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**Vacant** – Any Takers?

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## 103d INF DIV WW II



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Here it is the beginning of 2008**, and I am wishing you all a happy, healthy new year and at the same time preparing for our next reunion which this year is less than six months away in Cincinnati, with start date of July 30. This will require two issues of the NFTCP, this one with my 2008 agenda, and another in late April with the 103d's reunion registration forms. The veterans of the 103d Infantry Division of WW II have a lot to be proud for their service and the legacy of both their wartime service, which I will address later, and the deeds of this Association. The 103d Association has done what no other veterans association has accomplished for any war throughout the history of our country!

**103d Monument and Electronic Sorted Casualty Reports.** We have raised the funds, designed, constructed, and dedicated a monument to the 103d Infantry Division's service in WW II and to those of the 103d who gave their lives fighting for their country. The entire 103d ID's casualty reports have been electronically transcribed so that data may be accessed in any context desired; that is: by name alphabetically, calendar date, or unit. (All WW II casualty reports were recorded by each company sized unit, by month, and thus very time consuming to research, particularly if the company(battery) of assignment or date of the casualty is unknown. Another significant attribute of this accomplishment is the monument's location: the Travel Information Center on Interstate 35 (I-35) southbound from Oklahoma into Texas where literally 100,000 people/day observe this beautiful stature of a GI (infantry combat soldier) as they pass by; and if they stop, approximately 1,000/day actually observe the memorial "up-close"! It is in Gainesville, TX (one mile from former Camp Howze) where the City of Gainesville and the local VFW Post are providing perpetual maintenance, and TX DOT has now erected directional signage for appropriate access for viewing the "World War II Monument". The travel service representatives at the Travel Center have the 5-volume electronically sorted casualty reports of the 103d Division of WW II to provide answers to the inquiries frequently received from visitors. This monument has truly been a success and an inspiration to the many thousands who have stopped to examine it. It has created a significant synergism for honoring WW II veterans, specifically, for the 103d Infantry Division in the Gainesville area. The 103d Association must now take advantage of this interest and accomplish three significant steps to perpetuate its legacy and history for our future generation's interest.

**Establish 103d Infantry Division Library, Museum, & Executive Secretary.** We must establish a site for storage and reference of our archives (unit histories, individual stories, and written data telling of our accomplishments). Also, we must find a site for storage and/or display of memorabilia and artifacts (museum type setting) symbolic of the 103d's past, and we must engage someone to be a permanent keeper of our association's roster, perform routine correspondence, and maintain financial records of the Association, along with the production of at least three issues per year of the NFTCP for dissemination to our members. The 103d Association's officers & committees are working on all three of these items, and I plan on presenting results, and I hope recommendations at our reunion in late July.

**Continued on page 2**

The museum and library space must be adjunct to another but similar or related activity, however, to date, we have not found a viable candidate space in the Gainesville area, although the Association's committee has examined space at Fort Tuthill near Flagstaff, AZ. While this site has a number of favorable factors as a viable candidate, (we are the Cactus Division), there are unresolved issues which could be cleared up by the time of our reunion. (See committee report herein) (There **are** viable candidates for archival space in Gainesville) An executive secretary is not needed today, but will be required in the near range and I propose to start this year with someone providing assistance with "keeping" the master living roster and bringing all of the rosters up to date with several volunteers assisting and later phasing in someone with appropriate computer skills to keep this document current for the long haul. Further discussion and, I hope progress on these items, will occur at our next reunion.

**2008 103d Association Reunion.** The membership has voted to continue our annual reunions at an accessible location (via air & auto), preferably between July 15 and Aug 15 (within the school vacation period). Therefore our reunion in 2008 is scheduled for Cincinnati, OH for July 30 – Aug 2. Actually, the hotel is across the Ohio River in Covington, KY. Elsewhere herein is the schedule of reunion events and details for hotel reservations, **please**, make your reservations ASAP, they can be readily cancelled; but may not be available if you wait until June. The next issue of the NFTCP (April) will contain the reunion reservation forms for specific activities at the reunion. I am specifically appealing to the company units to hold their reunions **with** the division; we have accomplished much together, and with the dwindling attendance as we get older, we will have to scale down the 103d Association's reunions once we fall below 100 if some go to separate places for unit reunions. We can make specific accommodations for your unit dinners/activities, just call me to discuss! Please reference the history of our reunions elsewhere in this issue as it gives you a good picture of where we are headed, and why we must prepare to preserve our legacy.

