

June 2nd. 2007

Mr. Mayor
City Hall
Murphysboro, Illinois

Dear Sir,

70 years after our liberation in the south of France, we have not forgotten all these young American boys who came over to fight and thus help us recover a free country -

I was just 15 years old then!

On August 21st. 1944, early in the morning, G.I.'s of the 3rd. Infantry Division of the 7th Army entered my home town of Aix-en-Provence. Since that morning, I have given my love and admiration to all these young G.I.'s with blackened faces, who were tired, but smiling, whom I saw arriving into two Indian files in one of our streets -

I have not forgotten the first jeep and its four soldiers, which stopped near the steps of our Court of Justice. They seemed to be happy to bring freedom to us.

The name of one of them was Gene Riseling, a citizen of Murphysboro, Illinois. He was 20. He spent a few hours with us. His jeep left Aix