



# THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 61 Issue No. 3

Summer Issue 2006

**Brown County Inn**  
LOOKS FORWARD TO HOSTING THE  
60<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REUNION  
FOR THE  
83<sup>RD</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION



Ames Miller, President \* Bob Keck, Board Chairman

**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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1953 Finley Heyl	1970 Casey Szubski	1987 George Fletcher	2004 Allison Shrawder
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1955 Lawrence J. Redmond*	1972 Harold H. Dopp*	1989 Edward Reuss	
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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

In talking with Georgeanna Slaybaugh she agrees with Manny Goodridge, Ames and myself our whole focus has been to give our Buddies the most Memorable Reunion. All 4 of us have worked diligently to make a successful Reunion.

### SPECIAL GUESTS ATTENDING REUNION

Eddy Monfort from Belgium

Jean-Paul Pitou from France

Benjamin Patton

Grandson of General George Patton

Included in our Camp Atterbury Trip will be Lunch at Kings Hall, a tour of Camp Atterbury, visit the Museum which has History from WWII until current date, Prisoner of War Chapel. The PX will be open all Registers will be open for purchasing Gifts.

The last Reunion held in Indianapolis hosted by the Kentucky Chapter included Camp Atterbury Tour. While at Camp Atterbury Members were all over the Tanks and Half Tracks. Instead of Sandwiches we will have a full Meal. There have been great changes at Camp Atterbury since we attended the Indianapolis Reunion. The Col. is looking forward to hosting The 83rd Infantry Div.

We are looking forward to seeing all of our Buddies at the 60th Reunion.

Ames H. Miller

## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

ROBERT KECK

It is only a few months until our 60th Reunion of the 83rd Inf. Div. The committee has set up many good activities to make for a very interesting reunion. The trip to Camp Atterbury is in itself a great tribute to our Division having organized and trained there.

Get your reservations into the Brown County Inn also for the 83rd Div. Activity Registration Package. (Both forms are included in this issue.)

The executive board meeting was held at the Key Bridge Holiday Inn, Rosslyn, Arlington VA on April 27th and 28th. Present were four executive board members, Publisher/Treasurer, President and Vice President.

The first order of business was the nomination and election of Steward Barrick as Secretary of the 83rd Infantry Division Association.

After much discussion the Executive Board voted to accept Descendants of the 83rd Infantry Div. Assn. as members with all regular membership rights. (This will require an amendment to Article V, Section 2 of the Associations By-Laws).

The reason for the meeting at the Holiday Inn was to review the possibility of having the 2007 Reunion there. It is a beautiful hotel with all accommodations required for a reunion.

We have a proposed contract that must be approved by the members at the Nashville, Indiana Reunion General Meeting. Thanks to Chuck Abdinoor for arranging all the necessary details for this important meeting.

God Bless until our meeting in Nashville, IN.

Bob Keck  
L Co., 329th

## FROM THE EDITOR

CLIFF WOOLDRIDGE

We lost some good men this year.

The first, Bruce Winchell who was our 50/50 man and willing to help no matter what you wanted him to do.

The next was Harry Kirby. He and I trained together at Camp Atterbury and were in the same platoon in 1942. His family has been to my home and on my way to Philadelphia I would stop at his house. Harry had a huge collection of trains – he built many of his own cars including a Circus Train with 25 cars. In early May we attended his interment at Arlington Cemetery - a very impressive ceremony

The third one was Pat DiGiammerino – he was the Boston Chapter. He worked diligently to recruit members from all over the country and at one time the membership was close to 600. The Boston Chapter members were faithful contributors to the Ad Book Fund each year. Pat would run a raffle around Christmas and go to the VA with baskets of fruit for the Veterans.

Pat worked to keep the Boston Chapter alive – getting the fellows together now and then to have a meeting, some food and beverages. Over the last several years meetings were held at his home with Ginny right behind him and the 83rd. Pat as National President (3 times) and Reunion Chairman many other years ran many successful reunions as well as mini-reunions for the Boston Chapter. The Boston Chapter will continue but we will miss him.

One other fellow I will miss is Karl Burkhard. I liked to watch him and his wife dance the polka at the reunions. They seemed so happy out there on the floor but at the end of the dance they were tired.

We're going to miss all of these men. My sympathy goes out to their families.

\* \* \*

Around May 1st the Northeast received a great deal of rain causing a huge amount of flooding. My son's printing business (he prints the Thunderbolt for me) ended up with 7 feet of water in the shop with everything under water. I have been trying to help him get the place cleaned out, the rust off the machinery, and the motors started again. I have known quite a few printers while in the business myself who have volunteered to help so that we will be able to get this Thunderbolt printed.

Any one who has not paid their 2006 Membership Dues will NOT receive THIS THUNDERBOLT. So if a buddy calls you

because he didn't get his, ask him if he paid his dues.

\*\*\*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.**

I've been talking with Georgeanna in Nashville and I think the Hometown Parade to Honor the 83rd Veterans sounds great! Remember the Parade is on **THURSDAY AFTERNOON 4 PM.** **Make sure you're here in time for it.**

We also expect Ben Patton, Gen. George Patton's grandson, to be there on Thursday! And our own Tony Vaccaro will be there also.

**Remember the first General Membership Meeting will be on Thursday at 10 AM.**

**Would you believe -  
40 NEW Association Members -  
at this stage of the game?**

Yes, that's right! Since January we have received 40 new memberships – 17 Former 83rd'ers (some never knew about the Association) and 23 Descendants.

Someone had placed the Reunion information in the American Legion, then someone put it in the VFW magazine, and the last one was in the DAV magazine. Unfortunately, the DAV ad had the wrong state – Tennessee (TN) when it should have been Nashville, INDIANA (IN). But we were happy to take anybody from all three magazines – That's pretty good.

*NOTE: The 83rd Memorial Service and Mass will be held at Camp Atterbury on Saturday.*

**PLEASE GET  
YOUR REGISTRATION FORMS IN  
NOW – DEADLINE IS JULY 23RD!**

See you all at the Nashville Reunion in August.

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

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN ELLSWORTH MASSIE

Let us keep each other in mind and remember in prayer those in good times and especially in the trying time of old age and the increasing inability to do all we could do when we were younger!

This will give us a strong bond of fellowship until our allotted days on this earthy stay are completed!

Your Chaplain, E. Massie

## CHAPTERS

### BOSTON CHAPTER NEWS AMBY TYNAN



**Ginny and Pat**

I have sad news from the Boston Chapter. Pat DiGiammerino passed away on May 2, 2006. We all lost a dedicated veteran of the 83rd Infantry Division Association.

Pat was the backbone of our Boston Chapter. He was responsible for keeping the Boston Chapter active and financially solvent. He will be missed by all. His funeral was held in Malden,

Mass. on May 5th, 2006. A large group from the Boston Chapter attended.

Pat was 83rd National President three times and Boston Chapter President a few times. But he loved his being the Chapter Membership Committee. He just kept signing on new members. He was always happy to announce to us when he signed up new members. He was a good salesman.

Pat was above all dedicated to his family and leaves his wife 'Ginny', three sons Gary, Paul and Dave. Also, seven grandchildren. We all lost a great buddy and our prayers go out to his family.

Tony Piantedosi, Boston Chapter Secretary



**Pat DiGiammerino, John Tisdell, Charlie Lussier**

### DIXIE CHAPTER NEWS ELLSWORTH MASSIE

Spring Williamsburg, VA  
Dixie Chapter 20th Meet



Lazarus 3-Generations & Massie, A322 FA  
Son Dave & Grandson have been sworn in &  
will carry on!

Tues. March 7th

Spring is in the air. Early flowers are blooming. The "Early Birds" are arriving! One couple from Texas. Two couples from Maryland. All ready, able and willing to enjoy the season of the year and this time in their lives. Fortunately, I am one of this group! I don't want to miss anything that takes place –

Our "host and hostess" and newly elected (and wife) Secretary/Treasurer – John White (a descendant member). We finally passed the necessary formalities to take in descendants, wives, etc. as dues paying, office holding members and not a moment too soon.

So many of our willing members are not up to holding and filling the responsibilities of keeping our organization in motion. We expect more of our officers to be drawn from this group in the coming years. We welcome each and encourage them to step up! We are grateful for each one!

Wed., March 8th

Mostly we settled in and got ready for the days ahead. We have to be up early because we expect John Cox and Virginia, our hosts for many years, to be here. John recovering from surgery and treatment for cancer doesn't disappoint us. Virginia is a great helper in so many ways! We couldn't do it without her. Our outgoing president J. I. Lamb is here with wife and a visiting couple.

Ellane Watkins one of our precious widows shows up with a guest and that special German Chocolate Cake that I look forward to each year. Of course, John and Bobbie White are busy lining up the refreshments and our meals together and doing a great job. Charlotte and Arthur Loukas are ordering the fried chicken and getting the plans for our trip to the WWII Memorial complete. Happy to report an excellent job on that project! Thanks a Million!

Thurs., March 9th

More old and new people are on hand. We exchanged family news, chewed the fat and went to the Chinese Buffet which was a pleasant treat for the six couples joining in. Some shopped and took in the sights and closed down the Hospitality Room at a respectable time for old folks.



