



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 61 Issue No. 1

Fall Issue 2005

Brown County Inn
LOOKS FORWARD TO HOSTING THE
60TH ANNUAL REUNION
FOR THE
83RD INFANTRY DIVISION



Nashville, INDIANA * August 23-27, 2006

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
1948 Jack M. Straus	1965 Samuel Klippa*	1982 Ralph Gunderson*	1999 Pat DiGiammerino
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1952 Leo Schneider	1969 Pat DiGiammerino	1986 John Hobbs	2003 Salvatore Scicolone
1953 Finley Heyl	1970 Casey Szubski	1987 George Fletcher	2004 Allison Shrawder
1954 Lawrence J. Redmond*	1971 Charles Altomari*	1988 Charles Schmidt*	2005 Ames H. Miller
1955 Lawrence J. Redmond*	1972 Harold H. Dopp*	1989 Edward Reuss	
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	

*Denotes Deceased



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

AMES MILLER

First, I want to thank all the members of this fine Association for the great honor of electing me National President for the 60th National Reunion to be held in Nashville, IN.

I will do my best along with my committee to make this a great reunion.

I am sure everyone and their families who attended the reunion at the Executive Inn in Paducah, KY had a wonderful time and enjoyed themselves reuniting with their buddies and friends. Al Shrawder and R. C. Hamilton and committee are to be commended for their fine reunion.

The **60th Reunion** is being planned in:

Nashville, INDIANA

Dates are: **Arriving August 23, 2006**

and

Departing August 27, 2006

Our Ad Book will be continued which is important for our successful reunion. Also, the pre-registration program is important as it helps to let the Committee know how many people to plan for the Reunion. More information will be in future Thunderbolt magazines.

Ames Miller
National President 2005-2006
G Co., 329th

PAST PRESIDENT'S CORNER

AL SHRAWDER

Thanks to all who attended the 59th Reunion this year at Paducah, KY. Results from the reunion were very positive. We received many statements from those who attended saying it was one of the best.

When we proposed to the board that we would host the 59th Reunion some had reservations that we could handle it. I again stated that the men and ladies of D-331 can do anything you ask them to do. The reunion at Paducah bore me out.

The ladies enjoyed their program and the bus trip around the town went over well. The murals painted on the 16 ft. flood walls really surprised people. The visit to the quilt museum was also enjoyed by the ladies.

We had 262 present at the Saturday night banquet. Had 4 Sony TV's for door prizes. Also, all of the ladies got an 83rd Division scarf and the men a silk tie. The 50/50 was collected and both the Association and the winner donated the entire 50/50 to the Macaluso family in New Orleans to help them recover from Katrina.

As promised, we had a surprise at the banquet. We're used to a disk jockey for our listening and dancing pleasure. This year we surprised everyone with a 17 pc. Big Band. This band is the Temple Airs from Evansville, IN. They played all big band music. It was great to listen to them and we were surprised at the number of 80 year olds who got up to dance.

Al Shrawder
Past President
D Co., 331st

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

ROBERT KECK

We had a very successful reunion at JR's Executive Inn, Paducah, KY. There have been fifty-eight reunions before but do believe this was equal to any in the past.

There was more interest shown than in the past few years. One of the main reasons being the possibility that this reunion could have been the last. We did receive enough volunteers to fill all the positions of 4 executive board members, president, and vice president.

Another of the main reasons was the work of the reunion committee. R. C. Hamilton went far beyond what was expected. He kept costs low and arranged all operations with President Al Shrawder as a partner. At the registration desk Cliff Wooldridge with Nancy did a monumental job to keep the records straight.

With a complete new board it requires that we get to know each other so we can communicate and make necessary decisions. The bylaws were made for how things were years ago, many no longer apply.

On Tuesday, November 8th the Treasurer/Publisher, President, Vice President and Chairman of the Board met in Nashville, Indiana for the purpose of finalizing the agreement to hold the 2006, 83rd Infantry Div. Reunion on August 24, 2006 through August 26, 2006 at the Brown County Inn.

The Inn is located approx. 50 miles South of Indianapolis, Indiana, and approx. one hour travel time from the airport. More details later on ways to get from the airport to Nashville, Indiana.

We are expecting to go to Camp Atterbury. The Memorial Service would be held there and of course a visit to the museum.

Currently, we are looking for possible reunion sites for 2007. Remember we will be needing comrades to fill positions. **So, if you are able,**

please advise us so that we can continue the 83rd Infantry Division Association.

Hope you all have merry and safe holidays.

Bob Keck
L Co., 329th

FROM THE EDITOR

CLIFF WOOLDRIDGE

We spent almost a week at the reunion this year and had a great time! Met lots of nice people.

R.C. Hamilton, Al Shrawder and their committee did a fantastic job! Two hundred sixty-two present at Saturday's banquet and afterwards a Big Band that played our kind of music.

Nancy and I want to thank Phyllis Keck and Ann Tisdell for all their help at the registration desk.

Lester King who wrote the book "Hellcats Don't Leak Oil They Mark Their Territory!" was at the reunion this year and he said he would donate \$5 to the Association for each book he sold. Well, he sold 9 books and I put \$45 into the treasury. That was nice of him. It is a well-written book and if you are interested you can get it from him at: Lester King, 828 N 68th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85043; Phone 623-936-1184; and Email - lrking6@cs.com.

A list was given to me of the 9 first-time attendees who showed up at the reunion this year: - a descendant who came with his wife, as well as some that came with children -

Daniel McCabe, E 331, Napa, CA
John Stoffle, E 331, Kenosha, WI
Vernon Bobo, I 331, TN
Les King, A643 TDBN, Phoenix, AZ
Bill Eggers, E 330, Arcadia, CA
Dale Terbeek, descendant of
Ray Terbeek, D 330
Dave Dimmick, descendant of
Charles O. Dimmick
Will Lenz, A 330, San Antonio, TX
Larry Chittenden, I 330, Lincoln, NE

After many years, we finally got to see Jack and Helen Farrell again. They live in Paducah and gave us a brief history of the area and drove us along the river. The murals on the flood walls were unbelievable. Forgot my camera so didn't get any pictures. Also, Helen selected two superb restaurants for our dining pleasure.

We have a new Executive Board and new National Officers. So, we will be having another **Reunion next year (2006) in Nashville, INDIANA, August 23 – 27, 2006.**

Also, some of the fellows on the Executive Board are looking into a place for 2007. It looks like we will get together some more.

The Executive Board has found one of our members to hold the Judge Advocate position. He is Paul Reed (A 330th).

Lou Gomori, our Historian, was unable to be present because of his wife's illness. Lou has been working for two years to get two awards for the Association, but he needs some help. A motion was passed to appoint Dave Curry (a descendant) as an assistant to help Lou.

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

FROM THE CHAPLAIN ELLSWORTH MASSIE

Just a word of encouragement for us at this stage of the game of life!

We've learned something worth sharing during our earthly journey. Let's continue to support each other whether we are together physically or not!

I look forward to seeing each one of you and some new faces in 2006 as well as many more descendant members! I believe they can carry

this close-knit organization well into the future. This is my prayer! Together we can do it!!!

Your Chaplain,
E. Massie

CHAPTERS

BOSTON CHAPTER NEWS

(No Report)

DIXIE CHAPTER NEWS

ELLSWORTH MASSIE

Dixie Chapter Meet - June 5
Lebanon, Tenn

The picture has changed again. After driving 1411 miles and spending 6 days on the trip to Lebanon, Tenn – to meet with "The Happy to be Alive" group of 33 souls coming from Texas to Florida and five other states.



Eleven Good Men – Two for First Time

I find at least that it just gets better all the time. In March Battery A 322 had twice as many men present as any other unit. By June we have lost our honors! 'Twas sweet but short to be the

winner! Now we must bow to Co. B 329 Inf. who had twice as many as any unit. A total of two – Jesse Pirkle and a new man recruited by Jesse, Tom Garrison of the same company. Congratulations to you and keep up the good work.



Winners 329B- Pirkle, Garrison- 1st time together



First-time Couple - Mayfields

Another new man showed up - Ed Mayfield along with his wife. We welcomed each one and expect to see them all at the National.

Altogether we had eleven old soldiers present for the festivities. – The ladies were all beautiful and came loaded with their favorite prepared foods - The men acted as though they never had country cooking before! It was truly fantastic! Some men even brought their favorite dishes. I'm sticking with the ladies. I never saw such an assortment of "goodies".

Our ladies had their hands full with many get-well cards and sympathy cards to send out! Our heartfelt wishes go out to each one. Our prayers go out for those who have lost loved ones since our last meeting. We lost a lifetime honorary member "Mary Livingston" who was formerly

married to James Boland of 83rd who was active in Dixie and National many years ago. Mary leaves behind her husband, Felix Livingston. They had celebrated 26 years of marriage and were faithful to our association. I have visited their home in South Carolina for many years to enjoy the Christmas Decorations on their farm! What a pleasure that has been!



Early Birds – Loukas, Lamb, Smith, Massie



Lady Early Birds

Our ladies shopped and visited points of interest leaving the old soldiers to stay at the hotel and tell some of those stories about how it all happened! I learned a lot but being 84 years old I've forgotten most of it already. I plan to keep on trying though.

Breakfast as served at the hotel each morning but some had to go out for the standard 3 eggs with ham and grits. Jesse Pirkle can tell you all about that! Then all through the day we loaded up in the hospitality room. For supper we formed a convoy and went to a steak house, a cat fish house, a country kitchen or something else that I can't remember!

Each day we had surprise visitors and enjoyed them very much. I believe Jeanette McCroy took the record with five members present. Flo Jackson ran close with three generations present.

Pat Johnson really got things going. She had two reporters from the papers there interviewing and writing good accounts of our meeting. I have copies of each paper to show you when you find time to visit me or better still come to our Christmas Meet in Gaitlinburg. I plan to have them with me, pictures and all! Do come, we'd love to have you. Our Secretary-Treasurer is sick and unable to attend. We have high hopes for fast improvement in his health, also, for Grace taking care of him!

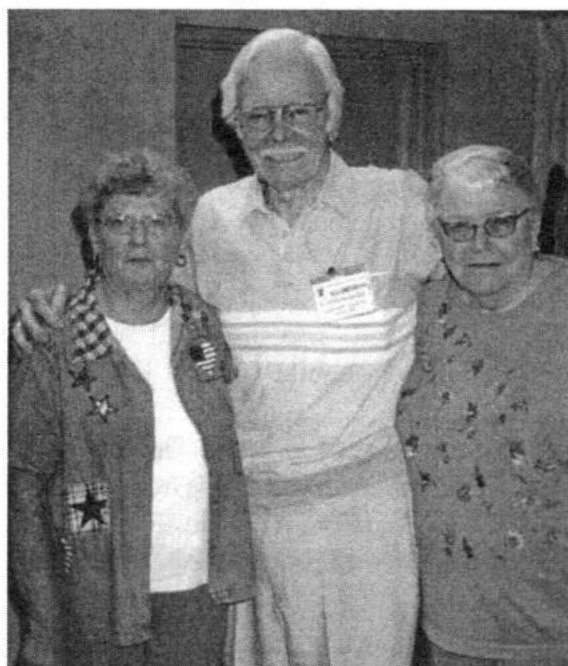
Let me not forget Owen Biller and wife Mildred with two members of their family. They added much to our meeting.



Three Generations of Jacksons



Best Dressed Billers - Owen & Mildred



Widows & Hostesses with Massie



Davis Family – First Time as Family

Each one attending added something interesting and useful. All the ladies who pitched in with food, cleaning, serving, etc. Ellane I've already run out of German Chocolate Cake.

John Cox being sick could not be with us. I spoke with him and Virginia last week. We need to keep him in our prayers!

John White and wife Bobby plan to be with us next meet but are tied up with family during the summer months. John will have our next meet in Williamsburg in March '06.

Plan to meet all you old comrades and come and let's make some new friends in August! Looking for you!!

E. Massie

**NOTES FROM NATIONAL
DIXIE REPORTER
SEPTEMBER 19, 2005**



**Three States Represented - 250 years of Seniority
J.I. Lamb, Sal Scicolone, Vito Palazzolo**

I'll try to be objective in my writing but in my excitement over the past week it'll be quite difficult.

Arriving on Tuesday after a pleasant trip of 810 miles I started meeting old and new compatriots. In no special order I'll name the first 13 who looked like they were permanent residents - John Cupina, Manny Goodridge, Al Shrawder, R. C. Hamilton, Jim Brennan, Nick Francullo, Stew Barrick, George Foster, Cliff Wooldridge, Chuck Abdinooor, Ames Miller, Manny Epstein, Al Ely. All these being members of long standing except for Al Ely whose hobby is attending reunions. He was with the 83rd and is retired from the Army. I enjoyed his memorabilia and accounts of the many veterans he has encountered in his travels. Especially entertaining was his report from meeting with 101 airborne veterans at a recent reunion. He has now joined up with us. I am looking forward to continuing our relationship.

