



**The Story of the  
Century ...  
Continued**





*Association banner welcomes Centurymen to the convention*

**The Story  
of the Century . . .**



**Continued**



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# **Introduction**

By Joe Collie, 397-B

This introduction could have been written by men far more qualified than I, but it came down to one of the “last men standing in 2010,” and the president serving for the last formal annual convention to perform that duty. The information contained herein has been compiled by talented and dedicated comrades in their mid-eighties and older to whom a large debt of gratitude is owed by their fellow comrades, heirs, friends, and future generations who may have interest in the 100th Infantry Division Association.

Much has been written about the formation, training, deployment to France, and combat history and honors of the Division. It now remains the duty of those few remaining in the ranks to provide for posterity the legacy of our own “Band of Brothers” who formed and supported the post-war national association of that special combat unit that earned the name “The Sons of Bitch.”

As stated in the Constitution, the Association “is a civilian organization devoted to promoting and preserving friendships among its members, and the spirit of the Division as it existed during World War II.” One of its stated purposes is “to establish and financially support Memorials, Scholarships, and Endowments in memory of soldiers of the 100th Infantry division who fought and also died defending the United States during World War II.”

This booklet briefly covers the story of the “Century Division,” but primarily the 1946 founding, continuous annual conventions, and other activities of the 100th Infantry Division Association. Included are histories of the various regional chapters, memorials placed at the two Army training posts, as well as at multiple battlefield locations in France and Germany. The Association has enhanced the bonding of its comrades and initiated and supported various endowments that will live beyond its members lives through military scholarships and other financial and educational aids.

The table of contents depicts the breadth of the history of this organization. We have been a proud group of veterans, honoring our World War II troops, who fought not just for ourselves and our country; but for the freedom of mankind and for a lasting peace. Please enjoy our history, and may God continue to bless the United States of America and its military.





# **I. The 100th Infantry Division Association— Enduring Friendships Forged in Fire and Blood**

## **The Story of the Century Division**

By Keith E. Bonn, 397-MD P

Less than twelve months after the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, the 100th Infantry Division was activated at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, with an enlisted cadre principally from the 76th Infantry Division and an officer cadre from the Army at large. From activation to V-E Day and beyond, the 100th was commanded by Major General (later Lieutenant General) Withers A. Burress, and was thus one of only eleven US Army divisions to be led by the same commanding general throughout the war.

In late 1943, the Division moved from Fort Jackson to winter maneuvers in the Tennessee Mountains, before moving to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, for further training in early 1944. While at Bragg, the Division received, retrained, and integrated as infantrymen over 3,000 replacements from the disbanded Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP)—an organization designed to train America’s “best and brightest” young men for service in technical military occupations. Also while at Bragg, Technical Sergeant Walter L. Bull of Company A, 399th Infantry Regiment earned the Army’s first Expert Infantryman Badge, a badge still earned today only by the most technically competent infantrymen and certain special operations personnel in the Army.

The Division went into combat in early November as part of the US Seventh Army’s VI Corps, with the mission of penetrating the German Winter Line in the High Vosges Mountains on the edge of the oft-disputed province of Alsace. The Vosges terrain was formidable and the severe winter weather added hundreds of casualties to those inflicted by the tenacious German defenders. Nevertheless, the 100th led the attack through the Vosges Mountains as, for the first time in history, an army

succeeded in penetrating that vaunted terrain barrier to the Rhine Plain and Germany. Within the first month of combat, the German Army Group G Chief of Staff, General von Mellenthin, referred to the 100th as “a crack assault division with daring and flexible leadership.”

While falling back toward Germany, the enemy bitterly defended the modern Maginot fortifications around the ancient fortress city of Bitche. Just after reducing these intimidating defenses, in the last hour of 1944, the Division was attacked by elements of three German divisions—including a full-strength SS-Panzer-Grenadier division, heavily supported by armor—in Operation Nordwind, the last German offensive on the Western front. As the units on the left and right gave ground, the men of the 100th stood fast and the Division quickly became the only unit in the Seventh Army to hold its sector in the face of the massive enemy onslaught. In the brutal fighting which ensued, the Division stubbornly resisted all attempts at envelopment and despite heavy casualties; the 100th completely disrupted the German offensive. Ultimately, the 100th Infantry Division captured the Citadel of Bitche in March 1945, and passed through the Siegfried Line into Germany.

The Division’s last major battle was the attack on Heilbronn in April 1945, which required an assault crossing the Neckar River in small boats, in full view of the crews of dozens of German artillery pieces which laid fierce direct fires over the crossing site. In over a week of savage urban combat, the Division defeated elements of several German Army and Waffen-SS divisions, seized the key industrial city and pursued the beaten foe through Swabia toward Stuttgart.

For these combat actions, the 100th Infantry Division received streamers for the Ardennes-Alsace, Rhineland, and Central Europe campaigns; its subordinate units garnered a total of eight Distinguished Unit Citations.

*100th soldiers man a machine gun in their Vosges Mountains foxhole.*



Among the men of the 100th Infantry Division honored for heroism were three who earned the Medal of Honor: Lieutenant Edward A. Silk, 398-E; Technical Sergeant Charles F. Carey, 397-HQ 2nd Bn; and Private First Class Michael Colalillo, 398-C. In addition, Centurymen earned 36 Distinguished Service Crosses, over 500 Silver Stars, and well over 3,500 Purple Hearts. In all, in 185 days of uninterrupted ground combat, the 100th Infantry Division liberated and captured over 400 cities, towns, and villages; defeated major elements of eight German divisions; and took 13,351 prisoners. In doing so, it sustained 916 soldiers killed in action, 3,656 wounded in action, and lost 180 men missing in action.

Perhaps the story of the most recently accounted for of the Division's MIAs is illustrative of the spirit of the Century Division during WWII. While doggedly defending his position during Operation Nordwind on January 1, 1945, Pfc. Maurice Lloyd, Company L, 399th Infantry Regiment of Rock Island, Illinois, fired his Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) against the onrushing grenadiers until he was shot through the head. By the time the Americans recovered their lost ground later in the winter, new snow had fallen, concealing Pfc. Lloyd's body, and he was listed as missing in action until 1976. In that year, a French hiker taking a cross-country route through the woods in the Low Vosges near Lemberg found Pfc. Lloyd's remains still in his foxhole . . . still clutching his BAR with which he had so defiantly spat death at the attackers over 31 years before. The remains of this soldier of the Century, which remained "face toward the enemy" for over three decades, were finally laid to rest in honored glory amongst his comrades in the US Army's Ardennes Cemetery.

Born in war, manned by many of America's best, trained to high standards and consistently victorious in battle, the legacy of the 100th Infantry Division is one of singular excellence as its soldiers: earned the *first* EIB, were the *first* to ever fight their way through the Vosges Mountains, seized the Citadel at Bitche for the *first* time in its 250-year history, and was the *only* unit to hold its ground during the last German offensive in the west of World War II.

[The late LTC (Ret.) Keith E. "Kit" Bonn was an infantryman and military historian whose father, Keith J. Bonn, was a medic in the 397th. Kit is the author of *When the Odds Were Even*, a history of the Vosges Mountains campaign of 1944–45.]

## **Units of the 100th Infantry Division and Their Mottos**

100th Cavalry Recon Troop	They Scouted Our Way
100th Signal Company	They Got the Message Through
100th Military Police Platoon	They Maintained Law and Order
100th Quartermaster Company	They Serviced the Line
100th Division Artillery	They Covered Our Movements
325th Engineer Combat Battalion	They Cleared Our Way
325th Medical Battalion	They Cared for Our Wounded
800th Ordnance Company	They Kept Us Rolling
373rd Field Artillery Battalion	They Were Men of Song and Steel
374th Field Artillery Battalion	They Were Loyal and Ready
375th Field Artillery Battalion	They Surmounted All Obstacles
925th Field Artillery Battalion	They Were Brave and Faithful
397th Infantry Regiment	They Chose Death Before Dishonor
398th Infantry Regiment	They Were on the Alert
399th Infantry Regiment	They Were Ready
100th Division Headquarters	THE DIVISION OF THE CENTURY



The unique breed of soldiers who endured trials by fire in southern France, the Vosges Mountains, and Germany could not forget their shared experiences. Soon after the War in Europe was concluded, the men of the 100th Infantry Division decided to lay the foundation for shared camaraderie that has continued to this day.

# II. The “Sons of Bitch”

## The Origin of the 100th Infantry Division Association

By Tom Bourne, 399-G

### The Evolution of the Association

Due to indifferent recordkeeping in the early days, the origin of the 100th Infantry Division Association is somewhat obscured. (Who knew it would last 65 years?) In our archives we have some issues of a regimental newspaper published in Germany in the late summer and early fall of 1945. In them are continuing references to a Division-wide election to select officers for a projected Division Association. Unhappily, the newspaper ceased publication the week before the election date, so there are no results. We do know from this, however, that the concept of what was originally the Century Association originated in Europe before the 100th Division's deactivation in 1946 back in the States. We also know that the first leader of the new Association was Russell M. O'Brien, 399-B, so he must have won that first election. The original constitution appears in *The Story of the Century*.

