

News From The Cactus Patch

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103d INF DIV WW II



QUARTERLY

JUNE 2003

ISSUE NO 5

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Earl H. Clemmons

The tenure of our offices run from 1 January to 31 December. Now it is hard for me to realize that my term is nearly half over...just as I am beginning to enjoy the work.

Well enough, but the work is not half over. The amount of effort involved in putting on a Reunion, I have learned, is not an easy a thing as most of us have thought in the past: Hotel selection; banquet and menu, negotiating prices, selecting a good Tour offer from many; letters letters and a cash bar; arrange a good clean show; choose a combo; registration arrangements, on and on. Yet a lot of nice people help along.

Our accomplishments thus far have been very fulfilling. You furnished me a good staff, and they have studied, planned and published and we have a good program underway. The hotel we have chosen in Las Vegas, the NEW YORK-NEW YORK HOTEL and Casino, has everything we could possibly need, and a lot more. You are going to be as excited with that place as Doug Stellner and I were.

Our draft Constitution and By-Laws, drawn by our appointed committee, headed by John Rauseo, one of our board members, is currently being staffed. It will be ready at convention time. Following approval of this document, we will be able to use it, along with other documentary, to justify tax exempt status as a Non-Profit organization.

Finally, we have learned that the Morton Museum of Cooke County, located in Gainesville, Texas, is favorable to the prospects of housing 103d Infantry Division memorabilia, histories, and artifacts. Lacking is a brief agreement document in which objectives and conditions are established

Association Officers



OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION: LtO'r, Baxter FITE III, Board Mbr; Dick BALL, Asst Sec Treasurer; Ray SALO, Asst V. Pres; Earl-CLEMMONS, President; Mel WRIGHT, Past Pres & Consultant; James WHITE, Board Mbr; Dick PEARSON, Board Mbr; Harold BRANTON, Editor, WFTCP; and John RAUSEO, Board Mbr. Insert: Doug Stellner, Vice Pres, left, and J. D. SHUTTLEWORTH, Board Mbr.

Y-2003 VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Doug Stellner

As the year 2003 progresses, I continue to be excited about this Association. There's a new life, and still great experiences for us to enjoy, even as we advance in time.

During this year, we have undoubtedly witnessed the most advanced war making equipment, war machine, of all ages. And somehow, I feel a sort of personal extension of the troop participation in the Iraqi war and that marvelous hi-tech materiel. After all, we were "there" once upon a time.

Well, after these observations, let's move on to what we are about today. For now, I do believe that we are headed for one of the most exciting Reunions ever. It fell my duty this year to rather overview the planning. First, Margaret and I just went out to Vegas and visited around. We saw quite a number of fine hotels. The NEW-YORK-NEW-YORK HOTEL and Casino just stood out compared to others. It exceeded our hopes and needs. Our report to the Executive Committee earned a thumbs up, so there is where we shall go. And to our amazement such "lodgings" turned out to be very reasonable.

Arrangements for our Reunion REGISTRATION, PROGRAM, and GERNRAL ACTIVITIES were all coordinated by our able Editor, Harold "Buck" BRANTON. We all owe him special thanks for his extended efforts in harmoniously negotiating the many arrangements and conveniences that our group shall enjoy.

Finally, let me emphatically declare this: DO NOT MISS this potentially superb get-together. You will find that Las Vegas is indeed an exciting and beautiful city.

Las Vegas

HONOR ROLL



103d INF DIV ASSN of WW II
(Deceased reported after NFTCP issue No 4)

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Harrison, George H. | 409 Co D |
| Busing, Harold J. | Unknown |
| Klie, Leslie B. | 409 Co D |
| Shipley, Robert M. | 383 FA Hq Bty |
| Braswell, Hoyt V. | 409 Co A |
| Nolting, Orville | 410 Co M |
| Collins, Rudolph | 410 Co M |
| Gripenstroh, Irvin F. | 410 Hq 2nd Bn |
| Schliepp, Karl M. | 410 Co C |
| Gibbs, Spilman B. | 410 Co F |
| McDouglall, Merton | 383 FA Bty A |
| VanDuine, Clinton J. | 411 Co A |
| Mahony, William J. | 410 Co F |
| Sablar, Michael, | 928 FA Bty A |
| Yager, Robert C. | 410 Co C |
| Tallant, Duane | 410 Co CSkoff, |
| Skoff, John J. | 383 FA Bty B |



MY OBITUARY

It is recommended that contributions be made to our 103d Infantry Monument Fund as follows:

TEXAS WW II HISTORICAL MONUMENT FUND
9737 Warwana Rd.
Houston, TX 77080

HOLOCAUST

He walked among them,
tortured and frail;
The fate of the living skeletons,
only time would tell.

The tangled bodies of the dead
lay beneath him in sadness.
Looking at the sad figures
only led to his madness.

The sight of the ashes,
the smell of the dying;
To all who lived it,
it became petrifying.

One minute you're here,
another you're gone;
They fought so hard,
and wanted to belong.

His body slowly dying,
his spirit fading away;
The Nazis had chosen him,
this was his day.

He was beaten with a stick,
his body badly torn;
His body would soon die,
but his spirit in heaven would be re-born.

He was lined up with the others,
for all to see;
His time was now,
he would soon be free.

The shots rang out,
their echoes lasting on;
The voices of the men,
are now forever gone.

They fell to the ground,
to be burned with the rest;
And for those who stood watching,
it seemed harder to pass their test.

As I stood there watching,
my heart skipped a beat;
And my body got numb,
as I fell to my feet.

My life is forever changed,
but my spirit is not lost;
I have passed the ultimate test,
I've survived the "Holocaust."

By: Kim Leisure (Age 17)
Highland High School
Anderson, IN

POW REPORT

Thanks to your efforts our research now lists the names and units of a total of 248 POW'S and we need the casualty reports of the 410 and 411 to complete this study. Anyone that has these reports or access to them please contact Mel Wright. Some history and web sites show that we had only 27 and we desire to set the records straight for our historical purposes.

