



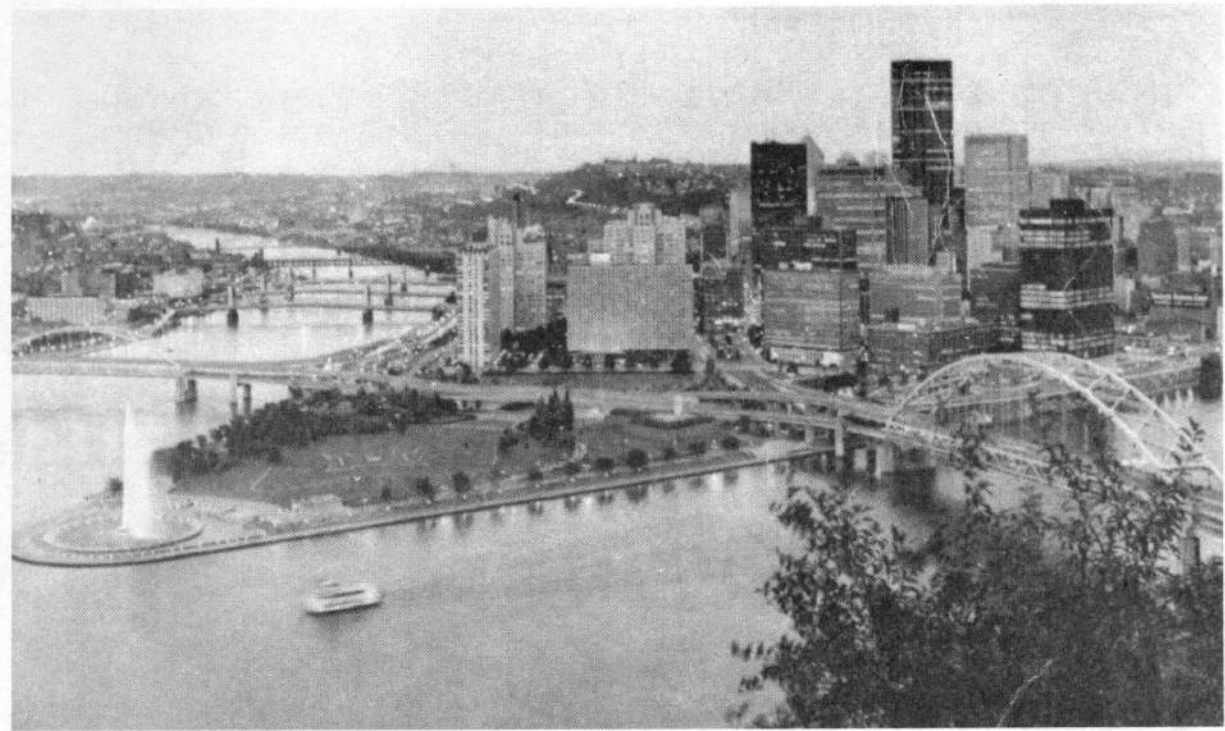
THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.
WORLD WAR II

Vol. 59 Issue No. 1

Fall Issue 2003

THE RADISSON GREEN TREE HOTEL
LOOKS FORWARD TO HOSTING THE
58TH ANNUAL REUNION
FOR THE
83RD INFANTRY DIVISION



Pittsburgh, PA, September 15 - 19, 2004

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
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A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

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1959 Charles Abdinoor	1976 Mike Skovran	1993 Louis Sandini*	
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1962 John W. Robinette*	1979 William J. Chavanne*	1996 Floyd Richmond	
1963 Manuel C. Martin*	1980 Samuel Klippa*	1997 Keith Davidson	

President's Corner

Sal Scicolone
Co. I 329 Inf.

I am gratified for your confidence in me to be your National President for 2003-2004. I will try to do my best. I hope all who attended the reunion at the Drawbridge Inn, KY had a very enjoyable time and had a safe trip home. Joe Macaluso was sadly missed at the memorial service but it was an honor to have his family present. The Radisson Hotel Greentree, Pittsburgh, PA has been selected for our 58th National reunion. The hotel is located three miles from downtown Pittsburgh. The dates are September 15th to September 19th, 2004. It has complimentary airport transportation, free parking and is well equipped with recreation facilities, dining and entertainment. At this time we are in the planning stage and are checking into several ideas to help make this another great reunion with something for everyone and especially for the ladies. There will be more information in the next issue of the Thunderbolt Magazine.

Please support the AD Book. It is very important for a successful reunion. Send your ads in as early as possible. Our membership is rapidly decreasing so let us start now making plans to attend the reunion and visit with our buddies and friends. Please try to pre-register so you will not have to wait in long lines.

Looking forward to seeing everyone next year.
Good Health and God Bless



Sal & Theresa Scicolone

Secretary/Treasurer

No Report Submitted

From The Editor

Cliff Wooldridge

I attended this year's reunion and walked and walked and walked some more but it did my new knee a lot of good. It's back to normal and feels just like it did 30 years ago. Enjoyed the reunion and had a great time meeting a lot of new people I did not know and saw many old friends.

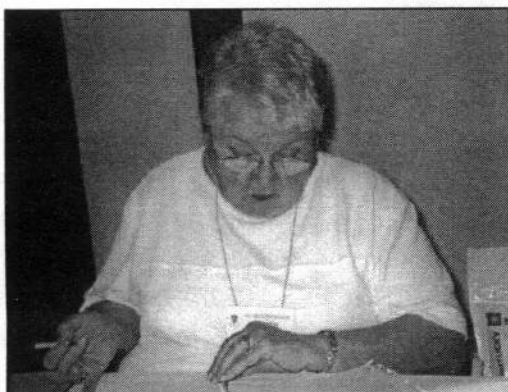
There are a few members who have not paid their 2003 dues. We will have to remove their names from the mailing list if we do not hear from them soon. If you haven't paid your 2004 dues, you will be taken off the list after the next Thunderbolt that will be out in April 2004. We cannot send the Thunderbolt if you don't mail in your dues.

The mailing list I used in May had a total of 1480 names. In August that list was down to 936 names. So far, I have not heard from anyone who did not want to receive the Thunderbolt.

I am trying to help Bob Gangnath by assisting him with membership dues. Therefore, please send your dues to my New Hampshire address along with any address changes. Thank you for your cooperation.

I'd appreciate you sending your e-mail addresses to me. When I get enough I will try to get a list together and publish them in the Thunderbolt. Please make sure you print clearly as I received one the other day and the first letter was marked over twice and we can't tell what it is but will get it straightened out.

I would like to tell you about a lady who has been a tremendous help at the reunions. She has worked at the registration table and has tried to be as helpful as possible. Her name is Edith Kreger and comes all the way from Campbellport, Wisconsin and we greatly appreciate all her help. Thank you!



Edith Kreger working hard at KY Reunion

Chairman's Corner

B. John Prinzi

In this, the first Chairman's Corner article to appear in the Thunderbolt, I want to express two things to the Executive Board and entire membership:

First is my appreciation for the opportunity bestowed on me to help lead the management of your Association over the next twelve months. I recognize fully that it is an awesome responsibility given the state of our general health - both physically and fiscally.

Secondly, I vow to favor only what I perceive to be in the best interest of the association in every action and decision that must be made during my tenure - it's immediate impact as well as beyond, into the foreseeable future.

To accomplish this, I am grateful to have a team of talented and dedicated men on the Board and wish to thank them here and now for their anticipated cooperation and assistance in the coming months.

In future issues of the Thunderbolt, I intend to brief you on Executive Board matters of concern and importance.

For example - here are two news bits:

Effective immediately, Cliff Wooldridge, in addition to his duties as "Publisher" will concurrently act as the Assistant Treasurer. This action, with the full concurrence of the Executive Committee, will greatly streamline and thus improve the efficiency of the Treasurer's office - a most imperative function to the welfare of the Association. To achieve maximum efficiency, ***please send your dues checks and all treasury related matters directly to Cliff Wooldridge.***

This change does **not**, in any way, reflect adversely on Bob Gangnath's performance. On the contrary, it is precisely because of the struggle to perform his duties under the most trying personal circumstances for which I now, publicly and on behalf of the board, extend our thanks to him. Bob will retain his elected office title of "Secretary/Treasurer".

The second news bit: Because of the foregoing development and in order to **not** delay the publication of the Thunderbolt any more than necessary, this issue is being published without the financial statements and minutes of the last meetings. Both will be included in the next issue. Your understanding is sought and appreciated.

DECEASED LIST

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

Name	Unit	Reported By
Ammon, Richard E., Sr.	Co. "A" 331st	Son Richard Jr.
Anderson, Charles A., Jr.	Co. "F" 329th	C.R. Whitcomb
Birlingmair, George	Co. "F" 329th	C.R. Whitcomb
Boner, Warren F.	Unit Unknown	Mike Kosanovich
Churpak, Andy	Co. "D" 331st	Geri Gunderson
Dunion, Joseph P.	Unit Unknown	Daughter
Fuller, George E.	Co. "F" 329th	C.R. Whitcomb
Funk, Buford S.	Co. "E" 331st	Family
Hamilton, Richard H., Sr.	Co. "F" 329th	William Nickell
Hancock, Byram	Co. "D" 331st	Geri Gunderson
Jones, Jim	783rd Ordnance	Rags Rangnow
Paquette, Albert M.	Unit Unknown	Charles Abdinoor
Pelose, Don	Co. "C" 331st	Stan Bielen
Petry, Don W.	Co. "B" 323rd	
Rigsby, Dale	Unit Unknown	Wife Edith
Schweikert, Paul E.	Co. "K" 330th	
Sicheri, Paul J.	Co. "B" 308th	Wife Evelyn
Thiebolt, Don	Co. "I" 330th	Stan Bielen
Waddle, William L.	Co. "B" 329th	Bob Taylor
Ziamba, Bro. Chester J.	Unit Unknown	Mike Kosanovich
Zingg, Jerome R.	Co. "C" 322nd	Bob Taylor & Ellsworth Massie

CHAPTERS

Boston Chapter News

Amby Tynan

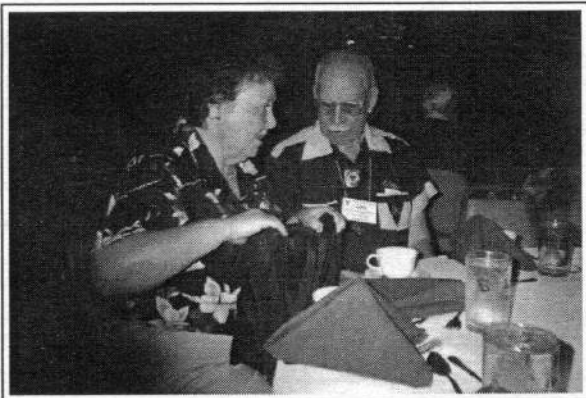
The Boston Chapter men are back from the Kentucky Reunion. Everyone had a good time.

John Tisdell was elected to the Executive Board.

Eddie McCouch and Bob Sessions to Sargeant at Arms.

Congratulations to all of you.

Cliff Wooldridge and Pat DiGiammerino drove down together to Kentucky along with their wives to lead them to the good restaurants.



