



★ **Normandy** ★ **Brittany** ★ **Ardenes** ★ **Rhineland** ★ **Central Europe** ★

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A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

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1949 Shelly Hughes*
1950 Julius Ansel*
1951 Walter H. Edwards, Jr.
1952 Leo Schneider*
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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

Hope this issue finds all well and sufficiently recovered from a monumental winter. Since the last reunion, I have been fitting in plans for the Louisville reunion with travelling. I actually managed to miss three weeks of some of the worst for Northern Virginia.

Before the weather took its snowy turn, Tom and I went to Baton Rouge for the induction of my late dad, Colonel Joseph Macaluso, into the LSU "Old War Skule" Hall of Honor. We had three days of banquets and ceremonies that culminated with two of my brothers (the retired Army one and the former Marine) and me walking onto the football field in "Death Valley" during the LSU/Alabama game.

In early February, I went to Tacoma/Fort Lewis, Washington for the birth of our third grandchild. Madison Arya Cook was born on February 9 and weighed in at a whopping 9 lbs. 7 oz. She is the daughter of the two active duty Army captains of our family and is a real beauty.



I spent two weeks and was in charge of walking their black lab. The weather was more like spring so I did not even need a jacket.

I returned long enough to repack for a 1 week trip to New Orleans for the wedding of one of my nieces. She was married in the Saint Louis Cathedral and had a "second line" (marching jazz band) through the French Quarter to her reception. A great time was had by all.

Then, it was back to reality and trying to finalize plans for our Louisville reunion. Our hotel is the Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport which offers free airport shuttle and does have a restaurant.

Our Thursday tour will be the Louisville Slugger Museum in the morning, lunch at Golden Corral ("all you eat" buffet) and an afternoon tour of Churchill Downs. We currently only have 1-55 passenger bus, so this will be on a "first come, first served" basis, so register early. If we receive interest beyond one bus, we will do our best to arrange additional transportation but cannot guarantee it. We were unable to include a tour of the Evan Williams distillery – the only distillery in Louisville – but it is close to the Slugger museum. We might try to run a carpool there for anyone who is interested.

Our Friday tour will be to Fort Knox. In the morning, we will visit the ARRTC, our name-sake unit. For lunch, I am working on all of us eating at the Dining Facility, previously called the Mess Hall. Our afternoon will be at the Patton Museum.

I am looking forward to this reunion and hope you are as well. Take care.

— Kathleen Macaluso Powers ▼



JOE MACALUSO'S INDUCTION INTO THE "OLE WAR SKULE" HALL OF HONOR AT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY



FROM THE EDITOR

JOHN MARKUNS

We hope you enjoy this latest edition of the *Thunderbolt* commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the 83rds actions in Belgium, and the experiences of the Hory, Dimmick and Snyder families during their visit this year. Many thanks to each and all for their contributions to this edition. You will also see in this edition an excerpt from an earlier *Thunderbolt* published in 1965. This was an edition published 25 years after the war ended. We hope to make these "re-visits" a regular feature of future *Thunderbolts*. However, you don't have to wait for the next edition to make your own "re-visits." Many thanks to George Studor, his son, Matthew, and Jelle Thys for their efforts in placing the first three decades of the old *Thunderbolts* online. They did a wonderful job. The issues are easy to access and downloadable! Please visit and enjoy at www.83rdassociation.com and click on "The *Thunderbolt*."

We also welcome contributions for the next *Thunderbolt* and those in the coming year!

One thought is to devote an issue to the story of the occupation.

We would also welcome photos and reminiscences, of reunions from decades past. We will be celebrating in this coming year, not only the 70th anniversary of the Association's founding, but the bonds forged in a terrible war that not only survived grew stronger as the greatest generation built new lives and families.

We hope to see everyone in Louisville for the 69th reunion—this reunion presents a unique opportunity to not only honor those who have served in the 83rd but also those who are serving now!!

—John Markuns, Descendant Member,
Judge Advocate and Acting Editor. ▼

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BUDDY AND FRIEND

*"for those we left behind, and the ones we lost
along the way"*

NEAREST MY HEART TO THEE

—Chuck Abdinoor B&A – Co. 330th ▼

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!

The Pleasant Grip of Comradeship

22 January, 2015

Ladies and Gentlemen of the European Chapter 83rd ID Association,

In behalf of the 83rd the descendant families of Dimmick, Hury, Kunze and Snyder wish to express our sincere appreciation for your continued efforts and support in maintaining the legacy of the 83rd and its supporting units. Once again the European Chapter contributed unselfishly to organizing, arranging, assisting, complementing, guiding, teaching, hosting and preparing descendants for a most memorable experience.

Your involvement at Normandy last June which included veterans and again in Belgium hosting descendants, this past January is a testament to the undying spirit of the WWII American soldier. You are evidence that free people can out build and out produce those who suffer domination. You are proof from adults to young school children that those bitter WWII campaigns shall not have been in vain. This means a great deal to you but also means a great deal to 83rd Veterans and their families.

Progressing into the future it is important for all of us, American and European, to remember the words of the first 83rd ID Association President James C. Hanrahan in his first message to the membership in August of 1947:

The primary mission of our association is to keep firm the friendships and fraternal companionships that had their conception at Atterbury but matured and ripened through the thorough aging of war. Within our ranks, in peace as in war, there are rich and poor; Republicans and Democrats; lawyers and laborers; farmers and factory men; Protestants, Jews, Catholics and agnostics. The patch of the 83rd is big enough to shade and merge all differences. Once a year we will meet in a physical sense at our reunions. Six times a year we will assemble through our association newspaper. For the rest of our lives I pray we will be together constantly in the pleasant grip of comradeship.

— JOHN C. HANRAHAN

Sixty eight years later, Hanrahan's words still ring true especially; "I pray we will be together constantly in the pleasant grip of comradeship."

To you all, Gods Blessings

Proud to be an 83rd Descendant, The families of Dimmick, Hury, Kunze and Snyder. ▼

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Bihain – January 1945

by Clifford W. Snyder, C Company, 330th Infantry

On the morning of 9 January, 1945, C Company was assigned the mission of capturing the road junction and bridge at Bihain, and establishing a position on the south side of the bridge. A & B Companies would then join Company C to launch an assault on Bihain. D Company would remain at The road junction supporting the attack with 81mm mortars.

I was in the the 2nd platoon of C Company. We crossed the bridge and captured a German sentry. 1st Lt. John Phillipsen, our platoon leader, spoke German fluently. He interrogated the guard and learned that 15 Germans were billeted in buildings near the bridge. The 2nd platoon was then able to capture all 15 without firing a shot. The prisoners were sent back to the Company command post and Lt. Phillipsen sent a runner to the Company Commander recommending that the remainder of C Company, and A & B Companies, should be moved forward quickly for an immediate attack on Bihain. The runner returned with the message that the rest of the battalion had not yet arrived and and that we (the 2nd platoon) should hold our positions. The first squad was stationed in a cluster of buildings to the left of the road, while the second and third squads took position in two other sets of buildings to the right of the road up to Bihain. I was in the second squad, in the building just to the right of the road. Around 10:00 a.m., a German patrol crossed a small meadow and approached the buildings held by the 3rd squad on the far right. They did not appear to know that we held the buildings and walked right up to them. The 3rd squad opened fire, killing 8, with 2 escaping back across the meadow. The 3rd squad suffered one dead, and two slightly wounded. Around 1:00 p.m., the Germans attacked down the road to-

wards the buildings held by the 1st and 2nd squads, with a Mark IV and infantry. We repulsed the attack with the support of C Company's 60mm mortars. The enemy suffered many casualties, while we had two men killed, and 4 wounded. Lt. Phillipsen send Sgt. Battershell back with the wounded and asked for support. The rest of the battalion still had not arrived and the order remained to hold our positions. We did receive 6 replacements and K rations. Lt. Phillipsen was not happy!

The night of 9 January was quiet with no attacks.

The morning of 10 January opened with light snow and heavy fog. It was bitterly cold. Around 1400, the enemy attacked with infantry and the Mark IV, supported by artillery and mortar fire. We drove them off with many casualties, while we lost two men killed and a number wounded.

At this point, Lt. Phillipsen, who was very upset, went back to company headquarters to request that we be pulled back across the bridge. He returned in an hour with 10 replacements, 3 light machine gun teams, and forward observers to control fire support from 4.2 inch chemical mortars. The best news was that the rest of the battalion had arrived and we would attack Bihain the next day. The plan was for the 60mm, 81mm, and 4.2 inch mortars to shell the southern part of Bihain for 15 minutes, beginning at 0845, with the 1st Battalion attack going in at 0900.

However, on 11 January at 0800, the Germans, following an artillery and mortar barrage, launched their own assault, with 5 tanks and 200 infantry. This force was destroyed. The 1st Battalion then completed the liberation of Bihain. ▼

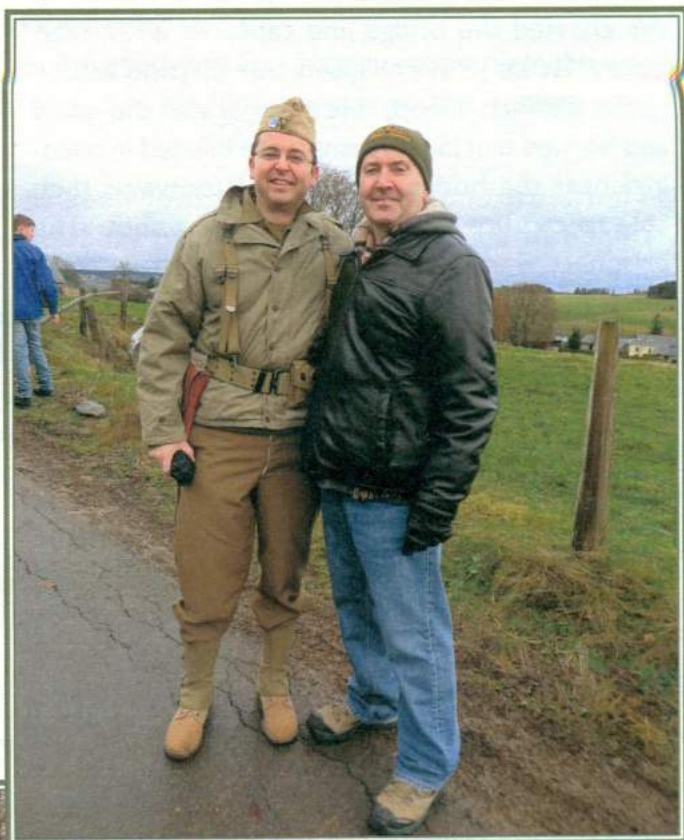


A post script

By Cliff Snyder

We had a very good time in Bihain. We went to Brussels, Amsterdam and Maastricht before that with our two friends. We arrived in the Bihain area (we were staying in Cherain about 10 minutes away) on the Thursday before the March. Had a get-together at Eddy's place, with his parents, our two friends, John Paul, and Dave and Becky. Wilfried had picked Becky up at the airport but her flight had been delayed and they didn't arrive until 11:00. Eddy's brother's and his three daughters also made a cameo appearance.

