



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.
WORLD WAR II

Vol. 67 Issue No. 2

Spring Issue 2012

— SHERATON MUSIC CITY HOTEL —
SITE OF THE 66TH REUNION!



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THE THUNDERBOLT

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*Denotes Deceased



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CARMELLA CATRAMBONE

We're Off To Nashville!

by Carmella Catrambone
President

Another year has gone by and our next reunion is almost here. Many veterans requested a reunion in Nashville, TN, so that's where we are going.

I visited Nashville in November to check out the hotel and the sites. It is such an exciting city with lots of things to do. Even though it is not a military site, I was so inspired by the patriotism displayed throughout the city and within the country-western music and themes. Visiting the Country Music Hall of Fame, seeing the memorabilia of the famous country-western singers and listening to their music was an experience that gave me goose bumps and brought tears to my eyes. I visited the Ryman Auditorium and saw a Grand Ole Opry show. I can't wait until those attending the reunion can experience this fantastic place.

We have a bus tour of Nashville scheduled for Thursday. The tour includes Music Row, Vanderbilt University, Bicentennial Mall, Historic Second Avenue, with stops at the Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum and the Historic Ryman Auditorium, known as the "Mother Church of Country Music." The tour will include lunch at a Smorgasbord. We will return to the hotel early in the afternoon. Thursday evening we will have a presentation on the Tennessee maneuvers by a representative from Cumberland University. He will also present honorary degrees to the veterans

attending the reunion who were involved in the maneuvers. If you cannot attend the reunion, please send me your information and I will give the representative your name so that a degree can be mailed to you.

Friday, during the day will be a leisure day. However, we will leave the hotel early that evening to go to a show at the Grand Ole Opry. Since we will have an early departure, the hotel is offering an early buffet dinner at a special price just for our group. Tickets will be sold on Wednesday and Thursday for the buffet dinner. Some people might want to sleep in on Friday morning, have a late breakfast and a late lunch with just a snack in the evening, so I thought it would be best to keep the buffet optional and separate from the show.

Saturday we will have our usual meetings, memorial service and Catholic Mass. Our reunion will end with our banquet on Saturday evening. There will be surprise entertainment at the banquet that I am sure you will enjoy.

Please be sure to see the two separate sheets of information in this issue: *Directions to Sheraton Music City Hotel* and *Shuttle Service* that the hotel offers to and from the airport.

This will be a fun reunion. I look forward to seeing everyone again in August. ▼



FROM THE CHAPLAIN

ELLSWORTH MASSIE

Prayer Thought

We give thanks for the comradeship of fellow soldiers and their loved ones over these many years!

It means more than one can put into words what it means to be bound together with this group!

Remember the purpose of our being together to honor those who have given their all for the cause of Freedom.

Let's put aside our personal desires and make decisions that honor the original purpose of being together!

We pray for strength and blessing in our daily lives and pray that we all may meet again in the near future.

Yours,

E. Massie

Natl. Chaplain ▼

FROM THE EDITOR

CLIFF WOOLDRIDGE

I apologize for being so late with membership cards and the Thunderbolt but my health slowed me down. With the help of my daughters, Judy and Betty, and Nancy I am getting caught up and now things will be back to normal.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at our next reunion in Nashville, TN. Carmella has planned a great reunion for all of us.

See all the reunion information in this issue of the Thunderbolt.

Cliff Wooldridge ▼

COMPANIES

Co. "A"–330TH

CHARLES ABDINOOR

sgtchuck83rd@comcast.net

A Co. 330th. News

Hi Buddy's

Hope all is well with ALL. First, I would like to pay Homage to someone who is very dear to my Heart. Manlius R. Goodridge. Manny as he was known to all, passed away at his daughters home in Cincinnati, Ohio. He has been ill, this past year, and moved in with his daughter Amy and her husband. Manny was past President in 1977, and held Executive Officers positions in our Organization. He was low keyed, but when he made a point it was pure common sense. He did not beat around the bush, he told it as it was. Another Buddy has left us, and he surely will be missed by ALL. REST WELL BUDDY.

Well what else is new! Although, that workaholic Mell is off again lining up Nashville, for August, Mike would be so proud, knowing that she has her BIG HEART, in our Organization. We are so lucky to have her.

As for our diehard A-Co. members. It is so much repetition, nothing has changed. We still have the Pillions, Prussman's, Baricks, Dunn's, Brown's and Cookie Senica, holding court at the Veteran's home. I would be remiss, if I did not mention Ralph Caprio, a descendant who introduced us to Ed McLaughlin, who is an Associate Member of the Delaware Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. Ed had a Certificate that he presented to us, with a BIG THANK YOU, of putting our names on the WW2 Memorial in Washington D.C. He has at his own expense did this for us. I say to you Ed a BIG THANK YOU!

Through the efforts of Dave Dimmick, we found a new member of A-Co. 330th. His name is Sam Hefferman, and was a Radio-

man in the 1st platoon. Travis Arnette who is his Grandson, has been trying to piece together his experiences in the 83rd. It first started with Dave Curry's website, that Travis was looking for information, if anybody knew Sam Hefferman. I answered his inquiry, and since then we have another member of A-Co. I will give specifics in the next issue, I do not want to take too much space in the Thunderbolt.

DIXIE CHAPTER NEWS

ELLSWORTH MASSIE

Cliff!

Things have been pretty well mixed up here lately. Kathy has been sick since our last meeting. I have been doing what a 90 year old husbands do when their 86 year old bride isn't able to unpack her clothes from the last trip!



Better days are coming! What do you think of this Spring weather? I can't remember if I sent in a report on Dixie since our Xmas meet! We met in Gatlinburg! 40 present: 3 vets WWII, 4 wives, sons, and descendants. Some saw the sights and shows!

Our descendants are voted into office and are doing a great job! I'm really proud of them! We are happy with the Legacy group and look expectantly into the future with them!

We plan to go back this year for the 60+ time!

Food was supplied by the members and we had a banquet and gift exchange with "Santa" and "Mrs. Santa" — then had an auction of donated items which John White did the honors.

Date for next meeting is not set yet. All are invited! Make your reservations when the word comes out!

Hope to see the old and new at this meeting! We've lost many faithful members this year. Hoping to see many old and new faces at our meetings!

Yours,
E. Massie

P.S. My camera is on the fritz! So no pictures! ▼





MAIL BAG

Dear members,

I make up a collection of items of the 83rd Infantry Division: letters, postcards, pictures, diary, uniform, medals, souvenirs and other documents... A large part of this collection comes from Internet, others have been offered. For some of these items, I've the name of the previous owner. I realize research about these men and I need your help! Here my "roster" (with known units for each):

Thomas C. Angle	(ASN 33217741)	331st Inf. Reg., Co. 1
W. M. Carberry	(ASN 39399726)	324th F.A. Bn, SV Btry
John S. Caruso	(ASN 33306125)	330th Inf. Reg., HQ Co.
John C. Catherwood	(ASN 38561879)	331st Inf. Reg., Co. C
Earl S. Clifton	(ASN 35343701)	322nd F.A. Bn, HQ Btry
Kenneth Curd	(ASN 35666295)	330th Inf. Reg., Co. C
Robert M. Ferguson	(ASN 35399997)	330th Inf. Reg., Co. M
Charles E. Fusselle	(ASN 13119271)	83rd QMC
Harold W. Gaddis	(ASN 06563917)	329th Inf. Reg., Co. C
Rex H. Hamby	(ASN 37051324)	308th Eng. Bn., Co. A
Ivan C. Harrington	(ASN 35814018)	330th Inf. Reg., Co. E
Warren E. Hultquist	(ASN 31259296)	783rd Ord. L. M. Co.
Walter P. Johnson	(ASN 38683664)	330th Inf. Reg., Co. L
Robert J. Kenyon	(ASN 33023001)	324th F.A. Bn, Btry C
Alfred L. Long	(ASN 35234053)	83rd Arty Div., HQ Btry
Joseph Lucas	(ASN 33306246)	322nd F.A. Bn, Btry C
Elmer O. Mace	(ASN 31199916)	331st Inf. Reg., Co G, HQ Co. & Co. E
Charles J. Martin	(ASN 35686691)	330th Inf. Reg., Co. F
Joseph F. McDonald	(ASN 31338431)	83rd Sign. Co.
George D. Naylor Jr.	(ASN 33227423)	331st Inf. Reg., Co. F
John J. Neofes	(ASN ???)	331st Inf. Reg. (?)
John G. Petkevis	(ASN 32956054)	329th Inf. Reg., Co. A
Richard P. Rohde	(ASN 35509970)	331st Inf. Reg., Co. H
Franklin T. Shippen	(ASN 16176456)	331st Inf. Reg., Co. L
Paul E. Shoemaker	(ASN 35344115)	329th Inf. Reg., Co. B & D
Roland E. Smith	(ASN 0-1180393)	83rd Arty Div., HQ Btry / 324th F.A. Bn
Russell L. Wagner	(ASN 33871766)	330th Inf. Reg., HQ 3rd Bn
Chester W. Whisler	(ASN 33337841)	83rd QM Co.

