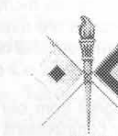


News From The Cactus Patch

103d INF DIV WW II



A quarterly Publication
January 2002

First Edition



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

07 Dec. 2001

B. Melton "Mel" Wright

My sincere thanks are extended to the Members, the outgoing and incoming officers and the Board of Directors for the generous support and approval of the Search Committee recommendations presented at our 2001 Grand Rapids, MI reunion. There were 3 errors in that Search Committee report. Two of them are in the 3rd paragraph under New Name. The date should be 01 January 2002. The name should read 103d INF DIV ASSN of WW II. The third mistake is a name spelling. Our Editor is Harold Branton and not Blanton.

We welcome and honor our descendants becoming a part of this organization. They should be equally honored to be a part of the plans for them to become members and to help preserve this vital part of our history for future generations.

Please be sure to fill out and mail in the form: Descendants of the 103d Division. We will send them a publication of the News from the Cactus Patch and invite them to become a participating member. They are always welcome at our reunions.

I recently visited Dallas, Denton and Gainesville, Texas working on plans for our 2002 reunion.

In Dallas, we were offered and have accepted some super arrangements for hotel accommodations for the reunion to be held 25-29 September 2002. Also, we surveyed the Preston Wood Country Club for our golfers. Rates are \$74.00 per night and if things go as planned, we will only be required to pay the occupancy tax. We have also arranged to book and hold all hospitality rooms at the same \$74.00 rate. All companies or other units with sufficient attendance should be able to obtain satisfactory accommodations for their individual groups. A computer sort by company unit level revealed that only 5 units had 10 or more members registered at the last reunion. The hotel will be able to assign the larger hospitality suites to larger units.

In Denton, we met with the Chamber of Commerce and they are checking into a possible reception at the college honoring former ASTP members and others who may wish to visit during their stay.

In Gainesville, we met with the mayor, C of C president, editor of the Gainesville Daily Register, the county judge and a new main street manager at city hall. A committee is being established to work on what they can provide to make our reunion a success.

More complete reunion details will be included in the next quarterly issue of News from the Cactus Patch. Remember the dates are 25-29 September 2002.

We urge all 103d men and their descendants to join our continuing organization that includes a subscription to the News From the Cactus Patch quarterly publication. Your letters to the editor seeking information or telling a story will be welcome.

We also urge that unit reunions, if possible, be scheduled to be held at the same time and with the division meeting. For those individual reunions that are not held with the division reunion please provide the editor with data and photos for future publications. To make our master roster complete, we need updated information on all members of your unit, including status and current address, phone and e-mail data. We find that our master records are missing many names. Our goal is to have a master record of all living and deceased 103d members for future museum and historical purposes. Please identify if they a POW.

As of 07 Dec. 2001 our monument fund has received donations of \$29,401.00. The goal from our organization is a minimum of \$50,000.00. We are determined to build a first class monument. Many of our contributions are received from obituaries of members with the printed notation: In lieu of flowers contributions may be mailed to the **TEXAS WW II HISTORICAL MONUMENT FUND, 9737 Warwana Rd., Houston, TX 77080.**

WITH HONOR AND RESPECT

B. Melton "Mel" Wright



Earl Clemmons, Jr.
Vice President
and
General Manager

Our Reunion at Grand Rapids in 2001 was one of our best in late years. Great things happened in our organization, and still more are underway. First of all, the report of the Search Committee was presented by the Chairman, "Mel" Wright, and was passed with 100% count. Secondly, new officers were elected and a Newsletter was authorized. Then a Special Committee was appointed to develop a Constitution and ByLaws document for approval in 2002.

The city of Dallas, Texas was then approved for our 2002 Convention site. All of those actions were capital events as we launch out to the future.

While we dwell on things of today and tomorrow, I am mindful of those who went before. I appreciate the good work accomplished by Harvey and Betty Ellsworth and daughter, Connie Gavitt in the life and growth of our organization. Also, I would like to remember Willie Barrios and past president Vernon Silha for their great contributions over the years. I want to thank the membership for selecting me to be a part of the leadership this year. My emphasis, as I perceive it, will be in the area of Membership, Committee overviews, convention planning, budget and general operations. Please help me in fulfilling these functions as we move forward.

