



# THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.  
WORLD WAR II

Vol. 57 Issue No. 2

Spring Issue 2002

THE LANDMARK RESORT HOTEL  
LOOKS FORWARD TO HOSTING THE  
56<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REUNION  
FOR THE  
83<sup>RD</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION



*Myrtle Beach, SC, September 11 – 15, 2002*

# THE THUNDERBOLT

Official Publication – 83<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Association, Inc.

The THUNDERBOLT is written for all members of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division World War II and is published at East Side Drive, P. O. Box 406, Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406

Editor – Cliff Wooldridge

## STAFF REPORTERS

BOSTON ..... Ambrose Tynan, 121 Sanborn Ave., W. Roxbury, MA 02136, Tel. # 617-327-3588  
CLEVELAND..... Robert Grobelry, 1581 Lander Road, Mayfield Heights, OH 44124, Tel. # 440-449-5085  
DIXIE..... Ellsworth Massie, 2514 Lincrest Road, Joppa, MD 21085, Tel. # 410-877-0682  
FLORIDA..... Alan Fisher, 1 Bolero SP. LKS. C.C. Village, Fort Pierce, FL 34951, Tel. # 561-461-3640  
MICHIGAN..... Vito Palazzolo, 20000 Lancaster Street, Harper Woods, MI 48225, Tel. # 313-881-2364  
NEW ORLEANS..... Joseph Macaluso, 5353 Pasteur Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70122, Tel. # 504-282-1097  
NEW ENGLAND.... Nick Francullo, 10 Bessom Street, Lynn, MA 01902, Tel. # 781-592-9154  
NEW JERSEY..... Stan Bielen, 71 Glenwood Terr., Ford, NJ 08863, Tel. # 732-225-0169  
PHILADELPHIA.... Louis Volpi, 410 Merion Road, Merion, PA 19072, Tel. #610-664-5791  
PITTSBURGH . . . Francis Beerhalter, 147 York Road, Cranberry Township, PA 16066, Tel. # 724-452-2297

## ORGANIZATION OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Pat DiGiammerino  
36 E. Border Road  
Malden, MA 02148-1104  
781-322-2754

### 1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

Tony Vaccaro  
536 47<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Long Island City, NY 11101-5462  
718-706-7239

### 2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

### 3<sup>rd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

Stanley Bielen  
71 Glenwood Terrace  
Fords, IN 46250-2245  
732-225-0169

### SECRETARY-TREASURER

Robert Gangnath  
12 Hamlet Lane.  
Monroe, CT 06468-2008  
203-268-6683

### JUDGE ADVOCATE

John Raikos  
4039 Fir Court  
Indianapolis, IN 46250-2245  
317-849-5139

### HISTORIAN

Louis Gomori  
309 E. Locust St.  
Butler, PA 16001-4826  
724-283-4340

### CHAPLIN

Frank M Hornack  
R.R. 2 Box 370 F  
Latrobe, PA 15650-9427  
724-834-8315

## SERGEANTS-AT ARMS

Vitie C. Atkocius  
2602 Lorrying Drive  
Forestville, MD 20747-3310  
301-736-4273

Bob Keck  
209 S. Manor St.  
Mountville, PA 17554-1617  
717-285-5491

Robert Sessions  
165 Old Stage Rd.  
Norway, ME 04268-5355  
207-743-2197

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Louis Sandini, 240 Main St., Marlborough, MA, 01752-3843, Tel. #508-485-7222  
Wm. M. Minick, 110 Angel St., Saluda, SC, 29138-1002, Tel. # 864-445-8509  
B. John Prinzi, 4433 Oakley Greene, Sarasota, FL, 34235-2330, Tel. # 941-371-0844  
Harry Kirby, Jr., 20 Pennsbury Way. E., Chadds Ford, PA, 19317-9302, Tel. # 610-388-7561  
Cliff Wooldridge, East Side Drive, P. O. Box 406, Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406, Tel. # 603-875-3649

## A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

*James C. Hanrahan.....1947	*William M. Doty.....1966	*Bernie Cove.....1984
Jack M. Straus.....1948	Albert B. Belvedre.....1967	Carroll Brown.....1985
*Shelly Hughes.....1949	Vito C. Palazzolo.....1968	John Hobbs.....1986
*Julius Ansel.....1950	Pat DiGiammerino.....1969	George Fletcher.....1987
*Walter H. Edwards Jr. ....1951	Casey Szubski.....1970	*Charles Schmidt.....1988
Leo Schneider.....1952	*Charles Altomari.....1971	Edward Reuss.....1989
Finley Heyl.....1953	*Harold H. Dopp.....1972	Charles J. Lussier.....1990
*Lawrence J. Redmond.....1954-55	Louis J. Volpi.....1973	Edgar H. Haynes.....1991
*Lt. Gen. Robert H. York.....1956	Bernard O. Riddle.....1974	Ned Smith.....1992
*Harry W. Lockwood.....1957	Robert G. Taylor.....1975	Louis Sandini.....1993
*Raymond J. Voracek.....1958	Mike Skovran.....1976	William A. Minick.....1994
Charles Abdinoor.....1959	Manlius Goodridge.....1977	Casey Szubski.....1995
*Joseph F. Minotti.....1960	Joseph A. Macaluso.....1978	Floyd Richmond.....1996
*Frank J. McGrogan.....1961	*William J. Chavanne.....1979	Keith Davidson.....1997
*John W. Robinette.....1962	*Samuel Klippa.....1980	R.C. Hamilton.....1998
*Manuel C. Martin.....1963	Michael Caprio.....1981	Pat DiGiammerino.....1999
*Julius Boyles.....1964	Ralph Gunderson.....1982	Salvatore Scicolone.....2000
*Samueal Klippa.....1965	*Arthur Doggett.....1983	* Denotes Deceased

## President's Corner

Dear Buddy's,

We are finally enjoying our "off & on" spring weather and hopefully it will stay on.

It is not too early to start preparing for our 56<sup>th</sup> reunion in Myrtle Beach, and I and others will try to make it a great one.

Try to pre-register so you won't have to wait in line. In addition, please send in your ads as the Ad Book is very important toward making a successful reunion. Also, be sure and make your hotel reservations.

Lou Sandini, President of the Executive Board is having health problems, but hopefully he will be with us in Myrtle Beach.



Ginny & Pat DiGiammerino

## Secretary/Treasurer

No report submitted

## From the Editor

The winter is over and now it's time to rake up all the leaves to uncover the spring crocuses, tulips and daffodils.

In the meantime, I will get out the Thunderbolt and then the ad book letters. More than ever this year we need the ad book as the finances are down because many people have not paid their membership dues. I think we are getting old and don't remember. All should look at their membership cards and check the date to make sure it is "2002".

After the last Thunderbolt I received back 82 returns each at a cost of 60 cents to find out the member had moved or was in the warm climate just for the winter months. Some members have called me up and wanted me to send them another Thunderbolt and that cost \$1.30. Now it has cost the Association about \$2.00. If the member pays the \$2.00 and I have enough copies, I will send them another Thunderbolt.

We need to hear from you with either your new address or your summer and winter address with dates.

Hoping for a large turnout in Myrtle Beach and looking forward to seeing you.

# DECEASED LIST

*Our sympathy goes out to all the families of these veterans. We will miss all of them.*

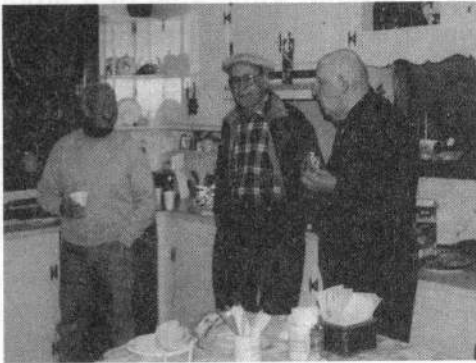
<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Reported By</u>
Allison, Eli	B 908 FA	Jim Prentice
Bacha, Michael	B 908 FA	Jim Prentice
Bartram, George E.	HQ 329th	Daughter, Roberta
Black, Warren G.	F 329th	C. R. Bob Whitcomb
Danylo, Joseph	C 908 FA	Sal Scicolone
Fay, John	G 329th	Helen Miller
Gioia, Joseph	C 323th F.A.	John G. Brown
Havens, Allen	F 330th	Wife, Noreen
Hoste, George A.	HQ 323rd FA	Robert Schuemanh
Lima, Emmanuel	K 331st	Al Belvedere & John Daum
Matczak, Joseph A.	G 329th	John G. Daum
Morgan, George	Med 329th	Wife, Lorene
Murray, William	Div. HQ	Wife
Musgrove, Walter	C 308th F.A.	Wife
O'Malley, Malcolm	D 330th	John G. Daum
Parsons, Robert L.	F 331st	John P. Tison
Perko, Edward	783rd	Ed's son
Policastro, Fred	G 331st	Pat DiGiammerino
Reynolds, Leonard	G 329th	Helen Miller
Selman, Gilbert	G 329th	Helen Miller
Spurgeon, Charles J.	E 331st	Family
Stoudt, Charles F.	HQ 331st	Wife Ann
Troutman, Carlos	B 332nd FA	Wife, Anna
Tsunis, Charles	B 329 <sup>th</sup>	Pat DiGiammerino
Vanden Heuvel, Calvin	B 329th	Wife, Hazel
Volkavich, Edwin	C 329th	W. E. Stark
Wohleber, Harold	G 329th	Helen Miller
Yon, G. Arthur	Band	Wife, Gladys

# CHAPTERS

## BOSTON CHAPTER NEWS

By Amby Tynan

On November 17, 2001 the Boston Chapter had its meeting at Pat DiGiammerino's house. Before the meeting, we had a very nice luncheon. Twenty members were in attendance.



Bill Rowe, Fred Sylvia and Charlie Lussier  
Meeting at Pat & Ginny's in Malden, MA

Election of the Boston Officers for a two year office are as follows:

President	John Tisdell
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Pat
DiGiammerino	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Rill Rowe
Secretary	Hyman Goodman
Staff Reporter	Amby Tynan
Membership	Pat DiGiammerino
Ways & Means Committee	Charles Lussier
	Larry Arrigo
	Fred Sylvia

It's been so long since I made a report so I guess I'll just start with the Christmas Party at the Ramada Inn in Seekonk, MA. There were quite a few members and friends present. A snack time was held before the dinner with a taste of favorite drink. It was an excellent dinner. Santa Clause came by with gifts for all.

Winners in the drawing are as follows:

Raphael M. Galzerant, Monroe, NY	\$100
Gino A. Nicoli, Chicago, IL	\$ 50
Alrich Brandt, Waterloo, IW	\$ 50
Leo Beland, Pawtucker, RI	\$ 25
Frank Bertoncine, Fall River, MA	\$ 25
Mary Reilly, Thomaston, CT	\$ 25
Edward J. Reidinger, Southington, CT	\$ 25

After the party everyone returned to the C.P. Room for a night snack and a good night drink. Members that stayed overnight got a free breakfast at the Hotel.

Boston Chapter cancelled their meetings for three months. Most of the men kept in contact by phone so we would know what was going on. Poor health has been the trouble all winter.

Nancy and I just came back from the Dixie Chapter Mini Reunion in Williamsburg, VA. We had a wonderful time. A "tip of the Irishman's hat" to John Cox and his lovely wife for a job well done. Carol Caprio (Mike's daughter) came over to spend some time with us. We really enjoyed seeing her. Carol lives at Virginia Beach where she works.

It was nice to see Joe Macaluso again. Joe and his wife have done so much over the years for the 83<sup>rd</sup> Division Association.

Nancy and I spent a couple of days in Derwood, MD with our nephew and his family on the way home to Boston.

The next Boston Chapter meeting will be in April at Pat DiGiammerino's house. In May, Lou Sandini is having the meeting in Marlborough, MA. We should have a lot to talk about after the winter months.

Michael L. Caprio passed away on November 21, 2001, four days after his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mike was

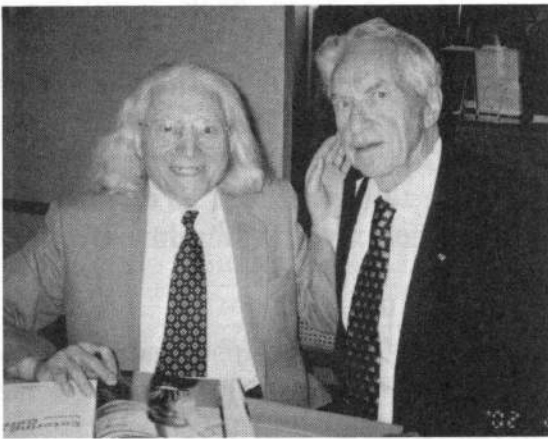
a loyal officer for years in the Boston Chapter as well as being President of the National 83<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Association in 1981. He did so much for the 83<sup>rd</sup> over the years along with his wife, Vera. When needed they were both there. He will be missed.

Charlie Lussier's brother passed away in November.

On April 4, 2002, Fran Arrigo passed away. Franny was the wife of Larry Arrigo of the 308<sup>th</sup> Engineers. Like the Caprios, they did so much for our Boston Chapter.

Vitie Atkocius passed away on March 8, 2002. I was to meet Vitie in Williamsburg, VA and when I arrived, they told me he had cancelled his trip. My wife Nancy called Julie and she told us the bad news. Vitie was a member of H Company 331st Infantry and was a friend to everybody. I know I lost a real friend.

On condolences to all these families.



Tony Vaccaro and George Baker  
At Lexington, VA for Tony's exhibit



Amby Tynan, Tony Piantedosi, new Secretary/Treasurer  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gananath, John Tisdell, BS President

That's all my news for now.

## CLEVELAND CHAPTER NEWS

By Bob Grobelny

Hi everyone – hope everyone faired out well over the holidays.