You can write me at this address:

M. Remy Mortelette
Chaussée de Wavre 286, Boite 7
7050 Ixelles
Belgium

Thanks in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

Remy Mortelette
83rd European Legacy Chapter



A little bit of my collection

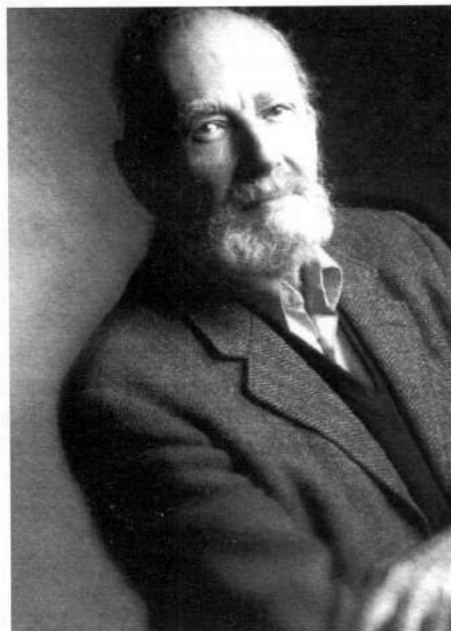
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

From: "Antoine Noslier"
<an.two.one.du.35@gmail.com>
To: <wooldridge@metrocast.net>
Sent: Friday, February 03, 2012 1:32 PM
Subject: Obituary

Hello Mr Wooldridge,

I would like to know if you can publish this information in the next thunderbolt.

I would like report the death of Mr Raymond Perrussel from Saint-Malo. Raymond Perrussel was a intelligence agent in the French underground force. When the 83rd Infantry Division arrived in the area of St-Malo, he joined the 83rd Infantry Division. He was assigned in the Antitank Company, 329th Infantry Regiment (his Platoon is unknown). He appears on some picture taken during the liberation of Saint-Servan. He stayed with the Antitank Company during some months. He was later transferred to the French army and assigned to the 35th Infantry Division (US Army) as French liaison officer. After the war he became a green berets (french commando). . I have never the luck to meet him before his death, because he was struck down by the



alzheimer disease. But all those who remember him, have seen his pride to have been member of the 83rd Infantry Division.

Best regards,

Antoine

Juergen Ladebeck
Rothenseer St. 68d
39124 Magdeburg
Germany

STACKPOLE BOOKS
5067 Ritter Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
USA

DEAR THUNDERBOLT EDITOR,
I SENT THIS LETTER TO THE FAMOUS
AUTHOR STEVEN ZALOGA TO POINT
OUT AN ERROR IN HIS NEW BOOK.
THINK THIS MIGHT BE OF INTEREST
TO THE 83RD INF. DIV. ASSN. AS WELL!
SINCERELY & BEST REGARDS !
JUERGEN LADEBECK

This refers to the book *Armored Victory 1945* by Steven Zaloga,
published in 2012 , ISBN 978-0-8117-0771-8

Please forward this to the author Mr. Steven Zaloga

Dear Mr. Zaloga,

Thank you very much for this highly informative and extensive pictorial study about the American armour in the final stages of E.T.O. in WWII !
May I point out that there is a little mistake among the photographs on page 390 - 391.
Without any doubt both pictures on p.390 showing the Saale River crossings of the 320th RCT near Gross-Rosenburg. The 320th IR (35th InfDiv.) was attached to the 83rd Inf.Division during the Elbe- Bridgehead operation near Barby to replace their 330th IR which was still engaged in the Harz Mountains. Both photographs on p.390 corresponding to this often published photo showing engineers pulling a ferry with M24 tank onboard over the Saale River:



This photograph clearly shows that both pictures on p.391 could not be taken at the banks of the Saale River. It is very likely that the location of both p.391 pictures belonging to the Rhine River. Also I had never found any reference about LCMs neither on Saale nor on Elbe River. Thus I consider the p.391 photographs in the context of the Rhine crossings as shown on p.355-356.

Compared to the mighty Rhine River the Saale River is a slight creek but large enough to represent a serious obstacle for motorized troops. I took this Picture at the same location some 60 years later to show the difference. Amazingly the little building on the opposite bank remains intact over all the years. I think the contrast between both rivers is recognizable well.



With deep respect & best regards !

Juergen Ladebeck

Magdeburg, 10 March 2012



Thank you Jean Paul

Jean Paul is one person that my dad (Joe Macaluso) would have loved to have met as they both have (and had) a devotion to keeping the story of the 83rd alive. Jean Paul has been instrumental in ensuring the accuracy of the history of the 83rd in Europe.

I "googled" Jean Paul the other day and his name actually popped up right away. He has played host to several members of the 83rd and their families who have visited France, particularly Sainteny. It seems that he has become the unofficial ambassador for the Normandy and Brittany regions. There are many stories on websites that acclaim his hospitality shown to visitors.

I always look forward to seeing Jean Paul at the reunions and listening to his activities for the past year.

Kathleen Powers

"Jean Paul was an excellent host when I arrived in Sainteny on 4 June 2009 with my Son and Grandson. He had arranged an art exhibition in the Church and he asked me and Bob Keck to talk about our WWII experiences to local schoolchildren 9-13 years old, and to answer their questions. On 7 June, Jean Paul cut the ribbon when Bob and I presented the flag of the District of Columbia for display, along with the 25 US State flags the 83rd Association had previously donated to Sainteny, in the Ceremonial Hall next to the Mayor's office. (For pictures, see <http://normandy2009.blogspot.com/>)

Jean Paul has been an enthusiastic supporter of the 83rd Association and has been our "French Connection" to Sainteny as shown by the previous trips he has made to our reunions. He should be congratulated for the time and effort he has dedicated to the annual celebration of the part the 83rd veterans, living and dead, played in the liberation of Sainteny."

Rudy Zamula, 83rd Archivist

Jean Paul Pitou is a man above average, a dedicated person who has taken on the task of reminding all the Normandie people that their freedom was the result of the terrible sacrifices of the American Soldier. He has given of his own time and money to make sure that all remember that the 83rd Infantry Division was a big part of the liberation of France. My family and I consider Jean Paul a dear friend and always look forward to seeing Jean Paul. We were saddened when we heard of his losing his eye, Our Love and Prayers go out to you. GOD BLESS YOU!

Stan Bielen, Joyce, Judy, Emily and Evan

I remember Jean Paul, the very first time that I met him was at the reunion at Nashville. In. He came with his girl, who is now his wife. He brought pictures of his hometown, Sainteny, which he showed to us and explained all the destruction that was there, and how they rebuilt it. I also remember him explaining to the school children of the devastation left there. Jean Paul is an asset to our GREAT ORGANIZATION, and we are here, TO-DAY, with people that care.

Chuck Abdinoor "Sgt. Chuck"

Plaque presented to Jean Paul at our reunion in King of Prussia, PA

To Jean Paul Pitou

In grateful appreciation for all you have done to honor the sacrifices of the 83rd Thunderbolt Division and for the goodwill shown to visiting 83rd veterans and their families.

— 63rd Annual Reunion

Dear Robert and family,

Waltersmieding, April 14th
2012

Today afternoon this year's commemoration in Waltersmieding is taking place. Most of the veterans return this year but unfortunately some aren't able to come anymore. We miss very much our friend Dr. Weiss from Munich who is ill.

We enjoy remembering the commemoration in 2010 when you were with us. All of us were very glad about that. This year our commemoration is taking place April 14th - the exact date of the "Last Battle." Together we will pray for your American comrades, too, who lost their lives on the River Elbe.

We think gratefully and with a deep affection of the 83rd veterans in the United States and we are very glad that you became our friends.

A lot of love and greetings from Waltersmieding!

