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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Term through)

James A. Enzor - 409 (2009)
317 849 0726

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708 422 8799

Michael F. Toohig - 411 (2008)
703 725 4424

Richard T. Ball - Support (2008)
703 671 9017

Zack Sigler - Assoc (2009)
316 686 5741

James E. White - Past President
409 722 3211

103d INF DIV WW II



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

103d Reunion: It is now mid-April and our reunion starts Wednesday evening July 30 in Covington, Kentucky, across the Ohio River from Cincinnati at the Radisson Hotel Cincinnati Riverfront. That's just over 3 months away, and by now you should have made your hotel reservations by calling 1-859-491-1200 and identifying yourself as a 103d Cactus person **by June 15**. Register ASAP, as you may cancel if you later find you cannot attend, and rooms could sell out, if you delay. The reunion program appeared in the most recent NFTCP, and if you did not save it, we have included herein (in reduced form) the complete program. Also, included herein is the registration form (tear out) for our reunion activities that must be returned to our "Military Reunion Planners" by June 15th. We have a great reunion planned, and our members face some important decisions to perpetuate our legacy to accompany the fantastic monument honoring the 103d veterans, and specifically those that paid the supreme sacrifice in Europe. I believe all 103d veterans should attend the Division reunion to support establishing our legacy rather than having separate unit reunions!

Secretary/Treasurer: Unfortunately, our secretary/treasurer, Al Eucare, has resigned due to ill health and family commitments. Al has always been enthusiastic concerning his duties and has introduced several innovations, such as the on-card program, however, his health along with family responsibilities have not permitted him to apply the time necessary to properly fulfill his duties. His resignation was effective March 8. Fortunately, we had a key member of our staff step forward to take over this most important position: John Poole, our assistant vice president and long time member of the Board of the 103d Monument Fund, volunteered to take over these very pressing duties and put us back into shape with all the administrative work of minding the "Master Living Roster", and, posting the dues. We were very fortunate that John was able to recruit a very talented and business experienced widow of one of our veteran members, Harry M. McLeod (G411), to assist him in the administrative and financial duties required for our Association. Gloria McLeod will assist John Poole as the assistant Secretary and Treasurer. Gloria has over 50 years experience as an administrative assistant and bookkeeper with GMAC Corp and other companies, and, also was the secretary for many years of her Ancestry Clan Society as a volunteer. There is every indication that Gloria will readily prove her ability to perform her duties second to none and thence be elected to the full secretary/treasurer's position in her own right. In any case, we now have this crucial position filled very handsomely for the balance of my term and reference should be made to the new addresses and phone numbers for changed addresses, dues, and the various administrative matters that are provided at the end of this message.

Board & Business Meeting Agenda: An early look at the 103d Association Board of Directors agenda for their meeting on Wednesday July 30 (4:00pm) at the reunion contains two items which I discussed in my recent NFTCP message; namely: the consideration of a museum for artifacts, and a library for archives of the 103d and its veterans.

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

Two Agenda items have developed since my last message: 1) the 45th Infantry Division Museum in OK City has indicated that they would accept 103d archives provided the items had been catalogued and ready for storage and reference, and 2) the Cooke County (Gainesville, Texas) Morton Museum, with definite display limitations, will accept both artifacts and archives. While we may desire to take advantage of both of these sites, together they probably satisfy only a quarter of the desired space. Therefore, we will continue to search to resolve our needs and this may take two to three years to consummate. The Association has created a truly "GREAT" monument and it deserves an archival and artifact repository as an accessory.

The Board Meeting may well result in items brought to the reunion's annual business meeting on Saturday (Aug 2) morning. By the way, any member of the Association who desires, may attend the Board meeting as a spectator. If anyone has an issue that they would like the Board to consider, please contact your unit representative on the Board (Reference the "Staff Roster" on Page 1) and request his assistance or call me (508-533-0422)

Tardy Deposit of Dues: Unfortunately, your Association has caused a number of instances of late deposit of dues resulting in checks in outstanding status for several months. We NOW have that process under control and we have deposited all checks previously received, except possibly 1 or 2. If you still have an outstanding dues check, please advise me by email or phone, and please do not place it in "stop payment" status as that is an unnecessary expense. I hereby pledge that henceforth all checks sent to the Association will be deposited within 15 days of receipt, and I apologize for any inconvenience that the tardy deposit of dues may have caused anyone in the past.

If anyone has a newspaper clipping from the WW II era that describes your service experience or that of the 103d Division please scan and email it to me for use in my final NFTCP this fall, or call me, if you have a question or any idea @ 508-533-0422. I look forward to a "great" reunion and to see you all in Covington, Kentucky !


President - 2008

***NEW* 103D ASSOCIATION CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Please send all dues, address changes, any change in status contact information
to our Assistant Secretary & Treasurer:**

**Gloria McLeod
7618 Twin Hills Drive,
Houston, Texas 77071.**

**Telephone # 713-772-1492
e-mail: gmacl@swbell.net**

**Dues for 2008 are \$15 and checks should be made out to:
"103d INF DIV ASSN"**

Widows are exempt from dues payment

103d INF DIV ASSOC WWII 2008 REUNION INFORMATION & SCHEDULE



103 INFANTRY DIVISION ~ 2008 REUNION Covington, KY ~ July 30th - August 3rd, 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 *Chickens 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 688 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.

Make your hotel reservations NOW! 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 103rd 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 15th whichever comes first. If you will be driving and need directions, please ask the hotel when you make your reservation.

We look forward to seeing you Northern Kentucky!