I'm a little disappointed that we have not received our Thunderbolt yet, but I did talk to Cliff Wooldridge last week, January 30<sup>th</sup>, and he told me that they ran into some kind of a problem and that is why it will be late. I realize that this is a big undertaking Cliff – “Good Luck”.

We haven't had a meeting or get together since October. The VFW that we hold our meetings at is being renovated. We are trying to get together in February.

We are having a lot of health problems in the Cleveland Chapter. Just like every one. Earl Lindsey, our president, is doing pretty good now after this stroke. He is able to drive now. He had to take his wife Roney to the hospital in the middle of the night. She had chest pains. I guess she is doing okay now. Mary Dallos had a rotary cuff taken care of. Bob Grobelny had a heart catherization January 27<sup>th</sup>. All tubes were clear. Hank Trzeciak will have his battery changed for his heart (Can't spell it, can't pronounce it. Ha!) Bernice Grobelny is having a orthroscopic procedure on her right knee February 13<sup>th</sup> – Good Luck to all and get well soon.

Received a card from Ed and Alyce Gilbert. He had a pace maker installed. He and his wife are doing okay now. Ed tells me he turned to the big eight-zero (80) last July. He also mentioned that they took a couple of trips and went on a cruise. Congratulations Ed. Stay well. Jerry and Mary Ann Zingg sent a card. Looks like they are doing well health wise. Mary Ann said they were at the 83<sup>rd</sup> Reunion in Virginia. Also received a card from Earl Deisher's daughters. Sue Allen said they are proud grandparents of Cristina, (2 yrs. old

now). Congratulations. She said to say hello to all the Cleveland Chapter members.

Take care – this is all for now.

## DIXIE CHAPTER NEWS

By Ellsworth Massie

### Christmas Dixie Style

It all came together once more for the 27<sup>th</sup> time in Gatlinburg, Tenn. Many years of hard work, planning and cooperation brought 139 comrades, family and friends together for the celebration 2001 “Smokey Mountain Christmas”.

My plans took me to the Livingston’s for our annual pre Christmas visit and celebration for “The Lights” at the Pomeria Ranch. All goes perfectly according to Mary’s plans and Felix’s execution of the plans. Light display is beautiful and worthy of a trip by all to see and enjoy. Maybe we would meet closely sometime for a short visit and enjoy them and the hospitality of Mary and Felix.

The passing of Dick Riddle is noted as we visited his widow Leslie. We’ll surely miss them at our meetings.

O. L. Cook was visited and found unable to attend. We hope for improvement there. Hopefully next time around we’ll be together in Gatlinburg.

Tuesday is quiet in Gatlinburg. I am the first to show up. I checked in and find 15 rooms canceled. All the overflow were then booked into the Riverside. We got the shopping done and turned in awaiting the big rush.

Wednesday got started with 12 rooms full of early birds from nine states. Checking in, shopping, sight seeing and sitting by the fireplace are most enjoyable. One new couple, Bob Smith and wife, show up and are welcome by all. I expect him back next year.

Thursday, we regret more have cancelled due to sickness. The ones present put out an extra shift to take up the slack. All goes well.

I can only spot three of our WWII commission officers. Capt. Hill is the ranking man with his executive officer and one enlisted men to keep order with the help of many willing volunteers. It just gets better all the time. Uncountable celebrities join us. Nineteen members of Milton Singletons family came in honor of Milton whom we lost in October. Eleven members of the Biller family were on hand. Nine McRoy members present, Jackson family with eight present, Badgett with seven family and friends. Our widows were present in great numbers. We thank each one for their part in making our meeting a great one.

Friday, it keeps raining but the parade goes off on schedule. Amazingly, the rain stops and all had a great time. The lighted floats and marching groups were a sight to behold.

Our lone Charter Member, Dr. Keith , now president, had everything under control. He had the real 83<sup>rd</sup> vets stand. I could only count 24, we had lots of A.W.O.L.S – no problem. They all pitched in and our day was complete.

After a busy Friday ending with music and dancing, we get started early Saturday morning for the festivities ahead. I’m saddened to learn that Ellen Freeman (one of our precious widows) had to leave early in the morning due to sickness. To make matters worse, Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus, her son-in-law and daughter had to take her home. Not to worry, gifts for everyone (exchange), 5-/50’s, draws, happy winners, lots of house prizes, good entertainment and dancing until the wee hours.

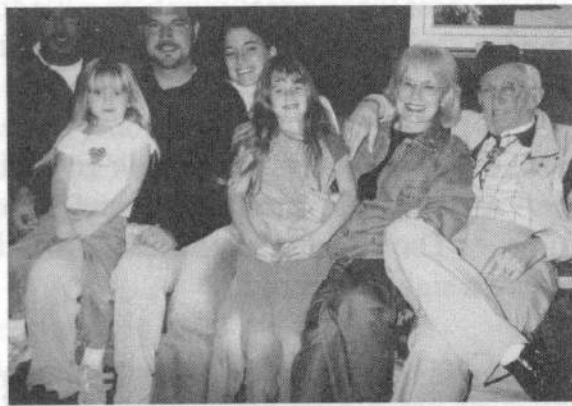
Sunday morning finds me at the desk making reservations for next year. I’m in line with six people in front of me. Can you believe it? These “Old Timers”, “Good Timers” just will not give up. Yes, we are closer then many brothers. We have that common bond of having depended on each other and the fact that we are here proves it worked.



J. I. Lamb and wife



Long time associate members, Betty and Tom Thompson



Sam Badget & friends



B-329 Best Attendance  
Hill & Crew



Who are these ladies (lost my notes)



2 Happy Couples,  
Lamb & Miller



Jeanette McCroy, Pat Johnson & daughter Margaret  
(widows)



Shirley Peters (widow) & family



We are saddened to think of those who have given their all during the war years and of each one having gone from us in the passing years. Our resolve is strengthened to keep on keeping on. As long as we have the strength to do so. Looking forward with much expectation for the coming year.

Tony Vaccaro's "The Last Battle" Exhibit  
At George C. Marshall Museum

Reported by Ellsworth Massie



Home after an exciting two days with new and old compatriots at the George C. Marshall Museum viewing the exhibit of wartime photos by our own Tony Vaccaro of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Company. Sixty-five pictures from our combat years in Europe.

This exhibit is entitled "The Last Battle" and has representative pictures of the WWII time period. One of these pictures will be cast into a monument in Luxembourg in June 2002 in honor and memory of those who served in the 83<sup>rd</sup> and especially those who gave their lives in the struggle to make "The Last Battle" a reality. This is the dream of the photographer and all that were present at this event.

They came from all over – Florida to Rhode Island. Fourteen states represented by my count. Not all signed in, some failed to record unit of service. These are the records of attendance: Artillery – 2; 329<sup>th</sup> – 4; 330<sup>th</sup> – 3; 331<sup>st</sup> – 8; MP – 1; Signal – 1. Dozens more present but I don't have the numbers – 100 plus at the two celebrations, reception and luncheon. Many new faces were present. All added something to the

get together. Many unforgettable experiences took place! We have learned to expect the unusual when the 83<sup>rd</sup> meets. We were not disappointed this time.

A new man, Bob Smith, brought 3 bushels of grapefruit from Florida. Another new man (new to me), James Brammer, came even though he is blind, accompanied by his wife. Many descendants came in honor and remembrance of their lost ones. We welcomed each and have fond thoughts of them looking forward to our next meeting. As usual, some came seeking information of a parent or uncle lost in battle. Some were successful and others still are searching. Hopefully, some of us can help them.

This event points up the importance of implementing a plan to bring in the next generation of interested descendants to keep our great association strong in the future since our average age is "four score" and our time together is coming to an end sooner than we'd like to admit it. Lets come to the National and agree on a plan. It can be done. We're the only ones who can do it.

Our sincere thanks to all who worked to bring this meet to life – especially the ones at the level that we saw working, helping, greeting, smiling – making us welcome as members of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Div. Vets. Assn.

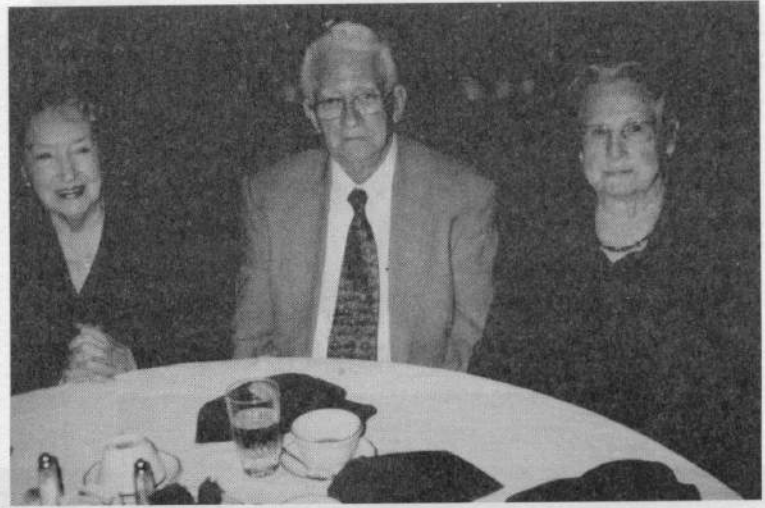
#### DIXIE SPRING MEETING

By the end of the day, March 20<sup>th</sup>, a solid core of Veterans are on hand. Each one has a great and entertaining experience to relate. Three Div. Arty. Men on hand and anxious to support our 3 infantry regiment. Early arrivals from as far away as Texas, Mississippi and Massachusetts. There are seven veterans from five units and one veteran widow with her new spouse of 25 years. They just celebrated their anniversary recently. Dining together was a real treat. Tomorrow will bring many more compatriots to join us.

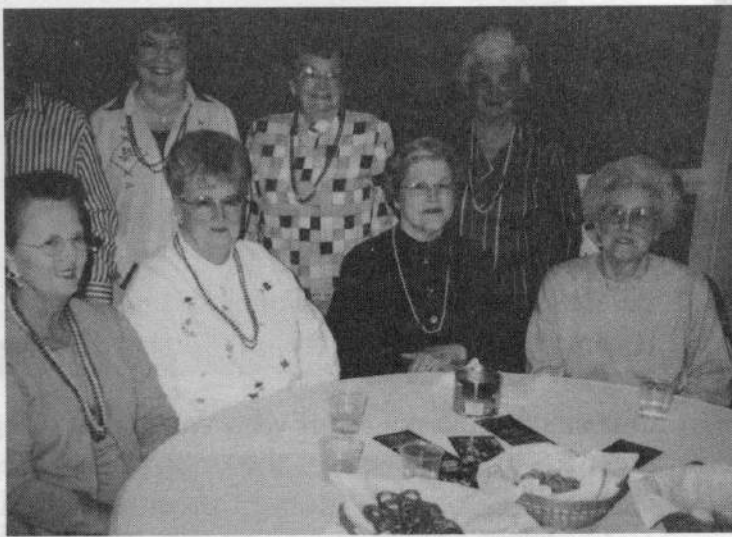
The hospitality room opens, John and Virginia Cox are everywhere making welcome and supplying our every need. It is really a great experience, difficult to relate but so enjoyable to



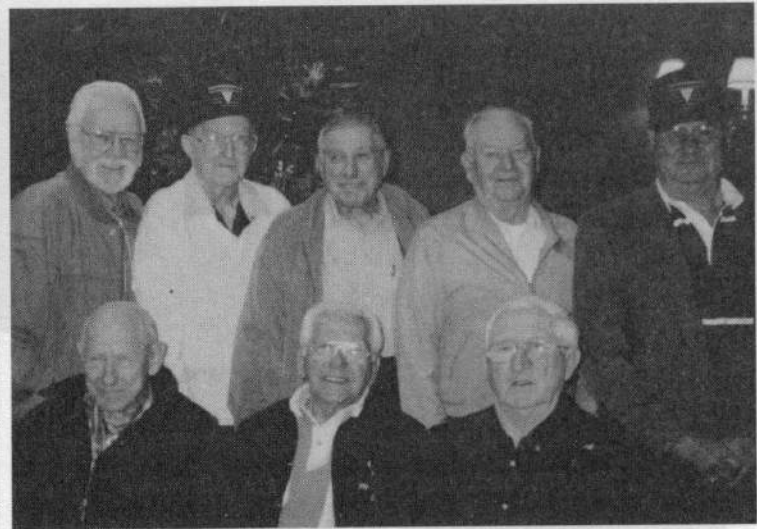
Amby Tynan, wife Nancy, and Carole Caprio



Three of our own who have lost their life mates, present and remembering



Faithful wives of Dixie vets



Men of Dixie,  
18 present but hard to round up



Cap. Mac and wife Mona and daughter



Must be a funny story they are reading,  
probably history of 83rd

be a part of. By evening 16 are ready to have supper together. Most overate and enjoyed it.

Some visited the historical spots, many shopped, others became 50 years younger and exchanged all those new tales that no one had heard since last time. Everyone had a chance to relate his experience. I enjoyed each and am sorry to say I missed a few – am now ready for next year.

Our own Capt. Mac is here from New Orleans and is met by his daughter and her husband from D.C. area. Mike Caprio's (deceased in 2001) daughter, Carole is here and being brought up-to-date by those of us who knew and served with her father. I recognize some who have not been in our meeting for 10 years. It is a terrific experience!

By Friday night, I count 20 eating together in the seafood special night at Golden Cavol Restaurant. Then a group goes to the Musical Theatre for a show. We hold on in the Hospitality Room until they return. Another great day. By now, we have 18 vets for 16 units present. Only two companies have 2 men present – Co. C 329, Evans and Whitaker; F 331, Naylor and Helms. One man each from 16 other units. Our able leadership assigned the objectives, each one faithfully fulfilled his responsibility and we are able to get the job done. Fifty-three attended our banquet.

