



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.
WORLD WAR II

Vol. 66 Issue No. 2

Spring Issue 2011

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



WEST POINT, NY * AUGUST 3–7, 2011

THE THUNDERBOLT

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A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

1947 James C. Hanrahan*	1964 Julius Boyles*	1981 Michael Caprio*	1998 R. C. Hamilton
1948 Jack M. Straus*	1965 Samuel Klippa*	1982 Ralph Gunderson*	1999 Pat DiGiammerino*
1949 Shelly Hughes*	1966 William M. Doty*	1983 Arthur Doggett*	2000 Salvatore Scicolone
1950 Julius Ansel*	1967 Albert B. Belvedere	1984 Bernie Cove*	2001 Pat DiGiammerino*
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1952 Leo Schneider*	1969 Pat DiGiammerino*	1986 John Hobbs*	2003 Salvatore Scicolone
1953 Finley Heyl*	1970 Casey Szubski*	1987 George Fletcher*	2004 Allison Shrawder*
1954 Lawrence J. Redmond*	1971 Charles Altomari*	1988 Charles Schmidt*	2005 Ames H. Miller*
1955 Lawrence J. Redmond*	1972 Harold H. Dopp*	1989 Edward Reuss*	2006 Rudy Zamula
1956 Lt. Gen. Robert H. York*	1973 Louis J. Volpi*	1990 Charles J. Lussier	2007 Robert Keck
1957 Harry W. Lockwood*	1974 Bernard O. Riddle*	1991 Edgar H. Haynes*	2008 Michael Catrambone*
1958 Raymond J. Voracek*	1975 Robert G. Taylor	1992 Ned Smith*	2009 John White
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*	

*Denotes Deceased



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CARMELLA CATRAMBONE

Before we know it, our 65th reunion will be upon us. Cliff Snyder and I have been busy planning. I often daydream about the Bear Mountains and the Hudson River near our hotel and think about the beautiful scenery surrounding our next reunion. Because of my many visits, I've seen this location in each season now and I am not really sure if I can decide which is the most beautiful. I've just returned from visiting West Point and there was lots of snow. I dare say that we will not have that problem in August.

If you will be travelling by airplane to the reunion, try to choose a flight to Stewart Airport. Most of the major airlines land there. It is the closest to West Point. If you are driving and want to set your GPS, do not set it for West Point, as I did my very first trip, because it may take you to the wrong entrance of the Military Academy. Instead, please use the Thayer Hotel address as your final destination or Highland Falls. That will take you directly to the correct entrance for the hotel.

The West Point area is quaint and not surrounded by commercial districts. However, besides the dining room in the Hotel, there are several casual restaurants outside the gates of the Military Academy, within walking distance in the town of Highland Falls. There's even a McDonald's for those who like fast food.

Wednesday evening, after everyone arrives and has dinner, we will all relax in the hospitality room where we will be visited by several West Point cadets. They are looking

forward to meeting and talking to the veterans of the 83rd in this casual setting. I'm sure the veterans and their families will enjoy meeting and talking to the young cadets as well.

Thursday is a very special day when we will take part in a ceremony in the Cadet Chapel and listen to the chapel organ. This is the largest church organ in the world. The cemetery is adjacent to the chapel and we will tour it and place a wreath on the gravesite of Col. York, commander of the 331st. Then we will board buses for a tour of the Military Academy completing our tour just in time for a leisurely lunch at the West Point Club (formerly the West Point Officers Club). This restaurant is located on the edge of the Hudson River. After lunch, if you would rather go back to the hotel, you can do so. If not, those who would like to join us, will stay on the bus to visit the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor which is only a short distance from West Point. This facility offers the opportunity to view military history and the stories of human sacrifice. The veterans will also have the opportunity to share their stories. We will return to the hotel well before dinner so everyone has the opportunity to relax in the hospitality room or take a nap.

Friday you can sleep in a little later. We will board a lovely Mississippi Riverboat for a cruise and tour of the Hudson River. During the cruise, we will feast on a buffet lunch. Captain John "Duke" Panzella, Peter and their crew are excited to have us aboard. Peter said his father fought in WWII and he is honored



to be able to host all of you. We will return back to the hotel early afternoon. Friday evening after dinner, be ready for an exciting evening of entertainment. The USO will perform for us with lots of musical favorites, especially songs from the 40's. You never know what will happen, the Andrew Sisters just might decide to show up!

Saturday, we will have our Memorial Service, Catholic Mass, and end up with our Saturday evening banquet. Of course, between all of the events previously mentioned, we will sprinkle in some meetings and lots of surprises.

This should be an exciting reunion that everyone will enjoy. For many of you, the reunion is your annual vacation. If you decide to extend your vacation and stay at the Thayer Hotel, they will honor the reduced rate for a day on each side. You might want to visit some of the surrounding areas instead. There are lots of things to see within the region. I hope you will take advantage of the opportunity.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you in August.

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

ELLSWORTH MASSIE

A prayer for our organization.

Let us keep each other in mind and remember in prayer each in good times and in the time of old age and the inability to do what we could when we were younger! This will strengthen our bond of fellowship with until our allotted day of our earthly stay are completed.

Give those who follow us strength and foresight for the days ahead! In Christ's Name we pray!

* * * * *

Christmas Dixie Style. 83rd Division.

Another chapter has been added to our history!

We all seem to be getting older but more determined to keep our meetings and remembering those who cannot be with us for whatever reason. It has paid off with a great meeting from all over the country! We missed many faces but met new ones for the very first time! Welcome into our brotherhood!

The weather is terrible. I drove in SOME vain from Md. to Pidgeon Forge! The sun came out so we stopped and shopped before coming to the hotel! Got settled in and found out who was coming!

Gradually our group became a reality Some are here for five days. Some for one night. Some called and cancelled because of sickness.

We who are present are able to enjoy each other and take up the slack. We are welcomed by our Hostess, Flo Jackson, who is being helped by our very own John and Bobby White! Together they do a tremendous job. All others who helped are to be commended! Many brought food for the hospitality room! Twas delicious from all over the country!! Keep it up next year!!!

We remember and mourn the deaths of so many of our long time friends and collaborators!

It seems like we had 50+ present for [the] banquet and 'Santa' appearance with gifts for all the children and a gift exchange for the grownups. Followed by the 'Annual auction' lead this year by John White. He's so talented and willing! What a terrific job he did! Selling bed spreads, pillows, rugs, and other items donated by various members and associates! Let us thank each one for their kindness shown!

Several larger family groups were present. My camera didn't work. I'm hoping that some pics will show up and be printed so our wide-

spread membership can see what we're doing in Dixie. Come on down next time!!

Our elected officers from our descendants performed well! I'm so happy to see them in the places of responsibility and doing well. We who are older (has beens) need to support them so that our organization may be well and strong into the foreseeable future!!

Our group is quite remarkable. Coming from the very corner of the country to remember and honor each one of our group present and absent! Standing together, looking into the unknown future in the coming years!

Thanks to all from your reporter.

— Ellsworth Massie

FROM THE EDITOR

CLIFF WOOLDRIDGE

Back in January I wasn't feeling too well so I went to the hospital and found out later that I had a mini stroke. I'm slowly getting back to normal - only thing is I shake, tire out easily and have no ambition what so ever. This is one reason the Thunderbolt is late.



We lost a good man this past year – George Waple. Jeanne Floria, Rudy Zamula and Alex Klugiewicz represented the 83rd and presented the 83rd wreath (see picture).

Carmella and Cliff Snyder have a great program set up for us in West Point. See the registration forms in this Thunderbolt.

Visit Camp Shanks "Last Stop USA" Museum and Piermont Pier on the Hudson — it is on the way from NYC to West Point! Camp Shanks typically held 50,000 troops on 2,040 acres (8.3 km²) and was the largest World War II Army embarkation camp, processing 1.3 million service personnel including 75% of those participating in the D-Day invasion. It operated from 1942 – 1946. The museum, opened in June 1994, is in one of 3 Quonset huts used as an elementary school just off base. <http://www.rocklandhistory.org/>



CHAPTERS

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

ROBERT TAYLOR
B Co. 329TH

Greetings from the Sunshine State!

We've been in a state of limbo for most of the past year, but recently we did get together at our favored place. The Inn On The Lakes, in Sebring. Due to age and attrition we are meeting just once each year now. Our former 3 meeting per year became a burden upon some of us who must travel hundreds of miles each way and who now depend upon others to bring us.

But we had 30 people at our Saturday Evening Banquet and are very happy with that.

Our agenda at this meeting was, primarily, to honor the Hotel Management for it's outstanding co-operation and service to our organization over the past years.

Appreciation Plaques were presented from our Chapter to both the Hotel Management and to the Banquet Services Management. It is our understanding that this is the first and only time that any group has done this. Hotel Personnel were extremely impressed and appreciative.

At our Business Meeting our President, Bob Taylor, expressed his desire to step down from that office. After a discussion on this our Descendant Member, Mary Jean Houlahan, was nominated and elected by acclamation, to succeed Bob as President. We are all wishing her the best in the coming year, and she'll have our utmost co-operation. Bob has agreed to remain active as Chapter Secretary and Thunder Bolt Reporter, and John Prinzi remains as Treasurer.

The people whose presence made this meeting the success that it was, are these: Our new President, Mary Jean/Tom Houlahan, John/Ona Prinzi, Jim/Dot Brennan, Bill/Jeanette McKee, Sam/Ruby Castelli,

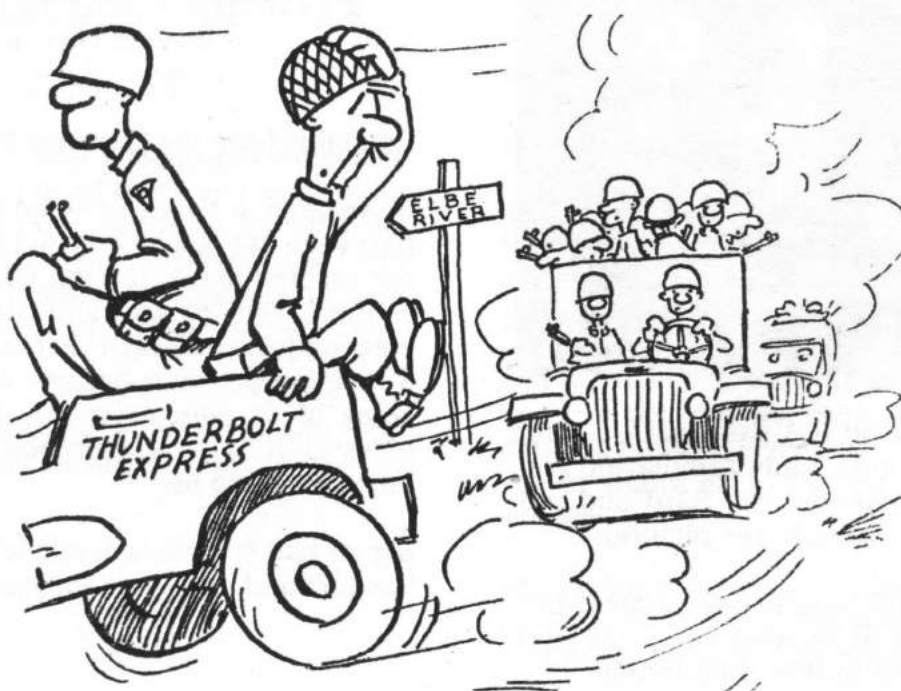
Bob/Gladys Taylor, Allen Fisher/Friend, Glenn Wible/Friend, Paul Dillon, Manny Epstein, and Harry/Barbara Gravelyn along with their daughter Mary and husband Gary Darling, who accompanied them.

