



THUNDERBOLT

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WORLD WAR II

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The Drawbridge, Villager Premier Hotel
Looks Forward to Hosting the
57th Annual Reunion
for the
83rd Infantry Division



Ft. Mitchell, KY, September 3 – 7, 2003

THE THUNDERBOLT

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

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A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

*James C. Hanrahan.....1947	Albert B. Belvedere1967	John Hobbs.....1986
Jack M. Straus.....1948	Vito C. Palazzolo.....1968	George Fletcher.....1987
*Shelly Hughes.....1949	Pat DiGiammerino.....1969	*Charles Schmidt.....1988
*Julius Ansel.....1950	Casey Szubski.....1970	Edward Reuss.....1989
*Walter H. Edwards Jr.....1951	*Charles Altomari.....1971	Charles J. Lussier.....1990
Leo Schneider.....1952	*Harold H. Dopp.....1972	Edgar H. Haynes.....1991
Finley Heyl.....1953	Louis J. Volpi.....1973	Ned Smith.....1992
*Lawrence J. Redmond.....1954-55	Bernard O. Riddle.....1974	*Louis Sandini.....1993
*Lt. Gen. Robert H. York.....1956	Robert G. Taylor.....1975	William A. Minick.....1994
*Harry W. Lockwood.....1957	Mike Skovran.....1976	Casey Szubski.....1995
*Raymond J. Voracek.....1958	Manlius Goodridge.....1977	Floyd Richmond.....1996
Charles Abdinoor.....1959	Joseph A. Macaluso.....1978	Keith Davidson.....1997
*Joseph F. Minotti.....1960	*William J. Chavanne.....1979	R.C. Hamilton.....1998
*Frank J. McGrogan.....1961	*Samuel Klippa.....1980	Pat DiGiammerino.....1999
*John W. Robinette.....1962	Michael Caprio.....1981	Salvatore Scicolone.....2000
*Manuel C. Martin.....1963	Ralph Gunderson.....1982	Pat DiGiammerino.....2001
*Julius Boyles.....1964	*Arthur Doggett.....1983	
*Samuel Klippa.....1965	*Bernie Cove.....1984	* Denotes Deceased
*William M. Doty.....1966	Carroll Brown.....1985	

IN MEMORY OF "CAPT. MAC"



Dear Friends:

During WWII I worked with many officers as I went around with my camera taking photographs of the action from company to company within the 331st Regiment of the 83rd Infantry Division. These photographs have made the 83rd Infantry Division famous.

When the war came to an end and we found ourselves the only infantry division fighting beyond the Elbe River, almost at the gates of Berlin, while the rest of the U.S. Army remained west of the Elbe, I asked myself as to who, among all the officers I had seen, was the bravest. For me he was Capt. Joe Macaluso of New Orleans, the Commander of Co. G, 2nd BN, 331st Regiment. I saw him at Sainteny, Normandy. Co. G, liberated St. Briac-sur-Mer, Brittany, where I took my most famous photograph- The Kiss of Liberation- and Joe was there ahead of his men in France, Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany.

All the way to the Rhine River I saw Capt. Mac arriving among the first troops to the river. He never revealed his emotions. I never saw him scared or running away from the front, though he was wounded various times. His soldiers had faith in him by his very presence, dignity and cool. By the end of the war his troops had become all his friends. After the war he took various trips back to Normandy, Brittany, Luxembourg all the way to beyond Zerbst. He went back because he wanted to see the places where his men were wounded or had lost their life and did not want to forget them.

An hour ago his son Joe Jr. called to inform me that Capt. Mac had passed away. Strange, only yesterday I got the idea to call him and had postponed it till this coming Sunday. And now he is no longer with us. I will never forget him and with so many photographs I have of him, taken throughout the war and after, by them the rest of the world will remember his passing. Joe did not have many years more than me, yet he was like a father figure to this day.

Good bye, Captain Mac!

Pfc. Tony Vaccaro

President's Corner

Bob Taylor
B/329

Gentlemen:

Soon many of us will be gathering together at the Drawbridge Inn, once again to see old friends and reminisce about those days that brought us together in the first place. Some of the memories are not always good, but they are ours, and they are unique. We try to preserve them thru our contacts with each other. And some memories we'd like to forget, but can't. These, we find, are easier to live with when we can share them with our buddies, many of whom live with those same, and other memories.

However, my friends, what about after the Drawbridge Inn? What about after 2003? Tentative plans are to hold our 2004 reunion in Pittsburgh at the Radisson Greentree Hotel. The Executive Board met there in May and we expect to finalize the Hotel plans soon. It is our hope and expectation that we can continue this for several more years, however, we must face the fact that our age and physical condition is starting to make a difference. Things that we all used to do, and volunteer to do, we must now pay to have done for us. This makes for a severe drain on our Association's finances.

Also, leadership positions in this great organization are increasingly difficult to fill. Positions that used to have a waiting line of applicants, are now begging to be filled. It seems that only a few of us are willing to make ourselves available to accept a leadership role, and gentlemen, as the leadership goes, so goes the Organization. We, the current officers of this 83rd Infantry Division Association need your help!

We need members who are able and willing to come forward and help us, to volunteer your time

and presence to keep our Association from an early extinction. Times are forcing us to make changes that we'd rather not make, but we're not willing to settle for the alternative either- -yet.

If you are willing to make such a commitment and volunteer yourself to be considered for a helping-hand position in our Association, please let me, or an Executive Board member, know who you are. We just may have a position for you!

Robert G. Taylor
President

Secretary-Treasurer

Robert Gangnath

See Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting on
back pages.

From the Editor

Cliff Wooldridge

I'm having a hard time trying to think of what to put into the *Thunderbolt* but give me time and I'll come up with something.

When you write to me please include your telephone number as I don't have time to write and can telephone you cheaper than buying stamps. It would be helpful if I had all current numbers as our old roster is out dated and a lot of the area codes are wrong.

Next, we (I mean the Executive Board) would like to know if you can help us fill the different board positions that will be coming

vacant, including an acting judge advocate and next board member.

I have been out of circulation for about a month now following a knee replacement but think I will be OK come reunion time – not to dance but will be able to sit around and watch. Hope to see many of our members at the reunion this year as don't know how many more years we will have to be together.

Cliff Wooldridge

EXECUTIVE BOARD NEWS BRIEFS

DUES.....For 18 years, since 1985 (or thereabouts), our annual dues have remained a static \$15. Over the years, the accumulated effects of ever increasing costs coupled with ever decreasing membership has put the proverbial “squeeze” on our finances. Now, with reluctance, your board has found it necessary to raise the dues to \$25 beginning for the year 2004. As in the past, dues for the coming year become payable in the preceding September.

Anyone who may find this added sum a hardship need only remit the usual amount with a short note so stating.....No questions will be asked. Thank you for your understanding.

HELP WANTED.....or, to put it another way.....**OPPORTUNITIES EXIST...**for a few good men to become active in the management of our national organization. In just the last couple or so years, we've lost the services of four active, key board members: Messrs. Derickson, Gunderson, Sandini and just recently Raikos (a debilitating stroke). Fate has not been kind but as 83rd veterans, I'm confident we'll pull thru.

Specifically, we need someone with a legal (or para-legal) background to accept an appointment as “Acting Judge Advocate” on the board.

Erwin Erhardt tells me he will swim across the river into Kentucky for the 83rd Reunion.

Also, we are sure to need nominees to replace individuals in positions who, in keeping with the current by-laws, must retire at our September reunion.

We cannot continue to exist without a viable team at the helm.

I may be contacted to answer questions at

Phone: 941-371-0844

FAX: 941-378-9186

E-Ltr: jonprnz@aol.com

I look forward to seeing you at the DRAWBRIDGE.

B. John Prinzi, Vice-Chairman

CHAPTERS

BOSTON CHAPTER NEWS

By Amby Tynan

Not much doing in Boston this winter. After a bad winter and a lot of sickness our meetings should be starting up again in the summer months. Once in awhile I get a call from Pat DiGiammerino and Charlie Lussier. No one from the Chapter sends me any news. Helen Piantedosi was in the hospital and is now home. Everyone was told about it but the Reporter from Boston. Helen is doing well.

Hy Goodman's wife Lucy is having problems with her health. Lucy, we hope you are doing better now. Hy and Lucy are wonderful people. It was sad to hear that Joe Macaluso was ailing. I hope he is doing well now as we 83rders certainly need you, Joe.

Larry Arrigo had an anniversary Mass for his wife Fran. Many of the 83rd members were in attendance.

Willie Snodgrass will be back home in Beaver Dam, Kentucky on June 5th. Willie had a bad

winter. Doctors have now given him an Okay - Talking with him on the phone he is a happy man. Ed McCouch is doing well. He has been busy keeping up with all his family, which is a full-time job for him.

I sure miss getting mail from Tom Houlette. Tom wrote long and interesting letters to me for years. I guess we will always remember Tom in our outfit.

Nancy and I talked to Norman McCormack's wife and daughter Robin in Maine in March. They are doing fine. They had a lot of snow this winter. I talked to Vera Caprio. She is doing well. I certainly miss Mike as he was also loyal to the Boston Chapter over the years as well as the 83rd. Kent O'Connell has moved to West Palm Beach, Florida for his year-round home. Good luck to the O'Connell's.

Nancy and I have been busy with several weddings, graduations and birthday parties coming up this time of the year.

To Cliff Wooldridge - he is doing a wonderful job with the Thunderbolt and getting the 83rd Infantry Division Association in order, which is a lot of hard work. "A Tip of the Irishman's Hat to you Cliff."

That's all the news for now.

DIXIE CHAPTER NEWS

By Ellsworth Massie

The Spring Meet Dixie 83rd has come and gone. At least 30+ attended the banquet. A great time was had by all. I'm sorry I had to miss this one. I looked forward to it and made big plans but it was not to be.

My sixteen month old great grandson died of complications following the measles. I was occupied with this family tragedy for two weeks just when the meeting was taking place. Our lives will slowly get back to normal. Thank you so much for the expressions of sympathy from the Chapter!

It was a great help knowing that as many as 32 friends from the 10 states were thinking of us and helping us through these trying times.

My sources tell me that the meeting was good and we're going back next year. Let's plan to be there. Our very own John and Virginia Cox will be our hosts again. Thank you so much for this year and next year also. I'll be looking forward to being there.

Felix and Mary Livingston will be hosting our June meet in New Berry, S.C. I'm hoping to be there and look forward to seeing many of our friends at that time.

Am happy to report that some are back with us after long absences - Welcome back!! I'm looking for each at National!

I talked to Lill Benbow one of our precious widows who attended with her son since she lost husband Bill last fall. Keep on coming Lill! Hope to get to meet your son at one of our times together. Maybe Gatlinburg in Dec.? I hope so at any rate.

Ellane Watkins' call brought me up to date. It was so good to hear from her but I was sorry I missed my special piece of cake. Now two pieces in December.

