion was held at Mission Barbeque in Lady Lake, Florida. In attendance were John Glenn Beville, L/424, his wife Etta, Everett Howland, L/422, Brian Welke, past president, and his wife, Teresa Welke, associate member. Brian had been organizing mini-reunions regularly every year when he was in Sarasota, but moving gave him an opportunity to reach out to



John Glenn Beville (left) and Everett Howland. (Photo from Brian Welke.)

John and Everett to have one in Lady Lake. As reported by Brian,



Everett Howland and his pet donkey and horse. (Photo from Brian Welke.)

“The atmosphere was great. The food was great and just like every day at noon, the National Anthem was played. Mr. Beville and Mr. Howland were introduced to the other patrons and were thanked for their service. And remember: all WWII Veterans eat for free and all Veterans receive a free dessert.”

The Importance of a Mini-Reunion

Our Veterans will always remember December 16, 1944, when they were thrust into the chaos of war. The years may have thinned the ranks, but those who remain still have the pride of knowing they played an instrumental part in slowing — and ultimately defeating — the German war machine.

As it becomes more difficult for these older gentlemen to travel, so it is even more important we attempt to connect with our Veterans. Any way you can, even doing so virtually, would be a great way to honor, cherish, and remember all of our Veterans. ***Plan one in your area today!***

Contact Mini-Reunion Chair Wayne Dunn at Host106th@106thInfDivAssn.org and he can assist you with members in your area.

Remembering the Ardennes Offensive

By Carl Wouters, Belgian Liaison

The annual Battle of the Bulge commemorations in Belgium took place on the weekend of 16 and 17 December 2023. U.S. Ambassador to Belgium Michael M. Adler made a special visit to Schönberg and St. Vith to honor the men of the 106th Infantry Division. After a wreath laying at the POW monument, Ambassador Adler sat down with local villagers from Schönberg who witnessed the battle unfold in December

1944. While speaking to them at length, they told stories of living with the GI's in their homes in the days preceding the battle and witnessing the long lines of prisoners of war being marched through the town on their way to German POW camps. After the meeting, the Ambassador was welcomed to St. Vith city hall for a luncheon and a presentation by mayor Herbert Grommes in which he explained the historical significance of the area of St. Vith in the big picture of the Battle of the Bulge. Ambassador Adler was then invited to sign the city's Golden Book.

On Sunday December 17th, the POW ceremony and Flag of



Locals from Schönberg who witnessed the fighting in December 1944 meet U.S. Ambassador Michael M. Adler, standing at center with hat. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Embassy Brussels.)

Friendship ceremonies took place. The Embassy was represented by the assistant military attaché, Major Justin R. Long. A joint U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force color guard provided honors at the ceremonies. For the occasion, the event welcomed a WWII Veteran of the 2nd Infantry Division “Indianhead,” Mr. Gerald A. White, who served as an ammunition bearer for a heavy weapons company in the 23rd Regiment. In December 1944, his unit was relieved by the 106th Division as they took over the sector in the Schnee Eifel. Mr. White had been a replacement for the unit

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News from Around the Globe . . .

and joined shortly after New Year's in 1945, when his division joined the Allied effort in recapturing St. Vith. Like the Ambassador had done a few days prior, Mr. White was also given the honor of signing the city of St. Vith's Golden Book as one of its liberators.



U.S. WWII Veteran Gerald A. White talks to Major Justin R. Long, Assistant Military Attaché to the U.S. Embassy Brussels and Mayor Herbert Grommes of St. Vith during a reception at city hall on 17 December 2023. (Photo by Nancy Steenssens/ Facebook.)

The 2023 Flag of Friendship was awarded to local Karl von Frühbuss, owner of the Schloss Wallerode. Every small town in the Ardennes has its stories and so does the village of Wallerode, perched on a hill about four kilometers from St. Vith, a farming community centered around a 17th-century schloss. During the war, the Wallerode castle was actively used by both German and American troops as a headquarters and its current keeper, Herr Karl von Frühbuss, has been actively restoring the building while also researching the historical past of his ancestral home.

The restoration of a 19th-century horse barn in 2020 uncovered traces of GI graffiti. GIs who had been stationed in the castle during the war had engraved their names into the whitewashed walls. Research led to the identification of the eleven men who had committed a small act of vandalism in March 1945. Diving deeper into the war history of the town, Karl von Frühbuss became aware of the fate of a young American combat photographer Hugh Francis McHugh, member of the 165th Signal Photographic Company. Embedded with the advancing 7th Armored Division, McHugh covered the recapture of St. Vith in January 1945. His famous photos can be found in most books about the Battle of the Bulge. On the hill outside the Wallerode castle, McHugh took his last photograph. Moments later he was killed by a sniper's bullet. He rests among the 7,987 dead on the Henri-Chapelle Military Cemetery.

Dedicated to preserving the



WWII Veteran Gerald A. White congratulates Karl von Frühbuss with his Flag of Friendship award at St. Vith (Photo by Wilco Tak/Facebook.)

history of what happened in and around his village, Karl von Frühbuss set out to create an exhibition of the photos taken by Hugh McHugh in January 1945. It opened in the horse barn of the Schloss under great

interest in January of 2023, on the 78th anniversary of McHugh's death. The photo exhibit was then continued at the Zwischen Venn und Schneifel museum, where it has been widely visited by local schools.

Mark Your Calendars and Join Us for the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge in St. Vith, Belgium!

16 December 2024, will mark the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. With our surviving WWII Veterans now nearing or having reached or exceeded the blessed age of 100, this year will mark perhaps the last major anniversary where Veterans will travel to Belgium and Luxembourg to attend the commemorations. For the young generations of grateful Europeans, this will be a unique chance to meet, talk with and personally thank the members of the Greatest Generation.

For solo travelers and small groups travelling under their own power, the Association Bulge Chapter will offer a four-day immersive itinerary (13–16 December 2024). The focus naturally will lay on the history and experience of the 106th Infantry Division. The itinerary will



Members of the Association who visited for the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, Dec. 2019. Photo by Carl Wouters.

be focused on battlefield and museum visits, participation in several official commemorative events throughout the larger “Bulge” area and a unique chance to walk in the footsteps of the Golden Lions. As this program is offered through the Association on a voluntary basis, there are no fees involved except covering your own costs for transport and lodging.

For those interested in joining us for the unique commemoration weekend, please contact Association Belgian liaison Carl Wouters at bulgechapter@outlook.com

Reunion Information . . .

We are proud to announce our plans for the
106th Infantry Division Association's

77th Annual Reunion

September 18–22, 2024

Atrium Hotel & Suites (DFW)

Dallas Fort Worth Airport South, Irving, TX

The members of the association board are moving forward with plans for the 77th Annual Association Reunion!

On the following pages of this *CUB*, we have supplied some of the reunion information; the rest will be available as soon as it is ready. Once finished, if you would like a PDF or a printed copy of the *registration form* mailed to you to complete and send to the association with your check, contact Mike Sheaner, Treasurer at sheaner1@airmail.net. If you have any questions, contact Wayne Dunn at 410-409-1141 or Host106th@106thInfDivAssn.org.

For the most updated information about the reunion visit
106thInfDivAssn.org.

[All reunion information correct at time of publication but may be subject to change]

Hotel Information

Atrium Hotel & Suites (DFW)
Dallas Fort Worth Airport South
4600 West Airport Freeway
Irving, Texas 75062

Reservation Information:

To make reservations and receive the group rate, you ***must call the hotel reservation line directly*** at: **972-513-0800**. Please identify yourself as a member of the *106th Infantry Division Association* to receive the group rate.

Rate: \$129 (plus tax) — Includes a hot breakfast/two per room each day.

