

THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 62 Issue No. 2

Spring Issue 2007

Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge

LOOKS FORWARD TO HOSTING THE
61ST ANNUAL REUNION
FOR THE
83RD INFANTRY DIVISION



Reunion Guest Speaker General Frederick J. Kroesen U S Army Retired

Arlington, Virginia

*

August 22-26, 2007

THE THUNDERBOLT

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A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

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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 RUDY ZAMULA

Since the last issue of the Thunderbolt, we have had two new military monuments dedicated in the Washington area, the Marine Monument at Quantico, VA, and the Air Force Monument near Arlington National Cemetery. There is a new Visitors Center at George Washington's home in Mount Vernon and the Air and Space Museum has an annex (the Udvar-Hazy Museum) at Dulles Airport where the Enola Gay is exhibited. Our four-day schedule is just about full, so consider spending additional days here to take advantage of the Holiday Inn group prices, which are valid for two days before or three days after the reunion, to see additional attractions while you are here. You must register by July 30 to receive the group rate.

In February, I met General Frederick J. Kroesen, retired, who will be the speaker at our Saturday night banquet. He has had a distinguished military career, with combat service in WWII, Korea and Vietnam, where he was commander of the 23rd "Americal" Infantry Division. We found we had something in common - - both of us were in the ROTC at Rutgers in 1941-42, and we both went into the 63rd Division at Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi. General Kroesen is the author of "General Thoughts: Seventy Years with the Army."

I work at the National Archives in College Park, MD which has two million cubic feet of the official records of the United States. I am told that there are 176 boxes of documents concerning the WWII activities of the 83rd Division. Lou Gomori, the 83rd Historian, asked me to check out some Division Histories, and the staff brought out a cart with 24 Hollinger boxes. I found the

A journal entry from Col. following: 1) MacKenzie to Col Krauthoff, "We are getting a Lt. Col. York for you, Robert H. Serial No. 021341. He was personally selected from the 1st Division" (11 July 1944); 2) The After Action reports of the bombing of the Citadel and the Isle de Cezembre at St. Malo and Colonel Von Aulock's surrender (August 1944); 3) A report from a Military Government Team about the Zweiberg Concentration Camp near Langenstein (17 April 1945), which was liberated by the 330th Regiment and 4) Proposed Unit Citations for the 83rd Division for the 280-mile drive to the Elbe River and for "the deepest penetration into Germany of any part of the XIXth Corps" (August 1945).

I have provided these and other documents to Lou and to John Markuns who is working on fund raising and a possible reprint of the 83rd Division History, augmented with these vivid journal entries and After Action reports. Some of these faded, old documents fall apart when you pick them up, but they bring back memories and give you a vivid feeling of being there. I still have 152 boxes to look at!

Rudy Zamula National President

Members who have WWII experiences to relate, combat or otherwise, are requested to put them in writing and send them in to the Editor.

Bring a copy along to the Reunion - we expect to have historians taking oral histories. The written biographies will expedite the process and make it more effective.

They will also serve as material for a new Commemorative History of the 83rd.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER ROBERT KECK

At this time of the year we are always glad for Winter to end and Spring to begin. The last reunion is just a wonderful memory.

We now will continue to plan for the future of the 83rd Infantry Division. Charles Abdinoor with the help of Rudy Zamula are making things come together that will make a top-notch '07 Reunion.

Looking to the future of the 83rd Inf. Div. Reunion of 2008, Cliff Wooldridge and Bob Keck met with the manager of the Carlisle Hotel, Carlisle, PA for the possibility of the 2008 reunion. A guided tour of the Gettysburg Battle Field is possible which would be one of the highlights of the reunion and also a visit to the Army Heritage Center. We have planned to hold the Executive Board Meeting in late April at Carlisle, PA. At this time we are in need of helpers for this reunion. I have not been able to locate members or descendant members in the area.

I hope the best for everyone, we were the best.

Bob Keck L Co., 329th

FROM THE EDITOR

The reunion in Nashville, Indiana was the best one I've attended. Shortly after we put the reunion pictures* in the Thunderbolt, Georgeanna sent me a disk of over 400 additional photos from Rodney of the local newspaper "The Democrat". So we hope to include more in the next issue. Don't expect this all the time. See what we get in Washington, DC. Some of these pictures we will never get a chance to see again. I wish I could print all of them so that everyone who shows up in Washington could see them all.

*I failed to mention in the last Thunderbolt that the majority of the colored pictures were taken by Anne Tisdell. She certainly did a great job and I want to thank her.

I'm sitting here looking out the window and it is snowing now. You know those people out in Indiana they get some cold weather and then they turn around and send it to me. I looked at the thermometer and it is 11 degrees and the wind is blowing giving us a wind chill factor of 3 degreesthat is cold. This season we've had the wind chill down as low as 23 below zero.

We still have 69 members who haven't paid their dues for 2006 and 112 that haven't paid for 2007. Please take out your membership card and check the date.

When you move I wish you would let me know. The last Thunderbolt I sent out I received back 18 and had to pay 70 cents for each one, that is \$12.60. Then the member calls me looking for his copy and I have to send out another one at \$1.11. That's an extra expense.

Chuck Abdinoor placed a notice in the DAV magazine about the up-coming reunion in Washington, DC. So far, I've had 7 fellows call who have just found out that our association exists and that we have reunions. They never heard about us before. One fellow from Idaho said he has traveled all over the country and never found anything about the 83rd. He lived in Maryland for about 10 years.

I'm trying to get the letters for the Ad Book out and you'll probably receive them before you get this Thunderbolt. We try to do both at once. WITH EXPENSES SO HIGH THIS YEAR THE AD BOOK IS GOING TO BE VERY IMPORTANT.

John Markuns and a group of fellow descendants have designed a special "Thank You" page for the 61st Reunion Program Book It will be "a simple and collective thanks from one generation to a generation who has set the standard for patriotism and honor."

LOOK FOR THE SEPARATE DESCENDANT AD SHEET IN THIS ISSUE

AND BE SURE TO PASS IT ON TO YOUR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN, NIECES, AND NEPHEWS!

I had some calls about the dues and most want to pay their dues at reunion time as our year now runs from August 1 to July 31.

I received an e-mail from Helen Miller letting us know that the Annual Commemorative Service at Camp Atterbury will be held on August 15, 2007 at 9:30 AM. What wonderful memories we have of our own 83rd Memorial Service held there back in August.

YOUR REUNION RESERVATIONS IN BEFORE JULY 15TH AS WE MUST OBTAIN TICKETS IN ADVANCE FOR MOST EVENTS. See you all this August in Washington, DC - Arlington VA.

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

<u>PLEASE NOTE</u>: The forms for the "Thank you America" from the French Government are enclosed in this issue of the Thunderbolt. (They were sent in by George Baker.)

FROM THE CHAPLAIN ELLSWORTH MASSIE

Let us, as our lines are thinning remember to give thanks for our blessings - and be concerned for the health and welfare of each one especially for the loved ones of our descendants. Let us be of one accord, keep us from confusion, pride and arrogance! Claim God's promise to be with us if we put our trust in him!

National Chaplain E. Massie

CHAPTERS

BOSTON CHAPTER NEWS

CLEVELAND CHAPTER NEWS BOB GROBELNY

DIXIE CHAPTER NEWS

ELLSWORTH MASSIE

Dec. 8, 2006

Let's begin by giving thanks for being able to attend the 32nd Christmas Meeting of the 83rd Dixie Chapter in Gatlinburg, Tenn. Those who didn't attend missed a real treat.

My memory (and notes) reveals some interesting and sobering facts. We were in the presence of a very special group of real live 83rders. My count shows 19 who served in 11 different units with 3 more whose units are lost in my memory bank – Hdqtrs 329th shows 3 present, F 331st shows 2, B 329th have 2 present, 7 other units are represented by one man each. This is the group that is the base of our organization. We're happy to be in this group. We have 12 rooms canceled because of sickness. We regret this and miss those who wanted to come but were unable.



Three Distinguished at Dixie Christmas Miller, McIntosh, Dalton



B329 Shows up - Melton, Beam & wife



Exchanging Information of Great Importance Smith - McIntosh - Helms

Here's the big story just coming into being! We are blessed by the presence of (6) widows who keep us going in the right direction. We thank each one for their efforts. Next, we have descendants by the dozens. Hopefully, they will want to carry on by taking advantage of the changes enabling them to be dues-paying and office-holding members. We have two offices held by descendants or spouses of descendants. Our future looks bright. We remember in comments and prayer the loss of two of our officers – William Minick and John Cox. We uphold their loved ones in prayer!

I just located the record of attending (banquet) family and friends of the winning groups. Milton Singleton 13, James Freesen 8, John Hudnall 8, James McCroy 7, Paul Poole 7. – We are most grateful for their presence and the part they played.

When banquet time came we had 80+ to sit down and celebrate the season. Mr. and Mrs. Santa (descendants of James Freeson) being here with gifts for the children and the all-important

gift exchange for the adults. We're all happy to share in this celebration.

Our family came from Florida, up the coast to Maryland, across the Mississippi to Texas, north to Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio. Everyone was on his best behavior. We have no Yankee-Confederate confrontations to report. Our hostess, Flo Jackson, plans on being our hostess again in 2007. Thanks again for all that you have done and inspired others to do.



Flo Jackson, widow, Hostess John White, descendant, Secy/Treas

Our "Menu" in the hospitality room was complete – Shame! on you if you couldn't find something to enjoy and rave about. We missed all our friends who planned to come but could not for many reasons!

Next year we invite you to come and celebrate with us Dec. 6, 7, 8. Make your reservations early! We had some "old timers" disappointed this year because they waited too long to make them! Some stayed in "high priced" motels, some rented chalets but it was a great experience.

We welcomed one new - Phil Duncan and his wife from just 40 miles away in Knoxville. He is making plans for next year already. Says he doesn't want to miss another one! He missed the last 31 years but we found each other at the National in '06. He was accompanied by his lovely wife like a good old 83rder should. We still look forward to enjoying many more in the few short years that we have left on this earth.

