

THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

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Fall Issue 2010

— THE THAYER HOTEL AT WEST POINT — LOOKS FORWARD TO HOSTING THE 65TH ANNUAL REUNION FOR THE 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION – WORLD WAR II



THE THUNDERBOLT

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The THUNDERBOLT is written for all members of the 83rd Infantry Division World War II and is published at 138 East Side Drive, P.O. Box 406, Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406 Editor - Cliff Wooldridge

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A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

1947	James C. Hanrahan*	1964	Julius Boyles*	1981	Michael Caprio*	1998	R. C. Hamilton
1948	Jack M. Straus*	1965	Samuel Klippa*	1982	Ralph Gunderson*	1999	Pat DiGiammerino*
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1958	Raymond J. Voracek*	1975	Robert G. Taylor	1992	Ned Smith*	2009	John White
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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

Travel Fund for Europeans coming to P SECRET 65th Reunion

By Dave Dimmick

Over the years European relationships of various types have emerged through our activities with the 83rd ID Association and its reunions. For our 83rd veterans, many of these relationships started when they battled their way across Europe. Several 83rd veterans and their descendants have traveled to Europe since WW II. I have yet to meet one American visitor who associated themselves with the 83rd to have experienced a negative European experience. The Europeans of Normandy, France, Luxemburg, Belgium, and The Netherlands are very appreciative of our WW II veterans and have done so much and continue to do extra ordinary things especially for our visiting 83rd veterans. I for one as a mere descendant am very humbled by the open comradere my wife and I experience first hand last January. It's not a show. It's sincere and from the heart.

In the words of a good Belgium friend, "It will be a challenge to keep the spirit and values of that great generation alive but I know we will achieve it." For these Europeans to come to a reunion and meet and visit with an actual real life 83rd Infantry Division American soldier and veteran would be an immense honor for them not to mention the historical significance of the reunion location in 2011.

Therefore at the direction of 83rd veteran Cliff Wooldridge, a travel fund has been established to help defray expenses of those Europeans who would like to attend the 65th annual reunion at West Point, NY on August 3-7, 2011. All funds collected will be divided equally among those Europeans who attend.

OUR INTENT IS TO TRY TO KEEP THIS "MUM" BETWEEN US AMERICANS UNTIL WE HAVE AN IDEA OF HOW MUCH WE HAVE COLLECTED AND HOW MANY ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND. RIGHT NOW IT APPEARS WE HAVE 7 DEFINITE EUROPEAN ATTENDEES.

At the present time we have 7 individuals committed to \$100 each. Any amount is welcome and may be sent earmarked "Europeans 65th reunion" to our Treasurer Cliff Wooldridge at P.O. Box 406, Alton Bay, NH 03810. Cliff encourages everyone to pay their 2011 dues FIRST. © If you feel this to be a worthy cause your assistance would be appreciated. Please use the self-addressed envelope inserted in this issue. All contributors regardless of amount donated will have their name listed in the 2011 Adbook.



Left to right: Eddy Monfort, Belgium; Wilfried DeBacker, Belgium; Remy Mortelette, France and Belgium; Maria Scheidtler, Luxemburg; Jean Paul Pitou, France; Henri Scheidtler, Luxemburg; Thijs Hodiamont, The Netherlands; Wim Doms, Belgium; and Christiane Lenourry, France.

The 83rd Infantry Division is very well recognized in Europe by several Europeans who share a common passion to never forget the sacrifices made to preserve their countries freedom during WWII.

Following is a brief listing of what these Europeans do to perpetuate the memory of the 83rd ID in their respective countries. Much of their work spills over into American lives.

- Organize 83rd ID conferences for the European public
- Outreach to teach local school children and adults about the 83rd
- Develop reenactment groups
- Adopt graves at American cemeteries
- Coordinate and plan annual commemorative walks and ceremonies
- Welcome and host 83rd veterans and their families
- Research and write books documenting 83rd soldiers
- Research and seek out 83rd MIA
- Establishment of the 83rd Infantry Documents website

- Overall capture of 83rd history
- Develop and maintain a facebook site dedicated to the 83rd
- Assist with the flags for Sainteny project
- Represent the 83rd ID in various types of European manifestations
- Develop personal libraries and collections of 83rd memorabilia
- Help American families find lost family members
- Help 83rd veterans find lost buddies
- Establish photographic and written records
- Develop museums

PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY AND UNDERSTAND THAT OUR EUROPEAN MEMBERS ARE NOT TO KNOW ABOUT THIS WE WANT TO HELP PAY THEIR EXPENSES WHEN THEY TRAVEL TO OUR NEXT REUNION



"Five Horsemen of Europe"

Back row L to R: Eddy Monfort, Belgium; Jean Paul, France; Wilfried DeBacker, Belgium
Front Row L to R: Remy Mortelette, Belgium; Thijs Hodiamont, Netherlands
January 2010 — Fraiture, Belgium



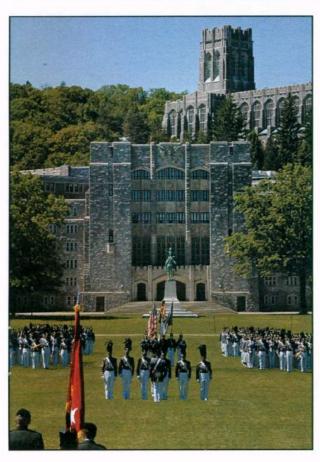
President's Corner

CARMELLA CATRAMBONE

Save The Date!

83RD Infantry Division Association 65TH Reunion August 3-7, 2011 West Point, NY

I am writing this column in October, in the midst of the vibrant fall colors. A few days ago I travelled from my home in Pennsylvania

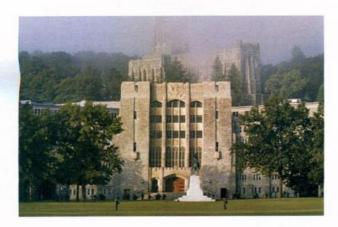


to Suagerties, NY to meet with Cliff Snyder and his lovely wife, Florence, at their home. My trip was a pleasure for two reasons. One was because each turn in the road led me to a new beautiful vision of Autumn's colors. It reminded me of the canvas of life, and how each of us, as we age, reflect the different experiences that paint our lives, making us who we are. These thoughts reminded me of the variety of people of the 83rd who inspire and motivate me, leading me into the second pleasantry, and the most important reason for my trip: to meet with Cliff Snyder to plan our 2011 reunion which will be held at West Point, NY.