****Earl Clemmons, Jr.** entered the Army on 8 May 1943. He took basic training at Camp Maxey, Texas and then to ASTP at the Texas College of Arts and Industries. In March 1944, Earl was reassigned to Co F, 411th Infantry, 103d Inf Div at Camp Howze, Texas. Earl shipped to Europe with the Division and served in his Company F throughout the combat period to May 1945. Retired now, Earl and wife, Bennye, have two sons, two daughters and three grandchildren. Their retirement address: 2001 E. 10th Street, Pine Bluff, AR 71601, phone (870) 535-5366.

A HEARTY CACTUS SALUTE



Raymond J. Menuey
Past President
1994-2002

Comrade Ray Menuey of Council Bluffs, Iowa and former member of HqCo, 409th Inf, 103d Inf Div WWII was elected President of the 103d Div Association at the Phoenix, AZ Reunion, 13 August 1994. In his nomination speech, Robert "Bob" Leslie, Co G, 409th, described to the Div Association assembled the leadership attributes of Ray and his fine character.

In glowing terms, Bob noted the many services that Ray had already performed for the Association. By unanimous vote and amid general good cheer, the membership hailed Ray as the new President.

The Association membership welcomed and feted Ray and his lovely wife, Imogene, at the banquet occasion in Phoenix. His term has been outstanding. Ray and Imogene have two daughters, two granddaughters, all of whom gives them great comfort and joy.

In his farewell letter, Ray said: "Dear Comrades: As I finish my term, I would like to thank all of our retiring officers and others who helped me during the past six years. Together we have kept alive the memories of the 103d Division. As I retire on 31 Dec 01, I say 'God Bless the 103d and God Bless America'."

**** Ray and Gene** live at: 343 Sylvan Drive, Council Bluffs, IA 51503, phone (712) 328-0849.

Ray, we appreciate you, and look forward to your continuing counsel. We also shall look forward to sharing warm comradeship with you and your family at still many more happy Reunion occasions.

(Pleas turn to page 4, Cactus Salute)

BETTY ELLSWORTH
Retiring Secretary/Treasurer



CACTUS SALUTE . . In 1965, the first scheduled "Reunion" was held. Approximately 50 Cactus men met in Lansing, Michigan. It was a pleasant place, so the attending group elected to return to Lansing in 1966. During the period of reorganization, the group agreed to accept services of Harvey T. Ellsworth, formerly of Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 409th, to serve as temporary administrator. In due time, Harvey was elected president of the newly revived association. Harvey's able wife, Betty, was in turn eventually elected secretary/treasurer. This husband and wife team served in those offices for many years.

Reunions have been held at various sites around the country each year since 1965 with the Ellsworth family generally overseeing the planning and administration.

It was Betty who projected the planning and management of the Association's administrative affairs. The family management team. Harvey and Betty Ellsworth gave the membership just the level of guidance needed in order to best enjoy the annual reunions. A place to gather and enjoy warm comradeship. The wreath laying event each year at the Tomb of the Unknown, Arlington, Virginia is legend.

Betty's continued work for the Division, even after her husband Harvey's death on 13 March 1994, is deeply appreciated. In Betty's farewell letter she said: "To the members and

CONNIE ELLSWORTH GAVITT
Retiring Assistant Secretary



Board of Directors: I wish to thank each and everyone for helping me along the way. My special thanks to you for the Appreciation Fund that was presented to me. I will always be grateful for your help in making the 103d what it has become. Also, I wish to thank the Board of Directors for the beautiful roses that were presented to me at the banquet. Something I had never expected. Now may God bless you all in your future. Sincerely, Betty Ellsworth."

****Betty Ellsworth's** new address: 1891 North Hagadon Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823, phone (517) 203-0661.

As the Division Association grew through the years, so did the administrative tasks grow in magnitude. Secretary Betty Ellsworth found her daughter, Connie Gavitt to be of immeasurable value in helping to keep "records" up to date.

Connie has been loyal and diligent. The membership took keen note of Connie's abundance of energy and helpfulness in all the activities of the Association. It will probably take five men to do the work that Connie has been doing. All say "Thank you, Connie, you made things look mighty easy but we know the difference!"

OUR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS, YEAR 2002



L to R: BAXTER FITE III, Board Member; DICK BALL, Board Member; RAYMOND SALO, Secretary/Treasurer; EARL CLEMMONS, Vice President and General Manager; MELTON "MEL" WRIGHT, President; JAMES WHITE, Board Member; DICK PEARSON, Board Member; HAROLD BRANTON, Editor, **News From The Cactus Patch**; JOHN RAUSEO, Board Member, Missing; DOUGLAS "DOUG" STELLNER, Asst. VP and General Manager; RICHARD MOORE, Executive Secretary, and DEAN SHARP, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer.

