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**2010 REUNION
ANNOUNCEMENT
& NEWS**

103d INF DIV WW II



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE & NEWS

The "Trail of the Cactus" was mailed out on Dec 7, and so far as we know, all that ordered this great record of our World War II performance have received their TOTC Books, as well as the Supplement (Only) as ordered. At least, we have not heard from anyone advising that they had not received their order, that is beyond the three we know about. If you are keeping score on our US Postal Service, we sent out 160 mailings with 200 books, (140 were single book mailings) and three mailings with four books were not delivered and presumed lost. All were sent "Media Mail", not first class or parcel post, and most were delivered within 10 days, although the Post Office said allow 30 days for that rate. We continue to receive orders, and therefore, have already contracted with Turner Publishing Co for 200 more books with each containing the Supplement. However, the price has increased slightly, and we are taking orders for filling after the first of March at \$60 each, including postage & handling. Please send your checks **made out to** the 103d Inf Div Association and mail to Gloria McLeod, 7618 Twin Hills Drive, Houston, TX 77071. We have received significant complements for our efforts, and are therefore, very pleased with your reception of the finished product. We elected to send all the books we had to those who ordered late, and will use the books from the re-order stock to send to the libraries and WW II museums, and, of course, to those new orders that we receive. The TOTC is currently advertised on ebay at \$95 for used copies (without the Supplement), so you can see that it is a very sought after item.

The 103d ID Association hereby announces the availability of the SUPPLEMENT (Only) available at \$12 for one copy, including mailing cost, and \$8 each for additional copies to the same address. Also, the 12 page 9x12 color history of the 103d ID WW II Monument is also available at \$7.50 each, including mailing, and additional copies are the same price.

2010 103d ID Association REUNION in SAN ANTONIO, TX July 14 thru 17 @ HOLIDAY INN - RIVERWALK - A very exciting and interesting series of activities have been put together to make your attendance at this reunion a very enjoyable experience. Furthermore, we anticipate that Zack Sigler's acquisition of all morning reports for the entire division during the wartime period will have been completed and significant inroads will have been made in review of this treasure trove of details of our service will be available. Zack's display at Nashville sure did get everyone's attention and became the center of attraction throughout the reunion. A summary of the 2010 Reunion activities appears on page 7. The **next** newsletter in April will contain the details of the activities and the mail-in reservation form for sign-up. The first step in the attendance process is for you to make a reservation at the Holiday Inn Riverwalk for your stay during the reunion. Details for your hotel reservation are on Page 6. We hope you can join us for the comradeship we all enjoy when Cactusmen get together. If you are unable to attend and have ideas or suggestions concerning our legacy and or the Association's activities please contact any of the Board Members or myself via any of the modern means of communication in use today: email, phone or letter. We value your ideas!

103d Association Thanks Mike Morado (Refer to Page 10) Cactusman Morado (K/410) led the charge to "Lobby" for the WW II Monument for our Nation's Capital eighteen years ago. By the way, I would like to hear from anyone who sent a letter in support or contacted their Congressman in support of the establishment of a WW II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

News Continued on Page 2...

Wreath Laying Ceremony - Gainesville, TX, 11 Nov 2009



103d ID Combat Veterans present were Lejeune Wilson (C/328E), Earl Brown (M/410), George Reichel (M/410), B.Melton Wright (G/411-PastPresident), & Tom Stagg (E/G/411)

This event took place at 10:00 am with the present and past VFW Post 22 Commanders, Joe Wilson and George Grounds placing the wreath followed by Taps. The wreath and five beautiful yellow pot plants placed at each of the five Bronze Battle Death Plaques were furnished by Kenneth Kaden, former mayor. Some 20 people attended, including Mayor Glenn Loch, City Manager Barry Sullivan, and our friend & benefactor Tom Carson, our MC for the 2006 Monument Dedication. Tom Stagg, Rabbit Wilson, & Mel Wright each provided a few words in tribute to our fallen comrades. At this point, an unidentified lady whose uncle's name was on the Battle Death Plaque, extended her family's thanks, and explained what it meant to her family for the Monument's existence. Not only, was she teary eyed, but so was the audience. (Her comments alone, made this event very worthwhile.) (Note: Veterans Brown & Reichel's presence was totally random on a visit to the memorial from their homes in Pittsburg, PA.)

