



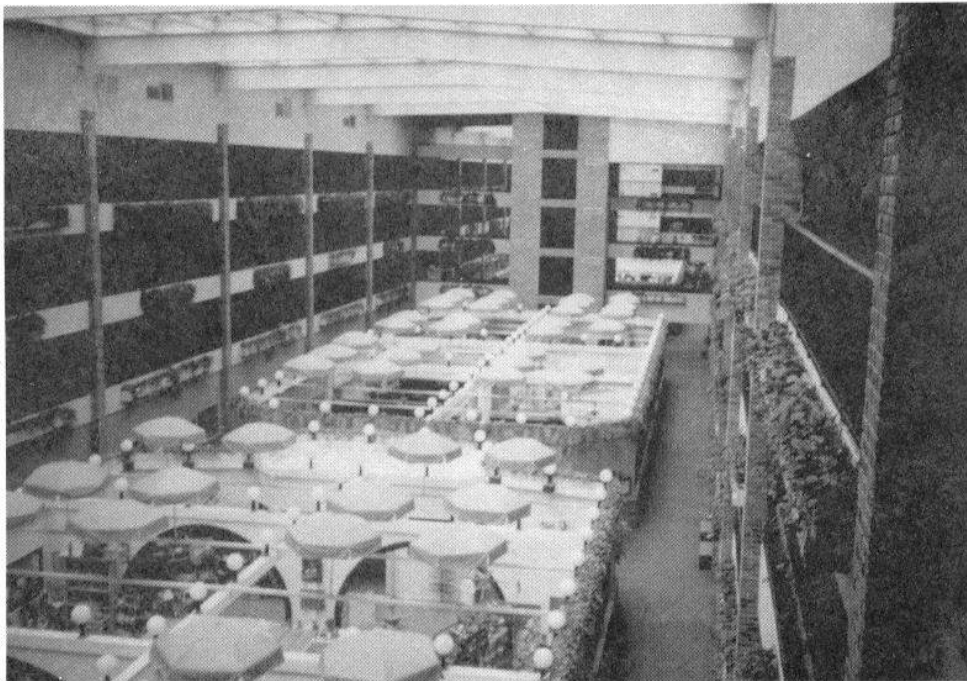
# THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.  
WORLD WAR II

Vol. 60 Issue No. 1

Fall Issue 2004

J.R.'S EXECUTIVE INN  
LOOKS FORWARD TO HOSTING THE  
59<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REUNION  
FOR THE  
83<sup>RD</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION



*Paducah, Kentucky, September 7 - 11, 2005*

## 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

1947 James C. Hanrahan*	1964 Julius Boyles*	1981 Michael Caprio*	1998 R. C. Hamilton
1948 Jack M. Straus	1965 Samuel Klippa*	1982 Ralph Gunderson*	1999 Pat DiGiammerino
1949 Shelly Hughes*	1966 William M. Doty*	1983 Arthur Doggett*	2000 Salvatore Scicolone
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1952 Leo Schneider	1969 Pat DiGiammerino	1986 John Hobbs	2003 Salvatore Scicolone
1953 Finley Heyl	1970 Casey Szubski	1987 George Fletcher	2004 Allison Shrawder
1954 Lawrence J. Redmond*	1971 Charles Altomari*	1988 Charles Schmidt*	
1955 Lawrence J. Redmond*	1972 Harold H. Dopp*	1989 Edward Reuss	*Denotes Deceased
1956 Lt. Gen. Robert H. York*	1973 Louis J. Volpi	1990 Charles J. Lussier	
1957 Harry W. Lockwood*	1974 Bernard O. Riddle*	1991 Edgar H. Haynes	
1958 Raymond J. Voracek*	1975 Robert G. Taylor	1992 Ned Smith	
1959 Charles Abdinoor	1976 Mike Skovran*	1993 Louis Sandini*	
1960 Joseph F. Minotti*	1977 Manlius Goodridge	1994 William M. Minick	
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1963 Manuel C. Martin*	1980 Samuel Klippa*	1997 Keith Davidson	

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

AL SHRAWDER

First, many thanks for your confidence in electing me to be your President for the years 2004-2005.

Congratulations to Sal and the Pittsburgh men for the reunion this year at the Radisson Green Tree Hotel. It went very well and I think everyone who attended had a great time.

Now, we have a great staff of officers this year and we expect to have a great reunion at the Executive Inn in Paducah, KY in September 2005.

We have had two meetings so far and from these I can say that the planning for the 59th Reunion looks like a real winner.

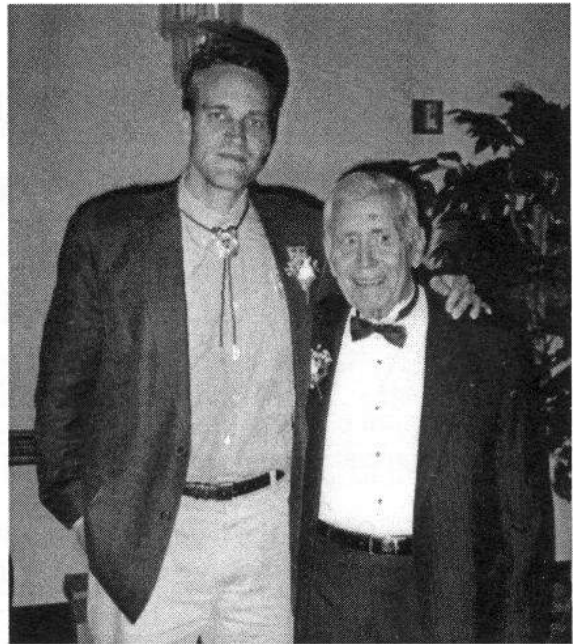
Paducah is a very historical river town on the Ohio River. The river divides Western Kentucky and Illinois. The Inn sits right on the river and gives you a great view of the Ohio River and Illinois across the river.

Details of the reunion will be in future Thunderbolts.

Please mark your calendar for September 7-11, 2005 to attend the 59th Reunion of the 83rd Infantry Association.

I think this reunion will be one of the best we will ever have.

Al Shrawder  
National President 2004-2005  
D Co. 331st Inf.



Sal Scicolone with Benjamin Patton

## PAST PRESIDENT'S CORNER

SAL SCICOLONE

Thanks to all who attended our 58th National Reunion at the Greentree Radisson Hotel Pittsburgh, PA. I have received many letters and phone calls from people who enjoyed the reunion and especially the dinner cruise.

Thanks to Vice President Bob Taylor for his help, Cliff Wooldridge for his printing of the Ad Book, and Bob Keck and all who participated in a fine Memorial Service.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make this reunion a success and who are too many to mention individually. Thanks to Bobby Stanley from the Armed Forces Corp. and Debbie of the Radisson Hotel and also Phyllis and Nancy for collecting the 2005 dues and Debbie Holloman for showing the documentary "Thank You, Eddie Hart".

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as your National President for 2003-2004. It was a great honor.

Sal Scicolone  
Past President  
I Co. 329th Inf.

## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

### ***IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ***

At the board and general membership meetings recently held during the Pittsburgh reunion two matters of vital importance to the future of this association took place.

FIRSTLY: Responding to a query from the floor dealing with a matter touching on the dissolution of the national association, I seized the opportunity to outline problems facing the organization and some plans under consideration for its future.

I address ONLY the national organization. The various local chapters act totally independent and they are encouraged to continue for as long as they can.

First and foremost, it's no secret that our membership is declining rapidly, more so in each year that passes. Unlike some veteran associations which stem from military units that are still on active duty and thus enjoy an ongoing "pool" of retirees from which to fill its ranks, the 83<sup>rd</sup> has long ago been de-activated. Our base enrollment pool was and remained that which existed at the end of WW II – almost 60 years ago – period.

A few years ago, foreseeing this problem, the board enacted a "Descendant Membership" category with limited success. Currently we have only about 150 such members on our roll. Of this number, most are widows of our comrades. The remainders are a generation (or two) younger than we "regulars"; are still wage earners and rearing their own families. Most, if not all, are associated with the 83rd to give honor to a husband, father, grandfather, uncle or the like. Some attend our annual reunions..... most do not. And understandably so!

Besides the yearly passing of our buddies, each of us face ever continuing and increasing health problems. Not only we guys, but, our ladies as well. This increases the burden of travel to distant sites making it difficult if not almost impossible to attend..

Bottom line: Like it or not, the day is fast approaching when this National Association must be dissolved totally and completely – WITH THE HONOR IT DESERVES.

To do so requires careful attention to the myriad of legal and fiscal details. The executive board has been and will continue to investigate the necessary steps needed to accomplish this during the coming months BEFORE it meets at its customary spring meeting.

Another idea currently under some consideration would amend the by-laws to abolish its mandated yearly membership meeting (reunion). The Paducah meeting, committed for September 2005, will take place, of course. Beyond that, there would be no obligatory annual meetings. Theoretically, under this arrangement, from time to time, a reunion of some kind might be scheduled on "as and if" basis. However, as a practical matter, national reunions similar to those in the past would seem to be highly unlikely.

Also this plan would require the continuance of publishing the THUNDERBOLT to gather and disperse items of interest to the members. This would then need the continuation of annual dues (actually, "subscriptions" – not dues) to offset publication expenses. At best, this plan could only be considered as temporary. Before endorsing this scheme, the board must consider – and solve - its legal and possible tax ramifications.

Obviously your board will be carefully studying these and perhaps other ideas so that at its spring meeting it may intelligently arrive at that which it unanimously feels, is the best course of action for the association. Soon after the conclusion of the meeting, a special mailing will be sent to each paid-up member on our membership rolls advising of the actions approved by the board.

The foregoing outlines the FIRST matter of importance referred at the start of this article; the second VERY important matter now follows below.

SECONDLY: The board MUST have your backing in order to achieve this stated objective: i.e., to come up with a plan which they feel is the right one and is in the best interest of the entire 83<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Association

I therefore asked the membership at the Pittsburgh general meeting to vote by a show of hands to register their confidence in their entire executive board.

The hands raised for approval appeared to have been unanimous. On their behalf, therefore, I now publicly thank the members for this vote of confidence and promise that we will strive our utmost to do the very best for those that are and those who once were part of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. ....None were better!!

Not to be remiss, I want to extend our congratulations and appreciation to Sal Scicolone on behalf of the Executive Board and those who attended for the fine job he (and Theresa, of course) did in hosting the reunion last September. They even managed to delay Ivan's appearance to a day when our activities were mostly indoors. Well done!

Before closing, I want to here name your Executive Board with whom I feel privileged to be working this coming year: Robert Taylor, Vice-Chairman, Al Shrawder, President; R.C.Hamilton 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Cliff Wooldrige, Treasurer/Publisher; John Tisdell, Secretary; William M. Minick, Actg Judge Advocate; Robert Keck, Memorial Services Coordinator & Director-at-Large. and

B. John Prinzi, Chairman

## FROM THE EDITOR

CLIFF WOOLDRIDGE

Had a **GREAT** time at our 58th Reunion in Pittsburgh at the Radisson Green Tree Hotel. **Sal and Theresa Scicolone (as well as their whole family - daughters, grandchildren, and Theresa's sister) did a tremendous job!**

We were lucky on Thursday (Sept. 16) – we boarded the Gateway Clipper for the dinner cruise and enjoyed a delicious meal – but on the way back up the Ohio River we could see the clouds moving in but didn't think much about it. But the next morning it rained and did it rain – it was one of the hurricanes coming through from the state of Florida.

As there were so many fun and enjoyable activities we've devoted Pages 24 - 25 to pictures so you can see for yourself.

I was so surprised to have the honor of meeting General Patton's grandson Benjamin Patton at the reunion. He was a real nice young man (also real tall). Benjamin is producing a documentary on General Patton and he was there with Roman Brygider and our Tony Vacarro. Tony's photographic works will be featured in the documentary. On Friday and Saturday Ben was around conversing with many 83rd members as they recounted their recollections of his grandfather. On Saturday evening he attended our banquet with Tony.