**Please send your Association's dues** (\$15) to Al Eucare, our treasurer at the address on this newsletter's masthead. We need your dues to pay for our newsletters (mailing & printing) minimum of three per year. Since the reunions are financially self sustaining, and we are no longer soliciting funds for the monument, we do need the dues primarily for the newsletter and expenses for the wreaths for both Arlington and Gainesville as well as incidentals relative to routine correspondence and postage. We may need expense money later for our archival storage process which we will advise as it occurs. So please plan on attending our next reunion and make your reservations NOW. Call me if you have some ideas or desire to discuss any issues. Thank you for your attention. (508-533-0422)

  
**President - 2008**

### **Announcements by the Secretary/Treasurer Al Eucare**

- 1. Point of Contact for Bereaved.** I hereby make special request that some member of the family of a recently departed veteran of the 103d Inf Div contact me by phone (240-422-6109) for timely notification of comrades living in the vicinity for attendance at the services. If too late for service attendance, please advise by mail for notification in the Honor Roll Section of our newsletter.
- 2. Unit Rosters.** Periodically, unit rosters will be sent to each member in good standing so as to facilitate local meetings and contacts. The rosters will be by unit, and by state or region, and it is incumbent for all that you notify the secretary of address & telephone changes. Please insure that we have your company/regiment or battery/battalion, etc. and that you pay your dues to ensure this information is sent to you. In 2007, each major unit rep was given rosters of all subordinate units and requested to identify all subordinate unit reps. Also, at the time all subordinate unit reps were requested to identify themselves to the major rep.
- 3. Memorial Cards.** Thanks to all for whom the Historic/Memorial On-Cards were well received. The initial order was sent to all on our roster with a requested response by Nov 30, I did close on Dec 21, and mailed thereafter. Orders continue to arrive, however, these and all subsequent orders will be filled after Nov 08. You may send your order with your dues and for those that desire military rank and serial number to be included on the card, please advise with your request.



## **103 INFANTRY DIVISION ~ 2008 REUNION** **Covington, KY ~ July 30<sup>th</sup> – August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008**



**This year's reunion** is centrally located in the beautiful **Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area**. The hotel is actually located in Covington, KY but if you are flying, **Cincinnati Airport (CVG)** is the closest to the hotel. Less expensive fares may be found into Columbus, about 90 minutes away, or Dayton 75 minutes away or Louisville, about 90 minutes away.

**We have a terrific reunion program** lined up for you. Early birds will enjoy an outing to the world class Argosy Casino in nearby Indiana. Then kick your reunion off with a fun welcome event at the hotel on Wednesday evening. Thursday will be a complete City Tour of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky attractions. The tour includes a visit to the *Cincinnati History Museum* located in an historic train station. The focus will be on a fabulous WWII exhibit showcasing daily home life that will surely bring back memories of ration books, Radio, black and white TV, and other war time issues. That night we have a fun group dinner planned at America's first authentic *Hofbrauhaus* outside of Munich. Get ready to eat, drink and do the *Chicken Dance* as the band plays on. Friday will be a trip to the National US Air Force Museum – the largest of its kind in the world! That evening the traditional Unit Dinners will be served at the hotel. The Ohio River separates Ohio & Kentucky and provides an opportunity for a fantastic "Paddlewheel" Lunch Cruise on Saturday and of course the Banquet Dinner that night. There are other surprises in store and this will be another great reunion so book your hotel room now.

**We have arranged for rooms at the full service Radisson Hotel Cincinnati Riverfront** located at 668 West Fifth Street, Covington, Kentucky 41011. The room rate is just **\$99.00**, plus tax per night and includes a Continental Breakfast daily. You may come in early or stay late at the same rate based on availability. (Please do not make hotel reservations on-line) If you have any problem with the hotel call MRP at 817.251.3551

**Please make your hotel reservations NOW** by calling the hotel directly at 1-859-491-1200. The Radisson offers a complimentary airport shuttle from the Cincinnati airport (CVG) {call using the free courtesy phone in the Baggage Claim area before you pick up your luggage}. If you are flying to the reunion and for those of you driving, the hotel offers plenty of free parking.