**Note: Assoc Board Meeting Wednesday July 30 @ 4:00pm
Assoc Memorial & Business Meeting Saturday Aug 2 @ 8:30am**

103rd INFANTRY DIVISION ~ 2008 REUNION EVENTS

EVENT A: CREATION MUSEUM: Wednesday July 30th (9:00am-3:00pm) *Totally Unique!*
The Creation Museum presents a "walk through history." Designed by a former Universal Studios exhibit director, this state-of-the-art 65,000 square foot museum brings the pages of the Bible to life for a fully engaging, sensory experience. Murals and realistic scenery, computer-generated visual effects, over fifty exotic animals, life-sized people and dinosaur animatronics, and a special-effects theater complete with misty sea breezes and rumbling seats. Be one of the first to visit this is new one-of-a-kind attraction, unlike anything you have seen before! Visit www.creationmuseum.org/ and don't miss it!

EVENT B: WELCOME EVENT: Wednesday July 30th (7:00 pm at the hotel)
Join your friends for a first night get together with a meal and some entertainment at the hotel. Don't miss this first opportunity to reconnect with your friends in a relaxed atmosphere.

EVENT C: GRAND SIGHTSEEING TOUR: Thursday, July 31st (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 D: GROUP DINNER AT THE HOFBRAUHAUS: Thursday, July 31st (5:30pm-7:30pm)
The first authentic *Hofbrauhaus* in America is here. You will enjoy many of the traditions from Germany that have made *Hofbrauhaus* famous. From the traditionally decorated rooms in the building to the beer that is brewed on-site and of course the excellent German fare. Enjoy an assortment of delicacies like Brats/Mets, Weiner Schnitzel, Chicken Breast with Mashed Potatoes, Sauerkraut, Fried Cabbage, and Apple Strudel!

EVENT E: NATIONAL U.S. AIRFORCE MUSEUM: Friday, August 1st (9:30am - 4:00pm)
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. Lunch will be on your own in the cafeteria.

UNIT DINNERS: Friday, August 1st (7:00pm -9:00pm at the hotel)
Special rooms and pricing has been arranged. Please contact Chan Rogers to make arrangements with your Unit.

EVENT F: PADDLEWHEEL LUNCH CRUISE: Saturday, August 2nd (10:45am - 2:45pm)
You will board your coach for the short ride to Newport Landing, where you will embark on a 2 hour Branch 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 2nd (at the hotel - Time TBD)
Join your friends for your banquet dinner at the hotel. Please make your entree selection on your reservation form.

Reservations are due by June 15th. Late reservations accepted on a space available basis with a \$10 per person, late fee. For information call weekdays: 817-251-3551 or Email: Info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com Requests for refunds must be made in writing and postmarked before due date above. No refunds will be made after this date, unless you have purchased *Tour Cancellation Insurance*. There is a \$5 per person refund processing fee. **You cancelled, check is your receipt and proof of purchase.** There is a \$25 return check fee for NSF. MRP will not be held liable for failure of vendors to provide contracted services, or any injuries/accidents that may occur during the reunion. Sorry, no refunds will be given as of 3 days before the reunion for any reason. Tours require a minimum of 35 people to operate.

103rd INFANTRY~2008 REUNION RESERVATION FORM

Complete and mail this entire form with a check made out to:
Military Reunion Planners, P.O. Box 1588, Colleyville, TX 76034

REGISTRATION FEE -- Everyone Please Pay: _____ people at \$15 p.p. =

EVENT A: Creation Museum & Planetarium:
 Wednesday, July 30th (9:00pm-3:00pm) _____ people at \$35 p.p. =

EVENT B - WELCOME EVENT: (6:00pm)
 Wednesday, July 30th **SELECT** Roasted Pork Loin _____ people at \$30 p.p. =
OR Baked Chicken with Mushrooms, Peppers & Onions _____ people at \$30 p.p. =

EVENT C: Grand Sightseeing Tour:
 Thursday, July 31st (10:30am-3:30pm) _____ people at \$36 p.p. =

EVENT D: Group Dinner at the famous Hofbrauhaus:
 Thursday, July 31st (5:00pm -7:30pm) _____ people at \$36 p.p. =

EVENT E: National Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB
 Friday, August 1st (9:00am-3:30pm) _____ people at \$35 p.p. =

EVENT F: Paddlewheel Brunch Cruise:
 Saturday, August 2nd (10:45am-2:45pm) _____ people at \$55 p.p. =

BANQUET DINNER: Saturday, August 2nd (Time TBD)
SELECT Pork Loin stuffed with Apricots and Mushroom _____ people at \$35 p.p. =
OR Chicken Marsala _____ people at \$35 p.p. =

50/50 Raffle Tickets (as many as you like) _____ tickets at \$1 per ticket =

Annual Dues: (If not already paid) _____ people at \$15 p.p. =

Tour Cancellation Insurance: (Protect your money) _____ people at \$8 p.p. =

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$

TOTAL ENCLOSED FOR ALL EVENTS SELECTED = \$

>>> PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING :

Name: _____ Spouse/Guest: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ E -Mail Address: _____

Emergency contact during the reunion: _____ Ph: _____

Your Unit: _____ Indicate your type of Membership: Regular _____ **OR** Associate: _____

If you are an Associate member, please give the name, relationship, and UNIT of your sponsoring Member:

Sponsor: _____ Relationship: _____ Unit: _____

Disability/Dietary Restriction: _____ Do you require a wheelchair for tours: _____

Are you staying at the Radisson Hotel? _____ Are you flying? _____ Are you driving? _____

Reservations are due by June 15th. Late reservations accepted on a space available basis with a \$10 per person, late fee. Requests for refunds must be made in writing and postmarked before due date above. No refunds will be made after this date, unless you have purchased *Tour Cancellation Insurance*. There is a \$5 per person refund processing fee. Your cancelled check is your receipt and proof of purchase.

Date Rec'd	Check #	Amount\$	Posted #

Tear along perforation

Tear along perforation

ATTENTION!!!!