Cliff Wooldridge and Nancy (Thunderbolt Printer)

Larry Arrigo tells me he enjoyed himself at the reunion.

Also, I talked to Tony Piantedosi, Tony is doing better now.

Charlie Lussier also calls me to let me know how the Fall River people are doing. He had a time at his church and got some of the 83rd people to attend.

I must give Fred Sylvia a call but he must be OK as he was at the reunion in Kentucky.

This is all I can give you about the Boston Chapter as we have had no monthly meetings.

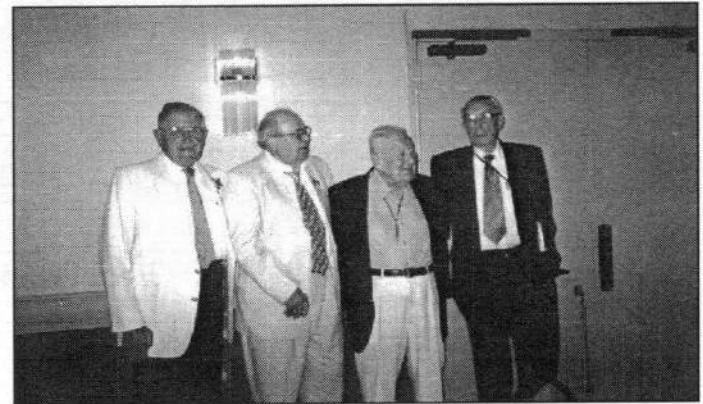


Bob & Joyce Gangnath

However I enjoy talking on the phone with some of the men.

I have been told that Erwin Erhardt and Bob Scheumann are training again at Camp Atterbury (in the mud), also getting Willie Snodgrass and Ed McCouch to join them. After a few days at the Camp, Erwin being older and smarter thinks that he will get a horse from Frank Wirth this time around.

Before closing I must say I was so sorry to



John Tisdell & His Buddies

hear about Captain Joe Macaluso, a man that cannot be replaced and a real friend to all in the 83rd Division Assoc.

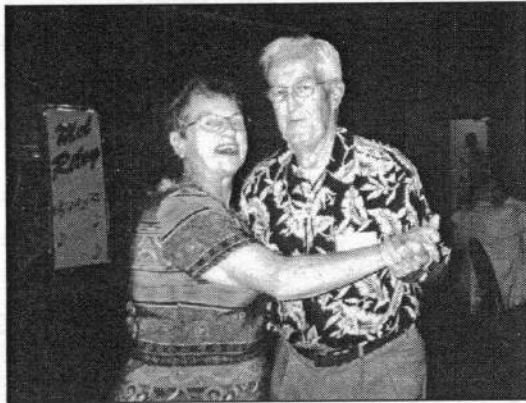
We have lost so many hard workers in the past few years. I certainly hope we will have a better year for the next reunion.



Fred Sylvia & Maria

Maybe the Boston Chapter will get more active. Boston Chapter send news to me so I can have more to report.

Until next time, take care.



Mr. & Mrs. Don Haley

Dixie Chapter News

Ellsworth Massie

I'm home after attending Spring meet of Dixie Assn. 83rd Inf. Another good meeting is recorded as history and will be remembered for many years to come.

The absent were missed. The sick remembered in prayers and cards signed and sent by our special committee chaired by Elaine Watkins and her assistants Pat Johnson and Jeanette McCroy. Hopefully we missed no one and look forward to getting together at the next scheduled meeting.

Six couples check in and have supper together on June 4, 2003. All are brought up to date and plan on the days ahead. I hear "shopping" mentioned. The ladies take the next day doing just that. Troops keep arriving through Saturday noon. 47 are present for banquet with other guests stopping in for a chat and enjoying so much they came back the next day.



Ladies

*Front: Mary Livingston, Margaret McCroy, Virginia Cox
Standing: Elaine Watkins, Jeanette McCroy, Kathryn Massie,
Alta Wilson, Charlotte Loukas*

Flo Jackson, widow of Frank Jackson, comes in with 1 daughter, 1 granddaughter and 1 great grandson. He is 5 months old and through him our future looks bright for the next century. I hope our organization can continue in the years to come. A little breakdown of attendance at Newberry. 5 widows, 4 from one family-Jackson, 4 from Miller family, 6 men from 331, 5 from 330, 2 from 329, 1 from 908 FA, 1 from 322 FA, 12 spouses and visitors, associate members and guests. Mary & William Livingston fit in so many categories.



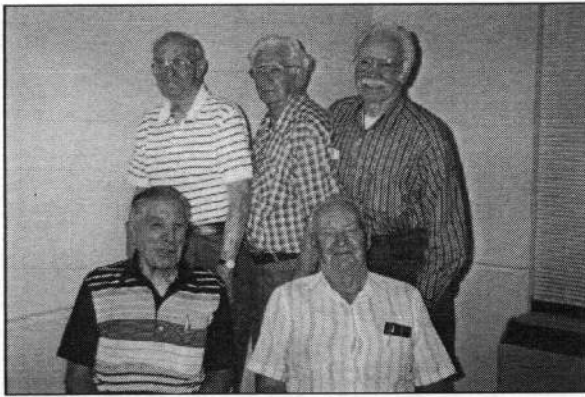
The Jackson (Flo) Family

We list them as "hosts" and extend our thanks for a job well done!!

Our new officers are sworn in. Business is taken care of in orderly fashion. New president J.I. Lamb extends invitation to all for next June in Memphis, TN.

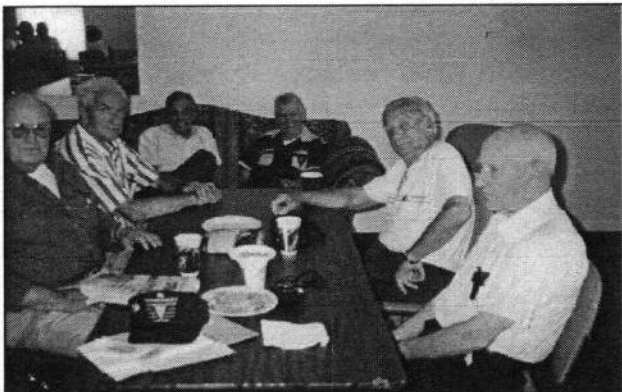
John Cox reminds all of Louisburg March 11, 12, 13, 2004. Flo says get your reservation in for Christmas party December 4, 5, 6, 2003 in Gatlinburg, TN.

We look for a good time out at the National in September 3-7, Fort Mitchell, KY. See you there! Bring a buddy and we'll have a ball together.



Left to Right: Loukas, Cox, Gray, Livingston, Massie

We have a reminder about National and Chapter Dues. Let's all check and see where we stand. We can't claim benefits and not pay dues.



Group Lamb, Baker, Loukas, Miller, Morris, Naylor

I look forward to seeing many old friends and making new ones at the National this year. Be there. I want to see you. Bring along a friend and let him in on the fun times we will be having.

O.L. Cook now in live-in facility is present. He is the only Dixie Charter Member present. I look at the charter and wonder about all the other names there are that we have lost contact with.

Frank Morris is present with his wife and going strong with old and new folks. Glad to see Tony Viglione and Willie finally getting back on track. John Cox comes loaded with jokes, old and new. I enjoyed all and can't recall a single one. Maybe next time will be different.

Say a prayer for the families of our deceased brothers. Let's get together again and as often as possible!



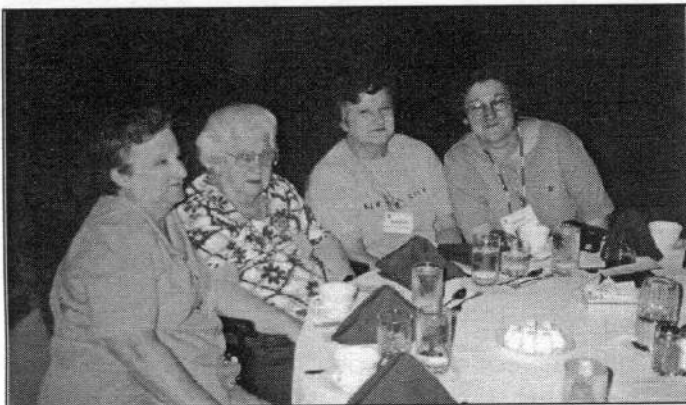
Winner of Cake from Elaine - shared by all!!

Dixie Chapter Report on National

Home at last having spent two weeks and 1900+ miles on the road enjoying the fellowship of our brotherhood of 83rd veterans. I find myself here at the head of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland awaiting the arrival of Hurricane Isabelle with so many thoughts running through my mind. If I can catch a few and put them down and extend the joys of meeting once again old time compatriots and first timers from our 57th 83rd National Meet.

The need to share feelings and join in with my friends from 83rd is so overpowering and the list of thoughts is so long. I can but share the topics of a few of them with you. I list these as they came to mind and I recorded them. Each is equally important and the individuals shall remain unnamed. They run into the 100's. Let's list a few to dwell upon.

- The story of a widow and three daughters present and remembering and honoring one of our heroes.



Widow with daughters

- The daughter seeking help in honoring the memory of her father who gave his all.
- One of our own who dies in his sleep at our meeting.
- The grandparents who leave due to death of grandchild at home.

- The four widows I am privileged to sit with at meals.



Four Precious Widows

- The three widows at the very next table with two men their husbands soldiered with.
- Neighbors from Luido, CA. One able to help in time of emergency sickness of one our own.
- One former medic with a new operation that gives him new life with his ability to hear.
- Old timers holding on, not willing to give up.
- A daughters eulogy to her father, one of our beloved leaders.
- First timers who add much to our meeting and plan to be back next year.



*2 daughters of 2 deceased vets
1 husband & 1 wife of veteran*

- A vet with family and friends (having lost his wife).

- A widow with four members of her family (one an 18 month old baby boy).



Widow with family

- Many cancellations due to sickness.
- Memorial honoring those who passed on with all those taking part - colorguard, singers, music, speakers and audience.



Vet with wife, daughter & comrade

Business taken care of looking to future.

- Those who haven't heard of us yet - still looking.
- Those sick (incapacitated) missed and honored for past service.
- Those I met for first time (such a pleasure).
- The vets from 3rd Armoured & 709 M.P.'s meeting the same time as us.
- Plans for next three years put spark and excitement into our weary old bodies and take us back 50+ years.
- Chapter reports both given and missing (all important).
- Getting to meet and make new friends (a highlight).
- Visit the family of departed friends in Illinois.
- Visit to A Btry 322 man for private reunion (unable to attend national because of health).

- The 12 super early birds met on Tuesday, September 2.
 - The 32 Dixie members and families present and enjoyed each.
 - Those who have written books and the Cadre and Triangles.
 - The missing from Btry A with only 2 present from 322 F.A.
- Stories enough to last a life time.
I do love it so!

New England Chapter News

Nick Francullo
Hq. Co. 3rd, BN 330th

Hope you all are well and survived the bad winter.