**Due to the popularity of this city the hotel will sell out fast**, so DON'T get left out by waiting too long. We have a limited number of rooms and may not be able to get additional rooms so - book immediately. You may cancel your hotel room later and not be charged. Be sure to ask for the 103<sup>rd</sup> Infantry reunion rate. They will ask you for a deposit or credit card number to guarantee your room reservation. The hotel is holding rooms until they sell out or **June 15<sup>th</sup>** whichever comes first. If you will be driving and need directions, please ask the hotel when you make your reservation. **PLEASE NOTE the cut-off date for reservations!!!**

***We look forward to seeing you Northern Kentucky!***

# 103<sup>rd</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION

## 2008 REUNION EVENTS

### **EARLY BIRD TOUR: CASINO ACTION : Tuesday, July 29<sup>th</sup> (4pm)**

Your coach will whisk you away to a fabulous floating casino where you will enjoy a dinner buffet, and of course a little gambling. Your coach will take you to the Pavilion, where you will enter the Arogy VI, the most popular river boat casino in the world! This “superboat” contains three decks of fun and excitement, each level is larger than a football field. Slots, tables, video poker and all, there is something for everyone.

Please note the riverboat does not sail, it remains at the dock. Good Luck!

### **WELCOME EVENT: Wednesday July 30<sup>th</sup> (6:00 pm at the hotel)**

Join your friends for a first night get together and meal at the hotel. This is a great chance to see who is here this year in a relaxed atmosphere. Don't miss this first opportunity to reconnect with your friends.

### **EVENT A: GRAND SIGHTSEEING TOUR: Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup> (10:30am-3:30pm)**

Board your luxury coach for a grand riding tour of Northern Kentucky, Cincinnati, Covington and the infamous Newport area. Your professional local guide will drive you by all the famous landmarks, including the *World Peace Bell*, and fill you in on the history and significance of this fascinating area. There is lots of history here so sit back, relax and enjoy. A highlight of this tour may well be a stop at Cincinnati's former Grand Central Station, which now houses Cincinnati's historical museum and an exhibit titled “*Cincinnati Goes to War*”. This memorable exhibit will transport you back to the days of Ration Books, Gas Stamps, blackouts, propaganda posters, military uniforms, photographs and much more WWII memorabilia. You'll feel like it is the forties again! There will be time for lunch on your own along the levee and also a little browsing as time permits. A great easy day out, don't forget your camera.

### **EVENT B: GROUP DINNER AT THE HOFBRAUHAUS: Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup> (5:30pm-7:30pm)**

The first authentic *Hofbräuhaus* in America is here. You will enjoy many of the traditions from Germany that have made *Hofbräuhaus* famous. From the traditionally decorated rooms in the building to the beer that is brewed on-site and of course the excellent German fare. You will enjoy a Buffet of assorted German delicacies like Brats/Mets, Weiner Schnitzel, and Grilled Chicken Breast with Mashed Potatoes, Sauerkraut, Fried Cabbage, and Apple Strudel

### **EVENT C: NATIONAL U.S. AIRFORCE MUSEUM: Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup> (9:30 am - 4:00 pm)**

The United States Air Force Museum is the oldest and largest military aviation museum in the world. More than 300 aircraft and other exhibits tell the history of aviation from man's earliest dreams of flight up to the present space age. The museum complex includes the main museum building, with an IMAX theater, restaurant, gift shop and aviation bookstore. A Memorial Park adjoins the museum. There is something for everyone here. Lunch will be on your own in the cafeteria.

### **UNIT DINNERS: Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup> (7:00pm -9:00pm at the hotel)**

Please call **Chan Rogers** concerning separate hospitality room for unit activities.

### **EVENT D: PADDLEWHEEL LUNCH CRUISE: Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> (10:45 pm- 2:45 pm)**

You will board your coach for the short ride to Newport Landing, where you will embark on a 2 hour Brunch and sightseeing cruise on a paddlewheel riverboat cruising the Ohio River. View industry on the Ohio side and mansions on the Kentucky side. Relax to the sounds of the Dixieland band and enjoy a bountiful all-you-can-eat lunch buffet. This is going to be a wonderful brunch with friends. Don't miss it!

