

THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

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Summer Issue 2009

Dolce Valley Forge LOOKS FORWARD TO HOSTING THE 63rd ANNUAL REUNION FOR THE 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION - WORLD WAR II



Washington's Headquarters-Valley Forge

King of Prussia, PA

*

August 12 - 15, 2009

THE THUNDERBOLT

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A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

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1954	Lawrence J. Redmond*	1971	Charles Altomari*	1988	Charles Schmidt*	2005	Ames H. Miller*
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1956	Lt. Gen. Robert H. York*	1973	Louis J. Volpi*	1990	Charles J. Lussier	2007	Robert Keck
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1958	Raymond J. Voracek*	1975	Robert G. Taylor	1992	Ned Smith*		
1959	Charles Abdinoor	1976	Mike Skovran*	1993	Louis Sandini*		
1960	Joseph F. Minotti*	1977	Manlius Goodridge	1994	William M. Minick*		
1961	Frank J. McGrogan*	1978	Joseph A. Macaluso*	1995	Casey Szubski*		
1962	John W. Robinette*	1979	William J. Chavanne*	1996	Floyd Richmond*		
1963	Manuel C. Martin*	1980	Samuel Klippa*	1997	Keith Davidson*	*Den	otes Deceased



PRESIDENT'S CORNER MIKE CATRAMBONE

Greetings to all Thunderbolts, wives, widows, descendants, associates and friends of the 83rd Infantry Division Association. Please accept my sincere thanks for allowing me to preside over the 63rd Annual Reunion of this organization. With my wife, 1st Vice President Carmella Catrambone, guiding me each step of the way, we have tried to deliver a reunion you will enjoy and remember for a long time.

Association Dues Please remember to send your dues to Cliff Wooldridge. He has been trying to get delinquent dues up to date. Look at your membership card and check the date. The time slips by so quickly that it is very easy to forget another year is upon us. The delinquency percentage is very high. He has a large number of Veterans (in the 100's) who have neglected to pay the 2008 and/or 2009 dues. In addition to those, the 2010 dues will be payable August 1, 2009. Please be prepared to pay your dues at the registration desk or bring your membership card with you to show you are up to date.

Cliff tells me that if dues are not paid he cannot guarantee delivery of subsequent "Thunderbolts." In addition to rising production costs there are ever-increasing first-class mail fees. The "Thunderbolt" must go first-class because as a third- or fourth-class piece of mail it may languish in the post office for weeks. The Post Office often holds that type of mail until it has a slow mail day. Members who do not or can not come to reunions, please check the date on your membership cards as well.

The Legacy Chapter Members of the newly formed Legacy Chapter have been very busy since our last Reunion thinking of things they can do to assist the Association. They are presently working on a plan to make phone calls to as many members as they possibly can to say "hello" from the Association. Perhaps they can stir up some excitement which would result in a trip to the next Reunion. On the other hand, a phone call out of the blue from a descendant may make someone's day. We may even get people interested who seldom or never come to a Reunion because they will realize that we really care about them.

D-Day 65th Anniversary Attending the 65th D-Day Anniversary in France will be two former Association Presidents. writing Rudy Zamula and Bob Keck are on their way to Sainteny, France to attend the celebration. Rudy is going to present the Washington, D.C. flag to the Mayor of Saintenv representative as a of Association in conjunction with our Flags to Sainteny program. We hope to have an account of their travels at the Reunion in King of Prussia.

Hospitality Room Our tour arrangements are nearly complete. All we need to know now is how many will be coming to our Reunion and how many will be going on the tours. Those who do not care for one or the other tour can loll in the hospitality room and trade war stories or just renew old I have received several acquaintances. complaints about lack of talking time, so this should make up for that. The Hospitality Room will be open most times daily except during general meetings on Thursday and Saturday, and the memorial program and the Catholic Mass on Saturday. After the Mass we will vacate the area to make room for the banquet.

2010 Reunion Colonial Williamsburg, VA Your Executive Board met on May 16 and 17 in Manchester, New Hampshire to go over final decisions for our 63rd Reunion and to plan for the 2010 Reunion in Colonial Williamsburg, VA. Descendant John White has graciously agreed to take on that responsibility. He is presently scouting hotels in the area. I am certain he will do a fine job and we will be able to brag about the best-ever Reunion in 2010. Colonial Williamsburg is steeped in the early history of our country. It should prove to be very interesting. If you live in that area, John White will appreciate any and all assistance you feel you can offer. Talk to him at our Reunion and express your desire to help.

A Word of Thanks I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped me with the arrangements for this year's Reunion. Our Executive Board Chairman Chuck Abdinoor has been very helpful and I thank him for his aid. Cliff Wooldridge and his able assistant Nancy McCarthy have been at my beck and call and I thank them for all their hard work in supplying me with facts and figures I needed. Secretary Susan Pray supplied me with copies of minutes I needed to keep up with what was happening. Her help was appreciated very much.

My wife and 1st Vice President Carmella Catrambone's help was absolutely indispensable and this Reunion would still be in its planning stages had it not been for her stewardship. I thank her from the bottom of my heart for her constant assistance.

Saying thank you is always a very difficult thing to do because one usually neglects to cover everyone. I am very grateful for all the help I received from anyone who was kind enough to give it to me. I hope we will be successful in presenting the membership with a Reunion of which we can all be proud.

Michael Catrambone President 2009 Reunion

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER CHUCK ABDINOOR

Hello Everyone,

Sincerely hope all is well, with all. We had our Executive Board Meeting at the Holiday Inn, Manchester, New Hampshire. Present

were Mike and Mell Catrambone, Cliff and Nancy, John White and his misses, Anne (DOC) Tisdell, Susan Pray. And John Markuns and Patty. Manny and Glenn Wible could not attend, due to doctor's appointments. We now have that to look forward to, especially at our age. I am in the same boat.

John Markuns, our Judge Advocate, went completely over our by-laws, and inserted new material that we should have. We all went through the by-laws, page by page. We spent the entire day Saturday, and he explained what we should, and not have. I felt like a Philadelphia lawyer after that exchange. We are most fortunate having John, and besides his price is right "0". His father Francis brought him up RIGHT. We will forward this to the by-laws committee for approval and then present it to the Body, also for approval at our General Sessions meeting.