After these first-day meetings I became lost in the crowd! What an enjoyable feeling meeting old and new (young) each here with a purpose, seeking information of a lost loved one or to make a connection with one who was with a father, uncle in the combat of WWII. I have the honor of meeting several and being able to help in a small way in their search.

Our outgoing officers deserve our highest praise for the effort put forth to make this a huge

success. Our newly elected have a great responsibility and deserve our full support. Let's stand together with them as we move on to the future of our organization, both local and national!

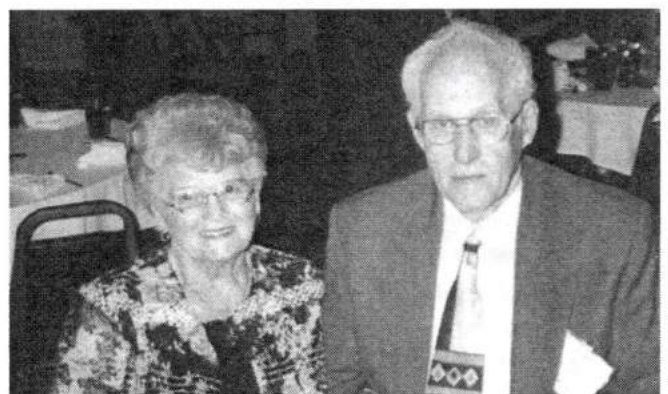
Our widows and descendants are to be revered and loved for their dedication and support. Let's give it to them.



**One Happy Group-Old, Young, New, Descendants
One Happy Family of Thunderbolts!**



**Hold on tight Charlie - with
Two Life-Long Friends - Lill and Kathryn**

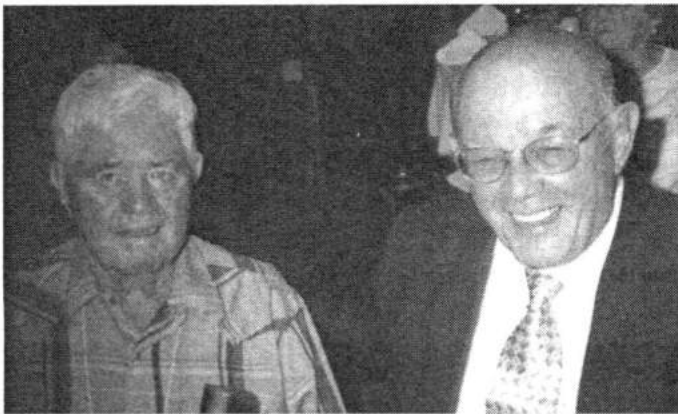


**The Richmonds (Indiana)
Solid Midwest (Looking Good!)**

I have the opportunity to meet men 89 years old who made me feel like a boy (almost) for a moment at least. What a glorious event that brings together so many from every state in all physical conditions, young, old, amputees, wheel chair bound, on walkers, able bodied, widowed, courting couples, those with old and new war stories, G I humor, those separated at woundings finding each other, a local from Paducah, first timers, the volunteers busy, busy! doing a great job with little recognition. Those with plane trouble from New Jersey, the bus (breakdown veterans), calls from the sick (cancellations). First timers, last timers, writers of books, I could go on and on but I must hurry on.

due to health! William Minick has been our claim to fame for just having known him for the past years on chapter and national service levels.

Each day gets better. Some visit the museums and some visit the Casinos, some sightsee. All come back with glowing reports but no bulging pocketbooks!



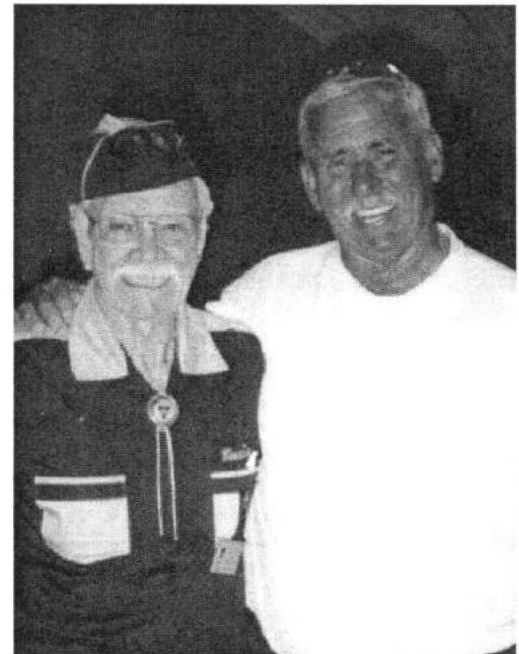
First Timer Dan McCabe is Welcomed by Charlie Foster



**The Brusa Family
Elizabeth & Seldon (California)**



**George Waple being kept on the ball by his escort
(George Author of
"Country Boy Gone Soldiering")**



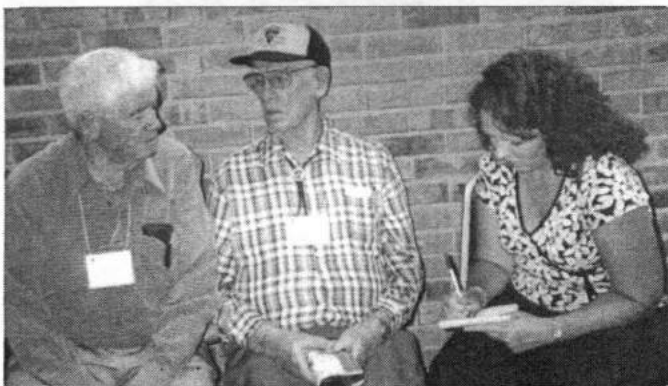
**John White
Descendant of Col. White (Wild Bill)
E. Massie (Old Timer)**

Dixie is present with 30 hearty souls and many who planned to come but were forced to cancel. I look forward to seeing many at Dixie December Meet. I regret to report that our Secretary-Treasurer (Dixie) is having to resign

Our business meetings are well attended and sound decisions are made. Together we can carry them out and all will benefit from them.

Those responsible for the memorial ceremonies performed well and the results are fantastic. Those who rendered the music, remarks, laying of the memorial wreaths, all are to be commended. I see many new faces in this portion of our memorial as we honor our deceased during and since combat

The banquet goes off on schedule. The meal, many short speeches, then on to the entertainment. I am happy to see many couples dancing almost like 60 years ago to "The Big Band Music" of the 40's and 50's.



**Being interviewed from California to Paducah!
It made the paper, too!**

Let's beware of the "news coverage" that we had – we were published in the local paper. I am fortunate enough to get a copy. Hopefully, we can get it in the Thunderbolt for those who didn't see it.

Three authors of books are present – I have read all their books – Each tells it like it was from a different viewpoint. Each remembers that we are the very best.

Your reporter, E. Massie

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

W. ALLEN FISHER

KENTUCKY CHAPTER NEWS

(No Report)

MICHIGAN CHAPTER NEWS

NICK BARBU

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

NICK FRANCUCCLO

A special thanks to R. C. Hamilton, Reunion Chairman, and his wife Louise and all their helpers for a great 59th Reunion. We had a great time along with Jim and Dot Brennan, Al and Ann Tartaglia from RI, Augus and Hazel Farias, Nick and Mary Francullo, Ernest and Helen Smith and family, Bill and Jeanette McKee from MA, Cliff Wooldridge and Nancy from NH, and Mike and Nina and Mischel Petitti from FL.

Talked with Ester and John Ferriera. They had to call off the reunion as John had fallen and broken his elbow and has bad legs and Ester has a bad back also. The Burkhardts, we missed you. Age is catching up on us all and at the reunion to see all that had to use a cane, wheel chair or limped along and walked very slowly. Just hope we can keep going.



**Mary Francullo, Jim & Dot Brennan
Hazel & Mousie Farias**

My wife Mary had a cataract operation after the reunion and also, Helen Smith will have a back operation October 19 and hope it will come out fine.

At the reunion we took out the New England Chapter gang for lunch and the Chapter picked up the bill. It was great!

Mary and I drove to the Brennan's and Al and Ann all flew to Nashville, Tenn, rented a van and

drove 150 miles to Paducah, KY. It worked out fine and others came from other areas.



Mike, Nina & Mischel Petitti

It was nice seeing old friends. That's it.

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

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER NEWS

STAN BIELEN
stanfran83rd@aol.com

I was unable to attend the reunion in Paducah because of my wife Fran's health problems. I received a number of phone calls telling me that it was a well-run reunion and was an enjoyable one. We want to congratulate the new officers of the association for taking on the task of keeping the 83rd Alive. Our best wishes to you all. Our thanks to those that served us so well in the past. Your dedication is very much appreciated by the membership, I am sure.

From our chapter just a few were in Paducah. Charlie had a heck of a time getting to Paducah. Left Newark, NJ early morning with a stopover in Memphis where upon leaving the plane had to return to Memphis for repairs. It was late in the evening when they arrived. One good thing was that Al Klugiewicz met Charlie in Memphis and they were able to keep company during their time there. George Waple also made it and told me he really enjoyed the whole reunion. George also had an appointment with his publisher in

Indianapolis on his way home to appear at a radio station and a TV interview for the revised addition of his book "Country Boy Gone Soldiering". I received the new book and find it interesting and also quite humorous.

Colonel Manny Epstein, yes I know all of you will say "Who?" Manny was made a Kentucky Colonel for his many contributions to the reunion. He is also to be congratulated for his being a new board member. We know the 83rd is in good hands with all the new men.

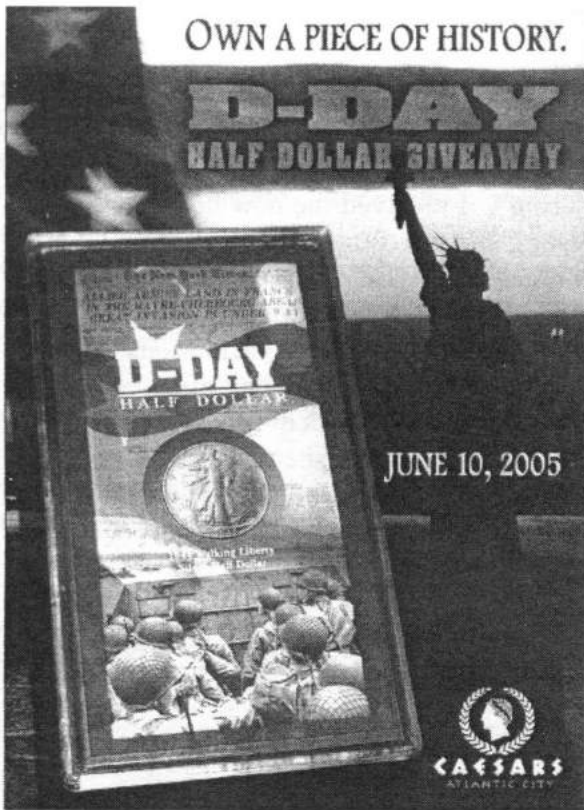
Joe DePeri spoke to Jim Seneca and was told that his father Cookie Seneca is in no condition to go to the reunion. I believe Cookie is 94 and had been in great shape until the last few years. Charlie Abdinooor, another new board member, served with Cookie in the same company and was looking forward to his appearance. Charlie has a good group from Co. A, 330th at the reunions.

My being unable to attend kept me from seeing Leo and Shirley Schneider, who hadn't been to a reunion for quite a number of years. Leo and I were in the same company and it would have been great to reminisce with him of those days and our mutual buddies.

Sad news: Ken Miglionico (Co. B, 308 Engineers) passed away in July. We lived close by in Fords and spend many great times together. We will miss him. Also, read of the passing of Sylvester Smith a platoon leader that served both in Companies B and I in the 331st. He was a great guy that I got to know at a few reunions he attended.

Steven Spielberg's movie "War of the Worlds" was filmed in Bayonne, NJ, my old hometown. In the movie they call upon the 83rd Division to repel the invaders from out of space. How about that! Another thing of interest was a postcard I received from Caesars Casino announcing a D-Day Half Dollar Giveaway. The picture on the plaque is of the 1st Bn. 331st Infantry landing on Omaha Beach. It is the same picture which is in the 331st book. That picture was not taken on D-Day. I have included the card for publication.

Picture of postcard on following page.