Your Reporter for Dixie, E. Massie

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

ROBERT TAYLOR B Co. 329TH

Greetings once again from FLORIDA!

Our Chapter is still active and hanging in there. We just held our Spring meeting in Sebring, FL. and had 23 people at the Saturday dinner. Not as many as we would like to have at this time of the year, but not bad either, considering that we all must drive close to 100 miles and more to get there.

Among those attending were the Mike Petitti's, the Joe Camp's, the Henry Hauser's, the John Prinzi's, the Sam Castelli's, the Roger Dennis's, the Bill McKee's from the New England Chapter, the Jim Brennan's, also from New England, and the Bob Taylor's.

Also, in attendance were Geri Gunderson (Ralph), Jean Winchell (Bruce), Manny Epstein (Ex. Bd. Member), Glen Wible (National Vice President), Paul Dillon, Lou Kanes, and Mary Jean Houlahan, our ex-Marine Descendant Member whose father, Walter Knapp, died in Normandy, serving with the 83rd Div. Mary Jean is a very enthusiastic Descendant who brings a lot of "sunshine" to our group of seniors, along with a great deal of military background. Not only is she a military veteran herself, but her children are also in the military service.

Unfortunately, some of our "regulars" were not up to attending this meeting, Harry and Barb Gravelyn, among our Michigan members, were not with us because of health problems, and Allen Fisher is just recovering from a heart related condition so he and Mary couldn't make it. Also, Mary Olney reports the Bob has had a pretty bad time with arteries, but is now looking forward to better times. And Betty Hancher, wife of Paul, is not feeling up to par at this time so couldn't be with us, as well as Ruth and Emanuel Lamb, who have visitors from up North, and couldn't get away.

So we really missed all of these, as well as all other Florida Chapter members who, for whatever reason could not be with us.

But the good news is that we are already planning a meeting for the 2nd and 3rd of November, here at this same location, The Inn on the Lakes in Sebring FL. And you're all invited.

Our Asst. Chaplain, Lou Kanes, who conducts Memorial Services for the American Legion Posts around Southwest FL, has offered to conduct his special service for us at this meeting. Hope you can be here with us.

> Bob Taylor B Co., 329th

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

NICK FRANCULLO

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER NEWS

STAN BIELEN stanfran83rd@aol.com

Feb. 5, 2007

It's a cold and brisk day outside, temperature is 10 degrees, just a perfect day to stay in and write this article.

The dedicated few who meet at the VFW Post every 3rd Friday of the month are Charlie Sihlanick, Andy Socha, Tom Dowd, and Joe DePeri. It's been quite a while since I have been there since it is quite a distance from my home. I do keep in touch with the guys by telephone. Charlie, Andy and Joe have already sent in their reservations for the reunion. I sent mine in and also my daughters Judy and Joyce have sent in theirs, so it will be 6 of us there with Joyce having her 2 children along.

Jimmy and Carol Davis from Bells, Tennessee who served in the same company as Frank Reichmann and I wrote he is well for being 86 years old. Jimmy left us in Luxembourg where he had a motor cycle accident but later returned to the company after the war. Dot and George Foster said they missed us in Nashville but hope to see us in Washington. We look forward to being with you too. Frank and Mary Sabine sent a card, always good to hear from them Hope they can rejoin their "D" Company for the reunion as I'm sure they are missed as they always have a great group attending.

Manny Epstein dropped by the house recently and he looks great. It had been a while since he is always busy then spending the winters in Florida. I just got to get him a woman to slow him down. I called George Waple to find the exact date of the reunion, he told me he had his knee operated on. This career soldier who was sergeant of the honor guard at the Tomb of the Un-Known Soldier always had a military bearing in his walk. I can't imagine him walking with a came. George is busy as reunion chairman setting up some very interesting programs at the reunion. He still has some good contacts with the present Army Brass.

Dan Shomer – Nephew of Captain Danny Moore (Co. B, 331) called yesterday to inform me that two former men that served with Captain Moore got in touch with him. They sent him a picture of Captain Moore's grave site also a TTF 1945 331st newspaper showing the dedication of the baseball field dedicated to Captain Moore. I want to thank those men for answering Dan Shomer's appeal for information about his uncle. He really appreciated your response.

When Chuck Abdinoor visits Father Francis McCartin he lets me know how he is doing. He still has a sharp mind but as many in his age bracket is using a walker to get around. Remember when he attended the reunions and how special it was to attend the celebration of the Mass with him. The two 83rd trips back to Europe that he went to, Father McCartin was involved in all the services and dedications. We thank him for all he contributed to the 83rd at the reunions and the great trips back to Europe. We still get a note from him letting us know he always keeps all of us in his prayers.

I have this news for all the 83rd descendants who are Beatle Fans – my son Ken has coauthored a book titled "The Words and Music of John Lennon". It is being published by Praeger Publishers with a publication date 6/30/2007. Ken worked on it for two years using his experience in music history of which he has a doctorate and he being an avid Beatle Fan himself. So put in your reservation by contacting –

The Words and Music of John Lennon – (www.greenwood.com/catalog/C9180.aspx)

Always the Best to All of You, Stan Bielen

COMPANIES

Со. "А" - 330тн

CHARLES ABDINOOR sgtchuck83rd@aol.com

A Co., 330th, 60th Reunion, Nashville, IN



Ed McCouch, Ed Brown, Neal Prussman, Cookie Senica, Chuck Abdinoor (L to R)

Hi Buddy's:

Well, the time is getting closer, all are looking forward to our 61st Reunion at DC. expecting a record number of members, and descendants. We are striving to make this the BIG ONE! I have already been receiving inquiries from members and other people seeking information. We have been working on this for going on two years, and I know it will be a big success. I am expecting a big turnout from the Company, Paul and Dolores Reed, Walt and Pearl Pillion, Steward and Nellrita Barrick, Ed and Pauline Brown, Earl and Phyllis Dunn, Neal and Ginny Prussman, Cookie Senica, and Shorty Glasser. Hopefully, we will have others from the Company. We also have a descendant Martin Rogers who is anxious to meet Neal. His father was captured with Neal in the Bulge, and were in a POW camp together. They lost track of one another, all these years, and Martin did some leg work and was able to contact Neal. I must also mention that Paul Reed was honored at a dinner in his honor, him being one of the founders of the Society of the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick of Baltimore, Inc. Paul had Senator John F. Kennedy as the main speaker, and was also his campaign manager for Maryland. He successfully became President, and had a close relationship from that point on. I have been in touch with all our gang and usually see Paul and Dolores twice a year on our way to Florida. I am also anxious to meet our buddy's too numerous to mention, after all these years of coming to the reunions. We have lost a few from the company, but keep in contact with their families and send them a Thunderbolt and a copy of the Ad Book. They are grateful for that, and for them to be remembered at our Memorial Service.

Please send in your reservations early to take advantage of our low price at the Hotel. We are expecting a record number, please do not be left out. Please let me know if I can be of any help in any way.

Incidentally, just got word from Gin and Neal Prussman that her sister was inducted in the Country Western Singers, Hall of Fame. Gin's sister is Barbara Hubert, aka Hurricane Barb. Congratulations are in order. On another note, I am now on a cane having broken my knee, falling off a ladder. Stay healthy and hope to see you all in August.

Just a reminder to send in your reservations as soon as possible for our 61st Reunion to be held in Arlington, Virginia, August 22-25. This will be at the Holiday Inn, Rosslyn at Key Bridge. Please be aware that we are getting a very good room rate at the hotel. We have a certain amount of rooms blocked off for us, and as such, we do not want anyone to be left out. We have a very busy agenda planned, and hopefully if all goes well, we will have a record amount of members attending descendants. Our highlights will be the placing of the wreath on the Grave of the Unknown Soldier, and also on General Macon's grave, and our Memorial Stone. We will also have bus tours to Historic Sites, and this will be one that will always be one to be remembered.

> Your Buddy Chuck B & A 330th

From your Reunion Coordinator

A Special Note about the registration fee- the fee may be somewhat higher than years past. Much of this is related to busses needed to allow us to move comfortably and efficiently to featured stops at the WWII, Korean and Viet Nam Memorials, the Holocaust Museum, The National Shrine, Ft. Myer and Arlington National Cemetery. have tried to offset the overall reunion costs the best we can. We believe that we negotiated a very favorable hotel rate for Washington, DC. We have several entertained transportation companies. We also hope to offset some of these increased prices through special ad tributes in our program book. We expect to make this reunion our best one yet.

Chuck Abdinoor, Reunion Coordinator

Co. "D" - 331st Geri Gunderson Bill McKee

<u>Со.</u> "**F**" - 329_{ТН} С. R. Вов Whitcomb

60th 83rd Division Reunion

From A to Z

Atterbury Indiana to Zerbst Germany
and back to Atterbury

Timeline - 64 Years

Some said it couldn't be done But! Visionary officers together with the entire community of Nashville (800) under the leadership of Georgeanna (George) Slaybaugh, Kelly her

daughter, her two sisters Lynda & Sherry, and Ames & Helen Miller Did It!

Our last "Thunderbolt" covered the Reunion in a very graphic way. The four pages of color pictures were terrific, adding so much to the well-written reports and accounts of the occasion.

It has been remarked by many as one of the very best Reunions ever. Much creativity was put into the issue by Nancy and Cliff.

"F" Company had a total of 33 representing it at the 60th, with 26 members, wives, relatives and guests attending the Saturday night banquet, which was served to over 300. The dessert served in the Inn's poolside garden provided time for lots of good fellowship, adding much to the reunion.

Our members and I hope those in general appreciated the 329th Co. "F" Re-enactors Color Guard marching in the parade, replete with The Colors and the 329th Regimental Standard (Flag). The contingent consisted of Mike Felmlee, Matt Lawrence, Ryan Gray and Dave Westrick.

The various honors, proclamations and accepted petitions, to name a few, such as to Jean Paul Pitou of France, Eddy Monfort of Belgium, Benjamin Patton, and Tony Vacarro, the British Consul on behalf of Tony Blair sending Lt. Co. Marcus Browell to formally represent the United Kingdom, plus all the hundreds of other logistical items brought to a conclusion through George's very hard work, really made for a Great! 60th.

