



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.
WORLD WAR II

Vol. 67 Issue No. 3

Summer Issue 2012

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

66

— YEARS —

1946 – 2012

NORMANDY

ARDENNES

BRITTANY

RHINELAND

CENTRAL EUROPE

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE * AUGUST 1–4, 2012

THE THUNDERBOLT

Official Publication - 83rd Infantry Division Association, Inc.

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

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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

Message From Your President

by Carmella DiMartino Catrambone
President

We all reach many milestones in a lifetime, whether a birthday, anniversary, or another occasion for celebration. Last year, the 83rd celebrated its 65th reunion at West Point—a great milestone! Some seemed to think that was going to be our last reunion. Obviously, that was not the case. Although many of the veterans are not able to run a reunion anymore, there are some who are willing to mentor or assist anyone who would like to run one.

Last year, several of our 83rd veterans requested Nashville, TN for the next reunion and that is where the 66th reunion is this year. Although I live in PA, approximately 850 miles from Nashville, with visits to Nashville and mostly the use of phone and email, I was able to work on this event long distance. If you live near an area that could be considered a site for a future reunion, please think seriously about running one. I would be more than willing to guide you through the process. There are always members of the Association who assist at the reunion itself—you are never alone.

I remember an incident several years ago at the reunion held in Washington, DC. Our hotel was not far from the Iwo Jima monument. My husband, Michael, and I and our good friend, Tony Vaccaro, decided to take a walk. While at the monument, we met some people who were in Washington for their



military reunion. They were descendants of WWI veterans. They said that although none of the WWI vets were still alive, the descendants still met each year because over time they had become very close, like family. I believe our 83rd group will still be meeting many years from now because we shall never forget the sacrifice of our 83rd veterans. We shall always keep that memory alive.

There is much activity throughout the year between reunions. Emails are exchanged between members in the US and Europe. Veterans and descendants travel to visit each other within the US and overseas. Websites continue to flourish and the 83rd Google group is very active. We must remember, though, that in the age of technology, even though we are able to stay in contact with the use of our computers, nothing will replace a meeting face-to-face. That is why our reunions are so important, the time when real friendships are made that will last a lifetime.

See you in Nashville! ▼



FROM THE EDITOR

CLIFF WOOLDRIDGE

Please Note: Due to increases in shipping costs the dues for 2013 will be going up to \$30 per year. Anyone who has already paid your 2013 dues will not have to send in the additional \$5. Wishing all a great 66th Reunion!

— Cliff Wooldridge ▼

COMPANIES

Co. "A"– 330TH

CHARLES ABDINOOR

sgtchuck83rd@comcast.net

A Co. 330th. News

Hi Buddy's

Hope all is well with all. In the last issue I had mentioned a new member, Sam Hefferman who was the Radioman in the 1st. Platoon. His Uncle, Travis Arnette has been trying to piece together his time with the 83rd. Through Dave Curry's column, which I must say, has helped so many Vets, and Family make contact with former members of the 83rd. I answered his inquiry, and have kept in contact with him to help him piece to-gether Sam's request. So far we found out he was a radioman in the 1st. Platoon. Sam was wounded twice, and has the Purple Heart. He does not remember who his Platoon Leader was, but I mentioned the one's he may have had. He sent me a picture of him, when he was in the Company, and I immediately recognize him as Junior. That was what we called him. In any case we have a new member, and he would love to go to a Reunion if, as his nephew, he does not want to travel to far, he know lives in Connecticut. He was originally from Pennsylvania. If you Buddy's remember him, and want to get in touch with him let me know and I will give you his address. NOW, everybody seems well, and some are anxious to go to Nashville, for our 66th. Reunion. I am sorry

to say, I cannot make it this year, which I had hoped to go, but my Medical Problem's came up, I was in the Hospital for eight days. It seemed that I had Pneumonia, and since I have only one Kidney, it stopped functioning, The Doctor's finally gave it a BOOST, and had it going again. I feel GREAT, but I do not want to take a chance. I will certainly miss all my BUDDY'S and FRIENDS, but I will be there in SPIRIT. HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME. Incidentally we had a get-together at Bourne, MA. This was at Cape Cod. Through the efforts of Cliff and Paul DiGiammerino, we dedicated a Stone to the Men and Woman of the Greater Boston Chapter. We had Bill McKee, Francis Markuns, Cliff, and I there, with invited guests, and as a Special Treat we had John Markuns Grandchildren, who are twins there also. I omitted who was there also, but I am sure that it will be in the Thunderbolt Issue.

I would like ALL to know that Walter S. Pillion passed away June 28th. 2012. Walt was a Hellov'a Soldier. He earned a Battlefield Commission, and was a 1st. Lt. in the 2nd. or 4th. Platoon. I cannot remember which. He came up from the Ranks, and proved himself to be a Leader. Major Campbell of the 1st. Bat. 330th awarded him his Bars, and he lived up to it. A-Co. lost another Buddy. Our condolences go out to Pearl and his Family. Rest Well Buddy.

— Chuck Abdinoor ▼

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER NEWS

STAN BIELEN

stanfran83rd@aol.com

The time of our life has come when we are losing many of the wonderful people that have been so dear to us. Our 83rd Buddies have had a great impact on our lives, it hurts us all to lose them. The latest to pass on was my close Buddy Joseph DePeri (Co. F, 330 Infantry Regiment) Joe passed away ten minutes before the New Year 2011. We in the New Jersey Chapter have lost the heart and soul of the Chapter in 2010. It was Joe, Andy Socha and Charley Sihlanick that kept the chapter meetings going until 2010. They

never failed to be at the meetings and made them so enjoyable to attend. We were as close as a family. We would invite each other to all our important family functions, weddings, birthday parties, picnics and many other activities. I remember what my mother, who lived to 97, told me when I had asked her what was the hardest part of growing old and her answer was "losing your friends" That's so true.

