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**Please send
2013 dues - \$25
to secretary**

**2013 REUNION
ANNOUNCEMENT
& NEWS**

103d INF DIV WW II



**WE HAD A VERY SUCCESSFUL KC REUNION AND NOW
WE FINALLY HAVE INDY SORTED OUT FOR
OUR 2013 REUNION - HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US**

WHILE WE HAD a very successful reunion enjoyed by all attendees, the attendance was down to about 2/3 of our attendance at the previous two reunions and all indications are that our membership is declining dramatically by attrition, and we will just have to adjust with it as it is a fact of life: Our age range is suffering a high and steady decline! (Reference the "Honor Roll" page herein) In any event, we will continue our reunions in the current format without further thought of slowing down until we reach two keystone events: 1) Zack Sigler completes the conversion of all morning reports to electronic format! **NOTE: This milestone is complete!** All infantry regiments now completed - this represents about 80% of this great project. He now has the support units to complete, however, while a greater number of units, a far smaller number of personnel and greatly reduced personnel activity from about 50% to 5% of the base. In any case, it looks doable within **one** year, except that his position with his employer has changed his work location to Oklahoma City, and that could reduce his "spare" time to apply to his 103d dedicated service. *AND* - 2) We are able to transfer our archives and artifacts to the proposed museum which the 103d Sustainment Command is in the process of establishing - at present this effort is still embryonic - and without a positive commitment from the active military establishment.

My delay in arranging the reunion in Indianapolis was the result of many interruptions including very high downtown Indy hotel costs; my trips to Europe, Orlando & Branson, MO; and several family hospitalizations. However, we are now back on track and ready to GO! Reference the next page for our 2013 Indianapolis reunion details.

I had two GREAT trips! One to Europe with a group of Collage of the Ozarks students to first hand overview the confinement camps of the Holocaust: Dachau, (Munich) Mauthausen, (Linz) & Auschwitz (Krakow). It was truly a great trip to turn the legacy of the Holocaust and what happened there to a group of the younger generation to memorialize. In addition to the former confinement camps, we also visited Hitler's Eagles Nest - An unbelievable engineering fete of construction of a small hotel on top of an Alps peak accessible only by elevator drilled in the rock; and, I also visited Schindler's factory in Krakow. A memorable trip! (Note: I was transferred along with 71 other NCO's from the 103d ID to the 45th ID in late January '45 to reconstitute 5 entire line companies lost in the German *Nordwind* episode. My assigned squad leaders came from 411/B/E/&I.) The second trip to Branson and Orlando (also 8 days), included planting trees at the Point Lookout Campus of the Collage of the Ozarks to honor the veterans and survivors on the European trip; plus a mini-reunion of my '43 Orlando High School class w/16 former classmates - still hale & hearty!

I AM VERY SADDENED TO REPORT OUR LOSSES - SEE PAGE 4

103d ID ASSOCIATION 2013 REUNION - INDIANAPOLIS, IN

WE FOUND A FANTASTIC LOCATION IN THE HEART OF INDY!