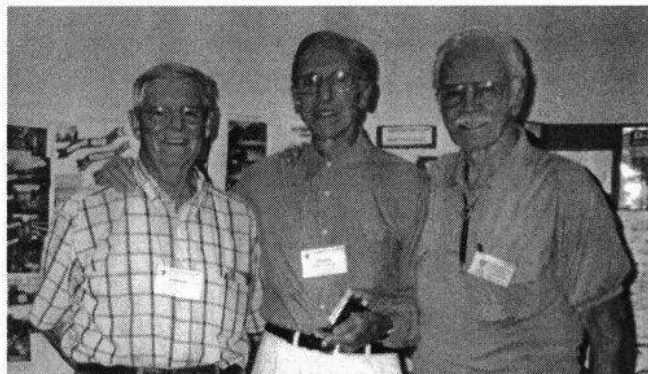
I remember General Patton when we were out on one of the bridges making repairs and he stopped and asked if we had received our rations, which we hadn't for 6 weeks. So, he said, "You will have them tomorrow." And the fellows said he's not going to bother with us but the next day a 2 ½ ton truck came into our bivouac area with all our rations.

At this reunion I was able to put names to a lot of faces I had seen at past reunions.

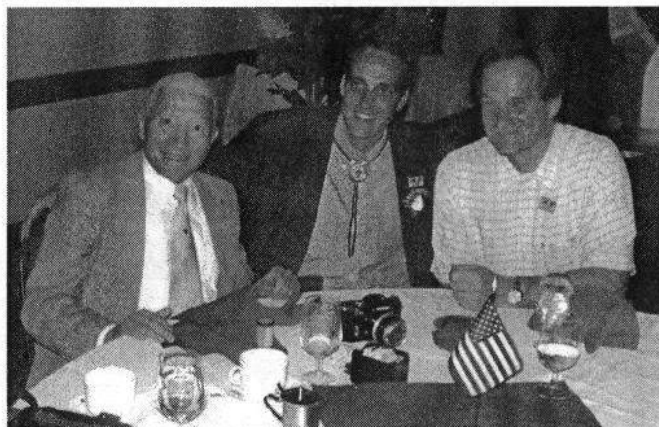
We had a few members who were there for the very first time.

One fellow was Roger Dumont (G Co. 329th) along with his wife Cecile and daughter Susan. They live in Rochester, NH just about 23 miles

from me. We got together a few weeks ago and went through all of their photos from the reunion. They kept talking about the wonderful time they had.



Steward Barrick, Roger Dumont (first timer), Ellsworth Massie at Reunion (L to R)



At the banquet –  
Tony Vacarro, Ben Patton & Roman Brygider

### GENEROUS DONATION TO THE 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION

As Acting Treasurer I wish to acknowledge and thank Benjamin Patton for his generous contribution to the 83rd Infantry Division Association.

I enjoyed meeting and talking with Benjamin at our reunion. The 83rd appreciated his attendance and if there is anything we can do to assist him in the preparation of his documentary, he just needs to let us know.

# CHAPTERS

## BOSTON CHAPTER NEWS

AMBY TYNAN

This report finds many here in Boston, MA in poor health. Age is a large factor along with the illnesses that accompany age.

Although people are not able to make the long drives to the meetings; attendance still seems to be very good. Attendance has been around twenty with the wives. I have not been able to attend as I have been in poor health myself. Tony Piantedosi has done an excellent job with reporting for the last two meetings that were held at Pat DiGiammerino's home in Malden, MA.



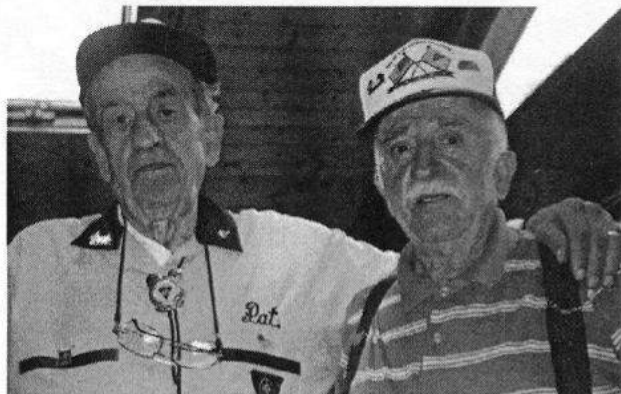
Pittsburgh Reunion - Pat and Ginny

The meetings continue to make the Boston Chapter stronger. I was glad to hear Fred Sylvia is back after recovering from heart by-pass surgery. President Tisdell has done a fine job overseeing everything. Pat DiGiammerino is still doing a wonderful job with the membership.

I have been in contact with Walter Harding, Dallas Williams, Don Willis, Frank Wirth, Ed McCouch and Americo George by telephone. I have also heard from Erwin Erhardt. Erwin called to see if I could get him a contract with the Red Sox for 2005. He is going to "work out" on his son's farm in Indiana this winter.

Condolences go out to the families of members who have passed on. They shall not be forgotten.

Amby Tynan, Reporter



A Couple of Buddies

Pat DiGiammerino & Gus "Mousie" Farias

## DIXIE CHAPTER NEWS

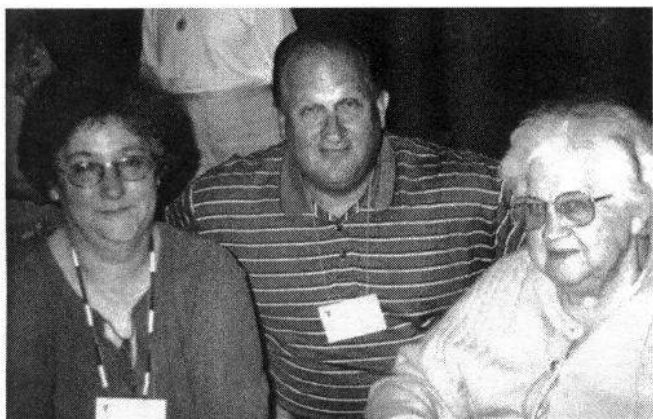
ELLSWORTH MASSIE

- 83rd 58th National -

Reality is here. Finally after being on cloud nine for a week it's time to record a few facts keeping in mind all the wonderful experiences I have shared with comrades of the 83rd Association.

Truly we missed each one absent for what ever reason and enjoyed the company of each one able to be present. Thank you so much for your friendship over the years. In my mind is the picture of Bob Taylor and Bob Keck reading the names of the 95 members lost in the past year. Each one near and dear to us and remembering their loved ones left behind, saying a prayer for them and each of us as we draw nearer to the end of our allotted time on earth.

**Tues.** - We are able to arrive early after a safe and uneventful 8-hr. trip finding all kinds of early birds present - Sal, Lou, Bob, Manny, Brusa, Pat, Cliff, Keith, Bob, John - these are names I remember, after that they all run together. Each day gets better.



**Macaluso Family**

**Wed.** - The troops are really starting to show up now. Each has a new experience to share. What a great privilege to be among such dedicated and diverse group from all over the U.S.A. By plane, car, train they come – some even walked, having seen the add in the Local “Penny Saver” for their very first meeting. I have the privilege of meeting many for the very first time and helped several meet a fellow soldier from their very own battery or company.



**Isaac Pratt & Family**

**Thurs.** - Things are really rolling. The Supper Cruise is a sell out! It was an event to be remembered. Everyone is on his best behavior and has come to enjoy the company of each. This was accomplished in a big way. The storms kept some away. Hopefully their lives are coming back to normal by now.

**Fri.** - The trip to the Museum was well worth the time spent – 2 bus loads were on hand. Some following lost us but found their way back to the hotel and welcomed us back as we returned in the rain. Everyone finds something to do and fellowship is at a very high level.

**Sat.** - Some must leave early and miss the Banquet and the “Memorial Observance”. Each one are most meaningful and the verbal expressions are taxing and bring a tear to the eye of many. This is good for each of us. Each one taking part in any way deserves our debt of gratitude. This includes those in the audience as well as each one having a specific duty to perform – accept my whole hearted thanks.

I count from the attendance roster 67 names that I can put a face on. Most of these are couples. I’m hoping one day to be able to recognize each name with a face. Our time is short but we are working on it.

Welcome again to our “new first timers” – also to those who have come home after a long absence.

There are so many special thanks due to so many. We don’t have space to mention each one. However, the spectacular pictorial display by Nellrita Barrick was fantastic (in the Hospitality Room). The video on Eddie Hart, the military equipment display, the 83-yr. old entertainer (Bob Hope) man. A fellow artillery man back after 20 yrs. absence, the many family units present. We enjoyed each and haven’t the space to describe in detail the joy they bring us.

Our new officers are recognized and installed. We welcome each and stand by them and support them in the coming year. They are capable and dedicated so we look forward to next year’s reunion with great joy.

As reporter for Dixie I was able to count and name 21 present. We expect a better turnout in 2005. In the meantime visit us in Gatlinburg in Dec. 04 and Williamsburg, VA in March 05.

In searching the records – I find that I am the 9th Chaplain to serve our national organization. I follow in the footsteps of 8 true soldiers not only of the U.S.A. but also of the Cross of Christ.

I’m humbled and thank you for placing your trust in me.

Yours, E. Massie



## FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

W. ALLEN FISHER

The Fall meeting was held on Nov. 12 & 13 in Sebring. Seventeen (17) members were in attendance. Due to some mix-up in reservations, several members could not get rooms and did not attend. One sad note reported was the death of Dick Sullivan, a loyal Charter member, on July 18, 2004. We will sorely miss his able guidance in the affairs of this Chapter.

We were also advised that long time Association member Ned Smith will be relocating to Indiana. We hope he and Jeanie can visit us whenever possible and wish them good health and enjoyment in their old stomping grounds.

As with the National Association, we are facing the problem of getting members who are willing and able to serve as officers. But despite these obstacles, we've decided to schedule a meeting. It will be Feb. 21 - 23, 2005, subject to approval by the hotel we use regularly.

I'm trying to get this letter in to meet the Thunderbolt publishing deadline, so that our northern visitors can note the date before I send out the actual meeting notices after the first of January.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL,**  
W. Allen Fisher, Sec'y

## KENTUCKY CHAPTER NEWS

No Report

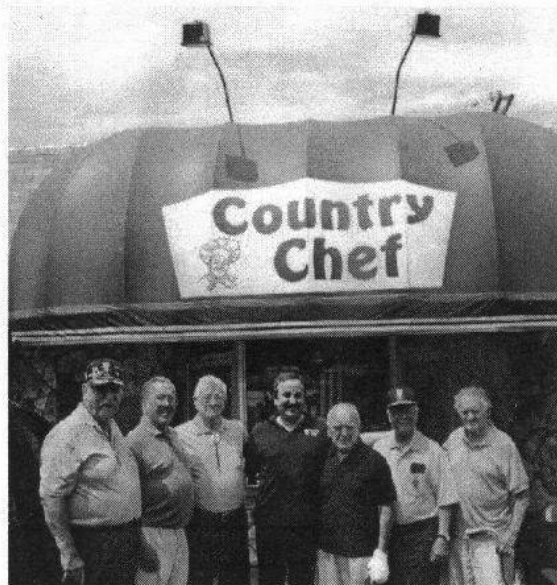
## MICHIGAN CHAPTER NEWS

NICK BARBU

We are still in existence!! You may not have heard much from the Michigan Chapter in the recent past but we're still here. A hardy handful of us continue to get together every now and then to enjoy each others company. After checking

to see who is still here, we get into the usual senior citizen routine of health questions, doctor appointments and pill changes. Next, we talk about our kids, grandkids, and great grandkids. Sounds kind of ho-hum, but we enjoy the chance to see and visit with each other.

On July 22nd Charles and Evelyn McAuliff arranged a lunch at the Country Chef Restaurant in Troy. About a dozen of us showed up and we enjoyed a good lunch and a couple hours of Thunderbolt camaraderie. See following photo.



Al Vartnian, Robert Taylor, Charles McAuliff, Restaurant Owner, Nick Barbu, Vito Palazzolo, Joseph Romano

After the Pittsburgh reunion, we will meet at The Home Town Buffet in Clinton Township on October 14th and do it all over again.

With Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day coming up soon, we wish one and all Joy, Good Health and Happiness.

**HAVE FUN.**

## NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

NICK FRANCULO

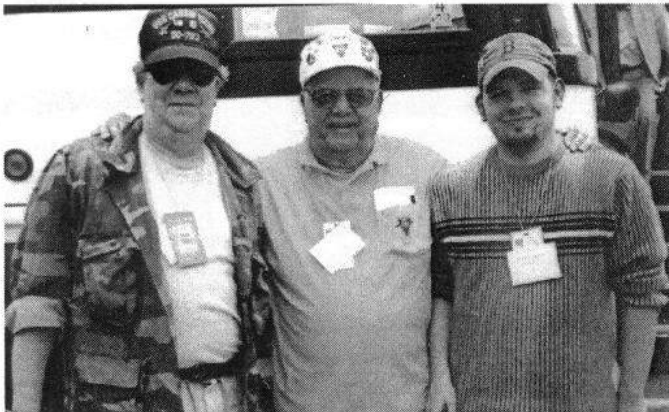
Hope you all who attended the reunion in Pittsburgh, PA had a good time.

