

2006
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103d INF DIV WW II



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Special Greetings to all Members, Associates, and Friends. These notes are coming your way from a very busy work place. I mentioned to a friend recently that the postal service should give us a plaque for the volume of letters that we produce. New member services open up great communications and great opportunities.

FIRST, I wish to report the great success the Monument Team has achieved this year on the memorial monument project. These are exciting times with 11 November the target date. The whole story is presented in the centerfold.

SECOND, more progress. Al Eucare, Secretary/Treasurer, also Chairman of our ROLL CALL program, reports significant responses from company and battery level units. He and his unit reps are locating old comrades. See Page 2.

Our HONOR ROLL calls for our attention always, and we are responding to that. Letters from my desk to survivors continue to flow, conveying the sympathies of our membership. While I mention it here, the new listings appear on Page 3.

A view of the new BIOGRAPHICAL/PHOTO program (BIO/PHOTO) shows a broader participation than was first expected. I have two banker-boxes full of individual member file folders already. The content of entries by most members reflects great memories and descriptions of moving historical events. I am sharing some of these stories in the newsletter, plus a number of briefs in the CACTUS MAIL section.

And still another program for you. I think that most of us are concerned about the ultimate leadership of our Association. To that end, our attention is being drawn toward our Associates. Some consider it useful, even now, to give the opportunity to interested Associates to understudy the various elective positions. We have scores of Associates, and untold number of descendants within our legacy. If our organization is to live on after the passage of the elder Cactusmen, then a leadership team of Associates will perforce have to take the lead. Please think on these opportunities as time ticks along.

Now hear this: Stay well, Buddies all. We have a meeting to attend to in November.

In Camaraderie,

Harold Branton, President
103d INF DIV ASSN of WW II

Phase I (*data update and collection*) is now in process. This entailed sending State level rosters of 2058 Cactusmen currently on the MLR (Master Living Roster) to 129 "volunteer" State leaders and enumerators in the fifty states (plus DC and France). Yes, we have two members in France. State leaders and enumerators are Cactusmen who are long term dues paying members and have in most instances attended multiple reunions.

Contact data seeks current address and telephone number (over half do not have telephone numbers), and unit (over 1400 list 103d ID). E-mail addresses in the MLR are a rarity but are very useful even if it belongs to a legacy member.

Data collection entails seeking legacy data (number of children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren). First and second legacy information may assist Cactusmen in plans for the conduct of **Phase II** and **III** of **ORC**. Legacy members honor their family Cactus members by joining and assisting in **ORC**. Birthday and anniversary data will add to the conviviality and cohesion of Company/Battery relations.

Phase II entails search for over 6,000 Cactusmen on the LM (Lost Members) file. Men in this file were dropped from the MLR after five consecutive years in a non payment of dues status. We seek to return all lost Cactusmen to our ranks and Honor those departed. Perhaps 1,500 survive.

Phase III is a long term effort since it entails obtaining Company/Battery Morning Reports and Monthly Payroll Reports from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO and performing data entry from the data thereon. Experience from 35 months of Morning Reports on K Company, 409th Regt resulted in a population count of 769. By extension to the 103d, there is an estimated population of 80 thousand. Estimated survivors number 20 thousand. We (2058) are among the survivors.

It is envisioned that a MLR with contact and unit data will enable all Cactusmen to enjoy camaraderie from the annual distribution of Company level rosters in December 2006. At that time volunteers as Company Liaison (CL) will be accepted. CLs will be the point of contact for their respective members as regards CL rosters and member data updates. Similarly, State level rosters will encourage 2007 State level meetings, as agreed upon locally. Designated Regimental and Support Battalion leaders will have improved oversight over subordinate units and member contacts from their respective and subordinate rosters. Completion of **Phases I** and **II** could result in a MLR of about 3,500 dues paying members.

