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THUNDERBOLT

Volume 71 Issue No. 1

Winter 2017

100 years
of history
1917-2017



Meet us in Boston!
For our 72nd Reunion

83rd Infantry Division Association Inc.

The Thunderbolt

Is the Official Publication of the 83rd ID Ass. Inc. The Thunderbolt is written for all members of the 83rd Infantry Division WWII and is published at:
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This Issue Cover

Trench warfare. This illustration shows an 83rd officer in the trenches of World War 1. Artist unknown.

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By John Markuns, President



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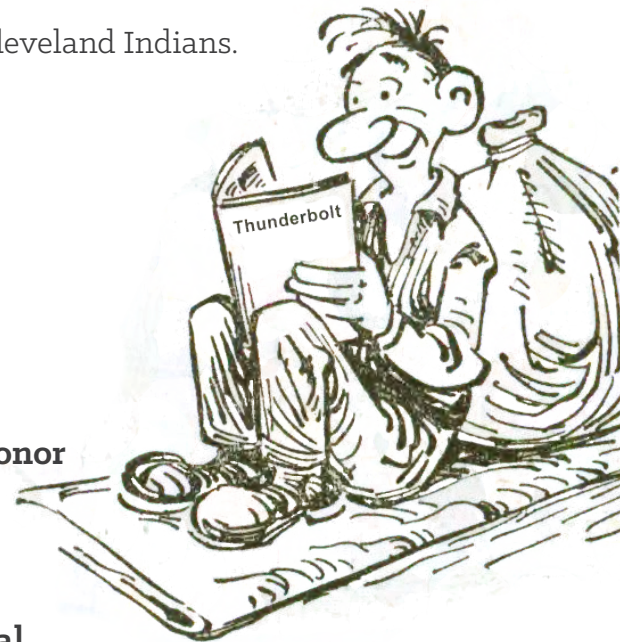
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Pin-up of this issue

Ruth Roman, Thunderbolt Newspaper Sept 22, 1945





President's Corner

By John Markuns, President

To all the regular members of the 83rd Infantry Division Association, who since 1947 have kept faith with your buddies throughout the years — I am writing this today, December 7th. I still find it hard to imagine what your lives were like in the years and months leading up to your service in the 83rd. Many of you who may be reading this now were likely getting ready to graduate high school, like my own father, or had already left school. Whether in school or not, most of you were likely hard at work — doing your best to help provide for your families in all manner of jobs — in farms and factories, in businesses and stores, in towns and cities. No doubt you all had hopes and dreams. But how it all must have changed on that fateful day, December 7, 1941. The world was already at war ... but now... whether you were drafted like my father or enlisted, together as buddies you became part of something larger than any one person. What you did changed the world for what is now at least three generations — not only by what you did on the battlefield, but by the way you have lived your lives upon your return from that decisive European campaign.

I, a first-generation descendant, am honored and humbled to serve you as President of this Association one more time. I hope to see the day when this position is held by a member of the second or third generation. On behalf of all 83rd descendants and supporters, we again thank you for your sacrifice, accomplishments, and most of all, for your living example of hard work, faith, modesty, and most of all, your love and commitment to family and to each other. You inspire us to honor, preserve and promote the legacy of the 83rd — your legacy for generations to come. On these pages you will see how your legacy lives on

A salute to past presidents who have served us well

1947 James C. Hanrahan *	1965 Samuel Klippa *	1983 Arthur Doggett *	2001 Pat DiGiammerino *
1948 Jack M. Straus *	1966 William M. Doty *	1984 Bernie Cove *	2002 Bob Taylor
1949 Shelly Hughes *	1967 Albert B. Belvedere	1985 Carroll Brown *	2003 Salvatore Scicolone
1950 Julius Ansel *	1968 Vito C. Palazzolo *	1986 John Hobbs *	2004 Allison Shrawder *
1951 Walter H. Edwards, Jr.	1969 Pat DiGiammerino *	1987 George Fletcher *	2005 Ames H. Miller *
1952 Leo Schneider *	1970 Casey Szubski *	1988 Charles Schmidt *	2006 Rudolph Zamula
1953 Finley Heyl *	1971 Charles Altomari *	1989 Edward Reuss *	2007 Robert Keck *
1954 Lawrence J. Redmond *	1972 Harold H. Dopp *	1990 Charles J. Lussier *	2008 Michael Catrambone *
1955 Lawrence J. Redmond *	1973 Louis J. Volpi *	1991 Edgar H. Haynes *	2009 John White *
1956 Lt. Gen. Robert H. York *	1974 Bernard O. Riddle *	1992 Ned Smith *	2010 Carmella Catrambone
1957 Harry W. Lockwood *	1975 Robert G. Taylor	1993 Louis Sandini *	2011 Carmella Catrambone
1958 Raymond J. Voracek *	1976 Mike Skovran *	1994 William M. Minick *	2012 Carmella Catrambone
1959 Charles Abdinoor *	1977 Manlius Goodridge *	1995 Casey Szubski *	2013 Carmella Catrambone
1960 Joseph F. Minotti *	1978 Joseph A. Macaluso *	1996 Floyd Richmond *	2014 Kathleen Powers
1961 Frank J. McGrogan *	1979 William J. Chavanne *	1997 Keith Davidson *	2015 Kathleen Powers
1962 John W. Robinette *	1980 Samuel Klippa *	1998 R. C. Hamilton *	2016 John Markuns
1963 Manuel C. Martin *	1981 Michael Caprio *	1999 Pat DiGiammerino *	2017
1964 Julius Boyles *	1982 Ralph Gunderson *	2000 Salvatore Scicolone	* Denotes deceased



STATE OF OHIO
Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the 83rd Infantry “Thunderbolt” Division of the United States Army was founded in 1917 shortly after the United States entered World War I; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, the division was reactivated to meet the Allied need in the European theater during World War II and would go on to serve campaigns in Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe; and

WHEREAS, within those 244 days of combat under the leadership of Major General Robert C. Macon, the division engaged in the offensive Allied push in Europe including the Battle of the Bulge; and

WHEREAS, later in the spring of 1945, the 83rd Division liberated Langenstein, a sub-camp of the Buchenwald concentration camp, and ordered the local mayor to supply the camp with food and water while also requisitioning medical supplies from a U.S. Army field hospital; and

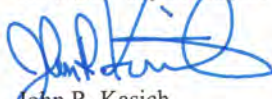
WHEREAS, originating in Ohio, the “Thunderbolt” Division celebrates the centennial of their formation and their 71st reunion in Cleveland.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, John R. Kasich and Mary Taylor, Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize the 100th anniversary of the

**83RD INFANTRY DIVISION
OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY**

throughout Ohio and encourage all Ohioans to join us, as well as U.S. Armed Forces organizations across the state, in celebration of their dedicated service to our country.

On the 2nd day of August 2017;


John R. Kasich
Governor


Mary Taylor
Lieutenant Governor



At our reunion the association and our veterans were presented with proclamations and resolutions by the state of Ohio and the city of Cleveland. We are reprinting them in this issue, starting with this resolution, presented by Governor John Kasich



Back home!

83rd returns to first reunion location

Two years after the conclusion of World War 2, the 83rd newly formed 83rd Infantry Division Association gathered in Cleveland for its first Reunion. Over 600 veterans attended and president James C. Hanrahan wrote the following words: "Once a year we will meet in a physical sense at our reunions". A mission we are committed to keep on fulfilling 71 years later. To celebrate this special birthday it was only fitting to return to the city where it all started. An overview of a successful Reunion in Cleveland, Ohio.

Text: Jelle Thys, photos: Kathleen Powers /// Joe Arsenault

Attendance wasn't as high as it was back in 1947. However we we're happy to be able to welcome twelve veterans, their families, decendants and friends from all over the country and Europe. Joining them was Col. Kathy Porter, current Commanding Officer of the 83rd ARRTC and several veterans of the 83rd ARCOM, representing several generations of Thunderbolts.

Our 71st reunion also commemorated the 100th anniversary of the raising of the 83rd Infantry Division during World War 1 at Camp Sherman Ohio. This reunion brought a lot of new things including the introduction of several keynote speakers and other initiatives such as the *Wall of Honor*, featuring over 100 military pictures of our WW2 veterans, or the different exhibits on the history of the 83rd. These wonderful projects were enjoyed by many and



made for great conversation pieces. Whether it be from seeing a familiar face on the Wall of Honor or a piece of equipment, worn by the 83rd, in the exhibit.

Add these new activities to our more 'traditional' trips and you understand our schedule was busy and very attractive. The boat cruise

offered us a change to catch up with old friends or make new ones. The night at the ballpark introduced several of our European friends to the game of baseball. An amazing banquet was the perfect end and unforgettable 70th birthday party! I'm looking forward to seeing you all in 2018.



An overview of our activities - by George Studor

Wednesday, Aug 2nd

The exhibit posters showing 100 years of the 83rd Infantry were lined up on tables in front of the banquet ballroom along with the registration table which Judy and Bill Breen and their assistants (thank you everyone for pitching in) managed so well.

We saw beautiful displays of Camp Sherman and WWI, the time between world wars, the transport, training and unit histories during WWII, Vietnam and Desert Storm, and finally the newly formed 83rd ARRTC with HQ at Fort Knox. Some topics included Ralph Neppel, Sam Magill and the 83rd ARCOM units activities. Also prominently displayed was a Resolution from Ohio Governor John R. Kasich and Lt. Governor Mary Taylor recognizing the 100th Anniversary of the raising of the 83rd Infantry Division. In addition to these displays Jelle Thys had set up a uniform display in one of the conference rooms. Myra Miller and Judy Self pulled together photos of many of our 83rd soldiers, printed them and nicely arranged them on a self-supporting display, so generously donated by Paula and Rande Nezezon – very nice!

Our hospitality room & store were located in three suites. This proved

to be an interesting arrangement, the 3 rooms were situated at the end of a hallway, so it was easy to pass from one to another. Each had a different theme – one was mainly the store, another for display of historical items, and other for talking and eating at a table. But all were amply supplied with snacks and drinks by our excellent Hospitality Manager, Tom Thomason. Many thanks to Joe Arsenault for making the store a success! Also, we remember our late friend, Paul DiGiammerino, and his efforts to make relevant DVDs available for the association, along with designing and ordering shirts and stocking our store, and so much more as a long-time sergeant-at-arms.

At 4pm we enjoyed the Patriot Show with Erinn Diaz. This came as a last minute addition





Since the reflagging of the 83rd as the 83rd ARRTC we have build up a beautiful relationship which we hope will continue for many years. Bringing together all generations of 83rd soldiers is a wonderful thing we hope to continue doing for many years to come.

outside viewing from each level. We were amazed at the number of bridges! It was an excellent time to mingle!

After Jean Paul's presentation (see page 14) we held a general meeting. At the outset of the meeting, Mary Louise Jesek Daley, Councilmanic Aide to Cleveland's longest serving City Councilor, read and presented proclamations and resolutions from the Cleveland City Council, the Cuyahoga County Council, and the Ohio State Senate and House of Representatives. Mary's spouse, Tim, is Executive Director of the Cleveland Soldiers and Sailors Monument. Tim provided great personalized tours of the monument during our stay. During the meeting, John Markuns talked about the information received and some early 'take aways" from the Strategic Planning Session on Tuesday (reported on elsewhere in this issue).

on a discovery by Myra Miller's team. Erinn did a Bob Hope style show with support from her husband and daughter.

They do this as a hobby and way to give back to the greatest generation... and we surely were entertained!! Her many "victims" of lipstick on the head and face and having to "perform" with her up front added to the fun... and a little embarrassment.

Our final activity on the first day was a visit to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame which was made very pleasant with a band performing outside the entry as well!

Thursday, Aug 3rd

On Thursday morning we boarded a Lunch Cruise on Goodtime III Cuyahoga River/Lake Erie. The food was very plentiful and good. The weather was excellent. The River twisted and turned all through the city and we ended with a short trip out on the lake to look back at the city. Several decks allowed inside and

After the conclusion of this meeting our third keynote speaker, Lyn Magill-Hoch took the stage with new material and insights about Lt. Sam Magill. This wonderful second day was capped off with a special showing of the HBO documentary "Underfire: The Untold Story of Pfc. Tony Vaccaro". The humble way he introduced his story was a presentation I won't forget.

Friday, Aug 4th

In the morning we enjoyed a Trolley Tour of downtown Cleveland. How we got up and ready for this after Tony's late night presentation, I don't know... but once we were on the trolley it was relaxing to see how impressive Cleveland is! We even stopped to walk around in the International women's air and space museum.

After returning from our Trolley Tour we had the opportunity to listen to three more keynote



speakers; Jelle Thys, on WW2 collecting and Myra Miller & Cliff Snyder, talking about archival research. At 5:00pm it was time for a big part of our group to head to the ballpark for the Indians-Yankees game. There was certainly plenty of pre-game food, and the Indians definitely had a team and crowd that were ready to head to the playoffs! For most of our Europeans this was their first Major League ballgame and all had a great time.

The lop-sided win(Indians) and the cold wind sent some of us inside and then home well before the end of the game – time to rest up for Saturday! Someone, likely John M., arranged for the cameras to highlight the presence of the 83rd Veterans at the ball game... it was funny that the camera crew showed up in our row, looking for who might be vets and finally trained the camera on my brother-in-law, Dave Smith!! Dave's a good sport!

Saturday, Aug 5th

Back in the Severance room – our main meeting room, we were honored by Cleveland's Mayor, Frank G. Jackson who joined our General Membership Meeting. John Markuns

reviewed the new officer candidates and the new group was duly elected and installed. The veterans were honored by the city of Cleveland and received a letter and certificate of recognition from the Mayor.

At 2pm we headed over to the Old Stone Church and the Fountain of Eternal Life for a special 100th anniversary memorial service. The local (Ohio) 329th re-enactors kindly drove our veterans to and from the service and back to the hotel in vintage jeeps and trucks! The first part of the service was conducted in the Old Stone Church downtown – it lives up to its name and the service could hardly have been more moving. Emily McNally did a beautiful job of singing and leading the rest of us – with impressive poise too! The organist joined us, which added a great deal. Planning for the service was very much a team effort. Kathleen Powers provided an invaluable assist with John Markuns in helping to organize these very special services. Our local Ohio contingent, 83rd ARCOM veterans all, were instrumental in making these services such a success. Hugh





applied his lessons learned from his many years in the hotel industry and last year's reunion to make this banquet flawless and impressive. Jim Riley, a member of the afternoon's honor guard, performed double duty providing the evening's entertainment as our DJ. Jim is an expert at his craft -- it is not easy to provide music while allowing everyone to still converse! We were also brought back to the 40's throughout dinner by a wonderful vocalist, Holly Prather. We heard from Colonel Kathleen Porter, Commander of the 83rd US Army Reserve RTC at Fort Knox. As our formal guest speaker, we were honored to

Roberts, Jim Riley and John Young, all former 83rd ARCOM, served as honor guard, with John performing double duty playing taps. Rev. Mark Eldred, Associate Pastor, offered a wonderful invocation and welcome. Patrick McLaughlin, a decorated Vietnam Veteran of the First Infantry Division and President of the Greater Cleveland Veteran Memorial Foundation spoke in commemoration of the 85 fallen members of the 83rd from both World War 1 and 2, whose names are engraved on the Fountain along with the thousands of others from Greater Cleveland who gave their lives in service to our country from World War 1 through the present. Their names were read aloud as were the names of all those who we lost from the 83rd during the past year. Rev. Joseph Peskura, Army Chaplain Ret., another veteran of the 83rd ARCOM, presented the benediction. The honor guard led a procession from the Church to the Fountain of Eternal Life on Veterans Plaza -- all very impressive as the wreath's were laid as part of the 83rd' traditional memorial service. The memorial services were followed by a Catholic Mass generously conducted by Rev. Peskura back in the Severance Room of the Renaissance.

welcome John Scales, Brig. General, Retired. He is an 83rd descendant who discovered his father's history in his book (2013) -- "A Reluctant Hero's Footsteps".