NFTCP V 05 27 03

103RD INFANTRY DIVISION WAR DEAD AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS CEMETERIES

Our Military Cemeteries

The American Battle Monument Commission, established in 1923, is an independent agency of the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government. The

Commission is responsible for commemorating the services and achievement of United States Forces where they have served since 6 April 1917 (the date of U.S. entry into World War I) through the erection of suitable memorial shrines. It is also responsible for designing, constructing, operating and maintaining permanent U.S. military cemeteries and memorials in foreign countries.

World War II Memorial Shrines are located at sites of World War II military action which correspond closely to the course of major U.S.

military operations around the world. Each cemetery memorial is individually designed and contains an immaculate landscaped graves area with fine lawns, flowering plantings and shrubs. A non-sectarian chapel is present at each site where visitors may pause for quiet reflection. Each cemetery is truly an institution of quiet beauty and military decor.

Cemeteries in which a number of members of the 103rd Inf. Div. now lie are listed below. The names of the Cactus War Dead are here honored.

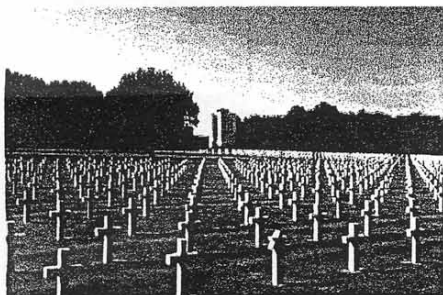
U.S. military cemeteries identified below:

Ardennes American Cemetery
Neupre (Neuville-en-Condroz,
vicinity Liege, Belgium)
Cambridge American Cemetery
Cambridge, England
Epinal American Cemetery

Epinal (Vosges), France
Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery
Henri-Chapelle, Belgium
Lorraine American Cemetery
St. Avold (Moselle), France
Luxembourg American Cemetery

Luxembourg City, Luxembourg
Netherland American Cemetery
Margraten, Netherlands
Rhone American Cemetery
Draguignan (W. of Cannes), France

Ardennes American Cemetery



Graves Area

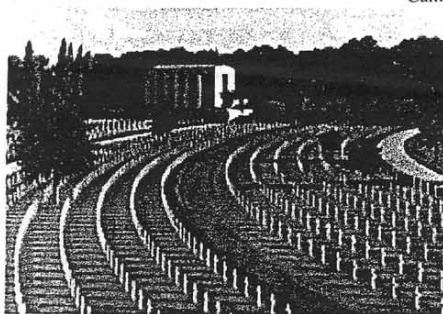
This World War II American Battle Monuments Cemetery is located near the southeast edge of Neupre (Neuville-en-Condroz) Belgium, 12 miles southwest of Liege.

The cemetery, ninety acres in extent, contains the graves of 5,328 American military Dead, many of whom died in the so called "Battle of the Bulge". Their headstones are aligned in straight rows

103^d Division Graves at Neupre'

| <u>409th</u> | <u>410th</u> | <u>411th</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| 3 | 1 | 5 | 9 |

Cambridge American Cemetery Cambridge, England



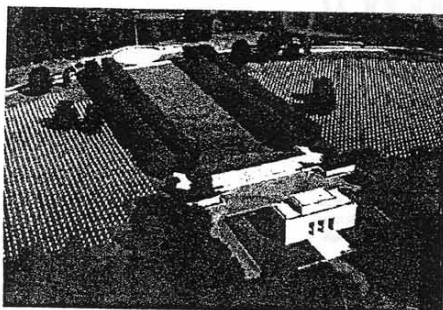
Graves Area

This World War II American Battle Monuments Cemetery is located three miles west of the University city of Cambridge, England on Highway A-1303 and sixty miles north of London.

103^d Division Graves at Cambridge

| <u>409th</u> | <u>410th</u> | <u>411th</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

Epinal American Cemetery



Aerial View of Cemetery

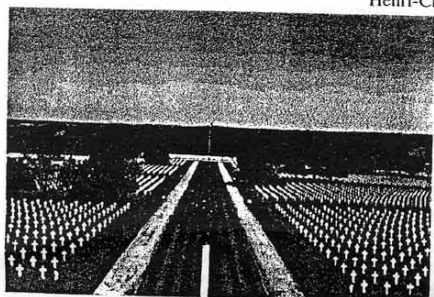
This World War II American Battle Monuments Cemetery and Memorial is located approximately 4 miles southeast of Epinal (Vosges), France on Road D-157 in the village of Dinoze-Quequement.

103^d Division Graves at Epinal

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <u>409th</u> | <u>410th</u> | <u>411th</u> | <u>328Eng</u> | <u>382 FA</u> | <u>383 FA</u> |
| 40 | 50 | 63 | 7 | 1 | 2 |

| | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| <u>384 FA</u> | <u>928 FA</u> | <u>103 Rec</u> | <u>103 MP</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 168 |

Henri-Chapelle, Belgium



Central Mall

This World War II American Battle Monuments Cemetery is located two miles northeast of the village of Henri-Chapelle, Belgium, which is on the main highway from Liege (18 miles) to Aachen, Germany (10 miles).

103^d Division Graves at Henri-Chapelle

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| <u>409th</u> | <u>410th</u> | <u>411th</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |

Lorraine American Cemetery



Memorial from the Graves Area

This World War II American Battle Monuments Cemetery and Memorial is located three quarters a mile north of the town of St. Avold (Moselle), France on Highway N-33. It is 28 miles east of Metz and 17 miles southwest of Saarbrucken.