Reunion Dates:

Wednesday — Sunday (am),
Sept. 18–22, Reunion main event
days

Pre- and post-function group rate days based on hotel availability:
Sunday — Tuesday, Sept. 15–17, *pre*
Sunday — Tuesday, Sept. 23–25, *post*

Cut-off Date: Reservations by attendees must be received on or before **August 18, 2024**.

Hotel Information continues on ***page 30***

Planned Activities:

Wednesday, September 18

Registration open

Association Board Meeting

Hospitality Room open, begin to display Silent Auction items

Thursday, September 19

Complimentary hot breakfast

Visit the Bush Presidential Library with Box lunch included

(We will be carpooling to that location)

Hospitality room will be open for a group get together with light snacks and social activities; Silent Auction items will be on display

Friday, September 20

Complimentary hot breakfast

Visit the Holocaust Museum and the JFK Memorial

(We will be carpooling to that location)

Hospitality Room will be open upon our return; Silent Auction items will be on display

Saturday, September 21

Complimentary hot breakfast

Memorial Service

Afternoon Association Board Meeting

Evening Banquet and Buffet with presentations and the conclusion of the Silent Auction

Sunday, September 22

Complimentary hot breakfast

Give your hugs, say your farewells and have a safe trip home!

Registration forms will be available in the June CUB and will be available on our website by the end of March.

Join us for a special premier
video tour from the battlefield. Conducted by our very own
Belgium liaison, Carl Wouters, this is a first-time reunion event
you won't want to miss. *More to come in the next CUB.*

Reunion Information . . .

Hotel Information *continued:*

Cancellation Policy: Cancellation must be received by the hotel 24 hours prior to arrival date.

Parking and Shuttle Information: Complimentary shuttle to and from Dallas Fort Worth Airport (DFW).

Free parking and car rental service available on the property.

Extras: An indoor pool is available on site and the rooms include a microwave, refrigerator, a coffee maker and a work desk.

**More information
will be posted
on our website
106thInfDivAssn.org
as it becomes available.**

Plan to Participate in our Silent Auction!



You are invited to participate in our Silent Auction to be held during our 77th Annual Reunion, September 18–22, in Irving, a western suburb of Dallas, Texas.

If you have a hobby or a craft that you love to do, then consider sharing. Last year's Silent Auction consisted of objects made by hand, found items, and items someone thought you would cherish. We made a little more than \$2,000! — all going to the Association to fund *The CUB* magazine.

Bring your donated items to the hospitality room upon arrival and join the fun bidding on your next treasure! Items given to highest bidder and all payment due at end of the banquet Saturday night.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Order of the Golden Lion Committee

This award is provided in three classifications depending on the qualifications of the recipient. The most prestigious is “**Commander Class**” issued in gold finish. This award is usually provided to someone who has served the Association faithfully over an extended period of time and is usually a Veteran of the 106th Infantry Division.

The second is “**Officer Class**” issued in silver finish. This award is usually provided to someone who has served the Association faithfully over an extended period of time and has assisted in the operation of the Association.

The third is “**Companion Class**” issued in bronze finish. This award is usually provided to someone who has served the Association faithfully in the capacity of assistance in the operation of the Association. The specifications for making the award are intended to fit many instances where an individual is deemed worthy. *The award should be determined by the recipient's contributions to the Association.*

The Co-chairs of the Order of the Golden Lion committee will poll the members of the Board of Directors for recommendations for the OGL awards. The President or Chairman may select additional members to the committee. Nominations will be submitted in a format suitable for



composing a formal citation to accompany the award of the medal. This must be done in ample time prior to the next Reunion in order for the manufacturer to produce the medal(s) on time.

All citations should be kept confidential between the nominator and the Committee Chairman prior to the actual awarding ceremony. **LEAD TIME — 3 WEEKS, MINIMUM**

Send nominations to any one of the committee members listed below:

Carol J. Faulkner, 765-342-1872
3179 Kestrel Court
Martinsville, IN 46151
faulknerskeepe05@yahoo.com

Beth Garrison, 618-628-4733
7766 Haury Road, Lebanon, IL 62254
rbg75@att.net

Kathy Spinella, 305-562-4381
1991 Carolina Ave. NE
St. Petersburg, FL 33703
pspin142@aol.com

They Speak: Voices of Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery

By Aimee Gagnon Fogg

World War II left no family unscathed. This is especially true for my own family. My paternal grandmother's younger brother, PFC Paul M. Lavoie, of Nashua, New Hampshire, gave his life on the 10th of February, 1945 in Schmidt, Germany. He, along with 7,991 other American WWII soldiers, rests at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial located 70 miles southeast of Brussels in Homburg, Belgium. In 2009, I decided to research my great-uncle Paul and find his story after the passage of so many years. The journey brought me, my husband, my aunt, and my uncle to Europe in 2010 where we traveled the route of the march Paul undertook with the 309th Infantry Regiment of the 78th Infantry Division 75 years prior. We were also his first family members to attend the cemetery's annual Memorial Day ceremony. Unlike Uncle Paul, we returned home.

The trip changed my life — it haunted and followed me in ways that I did not anticipate or



Aimee Fogg and her Aunt Rita at the Henri Chapelle Cemetery, behind the marker of Paul M. Lavoie, 2010. (Photo from Aimee Fogg.)

expect. Soon after returning home, I decided to research the other 39 New Hampshire soldiers interred or commemorated on the Tablets of the Missing at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial, which led to researching Vermont's 25 soldiers. The decision to continue researching my great-uncle's comrades, who rest with him at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, including the 120 soldiers of the 106th, ultimately led me to form the organization called *They Speak: Voices of Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery*, which is dedicated to collecting the personal stories, photos as well as information about the 7,992 interred soldiers and 450 MIA soldiers whose names are commemorated on the Tablets of the Missing.

Email Bag . . .

The wind always blows at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery. Sometimes gently. Sometimes forcefully. Sometimes quietly. Sometimes loudly. Sometimes mournfully. But always triumphantly. Carried in the wind are the names of almost 8,500 American men who rest at or who are commemorated at this 57-acre American WWII cemetery. Surnames such as Smith and Stein; Tonegates and Yee; Ricci and Adamczyk. Names that represent those who were native to the land and those who traveled great distances with idealistic hopes of joining the land. Names of men who joined the military as a willing volunteer. Names of men who joined the military as a reluctant draftee. Names of men with dark- and light-colored skin tones. Names of men with different religious upbringings, family traditions, social beliefs, and accents. Names of men from all four corners of America and yet their unique differences combined with their common bonds serve as the fortification of every stitch in each American flag.

The words President Ronald Reagan expressed on the 40th anniversary of D-Day ring true for the soldiers of the 106th and for their comrades at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial, “Strengthened by their courage, heartened by their valor and borne by their memory, let us continue to stand for the ideals for which they lived and

died.” May we all continue to stand, strengthened by the sacrifices made by so many so long ago. And may we all look inward to make certain each one of us has done enough to honor them, their sacrifices, and their lives.

Thank you to members of the Greatest Generation and to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. We are free because of them and because of those who have since safeguarded the frailty of liberty’s glow. Please feel free to visit my Facebook page called *They Speak: Voices of Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery*. Also, if anyone would like to share information/photos of a 106th soldier interred or commemorated at HCAC, my email address is henrichapellecemeter@gmail.com. Thank you!



Aimee Fogg, her husband Ryan and their three children, Isabella, Chapell, and Robert Paul, at the Henri Chapelle Cemetery, 2023. (Photo from Aimee Fogg.)

