



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.
WORLD WAR II

Vol. 63 Issue No. 1

Fall Issue 2007

**The Carlisle Hotel
LOOKS FORWARD TO HOSTING THE
62nd ANNUAL REUNION
FOR THE
83rd INFANTRY DIVISION**



Carlisle, Pennsylvania

July 30 - August 2, 2008

THE THUNDERBOLT

Official Publication - 83rd Infantry Division Association, Inc.

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

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1963 Manuel C. Martin*	1980 Samuel Klippa*	1997 Keith Davidson*	

*Denotes Deceased



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

ROBERT KECK

Again, another reunion to be remembered - the 2007 held in Rosslyn Arlington Holiday Inn. Thanks to Chuck and Rudy for the planning and execution. We experienced something many of us have never seen before. The highlight - laying the wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by members of the 83rd Infantry Division. The others - trip to the WW II Memorial, the Army Drill team, lunch at the Fort Myer's Officers mess, and laying of the wreath at the 83rd Inf. Div. memorial in Arlington Cemetery.

Now we are in the planning stage of the 2008 Reunion to be held in Carlisle, PA. on July 30 and 31 and August 1 and 2, 2008. On July 31 we will visit the Army Heritage and Education Center. We will schedule buses to haul us. On August 1st we have contracted with Harrisburg Tours to visit the Gettysburg Battlefields and tour the Eisenhower Farm. Schedule would be - Gettysburg National Military Park Museum, and Military Park Cemetery, Lunch all you can eat, Tour Gettysburg Battlefield days one, two and three, and Tour Eisenhower Farm.

No charge for parking, Hotel room rates \$70 per night plus 8% sales tax. Harrisburg Airport is 20 miles away. Not all planning is complete.

Robert Keck
President 2008 Reunion

PAST PRESIDENT'S CORNER

RUDY ZAMULA

Now that the 61st Reunion of the 83rd Infantry Division is over, I hope that the veterans and descendants who gathered here in Washington have enjoyed seeing old comrades and making new friends in the Association. The visits to the Vietnam, Korean and WWII Memorials were capped by the ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. As one who has lived in the area for over 50 years, I am always impressed by the solemn beauty of Arlington National Cemetery and the sacrifice that it represents.

The 83rd Association is faced with difficult and challenging decisions regarding its future. Bob Keck is organizing the 2008 Reunion in Carlisle, PA, a town with a great history (Carlisle Barracks) an Army Heritage and Education Center, a military museum and archive, and an outdoor Heritage Trail. By now, basic decisions about the future of the 83rd Association will have been made.

I propose that the 2009 Reunion effort be headed by a Descendant. In the past, the reunions have been organized and made possible by volunteers like Bob Derickson and Cliff Wooldridge, who devoted countless hours to make the meetings a success. We need volunteers to carry on the tradition. At the same time, we may have to redefine the basic purpose and By-Laws of the Association to reflect the interests of Descendants, e.g. to publish individual and unit histories in the Thunderbolt and continue to celebrate the 83rd's history.

As the 83rd Archivist, I would like to continue to select Unit Histories, After-Action Reports and Daily Journals from the 176 boxes at Archives II in College Park, MD and make them available to members in printed or CD form.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who pitched in to make the 2007 Reunion a success: Chuck Abdinoor, Cliff Wooldridge, Nancy McCarthy, Lou Gomori, George Henry Waple III, Martin Rogers, David Franke, Dave Curry, John Markuns, Chris Markuns, Gary Wallace and Susan Pray.

Rudy Zamula
83rd Archivist

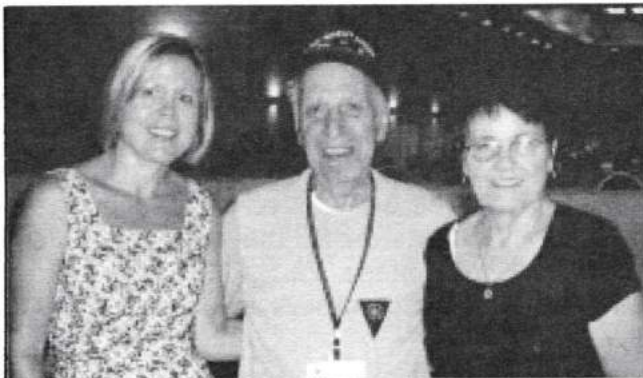
CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

CHUCK ABDINOOR

What can I say, I was overwhelmed by the turnout that we had at our 61st reunion. I believe that it was one of our best. We have now more descendants participating as National Officers, and anticipate more, so that in coming years we can expect them to spearhead our Association.

I want to publicly thank Rudy Zamula for his outstanding work. His dedication has not stopped there. Working at the Records Center, at College Park, Maryland he has unearthed more evidence to support our claim, on obtaining our well-deserved recognition for the Unit Citation.

Lou Gomori as Historian has solicited the office of Senator Arlen Specter to help on our quest, he has also recruited Gary Wallace, Dave Curry and numerous other descendants. I thank you. Keep up the good work.



Erin Schwartz Chuck Abdinoor Betty Haley (L-R)

I was placed on the Grave of the Unknown Soldier. Those laying the wreath were - Laddie Lawrence, L-Co. 329th, one of the originals of the 83rd from the beginning; Mary Jean Houlahan, a descendant and daughter of S/Sgt. Walter A. Knapp, who was KIA July 1944; Erin Schwartz (see picture), a grand niece of Sgt. Richard A. Hartman who was KIA in the Hartz Mts.; and Jean Paul Pitou of France. I believe I had a cross section of our Division - a member, a descendant, daughter of a descendant, and a representative from Europe. All members of our Association. My sincere Thanks for your participation. I brought two cameras with me to take pictures of the dedication, but I was too busy participating, if anybody has any pictures they can spare I would appreciate it if they would send them to me.

I would also like to Thank my wife Bernice for the beautiful wreath she made for the dedication. She was stricken with diverticulitis the morning that we were suppose to leave. I had the car loaded with our baggage and the wreath and so had to go alone. My son took care of her and I am thankful that she is feeling much better. A-Company wives were disappointed but hopefully the good Lord willing, we will meet again in Carlisle.

We should all back Bob Keck and give him support as he will need it.

Sincerely,
Chuck Abdinoor, B & A - 330th

FROM THE EDITOR

CLIFF WOOLDRIDGE

Now that the reunion is over I can get back to normal. I've just caught up with my paperwork today and it is the first of October. I had bills to pay, membership cards to do, rosters to make and ship out and ten ad books to mail.

I have a lot of Ad Books left. If anyone would like one, just send \$3 and I will ship it to you. This year the ad books cost about \$2.85 to mail as they are a big 8 1/2 x 11 book with colored pictures and a lot of descendant pages thanking their related veteran for their service to our country along with a list of senators and representatives, as well as lots of ads from our buddies and friends of the 83rd.

I've spoken to many members since I got home - Bob and Phyllis Keck and they are having problems with their eyes but the last we heard both were doing much better. Just before the reunion Ames Miller fell but the doctors couldn't find anything wrong so he came to the reunion and it was nice to see him and his wife Helen. The other day I received a letter from Helen saying that on the way home from the reunion Ames went from the airplane right into the hospital with a broken hip and other complications. He is now home and doing better but not back to normal.

I have a lot of pictures from the reunion and will see if we can get them into this Thunderbolt if we get some time to put them together.

At this reunion I had the pleasure to have Curt Herrick Jr. and his lovely wife Caroline Dodge Herrick and her brother Dick Dodge who are the children of BG Roy T. Dodge, my battalion commander of the 308th Engineers.



**Caroline Dodge Herrick, Richard Dodge,
and Curt Herrick Jr.
Family of BG Roy T. Dodge**

Nancy and I want to express our gratitude to Manny Goodridge for orchestrating the commissioning of us as Kentucky Colonels.



We'd like to thank the dedicated ladies who helped out at the Registration Table - Phyllis Keck and her daughter, Carol Gill; Evelyn Zamula, Rudy's wife; Georgeanna Slaybaugh, Lynda Patrick, Kelly and Elise Slaybaugh, and Wanda - our Nashville buddies; as well as the many others who so graciously offered their assistance. And, thanks also go to **Ed McCouch Jr.**, who we have under contract for at least the next 10 years, for bravely in the line of duty - *he organized the seating arrangements for Saturday night's banquet and somehow kept a smile on his face!*

I have to apologize for the numerous errors that were in the ad book. This year I wrote some of the copy and didn't get time to proof read. One of the bad mistakes was on the outside back cover where we showed the incorrect year for next year's reunion. So, to clarify - **OUR 2008 REUNION IS IN CARLISLE, PA.**

A reminder: 2008 DUES ARE PAYABLE NOW. PLEASE CHECK THE YEAR ON YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD.

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

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

ELLSWORTH MASSIE

Message for Future!!

Memorial to all deceased in battle or otherwise: A remnant of the greatest generation just met to remember and hold dear to our relationship with those who have given their all for the ensuing generation of our country. We can never repay them for their sacrifice except by carrying on the fight for freedom for the oppressed of the world as we know it and leaving this example for our descendants as we come to the end of our earthly journey.

Let us go with a sense of satisfaction that we have lead them on the right road to carry on. I believe this is our God given opportunity and duty today and in the days ahead. I go on with the faith that this shall be done!

We are but a link in the chain of responsibility to do this as has been done throughout the history of U.S.A.

E. Massie, Chaplain

CHAPTERS

BOSTON CHAPTER NEWS

AMBY TYNAN

CLEVELAND CHAPTER NEWS

BOB GROBELNY

Hi,

Sept. 3, 2007

I would like to tell you about one of our members, Sid Rackoff; he joined us a few years back. Sid was in the 329th, 3rd Battalion Medics Hdq. He's a quite guy.

Sid Rackoff began welding at the age of 64, and is still welding at 88. I mean welding statues from scrap iron. His first statues were about war memories. Many other statues generally featured working people, and mother and child. . . .



9' Roofing - "Mopping Tar"

Hi Cliff,

Sept. 21, 2007

Some sad news here in the Cleveland, Ohio area. George Calore passed away Sept. 15, 2007. George was born and raised in East Cleveland. He went to school in Cleveland and graduated from the East High School. He worked for A & P Grocery Store for 2 years as a meat cutter, then he was a machinist for T.R.W. where he retired after 36 years. George and Martha were married for 56 years. (Martha died a few years ago.)

George was in the 83rd Inf. Div. over 3½ years. He was "A" & "C" Company's Mess Sgt. When I was on K.P. during basic training in "A" Co. he was very meticulous about his kitchen. If you did not do it right, you had to do it again. After all there were 180 men (approx.) that had to stay healthy.

He participated in all 5 campaigns earning him 5 battle stars; he also received 5 campaign medals. After the war he formed the Cleveland Chapter and he was one of our Mess Sgts. along with Mike Mizorock. George was very active in several organizations. He was a member of the T.R.W. retirees - the 83rd, American Legion Post #7 Wickliffe, Ohio, the DAV Chapter 42, in Willoughby, Little Italy's Retirees in Cleveland, Knights of Columbus in Wickliffe and many more.

George and Martha had 6 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. He will be missed.

Another bit of sad news Ted Karageorge (forward observer) fell down some stairs, broke his left thigh bone and did damage to his right leg. **(Editor's note: A while after receiving Bob's column we got a note from Ellsworth Massie that Ted had passed away.)**

This is all for now – Cleveland Chapter wants to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Best regards, Bob Grobelny, A Co. – 329th

DIXIE CHAPTER NEWS **ELLSWORTH MASSIE**



Ladies Memorial Quilt – made in Nashville last year and my wife Kathryn

Reunion 61- 83rd Div. Assn.

Summer is here! It's time to get together with my 83rd compatriots once more. This promises to be an exciting week – being the third meeting in or near Washington, DC! We met in 1946, 1956, now 2007. I missed the first one but was able to be present for the dedication of our 83rd Memorial in Arlington Cemetery in 1999 (I think that's the date.)

My journey was the shortest ever, less than 100 miles not counting the times I missed a turn.

Finally we found the hotel and about a dozen greeted me and wanted to know what took me so long! We got settled in and looked the place over. I was well pleased with my findings. Those responsible for the selection are to be commended! This is my first trip in this section for 50+ years. Route 29 across the Key Bridge was the way I took my bride to Virginia to meet my family. There were no hotels or tall buildings then, just one "McDonalds", the first one I ever saw down the road on the Rte 50 cutoff! Enough reminiscing! On with the report. Dixie is slow showing up but the Texas troops are here in style. Soon we are joined by others for a total of 13 Dixie Members! What a time we had! I believe everyone except my wife and I took all the sightseeing trips. Our health being not up to par, stayed in and got rested up for the busy schedule.

We met so many hearty souls from the old times and plenty new timers anxious to see and do all the exciting things to be done in the Nation's Capitol! We were able to renew our acquaintances with fellow soldiers and their families from California, Florida, Rhode Island, Michigan. In fact they came from the four corners of the U.S.A. and all points in between! It was a wonderful experience. Our descendants showed up in great numbers and style. Some whole families with 3 generations. It kept me busy! Thank you so much for your support and for joining in and doing so much to make our meet truly a "Once in a Lifetime" experience.

Our Memorial "83rd", and the Tomb of the Unknowns were so touching and emotional they will be long remembered by one and all who attended them! Then our Memorial at the hotel where the names of those passing in the past year were read and all the wreath laying was so well done. We just enjoyed each part and each other so much.

The program arranged by the responsible persons was outstanding and I am sorry that all could not be present. Let's plan now for

next year at Carlisle, PA. I'll be looking for you if I'm able.

Looks like A Btry. had 3 present, Dixie had 13 hearty souls on hand. All together we must have had 300+ in attendance from all units.



A Btry - Massie, Sihlanick, Lazarus

Our descendants kept their word! They didn't let us down! They showed up in great style and number. And were busy making this one of our great meets- We're forever grateful.

The Coming Generation - Descendants



Tom, Mary Jean Houlahan & Dave Lazarus



Lynda Patrick, Jack & George Slaybaugh

Business is handled in order - Elections held. We closed each meeting in harmony and look forward to our next meet! We have some new faces and able personnel to fill the responsible positions in the year ahead along with those older ones still able and willing to sit, stand, speak, and do whatever is needed to keep us moving in the right direction!



