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US Army Divisions in World War II

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103rd Infantry Division



103RD. DIV.

Nickname Cactus
 Theater(s) served in European
 Days of Combat 147
 Casualties 4,558
 What part of the Army Organized Reserves

Date Activated	Date Sent Overseas	Date Entered Combat	Status as of June 1946
15 Nov 42	20 Oct 44 France	11 Nov 44 Rhineland	inactivated 20 Sep 45

Commanding General(s)

Maj. Gen. Charles C. Hoffner, Jr. (Nov 42 – Jan 45)
 Maj. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe (Jan 45 – Jul 45)
 Brig. Gen. John N. Robinson (Aug 45 – inactivation)

Campaign(s)

Rhineland (15 Sep 44 – 21 Mar 45)
 Central Europe (22 Mar 45 – 11 May 45)

Brief History

The 103d Infantry Division arrived at Marseilles, France, 20 October 1944. It relieved the 3d Division at Chevry, 8 November, and attacked west of St. Die, 16 November, in its drive through the Vosges Mountains. Meeting heavy resistance all the way, it crossed the Meurthe River, took St. Die, 23 November and captured Diefenbach on 29 November and Selestat on 4 December. The Division crossed the Zintzel River at Griesbach, 10 December. Pushing through Glimbach, the 103d crossed the Lauter River into Germany, 15 December, and assaulted the outer defenses of the Siegfried Line. On the 22d, the Division moved west to the Sarreguemines area where an active defense was maintained. The enemy offensive did not develop in its sector and the 103d moved to Reichshofen, 14 January 1945, to take up positions along the Saner River. Defensive patrols were active and a limited attack on Soufflenheim on the 19th was repulsed by the enemy. On the 20th, the Division withdrew to the Moder and repulsed German advances near Muhlhausen, 23–25 January. The 103d's offensive began, 15 March 1945. Crossing the Moder and Zintzel Rivers and taking Muhlhausen against sharp opposition, the Division moved over the Lauter River and penetrated the defenses of the Siegfried Line. As German resistance disintegrated, the 103d reached the Rhine Valley, 23 March, and engaged in mopping up operations in the plain west of the Rhine River. In April it received occupational duties until 20 April when it resumed the offensive, pursuing a fleeing enemy through Stuttgart and taking Munsinger on the 24th. Crossing the Danube near Ulm on the 26th, it took Innsbruck on 3 May and reached the Brenner Pass on the 4th. After VE-day the Division received occupational duties until it left for home and inactivation.

Eastern France

Notes:

Date Activated is the date the division was activated or inducted into federal service (national guard units).
 Casualties are number of killed, wounded in action, captured, and missing.