Saturday, a business meeting is in order; new officers are elected and ready for next year. We have six widows present and descendants and friends makeup our group. Each adds much to the occasion and their spirit is terrific. Next time promises to be even better.

Sad to relate that Vitie Atkocius, Bob Parsons, and Joe Fogleman are reported as being transferred to "Past Everlasting". We salute each and grieve with their loved ones.

We can hardly cope with this food! Our ladies out did themselves bringing many goodies. I try each one!!

Banquet and dance are a real treat. I noticed at the last dance "3 Red Legs" their partners, and one descendant were there to close out the night!!

Best wishes. Hope to see each one again!

## FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

By

No Report

## MICHIGAN CHAPTER NEWS

By Vito Palazzolo,  
Harper Woods, Michigan

No Report

## NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

By Nick Francullo  
Hq. Co. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Bn 330<sup>th</sup>

Hope you all had a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

On November 27, 2001, I received a letter from the French Consul General of Boston informing me that I was to receive a special Diploma award by the Government of France. It was for United States Veterans who contributed in the fight to liberate France from the Axis Powers in WWII. It was to be given on December 13, 2001 on board the French aircraft carrier "Joan of Arc", in Boston Harbor at 9:00 a.m. There were about 200 vets there to receive the awards plus the families. It was a great honor to receive it and I will cherish it always.

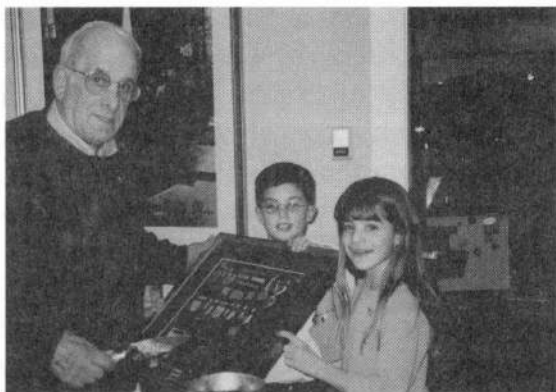


Receiving the diploma from the French Government

Received a letter from Capt. Ben Cunningham of Hq. Co. 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. 330<sup>th</sup> that his wife Martha has an eye problem called macular degeneration and can't see directly in front of her, but has peripheral vision. They have moved into a retirement facility, sold their home and have an apartment. Their address is 500 Elmington Avenue, Apt. 230, Nashville, TN, 37205. Ben is now 83 years young. Ha, ha, ha!

Receive a letter from John and Ester Ferreira of Chelmsford, Massachusetts. John's brother, Joseph C. Ferreira, passed away on January 2, 2002. His other brother, Tony, fell and is in the hospital with a broken hip. In addition, John's daughter Jackie fell in the bathtub and broke her wrist. We all send out our sympathy to the Ferreira family and hope they will have better days ahead.

Received a letter from Albert Tartoglio of Johnston, RI. His daughter got all his medals and had them framed for him on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and presented to him by the grandchildren. Happy Birthday Albert.



Albert Tartaglia, Hq. Co. 331<sup>st</sup>  
80<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Also, Al and Anna are going to Italy for a vacation.

The Brennans are doing okay and Jim is getting better after his knee operation.

We are all getting old and it is tough getting around.

If you have any news, send it to me so I can put it in the Thunderbolt news. Thanks.

Received a call from Judy (daughter of the late Bill Davis) that her mother, Betty Davis, passed away May 21. We of the New England Chapter send out our sympathy to the Davis family.

Also received a letter from Anson H. Willard of Newport, VT that his wife Rose passed away March 2, after nearly 52 years of marriage, of lung disease. We of the New England Chapter also send out our sympathy to the Willard family.

## NEW JERSEY CHAPTER NEWS

By Stan Bielen

I have been very busy lately and that's the reason I'm late getting this article in.

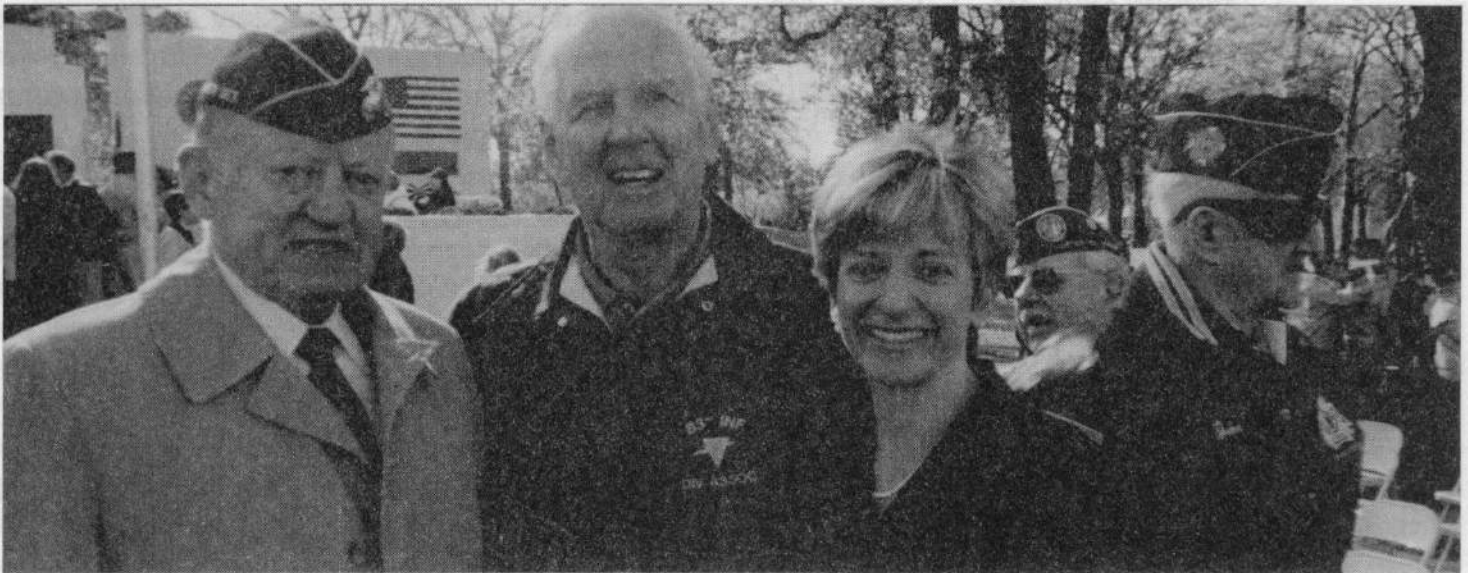
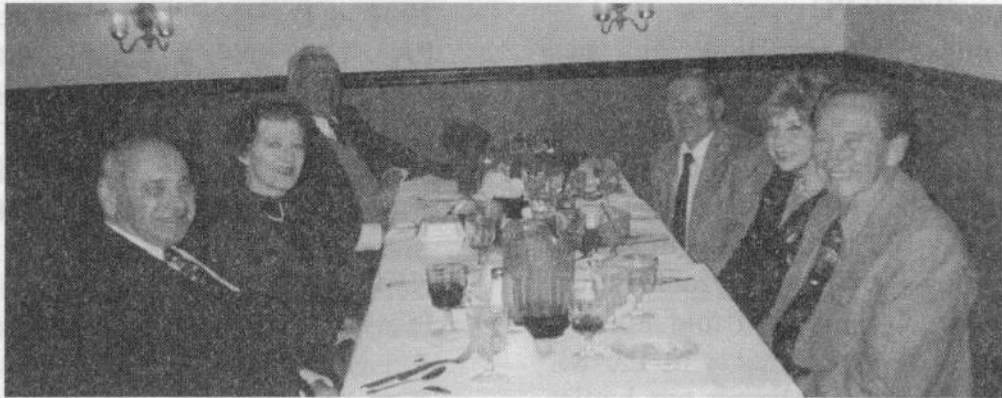
The Chapter had it's Christmas Party on December 9<sup>th</sup> and it was another great one. We had 27 attending and from all indications everyone had a great meal and all the drinks they desired. We had three new 83<sup>rd</sup>'ers attend their first chapter party. Arthur and Martha Gentile (Co. F, 331) who live in Ocean, New Jersey and Ben Franco (Co. C, 330) from Metuchen, New Jersey. It was great to have them join us. We had some cancellations, Joe and Hazel Barton because Hazel wasn't feeling well. Linda and Charlie Sihlanick also cancelled. Manny Epstein came with a date, a lovely lady, just what Manny needs. Credit George Waple for bringing Arthur Terzano, Ben Franko (Co. C, 33), Martha Gentile, Arthur Gentile (Co. F, 331).



(left to right) seated, Jackie Terzano, Shirley (a friend of Manny Epstein), Manny Epstein, Joe Skurka, Mary Sabine, Joe DePeria and Stan Bielen



(left to right) Victor Terzano, Ben Franko (co. C, 330), Martha Gentile, Arthur Gentile (Co. F, 331), Stan Bielen



Attending the party were Joe and Dot Skurka, Vic and Jackie Terzano, Andy Socha, Tom and Candy Dowd, Russ and Marguerite Whitehead, George and Vi Waple, Frank and May Sabine, Ken and Jo Miglionico along with Rita Fitzgerald, Joe DePeri with Joe, JoAnn and Casey, Fran and I.

I received a call from Harold Everham telling me he could not make the party as he had eye problems and wasn't driving.

I sent an invitation to Fren Policastro (Co. C, 331) and he wrote me back telling me he was in Hackensack University Hospital with leukemia, Hopefully the treatments are working. Fred is now staying with daughter June Whyard at 382 Beech Street in Washington, Twp., NJ 07676. Send our buddy Fred a letter or card to let him know you are pulling for him to recover. There is no better medicine then to know people care.

I called Irene Guzek to see if she and Ted could come. She told me it is very difficult for her to manage him by herself as he is wheelchair bound.

I thought this might interest you, our new governor James McGreevey was the mayor of my town before becoming governor. The country has a program once a year called "A GRATEFUL NATION REMEMBERS". In July 1998 I was the veteran picked by Mayor McGreevey to receive that honor of receiving the Mayor's Proclamation. After his presentation, I spoke and told him and the audience of the accomplishments of the 83<sup>rd</sup> and all the casualties suffered during our battles. It was on behalf of all 83rders and those 3,600 killed, the 11,800 wounded that I accepted that honor. Then I made Jim McGreevey an Honorary Member of the New Jersey Chapter of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Division. This was televised a number of times on the local TV station.

Middlesex County, New Jersey recently erected a monument in Roosevelt Park in Edison to honor all the armed services. If you get a chance go see it as it is very impressive. I was there for the dedication and took a couple of pictures which I am enclosing. One is of the monument and the other is with Jack McGreevey, father of the

governor and his daughter Sharon. Also enclosed are four pictures taken at the Christmas party.

The Chapter joins me in wishing you all good health and happiness in the New Year!!

### NEW ORLEANS CHAPTER NEWS

By

No Report

### PHILDELPHIA CHAPTER NEWS

By

No Report

### PITTSBURG CHAPTER NEWS

By Francis Beerhalter

Our Christmas party was held on December 15, 2001 at Deitch's Restaurant & Grill in Blawnox, PA. We had a good turnout of 24 people. Everybody said the food was excellent.

All the women received a delicious 2 lb. Box of chocolates, made by Betty Mattes.

Deitch's Restaurant & Grill is run by Paul Dietrich's son. If you are in the area, stop over and ask for Paul.

Let me begin by offering an apology for not having a column for the last Thunderbolt; I'm still working PR and along with other duties, a column could not be put together.

Our John Marek attended the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual reunion of the 278<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team Association of the Korean War on March 15-17, 2002 at the Holiday Inn, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. I don't think John has missed any of these reunions. Their motto is "Fustest with the Mostess".

Chapter meetings have been in the 12 to 16 people attending. Some short chapter members news:

Charles Caven's wife Lu died recently. Greer Thompson is in an assisted living home, cannot walk to well; ex-secretary Jim McCulla in a retirement home in Emporium, PA; the same for Andy Churpak, also in a retirement home; Paul Dietrick's wife had a pacemaker inserted in St. Margaret's Hospital recently; Smokey Alicandri back with us after a few hospital stays. "Mousey" Faria was in Pittsburgh for the Steelers-Patriots playoff game.

In February, I received a letter from Heather Gnegy, who is with Wet Bird Productions, Inc. Here is the gist of that letter:

Dear Mr. Beerhalter:

I recently came across your name in the *83<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Association Inc. Rooster*. Currently, I am researching the trail of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Infantry, 329<sup>th</sup> Regiment during World War II for a documentary film. We are specifically in need of detailed information surrounding the events of April 12, 1945 and are in hopes that you may be able to help us.

I am looking for anyone who knew Eddie Hart (329<sup>th</sup>, Company G). He was killed in Barby, Germany on April 12<sup>th</sup> and the events surrounding his death are slightly confusing. We believe that injured soldiers from Company F and G were being treated in a farmhouse west of the Elbe River when the Germans dropped a bomb on the building. This may be the cause of Eddie Hart's death; however, he may have died earlier in a fire. We are looking for any information that can confirm what really happened that day or anyone who might have know Eddie.

Finally, we are also in search of those members who have been to the reunion in Barby, Germany and/or are planning to go this year. We would love to know more about it – how long it lasts and how many people have attended in the past.

If you have any information or know of anyone else who might be able to help us, please let us know as soon as possible.

