



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.
WORLD WAR II

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— NEW ORLEANS —
SITE OF THE 68TH REUNION!



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THE THUNDERBOLT

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A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

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2005 Ames H. Miller*
2006 Rudy Zamula
2007 Robert Keck
2008 Michael Catrambone*
2009 John White
2010 Carmella Catrambone
2011 Carmella Catrambone
2012 Carmella Catrambone
2013 Carmella Catrambone
*Denotes Deceased



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

KATHLEEN POWERS

As this issue of the Thunderbolt goes to print, we are busy finalizing contracts. However, this does not hold up the publication of the hotel and activity registration forms and information.

I travelled to Louisiana in late March. I stayed at Bayou Corne in Belle Rose (in the "evacuation zone" of the renowned sink hole from the viral video of the cypress trees being sucked into the sink hole). One reason was my high school reunion. St. Joseph's Academy in New Orleans closed in 1980, but all of the records were destroyed with the Mother House during Katrina. It was a combined reunion covering classes from 1938 through 1980. We had several hundred in attendance and had a great time.

The other trip to New Orleans was to meet with the personnel at the Hyatt French Quarter Hotel and at the National World War II Museum to firm up some details. Both are eager for the arrival of our veterans and their families and friends.

My sister, Kathryn, and I toured the hotel – rooms, meeting areas, pool area, and eating establishments. The Powdered Sugar is a café type facility in the hotel. I originally thought that it would be breakfast only, but it also serves sandwiches during the day and the prices are reasonable.

You can also walk through the hotel lobby and down a hallway to enter either the Hard Rock Café or the Red Fish Grille (a Brennan family restaurant). If you eat at either, management has told me that you can charge your meals to your room.

We ate at the Red Fish which has a great menu. Most prices are reasonable, but the manager said that some of the larger dishes

could be shared. If you want the Double Chocolate Bread Pudding for dessert (again, sharable), you have to order it with your meal so they have time to prepare it. There is a raw oyster bar (keeping Chuck in mind). **WARNING:** If you order some dishes, you may need your Prilosec or Zantac.

Additionally, across the street from the Iberville entrance to the hotel is Deanie's Seafood Restaurant. The family had a restaurant near Lake Pontchartrain where I grew up, but it was destroyed in Katrina. Good food.

Our next visit was to the Museum. Our scheduled visit will be on Friday, August 2. We would like to take a group photo of the veterans in front of the Higgins boat (LST) before we start our tour. We will have a buffet lunch followed by a performance by the Victory Belles and then an afternoon viewing of "Beyond All Boundaries," a 4D short film by Steven Spielberg.

On Thursday, we have planned a riverboat cruise on the Natchez. Look for a write-up of our trips to get a better idea of what to expect on these tours. I have also submitted two pages for this publication with some things to do while you are in New Orleans.

I will close on a sad note. We lost 1 veteran and two non-veteran, but much loved members since our last publication.

We lost John White in January. John took on the role as president of the Dixie Chapter several years ago. He and his spouse, Bobbie, kept the chapter (one of the few remaining) active with two meetings per year. John was also the first descendant President of the Association and he and Bobbie organized and ran the Association's 2010 reunion in Williamsburg. In addition, John was also Sergeant-at-Arms for the Association and, as such, made sure that the hospitality room always had cold refreshments and ample snacks. He made sure that we were well-supplied with cold water on our tour buses. Additionally, he and Bobby stored and transported all of the containers with the wreaths and crosses for the memorial services. His enthusiasm and gift of gab will be missed. Thank you for all that you did, John.

Kathryn Massie, the wife of Ellsworth

continued >

Massie, left this world before Christmas. Kathryn faithfully attended reunions with Ellsworth even when she was not in the best of health. She was a very good friend of my mother's and we had some good conversations about family and friends. Her presence will be missed.

Lastly, Kathryn's husband and our Association Chaplain, Ellsworth Massie died on April 13 the date of their 68th wedding anniversary. Ellsworth will be greatly missed both for his wonderful invocations at our many reunion functions and for his fantastic stories. I was able to attend his memorial service with my husband and daughter, as well as Cliff and Colleen Snyder and Dennis and Laurie and Dennis Maley. His sons had some great stories and iterated some of his sage advice on life – most memorable was, "Work up some spit and swallow it."

I hope this finds our members and their families doing well. I am glad that spring has finally arrived and not even complaining about allergies yet.

— Kathleen Macaluso Powers ▼

FROM THE EDITOR

JOHN MARKUNS

Please Note: *Due to increases in shipping costs the dues for 2014 will be going up to \$30 per year. Anyone who has already paid your 2014 dues will not have to send in the additional \$5.!*

This edition of the *Thunderbolt* includes the resignation for health reasons of Cliff Wooldridge, our long time Treasurer and Publisher, who with his companion Nancy McCarthy kept the Association alive for so many years. Receiving and keeping track of dues, printing and sending out membership cards, managing reunion registrations, ordering and selling 83rd hats, jackets, t-shirts and all manner of other 83rd apparel and other paraphernalia. Receiving, gathering and organizing material for the *Thunderbolt* magazine. Editing and publishing the *Thunderbolt*, as well as addressing and mailing it to every member. Receiving and keeping

track of ads for the ad book, publishing the ad book and bringing copies to each reunion without fail. Every day answering 83rd-related phone calls from all over the country and abroad, and doing their best to keep everyone in touch with each other. Cliff's family, Judy Breen (our Financial Secretary), Betty Pierce, (our Assistant Treasurer) and Jonathan Bohy, Cliff's nephew (our Assistant publisher), have all stepped up to keep the Association and Cliff's legacy alive. We owe them all our thanks and deep appreciation. Until a new permanent editor steps up, I am going to do what I can to keep the *Thunderbolt* not only alive, but thriving. All materials, dues etc. should still be sent to P.O.Box 406. For anyone who would like to keep in touch with Cliff or drop him a note, his address is Cliff Wooldridge c/o Wolfboro Bay Center, 39 Clipper Drive, Wolfboro, New Hampshire, 03894-4222. Regards,

— John Markuns, Descendant Member
and Judge Advocate. ▼

COMPANIES

Co. "A"–330TH

CHARLES ABDINOOR
sgtchuck83rd@comcast.net

A Co. 330th. News

Hi Gang;

Well here we go again, I am so sorry but we took a big hit this year. We lost Edwin Brown, Earl Dunn and Neal Prussman. Ed was a mainstay and helped in the Table Arrangements for many years at our Saturday Banquet. He and Pauline, his wife use to go To Alaska after school was out and volunteered their service to Churches throughout. Ed was a high school teacher and counselor. He was known throughout the school as Easy Ed. Students that were fortunate enough to be assigned in his class room were extremely lucky. Little did they know that their teacher was a foot soldier in a rifle platoon. Earl and his wife Phyllis attended

many reunions, and Earl planned his vacation accordingly. They were a pair of ballroom dancers and were a hit at our Saturday night banquet, they stood out on the dance floor. Little did people know that Neal Prussman was the courier that gave President Roosevelt the news that the Japanese were bombing Pearl Harbor. Neal met his future wife Ginny in DC. where she worked. Neal was a prisoner of war, and was shot and captured at the Battle of the Bulge. They were regulars at our Reunions, and at times brought their family. We will most certainly miss all. A-Company now only has Troy Barrick and I as the only living member of A-Company. Nellrita, Troy's wife, other wise known as the IRON LADY have been regulars at Reunions, the last two Reunions they were all ready to go but medical issues came up and had to cancel their Air Flights. I know that we will see them they are DIE HEARTS, and Troy has been a National Officer numer-

ous times. That is all about the news of A-Company, hopefully we can continue.

The Powers Gang, namely Kathleen is busy at work planning our next Reunion at New Orleans. John Markuns our esteemed Judge Advocate is also busy with Kathleen. I never have seen e-mails go back and forth so many times. In their position this is an every day communication. Kathleen, whom we are lucky to have to take over the reins when our past President Mell left office, is busy between School, her Redskins, Family and whatever. Her military training really prepared her for all this. Of course also, Don't forget Captain Joe. She follows in his footprints, but she outranks the Captain, her being a LIGHT COLONEL. Incidentally we have to snap to when she is around. OH that BRASS!

— Chuck Abdinoor B&A – Co. 330th. ▼



— BE A PART OF IT! —

To help defray the cost of this special memorial to Sam McGill and the 329th's Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, you may send a contribution of \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50 or \$100 to help defray the cost of our bronze plaque dedication. Make checks payable to the 83rd Infantry Division Association. Donations should be mailed to:

83rd Infantry Division Association
Att: McGill Plaque Fund
P.O. Box 406
Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406

All contributions will be gratefully acknowledged in the next issue of the Thunderbolt. Please see the open invitation on the following page. >>>

**Memorial Service for Sam Magill
329th I&R Platoon
May 24th 2014
Open Invitation**

- 1pm Memorial Service at American Legion Post 103; 1804 W. 19th St., Ashtabula
 2pm Convoy with Re-enactors to Monroe/Kelloggsville Cemetery (30 min)
 (Route supplied at Memorial Service)
 3pm Military ceremony at the Monroe Township Kelloggsville Cemetery
- WWII Re-enactors and Vehicles
 - Military Honors Ceremony & Memorial
 - Dedication of Bronze Plaque in honor of Sam Magill and the 329th I&R Platoon - Contributed by the 83rd Infantry Division Association
- 4pm Reception at the Monroe Fire Station; 4095 Center Road, Conneaut, OH 44030
<https://www.facebook.com/MonroeFD>





Reception at the Firestation only a couple miles away

We honor the actions of the 329th Regiment's Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, and its leader, Lt. Samuel W. Magill, who precipitated the surrender of 20,000 German soldiers at Beaugency, France along the Loire River on Sep 12, 1944. This freed the 83rd Division from protecting the 9th Army's flank to move on to battle in Luxembourg.

- Legion of Merit, with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster -
- Bronze Star, with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters -
- Presidential Unit Citation -
- Croix de Guerre -
- Combat Infantry Badge -

Dedicated by the 83rd Infantry Division Association
 May 24, 2014

10" x 11" Bronze Plaque from the 83rd



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

March 20, 2014

To the Board Members of the 83rd Infantry Division Association

Because of many health issues, I am forced to resign my position of Treasurer/Publisher of the 83rd Infantry Division Association, effective immediately. I do this with a heavy heart.

It has been a pleasure to work with all the members and their families of the 83rd over the many years that I have been associated with the organization. I will continue to follow all the happenings of the 83rd and hope that you will also continue to keep me in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cliff Wooldridge', written in a cursive style.

Cliff Wooldridge

Legacy Chapter Corner – George Studor

The Legacy Chapter is a community of 83rd members who support 83rd activities and perpetuate the legacy of the 83rd Infantry. Members make individual contributions on their own and our chapter attempts to get the word out about it by email and also by contributing to the *Thunderbolt* magazine. The Legacy Chapter members communicate regularly and cooperate to help with the annual reunions, contacting veterans/families and helping others find answers to questions about the 83rd. Our secretary, Colleen Snyder, provides great minutes from the recordings of our telecons. We hope you will join us by email and on our monthly telecons, usually on a Sunday at 2pm central, to catch up on what the 83rd Association is doing and join the effort to honor to the 83rd. There are no dues for our chapter, but we ask that you be an active member of the 83rd Association. So just email George Studor at gmstudor@juno.com and we will get you started.