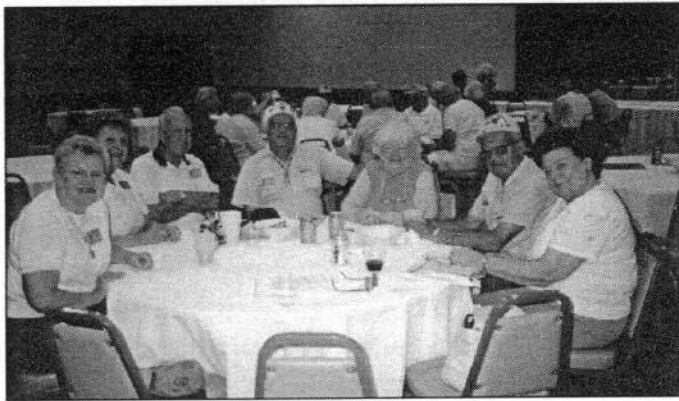
On June 22 we all headed to the Maplewoods Clubhouse where the Brennans live for an Italian buffet. It was a bad rainy day but we had a great turnout. Those attending were Nick & Mary Francullo, Lynn, MA, Ernest & Helen Smith, Lynn, MA, John & Ester Ferriera, Chelmsford, MA, August & Hazel Feries, New Bedford, MA, Bill & Jeanette McKee, Three Rivers, MA, Jim & Dot Brennan, Cumberland, RI, Americo & Marie George, Warwick, RI, Joe & Helen Petrucci, No. Providence, RI, Albert & Ann Tartaglia, Johnston, RI, John & Priscilla Walsh, Portland, ME, and Karl & Ingrid Burkhard, Carmel, NY. We missed all of our other buddies and their wives who could not make it and hope next time you can make it and don't forget it Chuck Abdinoor - ha ha ha.

Just received a call from Chuck Abdinoor that good buddy Joe Macaluso of New Orleans had passed away. We of the New England Chapter send out our sympathy to the Macaluso's. Joe was one great person and will be missed by all and especially at the memorial services.

In September, we all headed for the reunion at Fort Mitchell, KY. It was a good time and I would like to thank Bob & Gladys Taylor and Bruce Winchell and his wife in helping to make this reunion a good time. The help is not there any more as we are all getting old and slow. New England had a good turnout with the Francullo's, Brennan's, Ferrier's, McKee's, Petrucci's and the Burkhard's and Cliff Wooldridge and the Petitti's and it was great to see our old buddies and their wives again. Hope all that could not make it are all O.K.



Cook Out



New England Chapter

After the reunion Mary and I took off to her family reunion in Hawesville, KY. We had over 200 Estes families, grandchildren and great grandchildren. It was a great time. The Brennan's took off for Virginia to see their daughter and family and the Petitti's took off to see Nina's family in KY and the Ferrier's took off for home and hope all had a safe trip home.



Having a good time

Received a note from Dot Brennan that Mike and Nina Petitti are very proud of their granddaughter Heather Dion, who is a High Tech Chemist and an employee of the University of Georgia. Just recently she was featured in the Argus-Champion as a result of an interview while in route to the 225th National Meeting of American Chemical Society in New Orleans, where she gave a presentation on environmental contamination from the use of antibiotics in commercial poultry feed. Good job Heather. That's it.



Memorial Services

New Jersey Chapter News

Stan Bielen

In starting this report, my first thoughts are of Captain Mac, Joe Macaluso. When his daughter Monica called me of his passing, I felt a great loss of a friend whom I admired and respected. When I spoke to Mena, Joe's wife, I told her about his reputation as a leader and his bravery as a Company Commander of G Company, 331st was known in the First Battalion Headquarters, of which I was a part of, even though he was in the Second Battalion. I know that Colonel York, the regimental commander, considered him one of the best and gave him many tough assignments.

His leadership and dedication was a great part of our 83rd Association. He served as our 83rd President and ran a great reunion in his hometown of New Orleans. He served on the Executive Board and took on the job of conducting the Memorial Service at our reunions. We'll miss him but his spirit will be with us and we'll continue as he would have wanted.

I didn't go to the reunion so I can't give you a first hand account of who from our chapter was present. I did speak to Manny Epstein who told me it was a good reunion with a good number of people attending.

I received a call from Russell Whitehead and he was at the reunion with his wife Margarita. Russ told me that he is interested in having a Chapter Christmas Party again. By the time you read this he should have contacted chapter members on this.

We lost two members of our chapter who passed away. Don Theibolt (Co. I-330) and Dan Pelose (Co. C, 331). I hadn't heard from Don lately but Dan would call me when he had news for me. Good men who will be missed.

Charley Sihlanick has been having a difficult time health wise and had to undergo back and neck surgery to get some feelings in his legs.

Hopefully it will help so Charley is able to participate in his daughter Linda's wedding on October 19, 2003.

Chapter member Cookie Seneca was all set to go to the reunion with his family when he was taken to the hospital for emergency surgery. His daughter Maryann emailed me that info. I don't have any further information on how he is doing but I'm sure she would have informed if he wasn't doing well.

Manny Epstein gave me the name, Tony San Phillip of Staten Island, NY who wants to join our chapter. Tony, you are a New Jersey Chapter member. We appreciate your wanting to join us.

I want to express my thanks to Charley Sihlanick, Joe DePeri, Andy Socha and Tom Dowd for attending all the monthly meetings we have at the VFW in Garfield. I wasn't able to attend for a while but hope to start again.

I received a letter from Jackie and Vic Terzano in August telling me of his being in and out of the hospital since June for various reasons. He had a gallbladder removed and was still recuperating at the time of the letter. Vic was in Co. I, 329th.

Recently received a call from Bill Dennis who was a platoon leader with Co. I, 330th from August 16, 1944 to January 6, 1945. I have a cousin with the name of Bill Dennis so when he called I first thought it was my cousin, so I sounded confused Bill that was the reason. Our 83rd Bill Dennis has written a book about his time with the 83rd. I asked him to sell me a copy so when I receive it I will give you information on the book.

The reason Bill Dennis called was to get the phone number of Warren Rags Rangnow the famous 83rd author of Hut 2 for some of his experience in publishing his book. Rags I'm proud of your success! I recently had my son Kenneth, who is an author himself, read a number of books written by 83rd veterans and his opinion was that Hut 2 was the best.

My wife Fran has been in touch with Dot Skurka and she and Joe are doing well. Joe still works with no intention of quitting soon. They are still looking to hit the big jackpot in Atlantic City. I wonder if that will have him retire. Joe was in Co. I, 330th.

That's it for now, all you good folks stay well and Happy Holidays and a Healthy New Year To All!!

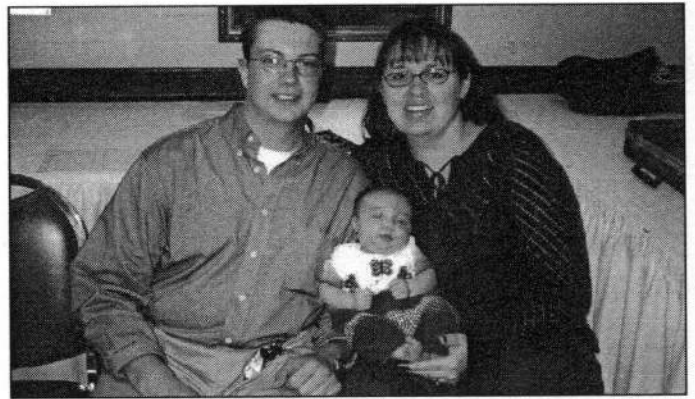
COMPANIES

Co. "F" - 329th

C.R. Bob Whitcomb

Over But Not Forgotten: Company "F" 329th members and guests I believe had a good time at the 83rd's 57th Annual Reunion, as very few gripes came my way. We chose to have a Company C.P. It was the Dover Room. We had it posted on the Inn's bulletin board for anyone wishing to stop by. We were glad when some did. We also took advantage of the Division's Hospitality room, it was quite adequate for those in attendance. The snacks and refreshments did run a little short however.

The Company's total attendance was 22 consisting of 9 members including Mike Kosanovich of "E" Co. 330th, kind of an adopted Co. Fer, 6 spouses, honorary member Mike Felmler, his wife Danyle and their 3 week old baby girl Morgan, 4 guests Ken Fuller son of Elva Fuller and the late George Fuller, Diana Sluhan of Perrysburg, Ohio and 2 former members Oscar & Scott Harrington, father & son of Louisville, KY. Two other members and their guests, 7 of them, had to cancel the outing due to health reasons.



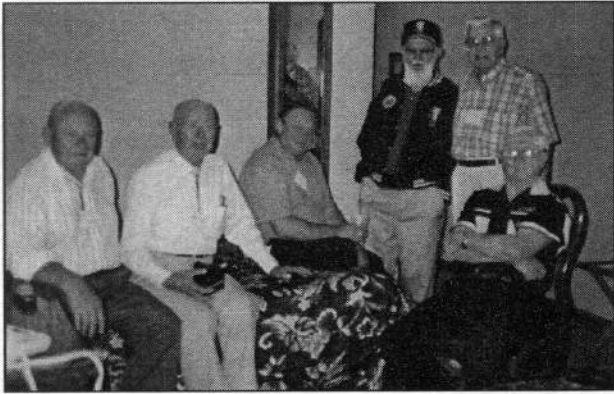
Mike, Danyle & Morgan Felmler

The Reunion in general seemed to flow quite well. Events were quite adequate and timely (except possibly for the ladies), for those wanting to participate. The table reservations were well handled, as was the group and banquet dinners, the food was good, at least mine was, speeches/announcements held to a minimum, after dinner music for dancing was good for those ready, willing and able. Drawbridge facilities, shuttles, hospitality of its' employees all were basically good.

Much of what I have written is for those of you who weren't or couldn't be there. Perhaps you will want to consider next year at the Radisson Green Tree Hotel in Pittsburgh, PA. You'll hear more about it later.



D. Keith, M. Whitehead, L. Cotter, M. Hammond, L. Whitcomb



*E. Hammond, W. Cotter, M. Hammond, R. Whitehead,
R. Whitcomb, Doc Keith*



Doc & D. Keith, L. & R. Whitcomb, M. Kosanovich



*M. Whitehead, M. & E. Hammond, Doc & D. Keith,
L. Whitcomb, M. Lewis, M. Hammond, W. & L. Cotter*

In Remembrance
Charles A. Anderson, Jr. (Chuck)

Beloved husband, father, stepfather, grandfather, great-grandfather, fraternal twin brother of John Anderson died Friday, September 19, 2003.

Anderson joined Company "F" 329th Infantry 83rd Infantry Division in October 1942 at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. Some remembrances: Chuck was 1st Platoon Staff Sgt. In addition to his duties within the Platoon he was also the Company's Guidon, basic training completed at Atterbury, Tennessee maneuvers, advanced Infantry tactics at Camp Breckenridge, KY, boat trip to England, another one across the channel landing on Omaha Beach 17 days after D-Day, combat in the hedgerows of Normandy, France including Company "F"'s well remembered ill-fated initial attach July 4, 1944.

Sgt. Anderson was wounded in the Normandy Campaign June 6 to July 23, 1944. As I recall he never returned to Company "F". Known awards Bronze Star CIB, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, EAME Service Medal W/1 Bronze Star.