In 1946 Roland Giduz, 399-C, organized a reunion for his company at the Herald Square Hotel in New York City. From this meeting the concept of the Century Association was expanded to include division-wide national annual reunions, and changing the name to the 100th Infantry Division Association. O'Brien was contacted, but he was unable to fill his role as president. The imaginative and energetic Giduz then got busy and organized a reunion in Raleigh, North Carolina, at the Sir Walter Raleigh Hotel. He reported that about 100 attended that first Century Association meeting. He was selected to be the first President of the reorganized group.

In the early days probably the majority of the 100th Division veterans who were active in the Association were from the Northeast: Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania; thus for many years the 100th Infantry Division Association reunions were held in hotels in that area.

Complete records are unavailable, but it seems likely that one of the early meetings at the Commodore Hotel in New York had the attendance record, in the neighborhood of 2,000. There was no question that meetings outside that eastern region attracted fewer attendees for many years so there weren't many of them. Older members from the area, many of them original cadre noncoms, also had most of the administrative control.

The 100th Infantry Division Association was administered by a board of directors consisting of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and members with various permanent or temporary responsibilities. The structure was that a member was elected to the board each year and then worked his way up through various positions until he became vice-president in his fourth year on the board, and finally president following that. He would then serve another year as past president, and, under the original constitution, could not repeat as president. Some were appointed to special positions as assistant secretary or treasurer, or key committee chairman, and so remained on the board for many years.

In 2000 a new constitution was adopted which changed this structure somewhat. The major change was that officers were no longer subject to term limits, and could serve as long as they wanted, with the exception of the president. He, however, can run again after his term is up, either to succeed himself or later. New members are elected to the board only to fill vacancies.

At first, and for many years, the 100th Infantry Division Association was a rather typical veterans' organization, with many members mostly intent in having a good time at reunions, as one was heard to comment, "drinking beer with my buddies." A newsletter, published three times a year, was limited to covering Association business, TAPS notices, and "C" (or Century) Notes, mostly members commenting on their current lives and seeking old friends they had lost contact with, a far cry from today's newsletter, which includes all that and a great deal more besides.

In the late 1980s, however, something rather dramatic happened. Younger veterans of the Division, many of them originally ASTP, who for many years had put their wartime experiences out of their minds, began to be aware of their mortality (or something) and to be much more aware of, and concerned about, their wartime experiences. These years saw the beginnings of the flood of wartime memoirs that fill our archives, and a renewed strong interest in seeing once again those with whom they had shared experiences more dramatic and traumatic than anything that had

happened to them in later years. Veterans began to involve their families in annual reunions to a greater extent, as well. It is interesting to note parenthetically that now, as we get older and, inevitably, feebler, our most recent reunions have had more family members than veterans in attendance, even including a few great-grandchildren.

Over time, we have had regional chapters of the Association in the New York/New Jersey area; North and South Carolina; Florida; and the Midwest, the latter still going strong.

Another aspect of our later years has been the creation and continued support of our scholarship endowments at Virginia Military Institute (VMI), Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC), and Fort Jackson, and maintenance of our archives at the George C. Marshall Library and Museum, Lexington, VA. We no longer gather just to drink beer for three days. With age has come both wisdom and responsibility.

This overview has to be incomplete because of the unavailability of the older records, but from these modest notes it is hoped the reader can get at least an outline of who we are and how we got here.

## **Conventions**

Meetings of the Association followed a pattern that changed somewhat over the years, but still held to their essential purpose: facilitating the annual coming together of men who had gone through hell together and formed a bond that could not break. That was the basic premise, and even now “drinking beer with my buddies” (for those who still could) was an



*Newton, MA, 2004. After almost 60 years of reunions, who would have thought that we still would get 12 first timers to the convention?!*

important part of what goes on. The basic factors of the conventions besides companionship (always the first) were a business meeting of the whole membership, a memorial service honoring those of us who had died during the year since the last reunion, and various kinds of organized entertainment.

The Board of Directors met three times during the year, usually, and brought to the convention business meeting issues they could not constitutionally deal with themselves. Recommendations were made to the members at the meeting regarding budgets and expenses; future meeting locations; nomination and election of new members to the board of directors; and other issues. For many years the meetings were long, drawn out, often raucous affairs, with many members getting things off their chests vociferously and at length, though in later years things calmed down considerably.

The memorial service was elaborate and solemn. The ceremony included a non-denominational religious service, a roll call of the units, and a reading of the names of those deceased since the previous meeting. Candles were lit and a memorial bell tolled. It was always sad, and very moving, as we paid tribute to our own who had left us.

When a reunion was held at a resort, as many were over the years, the recreational facilities and entertainment were, of course, part of the get-together. If, as happened in later years, the location was not a resort, local entertainers and speakers were usually brought in for the evening meals, and tours were offered to nearby attractions and locations, often military.

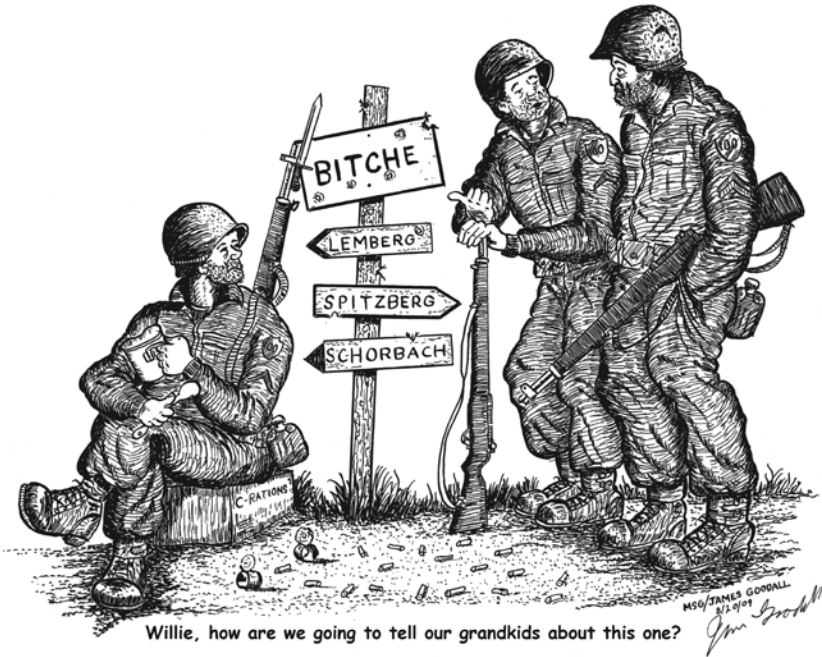
It was established early on that the business meetings were for members, no one else was permitted to attend, so entertainment for the ladies was generally provided, perhaps a shopping tour. In later years the formality broke down and anyone could attend meetings (but not vote). Also, the increasing attendance at the reunions of the veterans' family members changed the nature of the ancillary activities to a considerable extent.

Still, with all the panoply of organized entertainment and diversion, the basic nature of the meetings never changed. "Do you remember?" has started an inordinate number of conversations throughout the three days of the meeting. We were wartime buddies cherishing our associations above anything else, and our reunions were a most satisfying way of doing it. It is only fair to note, though, that of all our membership, never more than a small minority attended reunions, important as they were to the structure of the Association.



# Grand Exalted Society of the Sons of Bitche

By Tom Bourne

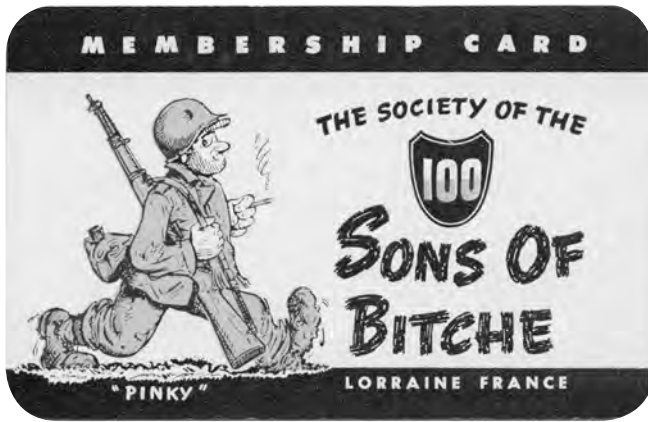


Willie, how are we going to tell our grandkids about this one?

The question posed in the cartoon was at least partially answered in Stuttgart, Germany in the summer of 1945. There in a mock coronation ceremony the first Grand Exalted Biggest Son of Bitche was proclaimed and installed in office, and the Grand Exalted Society of the Sons of Bitche was born. In those early days much pomp and ceremony was involved. There was a Grand Exalted Littlest Son of Bitche, many other ceremonial offices, and chapters were formed all over the Division. Basically, all 100th Division soldiers who had been with the Division in combat, before, during, or after the capture of the fabled Citadel of Bitche on March 15, 1945 were automatically members of the Society. It was believed to be the first organization of its kind in the United States Army that was named for a World War II battle.

