



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

VOL. 31 - NO. 2

DEC. 1975 - JAN. FEB. 1976



1944 WINTER / *Rick Fletcher*

THE THUNDERBOLT

Official Publication

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

THE THUNDERBOLT is written by and for past members of the 83rd Infantry Division, World War II and is published at 1500 Mutual Street, Pittsburgh, Pa 15204

Editor SAM KLIPPA

— STAFF REPORTERS —

MARION MUOIO 6217 Jonathon, Dearborn, Mich. 48126	DON HINZ 219 W. 11th Ave., Worthington, Minn. 56187
AMBROSE TYNNAN .. 121 Sanborn Ave., W. Rox., Mass. 02132	HAROLD DOPP .. 75 S. Cumberland Rd., Des Plaines, Ill. 06616
MANNY MARTIN .. 424 Frelove St., Fall River, Mass. 02770	JAMES BOWIE 306 Division Ave., Carlstadt, N. J. 07072
EDWARD MURPHY .. 55 Metcalf Rd., Cumberland, R. I. 02814	MILLIE KELLY 214 Organ St., N.W. Warren, Ohio 44485
M. F. BRUMBACH .. 7144 Lockwood La., Indianapolis, Ind. 46217	AL URIDEL 3784 E. 53rd St., Cleveland, Ohio 44105
FRANK McGROGAN 7236 Battersby St., Phila., Pa. 19149	EDWARD REUSS .. 10939 Highpoint Dr., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15235
JOHN PISCITELLI 1903 S. Iseminger St., Phila., Pa. 19148	JAKE L. GLENN, SR. 515 Farragut Dr., Knoxville, Tenn. 37917

— HONORARY PRESIDENTS —

RALPH G. NEPPLE, CMH

MAJ. GEN. ROBERT C. MACON

*LIEUT. GEN. CLAUDE FERENBAUGH

— LIFE MEMBERS —

*JAMES C. HANRAHAN
EDWARD J. MURPHY
LAWRENCE J. REDMOND

RALPH G. NEPPLE, CMH
*VICTOR E. LANDIS

*HARRY W. LOCKWOOD
WALTER H. EDWARDS, JR.

ROBERT T. FOSTER
*NORMAN CAMPBELL

ORGANIZATION — 1975 - 1976

President

ROBERT G. TAYLOR
231 Indian Trail Drive, Columbiaville, Mich 48421

First Vice President

DR. G. E. KEELER, D.D.S.
177 SW Driggers Ave., Port Charlotte, FL 33952

Second Vice President

JOSEPH J. PHILLIPONE
849 Bears Den Rd., Youngstown, Oh 44511

Third Vice President

WILLIAM L. APPLEBY
231 Perry St., Philadelphia, Pa 19117

Secretary - Treasurer

SAMUEL KLIPPA
1500 Mutual St., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15204

Chaplain

JOHN T. PISCITELLI
1903 S. Iseminger St., Phila., Pa. 19148

Assistant Chaplain

CASEY KOWALEC
7719 Edgewood La., Seven Hills, Ohio 44131

Judge Advocate

WILLIAM M. DOTY
53 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Ill. 60604

Service Officer

BEMIS MIKEL
4421 W. Indiana Ave., Elkhart, Ind. 46514

Historian

WILLIAM KENT O'CONNELL
183 Acre La., Hicksville, N.Y. 11801

Sergeant-at-Arms

JAKE L. GLENN, SR.
515 Farragut Ave., Knoxville, Tenn. 37917

ANDREW McKENNA
750 Kings Mountain Rd., Macon, Ga. 31204

RALPH E. MOORE
Route 4, Box 129, Reidsville, N.C. 27320

— EXECUTIVE BOARD —

CASEY SZUBSKI
8221 Bertha Ave., Parma, Ohio 44129

VITO PALAZZOLO
20000 Lancaster, Harper Woods, Mich. 48236

HAROLD H. DOPP
75 S. Cumberland Dr., Des Plaines, Ill. 60016

PAT DI GIAMMERINO
36 E. Border Rd., Malden, Mass. 02148

LOUIS VOLPI
245 Woodbine Ave., Narberth, Pa. 19072

A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS

Who Have Served Us Well

*JAMES C. HANRAHAN 1947
JACK M. STRAUS 1948
*SHELLY HUGHES 1949
*JULIUS ANSEL 1950
WALTER H. EDWARDS, JR. 1951
LEO SCHNEIDER 1952
FINLEY HEYL 1953
LAWRENCE J. REDMOND 1954-55
LT. GEN. ROBERT H. YORK 1956
*HARRY W. LOCKWOOD 1957
RAYMOND J. VORACEK 1958
CHARLES ABDINOOR 1959
*JOSEPH F. MINOTTI 1960
FRANK J. McGROGAN 1961

JOHN W. ROBINETTE 1962
MANUEL C. MARTIN 1963
JULIUS C. BOYLES 1964
SAMUEL KLIPPA 1965
WILLIAM M. DOTY 1966
ALBERT A. BELVEDERE 1967
VITO C. PALAZZOLO 1968
PAT DI GIAMMERINO 1969
CASEY SZUBSKI 1970
CHARLES ALTOMARI 1971
HAROLD H. DOPP 1972
LOUIS J. VOLPI 1973
BERNARD O. RIDDLE 1974

*Deceased

COVER STORY

The Infantryman Statue was drawn by Rick Fletcher, 308 Engineer Adjutant, from a photo sent by Sgt. Major Henderson of the Information Center at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

The monument stands before the Infantry School and is flanked by the Stars and Stripes and flags of the Fifty States.

Uniform and equipment are those of World War II and the Korean War and include helmet, canteen, cartridge belt, hand grenades, first aid packs, entrenching tool and M-1 Rifle.

The tightly drawn face is symbolic of the Infantryman with the muscular jaw set in determination and the voice can almost be heard shouting, 'FOLLOW ME!'

Rick Fletcher
308 Eng.

THE INFANTRYMAN STATUE

The 'Infantryman' Statue at Ft. Benning was the brain child of Lt. Gen. Paul L. Freeman, then commanding general of the Infantry Center. He got the idea from the Infantry Statue at Ft. Dix, N.J.

Wilbur M. Brucker, Secretary of the Army, during the Eisenhower Administration, unveiled the statue at dedication ceremonies on May 3, 1960.

