



# Company I Poopsheet



502 PIR, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, US Army, WWII

March 2015

In January we said good-bye to Bob, the glue that kept Company I together for these many years. Rewards in Heaven are greater....



**Robert Joseph Hartzell**, 93, of Tiffin, OH died at 7:40 p.m. Sunday, January 4, 2015, at St. Francis Home. Robert was born November 11, 1921, in Tiffin to Thomas and Rosalie (Reiniche) Hartzell. He married Marie Anna Kirian June 12, 1948, in Tiffin. She died March 14, 2004. Survivors include three sons, Joseph (Jani), Peter, and Stephen (Becky) Hartzell all of Tiffin; four daughters, Agnes (Warren) Welling of Woodville, Clara Hartzell, Dorothy (Rob) Robenalt both of Tiffin, Helen (Robert) Guinther of Galion; a sister, Ellen Elchert of Tiffin; 24 grandchildren, 43 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Barbara Factor; four brothers, Harry, Eugene Bro. Cesaire (Paul) of the Holy Cross, and Victor Hartzell; two sisters, Mary Louise Elchert and Regina Beat; a grandchild and a great grandchild.

Robert served in the CCC Camp in Montana then he served 101 Airborne Division, 502

Regt. of the Army from 1942 to 1945 during WWII. He was awarded the Bronze Star, Presidential Unit Citation, French Croix De Guerre, and the Purple Heart. His was the first division to see action on D-Day in the Invasion of Normandy. He was wounded there, on Carentan Causeway several days later.

In 1960 he launched a nationwide search for all of the men that he served with in Company I, and he published a newsletter for them for over 40 years.

He was a lifelong member of St. Mary Church where he was active in several organizations and functions. He was a salesman for W. H. Kildow Company for 36 years when he retired in 1983. During that time he built seven homes, two of which he lived in. After his retirement in 1983, he obtained his G.E.D. He then was ordained as a Deacon of the Catholic Church and for that ministry he worked tirelessly for as long as he was physically able. During the 1950-60s he sponsored several refugee families

in establishing their homes in the United States. He was professed as "Brother Joseph" Dec. 16, 1956 of the Third Order of St. Francis. Robert was the sponsor of several priest and nuns in the pursuit of their vocations. During the 1980s he gave live presentations in teaching about the Shroud of Turin and crucifixion in the time of Christ. He was a past member of the VFW Post 2858, Tiffin.

Visitation will be from 4-8 Friday, Jan. 9, 2015, at Traunero Funeral Home and Crematory, 214 S. Monroe Street, Tiffin, Ohio 44883 (419) 447-3113, the Wake service will be 3:30 p.m. at the funeral home. Visitation will also be 9-10 a.m. Saturday, Jan 10, 2015 at St. Mary Catholic Church.

The funeral Mass will follow at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan 10, 2015 at St. Mary Catholic Church The rosary will be recited 20 minutes prior to the Mass at church. Burial will follow at St. Mary

Catholic Cemetery with the United Veterans of Seneca County performing military rites at the grave site.

Charitable donations may be made in Robert's memory to the following organizations:

**Alzheimer's Association Northwest Ohio Chapter**

<http://www.alz.org/nwohio/>

1800 North Blanchard Street Suite 110 Findlay, Ohio 45840-4504

**St. Francis Home**

<http://www.stfrancistiffin.org>

182 St. Francis Ave. Tiffin, Ohio 44883  
Tel: 419-447-2723

**St. Mary Catholic Church**

<http://www.stmarychurch.com/>

85 S. Sandusky St., Tiffin, Ohio 44883  
Tel: 419-447-2087

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**Article from the Toledo, Ohio Blade:**

**Robert J. Hartzell (1921 - 2015)**

(News article) TIFFIN -- An Army paratrooper in World War II wounded just days after the Normandy invasion, who as a civilian located former comrades and published his unit's newsletter, Robert J. Hartzell died Sunday in St. Francis Home. He was 93.

He had Alzheimer's disease, his daughter Dorothy said.

He retired in 1983 after 36 years as a salesman for the W.H. Kildow Co., a well-known tobacco and candy wholesaler. A devout Roman Catholic and a lifelong member of St. Mary Church, Mr. Hartzell felt "a call to serve God on another level," his son Steve said. Mr. Hartzell received a GED, completed courses at Lourdes University in Sylvania, and was ordained a deacon. For nearly 20 years, he performed baptisms and marriages, distributed communion, and visited hospitals and nursing homes.

