



# THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 60 Issue No. 3

Summer Issue 2005

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



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

## THE THUNDERBOLT

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The THUNDERBOLT is written for all members of the 83rd Infantry Division World War II and is published at  
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### A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

1947 James C. Hanrahan*	1964 Julius Boyles*	1981 Michael Caprio*	1998 R. C. Hamilton
1948 Jack M. Straus	1965 Samuel Klippa*	1982 Ralph Gunderson*	1999 Pat DiGiammerino
1949 Shelly Hughes*	1966 William M. Doty*	1983 Arthur Doggett*	2000 Salvatore Scicolone
1950 Julius Ansel*	1967 Albert B. Belvedere	1984 Bernie Cove*	2001 Pat DiGiammerino
1951 Walter H. Edwards, Jr.	1968 Vito C. Palazzolo	1985 Carroll Brown*	2002 Bob Taylor
1952 Leo Schneider	1969 Pat DiGiammerino	1986 John Hobbs	2003 Salvatore Scicolone
1953 Finley Heyl	1970 Casey Szubski	1987 George Fletcher	2004 Allison Shrawder
1954 Lawrence J. Redmond*	1971 Charles Altomari*	1988 Charles Schmidt*	
1955 Lawrence J. Redmond*	1972 Harold H. Dopp*	1989 Edward Reuss	*Denotes Deceased
1956 Lt. Gen. Robert H. York*	1973 Louis J. Volpi	1990 Charles J. Lussier	
1957 Harry W. Lockwood*	1974 Bernard O. Riddle*	1991 Edgar H. Haynes	
1958 Raymond J. Voracek*	1975 Robert G. Taylor	1992 Ned Smith	
1959 Charles Abdinoor	1976 Mike Skovran*	1993 Louis Sandini*	
1960 Joseph F. Minotti*	1977 Manlius Goodridge	1994 William M. Minick	
1961 Frank J. McGrogan*	1978 Joseph A. Macaluso*	1995 Casey Szubski	
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

Please get out your calendar and all mark the dates of Sept. 7-11, 2005.

These are the dates of the 59th Annual Reunion of the 83rd Infantry Division Association. It will be held on these dates at the Executive Inn in Paducah, KY.

As you know - we are all getting older each year. Most of us are 80 or more. Many cannot attend the reunions due to health problems. We are also losing about 100 men each year.

This makes it more difficult for us to get men to serve on the Executive Board and to be an officer each year. However, we do have many who would like the Association to stay active.

So, at the Reunion in Paducah decisions will have to be made to continue or not. If we are to continue, men will have to volunteer to join the Executive Board and to become officers in the Association for 2005 - 2006.

Full details will have to be ready at the Reunion for the 60th Reunion to be voted on.

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

## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

B. JOHN PRINZI

Somehow, somewhere, some members have gotten the impression that this board was striving and anxious to dissolve this association. Nothing could be further from the truth. What is the truth is that despite our constant asking, pleading, cajoling and whatever else we could muster, replacement candidates for help to man board and officer positions were not forthcoming.

Consider what has transpired in just the last few years - starting with the demise of our long-time Secretary/Treasurer Bob Derickson in 2001. Around the same time period, we lost board members Ralph Gunderson.....then Lou Sandini. A short while later Judge Advocate John Raikos suffered a massive stroke and has not recovered (nor, regretfully, is he ever expected to).

At the Hampton Bay reunion in 2001 we managed to recruit Bob Gangnath to handle the Secretary/Treasurer slot. Unfortunately, because of progressively worsening mind debilitating illness, his abilities to perform were short lived - very short.

We tried and tried to recruit replacements to no avail.

Lastly we resorted to "arm twisting" to enlist those who were presently serving, or had recently served. Men like Sal Scicolone, Meadors Minick, John Tisdell, Robert Taylor, Cliff Wooldridge, all who agreed to do double duty (and more). Truly worthy of the accolade: "above & beyond..."

My own stint of an extra year of Board duty beyond the mandated five, preceded by years as your Historian (The Arlington National Cemetery ceremony dedicating the 83rd Memorial Monument on June 6, 1999) - all that pales when compared to the services by those men whose names are mentioned above.

Not once in the preceding text have I mentioned the health aspect - or, more accurately, the lack

## FROM THE EDITOR

CLIFF WOOLDRIDGE

of – or failing – health of each and every one of us. Much as we once may have felt like supermen, and as much as we might hate to admit it, father time has taken a toll on each and every one of us. Some, more than others but no one has been spared totally. Because of it, many of us are physically unable to attend the reunions, or volunteer their services, much as they might want to. That's all understandable.

Hence, the executive board feels that the time has now arrived, unless some qualified volunteers step up to take over the reins, to dissolve this association – with regret, but with the dignity and honor it deserves.

All it takes to keep it alive is six capable, regular members to declare their candidacy for the executive board and officer positions – four for the executive board, and two for presidency and 1st VP.

So now gentlemen, it's come down to this.

At its recent Executive Board meeting (which naturally included the President and 1st Vice President) a resolution was passed which states that **if a minimum of six qualified, paid-up, regular members do not declare their candidacies for the board (4) & officers (2) positions, this board has unanimously voted to dissolve the Association as soon as possible after the September reunion.**

This action requires a two-thirds majority affirmative vote of the entire regular, paid-up membership – whether in person at the General Membership meeting in Paducah, KY on September 9, 2005 or by a mailed proxy.

Official notification will be mailed to all members as required by law, in late July or August.

It's been my privilege and honor to have served the 83rd – the Division AND the Association. We were INDEED the very best!

B. John Prinzi  
Executive Board Chairman

At this time it looks promising that we'll have a 2006 Reunion. Right now, some 83rd members have come forward indicating their willingness to accept executive board and officer positions which would keep the Association alive. If they do, we have a lady (descendant) who wants to put on a fantastic 2006 Reunion for us in the Nashville, Indiana (Brown County) area. (Camp Atterbury being approx. 15 miles away).

The hotel manager is willing to come to the Paducah Reunion and present the hotel accommodations and Brown County attractions for the 2006 Reunion.

**THE AD BOOK ISN'T DOING VERY WELL THIS YEAR. REMEMBER THE AD BOOK HELPS DEFRAY REUNION COSTS. PLEASE HELP US OUT. You will find an Ad Book form in this Thunderbolt.**

I have been in contact with several men of the 83rd. They are lonesome and thrilled to hear from one of their buddies when they call. I have talked to several for an hour. I called Casey Szubiski and Lou Volpe. They are both doing OK.

I do a lot of calling (not charged to the Association) because it is cheaper for me to call than write a letter, and it's faster.

Why don't you pick up the phone and call someone you know or someone you don't know. Just take a number that's in the roster, dial the number and tell them you were thinking about them and see what happens. You never know you might get the fellow's wife and get a chance to talk to two people instead of one.

**MANY WHO ARE ALONE REALLY APPRECIATE THE CALL** and you always find things in common whether it be War experiences, your families, your medical

problems, how many pills you take, etc. GIVE IT A TRY.

I have about 100 buddies who have not paid their 2005 dues and, therefore, will not be receiving the Thunderbolt this time. If you are talking to someone who says he didn't get his Thunderbolt, tell him to check to see if his 2005 dues are paid.

Well, looking forward to seeing you all in Paducah, KY. R.C. Hamilton has a great program set up for us.

The Hotel and Activity Registration Forms as well as the Daily Activity Schedule are included in this issue of the Thunderbolt.  
Treasurer and Editor,

Cliff Wooldridge  
C Co., 308th Eng.  
Editor and Treasurer

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

ELLSWORTH MASSIE

Please accept my words of Thanksgiving for the opportunity of claiming the comradeship of fellow soldiers and their loved ones for these many years. It has meant more than I am able to express. Thank you one and all for electing me to the position of Chaplain of the 83rd Association in 2004.

In this time of consideration and deliberation of our problems concerning our future let us remember the purpose of our being together! Is it not to honor and hold close in our hearts the memories and desires of those who have given their all in the cause of Freedom? What ever we decide of our future as an organization, formed for this purpose, let us put aside all personal desires and make the decisions that honor our original purpose for being together!

