

88

June 22, 2009

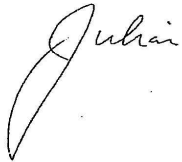
Mr. Lucas C. Martin  
37800 Saltyway East  
Selbyville, Delaware 19975

Dear Luke,

Pardon the delay in sending a highlight of my "story" for the 103<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division during World War II. Unfortunately, I cannot attend the Reunion (due to wife's illness) although have attended a number of them.

If you want additional information from me, or want to make any suggestions concerning my notes, call me at 214-361-0241.

Julian

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Julian". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Julian".

Mr. Julian A. Lerner  
8523 Thackery Apt. 1215  
Dallas, Texas 75225

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I enlisted in the Army on 12/7/1942 before having to register for the draft, while a student at Texas University in Austin and was called up in May, 1943. I had basic training at Camp Maxey near Paris, Texas. Spent 6 months at Texas A and I, in Kingsville, Texas in the ASTP Program. When that program was terminated, I was sent to Camp Howze in Gainesville, Texas. I was assigned to Company A, 410<sup>th</sup> Regiment as an Ammunition Carrier in a Mortar Squad. As of that date, I had never been out of Texas, seen snow or mountains.

My service in A 410 was typical of an enlisted man, although carrying equipment through the Vosges Mountains was difficult for a "relatively little man". Sometimes we were the point group in the attack and the first to draw fire and were pinned down from mortar and machine gun fire. I didn't miss a day of duty until the March 1945 Breakout pressure overwhelmed me.

To this date, I celebrate the approximate date of January 25, as a survivor of the worst day of my life. Escaping injury while in combat was due to being in the weapons platoon as opposed to being in the rifle squad. On that date we were in the Haguenau Woods near as follow up to the Battle of the Bulge. The Germans wanted to split up the U.S. Forces and the effort was the Northwind Campaign. We were surrounded by German tanks. My best friend in the Mortar Section was Bill Phythyon. He was the gunner of our squad. By that time, I was number 2 gunner and carried the tube and dropped shells in it. We were in the same large fox hole (obviously previously manned by the Germans) with several other Americans. I am certain his last words were to me suggesting we abandon the position before the enemy reached us. No one joined his escape plan and he was killed by mortar fire. I and Leonard Diana, a fellow mortar man escaped through the woods by sliding across an iced opening which was zeroed in by enemy fire. We later learned we were "missing in action". We found other American soldiers and were taken to a first aid station and eventually driven back to our outfit. Leonard was from Columbia, Pennsylvania and had attended Georgia Tech as a physics student. He ended up as Head of the University of Texas At Arlington Physics Department. Leonard remains a good friend.

After that experience we believed it would be impossible to survive any attack through Germany. That experience was a defining time of my life and the closest to death believed possible (on several other occasions we encountered heavy enemy fire). We ended the war in Innsbruck, Austria and were quartered in a house on Sonnenstrasse Street. After the War's end, I spent several months in the Army of Occupation - mostly in Kaufbeuren.

Every combat soldier had similar and often times worse experiences of anticipating death. In many difficult business and personal experiences, my days in the 103<sup>rd</sup> gave me the courage to "stay the course".

I returned to the University of Texas in 1946, graduated in 1947 and started the University of Texas Law School. I graduated from Law School in 1950. I practiced law in Dallas for 10 years. I then joined a large financial services firm. Eventually I purchased a small Mutual Fund Management Company and formed Charter Fund in 1968. It became one of America's largest and best performing funds for a time period.

My wife and I live in a retirement community in the heart of Dallas. The 103<sup>rd</sup> came late to the European campaign but suffered heavy casualties and bitter weather. We participated in liberating still alive Concentration Camp survivors. My experiences in the War made me sympathetic to all who participated in the Big War. I still wonder how the Germans were able to launch such a big surprise attack under such adverse conditions and how poorly we (the US Army) were unprepared for the weather and the attack in January. My admiration for my colleagues and their performance under miserable conditions was, and remains, very impressive.

\* SPELLING