

## Origin of 100th Infantry Division Association

Returning to Raleigh in September 2008 will mark the 61st anniversary of the annual conventions of the 100th Infantry Division Association in the United States.

Its roots go back a year earlier, however. The earlier meeting was in the summer of 1946. I organized it for 399-C members at the Herald Square Hotel in New York City. Attendance was about 20 men (teenagers), whose addresses I'd learned. We determined that a permanent organization was our goal.

With their encouragement I telephoned General Burrell who said he had no knowledge of any organization being formed and encouraged me to proceed.

I collected names, perhaps about 150, and sent out notices for September 1947 to meet on a weekend at the Sir Walter Hotel in Raleigh. We had about 100 at that initial meeting from the entire east coast. Colonel Louis Morse of Boston came and was our senior attendee and guiding spirit.

Actually there had been an organization formed while we were doing German occupation duty in the summer of 1945, with Russ O'Brien as the leader. I contacted him in 1946 and learned that he was busy with college and not inclined to proceed. So I did, with fellow 399-C members Charlie Ufen and Donald Cummings as co-organizers.

We felt it was a successful meeting. North Carolina Governor Gregg Cherry spoke to our group, and so did *News & Observer* editor Josephus Daniels. Both were made Honorary Sons of Bitche by Grand Exalted Biggest David Swift.

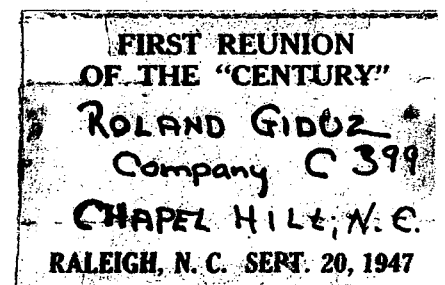
We had men attending also from Nebraska, Florida, Michigan, and New Hampshire, all primarily from word of mouth and newspaper release information.

One memorable happening was a serious thunderstorm late in the evening, which disrupted electricity for an hour or two. There was a North Carolina Young Democrats state

convention there at that same time and that surely encouraged the social spirit.

Of course, we mainly imbibed, but did formally make plans for the "Century Association" to meet the following year, 1948, in Baltimore at the Lord Baltimore Hotel. As I recall we had 400-500 there. I organized and presided and we elected Ed Keelin from Wilmington, Delaware as the president for the next year.

—Roland Giduz  
399-C



Roland Giduz's name badge from the 1947 convention.

**MEMBERSHIP CARD**



"PINKY"

THE SOCIETY OF THE



**SONS OF  
BITCHE**

LORRAINE FRANCE

**MEMBERSHIP CARD**



"PINKY"

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**SONS OF  
BITCHE**

**LORRAINE FRANCE**

FIRST REUNION  
OF THE "CENTURY"

ROLAND GIBBZ  
Company C 399

CHAPEL HILL; N. E.

RALEIGH, N. C. SEPT. 20, 1947