He was born Nov. 11, 1921, to Rosalie and Thomas Hartzell, the sixth of eight children. He left Calvert High School to join the Civilian Conservation Corps and built silt dams in Montana, his son Steve said.

During the war, he joined the Army. He was in Company I, 502nd parachute regiment, of the 101st Airborne Division. He dropped onto Utah Beach during the June 6, 1944, D-Day invasion. On June 10 at the Carentan Causeway, the regiment took repeated attacks. German Stukas strafed Company I, and a shell exploded near him. After recuperation in England, he served in an anti-aircraft unit on the continent.

He had recurring nightmares, yet about a decade after the war, he searched nationwide for members of Company I, sending out hundreds of form letters. He found many, and in the early 1960s, and for about 40 years, he published and mailed the Company I Poopsheet, in which the Army buddies swapped tales and updates on their lives.

"He loved those guys. He lived and died with those guys," his son said. "It was very therapeutic for him too in getting through his own trauma."

Mr. Hartzell received a Purple Heart, a Croix de Guerre, a Bronze Star, and a Presidential Unit Citation, but spoke rarely of his honors.

"We made a deal with him that after he passed, we would blow the horn he would never blow," daughter Dorothy said. "He would tell you he was not a hero. I know he was. He was my hero."

He and Marie Kirian married June 12, 1948. She died March 14, 2004.

Surviving are his sons, Joseph, Peter, and Stephen; daughters, Agnes Welling, Clara Hartzell, Dorothy Robenalt, and Helen Guinther; sister, Ellen Elchert; 24 grandchildren; 43 great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren.

A wake service will be held at 3:30 p.m. today in the Traunero Funeral Home, Tiffin, followed by visitation from 4-8 p.m. Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday in St. Mary Church, Tiffin, where the body will be after 9 a.m.

The family suggests tributes to St. Mary Church, St. Francis Home, or the Alzheimer's Association.

By: writer Mark Zaborney, published in Toledo Blade on an. 9, 2015

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For the Hartzell services we were represented by a TRADITIONAL FUNERAL BASKET The card read:

"Company I, 502, PIR, 101st Airborne, WWII, and friends and families of the Company I Poopsheet. Thank you for all you did for us."

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**Thank You from the Hartzell Family:**

Thank you and all the group in Co. I, 502 for the beautiful flower arrangement. It was placed on his grave at the cemetery. You all meant a lot to my dad and to us kids.

Dorothy Robenalt (Bob's daughter)

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**Thank you** all for your wonderful Christmas and New Year messages via letter, card and email. From the I Company family and friends, this included: Petra Casas, widow of Ralph Casas, Joe and June Hennessey, Harry and Joanie Nivens, Carolyn Young, daughter of Charles Young, James Norris, Jr., son of Jim Norris, Josephine Kocol, sister of Louis Morong, Preston Tyree, son of Edward Tyree, Steve Owens, son of Cornelius Owens Mabel Howell, widow of Jim Howell, Kay Murdock, widow of Walter Murdock, Marjorie Steadman, widow of Willie Steadman, Kathy Moe Hagen, daughter of Glenn Moe, Fred Jr. and Dolores Kraus, son and widow of Fred Kraus Sr. . Peter Plank, Veterans Affairs Officer, Airborne Command, Jack Zaifman, David Wisnia, Chris Kuzin in Poland, President of the Five-O-Deuce Reenactorss, James Edwards, Scott Ramsey, Don Caughran and the many other emails and Facebook friends, too numerous to list. Your love and support has enabled us to continue to honor the men of Company I, 502 for this year. No contributions are needed at this time.

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**D-Day hero posthumously honored in Normandy** By Senior Airman Alexander W. Riedel CARENTAN, France (Army News Service, -- Municipality leaders, veterans and



residents gathered to remember a local legend on the occasion of the June 5 unveiling here of a new site and monument dedicated to a D-Day hero of the 101st Airborne Division.

At a palm-centered roundabout, a black stele, or stone pillar, now stands as a reminder of Lt. Col. Robert G. Cole's valorous actions during the battle for the town's liberation.

An artisan's etching at the bottom of the pillar depicts Cole and his troops during the famed bayonet charge against a German defensive position, on June 11, 1944.

Jean-Pierre L'honneur, the mayor of Carentan, was joined in the unveiling by Raymond Defer, a former medic who parachuted into Normandy near Sainte Marie du Mont, during the night of June 5.

"Of course I didn't know Col. Cole personally, he was my commander, after all," Defer said. "But I served his men as a medic and I can tell you there are a lot of memories in this place. It was a very tough time."