Both BG Scales and Col Porter are extremely impressive people and we wish everyone could meet them. Incidentally, Col Porter came with her husband and sons and brought along a box of camouflaged "Military Challenge Edition" Bibles with 83rd on the front to hand out. We are thankful that the 83rd ARRTC has such great leadership to train the Army's new recruits and experienced soldiers to meet the emerging military threats in the world!

It should be evident from the number of different events that we had at this reunion made it extremely busy, but fun and instructive as well. None of it would be possible without extensive coordination and behinds the scenes efforts by John Markuns and many others! One final, but important observation -- we had a convergence of the young 20 somethings at the banquet that was remarkable -- their motivation, organization and sponsorship should be supported in whatever way we can.

At 7pm it was time for our Annual banquet, preceded by a reception at 6pm. Larry Scheerer





Some impressions of...



... a great time in Cleveland



Keynote speakers

an overview and short summary of the presentations



This was the first of several presentations in the Educational Workshop. This was the 2nd time we have been briefed on Glyn's backyard goldmine of hidden hedgerow relics from both warring sides – but this time, we were treated to

Glyn's son Ben's lively presentation of their discoveries and rewarding return of items to the families of their original owners. Ben's law school in a west Texas town apparently loosened a bit of his British formal ways with a bit of Texas congeniality - he was very fun as well as interesting to listen to!



This second talk in the Educational Workshop series was about Jean Paul's book which he has recently released -- Sainteny -- 1938-1963 From the Shadows to the Light -- recounting decades of history beginning in 1938 through Sainteny's

brutal occupation during World War 2, its place in the battle for Normandy, its liberation and its post-war reconstruction. This book was far more than a decade in the making -- but it is in French. Anyone interested in paying to have it translated??? Jean Paul came all the way over here to be with us – and he has done so much for us... think about it.



This had to be an encouragement to the group of 20-something guys and young ladies present. Jelle's motivation, dedication and attention to detail for the 83rd in WWII should motivate young and old to action.

Supported by his parents, Nelly and Eric, we can tell that the magazine this budding journalist recently completed is a strong indication that he will do well.





This exciting talk was filled with new material and insights about Lt. Sam Magill/329th I&R from his daughter, Lyn, and grandson, Liam. Of course the 20,000 men refers to the German soldiers who surrendered at Beaumont, France.

This was Lyn and Liam's first time to a reunion after Sam's death and burial less than an hour East of Cleveland. We hope they felt welcomed to our "family" of 83rd association of vets, descendants and friends.



Thank you Sam Tannenbaum, Myra Miller and Judy Self for getting Tony Vaccaro here to tell his story. The humble way he introduced his story was a presentation I won't forget. The HBO video was excellent as well. Thank you Tony

and a big thank you to Tony's son Frank and family for making it possible for him to be there! A "late" night after a long day, but well worth it.



Myra and Cliff provided very interesting tandem presentations on the research opportunities and "how tos" for individuals who want to know more about how to explore the official military records. Cliff Snyder has spent his career at the National

Archives Record center in Maryland and Myra has recent experience finding and digitizing the thousands of morning reports and other records at NARA Saint Louis. We hope more folks will use this information to do their own exploring and perhaps add to the digitized records on the 83rd Info-docs website.





City of Cleveland

RESOLUTION OF WELCOME

For Council President Kevin J. Kelley and Councilmembers Kerry McCormack and Michael D. Polensek

By Councilmembers Brady, Brancatelli, Cleveland, Conwell, Cummins, Dow, Griffin, J. Johnson, K. Johnson, Kazy, Keane, Pruitt, Reed, Zone.

WHEREAS, the members of Cleveland City Council are sincerely proud to join with the 83rd Infantry Division Association, as they host their 71st Annual Reunion from August 2nd through August 6th, 2017 at the Cleveland Renaissance Hotel in Downtown Cleveland, Ohio. In addition, they will also celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the raising of the 83rd Infantry Division and its origins as the "Ohio Division;" and

WHEREAS, in August of 1917, the 83rd Infantry Division was first activated at Camp Sherman, Ohio and the Division's insignia, a graphic representation of the word O-H-I-O, reflects the home state from where many of the Division's original ranks were raised. The 83rd's field artillery brigades, signal troops and most of its infantry were deployed throughout the Western Front and the remaining 83rd cadres supplied over 195,000 troops; and

WHEREAS, the 83rd's 332nd Regiment deployed in Italy as a phantom army to build up Italian morale and to depress that of the enemy, including Austria, by creating the impression that a large American force had reached that front and was preparing to enter the battle line, convincing the Austrian generals that there were at least six American divisions and up to 300,000 soldiers facing them in Italy. The 83rd was reactivated in August of 1942 at Camp Atterbury, Indiana and landed on Omaha Beach D-Day +12, relieved elements of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions and fought in five battle campaigns; Normandy, Brittany, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe and became known as the "Thunderbolt Division;" and

WHEREAS, on July 4, 1944, in its first major battle, the 83rd suffered over 1500 casualties, and by the end of the European Campaign, lost 2,850 killed in action, suffered 15,013 battle casualties, engaged in 244 days of combat and captured 82,000 prisoners including the mass surrender of a German Major General and 20,000 troops at Beaune-la-Lèze, France. The 83rd, earning the nickname the "Rag Tag Circus," "borrowed" anything on wheels and raced 280 miles in 13 days to get 45 miles southwest of Berlin, gave the Allies the "Truman Bridge," the only permanent bridgehead across the Elbe, and met in April of 1945, with allied Russian troops at Barby, the furthest penetration into Germany of any U.S. Division; and

WHEREAS, the 83rd Infantry Division was inactivated in 1946 and remained an inactive Reserve Division until 1965, when it was succeeded by the 83rd Army Reserve Command located at Fort Hayes in Columbus, Ohio, with Ohio-based Army reservists of the 83rd ARCOM serving in Bosnia, Haiti, Somalia, the Persian Gulf, Panama and Vietnam, building roads in Honduras and helping Ohioans dig out of the blizzard of '78. Deactivated again in 1997, the 83rd is now reflagged as the 83rd Army Reserve Readiness Reserve Training Center whose training programs, including three Non-Commissioned Officers Academies, play a significant role maintaining reserve units in a high state of readiness; and

WHEREAS, since 1947, the 83rd Infantry Division Association has met every year, and today it includes the veterans, their families and friends of the 83rd who continue the commitment to the original mission while adding the vision to preserve and promote the legacy of the 83rd as well. This year, the 83rd Infantry Division Association will gather together on Saturday, August 5th 2017 at the Old Stone Church where they will honor and recognize those 83rd members from Greater Cleveland who sacrificed their lives for our country and who are memorialized at the Fountain of Eternal Life on Veterans Memorial Plaza; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of Cleveland City Council extends a gracious and warm welcome to the stalwart veterans, their families and friends of the 83rd Infantry Division Association on their visit to our fine city. This Council extends its deepest gratitude to all the brave men of the 83rd for their pride and reverence in serving their country and further recognizes all those who gave their lives for this great nation throughout its history and those who paid the supreme sacrifice for our freedom, for human dignity, for everyone's hopes and dreams and rights, and above all, for peace in the world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk, Clerk of Council be and she is hereby requested to transmit a copy of this Resolution of Welcome to Council President Kevin J. Kelley for proper presentation.



Kevin J. Kelley
Kevin J. Kelley, President of Council

I, Patricia J. Britt, City Clerk, Clerk of Council of the City of Cleveland, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of this Resolution of Welcome.

WITNESS my hand and seal at Cleveland, Ohio, this Twenty-sixth day of July, 2017.

Patricia J. Britt
Patricia J. Britt, City Clerk, Clerk of Council



Proclamation

OFFICE OF MAYOR FRANK G. JACKSON
City of Cleveland, Ohio

In recognition of the

100th Anniversary of the 83rd Infantry Division

Whereas, on behalf of the citizens of the City of Cleveland, I am honored to offer this Proclamation in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the 83rd Infantry Division of the United States Army being celebrated at their 71st annual reunion in Cleveland, August 1 - 5, 2017; and,

Whereas, the 83rd Infantry Division was first activated 100 years ago in August 1917, at Camp Sherman Ohio, and the Division's insignia, a graphic representation of the word O-H-I-O, reflects the home state from where many of the Division's original ranks were raised. The 83rd's field artillery brigades, signal troops and most of its infantry were deployed throughout the Western Front and the remaining 83rd cadres supplied over 195,000 troops; and,

Whereas, the 83rd's 332nd Regiment deployed in Italy as a phantom army to build up Italian morale and to depress that of the enemy, including Austria, by creating the impression that a large American force had reached that front and was preparing to enter the battle line, convincing the Austrian generals that there were at least six American divisions and up to 300,000 soldiers facing them in Italy; and,

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Whereas, the 83rd Infantry Division was inactivated in 1946 and remained an inactive reserve division until 1965, when it was succeeded by the 83rd Army Reserve Command located at Fort Hayes, Columbus, Ohio with Ohio-based Army reservists of the 83rd ARCOM serving in Bosnia, Haiti, Somalia, the Persian Gulf, Panama and Vietnam, building roads in Honduras and helping Ohioans dig out of the blizzard of '78; and,

Whereas, deactivated again in 1997, the 83rd is now known as the 83rd Army Reserve Readiness Reserve Training Center. The center's training programs include three Non-Commissioned Officers Academies and play a significant role in maintaining reserve units in a high state of readiness; and,

Whereas, in 1947, the 83rd Infantry Division Association held its first annual reunion in Cleveland, Ohio. It returns to Cleveland, with many descendants, to hold its 71st annual reunion and commemorate the 100th anniversary of the raising of the 83rd Division; and,

Whereas, the 83rd Infantry Division Association will honor and recognize 83rd members from Greater Cleveland who sacrificed their lives for our country and who are memorialized at the Fountain of Eternal Life on Veterans Memorial Plaza; and,

Whereas, the members of the 83rd Infantry Division have made many contributions to our nation and the Cleveland community over the past 100 years. This grand occasion and the many achievements of this 83rd Infantry Division and its members deserves commendation.

Now therefore, I, Frank G. Jackson, the 56th Mayor of the City of Cleveland, do hereby offer this Proclamation in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the 83rd Infantry Division as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary.

In witness thereof, I have set my hand and caused the Corporate Seal of the City of Cleveland to be affixed on this 1st day of August in the year 2017.

Mayor Frank G. Jackson



A note to the 83rd

Thank you messages from our members

Thank you for the
beautiful flower
arrangement for our
father, Bob Grobelny.

He was very proud
to be a member of the
83rd ... as were all of

us. My sister and I were
fortunate to attend the
Cleveland Reunion (on back)

83rd Infantry Division
Association

During a time
like this
we realize how much
our friends and relatives
really mean
to us

Your expression
of sympathy will always
be remembered

The Grobelny Family

this August while Dad
was in the hospital.

- The Grobelny family

Dear Members of the 83rd,

Thank you for the beautiful
flowers. They truly brightened
up a very sad occasion.

Larry, June, David, Maryann
DiGiammerino

- The DiGiammerino family





Remembering those who passed away

Deceased members of the Thunderbolt family

Our sympathy goes out to all their families. We will miss all of them.

Name	Unit	Reported by
Richard Coyle	Company G, 329th Inf. Reg.	Robert Coyle - son
Paul Dallos	Company D, 331st Inf. Reg.	
Dean I. Daniels	Company A, 329th Inf. Reg.	
Paul DiGiammerino	Descendant	David DiGiammerino - brother
Robert Grobelny	Company A, 329th Inf. Reg.	Hugh Roberts
Joseph Heidt	I&R Platoon, 330th Inf. Reg.	Mark Barnett
Alfred L. Henry	Company E, 331st Inf. Reg.	Cheryl Leach - daughter
Wayland H. Hicks, Sr.	Company C, 330th Inf. Reg.	Henry Hicks, Jr. - Son
Hattie Hart Holloman	Descendant	Debbie Holloman -daughter
Frances Hovey	Company L, 329th Inf. Reg.	George Hovey - son
Raymond K. King	Company I, 330th Inf. Reg.	Connie King Berry - daughter
Eugene J. O'Connell	Company E, 331st Inf. Reg.	
Michael Rudy	908th Field Artillery Bn.	
Joseph Stek	Company B, 329th Inf. Reg.	Robert Stek - son
Joseph M Tatroe	322nd Field Artillery Bn.	
Kirk E. Timm	Company B, 330th Inf. Reg.	Ardath Timm - wife
Anthony Torrieri	Company L, 331st Inf. Reg	Phyllis Saul - daughter
Richard T. Alexander	Hq 83rd Divsion Artillery	Edward Alexander - son

Memorial Day 2016
Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery
Picture by Jelle Thys

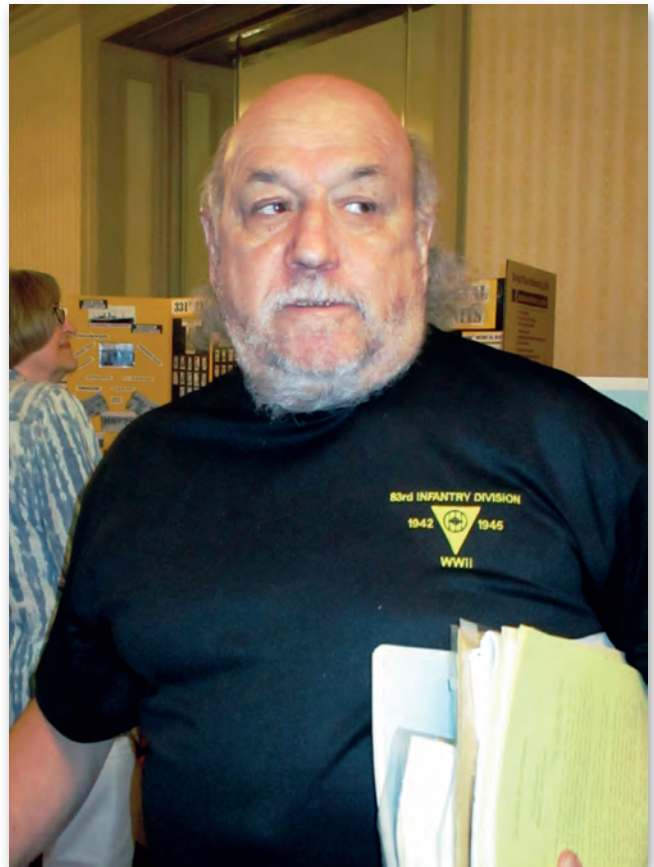
Paul DiGiammerino

Paul suddenly passed away on
September 15, 2017

**Faithful and true to the end for
his father Pat and the 83rd.**

Paul did much for us behind the scenes and for the Boston Chapter. He worked with Cliff Wooldridge to keep the Boston Chapter going to support the remaining vets and to make the Boston Chapter monument happen in the National Cemetery on Cape Cod. Paul kept the store stocked with 83rd memorabilia and for the past several years was there to do whatever was needed whenever was needed at every reunion and throughout the year. A good friend to so many is sorely missed. Be at peace, Paul.

- John Markuns, President





Paul Dallos

Paul passed away on November 21, 2016

He was born on July 31, 1922, in Elyria, Ohio, to the late John Dallos and the late Teresa Nemes Dallos. Paul was married to Mary Ruth Simsik Dallos who survives of the residence. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II as a member of the 83rd Infantry named Thunderbolt. Paul was a member of the VFW Post 1079 in Elyria, Ohio, Purple Heart Chapter 473 and DAV Louis Proy Chapter 20 Lorain, Ohio. Prior to his retirement he worked for US Steel for over 40 years.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Kimberly Dallos McNichols and husband, David of Danville; a daughter-in-law, Bonnie Sprinkle of New Philadelphia, Ohio; a brother, Charles Dallos of Avon, Ohio; six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by a son, Jonathan Wayne Sprinkle; two sisters; and five brothers.