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the 103d Association has requested Mr Harold Branton, editor of the "Trail of The Cactus" (the history of the 103d Inf Div in WW II) to get a cost of re-print of this great document. This book provides a very detailed description of the combat activities of the entire division during combat in Europe, and includes detailed maps showing the disposition of all the regiments from St Die to the Brenner Pass. Presuming a reasonable price per copy (\$50±), the 103d Association would order and fund the reprint of say, 50 copies for resale to those of you who would desire same. This book offers a truly very thorough coverage of the combat action of the 103d as well as many side-bar stories of individual veterans. We have found a need to place this book in strategic military libraries around the country as well as satisfy those of you who were unable to obtain a copy since it was sold out. Also, we are examining the possibility of adding a supplement to include the "Call to Duty" Monument which we recently dedicated at Gainesville on I-35. More on this at our reunion!

(Please Notify Gloria or Chan if you are interested in ordering a copy)

We Need Your Story for the Bio/Photo Program

This program requires your participation by contributing your story of your wartime experiences, along with photographs, your biography, and interesting experiences during training, and particularly, in combat. Wartime pictures are most desirable. Reference with Harold Branton (281-399-1118) and/or Luke Martin (302-436-4928)

Historical Focus of NFTCP # 19

The 103d Inf Div made a great and unusual contribution in bringing the war in Europe to a conclusion by mounting and executing a "dash" into Southern Bavaria and Austria at the very end of the war. In late March and early April the 103d had been assigned Army of Occupation duties after breaking through the Siegfried Line on Mar 19 and reaching the Rhine near Worms on March 26, the date 7th Army crossed. One must realize, that American infantry divisions did NOT have organic transportation to move the infantry regiments, even one regiment at a time. Therefore, after crossing the Rhine there were only so many trucks available to move the "straight" infantry units, such that some had to be literally left behind. However, in late April as Northern Bavaria was occupied, 103d was ordered to move ASAP to Innsbruck and the Brenner Pass to link-up with the 5th Army coming north from Italy; they actually met about 40 miles south of the Italian border. The operation at times was somewhat chaotic; due to platoon sized units capturing battalions, which in turn were liberated by larger German forces, who in turn surrendered to their captors. (Reference "The Trail of the Cactus" p 64+). The entire operation was a great success, and prevented any semblance of a "redoubt" being formed by German forces. Your editor presents herein a number of the press reports and individual contributions to this operation.

INFORMATION WANTED

**Our Rosters do not show what unit (Regiment, Co, Bty or Bn) these 100 members were in.
Can you help us out; Please notify JohnPoole or Gloria McLeod**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>UNIT</u>
Aab, Albert J.	_____	Kibler III, David Burke	_____
Andrews, Joe R.	_____	King, Cleave	_____
Angstadt , John H.	_____	Kirchhoff, Robert	_____
Atkinson, Charles R.	_____	Kozole, Stanley C.	_____
Avery, George	_____	Kraussman, Rev. George	_____
Bablo, Joseph	_____	Kuster, Kenneth	_____
Baker, F. W.	_____	Lake, Richard W.	_____
Bartelt, Walter	_____	Luksich, Frank E.	_____
Bihl, Clayton W.	_____	Mallory, Damon	_____
Bishop, Lawrence E.	_____	Martin, Jr., Harry W.	_____
Bites, Ben	_____	McCormick, Donald D.	_____
Bohata, Emil A.	_____	Mebane, Mitchell	_____
Boyle Sr., David W.	_____	Miller, Clifford J.	_____
Brawer, Harold	_____	Mrosko, Joe	_____
Brenner, Manny	_____	Murphy, Edward P.	_____
Broaddus, Francis C.	_____	Narvez, Ramon	_____
Brockmeier, Robert J.	_____	O'Neal, Charles K.	_____
Brown, Merle D.	_____	Perelman, Leo	_____
Brown, Val S.	_____	Pohlmeyer, Frank	_____
Burkhalter, Miller F.	_____	Quass, Donald	_____
Camp, Robert E.	_____	Rock, Kenneth C.	_____
Ciangiola, Peter	_____	Russell Jr., Ruel	_____
Collins, Charles F.	_____	Sawyer, John M.	_____
Connors, Joe	_____	Schovajsa, Eric D.	_____
Cook, Oscar	_____	Schuette, Lawrence	_____
Cross, Edwin S.	_____	Short, Harold	_____
Daugherty, William	_____	Siglin, Leo	_____
Dickmon, Lawrence	_____	Simmons, Jack	_____
Distefano, John V.	_____	Sinkel, John	_____
Doak, Robert L.	_____	Snider, Orrin R.	_____
Engen, Lee	_____	Spence, George B.	_____
Erickson, Raymond	_____	Spitnale, Ralph	_____
Fernandez, Jesse M.	_____	Summers, Kenneth W.	_____
Fleury, Dean F.	_____	Summers, Stanley V.	_____
Harrel, Charles E.	_____	Swari, Leroy E	_____
Hart, Lloyd	_____	Talbot, Ross B.	_____
Hayes, John J.	_____	Toman, Clarence	_____
Hegle, William E.	_____	Turner, Sr. , Ray T.	_____
Hendrickson, Dean	_____	VanLente, Donald	_____
Henley, Lowry	_____	Wadzeck, Troy M.	_____
Hess, Edwin G.	_____	Wanja, James T.	_____
Hightower, Jefferson	_____	Welch, Sr., John M.	_____
Hinz, Clifford L.	_____	Westlake , Lloyd	_____
Hoch, Kenneth	_____	Whittet, William S.	_____
Hubble, Clarence K.	_____	Wilkins, Archie	_____
Ingwaldson, Henry	_____	Williamson, John M.	_____
Jensen, Walter	_____	Woeller, Ted	_____
Jessie, William	_____	Woodruff, Russell R.	_____
Kachner, Stanley L.	_____	Woodruff, William	_____
Kelley, Edwin	_____	Yardley, Alyn K.	_____



103d Captures Innsbruck Amid Welter of Confusion Of Negotiations, Uprisings

By HOWARD BYRNE, Staff Correspondent

WITH THE 103D DIVISION, IN THE AUSTRIAN TYROL ALPS, May 3 (Delayed)—Although German troops in Italy and southern Austria have surrendered, artillery is still booming in this narrow gorge leading to the gateway of the Brenner Pass. Cactusmen are still fighting and dying here in the Innsbruck area.