National Chaplain, E. Massie

# CHAPTERS

## BOSTON CHAPTER NEWS

ANTHONY PIANTEDOSI

On Saturday, October 10th, 2004 the Boston Chapter held a business meeting at the home of Pat and Ginny DiGiammerino in Malden, MA.

Before the start of the meeting, we all helped ourselves to something to eat at 1:15 PM.

President John Tisdell opened the meeting at 2:40 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for all departed comrades. He thanked Pat and Ginny for the use of their home for our meeting.

Due to the absence of a secretary the report was read by Larry Ariggo. A motion to accept the reading made by Fred Sylvia and seconded by Charles Lussier. Nothing more on Secretary's Report.

Treasurer's Report - Due to the absence of Treasurer, Ron Platt, who is not well, the report was given by Pat DiGiammerino. He reported on some expenses that were paid and money deposited in our account. The Chapter is sound and stable. Motion to accept by Tony Piantedosi and seconded by Bill Rowe.

Old Business - There was no report on old business. A great time was had at the 83rd Reunion in Pittsburgh by those of our members attending in September. A motion to accept by Ben Cooke and seconded by Bill Rowe.

New Business - Charles Lussier spoke on having a mini reunion by the Boston Chapter next year in upstate N.Y. Bus to be paid for by the Boston Chapter for paid up members. Also, maybe have it here in Mass. More on the details after members will be notified on more details. Motion made by Ray Oliva to accept and seconded by Fred Sylvia.

Membership Committee - Pat DiGiammerino signed two new members. Did not have names available. Motion to accept by Charles Lussier and seconded by Larry Arrigo.

Ways and Means Committee - New chapter officer announced for 2005-2006. Will be listed later.

A motion to adjourn by Charles Lussier and seconded by Ben Cooke. (4:05 PM)

This report by - Tony Piantedosi

### A MEMORIAL CEREMONY

On Saturday, April 9, 2005 a memorial was held and dedicated, being placed at the corners of Main and Gleason Streets in Watertown, MA.

The memorial was in honor of two brothers killed in action from Watertown in World War II.

Pvt. Jesse Farese and his brother 1st Lt. Romeo Farese, both died in separate actions. Jesse was killed July 14, 1944 in Caranten, France. He was a soldier in the 329th Regt. Of the 83rd Infantry Division. His brother Romeo was in the U. S. Army Air Force - 9th Air Force and killed in December 1944.

The Memorial Sign Reads

#### **Farese-Square**

1st Lieutenant Romeo S. Farese  
U.S. Army Air Corps-9th Air Force  
World War II - Cassel, France  
April 30, 1919 - December 11, 1944

Private Jesse J. Farese  
U.S. Army - 83rd Infantry Division  
World War II - Carentan, France  
June 8, 1922 - July 14, 1944



**Tony Piantedosi at Memorial Ceremony  
April 9, 2005**



There was a large group in attendance (see above) with an honor guard, rifle squad and a flag detachment of the V.F.W. of Watertown, MA. Speeches from the Farese family and Watertown dignitaries were very emotional. After the ceremony we all went to the American Legion Hall for a great luncheon.

Tony and Helen Piantedosi were in attendance representing the Boston Chapter.

(This article submitted with pictures enclosed by Tony Piantedosi for Staff Reporter Amby Tynan who is not feeling too well.)

## DIXIE CHAPTER NEWS

ELLSWORTH MASSIE

Sunday March 20th  
Dixie Meet 83rd Infantry Spring

All sorts of records are being broken at this Meet. Some being very happy events some not so. It reminds us that we are getting old much faster than we want to!

The Meet was going full blast from Tues, March 8th with 2 couples present. One being our host couple John and Bobbie White, a descendant member, Col. Wm. White's son and wife, did a most commendable job under difficult circumstances. The other couple "yours truly" and wife. She being ill but determined to be with old and new friends once again. By Wednesday, we have two more couples - Loukas from Texas, just returned from

Battle of Bulge Reunion in Europe and the John Cox's who have hosted our meet at least fifteen times. Each has been something special – John is not able to host a meet but is present to advise and help in every way possible.

Some called and canceled due to sickness. We missed each one and remember them is our prayers! Our National Officer Judge Advocate and Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Wm. Minick was hospitalized and we had to have our banquet without him. I'm happy to report that he is recovering. I talked to him by phone just a few minutes ago.

Our long-time associate member John Thompson and wife Betty joined us on Friday and made our group complete. We missed each one who could not come. Our group's ages ran from teenage to 85 years old. We had widows and widowers present. Each one added much to our celebration. All brought goodies and we put them away like true 83rd men should, with the help of our wonderful ladies.

All sorts of records were broken! Our 85 year old J. I. Lamb was photographed with our first time attendant Linsey Lazarus from Chicago who came with grand dad George, father Dave, and Mom Dianne. Thanks George for being there for us.

The A 322 F.A. finally broke the attendance record. We had twice as many present as any other unit. The 330F, 329L, 329B, 329 Hq., 330L – each had one member present - the 908C Btry. was represented by John Cox in this accounting!

Much sightseeing was attended to, some shopping was done. Many explored Jamestown and the Free Ferry across the James River. I plan on doing that trip in March 2006. We voted to come back again. You're all invited, details will come later. I recall when we had so many dignitaries with us we didn't know what to do with them! Wish more were able to be with us again. We came from 9 states this time expect more next year.

Our banquet plans had to be changed – we all dined at the Golden Corral and had a real feast, steak, ham, chicken, seafood, and 90 side dishes. We tried quite a few. It was a most pleasant occasion, but sorry about Wm. Minick's



**Hosts Past & Present - Cox's & Whites!**



**Oldest J. I. Lamb (President)  
Youngest Linsey Lazarus (Descendant)- 1st Timer**



**Largest Family Group – The Lazarus Family**



**Some of our Group  
Pirkle, Lamb, Cox, Loukas, Massie, White**

sickness, thankful he is able to be home recovering at this time.

George Lazarus (a very late comer) took the record with the largest family group present. So sorry his wife Mary couldn't come because of health not permitting her to travel. Get better fast Mary! The same goes to the McCray's and others who wanted to be present but just couldn't do it.

We celebrated one birthday – Jesse Pirkle with cake and candles presented by the Lazarus's. The Loukas provided fried chicken for our hospitality room. T'was so good! Ellane Watkins, my favorite German Chocolate Cake person in the whole world, came through with one of her specialties. I brought my piece home and celebrated all over here at home on Saturday night with my wife Kathryn! Many thanks to each one for your presence and treats, and jokes and just being together again was worth so much. I trust that we'll be able to carry on until we become really old!

We have two Dixie Meets scheduled – December '05 and March '06 and we're working on June '05 but plans are not definite at this time.

Let's remember each other in prayer that we may be blessed with Good Health and a desire to keep our friendship strong in our old age!!

Your Reporter and Chaplain,

E. Massie



**All I could get together for a picture  
At least 10 missing**

## FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

W. ALLEN FISHER

## KENTUCKY CHAPTER NEWS

## MICHIGAN CHAPTER NEWS

NICK BARBU

## NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

NICK FRANCULO

## NEW JERSEY CHAPTER NEWS

STAN BIELEN

stanfran83rd@aol.com



**Shades of Battle of the Bulge  
(My yard & home)  
It's all gone now!!**

May 8th, 2005

The date above marks the 60th anniversary of World War 2 in Europe. One of the questions asked of Veterans of that war on this date are; where were you when you heard the war was over in that theater. For combat troops that day was one you would remember always. First and most important, you survived. To celebrate the victory, we were told that our company would have a parade followed by a memorial service at



the fork in the road, that was in the small German town we were billeted in.

When we were on the march in September 1944 from the Loire River positions to Luxembourg we stopped for a few days in Montarges, France. One day Major Bill White formed men and trucks to get at a German stash of liqueur, whiskey and wine that was in a cove. They came back with a huge load. From this stash we were issued weekly a bottle to my section whenever possible. On VE day the officer in charge released the remainder of the bottles to the company before the parade and the result was that many weren't in shape to march in a soldierly manner. This was viewed by the German population of the town and we wondered, were they thinking how did this bunch of misfits defeat their Army.