The MLR State census is: AK-2, AL-19, AR-23, AZ-24, CA-121, CO-36, CT-10, DC-1, DE-8, FL-115, GA-37, HI-2 IA-73, ID-4, IL-201, IN-36, KS-32, KY-15, LA-13, MA-21, MD-26, ME-4, MI-248, MN-38, MO-73, MS-24, MT-3, NC-41, ND-12, NE-22, NH-3, NJ-27, NM-16, NV-6, NY-59, OH-58, OK-37, OR-13, PA-68, RI-4, SC-24, SD-6, TN-42, TX-171, UT-9, VA-34, VT-1, WA-32, WI-103, WV-2, WY-5, FR-2. Geographic distribution is: East-1214, Central-471, and West 295.



Here listed are the death "notifications" received since publication of NFTCP No. 12, May 2006.

HONOR ROLL

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| ABARBANEL, Sam X. | 410 Inf | LOONEY, Charles Lee | 328 Engr (C) Co C |
| ASHBURN, Stanley M. | 411 AT Co | McMANUS, Ralph T | 411 Co E |
| BAILEY, Robert D. | 411 Co L | MOCKROSS, Robert H. | 411 Co B |
| BECKER, Robert E. | 410 Co A | NANEY, Marion E. "Gene" | 103d Sig Co |
| BERNSTEIN, Curtis W. | 384 FA Bn | PODREBARAC, Joseph J. | 411 AT Co |
| BIELAK, Norman R. | 411 Co I | RAMIREZ, Joe D. | 411 Co E |
| BIRKETT, Charles | 409 Co K | RATCLIFFE, Morelle K., Jr. | 411 Co I |
| BLAND, Cecil M. | 928 FA Bty C | REED, Carleton L. Red Cross Rep. | 411 Inf |
| BRENNER, Jerry | 411 Co G | REESE, Hayward J. | 409 Co C |
| BROWN, Maither | 409 Co E | REINER, Harold | 410 AT Co |
| CHEVAL, Emile F. | 410 AT Co | ROBINSON, Gordon F. | 409 Co L |
| CIARAMATERO, Joseph | 328 Engr (C) Co C | SCHLAFER, Neal Joseph | 411 Co F |
| DOLBEAR, Bernard S. | 409 Co K | SCHOR, William | 411 AT Co |
| ECCLES, Don E. | 409 Can Co | SCHUTT, Gene W. | 411 Co C |
| GEYER, Armand | 410 Co F | STAR, Earl H. | 103d Sig Co |
| GIAMPORCARO, Joseph | 383 FA Bty C | STULTZ, Adrian Allen | 409 Inf |
| GORDON, Leo | 328 Med Bn. Co C | SURPRENANT, Ralph Joseph | 409 Co A |
| GUDGEON, Eldon L. | 410 AT Co | TILLMAN, Sidney | 103d Sig Co |
| HAROCK, Joseph M. | 411 Co A | TUTTEROW, DeWitt L. | 410 Co K |
| HOWELL, John Harold | 411 AT Co | WALKER, Burton Ray | 103d Inf Div |
| HUSKEY, Mosel L. | 103d Div Sig Co | WYNNE, William R. | 411 2nd Bn Hq |
| JENNINGS, Harvey B. | 411 Co F | ZAHN, Harvey P. | 411 Co F |
| KORTAS, Edward | 328 Engr (C) Co C | | |

Spiritual Reflections

We the survivors of the 103d Infantry Division of World War II are soon to celebrate a goodly portion of our journey in life by erecting a monument to posterity. Thus we are leaving an object denoting our patriotic allegiance to freedom, liberty, and justice that was forged on the battle fields of WWII—a noble mark indeed.

As we ponder our humanity and the passing of our lives from this planet, we should also address our minds and hearts to the personal monuments that we build during our brief sojourn.

Have we spent our allotted time doing for others, sharing and supporting that which is good, laboring for highest goals, maintaining honorable ethics and unswerving integrity? If so, our monument on earth and in heaven is assured.