Construction of the statue was accomplished by SP4 Manfred Bass of Irvington, N.J., chief sculptor and designer, and Karl H. Von Krog of Los Angeles, California, his assistant.

They began by studying various photographs of a fellow soldier taken in different poses and from different angles. A number of life-like clay models were made before Gen. Freeman approved the final position.

Polyester and glass fiber, similar to the material used in glass boats, was chosen as the foundation. Epoxy resin impregnated with bronze was selected as the outer coating.

When the actual work began, the basic plan of the steel frame was drawn on the floor and I-beams and angle irons were laid on the pattern and welded. Forming bars were then placed on the I-beams and expanded wire was placed over the forming bars, giving shape to the statue.

The head, hands and combat equipment were molded from clay, and plaster molds were constructed of these clay models. Then the oversized pieces were cast in tough plastic and attached to the armature.

Next, the frame was cleaned and sprayed with Polyester. Both fiber and Polyester were sprayed over the figure to a thickness of approximately 3/8 of an inch.

Finally, the minute details of the face, hands, and figure were hand-sculptured and the mixed epoxy and bronze were applied as an outer coat.

The man who was the model for Fort Benning's Infantryman Statue has borne out the legend under the sculpture, 'Wherever brave men fight...you will find me.'

Captain Eugene Wyles, who as an Infantry Officer Candidate here in 1959, was selected to typify an Infantry leader, is a Military Advisor in Viet Nam.

In the May 1965, edition of Newsweek Magazine, Captain Wyles is one of several Americans featured in a article titled 'U.S. Advisors: The Knife's Edge.'

The article reads in part, 'In spite of the increasing impressive concentration of U.S. Combat Units in Viet Nam, the brunt of the battle there is so far as the U.S. is concerned will continue to be borne by a relative hand full of men---the 5,000 American Advisors to the South Vietnamese Army who are poised on the very knife edge of the war.'

The Infantryman Statue which stands before the-- Infantry School, is flanked by the Stars and Stripes and the flags of the Fifty States.

Larger than life,, the sculpture depicts an Infantryman in the typical pose of leader-rifle in left hand, right one lifted in signal to his platoon and mouth open as though issuing the cry 'FOLLOW-ME.'

The Statue is the focal point of interest when the epic poem, 'I Am The Infantry,' is presented in front of the school.

A Bronze Plaque attached to the base of the statue quotes from the poem, you will find me. I am always ready...now and forever...I am the Infantry.. Queen of battle...FOLLOW ME.'



'I AM THE QUEEN OF BATTLE...FOLLOW ME.'

NOTE

Just for the record, this Thunderbolt may be coming your way late this time, not because I am behind in getting it ready, but because all of the Reporters waited until the last minute to get their news in. Not only the Reporters, but the Officers too. From what I could see in most of the Articles, they could have been sent in far in advance of the deadline. This is the afternoon of January 12th. and most of the news just got in.

The COPY was ready for a complete book twice, and each time something arrived, a change was necessary to stay within the limits of pages set by our Board Members. Now again, I have to re-do the whole setup and almost start over again.

To date, we have no report from John Piscitelli, Captain Macaloso, Col. White, and some other people that promised material for this Issue.

PROMPTNESS is needed to get the book out.

PRESIDENTS CORNER

Christmas has come and gone and once more here it is, deadline for the Thunderbolt again. Rita and I certainly do hope that your Holiday Season was as good and rewarding as ours was, and we wish that the coming year will also bring an even better life for all of the Thunderbolt families.

We spent the Holidays in Florida with our parents, our grandchildren, and our children. We were all together at Rita's parents house for Christmas Dinner and, as I said before, we had a wonderful time. Then, a couple of days later we drove to Crystal River to visit an old Company "B" 329th Buddy, Bill Rusaw, and his family. Bill and his lovely wife Georgia have promised to be in Orlando for their first 83rd Reunion come this August.

Then we went to Orlando where we met Doc and Lola Keeler at our up-coming Reunion site, the Sheraton Towers Hotel, to make arrangements for the August Festivities. Doc, the 1976 Reunion Chairman, and wife Lola are just about the best people that you could know but, unfortunately, we had little time for anything except work. In those 2½ days we put together a pretty complete program, and one which we think you will really enjoy. But to enjoy it you're going to have to be there. So come on down! Make your plans now to Vacation in Florida this coming August.

I received assurances recently that the Warren Chapter is "Alive and well and living in Ohio." Mike Skovran of Warren sent out this happy news to reassure us that their absence from Myrtle Beach was not due to any trouble within the Chapter. Personally I was glad to see that there was some concern shown about this, for I believe that in the past we have taken our Chapters for granted and not become

too concerned when they show signs of losing interest. We have lost several Chapters in the past and possibly some of the fault may lie with all of us for not showing enough concern for their problem. By the same token, if a Chapter finds itself with a problem that may threaten trouble within that particular Chapter, then it is my feeling that the Chapter should bring the problem to the attention of the National Officers. Often just a show of concern by someone will go a long way towards smoothing over a situation that might otherwise cause the gradual erosion of a Chapter.

In closing this Column, I just want to say a few words here about some sad news that we received while in Florida. While working with Doc on the Reunion, the news came from Casey Szubski about the sudden and untimely death of Al Gruber. Needless to say, it was a complete shock to us as it must also be to you. Although I was not privileged to be a close friend to Al, I was, nevertheless, well acquainted with him and considered him to be one of our Association Leaders. His passing will be felt by all of us.

Bob Taylor
President

EXECUTIVE BOARD CORNER

Since the Reunion in Myrtle Beach, we have gone through a transition period where we had to transfer equipment, money and records of the Association from Larry Redmond to Sam Klippa, our present Secretary-Treasurer.

Sam is busy bringing the Membership records up to date, so that everyone will receive their Thunderbolt and mail regularly. Bob Taylor made an 83rd Christmas Card which was very nice. He sent these out to men who are not Paid-up Members of the Association. This, together with Sam's letter, which all should have received, is showing results. The Membership is greater now than it was last year. Let's all get out and help by contacting a Buddy to sign up. We were a THOUSAND STRONG and with a little effort we will be again, and more.

Reunion plans are being formulated. Bob Taylor, President and Doc Keeler 1st. Vice President-Reunion Chairman and their wives Rita and Lola met in Orlando during the Holidays and they are coming up with some good ideas. We will give them all the help we can.