That's it for now, wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Stan Bielen

COMPANIES

783RD ORDNANCE Co.
RAGS RANGNOW

Co. "A" - 330TH
CHARLES ABDINOOR
sgtchuck83rd@aol.com

Hi Buddy's:

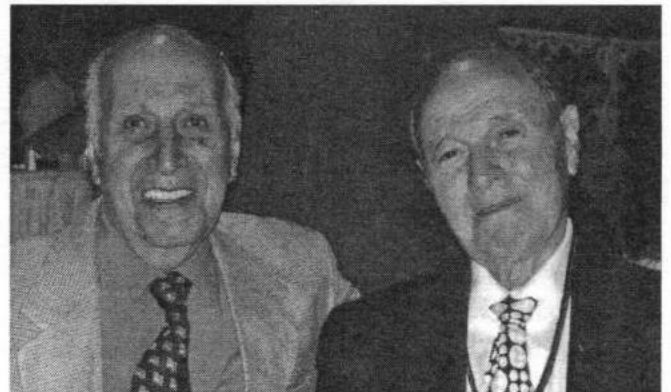
Kudo's are in order for R. C. Hamilton and crew for a most wonderful and successful reunion at Paducah, KY. We had our reliable people, namely, the Brown's, Barrick's, Dunn's,

and our reliables the McCouch's. We had for the first time Will Lenz, who was in my platoon. He is anxious for the next one in Nashville, Indiana.



(L to R) Ed Brown, Chuck Abdinoor, Will Lenz, Earl Dunn, Steward Barrick

We missed our other regulars, namely, the Pillion's, Reed's, Shorty Glasser and Cookie Senica and family. It was a pleasure to see Dutchy Smith bring his family. This is beginning to be a habit. Hopefully, it will continue.



Chuck Abdinoor & Leo Schneider

It was a pleasure to see Shirley and Leo Schneider with his daughter Wendy and husband Ed. We finally got Leo back in the fold, on account of illness, kept him from attending our reunions, but he looks good. We want to see more of them again. Also, nice to see Roger Dumont and family, the bug got to Roger. He

can't wait for reunions after all these years. Larry Arrigo was present and is contemplating a move to Florida. Our loss is Florida's gain.

Missed the Bielen's – Fran and Stan. Hope for Fran's recovery in her illness. She has a good man in Stan to watch over her. Also, we missed Nancy and Amby Tynan, Gin and Pat DiGiammerino and other members of the Boston Chapter.

I know I should be putting news of A Co. but they understand, after all these years, we made a lot of friends from the Association. Everett Worrell and his wife could not make it for the third year in a row. He had appendicitis problems.



Dale & Karen Terbeek

It was a pleasure to meet Karen and Dale Terbeek. Dale's father was in D Co. 330th, our heavy weapons company. His father was KIA in France near LaLonde. Karen had the honor of laying a wreath at our memorial service. We had a few descendants attend and hopefully we can include them in our Association and continue this great outfit for many more years.

Now that the old guard has retired and they did a wonderful job, and the new takeover at a crucial time, I believe we have dedicated officers to continue for years to come. It was nice to see John and Ann Tisdell once again. Ann is a gung ho gal and keeps us old timers on our toes.

Incidentally, we are indeed grateful to Paul

Reed who is our new Judge Advocate. His years of law practice is to our benefit. Stay healthy all!

P.S. New address for Walter Pillion -
1425 Piedmont Rd., New Market, TN
37820-4533, Tel #865-475-1281

Co. "D" - 331ST **GERI GUNDERSON**

The 59th Reunion is now history-but such pleasant memories of Paducah and friends that we so look forward to seeing at each Reunion. This was no exception. Al Shrawder, R. C. Hamilton have our utmost thanks for a great week!

Those in attendance were: (Capt.) Harry and Barbara Gravelyn, Ray Richter, Harry Adkins, Bill and Jeanette McKee, Charlotte Literal, Al Shrawder, accompanied by his four children, Lois, Mary, Paul and Joan. R.C. and Louise Hamilton and their three children, Patsy, Mike, Robin, son-in-law, (Mike) and grandchildren. Paul and Mary Dallos, Jimmy and Harriet Lynch, and daughters, Janice and Patty. Dan and Doris McDermott, Jim and Elaine (Odenweller) Hogan, Geri Gunderson and Herman and Barbara Whalen.

After the Reunion Co. D and friends stayed at the hotel for an additional three days and visited Camp Breckenridge. Paul Dallos, Al Shrawder, Bill McKee, Manny Goodridge, Manny Epstein, Jimmy Lynch, and Harry Adkins were stationed at the Camp during 1942/1943. The Hamilton's had pre-arranged to have lunch served, enjoy the beautiful paintings, and also the Museum. It brought back a lot of memories and some interesting stories while they were camped there.

A trip to Illinois was planned by Louise Hamilton with a delicious dinner in a quaint old Bed & Breakfast home, built in the late 1800's. The group also visited the hometown of R. C. and Louise on the way to Camp Breckenridge.

The 8th annual Chicken & trimmings picnic in the park, was enjoyed on the last evening in Paducah.

It was so good to see Jimmy and Harriet Lynch and daughters. We know what an effort they made to be with us. George and Polly Odenweller would be so proud of their daughter Elaine and husband Jim, who spent the entire week in Paducah.

Marcella Nolte, Frank and Dana Sharp, Frank and Mary Sabine and George Komlos, Peggy and Arthur Haught sent their regrets and best wishes. Due to ill health Nick and Sylvia Barbu were unable to attend. No one's heard from Ken Barker – hope all is well!

Each of you was missed, and you missed a great reunion, a 12-piece band playing our kind of music, was a very enjoyable surprise, bringing back memories of years gone by, great fellowship, lots of eats, nice hotel, most rooms looking out on the beautiful Ohio. Those that helped to make this 59th Reunion a great success, we are grateful and sincere THANKS.

See you at the 60th.

Geri Gunderson

Co. "F" - 329TH
C. R. BOB WHITCOMB

"Over But Not Forgotten"

"F" Company 329th at Galatia, Illinois and Paducah, Kentucky Thunderbolts gathered as guests of Wright Jr. and Lucille at their home in Galatia, September 5th, 6th & 7th 2005. On the 5th with much help from their family, as an act of Love, the members, wives and guests were treated royally to a pork loin and barbecued rib dinner with all the trimmings, and I do mean trimmings. The 6th was followed by two more days of reminiscing of their World War II experiences, (which probably were enlarged upon), and discussions of present World Affairs. No exact solutions were forth coming. Were they enjoying themselves? ... indeed they were!

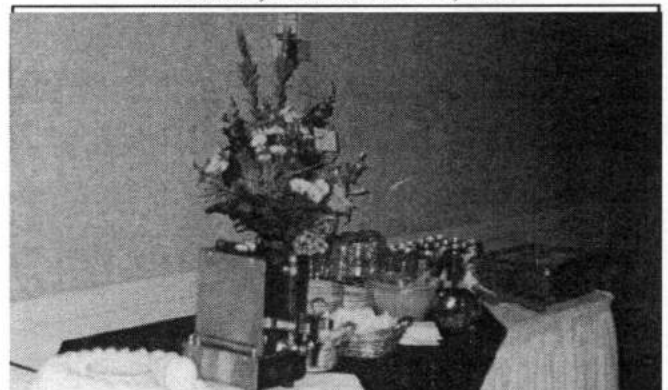
I can attest to that due to a recording on my home telephone recorder which came about, by a member calling my home using a cell phone, not getting me but my recorder and then forgetting to



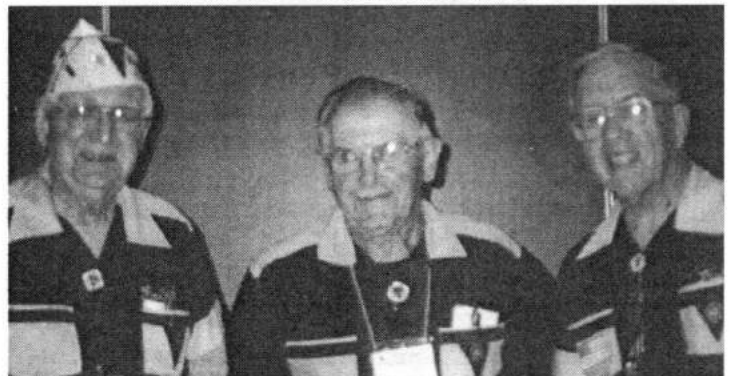
Galatia, Illinois



"F" Company 329th at Galatia, IL & Paducah, KY



"F" Co. C.P. "Truman Room" at 93rd 59th Annual Reunion



R.C. Hamilton, Reunion Chr.-Robert Keck, Board Chr. 2006-Robert Taylor, Exec. Board

turn off the cell phone. The results – a seventeen (17) minutes of hearing everyone assembled trying to talk at once, most of which was indiscernible on the recorder. However, the Laughter that came through was proof positive that a Fun time was being had by all.

The 7th the group was given a tour of the Cotter's 400 acre plus farm and other places of local interest. Of course, they also took advantage of the local Eateries partaking of the area's cuisine. This type of thing took place on the 6th as well. It's something this group does very well.

During the 7th Eric Fodor Staff Writer of The Daily Register held a group interview of "F" Company at the Cotter's residence. Published in The Daily Register was quite a large newspaper account. Eric did an excellent job of combining comments from all the members present in describing the Trek of the 83rd Division and Co. "F" from its landing on Omaha Beach in Normandy, France June 23, 1944 to its crossing of the Elbe River, the last natural barrier in Germany and Berlin. "F" Company's advance was halted at Zerbst, Germany where we met the Russians. They took over the sectors occupied by "F" Co. and the 329th Regiment as they (329th) moved back across the Elbe River. Eventually some of the higher Point men were processed for return to the States, while others remained as Army Occupation Troops.

Much Thanks is due Cotters and Family for hosting "F" Company's Great ! Time in Galatia. Thanks.

At the 59th 83rd Annual Reunion in Paducah, Kentucky September 7-11 2005 "F" Co. 329th was represented by a total of 18 members, wives and guests. The "Truman Room" at J.R.'s served as the C. P. where snacks and drinks were provided. The serving table was enhanced by a bouquet of flowers sent by Kevin Smith who was unable to be present due to Hurricane Katrina. Mardi Gras bead necklaces were sent by the Chouest Family as a gift for the Ladies. Errol was planning on being with us, however he and wife Myra live in Houma, LA right in Hurricane Katrina's path.

The C. P. served its members and others as a respite between the various meetings and

planned activities for our enjoyment. Once in J.R.'s general reunion activity area, travel between events was kept to a minimum.

Were there a few glitches? Of course, there were, probably more than those of us in attendance knew or had to care about. I know I ordered prime rib also!

All in all arrangements and their handling were very well done by our 59th Reunion Chairman R. C. Hamilton and his staff.

Congratulations: President Al Shrawder for very expedited meetings.

The 60th 83rd Annual Reunion in Nashville (Brown County), INDIANA is looked forward to with Great delight.

A Cajun Saying

"Time spent serving others is Never Wasted"

**C. R. Bob Whitcomb
1314 Center Ln. Dr.
Ashland, Ohio 44805**

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

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

**83rd Memories Wanted for the
"Atterbury Crier"**

Any of you fellows who would like to write of your experiences and memories of World War II, the "Atterbury Crier" wants to publish them in their newspaper. They would like to dedicate their August Edition to the 83rd while we are there for our 60th Reunion.

**Send to: Mike Brady,
Camp Atterbury, P.O. Box 5000,
Edinburgh, IN 46124**

VETERANS DAY 2005



Article from
The Eagle-Tribune
(North Andover, Massachusetts)
November 11, 2005

KEEPING THE SPIRIT OF THE 83RD ALIVE

BY CHRIS MARKUNS
STAFF WRITER

The oft-cited number, as tracked by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, is 1,000 – an average of 1,000 World War II veterans dying every day, this one being no exception.

It's a reality experienced on an abstract level by a nation that sees fewer parade participants and more flag-marked cemetery plots, and on a personal level by the wives, children and grandchildren who say graveside goodbyes.

Somewhere in the middle are Charles Abdinoor and his fellow surviving members of the U.S. Army's 83rd Infantry Division. Like those in countless other units from every corner of the military, these men feel the number in shrinking annual reunion attendance and ever-rarer opportunities to compare shared pieces of history.

But if their death is inevitable, Abdinoor and company don't believe the same must be said of the spirit of the 83rd. So the 79-year-old Dracut man is leading the local portion of the group's new effort to guarantee a future, as they reach

beyond the battlefield bond for family members and descendants to welcome into the 83rd Infantry Division Association.

"We want to continue the 83rd, with the history of it," Abdinoor said. "And the only way we can is to get descendants into the organization.

Getting family involved is a practice some veterans groups have long employed – the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, for instance—but one which smaller bodies like the 83rd are now realizing is imperative to the long-term survival of both the organizations and the memories of the men and battles that embody them.

Roughly 3.7 million are all that remain of the 16.5 million that fought the war, and by 2020 the survivors are expected to make up just 1 percent of all veterans. In the case of the 83rd, the now-inactive division will produce no more new veterans, said Abdinoor. The association is left with just 640 members of the tens of thousands to have served in it during World War I, World War II and the Gulf War.