Cliff and I spent an extremely productive evening of discussion and planning. Because of Cliff's close proximity to West Point, he had already done quite a bit of preliminary work. I am certainly fortunate to have such a supportive and cooperative partner. The next day, we travelled to West Point to meet with the representative at the Thayer Hotel and to move forward with our arrangements.

Cliff and I believe that next year's reunion is going to be fantastic. The staff at the Thayer Hotel are doing everything they can to accommodate us and make our experience enjoyable and memorable. We are honored to be able to celebrate our 65th Reunion at West Point, but West Point is also honored that we have chosen their site for our celebration.

Since the Thaver Hotel is located on the grounds of West Point, a military base, it is necessary for each person over the age of 16 who enters West Point or the Thayer Hotel to show a form of photo identification. This can be a driver's license, passport, state identification, or school identification card as long as there is a photo attached. Children under 16 years of age are not required to show identification as long as they are accompanied by an adult. Presentation of an ID is reguired of all persons occupying a vehicle as well as anyone who enters the gate by foot. This is a very important piece of information that will be repeated many times within the next Thunderbolt issues as well as on the reservation form. Please pardon our repeti-



tion, but we need to be sure that everyone is aware of this requirement.

More details about the Reunion will be given to you in the next edition of the Thunderbolt. However, for now the things you must know are:

- The 2011 Reunion dates are August 3rd
 7th (Please mark your calendar)
- The Reunion will take place at West Point, NY at the Thayer Hotel
- All are invited and welcome. This includes members of the 83rd Association, relatives, friends, and anyone from the United States as well as anyone from any other country outside of the United States.
- Please carry a form of photo identification with you if you are over 16 years of age.
- If you have any questions, please contact Carmella Catrambone by phone at 610.446.0434 or by email at mell.dc@verizon.net.

Please be ready to celebrate a fantastic 65th Reunion!

West Point dates back to the Revolutionary War. General George Washington moved his headquarters there because he believed it to be a valuable strategic location. West Point was founded on March 16, 1802 and established as the United States Military Academy by legislation signed by President Thomas Jefferson.

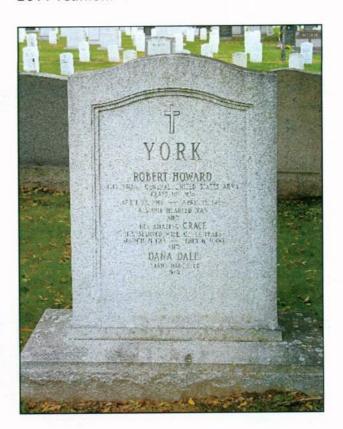
The Thayer Hotel is named after Colonel Syvanus Thayer, also known as the "father of the Military Academy." Thayer served as West Point's Superintendant from 1817 to 1833.

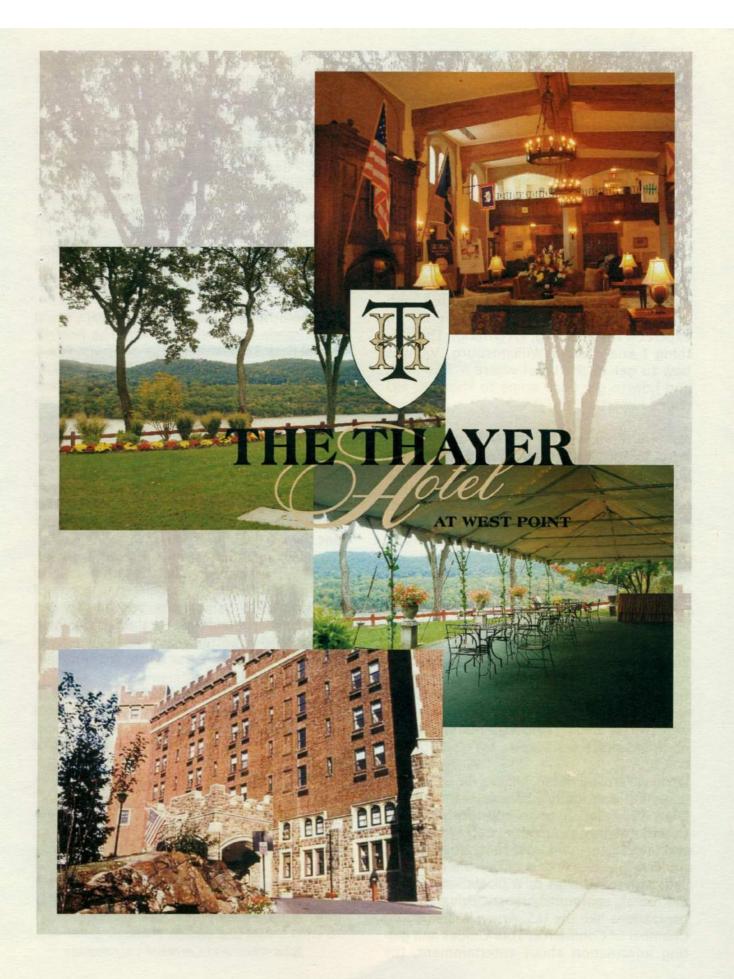
Some of the World War II leaders who graduated from West Point are Eisenhower, MacArthur, Bradley, Arnold, Clark, Patton, Stilwell and Wainwright.

During our visit, Cliff and I searched the cemetery and found the grave of Lt. Col. Robert York, one of the commanding officer's of the 331st.

West Point is located in the Bear Mountains and along the Hudson River. The scenery is absolutely beautiful all throughout the year. I am sure that everyone will be very pleased with this location because of its beauty and impressive military distinctiveness.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the 2011 reunion! ▼





PAST PRESIDENT

2009/2010 REPORT JOHN WHITE

Another year has gone by and another National Reunion for the 83rd Infantry Division Association. #64 has come and gone.

Over a year and a half ago, I was asked if I could get some information on a hotel in Williamsburg, VA for the purpose of holding the 64th Reunion for the 83rd. (No names given) I think since the Dixie Chapter had been holding their spring reunion for the past 26 years, and being associated with them for the last 15 years, it made me an expert on Williamsburg, VA (Wrong). The only thing I knew about Williamsburg, VA was how to get to the hotel where it was held, and how to get back home to Phoenix, MD (Some Expert).