### **BANQUET DINNER: Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> (at the hotel – Time TBD)**

Join your friends for your banquet dinner at the hotel. Please make your entrée selection on your reservation form.

**NOTE: Reunion Registration forms will be included in the next issue of the NFTCP.**

## **103d INF DIV ASSOC at ARLINGTON CEMETERY**



### **103d Cactusmen at General Anthony McAuliffe's Grave**

Six Cactusmen honored General Anthony McAuliffe by placing the wreath at his headstone, which earlier had been placed on the Tomb of the Unknown at Arlington Memorial Cemetery. At this annual event, this year were left to right: John Kaiser, (410F) of Towson, MD, William Schneck, (411F) of Somerset, NJ (deceased), Richard Ball, (382FB) of Falls Church, VA, Lucas Martin, (409Hq3Bn) of Selbyville, DE, Michael Toohig, (411B) of McLean, VA, and Bruce Hughes, (409HqCo) of Falls Church, VA.

The 103d Association has been represented at the wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown on Veterans Day for many years and the custom includes re-placing the wreath at the grave site of General McAuliffe. This year the event was held on 13 November (07), and our representation included our secretary/treasurer, Alexander Eucare (409K) and the entire group gathered for dinner with their ladies at the Fort Myer Officers Club.

The ceremony is very impressive and is performed by the Third Infantry Regiment (which provides all Army ceremonial duties in Washington). The wreath was very distinctly marked with the "103d Infantry Division Association of WW II". We thank our fellow Cactusmen for their contribution to our legacy.

## 103d INF DIV ASSOC REUNION HISTORY

The early reunions of the Association of the 103d from 1965 to 2000, was an informal but a very effective operation with index cards and the typewriter as the main instruments of the Rev. Harvey T. and (Mrs) Betty Ellsworth and their daughter, in essence, they functioned as the executive secretary of the association, with elected veterans as officers, who typically functioned only at the reunions. (Harvey was a member of 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn Hq Co of 409<sup>th</sup> Regt and served as a warrant officer during training and combat) Unfortunately, most of us did not know the Association existed for the first twenty years, as I and many others did not attend until the mid-'80's. (Reference the history of reunion locations with banquet attendance) The early period of '65 thru '85 indicates very meager attendance compared to the potential, and really picked-up significantly when many of us attribute Bill Gibbs (G/409-deceased '95), and many others for "beating the bush" so as to increase attendance. After '86, the attendance consistently doubled as compared to prior attendance, except for a big let down when the reunion went to California in '92. After '95, however, the attendance began a downward spiral, and in '99, Betty Ellsworth announced her retirement as of the 2000 reunion. This announcement caused a number of the veterans, with Mel Wright leading the charge, to organize two groups: 1) The 103d INF DIV ASSOC OF WW II, to manage the association's activities (reunion operations & membership records), utilizing an electronic computer based master roster and communicating via a quarterly newsletter, the *News From The Cactus Patch (NFTCP)*. The operations were primarily performed by the veteran members with an assist by associate members (veteran's descendants), and 2) The Texas WW II Historical Monument Fund, incorporated in Texas as tax exempt, with the primary purpose of raising the funds and executing the construction of a monument to commemorate the service of the 103d INF DIV OF WW II and its 847 battle deaths (KIA's). (NOTE: The "Fund" is an independent organization) However, even with the invigorating reorganization of the "Association", the attendance at reunions has continued a steady decline as the current attendance is less than the 4<sup>th</sup> reunion in 1968 (245), when very few knew of the reunion activity. Furthermore, statistics indicate that only about 1/3 of the veterans of WW II are still alive, and the larger part of that group would not have the capability or will to attend reunions. Herewith is the attendance & location history of the 103d INF DIV "Association".