News: Many of the items we keep up with as a chapter are reported on in the *Thunderbolt* magazine, so I won't repeat them here. But you may be interested to know the topics we generally discuss at each telecom: a little "how's it going" for those on the phone, the next 83rd Reunion, the next *Thunderbolt*, status (gains, losses and events) in the 83rd family, special events and projects we are working on, items of interest from the European members, pressing questions and progress toward the 83rd Association goals. Some examples of these are the developing better methods and more volunteers to help contact the living 83rd members and families, preservation of 83rd Association *Thunderbolts* and other publications, obtaining and preserving 83rd historical documents from WWII, providing open access to 83rd documents, developing our own 83rd Association Website, updating the 83rd roster and growing the 83rd Association "family". ▼

Next Thunderbolt: Let's Honor the Vets!

Here in the 70th anniversary year of the start of the European Campaign, help us honor those of the 83rd Infantry Division who as part of the American and Allied Expeditionary Forces fought, persevered, sacrificed and died to free so many occupied nations and to preserve freedom for generations to come. This next edition of the Thunderbolt will be a special 70th Anniversary Edition. What will make it special are YOUR contributions. TO OUR BELOVED VETERANS — *would you be willing to share a picture or pictures, before, during or after the war; a saved letter, a shared anecdote?* — TO DESCENDANTS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS — *Could you do the same? SOMETHING THAT TELLS ALL OF US WHY YOU BELONG TO THE 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION.* We hope to print all materials with acknowledgement.

Please mail your submission or send it to us electronically (preferable) no later than May 27, 2014

By mail (please send copies only):

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

You may also send us your submission electronically by either email attachment or with a link to dropbox or similar service to: jmc467@hotmail.com AND jmarkuns@aol.com. ▼

To Virginia and North Carolina veterans of the 83rd infantry division

Rotary has a website dedicated to raising funds and assisting veterans of the Normandy Campaign who wish to travel to the memorial in Bedford, Virginia on June 6, 2014. The site below targets veterans living in North Carolina and Virginia. Here is information excerpted from the Rotary website, i.e., <http://www.overlord2014.com/>

...Friday, June 6th, 2014 marks the 70th anniversary of this historic event and once again many of our brave World War II veterans will be on the move; this time to Bedford, Virginia, site of the National D-Day Memorial.

...the Rotary Clubs of North Carolina and Virginia are leading the project to organize and sponsor the travel of every surviving veteran in those states to the memorial for the celebration...

Help us find surviving Normandy Invasion Campaign Veterans!

At this point our biggest challenge is locating these surviving heroes within North Carolina and Virginia. If you are, or know of a qualified Normandy invasion campaign veteran currently living in North Carolina or Virginia that meets the broad definition below, please click the Veteran Registration button at the top of this website or call us at (828) 407-0095.

For purposes of this project, a Normandy Invasion Campaign veteran is defined as any American veteran able to describe in writing his/her participation in the Normandy Campaign (Operation Overlord), from June 6th- August 31st, 1944 or has documented evidence of receiving an official Normandy Battle Campaign credit. Acceptable participation would include involvement in pre-invasion air strikes; actual landing or air assaults (paratroops and gliders); follow-up reinforcements; off-shore naval support; air cover or air reconnaissance missions; deception operations; and naval, land or aerial logistical support, medical, and resupply operations. ▼

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Landing at Normandy



— 2014 Sainteny —

The 70th anniversary of D-Day and the liberation of France will be celebrated in 2014. There will be major events throughout the beach landing areas of Normandy and historical sites. 2014 is also the 100th anniversary of the start of WWI and the 200th anniversary of the Treaty of Ghent, ending the War of 1812 between England and America. Locations across Europe are preparing for these commemorations.

D-Day events in Normandy will be attended by international heads of state, placing a high level of demand on infrastructure of transportation, public facilities and hotels. With increased security we anticipate controlled access for some events and venues. Advance planning is recommended.

Veterans and family members are invited to participate in a ceremony Monday June 9 in Sainteny. Also on Tuesday, June 10 veterans and family members are invited to speak with students at schools in Sainteny. For a detailed list of events, see <http://www.sainte-mere-eglise.info/en/70%20th%20%20anniversary%20dday.html>.

For those considering participation in these events on June 9 and 10, information is requested to assist our friends in Sainteny who are coordinating arrangements.

Please tell us what you can now about your plans to participate in anniversary events; send to Larry Scheerer (scheerer@aol.com / 972-567-0305). We will consolidate the information and forward to Jean-Paul Pitou and the Sainteny 70th Anniversary Committee. Thank you!

Primary contact for your group:

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Number in your party: _____

Primary Destination(s): _____

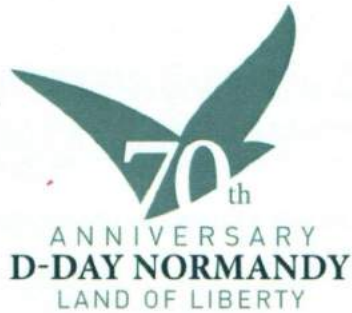
Dates of travel: _____

Name of Veteran(s) attending: _____

Special needs: _____

Other information / Comments: _____

As we receive additional communication about 70th Anniversary events we will post the information on our website and communicate directly with those who have indicated they plan to participate.



Information continues to develop regarding 70th anniversary plans and more updates should be expected. This is the latest information available at the time of publication.

Those who plan to attend official anniversary events in Normandy should pay special attention to the recent communication from the French embassy below which is also posted on their website at: <http://www.ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article5422>. The statement includes these instructions:

1. Anyone wishing to attend official events in Normandy is requested to email the American Embassy: parisdaodday70@state.gov
2. <http://www.the70th-normandy.com> - To attend ceremonies and commemorations of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy with a veteran, please make yourself known to these organizations:

The Comité du Débarquement

Tel : +33(0)2.31.92.00.26

Website of the Comité du Débarquement:

Normandie Mémoire

Tel : +33(0)2.31.94.80.26

Website of Normandie Mémoire

A Note to U.S. Visitors from the Embassy of France (March 11, 2014)

A number of American World War II veterans have expressed their wish to travel to France in 2014 to attend the ceremonies commemorating the 70th Anniversary of D-Day, the Allied Landing in Normandy on June 6, 1944. Though plans are still developing, the following details should provide information useful to those who intend to visit or follow the commemorations:

The major international ceremony celebrating D-Day, co-chaired by U.S. President Obama and French President Hollande, and involving other Heads of State from Allied countries, will take place on June 6, 2014, at Sword Beach, more precisely at Ouistreham, at 3:30PM.

High-level bilateral ceremonies are also being planned by the French President in collaboration with the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada. All three ceremonies should take place on the morning of June 6. As far as the location where the French-American bilateral ceremony could be organized, the American organizers will soon decide where it will take place, possibly at Colleville-sur-mer Cemetery, very close to Omaha Beach, likely around 10:00AM.

For those who would like to attend one or more of those events, in particular veterans, the American Embassy in Paris has created an e-mail account specifically for that purpose: parisdaodday70@state.gov

continued >

In addition, there are a large number of events planned by the various cities and towns of Normandy, among them Sainte-Mère-Eglise, which was liberated by the Allied Forces. We recommend that you consult the following websites for the many ceremonies and activities organized by the Normandy region.

The following official website will be updated with all pertinent details: <http://www.the70th-normandy.com>

On the same website, there is a page for veterans' registration: <http://www.the70th-normandy.com/espace-memoire/veterans/>

The famous town of Sainte-Mère-Eglise is a good example of the cities' initiatives dedicated to specific units or divisions: <http://www.sainte-mere-eglise.info/anniversaire-debarquement-juin-2014.html>

The Normandy official tourism website: <http://www.normandie-tourisme.fr/70eme-anniversaire-de-la-bataille-de-normandie/70eme-anniversaire-de-la-bataille-de-normandie-les-evenements-855-1.html>

Since these events will attract large crowds from all over the world, we recommend that visitors make flight and hotel reservations as far ahead of time as possible.

We will keep you informed as we receive additional details on this major commemoration. France will do its best to honor and celebrate all the veterans present in Normandy at the occasion of the 70th anniversary of D-Day.



Basse-Normandie Region

Laurent Beauvais, President of the Basse-Normandie Region

I very much hope that the 70th anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy will be a major event both in our country and at international level.

We owe so very much to the Allied soldiers who came to liberate France, to those French soldiers who landed at their sides, to all those who resisted day after day for years, and to the people and towns of Basse-Normandie that paid the heavy price exacted by warfare until France was finally set free.

I wanted the Region to muster all its forces, alongside the State, its départements, the city of Caen and the Comité du Débarquement, so that each and every inhabitant of Basse-Normandie – its young people in particular – would be seen to pay real tribute to those who, in 1944, gave us a future of freedom, peace and reconciliation.

70 years have gone by, and our gratitude remains immense and unflinching in our minds and in our hearts. In tomorrow's world, our children will continue to carry this message. And the Basse-Normandie Region will stand forever at their sides

70th Anniversary Events in Sainteny

(If you have not yet communicated your plans to participate in events in Sainteny please contact Larry Scheerer, 972-567-0305 scheerer@aol.com. Thank you!)

Monday, June 9, 2014

- 0930 Welcome at St. Pierre Place, outside the Sainteny City Hall
- 1000 Services at St. Pierre Church, Sainteny
- 1100 Ceremony at La Roserie in memory of the 4th Infantry Division. Location is 3 KM south of Sainteny on D-971 just before Raids.
- 1200 Ceremony at Les Forges in memory of the 83rd Infantry Division. Location is 500 meters NW of Sainteny City Hall at the intersection of D-971 and Rue de la 83rd Division.
- 1300 Reception. Then Veterans, families and descendants will be invited to a private lunch on hosted by the municipality of Sainteny.

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Visits by veterans to local schools for discussions with students – details to follow

Carentan, Wednesday, 4 June, 2014

The mayor of Carentan has invited all veterans of the 83rd Infantry Division and their families and descendants to their ceremonies beginning at 4:30 PM, Wednesday, June 4. Please contact Jean-Paul Pitou for more information.



Shelled Church in Sainteny, World War I memorial in foreground.

Activities in New Orleans



Cool down with **Coolinary New Orleans** – celebrating dining in in America's most delicious city. August is culinary month featuring specially prix-fixe lunch and dinner menus at participating restaurants.

For updates: www.coolinaryneworleans.com



Satchmo Summerfest: Indoor events will feature seminars, lectures by jazz legends and scholars and "informances" in the third floor theatre inside the Old U.S. Mint. Festival visitors will also be able to view musical exhibits in the Old U.S. Mint, including Fats Domino's restored piano, a 50-year anniversary tribute to Preservation Hall, which also features a vintage cornet reported to be the first one ever owned by Armstrong. Check www.fqfi.org/satchmosummerfest periodically for the schedule.



Preservation Hall: Back in the days when the future of traditional New Orleans jazz seemed dim, this is the place that kept the music alive. Today, over 40 years later, the hall is still going strong. On any given night it's filled to capacity with people eager to hear authentic New Orleans jazz, played by both veteran and younger musicians. There's no bar or climate control, and a line usually forms outside about a half-hour before. Check www.preservationhall.com for more information.



Aquarium of the Americas and the Entergy IMAX Theatre: Located at the foot of Canal Street on the Mississippi River.

Tickets:

Aquarium only:

Adult - \$22.50
Child (2-12) - \$16.00
Senior (65+) - \$17.00

Aquarium/IMAX Combo:

Adult - \$27.50
Child - \$21.50
Senior - \$21.50

Colors of a Caribbean reef come alive in a walk-through tunnel; see penguins and sea otters; touch a sting ray, feed a parakeet; marvel at sharks, tarpon & rays in the 400,000 gallon Gulf of Mexico exhibit.