REMINDER NOTICE

Please send your 2010 dues of \$25
to our Secretary/Treasurer
Our three newsletters/year alone cost \$9,000.
(That's only \$2/copy, including postage)

ATTENTION: Company K - 409th INFANTRY and TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM F. GLEASON

In the two and one-half years I have been your editor of the NFTP, I have learned volumes about every one of the 36 infantry letter companies (A,B,C, etc. of each of the 3 regiments: 409, 410, & 411) of the 103rd ID. The war was fought and experienced at the company level, and while we were an integral part of a 15,000 man division with its organic support elements, we actually knew nothing about what was going on external to our individual company, nor did we have any information as to how any other company was affected by combat activity. Furthermore, 25 years ago (when I first started attending reunions) we more or less stuck together at reunions in "packs" (groups) associated with our company. Whereas today, we meet together without the individual company affiliation being as dominant as it once was, primarily because our close "buddies" are unfortunately "passing on" (or are too infirmed to travel) and in most cases, the company affiliation has simply vanished. It is in that context, that I hereby single out K - 409th Infantry as having achieved a uniqueness that is unparalleled in the 103d Association. Furthermore, the genesis for this recognition stems from the untimely death (Jan 3) of Bill Gleason, an heroic soldier, author of two 103d unit histories, initially, the focal point of K/409's post war activities, and a Great Hero of the 103d Association.

Let Us Review K/409's post-war accomplishments:

- Thirty reunions over 55 year period, starting in 1955 as

a platoon affair, growing to company-wide and later included the ladies, so that by 1990 it has been well established; all orchestrated by Bill Gleason. It continues strong today, in spite of the numerical demise of our Association. (Reference matrix on next page, especially two reunions in Taintrux, France - K Co's objective in their first attack Nov 16, '44, having established personal contacts in that small Alsacian village.)

- Company K 409th Infantry combat chronology: Task Force Kommando - Camp Howze, Texas to Jenbach, Austria by Pvt William F. Gleason. The daily story of K Company's combat during WW II and of great interest for all to read*.
- William F. Gleason co-authored The 409th Infantry in World War II (The official regimental history - printed in 1947 by The Infantry Journal Press-Washington, D.C.
- The Congressional Record of May 12, 2005 includes entry by Senator DeWine of Ohio (son of K Co veteran) describing in detail the liberation of the Dachau sub-camp at Landsburg, Germany as witnessed by Richard DeWine serving with Co. K 409 Inf Regt and provides an entire page of details of related events recognizing Co K's contribution to the liberation.
- First Sgt Carl J. Greene, serving from time of boarding for overseas duty to deactivation, retained the boarding roster with home of record of each soldier, retained

all of K's wartime records, including feeder morning reports and records of individual actions. He also retained photos, maps and information documenting the company's location and activities. FSgt Greene's quote: "I have a room full of evidence of where we were and what we did during WW II". He is constantly called upon to share details with the men of K Co as the occasion arises, he has 3800 photos, and had sent 72 newsletters by mail in 18 years and 54 by email since 2006. Carl is now the focal point of K Co's activities as the custodian of their artifacts and by his leadership demeanor.

- CPT Joseph Bell served as company commander throughout training and combat and while "feared" during training, he became revered during the combat period as K Company's Fearless Leader. He was able to attend many reunions to receive the heartfelt thanks of his men for his outstanding leadership and credited with saving lives in combat. He was unique in that he frequently led his own combat patrols. He retired as LTC.

Now look at Bill Gleason's contributions as a member of Company K and post WW II:

- Bill Gleason, with a 60-year career as a noted sports writer & sports talk show host, used this position as a bully pulpit throughout for the promotion of our generation as the "Greatest Generation". (A sample is included on next page.)

(continued page 4)

*Ask the editor for copies

(continued from page 3)

- Pfc William F. Gleason was awarded the Silver Star for "Gallantry in Action" during the first offensive action of the 409th Infantry Regiment in WW II on Nov 16, '44. This award truly typified Bill's demeanor in the daily conduct of his duties; in spite of the fact that most of his year in Europe was spent in the rank of private (Pvt) which reflected his occasional disdain of the infantry (strict) discipline posture in place throughout that period in all 103d infantry companies.
- Bill Gleason's performance as sole author of the K Company combat diary and co-author of the Regimental History was truly remarkable as these two very critical activities were shoe-horned between the end of hostilities on May 8 and his transfer July 4 to the 45th ID for his Pacific combat assignment.