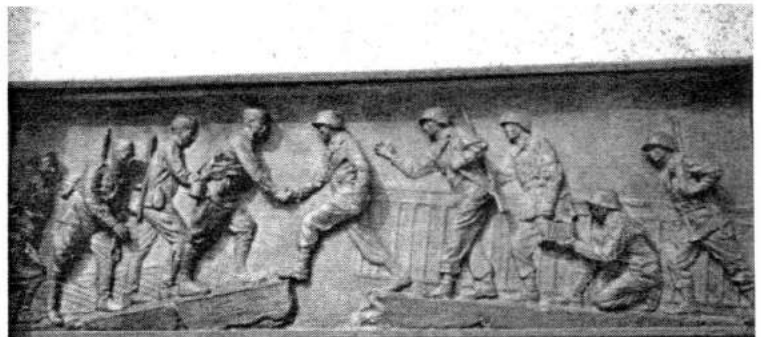
**Paul Poole & Family, Hqtrs. 329th Inf.**



**Clyde Miller & Family, L 331st Inf.**



**John Cox & Wife, C908 Art.**



**Frieze depicting the 83rd Division Meeting the Russians at the Elbe River from the WWII Memorial, Washington, D.C.**

Fri., March 10th

We're up early for breakfast at the hotel and 33 of us are off to Washington, DC by bus to the World War II Memorial. It was a day full of excitement and enjoyed by all. It was a great experience. We met and talked with younger people from England and Australia. Also, had our pictures taken by some Chinese folks there with their families. I must go back again since I couldn't see all the detail I wanted to see and photograph.

Sat., March 11th

Everyone is finally here and a great time is being enjoyed by all. Our business meeting is well attended and plans are made to be at the National Dixie in December, Gatlinburg, November 30 through December 2, 2006. Dates for Williamsburg will follow later. We memorialized those who have given their all for freedom and especially those who have left us this past year.

The Artillery finally came through with 3 men present – Cox, Lazarus, Massie. Lazarus had a son Dave and grandson Andrew with him!

The 322nd FAA and 331st Inf. Co. K are tied with 2 men each present. Three widows are present, 10 wives are present with their old soldier husbands. Thirteen descendant members are present. Two families had 5 plus members on hand. They were so busy I couldn't keep them straight but I believe the "Clyde Miller" family took the record – Congratulations!!

Our longtime associate member Tom Thompson's wife Betty won the 50/50. Many door prizes were drawn and awarded to the winners.

Each one who came is appreciated by all present! Food and refreshments are so good I'm having trouble getting back to normal. Hopefully all reached home well and happy to have been able to "Celebrate Being Alive" again.

Your Reporter

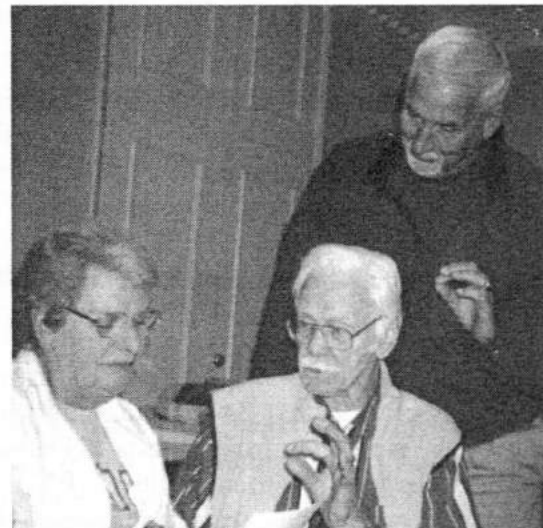
E. Massie



**Frank Morris & Wife, K331 st. Inf.**



**Carol Naylor & Son  
Widow of George Naylor**



**Passing the Torch to the Next Generation!  
The First Descendant Member to Hold Office  
Col. White's son John and wife Bobbie**

## FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

ROBERT TAYLOR  
B Co. 329TH

## GREATER PITTSBURGH CHAPTER NEWS

FRANCIS BEERHALTER

## KENTUCKY CHAPTER NEWS

(No Report)

## MICHIGAN CHAPTER NEWS

NICK BARBU

## NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

NICK FRANCUCCO

## NEW JERSEY CHAPTER NEWS

STAN BIELEN  
stanfran83rd@aol.com

I'm back after having a rough time during the first four months of 2006. During that time I had three operations and spent a lot of time recuperating. Hopefully it's all behind me. I received calls from Charlie Sihlanick weekly to encourage me and also prayers and cards and calls from many friends and family. I also had many an email to and from Rags Rangnow for his much appreciated advice. Thank you all for your caring.

Chapter News: I heard from a mutual friend that Frank Sabine (Co. D, 331) is having health problems. Our hopes and prayers are with you always. Irene Guzek called us to checkup on us and told us that she and her husband Ted (Co. A 331) are doing good. It's always great to talk to Irene and get the latest news on both of them. Fred Klein (1st Bn. Hdqs. 331) is in touch by email told me he is moving from Florida to Dallas, Texas to be close to his son and family. It's the time of our life when the greatest enjoyment is your family and especially the grandchildren. Frank Reichmann at 94 years young told me that he still shoveled his walk and driveway after the record 21 inch snowfall (drifts as high as 3 feet)

we had in Jersey. Russell Whitehead (Co. F 329) calls to let me know of his plans for the reunion. Both he and Margarita are doing fine.



Harold & Doris Everham – 65th Anniversary

Harold Everham (Co. C 330) is in touch and reports all is well with them. Heard from Sam Manzi (Co. K 330) by Christmas card, he and Edith are doing OK. I know he has problems with his eyes and is limited in driving. We sure miss seeing you. It was great when we were able to get together for the great Christmas Parties for the chapter.

Sunday, April 23, 2006 – Charlie Sihlanick's daughter Linda Rose held a dinner for Charlie's 85th birthday. I couldn't be there but was told it was attended by 40 people. I'm sure they all had a great time as their parties are always great. Happy Birthday and many more!

It was sad for us to read in the last Thunderbolt Magazine that our chapter member Victor Terzano (Co. I 329) had died. He and wife Jacqueline attended some of our parties and they were real nice and enjoyed by all that met them. Our heartfelt sympathy to his family.

The latest I have on who is going to the reunion in Nashville, Indiana: Joe DePeri and his daughter Joann's family are driving there. Joe is happy that it is being held in August, the kids are not in school so they could all enjoy the reunion. Andy Socha and Charlie Sihlanick are also driving to the reunion. Andy will be doing all the driving unless I decide to go along. It all depends on how I feel and whether I can get someone to stay with my wife Fran. Manny Epstein called me last night from Florida to tell me that the reunion will have some great events scheduled, especially the trip to Camp Atterbury.

My granddaughter Kelly Bielen has been in Paris, France for her junior year at Kenyon



University in Ohio studying at the Sorbonne and the Art Institute. In March my son Ken, Kelly's dad, and my daughter Joyce, her husband John and their children Emily and Evan went to France to be with Kelly who is majoring in French. They took in all the sights of Paris and then went on to Normandie to visit my French friends Renee and Jennette Dubois who live in Carentan and the Lehays and Fereys who live outside Sainteny. The great thing that the internet provides is the ability to communicate by email and they were able to contact Helene Leahy to arrange their stay while in Carentan. Helene is the daughter of the former mayor of Sainteny, Auguste Ferey. You who have been on some of the trips back to Sainteny will remember him. The Lehays - Christian, Helene and their children Marysa and Nicholas took them to all the historic sites along the Normandie Coast also bringing along the food for the picnic they enjoyed. They had them over for dinner their first day and also for breakfast every day. The Leahy's have a dairy farm and it was quite an experience for Emily age 10 and Evan age 8. It was quite a thrill for all of them when they were invited to an official reception by the mayor of Sainteny along with Champagne and hors d' oeuvres. It just goes to show how much the people of that area hold the 83rd in such high esteem and still show their appreciation to our descendants.

Descendants take note: if ever you are to visit that area of Normandie, stop in to the mayor's office and let them know who your family member was and what unit he was with. It will make your trip more meaningful.

Have a safe trip to the reunion and enjoy!!

Stan Bielen

## COMPANIES

**783RD ORDNANCE Co.**  
RAGS RANGNOW

## Co. "A" - 330<sup>TH</sup>

CHARLES ABDINOOR  
sgtchuck83rd@aol.com

Hi Buddy's:

Hope all is well with you all. Pearl and Walt Pillion are now in their new house. They are closer to their son. They can now restore old tractors, which is their hobby. Dolores and Paul Reed have their doctor's appointments to make, but are looking forward to their vacation home in Ocean City, Maryland. Good Luck.

Pauline and Ed Brown are off again to Alaska, and points everywhere? They have a new camper, so off they go. Lucky them. Phyllis and Earl Brown I hope are looking forward to our 60th. He is in constant touch with Cookie Senica, our Company Clerk. Hope to see them soon. I have not heard from Shorty Glasser. Hope he is able to make Nashville. He missed Paducah.

Looking forward to see once again the Prussman's. After the war he finally looked up his fellow POW Peacock. Both were prisoners of war captured together in the Bulge, but unfortunately Peacock passed away but his son contacted Prussman and he was able to get first hand information of what happened. They are in constant touch with one another.

After all these years, I keep in touch with the Bielen's, Tynan's, McCouch's and former 83rd's. We are all bonded and stay that way.

On a sad note we lost Pat DiGiammerino, Lee Milligan, O.L. Cook, Karl Burkhard, and Will Lenz - after Steward Barrick finally convinced Will to come to Paducah. Incidentally, Will was our interpreter, speaking fluent German. He met our A Co. men and vowed to come next year. Unfortunately, Paducah was his first and last. May they all rest in peace. They will be missed.

On a positive note, the 83rd was adopted by 8 year old Aidan T. Hoey of Pepperell, MA. He and his classmates were very interested in the history of the Thunderbolt across Europe and they had a class lesson on WW II. We met through his grandmother who is a nurse at the VA. He is truly an 83rd'er and is our Public Relations Officer at his school.



Aidan T. Hoey

Thank you Aidan. The 83rd appreciates your concern. Incidentally, Aidan wore his "Save the 83rd" button to school.