My father had wanted me to wear his uniform on the bridge at Bihain but the shirt and Eisenhower jacket were about three sizes too small. So I have several pictures of Colleen in uniform on the bridge :) I also had a narrative of my father's role in the attack (his platoon was the first in Bihain), that he had asked me to read *at the bridge*. *Wilfried has a video of this*. *Dave and Becky, Tom Hury, his wife, sister, and nephew, and Ronald Kunze* were all at the commemoration on Saturday, as well as Wilfried and John Paul. There was a large crowd, many reenactors, and military vehicles. ▼







Visit to a Belgium School

A couple weeks before I arrived in Belgium Eddy Monfort had emailed me asking if I would like to visit a group of school kids. He goes around (in his spare time, ha-ha) to local schools with a program he has put together about the Battle of the Bulge. It didn't take me long to respond in the affirmative.

On January 6, 2015 we arrive at the school in Oster, Belgium and are greeted by three teachers. We do the general greetings and introductions. I could tell this was going to be a good day.

Eddy gave his presentation and then asked me to tell the story of my father and his men in Fraiture which was 70 years ago to the minute. Eddy interpreted for me. These young men and women between the ages of 10 – 12 years of age were very attentive, mannerly and asked a lot of good questions. They really impressed me. (Which if you know me very well is kinda hard to do. ha-ha)

I completed the story and then asked them to study hard and always do their best. I told them that if they do that, the American soldiers who liberated their villages would be proud of them. They all grinned ear to ear. On the blackboard I wrote, My Wish to you - Live Happy, Live Free and Live Long. Our history lesson turned into an English lesson.

This is the 3rd generation of Belgium's who appreciate what the American soldier did for them. Life goes proudly on in Oster, Belgium.

Respectfully, Dave Dimmick



Marche of the 83rd 2015 — 70th Anniversary Edition

We have been to Bihain, Belgium twice before. Once in January 2011 with my Dad who was then 91 and again in 2012 for the opening of the 83rd Museum. We had not planned to go this year but it was the 70th anniversary and most of great Belgium, French and Dutch people we had met on these previous visits would be there. My younger sister Julie and one of her sons, Austin, (age 20) were hoping we would show them around. Then Wilfried sent us the agenda and I noticed it include the laying of a wreath in my Dad's remembrance.

Barbara and I met Julie and Austin in Paris. We spent 2 nights near the Eiffel Tower just taking Paris in. We caught a train to Brussels, luckily leaving Paris 1 hour before the terrorist attack. We rented a car in Brussels and headed to Bruges for a night (a place well worth a visit). The next day the weather was terrible. Like a hurricane in Florida but cold. We drove to the Henri Chappell American Cemetery. No one was around. Finally we noticed Dave Dimmick, Jean Paul from Normandy and Wim from Belgium/Germany off in the distance, standing in the cold and rain laying flowers at a grave. Dave had been with Wim in the Hurtgen Forest. Now it was our turn to head to the Hurtgen Forest with Wim.

Wim checked us into a great little hotel in a village near Strass. We had a wonderful dinner with Wim, Jean Paul, Wim's girlfriend and her young son. The next morning we met Wim who drove us around the Hurtgen Forest area pointing out places the 330th had been. Then we did a hike following the footsteps of the 330th attack on the Village of Strass. Wim pointed out where my Dad had probably set up his mortars and foxholes that the 330th had occupied. As we walked Wim would read from my Dad's memoirs about the Hurtgen Forest and being surrounded in Strass for 3 days. Very powerful.

That evening we drove to Roberts B & B in Bihain. The first person we met was George Patton Waters, the grandson of General Patton. Gregory DeCock and Laurent Oliver of the Belgium Re-enactors also there. We also met Ron and Rich Kunze whose father was in the 83rd.

The next morning the 83rd re-enactors from the 101st Airborne Belgium Friendly group started to arrive. They were dressed in the WW2 clothing with the 83rd patch proudly sewn on their shoulders. We followed the re-enactors to the edge of the village. We were joined by Dave Dimmick and Cliff Snyder, both officers of the 83rd Association. Cliff shared with Lt. Oliver his father's remembrance of how the village was taken and the 83rd re-enactors proceeded to follow in the footsteps of our fathers, liberating Bihain. They were joined by a Sherman Tank. I climbed inside the tank. I cannot imagine being in a tank with 5 crewmen and being shot at. We followed the troops in the liberation of Bihain; we were joined by many locals and a group of children who were being educated about WW2. More re-enactors arrived — about 200 of them — along with about 60 WW2 vehicles including Grandson Patton in his father's staff car. They had been doing a tour of the surrounding villages.

Ebay Warning

A small warning for members of this group. Someone pointed me to this eBay item <http://www.ebay.com/.../83rd-Infantry-Division-W.../131401155920> where the seller 'mtmestas' seems to sell all the documents on the website 83rdinfdivdocs.org for \$20 or so. Save yourself the money and download it for free.

Regards, Thijs

A ceremony laying a wreath at the 83rd Monument in Bihain was held. Also wreaths in remembrance of my Dad, Capt. Leo Hury and Bob Keck. Both veterans who had visited Bihain but are no longer with us. My nephew Austin laid the wreath for his grandfather. He told the crowd, "After my Grandmother passed, my Grandfather had a big hole in his heart. I believe his visit with you in 2011, the way you treated and honored him, helped to fill that hole." Such poignant words from a 20 year old. The entire group then moved about 50 yards to the 83rd Museum parking lot. There were lots of speeches in both French and English. General Patton's grandson unveiled a large plaque on the side of the museum that was the Unit Citation issued to the 1st battalion of the 330th. I remember my Dad sharing how proud he was of the Unit Citation the 3rd battalion of the 330th was received for action in the Hurtgen Forest. I am sure all the men of the 1st battalion of the 330th felt the same way.

TV Lux coverage of the event may be seen here: http://www.tvlux.be/video/bihain-commemoration-de-la-liberation_18252.html#VLVI/Pe_u/4c.facebook.

After drinks and lunch we moved to Ottre to re-dedicate the memorial to Pvt. Tannenbaum and the Massacre of Ottre. Dave D., Cliff S., Cliff's friend Patrick Osborn, my nephew Austin and I were then invited to join the "Belgium Friendly re-enactors" as they again re-created an assault on Bihain. We walked behind the re-enactors as they practiced various maneuvers and made their way to Bihain through the woods, mud, cold and rain. From time to time one of the re-enactors would walk back to us to explain the why and how of the maneuver.

That night we had a great party at Roberts B & B with a French singer leading us in songs that it seemed everyone knew — except us — but we faked it. Robert and Paule were great hosts to us all and had planned a fabulous event.

Sunday Wilfried took us to the nearby village of Fraiture. Unfortunately we were late but Eddy Monfort was waiting for us at the Church door. We were quickly ushered into the Sunday Church Service where the front row had been reserved for us. During the service Dave Dimmick gave a very moving speech and presented a "tablet" in memory of Albert Duffer. Albert Duffer was a member of the 83rd who was killed in Fraiture where Dave's Father had been wounded. After the service we went outside the Church where the "tablet" was installed on the wall. Then on to a reception in the village — more drinks and food!

Eddy invited us all to lunch at a nearby restaurant. Eric and Nellie (Jelle parents) also joined us, as did Wim and Thijs from Holland, Jean Paul and Jean Marie from Liege. The owner of the restaurant fed us "on the house" in honor of the liberation of her village.

That afternoon it was on to the Brussels airport for our trip home. It was nice to be with fellow members of the 83rd Association and terrific to see our European friends again. As usual it was a great trip and we were treated wonderfully. Special thanks to: Robert and Paule for their planning of the event and taking such good care of all of us; to Wilfried for watching over us; to Wim for our Hurtgen Forest Tour; to Eddy for the Sunday service & lunch; to the re-enactors for honoring the 83rd and to all our European friends for attending.

— Thomas Hury

Wim Doms invites any veterans or family who would like more information or a tour of the Hurtgen Forest to contact him at willem.doms@telenet.be

continued >



Dads wreath and the 83rd monument (left)

Belgium American Cemetery (below)



Assault on Bihain (below)



83rd marker (right)

83rd Unit Citation
installed on museum
wall (below)



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 Langlir 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.

continued >



Wilfried always on
the go (above)

Troops in a
tank (right)

Troops in a
foxhole (below)



Hurtgen Forest
with Wim (right)

Dessert at Dinner (below)



Dave Limmick with 83rd family
members (below)



GI's, Ya Did Good!

In December and January of 1944-45, Alphonse Monfort, Eddy Monforts father, was 11 years old when he spent 2 weeks in a cellar with his family and other civilians of Malempre, Belgium.

On 16 December, 1944 via radio the civilians of Malempre learned of the German counter offensive. Over the next several days the thunder of battle crept closer. American troops had taken up positions near the village. It became evident that the destruction of war was at hand. On 23 December the first German shells damaged the school and 2 houses.

On 24 December more American troops arrived and dug in. These troops were from the salient of St. Vith, Belgium to the East and were totally exhausted and not in good humor. They were rightly so, suspicious of everyone. Late on Christmas Eve the 2nd



SS Panzer Division attacked Malempre. By midnight the Germans occupied Malempre. On Christmas Day the villagers found Malempre swarming with hungry freezing SS troops searching houses for anything to eat or keep themselves warm with. Initially anyway, as long as the villagers gave the Germans what they wanted they were treated without harm.

On 26 December American artillery and fighter bombers began a retaliatory attack. Scores of civilians fell victim to these attacks. The bombardments were especially hard on the Germans. Much confusion turned the Germans very unpredictable and mean. Two civilians, brothers, Jules and Joseph Collignon were executed. SS troopers

cracked, threatening to kill civilians and removing them from cellars to make room for themselves.

On 3 January, 1945 Task force *Lovelady* jumped off to engage in a bitter fight to liberate Malempre. An intense artillery and mortar barrage preceded the attack. As the Task Force stormed the village the Germans made them fight house to house. By late in the day on 3 January Malempre lay in ruins. The devastation from 24 December through 3 January resulted in 69 of the villages 74 houses destroyed. The church had been hit by numerous shells and human and livestock remains lay everywhere. With tears in their eyes Malempre inhabi-

tants were removed from the cellars by liberating GI's.

Alphonse Monfort helped his family rebuild their home in Malempre, attended local schools, learned a trade, went to work, met Claudette a young lady

from a neighboring village and raised 4 children with Claudette his bride now of 48 years. They have 10 grandchildren. The Monfort family continues to reside in Malempre except for their daughter who lives a short distance away in Oster. The cost of freedom has been high but they are very appreciative of what the American soldier gave back to them.

They represent hundreds of Belgium families who pulled themselves up by their bootstraps through the ravages of war. Life went on and continues to do so into a bright future. GI's, Ya did Good!

— Dave Dimmick ▼

Address from Dave Dimmick

Preface to this address.

