



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.
WORLD WAR II

Vol. 60 Issue No. 2

Spring Issue 2005

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



Paducah, Kentucky, September 7 - 11, 2005

THE THUNDERBOLT

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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
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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	
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1958 Raymond J. Voracek*	1975 Robert G. Taylor	1992 Ned Smith	
1959 Charles Abdinoor	1976 Mike Skovran*	1993 Louis Sandini*	
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1962 John W. Robinette*	1979 William J. Chavanne*	1996 Floyd Richmond	
1963 Manuel C. Martin*	1980 Samuel Klippa*	1997 Keith Davidson	

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

AL SHRAWDER

Well, many of you have had a bad winter – lots of snow and cold. Hopefully, it won't be long till spring.

We have been working hard on the Reunion this year in Paducah, Kentucky. Plans are looking good and we expect to have a great Reunion.

As this may be our last Reunion I think most of you should make plans to attend and express your feelings regarding this decision.

We have a special Board Meeting in April. The decisions made at this meeting will be brought to the general meeting at the Reunion for a final decision.

Regardless of how it goes, please make every effort to attend this 59th Reunion on Sept. 7-11, 2005 at The Executive Inn in Paducah, KY.

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

FROM THE EDITOR

CLIFF WOOLDRIDGE

As of March 1, 2005, a few hundred members have not yet paid their dues for 2005. Please get your dues in so that you will not miss the Summer issue of the Thunderbolt and be taken off the mailing list.

Right now I have a roster of 794 members and about 6 of them are people with two addresses (snowbirds).

I really don't want the Association to be shut down.

I have met so many nice people and made so many friends over the years. And not to get a chance to see them again is very sad just to think it could happen. I tell Nancy I don't talk to them I just listen. One of the things that gets me excited is to just sit in the lobby and anticipate who will come through the door next that I remember.

If the Association stays together, I will help all I can. I am willing to continue to perform my duties as Treasurer and Publisher as I have for the past 2 and 4 years.

Let your voice be heard on this most important decision determining the future of our 83rd Infantry Division Association!

Contact an Association officer or board member with your views on this critical issue and/or come to Paducah in September to register your opinion in person!

Cliff Wooldridge

CHAPTERS

BOSTON CHAPTER NEWS

ANTHONY PIANTEDOSI

After years of being the Boston Chapter Reporter, Amby Tynan, due to illness, has retired. Anthony Piantedosi is taking over. Through the years Amby has done a great job!

It's been a slow, miserable winter – so many of our members are ill. We wish them all a speedy recovery.

Results of the Boston Chapter Raffle are:

\$100.00 Winner

Louis Marotti, CT

\$50.00 Winners

Rose Moravick, NY

Alpherie (Joe) Collette, MA

\$25.00 Winners

Ray Orsene, CT

Sam Manzi, NY

John Cupina, NY

William Hopf, NY

Pat DiGiammerino

DIXIE CHAPTER NEWS

ELLSWORTH MASSIE

The 29th Christmas Meet of Dixie Chapter is history! Let me share a few moments of this event with you! Our hostess and her many helpers have our eternal thanks and appreciation for their faithful participation and efforts to make it a great gathering. Six widows were busy, 2 widowers came, 16 units represented. F331 had 4 members present, B329th had 3 present, artillery 2 men, Engineers 1 man, K331st 2 men, L331st 2 men – other units 1 man each. Wives, descendants, associate members and guests total for all – 101.

Wed., 01 – Here we go again with 12 rooms filled. All ready to get together and enjoy the companionship of all these years – Coming from Maryland to Florida to Texas and points in between.

Thurs., 02 - Twenty-eight more rooms looking to be filled. Several cancellations are noted but a fine looking group is shaping up. We're missing all those missing from our group. Shopping and taking in shows is the order of the day. Owen Biller calls to wish us well and let us know he can't make it because of pending

operation. We wish him well and like all good soldiers carry on without him. Carroll Brown calls and reports a sick call! When he cancels you know he's sick! We remember each one absent in prayer.

Friday, 03 – They just keep coming. Fourteen more rooms are filled – each person adds something to our meet. The hotel is filled. Late comers must go to other facilities but join us throughout the day. It just gets better everyday.

Sat., 04 - Finally all are present. John Helms finally gets here with his lovely wife and we continue celebrating.

Friday night is the big parade. It is enjoyed by each one. Food is so plentiful in the Hospitality Room there's no need to go anywhere to eat. Our thanks to all who supplied us.

Deaths of two of our own are noted – George Naylor and Curtis Sharpe and prayers are offered for their loved ones. We have some present for the first time. We welcome each and look for them to be with us again.

Dignitaries are present – Warren Rains – Mr. Purple Heart Man of Tennessee; Bob Taylor our outgoing National President. Some are so busy they can't stay for the Banquet but must go on to fill other obligations.

Business meeting is well attended, discussions are lively. March, June, December meetings for '05 are announced and agreed upon as to time and place.

Large family groups are much in evidence. Flo Jackson with 11 members, 10 of the Singleton clan, Poole family 5, Brooks 6 Four sons one from Australia, Walters with five, and on and on – Each one is welcomed and our hearts are warmed by this great group of Yanks and Rebels together once again. Let's keep it up!!

Your Reporter, E. Massie

PICTURES TO FOLLOW

DIXIE CHAPTER



Our hostess Flo Jackson being friendly with Alabama couple



Poole Family
1 Bn. 329 Hq.



The Boys from Kentucky



Wives and Widows
God Bless Them!



Milton Singleton Family
Conway, SC



R. T. Brooks Family
3rd Bn. 329th Hq.

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

W. ALLEN FISHER

KENTUCKY CHAPTER NEWS

MICHIGAN CHAPTER NEWS

NICK BARBU

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

NICK FRANCUCCO

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER NEWS

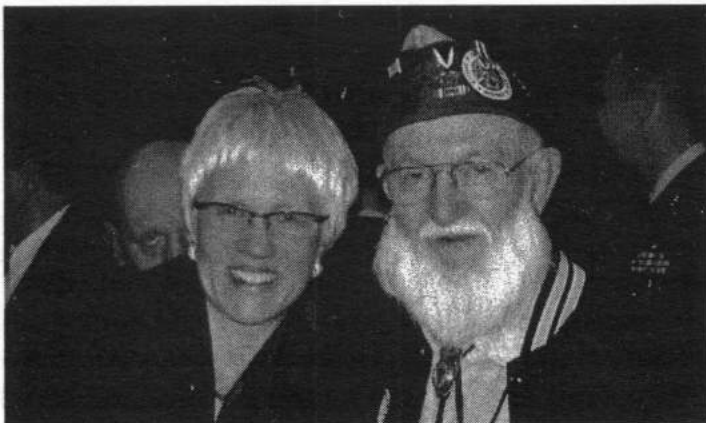
STAN BIELEN

stanfranbielen@aol.com

February 8th, 2005

Would you believe the temperature outside is 60 degrees. It's been close to it for about a week. You snow birds in Florida are missing some great weather here in the north east.

To start off – I received a call from our Chapter buddy Russ Whitehead when he returned from Belgium and Luxembourg. Russ took part in the 60th Anniversary Tour of the Battle of the Bulge. He had a friend email me two photos which I printed and am enclosing. Russ, you are holding General Patton's Grand Daughter VERY CLOSE!!



Russ Whitehead with General Patton's Grand Daughter at 60th Anniversary VBOB

For my 80th birthday, my daughter Joyce presented me a scrap book on Christmas Day. It's titled "A Life's Journey". She had contacted people that were on my email list to ask for their participation. It really was a great surprise that so many family and friends contributed to such a treasured gift. What surprised me was what most remembered about me. Example, Fred Klein sent some pictures from our time together in the 331st. He remembered when I set off some dynamite under a huge coil of wire, it went a hundred feet in the air, it came down close to hitting 1st/Sgt. Holt, whom Fred and Frank Reichmann adored. Allen Fisher remembered when we were in Simbach, Germany after the war. I was ordered by Sgt. Holt to form a band to play at dances at the local beer hall. Allen played a great piano while I played the drums. Frank Reichmann also played with us. He was great with the spoons and could make a street broom sound like a bass guitar. I remember Verden and Williams played with us.

Joyce contacted Helene Leahy in Normandie. Her father Auguste Ferey, was once the mayor and she had the Mayor of Sainteny Michel Lepourry send a proclamation to include in the book.

I would be remiss not to mention Rags and Ginny's contribution. Joyce has it listed under secrets. He did have some good things to say about me which I appreciate. We have become good buddies and I think, I'm forgiven for keeping Christine away from his ordinance group at Myrtle Beach Reunion.

I met Mary and Frank Sabine Co. D, 331 shopping. They have our heartfelt sympathy on the recent loss of their son.

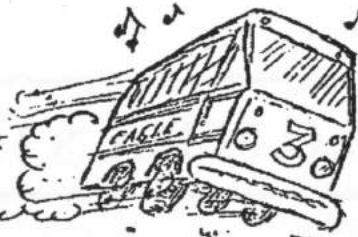
Joe DePeri lost his younger brother and his close Army buddy Gerry DePaista. They served together in Company F, 330. Our heartfelt sympathy to you and your family.

We had missed having the Chapter meetings for a while. Tom Dowd has been laid up with heart trouble. We're praying for quick recovery and again seeing him at the meetings. Tom's presence always makes for an enjoyable meeting.

Let's all make plans to attend the reunion in Paducah, Kentucky.

Stan Bielen

BUS NO 3 REPORTING!



83RD INF DIV EUROPEAN TOUR 1973

Kennedy Airport - You couldn't help wondering? Have we changed this much in 29 years? 250 lb. ex-riflemen? Doddering old former machine-gunners? I guess it's true -- Time marches on!

All aboard! Remember how quiet we all were when finally the 707 took off? No turning back now! ("Hold my hand, honey - I'm scared!") A few gulps and swallows and we're aloft.

In Paris - Famous Bus #3! Oscar, our driver and Alfredo, our incomparable guide, greeted us warmly! Some of us had our baggage missing (what a way to start), but everything got straightened out.

Sleepy bus ride to Caen. No matter how much Alfredo tried to regale us with the sights, we couldn't stay awake. Finally to Hotel Malherbe where we all got initiated (in a hurry) to the French Franc System!

Omaha Beach - The 83rd's soul-stirring services at the Normandy Cemetery with our own chaplain presiding...the presentation of our wreath with church bells pealing in the distance - unforgettable.

The special reception for us in Normandy - wonderful people! And then how many of us got lost (the language barrier). Many of us wound up in Utah Beach, Carentan, St. Mere-Eglise, St. Lo, etc. but eventually, we all found one another.

This is France? - The Novotel Hotel in Rennes. We thought it was located someplace in Ohio. (Supermarkets, bowling alleys, movies, swimming pools, etc.)...Did you go to the top of towering Mont St. Michel? The view was terrific!

Our fabulous stay in Paris! (Hotel Pavillon). No use mentioning the sights - too numerous for print, but we did have a 100% turnout at the glittering Moulin Rouge! What a show!! Girls, magicians, girls, jugglers, girls, dolphins, girls, etc. etc.

Onward to Rheims (Champagne Country) Where we toured Mumm's famous, although quite chilly caves, and were shown the massive and painstaking undertaking in producing great champagne. Remember the great luncheon this company gave us - with all that bubbly flowing?

Eldorado Hotel in Luxembourg - We visited the famous American military cemetery - paid homage to our fallen comrades where Sunday services were held by our inspiring chaplain - a stirring display of precision was shown by the NATO honor guard - tragedy almost marred the proceedings as one of our comrades was overcome by a combination of heatstroke and emotions but happily, it was averted - visited Bastogne and the famous Star Monument.

We travel through the Maginot Line and the forbidding dragon's teeth of the Siegfried Line and then through the serenity of the murderous Hurtgen Forest. We board the Rhine Steamer for a delightful ride past mountains of vineyards and innumerable castles.

Reception at Aachen with those mouth-watering sausages and sauerkraut (Yum, yum.)

Bonn - we checked into the Hotel Stern in this charming city. We all agreed it was too short of a stay. Remember? we arrived in the evening and their famous open-air market was closing - we checked out in the morning and the market was just beginning to open! Oh, well!

Dusseldorf - from our headquarters in Hotel Beckmann, we spend a leisurely day in this great, glittering city.

Delightful Amsterdam (Hotel Suisse). We visited diamond-cutting plants, canal trips, art museums and some fascinating off-beat places! The ladies in our group did some frenzied last-minute shopping.

Homeward bound...as we boarded the great, sleek 747 at Brussels Airport. We landed at Kennedy - tired, but enthusiastic, at the end of one of the greatest adventures of the 83rd Division!

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FROM
TONY
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G. Co.
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COMPANIES

783RD ORDNANCE Co.

RAGS RANGNOW

Co. "A" - 330TH

CHARLES ABDINOOR

Hi Buddy's:

Here I am in sunny Florida writing my news as promised. Back home they have had northeasters that have dumped more than 30" of snow and also plenty cold weather.

First of all, I would like to congratulate Stew and Nellrita Barrick on their 50th wedding anniversary. They have lived in the same house for 50+ years. Also, many thanks for their display that was in the Hospitality Room. It is good to have such dedicated people who have the Association in their hearts.

Talked to my platoon leader, Paul Reed. Hopefully, Dolores and he will try to make Paducah. He wants to see Pearl and Walt Pillion. They both were platoon leaders. After the war Paul, who was an attorney, worked for the military government prosecuting war criminals.

Also, Ed and Pauline Brown are waiting to move into their new home. They just missed losing their home to the fires that ravaged California. Talked to Earl Senica who lives 50 miles from him. They will come to Paducah.

Got news from Shorty Glasser that Lee Milligan, our oldest man, passed away this year. Lee was the oldest man in the company, being 96 years old. Sorry to report that this year we lost Lee Milligan, Frank Burgess, Spike Spsychala, John Bullard, Lou Sassano all from Company A. And my buddy from Company B
Lindsay Harrison.