We want to keep our attendance strong and our fellowship close! We are losing some one close to us so often. Just got word that Bob Loftin passed - You all remember Bob. He donated dozens of rugs that we gave away or raffled off at our meetings for years. He will be missed by each of us.

So happy to hear that some of our younger comrades made this meeting. Keep on coming. Enjoy and show us older vets how they are doing things in the next generation. Then keep on after we're gone and enjoy the comradeship on into this century for many more years. That's my fondest desire for our organization.



Clyde Miller and Bob Smith



Chester Grey and Dale Hoosier

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

By W. Allen Fisher
772-461-3640

From warm and sunny Florida, we wish safe travel for our "snowbird" members as they travel north. Hope they return safely by November. Our last meeting was right after the deadline for the winter edition of the *Thunderbolt*.

That meeting was held Feb. 21 and 22 in Sebring, FL with 20 members plus spouses and guests. At the request of Pres. Harry Gravelyn, Allen Fisher brought his electric keyboard and with the assistance of his talented wife, Mary, they provided a variety of musical entertainment.

Also, at this time we paid tribute to our faithful treasurer, Jim Emanuoil and wife Georgia, who are planning to move to New Hampshire this summer.

The chapter will hold its next meeting on Nov. 7 and 8 at the Green Gables Inn in Lake Wales, FL. Snowbirds, please take note.

It is with deep regret that we must note the passing of two of our loyal members; Russell Antt, M-330th, in Jan. and Scotty Kost, K-329th, in April. Several Chapter members were able to attend the service for Scotty in Haines City.

As Geri Gunderson does such a bang-up job of keeping in touch with Co. D-331st members, it's unnecessary for me to duplicate that news. Keep it up Geri!

We did learn that Frank and Nina Sharp, long time members, who have moved back to Ohio, made a trip to Florida and visited with Frank and Ruth Brown, Frank is now unable to travel, so has missed the last meeting. We just learned that Fred McGowan has moved back to Ohio, as well as Bob Radford who relocated to Ill. last year. We wish them well. Also, we pray for better health for all our aging members.

The Chapter sends its best wishes to our National President Bob Taylor and Gladys for a successful Reunion in September.

GREAT PLAINS CHAPTER NEWS

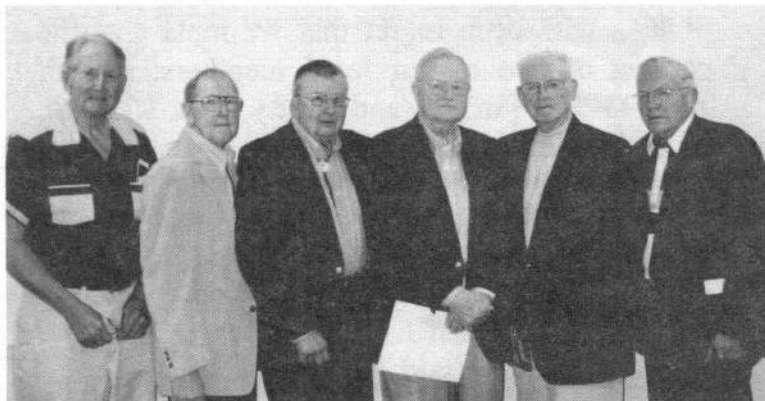
By Keith Davidson

May 8, 2003 the Great Plains Chapter held its annual meeting in the Clarion Hotel, Omaha, NE. Six of our nine dues-paying members attended, which along with wives made a grand total of ten. Only three of the six who usually make a 450 mile drive to the meeting made it this year. Col. Ed Haynes is now in assisted living at- 1913 Hwy 34E, Unit 209, Plattsmouth, NE 68048-5677.

Carl Teenor (and Ann) were reelected Secretary-Treasurer and Norbert Wolke was reelected President. At our meeting in 2002 we sort of planned this to be our last meeting,

however, we will have another annual meeting May 6, 2004 in Omaha. Everyone is welcome.

Those attending the meeting (see picture- left to right) were: Carl Teenor, Bob Trunk, Harold Geisinger, Norbert Wolke, Charles Stahlhut and Keith Davidson.



May 8, 2003 - Clarion Hotel, Omaha, NE



Mrs. Romano, Mrs. Palazzolo and Mrs. McAulliff



Al Vartanian, Stanley Keil, Nick Barbu, Joe Romano, Vito Palazzolo, Charlie McAulliff

KENTUCKY CHAPTER NEWS

By Chester Wilson

No Report

MICHIGAN CHAPTER NEWS

By Vito Palazzolo
Harper Woods, Michigan

The Michigan Chapter had our last get-together in April and a good turnout it was. The enclosed pictures show that we are all doing fine except Sylvia Barber was not able to attend on account of illness.

Lee Hetrick is still on the mend, other than that, our ranks are depleting as well as our Buddy's in the Association.

I plan on attending the Kentucky Reunion with Virginia, and hope to see our Buddy's as well as all who attend. I will be bringing some shirts, caps and jackets for your pleasure, as always. See you there.

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER NEWS

By Nick Francullo
Hq. Co., 3rd Bn., 330th

Now that the bad weather has gone we hope the good weather will follow. Mary and I spent two weeks, April 20 through May 3rd, in Dallas, TX at my daughter's house and at my granddaughter's house and we had a great time. We missed that very bad hail storm two weeks before and it is good to get away but nice to get back home.

We are now looking forward to the reunion in Ft. Mitchell, KY. Talked to John and Ester

Ferriera and they are doing OK and will be making the reunion also.

The New England Chapter is having a get-together on June 22 at the clubhouse in Maplewoods in Cumberland, RI where the Brennans live and hope we have a good turnout as our gang is getting old and find it hard to get around.

Received a letter from **Chuck Abdinoor...**

Sincerely hope all is well with our members. Also for the New England Chapter - We are back home now and when we left Florida it was in the 80's. Back home we had a storm and cold. Now it is time for the good weather to roll in I hope as I understand there was not much activity. But Nick made calls to stay in touch with our members.

I was invited to a memorial Mass for Fran Arrigo who passed away one year ago. I made it a point to attend, but got as far as Quincy, MA and got off the wrong exit and could not find the church. I called up Larry and he explained I got off about 5 miles before I was suppose to. It was a rainy day and at my age I just turned around and came home. Sorry, Larry.

Also, I see in the *Thunderbolt* that Amby Tynan has spies. He wasn't even at Myrtle Beach and made fun because my belly stuck out and I could not button my jacket. That made me lose 10 lbs. and still working at it. Hope we have a good turnout in Kentucky. Also, hope that Jake Raikos has a speedy recovery.

I keep in contact with Dutchy Smith. I sent him a box of oranges from Florida, but my grapefruit tree took a licking from the cold spell we had down there. It was so bad I had to buy grapefruit to bring home. That was a first. Usually, I bring about two hundred grapefruit from my tree home with me.

We are going to have a get-together in Rhode Island in June and hope we have a good turnout. Hope to see the Champy's and all the others who are not feeling well at our get-together. Stay healthy and let us stick together in our later years.

Sincerely,
Charles Abdinoor, "B" & "A" Co., 330th

That is it buddy's and if you have any news or information, send it to me and I will put it in the news. Also, your chapter dues are now due, \$5.00.

Heard from Jim and Dot Brennan and they are doing OK. They had Al Tartaglia over the house and he is doing OK also.

Thanks Jim and Dot Brennan for setting up the catered Italian buffet at the clubhouse on June 22nd. It was great.

Your Buddy,
Nick Francullo, Hq. Co., 3rd Bn, 330th

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER NEWS

By Stan Bielen
stanfranbielen@aol.com

It's a perfect day for me to write this article, overcast and dreary keeping me from my favorite springtime activity, gardening. So here I go.

First, we lost one of our chapter members Don Thiebolt (Co. I, 330). Twyla his wife called me telling me he passed away on March 21st. They both were part of the group that for many years went to Myrtle Beach in October along with the Bowies, the Kirgans, the Hensleys and us Bielens. We had many great times there and it always was fun playing golf with that group.

The information I have on who will be going to the reunion in Fort Mitchell from the chapter is that for sure Andy Socha and Charles Sihlanick will probably drive there together. I talked to Joe DePeri and he is unhappy that the reunion is when schools are open and he can't take his family along. If my wife Fran doesn't go, I might go with Joe.

Our Association 2nd Vice-President, Manny Epstein called me from St. Petersburg, Florida recently and he is well and anxious to flex his power for the good of the association. We know you will do your best. The Jersey Chapter is proud of you Manny!

I'm sure you will see George and Dot Foster there and also Sam and Edith Manzi, both are regulars and great people to be with. Fran talked

to Mary Sabine and they are going to be with the Company D, 331st group that attend.

It will be great to see Cookie Seneca along with his family Jim and Darlene and Mary Ann. Darlene and Mary Ann had missed a few reunions because they were taking courses for more college degrees at the time of our reunions. Just a note to Chuck Abdinoor; We let you have Cookie and Jim at the Myrtle Beach reunion but when they bring those BEAUTIES with them, as Joe DePeri's favorite expression is "FORGET ABOUT IT!"

Fran called Dot Skurka to let her know of Don Thiebolt's passing as Joe was in the same company. She and Joe are well but don't have plans to attend the reunion. Haven't heard any news from either Victor Terzano or Ben Franco. Hope all is well with you and the families. Ted Guzek (Co. A, 331st) is holding his own. We sure miss Ted at the meetings as he always contributed to the camaraderie that we enjoy at the meetings.

Some of the Chapter Members will be going to the annual picnic that Tom and Candy Dowd will be having on the Memorial Day weekend. They always put out lots of food and drink for us to enjoy.

Father Francis McCartin will be celebrating his 90th birthday this coming August. He always remembers his times he spent with the 83rd during our trips to Europe and the Reunions. He was always there to hold mass at our reunions and they were special as he knew much about the 83rd through his brother Bill who served with the Co. H, 330. He has had a few mini-strokes lately. Send him a birthday card. I'm sure he would be thrilled to hear from all of you.

Fran and I along with our two daughters, Judy and Joyce with her husband John and daughter Emily and Son Evan will be cruising to Nova Scotia and the New England area on Norwegian Sea from May 10th to the 17th. Then on June 6th, Fran and I will be in Bowling Green, Ohio to see our granddaughter Kelly's graduation from Bowling Green High School. She is a Presidential Scholar and we're very proud of her accomplishments.

Rags, I had hoped that this year I would be able to attend the Reading Show but as you can see our schedule won't allow me to go. I was looking forward to seeing you then but hope you can make the reunion. Until then, be good to your infantry buddies. Hope you all have a safe trip to the reunion and stay well!

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

By Lou Volpi

Chapter is still meeting 4 times a year, and we enjoy our meetings. The once powerful Phila. Chapter has really been hit by death, and we are down to a few members and age has taken its toll. I sure hope anyone who comes near Philly at any time, will please call me and we will make a day of it.

