



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.
WORLD WAR II

Vol. 61 Issue No. 2

Spring Issue 2006

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
1949 Shelly Hughes*	1966 William M. Doty*	1983 Arthur Doggett*	2000 Salvatore Scicolone
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1952 Leo Schneider	1969 Pat DiGiammerino	1986 John Hobbs	2003 Salvatore Scicolone
1953 Finley Heyl	1970 Casey Szubski	1987 George Fletcher	2004 Allison Shrawder
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1959 Charles Abdinoor	1976 Mike Skovran*	1993 Louis Sandini*	
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1962 John W. Robinette*	1979 William J. Chavanne*	1996 Floyd Richmond	
1963 Manuel C. Martin*	1980 Samuel Klippa*	1997 Keith Davidson	

*Denotes Deceased



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

AMES MILLER

First, I want to thank all the Members of this fine Association for the honor of electing me National President for our 60th Reunion in Nashville, Indiana, 2006. I will do my best along with my Committee to make this another great Reunion.

The Reunion will be at the Brown County Inn starting August 23rd through August 29th.

Although some of you did not train at Camp Atterbury, I believe your day spent at the Camp will be well worth your time to go there. There is a big difference in how you WW II Buddies trained than today.

CAMP ATTERBURY IS ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET!

Also, the August issue of the Camp Atterbury Crier is being dedicated in honor of the 83rd.

PLEASE SEND ANY STORIES YOU WOULD LIKE PRINTED WHETHER IT BE AT CAMP ATTERBURY OR SOMEWHERE ELSE.

PLEASE MAIL YOUR WAR STORIES TO:

Public Affairs
Attn: Mike Brady
Camp Atterbury
P.O. Box 5000
Edinburgh, IN 46124-5000

Last but not least a big "Thank You" goes to R.C. Hamilton, Al Shrawder and Committee for the job well done at Paducah, KY.

Ames H. Miller, National President

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

ROBERT KECK

The new year has come very quickly. The past year's reunion is history but not forgotten.

Since we now know the Brown County Inn in Nashville, Indiana will host our next reunion August 23 through August 27, 2006, we are very fortunate to have dedicated members and volunteers helping it come together for a successful 60th reunion.

The Executive Board has come to agreement to have the 2007 reunion held in the Washington, DC area. Chuck Abdinoor has been making good progress with a hotel in the Arlington, VA area. If things continue to progress, we will be having our Executive Board, President, Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer/Publisher Meeting the last weekend in April 2006 in Washington, DC. This meeting has many items that require revision for the 83rd Division Association to continue.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR DUES PAID UP AND MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR THE 60TH REUNION EARLY.

REMEMBER WE CAN ALWAYS USE MORE HELP! WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOMEONE IN THE WASHINGTON, DC AREA TO HELP WITH THE '07 REUNION.

Bob Keck
L Co., 329th

FROM THE EDITOR

CLIFF WOOLDRIDGE

Happy Spring!

I must explain what happened with the mailing of the last Thunderbolt. It was ready to go before Christmas but held it until after the holiday. Put it in the mail on December 28, 2005 hoping the Post Office would get them moving before New Years, which they did.

BUT the Post Office now sends mail through a computerized scanner to read the mailing label and then prints it with a bar code of the mailing address which speeds delivery.

BUT the scanner read the wrong address on the back of the Thunderbolt – the “Alton Bay, NH” address (mine) which is on the Membership Application on the back cover.

So, many of the Thunderbolts were sent to my P.O. Box but they didn’t come all at once. One day we received 35 Thunderbolts. The Post Office had to ship them all back and mail them all over again. I didn’t get mine for 2 weeks and Roger Dumont didn’t get his for a month. We had to send some out First Class to those fellows who didn’t receive one at all.

After much consultation with the Post Office and slight changes made to the back cover, I think we have it all cleared up. I hope!

We’re going to have a Great 60th Reunion in Nashville this year. Working very hard is our Reunion Committee of Ames (President) and Helen Miller, Manny Goodridge Reunion Chairman, and Georgeanna Slaybaugh with her committee “**The 3 B’s**” comprised of Kelly Slaybaugh (daughter), and sisters Sherry Mappes and Lynda Patrick (and the townspeople of Nashville). Georgeanna says of their name “**The 3 B’s**” – “I know it seems odd but there is a real, significant reason for this title, and you’ll all find out in August”.

Georgeanna who lives in Morgantown, IN is a descendant. Her father Paul Robert Lewis, Sr. started in Camp Atterbury, K Co., 330th, 3rd Bn. **You must read her touching story about her Dad in this Thunderbolt: “Just a Simple Soldier – Memories of My Father”.**

WHEN NO ONE WOULD VOLUNTEER TO RUN A 2006 REUNION GEORGEANNA CAME FORWARD AND HAS WORKED DILIGENTLY BEHIND THE SCENES TO HAVE IT COME TO FRUITION.

Ames, Helen, and Manny have come up with a great program for our **Saturday Trip to Camp Atterbury**. Ames, Helen and Georgeanna have planned a festive **Hoosier Chuck Wagon Buffet**

for Friday night poolside and under an outside tent on surrounding deck.. “Showtime” follows with “**Red-White-&-Blue**” **Patriotic Entertainment!**

Please remember to send your “war stories” in to “The Atterbury Crier” for publication in their August “Special Edition” dedicated to the 83rd. See the “Presidents Corner” for the address.

The Reunion and Hotel Registration forms are included in this issue

*****IMPORTANT CHANGE*****

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY & FRIDAY

As most of Saturday will be spent at Camp Atterbury we have changed the General Session Meetings to Thursday and Friday. So, we need everyone at the hotel on Wednesday, if possible.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR REGISTRATION FORMS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

An explanation – because of our Association’s non-profit status we cannot put ads in the Thunderbolt magazine. But I can mention books, DVD’s, etc. that I have read, seen or heard about and I feel may be of interest to our membership. Two of these are:

“**Thank you, Eddie Hart**” DVD & VHS – Produced by Wet Bird Productions, Inc. (1-888-703-5033 Brenda). Eddie Hart was in G Co. 329th. This is an Emmy Award Winning documentary (regional). It’s a very moving story about appreciation for the sacrifices of WW II and the value of freedom.

Also, the book “**Country Boy Gone Soldiering**” by our own George Waple, 13 Redwood Drive, Eatontown, NJ 07724. (732-542-8322). It is a good story and I’ve read it twice.

A REMINDER - 2006 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE PAYABLE NOW !

Please look over the Camp Atterbury Veterans’ Memorial Walkway sheet included in this

Thunderbolt. You may have a brick inscribed with your name or your loved one's name to become part of "The Walk of Honor".

On a sad note, my very good friend Harry Kirby passed away in December 2005. I met Harry sometime in 1942 at Atterbury. He was in the same platoon as I was. We kept in contact for all these years. I would go to Philadelphia to see him and he came up to my home in NH several times. Internment at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia. Our deepest sympathy to his family.

I received a call from Jim Burton's wife Joyce advising me he is now in a nursing home. I wanted to pass on to you his address and phone number as Joyce said he would love to hear from his buddies.

Jim Burton

Summertrace Retirement Community
12999 No. Pennsylvania St., Carmel, IN 46032
317-810-5220

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

CHAPTERS

BOSTON CHAPTER NEWS

AMBY TYNAN

This report finds a lot of the Boston Chapter members in poor health. Even so, we still have a pretty large group who attend our meetings. We do not have a meeting every month like we used to, but still enough to have a good time. It is good to see all of the ones that can attend. I am writing this report for Amby Tynan who is not doing too well. We hope that he will be well enough to continue to write his column soon again. Good luck, Amby.

The Boston Chapter held their last meeting last December at Pat and Ginny DiGiammerino's home in Malden. We had a nice luncheon before our meeting courtesy of the Boston Chapter. We also had a good attendance with eighteen members and wives attending.

Our meeting discussions were about the 83rd National Reunion in 2006 with hope of a good attendance at the reunion. We also had a discussion by Chuck Abdinor on a possible meeting at the Beacon Resort in New Hampshire this summer. Just getting together was good. Time is running out on us.

Some sad news is that Helen Piantedosi's sister Louise and Louise's husband passed away just before Christmas, just one month apart from each other. Also, Tony Piantedosi's sister Ann (96 years old) passed away on new year's eve. We had a sad Christmas season.

We also have some good news. Tony and Helen Piantedosi became great-grandparents last month when Jessica was born. We are very excited and happy about that.

We hope that we could give you more good news but that is all we have now. This article was written on short notice, so *that is all for now*. Again, we all hope that Amby Tynan will be able to write this column for the Thunderbolt next time.

Good luck everyone and may God be with us all. Have a Great Summer everyone.

Written by Tony Piantedosi
For Amby Tynan our Staff Reporter

DIXIE CHAPTER NEWS

ELLSWORTH MASSIE

The 32nd Annual Dixie Meeting is history. The troops have departed and reached home by now – some to the snow-covered landscape others to the flood-damaged homelands.

This has grown into a real family gathering – Flo Jackson (widow) had five rooms filled; John Hudnall (vet) also had five rooms filled; the Singleton clan (brothers of vet and descendants) had five rooms filled. Not all attended the banquet but we did have 83 who attended. Santa and Mrs. Santa were present and we exchanged gifts! It was a great time for all.

It has been a heart warming experience once again. Each one played an important role in the meet from the youngest great-grandchild to the oldest veteran. Our widows and wives are the stars of the gatherings. Without them we would be nothing! All in all, we missed each one wanting to come but could not for many reasons. We'll try again next year. I want to thank each one who came. Also, those who missed the fun, we know we were in your thoughts during those days we spent together.

It was time well spent for me, the lone "Red Leggs" artillery man from 322nd present – joined by six men from 329th, three men from 330th, two from 331st, one man from 308th Eng. A total of 13 veterans representing the thousands who served in the 83rd in those ever-to-be-remembered years from 1942 thru 1945 from the far corners of the U.S.A.



(L to R) Jess Pirkle, Charles Beam, and Milton Melton of B Co. 329th who took the prize with highest attendance of any company



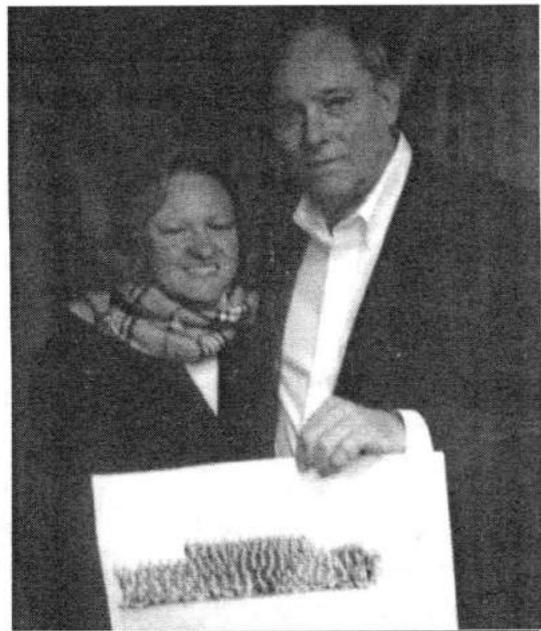
Cecil Walters & Family - Hq 308th Eng.
Best Looking Family from Kentucky



Paul Poole & Family – Hq. 329th
Best Looking Family from N.C.



Ellane Watkins (widow) and
"Cake Tester" Ellsworth Massie



Larry Goff, F Co. 331st, came looking for a connection. I helped him find John Helms. Notice a picture of the Company! I hope to see him again!

Many descendants joined us in our "Celebration of being Alive" and recalling our experiences together but most of all giving thanks for those no

longer with us who have given their all for us and the coming generations.

The sick are remembered with cards signed by each one present. The ones deceased are remembered and their loved ones are supported with our prayers.

Many attend shows and other entertainment. Much shopping for Christmas takes place. Old and new acquaintances are extended and renewed. New people are here for the first time. Some stayed on, some were disappointed and left, expecting a miracle which never took place.

Three deaths are reported, O. L. Cook, Mary Livingston, Vivian Haney, during the last few months. Many others had to cancel due to sickness.

We voted to accept descendants as dues-paying, office-holding members by legally amending our constitution so that our chapter may continue into the future years if the membership so desires.

Two meetings are scheduled and planned for in 2006. Williamsburg, VA in March and Gatlinburg, TN in December. Many plan to be at the National Meet in August '06.

Our longtime Secretary/Treasurer William Minnick resigned due to ill health. We want to thank him for his dedicated service over the years and wish him well in the future!

Let's remember and support each other until we can be together again!

Your Reporter,
E. Massie

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

**ROBERT TAYLOR
B Co. 329TH**

Greetings from the Sunshine State!

Gladys and I have just returned from our chapter meeting in Sebring where we met with 17 other members and wives. Among those whose presence and friendship we enjoyed for two days were Allen Fisher, Joe Camp, Sam Castelli, Paul Hancher, Bill McKee, Charles Miller, Robert Olney, Don Peaks, John Prinzi, Mike Pettiti, Jim Brennan, and Bruce Winchell, along with their

respective wives. Also, there was Manny Epstein, who comes to St. Petersburg for the cold months up north, and Geri Gunderson (Ralph) and Ruth Brown (Frank), two of our active widows who are always welcome. Unfortunately, several of our members could not make it due to physical reasons and the long drive.

Joe Stek, my Co. B 329th buddy, and wife Ruth, could not come. Also, Henry Hauser, whose wife Esther had a bad fall at our November meeting and was hospitalized for awhile, could not be there. Esther is still not up to the trip.

Harry and Barb Gravelyn are staying in Michigan this winter. Barb is coping with some problems that are keeping them close to home. And the same for Nick and Sylvia Barbu.

Roger and Emma Dennis had to cancel at the last minute due to illness, as did our good associate members, Hap and Barb Whalen.

Our hosts for this meeting were the Charles Millers and they have graciously volunteered to do the same at our next meeting in November.

John Prinzi is staying active by volunteering to replace Allen Fisher as Chapter Treasurer. Allen is 'retiring' to concentrate on the same position at his Church. And 'yours truly' is now the President, Secretary, and T'bolt reporter. Someone's gotta do it!