Mike and Mell went over the program at King of Prussia, and I am sure that the members will have a wonderful time there. They have an outstanding itinerary planned. I can vouch for the Hotel. It has gone over a complete makeover, and will be ready to welcome us in August. I am looking forward to our reunion. This will be my last year on the Executive Board, so we will have three new members to welcome in.

I wish to express my THANKS to the Officers, The Board, and to Cliff and Nancy for the cooperation that they gave me these past five years. I also have my hopes to have the Unit Citation presented to us, especially with the dedication and work that the committee has put in. They know who they are, and I most appreciate all their work.

Chuck Abdinoor, B & A Co. - 330th Chairman, Executive Board

FROM THE CHAPLAIN ELLSWORTH MASSIE

Gathered as brothers let us be steadfast in our support of each other as we draw close to the end of our earthly tenure.

We pray for compassion upon the suffering and mournful who are serving or have served our country.

Keep us close together under thy guidance and protection for all our earthly days never forgetting the support we have received from our brothers in arms!

Suit a blessing to the needs of each one who labors under the banner of the 83rd Division and keep us close under they leadership.

In Christ name and for his sake. Amen.

E. Massie, Chaplain

FROM THE EDITOR CLIFF WOOLDRIDGE

Mike and Carmella Catrambone have put together a fantastic reunion for us in Valley Forge!

GET YOUR RESERVATIONS IN

NOW !!!

The Hotel and Activity Registration Forms for this year's reunion are included in this Thunderbolt. Please complete and return ASAP to help us get an idea of how many to expect.

Forms should be returned by July 1st.

The <u>Legacy Chapter</u> will be trying something new this year. They will do their best to try and contact all <u>Veterans</u> by phone pertaining to the 63rd Reunion in August to see if you have any questions or need assistance getting to the reunion.

<u>Descendants</u> - Would you like to Join other descendants again this year in saying "Thank you" in a special way to those who sacrificed so much for us all?

We are looking for as many descendants as possible to include their names on a special "Thank You" page (or pages) in this year's Reunion Ad Book/Program Book.

Veterans have voiced their appreciation of the expressions of love and gratitude from their families.

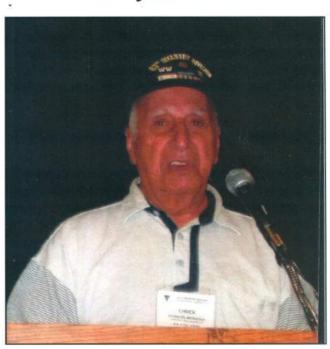
Let's do it again this year!!!

We've included in this issue a "Thank You" page from the 61st Reunion Ad Book.

<u>Veterans</u> – See the Special Descendant page in this issue and be sure to <u>PASS IT ON TO YOUR CHILDREN</u> and their families. <u>DON'T LET YOUR CHILDREN MISS OUT ON THIS SPECIAL "THANK YOU"</u> that will be published in the Reunion Program/Ad Book and displayed in the Hospitality Room in King of Prussia for all to see.

All proceeds will be used to help defray the cost of the buses, equipped with wheelchair lifts, needed at the reunion. See a copy of the form in this issue.

"Thank you, Chuck!"



After five very productive years on the Executive Board Chuck Abdinoor is stepping down. He has been a dedicated, hardworking member and effective Chairman of the Board. Chuck was a master at negotiating

hotel/reunion contracts and especially room rates. As Mike Catrambone put it in his "President's Corner" column . . . Chuck "charmed management into a state of euphoria, we have an unbelievable room rate."

All 83rd members and especially those of us on the Executive Board are losing a very valuable, and dedicated hard worker but most important we still have him as a comrade, good friend and buddy!

Nancy and I send our love and best wishes to two very dear friends on their 60th Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated with family and friends in Germany!

PHYLLIS AND BOB KECK





Speaking of Bob Keck, he was the "mystery person" in last month's issue of the Thunderbolt. When the picture was taken Bob was 37 years old. Bob's son Rob (who brought those delicious peaches to last year's reunion) furnished us with the picture of his Dad.

We have many members who have not paid their membership dues. If you want to keep the Association going and continue receiving the Thunderbolt, PLEASE pay your \$25 Dues. Dues for 2009 were due August of 2008. Check the date on your membership card (or call me at 603-875-3649) so you won't miss the next issue of the Thunderbolt!

Dues for 2010 are payable August of 2009.

At this year's reunion we will be presenting the second group of flags for Sainteny. We are still accepting donations to cover the cost of these flags. See the sign-up sheet elsewhere in this issue.

Remember - Pay Your Dues!

Cliff Wooldridge Treasurer/Publisher

CHAPTERS

BOSTON CHAPTER NEWS

TONY PLANTEDOSI

I heard from Chet Morley from New Hampshire and was very much surprised. He and his wife Laurette, are doing pretty good. He takes a lot of pills like all of us. He wanted to know who he should send his Boston Chapter dues to. Our chapter Treasurer Ron Platt passed away last month. I could not answer that because we are in the process of electing a new treasurer. I could

not give him time of our next chapter meeting.

Cliff Wooldridge is doing too much with being Treasurer/Publisher with the National, but he is helping as much as possible to help our chapter. He is doing a great job for the 83rd. We "may" get a meeting this summer.

We want to congratulate Ginny DiGiammerino who recently celebrated her 90th birthday. God bless you Ginny. Nancy Tynan is doing well and is very active with her family. She is also looking forward to the next meeting.

Heard from Larry Arrigo. He likes living in Florida near his family. Also, he plays some golf, lucky guy. He was feeling well he said.

My wife Helen and I are doing pretty well. She has knee trouble so we don't walk much like we used to. But in all we are very fortunate. So till the next time, stay well and good luck to all. Bless you all.

Your Reporter Tony Piantedosi, C 323 F.A.

DIXIE CHAPTER NEWS

ELLSWORTH MASSIE

Dixie is still in business. I'm grateful to be a part of this chapter after all these years. We just experienced a great meeting in Williamsburg, VA. On hand were five 83rd vets, descendants, widows and newly found men with 83rd experience.