While the transfer to the Pacific Theater was later dissolved, his author's assignment was handsomely performed within the available time frame (55 days) and speaks for itself as to the quality of that effort, especially within the very short time period available.

Company K 409th Inf. Regt. Reunion Location and Attendance.

"K" COMPANY REUNION ATTENDANCE							
YEAR	LOCATION	"K" CO.	FAMILY	TOTAL	DECEASED	HOSTS	GUESTS
1955	CHICAGO, IL	15	1	16	3	GLEASON'S, PERKOVICH'S	1
1960	ALLENTOWN, PA	9	0	9	1	GLEASON'S, POHL'S, PERKOVICH'S	0
1976	BOSTON, MA	12	0	8		GLEASON'S, IRWIN'S PERKOVICH'S	0
1978	KANSAS CITY, KS	46	1	50	3	SNIDERS, JONES'ES	3
1980	ST. LOUIS, MO.	58	0	60	2	MONK'S	2
1982	TAINTRUX	18	0	22		GLEASON'S, MAY'S, QUINN'S, GARRISON'S, CANNON'S	4
1983	DALLAS, TX	39	0	48	1	GREENE'S, CANNON'S, WILLIAMS	9
1985	CHICAGO, IL	37	1	44		GLEASON'S	6
1988	OKLA CITY, OK	25	0	33	1	GREENE'S	8
1990	SAN FRANCISCO, CA.	20	0	20		GARRISON'S	0
1991	ASHEVILLE, NC	42	2	50	3	FRANCK'S	6
1992	COLO. SPRINGS, CO	45	4	58		SCHRAMM'S, JONES'ES, SNIDER'S	9
1993	SHREVEPORT, LA.	37	5	48	2	CANNON'S, GREENE'S, WILLIAMS	6
1994	KANSAS CITY, KS	40	9	55		SNIDERS, JONES'ES, SCHRAMM'S	6
1995	DELAVAN, WI	40	29	73	3	HART'S, GLEASON, KOOPMAN'S	4
1996	TAINTRUX	15	1	19		GLEASON	3
1996	SAN ANTONIO, TX	35	6	47	2	GREENE'S, WILLIAMS	6
1997	WASHINGTON D.C.	30	9	51	2	EUCARE	12
1998	ALBUQUERQUE, NM	36	7	48	4	SCHRAMM'S JONES'ES, SNIDER'S	6
1999	OKLA CITY, OK	28	2	36	1	RICHARDSON'S	6
2000	NASHVILLE, TN	27	25	56	3	GREENE'S, LOPER, LONG'S	3
2001	KANSAS CITY, KS	23	22	47	3	JONE'S, SNIDER'S, SCHRAMM	2
2002	ASHEVILLE, NC	19	11	32	4	FRANCK'S	2
2003	GREEN BAY, WI	16	17	35	1	LIGHTNER'S	2
2004	OKLA CITY, OK	22	13	45	5	RICHARDSON'S, GREENE'S	10
2005	HAYS, KS	15	10	28	3	J. SCHRAMM, R. R. JONES	3
2006	WASHINGTON D.C.	9	13	25	5	AL EUCARE	3
2007	BARABOO, WI	15	51	66	5	LEO BISCH FAMILY	2
2008	BARABOO, WI	15	37	52	4	LEO BISCH FAMILY	2
2009	KANSAS CITY, MO	11	16	29	3	R.R.JONES FAMILY - JACK SCHRAMM	2
TOTALS		802	274	1208	65		126

SOUTHWEST ECONOMIST 5/29/11

Memories of K Company: pressure, laughter and love

Most of the time we laugh. We are not reluctant to review the horror stories and to listen to new versions of them. Even then we laugh. Years ago we learned to deal with the horror. We had to.

We are the men of K Company, 409th Infantry, 103d Division.

We are Old Gaffers now. Our war was long ago.

We are happy to be Old Gaffers. Some in our company were denied the chance to reach



old age. They didn't make it to adulthood. They never were old enough to vote in an election.

They died then, there in France or Germany or Austria. They are frozen in time, as they were, forever youthful.

Because we were together in the blossom time of our youth, that is how we see one another — those of us who come together, those of us who did not come back for a reunion.

We had another reunion just two weeks ago in Oklahoma City. This is a company reunion, a rare thing. So rare that none of us has heard of another one.