Memories of our past reunions are still there. We still ride in our annual Memorial Parade and the Town still honors us. I had a beautiful memorial site build in the town and it sure stands out. I am really proud of my achievement.

COMPANIES

783rd Ordnance Co.

By Rags Rangnow

We're the "Thundering Herd" and we're down to a trot but that's sure better than stopping and what? See, that's what happens to me when I sit in front of this machine and ponder how to come up with something other than the quarterly medical report.

It's first things first though and that's to tell those of you who don't know that we lost big Jim Jones last month. Jim had been going slowly downhill for the last year but it was still a

shock when I received the call from his daughter Nina. I was hoping to stand a last retreat for Jim but you know these are hectic times for a family. The next word I heard was Jim had been buried, with full military honors, back at his old homestead in Pine Bank, PA, a quick trip that would have required three days.

From the experiences told to me by men and officers, I've come to learn that Jim was a unique 1st Sgt. He could be rough and tough but underneath he had a heart of gold. I had the pleasure of "bunking" with Jim at the Omaha reunion. We took a siesta every afternoon and it was here that I heard the innermost thoughts of Jim's deep thinking on Life. Here was a soldier with over thirty years of service, leading 33 different Companies, taught at Lafayette College, and after forty years he not only remembered everyone's name from the 783rd but he knew almost all of your middle initials. I asked him how could he do this and he gave me that all knowing look and replied, "There was only one WWII."

Some of you golfers might recall the well-attended reunion in Owensboro. About ten of us from the 783rd were standing waiting to tee off. It was a beautiful morning. Everything was so green and the sun was just peeking through a *fluffy, white cloud*. Jim announced to one and all, "Who would have thought, sleeping in the foxholes behind the hedgerows of Normandy, that 40 years later we'd all be standing here to play golf. This truly is a great moment." Jim was unique and his presence is missed.

Just heard from Hersch and he sounded great. He was going out to eat with an old time neighbor. She has been a friend for years. Hersch also wants to know who's going to make the reunion as he's wanting to see us again.

That raises an interesting discussion. We now have just 26 fellows from the 783rd and just nine of us are under 85! All of our rusty hinges etc. are making it more difficult to travel the necessary distances to attend the reunions. The following medical reports are just a fact of life but it shows why it is so difficult for anyone to say, "We'll be there."

Al and Ruth are possible, if the whole group is attending. Al's eyes have now taken away his

driving privileges. Ray and Mimi are just about in the same boat. When I talked with Ray he could not walk because of a bone spur. Vi is having her problems with Sam as he has been in the hospital four times this year with a heart out of synch. Doc has his hands full with Agnes. Bill Manning is making out well with hormone shots for his prostate cancer and is hoping to have son Jason drive him to the reunion. I've tried to find Bob Hammond by phone, letters and computer with no success. I just called Bob's good friends Jack and Jo Ann Keller. Asking the Information for Ohio Keller's the gal gave me a Keller in Iowa! I guess the false teeth I don't have must be loose.

When I talked to Jack I was surprised. He wasn't sure how Bob was either as he hasn't seen or heard from Bob in months. Bob has been in the hospital numerous times. I've called Bob but no answer. His "new" number is 513-554-0057. Jack is going to try to contact him or son Steve.

Jack Getty gave me two calls when he heard about Jim. We had an interesting conversation and at 86 he is doing ok for himself. Joe Brown is enjoying his life, has a new "friend", lives on a golf course, and is still shooting his age. What more could one ask? Gilman the youngest of the youngest, turns 81 in July, is still studying French to compete with his grandson. Maybe we should send him to France to give them a run for their francs.

The Hackstocks are enjoying health and life. Notice which one is first. And the Fredericks are walking again and enjoying traveling around and eating with the grandchildren. Carl always makes your cooking look good. Carl remembers the time when Company punishment was "seconds". For a while Carl was the most punished soldier in Atterbury!

Then there was the day when Lt. Brown walked up and said, "Weaver, why do you keep scratching yourself?" Weaver replied, "I'm the only one who knows where it itches, Sir." It was the next day that Weaver was transferred to Krebs group, out of camp and out of sight.

Well, I guess I better quit but you have to admit it's better than medical reports. So maybe we'll see you at the reunion and maybe we

won't. Who knows what the next month, week or day will bring. Just smile and enjoy what you've had and what you have.

Co. "A" - 330th

By Charles Abdinoor

Hi Buddy's, hope all is well with you and you are itching at the bit for our reunion in Kentucky. I predict that we will need two tables at our banquet so don't prove me wrong. I already have my reservations in.

I stopped to see John Bullard in NC, and other than a few ailments, he feels good. Also talked to his son John Jr. and he appreciated keeping in touch with his father. Also talked to Paul Reed, but did not see him this year. His wife Dolores was ill, but expect to see them both, with the Pillions. They were both officers in my company.

Talked to Spike Spychala, and reminded him, also after all these years gone by, this should be an incentive to see one another. Talked to Earl Dunn and expect to see him also. Talked to Lee Milligan. If he can get off the golf course, he will be there. Lee was a professional golfer. He and Paul Reed should get together. Also Cookie Senica and his son, the Prussman's, Shorty Glasser, Brown's, Barrick's and others. I also expect some guests who were in the 83rd and also sons and daughters of deceased members. Looking forward to seeing Ed McCouch and his son, and also any other "A" Co. men. I talked to George Brackett who lives in Waterville, NY and hope he shows. Also Whitey Cozynski.

Kentucky seems like an excellent location for our members who come from surrounding states. Last year was a banner year for "A" Co. Also, that Bob Gangnath is our Sec.-Treas. he is bound to be there with his wife Joyce. Also, Bob don't forget to send Dutchy Smith his membership card. I got hell from him because his name wasn't in the *Thunderbolt*.

Let's keep in contact with one another and stay in good health.

Sincerely,

Chuck Abdinoor, "B" & "A" Co.

Co. "D" - 331st

By Geri Gunderson

The Co. "D" news is very scarce at this writing. Everyone is looking forward to the Reunion at the Drawbridge, Ft. Mitchell, KY, come September. The after the reunion get-together is really exciting this year as we plan on visiting Clifty Falls, Indiana State Park and visit Camp Atterbury. I plan on taking Ralph's uniform to be displayed at the Museum. (Al Shrawder will be sending more information in his Newsletter.)

The McKees's are back in Massachusetts as of the first of April. The Gravelyn's also have returned to their summer home in Michigan as of the end of April.

It is with deep sadness that I report the death of Lorraine Schuster (Norman) in February. She fought a long time but God called her home. Our condolences to Troy and family.

The McKee's, Gravelyn's, Gunderson, Whalen's, Shrawder's and Brennen's spent a weekend together in Sebring at the Fl. Chapter meeting. Then the McKee's and Gravelyn's hosted us for an extended 2 days, including a boat ride with Harry at the Helm.

I talked to Louise and R.C. Hamilton. R.C. had some health problems-they will be at the Reunion. Received a nice note from Mary and Paul Dallos. Mary is feeling better and hopes to be at the Reunion. Ruth Mueller (Vern) called and she is fine and looking forward to our next trip. Geri Gunderson (Ralph) spent a few days in Biloxi, Miss. It was not a profitable trip!

Hope to see everyone at the Drawbridge in September. Have a wonderful summer, keep in touch and stay healthy!

Co. G - 331st

By Capt. Mac

In this article I want to give credit where credit is due:

To the administrative part of G Company -

We start with the First Sergeant, Mort Gaynor- Mort took the burden off of me and handled most of the administrative details. Morning reports, replacements... He would make out a temporary Morning Report each day and send it back to headquarters and kept the final report for the records. They would get all casualty reports. When we came off the line for a few days, Mort would get with Charlie and go over the details.

We had the Communication Section- Sgt. Phil Wiggenhauer was in charge, and I had no trouble with that part of the company. Wiggenhauer was very smart and trained the men under him, the radio operators, the switch board, and the runners. He had men like Phil Graff, Joe Ruberto, Lloyd Cunningham, Gene Costanzo, Bob Goldstein and before I took over the company Joe Phillipone, Gonsalves. . . They would receive some of the messages from Battalion and relay them to the company. The radios were always in working order and we relied on them on many occasions.

The Supply Section under Sgt. Trautman- he worked with Monte Anderson, and Ross Smith. They brought up the needed supplies including the ammunition, the clothing..... I will always remember during the Ardennes, Trautman would bring up as many dry socks as he could get his hands on. He and Monte would make sure all weapons were in working order. A rifle company had only two jeeps, but Trautman thought that company needed more, so a third jeep was assigned to the company. We were allotted only one 300 radio, we had two because this was needed.

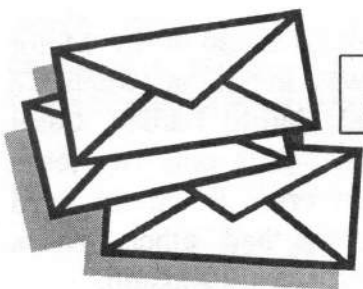
One person I overlooked was Cpl. Jones the mail clerk. Jimmy was always there and delivered the mail whenever he received it. Jones, Wiggenhauer, Anderson were the old men of the outfit, they were in their late 30's, when most of us were in our early twenties and even teens.

Last, but we do have to mention the Motor Section- Sgt. Widner was in charge when we went overseas. He had Harold Ladley, Casel Bush and G.B. Robinson. With only two jeeps we needed only four drivers. When the third jeep came into being we had other drivers including Charles Wesley, Kermit Ralston.

Widner was a very good driver and we lost him in the Brittany Area. I was on a patrol with him when we came to an area that was under fire. He stopped on the Bridge and I told him to get the hell off of the bridge. He said, "I am hit," and the jeep stopped. The GI took over and we drove off the road, and finally to the Aid Station where Widner died. Bush ran over a mine and was gone for a few days. Wesley ran over a mine, it threw him in the air and he came down running. Wesley was the character, he would never carry a weapon on this jeep. He was afraid he may have had to use it. Only when I ordered him, was his rifle placed in the jeep.

In G Company we were very fortunate to have a group of men that were dedicated to the work they were supposed to do. When you have men like that, it helped the Company Commander to take care of the Tactical end of the Company.

Now we come to the Mess Section. Last but by far a very important part of the Company. Sgt. Mike Mizerock made sure that the Company always had a hot meal when it was possible to feed it. On the defense, we had two hot meals a day. Mike had Cooks, Froggy Buchanus, Benny Vecchione, Ralph Guareni, and Bob Goldnertz. When Mike could not feed a hot meal he would have hot C rations, and in time the K rations. I will always remember when we moved into Aachen Germany on Christmas Eve 1944, Mike asked when I wanted to feed the Christmas meal. I told him on Christmas Day at noon. On that day the meal was prepared and served to G Company, and we sat at tables and enjoyed it. The other Companies in the Battalion waited until the 26th to feed the meal. They did not have time to digest their food when the orders came to move out. What a blessing.