Facing numbers like those, they recognize that gatherings like the 83rd's weeklong 59th annual reunion, held in Paducah, KY, last September, are more than just an opportunity to see the men and women with whom they once saved the world.

When roughly a dozen descendants turned up in Paducah, Abdinoor says, it became clear that they could play a key part in ensuring that the division's specific contributions are remembered and celebrated. They may not have fought with the Thunderbolt Division—the name stuck when news stories described it "Moving like a thunderbolt across Europe"—but the next generation can pass on detailed, individual stories of its journey from Omaha Beach to the Battle of the Bulge to liberating 1,100 near-death prisoners at the Langenstein concentration camp.

"You'd be surprised how bonded you get with these people," Abdinoor said, "These descendants mingled right in with us, sat right at our table, asked us questions. It was really a history lesson."

So in addition to searching for old members of the 83rd, the association quickly made it a

priority to draw more family members to the 60th reunion next August in Indiana.

It's hoped the experience can be mutually beneficial, as children and grandchildren have the chance to gain insight into a part of a loved one's life that, in many cases, has remained closed for decades.

"Most veterans, they don't tend to talk to their wives or their kids about what they went through, but they'll sit down and talk to another vet about it," said Edward Curran, Methuen's veterans affairs director and a Vietnam veteran.

"That's just the way it is," he said. "So it's good to have these groups with sons and daughters, and maybe they can learn from other vets what their fathers did or their grandfathers did. Because they'll never know by them saying it."

That could be the strongest selling point, according to Methuen resident Gary Comins, the son of Andover native and 83rd Lt. C. Comins, who died in 2003. Though short on details, he knows his father was wounded in Normandy within a week of landing.

"I would be interested in attending," said Comins, believing that not only would other 83rd members have something to offer, but that other family members could exchange resources like the several books that have been published on the 83rd.

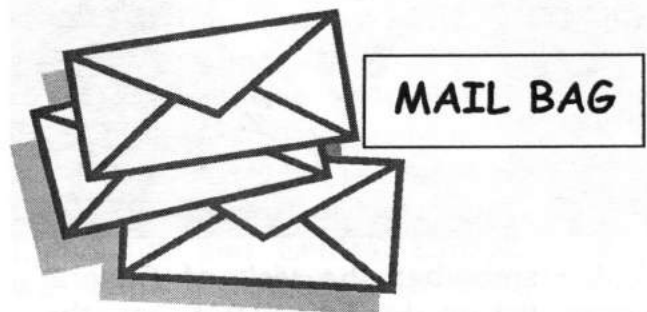
"They might pick up something that they didn't learn just in general history class," he said.

And if some are able to glean something about a father or grandfather they hope to know better, others seek a sense of a man they never knew at all. Abdinoor recalls a man who arrived at Paducah with nothing but a photo, a father killed in action when his son was 6 weeks old.

"He was curious if anybody had known his father, who his father was," said Abdinoor.

The man never found anyone who knew his father personally, but Abdinoor knew several members of his company, and the pair spent much of the week in Paducah together. The man's wife became the first woman in 83rd Association history to participate in the annual memorial service, Abdinoor said, and they have stayed in touch by e-mail.

"He's coming next year, already talking about it," said Abdinoor. "He's going to be coming every year."



Dear Cliff,

07/14/05

I am enclosing two pictures: one is when I met my brother who was with the 60th Inf. 9th Div., when he surprised me with a visit in Germany in June, 1945. He was stationed in Ingolstadt, Germany and I was in Rathalmunster (near Pocking), Germany.

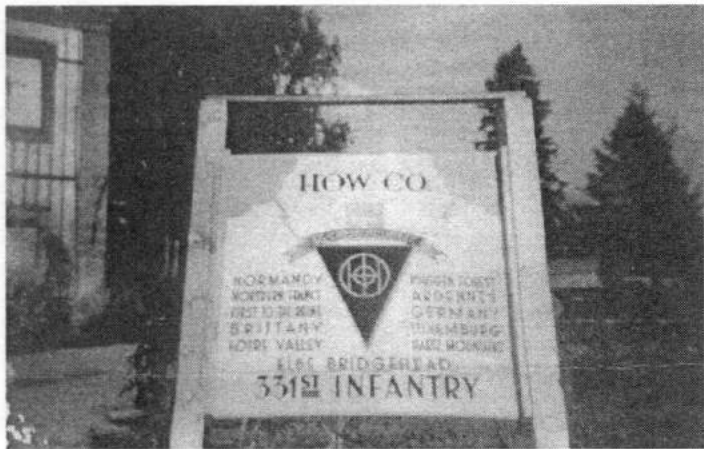
We hadn't seen each other at that time for about 3 years. He sure saw quite a bit of combat with the 9th Div. We enjoyed talking of old times at home.



Emanuel Lamb
H Co, 331,83 Div.
Rathalmunster, Germany - June 1945

Brother Morris
H Co, 60 Inf, 9 Div.
Rathalmunster, Germany - June 1945

The other picture is a sign in front of Hdqs. "H" Company, 331st. I believe in Pocking, Germany.



I do remember the visit of General George Patton in July, 1945, at the Airport field in Pocking, Germany. He reviewed our troops and delivered a strong rousing speech about the U.S. Army and National Defense. He then was shown a military "problem" with our troops, which he enjoyed very much and thanked us for it.

As far as the 83rd Reunion is concerned, I believe we should try and continue and not disband. We still have enough "old timers" left. Perhaps we could cut our expenses with a smaller location and meet better in August as we did in the past. September is a busy month and more people will get out to travel in July or August. I think so.

Good luck and regards,

Emanuel (Manny) Lamb, H Co. 331st
 11231 Green Lake Drive Apt. 204
 Boynton Beach, FL 33437
 Email: wishingwell83@aol.com

Dear Mr. Wooldridge, July 18, 2005

Please put this in the Thunderbolt:
 Joseph Cargini called and wants a notice published in the Thunderbolt that

his Father, Mario L. Cargino, Company "L", 330th IR had passed away in December, 2004. My condolences are out to the Family Members and Friends of Mario and the Families and Friends of all 83rd Veterans and Support Units.

Jules Sitrick, Company "C", 331st IR is trying to locate the Company Clerk, that served with him. Jules was with Company "C", 331st IR from Normandy to the Battle of the Bulge. Anybody with information please contact Jules at 847-677-3511 and I thank you.

Lou Gomori

Dear Mr. Wooldridge, 07/11/05

Enclosed are two requests I hope you can publish in the next Thunderbolt issue. I'd appreciate it very much.

Sincerely,

Carlton Ely

See you in Paducah, KY

#1 - I am trying to get some information about Mac Alexander, Jr. He was killed July 4th in France. I do not know where his home address was or any other particulars in his history while he was alive.

If anyone has any knowledge about him, please write to me at the address below. Any information will be gratefully accepted.

#2 - Dec. 24, 1944, A Co. of the 330th Reg. was ordered to attack and secure a town in Germany shortly after day break.

Approaching this town I was injured and returned to the United States. A rifleman was with me, but I don't know

his name and I am curious as to know what happened to him.

If anyone has any knowledge of this, please contact me by mail at the following address.

Carlton G. Ely
The Crossing, Rm 206
126 Franklin Ave.
Riverside, NJ 08075

Dear Cliff: 11/9/05

I had a great time at the 59th reunion in Paducah, and I appreciate everything that the Committee did to make it a success. It will be a tough act to follow when they make plans for the next reunion.

The friendliness and hospitality of the citizens of Paducah during our visit is greatly appreciated. They made us feel "right at home", especially Ruth, the women who took us on the trolley tour. In fact, I felt so much at home in Paducah that my wife Marguerite had to order me to get into the car for the trip home to New Jersey!

I enjoyed the banquet meal, but I still think we were on "Candid Camera". The prime rib was outstanding. It reminded me of our Army-issue boot leather: tough, but doing the job it had to do.

I want to thank Chaplain Ellsworth Massie for his work as the division chaplain, and for the message he delivered during the reunion. I also want to thank Manny Epstein for all the great things he has done for our Division's Association. Please convey my thanks to them, and put this letter in the book. Sincerely,

Russ Whitehead
107 Wertsville Road
Ringoes, NJ 08551

P.S. - My friend Sgt. Harold Keefer died on September 5, 2005. He was a member of 329th "F" Company.

Cliff, 1/21/05

We know the 83rd Infantry Division was referred to as 'THE RAG-TAG CIRCUS'. Some of our RINGMASTERS were Eisenhower, Bradley, Patton, Montgomery, Macon, Ferenbaugh, and etc. Our "BIG TOP", included the Battle Fields of Normandy, Brittany, Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe. That was some "TIGHT-ROPE", to walk. There were no CLOWNS, only Lions and Tigers, which consisted of men with courage, bravery, valor, resolute, and spirit. We closed our act with the "COUP DE GRACE", on Germany. LONG LIVE THE 83rd Infantry Division.

John S. Governor, "I" & "M" 331st
3929 Moorman Drive
Lynchburg, VA 24501
434-385-5823

Nov. 24, 2005

Re: JOHN B. O'DONNELL
March 11, 1918 - October 6, 2005

Dear Mr. Wooldridge,

I am enclosing a copy of John's Obituary, which appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle. You may feel free to use any part of it, if you wish -

"In October 1942, John enlisted in the U.S. Army, and he served in Brittany, Luxembourg, Belgium (Battle of the Bulge), and across Germany toward Berlin. He received a field commission in 1944 and was part of U.S. Occupation Forces in Bavaria until November 1945."

As you can see (above) the 83rd Infantry Division was mentioned in the article.

His service during World War II was a big part of his life. He has written articles, told stories, and taken part in interviews about his experiences right up until a few months before his death. He was proud to be a member of the 83rd Infantry Division and the 330th Regiment. It was his wish that I notify you.

Sincerely,
Jean O'Donnell (Mrs. John B.)
1388 Gough Street #1001
San Francisco. CA 94109-6580

* * * * *

Mr. Wooldridge, 1 Aug 05
I talked with you shortly after the 1st of the year informing you of the death of my father, Lt. John Caparanis, who passed away on December 3rd, 2004. He was a strong, strong supporter of the 83rd Infantry Division, having spend close to 50 years being extremely active in the Association. Yet, I have yet to see any mention of his passing in the publication.

The 83rd Infantry Division was very near and dear to Dad's heart. He spend a vast majority of WWII as Company Commander of B Company of the 331st Infantry Regiment which, of course, was under the 83rd Infantry Division. He saw action in a number of campaigns and was highly decorated, including the Silver Star. In fact, he was one of the, if not the, most decorated WWII veteran in Trumbull County, Ohio (the county in which he lived for close to 50 years.)

Quite frequently, when Dad would reminisce, it would be on his experiences in WWII: the battles and skirmishes that he was in, the people that he served with, the camaraderie with his fellow 83rd members, etc., etc.,

etc. In fact, when he turned 83 on 7/3/04, I gave both of my younger brothers the "heads up". When they asked what I was talking about, I told them about how close the 83rd was to him and, now that he's 83, we better keep a closer eye on him. Well, as fate would have it, his military was a lot more ingrained into his spirit than anybody imagined. Less that a week before he passed, we had to admit Dad to St. Joseph's Hospital in Warren, Ohio, with a high temperature. My wife and I waited until 2 AM until the admitting nurse told us that they were going to admit him "until we can figure out what's causing the temperature." Who then proceeded to tell me that he would be admitted to Room 331. On the way home, I told my wife that I didn't like the way that the numbers were adding up: he's 83 and now he's going to be in room 331. A couple of days later, my sister told me that he was in Bed B!! I knew then that he wasn't going to make it. In fact, at that time, I composed the obituary that I've enclosed. Sure enough, 3 days later at 2:15 in the morning, I was contacted by the duty nurse at the hospital informing me of his death. The date of his passing: the 3rd of December.

So there you have it, Mr. Wooldridge, 83 years old, Room 331, Bed B, and passing away on the 3rd. Since the 83rd was under Patton's 3rd Army, I guess the cycle was completed.

He had a very productive and rewarding life. He was a heck of a guy, a great Dad and Husband, and a dear friend. Obviously, he's missed more than I care to admit.

I was the only one of his siblings to also be in the military. In fact, I stayed in for 28 years in both Active Duty and the US Army Reserves. I have in my 201 file action in both Viet Nam and Desert Storm. In fact, for 5 of those years, I

was in the 83rd Infantry Division, USAR, which Dad got a chuckle over.

Thanks for the time reading this letter and please see to it that notification of Dad's death is put in the Thunderbolt!

John T. Caparanis,
LTC (retired), USAR
121 Heather Lane, Cortland, OH 44410
P.S. Keep up the Good Work!

Dear Cliff,

As per our telephone call, enclosed please find Lou's picture and his obituary. Also, two pictures of Lucy and Lou. They were very dear friends of ours and we miss them both.

Lou and Lucy loved the 83rd and made many friends. We attended 46 Reunions together.

