



103rd Cactus Division



Gerald M. Kobes

I am the nephew of PFC Gerald M. Kobes 411th Infantry Regiment, son of Rev. Jacob C. Kobes from Toadlena, NM. He was KIA 1.20.45 at Sessenheim, France. The official War Dept. letter states "On 19 January 1945, Company I was participating in an attack on Sessenheim, France. Upon reaching the town, enemy resistance proved to be much stronger than expected and eventually necessitated their withdrawal. When the order to withdraw was given, he, along with other members of the company was unable to withdraw as they were cut off by heavy enemy fire. Several members of Company I, who participated in this action, have been reported as liberated prisoners of war but no word of Gerald has been received." Gerald was originally reported MIA 1.20.45 and remained on that status until captured German records showed he was killed and his remains located.

For some reason it has been extremely hard to get any other information concerning the circumstances surrounding his death, or who the other soldiers were who were also cut off when the withdrawal order was given.

Rumors even include that he may have been shot as a POW.

With this wonderful new tool of the Internet, I hope to be able to put together some information for those surviving; 1 brother, 2 sisters and for all the nephews, nieces and their children who never knew Uncle Gerald.

Any information you could give us would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Douglas De Lange
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son of Gerald's youngest sister, Miriam (Kobes)