Anne Marie
Walterand Niemann
Johann Luchert

Marie-Luise

Heike Richter

Heide - R. Zimmermann
Heide Uerich

Susanne Krimm

Ulrike Schirmer

Svenja Zeidler

Karoline Schirmer

Peter Wilsing

A. W. Pöcher

Heinz Zeitler

Richard Rost

Danica

Honorary Master of Military Arts degrees to be presented at 83rd Reunion

On Thursday evening, August 2nd, a representative from Cumberland University will make a presentation about the Tennessee Maneuvers. Any 83rd veteran who trained at Camp Atterbury and was with the Division during the Tennessee Maneuvers will be awarded an an Honorary Masters Degree at the end of the presentation. Veterans who trained in the Tennessee Maneuvers, but are unable to attend the reunion in person, may still receive the honorary Master of Military Arts degree by contacting Cumberland University by mail, email, or phone. The University's phone number is **615-547-1387** and the email address is **veterans@cumberland.edu**. Veterans or their representatives can also apply for the honorary degree on the Cumberland University website at: **<http://www.cumberland.edu/veterans/registration>**

According to Cumberland University President, Dr. Harvill Eaton, "The simulated combat in Middle Tennessee was a critical element in the Allied victory in World War II. What soldiers learned here, as they engaged in rigorous corps-level exercises, was an important part of their education for their overseas combat assignments."

The degrees will be awarded to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the 2nd Army Maneuvers Field Headquarters moving to the Cumberland campus in Lebanon. The terrain of middle Tennessee allowed soldiers to make river crossings and engage in simulated combat conditions similar to those expected in France and Belgium. The training was very realistic, with more than 250 soldiers and civilians killed in the Tennessee Maneuvers.

Founded in 1842, Cumberland University is one of the oldest schools in the southeast. Its graduates include Cordell Hull, who was U.S. Secretary of State during World War II, 13 governors, and a host of other state and national political leaders. The school offers a variety of undergraduate and graduate degrees, and is fully accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. For further information, visit www.Cumberland.edu.



**66th ANNUAL REUNION
83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN.
NASHVILLE, TN
AUGUST 1-4, 2012**

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Sheraton Music City

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NASHVILLE**



Shuttle Service

The shuttle departs the Sheraton Music City Hotel on the hour and 30 minutes after the hour. It arrives at the airport 15 minutes after the hour and 15 minutes before the hour. This service is a complimentary service between the hours of 5:00 AM and 11:00PM.

The shuttle service is an “on call”, which means that the shuttle will transport/pick-up guests to/from the airport if someone calls for shuttle service. For example, if a guest calls at 4:15pm, they will be told that the next shuttle will be at 4:30pm. Remember that the shuttle will still leave here at the top and the bottom of the hour so the airport pick up time will be 4:45pm.

The guest should go to the *Baggage Claim Area* to retrieve luggage, then proceed to the *Phone Bank*, depress *Button #46* to arrange for shuttle pick-up. The guest should then go down one level to *Airport Shuttle* pick-up to wait for the shuttle.

Sheraton Music City Hotel, 777 McGavock Pike, Nashville, TN 37214, Phone (615) 885-2200, Fax (615) 231-1136



DIRECTIONS TO SHERATON MUSIC CITY HOTEL

FROM DOWNTOWN	<p><i>(As a point of reference, establish the position relative to Broadway. Any street which intersects Broadway to the North are named 1st Avenue North, 2nd Avenue North, etc. Those to the South of Broadway are 1st Avenue South, etc.)</i></p> <p>From Broadway, take 4th Avenue South, approximately 1.5 miles to I-40 East. Turn left onto ramp; stay in right lane to enter the interstate. Follow I-40 toward Knoxville to Briley Parkway North, Exit 215-B. Go 1/2 mile to Elm Hill Pike, Exit #7, turn right. At 3rd traffic light, turn right on McGavock Pike. Hotel is on left at top of hill.</p>
FROM SOUTH <i>(Birmingham, Brentwood, Franklin, I-440, Green Hills)</i>	<p>I-65 North to I-440 Memphis/Knoxville, Exit #80. Follow I-440 East, Knoxville/Chattanooga. Go 2.5 miles to the I-24 / I-40 split, following the left lane to Exit #52-B, I-40 East. Travel I-40 East to Exit 215-B, Briley Parkway/Opryland (1 mile). Go 1/2 mile to Exit #7, Elm Hill Pike. Turn right at 1st light. Go .3 miles to the 3rd traffic light, McGavock Pike, turn right. Hotel is .8 miles on left at top of hill.</p>
FROM NORTH <i>(Louisville, KY, Hendersonville)</i>	<p>I-65 South to Briley Parkway/Opryland, Exit #90-B. Go past Opryland Hotel to Elm Hill Pike, Exit #7 (approximately 9 miles). Turn left at light onto Elm Hill Pike. Go 2 more lights; turn right at 3rd light onto McGavock Pike. The hotel is .8 miles on left at top of hill.</p>
FROM WEST <i>(Memphis, Bellevue, Belle Meade)</i>	<p>Stay on I-40 East towards Knoxville. Continue in right lane on I-40 East to Briley Parkway / Opryland, Exit 215-B (approximately 5 miles). Go 1/2 mile to Exit #7, Elm Hill Pike. Turn right at 1st light. Go .3 miles to 3rd traffic light at McGavock Pike, and turn right onto McGavock Pike. The hotel is .8 miles on left at top of hill.</p>
FROM EAST <i>(Knoxville, Lebanon, Mt. Juliet, Hermitage)</i>	<p>Take I-40 West towards Nashville to Briley Parkway North/Opryland, Exit 215. Go 1/2 mile to Exit #7, Elm Hill Pike. Turn right at 1st light. Go .3 miles to 3rd traffic light, McGavock Pike, turn right. The hotel is .8 miles on left at top of hill.</p>
FROM SOUTHEAST <i>(Chattanooga, Murfreesboro, Atlanta)</i>	<p>Take I-24 West to Briley Parkway / Opryland Exit, #54-B. Follow Briley Parkway East to elm Hill Pike, Exit #7. Turn right at 1st light. Go .3 miles to 3rd traffic light (McGavock Pike) turn right. The hotel is .8 miles on left at top of hill.</p>
FROM AIRPORT	<p>Take the Nashville Exit I-40 West. Travel to Briley Parkway / Opryland; Exit 215. Go 1/4 mile to Exit #7, Elm Hill Pike. Turn right at 1st light. Go .3 miles to 3rd traffic light, McGavock Pike, turn right. The hotel is .8 miles on left at top of hill.</p>
FROM NORTHWEST <i>(St. Louis, Clarksville, TN)</i>	<p>I-24 merge with I-65 to I-40 East towards Knoxville. Travel I-40 East to Exit #215-B, Briley Parkway/Opryland. Go 1/2 mile to Exit #7, Elm Hill Pike. Turn right at 1st light. Go .3 miles to 3rd traffic light, McGavock Pike, and turn right. The hotel is .8 miles on left at top of hill.</p>

777 McGavock Pike, Nashville, TN 37214; (615) 885-2200

Greetings to the Descendants of the 83rd Infantry Division Association

66 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 66th Reunion to take place at Nashville on August 1 through 4, 2012. All names will be listed below the name of their special veteran under the following caption:

On this the 66th 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 67th 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**



83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 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, 2012. 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.
PO Box 406
Alton Bay, NH 03810**

**Questions?
Call 603.875.3649**

	Price Per Person	# Of People	Total
<p style="text-align: center;">■ REGISTRATION PACKAGE – ■</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Registration Fee includes Saturday Night Banquet</p>	\$75 per Person	#	\$
Please select your entrée for SATURDAY BANQUET:		#	
Roasted Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus		#	
Grilled Chick Breast		#	
Thursday: Nashville City Tour. Lunch at Hermitage House Smorgasbord. Handicap bus available. Sites are handicap accessible.	\$60.00	#	\$
Friday Evening: Grand Ole Opry Show. Handicap Bus Available. Site is handicap accessible.	\$60.00	#	\$
Total Amount Payable to: <u>83rd Infantry Div. Assn.</u>			\$

Please Print:

Name (for name tag) _____ (Veteran____) (Descendant ____)

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

Street Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone # _____ Email _____