Chuck and Emma were faithful supporters of the 83rd Association and Company "F" 329th, having attended all of its North Get-Togethers restarted in 1992.

Chuck will be greatly missed by all who knew him. To Emma and family comes love and sympathy. The thoughts of many are with you.



Coming Events: "North" 2004, Ashland, OH. Motel and dates later.

J'Ever Notice: "No matter what scales we use, we never know the weight of another person's burden."

783rd Ordnance Co.

Rags Rangnow

Writing these articles is becoming difficult unless you enjoy reading about everyone's latest ache or pill. However, being we have a three month time warp I best start out by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Just yesterday I was thinking about the Company and all the great years we have had together. It's truly an amazing story of how so many of us have stuck together over all these years when you consider we were only together for three years. You did the same thing with your neighborhood or college friends but how many of them do you still contact? Without a doubt the WWII military experience was something different and in that sense we are better for it.

This year we only had to add the honorable name of Jim Jones to our deceased list. For those keeping track, and looking at the bottle with the two glasses, our "known" list is now down to twenty-four men. Fellows like Bob Hammond, Snooks and Krebs have gone off the map. If anyone ever hears from them let me know.

Being from Philadelphia I got to thinking of all the 783rd fellows that came from the city of brotherly love. I'll bet you didn't realize, or care, that there were twelve of us. How many do you remember? Junior Levis, Jenice Brown, Roy Hallock, Woody Woodward, Ed Wilson, Bill Litrenta, Bill Appleby, Alex Zakorchemny, Vic Mutignani, a Chris Leithmann, whom I don't recall, Reese Phillips and myself. Now would you believe Reese and I attended Olney High but he was slower, and younger, so he graduated behind me. Correct me if I'm wrong but I believe Reese is the young one of the 783rd. Reese was 81 on September 14.

Reese along with Carl Fredericks has had a bad car year. They both totaled their cars this past summer. Reese was by himself in a three car collision and was lucky to sustain just a broken hand. Carl and Alyce weren't so lucky. They were hit on Alyce's door so she had a 10 day hospital stay plus rehab. Carl had a number of bruises. Certainly these are the types of things we don't need in our lives but I think we all agree, it's just not fun to drive anymore. So let's all pay attention and forget those short, skirted blondes!

We're all old and don't have to be told, we're 17 around the neck, 42 around the waist, and 96 around the golf course. Your back goes out more than you do. You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there. Your children begin to look middle age. Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt doesn't work. The little gray-haired lady you helped across the street is your wife.

Inasmuch as we scored a zero on the reunion you will have to read someone's article for information. We had a number of fellows who wanted to go. The spirit was willing but the flesh was weak. It's just a sign of the times. I still think we should go out with one big bash in Washington DC. The 83rd has a memorial there which most of us haven't seen plus the Vietnam and Korea walls. Traveling to Washington is easy and planning good day trips would be a snap. I'll betcha Stan Bielen, with his charm, could even get us in the White House!

As for the rest of you fellows let's see. Al Bensimon had to give up driving because of his eyes. Sam Joffman's heart was out of synch so he has been visiting hospitals. And would you believe some hood called in the middle of the night and told Sam he was dead meat because he didn't pay off on a drug deal. Scary isn't the word. Sam and Vi didn't need this so they quickly moved. New address is: 305 Thomas Drive, Apt. 2, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050, Phone 717-730-0604.

Everyone else seems to be doing OK. Nothing has changed with Doc and Agnes. Doc has a full plate. Bill Manning is still drilling away. He has now added prison work to his busy schedule. The Gilmans have been without a kitchen for two months but Ivan hadn't lost any weight until the California elections.

That's all folks. Let's hope all our Christmas cards were good news. The best I can do is wish us all a health New Year.

Co. "D" - 331st

Geri Gunderson

23 members and wives were present for the 2003 Reunion. Those attending were Harry Adkins, Nick & Sylvia Barbu, Rev. Ken Barker, Paul and Mary Dallos, Bynum Hancock, Harry & Barbara Gravelyn, Geri Gunderson, R.C. & Louise Hamilton, Jimmy & Harriet Lynch, Dan & Doris McDermott, Bill & Jeanette McKee, Marcella Nolte, Ray Richter, Frank & Mary Sabine, William & Dorothy Dauer, and Al & Charlotte Shrawder. Also their children accompanied the Gravelyn's and Lynches. All three tables of Co. "D" enjoyed the Saturday night banquet.

Company "D" also spent three days after the Reunion at Clifty Falls State Park near Madison, Indiana. Elaine & Jim Hogan (George & Polly Odenweller's daughter) met us there along with Manny Goodridge (Ser. 908 F.A.) Manny has been an adoptee of this "CO" for many years.

A day was spent at Camp Atterbury due to Helen Miller (Ames G-329) making all the necessary arrangements for touring the grounds, having lunch in the Mess hall and enjoying the Camp Atterbury Museum. Each of us wishes to thank Helen for her generosity in arranging this special event. The annual picnic was also held in the Park with everyone in attendance. Al & Charlotte arranged and planned this delightful get-together that was

so enjoyable after the Reunion. My cousin, Herman and Barbara Whalen hosted a cookout at their home on Williamstown Lake for Co. "D" also.

It is with sadness and regret that I report the following: Bynam Hancock came to the Reunion, accompanied by his brother, and joined Co. D for dinner on Thursday night and died that same night in his sleep. This was a shock to all. It was also learned that Andy Churpak died in July.

Thanks to Al Shrawder, who keeps the Co. D profile of its members, the following information is shared with you in their honor:

Bynum V. Hancock, Jr. - Joined Company D 331st in October 1942 at Camp Atterbury, IN S/Sgt. 81 MM Mortar Platoon. He received the Combat Inf. Badge and was discharged on November 15, 1945. WIA July 5, 1944 and April 12, 1945. Deceased September 5, 2003.

Andrew Churpak - Joined Company D 331st in October 1942 at Camp Atterbury, IN S/Sgt. 81 MM Mortar Platoon. He received the Combat Inf. Badge and the Bronze Star. Andy was discharged October 11, 1945. He was deceased in July 2003.

Our condolences to both of the families in their sorrow.

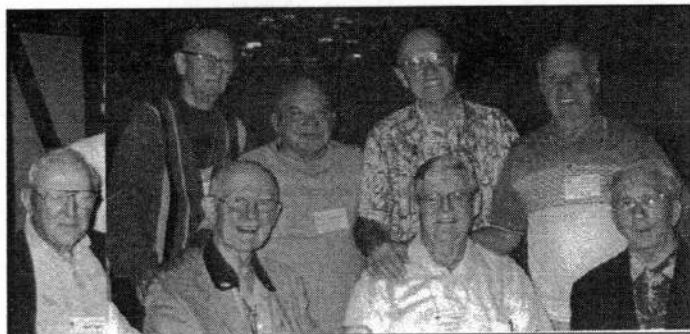
Another great reunion and get-together came to a close for this year. We are looking forward to Pittsburgh and R&R after the Reunion as always. Those of you that were unable to attend missed a fantastic time.

Note - My Address Change: 507 Lakeside Circle, Pompano Beach, FL 33060. (This was a city/fire dept. forced change) I am in the same location but the unit # and street name has changed. My phone # remains the same: 954-946-4848.

Happy Holidays to each of you. May 2004 be healthy! Keep in touch.

Co. "A" - 330th

Charles Abdinoor



*Walter Pillion, Lee Milligan, Shorty Glasser, Chuck Abdinoor
Bob Gangnath, Ed Brown, T. Steward Barrick, Earl Dunn*

Sincerely hope all is well with you all. "A" Co. was well represented and equaled last years reunion. For a line company, I am real proud of our men, wives included. This year we had the pleasure of Lee Milligan attending. Sorry to say he lost his wife after 67 years of being married to her. He holds the distinction of being the oldest man in our Co., being 92 years old. He hired his nephew to drive him all the way from Wichita, KS. Our hats are off to him for keeping in touch with us all these years. In civilian life, he was a golf pro and still plays and lives on the edge of a golf course. Paul Reed take notice. We also had our true soldier, Walt Pillion, who along with his wife Pearl, and their daughter who drove them down. We also had Ed and Pauline Brown from California, Shorty Glasser, Stew and Nellrita Barrick, Bob and Joyce Gangnath, who gave us a Swedish toast. The Dunns. We would like to endorse Stew Barrick for a national officer. He is well qualified and holds numerous offices in veterans organizations back home.

Sorry to say we missed a few of our buddies that had reservations, but due to sudden illness had to cancel at the last moment. Whitey Cuzynski, Paul Reed and their wives, Cookie Senica and his son. On our way back from Florida we stopped to see Paul and Dolores Reed. He took us to a famous seafood restaurant in Baltimore to teach me how to eat crabs. It was quite a messy

situation, but it was also an experience. We had to use a mallet, and crack the crab at the right spot. We had six crabs to work on. Needless to say, the wives had a different entree to eat. Cowards.

It is also a pleasure to see Ed M'Couch and his son Ed, Jr. trying to talk Ed into helping Bob in the Sec./Treas. job. It seems Bob has his hands full taking care of Joyce full time. Missed Amby and Nancy Tynan and Also Stan and Fran Bielen, We also missed the Prussmans, who also had reservations. I was sorry to hear of the passing of Lou Sassano, who was in the Co. I have been trying to trace him down for years, was lucky to get in touch with his wife, but I was two years too late. I will send his family a Thunderbolt issue and Ad Book. Cliff is good enough to give me some extras which I mail to some of our Company men whom I have been trying to get to join the Assoc. I also send them to our deceased former members. Their family really appreciates them, and that we still have them in our hearts. It makes me feel good to have that close bond that we once had. We still have our two platoon leaders, Capt. Paul Reed and 1st Lt. Walt Pillion that are still trying to link up with one another. Hopefully Pittsburgh will be the place. I have to mention Manny Epstein. I always wear his patriotic silk tie that he gave me. I also miss our departed close friends - too numerous to mention, but they are always in my prayers. Incidentally I have to mention that Father Frank M'Cartin had a luncheon, celebrating his 65th year as a priest. He was the brother of Spike M'Cartin who was in H Co. 330th, who passed on. Father Frank celebrated Mass for us at the reunions. As a final note, I finally found a member who was in my old Company "B".

Stay healthy and maybe we will finally see Dutch and Helen Smith once again in Pittsburgh.

HISTORIAN

Louis Gomori

HEADQUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIVISION APO 83 U S ARMY

REPORT OF OPERATIONS

PERIOD 1 NOVEMBER 1945 TO 30 NOVEMBER 1945

A. EMPLOYMENT OF US FORCES.

During this period the 83rd Infantry Division occupied, secured and governed its assigned area in that portion of Land-Ober-Danau, Austria, west of the Danube River. This area is comprised of the following Bezirks : Vocklabruck, Gmunden, Ried, Kirchdorf, Steyer, Land, Linz Stadt, Wels, Grieskirchen, Scharding and Braunau. (For disposition of troops see Incl. No. 3, G-3 Reports of Operations, Periodic Report No. 255/atcd overlay.)