The Christmas Holidays are a time of Joy and Happiness, but I am sorry to say that for at least two of our Buddies and their families it was a sad time. First, our Buddy from the Cleveland Chapter, Casey Kowalec, had another Heart Attack a week before Christmas. Fortunately it was a mild one not connected with his Open Heart Surgery. He was home for New Years Eve and Eleanor and I spent a couple

of hours with him and Laura. It sure was good to see him up and around again.

Two days later Al Gruber of the Pittsburgh Chapter, and ex Member of the Executive Board, also had a Heart Attack. I am deeply sorry to say that Al passed away. Having been closely associated with Al and Millie for the last few years, Eleanore and I especially feel a sadness that is hard to express. Our most Heartfelt Sympathy to Millie and the family.

Year by year, our ranks are being depleted. Let us all band together and enjoy our Comradeship as much as we can for as long as we can.

Casey Szubski, Chairman
Executive Board.

MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Michigan's hope is that each and every Member of this grand 83rd family has enjoyed another Joyous Holiday Season. We wish the best of everything for all of you in 1976.

Michigan ends it's Chapter year with the Holiday Season which means that from now until the third Sunday in March things will be rather quiet. As usual, this year ended with our Christmas Party. The locale for the event was the Bourbon Street Lounge in Redford.

When Mrs. Muoio and I sought the places considered for this Outing; we asked the usual questions; What's the menu like? How much? What kind of Entertainment did they offer? Some offered more and some offered less than agreeable. All were anxious to accomodate. We were sold on Bourbon Street based on the assurance by the Hostess that the music would not be rock and roll or loud. No, the Hostess assured, she and her husband were in our age group and rock and roll was not their bag either.

To my surprise, the owner and I had much in common. He is Italian as I am, he's an ex Pennsylvanian from the Pittsburgh district as I am, and he was attached to the 83rd while in France and Germany. What all of this proves is that no matter where you go in Michigan, you will find an ex Pennsylvanian, or an ex 83rder. or someone who at one time or another was attached.

In my last report I stated that our own Vito Palazzolo headed up a musical group called the Venetian Serenaders. Vito caught the error and pestered me no end to correct it. The group is called the Neopolitan Serenaders. Sorry about this Vito. I would ask however, why not the Sicilian Seranaders? All of you are Sicilians. Or, why not the Rumpelstiltskins, since all of you are tailors? I pose the question only as a means to let all know the group consists of tailors of Sicilian extraction and not that by whatever name, Michigan is proud of you Vito.

Michigan, as I'm sure the entire Association was

saddened to learn Al Gruber passed away. Our sincerest sympathy is extended to Mrs. Gruber and family and to the Pittsburgh Chapter on their loss.

Marion Muoio
'C' 308 Eng.

FEDERAL BENEFITS FOR VETERANS AND DEPENDENTS

VA IS-1 Fact Sheet
January 1, 1975

(The following material taken from the above Fact Sheet is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office - in Washington, D.C. 20420. I have received permission to copy all or part in the Thunderbolt for any or all the benefits you may get from it. ED.)

AUTOMOBILE OR OTHER CONVEYANCES FOR VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II OR THEREAFTER, AND CURRENT SERVICEMEN

ELIGIBILITY

Veterans of World War II or thereafter, and current Servicemen with Service-connected loss, or permanent loss of use of one or both hands or feet or permanent impairment of vision of both eyes to a prescribed degree.

NATURE OF BENEFIT

Payment by VA of an amount not to exceed \$3,300 toward the purchase price of one automobile or other conveyance, excluding necessary adaptive equipment on conveyance purchased with such assistance or any subsequently acquired.

WHERE TO APPLY

Any VA Office.

COMPENSATION

For Veterans of Spanish-American War, Mexican Border Period, World War I, World War II, Korean Conflict Period, Vietnam Era and Peacetime Service with Service-connected Disabilities.

ELIGIBILITY

Veterans who were disabled by injury or disease incurred in or aggravated by active service in line of duty during wartime or peacetime service and discharged or separated under other than dishonorable conditions.

NATURE OF BENEFITS

Veterans who are found to be eligible for disability compensation are entitled to monthly payments. These range from \$32 for a 10% degree of disability to \$584 for a 100% disability rating.

COMPENSATION FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY

(A) 10 percent	\$32	(F) 60 percent	\$211
(B) 20 percent	\$59	(G) 70 percent	\$250
(C) 30 percent	\$89	(H) 80 percent	\$289
(D) 40 percent	\$122	(I) 90 percent	\$325
(E) 50 percent	\$171	Total Disability	\$584

In addition, specific rates, up to \$1,454 per month are paid when the eligible Veteran is adjudged to have suffered certain specific severe disabilities. These are all decided upon an individual basis.

ALLOWANCES FOR DEPENDENTS

Veterans whose service-connected disabilities are rated at 50 percent or more are entitled to additional allowances for dependents. The rates for 50 percent or more are payable at the same ratio that the degree of disability bears to 100 percent.

ANNUAL CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

ELIGIBILITY

Any Veteran who is entitled to receive compensation for a service-connected disability for which he wears or uses one or more prosthetic or orthopedic appliances including a wheelchair, which the VA determines tends to wear out or tear his clothing has entitlement to this benefit.

NATURE OF BENEFIT

Annual clothing allowance of \$150.

WHERE TO APPLY

Any VA Office.

PENSION

FOR VETERANS OF MEXICAN BORDER PERIOD, WORLD WAR I, WORLD WAR II, KOREAN CONFLICT PERIOD AND VIETNAM ERA WITH NON-SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITIES.

ELIGIBILITY

For wartime veterans discharged under other than dishonorable conditions after 90 or more days service (or separated from service earlier because of service-connected disability) who are permanently and totally disabled from reasons not traceable to service, nor due to willful misconduct or vicious

habits. Also Veterans 65 years of age or older are considered permanently and totally disabled.

PER

PERIODS OF WARTIME SERVICE FOR PENSION ELIGIBILITY

Mexican Border Period-May 9, 1916, to April 5, 1917, in the case of a Veteran who during such period served in Mexico, on the borders thereof, or in the waters thereto.