We try to meet every two years. Guys volunteer to host the reunion. "I want to have the next one in my hometown," somebody will say. And nobody else argues with him.

Bill Gleason

We have met in Chicago, twice, in Allentown, Pa., Boston, Kansas City, St. Louis. Our next one, in 1990, will be in the Bay Area.

In the summer of 1982 we went back to Europe to retrace our combat route. We discovered that what we had done was even more difficult than we had thought it was during those hours when we were doing it.

After a few reunions a guy had a brilliant suggestion: "Why don't we invite the ladies?" he asked.

We invited the ladies. Some of those ladies had been young brides, inspired by love to marry the guy "who might not come back," willing to endure the near squalor of living conditions outside the camps where we were trained.

Most of the ladies came into our lives after our war. And all of the ladies may have suspected that our reunions were drunken brawls.

We invited them. And the ladies learned what we had learned during our days under fire. Having gone through the agony, combat men want peace and quiet.

We've even come to like our first sergeant. During combat he was cold and impersonal. He was the kind of first sergeant who told us,

See GLEASON, page 6

Gleason

Continued from page 1

"You will do this," when "this" seemed impossible to do.

The first sergeant and his wife were hosts for the Oklahoma City reunion.

Our company commander didn't make it to Oklahoma City. He sent a \$100 check to help with the bar bill for the first night. During earlier reunions a C note might have lasted an hour. This time \$100 covered the whole session. We don't drink as much as we did 10-20 years ago.

When we were in training camps this company commander was almost universally despised. After a few weeks in combat he was almost universally loved.

We realized that this Very Wild Irishman from a small city in Kansas had the instincts for command. For reasons we don't understand to this day, this citizen soldier knew how to lead troops in combat.

We understood then that if we made it through the war, we would owe our lives to him. And we do.

He was tall and willowy and he gave off a glow. He did things he was under orders to not do. He led patrols — day patrols and night patrols. With him it was not, "Do as I say, not what I do." He had the guts to do what we had to do.

We laugh about our first day. We were new on the line, green troops there to be, as they say in the war colleges, "bloodied."

They wanted blood somewhere up there in corps headquarters. They got blood.

They sent us across a farm field in France to capture a little town about four football fields away. We didn't know what we were doing because our leaders in the higher echelons didn't know what they were doing.

The Germans had been there a long time. They had fields of fire right out of the military textbooks. They blew the hell out of us.

It took us almost 24 hours but we took that town. We made it, the Thin Black Line, which is the only thing that matters for the Infantry.

We learned during those 24 hours, and our leaders learned. We learned to survive long enough to get to our objective. The work by which we lived, or died, were not very pretty: "Kill or be killed."

If we had not learned, there would be no reunions of K Company because there would have been no K Company left.

There is in our group a sports writer. Down through the years he has listened to professional athletes tell him he can't understand the pressure of being in a clutch situation.

He listens patiently. He always has resisted the impulse to tell an athlete that real pressure is knowing minute-by-minute, day after day after day, that you might get your head blown off.

And knowing that, you move forward anyway.

The men of K Company love one another. For us that is the meaning of Memorial Day.



103RD INFANTRY DIVISION **2010 REUNION**

San Antonio, TX ~ July 14th - 18th, 2010

Welcome to San Antonio

San Antonio (www.sanantoniovisit.com) captures the spirit of Texas. Now the eighth largest city in the United States, this city has retained its sense of history and tradition, while carefully blending in cosmopolitan progress. The city has always been a crossroads and meeting place. Sounds and flavors of Native Americans, Old Mexico, Germans, the Wild West, and the Deep South mingle and merge. Close to twenty million visitors a year delight in the discovery of San Antonio's charm. The 103rd Infantry Division 2010 Reunion tours will give you the opportunity to experience some of this wonderful city. Planned reunion tours include a day in *Fredericksburg & the Museum of the Pacific War*, a narrated sightseeing tour of San Antonio to include the famous *San Jose Mission* and *Fort Sam Houston*. The tour to the *Alamo* includes a film and plenty of time to walk the hallowed grounds of history. Don't miss the opportunity to enjoy an authentic Mexican dinner over looking the *River Walk*, followed by an evening cruise on the *San Antonio River* along the famous *River Walk*. The reunion will offer an unforgettable visit to San Antonio and give you memorable experiences that you will want to share with your family and friends.

