



★ Normandy ★ Brittany ★ Ardennes ★ Rhineland ★ Central Europe ★

Vol. 68 Issue No. 4

Fall Issue 2014



THE THUNDERBOLT

Official Publication – 83rd Infantry Division Association, Inc.

The THUNDERBOLT is written for all members of the 83rd Infantry Division World War II and is published at:
138 East Side Drive, P.O. Box 406, Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406

— STAFF REPORTERS —

LEGACY George F. Studor, 4715 Twin Lake Ave., Brooklyn Center, MN 55429, Tel. (763) 208-9283,
email: gmstudor@juno.com.

EUROPEAN.....

— ORGANIZATION OFFICERS —

PRESIDENT

Kathleen Powers
Descendant
6910 Conservation Dr.
Springfield, VA 22153
(703)-455-1853
powersgang@aol.com

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Lawrence Scheerer, Descendant
115 Maple Leaf, Double Oak, TX 75077
(817)-430-4512
lawrencescheerer@gmail.com

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Legacy Chapter Chairman
George Studor, Descendant
4715 Twin Lake Ave.,
Brooklyn Center, MN. 55429
(763)-208-9283
gmstudor@juno.com

SECRETARY

Clifford and Colleen Snyder
Descendant
116 Bishop Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20905
(301)-384-2051
cliffsnake@verizon.net

PUBLISHER

Jonathan Bohy
Descendant
136 Alton Mountain Road
Alton Bay, NH 03810
(781)-710-2934
jmc467@hotmail.com

TREASURER

Elizabeth "Betty" Pierce
Descendant
P. O. Box 312
Alton, NH 03809
(603)-875-8408
bettyanddave@metrocast.net

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Judy Breen
Descendant
250 Rines Road
Alton, NH 03809
(603)-569-3263
walkgirl250@yahoo.com

JUDGE ADVOCATE

John F. Markuns
Descendant
381 Massachusetts Ave.
N. Andover, MA 01845
(978)-683-5104
jmarkuns@aol.com

HISTORIAN

Dave Curry
Descendant
887 E. 331 St.
Eastlake, OH 44095
(440)-942-5030
davecurry@ncweb.com

CHAPLAIN

Henry Hicks Jr.,
Descendant
220 Hector McNeill Rd,
Raeford, NC. 28376
(910)-875-8943

83RD ARCHIVIST

Rudolph "Rudy" Zamula
7847 Heatherton Lane
Potomac, MD 20854
(391)-299-2578

— SERGEANTS-AT-ARMS —

Dave Dimmick
Descendant
1714 Coal Creek Rd.
Murrayville, IL 62668
(217)-473-3284

Joe Arsenault
Descendant
193 Massapoag Ave.
North Easton, MA 02356
(508)-238-3492

Paul DiGiammerino
Descendant
36 East Border Rd, Malden, MA 02148
(781)-608-5222,
littleytalian@comcast.net

— EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS —

Charles "Chuck" Abdinoor, Chairman, 68 Loon Hill Rd., Dracut, MA 01826, Tel: (978) 458-0371,
email: sgtchuck83rd@comcast.net

Clifford W. Snyder, Vice Chairman, 11 Edith Ave., Saugerties, NY 12477, Tel (845) 246-4808

Francis P. Markuns, 119 G Street, South Boston, MA 02127, Tel: (617) 268-0225

A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

1947 James C. Hanrahan*
1948 Jack M. Straus*
1949 Shelly Hughes*
1950 Julius Ansel*
1951 Walter H. Edwards, Jr.
1952 Leo Schneider*
1953 Finley Heyl*
1954 Lawrence J. Redmond*
1955 Lawrence J. Redmond*
1956 Lt. Gen. Robert H. York*
1957 Harry W. Lockwood*
1958 Raymond J. Voracek*
1959 Charles Abdinoor
1960 Joseph F. Minotti*
1961 Frank J. McGrogan*
1962 John W. Robinette*
1963 Manuel C. Martin*

1964 Julius Boyles*
1965 Samuel Klippa*
1966 William M. Doty*
1967 Albert B. Belvedere
1968 Vito C. Palazzolo*
1969 Pat DiGiammerino*
1970 Casey Szubski*
1971 Charles Altomari*
1972 Harold H. Dopp*
1973 Louis J. Volpi*
1974 Bernard O. Riddle*
1975 Robert G. Taylor
1976 Mike Skovran*
1977 Manlius Goodridge
1978 Joseph A. Macaluso*
1979 William J. Chavanne*
1980 Samuel Klippa*

1981 Michael Caprio*
1982 Ralph Gunderson*
1983 Arthur Doggett*
1984 Bernie Cove*
1985 Carroll Brown*
1986 John Hobbs*
1987 George Fletcher*
1988 Charles Schmidt*
1989 Edward Reuss*
1990 Charles J. Lussier*
1991 Edgar H. Haynes*
1992 Ned Smith*
1993 Louis Sandini*
1994 William M. Minick*
1995 Casey Szubski*
1996 Floyd Richmond*
1997 Keith Davidson*

1998 R. C. Hamilton*
1999 Pat DiGiammerino*
2000 Salvatore Scicolone
2001 Pat DiGiammerino*
2002 Bob Taylor
2003 Salvatore Scicolone
2004 Allison Shrawder*
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

I hope this issue finds all well and, for those who attended the reunion, well-rested and remembering good food and good times. My stay in New Orleans was extended due to my husband's hospitalization. They kept him for another week just to be sure that his blood count was within normal enough range for the 2-day trip back to Virginia so that he could see his own doctor. We actually received a card signed by all of the nurses on the ward wishing him continued recovery.

I also received "thank you" letters from the hotel, the cruise/bus company and the National WWII Museum for being a great, fun group. I reciprocated with letters thanking them for all that they did to make us feel welcomed and contributing to the success of the reunion. I truly hope that everyone, including some that have not attended in several years, had a great time.

I need to thank some people who helped to make the reunion a success. John Markuns was instrumental in reviewing contracts and being a "sounding board" in the decision-making processes. Betty Pierce was always available to send the payments quickly, especially when the due dates crept up more quickly than I expected (my memory lapses). Judy Breen made sure that the ad books were shipped to the hotel in time and even risked overweight charges to bring as many new, "hot off the presses" Thunderbolts to hand out. Paul Digiamarino who found a company to produce new shirts and hats that would be available for sale to attendees and Joe Arsenault who manned the sale table. George Studor presented the tribute to Sam Magill. Jelle Thys made a presentation on the activities of the European Chapter. Kathryn Brown acquired the reunion souvenirs. Jean Paul Pitou who contacted John Markuns and me with the notion that he had a French government contact

who indicated that they could process a few Legion of Honor awards on a short-term suspense if we could accumulate the proper paperwork.

And last, but not least, Larry Scheerer was a great liaison when we were trying to contact and acquire the proper documentation for the Legion of Honor awards. He worked between our group, Mr. Detweiler (at the Museum) and the French Consulate, particularly providing translation services. Larry also initiated contact with the military and submitted paperwork to have a Civilian Service Award to Monsieur Lepoury (the outgoing mayor of Sainteny).

I have compiled photos that the Snyders, my daughter, Jessica, and I took. I received many photos from Jelle Thys sent and am working to assemble some pages.

We are starting work on next year's reunion in Louisville, Kentucky, and have been researching hotels that can best serve our needs. We are also considering tours and activities that should include everyone, regardless of age.

Now, for more "pressing" business – membership. The board has been brainstorming ideas to increase the membership rolls. We also have found that some memberships have lapsed, some for a few years. If you have not renewed your membership, please take the time to send in a check. If you are a veteran member and are unable to pay your dues, please let us know. We are here for you and to keep the memories of your sacrifices alive for generations to come. We are establishing a "sponsorship" program to help. If anyone is interested in sponsoring a veteran, please let someone on the association board know.

Finally, as this issue is being compiled and readied for publication, my husband and I will be on our way to Baton Rouge, LA. We will spend several days at Louisiana State University (LSU) attending their Veterans weekend activities. The culmination will be the induction of my dad, COL(R) Joseph Macaluso, into the "Old War Skule" Hall of Fame just prior to the LSU/Alabama game. If I get any good photos, I will put them into the following issue.

My wish is that everyone enjoys their holiday season.

— Kathleen Macaluso Powers ▼

FROM THE EDITOR

JOHN MARKUNS

We hope you enjoy this edition of the *Thunderbolt*. There have been ongoing commemorations of the 70th Anniversary of the European campaign, beginning with D-Day and still continuing now as the anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge approaches. I had the honor and privilege to witness first hand the D-Day weekend commemorations in Normandy with my father, Francis, Co. C, 329th and my son Jeff and grandson Vitalij, and to also share this experience with so many of our 83rd family — a gift of a lifetime.

As you will see, the 69th reunion, held in New Orleans, was remarkable in so many ways — another experience of a lifetime — God bless our veterans and God bless America!