THE TEXAS WW II HISTORICAL MONUMENT FUND 9737 Warwana Road - Houston TX 77080

Please accept my contribution to build a MONUMENT that will honor men of the 103rd Infantry Division and their Support Units. It will preserve their History for future generations.

Planned Location: At the TxDot Welcom Center or the new planned Gainesville, Texas Welcome Center on Highway US 1-35.

YOUR PATRIOTIC SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED

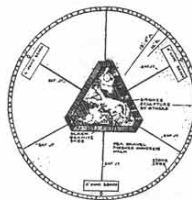
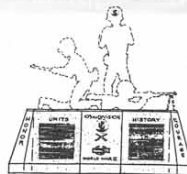
Here is \$ _____, My Donation
 In Memory of _____
 In Honor of _____
 Your Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____
 Zip _____

CREDIT CARD DONATION
 Check One () Visa () Master Card
 Credit Card Number: _____
 Expiration date on card: _____
 Signature: _____

Telephone donation call (713) 465-0814

Make Checks to:
Texas WW II Historical Monument Fund
 Mail checks and a copy of this form to:
 Texas WW II Historical Monument Fund
 9737 Warwana Rd. - Houston, TX 77080

Ground Breaking w/Fox Hole Shovels



This project, to honor all men of the 103d Division and to preserve this crucial part of our history for future generations, is very much alive. To date, our members and our friends have contributed more than \$29,000.00 toward this noble memorial. Our goal, as a minimum, is \$50,000.00 Use the form at the left to make your contribution today.

Please encourage our descendants (our children) and our friends to make contributions in your honor.

Additionally, please find the insert sheet herein, titled, DESCENDANTS OF 103D DIVISION MEN OF WW II. Whether you have already made contributions to the Fund or not, please fill out this form for information and memorial records. Then send it along to the Fund.

Many thanks , in advance.

08 September 2001

SEARCH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

ORGANIZATION

According to the vote at the 2000 reunion in Little Rock, Arkansas, it is agreed that we will continue our organization and the annual reunions.

CURRENT NAME: The current official name according to the Constitution is 103rd Infantry Division Association of WW II.

NEW NAME: We propose that we shall be reorganized effective 01 January 2002 and make the following official name change to 103d INF DIV ASSOC OF WW II.

NEW LOGO: It is recommended that the reorganized unit adopt the official following logo. The font used in this logo is Antique Olive (a sign of peace). 103d is the official army abbreviation that was used during our combat action. Shown on letter head at top of page.

FINANCES: We recommend that our President, Ray Menuey, order that an official detailed audited financial statement be prepared for the annual period ending 31 December 2001. Remaining treasury funds to be transferred to the new organization 01 January 2002. Statements for dues for following years will be in THE CACTUS PATCH NEWS.

INCORPORATION: Our findings are that we are not currently incorporated. We therefore recommend that we incorporate in the State of Texas, where we trained before combat, as a non-profit organization. We should also apply to the IRS for the necessary tax-free status. One Division that we surveyed indicated that their members did not pay room tax for their reunion meeting.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION: A Texas State agency, TALA, will prepare the preliminary papers that are necessary for State approval. The President to appoint a committee of three to review and submit their written approval to the President for review and approval by the Executive Committee.

BY LAWS AND/OR CONSTITUTION: The president to appoint a committee of three to review our constitution and review others to arrive at a recommend one suitable for our planned revised organization. This final document to be reviewed and approved by our Executive Committee. It is always open to amendment.

MEMBERSHIP: It is recommended that we, instead of encouraging our descendants to establish a new organization, welcome them into our organization with full participation privileges. This includes the right of sons and daughters to be an officer or board member. We encourage them to accumulate and preserve our history for their future generations. We recommend assigning a Class letter for our records and to show on their ID cards what their relationship is to us. The following classes are recommended for inclusion in our Rosters for Historical Purpose.

MEMBERSHIP

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>VOTING</u>	<u>PAY DUES</u>
Regular	R	Yes	Yes
Associate			
Son	S	Yes	Yes
Daughter	D	Yes	Yes
Wife	W	No	No
Widow	WL	Yes	No
Family	F*	No	Yes
Non Family	A*	No	Yes
Honorary	H*	No	No

*Must be recommended in writing by a voting member and approved by the Executive Committee.