These attributes are the materials that build personal monuments. We each should take inventory of our building materials, review our vows, and prepare the final touches to our monuments before we must lay our tools aside.

REPORT DEATHS TO:

Harold Branton, President
2635 Roman Forest Blvd.
New Caney, Texas 77357

Please furnish a copy of the obituary if at all possible for our records. Every member of the Association has a file folder in the Archives for a brief record to posterity. Many thanks.

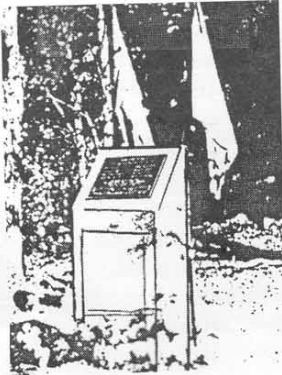
FOR YOUR CACTUSMAN OBITUARY

In the event of the death of a Cactusman, may we suggest that you include in the obituary that:

*"In lieu of flowers, please make donations to:
TEXAS WWII HISTORICAL MONUMENT
FUND, 9737 Warwana Road, Houston, TX 77080.
The Monument Fund is building a monument
honoring all men who served in the division during
World War II."* Many thanks.

THE MONUMENTAL TRAIL OF THE CACTUS

The idea of monuments never entered the minds of wartime Cactus men. Somehow, other interests took priorities. But lately, during the middle Eighties, a subtle arousal seemed to take place among the membership. Reunions were started in 1962-63. Membership grew. And the notions for memorials were shared. Results: Monuments were built and dedicated.

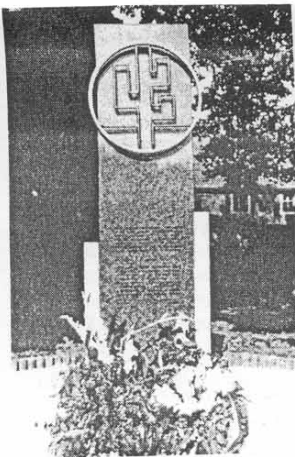


SAULCY-SUR-MEURTHE, France

In 1986, Douglas Steillner and John Wuensche (Co A, 411) visited the city of Saulcy with their wives. It was in Saulcy that Co A, 411, on 22 November 1944, suffered tragic losses during a company assault against German defensive positions. On that pilgrimage, the two survivors of the battle opened the subject of a memorial.

Back home, the Company A, 411 Infantry Association enthusiastically adopted the concept for a monument. Designed by a Company A veteran Daniel T. McMillian, the monument was constructed of polished Vosges granite. The stehl graces a beautiful municipally owned site that has been granted to "A" Company Association into perpetuity.

Each year, the city holds a celebration ceremony at the monument in honor of the eight members of Company A, whose lives were taken while liberating the area from the German enemy.



PHAFFENHOFFEN, France

In 1983, Harley Richardson (Co L, 409) led a Cactus tour group to the Moder River Valley, Alsace, France, where the 103d Infantry Division spent most of the winter of 1944-45. In Phaffenhoffen, the primary city in the valley, he and members of the tour made great friends with the local citizens. In 1983, Harley led another tour group to Phaffenhoffen where they met a young man, Pierre Marmillod, who was the leader of an organization called "The Friends of the Liberation."

During the visit, Pierre made an appointment with the city mayor to discuss the prospects of erecting a memorial in honor of the 103d Infantry Division. Harley, his wife Bonnie, and a few of his comrades were in attendance at the meeting when the mayor approved the project.

Plans were immediately set into action. Designed by Carleton Reed and fabricated in granite and bronze by his son Carl, the monument was completed and erected in the center of the city.

On 30 June 1991, the beautiful monument was dedicated with thousands of local French citizens and 150 Cactus veterans attending. The hospitality of the local folks was gracious, enthusiastic, and memorable.