Sincerely,  
Your Buddy Chuck, B & A 330th

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

**GERI GUNDERSON  
BILL MCKEE**

The lazy days of summer are fast approaching and the date is getting closer for the upcoming 60th Reunion in Nashville, Indiana on August 23-27. Everyone that I have been in touch with is looking forward to being at this grand affair. I am sure that the National President Ames Miller and his beautiful wife Helen, and their committee will see that the 60th Reunion will be a memorable one as each of the preceding 59 Reunions have made their individual mark on our memories. To have the memorial service at Camp Atterbury should bring back a lot of memories for the ones that took basic training there.

Bill and Jeannette McKee have returned to the cold in Massachusetts. It was a joy to have them so close for January, February and March. All good things must come to an end! We are looking forward to next year! They will be in Nashville, even should it snow during August!

Frank and Dana Sharp have a new address: 2750 W. Fair Avenue #103, Lancaster, OH 43130. They love hearing from the 83rd. We hope they can come to Nashville.

Al Shrawder has been hard at work setting up the "after the Reunion rendezvous", that Company D started in New Orleans in 1978. At that time many of us were still working, but we had such a great time on that first extended three days, that each year we made time and it became a tradition and part of the Reunion. This time it will be a place we have been before-Clifty Falls State Park near Madison, Indiana. You will be hearing more information from Al.

Harry and Barbara Gravelyn keep in touch by e-mail and it is so good to hear from them often, and looking forward to seeing them at the 60th Reunion.

Mary Dallos is still having health problems but they expect to be at the Reunion. Mary is busy making her beautiful creations that she displays to every ones delight each year.

It was sad to hear that Frank and Mary Sabine may not get to attend this year. We hope and pray that they will be able to be there. The group is not complete without them.

R. C. Hamilton celebrated a BIG birthday on April 23rd. We are looking forward to them being in Nashville, and also hope their family will be there too!

We are looking forward to Jim and Elaine (Odenweller) Hogan at Nashville in August. We are so happy to have this young couple spend time with us each year. (George and Polly would be overjoyed too!)

Dan and Doris McDermott plan on being in Nashville. Their reservations are already made! Harvey Clements, Arthur Haught, Ken Barker, and Nick Barbu are WANTED at the Reunion! No excuses guys! Just be there!

Sympathy is extended to the families of O.L. Cook and Bruce Winchell. O.L. was a faithful member of the Dixie Chapter and he will be missed. We were with Bruce Winchell at the last Florida Chapter meeting. Bruce was a great promoter of the 83rd and he too will be missed by all who knew him.

I would like to thank Georgeanna Lewis Slaybaugh for her beautiful tribute to her father. Mr. Lewis was a great example of all the men who served their country in WWII as one of the greatest generations in our history.

Geri Gunderson

5-2-06

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

Congratulations to the Official Editor and Unofficial Co Editor of the "Thunderbolt". The combo of Cliff and Nancy have made the publication the very best of any other Association's printings I have seen or heard of. A real Gem! They continue to upgrade from issue to issue with all articles being extremely interesting and timely. It's too bad, kinds like church congregations those who should be reaping the benefits aren't. Why? Because they are not members of the 83rd Infantry Division Association. Members, point this out to fellow comrades you come in contact with who are not members, encourage them to join and become a part of what they are missing, one of the Greatest Assets of the Association.

Fred Pearson 453rd AAA (AW) Bn. Vol. 61 No. 2 Pg. 10 said it all and I paraphrase, Your Buddies would love to see you in Nashville at the 60th Annual Reunion wheelchairs, canes, walkers, or oxygen just anything you need. Help can be arranged somehow.

Assistant Historian Dave Curry's article titled "The Island Battle of 2/329 - July 4, 1944" in the last "Thunderbolt" was of course of special interest, as listed on Company "F"'s present mailing list of 60 are, Eight (8) members that took part in that Battle. It was the first attack of the 329th Regiment, in which only its 2nd Battalion participated, with only "E" and "F" Companies being committed across the swamp that day.

The 60th Annual Reunion In the last Co. F Newsletter dated April 10, 2006 it was indicated 13 were planning on attending. This now is up to 15 with still the possible 4 to 6 more as mentioned.

For our Company conversations with one another we will have to garner a couple tables in the Association's Hospitality Room when open, as No Company C.P. will be available.

Banquet Saturday August 26th - I am writing Harold Newell asking him to handle the Banquet Seating arrangements for those desiring to sit at a Co. "F" table. Please communicate with Harold in accordance with whatever instructions are

provided you upon your arrival in Nashville. Thanks Harold. On the event Harold doesn't make it to the Reunion find out who is handling the arrangements for Co. "F".

North 2006 Ashland, Ohio October 8-11, 2006  
As stated plans are basically as in past years. Arrive Sunday - Depart after breakfast together Wednesday. Motel location and information later to those advising me they are planning on attending.

**How come the label on my sleeping pills  
warns  
"May cause drowsiness"?**

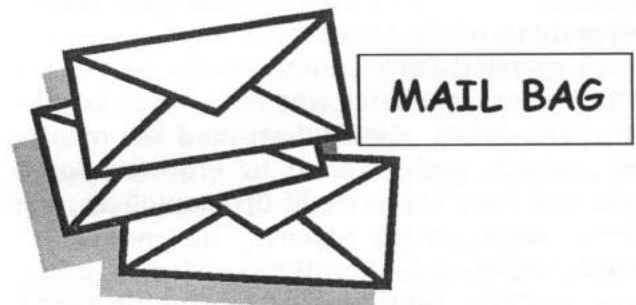
**C. R. Bob Whitcomb**  
**1314 Center Ln. Dr.**  
**Ashland, Ohio 44805-3403**  
**Ph 419-289-2148**

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**453<sup>RD.</sup> AAA. (AW) BN.**  
**FRED C. PEARSON**

\*\*\*\*\*



Cliff,

T. Stewart Barrick headed a group from his church to help out in New Orleans building houses for displaced people from the hurricane that inflicted tremendous losses. Hopefully, the

Macaluso family benefited from them. Stewart can be counted upon for help wherever needed. They were down there for 14 days.

Congratulations Stewart.

Chuck Abdinoor

\*\*\*\*\*

From Bob Taylor -



**Bruce Edward Winchell**  
Obituary

Bruce was born on a farm in Freeland on July 12, 1924 to Margaret (Stimpson) and Roy Winchell. He graduated from Midland High School in 1942. He joined the U.S. Army and proudly served during World War II with the 83rd Infantry Div., Signal Co. Bruce received decoration for five major battles from Normandy to North Germany.

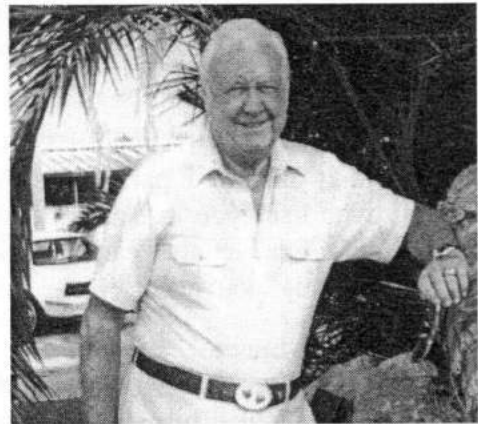
Bruce married Jean Cummings on Aug. 13, 1954. He was a master electrician with Local 557 of the IBEW. He had worked on many local projects and traveled to Prudhoe Bay, Alaska and New York. He lit up many lives.

There were many sports he enjoyed: softball, bowling, horseshoes, darts, bike riding, euchre, shuffleboard, camping and hiking. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting, fishing and bird watching. He had been a member of the Freeland Sportsman's Club for many years. Bruce banded birds for the Fish and Wildlife Dept. and was active in the Saginaw Valley Audubon. He was a member of the American Legion and VFW.

Bruce is survived by his daughters, the Rev. Jean Winther of Breckenridge, Michele Grant of Freeland, Susan Bosley of Detour Village and Carol Rames of Richfield, Ohio; his sons, David King of Knoxville, Tenn., Thomas of Saginaw and Kim of Houston, Texas; 12 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; one great-great granddaughter; 3 brothers and one sister.

A memorial service was held Friday, April 28, 2006 at the First United Methodist Church in Breckenridge. Those planning an expression of sympathy may contribute to the Miller Empey Room and the Saginaw Valley Audubon Society.

\*\*\*\*\*



**Jim Burton, D Co., 329th**

Dear Cliff,

Just a line to let you know I've been home from the hospital a short while. I had congestive heart failure and I am down to approximately 145 lbs. How's that for a diet? I don't recommend it! My main problem now is my balance. I will be in therapy for the next few weeks, and felling better everyday.

I am enclosing a couple of pictures you may wish to use in the THUNDERBOLT. Please give my best wishes to all of my friends and tell them I'm sorry to have missed our past reunions. I don't know if I'll be able to make it this year, but I'll try.

Best wishes to all,

Jim Burton - Co. D, 329 Reg.

\*\*\*\*\*

May 22, 2006

Dear Mr. Wooldridge,

Sgt. Chuck Abdinoor gave me your name and address. My father, S. Sgt. George Cooley of Warren, Ohio (Battery A 322nd Field Artillery) recently passed away. He was very involved for many years with the 83rd, and I have many fond memories of some of your members. I attended conventions with him and my mom both in New York and New Orleans.

Chuck tells me that I can get involved in your organization as a descendent. Please send me any information as to what you're looking for and how I can be of service. My dad really loved you guys and I will try to do what I can for you. God Bless you all!