In the last Thunderbolt, there was a picture of General Robert H. York's grave stone. I'd like to tell you about the last time I was at West Point. It was in 1988 that Manny Epstein, myself along with Bernie Cove and Al Bevidere all men that served with the 331st Infantry attended the Memorial Service at the Old Chapel for General York and the interment at the adjoining cemetery. At the Chapel Service there were more generals then you can imagine, all who had served under General York. Many of them spoke at the eulogy and they all spoke of his great leadership, and many said that General York was the "GREATEST COMBAT COMMANDER EVER IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY!!"

We were fortunate when the 331st got him as the regimental commander. He made it possible for many of us to come home. In the first few weeks in Normandy we had seven commanders, the first Colonel Barndollar was shot through the head minutes after our first attack to break out of the bridgehead. Others were wounded or found incapable of leading the regiment. I had the job of running the 1st Battalion Observation Post and Colonel York would use it in the attacks from our battalion. I wasn't happy at that scenario as the Germans would triangulate our radio traffic and would send in a barrage of artillery at the OP. At the 1st Battalion OP in the Huertgen Forest, Colonel York was wounded while I was there.

General York was a West Point Graduate. He served with the 1st Infantry Division as a Battalion Commander in Africa, Sicily and in the D-Day Invasion. At a 83rd Reunion in New York, we had General Huebner the 1st Division Commander in Normandy speak

and he told us that Colonel York was the one who was the leader credited with saving Omaha Beach.

On the lighter side I'll tell you of what happened after our 83rd Memorial Service at West Point when we had a reunion in the Catskills at the Pines Hotel. I was walking across the Plains with General York after the ceremony and brought up the time when we were attacking to get to the Rhine River. In the town of Hemmerden, a group of seven German tanks came out of the woods and started toward town, making it to the edge. I was with Colonel York in the forward command post and Colonel York said to me "Bielen grab that bazooka and knock out those tanks" I said you're kidding. To resolve the problem he called in our air cover and the P-47s took care of the tanks. He told me while we were walking "Bielen you were my only reserve then" Great Man!!!!

At General York's Grave Site, it would be an ideal spot to have our Reunion Memorial Service for he had a great part in making the 83rd second to none.

That's it for now. Best Wishes to all!

— Stan Bielen ▼





MAIL BAG



5-6-12

Dear Cliff:

Enclosed is a picture of my Grandson
and his wife-Phil & Stephanie Warren;
taken this spring at the 83rd Air
Memorial located in Sainteny France.
The stone is inscribed:

HOMMAGE
AUX 83^d
ET 4^d U.S.

Fraternally

former - 1Lt. Edward J. Fitzgerald
81mm Mortar Platoon, Co H,
2nd Bn. 329th Inf.
83rd Div.



Program with Canton resident wins Emmys

March 17 was a big night for "Marching Once More," which features Canton resident and World War II veteran Dick Alexander (83rd Infantry Division). The documentary won two regional Emmys at the Midsouth Emmy Awards, including historical/documentary and editor/program.

Brenda Hughes, from WetBird Productions and producer of "Marching Once More," accepted the awards in the televised ceremony at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville, Tennessee.

"We are over the moon," says Hughes, a

Swannanoa native. "This couldn't have happened without the support of UNC-TV, which gave us the opportunity to broadcast 'Marching Once More,' so that it could reach its audience. But it was also made possible by survivors of the Battle of the Bulge who shared their amazing, and often painful stories with us — people like Dick Alexander who were on the front-lines of history. We feel 'Marching Once More' is one way of paying tribute to their patriotism and unselfishness in fighting for freedom. They made possible the lives we lead today and we simply can't thank them enough."

Shot in Belgium and Luxembourg, the one-hour documentary follows more than 100

veterans, including Alexander, as they return for the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, often called the largest, bloodiest battle of World War II. "Marching Once More" premiered on UNC-TV's statewide network in January 2011, and last November, began national distribution through American Public Television. Since then, it has been seen all across the country — from New York to California.

"Marching Once More" is tentatively scheduled for re-broadcast at 9 p.m. May 28 on UNC-TV. Viewers should check their television schedule. Visit www.wet-birdproductions.com or contact Brenda Hughes at (910) 470 7499.

MOUNTAINEER 3/28/12

Greater Boston Chapter Memorial

I would like to welcome all to our dedication of a granite stone to memorialize the Greater Boston Chapter of the 83rd. Infantry Division. Though the efforts of Cliff and Paul who originated this idea has finally come to pass. This was started in 1956 trying to locate buddy's that served in the 83rd. Inf. Div. to form our own Greater Boston Chapter, I went to the first reunion in 1947 that was held at Cleveland, Ohio. I had gone with Frank Burgess who was in A Co. with me. We did not see any familiar faces while we were there. The reason being, to my thinking we left them in Europe (meaning the front line soldiers were left behind) the people we talked to were in rear-echelon people.

