

## 333rd field artillery Battalion (colored)

Of the African American units in the Ardennes during the German counter-offensive of December 1944, one field artillery group (333rd Group) and three field artillery battalions, 333rd, 969th, and 578th battalions, participated fully during the 27 days siege of the Battle of the Bulge, 16 Dec 44 through 12 Jan 45.

These three battalions provided direct support to Division of the VIII U.S. Corps including the 106th and 101st infantry divisions. The rest of the 333rd FAB was attached to the 969th. Their artillery support was instrumental to the successful defense of Bastogne.

MAJ GEN Maxwell D. Taylor, then commanding general of the 101st airborne, wrote to the commander of the 969th battalion, "the officers and men of the 101st airborne division wish to express to your command their appreciation of the gallant support rendered by the 969th field artillery battalion in the recent defense of Bastogne, Belgium... this division is proud to have shared the battlefield with your command. A recommendation for a unit citation of 969th field artillery battalion is being forwarded by this headquarters."

Though not the first earned, this was the first award of the Distinguished Unit Citation to an African American combat unit in WWII.

### *Thanks and Dedications*

THE EUROPEAN CHAPTER OF THE ROCKS, INC. EXPRESSES SINCERE THANKS TO  
THE LANGER FAMILY AND ALL ATTENDEES FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT  
TO THE MEMORY OF ALL AFRICAN AMERICAN WWII SOLDIERS.

### *Dank und Widmungen*

DIE EUROPEAN CHAPTER OF THE ROCKS, INC. BEDANKT SICH HERZLICH BEI DER  
LANGER FAMILIE UND ALLEN ANWESENDEN FÜR DEREN UNTER-  
STÜTZUNG UND EINSATZ ZUR ERINNERUNG AN ALLE AFRO-  
AMERIKANISCHEN SOLDATEN DES ZWEITEN WELTKRIEGES.



## U.S. MEMORIAL WERETH DEDICATED TO THE WERETH 11 & TO ALL AFRICAN AMERICAN SOLDIERS

20<sup>TH</sup> AND 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARIES  
MEMORIAL DEDICATION



17 MAY 2014– 11AM

WERETH, BELGIUM

## U.S. — MEMORIAL WERETH

### *The Ceremony*

MASTER OF CEREMONY	MSGT MICHAEL MURIEEN, USAF, SPANGDAHLEM
<b>POSTING OF THE COLORS</b>	
WELCOME	MRS ANNE-MARIE NOËL, PRESIDENT
INVOCATION	PFARRER H. SÖRGEL, GEMEINDE FLOSSENBÜRG (G)
REMARKS	COL. MITCHELL L. KILGO, USARMY 5 SIG CMD MR KLAUS SCHUMACHER, MAYOR OF AMEL SCHÜLER(INNEN) DES KGL ATHENÄUMS ST VITH
UNVEILING	SRA JAMES WAJDA, 52 <sup>ND</sup> FIGHTER WING, SPANGDAHLEM

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE

#### KGL MUSIKVEREIN LAETITIA

#### LAYING OF WREATHS

#### TAPS

#### NATIONAL ANTHEMS

BENEDICTION	PFARRER H. SÖRGEL, GEMEINDE FLOSSENBÜRG (G) PASTOR GÜNTER WEINAND, AMEL
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#### VOGELWEH GOSPEL SERVICE CHOIR

<i>DÉTACHEMENT D'HONNEUR</i>	<i>CAMP ELSENBORN LAGER</i>
<i>COLOR GUARD</i>	<i>LANDSTUHL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER (G)</i>
<i>BUGLER</i>	<i>MR HARTMUT HAUSSER, BUGLES ACROSS AMERICA, (G)</i>
<i>MUSIC</i>	<i>KGL MUSIKVEREIN LAETITIA HEPPENBACH</i>

MIT UNTERSTÜTZUNG DER DEUTSCHPRACHIGEN GEMEINSCHAFT

AVEC L'APPUI DU COMMANDEMENT MILITAIRE DE LA PROVINCE DE LIEGE

NEXT CEREMONY ON **MAY 16, 2015**

### *"333rd Field Artillery 11"*

- ◆ CURTIS ADAMS
- ◆ MAGER BRADLEY
- ◆ GEORGE DAVIS
- ◆ THOMAS J. FORTE
- ◆ ROBERT GREEN
- ◆ JIM LEATHERWOOD
- ◆ NATHANIEL MOSS
- ◆ GEORGE W. MOTEN
- ◆ WILLIAM M. PRITCHETT
- ◆ JAMES A. STEWART
- ◆ DUE W. TURNER

On December 16, when the German counter-offensive started, the 333<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion was in firing position east of the Our River.

On December 17, between 08h30 and 09h00, the soldiers received the order to move out towards Schönberg, alternate position for the battalion. In the process they came under attack by mortars and small arm fire.

Eleven African-Americans were separated from the rest of the group and, after spending several hours in the woods of eastern Belgium, they arrived around 4 PM at the farm of Mathias Langer.

They rested and ate food offered by Maria Langer.

While they were eating, SS arrived. These American soldiers, hands up, were lined up in front of the house then forced to sit on the wet ground.

A short time later, the SS went back to their vehicle and had the Americans run in front of them and took them to a trail, about 70 meters from the road. There, the 11 soldiers were savagely massacred.