Cole personally led his battalion to capture four remaining bridges on the road to Carentan, when his entire unit was suddenly pinned to the ground by intense and withering enemy fire from

German rifles, machine guns, mortars, and artillery from heavily fortified positions.

The unrelenting fire caused numerous casualties, keeping medics like Defer busy, and kept troops in place for over an hour. Cole made a desperate and courageous call to order an assault on the enemy position with fixed bayonets, a dangerous tactic that had become unconventional since the end of World War I.

Ignoring the danger, Cole rose to his feet and charged against enemy fire with drawn pistol. Picking up a fallen man's rifle and bayonet, he charged on and led the remnants of his unit in clearing the defensive position.

The story quickly spread through the unit and is said to have motivated the successful gain of a bridgehead across the Douve River.

Cole was posthumously decorated with the highest American military medal, the Medal of Honor, for his bayonet charge on Carentan.

"From today on, the Stars and Stripes of the United States float on the monument beside the Tricolour," said Louis Regnault, a local administrator responsible for the commemorations.

L'honneur summarized the events around Carentan's liberation, thanked the visiting veterans in his native French, and said their sacrifices will be remembered for generations to come. "It's up to us to keep the memory for the generations of today, to whom liberty comes so naturally," he said.

In a symbol for the lasting legacy of those who sacrificed for the freedom of Europe, school children presented the veterans with a white dove and star cutouts as representations of peace and liberty. "It's an honor to stand alongside these veterans today," said Maj. Gen. James McConville, the commander of 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), who joined Defer and other veterans in the ceremony. "They led the way and the legacy of the 101st Airborne Division, and their example still inspires Soldiers today." [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil) website archives

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God Bless America



Dutch and Belgian veterans saluting the grave of a fallen American comrade (Capt. Donald R. Emerson, a fighter pilot from North Dakota, KIA on December 25, 1944.

**The "Margraten" Experience: Why the Dutch adopt graves and names of American WWII soldiers** (From article by Rene van Slooten in Baltimore Post Examiner, December 20, 2014)

On the gently sloping hills of the southernmost point of the Netherlands, lies the beautifully landscaped "Netherlands American Cemetery." It is the only American cemetery in the country and often named "Margraten," after the nearby village. Here rest 8,301 American servicemen and -women who were killed in action during World War II.

On the Walls of the Missing are 1,722 names of those who are still missing in action. ...Initially "Margraten" Cemetery counted 17,000 graves, but after the war many remains were re-buried in the US, at the request of their families

During the war citizens of Margraten helped to bury the fallen American soldiers, and to express their gratitude toward their liberators they started to "adopt" graves after the war. The citizens of Margraten visited the graves, brought flowers on Memorial Day and contacted the families in the US, to learn more about the fallen heroes who were buried so close to their village. The desire to adopt an American grave soon spread through the south-eastern parts of the Netherlands which were liberated by American forces, initially by the 30th Infantry Division and later by the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions during "Operation Market Garden" (September 1944). Within two years all graves at

"Margraten" were adopted, and for the past 70 years many graves remained in the hands of the same Dutch families, being passed on from one generation to the next, a wish that was sometimes even expressed in a last will.

Many Dutch still wanted to adopt one, and a waiting list was the result, with little chance of ever becoming an adopter. So in 2008 a decision was made that also names on the Walls of the Missing could be adopted, an opportunity that was gratefully seized by many Dutch. And now, six years later, some 1,400 names on the Walls of the Missing at "Margraten" are adopted too.

In 2015 the "Margraten" adoption program will exist for 70 years, and special celebrations are planned that will be attended by some 60 family members from the US, all members of the AWON (American WWII Orphans Network), which has close ties with the "Margraten" adoption foundation.

During the past years the succes of the "Margraten" adoption program has expanded to two nearby cemeteries in Belgium, "Henri Chapelle American Cemetery" ....This was done by Belgian citizens and families who followed the Dutch example to honor and commemorate the fallen Americans, but also by Dutch who developed an interest in military history and who wanted to link the graves and stories of American soldiers who were in combat together. "Henri Chapelle" is situated a few miles south of "Margraten," just beyond the Netherlands-Belgium border. It is the final resting place of 7,992 Americans and it has a Wall of the Missing with 450 names. The "Ardennes" cemetery is close to the city of Liège. It is the resting place of 5.323 Americans and it has a Wall of the Missing with 463 names. This cemetery is close to the battlefields where the "Battle of the Bulge" was fought during the harsh and cold winter of 1944-45 (from December 16, 1944-January 25, 1945). Detailed information about these three cemeteries can be found on the magnificent website of the *American Battle Monuments Commission...*

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## Gift for Teacher

On the first day of school, the children brought gifts for their teacher.