Lastly, Geri Gunderson has just informed me, via e-mail, that both the Gravelyns (Harry and Barb) and our good friends, the Sharps (Frank and Dana) will be celebrating their 65th wedding anniversaries in March. Our heartfelt congratulations to both of these wonderful couples who have been a great asset to our Chapter and Association!

Have a great summer!

GREATER PITTSBURGH

CHAPTER NEWS
FRANCIS BEERHALTER

Our reporter Francis Beerhalter has not been feeling up to par so I decided to write a few notes about the Chapter. We do not have monthly meetings but we plan to have meetings two or three times a year or more often if needed.

This past year two of our long-time members Bill DeMarino and Joe DeLuca passed away.

The reunion in Paducah, KY was attended by eleven members with wives and friends. It was some trip. The bus was chartered and broke down in Columbus, OH. So, we spent the night at a Motel Six. The next morning the bus owner rented a van for the trip to Paducah. On the way home the bus owner had a bus meet us in Columbus, OH where the rented van was returned. The bus we boarded in Columbus had a few problems but we made it back safely.

On December 10, 2005 we had our Christmas party at Jimmy G's Restaurant in Sharpsburg, PA. A great time was had by all who attended.

Sal Scicolone
Pittsburgh Chapter President

KENTUCKY CHAPTER NEWS

(No Report)

MICHIGAN CHAPTER NEWS

NICK BARBU

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

NICK FRANCUCCO

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER NEWS

STAN BIELEN

stanfran83rd@aol.com

No report for this issue from Stan because of health issues.

COMPANIES

783RD ORDNANCE Co.

RAGS RANGNOW

Co. "A" - 330TH

CHARLES ABDINOOR

sgtchuck83rd@aol.com

Hi Buddy's:

This time, once again we will be meeting in Nashville, Indiana for our 60th Reunion. Hopefully we should have good representation.

On a sad note, we lost Will Lenz this past year. He has been trying to make our reunions with the urging of Steward Barrick for a number of years, but circumstances as they were prevented him from attending. He made Paducah for his first one but that was also his last. We will certainly miss him. He was our company interpreter, able to speak fluent German.

I also heard from Pearl and Walt Pillion. She had a little setback but she is in good hands with Walt taking good care of her. Heard from Paul Reed and he is doing nicely, but misses the golf course. Dolores his wife hurt her ribs in a fall, so what else is happening.

Now for some good news, Pauline and Ed Brown are finally in their new home. Congratulations and good luck from the gang. Heard from Phyllis and Earl Dunn, he keeps us informed of the goings on of Cookie Senica. Also the Prussmans, we are looking forward to seeing them again. I am always in touch with the McCouch's, but have not heard from Shorty Glasser. Larry Arrigo is in Florida, lucky him. I call Amby Tynan occasionally, he is hanging in there, but misses traveling to see his buddy's.

Leo Schneider and I keep in touch via e-mail. Shirley his wife is like a mother hen taking good care of him. Cliff and I took a ride to see Bob Gangnath. He is living with his daughter in Connecticut. He looks good and sends his regards to his many friends. Talked to Stan Bielen, he is Fran's cook and bottle washer. Take good care of her.

The Boston Chapter had a meeting at Pat DiGiammerino's home, we had a good crowd and discussed many topics. Hopefully, they can make the reunion. Dutchy Smith is finally working, he is taking good care of Helen with her back surgery.

Steward is always busy with his many projects and Nellrita is busy as his secretary. They just came back from a river cruise on the Rhine River.

Big Al Vartanian e-mails me with his latest jokes. I also keep in touch with our famous personality, Tony Vacaro, he has a slight problem with his legs, many hours and years in the dark room. Come out Tony for some air.



Hazel & Everett Worrel, Hq. Co. 330th

Also, heard from our fly-boy, Everett Worrell, who went AWOL from the 83rd and joined the Air Force. Lucky him, he came out a flight commander and Major. Hopefully, we finally meet him and Hazel after four no shows on account of illness. It was also nice to see John and Ann Tisdell. John Prinzi and Bob Taylor are on a hiatus from active duty with the 83rd but they are on call if needed. They put in many years for the association and deserve a big THANK YOU.

Well buddy's, stay healthy and hope to see you all in Nashville.

BELOW (L to R) Steward Barrick, Chuck Abdinoor, Karen Terbeek, Ed Brown



Co. "D" - 331ST

GERI GUNDERSON

BILL MCKEE

It is "almost" spring time again and we are looking forward to our 60th Reunion in Nashville, Indiana on August 23-27. I have been there many times and it was a quaint small town that is now a unique tourist attraction. I think you will be in for some wonderful surprises. A big THANKS to all who have been part of planning and finalizing this 60th Reunion.

George Komlo's niece wrote to say that George is being cared for in an Assisted Living facility near his home.

The Holiday Season of 2005 is now history but as always it is a wonderful time of year and the joy of celebrating with family and friends gets much more enjoyable as we age.

Bill and Jeannette McKee, Herman and Barbara Whalen and Geri Gunderson spent 10 days in Phoenix, AZ in January. We visited family and friends in Sedona, Flag Staff and Tucson.

Al Shrawder celebrated his birthday on February 24th with his family in Indianapolis. He says he is just another day older?

Harry and Barbara Gravelyn celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary on March 10th. Frank and Dana Sharp also celebrated their 65th on March 15th. Congratulations!

I spoke to Dana and Frank Sharp. Frank also celebrated a birthday. They moved into an Assisted Living facility in Lancaster, Ohio. Dana is still driving and they are enjoying their wonderful family and friends. We hope to see them at the 60th.

Ken Barker sent a nice card and we are looking forward to seeing him at the Reunion too. Ken, that is not too far and you are missed by all of us.

Mary Dallos has had her health problems. She is recuperating and we are looking forward to seeing Paul and Mary in August. Get well soon Mary!

R.C. and Louise Hamilton spent the holidays with family and friends. We are trying to get them to take a trip south to the land of sunshine this winter but instead they are thinking more along the border of Indiana in the summertime!

Congratulations to Capt. Harry Gravelyn on his article in the last issue of the Thunderbolt "Attach on the La Verde Peninsula". The 83rd Div. Florida Chapter meeting that was held in Sebring, FL was not the same without the Gravelyn's.

All of the FLORIDA CHAPTER sent their good wishes and they are sending a package of Sunshine & Orange Juice to Ya!

Harvey Clements was heard from during the Holidays by Bill McKee. It would be a nice surprise to see them at our 60th also. A nice card was received from Harry Adkins. Harry, we are thinking of you and looking forward to seeing you in the summer.

Bill and Jeannette McKee flew from Florida to Boston the first of February to celebrate in the Christening of their great-granddaughter Shyanne Crystal who was born on Feb. 10, 2005.

Dan McDermott has had some health problems also this winter but is on the mend at this writing. I am so happy that we keep in touch by e-mail. It is a great invention! Dot Nagel (Bill) also sent a beautiful card. She is fine and says to tell everyone hello.

The McKees and Gunderson had lunch with Cathy Madonna Mann (Tony) on Friday and will meet Jeanne Cove (Bernie) next Friday for lunch. We look forward to both of these get-togethers each year.

Ruthe Mueller (Vern) returned from Cancun last week. It was not the same since the Hurricane but she enjoyed being with her daughter and granddaughter. Many members of Co. D spent some great times in Cancun, and have many "precious memories".

The Thunderbolt had so many nice articles in the winter issue. Thank you Cliff and Nancy for a job well done. You are appreciated.

The McKee's and Gunderson returned from the Florida Chapter meeting in Sebring, FL this week. There were 28 for the banquet. An enjoyable time was had by all in attendance.

An e-mail from Elaine (Odenweller) Hogan told of the sad news that her mother-in-law passed away. Condolences to Jim and Elaine. They will be at the Reunion in Nashville.

We have not heard from Arthur and Peggy Haught. Hope all is well with them and hope to hear from them.

We hope to hear from the Sabines – Hope all is well with them.

Jimmy and Harriet Lynch are looking forward to being in Nashville in August. They are very close to Nashville.

Bill McKee had a note from Russell Sparks. They are doing fine and enjoy hearing from the "troops" of Co. D.

Geri Gunderson's family gave her an important surprise Birthday Party last month with 48 members of family, friends and part of the 83rd present. It was a joyous occasion.

Reporters

Bill McKee/Geri Gunderson

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

Like a Timex the 83rd Association Keeps on Going and Going thanks to members, and both current officers and new stepping forth willing to lead the Association in 2006 and Beyond.

The Beyond to be determined by All Members including Descendant and Honorary interested in seeing the 83rd Association continue.

"F" Company Congratulates All of the Association's Officers and Executive Board members for their optimistic attitude which prevailed amidst the negativism evident in writing and various conversations, both at and prior to the Annual Reunion in Paducah, Ky.

Optimism is a trait that comes from viewing the World as full of Possibilities.

It has been quoted that a study at Penn State University revealed that in relation to aging, "people who think positively about getting older live seven and a half years longer than those who think negatively".

That's something to really Think Hard About! In general, I believe it is evident the 83rd Association has mostly Positive Thinkers.

A Thankful Acknowledgement is given to all those who have served the Association in the past, especially in recent years which presented many stressful problems. Thanks for bringing the Association this far and in good condition.

In Remembrance:

Most recently reported deaths:

Lowell Fickle 10-7-2004

Roy Robinson 5-1-2005

Harold Keefer 9-5-2005

Cecelia Kwasniewski, wife of Peter

Address Change:

Emma E. Anderson, Lot 43, 3501 Lee Ave.

Bullhead City, AZ 86429

C. R. Bob Whitcomb

1314 Center Ln. Dr.

Ashland, Ohio 44805

Co. "K" - 331ST

NORM MALO

453RD. AAA. (AW) BN.

FRED C. PEARSON

Well, it's that time again, and I'd better get on the stick.

I missed the last Thunderbolt as various problems arose that did not give me the opportunity to make the deadline.

Many of our members are having health problems. This column is being composed several weeks before it is in your hands so it may not be up to date when you receive your issue of the Thunderbolt.

Irene and I are some of the above group.

I hope that I don't miss anyone, but my 85 year old memory bank is getting low, as well as my bank account.

Molly Dalton, widow of Jim, has been through the mill, having just had her third hip replacement. She indicates that she has a little pain, but the operation was not long ago. She was our longstanding Secretary for many years. (A Battery)

The last word I heard from the west coast, there was a suspicion that our Vice President, Larry Carman, suffered a slight stroke. More examinations to follow. (B Battery)

News from our members is not readily available. Some must live with family members.

The only time we have word is when they have passed on. Sometimes, not even then.

I did receive a nice note from Ilene Horton, widow of Lt. Horton. She said she is doing quite well and still living on her own. (B Battery)

Bill Buzzard has been having his problems. Word has it that he has to have kidney treatments continually. (Dialysis?) (A Battery)

Mike Manzo's wife Isobel passed away this summer after a long illness. He is my chief spy that tries to keep me up to date with some of the Mountain folks from West by God. (A Battery)

I was notified by the daughter of Bob Obradovich (B Battery) that he passed away this past year.

Charles Ready (D Battery) passed away suddenly last August. He was planning on making his first 453rd Reunion last September.

Received a note from Jim Garrett he has back trouble and is not able to attend any of our functions.

Margaret Fromme sent me a note to say that her husband, Oscar, passed away in 2003.

I had word in a roundabout way that Don Jopp was helping Loren Kissick with a fix-up on his home. I hope it wasn't ladder work, he's too old for that. He has indicated that he and Loren will try to get to this year's reunion. (Both A Battery)

Talked to Bob Creps (B Battery) a short while back. Mary Jane is still fighting her problems and having some difficulty in getting around.

John Dickens (A Battery) tried to give us all a scare several weeks ago, with his trips in and out of the hospital. Seems to be doing better now.

Talked to John Norris and Bettie a few weeks ago. He has his many troubles that try to knock him down, but keeps on plugging. (B Battery)

LaVelle Rittespacher, widow of one of our old commanding officers, passed away this past year. Her son had been in contact with Molly Dalton and has expressed a desire to attend our sixtieth reunion in September.

We had two people attend our 59th Reunion that had not been there before. Linda Alioto, (Bales) daughter of Leonard who was a K.I.A. in the Hurtgen Forest. (A Battery) She came to meet some of the men her dad had served with. She sure had her head, notebook and pictures all filled up by the time the A Battery guys got through with her. She is planning on coming to

the 60th with one of her sons.

Also, Jim Owens was a newby. His daughter and son-in-law brought him. Indications are that they want to return for the 60th.

We don't care if it's wheel chairs, walkers, canes or oxygen, whatever you need, we would like to see you in September. Help will be available somehow.

I had a nice letter from Ron Massar, son of Steve, (B Battery) wishing all of the 453rd best wishes. His Mom seems to be doing well. Ron's family is all growing up. His job keeps him hopping.

Lorraine Morricks, widow of Mike, (B Battery) is on oxygen and still fighting cancer. She has been in and out of the hospitals lately.

Sam Daiello, is a recluse. (B Battery) He called me several times and I went to see him. Then when I call again he does not return my calls. You Guess!!

I don't hear much from the Hemstreets, but did get a Christmas card. (A Battery) Have some contact with a few widows and members via Email but not much response.

Many letters were returned to me this past year from the Post Office marked deceased, not known at this address, or cannot forward. I have had to give up on contacting those persons.

REUNION DATA

**The 60th 453rd AAA (AW) BN.
will be held in the
Columbus Ohio area
at the same Hotel as last year**

Dates:

Sept. (14) 15th and 16th, 2006

Bivouac at:

**The Best Western Hotel
Pickering, Ohio
(a suburb of Columbus)**

Rates:

Single or Doubles \$69.00 plus tax

We are hoping that Capt. Schultz and son will be able to make it this year. Carl's son stays pretty busy as a Trial Lawyer in Texas.

I've had an Email from Doug Bell, son of the late Lt. Dave Bell. He will be attending with his son. (A and B Batteries) He stated that he had just

been elected again as a Judge in his area of Pennsylvania.

For those that had hopes of receiving the French Badge that was given to those troops who fought in and returned to Southern Normandy in 2004 the cause is lost. I have been informed that they have no more Badges available.

I also found out that our old buddy John Loch (B Battery) has been having some difficulties lately that prevented him and Anne from attending the reunion.