If you can help Heather Gnegy, call or write:

Heather Gnegy  
Wet Bird Productions, Inc.  
8B Marina Street  
Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina 28480  
910-509-7499 910-509-7489 fax

wetbird@bellsouth.net

## COMPANIES

### Co. "F" – 329<sup>th</sup>

By C. R. Bob Whitcomb

No Report

### Co. "K" – 331st

By Norm Malo

No Report

### Co. "A" – 329<sup>th</sup>

By Bob Grobelny

I'm going to try and bring you up to date on some of the fellows.

Melvin and Nancy Magee have been married for 65 years and also celebrated their 87<sup>th</sup> birthday. Congratulations. Their eldest granddaughter made them great grandparents. A healthy boy. Congrats are in order. He said that their eyesight isn't that good but they are getting along. Nancy had her pacemaker changed after eleven years. Mel was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon.

Ed and Carm Mudre are having health problems. Ed is home from the convalescing home. He had to have his right leg amputated. He is a diabetic, gets around in a wheel chair. They have all kinds of help coming in. Carm had 2 back surgeries and they affected the nerve in her leg. It is hard for her to walk. Eddy was in 4<sup>th</sup> platoon.

Dale and Pauline Edgar say their family is getting bigger. One wedding October 20<sup>th</sup>, another next October 6. Two great grandsons and expect another baby in June or July. Congratulations.

Blackie and Margaret Mossman say the golden years haven't been too good for Blackie. April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2000 he had a severe heart attack. Had to be life flighted to Evensville, Indiana, and 4 days later, the electrical system blew out, so a pacemaker plus a deliberator had to be put in. April of the year 2001, he had his colon removed. In November, had a growth removed, but it was not cancerous. Blackie said with all of his problems, he is doing very well. Way to go Blackie.

Carl and Lee Pliske had a bad year. On March 8<sup>th</sup> he had a knee replacement on his other knee. The first knee was successful. In May, Carl ended up with an infection, so they cleaned it up, etc. Anyway, four surgeries in 3 months was more than he wants to remember. He must be feeling better however, because in September at a party, he and Lee danced a waltz. Carl was in the 4<sup>th</sup> platoon.

Max and Kathy Wood moved to a smaller house and yard. It is a lot easier to take care of. Max is working again. This is his 4<sup>th</sup> job since retiring 10 years ago. He is in good health, so he likes to keep busy. Max was a scout in the 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon.

Hubert and Juanita Taylor seem to be doing well. They are busy all the time. I keep inviting them to "come on up", but they say it is so hard to get away. Hube was in 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon a B.A.R. man.

Ernie and Peg Knowels are hanging in there. He had an aorta aneurysm since 1995. I guess we have something in common Ernie. Yes, Ernie, I've been walking around with 4 pieces of

shrapnel for 57 years. Never knew about it until I had a cat scan. It is in my abdomen. Ernie was a scout in the 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon.

Pat and Florence Dandola; Dean and Irene Daniels and Johnny and Eunice Punch are all doing okay. George and Pauline Suchomelly are doing okay health wise.

Suchy likes to let me know or remind me of things that happened and I would like to pass this on to you. This happened in Rochefort, Belgium. I just got back from being wounded. I was not with them. He writes – just the other day I played a tape when we were in Hannibal MD for a mini reunion. On that tape you (Marto Emrick) and Reenie, John and Marge Camp went to visit Owen and Lois Wilson. We were talking about Rochefort where we lost seven men on December 30, 1944. The night before, 12/29/44, we were outside a monastery, being fired on by the Germans. One weapon being a 20mm anti-aircraft gun. One shell hitting Clarence Hunter in the leg between knee and thigh, leaving a large wound that is still being treated – next morning we headed into Rochefort. The one part of town we were in was separated by a dried up creek bed, crossed by a stone bridge to the other part of town. The 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon started across the bridge, led by Lt. Alverado, then Sgt. J. Cashman Clayburn, Elmer Adams (of the 1<sup>st</sup> squad), and then S. Albury (all 5 killed). Then Sgt. Henry, James Thompson and John Camp the medic, Ursery Red and myself (Suchy). We were on the bridge and Sgt. Henry led us over the side of the bridge, across the dry creek bed, up the bank to a wall. We went over the wall and five of us went into the house.

Now the rest of the platoon, Sgt. Galm, M. Kremins, Wilson and Sgt. Einzig never got on the bridge. The German tank outside the house we were in fired a white phosphorus shell and killed Sgt. Galm and M. Kremins as they were going into the house where Wilson and Sgt Einzig were in. This was like the basement of that house. Remember the Captain came down the road before we got on the bridge and told me and someone else to open up a large door and go into the court yard to see if any enemy were in there. When we



came out Abury who I had been following, was already on the other side of the bridge. I had fallen in behind you. Do you remember there were about 20 towns' people standing up on a raised walkway looking towards the Germans. They were frightened when the 2 of us went towards them and they said there were no Germans there with them.

Suchy said that the vet group he belongs to go to schools mostly 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade and talk about some of the experiences of WWII. They try to keep things alive so the world does not forget.

Good job Suchy.

This is all for now – have a good year – stay healthy.

## **783<sup>rd</sup> Ordnance Co.**

by Rags Rangnow

This is an unusual experience. I'm trying to come up with writing something of interest and hoping at the same time that you are going to be reading it in the Thunderbolt.

As I stare at this blank page I am getting negative thoughts on the future of our great 83<sup>rd</sup> Association. Could it be that we have reached the end of the line? Thinking about ages, I am guessing the average age of our membership to be around 85 years of age. At this age, and younger, there is hardly anyone that doesn't have a medical problem with himself or his wife and traveling long distances is a problem. Add on to that the long wait with air security and even flying isn't any fun making it evermore difficult to attend reunions.

After hearing about all the problems of the last reunion and the still unpublished October issue of the Thunderbolt I'm thinking that rather than seeing this Association slowly come apart with age maybe that we should be thinking about one grand finale of a Reunion. Perhaps we could meet in a central place like Washington D.C., easily

accessible by all methods of transportation. What a climax this would be in such an historic setting of history and war memorials. To add to the package we could use our treasury to offset the expenses of all those attending.

These are just my thoughts as I stare at this blank page. We all know the end is around the corner. To me it sounds like a dignified way of closure. The local Chapters would still carry on and I for one would still put out a newsletter for the Company. It might be a good idea to let our board know what the Chapter's are now thinking.

As for 783<sup>rd</sup> Company news, well the year 2001 saw four of our members standing the last retreat. We reported in the October Thunderbolt that Carl Fredericks received a letter from Ed Perko's son informing him that Ed had died in January.

In September, I received a call from both George and Keith Waltz whom you will remember as the good nephews of George Harris. Good old George died the week before his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday. I had my last conversation with George two weeks before. He had just returned from having a beer at the Vets!

Right before Christmas I received a call from Fred Pearson 453 AAA. He lives a short distance from Frank Salontay and he wanted to invite him to Christmas dinner. Frank's phone number was disconnected and Fred was looking for information. I couldn't help so Fred helped by driving over and learning that Frank had a heart attack and died all alone in May.

After Christmas, I received a returned Christmas card that I had sent to Jim Foster in Vincennes, Ind. It was marked "deceased". On calling the phone number, I received a disconnected message so I have no further details on Jim. He had been quite sick for a number of years. He was 86.

So the beat goes on. With the exception of George we had no knowledge or anyway to be in contact with the families. In George's case, I was considering driving up to Williamsport but Keith and George discouraged it. They didn't know how, or what to do, about a funeral, George had

outlived all his family and friends. We will always recall the pleasant memories and the friendships of these four and it is comforting to know that their pain and loneliness has ended.

Now for the rest of the story. PAUL BRYARS wrote a nice descriptive letter of his latest move. His loving daughter, who needs my advice, has elevated Paul to the guest of her home. She is supplying him with bed and bath, plus three squares a day. How could Paul refuse? To top it off the house includes a 7, 9 and 11 year old granddaughters. Can't you just see all of them trying to sit on Paul's lap? The new address is 6460 Werk Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45248-2927.

AL AND RUTH BENSIMON are now doing fine. Al got a pacemaker and stopped his Viagra. He is still in shock that the Philadelphia Eagles trounced his supposedly professional Tampa Bay Flounders.

The HACKSTOCKS say they are fine and spending the winter in Florida. So is CHARLIE ROHRER, doing both. We have so many guys in Florida we should all go and visit them and have our own company meeting. You know Charlie is now our senior member. Charlie will be 90 in November. Pat must keep him young!

MILLY DOGGETT is doing quite well, traveling, working in her beauty parlor and doing the whole Thanksgiving dinner for her beauty parlor and doing the whole Thanksgiving dinner for sixteen. Paul how about visiting Milly, get your nails done, and then take Milly to lunch for old times sake?

The GILMANS had fourteen staying over for the Christmas holidays requiring Ivan to break into his piggy bank for hotel rentals. Our dear censor always sends me a birthday card, no money, to remind me he is six months younger than I am. As far as I know, we now have just him and REESE PHILLIPS as our last two under eighty. Reese might be the youngest but he is really slipping. He sent me two Christmas cards two days apart. I think he is fine.

DOC AND AGNES are still lovers with Doc doing all the courting, shopping, cooking and

feeding. Doc called the other week and he is still as solid as a rock. Despite his daily hardships, Doc still has his sense of humor and wants to be remembered to one and all.

The FREDERICKS are enjoying this balmy winter and just when he has a neighbor to do the shoveling. They have been living it up with birthday and company parties. As long as there is food around Carl will always have a good time.

GENE DEL PRETE checked in with good news this holiday. His new girlfriends name is Pearl and once again, Gene is hitting all the dance floors around. He says his health is good so maybe we should all change girlfriends???

BILL MANNING states he has "fortunate health" but Elaise has had many problems including the loss of sight in one eye due to glaucoma "But with three of the kids around the holidays are a lot of fun and noise."

BOB BURNS has a similar report. May has gone through radiation treatment for breast cancer and Bob played the healthy nurse.

VIC MUTINANI is doing great for all the treatments he has taken. I haven't seen him at the hospital for a while but he says we are going out to lunch this year.

TROY BISHOP sends his regards to everyone. Troy is struggling, living alone and visiting Marie daily.

RAY AND MIMI WIGGINS still have their sense of humor. Driving his scooter, he says he wiped our three dining room tables with no casualties. He also claims, with his bad knees, he shot 87 right after his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday. And I believe him, not often, but just this once.

Along the same lines, JOE BROWN reports in that he is also shooting his age (84). I wonder if these guys are talking about golf or the rifle range. Joe is fine but eating too many bananas off his Florida trees.

Received a card from Que Boyett's daughter. Que is having that "age" problem. Lana states, "Daddy is still at home. He enjoys sitting on his glassed in porch and watching the cows and wildlife." I guess this is true for a number of us. The old rocking chair has got us.

HERSH WEAVER wants to extend belated holiday greetings to all as the Weavers were unable to write cards. Midge is going through extensive treatments and like Doc, Hersch right now is chief cook and bottle washer. Midge's spirits are good and while Hersch is now on overload, his sense of humor is apparent along with that famous Hersch chuckle.

SAM HOFFMAN has played detective and tells me Kalanofsky (that's wrong) is not listed and he lives in Pottsville, PA. Now he tells me! I'll have to find out how to spell his name and maybe we can find him.

As for ourselves, we too are hanging in there. Unlike others I still can't shoot my age. We only have big courses around here! Poor Ginny cleared one problem then has a fluke getting a cataract removed. A vein broke after the operation causing blood clots and a tear in the retina. Five weeks later, the eye is slowly healing but the sight will be another long wait. Please don't let this discourage any of you waiting for this operation. Lens implants are the second easiest of all operations. Number one is circumcision! With that, I guess we've come to the end.

Keep writing and calling and I'll try to do the same.

## **453<sup>rd</sup> A.A.A. (AW) Bn.**

By Fred C. Pearson  
Email k8uet@lightsteam.net

Well here it is time again for another attempt to bring everyone up to date on the goings and comings of the personnel of the 453<sup>rd</sup> AAA.(AW) Bn.

It seems that unless I continue to make telephone calls, I get very little information on our Members. I do have a few very dependable 'Spies' who try to keep me informed. Of course the Email system helps, but some of the 'Old Timers' seem to resist progress of that sort. I resisted for several years, but now I don't know what I would do without it.

I received an Email from 'Rooster' Wombough, (Joyce), that Frank is recovering from an operation on his lip. This problem, along with throat problems caused him to develop cancer in these areas, due to his smoking a pipe for fifty years. Joyce says he is going to have "sexy lips" after plastic surgery. She takes all the blame, as she always told him that she enjoyed seeing him smoke a pipe.

Leo Yacono, way down in Florida, has told my "Chief Spy", that his wife Jane, has had a stroke, but is on the road to recovery.

Per Anne, John Loch is now doing much better. They now have him on different medication. Anne still has her problems, but is coping.

Mike Manzo, (My Chief Spy) has the flu bug, as I write this column. He better get well real soon as I need his spying talents. His better half, Isabelle, has been suffering for a long period of time, has now been put on oxygen during her sleeping hours.

Bob Creps wife, Mary Jane, says she is finally getting back into shape after her ordeal with broken bones etc.

John Dickens has been having a very hard time. Just before Christmas he had a stroke, was confined to the hospital and while there had another. At this time they implanted a pacemaker. Several years ago he had bypass surgery. About the time to be discharged he had a 'seizure'. Two weeks later he had another seizure, just before Mike Manzo and I got to the hospital to see him. After many tests it was determined that his carotid artery was over 90% blocked. A week later they "stripped" the carotid artery. He has since been discharged from the hospital, but need constant attention, that his daughter, Linda, is providing.

We hope his recovery is speedy, Mike and I promised him a visit with us, as well as a steak dinner.

From the west coast, not much news. Frank Moore says he is doing quite well for an old man. His wife Jeanne had a few tests awhile back, of which I have not heard the results. Still no complaints from her.