World War I-April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; extended to April 1, 1920, for those Veterans who served in Russia; also extended through July 1, 1921, for those Veterans who served after November 11, Veterans had at least one day of service between April 5, 1917 and November 12, 1918.

World War II-December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946.

Korean Conflict-June 27, 1950. to January 31, 1955.

Vietnam Era-August 5, 1964, to date to be determined later:

NATURE OF BENEFIT

All veterans who came on the pension rolls on or after July 1, 1960, will receive pension under the current system.

DETERMINING INCOME.

Determination of Veterans income is made by the VA and includes the income received by him (less specific exclusions) and under certain circumstances income received by his spouse.

The income cutoff figure, above which no pension is paid, is \$3,000 for a single Veteran and \$4,200 for Veterans with dependents. Basic pension payments range from \$182 monthly in the lowest brackets for a Veteran with three dependents (or \$160 monthly for a single Veteran) down to \$14 for a Veteran with one dependent (\$5 for a single Veteran) whose income is equal to the cutoff figures given before.

The size of a Veteran's estate is also a determining factor for entitlement to pension.

Certain unusual medical expenses not reimbursed by insurance, may be excluded.

(Veterans within the income limits and in need of regular aid and attendance will receive \$123 a month or if household \$49 a month in additional payments. A patient of a nursing home is considered in need of regular aid and attendance for pension purposes.)

REDUCTION WHILE HOSPITALIZED

The pension of a hospitalized Veteran without a

wife or child is reduced to an amount not in excess of \$50 a month after 2 full calendar months of care. Full pension resumes following release from the Hospital or VA Maintenance but the moneys reduced from his pension would not be recoverable.

"OLD LAW"

A Veteran who is in receipt of benefits under the "OLD LAW" pension program which was in existence prior to July 1, 1960, may continue to receive up to \$78.75 monthly if his income does not exceed \$2,600, if single, or \$3,900, if married. If the Veteran is "Housebound", the rate is \$100 a month. If the Veteran is in need of regular aid and attendance, the rate is \$135.45 monthly.

(MONTHLY PENSION RATES FOR VETERANS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM YOUR LOCAL VA OFFICE)

Rates are based on incomes ranging from \$300 to \$4,200, with the rate for a single Veteran alone starting at \$160 down to \$5; a Veteran with one dependant \$172 down to \$14; a Veteran with two dependents \$177 down to \$19 and a Veteran that has three dependents \$182 down to \$24. An applicable formula will reduce pension for every dollar of income above that shown above in \$100 increments.

HOPEFULLY, NEXT ISSUE WILL START WITH HOSPITALIZATION

(THE FOLLOWING WAS SENT TO ME BY LARRY REDMOND TO BE COPIED IN THE THUNDERBOLT FOR YOUR BENEFIT.)

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS UNITED STATES SENATE

VETERANS DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND SURVIVOR BENEFITS ACT OF 1975 Public Law 94-71 (H.R. 7767)

TITLE: To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the rates of disability compensation for disabled Veterans and to increase the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation; and for other purposes.

ANALYSIS: As enacted, Public Law 94-71:

(1) Provides a 10 percent cost of living increase in the rates of disability compensation for those Veterans rated 50 percent disabled or less and a 12 percent increase for more severely disabled Veterans rated 60 percent to totally and permanently disabled;

(2) Provides a 10 percent cost of living increase in the rates of additional compensation for dependents of Veterans whose disability is rated 50 per centum or more;

(3) Provides an increase in the annual clothing allowance of \$25 for a Veteran who because of his compensable disability wears or uses prosthetic or orthopedic appliance, including a wheelchair, which tends to wear out or tear his clothing, from \$150 to \$175;

(4) Provides that the effective date of an award of increased compensation shall be the earliest date it is ascertainable that an increase in disability occurred if the application is received within a year of such date;

(5) Provides a 12 percent cost of living increase in the rates payable for dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), for widows and children, as well as for additional allowances for those in receipt of DIC and death compensation in need of aid and attendance; and

(6) Provides for a study to be conducted by the Veteran's Administration, to be submitted by October 1, 1976, of application for dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), by widows of Veterans who had disabilities rated total and permanent at the time of death, which shall include an analysis of whether there has been a significant increase in the use of discretionary authority by the VA in claim awards.

COMPENSATION FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY

10 percent	\$35	60 percent	\$236
20 percent	\$65	70 percent	\$280
30 percent	\$98	80 percent	\$324
40 percent	\$134	90 percent	\$364
50 percent	\$188	Total Disability	\$655

DIC WIDOW RATES			
Pay Grade	Monthly	Pay Grade	Monthly
E-1	\$241	W-4	\$344
E-2	\$248	0-1	\$304
E-3	\$255	0-2	\$315
E-4	\$270	0-3	\$337
E-5	\$278	0-4	\$356
E-6	\$284	0-5	\$392
E-7	\$298	0-6	\$441
E-8	\$315	0-7	\$478
E-9	\$329	0-8	\$523
W-1	\$304	0-9	\$562
W-2	\$316	0-10	\$615
W-3	\$326		

THE ACT SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON AUGUST 1, 1976.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ON THE ABOVE MATERIAL:

CONTACT OUR SERVICE OFFICER AT:

Bemis V. Mikel - 4421 W. Indiana Ave. - Elkhart, IN.
46514

HISTORIANS CORNER

Dear Buddies:

My best wishes for a Happy and Healthy 1976.
Another year of Peace and Plenty.

I wrote to P.R.O. of the 83rd. ARCOM in Cincinnati, Ohio, but unhappily they never answered or acknowledged either my letter or the copy of the Thunderbolt I sent. "Guess you can't win them all - not even a few?"

I also wrote to the U.S. Archives for copies of pictures of the 83rd. in combat. (I did better here.) I've included their reply and have requested copies of their pictures. Every Issue from now on I will include three or four pages from the "After Action" reports sent by our General Robert C. Macon, on a daily basis, to the War Department. They are very interesting reading.

The price from the Government has gone up and this way you can have an Official History of "Our War" from the U.S. Army files.

I've also enclosed a letter from the Archives. If you personally wish any reports on the 329th., 330th., 331st., Artillery, Cavalry, Signal etc., you may request this for yourselves by writing them.

Your Historian
Wm. Kent O'Connell
M.P. Plt. Div. Hq.