THE MONUMENTAL TRAIL OF THE CACTUS

SAINT DIE-Des-VOSGES, France



The city of Saint Die-Des-VOSGES is one of the largest municipalities in the Vosges Mountains, northwest Lorraine. It was liberated by the 103d Infantry Division on 22 November 1944. There is a small park at the point where the city mayor met the Cactus soldiers. The mayor named the park "Square of the 103d Infantry Division." In October 1966, Joe Edwards, a Cactus man (928 FA Bn, Bty A) visited Saint Die, found the 103d Square and later recommended to the Association that a monument be placed there.

The Association approved the project, and plans were activated by Richard Pearson (Co F, 410). By 1992, the monument was completed and in the late spring was placed on the Division Square.

Dedication ceremonies for the new monument were held on Bastille Day, in Saint Die, 14 July 1992. Thousands of French citizens flooded the city. Large numbers of French veterans' organizations, with several WWII vehicles (jeeps, weapons carriers, and trailers), plus 150 Cactus veterans, participated in a grand parade from the 103d Square all the way into town and to the mayor's pavilion. A parade, commencing at the square, was preceded by a beautiful flag raising ceremony. Tom Miller (Co F, 409) hoisted the American flag, and Harold Branton (Co G, 409) hoisted the French colors. Both anthems were sung to the loud applause of the visitors. The musical orchestrations, the flags, and the marching parade were all very memorable.

STATE-SIDE:

THE TEXAS WORLD WAR II HISTORICAL MONUMENT

The Monumental Trail did not stop in Saint Die-Des-Vosges, France. The Cactus veterans were, however, satisfied that the trail had been well enough marked to inform visitors passing that way. And so in the late Nineties the veterans thoughts turned to a "state-side" marker. The time had come.

In the 1998-1999 period, Mel Wright (Co G, 411) conceived the idea to erect a monument in honor of the soldiers of the 103d Infantry Division of World War II, especially the 847 members whose lives were taken in battle. Robert N. "Bob" Powers (AT Co, 411), recently deceased, Mel Wright, and Lejeune "Rabbit" Wilson (Co C, 328 Engr Bn Combat) provided the initial funding to start the effort. A special corporation was organized. B. Melton "Mel" Wright was elected president of the new board of directors and planning was begun. A great fundraising program was launched to fund this noble undertaking. The success story of the new monument, its development, its construction, and program for its dedication is presented in the following pages.

THE TEXAS WWII HISTORICAL MONUMENT FUND BOARD includes the following:

| | |
|---|--|
| FLYNN, Arthur M. (411 Hq Co 3d Bn) | POWERS, Robert N. "Bob" (411 AT Co) deceased |
| GROUND, George (Cmdr, VFW Post, Gainesville, Texas) | WHITE, James E. (409 Co B) |
| KADEN, Kenneth (former Mayor, Gainesville, Texas) | WILSON, Lejeune "Rabbit" (328 Engr Bn Cbt, Co C) |
| McGHEE, Edwin (409 Co B) | WRIGHT, B. Melton "Mel" (411 Co G) President |
| POOLE, John T. (409 Co C) | |

MONUMENT PROGRESS REPORT

The TEXAS WW II HISTORICAL MONUMENT FUND was conceived in 1998 and established as a Texas Corporation in 1999. It was granted by the IRS a 501-(C)(3) tax exempt status.

The Fund's purpose is to erect a monument honoring men of the 103d INF DIV of WW II and their support units at a prime location and to preserve this vital part of our HISTORY for future generations.

To best accomplish this objective it was established as a stand alone Corporation and is in no way legally connected to the 103d INF DIV ASSN of WW II. All but 2 of the Funds Board Members are 103d comrades and members of the ASSN. One of the remaining 2 is Commander of the Gainesville VFW Post 1922 and the other is former mayor of Gainesville TX. We have done our best to work in harmony.

It has been a long and difficult task to obtain the necessary funds and site location to complete this noble venture and it has thus gone thru several design and enhancement stages due to the timely availability of funds.