103^d Division Graves at St. Avold

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <u>409th</u> | <u>410th</u> | <u>411th</u> | <u>328 Eng</u> | <u>384 FA</u> |
| 65 | 41 | 76 | 3 | 1 |

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| <u>928 FA</u> | <u>103 Rec</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| 3 | 1 | 190 |

Luxembourg American Cemetery
103^d Division Graves

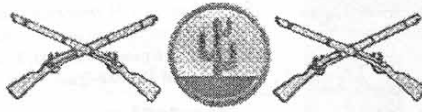
| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>409th</u> | <u>410th</u> | <u>411th</u> |
| 0 | 0 | 1 |

Netherland American Cemetery
103^d Division Graves

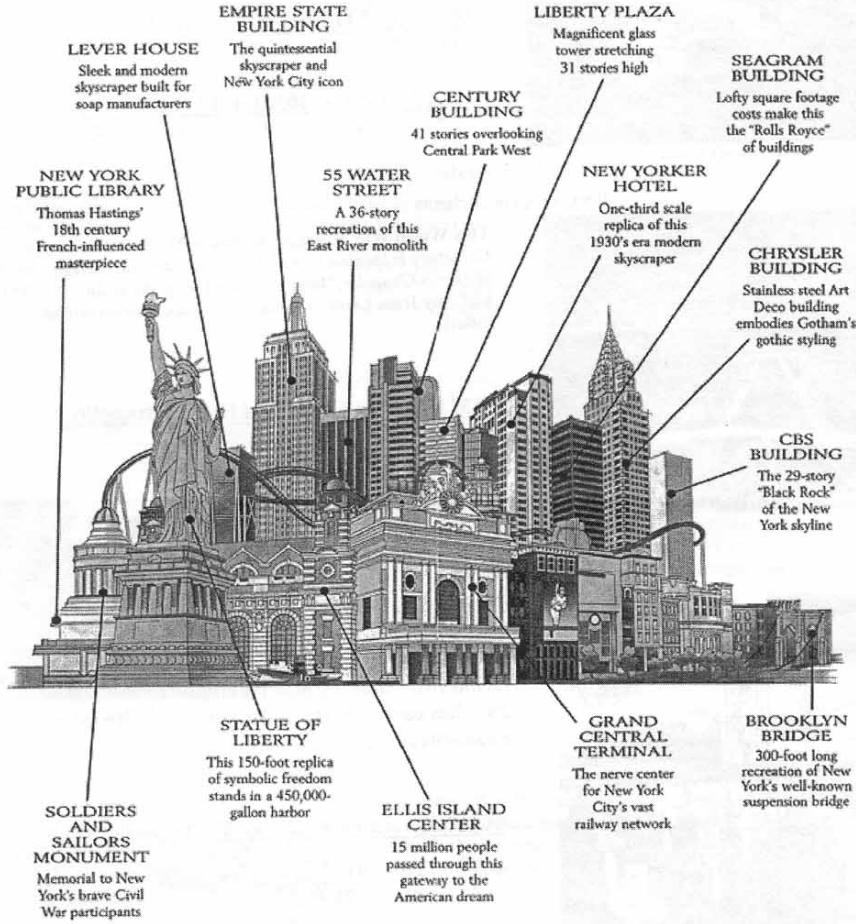
| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>409th</u> | <u>410th</u> | <u>411th</u> |
| 0 | 0 | 2 |

Rhone American Cemetery
103^d Division Graves

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| <u>409th</u> | <u>410th</u> | <u>411th</u> | <u>103 FA</u> |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |



estat
Exec



The Grand

The Magnificent

NEW YORK-NEW YORK HOTEL AND CASINO

3790 LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD, SOUTH • LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89109

(702) 740-6155

103d INF DIV WW II



103d INF ASSN of WW II 2003 REUNION LAS VEGAS, NEVADA • 29 SEPT. - 3 OCT. 2003 NEW YORK NEW YORK HOTEL

3790 LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD, SOUTH • LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89109 • (702) 740-6155

PROGRAM

Monday, 29 Sept, 2003

Registration

9:00 am to 12 noon - 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Hospitality Room: Open daily as posted

Board of Directors Meeting: Hospitality Room

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Tuesday, 30 Sept, 2003

Golf: at the Air Base. Tee Times start at 8:00 am. Vans will take us at about 7:15 am

Registration

9:00 am to 12 noon - 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Downtown Las Vegas city Bus Service: Bus stop across the street from the hotel.

Hospitality Room: Open daily as posted

Board Meeting: TX WW II Historical Monument Fund:

3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Place to be announced

Tuesday Nite Open to Company Dinners in hotel or at the many fine restaurants nearby.

Wednesday, 1 October, 2003

Registration

10:00 am to 12 noon

Bus Trip to Hoover Dam and Lake Mead

Busses scheduled to depart hotel at 8:30 am

Should be back to the hotel around 12:30 pm

Hospitality Room: Open daily as posted

Wednesday Nite Open to Company Dinners and local shows.

Thursday, 2 October, 2003

Business Meeting

Hotel main Ball Room 10:00 am to 12 noon.

Banquet

Hotel Main Ball Room

Cocktails at 6:00 pm, Cash Bar

Dinner at 7:00 pm

Dancing 8:30 pm to 10:30 pm (Live Band)

Hotel Data
103d INF DIV ASSN of WW II
Reunion
Date: 29 Sept. - 3 Oct. 2003

NEW YORK-NEW YORK HOTEL AND CASINO
3790 LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD, SOUTH • LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89109
(702) 740-6155

At the intersection of Las Vegas Boulevard, South and Tropicana Avenue

103d special room rates:

A. Standard Room - \$69.00 plus tax, Singles or Double occupancy
There is a twenty dollar (\$20.00) per person, per night, additional charge for triple or quad occupancy.

B. Player Room, \$109.00, plus tax. Special bathroom features and a small sitting room, large enough for small unit hospitality room, and other conveniences. (800 sq. ft.)

Reservations:

Call Group Reservation Department, (800) 852-5683, or
(800) 693-6763. (Kathy)

Ask for 103d Infantry Division Associates of WW II Code SCG 007

CUT OFF DATE FOR RESERVATIONS

28 AUGUST, 2003

Individuals make own reservations.