Dear Mr. O'Connell:

We have located After Action reports for the 329th., 330th., and 331st. Infantry Regiments of the 83rd. Infantry Division. We also located reports of the organic or attached units such as Artillery, Cavalry, Engineer, Signal and Ordinance.

Time and personnel limitations prevent us from undertaking the excessive research necessary to make a page count of all these records. If you will select one or two of these units, listing the specific dates you are most interested in, we will make a search for the reports and inform you of the results. These documents can also be made available to you or your representatives in our research room.

We are located in the Washington National Record Center, 4205 Suitland Road, Suitland, MD, about one mile from the District of Columbia line (Southern Avenue.) Research hours are 8:00 A.M. to 4:15 P.M., Monday through Friday, except Legal Holidays.

For information pertaining to pictures for World War II units, we suggest you write to the Audio-visual Archives Division, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. 20408.

Sincerely
Janet L. Hargett
Assistant Director
General Archives Division

(This is a good chance to start collecting History.)

Dear Mr. O'Connell:

This is in reply to your letter to the National Archives which was referred to this activity for reply.

The attached caption list indicates the photographs that are available in your area of interest.

Photographs numbered with "SC" or "P" prefixes are available in only black and white.

The enclosed information sheet tells how to order Official U.S. Army photographs.

If we may be of further assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely
Richard A. Baun
LTC, SC
Commanding, U.S. Army
Audio Visual Activity

BY AUTHORITY OF A.C. OF S. OPD

Subject: Action against enemy. Reports/After Action Report.

To: Adjutant General, Washington, D.C.
(Thru Channels)

1. In compliance with par 10 (c3), AR 345-105, the following "Action Against Enemy, Reports Enemy Action Reports" is submitted covering the period In 31, July 1944.

2. a. 83rd. Infantry Division from positions southwest of Carentan attacked in its zone, seized its portion of the Corps objective.

(1) Attached Units:

802nd. TD Bn.
453rd. A.A.A. Bn. (AW)
1st. Bn. 66th. Tk. Armd. Regt. (To 5th of July
Co. A. 634th Td Bn (SP) 10 to 13, July
746th TD Bn (5th to 16th, July)
70th Tk Bn (17th to 18th, July)
Co. C 749th TD Bn (20th to 29th, July)
Co. A 813 TD Bn (SP) (17th to 29th, July)
106th Cav Sq (16th to 29th, July)
24th Cav Sq (18th to 19th, July)
Co. A & C, 87th Cal Bn (5th to 16th, July)
Co. B. 86th Cal Bn (19th to 29th, July)
400th Armd FA Bn (From 31, July)
250th FA Bn (From 31 July)

(2) Supporting Units:

188th FA Gp (Til 8th of July)
183rd FA Bn (Til 16th of July)
202nd FA Bn (17th to 22nd, July)
204th FA Bn (From 17th of July)
145th Engr Bn (From 17th of July)

b. Disposition of troops at close of period are

shown on item Number 1948, G-2, G-3 Journal, 31 July.

3. Activities: (Map Ref: France 1/50,000. Sheet PERIERS 5F/2 and 6F/1.

General Summary:

The 83rd Infantry Division continued to consolidate and improve the position south of Carentan that were taken over from the 101st Airborne Div. on 26 and 27th of June. On receipt of warning orders from VII Corps, Outline Plan was issued setting up a plan for attack to seize East - West line through the town of Sainteny. Reconnaissance and restricted patrolling were immediately initiated. The Division launched a coordinated attack at 0445, 4th of July generally astride the CARENTAN - PERIERS road with two Regiments abreast and one Battalion on the extreme right flank. Progress along the entire front was slow due to heavy machine gun and mortar fire from well prepared enemy positions. Heavy artillery and strong German tank-Infantry teams were also encountered. Several Counter-attacks were repulsed and on July 7 the town of Hotot was passed through. Heavily mined areas were cleared. The Germans unsuccessfully counter-attacked repeatedly all along the line. The Germans having been constantly pounded with our Artillery, mortar and machine gun fire were forced to withdraw from hedgerow to hedgerow.

In spite of heavy losses the Division captured Sainteny at 1855, 9 July, opening the road net to the south. VII Corps ordered an extension of Div. Zone of Action to the south, with the 9th Infantry Division on the left and the 4th Infantry Division, on the right. The Division pushed the attack but were held up by strong points at BOIS GRIMOT and CHATEAU de BOIS GRIMOT. With aid of air support and continued artillery fire, both strong points were reduced.

La LANDE fell July 11 and units entered LE MOULIN on 13 July in face of strong enemy tank and Infantry opposition. Close coordination of air, artillery, and ground troops in this engagement resulted in the defeat by this Division of the Germans tank-Infantry team. The 330th Infantry was alerted on 14 July to operate south of TRIBESOU under 9th Infantry Division.

VIII Corps assumed control of the Division on 16 July and ordered resumption of the attack. The Div. advanced to the north bank of the TAUTE RIVER and prepared for crossing to the south bank. Two attacks were made on LA VARDE Peninsula but the positions gained could not be held against German tanks since it was impossible to bring forward the supporting weapons across the ruddy river bed. The Division received instructions that D-Day and H-Hour for Operation Cobra for the 330th Infantry was 1100, 25 July and for remainder of Division was 0500, 26 July.

The 330th Infantry attacked on time and seized a

portion of St LO - PERIERS road in its sector and the town of LE MESNIL - VIGOT. The Division attacked and with enemy resistance weakening; by midnight, 27, July, units of the Division were south of the TAUTE RIVER. In continuation of the drive, the Div. advanced approximately 8 miles from its position on D-Day north of the TAUTE RIVER. On 29, July, the Division was ordered into Corps Reserve and took up defensive position on the Division objective south of FEUGERES awaiting orders for further operations.

1 July 1944

At this time the 83rd. Infantry Division was assigned to the VIII Corps. The Division CP was established north of CARENTAN (T 40 3842) with combat elements of the Division deployed astride the CARENTAN - PERIERS road in defensive positions previously taken over from the 101st Airborne Div. Since these positions were to be the jump-off line in any attack undertaken by the Division, all efforts were directed toward their consolidation and improvement for the support of offensive actions.

A warning order was received from VII Corps at 1130. This order directed the Division to launch an attack on 3 July in coordination with other units of the Corps (See Item 504, G-2, G-3 Journal, 1 July 1944.)

