

Request for the Inclusion  
of the 30th Infantry Division  
in the  
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in  
Washington, DC.



*The 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Veterans of WWII*  
*"Old Hickory"*

*President, William H. Vaughan, Vice President, Richard H. Lacey, Exec. Sec-Treas. Frank W. Towers*

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U. S. Army Center of Military History  
1099 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005-3402*

*To Whom It May Concern:*

*If I may, I wish to introduce myself: Frank W. Towers, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Editor and Historian of the 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Veterans of WWII.*

*I am attempting to research the possibilities of our organization to be recognized as one of the Liberating Units in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.*

*We would like to be recognized as one of these prestigious units, and have our colors posted in the lobby of the U.S.H.M.M.*

*Although we did not actually liberate a "Camp", we were instrumental in liberating a large number of Jewish prisoners, from the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp on 13 April 1945, at Farsleben, Germany, and also a sub camp of Buchenwald, the Polte Ammunition Werkes in Magdeburg, Germany on 18 April 1945.*

*As you are perhaps well aware of the tragedy of the fire at St. Louis, Mo in 1973, we are very limited on sources of material in regards to this event, other than brief references in our history books and oral histories of the two known surviving veterans of the 30<sup>th</sup> Division, who actually had 'hands on' experience with this liberation, as well as oral histories of some of the victims.*

*I am enclosing a copy of the 743<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion's A.A.R from the S-3 Journal for 13 April 1945, (4 pages), relating to the action of this date,*

*Also enclosing copies of pertinent pages, 162 & 163, from the 743<sup>rd</sup> Combat Story of the 743<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion, and page 122 of a second history book of the 743<sup>rd</sup> Tk. Bn., "The View From the Turret", written by William B. Folkestad, a Platoon Leader of this unit.*

*Next is an excerpt of the A.A.R. from the S-3 Journal of the 823<sup>rd</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion, for 13 April 1945, concerning their activity relative to the "Train at Farsleben. Then there are two (2) paragraphs on two (unnumbered) pages of the History of the 823<sup>rd</sup> TD Battalion.*

*Next, I am enclosing a copy of my own personal experience with the liberation of this train load of 2,500 Jews Survivors, liberated by the 743<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion, 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division on 13 April 1945, at Farsleben / Hillersleben, Germany.*

*This document will give the basic story of the liberation of these prisoners, a part of the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp, that was being transported to Theresienstadt, for the Final Solution.*

*Finally, I am enclosing a copy of the Train Route used by this train, showing the towns through which the train passed and the dates of each stopping point. Additionally there are two maps showing the route of this train from Bergen-Belsen to Farsleben, Germany.*

*In the archives of Bergen-Belsen, there is further documentation of the evacuation of these, and other prisoners, from Bergen-Belsen.*

*It is possible that there is further documentation of this event, and also of the liberation of the Polte Ammunition Werkes in Magdeburg, in any possible records in the Military Archives in Washington, DC, in the S-3 Journals or After Action Reports of the 30<sup>th</sup> Division Hq.*

*There were some men of the 119<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment mounted on the 743<sup>rd</sup> Tanks, but I can find no documentation on them, and have been unable to locate any of them through a search in our quarterly newsletter.*

*If I can supply you with further information, please do not hesitate to let me know, so as to assist in the recognition of the 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division as one of the Liberating Units of these Holocaust Survivors from the Bergen-Belsen Camp.*

*Thank you for your consideration of recognizing our Unit for this worthy honor.*

*Yours in Old Hickory Friendship,*

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