I gave Tony Vaccaro some pictures of Company A taken in the Hartz Mtns. that he displayed at Bad Hurtzburg, a showing in

Germany. It so happened that we had the (blank) kicked out of us while we were clearing that pocket in the Hartz Mtns. We lost plenty of men there.

Glad to hear from Stan Bielen and the New Jersey Chapter. They have been around a long time. Also heard from Amby Tynan. He and Ed McCouch were in the same outfit. Ed and his son are honorary members of A Company. Glad to see them every year. Sorry to see Charlie Silhanick in a wheel chair but as dedicated as he is to the Association, he makes every reunion. That's dedication.

Hope that Dutchy and Helen Smith make Paducah. Dutchy was a section leader in H-329, and his company had a table full of men every year but it has dwindled down to just a very few. Too bad.

I've written to every member of the Executive Board showing my displeasure at trying to disband the Association. I know in time we will disband but not now! We still have plenty of dedicated men who want to continue. I joined the Association and attended the very first one in Cleveland. And have attended quite a few and made many friends throughout the country. **We can still continue!** I have contacted my company people and they feel the same way.

WRITE TO THE BOARD AND SHOW YOUR DISPLEASURE AT WHAT THEY ARE TRYING TO DO.

Just received a letter from Neil Prussman. They want to come to Paducah. They missed Pittsburgh as their grandson got married at that time. Also got word that Will Lenz will be in Paducah. Will was our company interpreter and in my platoon. It seems that we are getting more inquiries lately from former 83rd men. I have a suggestion - why don't we cut the Executive Board down to three members as we had for many years before. We can cut expenses that way.

Well buddy's, hope to see you once again in Paducah. So stay healthy and stay active in our Association.

Your buddy, Chuck

Co. "D" - 331ST

GERI GUNDERSON

The Holiday Season is past and Spring is in the air.

Just a reminder: You are expected at the EXECUTIVE INN, in Paducah, KY on September 7, 8, 9 & 10th for the Reunion and then from Sunday until Wednesday (11-14) for our Co. D annual gathering, which will be extended at the Executive Inn. This will cut down on additional travel. Help will be needed from all members of Co. D's team! Al Shrawder, R.C. Hamilton, and Bill McKee approved of this message!

Gene Nolte's sister Marcella keeps in touch with many of Co. D. It is always good to hear from her. Her brother, Gene Nolte, was very active in the 83rd.

Bill & Jeanette McKee spent New Years in South Florida. It has been wonderful having them here through January and February. They will leave for Venice, FL in March and then back to the cold Northeast. I will certainly miss them. It has been a wonderful two months.

We joined Harry and Barbara Gravelyn in Sebring for the Florida Chapter Meeting on February 21, 22, and 23rd. It was a great meeting and it was decided that the **Florida Chapter will continue into the future.**

Harvey Clements spoke to Bill McKee this week. He is planning on being in Paducah.

Frank Sharp, Arthur Haight, and Al Shrawder all share February birthdays. There are three members of Co. D that have passed the big 90. The other member of the 90's club is Sparks.

Mary Dallos (Paul) is scheduled for a hip operation on Feb. 20th. Please keep her in your prayers. Also, Sylvia Barbu had by-pass surgery in January. We missed seeing them in Florida this year.

Harry and Barbara Gravelyn celebrated their 64th Wedding Anniversary on March 10th. Frank and Dana Sharp also celebrate their 64th on March 15th. Congratulations!

Dan McDermott was hospitalized on Feb. 8th so that a defibrillator/pacemaker could be

implanted. They are doing fine and looking forward to Paducah.

I received a phone call from a dear friend, Mary Burgess, who called to say that our dear friend, Melba Satterfield (Lacy D-330) met with a tragic train accident on February 10th. The only comforting thought is that she is with Lacy and the angels are looking over them. Melba was a lovely person and will be missed by all that knew and loved her. Condolences to her family and friends.

Geri Gunderson

2/28/05

Co. "F" - 329TH

C. R. BOB WHITCOMB

On behalf of Company "F" 329th in regards to the article in "Thunderbolt" Vol. 60 Issue No. 1, Fall Issue 2004 -

"Urgent Notice From Concerned Members:"

WE ARE CONCERNED!

Twenty Seven (27) members of "F" Co. are Association Members according to the last published 2004 Roster.

In addition to talking person to person with Nine (9) Association Members of the Twenty Eight (28) people attending North 2004 Meeting in Ashland, Ohio, I have had phone and letter communications with an additional fifteen (15) Co. "F" Association Members. **They Do Not want to see the 83rd Infantry Division Association Disbanded.**

They understand some of the problems faced by past Executive Boards and Officers and those presently in those positions.

However, there is a mutual feeling among them that there must be past national officers, executive board members who if given the opportunity would go the extra mile in the giving of their time and experience, to give the continuation of the Association more thought,

plus open discussion on the floor of the next few Annual Reunions in its General Membership Meetings.

Perhaps even an Ad Hoc Committee might help them.

Downsizing seems to be a Fact of Life affecting Local, State, Federal Governments, Industrial, Commercial, Retail establishments, Social Organizations (VFW's-American Legions-Amvets, etc.) and "yes" Associations such as the 83rd Infantry Division Association do. Some of them are working things out and finding ways to remain the proud Associations they are.

Perhaps downsizing may be the route the Association has available to remain a much needed, wanted, viable Association in this the 21st Century.

Let's all give this Serious Concern some thought and come up with a way to Survive.

As an organization we did it in World War II and it can be done again.

I encourage all "F" Co. members, especially its Core Group to re-read Page 23 in the last "Thunderbolt" and if still in agreement as we discussed, write or call an Executive Board Member or National Officer and state your feelings. **DO IT NOW !!!**

'Tensh, Ut'

There will be No North 2005 in Ashland, Ohio. The Company will meet at Cotter's and in Paducah, KY. More details later.

C. R. Bob Whitcomb
1314 Center Lane Drive
Ashland, OH 44805-3403
Ph 419-289-2148

Co. "K" - 331ST
NORM MALO

Dear Buddies,

I recently received a phone call from Andrew Wargo's wife that her husband had passed away

last Dec. in Richeyville, PA after a long and painful fight with cancer. He was 82 years old.

Andy was an original member of "K" Company from the early days at Camp Atterbury and served faithfully until badly wounded in the hedgerows of Normandy in the middle of July, and along with Sebastian Varquez was taken prisoner by the Germans. Due to his severe wounds he was soon returned to the allies spending more than a year recovering in Veterans Hospitals.

Wilbur Mathena and Paul Ours never made the Pittsburgh reunion because of health problems. And to top it all Paul's son, Steve, only 53 years old is seriously ill with cancer. Pray for him and his family.

Frank Horvath informed me that he and his wife Flo had important commitments and unable to be with us last September.

Frank has always been counted as a regular at every convention, and promises to do his utmost to be in Paducah.

Harold Merrill was operated on in October for his back and is slowly recovering. Getting pushed around for 4 days in Pittsburgh in a wheel chair was more than he could take. His wife Dorothy has been doing marvelous for his recovery and morale builder.

Al Belvedere and wife Ann reported that all was well in NJ. Al has always taken upon himself the responsibilities in the annual "AD Book" for King Co. and has done a great job throughout the years. So once again don't hesitate to mail in your contributions to Al to help expenses for the coming Paducah reunion.

Received news from Edward Wildt last year, the first since our last days of the war. Ed served as platoon guide of our 3rd platoon in Langelshim and Phfarkirchen in Germany. Ed could always be counted on to do a great job and was well-liked by his men. Now Ed has a bad foot which forces him to wear a brace most of the time and very little traveling.

So long for now and the best of health to all our buddies and families.

As ever,

Norm Malo

453RD AAA. (AW) B.N.

FRED C. PEARSON

This has been a long time coming, and I have been occupied with various and sundry excuses.

From lack of Computer use for three weeks, many home projects, which resulted in my having some physical problems. (Eight broken ribs and a chipped elbow bone.) Then the Holiday Season. After that I just could not seem to get into the swing of things.

I will be writing this in installments as I do not have very much information on the "Troops". As I write this I will make a few Telephone calls to glean what I can from you folks who are non communicative. I really appreciate Molly Dalton and Mike Manzo for helping me to keep updated on our dwindling membership.

I guess the prime item is our forthcoming reunion.

As decided at our last Reunion, we accepted the most welcome offer of the Carter/Cecil combination to host the group in the Columbus Ohio area.

Sherree has entered into a contract with the Best Western Hotel in Pickerington, Ohio. (A Suburb of Columbus.) Don't get excited, it's only about ten minutes from the Columbus Airport. She also was kind enough to tell me that those flying in, as there is no shuttle service, will be accommodated with a pick up as needed.

The special room rates are set at \$69.00 plus tax per night. As usual, the set up was for Friday and Saturday nights, September 16th and 17th. 2005. With the provision that those who would like to arrive early on the 15th. Would get the

same rate. To hold the reservation at the quoted price the Hotel would like reservations made by August 20th. If reservations are in on time the Hotel management is going to see that we will be all housed on the same floor. **My special note. If you or your guest are troubled with allergies, at the time of your reservation make it known to the Hotel Management. It worked great for Irene last year.**

Sherree has assured me that the rooms are all handicap accessible, and that the Hotel has great options. Swimming pool, Whirlpool Suites, etc. She also stated that a very nice breakfast Bar is available. A Hospitality Room is going to be furnished at no charge. (She knows how to bargain)

For those driving , the Hotel is just off Interstate 70. on the south side of the highway and just a short distance east of the 270 Bypass around Columbus. Location on east side of Columbus.

Now for other Items of interest.

There were no official Minutes taken at the last meeting, but that did not deter us from making some important decisions. I did the best I could to get to the 'High Points'.

It was decided to suspend the annual dues, as expenses for newsletters and correspondence was going to be minimal with our dwindling membership. This Motion was made by Loren Kissick and seconded by John Dickens and duly voted on and approved by the membership.

A motion by Loren Kissick to retain the present Officers of the 453rd AAA was made and seconded by Katie Bell. This motion also approved by membership.

There was a plea for someone to host the 2005 Reunion, and Jeanne Carter and

her Daughter Sherree Cecil said they would give it a shot. This was a welcome answer.

The Jim Hull family suggested that they would like to host our 60th reunion in 2006 in Champaign/ Urbana Ill. Which was also welcomed.

After these issues were taken care of there was a lot of good B.S. going on but nothing to write home about.

A motion by Anne Loch was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jeanne Carter, and carried by the membership.

This next bit of gossip comes from my antiquated memory bank so forgive this old goat if I make a few mistakes.

There were no official Photos taken but Doug Bell, son of Lt. Bell took a few that turned out well and did send them out to those who were computer connected.

We had a slim crowd because of bad weather, much rain and flooding. Many roads were impassible. Some got bad information from the Hotel clerk that no rooms were available. Some did not want to make the drive under the weather conditions. In spite of all this we had a great time and have John Dickens and his family to thank for the effort put forth on our behalf. The Hotel staff went out of their way to be cooperative and helpful and serve us some great food.

We were entertained by a large Barbershop group of singers, which set us all tapping our toes. This was a second command performance for us as we enjoyed their singing in 2003 A short talk was given by a young fellow and damned if I can remember his theme. I told you my memory bank was

antiquated. Door Prizes were given out also.

An extra special, impromptu talk was given by Capt. Carl Schultz. He did a great job and we all appreciated his kind words.

Carl and his Son finally were able to make connections and attended our 58th reunion. I believe they really enjoyed getting together with us. After three years of trying to get connected they finally made it. I hope that this year they will be back and bring Carl's wife Mary. Loren Kissick and I went to their room on Saturday night to say goodbye, and Carl said to me "will I be invited next year." You all know what the answer was.

It was unfortunate that they didn't get to go to the Museum, but I think they did go on a site seeing tour.

Doug Bell brought his son along this trip and they are also enthusiastic about another try at the 59th.

The following persons attended as I recall;

Now for current news.

Molly Dalton called me to let me know that Myrtle Lee had passed away. Molly's son has had more complications and does not seem to be recovering as quickly as they would like. Molly is also having some difficulties.

Mike (John) Manzo has been taking care of his wife as best he can as she has some bad days. She is not able to do many of the things that she did in the past. She is also on the Bottle. (Oxygen)

Frank Moore's Wife, Jeannie is still recuperating from her broken ankle that happened just before our last reunion.

John Fisher Hdq. Battery is still looking for anyone from headquarters battery. He has been in touch with Frank Moore.

I've been in touch with Sam Daiello several times lately. He is suffering from old age. Has trouble with his knees, carpal tunnel, and arthritic knuckles. (Bet I could knock hell out of him now.)

Mike Morick's Widow, Lorraine has advanced stages of the Big C. and is also on the Oxygen bottle. She told Irene and I that "it's not over till its over." She has had different details from two doctors.

Loren Kissick has told me that Anita has had some relief from her problems and we hope it's permanent.

We received a Christmas Card from Jim Hull and he enclosed a note stating that the 2006 60th Reunion may not be possible, so you guys out there come up with some ideas before September.

Irene, my wife and strife, still has her myriad of problems. Allergies, erratic very high pulse rate and high blood pressure. (This seems to be under control at present.) And Me.

Joyce (Rooster) and Frank Wombaugh are isolated with a bunch of old people that they don't know to well and miss their old home area. Frank's macular degeneration has progressively gotten worse. Now Joyce has to take over and do all the things that Frank did for her, like shopping, cooking and all that other good stuff. Now it's payback time for the great ride she has had. Just teasing you Rooster. She did tell me that she had to start driving again as he did all that too. NOTE: Rooster is Joyce's Email Name.

I've heard from Wilma Starkey's Son in law that she is coping quite well after the passing away of Virgil. She now has a new address, they were in the process of getting moved into more convenient quarters just before Virgil passed on.