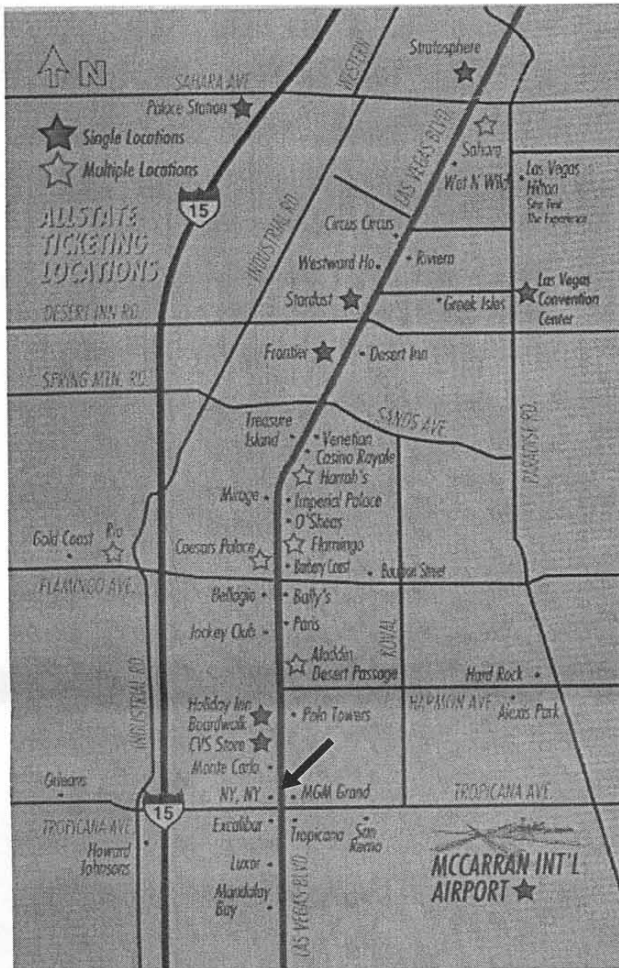
Small Units arrange your own hospitality rooms.

See You In Vegas!

Earl Clemmons

HOTEL
CONF

BA5492



**103d INF ASSN of WW II
REUNION 2003**

103d INF DIV WW II



**NEW YORK - NEW YORK
HOTEL**

3790 Las Vegas BLVD., South
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109
(702) 740-6155

**Here's Where You
Want To Be!**

Transportation:

- Exit Interstate 15 at Tropicana Ave.; go east one big block to Las Vegas Boulevard.
- From McCarran Airport, take shuttle bus (\$4.25) to hotel.

2003 MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE

To support your organization and continue to receive News From the Cactus Patch we urge you to pay your 2003 Dues.

Unfortunately, due to other employment, Richard Moore will, effective 28 February, no longer act as our Executive Secretary.

Effective 01 March 2003 we are happy to announce that Dave Blustin, the son of our deceased member Ralph Blustin 411 Co F, has agreed to take over this duty. We request that your communications and PAYMENT OF DUES be directed to him

Dues: \$15.00 per year for Regular or Associate Membership
(Dues are not required for widows of members)

Make Check to payable to 103d INF DIV ASSN of WW II
Mail to your new Iterim Executive Secretary with a copy of this page.

Dave Blustin
217 W. 1st St.
Duluth, MN 55802

First Name & MI _____ Last Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Your Unit _____ Wife's First Name _____
Phone No _____ e-mail _____

Associate Members only: Give name & relation to your family member or name of your sponsor _____

Our Members are getting older but our Membership is growing with the addition of Associate Members taking an active part in our Association.

The publication of NEWS FROM THE CACTUS PATCH allows all members to be in on the news and not just those that are able to attend the Reunions.

Members are urged to encourage their descendants to join and participate in our activities and actions to preserve our vital history for future generations.

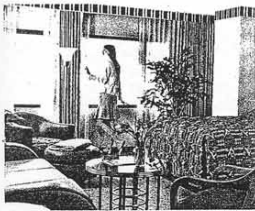
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES EARLY
Send a copy of this page with your payment

REUNION

103d INF DIV ASSN, of WW II
29 Sept - 3 Oct 2002
HOTEL NEW YORK-NEW YORK, in LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

A city within a city awaits the Cactusmen and their families and friends in Las Vegas. There are many select replicas embedded in this vast and fascinating hotel, so many that the imagination of the beholder propels him through the labyrinth of memories of the real New York of yesterday and today. A study of the picture at left is exciting of itself. It raises the curiosity of the mind and heart to just get out there in Las Vegas and see and visit inside this truly modern and notable hotelery.

LOOK! There is the Statue of Liberty. And who of us can forget the "THE LADY" upon arriving back from Europe in 1945. Many of us were aboard the "Aquatania", homeward bound when, THERE! The cry rebounded across New York harbor! And what an emotion! Tears were shed. Men crowded to the port side to catch the best view. Gradually the Liberty Lady rose from the waves until she stood clear. Buddies, as you read these lines there is no way that you can tell me that you don't remember that crowning moment. So there she stood, 305 feet in the air in the harbor. As you view the profiled city on opposite page, the hotel city, the statue of Liberty that you see is actually only 105 feet. Significant enough, one would think, being just the part of a hotel.



But look up, on that skyline. There stands the Empire State Building. History tells us that New York state is indeed the Empire State. Bunker Hill and all of that poor report, finally settled at Yorktown when Washington got the best of the British. Hey, now, there's the Brooklyn Bridge. Any buyers? The Chrysler Building over on the east side, nestling against the Seagram Building. Seagram 7. Now I never thought...

Well, I don't recall visiting the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, a memorial to New York's brave civil war participants. I'm thinking, on that monument idea for a moment, wondering, "Will anybody ever erect a monument to the 103d Infantry Division of World War II? Mel WRIGHT and I think so, and we hope every one who reads this item feels the same.