THE COLUMBIA CLUB - JULY 31 THRU AUG 4 - 2013

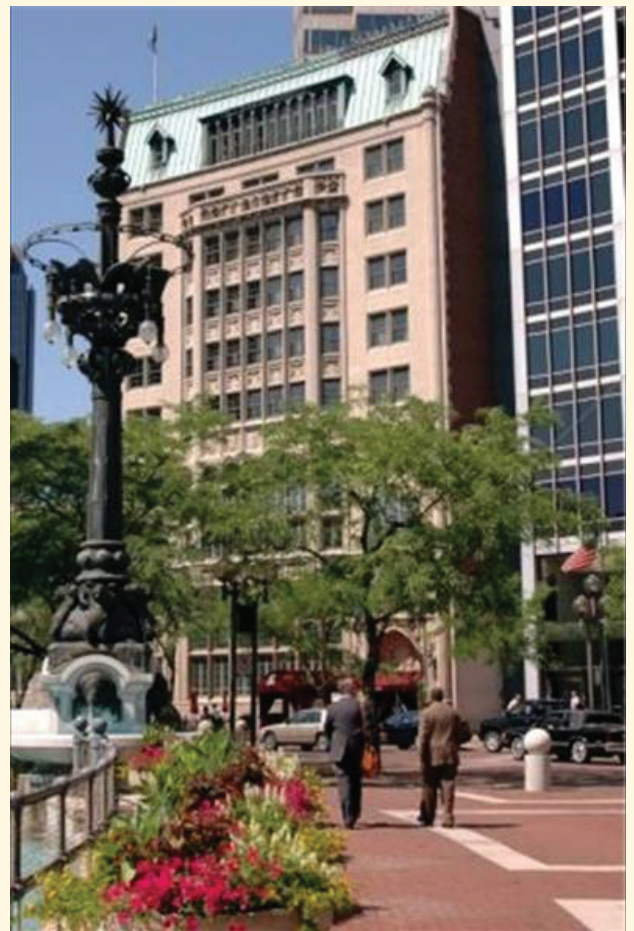
After much concern for the best 2013 location, we found the ideal accommodations in a great city for a WW II unit reunion right in middle of downtown - close to everything you might want to do - at a lower rate than we were hoping for! The one downside is for those with an auto to babysit! Believe it or not - our hotel is actually a high-end private club at an "off-season" price range. Thank our fellow 103d veteran, Jim Enzor, for this opportunity to fulfill his Indianapolis invitation - it really is a great place, and I am sure you are in for a great time! However, due to my "late" start and all the personal interruptions, we do not have the schedule fleshed out. It will follow the same pattern as all recent reunions, with a Wednesday night welcome dinner, Zack Sigler's library of 103rd legacy and history material, 2 or 3 day trips to interesting locations, ending with a dinner in the hotel Saturday night. The next issue of NFTCP #33 will be out in May with all

details and a registration mail-back form to sign-up. The only thing you have to do now, for those planning to attend, is to call the Columbia Club and make your hotel reservations: 800-635-1361 or 317-767-1361 \$89/night/for room at no added cost for all guests using beds provided. Buffet breakfast available, as well as room service, and in-house restaurant and bar services available during normal service hours.

The Columbia Club is located close to many downtown places of interest walking or short cab ride to major stores and many other features. Suggestions will be identified by literature available in the hospitality room for your consideration. Scheduled events for your participation will be announced in our next NFTCP#33 for your choice and registration; that issue is scheduled to be mailed May first ('13) with a return registration deadline of late June. If you have questions you may telephone. I believe this reunion will be very



COLUMBIA CLUB. *The Columbia Club was built in 1924 and sits on Monument Circle. The private club was later added to the National Register of Historic Places.*



THE COLUMBIA CLUB NOW

interesting to those of us fortunate enough to be around. I continue to learn something I did not know about our service and it is surprising to uncover such details. Of course, it all goes back to Zack Sigler and his wonderful dedicated service to replicate all the Morning Reports in electronic format, not just for us - the immediate beneficiaries; but for future historians and the WW II buffs and others interested in how the World was saved in the 20th century from Hitler's mad criminal minded thugs! It is obvious our ranks are thinning, almost at an accelerated rate, and we may not have more than 60 at INDY! *Bye The Way: Please Refer to Zack Sigler's "Lost History"!* (Page 11)

103d Sustainment Command Sponsored Museum for the 103d ID WWII artifacts is winding its way through the process to establish our museum at the Des Moines US Army Headquarters Installation; at this point, we have had no word of any progress. However,

this "No News" is routine for situations of this type and the word is that the Sustainment Command continues to be anxious to "get" this action approved. It is the kind-of-action that has to go all the way to the "Pentagon" for resolution. I predict that it will ultimately "be approved" but will simply take time to rattle all the cages that have to ratify the process. The 103d Sustainment Command staff personnel continue to give us their encouragement to have this action established and continue to inquire as to what we may have heard.

NOTE! - Memorial Day Services at the "Gainesville" 103d Monument will be held at a time to be announced, most likely on May 27, 2013. The time/date and details will be announced in the next NFTCP (#33) for the attention of those planning to support this important function of our Association!



MONUMENT CIRCLE. THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT
It houses the Colonel Eli Lilly Civil War Museum, which is open Friday-Sunday from 10:30 AM to 5:30 PM. Admission is free.