83rd President Bob Keck & his wife Phyllis

I'm careful not to name any individual because if I did I'd miss some one. Then I'll feel bad, they'd feel bad. So, I must group those gathered and thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping this meet to be born, to grow to meeting, be successful, and be retired. It's history! We've played our part. Thanks to each one who had part in making it so. Remember "we need each other" so let's keep on keeping on!!

Your Reporter for Dixie,
Ellsworth Massie
A 322 & 908 F.A.

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

**ROBERT TAYLOR
B Co. 329TH**

This report comes to you a little early, since we aren't all back in Florida as yet, and haven't held our usual fall meeting. That is coming on Nov. 2/3 in Sebring, FL. But, deadlines for publishing the T'bolt require that we submit these reports by Oct. 10 in order that they be published in the Winter

issue. Therefore, this report will deal, primarily, with the National meeting in Washington, DC.

First, I'll congratulate all of the people involved with the Reunion for the splendid work you did in bringing this Reunion together. It was a tremendous operation and effort and you pulled it off in grand fashion. Everyone that I know had a great time! Bus schedules, time schedules, and directions sometimes became a little hectic, but overall it is a great tribute to you 'old men' of the 83rd, along with some dedicated descendants, that you made this happen.

Again, CONGRATULATIONS for a job well done !

The Florida Chapter was well represented in DC by Sam and Ruby Castelli, Manny Epstein, Harry Gravelyn, Geri Gunderson, Lou Kanen, Bill and Jeanette McKee, Jim and Dot Brennan, Paul Dillon, John and Ona Prinzi, Al Shrawder and Charlotte, and our most enthusiastic descendant member, Mary Jean Houlahan and her family. It was good to see former Chapter member, Joe McNicholas, and also his good friend Angie Philipone. Many of us remember Angie as the widow of former 83rd member, Joe Philipone. Also, in attendance were myself and Gladys, my lovely wife.

As with all Chapters, we in Florida are having a rather rough time maintaining our membership roll. We have, in recent months, lost 3 of our members, namely Ed Gilbert, Ned Smith, and Roger Dennis. We'll miss them, as we do all of those who have passed on before.

Gotta get busy now and get out the word of our Chapter meeting on Nov. 2 & 3 at the Inn on the Lakes in Sebring. At this time we are hoping that we'll be having a second meeting in Feb. 2008 at the same place. If any of you will be in Florida at that time give us a call at (941) 729-5903, and we'll let you know the exact date and time of the meeting. We'll be glad to welcome you.

Everybody have a **Happy Holiday Season !!**

Message from Florida Chapter member Mary Jean Houlahan regarding February 22 - 24 Meeting

I am an 83rd Descendant of SSgt Walter A. Knapp, HQ Co, 331st. and am renting one or two large vans to take members and spouses from **Southeast Florida** who prefer not to drive to the February 22-24 meeting in Sebring, FL, at the Inn on the Lakes. If we have 10 people in each we can do it for \$40 pp round trip. Members should not let finances stand in the way. I already have 2 reservations.

I will pick up in Broward, Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie Counties and across to Sebring from Stuart.

Perhaps other descendants would be able to do the same from the west coast, north, northeast and other areas of the state.

If you are an interested resident or a snowbird, please call me ASAP at (561) 302-7559 or contact by email, mjhoulahan@bellsouth.net

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

NICK FRANCULO

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER NEWS

STAN BIELEN

stanfran83rd@aol.com

The reunion in Arlington, that's what this article is about. It was one of the best I and my family attended. It was so full of activity in the program that I needed a week to recuperate. It was up at 6:00 AM then on the move to late in the evening.

All the officers and the executive board members arranged a perfect schedule starting with registration until the banquet on Saturday, Rudy Zamula was all over the place helping to keep all in order. Charlie Abdinoor who gave so much time and effort

to this successful reunion, even though he was having a serious health problem, deserves a great deal of credit for its success. The two New Jersey Chapter members George Waple and Manny Epstein did a great job with their assigned jobs. George with his connection with the Army had, it seemed like, all the Generals of the Army under his command. The Arlington Cemetery wreath laying, the lunch at For Myer to the Army's Silent Drill Team, that was so terrific and enjoyed by all. That Drill Team usually performs for visiting Heads of State and other important Dignitaries. Manny had made all the arrangements with the Holocaust Museum, the free lunch and his generous gift of a beautiful silk 83rd tie to all the men who attended the reunion.

For all his work for the success of our Association we especially thank Cliff Wooldridge. To all the women, under the direction of Cliff, who took care of registration which ran so smoothly and the special greeting by Nancy McCarthy and her Ladies making all feel like family we thank you all! Our Descendants who have contributed their youth, energy and spirit to revitalize these Ancient Warriors, that is what the French call us, we really appreciate your participation and thank you!

Chapter Members who attended - George Waple with friend Jeanne, Manny Epstein, Andy Socha, Charlie Sihlanick with daughter Linda and her husband Augie, George and Dot Foster with their family, I think there was six of them. Joe DePeri with daughter Joann her husband Joe with two daughters Casey and Nina. Stan Bielen with my two daughters Judith and Joyce and Joyce's two children Emily and Evan. I'm sure that all felt like my family, they are looking forward to the next reunion in Carlisle, PA.

A few days before the reunion I received a call from Al Rinaldi who lives close to Richmond, VA. I was surprised when he told me he was coming to the reunion. It had been a long time since his last one. It was great to see him and his wife Nancy. Al was a high school football coach both in New Jersey and in the Richmond area. He is still active doing color commentary with the game

of the week in his home area. They are planning to attend next year's reunion.

Those Chapter members that were missed and didn't make the reunion were Cookie Seneca and his family, Mary and Frank Sabine, Russell and Margarita Whitehead, Sam and Edith Manzi, Ted and Irene Guzek, Frank Reichmann, Fred and Millie Messina, Ben Franko and Tony Hroncich. I hope by next year you all can make the reunion.

Recently I received a call from a Maryann the daughter of Michael Molinaro who lives in North Jersey and had served as a medic with the 330th Regiment. He is interested in joining the 83rd Association. I gave him Cliff's address to join.

Getting back to descendants, I met Tom, Mary Jean Houlahan and their daughter Sharon and had a lengthy conversation with all of them and found them to be an amazing family. "M J", as she is called, her father S/Sgt Walter A. Knapp was killed in Normandy serving with 2nd Bn. Hdqs. 331 Inf. The entire family served or is serving in the military. Tom was a Captain in the Marines, "M J" was a Captain in the Marines, Sharon is a Captain in the Marines and sons James M. Houlahan is a Lt. Colonel in the Army a graduate of West Point class of 1990, Patrick S. Houlahan is a Major in the Marines, a graduate of the Citadel 1992 and is a TOP GUN Pilot, FA-18 Hornet. As Phil Rizzato the former Yankee would say "How About That".

Enclosed is a picture (below) taken at the Banquet of the 'JERSEY FOUR'.



Stan Bielen (back)
Andy Socha, Charlie Sihlanick, Joe DePeri (L-R)

I also got to talk to Dave Curry who I consider a dear friend to all 83rdrs. Also, met Debbie Holloman and her Mother Hattie who is the sister of Eddie Hart who was featured in the documentary "Thank You Eddie Hart". Nice people all!

That's it for now. Stay well You All!

Stan Bielen

COMPANIES

Co. "A" - 330TH

CHARLES ABDINOOR
sgtchuck83rd@aol.com

Hi Buddy's,

Well another year has gone by, I cannot believe I am 81 years old. All these years we have been meeting I have made great friends with members of the Association. I can remember from day one in Cleveland. Nobody from the company. This happens, especially from a line company, we lose so many, and lose track of them.

I am happy to report that we have at this time seven active members from A-Company. They are Paul Reed, and his wife Dolores. Walter Pillion and Pearl, Shorty Glasser, T. Steward Barrick and NellRita, Ed Brown and Pauline, Earl Dunn, and Phyllis, and Cookie Senica.

We had at Arlington, Steward, Ed, Earl and their wives. We missed Paul, Walter and Shorty. We also had from California Betty Haley and her daughter Erin Schwartz. They are both members, and are descendants of Richard Hartman who was their uncle. Richard was KIA at Bad Harzburg in the Hartz Mountains. I have been writing to their Aunt Inez, who had passed on, for over fifty years,

and Frank Burgess, and I went to visit her at Jefferson City, MO. Frank has also passed on.

Erin was able to contact me and we have been e-mailing to each other through the years. Erin and her mother Betty came to Arlington, and we met for the first time. It was quite emotional, and Erin participated in the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Grave of the Unknown Soldier. They also participated at our own Memorial Service, escorting Francis Markuns in lighting the candle prior to the reading of the names of the deceased.

It seems that we have bonded more so and I can attest to the fact that we have a wonderful Association, and with the descendants participating, and holding National Offices, there is no other way but go ahead. I Salute All.

Your Buddy Chuck
B & A 330th

Co. "D" - 331ST

BILL MCKEE
GERI GUNDERSON

The 2007 83rd Infantry Div. Reunion was a great success and enjoyed by everyone. A BIG THANKS to all that was involved in making it such an enjoyable occasion. Especially to Cliff & Nancy Wooldridge who do so much before, during and after the Reunions. YOU ARE APPRECIATED!

Co D members in attendance were: Harry Gravelyn and Son-in-law Gary, R.C. & Louise Hamilton, Al Shrawder and son Paul, Paul and Mary Dallos, Bill and Jeannette McKee, Jim & Elaine (Odenweller) Hogan, Ray Richter, Geri Gunderson, son Rick and granddaughters, Kelly and Kristy.

Since there were a limited number of close-by restaurants in walking distance, and (on level ground), the "younger" generation ordered and picked up lunch and dinner, we dined in "McKee's room", which also served as "hospitality" and "CD" room. That was

enjoyable and we really cherished our time together.

As usual we extended our stay after the Reunion ended. On Monday we chartered a bus and took an enjoyable tour of Washington, D.C. It was hard for each of us to say good-bye, but we are looking forward to another great 83rd Reunion in 2008.

The Sabines, McDermotts, Ken Barker, and Marcella Nolte were missed. We were thinking of you.

Co. D, 331st - 83rd Reunion 2007



**Jeannette McKee & Elaine Hogan (L - R)
Geri Gunderson, Mary Dallos, Louise Hamilton**



**1st (L-R) R.C. Hamilton, Al Shrawder,
Ray Richter, Paul Shrawder
2nd (L-R) Gary, Harry Gravelyn, Paul Dallos,
Bill McKee, Jim Hogan**

Harvey Haught. He graduated from Tyler County High School in 1932. He attended Potomac State College, now a university and was student council president. He went to West Virginia University and earned a BS degree in electrical engineering.

Art started his life's career as a designer and draftsman with Celanese Company of America in Cumberland, MD. He spent the rest of his working years with West Virginia Pulp & Paper Mill in Luke, Maryland.

He served in WWII with Company D of the 331st Infantry all through France, Luxembourg, Germany and Belgium campaigns. After holding every enlisted man's rank in the Army, from Private to Tech. Sgt. he advanced a step further in the ranks and was awarded a battlefield commission as a Second Lieutenant. He was very proud of that honor and was later a Major in the Army Reserves.

Art was a Boy Scout leader and during the Depression, served time in the Civil Conservation Corps, was a member of the Masons, and a member of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels.

He married Elizabeth Brinks (Betty) Morris and that marriage ended with her death in 1985 and was also preceded in death by his parents, one sister and three brothers.

He died on December 17, 2006. Art is survived by his wife Peggy Lanham, his brother, Art Claire, Sisters-Isabelle Kannan, Ida Trolan and Ona Robertson. Services were held at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

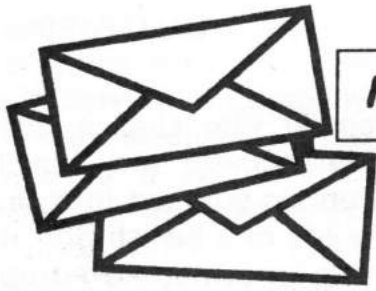
Arthur's sister sent the above Obit to me. Arthur lived in Naples, Florida and belonged to the Florida Chapter for many years until he was unable to attend. He will be missed.

Bill McKee also learned of the death of Russell Sparks (331st Co. D Platoon-Mortar), who lived in California and died in July 2007.

Geri Gunderson

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

It is with sadness to learn of the death of **ARTHUR HAROLD (PETE) HAUGHT** - Art was born on February 3, 1913 in Middlebourne, WV to Mary F. Bickerstaff and



MAIL BAG

Hi Cliff,

Sept. 11, 2007

We had a good time at the reunion. It was great seeing everyone again. I am enclosing some photos from the reunion. I hope you will be able to put them in the Thunderbolt Magazine.

Thank you, Sal Scicolone



61st Reunion - June Zenz, Anne Tisdell, Theresa Scicolone, Wanda Lawson (L-R)



**Anne & John Tisdell
61st Reunion-Arlington Cemetery**



**Arlington Cemetery - 83rd Memorial
Lou Kanes, Sal Scicolone, Ed Reuss,
Paul Detrick (L-R)**

Cliff,

Enclosed is a copy of the Ed Reuss death notice. Ed was a dedicated member of the Pittsburgh Chapter and will be greatly missed.

Best Regards, Sal Scicolone



**REUSS
EDWARD JOSEPH**

Age 85, of Plum Boro, on Mon Oct. 29, 2007; beloved husband of Felicia "Lee" Badalato; devoted father of Edward (Cecelia) Reuss, Larry (Michele) Reuss and Brian (Kimberly) Reuss; proud grandfather of Amanda, Christopher, Natalie, Joe, Patty, Randi, Staci, Brian and Maddie; brother of Donald Reuss and

the late Richard and Betty Jane. He was a proud WWII Veteran of the 83rd Infantry Division and a member of the Elks. Mass of Christian Burial at St. John the Baptist Church.



**Chester "Chet" Morgan
Co. "G" - 329th**

Chet and I were married August 18, 1984 and that year we attended a reunion in Kentucky I believe. We always enjoyed every reunion until he became ill a few years ago. John Cupina, one of his best friends, always kept in touch with us. Everyone liked Chet! The enclosed obituary will give you more details. Chet was in the second platoon. . . .