In late 2005 the Fund Board of Directors established a dedication target of 11 Nov 2006. Our age and life span was a prime factor. At that time we were very short of necessary funds to construct a desirable monument. We therefore, established urgent fund raising plans beginning with the publishing of NEWS FROM THE CACTUS PATCH 10, the SPECIAL ISSUE 11 and the non-donor merge mail letter (personally addressed to each individual) that had not yet made a donation. We also requested and obtained large donations from certain foundations and friends.

As of 21 July 2006 donations received from those members listed on the non-donor letter amounted to \$13,481.00 from 205 of those 1470 members on that mailing list.

Also we have been fortunate to receive from 12 major donors a total of \$24,500.00. A substantial part of this was due to our board members friends and contacts. Currently the construction cost alone (not including the foundation or other incidentals) is \$145,180.00.

A complete computer database is maintained of all donations for our archives.

The monument fund board has been very careful not to approve anything for which we did not have funds available or assurance that they would be available.

The only expenses we have incurred were the \$500.00 required by the IRS for the 501-(c)(3) tax-exempt arrangement. The printing and mailing of the non-donor letter of \$621.60 and approximately \$1,000.00 credit card charges for donations made by Visa and Master Card. All other expenses have been out of the pockets of the Board Members.

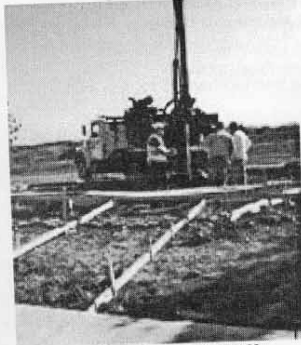
The heavy influx of donations and projection of funds in the first part of 2006 have enabled us to make recent design and plan improvements that have been a tremendous enhancement to the complete project. We were able to go to a much larger statue, include 5 panels for all our Battle Death Listings and use solid granite for both the pentagon base and the 5 panels in place of the less expensive veneer that was necessary if the funds were not to be available.

Site selection for the Monument was the subject of much study, and numerous locations were considered during the years. However, it became obvious that the optimum was at the TxDOT Travel Information Center. It is highly visible from the north and the south on U.S. I-35, just a few miles from the Red River and just across the fence from the edge of where Camp Howze was located. This is a prime location. For 7 years we tried to get approval to locate the monument there with no success. Then through a friend of the Association, the Office of the Texas Land Commissioner and the Commissioner of TxDOT obtained the necessary approval. The rights were assigned to the City of Gainesville who in turn granted the rights to the Monument Fund. We are extremely fortunate to have the enthusiastic support of the city management of Gainesville.



Monument Construction Progress

Picture 1



Drilling Support Staff
Picture 4

Picture 2



Monument Foundation
Picture 5

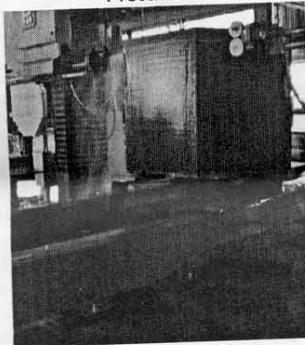
Picture 3



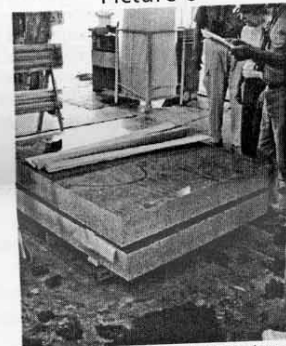
Foundation
Picture 6



Fund Tour Group
Picture 7



Cutting Face of Pentagon
Pedestal
Picture 8



Battle Death Panels Polishing
Machine
Picture 9



Raw Casting of Maquettes



Monument Painting

Extensive plans have been instrumented for the planning, construction, dedication, the preparation of invitations, programs and plans for the future maintenance of the Monument. A special personalized invitation will be mailed to each donor of record and a 16 page program prepared by the FUND is planned to be available for all attendees and will be mailed to all donors that do not attend the dedication. This program will include an artist painting of the monument as well as a detailed copy of all the inscriptions so those donors that are not able to attend will have a complete keepsake record of the project.