Hotel Information

The reunion officially runs from Wednesday, July 14th through Sunday, July 18th. You will be staying at the full service **Holiday Inn River Walk** located at 217 N. St Mary's, San Antonio, TX 78205. The hotel is located on the *Riverwalk* and close to many of the areas most popular attractions.

The room rate is just **\$109.00** plus tax per night. The room rate includes full hot breakfast buffet for 2 people per room reach morning. For those of you who choose to arrive early or stay late, the same room rate is available three days prior and three days after, based on availability. Please make your hotel reservations NOW by calling the hotel directly at the following number 210-224-2500 between 9am-4pm CST and ask for in-house reservations. Be sure to ask for the 103rd Infantry Division Reunion rate to assure you are associated with your group. You may request specific room types when you call to make your reservations (handicap accessible room, etc.). The hotel check-in time is 3:00pm. Please, do not expect to get into your room before then. Make your reservations NOW, you may cancel your hotel room up to 72 hours prior to arrival and not be charged. 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 4th, 2010**, whichever comes first.

Airport Transportation & Parking

If you are flying to the reunion, the San Antonio Airport (SAT) is the closest to the hotel. For those of you driving you to the reunion, we have negotiated a special discounted parking rate of \$9 per day. The hotel is conveniently located of the Commerce Street Exit of off Interstate 281.

Travel safely and

See y'all in Texas!

2010 REUNION EVENTS

GROUP WELCOME RECEPTION

Wednesday, July 14th (6:00pm at the Hotel)

Join your friends for a casual Welcome Reception in the hospitality room featuring light hors d'oeuvres, complimentary wine & beer.

EVENT A: NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR IN FREDERICKSBURG TOUR

Thursday, July 15th (9:00am-4:00pm)

Renowned for its rolling vistas and beautiful natural serenity, the *Texas Hill Country* will capture your heart and attention throughout every moment of this intriguing tour. You'll arrive in the quaint German community of *Fredericksburg*. There you will find historic homes and shops, wooden sidewalks, old-time soda fountains, and uniquely Texan curios. You will have plenty of time to visit the museum which is the world's leading institution dedicated to preserving the history of WWII in the Pacific. Also, of interest are the *Pacific Combat Zone* and the *Nimitz Museum*. You will have time to browse the myriad shops, have lunch on your own, and stop at the vintage ice cream parlor. Bring your cameras – this is a great tour!

UNIT DINNERS ~Thursday, July 15th

We are leaving Thursday evening for you to enjoy dinner on your own with your unit.

EVENT B: SAN ANTONIO SIGHTSEEING TOUR

Friday, July 16th (9:00am-2:00pm)

Your day begins with a tour of *Fort Sam Houston*. The U.S. Army has maintained a presence in the Alamo City since 1845. From 1910 until World War II, *Fort Sam Houston* was the largest Army post in the continental United States. Prominent visitors to the post included Indian Chief Geronimo, who was held there in 1886 before his exile to Florida, and Theodore Roosevelt, who stopped with his men at the base to receive provisions before leaving for Cuba in 1898. Then, board your coach for an informative tour of some of the city's most popular attractions including a stop at the *San Jose Mission*, one of the largest in San Antonio, known as the "Queen of Spanish Missions". There will be time to see the documentary film at the mission and explore the grounds. Then, drive past the *San Fernando Cathedral* and the *Alamodome* as you make your way to the *Mercado*. You will have time for lunch and browsing in the very colorful and lively Mexican Market.

EVENT C: DINNER & CRUISE ON THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER WALK

Friday, July 16th (5:30pm-8:30pm)

Board your private water taxi at the *Holiday Inn Hotel* for the short cruise to the *Casa Rio Restaurant*. Here you will enjoy an authentic Mexican dinner in a beautiful location, sit amongst the colorful umbrellas, and enjoy the serenity and romance of the *San Antonio River Walk*. This picturesque setting is an ideal location to catch up with your friends. After dinner you will board your exciting riverboat cruise. Your private sightseeing cruise will begin at the restaurant and end at the *Holiday Inn Hotel*. Don't miss out!

Please Note: Space is limited to 120 people for this tour – first come, first served!