Shortly after the 83rd Annual Reunion "F" Co. held its North 2006 October 8-11, 2006 at the Holiday Inn Express in Ashland, Ohio with 28 members, wives, relatives and guests attending. Eleven (11) of the 28 were Co. "F" Re-enactors Mike/Danyle Felmlee, and daughter 3 yr. old Morgan, Matt/Sarah Lawrence, Eric Backos, Michael Chandler, Jeff House, James Wonacott, Pat Little, and Thomas Stanek.

The 61st 83rd Reunion was discussed with all members in attendance expressing hope to be able to attend. Time will tell.

A quote by an unknown came to mind . . .

"Shoot for the Moon Even if you Miss You'll land among the Stars"

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



Dear Cliff:

31 August 2006

As per our telephone conversation ENCLOSED ARE THE FORMS FOR THE "THANK YOU AMERICA" FROM THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

Was nice meeting you at the reunion; which was one of the most pleasurable if not the most.

Sincerely,

George S. Baker Sr. 575 Walker Perry St. Morganton NC 28655-6351

Hi Cliff

Enclosed are some photos of the Pittsburgh Chapter Christmas Party on Sat., Dec. 1, 2006 at Dietches Restaurant in Blawnox, PA. It was attended by 15 members with wives and friends. A great time was had by all.

Sal Scicolone



Betty Mattes, Jules & Agnes Desgain, Paul Dietrich & Rita Dietrich



Ed & Lee Reuss, Sal & Theresa Scicolone, Chuck Caven



Betty Mattes, Jules & Agnes Desgain, Paul & Rita Dietrich

* * * * * * * * * *

1-12-07

Dear Cliff,

It was nice to talk to you on the telephone. Don was always proud of his connection with his service with 83rd Div. at Normandy. I miss him very much. He was a good husband and father. I am enclosing a copy of his obituary which he would be very proud of. I'll look forward to seeing it in the Thunderbolt.

Warmly,

Mary (Jeanne) Rickert



Donald E. Rickert Sr., 86, printer, decorated veteran

Donald E. Rickert Sr., a decorated World War II veteran, retired printer and avid tennis player, died of complications from an infection Thursday at Oak Crest Village in Parkville, MD. The former longtime Rodgers Forge resident was 86.

Mr. Rickert was born in Baltimore and raised in Highlandtown. He was a 1937 graduate of the old Ottmar Mergenthaler School of Printing and completed a 5-yr. printing apprenticeship at Lord Baltimore Press in 1942.

He enlisted in the Army that year and attained the rank of staff sergeant. "Because of his extensive printing experience, he was given the option of working in a stateside printing facility but declined the offer," said a son, Robert J. Rickert of Timonium. Instead, he was assigned to the 83rd Div. Rangers in Europe. He landed on Omaha Beach six days after the D-Day invasion and for the next 40 days, until being seriously wounded, saw heavy frontline combat," his son said.

Mr. Rickert was struck in the head and right arm by shrapnel from a 500 pound bomb that landed about 50 yards from his position. "It was one of ours and I was the one who called for it because our officers were wiped out and I took over our platoon," he told the *Towson Times* in 2000. "I crawled across Normandy for 40 days. It was hell." "He was acting lieutenant because their lieutenant had been killed. He was given the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for carrying several wounded soldiers—including one who had lost his legs—off the battle," his son said.

After recuperating in England for 3 months, he was stationed in Choisy-au-Bac, France, where he and his unit provided security for the recently liberated town. He made many friends there, and while attending the French Open tennis tournament in 1997, he returned to the town for the first time since 1945. "This time, his visit was

made under more favorable conditions and when word of the return of Liberator Rickert spread through the town, he was flabbergasted how they greeted him. He even had dinner with the mayor," his son said.

Until about 20 years ago, Mr. Rickert seldom spoke of his war-time experiences. ago, he recorded his World War II experiences for the Veterans History Project that is under the

direction of the Library of Congress.

"I think once the horrors of war had faded, he was able to talk about it and be proud of what he had done. He was very patriotic," his son said.

Also surviving are his wife of 57 years, the former Mary Regina "Jeanne" Huber; another son, Donald E. Rickert Jr.; a daughter, Mary Patricia Rickert-Wilbur; two sisters; and five grandsons.

Feb. 5, 2007

Dear Mr. Wooldridge,

loe and I were accepted into the 83rd Division Association a year ago as collateral relatives of Robert S. Long, a 1st Lt. and Forward Observer in the 322nd, C Company, I am again enclosing a check . . . for dues and a current roster.

We've corresponded with or talked to several members of the association in our guest for information about the large Aubusson tapestry that Bob mailed home during the war. He gave it to his church in Chattanooga before he passed away on July 29, 2003. It is a late 17th century tapestry depicting a scene from the First Crusade in 1095.

Most recently, Ernest Streator of Warren. Ohio, has sent us a book annotated by Bob about his wartime experiences. Bob wrote "tapestry" in the margin alongside a description of the action on the high ground above Grevenmacher. Luxembourg, on the night of October 1. 1944. The next sentence describes house to house fighting in the town on October 2nd.

If anyone in the association can tell us what was on the high ground above the town (it may have been wooded or agricultural, in which case Bob's story about getting it from the loft of a barn would seem likely), or where in the town or surrounding area such a fine, large tapestry might have been housed, that would be quite helpful. Also, those who have returned to Europe after the war might have friends in the area around Grevenmacher who could help us look into this. We would appreciate any clues. We've enjoyed reading some of the reminiscences in excellent

the "Thunderbolt". Yours is a story of incredible heroism. Best regards,

> Kay Gaston 5876 Owens Chapel Road Springfield, TN 37172 (615) 384-7514 ivwg@bellsouth.net

> > ****

Hi Cliff,

The enclosed obituary appeared in our local newspaper the 2nd week of Jan. I had the pleasure of attending an 83rd reunion in New York during the 50's with Oscar but doubt if he was a member of the Assoc. I believed he served as a cook in Div. Headquarters during his army career. Oscar worked as a self-employed delivery for local bakeries and as a custodian for many years at the local High School. He left one daughter.

The best of health to you and your love ones for the new year. We are holding our own and hoping to attend the coming

reunion. As ever.

An 83rd Buddy Norm Malo

Obituary Oscar J. Rondeau

WOONSOCKET, RI - Oscar J. Rondeau, 84, formerly of Phillips St., Woonsocket, died Thursday at Haven Health Center in Greenville. He was the husband of the late Violet (St. George) Rondeau.

Mr. Rondeau served in the U.S. Army during WWII. He landed at Omaha Beach at Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944, with the 83rd Division. He was wounded at the Battle of the Bulge. He received the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and involved in the liberation of several concentration camps as his unit advanced to connect with the Russian Army.

He is survived by a daughter, Gail M. Ballou, of Woonsocket, a sister Gertrude Labonte, 3 grandsons, and 16 great-grandchildren.

* * * * * * * * * *

1-16-07

Dear Cliff.

I don't know what your policy is regarding requests placed in The Thunderbolt but I would like to know/contact anyone who served with or remembers my uncle who served with the 83rd from the very beginning to Zerbst beyond the Elbe River.

His name etc. was -

T/Sgt. Richard A. Callanan NCO Platoon Leader 3rd Platoon Company "C", 2nd Battalion 329th Inf. Reg. - 83rd

And I really enjoy your publication. Thanks, Cliff. Sincerely,

> Paul Callanan 507-388-1007

> > 12/29/06

Dear Mr. Wooldridge, I am enclosing a copy of the obituary for my husband -

> Bernice L. Fox 416 Hawkesbury Lane Silver Spring, MD 20904-6339 301-622-2193



Steve Watson Fox (3/23/22 - 9/18/06)

Steve Watson Fox passed away on Sept. 18, 2006. Beloved husband of Bernice L. Fox; loving father of S. Ronald (Denise), Richard A. (Heidi), and Kevin L. Fox; loving grandfather of Vicki, Kati, Christin, Sarah, Justin, and Cassie. One brother, Nelson B. Fox, 92, also survives him.

Steve was born near Proffit, Virginia on March 23, 1922 to James Nelson Fox and Elizabeth Eleanor Harlow Fox. He grew up with 8 siblings (2 sisters & 7 brothers). As a child he regularly attended Mt. Chapel Methodist Church, and as a young person he liked to attend school so he could play sports, especially baseball. Along with his father and brothers he also helped on the family farm.

On November 2, 1942 he was inducted into the U.S. Army to fight in WWII. With the 83rd Infantry Division (the famous Thunderbolt Division) he participated in the invasion of Normandy, battles in Brittany, Northern France, Central Europe, the Rhineland, and the Battle of the Bulge. He received a Good Conduct Medal, a Distinguished Unit Badge with One Bronze Cluster, European African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, and a World War II Victory Ribbon. He was honorably discharged on December 8, 1945.

On October 1, 1946 he married Bernice Lee Riner. They moved to Maryland in 1947 where they raised 3 sons. Although he made Maryland his home he never lost his love for his native state of Virginia. He spent many hours traipsing the woods on his Virginia property.

Steve loved his family, his country, his dogs, gardening, and American history. He will be sorely missed by his wife, sons, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, brother, many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

* * * * * * * * * *

Dear Sir:

I am writing to inform you of the death of Thunderbolt member Norman W. Earls who lived in Vevay, IN. He passed away Dec. 3, 2006 at



Christ Hospital in Cincinnati. He doctored for Multiple Myeloma since 2004, but due to his heart and other procedures had to be in the hospital a long time, "three months".

During World War II he was in the medics, drove a jeep and hauled the wounded to the aid station. He served in five campaigns and after the war by use of a computer was reunited with five Army buddies that he served overseas with and the Thunderbolt Division. They had a reunion each year in Gallatin, TN. There are four still alive.

Norman has been a member of the Thunderbolt Div. for years and attended the reunions when possible. The last one in Brown County, Ind. he was not able as he was very ill. He loved his flag and his country. Our family and his friends love and miss him very much. His dues are paid up but our family would like to receive the magazine.