MAIL BAG

Dear Cliff,

I just received my Spring issue of the *Thunderbolt*. I never enjoyed an article as much as I did about General Roy T. Dodge, commanding officer of the 308th Engineer Battalion. He was really and truly an outstanding officer that any man would have been proud to have served with, with all that he did while serving with the 83rd, and also his accomplishments in civilian life after he retired from the military.

Do you know if his engineer battalion had anything to do with the construction of the pontoon bridge across the Ruhr River leading into the Town of Julich (I hope I spelled it right). My Company "B" 330th Infantry Regiment crossed that bridge on the way up to relieve a company of the 29th Division so they could go back for a rest. The 29th had a big banner hanging on one of the buildings that read, "Welcome to the Town of Julich through the courtesy of the 29th Infantry Division".

His son-in-law Curt Herrick is to be commended for that beautiful story about his father-in-law.

Keep up the good work Cliff. I always enjoy the *Thunderbolt*, it brings back a lot of memories.

Roland N. Grebinger
B Co. 330th "B" Btry 324th F.A.

P.S. I was proud to have served with the 83rd. I became a replacement right at the beginning of the "Battle of the Bulge". I came out of the 69th Division. I was a B.A.R. man. Boy, how I enjoyed that weapon.

Dear Sirs,

A few months ago I was introduced to your association and find the articles and events in your newsletters extremely interesting. An acquaintance gave me several back issues and the readings have re-kindled my desire to find some of my long lost comrades from the 83rd and I hope to accomplish this by having this short letter and few photos published in a future newsletter.

In 1944, I was PFC William (Bill) Fulks but some had nicknamed me Freddie and my hometown is Clay, West Virginia. I served as first scout in Company G, 1st Platoon, 330th Regiment, joined the fight in the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944, and fought through the Elbe River. I left the unit in 1945 when transferred to the 4th Armored Division and was stationed at Regensburg, Germany, a small town on the Czech border. I was fighting beside Lt. Ben Weinglass when he was killed (I believe) in the Hartz Mountains. Many may have seen me carrying a submachine gun as I had this through much of the battles.

I would like to contact:
Sgt. Harold Hartley – Springfield, IL
Capt. Jack Pheasantington – NEB
Garner – St. Louis
Douglas – Maine
Medic Bradley - ??

I have attached two photos. One taken in the Hartz Mountains and the other at the Elbe River. (One photo is shown below.)



I ask that anyone who recognizes me from the photo and is interested in contacting me, please write to the following address.

Bill Fulks
650 Oak Drive, Corinth, KY 41010
859-823-1161

Thanks for your assistance and please keep up the excellent work.

**SEEKING INFORMATION ON
WILLIAM B. JEFFRIES
Company G, 330th**

I would like some information on **William B. Jeffries**. He was born on December 1, 1921 and from Gee, KY. (What is now Lawrenceburg, KY.) He was in Co. G 330th, and was killed on July 4, 1944. I am inquiring on behalf of his one surviving sister. If anyone has any information about "Billy Jeffries" I would greatly appreciate it.

Thank you,

William Shely, Jr.
1681 Anderson City Rd.
Lawrenceburg, KY 40342

**SEEKING INFORMATION ABOUT
JAMES FIELD VARLEY
Headquarters, 331st**

I am writing to you to explore any information you may have about the 83rd Division's activities for the upcoming year. My grandfather, **James Field Varley**, was a member of the 83rd Division during World War Two. He served in the 331st Regiment, Headquarters Company.

He passed away in 1982 and I have recently been researching this time period in his life. I have read and received a book by George Waple and he has forwarded your address to me. I am particularly interested in a listing of anyone who may have served in the same company as my grandfather. I am also interested in any pictures you may have produced in your *Thunderbolt* publication. Any assistance you could provide, in these areas, would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
James Varley
1545 Satellite Dr., Medford, Oregon 97504

**SEEKING INFORMATION ON
RUDOLPH A. PAULUS
Company I, 331st**



Dear Mr. Wooldridge,

Your name was provided to me by Mr. John Governor, Jr. from Lynchburg, VA. I contacted Mr. Governor, an 83rd Infantry Division veteran, hoping that he might have known my uncle during the war. He indicated that you have a *Thunderbolt* magazine or newsletter and that you might be able to run an article and post a picture to see if any of your readers might remember my uncle.

My uncle, Rudolph A. Paulus, was also a member of I Company, 331st Infantry Regiment during World War II. Last December, I received his Bronze Star as a remembrance from his brother (a 3rd Armored veteran). Uncle Rudy never spoke to family members about having received this military decoration and it was only discovered after his untimely death in 1969. I am now attempting to uncover the details of the time he spent in the European Theater and what he did to earn this honor. Unfortunately, it appears that his military records were destroyed in the 1973 St. Louis fire and no citations were issued for the Bronze Stars awarded. From his report of separation I have learned that he actually received two Bronze Stars. (We're not sure what happened to the second one.) Cpl. Paulus arrived in Europe on Jan. 15th, 1945 and saw action in Northern France and the Rhineland. He was captured on March 2nd, 1945. I have found an after-action report for that date which indicated that I Company entered a town called Kapellen and that 29 soldiers were counted as missing, five were killed, and 8 wounded. He was taken prisoner during this action but was returned to U.S. military control on March 28th. He was discharged in 1946 with the rank of sergeant.

Once again, if it would be possible to post his picture and run a short article in your publication I would be very appreciative. Hopefully, someone will remember him and can help fill in the huge gap that now exists in our family's history. In addition, to writing to the address below, I can also be contacted by e-mail at: mscherck@midplains.net

Sincerely,
Mike Scherck
1311 Birch Street, Baraboo, WI 53913

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT 83RD DIVISION VETERANS

From Debbie Holloman

The following are requests for information submitted by relatives looking for information about an 83rd Division veteran. If you can help, these folks would appreciate hearing from you.

Many other requests for information appear on the message board maintained by Dave Curry, whose father, Thomas Curry, 331st IR, Company L, was killed in action on December 10, 1944. If you have access to a computer and the internet, you should take a look at Dave's wonderful web site, which is a tribute to all those brave men who served with the 83rd Division, and the message board at www.ncweb.com/davecurry/brothers/messages.html.

- Herschel Belt is seeking information about his father, **PFC Willis Glendell Belt, 330th IR, Company L**, who was from Kentucky. PFC Belt was wounded on July 4, 1944, and died on July 5, 1944, possibly near the village of Meautis, near La Chenay, in France. If you knew PFC Belt, please write Herschel at 415 N. Main Street, Marion, KY 42064, or telephone him at 270-965-3349, or email him at hbelt@hcis.net.
- Karen Thomas is seeking information about her uncle, **PFC Thomas J. Rizzo, 329th IR, Company L**, who served in Europe from January 1945 until April 1945. He was seriously WIA somewhere near the Elbe Bridgehead on April 15, 1945 and died on April 21, 1945. If you knew PFC Rizzo, please write Karen at 4789 Kaye Road, Memphis, TN 38117 or send her an email at baublekat@aol.com.
- Joe Byer seeks information about his uncle, **Anthony William "Bill" Kitson, 339th IR**, who was from Indiana. He was wounded in France in July 1944 and later captured in December, probably during the Battle of the

Bulge. If you could give Joe any information about his uncle, please write him at 301 West Surrey Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85029 or send him an email at joe@estatelawplanning.com.

- Michael Haberkorn seeks information about his father, **Cpl. Peter F. Haberkorn, 330th IR, Company A**, who was from Wisconsin. He fought in the European theatre (battles of Ardennes and Rhineland), and also served with other units. He died in 2000. If you could give Michael any information about his father, please write him at 18720 Hoffman Avenue, Brookfield, WI 53045 or send him an email at khaberkorn@wi.rr.com.
- Chris McCloud seeks information about his father, **PFC William R. "Mac" McCloud, 331st IR, company unknown**, who was from Alabama. He was with the 331st from 1944 until 1946 and fought in the European Theatre. He died in 1985. If you could give Chris any information about his father, including what company he was in, please write Chris at 316 Dexter, Milan, Michigan 48160 or send him an email at cmcccloud@comcast.net.

MEMORIES OF HEAVEN

MEMORIES OF HELL

By George Trebonyak

This book should be in every American household, describes in detail what the front-line infantry went through in World War II.

I started writing this book after I was wounded for the third time in the Battle of the Bulge. I spent 20 months in hospitals from Leige, Belgium, England and the United States. A nurse in England asked me to write a book about my combat experiences, as I was very bitter and depressed just lying there in bed. So, I wrote and wrote for 10 months and almost completed the book in handwriting.

It starts in Camp Atterbury, from October 1942 through Tennessee maneuvers, Camp Shanks, NY, England, Commando Training in Wales and finally the invasion of Omaha Beach. We were the second wave after the 1st Division. This book is true, very precise about the front-line infantry, what I went through, the horror, the death of comrades, the bloody, murderous hedgerows in Normandy, of companies being wiped out.

This is a true story as seen by me in the 1st Platoon, Co. F, 329th Infantry. My comrades dying beside me, then the Normandy breakout.

And then into the bloody, frozen Hurtgen Forest, sub-zero temperatures, horrendous casualties, towering pines crashing down on us. Brutal, savage battles fought here by author and Co. F. Finally breaking through the battle-hardened enemy troops into Gurzenvich, Germany. Surrounded by a regiment of German paratroops, we defeated the Germans in a four-day battle. Bloody hand-to-hand combat. All vividly described in my book. Finally, being cut down by a German machine gunner in a bloody affair, precisely described, all in sub-zero temperatures.

George Trebonyak
1630 Cleveland Ave., Lincoln Park, MI 48146
Phone 1-313-381-6803

Book (182 Pages - Illustrated).
Sells for \$14.95 plus \$2.00 for postage and handling. Total \$16.95.

83rd Infantry Division - France



Fred Statts

Hampton Hobbs

Picture taken in France somewhere near St. Malo or Dinard. It has been so long ago I can't remember. Fred Statts on the left, Pinch, WV. Hampton Hodge on the right of Clinton, NC.

Hobbs went from the Hedgerows to the end of the war. Went home and died of a heart attack at the age of 38.

Fred Statts was wounded in Hurtgen Forest, Germany, Dec. 8, 1944, so was Joe Sharkie of East Brunswick, NJ on the same day. Joe and I are doing good. We talk on the phone sometimes.