I had to cancel in October as I passed out at home and Mary and my son Nick called 911 and

was taken to the hospital. They gave me an M.R.I, E.K.G. and everything was fine.

They said that I was dehydrated and had to drink lots of water and I could not drive for 6 months which is a state law. I was upset as I could not make the reunion. Hope to make KY.

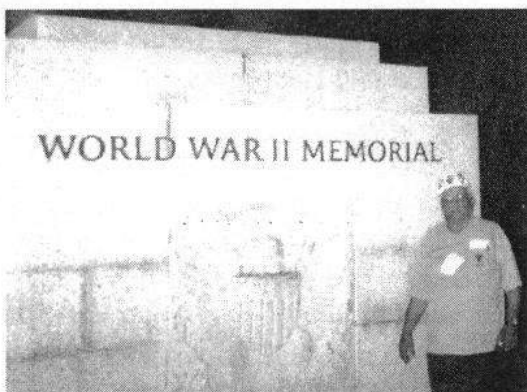
On May 28th 250 vets and guests left Lynn by buses for the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. My son Nick and Grandson Paul came with me. (See photo below.)



Son Nick, Me & Grandson Paul

It was breathtaking - over 117,000 tickets were distributed for the dedication ceremonies and over 50,000 were on the waiting list for tickets.

We had front row seats as we were given tickets for the seating area directly in front of the dedication platform. We stayed at the J.W. Marriot as our hotel and within walking distance to the WW II Memorial.



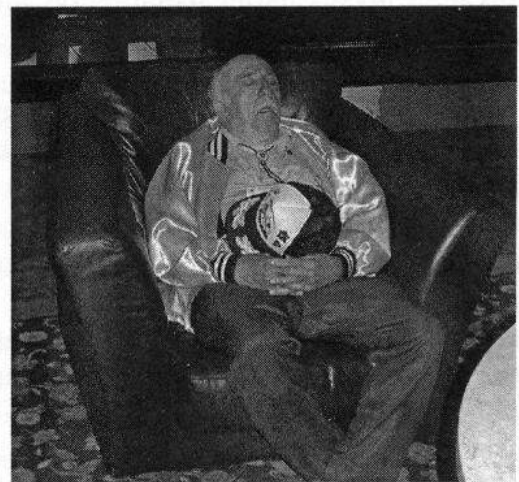
We saw President George W. Bush, Tom Hanks, Sen. Bob Dole, and Tom Brokaw. This time I will never forget.

We spent 4 days in Washington, D.C. Talked to Dot Brennen and she had a slight stroke and a

hip problem and coming along slowly. Jim is doing O.K. for an old man. Ha, ha.

Talked to the Ferriers and Ester has trouble with her legs and back and is taking shots in her butt and back. John is having leg trouble and they are also home bound.

Got a call from Gus-Mousie Farias that the reunion was O.K. but not like the old days as everyone is getting old and **slow**.



**This is REAL slow!!**

Lobby of the Radisson Green Tree Hotel-Pittsburgh

But it was a good time. Karl and Ingrid Burkhard made the reunion also.

Have not heard from any chapter members and hope they are all O.K. Looking forward to next year in KY. That's it for now.

Your Buddy,

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

## **NEW JERSEY CHAPTER NEWS**

STAN BIELEN

stanfranbielen@aol.com

I know that most of you are interested in reading about our reunion in Pittsburgh. I thought it was a very enjoyable one and those I spoke to were of the same opinion. Our thanks go to those that gave of their time and energy to make it a success. Our President Sal Scicolone, the Reunion Chairman Bob Taylor and the members of the Executive Board are to be commended for a job well done.

2004



Chuck Abdinoor, Joe DePeri, Ben Patton (General George Patton's Grandson), Stan Bielen, Manny Epstein (L to R)

The New Jersey Chapter members that attended were Manny Epstein, Joe DePeri, Charles Sihlanick, Andy Socha and Stan Bielen. Joe, Charlie, Andy and I drove there together. Going that way made it a very enjoyable trip. Manny drove by himself with his new BMW and, despite his concern about the return trip having to be in one day, he made it with no problem.

Chapter members that had planned to attend and cancelled were Frank and Mary Sabine and Cookie Seneca who was to come with his daughter Maryann and son Jim. I received a call from Jim Seneca two days before the start of the reunion and he told me Cookie was in the hospital with kidney stones and was due to be released the next day and they would arrive Friday in Pittsburgh. On Sunday, after the reunion, Joe DePeri called Jim and was told Cookie was still in the hospital. We missed seeing them all and hope all is well now.



Banquet Night - Andy Socha, Charlie Sihlanick, Manny Goodridge, Stan Bielen, Joe DePeri (L to R)

Cookie, the Company A, 330th table at the banquet was alive and jumping. Charlie Abdinoor and the rest of the table had plenty of wine and champagne flowing. Charlie was gracious enough to offer me your share of the wine and it went well with the prime rib I had. That should make you feel better.

At the last meeting of the Chapter on the 3rd of August we celebrated Joe DePeri's birthday. The birthday cake was a Pizza Pie with candles.



Joe DePeri's Birthday - Charlie Sihlanick, Joe DePeri, Tony Hroncich, Andy Socha, Stan Bielen, Tom Dowd (L to R)

I received an email from Alvin Baxter-Green, Hqs. Co. 3rd Bn. 329th. He was in the Wire Section. He had seen the death notice of John Cooney, Jr. who was in Co. A 331st and passed the info. on to me.

I thought this might be of interest to you. An email from Hannes Eichsteiner from Reid, Austria.

“Dear Stan,

In two days people whole over Europe think over D-Day in the Normandie. I have recently interviewed one of the German soldiers who – he was only 19 then – fought at Omaha Beach. He was in Russia before and he said what was so radically different in the Normandie was that you could see the numbers of killings on both side so clearly. The whole interview took several hours, often interrupted by moments of emotions and tears. I am still very busy with work on postwar Austria and American liberation/occupation topics, but I think it must be worth stopping for a moment and say THANK YOU to you as you were part of the expedition forces that liberated

us. I was not alive in those days and am grateful for that. Warm regards,

Hannes”

**If someone who was in that area on Occupation Duty with the 83rd Infantry Division and has some experiences or information that you can share with Hannes, you can e-mail him at**

**H. Eichsteininger@gmx.net**

Wishing you all the very best in the New Year !!

Stan Bielen

## COMPANIES

### 783RD ORDNANCE Co.

RAGS RANGNOW

No Report

### Co. "A" - 330TH

CHARLES ABDINOOR

Hi Folks,

I have been e-mailing with Everett Worrell, who was in the 83rd Div. As cadre, he was in Camp Breckinridge from the beginning and applied for Cadet Training in the Air Corps. He passed all the required exams, and was accepted for flight training. He went through training and graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant and pilot of a B-17. I have been trying to get him to come to our reunions for two years. Both times he had to cancel because of his wife's illness, but he e-mailed me this note and I would like to pass it on to the membership. He was a corporal in the I & R Platoon of HQ Co. 330th. He flew 35

missions and came out squadron leader, and he was a major. We continue to write to one another and he hopes to come one year. It better be soon. But here is a letter he sent me. . .

“Chuck,

You may already be on your way to the 83rd INF Reunion. I'm very sorry that I will not be able to make it. I would like very much to sit down with you and your buddies and exchange War Stories.

Please let me know where the Reunion will be next year. Also please give my regards to all at the Reunion. I thought about you all in 1944 when I was flying over you in France, Holland and Germany. A lot of the guys I trained with when I was in HQ & HQ CO 330 Inf. didn't make it. All of us who came through that mess are very lucky. I was very lucky and GOD was with me and my Crew during that time in History.

Please tell all your friends Hello for me and that I'll try to make one of the next Reunions.

Cheers & Beers,

Everett

w4wj@worldnet.att.net”

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### NOTICE TO A-330TH

Lee Milligan, our oldest man in the company, now 96 yrs. old, is now in a rest home. He was our jeep driver. He would appreciate any cards or letters sent to him at:

Virgil Lee Milligan

Lake Point Nursing Home

601 North Rose Hill Rd.

Rose Hill, KS 67133

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In lieu of my column, I think the whole association would enjoy reading about Steward Barrick's trip to Washington and then to Europe for the Memorial Dedication here and abroad. The following is an e-mail sent to me from Steward's wife Nellrita. I will have news of A Company next issue.

Hi Chuck, Bernice, plus, Ed and Pauline!

In just a few hours, Steward will be at the D-Day 60th Anniversary at Normandy.

As you know, his travels started with being in Washington D.C. the day before and the day of the W W II Memorial Dedication. He was seated in section #1, directly in front of the speaker's podium, five rows back. Everything has gone so well for him as he travels alone, no itinerary...just flight schedules...

First of all, when he got off the Amtrack from Baltimore (leaving the Airport Comfort Inn), arriving in D.C., he started walking toward the Capitol and the Mall, when a police car with two officers approached him, asking "Where are you headed, buddy?" (Of course, they could see his cap with W W II, 83rd Inf. and the Thunderbolt logo that he was wearing.) After his reply, "Going to the dedication"...they replied, "Well, that's 17 more blocks, get in and we'll take you there." As they dropped him off at the main dedication site...Seating Area #1...one of the gentlemen in charge asked him where were his seating tickets and he told them #3. He had every intention of working himself on to that farther area (near the Capitol) when the guy in charge said, "No your not my friend, you're sitting right here in #1, just give your ticket to someone else." Being as early as he was, he had the choice of seats. Not wanting to get a stiff neck from being too close and looking upwards, he chose the fifth row, again directly in front of the speaker's stand. I watched the full 2-hour dedication ceremony on TV, as I'm sure you did. Steward said it was most impressive and touching. We agreed, Tom Brokaw delivered the best talk and tribute.

So the ceremony was over and so many people were exiting at the same time. He asked a man there in #1 in his opinion, what would be the quickest way for him to get back to Union Station to meet his Amtrack scheduled return to Baltimore. After telling him he should go to such & such area to get on the Metro Transit, Steward started out on foot again. As he arrived in that area, he asked a woman waiting as well, where he would change cars to go on to the Union Station? After telling him, she said, "Better yet, just come and go with me as I'm getting off at that same stop." When it came time to change cars she told him, "Just follow me." Later on, she told him the next stop would be Union Station. He got there 5 minutes before the arrival of the Amtrack. Although, he said it was 10 mins. late, so he had time to catch his breath before departing. Wasn't that a great experience? I'll wait and let him tell you about the W W II "Tank" Reunion that was being held at his hotel and his great experiences with them.

The next day, he flew to Boston and then on to London. Once again, wearing his cap, he boarded the airplane. The flight attendant commented something to the effect of how proud she was of the W W II Veterans and told him to disregard his ticket as she escorted him to the 1st Class section of the plane. Wow! Our daughter said she'd bet her Dad would not take advantage of the amenities that went with 1st Class. Steward told her, "Wrong!" He enjoyed his Tom Collins, etc.

He has called me from London, Brussels, Munich and Passau. In Passau his hotel was just 2 blocks from the Danube River. He'll have interesting things to tell you about this stayover and the rail trips, plus going to Lenz, Austria and into Switzerland, again. He purchased an 8-day Euro Railway Pass and has enjoyed the going...getting on and off as he desires

Today, will be another highlight of the trip...being at Normandy on the 60th! (Yes, and too, he, President Bush and Tom Brokaw will be together again. Ha Ha!)

He will be returning to Bastone, Bihiem and all that area before departing back home on the 9th. Now, that is certainly taking the I-o-n-g way home from D.C., right??????

As I talk to him per phone, he tells me that, "Nellrita, this is a trip of a lifetime. I am so glad I came. Everything is going even better than I dared hoped and all the people I have come in contact with are so friendly, courteous and helpful." He adds that his German (language) has really come back to him. I tease him when he calls and tell him that he doesn't have that Okie accent, that he sounds like a German. Ha.

He and I, both, regret that I could not go with him this time. But, physically, I just did not have the stamina. And, I sure didn't want to ruin the trip for him.