Tom Dowd is back attending our chapter meetings after having heart problems then having a pacemaker put in. Fred Klein called and surprised me when he told me he had a triple by-pass. He is doing fine and can't wait to resume his favorite pastime traveling. We received a call from Irene Guzek. She was interested in rejoining the 83rd association for she and Ted missed the news from the Thunderbolt magazine. Harold Everham called me to ask about chapter activities, both he and Doris are OK. Charley Sihlanick with all his health problems and being in a wheelchair is always at the meetings. His favorite saying "83rd all the way". Andy Socha is at his side to help him.

Our heartfelt sympathy to George Waple who lost his wife Vi after a long struggle with cancer. She was a very talented woman. Her flower arrangements and Christmas wreaths were sought after at the raffle we held at our Christmas time. George took her to Arlington Cemetery for burial.

I have had a lot of contact with Rags Rangnow as he recently underwent a major back operation that has been successful. It won't be long that Rags will be out hitting the links and giving his wife Ginny some peace. I tried to get him to again write his 783rd article again without success. It seems many of the 783rd have gone

on to their workshops in heaven and not enough left for him to write about.

Reunion time in Paducah should have a great turnout. With the possibility of this being the last all of you that can, make it. We will be looking forward to your being present. All have a safe trip.

Wishing you all the best, Stan Bielen

**Editor's Note:**

**Stan's correct email address is  
stanfran83rd@aol.com**

## COMPANIES

**783RD ORDNANCE Co.**  
RAGS RANGNOW

**Co. "A" - 330TH**  
CHARLES ABDINOOR

Hi Buddy's:

Well soon we will be meeting once again, this time, in Paducah, KY. I am expecting a table full plus more from dear friends over the years. Hopefully, we get the Schwartz and Worrel's from California and Virginia, Erin Schwartz and her mother are descendants of Richard Hartman who was K.I.A. in the Hartz Mts. Everett Worrell was in I & R 330th before he got transferred to the Air Corp.

I expect our regulars, Paul Reed, Walter Pillion, Stew Barrick, Ed Brown, Cookie Senica, Earl Dunn, Shorty Glasser and hopefully many members of A Co. We welcome Ed McCouch and his son. He is a regular and honorary member of A Co.

On a sad note we lost Lee Milligan this year.

This year will be a critical year. There is talk of disbanding our Association. I think this is wrong and we should continue as long as we are able to. There is also talk of bringing in descendants. If we have to I am for it if that helps to keep us still active.

I am also surprised to hear that the Executive Board has the power to shut down the Association, at their discretion. I don't ever remember us voting as a body giving them the power to do so. I am dead against this action and for them to vote on this and leave it up to seven men.

I have not heard from Bob Gangnath, our past secretary and treasurer. The last I heard he was living in an assisted complex in Connecticut. Have heard from Stan Bielen, Manny Epstein, and our Irish mafia member Amby Tynan. I hope to see them all in Paducah. Hopefully, Charlie Silhanick will be there. He is a true and dedicated member of the 83rd. Also, heard from Larry Arrigo who plans to attend. Well Buddy's, hope we have many more reunions to attend. So, please make this one. I have heard that there will be some surprises forth coming.

Stay healthy, Chuck

P.S. This may be of interest to you –



**Part of the 3rd Platoon  
Christoff, The Chaplain, Ammons,  
Keegan, Lewis, Senia, Gabbitt, Warner,  
Dobricka, Edwards, Lamb, Hall, Lemons,  
Burgess, & Peterson**

Letter from Paul Reed, Jr.  
Sent to Chuck Abdinoor

Abby,

Attached are some of my thoughts on the AD for the program. You may delete, rearrange, or add any way you see fit. It's always nice to hear from you and your reports on the members of our platoon and company.

As I am writing, I reflect on May 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th of 1945. We were camped east of the Elbe River. You and the platoon were on constant alert, but I never told you why (at that time). Colonel Norman Campbell was scheduling officer's meetings every hour on May 4th and 5th, awaiting orders for our battalion to advance to the city of Zerbst. Intelligence reported that Zerbst was defended by 20,000 SS Troopers. At that time it sounded to be exaggerated but in my view at that time 500 would have been too many. The 330th was to lead the attack for division. A-Co. was to lead the battalion, and the third platoon was to be the forward unit for A-Co. Sixty years later it is very difficult for me to describe my apprehension, concern and worry for the men of the 3rd Platoon. They who had gone through so much were just a few hours away being killed or seriously wounded. When word came from Col. Campbell that the orders were cancelled, around noon of the 5th I'll never be able to explain the relief I experienced, and the thought that the 3rd Platoon made it, and that we all could look forward to going home. I am certain that you all felt the same way. My biggest regrets were for those we had to leave behind and the wounded. It is on the premise that I submit the following suggestion for the ad.

To honor those we left behind and to join again with our combat brothers to remember them and those that were wounded.

Paul

P.S. Excuse the uphill writing, you guys always griped about Going Uphill.

Note: Paul Reed was a 2nd Lt. who commanded the 3rd Platoon of Co. A – 330th. He is a retired attorney and his son James took over his practice in Baltimore, MD. He

prosecuted German soldiers who committed atrocities, and was in the military government. He returned to practice law and attained the rank of captain upon his discharge. . . . . Chuck

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

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

In the "Thunderbolt" Spring Issue 2005 Vol. 60 No.2 Company "F" 329th members were encouraged to re-read Page 23 in Vol. 60 Issue No. 1 Fall issue 2004 "Thunderbolt" and respond accordingly. The writer trusts that at least some, especially its core group did. If you didn't PLEASE DO IT NOW!

Other Military Associations have had similar situations necessitating extensive changes in their Constitutions and Bylaws so as to accommodate occurrences over the years.

Also to bring them in compliance with current IRS regulations, in order to maintain a tax exempt status.

Some Associations have done so, others are in the process of doing it now.

It is my understanding the Government and the IRS are more than happy to work with Military Organizations to enable them to carry on the time honored traditions fostered during World War II. To continue as a living Memorial to recognize and perpetuate the many heroic deeds and sacrifices of those who served in the 83rd "Thunderbolt" Division, you have seen it in print many times "We were the best of the best".

An Executive Board meeting was to be held in Ft. Mitchell, KY the end of April 2004, at which time the dissolution of the National Association was to be discussed, with the Board's recommendations being made to the General Membership of the Association in Paducah, KY.

Having talked by phone with two members of the Executive Board and two National Officers I came away with mixed feelings and the understanding this would definitely be their last year on the Executive Board, for some. However that All Options would be considered at the Board's April meeting.

Those of us planning on attending the 59th Reunion in Paducah, KY may have one more chance, when given the opportunity, by being in attendance at the scheduled General Session Meetings and vote to keep the Association ALIVE, as stated in "Thunderbolt: Vol. 60 No. 2 Pg 22 by T. Steward Barrick, Clinton, OK A Company, 330th.

**The Decision Rests With You,**  
**The Membership**

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**Company "F" 329th Meetings**

Cotter's in Galatia, IL  
59th Reunion in Paducah, KY

**MEETING AT COTTER'S SEPT. 5-6-7-2005**

Come one (1) or all three (3) days  
Motel Arrangements – Harrisburg, IL  
10 miles from Galatia

Comfort Inn – 100 East Seright St.  
Ph & Fax 618-252-2442

Sept. 4-5-6-7-2005 – Reservations by Aug 18, 05  
Single (1 king bed) 56.66 + tax total 62.89  
2 Bed (2 queen) 62.96 + tax total 69.89

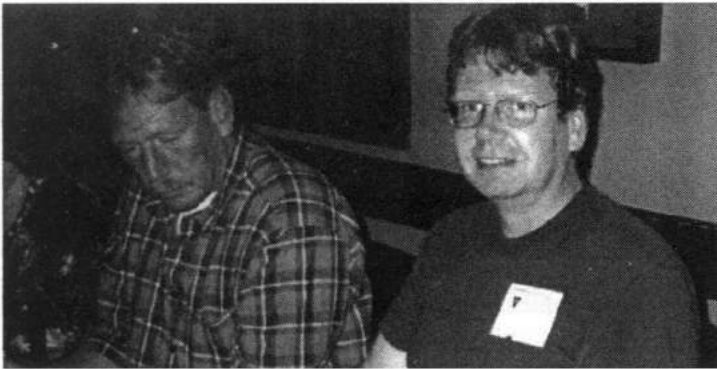
Anyone needing directions to Cotter's contact Bob Whitcomb by phone 410-289-2148 or letter to 1314 Center Lane Dr., Ashland, OH 44805.