We finally met up with some that were in a line company, but not many. Going through this for a few years, you get to know people and mix in. Finally I met Harry Lockwood who was national president at that time. He convinced me to start a Boston Chapter. He sent me a roster, and going through found names and addresses of people in this area. I contacted Lucien (Jiggs) Elie who lived in Amesbury, MA. We got together and visited Nick Francullo from Lynn. From there we went to our next name which was Pat DiGiammerino in Malden. The four of us made plans to contact former members of the 83rd. Incidentally Pat and Gin graciously opened their house to us, and we made this our CP, being centrally located. Although we got used to Italian cooking, Gin cooks up a great meal. You know this because she serves the salad last.

The Warren, Ohio chapter was the first, Cleveland was the second. We were about the fifth. We met at Pat's house at least three or four days a month. We compiled a list of names in the area that later expanded to New Hampshire, Maine and Providence, RI. We contacted people and invited them to join us at our very first meeting, to be held at the Continental Restaurant, in Saugus. We had happy hour and got to meet people and explained what we were trying to do. They were all in the affirmative, and this was a big go! I was elected

presented, Nick 1st. Vice President, Pat Sec.-Treas. Jiggs also held office. We had a wonderful and spirited meeting. All were enthused and anxious to meet again in the very near future. This we did with our wives, and all were looking forward to these dinners at different locales. We had dinner meetings in Providence RI, Boston, New Hampshire, but all enjoyed our favorite the Lord Fox in Framingham. We had so many meetings there that Jim Nolan, the owner gave us carte blanche, and also gave us an ad for our ad book every year until they closed. The women looked forward to our meetings, more than the men I think. A night out. We usually numbered about 40 people at our dinner meetings, and Christmas was a new ballgame. Nick Francullo as Santa. Oh, those were the good days.

We were often invited to the Philadelphia chapter, New Officers Banquet, that was held at Palumbo's Restaurant, that was reputed to be a mafia hang out. Jackie Leonard the comedian played there, when we were there. At the reunions, the Philadelphia chapter were notorious on passing the hat around, this was to pay for their liquor, so they said. One day Nick and I were at Pats house for a meeting. While we were there the phone rang. Pat happened to be the General Manager of the Malden Mop and Brush Company, which was located in Charlestown. He told us we have to go to the shop which was a five floor brick building. The alarm went off. Him being an executive had to see what was up. Knowing Pat he stepped on it going through the back roads of Charlestown, when we got there the police arrived at the same time. Pat explained why we had to go fast. If the police get there before you, they first come out with pots and pans, or whatever they could find. Those were the days, we had our in's and out's, arguments, men quitting but all in all we had over fifty years of friendship, that nobody can deny. Many, many reunions all piled in one or two cars, sometimes with the ladies, or just guys.

These memories we can not stamp out. This

monument will forever be there for all of the members of the Greater Boston Chapter. I would also like to mention the names on our Charter.

Charles Abdinoor
Nick Francullo
Pat DiGiammerino
Lucien (Jiggs) Eli
Joseph Eberle, Jr.
Walter Leach
Sylvio Allard
Al Hossack
George White
Manuel Martin
Amby Tynan

Then there are names from the past: Charlie Lussier, Bob Hunnewell, Mike Caprio, Mike Amicone, Howie Edwards, Tom Salem, William (Spike) McCartin, Mike Champy, John Marycz, Bob Piette, Gerry Baptiste, Arthur Del Padre, Father Armand Morrisette, Father Francis McCartin, Oscar Rutstein.

There are more names that I cannot recall at this time, but one name we can ever forget:
Pat DiGiammerino ▼



Francis Markuns, Jeanette McKee, Ginny DiGiammerino, Bill McKee, Pat Sandini, Chuck Abdinoor, Nancy Tynan, Cliff Wooldridge, Nancy. Photo by Anne Tisdell.



Marcel Bertrand,

The french kid of the 83rd Signal Company

Marcel Bertrand was born February 21st, 1929 at Dinan in Brittany, France and spent his childhood there.

On August 2nd, 1944, he was present when the men of the US Army 6th Armored Division arrived in Lanvallay, a suburb of Dinan. There, he witnessed the 6th Armored being attacked by the paratroopers of the German 2nd Airborne Division. Five tanks were destroyed and some men were killed. A street fight ensued that lasted half a day until the artillery and some planes came and opened fire to cover the advance of the 6th Armored Division. They left Dinan and continued their push west toward Brest.

A few days after that, on August 5th, 1944, the Americans liberated the town of Dinan from

the Germans. The bridge between Lanvallay and Dinan had been partially destroyed. The engineers of the 308th Engineer Battalion, 83rd Infantry Division built and deployed a bailey bridge. The infantry crossed this bridge and went North toward the town of Dinard.

Like all the inhabitants of Dinan, he went to see the American troops who crossed the town. It was probably at this time that Marcel met and sympathized with the Americans and became a guide for them, because he knew some of the routes across the minefields near Dinard.

He worked with some men of the 83rd Signal Company, exchanging some eggs for the famous military rations. He said "We were the winner in these exchanges". Some of the men he worked with were Sheldon "Joe" Cubberley of Trenton, NJ, Henri J. Bedard of Champlain, NY, Philip B. Johnson from Michigan and Milenko Tomich from Ohio. After a meeting between Marcel, an officer of the Counter Intelligence Corps and two men of Dinan who could vouch that he could be trusted with serious work and information, they asked him if he would like to continue with them. The truth was that he lied about his age, as he was only 15 years old, so that he could continue to go on with his new friends.