— John Markuns, Descendant Member
and Judge Advocate. ▼

COMPANIES

B&A Co. – 330TH

CHARLES ABDINOOR

sgtchuck83rd@comcast.net

A Co. 330th. News

Hi Buddy's;

Hi Steward; Sincerely sorry of your recent loss. Nellrita, Our Iron Lady was a courageous woman, Our Prayers go to you and family. She will most certainly be missed by all.

On another note, the Powers Gang did it again. We had a most successful Reunion at New Orleans, being met at the airport by Kathleen's brother-in-law and brought to the hotel you knew right of the bat that we were in for a successful

reunion. Kathleen's daughter was there sign and all welcoming us to New Orleans. That is The Markuns family, and I. Sorry that Patti could not make it but John made up for it with a holiday at his Vermont condo.

We had a successful turnout, having the French Counsel General giving out Medals to some of us members. This was an honor limited to some well deserving members. On a sad note George Bourget was scheduled also to receive this honor but passed away the day before the reunion. His daughter was there to accept this for her father. We had a pleasant trip down the Mississippi River on a sightseeing cruise. We had a wonderful lunch and this was the first time I had even seen the river. All in all we had a wonderful time. We seen the sights of New Orleans by bus, and also some damage done by the lake overflowing into the city and new Orleans being evacuated by all this. The people living there came back after this and rebuilt the city. On a side note even the cemetery's were completely under water. All in all we had a most enjoyable time. I must also mention the Mousie (August Farias) was there also.

—Chuck Abdinoor B&A – Co. 330th ▼

We would like to apologize to the family of Harry Kirby for omitting their full page ad which was to be included in the 68th reunion ad book.

We are thankful for the Kirby family's understanding. The ad is included herein.

Clifton Wooldridge receives Legion of Honor medal

NEW ORLEANS, La. — On Aug. 1 at a special ceremony at the World War II Museum in New Orleans, La., Clifton Wooldridge of Alton and five of his fellow WWII veterans of the 83rd Infantry Division, United States Army, were knighted in "The Legion of Honor."

The French government's highest medal was awarded to these veterans because of their contribution to the liberation of France in WWII. Only a small number of Legion of Honor medals are awarded each year in the United States and much care is taken to recognize those with the most distinguished records.

Wooldridge's age prevented him from attending and his daugh-



COURTESY PHOTO
CLIFTON WOOLDRIDGE of Alton poses with his Legion of Honor medal.

ter, Judy Breen, also from Alton, accepted the award on his behalf.

The medals were presented to these veterans by the Hon. Olivia Lamy, Vice Consule, Commander Yannick Piart, French Naval Aviation Officer, stationed at Whiting Field,



COURTESY PHOTO
THE LEGION OF HONOR medal is the French government's highest medal.

Fla. Wooldridge is currently residing at Wolfeboro Bay Center in Wolfeboro.

A Report From Our Historian

How We Rediscover History

I received a phone call from Jerry McFarland a few weeks ago. He is a local historian in Lebanon, Tennessee who is trying to reunite some recently discovered dog tags that belonged to 83rd Division veterans. Jerry told me that the tags were an older design having five lines of information that included address and next-of-kin. The Army decided this would be too much information if the tags fell into the hands of the enemy, so new tags were issued with four lines of information, omitting address and next-of-kin.

The old tags were supposed to be destroyed, but it appears that these were just discarded by someone, and they were recently uncovered by a group that was searching for Civil-War items in the area where Jerry lives. They must have been thrown away while the 83rd was participating in the Tennessee Maneuvers.

Jerry would like to reunite the tags with family members of these veterans, so he has been cleaning the tags to allow him to read the information they contain. He has around 204 tags, and has sent me a list of names of some of them. He will continue to send names as he cleans the tags and puts the information in lists. Most of the vets appear to be from the north central states—Wisconsin, Minnesota, N. Dakota, Idaho, etc. It is starting to appear that these tags may all have been from the same company of the 331. I am starting to research this matter now.

I'm including a photo of some of the tags, as well as a list of names that Jerry has put together so far. If you recognize any names here, please contact me and I will put you in touch with Jerry McFarland. As Jerry sends along more names I'll post them on the 83rd Google group as well as upcoming Thunderbolts.

Lyn Magill-Hoch got the ball rolling by starting to research the names on *Ancestry.com*. We now have Tony DeMott, and Ross Fletcher doing name research as well. Lyn has already sent a number of emails to families and has positively located the family of Merlin Hollen. Tony is working on part of this list, and when I get a new batch of names from Jerry McFarland, I will split up the names into three groups (or more if I get additional offers of help). If anyone else would like to help find family members, please let me know so that efforts can be coordinated.



Contact me at my email address, davecurry@ncweb.com or call me at 440-942-5030.

Thanks,

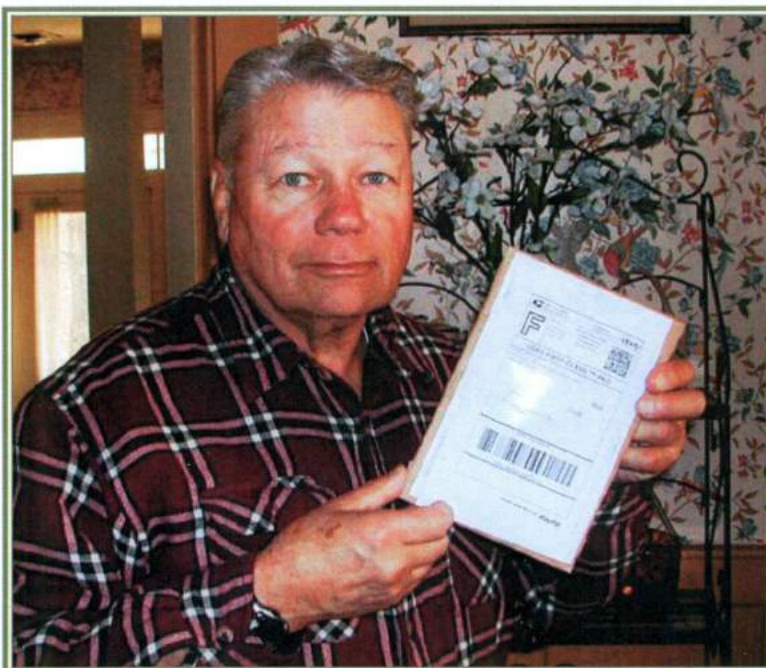
Dave Curry

Updates:

The Latest!

Hello everyone —

Lyn has come up with a possible answer to where these dog tags came from, and I want to keep all of you up to date.



Many of the families that have been contacted say that their veterans were skiers and had paratrooper and mountain training. This led Lyn to the 99 Infantry Battalion (Separate) website.

I have been in contact with the webmaster of this site, Erik Wiborg, who told me that he knows many of the names. So, it seems likely that a positive identification of the unit has been made. Here is the link to the 99th Battalion website: <http://www.99battalion.org/index.htm>

As I learn more, I'll let you know.

Best,
Dave

Editor's Note: According to the 99th Battalion's Official Website:

"The 99th infantry Battalion (Separate) was activated at Camp Ripley, Minnesota on July 19th 1942 as per written instructions by the War Department. This unique elite unit was to consist only of Norwegians and Americans with direct Norwegian descent. Soldiers picked out for this elite unit had to have a working knowledge of the Norwegian language and preferably already knowing how to ski."

The Very Latest from Dave!

I talked with Jerry McFarland this morning (November 17). He said he made the connection to the 83rd because three of the names that he researched were in NARA records as being with the 331st. He is still trying to figure out how they ended up with the 99th. The only thing I could think of is that they transferred to the 99th because they met the qualifications (Norwegian descent, could speak the language and ski). The 99th was activated after the 83rd, so I guess this would make sense.