I am happy to say that "Times are changing" -Now the next generation is in charge! The older generation is just here enjoying each others company and exchanging a few WW II stories.

I'm reminded of 1989 when we had some here for 8 days! And 138 present for the banquet, 9 past national presidents, 9 chapters represented beside "Dixie". Uncountable members from all over came as guests and we welcomed each one.

We're made up of "First Timers", "Old Timers", "Most Timers". We could feel the support of those who wanted to be there but could not for whatever reason. Plan now to be at the National and let's meet once more before we get too old!

We had a bus trip to the Maritime Museum and dinner out together! The ladies shopped and the men swapped a few stories while they were gone and we all enjoyed each moment together.

Our newly elected officers from our descendants performed well and kept us in line and looking forward to our National Meeting.

The food was truly enjoyed by all and the ladies did a terrific job of preparation! Fried chicken, ham, desserts of all kinds but alas, "No German Chocolate Cake." - I really missed that but the other cakes and pies especially "The Pound Cake" with the almond flavor kept me happy and I have not heard any complaints from anyone!

Plan to join us here next year and help us keep a good thing going! Each year it gets better and better!

God, I do love it so. Let's not miss out - I'm already looking forward to our next meeting.

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



Dixie Christmas Reunion Some of our Active Members

COMPANIES

CHARLES ABDINOOR sgtchuck83rd@comcast.net

Hi Buddy's,

I sincerely hope all is well with all. I have to start with the bad news first, since we lost Dolores Reed, who was the wife of Paul Reed, my platoon leader. They have been married over sixty years, I constantly stay in touch with Paul, that was our stop to see them both on our way back home from Florida. I will continue to keep in touch. There is not too much news, but Pearl and Walt Pillion hopefully can come to King of Prussia in August for our Reunion. We most certainly miss them. I have not heard also, from Ed and Pauline. They are our dependable people, I put him to work at our reunions, and hopefully we see Earl and Phyllis Dunn. We missed them last year, hopefully they make it this year. We miss Cookie Senica and Francis (Shorty) Glasser. We do not have too many members left from A-Company, so I have to keep them on their toes. We had the pleasure to see Nellrita and Steward Barrick this past year. They were the guests of the Pray's. We were invited to dinner, and there was the Barrick's. They came for the fall Foliage at the White Mountains, in New Hampshire. We had a wonderful time there. I also want to mention Ed McCouch, Sr. who was ill this past year. I hope that he and his family are able to make the reunion, he is a main stay of our Association. I also want to mention Father Richard, his son. He will say our Catholic Mass after our Memorial Service.

I also heard a rumor that Monica (Macaluso) might be coming to the reunion, she has always been involved with the Memorial Service. Hope to see all at King of Prussia.

Chuck Abdinoor B & A - 330th Sgtchuck83rd@comcast.net



Looking for information on

T/Sgt Edward Plante A.S.N. 614 2337 Co. K 331st Inf.

Roy and Mary Newton of Gorham, NH (Associate members) have made a "Flags for Sainteny" donation in memory of T/Sgt Edward Plante. They are looking for anyone who might have any information on Edward. Their telephone number is 603-466-2521.

April 15, 2009

Dear Sirs.

My husband, Harry J. Batty, of the 83rd Infantry Division of World War II, passed away on January 2, 2009.

He never would have forgotten his dues. Please take his name off of the mailing list for the Thunderbolt.

He always enjoyed his magazine very much.

By the way, my dear husband, Harry, had a beautiful Military Funeral.

Our family is so proud of him. He was 93 years old.

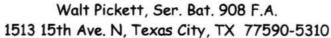
Sincerely, Beatrice Batty 4950 Pocatella Ave. Unit 807 North Port, FL 34287

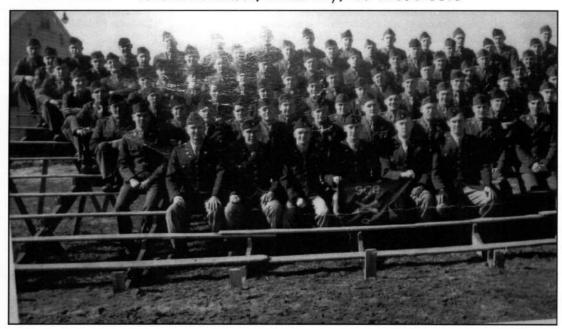
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Dear Cliff. 4-18-09

I had this copy made of my old outfit in the 83rd for you. I hope you will put it in the Thunderbolt - may hear from some of the old bunch. I am in touch with Goodridge but all of the others have passed away. Most of them from Ohio, Penn. and out on East States.

We have had a good rain here - blooms on my tomatoes and rose bushes, too. I meet once a week with guys I worked with for coffee. I worked for Mansanto Chemical Co. for 31 years as a maintenance electrician. Can't do much now but still enjoy my family - had 65th wedding anniversary in January of this year. Best wishes and keep up the good work.





< E-Mail > >

From:

Kathleen Powers

Subject: Press Release - Soldiers Train to Achieve Expert Field Medical Badge

Sent:

April 25, 2009

Hi -

Please read the article (on the next page) for the story on the most recent awarding of the Expert Field Medical Badge (the medical version of the Expert Infantryman Badge). 1LT Jennifer Powers was 1 of 29 who ultimately was awarded the badge after the 12-mile march. Her battalion commander called my husband and I with the information last evening and told us how proud we should be of her accomplishment - she is the only one in her Brigade Combat Team to have one. I know that her grandfather and grandmother (Army nurse) are beaming.

As an aside, we are trying to firm up Monica's leave plans to get to the reunion this year. Kathleen Powers, daughter of Joe Macaluso



Healthcare In the MHS

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News Story

Wednesday, April 22, 2009 Soldiers Train to Achieve Expert Field Medical Badge

Six days of enduring constant weather changes from tornado like conditions to eighty degree weather, 275 soldiers representing 17 units weathered the grueling conditions while engaged in the first six days of the Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB) training at Kentucky's Fort Campbell before moving onto the final six days of testing for a chance to earn the Army's hardest badge to achieve. The event will culminate in a graduation ceremony at the Division Parade Field Friday, April 24 at 10 a.m.

