

September 26, 2000

Mc Luke Martin
75 SALT HAY EAST
SELBYVILLE, DELAWARE 19975

Re: T. Robie Scott

DEAR LUKE:

First of all I want to thank you for taking on the job of asking the old men of 103rd Infantry Division to share in writing some of our WWII experiences in and out of combat, so you can place them in the Album you are preparing for us.

By the Numbers:

1. Seventeen weeks Infantry basic training during summer of 1943, Camp Maxey, Paris, Texas,
2. Then off to Army Specialized Training Program, ASTP, at Texas A&I, Kingsville, Texas to become 2nd Lt. The program was discontinued soon afterward when it was decided by the higher-ups that Infantry Privates were more in demand than 2nd Lt.

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3. So off we go to the 103RD AT Camp Howze Tex on March 4, 1944 (my 20th birthday) where I was assigned to the AT Platoon, HQ Co, 1ST BN, 409TH Reg, 103RD Division.
4. The 103RD, in October 1944, sailed out of the New York Harbor for Marseilles, France in convoy via Straits of Gibraltar. Coming from the lower quarters to the ship's top deck for the first breath of fresh air my eyes caught the ship's name of "Monticello" on one of the lifeboats. This also happens to be the name of my home-town. This made me even more homesick to add to my sea-sickness.
5. Landing at port of Marseilles in full-field pack, in the rain at night, facing at least twenty-five mile force march to bivouac area of almost solid rock where we attempted to dig-in.
6. Our first action upon relieving the 3RD Division saw tall pines, snow and mountains. The snow falling from the tall pines to the ground that night sounding like footsteps in the dark.
7. Seeing my first dead GERMAN soldier.

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8. Crossing of River (Meurthe) at night when I somehow found my still best friend from our home town (Dick Shelton, B.A.R. MAN, Co. B, 410th REG, SERIAL NUMBER 18169662 - my SERIAL WAS AND STILL IS 18169661). THE CONVERSATION WAS SHORT BUT VERY SOOTHING.
9. SELESTAT (DEC. 2, 1944) AND THE GERMAN'S CAPTURE OF Co. B AND THE FIRST MIA IN OUR PLATOON. ALSO ON SAME DAY, WHEN I RAN INTO MEDIC, FRANK ROSS, FROM OUR HOME-TOWN AND HIS AWARD OF BRONZE STAR FOR SOME OF HIS ACTIONS THAT DAY.
10. BATTLE OF BULGE WHEN THE WHOLE DIVISION RETREATED TO holding position WHICH TOOK US THROUGH SOME OF THE SAME REAL ESTATE WE HAD NOT LONG AGO LIBERATED.
11. CHRISTMAS OF 1944 FOUND US IN THE HAY BARN AND HOME OF AN ELDERLY COUPLE (PROBABLY IN THEIR 50'S) WHOSE SON WAS CONSCRIBED IN THE GERMAN ARMY. I WILL NEVER FORGET THAT CHRISTMAS OF SHARING FOOD, CARDS & FELLOWSHIP.

T. Robin Scott

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12. About this same time, one day while in my foxhole guarding an area in front of me I noticed two G.I.s in snow capes and cover approach my hole, who I challenged. They (one of them) talked to me at which time he UNCOVERED his helmet and all I could see was stars. It was our new 103rd Division Commander, Major General Anthony C. McAuliffe. We best remember him as replying "NUTS" to the Germans when they asked him to surrender.

13. It was March 15, 1945. Need I say more!

14. On one occasion or more after being a part of 3rd Army, we would find ourselves riding tanks. On one of these task forces when I thought we were for sure on the point I looked up and saw General Patton on tank - coming back from the same direction we were going.

15. Either the last day or next to last day of the European War we had three men wounded in our platoon and two medics killed, this was as we were coming down the mountains

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to take Innsbruck, Austria which was the
last action of the war.

16. In the book, all of us in the 409th received
and signed by our 409th Regimental Commander,
Colonel Claudius K. Lloyd, you will see a tank
loaded with my squad on the page opposite page 155.
I am the GI walking back to the tank after my
seeking relief from the — GI's.
17. Who could have picked a place as beautiful as
Innsbruck to end a war — Skiing, Olympic size
swimming pool, German percussion grenade fishing
in Inn River and our platoon having the laborious
job of guarding the only Cognac factory in
the whole Inn River Valley.
18. The breaking-up of the 103rd with some
going to the 45th Division, the 9th Division
and other outfits slated for war in Pacific.
19. Riding train in box-cars from Munich,
Germany to Camp Lucky Strike on the beach
at Le Harve, France to wait on ship to Pacific.

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20. While still on Le ARVUE beaches the USA dropped A-Bomb (August 6) on Japan and WAR in Pacific ended and no sooner than that the beaches of Le ARVUE were emptied of G-I's making their pilgrimage to Paris.
21. Crossed English Channel from Le ARVUE to Southampton, England where we caught the ship Aquatania for HOME.

There ARE No Beaches Like Army Beaches.

cc To my THREE SONS

T. Robie Scott

T. Robie Scott, III
Michael R. Scott
Phillip R. Scott