OFFICERS

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. President | 1 Yr. Term Rotating |
| 2. Vice President & GM | 1 Yr. Term Rotating |
| 3. Assistant VP | 1 Yr. Term Rotating |
| 4. Secretary & Treasure | 1 Yr. Term Rotating |
| Minutes of all meetings and financial statements. | |
| 5. Asst. Secretary & Treasurer | 1 Yr. Term Rotating |
| 6. Executive Secretary | No Term Limit (Report to VP & GM) |
| Overall general activities. | |
| Asst. Executive Secretary | |
| 7. Editor, Cactus Patch News | No Term Limit (Report to VP & GM) |
| Contributing Staff | |
| 8. Chaplain | No Term Limit (Report to VP & GM) |
| 9. Historian | No Term Limit (Report to VP & GM) |

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 1-5 Above Plus Below, 2 Yr. Terms

- 409 (Descendant OK)
- 410 (Descendant OK)
- 411 (Descendant OK)
- Eng, FA & Others (Descendant OK)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 1-3 Above

To accept written proposals for reunions and establish suitable arrangements for following year. Planning 2 year ahead is recommended. Dallas will submit proposal for 2002.

BUDGET:

To be prepared for each year by the Ex. Sect. And ratified by the Executive Committee. It is recommended that a substantial (like 30%) of the dues payment go toward support of and perpetual care of the planned TEXAS WW II HISTORICAL MONUMENT.

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS

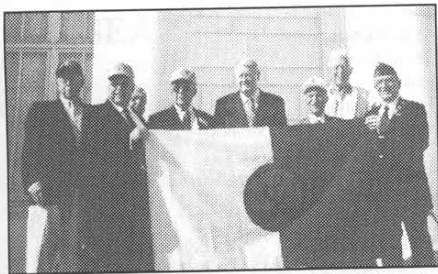
- | | | |
|------------------------------|----|------------------------|
| 1. President | TX | B. Melton "Mel" Wright |
| 2. VP & GM | AR | Earl Clemmons |
| 3. Asst. VP & GM | CA | Douglas H. Stellner |
| 4. Sect. & Treas. | MN | Raymond W. Salo |
| 5. Asst. Sect. & Treas. | KS | Dean Sharp |
| 6. Executive Secretary | IL | Richard D. Moore |
| Asst. Exec. Sect. | | |
| 7. Editor, Cactus Patch News | LA | Harold M. Branton |
| Contributing Staff | | |
| 8. Chaplain | | |
| 9. Historian | | |

RECOMMENDED BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 2 Year Terms

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| | 1-5 Above officers plus |
| 409 | James E. White |
| 410 | Richard E. Pearson |
| 411 | John V. Rauseo |
| Eng, FA etc. | Richard T. Ball |
| Associate | Baxter Fite III |

Submitted by your Search Committee: Mel Wright, Chairman
Search Committee Members: Dick Ball, George Davis, Doug Stellner and Rabbit Wilson.

Memorial at the Tomb of The Unknown



L to R: Mike Toohig, Bruce Hughes, John Kaiser, Carl Boltz, Ray Barrett, Nick Melas, Dick Ball, Dick Pearson

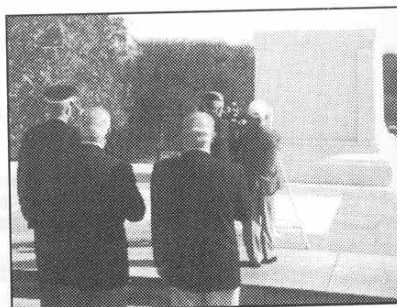
The Memorial group of the 103d Infantry Division, WW II, gathered in Washington, D. C., on 7 November 2001. Again, survivors of the epoch World War II were to lay a wreath at the TOMB of the UNKNOWN scheduled for the late morning, 8 November. Although Veterans Day this year was Sunday 11 November, the schedule of ceremonies at Arlington Cemetery placed the 103d Division event on the preceding Thursday.