I talked to the elusive Sam Daiello for a few minutes. I had a couple of pictures taken in the Harz Mountains after the war, of Sam and his brother, 'Bones' and Steve Yankowski. Bones and Steve have now left us, and I thought that Sam might enjoy having the pictures.

Received word that Ed Banas passed away the sixth day of September, 2001.

Mike Morick still fighting from the wheel chair. Both he and Lorraine are on oxygen 100% of the time.

Molly Dalton tells me that Jim is not doing to well. After not attending our last few Reunions, I understand that he is going to try to make the one in Fairmont, West Virginia this year. I can't remember who told me this, but it wasn't Molly.

A few of our members have made the "Annual Snow Bird Trek" to Florida. They wasted their money, as the weather up in Ohio has been mild all winter.

Just talked to Dorothy Lawrence, she is "holding her own", she has to, to take care of Frank. I had heard that he had a heart attack awhile ago, but she said he did not have a heart attack, but did have a heart valve replaced and then after that, had a stroke. He is now doing quite well, but does not do long drives, just local. They are looking forward to us having another mini luncheon reunion in the near future in North East Ohio.

Jim Hull and his wife Doris are still in a constant care home in Champaign, Ill. Jim seems to be doing fairly well, I understand that someone in his family took him on a trip to Mid Ohio to see some of his family. Doris is still in trouble and needs

day-to-day care. I received this information second hand, but can't remember who told me.

Our new Recording/Corresponding Secretary, John Norris, and his wife Bettie, have completed their transition to a senior citizens complex. Now they'll have all sorts of time for travel.

My wife, Irene is now under a new cardiologist care. He has changed some of her medication that has helped a little. Her allergies are some what abated. After 2 ½ years of weekly shots and other medication for allergies, she tossed them all out and is no worse than when she was while undergoing the treatments. She had not been able to go to the last two reunions because of her problems. This past weekend she decided to go to Niagra Falls for the weekend, for a test trip. Her reactions were not to severe, so she is now planning on trying for the Fairmont, WV reunion in September, providing her situation does not get any worse. The old man, Fred, has just had his plumbing reworked, and now has fully recovered. The surgeon said to me just after the operation, that I can now go out and write my name in the snow. The attending nurse didn't understand, and said "that must be a man thing because I don't understand what he meant". Didn't her mother ever tell her not to "eat yellow snow"?

An aside note for those who travel and need a "No Smoking Room". We did run into a problem. We were not informed that the rooms had just been redecorated and freshly painted. Needless to say the paint fumes were as bad as the tobacco fumes. Better ask ahead if the rooms are "smoke free" and "odor free".

I have been asked by the Public Relations Department at Fort Bliss Texas, to write a human interest story for them about my grandson, Jeremy, following in Gramps footsteps, by going to Fort Bliss as I did, in 1942, and also going into the Anti Air Craft Battalion. There sure have been some big changes in the weapons used. "No more guns", as a retired Colonel from an Anti Aircraft unit said.

I talked to Cliff Wooldridge a couple of weeks ago about the Thunderbolt distribution. He has a

problem with not having enough articles submitted to make up the periodical. I am sure there are those of us who have some interesting tales to tell that would make good reading. Let's all help him out.

By the time you read this, the big shindig at the George Marshall Museum will be over. I wanted to attend, but thought it would be too long a drive at this time of year for an old Codger.

I have had some correspondence with Louis Gomori. He has a wealth of information at his fingertips about the Great 83<sup>rd</sup> Division. He is willing to Email anyone copies of our Exploits that he has. He just sent me many pages of details of the 83<sup>rd</sup> while at the Elbe River area. Very interesting reading. Lou has asked me to send him anything in writing that pertains to the 453<sup>rd</sup>.AAA. We were the only Anti Aircraft Battalion that was attached to the 83<sup>rd</sup> Division from the start of hostilities for the 83<sup>rd</sup> until after the war ended in Europe in May 1945. There were other Anti Aircraft units temporarily assigned, but only for short times.

Lou tells me that there is a movement afoot to try and get a Citation for the 83<sup>rd</sup> Division and attached units that took part in the crossing of the Elbe River. I don't know all the details, but understand that because of 9/11, the anthrax scare, and the closing of the Hart Building that the issue got a little sidetracked.

I guess that ties the ribbon on it for this time.

## **DON'T FORGET THE 453<sup>RD</sup> AAA (AW) BN. REUNION**

**September 13, 14, 15, 2002  
Fairmont, WV**

**Co. "D" – 331<sup>st</sup>**

By Geri Gunderson (acting)

Co. D is planning to have a large turnout at the Reunion in Myrtle Beach come September.

The McKee's, Haughts, and Gravelyns attended the Florida Chapter meeting in January. Al Shrawder, Charolette Literal, and Geri Gunderson met Ruth Mueller for a week in Cancun during this time.

The McKee's and Gravelyn's spent New Years Even in Pompano Beach with Geri Gunderson. They did not want her to be alone on New Years. That is true friendship! During this time, the McKee's, Gravelyn's and Gunderson were invited to Cathy Madonna's home and met Tony and Cathy's beautiful daughter for the first time. Cathy had a lot of old pictures that brought back fond memories and stories of Co. D's Motor Pool.

In February, Al Sharawder, Literal and Gunderson visited the McKee's in Venice, Florida, then visited the Gravelyn's and took a boat ride with Harry at the Helm. Nick and Sylvia Barbu were also visiting in Venice and we had breakfast together.

The April Florida Chapter meeting was held in Sebring and attended by Gravelyn's, Haughty, and Gunderson. The McKee's had returned to the North by then. Jeanne Cove and I had lunch together. We reminisced about the many guys that fought together during the war and then continued those close friendships for more than 50 years.

Al Shrawder has contacted members of Co. D to be sure that we are all together in Myrtle Beach. He has done a great job, as we plan on spending seven days there. It has been traditional since 1978 for Company D to spend a few additional days together after the Reunion.

I just received e-mail from Troy Schuster, (Lorraine and Norman's son). Lorraine had a mini stroke on April 20<sup>th</sup>. It has affected her eyesight. She is in the hospital at present. Please send her a card.

Dana and Frank Sharp with that they are doing well. Paul and Mary Dallos have had their health problems put pan on coming to the Reunion. Al shrewder just spoke to R. C. Hamilton. They too will be at Myrtle Beach. I understand Harry Adkins and Frank and Mary Sabine will be there

too. I keep in touch with Doris and Dam McDermott by e-mail and they are doing okay, after a few health problems. They plan on being in Myrtle Beach also.

Keep well and keep in touch.

## Co. "G" – 331<sup>st</sup>

By Capt. Mac

The year 2002 came in with a bang. I know that you just recently received your fall edition of the Thunderbolt. It was late due to the fact that there was some turmoil at higher headquarters. The President for the year resigned, because he was not in agreement with the Board on the deal signed with the Landmark Hotel in Myrtle Beach. That is all ironed out and we are now getting ready for the reunion in September. If you are anywhere near Myrtle Beach, you should make an effort to attend. The time is getting short, when I sent out my first newsletter some twenty years ago I had a mailing list of over 70 members for G Company. I am now down to 35.

Had Christmas cards from Mike Mizerock, Troy Mayse, Jeremiah Budd, Glen Mathey, Edward Foy, James Fall, Oscar Rutstein, Casek Bush. Have not heard from Kenny Baird for some time. He has not been to the last two or three reunions. Of the 24 officers that past through G Company during the war, Kenny Baird, James Fish, Al Spaulding and myself are the only ones left. As I am writing this letter I had a call from Kenny Baird. He seems to be doing fine and has finally retired, but like all of us he has a hard time getting around.

In this article, I thought I would go back to March 1945 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion's drive to the Rhine River. We had crossed the Roer River and were making good progress in our drive to the river. The day we reached the River, G Company led off that morning and reached its objective, Co. F and Co. E leaped frogged past us. E Company had the mission of reaching the River. One Platoon made the initial attack and went through the wire entanglement into the buildings, however they had failed to realize that there was a trench across the

entire front. E Company cleared the building, when they were attacked by Germans from the trench. They were holding their own, until they ran out of ammunition. That is when the Germans surrounded the platoon and captured about twenty men, including Capt. Oliver. As years went by, I was told that Capt. Oliver had sent the Platoon Leader back to bring up the rest of E Company. No one knew what happened to the Platoon Leader, he never did get back to the Company. Capt. Oliver got an escort over the river by barge, the remainder of the Platoon was taken by the Germans across the bridge that was still standing.

Major Laliberte, who was commanding the Battalion, wanted me to go with him to find E Company. We found the rest of the company on a canal embankment. They had not heard from Capt. Oliver. Major Laliberte then gave me orders to pass through E Company and advance to the river. I was to have fire support from the tanks that were supporting the Battalion. When the friendly fire from the tanks got to close to G Company, I was to fire a flare for the tanks to cease fire.

In the meantime, I gave orders to Sgt. Piette with the 60mm mortars to fire into the buildings. Piette gave the order and range to the mortars, the rounds fell short of the buildings and as luck would have it, the rounds fell into the trench that was on the riverside of the wire entanglement. When the rounds fell into the trench, about 15 Germans came out and surrendered to G Company. About twenty years later Piette admitted to me that he had given the wrong range to the mortars.

We pressed the attack with two platoons, the Germans were firing 20 mm rounds from a position east of the river, the rounds were exploding over our heads, mainly because of the embankment at the river. The rounds did not effect G Company's movement to the river. With luck on our side, we were able to clear the buildings and to reach the river. I told Sgt. Piette to fire on the battery of 20 mm across the river, with about six well-placed rounds from the mortars, the battery of 20mm was knocked out of action.

G Company did not get credit for being the first to the Rhine because someone at higher headquarters told the Division that E Company was on the River. I know for sure that G Company was there, because there was an Associated Press Newsmen with me as I crossed the trench. The Articles in the papers in America, the headlines read that G Company was the first Americans at the Rhine.

On a trip to Europe some time ago, I went into Dusseldorf and crossed the Rhine on a new bridge built by the Germans. As near as I can figure the new bridge was built at the location where G Company reached the river. Now in place of the wooden building stands a multi story office building. Just two years ago in another trip to that area, a second bridge was built along side of the bridge that was blown up the night of March 2, 1945.

## **Co. "A" – 330th**

By Charles Abdinoor

Hi Buddies,

I am here in Florida, have been here since January. Sincerely hope all are healthy, each and everyone. We are fine here. We will be leaving to go home in April. By the time you get the next Thunderbolt, we will be home. Called by George Brackett and Spike Sychala, and they seem fine. Spike had to be shoveled out by his son on account of the snowstorm they had in Buffalo. He could not open his door. All is well now. George has a slight health problem, but he will get over it. He was a tough soldier in the 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, called up Wact Pillion. He is still undecided when he will move, to be closer to his son. Pearl takes good care of him. I tried to call Shorty Glasser twice, but could not get through. I did receive a Christmas card from him. Lee Milligan is in good health and takes good care of his wife, who is ill. Millie was our jeep driver. Also got a Christmas card from John Bullard. He helps his son John, in his automobile business. I would love to see him in Myrtle Beach next year. I would love to have a

good turnout from A Company. We certainly miss our two departed comrades, Frank Burgess and Edgar Allison. We were very close especially Frank. He came from my hometown. I also heard from Whitey Czyinski. He joined our association. Hope to get a few more to join. Missed Adolph Senica last year. He usually attends all the reunions. Hope to see him soon. I will stop and see Dolores and Paul Reed on our way home. We stay pretty close with one another. He is a golf bug and is always on the course. I keep in touch with Bob Gangnath and Earl Dunn. Hope they are able to attend. I know Bob will, he is our new Secretary/Treasurer. That is quite an honor for Bob. We are all thrilled, him being from A Co. I lost my Company CO from B Co., 330, this past year. He was a Bird Colonel Joe DeSantis. Will also miss Bob Hunnewell, Joe Zenz and Mike Caprio. May they rest in peace.

Stay healthy buddies and hope to see you all in Myrtle Beach.

## Historian

No Report



The following is an amusing item related to me by a Retired General, Jack Rogers, in El Paso, Texas. He was one of the retired Officers that helped to make our visit back to Fort Bliss Texas in March of 2000 enjoyable.

Jack was in an Anti Aircraft Battalion during WWII. It was a similar unit as we were, with quad mount fifty caliber machine guns and Bofers 40 mm cannons.

His unit, even though for a short time was stationed next to the 453<sup>rd</sup> in camp Blackshaw Moor, outside of Leek, England. Was not called into the fray until sometime after the 453<sup>rd</sup> AAA, and assigned to another Division. I am not sure what rank Jack held at this time, but he was an officer.

After the hostilities ended, Jack's unit, like many others were used as Military Government in Germany.

As Jack relates the story, (I may forget a little of the details), a French Civilian that had been working in Germany under forced labor, came to the command CP and asked for help.

His tale of woe began that he had met a girl that was Polish (I believe). They had a baby together and the Germans would not marry them. When they went to be repatriated, he wanted to take her home to France.

The powers that be had decreed that all displaced persons must be returned to their original place of birth. They were denied passage to France as a couple because they were not married. He could go back to

France, but she and the baby must go to Poland.

The Commanding Officer of Jack's unit sent them to the American chaplain to get married. The Chaplain refused, as he said he only had authority to marry Military Personnel. Then it was back to the C.O. You must understand that all of the American personnel were in sympathy with the couple.

At this point the CO said, doesn't the Captain of a ship have authority to marry anyone on his ship? All agreed, so the CO went on that he was the one in charge of his ship, being the CO.

He got a Bible and said all the proper words and declared them man and wife. Of course, he said he didn't know how legal it was. Next problem, they needed an official marriage license, to show the officials supervising the movement of the DP's.