The supermarket manager's daughter brought the teacher a basket of assorted fruit. The florist's son brought the teacher a bouquet of flowers. The candy-store owner's daughter gave the teacher a pretty box of candy.

Then the liquor-store owner's son brought up a big, heavy box. The teacher lifted it up and noticed that it was leaking a little bit..She touched a drop of the liquid with her finger and tasted it.

"Is it wine?" she guessed. "No," the boy replied. She tasted another drop and asked, "Champagne?"

"No," said the little boy..... "It's a puppy!"

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## The Light

An 82-year-old man goes for a physical. All of his tests come back normal so the doctor says, "Harry, everything looks great. How are you doing mentally and emotionally? Are you at peace with God?" Harry replies, "God and I are tight. He knows I have poor eyesight, so he's fixed it when I get up in the middle of the night to go to the bathroom, poof!, the light goes on. When I'm done, poof!, the light goes off."

"Wow, that's incredible," the doctor says.

A little later in the day, the doctor calls Harry's wife. "Mrs. White," he says, "Harry is doing fine but I had to call you because I'm in awe of his relationship with God. Is it true that he gets up during the night and poof! the light goes on in the bathroom, and when he's done, poof! the light goes off?" "OH GOOD GRIEF!" Mrs. white exclaims, "He's pissing in the fridge again!"

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## Some Things to Remember...

The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you've never tried before.

Change is inevitable....except from vending machines.

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## New Senior's Exam

You only need 4 correct out of 10 questions to pass.

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years' War last?
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3) From which animal do we get cat gut?
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of?
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal?
- 7) What was King George VI's first name?
- 8) What color is a purple finch?
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
- 10) What is the color of the black box in a commercial airplane?

Remember, you need only 4 correct answers to pass. Check your answers below

### ....ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ

- 1) 116 years
- 2) Ecuador
- 3) Sheep and Horses
- 4) November
- 5) Fur
- 6) Dogs
- 7) Albert
- 8) Crimson
- 9) New Zealand
- 10) Orange

What do you mean, you failed? Me, too! (And if you try to tell me you passed you LIED!)

### Our society is doomed.....

#### I DIOT SIGHTING

I handed the teller @ my bank a withdrawal slip for \$400.00. I said "May I have large bills, please" She looked at me and said "I'm sorry sir, all the bills are the same size." When I got up off the floor I explained it to her...

#### IDIOT SIGHTING

When my husband and I arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up our car, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver side door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked. 'Hey,' I

announced to the technician, 'it's open!' His reply: 'I know. I already got that side.

This was at the Ford dealership in Canton, MS  
IDIOT SIGHTING

We had to have the garage door repaired.

The Sears repairman told us that one of our problems was that we did not have a 'large' enough motor on the opener. I thought for a minute, and said that we had the largest one Sears made at that time, a 1/2 horsepower.

He shook his head and said, 'Lady, you need a 1/4 horsepower.' I responded that 1/2 was larger than 1/4. He said, 'NO, it's not.' Four is larger than two.' We haven't used Sears repair since.  
IDIOT SIGHTING

My daughter and I went through the McDonald's take-out window and I gave the clerk a \$5 bill. Our total was \$4.25, so I also handed her a quarter. She said, 'you gave me too much money.' I said, 'Yes I know, but this way you can just give me a dollar bill back.

She sighed and went to get the manager, who asked me to repeat my request. I did so, and he handed me back the quarter, and said 'We're sorry but we could not do that kind of thing.' The clerk then proceeded to give me back \$1 and 75 cents in change. *Do not confuse the clerks...*

#### IDIOT SIGHTING

My daughter went to a local Taco Bell and ordered a taco. She asked the person behind the counter for 'minimal lettuce.' He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg lettuce

#### IDIOT SIGHTING

I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, 'Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?' To which I replied, 'If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?

He smiled knowingly and nodded, 'That's why we ask.' Happened in Birmingham, Ala.

#### STAY ALERT! They walk among us.....

For all of us who are seniors... The reason why baby diapers have brand names such as Luvs and Huggies, while undergarments for old people are called Depends:

When babies poop in their pants, people are still gonna Luv'em and Hug'em.

When old people poop in their pants, it Depends on who's in the Will!