(Note: Attendance is based on banquet attendees-including veterans + guests)

YR/MO	LOCATION	ATTEND	YR/MO	LOCATION	ATTEND	YR/MO	LOCATION	ATTEND
1965-July	Lansing, MI	40	1980-July	Jackson, MS	307	1995-Aug	Williamsburg, VA	693
1966-July	Lansing, MI	47	1981-July	St. Louis, MO	246	1996-Sept	Columbus, OH	361
1967-July	Chicago, IL	150	1982-July	San Antonio, TX	204	1997-Sept	Omaha, NE	310
1968-July	St. Louis, MO	245	1983-July	Appleton, WI	296	1998-Aug	Schaumburg, IL	477
1969-July	Des Plaines, IL	260	1984-July	Omaha, NE	306	1999-Aug	Eau Clair, WI	370
1970-July	Milwaukee, WI	253	1985-July	Hot Springs, AR	365	2000-Sept	Little Rock, AR	550
1971-July	Detroit, MI	202	1986-July	Flint, MI	549	2001-Sept	Grand Rapids, MI	515
1972-July	Omaha, NE	202	1987-July	Denver, CO	659	2002-Sept	Dallas, TX	320
1973-July	La Crosse, WI	250	1988-Sept	Springfield, IL	412	2003-Sept	Las Vegas, NV	283
1974-July	Kansas City, MO	310	1989-Aug	Oklahoma, OK	703	2004-Oct	Schaumburg, IL	308
1975-July	Nashville, TN	250	1990-Aug	Cherry Hill, NJ	772	2005-Oct	Washington, DC	261
1976-July	Duluth, MN	266	1991-Sept	Dallas, TX	752	2006-Nov	Dallas, TX	379
1977-Aug	Green Bay, WI	303	1992-Sept	Anaheim, CA	396	2007-Sept	St. Louis, MO	201
1978-July	Des Moines, IO	310	1993-Aug	Schaumburg, IL	785	2008-July	Cincinnati, OH	?
1979-July	Minneapolis, MN	289	1994-Aug	Phoenix, AZ	575	2009 ?	?	?

Summary: IL – 6; WI – 5; MI – 5; MO – 4; TX – 4; NE – 3; MN – 2; AR – 2; OH- 2;

One each in AZ, CA, CO, DC, IO, MS, NJ, NV, OK, TN, VA,

Average Attendance: 1<sup>st</sup> Ten years = 196, 2<sup>nd</sup> = 278, 3<sup>rd</sup> = 597, 4<sup>th</sup> = 419, Last Three = 280

Average Attendance all 43 reunions = 366

## HONOR ROLL



**103d INF DIV ASSN of WW II**  
(Deceased reported after NFTCP issue No 17)

Berwald, Anthony C.	328 Eng Co C
Brischke, Harold A.	409 Hq Co 3Bn
Brodin, Ralph	410 Co B
Byron, Richard W.	409 Co K
Calcaterra, Anthony F	103 Sig Co
Carroll Charles F.	410 Co D
Cartter, James M.	411 Co A
Chapman, Delbert H.	410 Can Co
Chesson, William W.	410 Co D
Clemmons Jr., Earl H.	411 Co F (Past Pres)
Cole, Paul R.	411 Co A
Conklin, Joseph E.	409 Sv Co
Cull, Charles D.	411 Co I
Danielson, Jr William J.	409 Co D
Diehl MD, Leonard R.	411 Co C
Dumay, Herbert S.	410 Co A
Ermeling, William K	103 Sig Co
Eulinger, Keith E.	409 Co G
Garbe, Arthur	103 Sig Co
Gooris, Henry L.	103 MP
Hanson, Edwen L.	409 Hq Co
Hanson, Junior C.	103 QM
Hartwig, Ralph S.	103 Hq Co
Hobbs, Carl	410 Co B
Holmes, Ivan H.	103 Rec
Ingwell, Lawrence	409 Co H
Judnick, Edward F.	411 Sv Co
Kleinpaste, Roger A.	409 Co D
Kramer, Pete	384 FA Bty C
Lehmbeck, Lyle E.	328 Med Co B
McAtee, William R.	409 Co E
Meentemeier, Alvin L.	410 Hq Co 2Bn
Mitchell, Thomas D.	411 Co A
Monan , Francis G.	411 Co G
Novak, Harry	103 Sig Co
Overn, Lawrence H.	410 Co I
Overy, George	409 Co G
Pepper, James L.	411 Co C (Co Cmdr)
Radke, Howard N	103 Sig Co
Schell, Rev. James C.	328 Eng Co A
Schmidt, William B.	103 Sig Co
Schneck, William	411 Co F
Stephenson, Louis	409 Co B
Thomas, Earl C.	410 — —
Tomcheck, Francis A	409 Co G
Truan, John	409 Hq Co 3Bn
Wilson, Wayne F.	411 Co F