Joseph Heidt

Joseph passed away on September 3, 2017

Joseph E. Heidt 1920-2017, beloved husband of the late Margaret (nee Garrett) Heidt; dear brother of the late Violet Donisi, Ginny Gore, and Robert Heidt; loving uncle to Diane (nee Donisi) Campbell; brother-in-law to Ellen Mae Clemons; and uncle to many nieces and nephews; dear friend to Will Sparks. Passed away peacefully on Sunday September 3, 2017. Residence Milford. Joseph proudly served with the US Army during WWII, receiving the Bronze Star. He worked for R.E. Forshee Co. Inc. from 1970 to 1985. Inurnment at Dayton National Cemetery. www.evansfuneralhome.com



Richard Coyle

Richard passed away on November 2, 2017.

He was born in Evanston, IL on September 8, 1925. After growing up in Riverside CT and Lancaster, PA he married Jean Dagg in Brooklyn NY, in 1958. They settled in Port Washington in 1960. Richard was a WWII veteran in the 83rd Infantry from 1943 until he was wounded in France in April 1945. He was a recipient of the Purple Heart. He then joined the reserves and served in the Korean Conflict from 1951-1953. Richard was a graduate of Franklin Marshall College and was a member of the Phi Kappa Si Fraternity. Richard enjoyed his family, sailing, listening to his jazz collection and rooting for his beloved Chicago Cubs. He was involved with the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He is survived by his wife Jean of 59 years; son Robert Coyle, daughter and son in law Alison and Mark Strauss, three grandchildren; Thomas Coyle, Andrew Strauss and Alex Strauss, his brother Harry and many nieces and nephews.

Dean I. Daniels

Dean passed away December 2, 2015

He was born October 9, 1922 to Lee and Ethel (Smith) Daniels in Sandusky where he was a lifelong resident. He was a 1940 graduate of Sandusky High School. Dean was a long time member of the First Presbyterian Church, Sandusky, where he served 40 years as the secretary/treasurer of the Church School. He and his late wife also served for 29 years as the church financial secretary. He was a U.S. Army veteran of WWII, serving in the 83rd Infantry Division and fought in the "Battle of the Bulge".

Dean and his late wife Irene owned and operated the former Bissell Auto Service in Sandusky for 42 years, retiring in 2010. He is survived by two sons, Roger D. (Bonnie) Daniels of Port Clinton and David J. (Sue) Daniels of Mentor; five grandchildren, three great grandchildren and his best buddy, Timmy (the dachshund). He was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Irene J. (Johannsen) Daniels on December 23, 2010; his parents, and one brother, Rev. Boyd Daniels.

Alfred L. Henry

Alfred passed away on July 28, 2017.

Al was born June 15, 1922 in rural Darke County, to the late Harry and Mary (Didier) Henry, of Versailles. Al served in the U.S. Army during World War II, and participated in four major campaigns: Invasion of Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland Hurtgen Forest and Ardennes Forest. He was wounded several times as a combat soldier, and chose to return to his unit until the fourth time when he finished his service as a MP. He received the Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster and other medals and accommodations. He completed his service as a staff sergeant and was discharged Nov. 29, 1945. It pleased him when strangers would come up to him and thank him for his service.

Once retired from farming, they began to travel. They visited all but four of our 50 states and traveled to Canada, Europe and Africa. With retirement, he became very active in his army reunions for the 83rd Infantry Division, and several times hosted the event.



Hattie Hart Holloman

Hattie passed away on April 24, 2017

Hattie was born October 31, 1924, in Greene County to the late Isaac Taylor Hart and Effie Cunningham Hart. Hattie was preceded in death by her husband, Ben Smith “Nick” Holloman. Her ever-present smile, genuine personality, and kind, compassionate demeanor connected with people of all ages. Hattie graduated from La Grange High School and later worked twenty-four years in Lenoir County Public Schools in the cafeteria at La Grange Elementary School. Hattie worked hard in her community. She volunteered with the American Red Cross, and the La Grange Rotary Club.

A highlight of Hattie’s life was her trip to Holland to visit her brother Eddie’s grave as chronicled in the documentary, “Thank You Eddie Hart,” shown on UNC-TV and other public television stations. Hattie’s greatest accomplishment was her role as wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She personified a Proverbs 31 woman.

Richard T. Alexander

Richard passed away on October 17, 2017

Dick was born October 5, 1917 in Nashville, Tennessee, son of the late Dr. Richard Thomas Alexander, Sr., and Grace Andrews Alexander. He was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret Virginia “Pittsy” Alexander, a son, James Pitts Alexander and a sister, Mary Alexander Ream. Dick was a veteran, serving in the Army’s 83rd Division during World War II, having been part of both the Battle of the Bulge and the Normandy Invasion. He was awarded the Bronze and Silver Star. In 2010 he was presented the French Legion of Honor.



He was a 1935 graduate of the Lincoln School; New York, NY; Dick earned his Bachelor and Master degrees from Columbia University, New York, NY and his Doctorate of Education from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN. He maintained contact with many of the hundreds of students he taught over his career, with many who remembered him at his 100th Birthday. Dr. Alexander was granted Emeritus status in 1982.

Dick is survived by two sons, Richard Thomas “Tom” Alexander, III and his wife, Jo, of Waynesville and William Edward Alexander of Indianapolis, Indiana; One granddaughter, and four great grandchildren. Additional survivors include one nephew and two nieces, and countless friends.



Raymond K. King

Raymond passed away on July 16, 2017

A veteran of World War II and a Purple Heart recipient, he worked at K-25 Gaseous Diffusion from 1955 until 1994, and was an avid gardener who loved working in the outdoors. He was preceded in death by his wife, Hilda Mae King; and daughter, Beverly King Cochran.

Survivors include daughter, Connie King-Berry and husband Howard, Florida; son, Larry Ray King and wife Teresa, Harriman; seven grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren

Francis Hovey

Francis passed away on July 7, 2017.

Born in Lowell, on May 7, 1925, the son of the late George and Catherine (Lowe) Hovey, he received his early education in the Lowell School system and attended Lowell High School. At the age of 18, he enlisted in the State Guard of Massachusetts.

In November of 1943, Barney enlisted in the United States Army, assigned to the 83rd Infantry Division, Company L. He participated in some of the fiercest battles of the war and fought in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes in the Battle of the Bulge and in Central Europe, where he and his division were the first to cross the Elbe River. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, European African Middle East Theater Campaign Ribbon, with 5 battle stars and 1 arrowhead, WWII Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, Meritorious Unit Emblem, Good Conduct Medal, and in August of 2000, he was awarded the Medal of Liberte from the French Government aboard the Air Craft Carrier, John F. Kennedy. Most recently, he was awarded the Legion D'honneur, the highest award given by the French Government. He was honorably discharged in January of 1946.



He was very active in Veterans affairs around the Merrimack Valley, volunteering thousands of hours as a proud and dedicated member of the Walker Rogers Post VFW 662 Honor Guard,



for 44 years, representing the City of Lowell at Conventions, Parades, Square Dedications, and funerals of fellow veterans. Barney held membership in the American Legion Post 212, in Chelmsford, and the Edith Norse Rogers Chapter 25, of the Disabled American Veterans. He was most proud of his life membership in the Walker Rogers Post 662 Veterans, of Foreign Wars.

Barney Hovey was a "Great American". He was a devoted husband, dedicated father, and proud grandfather, who will always be remembered for his love of family and country and his never ending contribution as a member of the "Greatest Generation".



Michael Rudy

Michael passed away on October 19, 2016.

He was born November 15, 1924 in Marguerite a son of the late Paul and Ann (Burik) Rudy. Prior to retirement Michael was a foreman for Conrail and Pennsylvania Railroad. He was a proud Veteran of WWII having served for the US Army with the 83rd Infantry Division during the Battle of the Bulge. He received many metals and was featured in many WWII books . Michael was a member of St. Rose Roman Catholic Church, Slovak Club president and officer for many years, Greek Club, Rod & Gun Club life time member, American Legion, Derry VFW Post # 444, and Officer and equipment manager of the Derry Unity Baseball. Michael and Margaret Rudy had the first double wedding with Michael and Elizabeth Rick in New Derry at St. Martin Roman Catholic Church. Besides his parents Michael is preceded in death by his wife Margaret M. (Kelly) Rudy; one brother, Andrew Rudy; two sisters, Catherine "Mary" Bonafazi and Ann Fedinatz; son in law Glenn Holler and three step brothers Charles, Mike and John Krisfalusi.

Eugene J. O'Connell

Eugene passed away on March 18, 2015

Eugene J. O'Connell graduated from McDonell Memorial High School in 1943. Eugene was then drafted by U.S. Army on July 31, 1943, and was with the 83rd Infantry Division. He was honorably discharged on December 21, 1945. Eugene married Arlene M. Zutter at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Altoona, WI. They both enjoyed attending many of Eugene's Army Reunions. He especially enjoyed returning to Europe to visit some of the places he served in. On June 5, 2009, Eugene went back to Europe to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of D-Day, in which they held a banquet in his name and honored his infantry that helped liberate the city of Santenay, France.

Eugene is survived by his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, along with many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Joseph Stek

Joe passed away on August 30, 2017

Mr. Stek was born February 14, 1924, in Perth Amboy, New Jersey and was the youngest of seven children. He was married to Ruth Purkall Stek for 66 years (deceased, July 4, 2013) of Woodbridge, NJ, where they resided until retiring to Florida in 1989.

Joseph Stek served honorably in the 83rd Infantry Division in World War II in Normandy, Ardennes and Central Europe, earning a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. He was a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service in Edison, NJ, until his retirement in 1988. Joe was a competitive bowler, enjoyed shooting pool, and with his wife, Ruth, enjoyed ballroom dancing, travel and volunteering for the Hospice Store and the Port Orange Police Department. Always willing to lend a helping hand, Joe was considered a good friend and neighbor by many.



Anthony I. Torrieri

Robert passed away on January 15, 2017

He was born on April 13, 1924 to the late Dominick and Caterina (DiSciascio) Torrieri in Guardiagrele, Italy. Anthony immigrated to the US when he was thirteen years old. He served proudly in the US Army during World War II. Anthony is survived by his wife, Antoinette (nee Taraborrelli) Torrieri, his daughter Phyllis (George) Saul son-in-law Michael Gillia, his daughter-in-law Catherine Torrieri, his grandchildren Lauren (Darren) Smith, Eric Saul, Gina (Patrick) Morris, Joanna (Eduardo Mills) Gillia, Lisa (Drew) Williams, and Christina (Robert) McNerney, a brother Rocco (Virginia) and a sister, Amy Anzalone. Anthony was predeceased by his two loving children, Dominic and Cathy, his brother Gino, and his two sisters, Millie and Marie.



Joseph M. Tatroe

Joe passed away on January 24, 2016

Born in Wayland MA, on November 12, 1920, he was a son of the late Arnold and Lillian Belle Tatroe. As a child along with his brother James, he and Joe were raised by the late William and Gertrude Haller. A proud and decorated U.S. Army veteran, Joe was in the 83rd Infantry Division and received several medals and awards.

A carpenter by trade, he was a member of the Regional Council of Carpenters Local 210 and recently was honored as a 70 year member. But above all he was a devoted and loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather who cared for and loved his family. He will be deeply missed by everyone who knew and loved him.

Kirk Edward Timm

Kirk passed away on October 21, 2016.

Born in Bay City, Michigan on March 22, 1923, the son of the late Edward and Elva Timm. Graduated from Howe Military School in June 1941 and Riverside Military Academy in June 1943. He entered the United States Army in August 1943 and was a member of the 83rd Infantry Division. He participated in the D-Day invasion of Normandy and the Battle of The Bulge in Europe. He was honorably discharged in December 1945. On January 15, 2010 the French government awarded him the Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, one of the highest honors the French government can bestow.

On September 14th, 1946 he married the former Ardath LaBerge in Christ Episcopal Church in East Tawas, Michigan. He leaves his beloved wife of 70 years and three children, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



Wayland Henry Hicks Sr.

Wayland passed away on April 24, 2017

Henry was born on June 18, 1923, in the Onvil community of Montgomery County. He was the first of four sons born to the late Henry Harrison Hicks and Ina Sedberry Hicks Craven. His brothers, Calvin, Bill and Neil, preceded him in death, as did his loving wife of 53 years, Mozelle Thompson Hicks.

Wayland graduated from Troy High School in 1942 and, before serving his country, was a welder in the Navy shipyards in Wilmington, N.C., building Liberty ships. Wayland served his country as part of the World War II European Theater. He served in the Army and was a member of the 83rd division, 330th infantry regiment, C Company — the Thunderbolts. After suffering an injury, he was moved into the U.S. Army Air Corps and was a part of the 464th Bomb Group. Wayland came back to Candor in 1946 and made his home there. He married Mozelle in 1953 and they had two sons. Wayland was a caring and loving father and an even more devoted husband.

In recent years, Wayland was more active in exploring his military past by reaching out to fellow Thunderbolts and traveling back to Europe. He was able to reconnect with the Thunderbolts and participated in their annual reunion events across the country. At the 2015 reunion, he, along with other surviving veterans, were awarded the French military's highest honor, the National Order of the Legion of Honour, and was knighted by the French government.

In 2012, Wayland, along with his two sons, traveled across Europe and was able to visit some of the same areas and battlefields he had experienced as a young soldier 70 years prior. Though he didn't feel as if he deserved it, he received a hero's welcome in many of the towns that they visited, including a parade and the honor of lowering our nation's flag over the U.S. Cemetery in Luxembourg.



Wayland is survived by his sons and daughters-in-law, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is also survived by a step-daughter, sister-in-law, and special friend, Mrs. Frances Pigford of Troy, N.C. He leaves behind a host of loved ones, including the Thompson family, which made him one of their own even before he and Mozelle were married.



Robert Grobelny

Robert passed away on November 6, 2017

Beloved husband of the late Bernice L. (nee Glass). Loving father of Peggy Gongos (Jerry) and Walter R. (Colleen). Grandfather of Scott, Roger (Jen), Jennie (John), Julie (Eric), Shelly (Jason) and Holly (Tom). Great grandfather of Maddie, Harley, Sybilla, Cole, Rylan, Colton, Aubrey, Bodhi, Brayden, Edward and Henry. Son of the late Walter Grobelny and Jennie (nee Okraska).

Robert was an Army Purple Heart and Bronze Star recipient during WWII serving through D-Day (+ 12) , Battle of the Bulge and The Crossing of the Elbe.



March of the 83rd in Bihain

10th edition

Text: Wilfried De Backer, photo: Tony Vaccaro

Next January 13th, 2018 will be the day of the 10th march of the 83rd in Bihain, Belgium. Next to the inauguration of the new bunker made out of hundreds of pieces of glass (each piece of glass represents a victim of WW II), visits to the museum of the 83rd with new windows for the veterans Cliff Snyder and Leo Hury, there will be walks with locals, families of survivors of Langenstein work camp (was liberated by the 83rd) and reenactors through the woods of Bihain, Ottre and Petit Langlir. Today already 2 maybe 3 American families of 83rd veterans made plans to come over. Many more are welcome to walk with us in keeping the memory of the 83rd alive.

If you are interested or if you need assistance or more information please contact me on my email address widb@stabe.be

The best to all the 83rd families from Belgium.

Wilfried De Backer





A Renewed Focus - the Next Generations?