“VETERANS’ VOICES”

This is a recurring article for The CUB in which Veterans or family members can submit brief personal stories. Whenever possible, please send your submission in an email to the Editor, Lisa Dunn, CUBeditor@106thInfDivAssn.org, so it can easily be transferred to The CUB. Images should be submitted as jpg files. For each picture file you submit please also include what event the picture represents and where/when it was taken. Individuals in the pictures should be identified. Articles can either be submitted in the body of the email, or as a Word document. Articles submitted as hard copies in the mail may or may not be used depending on difficulty of transcription. If you have any questions, please email the Editor.

Memorial Plaque at the Citadel

By Robert W. Squires, Jr

My great-uncle, Captain James L. Manning, was the Commanding Officer of Canon Company, 423rd Regiment, 106th Infantry Division and was killed on the opening day of the Battle of the Bulge back in December 1944.

Like me, Captain Manning graduated from The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina — he being Class of 1942 and me being Class of 1986.

Several years ago, The Citadel decided to rebuild Capers Hall, which is one of its main academic buildings, and it formally reopened on September 9th of 2023. As part of a fundraising effort, I pledged to pay \$10,000 for a memorial plaque outside the office of a professor in the History Department (since I was a history major) in memory of my great-uncle Captain Jim Manning.

I visited The Citadel this past November for Homecoming weekend and was able to go inside the new Capers Hall and get a photo of the memorial plaque, I wanted to share this with *The CUB* not only because my great-uncle was a Veteran of the 106th Infantry Division, but because I like contributing to the effort of remembering the brave heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for our great nation and our freedoms.



Captain James L. Manning, CO, Cannon Company, 423rd Infantry Regiment. (Photo given to the Citadel by Robert Squires.)



Robert Squires, Jr., at the Citadel in front of the plaque commemorating his great uncle, Capt. James L. Manning, 11/2023.

George, Paul, and Jack: Teenage Lions in the Ardennes

By Sean O'Dwyer

Five years ago, while I was still in college at the University of Florida, I received a collection of military artifacts belonging to the Skinner family of Buffalo, New York. I had previously attended high school with one of the children of the family and his mother, Shirley, gave me the artifacts in light of my deep interest in WWII. The artifacts span both World Wars and consist of photographs, medals, a diary, drawings, and other personal items from the family's Veterans. The patriarch of the household, Gerald Robertson Skinner, Sr., was assigned to a trench mortar battery in the Great War, surviving the blood-soaked Meuse-Argonne Offensive in autumn 1918. His first born, Gerald Robertson Jr., was dispatched to WWII's Pacific Theater and served at a Navy seaplane base near New Guinea. Gerald Sr.'s second son, George Allan Skinner, (Figure 1) was assigned to the 106th Infantry Division and experienced the brunt of the German attack at the Battle of the Bulge. Sadly, George did not survive the war.

Born November 20, 1925 in Buffalo, George was anxious to do his part, seeing as he joined the Enlisted Reserve Corps at 17 years old. Entering the regular Army in December 1943, George went to

the Army Specialized Training Program until its dissolution in early 1944. In March, George was reassigned to 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, Antitank

Company of the 424th Infantry Regiment, then billeted at Camp Atterbury. George arrived on the European continent with the rest of the 106th just over a week before Hitler's final offensive in the West, taking up positions east of Winterspelt, Germany. He was part of a 57mm gun crew facing the imminent onslaught in the Ardennes.

On December 16, AT Company's 1st Squad, 1st Platoon was precariously located on the 424th's left flank, helping to screen a 4,000-yard gap between the 424th and the next section of the line manned by the 423rd Infantry (*see Figure 2, page 36*). At 5:30 a.m., German forces unleashed a one-and-a-half hour, 1,600 gun-strong barrage. Lt. Hugh Muir, AT's Mine Platoon leader and de facto officer-in-charge, recalled in



Figure 1 — George Allan Skinner, shortly after joining the Army. (Photo Sean O'Dwyer Collection.)

continues on page 36

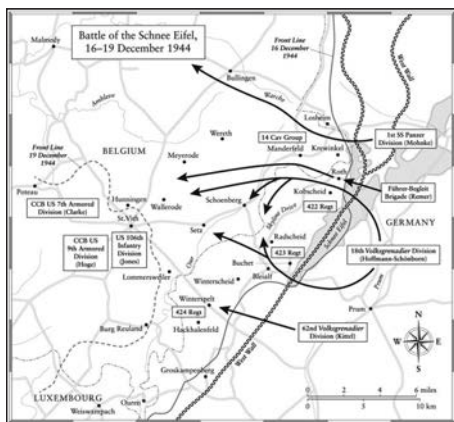


Figure 2 — Map detailing initial fighting in the Schnee Eifel region of the Bulge. AT Company was directly in the path of the 62nd Volksgrenadier Division's advance, located near the bottom of the map. (Photo Snow & Steel: The Battle of the Bulge, 1944–45 by Peter Caddick-Adams.)

a 1945 letter that George had already been wounded by the time Muir arrived at 1st Squad's emplacement under intense shelling. Realizing the line would soon crumble, Muir hastily ordered the able-bodied and walking wounded to fall back. Despite this, Sgts. Glen Risk and Robert Walsh, the latter of whom had no gunnery training, managed to knock out an advancing tank. Pvt. Gilbert Thomas and Pfc. Donald Peterson added another panzer to AT Company's tally before day's end.

As German infantry began to close in, only Muir and Walsh remained with George and Arthur Mondlock, another severely wounded soldier. Muir said that he and Walsh "tried for a considerable time to get Mondlock and Skinner back," but

lamented "... it was hopeless. They were both big to begin with." Hearing small-arms fire in the woods to their immediate front, Muir determined "it was useless for all four of us to be captured." With a heavy heart, he and Walsh retreated in an attempt to reorganize their men. They never made it to the American lines, and were captured later that afternoon. After his liberation in May 1945, Muir met Mondlock in a Paris hospital, who confirmed the tragic fate of George Skinner. According to his family, Muir would be troubled by this fact for the rest of his life.

George's mother, Mrs. Ophelia Armstrong, received the dreaded Western Union telegram confirming her son's death in March 1945 (see Figure 3). However, due to a litany of clerical errors, George's personal effects never came. Initially buried at the temporary cemetery in Foy, Belgium, George was reinterred in 1949 at Forest Lawn Cemetery in

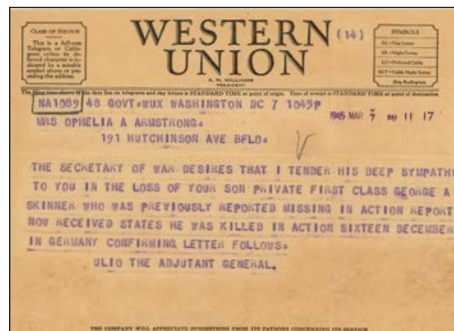


Figure 3 — The telegram Ophelia Armstrong received verifying the death of her son. (Photo from Sean O'Dwyer Collection.)

Buffalo, his resting place today. He was 19 years old.

Like countless families who have experienced the unimaginable loss of a loved one in war, the Skinners seldom talked about George outside of an occasional mention around Memorial Day. Wishing to find answers to questions that I and the surviving family had about a life cut far too short, I began a meandering but incredibly fruitful archival and genealogical journey. Although I found (and continue to find) astounding insights from the family of AT Company Veterans, I had long ago set aside hope of finding a surviving Veteran from George's unit. As it turned out, I should not have been so pessimistic.

In September 2022, I had the privilege of speaking with Paul Panagrosso, who served with another squad of AT Company's 1st Platoon. The son of Italian immigrants, Paul was a late-comer to the unit in August 1944 and had hardly learned the names of his gun crew mates before heading overseas.

On the morning of December 16, the mass cannonade opened up on the

thinly-defended American lines. Paul recalled that he and his crew took cover in a bunker close by during the bombardment, wondering which shell might have their names on it. Paul was perhaps a few hundred yards away from George at this time.