Now then, let's take a look around this city within a city. We read that this hotel of hotels has 2023 guest rooms and suites cleverly situated within famous New York City style skyscrapers with incredible views. The rooms, full of amenities, range from spacious standard style to the "Player" rooms with Jacuzzi. And ladies, when getting ready for an event, simply jog around the corner to the Regis Signature Salon. I hear they have it all.



| | |
|----------|----------|
| The | Ye |
| Eatery | Crystal |
| (Center) | Swimming |
| Village | Pool |



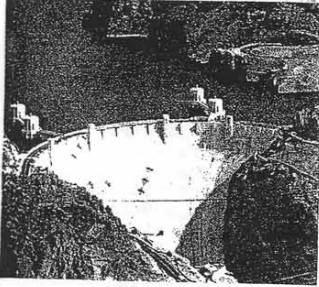
RESTAURANTS. In the hotel and out, they are everywhere. Visit the Eatery Village, the AMERICA, a verital wonderland of food; the CHIN CHIN for Chinese cuisine; or the good ole GALLAGHER STEAKHOUSE (how do you like yours?). You'll find what you like.

THE CASINOS. Ahh, yes! They are there, in this hotel. Find the place call Central Park Casino. You're home for: one-armed bandits; green tables are waiting; wheels are ready to spin; the Aces, Kings, Queens and Jacks are waiting for you; snake eyes and boxcars are lurking on every dice. (Note: Your ed suggests CAUTION, and watch your \$\$\$\$\$\$!)

REUNION NOTES, continued:

TOURS. There are many types of tours to be enjoyed in Las Vegas. Your planning staff has chosen one that is interesting, comfortable, and reasonably priced. The HOOVER DAM and Lake Meade offers enlivening interest and real wonder. The Dam complex when built was the greatest state-of-the-engineering-art in the United States. And today it serves a great economic service. A number of short tours are available that take you for a joy ride around Las Vegas. These small tours may be arranged as individual or by small groups. Such arrangements can be made at the Travel Office at the hotel.

SHOWS. There are many shows programmed in the fabulous city of Las Vegas. To learn what is available for such as us, again visit the Travel Office. Maureen can help you. That lady understands World War II folks. Drop by to meet her and chat.



HOOVER DAM

Built during the period 1931-1936 for hydroelectric power, flood control and irrigation, it is 726 feet high and forms Lake Mead. The lake covers 247 square miles, one of the world's largest reservoirs.

Located just 30 miles from Las Vegas, we should arrive there in less than an hour. Awaiting us is a generous visit to this standing marvel of the engineering art of the 1930s. The Cactus group will be given permission (with guides, security conditions prevailing) to enter partway down into the dam, a memorable experience.

**** HELP WANTED:** From the offices of our President Earl Clemmons, and our Vice President, Douglas Stellner, comes the cry for help. And pretty soon we will be hearing a similar cry from the Executive Secretary, Dave Blustin. REASON: There are many tasks and functions to be covered in a Reunion event such as now currently planned. Board Members, you will be needed. Hospitality Room will need attendants. The Registration Desk will probably need a good hand, or hands. Who to contact? Call Doug Stellner; he 's taking names for assignments; so is Earl Clemmons.

HELP WANTED
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO
STAFF THE DIVISION
HOSPITALITY ROOM
AND ASSIST
WITH REGISTRATION

PHONE
PRESIDENT EARL
CLEMMONS
OR VP DOUG STELLNER

NOW HEAR THIS... Volunteers wanted. Call: (Check their home foxholes)

Pres. EARL CLEMMONS
2001 E. 10th Street
PINE BLUFF, Arkansas 71601
(870)535-5366 Phone & Fax

Vice President DOUG STELLNER
4239 Georgia Street
Vallejo, California 94591
&707)642-2102

Cactusmen never waited until
the last minute. Call Now
for the best jobs!

eMail: dougs@fmcompserve.com

FUTURE REUNIONS.

Selection of future reunion sites is always exciting. More exciting when options are available. The Executive Committee accepts written proposals for the next year (if a site has not been previously voted on), and for the following year thereafter as well. The planning for 2 years ahead has been accepted as desirable.

The Executive Committee, following the selection vote for a Reunion site, establishes arrangements for the Reunion event at the chosen site, or sites. For example, Las Vegas was chosen for 2003 at the Dallas 2002 convention. No site was chosen by vote then for 2004.

One recommendation (Chicago/Schaumburg) has been received verbally for 2004. Other recommendations may be forthcoming. Hopefully. It is suggested that written proposals be furnished early to the Executive Committee (ATTN: Doug Stellner, address and telephone on page 1) prior to the upcoming Reunion in Las Vegas.

WANTED

We need correct address data on the following members. The last mail sent to the following addresses has been returned. If you have or can locate accurate data on any them please notify Mel Wright at 9737 Warwana Rd. Houston TX 77080, 713 465 0814, mel@hal-pc.org Include phone and e-mail data if available. Also we will not be able to continue mailing if we do not pay our dues. NFCP V 05 29 03