The 83rd Cavalry Reconnaissance troops was relieved of its mission of guarding the USDIC at Gmunden (V5242) and moved to Horsching Airfield (V7779), closing at 091600 Nov. 45. The troop was assigned the mission of division mobile reserve, maintaining one platoon on 2 1/2 hour alert.

The advance detachment of the 4th Cavalry Group arrived in the division area at 101815 Nov. 45. Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 4th Cavalry Group, closed in area vicinity Wilhering (V7789) at 251210 Nov. 45. The 24th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron closed in area vicinity Bad Schallerbach (V5878) at 251700 Nov. 45. The 4th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (less one troop) closed in area vicinity Bad Hall (V8258) at 291400 Nov. 45. (See Incl. No. 3, G-3 Report of Operations, periodic Report No. 257).

The 83rd Chemical Mortar Battalion was relieved of attachment to the division and departed for Camp Herbert Tarreyton, France, at 111200 Nov. 45.

The 1347th Engineer (C) Group was attached to the division on 15 Nov 45. The 308th Engineer (C) Battalion and the 1277th Engineer (C) Battalion. Co. "A", 11th Engineer (C) Battalion, was attached to the division at 281430 Nov 45 and further attached to the 1347th Engineer (C) Group.

During the period 1 Nov 45 to 30 Nov 45 a total of 32 Officers and 401 EM were received in the Division and 18 Officers and 655 EM were transferred out. (See Incl. No. 1, G-1 Report of Operations).

There was no movement of Command Posts or cases of troops employed in quelling riots, insurrections or subduing armed resistance during this period.

B. RELATIONS WITH ALLIED FORCES.

The relations with our allied forces continued to be cooperative and cordial. With the exception of a few minor problems arising during the month, the overall survey was relatively quite.

The introduction and coordination of a new and more uniform pass system for military and civilian travel in Austria seemed to be the biggest issue of the month. There were no other alterations in policies and agreements.

Along the divisions northern and eastern boundary, relations with the Russians continues to remain satisfactory. Most of the problems were settled by continuous liaison between the division and the Russian Command Post at Urfahr, Austria. Along the Enns River the main contact points with the Russians continues to be the Enns railroad and highway bridges at St. Valentine, Austria.

Some difficulties still arise in coordination of railway traffic between the Russian and American zones, but each problem is solved at the scene of the incident.

A number of Soviet Red Army soldiers apprehended in our zone were promptly returned to the Russians in Urfahr.

Immediately after taking command of the 31st Russian Corps, Major General Baklanov expressed his desire for the continuation of the cordial and cooperative relations that have existed in the past.

On the division's southern boundary very little liaison was carried on between the Americans and British. Due to heavy snow-falls and mountainous terrain in this region very little military and civilian travel was carried on between the two zones. Vehicular and foot traffic was practically halted for the month of November.

Strict adherence to regulations concerning Displaced persons, entrance into the 83rd Division area and into the U S Zone of occupation have been followed by screening detachments. Discharge papers stating Division area or American Zone as ultimate destination and the pink four language pass are the only two possibilities recognized. All others are considered illegal. Of these illegal entries it has been observed that for the most part there is a total ignorance of Allied border policy. To further complicate matters "authorized" travel permits, etc., are issued by unauthorized persons or agencies, civilian and military. The bearer is subsequently admitted into the zone and soon finds himself being held in a camp as an illegal entry.

There was a continued decrease in the number of all crimes during the past month. There has been some sporadic outbursts of crime in certain outlying bezirks. The civilian police have taken steps to meet these threats in each instance by transfer of personnel, strengthening posts involved, or by the organization of auxiliary police where necessary.

C. RELATIONS WITH FORMER GERMAN FORCES.

This portion of the report can best be dealt with by referring to the Division Surgeon's report, inasmuch as our relations with former German Forces is confined mainly to those under our medical jurisdiction, with the exception of those in Prisoner - of - War lagers and labour companies.

The Wehrmacht Prisoner - of - War hospitals comprise the bulk of our hospitals and are made up of both general and specialized hospitals. The transfer of German patients into Germany has been virtually completed. Every effort was made to staff hospitals with Austrian personnel with a minimum of American control. This program is being carried out so that we will be able to transfer these hospitals to the Austrian government without difficulty. Close contact is being maintained with Military Government Health Offices and the Austrian Public Health Officials. (See Incl. No. 5, Special Staff, Division Surgeon's Report of operations).

Disarmed Enemy Personnel under guard in the Division Area total 15,972 EM and 520 Officers. These forces are used mainly in connection with the wood cutting program and all menial and in some cases skilled tasks. The majority are formed in Labor Companies under supervision of the line regiments and Div Arty.

D. RELATIONS WITH THE CIVIL POPULATION.

There was a continued decrease in the number of all crimes during the past month. There has been some eporadic outbursts of crime in certain outlaying Bezirks. The civilian police have taken steps to meet these threats in each instance by transfer of personnel, strengthening posts involved, or by the organization of auxiliary police where necessary.

The reconstitution of both the civil police and state police is proceeding satisfactorily. The training is a combination of the usual recruit and in-service schooling since, in view of the short supply of men in relation to the demand, the recruits are employed part-time in service in company of experienced policemen. The recruit schools were inspected by the Military Area Commander, Major General Robert Macon, on 27 November 45. (See Incl. No. 2, G-2 Report of Operations).

With the cooperation and industry of unit surgeons and their enlisted personnel, the oppice of the Division Surgeonsupervised the sanitation and health of approximately 34,190 Displaced persons in some seventy (70) camps in the Division Area. The problem was rendered more complex by the high degree of mobility of these people and by the rapid turn-over of the poulation of the camps. None the less, regular and exacting inspections of personnel and installations succeeded in maintaing a relatively high degree of health and sanitation. Communicable diseases were reduced to a minimum, the caloric content of their food was adequate, living quarters and facilities were constantly improved, and medical facilities were constantly available to all. In this phase of the Surgeon's Section activities, the Division medical Inspector played the most prominent role and submitted reports of his investigations and recommendations both to the Commanding General and to the unit commanders and Staff sections concerned.

Particular attention was directed to the immunization program and as the month, almost all of the personnel in DP installations had received or were receiving the required inoculations. As a further precaution against disease, the flow of necessary medical supplies was expidited and infirmaries or dispensaries established in each camp. These latter were conducted by civilian or Displaced Persons medical personnel under the supervision of unit surgeons and both daily and weekly health and sanitation reports were submitted. (See Incl. No 5, Special Staff, Office of Division Surgeon, Report of Operations).

Displaced Persons and Disarmed Enemy Forces Hospitals.

The Medical Department controls 22 hospitals in the area with a bed capacity of 7,000 and a patient census of 3,600. The area has been devided into three zones, the ISCHEL, GMUNDEN, and LINZ areas. Each zone is in control of an American Officer who is responsible for the organization, operation and efficiency of the hospitals. There is a complete Austrian organization in each area headed by an Austrian Administrator.

There are three (3) categories of patients, SS, Wehrmacht and Polish and Jewish displaced persons. All SS are hospitalized in three (3) large, easily guarded hospitals and only SS personnel are being treated in these hospitals. The three (3) hospitals are situated in our area so as to easily serve the SS camps and numerous SS labor companies in the area. 2,140 beds are available and the patient census averaged 1,470 for the month of November.

Under our control are a few highly specialized hospitals, namely, the neurological and neurosurgical center at Bad ischel and the plastic surgical and prosthetic services at Gmunden. In these hospitals we receive individuals, civilians, displaced persons as well as prisoner-of-War patients that are unable to obtain these services elsewhere.

We have established and control three (3) Polish and Jewish displaced persons hospitals. The largest of these is a 480 bed Hospital in Linz. This hospital is administrated and completely staffed with Polish and Jewish personnel. It receives displaced persons from Steyr, Linz and Wels Area. This hospital is staffed by Austrians. Throughout our area we have attempted to develop an organization that would be able to work without American supervision or aid. 2,500 beds are being maintained for our expected influx of Austrian patients from Germany and Russia. We have laid plans that, if necessary, we could handle some 3,500 patients. (See Incl. No. 5, Special Staff, Surgeon's Section Report of Operations).

E. MISCELLANEOUS.

During this period all signal troops are employed in Linz except for two Message Center clerks who operate the distribution center at Wels, Austria. A detachment of Signal personnel from the 63d Signal Battalion are operating the Radio Link and Linz Long Distance Board. This group includes 16 enlisted men and one Officer.

A number of screened civilian personnel are being used as telephone switchboard and teletype switchboard operating personnel at the PTT Building in Linz. An effort is being made to obtain more civilian switchboard operators as constant loss of Army personnel makes this job a critical one in Linz.

During this period numerous lines in the Division area were turned back to civilians for use in their system. An effort is being made in this area to turn over to the civilians all lines not urgently needed by the military units.

During November the Division was included in the USFA Radio Net and we now have radio communication to higher headquarters. A division command net was established and includes the regiments, Division Artillery, Reconnaissance Troop and two Group Headquarters attached to the division. Each lower unit has established a plan for emergency radio communication to their isolated units in case of failure of wire communications.

It has been learned in this type of communication set up that it is necessary to supplement the personnel in the wire operations and construction platoons. Also that construction and wire operations personnel be pooled to carry out the mission. This policy is being followed by the Signal Company and communication sections of lower units. (See Incl. No. 5, Special Staff, 83d Signal Company, Report of Operations).

The wood cutting program under the G-4 section was continued throughout the period, utilizing both civilian and military wood, to meet the Vienna requirements. The Division was complimented by the USFA G-4 for its fine work in

keeping the Vienna wood supply up to requirements. Transportation for hauling military wood was augmented, 2 1/2 ton cargo vehicles from Division Quartermaster were used and replaced by Quartermaster 10 ton semi-trailers. Civilian wood hauling was aided by turnover of CEM trucks to officers assigned to assist the civilians in such Bezirk. A noticeable improvement in the quality of wood available and shipped was seen in the month of November.

The supply of DP and DEF camps was carried on in an aggressive manner with a factory being put into operation for cutlery for these camps and furniture and stove factories continuing in operation. Glass for all camps is now available in sufficient quantities for all purposes.

Clothing for DP's and DEF's is now being made available and issued in sufficient quantities so that all DP's and DEF's should be sufficiently clothed for the coming winter. Procuring of dye for DP clothing, that is of GI nature, is extremely difficult and a serious situation exists that prevents the issue of GI clothing. Stoves were made available in large quantities to DP camps. An order was put out to initiate action to make each DP and DEF camp self-sufficient for transportation. Coke and hard coal for DP camps and DEP hospitals with centralized heating has been authorized by USACA. (See Incl. No. G-4 Report Of operations).

The 308th Engineer Combat Battalion with Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Company "A" in Linz, Austria, Company "B" in Schwanenstadt, Austria, and Company "C" in Ried, Austria have been performing duties in both labor and supervisory capacities entailing the following :

a. Supervision of repairs of the railroad yards at Linz and Attnang, Austria using civilian and POW labor and at this date have consumed approximately three and a half million (3,500,000) man hours in the repair of switches, tracks, signal and message equipment and the repair of offices.

b. Construction and repairs of highways and highway bridges

c. Supervision of the Linz City Canal Department (Sewage Disposal).

d. Repair and construction of one (1) hospital, repair and construction of approximately 85 DP camps and approximately 12 POW camps.

e. Supervision and repair of Linz City Utilities, Gas, water, electricity and street repairs).

f. Central heating conversion (coal to oil).

g. Supervision of 8 coal mines.

h. Operation of two saw mills, two sign shops and various other miscellaneous engineering jobs.