**59th ANNUAL REUNION IN PADUCAH, KY**  
**SEPT. 8-9-10-2005**

10:00 am - 5:00 pm Registration Open

Editor's note: For Reunion information see Registration forms & Reunion Activity sheet included in this Thunderbolt.

**OVER BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**  
**329TH**  
**OCTOBER NORTH 2004 ASHLAND, OH.**



**Just Youngsters! Ken & Don Hutton (LR)**



**"The Rustin & Deceprit Shortline"**



**in a Garden that chugs right along**

..... C. W. Bob Whitcomb

**Co. "K" - 331ST**  
**NORM MALO**

**453RD. AAA. (AW) BN.**  
**FRED C. PEARSON**

Greetings and Salutations,  
Not much to report at this time.

I did receive a few letters from some of the group letting me know they enjoyed my trivia. Some that had never attended a reunion and now are too crippled or frail to attend. It was still good to know that we are still in their memory bank.

I received a nice note from Eileen Horton, widow of Lt. Elmer Horton.

Joe Hagan also sent me a note. He needed a New Roster.

Nell Shuemate wrote to tell me that Bernard, her husband, had passed away on Aug. 31st, 2004. They had never made a reunion, but only in the past couple of years had we made contact with them.

I also received a nice note from Delbert and Gladys Wright.

Some widows contacted me that had not done so before, to let us know they had lost their spouse some time ago. One of them was Margaret Fromme, to tell me that Oscar had passed away on Dec. 26th 2003. This again was a couple that always intended to get together with us, but failed to make it.

Some letters came back from the Post Office marked Deceased. Mark Buyas, John Werner, and others were returned with no forwarding address or not known. Our age is getting the better of us and if those left behind do not keep me informed of the old 453<sup>rd</sup>, er, I'll not be able to keep much of a record of the old bunch.

I received an Email from Linda Alioto (Bales). Daughter of Leonard Bales who was a K.I.A. in the area of the Hurtgen Forest. She has already reserved rooms for our reunion and is hoping to talk to someone who remembers her Dad.

Made a new contact with Jim Owens, a former cook from A Battery. He had a friend search the web for the 453rd and found little old me. He also intends to try and make it in September. This is his first contact with anyone from the 453rd since his discharge.

As most of you know I have been trying to get the French Lower Normandy association to award those members of the 83rd Division and the 453rd AAA a Medal (Chest Badge). This was to be given to those attending the 60th Anniversary of the liberation of Lower Normandy.

I was in contact with the French Public Relation department in New York City, The French Embassy in D.C. and several persons in Lower Normandy who were the sponsors of the event. I was rejected in my efforts.

In the late part of 2004 I received word from my friend RAGS Rangnow, (783rd Ord.) that he had received the Medal, by mail from the French Embassy in D.C. Because he knew that I was pursuing the issue he thought that I was responsible for his receiving it. I had not furnished any names, so this was a surprise.

I started my quest again in Jan. 2005 and sent a letter to the French Embassy in Washington. No response. Then a week later I sent another letter off to the Lower Normandy association, this was in Feb, 2005. April 21st I received a letter from the Lower Normandy association stating that a Chest Badge for me) had been forwarded to the American Embassy in France on April 7th 2005 and that I would receive it soon. Still no mention of a general distribution.

To date I have not heard from the American Embassy in France, but I did write and ask what was the proposed distribution. No answer from them since I wrote on April 29th.

I guess I've done all I can for the Masses, so I would advise all that are interested, to contact the People in Caen France. For the address you can contact me.

As I was writing this I received a call from Molly Dalton (widow of Jim, A Battery) to inform me that Isabelle Manzo, spouse of Mike (A Battery) passed away last evening, May 9th. After a long illness.

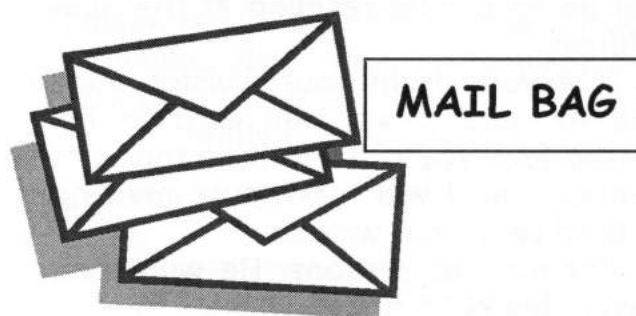
Another late note. I have been informed that Fred Edwards (A Battery) has had a stroke, but seems to be recuperating. Now married again.

OUR 453<sup>RD</sup> AAA (AW) BN. REUNION WILL BE HELD AT THE BEST WESTERN HOTEL IN PICKERING OHIO (SUBURB OF

COLUMBUS) SEPT. (15th) 16th AND 27th 2005.

Cut off date of special room rate is Aug. 20th 2005.  
Tel. 614-860-9804  
Toll Free 866-860-9804

Fred C. Pearson Pres.  
453rd AAA (AW) BN.  
Tel 440-428-3237  
Email 453AAA@alltel.net



Dear Mr. Wooldridge,

I would like to go on record as being in favor of keeping our fine 83rd Inf. Div. Assn. Active.

I know it gets more difficult each year but there seems to be enough interest in it to make it worthwhile. I believe that we will regret it later if we don't keep it Active.

You may put this in the next issue of the "Thunderbolt" if time and space permits.

Sincerely,  
Robert I Trunk  
Co. "B" 331st Inf.

\* \* \* \* \*

402 Oak Avenue  
Elizabeth, PA 15037  
March 30, 2005

83rd Infantry Division Association

RE: George Komlos  
P.O. Box 194  
Acme, PA 15610

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised that I am the niece of George Komlos. I am sorry to say that my uncle has been placed in a personal care home due to Alzheimer's Disease and cardiovascular disease. He will no longer be residing at the above address.

If anyone from your division would like to send a get well card to him, please feel free to send it to the above address and I will make sure my uncle gets all cards and wishes.

For obvious reasons, He will not be paying his 2005 dues. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Joyce Jones

\* \* \* \* \*

March 28, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

I was glad to receive a card this week informing me Bill (James Wm. Phero) had not paid his dues for 2005 to 83rd Infantry Div. Assoc.

I had looked for an address to inform the 83rd Bill died December 1, 2004. It was unexpected and a great shock to his family.

He was very proud of being a member of the 83rd. Please list his death in the "Thunderbolt". I would

appreciate an answer that this has been done. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Lois Phero  
121 S. Eighth Ave.  
Clarion, PA 16214-1517

April 17, 2005

Dear Sir:

Thank you for calling me about my note to the 83rd Infantry Div. Assn. I have been ill myself since your call. I am having surgery in Pittsburgh, this Wed., April 20, 2005.

I wanted to send this information, you asked for, so some of it might be put in the "Thunderbolt".

Bill, as he was called, loved the 83rd.

Thank you for your kindness in putting his death notice in the "Thunderbolt". I appreciate it so much.

Sincerely,  
Lois V. Phero  
(J. William Phero's wife)  
814-226-7191

#### DEATH NOTICE

J. William "Bill" Phero, 86, of Clarion, died Dec. 1, 2004, at his home.

Mr. Phero attended Clarion College and was a graduate of Duffs Iron City College in Pittsburgh.

He was called to active duty in the U.S. military during World War II and served in the adjutant general's section of the 83rd Infantry Div. in the US Army. He was a veteran of all five battles in the European Theater of Operations.

Mr. Phero owned and operated Phero's Gateway Food Market for 59 years. He was a lifelong member of Clarion First United Methodist Church, the Clarion American Legion and was a 50 year member of the Clarion Masonic

Lodge. In 1998 he was selected as Clarion's "Citizen of the Year".

He was inducted into the Pennsylvania Voter Hall of Fame in 1992 for voting in every election for the past 50 years, including his absentee ballots while away during WW II. He continued to vote in every election until this past November.

Mr. Phero was married July 6, 1946 to the former Lois Voelkel, who survives. Also surviving a daughter, Carole Mueller, a son Jim Phero and six grand children.

\* \* \* \* \*

April 7, 2005

Dear Cliff,

It was a pleasure speaking with you on the telephone. As you've requested, I've enclosed a copy of the death notice for my father who passed away in 2004. If you could post his passing in the next issue of the Thunderbolt, I would greatly appreciate it.

