

August 26, 1999

Dear Members of the 103D:

For the past 45 years or so, I have heard my father speak of his days in the U. S. Army in all the way from Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, to Camp Howze, Texas, and the battle fields in France, Germany, and Austria. As far as my memory goes back, I can remember hearing the frightening stories, seeing terrifying photographs and some times funny pictures of young boys from a time long ago fighting a horrible and vicious war.

For years I didn't dwell much on these stories, or some of the famous battles of WW2 which I would hear about from time to time on the History Channel, or even about my father's role in any of them. But over the past couple of years, I have been drawn to investigate further this self-sacrificing generation that made up the various companies, squadrons, and units of the 103D. I have come away from my studies with a few observations:

First of all, this generation is without a doubt the greatest that has walked the face of the earth. When I compare you with my generation, a generation which seems to comprised of millions who belly-ache and gripe about not having enough, and who are afraid to make a commitment to someone or something. I see no comparison. I have looked at the next two generations coming along who seem to offer even less than mine, and I am forced to salute all of you. I salute you for being selfless, for being willing to go and do what had to be done, for coming back from awful experiences and asking for nothing in return but the chance to work and provide for your families, and most of all I salute you for saving the world before I was even a glint in my father's eye.

Last year, when I saw "Saving Private Ryan", I left the movie theatre with tremendous emotion. I cried. I cried for all those who gave up their tomorrows so that I could have a tomorrow. I felt pride. I was proud of those who fought so hard in blood baths at Omaha Beach, Iwojema, and countless other places on the globe. I also felt shame. For I am ashamed of the thanklessness I see in the faces of so many whom are not appreciative for what you all did. Most of all, I felt horror after seeing in living color, the hell of war. Immediately after leaving that theatre, I called my father to say "Thank you for the role you played in helping to win WW2.

You see, over the years I have grown from not appreciating what your generation did, to now having great admiration for what my father and the rest of you were able to do. I have come here today to say publicly, in front of you as my witnesses, that I am proud of my dad, I am proud of you, and I hope for heaven's sake the younger people in this world can capture at least a small part of the dedication you have.

Not enough gratitude has been paid you all for what you did over a half century ago. Too many of your number have gone on, without hearing our thanks. They did not know how some of us feel, because we were either too young or too preoccupied with our own concerns to stop and consider the greatness you have given the entire world. Thank you all for doing what you did and for being true patriots to America.

We live in days now when the values, the cherished ideals, and basically most things honorable and good about this country are being challenged by forces just as sinister as Adolph Hitler. I fear that we face a day coming soon, when we will be faced with battling our own government in order to hold on to our freedom, the freedom about which you fought foreign leaders nearly 60 years ago. I pray that my generation and those which follow will somehow muster the courage to stop thinking about their stock

investments and their 401(k)s long enough to start fighting for our precious but diminishing freedom.

Thanks for showing us the way years ago. Thanks for setting the example. Thanks for what you did. May the world always remember you as the greatest, the most selfless generation, which has ever walked the face of this planet. GOD BLESS YOU AND GOD BLESS AMERICA!!

DEAN SHARP



103rd Headquarters

Command Post Locations by date

Commanding General*	Major Gen	Charles C Haffner Jr ★	USA
Commanding General	Major Gen	Anthony C McAuliffe ★	USA
Asst DivCommander*	Brig Gen	John T Pierce ★	USA
Chief of Staff*	Colonel	Lewis C Barkes	
Chief of Staff	Colonel	Guy S Meloy Jr ★	GSC
G-1 (Personnel)*	Lt Col	Gordon Singles	
G-1 (Personnel)	Major	Charles E Porteous	GSC
G-2 (Intelligence)*	Colonel	Garrison B Coverdale	
G-2 (Intelligence)	Lt Col	Bland West ★	GSC
G-3 (Plans)*	Lt Col	Maynard H Carter	
G-3 (Plans)	Lt Col-Major	Richard C Thomas ★	GSC
G-4 (Supply)*	Lt Col	Joseph J Davidson	
G-4 (Supply)	Lt Col-Major	Robert E Myers ★	GSC
Adjutant General	Lt Col	Alfred W Croll	AGD
Judge Advocate	Lt Col	Roger E Titus	JAGD
Inspector General	Lt Col	Merle S Mitchell	JGD
Finance Officer	Lt Col	Gordon K Smith	FD
Chemical Officer	Captain	Edward Catchwigs	CWS
Surgeon	Lt Col	James W Easton	MC
Chaplain	Lt Col	Harry C Rynard	CC
Special Services	Major	Walter S Speckman	Inf
Engineer Officer	Lt Col	Ralph E Childs	CE
Provost Marshall	Captain	Duane C Lyon	CMP
HQ Commandt	Major	Samuel B Yow	Inf
Signal Officer	Lt Col	Carolus A Brown	