My wife, Bobbie and I traveled to Williamsburg to obtain information on the hotel. (Same route we have taken many times). While we were there, we visited three other hotels. In May, 2009, we traveled to Manchester, NH (new route) to meet with the Executive Board to give our report. It was decided at that time to hold the 64th Reunion at the Williamsburg Hospitality House Hotel in Williamsburg, VA. Thinking we were finished and we could head back home to Phoenix, MD, we received our first shock. Since we were now the experts on Williamsburg, VA, we were appointed to be the host for the 64th Reunion. Then the next shock was to be elected the President of the Association. With all of this added news, we both went for shock treatment. This shock will never wear off.

When we arrived home, believe me when I tell you we didn't know where to start, but we knew it was time to go to work. With the help from Carmella Catrambone, Cliff Wooldridge and the Williamsburg Hospitality House Hotel, we were given our start. Over the following year with many trips to Williamsburg, (same old route), communications with various organizations like the U.S. Army, Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce, Tour Guides and getting information about entertainment, the

64th Reunion was taking shape. There were a lot of disappointments, but the struggles went forward.

I believe one of the best ideas we arrived with was a shuttle system established for the members who flew into Williamsburg at "3" different airports. No more could be said for Dave Dimmick, Chris Heine (members of the Legacy Group), and Dave Dimmick's brother in law, Dallas, who was in Williamsburg with his wife on their vacation at the same time. These three were our chauffeurs for the weekend. Can't thank them enough.

We were hoping that more members could have made the 64th Reunion. The Norfolk Naval Base Tour, the WWII re-enactors, Fife & Drum Demonstration and other entertainments were only secondary to the members who were able to attend the reunion. We know that their thoughts are always there for ones who couldn't make it for various reasons and for the ones we have lost in the past.

Next year, with Carmella Catrambone as your President, and the Reunion being held at West Point, 2010-2011 will be another great year for the 83rd.

2009-2010 has been a great year for me and my wife. First - to be associated with one of the greatest organizations, second—serving as its President and Host for the 64th Reunion of the 83rd Infantry Division Association and third—to celebrate our 50th Wedding anniversary together.

Again, our thanks to all of you. Our thoughts are always with the 83rd.

Iohn B. White



Past and present Presidents, John White and Carmella Catrambone

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

ELLSWORTH MASSIE

Let us give thanks for the beauty of our land and its great resources! For the men and women who have made it strong! For the torch of liberty in our land! Let's keep it burning brightly! Lord help us to finish the god work here in our land! Hasten the day when all shall glorify The Name! Our never-ending love and devotion for those whose sacrifice makes it possible for us to be here today! Yours for the coming generations.

- E. Massie

I can't believe it! 83rd National! It has finally happened! Here I am at the National 83rd meet, "The Last Man Standing." What an awesome responsibility I had thrust upon me! Ill health, business, death, and other reasons have caused the absence of 12 "Red Legs" who paid their dues last year leaving only one-and-only "me" present and accounted for. P.S. I'm referring to the 322 F.A.

Lets go on from here! Our descendants, associates, and widows have done a remarkable job along with the real life 83rd veterans in keeping our association alive, active, and healthy! Accept my heart-felt thanksgiving to the elected officials and volunteers who have done such a tremendous job at holding us together and moving ahead!

What a pleasure to see our descendant members moving ahead with the business at hand and the "Old Timers" going along with the sound decisions being made! We have many for their very first meeting! Welcome to our house of the 83rd! Let's get to know each one of you better and move on to the future together!

55+ vets lined up for a picture. I never saw so many flash bulbs going off at once. There had to be thousands of pictures taken! Alas! my camera went on the fritz and took no pics. Could you spare a group pic of us in our pose?

Thank you President John White for getting this picture going! Now all I need is a copy or

two! Our fellowship was very high-level! Some old! Many new! I enjoyed each person there. Forgive me for not recalling your name, rank, and serial number! I'll try to do better at West Point next year! Be there!!

My sincere thanks to each one taking part in the task of putting together such a great meeting. I look forward to many more and trust that after I'm gone that our organization will go on for years to come! I sincerely believe this will happen because our leaders and followers see the vision clearly and will work toward that goal! You are our future! My sincere thanks to all who had any part in our past meeting. Its success couldn't happen without your sincere efforts!!

Thanks again!

- E. Massie

FROM THE EDITOR

CLIFF WOOLDRIDGE

Our reunion in Williamsburg, VA was fantastic! Bobbi and John White did a great job even though John complained about getting the job in the first place. But I was there when Ellsworth Massie said we should have a reunion in Williamsburg and John said he would look into it. Now he is going to run the Dixie Chapter Reunion in December.

John and Bobbie spent many weekends in Williamsburg and found the best places to eat in the area. One night they treated Nancy and I to dinner at a local steak house and our steaks were delicious! I'd like to go back if it wasn't so far away. They are a wonderful twosome!

We had many 83rd items for sale at the last reunion—83rd military buckles with belts, tie bars, money clips, key rings. I had ordered more 83rd hats but they didn't come in on time to take to the reunion but I have them now along with small pins, patches, flag pins, bola's, and ladies necklaces.

We want to extend our "Best Wishes" to Ingrid and Thijs Hodiamont of the Netherlands on their recent marriage (their wedding picture is in this issue). Thijs is a member of our European Chapter and we hope to meet them both at our next reunion in West Point, NY. The dates are August 3-7, 2011.

A big "Thank You" to our "faithful van drivers" Dave Dimmick, Dallas Renold and John White who shuttled members to and from the airports. How appropriate the mailman's motto . . . "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." Thank you gentlemen!

Received a shipment of 83rd hats when we returned home from the reunion. Let me know if you would like a hat (\$20—one size fits all). Also, we have reprints of the original book Thunderbolt Across Europe @ \$45 plus shipping. We also have bolas, tie clips, money clips, key chains, and lady's jewelry.

Another great reunion put on by the terrific team of Bobbie and John White! "The best one we've ever had!" Nancy said I say that every year but it's true every year! We had 15 first timers this year.

MOST IMPORTANT!!! WE NEED A LOCATION FOR OUR 2012 REUNION. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED OR WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT INVOLVES, PLEASE GIVE CLIFF WOOLDRIDGE A CALL AT 603-875-3649 OR WRITE TO HIM AT P.O. BOX 406, ALTON BAY, NH 03810.

