

June 2004

NEWS FROM THE CACTUS PATCH

Issue No 7

STAFF

ACTING PRESIDENT

Richard T. Ball
6012 Jan Mer Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22041
703 671 9017
rball01@earthlink.net

ASST VICE PRESIDENT

Michael Toohig
6619 Brawner St.
McLean, VA 22101
703 442 3865

SEC & TREASURER

Dennis Ryan
5138 Pepin Pl.
Madison, WI 53703
608 250 9581

dryan38122@aol.com

ASST SEC & TREASURER

Cranston R. Rogers
17 Deerfield Rd.
Medway, MA 02053

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Dave Blustin
217 W. 1st St.
Duluth, MN 55802
O 218 722 5492
H 218 724 1988

dave@garonbrothersjewelers.com

HISTORIAN

Harold M. Branton
1288 Newsom Rd., P.O. Box 77
Shongaloo, LA 71072
318 846 2687

hbranton@centurytel.net

CHAPLAIN

Walter Modrzejewski
5604 N. Ozark Ave.
Chicago, IL 60631
773 631 0571

EDITOR (NFTCP)

David R Leslie
4836 Seda Drive
San Diego, CA 92124
858 560 1138

dleslie50@aol.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Term exp)

Robert L. Leslie (2005)

Gene W. Halsey (2005)

Jerry Brenner (2005)

J. D. Shuttlesworth (2004)

Andy Beck (2005)

103d INF DIV WW II



Acting President's message

Richard T. Ball

This space would normally include the message from the President of the 103d Infantry Division Association of WWII. Fate has stepped in and the elected president, Douglas H. Stellner, felt that it was in the best interest of the organization for him to resign as President for health reasons. His letter of resignation was dated March 8, 2004. In his letter he expressed his deep regret and apology for not being able to devote the time necessary to properly fulfill the obligations of the office. He considered it an honor and a privilege for having been given the opportunity to serve the Association. It was, in his words, a relationship that he will always cherish. He also extended his best wishes for the continuing success of the Association. His efforts in setting up and arranging the Reunion in Las Vegas were commendable. We all wish Doug a quick recovery and hope he can be with us in Chicago.

One of the duties of the Vice President, as stated in the Constitution, is to "serve In Place of the President in his absence". So here I am. I certainly will endeavor to serve the Association well in the remaining months of what would have been Doug's term of office. As you all well know we are now operating under a new Constitution and By-laws. We are also now operating under the Articles of Incorporation in the State of Texas as a Non Profit Corporation. This does not mean that much will change. Things have always been running reasonably well, but we now have documents that define the association and its administration, organization, activities, officers and their duties, elections, finances, committees, and membership.

Well, so much for the "business" end of this message. We are now looking forward to our reunion in Chicago. Elsewhere in this NEWS FROM THE CACTUS PATCH you will find more details of the reunion. You will note that it will be held at the Hyatt Regency Woodfield, Schaumburg, Illinois, October 6th through the 9th. We have been at this hotel twice before and have been given excellent service and hospitality. Thanks to Hank Gooris things are well under control and planning is moving along rapidly to provide a great and memorable reunion there. The hotel has promised a 15% discount for meals in their Tre Cena restaurant. A review of the addresses of members in our directory indicates that there are considerably more 103d Division vets in the states surrounding Chicago than any other area of the country. That should make it convenient for more of you to attend. If for any reasons you can't be there for the complete reunion, plan and register for the events and times you can be there even if it is only one event (General Meeting on Saturday morning or the Banquet on Saturday night) or just to spend a few hours with your WWII friends and comrades.

Postcard notices for dues payment have been sent out to all members whose names appear on our roles. If you have moved and/or have not received a notice please contact B. Melton Wright, 9737 Warwana Road, Houston, TX 77080. As with all organizations it does take money to provide services to their members. In our case a big expense is the publishing of the NEWS FROM THE CACTUS PATCH which you should be receiving. So please help the Association to provide all these services by sending in your \$15 annual dues (if you have not already done so). It is your Association.

OFFICERS of the ASSOCIATION

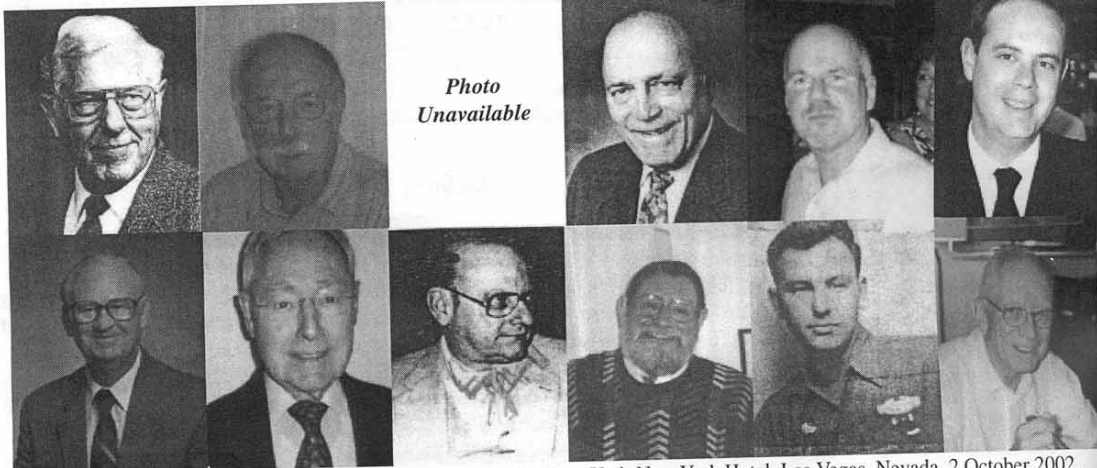


Photo Unavailable

The above officers were elected in the New York-New York Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2 October 2002. The occasion was the annual Reunion in that city. Tenure of office is for one year, commencing 1 January 2004.