The 83rd Signal Company left Dinan and moved south toward the town of Chateaubriant, where they were attacked by some German planes. In the picture above, we can see Marcel, just before he needed to dive for shelter under a dodge weapon carrier. After that, they traveled with their mobile unit radio SCR-399 to different towns such as Vendôme, Montargis, south of Troyes, Bar sur Aube and St-Mihiel until they reached Luxemburg. They were stationed at Gasperich, south of Luxemburg city and moved toward Belgium when the Germans launched their counter-offensive in the Ardennes (the famous Battle of Bulge).

At that time, Marcel was sent to the French army because the French who were in the US Army were not allowed to go into Germany. Marcel and some other french men took the train to Saint-Malo, a town near Dinan, to stay at a barracks there. He left the next day, due to the

bad reception they received from the men of the barracks, and went to his home, where his family welcomed him. The following day, with his equipment and uniform, he left his home and headed to Dol-de-Bretagne, where he knew that an American unit was.

On his way, he found a patrol of MPs who took him to the Military Police Headquarters. After some questioning, he was accepted by them as interpreter even though he spoke only few words in English. The unit of Military Police was the 387th Military Police Battalion. The unit moved to pursue their mission in the Cotentin Peninsula (Cherbourg, Sainte Mere Eglise, Saint-Lô, Coutances,...). Later they continued to Domfront, La Ferte Macé and Mortagne. He became good friends with another French man who served as interpreter for the men of the 387th MP Battalion, Danny Molinée.

In April or May of 1945, the 387th MP Battalion received a message from the 83rd Signal Company asking that Marcel return to the 83rd Infantry Division. After a meeting with Marcel, the 387th MP officer in charge accepted the transfer with regret, but he knew that Joe Cubberley and the others (in the 83rd Signal Company) were important to him. Joe Cubberley had become a 2nd Lieutenant after he went to officer's school near Paris. Joe came to take Marcel with him to be with the 83rd Signal Company during the military occupation of Germany. They were in southern Germany (Osterhofen, Vilshofen, Passau and later at Linz, Austria). During this time, Marcel went fishing in the Bavarian rivers. Although the war was over, he still had to watch out for the « Werwolf » during these fishing parties (the « Werwolf » was a group of fanatical Germans who wanted to create chaos in Germany).

In October 1945, he returned to Reims, France and was had three options:

- To go in the USA, and become an American citizen.
- Return at his home.
- To go in Japan, for the military occupation there.

Marcel preferred to go to Trenton, NJ in the USA with his friend, 2nd Lieutenant « Joe » Cubberley, but when he returned to his home, his mother (who is still alive and will turn 100 years old in March 2012) asked him to stay with his family, because she thought that if he went to the USA, she would never see him again. Marcel received a Good Conduct Medal from the US Army, thanks to Sheldon Cubberley.

Marcel stayed in France with his family. Some letters were sent between Marcel and "Joe" Cubberley, but the contact was lost when Marcel joined the French Army. He became a paratrooper and fought during the French Indochina war (the first Vietnam war) and during the war in Algeria. He retired from the French Army with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.



Henri J. Bedard, March 43-Jan 46, 83rd Signal Company, Champlain, NY ▼

The Thunderbolt Chronicles



Dave Curry

Historian

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Chet Kochan, 83rd Veteran, receives French Legion of Honor

On May 8th, the French Legion of Honor medal was presented to 39 American WWII

veterans at the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY. Chet Kochan, a veteran of F Company, 331st Infantry Regiment, was among those receiving the honor that day. Kochan was presented the medal because of a wound received during the battle of St. Malo, when he was 18 years old.

The medals were presented by the Ambassador of France, Francois Delattre and Guy Wildenstein, president of the American Society of the French Legion of Honor. According to Delattre, West Point was chosen for the ceremony because of its historically significant character. West Point was established on the banks of the Hudson in 1802, the same year the Legion of Honor was founded by Napoleon Bonaparte, and 20 years after the American War of Independence, in which the French also took part.

"This is the highest award given by the French Republic to citizens either in France or to foreign citizens who have, by



Chet Kochan (center) and family with Lt. General David H. Huntoon Jr., Superintendent of the United States Military Academy.

their work or by their deeds, served the French interest," said Marie-Laure Charrier, deputy counsel in charge of press relations at the French Consulate in New York City.

Kochan landed in France during the last week of June 1944, and estimates that he was on the front lines for 41 days before he and other GIs in his unit encountered a group of German anti-aircraft guns interconnected by tunnels. He and the others advanced on one of the gun nests when he was hit by gunfire. "I was shot

tunnels. When the Germans dropped a canvas cover over the opening, Kochan and the others were captured.

Kochan didn't know what was going to happen to him when they were captured. However, the situation improved when the Germans tended to his wound. He got scared, however, when they blindfolded Kochan's commanding officer and led him away. "I swear, I thought they were going to kill us, honestly." Kochan, too, was then blindfolded, put on a stretcher, and led away.

When the blindfold was removed, Kochan saw that he was sitting next to his captain. He learned that the Germans had struck a deal to take the captured soldiers to an American field hospital in exchange for treating some of the wounded German soldiers. "They would release us if (the Americans) would take care of their German wounded, so they made that provision with us," Kochan said.

Instead of being sent to a prisoner-of-war camp, Kochan was eventually flown to a hospital in England and was treated there for three months.

Based on his ordeal, Kochan was awarded a Combat Infantry Badge, a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. "Then I got a lot of French medals," he said.

Kochan learned about France honoring American soldiers who bled on French soil during the war and decided to apply for the honor. He had to get the appropriate paperwork in order proving his military service, that he served and was wounded on French soil, and then send the paperwork to French officials for review. "I have the telegram that my mother received (stating) that your son was seriously wounded in action," he said.