We are looking forward to seeing you and all of the gang in Pittsburg. Steward is recording videos and taking still photos of his ventures and he'll share some of them with you at the reunion. Knowing Steward, I know he will stress, "Now, I don't want to bore anyone with my stuff." We regret that Will Lenz won't make it this year.

**Co. "D" - 331<sup>ST</sup>**  
GERI GUNDERSON

**Co. "F" - 329<sup>TH</sup>**  
C. R. BOB WHITCOMB

**Company "F" 329th Infantry  
Returns to "Someplace Special"**

North 2004 Co. "F's" Annual Get-Together  
October 10th-14th in Ashland, Ohio

Twenty-Eight (28) people attended, included were Seven (7) Co. "F" men plus Four (4) other veterans, plus 17 wives, relatives and guests from Illinois, Maryland, North Carolina, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas.

The Company C.P. (Hospitality Room) was provided by the Ashland American-Host Inn, where all were billeted, courtesy of General Manager Kristen McDaniel assisted by registration clerk Tammy.

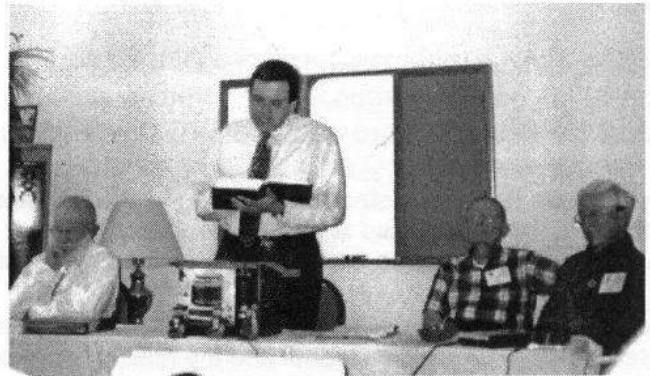
Dr. Scott Seay, faculty member of the Department of Religion at Ashland University was Guest Speaker at the Company's Memorial Service held Monday, October 11th, remembering "Those Who Gave Some and Some Who Gave All".

A trip to Cinnamon Lake, Ohio to view the "Rustin and Decrepit Shoreline" a miniature G Gauge railroad in a Garden That Chugs Right Along!! at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Don Parker.

Free time was spent enjoying one another's company, snacking, partaking of beverages and taking pictures to record the occasion and the consuming of delicious food at various local eateries.

North 2005 to be held October 2005 in Ashland, exact date later.

A number of those present indicated they are planning on the 59th 83rd National Reunion in Paducah, KY.



R. Whitehead – Dr. Scott Seay – Newell - Keiths



J. Newell – D. Keith – Doc Keith - Whiteheads



329th RET 83rd ID Re enactors  
M. Felmlee – C. & J. Ingram – R. Trumbull

**Co. "K" - 331<sup>ST</sup>**  
NORM MALO

Seeking information about her late father, T/5 Kenneth L. Moore, his daughter Annette was more than rewarded when she made a visit at the Pittsburgh reunion.

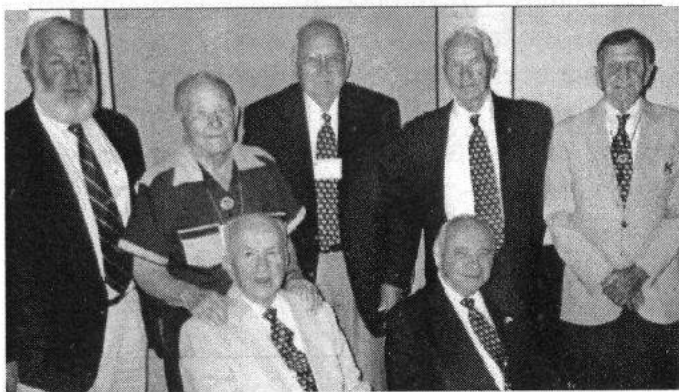
Kenneth had served as a Medic, assigned to the 3rd Platoon of "K" Company in combat and later in Langelshiem and Phfaarkirchen.

In a recent letter she expressed her deep gratitude and thanks for the good memories we all had of her Dad which went beyond her expectations. One of us had among his possessions a group Co. "K" photo taken in Sept. 1945 in which she positively identified her father. Needless to say, many Xerox copies were made and distributed to every buddy.



The above photo taken in the hospitality room shows Annette with her daughter Emma and standing Bob McNabb, son of James McNabb who passed away last July 29 at the age of 90, Norm Malo and Everett Rogers. Sitting are Stanley Duff, Manny Epstein and Harold Merrill.

The photo below shows the members of "K" at the banquet.



**Standing: Bob McNabb, Everett Rogers, Harold Merrill, George Baker, Stanley Duff**  
**Sitting: Norm Malo and Manuel Epstein**

A Buddy, Norm Malo

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Nancy and Kent O'Connell together in Flushing, N.Y., in 1943

Photos courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Kent O'Connell

*We received the following article prior to Ken O'Connell's passing on October 8, 2004. It is a lovely tribute to Ken and we wanted to include it.*

**Hometown News - Palm Beach Gardens  
 June 4, 2004**

**A time to remember**

*By Valerie Wheat  
 staff writer*

Kent O'Connell holds onto his son's Yellow Labrador, Jay Jay, with a good grip. Even at 86, his hands keep the leash taut as he's wheeled through his nursing home in Palm Beach Gardens.

Nancy, his wife of 58 years, proudly displays her husband's scrapbooks. With this face, he could've been a movie star, she says.

It's the face before her and the face of years ago, she means. Through her eyes, he hasn't changed at all.

It was the face that landed on Omaha Beach in World War II after just a few months of dating Nancy. They met when she was standing in line at the ration bureau.

He called her three times. She said that she had other dates (she didn't). The fourth time he called, she went out with him. They wrote every day after he went overseas.

"Like most of men in his generation, he really didn't talk about (the war)," said his son, Dennis, while Jay Jay lay at this feet.

When the 83rd Infantry – the Thunderbolt Division – landed in Normandy at Omaha Beach in June of 1944, the 6 foot-2-inch Pfc. O'Connell

was chosen for the military police because of his height, Nancy says.

Omaha Beach – a code name – was also known as “bloody Omaha” because of the high number of casualties the allies took.

At 86, Kent O’Connell is in ailing health. Nancy remembers the stories for him now.

She tells of the time that he saved a whole town. Nancy said his division had been sent to Luxembourg and the French were trying to tell them that the Germans had wired a building with bombs. Since Mr. O’Connell spoke French, he was able to translate the warning and the dire consequences of moving forward.

“He got a beautiful letter from Prince Felix of Luxembourg thanking him,” Nancy said.

To those that knew him, it would be no surprise that Mr. O’Connell dedicated 25 years to being a historian for the 83rd Infantry Division Association.

He kept a diary during the war - something that Nancy says he would have probably been court-martialed for – and the pages of his scrapbook are filled with photographs he took, or collected, during his time at war.

One in particular shows Mr. O’Connell saluting Gen. Omar N. Bradley, Gen. William H. Simpson, Lt. Gen. Raymond S. McLain and Gen. Robert Chauncey Mason. All in all, the 83rd infantry fought in five battles: Normandy, Brittany, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe.

Wife and son speak about what they can remember but say that his diaries – which have not been moved down yet from Hicksville, NY, where they spent much of their lives – are a reflection of his life at that time.

Dennis moved his parents to Palm Beach Gardens a few years ago, and they’re still wrapping things up, Nancy said.

Still, Mr. O’Connell’s legacy is part of their family, as is the case with so many Veterans who served but didn’t talk about it much.

“The thing he was most proud of was that chapter in his life – that he served and survived and was recognized by the War Department as a historian,” said Dennis.

Mr. O’Connell met the Russians at the Elbe after the allies captured 24,000 Germans in a 14-

day assault. Years later, one of those Russians – a colonel, who Nancy refers to as “Ziggy” had seen a visitor to Russia who was wearing an emblem that represented the Thunderbolts. He asked the visitor about the 83rd Infantry – the one that had greeted them on the Elbe.

“Ziggy” was given contact information in the States and wrote to the historian, who happened to be Mr. O’Connell. Since his letter was in Russian, Mr. O’Connell had to have his letter translated. They exchanged correspondence and, finally, “Ziggy” and his wife came for a visit.

One of Mr. O’Connell’s many pictures from WWII shows “Ziggy” and private First Class O’Connell together.

Mr. O’Connell returned from the war on Christmas Eve in 1945 and married Nancy in March 2, 1946. They had three children, Dennis, Kent (Kip) and Erin.

Mr. O’Connell graduated with a bachelor’s of arts from C.W. Post College in 1956. He got a second degree as a certified medical representative from St. John’s University.

Along with a 35-year career at pharmaceuticals manufacturer A.H. Robbins, he was an auxiliary policeman in Hicksville for 20 years and eventually became chief of the auxiliary police.

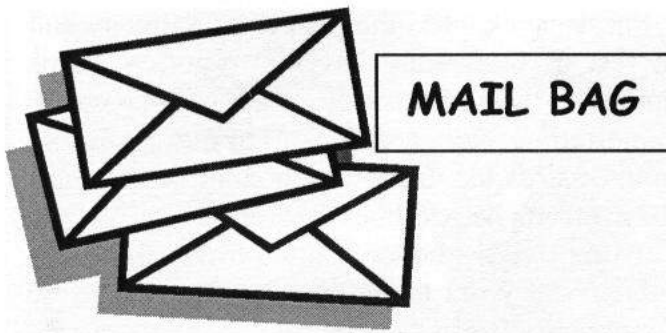
With the 60th anniversary of D-Day two days away, Nancy’s reverence for her husband still shines as she talks to him and about him.

“We’ve been married for a long time and had our ups and downs like anybody,” Nancy says, “but we always lived by the vows that we took 58 years ago.”



**Nancy and Kent O’Connell together in Levittown, NY, in 1994**





**From your Shirt, Cap & Jacket Maker**

Dear Buddies, Oct. 04

After all these years of supplying uniforms for the members of the 83rd Div. Association it has now come to the end. I, as well as most of you, find that I cannot keep up with time so I've decided to supply these through the end of this year, and into the 2005 Reunion.

So, if there is anyone that will be needing any shirts and caps, please place your orders before the 2005 Reunion. I will be able to supply shirts and caps until the end of 2005.

So, what I will supply is gold shirts as well as black and gold jackets and gold jackets, all sizes. Black caps and gold caps – one size fits all.

It has been a pleasure to serve you all these years, and to dress up our association of WWII men and women.

Please write and tell me what you may be needing in 2005.

Vito C. Palazzolo,  
20000 Lancaster St., Harper Woods, MI 48225

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Subject: Nomination  
Date: 11/24/04  
From: Debbie Holliman

**“Thank You, Eddie Hart,”** the documentary about PFC Eddie Hart, 83rd Division, 329th IR, Co. G. which features interviews with several 83rd Division veterans, has been nominated for an **Emmy!** It has been nominated in three categories, including Historical Documentary.

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To the 83rd. . . .

I just wanted to inform you that my father, Nick A. Aloisi, passed away on November 5, 2003. He had very serious heart surgery in April to repair a disserted aorta. He was put on blood thinners because of an artificial valve they placed in his heart. He was recovering well and living at home. One night he was getting up from his chair, lost his balance, and fell and hit his head. He began to bleed into his brain and because of the blood thinners, there was nothing the doctors could do for him. He died the next day.

I apologize for taking so long to write to you, but it has been a very difficult year for my family. Four months after my father died, my mother fell and broke her hip and has not been able to live on her own since then. Please keep my family in your prayers. My Dad always had fond memories of his time spent with the 83rd.

Sincerely,  
Carissa Gans (Nick’s daughter)  
1785 Scarlett Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15241  
(412) 221-5446

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October 19, 2004

Dear Cliff,

I spent a day in Pittsburgh Radisson conversing with 83rd Div. men. Most of them seem nearly as old as I am!

As you know, this is the 60th Anniversary of the Liberation of France. The government of Normandy issued a special commemorative Medal for the survivors of the Battle for Normandy. Beginning June 6 at the Landing Beaches, other Ceremonies were scheduled for other places to mark the progress of the Battle. After some research, I copied this from the official records in the National Archives, “After hard fighting the 331st Regt. captured SAINTNEY on the afternoon of 9th July, (1944) and held the town against repeated counter attacks.” I don’t recall that I was in the town that day, but as a member of the 83rd Recon. Troop, I was near-by. After checking their schedule, I

noted that a Badge Ceremony was scheduled for Sainteny on July 9.