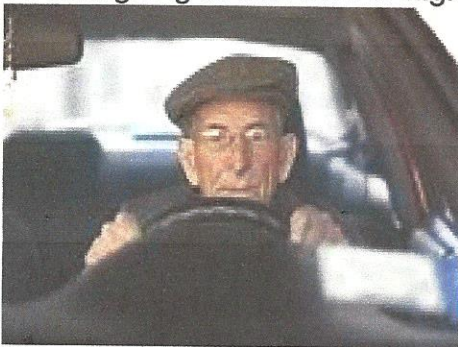
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**Company I, 502 veteraqsns on our mailing list:**

Augustnowski	Edward		Wethersfield	CT
Brangwin	Joe	S.	Ridgecrest	CA
Clark	Jack	R.	New Castle	PA
Dunch	Louis	B.	Sharon	PA
Elliott	Chester	H.	Birch Tree	MO
Hennessey	Joseph	S.	Sarasota	FL
Kelly	Earl	R.	Aberdeen	MD
Nivens	Harry	C.	St. Cloud	FL
Penkwitz	William		Mishicot	WI
Vaccaro	Richard	P.	Cottonwood	AZ
Taylor	Floyd	M.	Midwest City	OK

**Police stop at 2 AM**

Ron Chestna 89 years of age was stopped by the police around 2 a.m. and was asked where he was going at that time of night.



Ron replied, *"I'm on my way to a lecture about alcohol abuse and the effects it has on the human body, as well as*

*smoking and staying out late."*

The officer asked, *"Really? Who's giving that lecture at this time of night?"*

Ron replied, *"That would be my wife."*

**Senior Couple**

While on a road trip, an elderly couple, stopped at Pizza Hut for lunch. After finishing their meal, they left the restaurant and resumed their trip. When leaving, the elderly woman unknowingly left her glasses on the table, and she didn't miss them until they had been driving for about forty minutes. By then, to add to the Aggravation, they had to travel quite a distance before they could find a place to turn around, in order to return to the restaurant to retrieve her glasses. All the way back, the elderly husband became the classic grouchy old man. He fussed and complained, and scolded his wife relentlessly during the entire return drive.

The more he chided her, the more agitated he became. He just wouldn't let up for a single minute.

To her relief, they finally arrived at the restaurant. As the woman got out of the car and hurried inside to retrieve her glasses, the old geezer yelled to her: While you're in there, you might as well get my hat and credit card.

**Good News and Bad News**

The lawyer says to the wealthy art collector tycoon: "I have some good news and, I have some bad news".

The tycoon replies: "I've had an awful day, let's hear the good news first". The lawyer says: "Your wife invested \$50 in two pictures today that she figures are worth a minimum of \$2 million".

The tycoon replies enthusiastically: "Well done, very good news indeed! You've just made my day; now what's the bad news?"

The lawyer answers: "The pictures are of you in bed with your secretary".

**Who Knows? Might Work!**

Fresh from my shower, I stand in front of the mirror complaining to my husband that my breasts are too small. Instead of characteristically telling me it's not so, he uncharacteristically comes up with a suggestion.

"If you want your breasts to grow, then every day take a piece of toilet paper and rub it between them for a few seconds"

Willing to try anything, I fetched a piece of toilet paper and stood in front of the mirror, rubbing it between my breasts.

"How long will this take?" I asked.

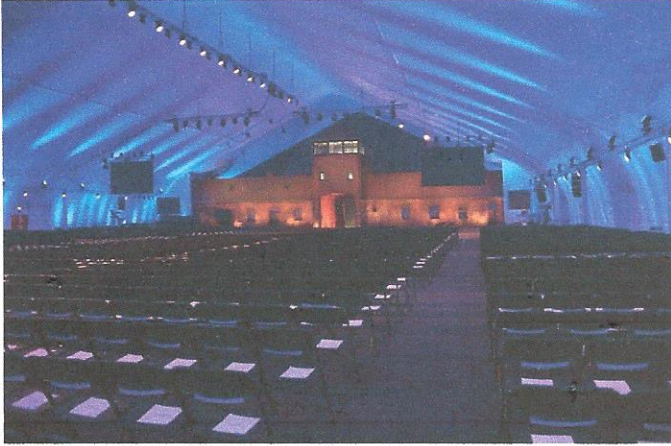
"They will grow larger over a period of years," my husband replies.

I stopped. "Do you really think rubbing a piece of toilet paper between my breasts every day will make my breasts larger over the years?"