Activities in New Orleans



Audubon Butterfly Garden and Insectarium: Located at 423 Canal Street (The Old Customs House)

Tickets: Adult - \$16.50
 Child - \$12.00
 Senior - \$13.00

Discover why insects are the building blocks of all life on our planet. Wander through a mysterious Louisiana swamp. Be captivated by thousands of butterflies in an Asian garden.



Audubon Zoo: Located in historic Uptown New Orleans at 6500 Magazine Street. Can be accessed by the St. Charles Streetcar line which stops in front of Audubon Park, then stroll through the park toward the Mississippi River, cross Magazine Street and find the zoo.

Tickets: Adult - \$17.50
 Child - \$12.00
 Senior - \$13.00

You can purchase the Audubon Experience Package which includes: Audubon Zoo, aquarium of the Americas, Entergy IMAX Theater, and the Audubon Butterfly and Insectarium. The package is good for 30 days.

Adult - \$39.50
Child - \$27.50
Senior - \$27.50

Or try checking Groupon or other discount sites for possible discounted prices.



— Reunion Tour Information —

Thursday, July 31 – River Cruise on the Natchez Steamboat

The trip includes a calliope concert, open touring of the engine room (great for the kids), a narrated tour down the river and brunch. The tour goes upriver by the Chalmette Battlefield (famous for the Battle of New Orleans). The brunch offers fried fish, red beans & rice, frittata, vegetable pasta salad, breakfast sausage, vegetable of the day, cole slaw, fruit, bread pudding, bread, coffee and iced tea.

Once the riverboat ride is over (around 1:30pm), you can re-board the bus for an air-conditioned tour of New Orleans. Please note that if you took a tour booked with the hotel concierge, this tour would cost \$44 per person.

Friday, August 1 – The National WWII Museum

We are scheduled to start our tour at 10am, but would like to arrive a little earlier to have a group photo-op of our attending veterans in front of the Higgins boat. The museum, originally called the National D-Day Museum, was sited in New Orleans because the Higgins boats were made in New Orleans and were partially credited for the success of the Normandy Invasion. It has since expanded to include the European and Pacific Theaters as well as the air war.

We will have a buffet lunch at the Stage Door Canteen with entertainment by The Victory Belles, a charming vocal trio performing “Spirit of America”.

We will then go to the Solomon Theater for a viewing of “Beyond All Boundaries”. This is a 4D film, narrated and produced by Tom Hanks exclusively for the Museum. It plunges viewers into the war and tells the tale of the Greatest Generation’s journey from Pearl Harbor through the epic battles to the final victory and is told in the words of the veterans themselves.

If some of you prefer to also see “Final Mission: The USS Tang Submarine Experience”. This is an interactive experience based on the last war patrol in the Pacific Theater. It is shown 3 times per hour, is shorter in duration and admits fewer people per showing. **IF YOU DECIDE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS FILM, YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY AN ADDITIONAL \$5 AT THE MUSEUM.**



Natchez Steamboat



Theater, National WWII Museum

RESERVATION REQUEST FORM

*Hyatt French Quarter
800 Iberville Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112
Phone: 504-586-0800 Fax: 504-586-5987
Website: www.frenchquarter.hyatt.com*

For reservations, please call 1-888-421-1442 or 402-592-6464

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

Check-in Time: 3:00 PM

Check-out Time: 12:00 PM

Name _____ Phone _____

E-Mail _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

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

RATES: \$108/Single, \$118/Double, \$128/Triple, \$139/Quad
plus 13% local sales tax, plus \$1 occupancy tax

REUNION DATES: Wed., July 30; Thurs., July 31; Fri., Aug. 1; Sat., Aug. 2, 2014

PLEASE CHECK TYPE OF ACCOMMODATIONS REQUESTED:

_____ Regular Room – 1 King _____ Regular Room – 2 queen

_____ Fully Ambulatory Wheelchair Room

All Rooms Are Non-Smoking

PAYMENT TYPE:

_____ Visa _____ Master Card _____ Discover _____ American Express

_____ Cashier's Check _____ Money Order

(Cashier's Check/Money Order Payable to: Hyatt French Quarter)

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ Daytime Phone _____

ROOMS BLOCKED FOR THE 83rd WILL BE RELEASED JULY 9, 2014
TO RECEIVE THE GROUP RATE YOU MUST REGISTER BEFORE THEN.
(The rates are available for three days prior and three days after the reunion dates.)
Reservations will continue to be accepted after July 9, 2014 based on availability.
Individual guest rooms must be cancelled 72 hours prior to arrival by 6 p.m.

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

**Hyatt French Quarter Hotel
ATTN: Avarelle Williams
800 Iberville Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112**

**83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION
ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM**

Listed below are all registration, activity and meal costs. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to 83rd INFANTRY DIV. ASSN. in the form of a check or money order (no credit cards or phone reservations accepted). All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before **July 8, 2014**. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space-available basis.

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

**83rd Infantry Div. Assn.
c/o Kathleen Powers
6910 Conservation Drive
Springfield, VA 22153**

Questions?

Call: 703-455-1883

	Price Per Person	# Of People	Total	Price Per Adult	Price Per Student/Military	Price per WW II Veteran	Price per Child 6-11
REGISTRATION PACKAGE Registration Fee includes Saturday Night Banquet	\$80 per Person	#	\$				
Please select your entrée for SAT. BANQUET:		#	\$				
<i>Cajun blackened chicken breast</i>		#					
<i>New Orleans red beans & rice w/ smoked sausage</i>		#					
<i>Seafood –chef's choice</i>		#					
Thursday Morning Brunch and Cruise on Steamboat Natchez	\$ per person		\$	\$47.50			\$30.25
Thursday Afternoon : Bus Tour of New Orleans	\$ 10.00 per person	#	\$				
Friday: All day trip to WWII Museum with buffet lunch and entertainment by the Victory Belles	\$ per person	#	\$	\$60.00/ \$56.00 (Sr. 65+)	\$52.00 (K-12,college and Military)	\$35.00	
Total Amount Payable to: 83rd Infantry Div. Assn.			\$				

Please Print:

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

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

Street Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone # _____ Email _____

Spouse Name (for name tag) _____

Guest Names (for name tags) _____

Are You Confined To A Wheelchair ? _____

Emergency Contact _____ Relationship _____ Phone # _____

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

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

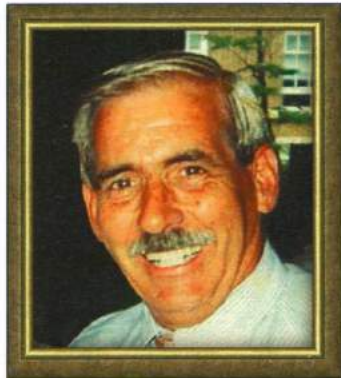
Deceased List

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

Name	Unit	Reported by
Albert W. Burkevage, Sr.	Co L 329th	Son
Paul Diethrich	Co C 330th	
Raymond F. Freeman	Co M 331st	Sonny Duke
Walter H. Henschel	Co I 329th	Wife - Joyce
Zeno King	83rd Band	
J.I. Lamb	Co. L -329th.	John, and Bobbi jo White
Dale R. Lewis Sr.		Virginia Sekulich (Daughter)
Martin H. "Jack" Liggins	Co I 331st	
Kathryn Massie	(Wife of Ellsworth Massie)	
Ellsworth Massie	A. Batt., 322 FA	
Clifton C. Melton	Co B 329th	
Harold "Bud" Merrill	Co K 331st	Robert McNabb
Donald Standiford	Co B 331st	
John White	Descendant	Wife - Bobbie

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

John B. White (Died January 22, 2014)



On January 22, 2014 John B. White passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family; beloved husband of Barbara K. White. Devoted father of Christopher B. White and his wife Jennifer, Donald W. White and his wife Lisa and Sandra W. Slacum. Loving grandfather of nine. Dear brother of William G. White, Jr.

A Funeral Service will be held at the family owned Ruck Towson Funeral Home, Inc. 1050 York Road (beltway exit 26) on Wednesday at 10:30am. Interment Fairview United Methodist Church Cemetery. Friends may call on Tuesday 2-4 & 7-9pm. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Jacksonville Volunteer Fire Company Ambulance Fund P.O. Box 471 Phoenix, MD 21131. ▼

Kathryn A. Massie



Kathryn A. Massie, age 87, of Joppa, MD, passed away on December 9, 2013 at Upper Chesapeake Medical Center in Bel Air, MD. Born in Sinking Spring, PA, she was the daughter of the late John Evans Hackman and Winifred Ivy Hemig Hackman. She retired, after 20 years, from Blue Cross and Blue Shield where she was a medical claims processor and was a member of Ladies Auxiliary of the 83rd Infantry Division. In earlier days she was an avid trout fisher, alongside her beloved husband. In later years, she loved to crochet and had made in her lifetime, hundreds of afghans and was also an avid crossword puzzle player. She enjoyed spending time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and was active in her local church where she served in many capacities.

Mrs. Massie is survived by her husband of 67 years, Ellsworth S. Massie; sons, John M. Massie of Sudlersville and Gerald B. Massie of Woodsboro; grandchildren, Crystal Leigh Testerman of Bel Air, Byron Kent Massie of Charleston, WV and Kathryn Woodward Lofland of Sudlersville; and 10 great-grandchildren. ▼

Ellsworth Sumpter Massie



Ellsworth Sumpter Massie, age 92, of Woodsboro, MD, passed away peacefully on April 13, 2014 at Glade Valley Center in Walkersville, MD. Born in Lowesville, VA, he was the son of the late Walter Miles Massie and Sallie Lee Massie, and husband of the late Kathryn Arlene (Hackman) Massie. A veteran of the U.S. Army, he loved his country-and the men with whom he served. He served as a 1st Sergeant in the A Battery 322nd Artillery Battalion of the 83rd Infantry Division, providing Howitzer ground artillery infantry support, and saw action on the drive to Berlin, most notably in the Hurtgen Forest/Ardennes region, remembered now in history as the "Battle of the Bulge". Mr. Massie was awarded the Bronze Star for his service in World War II. He was active as National Chaplain for the Alumni Association of the 83rd Infantry Division also known as

the Thunderbolt, a position he held until his passing.

Returning to civilian life, in 1946, he married his wartime sweetheart, Kathryn Arlene Hackman, and together they raised two sons and forged a romance that lasted for nearly 70 years, and lived the majority of their lives in the Dundalk and Joppa, Maryland areas. Hailing from a long line of mountain musicians, teachers, preachers, and farmers, he faithfully served as the Chairman of the Deacons and as Superintendent of Sunday School in local churches with which he was affiliated for many years. He worked for 38 years as a locomotive and electric crane engineer for the Arundel Corporation at Sparrows Point, MD, and retired in the early 1980's. He loved Country Western music, and in the 70's and 80's, had managed two local Country Western bands. He was a dedicated father and husband and enjoyed trout fishing with his wife, even in their older years. He always referred to her as his bride as she was the love of his life. He went home to be with her on their 68th wedding anniversary.