Molly tells me that LaVelle Rittespacher, our old Colonel's widow is still going strong. She is well into her 90's.

I receive an Email every once in awhile from Jean Bailey. She still seems to be coping with all the mountains that get in our way as we get on in years, while she enjoys her family.

Have had Email contact several times with Linda (Bales) Aliota. Her Father was in the 453rd. and was a KIA in the Gey area of the Ardennes. She is very interested in anything she can find on her father. Anyone who may remember him can contact me for her address.

I have been working with a German fellow who has been trying to get info on downed German pilots who were not identified when buried near there aircraft. So far with some information I've gotten for him he has identified two pilots. His group has Identified several others. He does this from extensive info he gets from the pictures of the downed aircraft and the location that they were shot down.

Lest I forget again, here is Wilma Starkey's new home address. 1225 Morningside Dr. Fairmont, WV. 26554

I talked to Elizabeth Kershner who is doing fairly well, and has hopes of possibly making our next reunion.

Fred Edwards and his lady friend are getting along very well and enjoying his 90 years. For a Birthday trip Fred and his daughter and Son and their spouses enjoyed a Cruise together.

Bob Grundon has been attempting to get out of Texas to attend one of our reunions but so far has not succeeded. Hopefully this year.

Mary Jane Creps is still recovering from her shoulder replacement. She has some pain from the operation, but fighting along. Bob is still keeping up with it all.

John McVey is having a little difficulty with short term memory loss, and on medication to help the situation. His wife, Doris has breathing problems from her allergic condition.

Make Sam Daiello Happy, he still is harping, looking for the quarters he thinks he should get for the Haircuts he used to give us. He always shakes any envelope he gets to see if any money falls out.

Oscar Farnsworth is doing well after having some surgery that imposed a touchy life or death situation. He is in an assisted living home. He enjoys getting phone calls, says he can always talk.

Leo Yacono and Jane Can't do much traveling because of allergies and various afflictions, but make it to the Doctors O.K.. (I guess we all have to do that.)

I spent a whole day trying to get corrected phone numbers and new area code numbers to update the roster and complete some calls to some of our members. I'm getting frustrated, I wish that more people would respond and either mail or phone me their changes. On top of that, trouble on our phone line,

it kept dropping off line. Probably the freezing weather.

Now for the updates from F.C.P.

As most of you know for the past year I have been working on trying to get the French Government to bestow upon us the Chest Badge that was being presented to all those who returned to Lower Normandy for the 60th. Anniversary of the Landings in France.

I tried to get them to agree to present them in 2004 at the 83rd Division Reunion and at the 453rd. AAA. Reunion

After many letters and negative responses I gave up in getting any cooperation from them.

A surprise happened about the first of January, I received an Email from 'Rags' Rangnow, (783rd. Ord. 83rd. Div.) stating he had received this Chest Badge by mail from the French embassy in Washington. Knowing that I had been working on this, he presumed that he received it because of my effort. I had not supplied any individuals names, so we don't know how it came about. From his description the Chest Badge is quite nice. Let's keep our hopes alive.

Two days after receiving this information I wrote to the French Embassy in Washington, and also to the person in charge of the presentations in France.

To date I have received no word from either parties. I'll keep plugging. (Current date January 31st 2005)

Yesterday I talked to the 83rd. Division historian, (Lou Gomori) who has been working on getting a Citation for the Elbe Crossings, awarded to the 83rd. Div. and those attached units, such as the 453rd. AAA. He told me the latest info

he had from his contact in the Government had stated that he now was in a different situation and the matter had been turned over to his successor. Is this another stall? Have the French and our Government gotten together and decided to put the screws to us?

My 8 ribs and elbow seemed to have gotten repaired from my mishap, but my shoulder gives me some trouble. I guess I'll make it to another reunion, Lord willing.

It's now the 3rd of February, I had to knock off on the Newsletter.

I had a severe attack of something. Very severe dizzy spells and what started to be the dry heaves as I had nothing on my stomach when the attack started.

This lasted for two days, and then today I felt a little better and thought I would get back on the letter and try to get it

Photos from Hal O'Neill 83rd Signal



1945 Rhineland – Nuess near Dusseldorf. Hank, Elmer and I stopped our jeep to check gas station for tools. Hank's weapon is a piece of pipe. Do not recall if tank was German.

posted.

I forgot a couple of items in the body of the letter, so here goes.

Katie Bell had some problems, had an operation and biopsy and all seems to be OK now. We all are thankful for the results.

Late last year I had word from Elmer Kruske's sister, that Elmer (B Battery) passed away last February.

Remember our 59th Reunion in Columbus. ARRANGE YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!!!!!

Please contact me with any news or changes.

Fred C. Pearson, Pres.
453rd AAA (AW) BN.



Hamoir, Belgium, March 1945
We slept in Artist Studio seen in back. I am on the left with small hat, Roscoe in center and Hank on right in Mussolini pose.

Jan. 26, 2005



Dear Cliff,

Sincerely hope you can put this in the upcoming issue of the Thunderbolt.

As a past president and board member of our association in 1959 I wrote to Leo Schneider to inform him of this impending problem. Leo also was a national president (1952) and board member, and was instrumental as a nucleus in forming our great association. (See following letter.)

I and also many others have written to members of our executive board displaying our displeasure in their thinking, at this time.

Sincerely,

Charles Abdinoor
"B & A" 330th

"Dear Charles,

It was so nice to hear from you after all these years.

As a Past President and Board Member of the 83rd Infantry Div. Assoc. it is with deep sadness to hear that the demise of this great group may be coming soon.

I personally have not been able to attend the Reunions of the last years due to health problems. I eagerly await the Thunderbolts every year to read about my buddies who were stalwart and gallant during World War II. I shall never forget them.

I only hope that the 83rd Infantry Association can continue!!

Many thanks to all the officers of the Association for the great job they have done."

Sincerely,

Leo Schneider
928 E. Riverwalk Dr.
Memphis, TN 38120-2600

Dear Cliff,

My dad, Bert Earls, passed away on Feb. 2, 2004. He was a member of the 83rd and he relished every publication he received. In fact, it helped him start talking about his war experiences, he was a medic, and it helped him heal the mental wounds he carried with him for the rest of his life. I didn't know if anyone had informed you of his death, so thought I would and include a chapter from a book in which my dad was honored by an interview. ("Interview with Bert Earls would take up 6 pages and we do not have enough room in this issue"...Editor.)

Daddy was with the 3rd Medical Battalion with the 329th Infantry when he was wounded and received his second Purple Heart. This was at Luxembourg. My dad was there when Patton pushed the army through the mud. He was also one of the medics involved in the surrender of St. Malo. He told me he talked to the female reporter, Lee Miller, who wasn't suppose to be there. He said the German Colonel kept looking at him and asking him why he didn't surrender, which my dad thought was pretty silly, since the Germans were surrendered.

My dad was an active veteran and true patriot until the day he died. His last veteran's day was spent in a nursing home but he took his O₂ tank and wheel chair and attended a dinner honoring veterans. We buried him in his legion outfit from Post 269 of the American Legion in Bucklin, Kansas where he was an active member for fifty years. Over at Ft. Dodge he attended meetings and fought for benefits for the disabled vets.

A proud daughter of Bert Earls
Karen Martin
P.O. Box 6
Hugoton, Kansas 67951
620-544-2637

P.S. When my dad was reported MIA, his mother had a stroke and died a few weeks later. My dad never knew until he came home. They were very close. This was really hard for him. I know through research a lot of mothers died of strokes this way after getting this bad news.

Jan. 6, 2005

I am Norwood Hatfield, one of the original 83rd. I was in the 330th Reg. C Company, 2nd Platoon.

I was wounded on July 4th 1944 and went back to England to the hospital. Rejoined the outfit July 21st – stayed until Jan. 25th, 1945. Got frozen in the Bulge and my legs are still bad and I have to use a stick to walk with.

I know two of the replacements left in C Company. I wish you would send me a copy of the men left in C Company. I joined the 83rd in Atterbury in 1942.

You and your staff do a great job.

I have one daughter and two granddaughters, 7 ½ yrs. and 3 ½ yrs. old.



I'm sending you a picture of me taken in 2002. I will be 83 years old this coming August 11th. My wife is still living and teaching school.

I'm sending you my dues. Hope you and your family have a happy new year.

Your old buddy,

Norwood Hatfield
827 Luckey Rd.
Bishopville, SC 29010
803-428-3525

Cliff,

Please enter this letter in your next Thunderbolt. Thank you,

Pat DiGiammerino

Dear Pat:

I am endeavoring to have an intersection in my hometown of Watertown, MA renamed FARESE SQUARE in honor of two brothers who died in WW II. One was in the 83rd Infantry Division 329th Infantry regiment. His name was Jessie Farese and he was seriously wounded on 6 July 1944 in the Carrenten area. He was evacuated to a hospital in England where he died on 14 July. I am trying to locate anyone who may remember him. He trained at Ft. Breckenridge, KY before going overseas. I can be reached at the following numbers.

Days 781-744-6638

Evenings and weekends 617-924-8933

Sincerely,
Art Napolitano

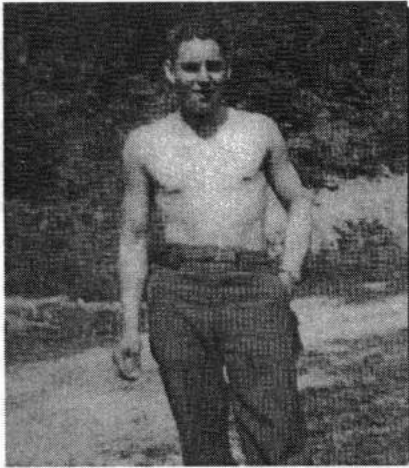
P.S. His brother Romeo was in the 9th AAF as a B-26 Navigator. Killed 11 December 1944 in France.

Dear Mr. Wooldridge:

I realize I called you and left a message but I decided to write to you so I could enclose some photos and a check.

I've been corresponding with Debbie Holloman who has been so gracious as to help me with information and contacts like you. I am enclosing 2 photos if you could include them in the next Thunderbolt. I am writing my father's memoirs (he is still alive at 84) and we are looking for his jeep driver. My father's name is Lawrence (Larry) Chittenden. He lost his list of addresses coming home on the Queen Mary and has never been in touch with any of his buddies (that's I think it was too painful). Now he speaks so highly of Mr. Manley we would love to find him if possible. I know this is Mr. Manley's picture but not positive of the first name. I found the name John T. Manley on a list of Battalion Headquarters rosters and we believe it to be him. All dad knew was that at the time he was from the east somewhere. My father is from Nebraska and is still living there. I live

outside of Nashville, TN. I'm wondering if the following information would be okay to include:



**Jeep Driver John Manley (PFC?)
330th IR Regimental Hq. Co.**



1st Lt. Lawrence Chittenden

My father is from Nebraska and is still living there. I live out side of Nashville, TN. I'm wondering if the following information would be okay to include.

My father, 1st Lt. Lawrence (Larry) Chittenden, 330th IR, Company I, 3rd Platoon and Regimental Headquarters Co. Liaison Officer, and I are searching for anyone with whom he served and in particular for his jeep driver, believed to be named John Manley from Maryland. If anyone remembers 1st Lt. Chittenden or his jeep driver, please write to me at: Beth Chittenden, 121 Rue de Grande, Brentwood, TN 37027, or email me at lizzydesignsinc@yahoo.com or call 615-300-0136.

Thanks, Mr. Wooldridge. You may keep these 2 photos as they are copies. I would also like to become a member off the 83rd Division Association and would like to purchase a roster of names for the 330th IR I Co. and 330th Regimental Hq. Co. I am enclosing \$31.50 for both and if I owe you more, please let me know. I plan on attending the reunion in Sept. and I have also got my dad interested in coming, too! Thanks for all of your help.

Sincerely,
Beth Chittenden

Cliff,

Our daughter has written about our trip to Washington and her Dad Nora Lee

My father, Cecil Walters, is a veteran of World War II, having served in Co. C 308th Engineers, 83rd Infantry Division. He served in five major campaigns in Europe which began when he landed on Omaha Beach with the second wave. He was in the Battle of the Bulge, Hertgen Forest and on through to within a few miles of Berlin. I am always proud when he shows our family mementoes and pictures he had saved from the war.



**Cecil and NoraLee Walters
World War II Veterans Memorial**

He is a charter member of the World War II Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. On September 11, 2004 my husband and I had the privilege of driving by father and mother to see this memorial. Words cannot express the five days of this awesome trip. We made the necessary arrangements for disable and wheel

chair visitors. My father has breathing difficulties and has lost the sight in one eye, but his steps appeared more lively and his eyes much brighter as we spend one whole day on the mall.

It is so beautiful and blends so well with the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument. The sculptured bas-relief panels of the memorial are a wonderful way of telling the life on the home front and life at war.

My husband and I were so blessed to be able to take our father and mother to this place. So many sons and daughters our age would give anything to be able to do this but for so many veterans time ran out for them.

What happened that day made his day complete. He wore his 83rd jacket and a number of young people took pictures of the lettering on the back of the jacket. Others came up and expressed gratitude and shake his hand for serving his country. Some came for another picture, another hug and another story exchanged. He talked with other veterans and we let him exchange stories as long as he wanted.

Thank you Dad, you are the greatest and I love you.

Eva June Walters Friel
Louisville, KY



**The Walters Family
Dixie Chapter 29th Christmas Meet**

Dear Mr. Wooldridge:

While writing my own memoirs of my experiences during seven months of combat for

the benefit of my family, I mentioned to a Lt. Monan, formerly of Co. A, 331st Inf., what I was doing. For my own story I purposely left out all of the sordid daily life of a combat infantryman, and the horror that goes with it, until I received the following letter dated June 23, 1997, from Lt. Frank Monan. I thought he expressed it better than I could. I am enclosing a copy of his letter that I include in my own memoirs.