## HONORABLE MENTION



**A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO**  
**TxDOT Commissioner**  
**RIC WILLIAMSON**  
**Deceased 30 December 2007**  
For his affirmative actions in the construction,  
site location and WW II highway marking signs  
leading to the 103d Historical Legacy  
*A CALL TO DUTY.*



**OUR FLAG IS AT HALF STAFF**

**IN THEIR HONOR**

Report known deaths to your secretary  
Al Eucare  
6708 Lansdale Street  
District Heights, MD 20747  
240-422-6109 or AESR26@aol.com  
For recording into our Historical Records

## 103d INF DIV ASSOCIATION SEARCH FOR 103d MUSEUM

Over a year ago, then-president Jim White appointed a two-man committee to search and evaluate sites for the potential establishment of a museum for the preservation and display of artifacts and archives of members of the 103d Inf Div of WW II. Each of the two members he appointed have extensive experience and interest in the preservation of the legacy of the 103d, and have already spent a considerable amount of time working and leading the way to collect material and begin the process of establishing a museum/library for the 103d. Together Harold Branton (Past president) and Harley Richardson (Vice-president) have spent time in their endeavor to review specific locations and possibilities. Harold, as you may know, was the leader & editor of the Turner Publishing Co's "Green Book" history of the 103d and, by the way, has already accumulated considerable archives and some artifacts of Cactusmen which are now stored at his "office", an adjunct to his home. Harley was responsible for the establishment of several monuments in France to memorialize the actions of the 103d in Alsace, and currently is a volunteer at the 45<sup>th</sup> Inf Div's museum in OK City. The several sites they have evaluated as possibilities are summarized herewith.

Morton Museum (Cook County Library) in Gainesville, TX. After discussions with officials during the past three years, we have concluded this site is not a possibility.

Texas Armed Forces Museum at Camp Mabry in Austin, TX. A fine military museum, however no space is available, and they challenge our legacy as a "Texas" military unit.

The 45<sup>th</sup> Inf Div Museum in Oklahoma City, OK. A great military museum and the possibility initially looked promising; however, the OK NG believed their continued involvement in Iraq would usurp space thought to be available; and now this site is not available. However, the curator has pledged the availability of "retired" display cases, etc, for 103d use.

Fort Tuthill Military Museum in Flagstaff, AZ Historically, this site is the birthplace of the 409<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, created in 1922 along with the 410<sup>th</sup> in New Mexico, and the 411<sup>th</sup>, and all division troops in Colorado, when the 103d Inf Div was activated as a "reserve" division of the Organized Reserve Corps (ORC) of the US Army after WW I at cadre strength for training. It is a ten acre site within the old Fort Tuthill military training base of the AZ NG (built in 1930), now a run down military base in a fantastically beautiful setting in the western ridge of the Rocky Mountains. The site is now owned by the Coconino County Recreation and Parks Department and they have a 3+ million grant for general restoration for a military museum and recreation purposes. The director has indicated they would welcome the inclusion of the 103d Association, however, the restoration of the site is now only in the planning stage and would not be ready for establishment until 2011, at the earliest, and most likely not before 2012, almost 5 years away. (**Note:** The foregoing is a synopsis of a committee report submitted to the B/D of the Association by Harold & Harley which will be reviewed and discussed at the Cincinnati reunion board meeting and further discussion at our annual business meeting.)

As Editor of the NFTCP #18, and your President, I take the prerogative of expressing my opinion on where we might go from here on this issue.

I believe the Association should build on the synergism created by the monument in Gainesville where hundreds of people each day walk up to read the bronze tablets that then result in several inquiries at the Information Center each day. I believe we should take steps to establish an on-going presence in the Gainesville area, say with an executive secretary, who would maintain the roster, assist in publishing the News From The Cactus Patch, and be our "go to person" for inquiries concerning veterans of the 103d INF DIV of WW II. Think about it, in the meantime, I have asked Jim White, Past President, and John Poole, Asst-Vice President to search to determine if such a person can be identified in the Gainesville area. Where the museum/library would be established continues as open.





Veterans' Day, November 11, 2007. Wreath laying on the first anniversary of the monument dedication.