Mr. Massie is survived by his sons, John M. Massie of Sudlersville and Gerald B. Massie of Woodsboro; brother, Cecil M. Massie and his wife Virginia of Westminster; three grandchildren, Crystal Leigh Massie Testerman, Byron Kent Massie, and Kathryn Woodward Massie Lofland, their spouses and significant others, and 10 great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents and wife, he was predeceased by his brother, Wortham Massie and sister, Marguerite Massie Wood. ▼

Harold LaVerne “Bud” Merrill (1919 - 2014)



Harold “Bud” LaVerne Merrill passed away peacefully on January 8th at his home in Lodi surrounded by his family. Bud was born May 8, 1919. He was the seventh of eight children born to Willis and Jessie Merrill of Elkhorn, California, an early California pioneer family. Growing up he worked in the family dairy while going to school. While in high school he met Isabella “Isabel” Mainland, daughter of John and Rachel Mainland of Lodi. They married May 31 of 1941. In July 1942 Bud enlisted in the US Army and trained in Wyoming and Indiana and was sent to England to prepare for the Normandy invasion. Prior to the invasion his division lost much of their equipment in heavy rains and they did not go in until

two weeks after the main invasion. Bud's tour of duty took him through France, Belgium, Luxembourg and into Germany. He received three bronze stars for bravery under fire and three purple hearts for wounds received along with other awards. He was discharged in October 1945.

In March of 1943 their first daughter, Joanne was born followed by Susan in 1946 and a son, John “Jack” in 1947. After Bud's return from the war he went to work for Isabel's father, John Mainland. The Mainland's owned a little retail nursery on Lodi Avenue which they started in 1918. He took over the nursery in 1952 after John Mainland's death and continued in the nursery business until his retirement in 1999. Bud, along with the help of his son-in-law, David Hildenbrand and his son Jack, oversaw the growth of the small enterprise into a large commercial wholesale nursery serving the west coast.

Bud enjoyed golfing, fishing, going out to an early morning breakfast with his friends and in the last 10 years attending the 83rd Thunderbolt Infantry Army Reunions where he became reacquainted with many of his old army friends. He was a member of the 83rd Infantry Association, Woodbridge Golf & Country Club, Lodi Sirs, Lodi Rotary Club, Elks Club, American Legion, San Joaquin Florist Association, Sacramento Florist Association and the California State Florist Association.

His wife, Isabel, died in 2002 after an extended illness and in 2003 he met Dorothy Stevens of Galt and they were married in 2004. He was preceded in death by his wife, Isabel, a brother, Roy Merrill and four sisters, Rita Wright, Mildred Hewitt, Verla Merrill and Shirley Warren. He is survived by sisters Harriet Mosher and Winifred Smith both of Roseville.

He is also survived by daughters Joanne Hildenbrand and her husband David and Susan Quashnick and her husband Kirby of Lodi and son, Jack Merrill and his wife Kathy of Woodfords.

His grandchildren are Lori Wreden and her husband Jeff of Pleasanton, Mark Hildenbrand and his wife Rebel of Lodi. Scott Youdall and his wife Summer of Danville, Melissa Youdall of Lodi, Jessica Evans and her husband Justin of Lodi. Also, Christopher Merrill and his wife Julie of Morada, Jeffery Merrill and his wife Jessica of Medford, and Rob Merrill of Kent, WA. He has 15 Great grand children. He has many nieces & nephews and grand nieces and grand nephews. He is also survived by his wife Dorothy Stevens Merrill and her children, Nancy Jacobus and her husband Fred of Galt, Bill Stevens of Paradise, Robert Stevens and wife Teri of Plymouth and Barbara Bell and her husband Mark of San Diego. Bud has 9 step grandchildren and 2 step great grandchildren.

Memorial Services will be held at Chapel of the Flowers at Cherokee Memorial Park at 11:00 a.m. Friday, January 17th, 2014, Highway 99 at East Harney Lane, Pastor Rob Merrill officiating. Contributions may be made in his name to the Lodi Memorial Hospital Foundation or Hospice of Lodi. Published in Lodi News-Sentinel from Jan. 14 to Jan. 21, 2014 ▼

Walter H. Henschel

Walter H. Henschel



Walter H. Henschel, 87, of Medina, passed away Monday, September 23, 2013, in Medina. He was born November 17, 1925 in Cleveland, to the late William and Bertha (Kohn) Henschel.



HENSCHEL

er, Erwin (Billie) Henschel of Indiana; his niece, Heidi and his nephew, Hal.



He is at peace, his suffering has come to an end...he is with the angels. Walter has

joined his parents and his brother William "Bill" Henschel. Walter touched many lives and will be missed by all. A special thank you goes to all of the wonderful people at Elmcroft, Medina Village and Hospice of Medina County, who took such great care of Walter, and to the Lions Club members who did so many things for him. A heartfelt thank you also goes to Russ Todia, Tim Brown and Anna from Bridges.

Walter operated Henschel's Greenhouse and farmed, prior to being an auto body man for many years at Leohr's in Chippewa Lake. He served his country proudly in the U.S. Army 83rd Infantry, 329 Co I during WWII, and the Battle of the Bulge and was a Purple Heart recipient. Walter was a longtime member of St. Matthew Lutheran Church and held 46 years with the Medina Lion's Club, where he also earned the Melvin Jones Award.

Walter is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Joyce (Jameyson); loving daughters, Kim (Jim) Perkins, Dawn (Larry) Maitland and Tammy (Dwight) Foore, all of Medina; dear grandchildren, Kate and Mike Myers, Betsy and Chris Semisorow, Kristi (Rob) Pongallo, Tracy (Bob) Schmidt, Derek (Meghan) Foore and Dan Foore and his great-grandchildren, Bella, Lilly, Kevin, Jackson and Ally; broth-

er, Erwin (Billie) Henschel of Indiana; his niece, Heidi and his nephew, Hal.

He is at peace, his suffering has come to an end...he is with the angels. Walter has

joined his parents and his brother William "Bill" Henschel. Walter touched many lives and will be missed by all. A special thank you goes to all of the wonderful people at Elmcroft, Medina Village and Hospice of Medina County, who took such great care of Walter, and to the Lions Club members who did so many things for him. A heartfelt thank you also goes to Russ Todia, Tim Brown and Anna from Bridges.

Funeral service will be held 11 A.M., Thursday, September 26, 2013, at Waite & Son Funeral Home, 765 N. Court St., Medina. Reverend David Anderson will officiate. Burial, with Military Honors, will follow at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery. The family will receive friends Wednesday, September 25, 2013, from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 P.M., at the funeral home.

The family suggests contributions may be made to Hospice of Medina Co., 5075 Windfall Rd., Medina, Medina Lions Club, or St. Matthew Lutheran, 400 N. Broadway St., Medina 44256.

Online condolences at www.waitefuneralhome.com



*In Loving Memory of
Walter Henschel*



God saw that you were getting tired,
And a cure was not to be;
So He put His arms around you
And whispered, "Come home with me."
With tearful eyes we watched you suffer,
And saw you fade away;
Although we loved you dearly,
We could not make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating,
A determined spirit was at rest;
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best.

In Loving Memory

Walter H. Henschel

Born
November 17, 1925 in Cleveland, Ohio

Passed Away
September 23, 2013 in Medina, Ohio

Services
Waite & Son Funeral Home
Thursday, September 26, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.

Officiating
Pastor David Anderson, St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Burial with Military Honors
Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery
Rittman, Ohio

Dale Lewis Sr.

1922 – 2014



Dale R. Lewis, Sr., 92, of Kenosha, died on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2014, at Brookside Health and Rehab Center.

Born on Jan. 8, 1922, in Kenosha. Dale was the son of the late Emil and Amanda (Zoller) Lewis. He attended local schools and was a graduate of Mary D. Bradford High School. His love for music grew when he sang in the Male Quartet in high school.

Dale enlisted into the U.S. Army on May 5, 1943, and was honorably discharged on Dec. 4, 1945. He served as a 1st Lieutenant in the Infantry Division and was in the Normandy, Northern France and Rhineland campaigns. He was awarded the Purple Heart with One Oak Leaf Cluster, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the European Theater Ribbon with Three Bronze Stars.

After his military service, he was active in the American Legion David Leet Post #552, where he held various offices including the finance officer. Dale was also a member of the National Milwaukee Chapter of Retired Officer Association, and the 83rd Infantry Association.

On May 1, 1943, at Fort Benning, Ga., he was united in marriage to Jane Jessen. She preceded him in death on Nov. 1, 1981. On March 2, 1985, at St. Anthony Catholic Church, he was united in marriage to Margaret I. Marge Lulack-Quinn.

He was employed with Canteen Corporation in Waukegan for 20 years and retired in 1982.

Dale was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church. He sang in the church choir and his rendition of Ave Maria was their most requested version. Dale was also a member of Trinity Lutheran Seniors, Kenosha Senior Citizens Center, Friends of Hawthorn Hollow where he had served in many capacities, the Kenosha County Historical Society, Bradford High School Alumni Association and Friends of the Museum; and enjoyed traveling extensively with them.

Dale was an avid gardener. He loved growing his own flowers and using them to make beautiful dried wreaths. He also enjoyed the excitement of watching his favorite teams, the Green Bay Packers and the Chicago Cubs.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret I. Marge Lewis; his children, Dale R. (Ann) Lewis, Jr., Virginia Sekulich., Mary (Ed) DeLoach; his sister, Lorraine Pelligrino; seven grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.

In accordance with Dale's wishes, his funeral services will be held privately. Entombment with full military honors will take place in All Saints Mausoleum. In lieu of flowers, memorial remembrances to the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation, Wisconsin Chapter, 2474 S. 96th St., West Allis, WI 53227-2204, or American Legion David Leet Post #552, P.O. Box 31, Somers, WI 52171 would be appreciated.

The Lewis family would like to extend a special thanks to the entire staff of Brookside Health and Rehab Center for all of the love and excellent care given to their father and grandfather.

Greetings to the Descendants of the 83rd Infantry Division Association

70 years ago, the 83rd Infantry Division came together as part of an effort that changed history, freed occupied nations and preserved our liberty for generations to come. 68 years ago, members of the 83rd Infantry Division once more banded together, now in peacetime, to form an Association "to bring together those who have served." Please join us once more in honoring and thanking the members of the 83rd for their contributions and sacrifice. We are looking for to continue what has now become a new tradition, by including their names on special "Thank You" pages in the Program Book for the 83rd Infantry Division Association's 68th Reunion to take place in New Orleans from July 30 through August 3, 2014. All names will be listed below the name of their special veteran under the following caption:

On this the 68th Reunion of the Thunderbolt Division and in the 70th Anniversary year of the great European Campaign, we offer all our love, respect and thanks for our freedom. We honor with wonder the bond you share with your buddies, a bond forged in service and sacrifice for our country and for future generations. May we as descendants and Americans as a whole learn from your sacrifice. We are forever grateful.

Your name may be included for a contribution of \$10. If you would like to include the names of additional family members (for example spouses, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews etc) all we ask is another \$5 per name. We will print as many names as we receive, no matter how many pages! All proceeds will be used to help defray reunion costs. We will also include a display of this special thank you in the reunion hospitality room.

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

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____ Descendant of: _____

2nd Name _____ 3rd Name _____

4th Name _____ 5th Name _____

6th Name _____ 7th Name _____

*** Attach sheet for additional descendants ***

Contact Name: _____ Relationship to Member: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____ email: _____



Make check payable and send with form to:

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN.

P.O. Box 406

Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406

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

- Hospitality Room (3-hr. blocks) (e.g., setting up refreshments, serving, clean up)
- Transportation Assistance (assigned per trip) (e.g., monitoring a bus, assisting passengers in and out)
- Registration (3-hr. blocks) (registration, information, special assistance)
- Event Assistant (assigned per event) (Assistance at Banquet, Memorial Service, etc.)