Also in attendance were the following Widows of departed members, ladies who have remained an honored and valued part of our Chapter, Geri Gunderson (Ralph), Nina Pettiti (Mike), Ruth Brown (Frank), Donna Camp (Joe), and our newest member June Zenz (Joe).

Paul Hancher and wife Betty were scheduled to attend but, unfortunately, Betty had to cancel because of illness. Paul did check in, with daughter Jamie, but later left and returned home due to feeling ill, himself. I talked to Paul 2 days later and he was at home, in bed, with a case of pneumonia. He did say that both he and Betty were feeling better.

We left our meeting happy with the great turnout of our closest friends, and the outlook for an even better reunion next February. And several of us are looking forward to meeting again at West Point

Y'all be there, too!!





Dear Members,

Is anyone living that crossed the Elbe River at 1:30pm on April 13, 1945?? I was in Co. C, 329th; 60mm mortar Sgt. and we crossed in pallet boats into the town of Walternienburg. (The President had died on April 12, 1945). We were on our way to Zerbst but stopped short and met the Russians. The 83rd Div. finished the war further East of any other British or American unit. (I have never heard that anywhere.) Everyone should know that the Combat Inf. Badge was upgraded to a Bronze Star after we were discharged (1947)

Gilbert W. Dodson
Co. C, 329th
615-665-2476
11 Burton Hills Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37215
Unit #312-N

2138 Keewaydin Road
Frenchville, PA 16836
April 25, 2011

Dear Friends of John D. Askey:

We are sorry to inform you of the death of our father, John D. Askey on April 12, 2011. Dad was infected with MRSA either through a prostate biopsy or changing of a catheter. The MRSA infection attacked a valve in his heart and the antibiotics that were needed to fight the infection led to kidney failure.

Dad lived his life in anticipation of the great reward of eternal life. He was a great example for his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. He was a wonderful and loving father, and more importantly a good husband to our Mother for seventy years. On his worst days near the end, he still proclaimed his love to Mother without fail.

Our mother, Grace, suffered a stroke on February 25, 2011 and is recovering (weakness in right leg) at a Rehabilitation Facility. Her address for the next month is:

Grace Askey
Mt. Laurel Rehab Center
700 Leonard Street
Room 128
Clearfield, PA 16836

Dad cherished his friendship with you all,
Ron Askey & Linda Askey Kronenwetter

From: <Stanfran83rd@aol.com>
Subject: Joe Deperi

I received a call this morning from Joe Beatrice the son-in-law of Joe that Joe DePeri passed away on December 31st, 10 minutes before the New Year with all his family by his side. Joe had been very ill for the past two years with heart trouble.

Joe had served in Company F, 330th Infantry, 83rd Division, and had been a very active member of the New Jersey Chapter since it's beginning.

You can send condolences to his daughter's home

Mrs. Joann Beatrice
133 Washington Ave.
Elmwood Park, N.J. 07407

From: Curt Herrick
Subject: RE: George Waple Obit

Rudy, Thank you for including me in your announcement address list.

I met George at the recent 83 Inf. Div reunion in the Washington area. I have read his book and grew up in the northern Virginia area. We often travel on Waples Mill Road to visit our son. As a boy, my brother and I walked through the Ft. Myer stables in the late 1940s

on the way to the swimming pool and are familiar with some Army George knew.

As the son-in-law of BG Roy T. Dodge I have had the honor and pleasure to follow the 83rd the last several years.

Best wishes,
Curt

Curtis J. Herrick, Jr.
Colonel, USA Retired ▼

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Who Would Visit Belgium In The Middle Of Winter? I Did, And You Should Too!

By Carmela Cantrambone

A trip to Belgium in January, the coldest month of the year? "What are you thinking?" I asked myself. Others asked me the same question. I'll tell you what I was thinking. I thought about my dear husband, Michael and all of the men of the 83rd who didn't have a choice in 1945 but they went to liberate Bihain and the surrounding villages. I thought about how fortunate I was, during peaceful times, to have the opportunity to visit the places where our courageous men fought. Was it cold? You bet it was! But I was dressed in warm, layered clothing, traveled by military truck or most of the time in a heated car, ate hot meals and, at the end of the day, put my head down on a soft pillow in a warm bed. I did not experience the hardships that the men of the 83rd did, but I felt their presence the entire time. I felt the reality of danger they experienced, and was reminded of their courage which was far beyond belief.

My sister, Theresa, accompanied me to Bihain. She and I have become travel partners now that both of our husbands are gone. Her husband fought in Vietnam so he, too, was a veteran and she appreciates the sacrifice of our veterans. We both arrived in Brussels on Friday afternoon, January 7th, and were greeted by Wilfried DeBacker. He guided us to the train station so we could travel to Liege where we met Eddy Montfort. Eddy drove us to the Bed and Breakfast in Bihain where the March was to begin and where most activities took place. Bill Spriggs from Massina, NY was there with his son, Jeff. Leo Hury from Florida, had also arrived with his son, Tom, daughter-in-law, Barbara, and her mother, Sharon. Some of the re-enactors began arriving for the following day's activities. Bill and Leo had already begun to receive their well-deserved attention as they started to sign autographs and have their pictures taken. These heroes were treated like "stars" and the two gentlemen's eyes really twinkled in delight.

Saturday, January 8th, started with the lineup of marchers, army trucks, jeeps, motorcycles, and anything else military. WWII re-enactors swarmed all around us. It was such an impressive sight. Some were very young, some were women but most were men. This was more than I had ever expected. The event began outside with a ceremony just next to the Bed and Breakfast. The soldiers were lined up in formation as Eddy Montfort gave a welcome speech followed by an acknowledgement of the 83rd Infantry by the mayor of the town. After this portion of the ceremony,

Bill and Leo were instructed to remove the drape from a beautiful monument that had just been placed in honor of the 83rd Infantry. I was asked to lay flowers before the monument and we all stood, full of emotion as our National Anthem was played. The Belgium government has just approved a grant to Robert, the owner of the Bed and Breakfast, to build a museum next to his establishment in honor of Tony Vaccaro and the 83rd Infantry Division. It is currently in the planning stages. The monument is now marking the spot of the future museum.

Our day continued with the caravan of vehicles as well as marchers. We all stopped in Ottre' to pay tribute at the monument of Henry Tannenbaum. Next, we ate lunch in a huge building that was packed with re-enactors. Our final stop was in Malempre', the home of Eddy Montfort and the first village liberated by the 83rd. Eddy reported that approximately 150 re-enactors participated in the day's event and approximately 25 of those represented the 83rd Infantry Division. Adding other people who were not re-enactors, there were approximately 200 people who took part throughout day. The two men who were remarkable through the entire event were Bill Spriggs and Leo Hury. Their energy, excitement, and enthusiasm warmed the hearts of all of us. I was so proud and honored to be in their presence as were the others who attended that day.

There is so much I could say about the March and the entire experience, but I am saving that for the reunion in August. You will see pictures and our friends from Europe will give a presentation so I do not want to duplicate their efforts.

Monday was another heart-warming experience as we visited Luxembourg with the Hury family. Constant Goergen and Marco Eifes, of the U.S. Veterans Friends of Luxembourg gave us a tour of the American cemetery and we paid our respects at the grave of General Patton.

The entire trip was a life-changing experience for me. I felt some of the pain suffered by the people of Belgium as I heard the stories, saw the places where war, death and despair took place, and was horrified when I visited the concentration camp at Breendonk.

I must admit, that I was ignorant of the different groups of the 83rd that exist in Belgium. Wilfried clarified it for me and I would like you to know what is going on. The 83rd Infantry Division Re-enactment Group has been established, headed by Rémy Mortelette. This is the group that took part in the March on January 8th. There is an 83rd Infantry Division Association in Bihain as well. Eddy Montfort is an officer of the Association and responsible for organizing the entire March and all of the activities connected with it. Then there is a group, headed by Wilfried De-Backer, formed as a European Chapter of our US Association. Many individuals participate in all three organizations, working in unison to do everything they can for preserving the memory of the 83rd Infantry Division.

As I said, when I went to Belgium, I took lots of warm clothing and promised myself that I would not complain about the cold weather. When I returned from Belgium, I brought back the warm memories of the lovely people I met there and promised myself that I would not complain, but would be grateful for the blessings I have been given and for our freedom. The people of Belgium are full of gratitude and respect for our country, our veterans, and our people. Their level of respect is far beyond what is experienced here in the US. Don't ever worry that our dear veterans will be forgotten because they are truly keeping the memories forever alive. ▼



DIXIE CHAPTER MEETING

Gatlinburg, Tennessee

December 4, 2010

Officers Present — John Mantooth, President, Eddie Poole, Vice President, Ellsworth Massie, Chaplain and John White, Secretary/Treasurer. Note: Clyde Miller was present, but had to leave before the meeting.

President, J. Mantooth welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised the group that there were (10) veterans present. John also recognized their spouses and widows. E. Massie, Chaplain, lead the group in prayer. John White, Secretary/Treasurer read the minutes and presented the Treasurer's report. A motion was made to accept the minutes as read. The motion was 2nd and carried. The Treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$5440.26. A motion was made to accept the Treasurers Report, 2nd and passed.

Old Business — The Dixie Chapter donated a \$1,000.00 to the National to help cover expenses for the shuttle from the airports for Williamsburg. A nice thank you note was published in the Ad Book at the National for this gift. Charlotte Loukas explained how nice it was to be picked up and delivered back to the airport. A shuttle will also be provided for this years National Reunion at West Point in August, 2011.

New Business — A motion was made to return to the Riverside next year during the 1st week-end in December for our Christmas Reunion. Frank Morris indicated that we should consider a place that is more handicap accessible. The Graystone Lodge was mentioned. J. White will check to see if the Riverside has any plans for more handicap rooms. After checking, the management indicated that handicap rooms would be provided. The motion was 2nd and passed. This year is the 37th consecutive year we have been coming to the Riverside.

A motion was made to have our Spring Meeting here at the Riverside. After checking with the desk on a date and rate, the motion was 2nd and passed. The spring meeting will be held June 2nd 5th, 2011 and the hotel rate will remain the same that we pay for our Christmas meeting.

The hotel provided a beautiful cake in honor of the 83rd to be enjoyed by all.

The following veterans were present: C. Miller, G. Baker, E. Massie, A. Loukas, F. Morris, B. Sheffield, P. Duncan, C. Melton, J. Helms.