Dad kept very involved in the association and tried to attend all of the reunions and very seldom missed a local meeting until his health became a serious issue. Even then, he tried to keep up with his buddies. Dad was very proud of his service with the 83rd and I still find it interesting that he died in his 83rd year. We miss him greatly.

Enclosed is my check for the annual dues for the Thunderbolt. I had the pleasure of touring to Europe with the 83rd on the 25th and 30th anniversaries. I enjoy reading about the veterans that I met on those tours. I look forward to many future publications.

Sincerely,

Sherri Cox  
Daughter of Edward J. Cox  
H Co. 329th

2455 Winesap Drive  
Broadview Hts., OH 44147  
(440) 463-6220

In Memory  
EDWARD J. COX JR.  
Age 83

Beloved husband of the late Julia A. (nee Krupar); loving father of Sharon and Thomas.

WWII Veteran of U.S. Army 83rd Infantry Div., Passed away Monday, Jan. 12, 2004.

\* \* \* \* \*

May 9, 2005

Dear Mr. Wooldridge,

Please remove my Dad's name from your mailing list. He passed away on 8/12/04.

Willie J. Snodgrass

Thank you.  
Sincerely,  
Benita Rowe

P.S. He was very proud to be a member of the 83rd.

\* \* \* \* \*



KENNETH H. MCBETH  
1919 - 2005

Kenneth H. McBeth, 85, of Walnut Bottom, PA, died Tuesday, April 19, 2005, in Shippensburg Health Care Ctr.

He was retired from Hoffman Mills. He was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church; a member of Oscar M. Hykes American Legion Post 223 and Hamilton Myers VFW Post 6070. He was a life member of the Walnut Bottom Rod and Gun Club; the South Newton Township Volunteer Fire Co. and Vigilant Hose Co. He attended the former Carlisle Commercial College.

He was an Army veteran of World War II. (U.S. Army, 83rd Infantry Div., Company C, 308th Engineers)

He was the widower of Madonna Bascom McBeth, who died Dec. 21, 1985. He is survived by two sons, David L. McBeth, Walnut Bottom, and Ronald E. McBeth, Shippensburg; a sister Jean D. Hancock, and a granddaughter and great-granddaughter.

Military services were conducted by the Shippensburg VFW and American Legion posts.

David L. McBeth  
23 Maple Avenue  
Walnut Bottom, PA 17266

\*\*\*\*\*

April 1, 2005

"Clyde Porterfield died March 3, 2005"

Please advise the ones responsible for getting his death in the next issue of the "Thunderbolt". Thank you very much.

Reported by his wife, Josephine

PORTERFIELD, CLYDE E.

- Age 83, died Thursday evening March 3, 2005 at his West Knoxville home. He was a U.S. Army veteran serving during World War II and saw action in key battles and campaigns particularly those

near the end of the war at Normandy, Northern France, recognized for his service with the American Theatre Ribbon, EAME Theatre Ribbon with 5 Bronze Stars, Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal. During his time in the Army and after his return home Mr. Porterfield was a noted basketball player. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Josephine (Jo) Porterfield. Interment service with military honors by the Volunteer State Veterans Honor Guard at the Tennessee Veterans' Cemetery.

\*\*\*\*\*

March 30, 2005

Dear Sir:

Harold Wallace died 9/5/04, and the Division sent a floral arrangement to the services.

Our son is interested in the "Thunderbolt"- so I'm sending 2005 dues.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. H.B. Wallace

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Cliff,

Thought you would like to include the following letter and pictures in the Thunderbolt.

Larry

June 6, 2005

Dear Mr. Arrigo,

Thank you again for your call this afternoon. I've looked at many of our albums and have chosen some pictures that you can use if you wish. I am also sending a copy of the obituary from our Nev. paper. It also was published in the Elgin Courier News, Ill. He was such a wonderful husband and was so loved by all of us, and respected by friends and



**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)

**GREET YOUR FAVORITE GUESTS IN  
BRILLIANT SPRING COLOR**

**WITH**

**Southern Living *at* HOME**

**Ladies Program for the 59th Reunion**

Please let me introduce you to the fastest growing party line in America, inspired by the pages of Southern Living, America's favorite magazine.

**Southern Living *at* HOME** features quality merchandise including an exclusive line of Gail Pittman pottery, unusual décor items for every room, garden items, ironware, gifts, kitchen products, and much more.

This will be one of the special events for the ladies. There will be special door prizes from Southern Living at Home products and delicious homemade refreshments.

This event is scheduled for Friday, September 9th  
at 10:00 a.m.

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

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

The following are requests for information submitted by relatives and others looking for information about an 83<sup>rd</sup> Division veteran and, in one case, a French WWII veteran looking for an 83<sup>rd</sup> Division veteran.

There are many other requests for information on the message board maintained by Dave Curry, whose father, Thomas Curry, 331<sup>st</sup> 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 83<sup>rd</sup> Division, and the 83rd Division message board at [www.ncweb.com/~davecurry/brothers/msgsgs.html](http://www.ncweb.com/~davecurry/brothers/msgsgs.html). Dave's web site also has links to the other great sites about the 83<sup>rd</sup> Division.

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

Dale Terbeek is looking for any information about his father, **1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Raymond Terbeek, 330<sup>th</sup> IR, Co. D**, who was killed on **July 7, 1944** and was buried at the American Cemetery at Normandy. He was from **Cleveland, Ohio. He was at Camp Croft in 1941 and in Alabama in 1942.** If you can help Dale with information about his father or the battles in which Company D was involved at that time, please contact Dale at 6471 S. Quemoy Way, Aurora, CO 80016 or call him at (303) 400-4756 or email him at [lee-terbeek1@juno.com](mailto:lee-terbeek1@juno.com).

Bob Wilson is looking for information about his father, **Private Robert W. Wilson**, and also for information about **Dale Wood and Earl Schard, all 329<sup>th</sup> IR, Co. F.** Wood and Schard were with Wilson when he was killed in action on **January 13, 1945.** He was from **Lexington, Nebraska** and was 26 when he was killed. If you

remember Bob's father or Wood or Schard, please contact Bob at 3904 Scenic Drive, NW, Albany, Oregon 97321 or call him at 541-926-6902 or email him at [oneseven17@msn.com](mailto:oneseven17@msn.com).

Mitchell White is looking for information about his grandfather, **Robert "Bob" Andrew White**, from **Dalton, Georgia.** He belonged to the **331<sup>st</sup> IR, anti-tank company** and carried a **BAR.** About 6'3" tall, he was with the 83<sup>rd</sup> from Normandy to Germany. If you remember **Bob White**, please contact his grandson, Mitchell White, 216 Grandview Loop, Sanbornville, NH 03872, or call him at 603-522-3616 or send him an email at [mwhite567@aol.com](mailto:mwhite567@aol.com).

Pam Fujii is looking for information about her father, **S/Sgt Joseph Machado Coelho, 329<sup>th</sup> IR, Co. I**, who served from Normandy to Germany. He was from **San Jose, California**, and received a Silver Star and Purple Hearts. If you remember S/Sgt Coelho, please contact his daughter, Pam Fujii, at 1965 Kobara Lane, San Jose, CA 95124 or email her at [fujigen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fujigen@sbcglobal.net).

John Biskupski is looking for information about his father, **John F. Biskupski** (he changed his name to **Bishop during the Battle of the Bulge**), who served from Normandy through the armistice with the 83<sup>rd</sup>, in an **artillery battery, rank T3 or T4.** He enlisted from **Chicago**, was a bit older than most of the guys (born 1916), served as a cook initially, but was in combat beginning with the Bulge. If anyone remembers John, please contact his son, John Biskupski at 176 Pierremount Avenue, New Britain, CT 06053 or telephone him at 860-224-6820 or send him an email at [poltextcw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:poltextcw@sbcglobal.net).

Sal Fusco is looking for information about his brother, **Private Michael Fusco, 330<sup>th</sup> IR, Co. L**, who was **killed in action in France on July 27, 1944.** If you remember **Pvt. Fusco or were with Co. L at that time**, please contact his brother at 3156 Beachview Dr., Toms River, NJ 08753; telephone: 732-270-8669; email: [tarmar3156@aol.com](mailto:tarmar3156@aol.com).