I wrote up this "short speech" 2 months before I arrived in Belgium and sent it to Eddy, Wim and Wilfried. This memorial idea started several years ago between Eddy Monfort and me. Wim Doms and Wilfried DeBacker joined in its support soon after. It was decided to mount a tablet at a Catholic shrine where the road split in city center of Fraiture, Belgium. It is on private property so no politics would be involved. Eddy Monfort arranged this. The dedication was originally planned to be a low key event with maybe 20 people attending. Ha! Around 100 people mostly Belgium. Eddy took the lead in arranging formalities and I think he had a lot to do with the turn out. Fast forward to Sunday 11 Jan. 2015. Eddy and I headed to church in his restored WWII vintage Dodge truck with 'A. Duffer' written on the bumper. That should have been my first clue. We arrived in Fraiture and I see all kinds of people milling around. We enter the church and are greeted by the priest who wants Becky and me to sit up front. Hey, I'm a Lutheran and I never set up front. But Becky who traveled with Jean Paul Pitou says, come on Dave. She's the only person that can tell me what to do. I look back and see many familiar faces but mostly strangers. The church is packed. Choir in balcony. It's like home, kinda. We celebrate a Catholic mass and then they ask me to make my short speech. Wilfried DeBacker interprets for me. To be honest I haven't a clue what I said except the part about what holds the church together. I was nervous and I looked up and saw rods with a hook and an eye which held the church walls together. That's it I thought. Thank You God! I tried to explain that these rods are like us from all nationalities coming together in the name of Christ and Freedom.

We mounted the tablet. The Priest blessed the tablet with Holy water and I saw a gentleman in a vintage uniform slowly reach into his coat pocket, pull out a harmonica, wet it and flawlessly played TAPS. Beautiful!! Then somewhere the American national anthem came to our ears. Still not sure where it came from. Then a few moments of silence. The harmonica guy (I nicknamed him Charlie McCoy) pulls it out again and plays Amazing Grace. Again flawlessly. I don't think there was a dry eye in the crowd. The village of Fraiture invited all of us to a wonderful reception at the village hall where regardless of language we visited. We then traveled to Baraque de Fraiture (Parkers Crossroads) for Sunday lunch at Auberge du Carrefour. The owner Bernadette treated us to a wonderful meal. On her to say "Merci!" What a morning! It's impossible to forget the compassion and hospitality we experienced.

ADDRESS FROM DAVE DIMMICK, SGT AT ARMS — 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
PLACING OF PFC ALBERT W. DUFFER MEMORIAL TABLET
SUNDAY, 11 JANUARY, 2015

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen

A sincere *Thank You* to the people of Fraiture for inviting us here today and to those Belgium and American friends who are in attendance.

Early in the morning on 6 January of 1945, 1st Platoon of I Co. 330th IR 83rd ID began their attack on the German held village of Fraiture, Belgium. They advanced cross country from the hills of Bois de Groumont north of Fraiture. They were part of *Task Force Lovelady* renamed *Task Force Stallings* which was made up

continued >

of 330th IR 83rd ID and 33rd AR of 3rd AD. (An Infantry and Tank combination that was used very successfully in many campaigns during WWII.) Combined, their task on this cloudy cold January day was to liberate and occupy the town of Fraiture from German oppression.

1st Platoon on that particular day was being led by Platoon Sgt. Charles Dimmick as their LT had been wounded in action on 3 Jan. They were down to 21 soldiers from a normal platoon size of 34. It had been a rough few days on 1st platoon. The Platoon Sgt. had made Luther Strunk scout that morning and ordered Luther to break trail through knee to thigh deep snow across open fields. The platoon had to cross these open areas quickly and Luther told me the Platoon Sgt. was poking him in the butt with his bayonet to speed them along. In the first two houses they came upon they captured 45 German prisoners. Tanks immediately joined them and after disarming and processing the POW's the platoon joined up with the 3rd Armored tanks and continued their advance into the center of town. This is when all Hell broke loose as they encountered mortar, artillery, panzerfauss, small arms and sniper fire. Taking a lower street at a Y junction to try to create a left flank of German occupation is when the Platoon Sgt. was hit by mortar fire and 20 year old PFC Albert Duffer, assistant bazooka was killed by a German sniper. PFC Arthur Jacobson and PFC

Albert Duffer were the bazooka team for I Co. since July of 1944. The only one I Co. ever had. Arthur and Albert were the best of friends. (General Macon, 83rd CO personally awarded Arthur and Albert the Bronze star for meritorious action in France for disposing of German machine gun nests in the hedgerows.) Arthur tried to warn Albert about snipers in Fraiture as they advanced with a tank. Albert's last words were, "They can't hit me." Seconds later Arthur saw his friend shot through the neck. Arthur picked up a rifle and never fired a bazooka again. Arthur continued on down the street when he heard the Company Captain hollering at some Germans in a shelled building to surrender. The Captain was alone so Arthur joined him and eventually they convinced them to surrender.

Meanwhile the Platoon Sgt. lay in the snow behind a tank with a nasty shrapnel wound in the back of his left knee that he could jam his fist into. He was bleeding pretty bad and a German sniper

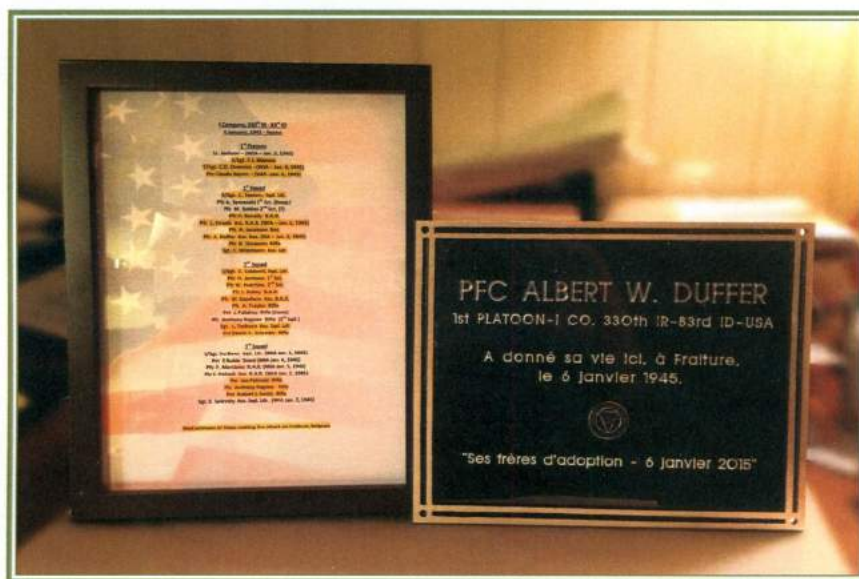


Transportation to church 1.11.15 Eddy style

was located in the church steeple so his options were not very good to get to better cover. So he wedged a canteen between his legs and stayed put. (Luther Strunk said the steeple was up when they entered the town. Don't believe it lasted very long.) Luther had been knocked down the same time the Platoon Sgt had been hit and was peppered with shrapnel. Medics grabbed him and took him to a nearby lean-to type building where they checked him out. They found no wounds just a concussion blast that shredded his clothes. As he was pinning his clothes back on he looks out a dusty cob-webbed window and tells the medics, "Hey there's an American soldier laying out there wounded behind a tank." The medic says, "Ya and those tanks have orders to move." So Luther runs out and starts pulling timbers up around this guy who turns out to be his Platoon Sgt. The Platoon Sgt tried to warn him of the sniper but it was noisy and a lot of confusion. Seconds later Luther was shot in the elbow. Both of them were taken to a makeshift aid station in the basement of a nearby house.

By nightfall, Task Force Stallings had secured the village. The Germans had reoccupied Fraiture during the German offensive beginning on 16 December 1944. Several residents of Fraiture were killed in this reoccupation by the Germans. History says only one Fraiture citizen was allowed to stay in Fraiture to care for livestock but I have also been told of a young boy hiding in a haystack that witnessed the Jan. 6th attack and survived. The toll of civilian losses should not be overshadowed by what we do here today in recognizing an American soldier. What a sacrifice these Belgium citizens also made for freedom. Remember them in your hearts also.

It was later found that the Germans had been surprised on Jan. 6th as German troops occupying the village were being staged and assembled for an attack of their own on the 7th of January. It never came to be as Task Force Stallings had liberated the town capturing around 289 German soldiers, killing at least 57 and wounding 20 more. They also destroyed German equipment, munitions and supplies in the process.



Platoon & Tablet

PFC Albert W. Duffer was unmarried and 20 years old at the time of his death. He was from the Louisville, Kentucky area. He was of Irish decent possibly 1st generation American Irish. Albert is buried in Henri Chappelle American Cemetery. Belgium citizen Wim Doms adopted his grave and has vigorously searched for more information about Albert. We cannot to this date find any living descendants for Albert. No picture has been located. Not only has Wim Doms adopted his grave but several of us have adopted Albert as a brother. A person needs to have family. Including Wim Doms are Eddy Monfort, Wilfried De Backer, Art Jacobson, Luther Strunk and myself. Maybe after hearing this story he will have more brothers and even a few sisters in his family. May God Bless his spirit.

Respectfully, Dave Dimmick

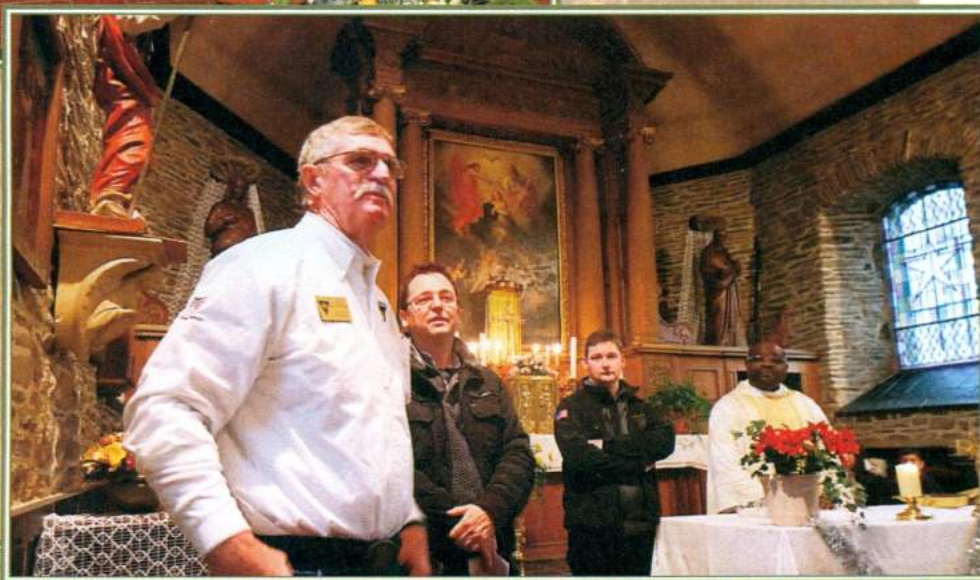
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Introduction
(above)