We will appreciate it if you would see that this letter is printed and his death be placed on the death list of the magazine. Thank you sincerely and "God Bless America".

For: "Norman W. Earls, H.Q. 331st"

By: Wife - Mary Daughter - Sherrie Son - Norman Dale

1135 Highway 56 Vevay, IN 47043 Phone 812-427-3964



James William Brammer HQ Co., 330th Infantry

James William (Bill) Brammer, 86, of Roanoke,
went to be with the Lord on
Friday, Dec. 11, 1006.
He served honorably in the U.S. Army during
WWII. He was awarded many citations and medals
including the Bronze Starr.

"A great Christian, husband, father of 3 boys and 2 girls. We have 15 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren (only one girl in the "great".)

Our youngest son is a Southern Baptist Pastor and his two sons are also.

So many people said the funeral was the best they had ever attended. Some sang and others gave speeches.

He was blind for 18 years and was on home dialysis."

Mrs. James Brammer 2612 Cannaday Rd. NE Roanoke, VA 24012

Dear Cliff,

Will you please put this in the next Thunderbolt for our 70th Anniversary. Thank you very much,

Haran R. Martin, Co. C 331st

APRIL 10,1937 -- APRIL 10, 2007

LIFE IS SWIFTLY PASSING BY AS WE SEE ANOTHER YEAR ARRIVE. GOD HAS BEEN GOOD TO EACH OF US KEEPING US HEALTHY AND ALIVE. ANNIVERSARIES- ARE CELEBRATED IN MEMORIES OF THE WEDDING DAY. UNDER OATH VOWS WERE MADE UNTO GOD WE ALL DO SAY.

WE SOLEMNLY MAKE THE PLEDGE BE HOLDING BOUND FOR LIFE. TO BE A HONORABLE HUSBAND AND A KIND AND LOVING WIFE.

ANNIVERSARIES SOME TIMES ARRIVE WHEN A LOVE ONE IS GONE. T'IS SAD BUT FEELINGS ARE THERE WHEN CELEBRATING ALL ALONE.

WHILE BOTH ARE TOGETHER
THERE SHOULD ALWAYS BE A PRAYER.
THANKING GOD FOR EACH OTHER
AND ALL THE LOVE THAT WE SHARE.

MARRIAGE IS A OBLIGATION IT IS SACRED AND A BIND. THIS IS OUR SEVENTHY ANNIVERSARY DOROTHY TURN YOUR LOVE HAVE A GREAT TIME.

YOUR HUSBAND,

HARAN R. MARTIN SR.
CO. C, 331ST INFANTRY

Feb. 1, 2007

Dear Mr. Wooldridge,

I am attaching an obituary of one of my Dad's longtime buddies from the 83rd Division, Bud Everhart, who died last July at his home in Seymour, Indiana. Bud's widow requested that I send you a copy to share with Association members.

Best regards, Gary A. Wallace

Willard N. "Bud" Everhart Jr., 87, died July 9, 2006

Mr. Everhart served in World War II in the European Theatre as a staff sergeant. He was selected to be trained in intelligence and reconnaissance. His basic and advanced training was with the 83rd Infantry Division. He landed in Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944, attached to the 29th Infantry Division as an intelligence and

reconnaissance specialist. His responsibility was establish relations with the French underground and assist in their resistance. Additionally, he was to provide intelligence of German troop movements and was trained in the mapping of advanced areas. He was seriously wounded in July 1944, later rejoining the 83rd Infantry Division as a staff sergeant in Company G 330th Infantry. Being wounded several times, he requested to return to his outfit. He participated in many engagements in the European Theatre, one of which continued to stir vivid memories until his death. That was the liberation of the prison camp Langenstein, which was sub camp of Buchenwald. He received two Purple Hearts with One Device and a Bronze Star. He also received the ETO Medal with Three Bronze Stars, the Good Conduct Medal with Two Knots, Victory Medal American Defense and the American Occupational Medal. At the cessation of hostilities, he became a drill instructor for the U.S. Army. In 1988, he was honored for his service to his country by being the guest of honor for a basic training class at Fort Knox, KY.

Born June 27, 1919, in Jackson County, he was a son of Willard N. Everhart, Sr. and Adda Belle Daly Everhart. On Feb. 3, 1940, he married Ruth E. Galbreath who survives. Other survivors include two children, Willard N. Everhart III and William G. Everhart, 4 grandchildren and 2 greatgrandchildren.

* * * * * * * * *

REUNION REMINDERS

Just a reminder to send in your reservations as soon as possible for our 61st Reunion to be held in Arlington, Virginia, August 22-25. This will be at the Holiday Inn, Rosslyn at Key Bridge. Please be aware that we are getting a very good room rate at the hotel. We have a certain amount of rooms blocked off for us that will be released July 30, 2007, and we do not want anyone to be left out. We have a very busy agenda planned, and hopefully if all goes well, we will have a record amount of members attending with descendants. Our highlights will be the placing of the wreath on the Grave of the Unknown Soldier and also on our 83rd Memorial Stone, and Luncheon at the Fort Myer Officers Club. We will also have bus tours to Historic Sites, and this will be one reunion that will always be remembered. MAKE SURE YOUR ACTIVITY REGISTRATIONS ARE IN BEFORE JULY 15TH.

Chuck Abdinoor



CONSULATE GENERAL OF FRANCE

"THANK-YOU-AMERICA CERTIFICATE"

RECOMMENDATION
FOR THE CERTIFICATE TO RECOGNIZE THE ALLIED SOLDIERS WHO TOOK PART TO
THE NORMANDY AND THE PROVENCE LANDING
AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE LIBERATION OF FRANCE

1944 - 1945

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1°) PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM IN BLOCK LETTERS AND PRINT LEGIBLY
- 2°) Please attach any document showing proof of service in France between June 6, 1944 and May 8, 1945. The documents attesting your records of service will not be returned. Please send copies.
- 3°) Please do not telephone. The review of applications may take several weeks. Veterans or their representatives will be contacted directly if necessary.
- 4°) THE DECISION TO HONOR WORLD WAR II COMBATANTS APPLIES ONLY TO LIVING VETERANS WHO SERVED ON FRENCH TERRITORY AND IN FRENCH TERRITORIAL WATERS AND AIRSPACE IN 1944 - 1945. THE CERTIFICATE WILL NOT BE AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY.
- 5°) Please send the application to the consulate general of france 3475 piedmont road, ne suite 1840 Atlanta, GA 30305

CONSULATE GENERAL OF FRANCE

"THANK-YOU-AMERICA CERTIFICATE"

Please read carefully the attached instructions and return this form to your Veterans Association or nearest Consulate General of France (see list behind):

RECOMMENDATION FOR THE CERTIFICATE TO RECOGNIZE THE ALLIED SOLDIERS WHO TOOK PART TO THE NORMANDY AND THE PROVENCE LANDING AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE LIBERATION OF FRANCE 1944 - 1945

Last Name :	First Name :		Middle Initial:	Middle Initial:	
Date of Birth : Street Address :	(2) est (4) (2) est (4) (3) est (4) est (4) (4) est (4) est (4)	Carlotte and the control of the cont		PA STATE	
Town:	State:	Zip:	Telephone:	33 Auf 2017	
Major Combat Unit (A	Army, Division, Naval ship	o, Coast Guard v	essel, Numbered Air Forc	e):	
ally Tollows					
World War II Serial N	Number:				
	rvices on French territory, e attach copy of military re		ters during World War II	and dates (year,	
Dates of Service - For	rm:	Until	:		
Where did you serve	in France?				
If this form is prepare	ed by a third person, please	indicate your na	ame, address and phone no	umber below:	
To be completed by t	he veteran:				
I,information contained	d on this form and on the a		signed, declare on my	honor that the	
	Done at		on	, 2001	
Signature of the veter	ran:				





INDUCTED OCTOBER 29, 1942

S/Sgt. Albert Vitantonio started his training with the U.S. Army at Camp Atterbury, Indiana; later Tennessee Maneuvers; and then at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky; Left New York April 6, 1944 for England on ship USS George Washington. "Second Wave"- Left England for Omaha Beach, Normandy on June 18, 1944 (D-Day Plus 12).

Storm Hit Omaha – Delayed Landing; 83rd Inf. Div. at sea 3-6 days; Landed finally June 21 – June 24.

331st Inf. Reg. delayed at sea five days before able to land on Omaha Beach June 23, 1944 (D-Day Plus 17).

Carmen Jim Vitantonio (and Family of Nephews and Nieces) are Looking for Information about <u>Uncle Albert Vitantonio</u> (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. Al bert, 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 <u>in action</u> on July 12, 1944 by a machine gun from a Nazi tank behind <u>Hedgerows</u> 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".

<u>Anybody remember</u> S/Sgt. Albert? Any <u>photographs</u> 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



Telephone: 703-807-2000

Fax: 703-522-7480

Mr. Charles Abdinoor Reunion Coordinator 83rd Infantry Division Association

Dear Members of the 83rd Infantry Division Association,

The Management and Staff at the Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge are excited to host the 83rd Infantry Division Association 61st Reunion! This reunion will be an exciting and memorable event for you and we are proud to be the host hotel. The dates of the event are August 22-25, 2007 and we are already preparing for your arrival.

The Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge has been an Arlington landmark for over 30 years. Located along the Potomac River, directly across from historic Georgetown via the Francis Scott Key Bridge, the hotel has picturesque views of the National Cathedral, Georgetown Waterfront, and Downtown Washington D.C. Only a block away from the Rosslyn Metro Station, travel to destinations in Arlington and the Nation's Capital is only a few steps away. Reagan National Airport is located just three miles from the hotel with the National Mall, Arlington Cemetery, and the Iwo Jima Memorial all within that distance.

The public amenities offered at the hotel are second to none. Parking is complimentary, a Washington D.C. rarity! There is a large fitness center that is adjacent to a beautiful indoor pool and outdoor sundeck. A fully functioning business center is located on our lobby level. There are ice and drink machines located on every floor of the hotel and a gift shop is located on the hotel's first floor. All of our rooms have irons, ironing boards, coffee makers, hair dryers, secured electronic locks, in room safes, and hi-speed internet access.

