

Jane M Jackson
Director of Archives
Providence College

Sept 18, 1997

Dear Mrs Jackson,

I keep thinking of another item I want to tell you and I think of it right after I mail something to you. This should (may?) be the last.

The first 2 men killed in action, ^{from the 36TH Division} were 2 boys from Providence College - Ray Conley and Paul Foley.

It happened like this. All the DPs from Providence were put in the 328TH Regiment of the 36TH Yankee Division. The 328TH was picked to be the first from the Division to be committed to combat. We went on the front line the evening of Oct 5, 1944, in a sector near Port A Mousson France. We relieved elements of the 80TH Division, company by company taking over their foxholes, 2 men to a foxhole. It was a relatively quiet sector but every once in awhile, the Germans would throw over 6-10 artillery shells, as would the US

artillery. Then it would be quiet for a long spell.

During one of these artillery barrages the night of Oct 7, a German shell landed in the foxhole where Corley and Foley were and killed them instantly. As I said they were the first 2 KIA in the whole Division of 15,000 men.

You may know of this story already. I just wanted to make sure Providence College had this information since they are accumulating as much information about the ASTP unit as can be found out.

See you soon.

Sincerely,

Robert (Bob) Hudson

Dr. Robert L. Madson

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1998



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