Views from inside and outside the club

HONOR ROLL



103d INF DIV ASSN of WW II
(Deceased reported after NFTCP issue No 29)

Last Name	First Name	Unit
Ahti	Laurie E.	410 Co E
Bailey, Jr.	Joseph C.	409 Hq Co 3rd Bn
Ball	Richard T.	382 FA Bty B
Branton	Harold M.	409 Co G
Bucek	Roy	410 Co B
Clark	Avery J.	410 AT Co
Crabtree	Raymond D.	409 Co B
Cross	Richard R.	382 FA Svc Bty
Cuttitta, Sr.	Victor F.	409 Co D
Danel, Jr.	Stephen C.	410 Co I
Diana	Leonard M.	410 Co A
Erie	Richard E.	410 Co F
Erikson	Jay A.	409 Can Co
Eucare	Alexander J.	409 Co K
Fulton	Charles L.	411 Co K
Fussell	Paul	410 Co F
Gintowt	Charles C.	409 Hq Co
Goldstein	Albert H.	411 Co K
Hall	Donivan A.	410 Co I
Hanley	Willard B.	410 Co I
Kopveiler	Melvin	328 Med Co A
Laidlaw	Douglas M.	409 Hq Co 3d Bn
Lenerz	Delwin H.	411 Co L
Marshall	Charles Ray	384 FA Hq Bty
McBee	Marshall G.	409 Co H
Miller	Gallant C.	328 Med Co D
Miller	Vernon L.	411 Co L
Morgan	Marion B.	409 Co B
Morford	Harry	103 Sig Co
Passmore	Jerry O.	411 Co I
Poole	John T.	409 Co C
Pugliese	Anthony L.	409 Co C
Purcell, Jr.	William P.	410 Co D

(Continued)

Rauseo	John V.	411 Co F
Rickert	John H.	409 Hq Co 3d Bn
Righter	Walter C.	928 FA Hq Btry
Rushing	Joseph C.	409 Co K
Scheffler	Ivan Robert	409 Med Det
Schneller	John W.	409 Hq Co 3 Bn
Schwartz	David N.	409 Co A
Scott	George R.	409 Co C
Scruggs, Jr.	Dennis C.	411 Sv Co
Sebring	Wayne R.	409 Hq Co 1 Bn
Seng	Hubert L.	409 Co H
Silber	Howard S.	411 Co A
Siglin	Leo D.	411 Co A
Sluder, Jr.	LeRoy	411 Co G
Smith	Gordon E.	411 Co A
Sponsler	George M.	410 Co A
Sprouse	Norman H.	410 Co C
Stacey	Emmett O.	410 Co M
Storer	George H.	409 Co D
Tyler	Raymond H.	410 Co A
Watson	Orville	383 FA Hq Bty
Wendell	Carlton J.	103 Sig Co



OUR FLAG IS AT HALF STAFF IN THEIR HONOR

(Flag photo courtesy of our deceased comrade Pierce Evans)
His website PAPAS WEB remains as a legacy

Report known deaths to your Secretary Treasurer
Gloria McLeod
7618 Twin Hills Dr
Houston, TX 77071
gmacl@swbell.net
for recording into our Historical Records

IN MEMORY OF DEPARTED 103D WWII ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

WE HEREBY MEMORIALIZE OUR ASSOCIATION PAST OFFICERS FOR THEIR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS

HAROLD MATHEW BRANTON - PAST PRESIDENT (2006) & MEMBER OF B/D

While Harold M. Branton made significant contributions to this Association while serving as president and member of the Board of Direction, his greatest and truly outstanding contribution was his role as managing editor of the 103d's World War Two historical accomplishments, including the myriad of individual stories and details included therein. The *Trail of the Cactus* is truly an outstanding documentation of the experiences of individual soldiers as well as a detailed history of the entire division and all of its component units. Also included are a significant sampling of biographical sketches of individual veterans and their post-war activities. A great document for veterans to cherish for their families to best understand their individual experiences and the significant contribution the 103d made as a citizen-soldier combat unit to the Allied effort in the defeat of the professional armies of the tyrannical regimes of Germany and Japan.

Harold Mathew Branton was born June 13, 1921 in Shongaloo, LA to Marion & Addie Mae Branton, graduated from Shongaloo High School in 1940 and Louisiana State University in 1943, where he received an ROTC commission as 2nd Lieutenant of Infantry. He was assigned as executive officer of G/409th Inf of 103d ID in Dec of 1944 as a first Lt and served in that capacity for the duration. He served his country for 26 years as an infantry officer through the Korean and Vietnam Wars. While he served in a number of key and interesting assignments, the most interesting was as Ass't G-1 - Berlin Command during the erection of the Berlin Wall. He received commendations from several of his commanders, including Gen Creighton Abrams and MG Christian Clarke, and numerous additional decorations in recognition of his service. After retiring as a Lt Col in 1969, he took graduate courses in history at the U of Kansas and other professional courses to serve as a professional in both real estate and insurance with a side-bar interest as historian for the 103d WW II Association and as the American Legion National Historian. Harold is survived by wife of 69 years, Elsie Bennett and four daughters: Ann Branton, Gail Holder (Charles), Bobby Murray (Blair), and Kay Freeman (Steve), with eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren and a number of extended family members.