Following is the list of names:

continued >

Roster 83rd Division (Series I)

Peder Strand (Ida)
36204182
434 N. Few Street
Madison WIS

Kenneth R. Johnson (Thea)
37271917
Box 15
Climax, MINN

Martin O. Hanson (Mabel)
37271942
RFD 4
Thief River, MINN

Walter E. Walker (Menda)
36241135
Rt 2
Taylor, WIS

Hollen, Merlin D (Minnie)
37291042
412 2nd St W
Willmar, MINN

Obed R. Stenerodden (Mrs. N.V.)
37029429
Park River, N. DAK

Sundre, Clarence (Thopa)
37029125
Kloten, N. DAK

Hadley N. Jenseon (Mrs. Louise)
37030146
Big Fork, MINN

Olson Milnor S. (Karina)
37319554
Buxton, N.D.
Olaf M. Aarseth (Albert C.)
37028549
Lamoure, N DAK

Orin P. Semingson (Oscar)
36236832
Rt 3
Colfax WIS

Palmer Johnson (Mrs. Bolet)
39410017
130 N 1st E St
Preslon IDAHO

Farl F. Lund (Alice Lubenetski)
36808421
110 W Fulton St
Wampaca WIS

Harold P. Myklerost (Lea Thorsen)
36002115
2310 N
Chicago ND

Palmer M. Sorenson (Mary)
37272165
Kkens, N. DAK

Solverud R. Jalmer
36258576
Amberst Jct WIS

Bratmoe, Melvin (Gunda)
20709332
Dawson, MINN

John Halvorsen (Halvor)
32172154
Rumbridge North Dakota

Oskar W. Lein (Minnie)
37018804
Ellendale, MINN

Ordean T. Halla (Christ)
37272184
Nellsville, MINN

Abrahamson Ragnar (Maggie)
37320820
4251 31st Ave S.
Minneapolis, MINN

Swen Anestad (Martin)
36265328
Rt 1
Argyle, WIS

Hill, Maurice R. (Helma)
37031991
Alvarado, MINN

Andrew W. Hall (Anna)
36023183
Rt. 1
Glinton, WIS

Knute, Joa (Alf Joa)
39826167
511 11 St
Buhl, IDAHO

Gilbertsen, Norman (Irene)
39537621
252 N. Flower St.
Los Angeles, CAL

Ordean T. Halla (Christ)
37272184
Neilsville MINN

Gjelton, Vance J. (John)
37313328
Climax, MINN

Fred Larson (Frank)
32880491
136 52 St
Brooklyn NY

W.L. Christensen (A)
37046711
RR 3
Forrest City, IOWA

Lenard E. Larson (Edna Salmonson)
36245207
Rt. 2
La Farge WIS

Raymond O Enger (Winfred I)
37019527
3517 17th Ave South
Minneapolis, MINN

THE FAMILY OF
HARRY J. KIRBY, JR., CO. C, 308TH ENGINEERS
SALUTES THE 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION
ON ITS 68TH REUNION!

We will miss you this year!

Marianne Kirby Rhodes

Harry J. III (deceased) and Sis Kirby

Joan R. Kirby, Esq.

Jim and Sangela Kirby

Mike and Lynn Rhodes

Jill (Rhodes), Scott and Ryan Dow

FRIEND

MAJ (ret) Adam G. Chubinski

70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Bihain

January 10th, 2015

Dear Friends,

I finally got the program of the Celebrations of the 70th birthday of the liberation of Bihain and its enclosed villages.

It will be at the museum site in Bihain on Jan 10th 2015.

Program of that day:

9:00 am — Departure of the march of the 83rd Infantry Division (Civilians and reenactors).

10:30 am — Welcome of the authorities by the representative of the ASBL (organisation of the 83rd in Bihain).

11:00 am — Arrival of the Soldiers of Liberty followed by a group of kids that represent the future
Arrival of the Historical vehicles that did a tour in the surrounding villages (Ottre-Petit Langir-....).

11:30 am — Inauguration of a monument "Unit Citation for the 83rd by General Patton on Nov 3th 1945" that will be unveiled by the Grandson of General Patton : George Patton Walters followed by the National Anthems and if the weather allows it fly by of Thunderbolts airplanes over the museum.

Laying of wreaths and flowers at the garden of souvenir in remembrance of Captain Leo Hurry and Bob Keck who were in Bihain a couple of years ago and who we dearly miss.

12:00 am — VIP drink at the museum.

Little lunch at the Chapiteau for the people who did the march and the reconstitution of "the battle of Bihain."

2:00 pm — inauguration of the new steel at the monument in Ottre (massacre of Ottre) It has been stolen last year + ending of the mars.

As I heard from Robert, there will be Belgian and probably also German television to capture the events on January 10th 2014. Some Belgian government officials, the mayor of Vielsalm together with the Ambassador of the USA are also expected to be there.

We expect around 170-200 83rd dressed up reenactors and some 70 historical vehicles of all kind to be in Bihain that day.

We hope to see also some veterans and family of veterans so we can all join the remembrance of the hundreds of 83rd victims that fell in Bihain-Ottre-Petit Langir and the other surrounding villages.

Best to you,

Wilfred De Backer,
Belgium

Ed. Note: Wilfred has also passed on the following:

Dear John,

This is still the program. I don't know if your father, you, his children or his grandchildren would like to come. You are all more than welcome. At this moment Dave Dimmick and probably his wife is coming over. We will also inaugurate a new steel on Sunday for Albert Duffer who was killed in Fraiture at the same moment Dave Dimmicks father got injured. We also received the information that the family Hury will be in Bihain and Fraiture to be at the festivities together with Cliff Snyder junior and his wife. Robert told me that the veterans stay at his bed and breakfast will be free of charges for everybody that is considering it.

Also know that the European Chapter is ready for all of you. If peoples think about coming over there is also a program that Wim Doms will be doing before the Ardennes in the Hurtgenforrest.

If any veteran or family of veterans has an interest in coming, they may contact me at widb@stabe.be.

Best to you

Wilfried ▼



Picture inside museum of the 83rd (Top),
Walking in the Snow (Lower left),
Vehicles at the March (Lower right)

continued >



The Official Poster
(Right)

Museum of the 83rd
(Below)



The Crosses of the Church of St. Pierre

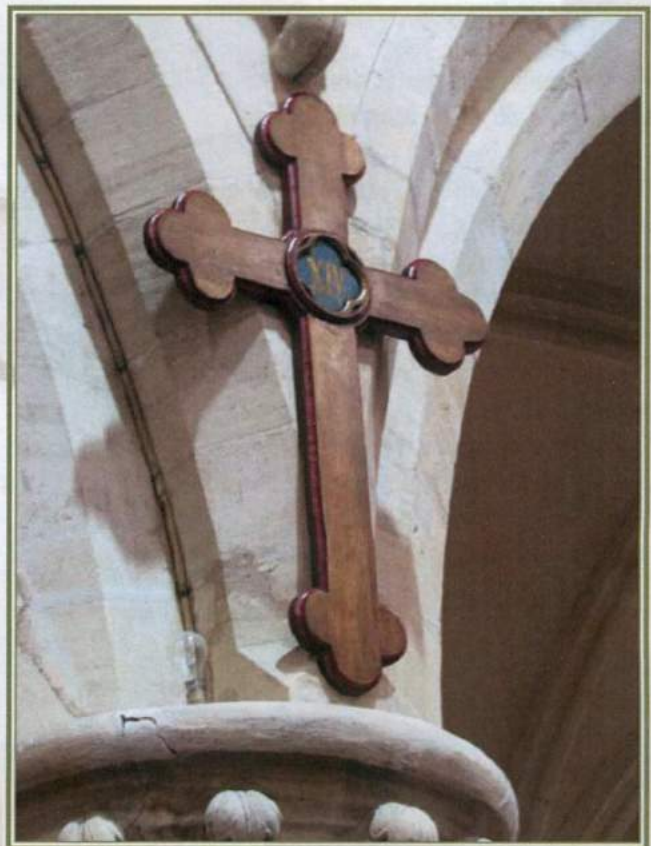
By Larry Scheerer

A few months before the 70th anniversary, 8 crosses about two feet in height were found in a barn in Sainteny. When the crosses were wiped clean of dust and dirt Roman numerals were visible — at that moment those involved knew they must have come from the Church of St. Pierre.

More investigation revealed they were part of the original "Stations of the Cross" (also known as Way of the Cross); in French — Chemin de Croix or "Baraque Chapelle." The church had been badly damaged in the fighting in July 1944 and the restoration was not completed until 20 years after the war. No one remembered that 8 of the 14 of the original crosses had been rescued from the church. They date from before WWI.

With the initiative of Jean-Paul Pitou and cooperation of the parish priest, it was agreed that returning the crosses to the church on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the fighting and liberation would be a wonderful symbolic gesture of complete restoration. We funded a nominal amount for refinishing each cross and a ceremony was planned in which veterans and descendants would unveil the crosses for the congregation on the morning of anniversary celebrations in Sainteny, June 9.

We hung the crosses Sunday afternoon and covered them with paper in preparation for the Monday event. The ceremony at the church and the unveiling were the first events of the anniversary celebration Monday, Jean-Paul and I worked on the text (below) of the presentation which I read in English and my son James read in French:



St. Pierre restored Cross

Early this year, the Veterans Association of the 83rd Infantry Division proposed a symbolic gift, the restoration of these eight crosses as a small contribution to preservation of the heritage of the people of Sainteny. Thus the combatants of the battle and their descendants are able to participate in its restoration. On this 70th anniversary the crosses return to their place in the church of St. Pierre. ▼

ARRTC Reflags, 83rd USARRTC Stands Up

By Norm Johnson

In a reflagging ceremony held at Skidgel Hall on April 24th, 2014, the Army Reserve Readiness Training Center was redesignated the 83rd US Army Reserve Readiness Training Center.

Col. Ernest T. Parker, commander of the organization and Command Sgt Maj. Peter Brooks, conducted the ceremony by encasing the ARRTC colors and uncasing the new 83rd USARRTC colors. While the ARRTC's Minuteman logo will be retained, Soldiers assigned to the organization will now wear the black, triangular patch of the historic "Ohio Division."