From Left to Right:

Upper tier: Dick BALL, Acting President, Michael TOOHIGH, Asst. V. Pres, Dennis RYAN, Sec/Treas, Chan ROGERS, Asst Sec/Treas, Dave BLUSTIN, Exec Sec, Dave LESLIE, Editor, NFTCP

Second tier: Harold BRANTON, Historian/Arch, Walter MODRZEJEWSKI, Chaplain. Unit Reps: 409th Inf...Robert LESLIE, 410th Inf...Gene HALSEY, 411th Inf... Jerry BRENNER, Hq&SpTrps J. SHUTTLEWORTH



Lower Left

Associates, Andy Beek

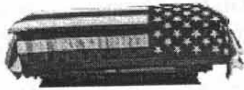
MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

At the Las Vegas Reunion, October 2003, in the business meeting, the Association authorized the Board of Directors to proceed with plans to establish a Museum and Archive for our documentaries and artifacts. The site adopted was/is the Morton Museum of Cooke County, Texas, located in Gainesville, Texas. We trained there in the Gainesville area during World War II.

The needs of our Association were outlined in writing and, through our Liaison Officer, Harold BRANTON, Historian, presented to Ms. Shanna POWELL, Director of the Morton Museum. Ms. POWELL presented our request to her Board of Directors who immediately approved it. The approval included the provision first, that our presence in the Cooke County Museum (MORTON MUSEUM) would be at no cost to the 103d INF DIV ASSN of WW II. And secondly, all donations, documentaries and artifacts, would become the "property" of the museum. Such provisions are standard procedure.

What should we do now? Well, think of it this way: if we are to have a viable museum and archive we must place something in it! That's where each of us has an obligation. So start looking over your WWII artifacts, Get an idea of what you can donate to this museum. And your old letters, pictures, uniforms, boots, cartridge belt, pistol belt, canteen, news paper items about yourself, etc. are all worthy. Please expect your historian to be calling upon you and advising how you can help. *See also page 16.*

HONOR ROLL



103d INF DIV ASSN of WW II

(Deceased reported after NFTCP issue No 6)

Adams, Albert B. Jr.	409 Co K
Alexander, Clarence F. Jr	410 Co A
Bobbish, Dan	382 FA Bty C
Bonifazi, Stephen	411 Co F
Breiner, Richard C.	383 FA Med
Bridges, William C.	411 Co L
Byrd, Earl H.	411 (Unknown Co)
Chamberlain, Kenneth	411 Co L
Cogdell, Louis	103 Rec
Craddock, Roger H.	409 Co G
Duggan, Roy	410 Co C
Duncan, George J.	328 Eng Co C
Ecenrode, Robert R.	409 Co B
Hauser, Robert H.	328 Med Co A
Hennum, Norval E.	103 Sig Co
Hensick, Leonard A.	409 Co G
Hinkle, Robert W.	411 Co A
Jenkins, Walter	410 Co M
Jones, Donnie M.	409 Co K
O'Connell, James W.	Unknown
Pierce Jr., Arlie I.	410 Co C
Proctor, Harry D.	409 Hq 1st Bn
Purtell Jr., William A.	409 Co G
Reynolds, DDS, Elvia	409 Co B
Rice, George F.	410 Co C
Rigby, James E.	410 Co D
Saperstein, Harry J.	410 Co M
Schneider, John W.	409 Co B
Schutt, Gene W.	411 Co C
Shanoski, John L.	410 Co M
Siegel, Charles M.	411 Co F
Smith, Robert	410 Co K
Stark, Arthur L.	Unknown
Steward, Clifford L.	410 Co E
Strickland, Paul D.	928 FA Bty C
Tolinsky, Stanley	411 Co G
Underwood, Arthur J.	384 FA Hq Bty
Woods, Robert F.	103 Hq Co
Wright, Millard B.	409 Co B
Young, Roy	928 FA

THE FINAL INSPECTION

The soldier stood and **faced God**,
 Which must always come to pass.
 He hoped his shoes were shining,
 Just as brightly as his brass.
 "Step forward now, you soldier,
 How shall I deal with you?
 Have you always turned the other cheek?
 To My Church have you been true?"
 The soldier squared his shoulders and said,
 "No, Lord, I guess I ain't.
 Because those of us who carry guns,
 Can't always be a saint.
 I've had to work most Sundays,
 at times my talk was tough.
 And sometimes I've been violent,
 Because the world is awfully rough.
 But, I never took a penny,
 That wasn't mine to keep...
 Though I worked a lot of overtime,
 When the bills got just too steep.
 And I never passed a cry for help,
 Though at times I shook with fear.
 And sometimes, God, forgive me,
 I've wept unmanly tears.
 I know I don't deserve a place,
 Among the people here.
 They never wanted me around,
 Except to calm their fears.
 If you've a place for me here,
 Lord, It needn't be so grand.
 I never expected or had too much,
 But if you don't, I'll understand."
 There was a silence all around the throne,
 Where the saints had often trod.
 As the soldier waited quietly,
 For the judgment of his God.
 "Step forward now, you soldier,
 You've borne your burdens well.
 Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,
 You've done your time in Hell."