JOHN T. POOLE VICE PRESIDENT & MEMBER OF B/D

John T. Poole was born June 12, 1923 in Port Arthur, TX and after entering the Army in Jan '43, assigned to Texas A & M (which he had attended), and thence to the 103d ID at Camp

Howze in Mar '44. assigned to C/409th Inf Regt where he served throughout the combat phase with S/Sgt rank by VE Day. He returned to Texas A&M where he graduated in '48 2nd Lt USAR with Industrial Engineering degree. He married Leah Watson in 1951 & they had 3 children, 7 grandchildren, & now 7 great-grandchildren. John retired from Westinghouse as a district sales manager in the '80's and had served on the 103d WWII Association B/D 10+ years.

ALEXANDER J. EUCARE - PAST SECRETARY & TREASURER OF 103D WWII ASSOCIATION

Alexander J. Eucare was born Aug 31, 1926 in Annapolis, MD, volunteered for service in the Army Sept '44 and after basic training sent to Europe as replacement in K/409th Inf Regt & first combat 21 Mar '45; served Army of Occupation after re-enlistment thru July '47 returned US. Subsequently, Al had very unique experience of serving in all 3 US military branches, obtaining a BA degree from Hobart College '57 and an MBA from Cornell in '59, thence commissioned US Navy Reserve, retiring as Commander-Naval Intelligence '86. Al married twice, had a blended family of 7, with 3 children by 2nd wife, Donna. He was Secretary/Treasurer thru '08.

JOHN V. RAUSEO MEMBER B/D REPRESENTING 411TH REGT

John V. Rauseo was born May 15, 1925 in Malden, MA and entered the Army with infantry basic and ASTP at Texas A&M and assigned to the 103d at Camp Howze in Mar '44 to F/411 Inf Regt and served thru an intense combat phase in a line platoon without being wounded. After combat, he attended Weinstephen College and returned US in mid '46; when he entered and received his degree at Harvard in 1949, founded an engineering firm, and later became the Executive Director of an Association of Executive Directors. After first wife passed away, they had one son, who currently teaches literature in Belgium & lives in Berlin, he married Josephine Inferrara in 1973. They attended many reunions thru 2002. However, subsequently severe Alzheimers confined him to a nursing facility, where he remained, passing away Jan 13, 2013.

JERRY O. PASSMORE 103D ID ASSOCIATION - PHOTOGRAPHER

Jerry attended our 2012 KC reunion and took the pictures in this issue, however, he became ill & hospitalized Dec 24, & passed away Dec 30. Please reference NFTCP #29 -Nov '11 for Jerry's service as General Haffner's photographer during WWII.

Kansas City Reunion. August 1-4, 2012

All pictures: left/right from left foreground



Bev Wington, Louise Pick, Alice Jacobs, Harry Jacobs, Mart & Debra Alexander



At Commemorative Air force Hanger: Carolyn Herman & Louis Lipoglav in ctr - Diane & Jerry Helland - right front



Luke Martin family: Gary, Luke, Cody, Liz, Lavonne, Carole & Larry



Bob French, Francine Vailloux, Matt Thompson, Ammie Rogers, Chan Rogers, Noreen Sigler, & Bea Passmore



Diane & Jerry Helland, Pat Lofthouse, Bob Rathgeber, Torrance Riggs, Carol Riggs, Lillie & Glenn Crain



Robert Hahn, Don Bergman, David Hall, Jane Hall, Laurel O'Hare, Mary Lou Maritt, Virginia & James Maritt

Kansas City Reunion. August 1-4, 2012 (Continued)



Jennie & Stratlon Sigler w/Samantha, and Noreen & Zack Sigler



Bob Leslie, Noreen & Tom Swope, Louis Lipoglav, Carolyn Herman, Gloria McLeod, Jim White & Betty Leslie



Terri & Aaron Hendricks (grandson), Norma Gallatin (daughter), Charles N. Fitzpatrick (H/410), Debra (friend) & Dirk Fitzpatrick, (son)



John A. Anania, John J. Anania, & Roman Dudek



Ammie Rogers, Frank Waldeck, daughter Mary Mahon & Joe Mahon



103d ID Association 2012 Reunion Attendees (59 of 70)

RETURN TO TAINTRUX

Francine Veilleux

Within days of returning home from the Kansas City reunion, Bob and I left for Taintrux, France. As with the reunion, we went loaded down with copies of Bob's book (and little else) to give to those who had generously helped us in our search. This was our way to extend thanks to the people who recounted to us their heart-rending, often haunting memories of WWII.