Gerald Turner is seeking information about his grandfather, **Cpl. Gerald Stevens, 330<sup>th</sup> IR, thought to be assigned to Co. I**, who became active duty in **March 1943 at Camp Atterbury**, was **wounded July 16, 1944 in France** and also on **January 15, 1945 in Belgium**. If you remember **Cpl. Stevens**, please contact his grandson Gerald Turner at 2475 Sweet Clover Lane, Lapeer, MI 48446 or email him at this address: [TURNER2475@charter.net](mailto:TURNER2475@charter.net).

Bob Wozniak is seeking information about his uncle, **Cpl. James Hentschel, called Jimmy, 330<sup>th</sup> IR, company unknown**, who was **killed in action on Dec. 23, 1944**. He was from **Grand Rapids, Michigan**. If you remember **Cpl. Hentschel**, please contact Bob Wozniak, 6705 Amhurst Dr. SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404-8009; or email him: [r.wozniak@mcleodusa.net](mailto:r.wozniak@mcleodusa.net)

M. Bertrand Marcel, a French veteran, is seeking information about **2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Joe Sheldon Cubberly**, from **Trenton, NJ**, who was with the **83<sup>rd</sup> Signal Corp and the 331<sup>st</sup> IR**. They served together from July 1944 until August 1945 and were friends. If you remember **2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Cubberly** or can help contact him, please contact Sébastien LeScour at this email address: [jobseb@caramail.com](mailto:jobseb@caramail.com) or contact Dave Curry at 887 East 331 Street, Eastlake, OH 44095-2801.

Please contact these relatives if you can help. Many of you helped my family when we were searching for information about my uncle, PFC Eddie Hart, 329<sup>th</sup> IR, Co. G. The result was the documentary, "Thank You, Eddie Hart," a tribute to all the brave men in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Division. See [www.thankyoueddiehart.com](http://www.thankyoueddiehart.com).

\* \* \* \* \*

## **NOTICE to all 83<sup>rd</sup> Division Veterans who served in Normandy**

If you served with the 83<sup>rd</sup> in Normandy and have not already done so, please contact either Dave Curry, John Bifano, or Kevin Harris. They are gathering personal recollections of 83<sup>rd</sup> Division veterans about Normandy, and are attempting to identify anyone who can provide information. See website for more information: [http://home.comcast.net/~83division/83rd\\_in\\_Normandy/index.htm](http://home.comcast.net/~83division/83rd_in_Normandy/index.htm)

Please contact John, Dave, or Kevin-

Dave Curry, 887 East 331 Street, Eastlake, OH 44095-2801; telephone: 440-942-5030; or email: [davecurry@ncweb.com](mailto:davecurry@ncweb.com).

John Bifano, 1612 SE 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Cape Coral, FL 33990; telephone: 941-772-1222; or email: [lueandbiff@aol.com](mailto:lueandbiff@aol.com).

Kevin Harris, 9441 Stilson Drive, Manassas, VA 20110; telephone: 703-367-8943; or email: [KevinPHarris@Comcast.com](mailto:KevinPHarris@Comcast.com).

Dear Mr. Wooldridge:

March 9, 2005

Although I have always enjoyed reading the "Thunderbolt" I had a hope that perhaps someone would write about their experiences in the ETO with the 83rd Division, just once in awhile. I have been writing of my own humble experiences in my personal memoirs of WWII that I started writing in the 1970's. I have copied one of my stories for publication in the "Thunderbolt" if you think it might be interesting to 83rd members.

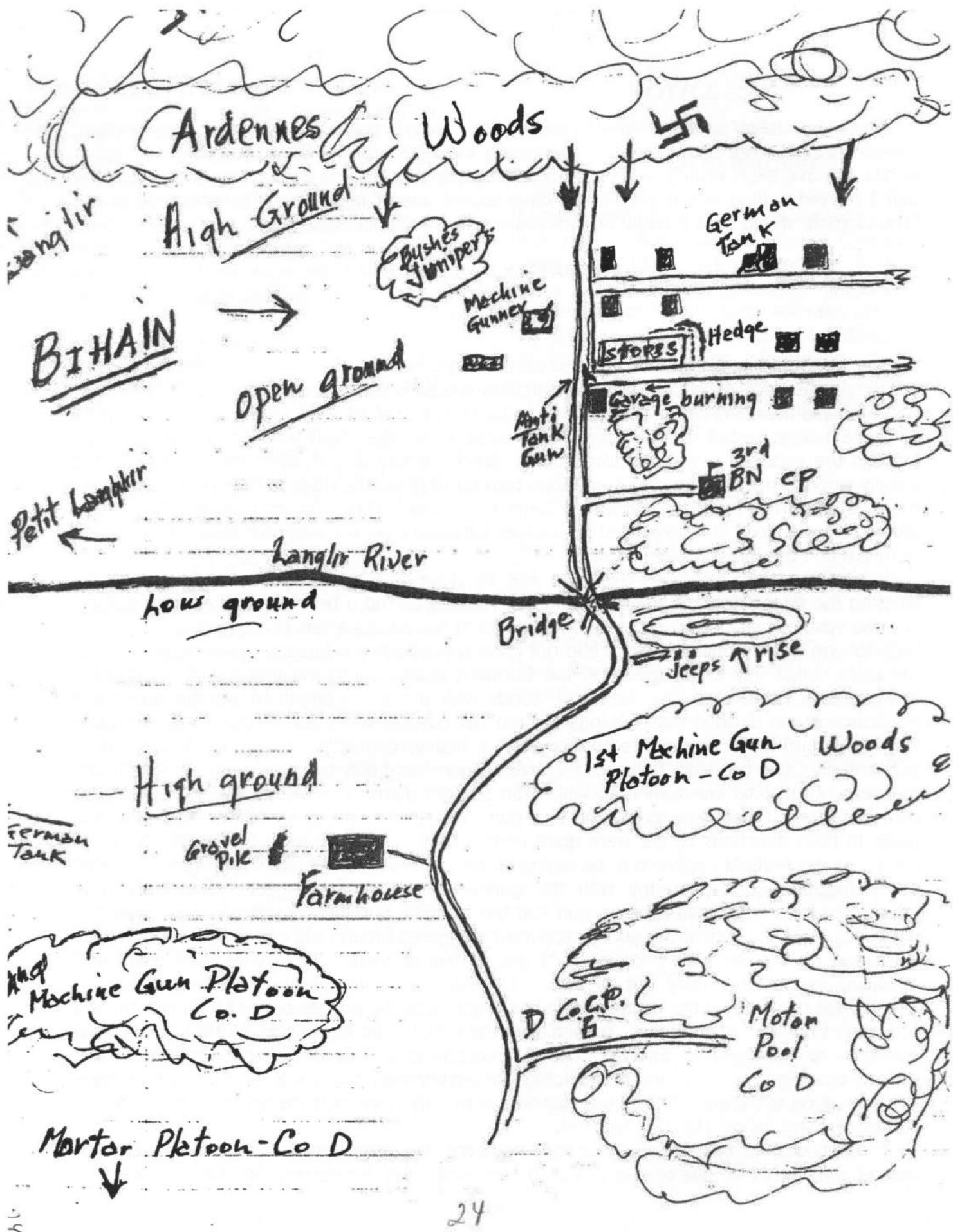
### **THE BATTLE FOR BIHAIN**

January 1945

The next morning we readied my jeep with Jimmy Lynch as driver, Sergeant Hughes as map and reconnaissance expert, and me as battalion weapons coordinator to join Colonel Nielson with a couple members of his staff to reconnoiter the town of BIHAIN. Bihain a small village of 12 to 15 homes rested half way up the far slope of a valley with the Langlir River running through the middle. It was our intention to direct the battalion through the village into the heavily wooded ridgeline beyond it and then turn north down the ridge to take Petite Langlir on the riverbank from the rear, and at the same time assault Langlir south from the flank. Our intentions were good but they relied on another battalion from our regiment clearing the village of Hihain and the forest above it first.