Ruth Morgan

ITHACA - Chester C. Morgan, 85, of 114 Clover Lane, Ithaca, died peacefully at his home on Saturday, Sept. 22, 2007. He joined the United States Army in 1943, serving with the 83rd Infantry in the European Theatre. He received 3 Purple Hearts, 3 Bronze Stars, a Combat Infantry Badge and a Good Conduct Medal. Funeral services were at St. John's Episcopal Church. Interment with Military Honors followed at the Calvary Cemetery.

**Copy of an e-mail sent to Rudy Zamula
from Nigel Perrin,
If you have any information that might
help Nigel, please contact him at
nigelperrin@gmail.com**

Oct. 16, 2007

Dear Mr. Zamula,

There is an extremely slim chance that you might be able to help me, but I thought I should contact you just in case. I'm researching the life of a British officer named Harry Peuleve who was picked up by the 83rd somewhere in the Magdeburg area on April 14th or 15th 1945 - this officer had been an agent with the French resistance before being deported to Buchenwald and later to the camp at Schonebeck, which he escaped from on April 11th. He was nearly caught by two SS officers, but managed to disarm them and handed them over when he reached the American lines. Apart from a couple of radio transmissions to the British counterintelligence services I have very little to go on. I'm sure that the divisional archives won't mention him, but I was wondering if one of your veterans might have witnessed the incident? I know it's very unlikely, but I thought a brief request could perhaps be included in your next newsletter - would that be possible?

Best wishes,

Nigel Perrin

nigelperrin@gmail.com



I was drafted into the army on October 9th 1942, and then went to Camp Atterbury, Indiana where the 83rd

Infantry Division was being activated. I remained with the 83rd throughout the war, serving in Company A 331st.

I was wounded in Ham, Germany and received a Purple Heart on April 3rd, 1945. I was discharged from the Army on November 15, 1945 and returned to civilian life.

I have been a lifelong resident of Marion, Virginia where I worked for the Brunswick Corporation for 38 years. I retired in 1979 and have since become an avid golfer and gardener. I am 90 years old and have been very blessed. I still enjoy life to the fullest.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Cliff Wooldridge for doing a great job for the 83rd and say hello to Glenn Wible.

A special hello to ALL OF MY 83RD BUDDIES.

Always the best to all of you,

John D. Alley
207 Adwolfe Rd., Marion, VA 24354
276-783-7915

Hi,

Just another photo or two for the next issue if you have room --

Hope you guys are well.

Debbie



Dave Curry, Assistant Historian with his wife and son



(L-R) Dick and Jean Coyle, Debbie Holloman, and Hattie Holloman - all 329th IR, Co. G

Hello Everyone--

9/6/07

Just got this email about the film being made for Normandy American Cemetery that includes Ken Hatcher, an 83rd Vet KIA in Normandy. One of the pages on the website indicates that it will be shown on American TV on Memorial Day 2008 (doesn't say, but I would guess probably public TV). Please pass along to all who may be interested.

Best, Dave Curry

Begin forwarded message:

From: "max lewkowicz" <maxle9009@gmail.com>
Date: September 6, 2007 2:42:58 PM EDT
To: maxl@gtoomedia.com
Subject: Normandy Five

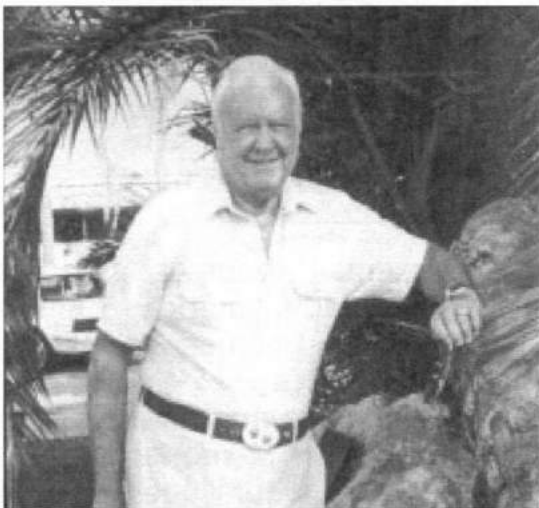
We'd like to let you all know that we've completely updated the "Normandy Five" website, about our full-length documentary about five young GIs who lost their lives in Normandy. The working title of the film has now become "Sacrifice." We have filmed over 100 hours of original footage, and are in the process of editing. We've added a lot of material to the website and we invite you to take a look at it. In the coming weeks, we will post excerpts of the film on the

website as well, which will give you a sample of the film as it takes shape.

Here is the website link:
www.normandyfive.com

We welcome any comments you have.

Cheers,
Max Lewkowicz



James C. Burton

Obituary
[Chicagotribune.com](http://chicagotribune.com) 11/112007

James C. Burton, age 85, of Oak Park, formerly of Indianapolis; US Army Veteran, WWII; beloved husband of the late Joyce; loving father of Mathew Burton, Judy (Paul) Peterson and the late Michael Burton; cherished grandfather of Joshua Burton and Kaitlyn Peterson.

Interment Myrtle Hill Memorial Park, Tampa, FL. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the American Cancer Society are appreciated.

Subject: VA Benefit

One of our members e-mailed this to us but **recommended all to check with the VA for all the particulars.**

"Aid and Attendance" is an underutilized special monthly pension benefit offered by the Veterans Administration for veterans and surviving spouses who require in-home care or live in nursing homes. To qualify, a veteran (includes the surviving spouse) must have served at least 90 days of active military service, one day of which is during a period of war, and must be discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. The veteran's benefit is \$18,234 annually (paid monthly) and increases to \$21,615 if a veteran has one dependent. The surviving spouse alone is \$11,715 annually.

For more information with all the specifics, call 1-800-827-1000, visit <http://www.va.gov> (type "Aid and Attendance" in the search block), or contact your local VA office. You can also apply on-line at <http://vabenfits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>

Dear Thunderbolt Editor,

My father, Ambrose "Hank" McDonald, was a member of the 83rd Division - 322nd Field Artillery to be exact. I am trying to find any soldiers from the 83rd who might remember my father. My dad told us a few stories from the war, but largely didn't tell us much.

My dad was a medic and drove a jeep in the war. He won the Bronze Star for rescuing 2 men who ran into a mine field in the Hurtgen Forest. He grew up in a small town in the hard coal region of Eastern Pennsylvania - Tremont, PA, where I live as well.

My dad was a very humorous person with a great personality. He was the kind of person, if you had met him, you would never forget. I

understand that he made a bet with the other men in his unit that he could eat his K rations while sitting on a dead, bloated cow in the heat of the summer. . . . he won the bet, by the way. He loved his friends and I believe it was hard on him the ones he lost during the war. I don't think he ever forgot them. My dad passed away in January 1997 of myelofibrosis, a bone marrow cancer.



I have included here a picture of my father taken during WWII. Please print it along with this letter, as maybe it might jog someone's memory. I can be reached by mail at this address - Laurie McDonald Maley, 121 Echo Lane, Tremont, PA 17981.

I can ALSO be reached via the Internet at this E-mail: CelticGirl53@comcast.net .

God Bless the soldiers of the 83rd Division- the ones on Earth AND in Heaven.
Thanks for all your help.

Constantine Fred Messina

Obituary

Constantine Fred Messina, 86, of New Bern died Monday, Aug. 27, 2007, at Craven Regional Medical Center.

The funeral will be at 11 am Wednesday, Aug. 29, at St. Paul Catholic Church with the Rev. Paul Mizener

officiating. Burial will be in St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery with military honors. Fred, a native of East Haven, Conn., moved to New Bern in 1984. He was a World War II veteran and served with the U.S. Army 83rd Infantry Division.

Oct. 9, 2007

The 83rd -

To thank you for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it was deeply appreciated.

Thanks for remembering our Mom. The flowers were magnificent.

Joe Macaluso



October 2, 2007

Cliff,

Please consider printing this brief story in the next issue of the Thunderbolt. A copy of the story along with photographs are on the accompanying CD. Mr. Fleming plans to send it electronically if he can contact you.

Thanks,

Sgt. Charlie Davis

(See following piece "The Telegram")

The Telegram

"If you have to go, you ain't coming back," Sally Davis told her son repeatedly as World War II was raging overseas.

As they had done thousands of times during World War II, the War Department sent a painful telegram to the Davis family in Rowena, Ga., informing them their son had been killed in combat. At least one of them should never have been sent.

Because of his mother's distress, 21-year-old Charlie Davis and his father, Bernard Davis, agreed it would be best if he waited to be drafted rather than enlisting. He was drafted Nov. 1942 and was wounded August 8, 1944 in St. Malo, France. A few days after he was struck by a German bullet while clearing Germans from houses in St. Malo with Co. I of the 331st Infantry, the errant telegram was on its way.

The morning the telegram arrived, the postmaster in nearby Arlington, where the mail was dispatched, received a phone call from the War Dept. "I want you to stop that telegram," the caller said.

"I can't," the postmaster replied. "The mail carrier has already gone out on her route and we don't have any communications."

The War Dept. didn't give up, however, and learned that the nearest phone to the Davis farm was at the home of W. R. Taylor.

When they called, the daughter, Frances Taylor, answered the phone. When told of the telegram, she said, "I don't have any way to go over there. Mama and daddy have gone to town in the car and I'm here by myself."

She then remembered, "There are several negroes in the field behind the house. I could try to get one of them to take his mule out from the plow and ride him over there."

When the farm hand rode up to the Davis house on the mule, Miss Sarah Powell, the mail carrier, had already gotten there.

"And she was staying there on the porch with mama until someone else could get there," Davis said. "I'm not sure what she said when told the telegram was not true, but I can imagine what she was saying when she got the telegram."

"Well I told everybody he wasn't coming back! I told you he wasn't coming back!"

Sally Davis really didn't believe her only son would live through the battles and make it back home to the family farm in Rowena.

But, Sgt. Charlie Davis did come back home!

He made it through the bloody battles across France that helped defeat the Germans, leading to the capture of Berlin and was getting ready to train for an invasion of Japan when he learned of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and Japan's surrender.

He returned to Rowena and continued farming with his father. The family farm is now run by Charlie's son, Tommy.

Asked if he thought he would make it back home once he was in the middle of the battles in Europe, the aging Charlie Davis replied, "It was doubtful at times."

Note: The talk about "the telegram" turned into a conversation lasting several hours which I have on tape. While listening to his wartime experiences I told Mr. Charlie he could have easily have been in the Band of Brother's Easy Company. Many of the stories he told were vividly recalling scenes in my mind from the movie. Mr. Charlie has never seen Band of Brothers. I plan to make sure he sees it soon.

Mr. Charlie apologizes everytime we talk for taking up my time. He will never know how much I cherish every minute I get to spend with him. There is no better way I can thank him and his fellow soldiers for what they did for us than to learn and feel as much of it as possible.

Billy Fleming
Publisher
Early County News
Blakely, Ga.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We received a letter dated August 28, 2007 from Thijs Hodiament of The Netherlands who is hoping that one of our members may be able to help him. He adopted the grave of S/Sgt. Benjamin S. Hynoski, ASN 33875150 who served as a squad leader in 3rd Sqd. 2nd Plt, E/331st, 83rd Infantry, and this is Thijs' story -

Grandma Bertha - It all started with my grandma Bertha. Between '46-'48, when she was in her twenties, she adopted the grave of one of her liberators. The Netherlands American Cemetery at Margraten was still in its old shape and on a little card it told her U-5-110, S/Sgt Benjamin S. Hynoski. She always told her children, including my mother, that she did it to do something 'small' back to their liberators. She occasionally went to see his grave but with the years he was 'forgotten'.

Lost and found - Some years after the death of my grandma, I think around 2001, I asked my mother about 'the soldier' she once told us about. It took some days for my mother to remember but she finally came up with the name Hynoski. With the intention to re-adopt his grave I went to Margraten. There I was told that the adoption of the grave was still registered to Bertha Claassens, better known to me as Grandma Bertha.

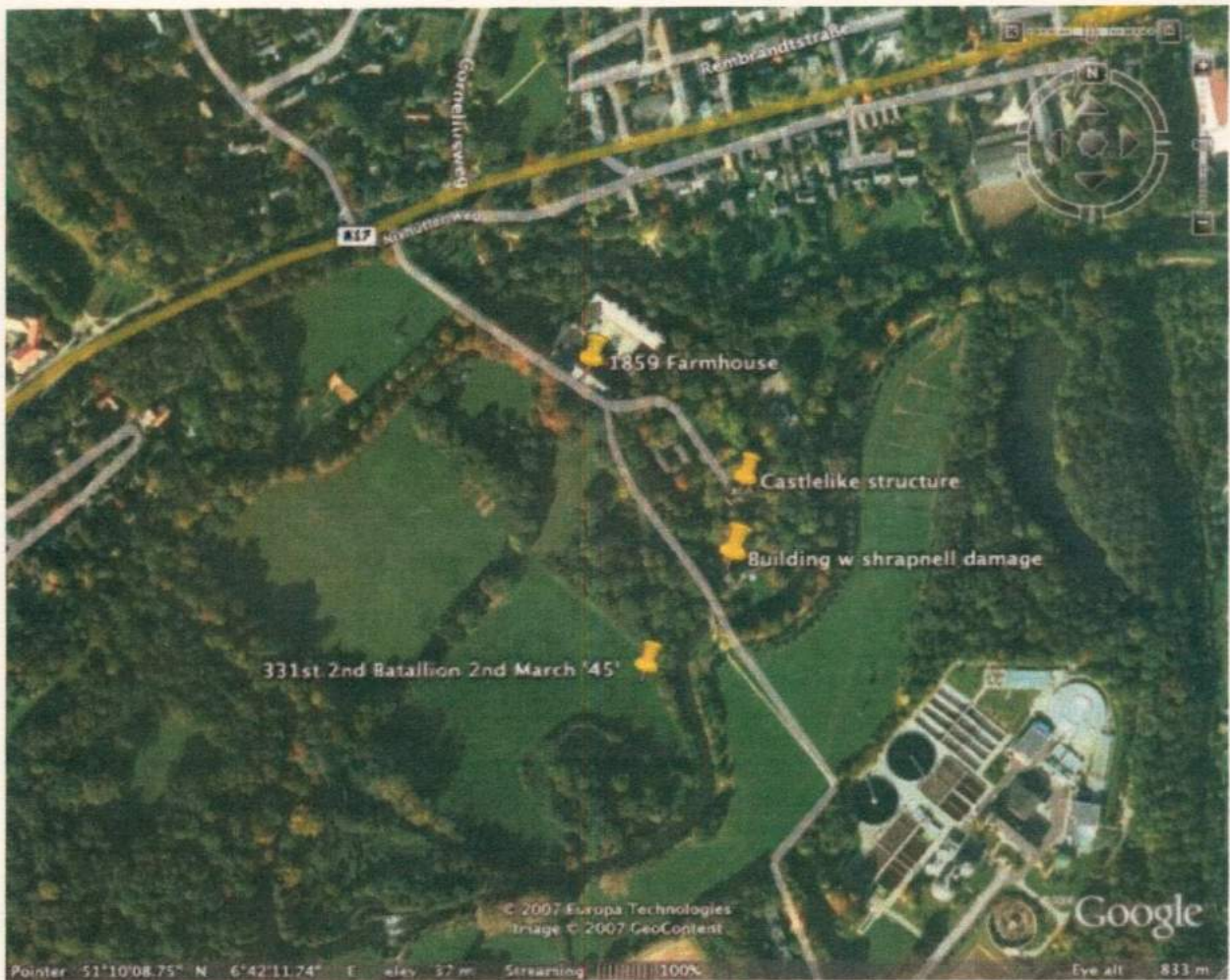
Contemplation

I visit Ben regularly, not Ben in particular though. I visit all the 8,301 white crosses and stars of David that are draped across one of the most beautiful places in Holland. For me it is a time to contemplate about what i have and that there is nothing for me to complain about. The cemetery puts things into perspective, these men and women did what they had to do, no questions asked. That deserves a lot of respect.