My daughter registered me by E-Mail and received prompt confirmation. My confirmation came by mail.

The Ceremony was a memorable experience. A survivor of the 4th Inf. Div. was there for an Award Badge. A lady from California was there to receive a Badge in honor of her father. He was Lt. Col. Faber, a Battalion Commander in the 331st, he was killed in the Battle for Sainteny. He was a West Point man. The three of us were the only recipients of the 60th Anniversary.

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Article from the  
Washington, PA. Observer  
Aug. 21, 2004

## **Veteran of Normandy invasion honored by French town**

BY HARRY FUNK

The Allied invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944, known to history as D-Day, is renowned as a milestone on the way to victory in World War II.

But the Germans weren't ready to give up their stronghold in northwestern France without major resistance.

"I don't think any Americans had any tougher fighting than that month in Normandy," said James E. (Ernie) Gatten of Scenery Hill, who was there as a member of the U.S. Army's 83rd Division.

For example, on July 5, the day after his division went on the offensive, it lost nearly 1,500 men while advancing only about 200 meters, battling through swamps and dense hedgerows that lent themselves to defensive positions.

Four days later, the division captured its objective, the town of Sainteny, freeing its residents from German occupation. "They recognized the 83rd as their saviors," Gatten said.

Six decades later, the people of Sainteny and the rest of Normandy haven't forgotten. This summer, the Normandy 60th Anniversary Memorial (Normandie Memoite 60eme Anniversaire) has bestowed honors on veterans whose efforts helped liberate France.

To receive his honor, Gatten traveled back to Sainteny 60 years to the day his division made its entrance. During a ceremony at the town hall, the mayor pinned a commemorative badge on the lapel of Gatten's jacket, the same one he wore when he was discharged from the Army in October 1945.

The trip to France was his second since the war. In 1986, he visited the country with a "history buff" nephew, and they took a few days to tour Normandy.

"It's changed so much since '86, I hardly recognize it."

Contrary to popular notions of French attitudes toward Americans, Gatten said the people there have been friendly.

"I think they're genuinely grateful for all we did, and they gave us quite a reception there," he reported. In Sainteny, their gratitude is evident in the form of a granite monument on a local street corner in tribute to the 83rd Division, along with the U.S. 4th Division, which was on the flank during the battle.

Following the capture of Sainteny, the 83rd moved on to participate in the successful Operation Cobra, a coordinated attack along the front that further helped break German resistance. The Normandy Campaign finally ended Aug. 25, 1944, with the British liberation of the town of Lisieux.

Gatten, who entered the service in October 1942, served in the 83rd for two years. He later was transferred to the 102nd Cavalry Squadron and spent time in the summer of 1945 in Plzen (Pilsen), a major Czechoslovak city that had been liberated by American Troops.

The people there, he recalled, seemed to be very concerned about the upcoming Soviet occupation. "It turned out they really had something to worry about," he said.



**James E. Gatten, dressed in the Eisenhower jacket he wore the day he was discharged from the Army after World War II, is honored by officials in Sainteny, France.**



**It was a great surprise to see this street corner in Sainteny. A granite monument dedicated to 83rd Div. It seems strange but we (with the Germans) practically flattened their town, yet they still honor us as the Liberators.**

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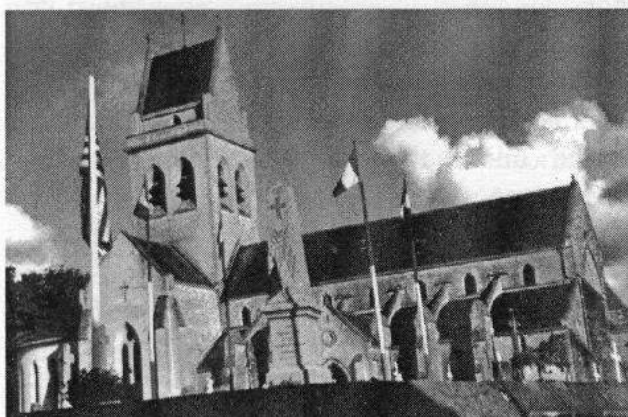


**The Vet from 4th Div. on right (green jacket). I am nearly hidden by flag. The blondish lady in center is daughter of Lt. Col. Faber, who was killed in Sainteny. Mayor in striped tie. A small band played the National Anthems of both U.S. and France**

Dear Sir,

Please put in the next Thunderbolt –

George Waple served with the 331st Infantry, 83rd ID, WWII now residing in Eatontown, NJ is reacquainted with General Peter Schoomaker, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, on Friday 10 September 2004. They were acquainted when General Schoomaker's father, Captain Fred Schoomaker and Captain George Waple served together in assignments at Ft. Amador, Panama Canal Zone, and Command & General Staff College, Leavenworth, Kansas in the 1950's.



**The church in Sainteny. It was heavily damaged in battle but has been beautifully restored. Our flag in church yard.**



**General Peter Schoomaker, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army and George Waple, Ret.**

George has just revised his book, "Country Boy Gone Soldiering" and it can be purchased by writing George at his home address:

13 Redwood Dr., Eatontown, NJ 07724

732-542-8322

@ \$16.85 postage included

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Cliff,

Would you please publish this notice and the enclosed article in the next Thunderbolt:

### **Family's Persistence Leads to Grave Site**

By Bill Wagner  
September 5, 2004

For 55 years, the remains of Army Sgt. Charles D. Shaffer lay in an unmarked grave. As the years went by and older members of his family died, his grave site, even the cemetery his body rests in, were forgotten.

That was until two years ago, when the wife and daughter of his nephew began researching family history.

The whereabouts of the uncle who died in World War II became a big question mark.

Had it not been for that venture into the Shaffer ancestry, the grave of Sgt. Shaffer might have remained just another grassy spot in a Susquehanna County cemetery. Now, thanks to the efforts of his relatives, a bronze plate marks his resting place and an American flag waves from a grave marker.

Sgt. Shaffer's relatives still do not know how he died, just that he was killed in action July 10, 1944, a little more than a month after the D-D invasion along the coast of France. He was 24.

Army records indicate he died in Normandy and was buried in the American military cemetery at St. Mere Eglise, scene of some of the heaviest fighting as his 329th Infantry Regiment and other Allied forces tried to break the German defenses.

However, his relatives knew nothing of this when they began their quest, said Phil Shaffer of Gouldsboro, Sgt. Shaffer's nephew.

"My wife and my sister were doing family history," Mr. Shaffer said, "and I told them about my uncle. Over the years my dad told me where my uncle's grave was, and he was always going to show me but just never got around to it."

He said even finding the cemetery became "a long, drawn-out process."

We couldn't find it because it wasn't listed anywhere," Mr. Shaffer said, "I thought maybe because it was back in the '40's it was one of those cemeteries in a farmer's field."

What information they had came from the Army after Mr. Shaffer's brother wrote requesting Sgt. Shaffer's records.

The family then learned Sgt. Shaffer's remains were actually transferred home in 1949.

Still the grave site remained a mystery.

"The (Army) papers say right down to the grave where he was buried in France," Mr. Shaffer said. "They say who escorted the body here, even where he stayed. But when the body was taken off the train in Hallstead, that's where things got goofed up."

Elsie Shaffer agreed.

"My husband had been looking and looking and they kept saying, 'No, there's no Shaffer buried there.' " she said. "then they found he had been buried in his in-laws' plot. His wife had moved away and there was nobody around to say where he went. People died and (people) forgot."

That cemetery is the Union Dale Cemetery.

Although cemetery records do not list a Shaffer grave site, Sgt. Shaffer's grave was recorded under the name Noble, his wife's maiden name.

The family had finally found Sgt. Shaffer.

With the grave site discovered, Mr. Shaffer obtained an application from a local funeral director and applied for a headstone. The bronze marker from the Department of Veterans Affairs was placed on the grave on Aug. 29.

Army records indicated Sgt. Shaffer was entitled to four decorations: The Service Lapel Button, World War II Victory Medal, and the

European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Bronze Star, The Purple Heart was added by the VA when the grave marker was requested, Mr. Shaffer said.

"I told my family, before I went to my grave I wanted his grave marked," Mr. Shaffer said, "He was a family war hero."

**The Shaffer family is still searching for information about Sgt. Charles Shaffer's service to his country in WW II. They know he was in the 329th Infantry Regiment and was a TEC 5 but do not know with which company he served. He was from Gouldsboro, PA and was killed in Normandy on July 10, 1944. If you remember Sgt. Shaffer or know what company he was with, please contact his nephew, Bob Shaffer, at 128 Wallace Road, Lake Ariel, PA 18436, email: [suvcwrcs@att.net](mailto:suvcwrcs@att.net) or call at Cell telephone (570) 352-2153. Any information you can give would be greatly appreciated.**

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Dear Cliff,

I received the enclosed obituary for another 83rd Infantry Division member. I first met Bernie at the reunion in Omaha and sat at the same table as he did because of a mutual friend, the now deceased John Aller. Bernie and I had mutual friends in the area of Lakeland, MN. He informed me at that reunion of the passing of my best friend who was a neighbor to his house. My friend was like a brother to me. Our ranks are getting mighty thin. Sad to follow it as we grow older but that is the way our lives play out.

Best to you and thanks for your editor task!!!

Sincerely,

Donald Hinz, 83rd Signal Co.

**Bernard Hirte, 81  
Died July 17, 2004**

Bernard "Bernie" Hirte, 81, of Hudson and formerly of Lakeland, died Saturday, July 17, at the Hudson Hospital emergency room.

He was born March 26, 1923, in Lake City, Minn., the son of Max and Anna (Vonderborne)

Hirte. He grew up in Lake City and graduated from Lake City High School.

As a young man, during World War II, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the European Theatre of War. He was a decorated survivor of the Battle of the Bulge. (83rd Inf. Div., H 331st)

He has been a lifetime member of the Stillwater Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 323.

For more than 37 years he was an employee of the Anderson Window Corporation in Bayport and he was a member of its Quarter Century Club.

He was an avid hunter and a regular at the Hudson Golf Club.

Surviving are his wife Katherine Frattalone Hirte; two daughters, Becky Lott of Detroit, Mich., and Debbie Asmus of Bayport; two sons, Terry Hirte and Steven Hirte, both of Lakeland; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, and a brother, Delbert Hirte, of Minneapolis.

Burial was in Lakeview Cemetery in Lakeland with full military honors provided by the Stillwater Veterans of Foreign Wars.

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Dear Cliff,

As you know, I took part in the filming of "**Thank you, Eddie Hart**", and as we have been unable to get either of the local PBS Stations to schedule it, I have offered to show it to any school or veteran groups around Long Island at no charge to the organization.

Recently, I spoke at a Men's Club luncheon in Hempstead and they presented me with a \$46.00 collection to be donated to the association in memory of Eddie Hart. My check to the 83rd Infantry Division Association is enclosed.

Please jot a short receipt to Peter Pantelis, at the attached address so he knows I forwarded the money to you. (Acknowledgement letter sent.)

I am presenting the film at the Deer Park Public Library on October 28th, am scheduling a school visit in Farmingdale, and Bob Sweeney, State Assemblyman in Suffolk County wants me to show it to several schools around November

11th as he feels the young people have lost sight of what we did.

Hope the reunion in Pittsburgh was a success.

Best Regards,

Richard H. Coyle, S/Sgt G-329,

July 18, 1944-April 12, 1945.

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Dear Cliff,

Just a note to report the death of a fellow artillery man George Johnson, Btry. A 322 buried with full military honors Nov. 22, 04. A call from his wife after the funeral brought this sad news! George was born in U.S.A., spent first 17 years in Macedonia, came back to U.S.A., worked, never learned to read or write English until drafted and placed in same Btry. Co. with me. The commanding officer detailed me to teach him! He was a fast learner and went on to be a Gunner Corporal throughout the war.

I was never able to convince him to come to any reunions but did visit him and Goldie in Flint, Michigan in 1996.

Your Comrade in Arms,

Ellsworth Massie

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Dear Mr. Wooldridge,

This is to inform you that my father, Harold B. "Bill" Wallace, a member of the 330th Battalion, G Company of the 83rd Infantry Division, died on Sunday, September 5, at the age of 82.

He was an avid reader of the Thunderbolt. It was a shock to all of us as Dad, despite many years of smoking, appeared to be in good health.