We were able to approach the town only as close as the near side of the small bridge crossing the river below the town. Hiding our vehicles behind a berm we walked up the slope into the village itself. Leaving the Colonel behind at the headquarters dug-out of the attacking battalion we quickly realized things had not gone so well for our friends. They hadn't cleared the town completely as planned and the Germans were now in the process of launching a counterattack down the slope from the woods with armor. I began to wonder about our predicament and decided that if things got too hot I would warn Col. Nielson that we should leave. An anti-tank cannon was positioned at a nearby corner so we decided to stay there momentarily using two store buildings for cover. There were only two roads in the village which ran perpendicular to the main road which ran straight across the valley. We were near the corner of the first road close to the anti-tank gun. We could hear a great deal of small arms fire going in both directions so we were quite certain that the enemy must be within 100 yards away. As the firefight appeared to be raging closer we heard the familiar sound of a 30 caliber heavy machine gun apparently with the gunner frozen to the trigger. This burst was interrupted by a blast from a heavy gun and the machine gun went silent. As we considered what may have happened, the gunner apparent staggered around the corner. In a very shaky voice and manner he kept exclaiming, "I got all five of them!" We calmed him down and managed to get the story out of him. Evidently an enemy tank accompanied by five infantrymen came down the main road and as it got close the gunner opened fire on them and according to him he shot all five. Immediately the tank turned its cannon on the poor guy and somehow he managed to survive. The machinegun crew was behind the stone wall of a window opening of a house and the tank high projectory shell caved in a two foot sash of stone and mortar on the crew. The gunner survived with only stone cuts on his face plus a serious stutter. He was lucky. His crew was not.

I continued to monitor the situation, however, by frequently crawling on my stomach around the corner of one of the stores to see what was transpiring on the next street. I



crawled to the back of the store on a cement walkway which had a six inch berm with thick barberry bushes alongside. On the other side of the bushes was a narrow open area which extended all of the way up to the forest less than 100 yards away. As a result I had a good view along an open strip of 30 yards wide extending to the edge of the forest. Across the open area on the next street were a couple of more houses. My view covered the small backyard of our shops, the back of the house directly across from my position, and the front of the house with an attached carport across the open strip on the next street. (See picture diagram). As I tried to see what was going on through the screen provided by the bushes, I observed two riflemen from our forces bolting from the front of the house to the back of the house right across the backyard in front of me. As they turned the corner of the house running as fast as they could, an enemy machine gun ripped up the corner. I looked to see where this fire was coming from and picked up a German tank hidden in the afore-mentioned carport. Evidently the two riflemen had come to the conclusion that this tank was just a little too close for comfort. This proved to be my situation also so I back crawled to my point of origin in front of the stores.

I then contacted the commander of the anti-tank gun and informed him of this great opportunity to dispose of an enemy tank if he could set his gun up at the edge of the open area. The Sergeant who was in charge of the gun was less than enthused and refused my suggestion. He claimed his orders were to stand pat. I could have pulled rank but after considering for a moment the difficulty of setting up this gun partially in the open I realized that by the time they would be ready to fire their gun the German tank would have made them history. Then we began looking for a bazooka so that I could crawl to my previous observation point and use it to engage the tank. When we couldn't find one I gave up.

In the meantime good-hearted Jimmy Lynch had picked up a very small puppy which was shivering from the cold. Jimmy stuck it inside his jacket to keep it warm. Aware that the roof of a small cement and stone walled garage across from us on the corner was burning on the floor, I suggested we take the puppy over there to warm it and ourselves. This we did. While we talked over the warm fire an artillery shell came through the open roof and exploded directly behind Sgt. Hughes killing him instantly. Jimmy fell with a large wound in the left side of his back. I had backpedaled from the force of the blast and fell in the street momentarily blinded and gasping for air. Once I was breathing again and could see the blue sky I tested my limbs and looked for wounds. There appeared to be none. The only thing missing were two blocks of TNT which I kept taped to my trench knife, and my memory. The two soldiers lying inside the garage made me wonder who they were. I asked the anti-tankers standing nearby if they were part of their crew. They reminded me that they were with me in the garage, and suddenly it all came back.

Quickly entering the garage I realized that there was no hope for Sgt. Hughes. I dragged Jimmy away from the fire and asked one of the anti-tank gun crew to help me carry him across the street and into one of the stores. As soon as we had a chance to examine Jimmy's wound I looked around for an aide man. We located one nearby and when he began to administer to Jimmy I decided to check on the current situation. In the interim it had worsened considerably. Somehow I had to get Jimmy away from this present situation which was now becoming dangerous. One certainly could not leave Jimmy for the Germans to take responsibility. Besides he needed first class medical attention the kind only the Americans could provide. It appeared to be a terrible wound and my first thought was that he wasn't going to make it. Jimmy was like a young brother to me and I can remember being terribly upset.

I noticed that off the end of our street across from the anti-tank gun the Germans had pushed our forces back so that we were now on the so-called front line. As the friendlies were beginning to move back farther along the line I felt forced to move over behind them and with a drawn pistol threatened to shoot any soldier who left this present position. This seemed to be what they needed because they stiffened and began to fight back without giving anymore ground. This was not an act of heroism but simply one of survival. Knowing Jimmy could not be left alone we either had to get him out of there or I would stay with him. There was only one good option, and we took it. In a two man carry, the aid man and myself, we took him down the hill and across the river to our Jeep. I told the aid man to explain to Col. Nielson what had happened and drove Jimmy to our company area where they forwarded him to the battalion aid station. During all of this time Jimmy never regained consciousness leading me to believe he was critical. For years I did not know what had happened to him and when I did I was happy to know that he had survived and was doing well.

My sense of loss at this time left me depressed. Everything seemed like such a waste. The weight of the war and my small part in it caved in on me at this point like an insurmountable burden. With all of the men in Company D to support me I still felt alone and vulnerable again. I worried and wondered if any of our original group from Company D would even survive this war which all of a sudden, with the Germans on the offensive, might last forever.

This depression stage was short-lived and duty and responsibility took charge. It was finally decided that to use the village of Bihain was too much of a risk for our battalion attack plan. We decided to wait until dark and move across the valley between Bihain and Petite Langlir to carryout our original plan. This suited me fine. I needed time to bring the rest of my company closer to the departure site.

As my thoughts drifted over the events of my last 48 hours of the Battle of the Bulge, I should have begun to realize that for all of the close calls that had materialized in the past several months where through some miracle or another, I escaped serious injury, that perhaps my luck might be running out.

Without continuing with this story of Bihain my premonition of my near future turned out to be correct. Within the next 24 hours I was wounded and the war was over for me.

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

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Looking Back: 61 Years Later, Pvt. Hatcher's Last Day**

By Bil Monan BILFMON@AOL.COM

Son of Frank Monan who served as a platoon leader with A Company,  
331st Infantry Regiment, 83rd Division

Reprinted as published in "The Hook", May 19, 2005, Charlottesville, Virginia.



Private Kenneth Hatcher was killed in action in Normandy, France. He was one of 7,920 casualties of the 83rd infantry division during July of 1944. Private Hatcher was buried in Coleville Cemetery at Omaha Beach along with 10,000 of his brothers in arms.

That is all his six-month-old son, William, knew about his father until now, 61 years later.

I was Googling at work one Friday afternoon and noticed a link that contained my own father's name. So I opened it, a website for his division, the 83rd infantry.

I found myself mesmerized by the short personal paragraphs written by sons, daughters, uncles, cousins, brothers, and grandchildren seeking information about their loved ones, some gone 60 long years, others just recently deceased or now in failing health.

As I read, I felt a gathering lump in my throat. The longings, sadness, and flickering hopes of all these people seeking some shred of information were compelling. The more I read, the more the voices seemed childlike:

*"Papa was killed in December..."*

*"Uncle Bill never came home, he was with the 330th..."*

*"My brother, Bob, was lost in August 1944, and does anybody remember...."*

Who would think that cyberspace could become such a simple, yet eloquent, platform for the expression of love, hope, and remembrance?

I stopped reading at a message written by Bill Hatcher seeking information about his father, a member of Company A, 331st regiment. Private Hatcher had been killed in action on July 26, 1944. Company A was my father's company, and my dad had been seriously wounded on July 28. I knew there had to be a connection.

I am a fortunate son. My father survived the war and came home to sire me, and my five brothers and sisters. I grew up getting to do with him all the things a father and son should—baseball, hunting, and fishing, which meant we had a lot of time to talk. And talk we did.