Sincerely,

George M. Cooley  
2314 Country Mile Ln.  
Richmond, Texas 77469  
(281) 344-0147  
gcooley@rialtofinancial.com



George Cooley  
1918 - 2006  
Obituary

George Cooley, age 87, lovingly known as "Papp" or "Big George" by his family and friends passed on to his eternal rest on March 16, 2006. He was born in Coal Center, PA on January 21, 1919 but lived in Warren, OH until his retirement in 1980. George graduated from Warren C. Harding High School in 1938. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1942 and served as a Staff Sergeant of an artillery unit in the 83rd Infantry Division during World War II. His entire tour of duty was served in the European Theatre winning several citations. Other than his family, George was most proud of coming home from his service with all 17 of his men alive and only incurring a few minor injuries. He continued to serve in an executive capacity and remained active for years with the 83rd Infantry Div. Alumni Association.

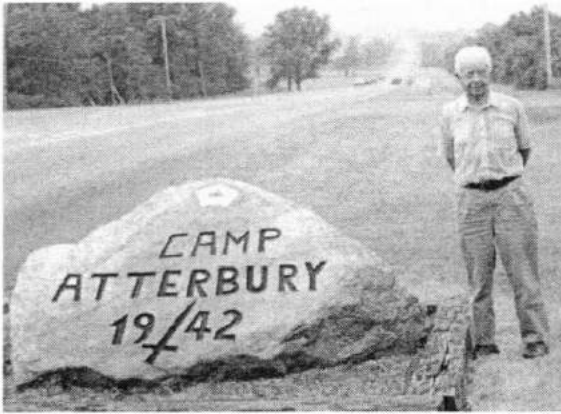
George worked in the printing and advertising business most of his life until joining the City of Warren, Ohio Income Tax Div. in the late 1960's. He lived in Florida for several years, moving to Texas in 1993, where he said he always wanted to be. George deeply loved his family, friends, his military "brothers" and Texas.

George is survived by his wife of 65 years, Mary Ann Gallo Cooley of Richmond, TX; his daughter Maureen J. Cooley of Tampa, FL; his son George M. and wife Melanie Martin Cooley of Richmond, TX; his granddaughter, Jennifer Cooley of Richmond, TX; his sister Ann Uitto of Warren, OH.



Staff Sgt. George Cooley (L)  
Capt. Manning (R)  
Hurtgen Forest

\* \* \* \* \*



62 Years Later - July 2004

Dear Sir,

William G. Herbstritt passed away on April 26, 2006. (This was our 59th Anniversary.)

Sincerely,

Helen M. Herbstritt

105 Edward Rd., St. Marys, PA 15857

.....

Obituary - The Daily Press

April 27, 2006

St. Marys, Pennsylvania

William G. Herbstritt, 81, died Wednesday, April 26, 2006 at the Elk Regional Health Center.

He was born July 21, 1924, in St. Marys, son of the late Floyd L. and Nora A. Wolf Herbstritt. On April 26, 1947 he was married to Helen Lipstak Herbstritt, who survives. Also surviving is a son, Michael J. Herbstritt of St. Marys.

He served in the U.S. Army from March 1943 until Nov. 17, 1945 with basic training at Fort Jackson, SC with the 106th Infantry Div. Shortly after that, he departed for the European Theater and served with Company F, 330th regiment of the 83rd Infantry Div. Sgt. Herbstritt saw action during the Normandy invasion, the battle of Brittany, Central Europe, the Ardennes and Germany. He was awarded the Purple Heart on two occasions for wounds received in St. Lo, France, and the Hurtgen Forest in Germany. His other military decorations included the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, European Theater of Operations Medal with five battle stars, the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the World War II Victory Medal. He was an expert with the rifle, bazooka and bayonet.

He had been active in Veterans affairs for many years. He had been a lifetime member of the American Legion Post 103 of St. Marys, having served as commander in 1967-68. He also served as president of the Past Commanders Assn. of Legion Post 103. He served as a trustee of the Legion Club for many years. He was a lifetime member of the VFW Post 1047, St. Marys, a member of the 40 ET 8 Voiture 670 and served as its commander in 1992-93. He was still an active member of the 83rd Infantry Div. Assn. and the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

Hi,

5/15/06

I just ran across these pictures today. They were taken in August 2004, 62 years after I was first in Camp Atterbury. I was Platoon Sgt. in L Co. 330th. I still have a note book with names of the Platoon. They are as follows -

CHERRY - BOND - HUNT - CAMPBELL  
 HOFFER - TESTAL- HUTTO - GOODSON  
 HEDGE - MONROE - ROBERSON  
 MEARS - WATKINS - BRYAN - CHINN  
 SWARTZ - BARRETT - MULQUEENEO  
 NORDAN - GONTZ - JOHNSON - FILLUS  
 DYCHE - HALE - SNEED - ESTEPL  
 TAYLOR - FALLIS - UPTON - DENSMORE  
 ORNDORFF - SMITH, G. - HITNER  
 BRUCE - YARBOROUGH - POTTER  
 MCLAUGHUN - KEACHNER

I have the 2005 Rooster but these names are not in it. Are there any still around?

I left the 83rd Div. in April 1943 for the 75th Div. (A Platoon Sgt.) in Mo then to the 37th Div. in October 1943. Overseas in Pacific two years.

Sorry, I can't make the Reunion in August.

Vernon Shelton  
 2415 60th St.  
 Des Moines, IA 50322

\*\*\*\*\*

Assn., as well as a 40-yr. member of the St. Marys Servicemen's Detail, from 1964 to 2004. As a devoted member of the Burial Detail, he has been most faithful, missing participation in only four funerals in the 40 years he served.

Mass. of Christian Burial was celebrated at the St. Mary's Catholic Church on Sat., April 29th. A Military Service was conducted by the St. Marys Servicemen's Detail.

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## NEW REQUEST

from Debbie Holloman

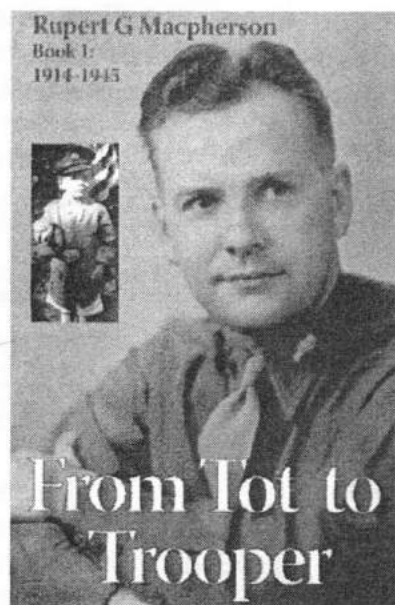
### SPECIAL NOTICE TO ANY 83RD DIVISION VETS WHO FOUGHT IN THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE JAN. 3 - 20, 1945

If you fought in **MALEMPRE, LIERNEUX, STERPIGNY, MONT-LE-BAN, FRAITURE, OTTRE, COURTIL, BIHAIN, HONVELEZ, LANGLIRE, or BOVIGNY**, please contact Eddy Monfort., who writes: "I live in the Ardennes (Belgium), in the village of **MALEMPRE** that was liberated by your unit during the Battle of the Bulge on January 3rd, 1945. I would like to write a book about the events and more particularly about the **83rd Infantry Division** during the counter attack of January 1945 - from 3rd to 20th January 1945." Eddy, who is 35 years old, is writing a book that focuses on the 83<sup>rd</sup> Division's activities during this period. He is interested in your recollections and photos – anything you can tell him about that time. He met some of you in June 1989 when some 83<sup>rd</sup> Vets visited Malempre. At the National Archives, he found photos of some 83<sup>rd</sup> Vets: **PFC Arlow JENSEN**, Rothsay, MN, 329 – G; **PVT David HIBBITT**, Jackson, TN; **PFC Ovey BARNETT**, Little Rock, Arkansas; **PFC Orville DALTON**, Marion, KY; **PFC Arthur KELLEN**, Memara, Iowa; **SGT Lester J. BASTIEN** of Bayside, RI, 908th F.A.Bn.; **SGT Edward A. CHESS**, Chicago, IL; **CPL Joseph BULI**, Wilkes Barre, PA, HQ Co., 3rd

Bn, 330<sup>th</sup> IR; **PFC Frank VUKASIN**, Great Falls, MT, Co. C, 331<sup>st</sup> IR; **CPL Geo or Leo VERTREAR**, Louisville, KY, 308th Engineer Bn.; **CPL Joseph DENUCHI** of Brownsville, PA & **Dennis LULOWSKI** of Chicago, IL, 308th Eng. Bn. Can you tell him about these men?

**PLEASE help tell the story of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Division:** send your stories, copies of photos, and any other information about the 83<sup>rd</sup> and the Battle of the Bulge to Eddy Monfort, Rue de la Gotte, 15 B-6960 Malempre – Mania Belgium or email him at [e.monfort@belgacom.net](mailto:e.monfort@belgacom.net).

*Editor's Note: Eddy Monfort will be at our 60th Reunion in Nashville, Indiana in August.* \*\*\*\*\*



"Note from Rupert Macpherson (Div Arty):

I would like to announce the first book in my trilogy about my life. In it my first 30 years from 1914-1945 are detailed in the story of a life lived in the first half of the twentieth century, entitled *From Tot to Trooper*".

Chapter V is entitled "We Went To War, June 29, 1944".