Parker delivered the address because Maj. Gen. Lesniak, USARC Deputy Commanding General (Support), was unable to attend. In his speech, Parker summarized the histories of both organizations.

"This event signifies the merging of two US Army organizations and their separate histories into one," Parker said. "The ARRTC was stood up in peacetime to meet specific needs of the force. The 83rd Division was stood up twice in times of war to meet the needs of the nation. While the ARRTC's colors will be replaced by the 83rd's, this action in no way minimizes the ARRTC's significant contribution to the Army Reserve."

The organization's mission remains the same, to develop and execute relevant programs of instruction primarily for the Army Reserve, but also for other branches and components of the Department of Defense. Mainly in the areas of personnel administration, supply accountability mobilization and leadership, the 83rd USARRTC's training programs play a significant role in reserve units maintaining a high state of readiness



Col. Earnest Parker and Command Sgt Maj. Peter Brook prepare to encase the ARRTC colors during the redesignation ceremony at Fort Knox on April 24th, 2014. Parker and Brooks rolled up and encased the ARRTC's colors for the last time as the Army Reserve School officially became the 83rd US Army Reserve Readiness Training Center.

and deployability. The 83rd USARRTC also oversees three Non-Commissioned Officer Academies located at Camp Parks, Calif., Fort Dix, N.J., and Fort McCoy, Wis.

Norman H. Johnson Jr.
Instructional Systems Specialist, ADLD
83d US Army Reserve Readiness Training Center
Building 2369, Gaffey Hall, Room 133
Fort Knox, KY 40121-5167
502-626-7839 ▼



Col. Earnest Parker and Command Sgt Maj. Peter Brook, encase the colors of the 83rd Infantry Division during a redesignation ceremony at Fort Knox, Ky. on April 24th, 2014. Moments earlier, Parker and Brooks encased the colors of the Army Reserve Readiness Training Center. The organization is now officially known as the 83rd United States Army Reserve Readiness Training Center.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Tilson, an instructor at the 83rd US ARRTC, carefully positions the 83rd Division Patch on his uniform. The "Donning of the Patch" completed the redesignation Ceremony at Fort Knox on April 24th, 2014, as the ARRTC officially became the 83rd USARRTC.



Auxais Memorial — 83rd Division

In 2009 our family purchased a house in Auxais, Normandy France, the house is in the American sector near to Sainteny. We live in England and try to spend as many days as possible each year in France as we love the people, the history and generally the French way of life. After researching the area we realised that the property and our surrounding land was the location of fierce fighting between the 83rd Infantry Division and the 17th SS Panzer Grenadiers during July 1944 which resulted in many casualties. The soldiers of the 331st IR 83rd Division were desperately trying to gain a foothold on the La Varde Peninsula the far side of the River Taute which is located across the marshland that lies at the bottom of our garden.

After spending many hours looking through original documents and studying aerial photographs from July 1944 we located a .30 calibre machine gun nest in the middle of our garden. So far we have unearthed over 3000 spent cartridges from a hole 2ft diameter and approximately 10 inches deep. We have found/purchased numerous 83rd related items in the 5 years we have been there including helmets, bayonets and even trousers/garments which were buried deep under a hedgerow. We have a small collection of 83rd items that have been found on the battlefield or acquired from private collectors from around the world.

During the month of July 1944 the 83rd Division lost many soldiers in and around our garden which got us thinking. Let's construct a Memorial to the brave soldiers of the 83rd in particular guys of 2nd Battalion 331st who manned the machine gun to which the bullets belonged. Up until this year Auxais didn't have a Memorial to the 83rd, so being the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day landings and our families growing obsession with the 83rd Division we thought it fitting to construct one on the battle site.

In 2013 we decided to commission a Memorial to be dedicated to the soldiers of the 83rd Division and to be constructed on the site of the mg nest. In all it took a year of planning, designing and ensuring the script was good in both French and English. The construction started in April 2014 and was finished by the middle of May. A huge thank you to 83rd Veteran Stan Bielen who came up with the wording. It was an honour for us to have him do this. He remembers the church in Auxais and the mg bullets whizzing over his head whilst down on the marais (marshland).

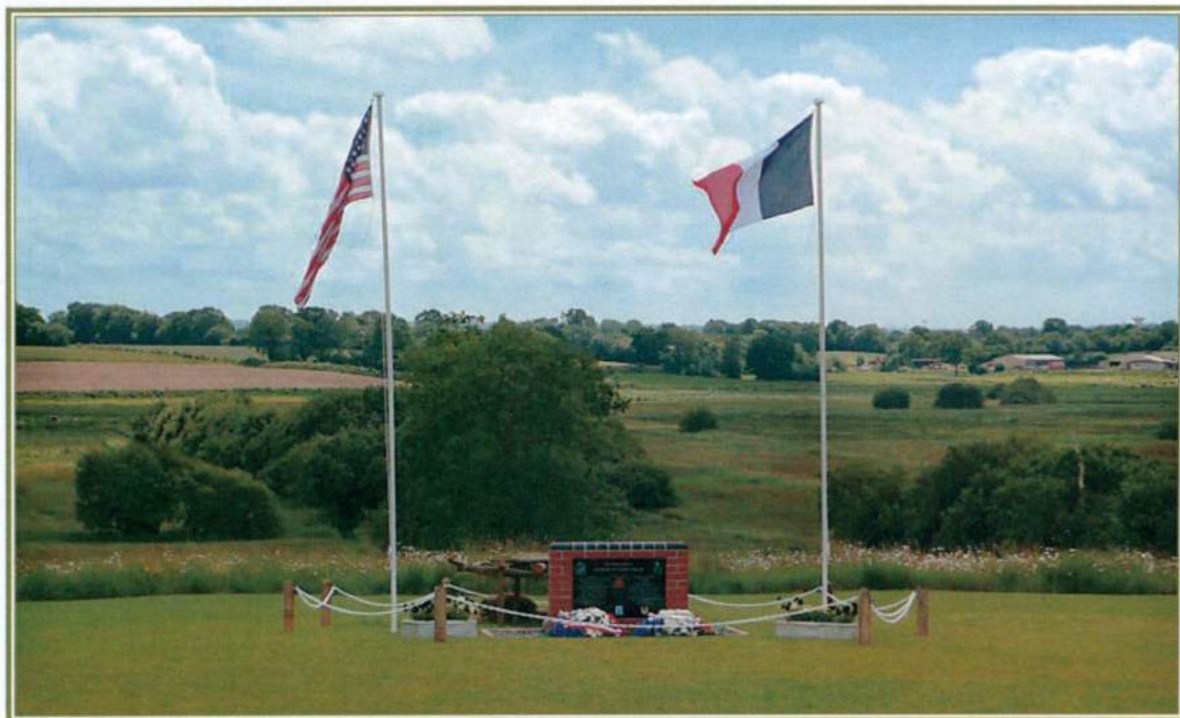
On 8th June this year on a hot and beautiful sunny day, the Mayor of Auxais unveiled our Memorial to the men of the 83rd Division with the help of several Veterans and family members. Over 100 people attended the event from many different countries around the world, with local farmers and villagers also attending. The day went wonderfully well with everybody having a great time, we hope to have another gathering again next June 2015 – any 83rd Association members would be more than welcome. Myself (83rd Historians apprentice) and Jean Paul Pitou (83rd Historian) are always willing to show you the area and try and pin point where particular companies were on certain days — if any veterans or their family members who read this article plan to travel over to Europe in the future let us know, we look forward to hearing from you.

A HUGE thank you to all the people who attended this year and helped make the day successful, in particular:

- Bill Spriggs, Paula & Rande Nezezon
- Francis & John Markuns and their family
- Fred & Carole Pearson
- Tom Ingram
- Michael & Cher Czyzewski, Ron Ammons
- Larry, Phil & James Scheerer

- Jacky Laignel, Paul Cottelle, Jean Paul Pitou
- Antoine Noslier, Simon Bezard, Vincent Orriere
- Patrick Brion
- Mark Snudden, Jonathon Edwards
- Hartmut, Angela & Nils Hagemann

— Kindest regards,
Glyn, Elaine, Sam and Ben Nightingale
e. auxais331st@yahoo.co.uk ▼







To the 83rd Infantry Division Association,



Bernie Ray Jones of Bowling Green, Kentucky passed away on the 30th of April 2014, just twenty days shy of being 92 years old. He was born in Round Hill, Kentucky. He leaves behind his wife of over 68 years, the former Joyce E. Hays and two children (Norman L. Jones and Brenda S. Fitzpatrick). He had four grandsons and eleven great grandchildren.

He was a veteran of World War II, having served with the 83rd Infantry in Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 331st Infantry as a corporal with an anti-tank squad. Bernie always shared his experiences and stories about being in World War II.