Harry C. Gravelyn
Former Captain, Co. D, 331st Infantry

P.S. As I have been unable to contact him I have to assume he has passed on.

“Dear Harry:

Once again, I want to thank you for your quick response and help in identifying the Acting S-3 who replaced Capt. Bart in early July '44. I say once again because a couple of years ago, while doing some extensive research of the 83rd's original records at the National Archives in the Washington area and at St. Louis, you confirmed the name (Village Des Saintes) of the little village in the area where we jumped off on 26 July 44 in the COBRA attack. My research at the time was concentrated on the First Battalion, specifically Co. A. At that time, at the urging of my family, I was writing an account of my brief but heady experience with Company A. I joined Co. A as a 2nd Lieutenant in charge of a rifle platoon on 19 July 44, served through COBRA until 0630 hours on 28 July 44 when I was knocked out by a Bouncing Betsy S-Mine (a booby-trap that bounces out of its container and explodes at hip high) while taking a patrol just north of the St. Lo – Periers highway. The mine was ripped by one of the two men with me on our patrol and went up about four feet to my rear. It killed both of the other men and clobbered me with balls and casings from below both of my knees to the middle of my back. I also had a severe concussion to the head, which brought about temporary blindness and partial paralysis of my left arm for a couple of weeks. The mine was so close to me a bunch of the shrapnel balls passed through my body with multiple fractures of both legs, both sides of my pelvic bones, and

gut shot me with my intestines hanging out over my pistol belt. It was touch and go for several weeks as to whether or not I would make it, but the good Lord heard my prayers. I spent eleven months in various hospitals in England and another year in stateside hospitals, finally being released on 10 June 46. My recovery was complete except for repeated trips to VA hospitals for removal of internal stomach scar tissue and adhesions, and deep shrapnel pieces that move around in my body to this day.

* * *

It was through the "Internet" that I located Capt. Bart (initial S-3 of The First Battalion, 331st Infantry) in San Angelo, Texas, as well as First Lt. Clarence R. Westfall, the acting Co. A Commander while I was there. Westfall joined Co. A as a replacement on 18 July 44, and got hit about two minutes after we jumped off on 26 July in COBRA.

He asked me to take over command, and I was acting CO until I was knocked out on 28 July. Capt. Reiger, hit on 4 July 44 and in the hospital with a severe wound in his neck, had suddenly appeared at our Command Post the evening of 25 July to assume command for COBRA the next morning. Poor Capt. Rieger had a big bloody abdominal pack taped around his neck, could barely stand up, and couldn't speak above a squeaky whisper. He had heard of our attack and was determined that he had an obligation to lead the attack. The poor man was in terrible distress and surely had guts, but Westfall commanded him to stay in his foxhole at the CP when we jumped off. He finally agreed that he was too impaired. A few minutes after we jumped off at 0530 in the COBRA attack and while I was trying to get Westfall off the open ground and into a ditch, Capt. Rieger came staggering up with his runner and promptly was hit with a rifle round fired by a sniper along our side of the hedgerow. The same sniper fired at me moments before but missed my head because at that instant I bent over to get Westfall's broken leg out from under his body. The runner fired his grease gun and two snipers fell out of the trees a short distance away.

Capt. Rieger had been hit in the hollow between his left shoulder and his neck and the bullet exited on the lower right trunk just below his pistol belt. I told the runner to get both Westfall and Rieger back to our hedge line and get aid immediately. When I scouted back to get the attack going again, the medics saw no sign of life from Rieger and had stacked him with the other dead soldiers. I checked him over and saw no sign of life. When our glorious attack fizzled and I got back to our line, Capt. Rieger's body was gone. A Co. B man told me that someone saw Capt. Rieger twitching and they carrier him back to the aid station. After the war I confirmed that Capt. Rieger survived and reportedly lived in Baltimore, Maryland. He is on my search list, but no Riegers are located in Maryland. I have some 24 John Riegers on my internet list and confirmed that all 24 were not related to our John Rieger. I will keep trying.

When I was hit on 28 July, I turned the company over to the only senior non-com we had, S/Sgt. Charles Blaurelt, who had joined Co. A as a replacement volunteer from the 83rd Division's Intelligence Staff. Except for basic training, he had no experience with an infantry unit and was an Intelligence Analyst. S/Sgt. Blaurelt was a sharp and intelligent non-com who displayed considerable courage. He survived the war with Co. A.

As regards Capt. Barber, the only thing I have confirmed was that he assumed command of Co. A as a First Lieutenant on 29 July 44 (Lt. Barber was transferred from Co. D to Co. A, because one month of combat made him an experienced officer. He was a very close friend of mine and I hated to see him go. But he was entitled to take the chance for promotion provided he survived to get it. We were both promoted to Captain in Sept. 44 by Gen. Patton. (This parenthetical addition to Lt. Monan's letter is Harry Gravelyn's insertion.) Men that I have contacted who were with my platoon in July 44 indicated that he survived the war, but no info. otherwise. I will add him to my search list on the internet and hopefully will be able to contact him. I'll keep you posted if I have any luck.

I didn't intend to get into my war stories, but thought that you might be interested in getting an

update on Lt. Westfall and Capt. Rieger's wounding in COBRA.

I must say that those of us wounded in Normandy were spared the truly difficult life and combat during the BULGE that you and others suffered. In Dec. 44, those of us in the hospital were all re-examined for fitness to return to action to replace losses in the BULGE. I was still somewhat of a basket case and was one of the few retained in our ward. Many of the officers sent back to the front were in very bad condition. Capt. Bart's experiences were the same as mine but he was declared fit and sent to the Bulge in December 44. He told me that he got hit again in April 45 near the Elbe River and evacuated out of the war for good.

Thanks again and Best Regards,
FRANK MONAN
(Old Co. A, 331st Inf. Regiment)"

Dear Cliff,

My uncle PFC Robert J. Hilse was a member of the 329th and a very special person! I have been writing to Debbie Holloman and she suggested I submit these papers and photos to you in case they are of interest for your paper. I am hoping to hear from some of my uncles old buddies.

Thank you and Best Wishes,
Sharon Appell

My uncle was **Pvt. Robert John Hilse** from Lewiston, Maine. He was a member of the **329th**, I believe he started out in **Company D** and then was moved to **Company C** for reasons I don't know. I have a wonderful picture of **Company C** with him in it. I would be happy to share this with you if it's of interest. He was in the 83rd Regiment Infantry Division from 1943-45 in France, Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg. Robert fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was wounded in action. He often talked of his brothers in arms. I can only imagine the bonds that going through this would bring.



Pvt. Robert John Hilse

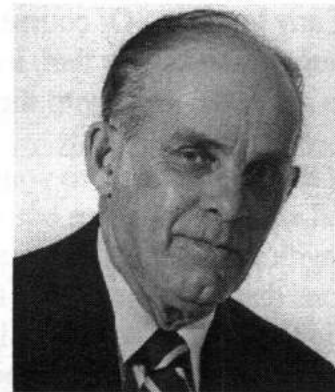
I miss my Uncle Bob so much. He was a very special person in my life. I would love to hear from anyone who has memories or photos to share! My mail address is:

Sharon Appell
20 Upland Rd.
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Thank you so much for your help.

Dear Cliff,

Enclosed is a check, photo, and memorial card of my father's service.



Donald E. Cramer, died June 19th, 2004.
He was in A Co., 329th.

I think I have filled out all the information you will need to continue sending the Thunderbolt to my mother.

I would also like to thank Ellsworth Massie for attending my Dad's service and speaking so eloquently. Also, thanks for your personal attention to this matter.

Sam Cramer

Mr. B. John Prinzi
4433 Oakley Greene
Sarasota, FL 34235-2330

January 9, 2005

Dear Mr. Prinzi

My wife enjoys a descendant membership in your organization, in memory of her father, Bob Fletcher, who recently passed away. We read with great interest your article for the Chairman's Corner in the Fall 2004 issue of the Thunderbolt which addressed the very real concern of dwindling membership and the inevitable end of the Association.

One of the suggestions was that the upcoming reunion at Paducah, Kentucky be the last. May I respectfully request you consider a different farewell? We live in New Orleans which is the home to the National D-Day Museum. This Museum is an astonishing tribute to the armed forces who fought in World War II, and is an amazing and very moving record of those years and all those who gave so much.

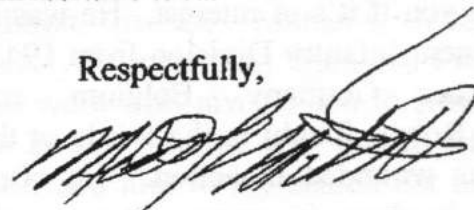
Day after day we see groups such as yours meeting there. We have heard that the Museum staff handles events such as reunions of veterans and I am sure they would be pleased and happy to work with the 83rd for whatever your needs would be, if you decided that your last meeting should be there. It would be a fitting end to the Association's official work, if that is what the members decide to do, and there does seem to be something "right" about having the last meeting be the 60th anniversary rather than the 59th.

I realize that New Orleans would be a far ways to go for many of your members, but that is true of any location. Of course, this decision is one for the "real" members of the Association, and my suggestion is only that, a suggestion. I can tell you though, that any member who does choose to make the journey to the D-Day Museum would **not** be disappointed!

If this is of interest to you, my wife and I would be glad to try and help. We are not associated with the Museum but we could get some information from them for you and get you in touch with the right people to speak with at the Museum. They may have advice and suggestions that could help with finding suitable hotel accommodations, necessary travel information as well as dates and information on meeting at the Museum. They appear to be a dedicated staff and truly care about honoring and respecting the brave men who fought for our freedom so many years ago.

I hope you and your members will seriously consider this idea.

Respectfully,



Michael S. Mitchell

cc: Clifton Wooldridge, Editor

From your Shirt, Cap & Jacket Maker

Dear 83rd Members & Friends,

January 21, 2005

We will only be filling and shipping orders until September 1, 2005. After that we will no longer be filling orders.

Due to illness, Vito Palazzolo can no longer fill orders.

Thank you for all your orders through the years. God Bless!

Attention:

Gold caps not available, just **black** (all orders for gold caps already filled will be completed.)

Baseball style jackets are available in **black** only.

Windbreaker w/flannel lining will be available in **black** or **gold**, front & back logo.

Prices:

Cap - \$15.00 + \$3.80 S&H.

Gold shirt - \$20.00 front logo only, \$25 front & back logo, +\$3.80 S&H

Baseball style jacket, front & back logo - \$65.00 M-L, \$70.00 XL-XXL + \$8.20 S&H

Windbreaker with flannel lining, logo front & back \$47.50 M-L, \$55.00 XL-XXL + \$8.20 S&H

Thank you,
Vito Palazzolo

God is Busy

A college professor, an avowed Atheist, was teaching his class.

He shocked several of his students when he flatly stated that there is no God, the expression, "One Nation, Under God", was unconstitutional, and further, he was going to prove there is no God.

Addressing the ceiling he shouted: "God, if you are real, I want you to knock me off this platform. I'll give you 15 minutes!"

The lecture room fell silent. You could have heard a pin fall. Ten minutes went by. Again he taunted God, saying, "Here I am, God. I'm still waiting."

His countdown got down to the last couple of minutes when a Marine, just released from active duty and newly registered in the class, walked up to the professor, hit him full force in the face, and sent him ass over teacups from his lofty platform. The professor was out cold. At first the students were shocked and babbled in confusion.

The young Marine took a seat in the front row and sat silent.

The class fell silent waiting. Eventually, the professor came to, shaken.

He looked at the young Marine in the front row.

When he regained his senses and could speak he yelled, "What's the matter with you? Why did you do that?"

"God was busy. He sent me." God bless America.

To Members of the 83rd Infantry Division Association

The time has come when every member of this great organization must be heard. We cannot sit idly by and let the 83rd Division Association be deactivated. There are those on the Board of Directors who want to END the Association, there are also those who want to keep it going---keep it ALIVE.

The Decision Rests With You, The Membership

We need every member of this great organization to attend the annual meeting in Paducah, Kentucky this September. If you want to see the 83rd Infantry Association put to rest or if you are one of the majority who wants to continue on, as I am, we need you at Paducah, KY in September. The by-laws could be amended to permit descendants of deceased members to serve as officers and board members.

I realize some of the Board of Directors have served many years and I honor you. Surely, of the 791 members of the 83rd Division Association, there are those who are willing to step forward and become new leaders of our organization.

"See You In Kentucky September 2005"

T. Steward Barrick
Clinton, Oklahoma
"A" 330th

WOULD YOU LIKE A ROSTER OF THE 2005 MEMBERSHIP?

This roster includes all members who have paid their dues as of 2005 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



WWI Insignia of the 83rd Div.

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
SEPTEMBER 7 – 11, 2005
J.R.'S EXECUTIVE INN - PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

Wednesday, September 7

1:00pm - 5:00pm Reunion Registration open
1:00pm - 9:00pm Hospitality Room open

Thursday, September 8

10:00am - 12:00pm Executive Board Meeting
10:00am - 5:00pm Registration open
1:00pm - 9:00pm Hospitality Room open
2:00pm - Open – Bus rides around the city
5:45pm - Drive or bus to Harrahs Casino

Friday, September 9

10:00am - 12:00pm General Session Meeting
10:00am - Ladies Program
1:00pm - Visit to Quilt Museum
4:30pm - 5:00pm Banquet table reservations collected
7:00pm - 9:00pm Welcome Reception

Saturday, September 10

9:00am - 11:00am General Session Meeting
11:00am - 12:00pm Executive Board Meeting
2:00pm - 3:30pm Memorial Service
3:30pm - 4:30pm Catholic Service
3:30pm - 5:00pm Hospitality Room open
7:00pm - 11:00pm Banquet Dinner and Entertainment

Sunday, September 11

Farewells & Departures

(Above Subject to Change)

**Reservation Request Form for J.R.'s Executive Inn
Paducah, Kentucky 42001
83rd Infantry Division Association**

Check-in time: 3:00pm

Check-out time: Noon

Name: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure : _____

Please reserve _____ (number of rooms) for _____ (number of people per room)

Rates

\$ 62.00 + tax = \$ 69.66 (1-2 per room)

\$ 110.00 + tax = \$123.60 (1-2 per suite)

All rates subject to applicable taxes (current tax rate is 12.36%)

Please Check - Accommodations Requested:

_____ Regular Room – 1 King Bed _____ Suite – 1 King Bed
_____ Regular Room- 2 Double Beds _____ Suite – 2 Double Beds

Payment Type

_____ Visa _____ Check or money order enclosed
_____ MasterCard Amount \$ _____
_____ Discover

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

I authorize J.R.'s Executive Inn to charge my account for one night's deposit and all applicable taxes.