Lou died July 16, 2005. Lucy died November, 2002. I would appreciate it if you would send a copy of the Thunderbolt to Lou's daughter- Mrs. Linda Masciangelo, 410 Merion Rd., Merion Station, PA 19066. Thank you.

Al and Anna Belvedere

OBITUARIES - Phila. Daily Newspaper

Louis J. Volpi, 84
owner of Narberth restaurant

By Sally A. Downey
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Louis J. Volpi, 84, who for 48 years operated Lou's Restaurant in his hometown of Narberth, died of a stroke Saturday at Sunrise Assisted Living in Haverford.

Mr. Volpi opened a hoagie shop in Narberth in the early 1950's. He later bought the two houses across the street, which his father, Arturo, a stonemason, converted into a restaurant in 1954. Mr. Volpi and his wife, Lucy Toti Volpi, worked side by side serving

customers home-style specialties such as Mr. Volpi's famous rice pudding. He also operated lunch wagons in several locations and, in the late 1960's and early 1970's, he owned Pike Pub in Wawa, Middletown Township.

Lucy Volpi died in 2002, a month after the couple sold Lou's Restaurant. They had married in 1943, before Mr. Volpi was sent overseas to serve in the Army in Europe. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge as a member of the 83rd Infantry. The Volpi's daughter, Linda Masciangelo, said her father helped organize division reunions.

Mr. Volpi and his Army comrades led the Narberth Memorial Day Parade for more than 40 years and helped fund the Narberth War Memorial. "This is a real American town," he told a reporter in 1998. "It's very patriotic."

After the war, before opening his Narberth business, Mr. Volpi and a Navy and Marine veteran operated the Mari-Nay diner in Rosemont.

He was past president of the Bala-Narberth Lions Club. The Lions sponsored drug-education classes at St. Margaret School in Narberth and Waldron Mercy Academy in Merion.

In addition to his daughter, Mr. Volpi is survived by two granddaughters and a brother.



Lucy & Lou's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Dear Cliff,

I got such a good response from some members of the Division who had fought at Bihain that I include another except. One guy who fought at Bihain is now coming to his first reunion in Paducah. Another guy whose uncle fought at Bihain (now deceased) also wrote me. Harry Gravelyn.

Attack on the La Varde Peninsula

(SE of the town of Sainteny at the edge of the Taute River)

(This ill planned attack was hurriedly put together by our Battalion Commander with the available information and means at our disposal at the time. It should be noted that we were on our third Battalion Commander after losing Col. Nielson, WIA and Col. Erickson, KIA)

* * * * *

As long as we had able company commanders, including Colonel York as our Regimental Commander, we managed to conduct ourselves well and continue to push the enemy back. When we reached the edge of the Taute River we made preparations to cross. Our objective was the La Varde Peninsula. Our intelligence report informed us that "fifty cooks and bakers" were defending the peninsula. We had fun with that one so we jokingly referred to this masterful piece of intelligence by adding on, "And everyone in this group is armed with a Tiger Tank." To add to the intelligence blunder our own reconnaissance team told us that the canal nearest us forming the fork creating the peninsula was less than ten feet wide and, at best, only four feet deep. Relying on that information, our commander decided to make the assault with one rifle Platoon and a section of my machine guns. As soon as this group crossed the canal, our mortars would begin a creeping barrage staying 100 yards, at least, ahead of the assault force.

The attack began in total darkness with the Battalion observation post at the edge of the swamp, about 150 yards in front of the German positions. The men were provided with 14 ft. heavy planks on which to cross the canal rapidly in order to get across the open area before light. Situation turned out to be normal. All fouled up! The canal was much wider than the length of the planks, and at that point the assault team began to receive some sporadic fire from the Germans. The men took to the water. They were forced to swim for the opposite side. The machine gun section tried to walk the bottom with their heavy loads, but in the muck of the canal had to abandon their guns or drown, and thus had to return to our lines. As the rifle Platoon reached the wooded area across the stream, we heard some small arms engagement, and then silence. We waited for word from Lt. Vogt, who commanded the Platoon. As the morning stretched into hours, we heard nothing from the Platoon, so we were forced to accept the fact that they had failed in their mission.

Our orders were to clear the peninsula because it was thought to be a possible German observation point with a view of the highway General Patton would be using in his secret move to launch a large-scale tank attack to break out of Normandy. Since these orders were still in effect for our Battalion, we began to rethink new possibilities. While I was peering through my field glasses around the base of a large tree growing out of the hedgerow at the edge of the swamp, an 88" high trajectory shell from an enemy tank struck the base of the tree dead center where my head had been just moments before. I had just sat back on my heels to rest a moment, when the explosion seemed to drop the ground about six inches below me. Branches showered down out of the tree and the blast blinded me momentarily and took my breath away. The air pressure from the explosion freezes your diaphragm in mid-breath and the inability to breathe and unable to see I rapidly crawled on hands and knees to a corner of the hedgerow. There I found wounded soldiers who had been struck from the shell fragments, which burst sideways from the tree. I realized then the best place was back behind the tree where I quickly placed myself again.

Colonel York had joined us at the OP to observe the initial assault. If everything had worked according to plan, it should have been an easy victory. Not knowing what was going on across from us, and not receiving word from Lt. Vogt, the Battalion Commander suggested we put a Platoon of machine guns across to hold any advantage that might have been gained by Lt. Vogt's Platoon. Dumb! Anyway, I was told to get a Platoon ready. Reluctantly I passed the word to Sgt. Haught, who commanded the First Platoon. He did not appear too happy with the new plan and neither did I. So, I suggested we two look over the selected route a few hundred yards away from the initial point of attack where the distance across was shorter but more open. We crept to a spot short of the canal (a branch of the Taute River), and studied the terrain. The woods on the far side looked ominous and deadly silent. The MG Platoon would have to make a run for it; wade the canal and hope there were some riflemen of our own to help them on the other side still effective. Without discussing the matter, we waited until we were back in our own area and I asked the Sgt. what he thought. His thinking was the same as mine. It was a suicide mission and a sacrifice of a well-trained unit and their equipment.

I reported back to our Battalion OP and informed our Battalion Commander that the Platoon was ready, but if they were to go I was going with them. Colonel York, who was listening said, "You don't like this idea, do you Gravelyn?" I replied, "No, Sir." He then cancelled the whole mission. I tried not to show my relief and jubilation. I could hardly wait to get back to Sgt. Haught and pass on the good word. My respect for Colonel York, our Regimental Commander had never been higher.

The longer I served under Colonel York, the more my respect for him grew. As facts about our little episode at La Varde Peninsula came to light after the war, when I met Lt. Voght in the Chicago hospital where he and I were both patients, I realized just how fortunate we were to not have to continue our assault. It most certainly would have resulted in the complete loss of our entire platoon. The Germans were well armed with tanks and personnel. The intelligence gathered, evidently from the prisoners, was a falsehood and the Germans no doubt had a good laugh over it. As Lt. Voght put it, they wiped out his platoon of riflemen with ease. He said they waited for him and ambushed the platoon when they entered the wooded area. He personally became a casualty when hit by a concussion grenade. It broke nearly every bone in his body. In May of 1945 he was still encased in plaster, with just his feet, hands, and head sticking

out. Of course, many of his broken bones had to be re-broken once he entered an American Hospital a few months after the injury.

Anyway, we were off the hook. In fact the whole Battalion got a reprieve. Col. York now called on the 3rd Battalion of the Regiment and they launched a full-scale attack on the point of the peninsula. They were partially successful. They got across and onto the peninsula before being driven off with heavy casualties on both sides. Although, we had not been successful in our assaults against the peninsula, the Germans had been sufficiently bloodied to decide they had had enough and withdrew to a new line of defense. The objective was to get them out of there; and in this we succeeded. Never-the-less, as usual, there was a price to pay.

* * * * *

Story taken from the memoirs of:

Harry C. Gravelyn
Former Co. Commander of
Co., D, 331st Infantry, 83rd Div.

The following is a "Letter to the Editor" mailed August 5, 2005

"THE CAPTURE OF BIHAIN"

IT WAS VERY INTERESTING TO READ THE ARTICLE "THE BATTLE OF BIHAIN" BY CAPTAIN HARRY G. GRAVELYN, FORMER CAPTAIN CO. D 331ST INF. REFERENCE: VOL: 60 ISSUE #3 SUMMER ISSUE 2005 (THUNDERBOLT).

I AM INCLOSING A COPY OF A UNIT CITATION AWARDED TO COMPANY C - 330TH INF. ALONG WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER UNITS LISTED IN THE UNIT CITATION.

THE UNIT CITATION IS LOCATED ON P.P. 111 OF THE PUBLICATION "THUNDER BOLT ACROSS EUROPE".

AS A REPLACEMENT, THIS WAS MY FIRST MAJOR BATTLE.

MY FORMER PLT. SGT. NORWOOD HATFIELD CALLED ME AFTER READING CAPTAIN GRAVELYN'S ARTICLE AND CONCURRED THAT I SHOULD FORWARD THIS INFORMATION.

HOPE YOU CAN PRINT THIS INFORMATION IN THE NEXT PUBLICATION OF THE "THUNDERBOLT".

CLIFFORD SNYDER
2ND PLT. CO. C. 330 INF.
11 EDITH AVE., SAUGERTIES, NY 12477

(Citation to the right)

HEADQUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIVISION

APO 83, U. S. Army

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 222

3 November 1945

UNIT CITATION

Under the provisions of Section IV, Circular 333, War Department, 22 December 1943, and as approved by the Commanding General, Third United States Army and Eastern Military District, the First Battalion, 330th Infantry; Company C, 774th Tank Battalion; First Platoon, Company B, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion; First Platoon, Anti-Tank Company, 330th Infantry; and Mine Platoon, Anti-Tank Company, 330th Infantry are cited for outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy from 9 January 1945 to 11 January 1945.

With its weary ranks depleted after a week of constant exposure to severe cold, including four days of bitter fighting, the First Battalion was assigned the mission to seize and hold the town of Bihain, Belgium, and protect the right flank of the 83d Infantry Division in conjunction with the Division's mission of establishing a bridgehead over the Langlir Ronce River. Despite the handicap of deep snow and extremely low temperatures, the assault companies of the battalion advanced over 900 yards across flat, exposed terrain. In the face of intense artillery, mortar and automatic weapons fire this battalion succeeded in driving the enemy from his outpost positions east of Bihain. After a night characterized by heavy enemy shelling of the bitterly won position, the battalion resumed its attack on Bihain at 0730 hours, 10 January. Defending the town stubbornly, the enemy employed tank, mortar, artillery, and automatic weapons fire and fanatically held their positions until either killed or overpowered by unrelenting pressure. Due to the exposed terrain each house was an enemy fortification. Although the enemy fire caused heavy casualties on the attackers it resulted only in an increased determination within the ranks to secure the objective. Evacuation of the wounded was extremely difficult because of the inclement weather conditions, the nature of the terrain and the fact that the enemy artillery covered every approach to the town with heavy fire. On the morning of 11 January, the enemy completely blanketed the town with a half-hour artillery barrage of great intensity and, at 0900 hours, an estimated force of 200 enemy infantrymen supported by five tanks attacked the town from the woods to the south. Once again the First Battalion displayed its indomitable fighting spirit and although outnumbered rose to new heights in completely halting the enemy attack. The final assault was crushed decisively, the enemy annihilated, and the five tanks destroyed. In these three days of action the First Battalion sustained 130 casualties against an estimated 525 for the enemy. Thus, as a result of the unswerving aggressiveness and outstanding courage of the men of the First Battalion, 330th Infantry Regiment, from 9 through 11 January 1945, a fanatical enemy was dislodged from the town of Bihain, Belgium, and the right flank of the Division was secured. The aggressiveness and superb devotion to duty displayed by each man of the battalion is in keeping with the finest traditions of the armed forces.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY

Office of the Commanding General, APO 403

30 July 1945

My dear General Macon:

Please accept for yourself and express to the men of your division, my sincere admiration for the soldierly appearance, deportment, and bearing; also, for the high state of vehicular maintenance and excellent tactical instruction.

You and your officers and men are hereby highly commended for your superior performance in administrative and tactical instruction.

Truly yours,

G. S. PATTON, JR.,
General.

TO: Commanding General,
83d Infantry Division,
APO 83, U. S. Army.

THRU: Commanding General,
XII Corps,
APO 312, U. S. Army.

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THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

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

October 9, 2005

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

Dear Cliff :

Can you please put this in the Thunderbolt magazine.

I want to thank the Members of the Executive Board for approving Dave T. Curry's nomination as the Assistant Historian and I also want to thank the membership for this approval also. I know he will be of much help as he has a great Web Page Honoring his Father that was a Veteran of the 83rd Infantry Division, the greatest Infantry Division in the European Theatre of Operations which made us the best of the best.