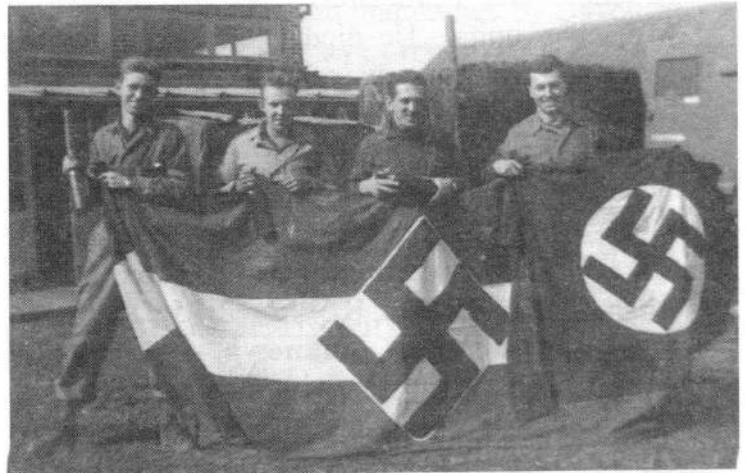


Also, included a picture (above) of Joe Sharkie (left) of New Brunswick, NJ and Fred R. Statts (right) taken in Charleston, WV. at the 83rd Div. Assoc., Inc. 1987 (Reunion).

Fred R. Statts
330 Inf., 2nd Bat., Co. E

Cliff,

The originals were fading but the copies came out well. Emaneoil is only one I am still in contact with.



Petty, Day, Emaneoil and I in Rhineland, 1945.
We found a cellar full of wine.



Hank Greger and I in Belgium in 1944.
We winterized the jeep and it helped in Bulge.

Some of us at VFW did tapes for Library of Congress Veteran's History Project.

Hal O'Neill

MISSISSIPPI TARGET SHOOT

by

Richard Dickson B Co. 329th

38 New Mashipacong Rd., Montague, NJ 07827-3232

It was a Saturday morning in the Spring of the year 1930, I was nine years old. After breakfast my Dad said Rich get in the car. I hadn't even unwrapped a stick of chewing gum when he slid behind the wheel and backed out of the drive. What's happening, it usually took him a half hour to get in the car.

After a short ride we pulled into a sand pit at the edge of town. There were some men setting up a wooden box with a paper tacked on it and measuring a fifty foot distance from it to place a throw rug. I joined the gang of kids trying to skip stones across a big puddle of water that had collected in the pit.

In a little while all the kids were called over to the rug by a man who showed us a single shot 22 rifle. He explained each of us would get five practice shorts, then we would each shoot five shorts at our own target to see who could make the highest score.

I was the last kid to fire the practice rounds. The first two shots didn't even hit the paper. "Hold the phone!" My dad always said that, he worked for the telephone company. He propped up the rifle with a block of wood and told me to look along the sights at the black spot and that's what I should see when I pulled the trigger. I did as I was told and the last three shots went in the black. While waiting for my turn to shoot again, I went back to skipping stones across the puddle all the while thinking it was unfair to let that eleven year old girl compete against the rest of us little kids. Finally my turn came, and I lined up the rifle sights on the black spot and every shot went in the black. After the rug and the wood crate were picked up we went to learn the scores, but were told they hadn't been totaled yet. We headed for home.

The following Sunday Dad was reading the Newark Sunday Call, and he showed me a small article on a back page with headlines that read "Essex County Boy American Legion Small Bore Champion". I skipped the writing and read the list of names. Mine was at the top, right above that girl's name. As I handed the paper back all I said to my Dad was "Ha! I beat that girl!", and ran out to roller skate.

Sometime later that summer I was sent to the YMCA Camp in Sussex. The camp activities started on Monday morning, and a fellow tent-mate and I decided to try the rifle range. We found it in the woods back of the tennis courts. It was just a little wood pavilion with a log back stop. There was an attendant opening the equipment locker and he gave us each a target to hang on the back stop. I asked him for a box of bullets for each of us. He said, "OK, that's one dollar." Somewhat stunned I asked if we had to pay to shoot. "Yup, it's a penny a shot and there's fifty shots per box." He gave us the five shots we asked for and asked if we had shot a gun before, that's when I told him I was the Essex County American Legion Small Bore Champion. Very impressed he let us shoot. We fired away, some went in the black and some didn't.

After watching us the attendant asked us if we would care to learn more about shooting, which of course we did.

He explained the operation and care of a gun, how to sight, breathe and squeeze. The most remarkable comment he made was that it is very difficult to hold steady on the black spot, so learn to fire when the sight drifts across the spot. Another remarkable thing was his name Kuozo Yamaguchi. (He became the first man to be called in service in NJ.)

In 1941 President Roosevelt shocked the nation with news of Pearl Harbor. My first thought was that I was as good as in the service. I was twenty years old.

During that summer when I was off from school I got a job at the Western Electric Company inspecting and testing telephone equipment, both civilian and military. At times I even taught the government inspector how to check the military equipment. She was a nice kid.

One by one the guys were disappearing and although I was exempt from service I knew I was a prime candidate should the rules change. I joined the signal corp. reserve, which required ten months of radio school before active duty. This was great, I could go to school after work, and learn something I liked

After ten months I was activated in a signal construction battalion near Austin, Texas. Fresh air, exercise, what could be better. My platoon sergeant, a year younger than I, was a vice president of a telephone company in Ohio. His father owned it and his mother operated the switchboard.

Now the bankers, lawyers, and clerks who had been in the radio school were not happy and wrote to Washington to ask why radio experts were climbing poles. Before basic training was completed this battalion was distributed in three infantry divisions. I found myself in the 63rd Div. 254th Reg. HQ Co. in the communications platoon, climbing poles, running wire, and learning Morse code.

During basic training I went thru the weekly rifle drills, but never got near the range to shoot. Finally it happened. I was rounded up with all the other stragglers and sent to the range on Saturday. The rifle I had was the most beat up hunk of junk I had ever seen, but it zeroed in with three shots and during rapid fire it punched a hole in the black every time. At the end of the shooting I asked the line sergeant what score I had made. He said they haven't been added yet but they would be sent to the company.

When we fell out Monday morning the lieutenant was in front of the platoon and announced the scores we made on the range. My name was called last and he said I made the highest score in the division. He told me to report to the orderly room directly after breakfast. Oh Lord, I thought now there would be a regimental parade and I'd have to go up to the general to be presented with a medal, man what have I done!

When I reported to the orderly room the 1st sergeant asked my name, then handed me a slip of paper and told me to take it to second battalion headquarters immediately. In front of the headquarters was a group of GI's quietly talking. I noticed everyone was a six footer. My name was called early and I sat down with a wiry lieutenant I recognized as the bayonet instructor who dared anyone to stick him with a bayonet. He told me he needed volunteers for a new ranger company and I had been recommended. There would be special training and operations. At first thought it was enticing to work with those big guys out side, but when I thought of my communications training and the good outfit I was in I refused his offer and clammed up. He waited patiently for me to reconsider but finally sent me out.

Upon completion of basic training in February a train load of men were shipped to Camp Breckenridge to bring the 83rd Division up to full strength. Right off the train we filed into a large auditorium. I was seated in the front row and a colonel came directly over to me and asked for my record papers. He asked what my code speed was and I had to say I hadn't acquired any because the classes were cut short. He handed the papers to a sergeant and said "B" Company. I later found out he was looking for a jeep driver who was proficient in code.

There I was in a rifle company with only communications training. I'd need to catch up. Well I was as big as any of them, and I had played cowboys and Indians when I was a kid so I'll do alright. Maybe with enough practice with the bayonet I can accept that lieutenant's dare.

The first few weeks I had a sullen attitude and wouldn't associate with anyone. My drinking buddies from the headquarters company had been placed in communications sections so that told me I had been given special consideration. As time went by, I found these little country boys were capable and serious about their training, and were good company besides. Actually the training was a snap, except the window washing. I thought back to the day the president announced the attack on Pearl Harbor when I asked myself "Who do they think they are?" Maybe I would find out; I better be ready.

During the Normandy and Brittany campaigns I only lasted two and a half months total combat time, but in that time I went from PFC to Platoon Sergeant and on two successive days I can rightfully claim the capture or destruction of two kraut cannons, two machine guns, and some prisoners, of course with help.

Regretfully, I live with the memories of my good buddies of the communications sections who didn't survive the war. I still contact their families each year, and wonder why their guiding star had failed them in the end.

PAST REUNIONS – DATES AND LOCATIONS

Submitted by Jim Prentice, Past Board Chairman

For you fellows who may have forgotten where we held our early reunions, here is a list that was printed in the *Thunderbolt* Vol. 53 Issue No. 3, 1998, Summer Issue, Page 24.

#1 1947	Cleveland, OH.	Statler	#26 1972	Pittsburgh, PA	Hilton
#2 1948	Indianapolis, IN	Claypool	#27 1973	Chicago, IL	LaSalle
#3 1949	Pittsburgh, PA	William Penn	#28 1974	Philadelphia, PA	Sheraton
#4 1950	Boston, MA	Statler	#29 1975	Myrtle Beach, SC	Landmark Inn
#5 1951	Columbus, OH	Deshler-Wallick	#30 1976	Orlando, FL	Sheraton Towers
#6 1952	Columbus, OH	Deshler-Wallick	#31 1977	Warren, OH	Holiday Inn
#7 1953	Cleveland, OH	Hollanden	#32 1978	Cincinnati, OH	Stouffers
#8 1954	Pittsburgh, PA	William Penn	#33 1979	New Orleans, LA	Grand
#9 1955	Philadelphia, PA	Benjamin Franklin	#34 1980	Philadelphia, PA	Marriott
10 1956	Washington, DC	The Willard	#35 1981	Pittsburgh, PA	Monroeville Marriott
11 1957	New York, NY	Roosevelt	#36 1982	S. Fallsburgh, NY	The Pines
12 1958	Dayton, OH.	Biltmore-Dayton	#37 1983	W. Palm Beach, FL	Hyatt
13 1959	Detroit, MI	Statler Hilton	#38 1984	Owensboro, KY	Executive Inn
14 1960	Boston, MA	Statler Hilton	#39 1985	S. Fallsburgh, NY	The Pines
15 1961	Cleveland, OH	Manger	#40 1986	Knoxville, TN	Hyatt Regency
16 1962	Atlantic, NJ	Ambassador	#41 1987	Charlestown, WV	Marriott Town Ctr
17 1963	Indianapolis, IN	Claypool	#42 1988	Hershey, PA	Hershey
18 1964	Providence, RI	Sheraton Biltmore	#43 1989	Cincinnati, OH	Clarion
19 1965	Myrtle Beach, SC	Ocean Forest	#44 1990	Pittsburgh, PA	Vista International
20 1966	Pittsburgh, PA	Hilton	#45 1991	S. Fallsburgh, NY	The Pines
21 1967	Chicago, IL	LaSalle	#46 1992	Omaha, NE	Holiday Inn Central
22 1968	Philadelphia, PA	Benjamin Franklin	#47 1993	Daytona Beach, FL	Howard Johnson
23 1969	Detroit, MI	Statler Hilton	#48 1945	S. Fallsburgh, NY	The Pines
24 1970	Boston, MA	Sheraton	#49 1995	Myrtle Beach, SC	Landmark Inn
25 1971	Cleveland, OH	Pick-Carter	#50 1996	Cleveland, OH	Holiday Inn Ind.
			#51 1997	Indianapolis, IN	Adams Mark

The last six you should be able to remember, but in case not here they are –

#52 1998	Peoria, IL	Holiday Inn
#53 1999	Lexington, KY	Radisson Plaza
#54 2000	Catskill Mt., NY	Friar Tuck Inn
#55 2001	Hampton, VA	Holiday Inn
#56 2002	Myrtle Beach, SC	Landmark Inn
#57 2003	Ft. Mitchell, KY	Drawbridge Village

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

By Louis Gomori

Follows



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Louis Gomori
309 E. Locust St.
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JAN 9, 2003

Clifton Wooldridge, Publisher/Editor
83rd Infantry Division "Thunderbolt"
RT 28 A P. O. Box 406
Alton Bay, NH 03810

Dear Cliff :

Can you please put this in the Historians Corner :

This is the continuance of the 83rd Infantry Divisions duties after V-E Day. You will note that the time frame for 1-23 October 1945 was omitted as there were no changes in boundaries or alterations of boundaries.