But I am perhaps more blessed by having a mother who insisted that my father sit down years ago and write down his recollections. Dad can now no longer remember, but I have his words, and in that collection I found Private Kenneth Hatcher. There wasn't a lot, but it was about the last two days of this life. This is most of what I sent to Private Hatcher's son:

*Private Kenneth Hatcher arrived at the front on July 24. He was a replacement, as most soldiers were by then. The company was located at a place called Village des Saints, a small hamlet, still there today. They were the front line. Troops of the German 6th parachute regiment were 200 yards to the front.*

*My dad was a 2nd lieutenant in Company A and had your father's name in his diary as coming up that night with one other man. He moved Private Hatcher to the 2nd platoon commanded by Lt. Shannon. On the night of July 25, operation Cobra commenced, which was to be the*

*beginning of the breakthrough at St. Lo. Company A was one of the first units to attack on the morning of the 26th attempting to push the Germans across the Taute River to the St. Lo-Perrier highway.*

*My father gave the command to fix bayonets, an order that always haunted him, and Company A went over the top in a frontal assault not much different from a Civil War battle almost 100 years earlier. Except this foe had machine guns and mortars.*

*The Germans had reinforced their line over night, and the 331st encountered at least 10 machine guns as they charged across the open field. The attack faltered with many casualties, and yet they were ordered to do it again. My father always became emotionally overwhelmed when he recounted this day because every man sent forward, not once but twice, and most were killed or wounded. The company made it within 40 yards of the German line but was essentially destroyed.*

*That evening, the Germans counterattacked with tanks and infantry, cutting off Company A. American artillery was called into Company A's area to deny the enemy the ground, killing and wounding a number of men. Capt. Reiger was seriously wounded, as was Lt. Westfall, making my father acting company commander. That night the company had run low on ammunition and water, so my father took some of the surviving men, now about 30, to go out into no man's land to retrieve canteens and ammunition from the dead.*

*He specifically remembers lying, for part of the night, next to a soldier. Upon retrieving and drinking from the man's canteen he noticed a stenciled name, Private Kenneth Hatcher. Dad wrote that Private Hatcher looked to be sleeping and had a serene and peaceful expression on his face.*

*This is all I have. My father was wounded two days later by a land mine that killed his good friend Lt. Shannon. He was released from the hospital in 1946 almost two years after being hit.*

*Just know that Kenneth Hatcher was a hero who died in a frontal assault that few men ever experienced and survived. My father always remembered the men and cared for them greatly. He told me that he had said a prayer for your father every night since that day. I talked with him tonight, and even with Alzheimer's, when asked directly, he remembered the war and he remembered lying next to your father that night.*

\* \* \*

Memorial Day will soon be upon us, and every year we take a brief moment to reflect on the sacrifices of our soldiers. The monuments will be wreathed and flags placed upon each veteran's grave. There will be speeches and editorials as there should be. I found a place where the memorial is organic, a place where remembrance is in the voices and hearts of children who have never forgotten.

After all this, it became apparent to me that I would not have had this opportunity to offer some insight into another person's life if my father hadn't written down his memoirs. So, on this Memorial Day, I ask all veterans, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Beirut, Panama, Grenada, Bosnia, Somalia, The Gulf Wars, and Afghanistan, to help us

remember. It is one last duty that may, 50 years from now, allow another child to come to know his or her father, brother, uncle, aunt, or grandparent. **That last duty—write it down.**

Editor's Note: The message board Bil refers to in his story is Dave Curry's message board which can be found at <http://www.newweb.com/~davecurry/brothers/msgs.html>. Frank's memoirs can be found on the Library of Congress Veteran's History Project website, <http://www.loc.gov/vets/>.

**Everyone who served in the 83rd Division should submit his own recollections, photographs, and other materials (see website for details on participating) so that the stories of the 83rd Division will live on . . . . . Debbie Holloman**

\* \* \* \* \*

### WHAT IF -

**WHAT IF** the Germans in the Battle of the Bulge had reached the sea cutting off the British and Americans to the north in Holland and Germany?

**Would** the vast air superiority of the Allies have bombed the Germans day and night and helped supply the cut off troops?

**Would** the additional front lines of over 300 miles strained German resources?

**Would** an Allied attack from the north and south in Eastern Belgium cut off the Germans in Belgium?

When the Allies landed in France the Germans had seventy percent of their men, guns and air craft trying to stop the Russians.

**WHAT IF** - a large part of those troops had been free to oppose the Allies in France?

**Would** the Allies have been bogged down in France?

**WHAT IF** - the Americans had developed the Atom Bomb in '44?

**Would** we have bombed the Rhur factories and German cities?

**Would** it have led to new attempts to kill Hitler?

**WHAT IF** - the Germans had the atom bomb first?

**Would** Hitler have bombed Moscow, London and sent one way bombers to New York and Washington?

Hal O'Neill, 83rd Signal Company

## 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>
Calese, Robert	324th F.A.	Pat DiGiammerino
Cobb, James M.	ARCOM	Pat DiGiammerino
Cooglo, James B.	H Co., 330th	Pat DiGiammerino
Cox, Edward J.	H Co., 329th	Daughter Sherri Cox
DiBattista, Gerald	908th	Pat DiGiammerino
Doeringsfeld, Gordon	A Co., 308th	Wife Celia
Firsichbaum, Sanford		Wife Nancy & Pat DiGiammerino
Fromme, Oscar	453rd, AAA	Wife Margaret & Fred Pearson
Haynes, Lt. Col. Edgar	K Co., 330th	Norbert Wolke & Robert Trunk
Helleckson, Burnette T.	F Co., 331st	Wife Katherine
Kezer, Charles F.	330th	Pat DiGiammerino
Knust, Kenny	330th Inf .	Pat DiGiammerino
Marini, Donato	329th FA	Pat DiGiammerino
McBeth, Kenneth H.	C Co., 308th Eng.	Son David
McKimmie, Daniel James	B Co., 329th	Wife Florence
Milligan, Lee	A Co., 330th	Charles Abdinoor
O'Brien, Leo J.	E Co., 329th	Pat DiGiammerino
O'Hara, Harvey	HQ Arty	Wife Vermile
Phero, J. William "Bill"	Div. Hq.	Wife Lois
Porterfield, Clyde E.	B Co., 308th	Wife Josephine
Robinson, Roy	F Co., 329th	C.R. Bob Whitcomb
Shuemate, Bernard	453rd AAA	Wife Nell & Fred Pearson
Taglianetti, Nick	D Co., 331st	Al Shrawder
Thayer, Richard	G Co., 330th Medic	Wife Lois
Wallace, Harold	G Co., 330th	Wife

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ALTON BAY, NH 03810**

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 INCOME STATEMENT  
 DECEMBER 31, 2004

Brought Forward from December 31, 2003 \$13,019.00

Income Received

Dues	17,953.00
Bank Correction	25.00
Outstanding Check	50.00
Ad Book Revenue	<u>7,165.00</u>
	25,193.00

Total Income	<u>25,193.00</u>
Total Balance and Income	38,212.00

Disbursements

Postage/Shipping	680.00
Office Supplies	571.00
Office Equipment	158.00
Telephone	52.00
Executive Board Expenses	1,900.00
Printing, includes	15,878.00
Thunderbolt-3 issues	
Ad Book & Misc.	
58th Reunion Expenses	342.00
Bank Charges	44.00
Misc.	<u>69.00</u>
	19,694.00

Total Disbursements	<u>19,694.00</u>
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Net Balance December 31, 2004	\$18,518.00
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THUNDERBOLT COSTS

Fall Issue

Thunderbolt- Fall	\$3,373.00
Postage Bulk Mail	222.00
1st Class Postage	17.00
Scan - Pictures	<u>319.00</u>
	\$3,931.00

AD BOOK COSTS

Ad Books	\$3,260.00
1450 Letters	120.00
Mailing Labels	60.00
2500 Gold Envelopes	150.00
2500 White Envelopes	140.00
Fold, Insert, Seal, Labels	<u>155.00</u>
	\$3,885.00



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Deadline for ALL articles to be  
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October 10, February 10, and May 10  
Cliff Wooldridge  
138 East Side Drive, P.O. Box 406  
Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406

Return Address-  
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Name of 83rd Division Member \_\_\_\_\_

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