Signature: _____ Daytime Phone: (____) _____

Rooms blocked for your group will be released August 15, 2005. Reservations will continue to be accepted after this date based on availability. Deposit equivalent to the first nights stay required for Friday/ Saturday arrivals (credit card, check/ cash or money order). Reservations for Sunday through Thursday arrival dates will be cancelled at 6:00pm unless guaranteed by first night's deposit or by credit card. A guaranteed reservation means the room will be held for the first night only. Forty-eight (48) cancellation required. Please complete this form and return to: J.R.'s Executive Inn, One Executive Blvd., Paducah, KY 42001 or call: 1-800-866-3636 – Reservations Direct Line Open: Mon-Fri: 8am-7pm, Sat: 9am-12noon (please call during these hours only).

ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event. Send that amount payable as your confirmation. All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before August 1, 2005. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing to:

R.C. Hamilton
Box 374
Marion, KY 42064

REGISTRATION PACKAGE	PRICE PER PERSON	# OF PEOPLE	TOTAL
INCLUDES REGISTRATION FEE, SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET & HOSPITALITY EXPENSES, BAND & BUS TOUR	\$ 55.00/ PERSON		\$
THURSDAY PADUCAH TOUR: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> NUMBER OF PEOPLE: _____			

PLEASE SELECT CHOICE(S) FOR SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET:

CHICKEN: _____ **NUMBER OF PEOPLE:** _____

PRIME RIB: _____ **NUMBER OF PEOPLE:** _____

TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE TO: R. C. HAMILTON, REUNION CHAIRMAN
 PO BOX 374
 MARION, KY 42064

Please do not staple or tape payment to this form.

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME (for name tags) _____

UNIT (example: I co; 329th INF): _____

SPOUSE: _____ **GUESTS:** _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____ **CITY:** _____

STATE: _____ **ZIP CODE:** _____ **PHONE:** _____

DISABILITY/ DIETARY RESTRICTIONS: _____

ARE YOU CONFINED TO A WHEELCHAIR? _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____ **PHONE:** _____

ARRIVAL DATE: _____ **DEPARTURE DATE:** _____

**** NO CANCELLATIONS AFTER 8-10-05 ******



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Brenda Hughes
WetBird Productions
8B Marina Street
Wrightsville Beach, N. C. 28480

January 31, 2005

Ref: THANK YOU, EDDIE HART!!

Dear Brenda:

I may have lost track of all the honors your production of TYEH have garnered this past year or so.


Let me try to list them here:

- * National telecast distribution on PBS stations
- * Selection for two, repeat TWO, North Carolina Film Festivals:
 - (1) Wilmington's Cucalorus; and
 - (2) Winston-Salem's RiverRun International
- * Mid-South Regional Emmy Awards:
 - (1) Winner of "Best Documentary/Historical; and
 - (2) Winner of "Best Music Composer/Arranger

Fascinating, to say the very least. Apologies, if I overlooked any other(s).

As board chairman, I am privileged, on behalf of the Executive Committee and entire membership, to congratulate you and your staff on the successes of your efforts -- the only video documentary with nation-wide distribution that features the 83rd Infantry Division's presence in Europe in World War II. A truly genuine triumph for us..

Best wishes for your continuing achievements.


B. John Prinzi, Chairman



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

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

January 31, 2005

**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 :

It was great speaking to you over the phone and congratulations to you, Nancy and your Son for another great edition of the THUNDERBOLT.

Please put this in the Historians Corner :

This covers the action of the 83rd ID in the time frame as shown :

HISTORICAL RECORD OF THE 83D INFANTRY DIVISION

WORLD WAR II

**SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCES**

SHAEF RELEASE NO. 106.

It was announced by Supreme Headquarters today that the United States Army 83rd Division, which served in France in 1918, was new, serving in France under Brigadier General Robert C. Macon.

The 83rd was reactivated in 1942 under Brigadier General Frank W. Hilburn and he supervised most of its training until Jan 1944, when Brigadier General Macon was assured command. Cadres for the Division came from the 2nd Cavalry Division, the 3rd Cavalry, Ft. Bragg and Ft. Sill. Fillers to make up the full strength came from all the States east of the Mississippi, with the bulk of the men coming from Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana.

The Division participated in the Second Army maneuvers in June 1943 and

(2)

following that was moved to Camp Breckinridge, KY. The division moved to the UK in April this year.

Brigadier General Macon was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action in the North African invasion in 1942 when he led a beach landing Group.

From 1919 to 1931 General Macon commanded a company of the 15th Infantry in China and from 1931 to 1933 he served in Panama. Following that he occupied a number of staff appointments. Brigadier General Macon is a native of Washington, D. C. and was commissioned in the Infantry in 1916.

a. Original Unit :

- (1) Designation : 83d Infantry Division
- (2) Date of reactivation : 15 August 1942
- (3) Place of reactivation : Camp Atterbury, Indiana
- (4) Authority for reactivation : Letter, WD,TANGO,AG 320.5(5-26-42)MR-M-GN, dated 9 June 1942, subject : "Ordering into Active Service Certain Organized Reserve Divisions During August and September 1942."
- (5) Sources from which personel was obtained :

(a) Cadre :

1. 2d Cavalry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas,
2. 3d Cavalry, Fort Oglethorp, Georgia,
3. 2d Cavalry Division Artillery, Fort Riley, Kansas,
4. FARTC, Fort Sill, Oklahoma,
5. FARTC, Fort Bragg, North Carolina,
6. 56th Medical Battalion, Fort Lewis, Washington,
7. 226th Signal Operations Co, Presidio, California.

(b) Filler Replacements : (approximate totals)

1. 1st Sevice Command -- 500
2. 2nd Service Command -- 2500
3. 3rd Service Command -- 4500
4. 4th Service Command -- 3000
5. 5th Service Command -- 4500
6. 6th Service Command -- 1000

b. Changes in organizations :

- (1) Division as originally organized : Hq 83d Inf Div, Hq Co 83d inf Div, MP Plat 83d Inf Div, 83d Cav Rcn Troop, 83d Sig Co, 308th Engr Bn, 308th Med Bn, 83d Div Arty, 322d FA Bn, 323d FA Bn, 324th FA Bn, 908th FA Bn, 408th QM Bn, 329th Inf, 330th Inf, 331st Inf, 83d Div Maint Plat (Ord Dept).

(3)

- (2) 83d Div Maint Plat (Ord Dept) redesignated 783 Ord (LM) Co, 28 September 1942, at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. AUTH : Letter, WD, TAGO, AG 320.2(9-11-42) MR-M-GN, dated 14 September 1942, Subject : "Organization of Ordnance Light Maintenance Companies, Infantry Divisions".
- (3) 408th QM Bn redesignated 83d QM Co, 22 October 1942, at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. AUTH: Letter, WD, TAGO, AG 320.2(9-26-42) OB-I-GN-M, dated 27 September 1942, Subject: "Organization of Quartermaster Companies, Infantry Divisions".
- (4) Reorganization of 83d Infantry Division, 12 August 1943 at Tennessee Maneuver Area, Tennessee. AUTH: Letter, WD, TAGO, AG 322(28 Jul 43) OB-I-GNGCT-M, dated 2 August 1943, subject: "Reorganization of Infantry Divisions", and 1st Endorsement, Headquarters Second Army, dated 6 August 1943. Units of division after reorganization: HQ 83d Inf Div, Hq Co 83d Inf Div, 83d Rcn Troop (Mecz), 308th Engineer Combat Bn, Hq 83d Div Arty, Hq Btry 83d Div Arty, 322d FA Bn, 323d FA Bn, 324th FA Bn, 329th Inf, 330th Inf, 331st Inf, 308th med Bn, 783d Ord (LM) Co, 83d QM Co, 83d Sig Co, MP Plat 83d Inf Div, Hq Sp Troops, Med Det Sp Troops, Band Sp Troops, 329th Cannon Co, 330th Cannon Co, 331st Cannon Co.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted : (as of 10 May 1944)

(1) Officers : 742; Warrant Officers: 44; enlisted men: 13,490.

d. Stations (Permanent or temporary) of units or parts thereof:

- (1) Date of arrival at Camp Atterbury, Indiana: 15 August 1942.
Date of arrival at Tennessee Maneuver Area: 23 June 1943.
Date of arrival at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky: 13 September 1943.
Date of arrival at Camp Shanks, New York: 27-31 March 1944.
Date of arrival at Port of Embarkation: 6 April 1944.
Date of arrival at European Theatre of Operations: 11 April 1944,
- (2) Date of departure from Camp Atterbury: ~18 June 1943.
Date of departure from Tennessee Maneuver Area: 8 September 1943.
Date of departure from Camp Breckinridge: 25-30 March 1944.
Date of departure from Camp Shanks: 5-6 April 1944.
Date of departure from Port of Embarkation: 6 April 1944.

e. Marches:

Motor and rail movement from Camp Atterbury, Indiana to Tennessee Maneuver Area:

(4)

- (1) Purpose: To participate in Tennessee Maneuvers No. 2.**
- (2) Length of march: Approximately 280 miles.**
- (3) Points between which marched, with dates: Motor element departed Camp Atterbury 18 June 1943; arrived Lebanon, Tennessee, 21 June 1943. Rail element departed Camp Atterbury 23 June 1943; arrived Gallatin, Tennessee, 23 June 1943. Personnel transported by motor from there to Lebanon, Tennessee.**
- (4) Condition of roads and weather: Roads good; weather clear and warm.**

Motor and foot movement from Springfield, Tennessee to Camp Breckenridge Kentucky:

- (1) Purpose: Reporting to new permanent station at Camp Breckenridge.**
- (2) Length of march: By foot: 75 miles (average 15 miles per day); by Motor: 50 miles (average 10 miles per day).**
- (3) Points between which marched, with dates: Departed Springfield, Tennessee 8 September 1943; arrived Camp Breckenridge 13 September 1943.**
- (4) Condition of roads and weather; Fair weather and hard surfaced roads were encountered.**

Rail movement from Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky, to Camp Shanks, New York.

- (1) Purpose: Reporting to Port of Embarkation for overseas duty.**
- (2) Length of march: Approximately 1000 miles (average 400 miles per day).**
- (3) Points between which marched, with dates: Departed Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky 25-30 March 1944; arrived Camp Shanks, New York 27-31 March 1944.**
- (4) Condition of roads and weather: Cold and snow.**

Rail movement from Camp Shanks to Port of Embarkation.

- (1) Purpose: To embark by water for European Theatre of Operations.**
- (2) Length of march: Approximately 20 miles.**
- (3) Points between which marched, with dates: Departed Camp Shanks, New York 5-6 April 1944; arrived Port of Embarkation 5-6 April 1944.**
- (4) Condition of roads and weather: Cold and rain.**

Water movement from Port of Embarkation to European Theatre of Operations, new permanent station.

- (1) Purpose: To report for duty in European Theatre of Operations.**
- (2) Length of march: Approximately 3500 miles.**
- (3) Points between which marched, with dates: Departed Point of Embarkation 6 April 1944; arrived European Theatre of Operations 11 April 1944**
- (4) Condition of roads and weather: Moderate.**

- f. Campaigns: (None to date).
- g. Battles: (None to date).
- h. Commanding officers in important engagements: (None to date).
- i. Losses in action: officers and men (None to date).
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: (Records incomplete or unavailable at this headquarters).
- k. Photographs of personnel, important scenes or events: (None).
- l. Brief biographical sketches of present Commanding General and General Officers:
- m. Headquarters established in ETO 20 April 1944 at Keele Hall, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, England.

(1) **The Commanding General: Brigadier General Robert C. Macon** was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action when he led a regimental landing group in the invasion of Africa in November 1942. Appointed Commander of the division in January 1944, he succeeded Brigadier General Robert M. Montague, 83d Division Artillery Commander, who had been serving as Division Commander since the transfer of Major General Frank W. Milburn. General Macon assumed command on 20 January 1944. From 1919 to 1921, General Macon commanded Company I of the 15th Infantry, in China; he served as General Staff Officer with Troops in the Panama from 1931 to 1933; was stationed at Pine Camp, New York, in 1941; served as General Staff officer in the Fourth Armored and later as commander of an armored regiment. A native of Washington D. C. , General Macon attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute where he received a degree in mechanical engineering in 1913. He was commissioned in the Infantry in 1916, was graduated from Infantry School, Co. Offs. Course in 1924 and Advanced Course in 1929. He attended Chemical Warfare School and General Staff School and was graduated from the Army War College in 1934.

(2) **Division Artillery Commander: Brigadier General Robert M. Montague** is a native of Portland, Oregon. He served temporarily as Commander of the 83d Division in the interval between General Milburn's transfer and General Macon's appointment. He has been the Division Artillery Commander since the division's activation. Graduated from West Point as the first Waorld War ended, he went overseas on a tour of inspection of battlefronts in France, Belgium, Italy and the Army of Occupation in Germany. There he saw at first hand something of what had happened. In the post war years, he had served with the Artillery Units in many parts of the United States and Hawaii. He graduated from Basic and Advanced Field Artillery School, and from the General Staff School. He has taught mathematics at West Point and gunnery at the Field

(6)

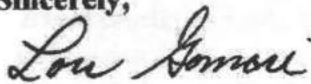
Artillery School. In 1941, he was sent to the War Department in Washington and from there to the 83d Infantry Division.