Figure 4 — Paul, center front, in basic training at Camp Blanding, Florida. (Photo from Panagrosso Family.)

Almost as soon as the guns fell silent, Paul and his squad mates started to hear German chatter outside. Paul remembered throwing grenades away from their bunker entrance several times, until his sergeant realized the situation was futile. They emerged with their hands up, among the first prisoners of war captured during

the battle (*see Figure 5, page 38*).

Immediately, Paul was separated from his crew and marched east toward Prum, Germany through record-breaking winter conditions. He moved between several camps during his months in captivity, and was liberated shortly before the Nazi surrender. After the war, Paul married, raised a family, and pursued a career in retail in his native Connecticut. He is 98 years old at the time of this writing and has recently begun to talk

continues on page 38

Email Bag . . .

REPORT

ARTILLERY COMPANY 424TH INFANTRY
APO 443 c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

30 December 1944

18 EN Dy to BC KIA in Germany since 16 December 1944
and dropped fr rolls 20 December 1944.

NAME	ASN	GRADE	DUTY
Fuller, Donald L.	36455335	S Sgt	610
Vaught, William S.	34724503	S Sgt	610
Welsh, Robert E.	33665768	Sgt	729
Denridge, William F.	32771794	Cpl	610
Thomas, Roger J.	16102570	Cpl	610
Cooke, James L.	35690092	Pfc	610
Boyle, William F.	31126949	Pfc	610
Gilbert, Paul E.	35335045	Pfc	610
Eller, Luther J.	35645310	Pfc	610
Pennagrosso, Paul	31110247	Pfc	610
Art, Franz F. W.	39113498	Pvt	610
Chandler, Bill W.	34422849	Pvt	610
Legett, Archie L.	36052121	Pvt	610
Rondack, Arthur	32707070	Pvt	729
Twitle, Ray R.	38482219	Pvt	729
Roupeau, Raymond A.	31158308	Pvt	729
Thomas, Gilbert E.	37605704	Pvt	610
Skinner, George A.	12238590	Pfc	610

Figure 5 — Excerpt from AT Company's December 1944 morning report records. Among others, Paul (10th name) and George (last on page) are listed as missing in action. Photo from NARA & Footsteps Researchers.)

about his service. Paul, however, is not the only AT Company Veteran I have been fortunate to speak with.

In March 2023, I had the opportunity to interview AT Veteran Jack Weingarten. Born in Brooklyn but raised in the Bronx, Jack was drafted in 1943 shortly after his 18th birthday. Jack joined the 106th at Camp Atterbury, and was assigned to AT's 1st Squad, 1st Platoon. Among his squad mates was Private First-Class George Skinner.

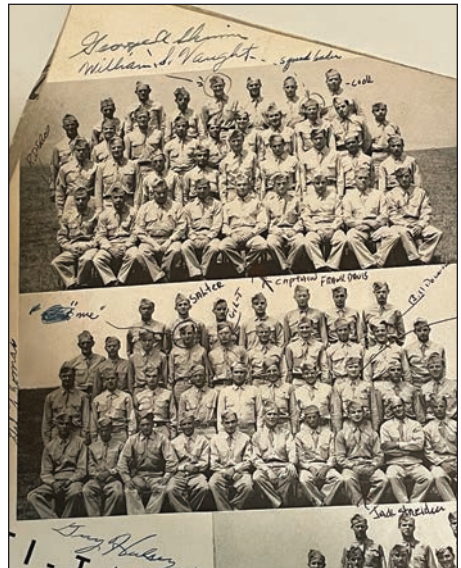
Although some specifics have faded with time, Jack immediately

Figure 6 (right)— George signed near his place at the top of AT Company's page in the division photo album. Jack is located in the middle photo, labeled as "me." (Photo from Weingarten Family.)

recognized George by his tall stature and fiery red hair. He remembered George as having a sunny demeanor and being an all-around friendly guy. George even signed his place in Jack's 106th Division photo album (see Figure 6). Until we spoke, Jack thought George had merely been wounded at the Bulge.

Jack was pulling guard duty close to the squad's gun position when all hell broke loose. He recalled that a number of the men were still asleep when shells began raining down. As the fire grew heavier, Jack received orders to fall back.

Amid the chaos, he tripped over a communication wire while running alongside two other men. Just as Jack



fell, an artillery round exploded feet away, killing the nearby soldiers while Jack lay unscathed on the snow-laden ground.

Jack made his way to St. Vith, Belgium, and joined the hodgepodge of scattered units defending the town's vital crossroads. A devout Jew, Jack worried what might await him if he was captured, so much so that he kept his dog tags tucked away in his pocket rather than more conspicuously hung around his neck.

After weathering the desperate early days of the Bulge, the 424th was pulled back to rebuild its lost strength. They saw further combat in Germany and ended the war on occupation duty in Bavaria. Upon discharge, Jack began to build a life in peacetime. He studied law, but opted instead for a career in construction with his brother Irving. He married and raised two children.

Although only 19 at the Bulge, Jack, like Paul, is also 98 years old. A mere handful of Veterans survive from the entire 106th. Locating one from a particular squad is nearly unheard of. It cannot be understated how rare a perspective like Jack's is today, and I am exceedingly grateful both he and Paul allowed me to



Figure 7 — Jack in uniform, circa May 1945. (Photo from Weingarten Family.)

record their stories.

In a poignant closing observation, Jack felt there was nothing good about his war, with the exception of the friends he made. Among them, George Skinner.

Sean O'Dwyer is a new 106th Association member who works at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force near Savannah, GA. The museum's mission is to preserve the legacy of the Eighth Air Force during WWII.



Figure 8 — Jack holding a picture of George and his mother Ophelia. (Photo from Sean O'Dwyer Collection.)

The effects rippled on down...

"To my dear child...How could I ever hope you could forgive me for all the rage that gushed from me over to all our family—and to you in specific?...I never knew the Lord, never believed anyone or anything could erase my sins, forgive me, or could love me as their beloved child... I couldn't let anyone in to see what I'd become..."

Golden Lion's war wound's (physical and psychological) rippled down to traumatize his entire family.

This memoir leads you through the brokenness of one scarred WWII Veteran (Pvt. Sam Bordelon, 106th Infantry) and the devastating lifelong aftermath of his injuries affecting every life he was part of thereafter.

Journey through the roller coaster life of his child in this transparent account of how her father's experience played itself out down the generations.



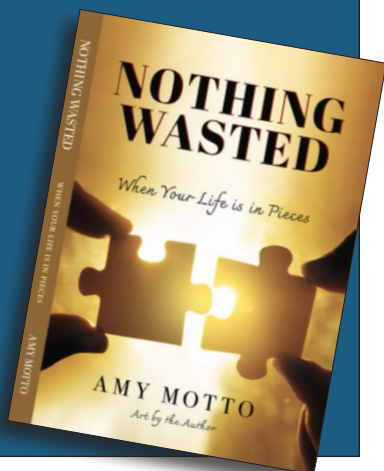
21 Dec. 1944, St. Vith, Belgium — (L/R) Pvt John R. Sheehan, Brooklyn, NY; Lt. Ivan H. Long, Pontiac Mich. and Pvt Sam Bordelon, Birmingham, AL, talking over their experiences escaping the ring of Nazi armor which completely surrounded them. The and others (68 men in all) escaped without losing a man.

(Credit — photo and caption, U.S. Signal Corp) [from CUB Vol. 44-No. 4]

The term PTSD wasn't even used until 35 years after the soldiers returned home from WWII. Yet, looking back from the perspective of a mental health professional, Amy describes the shrapnel that bloodied all that entered his orbit following. At the same time he was her adored father in many respects, yet she fielded mixed messages constantly.