The EFMB historically only graduates 10 to 20% of its students, according to Lt. Col. Brian Smalley, Chief of Aviation Health Clinic and soon to be Ft. Campbell's next Division Surgeon. "This is the hardest badge in the Army to achieve."

This is the first time in five years the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Ft. Campbell has offered the course due to frequent deployments. The EFMB course and testing occurs over a 12-day period where soldiers medically train in combat-life saving skills while living in a simulated combat environment. The first six days consists of field training involving three lanes of 42 different tasks to successfully complete while EFMB instructors help them through the process is followed by six follow-on days of assessments in all the tactical events. Some of the tactical events include: land navigation, warrior skills training, weapons assembly, evacuation, physical fitness test. The final assessment is a 12-mile road march prior to graduation April 24 at 10 a.m. at the Division Parade Field. Soldiers may complete all tasks and written exams successfully and fail, if they are unable to complete the road march in three hours on Friday.



Army nurse at Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Ft. Gordon, Georgia 1st Lieutenant Elise Laeroix was one of the 258 students remaining in Friday's course. She was among other Army medical professions such as medics, lab and radiology technicians, dieticians, and physicians working to obtain the badge. Laeroix stated that she was pleased with how the course was being run.

"It's very good so far - very thorough, they've gone step-by-step with all the tasks we have to be competent on. It's just a little foreign to me because I don't do field nursing much in the hospital setting."

Although Laeroix is optimistic about achieving the badge she also is skeptical about the land navigation task which is her most complicated area. "I struggle with land navigation. It's very hard for me so that was definitely a hard assessment."

According to Sgt. 1st Class Mason Plaistad, medical platoon Sgt. for 2nd Brigade Combat Team's 502nd Infantry Battalion, "EFMB is pretty critical medical training prior to deployment." Plaistad mentioned that there is a lot of attention to detail, steps and criteria for each task with certain numbered skills to be mastered. For example, one task may be graded on 14 criteria and must successfully accomplish 11 of the criteria to pass.

Plaistad believes that there is an advantage to taking the course. "It provides exposure to basic soldier skills and offers self pride where they can set themselves apart from their peers. It might be a determining factor in a promotion later down the road."

Laeroix agreed of the advantages of taking the course and has a newfound respect for medics and other medical professions who may work for her in the hospital setting. "They do a lot of tasks and skills that I haven't been taught as a nurse in nursing school with a four year degree. They are responsible for a lot of critical life-saving skills that I haven't been taught before this. They definitely have a key role in saving Soldiers on the battlefield."

Medical Department Activity company commander and officer in charge of the field site EFMB Cpt. Casey Arriaga organized the event for the 101st division and offered it to other medical units throughout the continental United States. "It was my honor to offer this course for Ft. Campbell and the other units represented."

The Thunderbolt Chronicles



Dave Curry Historian

email: davecurry@ncweb.com

phone: 440-942-5030

The following article first appeared in "YANK - The Army Weekly," and told how the 83rd Infantry Division coped with the winter conditions in the Ardennes. Illustrations show the actual pages that appeared in "YANK." Captions for some of the photos are given at the end of this article.

WINTER WAR

Here's what some of the men of one outfit on the Western front are just now saying about their GI winter equipment, what's good and bad about it, and what can be done to improve it.

By Sgt. Ed Cunningham YANK Staff Correspondent With the 83rd Division in Belgium

The Ardennes campaign was more than a fight against the strongest German attack faced since the early days in Normandy. It was also a fight against almost daily snowstorms, near-zero temperatures and face-freezing winds which doubled the difficulty of rolling back the German advance.

We learned a lot about winter warfare in the Ardennes. Some of it was learned the hard way, by frostbite, hands and feet, pneumonia and bronchial ailments. Besides these physical difficulties, there was trouble with frozen weapons, equipment and even food. But out of it all came the GI's usual improvising of homemade remedies which will be unofficial SOP from now on.

The line company men of the 83rd Division, who cleared the Bois de Ronce of German opposition in a continuous eight-day push that enabled armored spearheads to follow through to the vital St. Vith-Houffalize highway, learned many ways to fight winter weather during that operation. Their methods of keeping themselves moderately warm and dry and



This copy of Yank is the "Alaska Edition," published March 2, 1945, and contains the article "Winter War" by Ed Cunningham. The cover features S/Sgt. Joseph Arnaldo, 331st Infantry Regiment: "When this picture was taken by YANK's Sgt. Kenny, S/Sgt Joseph Arnaldo of New Bedford, Mass., had just come off the line after 10 successive days of fighting. His hood and face covered with snow, Arnaldo had recovered from a temporary blindness when an 88 mounted on a Jerry tank was fired a few yards from him.

their weapons and equipment workable were often makeshift because there was no time to waste on details, but they played an important part in the operation's ultimate success.

T/Sgt. Wilburn McQuinn of Helechawa, Ky., platoon sergeant in the 331st Regiment, used the standard method of frostbite prevention in his platoon by insisting on frequent toe- and finger-clenching exercise to keep blood circulating. But he and his platoon learned some other tricks too.

"Some of the men took off their overshoes and warmed their feet by holding them near burning GI heat rations (fuel tablets) in their fox holes," McQuinn said. "Others used waxed K-ration boxes which burn with very little smoke but a good flame. Both heat and K-ration boxes are also fine for drying your socks and gloves. I also used straw inside my overshoes to keep my feet warm while we were marching. Some of the other men used newspapers or wrapped their feet with strips of blankets or old cloth."

McQuinn's company commander, Capt. Robert F. Windsor of Carthage, N.Y., had another angle on keeping feet warm. "We found our feet stayed warmer if we didn't wear leggings," Capt. Windsor explained. "When they get wet from the snow and then freeze, the leggings tighten up on your legs and stop the flow of blood to your feet. That's true also of cloth overshoes which are tight fits. When snugfitting overshoes get wet and freeze, they bind your legs. It looks to me like overshoes should be issued two or three sizes larger than the shoes to prevent that."

"Another 'must' in this kind of weather," Capt. Windsor continued, "is to have the men remove their overshoes at night when it's possible. Otherwise these arctic clothes sweat inside and that makes the feet cold. Of course, the best deal is to have a drying tent set up so you can pull the men out of the line occasionally and let them get thoroughly dried out and warm."

