

March 5, 2001

Dear Mrs. Martin -

This is an inquiry about your Album of Remembrances. I attended the Little Rock 103rd reunion for a couple of days and would like to have been able to look at the album, and meet you, but didn't get the opportunity.

My first husband, Pfc. Robert W. Wear was a member of Co. A, 411th Reg. from Christmas Eve 1943 when he arrived at Camp Claiborne, La. (had been inducted Dec. 19, '43) & trained as a machine gunner, then sent to Camp Hanger, Tex. in 1943. He was there until June 1944 when he was sent to Naples, and to 36th Division. - He was in the Southern France Liberation and was killed in action August 25, 1944 in the battle at Montelimar. He was 22. Have always kept in touch with buddies of 103rd, and I am an honorary member of 103rd (have attended

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(Honorary members of these)
several reunions), also to the 36th, and ^{also to} the
104th (Timberwolf) Div. of which my
2nd husband was a member of ^{414th} Service
Co. (He had been an ammo truck driver
through N. Europe.) We also attended
several of his reunions thru the years.
He passed away in 1991 at age 69. (I
had met him after the war.) ^{Strangely,} Both the
103rd & 104th had reunions at the same
time at Little Rock, if you recall. I
had to schedule my time between the
2 groups, as the memorial services, etc.

My first husband and I had a
little girl he got to see twice.

I am wondering if it would
be possible to include his (and) story
in the Album, since he was with the
103rd most of his army life. He is
buried in Rhone American Military
Cemetery, Araquignan, S. France. I
have been thankful to have been
able to attend Memorial Day Ser-
vices there twice through the years,

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and am planning to be there this
May also, the Lord willing, with one
of his brothers and wife. We're all
getting older and may not have another
chance. The years do go by, don't
they?

Is this Album a book you
are doing on your own, and selling,
or is it through the Division?

I would like to know more about
it before sending in (over) his story,
remembrances, and pictures.

Thanks, Sincerely,
Will be looking for return mail!
Gloria Beer

P.S. - I hope your
winter hasn't been as
long and with as much
snow and ice as we've
had out here! Still
have snow drifts higher
than a car, in places.

(over)

Have relatives
in Pa. have vis-
ited much, and

I hear the
east is
having a bad
snow storm
this week end
or the next
day or two.

I have visited the old Camp Howze
area and have seen the older monu-
ment near airport. Have a niece
at Grapevine, so Gainesville is
visited too. My daughter and I
were there about 3 months Spring
1944.

Have sent a contribution to the
new monument and hope to see
it some time. (36th Div. is in
Living, Texas this fall - close by,
so who knows.

April 25, 2001

Dear Mrs. Martin:-

The past few weeks seem to have been a busy time. I did so appreciate hearing from you about your plans for your "103rd Album of Remembrance". What a wonderful tribute and honor it will be for our veterans, besides letting others know how it was then, so it is not all forgotten. So many people now-a-days don't realize that freedom is not free. They need to always be reminded.

Would you include this bio of my husband - : Robert William Wear was born in Iowa Falls, Iowa on January 19, 1922, graduating from high school there in 1941. In early 1942 he moved with his parents and brothers to Sauk County, Wisconsin where he and his parents were employed at an ammunition plant near Baraboo, Wis.
On Oct. 21, 1942 Robert and

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Gloria Bottke of Iowa Falls was married in Black Hawk, Wis. He entered the United States Army on December 19, 1942, leaving from Baraboo, and arriving at Camp Claiborne, La. on Christmas Eve. He received training there as a machine gunner with Co. A, 411th Infantry Regiment, 103rd Infantry Division. He was transferred to Camp Horze, Texas, and then in June 1944 he was sent to Naples, Italy.

At that time, Pfc. Weas was transferred to Co. H, 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division, participating in the Southern France Liberation which began August 15, 1944.

In September 1944, a telegram to his wife reported that he was missing in action. By the end of September 1944 a second telegram stated that he had been killed in action near Montelimar in Southern France on August 25, 1944.

Lates communications from the 36th Division chaplain, and official letters, sent a few details about the several-days battle to liberate Montelimar and that area, stating that Pfc. Wear was killed instantly when hit by enemy shrapnel. He was awarded the Purple Heart post-humously.

Pfc. Wear and wife had a baby daughter, ~~and~~ and he got to see her twice before going overseas. He is interred at the Rhone American Military Cemetery, Draguignan, Southern France. "He gave his tomorrows."

I hope this will be satisfactory for your book, Mr. Martin. And you may use my first letter to you, as you asked, and this one, anything you like. I was able to visit his grave (Robert's) for the Memorial Day Ceremony in 1992; also ⁱⁿ 1995, with one of his ^{with one of my brothers,}

I think I told about my 2nd husband and wife 10/2/92

brother; now our daughter and I are making one more trip to the cemetery and Memorial Day Ceremony May 27, along with his remaining brother and wife. We will also visit the St. Raphael landing area where there is a Memorial Park with a descriptive monument, - also will visit the Memorial Park and "Flame of Liberty" monument near Mon- telimar where Pfr. Weis' name is inscribed, along with others lost there. It will be a good trip for us, but will be a bittersweet journey also, and hard to leave. We will have about 3 days in Paris to see the main places to visit there, so that will take the edge off a little, ^(trip is for my birthday next Nov, an early gift.)