After the war, and after the Division went home and was deactivated, the Society began to fade into memory. Enter Roland Giduz, 399-C, who, at the newly formed 100th Division Association's first annual reunion at Raleigh, North Carolina in 1947, revived the Society idea on a more

informal basis. He was proclaimed the first successor Grand Exalted Biggest. Somewhere along the timeline membership cards were designed.



These were personalized and distributed to all who attended national and regional conventions by the current Grand Exalted Biggest (often the Secretary of the Association) or the President. Over time, honorary cards were established and printed. These were usually presented to honored guests at reunions and to others who served the Association or were considered special friends. Finally, in 2009, to celebrate the rising interest and influence of Progeny in the Association, Progeny SOB cards were instituted and presented to all progeny who requested them.

(Note: MSG R James Goodall served for many years with the present-day 100th Division, a Reserve unit headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky. He presented the cartoon to us at our 2009 reunion in Louisville. We are grateful for his permission to use it here.)



As veterans went home to begin where they left off, get married, and start families, the soldiers of the Century Division were not initially focused on maintaining the relationships that had sustained them during months of combat. Eventually, however, they started to renew wartime friendships and involve their families in sharing these unique experiences. A series of geographically-based divisional chapters took shape that nurtured and sustained the 100th ID Association around the country.

# **III. Extending Our Reach**

## **The Greater New York Chapter**

By Ray Denman, 397-L

Many soldiers of the 100th Infantry Division were from the New York and New Jersey area, so it is natural that the first chapter should have been located there. Larry Masi, 325-EC, was a key sparkplug behind the idea for a local get-together. The group met from the 1950s to 1980, initially at the Suburban Hotel in East Orange, New Jersey. Never a really formal organization or program, the dinner-dances were full of reminiscences and fellowship. The groups usually included 25 to 35 veterans, accompanied by family and friends. After a few years, the dinners were catered by the Eppes Essen Restaurant in Livingston, New Jersey, which was owned by a 100th Infantry Division veteran. After 25 years of annual dinners, the last chapter dinner-dance was held in May 3, 1980.

## **The Florida Chapter of the 100th Infantry Division Association**

By Bernice Fishpaw

At a national reunion of the 100th Infantry Division Association meeting in 1981 several members from Florida discussed the idea of creating a Florida Chapter. In the spring of 1982, a get-together was held at a hotel in Orlando on Orange Blossom Trail. About 18 people showed up and the Florida Chapter was activated. Bill Leighton, 399-2B, was elected president; Jan DeBouter, 325-EC, was elected secretary/treasurer; Frank Fanto, 925-B, and Bill Santopietro, 925-B, volunteered to be a hospitality committee. It was decided to hold the second reunion at the Holiday Inn in West Orlando.

The following two years, reunions were held in New Port Richey. Jack Upchurch, 325-E, became president. It was at this meeting that another guest at the hotel learned about the reunion being held and drew a sketch on the back of a placemat that later became "Shifty," the chapter mascot.

The fifth reunion was planned to be held in New Port Richey but when the hotel was unexpectedly sold in March and torn down, Upchurch got on the phone and started calling around to find a new meeting place. Eli Fishpaw, 374-B, was a regular customer at the Quality Inn in DeLand and was able to make meeting arrangements on short notice.

In fact, it was necessary to erect a canvas shade by the pool to use as a hospitality space as the meeting room was already booked for the afternoon. That was OK but in the evening the mosquitoes led to short after-dinner activity outside, and the small group took their cheer to the guest rooms. Everyone enjoyed their stay and voted to return the following year. Eli was elected president.

The sixth reunion was a great success. We were saddened to learn that Jan Debouter was failing and Hugh Creveling, 397-D, was elected secretary/treasurer. Brigadier General Merwin Jackson of the 100th Training Division in Kentucky visited us and brought with him the Division colors for display. Word had reached beyond Florida and many guests came from other states. Eli thought we could have a broader appeal if we had an out-of-state president and Larry Masi, 325-EC, was elected.

Larry brought a "Pinkie" banner which headlined the "Sons of Bitche" and was displayed outside the hotel. Some non-member must have thought it would look good in his rumpus room as it disappeared during the night. Fortunately many of the SOBs had their pictures taken beside the banner and Earl Wood, 397-CN, had it reproduced by a Disney artist.

By the eighth reunion we had outgrown the Quality Inn and moved to the new DeLand Hilton (later a Holiday Inn). It remained our home for the duration. Wayne Blankenship, 397-K; Dick Atkinson, 399-D; and Jack Pointer, 399-G, served as president, followed by Earl Wood, 397-CN, took his place and Morris Levine, 397-2B, with the help of his wife, Marilyn, and Bob Montague, 399-E, carried on.

The banquets were also popular. We had several interesting speakers. One of our speakers was Major General Bill Barron, Commanding General, 100th Division (IT). The General was a big hit with the ladies in his spiffy dress blues and found talking to the old soldiers of the division so rewarding that he became a regular fixture at many reunions. Earl Wood arranged for entertainment from Orlando that was always well received.

In 1988 Lester Frew, 374-B, was elected chaplain and he established a memorial service held each year to highlight the members who had

passed away since the previous reunion. The lovely voice of Yvonne Wunderlich, wife of Charles, 399-M, added real class to the event. When Lester passed on, he was replaced by Bill Huber, 374-B. Later Morris Levine assumed that duty.

Over the years we made day trips to Silver Springs, St. Augustine, Sea World, and luncheon cruises on the St. John River. Earl arranged for evening outings in Orlando such as the Dixie Stampede, and Arabian Knights dinner shows. The most popular attraction, however, was Century Central. Here, members gathered to reminisce. It was a place to renew acquaintances with old war buddies and to make new friends. The display of memorabilia and photos grew each year. Food and drinks were handled by Ed Gilliam, 398-M; Frank Richenelli, a friend of the Chapter; and Bert Simko, 398-E, and later Wayne Blankenship. Boyce Garman, 399-G, took photos later used by Bernice Fishpaw in the Chapter newsletter.

The years have taken their toll and the final reunion was held in 2007. So the Florida Chapter, like many of its members, has answered the final muster.

## **History of the North Carolina/ South Carolina Chapter**

By Henry B. Williams, 399-AT

Sometime before the creation of the NC/SC Chapter, the 100th Division (IT) erected a large historical marker at the activation site at Fort Jackson, commemorating the activation of the division on November 15, 1942.

Alden K. Small was company commander of the 100th Infantry Division Headquarters Company when the division was activated at Fort Jackson, SC, in November 1942, and continued in this position until war's end. His first son was born at Fort Jackson and he always had a nostalgic affinity to the fort.

After Alden retired to Hendersonville, NC, he formed the NC/SC Chapter of the 100th Infantry Division Association at a meeting on May 25, 1984, with the goal of ensuring the division's legacy at Fort Jackson.

Our 399th regimental commander and second division commander, Brigadier General Andrew C. Tychsen lived in Columbia, SC, just outside of Fort Jackson, and Alden decided on an annual BG Andrew C. Tychsen EIB award—consisting of an EIB plaque and savings bond—presented to

the soldier who scored highest on the EIB test at the fort. This was April 1982 and until his death in 1986, the general graciously held an open house at his home for the 100th ID attendees.

In 1986, the chapter erected the Walter L. Bull monument by the main flag pole at Fort Bragg, NC, commemorating him as the first recipient of the EIB. In May 1987, a willow oak sapling was planted at the activation site at Fort Jackson and a small plaque in memory of General Tychsen was installed next to the tree.

In 1991 Alden persuaded the Association to provide two \$250 scholarships to deserving Fort Jackson soldiers. His goal was to have these scholarships endowed, but sadly Alden died in 2003 and never lived to see the scholarships grow to two, fully endowed \$1,000 scholarships!

On the 50th anniversary of activation, November 1992, Alden and I personally guaranteed to the Officer's Club at Fort Jackson that we would have 75 veterans attend a dinner celebration. Two-hundred twenty-five veterans and wives attended, and the Officer's Club was screaming that they couldn't handle any more!

During my tenure as Memorials and Awards Committee Chairman, in July 1996 we replaced the Tychsen plaque at Fort Jackson with a permanent cast bronze plaque in memory of our two revered World War II commanders, Lieutenant General Withers A. Burress and Brigadier General Andrew C. Tychsen. In front of the Fort Jackson Museum we placed a permanent cast bronze plaque in honor of those who served in the Division. In May 2000 we dedicated a large granite monument close to the Walter Bull monument, by the main flag pole, dedicated to the soldiers of the 100th Infantry Division. The annual EIB award and scholarships at Fort Jackson continue to this day.

