

**Calvin A. Landau, Jr.  
Co I, 411th**

I am Calvin A. Landau, Jr. I was a serviceman that belonged to the US Army 103rd division during World War II. Jim Landau, my son, is helping to organize a visit to Scherwiller on November 11, 2017.

Much of my history is in my experiences in the military.

I am a high school graduate and a university graduate in Civil Engineering. My working life was as a general contractor in my family's building construction business in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I consider my wartime experience to be the biggest thing in my life.

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I was in my junior year at the University of Pittsburgh when the second world war started. The Army made an offer to most engineering students to allow them to continue their studies until graduation if they signed up for the Army Enlisted Reserve. After graduation, we would go to active duty with a college degree and a military Commission.

Within about 4 months of starting that program, they decided that they needed infantry soldiers rather than engineers and we, as a group, were enrolled in the Army Specialized Training Program. Supposedly, this would allow us to finish our education. However, that program was abandoned and we were sent to the field to become infantry soldiers.

This got me to Texas at Camp Howze for basic training with the 103rd Infantry Division. We trained as a complete Division through winter and summer of 1943-1944. Before my unit went overseas, I lost a much loved brother, Robert Landau, in fighting near Percy, France.

We sailed by steamer Monticello to Marseille in October 1944. We spent several weeks in Marseille assembling our gear, then were sent on to the combat zone of France, Germany, and Austria.

The 103rd turned out to be a crack fighting unit. It was also the smartest Division in the army because of all the engineering students that it picked up from the ASTP program.

In about 6 months of fighting, the 103rd took approximately 48 towns, villages, and cities.

At the end of the European war, we were consolidated to bring the active units up to full strength to replace all of the men lost in battle. This was in order to prepare us to join the war in Japan, which, of course we did not need to fight.

Our 103 RD Division men were re-assigned to the 5th and 45th divisions.

I was discharged from the Army in November 1945.

I was born on January 8, 1923. (present age 94) I am widowed. I have 5 children. I currently live alone in downtown West Palm Beach, Florida.

Looking forward to meeting you.

Cal Landau