MEMORIAL SERVICE & BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday, July 17th (8:30am at the Hotel)

EVENT D: ALAMO TOUR

Saturday, July 17th (11:00am - 3:00pm)

Board your coach for the short drive to the *Alamo Plaza*, where you will view the award winning *IMAX* movie presentation "The Price of Freedom" which chronicles the story of the battle of the *Alamo*. With fresh images and the story in your mind, you may then proceed to the *Alamo* itself. See where it all actually happened and walk the hallowed grounds of history. You will have plenty of time to visit the *Alamo*, have lunch on your own, and souvenir shopping around the *Alamo Plaza* before returning to the hotel.

BANQUET DINNER

Saturday, July 17th (7:00pm at Hotel)

Join all of your friends for your Banquet Dinner at the Hotel. Cocktails will be available from the cash bar at 6:00pm; dinner will be served at 7:00pm.

Mail Corner: Response To Recent Letter Re: Newsletter #23 Article

The recent NFTP (#23) contained a statement (Page 3) concerning Mel Wright to the effect that "he was one of a very few who received a direct promotion to 2nd Lt from Pfc". I received a letter from Doug Laidlaw (Hq3Bn409) which agrees that the promotion from Pfc to 2Lt was indeed rare in that there were only 12* in the entire ETO; however, Mel Wright was not the only one in the 103d to be so recognized. Doug advises that Lloyd "Buck" C. Newsom (Hq3Bn409) received the same promotion as Mel with the recommendation coming direct from MG Anthony McAuliffe, who just happened on the scene shortly after Buck had performed his daring act of assisting in transporting a badly wounded soldier to a safe place while under direct enemy fire on 29 Jan 45. Pfc Newsom, who had recently been appointed the S-2 Section Leader, was leading a recon patrol over the Moder River into Uberach (NE of Pfaffenhoffen), with the objective of capturing an enemy soldier, when they came under heavy small arms fire and had to pull back with one of his men severely wounded. Buck and Pfc L.J. Brown put the wounded man on a bed spring for a stretcher, braved intense small arms fire, and a narrow footbridge to transport the wounded man successfully to an ambulance jeep, with the help of counter-fire by the anti-tank platoon. Pfc (later 2Lt) Newsom was also recommended by Gen McAuliffe for a Silver Star, which apparently got lost in the administrative shuffle of the war ending in Europe. A Bronze Star, however, was awarded through Senator Frank Lautenberg of NJ on 29 Aug 1992. The arrangements were made by 1stSgt William Sillery of HqCo3Bn409 for both the original recommendation of the award, and the one finally obtained by the Senator. It may interest you to know that Buck Newsom was originally assigned to K/409 (that great group that

has conducted separate reunions since 1956, and held together by 1st Sgt. Carl Greene - see page 3); and then recruited by the S-2 (Intelligence Officer) of the Bn, to serve as S-2 staff support in Bn Hq; primarily reconnaissance patrols and keeping the intelligence situation map.

Also of interest was that Doug Laidlaw had been assigned to L/409 at Camp Howze, and was also recruited for the S-2 Section, serving with Buck Newsom. Doug was fortunate to be sent to the 40 day OCS at Fontainebleau, France in mid-March of '45, a shortened version of the state-side 90-day course; but, it got him out of the last 40 days of the shooting war. On the other hand, both he and Buck had to stay in Europe in the Army of Occupation well into 1946, providing very valuable service with Buck guarding German prisoners charged with atrocities and Doug supervising quartermaster truck companies in movement of supplies into Germany.

After thought by Editor - It is great to learn 65 years later, that some of the men assigned to line infantry squad positions, actually were given the opportunity to serve in situations calling for a higher level of intellect, and that this, in turn, offered career advancement opportunities. I wonder where I was when all these goodies were being handed out. It must have been the luck of the Irish to have been so anointed.

**The vast majority of direct promotions were from the rank of sergeant or above to 2Lt.*

Unfortunately, the wounded man, Pvt Leo J. Banach (I/409), died of his wounds the next day, 30 Jan '45. (This information based on research for this article.)

GETS SILVER STAR, ADVANCED ON FIELD

Lieut. Lloyd C. Newsome Writes From German Officer's Former Quarters 4/19/45

Pfc. Lloyd C. Newsome with the 409th Infantry, 7th Army in France, was commissioned a sec-



2nd Lieut. Floyd Newsom

ond lieutenant on the battlefield and awarded the Silver Star, according to a letter, received by his family last week.