The drying tent is nothing more than a pyramidal tent set up in a covered location several hundred yards behind the



Friday Night Entertainer - Joe Soprani, Accordion Virtuoso

Our Friday night entertainer, Joe Soprani, has spent a lifetime turning the accordion into magic. He began at age 4 and after appearing on the Arthur Godfrey show at age 18 and winning, Soprani got a call to join a USO troupe performing for U.S. service men and women in Japan and Korea in 1953. He became one of the youngest USO entertainers.

During that 17-week tour as he was flying to a show in Miho, Japan, rain and poor visibility caused the pilot to miss the runway. The C-46 plane, with 25 passengers and five crew members, hit the water at 140 m.p.h. Joe will fill in the rest of the story on Friday night. A singalong will follow with our own 83rd-er Jake Haldeman leading the way.

Saturday Night Guest Speaker - Admiral Joe Sestak, 7th Congressional District Rep.

Retired U.S. Navy 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak, currently Representative, 7th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, will be our guest speaker at the Saturday banquet. He comes to us with a 31-year lifetime of service in the U.S. Navy.

During his distinguished career in the Navy, Joe led a series of operational commands. culminating in the command of the George Washington aircraft carrier battle group, which consisted of 30 U.S. and allied ships, 15,000 sailors, and close to 100 aircraft. Under Joe's watch, the George Washington battle group conducted combat operations in Afghanistan and precursor operations to the war in Iraq.

Joe also served in President Clinton's White House as the Director for Defense Policy on the National Security Council. After 9/11, he was selected to serve as the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit where he worked to establish new strategies for the Navy to fight the Global War on Terror.

After graduating from Cardinal O'Hara High School in Springfield, PA, Joe followed in the footsteps of his father, a Navy captain who served in World War II, and attended the U.S. Naval Academy, where he graduated second in his class. Joe also holds an MPA, and a PhD in Political Economy and Government, from Harvard University.

Joe has one brother and six sisters. He and his wife, Susan, have a daughter, Alexandra.

Guess Who This

Answer to Last Thunderbolt's "Guess Who This Is" was **Bob Keck**



Ts

(Answer in next Thunderbolt)

RESERVATION REQUEST FORM

DOLCE VALLEY FORGE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER

301 W. Dekalb Pike, King of Prussia, PA. 19406 610-337-1200 * 1-800-98DOLCE

www.dolcevalleyforge.com

When calling refer to-83rd Infantry Division Association

Check-out Time: 12 Noon
Phone
Zip
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(# of people per room)
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3
day August 13,
day August 15, 2009
REQUESTED:
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Smoking (Limited 3 rd Fl.)
American Express
Conference Center)
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ROOMS BLOCKED FOR YOUR GROUP WILL BE RELEASED JULY 13, 2009.
TO RECEIVE THE GROUP PRICE YOU MUST REGISTER BEFORE THEN.
(There will be a one-day prior and one-day post reunion reservation allowed with reservation.)
Reservations will continue to be accepted after this date based on availability.
Individual guest rooms must be cancelled one day prior to arrival by 6 p.m.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN TO:

Dolce Valley Forge Hotel & Conference Center 301 W. Dekalb Pike, King of Prussia, PA. 19406 Tel. (610) 337-1200 (800)98DOLCE Fax: (610)337-2224

83rd INFANTRY DIV. ASSN. REUNION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, activity and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in <u>each</u> event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to <u>83RD INFANTRY DIV.</u> <u>ASSN.</u> in the form of a check or money order (no credit cards or phone reservations accepted.) All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before **July 1, 2009.** After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis.

We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing to:

83rd Infantry Div. Assn. Price Per P.O. Box 406 # of Questions? Person People Total Alton Bay, NH 03810 Call 603-875-3649 **REGISTRATION PACKAGE** Registration Fee includes Friday Night USO Tour/Sing-Along with \$58 per Accordion Virtuoso Joe Soprani, Saturday Night Banquet and Band, and Person # **Hospitality Room Expenses** Please select your entrée for the SATURDAY BANQUET: Rosated Prime Rib of Beef Grilled Breast of Chicken THURSDAY: Tour of Historic Philadelphia - Guide on each bus - Liberty Bell. \$45 per # Independence Hall, National Constitution Center - Lunch on your own Person Tour of Valley Forge - Guide on each bus, Lunch at VF Military Academy. \$60 per # FRIDAY: Wreath Laying at the Battle of the Bulge Monument Person Total Amount Payable to: 83rd Infantry Div. Assn. PLEASE PRINT: NAME (for name tags) UNIT (example: B Co; 329th Inf) SPOUSE NAME GUEST NAMES (for name tags)_____ STREET ADDRESS CITY,ST, ZIP PH. # ARE YOU CONFINED TO A WHEELCHAIR? PH. # EMERGENCY CONTACT ARRIVAL DATE_____ DEPARTURE DATE____ ARE YOU STAYING AT THE HOTEL? YES NO IF FLYING: AIRLINE FLIGHT NO. ARRIVAL DAY ARRIVAL TIME OFFICE USE ONLY Chk#____ Amt____ Date____ 1___ 2___ Tag____

Beef Chicken Spl Menu Thurs-Phil. Fri-Valley Forge

Deceased List

Our sympathy goes out to all the families of these veterans. We will miss all of them.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>	Reported by
Batty, Harry	A Co., 330th	Wife Beatrice
Capelli, John	308th Engineers	Steve Salvi
Ellis, Capt. Orril	329th Inf. Hg. Co.	Frank E. Fauver
Lester, Clayton	L Co., 329th	Laddie Lawrence
Vansingel, Willard J.	E Co., 329th	Wife Josephine
Young, James H.	Anti Tank Co., 329th	Stan Bielen- received call from nephew

We had a write up my buddies say, In the home town papers, the other day. I imagine the folks have read or heard, Of the swell accomplishments of the 83rd. We are the G.I. Joes from every state, Yes, one of the forty-eight. We are proud of our outfit, we think it's fine, Cause we were the first to reach the Rhine. We are the boys of the 83rd. Which was once known as the Thundering Herd, As we crossed the Elbe in plywood boats, We were given the new name of Thunderbolt. They say we outstripped old Hell on Wheels, Sorry boys we know how it feels. There's one consolation we dough's can say, You're the best armored outfit from the U.S.A. We are sweating out our next big plan, We hope the hell it's not Japan. We won't complain tho, whatever it be, As long as it helps keep America free.