Kochan could have been awarded the medal last year, but decided to wait until this year when all of his family could attend the ceremony. ▼



Tuesday, May 8, 2012
Mardi 8 Mai 2012

Program cover for the Legion of Honor Ceremony at West Point.

through the neck....It came out the back," Kochan said of the bullet, which missed vital arteries and his spine. "It happened so quick, I knew I was hit, and blood was coming out of me. Up to this day, honest to God, I feel so lucky....I'm so grateful, I thank God." To escape further enemy fire, he and his unit went into one of the

Reconstructed Dinan Bailey bridge in France

In our visit to France with the Dodges we visited Dinan. At the bridge site Roy reported that the river was crossed 2 times. Initially a pontoon bridge was placed across the river at the base of the bridge. This pontoon bridge immediately drew heavy complaints from the French river men who were having their commerce interrupted. They apparently were more concerned about moving their boats than the progress of the war. Most of the Bailey bridge span was placed over the damaged viaduct in the dark that night. This was a very dangerous job. Then LTC Dodge recalled he was pleased the bridge was complete by morning to support his preparation for meeting with the city officials. The officials had scheduled the meeting to gripe about the pontoon bridge. By the time of the meeting the pontoon bridge was removed. The Bailey bridge greatly assisted the forward movement of friendly forces in the attack and their follow on support. Roy Dodge was particularly proud of the brave engineer

who volunteered to ride out on the extending bridge to be sure the rollers were properly placed. The engineer was especially daring, strong and well thought of. He looked so young in later life during reunions that everyone believed he by default would become the president of the association. He was reported to have passed away suddenly of a heart attack, perhaps on the golf course. For years Roy Dodge displayed a picture of the Dinan bridge in his home that was painted by one of the engineer battalion soldiers. Unfortunately, the painting was lost during a later Army career move. Caroline Dodge, Roy's daughter, on her second visit to Dinan bought a replacement painting and an antique postcard with a before WW II and view of the bridge for her parents. The French repaired the damage to the bridge artfully. Today with their good work and natural weathering make of the damage from the German demolitions very difficult to detect. An attractive garden looks down on the west side of Dinan on the bridge.

(Excerpt from Curtis J. Herrick, Jr. article at www.indianamilitary.org/83RD/Articles/DinanBridge/DinanBridge.htm) ▼





Henry and his Russian Motorcycle URAL, built in the years 1940 - 1950



Ceremony, Henri Chapelle, May 26, 2012



Memorial Day 2012, Henri-Chapelle



Cemetery - Ham. Henry Hicks receives the flag



Memorial Heinerscheid Luxemburg. Henry Hicks and son Bill and Henry. May 19, 2012



Memorial Day 2012, Henri-Chapelle



Fighting place from Henry Hicks, 1940 - 1945. Contz-les-Bains. May 20, 2012

COOK AND WARTIME CHAUFFEUR

Stanley Duff came home from Europe to a loving wife

BY GARY BROWN
gary.brown@cantonrep.com

When Stanley Duff of Canton was a driver for his captain's jeep near the end of World War II, he looked out through a windshield that had "Anna Mae" painted in large letters on the metal beneath the glass.

"We were allowed to do that," recalled Duff. "In fact that captain even said, 'go ahead and put your wife's name on it.'"

Stanley and Anna Mae met well before Duff served in the Army in Europe as a cook and driver.

"We went to Lehman (High School) for two years. That's where we fell in love," his wife recalled. "We met walking around a building at lunch time."

Duff went to McKinley High School for his last two years. Then he went to work at the Timken Co.

He was drafted in 1942 and spent two years stateside, training to prepare food for troops in the field. "I told my wife, 'they taught me to cook,'" Duff remembered.

"I said to him 'you take that job and you won't get killed,'" his wife recalled. "And he did come home. Now he won't cook for me," she added with a chuckle.

"She does all the cooking," he said with a smile.



■ Anna Mae and Stanley Duff of Canton will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on May 2. They are pictured in 1943 at Camp Atterbury in Indiana.



STANLEY DUFF CANTON

U.S. ARMY
1942-1945

RANK

Corporal
Technician
5th grade,
Cook/
jeep driver,
K Company,

331st Infantry, 83rd Division,
Ninth Army, European Theater
(England, France, Belgium,
Luxembourg, Germany)

HONORS Bronze Star,
Victory Medal
AGE 90



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

■ Stanley Duff stands in front of a tent that he cooked in while Company K of the 331st Infantry was in Germany.

SHIPPED OVERSEAS

The 331st Infantry, for which Duff was one of a handful of cooks for Company K, was sent first to England, then landed at Normandy about a week after D-Day.

Attached to the 83rd Division — a largely Ohio unit — the 331st fought its way through Europe, marching through France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. "We were the first to the Rhine," said Duff.

Duff had two brothers who also went to war, but they were elsewhere in the world with the Navy. Friends from Canton were closer at hand, serving in Duff's 50-man company.

"Paul Stanley, he was killed six days after landing," said Duff. "I grew up with him. We went to Baxter School together. We went into the service together."

"I heard about it from the other troops. They came back and told us when someone got killed. We lost a few of them."

For the most part, Duff spent his time cooking meals with kitchen gear transported by a special truck. Potatoes frequently were on the menu. "We cooked meat when

we were able to." A lot of K-rations were served as dinners during the fighting.