Last year, the Executive Board voted to conduct an in-person strategic planning session on July 31, 2017, the day before the official start of the Association's 71st annual reunion in Cleveland. A sincere thanks to all who joined this session —for your voice, your contributions, your time, and most of all, your passion and enthusiasm.

At our session, we learned we are a diverse group, but one with common interests and goals. We come from a variety of backgrounds and professions, live in different regions of the U.S., and we had representatives at the Cleveland reunion from England, France and Belgium. We've lived in cities and on farms, in rural areas and suburbs. Some are new to the Association; some have now been descendant members for over a decade.

We all came to the session, however, because of a deep and personal connection to those who have fought, died and served wearing the patch of the 83rd. And as the day progressed it was increasingly clear that we all continue to support the mission of the 83rd Infantry Division Association and that we are committed to both its continuation and growth as an organization. What follows is an outgrowth of our planning session.

Who are we today?

We are currently running an annual structural deficit of close to \$2,000 as our current roster membership is about 339 @\$30 per year, i.e., \$10,170. However, not all members are paid up and the deficit could become larger. To

date, we have only received \$4,050 in dues, which includes two members paid up through 2019. 202 members have not yet paid 2017-18 dues and of those 73 have not paid 2016-17. We have 339 members on our roster, including close to 100 World War 2 veterans and widows. The remaining members are descendant or associate members.

What are we currently doing?

We clearly take our mission seriously. We had a most successful 71st annual reunion in Cleveland. The energy was palpable. We produce the Thunderbolt twice yearly, a magazine now in continuous publication for over 71 years.

In 2014, consistent with our last strategic plan, we updated our mission statement and added a website. Executive Board functions were reorganized primarily by creating a new financial secretary position. But so much more has transpired. Many of our members have joined a Facebook page dedicated to the 83rd Infantry Division, and this Facebook page now counts over 1300 members. Virtually all of the past Thunderbolts have been scanned and placed online. A memorial plaque to Sam



Magill and his platoon was established. A volunteer project to upload morning reports from the U.S Archives to the publicly available 83rd docs website is now underway. We were able to help facilitate several Legion of Honor applications.

The 83rd infantry Division Association is very much a grassroots organization. Individual members both here in the United States and abroad have also engaged in their own projects to help keep the memory of the 83rd alive by providing research, assistance and support to descendants in their quest to learn more about their own veteran's history as part of the 83rd. And our European Chapter members have continued the very much appreciated grave adoption program.

The Association has also now liasoned with the re-flagged 83rd AARTC and was honored to have its 69th reunion in Louisville, where our veterans were hosted, recognized, and honored at Fort Knox. The new commander, Col. Kathleen Porter drove here with her family to attend events on Saturday including our banquet.

What have we learned?

There was broad agreement regarding organizational strengths, primarily the strength and passion and commitment of our officers and membership; we have many members who are veterans themselves and/or who have children who have served or are serving. We have relationships we have forged through many annual reunions; the common bonds we share from our families' connection to the 83rd; and our special connection with those special stewards of 83rd history, our European Chapter members, who are so giving and freely volunteer their time to assist descendants in retracing the steps of their veterans. Some newer officers and members have special skills in social media, and on their own have been acting as travel advisors and researchers. With this current reunion, we have received strong support from 83rd ARCOM veterans from the Cleveland area and have tapped into the strong Ohio roots of our organization.

The process afforded us a valuable chance to assess our strengths and weaknesses as an organization, to assess what threats and opportunities lie ahead.

There certainly are opportunities that may allow the Association to grow and prosper as an organization. There appeared to be two distinct trains of thought on how these opportunities should be approached. Some see the Association as a business seeking out new customers; others see a family seeking out lost relatives and friends with whom they want to share a rich heritage and history. Others look to combine both approaches. But no matter which view you share, even a family needs a budget and has to live within its means.

There are still many first generation descendants who are hungry to learn about their veteran and show great pride in their veteran's service. We also had some of the second generation and several of the third generation, including our staunch European members who have stepped up to become more involved in 83rd activities. There are opportunities to begin reaching the younger generations. Organizations such as Junior ROTC, Scouts organizations and schools with veterans recognition programs and regular commemorations of Memorial Day and Veterans Day may present new educational opportunities. There are still unreached pockets of World War 2 veterans whose voices may still be able to be captured and preserved for history. There may be re-enactor groups with whom we have an affinity and who support our mission.

Where do we go from here?

Reunions

There again is broad agreement that the annual reunions should continue. And in large part there is agreement on the main reasons for having them. First, as long as there are any veterans who wish to attend another reunion, we should have one. They remain our number one concern and priority. Second, a reunion should also include a special effort to honor and commemorate the sacrifices and accomplishments of the 83rd infantry division



and to continue to develop its place in history. It affords descendants an opportunity to come together as the family we have become to once more enjoy each other's company. It provides an opportunity for us to share progress made over the past year on individual projects that further our mission. It provides the opportunity for the necessary in-person, face-to-face contacts that are so necessary for a healthy and functioning organization. It provides new opportunities to learn about the rich history of the division. There still remain the disagreements that have continued over probably the past 71 years over geographic venue and there is recognition of some calls to scale back the reunion's tours and to remain affordable.

There is some divergent opinion about how or whether the reunion will or should try to attract the younger generation including young families. And if there is a concerted effort to attract young families, what we can do to make it interesting for children — e.g., children's and family tours, or special children's activities doubling as child care (patriotic songs workshops, craft workshops, other fun but educational activities geared to children).

The Thunderbolt

There is broad agreement that the Thunderbolt should continue. It still remains the glue helping to hold the Association together throughout the year. 400 copies are now printed for each run on a twice yearly basis. Some ideas were shared on how to better defray costs rather than relying solely on dues — advertising, subscriptions apart from membership, possibly offering an e-version alternative. There is always room for fresh ideas — possibly a kids' corner or other recurring columns. We tried a couple of these ideas in this issue with a Kids section contributed by Kathleen Powers and the first of two articles by our Archivist, Cliff Snyder. Tell us what you think —

Our Mission Statement

There is strong support for our current mission statement, but some very sensible

tweaks have been suggested. First, to make clear that "all" 83rd veterans are welcome as regular members, including veterans of the 83rd ARCOM (who are already eligible to be regular members) and members and veterans of the 83rd ARRTC (for whom a by-laws change would have to be made). Second, to emphasize that the function of our reunions is to not only bring together our veterans but descendants, relatives and friends, especially our European friends. Third, that along with a robust Thunderbolt, social media and our website should play a much stronger role in promoting Association membership and activities. As part of the by-laws revision, amendments to our mission statement will be considered.

Our Finances

An Executive Board Finance Committee is working on revamping the dues and registration fee structure and developing a long-term plan to replenish our cash reserves to the \$20,000 level contemplated by our current by-laws. The committee is also working to set guidelines for funding of special projects.

The last dues increase was in 2011. The Finance Committee has already recommended and the Executive Board has approved a basic dues increase to \$40 for the 2018-19 year. Dues remain at \$30 for those who have not yet paid their 2017-18 dues. We are working on opening an online store. The Finance Committee is also developing recommendations for reduced membership fees for veterans and additional members of a family, accompanied by reunion registration discounts and online store discounts, as well as opportunities to receive additional Thunderbolt copies by subscription.

Our By-Laws

Our bylaws need updating to reflect today's realities. Potential changes include adjusting membership categories, adopting any changes in the dues structure, reorganizing the committee structure so that the Executive Board will work more efficiently. The Executive Board has authorized a review of the by-laws.



A set of revised by-laws is being prepared and the Executive Board will consider the proposed changes in January. If revised by-laws are adopted, they will be printed in the next issue of the Thunderbolt. Our proposed basic realignment currently looks like this:

Internal Affairs Committee: All internal and operational issues -including those related to core functions, Membership, Finance, Thunderbolt, Website, Reunion, and Ad Book are handled by this committee. The Financial Secretary will chair this committee, working with the Treasurer, President, First Vice President, the Judge Advocate, the Executive Board Chair or designee, and other Executive Board members and Working Committee Chairs as needed.

External Affairs Committee: All external issues-- including expanding membership, public relations, honors and recognition, promoting historical legacy, and fundraising and marketing -- are the responsibility of this committee. The First Vice President will chair this committee, working with the Publisher and Editor of the Thunderbolt, the Webmaster, the Second Vice President (who will liaison with our European Chapter) and other Executive Board members and Working Committee Chairs as needed.

Governance Committee. Responsible for the health and functioning of the Board. It recruits new Board members as the Board's nominating committee, orients new Board members and officers and evaluates the performance of the board itself. It is responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of the current board and for recruiting tomorrow's leaders. The President will chair this committee working with the First Vice President, Second Vice President, Financial Secretary, Exec. Board Chair or designee, and Judge Advocate.

Education, Research, Preservation and Reaching Out to New Generations

There is a strong desire to expand our educational efforts and to help first and some second generation descendants hungry to learn about their veteran's time in the 83rd.

There is also a desire to reach out to children and younger people of the second and third generation to help them understand and appreciate the sacrifices, accomplishments and historical significance of what members of the 83rd have done not only in World War 2, but throughout its history. Some of the projects we hope to see happen include:

1. Creating an online bibliography for the Association website of 83rd related resources available online, in museums, libraries etc;
2. Identifying any preferred repository or repositories for any 83rd-related original documents, artifacts and memorabilia.
3. Reaching out to veterans who no longer are able to attend reunions to be visited, interviewed or walk through their scrapbook, photo album, saved memorabilia
4. Producing more information in the Thunderbolt or as a stand-alone brochure to assist families interested in researching personal family histories
5. Identifying ways to expand outreach and membership among second and third generation descendants and supporters;
6. Identifying ways to create opportunities for second and third generation descendants and supporters to further the Association's mission
7. An improved website, including a "members only" section.

We have had members express interest in getting these projects off the ground. Co-Secretary Myra Miller is working on a proposal with some of our newer millennial members, Ben Nightingale, Connor McNulty, Emily and Evan McNally, and Liam Hoch and JelleThys, to conduct a membership drive integrated with multiple social media platforms that would publicize who we are, what we do and what we have to offer. Past President Kathleen



Powers has agreed to head up a working committee working with other interested members including our archivist Cliff Snyder and our historian Dave Curry to focus on education, research and preservation. Michelle Dukette, a professional librarian, has volunteered to assist in developing an online bibliography. Jelle Thys is working hard on upgrading our website. As Chair of the External Affairs committee, Larry Scheerer is taking the lead in the formation of new working committees. We are confident there are other members who will jump in to help as these projects develop.

The 75th Anniversary of D-Day

There is a growing awareness that the 75th anniversary of D-Day will soon be upon us, and there are many members that have a strong interest in participating in commemorations both here and in Europe. The Association should explore whether it wishes to play a role in sharing information on available opportunities, and how it wants to commemorate the 75th Anniversary. For example, whether it should consider encouraging commemorative donations to World War 2 and Army-related museums in honor of the 83rd Infantry Division. Another possibility — supporting a historic preservation project or commemorative plaque to recognize and honor specific sacrifices and accomplishments of the 83rd during the European campaign.

Respectfully,

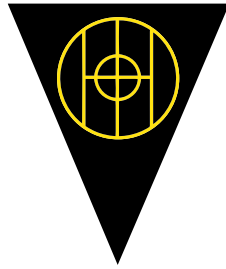
John Markuns,

President



A picture tribute by Wim Doms

We will remember them



'View on the Rur river, at the bridge connecting Winden with Kreuzau, in the 1st Bn / 330th IR sector. Winden town was cleared on 25 December 1944, near 4PM. Beyond we see the Bonsbusch Hill (Hill 211) on which 1st Bn / 331st IR had positions up to 25 December 1944 and overlooked the Winden bridge and the German held villages of Kreuzau and Niederau. The bridge was blown on 26 December 1944, at 3AM, by engineers of B Co / 308th Combat Engineers'

*Picture taken by Wim Doms, European Chapter, 83rd Infantry Division Association
Historian for the 83rd Division in the Hürtgen & Rur sector
willem.doms@telenet.be*



Centennial

ARRTC celebrates 100th birthday of the 83rd

On 25 August 2017, Colonel Kathleen Porter, Commander, 83rd USARRTC hosted the World War I Centennial Commemorative with honors for the 83d Division in the Abrams Auditorium at the General George Patton Museum, 356 Fayette Avenue, Fort Knox, Kentucky. On 5 August 1917, Headquarters, 83d Division, was constituted in the National Army of the United States. The event highlighted the contribution of the 83d Division and their service while honoring those who served, educating Soldiers, Civilians, and the public on the 83d Division's experience in WWI. Storyboards, artifacts and guest speakers enhanced the history and experience of the 83d during WWI.

The Centennial of World War I presented the opportunity for greater understanding of the Army and the 83rd USARRTC history. World War I transformed the U.S. Army, setting the stage for the fighting force that would later win World War II, thus forming the Army of today. More than four million Americans, mostly citizen-soldiers, served in the Army

during the war, and more than 300,000 were killed, wounded, or went missing. This commemoration strengthens the bond between the Army and our citizens, through history, to reinforce the service of everyday Americans in the war and the war's impact in our communities.



Golden Lions

83rd Infantry Division during World War One

The 83rd Infantry Division was organized at Camp Sherman, Ohio in September 1917. Most of its personnel were men from Ohio, but men from Kentucky and Western Pennsylvania were also included in the division. After basic training they began to stage via Camp Merritt in New Jersey, and sailed to France during the late spring of 1918.

Most of the division arrived in France by June 28th, 1918. However the day before arriving they were designated a depot division. As the soldiers were no longer expected to join their fellow Doughboys on the line, the division was stripped of a number of units, which were attached to Corps & Army troops. Specifically, the 158th Artillery Brigade, 308th Ammunition Train, 308th Engineers, 308th Field Signal Battalion, 308th Trench Mortar Battery and 308th Sanitary Train.

The depot divisions, located at the ports, received new

soldiers and provided six weeks of basic individual training before forwarding them to the replacement division. The demand for combat divisions quickly reduced the number of depot divisions from six to two. These two depot divisions, the 41st and 83rd, processed all of the AEF replacements.

A Division split in three

The entire 332nd Infantry Regiment & 331st Field Hospital were detached and sent to the Italian Front in July of 1918. Their objective



Patch of the 332nd Infantry Regiment with a golden lion of St. Mark

was to bluff the Germans and Austrians into thinking the American Army was

larger and more capable than it really was. A mission the men carried out with great success. The units saw action in the Vittorio-Veneto area.

Meanwhile the other Infantry regiments; 329th, 330th and 331st provided replacements for divisions at the front, training and supplying more than 195000 officers and enlisted men as replacements while in France. Field Artillery, Signal Corps and Corps of Engineers units with the division saw action in the Aisne-Maine, Oise-Aisne and Meuse-Argonne offensives and in the Voslo Sector. The division's elements returned to the US between January and October 1919 and were demobilized



Troops of the 83rd, fully equipped somewhere in France.



The story of Chief Wahoo

A special bond between the 83rd Infantry Division and the Cleveland Indians.

While a symbol of much controversy today, Chief Wahoo has been the well-known mascot of the Cleveland Indians baseball team since the late 1940s. A quick search through Google will tell you the story of Walter Goldbach, the artist who grew up in Cleveland and drew up the design when he was 17 years old. However, there is more to that story and although it was not confirmed by either artist, the inspiration for Chief Wahoo comes from a veteran of the 83rd.



Top: Chief Wahoo as he was drawn by Walter Goldbach.
Bottom: 'The little Indian' by Fred Reinert as it appeared in the Plain Dealer.

Fred G. Reinert enlisted in the Army on October 5, 1917 in Cleveland, Ohio and went overseas with the 332nd Infantry Regiment arriving in Europe on June 5, 1918. He served in Italy during the Vittorio-Veneto campaign. After World War 1, Fred used his skills as an artist to compile a book filled with cartoons, detailing life in Italy as a doughboy.