- (3) **Chief of Staff: Colonel Samuel V. Krauthoff, succeeded Colonel Rinaldo Van Brunt as Chief of Staff upon Colonel Van Brunt's departure with General Milburn, former 83d Commander, for a new post. He has served the division as G-1, G-3 and G-4 since its reactivation in 1942. A graduate of West Point, class of '24, Colonel Krauthoff has seen service in Alaska and Hawaii, as well as many parts of the United States. He has completed courses in Field Artillery School and the Command and General Staff School. A native of Kansas City, Missouri, he came to the 83d from Command of the 95th Field Artillery Battalion.**

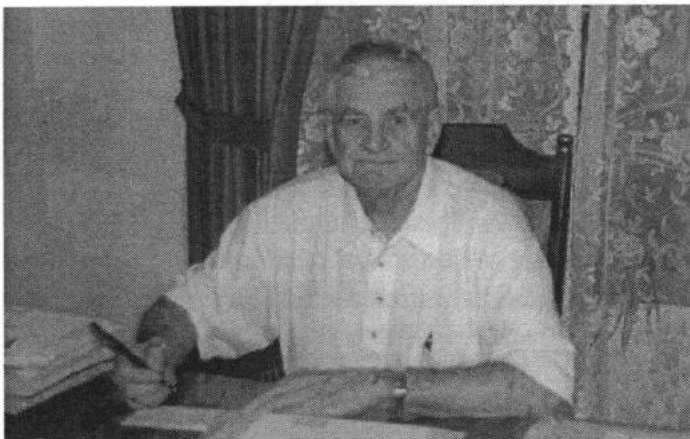
**R. G. Harrell,
Lt Colonel, AGD,
Adjutant General,
83d Infantry Division,
Historical Officer.**

Well Cliff, there you have it, hope you can get it all in the Thunderbolt. Best wishes and regards to all and remember - We were the best of the best.

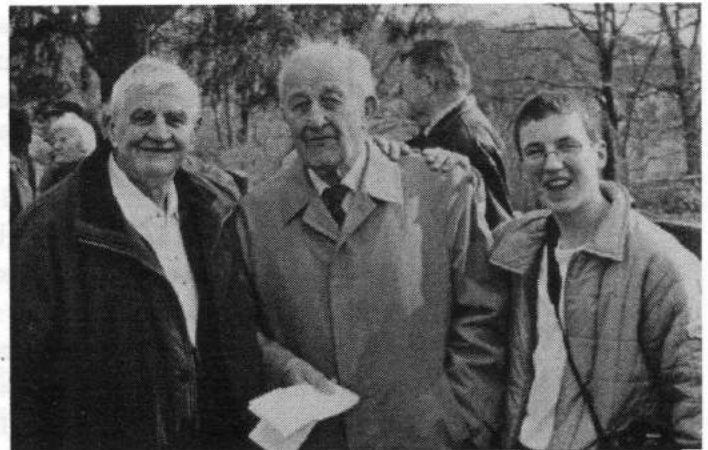
Sincerely,



Lou Gomori



Lou Gormori - Historian at Work



**April 7, 2001- Walternienburg Cemetery
Lou Gomori and Grandson Eric Smith with Peter Rittich, retired Captain and Battalion Commander of German forces that were opposing us East of the Elbe River and was ordered to drive us back across the Elbe – cost what it may.**

83rd Infantry Division Association
Radisson Green Tree Hotel, Pittsburgh, Pa.
General Membership Meeting
Friday, AM, Sept. 17, 2004

MINUTES

* At 9:00 AM, President Sal Scicolone, asked Acting Chaplain Massie to open the meeting with a prayer. Then, President Sal lead the group in the Pledge to the flag, welcomed them and announced a brief summary of the planned events for the balance of this reunion.

* Minutes of the '03 Membership meeting (printed in a Thunderbolt) were approved after a motion and second by R. C. Hamilton and Karl Burkhart.

* Historian Lou Gomori was invited to brief the members on the status of his attempts to gain a Presidential Unit Citation and a sixth campaign star. Unfortunately, the military officer who had been handling these applications retired. This has caused a further delay but Mr. Gomori will continue to pursue the matters, hopeful for success by our planned reunion at Paducah in September '05. Chm Prinzi highly commended Mr. Gomori for his years of dedicated persistence in attempting to achieve these two honors for the 83rd Division.

* Under "new business" Keith Davidson asked what plans the executive board may be considering for the disposition of assets upon the closure of the association.

* Chairman Prinzi announced that that very topic (the FUTURE of this organization) is the highest priority and single most important issue facing the executive board today. In simplistic terms, among the problems confronting the organization are

- o the ever continuing failing health of our members and spouses;
- o the diminishing number of our membership and even more so, the smaller numbers that actually attend annual reunions
- o the scarcity of qualified volunteers to manage the affairs of this national association AND to take on the Herculean task to arrange all details. needed to host reunions.
- o inevitably, the day will come when this National Association must be dissolved officially and forever after all its attendant legal and fiscal matters are attended to.. Your executive board will be studying this. very real option for possible action at its spring meeting
- o in the meantime we are legally committed to hold a reunion next September in Paducah. There are no other reunions now being considered.
- o another idea, which is currently being considered, is to abolish the mandated Annual Meetings now mandated by the by-laws. Future reunions (if any), after the Paducah one, would be on an "as and if practical" basis.
- o under that plan, it might be possible to continue communications of interest to members through THE THUNDERBOLT. Dues (or more accurately, subscription fees) to offset publication expenses would be assessed. This obviously will require further study and discussion at the board's spring meeting.
- o the board must also consider the legal ramifications of these ideas.
- o Thoughts of continuing to exist well into the future by encouraging management participation by the Descendant Members is another idea which might merit consideration, but frankly it does not appear promising.
- o the executive board is carefully investigating the pros/cons of the foregoing and will endeavor to arrive at a final conclusion at their spring meeting in 2005 after which each paid up member will be advised of it decisions.

*A question was asked from the floor inquiring whether the foregoing was meant to be a motion. Chm Prinzi responded No, but it was a statement of actions taken and being considered by the board.

* Karl Burkhardt remarked that it was his opinion that the actions being considered by the Board were valid ones. He continued, although 2005 will be the 59th year of this association, it will also be the 60th year since the end of WW II. Thus the board's action is appropriate, time wise. He supports the board in this difficult decision.

* Lou Gomori asked if honorary or descendant members would be allowed to attend general meeting. Chm Prinzi responded both categories are invited to meetings but not to vote. The board may amend by-laws to allow Descendants to vote; but probably not Honorary ones. Given the state of our existence, this whole matter may be moot.

* Board Member Minick stated that he agrees with all that was said above. However to accomplish these things requires major changes in the by-laws – a large undertaking, given that which is actively being considered: The dissolution of the association.

Mr. Minick suggested that the Descendant members be encouraged to carry on with their own informal reunions, outside of the scope of this Association.

* An unidentified member asked for a show of hands of members who brought Descendant Members to this reunion. Only two non-regular members were in attendance. Chm Prinzi remarked that this is not at all representative of the actual number of family members - of all ages – who are in attendance. They will be all be very evident at the Saturday night banquet.

In response a question from the floor by Mr. Goldberg, Treasurer/Publisher Cliff Wooldridge announced there are 764 paid-up members in 2004.

* Lots of banter followed from the floor dealing with many unrelated matters such as

+Reimbursements for expenses incurred by the historian (ok but this is not the venue)

+R.C, Hamilton opined he'd like to see the association brought to a graceful end with dignity.

+Karl Burkhardt concurred with RC's remarks. An unnamed member disagreed.

+Another unidentified attendee remarked that a reunion in Oklahoma ought to be considered for 2006. Chm Prinzi responded that in view of the earlier commentary at this very meeting concerning the uncertain future of this association, this suggestion is highly unlikely and, at this moment, should be considered as being out of order.

+Mr. Minnick reminded all of the enormous amount of behind-the-scenes work and time that is spent by the board members to run this organization. He bluntly asked how many members present would be willing to step up to help us do the job.....no response

+An exchange between RC Hamilton and Bd Member Minick concerned the distribution of assets etc at the close. Answered by Minick that funds remaining may be applied towards the publication of the Thunderbolt... (but this needs to be further studied)

* To bring these, for the most part, unproductive, back and forth dialogs to a halt, Chm Prinzi addressed the body by stating that the executive board has in the past, and will continue to do so in the future, whatever it deems to be best interests of the association. That having been said, Chm Prinzi solicited a general membership vote of confidence for the entire executive board, asking for a show of hands to signify their "approval" of this board. The raised hands of the members appeared to have been unanimous.

*That concluded this meeting. Actg Chaplin Massie closed with a prayer. .

83rd Infantry Division Association
Radisson Green Tree Hotel, Pittsburgh, Pa.
General Membership Meeting
Saturday AM, September 18, 2004

President Sal Scicolone called the meeting to order, asking Actg Chaplin Ellsworth Massie to offer an invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pres. Sal then asked for acceptance of last year's minutes that had been published in an issue of the THUNDERBOLT. Such a motion was made by Lou Gomori and unanimously carried.

The President then gave a brief outline of activities planned for the remainder of the reunion.

Pres. Sal then asked the membership for any old business they wished to bring up at that time. There were no responses.

He then opened the floor to any New Business.

Jake Haldeman, who only recently reinstated his membership, stated that an unnamed documentary film producer in Philadelphia is planning to produce a film about the 83rd. In connection with this project, Haldeman wishes to make our membership roster available to this individual so as to arrange interviews with some 83rd veterans.

Pres Sal turned the meeting over to 1st VP Robert Taylor. Taylor called for Chapter Reports.

The Boston Chapter reported they have about 525 members, has frequent meetings, uses raffles to obtain funds that it donates to military charities, such as VA Hospitals, etc.

Cleveland Chapter reported 16 members who meet monthly except during winter months.

Central Plains Chapter, in a letter from Keith Davidson, reported its few remaining members unanimously recently voted to disband due to aging and restrictive travel.

Chicago Chapter: No report

Dixie Chapter – Ellsworth Massie reported it is alive, well and meets three times annually.

Kentucky Chapter - Manny Goodrich reported it is still alive and expects to stay active.

Louisiana Chapter – No report

Michigan Chapter – Vito Palazollo reported it only meets occasionally for lunch.

Florida Chapter – Mike Pettiti reported it meets twice annually with attendance of about 40.

New England Chapter – Carl Burkhart reported that as other chapters have reported, its spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

New Jersey Chapter – Manny Epstein stated that their travel is restricted but they do manage to get together at a local VFW hall.

Philadelphia Chapter – No report

Pittsburgh Chapter – Still active though, like the others, the membership is declining

Pres Sal, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of candidates for election to offices for the '04/'05 term:

President	Al Shrawder
1 st Vice President	R. C. Hamilton
2 nd Vice President	William McKee
3 rd Vice President	Manny Goodrich
Publisher & Treasurer	Cliff Woodridge
Secretary	John Tisdell
Historian	Louis Gomori
Chaplain	Ellsworth Massie
Sergeant-at-Arms	Paul Dallas, Ken Barker, Dan McDermott

Pres Sal asked if there were any nominations from the floor for these positions. No response.

Accordingly, Pres. Sal asked for a motion from the floor accepting all these candidates. Such a motion was received, and seconded - each by unidentified individuals, The entire slate was therefore declared elected by acclamation, announced President Sal

At his request, Pres Sal gave the microphone to Board Member W. Meadors Minick.

Mr. Minick, speaking for the entire board, explained that, because of the uncertainty of the future of the association, the board members had agreed it was essential to retain experienced people on the executive board. Accordingly, he placed as nominees to the board, John Prinzi and Bob Taylor, both of whose terms were scheduled to expire today.

President Sal then asked if there were any nominations forthcoming from the floor for these two executive boards positions. There was no response from the membership.

President Sal then declared the nominations closed and asked for a motion to elect these two nominees by acclamation. Motion was made and seconded, hence the election of these two was carried out.

President Scicolone asked for any new members were in attendance for the first time. None responded.

An unidentified member from Shreveport, La. announced his appreciation for Joe Macaluso's family, whom he met at this reunion.

Board Member John Tisdell's daughter Ann spoke at length declaring her personal appreciation for the sacrifices her father and all the other members of this Association made during WW II. She suggested that the association should consider including Descendant Members in planning for its future.

Board Member Bob Keck made an announcement that the annual Memorial Services were being held at 2 PM and asked the members for some volunteers in this regard.

Pres Sal invited the incoming President, Al Shrawder to say a few words to the membership. After thanking those present for his election, Al spoke at length about the many activities being planned for next year's reunion in Paducah, Ky. September 7 thru 10.

Pres. Sal then reminded the membership that Debbie Holliman will be showing the documentary video "Thank you, Eddie Heart" immediately following the close of this meeting. Karl Burkhart asked the members present to promote the Paducah reunion adding that if it proves to be our last one, we should also make it the best.

Chaplain Massie recited the closing prayer after which Pres Sal asked for and received a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT 83RD 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 83rd Division veteran and, in several cases, 83rd 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, 331st IR, Co. 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 83rd Division, and the 83rd Division message board at www.ncweb.com/~davecurry/brothers/msgs.html. Dave's web site also has links to the other great sites about the 83rd Division

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

Errol Chouest is looking for anyone who remembers his father, **Tech 5 Anthony Chouest, 329th IR, Co. F, from Louisiana.** He was wounded in **Barby, Germany**, when a bomb was dropped, possibly on April 12, 1945. (Note from D. Holloman: My uncle, PFC Eddie Hart, was killed on April 12 in Barby, possibly in the same incident in which Tech 5

Chouest was wounded. See the website www.thankyoueddiehart.com for information on the documentary about PFC Hart's death, the 83rd Division, and in particular the 329th IR's movements across Germany in March and April.) If you remember **Tech 5 Anthony Chouest**, please contact his son Errol at 1500 Maxine Street, Houma, LA 70363-4936 or call him at 985-867-4022 or email him at emchouest@bellsouth.net.