Flying into Amsterdam, we immersed ourselves in the city's rich history—from the Anne Frank House, the hiding place where Anne Frank wrote her famous diary during WWII, to the Dutch Resistance Museum, which tells the story of the Dutch people under Nazi occupation. Especially poignant was the image of Jewish children trailing toys as they walked to the former municipal theater that the Nazis turned into an assembly point to deport Dutch Jews from the Netherlands to concentration and extermination camps. These museums augmented our understanding of the Nazi tyranny from which you helped

free Europe.

We next visited the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial to honor Bob's father's cousin Gregory Stark (Co L, 328th Infantry, 26th Infantry Division), who was killed in action in northwestern Luxembourg in January 1945. After locating Gregory's cross, Bob and I wandered through the rows and rows of headstones, reading some of the names of the over 5,000 American military dead buried there. When I entered the visitor building, a staff member was consoling an older woman, who was sobbing uncontrollably after viewing the cemetery. Though WWII ended over 60 years ago, many still deeply mourn fathers, husbands, and brothers who did not come home from Europe and the Pacific.

Finally, and with great anticipation, we were back in our small rental car on route to Taintrux, our main objective (looks like after 6 years of attending 103d Division reunions, I am beginning to use military jargon). Imagine how delighted

(Continued next page)

From a newspaper article by Fabienne Loubette in *Vosges Matin*, August 19, 2012

Memory

"Following my father's footsteps"

At Taintrux's reception hall was written a moving page in the history of the village—as Robert French, son of one of the American soldiers who liberated the town in 1944, came to present his book.

Little by little, Robert learned of the horrors of combat through the poignant testimonies of local people old enough to remember, but also the gratitude they all felt toward these soldiers who brought them hope and life. From these indispensable stories that make history, Robert decided to write a book, *Remembering Rougiville*. It is a long human chain of events that gave rise to these moving and disturbing pages.

"A book written as much from the heart as from research," noted Jean-Claude Fombaron, president of the Vosgian Historical Society, who spoke yesterday. Saturday all the links of the chain were reconnected in Taintrux to welcome again Robert and Francine, who came to present and to offer this book, which without doubt, will remain as an indelible imprint of the history of man.



Rougiville, August 2012

(Continued from previous page)



At the mayor's reception, Raymonde Colin and Maurice Lipka, longtime friend and supporter of the 103d Infantry Division Association

we were to see a cactus patch sign displayed with the title of Bob's book, *Remembering Rougiville* along with the American flag, as we turned the corner to André and Claude Grandjean's house. These welcome signs were created by André, our

families to spend time with us. On Saturday August 18th, André and the mayor of Taintrux, Bernard Saint Dizier, held a reception that they had planned for months for us to distribute the book. This was

amazing friend who was so helpful to Bob and me during our research and who continues to support our work in many ways.

We spent nine days among our dear French friends who invited us to their homes for meals, often including their entire

our way of extending thanks to the people who entrusted their very emotional stories of WWII to us. The event was well attended and considered a huge success. We presented Raymonde Colin with a letter from Raymond Bean (Co K/409), who remembered holding her as a four-year-old when he had found shelter with Raymonde's family in Taintrux. We also gave her a cactus shoulder insignia and a copy of Bob's book. She was deeply touched to be remembered in this manner. The president of the area Franco-American Association was among the some 50 people in attendance.

On behalf of the people of Taintrux, Bob and I would like to thank you for your service and sacrifice to our country.

A young Frenchman's remembrance of the 103d Infantry Division

My name is Bertrand Loubette. I am 36 years old and serve in the "gendarmerie," the French military police. Put shortly, I am a professional serviceman. Currently, I am the chief of my unit, the gendarmerie squad of Saint-Dié des Vosges. This town, located in the Vosges Mountains and district capital, was burned in November 1944 by German soldiers shortly before the 103d Infantry Division liberated it from Nazi occupation. That's why I took part on November 25, 2012 in the ceremony at the 103d Infantry Division memorial in Saint-Dié des Vosges. I had already participated, as an official authority representing the gendarmerie, in other commemorations. But this one was for me very distinctive. Indeed, it was the first time I celebrated a foreign national hymn, and it was the Star-Spangled Banner!