On this the 68th Reunion of the Thunderbolt Division and in the 70th Anniversary year of the great European Campaign, we offer all our love, respect and thanks for our freedom. We honor with wonder the bond you share with your buddies, a bond forged in service and sacrifice for our country and for future generations. May we as descendants and Americans as a whole learn from your sacrifice. We are forever grateful.



CAPT. JOSEPH MACALUSO

Wilhemena T. Macaluso - wife

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





**68th ANNUAL REUNION
83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN.
NEW ORLEANS, LA
JULY 30 - AUGUST 3, 2014**

PLEASE SELECT SIZE OF AD

FULL PAGE @
\$90.00

HALF PAGE @
\$50.00

THIRD PAGE @
\$35.00

QUARTER PAGE @
\$25.00

BOOSTER ADS ARE \$5.00

Make check payable to and send to:
83rd INFANTRY DIV. ASSN. REUNION
P.O. Box 406
Alton Bay, NH 03810

URGENT – ACT NOW

As you know, this money is needed to help pay for some expenses for our 68th Reunion.

DEADLINE – JULY 1, 2014

PLEASE Type or Print Ad Clearly and Circle Size of Ad
If you want your name on the ad, include it below

Remembering John White

There was only one John White. He was a joy to be around and could tell a fib with a straight face better than anybody I've been around. Problem is some folks took him seriously. In Nashville Indiana John took his first and last ride in a School bus behind the charter buses down the dusty roads of August at Camp Atterbury. That was the year we decided we needed coolers of water bottles on the buses. John provided coolers and water from that reunion forward.

His dedication to his wife Bobbie, his family (which includes the veterans and relatives of the 83rd) his community and his job was unwavering. He literally threw himself into tasks that were dear to his heart and there were many. He didn't know the word quit. Wasn't in his vocabulary. For I don't know how many years he and Bobbie assisted the Dixie Chapter especially for the chapters annual Christmas get together in Gatlinburg. He subtly served as mentor to many of us descendants as we became involved with the 83rd Infantry Division Association.

John was also the Association's first Descendant President. He set the bar high running a great Reunion at Williamsburg with Bobbie there to assist every step of the way.

John had been to the 83rd reunions from a very young age with his father. The stories he could tell. To use the word rowdy is tame.

John, we will all miss you but we will never forget the example you set or your spirit.

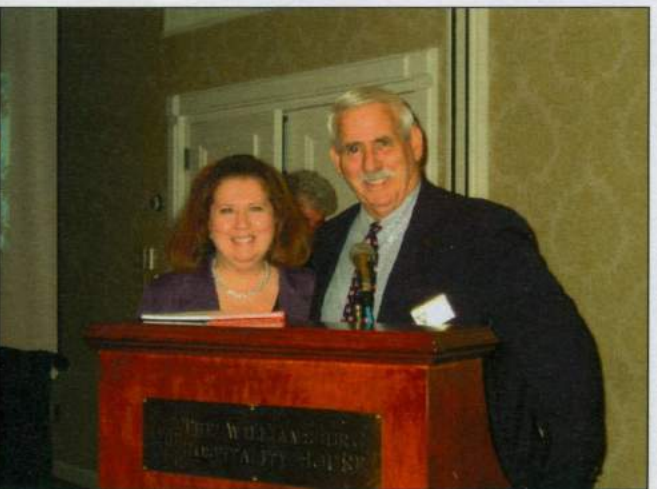
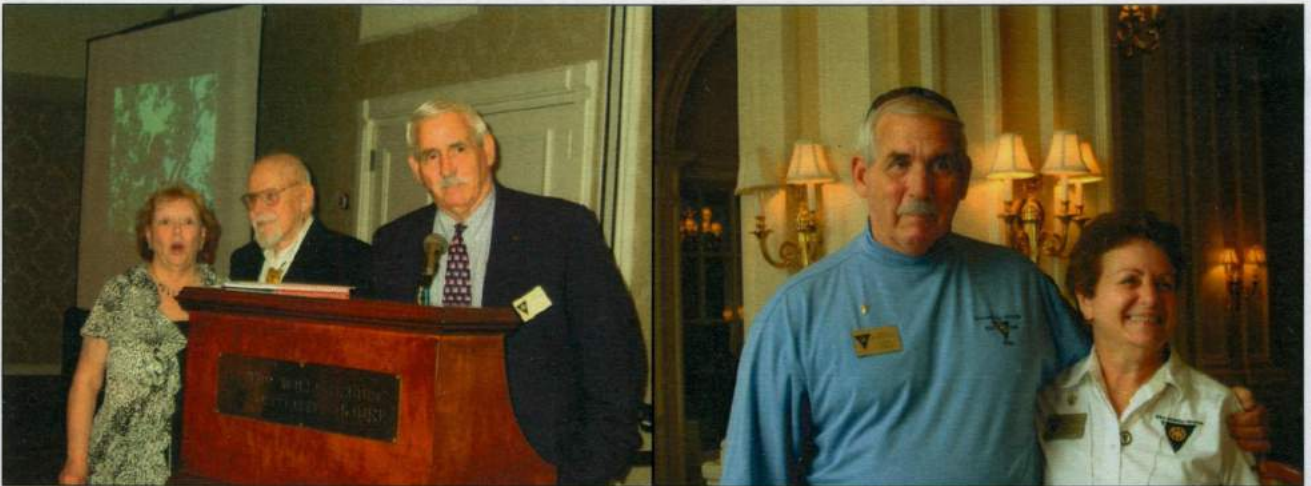
Ride Easy Bud. You're one of a kind.

— Dave Dimmick ▼



continued >

Remembering John White...



Dixie Chapter — In Memoriam



*Back row from L-R: Bernie Sheffield, John White, Ellsworth Massie, Arthur Loukas, George Baker
Front row from L-R: Eddie Poole, Frank Morris, Paul Poole*



The Thunderbolt Chronicles

Dave Curry

email: davecurry@ncweb.com

phone: 440-942-5030

A Fourth of July Like No Other

The role played by the 83rd Division in the Normandy Campaign has long been overlooked in the history of the invasion of Europe.

This year, the 70th Anniversary of D-Day and the invasion of Normandy will be celebrated worldwide and will be marked by numerous events and festivities in Normandy. There will be a lot of coverage on television and in the press, and more books will be added to record the history of D-Day. Unfortunately, there will be little coverage about the role of the 83rd infantry Division--except around the area of Sainteny in Normandy where the memory of the 83rd is always in the minds and hearts of the people.

The Normandy hedgerow campaign from 4 July to 25 July 1944 is a complex subject. There are

many factors that must be considered in an analysis of this campaign. Until recently, the subject has been mostly ignored, and what little has been written is an oversimplification of this important part of the War in Europe.

Recent works, however, have begun to re-examine the Normandy battles and reveal many of the complex issues. This analysis is overdue--the Normandy Battles in the Hedgerows were perhaps the bloodiest and most important in the European Theater.

The role played by the 83rd Infantry Division in Normandy during July 1944 has long been misunderstood. Doubt was cast on the 83rd from the beginning because of the division's inability to move rapidly across the Normandy countryside. The consensus was that the division's woes were the result of inexperience. Martin Blumenson portrayed the 83rd in a positive light in his article, *The Bleeding of the 83rd Division*. The division suffered monumental casualties, and the original 83rd Division that had trained at Camp Atterbury was gone. The ranks of its front-line rifle companies filled with new replacements, and in the process of the bloody and lengthy battle from Carentan to Operation Cobra on 25 July, the 83rd was reborn as a combat-toughened infantry division.

The Normandy hedgerow campaign was a war of attrition. The US Army had not been trained for war in the hedgerows. The inevitable fact is that it was a war of numbers, and we had more bodies than the Germans.

And the terrain in the Normandy hedgerow country has long been misunderstood. Previous works routinely describe the small fields and orchards walled in by centuries of built-up mounds of earth and overgrowth. But in the area of the 83rd Division, there was more than these treacherous fields to deal with. Blumenson, in his article *Beyond the Beaches* gives the most complete description of the area. He tells of the marshy terrain "crisscrossed by sluggish streams and drainage ditches." This was the land between the Vire River and the hilly country to the west of the swamps. "Around Carentan another condition added to the problem of waging effective offensive warfare. This was the existence of the Prairies Marecageuces, large marshes sometimes

below sea level. Open spaces that seem absolutely flat, they are breaks in the hedgerow country, and provide long vistas across desolate bogs. Five major swamps and many smaller swamps comprise nearly half the of what is called the Carentan plain.”

There were no adequate tactical procedures that would allow an easy victory in this morass of marshlands, sunken roads, low-lying fields surrounded by earthen walls and dense overgrowth.

And there was no way to outflank the dug-in German forces. The width of the cotentin was optimistically reported as two miles, but it didn't even approach that distance when you take into consideration the tributary streams of the Vire and Taute Rivers. According to Army historian James Carafano in his book *After D-Day*, the ground at the extreme western flank “was so bad that the Germans called it wasserstellung (water position). Traveling cross-country was difficult, with only one major road that could support a push south. This part of the front was the least critical terrain, and General Hausser covered the ground with the weakest elements of LXXXIV Corps.”

Beyond the marshes, swamps, and streams lay the hedgerows. The only way through this country was straight ahead through the heavily defended hedgerows with their machine gun and mortar emplacements and mine fields. The Rhino tanks were, in practicality, a myth. There was not

enough time to modify the tanks in any useful number, and those that had been modified were being held for use after Operation Cobra on July 25. There is no evidence that the 83rd Division had any Rhinos at all. The usual method of busting through a hedgerow was with two satchel charges of TNT.

What they met on the other side of the resulting rough opening was a small field defended from the opposite side, usually by machine gun positions at each corner, with rifle pits and mortar emplacements in between. These were well prepared positions, as Col. James Shonack, 331st Anti-Tank Company, recalled in his memories of Normandy. “Although we attempted to train for the hedgerows back in the states, it was of questionable usefulness.” He emphasizes that “It was the most God forsaken, unforgiving murderous terrain that I ever encountered or fought on. The body count testifies to that.”

This information is corroborated by an article written by Army historian Mark Reardon (Lt. Col. Retired): “Major Von der Heydte was busily making preparations to receive what he believed to be the inevitable American offensive. On June 29 he circulated a memorandum among his commanders perceptively noting ‘the relatively quiet days which reign in our sector while the enemy attacks Cherbourg must therefore be utilized with uninterrupted efforts to strengthen and fortify our position, which will have to resist



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the heaviest scale attacks. It is a certainty that such large scale attack is yet to come.' Ost battalion 635 briefly assisted FJR6 with additional manual labor for the construction of defensive positions during the period 26-27 June."

"When Von der Heydte inspected the results of their work, however, he was clearly dissatisfied. He ordered company commanders to ensure that trenches as deep as a man were dug within defensive positions. Additionally, the trenches must fit the terrain and run along the bends and hedges. The Fallschirmjaeger would defend from one and two man dugouts with overhead cover by June 29th. Von der Heydte directed that individual strong points would be joined together by trenches no later than 1200 hours on 2 July. Additionally, reserve units would also dig trenches leading to areas where they were most likely to be committed."

During the latter part of June 1944, the 83rd Infantry Division landed at Omaha Beach. The soldiers of the 83rd Infantry Division came in as part of the second wave after the invasion on June 6th. They were delayed in their arrival because of strong storms in the English Channel. Many of them rode out the storms aboard the various ships carrying them across the channel, and were so seasick that they would not even think of eating.