J. J. Hayes Co. C 329 Inf. April 27, 1945

Dolce Valley Forge, King of Prussia, PA 301 W. Dekalb Pike, King of Prussia, PA * 610-337-1200





Directions

From the Northeast

Take the New Jersey Turnpike South to the Pennsylvania Turnpike Exit 6. Follow the Penn. Turnpike West to Exit 326 (Valley Forge). After the toll plaza, take the third right., Exit 328 (Rte 202 North – King of Prussia). The hotel is one mile on the right.

From the South

Take 95 North to Route 476 North (Exit 7). Take 76 West (Schuylkill Expressway) following signs for Valley Forge to Exit (Rte 202 North- King of Prussia). The hotel is one mile on the right.

From the East

Take the Atlantic City Expressway to Route 42 to the Walt Whitman Bridge. Follow 76 (Schuylkill Expressway West) to Exit 328. Follow the exit signs to Route 202 North – King of Prussia. The hotel is one mile on the right.

From the West

Take the Pennsylvania Tumpike to Exit 326 (Valley Forge). After the toll plaza, take the third right, Exit 328 (Route 202 North – King of Prussia). The hotel is one mile on the right.

From Philadelphia International Airport

Take 95 South to Route 476 North (Exit 7). Take 76 West (Schuylkill Expressway) following signs for Valley Forge to Exit 328 North – King of Prussia). The hotel is one mile on the right.







Cecil and Nora Lee Walters World War II Veterans Memorial

I am sad to report the passing of Cecil Walters, an old buddy from C Co., 308th Engineers. As a tribute to Cecil we are reprinting an old Thunderbolt article from 2005 written by his daughter Cliff Wooldridge

My father, Cecil Walters, is a veteran of World War II, having served in Co. C 308th Engineers, 83rd Infantry Division. He served in five major campaigns in Europe which began when he landed on Omaha Beach with the second wave. He was in the Battle of the Bulge, Hertgen Forest and on through to within a few miles of Berlin. I am always proud when he shows our family mementoes and pictures he had saved from the war.

He is a charter member of the World War II Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. On September 11, 2004 my husband and I had the privilege of driving my father and mother to see this memorial. Words cannot express the five days of this awesome trip. We made the necessary arrangements for disable and wheel chair visitors. My father has breathing difficulties and has lost the sight in one eye, but his steps appeared more lively and his eyes much brighter as we spent one whole day on the mall.

It is so beautiful and blends so well with the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument. The sculptured bas-relief panels of the memorial are a wonderful way of telling the life on the home front and life at war.

What happened that day made his day complete. He wore his 83rd jacket and a number of young people took pictures of the lettering on the back of the jacket. Others came up and expressed gratitude and to shake his hand for serving his country. Some came for another picture, another hug and another story exchanged. He talked with other veterans and we let him exchange stories as long as he wanted.

Thank you Dad, you are the greatest and I love you. . . . Eva June Walters Friel



The Walters Family
Dixie Chapter 29th Christmas Meet



63rd ANNUAL REUNION 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN.

KING OF PRUSSIA, PA AUGUST 12 - 16, 2009

PLEASE SELECT SIZE OF AD

FULL PAGE @ \$90.00

HALF PAGE @ \$50.00

THIRD PAGE @ \$35.00 QUARTER PAGE @ \$25.00

BOOSTER ADS ARE \$5.00

Make check payable and send to:

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

URGENT - ACT NOW

As you know, this money is needed to help pay for some expenses for our 63rd Reunion.

DEADLINE – JULY 1, 2009

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

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Company of the Compan		

83rd Reunion, King of Prussia, PA Emergency Information/Disability Information

Dolce Hotel

Security staff is trained in:

CPR
First Aid
Disaster Preparedness
Heimlich Maneuver

Security personnel are employees of the hotel. All guests are notified in event of a fire alarm. Hotel has one wheel chair available for emergency...

Medical Emergency Information

Ambulance:

Response time – minutes
Distance from hotel – 1 mile from hotel
Address – 180 N. Henderson Road, King of Prussia 19406
Phone – 610-992-0399 Emergency – 911

Fire Department:

Response time – minutes
Distance from hotel – 1 mile (Volunteer Fire Department)
Address – 170 Allendale Road, King of Russia 19406
Phone – 610-265-1063 Emergency – 911

Police:

Response time – minutes
Distance from hotel – 2 miles
Address – 175 W. Valley Forge Road, King of Prussia 19406
Phone – 610-265-3232 Emergency – 911

Hospitals:

Montgomery Hospital Medical Center Distance from hotel – 5 miles Address – Powell Street, Norristown, PA 19401 Phone – 610-270-2000

Bryn Mawr Hospital
Distance from hotel – 9.6 miles
Address – 130 S. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
Phone – 610-526-1300

24 Hour Pharmacy

Walgreens Pharmacy (Walk-in Health Care Clinic) Distance from hotel - .5 mile Address - 119 E. Dekalb Pike, King of Prussia, PA 19406 Phone - 610-962-9627 Hours - 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

CVS Pharmacy
(Minute Walk-in Clinic)
Distance from hotel - .9 mile
Address - 312 S. Henderson Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406
Phone - 610-205-1264
Hours - 8 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Medical Equipment Rental & Supplies

Able Equipment Company 21 W. Fornance Street Norristown, PA 19401 610-277-3939

Homestar Medical Equipment 1200 Welsh Road Suite 5 North Wales, PA 19454 215-361-9794

Montgomery Medical Equipment 2121 Potshop Road Eagleville, PA 19403

Medical Home Care 202 Conestoga Road Wayne, PA 19087 610-687-6585

King of Prussia Pharmacy and Medical Supply (Steltz Pharmacy) 580 Shoemaker Road King of Prussia, PA 19406 610-337-7987

Please pass this on to interested members of your family

Greetings to the Descendants of the members of the 83rd Infantry Division,

The "Thunderbolt Division"

Would you like to join us again in saying "Thank you" in a special way to those who sacrificed so much for us all? We are looking for as many descendants as possible to include their names on a special "Thank You" page (or pages) in the Program Book for the 83rd Association's 63rd Reunion to take place in King of Prussia, PA on August 12th through the 16th. All names will be listed under the caption, "Thank you to the members of the 83rd Infantry Division for our precious freedom and your sacrifice for us all." (Sample page from the 61st Reunion on reverse side.)