Ironically, my job often takes me to Dusseldorf and Neuss, and dad would occasionally drop me a memory from the days when the 83rd was there. If you need any additional information, here's my address:

Gary (and Donna) Wallace  
2521 Timber Ridge Lane,  
Flower Mound, TX 75028

Cell: 214-437-1506, Office: 972-753-6230  
Email (if you're so inclined; Dad never was):  
gwallace@atxg.com

I've enclosed a copy of the obituary that ran in the Kansas City Star.

### **HAROLD B. "BILL" "HAL" WALLACE**

Harold B. "Bill" "Hal" Wallace, 82, Overland Park, KS, passed away Sunday morning, Sept. 5, 2004, at Shawnee Mission Medical Center, Merriam, KS of heart failure.

Bill served for three years in the 83rd Infantry Division in WWII. Major engagements included Normandy, Brittany, Hurtgen Forest, Ardennes, and Bronze Star, and received a Battlefield Commission of First Lieutenant.

Bill was born October 20, 1921, in Gallia County, OH, to Chauncey and Irene (Lewis) Wallace. He was employed at Land-Sharp Chevrolet in Kansas City, MO. Also employed at Wally's and Oak Park Firestone.

He has been active in Boy Scouts and 3-2 baseball. Bill is survived by his wife of 57 years, LaVerna; son Gary and daughter Karen Carpenter, three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Willie James Snodgrass**

8/13/04

#### **Messenger-Inquirer**

BEAVER DAM – Willie James Snodgrass, 82, of Beaver Dam died Thursday, Aug. 12, 2004, at his residence. He was born in Ohio County on June 22, 1911. He retired as a coal miner from Peabody Coal Co., Ken Surface Mine, and was a member of Beaver Dam Baptist Church, the Welcome Sunday school class and United Mine Workers of America, Local No. 8941. He was an Army 83rd Infantry Division veteran of World War II. He was preceded in death by his wife, Beatrice Patterson Snodgrass, who died Feb. 23, 1975; a brother, Bloomer Snodgrass; and a sister, Pansy Snodgrass.

Survivors include a son, Kent Snodgrass and wife, Shirley of Georgetown; a daughter, Benita Rowe of Beaver Dam; a brother, Willis Snodgrass of Beaver Dam; a sister, Venzie Brown of Hartford; a grandson, Alan Rowe of Beaver Dam; and eight nephews and three nieces.

\*\*\*\*\*

83rd Inf. Div. Assoc., Inc.

Last Oct. 10, I celebrated my 67th birthday and was presented by my daughter, Shelley Stack, with a piece of memorabilia which I will treasure for the rest of my years. Shelly took the time and effort to write to your organization regarding her grandfather, my father Edwin Stachowski (Stack):

Pvt. Edwin J. Stachowski (Stack)  
ASN: 35343780 of South Bend, IN.  
331st Regiment, Company G

KIA on July 1st or 2nd near St. Lo, Normandy  
France (I believed to be by a small village named  
Meastis or Meautis) 1944

Shelly asked for any information which might have been available regarding the circumstances of his death or if any of your organization might recall him. She received numerous replies from wonderful and caring people. These were all lovingly placed by her and another dear friend of our family in a scrap book for me to cherish.

My father was the first casualty of G Company who subsequently lost most of their members in the hedgerow country around St. Lo. Most of the company officers were killed within a short period of time. Understandably, most of the letters received by Shelley and by my mother, who passed away three years ago, were from replacements for Company G – yet those dear people took the time to reply. I have not written to them personally, however, list their names in the hope that this letter might be posted somewhere that they might see it and that my Dad in his eternal rest will know they cared,

even though they did not know one another in mortal life:

Casel V. Bush	Michael M. Mizerock
Harold C. Dickinson	Arthur E. Spaulding
Jeremiah Budd	Joseph A. Macaluso
John A. Gentile	Harold W. Higgins
James A. Fall	Helen Dickinson (for her deceased father David Dickinson)
William Sears	

I now am enclosing an article which I directed to our local newspaper earlier in the year regarding my Dad and all of those who served as part of the “greatest generation.” The picture below is one of the last taken of me and my Dad (probably early winter of 1943-44).

Please accept my check in the amount of \$25 for a “descendant” membership in the 83rd Infantry Div Assoc. It would be a great honor for me.

James J. Stack  
3913 Ardmore Tr.  
South Bend, IN 46628



Article from the  
South Bend Tribune  
"MICHIANA POINT OF VIEW"  
July 9, 2004

## **World War II and dad provide bittersweet memories**

BY JIM STACK

Recently a couple of poignant letters appeared in the "Michiana Point of View" which related to "the greatest generation" of World War II and how much they had influenced the lives of those of us who were touched by that bittersweet period of history. One of the letters was from an anonymous writer that particularly caused me to reflect on an ache that has been with me for the past 60 years.

My mom and dad were divorced shortly after I was born and it resulted in his being drafted into the U.S. Army before he would have been age-ineligible. Most of my memories of Dad were of his brief visits to the farm where I was raised by my mom and grandparents. I vividly recall waiting for him at the end of our driveway as he would hike from the bus stop down a neighborhood street and up a dirt road to the farm entrance. Occasionally he would wander off the dirt road to check the sweet corn or stop to chat with Grandpa, who was working in the truck garden. It was always a delightful day for me. When on leave from training, he would wear his uniform. Even though I did not understand the implications, I was the son of a soldier

There then came a time when he did not appear for a long period. Mom explained to me that he had gone to England to fight in the war, but that he would come back and maybe we could be a family again. Then one hot July day in 1944, when the corn was growing taller, Mom told me that Dad would not ever be coming home. It took many hours of a small boy's waiting at the end of the driveway and looking down an empty dirt road before I finally accepted the fact that he was not coming back. I rationalized that he had again stepped off the road and had been swallowed up by the corn.

Mom never remarried, and I truly believe that she went to her grave with the terrible burden that she was at fault for his going to war. I had lost a hero to the war, but had gained so many heroes in Mom, two sets of grandparents, and many compassionate and loving family members, two of whom included mom's cousins, one who was wounded at Omaha Beach and another who survived a kamikaze attack in the Pacific.

We survived by staying together as a family and by working together with so many others who shared a common goal. Needs were less complex and people's acts were based more on a belief in God and the values deeply set in us by our families.

Information was scarce as to the circumstances of Dad's death. For many months, there was only the gold star flag in his parents' window and that awful final telegram from the War Department. It wasn't until many years later that Mom finally gained closure after much correspondence with scant survivors of his company. She received a letter from Dad's former first sergeant, indicating that he was the first casualty of the unit and confirming that he had been killed in action near St. Lo, Normandy, France, in the small village of Metasits on July 1, 1944. I could still sense the pain in that caring man's written words as he detailed the events that led to their being in that part of Normandy, particularly where he wrote of Dad's being the first to die. "You never forget something like that."

Dad did get to come home after all. After the end of the war, Grandpa and Grandma Stachowski requested that the body of their son Edwin be brought back to rest in the family plot, close to those he loved. Quite frequently I go out to visit all who now rest there. As I stand in the cemetery, I hear the young voices drift across from the athletic fields at the university. I ponder how many of those voices and of the preceding and succeeding generations would have been stilled were it not for the hundreds of thousands of lives that were lost and for the millions of men and women who were a part of that "greatest generation." Their sacrifices were



made so that the freedoms we so cherish could go on.

I think back to the dad who I knew for such a short time, that he did not have time enough on earth to realize his dreams, nor did he get to ever meet the three wonderful people who became the most important part of his son's life. My ache is that I could not somehow be there to soothe the awful fear and dread he must have felt. I will always treasure his memory. The legacy he and his brothers in arms left us was to make the world a safer place. Mankind must strive to do better so that their legacy is not squandered

May God hold in his arms all of those who gave their lives for our country and may he hold them open for all of those from the 'greatest generation' who wait to join their fallen comrades. May he bless all now in service and all those who ache for them. And may he give a special blessing to Tom Brokaw, who reminded us of the "greatest generation," and to Tom Hanks and all the others responsible for the new World War II Memorial. **Jim Stack lives in South Bend.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**To: 83rd Inf. Div. . . . .**

It is with deep regret that I inform you of the passing of your Brother in Arms, my father: Gilbert M. King, Sr. on October 27, 2004.

Dad served in the U.S. Army from July 31, 1944 though Dec. 5, 1945 He was in Co. L 329 Infantry during World War II as a ground pounder serving in France, Belgium, Ardennes and Germany. We know you boys went through hell and back to make it safe for us back home. We thank all of you survivors of that dreaded war.

. . . If possible, I would like to renew the subscription for one year. Please send the Thunderbolts now to: Gilbert M. King, Jr., P.O. Box 56, Petersham, MA 01366.

. . . May God bless you all and keep you safe and healthy for many more years.

Respectfully,

Gilbert M. King, Jr.

**URGENT NOTICE  
FROM  
CONCERNED MEMBERS**

At the business meeting of the 83rd Reunion in Pittsburgh the Executive Board indicated that Paducah would be the last reunion and they would still put out the Thunderbolt until the treasury was depleted.

I believe that the by-laws state a decision of this kind should be published in the Thunderbolt 90 days before the next business meeting and voted on by the body requiring a 2/3 majority to pass.

If you think the board is right, then do nothing.

If you think the board is wrong in not allowing the complete membership to have a voice, then write or call someone on the Executive Board **NOW**. The membership should include those whose dues are in good standing whether they attend the reunions or not.

The executive board members' names and addresses are on the inside front cover of the Thunderbolt.

Many members have indicated that our Association should continue as a memorial, to those we left behind, and those that fought so gallantly, as members of the 83rd Infantry Div.

\*\*\*

Are there any national officers or executive board members interested in continuing the Association and willing to contribute in a smaller or lesser degree? I am sure there are many members who would also be interested.

Why not decrease the number of officers on both the national and executive boards?

\*\*\*

Why not have descendants and members on the board together? Descendants will learn from the members.

Descendants will help out the executive board to run reunions in the future. Other divisions are doing it now, such as the 10th Mountain and Dixie Chapter.

## 58th Reunion – Pittsburgh, PA



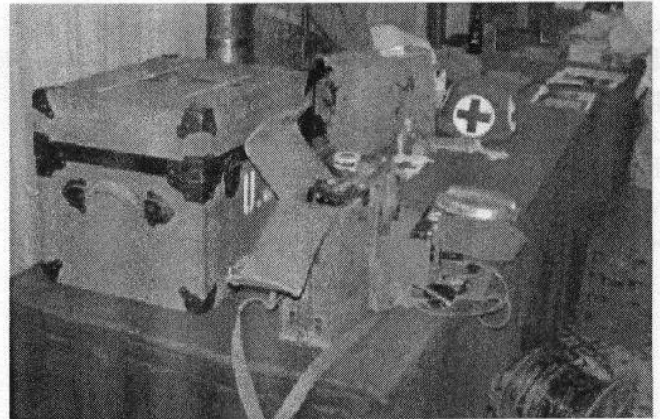
**Greater Pittsburgh Barber Shop Quartet**  
Wednesday Night in Hospitality Room



**Miniature Horse Racing**  
June Zenz, Gladys Taylor, Theresa Scicolone,  
Ona Prinzi, Ann Tisdell



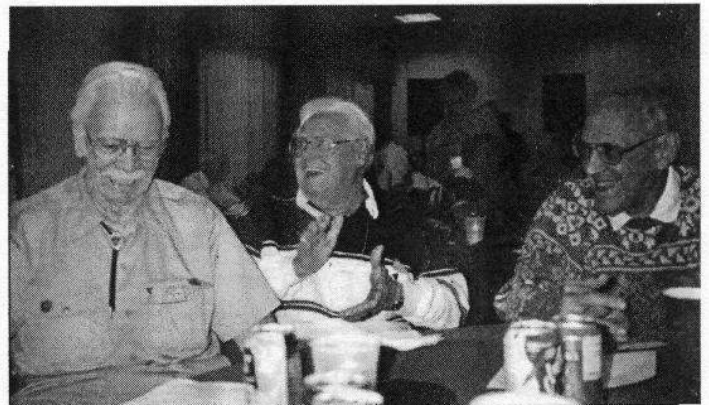
**Gateway Clipper Dinner Cruise**  
Minick's, Taylor's, Prinzi's, and Scicolone's