| | Last name | First Nm & MI | Address | City | ST | Zip | Unit | Phone |
|----|--------------|---------------|-------------------------------|------------------|----|-------|------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Adkins | Robert E. | R#2 Box 381, Grape Island | St. Marys | WV | 26170 | 803 Ord | 304 684 2875 |
| 2 | Anderson | Leroy J. | 1315 N 250E | Bountiful | UT | 84010 | 411 Co G | 801 295 1708 |
| 3 | Bailey | James E. | 30630 Drouillard Rd. | Walbridge | OH | 43485 | 409 Co B | 419 666 5346 |
| 4 | Baker | Leroy N. | R # 3 | Perry | MO | 63462 | XXX Co G | 573 565 2711 |
| 5 | Battloga | Harry | 121 E. Castle Rd. | Waldford | OR | 97394 | 410 Co C | 541 563 3340 |
| 6 | Braymen | Wade | 301 N. 8th St. Apt. # 8 | Quincy | IL | 62301 | 383 FA | 217 222 7005 |
| 7 | Brower | Harold | 907 Oak Crest Ln. | Jenison | MI | 49428 | 411 Co C | 616 667 2765 |
| 8 | Cgasso | Armand A. | 7354 Lee St. | Niles | IL | 60714 | 410 AT | 847 965 4316 |
| 9 | Cina | Nick | Box 102 (444 W. Jennings Rd.) | Viola | WI | 54664 | 410 Hq Co 2nd Bn | 608-627-1477 |
| 10 | Clifford | Richard W. | 202 Overlocker Road | Paughkeepsie | NY | 12603 | 409 Co B | 845 471 4764 |
| 11 | Clott | Edward | 3065 Southfork Dr. | Cincinnati | OH | 45248 | | 513 922 1934 |
| 12 | Conselmo | Daniel | 14625-B, Nestling Way | Del Ray | FL | 33445 | 411 Co F | 615 469 0631 |
| 13 | Delaney | Dennis A. | 1337 N 10th St | Manitowoc | WI | 54220 | 103 Sig Co | 906 682 2315 |
| 14 | Dickerson | Robert L. | 1048 Westborough Dr. No. | Columbus | OH | 43230 | 409 Co K | 614-451-7999 |
| 15 | Douws | Louis | 2291 Paper Chase Ln. | Lawrenceville | GA | 30043 | 103 MP | |
| 16 | Gabreath | William | 5826 Longhorn Trail | Stevensville | MI | 49127 | 328 Co B | 616-429-4892 |
| 17 | Gerhardt | Harold | 221 N. Magdelem | San Angelo | TX | 76901 | 410 Co M | |
| 18 | Gilmore | Ben | 413 S. Mateson, Apt. 5 | Maquoketa | IA | 52060 | 328 Eng Co C | 319-652-5478 |
| 19 | Griggs | John F. | 306 Mimosa Dr. | Cheraw | SC | 29520 | Unknown | 843-537-7072 |
| 20 | Gulick | Harold | 1311 Sweet Ave. | Wisconsin Rapids | WI | 54494 | 409 Co I | 745 424 1909 |
| 21 | Guthery | John M. | 1812 Devoe Dr | Lincoln | NE | 68506 | 411 Co E | 402 485 2506 |
| 22 | Hagan | Robert | 3409 Avery Circle | Williamsburg | VA | 23188 | 411 Co F | 757 258 6573 |
| 23 | Hamilton | Betts | 2308 Lynhaven Ave. | Charlotte | NC | 28205 | Unknown | 704-377-7014 |
| 24 | Hermes | Herman J. | 407 Walnut St | Yokum | TX | 77995 | 328 Eng Co A | 361 293 9996 |
| 25 | Hren | Anthony R. | 611 Deerwood Ave. | Englewood | FL | 34223 | 410 Can Co | |
| 26 | Jones | Wylie | 1220 Myrtle City CIBVJ4 | Fl. Myers | FL | 33919 | 103 MP | |
| 27 | Kahn | Aron | 1227 Forest Ave. | Highland Park | IL | 60035 | 411 Co L | 847 433 3755 |
| 28 | Klabacka | Theodore | 463 W. 88th Pl. | Hometown | IL | 60456 | 410 Co M | 708 422 4635 |
| 29 | Kline | Harry A. | 8319 Acom Path | Wonder Lake | IL | 60097 | 103 Sig Co | 815 653 3456 |
| 30 | Koupal | Howard | 8112 Briar Drive | Shownee Mission | KS | 66205 | Unknown | 913-642-2054 |
| 31 | Kruse | Harold W. | 3254 Bentwood Dr. S.E. | Cascade | MI | 49505 | 526 FA Bty C | 616 957 3185 |
| 32 | Loomis | Joseph L. | 0-238 Brook Meadow N. Ln. # 3 | Grandville | MI | 49418 | 103 MP | 616 534 0669 |
| 33 | Love | Ivan W. | 425 Euclid | Cherokee | IA | 51012 | 410 Co M | |
| 34 | Lund | William R. | 912 S. Poplar Ave. | Kanakee | IL | 60901 | 411 AT | |
| 35 | Mallase | Sam J. | 17414 Juliana | Eastpointe | MI | 48021 | Unknown | 810-771-5378 |
| 36 | Martinson | Lyle | 1120 T St. | Gering | NE | 69341 | 803 Ord | |
| 37 | Maxwell | Robert | 1408 Pine | Everett | WA | 98201 | 410 Co C | |
| 38 | McCleary | Phil | 2002 Jackrabbit Ct. | Santa Rosa | CA | 95403 | 410 Co K | |
| 39 | McCullough | Richard H. | 6629 County Rd. C. | Delta | OH | 43515 | 409 Co E | 419 822 3496 |
| 40 | Nabozny | Joseph P. | P. O. Box 210 | Cleaverack | NY | 12513 | 411 Co B | |
| 41 | Pathode | Francis | 236 Ganong Dr. | Saranac | NY | 12881 | 410 Co A | |
| 42 | Penniston | J. D. | 212 S. State St. | Argyle | WI | 53504 | 383 FA Sv Co | 608-543-3277 |
| 43 | Phillips | J. H. (Rev.) | Route 3 | Poplar Bluff | MO | 63901 | Unknown | 573-785-5665 |
| 44 | Pierce Jr. | Artie I. | 2701 Aldersgate Rd | Little Rock | AR | 72205 | 410 Co C | 501 225 3515 |
| 45 | Radowick | Peter P. | 457 South 80th Pl | Mesa | AZ | 85208 | 103 Sig Co | 480 357 5097 |
| 46 | Rath | Russell L. | 102 Palm (Box 42) | Harvard | NE | 68944 | XXX Co G | 402-772-8191 |
| 47 | Rippe | Robert S. | 1502 Wildhorse Pkwy. Dr. | Chesterfield | MO | 63017 | Unknown | 636-532-5476 |
| 48 | Purtell, Jr. | William N. | 5 Crest Rd. Outer Cove | Old Sybrook | CT | 06075 | 409 Co G | |
| 49 | Rozzalo | Victor A. | P.O. Box 8135 | Bridge Water | NJ | 08807 | 410 Co F | |
| 50 | Rumery | Robert | 1006 Elk Dr. | Riverton | WY | 82501 | | |
| 51 | Schultz | William | 36643 N. Streamwood Rd. | Gurnee | IL | 60031 | 411 Co L | |
| 52 | Scott | Cornelius F. | 7370 E. Florida Ave. | Denver | CO | 80231 | 410 Co F | 303 755 1405 |
| 53 | Shakeshaft | Alston J. | 330 N. Franklin Ave. | Ames | IA | 50014 | 410 Co C | |
| 54 | Shooks | Versal | Box 481 | Central Lake | MI | 49622 | 409 Co H | |
| 55 | Smith | Clinton | 310 9th St. | Walnut Grove | MN | 56180 | Unknown | 507-659-2235 |
| 56 | Starr | Winn | P.O. Box 231188 | Sacramento | CA | 95832 | 382 FA Bty B | 916 391 6865 |
| 57 | Stein | Howard | 6 Dorchester St. | Manhasset | NY | 10030 | 328 Med | 516-627-5681 |
| 58 | Stephenson | Roger G. | 8817 S. 29th | Scotts | MI | 49088 | 384 FA Bty A | |
| 59 | Swenson | John W. | 2511 Winchester, Apt. 111 | Muskogean | MI | 49441 | 410 AT | 661 755 6773 |
| 60 | Tucker | Willard | 817 E. 19th St. | Owensboro | KY | 42301 | 803 Ord | |
| 61 | Waldron | Jennings I. | 1022 Ridge Rd. | Lewiston | NY | 14092 | 103 Sig Co | 716 754 7053 |
| 62 | Weber | Rev. Harry | 2602 Pondview Circle | Newberry | SC | 29108 | 411 Co C | 803 276 0811 |
| 63 | Wilk | Immanuel J. | 440 Ravenswood Ave. | Menlo Park | CA | 94025 | 103 Sig Co | 650 325 0281 |
| 64 | Woods | Edward L. | #2228 County Rd | Melrose | WI | 54642 | 410 Co A | 608-488-7202 |
| 65 | Wylie | Clarence | 510 Cottage Ln | Neosho | MO | 64850 | 411 AT | 417-451-7461 |
| 66 | Zahn | Harvey | 3200 Osler Court | Saginaw | MI | 48602 | 411 Co F | 989 793 3875 |