TxDOT (Texas Department of Transportation) have only recently approved the latest Enhanced Project Manual.

FOUNDATION: As this report is being prepared, today 14 September 2006 the concrete foundation is being poured and the forms will be removed next week making it ready for the bronze statue.

SCULPTURE: Final molds are complete and bronze casting will begin next week to be finished well in advance of installation plans.

GRANITE: Granite work is underway and on schedule. The solid granite 5 panels and 10 ton granite pentagon base is now scheduled to come from Marble Falls TX.

BRONZE PLAQUES: All 10 bronze plaques are completed and are being shipped from MN to Marble Falls TX to be delivered to jobsite with the Granite.

We trust that you will appreciate the efforts that have been expended in the development of this project. We would have publicized it sooner but were not in a position to do so because of the late developments of the funds being available and coordinating that with the design and approvals required by TxDOT (Texas Department Of Transportation). We might also add that during this process it was decided that TxDOT enter into an Interlocal agreement with the city of Gainesville granting them permission to place the monument at this location. This has been a blessing in disguise. The city of Gainesville is furnishing the complete foundation. The expense for this is not included in the above monument cost data.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUDIT TIME: The Association has a need for an audit in the immediate future. If a member, CPA or accomplished BOOKKEEPER, would volunteer for this short time duty, please call AL EUCARE now: (301) 736-2324.

OFFICERS CALL: Jim White, Vice President and Chairman of the Nominating Committee, is now soliciting members who would like to be nominated for an office in the Association. All current officers' tenure will terminate on 31 December 2006. The Association needs qualified personnel in all offices. New officers are to be elected at the November Reunion. So, PLEASE call Jim now: (409) 722-3211.

ROLL CALL: This vital service program is for everyone. The whereabouts of our "Lost" buddies out on "patrol" are important to us. ROLL CALL success depends on grass root participation at the state zip code level. OUR REQUEST: PLEASE call AL EUCARE, Chairman of this program effort. He will explain how you can help. You see, even now we have buddies out there who do not know that our Reunion group exists. Please help Al and others find our buds.

REUNION COOL: This is to advise that the weather in north Texas can get noticeably cool in November. A part of our Monument Dedication ceremonies will be outside in a WELCOME CENTER parking lot, and we will be sitting on folding chairs. A warm jacket or coat will feel mighty good!

FLYNN TWINS DEFEAT THE NAZI



Charles Flynn

From 11 November to 17 December 1944, the 103d Division fought through the Vosges Mountains of northeast France, reaching the widely vaunted Siegfried Line on the German border.

The Siegfried is actually a series of huge, heavily reinforced concrete blockhouses connected together by long zigzag trenches.

The block houses, dubbed pillboxes by American soldiers, are situated about 300 yards apart with interlocking rifle and machine gun fires. Each pillbox has two to four steel plated embrasures (firing windows) on the outer walls.

On the morning of 17 December, men of Company A, 409 Infantry, looked with awe.

First platoon, led by Lt. Charles H. Flynn, was given the task of attacking the pillbox in the company zone. No P-47s, no napalm, no gasoline cocktails. A few beehive explosive packets were found. They would have to do.

With supporting artillery and fires from his platoon, Lt. Flynn approached the pillbox and climbed atop the thing carrying a beehive supplied by his twin brother. He proceeded to lower the beehive explosive by heavy cord until it was against an embrasure. The charge blew a large hole in the steel embrasure but did not blow up the pillbox.

However, the charge was sufficient to dislodge four Wehrmacht officers who were captured as they attempted to escape out the back door. Enemy riflemen in the adjacent trenches fled from the scene.