Yesterday the 103d Division, commanded by Maj. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe, made a 15-mile advance through treacherous terrain against viciously defended road-blocks.

Heavy small arms, artillery and mortar fire was being encountered from defensive positions manned by young German lieutenants who recently received wholesale commissions at Mittenwald, "the German Fort Benning."

Demands Surrender

The capture of Innsbruck was preceded by negotiations conducted by Maj. Bland West, who called the town commander by telephone and demanded surrender. The major, who comes from Norman, Okla., and gave up a law practice to write detective stories, told the German major general commanding the garrison that Innsbruck would be leveled by artillery if surrender was not forthcoming.

At 5 p.m. yesterday, a major representing the German General was brought blindfolded to the division CP to talk surrender. At midnight Maj. West, with Capt. Ernest H. Brown, of Scranton, Pa., as interpreter, entered Innsbruck with the German major, expecting to receive the general's surrender.

Germaans Clash General

Instead, they found that during the day a resistance movement consisting of 300 disgusted Wehrmachers and 500 civilians had seized and jaded the general.

Maj. West returned to report to General McAuliffe that the only obstacle to taking the city was a fanatical colonel commanding a battalion holding the only road into Innsbruck. This officer had said that unless he heard from his general, he'd fight to the last man—and he was unable to reach the general because of the resistance people.

Troops of the 103d took advantage of the chaos and confusion to brush aside opposition and roll into the city. And, whether the city was captured or liberated—as the joyous population seemed to indicate—there was no doubt that Innsbruck had fallen to the American infan-

Two Armies Capitulate

(Continued from Page 1)

The surrender reduced the enemy's grip in central Europe to scattered fingerholds of wildcat resistance in the Austrian mountains; an unclear pocket between converging American and Russian forces in Czechoslovakia, and isolated spots northwest of Berlin.

Deep penetrations were made in all these areas yesterday. Jumping off all along the rim of the Bohemian bowl, 3d Army troops drove at least 17 miles inside the border at undisclosed points. In Austria, elements of the 11th Armored and 26th Inf. Divs. entered Linz, meeting little opposition. Across the Danube, the sister city of Urfahr fell without a fight.

Following Friday's linkup between forces of the 7th and 5th Armies below the Brenner Pass, the capitulation of the Germans in Austria came as 7th Army troops broke through all along the northern base of the redoubt area, with Salzburg and Berchtesgaden falling to the 3d Div., while men of the 103d Div. captured Innsbruck and raced south across the Italian frontier.

Nazi Gold Hoard Estimate Doubled

SHAEP, May 5—The great Nazi gold hoards found by U. S. troops in the Merkes Mine and hidden in bank vaults and under chicken-coops of other towns of the Thuringian plain are now estimated at fully double the one hundred tons originally reported.

What the actual value may be of the gold and the great flour-bags full of looted gems of Europe and currency of the world cannot authoritatively be guessed yet, an announcement said.

WASHINGTON, May 5 (ANS)—President Truman declared yesterday

OFF SURRENDER at Toward Norway

Captain Clifford Helps Negotiate Surrender Of Innsbruck in Tyrol to Men of Seventh Army

Captain Richard W. Clifford, son of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Clifford, Pine Plains, and brother of Marjorie Clifford, city, received the first offer of surrender from the German Army forces in Innsbruck, capital of the Tyrol, The Associated Press reported today.

Captain Clifford, who is married and maintains a residence in Violet avenue, received General Burheim's surrender offer from an aged lieutenant. General Burheim was described as the commander of the Innsbruck garrison.

Attached to the 103rd Cactus division, commanded by Major General Anthony McAuliffe, Captain Clifford received the surrender offer and he took the aged lieutenant to Colonel Therrell who continued the surrender negotiations.

Captain Clifford was in France with the Seventh army and he previously had been awarded the Bronze star for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy. He has been in the service since 1940 and he was stationed at Camp Howe, Texas, before going overseas in October of last year.



CAPTAIN CLIFFORD

The American forces, made up largely of men from New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado, entered the major Alpine communications center about 74 hours after efforts of a Free Austrian group to surrender the city of 61,000, failed.

Following the surrender, hid to Captain Clifford, however, and subsequent negotiations Colonel Therrell led a 409th regiment task force into the city without firing a shot. The troops received an ovation in the capital of the Tyrol. Austrian flags flew in the town and a few white flags fluttered.

Men, women and children screamed greetings and threw flowers before the advancing American Seventh army troops. Bottles of cognac and wine were offered and girls climbed aboard tanks and jeeps.

German troops, still in uniform, stood at curbsides as Americans took over the city. They carried weapons, wore free Austria armbands and shouted: "Hell Americans."

The first surrender offer was made by a German major. Major Bland West, Norman, Okla., and Captain See CAPTAIN CLIFFORD page 4

The New Yorker, May 4, 1945

Below left to right: Brenner Pass, May 1945. Innsbrook, Austria, May 1945. Austrian boarder, May 1945.