On that Wednesday evening, on 7 November before the event, the group of former members of the 103d went to dinner together at the Fort Meyers Officers Club. It was a fine dinner, and was enjoyed by Dick Pearson, Co F, 410th Infantry, Leonard Sattler and wife, Betzi, Co C, 410th Infantry, Nick Melas, Recon Company, 410th Infantry, John Kaiser and wife, Ann, Co F, 410th, Carl Boltz and wife, Joan, Co B, 411th, Mike Toohig and wife Barbara, Co B, 411th Infantry, and Dick Ball, B Battery, 382nd FA Battalion.

The following morning, Thursday 8 November, fair weather at 11:05 a.m. the group placed a wreath on the Tomb. Joining the 103d contingent for the ceremony were Ray "Red" Barrett, B Battery, 382nd Battalion, Bruce Hughes and wife Mareen, I & R Platoon, 409th Infantry. And then there was another lady present, Ms. Linde Wales, daughter of the late David C. Wales, Co D, 411th Infantry. She had noted the 103d patch on Dick Ball's hat a few days back at the post office. Learning of the planned ceremonies, she decided to attend in memory of her father. It was a very dignified ceremony with announcements by the 3rd Infantry spokesman, the placing of the wreath by the ceremonial group, and the playing of "TAPS" by a member of the Army Band. All the while, the 103d banner was permanently displayed by several members of the group during the ceremony. A visit was made to the grave of General McAuliffe.



L to R: Nick Melas, Dick Pearson, Major W. Canfield, Escort



TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN, Arlington Cemetery, Virginia. Laying of the wreath honoring 103d Inf. Div., WW II Comrades. 8 November 2001

MEMBERSHIP

All organizations must have a robust membership in order to fulfill its objectives. As I write these notes, I am highly optimistic about the expansion program of our President and Vice President. Their plan, now embraced by the Association at large, addresses the more noble areas of family unity and caring. You have read the message of our leadership; they are motivated and are placing emphasis on membership. Optimism is abounding about our extended policy of membership eligibility in the 103d Division family. We find ourselves compelled to get to work! The "we" means that every one of us must seek diligently to locate new comrades. Likewise, we must locate those whom we have lost or have not heard of for some while, and bring them "home". Additionally, as we are now adding new eligibles to our family of members, we

must identify those new eligibles, find them, learn of their connections, and enroll them as active participants in all our endeavors. The new eligibles include sons, daughters, wives and widows. We include families. To help the staff locate and register the new folks, PLEASE fill out the form, the enrollment insert here enclosed in this letter. Then forward it real soon. We want you; and we need you. Annual dues are applicable here, you see. Also, the low cost of just \$15.00 per year covers the cost of this letter, NEWS FROM THE CACTUS PATCH. Look now to the chart below, you note only 35 of our lost comrades. We need them, we want them back. We hope our programming in the future will sufficiently interest them that they will want to return. There are many more. Let us arouse ourselves and go after them!