Throughout the day, the enemy made constant efforts to place artillery fire on the front line positions, and vital points in the Communication net. Counter-battery by our own Artillery allowed preparations for the attack to continue. Most of the day was devoted to training in the Regiments in the employment of tanks and Infantry as an organized team.

2 July 1944

In accordance with orders of first United States Army, the Division was relieved from assignment to VIII Corps and placed under the control of VII Corp. With VII Corps Warning Order as a basis, Outline Plan No. 1, 83rd Infantry Division, was issued (See Item 51, G-2, G-3 Journal July 1944). The plan was developed on information furnished by the 101st Airborne Division and that obtained from our patrols concerning enemy activity in rear of hostile front line.

At 0945, the Division was notified by VII Corps that the attack scheduled for 3, July would be delayed one day. At 1445 the Division issued Change 1 to outline Plan No. 1 notifying subordinate units of the change in dates. Field Order No. 4, VII Corp, was also received which confirmed verbal order of the Commanding General, VII Corps for the attack.

There was some increase in Artillery Activity during the day while the Division maintained its defensive positions. Outposts spotted enemy tanks attempting to concentrate near the front. Artillery

fire was brought to bear, forcing the tanks to disperse.

A program was initiated to rotate periodically front line and reserve battalions in order that all units might have opportunity for necessary training. In view of future operations, river crossings were practiced.

3 July 1944

Filed order No. 3, 83rd. Infantry Division, was issued at 1000 (See Item 152, G-2, G-3 Journal, 3 July 1944) confirming outline plan No. 1 as amended by change No. 1.

The Division continued to occupy its defensive positions and intensified reconnaissance by patrols. Increased enemy patrol activity was noticed along the entire front.

All units of the Division made final preparations for the attack on 4 July.

4 July 1944

After a fifteen minute preparation by organic and supporting artillery, the 83rd. Infantry Div. began its first coordinated attack at 0445. The Div. sector extended along the PERIERS-CARENTAN road which was to be the axis of advance. Two regiments abreast began the assault with one battalion of the reserve regiment on the extreme right flank in the vicinity of LES BALERIES (T 3481). Despite heavy concentrations of enemy automatic weapons and mortar fire from well prepared positions, the assault elements moved forward, exerting pressure all along the line. Heavy fighting continued until dark when positions were consolidated.

Prisoners captured during the first assault indicated that the 83rd. Infantry Division was opposed by the 17th SS Division of the 6th Parachute Regiment.

5 July 1944

Field Order No. 4, 83rd. Infantry Division (See Item 561½, G-2, G-3 Journal, 5 July 1944) issued at 0110 set 0900 as H-Hour for resumption of the previous days operations. The renewed advance jumped off on time. Resisting with all available means, the enemy made increased use of his artillery in an effort to stem the attack.

Although progress was very slow, parts of the 329th had reached their initial objective by 1730 and had secured a line running from (T 358791) to (T 353794). In the latter part of the evening the enemy made several attempts to counter-attack along the left flank of the Division, but the Infantry, utilizing artillery in close support repelled all efforts to dislodge them and the enemy was forced to retire.

In the meantime the 330th. Infantry had continued to move forward slowly in their zone. Fighting

into the darkness they reached their objective at approximately 2230 and assumed a defensive position for the night.

The Division Command Post at CARENTAN (T 3784) was closed and new Command Post was opened at (T 872 829) Southwest of CARENTAN, at 1200.

Oral instructions were received from the Commanding General, VII Corps, ordering the Division to consolidate its present positions and prepare to resume the attack after 1200, 6 July, in accordance with Field Order No. 4, VII Corps.

6 July 1944

At 0300 a conference was held by the Commanding Generals of the 83rd and the 4th Infantry Divisions. Plans were discussed for the movement of the 12th Infantry Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division into the area held by the 331st Infantry (See Item 735, G-2, G-3 Journal, 6 July 1944.)

At 1500 an order was issued to all units which postponed the operations scheduled for the afternoon. A Warning Order was also issued with an overlay giving the plan for an attack to take place on the morning of 7 July (See Item 890, G-2, G-3 Journal, 6 July 1944.)

The front line elements maintained their positions and kept enemy patrolling at a minimum, while making ready for the following morning. There was some exchange of small arms fire, but for the most part activity was confined to harassing and counter-battery artillery fire.

7 July 1944

Operations Memorandum No. 30, VII Corps, confirming oral order previously issued by the Commanding General of the Corps, directed the Division to attack at 0645 on 7 July (See Item 961, G-2, G-3 Journal, 7 July 1944.) Details for the Division plan of attack were worked out and issued orally to subordinate commanders by the Division Commander (See Item 1051, G-2, G-3 Journal, 7 July 1944.) Weather conditions caused cancellation of air missions and the support phase of the attack was undertaken solely by the Division and supporting artillery.

On the right flank the attack went according to plan, with the 329th Infantry jumping off on time. On the left flank, however, the determination of the German counter-attack increased with each successive attempt.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Please refer all your History questions to William Kent O'Connell, 183 Acre Lane, Hicksville, NY 11801. He will be glad to answer them for you.

**SERVICE OFFICER
REPORTS**

As Service Officer of the 83rd. Inf. Div. Assoc. Inc., I will do my very best to help in your service work or needs, and also for your dependants as well. First thing I would like to bring out is, those of you who have never filed a Claim for V.A. benefits, I would suggest that you check and see what you have for medical and service records at St. Louis, Missouri.

As you may already know, there was a fire in the V.A. Records Center and maybe these records are burned. So, I suggest that this be checked on.

Send to:

Military Personnel Records Center
(Military Personnel Records)
9700 Page Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63123

If the answer you get back shows that they were burned, then I would suggest that you start writing letters to your Buddies and Relatives to get letters to verify what happened and where, then go and get these Notorized or made into legal documents. Also, any old letters that you may have, or can get, that you sent home when you were sick or injured in line of duty in the service, will prove a claim.

Think -- if it is not done while we are here, it will be hard for a widow or dependant to file a claim and prove their case later.

Lets stop and check on our medical and service records before it is too late.

Very Truly Yours
Bemis V. Mikel
Service Officer

(To my knowledge, this is the first time that the 83rd. has someone among its membership to give them representation for V.A. Claims. Also, Bemis was looking for information on getting another 83rd. History Book. For the benefit of all those that have asked me the same question, I just don't know. It was said that Captain Edwards had some for sale but this was never verified to me.) ED.