I know that other Veterans have problems with there health and still keep going as pride is what keeps us going.

I myself am busy packing, we have to move after being here for 40 years. After Mary Ellens operation on a Begnine tumor that is behind her right ear the size of a golf ball that continuously keeps her to lose her balance as it is pressing her nerve there and that nerve is for Balance. The doctor told her that she will no longer be allowed to use the steps, so we got an apartment - all one floor. I am also in the process of submitting an article. Best wishes and regards to all and stay well and remember - we were the best of the best.

Sincerely,

Louis Gomori

FROM THE ASSISTANT HISTORIAN - DAVE CURRY

Hello! Some of you may know me, but most of you probably do not. I've been a descendant member of the 83rd for five years and have had the privilege of meeting quite a few of you, especially those who served with my Dad, Thomas D. Curry, in F Company/331st. My Dad came into the 83rd in mid July 1944 as a replacement, and was with F Company until December 10, 1944 when he was KIA at Gey, Germany on the edge of the Hurtgen Forest.

I first joined the 83rd Infantry Division Association when I began learning about my Dad's service with the 83rd. Before 1999, I knew very little about his military service. All I knew was that he was killed in action somewhere in Europe and was buried at Henri Chapelle Cemetery. My knowledge began to increase rapidly when my son Mike began to take a serious interest in his Grandfather. Mike somehow found Bob Parsons, an F Company/331st veteran. Bob became a very dear friend, and I miss him. He never failed to answer my endless questions about F Company and the 83rd Division. I will always be grateful for his friendship and help.

Somewhere in my journey of discovery, I realized that there must be a lot of other 83rd Division descendants who had questions just as I did. And I decided that a good way to contact them would be through the internet and the world-wide web. I started a web site about my Dad and the 83rd in the fall of 1999, and in the past six years I have met countless children and grandchildren of 83rd veterans--and I found that I was even able to help a few of them learn a little bit more about what their fathers and grandfathers did in the war. I've also been very fortunate to meet a lot of you veterans who have provided me with a wealth of information about your personal experiences.

About a year ago Lou Gomori asked me if I would be interested in helping him as an assistant historian for the Association. His offer slipped out of my mind after a couple of months. But in early October, Lou contacted me and said that the Executive Board had approved his request that I become an assistant historian for the Association. Lou has told me that the motion was passed without objection and that I am the first descendant member ever to be appointed to an "official" position with the 83rd Division Association. I am very grateful to Lou and the Executive Board for their confidence in me, and I will do my best to live up to all of your expectations.

All of you, of course, know very well of the contributions of the

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All of you, of course, know very well of the contributions of the

83rd Division. But there are many who do not know of the 83rd, and the great sacrifices made by veterans of the Division in the months of fighting across the continent of Europe in WWII. Between the hedgerows of Normandy and the final victory at Barby across the Elbe, there are thousands of stories of the 83rd Division that need to be told. I hope to include at least one of these stories in each issue of the Thunderbolt, and will strive to tell the story of the 83rd anywhere else that I can. In the process of telling that story, I would be grateful for any help that you can provide with your own experiences and knowledge. I'm pretty easy to get in contact with--my phone number is 440-942-5030, or I can be contacted by email at davecurry@ncweb.com.

I also hope to assist Lou with his very important work in obtaining the sixth Battle Star for the Division.

It seems to me that it is always a good idea to start at the beginning, so for this issue of the Thunderbolt, I'm submitting a page from my web site about the 331st in Normandy. I hope that Cliff will be able to find room for it somewhere in the issue. I've also got information about the 329th in Normandy, and will touch on that subject in a future issue. I'd love to hear from any 83rd vets who can add to this story (or make corrections to it!). I'm particularly lacking information about the 330th in Normandy.

Until the next time, all the best--and stay well!

Dave Curry

* * * * *

NEWS FROM MENA MACALUSO

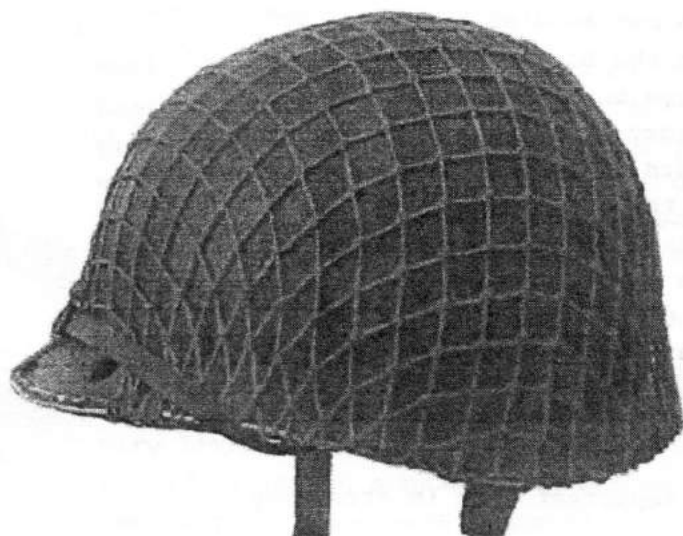
Received a card from Elizabeth Brusa stating Mena Macaluso had lost almost everything in the hurricane and would like another 83rd Roster as everything like that was ruined. We sent it out Monday.

Elizabeth gave us Mena's telephone number. So, we decided to call and talk to Mena. Found out that she had left her house 2 days prior to Hurricane Katrina with only 2 blouses, 2 pairs of slacks and 3 gowns. She first went to her son's home in Baton Rouge and is now living with her daughter Monica in retirement housing in Belle Rose, LA..

Mena and Joe had lived in their house 50+ years and raised 8 children there. It was a brick house with 5 bedrooms and 3 baths. Joe had built it higher than other places around them just in case of flooding. After the storm the house had 7 ft. of water and the refrigerator ended up on top of the table. Only thing untouched was her china cabinet which was all in tack with not one piece of china broken. With other storms they have left and then returned within 2 to 3 days. But she did not go back this time. Mena is on oxygen and in a lift chair 24 hours a day.

She received the money from the 83rd Association which helped out tremendously. They had money in the bank but could not get it as the bank was under water. Mena also mentioned how much she appreciated receiving calls from 83rd members and Manny Epstein's stamps. Mena Macaluso's address is 142 Sportsman's Drive, Belle Rose, LA 70341-5245 and telephone is 985-252-8400...Cliff Wooldridge

Fallen Heroes of the 331st July 4, 1944



*Pfc. Charly C. DiDominic, 36579640
E Company, 331st Infantry, 83rd Division
KIA, 25 July 1944*

Charly DiDominic was born 10 February 1922 in Detroit, MI, the son of Assunta and Tony DiDominic. Charly entered service in March 1943, and his records indicate that he was killed in action on 25 July 1944. A single bullet hole in the brim of his helmet may have been caused by machine-gun fire or a sniper. Originally buried at Blosville, France on 25 July 1944, his body was returned home for burial in May 1948 at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Detroit. Although Charly was reported as KIA on 25 July, his records contain hand written corrections that lead us to believe that he may have been killed earlier in the Normandy Campaign, possibly on 4 July—the first day of battle for the 331st Infantry. He is one of thousands of casualties suffered by the 83rd Division during the month of July.

On the morning of 4 July 1944, the 331st Infantry moved into position along the front line south of the village of Meautis in the hedgerows of Normandy. To the south of them, the crack German paratroopers of the 6th Fallschirmjaeger Regiment were well dug in and waiting on the other side of a swamp. The 331st was supposed to jump off at daylight, with the Second and Third Battalions on the line and the First in reserve. They moved up along the roads accompanied by a company of medium tanks which would supply direct covering fire from a ridge above the swamp. In the Second Battalion, F Company, on the right, faced south towards the Les Ormeaux farm, and E Company was on the left facing open marshland.

At 0430 hours, the pre-dawn sky lit up as seven field-artillery battalions and three infantry cannon companies fired a 15-minute preparatory barrage. At 0445 hours, the Second Battalion moved across the line of departure with mortars firing in support. The infantrymen had gauze strips tied to the back of their helmets so that they could be seen in the pre-dawn morning haze. As they moved out, artillery fired on prearranged targets about 700 yards in front of them. The first sign of enemy resistance was when the sun's rays lit up the swamp, reflecting its rays in bright streamers over the murky terrain.

In E Company, Lt. Ned Burr, a forward observer for the 908th Field Artillery, and his radio operator had been hit by shrapnel about three minutes after they crossed the line of departure. This left E Company without any way of calling in artillery support. In F Company, another forward observer, Lt. Cobble, had reached a point about 75 yards from the U-shaped farmhouse at Les Ormeaux. Heavy machine gun fire had caught him and he lay pinned down in a ditch. Soon the enemy was firing heavy artillery and mortars. Two high-velocity weapons fired round after round into the ridge behind the swamp.

Somehow, H Company (the heavy weapons company) had managed to make it across the swamp and past the farmhouse. There, mortarman John Aller recalled that they were in plain view of the house which was sitting above the bank of the swamp. "Despite heavy concentrations of enemy automatic weapons and mortar fire, some of the battalion had made it, only to find that all hell broke loose behind us. The enemy had let us cross over or in between them, as they had been well camouflaged and we had passed them up." Aller realized that they were surrounded and were in clear view for the Germans to

take "pot shots" at them.

To the left of F Company, German snipers and patrols had caught most of E Company off guard near LaRayerie. Lt. Col. Henry Nielson (who had temporarily taken command of the regiment after Col. Barndollar had been killed by a sniper) learned that E Company had become badly disorganized. He directed Lt. Col. Faber, the 2nd Battalion commanding officer, to relieve E Company and pull it back across the line to reorganize. The situation was actually much worse than Nielson realized. E Company had gone about 200 yards when they were stopped by heavy machine gun and mortar fire. When Col. Faber and his party managed to make their way to E Company, they learned that there was only one officer left, and only about 50 men were known to be alive. For all practical purposes, E Company had ceased to exist.

Meanwhile, F Company was pinned down about fifty yards from the U-shaped house. To assist them, Col. Faber brought up six tanks to the observation post, where they started firing directly across the swamp. The enemy returned fire on the tanks, and started shelling them with mortars and heavy artillery. G Company, which had not yet moved out of reserve, was about 500 yards to the rear, and was caught under this rain of fire and received as many casualties as the troops out in the swamps.

The 3rd Battalion, near La Chenay, made up the left flank of the 331st line along the Carentan-Periers Road. They had made no progress and, in fact, had lost some ground. Unlike the swamp in which the Second Battalion was operating, the ground here was thickly crowded with hedgerows. The troops had moved out only a few yards, where they were cut down by the enemy every time they made a move. The Germans had stopped the 3rd Battalion cold. K Company had been mauled and had a lot of the fight taken out of them, and only L Company on the right had made any advance. Lt. Col. Schuster, the battalion commander, decided to contact L Company personally as there were no other communications. He crawled out of the observation post and started along the hedgerow. He reached a point about fifty yards from the observation post when he was hit. A few of the men rushed to his side and brought him back to the aid station. His executive officer, Maj. Brown, took over the front lines.

In the Second Battalion, Capt. Fleming had the only communications to the rear. All other wire and radio communications were out and runners, who were sent out in an attempt to contact the regimental command post and the other companies, never came back. From the observation post Fleming could see the men crumple over and fall to the ground.

F Company launched a new attack, and in the resulting battle, killed and wounded scores of Germans and secured the U-shaped house. Lt. Cobble got into the house with his radio and remained there for about half an hour when the enemy counter-attacked in force, preceded by direct fire from high velocity guns. This forced the men of F Company back to their former positions about fifty yards from the house. The Germans moved back into the house, and one of them started up a phonograph which was inside. The voice of Al Jolson could be heard singing over the din of battle.

One platoon of F Company, which numbered only about twelve men by now, pushed in against the German counter-attack and retook the house. They brought a heavy machine gun with them, which they set up just inside the door. About fifteen minutes later, forty enemy troops came down the main road toward the house. Lt. Mitchell, who was in command of the platoon, kicked open the door and the machine gun mowed down the Germans in the line of fire. The enemy then started to lay direct fire into the house killing or wounding many in the platoon. The survivors destroyed the machine gun and withdrew from the house.

F Company's casualties had been severe and it was decided to throw G Company into the line on the left

flank of F Company, with the mission of storming the objective on the opposite side of the swamp about 1400 yards away. Platoon leaders and scouts reached the objective through a sheet of enemy fire, but were then killed. The rest of the company had become strung out in a thin line all the way back to the line of departure. Then four enemy tanks rumbled down a road, firing as they came. One of the tanks turned left while the others pulled up on a line in a field and faced the narrow ribbon of men that made up what remained of G Company men. This was about 1100 hours. Artillery set one of the tanks on fire. Two of the tanks then withdrew and another was abandoned by its crew.