## **History of the Midwest Chapter**

By Jack Brown, 397-HQ

A group of six veterans of the 100th Infantry Division of World War II met in Decatur, Illinois, in 2000 and decided to meet annually. The thought was that if you lived within 300 miles of Decatur, you could make the drive within six hours. All members of the 100th Infantry Division Association who lived within 300 miles of Decatur received invitations to meet. The Midwest Chapter has evolved from this group. It was officially

chartered by the Board of Directors in 2002. The meetings were originally held on Memorial Day, but since many of the veterans participated in parades and celebrations, this was later changed to the last weekend in April.

Special military displays of World War II weapons and memorabilia have been set up at various meetings, not only for veterans and their families, but the general public to view. These were usually displayed indoors, but on one occasion a large tent was erected to provide space for seven Illinois re-enactors to show their collections.

One project of the chapter has been to help veterans receive the various medals to which they were entitled. This was done through the office of US Representative Ray LaHood, of Peoria, Illinois. Nine Bronze Star Medals were presented in 2002, thirty in 2003, and two in 2006. Ten veterans received their Army of Occupation medals in 2006. The “Thank You America” Certificate, from the French Consul of Chicago—which was intended to show the appreciation of the French citizens for our efforts to liberate France during the war—was presented to thirty-nine veterans in 2003.

There have been a variety of programs, since the purpose of the meetings was to meet, greet, and eat. One outstanding program was presented by Keith “Kit” Bonn in 2003 when he talked about the “Vosges Campaign.” As one veteran exclaimed, “This was the first time that I had any idea of what it was all about. I just tried to keep alive day by day.” Another time, Victor Gutt talked about his experiences at the Nuremberg Trials.

In 2003, the 100th Infantry Division Association’s Board of Directors decided to have the “Morning Reports” of the Division’s combat period copied and filed in binders. These morning reports were to be part of our collection at the George C. Marshall Library, adjacent to the Virginia Military Institute. These reports are permanently housed at the National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO, so veterans of the Midwest Chapter volunteered to complete the assignment. The project involved getting permission to make the copies and then go do the work in four-man teams. Three men would make the copies and one would arrange them in proper order. There were over 16,000 to be copied, so it required the services of six veterans and a total of forty days to obtain the records. A second set of copies was then made to give to the George C. Marshall Library to make it possible for them to provide sets of copies of individual

companies. Twenty-two veterans and seventeen family members placed the copies in plastic holders at the 2005 meeting.

Our attendance has jumped from six veterans and their guests in 2000 to twenty-two veterans in 2001. The total attendance in 2002 was fifty of which twenty-two were veterans. The Centurymen attendance has held steady until 2009 when it dropped to seventeen. In April 2010 there were fourteen veterans with a total attendance of twenty-nine, ending a decade of memories.

## **Touring 100th Infantry Division WWII Battle Sites**

By William S. Glazier, 399-1B

Uncle Sam gave 100th Division soldiers their first tour of battle sites in 1944 and 1945 combating the German army in France and Germany. Approximately 500 veterans have returned as civilians since World War II to see where they fought and to find their old foxholes. Some went independently with family or friends. Organized tours led other returning 100th Division veterans from the 1960s to 2005. Past President Frank G. Andros, 373-B, led a number of these. Past President Bill Glazier in 1996 led a group from his company, 399-1B, to sites in Alsace-Lorraine, and then seven more tours, open to all Association members in subsequent years to 2005. Additional tours took place in 2008 and 2010.

In 1996 and 1997, Bill was assisted by the Association's international historian, the late Frank L. Gurley, 399-A. Also assisting him on these tours from 1997 to 2005 was French military historian Lise Pommois who lives in Niederbronn, near Bitche. Lise continues to organize tour groups, formally and informally, of Association veterans and progeny. There was another group tour in 2008, and a culminating one in 2010 that will probably prove to be the last of these expeditions, combining it with the celebration of the 65th anniversary of V-E Day in Bitche and the surrounding area. This tour was enhanced by the presence of the commanding general of today's 100th Division (OS) (Operational Support), BG Patricia Heritsch, with a color guard from her command.

On every tour, members held a ceremony at the Maurice Lloyd monument, where flowers were laid. Every tour also visited the US Military Cemetery at St. Avold. Tour members would search for their friends'



graves there using the cemetery's records, and leave flowers at the chapel. In Bitche, Raön l'Etape, Lemberg, and Rimling, formal WWII memorial programs were held. Troops from the French 57th FA Regiment paraded at Bitche. The tour groups presented wreaths at these ceremonies and provided color guards with the 100th's and American flags.

Every tour, members were guided through the restored underground Maginot Fort at Simserhof. While touring the Citadel at Bitche, members could view the monument to the 100th Division that has been mounted on a topside wall.

Tour members often resided at Le Relais des Chateaux Forts, a handsome hotel that looked right up at the Citadel. During the tour years, Michele Rohr, whose mother had made the American flag that was hung by our troops on the wall of the Hotel Strasbourg on liberation day, welcomed tour members at the Chateaux Forts and showed us the famous flag.

Two Association tours in 2005 celebrated the two 60th anniversaries important to Bitche: the 60th anniversaries of the 100th Division liberation of the city on March 16, and VE-Day, May 9.

The 2008 and 2010 tours were enhanced by the presence of French WW II US military reenactors. Clad in their 100th Division uniform replicas, they gave tour participants rides in restored US military vehicles from the period, otherwise enlivening the ceremonies.



*Centurymen tour Maginot pillbox, 2005.*

## **Lieutenant General Withers A. Burress Distinguished Service Award**

By Bob Fair, 399-D

In September 2002 the Association Board voted to establish the LTG Withers A. Burress Distinguished Service Award (DSA). This award was to recognize Association members who had made major contributions to the Association's objectives of promoting and preserving friendships among its members and the spirit of the Division as it existed in World War II. President Lewis C. (Doc) Emerson, 397-2B, asked past President Paul Mosher, 397-I, to form and chair a DSA committee. On July 17, 2003 Chairman Mosher expressed his thoughts in a letter to three past presidents and to Doc Emerson. He emphasized "hard work and dedication of those who have devoted themselves to the organization and have kept it a viable entity for the past 56 years." Mosher also suggested that there be a committee with broad representation. This required a large number of members and ones who have been in a position to evaluate contributors over the years. The committee's prime responsibilities were to evaluate nominations and select recipients. The objective was to recognize the first recipients at the September 2003 convention.

Shortly after suggesting a committee structure and establishing the criteria to select an award recipient, Mosher resigned as chairman. He was succeeded by past president Robert Fair who selected an 18-member committee representing all three infantry regiments and the field artillery. He called for nominations, resulting in a ballot of 20 nominees. He also established that a majority vote was needed in order for a member to be awarded the DSA. A certificate was designed and an engraved Jefferson Cup was selected for presentation to those elected. The first group honored consisted of Roland Giduz, 399-C, the first president of the Association; William J. Law, 397-E, past president and active director; Louis R. Witt, 398-E, past president and long-time treasurer and director; and William H. Young, 399-L, past president and secretary.

Publicity of the award and the call for nominations appeared regularly in the Association Newsletter and E-News. This attracted additional nominees, many repeated from the first list. By April 2005 there were 19 members of the DSA Committee and another 22 nominees. Due to the majority rule it was necessary to give each committee member five votes. This produced four more recipients in 2004, two in 2005, and three in

2006. All recipients were announced at the convention and the awards were presented by one of those who nominated them. In 2007 three more distinguished and active Association members were elected and another four in 2008. With three more recipients in 2009, a total of 22 outstanding people had been given the DSA.

## **Past Presidents and Annual Convention Sites**

Throughout the sixty-three years of its existence, the 100th Infantry Division Association has met annually to renew old friendships and to further its founding principles, under the leadership of its president. A listing of those presidents and the annual convention sites follow:

- Russell O'Brien, 1946, 398-A, an Association founder, Germany, San Jose, CA (None Elected Yet), 1947, Sir Walter Raleigh Hotel, Raleigh, NC
1. Roland Giduz, NC, 1948, 399-C, Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, MD
  2. Edward A. Keeling, DE, 1949, 399-M, Commodore Hotel, New York, NY
  3. Jack P. Albaugh, NJ, 1950, 397-B, Hotel Statler, Boston, MA
  4. Bernard V. Lentz, PA, 1951, 399-3B, Ben Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia, PA
  5. William J. Law, NC, 1952, 397-E, Commodore Hotel, New York, NY
  6. G. E. (Bud) Millett, MA, 1953, 397-1B, Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, MD
  7. William H. Young, Jr., PA, 1954, 399-L, Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Reading, PA
  8. Stanley Possess, NY, 1955, 397-B, Commodore Hotel, New York, NY
  9. William T. Ong, Jr., PA, 1956, 399-3B, (died in office)  
Henry Van Dyke, MA, 1956, 100-DA, Carter Hotel, Cleveland, OH
  10. Albert Bisaccia, CT, 1957, 397-SV, Hotel Statler, Hartford, CT
  11. Harry St. O'Neil, MD, 1958, 399-L, Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, MD
  12. John A. Vorbach, NY, 1959, 100-MP, Ben Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia, PA
  13. Leonard McIlvaine, SC, 1960, 397-1B, Henry Hudson Hotel, New York, NY
  14. Martin Hale, MA, 1961, 925-C, The Queensbury Hotel, Glens Falls, NY
  15. Lawrence Masi, NJ, 1962, 325-EC, Ritz Carlton Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ
  16. Anthony LaPorte, NY, 1963, 397-E, Hotel Somerset, Boston, MA
  17. Anthony F. Tom, CT, 1964, 397-E, Park Sheraton Hotel, New York, NY
  18. Arch L. Handy, MD, 1965, 398-2B, Mayflower Hotel, Washington, DC
  19. Robert Lorenz, FL, 1966, 325-EC, Hotel Shelborne, Atlantic City, NJ
  20. Thomas C. Burdett, PA, 1967, 398-2B, Statler Hotel, Hartford, CT
  21. Louis R. Witt, MD, 1968, 398-E, Mayflower Hotel, Washington, DC
  22. Eugene Fink, PA, 1969, 398-F, Bellevue Stratford, Philadelphia, PA
  23. Frank G. Andros, NY, 1970, 373-B, Dennis Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ
  24. Raymond Denman, NJ, 1971, 397-L, Sagamore Hotel, Bolton Landing, NY
  25. John P. Manzi, NY, 1972, 398-F, Statler Hilton Hotel, Boston, MA
  26. I. V. DiMartino, NJ, 1973, 325-EA, Pocono Manor, Pocono Manor, PA
  27. John H. Bolin, KS, 1974, 399-L, Sagamore Hotel, Bolton Landing, NY
  28. Matthew F. Sica, MA, 1975, 925-B, Granit Hotel, Kerhonksen, NY

29. Miguel A. Escalera, CT, 1976, 399-C, Pocono Manor Inn, Pocono Manor, PA
30. George Leone, CT, 1977, 399-L, Host Inn, Harrisburg, PA
31. Umberto J. Aliberti, FL, 1978, 398-H, Granit Hotel, Kerhonksen, NY
32. Frank P. Menza, NJ, 1979, 398-D, Hyatt House Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ
33. Andrew A. Victor, PA, 1980, 399-H, Concord Hotel, Lake Kiamesha, NY
34. Herbert C. Davis, NC, 1981, 398-E, Tamiment Hotel, Tamiment, PA
35. John M. Walsh, PA, 1982, 398-I, Granit Hotel, Kerhonksen, NY
36. Samuel F. D'Arpino, NJ, 1983, 399-A, Tamiment Hotel, Tamiment, PA
37. William H. Good, NY, 1984, 399-CN, Host Farms, Lancaster, PA
38. Walter Backus, CT, 1985, 100-SG, Marriott Crystal Gateway, Arlington, VA
39. William Drayer, PA, 1986, 925-B, Downington Inn Resort, Downington, PA
40. Emilio N. Rodriguez, NJ, 1987, 398-I, Hershey Hotel, Hershey, PA
41. Martin Winit, PA, 1988, 399-CN, Host Farms, Lancaster, PA
42. John Wennstrom, NY, 1989, 325-EC (died in office)
- Burton Schuman, CT, 1989, 100-HQ, Concord Hotel, Lake Kiamesha, NY
43. Burton Schuman, CT, 1990, 100-HQ, Kutsher's, Monticello, NY
44. Walton B. Smith, CT, 1991, 397-B, Friar Tuck, Catskill, NY
45. William W. Bartley, PA, 1992, 399-CN, Host Farms, Lancaster, PA
46. Stanley Possess, NY, 1993, 397-B, Stouffer Harborplace, Baltimore, MD
47. Richard S. Atkinson, MD, 1994, 399-D, Hyatt House Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ
48. Robert G. Alcorn, NY, 1995, 397-2B, Galt House, Louisville, KY
49. Marvin Alpert, PA, 1996, 399-C, Marriott Hotel, Williamsburg, VA
50. Joseph H. Collie, NC, 1997, 397-B, Adams Mark Hotel, Charlotte, NC
51. Charles C. Wunderlich, PA, 1998, 399-M, Doubletree Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA
52. Paul F. Mosher, TX, 1999, 397-I, Hilton Hotel, McLean, VA
53. Henry B. Williams, SC, 2000, 399-AT, Galt House, Louisville, KY
54. Morris J. LeVine, FL, 2001, 397-2B, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Tampa, FL
55. Robert R. Fair, VA, 2002, 399-D, Hilton Hotel, McLean, VA
56. Lewis C. Emerson, TN, 2003, 397-2B, Marriott Hotel, Nashville, TN
57. William S. Glazier, CT, 2004, 399-1B, Marriott Hotel, Newton, MA
58. Sam Resnick, NY, 2005, 399-D, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Philadelphia, PA
59. Thomas J. Tillett, NC, 2006, 398-H, Omni Hotel, Richmond, VA
60. H. Tom Bourne, VT, 2007, 399-G, Sheraton Hotel, Burlington, VT
61. Robert R. Fair, VA, 2008, 399-D, Sheraton Hotel, Raleigh, NC
62. John E. Plamp, KY, 2009, 398-M (resigned medically)
- J. Richard Good, NC, 2009, 398-H, Galt House, Louisville, KY
63. Joseph H. Collie, NC, 2010, 397-B, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Reston, VA

With the passage of time, the men of the Century Division were increasingly determined to ensure that the principles of democracy for which their comrades died during World War II continued to be pursued even after the last WWII Centuryman is gone. From that desire evolved a series of initiatives to ensure the legacy of the 100th Infantry Division would endure.

# **IV. Establishing a Legacy for the Future**

## **The Withers A. Burress Marksmanship Award at Virginia Military Institute**

By Bob Fair

Most organizations, and individuals for that matter, have an interest in their legacy, that is, what people will remember about them. For the 100th Infantry Division, its legacy will always be the six months they served in the US Seventh Army in France in 1944 and 1945. There are division and regimental histories written right after World War II that document the Century Division's commitment to fighting the German Nazi war machine. As time passed, companies and individuals wrote down their memories that further explained what the Division did during its time in Europe. These were all excellent, but they were not enough.

In 1957, some 12 years after V-E Day, the 100th Infantry Division Association decided that they wanted to do something that would be an annual reminder of what the Division had accomplished during the war, and at the same time, honor its commander, Major (later Lieutenant) General Withers A. Burress. On April 1, 1957 Thomas Burdett, secretary of the Association, sent a letter to the VMI Superintendent proposing an award in General Burress' honor. He asked that VMI keep its deliberations confidential since it was the Association's intent to ask General Burress to make the presentation and did not want the General to be embarrassed if VMI ultimately declined such an award. Interestingly, VMI initially said they had too many military awards and asked the Association to consider a scholarship. Due to lack of the amount of money which would have been required (\$5,000 endowment to generate \$200 annually), the Association declined, so VMI relented and accepted an annual Lieutenant General Withers A. Burress Marksmanship Award, given to the cadet with the highest marksmanship scores.

The first award was presented on June 8, 1957 by General Burress who was attending his 43rd VMI reunion. Since then the Award has been presented by Association officers, usually the president, or by members who

enthusiastically supported this recognition such as Lowry Bowman, 397-I; Lou Witt, 398-G; Ray Denman, 397-L; and Joe Collie, 397-B.

The Association purchased the award every year until 1964, and paid extra for the inscription on an award plaque maintained by VMI. In 1966, the Association voted to establish an endowed fund of \$1,000 and pledged to pay \$200 per year until it was fully funded, continuing to pay for the award every year in the interim. By May 1966, the Association had fully endowed the award.

In 1966 Arch Handy, 398-2B, the 1965 president of the Association, sent a letter to the Superintendent of VMI asking that “now that the award is fully funded, could you use a scholarship?” The Superintendent said “Hell, yes.” This was the first mention of a scholarship that the Association later awarded through its Operation LEGACY.

The Marksmanship Award is still very much in effect. Two awards are presented at VMI each May, one to a male cadet and one to a female cadet. In 2010 there will have been a total of 53 annual presentations.

The cadet recipients’ names are inscribed on a plaque that the Association bought in 1957 for the cost of \$89.50. When this plaque was filled, VMI Building and Grounds carpenters built “extensions” on either side of the original plaque for the cost of the wood (\$20). The Association initially purchased the awards but after a few years, when their supplier went out of business, they asked VMI to see if they could come up with a reliable vendor. VMI did so, with the total cost for the award, engraving, and shipping of \$25. Since 1966 the endowment has grown to the extent that today each winner is presented with a check for \$500, a desk pen and pencil set, and the Division history, *The Story of the Century*.

*May 1963. Lieutenant General (Ret.) Withers A. Burress presents VMI Cadet Timothy J. Renaud with the Burress Marksmanship Award as Arch Handy, Association Vice President, looks on. Cadet Renaud was a two-time recipient, having also received the award in 1962.*



# Operation LEGACY

By Bob Fair

The Association had always envisioned development of a meaningful legacy; but without reaching consensus. In 1999, serious consideration centered on the one factor all members would agree: honoring Lieutenant General Withers A. Burress of Richmond, Virginia, our commander from the Division's formation at Ft. Jackson in late 1942 until the end of the war. His daughter suggested establishing some relationship with the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) at Lexington, VA, beloved by her father, a 1914 graduate.