**ATTENTION!
CANNON CO. 330TH. INF.**

(The following letter was sent to Larry Redmond on July 23, 1974 and received here on July 9, 1975. It is a PLEA for your help and I wish you will try to send any information to Mrs. Barclay right away.)

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you to see if you can help find the following men that are needed to help prove my husband's claim to the V.A. He was with Cn. Co. of the 330th. Infantry. We need information from Chas.

Manopace, P.F.C. Walker, P.F.C. Michael Greason, P.F.C. Bert Tulijeske, Murray Kalladizna or any other comrades who can remember P.F.C. Melvin Barclay, who was injured on the left side of his head when a shell burst near them while fighting hand-to-hand combat.

I would appreciate any help you can give us, as I am a Cripple too. I got 25 affidavits to prove my husband has been sick since he returned home, but we need proof from these men.

PLEASE HELP US!!

Mrs. Melvin Barclay
Wife and Guardian
Helen L. Barclay
6137 Yucatan Drive
Orlando, Florida

Get out your pencils, fellows, and help out this Buddy of yours! ED.

Sam:

No complaints about receiving the Thunderbolt. Unable to attend Reunion this year due to moving. My new address after August 1st. will be:

Russell E. Davy
539 - 3rd. St. NE
New Philadelphia, OH 44663

All you 'C' 908 F.A. guys, mark this down in your address books.

Leo Jereb of the 4th. Inf. Div. Assoc. wrote to compliment us on our new Thunderbolt and wanted questions answered concerning matters pertaining to the Publication and duties of the Historian. Leo is the Editor of 'Ivy Leaves', the 4th. Division news publication. We both agreed that the exchange of books between Associations is helpful in many ways and should continue.

Michael Brick of the 908th. F.A. has been doing quite a job in getting the boys of the 908 together. He gives much of the credit to Manny Goodridge as Manny has been keeping their Roster up to date for many years. Mike sent a donation to the Assoc. in return for some writing paper and envelopes. The 908 should be well represented in Florida next year, and all because guys like Mike and Manny really care about their Buddies and enjoy seeing them each year.

All of you that enjoy seeing new faces each year should pay heed to what these guys are doing and get the same enjoyment out of seeing your Buddies as they do. Think about it! Write to your Buddy.

HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE NOT ASKED YOUR BUDDIES TO PAY THEIR DUES FOR 1975-76? DID YOU PASS ALONG THE MEMBERSHIP LETTER THAT WAS SENT TO YOU? HELP US - TO GET OVER THE 'THOUSAND MARK' AGAIN.

CLEVELAND CHAPTER REPORT

The Cleveland Chapter wishes a Healthy and Happy New Year to all 'T Bolts' and their families.

The Earl Lindseys announced the arrival of a new grand daughter; that doesn't leave too many of our Members without grand children; Congradulations folks.

Our October Meeting was held at Bill and Alma Herhuths home, much was discussed about the coming Reunion at Orlando, Florida. Bill and Alma once again laid out all the goodies to make the day enjoyable for all that attended. The guys got a Poker game going and nobody wanted to quit until most of the food and booze was gone.

The November Meeting was held at Joe and Julie Lanzas home and as you guessed, that was another blast. Joe made enough home made spaghetti to fill a bath tub and Julies eyes popped out when she saw it all disappear. Joe kept the Dago Red flowing, making sure that everyone had a full glass at all times, and I need not tell you that there were a lot of happy faces that day.

November was also the Wedding of Earl Lindsey Jr. and that too was a Gala Affair. You can tell that the guys are getting old when with good music playing, they stand up at the Bar and tap their toes. The Wedding proved to be a real nice affair; Earl promised that this time he would have the music there on time. Food and refreshments were once again just super, and we did our share of eating and drinking.

We rounded out the year with our Annual Christmas Party and Spirits Raffle. Walt and Mary Meczka once again took charge, Walt with his usual good job with the Raffle, and Mary and the women with the kitchen. To say that it was an enjoyable day is putting it mildly, everyone swapped Christmas Gifts and the spirit of the day was felt by all of us!

By now everyone knows that my wife Eleanor is the possessor of a Pace Maker, she's doing O.K. so far, the thing is working. She is back on her part time job at the Hospital, can't hold her down, has to be on the go all the time. She never suspected a Bum Heart until the Doc suggested a Cardiogram, that did it, two hours later she was in Intensive Care awaiting the insertion the next day (of the Pace Maker.) You can guess that this shook me up quite a bit, as I had no inkling of her condition; how could I if she herself had no warning at all. Hell, she was the subject of a Seminar held after the Operation.

We are looking forward to the '76 Reunion, hope we can get up a plane load between Chapters. These are just some of the things we have in the fire. Hope to see all of you there.

Casey Kowalec paid me a visit tonight to inform me that his son John had a narrow escape from what could have been a serious injury. Seems that John tangled with a car, on his bicycle. He got a few

bruises, but is O.K. The driver was more worse for the wear, because he has a twelve year son at home. As far as the Kowalecs, it means just another gray hair.

Casey also suggested another Mid-winter Outdoor Picnic such as we had last February, minus the Deer Stew. Seems that our great white hunters, Lindsey and Balcerzak spent a few days in Pennsylvania and came back with an empty gut, smelling of spirits, and no Deer. We'll have some sort of hot meal for the folks, some good 'Ole Slum Gullion', throw everything in the pot, maybe a few Ox Tails etc. Hell, when it's cold, nobody can tell if it's good or not. Besides, we'll have them well fortified before meal time.

(LATE FLASH. CASEY KOWALEC CONFINED AGAIN WITH ANOTHER HEART ATTACK.) Laura said that he was in the Intensive Care Unit. While on the horn, calling all Members, finally got in touch with Mary Meczka, she told me WALTER WAS ALSO IN THE HOSPITAL! He is coming home tomorrow. Casey is now in his room, (step down) and getting along O.K., will be in the Hospital for another three weeks. Get well real quick fellas, we need you around for a long time. Once again, God Bless.

Al Uride!

Cn. Co. 329th. Inf.