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

DEADLINE IS JULY 1ST

PLEASE PRINT Name: _____ Descendant of: 2nd Name______ 3rd Name______ 4th Name______5th Name_____ 6th Name______ / Name______ *** Attach sheet for additional descendants *** 7th Name____ Contact Name: _____ Relationship to Member: ____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ email: Make check payable and send with form to: 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN. P.O. Box 406 Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406 **Special Note:** Are you coming to the reunion? Would you like to give us a hand? We need your help with: ☐ Hospitality Room (3-hr. blocks) (e.g., setting up refreshments, serving, clean up) ☐ Transportation Assistance (assigned per trip) (e.g., monitoring a bus, assisting passengers in and out) ☐ Registration (3-hr. blocks) (registration, information, special assistance)

☐ Event Coordination (assigned per event) (Assistance at Banquet, Memorial Visits, etc.)

Thank You to the members of the 83rd Infantry Div. for our precious freedom and your sacrifice for us all

GEORGE ODENWELLER

Elaine Hogan James E. Hogan



COL. GRANVILLE ATTAWAY SHARPE

Dr. Charlotte Sharpe Daly Martha Withers Sharpe Granville Attaway Sharpe, Jr. Britton Anne Sharpe Granville Attaway Sharpe III Arless Withers Davis

PFC RAYMOND H. PELOQUIN

Eugene A. Peloquin Brother

LEWIS H. PHARR, SR. 83RD RCN KIA 12-10-44

Lewis H. Pharr, Jr.
Carole A. Pharr
Dawn (Pharr) Wolfe
Ken Wolfe
Jacqueline Pharr
Melissa Pharr
Michael Wolfe



1LT. RAY TERBEEK

Dale Terbeek
Karen Terbeek
Peter Terbeek
Matthew Terbeek
Leslie Terbeek
Kevin Terbeek
Stuart Terbeek
Kayla Terbeek

CHARLIE SIHLANICK

Linda Rose Napoli -Daughter Augie Napoli

JOHN W. TISDELL

Anne Tisdell - Daughter Libby Tisdell - Daughter John P. Tisdell - Son Darlene T. Tisdell Elaine L. Tisdell Karen M. Tisdell Geoffrey P. Tisdell

"Flags for Sainteny" Donations

Steward Barrick

Mike & Mell Catrambone

Mary Jean Houlahan

Rudy Zamula

Eugene A. Peloquin

Manny R. Goodridge

Susan D. Pray

Cliff Wooldridge

Nancy McCarthy

Quinto DeAntoni

Henry Hauser

Harold Geisinger

The Boston Chapter

Edward J. Pogoda

Eugene Peloquin

Elizabeth Faber Brusa

Roger E. Dumont & Family

Glenn Wible

Michael Gottlieb

The Pittsburgh Chapter -

Salvatore Scicolone, Pres.

Charles Caven

Jules Desgain

Paul Diethrich

Charles Hawkins

William Mattes

William Nese

Lee Reuss

Michael Rudy

Doris Heine



Mayor of Sainteny holding up Flag for Town Council to view

Messages to the People of Sainteny (accompanying their donations)-

My father Lt. Col. James Faber, Headquarters 2nd Battalion, 331st Infantry, 83rd was killed in Sainteny, July 10, 1944 after Allies took Sainteny. My husband and I have always enjoyed your hospitality every time we have been to Sainteny and Jean Paul Pitou treated us like V.I.P.'s . . .

Elizabeth Faber Brusa, California

My father, SSqt. Walter A. Knapp, Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, 331st Infantry, died in Sainteny on July 17, 1944 for the most wonderful people there. Thank you for your support and love for the 83rd. Please visit his grave at the cemetery in Blasville when you can and pray for him. God bless you all. My stepfather Raymond Bernard was a French soldier from Brittany who was a POW for five years. He is buried in America. So now you and we are bound together forever by these brave men, we children and a commitment to Freedom. Vive la France! Mary Jean Houlahan, Connecticut

My Dad, Pvt. Ben Gottlieb, G Co, 329th Inf. Reg., was killed in action at St. Lo on July 23, 1944 and is buried in Normandy. Thanks to the people of Sainteny! Michael Gottlieb, New York

"FLAGS FOR SAINTENY"

AS PART OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WW II, THE PEOPLE OF SAINTENY INVITED TWO BUS LOADS OF 83RD VETERANS TO A RECEPTION AND CHAMPAGNE LUNCH. THE MAYOR PRESENTED EACH OF THE 83RD VETERANS PRESENT WITH A HANDSOME COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL WITH THE 83RD LOGO AND THE FIGURE OF A GI ON IT. AT OUR 2007 REUNION IN ARLINGTON, VA, JEAN PAUL PITOU, REPRESENTING SAINTENY, PRESENTED AN ADDITIONAL 12 MEDALS. HE ALSO SENT RUDY ZAMULA A PHOTO OF A CEREMONY IN SAINTENY AND THEY ALREADY HAVE THE STARS & STRIPES.

OUR 83RD ARCHIVIST RUDY ZAMULA PROPOSED THAT THE 83RD ASSOCIATION RECIPROCATE BY PRESENTING U.S. STATE FLAGS REPRESENTING THE HOME STATES OF OUR VETERANS TO A REPRESENTATIVE OF SAINTENY AT OUR 2008 REUNION IN CARLISLE, PA. THE FLAGS WOULD BE DISPLAYED IN CITY HALL OR SIMILAR PUBLIC BUILDING. WE COULD DO A FEW STATES EACH YEAR AT THE REUNIONS. I THINK IT WOULD BE VERY EFFECTIVE IF THEY HUNG THE FLAGS VERTICALLY, AS IN THE KENNEDY CENTER HALL OF STATES — YOU GET TO SEE THE WHOLE FLAG.