Her father was a hero in one arena, and an abuser upon returning home. Amy experienced a personal toll as she went from survivor to thriver. The story takes you through the destruction Sam felt himself after killing, and carried through to hurting his own family.

Online at **amazon.com**
(simply type the title in the search bar)



**PLEASE REPORT ALL CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND DEATHS
TO THE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:**

Henry LeClair

209 Range Road Windham, NH 03087

PHONE: 603-401-3723

EMAIL: membership@106thInfDivAssn.org

BISHOP, ARTHUR F. 423/CN

Date of death: November 9, 2021

Arthur Francis

Bishop, born
October 8, 1925
in Red Bluff, CA,
died on November
9, 2021. He was the
third son of Floyd
and Anna Bishop.



Art graduated from Sacramento High School and entered the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkley) at the age of 16. When World War II started, Art's two brothers were in the Army Air Force, and Art had wanted very much to join them in order to serve his country. A couple of months after recovering from osteomyelitis, he received a call from the local draft board. Since Art wanted to be in the military, he didn't mention his long sickness. After basic training, Art was sent to join the 106th Infantry Division at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. The division was preparing to ship overseas, and was deployed to the front lines facing the German Army. On December 16, 1944, Art was in an outpost when the Germans attacked to start the Battle of the Budge. Art was

captured, endured severe treatment, lost 50 pounds, and remained a POW until the end of World War II. Art was liberated on May 2, 1945, and after a short rehabilitation period, was discharged and prepared to go back to UC Berkley.

After receiving a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from UC Berkley, Art's first job out of college was working for PG&E. He'd inspect places and write down what was needed to install service to a house or a building. Art wanted to make it on his own merit and intelligence. His next job led him to work for the state in the Department of Architecture, but he didn't stay long. He joined the Air Force Reserve and received a direct commission in 1949 as a Second Lieutenant. He was recalled to active duty for the Korean War and was stationed in Alaska, and he moved there with his wife and two babies for two years and was promoted to First Lieutenant.

His next assignment was at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland near Washington D. C., and he moved there with his family for three years.

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In Memoriam . . .

Next the Air Force sent him and his family to Oklahoma A&M University, where Art earned his Master of Science in Electrical Engineering degree in one year.

After the year in Oklahoma, the Air Force moved Art and his family to New Mexico, where he was stationed at Kirtland Air Force Base. That's where Art was asked if he wanted to go into airplanes or space. He chose designing satellites and missiles and was soon promoted to Captain.

Art's next assignment was to attend the Air Force Command and Staff College in Montgomery, Alabama, 1960. The next assignment was the Air Force Technical Applications Center in Fairfax County, Virginia. Soon after arriving there, near Thanksgiving, Timothy David (now known as Prasanna) was born on November 26, 1961. The next summer, Art was promoted to Major. The family spent four and a half years there before Art was assigned to the Space Systems Division in the Los Angeles area in January, 1966 where he became Deputy Director for Engineering of the VELA Satellite program. He received the Air Force Commendation Medal for his work during the next year and a half.

The results of this launch were of national importance in the furthering of a space-based nuclear detection capability. At that point, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant

Colonel and became Director of the Vela Satellite program.

While in LA, after the launch of the Vela VI satellites, Art retired from the military on June 1, 1970. He then joined Aerojet Electrosystems Company, where he continued work associated with nuclear detection satellites. Within a few years, he was promoted to Vice President and Director of the Defense Support Program at Aerojet. At the time, it was the only United States satellite-based missile detection system. Art continued this work for 18 years and retired from Aerojet in 1988.

In retirement, Art turned his attention to managing his family's walnut orchard in the Red Bluff, California area, while still living in Torrance, CA in the LA area. Then, since their three children had already moved out, in 1993, in order to be closer to the orchard in Red Bluff, CA, Art and Ellen moved to Sacramento. In January of 2001, while attending the festivities during the Presidential Inauguration of George W. Bush, Art and Ellen met the Executive Director of the Purple Heart Foundation who provided them with tickets to an event honoring Veterans. As a result of that kindness, Art became an active member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), and Ellen became an active member of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Purple Heart (LAMOPH). Both

Art and Ellen have served as officers at the local, state, and national levels.

Art and Ellen Bishop were both very active in Veteran's affairs. As delegates to the VA Northern California Health Care Council, they kept up to date on VA activities and can make suggestions on ways to improve the treatment of Veterans. They also attended the annual POW breakfast at Beale Air Force Base, and participated in parades and other patriotic activities.

Most recently, in the MOPH, Art was National POW/MIA Coordinator. He was also a member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War organization, the Air Force Association, and the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). Art was also the Purple Heart Representative to the VA Northern California Health Care System.

Art leaves behind his wife Ellen after 74 years of happily married life. Also carrying on his legacy are his three children, Michael, a cosmetic chemist, Marilyn, a physicist, and Prasanna, a musician. Also carrying on his tradition are seven grandchildren.

CARMICHAEL, BURKLE "JAY" **423 INF**

Date of death: April 4, 2021

Easter

Sunday 2021 took on additional significance for the fortunate people who knew Burkle "Jay" Carmichael, 97, of Ocala, FL,



*Jay Carmichael, 96.
(Photo by Doug Engle/
Ocala Star Banner.)*

as he went home to be with the Lord. Another unsung American hero, "BJ" had an incredible life: a decorated WWII Veteran who survived the Battle of the Bulge and the German Stalag IV-B POW camp, a successful businessman who traveled all over the world, but most of all, he was a dutiful husband of 66 years to his wife Jean and his four children.

His joy in the later years of his life was undoubtedly his grandchildren. "Papa" was always ready with a word of advice and a game of Gin. He would sincerely listen and empathize, all while "beating the pants off you" at cards. He was quick to smile and offer help if needed. He would often draw from his years of sales experience and say, "treating people with respect and kindness has become increasingly rare... and it's OK to be rare."

Like many Veterans, he didn't talk much about his time in WWII until later in life; both out of a humility for his service to his country

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In Memoriam . . .

as well as a desire to not relive a horrific time. But as he did pass along those stories of friendship, pain and triumph, his eyes would clearly tell you there was more.

To say he will be greatly missed doesn't begin to capture it. He was firm in his faith and knew he was heading home to Heaven. He would often say he was content to stay here on earth working until the Lord called him home. And work he did. He was an avid gardener and woodworker, volunteered and attended regularly at Christ the King Anglican Church, and spoke to numerous schools both local and statewide about his experiences in WWII. It has been said that you will never know how big of shadow you cast on others in life. His reach will be felt for years to come.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Jean Bliss Carmichael; and his oldest son, Burkle Jay Carmichael Jr. He is survived by Michael and Becki Carmichael, Rory Carmichael, and Julie and Steve Dalton. As well as 15 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

CHUVARSKY, ANDREW G.

424/1BN/HQ

Date of death: April 2, 2021

Andrew George Chuvarsky, of Plano, TX, was born on October 28, 1922 and passed away on April 2, 2021.

GODFREY, ROBERT **422/C**

Date of Death: January 14, 2021

Robert Godfrey, 96, of West Long Branch, NJ, passed away on Thursday, January 14, 2021.

He was born in Manhattan and lived in Manalapan before moving to West Long Branch 30 years ago. He was a comptroller for Pilgrim Insurance Company in Princeton before retiring. He then became a consultant.



Robert was drafted into the Infantry during World War II, did his basic training at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, in 1944, before being assigned to the 106th Infantry Division — the Golden Lions. He did additional training in England before crossing into Belgium on December 10, 1944 — his 20th birthday. The division was attacked on December 16th and Robert was taken POW sometime between the 16th and the 19th during the Battle of the Bulge. He chose not to talk about his experiences for decades. Once he saw a fellow Veteran wearing the Golden Lion patch at the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY, he joined a group of fellow Battle of the Bulge Veterans. Thus, began a journey of opening up about those horrors with his family — to which we are forever grateful.