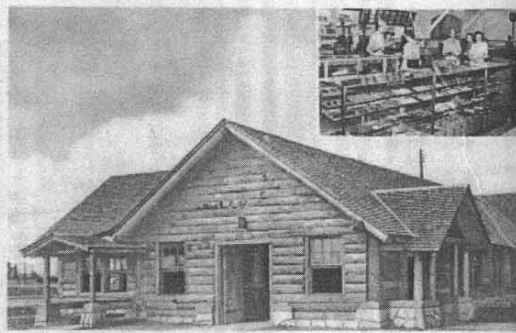
~Author Unknown~

NFTCP 7
 JUNE 2004

We, members of the 103d Infantry Division, get together once a year for an opportunity to meet with old comrades in arms and to get to know others who also served in the Division. There are those who were part of the 103d when it was activated in October 1942. Then more came to Camp Claiborne in the months that followed. Outside of duty hours we had that long haul to Alexandria, LA, for off duty time. The gathering place there was the Hotel Bentley with the mirror ceiling in the big bar room. Alexandria was olive drab on weekends with the many GIs from Camp Claiborne and Camp Livingston as well as several Army Air Corps Bases in the vicinity. The ride to town was about 25 miles, give or take. You had a choice of riding a GI semi-trailer bus, hitching or paying \$5.00 one way to a 4F guy with a car to get in to town



CAMP CLAIBORNE, LA.



POST EXCHANGE - CAMP CLAIBORNE, LA. (UPPER PICTURE)

(BELOW) BUS STATION

I believe it was in August when we went to the Louisiana maneuver area for our "D" Series maneuvers. That meant living outdoors for about a month. Tents were home. We were back in Camp Claiborne by September but off again for two months of maneuvers in Louisiana. Then it was Camp Howze in the last part of November. I will never forget coming over a hill on the road to Howze and seeing this black tar paper covered Camp ahead of us, way out of town with only a few trees. But we found out later that nearby Gainesville was not all bad and then there was Denton, Dallas, and Fort Worth. We had good times at these places and some others in the area. There were the two colleges in Denton, one a women's college and the other mostly women since many of the guys were in the armed forces somewhere else. Then in Dallas there was the Hotel Adolphus and the Baker Hotel (if you could get a room). The Abe and Pappy nightclub was always full on weekends. These were the good times and we can remember them and talk of them at the reunion. Well, those were the good times.



In the middle of September it was off to Camp Shanks, New York, and the ocean voyage to Marseilles, France. Then on Armistice Day, 11 November 1944, we went into the line replacing the 3rd Infantry Division. That was "it". Then there were the many days of fear, hunger, danger, tragedy, success, and victories until it was all over in the first week in May, 1945

It was during all of this that we made friends. Friends that we would remember all of our lives. Friends with whom we shared danger, hunger, and all of that, plus victory and even some fun. This reunion, coming up in October, promises one more chance to renew old acquaintances and friendships and share once more your experiences of days gone by.

FROM REISDORF TO KLINGENMUNSTER, THENLANDAU

Landau is a small town with a 12th century castle atop a high mountain. This town of Landau is northeast of Klingenmunster a little ways. That should help you a lot.

Task Force Rhine, composed of the 761st Tank Battalion and the 2nd Battalion of the 409th Infantry had dashed through a hole in the Siegfried Line at the village of Reisdorf and barrelled ahead into the night of 23 March 1945 for another 15 miles. And there was the town of Landau and that mountain. And on top of that mountain was a bunch of kraut firing down onto Task Force Rhine.

Major Louis Hennighausen, commander of 2nd Bn, was reasonably irritated; but his advancing companies had already passed the foot of that mountain. So there he was with no troops at hand except the battalion headquarters bunch.

Major Hennighausen stood still a moment, then turned around thoughtfully, and there stood Jim Holmes, his former First Sergeant but now a brand new second lieutenant. IDEA!

"Sergeant, uhh, Lieutenant Holmes", the major yelled, or to that effect. "Get a platoon out of Headquarters Company!"

That hill was steep, and the defenders up there were rolling boulders and potato mashers down onto Holmes' "platoon". Sniper fire was all about, both from the krauts up there and, LO! from some GIs down below! Holmes had a problem. He now had to stop the low boys somehow while heating up his fire upward. ACTION! A radio scramble took care of the guys down below; but fire from above continued unabated.

NOW! Some kind of tactic is now in order!

This was tough ground on the side of that big hill. A

scheme was resolved whereby Tech Sergeant Danny Shea of St. Louis, MO took two squads into a frontal assault on the castle redoubts to secure a surprise upper left flank. Lieutenant Holmes, Sergeant Systma and one squad sneaked up a defiladed route, entered the castle from the rear and caught the Germans, stunned. Sergeant Systma's squad, the apparent heroes in these proceedings, captured forty Germans in uniform, including a lieutenant colonel and several other officers. A whole field artillery observer group had been rounded up and now headed for the cages.