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER NEWS

STAN BIELEN

stanfran83rd@aol.com

New Jersey Chapter

October 4, 2010

It was my good fortune to be able to attend the reunion in Williamsburg, Virginia. My two Daughters Joyce and Judy and two Grandchildren Evan and Emily also attended. My daughter Joyce invited Executive Board Chairman Manny Epstein to come along in her SUV for the drive (here. We all enjoy Manny being along and I'm sure he was happy that he came with us.

We all had a great time at the reunion as it was well planned and thanks to President John White and his lovely wife Bobbie for all their hard work and Cliff Wooldridge and Nancy who spend so much of their time working at the registration desk. They are so dedicated to the 83rd Association and deserve all of our gratitude for doing an outstanding job. Board Chairman Manny Epstein and all the other Officers are to be commended for their efforts toward the success of the reunion.

There was a sadness there for those that have left us. Linda and Augie Napoli were there to attend the Memorial Service for her father Charles Sihlanick who passed away. Charles was so dedicated to the 83rd that he would attend the reunion regardless of what his health was. In recent years it was in a wheel chair. I miss his weekly calls to inquire about my health. He loved all the 83rders. I'm sure a lot of you were kissed by him.

George Waple had passed away in August and his Lady Jean Florio was there to attend the Memorial Service for George. His passing came as a shock to me. George and I had become good friends over the years and two weeks before his passing I and fellow 83rder Al Klugiewicz were invited to a Commemorative Program at Brookdale College to honor George Waple for his book "Country Boy Gone Soldiering" and for his work at the college. It was attended by about three hundred people and was an all day affair. In the morning it was all about George's service to our country Many spoke of his accomplishments including the Present Commander of the 3rd Infantry Regiment of which George entered the Army and served as First Sergeant in charge of the Honor Guard at Arlington Cemetery after World War II. We then went to lunch given by the College. The afternoon's session was held in a theater with all the rest of the honoree speaking and given their honors. It was a very interesting program and the 83rd was well represented.

Missing at the reunion was Dot and George Foster (Co. F, 330), Attending for them was their daughter and her husband who gave me a picture of George and Dot which I am sending along to be put in the Thunderbolt Magazine with a hello to their 83rd buddies. Carmella Catrabone who was in charge of the Memorial Service included four of the young children in the ceremony. Evan and Emily McNally (my Grandchildren) were happy to be a part of the service and I was proud of their involvement.

The latest news on Joe DePeri is: he is holding his own although his legs are giving him problems and he needs an assist from a walker to get around. Joe you are always in my prayers.

That's it for now, wishing you all the best.

Stan Bielen

COMPANIES

Со. "А"-330тн

CHARLES ABDINOOR satchuck83rd@comcast.net

First of all I must congratulate Bobbi and John White for the splendid work that they did organizing our 64th Reunion. They also

had the cream of the crop, including Mell, Dave, Chris and all the rest. Our helmets are off to you. The descendents are here to stay, I have complete confidence in their leadership and dedication. We are all PROUD of you, each and everyone. Now for the news. There is not much going on but Doctor's

visits, etc.

I am sorry to report the death of Paul Reed. Paul's notice is in the Thunderbolt. I will most certainly miss him. I called Stewart and Nellrita, which I am happy to say they are in their new home. We both had health issues, but we seemed to pull out of them. I have to

go into Boston for an operation to remove two tumors in my bladder, but if I am ok, I will be able to go home the same day. Pearl and Walter Pillion are enjoying their new house, and Walt is in the garden, busy raising vegetables to give to the neighbors. Bob Keck take notice. Phyllis and Earl Dunn were trying to make Williamsburg, but Doctor's appointments got in the way. They have a daughter living in Richmond, Va. so they were also going to bring them with them, that would have been their first reunion. Hopefully they can make West Point, Cookie Senica is at his assisted living home, but we think of him constantly, he was our Company Clerk, in the Company. You all know that we lost Shorty Glasser, this year, he attended many of our Reunions, and he will be missed. I still wonder how he ever managed to have a 50 caliber machine gun mounted on his jeep. Last but not least Pauline and Ed Brown came to Williamsburg, we put him to work, and I must say he lost his calling. He should have been a Maitre'd, rather than a teacher, putting people at their table at our banquet. It seems we always have something to do, at the reunions. We always get the best. That is all for now

> — Chuck Abdinoor, B & A Company, 330th. Regiment 9/29/2010





From: Rudolph Zamula

To All.

Jeanne Florio, Kathleen Powers and I attended the impressive ceremony at the Fort Myer Chapel followed by the grave side ceremony with a 21 (3X7) gun salute, a marching band and a group of five 83rd re-enactors with authentic shoulder patches. I brought, on behalf of the 83rd Association, an 83rd wreath (fall colors) with the 331st motto - "See it Through." A beautiful sunny day, some late autumn leaves and a landscape of thousands of crosses. Jeanne will have photos for the Thunderbolt.

Rudy Zamula 83rd Inf Div Archivist

Rudy,

Thank you for letting us know about the ceremony. It was especially meaningful that you and Kathleen were able to represent the 83rd. It sounds like it was a very touching tribute from a grateful nation in honor of George. How thoughtful of you to place the colorful wreath at the grave site to show a sign respect and appreciation of George's life.

I've been in touch with Jeanne and I'm sure she knows that although many of us could not be present for the ceremony, our prayers and thoughts are with her and George's family.

With much gratitude, Carmella

GEORGE HENRY WAPLE, III (Age 89) Capt. U.S. Army (Ret.) Born Waples Mill, VA, February 8, 1921. Died Eatontown, NJ, July 10, 2010. Horse Calvary, Ft. Myer, Veteran of WWII and Korea. Author: "Country Boy Gone Soldiering". Service 1 p.m. November 10, Old Post Chapel, Arlington National Cemetery; full military honors.

Col. William M. Calnan, Fairfax Council Member

William M. Calnan, 90, a retired Army colonel who fought in World War II, Korea and Vietnam and who later served on the Fairfax City Council, died of pneumonia June 22, 2010 at his home in Arlington County.

Shortly after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1943, Col. Calnan was sent to Normandy as a platoon leader. For bravery leading his men through minefields in Belgium, Col. Calnan received the Silver Star.

He served as a battalion commander in Korea. In 1967, Col. Calnan became a senior adviser for South Vietnam forces and helped lead troops during the Tet Offensive. He retired from the Army in 1970 as the chief of the operations and readiness division in the office of the Army's deputy chief of staff.

