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April 13, 2000

Mr. Luke Martin
75 Saly Way East
Selbyville, DE 19975

Dear Mr. Martin,

My husband, John Critz Calhoun, was a medic in the 410th Infantry, 3rd Battalion, L. Company with the combat medics in the 103rd Division. He has always enjoyed talking about his years in this Division. Last Sept., 1999 he passed away, but I know he would want one or two of his stories in the album you are making and I want to purchase one when you have them ready. I know our children and grandchildren would cherish this album.

John tells of staying in the home of bakers in the little town of Obermodern in Alsace. They allowed several of the soldiers to stay in their home. They were French and spoke French, but the Germans had drafted their oldest son into the German army, and he was sent to Russia. Mama Kiehl corresponded with John for several years after the war was over. In 1970 John took me to Europe to see where all he had been in 1944-45 while serving with the 103rd Division. We went to the little town of Obermodern and to the Kiehl's bakery. Mama and Papa Kiehl were still living and their younger son and his wife were running the bakery. They all were so happy to see John and meet me. They had us to eat dinner with them in the kitchen of the bakery. They wanted us to stay a few days, but we had a schedule to keep. The sad thing about seeing them was their news of never hearing from their oldest son who had been drafted by the Germans during World War II.

Another story he tells is when his company was in a small town for a couple of days and a woman was expecting a baby any time, and there was no doctor in the town. His Lt. told him if he would deliver her baby, he'd see to it that John would receive a medal. But they had to move on before the baby arrived, and John didn't receive the medal.

He was shot in the leg but was able to go back into the fighting after a few days. For this he received the Purple Heart.

He has talked about his experiences ever since he was discharged in 1945. We have a video of his life up through the war, which our son and daughter and grandchildren cherish very much.

Sincerely,

Mrs. John C. Calhoun

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