Katie Bell, widow of Lt. Dave Bell, has returned from her vacation trip to Italy. Her son said she is doing fine. Good going, Katie.

Most news that is forthcoming is not the best. Our close Buddies who went through hell with us are getting into the age where everything breaks down or doesn't work efficiently.

Now I see that they are experimenting with facial replacements. How about something to make us old timers shed the years from ourselves.

We probably couldn't enjoy it though with the world and Country we fought for going Topsy Turvy.

For those who have followed my ranting previously, my grandson after serving his time in the Far East Command, has returned to Fort Bliss, stayed long enough to get Married (the fool) and is now in South Korea. He says it's pretty cold there. Closer to the fools in North Korea and China.

Do you suppose that's why we have troops in Korea, to protect the assets of THE U.S.A. money barons who have outsourced many jobs from us?

Since starting this column I have had further word from John Norris. His condition is giving him more problems. He sure needs our prayers.

I also have later news on Larry Carman. His tests proved he did not have a stroke. It seems he just overdid himself by walking home a long distance because he did not have transportation. He had to give up driving some time ago because of glaucoma.

That's all for now.

Fred C. Pearson
Pres. 453rd AAA (AW) Bn.
453AAA@alltel.net

* * * * *

MEMORIES OF FOURTH OF JULY



Ben Franko holds a photo of himself from his earliest days in the Army and the medals awarded him by the military.

Within six months after landing on Normandy on June 20, 1944, Franko was injured three times, but continued soldiering.

Veteran still soldiering long after last battlefield

VETERANS DAY 2005
ARTICLE FROM
THE HOME NEWS TRIBUNE
RICK MALWITZ
STAFF WRITER

METUCHEN (NJ): When Ben Franko was a teenager in the early 1940's, Fourth of July in Perth Amboy meant he would march in a parade with a drum and bugle corps, and watch fireworks on the waterfront.

But peaceful holidays of his early teens would not last. In 1944 he would spend the Fourth of July in a foxhole in France, getting ready for combat the next day.

Franko joined the army right out of high school, landed in Normandy on June 20, 1944, two weeks after his 19th birthday. Soon after arriving in France fear suddenly overwhelmed him. "I shook for about 30, 40 seconds. I couldn't stop. Fortunately I came out of it. It never happened again. I got hardened and became strong," he recalled.

Within six months he would be injured three times. He would have died on the battlefield except for the aid of a buddy. Just before Christmas that year his right leg was amputated above his knee.

But Franko has soldiered on. "I didn't let myself be handicapped," he said.

"Obviously it slowed him down somewhat. He had a noticeable limp," said Michael Franko, the youngest of his four children. "But it was a non-event in terms of us growing up. There was never a perception that he was at all different."

Franko has vivid memories of that Fourth of July in 1944, when word spread through his company that the army was firing all its big guns. "This meant to me that there was something big going to happen," he recalled.

He was right. The next day he would participate in fierce fighting, witnessing the horror of war. "Bodies, arms, legs and everything in between," he remembers seeing.

That day he suffered his first injury, a shrapnel wound to his face. He later injured his back, before suffering his leg injury on Dec. 15, 1944, the day before the start of the Battle of the Bulge.

That next day his company would see hand-to-hand combat. "You never know what would have happened if I was still there," he said.

Coming home injured he set goals: Attend college and get a desk job. Taking advantage of the GI bill he would go to Villanova University, earn a degree in finance and become an accountant.

Since the war the Veterans Administration has paid to alter his cars, to allow him to accelerate and brake with his left foot. Though he was not able to run anymore, "he was able to play baseball with us, and throw around a football," said his son Michael.

Franko was the youngest of eight children, raised on Colgate Avenue in Perth Amboy by George and Susan Franko. He was born four years before the 1929 stock-market crash. "We were poor," he said.

In a written account of his war experience, he recalled thoughts he had one day, walking to high school: "I thought that if I had to go into military service I would be willing to lose my leg or any other part of my body, but not my mind."

In June 1943 he graduated from Perth Amboy High School and was drafted. After basic training in Mississippi, he had infantry training at Camp Breckinridge in Kentucky, with the 83rd Infantry Division, Company C, 330th Regiment. In April of 1944 he sailed to Europe, and was trained in Wales to prepare for the invasion of France,

Nothing prepared him for France, where soldiers were confronted with hedgerows – rows of bushes, briars and trees that separated French farms. It was like fighting in a maze, he recalled.

It was difficult to accept the concept of the German soldier being his enemy. “I was thinking, ‘I have nothing against this guy. I’m just a 19-year-old kid,’ ” he said.

At the end of July 1944, following his promotion Sergeant Franko returned to England for treatment for his back wounds. In September he returned to the continent, and was placed in charge of 15 men occupying a village in Luxembourg near the Moselle River. That December he joined the Allied advance eastward.

He calls Dec. 15, 1944 “my day of infamy.” A German artillery shell exploded next to his foxhole, causing wounds to his right leg and right hand. His leg bled profusely.

Sgt. Norwood Hatfield, a soldier from South Carolina, came to his aide, applying a tourniquet to stop the bleeding.

The pain became unbearable and two days later his leg was amputated at a hospital in Belgium. He spent Christmas at a hospital in Paris, returned to the United States on the Queen Mary in March of 1945, and was taken to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington to a ward with other amputees.

“I accepted (the amputation) to a point where I was going to challenge myself to succeed.”

At a rehabilitation center in Maryland he would learn to walk with an artificial leg. To speed the process he took dance lessons, impressing a Red Cross nurse who took him to dances.

His most memorable dance was at the White House, where he shook hands with President Harry Truman and his wife, Bess, and danced with John F. Kennedy’s sister Patricia, who later married actor Peter Lawford.

After returning to Perth Amboy he and the former Jeanette Kinal, who had gone to high school together, met at a bus stop on Hall Avenue. They began dating and were married in 1949. The

fact that he was an amputee did not matter to Jeanette. “I had my eye on him since high school,” she said.

After taking refresher courses at St. Mary’s High School in Perth Amboy he enrolled in Villanova. “It was mind boggling, going from combat to college in such a short period of time,” he said.

Several years ago he put a notice in the Thunderbolt, a magazine for veterans of the 83rd Infantry Div., looking for the whereabouts of Sgt. Hatfield. Hatfield, a resident of South Carolina, saw the notice, and called Franko.

In a telephone interview Hatfield recalled the day Franko was wounded. “He was hollering for a medic. I called this fellow Tobaski and told him to get the litter,” he said, referring to the stretcher next to a medic who had been killed.

“We took Franko down the hill. They kept shelling at us. I made a tourniquet with his belt. That saved his life, really. Ben was a great friend and a good soldier,” said Hatfield, whose ancestors were part of the legendary Hatfields-versus-McCoys feud.

Hatfield and Franko, who have not seen each other since the battlefield, are phone buddies today. “He tells me he still hears my voice, calling for a medic,” said Franko.

Visions of war are not easily erased. Franko does not enjoy fireworks on the Fourth of July, or any other day. He does not like the sound of thunder.

A month ago Franko and Perth Amboy attorney John Burns were talking about the war years.

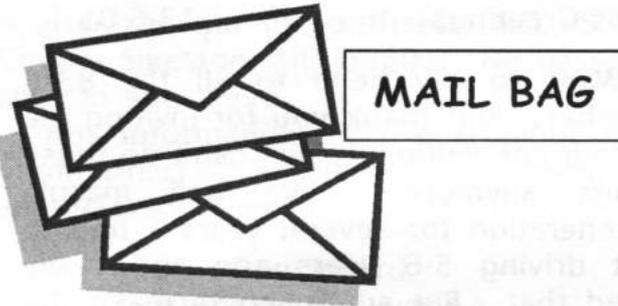
When Franko sent Burns his account of the war, Burns made a copy and mailed it to The Home News Tribune. “These stories ought to be told,” explained Burns.

You can tell from his vivid memories, after 60 years, that the war had a tremendous impact on my father,” said Michael Franko.

The elder Franko also has a collection of souvenirs, including a Nazi armband, a wooden-tipped German bullet designed to splinter on impact, and a small leather book called “My Military Missal,” a book of Bible verses and prayers he read constantly.

Unlike Burns, Franko was unsure his story deserved wide publication.

“I’m not bragging,” he said. “I’m just telling the things that happened.”



Dear Cliff, Dec. 7, 2005

Larry Goff and his wife came to our meet seeking someone who knew his father whose picture is below.



PFC G. L. Goff F 331st

Killed on July 11, 1944 (I believe)

(Picture probably taken at Camp Atterbury when he may have been in H Co.)

Larry had been in contact with John Helms who had sent a company picture that was signed by members of the company at Camp Atterbury, I believe.

I saw the picture. PFC Goff was the first signature on the back of the photo of the entire company.

Hopefully, he can find others who can fill him in with information concerning his father.

**If you can help Larry, his address is-
Larry Goff
P.O. Box 881
Parsons, TN 38363**

E. Massie

MENA MACALUSO AND FAMILY

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

I know this year (2006) will be a different and better one at least for the people of New Orleans.

You can believe all the pictures you saw on television, but many things were much worse. You leave a house full of belongings, memories, pictures, clothes, books, etc. and come back to next to nothing. I still can't believe what has happened and it's been nearly four months. We will survive, but we don't know what the future holds for us.

The refrigerator was on top of the kitchen table, both on the floor. The piano was in pieces in the living room with the keys scattered all over the floor. The only thing standing in one piece was the china cabinet in the dining room.

My purse from the army was found in the closet with my dog tags inside. The purse came apart in sheets like a catalog. Joe's 83rd shirt landed on top of the bed, still folded with a clothes hanger on top.

All of us got out alive and I know that's a lot to be thankful for. We'll make it back to normal (almost). It will just take awhile.

We want to thank the members of the 83rd for the check from the reunion. It will be well spend and is much appreciated. Monica and I really missed meeting with all of our friends from the 83rd.

Once again, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you!

Mena Macaluso & Family

Also, a copy of a letter to their "110th Evac. Hospital Friends"-

The Joseph Macaluso family wants you to know that we are survivors. The scenes you saw on television were bad, but you can believe that it was worse.

Such a horror. This is worse than anything I've ever seen or been a part of.

I got out with two sets of clothes, two nightgowns, and a sweater hoping to come back in two or three days. What a mess!

Our house is still standing. The refrigerator was on top of the kitchen table both on the floor. The piano was in pieces with black keys scattered on the floor. The piece of furniture standing was a china cabinet. Fifty-three years in one house and eight-six years of treasures, books, pictures, and memories lost. Mold and mildew covering everything.

Monica and I went to my son, Wayne's house in Baton Rouge, but had to leave because of electrical outages. We now live with my daughter, Kathryn, in Belle Rose, Louisiana. We had no addresses. Cash was all you could use for purchases. I guess they were all getting too many bad checks. Friends sent gift cards for Wal-Mart, Target, etc. Thank you!

We lost a lot, but we are all still alive and kicking. It's like living a nightmare. I still can't believe it. I don't know when or if we will go back to the same house. It will take some time.

Our son, Ricky, also lost his home and contents. He has two small children, five and two years old. He is a registered nurse and his wife is a pharmacist. They live with her mother in Pass Christian, Mississippi, and she works in a hospital in Slidell. Ricky works in a hospital in Plaquemine, Louisiana. And the kids have to go to a different school. It's such a different life.

We will make a comeback. It will just take some time. We will all stay together as a family and get back to normal (almost). And through all this we will celebrate the holidays as a family.

Editor's Note: Mena's address is -
142 Sportsman Drive
Belle Rose, LA 70341-5245

Xmas Greetings-

12-6-05

Want to say hello to all the 83rd members, and thank you for inviting me to your convention. I just can't do those things anymore. I've had macula degeneration for several years - had to quit driving 5-6 years ago and really hated that. But am trying to make the best of my situation - with help of my family. Can still live alone. Have two daughters and one son living close by.

Sincerely,

Jean Neppel (Mrs. Ralph)
200 Windsor Drive
Iowa City, IA 52245
319-338-7192

* * * * *

Dear Cliff,

Dec. 23, 05

Just received Monica Macaluso's letter. She is still at the same address. Amy wasn't sure so she called and we spoke to her mother. She was very appreciative of everything that had been sent.

She also stated that some of the family had been back in their house - but she had not been permitted - the mold and such.

Manny Goodridge

* * * * *

1-24-06

Hello to Cliff Wooldridge . . .

I would like to join the 83rd Div. Association. . .

My uncle SSgt Richard Downen Byrd was in the 83rd Div 331st Infantry Company M Serial #37606679. He was a mortar gunner. He trained at Camp Atterbury, IN and later landed in Normandy France about 2 weeks after D Day & went all the way through the war to Germany, then later was discharged at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, MO, Nov. 15, 1945. He was a farmer & lived before

& after the war in Southeast, MO., Scot County Sikeston, MO 63801. He passed away in Aug. 1998.

Any information I can get (about my grandfather) would be greatly appreciated. Thanks,

Danny Byrd
308 State Highway AA
Sikeston, MO 63801
Home Ph 573-471-2908

Mr. Wooldridge,

Debbie Holloman has given me your information so that I may join the 83rd Division Association as a descendant member. My uncle, PFC Herbert "Hut" Eugene Sullivan was killed in action at St. Lo. I have the following information about him and I am very interested in learning more about his service.

PFC Herbert "Hut" Sullivan
from Carroll County, Georgia
83rd ID, 330th IR
2nd Bat, HQ Co.
KIA St. Lo, France 15 July 1944
Arrived at Omaha Beach 21 June 1944

My information is:

Tim Sullivan
216 Huntington Trl
Hoschton, GA 30548
Work phone (best) 404-294-2336
tasulliv@co.dekalb.ga.us

Thank you! Tim

Hi Cliff-- 2/7/06
I received this email today (see below) for my message board, and wanted to forward it to you just in case you have not received the information from other sources. William Dale Hooiser was in F/331st.

Best regards, Dave Curry

"It is with great sadness that I share the passing of my grandfather, William Dale Hooiser, on January 25, 2006. He was so proud to have been a member of the 83rd. Many of you called him Bill, and some knew him as Dale.

If anyone has any stories to share about him, please email them to me at Sbrooks@phonetree.com, and I will share them with his wife of 59 years. I know they would be a comfort to her. I am proud to be the grand-daughter of a Patriot and thank each of you who served for the sacrifices you have made. God Bless!"