**Military Equipment Display**  
Hospitality Room

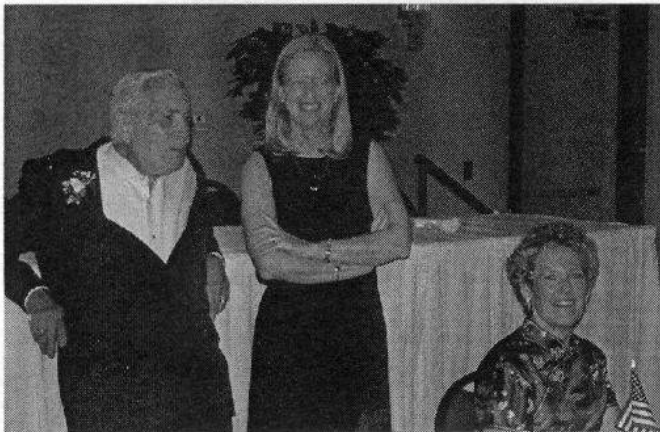


**Ntl. WWII Memorial Commemorative Stamp**  
Everyone received an envelope with day of issue  
cancellation on stamp

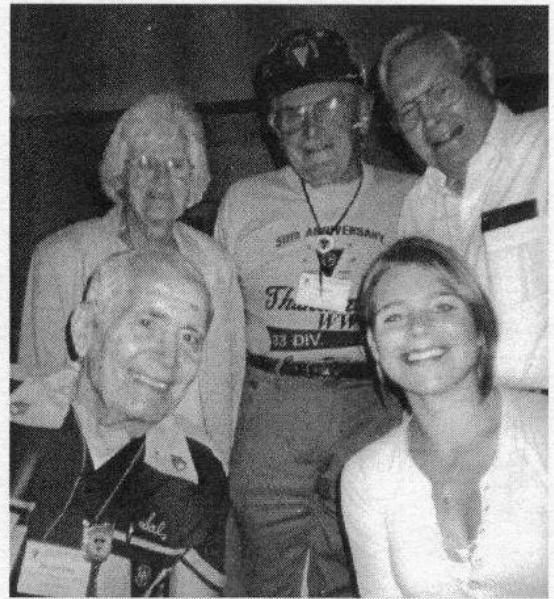


**Some one told a Joke!**  
A 322 F.A.

## The Reunion – Pittsburgh, PA



**Banquet  
Sal, Debbie Holloman, and Ann Tisdell**



**Sal with Nikki the Exercise Instructor  
Phyliss & Bob Keck, Keith Davidson**



**Banquet – Theresa Scicolone preparing  
to set up head table with flags and  
goodie bags for the ladies**



**Banquet – Gladys Taylor, Theresa Scicolone,  
Ann Tisdell, and June Zenz**



**Banquet – Co. F 330 Men – Joe Deperi with  
Arthur and Charlotte Loukas**



**Debbie Holloman, niece of PFC Eddie Hart,  
Showed the video "Thank you Eddie Hart"  
with Lou Gomori, Historian**



## John Raikos

A tribute to a great man, a Veteran and the Judge Advocate who is on medical leave due to a stroke.

I, with many other Veterans of the great 83rd Infantry Division wish you a speedy recovery so that you can enjoy life as it used to be and again be among your friends that truly miss you.

Louis Gomori





# **THUNDERBOLT**

**83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.**

**WORLD WAR II**

**Louis Gomori  
309 E. Locust Street  
Butler, PA 16001-4826  
(724) 283 - 4340**

**October 14, 2004**

**Cliff Wooldridge, Editor - Publisher "Thunderbolt"  
83rd Infantry Division Association, Inc.  
East Side Drive, P. O. Box 406  
Alton Bay, NH 03810 - 0406**

**Dear Mr. Wooldridge :**

**I am enclosing an 8 X 10 photograph of John Raikos and 2 smaller ones, can you please publish them in the Thunderbolt and then return them to Mary Raikos - thank you. With the photograph, kindly include the following :**

**A tribute to a great man, a Veteran and the Judge Advocate who is on medical leave due to a stroke - I, with many other Veterans of the great 83<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division wish you a speedy recovery so that you can enjoy life as it used to be and again be among your friends that truly miss you.**

**Please put the following in the "Thunderbolt" also.**

**We had another great reunion, this time, in Pittsburgh, PA. Salvatore Scicolone, his wife Teresa with their volunteers did a fabulous job and deserve to be commended for a job well done.**

**It was a great pleasure meeting George Patton's Grandson, Benjamin and his assistant at the reunion. They did a lot of video - taping in different areas and am anxious to see the end result on PBS. My "fox - hole" buddy, Harvey Estes, of the 1<sup>st</sup> machine gun squad and his wife Carolyn from Mulbery, Indiana and Harold Geisinger from Storm Lake, IA of "I" Company, 329<sup>th</sup> were there. Edward Pogoda, from Hadley, MA, our 1<sup>st</sup> machine gun Squad Leader wanted to be present but was unable to make proper arrangements for traveling as he has a pacemaker ( sorry Ed ). He stated that he will be at the reunion in Kentucky and I am looking**

forward to it. June Zenz was also there and I am sorry that I didn't take time out to chat with her ( sorry June ). My mind went on a 5 minute break and didn't come back in time. I used to call these incidents as a " Senior Moment " but realized that was for Senior Citizens. It was also great seeing all of my friends again, too numerous to list.

Yesterday, October 13, 2004, I received a phone call from Chris McNamme and he told me that he called the Army Military Awards Branch in regards to the proposed Citation. He stated that the material for the Citation has been reviewed and it is being forwarded to another department for approval and from there, to another department and this process will take about 30 days for acceptance or denial. As I have previously asked Mr. Salvatore Scicolone of the Pittsburgh, PA Chapter to assist me with whatever needed to be done for accepting the Presidential Unit Citation which we had hoped to be at the reunion in Pittsburgh, PA. I will again ask him for his assistance should the Citation be approved.

I started to get material together in regards to a possible 6<sup>th</sup> Battle Campaign Star as we did invade and capture territory in Eastern Europe that was assigned to the Russians. A Lt. Col. Admitted to this fact. As there is a movement on to dissolve the 83<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Association, Inc. , what's the use. This is why I kept insisting that the Descendant Members should be permitted to take over the duties of the Associations Officers. I wanted to make a motion to nominate Bill Curry as an assistant Historian as he is doing a fabulous job by having web pages of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Inf. Div on the Internet in Honor of his Father. With things going on as they are in Iraq and Afghanistan - who knows, the 83<sup>rd</sup> may be reactivated. And remember - We were the best of the best - like it or not.

At the Executive Board Meeting held on September 16, 2004, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, I went into the meeting room and the Chairman of the Board, Mr. John Prinzi threw me out. I told him that I was authorized to be present and he told me that they are holding a meeting and to please leave. I still have a bad taste in my mouth.

I am writing a letter to Mr. William M. Minick, Acting Judge Advocate as to my options in regards to me being deprived of my rights as the Historian by attending the Executive Board Meetings and being compensated at the same rate as the Executive Board Members.

Sincerely,

*Louis Gomori*  
Louis Gomori, HISTORIAN

## 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>
Aloisi, Nick A.	83rd Band	Daughter Carissa Gans
Bullard, John J., Jr.	A Co., 330th	Charlie Abdinoor
Christopher, Domenic	C Batt, 323 Artillery	Bob Grobelny
Clement, Joseph H.	C Co., 308 Eng.	Pat DiGiammerino
Cooney, John, Jr.	A Co., 331st	Stan Bielen
Cuzynski, Chester (Whitey)	A Co., 330th	Charlie Abdinoor
Flahaven, William	Hq. Co., 331st	Son Joseph
Forest, Ralph P.	M Co., 329th	Post Office
Hargrove, Robert		John Farrell
Hensley, Tom S.	A Co., 330th	Cecil Walters
Hirte, Bernard	H Co., 331st	Donald Hinz
Johnson, George	Btg A, 322nd	Ellsworth Massie
King, Gilbert M., Sr.	L Co., 329th	Son Gilbert Jr.
Kosanovich, Mike	E Co., 331st	C. R. Bob Whitcomb
Lindsey, Earl C., Sr.	M Co., 331st	Bob Grobelny
O'Connell, Wm. Kent	83rd MP	Manny Epstein
Runge, Albert L.	L Co., 331st	Pat DiGiammerino
Snodgrass, Willie James	323rd FA	
Sullivan, John L., Jr.	Hq. Co. 1st Bn 329th IF	Cousin Jack Sullivan
Wallace, Harold B. "Bill"	G Co., 330th	Son Gary

\*\*\*\*\*

### WOULD YOU LIKE A ROSTER OF THE 2004 MEMBERSHIP?

This roster includes all members who have paid their dues as of 2004 and also includes their units.

The cost is \$5.00 plus \$1.50 postage and handling. Send your check for \$6.50 to:

83rd Infantry Division Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 406  
Alton Bay, NH 03810

# REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT 83<sup>RD</sup> DIVISION VETERANS

submitted by Debbie Holloman  
niece of PFC Eddie Hart, 329th IR, Co. G

Please review the following requests for information submitted by relatives and others looking for information about an 83<sup>rd</sup> Division veteran and, in some cases, 83<sup>rd</sup> Division veterans looking for their buddies.

There are many other requests for information on the message board maintained by Dave Curry, whose father, Thomas Curry, 331<sup>st</sup> IR, Company L, was killed in action on December 10, 1944. If you have access to a computer and the internet, please take a look at Dave's web site, which is a tribute to all the brave men who served with the 83<sup>rd</sup> Division, and the 83rd Division message board at [www.ncweb.com/~davecurry/brothers/msgs.html](http://www.ncweb.com/~davecurry/brothers/msgs.html). Dave's web site also has links to the other great sites about the 83<sup>rd</sup> Division so be sure to take a look. **(Editor's Note: See related article about 83<sup>rd</sup> Division Web Sites in this issue.)**

Please look over the list and if you can help, please contact these folks.

Billy Machupa is looking for information about his grandfather, **PFC Nicholas Pecoraro, Jr.**, sometimes spelled Pecararo, from New York. **PFC Pecoraro** was in the **331<sup>st</sup> IR, company unknown**. He was wounded on V-E Day, May 8, 1945 in **Stroit, Germany** when he smothered a smoking burlap sack with his body and a fragmentation grenade exploded, seriously wounding him. He died on July 29, 1945 in a hospital in Massachusetts. He may have also served in the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division before joining the 83<sup>rd</sup>. If you knew **PFC Pecoraro**, please contact his grandson, Billy Machupa, at 281-334-1724 or email him at [wmachupa@hotmail.com](mailto:wmachupa@hotmail.com) or write him at 428 Starborough Drive, League City, TX 77573.

Dick McCormick is looking for any information about his brother, **PFC Jack McCormick, 330<sup>th</sup> IR, company unknown**, who was captured by the Germans sometime before February 26,

**1945, was in Stalag 7, was to be moved, but died on March 3, 1945**. He was from Iowa and was 6'6" tall with dark hair. If you remember **PFC McCormick**, please contact Dick at 29808 Bennington Road, Valley, Nebraska 68064 or send him an email at [DmcCor62@aol.com](mailto:DmcCor62@aol.com).

John Tewell is looking for information about his father, **Pvt. Walter H. "Mickey" Tewell, 329<sup>th</sup> IR, Company C, from Columbus, Ohio**. If you remember **Pvt. Tewell**, please contact John at 206 Postle Blvd., Columbus, Ohio 43228; telephone: 614-361-7400 or email him at [jtewell@aol.com](mailto:jtewell@aol.com).

Bob Modica is looking for information about his uncle, **Pvt. Anthony (Tony) DiSabatino of Trenton, New Jersey**. He was in the **330<sup>th</sup> IR, company unknown**. He was wounded at Normandy and a few days later was killed at the battle of St. Lo. If you remember **Pvt. DiSabatino**, please contact Bob at [bmodica@belleservices.com](mailto:bmodica@belleservices.com) or call him (toll-free) at 877-462-3553.

Chris Cuzynski has been in touch with Chuck Abdinoor, who served with Chris's dad, **PFC Chester Joseph Cuzynski**. **Chris's dad, called "Whitey"** because of his very blonde hair, recently passed away. Whitey served in **330<sup>th</sup> IR, Company A**. **He was from Toledo, Ohio and entered the service at Ft. Hayes, Ohio**. If you remember **Whitey Cuzynski**, please contact Chris at [cuzynski909@charter.net](mailto:cuzynski909@charter.net) or write him at 6272 Marble Avenue, Alta Loma, CA 91701 or call him at 909-987-8868.

