



**Company I, 411th Infantry
Regiment, 103d Infantry
Division (Cactus)**



PVT Steve B. Kopinski (KIA)



Steve Kopinski was born in Chicago, Illinois on June 17, 1925. He attended Harrison High School and worked for K's Venetian Blind Company. His boss, Clarence Karminski would later meet up with Steve in France. The two men both were killed in action, Clarence in August 1944 and Steve on December 3, 1944.

Steve Kopinski was inducted into the Army in September 28, 1943 and took his Basic Training at Camp Wolters, Texas. After Basic he was assigned to the 315th Infantry Regiment, 79th Infantry Division and shipped out to England on April 7, 1944. The 315th Infantry Regiment, 79th Infantry

Division landed at Normandy, on Utah Beach June 19, 1944. PVT Kopinski fought with the 315th Infantry Regiment, inland taking Cherbourg, France on June 26, 1944. After successfully capturing Cherbourg, the 315th Infantry Regiment took up defensive positions along the Ollonde River until July 2, 1944. In a driving rain, the Division took La Haye-du-Puits after repelling a heavy German counterattack on July 8. It was this day that PVT Kopinski took a Nazi machine gun slug in the knee forcing his evacuation to an Army hospital in England. He remained in the hospital until late August, 1944 when he was transferred to a Replacement Depot for reassignment.

Historically, wounded soldiers were sent back to their original units, but for some reason, PVT Kopinski was not reassigned to the 315th Infantry Regiment but instead remained in the replacement depot until November 20, 1944 when he was assigned to Company I, 411th Infantry Regiment, 103d Infantry Division. He remained with Company I until he was listed as Missing In Action on December 3, 1944. On March



14, 1945 his status was changed from MIA to KIA. It was not until May, 2011 that it was discovered that PVT Steve B. Kopinski was left off the 103d Infantry Division list of those KIA. From the end of the war until May, 2011 it was thought that the 103d lost a total of 847 men KIA. PVT Steve B. Kopinski is the 848th Cactusman who gave their life in defense of our country. PVT Kopinski was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, effective June 21, 1944, per General Order 11, Headquarters, 315th Infantry Regiment, dated July 16, 1944.

His awards include the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart w/Oak Leaf Cluster, American Defense Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle East Campaign Medal with Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe Campaign Stars.

In Loving Memory of



Pvt. Steven B. Kopinski

UNITED STATES ARMY

Born, June 17th, 1925

who made the supreme sacrifice for His Country in France, December 3, 1944

Burial, Saturday, August 28, 1948

Requiem Mass, Word of God Church

Military Honors by

Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr. Post 4028 V.F.W.
at Rest, Elmwood Cemetery

PRAYER

Oh, God, the Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, give to the souls of Thy departed servants the remission of all their sins that by the aid of pious prayer they may obtain that pardon which they have always desired through Christ, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the Unity of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