Spouse Name (for name tag) _____

Guest Names (for name tags) _____

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 _____

Free Airport Shuttle Service is available to and from the hotel between 5:00 AM and 11:00PM. Go to **Baggage Claim** area to retrieve luggage, then proceed to the **Phone Bank**, depress **Button #46** to arrange for shuttle pick-up. The guest should then go down one level to **Airport Shuttle** pick-up to wait for the shuttle.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY					
CK# _____	Amt _____	Date _____	1 _____	2 _____	Tag _____
Beef _____	Chicken _____	Spl Menu _____	Thurs. NT _____	Fri. GOO _____	

RESERVATION REQUEST FORM

Sheraton Music City
777 McGavock Pike
Nashville, TN 37214
Phone: 615.885.2220 Fax: 615.231.1120
www.sheraton.com/musiccity

*For reservations, please call 1.888.627.7060 or
online at www.sheraton.com*

*You can also complete this form and mail it directly to the hotel.
When placing reservation, refer to 83rd Infantry Division Association*

Check-in Time: 3 PM

Check-out Time: 11:00 AM

Name _____ Phone _____

E-Mail _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Please reserve _____ (# of rooms) For _____ (# of people per room)

RATES: \$109.00, plus 15.25% TN and local sales tax, plus \$2.50 occupancy tax = \$128.12

REUNION DATES: Wed., Aug. 1; Thurs., Aug. 2; Fri., Aug. 3; Sat., Aug. 4, 2012

PLEASE CHECK TYPE OF ACCOMMODATIONS REQUESTED:

_____ Regular Room – 1 King _____ Regular Room – 2 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: Sheraton Music City)

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ Daytime Phone _____

ROOMS BLOCKED FOR THE 83rd WILL BE RELEASED JULY 1, 2012.
TO RECEIVE THE GROUP RATE YOU MUST REGISTER BEFORE THEN.
(The rates are available for three days prior and three days after the reunion dates.)
Reservations will continue to be accepted after July 1, 2012 based on availability.
Individual guest rooms must be cancelled 48 hours prior to arrival by 6 p.m.

**IF REGISTERING BY MAIL,
PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN TO:**

Sheraton Music City Hotel
777 McGavock Pike
Nashville, TN 37214

The Thunderbolt Chronicles



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

Norman Kruse B Company 331st Infantry

The passing of Norman L. Kruse was reported in the Spring 2011 issue of the Thunderbolt. Norman Kruse joined the 83rd Division in July 1944 in Normandy as a replacement. He was a platoon leader in B Company, 331st Infantry Regiment, and also served as company commander of B Company during the occupation. He recorded his memoirs in two volumes. The first volume covers the history of Kruse and the 3rd platoon during the war. The second volume covers Norman's experiences as company commander of B Company during the occupation. The two volumes were put together from his diary which he kept during the war.

The following are excerpts from Norman Kruse's memories of the Battle for St. Malo as recorded in the first volume of his memoirs. (I did a little light editing, correcting some typographical errors, etc. Otherwise, the information is as it was recorded in Norman's memoirs.)

Aug. 5

That evening we loaded on the trucks and went to the assembly area near Pontorson. We were now in Brittany. Our Division had been taken out of the 1st Army and placed in Gen. George Patton's 3rd Army, which had lots of tanks to support the infantry.

Aug. 6

In our next attack, our regiment was on the right flank of the division. Company B's mission was to go along some railroad tracks which led to St. Malo and Dinard. Soon, we approached some large canals, built of concrete, and as we began to cross them, machine guns opened up on us. They had an open view of us and the fire stopped us in our tracks. The bullets were ricocheting off of the concrete and making a terrible noise. We got out of the canal in a hurry and dug in on our side and reported to the C.O. of the situation. Another company of the battalion moved in rear of the machine guns and they were soon quiet.

That evening, we moved up toward the area that we were to take. Company A had been committed in a steep valley to our left and we could hear their battle, a lot of



small arms fire. The 3rd platoon was in reserve and Platoon Sgt. Francis Powell and I were with the captain. Soon, he said to bring up my platoon, so I sent Sgt. Powell back about 100 yards to bring up our platoon. He returned and said that they were gone. The Sgt. and I ran back and finally found the entire platoon another 100 yards back. We had been in a long line and they said someone had passed the word back that Lt. Kruse had told them to withdraw.

After that, I always sent my messenger-radioman back to tell each squad leader our mission. Powell and I brought them back on the run. Moore said nothing except to tell me that my platoon would now lead the attack. Although night attacks would surprise the enemy, control of the platoon was very difficult. The Germans had withdrawn from the valley.

Aug. 7

We were told to dig in for the night. After setting up the outposts, the rest of us slept well because we had been running all day. At daybreak our company started to move on to the right and to cross a wheatfield before we were to secure a small woods. When all the entire platoon was in the wheatfield, heavy machine gun fire was coming from the woods and we were pinned down right in the middle of the field. John Sukla and another member of the third squad were carrying a wounded member, as medic litter bearers could not get up because of very heavy artillery fire. The wheatfield did provide excellent cover as the platoon crawled through it to the edge of the woods. As we pressed the woods, they withdrew again. This fighting was tough because you never knew whether they were there or not.

Aug. 8

From the wheatfield, we moved into

rougher terrain and I talked to Capt. Woodson of the heavy weapons D Company of possible targets for his 81 mm mortars. Company A was now receiving heavy fire and the Germans were using a lot of tracers and what was quiet was now becoming a loud battle. Col. York was talking to Capt. Moore of the situation, who then told me to contact A Company.

Capt. Barber had his Company A in good control, although they were on the receiving end of most of the fire. All of a sudden, the Germans were gone and the night was quiet....The next morning our company was told to withdraw, as other units were to take St. Malo.

Aug. 9

The 8th Division had their combat team, 121st Regiment, committed and one of its battalions was isolated and our own battalion was to relieve them. They were near Pleurtuit and as we moved up, our platoon saw a small airplane shot down. I sent out a patrol and we soon drew fire and our company then moved to relieve the unit of the 121st. Lt. Pat Murphy and his 2nd platoon were in the lead and had penetrated some pillboxes, and soon the entire platoon was cut off. I was to send a squad out to try and help the 2nd Platoon. Sgt. Deisher and his squad were sent after darkness toward the area. Our platoon was on our company's left flank and we had close support of our weapons platoon. Lt. Carparanis and I had excellent phone connections.

Aug. 10

Deisher and his squad returned and had not contacted the 2nd platoon. He reported that he had entered a pillbox and found it full of Germans. At first, he thought that they were Americans, until he noticed their rifles. He got out as they began to stir. We stayed in the road bed that night. The dead

were still in the old road, as the litter carriers could not get up because of the heavy gun fire. We covered them with our tent shelter-halves. Our morale was gloomy and sad. We still could not contact our 2nd platoon. Our C.O. came up with a smile on his face and told us that the 2nd platoon had returned. We had found out that the enemy was holed up in these concrete pillboxes and had heavy guns in them to mow us down. These were the same pillboxes that had been pointed toward the Channel during the D-Day landings. They had supplies and ammunition stored right in the pillboxes, and our infantry could not get close enough to attack them.

Aug. 11

Our company was to clear out these pillboxes, but first our planes and artillery were to pound them. We also had tank support, but so did they. Sgt. Kosel spotted an 88 gun that had been firing at us. He told our supporting tank unit and they blew it up. Actually, it was a German Tiger tank that they had hit. These guns were mounted in the tanks and the tanks would dig in and would be able to move quickly. I almost got hit by one of my own men, as he forgot to push on his safety and had fallen down. The bullet went through my jacket between my right arm pit and body. Our platoon captured an empty pillbox that had held us up for hours. Our tank support was making believers out of the Jerries. Sgt. Miller took part of his squad into the pillbox and came out and told me that a phone was ringing. Since Miller spoke German, he was told to tell them to surrender. After several minutes of his German, they hung up on him. One of the tank commanders, who was helping us that day, noticed my shot up jacket, he jumped back into his tank and came out with a brand new tanker's jacket. He smiled and

then he gave it to me. It was a perfect fit and I wore it from then on.

Aug. 14

Our weapons platoon and our tank support were really softening up the resistance. Pvt. Skinner reported to the 3rd platoon, as he was transferred from company headquarters. He had been a jeep driver for the captain. We were receiving some 20 mm ack-ack fire, which was being used as flat trajectory fire. We figured that we were close to an airport because these type guns were always used around them to fire at our planes. As we were trying to dig in, we hit solid concrete. They soon withdrew from the airport, because their fire had ceased. I got in touch with the company C.P. and the C.O. and he said to occupy the airport. Sgt. Newsome said a drunk German soldier had wandered in, but he would not give any information, so he was sent back to regiment.

