

100th's history followed century

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With a history of performance recognized on the floor of Congress and commended by the President of the United States, the 100th Division (IT) not only has a proud past, it also has a promising future!

Books and hundreds of speeches have been written. Numerous videos have been developed about the gallantry, heroism and significant contributions to the national defense and security from this institutional training division, now one of only seven in the nation.

In 1998, reservists nationwide contributed over 13 million duty days to active component missions and exercises, the equivalent of adding 35,000 personnel to the active force, or two Army divisions.

This action reflects the increasing downsizing of active military forces and growing reliance on the citizen soldier.

The 100th's motto, "Train Em' Tough," captures the spirit of the organization striving for the highest standards of soldiering. The 100th — constantly honing basic soldiering skills — always training 'em tough.

The 100th's past is rich in details of battles fought, leadership from numerous company grade officers and the foot-meets-the-ground



100th DIVISION MUSEUM PHOTO

Two 100th Infantry Division soldiers took a break from the fighting in World War II to catch up on their reading.

efforts of enlisted soldiers. To detail the accomplishments of the Division would exhaust the researcher and reader alike. Following is a short, chronological overview of the unit's lineage.

July, 1918 — Headquarters of the Division originated and activated at Camp Bowie, Texas, at the end of World War I. Inactivation took place on Armistice Day, November, 11, 1918. The Division was demobilized a year later.

June, 1921 — The unit was reconstituted with the headquarters at Wheeling W.Va., and the 400th Infantry Regiment in Louisville.

November, 1942 — Less than a year after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the unit was reborn for intensive combat training for two years at Fort Jackson, S.C.

October, 1944 — Following arrival in France to join the battle of Europe, 100th elements fought

hard as part of the 7th Army. The unit made history and shattered military tradition by liberating the heavily fortified city of Bitche, France. The soldiers of the Century also played instrumental roles in the liberation of several more towns, netting 5,684 prisoners. The price paid was high: nearly 3,000 Division soldiers were killed, wounded, missing in action or captured during the battle of the Maginot sector known as the Ensemble de Bitche between December, 1944 and March, 1945. Three division soldiers received the prestigious Medal of Honor, the military's supreme award limited strictly to those meeting the most severe tests of heroism. Those soldiers were Charles F. Carey, Mike Colalillo and Edward A. Silk.

1943 — The Expert Infantryman Badge was approved by the Secretary of War in October, and in 1944 the first EIB ever awarded went to Technical Sgt. Walter Bull.