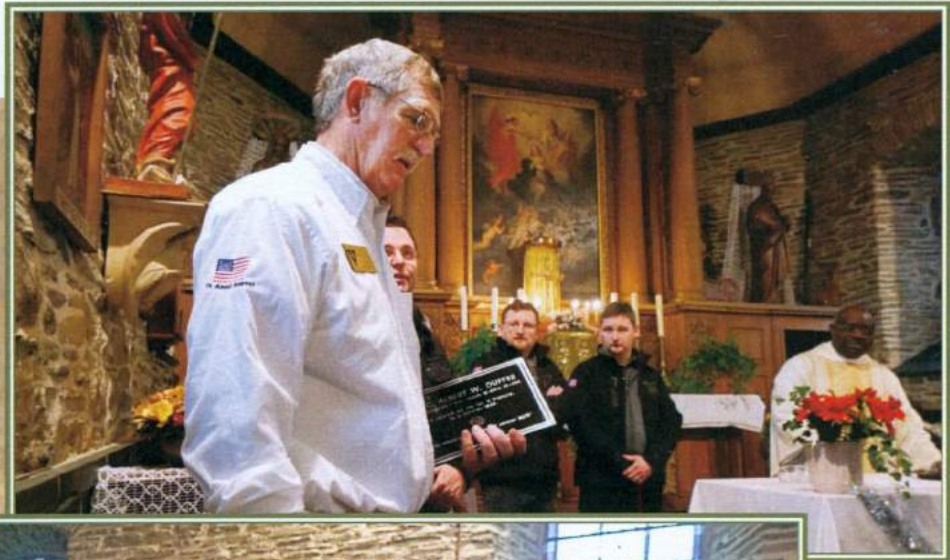
Introductions and
calling Wim up
(right)

Dave Dimmick's
introduction
(below)

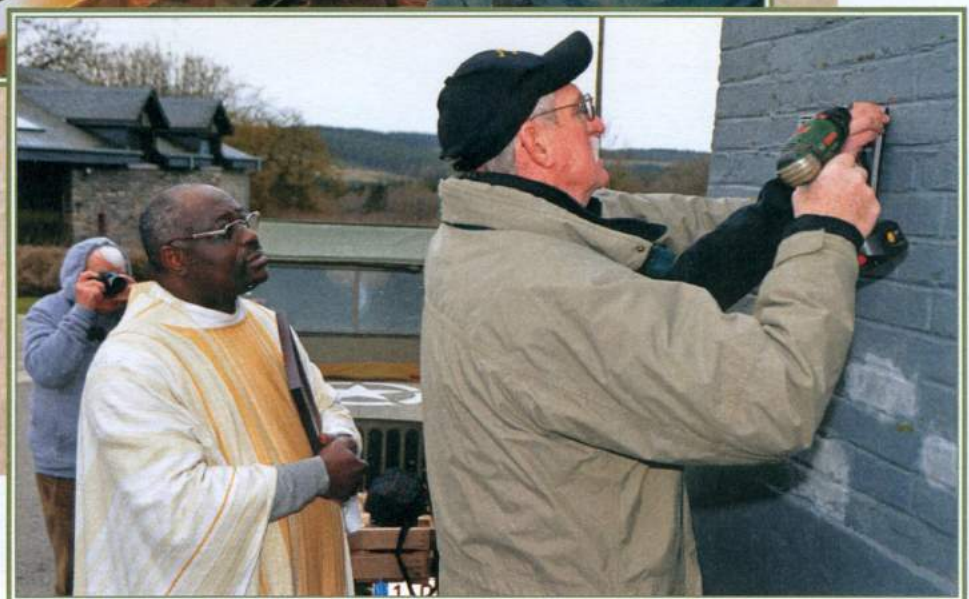


Explaining
Albert's story
(right)

Mayors speech
(below)



Mounting the
tablet with Eddy
(right)



continued >



At the Y not 25 steps
from where Albert was
hit (above)

Blessing by Priest
(left)

Taps (below)





Taps & Amazing Grace
(above)

Dave Dimmick, BB, Eddie
Monfort (left)

Alberts adopted
brothers (below)



continued >



Village of Fraiture reception
for Albert (above)

Ladies of Fraiture (right)



Thankful villager (above)

Everyone visiting (right)





Then we had Sunday lunch
(above)

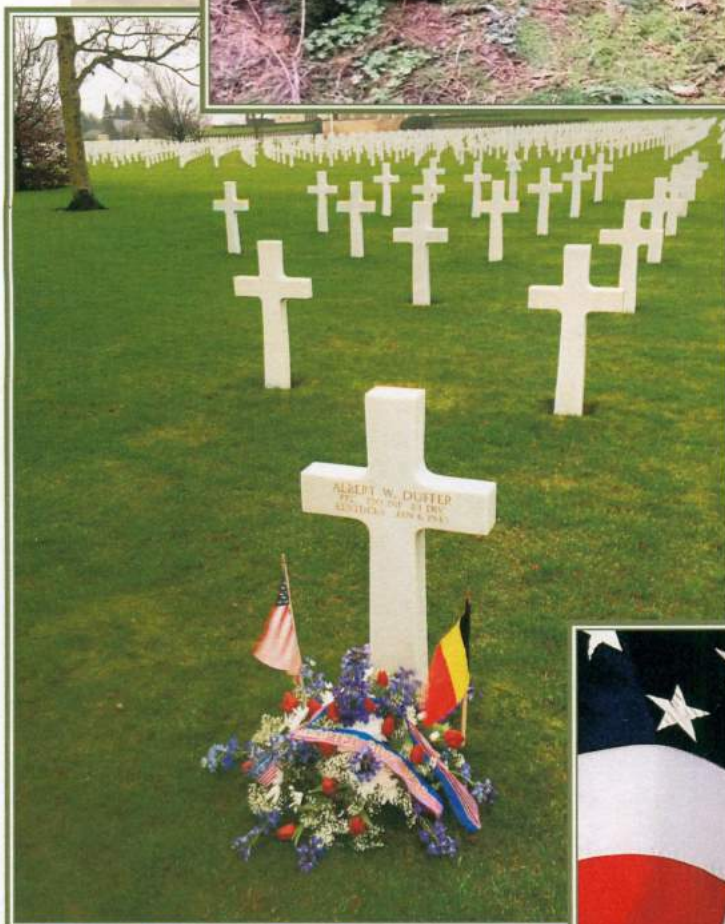


Hosted by the owner of
Auberge du Carrefour
restaurant (left)

What a beautiful morning!
(below)



continued >



You were a soldier once & young
(above)

Rest in Peace Albert (right)

You are not forgotten (below)



Wright Johnson Cotter



Wright Johnson Cotter, 91 of Galatia, died Sunday, Nov. 9, 2014, at Willowbrook in Effingham.

Mr. Cotter was born on April 22, 1923, to Maud and Sam Cotter. He married Mary Lucille Milligan of Galatia on June 24, 1947. They were married 67 years in June of this year.

Mr. Cotter was a lifelong farmer in the Galatia area. In the late '50s and early '60s he owned Cotter Chevrolet Dealership in Ridgway. Wright stayed active in buying and selling cars for many years. He loved farming, horses and working with his hands. Favorite activities were trading machinery, attending farm auctions and visiting. Mr. Cotter was a Mason and member of the American Legion.

Survivors include his wife, Lucille and four children, Thomas (Debbie) Cotter of Galatia, Dorothy (Randell) Smith of Annapolis, Susan (David) Patton of Bloomington and Timothy (Renee) Cotter of Effingham. He is also survived by nine grandchildren, Jonathan Cotter, Andrea Lannom, Christopher Smith, Randa Wilder, Steven Smith, Samuel Patton, Audra Utterback, Emily Drake and Josh Cotter and 10 great-grandchildren. Also surviving is one brother-in-law and several beloved cousins, nieces and nephews.

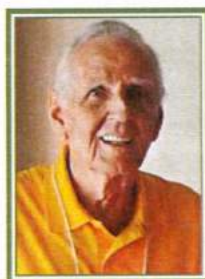
Mr. Cotter was in the Army during World War II and served his country at the Battle of the Bulge as well as many other battles. He was very proud of this and stayed involved with his fellow service members of the 83rd Infantry.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Maud and Samuel Cotter.

Visitation will be 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014, with 7 p.m. Masonic rites at Colonial Terrace Funeral Home in Eldorado. The funeral service will be at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014, at Colonial Terrace Funeral Home with interment at Durham Cemetery in Galatia with military honors. Donations may be made to Durham Cemetery, Long Branch Baptist Church, Ridgway Baptist Church or donor's choice. ▼



Stanley Peter Bielen



It is with great sadness that I share with you that my Dad passed away on Friday, January 30, 2015 at 11:00am.

My Dad was a brave soldier the last 8 months as he battled stage IV prostate cancer. He had been in the hospital for 10 days prior and came home to my house on Wednesday January 28 with Samaritan Hospice and passed away peacefully Friday morning. It had been a tough 2014 for my Dad. He began to have great pain in his neck and back, thinking it a pinched nerve or back problem. When the pain got overwhelming for him, he was admitted to the hospital in May 2014 and diagnosed with stage IV prostate cancer, bone metastasis. Dad was then in and out of the hospital and rehab centers from June to August. In August he came to live with us in Medford, NJ with the goal of getting stronger so he could go back to his house and live independently again.

Dad was able to get around in a walker and spent time on his email and facebook accounts so he could

continued >

Deceased List

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

NAME	UNIT	REPORTED BY
Stan Bielen	HQ, 331st	Joyce - Daughter
Wright Cotter	Co. F, 329th	Russ Whitehead
Paul Dillon	HQ	
John Gentile	Co. G, 331st	Anne - Daughter
Wallace L. Geyer	Co. B, 329th	Jerald - Son
William "Ed" Hammond	Co. F, 329th	Son
John Herr	Co. D, 330th	Family
Wilbur L. Johnson	Cos. K & I, 331st	Terry - Son
Wilder Charles Mathena	Co. K, 331st	Kim - Daughter
Raymond Orsene	Co. C, 331st	Ken - Son
Charles V. Williams	Co. F, 330th	

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

continued >

keep in touch with everyone. He appreciated all the calls of good wishes. As Dad got weaker, he knew he would not be able to live at his own home again. We were happy to have been able to celebrate his 90th birthday in October and will cherish our last Thanksgiving and Christmas with him. In January, Dad began to get very tired and began to have some complications. He endured many tests and procedures in the hospital. As he wished, on Wednesday, January 28, he came home with hospice care where he was surrounded with pure love. He passed peacefully on Friday, January 30. Our brave soldier...we will miss you always. Please continue to hold us up in prayer and pray that my Dad is at peace, in Heaven, with my Mom and all his loved ones. Thank you, Joyce

I have included my Dad's obituary and also a video tribute at the end of this email. If you wish you correspond with us, you may send mail or email to me. We would love to hear your stories.

Joyce McNally
19 Nelson Drive
Medford, NJ 08055

my cell phone number is 609-760-5155
my email address is joyce_mcnally@hotmail.com
My brother Ken's email address is kbielen@yahoo.com
My sister Judy's email address is biesmith@aol.com

Stanley Peter Bielen, 90, of Fords, NJ passed away peacefully on January 30, 2015. He is preceded in death by his wife Frances (Taruc) of 61 years. Born in Bayonne, NJ on Oct. 18, 1924, he was the son of Wojciech and Bronislawa (Tesniarz) Bielen. He was the beloved father of Ken, Judy and Joyce and proud father-in-law to Mary, Brent and John. He is survived by his five grandchildren, Kelly, Alex, Dylan, Emily

and Evan, and loved to be called Grandpa! He is the loving brother of Laura, and is preceded in death by his brother Bill and sister Helen.