Kathleen Fitzpatrick is seeking information about her father, **Rolan Steve Johnson, also called Steve, Rollie, and Roland, 331<sup>st</sup> IR, Co. I**, who was from Washington and who served as **company Sgt.** part of his time in Europe. He had lost much of his hair by the time he joined the Army at age 20. If you remember **Sgt. Johnson**, please contact his daughter, Kathleen at 425-252-



2627 or write her at 1608 Hoyt Ave., Everett, WA 98201-2012, or email her at [fffitz@worldnet.att.net](mailto:fffitz@worldnet.att.net).

Les King, who has written a book called Hellcats Don't Leak Oil, They Mark Their Territory, was a member of **Company A of the 643rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, attached to the 83<sup>rd</sup> and specifically to the 329<sup>th</sup> IR from February to May 1945, supporting the 83<sup>rd</sup> at the Roer River crossing and the push across Germany.** You can find more information about his book at [www.trafford.com](http://www.trafford.com). Les would love to hear from any of you. Email him at [lking6@cs.com](mailto:lking6@cs.com) or write him 828 N.68 Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85043 or call him at 623-936-1184.

Timothy Terrell seeks information about **PFC Carl Douglas**, his wife's great uncle, who was from **Missouri**. PFC Douglas was in the **331<sup>st</sup> IR, company unknown**. He died in combat on **August 7, 1944 and is buried in France**. His sister very much wants to learn more about **PFC Douglas**, the brother she dearly loved. If you remember **PFC Douglas**, please contact his family through Timothy Terrell's email at [Tterrell01@wmconnect.com](mailto:Tterrell01@wmconnect.com) or write him at 3501 E. New Haven Road, #163, Columbia, MO 65201 or call him at 573-449-1018.

Bruce McGarvey seeks information about his dad, **PFC Leonard McGarvey**, who served with the **308<sup>th</sup> Engineers Battalion, Co. B**, (and/or possibly with the **324<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery also**) and who was from **Cleveland, Ohio**. He served from November 1942, entering through **Fort Hayes, Ohio**, until September 1945. If you remember **PFC McGarvey**, please contact his son, Bruce McGarvey, through email at [bmccgar@adelphia.net](mailto:bmccgar@adelphia.net) or write him at 2502 Glade Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060 or call him at 540-922-2052.

Bob Shaffer seeks information about his uncle, **TEC 5 Charles Robert Shaffer, 329<sup>th</sup> IR, company unknown**, who was from Pennsylvania. He was killed in action **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 [bshaffer-lariel.att.net@worldnet.att.net](mailto:bshaffer-lariel.att.net@worldnet.att.net). (See related newspaper story and photo also in this issue.)

Ronald Steiner is looking for information about his uncle, **Sgt. Harold W. Steiner, 330<sup>th</sup> IR, Company D**. He was from **Pennsylvania**. If you remember **Sgt. Steiner**, please contact Ronald at 8220 E. Candleberry Circle, Orange, CA 92869 or email him at: [Steiner@chapman.edu](mailto:Steiner@chapman.edu).

Dr. Michael Spivey, who collects WWII helmets, seeks information about **PFC Charley G. DiDominic, 331<sup>st</sup> IR, company unknown**, whose helmet he found in France. **PFC DiDominic** was from **Wayne County, Michigan**. It is believed that he was **killed in action near Carentan, France, in July 1944**. If you remember **PFC DiDominic**, please contact Dr. Spivey at [michael.spivey@uncp.edu](mailto:michael.spivey@uncp.edu) or 910-521-6776 or write him at 9040 Mcqueen Road, Laurinburg, NC 28352.

Richard Williams seeks information about his uncle, **Pvt. Kenneth D. Williams, from Illinois**. He was in the **329<sup>th</sup> IR, company unknown, but thought possibly to be in either E, F, G, or H**. He was killed in action on **July 4, 1944**. If you remember **Pvt. Williams**, please contact Richard at 1421 Stoner Ridge, Hermitage, TN 37076, or call him at 615-883-0715 or email him at [richard.williamsjr04@comcast.net](mailto:richard.williamsjr04@comcast.net).

**Weldon Sadler, who was in the 330<sup>th</sup> IR, Co. A**, would love to hear from some of his buddies. He joined **Co. A** as a replacement and served **from Christmas Eve 1944 through the occupation**. He was a **machine gunners assistant**. If you remember Weldon, please write him at 428 Fisherman's Road, Norfolk, VA 23503 or call him at 757-587-5814 or send him an email through his son at [LewSadler@aol.com](mailto:LewSadler@aol.com).

Georg Haberl, Hilzstr. 23, D-94469 Deggendorf/Germany  
Fax.: 01149/991/2709825 E-mail: habfri@t-online.de

Mr.  
Cliff Wooldridge  
138 East Side Dr. P.O. Box 406  
Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406  
U S A

Deggendorf; Sept. 24.2004

83<sup>rd</sup> Div.

Dear Mr. Wooldridge,

*Beryl B. Brandt wrote to me that you be now the Publisher of the "Thunderbolt".*

*Until the year I was contact with Pat DiGiammerino. But to my last letters I got no answers. I hope he is not sick.*

*First I must explain: I'm born 1934 in the town "Deggendorf/Danube" and research since some years the end of WWII in my home-area but also the following occupation-time. And I have the experience that documents of the archives are very important but information, impressions and maybe photos of veterans also just as important.*

*Especially the 329<sup>th</sup> Inf. was 1945 from June 14. until the end of 1945 in the Deggendorf-Plattling area, of course partly also other units of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Div. For your information I enclose some maps and if wanted I could also send copies of these maps to other Veterans.*

*So it would be very nice if you will publish following into the next issue:*

***Because my historic researches I'm very interest to get information, about impressions and maybe photos about your residence at the area of the towns Deggendorf – Plattling – Osterhofen – Regen – Vilshofen and also about the other places and villages in the area of Lower-Bavaria.***

***What were your tasks? What did you do during your free-time? Which clubs had you into your vicinity? How was the contact with German people?***

-2-

***I know following greater camps into the area:***

***PW-Camp 431 Plattling***

***Camp C1 13 Plattling***

***Internment Camp Natternberg C1 E5***

***Camp for the Russian-Wlassov-Army Plattling***

***DP-Camps at Winzer and Osterhofen***

***Jewish-DP Center Camp 7 – UNRRA at the “Old barracks-Deggendorf”***

***(Officers of the 329<sup>th</sup> Inf. had a farewell-evening at Oct. 17.1945 in this Jewish-Camp)***

***Polish guards would also used for watching different camps like par example Winzer. Who knows more about these Polish Guards?***

***Knows somebody which Engr. Units were include by building or reconstruction of following bridges which were destroyed by the German Army:***

***Highway-bridge across the Danube Deggendorf***

***Railroad-bridge across the Danube Deggendorf: beginning to work about Sept. 1945***

***Highway-bridge across the Isar-River Plattling***

***Railroad-bridge across the Isar-River Plattling***

***Sari Barabas, Hungarian, later a famous vocalist sang also in Deggendorf for the GI's, also at Vilshofen. Who remember and has maybe photos?***

***Sari Barabas is still alive and live near Munich. I visited her last year.***

***I'm very interest at every little detail, specially also the human encounters and meetings. Also about things I had forgotten to ask.***

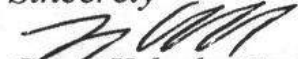
***Dear Mr. Wooldridge, I hope my plea is not in vain, for it is time to close my researches because these historic area. I try to write a book about that time into my home-area and this must be finished next year, 60. years after the end of WWII. And after some years the most German and American time-witnesses are passed away and it is too late.***

***So I definite count on you.***

***And please send to me a copy of this issue.***

***Thank you very much for help by my historic task.***

***Sincerely***



***Georg Haberl The town Deggendorf celebrated in 2002 – 1000 Years town Deggendorf -. For in the year 1002 Deggendorf was first called into a historic document. Therefore the German mail published a special stamp for this event. Please look at the envelope. And I enclose also a pin with the heraldic of Deggendorf.***

## 83<sup>rd</sup> Division Web Sites

submitted by Debbie Holloman

The following are web sites that provide information about the 83<sup>rd</sup> Division. Many have photographs and other historical information. Most of these sites also have links to other sites about the 83<sup>rd</sup> Division and sites about World War II. If you have access to a computer and the internet, take a look at these great sources of information.

### Web Sites about the 83<sup>rd</sup> Division:

<http://www.ncweb.com/~davecurry/brothers/index.html>:

“Brothers in Arms” -- Site by Dave Curry in Memory of Thomas D. Curry, 331<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, Co. F. It also has a great message board to search for information about 83<sup>rd</sup> Division veterans.

<http://gateway.ca.k12.pa.us/memorial/>

“Rounds Complete, Mission Accomplished” – Site by John Bifano in Memory of Samuel J. Bifano, 324<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion.

<http://home.comcast.net/~83division/>

“Through the Eyes of a Thunderbolt” – Site by Kevin Harris in Memory of PFC Michael Harris, 331<sup>st</sup> IR, Co. F.

<http://www.atomic.pair.com/wwii/>

83<sup>rd</sup> Division Re-Enactment Group – Site contains many links and other information.

<http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/documents/elbe-fm.htm>

“The Drive to the Elbe” -- Site contains copy of the Elbe Report.

<http://www.geocities.com/sgtwlarnold/>

Sgt. Walter Arnold, 329<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Anti-Tank Company.

<http://www.geocities.com/searchlight352/Thunderbolt/thunderbolt.html>

The Thunderbolt Across Europe

<http://www.geocities.com/searchlight352/330th/330th.html>

The Story of the 330<sup>th</sup> Infantry Across Europe.

<http://www.awon.org/awtannen.html>

The Story of Private Henry Tannenbaum, 331<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Co. F.

<http://www.angelfire.com/va2/worldwar2family/roland.html>

The Story of Rolland Despres, 331<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, Co. B.

<http://www.ameribytes.com/329thInfantry/index.html>

329<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Rag Tag Circus – Site by John Mauldin, Regimental Surgeon.

<http://www.thankyoueddiehart.com/>

Thank You, Eddie Hart – Documentary Website; 329<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Co. G.

[http://www.mckenziebanner.com/2001features/feature\\_VernonBobo\\_July4\\_2001.htm](http://www.mckenziebanner.com/2001features/feature_VernonBobo_July4_2001.htm)

Vernon Bobo, 331<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, Co. I.

<http://www.gijake.com>

Clarence "Jake" Halderman, 324<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion.

[http://www.rootsweb.com/~kscomanc/park\\_melvin.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~kscomanc/park_melvin.html)

PFC Melvin Park, 329<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Co. K.

<http://www.indianamilitary.org/>

Indiana Military Organization – Camp Atterbury information.

<http://www.kentucky.com/mld/kentucky/living/community/8729933.htm>

Hershell McIntosh, 331<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, Co. F.

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cocoon/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.01135/pageturner?ID=pm0001001>

Frank Monan, 331<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, Co. A.

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cocoon/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.01785/pageturner?ID=pm0001001>

Everett W. Singleton, Sr., 331<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, Co. G.

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cocoon/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.01931/pageturner?ID=pm0001001>

Byron Herde, 331<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment.

[http://home.comcast.net/~83division/83rd\\_in\\_Normandy/index.htm](http://home.comcast.net/~83division/83rd_in_Normandy/index.htm)

Documenting the 83<sup>rd</sup> Division's Participation in the Normandy Campaign.

## Other World War II or Military Web Sites

<http://www.awon.org>

American WWII Orphans Network

<http://www.abmc.gov/>

American Battle Monuments Commission

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500

2300 Clarendon Boulevard Arlington, VA 22201

(703) 696-6897 (to find information about those killed or missing in action and to help you learn where your relative is buried if buried in an American Cemetery.)

<http://www.archives.gov/index.html>

National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001

1-866-272-6272; FAX: 301-837-0483

[http://www.archives.gov/research\\_room/vetrecs/](http://www.archives.gov/research_room/vetrecs/)

For veterans and next-of-kin.

<http://carlisle-www.army.mil/usamhi/>

United States Army Military History Institute.

<http://www.wwiimemorial.com/>

Information about the National World War II Memorial and World War II Registry.

<http://www.grunts.net/army/infantry2.html>

U.S. Army Infantry Divisions information.

<http://members.aol.com/dadswar/index.htm>

A great site to help you find information about your relative who served in WWII.

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83rd Infantry Division Association**

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## **83<sup>RD</sup> 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.

**83<sup>rd</sup> Reunion will be held at  
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Cliff Wooldridge  
138 East Side Drive, P.O. Box 406  
Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406

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