Really, many thoughts crowd my mind. I thought about Francine Veilleux and Robert French who I have met in France when they were following a veteran's steps, his father, Staff Sergeant Edward L. French, who fought with the 103d. I thought about U.S. soldiers killed, wounded or traumatized to save freedom. I thought about the National WWII Memorial that I visited 3 years ago in Washington, DC. I thought about all those American soldiers who currently fight to keep the world free. I thought I was so lucky to be here, to participate in this ceremony. To be free. By printing this article, you permit me to display my deepest gratitude.



103d Infantry Division memorial, Saint-Dié-des-Vosges

I know that my English is not clear enough to perfectly express these feelings. There was one way I could convey my full gratitude: During this ceremony, saluting the American flag as your national anthem was being played, I, a young Frenchman, was very, very proud and touched!

MIKE TOOHING'S EXCITING TRIP TO IRELAND AFTER MISSION TO BRENNER PASS

Mike Toohig had previously been awarded a furlough to London in April which was cancelled by his Co Cmdr due to the tactical situation at that time. However, as soon as hostilities ended he was notified that the furlough was reinstated. He then got word that he could visit his grandparents in Ireland with special permission from his Co Cmdr, since Ireland was neutral, you could desert, and escape possible combat duty in the Pacific. He easily received the permission required and was on his way to London with an Irish friend from Delta Company, who was visiting his parents in Ireland. The rest is Mike's story with some omissions for sake of brevity.

We arrived at the "Moyston Club" near Oxford Circle in London. We had to arrange for passports, get exit papers, get a leave extension, and travel documents and tickets from the US Military and it was Friday and everything was closed on Saturday. First were photos, then to the US Embassy to apply for passports which they would give us later in the day, then to the US Military for leave extensions and travel documents, then to the Red Cross (British) to get civilian clothes (as Ireland was neutral), we took the train to Hollyhead in Wales and took the mail packet to Dun Laoghaire - the port for Dublin. We took a train to Dublin and with detailed instructions we separated. I only knew that my Dad's family were in Cork - I thought that Millstreet was a street in Cork City - my mother's family was actually in Skibreen in County Cork. This was all from listening to visiting relatives while I was growing up. My rail tickets took me via Limerick Junction to Cork City. I figured I'd give it a try!

At Cork City, I couldn't find a Millstreet and found out there was a Toohig, a baker. I finally found a bus and found him and learned there were some Toohig's in Macroom - near Kerry. I then switched to try Skibreen and the Walshes. I remember that my grandfather was John Walsh, a harness maker on High Street in Skibreen. I took a bus! My only American ID was a US Army ammo bag that I used for toilet articles. People would come up to me - knowing that the US had just opened up visits by relatives and they all wanted to know if I knew Pat Murphy with George Patton or Mike Conner with Eisenhower. It was a 25 mile bus ride and one man on the bus knew John Walsh. When we got to the center of Skibreen, he pointed out my grandfather's home. I walked up to an open half door and an old man sat inside by the fireplace. He looked at me and said "Michael, I've been expecting you!" He'd read about Ireland opening up and knew I'd come. Astounding!!

My grandfather called my godmother - May

Keating - who had been mother's best friend. She came and got my cousin Bill Walsh of Carrick Fodder - the farm on the edge of town. Betty and Ted Toohig, in later years, became good friends of Bill's daughter - Terry Culbert, who still lives there on holidays. They took care of me - I slept with Bill on a straw mattress. I was still infected with scabies and lice - from living in German positions during the fighting. (We'd sit around scratching.) Poor Bill had to burn the mattress after I left. My mother and father heard about it during their 1950 visit for their 25th wedding anniversary.

My grandfather knew the Twohigs and gave me directions. I don't remember too many details of the Skibreen visit, except I was one of the first Yanks to return and my visit made the paper - there is still a copy about.