In May 1999 past President Joe Collie and others from the Association met with officials of the VMI Foundation to discuss ways in which the Association could expand its involvement with VMI, beyond the marksmanship award, then in effect. A letter from Joe Collie in August 1999 proposed an Association board meeting at VMI in November. At this board meeting there were preliminary discussions which soon led to the announcement of Operation LEGACY.

In November the VMI Foundation provided the Association's board with information on the tax status of veterans' organizations, investment information, ROTC performance, archives information, and a first draft of the Memorandum of Understanding among VMI, the VMI Foundation, and the 100th Division Association. At that time, current President Paul Mosher and incoming President Henry Williams appointed an endowment committee, headed by Joe Collie, with Roland Giduz as secretary. One member of the committee, Herb Chandler, 398-M, developed fund raising material including a logo, stationery, and a brochure, all designed to encourage giving by the members and friends of the Association. It was then that the name "Operation LEGACY" was adopted.

In February 2000 a special edition of the Association's Newsletter was issued, announcing Operation LEGACY. In a letter from Joe Collie, Herb Chandler, and other members of the committee, it asked "What will happen to the 100th Infantry Division Association when we are gone?" The letter then stated that "It has been the dream of our officers and members to have a meaningful legacy honoring our Division's soldiers, living and dead, and also a special honor to our commanding officer, the late Lieutenant General Withers A. Burress. Continued awareness of our heritage will be assured by Operation LEGACY."

This announcement, for the first time, defined two legacies: the “Living Legacy” and the “Learning Legacy” (described in detail in the article below). The Living Legacy was defined as scholarships for cadets at VMI, General Burress’s alma mater. The Learning Legacy was an outgrowth of a idea proposed by Kit Bonn, a historian and son of Keith J. Bonn, 397-MD. He recommended placing the 100th Division archives at the Marshall Library to be used by researchers, students, veterans, and their families. This would require financial and voluntary support, but would certainly add to the organization’s legacy. This idea was further supported by the management of The Marshall Library and by the history department of VMI.

On February 10, 2000 a letter, “C-Note from a Centuryman,” from our only surviving Medal of Honor winner, Mike Colalillo, 398-C, together with a special brochure and a return envelope, was mailed to 3,224 Association members on Operation LEGACY stationery. These brochures were another product of Herb Chandler.

In April 2000 Joe Collie, now Chairman of the Endowment Committee, wrote an article for the Newsletter explaining Operation LEGACY. He stated the goal of \$300,000; and encouraged all members to support this important activity.

On May 5, 2000 the VMI Foundation provided additional information to the Association: its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Foundation; the FY 1999 Annual Report; and a current VMI admissions catalog.



*100th Division Association representatives meet with the VMI cadets who received the award, May 2005.*



The fundraising effort—the February 1 announcement letter, Mike Colalillo’s C-Note, articles in the Newsletter, the brochure, and other appeals—had raised \$98,071 by mid-March 2001. Since the money was available, it was decided to award the first scholarship. An award of \$2,500 was presented on May 14, 2001 to Cadet Ryan M. Davis, VMI Class of 2002. Cadet Davis attended our Association’s 2002 convention and gave a short thank-you talk.

Operation LEGACY, now commonly referred to as OpLEG, was the first-page feature in the April 2001 Association Newsletter. For the first time, a full-page pledge form was included and a listing of all those who had given or who had pledged, approximately 640 total. Joe Collie wrote the article and continued to write articles for the Newsletters explaining OpLEG and asking for donations.

By mid March 2002 the OpLEG endowment had grown to \$175,000. On May 14, 2002, two scholarships were awarded for the first time, one to a rising senior and one to a rising junior.

In September 2002 the VMI musical combo, a bugler, and their Color Guard participated in the Association’s convention in McLean, Virginia, including its memorial services and the laying of wreaths at graves of George C. Marshall, General Burress, and the tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. This participation highlighted OpLEG and its tie to VMI.

In Joe Collie’s report to the membership in April 2003, the headline read “\$300,000 Ultimate Goal in Sight.” By March of that year, the endowment fund had reached \$233,017. This permitted three scholarships to be awarded in May, one for \$3,000 and two for \$2,500. The Association’s original goal of \$300,000 was exceeded by the end of 2004; a total of \$326,847 had been raised. In that year, four scholarships of \$3,000 each were given. On May 1, 2005 money from the scholarship fund was transferred to The Marshall Library to increase their archives endowment to \$25,000. On May 14 four scholarships were awarded at VMI, each for \$3,500.

The Association’s fund raising effort continued in 2006, and the number of scholarships remained at four in the amount of \$4,000 each. For the past four years, through 2009, the Association has given four awards, each for \$4,000.

In 2004 those who gave varying amounts were listed in the Newsletter. Originally these were listed under monetary classes, later this was

changed to a code designation. One reason for that was the large amount of Newsletter space involved as the number of contributors, then a total of 1,056, and the amount raised through mid-2009 had grown to \$435,817.

Over the years there have been several fundraising ideas implemented. The first was to publicize by unit those who gave to OpLEG. This was in 2001. Shortly thereafter, it was decided to give a special award to those who gave \$1,000 or more, now called the “Grand Club.” They were given mementoes that were good looking, suitable for display, and were called “Pinkies”—referring to General Burress’s nickname.

In 2008, the Marshall Library and the VMI Foundation hosted a luncheon at the Raleigh convention for members of the “Grand Club” and gave each member a framed photograph of the first American flag to fly over Bitche, France after its capture on March 16, 1945.

The emphasis for OpLEG was the scholarship awards at VMI. In the meantime, the archives at The Marshall Library were growing. In addition to the original presentation of division and regimental operations reports, the Midwest Chapter of the Association, under the leadership of Jack Brown, devoted many hours to copying all the company morning reports to donate to The Marshall Library’s archives.

At the same time the membership was asked to contribute personal memoirs and other material that could be archived in Lexington.

By 2007, The Marshall Library had included the Division’s archives on its website and initiated the digitization of some of its archives, including those submitted by the 100th Division. This process is well along and will continue as more materials are received.

## **Creation of the 100th Division Archives**

By Tom Tillett

As the “Learning Legacy” component of Operation LEGACY, our archives are located at the George C. Marshall Library. This collection of the Division’s important papers and historical documents has been accumulated from a variety of sources, including the US Army official records as well as unit and operational histories. Combined with our real life adventures in 1944 and 1945, they tell the story of our experiences going from Fort Jackson to Stuttgart under General Burress’s leadership.

In October 2001 the Association Board met in Lexington, Virginia, for the 100th Division Archives dedication ceremony, hosted by The Marshall Foundation. Robert Fair, Association President, stressed how important the archives are to the veterans of the 100th Division and to the memory of its commander, General Burrell. On behalf of The Marshall Library, Major General (AUS-Ret.) John W. Knapp, a trustee of the Foundation and former VMI superintendent, accepted the collection and spoke about its role in preserving the history of World War II for the veterans, researchers, and family members who will visit the museum and library.

Initially, the pile of papers, books, photographs, maps, and news clippings were simply placed on shelves at the Marshall Library. Under the guidance of our Archive Committee, and with the help of Marshall archivist Paul Barron, the materials were reviewed and organized, and the collection began to take shape.

Recognizing the dynamic nature of the Internet and the potential audience it could reach, we joined with the Marshall Library to digitize some of our archives and create a searchable website for our grandchildren, scholars, and historians to access from afar, directly through their personal computers. The Marshall already had a website so a new section was added focusing on the combat history of the 100th Infantry Division. To access the website go to

[www.marshallfoundation.org](http://www.marshallfoundation.org)

and look for our 100th Division patch to enter our section of the site.

We are still looking for veterans' memoirs and other documents and photos so that our 100th Division Archives will continue to grow. If you have material to submit, please contact Aegis Consulting Group.

## **Scholarships at the Fayetteville Technical Community College**

By Bob Fair

At a meeting on September 9, 2005, Frank Everett, 397-D, an active member of the Association, made a presentation to the Association's Board of Directors on behalf of the Fayetteville (North Carolina)

Technical Community College (FTCC) and its need for scholarships. He has been active at the college and reported that many of the students are Ft. Bragg soldiers or their dependents. He had made a substantial contribution himself and had raised additional funds for the minimum scholarship endowment of \$15,000. He asked that the Association participate by contributing additional funds and was at the Board meeting to allay confusion about the endowment and to ask the board to endorse this worthwhile project. He asked that the Association adopt this scholarship activity in memory of our months of training at Ft. Bragg and publicize it in the Newsletters and elsewhere. Secretary Roland Giduz, a resident of Chapel Hill, NC, was quite familiar with FTCC and supported Frank's request. The Board voted to make a small contribution.