A NOTE FROM YOUR HISTORIAN: A specific relationship exists here, with the story above and the purpose of a unit's archives. First, there are official documentaries that are essential to identify ourselves to future readers. Secondly, there are unlimited stories, really true tales, that present and preserve the image of what a World War II soldier actually experienced in action, a specific action.

How does that apply to you? Just this: each of you have great and unique stories in your mind. Get them out and on paper while you still can. Type it, print it, handwriting is fine. Put it in the Archives. Need some help? Try me, with your situation. Maybe some maps could help. Want to try? Let's get to it. PLEASE do this quickly. Time is now precious.

Harold BRANTON, your Historian.



June 2004

WANTED

NFTCP No 7

We need correct address data on the following members. The last mail sent to the following addresses was 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

NFTCP 7

Autry	Charles E.	1941 Greenview Dr.	Deltona	FL	32725	411 Co L	904 532 9880
Beauchamp	G. W.	Albany Dawson Rd. Ann	Americus	GA	31709	410 Co C	229 924 9663
Bobel	Francis J.	2618 Blackridge Ave.	Pittsburg	PA	15235	409 Co B	412 242 1238
Bolinger	Robert K.	125 E. 13th St.	Mishawaka	IN	46544	411 Co A	NL
Bowling	Trey	Rt. 3 Box 896	Iuka	MS	38852	411 Co F	
Cooper	John H.	4316 M. Ap ond Dr.	Knoxville	TN	37917	410 Co L	NL
Doerscheln	Raymond	1108 Honeywood Dr.	Westmont	IL	60597	410 Co M	
Fleming	Edmund J.	1615 8th Ave.	Brooklyn	NY	11215	103 QM	718-788-7693
Fleming	Harold	302 Lakeview Dr.	Enid	OK	73701	409 Co K	
Forlano	D. F.	3200 NE 7th Ct. Apt 102-B	Popano Beach	FL	33062	411 Co L	954 942 4540
Gennaro	Vincent	2655 Lafayette Ave.	St. Louis	MO	63110	411 Co H	
Girardeau	James W.	5002 Interlachen St.	Baytown	TX	77521		281 424 8355
Greich	George M.	5125 N. Desert View Dr.	Apache Junction	AZ	85220	328 Med	
Hacker	Walter A.	935 Country Club Dr. SE	Rio Rancho	NM	87124	410 AT	505 891 9563
Haite	Winfield	15318 Wescon Rd.	Brookville	FL	34601	409 Co A	
Hampton	Harold	190 Summershade Rd.	Rogers	AR	72956	409 Hq 1st Bn	501 925 3522
Higley	Jerry J.	716 S. Link Ave	St Louis	MO	65802	409 Co G	417 866-6242
Hopkins	Vernon	420 N. Ohio	Wichita	KS	67017	Unknown	316-778-1053
Jalloway	Edward J.	190-112th Ave. N	St Petersburg	FL	33716	103 Sig Co	727 577 6350
Kyle Jr.	Earl R.	467 Akna Ave,	Elmhurst	IL	60126	411 Co A	
Lisenbee	Johnie	45 Moss Dr.	La Place	LA	70068	410 Co M	
Martinez	Thomas A.	166 High Clear Dr.	Stamford	CT	6905	? Co G	203 322 9821
Maxwell	Maynard	Rt. 1	Bedford	IA	50833	Unknown	712-523-2048
McCabe	Edward J.	335 Pleasant St.	Rumford	RI	2916	410 Can Co	
Paulson	Joseph A.	3160 Blue Heron Dr Apt A	Kissimmee	FL	34741	410 Co F	407 870 5511
Philyaw	Esley	200 Richland Hwy.	Trenton	NC	28574	411 Co A	910-324-4376
Plotnick	Erwin P.	3231 Burn Brae Dr.	Dressher	PA	19025	411 Co A	
Priest	Jack R.	20120 N. E. 2nd Ave.	Miami	FL	33179	Unknown	305-651-9679
Reekwald	Harold	102 Clarence St.	Holly	MI	48442	409 AT	
Rife	Robert F.	N. 3190 Fern Rd.	Lake Geneva	WI	53147	384 FA Bty C	262 248 1175
Russell	Hudson	1725 LaVilla Cir. (P.O. Box 50)	San Angelo	TX	76902	Texas A&I ASTP	915-651-7267
Slater	Lewis	695 Blairmoor Ct.	Grosse Point Woods	MI	48236	411 Co A	
Tumborello	Joseph J.	11422 Martha Ann Dr.	Los Alamitos	CA	90720	384 FA	562-431-9652
Victor	Bonifacio	2148 Texas Ave	Texas City	TX	77590	409 Co B	409/943-4714
Weich	Robert	6393 Shawollow Dr.	Harrison	MI	48045	411 Co C	
Wernet	Robert J.	401 Jersey Ave.	St. Cloud	FL	34769	409 AT	407-892-1528
Wessa	Wally	1870 Waterview Ln.	Waukesha	WI	53186	411 Co G	414 547 8100
Whitaker	James	17 E. Wilshire	Louisville	KY	40214	409 Co I	502 426 2524
Whitney	Jack	225 Buckingham	San Francisco	CA	94132	411 Hq	
Zagorski	Edward J.	21030 W. Silverleaf Ct.	Plainfield	IL	60544	411 Co H	NL

Snail mail or e-mail em to your editor Dave Leslie at drieslie50@aol.com or to Mel Wright at mel@hal-pc.org

FROM Mike MORADO, Co K, 410th. 2015 E. 73rd Street, Kansas City, MO 64132, and Weldon JONES, Medic Co K, 410th, Medic, Box 3, New Market, IA 51646. On friendship, Mike writes: The two of us were among the first to arrive at Camp Claiborne in 1942. We remained together from Claiborne to Camp Howze, to overseas and in combat from Marseilles to Selestat, and thence to the Maginot Line; thereafter we were separated due to wounds."