Stanley landed on Omaha Beach on June 16, 1944 and was with the 83rd Infantry Division, 331st, 1st Battalion Headquarters, US Army. The 83rd Division (Thunderbolt) were active in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe Campaigns. He was successful business owner of Bielen Machine Co. located in Hillside, NJ. He recently attended the 67th Annual 83rd Infantry Division held in Washington, DC and attended both the 35th and 50th Anniversary of D-Day ceremonies in France. In July, 2014, he was awarded the insignia of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor by the President of the French Republic, Mr. Francois Hollande. He was a great story teller and often talked about his younger days of playing baseball. He enjoyed the game of golf, loved to travel and was a stranger to none. He was always the life of the party and made the party. Dad is most proud of being called a Hero of WWII, and recently said his greatest accomplishment was his children. He was strong in his Polish roots, a determined man, proud that he was a self-made man and always had a smile on his face.

A viewing was held on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 from 9–11 a.m., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. Viewing and Mass of Christian Burial took place at Holy Eucharist Church, 520 Medford Lakes Road, Tabernacle, NJ. Interment is at Calvary Cemetery Mausoleum, Cherry Hill, NJ.

In lieu of flowers, Stanley has requested donations be made in his memory to:

Holy Eucharist Church, 520 Medford Lakes Road, Tabernacle, NJ 08088 or you may send condolences and donations to: Joyce McNally, 19 Nelson Drive, Medford, NJ 08055

Video Tribute:

"I had a good life", my Dad said in his final days. He always had a smile, he was a stranger to none and always the life of the party. Our video tribute to our beloved Dad.

<https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/R6WQGQ96RJ589WQ3>

"I want to thank everyone for their beautiful, kind words. It means a lot to have so many caring people in our life's. To my angels who have been by my side and so comforting, I am so grateful. Yesterday, the sun was shining and today the sun was brilliant with clear blue skies." Just like Dad liked it. Here is information about my Dad's Mass of Christian burial:

Tuesday, Feb 3, 2015

Holy Eucharist Church

520 Medford Lakes Road

Tabernacle, NJ 08088

609-268-8383

9am Viewing in Chapel

11am Mass of Christian Burial

2p.m. arrive at Calvary Cemetery Mausoleum

In lieu of flowers, my dad has requested donations be made in his memory to:

Holy Eucharist Church

520 Medford Lakes Road

Tabernacle, NJ 08088

Please continue to pray for our family. Love you so much Daddy. ▼

RESERVATION REQUEST PROCEDURE

***Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport
830 Phillips Lane
Louisville, KY 40209 , United States
Ph 1-502-367 2251 Fax 1-502-363-2087***

***For reservations, please call 1-800-593-5447 or you may book directly online
through our special link:***

https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=13743017

***RATES: \$105 FOR SINGLE, DOUBLE OR QUAD PLUS STATE AND LOCAL TAX
OF 16.07%***

**REUNION DATES: Wed., July 29; Thurs., July 30; Fri., July 31; Sat., Aug. 1,
2015**

**ROOMS BLOCKED FOR THE 83rd WILL BE RELEASED JULY 10, 2015
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 10, 2015 based on availability.
Individual guest rooms must be cancelled prior to arrival by 6 p.m.**

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 10, 2015**. 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: 703-455-1853

	Price Per Person	# Of People	Total	Price Per Adult	Price Per Senior(+60)/College	Price per Child 13-18	Price per Child 6-12
■ REGISTRATION PACKAGE – ■ Registration Fee includes Saturday Night Banquet	\$95 per Person	#	\$				
Please select your entrée for SAT. BANQUET:		#	\$				
Prime Rib		#					
Pan-seared breast of chicken		#					
Thursday: Louisville Slugger Museum, All-u-can-eat buffet Golden Corral and Churchill Downs	\$ per person	#	\$	\$47	\$46	\$43	\$36 under 5 \$31
Friday: Fort Knox, lunch in Dining Hall and Patton Museum	\$ 23 per person	#	\$				
Total Amount Payable to: <u>83rd Infantry Div. Assn.</u>			\$				

Please Print:

Name (for name tag and Fort Security Check) _____ D.O.B. ____/____/____
(Veteran____) (Descendant____)

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

Street Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone # _____ Email _____

Spouse Name (for name tag) _____ D.O.B. ____/____/____

Guest Names (for name tags) _____ D.O.B. ____/____/____

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 _____

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

CK# _____ Amt _____ Date _____ 1 _____ 2 _____ Tag _____
Beef _____ Chicken _____ Spl Menu _____ Wed _____ Thurs. _____ Fri. _____



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.
WORLD WAR II

May 2015

To Our Members and Friends,

It is time to think about our 69th Reunion. Think about visiting with our veterans and their families, making new friendships and/or renewing old ones.

This letter is about the Ad book. This book is very important to the success of the reunion. When reunion time comes, we try hard to give you the best reunion at the lowest cost possible. This is made possible by your generous contributions to the Ad book.

Maybe some of you would like an ad in memory of friends, families, veterans, etc. or to advertise your business or just to say hello and good luck. The prices for the ads are still the same: full page @ \$90.00, half page @ \$50.00, third page @ \$35.00 and a quarter page @ \$25.00. Booster ads in your name or Mr. and Mrs. are only \$5.00. If you would like to have two separate names, it is an additional \$5.00.

We wish to give a special thanks to the widows who place an ad in memory of their loved ones. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

We have a **July 1st** deadline, so please, while it is fresh in your mind, sit down and write your ad, include your check and send to the Association in the enclosed addressed envelope.

Let's make this one of the best reunions ever. See you in Louisville, Kentucky, July 29th through August 2nd.

Sincerely,


Judy Breen
Financial Secretary



**69th ANNUAL REUNION
83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN.
LOUISVILLE KY.
JULY 29 - AUGUST 2, 2015**

PLEASE SELECT SIZE OF AD

FULL PAGE @	HALF PAGE @	THIRD PAGE @	QUARTER PAGE @
\$90.00	\$50.00	\$35.00	\$25.00

BOOSTER ADS ARE \$5.00

Make check payable to and sent to:

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION 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 69th Reunion.

DEADLINE - JULY 1, 2015

Please Type or Print Ad Clearly and Circle Size of Ad.

If you want your name on the ad, include it below.

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**



Greetings to the Descendants of the 83rd Infantry Division Association

Over 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. 69 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 69th Reunion to take place in Louisville, Kentucky from July 31 through August 2, 2015. All names will be listed below the name of their special veteran under the following caption:

On this the 69th Reunion of the Thunderbolt Division and as we unite with the members of the reflagged 83rd ARRTC, 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)

Thunderbolt from the 20th Anniversary Year of the European Campaign

Dear Harry,

Thank you for the reminder concerning payment of my annual dues. This could have been easily overlooked in the upheaval resulting from the recent hospitalization of my wife for the removal of a ruptured vertebral disc.

I enjoyed the brief visit I had with you at the KODAK booth in Grand Central Station in New York last April when my wife and I were there prior to our departure for Europe. I was pleased to note in the last issue of the THUNDERBOLT that you, too, had made a trip to Europe, in spite of the fact that the tour you had previously under consideration had been called off.

We went over on a Norwegian freighter, the M-S Havlom of the Meyer Line, and arrived in Antwerp, Belgium, after nine days at sea. Food and accommodations on the ship were wonderful, the sea was calm, and we enjoyed the crossing very much. We returned by air from Prestwick, Scotland, and arrived back home and broke after an absence of two months.

We traveled on our own and not as members of a tour and visited many places with names familiar to those who served with the 83rd Division. Those who remember how Aachen and Duren, for instance, looked in December 1944, would be as surprised as I was to see that scarcely any trace of war damage remains. We were also in Passau and the village of Vilshofen, in the area along the Danube River where the Division spent the summer of 1945. The towns in that part of Germany show very little, if any, change in the years that have passed. Members of the division will remember the Oberhaus and the Niederhaus on the hill across the Danube from Passau, which were used by the 83rd as clubs and places of recreation for enlisted and officer personnel.

In France, we naturally spent some time in Paris. In the Omaha beach area we stayed in Bayeux at the Hotel Lion d'Or, a very quaint place. I found many graves of men from the 83rd in the cemetery at St. Laurent, but the only name familiar to me was that of Frank Fischer, a 1st Sgt. in the 329th, whom I had known for many years. Inquiry in the cemetery office concerning about a dozen of those killed in Normandy, whom I knew, disclosed that they were not buried there; that most likely their remains had been returned to the U.S.; that those buried there represented only about 40 percent of those killed in Normandy; that approximately 60 percent had been returned to the U.S. upon the request of relatives. I am certain that anyone who has visited any of our overseas military cemeteries has been very much impressed and deeply moved by

the experience.

While in England, we went to Stoke-on-Trent to look up a family I met in Hanley in 1944. We found them still among the living and still in the same house. You may be sure they were surprised to have me walk in unannounced after twenty years, and we really made a night of it. Those who remember Keele Hall near Newcastle-under-Lyme, will probably be surprised to know it is now the site of Keele University, an engineering school. All of the quonset huts are gone and in their place are permanent buildings. The only things familiar to me on the place were the manor house, which is used for the university offices, and the pond with its swans. My visit there brought back many memories, including that of the talk made by General Patton to the officers and NCO's of the division.

The biggest change I observed in Europe and England was the change in the people. I remembered them as being poorly fed and shabbily clothed, but now they all appear to be well-fed and prosperous. As an Austrian in Innsbruck told me, it never could have been accomplished without the help of the United States.

My best to you, Harry, and thank you again.

Joseph V. Lowry
Div. Hqtrs.
3448 Byrd Drive
Indianapolis, Indiana 46227

The following article was condensed from the Emporia Kansas Times of June 11, 1964. It's about Victor L. ImMasche, formerly of Co. A-330.

After twenty years Vic ImMasche reminisces about World War II. "It almost seems like I was never there. As I look back I wonder how I ever managed to go ahead.

My daughter, Ann (who graduated from Emporia State in May), was two years old when I received my induction notice. December 7 has a particular significance for me. I was inducted on December 7, 1943, wounded in the Hurtgen Forest, Germany, on Dec. 7, 1944, and started for home on December 7, 1945.

He wasn't supposed to keep a diary but he did and took from a desk drawer a small, well worn olive drab book.

Vic's diary shows that he shipped overseas on the Queen Elizabeth on June 6, 1944 and trained in Southern England.

He headed for Omaha Beach on July 26 at which time the harbor was still full of wrecked ships and landing craft and this was six or seven weeks after D-Day.

The area held by the Allies was small but the fighting went on and, out of

Vic's group of twelve, eight were casualties.

Soon after the Fortress of St. Malo surrendered Vic's group went into the Loire River Valley, their mission to block the Germans who were driven north.

Vic's group was told by the FFI that the Germans had pulled out of the small village of Fontevrault so he and two of his buddies crossed the river and liberated the town. They were the first Allied soldiers seen since the four years of German Occupation. Needless to say, the champagne and wine that had been buried for years flowed freely.

The 83rd went into Luxembourg after this and after a bitter fight for Stromberg Hill, Vic notes that his company losses were 68.

Into Germany on December 4 the miserable weather made things very unpleasant at the aid station bringing in dead and wounded.

Vic was wounded in the Hurtgen Forest on December 7 and, in a letter to a sister of a buddy killed in action he wrote, "Frankly, Hurtgen Forest was hell. We were under mortar and artillery fire constantly along with the danger of tree bursts, in the densely wooded evergreen forest. And the weather being what it was, frostbite was a big factor also.