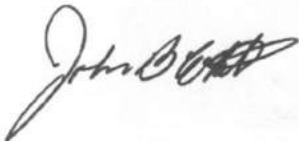
J. Mantooth thanked Flo Jackson and the Church's for their help in organizing this past week-end, including all who brought goodies for the hospitality room.

Election of Officers: C. Loukas made a motion that the present officers preside for 2011. With no objection, the motion was 2nd and passed.

It was agreed by all that the registration fee will be waived for all veterans in the future. Frank Morris advised us to wear our logo proudly.

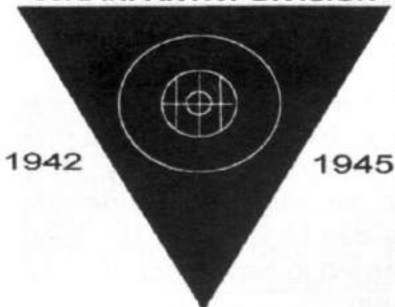
A plaque will be awarded to the Riverside Hotel during the June meeting for our appreciation of their 38 years of service for our group.

The meeting was closed with prayer by E. Massie. A motion was made then adjourned.



John B. White
Secretary/Treasurer

THUNDERBOLT
83rd INFANTRY DIVISION



Reservation Request

83rd Infantry Division Reunion

June 2-3-4, 2011

\$58.95 + tax for 2 adults

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Type of room One Bed _____ Two Beds _____ Number in party _____

Special Requests _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Please circle (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday Saturday, Sunday)

ALL SPECIAL REQUESTS WILL BE CONSIDERED
PARKING IS LIMITED ONE CAR PER ROOM PLEASE

A deposit of the first night ,cash or credit card is required for all reservations

A written confirmation will be sent upon receipt of deposit.

48 hour cancellation notice required for a refund

PAYMENT METHOD

Credit Card _____, _____, _____, _____

Expiration date _____. _____. C.V.V.2 number on back of card _____

Check number _____ Amount _____

Riverside Motor Lodge

715 Parkway

Gatlinburg Tennessee 37738

800-887-2323

865-436-4194

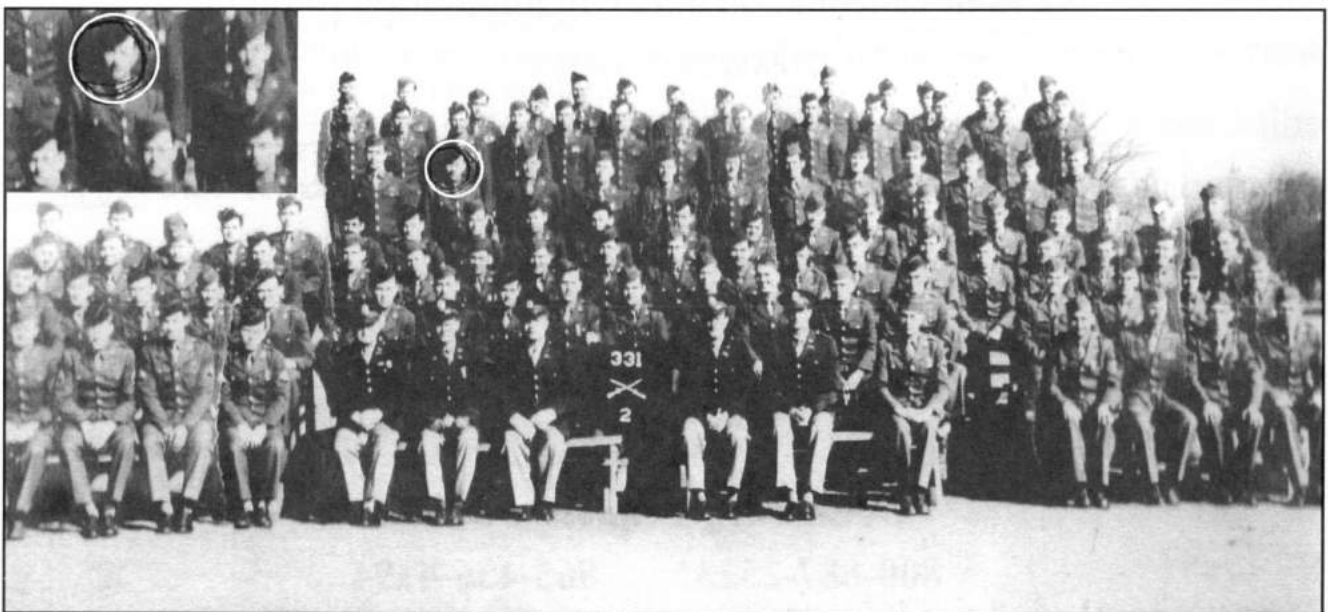
To Omaha Beach and Back

I would like to share with you the story of my grandfather's journey through the days of WWII. His name is Charles Ray Hunter and he grew up in the small town of East Bend, NC where he still lives today. I spent many weekends and summers with him as I was growing up and truly consider him as my hero. never asked him much about the war because it was a topic our whole family seemed to avoid for decades. In 2001, my sister wrote to Congressman Richard Burr to help my grandfather get his war medals that he never received for his sen/see. That same year a ceremony was held and he was awarded all of his earned medals which Included two purple hearts and a bronze star. Since that time, he has shared some of the memories he has from WWII and of the brave men he fought alongside. Our family is proud of him and all veterans for the sacrifices they made and continue to make for our freedom.

Charles was 21 years old when he was drafted into the army on October 19, 1942 and reported to Fort Bragg, NC. He was part of the 2nd Battalion, 331st Infantry Regiment, 83rd Division. He received his basic training at Camp Atterbury, Indiana and participated in Army maneuvers in Tennessee. He was then stationed at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky in September 1943. During the time spent in Kentucky he

met my grandmother, Jean. It was a chance encounter one day away from camp that he met her in the town of Henderson, Kentucky. They traded winks while passing on the sidewalk and then spent the day together at the local park. They were married in November of 1943 after a short courtship.

In April 1944, Charles traveled with the 83st Division to Camp Shanks, New York where they set sail and docked in Liverpool, England. His Division landed at Omaha Beach, Normandy, France on June 18, 1944. He and his battalion were immediately into the battle in the swamp and the hedgerows. They were pressing forward near Carentan on July 4th, 1944 when Charles and his Sergeant. Garland L. Thompson, came upon a cellar. Sergeant Thompson asked Charles to open the door and he would be ready to shoot in case Germans were Inside. Charles opened the door and an explosion followed. The door had been booby trapped by the Germans. The explosion killed Sergeant Thompson and knocked Charles out leaving a knot on his head and also wounding his hand. When Charles awoke he heard German voices in the distance and immediately jumped down into the cellar. There were three German soldiers coming to investigate the explosion. Charles said that the Germans went through



Sergeant Thompson's pockets taking his watch and wallet. At that time, Charles shot and killed the three German soldiers.

Charles also described the day he met Dwight D. Eisenhower near Carentan. Charles explained that he was in a trench and a sniper was shooting nearby. Charles heard a voice from behind him that said "Hello soldier" and it was Ike himself. Charles advised him, "You better get in here" to alert him of the sniper. Charles borrowed Eisenhower's field glasses and was able to locate the sniper in a tree. Charles then used his rifle to kill the sniper.

On July 9, 1944, Charles and the Second Battalion 331st Infantry had advanced to a position just north of the town Sainteny. There the battalion was temporarily halted by 4 German tanks. However Charles advised that his company commander Lt. Col. James Faber led the attack helping destroy the German tanks and they charged into Sainteny before it could be

organized for resistance. There were still heavy casualties and the shelling continued throughout the night. The following morning other units were moving in to relieve the Second Battalion. Lt. Col. James Faber shot and killed while helping to evacuate his battalion. Charles advised he was standing near Lt. Col. Faber when he was killed during the evacuation.

On August 7, 1944, Charles was hit by a mortar shell in the town of Sainteny wounding his foot and leg. He spent the next 3 years in and out of Army hospitals undergoing several surgeries and rehabilitating his health. Charles and his wife, Jean, went on to have two daughters, four grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. Both retired from RJ Reynolds after having 30 plus years of service. Charles will be 90 years old on March 4, 2011 and was 23 years old when he was wounded in 1944.

— Steve Gunnell, Jr. (grandson of Charles & Jean Hunter)



The Passing of Shirley Gottlieb (Tavel)

October 17, 1915 – November 7, 2010

Widow of Pvt. Benjamin Gottlieb, KIA July 23

By Michael Gottlieb, her son

It is my painful duty to share with you some thoughts about my mom and her passing at age 95. My mom was a remarkable woman and my last direct link to my biological dad, Pvt. Benjamin Gottlieb. She suffered a series of strokes on Oct. 4 and died on Nov 7 of 2010.

Up until the strokes she enjoyed relatively good physical health and her mind was very alert and clear. Just a few weeks before the strokes I had offered to show her the 83rd Division 2010 annual reunion book and she refused to look at it. I understood that her pain at losing her beloved husband in 1944 was so hurtful that she couldn't bear to be reminded of his military service and untimely death.

Partly because of her own pain my mom was a lifelong opponent of war and felt enormous distress about the casualties in the present wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. She (and I) couldn't understand why our government has spent so much time fighting in these 2 wars. She spoke very highly of Dwight David Eisenhower and praised him again and again for ending the bloody combat in Korea. Although my mom was a strong believer in the Democratic Party, she crossed over and voted for Eisenhower even though he was a Republican because she felt, correctly, that Eisenhower was very much opposed to war and to unnecessary casualties.

I myself will never forget the expression on Eisenhower's face shown on old newsreels of him visiting the troops who were about to invade Normandy. For a fleeting moment the camera caught Eisenhower looking deeply troubled by the fact that he knew the men he was visiting, many of them, would not be coming back.

Mom virtually never spoke about my dad. Every Memorial Day she would say to me "I really don't like this day. I'll be so glad when it is over!" And, of course I fully understood and did not press my mother to explain nor to speak about my dad. Time, per se, does not heal all wounds.

I recall giving a talk on Memorial Day at a local VA hospital. When I mentioned that my dad had fought at St. Mere Eglise and at St. Lo several of the elderly men in the front rows nodded their heads in recognition.

Mom lived alone (her 2nd husband, Israel Tavel, passed in 1985) for some 25 years. She did most of her own chores and lived independently until her death.

My mom was very strongly opposed to movies that glorified war and combat, and people being killed. She loved dogs and cats and birds and nature, trees and squirrels. She kept her home clean and neat up til the time she got sick.

I believe we can keep alive the memory of the combat veterans and their wives and families.

You should know that when you visit West Point, the words "St. Lo are chiseled into the side of one of the buildings there. In recognition of just how bloody and desperate and important that battle was to the liberation of France and western Europe. It was one of the definitive battles of WWII.

I strongly believe it is vitally important for future generations, for our youth, to be informed about what our soldiers — Infantry, Navy, Marines, Air Force, along with the Merchant Marines — had to endure in order to defeat Nazi Germany, Imperial Japan and Fascist Italy.

There is this expression: If we don't study history, we are doomed to repeat it.