ROSTER 103RD DIV. WW II (MASTER LIVING LOST) 10 18 01

Mbr	Last name	First Nm & MI	Address	City	ST	Zip	Unit	Phone	Wife
1	Abemathy Jr.	C.L.	3420 Shamrock Dr.	Chalotte	NC	28215	411 Co F	NL	
2	Ankney	Cecil	802 Brandview Blvd.	Eau Claire	WI	54701	384 FA Hq Bty		
3	Artinoff	Sam	10659 Moor Park St.	North Hollywood	CA	91602	411 Co E		
4	Bond	W. R.	P.O. Box 861	Coleman	TX	76834	411 Co G	916 625 2222	
5	Bowden	Robert R.	13134 Lyric Dr.	Sun City West	AZ	85375	411 Co B		
6	Bowling	Trey	Rt. 3 Box 896	luKa	MI	38852	411 Co F		
7	M0 Brackett	Donald	12889 W. 3 Mile Rd.	Ewart	MI	49631	411 Co I		
8	Brady	Gene	1729	Winchester	KY	40391	411 Co B		
9	Brcanek	John	15421 Des Moines Dr.	Burien	WA	98148	410 Co I		
10	Buster	Fred L.	P.O. Box 16261	Wichita	KS	67216	382 FA Bty B		
11	Chick	Bill	9030, 2nd Ave. N.E.	Seattle	WA	58115	411 Co E		
12	Colby	Robert	Box 26	Fremont	IN	46737	410 Co C		
13	Donaldson	Don	16225 N. Cove Creek.	Phoenix	AZ	85032	382 FA Bty B		
14	M0 Foose	Kenneth C.	P.O. Box 16911	Jackson	MS	39236	409 Co C	601 982 2055	Mary
15	Frydryk	Andrew	22417Corteville St.	St. Clair Shores	MI	48081	409 Co B		
16	Gallison	Charles	P.O. Box 692	Elk Rapids	MI	49629	411 Can Co		
17	Gorham	Homer	523 Morgan Dr.	Mt. Morris	MI	48458	410 AT		
18	Grich	George M.	5125 N. Desert View Dr.	Apache Junction	AZ	85220	328 Med Bn		
19	Green	Purdy H.	10400 Bertram	Dearborn	MI	48126	411 Co L	313 834 8373	
20	Hampton	Harold	190 Summershade Rd.	Rogers	AR	72956	409 Hq Co 1st Bn	501 925 3522	
21	Houts	Cyril L.	P.O. Box 875455	Wasilla	AK	99687	410 Co C		
22	Hutfiz	Kenneth	6200 Case Ave.	Grand Blanc	MI	48439	411 Co A		
23	Kerman	Herbert	9543 Weldon Cir. # 304 B	Tamarac	IL	33321	409 Sv Co		
24	Kunze	Walter E.	1282 N. Luther Ln.	Arlington Heights	IL	60004	411 Co B		
25	Maddux	William V.	18697 Bernardo Trail Dr.	San Diego	CA	92198	410 Co L		
26	McNellie	Daniel J.	511 5th Ave. N.E.	Watertown	SD	05720	103 Sig Co		
27	Panos	George	42 Bingham St.	Watertown	MA	02172	409 Co B	617 926 0208	
28	Rife	Robert F.	Rte 2 Box 337- 38A	Lake Geneva	WI	53147	384 FA Bty C		
29	Rozzalo	Victor A.	P.O. Box 8135	Bridge Water	NJ	08807	410 Co F		Barbara
30	Rushing	Joseph W.	Rte 5	Ripley	TN	38063	409 Co K		
31	Skinner	Milton W.	25821 Telegraph Rd.	Fiat Rock	MI	48134	411 Co L	734 782 4511	Virginia
32	Steinmezter	R. W.	St. Rte Box 33	Oiga	WA	89279	411 Co K	206 376 4551	
33	Thomasson	William O.	2323 Hillsboro Rd.	Nashville	TN	37212	411 Can Co		
34	M0 Whitaker	James	503 Scarsdale	Louisville	KY	40243	409 Co I		
35	Whiteside	William	530 Chase Dr.	Clarendon Hills	IL	60514	410 Co H	410 Can Co	

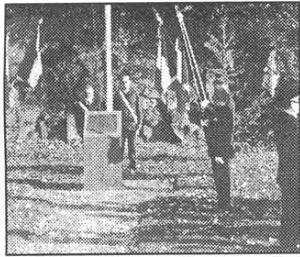
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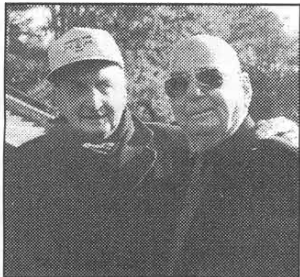
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23	Kerman	Herbert	9543 Weldon Cir. # 304 B	Tamarac	IL	33321	409 Sv Co		
24	Kunze	Walter E.	1282 N. Luther Ln.	Arlington Heights	IL	60004	411 Co B		
25	Maddux	William V.	18697 Bernardo Trail Dr.	San Diego	CA	92198	410 Co L		
26	McNellie	Daniel J.	511 5th Ave. N.E.	Watertown	SD	05720	103 Sig Co		
27	Panos	George	42 Bingham St.	Watertown	MA	02172	409 Co B	617 926 0208	
28	Rife	Robert F.	Rte 2 Box 337- 38A	Lake Geneva	WI	53147	384 FA Bty C		
29	Rozzalo	Victor A.	P.O. Box 8135	Bridge Water	NJ	08807	410 Co F		Barbara
30	Rushing	Joseph W.	Rte 5	Ripley	TN	38063	409 Co K		
31	Skinner	Milton W.	25821 Telegraph Rd.	Fiat Rock	MI	48134	411 Co L	734 782 4511	Virginia
32	Steinmezter	R. W.	St. Rte Box 33	Oiga	WA	89279	411 Co K	206 376 4551	
33	Thomasson	William O.	2323 Hillsboro Rd.	Nashville	TN	37212	411 Can Co		
34	M0 Whitaker	James	503 Scarsdale	Louisville	KY	40243	409 Co I		
35	Whiteside	William	530 Chase Dr.	Clarendon Hills	IL	60514	410 Co H	410 Can Co	



The "A" Company memorial at Saulcy-Sur-Meurthe, France.