AFTER THE WAR

Duff returned to Canton after the war and went back to work at Timken Co. He had worked there for more than 42 years when he retired in 1982 as a department supervisor.

He and Anna Mae had two children, Betty Lou Dobson, who died in 1988, and William Duff of Canton. They have six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

One year her husband's junior, Anna Mae's younger age makes little difference now, as they go to auctions together or work in their yard. But, it was a small hurdle during their high school days.

"We were very close, but I was too young — 14 — to have a boyfriend," she remembered. "He'd walk me home, and I'd leave him a block away. I loved him so much."

That love remained strong when he was sent to war and she went to work as a "Rosie



■ Corporal Stanley Duff sits in the jeep he drove at the end of his service in the Army during World War II. The vehicle carried the name of his loving wife, Anna Mae.

the Riveter" at the Hoover Co. She kept a scrapbook of his service to his country.

"I prayed for him day and night," said Anna Mae, looking at the picture of the jeep that carried her name — a reminder her husband was thinking of her, as well, during his days in the war.

"He came back," she said, "and I thank God every night for that." ▼

Alvin "Red" Toellner

June 19, 1926 – March 2, 2011

At the age of
84 years, 8 months, 11 days

Funeral Service
Saturday, March 5, 2011
at eleven o'clock a.m.
St. John Lutheran Church
Mayville, Wisconsin

Reverend James Mallmann
and
Reverend Matthew Shive
Officiating

Interment
St. John Cemetery
Mayville, Wisconsin

Graveside Military Rites conducted by
Mayville American Legion Post #69
Mayville, Wisconsin

Casketbearers:

Adam Toellner
Andrew Toellner
Brad Toellner
Brett Toellner
Jason Toellner
Matthew Toellner
Michael Toellner
Ryan Toellner

The Toellner family thanks you
for your kindness and support.



Sunday, May 13, 2012 » NAPLES DAILY NEWS

OBITUARIES»

classified advertising | naplesnews.com/obits



Louis T. Kanes
Naples, FL

Louis T. Kanes finished his peaceful journey to Heaven on Sunday, April 29, 2012 at his home in Naples. Lou was under Avow Hospice care and was with his loving wife, Janet and excellent caregiver, Mary at his passing. He had complications from prostate cancer.

Lou's two great loves of his life were his family and his Country. He was a GREAT AMERICAN who fought with the 83rd Infantry Division of the U.S. Army during World War II. He was recognized for his outstanding service to his country and was awarded multiple medals on numerous occasions,

including the Bronze Star for his meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States from July 1944 to May 1945 in the Battle of the Bulge; Combat Infantry Badge (in combat on the front lines); World War II Victory Medal; European Theatre of Operations with four battle stars from Normandy, Brittany, Ardennes, Central Europe.

Lou was the former Chaplain for the 83rd Division of the U.S. Army Association, and also Chaplain of the Seminole American Legion Post III in Tampa. His last calling was as Chaplain of the American Legion Post No. 135 in Naples where he distinguished himself by winning six Department of

Florida State Awards. Lou will continue to be an inspiration to this grateful nation and also an inspiration to all that traveled with him in his life.

Originally from Donora, PA, Lou leaves behind his loving wife of 30 years, Janet; daughter, Aphy Lennon (Randy) of Montgomery Village, MD; a stepdaughter, Holly Melton (Ed) and family, Geoffrey and Jenna of Lawrenceville, GA; a brother, Ernie Kanes (Georgia) of Dallas, TX; nephew, Thomas (Susan) and family, Glory and Alaire of Rye, NY; brother-in-law, Don Stanford (Eileen) and family, Emilee and Brett, of Pittsburgh, PA.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas and

Stella Kanes; Janet's parents, Don and Shirley Stanford; brother-in-law, Tom Stanford; and nephew, Shawn Stanford.

The family requests that any contributions in memory of Lou be sent to Avow Hospice, 1095 Whippoorwill Lane, Naples, FL 34105, Attn: Development Department (in memory of Louis Kanes), or to the American Legion Post No. 135, 2296 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL 34112.

A Memorial Service will be held on May 25th at 1:00 at the Ispiri at Avow Hospice. Please carpool, as parking is limited. ▼

Deceased List

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

Name	Unit	Reported by
Walter H. Adams	F Co. 329th	Lucille Adams
Paul Hogrefe	K Co. 330th	
Leo Thomas Hury		
Louis T. Kanes		
Raymond J. Martinak		Johnnie Martinak
Harold E. Newell		Stacy Lesanto, Granddaughter
Walter S. Pillion	1st. Lt. A-Co. 330th.	Chuck Abdinoor
Paul Reinhart		Eileen Reinhart
Alvin "Red" Toellner		Shirley Toeller

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Leo Thomas (L. T.) Hury, age 92, died on June 10, 2012 at his home surrounded by family. L.T. as he was known to all, was born to the late Leo Bernard and Katie Hury in Jacksonville, FL on March 19, 1920. He was raised in Jacksonville during the Great Depression. He graduated from Andrew Jackson High School, where he played football and was voted "most popular" by his senior class. Following high school, he worked his way through college at the University of Florida, where he graduated in 1943 with a degree in accounting. He was a member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity and the Army ROTC. After graduation, he joined the United States Army and was assigned as a Lieutenant in a Heavy Weapon Platoon of the 83rd Infantry Division. During World War II, he participated in the Campaigns of Normandy, Battle of Brittany, Liberation of Luxembourg, Hurtgen Forest, Battle of the Bulge and finally the occupation of Germany. He left the service as a Captain and was awarded the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and a Purple Heart. In January 2011, at the age of 90, L.T. accompanied his son Tom to Belgium, where he had the honor of participating in a re-enactment of the Liberation of 5 Villages in Belgium, and the dedication of a Monument to the 83rd Infantry Division. In the last years of L.T.'s life, numerous elementary and middle school students had the privilege of listening to him share his war experiences, patriotism, and love for his country.