The Stars and Stripes, May 5, 1945

Germanans Surrender In Holland, Denmark 7th and 5th Link

Armies Join On Border At Brenner

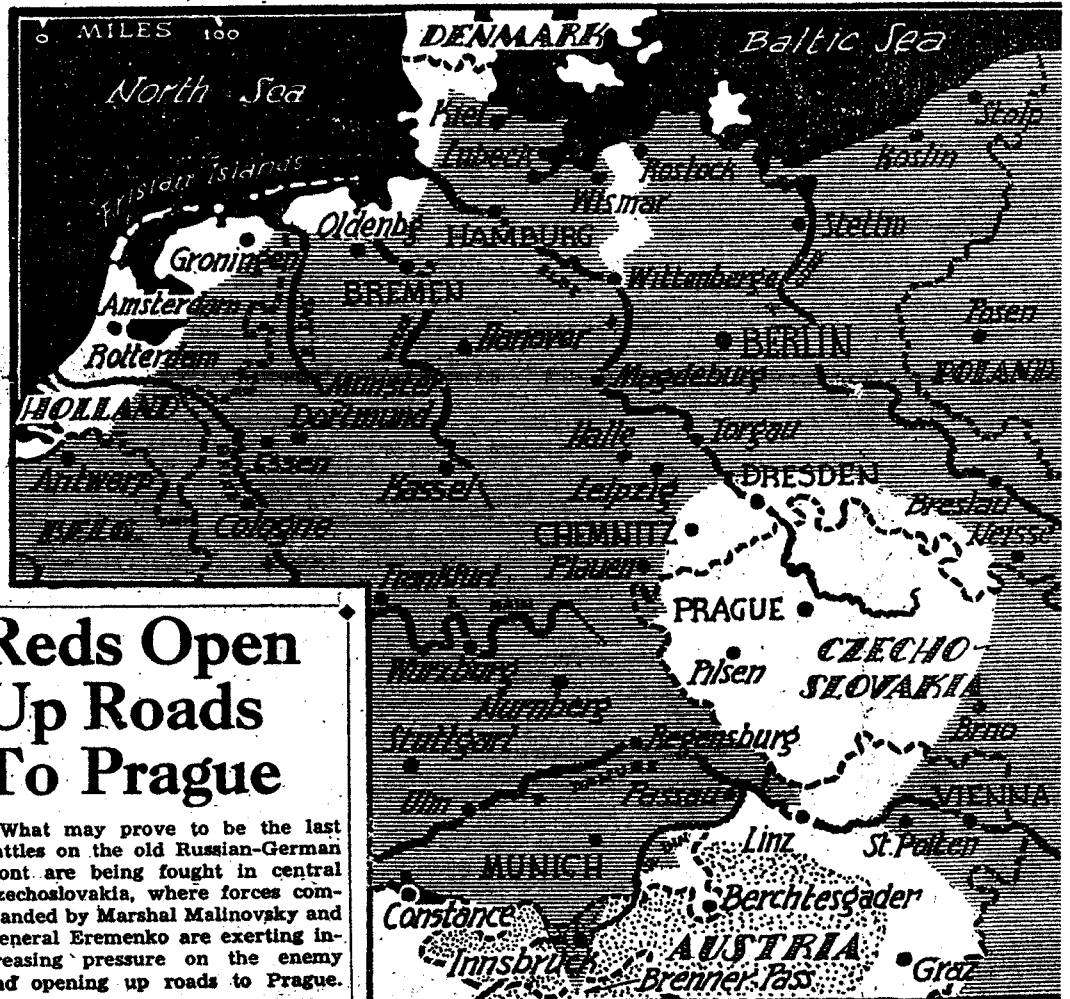
The northern and southern operations of the Allied armies in Europe were joined into a single front yesterday, when troops of the 7th Army's 103d Div. raced through the Brenner Pass into Italy, to link up with advance units of the 5th Army, moving north from the Adige valley.

Virtually encircling the last remaining areas of German resistance in Central Europe, the linkup, coming after the surrender of the Nazis' southwestern command, reduced the operations of the western Allies to the clearing of pockets in the mountainous fringes of Austria and Czechoslovakia.

As the entire roof of the redoubt caved in, 7th Army men of the 3d Div. stormed through to clear Berchtesgaden, Hitler's mountain retreat in the Bavarian appendix. Salzburg, one of the presumed Nazi strongholds in Austria, fell. Innsbruck, capital of the Austrian Tyrol, was captured.

Organized resistance in the southwest sector of the 7th Army front was officially said to have collapsed

Dwindling Fragments of the Once Mighty Nazi Empire



Reds Open Up Roads To Prague

What may prove to be the last battles on the old Russian-German front are being fought in central Czechoslovakia, where forces commanded by Marshal Malinovsky and General Eremenko are exerting increasing pressure on the enemy and opening up roads to Prague.

The last German hopes of effective

g Upper Mill Creek Hundred (302) 239-4644

'I found a true hero in France 1945!'

By Jean M. Toman

As the nation celebrates Memorial Day, many thoughts will be on D-Day, the 50th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy, what many historians record as the first major landing of allied forces on the European continent, although allied forces were fighting in Italy. Normandy marked the first time the allies had enough soldiers and weapons to mount a march in the European theater against the Germans.

While attention is on Normandy, is it a January day in 1945 that is remembered by Hockessin's Bill Sproesser.

"For the past 50 years, I have thanked God each morning for his creation of a wiry 135-pound Irishman by the name of Jack Scannell, because he gave me those 50 years of life," said Sproesser.



Sproesser, a retired DuPont Company The hero and his rescuer 41 years later...Jack engineer, said were it not Scannell and Bill Sproesser (right), for Scannell's actions, he would not be a retired engineer, small business entrepreneur, father and husband.