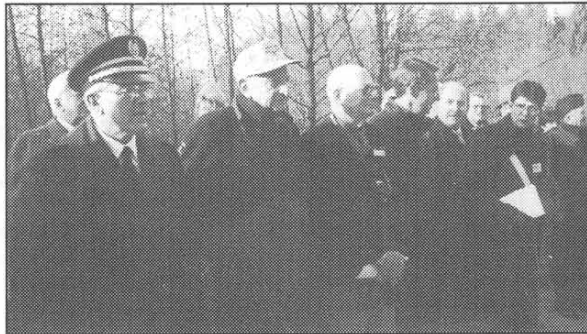
Simon Dargols and Doug Stellner in Saulcy.

The first memorial erected by survivors of the Cactus Divisions wartime experience was accomplished by Company "A", 411th Infantry. Company "A" Association's Memorial, which was ceremoniously dedicated on October 22, 1989, is located immediately to the southeast of the Vosges Village of Saulcy-Sur-Meurthe. The small community is situated 6.5 Kilometers south of Saint Die.

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The 411th Infantry men remained in Division Reserve during the period 18-21 November 1944 on the high ground southeast of and overlooking St. Die. Intensive patrolling along the south bank of the Muerthe River continued, and attack plans were refined. Upon division order, the Regiment attacked on 22 November to the northwest and crossed the river Muerthe. Movement through Saulcy by the 1st Battalion was initially unopposed. Bitter fighting beyond the town ensued, however, and the expansion of the bridgehead was consolidated with difficulty under heavy concentrations of artillery, mortar and machine gun fire. Casualties were heavy with Company A alone sustaining eight killed (and 17 wounded). Their names: ROSENDO CARDENAS, FRANK CARRACCIO, JR., EDWARD CIRICILLO, BAYARD DODGE, JR, RUSSEL FUCCY, HENRY GAYNOR, WILLIAM JAMES, AND JAMES VANOVER. They were members of A Company, 411th Inf., 103d Division. They were members of A Company, 411th Inf., 103d Division. They were in their twenties; that day 22 November 1944. They were in their twenties; that day 22 November 1944. They gave their lives for the liberation of

AT SAULCY-SUR-MEURTHE



On 18 November 2001, many military and civilian officials participated in the memorial ceremonies held in SAULCY, France (northeastern France, Department of Alsace). The occasion was to honor the 8 members of Co. A, 411th Infantry who gave their lives there to liberate the village from the Nazi. Left to right: Roland Prieur, Superintendent of the Epinal American Cemetery; Simon Dargols, then Douglas Stellner, former members pf Co. A, 411th Inf; Serge Vincent, Vice-President of the County Council; and Madame Delhoume, Mayor of Saulcy. Several speeches were made; Doug gave a beautiful response, including a brief of events of that Battle of 22 November 1944.

the town. To ensure that their act of bravery will never be forgotten, homage is paid to them every year at the monument erected in their honor near the WW I Cemetery. This year again, civilian and military officials, along with local citizens, amongst whom some elders, remember the terrible moments.

The community band played the national anthems. Representatives of local veteran associations, bearing their unit flags rendered the honors, while 3 memorial wreaths were presented at the base of the monument. The mayor of Saulcy, Madame Deklhoume, and the Town concellers were present, as well as Claude Jacquot, National Representative, Roland Bedel, Vice President of the County Council, Serge Vincent, County Councillor, the local Army Commander, the Commander of the St. Die Police, and Superintendent Prieur. Doug Stellner and Simon Dargols, 2 WW II U, S. veterans. Doug was a member of A Company, 411th INF. In his address, Doug reminded the audience of the rough battle he and his comrades had gone through, on that cold and rainy day in 1944. Madame Delhoume read the names of the 8 heroes who had come from over the seas, full of enthusiasms, to die here, so far from home and their families. "The ideal that brought them here, in our isolated village of the Vosges mountains, is the same ideal that is taking them now to the other side of the world, in Afghanistan", said the mayor of the town, Madame Delhoume, in expressing thanks and gratitude to the people of the United States for what they have done, yesterday and for what they are prepared to do again, tomorrow.