Report of Operations Period 1 October 1945 to 31 October 1945

A. EMPLOYMENT OF US FORCES.

On 1 October 1945, the 83rd Infantry Division was employed in occupation duties in the Kriese Grafenau, Regen, Deggendorf, Passau, Pfarrkirchen, Vilshofen, Wegescheid, and Wolfsfernin, Bavaria, Germany. Since the last report of operations (1 September 1945 to 31 September 1945) there were no changes in assignments, attachments or detachments. (For disposition of units, attached units and troop list, see Inc. No. 3, G-3, Report of Operations, Periodic Report No. 250 with Situation Overlay). During the Period 1-23 October 1945 there were no changes in boundaries or alterations of boundaries.

On 3 October 1945, plans, including movement orders and movement tables, were made for the relief of the 26th Infantry Division in the Province of Upper Austria (Oberdonau) and the relief in turn of the 83rd Infantry Division in the above mentioned Kriese, by the elements of the Fourth Armored Division. The 83rd

Infantry Division will relieve the 26th Infantry Division during the period 24 October 1945 to 6 November 1945. (See Incl. No. 3, G-3 Report of Operations. F.O. No. 62 with change to Annex No. 1, F.O. 62. 3 October 1945).

On 23 October 1945, Combat Command "A" of the Fourth Armored Division assumed responsibility for the area in Germany occupied by the 83rd Infantry Division, and this division in turn took over the occupation duties in Austria formerly held by the 26th Infantry Division on 25 October 1945. This area is comprised of the following Bezirks : Vocklabruck, Gmunden, Ried, Kirchdorf, Steyr, Land, Linz Stadt, Wels, Gries Kirchen, Scharding and Buaunau. (See Incl. No. 3, G-3 Report of Operations, Periodic Report No. 253, for disposition of troops, attached units, and troop list).

On 251200 October 1945 the 83rd Infantry Division C. P. closed at Vilshofen, Germany and opened at 251200 October 1945 in Linz, Austria.

B. RELATIONS WITH ALLIED FORCES.

When the 83rd Infantry Division took over the occupational duties from the 26th Infantry Division in Upper Austria, the 83rd Infantry division automatically accepted and carried on the policies of the 26th Infantry Division in this area. A written agreement between the US Commanding General of the 65th Infantry Division and the Soviet Commander of the XXXI Russians Corps provided a basis for a uniform policy with the Russians in maintaining maximum control along the Danube and Enns Rivers.

Russians :

On the Division's northern boundary, along the Danube River, this division maintained contact with the Russian XXXI Corps. C. P. at Urfahr, Austria. Through this Russian C. P. most of the minor problems were discussed and acted upon. The Russians maintained a friendly attitude, as in the past, and in almost every situation were cooperative.

On the Division's eastern boundary, along the Enns River, contact was maintained with the Russians mostly by our Displaced persons Office. Some minor problems did arise along this sector but most of them were settled at the contact points of Enns RR Bridge, Highway Bridge, and St. Valentine, Austria.

Most of the work in US-Russian relations consisted of :

- a. Arranging for the evacuation and exchange of displaced persons.
- b. Inaugurating a coordinated system of passes for Austrian civilians.
- c. Vienna Railway and road traffic control.
- d. US-Russian freight train movements in both territories.

It is significant that no serious border incidents occurred with the Russians and the numerous problems arising along the boundary were always promptly and cooperatively settled.

British :

On the division's southern boundary the relations with the British continued to be cordial, with no alterations of policies or agreements. Due to the mountainous terrain and heavy snowfall on this southern boundary, there was little civilian travel in and out of the British zone of occupation.

(See Incl. No. 2, G-2 Report of Operations.)

C. RELATIONS WITH FORMER GERMAN FORCES

The security situation at this time, within the area followed the same course as that of the previous month. This included weekly security checks being made through-out the area and towns in each unit zone, with each area being thoroughly searched for weapons, subversive activity, and black market operations.

Plan " Chesterfield " , the purpose of which was to re-arrest discharged P.W.'s of the Ortsgruppe level, was carried out in the division area in conjunction with Combat Command "A" of the Fourth Armored Division. On 24 October approximately 75% of the discharged P.W.'s in the aforementioned category were re-arrested in the initial raids and were turned over to Combat Command "A" for final disposition.

The repatriation of D.P.'s was continued and several trains of Hungarians were shipped from the division to Hungary. Conditions in D.P. camps were improved and with the stabilization of non-repatriates in permanent camps, an improved internal and border security was established and maintained. (See Incl. 2, G-2 Report of Operations).

On 16 October 1945, verbal instructions from XII Corps were received to the effect that a Report of Demolition would be submitted to their headquarters by the 15th of each month.

A plan and progress chart was drawn up and distributed to all units with the instructions that reports would be due this headquarters the 10th of each month. (See Incl. No. 3, G-3 Report of Operations.)

D. RELATIONS WITH THE CIVIL POPULATION.

During the period covered by this report close liaison with local military government detachments and civilian authorities succeeded in hospitalizing and treating large numbers of female contacts identified as infected with venereal disease. The functioning of this program was supervised and coordinated by the office of the division Surgeon through the efforts of unit surgeons.

The health and sanitary status of Prisoners of War and Displaced Persons was maintained at a relatively high level. Regular inspections were made by representatives of the Division Surgeon's Office of all such installations and recommendations submitted. During this period too, despite problems of supply, sufficient vaccines were procured to immunize all P.W.'s and the majority of D.P.'s in the area. This program was outlined and planned by the Division Surgeon's

Office although the actual supervision of the immunizations was delegated to unit surgeons.

A report of programs was made to the CO of CCA Fourth Armored Division, prior to their assumption of control and pertinent reports and records were transferred to their jurisdiction.

In the Upper Austria occupational zone the Division Surgeon's Section assumed responsibility for the administrative functions and supply of approximately 35 D.P. and D.E.F. hospitals with a total patient population of 9,389 in addition to the working personnel.

In order to expedite and centralize supervision of these installations, the Division area was divided into three sectors, Bad Ischl, Gmunden and Linz. Each Hospital area is supervised by a medical officer from the 308th Medical Battalion, assisted by an Austrian hospital administrator. Reports are submitted weekly to the Division Surgeon who has final responsibility. Three main categories of patients, SS, Wehrmacht and Allied D.P.'s are all separately hospitalized except those requiring neuro-surgical treatment. These later, however, are segregated within the same hospital.

During the current period the transfer of German nationals, both patients and hospital personnel, was undertaken. To date ten trains have removed 2,614 patients and personnel from the area. This repatriation policy has facilitated the hospital consolidation program designed to remove excess beds and improve the existing facilities of the remaining hospitals. Small, poorly equipped, outlying hospitals were closed, equipment absorbed into other hospitals and buildings turned over to the Military Government. Steps were undertaken to provide larger easily guarded hospitals that will eventually care for all the SS in the area.

German personnel were as far as possible returned to Germany and Austrian personnel that were Wehrmacht were discharged from the Army and rehired as civilian personnel.

The capacity of hospitals under Division control as of 2 October 1945 numbered 12,713 beds with 9,389 patients. By 31 October this number had been reduced to an 8,095 bed capacity system with 4,324 patients. The total reduction in bed capacity amounted to 3,324 while patient strength was lowered 4,891 during the month. Of this later number, over 2,500 were repatriated to Germany and the remainder discharged from hospital care. A bed surplus was maintained to provide for incoming shipments of Austrian Prisoners of War patients from their occupational zones. Experiences in administration and supply of these hospital installations recommended the continuance of a centralization policy and a close coordination with civilian agencies and military government.

The problem of sanitation and health among Displaced Persons was recognized at once and directives promptly issued which were designed to set up uniform regulations and standards. Unit surgeons were made responsible for the health status of D.P. personnel and installations in their respective areas and both daily and weekly reports were submitted. The supervision of the medical aspects of

all these installations was delegated to the Division Medical Inspector who not only coordinated the administrative and supply aspects of the unit surgeons activities but conducted regular inspections for the Commanding General. Again no communicable diseases of other than normal incidence were encountered and the flow of medical supplies was adequate to the needs. Experience here indicated that the tendency of camp officials to "jump channels" in requisitioning medical supplies should be discouraged and the emphasis be placed on strict compliance with existing regulations. Particular attention was placed on the importance of dusting all Displaced Persons with DDT powder and "dusting teams" were set up on points adjacent to Russian occupational zone and at other centers of D.P. traffic.

The initial activities of the Surgeon's Office in its new responsibilities in Upper Austria outlined the nature of the problems present and suggested necessary reforms and regulations. The problem of venereal disease among military personnel was anticipated and the activities of an understrength medical Department were directed both to its prevention and control. Plans were also prepared for a further survey of SP and DEF installations in order to improve, where possible, sanitary and health standards. (See Incl. No. 5, Special Staff, Office of the Surgeon.)

CIVIL SECURITY

Adequate measures were taken to prevent illegal gatherings and resistance movements, to safeguard public utilities, to eliminate all remnants of Nazi influence. Constant checks were made to prevent illegal possession of weapons, explosives, forged documents and identification papers.

all directives for the apprehension and detection of Nazi officials and Austrians compromised by collaboration, as well as War Criminals, security threats and automatic arrestees were continually compiled with.

For guidance in making descisions as to occupation policy, political trends and the development of political movements were subject of constant studies.

Progress and spread of rumor was studied with a view toward learning its source and its effect on the population. Proper action was taken against the spread of harmful rumors and the person responsible.