Vic's wife, Bernice, recalls her most poignant moment of the war; a telegram stating, "Regret that your husband, Victor L. ImMasche was wounded in Germany on December 7, you will be advised as reports of condition are received.

Vic says those of us who lived and fought together those few months will never forget them and it is well for all of us to pause occasionally and say a prayer for those who did not make it. (Editor's note: You're so right, Vic.)

The three snapshots enclosed were taken along the Loire River in 1944.

Vic suggested that a copy of Thunderbolt be sent to the following men along with the suggestion that they join the Association and pay their dues if they have not already done so. Martin Kopit, 1200 Ballard, Silver Spring, Maryland; Joe Jeff Davis, c/o Davis Motors, Boonville, Missouri; Robert Kelm, 1105 Longbrook Road, Lutherville, Maryland; and Robert Fox, Trumbauerville, Penna. (Editor's note: It will be done Vic, and thanks for the tip.)

DUE TO LACK OF SPACE WE COULD NOT PRINT ALL THE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. LOOK FOR THEM IN THE NEXT ISSUE.



Along the Loire River, 1944—2 Frenchmen, Vic ImMasche, of Emporia, Kansas; Jeff Davis, Bonnaville, Missouri, and Martin Kopit, Silver Spring, Maryland.



Liberating the village of Fontevrault, France, September, 1944.

OBITUARY

Just received notice from Frank Reichman, Oxford, New Jersey, formerly of Hq. 1st Bn.-331 that his father passed away last December 30.

We also extend our deepest sympathy to Frank at this time and hope he is bearing up under the strain like a true 83rder.

Gentlemen: Everyone is not a photographer but we're trying to bring back a few moments of nostalgia. Hope you can recognize some of these men who perhaps some of you haven't seen since the end of hostilities.



Staff Sgt. Nick Francullo in Luxembourg



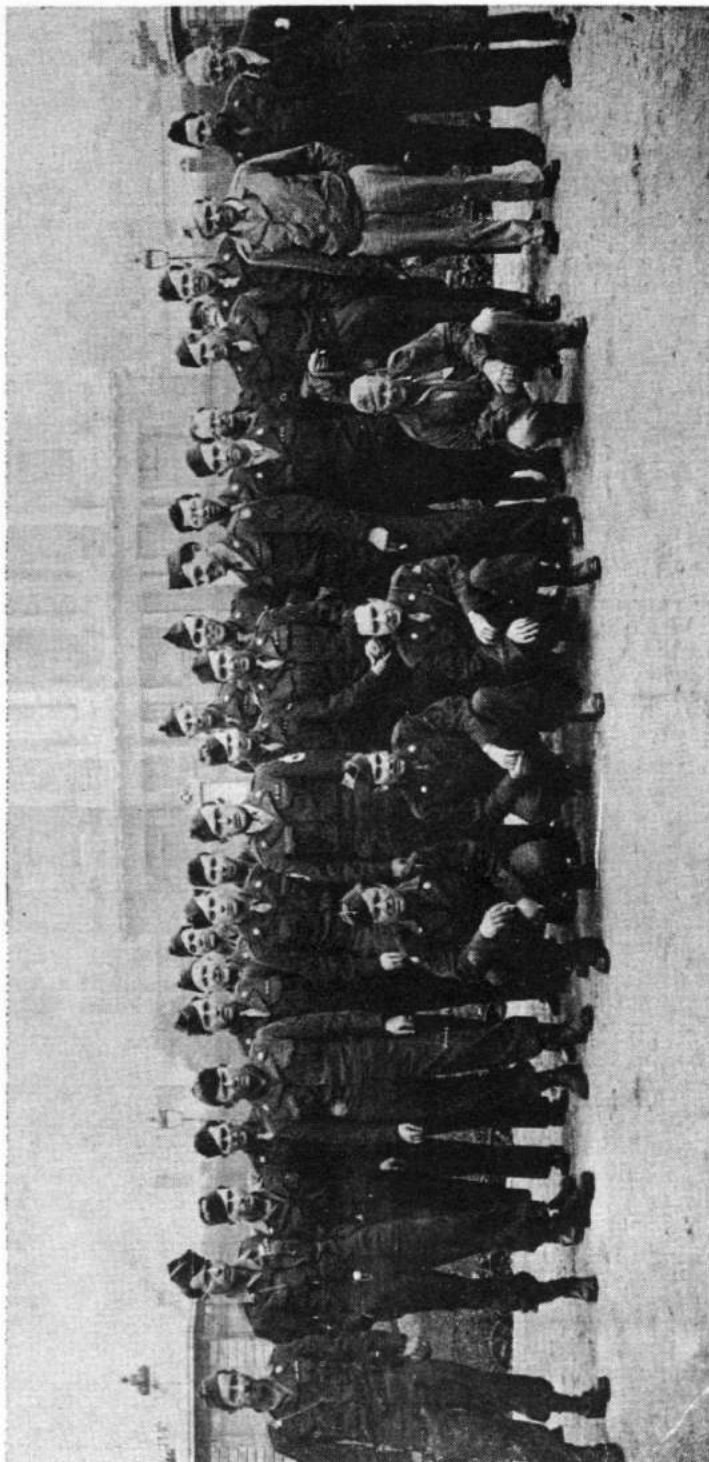
Harold Cleary, Bill Sutherland, Nick Francullo and Bill Pogels in the rear and John Cole and Burl Chronister in front.



Chow line in Luxembourg.



Hq. Co. 3rd Bn.-330 Anti-tank Platoon



This picture was taken in Paris in August or September, 1945. Among all of us there have been changes made, I'm sure, but you still may recognize yourself after all these years if you were there at that time.

It would be interesting to know just how many members of the Association are present in this picture and I'd appreciate it if you will let me know.

Harry W. Lockwood
Editor, Thunderbolt
43 Oakland Avenue
Jersey City, N. J. 07306



Landis at the Elbe in May, 1945.



Bernard Levin and Vic Landis and two Polish girls near the Rhine.

Dear Harry,

Enclosed money for \$7.50 for dues, tie tack and two decals.

Enjoy each copy of Thunderbolt and appreciate the time and effort you all put into it to keep our gang together.

Have enclosed also a picture of a memorial somewhere in Germany. Would appreciate any information anyone may have on it as several of my buddies are on the list. I know quite a few of the men have made trips back to Europe and perhaps someone has seen it.

If so, please get in touch with me.

Chester C. Morgan, Co. G-329
108 Valley View Road
Ithaca, New York



Landis and Pete Kostomite in Neuss, Germany.

"Does anyone know where this memorial was located?" (ed.)

SOLDIERS FIELD
DEDICATED TO
THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF COMPANY "G" 329th INFANTRY
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES SO YOU MIGHT HAVE A BETTER WORLD TO LIVE IN.
1ST LT. MARSHALL RAYMOND G.

T. Sgt. Naugle Robert M.	Pfc. Johnson Kenneth	Pvt. Furtado Verne
S. Sgt. Burish Ignatius	Pfc. Johnson Rufus H.	Pvt. Carman Harold
S. Sgt. Cantwell John J.	Pfc. Kinsman Ivan K.	Pvt. Kirby James R.
S. Sgt. Carbanas Norman S.	Pfc. Kohn Victor L.	Pvt. Holland Elton O.
S. Sgt. King Robert D.	Pfc. Lang Gerald L.	Pvt. Hart Eddie
S. Sgt. Kapp William	Pfc. Martell Anthony H.	Pvt. Hearn William B.
S. Sgt. Le Non Simon T.	Pfc. Mitchell Verne L.	Pvt. Hill Wren I.
S. Sgt. Lyons Jarvis L.	Pfc. Perry Benjamin J.	Pvt. Hodgson Thomas E.
S. Sgt. Saltzman Max	Pfc. Phillips Dewitt	Pvt. Holtzberg Milton
S. Sgt. Schuck Carl J.	Pfc. Rush Claude J.	Pvt. Karavides John
S. Sgt. Testado Jess H.	Pfc. Sage Jack L.	Pvt. Kuhl Raymond E.
S. Sgt. Wilson Clarence W. Jr.	Pfc. Shaffer Clotus L.	Pvt. Kelley Chester Jr.
S. Sgt. Currier Edward L.	Pfc. Sherman Elmer E.	Pvt. Lamb James R.
S. Sgt. McCutcheon Earl	Pfc. Stillwell William T.	Pvt. Mc Carney Bernard R.
T. S. Hart Elmer W.	Pfc. Thomson William E.	Pvt. Mc Rade Wesley T.
Pfc. Aitich William R.	Pvt. Allen Douglas W.	Pvt. Midgell Edward D.
Pfc. Balta Dennis T.	Pvt. Smicne Pasquale J.	Pvt. Petrucci Mattaeo
Pfc. Barchowski Walter	Pvt. Barron Phillip P.	Pvt. Peltan Charles M.
Pfc. Barnes Son	Pvt. Barrett Robert	Pvt. Rasco Tracy L.
Pfc. Bough Edward	Pvt. Becker Charles J.	Pvt. Rabson Merrill
Pfc. Brooks James G.	Pvt. Bennett Robert L.	Pvt. Rogers Clarence D.
Pfc. Caldwell Lewis	Pvt. Brandt David J.	Pvt. Sowers James L.
Pfc. Cunningham James	Pvt. Beyer Philip J.	Pvt. Sell John H.
Pfc. Dixon Raymond A.	Pvt. Byers Ralph E.	Pvt. Sigler Newton W.
Pfc. Edwards Robert L.	Pvt. Capps Jakob L.	Pvt. Simmons Harold E.
Pfc. Eidsen Donald M.	Pvt. Crasi Sam	Pvt. Spencer Omar
Pfc. Freeman Chester W.	Pvt. D'Angelo Louis	Pvt. Stevens Howard L.
Pfc. Gency Robert	Pvt. Davis John H.	Pvt. Walker Robert M.
Pfc. Gilbert David G.	Pvt. Dreesena Anthony	Pvt. Wardenburg Palmer J.
Pfc. Hart Arlo J.	Pvt. Evans Robert L.	Pvt. Wasson Taylor
Pfc. Hoops Robert	Pvt. Furaker Richard H.	Pvt. Wray Howard O.
Pfc. Jettuch John	Pvt. Fasher Golden	

Memorial somewhere in Germany.



THE ONLY THING THAT ISN'T POSSIBLE HERE IS SEEING IT ALL IN ONE DAY.

Museum Row on Main

Discover the history of the city's beginnings and its future along historic Main Street in downtown Louisville. Once known as Whiskey Row in the early days of bourbon distilling, it was recently named one of "America's Top Ten Great Streets" by the American Planning Association because of its vibrant district of museums, cultural attractions and restaurants. MuseumRowOnMain.com

Museum Row includes 9 museums within 4 walkable blocks. Show your ticket from one location at the next and receive a discount.

- Frazier History Museum
- Glassworks
- Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory
- Louisville Science Center
- Kentucky Museum of Art & Craft
- 21c Museum Hotel
- Muhammad Ali Center
- Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts
- KentuckyShow!

Kentucky Show!