Unit Roster

Last Name	First Name	Rank	State	Where are they now and then
Crouch	Howard E			G4
Barkes	Lewis C	Col		
Beehn	Robert C	T5	IL	
Carter	Maynard H	Lt Col		G3
Catchwigs	Edward	Cap		Chemical Officer
Catlett	Robert Francis			
Childs	Ralph E	Lt Col		Engineer Officer
Coverdale	Garrison B	Col		G2 Intelligence
Croll	Alfred W	Lt Col		Adjutant Gen
Davidson	Joseph J	Lt Col		G4 Supply
Easton	James W	Lt Col		Surgeon
Elliott	Sheldon E	Major		Millitary Govt
Haffner	Charles C Jr	MajGen	IL	
Hanson	Sidney W			
Lyon	Duane C	Cap		Provost Marshall
McAuliffe	Anthony C	MajGen	DC	
Meloy	Guy S Jr	Col	MD	
Mitchell	Merle S	LtCol		Inspector General
Mueller	Ralph	T4		
Myers	Robert E	Major		G4 Supply
Nuger	Irving	SSGT		
Pierce	John T	BrigGen	AZ	
Porteous	Charles E	Major		G1 Personnel
Raveschot	George F			
Rynard	Harold C	Lt Col		Chaplain
Shafer	George H	Major		Quartermaster
Sharp	Ralph G	SSGT	MO	general staff mess, contact Ralph via son Dean at sharpri@worldnet.att.net
Singles	Gordon	Lt Col		G1- Personnel
Smith	Gordon K	Lt Col		finance officer
Speckman	Walter S	Major		Special Services
Thomas	Richard C	Major		G3 Plans
Titus	Roger E	Lt Col		judge adovcate
Turk	Jerry	PFC		
West	Bland	Lt Col		G2 Intelligence
Wicks	Roger M	BrigGen	NY	

Forsyth		Sgt		G Section
Garton		PFC	IA	Motor Pool <i>from Iowa</i>
Goldberg		Col		
Haffner	Charles C Jr	MajGen	IL	
Hanson	Sidney W			
Harkness		PFC	IA	General Driver <i>from Iowa</i>
Hecht		Sgt		not overseas
Helm	Wilbert	PFC	IL	Defense Platoon <i>Ill</i>
Houston	Melvin E	SGT	TX	Mess hall ! <i>Houston Texas</i>
Hunger	Al	PFC	CA	Mess <i>from Calif</i>
Jacoby		PVT		Signal ?
Johnson		PFC	SD	
Johnson		LT		Div HQ
Judge		LT		not overseas
Klause				G Section
Lallinger		LT		G4 Perfect IQ <i>transferred out</i>
Larson		PFC	IA	Defense Platoon
Latham	James Jr	SSGT	TX	<i>transferred out</i>
Leonard		CPL		MP or Defense
Lockhart		1SGT	OK	Cadrey
Lopes		PVT		Motor Pool
Lopez	Charles	PVT	AZ	Defense Platoon
Lord		Col	CA	One of G Sections
Lutz		PVT		
Lyon	Duane C	Cap		Provost Marshall
McAuliffe	Anthony C	MajGen	DC	<i>buried in arlington 1975</i>
McDonald		SGT		Head Motor Pool
McGlockin		PVT	IL	Cook
Malobar		Sgt		Drill Sgt
Mathis				Mess ?
Matthews		PFC		
May		Col		Medic ?
Meeks		Lt		G Section
Meloy	Guy S Jr	Col	MD	<i>chief of Staff</i>
Middleton	Jerome	PFC	MO	Meloy's Orderly <i>Kc</i>
Miller		Sgt	IL	Mess <i>#1 mess</i>
Milton				Medic ?
Mitchell	Merle S	LtCol		Inspector General
Montague	Monte	PVT	MO	Defense Platoon <i>St Louis</i>
Mueller	Ralph	T4		<i>G sec</i>
Murphy	Michael	PVT	NY	Mess

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May 2 - 2002

Major Allison mp platoon

Co. Div. HQ Capt. Stanley
mess. officer Div HQ Capt Casey
mail clerk

Sgt. Ross Div 103 HQ Co Clerk penn.

Lt Smith Def. platoon 103 Div, HQ
Harkness Sem. dinner Iowa

Fred Sarney 2079 Serwin ave Deplains Ill.

Willa Carpenter 1510 17th ave Parkersburg WVa, 26101 Harold's widow!

Mary Blum 6600 Dorothy Indian River Fla, Warren Blum Dead

Schueler Erwin J. 6427 Virginia St Louis Mo, ph 752-2358

Monty Montague 411 North 10th St Louis Mo, ph 231-2569

Robert & Rosemary Hoff 529 Westernmill Road Chesterfield, Mo, 63017

J L Music 6909 Oak Lane Quincy Ill. 62305 ph 217-222-5509

Robert Woods 110 Shadelone ave apt 211 Drexel Hill pa, 19026
ph. 610-284-6969

Russ & Beverly Oliver 211 North st, Weymouth ma, 02193-1326 - dead

Will Helm 907 Wilshire Lane Arlington Heights, Ill. 60004-5862

George Ravenshot & Patricia 20419 Lennon Harperwood mi 48225
ph. 313-885-1452

FATHER:

Staff Sergeant Ralph G. Sharp
1960 Hwy. 137
Willow Springs, MO 65793
417-932-4935

SON:

Dean Sharp
9815 Delmar Lane
Overland Park, KS 66207
913-652-9203

314-616-7102

Harold

This is about all I have most of the guys are dead, I have never seen any one that I was in service with all these years and haven't made contact with many.
It was nice to talk again, may call you later.

