

**FOCUS**

**World War II guardsmen remember war days for 50th anniversary**

**Editor's Note:** National Guardsmen of the 103rd Coast Artillery Battalion, Carlisle, joined thousands of other soldiers in the quest for freedom during World War II.

All veterans of all branches of the military are to be commended for service to the United States of America. Emphasis this week is on the National Guard because of its long history and altruistic affiliation with Carlisle.

The following profiles represent local guardsmen who served in World War II. Years spent on foreign soil and water, doing their duty, thinking of home and wondering what would happen next became the lives 103rd Anti-Aircraft Battalion of the local National Guard more than 50 years ago.

On Monday, July 17, four guardsmen and two of their wives held a reunion of memories at the Mercury Office. Later that evening, fellow guardsmen Willie Humphries and his wife Jewel, paid a visit. Other guardsmen were contacted by telephone. Regrettably, the Mercury was unable to contact local guardsman Bud Lynn.

John G. Hall, 85, "I was overseas most of the time. I spent 37 months there and was discharged Sept. 13, 1945. I was getting pretty old when I went in," he joked. Hall was 29 when he signed up for the guard.

Born in Owen County, Hall was reared in Millersburg but moved to Carlisle in 1928. "I just thought I'd like to join in," he said. He graduated in 1932. "I liked that and thought I'd like a little more."

Assigned to the anti-aircraft battalion, he worked as a switchboard operator, an ammunition truck driver, and got to pull frequent guard duty. He went to Ireland, North Africa,

Sicily, and then on to England. "We of course got ready for the invasion. I had to be in position. We didn't go the first day, but we were there the second or third day. Then on to France. The Germans were on the run. When we left France we were in Belgium and then made a stop to Germany and were in the Battle of the Bulge."

**"I was strictly responsible for everything in my platoon. I never saw my 2nd Lieutenant!"**

At 33, Hall returned from war duty. He worked in the airplane battery shop at Lexington Bluegrass Army Depot for the next 32-33 years, retiring in 1977.

James M. Hamilton, 75, said his duties with the 103rd included April 29, 1942 "I was the second." He was 19 years old when he was drafted to England, Ireland, France, just before the war, and then through Europe.

Hamilton returned home and married Nora. They are the parents of two boys, Danny and Jimmy. He plans to attend the commemorative event. "I think I'll go just for old time's sake. But most of the things I wouldn't want to see again."

**"I won't ever forget - I was a kitchen policeman!"**

Stanley R. Storey had just turned 17 when he joined the Guard. "I had to be in position. We didn't go the first day, but we were there the second or third day. Then on to France. The Germans were on the run. When we left France we were in Belgium and then made a stop to Germany and were in the Battle of the Bulge."

Like other soldiers, he pulled the monstrous guard duty, but mostly, he pulled KP at Ft. Sheridan. "I won't ever forget - I was a kitchen policeman - a pan scrubber," he exclaimed.

Storey married Imogene Feb. 17 and was inducted into the 103rd Feb. 24. "I was afraid somebody else would get her while I was gone. We were married at the Methodist Church by Rev. Sweary. They became the parents of Ronald, Lee, Linda Ann, Paula Jean and Gary Wayne."

"I want to go to the program. I think it'll be really nice. Edgar Rawlings, 75, was 18 when he entered the 103rd. "I stayed overseas about five years. I was a machine gunner. I drove a half-truck for the next 30 hours on and night off. Shot at a lot of airplanes, but I didn't hit them all."

The half-truck was a well armed vehicle with a gun turret. Hopefully, a half-truck will be at the "A Time To Remember" World War II event. "Everybody else was going," he said. He stayed until July 1945.

Rawlings and his wife, Minnie, are the parents of James Allen and Brenda Day. After he worked 25 years as a civil service employee with home in Carlisle. There wasn't much contact with home in Carlisle. There wasn't much mail and not too much time to get out."

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most of his days spent on the front. He drove a truck and tried to take care of himself and his fellow guardsmen. There wasn't much contact with home in Carlisle. There wasn't much mail and not too much time to get out."