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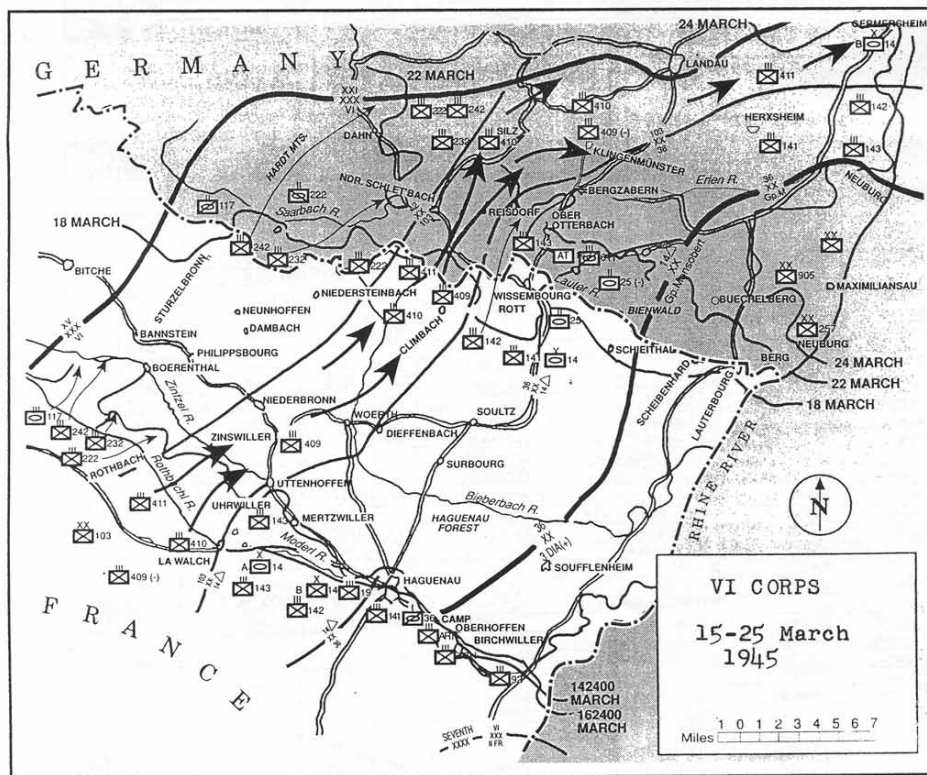
From the Moselle to the Rhine

FROM THE MUSICK MAN. J. L. Musick, Defense Platoon, HqCo, 103d Inf Div. Concepts of the Spring offensive from the Sunday, 8 April 1945 issue of 6th Corps "BEACHHEAD NEWS": (Exerpts)

On 15 February 1945 the Allied armies on the northern flank of the Western Front opened up an offensive destined to crash the Roer and Rhine River lines (German) and strike into the very heart of Germany. The British SECOND and the American NINTH, FIRST, and THIRD Armies cut loose and reeled the hun back onto his inner defenses. The FIRST seized the Remagen Bridge and drove southeast. The THIRD forced the Moselle and drove to the Rhine and down the west bank along the Alsatian border toward the SEVENTH Army.

The SEVENTH Army joined the general offensive on 15 March 1945. VI Corps troops (including the 103d Division), an element of the SEVENTH, smashed the Moder River Line and assaulted the Siegfried Line - that famous line of bastions of concrete pillboxes and trenches, the main defense line on the German frontier opposite France.