The two met again at the 1982 Reunion in Omaha. They again met at a Glenn Miller Festival in Kansas in 2001. Mike now spends his days doing community services in his now hometown. Mike's brother served in Korea, Mike says, and his own two sons served in Vietnam.

FROM Dick BALL, Btry B, 382nd FA Bn. 6012 Jan Mer, Falls Church, VA 22041. (703) 671-9017. Dick reports the good health of the Cactus Clutch that meets monthly on pre-announced Fridays at the Officer Club, Fort Myers, VA. Right now, he says, their group averages about eight Cactus guys and their guests. He opines, "We would like to invite other Cactus folks to join us at these pleasant social get-togethers. Please call for a free invitation!"

OTHER REUNIONS. From Harry E. SMITH, 382nd FA Bn, Btry C. 149 Minges Cir, Battle Creek, MI 49015. (269) 968-9537. Harry reports that the battalion has been holding reunions since 1980. The 2003 Reunion was held 6 - 7 June in Carroll, Iowa. It was hosted by Clifford S. LOESEHEN, P.O. Box 76, Glidden, IA (712) 6593627.

FROM Leonard MAKOWSKI, Co G, 411th. 29144 E. Brittany Ct, Roseville, MI 38066-2041. Re: Col. Donovan P. YUELL, CO, 411th Infantry Regiment. Msg: I was one of the colonel's drivers. I had a lot of respect for him and honored him. I must say once and for all that he was a great colonel. We went a lot of places together during the war and through the battles. We had many close calls. I recall one time a sniper's shot put a hole right through my windshield - that bullet passed between Colonel Yuell and me. Bothered me; the Colonel didn't indicate that it bothered him at all.

Hold it! NEWS FROM BAGHDAD!!! BAGHDAD CITY, from the studio of "BAGHDAD BOB".

THE AMERICANS ARE LYING... How's that?



THEY ARE NOT NEAR BAGHDAD..

How near now?



NOT EVEN CLOSE

How close now?



FROM the Co K, 409th NEWSLETTER. Hey, TAKE TEN. A tough infantryman (supplied) once counseled his grandson, saying that if he wanted to live ... a ... long life...The secret was to sprinkle a little gunpowder on his oatmeal... every morning....The grandson did this religiously and lived to the ripe old age of 93. When he died he left 14 children, 28 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, and a hole fifteen feet wide in the wall of the local crematorium!

FROM Simon DARGOLS, Co A, 411th & 103d Cav Recon Troop, 45 Boulevard Soult, 75012, Paris, France, quoting a Parisian Frenchman: "Those who demonstrate today in the streets forget that in 1944-45 had the Americans decided not to wage a war in order to spare civilians we wouldn't be here to talk about it."

CACTUS PATCH MAIL, continued.

FROM 1st Sgt Carl J. GREENE, Co K, 409th infantry. 7407 Fondren, Houston, TX 77074. (713) 774-4010, saying: On 8 May 2003 the 58th anniversary of the end of World War in Europe, an American flag was raised over the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. As the flag flew, a 15 minute televised tribute was made on the Senate floor by Ohio Senator Mike De Wine (son of Richard De Wine, Co. K, 409th Infantry Regiment, 103d Infantry Division, WW II). The tribute was entered into the Congressional Record. This tribute was made to honor the eleven fellow soldiers of "K" Company, 409th Infantry that were killed in combat in 1944-45

Richard De Wine, father of the senator, is a member of the survivor group of Company K: "We are proud to remember our fallen comrades." The American flag that flew that day is now with the Co "K" Reunion group and is displayed at all Reunions in honor of the deceased.

Continuing, Carl reports that many veterans of the 103d Inf Div still live in the Houston area, his hometown. The "K" Co survivors have met 23 times since their first in 1955, to honor those who paid the ultimate price for peace. They once again met in September 2003 in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Their 2004 meet is scheduled for 2nd week in September in Oklahoma City. For additional info about planned meetings of this group, please call Carl, address and tel above.

FROM William BURNS, Cc I, 409th. 2626 Goldfinch Drive, Cedar Park, Texas 78613. (512) 258-1168. Msg: Do any of you Cactus vets remember how to tie a Baker Bowline knot? Remember? It was a first lesson on how to become an Airborne Soldier.

How about the wooden mock-up of the C47 transport planes and the mock-ups of the GLIDER? You may recall "rushing" into the C47 and bringing along some equipment like Jerry cans and ammo boxes. After you boarded, you needed to tie the stuff down securely to rings in the floor (with a bowline) . Then sit down and wait for the instructor, NEXT STEP.

Now some of you may, like myself, have a fantastic memory, but sometimes uhh awfully short. I'll help you to remember the Baker Bowline...and the knot.