Much of the work outlined in the above section is within the province of (1) the local, permanent MG office and (2) the local, permanent CIC Detachment. However, insofar as the proper handling of these matters affected the success of the division in its mission here, the 83rd Infantry Division had a vital interest in seeing that these functions were performed. In most cases where it could not initiate action or make final disposition of a case, its officers made recommendations for action to the authorities mentioned above. All work in this field was closely coordinated with Military Government and CIC (See Incl. No. 2, G-2, Report of Operations.)

E. MISCELLANEOUS

The 83rd Infantry Division Signal Company upon taking up its duties in Linz, Austria was faced with an entirely different communication problem. It is not planned to use radio except in emergency to units isolated in the area. Wire communication in the area is mainly through under-ground cable and open wire.

The company is faced with operating a commercial type set up which is most different from a combat field installation. The personnel transferred to the 83rd Infantry division from the 26th Infantry Division are a great help as they are familiar with the technicalities of the wire installations. message center is operating the largest distribution center in its experience. All attached units and USFA (United States Forces in Austria) forces in our area are serviced by the Message Centers in Linz and Wels. (See Incl. No. 5, Special Staff, 83rd Signal Company, Report of Operations.)

There were no supply difficulties encountered during this period and the G-4 operations from 1 October 1945 to 25 October 1945 consisted mainly of moving the units with organic transportation to the new area. From the 25th to the end of the month, much work was devoted to securing supplies for D.P.'s and DEF's. This consisted of the opening and control of factories manufacturing furniture, light bulbs, stoves, etc. In accordance with the D.P.'s and DEF's sections, winter quarters for the D.P.'s and DEF's were being prepared. Wood deliveries to Vienna commenced and were put on a 25 car per day basis before the end of the month. (See Incl. No. 4, G-4 Report of Operations.)

The 308th Engineer Battalion from 1-24 October 1945 was engaged in the hauling of supplies, the supervision of construction of the Nattenburg Internment Camp No. 5, and the Plattling P.W. Camp. The Battalion also maintained and repaired roads and billits in the vicinity of Passau, Germany and hauled lumber for the construction of P.W. Camps.

On arrival of the 308th Engineer Battalion in its new area in Austria the Battalion was immediately engaged in construction of mess halls, operation of coal mines, operation of a rock crusher and maintenance of roads in the division area. (See Incl. No. 5, Special Staff, 308th Engineer Battalion, Report of Operations.)

Awards for the month issued to officers and men of the division for their heroic and meritorious services and deeds totaled 672 Bronz Stars. Disbursements by Division Finance amounted to \$380,777.42 which was a considerable drop from the preceding month.

Recreation activities included an increase in furloughs, leaves and passes to the United Kingdom, Riviera, Paris and Switzerland. Shows, dances and concerts continued on a grand scale and members of the division were presented with such civilian troops as the " Rosealinda Show", a New York production. The Danube River Excursion boat continued operating three times a week affording pleasure to many men of the division. The Division Rest Center, " The Oberhaus ", located in Passau, provided recreational entertainment for a total of 1,155 EM. (See Incl. No. 1, G-1 Report of Operations.)

Information and Education Activities for this period were as follows :

1. Information. In addition to the regular 2 hours per week of orientation, a special program of indoctrination was conducted during the month in compliance with the Third Army Directive. Regular distribution was made of orientation materials such as Army Talks, Maps etc.

2. Education . The Division's move from the Third Army Area to Austria during the period precluded large scale operation of unit schools during the month. Twelve courses were offered in unit schools with a total enrollment of 231 men in 17 sections.

Twelve men were sent to Weihenstephan Agriculture and Technical School in Freising, Germany for 8-week courses.

Forty men were enrolled in Biarritz Army University for 8-week courses. Thirty-three men were placed in various Civilian Agencies in the U.K. and France for training.

Prior to the Divisions move to the 26th Infantry Division area, the Information and Education Office made a survey of the new area to determine what facilities were available for unit schools. Extensive plans were made for establishing unit schools on division and regimental level in the new area.

**HEADQUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 83, US ARMY**

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- Incl. No. 9 -- Division Artillery Report of Operations**



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

309 E. Locust St.
Butler, PA 16001-4826
(724) 283-4340
E - Mail : gom92024@zoominternet.net

May 8, 2003

Mr. Cliff Wooldridge
East Side Drive, P.O. Box 406
Alton Bay, NH 03810 - 0406

Dear Cliff :

I have received a letter from LTC Samuel W. Magill (Ret) that I had just been able to address due to me being busy with compiling material for the Proposed Presidential Unit Citation. Will you please put this in the next Thunderbolt. Also enclosed is a letter I received from Senator Arlen Specters office in regards to the material submitted for the Presidential Unit Citation and a letter from Harry R. Berkheimer is also enclosed. A newspaper clipping from Raphael M. Galzerano about the fire that destroyed the Pines, a past 83rd Reunion site.

Historian's Corner

Firstly, I was notified that John D. Raikos, the Judge Advocate of the 83rd Infantry Division has suffered a Stroke and is gradually recovering. I wish John a speedy recovery. He had been compiling material for a Presidential Unit Citation at the time he got ill. About a month later, I then started to Xerox, trim and glue material together for presentation of an award. I compiled 5 sets of " Required Elements " and 5 sets of " Optional Elements " that has been sent to the Honorable Senator Arlen Specter, Ranking Member of the Armed Services Committee and is also the Senator of my District. These were mailed April 2, 2003 and around the 15th of April I received a phone call from Mr. Chris McNamee, Senator Arlen Specters Legislative Assistant indicating that he had received the box of the 10 note books. He assured me that he is immediately forwarding 4 sets of these books to the proper authorities for evaluation and he liked what he saw. It was his suggestion to put the Required Elements in one note book and the Optional Material in another notebook. Hope the Military Awards Branch of the Army also approve of it and

finally award the 83rd Infantry Division and Support Unit's the Presidential Unit Citation that should have been presented 58 years ago. I'll keep my fingers crossed.

I have received 3 letters that I am now able to follow up on due to my being busy compiling material for the Proposed Citation. The first is a letter from LTC Samuel W. Magill (Ret) and it is gratifying to know that I am not the only person to feel that the 83rd Infantry Division and Support Units deserve a Sixth Battle Campaign Star - read Mr. Magill's letter, a retired Lieutenant Colonel agrees with me. I am asking Mr. Cliff Wooldridge to publish this letter in the Thunderbolt.

The other letter is from Harry R. Berkheimer and am asking Cliff to publish this letter also. It has to do with the recognition of Pierre and Simone Le Pourry, and other French civilians that are taking care of the cemeteries in France. Mr. Berkheimer suggests a Certificate of Appreciation and I agree with him. Why not.

Remember - We were the best of the best. Like it or not.

Sincerely,

Louis Gomori

Louis Gomori

ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA, CHAIRMAN

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COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6375

April 29, 2003

Lt. Col. Robert White, Jr.
Chief, Military Awards Branch
Dept. of the Army, Military Awards Branch
TAPC-PDO-PA
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, VA 22334-0471

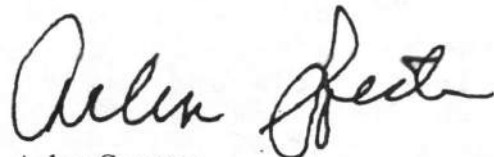
Dear Colonel White:

On behalf of Mr. Louis Gamori and the members of 83rd Infantry Division Association, Inc., the famed "Thunderbolt," it is my pleasure to forward, for your review, materials supporting the awarding of the Presidential Unit Citation for the Thunderbolt's actions during the period of April 3, 1945 through April 18, 1945.

Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 1130, and in accordance with instructions provided in your August 16, 2002, letter, enclosed you will find five copies of documentation for your review. Mr. Gamori is willing to answer any questions you may have regarding the enclosed material. He can be reached at (724) 283-4340.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Chris McNamee on my Veterans' Affairs Committee staff at (202) 224-9126. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter

AS/cm

Enclosure

cc: Louis Gamori

8 February 2003

Mr. Louis Gomori,
Historian, 83rd Inf. Division
309 East Locust Street
Butler PA 16901, USA.

Dear Mr. Gomori

During WWII, I was Commander, I&R Platoon, 329th Infantry Regiment. I noted with interest the letters in the Thunderbolt concerning actions in the Elbe River area. Following are some facts which may be of value in requesting a battle star for the Elbe River area.

WEST OF THE ELBE Our first experience in the area began at a place called Klein Mühligen, a mill sitting on top of a hill near Barby. (a good observation point). Noone was at the mill but the telephone switchboard was lighted. Maurice Weishard, my interpreter, called the operator in Calbe and asked for the Bürgermeister's (Mayor) office. Surprisingly, the operator made the connection. Maurice explained to someone there that the Americans (330th Inf Regiment) would arrive at the city in two days (that was the plan). If all German soldiers in the city were standing at the west entrance of the city with their weapons on the ground, and if white flags were flying from the buildings, the town would be spared. Unfortunately, the 330th was held up in the Harz Mountains (Mittelgebirge) and did not arrive until two days later than planned. In the meantime, we saw several trains with German troops and supplies cross the Elbe on a railroad bridge east of Calbe. But there was almost no resistance as the 330th entered the town. This was west of the Elbe.

EAST OF THE ELBE The I&R Platoon, 329 Inf. Regt. crossed the Elbe on the Truman bridge (Ponton) near Barby and was occupying part of an outpost line in a woods at the edge of a large field overlooking the city of Zerbst. In the field were anti-tank and some anti-personnel mines which our personnel had placed. One early morning we saw a man coming across the field from the city. He carried a white flag. I told Sergeant Hatcher to take a Jeep and bring the man to us. While making a gap through the mines, one of the mines exploded and seriously wounded Sergeant Hatcher (he lost an eye and was evacuated). But we picked up the man who had been sent by the Oberbürgermeister (Lord Mayor) of Zerbst who wanted the town spared. I discussed the situation with Colonel Crabill (Regimental commander). We sent the man, who was naturally shaking with fear, back with the assurance that if we received no fire upon entering, we would not disturb the city. On the morning of the attack, I think lieutenant McFarland was among the leading unit. There was one burst from a German machine-gun to the left of the town, but fortunately, none of our troops returned fire. I think it was ITC Granville Sharpe's First Battalion mounted on tanks which entered first without incident.

ALTEN GRABOW AREA From that day until 8 May (end of the war), my platoon had some hair-raising experiences east of the Elbe. These involved the villages of Kerchau, Lindau, Deetz, and finally the huge military training area of Alten-Grabow. Alten-Grabow contained 19,000 Allied prisoners-of-war. We first learned of its existence from three French PWs who had escaped. They reported that some of the PWs were American. Our orders were then to stop reconnoitering toward Berlin and concentrate on the prison camp. The following day, a German ambulance came through the German outpost line by Deetz and came toward us. It contained a German Colonel (Doctor) who said that he was the Camp Commandant. He said that the camp was running out of food and it should be evacuated. He would try to arrange a truce with the German combat troops if we would consider evacuating the prisoners. Colonel Crabill told me to let the colonel arrange the truce. Each day we escorted a Transportation Corps Company of 2 1/2 ton trucks and six ambulances through the German lines to the prison camp. We brought out Americans first, (about 1200), then western Europeans, (about 5000) then started bringing the 9000 Russian PW's out. We evacuated about 3000 of the Russians until the Russian Army (Gen. Koniev) arrived and stoppe us.