Who was S/Sgt Hynoski?

I wanted to know more about Ben and about his unit. As someone who was interested in World War 2 I knew about some infantry divisions, but i never heard of the 83rd. From the IDPF I retrieved that Ben was killed while serving in E/331st near the Erft Canal. Using the Thunderbolt Message Board of Dave Curry I posted a message and got in contact with Tom Depiano. His father in law, PFC Frank DeCarlia, was a runner for E/2nd Platoon on the 2nd of March. Tom found, by some miracle, a duty roster of E Co. 2nd Platoon from the 2nd of March, listing S/Sgt Ben as squad leader for 3rd Sqd. Using the After Action reports and the book 'We Saw It Through' I managed to find the location at which the 2nd Battalion, 331st resided on the 2nd of March.

According to the maps and Google Earth, this was the location, the canal can clearly be seen just right of the 2 fields with the pinmarker.

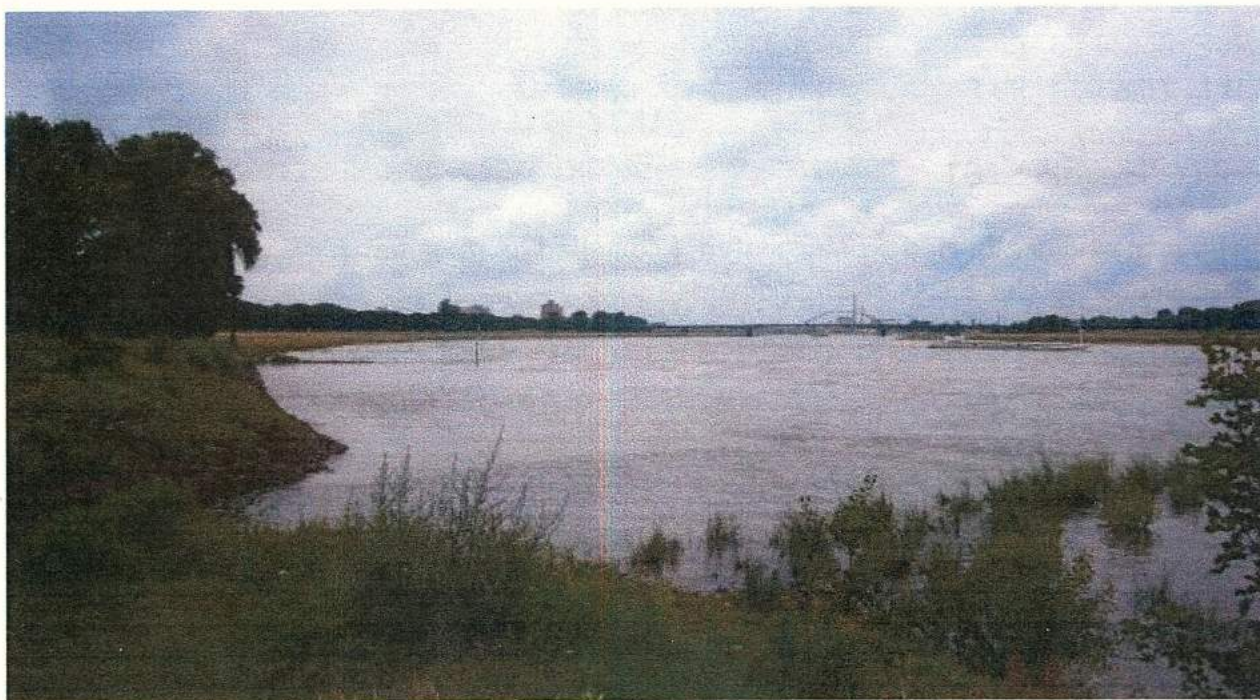


I visited the field and view from the 331st would have looked something like this.



According to the Book, 'We Saw It Through' and the After Action Reports, there were factory buildings behind this field towards the Rhine. I could not find those, only a large

barnlike structure and some smaller buildings, one of which contained shrapnel damage. A 40 minute hike took me to the final objective of that day and the view must have been something like this:



The After Action Report gives us this report.

"2 March was a red letter day for the 331st Infantry. Elements of the regiment were the first to reach the Rhine and the regimental command post saw more close action than at any time since Normandy.

At 2330, the 1st battalion on the left flank of the 330th moved thorough Hinterfield in the direction of Heide-Bruche and Meer. The 2nd Battalion resumed operations toward the Rhine at 0130, with the mission of taking Nixhutte Grimlinghouserbruke and the group of buildings at 295885 on the banks of the Rhine. At 0140, Company G reported that they had occupied Nixhutte, and by 0230, Company F had cleared Grimlinghouserbrucke and taken a few prisoners. Company E, however, seemed to have struck the German forces in the area. Two platoons led by Captain Oliver ran into stiff resistance near 295885. In the dark, the Germans closed in from the flanks and captured thirty-five men including Captain Oliver and Lieutenant Welch and inflicting some casualties. The 2nd platoon, however, reached the Rhine at 0500 and claimed the honor of being the first troops to do so. By 1130, it was obvious that Company E would need some help to kill or capture the Germans remaining in the area. Company G, a platoon of F and a company of tanks moved to the southern edge of Neuss, left the platoon of F to protect their rear and then swung east toward 295885. By 1500, the area was cleared and 200 prisoners captured. By 1900, the battalion was buttoned up with Company G consolidated on the Rhine, Company F in Grimlinghouserbrucke, and Company E in the southern edge of Neuss after being completely relieved by Company G."

So according to this, both E, G and a platoon of F company saw action that day towards the Rhine. I know Benjamin was from E company, and according to the roster the following men who died during that day were from 2nd Platoon.

Joseph E. Borowski CPL
Francis L. Zinn PVT
Nevin O. Conaway PFC
Benjamin S. Hynoski SSGT

From the men who are buried on Margraten, I compiled another list from who I only know that they served in the 331st on that day.

John E. Kulesa PVT
Seymour B. Schinasi PVT Co. E. 3rd Platoon
Joseph Reyes FC
Merlin F. Caldwell PFC
Vernon J.H. Oelrichs SSGT

According to the AAR, these men might have been from either G or F company. This is something I like to find out. Gruesome as it might be, PVT Schinasi is shown in the book 'We Saw It Through' before the factory buildings where he was killed. I would really like to find out more about what happened that day. Thanks to Mr. Key and Mr. Stoffle of 3rd Platoon for the information on the 2nd of March.

Who was Ben?

Using the WWII Memorial website I found a nephew of Ben. Tom was so bold to pick up the phone and I got in contact with the daughter of Ben. His daughter never knew him as she was born while he was away. I can tell you that she was very happy with the pictures I sent her.

Questions

What remains are the details about the 2nd of March and the military history of Ben. Tom Depiano talked to several veterans but they could not remember Ben. He was probably a replacement but I would still like to know if anyone ever heard from him. He enlisted on the 24th of January, 1944 so he already spent some time in the army. Furthermore, I would really like to know what happened on the 2nd of March in the Erft Canal area. So if there is someone who knows more from first hand, please drop me an email or write me.

Regards and a big salute from Holland,

Thijs Hodiament

Email : thijs@dbsec.net
Street : Wal 163
PostalCode : 31 5501HE
City : Veldhoven
Country : The Netherlands

TO WHOM WE OWE SO MUCH,

HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY THANK YOU,
NOT ONLY FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE,
BUT FOR THE LEGACY YOU'VE SET BEFORE US.

YOU WILLINGLY GRASPED THE SWORD OF VALOR WHEN CALLED TO
FIGHT AND DID SO BRAVELY ON TO VICTORY. FROM YOUR EXAMPLE YOU
BUILT IN US A FOUNDATION OF PERSEVERANCE, OF DUTY AND HONOR.

BECAUSE OF YOUR SELFISHNESS YOU ENABLED OUR NATION TO
GROW STRONG AND TO PROSPER WITH ESTABLISHED RESPECT.
BY THE FABRIC OF YOUR LIVES, YOU'VE WOVEN IN US THE DESIRE
TO FOLLOW, TO LEAD AND TO WIN !

IT IS FOR ALL OF THIS, AND SO MUCH MORE THAT WE HUMBLY
OFFER OUR GRATITUDE AND THANKS. WE WILL NEVER FORGET YOU !
MAY YOUR SPIRIT ALWAYS LIVE STRONG WITHIN US THAT YOUR
GOOD WORKS MAY ALWAYS ENDURE.

WARMEST REGARDS,

DWANE R. BOUCHER LT. COL
U.S. AIR FORCE RESERVES 729 AS

*My daughter Carol is a Customer Service Manager for Continental Airlines.
The week of our D.C. Reunion she was returning from Tel Aviv, Israel.*

*She spoke with the pilot and told him that later in the week she was going to
attend the 83rd Infantry Div. Assn. Reunion. He told her he wanted to send the
above to our Division.*

Robert Keck, L Co 329th







JACK STRAUS

Dear friends at the 83rd division,

It is my regret to inform you that my father, Jack M. Straus, who served as the second president of this organization and was an active participant in its formation, died at his home, surrounded by his family, on September 19, 2007, at the age of 92.

For those of you who did not know my father, he was a man who loved to laugh, a man who loved to hear a good story and tell one as well, and a man who had the utmost integrity. He was always very proud to have served as a soldier in the US army during WWII. While I was growing up, he regularly told me stories of the war and of Cannon Company, the division of the 83rd in which he served.

Below is a partial portrait of his service and of his life after the War.

During World War II as an army veteran with the 331st Combat Infantry Team of the 83rd Division, Jack Straus was the first American soldier to cross into Berlin during the war. An anti-tank gunner and combat correspondent, he fought from Omaha Beach at the Normandy Hedgerows through five major campaigns in Europe, arriving at a point just 65 miles southwest of Berlin as the Russian Army was finally breaking Nazi resistance in Germany's capitol. His self-described "impulsive dash" for Berlin has been chronicled in several publications, (as was his capture and subsequent release by the Russian army in Berlin who assumed he was a German spy.) Straus wrote for Stars and Stripes and as a photographer captured vivid images of combat, including the recognizable photo of a dead German soldier clutching the head of a fallen statue of Hitler, which appeared on the cover of Look Magazine. He also wrote one of the first books on WWII called "We Saw it Through"--for which Straus received a letter of commendation from General Eisenhower. During his time as both a combat soldier and a correspondent Straus earned five campaign ribbons and a Bronze Star. In regards to the Bronze star he once said that "the real recognition of the Bronze star is owed to all the men he served with and that every infantry soldier should be awarded one at the very least" At the end of the war Straus saw first hand the horrors of Dachau and the full horror of the war from that day forward he refused to use the word "suffer".

After the war, Straus entered the field of marketing and advertising, founding his own agency. His innovative work in the field of

women's beauty marketing included designing the merchandising campaign that made the pin-curl clip an indispensable must-have for women around the world. In 1947, he created the unique packaging that has become a standard in the beauty industry---attaching several visible pin-curl clips to a simple multi-colored piece of cardboard. His marketing distribution started with Woolworth's, and within just five years, product sales hit the \$1 million mark and grew worldwide. Straus' success in the industry was profiled in the Los Angeles Times on February 26, 1961. In his later years he became active in the Aerospace industry and also conducted research and attempted to find funding for alternative fuel. He kept active in every way he could until his body began to force him to slow down. *He was a caring and loving father and he loved to be around his grandchildren.*

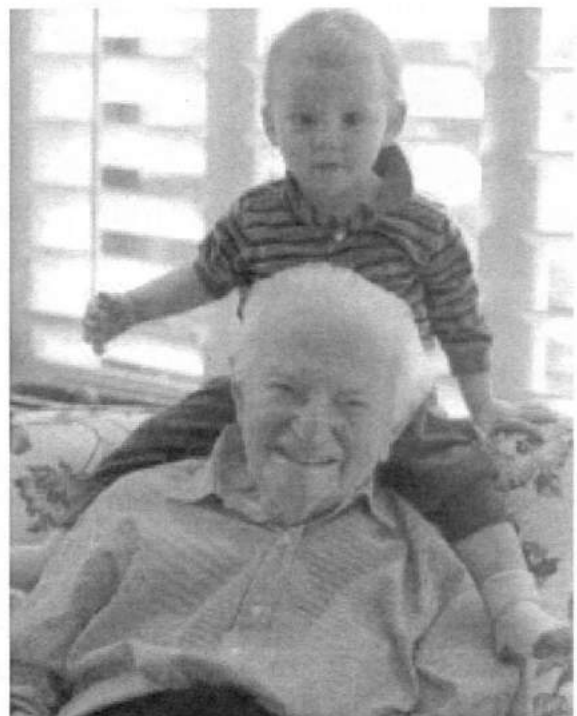
Straus leaves behind his loving wife, Barbara, three sons, David (Laurie) Straus, Robert (Debbie) Ogner, Richard Ogner, and four grandchildren, Jessica, Levi, and Natasha Ogner, and Noah Straus.