"The rabbit comes up out of the hole, goes around the tree, and then goes back into the hole!"

See! I knew that you would remember. HUBBA! HUBBA! HUBBA!

FROM Robert ENTERLINE, Co C, 411th. 10456 Woodland Way, Hagerstown, MD 21742. Robert recalls the bad day for First Battalion of the 411th. The regiment had been in division reserve during 18-21 November 1944 on the high ground south east of and overlooking the city of St. Die in the Meurth River valley. On the morning of 22 November, the 411th attacked toward the northwest with First Battalion in the lead echelon. The battalion mission was to cross the River Meurthe at Saulcy (Co A on the right; Co C on the left), secure the bridgehead to the north and be prepared to continue the assault.

Bob continued: Movement through Saulcy was initially unopposed but fighting beyond the crossing became intense with heavy fires coming in. Casualties were heavy, in both lead companies, with Co A sustaining 8 killed and 17 wounded.

Bob: As Co C prepared for the heat, they moved up the road toward Saulcy and met Colonel Yuell, CO, 411th Inf, who encouraged his (Bob's) machinegun squad saying, "Keep going, men. Nothing up there but a few snipers." Well, in a few minutes, we met with some heavy machine gun fire. We were directed to set up along a sunken road next to a stone wall at a cemetery, and fire into the woods on our left front. The (German) reply was immediate and fierce - with tracers going between my head and Tom's, the gunner. We quickly moved to the partial shelter of the sunken road. Tom kept firing into the source of those tracers until he had gone through three boxes of ammo. After some light mortar fire at us, things died down and finally no further fire was received.

Bob: It was only then that we realized that the men we could see lying in the field to our right front must be from Co A. Some of our men, along with POWs, were sent out to help. I did not learn until later that eight had been killed, obviously before we got there.

I never learned how many had actually been wounded but in 1989, on a tour back to France for the 45th anniversary of the Liberation of this area of Alsace, I met Bill Polanski of Co A. He had been wounded there and had lain there all night until found the next morning. We both went back to this spot and he remembered, and found, the farmhouse and out buildings to which they had brought/carried him to the medics.

CACTUS PATCH MAIL, continued.

Bob: Thus ends the "rest of the story" of the fire fight at Saulcy, as I remember it. The following men of 4th Platoon, Co C, 411th, have survived and can corroborate and elaborate on the details: Tom KANE; Bill TAPP; Frank WALDECK; and Sergeant Clayton HAGEMAN.

FROM Dell SHEFTALL, Co G, 409th Inf. 102 Springmill Drive, KERRVILLE, TX 78028, (830) 792-9676. Dell presents this poem, referencing Reunions, brotherhood, bonds.

Not by blood alone are brothers made. School yard friendships fasten lasting bonds, And college ties are strong. Social fellowships join kindred types. Professions, clubs, sports, all make bonds, good and needed. But others are my brothers by war's terrible perils shared.	Some live in memories dear; others know pain of old injuries and aging bodies. Memory mixes pain and pleasure, We laugh at things of years ago as though it were yesterday. To my heart's eyes These comrades (and I) are not older or frail, but always as we were when willing pawns of war.
---	---

FROM Junior L. MUSICK, Service Co, 411th Inf. 6909 Oak Ridge Lane, Quincy, IL 62305. (217) 222-5509. J. L. grew up on a farm in Adam County, IL and was exposed to all the joys and freedom of farm life: milking cows, plowing, operation the threshing machine, and other good stuff. On the fateful Pearl Harbor Day, he recalls, he was splitting wood for the woodburning range in the kitchen when his mother came out and told him the news.

Junior declares, "I wanted to join the Navy, but mother nor Dad would have any part of it. Then I wanted to join the Army Air Corps and again, my parents denied me. Then I grew some and finally, rejecting a farm exemption, I got drafted! Was assigned to the 106th Signal Company; transferred to Army Air Corps and got designated Aviation Student, then cadet; aviation school closed, and cadets were ordered to the 63d Inf Div for holding and distribution; wound up in Service Company, 411th Infantry, 103d Infantry Division, Camp Howze; then to Division Headquarters to drive for the officers; finally trained to operate the 57mm antitank weapons, and then overseas with the Division Defense Platoon.

At war end, Junior returned to USA with the 5th Inf Div, then out of service and back to Quincy and the farm (temporarily). Met Colonel Tibbets of Quincy, the gent who flew Enola Gay and dropped the first Atomic Bomb. Junior worked for Firestone Tire and Rubber Company for 35 years; retired to run a TV repair shop and sometimes sell Shaklee Food Supplements, and care for some grand kids, adding, "...with the help of my wife, Florence." (Historian: Thanks, Junior, for sharing with us the heartwarming story of a midwest guy with a lot of fire and spirit... reflecting the stalwart image of the Greatest Generation.)

NOTICE!

NOTICE!

COMPUTER HELPER NEEDED!

The administrative work of our Association particularly in the areas of computerized personnel files and rosters, has grown incrementally over time. The need for computer literate helper now has become pressing. No whiz; just dedicated. Taskings will require software for both microsoft "WORD" and microsoft "WORKS". Mel WRIGHT, Past President and the Association's "Most Valuable Consultant", desperately needs assistance to help him carry the load-and-a-half that he has been so courageously performing through the past three years. Please consider giving Mel a lift if you even think you can be of assistance.