Beth Chittenden is looking for information for her father, **1st Lt. Lawrence Lee Chittenden (Larry), from Nebraska.** **1st Lt. Chittenden** was in the **330th IR, Company I, 3rd Platoon & Regimental Hdqtrs. Co. Liason Officer.** He is now 84 and lives in Lincoln, Nebraska. He and his daughter Beth would love to talk with anyone who knew or served with him. He would really like to find his former jeep driver, **John Manley.** If you knew **1st Lt. Chittenden** or his jeep driver, **John Manley**, please contact him or his daughter at any of these addresses or numbers: Beth Chittenden, 121 Rue de Grande, Brentwood, TN 37027; Telephone: 615-377-9864; email: lizzydesignsinc@yahoo.com; Or write Lawrence Chittenden at 7900 Van Dorn # 125, Lincoln, Nebraska 68506 or call him at 402-484-7965.

Paul Harris is looking for any information about his uncle, **PFC Glenn W. Collins, 329th IR, Company I, from West Virginia.** He arrived in Normandy about two weeks after D-Day, fought with I Co. across France, and was wounded once or twice. He received a Silver Star and a Bronze Star. He was **killed in action on March 4, 1945, near the Rhine River.** If you remember **PFC Collins,** please contact Paul at The Linc Group, 8 Hughes, Irvine, CA 92618; telephone: 949-330-1532; or email him: paul.harris@thelincgroup.com.

Edward Van Rossen is looking for information about his cousin **Staff Sgt. Frank DeBruyn, 329th IR, 1st squad, 3rd platoon, company unknown.** Edward recently put together a tribute to the 83rd and his cousin. The centerpiece was a Nazi political flag that Sgt. DeBruyn brought home that shows his squad, platoon, and regiment information, plus the names of some of the other platoon members: **Lou Bennet, Skip Bennet, Smitty, Brittingham, Saverd, Borsemd, Plant, Kerns, Mickey, Homan, Selby, and Bakewell.** If you remember **Staff Sgt. DeBruyn or the rest of these guys,** please contact Edward at 6745 Westaway, Troy, MI 48085 or call him at 248-879-6659 or send him an email at evanrossen@msn.com.

Scott McCasland is looking for information about his father, **Cpl. Eugene "Mac" McCasland,** who was from **Oklahoma,** but entered the

Army from **Denver.** He served with the **268th FA, Co. C.** He was **severely wounded in January 1945** after stepping on a land mine near Monshau, Germany. If you remember **Cpl. McCasland,** please contact Scott at 8804 Sasha Ave., Juneau, Alaska 99801 or call him at 907-790-4957 or email him at willysjuneau@hotmail.com.

Heather Nunn is working on a graduation project honoring her grandfather, **T-5 Harold W. Ladley,** who was in **331st IR, Company G, 2nd Battalion,** and who was from **Pennsylvania.** He served from October 1942 until November 1945, all the way from Normandy to Germany. If you remember **T-5 Hadley** or can give Heather some information about **Company G,** please contact her at 208 Willow Drive, Warminster, PA 18974 or email her at tilly91787@aol.com.

Sharon Appell is trying to find information about her uncle, **Private Robert John Hilse, from Lewiston, Maine, 329th IR, Co. D, then Co. C.** He was stationed at Camp Atterbury and was **wounded in action in June or July 1944** (according to the 329th Regiment History) and/or **April 1945** but survived the war. If anyone remembers **Pvt. Hilse,** please contact Sharon at 20 Upland Road, Pittsfield, MA 01201 or send her an email at shuttermuther@lycox.com.

Frances Duffney is searching for **Private Craggie Allen Van Winkle,** believed to be with the **329th IR,**

perhaps with the HQ 2nd BN or Medics, or anyone in his family. He was from **Gainesville, TX**, and was a bit older than most, as he was born in 1918. He was stationed at Camp Forest, TN with the 68th Medical Reg. Frances is trying to return an item belonging to this soldier found by a French family in Normandy. If you can help contact **Pvt. Van Winkle** or any of his relatives, please contact Frances Duffney at one of these addresses: D TRP 6-6 CAV, CMR 416, Box 459, APO AE 09140 or email: FrancesDuffney@aol.com or call at (49) 9847-984653.

PFC Daniel McCabe, 331st IR, Co. E, is looking for anyone he served with. He arrived in late December 1944 and was assigned to **Co. E**. He and his platoon and the company commander, **Capt. Sloan**, were captured on **March 2, 1945**, over sixty years ago, near the city of **Dusseldorf and the Rhine River**. If you remember PFC McCabe, please contact him at 707-226-3665 or email him at uncledjm@comcast.net or uncledjm@aol.com or write him at 2875 Elm Street, Napa, CA 94558.

Sean Bednarz is looking for information about his grandfather, **1st Lt. Thomas F. Porter, Anti-tank Company, 331st IR**, who served from **June to December 1944** and who was wounded. He lost the hearing in one ear completely and partially in the other. He was from **New Iberia, Louisiana**. If you remember **1st Lt. Porter**, please contact Sean Bednarz, 131 40th

Street, Unit B, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 or email him at seanerbock@hotmail.com.

Gene and Kurt Tweraser are helping a family who is looking for **Sgt. Anthony Benedict Haiges, believed to be in the 331st IR, from the New Orleans area of Louisiana, who drove a supply truck**. He was stationed in **Steyr, Upper Austria** from **October 1945 until early 1946**. His family may have had a tombstone business in Louisiana, and his birthdate is thought to be **April 16, 1921**. If you remember Sgt. Haiges or know his family, please contact Gene or Kurt Tweraser at 816 Highland, Fayetteville, AR 72701 or send an email to tweraser@uark.edu or call 479-521-1453.

Paul Dillon Pratt is looking for information about his grandfather, **Paul James Pratt, 329th IR, Co. K**, who began the war as a private but was a **Master Sergeant** when he was captured in **Magdeburg, Germany** in 1945. He was from **Tulsa, Oklahoma**. He was wounded in the **Battle of the Bulge** and was with in the platoon that crossed the **Loire River** to escort 20,000 Germans who were surrendering back to the American side of the river. If you can help Dillon with information about his grandfather or his grandfather's company, please contact him at P. O. Box 938, Eufaula, OK 74432 or call him at 918-689-3541 or 918-617-3240 or email him at cwbuff88@yahoo.com.

People of the Netherlands Still Honor Commitments made by Dutch Citizens in 1946

by Debbie Holloman

I grew up knowing that my Uncle Ed's grave in the Netherlands had been adopted by a young Dutch girl after he was killed in World War II. I later learned that every grave in the American Cemetery in Margraten was adopted by Dutch citizens. Since working on the documentary about my uncle, PFC Eddie Hart, 83rd Division, 329th IR, Co. G – "Thank You, Eddie Hart" (see www.thankyoueddiehart.com for more information about the documentary), I've heard from other families in the Netherlands who still honor the commitments made by the Dutch people at the end of World War II, sixty years ago.

One such person is Stevin Oudshoorn, age 34. He has an excellent website that honors all Allied soldiers buried in or killed in the Netherlands. His website called "Freedom is not Free" is located at www.basher82.nl. He continues to seek information on all American soldiers that are buried in the American Cemetery at Margraten in the Netherlands. If you can provide information to Stevin about a family member buried at Margraten, please check his website at www.basher82.nl and

email him at stevin@basher82.nl. His website is well worth your time to visit and includes many photographs. He wants his website to include information about every soldier buried at Margraten.

Another citizen of the Netherlands who still honors the commitments made by the Dutch people sixty years ago is Ronald Stassen, who works with several websites dedicated to the soldiers who helped free the Netherlands from the Nazi grip. Ronald's great websites honor all Allied soldiers of World War II, especially Allied paratroopers, (<http://www.band-of-brothers.nl/mainmenu.asp?lan=us>). To plan a trip to WWII sites in Europe, a great website to visit is: <http://www.ww2museums.com/>.

Another great website is <http://www.stiwot.nl/>, the website for a Dutch foundation for information about WWII. Ronald, who is 37 years old, has adopted two graves of American soldiers buried in the American Cemetery at Margraten, his family has adopted five others, and his friends have adopted three graves. Ronald is still searching for information about one of the soldiers whose grave he adopted.

One of his friends, Fons Nijssen, who is also about 40 years old, took over the adoption of the graves that had been originally adopted by his father in April 1946. When asked to explain why he did

this, he wrote: "Every year on the day of death of the two heroes, I put flowers on their graves and pray for them. That is my way to honor these men who gave their lives in a country that wasn't theirs, for people they didn't know, in a war they didn't want. It is hard to imagine such a sacrifice these days!" He also explained why he wanted to learn about the heroes whose graves he had adopted. "In this way, I could imagine the man behind the name. I hope to find out more about Sgt. Dorsey A. King, but even if I don't, I will be standing for the grave of a man and not of just a name when I visit the cemetery in Margraten. A man with a family, with people who loved him, with a life not only as a soldier but also as a civilian, with an ordinary job, an ordinary home and a family where he lived in peace. And this man decided to go to a war that wasn't his and he fought to liberate people he didn't know, in countries he never heard of before he got there. And for these people he gave up everything, even his life . . . To put some flowers on the grave of this brave man on the day of his death is not a duty to me, it is rather an honor!"

There are other websites sponsored by Dutch citizens to honor the soldiers who helped liberate them in World War II: <http://bandofbrothers.ontheweb.nl/>, <http://www.euronet.nl/users/wilfrie>

[d/ww2/ww2.htm](http://www.4en5mei.nl/portal/), and see <http://www.4en5mei.nl/portal/> which has an English summary of the various ways the Netherlands commemorates World War II, including May 4 & 5, which are two days set aside each year to honor the heroes of WWII. Because the Dutch people believe that the stories of WWII must be passed from one generation to another, personal stories are included on this website, <http://www.oorlogsgetuigen.nl/Silence/index.html>.

Another interesting website also shows the continuing commitment by the Dutch people. See: http://carol.fus.tripod.com/army_search_rutledge3.html and http://carol.fus.tripod.com/army_hero_search_hass.html. There are many heartwarming stories and photographs about the adoption of graves at the American Cemetery.

Like Ronald and Fons, other Dutch citizens who adopt graves today, after the original adopting families have died or moved, still hope to connect with the family of the soldier whose grave they've adopted. In many cases, the records at the American Cemetery are out-of-date. We had such a request a year or so ago: Linda Gisel and her mother, Mary deBruijn Worrall, were looking for anyone that might have served with **Second Lt. Donald Ridenour, 330th IR, Co. K, from Michigan,**

who was killed in action on **March 2, 1945 at Neuss, Germany.** Linda's mother was a young Dutch girl who adopted Lt. Ridenour's grave at Margraten, along with several other graves. She later became a U.S. citizen through the help of Lt. Ridenour's parents and widow, Terry. The family wanted to hear from anyone who served with or remembers Lt. Ridenour. (They were later contacted by an 83rd Division veteran who remembered "Uncle Don.")

Another very interesting website helps those children born to Dutch mothers and Allied soldiers, sometimes called "the children of the liberation," find their lost fathers or families, if the soldier (or his family if he has died), agrees to the communication. The site includes a message board and stories of reunions, published with the permission of the families: <http://www.liberationchildren.org/> and its Canadian version: <http://www.project-roots.com/>.

Take a look and you may be able to help make someone's dearest wish come true.

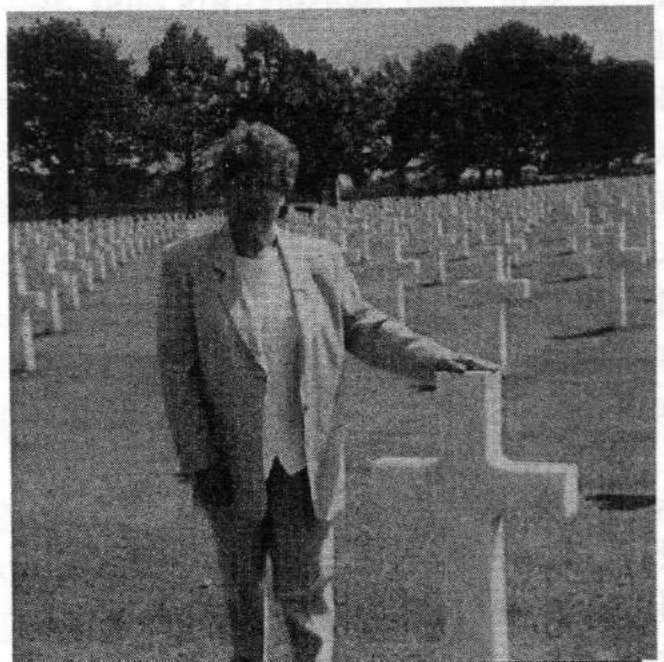
If you have not seen the documentary (which just won two Emmy awards, including Best Historical Documentary), about the adoption of my Uncle Ed's grave by a young Dutch girl, Betty Vrancken, in 1946, and the almost 60-year friendship between my

mom and Betty, see the website, www.thankyoueddiehart.com and also ask your local public television station to show it. It is a wonderful tribute to all the men of the 83rd Division and to the Dutch people who still remember and honor the Allied soldiers who liberated the Netherlands from Nazi Germany.

American Cemetery in Margraten



**Johan Vrancken,
Dutch citizen, with family of PFC Eddie Hart**



**1980's Betty Vrancken-Habets
Grave of PFC Eddie Hart**

WARREN HUTCHENS ARMY EXPERIENCE 1940 – 1945

I, Warren Hutchens, enlisted in the California National Guard 7/15/40, in the 251st Battery G, as a bugler. On 9/16/40, the 251st Coast Artillery Anti Aircraft Regiment was called to Federal service and was sent to Hawaii on 11/1/40.