The three regiments of the division landed ashore over a period of several days. They soon moved south and then westward to an area southwest of the town of Carentan. There the 83rd Division replaced the paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division, and held their lines against the German front where they dug in, patrolled, and performed recon until early July.

On the morning of 4 July 1944, the 83rd Division moved into position along the front line south of the village of Meautis. The 331st Infantry was in the center. To the far right, the 2nd battalion of the 329th was poised to attack to the west to an "island" surrounded by a swamp. The 330th was on the left flank along the Carentan-Periers highway.

To the south of the 83rd, the 17th SS and the crack German paratroopers of the 6th Fallschirmjaeger Regiment were well dug in and waiting on the other side of a swamp.

Les Ormeaux Farm

The 331st was supposed to jump off at daylight, with the 2nd and 3rd Battalions on the line and the First in reserve. They moved up along the roads accompanied by a company of medium tanks which would supply direct covering fire from a ridge above the swamp. In the 2nd battalion, F Company, on the right, faced south towards the Les Ormeaux farm, and E Company was on the left facing open marshland. The 3rd battalion was to the left of F Company was near the Carentan-Periers Road

F Company's objective was the ground just beyond a farm house which lay about 800 yards from the line of departure. The line was a hedgerow on the edge of a wide field about 600 yards wide, which was practically devoid of any cover.

About 200 yards forward from this line was a swampy area that ran perpendicular to the line of advance. It was up to five feet wide, making it difficult to jump across. Three-hundred yards beyond this was another swampy area running in the same direction and about the same width. Both of these areas were about chest deep and full of mud that prevented escape without assistance.

Beyond the second swamp, the ground rose for about 25 feet and leveled out into a small garden that that extended up to the back of the farm house. The house was a two-story building that had several piles of brush on the front side opposite the direction of attack. About 200 yards beyond the front of the house was a road leading south. A fallen tree lay across the road, and there were deep ditches on both sides. The house was surrounded by other buildings, most of them small, with the exception of a barn to the left front, which was quite large.

At 0430 hours, the pre-dawn sky lit up as seven field-artillery battalions and three infantry cannon companies fired a 15-minute preparatory barrage. At 0445 hours, the 2nd battalion moved across the line of departure with mortars firing in support. The infantrymen had gauze strips tied to the back of their helmets so that they could be seen in the pre-dawn morning haze.

As the infantry moved out, artillery fired on prearranged targets about 700 yards in front of

them. The first sign of enemy resistance was when the sun's rays lit up the swamp, reflecting its rays in bright streamers over the murky terrain.

The 1st and 3rd platoons moved out, soon followed by the 2nd. The tanks came up behind them and began firing their 75 mm guns. At this point, the observation post (OP) which included the Company commanding officer (CO) and some others started moving up. Following them closely was the command group, consisting of the Executive officer, first sergeant, platoon messengers, company runners, and some others.

According To Sgt. Charles Rife, who was with the OP, they made it over the first swamp with little difficulty, and then moved on to the second swamp. There everyone crossed except a radio man who was in up to his waist and had to be extricated from the mud. They reached the foot of the small hill leading to the garden behind the house, and waited for the 2nd platoon. They then followed the CO up the hill to the rear of the house in several small dashes. There, they received word that the 1st platoon, which had moved beyond the house, had been pinned down by enemy fire and could not move. In the mean time, the 2nd platoon, which had cleared the house of enemy soldiers, sent two squads up to assist the first platoon by flanking the enemy positions.

Somehow, a mortar section of H Company (the heavy weapons company) had also managed to make it past the farmhouse and was pinned down somewhere near the 1st platoon. There, mortarman John Aller recalled that they were in plain view of the house which was sitting above the bank of the swamp. "Despite heavy concentrations of enemy automatic weapons and mortar fire, some of the battalion had made it, only to find that all hell broke loose behind us. The enemy had let us cross over or in between them, as they had been well camouflaged and we had passed them up." Aller realized that they were surrounded and were in clear view for the Germans to take "pot shots" at them.

In E Company, Lt. Ned Burr, a forward observer for the 908th Field Artillery, and his radio operator had been hit by shrapnel about three minutes after they crossed the line of

departure. This left E Company without any way of calling in artillery support. In F Company, another forward observer, Lt. Cobble, had reached a point about 75 yards from the farmhouse. Heavy machine gun fire had caught him and he lay pinned down in a ditch. Soon the enemy was firing heavy artillery and mortars. Two high-velocity weapons fired round after round into the ridge behind the swamp.

To the left of F Company, German snipers and patrols had caught most of E Company off guard near LaRayerie. Lt. Col. Henry Neilson (who had temporarily taken command of the regiment after Col. Barndollar had been killed by a sniper) learned that E Company had become badly disorganized.

He directed Lt. Col. Faber, the 2nd Battalion commanding officer, to relieve E Company and pull it back across the line to reorganize. The situation was actually much worse than Neilson realized. E Company had gone about 200 yards when they were stopped by heavy machine gun and mortar fire. When Col. Faber and his party managed to make their way to E Company, they learned that there was only one officer left, and only about 50 men were known to be alive. For all practical purposes, E Company had ceased to exist.

Meanwhile, F Company remained pinned down about fifty yards from the farm house. To assist them, Col. Faber brought up six tanks to his observation area near the line of departure, where they started firing directly across the swamp. The enemy returned fire on the tanks, and started shelling them with mortars and heavy artillery. G Company, which had not yet moved out of reserve, was about 500 yards to the rear, and was caught under this rain of fire and received as many casualties as the troops out in the swamps.

The problem with the supporting fire from the tanks was that the enemy positions were too close to F Company, and the German positions further away from the farm house were too well hidden to be seen and to direct fire at. In addition the early morning mist combined with heavy smoke from the firing made observation impossible. In the meantime, the Germans opened with 88 fire and

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some of these shells were landing very close to the garden and just beyond, around the foot of the hill to the rear of the garden. Some were hitting in front of the house as well. According to Sgt. Rife, he and the CO were nearly hit as they crouched behind a wall at the farm house, and were showered in broken bricks and mortar. At about this time, Lt. Koumjein of the 2nd platoon came crashing through the doorway between the wall and the house, clutching his right arm.

In the 2nd battalion, Capt. Fleming had the only communications to the rear. All other wire and radio communications were out and runners, who were sent out in an attempt to contact the regimental command post and the other companies, never came back. From the observation post Fleming could see the men crumple over and fall to the ground.

F Company launched a new attack, and in the resulting battle, killed and wounded scores of Germans and secured the house. Lt. Cobble got into the house with his radio and remained there for about half an hour when the enemy counter-attacked in force, preceded by direct fire from high velocity guns. This forced the men of F Company back to their former positions about fifty yards from the house. The Germans moved back into the house, and one of them started up a phonograph which was inside. The voice of Al Jolson could be heard singing over the din of battle.

One platoon of F Company, which numbered only about twelve men by now, pushed in against the German counter-attack and retook the house. They brought a heavy machine gun with them, which they set up just inside the door. About fifteen minutes later, forty enemy troops came down the main road toward the house. Lt. Mitchell, who was in command of the platoon, kicked open the door and the machine gun mowed down the Germans in the line of fire. The enemy then started to lay direct fire into the house killing or wounding many in the platoon. The survivors destroyed the machine gun and withdrew from the house.

F Company's casualties had been severe and it was decided to throw G Company into the line on

the left flank of F Company, with the mission of storming the objective on the opposite side of the swamp about 1400 yards away. Platoon leaders and scouts reached the objective through a sheet of enemy fire, but were then killed. The rest of the company had become strung out in a thin line all the way back to the line of departure.

Then four enemy tanks rumbled down the road, firing as they came. One of the tanks turned left while the others pulled up on a line in a field and faced the narrow ribbon of men that made up what remained of G Company. This was about 1100 hours. Artillery set one of the tanks on fire. Two of the tanks then withdrew and another was abandoned by its crew.

John Aller with H Company realized that their position beyond the farmhouse was precarious, and they had to get back across the swamp if they were to survive. Two "ducks" were sent in to help them evacuate, but they got bogged down and stuck in the swamp. Finally, with casualties increasing by the minute, Aller and the others decided to make a mad dash back across the swamp under artillery and small arms fire, a distance that Aller figured must have been about 200 yards.

Aller managed to make it back across without being hit (which he attributed to his high-school cross-country experience). When he reached the other side, he spotted a hole and dove into it headlong. All through the evening other survivors straggled across the line, and by nightfall it was apparent that the first round of the battle had been lost.

L Company in the 3rd battalion along the Carentan-Periers Road, not far from the 330th, was nearly wiped out. According to Andrew Kunkel, only about 30 men of the company made it through the day without being killed or wounded. The next day remnants of the company were reassigned, and Kunkel fought with K Company where he was wounded by artillery. That ended the war for him.

The Sunken Road

Lt. Col. Henry Neilson's 1st battalion/331st moved to an assembly area about midway

between Meautis and Cantepie in reserve, closing about 0730, July 4th. There the men's rolls were dropped, the men dispersed and slit trenches were dug for protection against hostile artillery. Neilson reported at 0700 hours to the regimental CP, which was located in a stone house about 400 yards southwest of Meautis. The 3rd battalion CP was in a house at Meautis and commanded by Lt. Col. George Schuster.

About 0730 the phone rang and they were told that Col. Barndollar, the regimental commander had been shot through the heart by a sniper at the forward OP about 350 yards south of the regimental command post. The regiment was put under the temporary command of Col. Neilson for about three hours, until Col. Whitcomb, the extra Colonel in the Division, took over at the direction of Gen. Robert C. Macon, the Division commander, who arrived at the Regimental CP about 1000 hr.

The 3rd battalion on the left was making no progress, and in fact had lost some ground according reports coming in. About 1100, Lt. Col. Schuster, was wounded and evacuated. His executive officer, Maj. Brown, took over the front lines of the 3rd battalion. on the left near the Carentan-Periers Road. The 1st battalion, in reserve, was on the left near the Carentan-Periers Road, just northeast of the 3rd battalion.

In the vicinity just south of La Chenay, Col. Neilson found Maj. Brown and they visited the front line of Company K where they talked with the commanding officers of of Companies L and I, and observed a platoon of tanks in an orchard just behind the front line of Company K. The Germans had stopped the 3rd battalion cold with the exception of Company L on the right, which appeared to have made a little progress. The officers could give no information about the situation on their left.

This was wicked fighting terrain, full of hedgerows, which the Germans manned with automatic weapons freely interspersed with riflemen. Observation was limited to the next hedgerow and usually the first sign of the Germans was a rifle shot or a burst from a machine pistol. German artillery and mortar fire

fell intermittently.

About 1530 the 1st battalion was ordered to an assembly area about 400 yards north of La Chenay where it was to initiate a coordinated attack supported by a platoon of tanks, artillery, and a platoon of 4.2 chemical mortars.

The battalion was to move in order of Companies C, B, A, Battalion HQ, and D to a sunken road, which was to be the line of departure (LD). Advance elements were sent out in case the LD was not secure. Frontage was 300 yards with left resting on the Carentan-Periers Road.

On the LD they found the elements of Companies I and K of the 3rd battalion, 330th Infantry well dug in. They had been shaken by the artillery fire, and scared of the German snipers on the other side of the sunken road, and were unable to leave their foxholes.

At 2030, after 15 minute of artillery preparation of the sunken road the range was set back 100 yards for about four minutes, and then set back another 100 yards. The leading platoons of Company D, led by Capt. Eugene Jackson, then crossed the line of departure.