Syndi Brooks

1-21-06

Dear Mr. & Mrs. (Steward) Barrick,

One of the girls we worked with at Swift brought me this program because we could not attend the service for Willie. I wanted you to have it, since you had been so good to help Will with his medals. Although, he never got the big one, he was always appreciative.

Kindest Regards, Frank Janicke

"We have gathered this day in memory of and to honor our dear friend and loved one.

Will Fred Lenz

Will Fred Lenz (Willie) went to be with the Lord on December 26, 2005. He was born in La Vernia, TX on November 26, 1925, to Alwina and Herman Lenz. He was preceded in death by his wife, Evelyn Elsie Lenz.

He is survived by son Wilbert Lenz, and daughters Wilma Divin and Joyce Waldock, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren

Will Fred was married to Evelyn Elsie Lenz in La Vernia, TX in 1948. They were blessed with 55 years of marriage. Will Fred served in the 83rd Infantry Div. during World War II

in Europe. He retired from Swift & Co., with 39 yrs. of service. . . .

Will Fred will be deeply missed by all that knew him, but he's in God's hands and at peace."

1-24-06

Dear Buddies,

I am Norwood Hatfield - was with C Company 1st Bn 330th.

Referring to Cliff Synder's letter on page #22 (in the last issue of the Thunderbolt) about the citation we received for Bihain, Belgium - I was the first man in this town - we captured the Mill House on the left with 19 Germans and a five-machine-gun nest. They were cooking a cow and that's the reason they could not get the gun. We put machine fire on them and pinned them down.

I am one of the original and started in Atterbury.

In the town of Bihain I caught a hen, put her in a dresser drawer to cook later. The next morning when the Germans counter-attacked, I forgot about the little hen and left her in the dresser drawer forever.

I'm crippled now. Have to use a cane. I got frost bit and had to leave the outfit near the bridge outside Bihain.

I got wounded on the 4th of July, went back to England for 17 days. I returned to the outfit on the 21 of July and stayed until I got frozen outside of Bihain.

I'm sending a picture (top right) of my family - three sisters. Have one brother living in Tenn. He is in bad health. My wife is still living. Have one daughter and two little grand-daughters. I love them very much. I'm sending my dues.

Have a lot of stories to tell. Keep me in your prayers.

Norwood Hatfield
827 Luckey Rd.
Bishopville, SC 29010
2nd Plt. - Co. C - 330th

"Call me sometime"
803-428-3525



Cliff,

News Notes -

Following buddies have passed away-
John Frizzano, K Co. 331st (2005)
Sterling Rubright, G Co. 329th
Robert Smith, 83rd Band
Charles Sunderland, K Co. 331st
Sam Holliday, K Co.
Albert Runge, L Co. (wife Eunice reported)

Ruth Morgan reports that Chet is suffering from Parkinson's disease.

Jim Burton recovering from heart ailment in Nursing Home (See Editor's column for Jim's new address & tel #.).

Wilfred Zander, K Co. 331st could not make Paducah reunion because of broken ankle. Hopes to make it to Nashville.

New address is -
Wilfred Zander
10922 Cocoa Beach Lane
Indianapolis, IN 46229-4993
317-894-1234

Spoke to John Prinzi - he is doing OK in Sarasota, FL.

Best wishes,
Manny (Epstein)

Dear Cliff:

1-25-06

I am enclosing a copy (at right) of an article I found. I have tried for a long time to find out about this pin and here it is. Could you run this article in the next issue of the Thunderbolt; I know there are lots of guys who have no idea how it got a name like that and don't know the history of it. Look forward to hearing from you.

e-mail RNSAmmon@cs.com

Richard E. Ammon, Jr.

Descendant

Richard E. Ammon, Sr.

A Co., 331 Inf., 83rd Div.

Cliff,

3-27-06

I RECEIVED A CALL, ONLY A FEW SECONDS. HEARD "83RD" MENTIONED. POWER WENT DEAD. THE PERSON MAY THINK I HUNG UP.

I would be forever grateful, if you could print this. Thanks

"On March 24th '06 if you called 434-385-5823, PLEASE CALL BACK."

John S. Governor, Jr.

3929 Moorman Dr.

Lynchburg, VA 24501-3135

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

Honorable Service Lapel Pin

"Ruptured Duck"

The Honorable Service Lapel Button was a small token of appreciation given to every American servicemember that was discharged during and after World War II. It was nicknamed the "Ruptured Duck" by the more than 12 million soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines that were mustered out of the military between September 1939 and December 1946.

The small gold-plated brass emblem, 7/16 inches high and 5/8 inch wide, had its beginnings on June 9, 1925, when the War Department issued General Order No. 13 authorizing the wear of the "Badge of Service" for honorably discharged veterans.

The button was designed on commission by Anthony de Francisci for the War Department in consultation with the Fine Arts Commission. The design consisted of "an eagle perched within a ring which displays seven white and six red vertical stripes and a blue chief along the wing bearing the words 'National Defense'", the War Department order specified.

DeFrancisci's design was altered in 1943 when the War Production Board restricted use of metal for such purposes. The War Department issues regulations that required the badge be made from blue plastic. In addition, the words, "National Defense" were dropped from the chief on the upper part of the ring.

It was soon noted, however, that this "design would not be discernible against a blue suit". In July of 1943 the War Department changed its regulation to require the badge be constructed of gold plated plastic. Later, when the metal restrictions were lifted, the button was produced in gold plated brass. The War Department allowed those who received the plastic badge to trade them in for the brass one.

Veterans of the war proudly wore this symbol of service on their civilian lapels until it was replaced by organizational, veterans, or service club lapel pins considered more appropriate for wear in a world no longer at war. Gradually the Honorable Service Lapel Button disappeared, having been lost, put away, or forgotten.

"My Xmas Note to All"

Jean Neppel (Mrs. Ralph), 200 Windsor Drive, Iowa City, IA 52245, 319-338-7192

2005 Greetings to All,

Last year I wondered if I'd be doing my Christmas cards again this year, because of my eyesight. It has gradually gotten worse but I can still scribble a little. I use a magnifying machine for reading.

I didn't take any long trips this past year. I just don't feel comfortable or do well in crowds or in unfamiliar surroundings. Also feel I've had my share of vacations these last 30-40 years! My health is still good.

Kids all doing well and kept busy with their own families now. Vernona is retired and enjoying being a grandma. She had surgery on both wrists this fall because of severe carpal tunnel and all went well. Max is now living in Walcott, IA about 40 miles east of here and is looking forward to retirement in 3-4 years. Brian is still in propane gas business. His two boys are in college here in Iowa City. He hasn't moved to the country yet. Gail is still nursing part-time at U Hospitals. Her 2 girls are in high school, ages 14 and 16. It doesn't seem possible - they grow up so fast.

In September my brothers and sister had our annual mini-reunion at Dick's house in Omaha. It was nice to get together again and visit. We're ages 76-84 now and all doing quite well. Maybe we have a few more aches and pains ☺ but still hanging in there! We went to a casino one night but as usual didn't strike it rich. It was fun trying, the buffet was great.

Life for me hasn't changed much this past year. I have my black cat Spook for company, but she just mostly sleeps and eats. We had an unusually dry summer. I grew a little weary watering flowers and one new tree. My lawn turned brown - the first time in several years. Other areas of Iowa fared better and had near record crops.

There will be a new "interactive" exhibit of Iowa Congressional Medal of Honor recipients (Civil War through present) at the State Capitol in March, so the kids and I look forward to seeing it then in Des Moines.

I hope all is well at your house. Write any news.
It's always good to hear from you.

Love,

Jean



*Merry Christmas
* wishing you good health*



Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky



Tennessee Maneuvers 1943

**S/Sgt. Albert Vitantonio started his training with U.S. Army 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), Wickliffe, Ohio

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

S/Sgt. Albert, a.k.a. "VIT" - "Platoon Guide" to July 04, 1944 and thereafter, "Platoon
Sgt." of 3rd (Rifle) Platoon - L Co. 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. "Bois Grimot" (next to Town Sainteny) is approx. half way between
invasion beaches of Normandy and St. Lo. St Lo is 12.7 miles ENE from "Bois Grimot".

**Anybody remember S/Sgt. Albert? Any photographs of important scenes or events
in the STATES, or on ship "USS Washington", in England, or in Normandy,
France? Please contact nephew -**

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

TRAVEL ASSISTANCE FORM

The Brown County Inn (hotel) is approx. 50 miles from the Indianapolis International Airport. All major car rental agencies are at the airport. There is no direct shuttle from the airport to The Brown County Inn (hotel).

___ **Will need to rent a vehicle at the airport.** All major car rental agencies are at the airport.
The hotel is approx. 50 miles from the airport.

Directions to hotel will be in next Thunderbolt.

We will try to get a better reduced rate at the Indianapolis International Airport for veterans who will be renting vehicles on their own. More information will be provided in the next issue of the Thunderbolt.

___ **Will need transportation from Indianapolis International Airport and return to the airport.**

There is no direct shuttle to the hotel from the airport.

There is a shuttle from the airport to Bloomington, IN (16 miles from Nashville).

The cost is \$25 per person each way. More specific information in next Thunderbolt.

Please advise

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

AS SOON AS YOU HAVE YOUR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

**so we can coordinate Transportation from, and return to,
the Bloomington Shuttle Stop**

The USO maintains an office at Indianapolis International Airport. They will host anyone needing assistance or a place to wait for transportation to the Brown County Inn. In the words of their director, "We would be honored and delighted to make the USO Room available to members of 'The Greatest Generation'". More information will be provided in the next issue of the Thunderbolt.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Arrival Date _____ Arrival Time _____ Airline _____ Flight # _____

Departure Date _____ Departure Time _____ Airline _____ Flight # _____

WE NEED YOUR FLIGHT INFORMATION AS SOON AS YOU HAVE IT!

FROM NORMANDY TO THE ELBE RIVER



AUGUST FARIAS JR.

Private 1st Class Farias is the son of Mrs. Mary Farias of 112 South Sixth Street. Inducted into the service March 1943, he received his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and now is stationed at Shreveport, La. He has two brothers, Corporals John and Alfred Farias, both serving overseas.

My name is Private First Class August Farias, and I was inducted March 23, 1943 at the age of 18 yrs. 6 months, just like other young men from all over the U.S.A. We made up a new Infantry Division the 75th.

We trained at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. under the supervision of the 83rd Cavalry unit. We had 9 wks. of basic training and it was rough. I mean rough. We left Fort Leonard and went to Camp Pope, La for three more weeks of rough maneuvers.

We left Camp Pope, La. to Camp Breckenridge, Ky. We stayed here for a month and then were separated. Some went to Japan but I was lucky and went to Europe as a replacement for the 83rd Inf. Division that trained me with the rough basic training and maneuvers.

We went to Cherbourg, France and then on to trucks to Brittany, France where the 83rd was fighting. I went to Co. H headquarters heavy weapons platoon. When Lt. Fitzgerald saw me, he said what am I going to do with you young soldier? He also said you weigh 120 lbs. 5'2" tall and he also said each part of the 81M mortar is half my weight. My army buddy Ed Cox from Cleveland, Ohio said give the "mouse" my job which is a line man between the gunner and the front line about 500 feet. My platoon leader was Lt. McGee and my Sgt. was Fred Lynn from New Jersey and my gunner was Clark Johnson from Virginia. Sgt. Lynn was a very good pianist. Ed Cox gave me my nickname "Mousie" and I've had it for 62 years.

We were called the Rag Tag division from the Rhineland to the Elbe River. I still write and call Lt. Fitzgerald and report the news to him. I am now "Mousie" 5'2" Co. H reporter. We have 5 battle stars, a distinguished unit badge Oct. 3, 1945 near Duren.

We waited 3 weeks for the Russians. I was eating jelly beans in a jeep and one of my buddies said, "Mousie, there is a reporter from the Boston Globe to talk to you." He asked me where I lived and I said from the whaling city of the world, and now is the number one fishing port of the world - New Bedford, Mass.

We went to the city of Zerbst where there was a large German hospital. The next day we crossed the Elbe on pontoon boats. The one I was on had 329th life preserve. Fifty years later while on tour near the Elbe, we had the pontoon boat but a different operator and he was surprised also.

Sunday Jan. 22, 2006 we had a service honoring the four chaplains that died in 1943 on the S.S. Dorchester and I salute them and all veterans.

Your Buddy,
August Farias, Co. H, 329th Infantry

**83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM**

Listed below are all registration, activity and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to 83RD INFANTRY DIV. ASSN. in the form of a check or money order (no credit cards or phone reservations accepted.) All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before **July 23, 2006**. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. **We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing to:** 83rd Infantry Div. Assn.

**P.O. Box 406
Alton, Bay NH 03810**

Questions? Call 603-875-3649

OFFICE USE ONLY			
Chk # _____	Amt _____		
Date _____	1 _____	2 _____	
Tag _____	Chicken _____	PR _____	
Buffet _____	Atterbury _____	Lunch _____	

CUT OFF DATE IS JULY 23, 2006

	Price Per Person	# of People	Total
REGISTRATION PACKAGE Includes Registration Fee, Light hors d'oeuvres at Thursday Welcome Reception (after parade), Friday Morning "Ladies Tea" Program, Saturday Night Banquet and Band, and Hospitality Room Expenses.	\$45 per Person		\$
Please select your entrée for the SATURDAY BANQUET: <i>Chicken Breast Maryland</i>		#	
<i>Prime Rib</i>		#	
Friday Night: Hoosier Chuck Wagon Buffet and Entertainment	\$25		\$
Saturday: Camp Atterbury (Bus) Trip with Lunch (Breakfast on your own)	\$25		\$
Total Amount Payable to 83rd Infantry Div. Assn.			\$

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME (for name tags) _____

UNIT (example: B Co; 329th Inf) _____

SPOUSE NAME _____

GUEST NAMES (for name tags) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, ST, ZIP _____ PH. # _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS? _____

ARE YOU CONFINED TO A WHEELCHAIR? _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PH. # _____

ARRIVAL DATE & TIME _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

ARE YOU STAYING AT THE HOTEL? YES ___ NO ___ ARE YOU: *FLYING?* ___ DRIVING? ___

*** IF YOU ARE FLYING ***

YOU MUST COMPLETE THE TRAVEL ASSISTANCE FORM & RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

**RESERVATION REQUEST FORM FOR BROWN COUNTY INN
NASHVILLE, INDIANA 47448
83rd Infantry Division Association**

Check-in Time 4:00 PM

Check-out Time: Noon

Name: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

PLEASE RESERVE: _____ (# of rooms) for _____ (# of people per room)

RATES: (All rates are INCLUSIVE – they include all taxes)

Arrive: Wednesday, August 23, 2006 Depart: Sunday, August 27, 2006 @ \$300.00

Arrive: Thursday, August 24, 2006 Depart: Sunday, August 27, 2006 @ \$240.00

PLEASE CHECK TYPE OF ACCOMMODATIONS REQUESTED:

_____ Regular Room – 1 King _____ Regular Room – 1 Queen

_____ Regular Room – 2 Queens

_____ First Floor Room Mandatory

(Hotel is 2 levels, there are 14 steps to 2nd level and NO elevator)

_____ Fully Ambulatory Wheelchair Room Required (2 available)

_____ Veteran/Immediate Family/Widow _____ Other

(If accommodations at a second hotel are needed, we want to give veterans first priority at Brown County Inn, the main facility for the reunion.)

