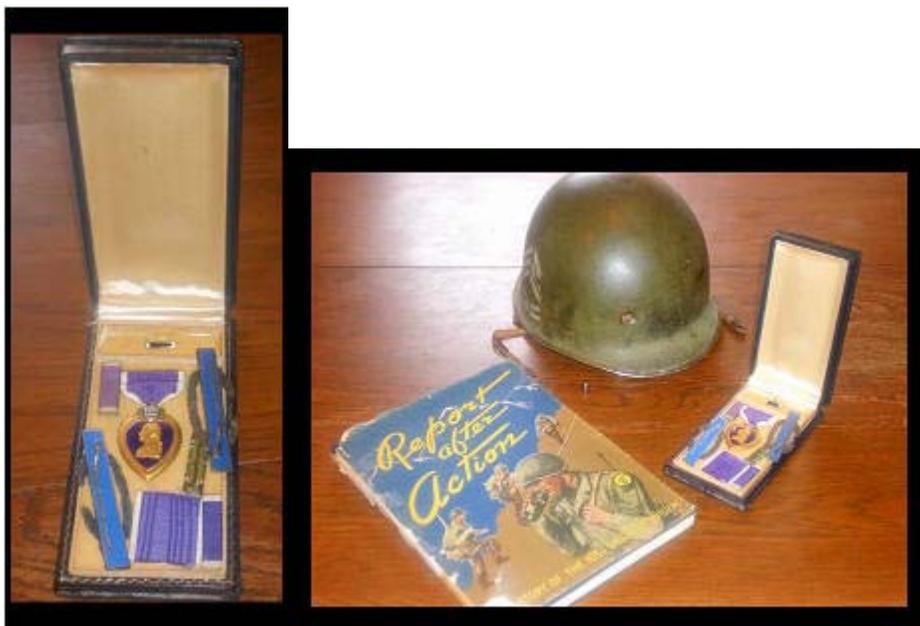
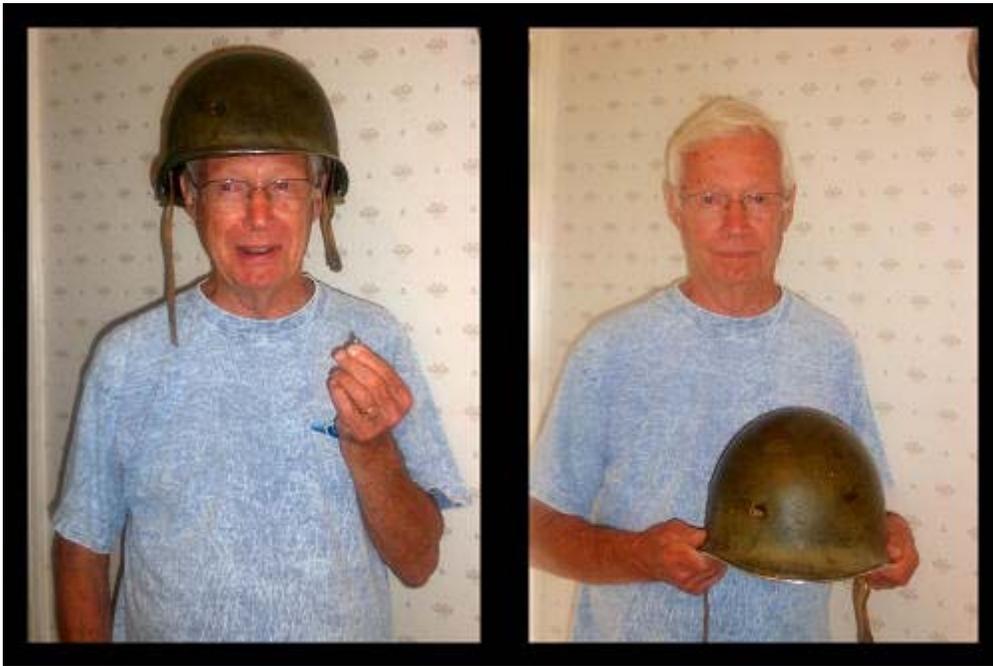


Henry Klages 410 Company A



Henry Klages Des Plaines, IL 103rd Infantry Division CO. A, 410 Regiment

On January 20, 1945, Hank Klages was moving with his unit through the forest near Sessenheim, Alsace. The 103rd had just returned to the Alsace from the 3rd Army area. Klages was a member of Company A, 410th Regiment of the famous Cactus Division – the insignia that depicts the 103rd

Infantry that last trained at Camp Howze, Texas, before being shipped out to Marseilles. As they moved through the forest they unexpectedly confronted a group of German soldiers who were as equally surprised to see them. One

of the Germans reached for the burp gun hanging around his neck and fired at Henry. It hit Klages' helmet, grazing his scalp, and he dropped into the grasses by a tree. Within seconds, the G.I. standing next to Hank raised his gun and killed the shooter. When the medics removed Henry's helmet, they found the silver bullet nestled safely inside. Henry brought the helmet, the bullet and his Purple Heart home. He married Lina, and moved to the quiet suburb of Des Plaines, Illinois, where they raised their three children. The couple now has eight grandchildren. He rarely talked with his kids about the helmet that he had buried in his closet or even brought it to the Division's military reunions that the couple attends in various places across the country every year. In an act of generosity so typical of this Greatest Generation, he invited the daughter of a fellow G.I., whom he and his wife had met at the latest reunion, to their home to give her one of the two copies of an out-of-print book he owns about the 103rd. It is entitled *Report After Action* and was written and published in 1945 in Innsbruck, Austria. When she probed him about his experiences during the war, he reluctantly mentioned the helmet. She quickly grabbed her camera from her purse when he removed the helmet from the closet to show it to her.

Patricia Lofthouse Daughter of Sgt. James Cunnally, Jr., Deceased G – 411th Infantry Regiment.