The Command Post was in an Ex-Burgermeisters Office, where some parchment type of paper was found. The officers got together and made up an official type of document, but it had to have the wax seal on the paperwork for it to be official. There was plenty of red sealing wax, but they didn't want to use the Burgermeisters German Seal. The upshot was that one of the Lt. Had his college class ring, so the Colonel used the college ring for the official seal. Then gave the couple the paper and wished them luck.

Some of the men followed the couple to the train wondering if the ruse would work. After looking at the document several times, the official gave them the nod, and off they went to France. Gen. Rogers is still wondering if they still are together.

Fred C. Pearson  
453<sup>rd</sup>.AAA.(AW) Bn.

+++++



## AMERICA, STAND STRONG

By Alicia Amirian

*The terrorist have planned so long and so hard. Longing for America to fall completely off guard.*

*They've crashed into the Pentagon and took many lives of brothers and sisters of husbands and wives.*

*They've hijacked our planes and destroyed the Twin Towers. But every American has their own hidden powers.*

*Because even through these horrible days we join together and for our nation we pray.*

*Firefighters and policemen in the danger zone. Saving lives yet risking their own. The President has decided to go and fight back and make up for these terrorist attacks.*

*So now we're at war we've sent out the Troops. They've all gone off in their brave, strong groups.*

*This event in history will last very long but through itl all America, stand strong.*

+++++

### It is the Soldier

It is the soldier, not the reporter,  
Who has given us freedom of the press.  
It is the soldier, not the poet,  
Who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the soldier, not the campus organizer,  
Who has given us the freedom to demonstrate,  
It is the soldier, not the lawyer,  
Who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the soldier,  
Who salutes the flag,  
who serves under the flag,  
And whose coffin is draped by the flag,  
Who allows the protestor to burn the flag.

A protest raged on a courthouse lawn,  
Round a makeshift stage they charged on,  
Fifteen hundred or more they say,

Had come to burn a Flag that day.

A boy held up the folded Flag,  
Cursed it, and called it a dirty rag,  
An OLD MAN pushed through the angry crowd,  
With a rusty shotgun shouldered proud.

His uniform jacket was old and tight,  
He had polished each button, shiny and bright,  
He crossed that stage with a soldier's grace,  
Until he and the boy stood face to fact.

"FREEDOM OF SPEECH," the OLD MAN said,  
"Is worth dying for, good men are dead,  
So you can stand on this courthouse lawn,  
And talk us down from dusk to dawn,  
But before any Flag gets burned today,  
This OLD MAN IS GOING TO HAVE HIS SAY.

My father died on a foreign shore,  
In a war they said would end all war,  
But Tommy and I wasn't even full grown,  
Before we fought in a war of our own,  
And Tommy died on Iwo Jima's beach,  
In the shadow of a hill he couldn't quite reach,  
Where five good men raised this Flag so high,  
That the WHOLE DAMN WORLD COULD SEE IT FLY.

I got this bum leg that I still drag,  
Fighting for this same old Flag,  
Now there's but one shot in this old gun,  
So now it's time to decide which one,  
Which one of you will follow our lead,  
To stand and die for what you believe?  
For as sure as there is a rising sun,  
You'll burn in Hell 'fore this Flag burns, son".

Now this riot never came to pass  
The crowd got quiet and that can of gas,  
Got set aside as they walked away  
To talk about what they had heard this day.  
And the boy who had called it a "dirty rag",  
handed the OLD SOLDIER the folded Flag.

So the battle of the Flag this day was won

By a tired OLD SOLDIER with a rusty gun,  
Who for one last time, had to show to some,  
THIS FLAG MAY FADE, BUT THESE  
COLORS DON'T RUN.

+++++

How I Bled for my Country and Did Not Get a  
Purple Heart

After V-E Day, we were in Bavaria in training for a visit to the beaches of Japan. A softball league was set up to choose a Division Champion to play other Divisions. Our first game on the banks of the Danube was in a very green field. During the third inning break, a German farmer watered the grass with a horse drawn tank cart. Since we were still under Gen. Patton's no fraternization rule, no one asked the farmer any questions. When we returned to the field, the stench was unbelievable. The farmer had watered the grass with cow urine from his manure pile. The game was cancelled. I do not recall who won.

The next game had a clean field, but I arrived so late that I was the only player wearing fatigues. My first hit looked good enough for two bases, so I pivoted across first to head for second. Suddenly I felt a searing pain in my left buttock, as I was knocked flat. A large German Shepard dog had run me down and was being beaten off by the first baseman with a helmet liner. The dog jumped for his throat, but a spectator hit the dog with a baseball bat and it ran off. The game stopped, as I stood in a jeep in my torn pants holding on to the windshield to be taken to a field hospital. It gave the local Germans their first good laugh since the war ended. Several players cornered the dog and tied it up. The collar showed it was a member of the K-9 Corps. Its master was probably dead and it had roamed. They were trained to attack a man running in padded fatigues. I was the only player in fatigues and my turn at first base had caused the dog to miss except for the damage to my gluteus maximus (Latin for backside). The Medics made ribald comments as I was patched and sewed. The

dog was to be observed for a week for signs of rabies. In the hospital I saw a screaming little German girl having large needles inserted for one of the fifteen times used in the Pasteur treatment for rabies. I decided I wanted no such treatment!

Back at the company area, our Armorer saw the tied up dog and patted it on the head. It promptly bit through his hand. The Armorer was annoyed and put fifteen carbine rounds through the dog's head. I did not want any needles, so I did not inform the hospital beyond saying the dog showed no signs of rabies. My buddies were told that if they heard me barking at the door at night, they were to let me out. Some of my buddies believed that I was eligible for the Purple Heart Medal that is awarded to soldiers wounded by the enemy in wartime. Even though the war in Europe had ended a few weeks before, we were still at war with Japan and training to take part. Others thought that since the dog was from the American K-9 Corps, the bite was the same as being hit by friendly fire from our artillery. Another view was that the dog was a German Shepard and had deserted to the enemy when his master died. I did not push since when asked how I got my Purple Heart, I would have to say from a bite from a dog. I recovered, but was never given the Purple Heart.

Excuse me now; it is time for my Alpo.

Hal O'Neill  
83<sup>rd</sup> Signal

+++++

"83" and "88"

FROM THE HEDGE ROWS OF  
NORMANDY,  
FROM CARENTAN, DOWN TO BREST,  
FROM THE ATLANTIC WALLS OF THE  
SIEGFRIED LINE,  
WE HAVE CHASED THE NAZIS BEST,  
WE WOULD HAVE HAD THIS "DAMN" WAR  
OVER

AND VICTORY WOULD BE WON,  
 IF HERMAN WOULD JUST USE HIS HEAD  
 PUT AWAY HIS GUN,  
 WHILE SITTING IN MY FOXHOLE,  
 BENEATH THE STARRY SKIES ABOVE,  
 THINKING OF MY HOMETLAND,  
 AND THE ONLY GIRL I LOVE,  
 MY THOUGHTS WERE SWEET AND  
 GENTLE,  
 AND MY HEART HELD NO FEARS,  
 UNTIL THE TREETOPS BURST ABOVE ME,  
 AND THE "88" IS HERE,  
 I HEARD THE "DAMN" THING COMING  
 AND I GOT A RUNNING START,  
 BUT I WAS A "HELL" OF A LOT TO LATE  
 AND NOW I HAVE THE PURPLE HEART.  
 IT HIT ME IN A PAINFUL SPOT  
 I WOULDN'T CARE TO MENTION  
 IT SETTLED ALL MY OLD AGE BILLS  
 NOW I AM LIVING ON A PENSION,  
 I'M FROM A FIGHTING OUTFIT,  
 IN WHICH YOU MIGHT HAVE HEARD,  
 THE JERRIES KEEP ON RUNNING  
 FROM THE BOUNCING 83<sup>RD</sup>.  
 WHEN THIS WAR IS OVER AND PEACE  
 WE CELEBRATE,  
 I'LL GO BACK HOME TO MY LOVED ONES,  
 AND FORGET THAT "88".  
 WHEN I DIE AND GO TO HEAVEN,  
 OLD GABRIEL HE WILL SAY,  
 HERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU MY BOY,  
 AND HERE YOU WILL FOREVER STAY.  
 BUT IF I HEAR AN "88",  
 RIGHT THEN I WILL TURN TAIL,  
 I'LL RUN AND GO THE OTHER WAY,  
 FOR I'D RATHER BE IN HELL.

(Author Unknown)

Submitted by Waldo L. Odom, Sr., Warner Robins, GA

+++++

George E. Bartram  
 83<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division  
 329<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> BN,  
 HQ Company

Mr. George E. Bartram, age 86, of Shelton, Connecticut, a retired building contractor,

passed away on Sunday, July 15, 2001, in Cambridge Manor, Fairfield, Connecticut. Born on June 8, 1915, son of the late Samuel and Ethel Bartram, he had been a lifelong area resident. He and his brother, Theodore Bartram, operated Bartram Builders for 35 years. Mr. Bartram was a World War II U.S. Army veteran, serving with the 83<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division in Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Central Europe, and the Rhineland, where he received two Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star Medal, Occupation Medal, ETO Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct Medal, and 5 Battle Stars. He was a life member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. He was the beloved husband of the late Mary Waite Bartram. Survivors include a son, Timothy G. Bartram of Winsted, Minnesota; a daughter, Roberta "Bonnie" Pilloise, of Shelton; two brothers, Theodore Bartram and Robert Bartram, both of Shelton; two sisters, Irene Himmelberger of Kissimmee, Florida, and Marie Goodin of Milford; two grandchildren, Keith Bartram of Excelsior, Minnesota, and Fay Lin Bartram of Shorewood, Minnesota; a dear friend Edna Hine of Stratford; and several nieces and nephews.



I am looking for the person that I spoke with at the Virginia Reunion. I took the picture and produced several. The picture, I believe, is the father of the

person that spoke with me and may live in the Virginia area.

Please contact me at either #570-696-1886, May 15<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup> or #480-357-0063, September 16<sup>th</sup> to May 14<sup>th</sup>.



Luther Strunk  
Co. I, 330<sup>th</sup>

+++++

Gentlemen,

I am writing to all of you because of conversations I have had with most of you over the telephone.

First off, I wish to say thank you for your time and information and also for your service to our country. As you may remember from our conversations, my father, Raymond Halvorsen, Pfc. 908<sup>th</sup> FA, Bat. C, passed away on January 1, 1981. I have some pictures of when my father was in Europe on September 29, 1944. My father was a close friend of Todd "Mesquiter" McLaughlin along with a cook named Sin Yuc Ming (my spelling might be off here). Other individuals in the photo are: Danny "Ike" Wallace, Robert "Muscles" Wallace, Jos. "Russian" Danylo, Sgt. Robert E. Crow, Melvin "Enemic" Powell, Ev. "Streaky" Stines, Cpl. E. T. "Pappy" Johnson, Anthony "Polock" Golemaesic (spelling might be off here).

I understand Mr. Danylo and Mr. McLaughlin passed away not too long ago and I am sorry to hear of their passing. I was curious if any

of you know of any other of the men in this list? Have any of you ever heard of Mr. Ming?

As I may have mentioned all I am trying to do is get hold of people who may have know a little about my dad and willing to share some stories. I know my father started out in the cavalry in Kansas and was an "original " 83<sup>rd</sup> person at Atterbury. I know he was a Sergeant in the cavalry and got into an altercation with a Lieutenant and was busted to Private for the incident. At this point I think he was in the 322<sup>nd</sup> FA and transferred to the 908<sup>th</sup> FA.

Thank you all for your time and consideration. I also understand that some of you may not wish to discuss the war and I respect your decision.

Respectfully submitted,

Lars R. Halvorsen  
4931 Cottonwood Ct.  
Columbus, IN 47203  
812-378-0251

+++++

**CAMP BRECKINRIDGE REUNION  
JUNE 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2002  
Morganfield, Kentucky**

The "Old Officers Club" is the site of the reunion. The building was renovated during 1999 and opened for business in April of 2000. During our first year of operation, 6,000 people visited from 44 states and 6 foreign countries. The James D. Veatch Camp Breckinridge Museum and Arts Center houses the museum, historical society, arts council, genealogy, and the community theatre. You may have visited the service club in the 40's as the NCO club or in the 50's as the Officers Club. We are trying to reach as many Camp Breckinridge veterans as we can, but if you know someone that was not stationed at Breckinridge who wants to come

with you then they are certainly welcome to come too.

If you are interested in the reunion, you should contact Vicki Ricketts, Judy Holliday or Fred Schleifer at:

Camp Breckinridge Museum & Arts Center  
1116 N. Village Road  
Morganfield, KY 42437  
Phone 270-389-4420

E-mail breck@henderson.net

+++++

### CHARLES J. "CHARLIE" SPURGEON

Charles J. Spurgeon, 81, of Sunnyside Community near West Union, WV, departed Friday, March 1, 2002, at Clarksburg, WV.

Charlie had been the owner and operator of the Spurgeon Funeral Home of West Union, WV, from 1947 until his retirement. He was a veteran of World War II where he was wounded twice during the action at Sainteny, France and during the battle for the Hurtgen Forest in Germany, thereby entitling him to hold the Purple Heart. Charlie served as a platoon Sergeant with Company "E" of the 331<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, 83<sup>rd</sup> Division for 19 months and as Platoon Sergeant for Company "K" of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry regiment, 4<sup>th</sup> Division for 18 months during his European service. He entered Europe via the invasion at Normandy at Omaha Beach and was a member of the National Association of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Infantry. His service medals and awards included the Bronze Star, Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, Good Conduct Medal, Presidential Unit Citation with Oak Leaf Cluster, World War II Victory Medal, Expert Marksman Badge, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon with three stars, representing his action stations as Normandy, the Rhineland, and Central Europe, as well as the coveted Combat Infantryman's Badge. He was a life member of the Military Order of Purple Heart serving two terms as commander of the Bicentennial Chapter 418

of Clarksburg, WV, and held the same office for the Parkersburg-West Union Chapter 408. He had been the State Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart in 1987 – 1988 and was also a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 13, Clarksburg. He was a life member and past Commander of Robinson Post 25, VFW and also a life member and past Commander of Post 3408 VFW, both of West Union. Mr. Spurgeon was a member of Friendship Lodge 56, A.F. & A.M. of West Union attaining the 32<sup>nd</sup> degree and was a member of the Nemesis Temple of the Shrine at Parkersburg.