We went through a German ammunition dump before we entered the air field. It contained many large bombs and machine gun ammunition. Part of the platoon occupied the airfield and the rest of us were sent to secure some woods with orders to stop any one coming down the main road. Some of us had picked up bottles of water while we went through the field. For a while, we thought that we had some real wine. There was no activity in the woods, so I sent Sgt. Kosel and his squad to intercept anyone coming down the road. In about five minutes, Kosel started to wave. First, a mess vehicle came by and the squad captured the vehicle, a driver, and two cooks. One of the cooks was oriental, who said he had been captured on the Russian front. A German lieutenant riding a motorcycle came over the hill. He was ordered to stop and when he speeded up, someone shot his cycle out from under him. He was more surprised than hurt. He

said all of his platoons were withdrawing and were completely out of contact with their commander. Although we captured many German prisoners, few had been wounded. They knew that they were cut off in Brittany and that we were on every side of them.

Aug. 15

The next morning was a beautiful day, the battle was over and no one had been hurt or wounded. We were told to take it easy and be ready to move out. The C.O. Came up to me and said to tell the other platoons the same message and that they were down the road four hundred yards. I took Emory Brown, my messenger-radio-man with me. We were happy to give out that message.

Aug. 16

Our next objective would be St. Lunaire, so we started to move up on foot into the town. In our attacks, we were supported by tanks and as we approached the town, one of the tanks got stuck in the mud. Our company sent two men of another platoon to guard the tank. The 2nd platoon was along side of us, and neither of the platoons had received any fire until we entered the town. Murphy's second platoon went left and we continued to go straight ahead into St. Lunaire. Now, we were receiving fire from the center of town. A few days previous, while we were waiting for trucks to pick us up, three of my men had disappeared. They had been reported AWOL. The platoon sergeant said that they had returned and were fighting with their squads. By night, the town was ours and our platoon was stationed on the north edge of town. Our platoon C.P. was in a beauty shop, which had been damaged by artillery fire. We took a few bottles of perfume which survived the shelling of our artillery. With all of the broken bottles of perfume, the place smelled like a dance

hall filled with women. Capt. Moore came to my unit, and we sent three who had been AWOL back to the regiment under guard.

Aug. 16-20

Our 1st battalion was to take Dinard, but first we were to help take Hills 42 and 48. Actually they were large concrete pillboxes and were located with a view toward the sea. They were well stocked with everything and proved very tough to take. Several companies were mauled in the effort, including ours. As the prisoners were coming out of the pillbox, I walked up to the opening to help lead the prisoners back. One of them started to yell "nixen minden," and I stopped in my tracks. They gladly showed us the path to use, as mines had been planted in the area. We sent for the anti-mine platoon to defuse them.

We were taking a lot of prisoners now and my platoon was carrying around a lot of loot. These pillboxes were stocked with guns and ammunition as the Germans had been stationed in them for months waiting for any invasion from the sea. Now, I had two Luger pistols, one P-38 pistol, and two stainless steel sabers. I picked up a large Nazi flag or banner, and I cut out the swastika part and threw the long red banner away. I planned to have the whole platoon sign their names on the flag later when we had more time. Someone suggested that everyone include their home address. Nearly all of our states were represented in the platoon.

That evening we occupied one of the bunkers and we all tried out our newly acquired Lugers by shooting holes in the pictures of Hitler and Goering that hung on the walls. As we were admiring our accuracy, Capt. Moore came in and said to cut it out as it sounded like the Germans were back. As he left the bunker, he said our accuracy was improving. ▼

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Manlius "Manny" R. Goodridge

Date of Birth
May 31, 1918
Taylorsport, Kentucky

Date of Death
March 18, 2012
Cincinnati, Ohio

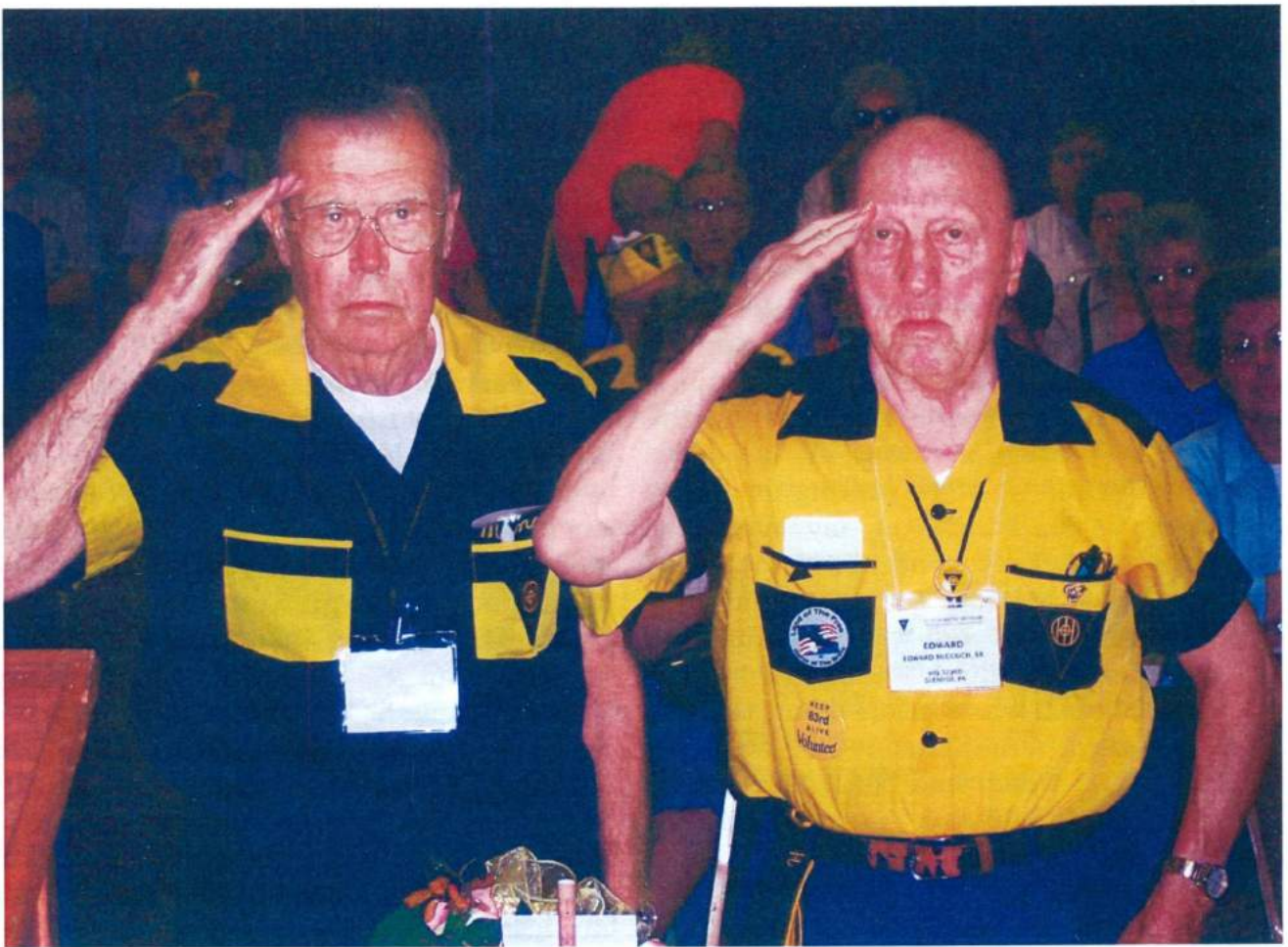
Visitation
Thursday, March 22, 2012, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Middendorf-Bullock Funeral Home
Ludlow, Kentucky

Funeral Service
Friday, March 23, 2012, 1:00 p.m.
Middendorf-Bullock Funeral Home
Ludlow, Kentucky

Interment
Burlington Cemetery
Burlington, Kentucky

After Glow

*I'd like the memory of me
to be a happy one,
I'd like to leave an afterglow of
smiles when day is done.
I'd like to leave an echo whispering
softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times
and bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve
to dry before the sun,
Of happy memories that I leave behind
When day is done.*



Manny Goodridge and Ed McCouch Sr.