AT OUR 2008 REUNION IN CARLISLE, PA WE PRESENTED AN ADDITIONAL 13 FLAGS (REPRESENTING THE FIRST 13 AMERICAN COLONIES) TO EMANUEL LEDOUX, 32 YEARS OLD, WHO WAS BORN IN SAINTENY AND LIVES AND WORKS IN THE UNITED STATES. DURING HIS HOLIDAYS EMANUEL WENT BACK TO SAINTENY AND PRESENTED THE FLAGS TO THE MAYOR OF SAINTENY.

SAINTENY HAS ERECTED A MEMORIAL STONE TO THE 83RD AND CITIZENS OF THE TOWN TEND NEARBY GRAVE SITES OF U.S. SOLDIERS.

THIS YEAR WE WILL PRESENT ANOTHER GROUP OF U.S. FLAGS TO JEAN PAUL PITOU (OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE) AT OUR REUNION IN KING OF PRUSSIA, PA.

IN ORDER TO NEGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF DUPLICATE FLAGS, WE ARE ASKING FOR DONATIONS FOR THE FLAGS AND THE ASSOCIATION WILL PURCHASE THEM.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION, PLEASE FILL OUT THE SLIP BELOW, INCLUDE IT WITH YOUR DONATION (CHECKS PAYABLE TO 83RD INF. DIV. ASSN.)

AND MAIL TO:

83rd Infantry Div. Association
P. O. Box 406, Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406

"F	LAGS FOR SAINTENY" -	DONATION	
NAME	STATE	UNIT	
MESSAGE TO PEOPLE OF S	SAINTENY (OPTIONAL)		

ORDER SHEET FOR WHITE 83RD SHIRTS

Left front above pocket – 83rd arm patch with "83rd Infantry Division" written above.

Left shoulder - Gold lightning bolt with Thunderbolt written through with "The Best of the Best" underneath.

Right shoulder - U.S. flag with "It's About Respect" underneath.

All embroidered.

Shirt Style: - Port Authority Easy Care. Wrinkle resistant; 4.5 oz.; 55/45 cotton/poly: box back pleat and dyed to match buttons. Color is white with light stone contrast inside the collar.

Men's

- S608 Long sleeve with adjustable cuffs, button-down collar and single patch pocket.
- S508 Short sleeve with button-down collar and single patch pocket.

Ladies

- L608 Ladies Long sleeve feminine fit with button- through sleeve plackets, adjustable cuffs and open collar.
- L508 Ladies Short sleeve with open collar and feminine fit.

Sizing Chart:

N/I	OB	70	
141	en		

	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL	5XL	6XL
Chest	30-32	34-36	38-40	42-44	46-48	50-52	54-55	57-58	60-61	63-64
Neck	14	141/2	151/2	161/2	171/2	18	181/2	19	191/2	20
Sleeve	311/2	33	35	36	371/2	381/2	391/2	401/2	411/2	421/2

Ladies:

	XS	S	M	L	XL	XXL	Plus 1X	Plus 2X
Size	4	6/8	10/12	14/16	18/20	20	18-20W	22-24W
Bust	321/2-34	341/2-351/2	361/2-38	391/2-41	43-45	48	47-51	52-56

: Ladies sizes tend to run small. Order at least one size up from your normal size.

NAMI			
	ng Address		
City, S	tate, Zip		
Name &	Phone# of person pl	acing order:	
SHIRT #	SIZE	QUANITY	
		P. J. J. St. 100 (1971)	
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*******	**********	************	******
COST: \$35 pe additional \$2 pe		of shirt, embroidery and cost of shipping	ng. Over XL is an
		Dave Dimmick, Descer	ndant Co I 330th 83rd ID

Please return this form complete and legible with your check payable to:

Dave Dimmick 1714 Coal Creek Rd. Murrayville, IL 62668

Questions: cell# - 217/473-9524 or email: davedimmick@irtc.net

WOULD YOU LIKE A ROSTER OF THE 2009 MEMBERSHIP?

This Roster includes all members who have paid their dues for 2009 and also includes their units.

The cost is \$6.00 plus \$2.00 postage & handling. Send your \$8.00 check to-

83rd INFANTRY DIV. ASSN., INC. P. O. BOX 406 ALTON BAY, NH 03810-0406

2009 Reunion will be held at
Dolce Valley Forge
King of Prussia, PA
www.dolce-valley-hotel.com
610-337-1200
August 12 - 15, 2009

2010 Membership Dues (\$25) are Due August 1, 2009

** Please check the date on Your Membership Card **

THUNDERBOLT DEADLINES

ALL articles to be published in the Thunderbolt must be at this office by October 10, February 10, and May 10
Cliff Wooldridge
P.O. Box 406
Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406

Return Address-83rd Infantry Div. Assn. P.O. Box 406 Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406 NONPROFIT U.S. POSTAGE PAID ALTON BAY, NH PERMIT 1

	"Change Service Requested" 1	
TO:		

<u>APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP</u>

PLEASE ENCLOSE A CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR \$25.00 (YEARLY MEMBERSHIP DUES)

Payable to and Mail to:

83RD INFANTRY DIV. ASSN. P.O. BOX 406 ALTON BAY, NH 03810-0406

Dues for 2010 are DUE AUGUST 1, 2009

		RENEWAL NEW
NAME (please print) _	- H-1000-1-100-1-100-1-100-1-100-1-100-1-100-1-100-1-100-1-100-1-100-1-100-1-100-1-100-1-100-1-100-1-100-1-100	
Company	Regiment	83rd Division
Phone	e-mail	
10	ASSOCIATE OTHER	
	Signature:	

IMPORTANT

When you move and change your address, <u>PLEASE</u> send your change of address. It does no good to mail you a Thunderbolt at your old address. <u>The Post Office WILL NOT</u> forward this magazine. It will just go to waste. With the cost of printing and postage this is very costly to the Association to have even one go to waste. Send your change to the Association Office address above and not to someone else. Thank you for your cooperation. Send old and new addresses.