Our 103d Infantry Division, consisting of the 409th, 410th and 411th Infantry Regiments, moved with the Army. The 410th and 411th drove spearheads across the Moder River in a zone extending from Pfaiffenhoffen to Rothbach. By evening, through bloody fighting and mines, they had captured Bischholtz, Mulhausen, Engwiller, Nifferen, Kindwiller, and Offwiller in a five mile advance. Continuing the assault on the 16th, elements of the division were fighting in the outskirts of Reichehoffen and Gundershoffen in a further six-mile push. On the drive, the Cactus dough had liberated Zinswiller and Uttenhoffen and had stormed across the Zinsel River thereby clearing most of the town of Gumbrechtshoffen.



On the 17th, the 409th and 411th moved forward another seven miles, liberating Reichshoffen, Gundershoffen, Niederbron-les Bains, Oberbronn, Oberadorf-Spachbach, Eberbach, Wperth and most of Nehwiller. On the 18th, Company K, 3rd Battalion, 411th Infantry, breached the border, the same battalion that had reached German soil the previous December.

The battle raged on through the 19th and 20th of March, into the Siegfried Line and the stubborn formidable pillboxes. The 411th Infantry, on the division left, cleared the stronghold of Nieder-Schlettenbach. 409th, in the right zone, fought uphill to seize Reisdorf, the key point in the German defenses in the region. On the 21st, both lead regiments struggled, with the assistance of the 761st Tank Battalion, 614th Tank Destroyers, a special unit of mobile 155mm Guns, to breach the defensive line of pillboxes.

On 22 March, 410th now leading on the left, attacked the pillboxes with a vengeance, securing the high ground thereby enabling Task Force Rhine (2nd Bn, 409, reinforced) to crash through Reisdorf Pass and thunder into the night through Reisdorf, Silz, and on to Klingenstein. The 410th continued to attack until daylight when the 411th (now reinforced) passed through the 410th, then through the 409th, and blasted onward toward Germersheim until late in the day,

The Division, near exhaustion, paused with the 409th at Klingenstein, the 410th near Landau, and the 411th in the vicinity of Germersheim, and listened to the clatter and roar of THIRD U.S. ARMY units driving across the Cactus front on their way to the northeast and the Rhine River crossing at Worms, Germany

The 103d's accomplishments in breaching the Siegfried Line netted thousands of German prisoners and the destruction of countless German materiel and equipment.

HELP FILL THESE GAPS

We have learned that our Editor, Harold BRANTON, will be unable to serve after this year. Therefore, we are actively searching for a replacement. Harold has helped us through this first year, actually two years, with an excellent series of NEWSLETTERS. NEWS FROM THE CACTUS PATCH.

Additionally, Mel WRIGHT, our Past President, has declared that he too cannot longer serve in the several capacities that he has so diligently worked. Mel has established a fine base in the areas of personnel, Honor Roll, Membership Rosters, organizing and publishing the WANTED LIST, and that special book on BATTLE DEATH Listing. His work has enhanced the Value-Image of our Division, and enabled a quality collection to add to our Archives.

And so, Members and Associates, please consider volunteering for one of the other of these essential positions. Both Mel and Harold will assist you in getting acquainted with the tools used in these respective functions.

BUDGETS AND DUES

Based on our Search Committee Report, submitted and approved at the 2001 Reunion in Grand Rapids, Michigan, our Association was reorganized, effective 1 January 2002. In accordance with that Search Report, dues and membership in our former organization expired on 31 December 2002.

Dues are now payable from the beginning of the fiscal year. Dues for current year, 2003, are now due. A Dues Payment Form is enclosed for your convenience with this NEWSLETTER. If you have not paid your dues upon receipt of this letter, please make your payment at your first opportunity, both Regular and Associates. Buddies, I wish to thank each and everyone for helping pay "the rent". RESPECTFULLY, Harold, Editor.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The first order of business at the 2003 Reunion in Las Vegas will be the Meeting of the Board. The meeting is scheduled for Monday night in the Hospitality Room. Board members are requested to arrive on time as a full agenda of business is programmed. Date: Monday, 29 September 2003. TIME, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. PLACE: The Hospitality Room, NEW YORK-NEW YORK Hotel. Earl and Doug

GI MAIL SYSTEMS, ETO. Reference this subject in Issue 3, November 2002. On that sub-¹ject, Ken Bergstrom, Box 220, Elgin, NE 68636 wrote saying: "I was the Mail Clerk in Co H, 410th all the time I was in the Service. No matter what was going on, I, the Mail Clerk, had to be there with that mail. When distributing mail, the guys would come in real close. Mail Call was preferred over dinner (especially if lamb stew was for dinner)."

I was always sad when some of my buddies failed to get mail; seems they would just turn away, feeling real bad. While in the States, I would put the mail on the beds so the fellas would not have to stand in the cold. When overseas and in combat, mail came to the battalion from Division Rear CP, through the Regimental breakdown point. When I got mail, I usually hung a ride with the supply sergeant to Company H CP. If the troops were deployed away from the company headquarters, I would go with a cook or with the runners. Either way, I had to give out the mail before anyone could eat.

When the war was over, I came back with the company to Boston. Turned out, I was the only original man left in Company H!"

COMMENTARY. Mail to the ETO was by APO designation, the APO being equivalent to a city ZIP code as we know it today. Mail centers in the States would pre-bag mail direct to the APOs, usually via overseas Theater Base Sections at the convergence of primary air and/or sea transport depots. The bags would move through Army Mail Centers, virtually non-stop, to the Division (REAR) Command Posts. Division mail breakdowns to the regiments followed normal message center infrastructure, except that public mail (as opposed to strictly military mail) was handled by designated technicians/clerks. Distribution to the battalions and to the companies were also by designated mail personnel, usually along existing supply lines.

The 103d Infantry Division was serviced by APO 470.

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103d INF DIV ASSN OF WWII
9737 Warwana Road
Houston, TX 77080

RETURN SERVICE REQUIRED

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