Rupert G. Macpherson, 2707 W. Macon St.,  
Decatur, IL 62522 217-422-6117

(For additional information: Call Café Press 1-877-809-1659 or [www.cafepress.com.memoir](http://www.cafepress.com.memoir))

**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 & RECEPTION**  
**“A Salute to the WW II Veterans of the 83rd”**  
**329th Co. F Re-enactors Marching**  
**Reception - Local Vets - Special Guests**

**Friday, August 25**

10:00am - 12:00pm **GENERAL SESSION MEETING**  
10:00am - 12:00pm Tea with the Ladies  
12:00am - 2:00pm Caricaturist – Sketches by Request (no charge)  
1:00pm - On Your Own – Galleries, Wineries, Historic Sites- Covered Bridges,  
Museums, Nature Center, 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 **CAMP ATTERBURY** - (See Separate Agenda)  
**MEMORIAL SERVICE & CATHOLIC MASS AT 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)



**CAMP ATTERBURY**  
**MEMORIAL SERVICE and CATHOLIC MASS**

Saturday - August 26, 2006

Agenda

Early Breakfast  
(On your Own)

**Load Trailway Buses -- 8:15 AM Sharp**  
**Buses Leave Brown County Inn -- 8:30 AM Sharp**

Arrive at Camp Atterbury

Go directly to Memorial Wall where Everyone Seated for  
Commemorative Service which Starts at **9:30 AM Sharp**  
Honoring all who have Trained at Camp Atterbury  
From WW II through the Present  
followed by

**OUR 83RD MEMORIAL SERVICE HONORING OUR BUDDIES**

Refreshments – cookies and drinks after services  
followed by

You will Board Camp Atterbury Buses for Tour of Base  
Veterans have Easy Going from here on

Tour of Base

First Stop will be the Museum with 83rd Infantry Display  
If possible before Lunch - We will see some of the Base  
Prisoner of War Chapel – Gift Shop Open  
PX will have Extra Cashiers to Speed the Lines for your Shopping

Lunch at 12:00 PM  
Kings Hall - Cafeteria Style

**CATHOLIC MASS AT 1:00 PM IN CHAPEL #1**

All those attending Mass will Tour Base after Mass

Those not attending Mass will Tour Base after Lunch

**3:00 PM Designated Time to Leave Camp Atterbury**

*Handicapped Buses will be Provided*

## 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>
Biller, Owen	A Co., 331st	Son Tom, Ellsworth Massie
Cook, O.L.	F Co., 330th	Geri Gunderson
DiGiammerino, Pat D.	323rd FA	Wife Ginny
Herbsttritt, William G.	F Co., 330th	Wife Helen
Hetterick, Charles	L Co., 330th	Son John
Hostettler, Francis	D Co., 330th	Family
Jakubowski, John	D Co., 329th	Son Paul
Miller, John E.	L Co., 331st	Georgine Pitcher, daughter
Pratt, Isaac	AT 330th	Marilyn Jenkins, daughter
Wilson, Harvey		Howard Donbar
Winchell, Bruce	83rd Signal	Bob Taylor



### Pat D. DiGiammerino

Pat D. DiGiammerino, 87, a lifelong resident of Malden, MA died May 2, 2006, at Lawrence Memorial Hospital, Medford, MA. Born in Malden, he had worked as a salesman in the hardware industry for many years. He had also served in the U.S. Army during World War II, serving in the Battle of Normandy in France and Rhineland in Central Europe.

Mr. DiGiammerino was a Past National President and local president of the 83rd Infantry Division Assn. of World War II. He was a lifetime member and past president of the Italian American Citizens Club of Malden and a former member of the American Legion and ITAM Clubs of Malden. Mr. DiGiammerino was a lifetime member of the DAV of Malden and a member of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Assn. He is survived by his wife Virginia "Ginny" (Gaetani); his sons, Paul of Malden; David (Mary Ann) of Medway; and Gary (June) of Tewksbury; six grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Funeral services held at the Spadafora Funeral Home, interment in Holy Cross Mausoleum, Malden, MA.

Cindy Sheehan asked President Bush, "Why did my son have to die in Iraq?"

Another mother asked President Kennedy, "Why did my son have to die in Viet Nam?"

Another mother asked President Truman, "Why did my son have to die in Korea?"

Another mother asked President F. D. Roosevelt, "Why did my son have to die at Iwo Jima?"

Another mother asked President W. Wilson, "Why did my son have to die at Gettysburg?"

And yet another mother asked President G. Washington, Why did my son have to die near Valley Forge?"

Then long, long ago, a mother asked, "Heavenly Father, why did my Son have to die  
on a cross outside of Jerusalem?"

**The answers to all these are similar - "that others may have Life and dwell in Peace,  
Happiness, and Freedom."**

"This was emailed to me with no author and I thought the magnitude and the simplicity were  
awesome. . ." from Susan Pray, Descendant, daughter of Roger Dumont (G Co., 329th)

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION INC.  
 INCOME STATEMENT  
 DECEMBER 31, 2005

Brought Forward from December 21, 2004		\$ 18,518.00
Income Received		
Dues, Rosters, Misc.	15,929.00	
Ad Book Revenue	<u>7,443.00</u>	
	23,372.00	
Total Income		<u>23,372.00</u>
Total Balance and Income		41,890.00
Disbursements		
Postage/Shipping	1,123.00	
Office Supplies	574.00	
Bank Charge	11.00	
Ad Book	4,411.00	
Reunion	232.00	
Executive Board	4,005.00	
Printing	9,037.00	
Misc.	<u>550.00</u>	
	19,942.00	
Total Disbursements		<u>19,942.00</u>
Net Balance December 31, 2005		21,948.00

Ad Book Costs ('05)

Ad Books	\$3,099.00
Stamps	548.00
Shipping	254.00
Letters	120.00
Labels	60.00
Envelopes Gold	90.00
Envelopes Reg.	85.00
Fold, Insert, Seal, Label	<u>155.00</u>
	\$4,411.00

**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**

Stalin. We raised our drinks and each 83rd man took a sip. The Russians drank every drop in their glass. Fedarko reminded our people that when we drank with the Russians we were expected to drink it all...so we emptied our glasses. Our drinking slowed after that.

We noticed as our discussion progressed that the major became quieter. Upon glancing at him, I saw his eyes get larger and he seemed to stiffen as he slid directly under the table. We all jumped up to help him and were informed by Fedarko that we should not touch him. Just let him lay. Our discussion continued without him and after some time, maybe one or two hours, food was served. Once the meal was complete, the major climbed back in his chair. Colonel McDonald poured another round of drinks. We all drank, including the Major. Colonel McDonald suggested we return to his headquarters to entertain our guests properly.

The Major, his lady friend, the 1st Lt., and his lady friend went to their staff car, an Opel. With the 1st Lt. driving we all started back. We soon found the 1st Lt. was having problems keeping the Opel out of the ditch. We assumed he had drunk too much. We were removing the Opel from the ditch about every 100 yards. I approached Cpl. Fedarko and offered to drive, after discussing this with the 1st Lt. He felt since I was not an engineer, I wasn't capable of driving. Col. McDonald stepped up, backed his jeep up to the Opel and leashed the two bumpers together and away we went.

Our trip back was uneventful. Upon arriving, Colonel McDonald had his kitchen prepare a meal. This was enjoyed by all except the two Russians. Our feeling was that they had sobered up and realized they had left their post while traveling through enemy held territory.

Colonel McDonald was asked if he was going to take our entire group back to return the Russians. He stated he would only take his jeep with the men he had with him.

Once Colonel McDonald had returned the Russians, they refused to let him leave insisting he wait until morning when it would be less dangerous. He returned the next day.

Respectfully submitted,

Manlius R. Goodridge

.....

### CAMP ATTERBURY VOLUNTEERS

The beginning of our work at Camp Atterbury: In 1987 we were advised that the Post Commander wanted a memorabilia for the 83rd Infantry Division placed somewhere on the Post. The site chosen was in Chapel #1- a Plaque showing the 5 Battle Stars, a Dough Boy reads "In memory of our fallen comrades the real Heroes the ones that did not return Home."

This started our Volunteer Work. We were in the Colonel's office and Ames asked him what was going to be done for the 50th Anniversary of Camp Atterbury. At first he said nothing. Helen said it is time for the Veterans. Then his plans changed - we will do something. The idea came up of a Memorial Wall to honor all who had trained there from WW II until the present. Replicas of the Wall were taken to a Reunion at the Pines Resort and to the last Cincinnati Reunion of the 83rd. Ames and myself spent many weekends collecting money to be donated to the Wall, the 83rd was very generous in donating. The Memorial Wall was dedicated August 5, 1992 with many of our 83rd Buddies in attendance.

For years we bought and put out the Flowers but it was getting too much so now Camp personnel does it. Today we are coordinators for the Volunteers at The Museum, coordinate some Tours, and make sure the wreaths are clean. We put together the Yearly Commemorative Service held at The Memorial Wall of which we are very proud of.

We have always tried to go out of our way for the 83rd..... **Ames and Helen Miller**

**WILLIAM L. "BILL" CROOKHAM**, P.O. Box 520, CALDWELL, ID 83606-0520,  
PHONES: Home (208) 454-1693, Cell: (208) 899-2546, Work: (208) 459-7451,  
Fax: (208) 454-8861, E-mail: [ccoinf@crookham.com](mailto:ccoinf@crookham.com)

September 24, 2003

*Also, Dear Cliff 1/11/05*

Robert Crow, Historian  
Company E, 329th  
83rd Infantry Division  
1906 4th Street  
Moundsville, WV 26041-1740

Dear Bob,

Not much has changed for 59 years. South of Carentan, the River Taute splits a sphagnum bog that must have been there for centuries. If one jumps up and down, the vibrations can be felt 20 feet away. Reminds me of the Everglade soils in Florida. And it is poor weight bearing soil for buildings, especially in Normandy where almost everything is built of quarried stone. Once in a while there is a cattle or hay shelter built with the pole barn technique. Damming up the River Taute and the canal system at St. Hilarie (next to Carentan) creates a swamp almost as far south as St. Georges.