L.T. returned from the war and took a job teaching at Andrew Jackson High School. This is where he met fellow teacher, Helen Myrtle Broward of Jacksonville. He married the love of his life, with whom he shared an adoring love affair for over 60 years. Helen passed away in 2009. They spent a wonderful life in Gainesville raising their three children and enjoying good times with their friends with whom they formed great and lasting relationships.

Helen and L.T. moved to Gainesville in 1950, where L.T. managed the Auditor General's office of the State of Florida. Following his retirement from the Auditor General's office, he joined the C.P.A. firm of Davis, Monk, and Farnsworth. He was a member of the Gainesville Rotary, American and Florida Institutes of Certified Public Accountants.

He is survived by his son Thomas (Barbara) Hury, daughters Kay (Russ) McCallister and Julie (Curt) Cunkle, grandchildren Austin and Parker Gresham, Mallory Davis, Austin, Will, and Lindsey Cunkle. ▼

Harold E. Newell (1924 - 2011)



Harold E. Newell, 87, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2011, after a brief illness. Memorial service: Noon Saturday in the chapel of Travis Avenue Baptist Church, 800 W. Berry St., Fort Worth. Interment: 10 a.m. Saturday in Laurel Land Memorial Park. Visitation: 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at Laurel Land Funeral Home of Fort Worth. Memorials: or the Moslah Hospital Fund, Box 1320, Fort Worth, Texas 76101. Harold was born March 6, 1924, in Boise, Idaho, to Henry and Cora Newell and grew up in Great Falls, Mont.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army on June 10, 1943. He served in the 83rd Infantry Division and was injured in Belgium, followed by a tour of duty in the Philippines and China during World War II. He then returned to active duty for the Korean War. He ended his military career in 1953 as a first lieutenant and received the Bronze Star for valor, the Purple Heart, World War II Victory Medal and the Asi-

atic-Pacific Campaign Medal, among several other awards.

Harold married L. Jane Brewer on July 28, 1945, and they had one daughter, Diane. Harold supported his family by working in the defense industry, followed by 31 years as a financial analyst for Housing and Urban Development, from which he retired last fall. Being an avid horseman and cowboy at heart, Harold owned two horses, Snoopy and Snowflake. He was president of the Fort Worth Girls Club, Lions Club, Moslah Temple in Fort Worth and Moslah Chanters. He was also a longtime member of Travis Avenue Baptist Church.

He led an extraordinary life and will be greatly missed. Harold was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Layton Newell; and loving daughter, Diane N. Lesanto, who passed in 2003 due to cancer. Survivors: Wife of 66 years, L. Jane Newell of Fort Worth; granddaughter, Stacey Lesanto of Dallas; nieces, Patsy Berkeley and Betty Paulsen, both of Great Falls, Mont.; and numerous great-nieces and great-nephews.

Published in Star-Telegram on September 1, 2011 ▼

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Paul Hogrefe

It is with deepest sorrow I must report that my father Paul Hogrefe, K Co. 330th passed away April 25, 2012. Dad was born November 2, 1924.

Paul joined the 83rd as a replacement on June 14, 1944, as a PFC, rifleman. He fought at Normandy, St. Malo, earned a Bronze Star in Strauss during the Battle of the Hurtgen Forrest, and was severely wounded on January 3, in Belgium, while taking an 88MM with his rifle squad. (He was then a Staff Sergeant) He always said he was sorry that he did not see the Panzer hiding across a cut in the woods from the 88's position that fired one shell at them and resulting in 3 of his men KIA and himself and another wounded. Dad convalesced in England, but got bored and without orders (AWOL) got himself across the channel, and hitchhiked across Europe, to rejoin his unit before the end of the war. He said he did it so he could get enough points to be able get home quicker. He rejoined the 83rd before it reached the Elbe.

Dad returned to the USA, married Rose Mary Roling and had two children, Mark and Janet. During civilian life he worked on the Great Lakes ore carrier Benjamin F. Fairless, worked for BF Goodrich, was a Volunteer Fireman for Avon, Ohio, and a school bus driver for Avon Schools.

Dad enjoyed the Reunions he went to, and also went to the 50th anniversary tour in Europe which he and my mother enjoyed very much. ▼

November 8, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with deep sadness that I am writing to you that my beloved grandfather, Harold E. Newell, passed away on August 30, 2011. He was a proud member of the 83rd Infantry Division and was buried with military honors. I was so proud of Daddy (which is what I called him) for his service and dedication to our country. I was able to attend a Division reunion with him and my grandmother in August 2007 in Washington, DC. What an honor it was to meet his fellow servicemen! He always wore an American flag pin on his lapels and had an 83rd Infantry Division bumper sticker on his car.

Daddy had recently moved into an assisted living facility and there he met a fellow veteran, Bill. After many long conversations they realized that they were at Ft. Riley, KS at the same time in 1943. He really enjoyed those conversations with Bill and others who had served during WWII.

I have included his obituary for you. Daddy suffered a stroke on August 22 and passed on August 30. My grandmother, Jane, who suffers from dementia, was at his side when he passed. They had just celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary in July.