Bernie had his basic training at Camp Atterbury and was also at Camp Breckinridge after being on maneuvers in Tennessee, before going overseas. He told us that the 83rd landed on Omaha Beach around 10 days after D-day. When they moved off the beach they relieved the 101st Airborne. On July 4, the 83rd made their first attack. Sadly on that day, while under mortar attack the first man in his squad was killed. The company morning report said they were in Auvers, France.

Three days later on the 7th of July, Bernie was wounded (the first time) by shrapnel from a German 88. The company morning report said he was 5 miles SW of Carentan, France. He was hospitalized in England. When he recovered, he was assigned to the 104th Infantry along with a good friend from the 83rd named Jay Goodman. Jay and Bernie were disappointed that Eisenhower didn't keep his word to allow the wounded to return to their original units. Both finished the war in Europe with the 104th Infantry. Bernie received a Purple Heart with a cluster with 3 bronze stars, showing he was wounded three times.

Bernie always told a story that happened while on maneuvers in Tennessee. This story involved a close friend of his, named Calvin Cobb from Birmingham, Alabama. It seems that Private Cobb was a real character and on this particular day he showed up for formation wearing only one "legging." An officer asked Private Cobb where his other "legging" was! Standing at attention he told the officer that the legging was—*"lost in action, sir, lost in action!"* Now remember, they were in Tennessee on maneuvers. This was one of our favorites to hear him tell, because it made him laugh every time he told the story.



He was very proud to have served his country as a soldier in the 83rd and the 104th Divisions. Bernie's heart was always with the men of the 83rd; that's why he attended so many of the 83rd reunions over the years, until his age and health would no longer allow him to travel.

Bernie was a wonderful man, whose life was shaped by his experiences. We will miss him very much, and we realize that there are many other families who have lost loved ones who were once a part of the 83rd Division. We will never forget how the men of the 83rd answered the call of their nation, and their willingness to give their best...and some gave all they had.

We agree with Tom Brokaw, that these men of the 83rd were truly a part of
"THE GREATEST GENERATION"

The family of Bernie R. Jones

Deceased List

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

NAME	UNIT	REPORTED BY
Leonard Bader	Co. D, 331st	
George H. Bourget	Co. H, 329th	Judy – Daughter
Robert Cohen	Co. F, 329th	
Charles T. Davis	Co. I, 331st	
Joseph DePeri	Co. F, 330th	
Leo B. Gilmore	Co. B, 329th	Bertha – Wife
James Harp	Co. M, 329th	
Bernie R. Jones	HQ, 331st	Joyce – Wife
Raymond F. Joyce	Co. L, 329th	Michael – Son
Michael Molinaro	Co. E, 330th	
Anthony Pagano	Co. M, 329th	
Arthur R. Wagner	Ser. Co., 329th	Greg – Son
Glenn P. Wible	Co. A, 331st	
William Williams	HQ, 324th	

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

George Bourget — Died July 30, 2014

H Company, 329th Infantry Regiment

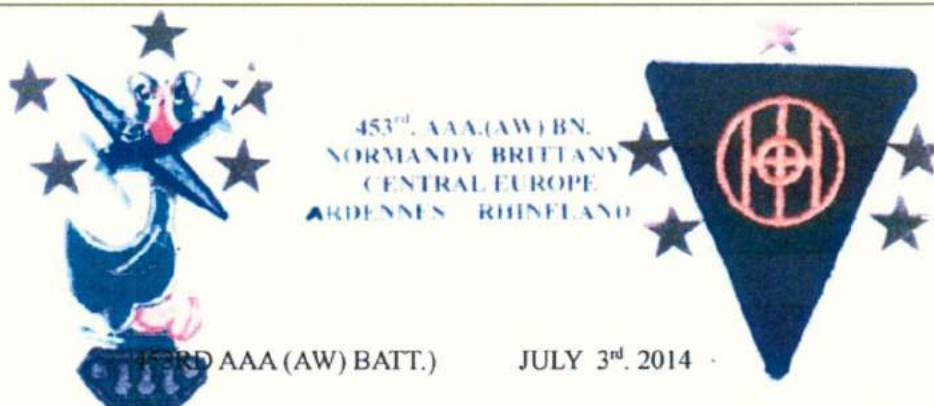


George Bourget together with his daughter Judy was a regular guest at the 83rd Association Reunions. Earlier this year he was awarded the French Legion of Honor. He was set to formally receive this on August 1, 2014 during the Reunion but died only a few hours before leaving for New Orleans. His passing came as a shock to those attending and

he will be missed by many. He still received the Legion of Honor posthumously, a rare privilege. ▼



George's daughter Judy accepting the Legion of Honor medal on George's behalf.



From those reports that are available the Balance of the 453RD Members, living, are still in a Healthy state, except for a few aches and pains associated with there Age.

I suppose I should start this Episode with calling it an EVENT YOU WON'T BELIEVE.

I have been Honored by so many persons for their kindness. Starting with my Canadian Cousin who supplied the werewithall to finace my trip, as he has, in my Attendance to the lasrt three 83rd Reunions.

Next would be Larry Sherer, who coinvined me to make the trip.

Joan Paul Piteau was a great Arranger, and saw to it that we all have a good time in attending te 70 th. Anniversary of D Day in Normandy. Making sure we did not miss any Celebration that he knew we would like to attend. herding us as we needed , to make sure each one. got there.

The Glyn Nightingale Family Who gratioisly let me be part of the Ceremony to unvail the Memorial to the 83 rd Divison, he and his family dedicated to the memory of our fallen heros of the 83rd. Div.

Then the Ledoux Family who were our Hosts in Saineny, providing us with Housing and many other Items, including driving us to many functions. This also include their children who were our inturpreters.

The people of Saitneny, who gratioisly wecomed us to their Village, thanking us profusly for the Liberation of their town and Area.

For the gracious way I was able to take part in a Religeous Ceremony in unvailing A Station of the Cross thar had been lost ,then found and refurbished..

To the Balance of the Letourno Family for again thanking me for the return of their Grandfathers WW II Prisoner of War card that was returned to the Family Witch I found in the rubble of Rubish blowing around in June 1944.

I lhanke the French Government for bestowing the Legion of Merit award on me at Carentan.

And not least, I recived the Presidents Autograph on my card, giving me the right to be on stage, I asked him for it, explaing that I did not have a Pen or Pencil and if he had one ,would he please sign it. He took his own pen and with a flurish completed the Job. The only person on Stage that received his signature.

To finsh the Venture, The Transat Aircraft Crew had their picture taken with me to make a great end to a marvelous trip.

Fred C. Pearson.

President of the 453RD AAA (AW) Battralion Assoc.

PG. 1

In my forgetfulness I forgot many persons who contributed to my

I neglected to mention my Companion, and caretaker, My niece, Carol Pearson from Florida who made me take it easy, and had no problems arise, with me.

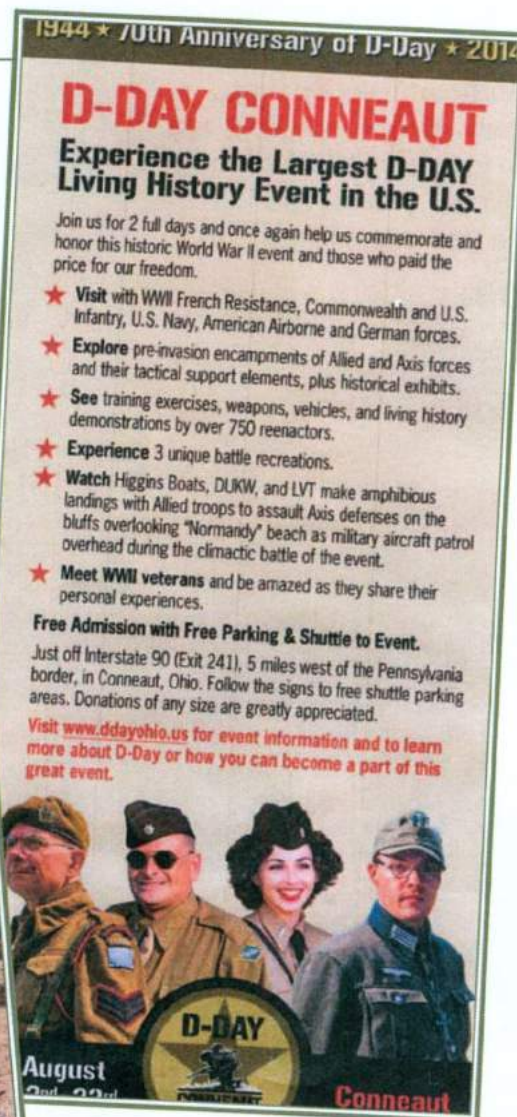
My friend Tris..Hodiamot.The coordinator of the 83rd Inf. Division web site, who made a special trip to see me, drove from the Netherlands

Plus there also were those that gave me a Book he had written Eddy Montfort and Wall hangings, by Jelle Thys. Great surprises.

I know there were others who I cant remember who also helped to also make this trip a success.

I shall never forget all the wonderful things that happened to me.

Fred. C. Pearson ▼



continued >



Hagan on upper right. Kerry on lower left. Obama on lower right. Only signature given by the President.