On 12/7/41, at Camp Malakole near Barbars Point, I was eating breakfast with my fellow soldiers at 7:55 a.m., when we started to hear explosions. I thought the engineers were setting out dynamite at Red Hill. When we left the mess hall, after eating breakfast, we looked toward Pearl Harbor, about 10 miles from camp. At first we thought it was some sort of maneuvers, but it looked like real war to me. A few minutes later Captain Lemon came running around the end of the mess hall. His pants were half unbuttoned and holding a pistol above his head he yelled. "Come on, get with it. A war is on!"

We could not believe what he was saying until Japanese planes started strafing the camp. Everyone started firing their rifles at the planes. We did not have time to get our anti-aircraft guns in operation, 37 mm and 90 mm. I started running messages from Colonel Sherman to Captain Lemon. While on a run to headquarters, I stopped at Battery E latrine to do my morning routine. While sitting on the toilet, a Japanese plane strafed through the tin roof cutting the bowl next to me in half! There was an 18 inch distance between the bowls. Luckily, I was done and I pulled up my pants and flew out the door. I looked at the corner of the latrine and saw that one of the G.I.'s had been hit in the shoulder. He had plenty of help so I went on my way. Later I found out that the plane that almost got me was shot down. My buddy survived.

We soon hooked up our artillery and headed for Pearl Harbor. We arrived at Pearl about 10 am. What a mess. The Arizona was on fire. The harbor was covered with oil and partly on fire. The sailors were coming ashore burnt and covered with oil. Battery G headquarters were set up at the submarine base. We stayed in the lower part of the barracks which was a storeroom. We had a lookout post in the diving tower, which was one of the highest points in the harbor. Our battery had 50 cal machine guns on the barracks roof. The 2nd Battalion had 37mm and 50 cal guns, which were set up around the harbor. Second Battalion (A Bat. search lights) B, C, D Batteries had 90 mm artillery, about 12 guns in all.

Three soldiers from F Battery, Henry C. Blackwell Cpl., Clyde C. Brown Cpl., & Warren Rasmussen Sgt. were flying civilian aircraft on 12/7/41. The 2 piper cubs were shot down by incoming Japanese planes, about 250 of them. All 3 in the 2 planes were killed. These 3 soldiers from the 251st were probably the first casualties of WW II with the USA the night of 12/7/41 since war had been declared. I went to relieve another G.I. of guard duty since it was my turn to serve the 2 hours of guard duty. When I approached the soldier on duty, whom I knew, the soldier raised his rifle at me and fired. The bullet in the chamber did not go off. The rifle did not have a firing pin which saved my life. The Lord was looking after me on the first day of the war!

On May 15, 1942 the Regiment, 1400 men, was sent to the Fijis for a defense of the Islands. On Nov. 15, 1943 the Regiment was sent to Guadalcanal and to Bougainville for more fighting. In May 1944, Warren arrived home on Mother's Day after being over seas for 3 ½ years. In Oct. 1944 Warren was sent to Camp Houze Texas for Infantry training, then sent to Europe in Jan. '45 and was assigned to the 83rd Infantry Div. 330th Regiment. The 330th went across Germany from Belgium to 50 miles from Berlin. As a bazooka man and rifleman, Warren fought in an Infantry squad of 12 men. Discharged on June 22, 1945.

Warren H. Hutchens
14316 Suffolk St.
Westminster, CA 92683
714-897-8650

Mr. And Mrs. John Prinzi
4433 Oakley Greene
Sarasota, FL 34235-2330

16 January 2005

Dear Mr. Prinzi --

How are you and your wife? I hope you all had a wonderful holiday. First of all, I want to formally thank you for the incredibly generous gesture of inviting me to become an honorary member of the 83rd Infantry Division. I'm truly overwhelmed by the honor and all it represents. I know that there is a long chasm between and honor such as this and actually having served in the Thunderbolt, and indeed it is part of my responsibility to communicate the difference to those of my generation and future generations who believe in service but who - thanks to the incomparable efforts of YOUR generation of Americans - have been liberated to pursue their own, often civilian dreams.

The notion of being liberated from tyranny and liberated to one's peaceful pursuit of happiness is a vital lesson, which I for one will never ever forget. I was delighted to have reached you last month - the evening I was helping Tony celebrate his 82nd Birthday. He is as sharp and bumptious as ever and we had a grand time together - as we always do.

Concerning my documentary project about Tony Vaccaro, it always takes longer than one would hope, but I do hope to be able to show you something - finished or not - at the next Reunion in the Fall. I certainly plan to attend with my wife.

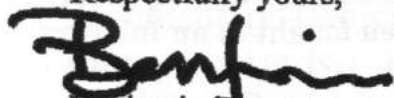
I look forward to keeping in touch with you and your colleagues this coming year and you can feel free to call me or email me anytime.

My cell phone number is 917-968-6096 and my email is pattonb@wliw.org.

Finally, I thought I would send along our somewhat belated Christmas Card -- my first!

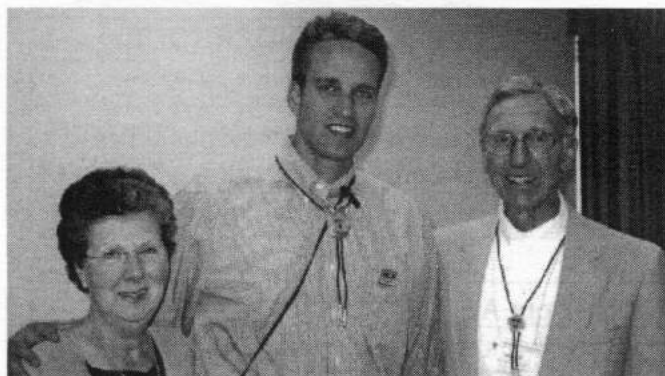
Once again, my most heartfelt thanks to you and your extraordinary comrades in the Thunderbolt. I for one will never forget what you and your generation have done for me and mine... Moreover, the mere EXAMPLE you all continue to set in terms of your commitment to country, to principle, and to a way of life will always serve as the lofty standard for all time.

Respectfully yours,



Benjamin Patton
17 E.97th Street, Apt. 4D
New York, NY 10029

“A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING”



**Pittsburgh Reunion - Ben Patton with first timers
Cecile and Roger Dumont**



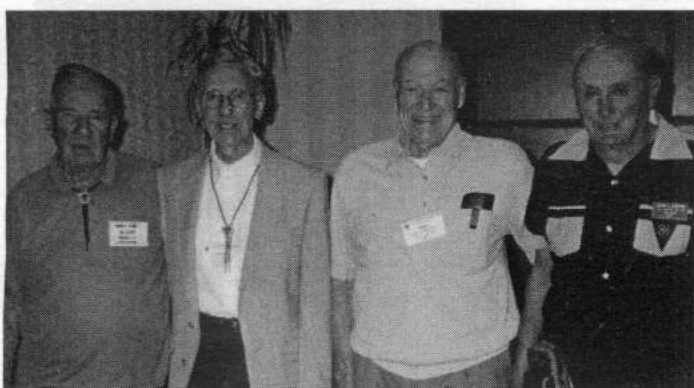
Auguste Farius and Joe DePeri, NJ Chapter



**Pittsburgh Reunion – Theresa Scicolone,
Ginny DiGiammerino, Nancy McCarthy
Ann Tisdell, and Gladys Taylor**



**Lou Gomori, Carroll Brown, German Major Rettich,
Bob Keck. Major Rettich lost 3 German companies
approx. 900 men to the 83rd Div. He was responsible
for trying to push us off the Elbe bridge head. He hid
behind our lines for 3 days until a foggy night he
escaped and later reorganized other units. . . B.Keck**



**Pittsburgh Reunion – John Askey G329,
Roger Dumont G329, Karl Burkhard H330,
and John Cupina G329**



**Horst Reinhold, Carroll Brown and Heinz Urlich,
author of “Kriegschronik Barby/Elbe” discussing the
location of the crossing of the Elbe by units of the
329th Inf. Regt. Discussion is at the west bank of the
Elbe at Barby. Photo by Lou Gormi, April 2001**

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER with breaking news just before the THUNDERBOLT goes to press.

Largely through the efforts of Ben Patton, our very own internationally acclaimed photographer, Tony Vaccaro, has been invited by the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra (BPO) to prepare an exhibit of his WW II photos in conjunction with its planned concert series commemorating the 60th anniversary of the war's end.

The photo exhibit will be on display at Boston Opticon Gallery from April 23 to May 1. On Sunday, April 24 there will be a reception at the gallery where Tony will be making some remarks about his experiences which naturally will feature some highlights of the 83rd Division's achievements.

The BPO concert series will take place at venues in Cambridge and Boston on April 28th, 30th and May 1st.

Those interested in either event may contact the Patron Services Manager, Kirsten, at the BPO offices: 617-236-0999, ext. 20.

B. John Prinzi, March 25, 2005



Tony Vaccaro and Lou Gomori discussing action regarding Elbe Bridgehead



On left two crew members of Tony Vaccaro's filming crew, Tony Vaccaro, Lou Gomori, Victor Terzanno and Historian Heinz Urlich taking photo of 83rd jacket East Bank of Elbe River opposite Barby



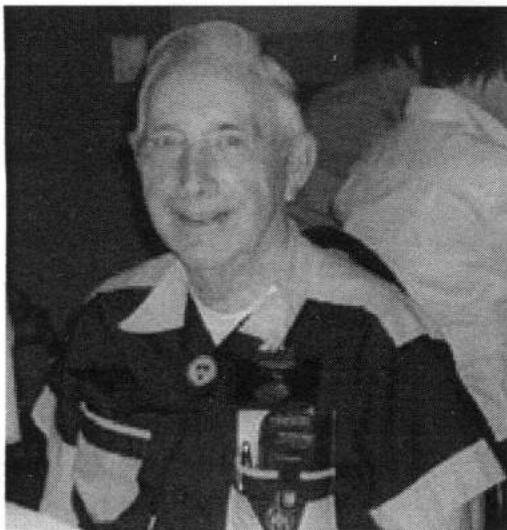
Heinz Urlich, German Historian
Tony Vaccaro, Photographer
East of Elbe River, Site of Elbe Bridgehead

Photos by Lou Gomori

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>
Birdarie, Ted	323rd	Brother Paul, Ron Platt, Pat DiGiammerino
Brown, Carroll	E Co., 329th	Manny Epstein
Brown, Frank L.	2nd Bn., 331st	Wife Ruth
Cox, Edward	H Co., 329th	Sherry Cox
Cramer, Donald E.	A Co., 329th	Son Sam
Crow, Robert	E Co., 329th, Historian	Bill Crookham
Earls, Bert	329th Medic	Daughter Karen Martin
Gardner, Richard A.		Daughter
Marra, Felix S.	D Co., 330th	Sal Scicolone
Nicoli, Gino A.	Hq.	Pat DiGiammerino
Olson, Carl	331st, 1st Bn.	Pat DiGiammerino
Phero, J. William "Bill"	Div. Hq.	Family
Pittman, C. Lester	329th	Pat DiGiammerino
Powell, Milford	B Bat., 324th FA	Cecil Walters
Sharpe, Curtis	F Co., 330th	Ellsworth Massie
Thayer, Richard G.	G Co., 330th Medic	Wife Lois
Wargo, Andrew	K Co., 331st	Norm Malo



Carroll Brown

WW II Hero, Community Activist dies

A Monroe County World War II hero and community activist has died after a lengthy illness.

Carroll Brown died Friday at the age of 79.

As a 19-year-old, Brown survived the Nazis sinking his landing craft during the Allies' 1944 Normandy invasion.

In a 2003 interview, Brown said he and the other young soldiers were simply there to do a job and did not realize they were about to become a part of history.

"We didn't have a clue," Brown said.

Brown was wounded during the war and became a heavily decorated soldier.

Though he was born in North Carolina, Brown and his wife, the late Ruby Archer, made their home in Sweetwater where he was an instructor at Tennessee Military Institute. (TMI)

"He was just an outstanding individual," Former Sweetwater City School System Superintendent Joe Sherlin said. "He really cared about the community he lived in."

**59th ANNUAL REUNION
OF 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION
SEPTEMBER 7 – 11, 2005**

SEND ADS IN EARLY!



PLEASE SELECT SIZE OF AD

FULL PAGE @ \$80.00	HALF PAGE @ \$45.00	THIRD PAGE @ \$30.00	QUARTER PAGE @ \$24.00
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BOOSTER ADS ARE \$5.00

Make check payable and send to:

83rd INFANTRY DIV. ASSN. REUNION
138 East Side Drive, P.O. Box 406
Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406

URGENT – ACT NOW

Please mail your checks for the Ad Book as soon as possible. As you know, this money is needed to help pay for some expenses for our 59th Reunion.

DEADLINE – AUGUST 1, 2005

PLEASE Type or Print Ad Clearly and State Size of Ad

**Vito, thank you for your Dedicated
Service to the 83rd
you outfitted us to look like the
“BEST OF THE BEST”
and remember
“WE WERE THE BEST OF THE BEST”**

**83rd Reunion will be held at
J. R.’s Executive Inn
One Executive Blvd.
Paducah, KY 42001
Dates are:
September 7-11, 2005**

**\$25.00 Dues are payable
NOW
For the year 2005**

THUNDERBOLT DEADLINES

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

Return Address-
83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.
138 East Side Drive, P.O. Box 406
Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406



TO:

Charles C. Sihlanick
322nd FA
2 Elizabeth Ct.
Little Ferry, NJ 07643

“Change Service Requested” 1

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL ___ NEW ___

NAME (please print) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

Company _____ Regiment _____ 83rd Division

Phone _____ e-mail _____

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

Payable to and mail to:

**83RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
138 East Side Drive, P.O. Box 406
Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406**

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Descendant Membership _____ Name

Name of 83rd Division Member _____

IMPORTANT

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