If you need any more information from me, I can be reached at 214-906-1055 or at sjlesanto@yahoo.com. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Stacey J. Lesanto
(Granddaughter of Harold E. Newell)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Raymond J. Martinak

Jan. 16, 1925 – Oct. 14, 2010

Raymond J. Martinak, 85, passed away Thursday in Scio.

Ray was born in Albany to John G. and Sophie (Rod) Martinak. He was the fourth child out of six. Raymond spent his entire life residing in the Albany area. He graduated from Albany High School and enlisted in the U.S. Army.



Ray Martinak

He served in the 83rd Infantry during World War II. Ray was honorably discharged from the Army after recovering from wounds in Gey, Germany. He was a proud and distinguished veteran having earned the Purple Heart and Silver Star awards.

One of his favorite things to do after retiring from Simpson Lumber Company was to travel. Raymond and his wife, Johnnie, made trips to Hawaii, the 50th anniversary of the Nor-

mandy landing and several trips a year to his favorite little town, Reno. He also enjoyed spending time with the family on the annual hunting and fishing trips. He also looked forward to the annual family picnic at his nephew's home near the Cottonwoods.

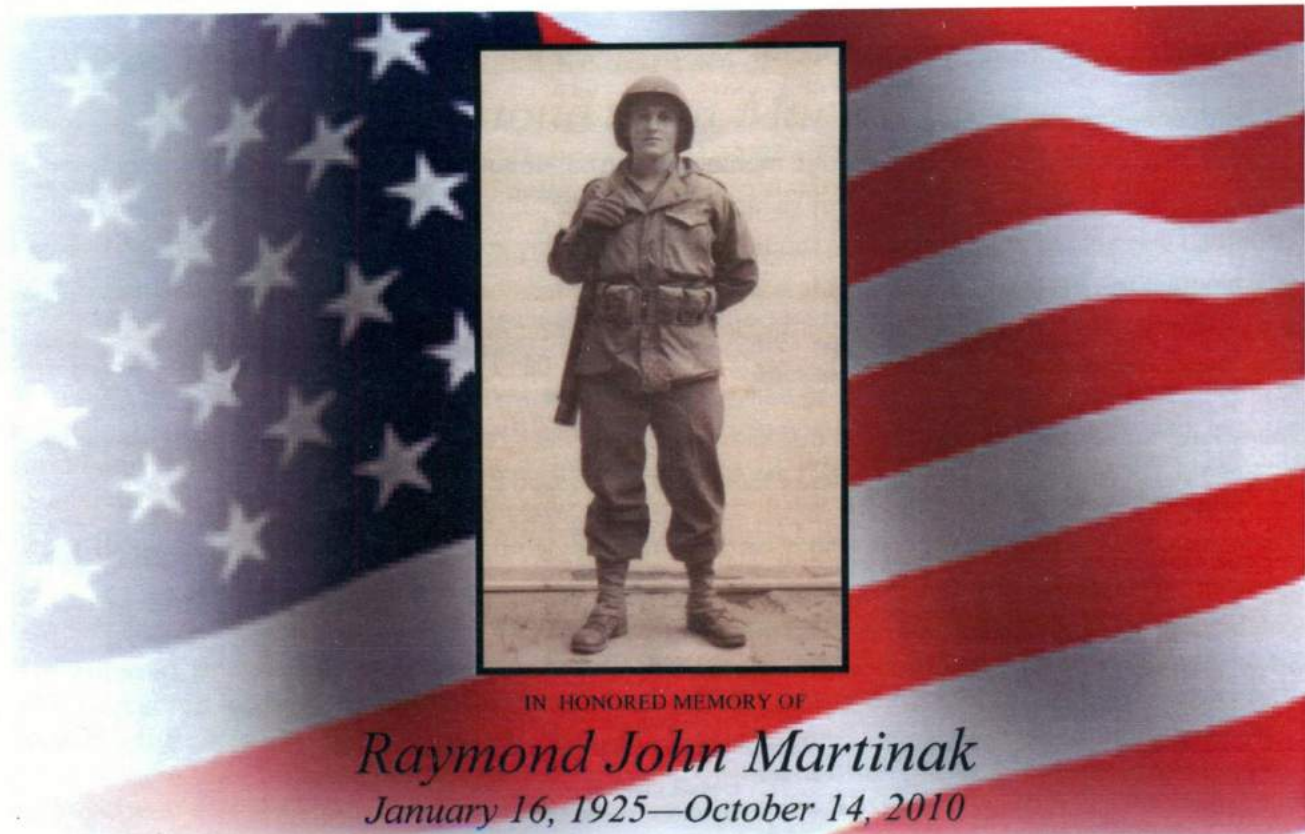
Raymond is survived by his wife of 26 years, Isabelle "Johnnie" Martinak; five stepchildren; sister Martha Foulke; several nieces and nephews; and many friends and neighbors.

Raymond was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Charles, Amos and Robert; and sister Wilma.

A funeral service will be at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday at St. Mary's Catholic Church. A memorial will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at the VFW lodge in Albany.

In lieu of flowers, you may make a donation to St. Mary's Catholic Church.

AAsum-Dufour Funeral Home is handling arrangements. ▼



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**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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This roster includes all members who have paid their dues
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ALTON BAY, NH 03810-0406**

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

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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**

Dues for 2013 ARE DUE AUGUST 1, 2012

RENEWAL____ NEW____

NAME (please print) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

Company _____ Regiment _____ 83rd Division

Phone _____ e-mail _____

SUMMER12

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.