Fred just after receiving the French Legion of Merit Award



Glyn Nightingale, Memorium to 83rd Division



Grandkids of LeTouno Family

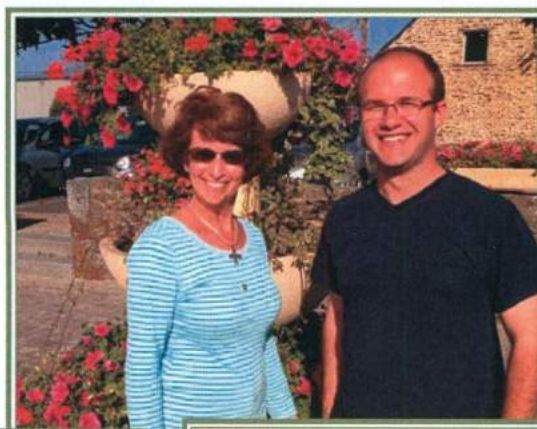
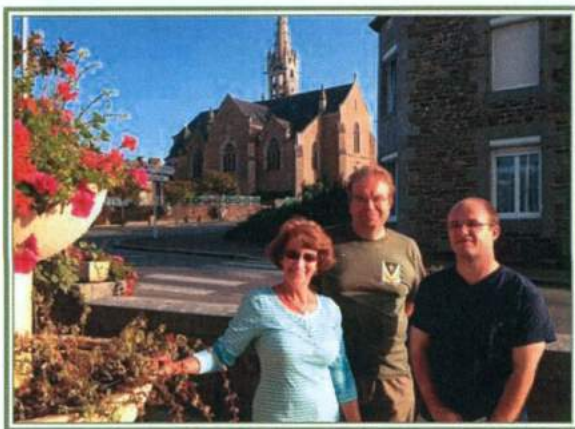
Legacy Chapter News: Our Thunderbolt collection is going digital!

The Legacy Chapter is alive and well. We hope to again begin our regular conference calls with the coming of the new year. "If you would like to be added to the Legacy Chapter email distribution so you can receive meeting notices and meeting minutes, please email me at gmstudor@juno.com."

Thanks to a generous donation from Dan Gust, C.O. of the 329th ATCO, we are paying my son Matthew to scan and collate the *Thunderbolt* magazine pages into a PDF file for each issue — and Jelle Thys is loading them onto the 83rd Association Website: <http://www.83rdassociation.com>. The first *Thunderbolt* magazine issued by the 83rd Association was July 1947 (note that *Thunderbolt* and Regimental newspapers published by the Division before that time can be found on the 83rd Infantry documents website: <http://83rdinfdivdocs.org/>). As of November 10th, we have up through Volume 9 Issue 5 (1956) available for you to download and read, and by the time you read this article, up through Volume 14 Issue 5 (1961) should be accessible! As you see gaps in the list of available issues on-line, feel free to email me, George Studor, at gmstudor@juno.com, if you have any issues that would help fill them in. We hope you enjoy the reading!!

A personal note — My sister Barb and her husband Joe visited Epiniac (and Antoine) after getting special treatment at Sainteny... as the First 83rd Veteran Family to visit Epiniac that they know of, the Mayor of Epiniac met them made them feel very special. Also, Barb and Joe brought back a very special expression (certificate and medal) of honor for myself and Dan Gust from the new Mayor of Sainteny. My oldest sister, Ginny — born in Oct '44, is now making plans to visit Sainteny (and the Normandy beaches) next Spring with her son!

— George ▼



The Normandy 70th Anniversary Commemorations

One of the major events leading up to the D-Day commemorations was a dedication of a memorial to Col. Robert G. Cole, 101st Airborne as part of the annual commemoration, parade and banquet held in Carentan. Cole personally led his battalion to capture four remaining bridges on the road to Carentan, when his entire unit was pinned down for over an hour by intense fire from heavily fortified German positions. Ignoring the danger, Cole led a bayonet charge in clearing the defensive positions. As members of a division that relieved elements of the 101st near Carentan, Francis Markuns (Co. G 329th), Bill Spriggs (Co. C 329th), and Fred Pearson (453rd AAAAW)) were invited participants in the ceremony, accompanied by local school children.



The presence of our veterans had great meaning for those in attendance.



During the annual commemoration of the liberation of Carentan that followed, a large number of veterans, including Fred Pearson, were awarded the Knight's Cross of the French Legion of Honor.



Below is Fred with Bill Spriggs, who received the same award in May 2014 with several other veterans at a special ceremony at West Point.



At moving June 6 ceremonies in Normandy, the 83rd was well represented among the more than 200 veterans who attended the commemoration at the American cemetery at Omaha beach. Bill Spriggs, Rudy Zamula, Fred Pearson, Francis Markuns and Tony Vaccaro were all in attendance.



President Hollande, distinguished guests, I'm honored to return here today to pay tribute to the men and women of a generation who defied every danger -- among them, our veterans of D-Day.

And, gentlemen, we are truly humbled by your presence here today.

Just last week, I received a letter from a French citizen. "Dear Mr. President, and the American people," he wrote, "[we are] honored to welcome you... to thank you again for all the pain and efforts of [the]

American people and others in our common struggle for freedom."

Today, we say the same to the people of France. Thank you, especially, for the generosity that you've shown the Americans who've come here over the generations -- to these beaches, and to this sacred place of rest for 9,387 Americans. At the end of the war, when our ships set off for America, filled with our fallen, tens of thousands of liberated Europeans turned out to say farewell, and they pledged to take care of the more than 60,000 Americans who would remain in cemeteries on this continent. In the words of one man, we will take care of the fallen "as if their tombs were our children's." And the people of

France, you have kept your word like the true friends you are. We are forever grateful.

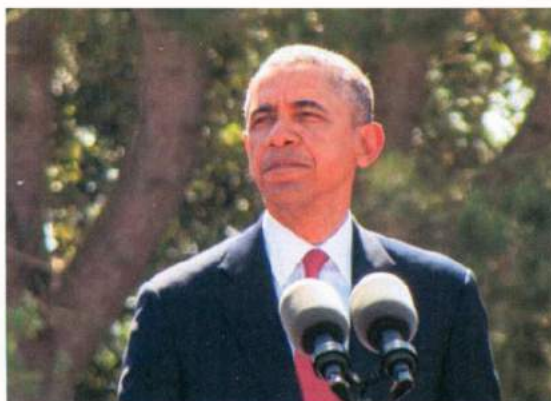
Here, we don't just commemorate victory, as proud of that victory as we are. We don't just honor sacrifice, as grateful as the world is. We come to remember why America and our allies gave so much for the survival of liberty at its moment of maximum peril. We come to tell the story of the men and women

continued >

who did it so that it remains seared into the memory of a future world.

We tell this story for the old soldiers who pull themselves a little straighter today to salute brothers who never made it home. We tell the story for the daughter who clutches a faded photo of her father, forever young; for the child who runs his fingers over colorful ribbons he knows signify something of great consequence, even if he doesn't yet fully understand why. We tell this story to bear what witness we can to what happened when the boys from America reached Omaha Beach.

— Excerpts—remarks of President Barack Obama, June 6, 2014



The 6th June is not a day like others: it is not just the longest day or a day to remember the dead, but a day for the living to keep the promise written with the blood of the fighters, to be loyal to their sacrifice by building a world that is fairer and more human.

— Excerpts —remarks of Francois Hollande, President of the Republic of France



Below: Scheerer family in Sainteny: grandson James far left, son Richard (jr), Lt. Col Jeffrey D. Kulmayer, and sons Larry, Phil just before the 70th anniversary service in the Church of St. Pierre in Sainteny on June 9. They were participating on behalf of WWII veteran Lt. Richard (Dick) Scheerer 2nd BN, 331st. Dick is not able to travel, but is doing well and will celebrate his 99th birthday December 18, 2014. Grandson James is a veteran of US Army Special Operations Command with 2 deployments in Afghanistan. He served as translator and driver for his father Larry and uncles Rich and Phil. Lt. Col. Kulmayer, Executive Officer to the Commander, Allied Land Command, North American Treaty Organization (NATO), flew from Turkey the night before this photo was taken to deliver the Army Outstanding Civilian Service

Award to the mayor.



The poignant cover of the Program of 70th Anniversary Services at the
Normandy American Cemetery above Omaha Beach.



Simon Bezard with his mother at their home in Sainteny. They are holding a photo of Simon's grandmother greeting American troops in 1944. Their family farm and home is a few hundred yards north of the Sainteny City Hall. The field behind their home was the final battleground for the 83rd Division as they fought their way into the village. Lt Col. Faber, commanding officer of the 2nd BN, 331st was killed a short distance from this farm. He was the father of our association member Elizabeth Brousa. Simon was visible throughout ceremonies we attended, frequently serving as a flag bearer. He is active in exploration of areas of combat near Sainteny and a great friend and supporter of our veterans.



continued >

Jacqueline Hoday is pictured below visiting with Lt.Col. Kulmayer at the anniversary day luncheon in Sainteny. She is the oldest survivor of the battle in Sainteny. She tells visitors that as a teenager she saw US jeep stop in the midst of the rubble after the fighting. A priest got out of a jeep and began preparing a service. She asked him why he was doing this and she reports he replied, "Mademoselle, 5,000 people died trying to free this village, this service is for them."