Deceased List


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

Name	Unit	Reported by
Manny R. Goodridge	Serv 908 FA	
John P. Hennigan	C Co., 329th	Margaret R. Hennigan
Dan McDermott	Co. D, 331st	
Henry Hallock Richards	A & B Co., 331st	George Richards
Oscar W. Rutstein	G-Co., 331st.	Chuck Abdinoor
Frederick C. Sylvia, Jr.	329th INF	



GOODRIDGE



 Manlius "Manny" R. Goodridge, 93, of Bellevue, formerly of Ludlow, died Sunday, March 18, 2012 at the home of his daughter in Cincinnati, OH. He was born on May 31, 1918 in Taylorsport, Kentucky to the late Raymond M. and Sadie Morehead Goodridge. His wife, Callie A. Hood Goodridge died in 1995. Mr. Goodridge was a business planner for General Electric for 30 years, a WWII Army veteran, being a member of the 83rd Infantry Division Association, member of the Hebron Masonic Lodge #757 F & AM, and a member of the former Constance Christian Church. Manlius is survived by son, Keith (Susan) Goodridge of Crescent Springs, daughter, Amy (Jeff) Bakst of Cincinnati, half-brother, William Humphrey of Indiana and half-sisters, Judy Humphrey and Gertrude Stringer both of Hebron. Funeral Service will be Friday, March 23, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at MIDDENDORF-BULLOCK FUNERAL HOME, 481 Elm Street, Ludlow, Kentucky. Visitation will be Thursday from 5-8p.m. at the funeral home with a Masonic Service at 7:30 p.m. Burial with Military Service will be at Burlington Cemetery. On-line guest book at www.middendorfbullock.com.



Black and yellow carnations in the bouquet sent on behalf of the 83rd for Manny

Frederick C. Sylvia, Jr.

NEW BEDFORD – Frederick C. Sylvia, Jr., 93, of Acushnet, died February 17, 2012, at The Oaks Nursing Home. He was the husband of the late Eva (Harrison) Sylvia.

Born in New Bedford, the son of the late Frederick C. and Margaret (Mosher) Sylvia, he was raised in Dartmouth and lived in New Bedford before moving to Acushnet.

Mr. Sylvia was an active member of the Acushnet Wesley United Methodist Church.

He was formerly employed by Morse Twist Drill for 40 years until his retirement.

Mr. Sylvia was a active member and Past Master of Quitticas Lodge, A.F. & A.M., and a member of the Howland Lodge, A.F. & A.M. He enjoyed carpentry and was an avid photographer and a former member of the New Bedford Camera Club.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II under General Patton in the 83rd "Thunder Bolt" Infantry Division. He participated in the battles of the Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe and was the recipient of the Bronze Star, European African Middle Eastern Theater Campaign

Ribbon and the World War II Victory Medal.

Survivors include his son, Frederick C. Sylvia, III and his wife, Janice of Vero Beach, FL; 2 sisters, Marjorie Ross of Dartmouth and Alice Rose of California; 2 grandsons, Kurt Sylvia and his wife, Michele of Jupiter, FL and Darren Sylvia and his wife, Lori of Vero Beach, FL; 5 great-grandchildren, Nicolas Sylvia, Marisa Sylvia, Alexander Sylvia, Abigail Sylvia and Jacqueline Sylvia.

He was the brother of the late Robert Sylvia, John Sylvia and Theodore Sylvia.

His Funeral Service will be held on Thursday at 10 AM in the Acushnet Wesley United Methodist Church. Burial will follow in Pine Grove Cemetery. Visiting hours will be held on Wednesday from 4-8 PM in the Saunders-Dwyer Mattapoisett Home For Funerals, 50 County Rd. (Rt. 6), Mattapoisett.

Any questions please call: 772-563-9708
Frederick Sylvia
13 Plantation Drive, #204
Vero Beach, FL 32966



Margaret R. Hennigan
334 Fairfax Drive
Warwick, RI 02888
U.S.A.
Home Phone 463-7551

April 13, 2012

Clifton Wooldridge
P.O. Box 406
Alton Bay, New Hampshire 03810

RE: 83rd THUNDERBOLT

We are sorry to have to inform you that John P. Hennigan, a member of the 83rd Infantry Division World War II, has past away.

November of 2011, at his home in the company of his wife Margaret, he was suddenly taken by natural causes.

He was laid to rest in a family burial site, with a full military service.

Please remove his name from your mailing list.

John P. Hennigan
C 329th
324 Fairfax Dr.
Warwick, RI 02888

Thank you,
Margaret Hennigan

OBITUARIES

Henry Hallock Richards, 95

MOULTONBORO — H. Hallock Richards, age 95, passed away on March 8, 2012 (1916-2012).

"Hal" lived in Moultonboro and resided at the NH Veterans Home.

He was born in Chatham, NJ, a son of George D. and Anne H. (Hallock) Richards. He was educated in Chatham Schools.

Inducted into the Army in February 1942 and after leaving OCS, he was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division at Camp Hale in Colorado. In June of 1944 he joined the 83rd Infantry Division and served combat duty in the European Theater and was awarded the Purple Heart.

Mr. Richards' business career in sales and marketing covered both retail and industrial marketing. At various times he resided in New Jersey, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and



Colorado. He was an ardent fly fisherman, mountaineer, and skier.

After retiring and returning to New Hampshire he became interested in lake water quality. In 1984 he was co-founder and first President of the Lakes Region Federation, which soon became the New Hampshire

Lakes Association. In 1992 the present NHLA was formed by the merger of the Lakes Association and the Lakes Coalition.

Family members include sons George "Chip" Richards of Moultonboro and Bruce H. Richards of Sedalia, Colorado; and three grandsons, Seth, Scott, and Duncan of Moultonboro; and loving companion Chip Sorlien. Mr. Richards was pre-deceased by wives Lucia Muller Richards and Mary (Lang) Engle Richards, and a brother, Foster C. Richards.

There will be a memorial service at the convenience of the family. Kindly omit flowers; contributions may be made to the New Hampshire Lakes Assn., 3 Silk Farm Road, Concord, NH 03301, or the 10th Mountain Foundation, 133 So. Van Gordon St., Suite 200, Lakewood, CO 80228.



Van Barfoot, Dauntless Veteran, Dies at 92

By RICHARD GOLDSTEIN

Van Barfoot, a Medal of Honor recipient in World War II whose fight to fly an American flag outside his home 65 years later drew national attention, died on Friday in suburban Richmond, Va. He was 92.

The cause was a skull fracture and bleeding in the brain resulting from a fall two days earlier in front of his home in a subdivision in Henrico County, said his daughter, Margaret Nicholls.

Serving in the 45th Infantry Division, Sergeant Barfoot took part in the breakout from Italy's Anzio beachhead.

On the morning of May 23, 1944, when his company was involved in a firefight with German troops outside the town of Carano, Sergeant Barfoot moved ahead of his squad and knocked out two machine-gun emplacements, leading enemy soldiers at a third one to abandon their position and surrender.

Later that day, he disabled a German tank with a grenade. Then he wiped out one of the enemy's big guns with a demolition charge and finally helped two seriously wounded men from his squad walk to safety about a mile away.

When it was all over, he had killed 7 German soldiers and captured 17 others.

He was promoted to lieutenant, and he received the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor, in September 1944 while he was fighting in France. The Medal of Honor citation noted his "herculean efforts" and "aggressive determination in the face of point-blank fire."

Van Thomas Barfoot was born on June 15, 1919, in Edinburg, Miss., one of nine children, and grew up on a farm. He joined the Army in 1940. He remained in the military after World War II, served briefly in the Korean War and was a senior officer in Army aviation in the Vietnam War. He retired in 1974 as a colonel.

In the summer of 2009, Colonel



EVA RUSSO/RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

Van Barfoot, decorated in World War II, lowering his flag with his daughter, Margaret Nicholls, at his Virginia home in 2009.

Barfoot moved from his farm in Amelia County, Va., to live near his daughter in Henrico County. He hung an American flag from a flagpole and saluted it every day.

But his neighborhood association, which allowed flags on angular staffs attached to homes, asked him to take the flagpole

NYT 3/5/12 p. B10

A Medal of Honor recipient who resisted a flag restriction.

down, citing aesthetic considerations. When he refused, it threatened court action.

After the dispute became news, Virginia's two senators, Mark R. Warner and Jim Webb, along with the American Legion, voiced support for Colonel Barfoot, and a Facebook page titled "Let Col. Barfoot Fly the American Flag" was created.