The 1277th Engineer Combat Battalion with headquarters and all companies in Linz, Austria have been performing duties entailing the following :

a. Supervision of the construction and repair of the Quartermaster supply depot in Wels, Austria.

b. Repair of USFA Engineer Depot E-4 in Linz, Austria.

c. Repair of Signal Depot in Wels, Austria.

d. Supervision of construction of PRE-FAB Barracks.

e. Operations of Map reproduction Plant in Schilerbach, Austria, one sign shop in Hart, Austria and various other miscellaneous engineering jobs.

The 1277th Engineer Combat battalion was alerted for movement to the ZI and became non-operational 24 November 45 releasing all of their jobs to the 308th (C) Battalion.

The 465th Engineer Depot Company (Separate) located in Linz, Austria assumed responsibility of operations of the USFA Engineer Warehouse E-4 in Linz, Austria with the assistance of the 459th Engineer Maintenance Company (Separate) also located in Linz, Austria.

The 971st Engineer Maintenance Company (Separate) with headquarters in Linz, Austria are performing their normal duties of repair and maintenance of CEM and American Military Equipment.

Company "A" of the 11th Engineer (C) Battalion with headquarters in Salzburg, Austria was attached to the 1347th Engineer Construction Group and moved to Wels, Austria where they became operational at 0800 hours 30 November 45. They have assumed the responsibility of supervision, construction and repairs of the following :

a. The Quartermaster Supply Depot, Wels, Austria and the Signal Depot project, Wels, Austria.

b. Operation of two sawmills (2) Wels, Austria.

c. Map Reproduction Plant, Wels, Austria.

(See Incl. No. 5, Special Staff, 1347th Engineering Construction Group, Report of operations).

During the period 1 November 45 to 30 November 45 the Miscellaneous Section of the Adjutant general's Section had processed and published the following awards :

Bronz Stars	153
Silver Stars	7
Purple Hearts	6
Unit Citations	3

Total disbursements by Division Finance Office amounted to 939,777.50 dollars which was a considerable increase over the preceeding month.

Recreation activities included an increase in furloughs, leaves and passes with a total of approximately 750 Officers and EM receiving vacations in Switzerland, United Kingdom, Paris, Riviera and Rome. During this period the Division and attached units employed 54 packet shows and 78 dance bands, composed of the civilians from the Landee Theatre, Linz, Austria. In addition the Division had one USO show, one soldier band concert, and three civilian shows giving a total of 24 performances to an audience of 16,085 persons. The Division Rest Center, " The Oberhaus" located at Passau continued to operate with trains making daily trips to Passau and back to Linz. (See Incl. 1, G-1 Report of Operations).

Information and Education activities for this period were as follows :

I INFORMATION

Lectures and discussions were held twice weekly in all companies of the Division, using orientation material distributed to all units. An Information and Education program for displaced persons was set in motion.

II EDUCATION

1. Four Division level schools and four Regimental schools were established during the month. The Regimental schools and one of the Division level

schools offered general Academic and Commercial courses. The three other Division schools specialized in the following fields :

a. One school offered courses in auto-mechanics and production line procedure. For these courses, a portion of the Steyr Auto Works was secured.

b. A school in welding was established at the Herman Goering Steel Works.

c. A school of Fine Arts was established in Linz offering Commercial and Fine Arts and languages.

2. A total of 40 courses were offered in the eight schools within the Division and were divided into 102 different sections with the total enrollment of 744 students.

Seventy men from the Division attended Army University Centers during the month. 69 attended Technical Schools at Warton and Weihenstephan and 34 men attended courses in various civilian agencies in the United Kingdom and France. (See Incl. No. 5, Special Staff, Office of I & E, Report of Operations.

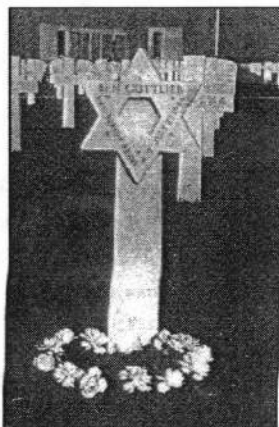


Pvt. Benjamin Gottlieb

KIA July 23, 1944 - St. Lô, Normandy
83rd Div., 329th Inf. Reg.

Medals: Purple Heart, Heroic Achievement
Metal, 2 Battle Stars, Normandy Gold Medal
(France), Frontline Britain

Buried: American Military Cemetery,
Normandy, France



"Are You Ben's Son"

Copyright 1997

Michael Gottlieb

I was sitting in a little synagogue on Stanton Street in the lower east side when someone tapped me on the shoulder. "Are you Ben's son?" I turned around, a bit startled, and this man added, "I mean the 'Ben' who is president of this synagogue?" I tried to explain that my Ben, my dad, had been killed in combat in Normandy in 1944 when I was a baby but he didn't seem to hear me. I dropped the subject, but inwardly I felt a reminder of just who I am and where I came from.

"Will Michael Gottlieb, son of Benjamin Gottlieb, please come up to the podium." I was thunderstruck. I had never heard that name before. Who was Benjamin Gottlieb? I was 13 years old and the rabbi called me up at my bar mitzvah. As soon as possible I approached my mother and she told me that Benjamin Gottlieb was indeed my biological dad and that he had been killed in combat fighting the Germans as an American-Jewish soldier. She showed me some pictures of this man. This terrible,

terrifying secret was finally out of the closet. Yet I felt largely numb, empty inside. I didn't feel anything. Nor did my mother or I pursue this subject.

As I got older I yearned to learn more about this stranger who gave me my last name. But my mother, to this day, has been unable and unwilling to really open up and share. Even a professional bereavement counselor could not help my mother to open her heart. The wound is just so deep, so painful and has festered for so long. Sudden, violent death and yes, unexpected. When my dad was killed, my mother was deeply and profoundly wounded too. And there was no bereavement counseling, no maternity care (I was a baby). My mother's sisters, in a despicable act of heartless cruelty and coldness, abandoned both my mom and me. Same with my dad's 'brothers'.

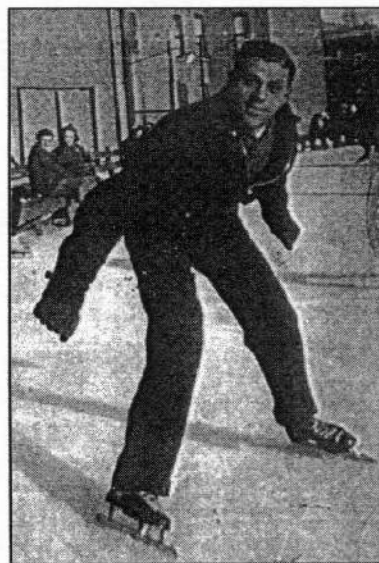
I am now 54 years young. I have been able to piece together a little of what this stranger-dad was like as a person. He loved sports, including ice skating, hockey, boxing, etc. He dabbled with fixing cars. He railed against the corruption, insincerity and dishonesty of politicians. He loved his young wife and baby deeply. There was a very deep bond of love between my dad and my mom. He had no desire to kill Germans or anyone else but he had no choice. He and his brother soldiers believed that if anything happened, the government and the Army would take care for the widows and orphans left behind. These brave, dedicated men were badly betrayed. They endured unimaginable and unspeakable horrors, bloodshed in order to defeat the Nazi butchers.

It is November 11, 1995. I am standing in the midst of WWII veterans preparing to march in "The Nation's Parade". It is the last big hurrah of WWII parades, marking the 50th anniversary of the end of that bloody slaughter. I am marching as a contingent of

one person to represent the 183,000 American children who lost their dad-soldiers (Infantry, Navy, Air Force, Marines) during WWII. Ironically and tragically, my research indicates this is the first public recognition of war orphans since Abe Lincoln delivered his second inaugural address in 1864. Lincoln said, "... to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who hath borne the battle and for his widow and orphan ...".

We are marching along 5th Avenue. There is patriotism and friendliness in the air. My heart is bursting with pride and happiness. The crowds lining both sides of the Avenue wave and smile and applaud us. I feel like it's a holiday, a celebration. An Irish band is playing military tunes. I feel so thrilled and excited. Then I look to my left and I see a little boy holding the hand of a man about 30 years old. Suddenly, I feel a knife-like pain in my heart. This pain must have showed in my eyes because the man looked right into my eyes. I could feel the searing pain. My dad had never held my hand. I never had the love and affection from my daddy.

Daddy, I never know you.



Benjamin Gottlieb

"Death, Be Not Proud"

The pain of this gigantic loss
The pain of separation
The bitterness, the hurt, the unfairness of it all.

Death, be not proud. Humble thyself ...
and know
Thou art not permanent
But only a temporal wall.

Death, be not proud ... for there is one
who hath penetrated thy veil
There is one who hath overcome thee.
Death, be not proud ...



Cliff,

A veterans group asked if I had photos of Bob Hope when we saw him in Germany. I did not, recalled I had one of Jack Benny and they wanted that. I have enclosed a copy along with a copy of the Danube at Passau that the group wanted, so I include it.

Ingrid Bergmann was with Benny but did not swim with us. She was rehearsing for her Joan of Arc movie.

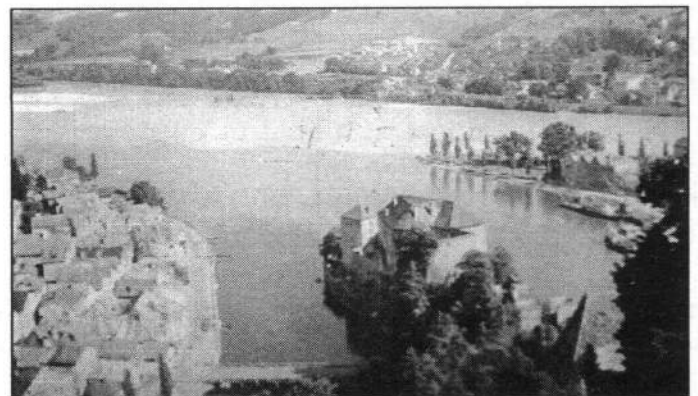
The Oberhaus and Unserhaus Castle at Passau was used as a Div. 83rd HW and then as a Rest Center.

Take Care and God Bless.

Hal
63rd Signal



*Passau on Danube 1945
Went swimming with Jack Benny & his singer Martha Tilton
Hal is in back of Miss Tilton*



*Passau, Bavaria, Germany where 3 rivers join.
The Ilz on left, Panube Center & Inn on right
Taken from Oberhaus Castle 1945*



Dear Cliff,

I got a letter from Richard E. Ammon, Jr. in regards to his dad. He would like to know if you can pulish the letter and 2 photos for him. He wants to correspond with anyone that knew him - thanks.