David Straus

**Withoutabox.
Chief Executive Officer
818-980-8161**



Dad in the Army, 331st



Dad with Grandson

Dear Cliff and Nancy,

I want to thank you both for the lovely reunion we all had in Washington DC. The sympathy, the careness and the love of one big family (the 83rd) broke a little bit my heart. I had a difficult moment when the reunion was over.

Therefore I would like to sent you the following message. If you could print it in the "Thunderbolt" magazine it would mean a lot to me.

Dear members of the 83rd,

My name is Wilfried De Backer and I live in Belgium. Last August I had the honor and the opportunity to be in Washington DC for the 61 annual reunion of the 83rd Infantry Division.

I was there to find out some stories about a soldier called Sgt Raymond H. Kirkpatrick of F company 331 inf regiment who died in Ottré/Belgium on January 11, 1945. Together with more than 23 buddies he was slaughtered by SS German troops. His brother Harreld Kirkpatrick, a navy Lieutenant at that time and hero himself with 5 purple hearts, 3 bronze stars, 1 silver star, the distinguished flying cross and more than 12 other medals, never knew what happened with his brother. So after a year of research through the internet and after gathering a lot of information, I had to meet the 83rd for myself.

I went to Washington DC with no great expectations but after meeting a great number of you wonderful people, I can say you this. The reunion surprised me and changed my live. You all did let me see War from a whole different angle. Not only did I found some great stories, I also saw brotherhood, friendship, carness. I also saw the love for each other, the family what the 83rd in fact is and the willingness to keep the memory and the great actions alive for future generations.

I'm glad I met this great 83rd family and I'm sorry that I hadn't had the chance to thank to you all. At the Saturday evening banquet it was hard for me to say goodbye. My heart collapsed by hearing you all singing your beautiful national anthem. So that is why I want to thank you through this way:

I want to thank you for the beautiful time and the lovely talks,
I want to thank you for our liberation and our freedom,
I want to thank you for your sacrifices,
And if there is one thing I can do in my country than it is keeping the memorie and the story of the 83rd alive.

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.

YOU ARE THE GREATEST AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL

Wilfried De Backer

Populierenlaan 11 1770 Liedekerke Belgium

Email widb@stabe.be tel 0032/476242587 fax 0032/53768191

61st Reunion - Arlington, VA



**Walter Reed Hospital
83rd Div. WW II Vets Visiting Patients
Glenn Wible, (Jeanne), Ed McCouch, Steward Barrick, Manny Goodridge**



**2 Star General Eric Schoonmaker
Guest Speaker at Reunion Banquet - introduced by George Waple**



**Drill Team, 3rd Inf. Regt. (the al' Guard), Ft. Myer, VA
Performed in the Ballroom - Saturday Afternoon**

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 15, 2007

Dear Mr. Zamula:

Thank you for your letter to President Bush inviting him to attend the 83rd Infantry Division Association's reunion banquet in Arlington, Virginia on August 25, 2007.

President Bush, like all Americans, believes we owe our veterans a great debt of gratitude. Their service and sacrifice have protected the democratic ideals that are the foundation of our country. By answering the call of duty and risking their lives to protect their fellow citizens, these patriots have strengthened and inspired our Nation with their courage, compassion, and dedication.

Your request has been given every consideration. Unfortunately, due to scheduling commitments, we are unable to accommodate your request. Thank you for understanding.

The enclosed photograph comes with the President's best wishes.

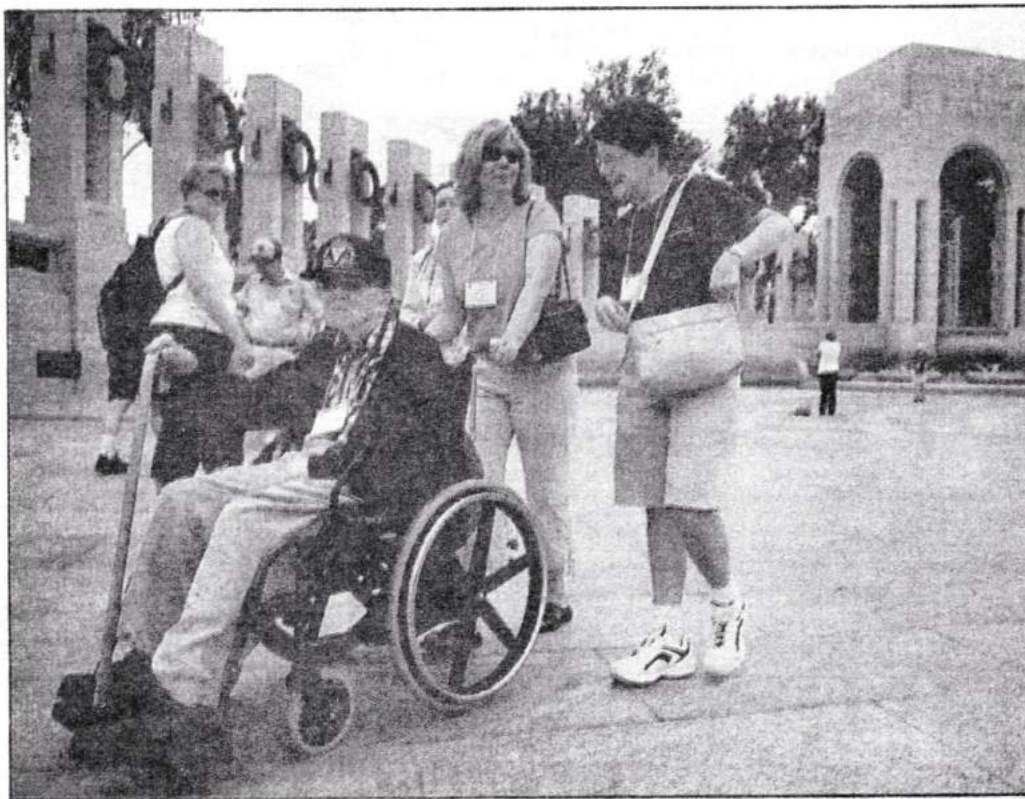
Sincerely,



Melissa S. Bennett
Deputy Assistant to the President
for Appointments and Scheduling

Mr. Rudy Zamula
President
83rd Infantry Division Association
7847 Heatherton Lane
Potomac, Maryland 20854-3220

Enclosure

DISTRICT**WWII veterans still await citation**

Mary F. Calvert/The Washington Times

An Army 83rd Infantry Division "Thunderbolts" member, Paul Wagner, 94, of Wadsworth, Ohio, visits the World War II Memorial with daughters Irene Lawrence (center) and Ann Flory.

Thunderbolts lose members, but not heart

By Arlo Wagner
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A sense of urgency has come upon a group of World War II veterans known as the Thunderbolts and their annual reunion. Members still reminisce each year and visit such historic sites as Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of Unknowns. But with just 680 members still alive, time is running out on their efforts to receive the Presidential Unit Citation.

The group, officially known as the Army's 83rd Infantry Division, fought in 270 days of combat, beginning with the Normandy invasion, and 3,850 members were killed and 15,013 were wounded. They also captured about 80,000 Germans.

see **THUNDER**, page B8

THUNDER

From page B1

For that, 289 Thunderbolts received Bronze Stars, 132 earned Silver Stars and the division received a Distinguished Service Cross and a Legion of Merit medal. The division was nominated for the Presidential Unit Citation, which it never received.

In 2005, the 83rd Infantry Division Association filed an application for the citation and another Bronze Star award through the office of Sen. Arlen Specter, Pennsylvania Republican, to the Military Awards Branch of the Defense Department. Only recently did the Thunderbolts learn that the application was rejected.

"Every day was an experience," said retired Sgt. Stan Bieler, 82, among about 300 Thunderbolts who attended the group's 61st reunion last week. "Every day you were under fire."

The group also fought in the Battle of the Bulge, a major German offensive in December 1944 that Allied forces in Western Europe withstood, then defeated.

Mr. Bieler, now living in Fords, N.J., recalled the difficulty of fighting and surviving in the snow and cold. He and other members said the temperature dropped to 35 degrees below zero.

"They thought we had machine guns," said former Pfc. Joe DePeri, 82, of Garfield, N.J.

"But we didn't," he said, describing how Allied soldiers were aligned in rows and fired in synco-pated rhythms at the Nazis.

"It was just, 'Go get 'em,' and that was it," said former Pfc. Albert Vartanian, 87, of Southfield, Mich., who was awarded a Bronze Star.

Mr. Vartanian last week sat outside the National World War II Memorial on the Mall, smoking a cigar and reflecting upon how survival forced him not to make friends with other Thunderbolts.

"We didn't know each other, because if he died, it wouldn't hurt you," he said.

The 83rd Infantry was formed for World War I, but gained military recognition in World War II for fighting deep into Germany, coming within 40 miles of Berlin. Sometimes, the foot soldiers crossed more miles of battleground faster than the tanks and trucks in armored divisions.

"The speed and dispatch with which the division moved was of particular importance in the crossing of the Elbe River, making possible the successful bridgehead," said Lou Gomori, a historian for the association.

But the Elbe in April 1945 was the dividing line between territories assigned to be captured by Russian and U.S. forces. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower had ordered American troops to remain on

the west side. But, Maj. General Raymond S. McLain authorized the crossing because he was concerned that the Russian Red Army was far away from the Elbe and that the uncaptured east bank would allow the German troops to organize for more fierce battles.

For several days, the division defended the bridgehead territory against Nazi counterattacks and moved to within 40 miles of Berlin. In 13 days, the group fought across 280 miles of Germany, liberating 42,000 U.S. and Allied prisoners.

Ordered to return, members retreated to the river but retained possession of the east side of the bridgehead until Russian and other Allied troops arrived. In effect, the war ended. On May 7, 1945, Germany signed an unconditional surrender.

The group became the only American military outfit to battle in the Eastern European theater, and for that distinction also is asking for a sixth Battle Star.

Pfc. W. Neal Prussman, 87, a Thunderbolt who is now a Colorado wheat farmer, was not at the Elbe campaign.

He was wounded, then captured and held for seven months. His weight dropped from 200 pounds to 100 pounds.

"My rifle had fallen nearby, said Pfc. Prussman, now back at 200 pounds. "A German who spoke good English said, 'For you, the war is over.' "



Mary F. Calvert/The Washington Times

W. Neal Prussman of Haxtun, Colo., was a member of the Thunderbolts, the Army's 83rd Infantry Division, during World War II. He was wounded and held prisoner for seven months by Germans.



Once Again, a Determined Push for a Tough Objective



BY KEVIN CLARK — THE WASHINGTON POST

Rudy Zamula, who served with the Army's 83rd infantry Division in Europe, is on a quest to secure a Presidential Unit Citation for his unit.

Rudy Zamula was toiling away in the National Archives in College Park this spring when he found what he was looking for: documents going back six decades that he believes support the case for his old Army unit to receive new honors.

The 83-year-old Potomac resident, a retired CIA employee, has a job at the Archives declassifying documents. In his free time, he often looks through the records of the Army's 83rd Infantry Division, with which he served during World War II.

After landing at Normandy in 1944 and fighting its way through the Battle of the Bulge, the division raced across northern Germany to the Elbe River in spring 1945. The 83rd was known as the Thunderbolt Division, but it was more colorfully nicknamed "the ragtag circus" because the division commander, Maj. Gen. Robert C. Macon, ordered soldiers to use any vehicles with wheels to speed their advance.

The resulting cavalcade included many captured German vehicles, among them jeeps, tanks, motorbikes, buses and at least one fire engine carrying infantrymen and a banner on its rear bumper that read, "Next Stop: Berlin." The division did not stop until it had secured a position across the Elbe.

A 'Bold' and 'Arduous' Drive

For years, veterans from the 83rd have made the case that the division's accomplishments were worthy of the Presidential Unit Citation, the highest award given to an Army unit. The division was nominated for the citation after Germany's surrender but did not receive the award.

Lou Gomori, 82, the 83rd Division Association historian, worked with the office of Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) to submit an application in 2005 to the Army's Military Awards Branch.

"I think the 83rd Division always did the job and never got a lot of credit for it."

— WILLIAM CALNAN
Fairfax City resident who served with the division's engineer battalion

This year, he learned that the request had been rejected.

Sifting for new evidence at the National Archives, Zamula looked without luck through the 176 boxes bearing the records of the 83rd for the original nomination.

Military records archivists suggested that Zamula examine boxes from the division's higher headquarters, the XIX Corps and the 9th Army.

Zamula soon hit pay dirt. "Lo and behold, there was a recommendation for a unit citation," he recalled.

Among the more than 100 pages of supporting documents was a letter from the 9th Army commander, Lt. Gen. W.H. Simpson, recommending that the division be awarded the unit citation.

"It's pretty exciting finding these at this late date," Zamula said.

The proposed citation states that the 83rd "accomplished this role of 'breakthrough and exploitation' in a bold smashing and arduous drive which achieved such unprecedented infantry mobility and coordination of all its component elements as to mark an epochal accomplishment in the history of our arms."

Tough Standards to Meet

The 83rd Division Association is resubmitting its request in hopes that the new documentation will bolster its case. "I decided it was time to start rolling again," Gomori said.

Zamula and Gomori recognize their quest is a long shot. The standards for the citation are quite high, as defined by the Military Awards Branch. The unit must display such gallantry, determination and esprit de corps in accomplishing its mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions as to set it apart from and above other units participating in the same campaign. Moreover, the citation is rarely awarded to a unit larger than a battalion.

Still, Zamula and Gomori say the case for the 83rd merits a look, particularly for its actions in the closing days of the war in Europe.

On April 13, 1945, the division reached the west bank of the Elbe, which had been set as the boundary between advancing Western forces and the Soviet Red Army approaching Berlin from the east. But the XIX Corps commander, Maj. Gen. Raymond S. McLain, ordered the 83rd across the river to prevent the German army from using the Elbe to launch a counterattack. The division secured a beachhead and held it against fierce German counterattacks.