When asked about the dispute during a briefing of reporters in December 2009, the White House press secretary, Robert Gibbs,

said that he had not spoken with President Obama about it, but that "the president believes, and I think all of us believe, that the very least we can do is show our gratitude and thanks to somebody that served our country so admirably."

Mr. Gibbs said it was "silly" to prevent Colonel Barfoot from flying his flag on a pole.

The neighborhood association surrendered. Colonel Barfoot continued to fly the flag until his final days.

In addition to his daughter, Colonel Barfoot is survived by three sons, Van Jr., Jim and Odell; a sister, Freddie Hall; 12 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. His wife, Norma, died in 1992.

"All my life, from childhood to now, I have been able to fly the flag," The Washington Post quoted Colonel Barfoot as telling supporters when he won his campaign to keep his flagpole. "In the time I have left, I plan to continue to fly the American flag without interference."

As his daughter told it on Saturday: "Every day he got up at 6 a.m. and raised the flag, and every day at 5 p.m. he took it down."

16 million in WWII: He's last vet still on active duty



AP

During Veterans Day ceremonies today Capt. Earl Fox will be recognized as the last active-duty World War II veteran.

By Deb Riechmann

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A total of 16,112,566 Americans served in the U.S. military in World War II.

Only one — 80-year-old Earl Fox — remains on active duty.

"I've tried to be so busy that they would allow me to continue on," the silver-haired Coast Guard captain said as he strode briskly down a wooden pier, his hands stuffed in the pockets of a navy blue uniform jacket.

During Veterans Day ceremonies today at Arlington Cemetery, Fox will be recognized as the last active-duty World War II veteran. He retires Nov. 19 from the U.S. Public Health Service and his full-time job as senior

medical officer evaluating medical disability claims at the Coast Guard Military Personnel Command in Washington.

"He was a gentleman in a bureaucratic world," said Capt. Paul Langlois, a pilot who was grounded on a medical disability but, with Fox's assistance, flew again.

Fox first donned the uniform of his country in 1942 when he was commissioned in the Navy. He left the service after the war and became a family doctor in Florida. At age 55, the Coast Guard coaxed him out of retirement to be a flight surgeon. He never left the Coast Guard. "They never asked me to leave," he said.

Some of Fox's colleagues are young enough to be his great-grandchildren. His good health and sharp memory would allow him to work longer. But with his time in the Navy and Coast Guard combined, he has completed 30 years with the uniformed services — as long as any one of his rank may stay, said Lt. Cmdr. Gwen Keenan, a spokeswoman for the Guard.

In the war, they were weathered by salty ocean spray while clenching to the rails of speeding Navy torpedo boats. Aboard submarines, they shifted hydraulic levers to make them surface and dive.

At war's end, Fox went to medical school. He helped raise three children and nurtured a family practice in St. Petersburg, Fla., for nearly 20 years until he retired in 1974.

Fox was a busy retiree, yet was feeling adrift when the Coast Guard asked him, within a year of his retirement, to help treat a heart attack patient on a merchant ship. He put on a flight suit and was lowered aboard by a rescue helicopter. The patient survived and Fox began a new life as a Coast Guard flight surgeon, treating injured and sick mariners at sea.

Fox was born in Petersburg, Va., in 1919, just after the end of World War I.

"When he was born, they thought he was dead," said his wife, Reba. "He wasn't breathing and they laid him over with the dirty laundry they had been using with the mother. He cried. For someone who started out 'dead,' he's done really well."

When Fox was 7, his father, an Army officer, died in an automobile accident. His mother, a buyer for a department store in Richmond, Va., raised him and his two brothers.

Fox wanted to be a doctor, but after earning a biology degree at the University of Richmond, he went to the Naval Academy. He was at the academy on Dec. 7, 1941, when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and America entered the war.

A few months later, Fox was sent to Pearl Harbor and assigned to a squadron of torpedo boats. The mission: sink Japanese ships and supply boats. "We were fast. We could weave in and out. Every little wave was bang, bang, bang" against the hull, Fox said, clapping.

In 1943, Fox earned a Silver Star for rescuing a Canadian from Alaska's Kiska Island. The man had been sending coded radio messages about Japanese ship movements, but now was being tracked by Japanese soldiers on the island.

After the rescue, the torpedo boat crashed into rocks. The propellers were bent.

Fox and a dozen other sailors jumped into two life boats. As they rowed out into the frigid Bering Sea, the Japanese infantry on the island shot their abandoned torpedo boat full of holes. A day and a half later, they were rescued — by two Coast Guard officers on a fishing boat.

"It was foggy. We could hear them — putt, putt, putt, putt," Fox said, mimicking the engine. "They saw us about the same time we saw them."

HISTORY ALIVE

AN INTERACTIVE JOURNAL THAT CONNECTS YOU TO FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS

Heroes

The Kid Battalion

BY MEMBER JOHN HALLINAN



Above: A reunion of the surviving members of the 736th Tank Battalion in Flagstaff, Ariz., in 2010. Below left: Sgt. Vernon L. Tweit. Below right: 736th Medium Tank Battalion emblem.



The recent passing of Frank Woodruff Buckles, the last surviving American veteran of the Great War, is an emphatic footnote to "The war to end all wars." It would take another global conflict, spawned by the Treaty of Versailles and fueled decades later by the twisted ideology of Adolf Hitler, to speak of it forevermore as World War I. The world war that followed was the defining event of the 20th century and continues to be discussed and debated to this day. We are grateful

for the works of Stephen Ambrose, Steven Spielberg, Tom Hanks, Tom Brokaw, and Ken Burns who introduced the Greatest Generation to the Latest Generation, depicting our veterans as they truly lived, fought, and endured.

For me, the seminal moment in my quest to unlock the mystery of my dad's World War II experience was meeting Vernon Tweit, a self-assured but humble man from "C" Co., 736th Tank Battalion. Tweit was a tank commander in a company of "swimming Shermans," specially outfitted tanks with duplex-drive propulsion and inflatable bladders that could actually keep a 30-ton Sherman tank afloat and maneuverable. Also known as DD tanks, the men quickly dubbed them *Donald Ducks* or *Dead Ducks*, depending on their level of enthu-

siasm. "C" Company's mission on March 23, 1945, was to swim the Rhine River at Milchplatz, Germany, and establish a beachhead. And swim it they did.

"Seventeen tanks went in and 17 tanks came out," Tweit proudly informed me. The Germans, well aware that the Rhine was the last major obstacle to an Allied push to Berlin, fiercely defended the terrain. Tweit's tank turret took a direct hit from a German 88, killing one crew member instantly and mortally wounding another. Ignoring his own wounds, Tweit pulled his comrade from the burning tank as small arms fire ricocheted all around him.

Through Vern, this proud son learned that his dad was not merely part of a tank battalion—he was a member of "The Kid Battalion," so named for the inordinate number of teenagers and very young men among its ranks. After breaching the Rhine, the 736th and 83rd Infantry divisions were given the green light to head for Berlin and the race was on. Dubbed "The Rag-Tag Circus" by the American press for their uncanny ability to commandeer captured German vehicles of all description (and hastily painting a white star on them), they moved so quickly that they often outran their supply lines. Although fully intending to bring the "Circus" to Berlin, the 736th Medium Tank Battalion (Special) had to settle with the distinction of making the furthest penetration into Germany by any independent tank battalion. Some 90 miles inside the western border of the Soviet Zone of Occupation, the 736th was just 50 miles outside Berlin when orders to withdraw were issued.

Heroes and history are all around us. Pass it on.

Member JOHN HALLINAN is from Durham, N.H.

Henry Lafont, 91, French Pilot in the Battle of Britain

By RICHARD GOLDSTEIN

Henry Lafont, a French pilot who took part in a harrowing aerial escape from North Africa to fight for the honor of France after its capitulation to Hitler and who became the last surviving French veteran of the Battle of Britain, died on Dec. 2 in Trémuson, in the Brittany region of France. He was 91.

His death was announced by the French Embassy in Washington.

When France fell to the Germans in June 1940, and a collaborationist government based in Vichy was being formed, Mr. Lafont, a noncommissioned officer, was stationed in Oran in Algeria, then a French colony. Shortly after midnight on June 30, Mr. Lafont and five fellow servicemen, several of them pilots, convinced an airfield sentry that they were on a patrol, then stole a twin-engine, six-passenger transport plane that they knew carried fuel and set off to link up with British forces in Gibraltar.