+++++

The following was sent by  
Dr. Edw. J. Fitzgerald,  
3rd Platoon, Co. H 329

I recently read an article in the "Retiree Report" from Scott AFB IL. It seems to match most of the retirees I know and I felt it was worth repeating in our newsletter. It goes like this: "Thank God for "Geezers:" they're easy to spot. "Geezers", the slang for old men are easy to spot. At sporting events, during the playing of the National Anthem, they hold their caps over their hearts and sing without embarrassment. They know the words and believe them.

They remember the Depression, World War II, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Normandy and Hitler. They remember the Atomic Age, the Korean War, The Cold War, the Jet Age and the Moon Landing, not to mention Vietnam.

If you bump into a "Geezer" on the sidewalk, he'll apologize, pass a "Geezer" on the street, he'll nod, or tip his cap to a lady. "Geezers" often trust strangers and are courtly to women. They hold the door for the next person and when walking, make sure the lady is on the inside for protection.

"Geezers" get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children; they don't like violence and filth on TV and in movies.

"Geezers" have moral courage. "Geezers" seldom brag unless it's about the grandchildren in Little League or music recitals. "Geezers" with decent values and common sense are needed in this country now more than ever.

It's the "Geezers" who know our great country is protected, not by politicians or police, but by the young men and women in the uniformed services serving their country where ever sent and often into harm's way, just as they did, without a thought except to do a good job, the best you can and to get home to loved ones. Thank God for "GEEZERS".

+++++

Attention 83<sup>rd</sup> Vets,

The 83<sup>rd</sup> jeep "MICKEY" is featured at the 83<sup>rd</sup> Division Encampment at the WWII Weekend Show at the Reading Regional Airport, Reading, PA. Many 83<sup>rd</sup> vets, who have attended the show, have signed their name under the seat. The jeep is also in the most recent Division history book on page 53 and many of you may have read Rags Rangnow's reports from the show in the THUNDERBOLT. I am the owner of the jeep, WW II Weekend co-founder, event coordinator, history teacher, and BSA Venture Crew 1944 advisor.

This year the show is scheduled for Friday June 7, 2002, Saturday, June 8, 2002, and Sunday, June 9, 2002. This year we will, again, refer to our set-up as "Camp Schuster" in honor of our dear departed buddy Norman "Shorty" Schuster "D" Co. 331<sup>st</sup> Inf.

You are invited to attend the show **for free**, if you can spend a small amount of time hanging around "Camp Schuster" to hand out information on the jeep and the division and to answer questions by the public about the 83<sup>rd</sup> Division's activities during WW II.

You can contact either myself, or Warren "Rags" Rangnow 783 Ord. Rags is the noted author of the book Hut Two and may well

have *driven the very jeep on display* back to the Division from Leige Belguim the first week of March 1945.

Please contact me, Jim Swope, at 610-779-4789, or Rags Rangnow, at 215-947-1203. This show brings 30,000 people to the former Reading Army Airfield and is the major fundraiser for the Mid-Atlantic Air Museum and has been called the "Best WWII show in the U.S., bar none."

Don't miss this opportunity; your wife can come too. It is like a mini reunion. In fact contact an 83<sup>rd</sup> buddy and invite him to come along, just let us know. So, if you're up to it, join the fun. There will be a place to sit, shade, and I'll provide a supply of soda and water.



+++++

Mr. & Mrs. Francis Beerhalter  
announces the marriage of their  
daughter, Gale F.  
to Robert Andrews  
on Saturday, August 15, 2002.

+++++

## THE JOURNEY TO EDDIE HART'S GRAVE

### Lessons of a Documentary

The view was breathtaking. Over 8,000 graves - marked by marble crosses in perfect symmetry - nestled in the bucolic Dutch countryside. We were there to see one grave in particular - that of a North Carolina soldier who had been in Europe only about 3 ½ months when he was killed at the young age of 22 during World War II. After months of talking with his family as well as veterans who served alongside him, after weeks of planning and communicating with the Dutch family who had adopted his grave, we were finally there. I was filled with anticipation as we walked among the stately rows of crosses. Then, finally, there it was: the one bearing the name, "Eddie Hart." I must admit, I cried.

I was there on a mission: to produce a documentary about members of Eddie's family visiting his grave for the first time. We planned to meet his sister, Hattie, his niece, Debbie, her two kids, Robby and Rebecca and her husband, Bob, the next day. We also planned to document them as they met Johan Vrancken, lifelong resident of the Netherlands, who - for over forty years - has visited and placed fresh flowers on Eddie's grave once or twice a year. I was intrigued by the story. Imagine someone feeling such gratitude for his country's liberation from the Nazis, that 57 years after the war was over, he is still demonstrating his appreciation and dedication to a soldier he never met. And imagine seeing Eddie's proud, strong 77-year-old sister - who still has every letter he wrote and displays his Army picture on her bedroom wall - as she makes her way through the thousands of regal markers to visit her beloved brother for the first time since he left home in December, 1944. There was also Eddie's niece who never knew him but - in the months prior to the trip - read every one of those letters, launched a search on the internet, read every book, article, newsletter and document she could get her hands on, traveled, phoned, wrote and sought out anyone who might have known her uncle in an effort to find out who he was and how he died.

For a documentary, it seemed an emotional, heartfelt story that would have broad appeal. In the end, however, for our ambitious little crew - Heather Gnegy, our organized assistant, Adam Alphin, our artful videographer, and myself - the journey stretched far beyond the cemetery grounds. It was about Betty Vrancken Habets - first in her family to adopt Eddie's grave, who rode her bicycle over an hour and a half to visit him, and who dredged her memory bank to remember the horrors of the war in the Netherlands, sparking my interest in the story. It was about her brother, Johan, who assumed responsibility for visiting Eddie when Betty moved to the U.S. in 1957, and who was so excited about our visit, that he planned for months - arranging special tours, visits and presentations for us.

It was about people like Lou Gomori, Paul Willis (who even wrote an original poem in honor of Eddie and those who died at Barby), Dick Coyle, John Cupina, Norbert Berndt, Lafayette Smith, Howard Friertag, Ted Szalczewski and others who, fought near or alongside Eddie Hart and who shared with us their sometimes painful memories; in the process, educating us on life as well as history. It was about a Dutch farmer who allowed twelve perfect strangers to roam around his property, the kind and accommodating staff at the American Military Cemetery in Margraten, and a local German historian who didn't speak a word of English but who spent a day with us so we would get the story right. Finally, it was about a German man named Horst Reinhold who, once upon a time, fought on the other side. Now - armed with a smile, an excellent command of the English language and his lovely wife - he is full of kindness and goodwill, translating for us and showing us around a town that was at one time, part of East Germany.

In that town of Barby, Germany, we walked the road where the Americans traveled that day in April, 1945, saw the place where the Germans ambushed them and - like the soldiers - dashed across the field to a large house that appeared to be the only refuge from the fight. It is all still there and after hearing the stories

firsthand and reading the official reports, finally, I could see how it happened. Hear the sounds. Imagine the shock of coming under such sudden fire. Feel the panic as the soldiers tried to reach safety. We also walked the halls of that house where the Americans finally found cover - the same house that the Germans bombed later that night. This time, the woman who lived there as a child greeted us warmly but her tears flowed when I showed her a picture of her home as it was then, in ruins and devastated by the blast. It was a stunning reminder that war brings pain to both sides.

Now that we have returned, our journey continues as we try to find a place to air what I hope will be a tribute to all of you. While our documentary will focus on one man - a farmer who was drafted and responded to the call to serve his country - in truth, it represents all the many ordinary people who did extraordinary, courageous things. Not just during the war in which they were caught in the tangle of frightening circumstances and in which failure was not an option, but after they came home and bravely went about the business of making the best out of life. After studying World War II as a child, after hearing my parents mention it growing up, it has finally touched me in a very real and concrete way. Thanks to this journey, I know that I will never look at it the same way again.

To all of you who fought for us, I salute you. To my new friends I have met as a result of this journey, I am proud to know you. Please know that my thanks and appreciation are extended to each and everyone of you when I say, "*Thank you, Eddie Hart.*"

Brenda Hughes, Producer  
 Wet Bird Productions, Inc.  
 8B Marina Street  
 Wilmington, North Carolina 28411 (910) 509-7499



LANDMARK RESORT HOTEL  
1501 SOUTH OCEAN BOULEVARD  
MYRTLE BEACH, SC 29577

**ROOM  
RESERVATION  
FORM**

**83<sup>RD</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION  
SEPTEMBER 11-15, 2002  
(800) 845-0658/fax (843) 448-6701**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ROOMMATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF ROOMS REQUIRED: \_\_\_ INTERIORVIEW ROOMS (YOU DO NOT SEE THE OCEAN) - \$60.00  
\_\_\_ OCEANVIEW ROOMS (VIEW OF OCEAN) - \$68.00      \_\_\_ OCEAN FRONT ROOMS - \$78.00

**ADD \$5.00 FOR EACH ADULT OVER TWO IN THE ROOM (MAXIMUM 4 ADULTS PER ROOM).**

**NOTE: RATES ARE SUBJECT TO SOUTH CAROLINA STATE & LOCAL TAXES, CURRENTLY 9.5%**

ARRIVAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

GUARANTEED BY: CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_ ENCLOSED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD: NAME OF CARD: \_\_\_\_\_ CARD NBR: \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ALL ROOMS WILL BE HELD UNTIL **AUGUST 12, 2002**, OR UNTIL ALL ROOMS HAVE BEEN RESERVED, WHICHEVER DATE COMES FIRST. ON **AUGUST 12, 2002**, ANY ROOMS THAT HAVE BEEN BLOCKED AND NOT RESERVED BY YOUR GROUP WILL BE RELEASED FOR SALE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

**PLEASE NOTE: ONCE THE BLOCK HAS BEEN FILLED OR RELEASED, RESERVATIONS AFTER THAT DATE ARE SUBJECT TO ALL SURCHARGES, ADD-ONS, MINIMUM NIGHT STAY REQUIREMENTS, ETC. THAT MAY BE IN EFFECT AT THE TIME THE RESERVATION IS MADE (AFTER THE BLOCK IS FULL OR HAS BEEN RELEASED).**

WE DO NOT ACCEPT 6:00 PM RESERVATIONS. ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE GUARANTEED BY A CHECK COVERING ROOM AND TAX FOR ONE NIGHT (MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DAY THE RESERVATION IS MADE WITH THE HOTEL OR THE RESERVATION WILL BE CANCELLED) OR BY A MAJOR CREDIT CARD.

**CHECK-IN TIME: 3:00 PM OR LATER . . . . . CHECK-OUT TIME: 11:00 AM**

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS RESERVATION FORM AND MAIL IT DIRECTLY TO THE HOTEL WITH YOUR CHECK, MONEY-ORDER OR CREDIT CARD NUMBER, OR CALL THE HOTEL DIRECT AT 800-845-0658.

**PLEASE NOTE: ALTHOUGH THE HOTEL WILL ACCEPT YOUR CHECK FOR THE ADVANCE DEPOSIT, WE DO NOT ACCEPT PERSONAL CHECKS WITHIN 15 DAYS OF YOUR SCHEDULED ARRIVAL DATE OR UPON CHECK-IN ...ONLY CASH, CASHIERS CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS, CREDIT CARDS OR TRAVELERS CHECKS.**

**CANCELLATIONS: A \$25.00 ADMINISTRATIVE CANCELLATION FEE APPLIES TO ALL CANCELLATIONS. YOU MUST CANCEL YOUR RESERVATION AT LEAST THREE DAYS PRIOR TO THE DAY OF ARRIVAL TO RECEIVE ANY REFUND OF YOUR INITIAL DEPOSIT.**

**TELEPHONE DEPOSITS: A \$25.00 DEPOSIT AT CHECK-IN IS REQUIRED TO ACTIVATE YOUR TELEPHONE. IF YOU DO NOT ACTIVATE YOUR TELEPHONE, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO RECEIVE CALLS FROM ANYWHERE, BUT YOU CAN ONLY MAKE CALLS WITHIN THE HOTEL**

... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

## ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration activity and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to 83<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Assn. in the form of check or money order (no credit cards or phone reservations accepted). Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before

**August 28, 2002.** After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing.

83<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Association  
c/o Mr. Robert Gangnath  
12 Hamlet Lane  
Monroe, CT 06468-2008

Check Inputte
------------------

**CUT OFF DATE IS AUGUST 28, 2002**

	Per Person	No. of People	Total
Thursday: Live Theater including transportation	\$35.00		
Registration Fee	\$15.00		
Friday: Evening meal – Chicken	\$22.00		
Saturday: Banquet meal – Prime Rib	\$28.00		
These prices include Hospitality Room, administrative expenses, Friday night meal, Saturday banquet, DJ, and Ladies Program.			
Total amount payable to 83 <sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Assn. (please do not staple or tape your payment).			

PLEASE PRINT

NAME (for nametag) \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT: (ex: I Co; 329<sup>th</sup> INF) \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NO. (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTION \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NO. (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL DATE \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU STAYING AT THE HOTEL? YES  NO  ARE YOU FLYING?  DRIVING?  RV?