Entering service about two years ago, Lieut. Newsom went into the Army Specialized Training Program at Texas A. and M. college at College Station. He has been overseas since October, 1944 and writes occasionally that the grueling job of killing Germans is broken by a bit of luck such as the soft spot which he describes as follows: "I am lying on a feather bed in the quarters formerly occupied by a Kraut lieutenant, who left hurriedly. Lying back on the pillows in unaccustomed luxury, looking at my inspiration, Der Fuhrer, I am listening to the Berlin radio telling how our 7th Army has been smashed to pieces."

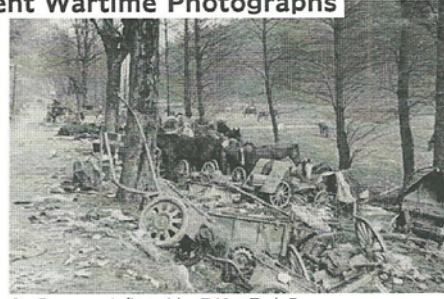
The twenty-one year old infantryman was graduated from Nutley High school and attended Drew university in Madison before he went into service.

Every War Bond You Buy Brings Victory That Much Closer

K Company 409th Infantry Regiment Wartime Photographs



1. Task Force Assembly for Siegfried Attack with 761st Tk Bn - famous all black fighting unit



2. Damage Inflicted by 761st Task Force



3. In Austrian Alps Firing at Germans Across Valley



4. Company K 409th @ Ludwigshoffen, Germany March 30, 1945



5. Two Captured German Generals Being Given VIP Ride in American Jeep to POW Enclosure



6. Red Cross Ladies Hard at Work in Schwaz, Austria "It was really a tough battle - Ma"



7. Company K's Kommando Club in Schwaz, Austria (Served the 3rd Bn)



8. The Daily Routine for mid-May 1945 (They Earned it!)

All Pictures by T/5 George Greger, K Company Clerk

Cactusman Morado Lobbied Congress For WW II Monument In Washington

While it is now 6 years, since the World War II Monument had been dedicated (2004), our 103d Association should recognize the role one of our members played in "lobbing" for this omnipotent memorial of our nation's history and its presence in the nation's capital. Think for a moment, it was not officially programmed for implementation until President Clinton signed the bill authorizing its construction in 1993, 48 years after the end of hostilities, and at a time when the youngest veteran had passed his/her earliest retirement at age 65, and virtually all of our great leaders of that important historical event: Roosevelt, Churchill, Eisenhower, Marshall, etc, had died of natural causes. Furthermore, all those who played significant roles of "upper management" during that great victory, which saved the world from the tyrannical obsessions of three dictators, were not able to witness the great significance of their labors. I think we all are aware that in a

democratic society, the obvious frequently takes longer to implement than lesser important issues. In any case, one of our Cactusmen, Michael Morado (K/410), played a significant role during a few years prior to the enactment of legislation to implement this monument by lobbying the U.S. Congress to move ahead with the project. He did this with the only tools he had: writing a very profound letter to the appropriate congressional responsible person to urge its completion from the position of those credited with winning the war, the Greatest Generation. Former Pfc (He identified himself as first scout of Company K-410 Inf-103d ID) Morado penned a very passionate and compelling letter and its recipient had it printed in the Congressional Record (Nov 9/93 - note below) for all to absorb its importance from one who made it happen. We all knew Bob Dole, a platoon leader in the 10th Mountain Division, headed the committee; however, now GI Joe is on the record!



Pfc Morado (K/410) of Chicago, IL, first in family born in US, assigned to K/410 at Camp Claiborne and served through out to Austria as lead scout for the 3rd platoon. He was not wounded and did not miss a day of combat.

November 9, 1993

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

E 2829

WORLD WAR II VETERANS MEMORIAL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 1993

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD this letter I received regarding legislation I introduced to authorize construction of a World War II Memorial in our Nation's capital.

KANSAS CITY, MO, July 21, 1993.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN KAPTUR: I am a World War II veteran who served as a first scout and Combat Infantryman with the 103rd Infantry division in Europe. Through the grace of God and my mother's prayers, I survived the death and destruction that claimed many American soldiers while in defense of our country.

