

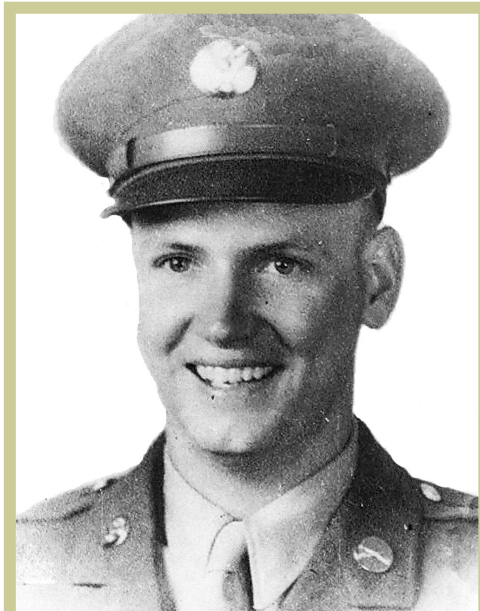
Ronald Andrew “Bud” Wilson

US Army

121 Squadron, 106th Cavalry Group, Troop F

Remembering Ronald “Bud” Wilson

by Charles “Rollie” Lockyer



Ronald “Bud” Wilson

US Army—121 Squadron, 106th Cavalry Troop F
European Theatre

Bud Wilson was my best friend as we grew up in Gillespie, Illinois during the 1930s-40s. Bud's family moved to South Wilmington, Illinois after Bud graduated from Gillespie High School in 1942.

Bud enlisted in the Army and was assigned to a Stuart tank, Troop F with the 121 Squadron, 106th Cavalry Group. In early August 1944 my mother received a message from Bud's family; and it was reported in the Gillespie Area News as follows:

August 17, 1944— Mrs. Lucius Lockyer received word Wednesday from Mr. and Mrs. Archie Wilson of South Wilmington, Illinois, stating that word had been received from the government advising them that their son, Ronald Wilson, had been

killed in action in France August 2nd. He is survived by his parents, former residents of Gillespie, his father having served as a night police for a number of years and his brother Leland James Wilson and a sister Velma Wilson.)

More about Bud's Service and Death after June 6, 1944, D-Day

Right now (and these facts are subject to change) I think that Bud landed in the Normandy area about 2 weeks after D-day. He was in Troop F of the 121 Squadron, 106 Cav Group that scouted ahead for the army. He was in a light tank (Stuart) in the hedgerows when met by a superior German tank. Bud was killed instantly (8-2-44). There was heavy activity in the area but that night a Free French soldier took Bud's remains from the tank and buried them nearby before either US or **Germans** got to the tank. Without a body US reports as MIA rather than KIA. All of the Wilson family passed without knowing what happened to Bud.

Since receiving this information, I have checked with Bud's nephew (Terry G. Allison in Texas). He is to go to France this Spring (2015) at the place where Bud was killed. We should find out something after that. It is my understanding that M. Jacques-Andre AUBRY and other grateful French people are directly concerned about finding out about what happened to Bud in the tank battle and will give the information to Terry. Perhaps we can have enough accurate information about Bud's tragic event to give additional details to his story.

Submitted by Charles “Rollie” Lockyer
Bud's Childhood Friend

Ronald Andrew “Bud” Wilson

US Army
121 Squadron, 106th Cavalry Group, Troop F



**Bud's Tank after the Battle that took his life
on August 2, 1944**



Since Bud's remains were never returned to the U.S., in remembrance of him his family had this marker installed at Gardner Cemetery in Braceville, Illinois where his parents are buried



**Ronald “Bud” Wilson
In Uniform**

Ronald Andrew “Bud” Wilson

US Army
121 Squadron, 106th Cavalry Group, Troop F



Bud's Brother Leland Wilson

Memories of Growing Up with Bud

Bud grew up in a small town in south central, Gillespie, Illinois where he was active in the High School and Gillespie Municipal Band. Also in that band were my older sister, Rosemary; and my older brother, Jesse.