He was predeceased by his wife of

In Memoriam . . .

65 years four months before his death, Liliana Godfrey, and his parents, Max and Rose Gottfried. Surviving are his children, Maurice Godfrey (Matilde), Richard Godfrey (Cindy Sharp), Carol Godfrey (Michael Clementoni) and Laura Corbett (Tom); sister, Carol Freidus and 8 grandchildren, Monica, Max, Alessandro, Matthew, Guillermo, Victoria, Lexi and Ally.

Funeral services were private and he was laid to rest with his wife at Brig. General William C. Doyle Veterans Cemetery in Arneytown with military honors.

LAMB, GERALD L.

423 INF/3 BN/I

Date of death: October 26, 2021

Gerald L. Lamb, 96, passed away October 26, 2021. A World War II Veteran, he grew up in Cleveland, OH and was a resident of Bath Twp. for 50 years. After graduating from John Hay High School, he entered the Army in early 1944. He was part of the 106th Infantry Division. He was a POW and was part of a work detail during the bombing of Dresden. He along with two others escaped and made their way back to the American troops. He was awarded a Purple Heart.

After the service he attended Case Western for two years. He was the area manager at Bliss and Laughlin



Steel Company, and also served as the Chaplain at the local Amvets, chapter 176 in Richfield.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Suzanne (Robinson). They had a wonderful life together, they traveled extensively until their late 80s. He was an avid golfer, quite the dancer, and loved a day at the Casino. He loved working in his yard and had an amazing sense of humor. He was the father of Gerald Richard (deceased), Nina Salata (Gary), Patricia Buehner (Robert), Deborah Frick, Michael (Lisa), Marjorie Neal, Robert (deceased), Carolyn (deceased), and Sunday Elizabeth Gaitanaros (Basil), grandfather, great-grandfather, great-great-grandfather, uncle and a friend to many.

LICHTENFELD, SEYMOUR L.

“SY”

422/I

Date of death November 3, 2023

Seymour “Sy” Lichtenfeld, born January 10, 1925 in Gary, IN, passed away peacefully on November 3, 2023 after a long and meaningful life. He

is survived by his loving daughters Eileen Lichtenfeld, Atlanta, GA, Roberta L. Goldman (Marshall), Atlanta, GA, grandchildren Alex Lichtenfeld, Jacksonville, FL, Elyssa Goldman, Washington, DC and



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In Memoriam . . .

daughter-in-law Ruth Lichtenfeld, Mobile, AL. He was predeceased by his son Dr. Norman Lichtenfeld, who gave him great pride with his many accomplishments, and by his loving wife of 63 years, Natalie, with whom he traveled the world and by his parents Albert and Sidell Lichtenfeld.

Sy served in the U.S. Army during World War II in airborne and infantry units. During the Battle of the Bulge he was captured and spent the remainder of the war in various German prison camps until liberated by the Russians. The War Department awarded him the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, POW Medal, and many others for his service.

After the war, he graduated from Purdue University as an engineer. He went on to operate multiple successful businesses in both Chicago, IL and then in Miami, FL where he and Natalie raised their family and resided for 50 years.

Active in many Veteran's service organizations, Sy helped other Veterans apply for and receive their full benefits. He was an active member of the American Ex-POWs, South Alabama Veterans Council, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, and a Board Member of the Alabama Board of Veterans Affairs. His book "KRIEGIE 312330," recounting his army service, is in the U.S. Library of Congress.

Upon moving to Mobile in 2010,

he became known throughout South Alabama for his presentations about his wartime experiences which he gave to school children and civic and Veteran organizations. In 2014, he was honored as Mobile Veteran of the Year.

Sy will be remembered for his love of country and as a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He will be greatly missed.

Reported by Eileen Lichtenfeld

LISKIEWICZ, MICHAEL

106/RECON

Date of death: January 12, 2022

On January 12, 2022 at age 97, Michael Liskiewicz, of Amherst, NY, passed away. He was the beloved husband of the late Sophie (nee Jezioro)



Liskiewicz; devoted father of Nancy (late William) Weigand, Patricia (Peter) Chapman, Alice (Joseph) Pericozzi and Joan Liskiewicz; cherished grandfather of Gregory (late Lara), Steven (Elizabeth), Christopher Weigand, Angela (Jeremy) Carlton, David Chapman, Anthony (Erin) Pericozzi, Lisa (Adam) Hernandez and five great-grandchildren; also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Liskiewicz was an Army Veteran of WWII, a POW and a Past Commander of the VFW Joseph Hriczko Post #6245.

PALMER, WILLIAM B.

331 MED/HQ

Date of death: January, 2, 2021

William B. Palmer, 96, died at his home in Louisville, KY, on Saturday, January 2, 2021. He was an Army World War II Veteran, a graduate of Michigan State University and a retired Employment Counselor at the Kentucky Cabinet for Human Resources. He is retired from the Ford Motor Co. He was a member of Kentucky Public Retirees, Zachary Taylor Post of the American Legion, St. Albert the Great Catholic Church and I.A.P.E.S.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Evelyn Palmer. He is survived by his daughters, Marlene Lawrence and Valerie Albright of Louisville, son, Ernie Palmer of Tecumseh, MI, five grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

He is buried at Calvary Cemetery.

RUSSELL, RICHARD L. 422/H

Date of death: April 16, 2023

Richard L.

“Dick” Russell, 99, a former longtime resident of Monroe County, MI, having lived in Ottawa Lake, MI, Luna Pier, MI, and Erie,

MI, passed in his sleep on Sunday, April 16, 2023 at The Lakes of Sylvania in Sylvania, OH. He was born April 11, 1924, in Toledo, OH,



to parents Joseph and Mary (Snyder) Russell. Dick was a 1942 graduate of Lambertville High School.

He then went on to serve his country with the United States Army. Staff Sargent Richard L. Russell was captured at the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944 and was a Prisoner of War until his release in April of 1945. A Bronze Star for Heroic Service in a Combat Zone and Two Purple Hearts for being Wounded in Action along with many other decorations were awarded to Dick during his service.

After being honorably discharged from the Army, Dick worked as a Tool & Die maker for Dura Corporation in Toledo, OH, and Sharon Manufacturing in Lambertville, MI, before starting his own company, The American Tool & Die, Inc. in April 1964. Dick grew a successful business in which he employed 38 employees including his three sons, Rich, Gary and Tom Russell. Dick retired from active participation in 1997 and passed the helm to his son Richard “Rich” Russell.

Dick was an avid sportsman who enjoyed hunting, fishing, and golf. He served as a reserve deputy sheriff in Monroe County, MI, for many years. He continued his mechanical aptitude working in his woodworking shop creating gifts for family and friends for many years following retirement. Dick loved going “up north” to his cabin in Michigan with family

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In Memoriam . . .

members and his dog, Lucy.

He is survived by his son, Tom (Linda) Russell; daughter, Rita (Tom) Ogden; daughters-in-law, Bernadette (Andrews) Russell and Marcia (Szymanski) Russell; grandchildren, Tracey (Chris) Warner, Corey (Shari) Russell, Jonathan (Nicole) Ogden, Philip (Sarah) Ogden, Hannah Ogden, Richard (Christine) Russell; granddaughter-in-law, Sarah (Dixon) Russell; great-grandchildren, Matthew Warner, Brady Warner, Emily Russell, Jack Russell, Luke Russell, Kayla Russell, Madison Russell, Noah Russell, Taylor Ogden, Elyse Ogden, and Aurora Russell; and great-great-grandchildren, Oliver Webster and Vivian Gonzales.