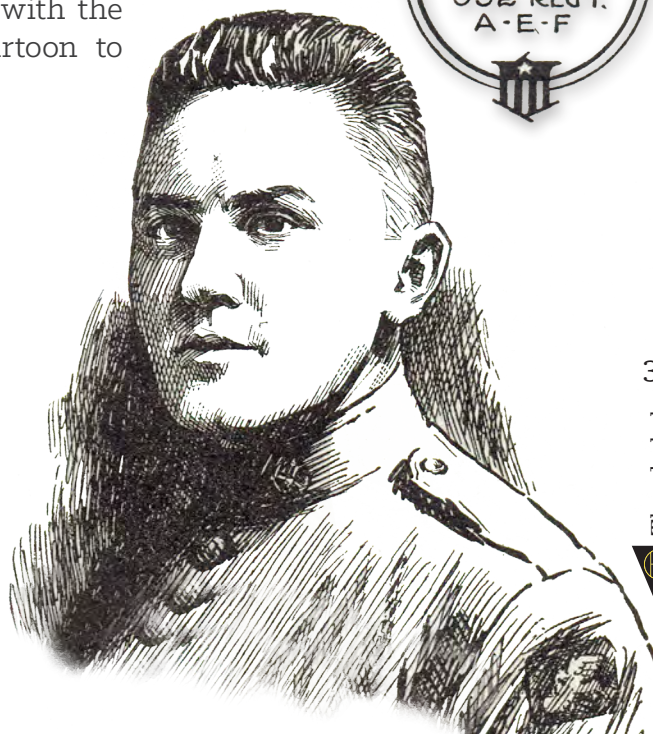
Upon his return to civilian life Fred Reinert became a well-known artist in the Cleveland area. He worked for the Plain Dealer newspaper and in the 1930's came up with the 'Little Indian', a cartoon to

accompany the Cleveland Indians scores in the newspaper. The Little Indian became hugely popular and has a big resemblance to Chief Wahoo, who would become the mascot for the Cleveland Indians. Even though an official connection was never reported by Reinert, Goldbach or anyone else, it seems obvious that Chief Wahoo artist Walter Goldbach was inspired by Reinert's creation.



The victory left the Indians one game behind Washington, the first place team.

Full Details on Today's Sport Pages.





Viva l'America

The 332nd on the Italian front

Text: Matthew J. Seelinger, sketches: Fred Reinert

For the Allied Powers, battered and exhausted after nearly three years of bloody, indecisive, trench warfare, the American entry into World War I in April 1917 represented a glimmer of hope in their struggle against Germany and her allies. Within a year, American troops poured into Europe to shore up the weary French and British along the Western Front and helped to finally push the Germans back. While the vast majority of American forces were sent to France and fought in campaigns such as St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne, a small number of American troops played an important role on the Italian front, a virtual sideshow to carnage of the Western Front. The 332nd Infantry Regiment, under the command of Colonel William Wallace, was the only American unit to serve on the Italian Front, and while its participation in the fighting there was brief, the 332nd played an invaluable role in the final victory. Moreover, after the fighting, the 332nd later served in a capacity that would be repeated by American forces nearly eighty years later.

The history of the 332nd Infantry commenced with its organization on 30 August 1917 at Camp Sherman, Ohio, and

assignment to the 83rd Division. The regiment was comprised of large numbers of men from Ohio, including many from Cleveland, Akron, and Youngstown. Those assigned to the regiment came from a variety of socioeconomic and ethnic groups, leading one soldier to claim that the regiment resembled a "polyglot boarding house."

After initial training and drill at Camp Sherman, the 332nd moved by train on 18 November to Camp Perry, Ohio, for rifle training. Located near Toledo along Lake Erie, Camp Perry proved to be a miserable experience. Upon arrival, the soldiers were greeted by a cold rain, which later turned into wet snow. The camp turned into a sea of mud, and the tents sheltering the troops offered little protection from the elements. As a result, many men fell ill, and a suspected case of smallpox forced the vaccination of the entire regiment. When the 332nd began departing Camp Perry for Camp Sherman on 11 December, the camp was struck by a furious blizzard, further adding to the soldiers' misery.

Once back at Camp Sherman, the 332nd settled into several months of intensive drill

and training to prepare them for combat on the battlefields of Western Europe. Finally, in May 1918, the regiment began to prepare for the departure to Europe. On 25 May, the 332nd began its journey to the eastern seaboard via the B&O Railroad. The regiment arrived at Camp Merrit, just outside New York City and remained there until 6 June, when the



men of the 332nd boarded the Cunard liner H.M.S. Aquitania for the voyage to Europe. At 8:15 on 8 June, tugs began pulling the ship away from the pier and into the Hudson River. The 332nd was finally on its way "over there."

Upon its arrival in Liverpool, England, on 15 June, the regiment traveled by train to Southampton to board channel transports to France. The short voyage gave the men of the 332nd their first glimpses of war.



The wrecks of several ships sunk by German submarines littered the passage between Southampton and Le Havre.<BR.
 Upon arriving, however, Wallace and his men soon learned they would not be fighting in France. The disastrous defeat at Capporetto in October 1917 left the Italians in dire straits. At a 6 February 1918 meeting of the Supreme War Council in Paris, the Italian Minister of War requested that General John J. Pershing send a battalion of American troops to the Italian Front, primarily to bolster the morale of the Italian Army and people, but also to serve as tangible proof of American-Italian cooperation for the war effort. Pershing agreed with the request and ordered the 83rd Division to be broken up, with the 332nd to go to the Italian Front and the remaining units to serve as replacements. Pershing's reasoning behind his decision was based on the fact that all other divisions in France at that time were either already at the front lines or were en route. On 25 July, the 332nd began the journey to Italy.

At 1500 hours, 28 July 1918, the 332nd arrived in Milan. An Italian military band greeted the Americans with "The Star Bangled Banner." Throngs of cheering Italian citizens showered the soldiers with flowers, accompanying the bouquets with cries of "Viva l'America! Viva l'Italia." These celebrations would be repeated in nearly every town the 332nd entered.

The regiment's stay in Milan, however, was short, and the men immediately reboarded the train. Early the following day, the 332nd arrived at Villafranca di Verona, twelve miles southwest of Verona. Italian Army trucks transported the regiment to Sommacampagna, where the 332nd resumed its training for the upcoming fighting. The regiment's stay in Sommacampagna soon proved to be less than pleasant. Rations were of poor quality and billets for the soldiers were infested with mice and fleas. The men were widely dispersed, making inspections and drill difficult. To make matters worse, dysentery had broken out, killing one soldier and leaving many others too sick for drill. As a result, Colonel Wallace moved the 332nd to Valleggio, where the men could be billeted in a central area and sanitation could be more easily maintained.

At Valleggio, the 332nd made up for lost time. Wallace employed a large amphitheater for open warfare and had a realistic set of trenches constructed so his men could practice trench warfare. Each battalion lived and operated in the trenches for three day periods, while another battalion practiced raiding and maneuvering against them. In addition, Wallace also secured a battalion of Arditti, Italy's most experienced shock troops, to assist with the training of his men.

On 2 September 1918, the 2nd Battalion, under the command of Major William G. Everson, received orders to the front. The battalion was assigned a position with the Brigato Veneto, an Italian brigade comprised of soldiers from Venice. The American sector stretched for a mile along the western bank of the Piave River and centered on the village of Varago. The sector proved to be quiet. According to Everson, the sector became "quite a drawing card for all kinds of generals, newspaper men, etc., etc. In fact we are still in the game of propaganda and Italian officers and men are brought hereto get a little extra pep." Apart from expending some ammunition, shooting down a couple of Austrian observation balloons, and reading the propaganda leaflets the Austrians had showered upon them, the 2nd Battalion would not see any major action until the rest of the regiment was brought up.

Up to this point, the 332nd had escaped the war relatively unscathed, but on 12 September, the regiment's luck ran out. During a drill at Valleggio, a Stokes mortar exploded, killing seven men and wounding nearly forty others. As it would turn out, the 332nd lost more men in this particular accident than it would in combat during the Vittorio-Veneto offensive.

On 2 October, the command that every man in the 332nd had been waiting for: break camp and begin movement





Viva l'America

The 332nd on the Italian front

Text: Matthew J. Seelinger, sketches: Fred Reinert

to the front. The 1st and 2nd Battalions arrived at Treviso, eighteen miles northwest of Venice on 4 October. The two battalions quickly resumed training, including a practice river crossing on 7 October in preparation for an assault across the Piave. Later that evening, the 332nd was presented with a standard of colors from the Italian Colony in New York City, in appreciation of the regiment's assistance to the Italian war effort.

Within the first week, the men of the 332nd undertook a series of long marches in which no one was excused from participation. Each morning, the companies of the regiment separated, each pursuing a different course along the roads. Marches were made "in double file, not in squad formation, so that when the march began, the interval lengthening between men, each company appeared larger than it really was." The companies maneuvered their way along the highways each day, all marching in different directions. A daily change in headgear was also ordered; one day overseas caps were worn, the next day campaign hats, while the third day saw every man wearing his steel helmet. Moreover, the men were ordered to

change their dress from day to day; jerkins were worn one day, overcoats the next, raincoats the following day. All of this was done in sight of Austrian observers in attempt to convince the Austrians that large numbers of American troops were arriving to take their places along the Piave. One thing that the marches did achieve was to increase the American soldiers' hostility towards their Austrian foes. Several Americans were overheard vowing how they would treat the enemy "for causing this hell."

During the night of the 21 October, the men of the 332nd were subjected to one of the other new horrors that this war had wrought: air power. While many of the men were sleeping, a group of Austrian planes staged an air raid that lasted eleven minutes. While terrifying, the raid failed to do anything another than scare several of the men out of their slumber.

Preparation for the upcoming offensive against the Austrians continued in earnest. Colonel Wallace soon learned that the 332nd would be assigned to the Italian 31st Division, British 10th Army. On the 28th, Wallace received orders to begin marching his regiment to the front.

The offensive against the Austrians, led by British, Italian and French forces, had commenced a few days before, with very heavy fighting taking place along the entire front on 27 October. The 332nd halted at Varago to await repair of the bridges over the Piave River, which had been destroyed by the retreating Austrians. Beginning at 0900, 31 October, the 332nd resumed marching and crossed the Piave. By this time all available forces were needed to overtake the rapidly fleeing Austrians. Their swift withdrawal came as a surprise to the Allied commanders, who expected the Austrians to fight a stiff rearguard action, particularly at the river crossings. Instead, the Austrians hastily retreated, pausing only to demolish every bridge in an effort to delay the Allied advance.

Placed at the advance guard of the Italian 31st Division and covering a front of approximately four miles, the 332nd reached the Tagliamento River on the afternoon of 3 November. Wallace ordered the regiment to halt, placing the 2nd Battalion on the right, 3rd Battalion on the left, with the 1st in reserve. During the night, the Austrians on the opposite side of the river relayed to Captain Austin Story, commander



of the 3rd Battalion, that an armistice was soon to go into effect. Having not heard any news of an armistice, Story replied, "We're going to blow you up—get your heads down."

At 0540 on 4 November, Wallace ordered the 2nd Battalion, now under the command of Major F.M. Scanland, to cross the Tagliamento. Crawling along the remains of a destroyed bridge, the men made their way across in the early morning darkness at Ponte della Delizia. Scanland's men took the 400 Austrians defending the east bank completely by surprise. Expecting the Americans to be on the opposite bank, the Austrians ranged their artillery and machine guns too far; most of their fire went over the Americans' heads, falling on the far bank. In less than twenty minutes, Scanland's 2nd Battalion, attacking in a single wave with rifles, hand grenades, and machine guns, on a four-fifths of a mile front, smashed through the Austrian lines sending them into a headlong retreat, all at the cost of one dead, six wounded. As a result of their successful attack, the 2nd Battalion represented the first Allied infantry to cross the Tagliamento.

Once across the river, the 332nd rapidly expanded its bridgehead and pressed the attack. The pursuit of the Austrians continued with such rapidity that they

never attempted to establish new positions. The 332nd pushed on, knocking out several machine gun nests, taking a three-inch gun, and capturing the Austrian supply depot at Codroipo, netting a huge cache of weapons, ammunition, and supplies.

Capturing the supply depot at Codroipo would turn out to be last significant accomplishment of the war for the men of 332nd Infantry. On 4 November, at 1500, an armistice with Austria went into effect. The men of the regiment celebrated that at least their part of the war was over. Most of the night was spent handling Austrian

were convinced that there were at least six American divisions facing them in Italy, and possibly as many as 300,000 men total. When told that the American forces in Italy were comprised of one regiment, the Austrian officers refused to believe it. Colonel Wallace quickly realized that the ruse created by continuously marching his men down different roads, wearing different types of headgear and other equipment clearly worked. "I realized that the propaganda had been good," said Wallace, "but I never flattered myself it had been anything like that." As a result of the 332nd's deception, Austrian morale plummeted.



prisoners, numbering into the tens of thousands.

Much to the amazement of Colonel Wallace and other American officers of the 332nd, the Austrian generals

Wallace's deception may have shortened the war on the Italian front and saved countless lives.

The men of the 332nd spent the days following the



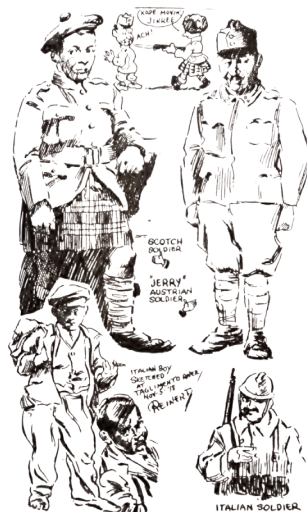


armistice celebrating and collecting medals. The British Commanding General decorated Colonel Wallace with the British Distinguished Service Order and expressed his appreciation of the gallantry of the 332nd. Major Scanland received a silver medal for leading his battalion across the Tagliamento, and various other officers and enlisted men received medals for their service.

The terms of the armistice gave the Allies free use of the Austrian roads. With the Austrian Army no longer involved in the war, there was nothing between the Allies in Italy and Berlin. As a result, the Allied forces, including the 332nd were ordered to proceed north to a point designated "the back door of Italy." The regiment traveled into the Alps, passing through Rivolto, La Santissima, Pozzuolo, Buttrio, Osaria, Ippolis, and Carmons. Colonel Wallace and Lieutenant Colonel Everson proceeded as far as Tolmino. The regiment's advance, however, was halted by the announcement that Germany had signed an armistice on 11 November 1918. The end of the war could not have come soon enough, for the far northern areas of Italy and former Austrian controlled territories were being ravaged by

an epidemic of influenza, killing people "faster than they could be buried," according to Colonel Wallace.

While the men of the



Fred Reinert impressions of the soldiers and people he encountered.

332nd rejoiced at the news of the second armistice, their happiness was short lived. They would not be going home right away. Colonel Wallace soon learned that the regiment would be divided for occupation duty in areas formerly held by the Austrians.

Under orders of the Allied High Command, the 2nd Battalion was sent to the Italian port of Mestre, where it was to board transports for the Dalmatian port of Cattaro. On 15 November, Major Scanland received new orders that one his platoons was to

be assigned to the 3rd Battalion and proceed to Venice, where the Italian destroyer Audace would transport them to the Croatian port city of Fiume, where they would join the 3rd Battalion.