The 329th (or Buckshot) landed with the rest of the 83rd Division at Saint-Laurent (Omaha Beach) on June 21-24, 1944 after several days of a seasick passage across the English Channel. On July 4th, 1944 the Buckshot was ordered to attack on a narrow strip of swamp between the road from Carentan and Periers (D971) and the Taute River. The route was blocked by the crack 17th SS Panzer of the enemy. On July 5, some 1,500 men of the 83rd fell, including many, many of Company E., gaining a little more than 200 yards of land (Note: I can see now why most of the Co. E, gaining a little more than 200 yards of land. (Note: I can see now why most of the Company E veterans I have met were replacements.) The casualties were so great that, according to sources, GI medics captured by the Germans were sent back with the note "you need them more than we do."

We took D971 (the Carentan-Periers Highway) and turned off on county road D29 through St. Georges to St. Andre, then D97 back to Sainteny (there is a simple dignified monument to the 83rd in downtown Sainteny) then D297 to Auxais and then D101 to St. Sebastian. After the swamp came the hedgerows with many hillocks. The hillocks surely gave the enemy a devastating field of fire. And I swear that most of the hedgerow fields were no larger than a football field.

Anyhow, Bob, on D101, south of the swamps, I can see why the Buckshot was lucky to gain just one or two hedgerows a day. The little towns that the Buckshot swept through are still occupied and neatly kept. None have been abandoned. There is no major battle evidence.

On the 4th day of the offensive (July 8), the entire buckshot was temporarily relieved by elements of the 4th Infantry Division and was placed in an assembly area close to the front as a division reserve. But evidently, the 17th SS Panzer had the assembly area pretty well zeroed in as most of the reserve time was spent in foxholes. It is from his foxhole that my step-father wrote one of his last letters home.

Bolstered by reinforcements of enlisted men and officers, the Buckshot resumed the attack from July 9th to July 13th, probably the fiercest fighting of the Normandy campaign according to

historians. As a 1st Lieutenant, one of the duties of Selway was to censor outgoing mail. One sometimes wonder what individual stories could have been told had the letters not been censored. In ten days of fighting, between July 4th and July 14th, some 7,000 GI's were out of action for a mere 6 miles of dirt.

After the Cobra campaign, and when General George Patton made the "breakout" through Avranches on August 30, the Buckshot easily chased the enemy up the Taute River and over Periers and St. Lowe Highway toward the town of Feuges. As the historian of the 329th regiment wrote the first campaign was in all respects the toughest: "We won the Battle of Normandy in one respect; in another, considering the high price of American lives, we lost" (Note: The Buckshot history says reassembly was at Feuges. I am sure this is typo as Feuges is some 110 kilometers further south).

Feuges reminds me of Bastogne as it is a strategic crossroad town intersected by six roads. It was at Feuges that I ran out of research time, and therefore had no opportunity to question the locals about the location of the Buckshot assembly area.

Some day I hope to continue following the Buckshot route through Sartilly and Avranches (where the French wildly celebrated the 329th as liberators) and thence to Pontorson, Epiniac, Miniac, through Dolet and Chateaunef to St. Malo.

According to Buckshot history, on August 4, Company E marched to a defilade position near Dolet (Doslet) in a wide ditch that flanked the railroad track. They jumped off at dusk on August 4 in the face of an intense concentration of enemy fire, including the huge 340 millimeter coastal guns at St. Malo. During the early morning of August 5, 1944, it was this coastal barrage that killed my step-father.

He is interned at the Brittany American Cemetery and Memorial near St. James. The sexton lead us to Lt. Carlson's grave and then, in a symbiotic gesture, using sand from Omaha Beach, rubbed it gently into the indents to highlight the letters for better photographic resolution. Also, interned in the Brittany cemetery are 90 others from the Buckshot. Twenty-seven of the regiment were killed on the same day that my step-father died, August 5. Because of the huge casualty factor between July 4 to July 14 and August 4 to August 12, and the need for replacements, it is understandable why today's surviving members of Company E of the 329th would recognize few of those interned at St. James who trained at Atterbury and Breckinridge.

Faithfully,

William L. "Bill" Crookham  
Stepson of 1st Lt. Selway C. Carlson

*Mr. Wooldridge, please note -*

*P.S. Robert Crow, Co. E Historian, died about two years ago -*

*WLC, January 2005*

## 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. There is a shuttle from the airport to Bloomington, Indiana where we will pick you up.

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:** Brown County Inn at 51 State Road 46, Nashville, IN, 800-772-5249

From Indianapolis Airport – Airport Expressway to 465 South, Go South on US 31, Turn Right onto Thompson Rd., At first light Go Left on State Road 135 which goes straight into Nashville, (You will go through Bargersville, Trafalgar, and at Morgantown 135 bare s to left at light), Continue on to Nashville

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) with a stop at the Courtyard Marriot in Bloomington where we will pick you up. The cost for the shuttle is \$25 per person each way. (See separate sheet with Bloomington Shuttle information.)

Please contact the Brown County Inn at 1-800-772-5249 and advise what time you will be arriving at the Courtyard Marriot in Bloomington. (You may wait in their lobby upon arrival there.) You will be picked up from the Marriot for the short ride to Nashville.

If you have to wait at the Airport for your **Shuttle\***, please go to the **USO Office located at the north end of the baggage claim level.** 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'".

**\*Bloomington Shuttle Pick-up is across the walkway at the ground transportation level.**

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

----- cut here & return-----

**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**

### FLIGHT INFORMATION

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel.# \_\_\_\_\_ No. of people \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Time \_\_\_\_\_ Airline \_\_\_\_\_ Flight # \_\_\_\_\_

Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Time \_\_\_\_\_ Airline \_\_\_\_\_ Flight # \_\_\_\_\_

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



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**Located at the Indianapolis International Airport at the Ground Transportation Center in the Lower Level across from the Baggage Claim.**

**From Indianapolis Airport to Bloomington - Arriving at Courtyard Marriot where you will be picked up.**

#### ARRIVAL IN INDY

Leaving Indianapolis, IN Airport
6:40 a.m.
8:40 a.m.
10:40 a.m.
12:40 p.m.
2:40 p.m.
4:40 p.m.
6:40 p.m.
8:40 p.m.
10:40 p.m.

Arriving Courtyard Marriot Bloomington, IN
8:20 a.m.
10:20 a.m.
12:20 p.m.
2:20 p.m.
4:20 p.m.
6:20 p.m.
8:20 p.m.
10:20 p.m.
12:20 p.m.

**From Bloomington (Courtyard Marriot) to Indianapolis Airport**

#### DEPARTURE TO INDY

Leaving Courtyard Marriot Bloomington, IN
4:40 a.m.
6:40 a.m.
8:40 a.m.
10:40 a.m.
12:40 p.m.
2:40 p.m.
4:40 p.m.
6:40 p.m.
8:40 p.m.

Arriving Indianapolis, IN Airport
6:30 a.m.
8:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.
12:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m.
4:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
8:30 p.m.
10:30 p.m.

**Bringing the Past to the Present**  
**329th Regiment, Company F Color Guard Re-enactors**  
**Marching in Reunion Parade, Thursday, August 24th, Nashville, Indiana**

Though their numbers have dwindled, the Veterans of the World War II 83rd Infantry Division will come alive in full force when the Division's 329th Regiment, Company F living history organization walks with the remaining men as their color guard in the Parade through Nashville, Indiana on August 24th and attends the Veteran's 60th Annual Reunion.

"It is not only our obligation, but also an immense pleasure to attend the Reunion and march as an honor guard for the Veterans of the 83rd Infantry Division," said Mike Felmler, the leader of the re-enactment group and an Honorary Member of the 83rd Infantry Division Association. "We, as re-enactors, will of course be participating with great enthusiasm and great emotion in remembrance, thankfulness, and honor, as it is nothing less than the greatest compliment to be in the company of these men. Each and every member of our organization eagerly looks forward to this momentous occasion."

In one of America's most defining moments in history amidst a world at war, American men from all walks of life answered the call to service to defend freedom and liberate their fellow man from the tyranny of fascism. Like all American servicemen that came before them, they sacrificed, suffered, and, in many cases, paid the ultimate price with their lives. In the end, the American and allied efforts culminated in the elimination of the Axis powers, despite the terror and tragedy these men faced everyday overcome only by dedication, heroism, and courage. Just one of the many organizations of the United States Army that helped to deal the fatal blow to Nazi Germany and Hitler's Third Reich were the men of the 83rd Infantry Division.

These men, like any volunteer or draftee in the United States military, served with great distinction from their activation and training here in the States at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, eventually seeing fierce combat in the hedgerows of Normandy beginning in July, making great inroads in the capture of St. Malo, facing one of their toughest fights in the Hurtgen Forest of Germany, and finally meeting and sharing their victory with their Soviet counterparts on the Elbe River. Thousands of men gave their lives while all who served left behind a legacy that our Nation will, nor shall ever, forget. The men of the "Thunderbolt" division serving from Camp Atterbury to the Elbe are truly part of the "Greatest Generation" who deserve This lasting memory.

In honor of these men who gave so much to our country, the 83rd Infantry Division, 329th Regiment, Company F living history organization do their meager part in keeping the history and legacy alive of not only the men, but also the regiment and division in which the spirit and sacrifice is so deeply embedded. By accurately and honestly portraying to the public the way these men dressed, lived, and thought, they offer a glimpse of the past to others who may otherwise have given little thought to one of the great generations of American servicemen, particularly those of the 83rd Infantry Division who gave so much so we can live with freedom and opportunity.