On the morning of April 15, Gen. Omar Bradley, the 12th Army Group commander, told Simpson, the 9th Army commander, that Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, the supreme Allied commander, had ordered the 9th to halt on the Elbe.

"Simpson and McLain were ready to go all the way, but they were stopped by Bradley and Eisenhower," Zamula said. "For good reason. They didn't want to start World War III."



FAMILY PHOTO

His Army enlistment photo shows Zamula at 20. The Potomac resident retired from the CIA and now works at the National Archives.

Gomori, who lives in Butler, Pa., speculates that the proposal for a unit citation was quietly dropped at the end of the war because the United States did not want to highlight the fact that the Army had crossed into territory assigned to the Soviets. "It was a touchy issue because they didn't want to make waves," said Gomori, who was a private first class at the time.

Looking Back, and Ahead

Last month, more than 100 veterans of the 83rd gathered in Washington for a reunion, with visits to the National World War II Memorial and a memorial to the division at Arlington National Cemetery.

Some of the veterans went to a reception at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, where they were honored for the 83rd's role in liberating the Langenstein concentration camp, a sub-unit of the notorious Buchenwald concentration camp. Among those attending was Charles Abdinor of Dracut, Mass., 81, one of the first U.S. soldiers through the gate at Langenstein; he was a private first class.

The Presidential Unit Citation would be a fitting award for the 83rd, according to veterans of the division.

"I think the 83rd Division always did the job and never got a lot of credit for it, so I would like to see it happen," said William Calnan, 87, of Fairfax City, a District native and West Point graduate who served with the division's engineer battalion. "There's been a lot of effort put into it."

"Even if nothing happens, we're looking for a little recognition of an exciting exploit we're all proud of," Zamula said.

Military Matters is published twice each month in the Extras. Steve Vogel may be reached at vogels@washpost.com.

A soldier's story, shared by 300

■ Potomac man organizes reunion of World War II's famed Thunderbolt Division

BY PEGGY VAUGHN
STAFF WRITER

In 1943, when Rudy Zamula was a young engineering student at Rutgers University in his home state of New Jersey, he found himself saying one too many goodbyes to friends shipping off to war.

"After so many of my classmates left, I decided to waive my deferment to study and got drafted," said Zamula, now 83, of Potomac.

Assigned to the U.S. Army's 83rd Infantry Division, he and his fellow soldiers were embroiled in 270 days of combat in France, Luxembourg and Germany. From landing on Normandy Beach shortly after D-Day in June 1944, to the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes, to meeting up with Russian troops near Berlin, the men

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Wednesday, August 1, 2007 p.

SOLDIER

■ Continued from Page A-1

moved with such speed it became known as the "Thunderbolt Division."

"They were a great bunch of guys, a real cross section of America," he said.

And this month, Zamula will be welcoming back around 300 of those World War II veterans to Washington, D.C., for their 61st annual reunion.

As president of the 83rd Infantry Division Association, a nonprofit based in Alton Bay, N.H., he planned an Aug. 23 and 24 reunion event that includes visits to the Vietnam, Korean and World War II war memorials and the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, as well as to Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

The division paid dearly dur-

ing the war, with 2,850 killed in combat and 15,013 wounded. The veterans plan to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the cemetery during the reunion.

"This can be an emotional time for these guys," Zamula said.

With the veterans aged in their 80s and even 90s, association membership has dwindled from a high of 20,000 to just 600. That number includes "descendants," the wives, widows and adult children of the veterans.

The yearly meeting, and the association's "Thunderbolt" newsletter, is one way family members learn more about the war years of veterans reluctant to share their stories.

"Lots of these guys don't like to talk about specifics," Zamula said. "Anyone that goes through a war, it's traumatic. When we got back home, we tried to just get on with our lives."

GAZETTE COMMUNITY NEWS

Page A-13

Zamula did just that, returning to Rutgers University and marrying his college sweetheart, Evelyn. Together they raised four children while he worked for the federal government in overseas positions. Together, they have lived in or visited 30 different countries.

"I got a masters [degree] in Russian. So that's one thing the war did for me," Zamula said. "I realized there were other cultures, other languages."

He made that realization while constantly on the move.

His Signal Corp unit landed on Omaha Beach while the Germans were still shelling the area.

Their job was to lay telephone wire, and they did just that while fighting their way through Brittany, the Loire Valley, Luxembourg, the Battle of the Bulge and finally through the Rhine and across the Elbe River.

While Zamula counts himself lucky never to have been on the front line, he said the horror of war was inescapable.

"We liberated the Langenstein concentration camp, part of the Buchenwald camp," he said. "You come back after seeing bodies stacked up like cordwood...and it can be a real rough transition."

But all through his career, he never tried to reconnect with the

men that share those memories. Then in 1990 during the Gulf War, he happened to run into some Signal Corp veterans and got involved with the association. He now serves as its archivist.

"It's funny to think the first reunion was held right here in Washington at the Willard Hotel in 1946, and now we're coming back," he said.

He keeps his own war medals tucked out of sight, in a box atop a filing cabinet.

"It's a pretty modest collection, mostly good conduct medals," Zamula said. "They don't give medals for bad conduct, but that's another story."

Louis Gomori, Historian
83rd Infantry Division Association, Inc.
150 Alameda Rd., Apt # 7
Butler, PA 16001 - 4826
(724) 283 4340

October 1, 2007

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

Dear Cliff :

Please put this in the Historian's Corner :

First of all - I would like to thank Nancy and Cliff Wooldridge for Xeroxing all of the material that was in the 2 notebooks (twice) that were forwarded for the Citation, and their work during the 2007 Reunion, without them and some more of the dedicated volunteers, this reunion may not have been as successful as it had been - I would personally like to thank everybody that was involved, *you were the best of the best.*

I would also like to thank Gary Wallace for his participation in personally taking material I had sent him for the Citation and taking it to his friend in the Military Awards Branch for consideration. He also took copies to Senator Arlen Specter's Office in Washington, it saddens me to see that he was not mentioned in the Washington Post or Times for his efforts. He wrote a great Press Release that wasn't used.

I would also like to thank Rudy Zamula, past President of the 83rd Infantry Division Association, Inc., - he had discovered the Original Proposed Citation for the 83rd, 100 + pages. These were submitted for a Citation. Being that I obtained the 2 page Proposed Citation, I am going to check to see why the rest of the original Citation was not included years ago from the National Archives.

I would also like to thank Edward Pogoda, my 1st machine gun squad leader and his Niece, Debbie for going out of their way to pick Mary Ellen and I up, take us to the reunion in Arlington and then returning us home, we are grateful to them and they wouldn't accept any type of payment.

I would also like to thank Steve Vogel, Glen Cooney for their part in promoting the 83rd's goal - it is very difficult to express my gratitude for what you have been doing for the 83rd, my heart full thanks. Now - back to business, I am enclosing the After Action Report of the 308th Engineer Corps., without them, our Bridgehead would have failed also, as the 2nd Armored did. I am enclosing a page of

a book that shows a photo of the Roosevelt Bridge at Breitenhagen over the Elbe further south of the Truman Bridge. (every time I try to think of where I got it - my mind goes on a 5 minute break and doesn't return until I shut the computer down.

**HEADQUARTERS 308TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
APO 83, U. S. ARMY**

24 October 1945

**308th ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, 83RD INF DIV
ACTIVITIES : PERIOD 3 APRIL 45 TO 14 APRIL 45**

During the fast moving operations across the plains of Germany from 3 to 14 April 45, the 308th Engineer Combat Battalion encountered the most arduous engineer combat missions since their intense Normandy, France fighting. The companies displayed unusual ability in accomplishing their engineer tasks of mine sweeping, removing road blocks, bridge construction, bridge security guard, mine laying and removal, and assault river crossings. The natural water barriers of the many Rhineland rivers proved to be one of the most formidable and treacherous encountered. Against difficult combat and terrain conditions the 308th Engineer Combat Battalion accomplished their numerous and difficult engineering missions to contribute materially to the success of the unprecedented advance by the 83rd Infantry Division in their race across the Elbe River.

From 3 April to 6 April the sweeping drive of the 83rd Infantry Division initially gained it's overwhelming force and momentum. The 308th Engineer Combat Battalion greatly facilitated this advance by the prompt clearance from roads of mines and obstacles.

With the 329th Infantry Regiment at the point of the spearhead, Company A moved with the advanced elements, removing obstacles and mines. On 3 April 1945, this Company successfully removed a large section of enemy mine field, providing a path for the advancing troops and removed huge road blocks in Sennelager and Schlangan, permitting this Regiment to advance twenty-five miles in one day.

Each line Company was in direct support of their respective Infantry Regiment with the exception of Company B, which provided platoons for attachment as close engineer support for Task Forces of the 113th Cavalry Squadron, 125th Cavalry Squadron and Task Force McDermott.

On 4 April 1945 the companies continued to provide their Regiments and Task Forces with timely and efficient engineer support. Road blocks and obstacles were consistently encountered and in order not to delay the advance, these obstacles were frequently removed under small arms fire from the enemy. Without hesitation the engineers moved forward in the face of this enemy fire removing road blocks,

destroyed tanks, sweeping for the sensitive mines, left behind by the enemy in their attempts to delay the Division. The Companies on this day cleared another 25 miles of road toward the Weser River. The platoons of Company B were occupied with the engineer support of the piercing vanguards of the 3 Task Forces. The engineers moved at all times with the forward elements of the forces to enable prompt removal of delaying obstacles, and keep this column of combat vehicles rolling east.

On 5 April 45 another 25 miles was added to the distance traveled to the Weser River. The Division units continued their relentless advance, with the engineers called upon countless times to remove delaying obstructions. Four large abatis were removed in the vicinity of Kehlstadt and 2 knocked out tanks were blown from the road near Steinheim, under enemy artillery fire.

On 6 April 45, elements of the division reached the Weser River in the vicinity of Bodanwerder. A forward engineer reconnaissance party found all existing bridges across the river destroyed with demolition charges. So that no momentum would be lost in the drive, one element of the Division, crossed the Weser River over the 2nd Armored Division bridge in the vicinity of Grohnde, and then proceed to swing back into the 83rd Division sector. To augment and support the initial crossing that same afternoon a civilian ferry was mustered by the engineers and began immediate operation to pour across the river, supplies, vehicles and troops. Tirelessly through the long black night and under intermittent enemy fire, the engineers kept the ferry operating. The following day the engineers built their own ferry at Hehlen, and later another raft began operating at Kenned. This engineer company operated the civilian ferry and the Hehlen ferry for 3 days and nights, spewing vast amounts of supplies and troops across the Weser River.

A bulldozer was used on 7 April 45 to remove road blocks and debris in Hehlen. The operator worked with a buttoned up armored cab, to protect himself from shrapnel of enemy artillery fire. With stubborn tenacity the ferries operated continuously back and forth across the Weser River maintaining a constant flow of supplies. To establish a link between ferry sites, the engineers also this day removed an enemy road block between the two sites.

On 8 April 45, after destroying bitter enemy resistance, the 331st Infantry Regiment reached the Wesser River in the vicinity of Polle. C Company made an assault river crossing across the Weser at this point at 0900 hours, 8 April 45. The crossing was accomplished with two companies abreast. The Weser is a swift stream about 1 ½ times as wide as the famous Roer River. The engineers arrived at the site about 0200 hours near Heinzen, after advancing through a narrow, winding fire-break trail through dense woods. Two trucks ran off the narrow road and only the thick growth of the trees prevented their plunging over the steep cliff. Despite the extreme conditions of terrain, the assault boats and equipment were brought forward in sufficient operational time. At 0500 hours, the final plan was decided upon by the Engineer Commander and the Regimental Commander. A heavy artillery preparation and smoke screen was laid by Division Artillery, and the

engineers moved forward with the assault boats to the rapid current of the near shore, at 0900 hours.

The engineers have gotten assault boats to carry the infantry troops across, making repeated trips from the shore to shore with the initial assault troops. This crossing site had been so advantageously selected by reconnaissance parties that the enemy was completely surprised and their resistance to the assault waves was comparatively light. In the meantime, the engineers not in the assault crossing were engaged in the hasty construction of a raft ferry to transport the urgently needed vehicles and heavy equipment across, after the initial assault crossing. The assault elements successfully across the river, the engineers continued to assist the operation. Receiving official reports of improvised enemy mines encountered, and booby trapped road blocks being placed by the enemy on the east bank of the Weser, the engineers sent a reconnaissance party forward. These road blocks and mines were successfully located, knocked out enemy wagons were also discovered to be booby trapped. These were all promptly removed, under enemy fire. A small stream was encountered east of the Weser where the enemy had blown a bridge with demolition charges, so, without delay the engineers threw up a steel tread way bridge to enable the attacking infantry to continue forward. Eight miles of road was also swept for possible enemy mines so as to establish safe supply routes around the bridgehead. An M-2 tread way bridge was constructed near Polle at the ferry site despite the difficult problems encountered caused by the swift current of the Weser. Construction began on the bridge at 1030 hours the morning of 8 April 45 and the bridge was completed at 2030 hours that night, facilitating greatly the flow of troops and heavy equipment across the established bridgehead.

Due to the surprisingly rapid advance, all bridges across the Leine River were left intact, and engineer reconnaissance proved them suitable and safe for the division loads and immediate crossing.

The 330th Infantry Regiment turned right attacking the enemy in the Harz Mountains, which afforded protection to the Divisions southern flank, so that the forward supply lines would not be severed. Company B of the engineers reverted to the control of this regiment with the entire company in support. The other two regiments, with the engineers in support continued their drive toward the Elbe River, the next water obstacle to be tamed.

On 9 April 45 the advance continued forward with the engineers adding about 12 miles for the day, and on 10 April 45 another 25 miles were clocked on the speedometers. Additional road blocks, obstacles and mines were removed on numerous occasions. The advance streaking through Ki Rhuden, Goslar and Langelsheim, with 39 more miles added to the advance on 11 April 45.

A D/7 Dozer was used in Halberstdt on the next day. On 11 April 45 to remove 3 log road blocks, and the engineers completed the clearance of the roads in Halberstdt on the next day. On 12 April 45 one company of engineers convoyed 40

miles from Halberstadt to Schonebeck. The 329th Infantry Regiment rapidly converged toward Barby, meeting fanatical resistance and they successfully reached the Elbe River on 12 April 45. The engineers still in close support.