On 17 November, as their ship pulled into port, the men of the 3rd Battalion viewed a welcome sight: the American flag draped over the governor's palace in Fiume. Worries of a hostile reception proved groundless. Crowds of people gathered at the dock to welcome the Americans, showering them and the ship with flowers. To the Americans, it appeared as though the citizens of Fiume were welcoming them home rather viewing them as an occupying force. One Austrian colonel had declared to the Americans that the war had been a mistake and that the Austrian people had never wanted to fight against them. Overall, the American stay in Fiume was a pleasant one. Apart from searching for Austrian weapons in the neighboring town of Susek and a few protocol squabbles with the Italians about the proper display of the American flag, the soldiers of the 3rd Battalion spent much of their time honoring social invitations. In contrast to the Americans, the Italian occupiers received

Viva l'America

The 332nd on the Italian front

Text: Matthew J. Seelinger, sketches: Fred Reinert



a hostile reception and were viewed with great resentment by the citizens of Fiume.

The Second Battalion arrived in the harbor of Cattaro on 28 November 1918. Upon landing, the battalion received an enthusiastic greeting from a "a mixture of nationalities found only in a petty Balkan state or a great American city." Unlike the 3rd Battalion's stay in Fiume, the 2nd Battalion's posting in Montenegro was more difficult. Aside from the more primitive living conditions and miserable weather, the Montenegrins were openly hostile to the Italian troops who were also assigned occupation duty. Furthermore, different native armed factions vied for control. In January 1919, fighting broke out between revolutionary forces, who wanted Montenegro to become an independent republic, and government forces, who wanted Montenegro to join the newly formed Yugoslav union. As their Army counterparts would do nearly eighty years later in the Balkans, the 2nd Battalion was deployed in an effort to maintain peace between the rival factions. Placing themselves in harm's way, the battalion was able to keep bloodshed to a minimum with no casualties suffered by their own men, despite several incidents in which American forces were inadvertently fired upon. In addition to their peacekeeping efforts, the 2nd Battalion distributed food

and other relief supplies to the starving Montenegrins.

Finally, in February 1919, the 332nd began regrouping for the journey back home to America. The 1st Battalion, which had remained in Italy, arrived in Genoa on 13 February. The 3rd Battalion arrived a few days after that. The 2nd Battalion, however, did not reach Genoa until 9 March. On 29 March, the 332nd, aboard the *Duca d'Aosta*, set sail for the United States.

On 14 April, the 332nd arrived at Camp Merritt outside of New York City. One week later, the regiment paraded down Fifth Avenue before a crowd estimated at 350,000 people. Among the dignitaries on hand were the Mayor of New York City, numerous civic and business leaders from New York and Ohio, and over 10,000 individuals representing various Italian organizations within New York.

Immediately following the parade, the regiment returned to Camp Merritt. Three days later, the 332nd began the journey to Ohio, arriving in Cleveland the following day. On 26 April, the 332nd proudly marched through the streets of Cleveland in a parade held to honor the regiment, including 350 of its native sons. Colonel Wallace led the parade and accepted awards from the Italian-American community of Cleveland on behalf of the 332nd.

The following day, the 332nd returned to Camp Sherman to begin the process of demobilization. The men handed in their equipment. Discharge papers were issued and final lectures were given on topics such as re-enlistment, industrial employment, and "sex hygiene." At the quartermaster's office, the men received their final pay, bonuses, and discharges.

On 2 May 1919, the Headquarters Company and First Battalion of the 332nd were officially demobilized. The 2nd Battalion demobilized the following day. On 5 May, the 3rd Battalion disbanded and the regimental demobilization of the 332nd Infantry was complete.

While its participation in the actual fighting along the Italian Front was brief, the 332nd Infantry played an intangible role in the final victory. Its mere presence boosted the morale of the Italian forces. In addition, the ruse created by Colonel Wallace gave the Austrians the impression that large numbers of Americans had deployed to Italy, leaving the Austrians reluctant to stand and fight. Furthermore, the 332nd served as goodwill ambassadors and peacekeepers in the role as occupation forces after the war, in the always volatile Balkans region, a role later repeated by American forces decades later.



Archival Research

Research your 83rd veteran at the National Archives

Cliff Snyder has been a military archivist at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for 29 years. This article is an expanded version of the short talk he gave at the Reunion in Cleveland.

Text: Cliff Snyder, photo: Jelle Thys

NARA was established in 1934 to preserve the historical records of the Federal Government. The original building (referred to as AI) near the Mall in Washington, D.C. is the most well-known, but NARA has facilities (including the Presidential Libraries) across the country.

For researching records of the 83rd Infantry Division and its veterans, the two facilities you need to know

are the National Archives at College Park, Maryland (known as AII), and the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis. The important thing to remember is that if you have any questions, ask a Military Reference Archivist at NARA. To reach a military reference archivist in College Park, you can send a request to archives2reference@nara.gov, inquire@nara.gov, or call (301)-837-3510. You can visit

and review the records in our research room or request copies by mail/email/telephone request. Most researchers who visit AII use their own digital cameras to record the documents. You can make self-service paper copies at \$.25 per page. Paper copies provided by NARA in response to mail/email/telephone requests cost \$.80 per page. Go to www.archives.gov/research/order/fees for more



information and options on reproductions. There are no fees for viewing the records or the assistance provided by the archivists.

This article focuses on the records available in AII, the operational records of the 83rd (which means they document the activities of the 83rd and its organic and attached units). A separate article detailing the personnel-related records for the 83rd will be included in the next Thunderbolt.

Searching the 83rd's Operational Records at AII, College Park, MD

The records of the 83rd Infantry Division, and its organic and attached units, are located in Archives II. There are 119 boxes of records for the 83rd and its organic units in Record Group 407: Records of the Adjutant General's Office, with each box containing 800-1000 pages. There are daily journals, after action reports, general orders, intelligence reports, unit histories, and other records. The records available can vary from unit to unit, and also depend on the level of the organization (the

type of records created at the division level may differ from those created at the battalion or regimental levels). The records of the attached units are found separately within the appropriate arm: armor, artillery, engineers, etc. You can visit and review the records in our research room or request copies by mail/email/telephone request. Go to archives.gov for additional information.

There are also two boxes of records in Record Group 338: Records of United States Army Commands, 1942-, containing records of the training of the 83rd in 1942-1944.

On the next pages are informational paragraphs, used by military archivists at NARA, in responding to questions about the records available.

A Final Word...

The information in this article was specifically tailored to researching records of the 83rd Infantry Division. The records described here represent a tiny fraction of the records of the National Archives relating to World War II, which include hundreds of thousands of boxes. For additional information, you can go to www.archives.gov/research/military/ww2/finding-aids.html. The general NARA website is at archives.gov.

As previously indicated, another article regarding personnel-type records located at the National Personnel Record Center in St. Louis will appear in the next Thunderbolt.

I hope everyone has a chance to delve into the records of the 83rd. It is quite a thrill!

Thunderbolt!

In addition to this article you can find more information and useful links to research your veteran on our website www.83rdassociation.com/research



Narrative Historical and After Action Reports, Unit Journals and Other Supporting Documents.

The Textual Reference Archives II Branch (RDT2) has custody of the Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1917- (Record Group 407), U.S. Army Command Reports, 1949-54, and the Records of U.S. Army Operational, Tactical, and Support Organizations (World War II and Thereafter) (Record Group 338). Command reports among these records consist mostly of narrative historical and after action reports as well as unit journals and other supporting documents. Because the files are arranged hierarchically, identification of the specific unit (i.e., division, regiment, and battalion) and date of interest are necessary before a search can be conducted. They do not include personnel or medical information. We do not have a name index to these records.

Casualty Lists

The Textual Reference Archives II Branch (RDT2) has custody of casualty lists of World War II U.S. Army divisions and their permanently attached units. The lists are arranged mostly by unit and, thereunder, alphabetically by the name of the casualty. Other information included in the listing are the service number of the casualty, grade, element of service, and type of casualty.

After the war, the Army annotated approximately 65% of the lists with the date of death of the casualty. The principal World War II Army casualty list, World War II Honor List of Dead and Missing (Washington: War Department, 1946) is arranged alphabetically by state and thereunder by county. Each state booklet includes a foreword describing how the list was compiled, a statistical tabulation by counties and by types of casualties. Each entry includes descendent's name, serial number, rank, and type of casualty. The towns within the counties and the dates and places where the casualties occurred are not mentioned. World War II Army casualty lists are available online through the National Archives Website at <http://www.archives.gov/research/military/ww2/army-casualties/>.

Prisoner of War Records

Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal General (Record Group 389) include a master list of American prisoners of war of the German and Japanese Governments. These indexes consist of many volumes and have thousands of entries for individuals listed alphabetically by surname. If you are interested in any particular prisoner and can furnish us any identifying information about him, we will be happy to search our records.

The National Archives has a number of series of records relating to World War II-era prisoners of war. Usually, these records can only establish prisoner of war (POW) status. Rarely do the records contain specific information about a prisoner's medical condition or treatment. Enclosed is a copy of the relevant page from one of the comprehensive lists of POWs in our custody. This should assist you in verifying POW status.



Station and Enlistment Lists, Photographs, and Records of U.S. Army Transport Ships.

Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1917- (Record Group 407) include Station Lists for World War II. The lists are arranged by theater (such as European Theater of Operations) and thereunder by date. The lists are generally monthly or biweekly. Each list is arranged by type of unit and thereunder in order by unit name or number. The nearest town is listed for each unit.

World War II Army Enlistment Records are in the custody of the Electronic Records Division (RDE) and are available via the Access to Archival Databases (AAD) on the National Archives website at: <http://aad.archives.gov/aad/>. Click on "World War II" under the category section. A list of the databases relating to WWII will appear and select the first database to search the WWII Army Enlistment Records. The database "World War II Army Enlistment Records, ca. 1938 - 1946" is a compilation of enlistment data captured on punch cards by the Army. The record you located on our web site IS the record. The database is not an index to additional records. The National Archives does not have duplicates of the Army service records that were destroyed in the 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center.

Photographs of various U.S. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps activities dating from 1940 to 1981 are in the custody of NARA's Still Picture Branch (RDSS), Room 5360, The National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001. Their email address is stillpix@nara.gov and web site is <http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/college-park/photographs-dc.html>.

According to our records, in 1951 the Department of the Army destroyed all manifests, logs of vessels, and troop movement files of United States Army transports for World War II and most of the passenger lists.

Other Sources for Information

There may be additional information available from other Agencies and Organizations.

POW/MIA information

For information regarding prisoners of war and U.S. servicemen missing during WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, Cold War, and other conflicts, we suggest you contact the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), Public Affairs Office, 2600 Defense Pentagon, ATTN: External Affairs, Washington DC 20301-2600. The telephone number is 703-699-1420 and their web site is <http://www.dpaa.mil/>.

Former Military Personnel Buried in National Cemeteries and Buried Overseas

For information relating to American overseas cemeteries and to former military personnel buried overseas, please call (703) 696-6900; write to the American Battle Monuments Commission, Court House Plaza II, Suite 500, 2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201; or send an email to info@abmc.gov. You should write directly to the National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. There is a nationwide gravesite locator available online at http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1.

Unit Histories and Military Literature

The U.S. Army Military History Institute, The Army Heritage & Education Center, 950 Soldiers Drive, Carlisle, PA 17013, has a large collection of published unit histories. Their web site is <http://www.ahco.army.mil/site/index.jsp>. For published military literature you may wish to consult the Army Publishing Directorate at <http://www.apd.army.mil/>



Lineage and Honors and Heraldic Items

Information concerning lineage and honors can be obtained from the U.S. Army Center of Military History, ATTN: DAMH-FPO, 103 Third Avenue, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, DC 20319-5058. Their web site is <http://www.history.army.mil/html/forcestruc/lh.html>. Information relating to heraldic items such as coats of arms or historic insignia, uniforms, flags, colors, streamers, and guidons of military units can be obtained by writing the U.S. Army Institute of Heraldry, 9325 Gunston Road, Room S-112, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5579 or call (703) 806-4971. Their web site is <http://www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/>.

U.S. Military Academy Cadet Information

Records pertaining to the U.S. Military Academy and the Cadets are in the custody of the Special Collections and Archives Division, U.S. Military Academy Library, Jefferson and Cullum Road, West Point, New York 10996-1711. The telephone number is (845) 938-3259 and the email address is 8libarch@usma.edu.



83rd Association Store

Order your 83rd merchandise here

Items available are as follows: PLEASE NOTE THAT SHIPPING IS EXTRA, Please contact me for shipping charges.

Hats - \$14.00

Tee Shirts - \$20.00, both in black and gold

Medium Large Extra Large 2XL

Polo Shirts (Collared) - \$30.00, both in black and gold

Small Medium Large Extra Large 2XL

Windbreakers - \$40.00 black only

Medium Large Extra Large 2XL

Coffee Mugs - \$10 for 1 or \$15 for 2. Black on the outside and gold on the inside.

Also have 5 copies of the Original Map "Thunderbolt Across Europe" printed in 1945. These are vinyl and in color.

Pins and patches are on order.

Please copy this page and circle which items you would like along with your check to:

83rd Infantry Division Association, P.O. Box 406, Alton Bay, NH 03810

Questions can be sent to Judy Breen, 603-569-3263 (leave a message) or walkgirl250@yahoo.com



Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____





Cuyahoga County Council

The Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio,
takes profound pride and deep personal pleasure in recognizing

Raising of the 83rd Infantry Division

100th Anniversary & 71st Annual Reunion

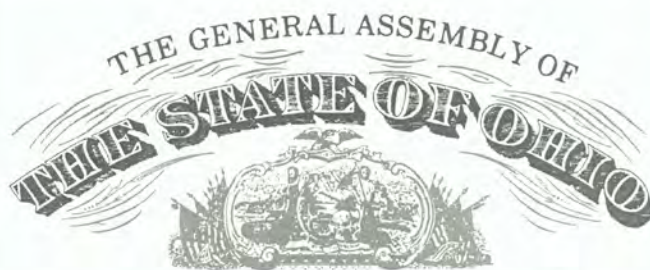
- WHEREAS,** the 83rd Infantry Division Association will celebrate their 71st annual reunion in Cleveland on August 1st through August 5th at the Cleveland Renaissance Hotel. In addition, they will be commemorating the 100th anniversary of the raising of the 83rd Infantry Division in August 1917. The 83rd Infantry Division was first activated 100 years ago in August 1917 at Camp Sherman Ohio, and the Division's insignia, a graphic representation of the word O-H-I-O, reflects the home state from where many of the Division's original ranks were raised; and
- WHEREAS,** the 83rd's field artillery brigades, signal troops and most of its infantry were deployed throughout the Western Front and the remaining 83rd cadres supplied over 195,000 troops. They deployed in Italy as a phantom army to build up Italian morale and to depress that of the enemy, including Austria, by creating the impression that a large American force had reached that front and was preparing to enter the battle line, convincing the Austrian generals that there were at least six American divisions and up to 300,000 soldiers facing them in Italy; and
- WHEREAS,** the 83rd was reactivated in August 1942 in Camp Atterbury Indiana and landed on Omaha Beach D-Day +12, relieved elements of the 82nd and 101st airborne divisions, fought in 5 battle campaigns, Normandy, Brittany, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe, and became known as the "Thunderbolt Division;" and
- WHEREAS,** on July 4, 1944, in its first major battle, the 83rd suffered over 1500 casualties, and by the end of the European Campaign, lost 2,850 killed in action, suffered 15,013 battle casualties, engaged in 244 days of combat and captured 82,000 prisoners including the mass surrender of a German Major General and 20,000 troops at Beaungency, France; and
- WHEREAS,** the 83rd, earning the nickname the "Rag Tag Circus," "borrowed" anything on wheels and raced 280 miles in 13 days and 45 miles southwest of Berlin, gave the Allies the "Truman Bridge," the only permanent bridgehead across the Elbe, and met in April, 1945 with allied Russian troops at Barby, the furthest penetration into Germany of any U.S. Division; and
- WHEREAS,** the 83rd Infantry Division was inactivated in 1946 and remained an inactive reserve division until 1965, when it was succeeded by the 83rd Army Reserve Command located at Fort Hayes, Columbus, Ohio. The Ohio-based Army reservists of the 83rd ARCOM, served in Bosnia, Haiti, Somalia, the Persian Gulf, Panama and Vietnam, building roads in Honduras and helping Ohioans dig out of the blizzard of '78. They deactivated again in 1997. The 83rd is now reflagged as the 83rd Army Reserve Readiness Reserve Training Center whose training programs, including three Non-Commissioned Officers Academies, play a significant role maintaining reserve units in a high state of readiness; and
- WHEREAS,** the 83rd Infantry Division Association, in 1947, held its first annual reunion in Cleveland Ohio, and has returned to Cleveland, in 2017, with many descendants to hold its 71st annual reunion and to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the raising of the 83rd Division. The 83rd Infantry Division Association is gathering on August 5, 2017, in the Old Stone Church, to honor and recognize those 83rd members from Greater Cleveland who sacrificed their lives for our country and who are memorialized at the Fountain of Eternal Life on Veterans Memorial Plaza.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, hereby salutes the 83rd Infantry Division on its 100th Anniversary.

