

103d Division Reunion, Nashville, TN

July 2009

Postscript by William Kelley

Re: John Rickert

John was originally in the A&P Platoon at Camp Claiborne about three months after it was activated. I was already there. I overheard the following conversation:

Captain Gilligan, the Company Commander passed on to the First Sergeant that we were authorized to have a Gas NCO in our company. I overheard the conversation and I spoke up and mentioned that Rickert knew more about those gases than anyone in the company and I recommended him for the position. Orders were cut that he would be the Company Gas NCO. We had poison gas such as Chlorine, Mustard, Phosgene. We were instructed about the gases by the Army in classes. Everyone had to go through the gas chamber containing only tear gas as part of the training. John had been part of my platoon but when he was assigned Gas NCO he was no longer in the platoon. He was under Hdqts. Platoon. John got promoted to Corporal.