On the afternoon of 12 April 45 the last bridge in this Division Sector over the Elbe was demolished by the enemy. Another assault river crossing was then necessary to cross the Elbe. This crossing supported by the 308th engineers was one of the most unusual assault crossings ever made in military history. Before, and after the actual assault waves went over, intense enemy fire met the advancing infantry ; yet, during the actual assault crossing, only light enemy fire was encountered.

The Elbe River rivals the Rhine River in width at many places and also has a similar swift current. On the afternoon of 13 April 45 elements of two regiments made an assault river crossings in the vicinity of Barby. The engineers pushed off at 1330 hours with their assault boats loads of infantry troops. Despite the fanatical resistance met in Barby, again the enemy was completely stunned by the swiftness and well chosen location of the crossing. The first wave of assault boats nosed their way through the dense smoke screen prepared by Division Artillery and hit the eastern shore of the Elbe River, against little opposition. Each regiment used 34 assault boats, crossing two companies abreast. About 2 hours after the assault crossing and after the infantry pushed on, the enemy self-propelled guns started shelling the crossing site with terrific fire, concentrating on both banks of the Elbe.

Immediately after the first assault companies of infantry crossed successfully, the engineers constructed one five-boat tread way raft and three infantry support rafts. These rafts were the only means of getting the vehicles and anti-tank weapons across to the troops establishing the bridgehead. The operation of these ferries, especially the tread way ferry, was of utmost importance, enabling the infantry commanders to be supplied during the entire operation until the engineers constructed a tread way bridge. Working all night the bridge was completed at 0700 hours on 14 April 45. The two regiments of infantry, ammunition, vehicles and guns, including medium tanks and tank destroyers were then quickly deployed across. On the return trips the wounded were rapidly evacuated to the near shore for prompt attention at medical aid stations. Before the tread way bridge was completed and in spite of the enemy artillery fire, the ferries transported over 200 vehicles and guns, including tanks and tank destroyers across the swift current of the river to support the infantry on the precarious bridgehead.

This rapid and immediate crossing of heavy guns and equipment contributed immeasurable to the success in repelling persistent enemy counterattacks. Soon after tank destroyers arrived on the enemy shore, the enemy self-propelled guns were silenced.

A Regimental Commanding Officer of the Division was asked by a War Correspondent, why he could maintain his bridgehead while a nearby divisions

bridge had been lost. He stated, " It was a matter of engineers being able to get anti-tank equipment across. "

In order to make the bridgehead more secure a second bridge was ordered across the Elbe River. The near side of this crossing site, however was in enemy hands and in order to reach it, an assault crossing of the Saale River was necessary. " C " Company of the engineers was assigned this support mission and by crossing at a well selected point, by-passed most of the enemy resistance entrenched on the far shore. Ferries were again successfully operated until a bridge could be completed.

After the second bridge was completed across the Elbe River, the engineers displayed superior planning in fending off enemy attempts to destroy the bridges. Floating mines and under-water swimmers were made ineffective by the countermeasures employed. Engineer riflemen stood at their posts on the bridge and fired on approaching mines, one of which came within ten feet of the bridge before an engineer exploded it with the knowledge that he would be a casualty there from.

The 308th Engineer Combat Battalion kept three water-points in constant operation throughout this fast moving period of operation and produced 120,000 gallons of highly potable water, under the difficulties of frequent moves in order to keep up with the advancing division, materially contributing to the health and efficiency of the entire division personnel. The three points operated in 22 different locations in the 8 day period.

In addition, it was urgently necessary that the Division be supplied with current map sheets for each sector it so rapidly devoured. Sheet after sheet of maps quickly became obsolete due to the divisions rapid advance. At no time, was the division delayed or stopped because of the lack of appropriate maps for the areas it moved across. The engineers consistently anticipating the potential map requirements and in sufficient operational time, procured the required maps for prompt distribution to all the division elements and the attached units.

The achievements of the 308th Engineer Combat Battalion contributed materially in the defeat and disruption of the enemy in the fast moving operation to the Elbe River, and the establishment of the one and only remaining Elbe Bridgehead.

ROY T. DODGE
Lt. Col., CE
Commanding

The Macaluso's - An 83rd Family

Sorrows and Celebrations



Joseph Macaluso
"Day the War came to an End"
... Tony Vaccaro



Mena Macaluso & Daughters - 2003 Reunion
Kathryn, Mena, Kathleen, and Monica

DOROTHY WILHEMENA TONNAR MACALUSO

Born: Sept. 8, 1919, Carrollton, Mo., Age: 88

Died: Thursday, Sept. 20 at Our Lady of the Lake Hospital in Baton Rouge.
Interment with her husband in Metairie Cemetery.

A homemaker from New Orleans. She was displaced by Hurricane Katrina and lived her last two years in Belle Rose.

Served with distinction as a U.S. Army nurse with the 110th Evacuation Hospital during in World War II in the European Theater where she met her husband. Her work as an Army nurse is remembered in the D-Day Museum in a photo showing her drawing a syringe of penicillin in the display illustrating how that new drug helped GIs recover from battlefield wounds.

Preceded in death by her husband Col. Joseph A. Macaluso (USAR, Ret.). Survived by sons and daughters-in-law Joe and Cheryl Macaluso and Wayne and Gretchen Macaluso of Baton Rouge, Kevin and Brenda Macaluso of Destrehan, Richard and Melinda Macaluso of Metairie and Terry and Brenda Macaluso of Birmingham, Ala.; and, daughters and sons-in-law Kathleen and Tom Powers of Springfield, Va., Kathryn and Tim Brown of Belle Rose and Monica and Lawrence David Vosberg of Metairie. Also survived by many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Pallbearers were representatives from each of the eight children's families.

Family request in lieu of flowers memorials to Children's Miracle Network, Our Lady of the Lake Foundation, Baton Rouge

Joe Macaluso Jr., 9349 Greenbriar Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70815, Tel: 225-929-9603



Sons and Daughters of Joe and Mena Macaluso, and are in order-seated: Kathryn Brown, Mena, LTC(Ret) Kathleen Powers (we are the twins) standing: Terry, Wayne, Joseph, Monica, Kevin, and Richard Wayne is a retired LTC from the Army and a Desert Storm veteran



**Mr. & Mrs. David Vosburg
Monica's Wedding - July 21, 2007**



2LT Jennifer Powers being congratulated by Vice President Cheney on receiving her diploma. She will deploy to Iraq the week after Thanksgiving with a unit of the 3rd Infantry Division.

LCPL Anthony Macaluso (Kevin's son) is serving his second tour in Iraq. He left the day after Mom's funeral. He went to the "dark side" and enlisted with the Marines.

Thank you for your interest in the pictures. We were able to have a semi-military funeral for mom - taps was played and we did have a flag-draped coffin with the presentation made to the three daughters.

Hope this finds everyone well. So far, my husband and I are planning to attend the reunion at Carlisle. . . . Kathleen Powers

(At our request Kathleen Powers furnished us with these photos and a Macaluso family update).

Mr. Cliff Wooldridge
P.O. Box 406
Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406

Dear Cliff,


Buena Vista University, of Storm Lake, Iowa, has had two former students who were each awarded the Medal of Honor: Ralph Neppel, of Company M of the 329 Inf. 83rd Division, who graduated from this institution and Darrell Lindsey who attended here before he went into the Army Air Corps. Their pictures and citations accompany this letter.

The photos of each have been on public display for several years in a prominent position in the University. We have long felt that they deserved more recognition. It has taken at least three years of work to obtain all, or at least most, of their medals for a more prominent display in a well traveled area within Buena Vista University. The University has been fully behind this project from day one and has been of tremendous help. Our biggest obstacle was to obtain the actual "MEDAL OF HONOR" for each veteran. Through Congressman Latham's office in Washington, D.C., and communications from the University to the proper military office of awards, we were successful in obtaining both medals.

On Flag Day, June 14 2007, a formal rededication of photos and medals was held on site with University President, Dr. Fred Moore, other University personnel who worked throughout the process, VFW representatives, and TV station KMEG of Sioux City Iowa, all in attendance. Lois Clark of Congressman Latham's office was present as well. She was very instrumental in the success of this project. Also in attendance was Mr. Bill Kendal, of Jefferson, Iowa who designed a "MEDAL OF HONOR FLAG" and presented it to the University. This Flag may be flown by the University wherein the Medals reside. This authorization was made possible by an act of Congress earlier this year.

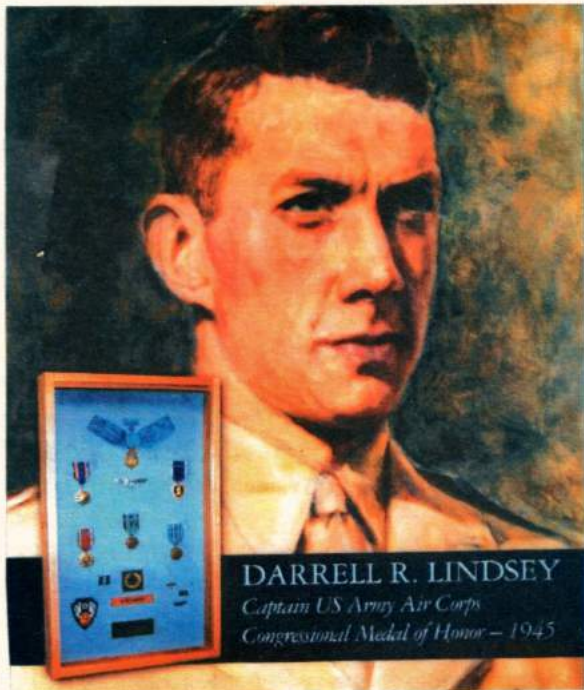
Please feel free to edit, ignore, or whatever with this info as I know you work with this type of stuff all the time.

I won't be able to attend the reunion this year. I have, for several 83rd Association Reunions, been picking up Harvey Estes of Mulberry, Ind. But he is unable to travel this year. Sure hate to miss the reunion this year but I'll read your account of it in the Thunderbolt. I'm sure it will be a good one!!

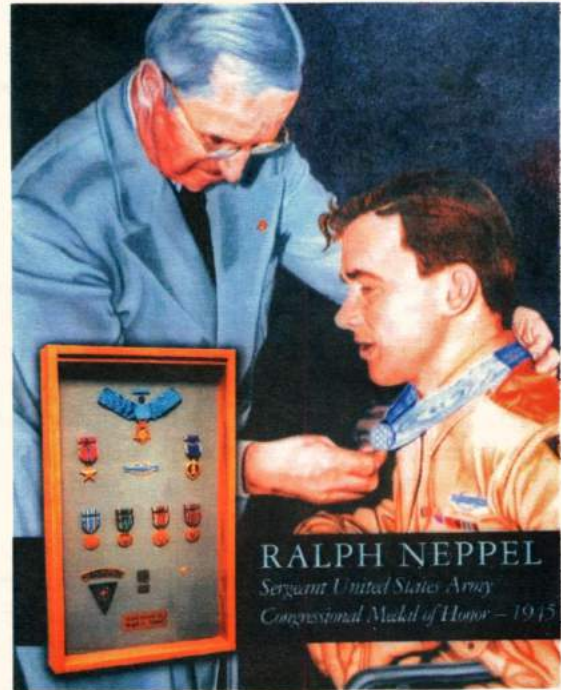

Harold Geisinger, Co. I 329th INF.

Storm Lake, Iowa

July 22, 2007



DARRELL R. LINDSEY
Captain US Army Air Corps
Congressional Medal of Honor - 1945



RALPH NEPPEL
Sergeant United States Army
Congressional Medal of Honor - 1945

New display to be dedicated, honoring two Medal of Honor heroes from BVU

A Congressional Medal of Honor display recognizing two Buena Vista University (BVU) alumni who were recipients of the honor will be dedicated on June 14, 2007.

The dedication, which is open to the public, will recognize Darrell R. Lindsey and Ralph G. Neppel, who attended BV and were among only five Iowans who received the Medal of Honor for their bravery in World War II. The ceremony will begin at 3 p.m. in the west hallway of the Harold Walter Siebens School of Business/Siebens Forum at BVU.

Capt. Lindsey attended BV from 1939 to 1940 before enlisting with the U.S. Army

Air Corps. He led a formation of 30 B-26 medium bombers on a hazardous mission on August 9, 1944, to destroy the strategic enemy held L'Isle railroad bridge over the Seine in occupied France. Despite heavy enemy fire, and with fire streaming from his aircraft's right engine and the right wing enveloped in flame, he led his formation over the target to drop the bombs. He ordered his crew to parachute from the aircraft and after all had escaped the fuel tank exploded with Lindsey still on board and the plane went into a deep dive and exploded as it crashed.

Sgt. Neppel was the leader of a machine gun squad defending an approach to the village of

Birgel, Germany on December 14, 1944, when an enemy tank, supported by 20 infantrymen, counterattacked. Despite serious wounds suffered when the tank fired into the American emplacement, Neppel was able to remount his machine gun and kill the remaining enemy riflemen. Stripped of its infantry protection, the tank was forced to withdraw. Neppel attended BV after the war, graduating in 1952 and went on to work as a Veterans Administration representative and served on the Governor's Committee for Employment of the Handicapped. He died in 1987 after a battle with cancer.

From the Assistant Historian

Dave Curry

I've got some interesting memoirs from Lt. Col. Robert E. Sheridan, who served with the 83rd Division in C Company, 329th Infantry Regiment. At that time, he was a Sergeant, and received a battlefield commission on Feb. 25, 1945. His personal military history begins when he was 19 years old, and joined the horse cavalry at Fort Riley prior to WWII. Eventually stationed at Fort Huachuca, AZ, he performed border patrol on horseback on the Arizona-Mexico border. After Pearl Harbor was bombed, he transferred to the Infantry. He participated in five campaigns in the 329th in Europe, three campaigns in the 35th Infantry in Korea, and one campaign in the 1st Infantry Division in Viet Nam. He was wounded twice, and was decorated with two Combat Infantry Badges, The Legion of Merit, two Purple Hearts, the Russian Army Red Star, the Polish Army Service Badge, Korean Presidential Citation, and 16 other awards and decorations. After retiring from the Army, Sheridan served another 27 years as a civilian at Fort Riley, primarily as the Director of Logistics. Following Operation Desert Storm he was recognized by the AUSA and Chief of Staff of the Army as The Most Outstanding Civilian Employee in the U.S. Army. His final position was as the first civilian Deputy Garrison Commander. Sheridan retired at the age of 74. He passed away at the age of 82 on May 1, 2003.