If Kentucky was a movie, then KentuckyShow! would be its trailer. Start your visit to the city with a visit to the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts and experience a visual sampler of the beauty of the Bluegrass State in this multimedia experience narrated by Kentucky's own Ashley Judd. KentuckyShow.com

Glassworks

Glassworks features hot glass, flame-working and cold glass studios, where artists create their delicate crafts as well as the Vonfire Gallery, which features glass collectibles by national and international artists. You can create your own works of glass art too, with a variety of workshops and "Blow Your Own" events happening throughout the year, or pick up a glass treasure in the gift shop. LouisvilleGlassworks.com

Frazier History Museum

History comes alive at this internationally-acclaimed museum as it portrays the history, artistry and technological significance of weaponry and armor in the context of events that have shaped our country. Visitors can relive 1,000 years of historical events and meet ancestral heroes through live, costumed performers and interactive multimedia presentations. FrazierMuseum.org

Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory

Watch the makings of the legendary Louisville Slugger bat and leave with your very own sample at one of the city's most iconic attractions. New renovations include an area to hold and photograph bats used by some of baseball's greatest legends like Joe DiMaggio and Babe Ruth. SluggerMuseum.org

Muhammad Ali Center

As a boxer, Muhammad Ali brought unprecedented speed and grace to his sport, while his charm and wit changed forever what the public expected a champion to be. The Muhammad Ali Center, both a cultural attraction and an international education center, showcases this sporting legend's poetic and athletic talents while offering a timeline of the world events happening around the rise of his career. AliCenter.org

Louisville Mega Cavern

Located in a 100-acre former limestone quarry, this natural wonder is one of only six places in the world with an underground tram ride and the world's only underground zip line, Mega Zips, a two-hour experience on a series of five different zip lines, soaring 70 feet above the cavern floor. During the holidays, Mega Cavern is home to a spectacular underground light display known as Lights Under Louisville. LouisvilleMegaCavern.com

Louisville Science Center

The largest hands-on science center in Kentucky lets you experience science, mathematics, technology, physics, engineering, telecommunications and manufacturing through over 150 hands-on exhibits, IMAX films and educational fun. LouisvilleScience.org

Louisville
It's possible here.

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21c Museum Hotel

Pose with the famous red penguins and discover why this uber-cool museum is the city's epicenter of culture, activity and artistic expression. Rated the #1 hotel in the U.S. in 2010 and 2011, 21c is North America's first museum dedicated solely to collecting and exhibiting contemporary art of the 21st century. 21chotel.com

Louisville Zoo

Ride the zip line, visit the splash park and interact with the animals. The zoo's newest exhibit, Glacier Run, is a recreation of Churchill Canada, the Polar Bear Capital of the World, and mimics this imaginary gold mining town on the edge of the arctic wilderness. The final phase of the exhibit welcomed a grizzly bear and two polar bears who joined the seals and sea lions. This extraordinary exhibit not only entertains, it educates with daily animal training, enrichment demonstrations and zookeeper talks, many of which inspire visitors to make an environmental difference. LouisvilleZoo.org

Churchill Downs

You'll be hard pressed to find someone who doesn't know about the Kentucky Derby, "the most famous two minutes in sports." But most might not realize that they can still horse around throughout the year during the Fall and Spring meets, and enjoy a variety of guided tours that tell the story what makes Churchill Downs such an integral part of the equine industry and of Louisville's horseracing history. ChurchillDowns.com

Kentucky Derby Museum

Adjacent to Churchill Downs, visitors can experience the history and pageantry of the Kentucky Derby year-round. The thundering hooves of the Thoroughbreds and the excitement of the fans that arises each Derby season is beautifully captured in a 360-degree high-definition multimedia show. The museum also features interactive exhibits, memorabilia, a gift shop and a café overlooking a paddock with a resident horse. Admission to the museum includes a guided tour of Churchill Downs. DerbyMuseum.org

Urban Bourbon Trail

Get ready to savor this cultural, cocktail and culinary experience that celebrates Louisville's bourbon heritage. You can raise a glass at some of the best-stocked bourbon bars in the world, savor bourbon-inspired cuisine from some of the most creative chefs in the region and soak in over 200 years of bourbon history. Collect stamps at each location using your Urban Bourbon Trail Passport, and you'll be rewarded with a special gift. BourbonCountry.com

Fourth Street Live!

This buzzing entertainment district is just a few blocks from almost everything you want to see and do in downtown, including Museum Row on Main and many hotels.

The complex offers bars, restaurants and clubs, including Hard Rock Café, TGI Friday's and Maker's Mark Bourbon House & Lounge, as well as outdoor concerts and events. 4thStLive.com

KFC Yum! Center

Catch a game or see a show at the new KFC Yum! Center, the state-of-the-art arena that opened October 2010 in downtown Louisville. Seating 22,708 and featuring over 700,000 square feet of space, it's no wonder it's the new home of the University of Louisville men's and women's basketball programs and host to numerous concerts and other special events. KFCYumCenter.com

Waterfront Park

With 85 acres of green in the middle of downtown and grand views of the Ohio River, Waterfront Park is a playground for people of all ages. Visit the water fountains or throw a Frisbee on the Great Lawn. Rent a surrey and peddle your way to a picnic lunch. Or catch one of dozens of live shows, festivals and events that take place every year, including the famous Thunder Over Louisville. LouisvilleWaterfront.com

Belle of Louisville

Much like her days as a floating USO nightclub during WWII, the Belle offers a variety of entertaining cruises. No other river steamboat in American history has lasted as long, been to as many places, or traveled as many miles. That's one of the reasons she's a Louisville treasure, and a National Historic Landmark. She cruises the Ohio River from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Preparations are underway to celebrate her 100th birthday in 2014. BelleofLouisville.org

Trolley Hops

Have a hoppin' good time on the First Friday Gallery Hop. The downtown galleries, shops and eateries of Main and Market streets are bustling with hoppers, and offer special events and complimentary treats on hop days. LDMD.org

On the last Friday of every month, the F.A.T. Friday Trolley Hop is in full swing on historic Frankfort Avenue. Browse unique boutiques and galleries, and enjoy a meal at a locally owned bistro, pub or café. To end the day right, join your fellow Trolley Hoppers for a nightcap at one of the corridor's many nightspots. FatFridayHop.org

Ghosts of Old Louisville Tour

Enjoy a scary-good Friday night tour into the depths of the largest Victorian historic preservation district in the United States. You'll hear its haunted history from the comfort of your tour bus, while the ghosts of Louisville come alive as you roll into the past. GhostsOfOldLouisville.com

Louisville
It's possible here.

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WHEN IT COMES TO FINE DINING, LOUISVILLE BRINGS A LOT TO THE TABLE.

Kentucky is known for some mouth-watering recipes, just ask our very own Colonel Sanders. Our bourbon infused recipes will make you beg for more, and the burgoo is so good your spoon will give a standing ovation (because it's so thick, get it?) But there are a few dishes and digs that we're especially proud of, and wouldn't you know it, they're all right here in Louisville. So get your taste buds ready, because no matter what your taste, you'll find plenty here to suit your palate.

LOUISVILLE ORIGINALS



Take part in the city's unique food offerings by stepping into one (or more) of the 60 independent eateries known as Louisville Originals. These restaurants are off the "chain," encouraging Louisvillians and visitors to enjoy the culinary delights and eclectic atmosphere of eating locally. For a complete list of restaurants and a few Louisville Originals recipes visit www.louisvilleoriginals.com.

Louisville

It's possible here.

1.800.626.5646 | *Kentucky*





SPEAKING OF LOUISVILLE ORIGINALS, HERE ARE A FEW CULINARY GEMS THAT WE'RE PRETTY FAMOUS FOR.

Benedictine

With such a spread before us, we have to mention our favorite spread of all, Benedictine. Jennie Benedict, a Louisville caterer and restaurateur created this cucumber and cream cheese condiment (pinkies up for cucumber sandwiches) around the turn of the 20th Century. We've been thanking her for such delicious finger foods ever since.

The Hot Brown

First served at Louisville's Brown Hotel, the Hot Brown was originally created in 1926 by chef Fred K. Schmidt as an alternative to ham and egg late night suppers. The open-faced turkey and bacon sandwich with Mornay sauce is now a Louisville tradition with worldwide appeal.

Henry Bain Sauce

This sweet-sour-spicy beef sauce was invented by none other than (you guessed it) Henry Bain, the maitre d' at Louisville's Pendennis Club, in the early 20th century.

Although a closely guarded secret for many years, the original recipe was released by the club in 2009 and it can now be found at local gourmet stores in the Louisville area. Stock up on this savory sauce before you head home.

Bourbon Balls

Well, this is Bourbon Country after all. We've found ways to infuse our native spirit into many delicious recipes, but none quite so well-known as the bourbon ball. Over the years, everyone has added their own special touch to the recipe, but we like to think ours is the greatest. After all, we do know our bourbon. (Psst, here's a tip: you can enjoy samples of these confectionary treats when you tour some of our famous Bourbon Country distilleries.)

Derby-Pie®

With a name like Derby-Pie,® of course this delicious dessert originated in the home of the most exciting two minutes in sports. In fact, the one and only

Derby-Pie® is exclusively baked by Kern's Kitchen, and each scrumptious slice has over 50 years of Kentucky history baked right in. Made with pecans, chocolate chips and Kentucky bourbon, this rich dish is enjoyed by visitors and locals alike. You can't visit Louisville without enjoying a piece of this pie.

Mint Julep

The official drink of the Kentucky Derby since 1938, Churchill Downs makes over 120,000 Mint Juleps for Derby fans each year. And although Louisville is the best place to enjoy one of these refreshing cocktails, we're not stingy with our drink recipes. Try it for yourself, and then let some of our best mixologists create one for you when you visit.

2 oz. Kentucky Bourbon, 1tsp. sugar, ½ tsp. water, 2-3 mint sprigs, shaved ice

Fill ¾ of cup with shaved ice. Add bourbon, water and sugar. Stir gently. Add ice to fill cup. Garnish with mint sprig.

Old Fashioned

The Old Fashioned was invented in the 1800s at the Pendennis Club, a private club still in operation in Louisville. As the story goes, a guest at the bar ordered a cocktail, but warned the bartender that he didn't like bourbon. The bartender, not wanting to serve a non-bourbon drink in Bourbon Country, concocted a drink that delighted the customer and still delights to this day. Here's how you make it:

2 oz. Kentucky Bourbon, 2 dashes bitters, 1 splash water, 1 tsp sugar, 1 maraschino cherry, 1 orange wedge

Mix sugar, water and angostura bitters in an old-fashioned glass. Drop in cherry and orange wedge. Muddle into a paste, using muddler or back of spoon. Pour in bourbon, fill with ice cubes and stir.

Try these and other great bourbon creations along the Urban Bourbon Trail when you visit Louisville.

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It's possible here.