Lou Gomori

My dad, Richard E. Ammon, Sr., was wounded and went to a hospital someplace in Germany, but because of the records center in St. Louis MO fire, they cannot get any information.

Does anyone of your reunion group have any idea when that might have been?

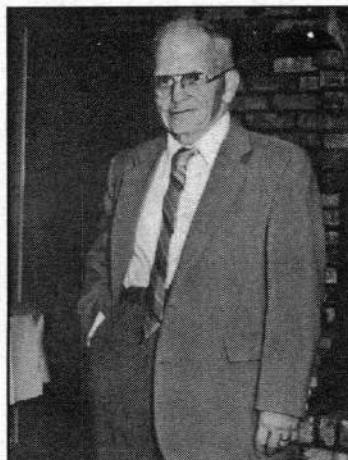
Dad told us that because he was shorter than most of the guys (he was 5' 3"), he was the radioman, always carried two-way radios.

I would like to hear from someone who could let me know what you remember about my dad, how he got from the US to Europe and got back. Thank you.

Richard E. Ammon, Jr.
Winter Park, FL
R&SAmm@CS.Com



Richard E. Ammon, Sr.
PFC, U.S. Army
Co. A, 331st Inf.
83rd Division



Richard E. Ammon, Sr.
1987



Documentary about 83rd Soldier Airs in North Carolina

The documentary, *Thank You, Eddie Hart*, about a soldier in the 83rd Infantry Division recently aired on North Carolina public televisions - including a prime time Veterans Day showing! The story is about PFC Eddie Hart - 329th Regiment, 2nd Battalion, 1st Platoon, G Company - who was killed in Barby, Germany on April 12, 1945. Eddie was buried at the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten and a Dutch woman, Betty Vrancken, adopted his grave in 1946. Since then, either Betty, or her brother, Johan, has visited Eddie's grave several times a year - over 57 years and counting! Thus, what began as a young Dutch girl's show of appreciation for her liberation from the Nazis has evolved into a lifelong commitment to a soldier she never knew.

The documentary features several members of the 83rd. Dick Coyle from Port Washington, New York; Paul Willis of Canton, North Carolina; Dr. Marshall Keith from Blounts Creek, North Carolina; John Cupina from Binghamton, New York; and LaFayette Smith from Kinston, North Carolina. In addition, many 83rd members contributed support, information or photographs including Norbert Berndt, Bill Hutton, Jack Straus, Bob Whitcomb, Lou Gomori, Bill Nickell, John Prinzi and the 83rd Executive Board, Ted Szalczewski and Victor Terzano. Eddie's niece, Debbie Holloman, helped with research and contacted many members or relatives of the 83rd Infantry Division.

Brenda Hughes of Wet Bird Productions, who produced/wrote/directed the documentary along with a talented team, wrote an article for this newsletter in 2002, telling us about the project and her crew's emotional journey to the cemetery with Eddie's family. Now that it is complete, she hopes that it will air nationally and promises to keep us updated on her progress. For more information, you can go to: www.thankyoueddiehart.com. VHS and DVD's will also be available for sale - to order, you can call 1-888-703-5033.



The following is a letter to Pat DiGiammerino from Maria and Henry Scheitler of Luxembourg who faithfully take care of the graves of our 83'ers.

Dear Pat,

It's a long time ago from my last letter. The cause of my delay, the post was striking.

How are you. I hope you and your family are OK. The last four weeks it was very hot, the temperature from 80° to 100° F.

The last Memorial Day of the cemetery in Henri-Chapelle was a disaster. It was raining from the beginning of the ceremony to the end. Rain or sunshine, nothing can detain my duty for our good boys.

I wish you and your family all the best. Big kiss for Ginny from Maria & Henry. God Bless.



Pictures from Memorial Day, May 2003



From Hal O'Neill, 83rd Signal

Why We Fight

This article was written many, many years ago and never typed up. At that time I believed most veterans knew about it and it would be of little interest. Today, many do not recall it.

Why We Fight is a nine hour long military movie that all troops were supposed to see during basic training and it was entered on your records. We took it in three hour gulps and most were soon asleep, bored or daydreaming of girls or home. I remember because when I was transferred my records were lost and I had to see it again along with a repeat of all my shots.

It was mostly black and white newsreels strung together by narration. It began with the Japanese invading Manchuria and China in the early thirties, then the Spanish Civil War, Italy in Ethiopia, Hitler taking most of Europe and Japan conquering much of the Far East. Stalin and the Russian Communists were whitewashed since they were now on our side.

According to the film we would fight because of Patriotism, to avenge Pearl Harbor, liberate conquered peoples and end Facissm. I talked with many men in my company and in others. Some did join for the reasons in the film, most did not. Enlisting was better than waiting for the draft, his friends were joining, he would do almost anything to get away from farm work, he had no skills and this was the best job offer in sight, girls like a guy in uniform, the war would not last long and he wanted to do his bit, a few admitted that a judge gave them a choice between jail and enlisting, etc.

The above follow a pattern from the days of the American Revolution. When a Historian interviewed elderly survivors of Washington's Army, they knew little of taxation without representation, the Stamp Act or Boston Tea Party. They did not want the British to tell them what to do, wanted to get off the farm, join

neighbor boys and see strange places like New Jersey. The Civil War had states rights, slavery and save the Union. But again, it was no Yankee is going to tell us what to do, don't care about slavery, but my brother is in, I will get out of Wisconsin and see a big city, took the bonus and went home.

A few days after Pearl Harbor I was fingerprinted, given an I.D. putting me in the Civilian Signal Corps and ordered to report to the Pentagon in Washington D.C. We did not know if the Pentagon was a person, place or disease. It was a huge, unfinished building smelling of wet concrete. We were to build telephone central offices and were deferred from military service until further notice. We worked 12 hours a day, six days a week until 48 hour weeks in 1943 with my deferment ended. My draft board back in New York State sent me greetings.

Men fight in combat for their buddies, for their squad, section or other unit AND to survive. You fight to survive enemy fire, cold, hunger, being lost in No Man's Land and to avoid capture.



Dear Cliff,

I appreciate your quick response to my request to enroll in the Association. I have become quite a computer user and over the past five years have been trying to find out the whereabouts of some of my buddies I served with while in the service. I have given Carl Moeller quite a few photos of scenes taken during the war. I was in the Signal Corp. and worked with a crew of 5 or 6, but since there were various units within the Signal Corp. I got to know them also. I have made contact with very few and have finally come to the conclusion that not many are still among us. I have a group photo of some of the guys whom I served with taken around the late 50's or early 60's at one of the reunions. I am wondering whether it would be possible to print the photo in your next issue asking for those still living to contact me via email or regular mail. I will also enclose the names of some of the men, some of which I cannot



Front Row: Brown, Redman, Brenneman
 Second Row: ??, Gonsalles, Shorty Shepard, Huck, Fenton,
 ??, ??, ??, Haugh
 Back Row: Dudley, ??, ??, ??, Chicos, McCallum, Hathaway,
 ??, ??

*For sure deceased are Chicos and Hathaway.
 The faces are here but names become vague.*



Front Row: Col. Ryan, Shorty Shepard, ??, ??
 Back Row: ??, Fenton, Chicos, Brenneman, Hathaway

remember. In fact I will send two group photos with names as I have them.

Another inquiry would be as to whether you might have a list of current living members of the 83rd or is this an impossible task?

My email address is:

cbrown@buckeyeinternet.com and my home address is 1316 Kerr Ave., Lancaster, Ohio 43130. The web page for those who might have computers for the 83rd and compiled by Gary Moeller and has a lot of history told by several personnel. There are several categories that can be brought up such as the 'Honor Roll' and the 'Archives'. Many names both living and deceased appear on the Honor Roll (I am fifth) and in the Archives many photos (I have many I sent in). The Web page is <http://www.atomic.pair.com/wwii>.

Thank you for your kind courtesy.
 Clark Brown



Riot Training

After student campus riots and the attacks on firemen and police in ghetto areas, the Army Reserve assigned selected units to take riot training. My unit went to a local college campus along with several fire engines and their personnel. Instructors lectured and showed films of firemen under assault. Fire trucks had axes, hooks and other possible weapons removed from the open sides. Thick steel roofs were placed over the drivers and over the tailboard at the rear to provide protection from rooftop launched bricks, stones and other missiles. The firemen were to put out a fire the quickest way possible even if it meant additional property damage. Then they were to get out of the area. There was a demonstration of fire bombs, Molotov Cocktails, to show the amount of fire and ways to put it out. The first demonstration failed when the fire bomb did not ignite. Fortunately, our Reserve unit had several members who had been present at the Columbia University campus troubles and one quickly made a fire bomb that worked. Pros beat amateurs every time.

I was given eight riflemen to ride on a fire truck to protect it from snipers and those trying to slash firehoses. No man was to open fire until I gave the order. It is almost impossible to detect a sniper location on a roof top or in a window of a multi-story building. One fire truck took us on a trip through Manhattan slums to see the area. A police car escort ahead of us was stoned by kids on a rooftop who easily disappeared. If at a riot any troops did catch a suspected sniper, rock-thrower or fire bomber, they were to locate a policeman to make the arrest. I was not happy with what we had to suppress sniper and roof top rioters.

The second phase of our training involved college campus riots. To make it as realistic as possible, several two-story, wooden Army barracks were designated as a college. My entire unit became college students and were identifiable by removing their fatigue shirts to

show white T-shirts. I was made College President and wore a large placard reading, "College Prez". I was a hostage held on the second floor balcony of a barrack labelled Administration. Some of the rioters had placards reading "Legalize Cheating", "No More Homework", "No More Exams". The men acting as rioters blocked the barracks street at both ends with large garbage dumpsters, mess tables and benches. In place of rocks they had sheets of aluminum compressed to throw as rocks.

An MP Company charged the barricades to rescue me and take control of the campus. The MP's wore helmets, scabbared fixed bayonets and were checked at the barricade by a storm of missiles, not all aluminum. They used garbage from the dumpsters, old fruit, rotten vegetables, left over mashed potatoes, etc. The MP's broke through the barricade, but the noise was so great that the officers lost control. Some MP's covered with garbage and spit began to use their rifle butts. Whistles blew and the MP's were withdrawn. Most injuries were not serious, but it was plain that orders other than verbal were needed. On a rooftop an officer was filming the whole riot for later study. We then broke for lunch.

A fresh MP Company moved against the repaired and strengthened barricades. The MP Cmdr. launched attacks at both ends of the street to draw most of the rioters. A third MP group came between the barrack buildings and stormed up the wooden staircase to the balcony where I was held. The stairs and balcony collapsed under the massed weight of rioters and MP's. I used a wooden fire ladder nailed to the building to escape without injury. Again, no one was badly hurt. Actually, I had rescued myself.

We started over with me on another balcony. A third MP Company now moved in with several jeeps wrapped in barbed wire (the tops were up) and all the men were wearing gas masks. Some rioters laid down in the street in front of the jeeps - really stupid, since a driver wearing a gas mask can't see much. One group of rioters tipped a jeep over on its' side. And then tear gas - the strong type used

for riots was used and I was finally rescued. The tear gas made eyes burn, exposed skin an angry red and some men vomited.