Certainly WWII, with all its horrors and pain and tragic losses, achieved a victory over dark and cruel enemies. Our youth could learn and understand that the freedoms we enjoy today were purchased by the blood and lives of many of our noble soldiers and sailors and airmen and marines.

My mom, at long last, has returned to be at the side of her Beloved Ben. Let us, those who still remain in the physical plane, "absent these from felicity awhile and in this harsh world draw they breath in pain" (Shakespeare). Let us make sure that our youth learns about what our soldiers had to endure so that they don't take for granted the freedoms and opportunities they have.

I hope to see all of you at West Point this summer, if it ever stops snowing. ▼



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. After the war was over he took over as Company Commander of Co. C of the 308th Engineers.

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 great-granddaughter. ▼

Norman L. Kruse

Norman Kruse

Norman L. Kruse, age 91, of Waterville, passed away Friday, December 10, 2010 at the Blue Valley Nursing Home in Blue Rapids.

Norman the son of William and Sophia (Koenke) Kruse was born August 4, 1919 at Herkimer. He was baptized at Zion Lutheran Church in Herkimer by the Reverend H.C. Marting. In May of 1924 he moved with his family to a farm south of Barnes. Where he attended the Banner Country School and St. Peter's Parochial School. He was confirmed at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in 1933.

He graduated from Waterville High School in 1937 and Kansas State University in 1943 with a degree in Agronomy. In 1946 he went to work for the Soil

Conservations Service in Hiawatha and went on to become the district conservationist for Leavenworth and Wyandotte Counties retiring in 1977. He continued to live in that area until 1995 when he returned to Waterville.

One of his hobbies was photography of Kansas Prairie Wildflowers which he showed at conservation meetings around the state. He also liked to spend his time gardening and enjoyed giving the produce to friends and neighbors. He was a volunteer at the National Agricultural Center at the Agricultural Hall of Fame near Bonner Springs.

While at Kansas State Norman took part in Advanced ROTC then upon graduation in 1943 he entered the US Army. His first station was Camp Gruher in Oklahoma with the 42nd Infantry Division. In April of 1943 he was sent to England where he joined the 83

Infantry Division. Landing at Omaha Beach in June of 1944 he took part in the five battle campaigns of the European Theater. In May of 1945 at the end of the European War he served with the Army of Occupation in Germany until December. He was discharged with the rank of Captain in April of 1946.

Norman was a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church south of Barnes, the Springer Post 332 of the American Legion in Waterville, 83rd Infantry Division Association and the Kansas State Alumni Association.

He was preceded in death by both parents, his three sisters; Myrtle, Laura and Julianne and his five brothers; Kenneth, William, Victor, Jurgen and Roland. He is survived by many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were planned for 11am, Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at St.

Peter's Lutheran Church south of Barnes. A visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Pastor Rodney Fritz officiated the service. Burial was at St. Peter's Lutheran Cemetery. Music was provided by organist Delores Vathauer and included "Abide with Me" & "I'm But a Stranger Here, Heaven is My Home" by Soloist Kathi Menzel and "Be Still My Soul" a congregational hymn. Casketbearers were Douglas Kruse, Landon Kruse, Curtis Kruse, Galen Kruse, Peter Fountaine, Ry Woody, Austin Woody and Grant Acymo. Military honors were provided by Springer Post 332 of the American Legion from Waterville. Memorials are suggested to the Valley Heights USD 498 Foundation and may be sent in care of the funeral home. Condolences may be left on line at www.terrychristiefuneralhome.com

Walter Harry Adams

Walter Harry Adams, 88, of Scottsdale, Arizona passed away on November 2, 2010.

He was born in Fairmont on October 14, 1922 a son of the late Lawrence Edward and Kathleen Cora (Tucker) Adams.

Walt graduated from East Fairmont High School. He proudly served in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1945 and was awarded the Purple Heart. He married Lucille Bright in 1945. They moved to Arizona in 1961 where he worked for Associated Grocers, retiring in 1982 after 20 years of service.

He was a member of the Los Arcos United Methodist Church, the Elks Club, American Legion, Moose Lodge and the VFW. He was also a member of the United Commercial Travelers for over 50 years.

Walt is survived by his wife, Lucille (Bright) Adams; his grandsons, John Jenkins, Adam Jenkins and Justin Jenkins; his son-in-law Alvin Jenkins and a brother-in-law, Getsel (Nell) Bright.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his daughter, Cathi Jenkins and his brother, Lawrence E. Adams, Jr.

In Loving Memory

In Memory of Walter Harry Adams

Born

October 14, 1922
Fairmont, West Virginia

Date of Service

Tuesday, November 9, 2010
Noon

Died

November 2, 2010
Scottsdale, Arizona

Burial

Beverly Hills Memorial
Gardens
Westover, West Virginia

Place of Service

Carpenter and Ford Funeral
Home

Officiating

Pastor Jim Zinn

George Henry Waple III

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 Cavalry, 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.

Published in The Washington Post on November 7, 2010

After WWII George served as the first 1st Sgt in charge of the Ceremonial Detachment at Ft. Myer, Va. He was in charge of the Tomb Guards, all Army burials at Arlington Cemetery, and any functions requiring Honor Guards — as President Truman's Inauguration, visiting dignitary parades and functions, VIP guarding of the casket of persons lying in state, and the like. George, himself, served as Chief Escort in the White House for President Truman.

While serving as Vice President of the 83rd, George arranged, for the 2007 Reunion, for General Eric Schoomaker, Surgeon General of the Army, to be the guest speaker at the reunion banquet and the 3rd Infantry Silent Drill Team and a few of the Army Band members to provide entertainment. In addition, he was able to arrange for 3rd Infantry Buses to provide transportation for reunion attendees on and off Ft Myer and for a tour of Walter Reed Hospital.

— Jeanne Florio

"On 10 November, Jeanne Florio, Kathleen Powers, Alex Klugiewicz (331st) and I attended the impressive ceremony for George H. Waple III at the Fort Myer Chapel, followed by the graveside ceremony with a 21 gun salute, a marching band and a group of five 83rd reenactors with authentic shoulder patches.



Stan Bielen - George - Alex Klugiewicz

I brought, on behalf of the 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.

After WWII, George was the 1st Sergeant in charge of the Ceremonial Detail that performed for visiting White House dignitaries and at the burials of high-level officers from the Armed Services held at Arlington Ceremony. George was a great help when we held our 2007 Reunion in Arlington, VA. When the General Kroesen, who was to be our guest speaker, cancelled the last minute, George found General Schoomaker to replace him.

George also provided a "Silent Drill Team" to fill in a gap in our program. At the end of the program, held at the hotel, about 25 soldiers in a circle were holding their bayonets about 1/2 an inch from the Drill sergeant's throat! We couldn't have made it without George.

— Rudy Zamula
83rd Infantry Division Association Archivist

Normand R. Malo

Normand R. Malo February 07, 2011



I write with regret to inform friends and fellow servicemen of the passing of Tsgt. Normand R. Malo at the age of 90 on Feb. 7 following a stroke. Those of you who knew Normand are well aware of how much he cherished his role with of the 331st Infantry Regiment of the 83rd Infantry Division during the years of World War II and how strongly he valued the relationships he carried home from that time.

Normand was the son of the late Eugene and Hermina (Daïpe) Malo, and husband of the late Murielle (Crepeau) Malo, to whom he was married for 60 years.

Normand leaves four daughters, Elaine P. Joseph, Linda L. Nadeau, Jeannine L. Brooks, and Judy H. Bolzani, and seven grandchildren, Danielle, Nicole, Jonathan, Jeremy, Thomas, Brandon, and Allison, as well as his surviving siblings, Lucille Lavallee of Delray Beach, Fla., and Lorraine Landry of Manville. He was the brother of the late Helene Ezowski, Gertrude Beaulieu, Therese Cote, and Camille Malo.

While growing up in Woonsocket prior to the war, Normand delivered the Woonsocket Call and Evening Reporter newspaper and would carry an appreciation of the news and reading throughout his life.

He attended St. Ann's School in the Social District of the City and went on to graduate from Mount St. Charles Academy in 1938. Normand played baseball for Mount and continued his love of the game while playing in city leagues and as a fan of the Boston Red Sox.

Normand had also been a well-known duckpin bowler in his native city and made many friends during his 42 years as an employee of the Taft-Pierce Mfg. Co. where he worked as a stock room foreman and belonged to the IAM Machinists Union. If you knew Normand, you of course have gained a taste of his wit and ability to draw a laugh from his trove of tried and true jokes.

Normand's service with the 331st Regiment was never far from his thoughts and he could be prodded into telling young people of his early days ashore in Normandy after the D-Day Invasion. He would always recall the close friends he had in his unit and those that he lost during the journey to victory. He was among the Woonsocket World War II veterans honored during a special service noting the 50th Anniversary of D-Day at World II Veterans Memorial State Park in the city and also participated in the "Learning Through Living Histories" project undertaken by Norwich Public Schools teacher Patricia Ferron. Perron's project was aided by Woonsocket veterans advocate and retired Halliwell Elementary School Principal Eugene Peloquin and retired Woonsocket High School Social Studies teacher Raymond H. Bacon, co-manager of the Woonsocket Museum of Work and Culture, who Normand valued as his friends.

The book, created by students of the Norfolk Public Schools, related interviews they conducted with the veterans and included Normand's recollections of the trials his company faced in the hedgerows of France and on the road into Germany. Normand related how he had been walking with Lt. Lyman Coker when the enemy opened up and fatally wounded him. Normand, himself, was wounded by shrapnel in Normandy in July of 1944, and again in Germany in December of the 1944. He returned to his company after recovering from both injuries.

He was awarded two Bronze Star citations, the first for service as a communications specialist with the 331st Infantry Regiment from Dec. 25, 1944 to May 1945 and the second for his role in a military action against the Germans in Germany on Dec. 23, 1944.

During his postwar life in Woonsocket, Normand enjoyed making trips to the beach in Narragansett with his family where they would spend whole summer days. He also played golf with a close group of friends, and was an active life member of Amvets Post #12 in Manville, and a life member of Cercle Laurier in Woonsocket where he had many more friends.

Normand was a frequent and longtime participant in Division activities and he viewed reunions with his company members as something not to be missed. He was a frequent correspondent with

Deceased List

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

Name	Unit	Reported by
Walter Harry Adams	Co. F, 329th	Mrs. Lucille Adams
John D. Askey	G Co., 329th	Ron Askey & Linda Kronenwetter
Norbert Berndt	G Co., 329th	Mrs. Joanne Berndt
Shirley (Ike) Dunkle	Truck Service Co., 331st	
Joe DePeri	Co. F, 330th	Joe Beatrice, Son-in-law
Norman L. Kruse	Co. B, 331st	Carol Bigham
Laddie Lawrence	L-Co., 329th	Anita Randall, Daughter
Normand R. Malo	331st Inf.	Linda (Malo) Nadeau
Haran R. Martin, Sr.	Co. C, 331st	Bobbie White
Jean Neppel	WWII Medal of Honor recipient	Vernona Neppel Myers, Daughter
William "Bill" Nese	C 331st	Sal Scicolone
Frank Reichmann	1st BN HQ 331st	

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

his peers in the 331st Regiment and did his best to pass along information to them even while recovering from an earlier stroke and coping with the loss of his beloved Murielle on Jan.9, 2010.