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Ralph Sharp

RALPH G. SHARP
 GEN. STAFF MESS
 S/SGT 103 HDQRTS

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103 Division Command Posts



DATE	TOWN	REGION	COUNTRY
20 Oct 44	Marseilles	Bouches-du-Rhone	France
30 Oct 44	Docelles	Vosges	France
9 Nov 44	Les Rouges Eaux	Vosges	France
17 Nov 44	L'Haute Jacques	Vosges	France
19 Nov 44	Les Rouges Eaux	Vosges	France
21 Nov 44	Nompatelize	Vosges	France
22 Nov 44	La Pecherie	Vosges	France
24 Nov 44	Provencheres	Vosges	France
26 Nov 44	Lubine	Vosges	France
27 Nov 44	Fouchy	Vosges	France
28 Nov 44	St-Martin	Bas-Rhin	France
2 Dec 44	Dambach-la-Ville	Bas-Rhin	France
4 Dec 44	Gugenheim	Bas-Rhin	France
8 Dec 44	La Walck	Bas-Rhin	France
11 Dec 44	Gundershoffen	Bas-Rhin	France
12 Dec 44	Woerth	Bas-Rhin	France
13 Dec 44	Gunstett	Bas-Rhin	France
14 Dec 44	Merkwiller	Bas-Rhin	France
15 Dec 44	Drachenbronn	Bas-Rhin	France
19 Dec 44	Rott	Bas-Rhin	France
22 Dec 44	Francaltroff	Moselle	France
24 Dec 44	St-Jean Rohrbach	Moselle	France



15 Jan 45	Reichshoffen	Bas-Rhin	France
20 Jan 45	Imbsheim	Bas-Rhin	France
15 Mar 45	Ober Modern	Bas-Rhin	France
17 Mar 45	Gumbrechtshofen	Bas-Rhin	France
18 Mar 45	Woerth	Bas-Rhin	France
18 Mar 45	Lembach	Bas-Rhin	France
19 Mar 45	Bobenthal	Pfalz	Germany
23 Mar 45	Birkenhortd	Pfalz	Germany
24 Mar 45	Klingenmunster	Pfalz	Germany
29 Mar 45	Schifferstadt	Pfalz	Germany
2 Apr 45	Neustadt	Pfalz	Germany
7 Apr 45	Bensheim	Hessen	Germany
20 Apr 45	Murrharat	Wurttemberg	Germany
20 Apr 45	Pfedelbach	Wurttemberg	Germany
21 Apr 45	Ober Urbach	Wurttemberg	Germany
22 Apr 45	Kirchheim	Wurttemberg	Germany
25 Apr 45	Lonsee	Wurttemberg	Germany
25 Apr 45	Horvelsingen	Wurttemberg	Germany
25 Apr 45	Geislingen	Wurttemberg	Germany
27 Apr 45	Krumbach	Bavaria	Germany
27 Apr 45	Ketterschwang	Bavaria	Germany
28 Apr 45	Pfaffenhoffen	Bavaria	Germany
28 Apr 45	Bidingen	Bavaria	Germany
30 Apr 45	Partenkirchen	Bavaria	Germany
2 May 45	Mittenwald	Bavaria	Germany
2 May 45	Seefeld	Tyrol	Austria
4 May 45	Innsbruck	Tyrol	Austria



103d Infantry Division World War II Association

Mr. Ralph G. Sharp
1960 Highway 137
Willow Springs, Missouri 65793

Dear Ralph:

First, on behalf of all Americans, thank you for the sacrifices you made during your time serving our country in defense of world wide tyranny. Without you, and other brave members of the 103d Infantry Division (Cactus), we would not enjoy the freedoms we have today.

Secondly, Zack Sigler, the 103d Infantry Division World War II Association Archivist, and I both enjoyed talking with you this past Sunday afternoon. It was very interesting to hear the stories of your time serving as Headquarters, 103d Infantry Division General Staff Mess Sergeant. You mentioned you did not have a picture, so I've included one here that was apparently sent in by your son, Dean.

Also, as Zack mentioned during our conversation, we have a picture of the Headquarters, 103d Infantry Division (Cactus) staff, shown here. However,



we are only able to identify Major General McAuliffe, Brigadier General Pierce, and Colonel Meloy. Is it possible that you might recognize the two officers to the left of COL Meloy and the two officers to the right of BG Pierce?

You mentioned that you had some historical information about Headquarters, 103d Infantry Division. I have included \$20 to cover the postage for whatever you feel you can send to us. If you want the documents or information back, we will make a copy of what you send and return the originals to you. My address is LTC (R) Larry Wayne, 146 Cold Creek Road, Madisonville, Tennessee 37354-7427.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call on me at (423) 545-9021 or write to me at the above address. We

look forward to hearing from you and wish for you and your family nothing but happiness and peace.

Regards

Larry Wayne