In retirement, Col. Calnan served as the coordinator for civil defense and emergency planning for Montgomery County. He was elected to the Fairfax City Council in 1980 and served for two years. William Michael Calnan, a native Washingtonian, was a 1936 graduate of Western High School. He received a master's degree in international relations from Georgetown University in 1961.

In addition to the Silver Star, Col. Calnan's military decorations include four awards of the Bronze Star Medal and a Purple Heart.

His wife of 56 years, Marie Baylies Calnan, died in 2004. Survivors include five children, retired Army Lt. Col. Michael Calnan of Vicksburg, Miss., Margaret Jantz of Catonsville, Md., Barbara Calnan of Roanoke, Kathleen Calnan of Arlington and Denise Chamberlin of Richmond; a sister; three grandchildren; and one greatgranddaughter. ▼



Legacy Chapter Highlights

Do you know what the Legacy Chapter is? It is an official chapter of the 83rd Infantry Association which operates under the 83rd By-Laws, Membership Rules, and Procedures. The vision of the Legacy Chapter is to live out and preserve the heart, soul, and history of the 83rd in WWII; honoring them, their loved ones, and the US military through our organization and our individual lives. It was established in 2008 and has progressed yearly, thanks to the incredible members who volunteer to make it a success. This year, George Studor was elected chairman at the Reunion in Williamsburg. He has worked tirelessly to set up and organize the goals, rules, and projects which will be the focus of the chapter. Wilfried DeBacher is our European contingent rep. Paula Nezezon was elected secretary of this year's chapter and has already helped pull off our first monthly telecon on September 19th.

To become a member of the Legacy Chapter, you only have to be a paid member of the 83rd Association, and just request to be added to the L.C. roster. That's all there is to it!

It is really helpful and gratifying to be more personally in touch with the 83rd vets and their families between reunions and we are hoping to make the "State Reps" of the Legacy Chapter the core of our effort to reach out. We are in the process of checking with the previous years reps for their willingness to continue, and hope to identify *more State Reps* that would like to help in the states that have larger 83rd population. We are working to set up a *State Rep Coordinator*, a *Communications Coordinator*, and a *Projects Coordinator* to help with follow through on the many great ideas people are suggesting.

We would like to invite any 83rd Association Member to become a member of the Chapter and help us with ideas, reunion assistance, or support. If you have a passion for the veterans like we do, please consider a membership. The Chapter meets monthly by teleconference. We have people from all over



George Studor (L), Chairman, Legacy Chapter; Paula Nezezon (R), Secretary, Legacy Chapter

the US and Europe who work together for this cause. To get information on the next meeting date and time, or to join the Legacy Chapter, please contact:

George Studor — (763)-208-9283/ amstudor@juno.com

Paula Nezezon — (315-769-3385/ dads83rdinfantry@gmail.com

We really hope to hear from you because together we can make a big difference for the Veterans and their families. FYI — Next year, the Reunion will be held at West Point. Carmella says it will be incredible! Don't miss out!

Paula Nezezon
 Secretary of the Legacy Chapter

"Thunderbolt Division Memory"

Dear Paula and the rest of the legacy chapter,

Last Sunday the European Legacy Chapter came together at the Antic Wall Museum at Raversijde Belgium. Remy and Eddy had first some difficulties to arrive in Oostende due to problems with the train (Wire broke) and after 6 hours of travelling they finally made it.

Remy Mortelette, Eddy Monfort, Wim Doms and myself from Belgium, Jean Paul Pitou and his wife. Christiane from Normandy, Thijs Hodiamont from the Netherlands and Henri Scheitler and his wife from Luxembourg were present in Oostende. Gilles and Antoine of Bretagne couldn't make it.

As we talked about the BY LAWS of the 83rd it became clear that making a European structure under the By Laws of the USA organisation won't be so easy to do because of all the different laws in France, Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg. We need to look this through further and decided that at this moment we will be an informal European Chapter that work together with the organisation of the 83RD in the USA. The question was also asked "What do the people of the USA expect from us as a European Chapter?"

We also decided to communicate directly all together, with each other and with the Chapter so when new people are coming our way we can check the sincereness of the individuals and avoid problems with people who are only looking for information to gain from it (see some cases from past).

We talked about coming all together to the reunion at West Point next year. Remy, Thijs, Eddy, Jean Paul and myself are coming already. Henri Scheitler is looking for a way to attend aswell. Wim Doms is thinking about it and Jean Paul is going to ask it to Gilles and Antoine.

Next reunion is at the Mars of the 83rd in Bihain and everybody of us it ready to help out Eddy and Rémy when they need some help. Wim will walk with some groups. Rémy will photograph the event. Eddy is coordinator. I bring my Jeep and together with others will drive the special guests to the different towns. There will be an inauguration of a new steel/monument for the 83rd in Bihain and as it looks write know we will have some 8 people coming over from the USA.

We also hope that Cliff Snyder and his family, Bill Spriggs and family or maybe others can join us as well.

Wim Doms is working on a project in the Huertgenwald and in the future we will go to those towns to photograph and analyse the area.

Project of finding MIA's. Everybody realises that it won't be a very easy thing to do. I made a list of veterans missing and the first one appeared already been found and burried at Arlington cemetary.

Dates does not always correspond with the day they disappeared. I'm going to talk with an organisation here in Belgium who already found several pilots and try to gather information of how to proceed. In the meantime everybody looks through the list and try to find information about the missing soldiers (list above). We also need contacts in Germany and I will contact the individuals from the list of Cliff we recieved recently. Help from the US is neccessary as well if we want to succeed. (from Chapter — veterans — Archives — Saint Louis morning reports)

Henri Scheitler has several contacts in Henri Chapelle and tries to know how many graves of the 83rd aren't adopted yet. He also has a good contact with the US Ambassador in Luxembourg and he will try to figger out with his contacts how we can bring the US Ambassador in Belgium to the Mars in Bihain.

Due to the late hour already Jean Paul, Christiane and Henri and his wife, who had a long trip to go, left our meeting and the others visited the Antic Wall museum at Raversijde. (Some picture of it together with our picture of coming together I will sent you asap or if Eddy is quicker he will sent them.)

At 5pm we closed the reunion and everybody went home again.