John Aller with H Company realized that their position beyond the farmhouse was precarious, and they had to get back across the swamp if they were to survive. Two "ducks" were sent in to help them evacuate, but they got bogged down and stuck in the swamp. Finally, with casualties increasing by the minute, Aller and the others decided to make a mad dash back across the swamp under artillery and small arms fire, a distance that Aller figured must have been about 200 yards.

Aller managed to make it back across without being hit (which he attributed to his high-school cross-country experience). When he reached the other side, he spotted a hole and dove into it headlong. All through the evening other survivors straggled across the line, and by nightfall it was apparent that the first round of the battle had been lost. The only advance that had been made during the day was along the Carentan-Periers Road where the 1st Battalion moved out late in the day after a 15-minute artillery preparation. In the semi-darkness of evening they managed to move forward about 650 yards to Le Varimesnil before being stopped by German artillery and machine-gun fire.

*The morning guns in serenade brought down a fiery hell
And it seemed to us as though the mighty heavens fell
Shrapnel ripped and scarred the ground
The red earth shattered, groaned in horrid sound*

*Gauze streamers on our helmets marked us
As we moved out across the line
Machine gun tracers found us and mortar shells burst round us
And when the morning mist had burned away
There were only fifty of us left to save the day*

*We were too young to fade away so soon
this far away from home and those we loved
So save us in the thoughts that you keep near
Protect us in the memories that you hold dear
We never had the chance to say goodbye*

Thanks to Mike Spivey for providing information about Pfc. Charly DiDominic. Mike obtained Charly's helmet from a French gentleman who said that he found it during the Summer of 1944 near Carentan. The helmet was sold with the understanding that there was no name on the inside. But, using a magnifying glass, Mike was able to determine a partial name (DiDom) and the serial number, 36579640. The recent listing of WWII soldiers and their serial numbers on the search registry at the National WWII Monument webpage allowed Mike to positively identify Charly. (His name is spelled without an e in the 331st history and is listed with the middle initial C. On the WWII Monument registry his name is listed as Charley G. DiDominic.) Mike says that Charly's burial report, filled out on the 26th of July, 1944, lists date of burial as 25th of July, but the date of death is typed "unknown." Later, someone wrote by hand on the report, the date of death as the 25th of July. We believe that this was a formality, and that Charly was killed earlier in the month. If anyone has additional information about Charly DiDominic, please contact Mike Spivey at his email address: spivey@uncp.edu

In keeping with the importance of telling our stories during our service with the 83rd Infantry Division, I had asked Frank Reichmann to write of his involvement in the capture of Colonel Von Aulock the commander of St. Malo and the battle of Hill 48. Frank was with the S-2 Section of 1st Battalion Headquarters, 331 Infantry and was fluent in the German language and served as one of two Battalion Interpreters. (Stan Bielen)

The Battle for Hill 48 and the Surrender of The Commander of St. Malo

As the 83rd Infantry Division broke out from the Hedgerows of Normandy, General Patten ordered the 83rd to attack the city of St. Malo on the English Channel. The 83rd was slowly winning the battle causing some of the German Units to retreat. The 1st Battalion raced after the retreating Germans and caught up to them at St. Lunaire, 4 miles from St. Malo. Heavy fighting drove the Germans from St. Lunaire to Hill 48 about a mile away. On top of the hill was a fort named by the Germans as Fortress Paula. It was heavily defended by many pillboxes, flame throwing booby traps and mine fields. There were tunnels in the hill where the Germans could fire machine guns at anyone coming up the hill. The Fort was dug 4 stories deep underground, 800 German Soldiers manned the Fort.

On the morning of August 15, 1944, one of our patrols found an abandoned Pill Box at the foot of Hill 48. It was reported to the Command Post that a telephone was ringing there. The caller wanted a interpreter. I went to the C.P, where I met an officer. Together we made our way to this pillbox. We entered and made a search, the officer pointed to the telephone telling me to call the Germans that we have them surrounded and demanded their surrender. Placing the call, a German Sergeant answered. I told for him to get an officer, a lieutenant came on and wanted to know what I wanted. I told him you are surrounded and for him to surrender. He replied that he had no authority to do so and was about to hang up, when I asked him if he could hear the bombing of the Island by our planes, he said yes. The Island was about 4 miles away off the coast. There was a big naval gun on the island that was shelling St. Malo and St. Lunaire. I told the German that when our planes knock out the gun they will bomb the Fort and destroy all the pillboxes and the Germans in them will be in their graves.

There was a moment of silence, then the reaction came. He said, " Listen I am going to report this to my commander, it will take a little time, do not go away, we will call you back!" I gave the message to the Lt. who said good work. He then told me to remain and stay by the phone.

He left to report to Battalion Headquarters. About 15 minutes later, 4 high ranking officers came in silence and not speaking a word sat down and just stared at me. About 5 minutes later the phone rang, I looked at the officers for support, none came. I answered the phone a voice at the other end said Who are you? Where are you? What is your rank? What do you want? I answered that I was an interpreter and I had orders for you to surrender. The voice at the other end replied that he was Colonel Von Aulock Commander of St. Malo and refuses to speak to anyone below his rank. I reply one moment please. I then turned around and saw Colonel York, Commander of the 331st Regiment. He identified himself and asked what was going on. I then gave Col. York all the details about the German Colonel. Col. York told me to find out if they had an English speaking officer, then he would speak with him. Another voice came on speaking English. He asked if some of their wounded could be brought to our side, because they are running out of medical supplies. Colonel York agreed, but the litter bearers will have to stay, we give you one hour.

After the hour was up, a call was made and Colonel York asked for their surrender. It was refused! Colonel York then said that you will die like rats in a trap. The reply was no we will die like soldiers. Colonel York reply very well and hung up. Col. York then ordered me to remain in the pillbox to await developments. Everyone left except four remained, Captain Jackson Battalion S-3, a radio man, a bodyguard and myself. All the men of the 1st Battalion pulled back to the safety of St. Lunaire.

The four of us were now alone a mile away from our troops in the Pillbox at the foot of Hill 48. About an hour later our tanks and artillery opened fire on the Fort. The Germans also opened fire. The shelling went on for a while when suddenly the Germans stopped firing. Then our side stopped their firing. Captain Jackson told me to call up the Fort. When I called I notice their phone was off the hook and I could hear a lot of shouting. No one answered then there was complete silence. The four of us went outside, Capt. Jackson told me to look through my binoculars and tell me what you see. At the top of the hill I saw a large white sheet hanging on a post which I relayed to the Captain. He also saw it but wanted confirmed. He said we have to get up there. Caption Jackson found a sheet and wrapped it around his carbine. We went up single file at first to avoid the many mines then with Captain Jackson holding the flag of truce, we went abreast with me on the Captains right and the other two on his left. The first Pillbox came into view and it was crowded with Germans. Some of them leveled their rifles at us. Captain said no matter what happens keep on walking. No shot was fired. The same happened at the next pillbox. When we approached the third pillbox it was crowded with Prisoners, when they saw us, they whistled and cheered us. I heard a loud voice shout "Atta boy Yanks go get them". When we were at the top of the hill we saw the huge entrance to the Fort. We stopped on a rise about a hundred yards from the Fort. We saw no on, but did see smoke coming from the entrance.

A while later seven Germans ran out, gathered and then saw us, one of them came running towards us and as he came near, we saw that his face was blackened with smoke and was an officer. He shouted to us that his men are suffocating and need oxygen. I translated this to the Captain who said tell him the oxygen is all around us. When I translated this to the German Officer, he said you speak German, I answered yes. He then said I am Colonel Von Auloch commander of St, Malo. I told my Captain who he was and then informed the German Colonel that here is Captain Jackson Operations Officer. Col. Von Auloch snapped to attention, saluted the Captain then declared " My Men and I Surrender". I made the translation to the Captain and he returned the salute. While this was going on, the Germans were fleeing from the burning Fort. We watched until the last German came out. Of the eight hundred that were in the Fort, five hundred sixty one escaped.. The rest perished!

By this time the rumble of the exploding ammunition was heard, the Fort was blowing up. Jackson told me to stay with Colonel Von Auloch while he would look the situation over. The three of them left, I was now standing alone with the German Commander. He watched them leave until they were out of sight. He then said to me that he had fought at the Battle of Stalingrad. I reply that I was in the Battle of Normandy. He then said to me that I have a good command of the German language. I replied that we have schools in America. His reply was they do not teach accents in schools, you have a Bavarian accent. I replied that my father was Austrian and many Austrians acquired the Bavarian accent. I also told him I worked for a Bavarian boss back home, from which I learned a lot.

As we were talking we watched the dust of a jeep approaching from the direction of St, Briec

where upon reaching Hill 48 an officer from the jeep told me he was Major MacDonald the Executive Officer of the 2nd Battalion, 331st. He demanded to know what was going on. I gave the Major all the details of the surrender of Colonel Von Auloch who was standing next to me. I told him I was under orders from Captain Jackson to wait for the signal to order all the Germans to leave the area to the American Lines. The Major countermanded the Captain's order, claiming his higher rank.

While we were speaking, we heard a loud German command, turning around we saw to our surprise a platoon of German Soldiers had arrived and were standing at attention just 20 feet from us. At a signal from their leader they started singing loudly, At that time Colonel Von Auloch was facing the platoon. Major MacDonald rushed up to me shouting, " Soldier what is going on here?" At first, I did not know until I saw the tears on the cheeks of the Germans. I told the Major they were singing farewell to their commander. When the singing stopped there was a lot of shouting and saw our radioman running towards us, waving his arms and shouting to leave the hill at once for our planes are on the way to bomb the area. The Major took Von Aulock to his jeep to take him away. He told me to tell all the Germans to evacuate. I climbed up a huge boulder and shouted to the Germans that our planes were on the way to bomb the area, they left in a hurry to become Prisoners of War.

Note from Stan Bielen: There are some misconceptions that Colonel Von Aulock was captured at the Citadel at St. Malo. Major MacDonald took Von Aulock to St. Malo for a picture taking surrender to Major General Macon the 83rd Division Commander. That picture is in the 83rd book and was published in the newspapers back home. It's too bad that the picture wasn't taken when the real surrender occurred and credit given to those that deserved it the most. Frank Reichmann is 94 years young now and lives in Princeton, New Jersey and has been a life long buddy of mine. He later became the First Sergeant of 1st Battalion Headquarters when the Company was in Bavaria.

* * * * *

NEWS FROM THE LAST REUNION

We have a new Executive Board this year. See "Meet your Executive Board Members" on the next page as well as a list of all new officers on the inside front cover of the Thunderbolt.

There will be a 60th Reunion at the Brown County Inn in Nashville, Indiana on August 23 – 27, 2006.

More reunion information will be in the next Thunderbolt along with the registration forms for the Brown County Inn and the one for the reunion. **There is a limited number of rooms, so you will need to get your registrations in as soon as possible after you receive the next Thunderbolt.**

We have to change the reunion agenda because on Saturday morning we will be going to Camp Atterbury for a great part of the day. The buses will have to leave the Inn at 9:00 AM sharp as the Memorial Service starts at 9:30 AM at Atterbury. Therefore, our General Meetings will have to be held on **Thursday and Friday.**

Ames and Helen Miller, and Manny Goodridge are working on this next reunion along with Georgeanna Slaybaugh, a descendant who lives in Morgantown, Indiana. (See her letter in this issue.)

MEET YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD

ROBERT KECK - CHAIRMAN

I am Bob Keck born March 13, 1926 and raised on a farm. Did what most farm kids did, worked and went to school. On October 18th I was drafted and in June of 1944 took basic infantry training at Ft. McCellan, Alabama. Sent to Camp Miles Standish, boarded a liberty ship, arrived in Le Harve the first week of January 1945 and assigned to "L" Co., 329th Reg. as a scout. At the end of the war I was made S/Sgt. and came home in July of 1946.

I started work for New Holland Mfg. in the shop, took tests and was transferred to the Engineering Dept. I passed the college entrance exam. Took Penn State College Engineering courses at night. The company was sold a few years later. I went to work for a construction company for 11 years. Then to a job with Grinnell Corp in the Engineering Dept. Six months later was promoted to project engineer, and later plant engineer. We were bought by ITT in 1962. I retired in 1987 and have a small farm.

My wife Phyllis and I have been married for 56 years. We have two children, a son and daughter. Rob, my son is CEO of the National Wild Turkey Federation. My daughter works for Continental Airlines as customer service manager and flies all over the world.

CHUCK ABDINOOR

I volunteered out of high school and was sent to Camp Blanding in Florida for basic training. After seventeen weeks was sent to Europe and put in "B" Co., 330th, 83rd Inf. Div. At the Bulge was left out with a comrade at a listening post. The company left without pulling us in at night leaving us all alone. Morning came no relief, had to make our way back, was picked up by an ambulance, brought us to battalion headquarters, was put in "A" Co. and stayed with them ever since. I looked up my C.O. at one of our reunions at Hampton, VA. He told me that he would have had some heads rolling if he had known about it.