"The members of our organization owe a deep debt of gratitude to the men of the 83rd Infantry Division, as we do to all American servicemen and women who have come before and after them, and it is thus with great honor that we gather to never let the flame of remembrance burn out on the candle of history," said Mike Felmler. "It is undoubtedly with an even greater honor that we are invited to attend the 60th Reunion of these men whose deeds we strive to so accurately preserve."

The 83rd Infantry Division's 329th Regiment, Company F living history organization is a group of historians that portray the 83rd Infantry Division to the public through displays, reenactments, and public speaking. We collect original items, memorabilia, and other tangible items from veterans of the 83rd as well as collect their stories so as to keep the actions, deeds, and memories of the division alive.

## From the Assistant Historian

*Dave Curry*

### 908th Field Artillery at St. Malo

A couple of years ago I was contacted by Marshall Fairchild who was looking for information about the 908th Field Artillery. Marshall's father, Corporal Herbert C. Fairchild, had been in C Battery of the 908th. Marshall said that his dad never talked about the war, but he had written a single-word entry in his personal notes for 10 August 1944: "BAD".

At about the same time, I was also contacted by Bob Thompson, the brother of Lt. Col. Paul Thompson who was the original commanding officer of the 908th FA. Bob was searching for more information about his brother, who had been KIA on 10 August.

After doing a bit of research , I contacted Manny Goodridge who had been a forward observer with the 908th , and I also came in contact with Carol Glass, daughter of Captain Herbert Glass (908th Service Battery). With their help, the story of what happened to Lt. Col. Thompson and the 908th Field Artillery on 10 August 1944 began to come together.



**Lt. Col. Paul Thompson on Tiger Lily at Madison Square Garden "Out jumping all the thoroughbreds in the National Horse Show"**

Battle hardened by the bloody Normandy campaign of July 1944, the 908th met its greatest test at La Marchandais, a small farm in Brittany about 10 km south of the seaport cities of St. Malo and Dinard. There on 10 August 1944, as the 908th fired its 105mm guns directly into the St. Malo fortifications, the battalion was subjected to fierce German counter-battery fire.

According to the 908th history, early in the morning of the 10th, the Piper Cub that was carrying forward observers 1st Lt. Philip J. Reichert and 1st Lt. John B. Goettke exploded in mid-air, apparently struck by a shell. Both were killed instantly. (They were awarded the Air Medal posthumously.) 1st Lt. Manny Goodridge recalls seeing the plane being hit. The wing broke in the middle and both wing tips folded forward. A little later, a German 150mm gun began to probe the Headquarters Battery area. Lt. Col.

Thompson was in a small stone building when a German shell struck it. According to Goodridge, the shell entered one wall, and then struck the opposite wall causing the shell to explode on the inside of the

building. Thompson was killed, and his aide T/Sgt. Russell Williams was blinded. Pfc. Fred Columbia was killed a short time later. Eleven more men were wounded.

The medics were having a tough time. Captain George G. Bruzza had a hole in his back and T5 Leslie Adams was also hit. Both continued to treat the other wounded. For their heroic efforts, they were awarded Silver Stars.

In the midst of the battle, Sgt. Edison B. Cutright succeeded in moving all of the 908th vehicles to safety, but the German counter fire was so intense that it was necessary to move the entire battalion to another position. Major Arthur M. Burghduff was sent from Division artillery to replace Lt. Col. Thompson. Under his command, the 908th moved forward and continued to pound the enemy positions in St. Malo.



**Remains of the stone house at La Marchandais. Flowers have been left at the remaining wall to remember the sacrifices made by the 908th FA on 10 August 1944.**

Although we had most of the story, we were having difficulty locating La Marchandais. I contacted my friend Gilles Billion, who is an expert on the 83rd Division in Brittany, and he was quickly able to pinpoint its location. He also recently visited the area, and located what was left of the stone building where Lt. Col. Thompson was killed. He also determined that there were a large number of German flak guns in the area around the Dinard airport. These guns, and other mobile German anti-aircraft artillery made it very dangerous for any planes in the area, and were undoubtedly responsible for shooting down Lt. Riechert and Lt. Goettke.

Gilles reports that a number of other planes had also crashed in the area. Two L4 planes of the 56th FA had crashed on 9 August after dropping blood plasma to the 121st Infantry, which had been cut off just south of the Dinard airport. Four crew members were killed. Although some reports say that the two planes collided, it is quite possible that the German flak guns were responsible. Also, Gilles says that two

other observation planes were downed on 12 August, although he has not been able to determine any other details.

Gilles has provided me with many more photos and maps than I can possibly include here. If you are interested in any of this material, just give me a call or send an email.



**Photo of C Battery, 908th Field Artillery**

### **Follow Up On "The Island Battle of 2/329"**

In the last issue, I included a rather lengthy article about the 2nd Battalion of the 329th Infantry and their introduction to combat on 4 July 1944. I have received a number of letters and phone calls about this article. Ed Holt, who was the S-3 of the 329th at that time, told me that he was standing on the line of departure on the morning of 4 July. After the 20 minute artillery preparation, the front became quiet for a minute, and then all hell broke loose. The entire front lit up with tracer fire from German and American machine guns. The runner standing to his left was killed immediately and Lt. Butler, on his right, was hit in the shoulder. Next a GI to Holt's left fired across him. Holt thought that the soldier was trying to shoot him, but he really was shooting at a German soldier who was just about to throw a hand grenade at them.

I also received a very nice letter from Lt. Col. Sam Magill, who told me that 4 July was one of the most terrible days of his life. I'm hoping that Cliff has room to include Sam's letter with this issue of the Thunderbolt.

I also had a very nice chat with Bob Whitcomb, one of the original members of F Company/329th IR. Bob said that he was the company supply sergeant, but on 4 July he was just another rifleman. He remembers Captain Randall well, and said that although he was somewhat strict, he was a very good CO. He says that Randall never came back to F Company, possibly because he had lost so many men.

Well that's about all for this time. Hope to see you all at the reunion.

Take care and stay healthy.

Dave Curry  
email: [davecurry@ncweb.com](mailto:davecurry@ncweb.com)  
phone: 440-942-5030

**Editor's Note: Sam Magill's letter follows.**

DEUTSCH-AMERIKANISCHER HERRENCLUB MÜNCHEN E.V.  
GERMAN-AMERICAN MEN'S CLUB MUNICH E.V.



Samuel W Magill  
President

EVENTS SURROUNDING 4 JULY 1944

Mr. Dave Curry  
Assistant Historian, Thunderbolt

Dear Mr. Curry,

I was greatly impressed by your article on July 4, 1944 in the spring issue of the Thunderbolt. I would like to add some events leading up to one of the most terrible days of my life.

I was a first lieutenant, Commander of the Intelligence & Reconnaissance Platoon (I&R Platoon) of the 329th Infantry.

2 July: Col Crabill, our regimental commander and Major Bagley, S-3, briefed me on preparations for the first major attack after waiting out the storm in the English Channel, landing at Omaha Beach (the last unit to have its vehicles waterproofed), and living three weeks with the corpses among the hedgerows of Normandy.

The I&R Platoon was to reconnoiter the area of the swamp and the high ground beyond, area of Sainteny. We made a good reconnaissance since the entire area was very quiet and eerie. I do not remember any buildings in the entire area -- nor any individuals. The only life was three ducks at a small canal at the edge of the swamp. They made noise and we noted that each was tied by a leg to small bushes along the bank. Our only assumption was that some farmer did not want them to fly away. In our report to Regiment no one dreamed that it could be used later as an alarm.

We crossed the swamp without incident and entered a large orchard on slightly higher ground. There were "Fox holes", dug-in machine gun positions, emplacements for mortars and artillery. We quickly made a rough sketch of what looked like a large abandoned training area.

3 July: A reconnaissance of the same area found nothing changed.

4 July: I was to establish a regimental "observation post" at the "line of departure" after it was crossed by F Company of the 2nd Battalion. We left my Jeep with the large radio (SCR 284) in a protected spot to the rear, told Captain Randall (Commander, F Company) that we could communicate with Regiment in an emergency. Meanwhile, I would help to direct fire for his mortars if needed.

As the first of our troops crossed the line of departure, it seemed like the entire orchard across the swamp became alive with firing. The machine-guns were firing interlocking bands of fire across the swamp in what we called "grazing fire", (never rising above the height of a man). 50-mm mortars started "walking" down our first two hedgerows, larger mortars were dropping behind us and artillery behind those. Lieutenant Staley, with whom I had attended Ft. Benning, was the first one that I saw killed as he crossed the small canal by the swamp. Captain Randall crawled to me along the hedgerow and said "Mac, can

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you contact Regiment, get more artillery and some 101-mm Mortar fire on the orchard and beyond. As I crawled along the hedgerow, beside me were wounded calling for medics. In front of me was a narrow plank over a ditch and a break in the hedgerow. A medic came behind me and I said, "You go across ahead of me and get to those wounded over there. He started, then dropped to the ground at the break in the hedgerow. "Don't stop there! You're exposed." I yelled. Then I saw that he was dead. An enemy gunner had the opening zeroed in.

It required nearly two hours for me to get back to the Jeep with the radio. It was still safe and my driver, Vane, and operator, Alcalá, were both alive, but the radio was being jammed by the enemy and the jeep was damaged by mortar fire. We finally managed to get a piecemeal message to Major Jim Bagley. I said that F company had very few men left not dead or wounded. Many were in the swamp calling for medics. It was nearly sudden death for medics to crawl onto the swamp.

The rest of the day passed in the same manner. By 4 PM, F Company began to withdraw. Most of my platoon and I were on the left flank to give the alarm in the event of a counterattack from that direction. We had my Jeep with the radio. As we were driving across an open field, I saw Captain Randall in the field staggering as if drunken. We picked him up and with glazed eyes he said "They're all dead! All dead". He began to cry. We drove to the 3rd Battalion Aid Station, left Captain Randall and they bandaged two mortar cuts on my arm. There was no longer a 2nd Battalion Aid station, only a few medics trying to get onto the swamp to attend casualties. Impossible. Even after dark scarcely anyone could move without inviting a volley of fire. The next day I learned that the enemy was the 17th SS Division which had moved into the prepared positions during the previous night.