Full refunds will be sent for the above-mentioned activities if cancellation is received by **August 28, 2002**, less a \$3.00 processing fee. After that date, refund amount will depend on vendor policies and/or the resale of tickets.

**CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9am-5pm eastern time (excluding holidays) CALL (203) 268-6683.**



## LODGING

Airport Lodge and Suites, 2017 Bernville Rd., Reading, PA 19601  
[www.airportlodge.net](http://www.airportlodge.net)

Best Western Dutch Colony Inn and Suites, 4635 Perkiomen Ave.  
 Reading, PA 19606 1-800-828-2830

Econolodge of Wyomissing 635 Spring St. Wyomissing, PA 19610  
 1-610-378-5105

Hampton Inn, 1800 Papermill Rd Wyomissing, PA 19610  
 1-610-374-8100 [www.hampton-inn.com](http://www.hampton-inn.com)

Holiday Inn Express, 2389 Bernville Rd. Reading, PA 19605  
 610-372-0700 [www.hiexpress.com/readingpa](http://www.hiexpress.com/readingpa)

Holiday Inn Morgantown PA Tpk. Exit 22, Morgantown, PA  
 800-339-0264 [www.holidayinn.com/morgantownpa](http://www.holidayinn.com/morgantownpa)

The Lincoln Plaza Hotel 5th & Washington Sts., Reading, PA 19601  
 1-610-372-7777 [\\$79 Special](http://www.lincolnplaza.com)

The Sheraton 1741 Paper Mill Road, Wyomissing, PA 19610  
 1-610-376-3811 [www.sheratonreadingpa.com](http://www.sheratonreadingpa.com)

The Wellesley Inn 910 Woodland Road, Reading, PA 19610  
 1-610-374-1500



## DIRECTIONS

From Allentown: Take Rt. 222S to the Airport Exit (Rt. 183). Turn left onto Bernville Rd. Turn left at Van Reed Rd. and follow signs to Mid Atlantic Air Museum.

From Harrisburg: Take I-81N to I-78E, then Rt. 183S for approximately 14 miles. Turn left at Van Reed Rd. and follow signs to Mid Atlantic Air Museum.

From Lancaster: Take Rt. 222N to Rt. 724. Turn left on Rt. 724 and follow signs to Rt. 222N. Take 222N toward Allentown. Exit at Rt. 183 (Airport exit) Turn right onto Bernville Rd., then left onto Van Reed Rd. and follow signs to the Mid Atlantic Air Museum.

From Northern NJ: Take I-78W to Rt. 222. Follow Rt. 222S to the Airport Exit (Rt. 183). Turn left onto Bernville Rd. Turn left at Van Reed Rd. and follow signs to Mid Atlantic Air Museum.

From PA TPK traveling West: Exit at Morgantown and follow I-176N to Rt. 422W. Follow 422W to Rt. 222N and exit at Rt. 183S. Turn right onto Bernville Rd., then left at Van Reed Rd. and follow signs to the Mid Atlantic Air Museum.

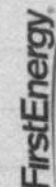
From Philadelphia: Take 422W from King of Prussia to Rt. 222N and exit at Rt. 183S. Turn right onto Bernville Rd. Turn left at Van Reed Rd. and follow signs to the Mid Atlantic Air Museum.

From PA TPK traveling East: Take Reading Exit and follow Rt. 222N to Rt. 724. Turn left on Rt. 724 and follow signs to Rt. 222N. Take 222N toward Allentown. Exit at Rt. 183 (Airport exit) Turn right onto Bernville Rd. then left at Van Reed Rd. and follow signs to the Mid Atlantic Air Museum.

## SPONSORS



THE JOHN P. FEENEY FUNERAL HOME INC.



ALSO PRESENTED BY THESE COMMUNITY PARTNERS OF THE MID ATLANTIC AIR MUSEUM:

Accu-TempControls, Amity Fence, Atomic Magazine, Avialantic, BAE Systems, Berks Packing, Larry and Shirley Biehl, Boscov's Department Stores, CFL Mechanical, Clover Farms Dairy, Consolidated Engineers, Custom Maintenance Services, DCC 1 Hour Photo, Bob and Dolly Drumheller, Edge Precision Machining, Giorgio Foods, Heebie's Surplus, Land Displays, Memories, New Rhoads Transportation, Northeastern Distributing, Ondra-Huyett & Associates, Philadelphia Ball, Prestige Color, Radio Maintenance, Reading Coca-Cola, Ted Schwartz, Carl and Alice Slisher, Raymond Tackett, VF Outlet Center, Weidenhammer Systems, and Welding Technologies



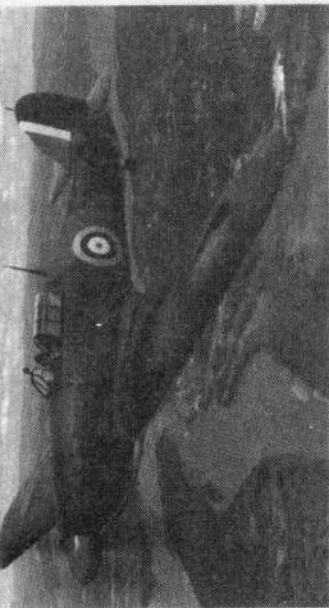
# WORLD WAR II WEEKEND

LIVING HISTORY AIRFIELD  
 JUNE 7TH, 8TH & 9TH, 2002



MID ATLANTIC AIR MUSEUM  
 11 MUSEUM DR  
 READING, PA 19605  
[www.maam.org/maamwwii.html](http://www.maam.org/maamwwii.html)  
 610-372-7333

# SPEND A WEEKEND IN 1943



The Mid-Atlantic Air Museum is proud to present its 12th annual WW II Weekend. This unique educational and entertainment experience has established itself as the "Best WW II show in the U.S., BAR NONE!" You've read "Flags of our Fathers", seen "Pearl Harbor", and watched "Band of Brothers"- now attend WW II Weekend and experience the sights and sounds of WW II.

You'll actually feel like you've traveled back in time to 1943, so mark your calendar now for June 7-9 and keep in mind the 3-day pass ticket option!

Prepare yourself for "Total World War II History Immersion", as aspects of all the war fronts come to life.

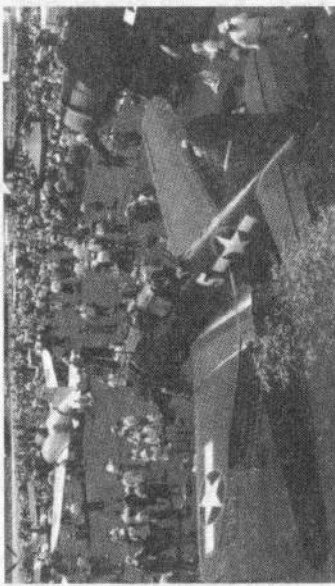
Witness a patrol of G.I.'s encountering German troops holed-up in a French Village. View an assault by U.S. armored vehicles and infantry troops on German positions. See how a battlefield medic stabilizes the wounded and then how surgeons operate in the field hospital. Get a feel for the far away South Pacific and then observe a slice-of-home-front-life on Main Street 1943. Imagine that the B-17 coming in for a landing has Capt. Robert Morgan at the controls after completing his 25th and final mission. Inspect an entire ETO Army Air Corps encampment. See enemy uniforms, activities, personal



Visit with the gals of the Ladies Society for Victory as you stroll down Main Street, 1943...

items, equipment, and weapons in the Gross Deutschland German encampment and for the first time see a German JU-52 transport aircraft. Marvel at more than 160 WW II U.S. vehicles from motorcycles and the famous jeep to armored cars and huge tanks. Rumor has it that you may even find a left over Pennsylvania 109th Cavalry horse or two!

More than sixty aircraft will bring the Reading Army Airfield back to life... Revel in the unmistakable sound of a radial engine running up, the drone of a B-17 during take-off, or the turbocharged roar of a P-47 fly-by. Stop by the airfield club anytime during the day for an ice cold Coca-Cola. The sun will set to a serenade featuring the sound of Swing Fever during Saturday night's hangar dance. Opportunity abounds for the ultimate aviation experience as you hop a ride in a WW II trainer, even "earn your air crew wings" with a flight aboard the most famous WW II bomber, the B-17 Flying Fortress. There will be loads of informal flying on Friday and demonstration flying by WW II aircraft on Saturday and Sunday from 1:00PM to 4:00PM. We have doubled the length of the grass area crowd line for improved observation of the flying. You can also inspect all the aircraft on the ground and glimpse the progress being made on our famous P-61 Black Widow night fighter in the air



museum's restoration shop and numerous displays and exhibits will fill the Museum hangar.

On Friday the gates open at 9:00AM. Your Friday ticket is a virtual "back stage pass" as many of the activities for the day involve aircraft and vehicle movement and some final encampment preparation activities not seen during the other show days. Many aircraft arrive on Friday and make a grand entrance; a 30-vehicle convoy departs the event at 11:30AM, return at 1:30PM and remain in place for inspection. All display venues are open and a number of scheduled activities including special guest briefings and period entertainment takes place. You can also get an early start on the expanded and relocated militaria flea market and grab the goodies before everyone else has a chance.

Saturday the gates open to a level of activity not seen since 1945. Two different venues will host "briefings" by special WW II guest presenters. The line-up features Col. Robert



The Yankee Air Force's beautiful B-17 "Yankee Lady" will offer rides beginning TUESDAY, June 4th through the entire week! Call 610-372-7333 to reserve a flight into history.

Morgan, pilot of the most famous B-17 of WW II, the "Memphis Belle", Capt. "Dutch" Van Kirk, navigator on the Hiroshima mission and fellow crew member USN Capt. Morris Jeppson; the man who armed the first atomic bomb. In addition, Capt. Sherman Best, pilot of the B-26 "Flak Bait", the bomber that flew the most missions during the war. Sgt. Bill Fili will inspire you with a moving account of his B-24 mission to the Ploesti oil fields and experiences as a prisoner of war. Lt. Carl Constain will recount what it was like to fly "the hump" in C-46's. Ethel Finley, Scotty Gough and Florence Shutsy-Reynolds will recount their experiences as WASP's. Noted aviation artists Gil Cohen, Dave Sample, and Raymond Moats will be on hand.

Take a well-deserved break from the war just like the flyboys once did by visiting the Archbury Base Club where you can enjoy the music of Carolyn Hannan and rub elbows with the troops. Then check out "Main Street 1943" and take in a series of state-side displays including civilian vehicles, a scrap drive, the 1943 "Dream House", large scale model ships from Task Force 50, the local Civil Defense post, manned by Kitroy's Homefront Commandos, a cottage-style service station... even a replica radio studio with performances of classic broadcasts.

The weekend features over 800 living history participants and five separate encampment themes: Pacific Navy and Marine, European



Allied infantry troops defend the French village of St. Lo



**56<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REUNION**  
**of 83<sup>rd</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION**  
**SEPTEMBER 11 – 14, 2002**

**SEND ADS IN EARLY!**

**PLEASE select size of AD**

<b>FULL PAGE @</b>	<b>HALF PAGE @</b>	<b>THIRD PAGE @</b>	<b>QUARTER PAGE @</b>
<b>\$60.00</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>	<b>\$24.00</b>	<b>\$18.00</b>

**BOOSTER ADS ARE \$5.00**

**Make check payable and send to:**

**83<sup>rd</sup> INFANTRY DIV. ASSN. REUNION**

**CLIFF WOOLDRIDGE**  
**EAST SIDE DRIVE, P. O. BOX 406**  
**ALTON BAY, NH 03810-0406**

**URGENT – ACT NOW**

Please mail your checks for the Ad Book as soon as possible. As you know, this money is needed to help pay for some expenses for our 56<sup>th</sup> reunion.

**DEADLINE – AUGUST 1, 2002**

**PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT AD CLEARLY AND STATE SIZE OF AD.**

**A MESSAGE TO ALL 83<sup>RD</sup> MEMBERS .....**

Anyone wishing to purchase coats and caps may write to:  
Vito C. Palazzolo, 20000 Lancaster, Harper Woods, Michigan  
48225 for information. He will send you an application form.

**83<sup>rd</sup> Reunion will be held at  
Landmark Resort Hotel  
Myrtle Beach, SC  
Dates are:  
September 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 2002**

**\$15.00 Dues are due  
NOW  
For the year 2002**

**THUNDERBOLT DEADLINES**

Deadline for **ALL** articles to be published in  
Thunderbolt must be at this office by  
November 10, February 10 and May 10  
Cliff Wooldridge  
East Side Drive  
P.O. Box 406  
Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406

**83<sup>rd</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**East Side Drive**  
**Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406**

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 15  
OXFORD, OHIO

**“Change Service Requested” 1**

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

**NAME (please print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY, or TOWN & STATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**Company** \_\_\_\_\_ **Regiment** \_\_\_\_\_ **83<sup>rd</sup> Division**

**Phone No.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Renewal** \_\_\_ **New** \_\_\_

**Please Enclose A Check or Money Order**  
**DUES \$15.00 PAYABLE TO:**

**83<sup>rd</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**  
**12 Hamlet Lane**  
**Monroe, CT 06468-2008**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Desendant Membership** \_\_\_\_\_ **Name**

**Name of 83<sup>rd</sup> Division Member** \_\_\_\_\_

**BULLETIN**

When you move and change your address, **PLEASE**, send your change of address. It does no good to mail you a Thunderbolt at your old address. **The Post Office WILL NOT** forward this magazine. It will just go to waste. With the cost of printing and postage this is very costly to the Association to have even one go to waste. Send your address change to the Association Office and not to someone else. Thank you for all your cooperation. **Send old and new address.**