Next, an MP company became rioters and they got a new Prez. My unit was ordered to the rescue along with some MP's, but not to use tear gas. We formed two diamond shaped wedges to attack each end of the street. Orders were by hand signals with an officer to every six men. Officers and men who had lost their tempers in the earlier attack were removed by checking photos taken from the roof top. Some carried metal garbage can covers to ward off missiles. Within each wedge was a small group of our biggest men. A riot leader or any especially violent rioter would be a designated target of one of these groups. Prisoners were handcuffed and put in the rear of our diamond formation. Some rioters got in back of us to try to rescue the prisoners, but they were too few. The riot leaders could not give verbal orders due to the noise and lost control. I was using coded shoulder taps to instruct my six men. The spaces between the barrack buildings was not covered by us in order to allow rioters a way to escape. The two diamonds met and stormed the administration building from both ends. The Prez was rescued.

Later, we watched the movie and discussed the lessons learned - remove Off. and EM who lose their temper, use hand signals, even to tapping men on their shoulders to maintain control in all the noise, concentrate on leaders in front and rear of the rioters and try to capture them, keep prisoners to the rear and when outnumbered by the rioters leave an opening for them to escape. The use of tear gas is a last resort and depends on gas masks, wind direction and how many non-rioters are in the area.

After all the hours of training, we never were called to use it in a riot.

I was most happy about that.

Hal O'Neill
356 Civil Affairs



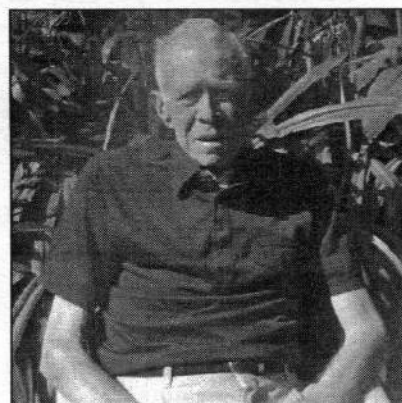
Dear Cliff,

My father, Nick Boyd, passed away last October 1, 2002. His address was 674 E. Shevlin, Hazel Park, MI 48030 then changed to the below address. Please take him off your mailing list.

I have enclosed a paper I drew up about him, you may publish it with my permission if you do these sorts of things.

Thank you very much.

Vicki Garcia (Boyd)
370 Sunset, White Lake, MI 48383
Home 248-887-0000 Cell 248-933-4666
email: roserealty@juno.com



Orlen W. (Nick) Boyd

January 14, 1918 - October 1, 2002

Born in Providence, KY. Mr. Boyd died peacefully at his home on October 1, 2002. His wife, Gertrude, passed on April 16, 1997. They had one daughter, Victoria Lynn. Grandfather to Nick Anthony, (Jill) and Great Grandfather of Rachel & Victoria. Nick was a retired painter and salesman. He was active in politics and the library in Hazel Park for 52 years. He was Honorably Discharged from the 331st Infantry Company E. He entered the Army December 7, 1942 in Detroit, MI. His separation center was at Camp Atterbury, Indiana on November 14, 1945. He served in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe and Ardennes. He was shot in Germany on December 10, 1944 and April 6, 1945. Military Occupational Specialty - Squad Leader #604. His decorations & citations - EAME Theater Ribbon w/5 Bronze Stars, Good Conduct Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon, Purple Heart w/1 Oak Leaf Cluster per GO#11 Hq165th FH December 29, 1944, GO#308Hq 127GH April 14, 1945, Bronze Star Medal per GO Hq 83rd Inf Div March 23, 1945, Victory Medal. Buried with Gertrude at Fort Custer National Cemetery in Battle Creek, MI November 14, 2002 with full Military Honors and Service.



REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION
ABOUT 83RD DIVISION
VETERANS

submitted by 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 really appreciate hearing from you.

We've had several reports of success stories, including Karen Tomas who recently heard from someone who was in the group that found her wounded uncle, Tom Rizzo, and talked with him before he died several days later. Family members are thrilled to learn about their loved one's military service so please respond if you can help.

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 web site, which is a tribute to all the brave men who served with the 83rd Division, and the message board at www.ncweb.com/davecurry/brothers/msgs.html.

Albert Hertzog is seeking information about his father, **PFC Albert T. Hertzog II, 329th IR, HQ Company, 1st Bn**, who was from Pennsylvania. (The town was named Mauch Chunk, PA but its name was changed to Jim Thorpe, PA). PFC Hertzog served in Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, Central Europe and Rhineland, and was discharged in October 1945. If you knew PFC Hertzog, please write MSgt. Albert Hertzog III at 2724 D. Falcon Cts. East, McGuire AFB, NJ 08641, or

telephone him at 609-723-7337, or email him at knifeman1@comcast.net.

Dave Kovach is seeking information about his grandfather, **T/5 Stanley Kovach, Sr., 330th IR, Company G**, who served in Europe with the 83rd and who was from Pennsylvania. If you knew T/5 Kovach, please write Dave Kovach, Jr. at P. O. Box 528, Hampton, NJ 08827, or telephone him at 908-537-4909, or send him an email at crazydave_231@hotmail.com.

Bob Shaffer seeks information about his uncle, **TEC 5 Charles Robert Shaffer, 329th IR, company unknown**, who was from Pennsylvania. He was KIA in Normandy near St. Lo on July 10, 1944. Bob was named for his uncle. If you could give Bob any information about his uncle, including what company he was in, please write him at 128 Wallace Road, Lake Ariel, PA 18436, or send him an email at suvcwracs@att.net.

Stephanie Smith-Laughlin seeks information about her father, **PFC Arthur R. Smith, 331st IR, Company L**, who was from Pennsylvania. He was wounded on July 4, 1944 and on Jan. 10, 1945. He was a light machine gunner and infantryman. If you remember PFC Smith, please write Stephanie at 153 Cornerstone Drive, New Ringgold, PA 17960 or email her at dslaugh@ptd.net.

Brian Timothy seeks information about his father, **PFC Leonard Harry Timothy, 331st IR, company unknown**, who served in Normandy, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany, and who was discharged in December 1945. He was a BAR man and a rifleman. He was from New York, and was wounded twice. If you could give Brian any

information about his father, please write him at 6076 Rowley Road, Wyoming, New York 14591-9544 email him at brian.timothy@ny.usda.gov.

Gaylerd Parr seeks information about his uncle, **Denver Parr, who served in the 268 Field Artillery Battalion, which was attached to the 83rd in 1944.** Parr was from Wisconsin. If you could give Gaylerd any information about his uncle, please write him at 4754 42nd Avenue, Kenosha, Wisconsin 53144 or email him at GPARR1953@wi.rr.com.

Joseph Deperi, Jr. seeks information about his father's unit. His father, **Joseph Deperi, Sr.,** from Garfield, NJ, was in the **330th IR, Company F.** If you can share information with Joseph, Jr. about the history of the unit, please contact him at joedeel3@msn.com or write him at 321 Neptune Drive, N.E., Palm Bay, Florida 32907.

Daniel Watkins seeks information about his uncle, **PFC Wayne Watkins, 330th IR,** company unknown, who was from Indiana. He was with the 330th from April 1944 until he was KIA on August 29, 1944 in St. Malo, France. If you could give Daniel any information about his uncle, including what company he was in, please write Daniel at P. O. Box 589, New Carlisle, Indiana 46552 or email him at danwealthy@yahoo.com.



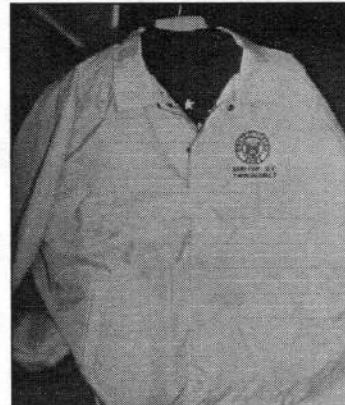
Dear Cliff,

Enclosed are some pictures of new items to sell. I was asked if I could get a new shirt in Black & Gold and Gold & Black. These are the only ones that are available, Black & Gold or Gold & Black, with logos front and back. Prices will be sent with application requests. (see inside back cover)

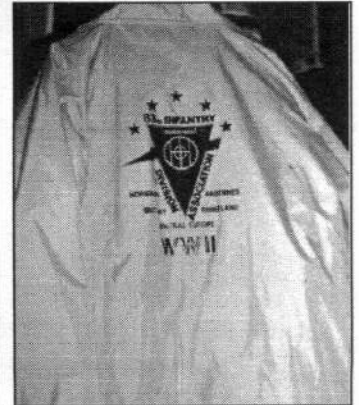
The Michigan Chapter will have a luncheon on the 16th of October at Rickters Chalet in Dearborn, Michigan.

Keep up the good work and I hope to see you next year in Pittsburgh.

Vito Palazzolo
Co. G 329th



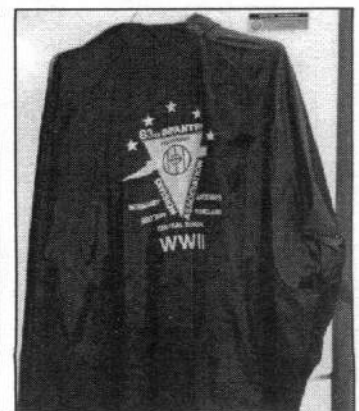
New Gold Jacket-Front



New Gold Jacket-Back



New Black Jacket-Front



New Black Jacket-Back



**58th ANNUAL REUNION
OF 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION
SEPTEMBER 15 - 18, 2004**

SEND ADS IN EARLY!

PLEASE SELECT SIZE OF AD

FULL PAGE @	HALF PAGE @	THIRD PAGE @	QUARTER PAGE @
\$80.00	\$45.00	\$30.00	\$24.00

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Make check payable and send to:

**83rd Infantry Division Assn. Reunion
Cliff Wooldridge
East Side Drive, P.O. Box 406
Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406**

URGENT - ACT NOW

Please mail your checks for the Ad Book as soon as possible. As you know, this money is needed to help pay for some expenses for our 58th reunion.

DEADLINE - August 1, 2004

PLEASE Type or Print Ad Clearly and State Size of Ad

83RD SHIRTS, JACKETS AND CAPS

Anyone interested in additional information may write or call
Vito C. Palazzolo, 20000 Lancaster St., Harper Woods, MI 48225
313-881-2364

Vito will send you an application form.

**83rd Reunion will be held at the
Radisson Green Tree Hotel
101 Radisson Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
Dates are:
September 15-19, 2004**

**\$25.00 Dues are due
NOW
For the year 2004**

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

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

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“Change Service Requested” 1

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL ___ NEW ___

NAME (please print) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

Company _____ Regiment _____ 83rd Division

Phone _____ e-mail _____

**PLEASE ENCLOSE A CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR
\$25.00 (YEARLY MEMBERSHIP DUES)**

Payable to and mail to:

83RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

138 East Side Drive, P.O. Box 406

Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Descendant Membership _____ Name

Name of 83rd Division Member _____

IMPORTANT

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 your cooperation. **Send old and new address.**