Dick was preceded in death by his loving wife of 69 years, Theresa (Briskey) Russell; father, Joseph Russell; mother, Mary (Snyder) Russell; sons, Gerald “Gary” Russell and Richard “Rich” Russell; granddaughter, Kerry Russell; and grandson, Thomas (Tommy) Russell.

Dick will be remembered for his generosity, kind heart and love of family. His legacy will live on through his family and the countless lives he touched throughout his life. He will be missed!

SALERNO, JOSEPH T. 423/B

Date of death: August 25, 2022

Joseph (Joe) T. Salerno, 97 years old, a resident of the Ponds Adult Community in Monroe Township, NJ, former president of the National



Active & Retired Federal Employees Association local chapter 2055 and a former Commissioner on the township’s Historic Preservation Commission passed away on August 25, 2022. He entered military service at the age of 18 as a private serving in World War II and the Korean Conflict and was discharged as a 1st Lieutenant in November 1953.

Born and raised in Newark, NJ, the titles he acquired are reflective of his lifetime service to family, community and country. He was a “watch charm” varsity football center and linebacker at Newark’s South Side High and labeled as “a man of innumerable capabilities” in the 1948 college yearbook at Montclair State University. A combat infantryman in Europe during World War II he also served as an 8th U.S. Army Far East Command staff officer during the Korean Conflict.

The Army and wartime service was his youth; an ASTP (Army Specialized Training Program) trainee at Alabama University, an infantry assistant squad leader and platoon

messenger at 19 and a first lieutenant at 25. A Veteran's Veteran, his life's work was in the Veterans Affairs hospital system. He joined the system as a rehabilitation therapist in 1953 at the East Orange facility until his retirement in 1985 as the Director of Public Affairs & Coordinator of Rehabilitation Medicine Therapies at the Lyons Veterans Administration Medical Center.

His military awards and decorations include: the Bronze Star medal, the Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Ribbon with Metal Pendant, the Prisoner-of-War medal, and the coveted Combat Infantryman's Badge. Also, the European Theater of Operations medal with three bronze campaign battle stars, the Korean Conflict medal also with three campaign battle stars, the Korean presidential unit citation medal, the United Nations Service Medal and the American Theater of Defense Service Medal. He was awarded the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal with Cluster as well as its medal for being recalled to the Korean conflict and an honorary state medal for having been missing in action and captive of the enemy. The Korean Government presented him with its Commemorative Medal in 2000. The government of France in 2006 presented him with their prestigious medal in recognition and in gratitude for his service in the liberation of France during WWII

naming him as a Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor.

Although he matriculated at Montclair State Teachers College (now Montclair University) in 1943, his education was interrupted by military service and upon his return he completed his studies attaining a Bachelor of Arts under the GI Bill. During his college years, he played baseball prior to being handicapped by his military disabilities, was elected to Tribe, the varsity letter-persons' club; was sophomore and junior class president for the Class of '48, and vice president of the student government in his senior year. He was elected to Kappa Delta Pi, the national education honor society; was a member of both Senate and Agora, the men's fraternal clubs of that era and selected for the publication: "Who's Who Among College Students."

He served the borough of South Plainfield as a member and vice president of the Board of Education, president of both the Taxpayers Association and high school booster club. He was the "Voice of the Tigers" at home football games, manager and league director with the Junior Baseball Club, and a Pop Warner football club administrative leader.

At the adult community of LeisureTowne in Southampton Township he served as president of the Civic League and member of the TownWatch, a community policing

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In Memoriam . . .

unit. He was one of the first resident directors elected to the Ponds deed-restricted condominiums in Monroe Township in 1986 and returned to complete an unexpired term serving as the boards' vice president in 2001. In 1999, he was appointed to and served as a Commissioner on the Monroe Township Historic Preservation Commission until 2003.

In 1985 the Disabled American Veterans, national headquarters and the American Legion, department of New Jersey honored him with distinguished service awards for his service to fellow Veterans.

He was born and raised in Newark's south ward and his passage through adolescence was with the "Hunter Street Boys," an informal athletic-social neighborhood group. Following college graduation, he initially joined the Newark school system faculty at South Side High as a permanent substitute teacher and assistant football coach. Prior to being recalled to active military duty in 1950 he was with the Census Bureau as an enumerator of Business Statistics and the Union County Associate Director for Training during the 1950 population census.

A communicant of the Roman Catholic Church of the Nativity in Monroe, he was also a member of the Monroe American Legion Post 522, Disabled American Veterans, the American Ex-Prisoners of War Association, Military Officers

Association, the Ponds Residents Association, its Men's Club and Italian-American Club. Most notably he was a member of the 106th Infantry Division Association, a fraternity of combat Veterans with whom he served in WWII; brothers beyond bloodlines. Active with the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, he served in various leadership positions with its NJ Federation of Chapters and at the local chapter level for well over 25 years.

The proud son of immigrant parents, he considered his greatest achievements to be the good fortune of meeting and marrying his lovely wife, Helen (nee Marko) in 1957; and as the father of his daughter Ellen and son Joseph F. who combined in blessing him with six grandchildren. His survivors also include his daughter-in-law, the former Della Titterall. His son-in-law Joseph P. DeMaio, his parents, Giuseppe and Domenica, émigrés from Italy and three elder brothers, Peter, Nick and Patsy, predeceased him.

He was satisfied in life with having achieved the success of helping his parents adjust to their adopted homeland during a period of difficulty for immigrants; helpful in providing a better lifestyle than his own for his two children and hopefully for his grandchildren, too; and, a lifetime career of caring for his fellow disabled and hospitalized Veterans in overcoming or adjusting

to their infirmities through the VA's rehabilitation programs. His greatest pleasure was being with "The Family" and the blessing of having had a caring and loving wife at his side through it all.

SNovel, ROBERT I. JR. 422/H

Date of death: December 7, 2021

Robert Isaiah "Bob" Snovel, of West Rockhill Twp. and formerly of Perkaspie, PA, died on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at the Community at Rockhill, Sellersville, PA. He was 98. Bob was the husband of 66 years of the late Lael (Bollman) Snovel until her passing on December 26, 2012.

Born in Perkaspie, PA, he was the son of the late Robert V. and Lillian (Werst) Snovel. He was a graduate of Sell-Perk High School, Perkaspie, Class of 1941.

He was a sergeant with Company H of the 422nd Regiment of the Army's 106th Infantry Division from 1943–1945. During this time, he was a Prisoner of War (taken at the Battle of the Bulge) for four months in German prison camps and suffered significant weight loss and frozen feet. He was decorated with the Purple Heart, Bronze Medal with two Battle Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and the European Theater Operation Ribbon.



Bob retired from AMETEK, INC., U.S. Gauge Division, Sellersville, after 44 years as an experimental mechanic.

He was a life-long member of the former First United Methodist Church, Perkaspie, where he served as Trustee President, an Usher and Holy Communion Steward. He delivered altar flowers to shut-in and hospitalized members with Lael for many years.

Bob served on the Perkaspie Borough Council and also coached his son's Pennridge Little League baseball team. A member of Shiloh-MacCalla Lodge No. 558, Souderton, PA, he was a 32nd Degree Mason with the Lehigh Consistory of Allentown, PA. He was also a member of the Rajah Shrine, Reading, PA, Lenape Chapter No. 339 Order of the Eastern Star, Quakertown, PA, the Hartzell-Crouthamel American Legion Post No. 280, Perkaspie, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Forrest Lodge No. 245, Sellersville, the Perkaspie Historical Society, and a former member of the Pennridge Jaycees. He was very involved with the Highland Park Campmeeting Association, Sellersville.

Bob enjoyed ballroom dancing with his late wife, bowling, golfing and spending winters in Ellenton, FL. He was a very caring husband, dad and Pop-pop.