## 103d Inf Div's Contribution to the "Battle of the Bulge" in WW II

In order to counter the "Bulge", General Eisenhower ordered the 7<sup>th</sup> Army to cease its attack into Germany and send 3 of its right flank divisions overnight by motor convoy to take over positions on its left flank (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army's right flank) recently vacated by General Patton's repositioning his 3<sup>rd</sup> Army divisions to directly attack the enemy's advance into Belgium & Luxembourg (The Bulge). These whole division moves of up to 100 miles overnight set a record for moving entire divisions across the battlefield in such a short time. (In WW I, the troops either marched or moved by train, as trucks only moved supplies) The 103d was attacking into the Siegfried Line north of Wissembourg, France on December 16, the day the Bulge began. On Dec 23d the entire 103d Division moved by admin convoy to the vicinity of Diffenbach, in the Lorraine section of France about 100 miles distant in a westerly direction. The "timely shuffling" of entire divisions about the battlefield "won" the "Battle of the Bulge" for the Allies! Remember, about 12 years later, it was President Eisenhower, who established the Interstate & Defense Highway system of the US (1956).

**General McAuliffe Named Commander:** Subsequently, General Eisenhower had to find BG Anthony "Nuts" McAuliffe a "good" division to command after his headline grabbing statement to the Germans demanding his surrender (101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Div-ADC) while encircled at Bastogne during the Bulge. (McAuliffe was reputed to say something vulgar which was unprintable, and the press substituted: "Nuts"! In any case, you can be proud that the Army chose the 103d for McAuliffe because it was considered to have performed very well in combat! In mid-April after two weeks in Army reserve moving NE into Germany, the 103d ID executed a dash south under General McAuliffe from central Germany to Innsbruck & the Brenner Pass in Austria by May 3<sup>rd</sup> to seal the 7<sup>th</sup> Army's primary "end of the war" objective of securing the Austrian Alps. This drive was considered "outstanding" and included the link-up with the 5<sup>th</sup> Army (in Italy) just south of the Brenner Pass.

### **We Need Your Input For The BIO/PHOTO PROGRAM !**

This program involves every cactusman making a contribution with his biography , and, most importantly, his WW II experiences, particularly, with short stories of interesting episodes during combat, or antidotal stories of your war-time service. Include war-time pictures (copies). Reference NFTCP #12 & #14. Call Harold Branton @ 281-399-1118 or Luke Martin @ 302-436-4928, if you need more detail.

### **NOTICE!!!**

Many have asked for the "History of the 103d Division" aka "The Green Book" if you desire a copy, please call Harold Branton @ 281-399-1118. We need 50 favorable responses for a reprint. (or send a note to the secretary)

## **ATTENTION !!!!!**

**The 103d Association must raise funds to provide for archival storage of our WW II accomplishments, and therefore, hereby notifies all recipients of this newsletter, that unless we receive your dues (\$15) we cannot afford sending this newsletter . Exceptions will be made, without reason, if you call or notify the secretary you desire to continue to receive NFTCP. (Note: Widows of veterans are exempt)**

# 103d INF DIV of WW II HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS

BATTLE DEATHS OF 103D INF DIV	(76 pages)	\$25.00 ea
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A complete analysis of confirmed and non confirmed list of POW'S. (Never before published).

***SAMPLE POW ANALYSIS (included in each Casualty Report publication)***

UNIT	POW'S From Cas Rpt Confirmed POW	POW'S From Cas Rpt Non Confirmed MIA/POW	POW'S TOTAL From Cas Rpt	Confirmed Additional POW'S Found on NARA db Not listed on Cas Rpts	POW'S GRAND TOTAL
<b>Support Units</b>	14	5	19	7	26
<b>409th Regiment</b>	181	41	222	0	222
<b>410th Regiment</b>	104	34	138	43	181
<b>411th Regiment</b>	53	48	101	2	103
<b>TOTAL</b>	352	128	480	52	532

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Wreath laid at the 103d Infantry Division of WW II Monument at the Travel Info Center in Gainesville, TX on Nov 11, 2007. (First Anniversary of Dedication). Left to right are: Piper Lary Fowler, Monument Fund President B. Melton Wright, Gainesville Post 1922 VFW Commander Joseph Wilson, Gainesville Mayor Glenn Loch, 103d Infantry Division of WW II Association President Chan Rogers, and TX DOT Information Center Staffer Jan Autry.

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