Without missing a beat he says: "Worked for your butt, didn't it?"

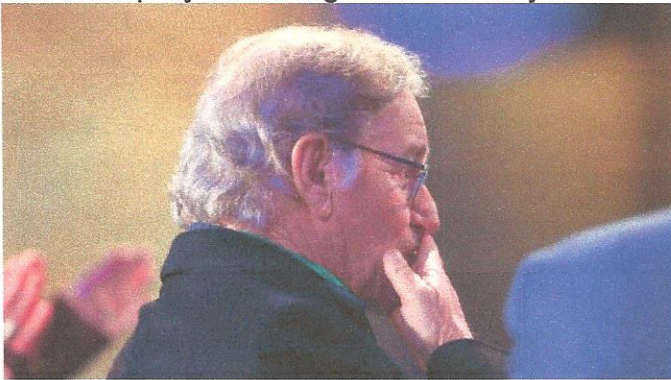
He's still alive, and with a great deal of therapy, he may even walk again although he will probably continue to take his meals through a straw.

**A large tent erected ahead of an anniversary ceremony is seen at the former German Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau near Oswiecim**



January 26, 2015. Ceremonies to mark the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the camp will take place on January 27, with some 300 former Auschwitz prisoners taking part in the commemoration event. The Germans built the Auschwitz camp in 1940 as a place of incarceration for the Poles. From 1942, it became the largest site of extermination of the Jews from Europe. In Auschwitz, the Nazi Germans killed at least 1.1 million people, mainly Jews, but also Poles, Roma, Soviet prisoners of war and prisoners of other ethnicities. On January 27, 1945 the camp was liberated by the Red Army soldiers.

Guests and officials listened to Jewish and Christian prayers during the ceremony.



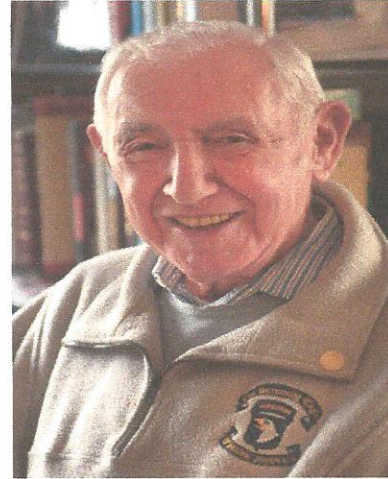
Director Steven Spielberg reacts during a ceremony on the site of the former Nazi German concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau near Oswiecim January 27, 2015.

Taking part in the ceremony on January 27 was for prisoner at Auschwitz, David Wisnia, Levittown, PA.

This interview took place a few days before the ceremony this year: .

### **A survivor remembers the Holocaust**

*From various internet sites....*



The top of a tattooed number 6 is still visible on his left forearm. David Wisnia had the rest of "83526" removed by a plastic surgeon. It was a reminder of three dark years spent in the Auschwitz concentration

camp, where he witnessed unimaginable horrors.

Wisnia, 88, of Levittown, remembers collecting bodies of fellow prisoners who had tried to escape and were gunned down.

He recalls his Nazi captors' orders to retrieve money and valuables from the clothes shed by countless people before they were shot or gassed.

And he recollects the uprising of prisoners who attacked guards at Crematorium 4, believing they had nothing to lose because they were on their way to a gas chamber.

What saved Wisnia, then 16, at Auschwitz-Birkenau in Nazi-occupied Poland was a strong singing voice. He used it to entertain the SS guards.

That voice - honed as a boy in a Warsaw synagogue - will be heard again in the camp during ceremonies Jan. 27 marking the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

Wisnia, a cantor who has inspired listeners at Philadelphia-area synagogues, at a retirement home in Trenton, and at annual High Holy Days gatherings in Jackson, N.J., will sing a memorial to those who died at a camp site known as "death's door."



He will be there at the invitation of the government of Poland, which is paying for his trip. Representatives of about 100 countries are expected to attend.

He will also sing at a service Jan. 24 - accompanied on the piano by his grandson - at the Beit Polska synagogue in Warsaw.

"Of course you never forget," said Wisnia, whose parents and two brothers were killed by the Nazis. "I managed to isolate what I saw and put it in the back of my mind.

"I was in Auschwitz close to three years," he said. "There are very few who can boast that." Wisnia later escaped the Nazis and stumbled into the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division, soon becoming the unit's official interpreter. The old veterans still call him "Little Davy."

