

Return from Europe after World War II;

After WWII ended on May 8, 1945, and about eight weeks spent in occupation in Flurling, Austria, some 103rd Division people, including me, were notified that we would be transferred to the Fifth Division. Before we left, we had a division parade (about 15000 men) on a parade ground outside of Innsbruck, on June 3. I have some pictures of this event. It is a very memorable occasion for all of us who are combat veterans of the 103rd Division. Our only other division parade was in Gainesville Texas, before we went overseas.

We left our assembly camp, Camp Lucky Strike at LeHavre France on July 8. We traveled in convoy because of mines and possible German U boats, unaware of the war's end, or unwilling to accept defeat. Our convoy arrived in Boston harbor on July 14. We were met by all types of boats, large and small, all with pennants flying, fog horns sounding, some with bands playing on their decks, and harbor fireboats shooting water in the air. I have some pictures of this return.

We were brought by buses to Camp Miles Standish, a few miles outside of Boston. We could shower as long as we wanted, sleep as much as we wanted, (no duty calls), eat any meal at any time we wanted to, and as much as we wanted - steak, <sup>+ REAL EGGS</sup> real mashed potatoes, fresh vegetables, pies, ice cream, oranges, you name it.

We did have to wait in line to call our loved ones at home. No one was impatient, since we were whole, and had made it thru so far.

We could talk as long as we liked on the phone.

But we were aware of the friends we had lost, or that were temporarily or permanently maimed.