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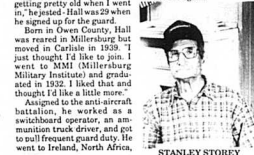
His memories are fond of the 103rd Anti-Aircraft Battalion. "They were a good outfit." Ritchie said he would go to the commemorative event. "I'll probably go look around and see some of the boys."

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STANLEY STOREY



JAMES HAMILTON



JOHN HALL



WILLIE HUMPHRIES



John G. Hall taking a rare break during war time.



Stanley Storey and Edgard Rawlings in full uniform.



John Hall as a commanding officer for the past 50 years.

**HEADQUARTERS**  
103d A.A. (A.W.) (BW)  
A.P.O. # 230, P.S. ADAPT

**TO: Members of the 103rd Anti-Aircraft Artillery, Automatic Weapons Battalion (AW) - 9 May 1945**

The War in Europe has come to an end. It is fitting and proper that on this occasion I address all members of the 103d AAA (AW) BN.

You have traveled a long road since the unit sailed from New York Harbor on 29 April 1942. Through Ireland, Africa, Sicily, England, France, Belgium, Germany and Czechoslovakia you have experienced every emotion known to man. You have shown intense interest in your tasks of the day, and you have been honored by the munitions of Army of the Airborne Division. You have been honored by the munitions of Army of the Airborne Division. You have been honored by the munitions of Army of the Airborne Division.

Each man, whether he sailed with the Unit over three years ago, or whether he has recently joined us, has made a great contribution. Through this combined effort the Unit has always accomplished its mission 100 percent, both in destroying enemy aircraft and in firing on enemy vehicles and troops in a ground role.

It is a cold fact that we will have a difficult task ahead of us in Germany. We no longer have the battle at our doorstep to spur us on.

Until such time as transportation is available to return many of us to the United States we will not allow idleness to set in. A program of Education, Information, and Activities will be immediately launched. Appearance and military courtesy and bearing will be stressed.

I would like to express my personal thanks to every man for his cooperation and hard work during the past year. In addition, as a representative of the United States Army, in the form of a commanding officer, I salute you for a job well done.

**GEORGE B. SAEVEN**  
Lt. Colonel, CW2  
Commanding

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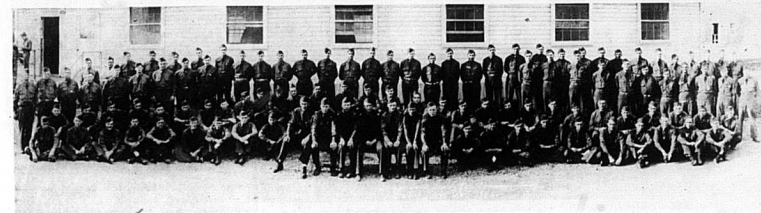
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**Focus**



**National Guardsmen prepare for overseas deployment**

This is the 103rd Battalion group photograph taken at Ft. Sheridan, Illinois, shortly before heading to Europe. This photo belongs to National Guardsman John G. Hall of Carlisle. Guardsmen from Carlisle and throughout the U. S. are in the photo



Willie Humphries sat down just long enough to have his picture taken.



Willie Humphries, right, and Edgard Rawlings, left, are named on the back of the photo, got together for a photograph some 50 years ago.



This photo, belonging to Guardsman Willie Humphries, left, also addresses during World War II. Here he's with buddies Edgard Rawlings and Storey. Humphries was 81 years old Dec. 21, 1995.

**103rd. Coast Artillery Bn.**  
AA 19 41 Sep.

**Ft. Sheridan - Illinois**

**JOHN G. HALL** **STANLEY STOREY**

**WILLIE HUMPHRIES** **JAMES HAMILTON**

The late Charlie Barr was a good friend of Guardsman Willie Humphries. Edgard Rawlings thought well of R. E. Perry, Percy Sanborn, Frank T. Woodall and Albert M. Vice. They would also like to see Billy Brothers, Dudley Galbraith, R. E. Marshall of Cincinnati and E. J. Rawlings.