I don't have nearly enough room here to present all of Col. Sheridan's memoirs, so I thought that I would include some of his memories of Camp Atterbury and Normandy. So, with that, we begin his story on December 7, 1941:

On 7 December, the Japs bombed Pearl Harbor (our reaction was "where is Pearl Harbor?") and the world was changed forever. A week later, I was corporal of the guard on the water tanks still standing above Camp Whitside. We noticed vehicle traffic--trains, troops moving--all from our perch on the hill. Sometime during the night, the OD relieved us and took us to the train station. We never returned to the barracks. The entire division had loaded on trains and was departing for border patrol in Arizona and New Mexico.

In Arizona, we lived in a tent city on the edge of Tucson. We rode into the desert, ran horses into cactus, and basked in the sunshine. The most demanding task was to take a week-long patrol into the mountain--eight kids, eight saddle horses and two pack horses, camp out and watch for infiltration. Our only orders were to bring them in and if they resist, shoot them. Compare that to today. What an idyllic life while the Germans were running all over Europe in tanks.

But alas, sometime in '42, we loaded our horses on to trains and watched them go away. Some officers waved with handkerchiefs and wept and others were happy--they saw tanks, promotions, and glory. Many NCOs were off to the Air Corps with two or three promotions. Lieutenant Carlson became Colonel Carlson overnight. The rest of us went off to cadre infantry divisions and, Lord help us, gave up our boots and spurs for canvas leggings.

I wish I had the gift of words to capture the glamour and atmosphere of the old cavalry. The post was a little world of its own with little contact with civilians. We really lived by the bugle. It was a simpler, happier time. But then, maybe I was just young.

I pick up my Army life here after the inactivation of the Horse Cavalry. I was promoted to Buck SGT and transferred to Camp Atterbury, Indiana to serve as a platoon sergeant in the 83rd Infantry Division being activated there. After a short leave at home, I traveled on to Camp Atterbury. In those days there was no air travel; you went by bus or train. (There was no travel by car, either.)

At Camp Atterbury, the NCOs were just arriving as well as the officers. Most of the NCOs came from the cavalry so I knew or knew of them. The officers were mostly Second Lieutenants fresh out of Fort Benning or National Guard or Regular Army field grade, newly promoted. No troops arrived for several months, so we had a relaxing time while we still trained hard, learning to train troops for combat. The

officers generally were in one platoon training against the NCOs in another. This served us well, as we all learned our future war leaders and developed great esprit de corps so necessary in a good unit.

We started our training at the lowest level: from the individual soldier training, progressing to platoon, battalion, regiment, division. We learned weapons, cover and concealment, where to locate fields of fire, radio procedures, and how to march and march will full field packs for 25 to 40 miles. And we were tough. During this time, I was promoted to Staff Sergeant, then to Tech Sergeant (TSGT), now known as Sergeant First Class (SFC). This was just as a result of the Army upgrading jobs. I stayed a Platoon Sergeant. One time we traveled day and night by truck--we knew not what for; were given live ammo and dropped off at points to guard the railroad. After it was over, we learned that the President was traveling thereon.

I really enjoyed being a platoon sergeant: the field work, the weapons training, and the marching. I well remember, though, the boredom of living in the barracks when we had days off. There was no place to go and nothing to do. During that time, our company commander became a Major and battalion executive officer. Remember, we were building an army from nothing to near 200 divisions. You also needed young people to stand the rigors of training and combat. Every so often, when in the field, he would come to our unit and borrow me. He never could read a map and was very unsure of himself. I was just a dumb kid and, although I liked him very much, I sensed this weakness which had disastrous consequences eventually.

Another incident which I'll refer to late occurred on a New Year's Eve. Apparently all the officers were at the club celebrating, when, at midnight, they called an alert and moved us out on a 40-mile hike with full field packs. My platoon leader was Lt. Beauregard. Every time we stopped for a break, he passed out. When it was time to move out, I would wake him up, get his pack and weapon on and get him started. It was a great time and a great group. I can't believe I didn't keep track of them. I can see their faces but don't remember some names. Nor do I even remember what happened to many of them. When the war was over, they just weren't there.

At the end of the war, only seven of us from the original platoon were left and all of us but Lambert had been wounded at least once. I don't mean to say that all others had been killed. Some were, some were wounded and never returned, and some transferred for some reason. A couple just disappeared. Rumor was that they went AWOL and were hiding in Paris.

We traveled to England in a convoy on an English ship, H.M.S. Smyrna. It was the pits. Most of us were seasick, the ship was crowded and dirty, and the chow lousy (twice a day fish and slimy oatmeal). At night we had complete blackout. We could see the submarine destroyers darting about dropping depth charges. Only after the war did we learn that many ships were sunk and troops lost. All this was rightfully kept from the public then. Could you see that happening now?

We landed in Wales. What a country! Greener than green, rolling hills, cool climate and wonderful people. I was with the team that was dropped off in a meadow where we were to be met by a British colonel who would show us where we were to set up camp. We were standing around waiting when down the lane came this bow-legged guy in a skirt. We were all snickering when, lo and behold, as he got closer we realized he was a Scottish colonel. We popped to in a hurry. Realize that at the time no American male would be caught dead in shorts. We trained during that time with the Scot Commandos. They were a real tough bunch even if they wore skirts when off duty! Their officers were products of the private school system attended by the English upper class. They seemed like sissies to us but we soon learned they were tough and fully dedicated to King and country. We marched and trained and marched and trained waiting for the invasion of France. Again, it was a great time to live and be young, dumb, and in such great physical shape.

On D-Day we were on a ship in the Channel, in reserve. What a sight! Ships as far as you could see, the air full of planes. You could see dog fights, ships shelling the shore, etc. In my platoon was a squad leader who was a picture book soldier in appearance. He was smart; could do anything; and was looked up to by all--including me. He always buttered me up and I knew it, but I never dreamed he was

extremely jealous of me until D-Day. On the ship, in front of the platoon, he said, "Sheridan, we'll soon separate the men from the boys. You'll be the boy. I'll have the platoon in short order and a chest full of medals." I was quite shocked at this venom and although I was sure I would do a decent job, I did think he would be a gung ho type in combat as he was in peacetime. On the night of our first attack, we dug in. Later, a member of my platoon came to my foxhole and said that the squad leader was acting strange--kept digging deeper (we all did that after an incoming round; you could hear everyone up and down the line digging deeper), piling on more and more logs and steel from blown-up tanks and telling everyone we were going to be killed. I went back to see what was going on. Just as I arrived I heard a shot and a cry; found that he had shot himself in the foot. It affected us all to have one we thought brave commit this act. My experience now indicates you can't judge combat actions. Often a weak individual comes forth as a good, solid soldier; some garrison screw-ups are super in combat; some guys will show extreme bravery one time then do nothing ever again. Generally though, a good, solid soldier remained a good soldier in peace and war. I no longer fault the failures. You go with what genes you have as affected by your upbringing and training. Solid discipline and duty to your comrades probably carry you through far more than duty, honor and country.



My introduction to combat was humorous, but not at that time. Our battalion, 1st Battalion, 329th Infantry, arrived in France as I remember it on D+6. We were to relieve the Airborne at Carentan and I was sent up to reconnoiter the area. When we arrived, I saw all these people jumping into foxholes with strange looks on their faces. (It's an under-fire look; once you've seen it you'll always know it, and if you haven't been there, you won't, and you won't see it in a John Wayne movie.) Then I heard artillery rounds coming in and I instinctively knew to find a hole. The hole I found was a latrine (a small ditch dug over which you squatted to do your business)! Yes, I came out smelling like ****. No, there were no showers around. We relieved the Airborne and became exposed to a little combat, some occasional small arms fire and artillery.

Some time in early July we were to make a short night time approach march, then shove off into attack the next morning. The battalion commander visited each unit to give us a pep talk. Having been a football player in college, he compared it to a football game, assuring us all would be well. Up to that time, although we had some nervousness, it was still a big adventure to us; the culmination of three year's training. We had been propagandized to see the German soldier as a great mean Kraut superman. I can say that he was a far better soldier than we

were--trained by years and years, as well as several years of real combat. On many occasions we fought hard battles with no give on their part. Units often led by NCOs outmanned and outgunned. On the other hand, they fought as fair as we did and were just people like us.

My first experience was during that approach march. Out of the dusk came my first German. It turned out that he was just a young kid badly wounded, crying "mudder." The real world then, not the Great HUN but just a young kid like many of us. The next day was war. Fields strewn with dead and wounded GIs and Germans and, yes, cattle and horses; all of whom developed their own smell. In a few days we became well accustomed to it and had no qualms about sitting against a bloated cow for protection while we grabbed a smoke or ate a K-ration. By the end of the day, the battalion was commanded by a captain. (The battalion commander was found days later hiding, crying in a bunker.) The big, tough squad leader shot himself in the foot to get out of combat, half my unit was dead or

wounded. I looked around for my leader and found it was me. So much for the glory of war.

As far as the German atrocities go--I mean combat-type not concentration camp-type--there were plenty of Americans who shot their prisoners or continued to shoot after the enemy surrendered. One of the tough things to handle was that you saw no end; i.e., next week we were not going back to the barracks. Tomorrow was more of the same. Although, when we made breakthroughs it was less strenuous and more exciting. I was wounded twice, blown up once, and scared beyond all description most of the time. Many was the time I lay on my belly praying and making false promises to the Lord. I never was a great fighter but did my mediocre best day after day and tried to look after my troops. They cannot make movies that portray combat--the smells, the fear, the look on faces, the wounds.

At night we would dig two-man holes. One would sleep while one stood guard. It's amazing how a young guy can sleep under those circumstances. On occasion, the Germans would make night attacks and on occasion so would we. But as a rule, when it got dark both sides would settle down except for artillery and mortar fire.

Although there were many types and variations of weapons, there were basically four we had to deal with: first, of course were small arms; that is, rifles and machine guns. They were what we faced as we attacked or defended. They didn't seem so frightful since they merely made a zip as they went by. Of course, after you saw the results, you certainly developed a healthy respect for them. Second, you had artillery which were fired from a long way back. Their trajectory was such that they came in with a long, loud whistle which at least gave you time to hit the ground and find some protection and lay there and pray to God. Then there were the 88s--extremely fast rounds--hardly allowing you time to hit the ground. The most hateful I believe were mortars. These went fairly straight up and down and thus could be used against us as we attacked, almost until we closed with the enemy. They were so wicked because although you could hear them being fired, i.e., pop, pop, pop, as the rounds were dropped in the tubes, you could not hear them coming in until the last second--whoosh, explode and you are dead. The damages multiply in wooded areas where the various artillery hit tree tops (tree bursts), driving all those splinters down as well as the shrapnel. After a few days of combat you see all the damage they do and learn when to duck and when to hit the ground, and although you are scared to death, you really think you won't be hit.

So, sometime in July, 1944, we were attacking in the hedgerows of France--take two, get kicked back one--when this barrage of 88s came in and I hit the dirt. It was so strange in that I knew I was going to be hit. It probably took a split second, but to me it seemed to come forever. The other surprise was that it didn't hurt as you would imagine, but burned in, in, in like a piece of red hot metal--ha, ha--which of course it was! I looked at my leg and saw all that blood and realized that I was hit. Bandaged myself up and took my sulfa tablets. I thought I could finish the attack like the hero I wasn't, but couldn't, so a Medic got me back to the Aid Station where I found 1st SGT Watkins also wounded. Later they moved us back to the beach and Watkins said, "Sheridan, were are sure as hell going to be sent back to England," and we were.

Well, that's about all the room I've got this time. Thanks very much to Col. Sheridan's son, Rob Sheridan, for supplying all of the information about his father. Take care, and stay healthy!

Dave Curry
Phone: 440-942-5030
email: davecurry@ncweb.com

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>
Burton, James "Jim"	D Co., 329th	Dave Curry, John Bryant- nephew
Calore, George	A & C, 329th	Bob Grobelny
Davidson, Keith	C Co., 331st	Wife Elaine and step-daughter
Dennis, Roger	HQ 332nd FA	Bob Taylor
Donbar, Howard	83rd Signal	Bob Whitcomb
Friedman, Karl	HQ Div. Arty.	Daughter
Gilbert, Ed	A Co., 329th	Bob Taylor
Haight, Arthur Harold (Pete)	D Co., 331st	Geri Gunderson, Arthur's sister
Herd, Albert D.	295th Combat Engineers	Wife Helen
Karageorge, Ted	Btry A, 322nd	Ellsworth Massie
Kinnan, Louis	C Co., 324th FA	Wife and Nick Nicholson
Kittrell, George W.	F Co., 329th	Bob Whitcomb
Messina, Fred	K Co., 330th	Wife Nellie, E. Massie, M. Epstein
Morgan, Chester "Chet"	G Co., 329th	Wife Ruth
Reuss, Edward Joseph	I Co., 331st	Sal Scicolone
Smith, Ned B.	331st Medic	Wife Eugenia
Sparks, Russell V.	D Co., 331st	Bill McKee, Geri Gunderson
Straus, Jack M.	HQ, 331st	Son David
Susong, Donald R.	F Co., 329th	Bob Whitcomb
Szubiski, Casey	C Co., 322 FA	Daughter



TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

Those laying the wreath were -Laddie Lawrence, L-Co. 329th, one of the originals of the 83rd from the beginning; Mary Jean Houlahan, a descendant and daughter of S/Sgt. Walter A. Knapp, who was KIA July 1944; Erin Schwartz, a grand niece of Sgt. Richard A. Hartman who was KIA in the Hartz Mts.; and Jean Paul Pitou of France - 61st Reunion, Arlington, VA.



83RD MEMORIAL SERVICE
George Waple & Stan Bielen
331st
Placing Wreath
61st Reunion, Arlington, VA

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Cliff Wooldridge

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Name of 83rd Division Member _____

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