While our nation may be great, almost fifty years have passed with no meaningful or permanent memorial for our World War II veterans. For this reason, I have also been trying for years to fire up our leaders in America to honor those that deserve honor with a World War II memorial in the Washington D.C. area. I have also suggested issuing US commemorative stamps in honor of the POW-MIA's, the combat soldier, and in

some way, all the members of our military, male and female.

I have written President Bill Clinton, Veterans Affairs Secretary James Brown, Congressman Alan Wheat, my 5th District Representative from Missouri, and others. Congressman Wheat remains supportive and informed me about your efforts as sponsor of legislation that would create a World War II memorial. I have not heard from President Clinton or Secretary Brown. I guess we all have our own priorities.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your untiring efforts. I don't believe World War II veterans want glory or individual recognition, only remembrance. We want to feel needed and appreciated.

I am enclosing correspondence relating to my efforts, including a letter dated July 14, 1993, from the US Postal Services. The example I submitted for a US stamp of the Combat Soldier and his badge of honor could be used for a statue within the World War II memorial. I have other ideas relating to the World War II memorial. I hope members selected for the World War II memorial Advisory Board are knowledgeable and worthy of this honor. Someone like Mr. Roger Durbin.

Please convey the appreciation of this old warrior to all those that supported you in your efforts. There is power in a dedicated few. Our country should consider the fact there will always be trouble spots in the world. We must show appreciation to our old

warriors now, in a meaningful way, to indicate to our young defenders what to expect from a grateful nation when they, too, may become old warriors.

Fine ladies have played a major role in my life. My mother who prayed constantly for me during World War II. My sisters who cared and wrote me regularly while I was in military service. My late wife, Rachel, who guided me and supported me for over forty years. Many ladies I have met in volunteer community and church activities. And now, Congresswoman Kaptur, it is an honor to be writing to you to let you know that, although I have never met you, your efforts on behalf of World War II veterans indicates to me that you possess those fine qualities which seemed to have escaped other legislators for so long. May God continue to bless you in all your efforts to retain a sense of humanness in our society.

I have always felt that tears and fears throughout the years were this old soldier's souvenirs. But after almost fifty years, I am finally feeling a sense of accomplishment and peace. World War II may finally be over. I firmly believe that faith, hope, and sheer determination in all fronts gained us victory in World War II.

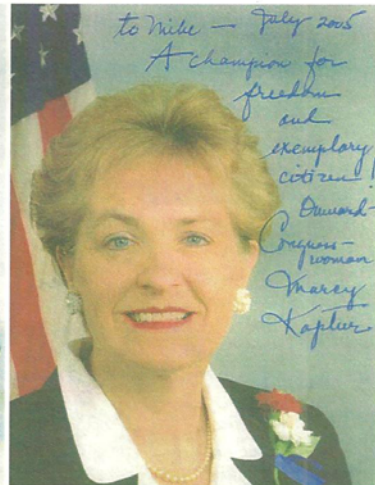
Please keep me informed on the progress of the World War II memorial and let me know if I can be of any help.

God bless you as He has blessed me, A grateful World War II veteran.

MICHAEL MORADO.



Michael Morado. After the war, he had a 40 year career with the US Dept of Agriculture supervising shipment of agricultural products. After retirement, he focused on efforts to recognize the GI for his role in achieving the "Greatest Generation" accolade.



Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur of Ohio, Chairman of House Committee to establish a WW II memorial in Washington, DC. Note her recognition of Mike for his efforts.

IN CASE YOU DON'T REMEMBER THIS EVENT



TAKEN AT MARSEILLE STAGING AREA ON OCTOBER 23, 1944.

**JUST THINK ABOUT IT!
TWO WEEKS IN LOVELY SOUTHERN FRANCE - ON THE WAY TO WAR!**



K Company's (409) Klub Kommando in Schwaz, Austria



This picture epitomizes what every American military unit did in some form when the fighting ended. K/409 has just done the best job of preserving the history of its performance during WW II, and this is what resulted in Schwaz, Austria as soon as the fighting stopped. In fact, they even had the 103d Division Band play at the formal opening of The Kommando Klub. K/409 still maintains to this day, an informal CP with all the maps, documents, copies of morning reports, and even a thousand photographs stored in a separate room at the home of their former first soldier in Houston, Texas. Pictured is Pfc Kafcas, the head bartender of the Kommando Klub, prepared to serve any alcoholic concoction, the most popular in the Battalion (3/409) were his Screaming Memie and The 88.

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