January 19, 1945

The scene is Sessenheim, France, on January 19, 1945. Sproesser was a 21-year-old rifle platoon leader, 1st platoon Company L, 411th Infantry, 103rd division.

"I was involved in capturing a so called empty town in eastern France," said Sproesser. "Ten minutes into the attack, it was obvious that we faced a fiasco. They

back to help me," remembers Sproesser. "He pointed out that the company to our left was running to the rear in complete panic. Santos wanted to get me to safety but I knew it was impossible for him to carry my weight, or we would both end up dead. I ordered Santos to the rear to tell the company commander what had occurred, thinking this was the safest for him. On his way back, Santos was hit by an 88mm artillery shell causing him to lose his leg.

"After Santos left, I attempted to access my damage. Unfortunately, once I got my three layers of pants down, I couldn't pull them back up or get them off. Two mortar shells landed near by. Fragments from the first shell hit me in both knees throwing my legs in the air. One fragment from the second shell hit me in the right side of my buttocks while my body was extended skyward."



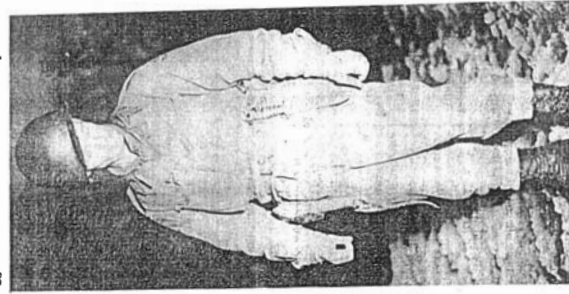
Sproesser (right) with Santos Garcia and his wife, Celia, at the 1988 Company L reunion in Wilmington.

Jack Scannell-Hero

Enter Sgt. Jack Scannell, a hero who received a Silver Star for what was about to happen.

Shortly after the shells, I heard a call from Jack, a mortar squad leader, inquiring about my problem. I told him that was about to happen. He told me that he would be glad to go to the rear. He sent his men to the rear and crawled over to me. Fortunately for me, he disregarded my suggestion.

For the next two hours, Jack pushed, pulled, carried and finally wined my hands together and dragged me like a sled over a frozen pond. His



Portrait of a hero, Sgt. Jack Scannell

"A true hero who gave me 50 years of life I shouldn't have had"

"When we arrived at the aid station, I was not just happy, but hysterically joyful. All that remained of my clothes were my boots, my wool knit cap and the collar and skirt sleeve of my shirt. They asked me why I was so happy when I was so full of holes. I simply said I had no right to get out alive."

All said and done, Sproesser found 13 holes, no broken bones and "and the best friend a person could have," said Sproesser.

The Aftermath

Sproesser, for six months, he heard nothing about the men he sent into Sessenheim and were captured. At the end of the war, he found out that all the men had survived their ordeal.

Nine months later, while I was working in a "war criminals camp," I discovered a German soldier who had been at Sessenheim. He said the town was empty on January 19, 1945, but a man named Scannell was sent in early on the 19th to be the rear guard for the second Bulge known as operation NORDWIND. It was our attack that made the Germans think more troops were coming and they decided not to continue on this plan and our attack also gave the allied forces about three days for an orderly withdrawal, possibly saving many lives."

As for Jack Scannell, on January 30, 1945, he was presented with the Award of the Silver Star for his action on January 19, by Brigadier General A. C. McAuliffe, commander of the 103rd division. Scannell was also the best man at Sproesser's wedding to Betty Jane Williams. Scannell later



Lt. Bill Sproesser...before the odyssey began. Sproesser, a retired DuPont Company engineer, said were it not Scannell and Bill Sproesser (right), for Scannell's actions, he would not be a retired engineer, small business entrepreneur, father and husband.

"That night Jack went back for the stretcher bearers to get us out of there. Along the road he came across and American mine field. In the dark, Jack, not knowing anything about mines, carefully removed each one to the side of the road. Then he proceeded on for help. Jack finally located help although being threatened with court-martial if he did not return to the rear. Jack's bearers carried us back to us."

"Jack and the stretcher bearers arrived at the house just before dawn. They gathered up all of us and carried us out under the cover of darkness. As we approached the American lines, a German 88 shell landed about 100 yards in front of us. The next one fell behind us about the same distance. I thought, 'Oh hell, here we go again!'"

"Just then the next shell was a direct hit, but it exploded in a tree above me. Since I was centered over me shrapnel mushroomed around me. One fragment broke in the leg of the stretcher bearer at the head of my stretcher. My only damage was to my ears."

Facing court-martial

"I was facing court-martial for my actions on January 19, 1945. I was charged with the death of a German soldier who was killed in the rear of my platoon. I was charged with the death of a German soldier who was killed in the rear of my platoon. I was charged with the death of a German soldier who was killed in the rear of my platoon."

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married and is the father of 12 children, lives in Detroit and is retired from the Daryman's Credit Union.

"Sgt. Darwin Kyle was a squad leader of mine. He was the only person to get in and out of Sessenheim on January 19. Six years later we heard that he had been killed in Korea and received the Congressional Medal of Honor Posthumously, said Sproesser.

In 1988, Sproesser planned and hosted a reunion for the men of the 411th Infantry. Scannell was someone else who was part of the January 1945 odyssey, a man whose name Sproesser never knew.

"After notices went out about the event, I received a telephone call from a Buddy Morland in South Jersey. After a long conversation, he said he had been hit on January 20, 1945 while carrying a stretcher containing a lieutenant. I asked him if he knew who was on the stretcher. He said, 'Me,' and I said, 'Me.'"