For dining options, the Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge offers two full-service restaurants. The Westpark Café, located on the first floor, is a cafeteria-style eatery that specializes in a large variety of hot and cold sandwiches. The Westpark Café is open from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. daily. For a more elegant setting, please join us at the Vantage Point Rooftop Restaurant. The Vantage Point offers a panoramic view of the Washington D.C. skyline that is unparalled. A wide array of American fare is served alongside an extensive wine and desert selection at dinner, from 5:30 p.m. until 11:00 p.m., seven days a week. Also, please visit the "VP" for weekday breakfast and themed lunch buffets.

Finally, the staff at the Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge has been ranked at the top of Washington D.C. hotels for many consecutive years. These dedicated associates will be honored to serve your group and will strive to ensure your stay here is a memorable one. While at their hotel, the staff will be at your service to make you feel at home. Our goal is to facilitate the making of many new memories with those who you have made so many already. Please enjoy your time in the Nation's Capital and we are excited to Welcome You to the Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge!

Sincerely,

Rajni Mohan Director of Sales

Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge

RESERVATION REQUEST FORM

HOLIDAY INN ROSSLYN at KEY BRIDGE

1900 N. Fort Myer Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22209

83rd Infantry Division Association

Check-in Time: 3 PM			Check-out Time: 12 Noon
Name		Pho	one
E-mail	Addre		
City			Zip
Arrival Date		Departure Date	
PLEASE RESERVE		(# of rooms) FOR	(# of people per rm)
		E – THEY INCLUDE A	
Arrive Wednesday,	August 22, 2007	Depart Sunday, Augu	st 26, 2007 - \$ 392.48
Arrive Thursday,	August 23, 2007	Depart Sunday, Augu	st 26, 2007 - \$ 294.36
PLEASE CHECK TYI	PE OF ACCOMM	MODATIONS REQUES	STED:
Regu	lar Room – 1 Kir	ng e	
Regu	lar Room - 2 Do	uble	
Fully	Ambulatory Wh	eelchair Room Require	d and a second of the second
Veter	an/Immediate Fa	amily/Widow	_ Other
PAYMENT TYPE:			
Visa	Master Card	Discover	American Express
	Money Order		
(Check or M	loney Order paya	able to: Holiday Inn, R	osslyn)
Credit Card Number			Exp. Date
I authorization all applicable ta	the Holiday Inn t	o charge my account fo	or one night's deposit and
Signature	the state of the s	Daytime Pho	ne
			CLEASED JULY 30, 2007.
TO RECEIVE	THE GROUP P	RICE YOU MUST REG	ISTER BEFORE THEN.
Reservations will conti	nue to be accepte	ed after this date based	on availability.
Forty sight (49) hours			

Forty-eight (48) hours cancellation required.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN TO:

Holiday Inn, Rosslyn 1900 N. Fort Myer Drive Arlington, VA 22209 Tel. (703) 807-2000 or (800) 368-3408 Fax: (703) 522-7480

Log on to take our virtual tour at www.holidayinn.com/rosslynkbridge

The Washington area is very expensive for hotel rates, and they only block so many rooms at our rate. Once these are sold out they revert to their regular rates. The average room rate for a single is \$179.00 per night. We do not want this to happen to our group. As reservations keep coming in, they are obligated to give us our advertised rate. . . . Chuck Abdinoor

Friday August 24

- 8:15- Earliest departure from Holiday Inn, Shuttles continue to 8:45 am. Board busses to Arlington Cemetery Visitor Center.
- 8:30- 8:45am Transfer to Tourmobile Trams at Visitor Center.
- 9:10- Trams arrive at 83rd Plaque & tree for 20-minute ceremony
- 9:40- Reboard Trams, proceed to tomb of the Unknown Soldiers. (Those who are able can walk - 5 minutes – via Crook Walk to the Tomb of the Unknowns)
- 9:50- Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers
- 10:00 Changing of the Guard Ceremony at Tomb
- 10:15 Wreath laying Ceremony at Tomb
- 10:45 Reboard Trams Proceed to Ft. Myer.
- 11:15-11:30 Arrive at Ft. Myer Officers Club; Trams depart
- 12 noon Buffet lunch in Koran dining room.
- 2:30pm Board outside busses after lunch
- 3:30pm Return to Holiday Inn.

Saturday August 25

- WWII MEMORIAL

9:00am-10:00am Executive Board Meeting 10:00am-12:00pm General Session Meeting

2:00pm- 3:30pm Memorial Service 3:30pm- 4:30pm Catholic Mass

3:30pm- 5:00pm Hospitality Room Open 6:30pm- Cash Bar Reception

7:00pm-11:00pm Banquet Dinner and Entertainment

Sunday August 26

Farewells and Departures

Agenda Subject to Change

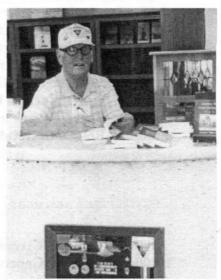
George H. Waple, 331st Infantry

"The Three Horsemen" – Al Shrawder, George H. Waple, and Al (Kelly) Klugiewicz all cadre to the 331st Infantry from the Third Horse Cavalry in June 1942. George and Al (Kelly) were in the same troop, went to the same company throughout the war, came home together in late 1945, separated in Boston to go their separate ways. Both Al's and Waple enjoy meeting at each reunion.







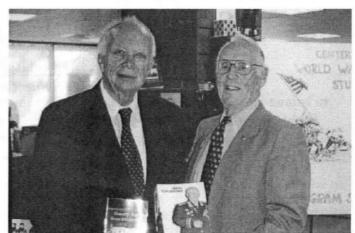


(Above Left) George H. Waple chatting with Lt Col. Marcus Bromell, sent by the British Consul, on behalf of the Prime Minister Tony Blair to formerly represent the United Kingdom at our 60th Reunion. Bromell's lady told me that the Lt. Col.'s uniform cost more than her complete wardrobe and that the Queen did not pay for it.

(Above Ctr) Ben Patton and George Waple, enjoy each others company. George served with Ben's grandfather, the Great General Patton and his father, Major General George Patton in Korea – 1953-1954. What a small world.

(Above Right) George signs book at the Air Leaf Bookstore in Nashville, IN during Reunion. Air Leaf Publishers publish his book, which was quite a coincidence that they would have a bookstore in Nashville, IN.

George Henry Waple III, author of "Country Boy Gone Soldiering" at Book Signing with Mr. Khrushchev (son), 25 October at Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, NJ. George is in The College Center for World War II Studies and Conflict Resolution. He is also taking a class on WW II and states you're never too old to learn.





61st ANNUAL REUNION 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN.

WASHINGTON, DC-ARLINGTON, VA AUGUST 22 - 26, 2006

PLEASE SELECT SIZE OF AD

FULL PAGE @ \$90.00

\$50.00

HALF PAGE @ THIRD PAGE @ \$35.00

QUARTER PAGE @ \$25.00

BOOSTER ADS ARE \$5.00

Make check payable and send to:

83rd INFANTRY DIV. ASSN. REUNION P.O. Box 406 Alton Bay, NH 03810

USE ENCLOSED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

URGENT – ACT NOW

As you know, this money is needed to help pay for some expenses for our 61st Reunion.

DEADLINE - JULY 1, 2007

PLEASE Type or Print Ad Clearly and Circle Size of Ad If you want your name on the ad, include it below

to be proported in the line of

Lester R. King, 828 N. 68 Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85043 Phone: 623-936-1184, Email: Irking6@cs.com

Cliff,

On February 24, 2006, the members and wives of my chapter of the 'Veterans of the Bulge' were invited to be guests of honor at the Museum of Military History's Battle of the Bulge Reenactment at the Arizona National Guard Facility near Flagstaff, AZ.

Several of our group participated, including Forest Brown ("I" Co, 329th

Regiment) and myself (643 TD Battalion).

During a normal winter, Flagstaff would have a couple feet of snow and have well below freezing temperatures. However, this year, Arizona had a heat-wave and the daytime temperatures were in the middle fifties and at night it only dropped down to the high thirties.

Everyone checked in Friday afternoon and spent the evening getting

acquainted with each other in the bar at the camp PX.

All of the reenactors wore American, British, Canadian, Polish or German uniforms at all times. Several of the period vehicles, American and German were featured in the movie, "Saving Private Ryan."

The action began early the next morning and lasted until noon. A second battle was waged in the afternoon. (The Germans won both battles and

easily captured Bastogne.)

At dinner Saturday, some of the vets got up and told how it really was during the real Battle of the Bulge. I said they all had to soak their boots in ice water before they could wear them and no showers or change of clothing for at least two weeks.

On Sunday morning the Americans won Bastogne back and drove the German forces out.

After the action, all of the ladies present got to fire a German machinegun.

If anyone has a chance to attend one of these, I recommend they do so.
All of the young people were hungry for information about our experiences.

I am enclosing a few photos. I hope you find them interesting.

Les King Will King

P.S. My BOOK, HELLCATS DON'T LEAK OIL, THEY

MARK THEIR TERRITORY" IS SCHEDULED TO BE

THE LIBRARY'S READING CLUB'S BOOK OF THE

MONTH IN JULY.



This man was an SS Officer in one of the German Armored Divisions. He served on the Russian front and was captured in Holland during "Market Garden".



Yours truly with "Saving Private Ryan" Half Track



Gloria and I Riding in Half Track on Toure of "Battle Field"

Buddies - Please make sure you give these two pages to ALL your family members

<u>Descendants</u> - after reading John's suggestion letter to our planning committee, I hope you and your family members will participate in this special "Thank You" page donated only by descendants. . . . Chuck Abdinoor

Hi- I am a descendant member of the 83rd Infantry Division Association. I have met some, but not all of you. My father, Frank, is a regular member ("G" company, 329th). My father and mother were regular reunion attendees, but they missed the last few because of my mother's illness. My mother passed away in September 2004. My two brothers, two sisters and I knew how much these reunions meant to my father. When the reunion in Paducah came up (and the possibility that this would be the last reunion), we gave my father the trip as a gift, and I accompanied him. It turned out to be as much a gift to me as it was it was to him.