Conclusion: The Siegfried was breached.

P.S. Come visit with "Pillbox Flynn" at the Reunion in Dallas.



"Pillbox" and Connecting Trenches Siegfried Line 1945

The 103d launched an attack southeast of Stuttgart, Germany, on 25 April 1945, reaching the Danube River in mid-afternoon. 409th would make the crossing, Co K, leading in Canvass boats.

Late afternoon, a message was received, warning that a German armored column was headed north toward the proposed 409th crossing of the river.

Lt. Arthur M. Flynn (twin brother of "Pillbox" Charles Flynn) and his A&P Platoon were ordered to destroy the sole standing bridge in the area, ASAP.

During hours of darkness and while hobnailed German guards walked back and forth across the two-way four-section long bridge, Flynn and his crew placed charges on the bridge pilings. After midnight, while the German Guard detail was enjoying a smoke break on the south side, the bridge was blown, completely destroyed.

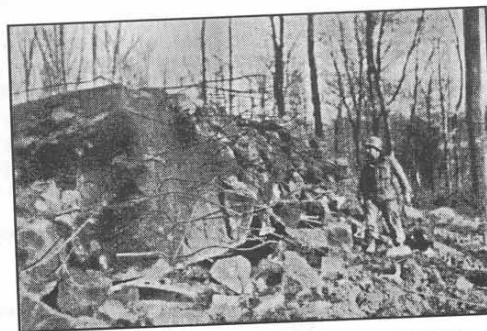
Flynn and his crew thereafter assisted in the canvass boat crossing by Company K at 0235, 26 April 1945. The remainder of the 409th crossed later after dawn, speeding south, mopping up German army splinter groups, on the way to Austria.

Note: The right photo below shows an engineer boat crew assessing the damages. This is normal procedure when a new permanent bridge is being contemplated. The new bridge would be in the same location in order to restore traffic on the existing roadways.

P.S. Come to Dallas 9 to 12 November, to the Reunion and to the Monument Dedication. Meet these twins, "Pillbox Flynn" and "Bridgehead Flynn," in real life.



Arthur Flynn



DESTROYED ENEMY FORTIFICATION

BIOGRAPHICAL AND PHOTOGRAPHICAL PROGRAM

Early this year AI EUCARE and I discussed several programs that we could launch that would be service oriented for the membership. The primary services selected were the ROLL CALL and the BIO/PHOTO programs. ROLL CALL was discussed on page 2 of this letter. This section is about the BIO/PHOTO.

I undertook the management of the BIO/PHOTO and was assisted photographically by Jerry and Bea PASSMORE (411 Co I). To our amazement, the number of completed BIO/PHOTO forms received on my desk in just the first six weeks was phenomenal. Each completed form has been read meticulously. I appreciate the descriptions of events and individual life and war stories. As an avid history buff (my truest calling), I have discovered that I can yet pinpoint field situations from those days and can place our movements. In due time, I will provide an introduction to each story to place it chronologically within the scope of the 103d's movements across Europe, both in time and place, in an effort to assist future readers as they follow along the journey that we as soldiers took those many years ago.

My comrades, if you have not filled out your BIO/PHOTO form, please do so as soon as convenient. For those attending the reunion, we are providing a special photo booth and an interview opportunity. Cactus history buffs will do "interview chats" to flesh out stories that are remembered in part or whole and will assist us in recording our exciting or humorous memories. It will be fun, it will enrich the archives, and it will be a boon for posterity.

Harold

* * * * *

CACTUS MAIL

FROM: Dick Ball, 382 FA Bn, Bty B: Red Barrett, same unit, has been seriously ill for some time, from intensive care to rehab during September. Red, a Board member, expects to be home by mid October and still intends to be at the Reunion. Address: 8315 Turning Leaf Lane #228, McLean, MA 22102.