He was honored with greetings from President Barack Obama and the First Lady with the help of former R.I. Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy upon his 90th birthday in July, an event he celebrated with his sisters and daughters and their families at Judy's home in Bellingham, Mass.

Normand's funeral services were attended by his many family members and friends and included military honors executed smartly and with great reverence by a contingent of young Rhode Island Army National Guard members. Normand would have been very honored by the young soldiers' presence, timeliness, and attention to detail.

— Joseph Nadeau, Woonsocket.

Normand R. Malo 90, died Monday at home surrounded by his family. He was the husband of the late Murielle (Crepeau) Malo. They observed their 60th wedding anniversary on July 30, 2009. A lifelong city resident, he was the son of the late Eugene and Hermina (Dalpe) Malo.

Normand graduated from Mt. St. Charles Academy in 1938 where he played on the baseball team. He was an Army Veteran of World War II with the 83rd Infantry Division in the European Theatre, serving as a Platoon Tech Sergeant, twice wounded in combat and awarded a purple Heart with Cluster and a Bronze Star with Cluster.

Normand was a stock room foreman for forty two years for the former Taft-Pierce Mfg. Co. of Woonsocket, retiring in 1984. He was a well known duckpin bowler and served for nine years as president of the Woonsocket Suburban Bowling League. He was also an avid golfer and card player. He was a life member of the IAM Machinists Union, the Amvets Post #12, and Cercle Laurier. Normand was a communicant of All Saints Church.

He is survived by four daughters, Elaine P. Joseph of East Providence, Linda L. Nadeau and her husband Joseph of Woonsocket, Jeannine L. Brooks and her husband Kenneth of North Smithfield, and Judy H. Bolzani of Bellingham; seven grandchildren, Danielle, Nicole, Jonathan, Jeremy, Thomas, Brandon, and Allison; two sisters Lucille Lavallee of Delray Beach, FL, and Lorraine Landry of Manville. He was also the brother of the late Helene Ezovski, Gertrude Beaulieu, Therese Cote, and Camille Malo. ▼

John D. Askey



John D. Askey
FRENCHVILLE — John Dayton Askey, 89, of Frenchville was taken into the bosom of the Lord on Tuesday, April 12, 2011, at Mountain Laurel Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Clearfield.

Born March 14, 1922, at Croft, Clearfield County, he was a son of Roy Ralph Askey and Mary Ellen (Waring) Askey.

A lifelong resident of the Karthaus/Keewaydin/Frenchville area, John was a veteran of World War II, having served with G Co., 329th Infantry, 83rd Infantry Division, where he was wounded at Liege Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge and the 313th Troop Carrier.

His numerous awards include the Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

John was an independent coal mine operator for several years, until his wounds forced him to quit the mines and retrain as a welder and maintenance mechanic.

In 1969, at the age of 50, John completed high school.

He retired from Piper Aircraft Corp. at Quehanna in 1973 after 17 years of service.

John served on the Covington Township School Board.

He was a member of the Karthaus Volunteer Fire Co., Oak Hill Grange No. 717, the 83rd Infantry Division Battle of the Bulge Association, Mosquito-Creek Sportsmen's Club and the Frenchville Veterans of Foreign Wars Leigey Renaud Post No. 8386.

John served 13 years as a deputy wildlife conservation officer.

He was a member of the Church of Christ at Snow Shoe, where he was a song leader for more than 40 years.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, the former Grace Louise Herr, whom he wed Dec. 30, 1940, at Clearfield.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Linda Lou (Askey) Kronenwetter and her husband, Thomas, of Weedville; a son, Ronald John Askey of Lumber Bridge, N.C.; three grandchildren, Kelli L. Surra of St. Marys, Stephanie

Y. Askey and Roy C. Askey of North Carolina; three great-granddaughters, Gianna, Sophia and Maria Surra of St. Marys; and numerous nieces and nephews.

John was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Mary Elizabeth (Askey) Clark; and two brothers, Millard Leonard Askey and William Ralph Askey.

Funeral services will be held at Strange and Weaver Funeral Service, Morrisdale, at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 16, with Church of Christ Minister Keith Newell of DuBois officiating.

Friends will be received from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, April 15, and Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m. until the hour of services at the funeral home.

Interment will be at Keewaydin Cemetery, Frenchville.

Military honors will be accorded at the funeral home Saturday, April 16, by the Frenchville Veterans of Foreign Wars Leigey Renaud Post No. 8386.

A luncheon will be held immediately after the interment at the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Karthaus, social hall.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Karthaus Ambulance Service, Box 9, Karthaus, PA 16843; or to the Church of Christ Building Fund, Snow Shoe, PA 16874.

PA



Jean A. Neppel



Birth date: April 22, 1924; **Death date:** December 07, 2010

Jean A. Neppel, 86, of Iowa City, passed away peacefully at her home on Tuesday,

December 7, 2010. Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 am Monday, December 13, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Iowa City, with Father Tom Hennen officiating. Visitation will be held on Sunday from 3-5pm at Lensing Funeral Home, Iowa City, where a rosary will be recited at 4:30pm. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to The Regina Foundation.

Jean was born on April 22, 1924, the daughter of C. Joseph and Geraldine (Gotsch) Moore, in rural Glidden, IA. She married Ralph G. Neppel on December 27, 1945. Ralph later died on January 27, 1987.

Survivors include two daughters: Vernona (Lynn) Myers and Gail (Mike) O'Donnell, both of Iowa City; two sons: Max (LaVaughn) Neppel and Brian (Dawn) Neppel, both of Iowa City; five grandchildren: Matt, Zac, Dan, Lauren and Erin; and four great-grandchildren. Jean is also survived by a sister Donna Schleisman of Keokuk, IA and two brothers: Richard (Colleen) Moore of Omaha, NE and Jim Moore of Lidderdale, IA.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Ralph, and a brother Vernon Moore. ▼

315 Amhurst St.
Iowa City, IA 52245
February 5, 2011

Editor Cliff Wooldridge
83rd Infantry Division
P.O. Box 406
Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406

Dear Editor and 83rd-ers,

I am writing to you belatedly to let you know that Mom, Jean Neppel (Mrs. Ralph Neppel, WWII Medal of Honor recipient) will not be renewing her membership. She died on December 7, 2010. It seems to be a date that followed Mom and Dad's lives. She greatly enjoyed reading your news in the Thunderbolt each time it arrived.

We four "kids" remember fondly attending 83rd reunions in the 1960's, usually in August which coincided with one brother's birthday. The black and yellow colors followed us all at the University of Iowa, and Dad brought back little 83rd yellow and black shirts for the first grandsons. We always look for the OHIO 83rd or U of I emblem on any yellow and black shirts we see while traveling! I know you'll continue to wear them proudly, and we'll think of you.

Sincerely,

Vernona L. Neppel Myers
Vernona Neppel Myers

RESERVATION REQUEST FORM

The Thayer Hotel
674 Thayer Road, West Point, NY 10996
Phone: 845.446.4731 Fax: 845.446.2273
www.thethayerhotel.com

When placing reservation refer to 83rd Infantry Division Association

Check-in Time: 3 PM

Check-Out Time: 11 AM

Name _____ **Phone** _____

E-mail _____ **Address** _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Arrival Date _____ **Departure Date** _____

PLEASE RESERVE _____ **(# of rooms)** **FOR** _____ **(# of people per room)**

RATES: \$113, plus 8.13% tax, plus 5% Orange County occupancy tax = \$127.84.

SPECIAL RATE FOR VETERANS:

\$100, plus 8.13% tax, plus 5% Orange County occupancy tax = \$113.13.

REUNION DATES: Wed., August 3, Thurs., August 4, Fri., August 5, Sat., August 6, 2011

PLEASE CHECK TYPE OF ACCOMMODATIONS REQUESTED:

_____ **Regular Room—1 King** _____ **Regular Room—2 Doubles or 1 Queen**

_____ **Fully Ambulatory Wheelchair Room**

— **All Rooms Are Non-Smoking** —

PAYMENT TYPE:

_____ **Visa** _____ **Master Card** _____ **Discover** _____ **American Express**

_____ **Check** _____ **Money Order**

(Check/Money Order Payable to: Thayer Hotel)

Credit Card Number _____ **Exp. Date** _____

Credit card is room guarantee only — not a deposit.

Signature _____ **Daytime Phone** _____

ROOMS BLOCKED FOR YOUR GROUP WILL BE RELEASED JULY 2, 2011. TO RECEIVE THE GROUP PRICE YOU MUST REGISTER BEFORE THEN.

(There will be 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 48 hours prior to arrival by 6 PM.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN TO:

The Thayer Hotel, 674 Thayer Road, West Point, NY 10996

The Thayer Hotel is located at The United States Military Academy at West Point which is a Government Installation. All adults age 16 and over must provide a photo ID in order to gain access to the Hotel.

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 each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to 83rd INFANTRY DIV. ASSN. 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, 2011. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space-available basis.

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

83rd Infantry Div. Assn.
418 Strathmore Road
Havertown, PA 19083

Questions?
Call 603-875-3649

	Price Per Person	# of People	Total
— REGISTRATION PACKAGE— Registration Fee includes Saturday Night Banquet, and Reunion Entertainment.	\$70 per Person	#	\$
Please select your entrée for the SATURDAY BANQUET: <i>Roasted Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus</i>		#	
<i>Grilled Chicken Breast with roasted shallots and sundried tomatoes</i>		#	
Thursday: Ceremony at West Point Cadet Chapel, Wreath Laying at West Point Cemetery. Bus Tour of West Point, Lunch at West Point Club. Handicap Bus available	\$45 per Person	#	\$
After Lunch: Tour of Purple Heart Hall of Honor	\$5	#	\$
Friday: River Boat Cruise and Tour of Hudson River. Lunch on Cruise.	\$60.00	#	\$
Total Amount Payable to: <u>83rd Infantry Div. Assn.</u>			\$

PLEASE PRINT:

Name (for name tags) _____

Unit (example: B Co; 329th Inf.) _____

Spouse Name _____

Guest Names (for name tags) _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone # _____

Are You Confined To A Wheelchair? _____

Emergency Contact _____ Relationship _____ Phone # _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____ Are You Staying At The Hotel? Yes _____ No _____

If Flying: Airline _____ Flight # _____ Airport _____ Arrival Date _____ Arrival Time _____

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

CK# _____ Amt _____ Date _____ 1 _____ 2 _____ TAG _____
Beef _____ Chicken _____ Spl Menu _____ Thurs. WP _____ Thurs. Prpl. Hrt. _____ Fri. Hudson _____

Directions to West Point

West Point is, as expected, on the west bank of the Hudson River, only 40 miles north of New York City. Travelling here from New York City takes about an hour and a half by car, train or bus.