It took an hour to get three companies across the LD in a column of companies, two platoons abreast. Heavy weapons company was to occupy the sunken road in order to support the attack. Tanks were late getting across the LD due largely to hammering from the German artillery. The tank platoon was told to move to the rear at 2145, before dark overtook them.

The front of the battalion had stalled. D Company was being held by enemy riflemen and artillery fire. As a result, the other companies bunched up behind them and they had gotten themselves into practically a column of files instead of platoons in line two abreast. It took some time to get them straightened out. By that time daylight was fading, and they were able to move forward quickly with fewer losses. At every hedge row the Germans stopped to shoot bursts at them, but the battalion kept moving until 2330, even though it had been dark for about 40 minutes.

At that time the Germans hit them with automatic weapons, bazookas, rifles, and mortars.

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The battalion was ordered to stop and dig in. A perimeter defense with listening posts was set up to prevent patrols from sneaking in and grenading them. Weapons platoons were situated to meet a German counter-attack from the flanks, and front and contact patrols were also sent out.

The Island Battle

To the right of the 331st, the 2nd battalion of the 329th Infantry was nearly decimated in an attack on the far right flank of the 83rd line. Captain Richard E. Randall, the Commanding Officer of F Company, although wounded three times during the fighting that day, managed to hold together the remnants of two companies to continue the attack against a hardened enemy force. After hours of fighting to continue the advance under enemy artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire, Randall and his group of survivors from E and F Companies held off successive counterattacks. At the end of the day, Randall asked for reinforcements so that they could continue the fight, but instead was ordered to withdraw.

On the morning of 4 July, the 2nd battalion was ordered to move into position at the far right flank of the 83rd Division. The 329th was to attack westward across a swamp to an "island," which was actually a peninsula. Its western edge was defined by the Prairies Marecaugeuses de Gorges, a large marshland. The northern tip and opposite side of the peninsula were defined by the swamp, which extended from the "Prairies" and came down the eastern edge of the peninsula. It then turned northeast toward the village of Meautis. Essentially, this gave the swamp a shape like a large V, and it dominated the geography in this area.

Just to the east of the "island" is les Baleries, the location of the 2nd battalion/329th assembly area on the morning of 4 July. The peninsula was reported to be about 900 yards long and 500 yards wide, with the northern tip about 200 yards across. All around the peninsula was a ditch about two feet deep and filled with water. It was covered by small fields enclosed in hedgerows, and was cut lengthwise by a dirt road that ran southward to Raffoville. At Raffoville, the road intersected with another road that ran east and

west. This east-west road was an obvious objective, and was about half the distance to the Carentan-Periers highway further to the south.

The 2nd Battalion's plan was to attack in a column of companies. F Company would lead off with two platoons abreast, and upon reaching the first phase line, E Company would cross the line of departure following behind F Company to the dirt road. At that point, both companies would reform, with the road acting as a boundary between F Company on the right and E Company on the left. G Company, in reserve, would cross the swamp if needed to protect the left flank of the battalion and maintain contact with the 331st further to the left.

What sounded like a solid plan of attack was encumbered with some serious problems. The recon was bad: the only information on the enemy said that the island was held by remnants of a company and some Russian volunteers and conscripted laborers. The previous day, the 329th I&R Platoon, led by Lt. Sam Magill had reconned the island and found nothing but some ducks tied to a string. Lt. Magill presumed that a farmer had done this to prevent his ducks from leaving the area. Actually it was a warning system for the German forces.

Captain Sharpe of G Company recalled that a later G-2 report, filed after the battle, showed that the 2nd battalion had actually made their attack against much superior forces. These were most likely the 2nd battalion of the 6th Fallschirmjaeger (parachute) Regiment and elements of the 17th SS Panzer Grenadiers.

The swamp was a major obstacle. It ran from north to south in this area, preventing an attack directly to the south to the objective. Instead, it was necessary to first attack west across the swamp over 300 yards of open terrain under direct fire from the enemy. In some places, the ground was too spongy to support a combat loaded infantryman, and prevented the use of tank support.

Finally, the lack of communications was a serious problem, and Captain Sharpe remembers that the Germans were jamming the radios with a "dipsy-doodle high and low tone." During the

advance, battalion HQ did not seem to know what was happening beyond the line of departure, and platoons were moving without any coordination or direction. This added more confusion to an already bad situation.

The operation began at 0300 hours, when the battalion was alerted for movement to the forward assembly area. It moved from its bivouac area at La Granvallerie in the order of F Company, E Company, H Company, Headquarters, and G Company. Upon reaching the forward assembly area at Les Baleries they halted and consumed a breakfast ration. Then, as soon as the supporting artillery concentrations started falling, the battalion moved to the line of departure, with F Company going to the line of departure, and E Company just to the east. While F Company was waiting for H-Hour, Lt. Smith, the battalion S-2, came to the battalion commander with a new aerial photo of the objective, indicating that a lot of new digging had been done by the Germans. But, it was too late to change the plan of attack as H-Hour had arrived.

F Company crossed the line of departure with the 1st platoon led by Lt. George W. Stahley on the left and the 2nd platoon led by Lt. Donald L. Richardson on the right. They had a perfect formation and looked like they were on a blank fire problem. But something happened immediately that they hadn't planned on: there was already slight fog in the area, daylight hadn't arrived, and the smoke from artillery concentrations settled between the line of departure and the objective. It was impossible to see anything.

The two assault platoons disappeared into the fog and smoke. Not wanting to lose contact, Captain Randall decided to follow them across, and took along the artillery forward observer, a group of engineers, F Company's light machine gun section, Lt. Frank R. Yukl, and two runners. The group was halfway across the swamp when the enemy opened fire with machine guns, mortars, and artillery. The enemy machine gun fire was mostly in the 2nd Platoon's zone (to the right of the 1st platoon). The engineer officer was severely wounded, one runner was wounded, and

Lt. Yukl and Captain Randall were both slightly wounded.

When he reached the island, Randall found that the 2nd platoon had immediately veered to the right when they came under the enemy machine gun fire. Its two lead squads became pinned down in the swamp. The support squad managed to knock out the machine guns, and this allowed them to get up and move to the first hedgerow. In the process, the platoon leader Lt. Richardson was hit by machine gun fire and killed, and the platoon was now at about half strength and morale was broken.

The 1st platoon had about 25 men left, so Randall decided to spread out their support squad along a thin line to fill in gap between the two platoons. He then notified Lt. Yukl, who was now in command of the platoon, of what he had done. After a brisk fight, the first hedgerow was taken, and Randall was wounded about the face and left arm by a potato masher grenade. Members of his company insisted that he go back to the aid station. He refused, and accepted first aid from a company aid man.

At this point, the lack of communications began to take its toll: without any orders, the weapons platoon decided to cross over the swamp. They were held at the first hedgerow for further orders. Then Lt. Hansel came across with the support platoon, even though he had been told by Captain Randall to wait for further orders. For some reason, someone at battalion HQ had told Hansel that Randall had been knocked out and help was needed.

A counterattack was expected at any moment, so Randall took one squad of the 3rd platoon and added it to the thinly held line. The rest of the 2nd platoon was shifted to the right. He then sent Lt. Hopley with the light machine gun section to the left to join the 1st platoon, and placed the 60 mm mortar section behind the 2nd platoon. Soon after, Lt. Hopley was killed by mortar fire and Lt. Yukl suffered severe concussion. Randall was wounded again, for the third time.

At about 0800 Captain Randall learned that E Company had crossed the swamp. They were not supposed to cross until F Company had reached

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the first phase line, but the battalion commander sent them over anyhow to help drive the enemy back. E Company suffered heavy losses in crossing the swamp including the CO, Captain Raymond Poore who was taken out by concussion. Those that had managed to make it across bumped into F Company. The result was mass confusion.

Randall tried to separate and reorganize E and F Companies and get the attack moving forward again. Repeated attempts were made to straighten out the line and move forward, only to be stopped by enemy machine gun fire. Finally, heavy mortar and artillery fire was requested to prevent the Germans from mounting a counterattack. There were only about 100 men left in the two companies. At one point Randall told battalion HQ that he would try to move forward again, but was told to dig in and wait for assistance from G Company.

Then came a series of German counterattacks. First, the Germans hit on the right flank with infantry supported by artillery fire from self-propelled 88s. This forced the 2nd Platoon of F Company to withdraw back to the last hedgerow in a daze. Then, about an hour later, a second counterattack was launched, this time on the left. The enemy drove back Lt. Bialek's flank and caused about 40 casualties. Lt. Bialek was killed and Lt. MacMurphy severely wounded. The machine gunners were removing the bolts from their guns. It was obvious at this point that unless reinforcements were received, it would be necessary to withdraw. Randall contacted Col. Bowen, who told him to begin a withdrawal.

Lt. Yukl and Lt. Hansel were sent back first with what was left of E Company and F Company under the cover of heavy smoke. Some of them were reluctant to leave, and elected to stay and infiltrate back during the night under the cover of darkness. Most crawled back across the swamp, either singly or in groups of two or three. Lt. Yukl was killed, but Lt. Hansel made it safely, taking advantage of a small canal ditch. He then began placing the men in firing position on the right of the line to cover Captain Randall and Lt. Zender who were withdrawing with the 3rd Platoon of F

Company.

Randall returned across the line supporting the 1st Sergeant with one arm and a blinded rifleman with his other arm. He then rounded up all the men of the two companies and led them to the Battalion aid station. Col. Bowen ordered Randall to be evacuated as a casualty, but he was later found by battalion and regimental commanders back at his company. They finally had to place him in an ambulance to make him leave his men.

During the fighting that day, one of the G Company medics obtained permission from Captain Sharpe to help evacuate the wounded from the field. He then walked out into the middle of the swamp to a severely wounded rifleman, and noticed many others either wounded or dead. At that point he called to the Germans and asked for medical assistance and a truce. Two German parachute medics appeared with a white undershirt on a stick. They helped to improvise leg and arm splints for one of the casualties, but refused to assist in carrying the wounded soldier to the American side. The G Company medic then asked one of the other German officers if he would permit a litter and a few more American medics to come out and help carry the wounded. A truce was made, and the Germans allowed personnel from the 2nd Battalion aid station to help evacuate the wounded.

In his memoirs, Captain Sharpe recalled that "once the medics had done all they could, they took down the white flags and the front reverted to firing at everything that moved. It was a fourth of July which most of us would never forget."

The only advance that had been made during the day was along the Carentan-Periers Road where Col. Neilson's 1st battalion/331st moved out late in the day. In the semi-darkness of evening they managed to move forward about 650 yards to Le Varimesnil before being stopped by artillery and machine-gun fire. ▼

The Battle of Bihain

Submitted by Clifford W. Snyder C Company, 330th

BATTLE OF BIHAIN

JAN. 9-11-1945

BY JANUARY 8TH 1945 WITH HEAVY PRESSURE BY THE ALLIES, THE BULGE WAS REDUCED CONSIDERABLY.

THE HIGHWAY THROUGH THE VILLAGE OF BIHAIN WAS ONE OF THE FEW ESCAPE ROUTES LEFT BACK TO GERMANY.

JANUARY 7TH A PATROL FROM THE 83RD DIV. REACHED THE ROAD JUNCTION LEADING TO BIHAIN AND DISCOVERED IT WAS NOT DEFENDED.

THIS INFORMATION WAS IMMEDIATELY FORWARDED TO 83RD DIV. HEADQUARTERS.

IT WAS DECIDED TO MOVE QUICKLY AND CAPTURE BIHAIN.