What they did not know made for an unnerving flight.

"The engines labored and the aircraft did not gather enough speed for a normal takeoff," Mr. Lafont wrote a half-century later in *Icare*, a French aviation magazine.

The pilot, René Mouchotte, managed to lift off but struggled to keep the plane in the air.

"We hedge-hopped over the salt lake on the edge of the airfield," Mr. Lafont recalled. "René struggled to reach the speed required to gain height. We realized that our aircraft had been sabo-



Henry Lafont helped foil Hitler's plan to invade Britain in 1940.

NYT 12/18/11
A decorated war hero who refused to accept France's defeat.

taged. The controls for varying the pitch of the propellers were not working."

That plane was among those that had been tampered with by the French authorities collaborating with the Germans to avert just such an escape.

But the airmen made it to Gibraltar, navigating with the aid of a school atlas they had brought aboard, and they arrived in Britain by sea in mid-July. As the French Embassy told it in announcing Mr. Lafont's death, they were among "the very first to join General de Gaulle in London."

De Gaulle, who would become leader of the Free French forces

in exile, had made a broadcast on the BBC in June 1940 calling on Frenchmen to join him in a crusade to defeat Hitler's Germany.

Mr. Lafont and his fellow French aviators in the Battle of Britain — there were 13 by most accounts — flew with the Royal Air Force as it beat back the German Air Force during the summer and fall of 1940, foiling Hitler's plans to invade Britain. Mr. Lafont flew Hawker Hurricane fighters out of southern England with the 615 Squadron.

Interviewed for the French magazine *Aviasport* in 2002, he described combat as "a succession of endless alerts, takeoffs in three minutes to try to intercept an enemy" who often had superior positioning.

Mr. Lafont later trained dozens of French pilots arriving in Britain.

Many of the French in the Battle of Britain, among them Mr. Mouchotte, were killed during

the war. Mr. Lafont went on to fly numerous fighter missions over Libya and Europe. In 1941 he shot down two German fighters, one of them having downed his squadron commander and the other having bombed a convoy in the English Channel. He suffered shrapnel wounds when his plane was downed in Libya in the spring of 1942.

Born Henri Gaston Lucien Lafont in Cahors, France, on Aug. 10, 1920, he became intrigued by aviation while attending an air show as a youngster and joined the French Air Force in 1938. He anglicized his first name during World War II.

Remaining in the French Air Force after the war, Mr. Lafont served on the staff of NATO and in the Algerian conflict. He retired as a colonel in 1966. He was the director of the prominent Paris air show at Le Bourget from 1967 to 1984.

He is survived by two sons and a daughter.

Mr. Lafont was a member of France's two highest orders, as a Commander of the Legion of Honor and a Companion of the Liberation. His book *"Aviateurs de la Liberté"* (2002) memorialized all the French airmen who died in World War II.

In recalling his wartime service, Mr. Lafont spoke of the lessons learned by the French and British. As he told the British newspaper *The Independent* in 2003, "Although I saw enough of war to want to avoid war at all times, I also remember in the '30s we wanted to avoid war with Hitler so desperately, we ended up fighting him too late."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

April 24, 2012

Dear Sirs,

I am writing this note for my Dad, Joseph F. Henry. Joseph lost his right eye when he was 13 years old. When his Army unit (Company "L" 329th Regiment) went overseas, the Army had papers for him to sign, but he refused to sign the papers which would have sent him home. He decided to stay in the Army because his twin brother Alfred L. Henry, was just assigned to

Company "E" 331st Regiment. Joseph was probably the only soldier that went in with the Normandy Invasion on June 6, 1944 with only one eye.

Joseph F. Henry
10745 Wolf Rd.
Versailles, OH 45380
937-526-4100

Company "L" 329th Regiment



Passierschein

Der Deutsche Soldat, der diesen Passierschein vorzeigt, benutzt ihn als Zeichen seines ehrlichen Willens, sich zu ergeben. Er ist zu entwaffnen. Er muß gut behandelt werden. Er hat Anspruch auf Verpflegung und, wenn nötig, ärztliche Behandlung. Er wird so bald wie möglich aus der Gefangenschaft entfernt.

Dwight D. Eisenhower
OBERBEFEHLSHABER
der alliierten Expeditionen-Armeen

Englische Übersetzung nachstehend. Sie dient als Anweisung an die alliierten Vorposten.

SAFE CONDUCT

The German soldier who carries this safe conduct is using it as a sign of his genuine wish to give himself up. He is to be disarmed, to be well looked after, to receive food and medical attention as required, and to be removed from the danger zone as soon as possible.

Dwight D. Eisenhower
SUPREME COMMANDER,
Allied Expeditionary Force

Submitted by Steward Barrick, Co. A, 330th

Grundsätze des Kriegsgefangenenrechts

(Laut Haager Konvention 1907, Genfer Konvention 1929)

1. Vom Augenblick der Übergabe an gelten deutsche Soldaten* als Kriegsgefangene und unterstehen dem Schutz der Genfer Konvention. Demgemäß wird ihre Soldatenehre vollstens respektiert.

2. Kriegsgefangene haben so bald wie möglich zu Sammelstellen gebracht zu werden, die weit genug von der Gefahrenzone entfernt sind, um ihre persönliche Sicherheit zu gewährleisten.

3. Sie erhalten dieselbe Versorgung in Qualität und Quantität wie Angehörige der alliierten Heere und werden, falls krank oder verwundet, in denselben Lazaretten behandelt wie alliierte Kruppen.

4. Ehrenzeichen und Wertgegenstände sind den Kriegsgefangenen zu belassen. Geld kann nur von Offizieren der Sammelstellen abgenommen werden, wofür eine Empfangsbescheinigung ausgestellt wird.

5. In den Kriegsgefangenenlagern haben Schlafräume, Raumverteilung der Unterkunft, Verpflegung und sonstige Anlagen denen der alliierten Garnisonstruppen gleichwertig zu sein.

6. Laut Genfer Konvention dürfen Kriegsgefangene weder Gegenstand von Repressalien, noch der öffentlichen Meinung preisgegeben werden. Nach Kriegsende werden sie so bald wie möglich nach Hause zurückgeschickt.

* Als Feindespartei gelten auf Grund der Haager Konvention (IV, 1907): Alle bewaffneten Personen die Uniform oder ein sonstiges erkennbares Zeichen tragen.


REGELN FÜR DIE GEFANGENNAHME:

Um Missverständnisse bei der Gefangennahme auszuschliessen, ist folgendes angezeigt: Waffen weglegen, Helm und Koppel herunter; Hände hochheben und ein Taschentuch oder dieses Flugblatt schwenken.

US/CB-ZG61-1944



FROM THE ARDENNES TO BASTOGNE

 From tired G.I.'s, it was a quiet spot ;
An easier life, awaiting Peace,
so dearly bought.
They were expecting Marlene
in this land of Cocagne,
but they found the Germans -
the hateful nazi bands !
Under the shell-fire,
once more unleashed,
the hills around them blazed ;
and the steel monsters,
in the forests lurking,
at dawn, towards them streaming.



To Bastogne from the Ardennes,
in my beating heart,
I hear angelic voices,
Of the Belgian people
singing the praises ;
brotherly and supportive -
at one with America's sons,
wounded as much as they
in their flesh by enemy guns.

To Saint Vith from Vielsalm,
From Houffalize to Bastogne,
they suffered a real Apocalypse.
That bloody war was so wearying
and cruel ;
amidst snow, drifting, as it fell
in icy cold and animal fear.
How can we describe
the frost-bitten feet,
and cracked lips -
those broken lives ?

And then, by evening's moon,
we find the make-shift graves.

To Bastogne from the Ardennes,...

In the town surrounded,
in a chapel,
nurses and wounded
sing a Christmas carol :

"Silent night..."

and that is why,
under a wintry Belgian sky,
from America came murmured
words of love,
so long ago tenderly expressed,
and now falling, like snow-flakes,
on the oppressed.

Angel tears, like flakes,
in Bastogne still fall,...



They trudge through the snow in silence.
Step by step, exhausted, they advance.
How harsh are the Ardennes in December,
especially when, under ashes,
your enemies you cover !

Jean

The 2012 Reunion will be held at
SHERATON MUSIC CITY HOTEL
NASHVILLE, TN
1-800-325-3535
sheratonmusiccity.com
August 1 – 4, 2012

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

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SPRING12

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Name of 83rd Division Member _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

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