Best to all of you

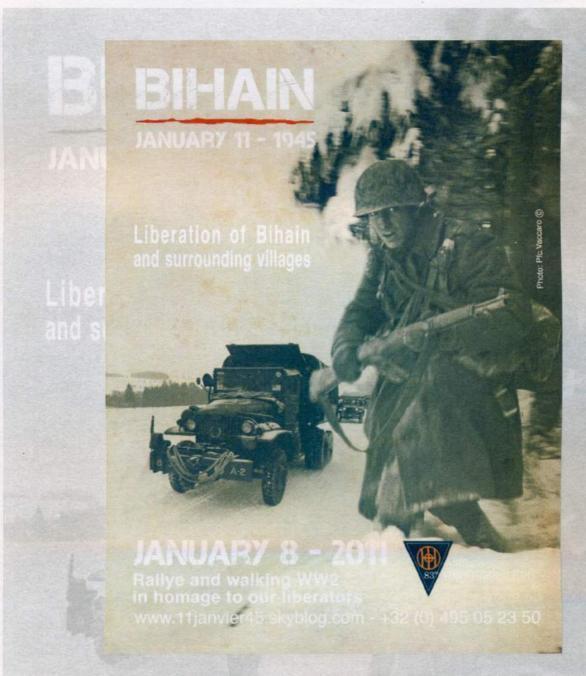
Wilfried

First 83rd European Meeting

This past weekend Nov. 6 and 7, 2010 nine European 83rd members met for the first time to discuss forming a 83rd European Chapter. They met at the Antic Wall near Ostende, Belgium on the North Sea. Four countries were represented.



Left to right: Eddy Monfort Belgium; Wilfried DeBacker, Belgium; Remy Mortelette, France and Belgium; Maria Scheidtler, Luxemburg; Jean Paul Pitou, France; Henri Scheidtler, Luxemburg; Thijs Hodiamont, The Netherlands; Wim Doms, Belgium; and Christiane Lenourry, France.



This is a poster advertising the Bihain Marche coming up on 8 Jan. 2011, Bihain, Belgium in homage to the WW II American soldier. Especially the 83rd soldiers who helped liberate this area of Belgium. Can anyone guess without looking at the small print who the poster soldier is? Eddy Monfort put this up on facebook recently and I gleaned it from there. Eddy says, "We have a nice itinerary for vehicles and people across forest and field." The marche will cross the towns of Bihain, Mont-le-Ban, Cherain, Baclain, Langlire, Provedroux, Lansival, Ottre, Hevbronval, and Regne. They will stop for lunch in Langlire. The Headquarters is the Bed and Breakfast in Bihain operated by excellent hosts. Good place to stay also.

If anyone is only remotely interested in attending contact Eddy.

- Dave Dimmick

Deceased List

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

Name	Unit	Reported by
Samuel Wingate Badgett	HQ 329th Inf.	
Francis Beerhalter	Co. H 329th	
Col. William M. Calnan	Co. C 308th Engineers	Curtis J. Herrick Jr.
Sgt. Harold Hanna	H Co. 331st Inf.	Emannuel Lamb
William R. Hoag		
Raymond J. Martinak	A Co. 331st Inf.	Johnny Martinak
Paul J. Reed, Jr.	A Co. 330th	Charles Abdinoor
Charles Sihlanick	322 F.A.	Stan Bielen
John J. Spickler, Jr.	B Co. 329th Inf.	Joanne Meiskey (Niece)
George H. Waple	331st	Jeanne Florio, Rudy Zamula

Another Soldier Gone!

I am deeply saddened to let all know that Paul J. Reed Jr. passed away August 27th. Paul was 91 years old, he passed at his home the Oak Crest Village retirement community. His wife, Dolores passed in 2009, and a son Paul J. Reed III passed away in 1976. Paul was an attorney and earned his law degree in 1941. He enlisted in the army in 1942. After basic training, he was put into a tank battalion, he told me that him being an attorney he was best suited as a motorcycle driver, reconoitering areas, and roads directing tanks to their positions. This did not last long, they put him in officers candidate school. He graduated from Fort Benning, Georgia as a 2nd. Lieutenant. He joined the 83rd. in Belgium, in fact we just got off the lines in the Bulge, when he joined us at Walterneineburg, Belgium. He was given the 3rd. Platoon, of A-Company, 330th. Regiment. The first day he came, was in his green officers coat. It did not take long, the very next day he ripped the back of it and that was the end of that. He told us, emphatically that he was not a thirty-day wonder, but a ninety-day wonder. He was a true leader, and brought the platoon through the rest of the war. There are many, many incidents that people would not believe what we went through. but with his leadership, we, the survivors made it home. I could go on and on about Paul. but he was also our Judge Advocate for two years, and attended many reunions with his wife Dolores. I had the occasion of stopping on our way, and back from Florida, to visit him. We also stayed at his summer residence at Ocean City, Maryland, where we boated and fished off his 31ft. Bertram Cruiser. He also on occasion came to our Boston meetings, with Dolores and stayed at my house. He will surley be missed by surviving members of the Third Platoon, and I, indeed have lost another buddy. Rest well, buddy.

Chuck, B-A, 330th.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Robert F. McDonnell Governor

August 12, 2010

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia, I am pleased to extend warm greetings to everyone attending the 64th Annual 83rd Infantry Division Reunion.

A grateful Commonwealth thanks you for your dedicated and faithful service to defending the freedoms we enjoy. During these challenging times, the courage and devotion that you displayed as members of the United States Army are more important than ever.

It is important to recognize the dedication and sacrifice of our armed forces and their families. I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to send my gratitude. Virginia is home to tens of thousands of military service members, veterans, and their families and many thousands more are stationed in far away places across the globe. Rest assured that Virginia's thoughts and prayers are always with them.

I wish you a happy and successful reunion and thank you for your courageous service.

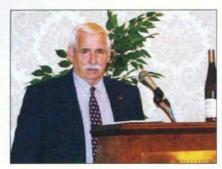
Sincerely,

Robert F. McDonnell

— 64TH ANNUAL REUNION, WILLIAMSBURG, VA —



John Markuns, Judge Advocate (L)



John White, Reunion President



Mathew Pintar, Co. L, 329th Infantry



John White & Ray O'Donnell



Bobbie White & June Zenz



Carol & George Buckley, June Zenz



Chuck Abdinoor & Bob McNabb



Bob Keck and Mathew Pintar



Granddaughters of Capt. Joe Macaluso



LTC(R) Kathleen Powers and husband Tom. Kathleen is daughter of Joe Macaluso



Christian Heine & Richard Alexander, Jr.