"I started my new life with the 101st Airborne," said Wisnia, who will attend the unit's Feb. 4 reunion in Tampa, Fla., where he will sing the national anthem. "They were my family."

With help from New Jersey educators Robin Black and Doug Cervi, Wisnia has been finishing his memoir, expected to be released this year.

"We, as a world community, need to study [the Holocaust] a lot more than we're doing right now," said Cervi, an adjunct professor at Richard Stockton College in Galloway Township, where in the spring he will teach the impact of the genocide, which resulted in the deaths of about six million Jews. "If we don't learn lessons from this, night will fall again."

Auschwitz was a network of Nazi concentration and extermination camps where historians estimate between 2.1 million and 4 million people died, the vast majority Jews. Only about 200,000 survived the Auschwitz camps, including 65,000 at Birkenau.

Wisnia's introduction to life there came after family members were killed as they were being rounded up in December 1941 in the Warsaw ghetto. His 41-year-old carpenter father, 37-year-old mother, and 14-year-old brother were shot to death. His 19-year-old brother was later killed as he tried to escape the Treblinka extermination camp in Poland.

But Wisnia survived and was transported to Auschwitz with about 1,500 others. He was one of about 570 young, able-bodied men who were

selected as laborers. The rest - women, children, and elderly - were executed.

Because of his fine singing voice and fluent German, Wisnia was chosen as the camp's entertainer. In addition to Polish, he spoke French, Hebrew, and Yiddish.

"I sang in German for the cell-block leaders and entertained the SS in the main guard houses in Birkenau. It saved my life," said Wisnia, who later served as cantor at Temple Shalom synagogue in Levittown and Har Sinai synagogue in Trenton.

"I got a cushy job after the first year," he said. "I sorted the clothes. I was supposed to look for money."

Wisnia was sorting clothes on Oct. 23, 1943, when he witnessed the unthinkable - the deadly revolt at Crematorium 4.

A group of prisoners, including the Polish Jewish dancer Francesca Mann, were taken into a room next to a gas chamber and ordered to strip.

Mann apparently grabbed the roll-call officer's pistol, fatally wounding him in the stomach, according to some accounts. She also reportedly fired a shot that wounded an SS sergeant. A revolt by the other prisoners was broken up when guards mowed them down with machine guns.

As the months passed and artillery began to sound in the distance, the Nazis began moving the prisoners in what Wisnia called the "death march." In December 1944, they walked to Gleiwitz, Poland, to board a train to the Dachau concentration camp in Germany. "That was a very bad sign for me," he said. "I survived so many years, and now the war was coming to an end. "Dachau was chaos personified," he said. Wisnia volunteered to help excavate bunkers to house the new German jet fighters and was being transported on a railcar when planes with white stars strafed them.

He escaped when the train stopped. He hid in barns by day and walked toward the sound of the guns at night.

"One fine morning, I heard the roar of tanks, and I prayed, 'Let there not be swastikas or black crosses on those tanks,'" Wisnia said. The tanks marked with white stars stopped, and he joined the ranks.

Wisnia quickly learned English, became the unit's official interpreter, and was issued a uniform and gun.



By 1946, he had come to the United States, settling first in New York and later Mount Airy, then Levittown.

He married in 1948, had four children, and was vice president of sales for a New York publishing company until four years ago. He is cantor emeritus at Har Sinai synagogue in Pennington, N.J., and continues to serve at weddings, funerals, and other events.

But memories of Auschwitz are never far from his mind. In 1956, he returned to the camp for the first time and etched his name on the wooden shelf where he once slept.

In 2004, he began giving annual talks about his experiences to students at Oakcrest High School in Mays Landing. "You could have heard a feather drop," said Cervi, who was a history teacher there when Wisnia addressed a class of 25. The next year, Wisnia spoke to 400 in the auditorium. "The kids stood up and gave him a standing ovation," Cervi said.

(Photos here have been added by the Poopsheet Editor)



January 31, 2015, Warsaw, Poland, David Wisnia meets for dinner with the Five -O-Deuce Living History Group.

## SNOWBIRD 2015

More than 200 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne veterans, family and friends descended onto Tampa, Florida, February 4 – 8, 2015 for the annual Snowbird Reunion.

This year just seven of our WWII veterans made it there. J. Schiffer, David Wisnia, Vincent Speranza. Seated: Joe Pisano, Ed Hallo, Frank DeMercy, and Patrick Macri.



Betty Taylor Hill, sister of Lester Taylor, I-502, Kathy Moe Hagen, daughter of Glenn Moe, I-502, and Susan Lillyman Hyland, daughter of Frank Lillyman, I-502, WWII.