In April 2006 Giduz reported on plans for encouraging gifts to the newly established 100th Infantry Division Endowment Fund at FTCC. This fund would benefit the soldiers at Ft. Bragg and their dependents. He said that a brochure was being prepared with the cooperation of FTCC Vice President Barbara Copeland and committee members Frank Everett; Roland Giduz; Tom Tillett, 398-H; and Joe Collie, 397-B. When approved, this would be printed at FTCC expense for mailing to Association members.

At the September 2007 board meeting, Project Chairman Frank Everett stated that the current value of the endowment at FTCC was \$22,000. He recommended that the college should be included on the following year's proposed convention tour from Raleigh to Ft. Bragg.

In May 2008, Tom Tillett moved that the Association contribute up to \$5,700 to the FTCC 100th Division Endowment Fund, contingent upon a change of the fund's name to the Private Roland Giduz 100th Infantry Division Endowment Fund. The purpose would be to increase the Fund to \$30,000 so that the college could annually grant up to \$1,200 in scholarships. It would also honor our first president, Roland Giduz. The motion passed unanimously.

During the September 2008 convention, those who went on the Ft. Bragg tour received a presentation on FTCC by the institution's president and two other officers.

There have been three scholarships granted to date (March 2010), each for the amount of \$600. The fund at this time is a little over \$41,000 and is a continuing activity of the Association.

## **Memorials to the 100th Infantry Division**

Over the years our Association has been associated with many memorial tributes in the form of plaques; monuments; trees; changes in street and highway names; and the like. Some of these have been established by us, to honor our fallen comrades and our wartime memories. Some have been established by others in our honor. What follows is, to the best of our knowledge, a complete listing of these physical memorials, at or near some of our battlefields in France, at various US Army bases in the continental United States, and elsewhere.

### **Arlington, Virginia**

In the early 1960s the Association provided a plaque of the division insignia for display in the museum building near the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery. The plaque is displayed in a glass case along with similar plaques of many military units. This is a permanent display requiring no action on the part of the Association. A red maple tree and granite monument were placed in Section 34 on Grant Avenue in 1999 and dedicated on 10 May 2000.

### **Fort Jackson, South Carolina**

Near the main entrance to Fort Jackson, on Fort Jackson Boulevard and inside the post, there is a historical road marker advising the reader:

#### **100th DIVISION**

**At this site on 15 November 1942 Maj. Gen. W. A. Burress received the 100th Infantry Division colors marking the official activation of the "Century Division." After a distinguished World War II record in southern France and Germany the 100th was reorganized in the Army Reserve. It was the only USAR training division recalled during the 1981 Berlin crisis.**

This plaque was paid for and erected by the post-World War II 100th Training Division currently active and headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky. This is a permanent display requiring no action on the part of the Association.

A memorial willow oak tree was planted by the NC/SC Chapter of the Association at this site during the fifth annual EIB award ceremony, May 1987. During the fourteenth annual EIB award ceremony, July 3, 1996, also at this site, a permanent bronze plaque was dedicated by the Association which reads:

**IN MEMORY OF OUR REVERED WORLD WAR II COMMANDERS  
LIEUTENANT GENERAL WITHERS A. BURRESS 1894–1977,  
BRIGADIER GENERAL ANDREW C. TYCHSEN 1893–1986.  
100TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, JULY 3, 1996**

Fort Jackson has been a US Army installation in continuous use from early in this century. Shortly after World War II, a military museum was authorized and now contains many historical artifacts, records, uniforms, and so on, of the camp, now Fort Jackson, and the memorabilia of sixteen infantry divisions that served there. Members of our association have donated clothing, equipment, newsletters, and so on, to this museum. The current curator has set aside a 100th Division section in the museum. The following is the text of the permanent bronze plaque dedicated by the Association on July 3, 1996 on Memorial Walk in front of the museum:

**IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO SERVED IN THE 100TH INFANTRY  
DIVISION. ACTIVATED AT FORT JACKSON, NOVEMBER 1942 AND  
FOUGHT IN THE WORLD WAR II BATTLES OF RHINELAND,  
ARDENNES-ALSACE AND CENTRAL EUROPE, JULY 3, 1996**

### **Fort Bragg, North Carolina**

In April 1986 our Association dedicated a bronze plaque mounted on a granite pedestal testifying to the momentous occasion on March 29, 1944 when a member of the Division was awarded the first EIB Badge. This is a permanent display that reads:

**AT FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA MARCH 29, 1944, THE FIRST  
EXPERT INFANTRYMAN BADGE WAS AWARDED TO T SGT WALTER  
L. BULL, COMPANY A, 399 INFANTRY, 100TH DIVISION, MAJOR  
GENERAL WITHERS A. BURRESS COMMANDING, LT. GENERAL**

## **LESLIE J. MCNAIR, COMMANDING GENERAL US ARMY GROUND FORCES, MADE THE AWARD**

**Erected and dedicated April 18, 1986  
by the 100th Infantry Division Association.**

On May 12, 2000, the Association dedicated a large granite monument to those who served in the Division during World War Two. It was placed by the main Fort Bragg flagpole and near the Walter Bull monument. On June 10, 2005, the four-lane, center-island street leading into the brand new US Army Womack Medical Center was named:

### **100th INF DIV ST.**

#### **Fort Benning, Georgia**

On March 29, 2001, the Association presented a large bronze plaque to the Infantry School. The plaque describes the awarding of the first Expert Infantryman Badge to Technical Sergeant Walter L. Bull, Company A, 399th Infantry Regiment, 100th Infantry Division on March 29, 1944 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. It is now permanently housed at the National Infantry Museum.

#### **Louisville, Kentucky**

The 100th Infantry Division Association owes two things to the US Army Reserve's 100th Division (OS). They keep our name and our legacy alive, and they have established and maintain the 100th Division Museum at their headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky. Through documents, photos, maps, and personal memorabilia, the collection tells the story of the Division and its soldiers from formation at Ft. Jackson; training; combat in France and Germany; occupation duty; disbanding; and re-establishment as a Reserve component unit. The high point of the museum is a beautifully-presented tribute to our three Medal of Honor recipients: 1st Lt. Edward A. Silk, T/Sgt. Charles F. Carey, and Pfc. Mike Colalillo.

#### **State of Connecticut**

During 2000, the Connecticut State Legislature commemorated a section of Interstate 91 in the area of New Haven and erected two large signs:

### **Century Division Memorial Highway**

## **State of New York**

On July 26, 2003, a section of Bell Boulevard in Queens, adjacent to Fort Totten, was dedicated and named:

### **100TH INFANTRY DIVISION BOULEVARD**

On March 23, 2005, the Cross Island Parkway in Queens, New York was named the:

### **100th Infantry Division Memorial Parkway**

with a 7-foot-by-12-foot sign on each end of the 15-mile stretch of parkway.

## **Bitche, France**

In September 1984 our Association and the city of Bitche dedicated a plaque now permanently displayed on an open wall of the Citadel of Bitche. This is a permanent display that reads:

**THE PLAQUE IS DEDICATED BY THE CITY OF BITCHE AND THE 100TH INFANTRY DIVISION TO THE NEARLY 3000 SOLDIERS OF THE DIVISION WHO WERE KILLED, WOUNDED, MISSING OR CAPTURED DURING THE BATTLE FOR THE MAGINOT SECTOR KNOWN AS THE ENSEMBLE DE BITCHE BETWEEN DECEMBER 3, 1944 AND MARCH 17, 1945. THE PLAQUE IS ALSO DEDICATED TO THE 34 CITIZENS OF BITCHE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES DURING THE BATTLE AND THE 119 PERSONS WHO WERE INJURED AS WELL AS THE 41 MEMBERS OF THE RESISTANCE WHO WERE DEPORTED TO GERMANY DURING THE WAR.**

## **Lemberg, France**

A stone monument was erected by the village of Lemberg at the site where the remains of Maurice Lloyd of Company L, 399th, were discovered in his foxhole in 1974. It reads:

**A la mémoire des soldats Américains Libérateurs de LEMBERG,  
c.v. LEMBERG 17.9.1995**



## **Rimling, France**

The village of Rimling erected a plaque on the city hall that reads:

A la mémoire  
Des Soldats de la 100th Infantry Division  
Morts dan leur combat pour notre Libération  
Honneur à tous ceux qui ont combattu  
pour notre Liberté  
Rimling, le 29 September 1996

## **Raon L'Etape, France**

In the town hall there is a plaque that reads in French and English:

**THIS PLAQUE IS DEDICATED BY THE CITY OF RAON L'ETAPE AND THE 100TH INFANTRY DIVISION TO THE NEARLY 1500 SOLDIERS OF THE DIVISION WHO WERE KILLED, WOUNDED, MISSING OR CAPTURED DURING THE BATTLE OF THE VOSGES KNOWN AS THE ENSEMBLE DE RAON L'ETAPE BETWEEN NOVEMBER 6, 1944 AND NOVEMBER 20, 1944 WHEN THE CITY WAS TAKEN BY THE 100TH US INFANTRY DIVISION. IT IS ALSO DEDICATED TO THE CITIZENS OF RAON L'ETAPE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES OR WERE INJURED DURING THE BATTLE.**