Nice to visit with you by letter. We are glad our snow is gone - it was a long winter here with much snow and ice. Grass is ready to mow, and trees leafing out, Spring

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in Iowa is always interesting. But much wind the last few weeks, and several tornadoes, close-by as 4 miles away a few nights ago. Serious flooding at Davenport on the Mississippi. I have a grandson (just the image of his grandfather, Robert) and family there - he teaches - but they are not near the River.

Best of Wishes to you, and if at all possible, I hope to get to Grand Rapids. (We're all getting older) - ! Traveling more of a chore than it used to be. Had both knees replaced (at same time) 3 yrs. ago, still not too limber, (but better than pain.) The trip to France will be a little slow.

Regards, Floria B.

(Mrs.) Floria (Wear) Beer
122 High Street
Iowa Falls
Iowa ~~50126~~ 50126

Robert William Wear, Co. A 411th Infantry Regiment, 103rd Infantry Division

Robert William Wear was born in Iowa Falls, Iowa on January 19, 1922, graduating from high school there in 1941. In early 1942 he moved with his parents and brothers to Sauk County, Wisconsin where he and his parents were employed at an ammunitions plant near Baraboo, Wisconsin.

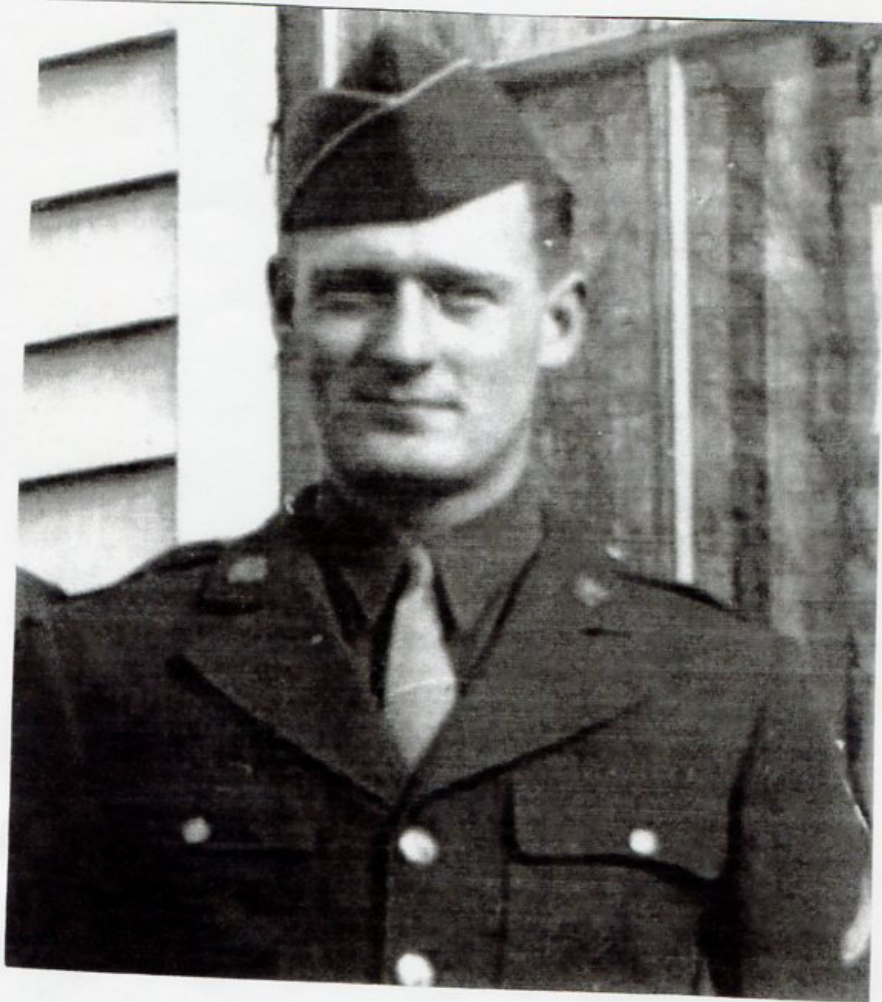
On October 21st 1942 Robert and Gloria Bottke of Iowa Falls were married in Black Hawk, Wisconsin. He entered the United States Army on December 19, 1942, leaving from Baraboo, and arriving at Camp Claiborne, La. on Christmas Eve. He received training there as a machine gunner with Co. A, 411th Infantry Regiment, 103rd Infantry Division. He was transferred to Camp Howze, Texas and then in June 1944 was sent to Naples, Italy.

At that time Pfc. Wear was transferred to Co. H, 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division, participating in the Southern France Liberation which began August 15, 1944.

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???Draguignan, Southern France. *"He gave his tomorrows."*



Pfc. Robert W. Mead - age 22 from Iowa
KIA Monteliman, S. France Falls, Ia.
Aug. 25, 1944



Pfc. Robert W. Wear - 22
Rhone American Military Cemetery
Lagueron, S. France

KIA - Montelimar - 8-25-44