Please note: In the event the Brown County Inn is completely booked for the reunion, reservations will be made at our sister hotel across the street: The Seasons, 460 State Road 46 East, Nashville, Indiana 47448, 1-800-365-7327. When calling for your reservation, make sure you advise that you are with the 83rd Infantry Division Reunion group.

PAYMENT TYPE:

_____ Visa _____ Master Card _____ Discover _____ American Express

_____ Check _____ Money Order (Check/Money Order payable to Brown County Inn)

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

I authorize the Brown County Inn to charge my account for one night's deposit and all applicable taxes.

Signature _____ Daytime Phone _____

ROOMS BLOCKED FOR YOUR GROUP WILL BE RELEASED JULY 23, 2006. Reservations will continue to be accepted after this date based on availability. Forty-eight (48) hours cancellation required.

Please complete this form and return to: Brown County Inn, P.O. Box 128, Nashville, Indiana 47448, 1-800-772-5249.

IF YOU ARE FLYING TO THE REUNION - YOU MUST COMPLETE THE TRAVEL ASSISTANCE FORM & RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

**83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
AUGUST 23 – 26, 2006
BROWN COUNTY INN - NASHVILLE, INDIANA**

Wednesday, August 23

1:00pm - 5:00pm Reunion Registration Open
10:00am - 10:00pm Hospitality Room Open
2:00pm - 4:00pm Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, August 24

10:00am - 12:00pm **GENERAL SESSION MEETING**
Welcoming by Nashville Town Representatives
12:30pm - 3:30pm Registration Open
12:30pm - 10:00pm Hospitality Room Open
1:00pm - 3:00pm Executive Board Meeting
1:00pm - Shopping in the Village (Over 300 shops)
Trolley Bus Picks up at Hotel
4:00pm - 5:00pm **PARADE**
"A Salute to the WW II Veterans of the 83rd"
Reception with Local Vets after Parade

Friday, August 25

10:00am - 12:00pm **GENERAL SESSION MEETING**
10:00am - 12:00pm Tea with the Ladies
1:00pm - On Your Own – Galleries, Wineries, Historic Sites
(Covered Bridges, Museums), Nature Center,
Brown County State Park, Golfing, Shopping
12:30pm - 10:00pm Hospitality Room Open
4:30pm - 5:00pm Banquet Table Reservations Collected
5:30pm - 7:30pm **Hoosier Chuck Wagon Buffet and Entertainment**
8:00pm **Showtime – "Red White Blue" Patriotic Theme**

Saturday, August 26

7:00am - 8:00am Early Buffet Breakfast - On Your Own
8:00am - 8:30am **Board Bus for Camp Atterbury**
10:00am - 6:00pm Hospitality Room Open
7:00pm - 11:00pm **Banquet Dinner and Entertainment- 1940's Style**

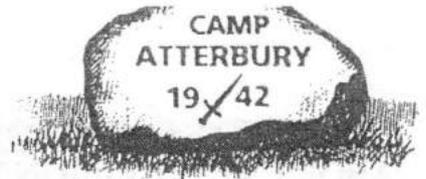
Sunday, August 27

Farewells & Departures

(Above Subject to Change)



To Remember... and Honor



*For over fifty years, thousands of soldiers and civilians
have contributed to the history and legacy of Camp Atterbury.*

Join us in dedicating a Memorial Walkway in their honor.

The Walk of Honor is sponsored by the Camp Atterbury Veterans' Memorial Association and will be constructed around the pool in front of the Memorial. The Walk of Honor is designed to honor all individuals, soldiers and civilians alike, with a past or present connection to Camp Atterbury. The Walk will be constructed with brick pavers engraved with an individual's name, rank, branch of service, years of service, unit, etc. Unit Associations and other organizations are invited to purchase a brick in honor of their unit or organization.

Your contribution is only \$25.00 per engraved brick.

Complete the form below, enclose your check (payable to Camp Atterbury Veterans' Memorial Association), and mail to:

NAF Accountant
Bldg #1, Camp Atterbury
Edinburgh, IN 46124

Brick Inscription: Only 17 characters per line including spaces.

Line 1: _____
Name, Unit or Organization

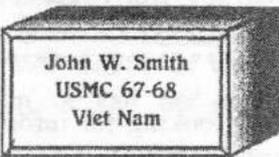
Line 2: _____
Branch of Service, Unit, Speciality, Years of Service, etc.

Line 3: _____
Country, Campaigns, Awards, Military or Civilian, etc.

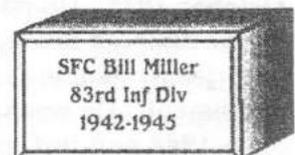
Submitted by: _____ Date: _____
Your Name

Address: _____
Street Address or PO Box

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone: _____
Area Code & Number



*Camp Atterbury is located just west of
Edinburgh, Indiana
on Hospital Road. The Memorial and
Park are free and open to the public.*



WORLD WAR II - KOREA - VIETNAM - DESERT STORM



CAMP ATTERBURY VETERANS' MEMORIAL

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT 83RD DIVISION VETERANS

submitted by Debbie Holloman
niece of PFC Eddie Hart, 329th - G

The following are requests for information submitted by 83rd Division veterans, relatives, writers, and others looking for information or photos. Please look over the list and if you can help, please contact these folks.

Sarah Stevens is looking for information about her father-in-law, **Private Weldon Delbert Stevens, "Wellie," 331st IR, company unknown**, who went overseas on 14 June 1944 to England. He then went to France on 5 July 1944 and saw his first action on July 8th. He was wounded on 17 July 1944 near St. Lo. The family has a newspaper article that states that he was pinned down by artillery, machine gun, and rifle fire while making attack. He was hit by a rifle bullet receiving a nerve injury and fracture of the right arm. He took sulfa pills and crawled back to the aid station which was about 600 yards. It took him over two hours to go that distance. He was from **Texas**. If you can help Sarah with information about her father-in-law, please contact her at 4405 County Rd. 3567, Dike, TX 75437 or email her at: slcstevens@direcway.com.

Susan Anderson is looking for information about her father, **Tec 5 George Edward ("Eddie") Stamp, 331st IR, company unknown, from Maryland**. He entered through Ft. Meade, MD, and was married just before shipping out. He was enlisted from **October 1942 until October 1945**. He was a **truck driver, at least at the time of his separation, driving trucks and jeeps, hauling military personnel and equipment**. He was wounded in **Normandy in June 1944 and in Germany in April 1945**. If you remember Tec 5 Stamp, please contact Susan Stamp Anderson, 29 SW Blackburn Terrace #5, Stuart, Florida 34997 or send her an email at: sstamperanderson@aol.com.

Anson Willard, who served with the **331st IR, Company H**, is trying to replace a **photo** he has of **Company H**. The photo has become very wrinkled through the years. **If anyone has a photo of Company H, 331st IR, or knows of a book or website that contains such a photo**, please contact his daughter, **Helen Bicknell**, by email at hbicknell@highgate.k12.vt.us or write her at Helen Bicknell, 2205 Rice Hill Road, Franklin, Vermont 05459.

Michelle Price is looking for any information on her grandfather, **PFC Walter ("Walt") Lloyd Bowie**, from **Maryland**, who served with the **331st IR, Company H**. He served from August 1943 to October 1945. He trained at Camp Walters, TX; Ft. Meade, MD; Camp Kilmer, NJ. He served in Europe, from France to Germany. If you remember PFC Bowie, or can share any information with Michelle about Company H, please write her or email her: 766 Westover Road, Whiteman AFB, MO 65305; pricefamily2424@yahoo.com.

Kay and Joe Gaston are looking for information about their relative, **1st Lieutenant Robert Scholze Long** from **Chattanooga, Tennessee**. **Bob was a 1st Lieutenant and forward observer serving in the 322nd Field Artillery, "C" Battery**. They are seeking information about where and under what circumstances Bob obtained a **large tapestry (10 ft. by 20 ft. that depicts a battle scene in front of a walled city)** that he mailed home from Europe during the course of the war. Please respond to Kay & Joe Gaston, 5876 Owens Chapel Road, Springfield, TN 37172, telephone: (615)384-7514, or email them at: jvvg@bellsouth.net.

Lisa Perry is looking for information about her uncle, **Captain Frank (aka Terry or Delos) Tyrrell**, who was the **S-3 Officer** for the **3rd Battalion** of the **331st IR**. He was from **Seattle** and also had family in **South Dakota**. His letters indicate that he was in England in June 1944, Normandy in July 1944, then

Luxembourg, France, and Germany by 1945. If you remember Captain Tyrrell, please contact his niece, Lisa Perry, at lisaperryjd@yahoo.com or 3121-10 River Oak Turn, Raleigh NC 27613.

Larry Goff is looking for information about his father, **PFC G. L. Goff, with 331st IR, Company F, who was killed in action on July 11, 1944 near Sainteny.** He was from Savannah, Tennessee. He entered the army at Fort Oglethorpe, GA in October 1942, trained at Camp Atterbury, had maneuvers in Tennessee, and also trained at Fort Breckenridge, KY before leaving for Europe in April 1944. He was with the 331st on Omaha Beach. If anyone remembers **PFC Goff**, please contact his son, Larry Goff, at P.O. Box 881, Parsons, TN 38363; or email him at larryg357@yahoo.com; or call him at 731-847-9113.

Sgt. Frank K. Kitselman served with the 83rd Division, and his son, Charles, is seeking information about his service. He went to England in 1944, and served in occupied Germany until September 1945. He made staff sgt while in Germany. He worked at HQ G-5 section. If you remember **Sgt. Kitselman**, please contact his son, Charles, at 221 Park Ave., Oil City, PA 16301 or email him at: kitsc@sonline.net.

Eilene McGee is looking for information about her father, **PFC Wilbur K. "Bill" Moats, from West Virginia, with 330th IR, Company D.** He was a machine gunner. He served in northern France and into Germany. If you remember **PFC Moats**, please contact Eilene at 207 Third Street, Stonewood, WV 26301 or email her at remcgee@ma.rr.com or call her at 304-623-2229.

Danny Byrd is seeking information about his uncle, **Sgt. Richard Downen Byrd, from 331st IR, Company M, who was from Missouri.** He was a heavy mortar gunner who landed at

Omaha Beach about two weeks after D-Day. He was discharged from Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, MO in Nov. 1945. If you remember **Sgt. Byrd**, please contact Danny Byrd at 204 Ashley, Sikeston, MO 63801 or email him at drbyrd@sbm.net.

Nathan Scheller is looking for anyone who remembers his grandfather, **Sgt. Lawrence "Larry" Scheller, who served with the 3rd Battalion, 331st IR, Company A.** He resided in Evansville, Indiana and it is believed that he was stationed at Camp Atterbury before being deployed to Europe. He was a communications wire man and interpreter, and he may have been injured during the Battle of the Bulge. He took many pictures which his grandson would like to share in hopes of identifying them. If you remember **Sgt. Scheller**, please contact Nathan Scheller, 1612 Hawthorne Drive, Mount Vernon, Indiana 47620, telephone number 812-838-3038, or email him at Expos27@juno.com.

John W. Gelestor is seeking information about his uncle, **Tech. Sgt. Warren Campbell, 329th IR, Company F, who was killed in action on July 26, 1944 at St. Lo.** He was from Western Pennsylvania, and was awarded the Silver Star for his actions. If you remember **Tech. Sgt. Campbell**, please contact John at 727-393-7714 or write him at 9069 127th Street North, Seminole, Florida 33776-2534 or email him at gelestorj@yahoo.com.

Conrad Berkman is looking information about his father, **Vincent (Bill) Berkman., 330th IR, Company C, from Texas.** He was inducted at Ft. Sam Houston in 1943. He was born in 1911, so he was a little older than most. Most combat in Germany. Was assigned to occupation duty at Grafenau in Bavaria; was **Staff Sgt.** at time of discharge. If you remember **Sgt. Berkman**, please contact his son, Conrad Berkman, 403 West Greenwood Avenue, Jacksonville, IL 62650-3242; telephone: (217) 245 9740; or email him: w9oes@arri.net.

Jimmy Sikes, Jr. is looking for information about his great-grand father **PFC Calvin D. Sikes**, either **329th IR** or **330th IR, Company A, from Mississippi**. He was a "light mortar crewman" and was in the Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. If you remember **PFC Sikes**, please contact his great-grandson, Jimmy Sikes, at 232 Cherry Chapel Road, Carthage, MS 39051 or send him an email at **southern rebel 1861@yahoo.com**.

Gene Reindahl is looking for any of his father's buddies. His father, **Sidney Reindahl, 331st IR, Company G**, who was from **Minnesota**, is still alive and would love to hear from his old buddies. He landed with the 83rd after D-Day, and served through the end of the war. He received a Bronze Star with Oak Leaves. If you remember **Sidney Reindahl**, please contact his son, Gene, at **Genecreindahl@aol.com** or Sidney Reindahl at 6400 Wahlsten Road, Tower, Minnesota 55790.