Call Mel at (713) 465-0814; or contact him at eMail: MEL@HAL-PC.org. He will surely welcome your interest.

REUNION TIME 2004

TWICE BEFORE we have been to the scrumptious Hyatt-Regency Woodfield, and now we are going again. Fond memories are bringing us back to enjoy again the wonderful hospitality that is standard fare at Hyatt-Regency Woodfield.



Here is a newly renovated hotel right in the heart of Chicago's Northwest Business District. A bustling business and cultural center, with Woodfield Mall just across the way, makes a perfect setting for our 2004 Reunion.

A full service hotel, the Hyatt-Regency offers 469 guestrooms, several deluxe and junior suites. Boasting 22000 square feet of public floor space and generous ground level parking space, this hotel is located just 30 miles from downtown Chicago, and only 9 miles from O'Hare International Airport. It sports a fully equipped fitness center, heated outdoor pool, indoor lap pool, indoor and outdoor whirlpools and sauna.

We Cactus people have become addicted to good times at our reunions. "Old" Schaumburg is to be a "do it again happy time".. For starters, we will have a bouncing Hospitality Room Shin-Dig from the very Git-Go. Thursday afternoon, at 2:00 p.m., we will have a featured program that we are to call the CACTUS WELCOME PARTY. We're going to put it on for ourselves - music, cash bar, some banjo banging, some singing and overall a real good time as we get reacquainted.

Then on Friday, we will take a jaunty bus tour in the morning to the First Infantry Division Museum over there at Wheaton, Illinois. The finale of our annual hurrah will, of course, be our traditional banquet/dancing/feast on Saturday night.

A word about the CACTUS WELCOME PARTY. To be in the Hospitality Room, with high energy jazz and old time favorites by a modern bandette, a 3-musician struggle for your approving syncopation. This is a Rowdy Party. Come on.



COPYRIGHT FIRST DIVISION MUSEUM FOUNDATION

FIRST DIVISION MUSEUM

CANTIGNY

The Bus Tour to Wheaton. The First Infantry Division Museum is reportedly the best infantry division museum in the country. We are to be "guests", not tourists. You will recall that we were there, too, though admittedly of lesser tenure. The main exhibit hall presents the distinguished history of the 1st inf Div from the Revolutionary War through the Gulf War. Walk through a World War I trench while the sounds of exploding shells and diving planes are heard overhead. Sit in a crowded landing craft with anxious soldiers as they invade Omaha Beach on 6 June 1944. Audio-visual displays throughout the main exhibit hall allow the visitor to interact with the Big Red One's story.

Ask a soldier a question or learn about equipment used in the field through a touch screen computer or hear actual combat radio transmissions over Vietnam-era handsets. Empathize with the soldiers of the Big Red One.



AND THE BANQUET.. Always cheerful fulfilling, uhh, this one will be special due to the performing BANJO BUDDIES DIXIELAND SHOW BAND.COM! Careful now - don't let the name fool you. This is not a banjo "band" the name might imply; this is a real high quality award winning, high demand, maybe even riveting, entertaining group.

Ann Stewart, the leader; Tim Stewart the follower with the trombone; Al RAMSEY behind a trumpet; Dorn RIND and Mike ZUDIS doing their thing ... Listen, with names like that this band has to be good!

Buddies, you are going to be
PLEASED, PLEASED, PLEASED! Come see!

MORE REUNIONS, BIG and SMALL

Call them "get-togethers" and they are all good. Some units have private meets just for dining; others for full mini-reunions, separate from the division and at different places. Visitation among individual members of the division or units, is widely practiced, often to the point of tradition.

An example here of a unit meeting is that of the 2nd battalion, 410th Infantry. Each year since back in the fifties, members of this unit have joined company for some jolly good times. Al Torrance led this group with tireless service until his recent death. Dorothy Brawe has served as faithful and able secretary for many years. Last year, 2003, the battalion held its annual reunion in Baltimore, Maryland. This year, 2004, their reunion is being hosted by John Elkman in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, near Chicago. Over time, a number of members have attended and served as officers of the division reunion group (e.g., Dick Pearson, Co F, 410th.)

Another example is that of 2nd Battalion, 409th Infantry. Members of this unit have held a dinner party at every division reunion in memory. And will meet in a dinner party, 2004, in Schaumburg. This is the typical "mini-unit reunion" held with and in conjunction with the division meeting.

Additionally, company units have held happy reunions both separately and in conjunction with the division. Co A, 411th, Signal Company, and Co G, 409th come to mind. Also, the M.P. Platoon, though recently the membership got so thin the remnant now meets with the division, e.g., Hank Gooris.

Still other small groups of 103d vets meet locally, for all kinds of activities.

Whatever the grouping, or wherever Cactus folks meet, each occasion holds special joy and interesting discourse. In recent years our communications have improved to the extent that we may, with ease, find our buddies. An up to-date living roster is readily available on e-mail from Mel WRIGHT, Past President and Consultant of our reunion group. (e-Mail: MEL@HAL-PC.org.) The roster carries the Cactus member or Associate member name, address, telephone number, e-Mail address, spouse, etc. Mel also has dated telephone books for your use. And, don't forget the 103d INF DIV ASSN of WW 11 page on the internet.

"Hey, now! PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH!"