Progress

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Pages 6-9

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1989 THREE SECTIONS 40 Cents a Copy; \$15.00 a Year

45th anniversary of liberation

Return to memories

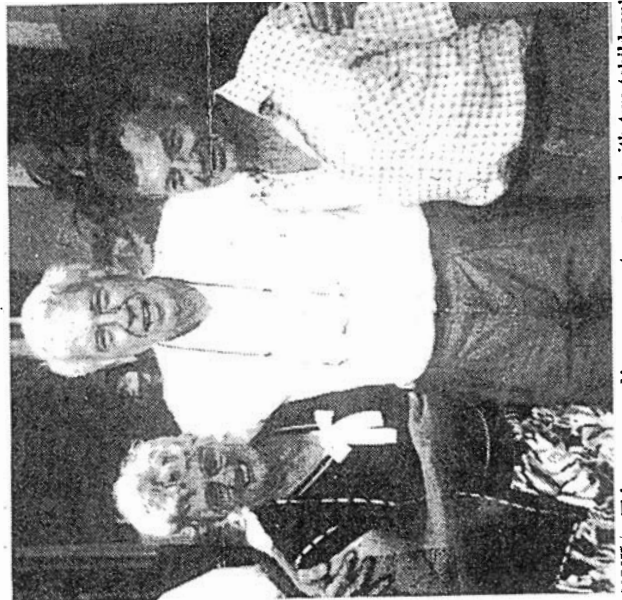
AREA — Lloyd C. Newsom of Montclair recently attended a very unusual reunion, during which he received a heartwarming surprise. This summer, 40,000 people lined the streets of Pfaffenhoffen, a small town in France, to welcome the 175 American soldiers who were invited back to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the liberation of France.

Newsom, who lived in Essex Fells and North Caldwell for many years, recounts in detail the events of years ago that led up to his surprise at the reunion this year.

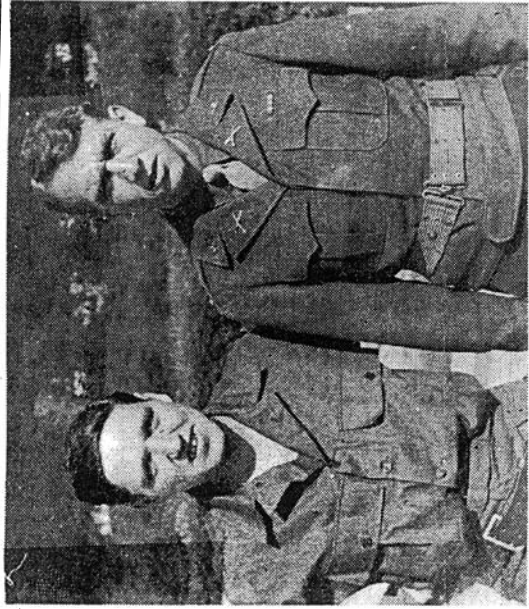
"During World War II, on or about Thanksgiving Day, 1944, I was participating in an attack on the Alsatian village of Diefenbach. My company, L company 409th infantry, 103 division, was pinned down by heavy German fire until dusk, when I was ordered to take a patrol into town to see if the Germans had withdrawn," he recalled.

"After checking about seven houses, we were fired on while crossing an opening into the next house. Part of the patrol retreated back to L company, which by then had begun to enter the town. Heavy fire broke out, preventing me and my partner, Lloyd J. Brown of Newark from returning to our unit. We ducked

(Please turn to Page 10)



NOW — This summer, Newsom, center, posed with two 'children' whose family sheltered him during a 1944 German attack on their village of Diefenbach.



THEN — Lloyd C. Newsom, right, with friend Lloyd Brown of Newark, as they appeared in uniform in May, 1945.

France

(Continued from Page One)

Brown and I decided to go upstairs and try to get some sleep. The little girl offered us her bed, because we had shared our chocolate with her.

"Early the next morning we were awakened by her father excitedly telling us that the German soldiers were all around. I looked out to see about seven German soldiers ... trying to locate Americans.

"After ascertaining that our company had gotten into town, we decided to open fire on the enemy soldiers, killing two and wounding two. L company sent a squad to help us. In the meantime, two German medics, bearing a large red cross, came up the street to our house and asked permission to pick up the dead and wounded, to which I agreed. We talked with one of them and discussed the fact that both his family and mine had relatives in Bremen, Germany, and how sad it was that we were killing each other. After about two days, we cleared the town and went on with the war.

"This summer, my division was invited by an Alsatian organization known as 'Friends of the Liberation' to return to France to celebrate the 45th anniversary of our liberating

Alsace. While celebrating a magnificent week in Pfaffenhoffen and surrounding towns, a friend and I went back to Diefenbach to see if we could find the house and the family with whom I had spent those two days in 1944.

"After some difficulty, because of changes in the town, I located an older Alsatian man who knew the story of my visit to the house. Meanwhile, he sent his son to bring the boy and girl whose basement I had shared. The little girl, now about 57 years of age, came running up to me and threw her arms around me. She said, "You are Lloyd Newsom." I was stupefied. I asked her how she knew my name. She said she had remembered me for all of these years and had wondered what had happened to me since leaving their home. I asked her if she had written my name down. She said "No, I just remembered."

"Then her younger brother appeared, carrying a German helmet bearing a bullet hole. He said, "This belonged to the German you killed in front of our house. He gave me the helmet which I now hold. He also told me that I fired eight shots. Eight is the number of rounds in an M-1 Girand rifle that I carried. Inscribed in the helmet is the name 'Neumann.' Two days later, while visiting the

cemetery of German soldiers killed in that area in Niederbronn, we found what I believe to be the grave of that soldier.

"I would like to visit his family and tell them how sad it is for me to have killed their son, despite the fact that it was so necessary at that time to stop the insane ravaging of the world that Hitler was perpetrating."