The stories my father shared on the flights, in our hotel room, and with his "buddies" in the hospitality room brought

new and deeply personal meaning to the expression, "The Greatest Generation."

I began to realize what an extraordinary group the 83rd was -- what they were asked to do, how they performed, what they experienced -- the controlled chaos of a wartime army built on the fly, the massiveness of the invasion, the number of major battles, the courage, the pain, the inspired decisions and the sometimes tragic, sometimes fortunate, snafus. For the first time, I believe that I really started to understand what an impact my father's service in the 83rd had on him, on so many levels. He had just turned 18 when his service began, and as the youngest in his family, I believe that he "grew up" in the Army. He was a BAR man-part of a team. They fought in the hedgerows, on village streets, dirt roads, and finally in a Keystone factory where an artillery shell brought my father's war to a close just before the Battle of the Bulge.

I was profoundly moved by the simple dignity of the reunion memorial service for those who passed on in the previous year. I was just as moved by the determination of those in attendance that Paducah would not be their last reunion. I remember my father coming back from his meeting, so impressed with Georgeanna's presentation for a 60th reunion in Nashville – her enthusiasm, her passion and her sincerity. He was excited, eager to attend, and had such high expectations. I again accompanied my father to the 60th reunion and our expectations were far surpassed. I watched how hard Georgeanna and the volunteers, many wearing Dave's shirts, worked to help the Millers and the entire reunion committee put on a fantastic event — from the hospitality room flowing with food, to the parade, the banquet, the quilt — a true labor of love and respect. I felt more than a little guilty — again I was blessed to share priceless time with my father, but only because of the selfless work of so many others.

I was not surprised at the decision to conduct a 61st reunion in Washington, D.C. The same spirit that drove the 83rd deep into Germany simply cannot be extinguished, no matter the odds. My family is excited – this time not only I but my sister is planning to attend. I have heard from at least one other descendant member that he has additional family members who want to attend as well. The planned events are awe-inspiring, but the logistics are somewhat daunting – transportation was obviously a great challenge in Nashville. It will be even more of a challenge in urban (and expensive) Washington, D.C.

Chuck Abdinoor, who is heading up this year's reunion committee, approached my son Chris (who as a reporter for the Lawrence Eagle Tribune had done a story on the Association) and I for some help in planning a fundraising solicitation to help defray some of the higher costs, particularly local transportation costs, that will accompany this reunion. Transportation costs will likely exceed \$13,000. I have suggested to him that the committee should not try to reinvent the wheel, but should build on the new strength of the organization – particularly its descendant members.

One thought I had was to enhance the use of the ad book by designing a special Thank You page donated only by descendants (children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, great nephews, and great nieces) — a simple and collective thanks from one generation to a generation who has set the standard for patriotism and honor. The committee's goal would be to seek a \$10 donation from one descendant and if others would like to be included, all the committee would ask is another \$5 per name - and simply gather as many descendants as possible —100, 200 — whatever. I believe that the potential is significant — I just started thinking about my brothers, sisters and my own grown children (7 right there).

I realize that individual descendants have traditionally purchased special remembrance ads for their individual veterans. This would be an additional and special collective tribute that would also have the added benefit of helping defray the extra costs associated with a Washington, D.C. reunion. Beyond the donation, the committee would also invite contributors to join as descendant members, if they don't already belong..... John Markuns

Please pass this on to interested members of your family

Greetings to the Descendants of the members of the 83rd Infantry Division, the "Thunderbolt Division".

Would you like to join us in saying thank you in a special way to those who sacrificed so much for us all? We are looking for as many descendants as possible to include their names on a special "Thank You" page (or pages) in the Program Book for the 83rd Association's 61st reunion to take place in Washington D.C. on August 22nd through the 26th. All names will be listed under the caption, "Thank you to the members of the 83rd Infantry Division for our precious freedom and your sacrifice for us all."

Your name may be included for a contribution of \$10. If you would like to include the names of additional family members (for example spouses, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews etc) all we ask is another \$5 per name. We will print as many names as we receive, no matter how many pages! All proceeds will be used to help defray the cost of the buses, equipped with wheelchair lifts, needed at the reunion. We will also include a display of this special thank you in the reunion hospitality room.

. Chris Markuns, Eusan Dumont Pray, Anne Jisdell - descendants

PLEASE PRINT

Name:	Descendant of:	
2 nd Name	3 rd Name	
4 th Name	5 th Name_	g _i
6 th Name	7 th Name	
***	Attach sheet for additional descendants ***	
Contact Name:	Relationship to Member:	-
Address:	Phone:email:	

Make check payable and send with form to:

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN.

P.O. Box 406

Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406

Special Note: Are you coming to the reunion? Would you like to give us a hand? We need your help with:

- ☐ Hospitality Room (3-hr. blocks) (e.g., setting up refreshments, serving, clean up)
- ☐ Transportation Assistance (assigned per trip) (e.g., monitoring a bus, assisting passengers in and out)
- ☐ Registration (3-hr. blocks) (registration, information, special assistance)
- ☐ Event Coordination (assigned per event) (Assistance at Banquet, Memorial Visits, etc.)

FROM THE HISTORIAN

Louis Gomori

In September of 2006, there was a viewer call-in program on WPNC TV where U. S. Senator Arlen Specter was the guest. I decided to try to get on and ask him about the Citation. Luckily, I got on and the following conversation took place and I apologize, this was new to me and I was nervous - I had a lot of "ah"s in my conversation - I never dreamt of talking to a Senator on TV - how many viewers could there be.

The Announcer: We have a call from Butler, Pa, Louis, here is Senator Arlen Specter. Me: Yes sir, this is Louis Gomori of Butler, PA - Hello, how do you do? I'm the Historian for the 83rd Infantry Division and I sent you material in early 2002 for consideration of a Presidential Unit Citation for the 83rd ID for ah invading the eastern part of Europe which was promised to the Russians and we ah we crossed the Elbe River on Friday the 13th and we were there till the end of the war and we were ordered to turn the Bridgehead over to the Russians. Now we know that you are not on the same Committee but I would like to know if you can please check into this situation and the 83rd Members and Veterans would really appreciate it. Oh, I'm sorry (the Senator thought that I was finished and started to talk).

The 83rd ID is having their next reunion in the Washington, D.C. area and I'm authorized to invite you to the reunion and also authorized to nominate you as an Honorary Member of the 83rd Infantry Division.

Senator Arlen Specter then said - Oh, I'd be honored to be an Honorary Member, I served in the Air Force, served time during the Korean War. Sounds like you had a rugged operation there, met the Russians at the Elbe River on Friday the 13th, they were tough days.

If you call my Pittsburgh Office and give them the particulars, I don't or if you call PCN after the program is over, I don't know if you want to go public with it. I'd be glad to take a look at it to see if I could get you a Commemorative Medal and if I'm in Washington and able to come to your reunion, I'd be pleased to do so, you don't even have to make me an Honorary Member. (He then took the next call.)

I then sent Senator Arlen Specter a letter in Washington, I thought that I'd save time. I did not receive a reply. I also inquired about a response to my letter - nothing happened until Gary Wallace (descendant member) from Houston, Texas, I believe - called me and said that if he could be of any help to let him know. We spoke for a while and spoke of different things. Not long after that - I get an E-mail message from Gary with an attachment - a copy of a letter from the Military Awards Branch that was sent to Arlen Specter's Office where the Proposed Citation was turned down. Gary got to the right person, amazing.

I asked Rudy Zamula, President of the 83rd Infantry Division Association, Inc., who also works at the National Archives, to see if he can discover a Citation either in the Ninth Army HQ or XIXth Corps HQ, something helpful, and he sent me 88+ pages (all interesting, on page 20, there is mention of the XIXth Corps Field Order #32 that sent the 83rd across the Elbe River. Field Orders #32 and #33 were included for the Citation). He also sent me the Proposed Unit Citation that I already had and it was submitted in the books for the Citation that was later rejected.

Rudy then searched the various boxes in the National Archives and he sent me a package on March 25, 2007 with a Distinguished Unit Citation Outline and about 60 pages and it is for the 83rd ID and support units. It also had letters of Commendation from Ninth Army, XIXth Corps and the 83rd ID Headquarters for the action of the 83rd and support units, even a page about the War Department praising the 83rd for "EXTRODINARY HEROISM" with its spectacular sweep across Germany from the Teutoburger Forest to its bridgehead across the Elbe River and to undertake a mission initially assigned to an Armored Division. I sent Gary Wallace a copy of the 2 notebooks and I have included what Rudy sent me and Rudy mailed about 40 more pages which I will copy and put it in the white notebook and send it to Gary and I asked him if he would take the notebooks with him on his next trip to Washington and he indicated that he will.

Nancy and Cliff also did a lot of work, they Xeroxed the material that was in a copy of the books I submitted to the Senators Office in 2002 and am now putting them together to take a set to the Senator's Pittsburgh Office. I want to extend my thanks and gratitude to Nancy, Cliff, Gary and Rudy for all of their help.

Hopefully, we may get something yet. I will not claim success in this matter until the Citation is realized. Thank you all, best wishes and regards to all and stay well and -

Remember - we were the best of the best - like it or not.

Sincerely, Louis Gomori, Historian



Authority NND 735017

By W NARA Date 03/15/07

HEADQUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIVISION Awards and Decorations Board APO 83, U. S. Army

3 August 1945

SUBJECT: Distinguished Unit Citation, 329th Infantry Regiment, 83d Infantry Division, APO 83, U. S. Army.

TO : Commanding General, XIX Corps, APO 270, U. S. Army.