Yvonne M. Cornwell
Yvonne M. Cornwell, District 7
Cuyahoga County Council

Anthony T. Hairston
Anthony Hairston, District 10
Cuyahoga County Council



Duly presented this 1st day of August, 2017



SENATORIAL CITATION

on behalf of

STATE SENATOR
SANDRA WILLIAMS

To recognize

THE 71ST ANNUAL REUNION OF
THE 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION

As a member of the Ohio Senate of the 132nd General Assembly, I am pleased to pay tribute to the 71st annual reunion of the 83rd Infantry Division. It is an incredibly meaningful opportunity to honor the legacy of the 83rd Infantry Division who so heroically sacrificed their lives when our nation needed them most.

It is truly an honor to recognize the great history of the "Ohio Division", now totaling a momentous 100 years. From the deployment throughout the Western Front and their great impact on the World Wars to the Army Reserve Command and later the Army Reserve Readiness Training Center, the veterans of the 83rd Infantry Division have sacrificed much for our freedom and safety. While the history of the 83rd division has been long and varied there has been a continuous thread of bravery, ingenuity, and strength of character flowing through our veterans.

In order to honor those who answered the nation's call of duty, we will work to educate current and future generations and keep the memory of those who are no longer with us alive. Thus, with sincere pleasure, I commend the 83rd Infantry Division Association for their 71st Annual reunion and extend my best wishes for the years to come.

Sandra R. Williams
SANDRA WILLIAMS
STATE SENATOR
21st DISTRICT



Preserve, honor, educate, these three words are the heart of mission of the Witness to War Foundation. Preserve: through video interviews with veterans from all wars, they wish to capture their extraordinary stories before they are lost. Honor: through professionally editing the HD quality videos into short stories, these stories are made ready for today's generation. Educate: with their website they want to enable educators to teach current and future generations about the price of freedom. Through the stories

of the veterans they hope to one day make the pages of history come alive in school systems. Today, the Witness to War foundation is one of the largest private veteran preservation organizations in the United States. The Foundation has captured over 1,500 stories (and counting) on digital video from veterans of WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Grenada, Iraq, Afghanistan and other conflicts.



Do you wish to share your story or support the organisation in another way?
Visit www.witnesstowar.org for more info



With the holidays here and visits with family and friends, a reminder that the Rampart Library District is currently searching for and collecting war letters for our 2018 exhibit Letters Home: A History of War Through Letters. We are asking at this time for individuals to search through their own history- to explore your own desk drawers, dressers, and boxes and ask family members involved in war efforts to contribute letters.

We are looking for letters from any time period- from the Revolutionary War to the current campaign in Afghanistan. Letters written overseas or on the home front. Letters, cards, postcards, photographs and telegrams from husbands, wives, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, friends, and children. Handwritten, typed, or in email form- all contributions are welcome. Collections will be digitized and available through the Digital Public Library of America at www.dp.la

As a granddaughter of an 83rd Infantry Division Quartermaster, I encourage all who are able to participate.

Documents will be scanned and immediately returned to contributors.

For those contributing from farther distances, instructions for scanning will be provided.



Michelle Dukette at the Reunion in Cleveland.

For more information and to arrange a time to contribute a wartime letter, please contact me, Michelle Dukette, Executive Director at 719-687-9281 or send an email to michelled@rampartlibrarydistrict.org





KID'S SECTION



The Battle of Britain

excerpted from "World War 2 for kids", page 16, by Richard Panchyk. Used by permission of owner

Anita was 17 years old and living on her own in London when the heavy air raids began. She remembers the bombing of London and how brave the British people were. *"The bombs were falling. You get up in the morning and have a cup of tea. They were very stubborn; it's their nature to carry on. There was no excitement. Everybody went along and did the best they could."* On one occasion, Anita had a very close call: *"I was supposed to take a certain bus, and I was late, and I had to take*

another bus to go to work, and that bus [the one she missed] was hit by a bomb, so it was just fate. I was near the airport at Norwich and we watched the dogfights between the [British] Spitfires and the Germans."

- Memory of Anita W., 17 years old in 1940



Bombed out London street during the Battle of Britain





German U-boat U505 being towed away by the USS Pillsbury. After capturing the boat crewmembers of the Pillsbury were able to retrieve two Enigma machines which helped the allies in decoding the unbreakable German code.

Breaking the code

Getting a message from one person to another many miles away often involved translating the message into an agreed-upon code so the enemy could not steal information. One of the greatest Allied challenges of the war was to crack the German “Enigma” code. The Enigma was a special machine with settings that could be changed to create an infinite number of different scrambles. The machine operator at the receiving station knew the exact code to enter in order to decode the message. To anyone else the jumble would be meaningless. The code was finally cracked after some of the machines were stolen and thoroughly examined.

In this activity, you will create a code with a friend and see if anyone can crack it.

Materials: Pen & Paper

Write out this code key:

Take the letters of the alphabet and assign each one a number beginning with A=1, B=2, etc.

For the first five numbers, add 28:	A=29 (1+18), B=30 (2+28), etc.
For the next five numbers, add 38:	F=44 (6+38), G=45 (7+38), etc.
For the next five numbers, add 48:	K=59 (11+48), L=60 (12+48), etc.
For the five after that, add 58:	P=74 (16+58), Q=75 (17+58), etc.
For the next five, add 68:	U=89 (21+68), V=90 (22+68), etc.
For the letter Z, add 78:	Z=104 (26+78).

Use a hyphen (-) between words.

As practice, decode this message: 61 33 33 78 – 61 33 – 60 29 78 33 76

Answer: meet me later

Write out a one- or two-sentence-long message to a friend. Now translate it into a numerical-based code using the key. Give your friend both the coded message and the original sentence in English. Tell him or her to figure out the coding system on this information alone. Next, come up with your own code.



E R I H S T N I L F T K S Y B T J M N
 N O T G N I H S A W E G R O E G S S U
 H L C A E C U O J W C U E L S Q A R D
 M L A S W C A S Q K F L V O S Z Q N E
 S A M T C C N M C R L E U G R Y A G H
 M H P O A B W V P A Y T E U C L D I D
 A Y S N S G N N H A H A N I D I O N A
 U L H P T G V D I H T L A I R J F O Y
 R R A A L L L R A L V T M N U C I I F
 E E N R E O A M S T O K E O N T E R N
 T D K K F M P F K T P K E R U C X O S
 A D S R U T E E A X C R S T B E W S D
 N A U S O T E R L E E K S E F U L M C
 I D S N N L P A R J H L E D R V R H V
 A M C P E O R B N S X O N T Q R X Y V
 H G S H R O P S H I R E N W V B T R H
 C U A L Q M S L O O P R E V I L E S M
 S L E B A D O D D I N G T O N H A L L
 L Y U C M T N I O P T S E W S S U D S

83rd word search

Training to England

Adderly Hall

Camp Breckenridge

Liverpool

Aston Park

Camp Shanks

Midland

Camp Atterbury

Doddington Hall

Newcastle

Durfold Hall

Shropshire

Flintshire

Southampton

HMS Mauretania

Stoke on Tern

HMS Orion

Tarporley

HMS Sumaria

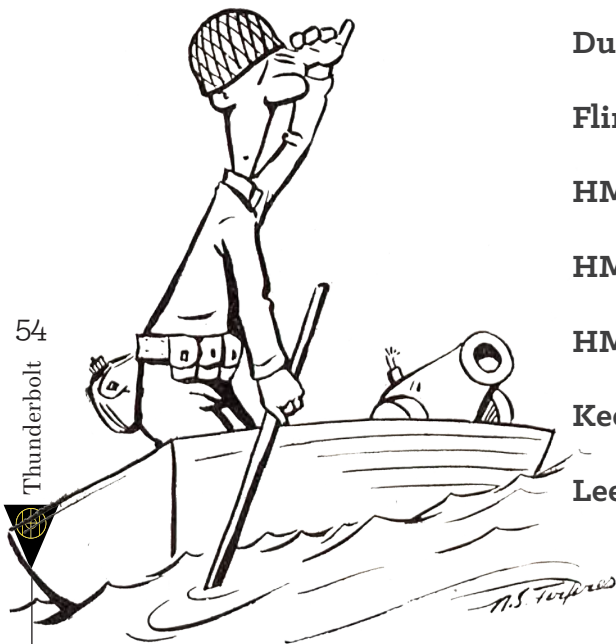
Tennessee Maneuvers

Keele Hall

USS George Washington

Leek

USS West Point



Adderly Hall

Training site in England | units of the 331st

Aston Park

Training site in England | 908th FA

Camp Atterbury

Training camp for the 83rd after re-activation on August 15, 1942 | in Indiana

Camp Breckenridge

83rd moved here for additional training on January 16, 1944 | in Kentucky

Camp Shanks

83rd moved here on March 28, 1944 and left from here for Europe | in New York

Doddington Hall

Training site in England | units of the 330th

Durfold Hall

Training site in England | 783rd Ord Co.

Flintshire

Training site in NE Wales | units of 324th FA

HMS Mauretania

Ocean liner (1906) | carried 783rd to England

HMS Orion

Departed New York on April 5, 1944 | units of 324th FA, M Co 331st & 83rd Signal

HMS Sumaria

Ocean liner (1922) | 83rd Signal & 783rd Ord

Keele Hall

Training site in England | 83rd Signal, 83rd MP, 83rd QM & 83rd Band

Leek

Town in England | units of 330th

Liverpool

Port city in England | 83rd arrived here on April 16, 1944

Midland

Training area in England | 330th

Newcastle

City in England & training area | 330th

Shropshire

Training area in England, bordering Wales | 324th FA & 83rd Recon

Southampton

Port city in England | departure point for Normandy

Stoke on Tern

Training area in England | 783rd Ord

Tarporley

Training area in England | 331st

Tennessee Maneuvers

One of 7 maneuvers conducted in Tennessee training 83rd in very realistic simulated combat. Occurred on property owned by civilians – and in cities and towns – across much of middle Tennessee. Because the terrain so closely resembled France, Belgium and Germany, all but 3 U.S. Army Divisions that participated fought in the ETO. More than 250 soldiers and a number of civilians lost their lives during all training exercises in Tennessee.

USS George Washington

Ocean liner (1908) departed New York on April 19, 1944 | 331st, units of 83rd Recon, 783rd Ord, 83rd Signal, 83rd MP & 908th FA

USS West Point

Originally SS America, departed New York | units of 453rd AAA AW Btn



Christmas Eve 1944

“Had a call from Mike Mizerock a couple of nights ago. He was worried that he had not heard from me. He and his wife, Anne, are doing fine. He did inform me that Ralph Guarnier had passed away around the time of the last reunion in August. Ralph was one of the cooks with Mike in the kitchen area. He was the singer who always managed a good tune when things were not going well. As Mike and I talked, it was evident that he is the only one of the kitchen personnel that is still with us. Froggy, Benny Goldnertz, Robson, Charlie Arnold have all passed away, and each one of them was a character. I had a great respect for those men, because they always came through with a hot meal when it was needed the most. In G Company, we should be thankful because very few company units enjoyed the pleasures of having good and reliable mess personnel as we did. I can remember Christmas Eve 1944 when we moved into the Aachen area before going into the Battle of the Bulge. Mike came to me and asked when I wanted to feed the Christmas meal. I told Mike, if at all possible, on Christmas Day at 12:00 noon. I sent LT Mote into Aachen to find some plates. On Christmas Day at noon, the men of G Company went through the chow line and each receives two plates of food. Mike and his crew and a number of the other men pitched in, and the food was ready and we had a chance to enjoy our food. The other units in the Battalion fed on the 26th and before they had chance to digest their food, orders were received to move up to the Bulge. We were fortunate, because on many occasions I have read that some rifle company units went weeks at a time without a hot meal. That should never happen in the American Army.”

Excerpted from the “Thunderbolt”, Vol. 52 No. 2, Spring Issue 1997, page 15 – “Co. G, 331st Infantry” written by my father, Joseph Macaluso, commander of G Company, 331st.



Top: Captain Macaluso with a Russian officer after the two allies met. Right: Joseph Macaluso and his later wife, who he met during World War 2, at the Eagle's Nest, Hitler's home.





Kathleen Powers and her sister Kathryn Brown, at the 2014 Reunion of the 83rd in their hometown of New Orleans, Louisiana.

As reported in detail earlier in this issue, a Strategic Planning Meeting was held in Cleveland prior to the start of the 71st Annual Reunion. We discussed many subjects that we felt were needed to move the Association forward and maintain interest for our members.

One thing that was suggested was the education of our youngest generation, particularly, the great grandchildren of the brave men who started the 83rd Infantry Division Association by virtue of their accomplishments from Normandy to the outskirts of Berlin. We wanted to develop some way to help them to understand and to appreciate the sacrifices of the 83rd, not only in World War II, but throughout its great history.

When I came home, I was going through and organizing

all of my books and came across one with word search puzzles relating to World War II and, then, “World War II for Kids” written by Richard Panchyk (which I had purchased several years ago from the National World War II Museum in New Orleans). I immediately thought: “What if we had a kid’s page in the Thunderbolt!”

We could develop our own word search puzzles using the theme of the 83rd – training, names of liberated towns, the commanders, etc. We could provide activities and blurbs from Mr. Panchyk’s book, and share the memories of our veterans (either first-hand or previously recorded).

We approached Mr. Panchyk for his permission to use his book for activities and stories. We thank him for his immediate response and permission.

We approached Mr. Panchyk for his permission to use his book for activities and stories. We thank him for his immediate response and permission.

What we ask is that our members make copies of the page (if you want to keep your Thunderbolt intact.

Additionally, the first story of an adult reminiscing about their childhood memories of war is taken from Mr. Panchyk’s book. Maybe our European Chapter can acquire stories from older citizens of the towns and cities that were liberated by the 83rd. The fact that the younger children can further relate to the contributions of their “ancestors”.

Please give us some feedback on our new page so that we can make it bigger and better.



Merry Christmas!

The 83rd Infantry Division wishes all its members a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. May 2018 fulfill all your wishes and we look forward seeing you in Boston!



Canton WWII veteran receives highest French honor

Paul Willis, G Co. 329th, receives the Legion of Honor

reprinted with permission of Mountaineer Publishing

Paul Willis, 96, a WWII veteran from Canton, was awarded the French Legion of Honor by the French Consul General, Louis de Corail, at a ceremony in Knoxville, Tennessee.

The Legion of Honor, established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte, is awarded for service to France and is its most prestigious honor. Willis and one other WWII veteran, James Mynatt, from Knoxville, were presented the Knight's Badge as a pledge of France's eternal gratitude for their courage and fight, after risking their lives for the freedom of France and Europe during the war.