New Mayor of Sainteny Jean Laurent with Francis Markuns and his son John at the anniversary luncheon in Sainteny.



Re-enactors were everywhere and it seemed every nationality wanted to play the part of an American liberator. At Omaha Beach on Tuesday, June 3, this group of re-enactors were overheard speaking what seemed to be Italian. When we asked "Italia?," they responded "No, Malta!"



At one encampment, reenactors wearing the patch of the 83rd, reenacted troops dug in along one of the hedgerows still remaining in the area. Here, Francis Markuns shared his first-hand experiences with them.



'Behind the Scenes' — James Scheerer, Margaux Choquet and Jean-Paul Pitou. Jean-Paul was tireless and did a tremendous amount of planning and organizing for the 70th anniversary events in June 2014. He was a key resource of the planning committee of Sainteny, scheduling and coordinating all our 83rd Division events in and around Sainteny and facilitating each ceremony. Margaux Choquet of the tourism bureau delivered translations in English for French speakers at ceremonies.

James provided support for English/French translations including the remarks of the Mayor of Carentan at our ceremony in Sainteny and delivered his own address at the unveiling of restored crosses in the Church of St. Pierre (see insert page 11).



Glynn and Elaine Nightingale are shown at the luncheon of our 83 Division Association at Relais des Forges in Sainteny on Thursday, June 5. Glyn and Elaine live in England, but purchased a second home in Auxais, 2 miles south of Sainteny. Glyn has become an avid investigator and supporter of the 83rd Division and honored our veterans with a memorial constructed in the yard behind his house. They invited our entire group for a lovely reception and moving ceremony on Sunday, June 8 in which the memorial was unveiled and dedicated (See related story 'Auxais Memorial' on page 14).

continued >



As part of the annual commemoration at Sainteny's memorial to the 83rd and 4th Divisions, Rudy Zamula and Francis Markuns were also presented with the Knight's Cross of the French Legion of Honor. Rudy's sons, David and Martin were present to observe this honor. To surprise his grandfather, Francis's grandson Jeffrey and his great grandson Vitalij flew to Normandy to join son John to be there for the presentation — four generations present and accounted for!



The day after the Sainteny Commemorations, Veterans Bill Spriggs and Francis Markuns (83rd Division) and Jack Port (4th Division) shared their experiences with the schoolchildren of Sainteny



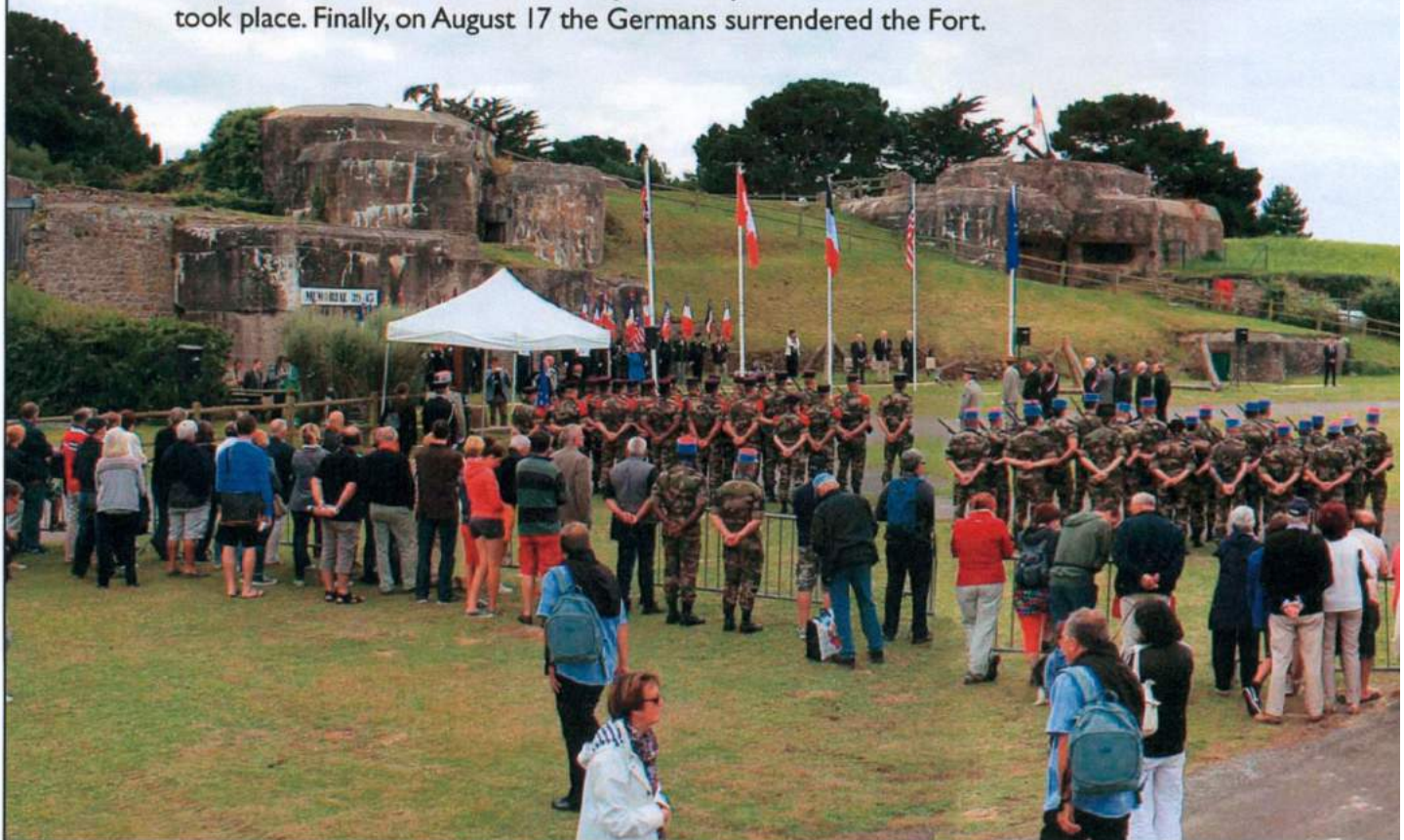
A farewell Luncheon was hosted by Jean Paul and the citizens of Sainteny for the entire 83rd Division delegation



Fort Alet — St. Malo, August 6, 2014



"On the evening of August 11, 1944, the 329th RI attacked Fort Alet to take it at night. The Germans let the attackers enter the courtyard of the Fort for slaughter. The survivors fell back on the morning of August 12. Then for five days, artillery, AT shot at the Fort. Several air missions took place. Finally, on August 17 the Germans surrendered the Fort.



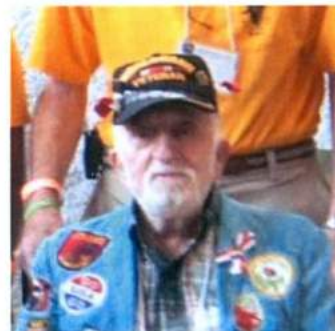


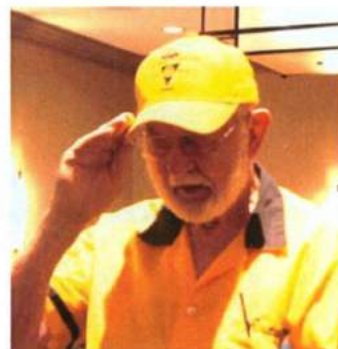
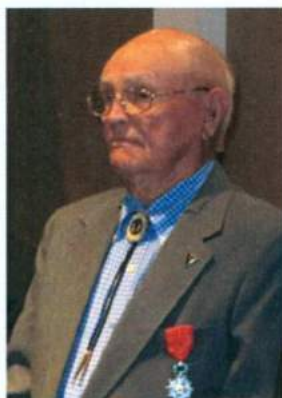
Painful mortuary operations took place. Forty Americans bodies had to be identified with more or less certainty.” — Gilles Billion. As part of the 70th Anniversary of the liberation of Saint Malo, the municipality, and the director of the Museum of the City of Alet, dedicated a plaque with all the names of the men killed in the courtyard of the Fort in the attack of August 11. Gilles has provided these photos of the commemoration. ▼