After the war, I went into the family floor covering business, and retired from there. My son runs the business presently, and I was put out to pasture. I retired at 58 years old and enjoy what I am doing. I was a foot soldier, my MOS was 745 and am proud of it. I made Sgt.

I have been a member of the Association since 1947, and was National President in 1959 and then on to the Executive Board.

MANNY EPSTEIN

I am Manny Epstein and 82 years old, born in Brooklyn, NY and attended Ohio University and then went into the Army, basic training in Ft. McClellan, Ala. I then went to the 63rd Infantry Div. and later was transferred with many other 63rd men to the 83rd Division at Camp Breckenridge, KY.

In England I was moved from "L" Co. to "K" Co, 331st Infantry Regt. In Normandy after a while was assigned as an aide to Col. Sheals the 3rd Bn. Commander. I later joined the 331st Marauder Platoon which was eventually disbanded as the war was winding down after about 4 or 5 months. I was then sent back to "K" Co. after the war was over and during our occupation an accident occurred when our driver turned over our jeep and I wound up in a hospital with a broken

shoulder and was later shipped to a hospital at Fort Devens, Mass. After recuperating and being discharged I went back to college at New York University.

A few years later I opened up a men's wear retail store and eventually retired and then dabbled in real estate. I now live in Brooklyn but spend the winters in Florida and some time in Colorado.

I joined the 83rd Div. Association when it was first being formed and co-chaired with Harry Lockwood the convention in New York City. I have attended all the conventions except two. One being when my Dad passed away and the other when the 911 disaster occurred in N.Y. and all the flights were cancelled out of N.Y.

The 83rd has been part of my life and I am dedicated to its continuation. I helped in getting our next convention in Nashville, Indiana. I am now working on getting the 2007 convention in Washington, D.C. which I think we will be absolutely great. I have formed lasting friendships - Stan Bielen, Larry Leonardi, Leo Schneider and my buddies of Co. "K" over the years. The camaraderie developed amongst us fellows can not be duplicated in any other phase of life. It has also been my pleasure to attend the dedication of General York's Plaque at the entrance of the Infantry Museum at the request of Col. Ashmore in Fort Benning, GA.

We live in precipitous times but the members of the 83rd and their descendents will rise to the occasion, for we truly epitomize the heart and soul of America. We are extremely fortunate to have as our Editor and Treasurer the hard working and conscientious Cliff Wooldridge who keeps us informed on what's going on in our Association.

STEW BARRICK

I am Steward Barrick from Clinton, Oklahoma. I joined "A" Co., 330th the last of December, 1944 and remained with the Company through February, 1946 when the 83rd Division was deactivated in Linz, Austria. I returned stateside in March, 1946.

When I first learned of the 83rd Association in 1986, I immediately joined.

I retired from farming and ranching five years ago. My wife, Nellrita and myself celebrated our 50th anniversary this year. We have lived on the same farm and in the same house for 50 years.

MICHAEL PETITTI

I am Michael Petite and grew up in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Now live in Spring Hill, Florida since 1985.

I joined "F" Company, 2nd Bat., 331st Regiment, 83rd Division in November, 1942. Was transferred to "H" Company in May 1943 and was with them until August 11, 1944.

I was hit July 4th, July 6th and the third time in August landed me in the hospital in England.

On September 25th I was shipped back to France and then to 104th Div. and stayed with them. On February 2, 1945 was hit again. After seven weeks in the hospital I was sent to combat again.

I then managed to talk myself back to "H" Company, 331st, 83rd and joined them right after crossing the Elbe River.

Joined the 83rd Association in 1959.

October 3, 2005



Dear Cliff,

It was great talking with you this past week....praying that you will indulge me once again, I would like the following to be considered for the next issue of the Thunderbolt:

Dear Members,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to make a presentation for Nashville, Indiana to be your host for the 60th reunion of the 83rd Infantry Division. We were so overwhelmed by the encouragement and response we heard both before and after the vote. We look forward to working with your new President, Ames Miller, and his wonderful wife, Helen. You can be assured the plans are well under way to make your 60th one of the most memorable reunions you've ever had!

Along this line, there are two items for your consideration: If the response is great enough, we would like to create a cookbook of recipes, anecdotes and memories covering the 1940's. Ladies – with ration coupons and penny-pinching, what – and how – did you feed your family? What short cuts or substitutions did you use in cooking or baking? Do you recall your favorite meal, or the first meal you shared with your hero when he came home? Did you plant a victory garden, or join others in canning goods? Men – what memories do you have to share? What home cooked meal did you miss the most? Did you have any memorable meals overseas? What were the “care packages” from home like – if you got them at all! If there are any other things you would like to share, please let us know!

Secondly, a beautiful memorial service at Camp Atterbury is being planned for all of you. The Museum there is always seeking any suitable World War II memorabilia, and for many of you who have such treasures and would consider making a donation to the Museum, this time would be a perfect opportunity to do so. If you are interested, or have any questions, please contact us!

If you have any suggestions or special requests concerning your 60th reunion, I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,

Georgeanna Slaybaugh 5690 Turner Road, Morgantown, Indiana, 46160 (812) 988-9106

Kelly Slaybaugh

Sherry Mappes

Lynda Patrick



Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky



Tennessee Maneuvers 1943

S/Sgt. Albert Vitantonio started his training at Camp Atterbury, Indiana in 1942

Carmen Jim Vitantonio (and Family of Nephews and Nieces)
are Looking for Information about
Uncle Albert Vitantonio (Born Feb. 12, 1920)

S/SGT. ALBERT J. VITANTONIO
83RD INFANTRY DIV., 331ST INFANTRY REGIMENT
3RD BATTALION, COMPANY "L"
3RD PLATOON (RIFLE PLATOON)

S/Sgt. Albert - "Platoon Guide" to July 04, 1944 and a "Platoon Sgt." thereafter.
S/Sgt. Albert Vitantonio was killed in action on July 12, 1944 by a machine gun from
a Nazi tank behind Hedgerows in "Bois Grimot", Normandy, France -- Near St. Lo.

**Anybody remember S/Sgt. Albert? Any photographs of important scenes or events
in the states or in Normandy, France? Please contact nephew -**

Carmen Jim Vitantonio
28932 Hazel Avenue
Wickliffe, OH 44092-2537
Phone: 440-585-3368



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
3D U.S. INFANTRY REGIMENT (THE OLD GUARD)
204 LEE AVENUE
FORT MYER, VIRGINIA 22211-5020

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

May 20, 2005

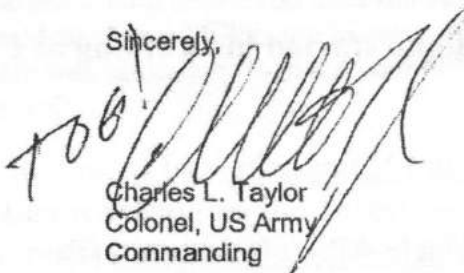
CPT (Ret.) George Waple
13 Redwood Drive
Eatontown, NJ 07724-3459

Dear CPT (Ret.) Waple:

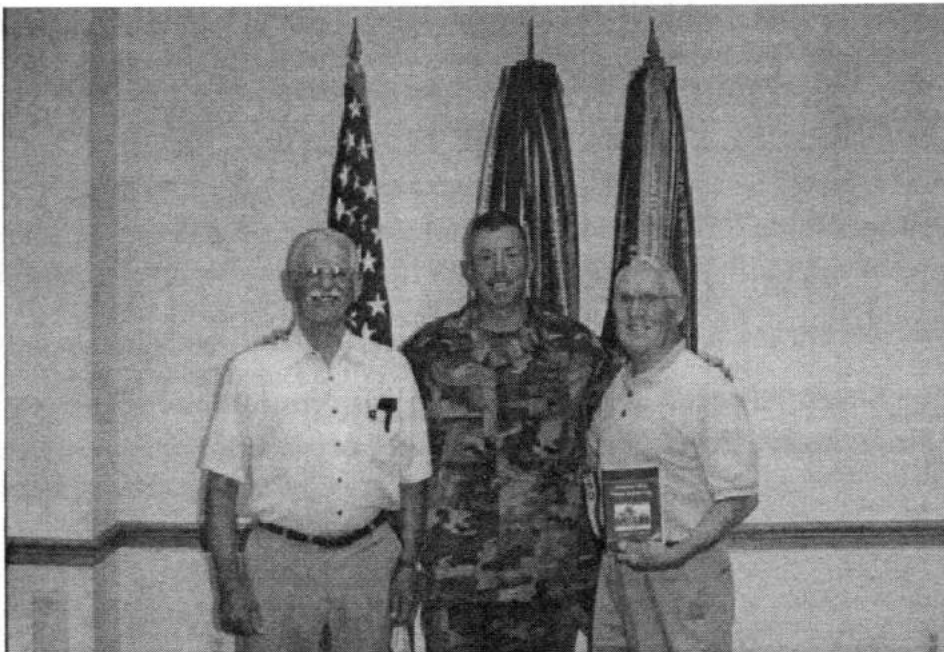
Congratulations on your selection as a distinguished member of the most visible unit in the United States Army.

You have been selected for your contributions to the Regiment, the community, and the Nation. Your legacy provides a link with Old Guard history for today's soldiers and leaders in the Regiment. Your selection will perpetuate the history and traditions of the Regiment and enhance unit moral and esprit.

Sincerely,



Charles L. Taylor
Colonel, US Army
Commanding



(L/R) A former Corporal who served under me and walked the Tomb Guard, Colonel Taylor and George H. Waple, III, Author "Country Boy Gone Soldiering" revised edition 2005



**UNITED STATES ARMY
THE CHIEF OF STAFF**

JUN 27 2005

Captain George Waple
United States Army, Retired
13 Redwood Drive
Eatontown, New Jersey 07724-3459

Dear *George* Captain Waple:

Congratulations on your selection as a Distinguished Member of the Regiment. This milestone event reflects your contributions and service to the 3d United States Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard).

Your selection will help perpetuate the history and proud traditions of the Regiment, and our Army. We are all proud of your achievement, and offer our best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

VR-
tefe

Peter J. Schoomaker
General, United States Army

*Attended TOG Change of Command
last Friday, 24 June ... most impressive.
you should be very proud of your
association with this great Regiment.*

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>
Bertovich, Nicholas	B Co., 908th	James R. Prentice
Boyett, Q.	783rd Ord.	Rags Rangnow
Caparanis, John	B Co., 331st	John T. Caparanis, son
Cargini, Mario L.	L Co., 330th	Joseph Cargini, son & Lou Gomori
Coogle, James	329th IF	Pat DiGiammerino
DeLuca, Joseph	H.Q. Art.	Sal Scicolone
DeMarino, William	C Co., 331st	Sal Scicolone
DiBattista, Gerald	F Co., 330th	Mrs. DiBattista
Dickson, Richard A.	B Co., 329th	Family
Fickle, Lowell	F Co., 329th	C. R. Bob Whitcomb, Mrs. Fickle
Fisher, Harold	A. T., 331st	John Marek, Jr. & Pat DiGiammerino
George, Americo L.	Hqs. 323rd	Marie A. George, wife Jim Brennan & Nick Francullo
Hill, Maurice	B Co., 329th	Robert Taylor
Hunter, Clarence F.	A Co., 329th	Ann Wierzbicki, niece
Hunter, Ralph W.	D Co., 331st	Al Shrawder
Keefer, Harold	F Co., 329th	Russ Whitehead
Ledbetter, Jack	H Co., 331st	Lark Ledbetter, daughter George S. Baker & Manny Epstein
Marquard, Edward Jr.	A Co., 908th	
Miglionico, Ken	B Co., 308 Eng.	Stan Bielen
O'Donnell, John B.	330th	Jean O'Donnell, wife
Phillips, Wilmer	I Co., 329th	Harold Geisinger, Harvey Estes
Sauer, Edward T.	K Co., 330th	Georgeanna Slaybaugh
Sefford, Dennis	A Co., 329th	Pat DiGiammerino
Smith, Robert W.	83rd Div. Band, Dir.	Z. P. King, Manny Epstein
Smith, Sylvester	B & I Co., 331st	Stan Bielen
St. John, James J.	I Co., 329th	Pat Kwiatkowski, daughter
Volpi, Louis J.	324th, FA	Al & Anna Belvedere
Wilson, Eugene	A.T., 330th	Anna Wilson, Manny Epstein

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 to-

**83RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.
P. O. BOX 406
ALTON BAY, NH 03810**

**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
Brown County Inn
Junction of State Roads 46 and 135
Nashville, INDIANA
Dates are:
AUGUST 23-27, 2006**

**\$25.00 Dues are payable
NOW
For the year 2006**

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:

James R. Prentice
B 908th FA
2 Emily Place
Claremont, NH 03743

"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.**