Allen Dixon is seeking information about his great uncle, **PFC David Frances Anderson, 330th IR, Company F, who died on July 17, 1944 near St. Lo, France**. He was from **Delaware**, and was 21 when he was killed. He may have been in an 82nd Airborn Glider Regiment, prior to getting into the 83rd. His family was told that he broke his foot during a jump and was transferred to the 83rd. If you remember **PFC Anderson** or can tell Allen about the **330th IR, Co. F**, please contact Allen Dixon, at 610 William Street, Cambridge, Maryland 21613 or call him at 410-221-1720 or email him at **wdixon@bluecrab.org**.

Ed McGuire is looking for information about his uncle, **PFC Edward Arthur McGuire, 331st IR, Company G, from New Jersey**. He was born in 1917 so he was a bit older than some of the guys. He was listed as **MIA Jan. 9, 1945**. His body was later recovered and the family notified. They were told that he was killed somewhere near Ottre, Bihain, Belgium. He is buried at Henri-Chapelle Cemetery in Belgium.

If you remember **PFC McGuire**, please contact his nephew, Ed McGuire at 2814 Narrows Place, Tacoma, WA 98407 or email him at **mcguiresk@harbornet.com** or **egmcguire@harbornet.com**.

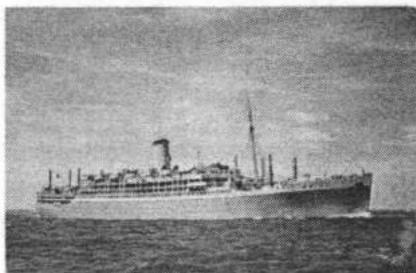
Jeff Baldwin is seeking information about his uncle, **Private Alfred L. Baldwin, 331st IR, company unknown, from Wilmington, North Carolina**. He was killed in action on **August 9, 1944** and buried in the Brittany American Cemetery. If you remember **Private Baldwin** and what company he was in or can tell Jeff about the events of that day, please contact Jeff at 275 Helton Creek Rd., Lansing, NC 28643; telephone 336-384-3838; email: **jeffbdc@skybest.com**.

Syndi Brooks just reported the death of her grandfather, **William Dale Hooiser, 331st IR, Co. F, on Jan. 25, 2006**. He was called Bill or Dale. She would love to hear from anyone who has stories to share about her grandfather. Please contact her at **Sbrooks@phonetree.com**, or 6013 Old Plank Road, Winston Salem, NC 27106; or telephone her at 336-407-5883.

Tim Sullivan is looking for information about his uncle, **PFC Herbert "Hut" Eugene Sullivan from Georgia, 330th IR, 2nd Battalion, Headquarters Co.** **PFC Sullivan** arrived at **Omaha Beach** on June 21, 1944, and was killed in action **July 15, 1944**, in or near **St. Lo, France**. If you remember **PFC Sullivan** or were in his company, please contact Tim Sullivan at 216 Huntington Trail, Hoschton, GA 30548, call him: 404-294-2336, or email him at **tasulliv@co.dekalb.ga.us**.

Derrick Corfield was a deck boy from Liverpool on the **troopship RMS Orion** which sailed from **New York to England in April 1944** carrying troops in the **83rd Division** and the **308 Engineers Combat Battalion**. He says that he used to go below and watch them play poker and sometimes take them coffee. If you

remember this 17-year-old deck boy from 1944, please contact him at d.p.corfield@btinternet.com or at 37 Acresfield Road, Irlams o'th Height, Salfor GMC England M6 7GE. Here is a photo of the deck boy and the troop ship RMS Orion.



There are many other requests for information on the message board maintained by Dave Curry, whose father, Thomas Curry, 331st IR, Co. L, was killed in action on December 10, 1944. If you have access to a computer and the internet, please take a look at Dave's web site, which is a tribute to all the brave men who served with the 83rd Division, and the 83rd Division message board at

www.ncweb.com/~davecurry/brothers/msgs.html. Dave's web site also has links to the other great sites about the 83rd Division.

PLEASE contact these folks if you can help. Many of you helped my family when we were searching for information about my uncle, PFC Eddie Hart, 329th IR, Co. G. The result was the documentary, "Thank You, Eddie Hart," a tribute to all the brave men in the 83rd Division. See Debbie's www.thankyoueddiehart.com.

NOTICE TO ALL 83RD DIVISION VETERANS WHO SERVED IN NORMANDY

If you served with the 83rd in Normandy and have not already done so, please contact either Dave Curry, John Bifano, or Kevin Harris. They are gathering personal recollections of 83rd Division veterans about Normandy, and are attempting to identify anyone who can provide information. See website for more information:

http://home.comcast.net/~83division/83rd_in_Normandy/index.htm

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

John Bifano, 1612 SE 6th Avenue, Cape Coral, FL 33990; telephone: 941-772-1222; or email: lueandbiff@aol.com.

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

NOTE FROM PUBLISHER

Due to the Large Volume of Articles we have had to save some for the next issue of the Thunderbolt

“Just a Simple Soldier – Memories of My Father”

by Georgeanna Lewis Slaybaugh

I was 16 years old and only vaguely aware that my dad had served in World War II. Deep into a study of the war in my high school history class, I asked my mom if dad might possibly have any stories to share of his experiences that I could use for my term paper. “He doesn’t talk about those days” she said quietly, “but maybe you should just go ask him about it”.

I went into the living room and sat down beside my father. The innocent question: “Dad, what did you do in the war?” faded into a long silence as I waited for him to answer. “I was just a soldier”, he finally said, “just a simple soldier like so many thousands were. Those of us who made it back were never the same again though”. “You know” Dad said quietly, “after the war, we were just supposed to go back to our old jobs like nothing ever happened. We were just supposed to pick up the pieces and go on, but it was never the same, not for any of us”.

For the next several hours I sat in stunned disbelief as my father described being drafted from an ordinary life in Indianapolis to the extraordinary battlefields of Europe – a naïve young man who had never held a gun in his life nor traveled far from his home – suddenly thrust into a world war and trained to kill an enemy who was equally trained to kill him.

Camp Atterbury, 83rd Infantry Division, 330th Infantry, 3rd Battalion, Company K marked the beginning of his journey as “just a soldier”. When dad spoke of going ashore in the second wave at Omaha Beach under Omar Bradley, I wept as he recounted the horrors of death and destruction that he and his fellow soldiers found as they fought their way through the infamous hedgerows. In a matter of weeks, his original company counted just 26 survivors.

In utter amazement, I listened as my father brought to life the history book in my lap whose maps and pictures and words had only hours before been such impersonal images. He went on, he recounted, to fight with George Patton’s 3rd Army, and then was transferred to the 9th Army, 20th Corps. During the Battle of the Hurtgen Forest he and 22 other G.I.’s were captured by German forces while trying to secure a hamlet. It was December 11, 1944. With tears streaming down my face, I learned for the first time that my father had been a prisoner of war, Stalag 12A.

Before he went overseas, dad said that he’d told mom that if he ever had a bad premonition about anything, he would try to let her know by writing to her in red pencil. She received that “letter in red” the day before the government sent an officer to tell her that he was missing in action.

As he tried to tell me about the forced marches through the bitter winter snows when their German captors led them from one camp to another, all I could think about was how often as a child I had giggled about his funny-looking feet, and the ugly, mis-shaped toes. He was describing the abuse and near-starvation they suffered in the camps, and I suddenly remembered how often my siblings and I had complained that he was too harsh on us for leaving even the tiniest scrap of food on our plates.

Over the next several years, I spent many an hour with my dad, reminiscing about his experiences while we poured over the remnants of his war memorabilia that he kept in a battered old box. Among the items were his medals, a tin of tobacco, chewing gum, empty ration boxes, a few pieces of Nazi insignia, and his Stalag 12A identification. He’d sent home a lot of things, he said, but somehow when his stuff got to Kansas City, it all just disappeared. Many of his army buddies told him the same thing.

After dad was liberated in April, 1945 and had recovered sufficiently from his ordeal, the Army sent him back to Camp Atterbury. He was then deployed to Branch Camp #4 (Eaton) where he served as Staff Sergeant overseeing a work force of German prisoners of war (a rather strange and ironic twist of fate). He treated the German prisoners strict but fair, he told me, and he let everyone of them know that he had once been their prisoner of war. In September of 1945, he was honorably discharged from the Army.

Toward the end of dad’s life, he became an avid, vocal supporter of Viet Nam veterans whom he believed had been denied the recognition and honor they deserved. A silent World War II veteran no longer, he joined an ex-POW group and his local Ernie Pyle Post. After years of silence he had so much to share, and so much to give. On Veteran’s Day, instead of going off somewhere alone, he began to march in the parades with his buddies, damaged feet and all.

One beautiful fall day shortly before he died, I took dad to Camp Atterbury to show him where the proposed memorial to World War II veterans would be. I also wanted him to see the restoration work being done on the little chapel that the Italian prisoners of war had built. As we drove on the road surrounding the camp, he pointed out the areas where he had trained. I wondered what he must have been thinking as we paused near the open fields where he had once marched so long ago. Dad was by now too feeble and ravaged by illness to get out of the car so we parked as close as possible to the fenced and gated area of the camp's main entrance. He looked out across the field for a long moment, and then bowed his head and wept.

"Ma'am? A voice suddenly asked. I looked up from my dad to see a tall, crisply uniformed young man standing outside my car window. "Ma'am", he said politely, "this area is secure and off-limits. You can't enter here." "I know", I told him, "we'll leave. I just brought dad here to show him the memorial site and the chapel and he wanted to see the old barracks."

The officer leaned down at my window and looked across the seat towards my father whose frail, white-haired body turned towards him. "Veteran?" he asked my dad softly. "Yes sir", dad answered, "ex-POW, World War II, Camp Atterbury, 83rd Infantry Division, 330th, 3rd Battalion, Company K".

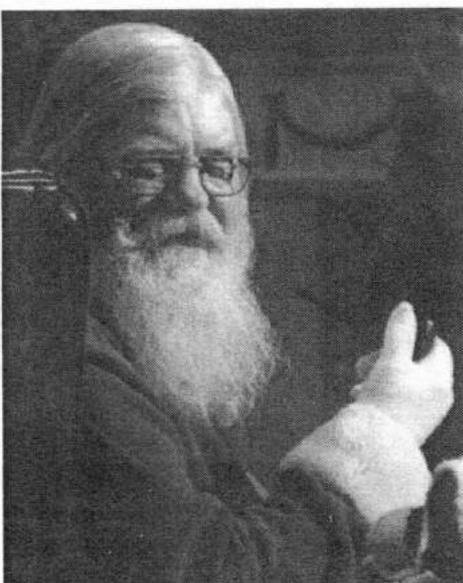
In one swift, sharp instant the officer snapped to attention and saluted my father. "Go on in, sir", he said, "go on in".

For the next hour we drove slowly past the old buildings, the vacant lots and the dusty fields that held so many memories for my dad. It was a beautiful, bittersweet journey. When we approached the gated area to leave, I noticed a group of men lining up on both sides of the road. As I passed by to take dad home, every man stood at attention and saluted.

Footnote: How I wish I had known that the 83rd still met for reunions while my father was alive! Somehow, over the years he lost touch with his buddies, and I regret that my renewed interest in learning about his service years came so late in his life. Dad passed away February 25, 1992, but I have been richly blessed by the friendships of so many of his fellow "brothers-in-arms".

Dad spent the last years of his life playing "Santa Claus" to the delight of thousands of children who squealed with excitement when they tugged his beard and realized it was real. They never knew about the life he had lived, and for all that he'd been through, his heart remained full of benevolence and not malice – just like Santa.

As we prepare for the 60th Reunion of the 83rd Infantry Division, the guiding spirit of my dad could not be any closer. May God bless all of you.



"his heart remained full of benevolence and not malice just like Santa."

Seeking Information on Nazi Banner captured by 330th IR, Company C, 1st Platoon

I have a Nazi banner that appears to have been captured by 1st Platoon, Company C, 330th IR. There are 31 names on the captured Nazi banner. It is approximately 5 feet wide by 20 feet long. It is a political or government banner, red with black swastika in white circle. It has a few bullet holes in it. The banner has been authenticated by World War II historians and veterans. The unit who captured the banner put their company and names on it but no date or location captured. I hope to contact some of these men or someone in their families if possible. I hope with your help someone will come forward and give some history on the banner, where it was captured, and any other information. Thanks very much. Mark S. McDonald

Address: 317 N. Lawrence St., Charles Town, WV 25414 E-mail: ffmcdonald260@aol.com

The names and ranks as written on the banner are listed below.