Railroad

Metro-North has rail service from Grand Central Station in mid-town Manhattan, up the east bank of the Hudson. Trains to Garrison, NY, directly across the river from West Point, take approx 1 hour and 10 minutes and cost a little under \$15. If you don't have a car, get off at Peekskill, one stop south of Garrison, where cabs are often waiting. You may want to call to reserve a Highlands Falls or Peekskill cab. Driving time from Garrison or Peekskill to West Point is approximately 20 minutes.

Bus

Short Line Bus offers daily bus service from the New York City Port Authority, near Times Square in midtown Manhattan, to the West Point Visitors Center; one-way trip takes 1 hour 40 minutes and costs approx \$15. Short Line also has day trip packages with sightseeing and local discounts.

Driving

FROM NEW YORK CITY:

Head north to the George Washington Bridge/I-95 South. Cross the bridge via the **upper** deck (no toll in this direction), and stay in the right lane as immediately at the end of the bridge you will exit right on to the Palisades Interstate Parkway.

Take the Palisades Interstate Parkway north approximately 37 miles until it ends at the Bear Mountain Bridge traffic circle—unless you want the more leisurely and scenic route, do not get on 9W until you get to the Bear Mountain Bridge traffic circle. Proceed 3/4 of the way around the circle, following signs for West Point and Route 9W North. Stay on Route 9W for approximately 3 miles, then right exit onto Route 218 North toward the Village of Highland Falls. Go straight for 2 miles, through Highland Falls, past the West Point Visitors' Center (on the right) to the Thayer Gate of West Point.

- *Approximate driving time from midtown (light traffic): 1 hour, 20 minutes*
- *From (light traffic): 1 hour, 30 minutes*
- *From (light traffic): 1 hour, 45 minutes*
- *Cab fares to West Point from NYC are about \$150 without tolls or gratuity*

FROM SOUTH/NEW JERSEY: *Approximately 5 hours from Washington, D.C.*

Travel north on the NJ Turnpike/I-95, to exit 73 toward RT-67/Fort Lee—just before the George Washington Bridge. Stay left and take your first left at Lemoine Ave. Continue straight for ½ mile then bear right onto the Palisades Interstate Pkwy North. SEE DIRECTIONS FROM PALISADES INTERSTATE PARKWAY ABOVE.

- *Approximate driving time from Newark Liberty International Airport (light traffic): 1 hour, 20 minutes.*

FROM THE WEST: *8 hours from Cleveland*

Travel east on Interstate 80 through New Jersey and take exit 43 to merge onto Interstate 287 northbound toward Mahwah. After entering New York, take the exit onto the New York State

Thruway South toward the Tappan Zee Bridge. Take exit 13N for the Palisades Parkway North toward Bear Mountain. SEE DIRECTIONS FROM PALISADES INTERSTATE PARKWAY above.

FROM EAST/NEW ENGLAND VIA I-95: *3 hours, 30 minutes from Providence*

Travel southwest on Interstate 95 into New York. Take exit 21 to merge onto Interstate 287 W toward White Plains and the Tappan Zee Bridge. Continue on I-287 W, then take exit 13N for Palisades Parkway North toward Bear Mountain. SEE DIRECTIONS FROM PALISADES INTERSTATE PARKWAY above.

FROM NORTH/NEW ENGLAND VIA I-84: *4 hours from Boston*

Travel west on Interstate 84 until you cross the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge. Follow signs for Route 9W South (exit 10S). Stay on Route 9W for approximately 12 miles until you cross over a large mountain. As you are in your final descent off the mountain, you will encounter three exits on your right for West Point.

The first exit (labeled "RT. 218/293," NOT West Point) loops back under Route 9W, past the West Point golf course, and onto Route 218 to the Washington Gate. This gate is ONLY for DoD ID card holders whose car has a current DoD decal and the gate has limited hours.

The second exit (labeled "West Point/Highland Falls/Rte. 218") loops over Route 9W directly to the Stony Lonesome Gate which is open 24 hours, and offers the most direct access to the commissary, post exchange, post gas station, shoppette and the Michie/Holleder athletic complex. The road to this gate also will take you to the visitors center and the business district of the Village of Highland Falls—turn right at the sign immediately after you cross over 9W, and at the bottom of the long hill you will take a hard left at the T intersection.

The third exit loops over 9W and leads through the business district of Highland Falls, past the Visitors Center and West Point Museum, to the Thayer Gate which is open 24 hours a day. This gate provides the most direct access to the Hotel Thayer, the Bowling Center, Army Community Service, the West Point Post Office and eventually the Central Area.

FROM STEWART INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, NEWBURGH, NY: *Approximately: 30 minutes.*

Avis, Budget, Enterprise, and Hertz all have rental counters at Stewart Airport. There is also a Taxi/Limousine service at the ground transportation counter that charges approximately \$40 for a car to West Point. Upon exiting the airport, turn left onto Route 207 East (Little Britain Road). At the first light at the intersection with Union Avenue (Route 300) Route 207 becomes Route 300/207 and is called Temple Hill Road." Go straight on Route 300 for approximately 3 miles until you come to the third traffic light. This intersection is known as "Five Corners." This is the intersection of Routes 300, 94 and 32. You will go straight across the intersection toward McDonald's and be on Route 32 South.

Travel on Route 32 for 1.7 miles. Immediately after passing over a trestle-type bridge, you will turn left off Route 32 onto Quaker Avenue toward Cornwall. You will see a green sign pointing to Bear Mountain and 9W South. Take this right-hand exit. At this point you will merge with 9W South. Travel on Route 9W for 5.7 miles over mountainous terrain. As you are in your final descent off the mountain, you will encounter three exits for West Point—see above.

Greetings to the Descendants of the 83rd Infantry Division Association

65 years ago, members of the 83rd Infantry Division once more banded together, now in peacetime, to form an Association "to bring together those who have served." Please join us once more in honoring and thanking the members of the 83rd for their contributions and sacrifice. We are looking for a record number of descendants to include their names on special "Thank You" pages in the Program Book for the 83rd Infantry Division Association's 65th Reunion to take place at West Point on August 3 through 7, 2011. All names will be listed below the name of their special veteran under the following caption:

On this the 65th Reunion of the Thunderbolt Division, we offer all our love, respect and thanks for our freedom. We honor with wonder the bond you share with your buddies, a bond forged in service and sacrifice for our country and for future generations. May we as descendants and Americans as a whole learn from your sacrifices. We are forever grateful.

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 reunion costs. We will also include a display of this special thank you in the reunion hospitality room.

On behalf of the Legacy Chapter and its members, George Studor, Chair

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____ Descendant of: _____

2nd Name _____ 3rd Name _____

4th Name _____ 5th Name _____

6th Name _____ 7th Name _____

*** Attach sheet for additional descendants ***

Contact Name: _____ Relationship to Member: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____ email: _____

Make check payable and send with form to:

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN.

P.O. Box 406

Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406



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

Hospitality Room (3-hr. blocks) (e.g., setting up refreshments, serving, clean up)

Transportation Assistance (assigned per trip) (e.g., monitoring a bus, assisting passengers in and out)

Registration (3-hr. blocks) (registration, information, special assistance)

Event Assistant (assigned per event) (Assistance at Banquet, Memorial Service, etc.)

*In this the 66th Anniversary year of
The Victory in Europe our deepest
thanks to the members of the 83rd
Infantry Div. for our precious freedom
and your sacrifice for us all*



CAPT. JOSEPH MACALUSO

Wilhemena T. Macaluso - wife

**Joseph L. Macaluso - son
Cheryl Macaluso - wife
Joseph Macaluso
Christopher Macaluso**

**Kathryn M. Brown - daughter
Tim Brown - husband
Christine Brandau
Laurie Kindred
Jamie Brown
Luke Brandau**

**LTC(R) Kathleen M. Powers - daughter
Tom Powers - husband
Mary Shoemaker
Amanda Powers
2LT Jennifer Powers
Thomas Powers
Jessica Powers
Dylan Shoemaker
Kathleen Wiggins**

**Kevin R. Macaluso - son
Brenda Macaluso - wife
CPL Anthony Macaluso
Lauren Macaluso
Michael Macaluso**

**LTC(R) Wayne E. Macaluso - son
Gretchen Macaluso - wife
Emily Macaluso
Daniel Macaluso**

**Richard A. Macaluso - son
Melinda Macaluso - wife
Mia Macaluso
Joshua Macaluso**

**Terry A. Macaluso - son
Brenda Macaluso - wife
Matteo Macaluso
Mario Macaluso
Giovanni Macaluso**

**Monica M. Vosberg - daughter
David Vosberg - husband**



Dear all at 83rd Inf. Div. Association...

I have found some vintage postcards recently and think they're of some interest for the 83rd.



Shows the centre of the small town Barby with church St. Marien, ca. in the thirties of last century



Maizena plants north of Barby were not part of the Barby defenses. Probably used by the 83rd for communication and observation purposes with the bridgehead on the east banks of river Elbe