Newsom received a battlefield commission on March 16, 1945, in Pfaffenhoffen, the town that organized the celebration 45 years after liberation.

NOTICE!!!

NEWS FLASH
(Hot off the Wire)

As we go to press (April 11), we just received word the President of the 103d Monument Fund, Mel Wright, and the President, Eddie Hadlock, along with Diane Roether, Director of Library Services, of the North Central Texas College at Gainesville, TX, have reached an agreement that the college library will be the custodian of a significant amount of 103d archives and will continue to receive material associated with the Division and its veterans. While the material donated to date has been generated by Mel and the 103d Fund, this presents a great opportunity for the "Association" to have a Gainesville presence and there will be an full discussion of this opportunity at our "Board" meeting in Covington in July.



Two Cactus Men in contrast at Hershborn, Germany on April 10, '45

On the left is an original assignee Paul A. Paulson of Clear Lake, WI, joined K/410 in Dec '42 as Pvt for basic training, then carde for 3 basic cycles and promoted to S/Sgt for advanced training (2 cycles) and then to Platoon sergeant (T/Sgt) after entering combat near St. Die, France, a position he served in until the end of the war in Innsbrook, Austria. On the right is Peter Kerrigan, of Long Beach, NY, just 18 years old as a new assignee in July '44 and the platoon runner with the nickname of "Little Bit" in the 3rd platoon of Co K 410th Inf. Both went the route without being wounded but many close calls. (Paulson was with the 103rd 33 months; Kerrigan 13 months.)

Pfc. Cranston R. Rogers sends his folks, Mr. and Mrs. F. Ray Rogers of 222 E. Yale, one of the most highly prized souvenirs of the Western Front—a Nazi battle flag. Mrs. Rogers received the flag Saturday morning, but Pfc. Rogers withheld all details regarding its capture. However, he did write that he had been recommended for the Bronze Star and for a promotion to buck sergeant. Rogers has been fighting with the 103rd Division of Gen. Patch's Seventh Army since going overseas last September. "It is fearfully cold here and no place for a Florida boy . . . I had my first hot meal in a long time on Christmas, but we've been eating mostly 'K' and 'C' rations," he wrote. Pfc. Rogers entered the service June 23, 1943, after graduating from Orlando High School.

**Orlando Morning Sentinel,
January 29, 1945.**

Florn

IDA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER

Patch's Divisions Smash Into Nazi Industrial Area

German Lines Pierced At Three New Points

PARIS [AP] Three divisions of the U. S. Seventh Army drove into Germany's industrial Palatinate yesterday at three points along a 12-mile front, four months to the day after they stormed the Mediterranean shore and began chasing the Germans 500 miles across France.

The first to make the crossing was the 103rd Division, which pushed across at 1:05 P. M., against sporadic opposition north of Climbach and four miles west of the French frontier city of Wissembourg in the northeastern corner of Alsace.

Forty-five minutes later the 45th Division crossed the border along wooded ridges at an undisclosed point, but in the same general area.

RIVER LINE BREAKS

Ten minutes later, the 79th Division burst the Lauter River line at the frontier near Scheibenhard, nine miles east of Wissembourg, and plunged into the fastnesses of Bien Wald Forest on the Rhine Plain some 11 miles west of the Baden Province capital of Karlsruhe.

A late front dispatch said the vanguards of Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch's divisions, which moved up to the frontier while the Siegfried Line's guns were singularly silent, had come under fire of the fortifications and were pressing against outpost bunkers and pill-boxes.

Other elements of the 103rd Division, overrunning at least seven towns in their path, were within a mile and a half south of Wissembourg, standing at the entrance of a gap leading into Germany.

Forces of the 79th Division smashed into Lauterbourg, at the east end of the invasion front between the Vosges and the Rhine, and were fighting within 10 miles of Karlsruhe, which is across the Rhine.

**Orlando Morning Sentinel,
December 16, 1944.**

"To the Victor Belongs the Spoils"



Chan Rogers (G/409) ended the war in Munich along with Bill Hamm (G/409) and Ben Ewing (E/411) of Winter Park, FL all transferred from 103d as Sergeants Jan/'45 to 157th Inf of 45th I.D. and entered Munich as platoon sergeants(T/Sgt); Hamm in B, Ewing in C, & Rogers in G Companies. (An indicator of the training & leadership provided in the 103rd)

45th I.D. Track Meet, Munich, May 1945



Officials looked close to call this one for Cpl. Russell B Hand, Co. B, 120th Engr. Bn. who stepped off the 100 yard dash in 11.1. Bunched up at the tape with him are the men who trailed: Cristner, 72 AAA Bn., and Rogers and Clark, both of the 157th Inf.

AMERICA'S GREATEST GENERATION: ON THEIR WAY TO WAR



This picture taken late September 1944 at Billy Rose's Diamond Horseshoe in New York City while on pass from the POE at Camp Shanks, NY shows young soldiers: (l to r) William M. Hamm of Shreveport, LA, Cranston R. Rogers of Orlando, FL, Robert E. Wallin of Earle, AR, William R. Gibbs of Ft Smith, AR, and Robert A. Shepard of Houston, TX; all members of Co G 409th Infantry Regiment of the 103^d Infantry Division: Rogers was in the 3rd (rifle) platoon as BAR man, Hamm & Gibbs in the machine gun section and Wallin & Shepard in the mortar section of the 4th (weapons) platoon. All survived the war; however, Rogers, Shepard, & Wallin were wounded, Gibbs suffered severe hearing loss, and Hamm & Rogers were transferred to the 45th Infantry Division January 1945 to replace cadre lost to the German Northwind Operation following the containment of the "Bulge". Both Hamm & Rogers were platoon sergeants when the 45th entered Munich as the war ended May of '45.

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