Macoupin Street, Gillespie, IL
Dressed in Municipal Band Uniforms
L to R—Rosemary Sue Lockyer, Ronald A. “Bud”
Wilson, Loeta Zoller and Jesse Lee Lockyer—1939



Bud and Charles Lockyer—Childhood Friends

Ronald Andrew "Bud" Wilson

US Army

121 Squadron, 106th Cavalry Group, Troop F

106th Cavalry Group

In 1943 the 106th Cavalry Squadron was shipped overseas and there it was redesignated as the 106th Cavalry Group, Mechanized. The Squadron was broken up with half of its officers and non-coms making up the newly formed 121st Cavalry Squadron. Hence, the 106th Cavalry Group consisted of the 106th and 121st Cavalry Squadrons. Each Squadron's complement of Troops and vehicles consisted of a Headquarters and Services Troop and three Recon Troops: A, B, and C with machine gun (MG) jeeps, mortar jeeps, and M8 armored cars. E Troop, the Squadron's mobile artillery, had the Assault Guns (short barreled 75 mm howitzers in an open turret on a tank chassis). F Company was the heavy arm of the cavalry and consisted of the Stuart light tanks early in the war and later changed to the M24 Chaffee light tank (far superior to the Stuart).

The 106th entered WW2 about D-Day + 12, shipping out for Normandy. From there they fought continuously throughout the European campaign ending their tour in Salzburg, Austria. The 106th were the first American troops to enter Salzburg, securing a truce from the defending German Army



The French Croix de Guerre with Palm awarded to the entire unit by Charles de Gaulle for their heroism in the Battle for Luneville and

until the German High Command surrendered on May 8, 1945. Upon entering the European continent, they were attached to the 3rd Army. After the Battle of the Bulge, they were attached to the 7th Army, 45th Infantry Division, which had entered Europe through Italy and fought their way up into France. They finished out the war with the 7th Army, XV Corps. Maintaining contact with the enemy and maintaining liaison between Division lines were the prime assignments of the cavalry. How do you maintain contact with the enemy? "Simple, you get in your vehicle, drive down the road until somebody shoots at you. Now you have contact with the enemy. If you were lucky, the guy was a bad shot. If you were really lucky, you saw them first and you got to shoot first."⁽¹⁾

The entire unit was active in the following World War II campaigns:

- Normandy 1944
- Northern France 1944
- Rhineland 1944-1945
- Central Germany 1945

From the web site of the [106th Cavalry Group](#):

"The 106th Cavalry Group embarked for the coast of France on June 29, 1944. Much of the 106th and 121st Squadrons were landed at Utah Beach, just three weeks after the epic invasion had begun and were moved to an assembly point some 38 miles into the interior of Normandy. Unfortunately, the transport ship carrying A Troop of the 121st Squadron hit a mine in the English Channel soon after their departure. Remarkably, no lives were lost in the unit, and the men were safely evacuated by a Red Cross LST

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that came alongside. These men would not join the rest of the 106th until July 18...."

"The 106th spearheaded the advance across the Rhine, and moved rapidly through Ashaffenburg (on the Main river), Bad-Orb, Bamberg,



M5A1 Stuart Light Tank passes through the wrecked streets of Coutances

Nurnburg, and then across the Danube and on to the autobahn to Munich. Here the 106th accepted the surrender of the 9th Hungarian Division, which comprised some 8,800 men. Their advance continued into Austria and on to Salzburg in May, where the local German garrison surrendered to the commander of the 106th. One notable mission during this time involved a rapid advance into the Alps to recapture King Leopold of Belgium from

his Axis captors. [Myron's Troop B participated in this action.] Members of the 106th also were among the first Allied soldiers to enter Hitler's resort compound at Berchtesgaden."

The entire unit received the honors below for the following campaigns:

Croix de Guerre with Palm - Luneville 1944

Croix de Guerre with Palm - Caen-Falaise 1944