I took the bus back to Cork City and then a bus to Millstreet. I was in civilian clothes from the London Red Cross but had an army ammo bag. People would recognize this and I was frequently asked if I was a Yank and everyone had brothers or cousins in the war. One man knew the Twohigs and told me to stay on the bus at Millstreet and get off out of town at Barry Daley Chapel. I was told that the Twohig farm was the third one on the road to the mountains and the sun was going down. At the first house I knocked - and then banged - finally someone behind the door asked who I was and what I wanted. They said the Twohig farm was the second - but wouldn't open the door. They later gave my parents a vivid description of banging on the door and a strange voice as darkness came. I finally came to the Twohig's thatched roof farm house. I knew that my uncle Ned lived with Grandma - he had been with us in the States when I was a boy. The half door was open and I recognized my grandmother from photos. She was hard of hearing and thought I was a salesman friend of Ned's and kept shooing me away as I was telling her I was Tim's boy Michael. Finally, Uncle Ned hurried up - someone along the road told him of his relative heading toward the house. He knew me immediately and I settled in.

The next day was Sunday and grandma put me in her jaunting cart behind the horse and off we went to Barry Daley Chapel. She sat on the left side with the women, and I sat on the right side with the men as was the common practice in Ireland.

I had many aunts, uncles, and cousins whom I visited or they came to grandma's house. I visited my Aunt Mary Sullivan - where I spent time with my cousin my age, Morris Sullivan. He died of pneumonia after I left.

I visited Aunt Bridgit (Horgan) - Dan Joe was a

boy then and is now in New York. I visited Uncle Joe Twohig on his farm. He had a son Michael who later had a large family and was recently in New York. Kerry Twohig was a son and I talked to him a couple of years ago when he was in Westminster, MD on a computer contract. In 2010, my Terry and grandson Tommy visited Millstreet and went to Mass at Barry Daley Chapel. The big event was Uncle Ned hired a car - gas was very expensive at that time and he took me around the Ring of Kerry and Lakes of Kilarney. Very interesting, and while I did not know at the time, a very expensive and fine gift. After a few days, I returned to Cork City by bus and then train to Limerick Junction and Dublin. We saw Blarney Castle leaving Cork City. Life in Ireland, as a neutral country, was much simpler than England since the economy was tight and few luxury goods were available.

I returned to London and the Moyston Club in my 1930's English clothes and as I walked in I met a crew from Co B that left Austria well after I had - my appearance made quite a conversation impression. I was now traveling on individual orders and not with a group. I may have taken advantage of it. I had checked out London's Hyde Park Corner - full of debates by Labor to remove Churchill! Went back across the Channel to LeHarve and Paris and checked into a leave hotel. While there, I saw the sights - selling PX rations to keep in cash, and after several days, arranged travel back to Innsbruck, and up the Inn Valley to Schonweiss and Co B. In the meantime, the Co B men I had met leaving London had returned well ahead and reported my civilian clothes status. When I reported to the First Sergeant, he went ballistic. I had departed in May and now returned almost a month later in June. I was "lectured" and assigned to outpost duty in the Alps where they had been having problems with Werewolf attacks. I had one night-time encounter with a band and, later, a second at Ingolstadt. The Werewolves were die-hard ex-Hitler Youths.

The US Army point system was based on length of service and combat time to determine separation or transfer to occupation duty. High-pointers were sent home for discharge, I had enough to stay in occupation duty, and not have to go to the Pacific. If I had reported my flesh wound in December for a Purple Heart, the five points would have been a big help.

I was transferred in July to the 9th Inf Div (Germany-Occupation Duty) in Ingolstat and after routine occupation duties was transferred in November to a Graves Registration unit in Holland. In February 1946, I returned to the USA for discharge in March 1946.

LOST HISTORY

Dear Cactusmen & Families,

As Archivist and researcher of the 103d ID, I feel a need to notify you of some instances where Cactusmen's personal memorabilia, archives, uniforms, souvenirs, etc, brought back from the War are being lost to the 103d Family. Such items are being offered up to the highest bidder via Estate Sales, on-line auctions and even garage sales.

Since my participation in the 103d ID Association of WWII, I've been contacted on numerous occasions to identify certain Cactusmen's names and determine in what unit(s) they served. I love helping Cactus families so I, of course, have complied with these requests and help whenever I can. It pains me to discover at the end of some e-mail communications, to find out that the individual asking the questions came into possession of Cactus items by way of being the highest bidder at an Estate Sale or auction. It saddens me to think that these items may never again be viewed by Cactus Families and cannot be part of preserving the legacy of the 103d Infantry Division of WWII.