COMPANY "C"- 330th INFANTRY- 83rd DIVISION

Commanding Officer- 2nd Lt. R.A. Pallnow
Staff Sargeant- William Seavy
Staff Sargeant- Leon W. England

1st. Platoon, 1st Squad

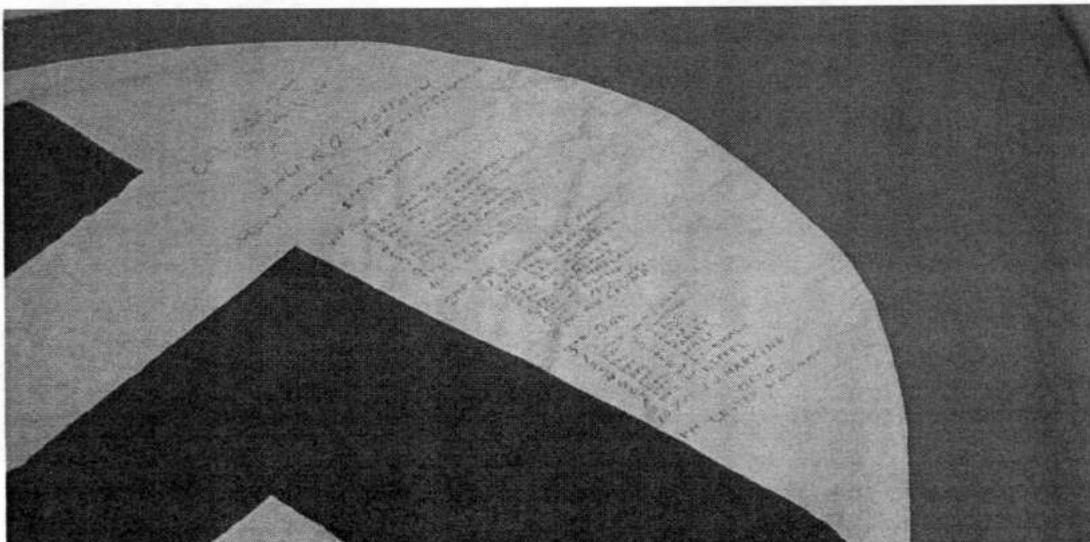
Sgt. George Grubba
Pfc. James Brown
Pfc. Rocco Catalfamo
Pfc. John Brittingham
Pfc. Claude Tate
Pfc. Harvy Bahser
Pfc. Edward Casper
Pfc. Philip Christopher
Pfc. Kenneth Smith
Pfc. Robert Kriss

1st. Platoon, 2nd Squad

Sgt. Albert F. Hahn
Pfc. Paul Broxholm
Pfc. Leo Renauld
Pfc. Robert Ramalser
Pfc. E. Miller
Pfc. Sam Adams
Pfc. Jay Choplow
Pfc. A. Osario
Pfc. L. McDowell
Pfc. A. B. Crump

1st. Platoon, 3rd Squad

Sgt. William Parks
Pfc. J. Chakus
Pfc. J. Ellis
Pfc. C. Boyd
Pfc. R. Lofty
Pfc. C. Farley
Pfc. R. Half
Pfc. W. Lockhart
Pfc. W. Leffel
Pfc. J. J. Harkins
Pfc. Medic Lester Holland



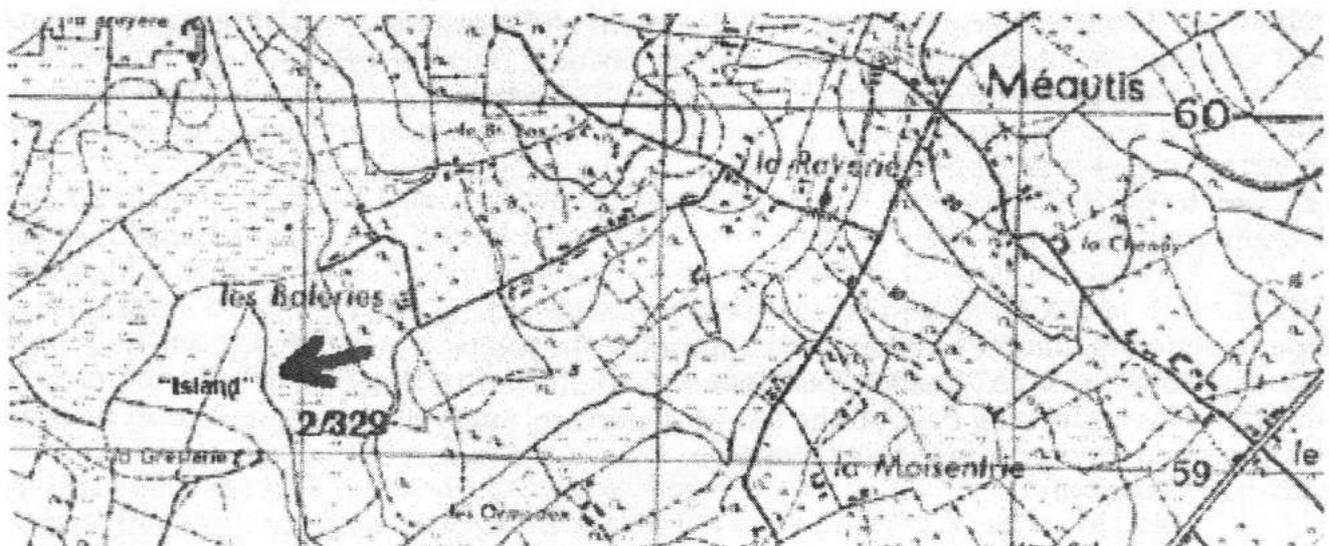
From the Assistant Historian

Dave Curry

The Island Battle of 2/329--July 4, 1944

In the last issue of the "Thunderbolt," I included an article about the 331st Infantry on July 4th, and their initiation to combat in Normandy, and I promised to include something in this issue about the 2nd Battalion of the 329th Infantry. I had plenty of material to work with and thought that it would be an easy writing project. It soon became apparent that I had a big problem. I had too much information--a monograph written by Captain Clarence Ziegler was essentially a blow-by-blow account of the fighting on that day. It was the old problem of "not being able to see the forest because all the trees kept getting in the way."

There didn't seem to be any way of condensing all of this information into a brief magazine article, and I decided to do some serious thinking to see if the problem could be resolved. In this process I not only started to see the thread of a story, but discovered a new hero: Captain Richard E. Randall, the CO of F/329, although wounded three times during the fighting that day, managed to hold together the remnants of two companies to continue the attack against a hardened enemy force. After hours of fighting to continue the advance under enemy artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire, Randall and his group of survivors from E and F Companies held off successive counterattacks. At the end of the day, Randall asked for reinforcements so that they could continue the fight, but instead was ordered to withdraw. In the material that follows, I've tried to give the "big picture" of what happened that day without getting tied up in too many individual details. In doing this, I hope that I have not left out any information that is critical to the story.



On 4 July 1944, the 2nd Battalion of the 329th Infantry was ordered to move into position at the far right flank of the 83rd Division, opposite the 2nd Battalion of the 331st Infantry. The 329th was to attack westward across a swamp to an

"island." The "island" actually was a peninsula, which can be seen on the map. Its western edge was defined by the Prairies Marecaugeuses de Gorges, a large marshland. The northern tip and opposite side of the peninsula were defined by the swamp, which extended from the "Prairies" and came down the eastern edge of the peninsula. It then turned northeast toward the village of Meautis. Essentially, this gave the swamp a shape like a large V, and it dominated the geography in this area.

Just to its east is Les Baleries, the location of the 2nd Battalion/329th assembly area on the morning of 4 July. The peninsula was reported to be about 900 yards long and 500 yards wide, with the northern tip about 200 yards across. All around the peninsula was a ditch about two feet deep and filled with water. It was covered by small fields enclosed in hedgerows, and was cut lengthwise by a dirt road that ran southward to Raffoville. At Raffoville, the road intersected with another road that ran east and west. This east-west road was an obvious objective, and was about half the distance to the Carentan-Periers highway further to the south.

The 2nd Battalion's plan was to attack in a column of companies. F Company would lead off with two platoons abreast, and upon reaching the first phase line, E Company would cross the line of departure following behind F Company to the dirt road. At that point, both companies would reform, with the road acting as a boundary between F Company on the right and E Company on the left. G Company, in reserve, would cross the swamp if needed to protect the left flank of the battalion and maintain contact with the 331st further to the left.

What sounded like a solid plan of attack was encumbered with some serious problems. The recon was bad: the only information on the enemy said that the island was held by remnants of a company and some Russian volunteers and conscripted laborers. Captain Sharpe of G Company recalled that a later G-2 report, filed after the battle, showed that the 2nd Battalion had actually made their attack against much superior forces. These were most likely the 2nd Battalion/6th Fallschirmjaeger (parachute) Regiment and elements of the 17th SS Panzer Grenadiers. The swamp also was a major obstacle. It ran from north to south in this area, preventing an attack directly to the south to the objective. Instead, it was necessary to first attack west across the swamp over 300 yards of open terrain under direct fire from the enemy. In some places, the ground was too spongy to support a combat loaded infantryman, and prevented the use of tank support.

Finally, the lack of communications was also a serious problem, and Captain Sharpe remembers that the Germans were jamming the radios with a "dispy-doodle high and low tone." During the advance, battalion HQ did not seem to know what was happening beyond the line of departure, and platoons were moving without any coordination or direction. This added more confusion to an already bad situation.

The operation began at 0300 hours, when the battalion was alerted for movement to the forward assembly area. It moved from its bivouac area at La Granvallerie in the order of F Company, E Company, H Company,

Headquarters, and G Company. Upon reaching the forward assembly area at Les Baleries they halted and consumed a breakfast ration. Then, as soon as the supporting artillery concentrations started falling, the battalion moved to the line of departure, with F Company going to the line of departure, and E Company just to the east. While F Company was waiting for H-Hour, Lt. Smith, the battalion S-2, came to the battalion commander with a new aerial photo of the objective, indicating that a lot of new digging had been done by the Germans. But, it was too late to change the plan of attack as H-Hour had arrived.

F Company crossed the line of departure with the 1st Platoon led by Lt. George W. Stahley on the left and the 2nd Platoon led by Lt. Donald L. Richardson on the right. They had a perfect formation and looked like they were on a blank fire problem. But something happened immediately that they hadn't planned on; there was already slight fog in the area, daylight hadn't arrived, and the smoke from artillery concentrations settled between the line of departure and the objective. It was impossible to see anything.

The two assault platoons disappeared into the fog and smoke. Not wanting to lose contact, Captain Richard E. Randall, the CO of F Company, decided to follow them across, and took along the artillery forward observer, a group of engineers, F Company's light machine gun section, Lt. Frank R. Yukl, and two runners. The group was halfway across the swamp when the enemy opened fire with machine guns, mortars, and artillery. The enemy machine gun fire was mostly in the 2nd Platoon's zone (to the right of the 1st Platoon). The engineer officer was severely wounded, one runner was wounded, and Lt. Yukl and Captain Randall were both slightly wounded.

When he reached the island, Randall found that the 2nd Platoon had immediately veered to the right when they came under the enemy machine gun fire. Its two lead squads became pinned down in the swamp. The support squad managed to knock out the machine guns, and this allowed them to get up and move to the first hedgerow. In the process, the platoon leader Lt. Richardson was hit by machine gun fire and killed, and the platoon was now at about half strength and morale was broken.

The 1st platoon had about 25 men left, so Randall decided to spread out their support squad along a thin line to fill in gap between the two platoons. He then notified Lt. Yukl, who was now in command of the Platoon, of what he had done. After a brisk fight, the first hedgerow was taken, and Randall was wounded about the face and left arm by a potato masher grenade. Members of his company insisted that he go back to the aid station. He refused, and accepted first aid from a company aid man.

At this point, the lack of communications began to take its toll: without any orders, the weapons platoon decided to cross over the swamp. They were held at the first hedgerow for further orders. Then Lt. Hansel came across with the support platoon, even though he had been told by Captain Randall to wait for further orders. For some reason, someone at battalion HQ had told Hansel that Randall had been knocked out and help was needed.

A counterattack was expected at any moment, so Randall took one squad of the 3rd platoon and added it to the thinly held line. The rest of the 2nd platoon was shifted to the right. He then sent Lt. Hopley with the light machine gun section to the left to join the 1st Platoon, and placed the 60 mm mortar section behind the 2nd platoon. Soon after, Lt. Hopley was killed by mortar fire and Lt. Yukl suffered severe concussion. Randall was wounded again, for the third time.

At about 0800 Captain Randall learned that E Company had crossed the swamp. They were not supposed to cross until F Company had reached the first phase line, but the battalion commander sent them over anyhow to help drive the enemy back. E Company suffered heavy losses in crossing the swamp including the CO. Those that had managed to make it across bumped into F Company. The result was mass confusion.

Randall tried to separate and reorganize E and F Companies and get the attack moving forward again. Repeated attempts were made to straighten out the line and move forward, only to be stopped by enemy machine gun fire. Finally, heavy mortar and artillery fire was requested to prevent the Germans from mounting a counterattack. There were only about 100 men left in the two companies. At one point Randall told battalion HQ that he would try to move forward again, but was told to dig in and wait for assistance from G Company.

Then came a series of German counterattacks. First, the Germans hit on the right flank with infantry supported by artillery fire from self-propelled 88s. This forced the 2nd Platoon of F Company to withdraw back to the last hedgerow in a daze. Then, about an hour later, a second counterattack was launched, this time on the left. The enemy drove back Lt. Bialek's flank and caused about 40 casualties. Lt. Bialek was killed and Lt. MacMurphy severely wounded. The machine gunners were removing the bolts from their guns. It was obvious at this point that unless reinforcements were received, it would be necessary to withdraw. Randall contacted Col. Bowen and informed him of the situation. Bowen told him to begin a withdrawal.

It was decided to send Lt. Yukl and Lt. Hansel back first with what was left of E Company and F Company under the cover of heavy smoke. Some of them were reluctant to leave, and elected to stay and infiltrate back during the night under the cover of darkness. Most crawled back across the swamp, either singly or in groups of two or three. Lt. Yukl was killed, but Lt. Hansel made it safely, taking advantage of a small canal ditch. He then began placing the men in firing position on the right of the line to cover Captain Randall and Lt. Zender who were withdrawing with the 3rd Platoon of F Company.

Randall returned across the line supporting the 1st Sergeant with one arm and a blinded rifleman with his other arm. He then rounded up all the men of the two companies and led them to the Battalion aid station. Col. Bowen ordered Randall to be evacuated as a casualty, but he was later found by battalion and regimental commanders back at his company. They finally had to place him in an ambulance to make him leave his men.

During the fighting that day, one of the G Company medics obtained permission from Captain Sharpe to help evacuate the wounded from the field. He then walked out into the middle of the swamp to a severely wounded rifleman, and noticed many others either wounded or dead. At that point he called to the Germans and asked for medical assistance and a truce. Two German parachute medics appeared with a white undershirt on a stick. They helped to improvise leg and arm splints for one of the casualties, but refused to assist in carrying the wounded soldier to the American side. The G Company medic then asked one of the other German officers if he would permit a litter and a few more American medics to come out and help carry the wounded. A truce was made, and the Germans allowed personnel from the 2nd Battalion aid station to help evacuate the wounded.

In his memoirs, Captain Sharpe recalled that "once the medics had done all they could, they took down the white flags and the front reverted to firing at everything that moved. It was a fourth of July which most of us would never forget."

Most of the information in this article came from a monograph written by Clarence P. Ziegler, who was a platoon leader in the 2nd Battalion. Some supporting material came from the memoirs of Col. Granville Sharpe (*Sharpe's Battalion* by Col. Sharpe's daughter, Charlotte Sharpe Daly). Much of the analysis is mine. (I also take credit for any errors that may have crept into this article.) My friend, Jean Paul Pitou, provided all of the time-consuming legwork in Normandy that was absolutely necessary for the telling of this story. Jean Paul was in charge of the exhibition at Sainteny celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the liberation. He is an expert on the 83rd Division in Normandy, and has personally visited all of the areas where the 83rd Division began their campaign on July 4, 1944. Through these efforts, he was able to identify the "island" where the 2nd Battalion of the 329th fought, as well as the farmhouse at Les Ormeaux where F Company / 331st fought several battles.