CONCENTRATION CAMP AREA. Near the center of the camp we found a wooden shack with six persons lying on cots, covered with grey, German blankets. They were the last of what had been a large number of Jewish inmates. I sent for the ambulances, my interpreter, Maurice Weisburd, and Capt Berger, one of our Medical officers who had accompanied us that day. Maurice was to explain to the prisoners that we would evacuate them to hospitals, they were now free and would be cared for. After loading Russians on trucks in another part of the camp, Capt. Berger AND I returned to the shack. Maurice was sitting on one of the cots staring. I said "Come on Maurice, did you talk to the prisoners?" He looked up with tears in his eyes and said, "They cannot speak, These are my people." I said, "Oh, that's right, you're Jewish, aren't you?" The six persons were bodies of skin and bone. Blue knuckles. Their mouths would open and close, but no sound came out. I asked Capt. Berger what their chances of survival were. He said, "If they get proper care quickly, they have about a fifty-fifty chance of recovering. We loaded them into the ambulances and that was the last we saw of them. Corporal Maurice Weisburd was moved to an Evac Hospital where he recovered and returned to us after a week.

BEYOND THE TRUCE LINE. The truce ended at the northern boudary of the camp. PFC Mike Demeter, one of our jeep drivers, a Russian speaker from Cleveland, Ohio and I were traveling near the north camp boundary. On a trail through fields we saw a man staggering as if drunk. He wore an American uniform and a wool-knit cap. I said, "That's probably one of the truck drivers who got some of the hooch that the Polish prisoners made from potatoes. Let's go pick him up." When he saw us, he yelled "My God!

Americans! He was an escaped prisoner, U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant Goldberg from New Jersey. He and three others of a bomber crew which had been shot down, had managed to escape two weeks previously with a Red Cross PW box of rations. They had been living in a large woods about a mile north of the camp. I decided to go on and pick up the others. Driving across the fields, we were about 200 yards from the forest when thirteen horsemen came galloping from the woods and surrounded the Jeep. They spoke in Russian and Demeter answered them. They dismounted and kissed all three of us on both cheeks. It was a Cossack Cavalry troop! In a few minutes, they galloped away in another direction and we walked into the woods until we found the other three prisoners. The following day the Russians came into the camp in force and we returned to Zerbst.

THE WITHDRAWAL. The regiment was ordered to withdraw to the west side of the Elbe. My Platoon was to stay with the Russians as a rear guard for a total of about a week. We lived with elements of a Russian company in a vacated house in Zerbst. One day at noon, Sergeant Herb Berner, my platoon sergeant, came in and reported a formation of aircraft overhead. The formation spelled out V--E. That evening, our headquarters reported that the war had ended. It was 8 May 1945.

After the war, I was Military Governor of Wolfenbüttel until the British took over that area and I moved with my platoon to Bavaria.

I am Chairman of the Southern Region of the Federation of German-American Clubs in Germany and President of the German-American Men's Club of Munich, Germany

Sincerely,



LTC SAMUEL W MAGILL (Ret)
Elektrastr. 11
81925 München

Tel/FAX

0049 89 911463

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Minutes of Executive Board Meeting May 2, 2003 – May 3, 2003

RADISSON HOTEL, Greentree (Pittsburgh), PA

Page 1 of 3

1. The meeting was called to order on Friday, May 2nd at 9:00 AM. Chairman, Bill Minick called on Mr. Prinzi to open the meeting with a prayer. This was then followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Mr. Gangnath took the roll call establishing the presence of the following members and a distinguished visitor:
 - William Minick
 - John Prinzi
 - Harry Kirby
 - Clifton Wooldridge
 - Robert Keck
 - Robert Gangnath
 - Robert Taylor
 - Salvatore Scicolone (See #4 below)
3. The following members were absent due to illness:
 - Mr. Carrol Brown
 - Mr. John Raikos
4. John Prinzi made a motion to appoint Sal Scicolone to temporarily act as Judge Advocate until a willing member attorney can be appointed as acting Judge Advocate during the absence of John Raikos. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor and unanimously approved by the Board.
5. Mr. Prinzi announced that Mrs. Kathleen Barone, the Director of Sales and Marketing, would take us on a tour of The Greentree RADISSON Hotel at 1:30 PM.
6. Discussions focused on the following topics:
 - A. Using the services of AFI instead of using the 83rd Division personnel at the reunion.
 - B. Send copies of the By Laws and Articles of Incorporation to each elected officer. Mr. Prinzi has updated copy. Mr. Gangnath will follow up.
 - C. The Minutes and Financial Reports were approved/accepted.
 - D. Ad Book finance system: Mr. Gangnath was appointed as the second signature on the Ad Book bank account.

- E. Cliff Wooldridge will keep all funds in the Ad Book account and submit cash flow statements to the Secretary/Treasurer.
 - F. The Deadline for submitting articles for the next issue of the *Thunderbolt* is May 10, 2003.
 - G. The Deadline for submitting advertisements for the Ad Book is July 15, 2003.
 - H. A motion was made by Mr. Prinzi to appoint Robert Keck as the backup for Joe Macaluso (who is currently ill) for the memorial Services. The motion seconded by Sal Scicolone and approved by the The Board.
7. A motion was made by Mr. Scicolone to accept the RADISSON Greentree Hotel in Pittsburgh, PA for the 2004 reunion. Motion seconded by Mr. Wooldridge and approved by The Board.
 8. Historian Lou Gomori learned from researching military archives, that near the end of WW II the 83rd Division was recommended to receive The Presidential Unit Citation for its battle at and across to the eastern side of the Elbe River. For unknown reasons, the paperwork was "lost", and the war ended. Through the offices of US Senator, Arlen Specter, Mr. Gomori has submitted reams of documents and maps – which were written in either English or German. Apparently, our request for this award is being seriously considered by the military some 58 years after the fact.
 9. Mr. Prinzi gave a report on John Raikos' current health condition. Mr. Raikos suffered a massive stroke on January 8, 2003. He first spent three weeks in a hospital and is now in a rehabilitation hospital. Mr. Raikos has a very limited speaking ability and is paralyzed on his left side. Cards and letters should be directed to his home address in Indianapolis, IN. His wife Mary will see that he gets them.

Mr. John Raikos c/o Mary Raikos
4039 Fir Court
Indianapolis, IN 46250 Phone 317-849-5139
 10. Robert Taylor and Bill Minick discussed a monument on the Cumberland River in TN, which commemorates three men from the 331st Regiment who drowned there in 1942 while on maneuvers.
 11. Mr. Prinzi raised the subject of the aging and thinning of our membership. He proposed creating an ad hoc committee to study and suggest procedures needed to close out and disband the national organization. He stated that such a plan would best be in place, ready to be implemented if/when it became necessary. No motions were made regarding this matter.
 12. Mr. Minick said personal commitments would prevent him from attending the Saturday session (May 3, 2003), and asked Vice Chairman Prinzi to chair it. Friday's meeting was closed at approximately 4:30 PM.
 13. With the attendance of President Taylor and three elected Executive Board members (Messrs. Prinzi, Wooldridge, and Keck), Mr. Gangnath declared that the required quorum existed. Mr. Prinzi thus declared the Saturday official session of the Board Meeting "opened". The time was approximately 1 PM.

14. Mr. Keck made a formal motion (seconded by Mr. Wooldridge) to increase the annual membership dues as soon as possible. Discussions followed.
 - A. It was stated that dues have remained at \$15.00 since about 1985 – a period of 18 years. An increase of \$10.00 starting with the 2004 dues was generally thought to be reasonable considering price increases that have occurred during this time period.
 - B. Some felt that \$10.00 might be too steep an increase for some members but all agreed that we should allow a “hardship waiver” to those who request it.
 - C. The issue of a dues increase beginning with the 2004 dues was approved unanimously.
 - D. Notice of this action will appear in the next *Thunderbolt* issue.

15. Mr. Taylor strongly recommended that change in equipment needs to be considered for the annual Memorial Service ceremony. The current procedure imposes a hardship on the individual who is responsible for the transportation and storage of the items being used in these services. Mr. Keck agreed to study and follow-up on this matter.

16. It was again noted that we are in need of an attorney to accept the position of “acting” Judge Advocate while John Raikos remains incapacitated. It was agreed that a notice seeking a qualified volunteer would be placed in the next *Thunderbolt*. Mr. Prinzi agreed to prepare such a text for publication.

17. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Wooldridge at 3:45 PM; seconded by Mr. Keck and unanimously agreed upon by the board members.

Respectfully submitted, Robert B. Gangnath – Secretary Treasurer

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>
Antt, Russell	M Co., 330th	W. Allen Fisher
Baker, John S., Jr.	Hq.	Dick Alexander, Jr.
Benbow, William J.	A Co., 322nd F.A.	Wife Lillie
Ibex, Charles R.	I Co., 331st	Elizabeth Ibex
Jarrell, Donald W.	Serv. 908th	Wanita Jarrell
Jones, James R.	783rd Ordnance	Rags Rangnow
Kost, Scotty	K Co., 329th	W. Allen Fisher
Loftin, Robert	AT 329th	Ellsworth Massie
Macaluso, Joseph A.	G Co., 331st	Manny Epstein
Marysz, John	C Co., 331st	Wife
Nichols, James A.	Hq., 331st	F. M. Haney
Noce, Joseph F.	C Co., 308th	Wife
Novotny, Louis J.	K Co., 329th	John "Jake" Jakubowski
Pelose, Daniel	C Co., 331st	Pat DiGiammerino
Sassano, Louis A.	A Co., 330th	Charles Abdinoor
Suchomelly, George	A Co., 329th	Dean Daniels
Swartout, Edward	Chaplain, 331st	Deborah Catrini, Grandchild
Thiebolt, Don	I Co., 330th	Stan Bielen
Young, James J.	C Co., 330th	Family

A MESSAGE TO ALL 83RD 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.

**83rd Reunion will be held at
Drawbridge Inn
2477 Royal Drive
Fort Mitchell, KY
Dates are:
September 3, 4, 5, 6, 2003**

**\$25.00 Dues are Due
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For the Year 2004**

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME (please print) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, or TOWN & STATE _____

Company _____ **Regiment** _____ **83rd Division**

Phone No. _____ **Renewal** ___ **New** ___

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

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
12 Hamlet Lane
Monroe, CT 06468-2008

Date: _____ **Signature:** _____

Descendant Membership _____ **Name**

Name of 83rd 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.**