FROM: Bernie Berman, 409 Co C, reports that George Davis, the "lone ranger" who walked the Trail of the Cactus to St. Die, France, on the 50th anniversary of the 103d liberation of that city, earlier this year, slipped on ice on the way to an ice skating rink, suffered a painful fall, severed his spine, and does not expect to walk again. Write George at: James J. Peters, VA Hospital, 130 W. Kingsbridge Road, (Sect D1-Rm 11), Bronx, NY 10468. He says now that he fears that he may not make it to the Reunion. But John Poole (409 Co C) says, "Don't be surprised to see him show up in Dallas."

FROM: James Wolfe, 410 Co K: I arrived Cp Howse, assigned to my company and platoon, went to the barracks, no one home, out training. Troops came in later, ignored me completely. A fight started in the barracks, wound up with a guy pulling the pin from a grenade and rolling it out on the floor, I took a dive. Suddenly, everybody was laughing and pointing at me. WHAT A WELCOME!

FROM the Camp Howxe HOWITZER: Three elderly elder vets (90) residing in adjacent assisted living apartments, wobbled down the street one afternoon toward JOE'S BAR. A breeze arose, and the old gent on the curb said, "Hey, it's windy today." The dude in the middle said, "Now, Joe, dimmit, you know today is Thursday." The guy on the right responded, "Aha, I'm thirsty, too. Now here we are at JOE'S. My first treat!"

A MESSAGE FROM Chaplain Walter Modrzejewski: Reflecting on the mark left by a person passing from this life—
"A tree from which a leaf falls is not a dead tree;
the vitality of the tree lives on.
Likewise, the vital value images left by the deceased one
Continue to abide in the hearts of those left behind."

Free

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 2006
4 - 6 PM



CACTUS VICTORY WELCOME PARTY



TEXAS STYLE



with the RANCH HANDS and the
CLASS ACT TAP LINE



Suggestions

COWBOYS

- Black or Blue Jeans
- Red Western Shirt
- Red, Blue or Mixed Bandana
- Boots
- Spurs (optional)

COWGIRLS

- Black or Blue Denim Skirt
- Red Western Blouse
- Red, Blue or Mixed Bandana
- Boots
- Spurs (optional)



WANTED: WESTERN VOCALISTS

Know a Western Ballad? Sing It!



LIMITED QUANTITY 103D FLAGS AVAILABLE

We have made a special purchase of 3ft by 5ft Cactus Patch Flags. The same as will be posted at the Monument Dedication,



Price: \$60.00 each if picked up at the Reunion.
 Add \$9.00 each for shipping and handling charge if mailing is required.
 Make Checks payable to TX WW II HIST MON FUND and mail to:
 TX WW II HISTORICAL MONUMENT FUND
 9737 Warwana Rd.
 Houston, TX 77080

Orders must be received prior to 1 Nov 2006.

Check if desired to pick up at reunion _____ or to be mailed _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



ARE YOU SUPPORTING OUR MONUMENT PROJECT?

More than 1000 of our Regular Members have not yet made a contribution and therefore their name will not be entered on our archive data -base indicating their support of this noble venture. It is to preserve our history for future generations

This is your last chance before the Dedication date of 11 Nov 2006

MAKE YOUR DONATION TODAY

Make payable to: TX WW II HISTORICAL MONUMENT FUND.
Send to: VFW Post 1922 or TX WW II HIST MON FUND
P.O. Box 212 9737 Warwana Rd.
Gainesville, TX 76241 Houston, TX 77080

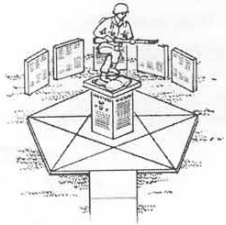
Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ e-mail _____

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT



SKETCH FOR WWII HISTORICAL MONUMENT
HONORING THE 103d INFANTRY DIVISION

103d INF DIV ASSN of WW II
6708 Lansdale St.
District Heights, MD 20747

Return Service Requested

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