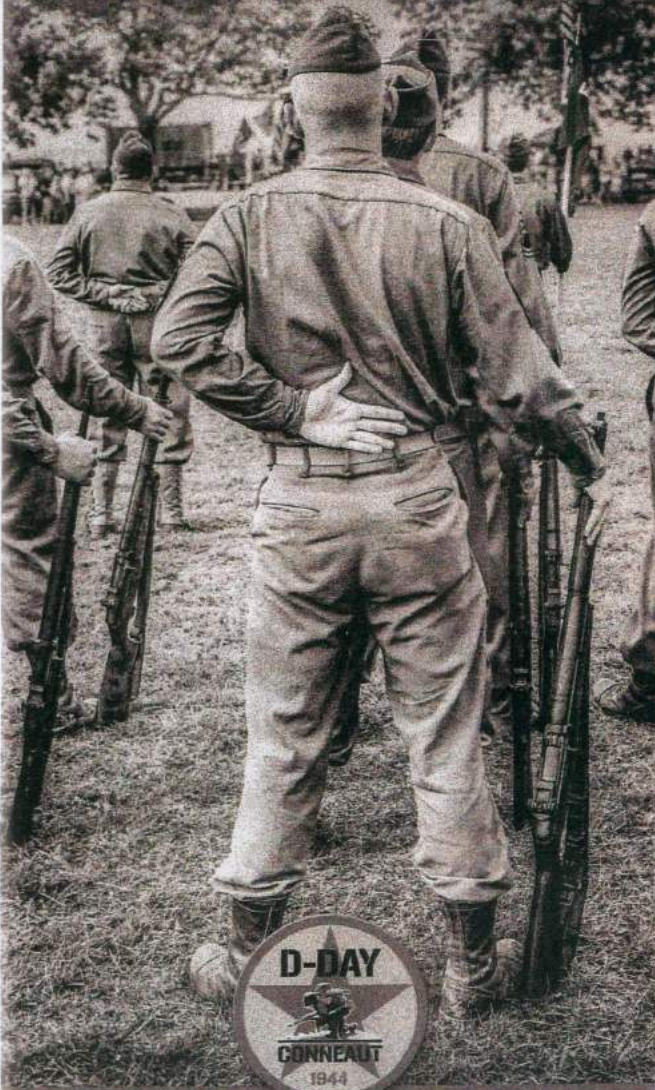

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1944 ★ 71st Anniversary of D-Day ★ 2015

D-DAY 2015

CONNEAUT AUG. 21-22

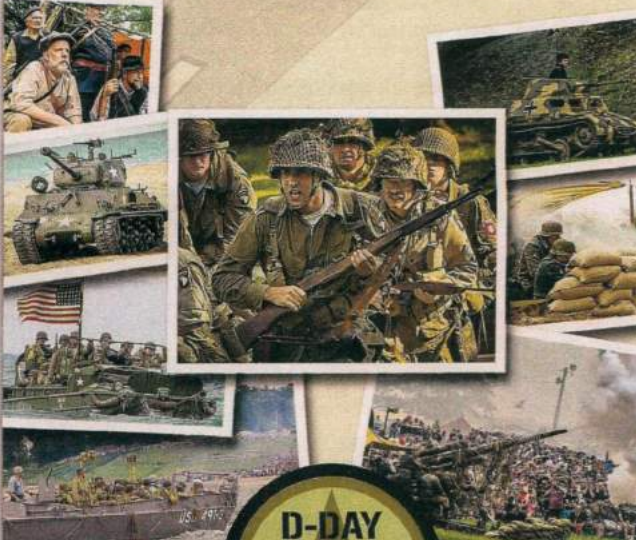

WWW.DDAYOHIO.US

1944 ★ 71st Anniversary of D-Day ★ 2015

D-DAY CONNEAUT

Experience the Largest WWII Living History Event in the U.S.

- ★ **Visit** with WWII U.S., Commonwealth, French Resistance, and German forces.
- ★ **Explore** historical exhibits and pre-invasion encampments of Allied and Axis forces and their tactical support elements.
- ★ **See** training exercises, weapons, vehicles, and living history demonstrations by over 1,000 reenactors.
- ★ **Experience** 3 unique battle recreations plus mock skirmishes by the ever diligent French Resistance forces.
- ★ **Watch** as Higgins Boats, DUKW, and LVT make amphibious landings with Allied troops to assault Axis defenses on the bluffs overlooking "Normandy" beach as military aircraft patrol overhead during the climactic battle.
- ★ **Meet WWII Veterans** and be amazed as they share their personal experiences.





Aug. 21-22
2015

Aug. 19-20
2016

WWW.DDAYOHIO.US

Conneaut
OHIO





453rd.AAA (AW) Bn.
 WW II
 E.T.O.
 NORMANDY BRITTANY
 CENTRAL EUROPE
 ARDENNES RHINELAND
 From
 The President.
 The 453rd.AAA.(AW) Bn.



May 17th 2015

Well the 453rd AAA AW Bn. Well has run dry.

The only members who I have had contact are Mike Manzo, a member of A Battery, John Loch, A member of B Battery.

WE got together to see the Movie D Day Normandy 1944. It is playing at the Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland Ohio for the next two months. Three of us are shown.

This is a great way to see the preparations for The D Day Event. I would have appreciated it more. if

There had been more Troop action to view.

There are only 9 Members of the 453rd AAA Aw Battalion that I can account for. At least that is all I can contact by Phone or Mail.

See you all in August with three of my sons and two of my Nieces.

Fred C, Pearson, Pres. Of the 453rd ANTI AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY BATTALION





April 21, 2015

Dear friend and honored Veteran of World War Two and/or Korea,

I am very proud to invite you to D-Day Conneaut 2015 and our 16th annual event! Much to my delight in 2014, 147 WWII Veterans, many coming the first time, enjoyed our historic 70th anniversary commemoration of D-Day. Beginning this year I would like to extend our welcome to Korean War Veterans as well, so they too may join in with our growing group of servicemen and women that participate in our Veterans Program. The 2015 event dates are Friday August 21st & Saturday August 22nd.

A living history event, D-Day Conneaut has become the annual gathering of those who have shared the heartaches and triumphs of war. We truly are humbled by your presence and in turn will extend every courtesy to you and do our very best to assure that your time at the event to be most memorable. Transportation to and from our veterans' parking area and within the park itself along with complimentary refreshments throughout the day will help you get around comfortably regardless of physical limitation you may have.

On Friday morning at 9AM, the event opens to the public. At 10:30, a "meet and greet" with Allied and Axis reenactors begins our veterans' program. At noon, a catered lunch will be provided for you and a guest. (RSVP) Following the luncheon and weather permitting, those that are up to it can come aboard a WWII era Higgins boat for a cruise on Lake Erie. After the cruise, veterans who would like to share their experiences in a group setting can participate in our Friday "Veterans' Recollection Program". At the end of the day, the reenactors will set the stage for the first of three recreated combat actions: The Road to Victory at Foucarville.

On Saturday our "Veterans Hospitality Tent" opens at 9AM. Many veterans come early to renew friendships from the previous day, just like the reunions of the past. At 11AM, the action begins with our second main combat scenario; "Kellam's Bridge" at La Fiere, where U.S. Paratroopers defended this strategically vital bridge from counterattacking German forces. At Noon, our "Veterans Salute", followed by our second "Veterans Recollection Program" will serve as the forum to showcase your unique experiences from across the globe or right here at home. At 3PM our event signature operation begins: the amphibious landing. There are quite a few new additions in store for 2015; notably the return of the German 88, a Stuart tank and a flamethrower.

If you are planning to attend in 2015 then I NEED TO KNOW! Please kindly contact me by phone, email or just send back to me the completed enclosed service ribbon chart and questionnaire. Once I know you are coming, I will then mail you in mid-July a Veterans schedule, event map, and instructions on how to attend the RSVP luncheon on Friday. In turn I will prepare a commemorative name-badge and welcome package for you to keep. If you would like to share your experience in service, let me know. Lastly, if you are from out of town and need help to find suitable lodging, I have a short list available for your consideration.

Please get back to me as soon as possible! Until then, I wish you good health and happiness...

Eric Montgomery - WWII Veteran Liaison - D-Day Conneaut
9841 Peach Street - Waterford PA 16441 - Phone: 412-726-6665 - Email: stitch@ddayohio.us

Veteran Program FAQ 2015

What is D-Day Conneaut? – D-Day Conneaut is a free of charge living history reenactment of the events surrounding June 6th, 1944 and the airborne and amphibious landings in Normandy France.

How long has D-Day Conneaut event taken place? – Since 1999

Why Conneaut Ohio? – The beach and surrounding grounds of Conneaut Township Park remarkably resemble Omaha Beach and the inland Normandy countryside. The city of Conneaut is only a few hours drive from the larger metropolitan areas of Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Erie, Youngstown and Buffalo and is located only a few miles north of Interstate Route 90 on the shores of Lake Erie.

Who are the reenactors? – Individuals interested in the life and times of those serving during the WWII era. Their personal collections of WWII memorabilia are assembled and displayed in fully equipped encampments and used in battle scenarios depicting both the airborne and amphibious operations of that longest day. There are also reenactors portraying life on the home front as well and those who portray notable celebrities and historical figures.

What are the event highlights? - On Friday the event opens at 9AM. Demonstrations of the weapons, training and tactics used by the allied and axis armies in Europe occur throughout the day and culminate with a crossroads checkpoint battle at 5PM. On Saturday, again the 9AM opening precedes the 11AM Bridge Battle, the WWII Veteran recollections program at noon, followed by an allied troop review at 1:30 PM. The largest amphibious recreation in the country begins at 3PM and in the evening, the event wraps up with Spaghetti Dinner followed by a USO Dance featuring a 21 piece big band! Two full days of action and education!

As a veteran, can I attend? – Absolutely! Any veteran from any area, Atlantic, Pacific or here at home is welcomed to attend. At this time special attention is being extended towards WWII and Korean War Veterans. All veterans will be recognized with a service ribbon or pin.

Are their specific events for WWII and Korean War Veterans? - YES! Our Veteran's Hospitality Tent is home to our Friday and Saturday recollections programs. The tent also serves as the assembly point for assistance in traveling to the battle scenarios, the WWII and Korean War Veteran's Luncheon (Friday) and encampment tour transportation and registration area. Seating & refreshments for you and one guest are provided by New Leaf Church. Veterans from eras beyond WWII & Korea also have a refreshment center compliments of the Conneaut American Legion located adjacent to the WWII area.

How much walking do I have to do to get around? – Very little. We have a small fleet of golf carts and handicapped vans to accommodate your needs. The event is 100% handicapped accessible. Transportation to/from the parking area and within the park itself runs continuously during event hours. Handicapped restrooms will be at the parking lot, veterans' hospitality area and throughout the park.

Who do I need to contact? – Eric Montgomery is our "WWII Veterans Liaison". He can be reached at 412-726-6665 or via email at stitch@ddayohio.us. Eric has been associated with D-Day Conneaut since 2003 and is one of our allied reenactors. He is the great nephew to twelve great uncles that served during WWII, one of which gave his life for liberty on D-Day. If you are a WWII or Korean War Veteran and plan on attending it is very important that to contact him.

— SAVE THE DATE! —

**The 2015 Reunion will be held in 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

**2016 Membership Dues (\$30)
are
Payable August 1, 2015**

****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:

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P.O. BOX 406
ALTON BAY, NH 03810-0406

Dues for 2016 are due by August 1, 2015

Renewal ____ New ____ Gift ____

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ADDRESS _____

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Company _____ Regiment _____ 83rd Division

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Descendant ____ Associate ____ Other _____ MAY15

Name of 83rd Division Member _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Gift From _____
(if applicable)

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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.