Throughout most of Normandy it was very difficult to obtain observation. I volunteered to go back to the coast, get a barrage balloon and climb on its cable above the hedgerows at night, but the idea was cancelled at Regiment. One of our biggest problems was that the enemy always had the high ground and even tanks could not penetrate the hedgerows which surrounded nearly every field.

My men and I thought we had an easier time in Normandy than the other front-line units because we could move "freely", but that was not always an advantage. It meant that we were always in one of three places: Front line, No-Man's land or behind Enemy lines. I would like very much to come to the Reunion by Camp Atterbury but circumstances here in Europe and the lowness of our Dollar prevent it.

Tel/Fax  
0049-89 911463

Best wishes to all  
*Sam Magill*  
ITC (ret) Samuel W Magill  
Elektrastr. 11-  
81925 Munich  
Germany

6/15/2006

## **83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION ACTIVITIES**

### **PARADE & RECEPTION**

**Thursday, August 24, 2006 - 4:00PM**

**"A Salute to the WW II Veterans of the 83rd"**

**329th Reg. Co. F Color Guard Re-enactors Marching**

Participate in the Parade or View as it Goes By  
Veterans may ride in Vehicles provided by the local Corvette Club  
or Red, White, & Blue Decorated Trolley Buses

Parade Viewing will be at the Courthouse (seating available)

Will have transportation assistance to Court House

Reception following - Inviting Local Vets - Special Guests

Silent Auction at Reception

### **LADIES TEA & SPECIAL 83RD QUILT**

**Friday, August 25, 2006 - 10:00AM - 12:00 PM**

**Tea, Coffee and Pastries - Door Prizes**

Our Special Project will not require "quilting" experience!

We will simply decorate 83 squares of fabric with an assortment of embellishments and then a local Quilter will piece everything together for us - Several Volunteers on hand to assist - Each participant can do anything from writing their husband's or family member's Name and Company on a square, to applying Patriotic Decorations, to Stamping with colorful designs, to just using their imagination as they go through baskets of supplies for inspiration. The theme of the finished quilt will be "A Reflection of the 83rd Veterans and their Families". Upon completion (by local quilter), the Quilt will be Presented to the Camp Atterbury Museum.

### **Friday, NOON TO 2:00 pm - Throughout the Hotel**

A Caricaturist will do Sketches by request (no charge) - She is a very gifted artist who produces remarkable, amusing "portraits" in minutes.

### **HOOSIER CHUCK WAGON BUFFET & ENTERTAINMENT**

**Friday, August 25, 2006 - 5:30 PM -**

Poolside and under an Outdoor Tent on the surrounding Deck.

Buffet tables will be set up throughout this area.

Entertainment - "Red White & Blue" Patriotic Theme - Door Prizes

### **CAMP ATTERBURY TRIP & 83RD MEMORIAL SERVICE & MASS**

**Saturday, August 26, 2006 - 8:15 AM**

**Camp Atterbury Looking Forward to Hosting 83rd**

Load Buses 8:15 AM - Leave Hotel 8:30 AM - Trailway Buses to Camp - Very little walking at Camp Atterbury - Go directly to Memorial Wall where everyone seated for Commemorative Service and **83RD MEMORIAL SERVICE** - Camp Atterbury Buses will take over the

Transportation - Veterans have Easy Going from there on - Tour of Museum with 83rd Infantry Display - Tour of Base - Prisoner of War Chapel - PX and Gift Shop Open

Lunch 12 PM in Kings Hall - Cafeteria Style

**CATHOLIC MASS 1:00 PM IN CHAPEL #1** - Leave Camp at 3:00 PM

*Handicapped Buses will be Provided*

### **BANQUET DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT**

**Saturday, August 26, 2006 - 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM**

Entertainment 1940's Style - Door Prizes





**60<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REUNION**  
of the  
**83<sup>rd</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN.**

**NASHVILLE, INDIANA**  
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**URGENT – ACT NOW**

As you know, this money is needed to help pay for some expenses for our 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion.

**DEADLINE – JULY 1, 2006**

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# THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

## ELEMENTS REQUIRED TO SUPPLEMENT AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS PERTAINING TO :

### PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

#### TITLE 10 UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 1130

1. Required - Original or Reconstructed Narrative of the action(s) performed by the recommended unit. See enclosed Narrative.
2. Required - Original or Reconstructed Citation. Copy of the original Proposed Unit Citation is included.
3. Required - A list of all units, assigned and attached, actually present and participating in the action. Copy of the proposed Unit Citation lists the assigned and attached units with the exception of the 295th Engineer Battalion and the 992nd Bridge Company. They erected the Truman Bridge and without this bridge, the Bridgehead would have failed.
4. Required - Referral by a Member of Congress. Honorable Senator Arlen Specter, Committee on Veterans Affairs indicated that he will present our Required Elements in behalf of the 83rd Infantry Division that have been forwarded to his office.
5. Required - Operational Orders and reports. Field Order # 32, Hq, XIX Corps, 082000B April 1945, Top Secret, down graded & Field Order # 33, Hq, XIX Corps, 192100B April 1945, ( Classified Top Secret ). - downgraded. Also included is a photograph of General Simson at the " Truman Bridge " Gateway to Berlin.
6. Required - Maps showing terrain and disposition and actions of the opposing force. Map showing action of 83rd Inf. Div. and German Troops East of the Elbe River with 3 page Report of Action by Fritz Rothe that was a German Tank Commander that opposed the 83rd Infantry Division, included - a photograph taken by Tony Vaccaro, a photographer with the 83rd Inf. Div. showing a sign of the City of Walternienburg, East of the Elbe River.
- 7 - Required - Casualties sustained on both sides. Six page Casualty list of the 83rd Inf. Div. and translated articles of German Newspapers showing some of the German Casualties.

**Narrative of the Action regarding the 83rd Infantry Divisions  
Bridgehead East of the Elbe River, crossing took place in April, Friday  
the 13th, 1945**

Orders were passed down from the President of the United States or from General Eisenhower that ALL Western Allies were to halt on the West bank of the Elbe River. The Eastern side of the Elbe River was assigned or promised to the Russians through an agreement. The 83rd halted on the west bank of the Elbe at Barby after a bitter conflict.

XIX Corps Headquarters then issued Field Order # 32 & Field Order # 33. According to these Field Orders, the XIX Corps assumed the following : the enemy is incapable of organizing a defense line west of the ELBE River in one week. The enemy is not capable of mounting a substantial counterattack in the Corps sector west of the river either and further there has been prepared no defenses of the line on the east bank of the ELBE. Enemy troops on the front of the Corps are similar to the type that faced Task Force TWADDLE on the south. That is, they were made up of various groups.

The Field Order # 32 directed the 83rd Infantry Division and others to cross the Elbe River, establish a bridgehead and be prepared to advance east, northeast ( this is the direction of Berlin ).

XIX Corps Headquarters should have also issued a Field Order for the 83rd Infantry Division and support units to continue on to Berlin. Berlin could have been taken without firing a shot, as the German troops did in ZERBST, 25 miles south/south west of Berlin. The German Troops were swarming to the west to surrender to the Americans and escape capture by the Russians.

A little known fact about the 83rd Infantry Division is that it was instrumental in halting the German advance at Rochefort during the Battle of the Bulge on December 28 - 30, 1944. When ordered by General Patton, the 83rd, without rest and let-up, rushed 75 miles from the outskirts of Duren to the outskirts of Rochefort to engage the enemy at the Bulge's most westerly tip of the German's penetration.

The 160th Brigade of the British 53rd Infantry Division then relieved the 83rd so that it (the 83rd) could traverse around the "bulge and participate in closing the pincers at its northern sector. The advances made by the 83rd enabled the 3rd Armored Division to cut the enemy off at the St. Vith - Houffalize highway, thus severely thwarting the enemy's attempts to retreat.

The 83rd, for some inexplicable reason, was overlooked when Presidential Unit Citations were awarded to other units for this gallant combat feat. Acknowledgment

of this apparent oversight was never sought by the 83rd because we were (and still are) satisfied to know that this fantastic accomplishment was at least recognized and credit given, albeit to others.

Just a few months later and under heavy resistance, the 83rd advanced on Barby and on Friday the 13th, April, 1945 crossed the Elbe River, established and held the only bridgehead on the east side of the river. It expanded its foothold and maintained control of territory east of the Elbe, fighting off many strong counter - attacks until V - E Day. At that time, the 83rd was ordered to turn the sector over to the Russian command.

Because of this battle - the only one that took place in the Eastern European Campaign, we feel that the 83rd should be recognized for its gallant action by being awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. Designating the Eastern European conflict as another Battle Campaign is also desirable.

The Rhineland Battle Campaign was separated from the Central European campaign by the Rhine River. The Eastern European Battle Campaign was separated from the Central European Battle Campaign by the Elbe River, the reason to halt Western Allied Troops west of the Elbe. This is the main reason the 83rd did not receive proper recognition as they complicated the final outcome of the war. These should be corrected for History and for this generation and generations to come.

Submitted by Louis Gomori, Historian  
150 Alameda Rd., Apt. #7,  
Butler, PA 16001  
(724) 283-4300

February 12, 2006

“Preceding are some of the items that were sent to the Military Awards Branch for consideration for the Presidential Unit Citation.

*And remember- we were the best of the best – like it or not.”*

\* \* \* \* \*

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