Tech. Sgt. Willis was a member of Company G, 329th Infantry, 83rd Division, U.S. Army, and fought battles in the Normandy, Brittany, and Loire Valley campaigns in France.



In all, he served for three years during the war and was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries sustained in the Battle of the Bulge. Other campaigns in which he saw action were the Hurtgen Forest, Central Europe, and Rhineland.

Also present at the ceremony, which was held at the Sherrill Hills Retirement Community Theatre, were Amelie De Gaulle, grand niece of the late president of France, Charles De Gaulle, and officers of Alliance Francaise Knoxville.

Consul General Louis de Corail, who represents France

in six Southeastern states, including Tennessee and North Carolina, presented the award on behalf of French President Emmanuel Macron.

Willis, who worked at Champion Paper and Fibre Company before retiring, has remained active in the Canton community, teaching Sunday school, speaking at school events, and writing poetry, some of which is about his war experiences.

His most recent publication, "Reflections of a World War II Veteran," can be found at area bookstores.



Palmerton native receives Legion of Honor Medal

Frank Horvath, K Co. 329th

Text: Brian Myszkowski - Times News Online

Photo: Frank Horvath, Jelle Thys

Quickness and compassion are wonderful attributes no matter what, but in war, they can spell the difference between life and death. Frank Horvath, a former master sergeant and Palmerton native who served with K Company's 331st Infantry Regiment, 83rd Division during World War 2, recently received a Legion of Honor in recognition of his actions during the liberation of France. The medal denotes Horvath as a Knight of France's Legion of Honor, where membership is regarded as one of the country's highest honors.

Horvath was leading an offensive mission in France during Operation Cobra, launched by Lt. Gen Omar Bradley following the D-Day landings during the Normandy Campaign, when his platoon came upon a bunker occupied by German soldiers and French citizens. He could have

decided to push for an all out assault but opted instead to hold fire in order to protect the innocent civilians.

"My mission was to clear the area between the beach and the first street," Horvath said. "We came upon this bunker, and it contained a big cannon facing the ocean. I heard French people in there, too, and my men saw some French people go in there." Horvath lobbed some grenades at the bunker, though the thick walls prevented any damage. A follow-up strike by two men with bazookas produced

the same results. Horvath called out to the Germans in the bunker, who questioned whether or not the Allies were going to shoot them. Horvath assured them that they would not.

"I decided since there were multiple French people in there, and the Germans couldn't fire at us, we shouldn't do anything. I decided not to assault the bunker," he said. It was a snap decision but one that would spare the lives of around 20 French civilians. After a few hours, the Germans in the





bunker surrendered. Horvath would go on to accumulate two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, a Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Service Medal and a Victory Medal in recognition of his service.

Unfortunately, he did suffer an injury when he was shot in the leg during the mission. He ended up recuperating in England, and then joining Gen. Dwight Eisenhower's Information and Education Division, going back to France on a retraining mission for officers. Horvath studied music at Biarritz University while in the country, and met Jacqueline Marie Antoinette Seres, his future wife.

They would go on to raise three daughters, Carolyn Arnold, Giselle Knoblauch,

Frank playing his banjo at the last Reunion of the 83rd in Cleveland, Ohio. During World War 2 he carried a banjo accross Europe and he has played the instrument ever since. He still does regular shows with his banjo, and the show he brought to the Reunion was enjoyed by all!

and the late Patricia Horvath, in Palmerton. Horvath resumed his career as a zinc machinist accountant, later taking a position at the post office. After his wife passed away, Horvath remarried and moved to the Penn Forest area, expanding his beloved family with his wife Florence Smith and here children, Walton 'Jim' Smith and Hilda Volkert.

Horvath currently lives at the Southeastern Veterans' Center in Spring City. Over seven decades after that fateful day, Horvath would yet take on yet another

commendation, receiving the Legion of Honor medal at the French Consulate in Philadelphia on September 21. With his daughters Carolyn Arnold and Giselle Knoblauch in attendance, Horvath was presented with the medal by Michael Scullin, honorary consul of France in Philadelphia and Wilmington.

"It was wonderful," Horvath said of the ceremony. "The medal itself is fantastic. Those Europeans, they sure know how to make a medal."



72nd Annual Reunion

Boston Massachusetts

We are very pleased to announce that the 72nd annual reunion of the 83rd Infantry Division Association will take place August 1 through August 5, 2017 at the Verve Crowne Plaza, 1360 Worcester Street, Natick Massachusetts 01760.

The Verve is adjacent to the International Museum of World War 2, which we will have the honor of visiting in a specially scheduled visit on August 2, 2018. The Museum is home to a spectacular collection of some 7500 documents and artifacts collected by Ken Rendell – a small sampling that you might view includes a program outlining the Nazi party's original platform with a colored sketch by Hitler, the final draft of the Nuremberg

agreement with Hitler's and Neville Chamberlain's handwritten notes, Franklin Roosevelt's letter to the people of France after their defeat by Germany, a June 9, 1944 letter from General Eisenhower to his wife, a letter written by General Patton about the Battle of the Bulge ... while it was happening. A complete set of the Enigma Machines – charts and artifacts from a U-Boat sunk off the Atlantic Coast, original uniforms, weapons, (many that can

picked up and handled), personal letters, documents and artifacts of Winston Churchill, Eleanor Roosevelt, Hitler, President Truman, General MacArthur (see a fuller description next page)

Among the other possible offerings during the reunion may be a half-day tour Minuteman National Park at Lexington and Concord, a day visit to Boston, possibly including a city tour, lunchtime Harbor cruise or



visit to Quincy Market and Faneuil Hall , and a tour of the USS Constitution, the oldest commissioned ship in the U.S. Navy. As a member, you will be receiving registration information in a mailing over the next several weeks – look for it!

If you already know you are coming – hotel reservations may be made now. Our rate is \$139 per night double occupancy plus tax with free parking. The Verve is full service with a Julia-Childs themed restaurant, and is conveniently located just off the Massachusetts Turnpike. If driving, it is very accessible from the West or South. If flying, the Framingham Logan Express bus (40-45 minutes) takes you from Logan International airport to bus terminal. Hotel shuttle service is available from the terminal to the hotel. If taking Amtrak, there is a commuter rail line to Natick from South Station (again with hotel shuttle service available from the train station). For room reservations, call 800-265-0339 (group preference # 99801505 and group code IDA), or use the convenient link on our website at www.83rdAssociation.com. If you would like to extend your stay or arrive early, you may contact Nicole Greenwood, Reservations and Sales Coordinator, who will assist you with reservations at the group rate. 508-903-1522 or NGreenwood@distinctivehospitalitygroup.com.



"The museum is the repository for the actual Holy Grail documents of World War II" – Tom Hanks



THE INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF **WORLD WAR II** uniquely integrates the human story with the political and military issues and events that were transpiring in all countries and cultures leading up to and during the world at war. The objects, artifacts, letters, and documents in the exhibitions offer insight into the information, influences and events on both the home fronts and war fronts. They are what people saw , what they read, and what they used; from the tiniest of spy gadgets to an original landing craft, from guns concealed in a cigarette to an all-original Sherman tank, from the lightness of propaganda leaflets to the huge gold swastika used on Hitler's speaker's stand in Nurnberg. From the beauty of many of the Allies' posters, to the horror of the Holocaust, it is all represented in the museum, with a minimum of signage and no political correctness. The museum is about ordinary people who made up the social movements and the combatants in the war. But is also about the leaders, with the most important letters, documents, and artifacts of those who led their countries politically and militarily. The anxiety people felt can never be conveyed, but the influences, lives, and decision-making that changed the world are shown in a more comprehensive way than in any other museum. About the Museum of World War 2, "Politics, War and Personality," Kenneth E. Rendell (Whitman publishing 2013)



By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Whereas it has long been our custom to commemorate November 11, the anniversary of the ending of World War I, by paying tribute to the heroes of that tragic struggle and by rededicating ourselves to the cause of peace; and

Whereas in the intervening years the United States has been involved in two other great military conflicts, which have added millions of veterans living and dead to the honor rolls of this Nation; and

Whereas the Congress passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926 (44 Stat. 1982), calling for the observance of November 11 with appropriate ceremonies, and later provided in an act approved May 13, 1938 (52 Stat. 351), that the eleventh of November should be a legal holiday and should be known as Armistice Day; and

Whereas, in order to expand the significance of that commemoration and in order that a grateful Nation might pay appropriate homage to the veterans of all its wars who have contributed so much to the preservation of this Nation, the Congress, by an act approved June 1, 1954 (68 Stat. 168), changed the name of the holiday to Veterans Day:

Now, Therefore, I, Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States of America, do hereby call upon all of our citizens to observe Thursday, November 11, 1954, as Veterans Day. On that day let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain. I also direct the appropriate officials of the Government to arrange for the display of the flag of the United States on all public buildings on Veterans Day.

In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this eighth day of October in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and fifty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and seventy-ninth.



DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
By the President:
JOHN FOSTER DULLES,
Secretary of State



Veterans Day

Some Veterans Day stories submitted by our members



I attended a concert of The Virginia Grand Military Band. The band is composed of retired band members from each of the services - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. They perform each year for Veterans Day and at other times of the year for various holidays. They are so good that they only practice one night before the performance even with new conductors and musical pieces.

The photo of the band from the second half of the performance shows the conductor, COL (R) Arnold Gabriel, who retired from the Air Force in 1985 following a 36 year military career. His service started in World War II as a combat machine gunner with the Army's 29th Infantry Division in Europe. He is a veteran of the D-Day landing on Omaha Beach. He was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, 2 awards of the Bronze Star and the French Croix de Guerre. He earned his Bachelor and Master degrees in Music after the war and joined the Air Force Band. He was awarded the Chevalier of the Legion of Honor on November 10, 2016.

- Kathleen Powers, descendant

Veterans' Day flag raising at Thomson elementary school North Andover, MA by Cub Scout Pack 82 of which Ryan Graham, great-grandson of Francis Markuns, Co. G 329th is a member. Thomson school was named in honor of Pvt Albert E. Thomson, 101st Regiment, 26th Infantry, now buried in France, who at 16 years old was the first North Andover soldier killed during WW 1, dying in the battle of Chateau Thierry.

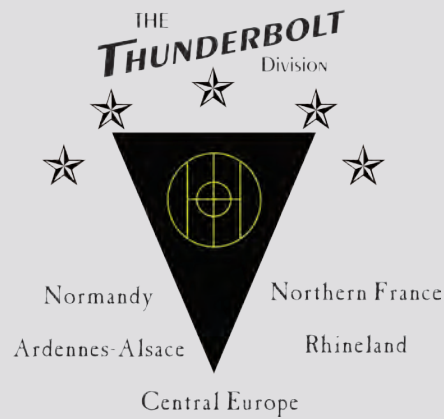
- John Markuns, descendant



Becky Dimmick at her community's Veteran's Day observance.

- Picture submitted by Dave Dimmick, descendant



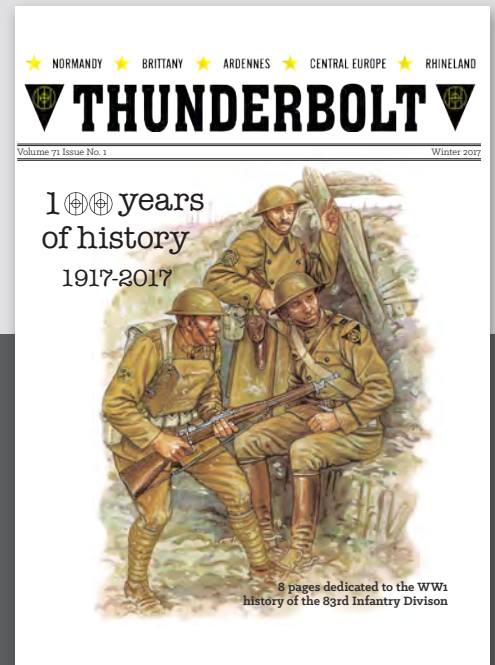


Come find us at our updated website and find an answer to all your 83rd questions



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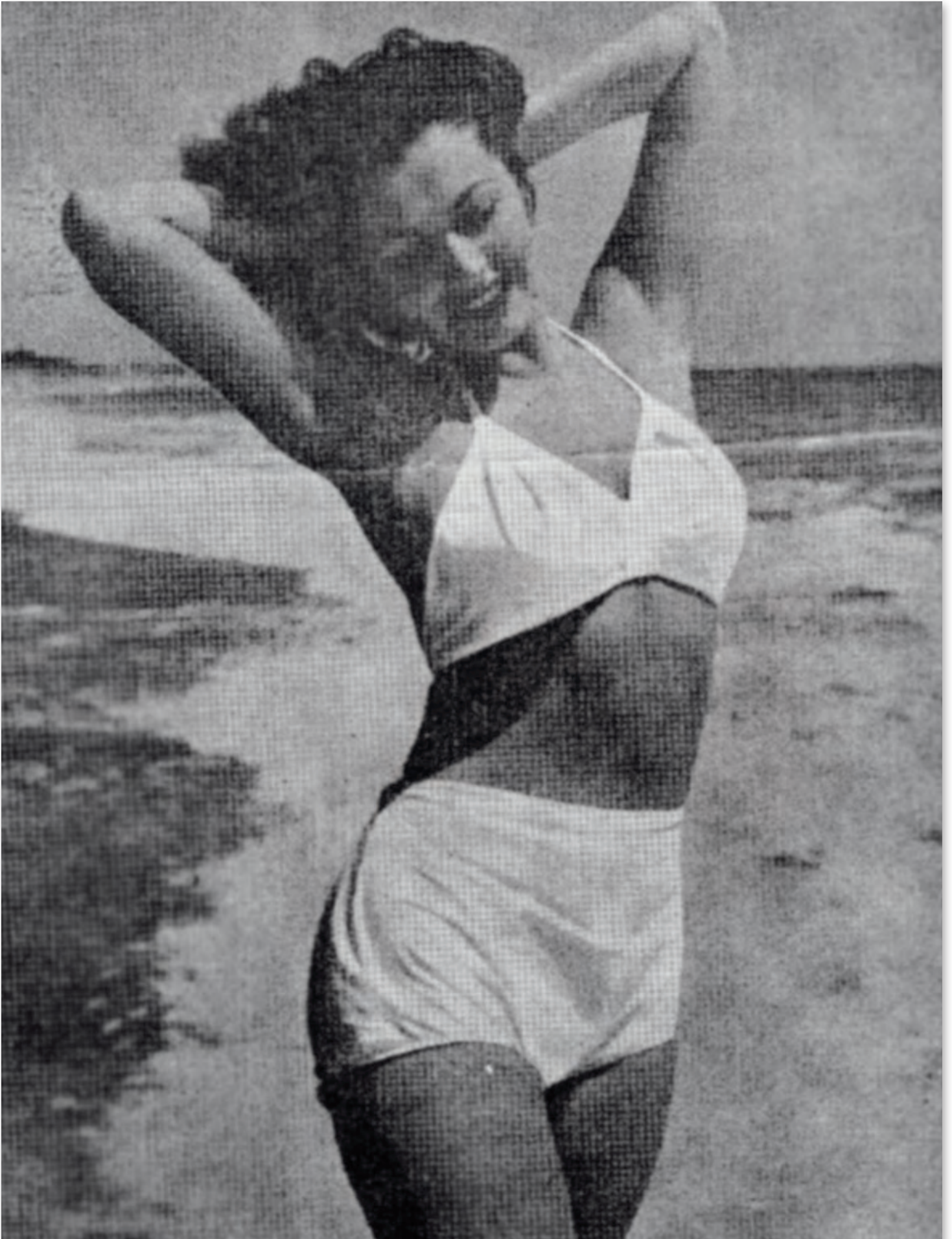


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Pin-up of this issue

Ruth Roman, Thunderbolt Newspaper Sept 22, 1945



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