Looking for Info about Normandy and Brittany?

Jean Paul Pitou is a member of a French association, "The Ohio Group," that is devoted to preserving the memory of the 83rd Division in France. Another member of this group, Gilles Billion, is an expert on the St. Malo campaign. Gilles has recently located the remains of the stone building where Lt. Col. Paul Thompson (908th FA) was killed by German counter battery fire. I'll include some information about this in another issue. The Ohio Group was founded in 1987, with legal existence since 1995. It's goals are to do historical research about the events where the 83rd took part, and to help families of 83rd veterans obtain information about these events. They also try to retrace the progression of the 83rd in France, and provide help to veterans who want to come back to France and visit the places where they fought. Finally, the group preserves equipment and other items used by the division and takes part in commemorations with U.S. veterans. Chairman of the group, Jean Francois Le Bouvier says that all of these activities are intended to remember the sacrifices of 83rd veterans and to

thank them for all that they did to liberate France. If you are looking for any info about Normandy or Brittany, please let me know and I'll put you in touch with this group.

Massacre at Ottre and the Ardennes

I've been exchanging emails with Eddy Monfort who lives in Malempre, Belgium which is a few miles from Ottre. Eddy is researching the Massacre of F Company at Ottre and the Battle of the Bulge, and has met several F/331st veterans over the years. He has identified several of those that were killed at Ottre, including Pvt. Elmer R. Antle, Pfc. Rochershieb, Pfc. Henry Tannenbaum, and a corporal named "Jack" from Texas. He is in the process of writing a book, in the French language, and would like to hear from 83rd Division veterans who can help identify other F Company men who were killed at Ottre, and who would be willing to share their experiences in the Ardennes with him. Eddy can be contacted by email at: e.monfort@belgacom.net, or you can write to him at:

Eddy Monfort
Rue de la Gotte, 15
6960 Malempre-Manhay
Belgium

Telling Your Story

As part of my duties as your assistant historian, I'd like encourage all of you to record your personal experiences with the 83rd Division. It is really important that your story be recorded for posterity--and the Library of Congress will be happy to permanently preserve your experiences. If you feel ambitious, you can write down your memories. Or, maybe it would be easier for someone to interview you, such as one of your grandchildren. If you follow this route, it is important that you use a good tape recorder--preferably a cassette recorder. Don't use one of those little recorders with the tiny tapes--the sound quality is lousy. If you know someone who would be interested in conducting an interview with you, but is not sure how to go about it, there is a ton of help available. If you don't know how to contact The Library of Congress, or need any other help at all--please contact me for further information and assistance.

Take care and stay healthy,

Dave Curry

Phone: 440-942-5030

email: davecurry@ncweb.com)

Hentschel Family Member Meets Dutch Woman who Adopted Grave

Editor's Note: Bob Wozniak posted a request in May 2005 on Dave Curry's message board (<http://www.ncweb.com/~davecurry/brothers/msgs.html>), seeking information about his uncle, Cpl. James Hentschel, 330th IR, who was killed on 12/23/44 and who was buried at the American Cemetery at Margraten. Soon, he was contacted by Debbie Holloman, who told him that the graves at Margraten had been adopted by Dutch citizens. Here is the story of Cpl. James Hentschel and his family, as submitted by Bob. Bob is still hoping to hear from anyone who remembers his uncle. He can be contacted at r.wozniak@mcleodusa.net or at 6705 Amhurst Dr. SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404-8009.

Shortly after the war, a mother and father in a Dutch family told their daughter, AnneMarie, who was about 18 years old at the time, that they wanted to adopt a grave in the Margraten Cemetery, now the Netherlands American Cemetery. They told her that they thought they may not be able to care for it long so they told her to go adopt a grave and care for it, which she did willingly. She had seen war and oppression and watched soldiers moving toward the front and streaming back.

The same woman has been caring for the grave of James Hentschel, listed as a corporal in the 330th regiment of the 83rd division, without knowing anything more about him other than that he was an American soldier who died fighting to free Holland from the tyranny that had descended on the Dutch for almost four years, for almost 60 years. At a time when the Dutch needed help, brave Americans came forward and took up the fight and some gave all they had. This is something the Dutch have never forgotten.

When James' family was offered the chance to return the body to America, his mother decided he had been disturbed enough and wanted to leave him in peace. She also felt he would be well cared for by the people of Holland. She did not know how well he would be cared for by a loving and grateful nation.

The story comes back to America when in 2005, I learned that the graves at Margraten had all been adopted by grateful Dutch citizens. I told my nephew about this. A bright young man from Colorado, he travelled to Holland on business and through the Adoption Committee contacted AnneMarie and told her he was the grand-nephew of the soldier whose grave she cared for and would she like to meet? She agreed, and they sat for a few hours in a local establishment talking and sipping beers. He shared with her photographs of the soldier's family and also one of the soldier taken just a month before he was killed. In the photograph, he is wearing the uniform of the 101st Airborne, the unit from which he was transferred to the 83rd weeks before he died.

James Hentschel, Jimmie as he called himself, was my uncle and it was my nephew who called on AnneMarie. Now my family is corresponding with her. We have all thanked her for her unwavering dedication to my uncle. She could not know how close it has brought my family and how much her efforts are appreciated.

If there is an irony in this story it is this. Jimmie graduated from Holland High

School, Holland, Michigan. He wrote in his yearbook, "I will never leave Holland." Little could he have known he never would. It is through the generosity of the Dutch people that he is cared for in ways his family here at home, so far away, cannot do. I personally feel a connection to the Dutch. They gave my family something very precious - the peace of mind knowing my mother's brother has been watched over all these years and will be long after she and I are gone.

To those men of the Thunderbolt Division, know your brothers in arms, your friends, your loved ones, are at rest. They are neither forgotten nor ignored. They are not lost; they have been taken into someone's kind heart.

Thanks,
Bob Wozniak

If you have a relative or friend who is buried at the American Cemetery in the Netherlands (Margraten) and you wish to contact the Dutch citizen who adopted his grave, you can contact the Adoption Committee at either of these email addresses: jhmgpurnot@home.nl (Jo Purnot) or st.adoptie.graven@margraten.nl.

You should tell them your loved one's name, date of death, and other information, and ask the Committee to put you in contact with the Dutch citizen who adopted that grave. You may also want to look at these websites that honor those buried at Margraten. You may also submit information and photos of your loved one to these websites. www.fieldofstories.com, www.fallennotforgotten.nl, and www.basher82.nl.

(Submitted by Debbie Holloman; contact her at daholloman@hotmail.com or P. O. Box 1002, Deltaville, VA 23043, if more information is needed).



Cpl. James Hentschel



American Cemetery at Margraten



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The title of “Kentucky Colonel” is issued at the request of a Kentuckian, by the Governor to an outstanding person who has contributed to the welfare of other people or groups. Manny has certainly shown great support for the 83rd Division Association. Governor Fletcher, upon hearing evidence in support of Mr. Epstein, was happy to issue this honor to him. . . . R. C. Hamilton



59th Annual Reunion
Paducah, Kentucky
Saturday Night Banquet
September 10, 2005
Manny Epstein
Presented with
The Title of
“Kentucky Colonel”

Subj: **United States Army National Museum**
Date: 12/7/2005 12:40:14 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: waplegeo@aol.com

CPT (R) Waple:

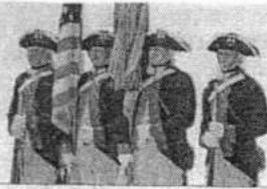
My name is LTC(R) Jim Fisher and I work for the National Museum of the United States Army. I am in charge of the Veterans Programs and the Oral History Program for the National Museum (which has yet to be built). The new National Museum of the United States Army plans to open it's 300 million dollar facility in 2011.

We were intrigued with your book, “Country Boy Gone Soldiering” and might want to possibly use your story as part of an exhibit in the National Museum when it opens. We are particularly interested in your service during the period from World War II through The Korean War.

If possible and at your convenience, we would like to come to your home and film you and conduct your history. I will try and call you at your home in Eatontown, NJ. (I once was stationed at Fort Monmouth and know Eatontown well.)

All the best!

Jim Fisher
Senior Strategist, Programs
National Museum of the United States Army



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'Country boy' became decorated Army vet

By Robert F. Dorr
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

George H. Waple III can take the long view when he looks back to his transition from rural life to Army service.

"Country Boy Gone Soldiering" is his memoir of Army duty, so titled because Waple, now 84, has pastoral memories of a Northern Virginia town that is urbanized and gentrified today. Fairfax County residents routinely travel on Waples Mill Road without knowing it was named for a gristmill founded by Waple's grandparents.

In 1938, at age 17, Waple joined the Army with 3rd Horse Cavalry at Fort Myer, Va.

The United States was a long way from entering World War II at that point, but Waple eventually fought in that war and again in Korea, earning two Combat Infantryman Badges.

"I saw it all," he said, referring to the transition from horseback to modern industrial warfare. In the prewar years, Waple worked with two colonels who later became famous generals, Jonathan Wainwright and George S. Patton. Waple reached the rank of corporal when many Americans were just being drafted in 1940.

Rank came fast once the war began. "I became first sergeant and participated in 83rd Infantry Division training maneuvers in Tennessee in 1942 and 1943," Waple said.

His division sailed for Liverpool, England, aboard the troop ship *George Washington*. Waple and his fellow soldiers landed at



COURTESY OF GEORGE H. WAPLE III

Normandy's Omaha Beach 12 days after the D-Day invasion. Their initial task was to relieve paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division near Carenton, France.

Waple fought as an infantryman in battles along French hedgerows. He and his unit went into the Hurtgen Forest and were in the Battle of the Bulge during the treacherous winter of 1944-45.

One of his saddest moments came when a German warplane dropped a bomb on a Normandy hedgerow, mortally wounding one of his soldiers. Waple recalls the soldier looking up from his stretcher and apologizing for dying: "I'm sorry, first sergeant."

Waple fought in all five distinct ground campaigns on the European continent during World War II.

After the war, Waple worked in the Pentagon for Gen. Omar N. Bradley, then-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This led to a highly unusual direct commission: In January 1952,

Capt. George H. Waple III, seen here in August 1938, fought in the Battle of the Bulge, worked for George S. Patton before he became a famous general, and had his second lieutenant's bars pinned on by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Bradley pinned on Waple's second lieutenant's bars.

Waple was a first lieutenant during the final fighting of the Korean War in July 1953, when Chinese troops attacked Pork Chop Hill, Old Baldy and the Chorwon Valley.

Thousands of Chinese struck in flare-light at night with bugles blowing, he said. After a pitched, eyeball-to-eyeball battle, Waple's troops called in artillery fire. "In the morning, dead Chinese were stacked up like cordwood on our concertina wire."

Waple retired as a captain in 1962. Among other recognition, he has received three Bronze Star awards.

Waple's memoir includes a photo of him with Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker at the Pentagon last year. Waple said they are family friends and he knew Schoomaker when the general was a Cub Scout. □

Robert F. Dorr, an Air Force veteran, lives in Dakton, Va. He is the author of several books, including "Chopper," a history of helicopter pilots. His e-mail address is robert.f.dorr@cox.net.

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>
Burkhard, Karl	H Co., 330th	Jim Brennan, Manny Epstein
Cook, O. L.	F Co., 330th	Ellsworth Massie
Dilworth, Kirby D.	83rd HQ	Kirby Dilworth, Jr., son
Frizzano, John	K Co., 331st	Manny Epstein
Hinz, Donald W.	83rd Signal	Kathryn Hinz, wife
Holliday, Sam	K Co.,	Manny Epstein
Hoosier, Wm. Dale	F Co., 331st	Syndi Brooks, granddaughter; E. Massie; Floyd Richmond; Chuck Abdinoor
Kirby, Harry Jr.	C Co., 308 Eng.	His children
Lenz, Will	A Co., 330th	Steward Barrick, Chuck Abdinoor
Marek, John	AT 331st	Sal Scicolone
Mydlowski, Anthony J.	83rd Band	Zeno "Buddy" King
Obradovich, Bob	453rd, AAA, B Bty.	Fred Pearson
Peloquin, Raymond	329th, HQ	
Ready, Charles	453rd, AAA, D Bty.	Fred Pearson
Robinson, Roy	F Co., 329th	C. R. Bob Whitcomb
Rubright, Sterling	G Co., 329th	Manny Epstein
Runge, Albert	L Co.,	Wife Eunice, Manny Epstein
Smith, Robert	83rd Band	Manny Epstein, Zeno "Buddy" King
Sunderland, Charles	K Co., 331st	Manny Epstein
Terzano, Victor G.	I Co., 329th	Jacqueline Terzano, wife & son Michael



Harry J. Kirby, Jr.

Harry J. Kirby, Jr. of Chadds Ford, formerly of South 2nd St. in Philadelphia, died December 14 at home. He was 88.

Mr. Kirby was retired from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 98 in Philadelphia. He had been a member for over 59 yrs. During his time with the IBEW, he worked on various construction projects in the city, including Penn Center. He retired in 1980. He is past president of the Local 98 retirees' group. He received his training at Spring Garden Institute of Technology and attended Villanova University. He was a 1935 graduate of Central High School in Philadelphia.

An Army veteran of World War II, he served with the 83rd Infantry Div., 308th Engineer Combat Battalion. Mr. Kirby was a lifelong avid model train enthusiast, building model railroad layouts and often building his own cars, including a 25-car circus train. He belonged to several model railroading organizations. He had been a Mason for 60 years.

He was married to the former Rita Pitts of Philadelphia; Mrs. Kirby died in 1964. He is survived by two daughters, Marianne Kirby Rhodes of Springfield, PA and Joan R. Kirby, Esq., of Chadds Ford, PA; two sons, Harry J. III of West Deptford, NJ and James of Chadds Ford. He is survived by two grandchildren, Michael J. Rhodes of Ridley Park, PA, and Jill Rhodes Dow of West Chester, PA, in addition to one great-grandson, Ryan Dow (pictured above with Harry).

Mr. Kirby will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery, VA. Services and interment will be private.

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