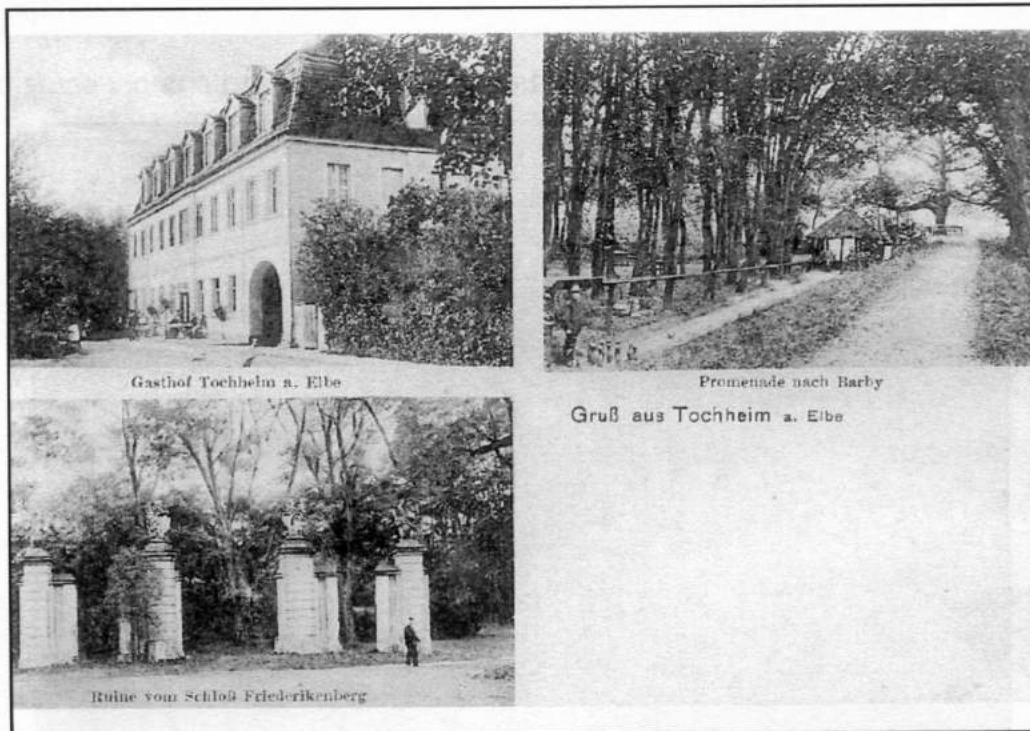


Ausflugsort Ronney - Bes. Ernst Kohl

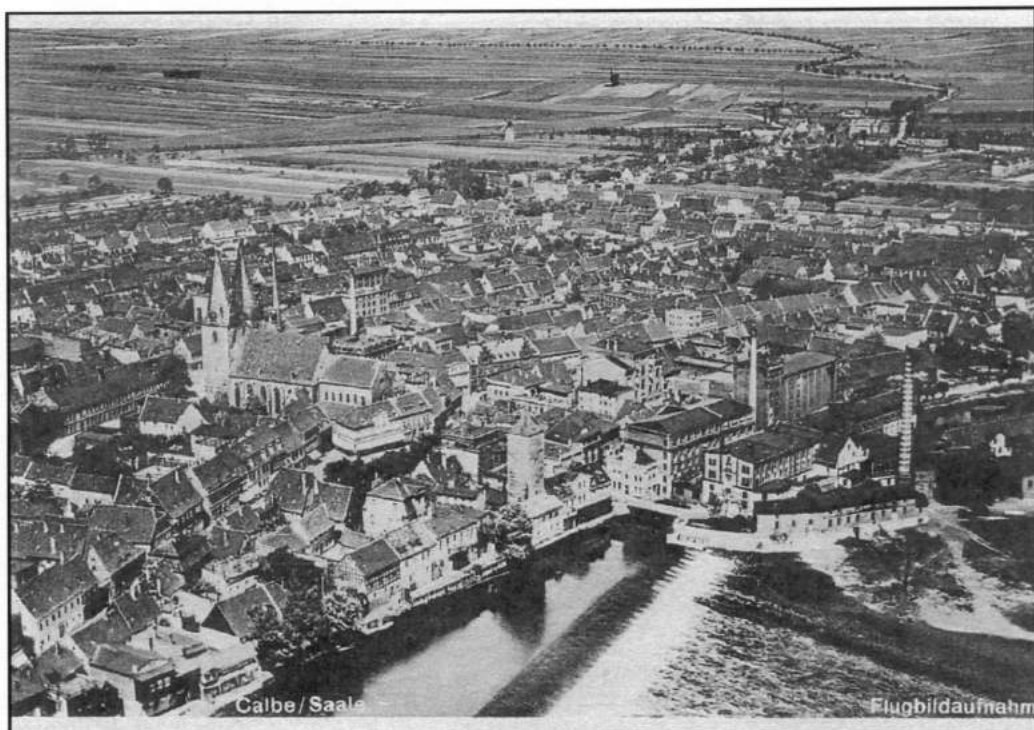
Ronney is the name of the small community on the river's east site at the Truman bridge. Often seen in the background of photos showing the famous sign "Truman Bridge — Gateway to Berlin over the Elbe" at the west banks of the river with one or more GIs beside it



From Breitenhagen on the west banks of Elbe river leads the road to the site of the Roosevelt-Bridge crossing the river a few miles south of Barby (marked red). On the far shore is the small community of Tochheim (marked green) hidden behind the trees



Tochheim on the east banks very close to the river. I think the larger building was used by troops maintaining the Roosevelt bridge



Calbe was last HQ of the Division. Does anyone remember the exact spot?



The Altengrabow probing grounds are situated a good 20 miles north east from the 83rd bridgehead towards Berlin. On the first days of May 1945 the 329 IR/ 2nd Bat. evacuated 19,000 POWs (among them 1,200 Americans) from Stalag XI A Altengrabow to the west before it was taken over by the Red Army.

Of certain interest might be the fact, that the large Altengrabow probing grounds extend to Wehrkreis III Berlin. Maybe some 329th Buckshoot men put their feet on Berlin territory in combat though the evacuation was performed under truce. ▼

With kind regards,

Juergen Ladebeck
 Rothenseer St. 68 d,
 39124 Magdeburg,
 Germany

The
THUNDERBOLT
division

The Thunderbolt Chronicles



Dave Curry

Historian

email: davecurry@ncweb.com

phone: 440-942-5030

William C. Roddick Anti-Tank Company 329th IR

William C. Roddick served as a 1st Lieutenant in the Anti-Tank Company, 329th Infantry Regiment. During his service with the 329th, Roddick won a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars and three Purple Hearts. By the time he came home from WWII, the Army classified him as 40 percent disabled, but that didn't save him from being called back for the Korean War.

Bill Roddick volunteered for service a few months before the war started. He was 22 years old, and although he hadn't attended college, he did take ROTC in high school. He credited this experience as his ticket to Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, GA. Roddick was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in August 1942 and was assigned to the 329th at Camp Atterbury. He was leader of 3rd Platoon of the Anti-Tank Company.

In his memoirs, Roddick says that "I think the Colonel [Col. Crabill] liked me. We called him 'Pete the Tramp.' He walked around with an old campaign hat and GI raincoat. You would have to know him to know he was a Bird Colonel. I got a kick. He would wink and say 'hi' when no one was around."

When the call came to enter the war, the 83rd moved to Camp Shanks where they shipped out in a large convoy. Roddick was on a large English ship. "The food was terrible. We would pool our money and buy ham, beef and bread from the crew." They had one submarine scare, and landed in **Liverpool where the 83rd was split up and** sent to various locations. The 329th went to Wrexham, Wales.

"We left Plymouth, England June 12th and landed on Utah Beach in France. Being young and dumb I guess we felt this was like another maneuver with maybe a little shooting here and there. First thing we saw were bodies floating around, a flight of three bombers heading for somewhere in France with anti-aircraft after them, one lost a wing and spiraled down, one chute and that's all, and orders 'let's go.' My waterproof jeeps worked great. We landed in about six feet of water and since the tide moves very fast on these



Bill Roddick at Camp Roberts, California in 1942



First Lieutenant Bill Roddick (at right) with jeep stuck deep in the mud.

particular beaches, we unloaded damn fast. No shooting came our way. The Germans were over a mile away. This was quite an indoctrination."

"When we landed on the beach there were tapes showing where to go on up into the country above the beach. We received a few shells, long range, but nothing too bad. Some men got excited and ran away. Thank God my boys didn't. Some were killed and a few lost their legs from mines. If only they would have just stayed within the tapes. As we started into this we relieved the 4th Division."

"....We were green as hell and were sent against the 2nd SS, an experienced outfit that had fought in the desert and Italy and were well-trained. We took a terrible beating, heavy casualties, and were pulled off the line in two weeks for replacements. We had six officers to start, and two of us came home. An infantry

Platoon leader is not the best job in the Army. They had pros to defend the Coast, and we were so damn green. The first two weeks were terrible. The dead and badly-wounded count was high. I lost two dead, two badly-wounded, and on their way home several with slight wounds, including yours truly with a bit of shrapnel in the thigh to aid station and back."

"I kept hounding the men, 'When you stop anyplace you dig a hole for yourself.' Tanks had been seen using a road on our flank so I took a 57 MM over to cover the road, and a machine gun to cover the crew. The Germans no doubt saw us set up. The Germans had a gun called the '88' that they could use as a AA gun, anti-tank, or troops. When they went off they sounded like a drum. We had been set up about fifteen minutes and we heard the drum noise. Their shells travel faster than sound. I dove for a ditch, the boys in their holes. The truck driver that moved the 57 hadn't dug a hole and just stood there. All we found was a small piece of his shoulder."

"In the hedge rows my Platoon was to cover and attack across an open field, while another Platoon was to cover the left flank side. We took off but made no contact with the other Platoon. I and two of my men ran over behind a hedge row looking for our helpers, saw them sitting and lying by some fox holes. I ran over to give them hell and to get them moving, and discovered a tank machine gun had caught them and they were all dead."

"One of the lousy jobs in the Army was being an F.O., meaning forward observer for the artillery. They carried a 600 radio on their backs with the antenna sticking up two or three feet, and carried a map of your area that was marked in squares with numbers. Back at the artillery the officer in charge had the same map and both had an overlay with squares.

We would give the F.O. targets or he would find his own, call back how it read on his map and squares which would also give distance, and here come the shells. The one big problem that could develop, if you were on high ground with the target and artillery on lower ground, and they were firing proximity fuses, which means the shell would go off twenty-five to a hundred feet off the ground to spray shrapnel down. The damn artillery outfit would forget you were on the top of the hill. This happened with tall trees the same way. Due to the trouble an F.O. would cause to the Germans, his life was short. You would find them with a hole between their eyes. Damn radio gave them away."

"Early one morning we heard the roar of aircraft engines coming over. In fact, the sky was almost black with bombers and every other plane that could fly. Before this I got the word we were stacking tanks up in the rear. The bombs started to drop, some damn close. In fact, a few hit some of our troops. They came over all day. I understand they went back, reloaded, and came again. Mid-afternoon they quit and we were ordered to attack. Then the tanks showed up. We used satchel charges, 16 pounds of TNT in bags, to blow openings in the rows for the tanks to go through, and as we moved forward we found Germans in bunkers dead from concussion, some sitting by a hole looking at you with a blank stare."

"There were a few pockets of resistance along the coast, one being St. Malo. The Regiment was chosen to clean it up. You think back what a waste. We could have dug in and stuck a few tanks around the town and in two weeks starved them out, they had no place to go....There was a so-called citadel in the Bay, an island with fill connected from the mainland. The Germans had been shelling from there, direct fire at the base, and our artillery

would hit the top but couldn't seem to hit direct into the base. This was my area of town so I placed a gun by the sea wall and let loose at the windows, down low. The gunner was doing a good job when a mortar shell hit in front of the gun and put the boy out of action. I grabbed him, got him back out of harms way I guess--everything happened so damn fast. The Germans had our range. I dove back under the shield and told the loader to go to work so we got two off and a German shell then hit the shield. I had my hand over a 57 shell under the gun and it went numb....Ended up in a field hospital. Purple Heart #2."

In Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge, Roddick found out how cold it could get. It was January 1945. "There was snow and it was cold as hell. We were covering a field below a hill and trees beyond, with a road coming down on our right. It was so cold that bodies loaded on open trucks would bounce off if the truck hit a bump. They were frozen stiff and the next truck would pick them up." The cold had made it a good road for tanks and Roddick's 57 mm guns couldn't stop them. "Damn tanks came barreling down the road, the gunner had the bead, hit the plunger and it was frozen."

A few days later Roddick's fighting career was ended. "A high explosive round hit on the top of my helmet...I was knocked to the mud. I had blood in my mouth, ears, eyes--I was considered dead." A sergeant discovered that he was still breathing, and Roddick was sent to a hospital in England. The wound was not enough to send him home, and at the end of the war he was put in charge of 1,500 German prisoners. He finally went home in October 1945.