Surviving are a son, the Reverend Dennis R. Snovel and his wife Cindi,

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In Memoriam . . .

of Lititz, PA; two grandchildren, Todd Snovel, of Lancaster, PA, and Tonya Lee and her husband William, of Elizabethtown, PA; a great-grandson, Mitchell Lee; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by three sisters, Ethel Vogt, Mildred Moyer and Evelyn Snovel.

SPAGNOLA, NICHOLAS P.

589/B

Date of death: March 27, 2022

Born April 11, 1925, in Ansonia, CT, to Francesca and Maria Milardo Spagnola. He was a longtime resident of Winter Haven and owner of Peoples Furniture in Winter Haven. He was a Veteran and POW during WWII, serving in the U.S. Army. During WWII he received the American Campaign Medal, Purple Heart, European, African, and Middle Eastern Campaign Medals, Three Bronze Stars, WWII Victory Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He was a member of Ex-POWs, Florida Furniture Association, American Legion, and Purple Heart Association.

He is preceded in death by his parents, three brothers, Melo Sampiere, Joseph Sampiere and Salvatore Sampiere; and two sisters, Ann Bonfanti and Antoinette Francini.



He is survived by a son Frank Spagnola of Winter Haven; a daughter, Mary Gagne and her husband Steve of Tallahassee, FL; grandchildren, Austin Spagnola, Dylan Spagnola, Christopher Gagne, Amanda Boccio and husband Michael and Kelli Gagne; many nieces and nephews; and a longtime caregiver, Joyce Dane.

SUTTLE, ERNEST E.

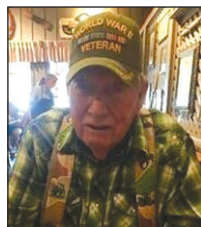
592/B

Date of death: June 1, 2021

Ernest Elsworth Suttle Jr., age 98, of Portland, TN, passed away at his residence on June 1, 2021. Mr.

Suttle was born in Sumner County on March 12, 1923 to the late Earnie Suttle Sr. and Idell Lamberth Suttle. In addition to his parents, Mr. Suttle is preceded in death by his wife, Mildred Worley Suttle; brother, Melvin Suttle.

Mr. Suttle is survived by his children, Ronnie E. (Mary June) Suttle, Kathy Suttle, Patsy Suttle, and Tammy (Ray) Whitaker; brother, Jack (Ann) Suttle; sisters, Imodean (George) Summers and Betty (Buford) Bates; grandchildren, Scott Harrison, Melissa (David) Carter, Brant (Branden) Corlew, Lindsay (CJ) Stanley, Matt (Emily) Warren, Jacob (Kelsey) Suttle; great-grandchildren, Kayci Harrison, Kelsey and Kolby Carter, Emma Claire Warren, Branley



In Memoriam . . .

and Cassie Corlew, Mattellen Colgate, Arianna Stanley, Dallas Stanley, Sierra Stanley, and Daxton Stanley.

TARANTINO, LOUIS 422/AT

Date of death: February 16, 2022

Louis A. Tarantino, 99, of Plymouth, MA formerly of Brockton and Easton, passed away on Wednesday, February 16, 2022. He was the husband of the late Louise (Minerva) Tarantino.



Born in Boston on January 8, 1923, he was the son of the late Anthony and Maria (Metta) Tarantino. He was raised by his stepmother Sabina Tarantino after the passing of his mother in 1931. Soon after moved from East Boston to Brockton, Louis grew up in Brockton, graduating from Brockton High School in 1941.

Louis was a Veteran of the United States Army, serving in the 106th Infantry Division and taken prisoner in Germany during the Battle of the Bulge.

He was a manager of Morton Shoe for more than 40 years.

He volunteered many hours at the Brockton VA Medical Center. He also served as Pollster for the City of Brockton for many years as well as the Veteran's Graves Registration Officer.

Louis was a member of the

Italian American War Veterans, Brockton Area Ex-POWs, the Sons of Italy, as well as the Abington, Whitman, and Brockton VFWs, serving as Quartermaster and on many committees.

Louis is survived by his son Anthony L. Tarantino and his wife Nora. He was predeceased by his siblings Dena (Tarantino) Detrani, Augustine Damiano, Vito Damiano and Rose (Damiano) Medeiros. He is also survived by several close nieces and nephews, as well as several grand-nieces.

THIEL, LEON 423/G

Date of death: August 5, 2021

Leon was born on September 12, 1925 to Herbert and Ida (Meyer) Thiel in Brenham, TX. He was baptized in 1925 and confirmed in 1938 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.



Leon attended Brenham High School, but was not allowed to graduate as he was drafted at age 18 in 1943 and called to serve in the U.S. Army during World War II. Leon fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was taken into eastern Germany as a POW. Liberated in 1945 he returned to Fort Sam Houston where he was hospitalized for more than a year of treatment, eventually returning to his

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In Memoriam . . .

home in Brenham. He was a carpenter and retired custom home builder.

Leon was preceded in death by his parents, wife Nancy (Curtis) Thiel of 67 years, and son Troy D. Thiel. He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Herbert and Helen Thiel of Brenham, and numerous nieces and nephews.

TRUEMAN, EDITH GRACE NON-106TH VET

Date of death: January 29, 2023

Edith Grace Trueman of Warwick, NY passed away peacefully on April 27, 2021. She was 93 years old. Born in Brooklyn, NY on May 13, 1927, she was the daughter of John Tolar Reiners and Edith Grace Wheeler.



Grace was the widow of Rev. Duncan T. Trueman. Rev. Trueman, (424 INF/AT) served in the NYAC from 1955 until his retirement in 1989. He pastored Goshen UMC and New Milford & Edenville UMCs in NY, as well as serving in several extension ministry appointments in the Warwick, NY area. In his retirement he continued to serve New Milford & Edenville from 1989 to 2005. Rev. Trueman died in 2010.

Remembering her legacy are her daughter, Brandy Ann Trueman of Marin County, CA; her son, Steven and his wife Joy of Las Vegas, NV; her brother, Rev. Robert Reiners and his wife Elizabeth; and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Rev. Duncan Trueman; brother, John Tolar Reiners, Jr.; and sisters-in-law, Margaret Reiners and Harriette Hart.

Unless noted with a “Reported by” credit, all obituaries listed are from results obtained through online research done by our staff members.

PLEASE NOTE:

To the widows/family members of Golden Lions, if you wish to continue to receive *The CUB* after the passing of your Veteran, please let Membership Chair, Henry LeClair know. His contact information is located on the inside cover of this *CUB*.

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If any of the following apply, please contact our Membership Chair:

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Sept. 18 –22, 2024

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

106InfDivAssn.org

Watch (again!) the 74th Annual Reunion Virtual Memorial Service

which replaced the live event for the 74th Annual Reunion
that was to have taken place in Kansas City, MO, September 2020.

Remember the Men of the 106th

“Attend” this virtual Memorial service at

<https://youtu.be/6S4Ke-Tfitg>

Share this link with family and friends, schools and organizations.

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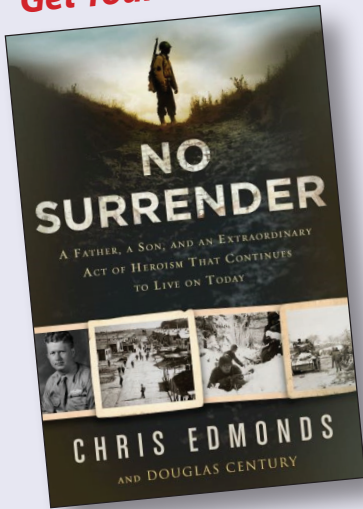
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We are all feeling the effects of the current financial upheaval, including the
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