**They went with songs to the battle,
They were young, straight of limb,
True to eye, steady and aglow.**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Mel Wright, Co. G, 409th Infantry:

"WERE YOU THERE Zinswiller, France, 15 March 1945?" The 2nd Bn, 411th was lined up on a small hill preparing to attack when our Battalion Commander received word that several men from the 410th Infantry on our left flank were out front and their company had lost contact with them. As junior officer of Co. G, 411th I was selected to take a squad from my 1st platoon, cross the stream before entering the edge of Zinswiller, turn left and go north up the hill to find the missing men. Half way up the hill north of the city we were challenged by a rifle shot over our heads and a yell, "Are you GIs?" We had amazingly gone straight to the missing men. As well as I can remember, there were about 6 missing and only 3 were in the bunker with several German prisoners. The remaining men had gone back to establish contact with their company.

As we were considering what to do next, our radio operator, whom I remember only as "Bing", received a message from the Battalion Commander ordering us to continue the search for the remaining men. Leaving half my squad and taking two of the 410th men, we followed a logging trail to a ravine leading down the hill. Shortly, we found the other missing men and picked up some more German P.W's. We started back up the little road when low and behold! about 50 yards away there before us was what appeared a company of German soldiers taking a "break". The radio operator stayed with me behind a pile of logs while the others continued on to the first discovered lost group.

Having a detailed map in hand, we radioed our position to the Forward Observer; the FO then by radio, gave both his and our coordinates to the Fire Direction Center, DIVARTY, and pretty soon the site of the German's rest area was a roaring inferno.

As a side light to the above affair, and during the time we were on that hill, I recall watching two of our lead scouts in the town below running on a road through the city. As they ran the German artillery was felling, just behind them. They would stop and hit the ground, then up and go just ahead of the next '88. We were yelling, "Run faster, faster!"

I am seeking to establish contact with anyone who was involved in the above episode with our patrol.
B. Melton Wright, 9737 Warwana Road, Houston, TX 77989, (713) 465-0814.

From Doug Stellner, Co. A, 411th Infantry:

Responding to Ye Ed's question: "Doug, your company's contribution to the 103d presence in France, as noted on page 10, is remarkable. Over time, how does your program operate?"

Doug: "In addition to creating their own memorial, some members of the A Company Association have funded a trust that is administered by the Paris office of the American Battle Monuments Commission.

This trust provides funds for the annual purchase and presentation of two A Company floral wreaths. One such wreath is presented at the Epinal American Military Cemetery at their Memorial Day Ceremony. The second wreath is presented at A Company's Sauley Monument during this community's yearly commemoration of their liberation in November 1944.

While there are sufficient funds to continue this tradition for well into the future, additional contributions are welcomed. Your contribution will assure the wreaths to be presented at each of the 103d's monuments at St. Die and at Pfaffenhoffen, France and at the American Military Cemetery in St. Avold (Moselle), Department of Lorraine, France. For additional information about memorials/wreath/monuments, contact Doug Stellner at 4239 Georgia Street, Vallejo, CA 94591 (707) 642-2102.



From Tommy Beasley, 220 E. Pioneer, Waker Village, TX 75501, (903) 838-0689, E-mail: tb76@ableone.net:

Hello, my nae is Tommy Beasley. My father, Tommy D. Beasley, at right in the photo, was a member of Service Co., 409th Infantry Regt. He trained at both at Cp. Claiborne and at Cp. Howze. He was a S/Sgt., a mechanic, and he said he loved his job. He died in April 1985. He often spoke of the time he was injured when the truck in which he was in overturned near Altenstadt, Germany on 28 April 1945.

I have been trying to find someone who knew Dad during the time he was overseas in World War II. My plan is to be at the next Reunion of the Division in Dallas. My hope is to be able to find someone who can tell me some of the things that Dad did or experienced in the war. In Dallas, I will try to find the 409th Service Company group.

From Ye Ed: Have a message you would like to share? Sent it to: P.O. Box 77 Shongaloo, LA 71072, (318) 846-2687, E-mail: HMBRANTON@Netscape.net. We will see what we can do.

103d Inf. Div. W W II Assn
9737 Warwana Road
Houston, TX 77080

(713) 465-0814; E-mail: MEL@HAL-PC.org