William Roddick passed away on May 15, 1994. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full Military Honors. Material used in this article came from his memoirs. ▼

THE MOUNTAINEER

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Wednesday, January 5, 2011

www.themountaineer.com • 50¢

Haywood WWII veteran featured in film

The documentary "Marching Once More," which reflects on the Battle of the Bulge, one of World War II's most bloody confrontations, will feature memories of Haywood County veteran Dick Alexander.

The film will appear at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 12, on UNC-TV, North Carolina's statewide public television network.

Shot in Belgium and Luxembourg, this one-hour documentary follows over 100 veterans — including Canton's Alexander — as they return for the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, often called the largest, bloodiest battle of World War II. Alexander served with the 83rd Infantry Division.

The Battle of the Bulge began at 5:30 a.m. Dec. 16, 1944, when Hitler launched a massive, surprise attack against a thin, often inexperienced American front line at a time when many thought the war in Europe was over. Instead, six weeks of brutal fighting followed in one of the worst winters in memory. Before it was over, 19,000 Americans would lose their lives.

Sixty years later, survivors returned and the WetBird Productions crew was with them — the only U.S. crew along. At stop after stop, there were ceremonies, speeches, wreaths left in honor of the fallen. Children asked to shake wrinkled hands; a King presented medals; citizens asked for autographs.

"It was overwhelming," says producer/writer Brenda Hughes. "Herewere senior citizens from the United States being treated like rock stars in Europe. It was such a privilege to witness this remarkable journey and bring it home. The result is a program that all Americans should see."

Among those featured in "Marching Once More" is Dick Alexander from Canton, who served with the 83rd Infantry Division. The December, 2004, trip to Belgium and Luxembourg was one of several that Dick has made there since the end of World War II. He remains active in the Canton, Cruso, and Waynesville communities.

Alexander was born in Nashville, Tennessee Oct. 5, 1917 and lived in New York City from 1924 to 1939. He holds a bachelor's degree from New College, Teachers College, Columbia University and a master's degree from Teachers College, Columbia University. Alexander was a math and science teacher from 1939 to 1942 at Springdale School in Cruso when he was drafted and joined the Army.

He entered in the 83rd Infantry Division as a private, where he was assigned as an aide to General Montague, commander of the 83rd Infantry Division. His fluency in German was a plus.

Film continues on 3A

FILM

■ Continued from 1A

Alexander was 27 during the Battle of the Bulge, which lasted from Dec 16, 1944 to Jan 28, 1945, and, by then, had worked his way up to rank of Master Sergeant.

During the Bulge, he helped direct artillery fire with Artillery Fire Direction Unit in Headquarters Battalion. As an artillery aerial observer, he flew

in Piper Cub Airplanes and directed artillery fire from the air; however, due to bad weather, planes flew very little during the Battle of the Bulge.

Alexander landed on Omaha Beach June 22, 1944, and was in France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany and Holland before returning home to teach at Springdale School. He then moved to Ball State where he taught at the Teachers College from 1957 to 1982. He then retired in Haywood County.



Dick Alexander served in the U.S. Army during WWII. He is featured in a film about the Battle of the Bulge.

Role in Battle of Bulge leads to TV spotlight



JOHN FLETCHER/JFLETCHER@CITIZEN-TIMES.COM

Dick Alexander looks over some of his World War II memorabilia at his Haywood County home. Alexander appears in the upcoming documentary "Marching Once More" about soldiers returning from events marking the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

Haywood man part of war documentary

By John Boyle
JBOYLE@CITIZEN-TIMES.COM

CRUSO — At age 93, Dick Alexander has no interest in being a television star.

But he is interested in spreading the word any way he can about the Battle of the Bulge and the role his old unit, the 83rd Infantry Division, played in it. He points out that over the course of the war the 83rd, known as the Thunderbolts, suffered the ninth-most casualties — 3,620 combat deaths and 11,807 wounded — of the 68 army divisions deployed during World War II.

"To be very frank, our division was underexposed and underrated," said Alexander, explaining that the division was created in World War I and then reactivated during World War II, in the summer of 1942. "We always were thought of as a bunch of ama-

TO SEE DOCUMENTARY

Premiere of "Marching Once More" is at 8 p.m. Wednesday on UNC-TV. The film follows veterans as they returned to the battlefield in 2004 for the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. For more information, visit www.wetbirdproductions.com.

teurs. We weren't the Big Red One or the 'Band of Brothers' (the 101st Airborne) or the 82nd Airborne."

A chance to spread the word is coming up this week: Along with numerous other soldiers and a former nurse, Alexander appears in the upcoming documentary "Marching Once More," which premieres at 8 p.m. Wednesday on UNC-TV. The film follows veterans as they returned to the battlefield in 2004 for the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

On Dec. 16, 1944, during one of the worst winters on record in the

Please see WAR on A5



SPECIAL TO THE CITIZEN-TIMES

Dick Alexander in 1945.

WAR: Analysis of battle

Continued from A1

Ardennes Forest of Belgium, Adolph Hitler ordered a surprise counteroffensive against the Allies.

The attack caught the Allies off-guard and resulted in a sizable German advance, or "bulge," in the Allied lines.

The battle raged until Jan. 25, 1945, involving more than a million men, including 500,000 Americans, 55,000 British and about 600,000 Germans. The largest land battle in which the U.S. participated during the war, it resulted in 81,000 American casualties, with 19,000 killed. About 100,000 Germans were killed, wounded or captured, according to the website of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge (www.battleofthebulge.org).

Familiar with Germany

Alexander, the father of former Haywood County Sheriff Tom Alexander, was born in Nashville, Tenn., in 1917 and lived in New York City from 1924-39.

His father was an academic who studied German education, so Alexander also spent about four years living in Germany, becoming fluent in the language.

In 1939, Alexander came to Springdale School in Cruso as a math and science teacher. He was drafted into the Army in 1942 as a private and by 1944 had worked his way up to the rank of master sergeant.

Alexander's job was to direct 105 mm howitzer artillery fire on German positions, which required frequent flights in a small, unarmed Piper Cub.

During the battle, the 83rd was on the northern flank of the Germans, moving about 70 miles during the fight.

"We kept a plane in the air any day we could, from sun up to sundown, weather permitting," Alexander said. "We were so low — we flew at 1,500 feet or so — they could not hit us with their flak. They couldn't set their fuses that short."

They did occasionally encounter small arms and World War II documentary she made, "Thank You, Eddie Hart."

Hughes worked on "Marching Once More," an independent production, intermittently — on a "pay-as-you-go" basis.

"I think the thing about Dick is his attention to detail, and his study of the war since the war ended," said Hughes, founder of Wet Bird Productions and a graduate of Meredith College and East Carolina University. "He's really taken it and broken it down. In the documentary, he offers his analysis of what went wrong with Battle of the Bulge."

Alexander says the Americans did err by placing an inexperienced division in the center of the German line, but he also firmly believes the Germans overreached with their counteroffensive.

"We lost a lot of men, but they lost more than we did — and they couldn't replace theirs," Alexander said. "I'm convinced if the Germans had used their personnel in their fixed positions, they could have exacted a lot more losses."

Besides directing artillery fire, Alexander also served as an aide to the commander of the 83rd,



SPECIAL TO THE CITIZEN-TIMES

Dick Alexander, right, pictured with pilot John Baker during World War II.

Brig. Gen. Robert Montague. He finished the war about 40 miles outside of Berlin.

Despite the danger, Alexander suffered only two minor injuries — burns from a generator catching fire and a banged-up shoulder after a Jeep he was riding in fell into a shell crater.

After the war, Alexander returned to Springdale School and married the woman he'd met in college, Margaret Pitts. She died in 2001.

From 1957-82, Alexander taught at Ball State University's Teacher's College.

He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Columbia University and a doctoral degree from the University of Tennessee.

Still driving, still busy

Alexander is retired now but far from inactive. He delivers Meals on Wheels, helps with a scientific water sampling program in Haywood County, sits on the board of the Salvation Army and is active in local Democratic politics.

Tom Alexander says his dad has never been a boastful man regarding his career or his military service.

"He's very proud of what he did, and he's proud of everybody else who was there," he said. "He still goes to about all the reunions — my mom used to say he'd have to go and fight the war again every year."

Nearly 70 years after the battle, Dick Alexander, who has always needed glasses, is still amused that his main role was as a spotter.

"My eyes were weak and I was color blind and here they put me in an airplane as a spotter," Alexander said, laughing.

As happens with many war veterans, Alexander finds those years of his life colored everything else.

During frequent trips back to Belgium and France, he's also convinced that the Allies' efforts were worth it.

Alexander has been back to the battlefields — the Ardennes Forest in Belgium, as well as areas of Luxembourg and Germany — seven or eight times.

"I spent three years in the Army and almost two years on the continent, and those were years that had an impact on me," Alexander said. "On the 60th anniversary, I realized the scar has healed." ▼

83rd ITEMS FOR SALE

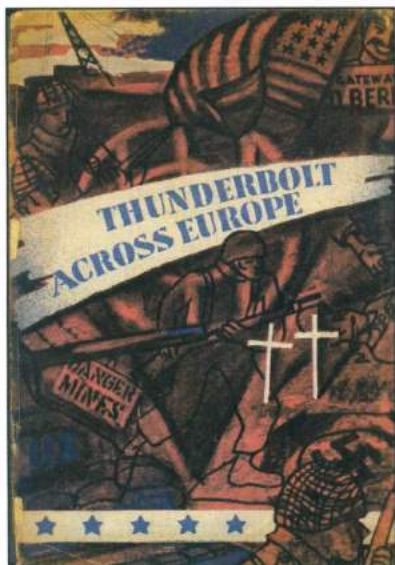
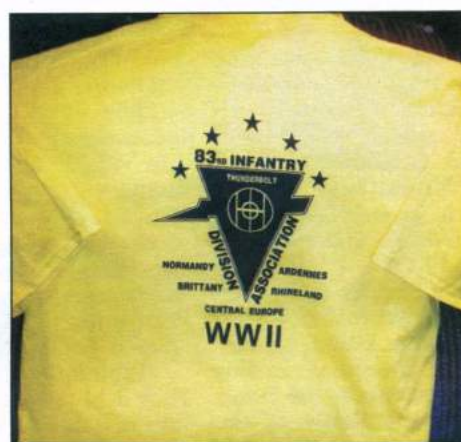
83RD YELLOW SHIRTS (SHORT SLEEVES)

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



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SMALL (only 7 left)	_____	_____
MEDIUM	_____	_____
LARGE	_____	_____
EXTRA LARGE	_____	_____



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***ALL articles to be published in the Thunderbolt
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October 10, February 10, and May 10

Cliff Wooldridge

P.O. Box 406

Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406

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

"Change Service Requested" 1

TO:

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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 2012 ARE DUE AUGUST 1, 2011

RENEWAL____ NEW____

NAME (please print) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

Company _____ Regiment _____ 83rd Division

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Spring11

DESCENDANT____ ASSOCIATE____ OTHER_____

Name of 83rd Division Member _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

IMPORTANT

When you move and change your address, PLEASE send your change of address. It does no good to mail you a Thunderbolt at your old address. The Post Office WILL NOT 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.