Arthur Wagner and his wife





Arthur and Charlotte Loukas



Manny Epstein and Ellsworth Massie



Susan Pray, 83rd Secretary and Becky Dimmick



Mathew Pintar, Geoffrey & Anne Tisdell



Rob, Phyllis and Bob Keck with Cliff Wooldridge



George Studor (L), Chairman -Legacy Chapter, Rande Nezezon (R)



Rande Nezezon (L), Paula Nezezon (R), Secretary, Legacy Chapter



Geoffrey Tisdell, June Zenz, Jennifer Tisdell, Anne Tisdell



Richard Alexander, Tony Vaccaro – Exec. Board, Rudy Zamula – Archivist



Carol Keck Gill, Geoffrey Tisdale, Bob Keck





Ann Marie Arsenault, John Markuns, Francis Markuns



Henry Weylend Hicks, Henry W. Hicks, Jr.



Christian Heine, Jr. and Richard Alexander



Bernie & Helen Sheffield



Kathryn and Ellsworth Massie, Chaplain



Joe Macalusa Family, descendants







Jeanette and Bill McKee



Bob and Gladys Taylor, B Co. 329th



Bobbi and Jeff Collyer



Ray "Spider" Richter



Manny Epstein, Susan Pray, Bob McNabb



Jeanne Florio and Al Klugiewicz, HQ 331st



Nancy McCarthy, Susan Pray, Carmella Catrambone, Carol Gill





Glenn Wible and Eunice Goodwin



Lisa Kunnel (R)



Becky and George Bourget



Jocelyn and Ray O'Donnell



Arthur Wagner & his wife



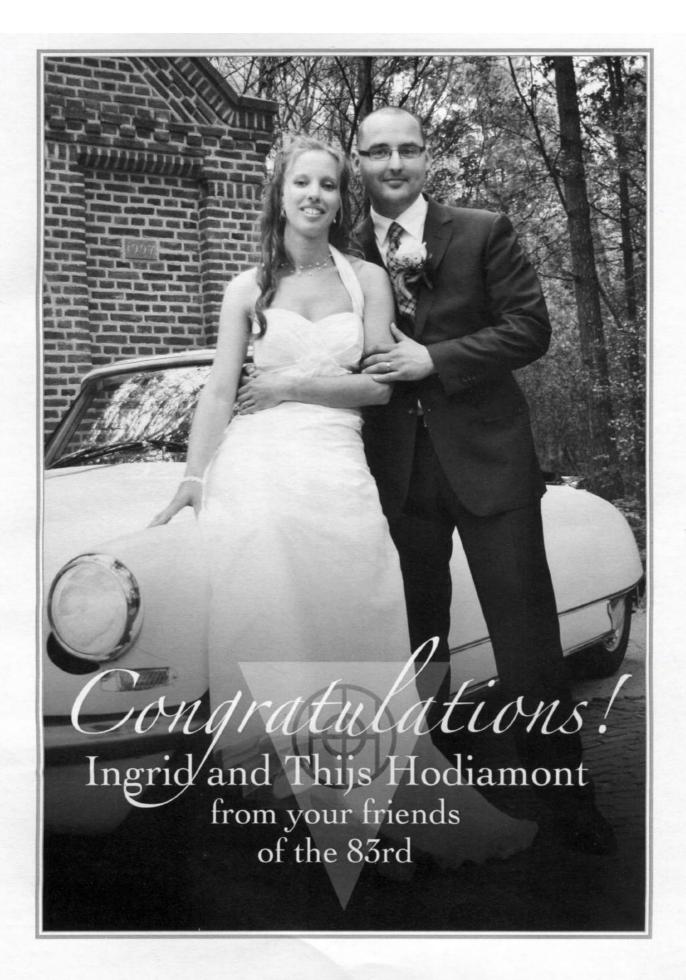
George & Carol Buckley



Michelle & Michael Rudy



Becky & Dave



THANKS TO A WW II VETERAN

Dear Friends,

June 9, 2009

It is very important that our young people learn about the wars of the past so that we can be guaranteed peace in the future.

is in the 4th grade and Joey is in the 2nd. I spoke to the principal and told him a little bit about the 83rd Infantry and that this year's reunion would be in King of Prussia, PA. I mentioned that it would be nice if one of the classes in the school would make a card and sign it to pass along to the veterans One day I decided to call the elementary school attended by my granddaughter and grandson. Karli at the reunion. He thought that was a great idea and said he would take care of it.

her class wrote a letter to our dear veterans as a thank-you for fighting for their freedom in entire 4th grade class of Culbertson Elementary School in Newtown Square, PA spent an afternoon learning about the battle of Normandy. In appreciation of the 83rd Infantry Division, each member of On May 15th my granddaughter called me to tell me she brought something home from school. Her Normandy and all through WWII.

be on display for all of you to read at the reunion. Accompanying the letters at the reunion will be a picture of these dear children who in later years will proudly remember that they wrote a letter of A couple of the letters are displayed (below) within this edition of the Thunderbolt. The rest will thanks to a WWII veteran.

Carmella Catrambone, 1st Vice President

Dean Veteram,

hard work. My Shondeather was a many proud of your brought hower of your brown greed hope your brown would hope you your work for your brown server we became hope you would always server server you what you did the will we will be will!

Bran Vetran

ond how proud ob your hard work ond how your solubliced your life. I am proud That you stood your the general That you stood you to the grands, my grow showy respect you of how you get to see your for entire you you got to see you you and Thank you for all that you four show thouse the generaley.

U.S.A U.S.A



"These are scans of the original letters my Dad received at the beginning of the outfit"... George Studor



TO FORMER THUNDERBOLTS OF THE 83RD DIVISION:

Many inquiries have been received as to when the Division Association would be founded.

At a meeting in Washington attended by Ferenbaugh (Assistant Division Commander), Pack (329th Infantry), Sharpe (329th Infantry), Campbell (330th Infantry), Sellers (331st Infantry), Snyder (C Company, 329th Infantry), Jaynes (H Company, 331st Infantry), and Waple (331st Infantry), it was decided to sample all ranks and grades in all outfits assigned and attached during European Operations to find out just what was wanted as to dues, conventions, association newspaper and other details. Of the 30,000 former members of the Division 3,000 have been asked to fill out the questionnaire and return without delay. Names of former members have been secured from the roster used in mailing copies of the Division History.