- 1. Pursuant to the provisions of Par TV 2 d (2), War Department Circular Number 333, 22 December 1943, the Awards and Decorations Board of the 83d Infantry Division acting for the Division Commander, is giving consideration to a proposed recommendation for a Presidential Unit Citation for the 329th Infantry Regiment and attached units covering the battle action performed by the Regiment across the North German plains between 4 April 45 and 13 April 45, both inclusive, extending from Horn at Horn Pass and Neuhausen to the establishment of the bridgehead across the Elbe River at Barby, Germany. The above operations were conducted as a part of the XIX Corps' sweep across Germany.
- 2. In considering the recommendation, the Board feels it highly desirable to have and respectfully requests a letter or memorandum from the XIX Corps Commander, or one of his staff acting for him, stating the tactical and strategic significance of the Unit's operation during the stated period, and the relative importance of the action in the accomplishment of the final Corps and Army objectives. This would be attached to the recommendation for the citation as part of the supporting data referred to in Par IV 2 d (2) of the Circular.

For the Commanding General:

/s/ Antonio J. Gaudio
ANTONIO J. GAUDIO
Capt, GSC,
President

DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION OUTLINE

(The 83rd Infantry Division Association, Inc. Archivist, Rudy Zamula, has searched whatever was available to him and did a fantastic job in furnishing what was necessary.)

INTRODUCTION

PART I - Attack Echelon. Narrative and Proposed Citation

	329 th & 331 st Regiments.	3 pages
Ch 2.	330 th Infantry Regiment	1 page
Ch 3.	113 th Cav Group (Mech)	9 pages
Ch 4.	Proposed Citation	2 pages

PART II - Digests, Supporting Arms & Services, (Divisional Troops).

Ch 1.	Artillery	4 pages
Ch 2.	Engineers	5 pages
Ch 3.	Signal Corps	2 pages
Ch 4.	Quartermaster Corps	2 pages
Ch 5.	83 rd Recon Troop	5 pages

PART III - SUPPORTING DATA

Ch 1. After Action Reports.

Sec 1.	83 rd Infantry Division	ETO Order of Battle 19 pages
Sec 2.	329 th Infantry Regiment	9 pages
	330 th Infantry Regiment	8 pages
Sec 4.	331 st Infantry Regiment	25 pages

Ch 2. Other Reports & Certificates.

Sec 1. G-1; Casualties, Awards & Decorations	3 pages
Sec 2. G-2; Periodic Reports.	Time, terrain and weather,
	in these reports.

Ch 3. Miscellaneous Documents.

Sec 1.	Letters of Commendation	(4 Letters of Commendation included)
Sec 2.	Time, Terrain, Weather	(In G -2 Reports)
Sec 3.	Troop List, with attached units	(In ETO Order of Battle)
Sec 4.	Sketch of the operation with maps	(3 page report of German Tank
		Commander with map showing
		positions of German and American
		Forces)

From the Assistant Historian

Dave Curry

Last summer, I received a very interesting and lengthy letter from Ernie Gatten. Ernie was in the 83rd Recon Troop, and his letter contained a story about a nine-man patrol that was sent out on the night of June 30, 1944 to cross a swamp in Normandy.

An examination of maps of this area shows that the 83rd was in a very tough position from which to advance against the German defenders, and the top brass of the division were looking for a way to carry out their mission over horrible terrain. The After Action Report of the 83rd Recon Troop for June 1944 is very brief--one short paragraph, and not very informative:

First action against the enemy by elements of the 83d Reconnaissance Troop was of patrol nature on the night of 30 June 1944. 2nd Lt. Lawrence E. Burton led a patrol of 9 men, by boat, from Auvers to Le Hommet and shore line to the North. Type and extent of German defenses studied. Patrol returned night of 1 July 1944. One man missing.

HEISTER H. DRUM Captain, Cavalry Commanding

What really happened on this patrol, as recalled by Ernie, is an amazing story. It is a revealing report from a number of aspects. It shows that the 83rd top brass knew that the division had been placed in a lousy spot on the front lines of Normandy, and they were desperately trying to find a good route south through the swamps and hedgerows. The truth of the matter was that there was no easy way through the swamps or around the hedgerows. Ernie's recollections also show that the 83rd Recon Troop was a tough bunch of soldiers. It is amazing to look at a map of this area of Normandy and realize how big the swamp was. Ernie and his patrol actually traversed the Prairies Marecageuses de Gorges. Ernie does not exaggerate about the swamp. It is a dominant feature on maps of Normandy, and the area that Ernie and the patrol crossed on the evening of June 30, 1944 is about two and a half miles across. The patol would have been a challenge for Navy Seals, but the Recon Troop managed to pull off the mission with only one loss! It's an incredible tale, which follows.

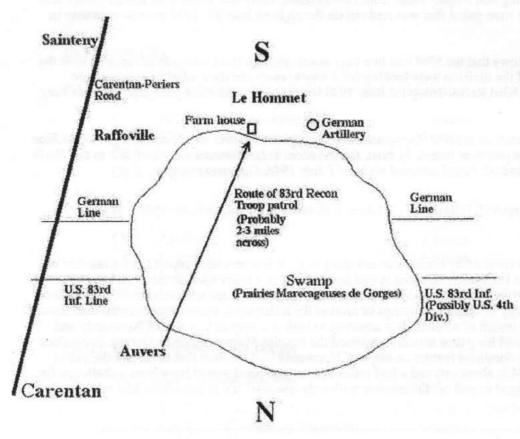
Ernie Gatten's Report of the 83rd Recon Troop in Normandy

During the last days of June 1944, the 83rd Infantry began relieving the survivors of the 101st Airborne Division, who had dropped on D-Day. The "front" in that area was nearly stationary. Some patrol action from both sides, and a daily exchange of artillery fire. The Recon Troop was bivouacked in a little apple orchard. There were literally hundreds of little orchards in Normandy, all surrounded by a hedgerow, ranging from 8 to 15 ft. in height. Several foxholes were already dug. I never learned if they were dug by the advancing Paratroopers or the retreating Germans. I claimed a very deep foxhole beside our parked armored car. No one challenged my possession.

In the evening of June 30, someone walked through our bivouac area, calling out names, including "Gatten." Report now to CO tent! In the tent was our Troop CO, Capt. Drum, our platoon leader, Lt. Burton, and seven others from his platoon. The Captain briefed us. "Division is preparing for a major attack, they want to know if there are any possible pathways through the swamp on which the Infantry might advance in their attack. Lt. Burton then briefed us. "No ID, no jewelry, no cigarettes!" (he was a heavy smoker!) "Meet here at 2300 hours." I gave my wallet and ring to a buddy who was staying in bivouac. I went to my foxhole for an hour of prayer and rest, no sleep. I dropped the heart-shield testament my parents had given me in a shirt pocket, a bar of concentrated chocolate in the other. I fastened two hand grenades on my front shoulder straps. I was ready!

We walked the short distance to the edge of the swamp. In a narrow, shallow canal were three black rubber boats, with paddles, tied with ropes, waiting for us. A full moon in a clear sky worried us. Too much light for a night patrol! We were committed, so three in each boat, we pushed off. Hey! We had no boat training, this is for the Navy! We soon learned the swamp was a series of small canals, criss-crossed with no definite pattern. We paddled for some distance, then to stay on course, we had to walk on soggy ground until we came to another canal where we could launch our boats and paddle again. This went on for some time. Many times we sloshed through ankle-deep water until we came to another canal

where we could use the boats again. Years later, I read the book written by the official historian, Martin Blumenson, "Duel for France, 1944". I copied excerpts from this description of the swamp--"Numerous streams and springs, mudholes and stagnant pools, a network of canals and ditches, some intended for drainage, others originally primitive transportation routes keep the earth moist and soft. Crossing the swamps on foot is hazardous, passage by vehicles impossible."



Around 0400 hours, clouds hid the moon, a light rain began to fall. As we paused for a brief rest and check of our course, Lt. Burton gave a horse laugh and said, "What the hell is the U.S. Cavalry doing in a place like this?" The original plan called for us to cross the swamp, then Lt. Burton and five men would go into hiding, to observe enemy activity during the day. I was assigned to be one of the three "boat people." We were expected to return to our lines, then return the next night to pick up the six "observers."

When we finally reached solid ground the sky was lighting for a new day. So that called for a drastic change of plans. Where we landed our boats was near the rear of an old farm house. It appeared to me that there had once been a room or porch built on the rear of the fairly large house. This addition had long been neglected and had

deteriorated to rubble. A thick and tall growth of weeds had taken over the site. Lt. Burton ordered us to crawl into that patch of weeds and stay until he returned. He took off with his tommy gun and grenades. As we lay there in the semi-darkness of dawn, I heard a "clip-clop, clip-clop" down from the front of the house. I was raised on a Pennsylvania farm, so I recognized the walking of a farm horse. I was certain the horse had stopped in front of the house. A few moments later I heard voices, male and female. I didn't know which language was used. I assumed it was a mixture of French and German. Then the horse moved on, out of my hearing. I was certain it was a German soldier, buying milk or eggs from a French house-wife. From their brief exchange of words, I assumed she had been expecting him to stop at her door. Time passed, the sun came out, warming our wet bodies. Very difficult to keep from dozing off.

I could hear occasional artillery fire. It sounded fairly close. As combat was a new experience to me, it took several minutes to realize the different sounds of war. There was no whistling sound or loud explosion. Then came the terrible realization. This was out-going artillery. A near-by German gun was firing what they called harassing fire across the swamp into the American zone! Long after this event, the thought came to my mind: Our artillery was much superior in number to the Germans. Why wasn't our artillery answering these harassing shots? Was it because the word had been passed that an American patrol was out there in the swamp? It was much later before the full and frightening realization came to me. We were so far behind the enemy lines as to be a few yards away from an artillery piece. Many times since, I have tried to put that situation in perspective. This is what I assume: The German defense line was probably solid up to both edges of the swamp. They apparently didn't consider anyone would attempt such a stupid move as trying to cross the swamp.