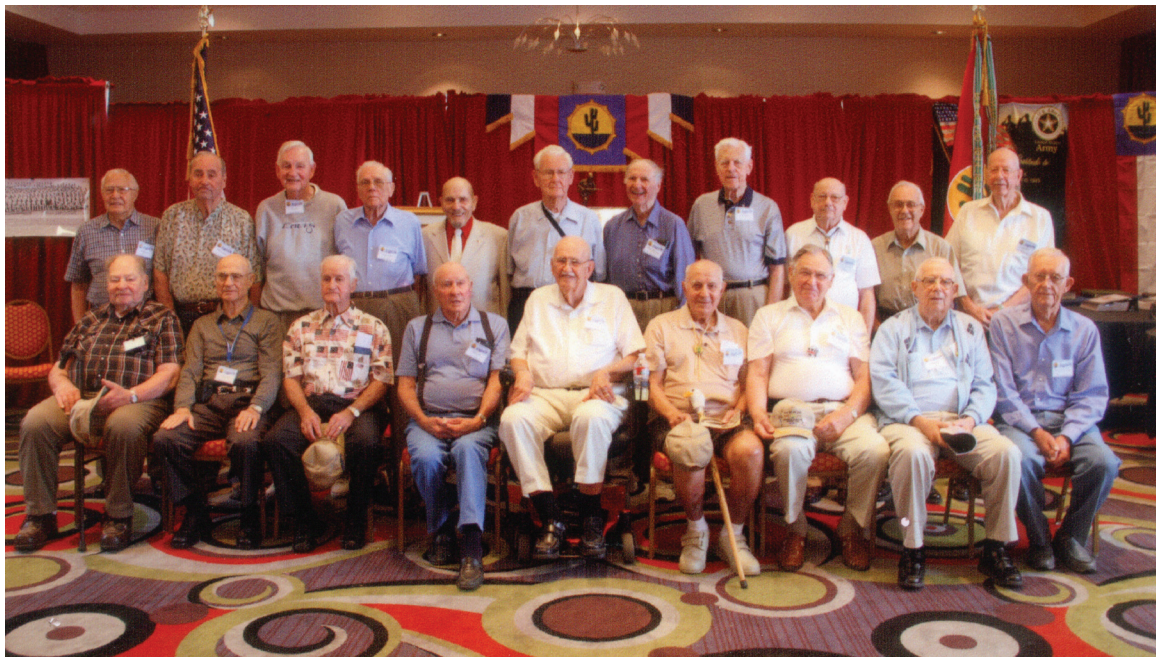
Recently I was contacted by an individual with a question concerning the unit of Cactusman Harold J. Hall. This individual stated that he had his uniform, duffle-bag and canteen. He also had a German helmet, bayonet, mess kit, arm bands, belt buckles, pins, and a canteen. He went on to say that these items were found in a foot locker in the attic after Mr. Hall passed away. When I find these instances, I always ask for a photograph of the items. This individual kindly provided one and is displaying the above items in his personal collection. You can't blame him for obtaining the items, but in my opinion, they're not where they should rightfully be.

It is important to the preservation of history of the accomplishments of the 103d Infantry Division for the Association to acquire artifacts. Thus, prior to placing items up for auction, or in an estate sale, it is important to give consideration to donating them to the Association. If donation is not an option, then at least offer them for sale to the Association prior to putting them into the hands of disinterested collectors and strangers.

In many cases, the items are passed to the children and grandchildren, which is certainly part of the 103d Family. I'm not suggesting otherwise. However, sometimes they cherish the items and sometimes they do not. I might suggest that Cactus Veterans request that descendants consider donating, or even selling, artifacts and memorabilia from WWII to the 103d Association in the event they decide not to keep them or to part with them at a later date. The Association's vision is to one day have items such as these on display at a 103d Museum for all to see. Thank you in advance for this consideration!

Jack Sigler - 103d ID Archivist

103d ID WW II Veterans - Hospitality Room - Aladdin Hotel Kansas City, MO - 2012 Reunion



(l/r rear) Harry Jacobs (L/410), Louis A. Lipoglav (H/411), James A. Enzor (B/409), James E. White (B/409), Cranston R (Chan) Rogers (G/409), Robert A. Rathgeber (G/411), Robert F. Hahn (C/384F), Frank J. Waldeck (C/411), Robert L. Leslie (G/409), James Maritt (B/328M), Lucas (Luke) C. Martin (Hq/3Bn/409); (l/r seated) Jerry O. Passmore, Sr (I/411), Glenn E. Crain (C/411), Charles N. Fitzpatrick (H/410), Jessie V. Cox (I/410), Audrey R. (Bear) Walters, (I/410), John J. Anania (103d SigCo), James J. Mulligan (L/410), Robert Briggs (L/410), Edward V. Paige (L/410).

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