Based on the results of the sampling of the 3,000, a complete membership campaign will be started immediately with a view to having the best division association to represent the best damn division the Army ever had!

You have been selected to give us your opinions on the details necessary to organize the Division Association. Attached you will find a questionnaire — fill out and return in the enclosed envelope. Please give us your answer to the questions — but quick — we want to get started!

If you have any other ideas on the subject not covered by the questionnaire, send them along — all will be appreciated.

Best regards,

FOR THE COMMITTEE

C. B. FERENBAUGH

Brigadier General, USA

Military District of Washington



To all members of the 83d Division:

I know that many times since you left the 83d, you have wondered where Tom, Dick or Hubert were. Well, we have waited long enough -- let me tell you what we have done.

A group of eleven former Thunderbolts decided to find out if other members were interested. We mailed out 3000 question-naires covering many questions such as - Association? Yes or no, Dues, Reunion (place and date), etc. From these we found 1000 were interested and we decided to go ahead.

This letter is going out to approximately 33,000 men who were on our records.

LET'S FORM A DIVISION ASSOCIATION:

If we do we can revew the old friendships, find out where others are, have a reunion and fight the familiar battles again. There are so many things we COULD DO.

--- HERE IT IS ---

As a result of the summary of what 1000 of us answered it was decided to:

- 1. Form an association with annual dues of \$4.00 (This may be too much but, if so, it can be reduced at the yearly meeting after an operating fund is created).
 - 2. Publish a monthly newspaper.
 - 3. Have an annual reunion -
 - a. Place: Cleveland, Ohio, for 1947
 - b. Time: Friday and Saturday, August 15 and 16.
 - 4. Matters to be discussed and voted on at reunion -
 - a. Adoption of bylaws and constitution
 - b. Annual election of officers

- Speakers on Veterans' matters, national subjects of importance.
- d. Program for 1948 for Division Association.
- e. Any other subjects to be brought before the meeting.
- 5. Have a helluva good time together again.

The Infantry Journal has kindly offered to assist us with organization details, printing, compiling mailing lists and the monthly newspaper which should be off the press either in March or April with initial copy.

If you know of any former member of our Division who has not received a copy of this letter, have him request same from 83rd Division Association, c/o Infantry Journal, 1115 17th Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

Division Histories -- There are approximately 1100 extra copies of the Division History, "Thunderbolt Across Europe", on hand at the Infantry Journal. The price is \$0.75 which will help pay for the printing and mailing of these letters.

Just one thing more and then we'll sign off. Let's make this the best damn division association in being -- anything else would not be fitting tribute to the finest division the Army has ever known.

Necessary forms are enclosed for your membership application. Best regards to you and yours. SEE YOU IN CLEVELAND IN AUGUST !! Headquarters and registration desk will be at the Hotel Carter. Several hundred hotel rooms have already been reserved. Wire the hotel for reservations.

For the committee,

C. B. FERENBAUGH

Brigadier General, USA Military District of Washington



Remember: let us know if you change your address.

Remember:
Reunion —
Cleveland, Ohio
Aug 15th & 16th
Headquarters at
Hotel Carter

Cut along this line.

83d Inf Div Association c/o The Inf Journal

1115 17th Street NW

Washington 6, D. C.

Save top part, put in pocketbook for reference.

Mail bottom part, with remittance, in enclosed envelope.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name (Please Print) First	Middle	Last
Rank ASN	. Address	
		Number and Street
City or Town		State
I served with the 83rd Infantry Division in		
	Co., Troop, Btry.	Bn. or Regt.
, from	to	
Arm or Service		
Decorations: (Check)	Campaign Stars: (C	heck)
Silver Star	Normandy	
Legion of Merit	Brittany	51004104
Soldiers Medal	Central Europe	
Bronze Star	Ardennes	
Purple Heart	Rhineland	49 (344444)
Others		
I now have an honorable discharge	or separation from my Army Service	, or I am still on activ
luty		
I will or will not atte	nd the REUNION. I think I will b	e able to attend the reunion
I hereby apply for regular membersh the above are correct to the best of my		ciation and certify that my answers to
Check or Money Order (\$4.00) paya 7th Street NW, Washington 6, D. C. is		ociation c/o The Infantry Journal, 111
Date	Signature	
2.5.—Please continue to send us the name		the division. Also ask everyone else to

83rd ITEMS FOR SALE

83RD YELLOW SHIRTS (SHORT SLEEVES)

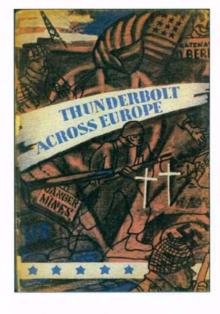
Left front pocket with small black 83rd Triangle WWII; Back with large black 83rd Triangle WW II; 50% cotton, 50% polyester, Machine wash, Tumble dry.

COST: \$26 ea. includes shipping

	SIZE	QTY.
SMALL (only 7 left)		
MEDIUM		
LARGE		
EXTRA LARGE		







Reprint of Original Book THUNDERBOLT ACROSS EUROPE

COST: \$45.00 ea.

<u>5.00</u> shipping and handling

\$50.00 total

QTY. ____

TO ORDER: Fill out quantities above. Make your check pa	yable to:
83rd Inf. Div. Association and send with this "order sheet" to 83rd Inf.	Div. Assn.,
P.O. 406, Alton Bay, NH 03810. Questions- please call 603-875-3649. SHIP TO:	
Your Tel. #	

2011 Reunion will be held at

THE THAYER HOTEL
WEST POINT, NEW YORK

1-800-247-5047

www.thethayerhotel.com August 3 - 7, 2011

WOULD YOU LIKE A ROSTER OF THE 2010 MEMBERSHIP?

This Roster includes all members who have paid their dues for 2010 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

2011 Membership Dues (\$25) were Payable August 1, 2010

** 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

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TO:	Stephen A. Bartha I 329th 3730 Sunbird Cir Sebring FL 33872	iay havo s	eded the	

<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 2011 WERE DUE AUGUST 1, 2010

-		RENEWALNEW
NAME (please print)		
ADDRESS		
CITY, STATE, ZIP		
Company	Regiment	83rd Division
Phone	e-mail	
		Fall10
DESCENDANT ASS	OCIATE OTHER_	
Name of 83rd Division M	ember	
Date:	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.