So, we waited what seemed like hours, probably only two, for Lt. Burton to return. He did return, puffing with words, "Get out of here quick!" So we didn't hesitate, we ran for the boats and began rowing furiously in the canal. We probably rowed 200 or so yards when a machine gun opened up behind us. Our instant reaction was to tip the boats side-ways and be spilled into the water, which was nearly neck deep. I had been rowing, my carbine laid in the bottom of the boat. It

slid to the bottom of the canal. It is probably there yet. I righted the boat, began pushing it in front of me as I tried to walk in the water. I sensed that the others were doing the same. We kept walking in the deep water until we were exhausted. We climbed the bank onto solid ground. Fortunately, the grass was waist high. Back from the direction we had come was the black smoke of an exploding mortar shell. A few seconds later came another, then another. Each one coming ever closer to us. "Walking" our mortar men called it. Each shell in a straight line, each one coming nearer. The last was about a hundred yards short of where we lay, then the shelling stopped. Apparently the Germans couldn't see us, and we had traveled farther than they realized. We lay scattered in the high grass for probably half an hour. We started walking, widely spaced apart, dragging our boats behind us. A few minutes later, a machine gun opened on us from the side. It was a long distance from us, but still could be fatal. so we hit the ground and lay quietly for several minutes. As we tried again, it was a repeat performance. This deadly cat and mouse game went on for probably an hour or more, take a few steps, then hit the ground again as the machine gun fired.

It was probably mid afternoon when we realized friendly eyes were also watching us. We heard an artillery blast. Burton said it was direct fire, probably from one of our tanks. One round was all, and it silenced that pesky machine gun. Now we could walk freely. From the time we left the canal we kept distance between each other as we had been trained to do. So we stayed walking several yards apart. We had walked probably an hour or longer before anyone noticed one of our men was missing. No one could remember when or where he dropped out. It was too late to return to find him. Little "Smitty," the smallest member of the patrol. We walked steadily, through the tall grass, we were able to avoid the canals.

An hour before sundown we reached an outpost of the 83rd Infantry. The sentries didn't challenge us. They seemed both surprised and pleased to see us. One of them led us back to a large stone farm house. This was the Headquarters of one of the regiments. I had never seen so much brass; colonels and majors in one group. The GIs gave us greatly appreciated rations and cigarettes, the first in nearly 24 hours. Lt. Burton was taken to another room for an hour long briefing with those high ranking officers. They seemed to have a great interest to learn what he had observed that morning. While this was happening the Germans opened up a violent artillery barrage. Some of the enlisted aides advised the officers to lie down on the floor. They did. It was amusing to me that some of them cursed like "drunken sailors" because the Germans interrupted their meeting. Darkness came. An infantryman loaded us into a small truck, drove us back to our bivouac area. I dove into my foxhole, slept like a baby until I saw morning sunlight again.

That morning I retrieved my personal items. Then I found the supply truck. I asked for a carbine. Question--"What happened to the one you had?" Answer--"I dropped it in the swamp." No more questions, nothing to sign, he handed me a carbine.

In July 2004, I visited the American St. Laurent Cemetery on the flat land above Omaha Beach. I found and photographed the grave of our buddy, missing on our first patrol. I copy the words exactly as inscribed on his headstone: BERTON L. SMITH, TEC 5 83 RCN TRP 83 DIV, VIRGINIA, JULY 4 1944

I said to the cemetery attendant. "He died earlier than that." (June 30 or July 1.) He replied, "That is probably the day his body was found."

Well, that's about all I've got room for this time. Take care and stay well!

Dave Curry

Phone: 440-942-5030

email: davecurry@ncweb.com

83rd Infantry Division Military Police Platoon Summary of Duties Phil Duncan, MP

Members of the Division MP Platoon were not looking for you, they were looking out for you. One of their main duties was to find anyone who had lost their unit, or had been lost from their unit, and help them return to their unit before the Corps MPs found them and locked them up.

The Platoon consisted of a Provost Marshall (Major), two shavetails, a Desk Sergeant (with clerk), a Motor Sergeant with two T5's, and two Squads. The Squads were a Traffic Squad and a Police Squad that sometimes shared responsibilities depending on whether the Division was on a major move. While on the move, the Traffic squad was deployed at intersections on the route to guide the convoys along the way. Such intersections were sometimes pre-targeted for enemy mortar fire. (One of our guys caught a round and we needed another replacement.) The writer was in the Police Squad but stood at the east end of the Dinard bridge (opposite the Citadel) to point the way to Rennes and the Brest Peninsula.

The Police Squad patrolled the streets of towns and villages to keep an eye on the natives, helped any of the guys that asked for assistance, enforced curfews on the streets and in public bars and "cat-houses", (there are some good stories here but not suitable for this summary). One of the major duties was the handling of German prisoners, both military and political. The German soldiers surrendered to you guys on the firing line and gave up their firearms. One or two members of the Police Squad would answer your call with a truck, drive up to your front door and transport the prisoners to a Division holding area. Upon arrival they were searched for improvised weapons and possible signaling devices such as straight razors, sharp pens, or pocket mirrors. The next step was interrogation by a Military Intelligences person (with an interpreter) that was assigned to the Division. After interrogation they were held until they were picked up by the Corps the Division. After interrogation they were held until they were picked up by the Corps MPs and transported to prison camps (some were transported to the United States).

The Police squad was holding about thirty five political prisoners in a schoolhouse in Salzgitter when we were called to pick up a dozen or so female prisoners at a large prison camp near Magdeburg. The writer drew the short straw and went to pick them up. They refused to get in the truck unless their open field kitchen trailer was hitched up and taken along. After much fussing and fuming, the trailer was hitched up to the German Opel-Blitz ton and a half stake body truck (confiscated from some French DPs a few weeks earlier) and all was well except a Danish woman in a nurses uniform refused to ride in the aback of the truck so the driver had a seat partner on the way back to Salzgitter. Then men were moved to the boy's end of the schoolhouse and the women were housed in the girl's end.

The last holding area was in Calbe where here were about thirty men and one your female held in a large barn and separated only by a large open area inside the barn. This worked our OK because the women were taken to a nearby residence for privacy as needed.

The Division MP Platoon moved to Osterhofen along the Danube in Bavaria for the occupation. Weekend activities included picnics, swimming and boating along the river, softball games, and limited mixing with the locals. There are many more wild and wooly stories that can be told, but a summary is limited to a few highlights. The Platoon suffered two know KIA's and at least two wounded evacuees that did not return.

The Division MP Platoon was looking out for you.

A RECENT E-MAIL

Love him or loathe him, he nailed this one right on the head....... By Rush Limbaugh:

I think the vast differences in compensation between victims of the September 11 casualty and those who die serving our country in Uniform are profound. No one is really talking about it either, because you just don't criticize anything having to do with September 11. Well, I can't let the numbers pass by because it says something really disturbing about the entitlement mentality of this country. If you lost a family member in the September 11 attack, you're going to get an average of \$1,185,000. The range is a minimum guarantee of \$250,000, all the way up to \$4.7 million.

If you are a surviving family member of an American soldier killed in action, the first check you get is a \$6,000 direct death benefit, half of which is taxable. Next, you get \$1,750 for burial costs. If you are the surviving spouse, you get \$833 a month until you remarry. And there's a payment of \$211 per month for each child under 18. When the child hits 18, those payments come to a screeching halt.

Keep in mind that some of the people who are getting an average of \$1.185 million up to \$4.7 million are complaining that it's not enough. Their deaths were tragic, but for most, they were simply in the wrong place at the wrong time. <u>SOLDIERS PUT THEMSELVES IN HARMS WAY FOR ALL OF US, AND THEY AND THEIR FAMILIES KNOW THE DANGERS.</u>

We also learned over the weekend that some of the victims from the Oklahoma City bombing have started an organization asking for the same deal that the September 11 families are getting. In addition to that, some of the families of those bombed in the embassies are now asking for compensation as well.

You see where this is going, don't you? Folks, this is part and parcel of over 50 years of entitlement politics in this country. It's just really sad. Every time a pay raise comes up for the military, they usually receive next to nothing of a raise. Now the green machine is in combat in the Middle East while their families have to survive on food stamps and live in low-rent housing. Make sense?

However, our own U.S. Congress voted themselves a raise. Many of you don't know that they only have to be in Congress one time to receive a pension that is more than \$15,000 per month. And most are now equal to being millionaires plus. They do not receive Social Security on retirement because they didn't have to pay into the system.

If some of the military people stay in for 20 years and get out as an E-7, they may receive a pension of \$1,000 per month, and the very people who placed them in harm's way receives a pension of \$15,000 per month.

I would like to see our elected officials pick up a weapon and join ranks before they start cutting out benefits and lowering pay for our sons and daughters who are now fighting.

"When do we finally do something about this?" If this doesn't seem fair to you, it is time to forward this to as many people as you can.

How many people CAN YOU send this to?

How many WILL YOU?

//SIGNED// Derrick Andrew Girouard, A1C, U.S.A.F., Fire and Emergency Services, 52 CES/CEF, Spangdahlem AB, Germany 09123 DSN: 452-6651

Comm: 011-49-656561-6651

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>	Reported by
Brammer, James W.	HQ Co., 330th	Wife Dorothy
Earls, Norman W.	Medic, 331st	Wife Mary, Daughter Sherri, Son Norman Dale
Everhart, Jr., Willard N.	G Co., 330th	Gary Wallace
Fox, Steve W.	CN, 331st	Wife Bernice
Gilbert, Ed	A Co., 329th	Bob Taylor
Haught, Arthur H.	D Co., 331st	Al Shrawder
Lynch, James G.	D Co., 331st	Geri Gunderson
Narzakian, Harry	Medic	Chuck Abdinoor
Olson, Walter	CM, 329th	Mort Goldman
Rickert, Donald E., Sr.	H Co., 329th	Wife Mary (Jeanne) & Clark W. Johnson
Rondeau, Oscar J.		Norm Malo
Smith, Alphus C.	F Co., 329th	Bob Whitcomb
Stanton, William E. "Bud"	HQ 453 AAA	Amby & Nancy Tynan, Vera Caprio
Trofimuk, Alexander J.	B Co., 329th	Wife Rose
Viglione, Anthony F.	I Co., 330th	Florence Simmons
Weaver, Herschel	783rd Ord.	Son Donald

329th Regiment, Company F Color Guard Re-enactors 60th Reunion - Marching in Nashville Parade Michael Felmlee, Ryan Gray, Matt Lawrence, Dave Westrick buckshotsgt@83rd.us









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