OUR VETERANS





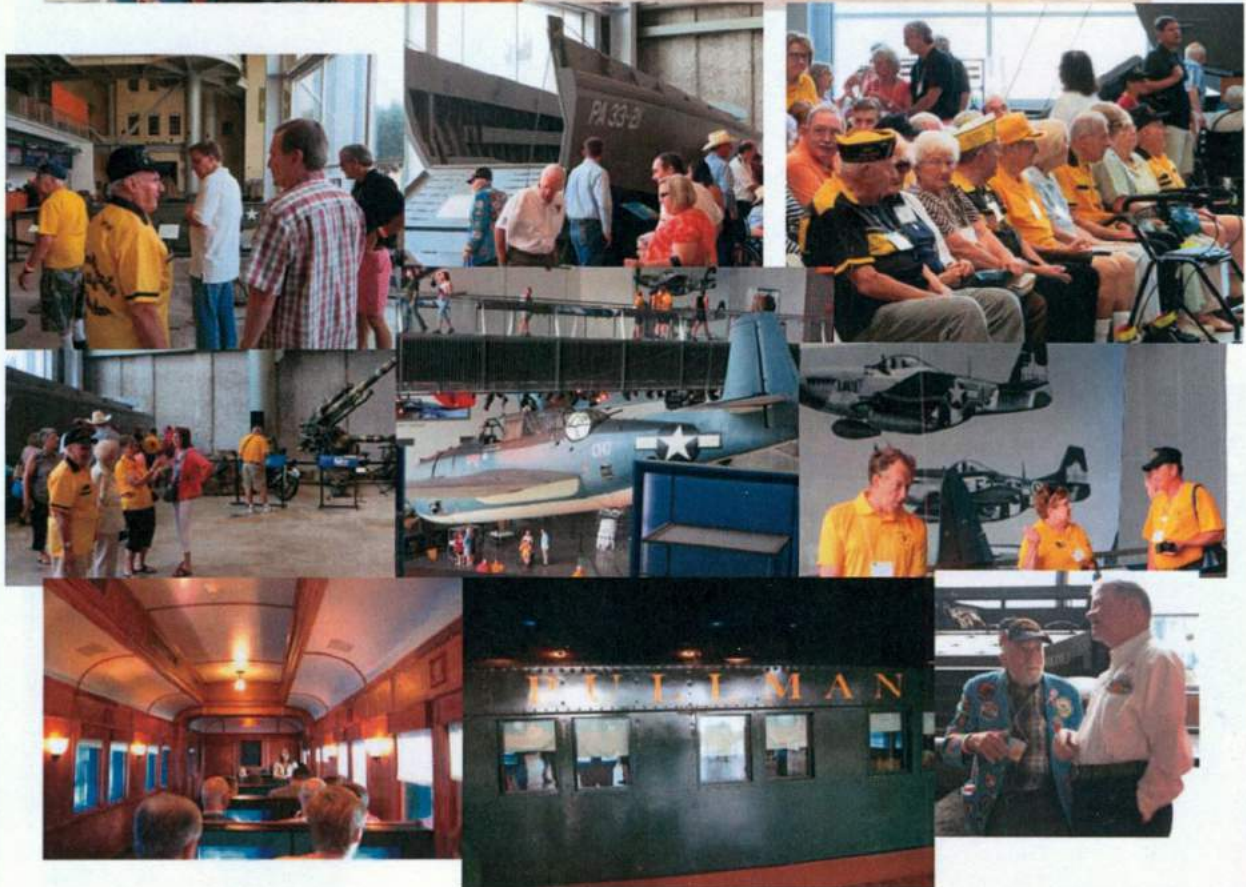
With us in spirit

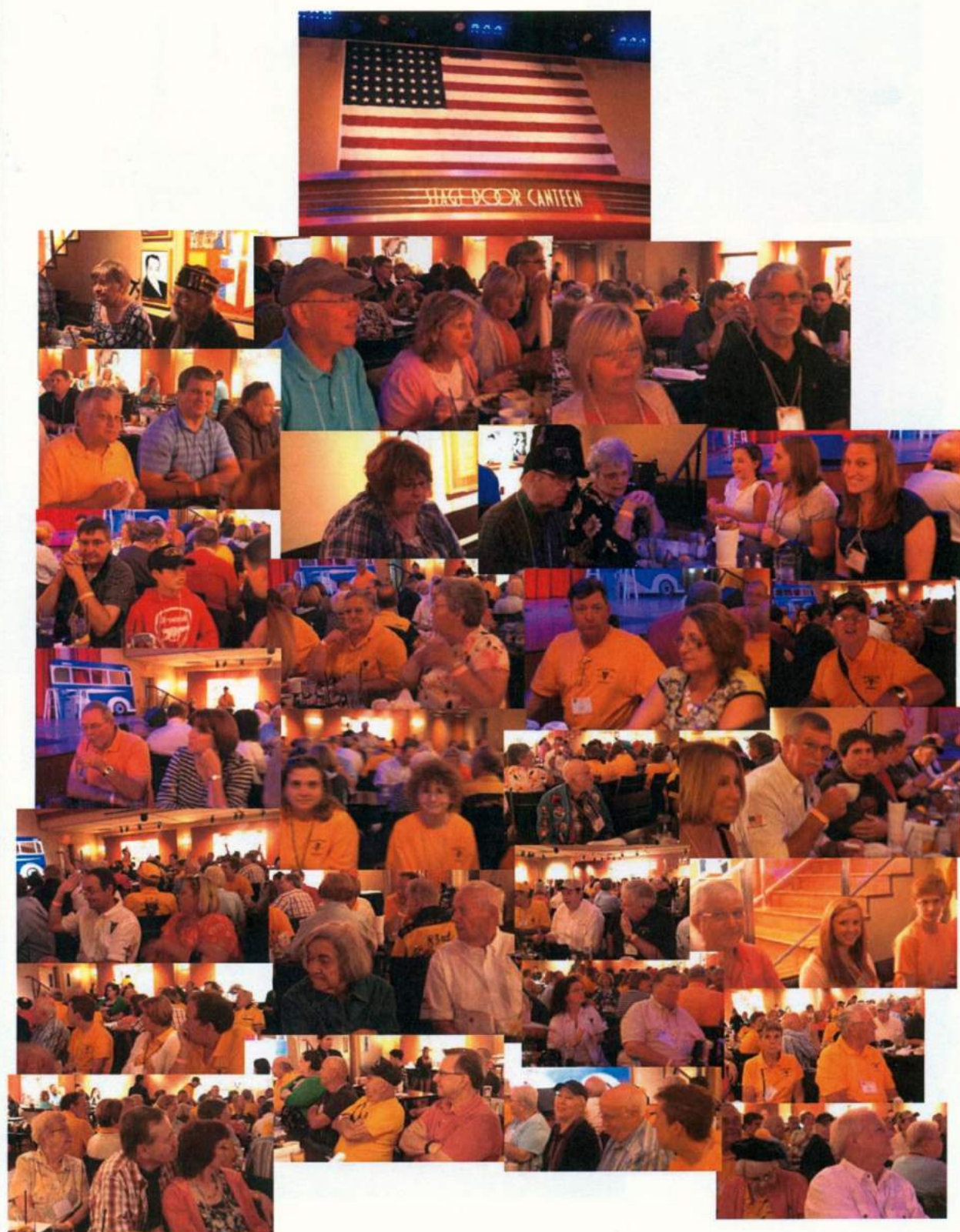
Sergeant Ralph G. Neppel





The National WWII Museum









Legion of Honor Ceremony





The Awardees





MEMORIAL SERVICE



RECEPTION





BANQUET







MISCELLANEOUS



— Thank You! —

\$40 — Ted and Nancy Hamilton

\$20 — G. Russell Whitehead

To help defray the cost of our special memorial to Sam McGill and the 329th's Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, you may send a contribution of any amount 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

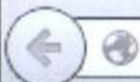
Att: McGill Plaque Fund

P.O. Box 406

Alton Bay, NH 03810-0406

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

Check out our new online home at:



www.83rdassociation.com

*Renew your membership, keep up to date on the upcoming reunion,
find useful links, with more features to come!*

Looking for a unique, special and personal gift for a loved one?

A sibling, child, a grandchild, a grandchild, grand niece or nephew? We are offering special gift memberships to the 83rd Infantry Division Association. Included in the membership is an annual subscription to the *Thunderbolt* magazine. Each gift membership will also include a certificate good for a 10% discount on the basic registration fee for the upcoming reunion!

Just fill out the application form on the back cover in your loved one's name, let us know on the form that it is a gift, and mail with a dues payment.

You may also download membership forms at

http://www.83rdassociation.com/HTML/Membership_Join.html.

A membership card and certificate with an acknowledgement
will be mailed to your loved one.

— SAVE THE DATE! —

**The 2015 Reunion will be held Louisville, Kentucky
and include a visit to Fort Knox and the
reflagged 83rd ARRTC**

July 29 – August 2, 2015

SPECIAL OFFER!

Regular members and widows — would you like a FREE special roster of the 2015 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
October 15, February 15 and May 15th***

**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 ____ Gift ____

NAME (please print) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

Company _____ Regiment _____ 83rd Division

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Descendant ____ Associate ____ Other _____ DEC14

Name of 83rd Division Member _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Gift From _____
(if applicable)

IMPORTANT

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