THE FIRST BATTALION OF THE 330TH WAS SELECTED TO ATTACK AND CAPTURE BIHAIN.

C-COMPANY **MOVED OUT AT 4-AM** ON THE MORNING OF **JANUARY 9TH** TO SECURE THE ROAD JUNCTION AND POSSIBLY SECURE POSTIONS ACROSS THE BRIDGE LEADING INTO BIHAIN.

IF THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED, A AND B COMPANIES WOULD JOIN C-COMPANY AND MOVE TO CAPTURE BIHAIN.

D-COMPANY WOULD REMAIN AT THE ROAD JUNCTION AND SUPPORT US WITH 81 MORTARS.

C-COMPANY WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL CAPTURING THE ROAD JUNCTION AND THE 2ND PLATOON MOVED ACROSS THE BRIDGE OVER THE LANGLAIR RIVER SECURING DEFENSIVE POSTIONS.

WE CAPTURED APPROX 15 POORLY TRAINED GERMAN SOLDIERS AND SENT THEM BACK TO C-COMPANY COMMAND POST AT THE ROAD JUNCTION. THIS WAS ALL ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT FIRING A SHOT.

1ST LT PHILLIPSEN THEN SENT A RUNNER BACK TO OUR COMPANY COMMANDER WITH A MESSAGE, THAT A&B COMPANIES SHOULD QUICKLY MOVE FORWARD TO ATTACK BIHAIN.

THE RUNNER RETURNED AND INFORMED US THAT THE REST OF THE BATTALION HAD NOT ARRIVED AND THAT WE SHOULD HOLD OUR POSITIONS.

continued >

JAN-9TH AT 10-AM A GERMAN PATROL CAME ACROSS A SMALL MEADOW TO OUR RIGHT TOWARDS A CLUSTER OF BUILDINGS OCCUPIED BY OUR 3RD SQUAD. THEY EVIDENTLY DIDN'T KNOW WE WERE THERE AND WALKED RIGHT UP TO THE BUILDINGS.

A FIREFIGHT OCCURRED AND EIGHT ENEMY WERE KILLED AND TWO ESCAPED BACK ACROSS THE MEADOW.

WE LOST ONE MAN AND TWO WERE SLIGHTLY WOUNDED.

THE ENEMY NOW KNOWS WE ARE THERE

JAN-9TH 1PM MARK IV APPEARS ON THE ROAD TO OUR FRONT APPROX 250 YDS. SUPPORTED BY INFANTRY.

MARK IV FIRES ON BUILDINGS TO THE LEFT SIDE OF HIGHWAY (1ST SQUAD) AND BUILDINGS ON RIGHTSIDE. (2ND SQUAD)

THERE WAS A SHORT FIREFIGHT AND THE ENEMY EXPERIENCED MANY CASUALTIES. 60-MORTAR FIRE ASSISTED IN DRIVING THE ENEMY BACK.

THE MARK IV RETREATED BACK TO THE VILLAGE.

OUR CASUALTIES 2-KILLED 4-WOUNDED.

LT PHILLIPSEN SENT SGT BATTERSHELL BACK WITH THE WOUNDED AGAIN ASKING FOR SUPPORT FROM THE REST OF THE BATTALION.

THE MESSAGE BACK HOLD YOU POSITION.

HOWEVER! THEY SENT (6) RIFLEMEN, AMMUNITION AND K-RATIONS. LT. PHILLIPSEN WAS NOT HAPPY!

THE NIGHT OF JAN 9TH WAS QUIET WITH NO ATTACKS.

JAN-10 THE MORNING WAS VERY COLD (BELOW -0) WITH LIGHT SNOW AND HEAVY FOG.

2PM THE MARK IV APPEARED AGAIN SUPPORTED BY INFANTRY, ARTILLERY AND MORTAR FIRE.

AFTER A SHORT FIREFIGHT THE MARK IV AND INFANTRY RETREATED BACK INTO THE VILLAGE.

DUE TO THE CLOSENESS OF THE FIGHTING (30 TO 40 YDS) THE ENEMY EXPERIENCED HEAVY CASUALTIES.

WE HAD A NUMBER WOUNDED AND (2) KILLED.

LT. PHILLIPSEN WAS REALLY UPSET AFTER THINGS QUIETED DOWN AND DECIDED TO GO BACK TO THE COMPANY COMMANDER AND REQUEST THAT WE WITHDRAW BACK ACROSS THE BRIDGE.

1-HR LATER HE RETURNED WITH (10) NEW REPLACEMENTS, (3) LIGHT MACHINE GUN TEAMS AND A LT. AND SGT. WITH A 300 RADIO, WHO WOULD DIRECT ~~4.2 CHEMICAL MORTAR~~ SUPPORT AS REQUIRED.
105 ARTILLERY

LT. PHILLIPSEN ALSO BROUGHT BACK THE GOOD NEWS THAT THE REST OF THE BATTALION WAS ARRIVING AND WE WOULD ATTACK BIHAIN 9-AM IN THE MORNING.

JAN-11 4AM A&B COMPANIES MOVED INTO POSITION AS PER PLAN.

8:45 AM *105 ARTILLERY*

OUR PLAN- ~~4.2 CHEMICAL MORTAR~~, 81 MORTARS AND 60 - MORTARS WOULD FIRE ON THE SOUTHERN PART OF BIHAIN FOR 15 MIN. AND AT 9AM THE FIRST BATTALION WOULD ATTACK.

SURPRISE!

8:00AM GERMAN ARTILLERY AND MORTAR FIRE OPENED ON OUR POSITIONS FOR APPROX. (10) (MIN) AND THEN A FULL FLEDGED ATTACK WAS LAUNCHED WITH (5) TANKS AND APPROX (3 TO 4) HUNDRED INFANTRY.

WHEN OUR MORTAR FIRE OPENED UP IT WAS TOTAL DEVISTATION ON THE ENEMY TROOPS. THE FIRST TANK A MARK IV WAS HIT BY A BAZOOKA ROUND AND ON FIRE. A TIGER TANK FOLLOWING THE MARK IV HAD A TRACK KNOCKED OFF AND EVENTUALLY WENT UP IN FLAMES. THE ENEMY QUICKLY RETREATED.

B-CO TO OUR LEFT WAS HEAVILY ENGAGED WITH THE ENEMY, NOT ONLY INFLECTING HEAVY CASUALTIES BUT ALSO DESTROYING A MARK IV. THEY ALSO CAPTURED A LARGE NUMBER OF PRISONERS.

A-CO SWEEPED AROUND THE RIGHT SIDE AND WAS A GREAT ASSIST IN THE SOUTH END OF BIHAIN.

WE WERE ALSO ASSISTED BY OTHER UNITS. THEY ARE REFERRED TO IN THE ATTACHED UNIT CITATION.

continued >

HEADQUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 83, U. S. Army

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 222

3 November 1945

UNIT CITATION

Under the provisions of Section IV, Circular 333, War Department, 22 December 1943, and as approved by the Commanding General, Third United States Army and Eastern Military District, the First Battalion, 330th Infantry; Company C, 774th Tank Battalion; First Platoon, Company B, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion; First Platoon, Anti-Tank Company, 330th Infantry; and Mine Platoon, Anti-Tank Company, 330th Infantry are cited for outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy from 9 January 1945 to 11 January 1945.

With its weary ranks depleted after a week of constant exposure to severe cold, including four days of bitter fighting, the First Battalion was assigned the mission to seize and hold the town of Bihain, Belgium, and protect the right flank of the 83d Infantry Division in conjunction with the Division's mission of establishing a bridgehead over the Langir Ronce River. Despite the handicap of deep snow and extremely low temperatures, the assault companies of the battalion advanced over 900 yards across flat, exposed terrain. In the face of intense artillery, mortar and automatic weapons fire this battalion succeeded in driving the enemy from his outpost positions east of Bihain. After a night characterized by heavy enemy shelling of the bitterly won position, the battalion resumed its attack on Bihain at 0730 hours, 10 January. Defending the town stubbornly, the enemy employed tank, mortar, artillery, and automatic weapons fire and fanatically held their positions until either killed or overpowered by unrelenting pressure. Due to the exposed terrain each house was an enemy fortification. Although the enemy fire caused heavy casualties on the attackers it resulted only in an increased determination within the ranks to secure the objective. Evacuation of the wounded was extremely difficult because of the inclement weather conditions, the nature of the terrain and the fact that the enemy artillery covered every approach to the town with heavy fire. On the morning of 11 January, the enemy completely blanketed the town with a half-hour artillery barrage of great intensity and, at 0900 hours, an estimated force of 200 enemy infantrymen supported by five tanks attacked the town from the woods to the south. Once again the First Battalion displayed its indomitable fighting spirit and although outnumbered rose to new heights in completely halting the enemy attack. The final assault was crushed decisively, the enemy annihilated, and the five tanks destroyed. In these three days of action the First Battalion sustained 130 casualties against an estimated 525 for the enemy. Thus, as a result of the unswerving aggressiveness and outstanding courage of the men of the First Battalion, 330th Infantry Regiment, from 9 through 11 January 1945, a fanatical enemy was dislodged from the town of Bihain, Belgium, and the right flank of the Division was secured. The aggressiveness and superb devotion to duty displayed by each man of the battalion is in keeping with the finest traditions of the armed forces.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY

Office of the Commanding General, APO 403

30 July 1945

My dear General Macon:

Please accept for yourself and express to the men of your division, my sincere admiration for the soldierly appearance, deportment, and bearing; also, for the high state of vehicular maintenance and excellent tactical instruction.

You and your officers and men are hereby highly commended for your superior performance in administrative and tactical instruction.

Truly yours,

G. S. PATTON, JR.,
General.

TO: Commanding General,
83d Infantry Division,
APO 83, U. S. Army.

THRU: Commanding General,
XII Corps,
APO 312, U. S. Army.

— Save the Dates! —

The 2014 Reunion will be held at

**NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
AT THE HYATT FRENCH QUARTER
July 30 – August 3, 2014**

SPECIAL OFFER!

Regular members and widows — would you like a FREE special roster of the 2013-14 of all regular members and widows to help keep in touch? Just drop a note to Judy Breen, Financial Secretary, 83rd Infantry Division Assn, Inc. P.O. Box 406, Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406 or contact her on our new website at www.83rdassociation.com

**2015 Membership Dues (\$30)
are
Payable August 1, 2014**

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

THUNDERBOLT DEADLINES

***ALL articles to be published in the Thunderbolt
must be at this office by May 27, 2014
(See box on the bottom of page 6 of this issue)***

**83rd Infantry Division Association
P.O. Box 406
Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406**

Return Address-
83rd Infantry Div. Assn.
P.O. Box 406
Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406

TO:

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

**PLEASE ENCLOSE A CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR
\$30.00 (YEARLY MEMBERSHIP DUES)**

Payable to and Mail to:

83RD INFANTRY DIV. ASSN.
P.O. BOX 406
ALTON BAY, NH 03810-0406

Dues for 2015 are due by August 1, 2014

RENEWAL___ NEW___

NAME (please print) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

Company _____ Regiment _____ 83rd Division

Phone _____ e-mail _____

APR14

DESCENDANT___ ASSOCIATE___ OTHER_____

Name of 83rd Division Member _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

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When you move and change your address, **PLEASE** send your change of address. It does no good to mail you a Thunderbolt at your old address. **The Post Office WILL NOT** forward this magazine. It will just go to waste. With the cost of printing and postage this is very costly to the Association to have even one go to waste. Send your change to the Association Office address above and not to someone else. Thank you for your cooperation. **Send old and new addresses.**