The weather was nice, we enjoyed the golf, casino, sightseeing, shopping, movies, fine restaurants, raffles, hospitality room, group breakfast, and a dinner provided by Outback. On Saturday morning seventeen brave veterans jumped once again on Saturday. Our thanks to

the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Association and the Florida Chapters for another great Snowbird Reunion.



David Wisnia, H-506 sang the anthem at the banquet with Col. James (Jimmy) Blackmon, Ft. Campbell, main speaker for the Banquet on Saturday night.



Mark Bando, Ed Hallo and David Lasseter

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 If we concentrated on the really important stuff in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles"

"Smile.... and the world wonders what you've been up to."  
 =====

**Blonde Men**

Two blond men find three grenades, and they decide to take them to a police station. One asked: "What if one explodes before we get there?" The other says: "We'll lie and say we only found two."  
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(This one actually makes sense...sort of...)  
 An Italian tourist asks a blond man: "Why do Scuba divers always fall backwards off their boats?"  
 To which the blond man replies: "If they fell forward, they'd still be in the boat."  
 =====

**SIPPING VODKA**

A new Priest at his first mass was so nervous he could hardly speak. After mass he asked the Monsignor how he had done.

The Monsignor replied, "When I am worried about getting nervous on the pulpi I put a glass of vodka next to the water glass. If I start to get nervous, I take a sip..."

So next Sunday he took the Monsignor's advice. At the beginning of the sermon, he got nervous and took a drink. He proceeded to talk up a storm.

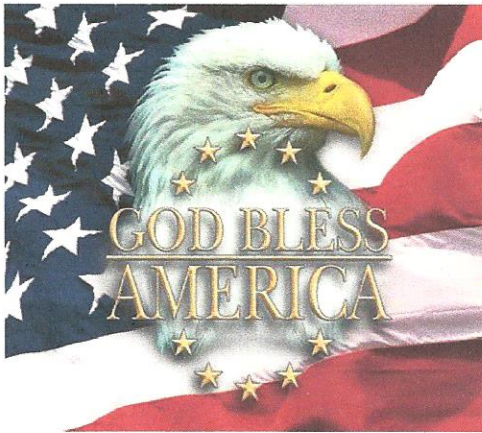
Upon his return to his office after the mass, he found the following note on the door:

- 1) Sip the vodka, don't gulp.
- 2) There are 10 commandments, not 12..
- 3) There are 12 disciples, not 10....
- 4) Jesus was consecrated, not constipated.
- 5) Jacob wagered his donkey, he did not bet his ass.
- 6) We do not refer to Jesus Christ as the late J.C.
- 7) The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are not referred to as Daddy, Junior and the Spook.
- 8) David slew Goliath; he did not kick the shit out of him..
- 9) When David was hit by a rock and was knocked off his donkey, don't say he was stoned off his ass.
- 10) We do not refer to the cross as the 'Big T.'
- 11) The Virgin Mary is not called 'Mary with the Cherry'.
- 12) The recommended grace before a meal is not: Rub-A-Dub-Dub thanks for the grub, Yeah God.

=====  
 See you next time.....



Betty T. Hill, Current Editor  
5801 Reading Rd # 321  
Rosenberg, TX 77471  
[Bjth23@yahoo.com](mailto:Bjth23@yahoo.com)  
Phibe: 832 449 3541



Seniors: Hints on how to liven up your idle hours...

To Maintain A Healthy Level Of Insanity

1. At Lunch Time, Sit In Your Parked Car With Sunglasses on and point a Hair Dryer At Passing Cars...  
*watch 'em Slow Down!*
2. On all your cheque stubs, write '*ForMarijuana!*'
3. Skip down the street Rather Than Walk and *see how many looks you get.*
4. With a serious face, order a Diet Water whenever you go out to eat.
5. Sing Along At The Opera.
6. When The Money Comes Out of The ATM, Scream '*I Won! I Won!*'
7. When Leaving the Zoo, start Running towards the Car Park, Yelling '*Run For Your Lives! They're Loose!*'
8. Tell Your Children over dinner: '*Due to the economy, we are going to have to let one of you go...*'

And The Final Way To Keep A Healthy Level Of Insanity:

9. PICK UP A BOX OF CONDOMS AT THE PHARMACY, GO TO THE COUNTER AND ASK WHERE THE FITTING ROOM IS.

Share this with Someone to Make Them Smile. It's called 'therapy'!