103d INF DIV ASSN of WWII 2004 REUNION

103d INF DIV WW II



6-9 October 2004

Hyatt-Regency Woodfield Hotel

1800 E. Golf Road • Schaumburg, Il. 60173 • (318) 605-1234

PROGRAM

Wednesday, 06 October 2004

REGISTRATION

09:00 am to 12 noon • 02:00 pm to 04:00 pm

HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN

08:00 am - 11:00 pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MTG: Presidential Suite

05:00 pm to 07:00 pm

Thursday, 07 October 2004

REGISTRATION

09:00 am to 12 noon • 02:00 pm to 04:00 pm

CACTUS WELCOME PARTY; Hospitality Room 02:00 pm to 05:00 pm

Live Music and Entertainment "The Banjos"

HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN

08:00 am - 11:00 pm

THURSDAY NIGHT OPEN TO UNIT DINNERS in hotel or at the many fine restaurants nearby.

See Hank Gooris for special hotel arrangements (847) 966-7556

Friday, 08 October 2004

REGISTRATION

09:00 am to 12 noon

Bus Trip to Wheaton, Illinois

Buses scheduled to depart hotel at 08:30 am

Buses scheduled to depart Wheaton at 12 noon

Should be back at the hotel around 12:45 pm

Visit First Infantry Division Museum "Cantigny"

HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN

08:00 am - 11:00 pm

Friday night open for individual unit dinners

Saturday, 09 October 2004

BUSINESS MEETING: Hotel main Ball Room 10:00 am to 12 noon

BANQUET: Hotel Main Ballroom

Cocktails at 06:00 pm

Dinner at 07:00 pm

Dancing 08:30 pm to 10:00 pm (Live Band)

Music and Entertainment by:

Banjos Buddies

Dixieland Show Band

Hotel Data
103d INF DIV ASSN of WWII

103d INF DIV WW II



Date: 6 - 9 October 2004

Hyatt-Regency Woodfield hotel

1800 E. Golf Road • Schaumburg, Il. 60173

At the intersection of East-West Hwy 90 and North South Hwy 290
exit E. Golf Road.

Standard Room: \$82.00 plus tax, single, double occupancy
\$82.00 plus tax, triple and quadruple occupancy

Hotel Reservations: Telephone (800) 233-1234
Ask for 103d INF DIV Group

Cut off date for reservations: 15 September 2004

Individuals make own reservations.

Small Units arrange own Hospitality Rooms

Transportation to and from O'Hare International Airport, 8 miles.

Rates: By Allstar - 1-(888) 533-4240

Taxi, single passenger \$19.00 (\$10.00 each add. person)
4 passenger station wagon 23.00 total
6 passenger mini van..... 27.00 total
14 passenger van 34.00 total
24 passenger van 59.00 total
Vehicle staged near airport (5+ minutes)

***See You In Schaumburg,
Dick Ball***

GREATER WOODFIELD
CHICAGO'S NORTHWEST SUBURBS



*
HYATT REGENCY
WOODFIELD
1800 E. GOLF ROAD
SCHAMBURG, IL
60173
847/605-1234

HYATT
REGENCY
WOODFIELD
SCHAMBURG, ILLINOIS

For reservations, call your Travel Planner
or Hyatt at 800-233-1234.
Contact Hyatt on the Internet at
www.hyatt.com

GREATER WOODFIELD CONVENTION
& VISITORS BUREAU
1372 E. Woodfield Road, Suite 100
Schamburg, IL 60173
847/605-1010 800/847-4849

103d INF DIV ASSN of WWII
REUNION 2004



Hyatt - Regency
Woodfield Hotel
1800 E. Golf Road
Schamburg, IL 60173

Reservations
(800) 233-1234

Here's Where You
Want To Be!

From Highway 90 and 53 exit onto
1800 E. Golf Road, Schaumburg, Illinois

MONUMENT AND MUSEUM

We have two major projects before us, both of which require our love and attention: *(see also page 2)*

First, we have the on-going TEXAS WW II HISTORICAL MONUMENT which honors the 103d Infantry Division. This project presently carries our highest PRIORITY. Mel WRIGHT, Past President and now Custodian of the Monument Fund, continues in contact with the Texas "echelons" of authority as to the location upon which the monument is to be built. He will have more detailed information on this project at our Reunion in October at Schaumburg.

Secondly, we have now a museum secured for our documentaries, artifacts and memorabilia. The MORTON MUSEUM, actually the Museum of Cooke County Texas, located in Gainesville, Texas, is ready to receive our presentations: no money, but donations of dated WW II items.

The foregoing information is included here as a first step toward requesting your assistance as members of our Association. Your Monument Fund Custodian is working on the monument site solution. At the moment he needs your prayers.

Your Historian is proposing that a Museum Committee be established to serve as, first, a study group to determine just what would be adapted and acceptable for input to the museum. A committee of five seems reasonable. So, please be thinking: no cash, WW II uniforms, personal equipment and accoutrements, boots, leghorns, caps, helmets, helmet liners, canteen and cup, socks, GI underwear (yes), GI shirts, GI cartridge belt, GI pistol belt, etc. So....do start rummaging around the house and attics!

Harold Branton, Historian

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Presort Std US Postage Paid Permit #6 Shreveport LA
--

...|||

Created by Fedexkinkos, Shreveport, Louisiana