## **Heilbronn Area, Germany**

On August 23, 1948, Headquarters, European Command issued General Order Number 78, renaming eight installations in the Heidelberg, Karlsruhe, and Mannheim regions in honor of soldiers who had been killed or mortally wounded while performing acts of heroism in the area, and for which they later received decorations for valor. Remarkably, all but one of those men were soldiers of the 100th Infantry Division. On June 22, 2000, the Army rededicated the Hammonds Barracks at a ceremony, erecting a bronze monument at the site. These barracks are:

Hammonds Barracks, Mannheim, for Pfc. Robert M. Hammonds, 397-G, Wickliffe, KY

Sullivan Barracks, Käfertal, for Pfc. George F. Sullivan, 397-AT, Mount Vernon, NY

Funari Barracks, Käfertal, for Pfc. Robert Funari, 398-L, Trenton, NJ

Tomkins Barracks, Schwetzingen, for Pfc. George S. Tomkins, 397-G, Eugene, OR

Spinelli Barracks, Feudenheim, for Pfc. Dominick V. Spinelli, 398-B, Hamilton, OH

Gerszewski Barracks, Knielingen, for Sgt. Adolph C. Gerszewski, 397-D, Grand Forks, ND

## **The Progeny of the Century**

By Morris J. Levine

In the late 1990s, there was increasing concern among the membership and our Board of Directors about the ultimate future of this organization of which we had become so very fond. Most of us realized that the multiple memorials we had established were insufficient to preserve the special memories we had created in combat, in valor, in comradeship, and by successfully helping to defeat a ferocious enemy that was intent on destroying our civilization. Indeed, there were those who felt that these memories we had acquired during WWII could not be passed on to our children and grandchildren since they did not experience them.

Written military histories would help a little, but these were spotty, not very comprehensive, not always grippingly readable, and usually did not feature our 100th Division, of which we were so proud.

So how could our story be at least partially preserved? I thought about the various veterans' organizations, but they did not focus on the 100th Division. I felt that our "Century Division" had a remarkable record of combat success against the Nazi war machine and subsequently a remarkable record in establishing and preserving a great Association. I felt that our descendants—our progeny—were entitled to have the privilege of passing this special source of pride, from generation to generation. A new century was dawning. Our Century Division . . . our Progeny! The name Progeny of the Century seemed just right.

We did not think that Progeny could be members of the 100th Infantry Division Association of WWII or we might lose our Veterans' Organization tax-free status. Who would be eligible? Wives? Widows? Others? Did

they fit our constitution? These problems and others were mulled over. Finally we were cleared by the Board to move ahead.

We began at the conventions in Louisville, 2000 and Tampa, 2001, with meetings of prospective Progeny members. The first president elected was Bruce Jones, 399-CN P, who displayed WWII memorabilia and a renovated WWII Jeep at the Hyatt Hotel entrance at the Tampa meeting. Since then, the Progeny has assisted us more and more in our conventions and otherwise.

In 2009 Laurie Davis, daughter of the late Robert Alcorn, 397-2B, assumed a major responsibility for the Memorial Service arrangements. For the past few years, Joseph Montague, son of Bob Montague, 399-E, has been the President of the Progeny of the Century, and also serves as our Raffle chairman and assisted with the recent European battle site tours. My granddaughter, Robyn LeVine, has recently produced “The Sons of Bitche,” a documentary DVD that will help keep memories alive also. Profits from the sales have gone to our Progeny activities.

The hugely popular battlefield dioramas we have had at our conventions in recent years are the doing of Progeny Al Gaspar, son-in-law of Jack Young, 397-F.

Progeny are active in many ways, among them: contributing articles for the Newsletter and serving on various committees. Their involvement at conventions includes: selling raffle tickets, helping organize unit photos, assisting with tours, and overseeing the hospitality room.

The most important contribution they make is bringing their Centurymen to the conventions, where they, the Progeny, get to meet the other veterans and hear first-hand stories from the war.

The bottom line is that the Progeny program, from a perhaps slow start, has become a huge success and an essential part of our Association.



*Herb Newton, 397-2B, and 11 members of his family came to the 2005 convention.*

## **Epilogue**

Henry S. Scharpenberg, 100-Fr

In the sixty-three years since the inception of the Association, the Centurymen have been witness to an incredible amount of change in their lives and to their world. Following the cataclysm of the Second World War, combat requiring total mobilization of American youth evolved into seemingly endless police actions, insurgencies, wars of liberation, and the like. The Sons of Bitche witnessed the creation of the Iron Curtain and the beginning of the Cold War, as well as the fall of the Berlin Wall, accompanied by the restoration of freedom in Eastern Europe. Enduring periods of recession and inflation, they watched as America put men on the Moon and transformed its society—although not without upheaval and pain—to one that more accurately represented the ideals for which they fought some sixty-six years ago. And despite this remarkable and often puzzling transformation taking place all around them, one thing remained constant. The mutual respect and friendship among comrades-in-arms, forged in the crucible of combat, have endured, and strengthened over time. Their pride in their accomplishments, both on the battlefields of Europe and in helping to remake America, was evident whenever they have gathered. What started as a desire to resume old acquaintances and share stories evolved into much more, evident by their involvement with VMI and FTCC. One only has to look in the eyes of these men when the colors pass, or when the names of comrades who have departed is read, to understand the depth of emotion that permeates their existence.

As this memorial booklet concludes, it is altogether fitting that the previous entry tells the story of the Progeny of the Centurymen. Through them, the experiences of these veterans, and the ideals for which they fought, and suffered, will endure. When the final convention is concluded, and the “Pinky” banner furled for the last time, this chapter in the story of the Sons of Bitche will end, but another will begin.

## **Acknowledgments**

The Editorial Board acknowledges with deep gratitude the contributions of all the signed articles in this publication.

In addition, we particularly want to single out the contribution of Hank Williams. Not only did he write in great detail about the NC/SC Chapter origins and history, but the majority of the statistical and factual information in the booklet came from the meticulously kept records compiled by him in our Constitution and By-Laws pamphlet. Without this material, our publication would have been seriously incomplete.

While we are grateful for all the signed contributions, and were dependent on them for the completion of this record, it must be noted that all errors and omissions are the sole responsibility of the Editorial Board.

Special thanks to George Fiske, Bob Cain, Lise Pommois, and Francois Ratinaud for their great photos.

### **EDITORIAL BOARD**

Chairman: *J. Richard Good, 398-H*

Managing Editor: *H. Tom Bourne, 399-G*

Editorial Staff:

*Robert R. Fair, 399-D*

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Production: *Aegis Consulting Group, Bedford, Pennsylvania*

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*Ray Denman, 397-L, folds flag with French children during ceremony marking 65th anniversary of VE Day, May 2010.*



*Centurymen return to Rimling, 2005.*



*Citadel at Bitche, 2007.*

*Centurymen raise the American flag over Fort Simserhof, May 2010.*







*Paul Mosher, 397-I, salutes during the roll call of the units at the Lt. Gen. Withers A. Burress Banquet in 2004.*



*Rimling diorama helps Bob Montague, 399-E (center), tell his war story to John Plamp, 398-M, and Lloyd Cain, 397-E.*



*Rich Carey, son of T Sgt Charles Carey, 397-HQ 2Bn, and Mike Colalillo, 398-C, place roses during the Memorial Service, McLean, VA, 1999. The 1999 convention gave special recognition to the Division's Medal of Honor recipients.*



*St. Avold Cemetery  
(above)*

*100th Infantry  
Division Street  
(left)*

## What Has Become of Our Comrades?

What has become of our comrades,  
The boys we all knew so well?  
Who, once filled with the joys of living,  
Are now dead, from bullet and shell—

Who helped us fight many a battle,  
Through the mud, the slime, and the dirt,  
And who gave their lives in a bitter fight,  
That peace might rule the earth.

How well I remember their faces,  
As in memory they go marching past,  
And the line seems never ending,  
Of those who gave their all to the last.

There was McCord, from “Ole” Alabama,  
Whose scouting was quite renowned  
He died in a ditch by the roadside,  
Where a machine gun cut him down.

I remember the death of “Ole” Skinner,  
Whose commission was made in the field,  
He was always admired by everyone,  
For his courage and fighting zeal.

And then there was Lindow, the medic,  
Who was always quite unafraid,  
He was shot in the back by a sniper,  
While heeding a call for aid.

There are all of these, and Oh! So many . . .  
I can’t recall any more—  
Who fought, fell—and sampled Hell  
In a long and bloody war.

But now, what has become of our comrades,  
Whose bones now hallow the earth?  
Why, we pray to God, that their spirit  
Has returned to the land of their birth.

Or perhaps to the Halls of Valhalla,  
Where all good warriors reign,  
And we fervently pray to heaven above  
That their sacrifice wasn’t in vain

—Harry Hillers, 397-HQ



*In extraordinary times,  
there are no ordinary lives.*