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

Hi Buddies:

Here it is the start of a NEW YEAR and the first news we have is bad. I still can't believe that Al Gruber passed away. We all know the Association is really going to miss him. He has been one of the main Cog-Wheels of our gang. We all want to express our deepest sympathy to Millie and their family. I know it will be a great loss to them also.

Joe DePeri and his wife became proud grand parents on October 5th. when a cute little number by the name of Jennifer came into the world. Congradulations to the proud parents.

The Dave Benicks daughter, Donna, was married on December 21st. Everybody had a great time at the Wedding. The last I heard, Dave was still at the Reception having a Ball.

Our last couple of Meetings have been very good, with quite a few of the boys bringing their wives. Some of the gang will be going to the New Years Party at the V.F.W.

Well gang, I really don't have much to say, although I do miss getting a Thunderbolt before Christmas.

Take Care - God Bless you all, and remember what I keep saying: Have a good time now, because it's later than you think.

Jim Bowie

'B' 330th. Inf.

(I'M sorry Jim, But I don't remember getting a Thunderbolt before Christmas. We used to have a November 10 deadline (or somewhere around there) and I used to get my book about the end of January, or the first week in February.) ED.

CHICAGO CHAPTER NEWS

Hi Buddies:

Well, its time for another report from the old Windy City. We had our Installation Meeting at the Kenilworth Inn in Chicago Suburb instead of up in Wisconsin with our new President, Clem Stemplewski. It was Clems misfortune to get a case of Pneumonia so we had to cancel our trip to Wisconsin much to Clems chagrin and that of the entire Chicago Chapter. We really have a Ball in Wisconsin.

Our Installation Meeting was a real success. We had 17 Members in attendance - two of them being the Joe Adams' - our new Members who joined us in Myrtle Beach. They were responsible for our finding the Kenilworth Inn. New Members really help a Chapter get their Meetings going in high gear.

Received a letter from our National President, Bob Taylor, and I will be sending him some suggestions for Orlando as he requested. If, by chance, any of you have an idea or suggestions regarding the Reunion, let either your Board Members or President know now.

Really enjoyed the last Issue of the Thunderbolt and all the raves about our Myrtle Beach Reunion. The Dixie Chapter really deserved all the praise it received.

It seems we are all in accord about a few things; one of them being of prime importance - getting our Membership up over the 1,000 Mark again. It will be no easy job but if we all really try, we can do something about it. Let's all try to get atleast one new Member to join. Even if we have to pay the \$6.00 out of our Chapter Dues or out of our own pockets.

Now to get around to another subject that was brought up in the Thunderbolt. It seems that the cost of the Landmark Hotel hit us hard. I agree with you that it hit hard but your Board Members and your President did their level best to keep things down as low as they could. Believe me, we really go over everything at our May Meetings just prior to the Reunion.

Gentlemen, as a Board Member, I would like to make a request to one and all of the 83rd. Infantry Division Association. If in any way possible you can get something for our Orlando Reunion, please don't hesitate to do so. As you all know, this is a Board-run Affair and not a Chapter one, so help from one and all would be appreciated.

Now, in closing, may we in Chicago, wish you all A VERY HAPPY THANKSGIVING and how about an early MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our 83rd Buddies.

Your Chicago Reporter - Harold Dopp

(The reason the Good Wishes are published at this time is because for some reason, Harold sent his Article in very early. Again, the deadlines are: Sept. 10 - Jan. 10 - Apr. 10 and June 10.)

THE ABOVE DEADLINES CAN BE CHANGED ANY TIME.

PITTSBURGH CHAPTER REPORT

Our Annual Christmas Party has come and gone. It was so nice seeing everyone and all the glitter; puts you in the spirit of things. We would like to Thank our Members for their efforts and hard work on such a great Party. Each couple received a Fruit Cake and a Crystal Syrup Server, just beautiful. The good food and wonderful people closed our 1975 Activities. We shall look forward to our Spring Dance, coming up in May.

We wish to Welcome our new Member Charles Arnold of Company 'A' 331st. Infantry. Our sincere Sympathy on the death of Wilbert Wilson, one of our Chapter Members. He will be missed by all of us and our Heartfelt Sympathy to his family.

Also, we wish to extend our Sympathy to Frances Alicandri on the death of her mother.

We seem to have a number of casualties this Issue. Our Secretary-Treasurer, Al Gruber was Hospitalized for several weeks with his Heart. He attended the Christmas Party and looks great after he lost quite a few pounds. He has a few more to go yet and we wish him all good luck. Also, Sam Klippa was Hospitalized for a week in Hawaii and had to cut his Vacation short. He was at the Party in grand style. John Guzik had eye surgery and everything is fine with him. He's back to normal already.

Another Member, Charles Navish, had a Mild Heart Attack, also a hard man to hold down. He attended the Party likewise. Thank God, Members of the 83rd. are constructed of a tough nature. Vic Premro was Hospitalized a short time for a Hernia Operation. He is feeling fit as a fiddle and he and Marge were also at the Party. Their son Bill finished at Pitt University and is now employed at Duquesne University in Security. Good luck in your new job Bill.

Steve Blasko and his wife were not at the Party. I understand Gert was Hospitalized, but we did not get any of the details at this time. Hope everything is fine as of this writing and you are on the mend.

Now for some glad news. We can certainly be proud of the fact that the Pittsburgh Chapter has the greatest attendance at our Local Meetings. Let's keep up the good work. I guess this has a lot to do with our Heads of Staff, their generous time and always keeping up with interesting projects.

Comment to Casey Kowalec of the Cleveland Chapter -- from Al (Altar Boy) Suess of Company 'G' 331st. Infantry: The Steelers didn't choke up so you can keep Linda. SUPER BOWL, HERE WE COME.

Haven't heard of anyone bagging their Deers yet. There are still a couple of days left. Hope you make

it Fellas.

We wish to Congradulate Gene and Yo Costanzo's daughter Sandy on her recent marriagel The best of luck to the happy couple.

Elmer Palm is now on the Retired list. Just what you've been waiting for. Now you can really live. Good Luck.

Hank and Elena Golembiewski had such a beautiful trip to Rome, they have already made plans to go back next year. There is so much to see in the Holy City.

Sue Leonardi looked great the night of the Party. She just made it. Arrived that afternoon on the Flight from her Vacation in Florida. Eat your heart out. And that's the first time my wife, Lee, got to kiss someone with a beard. That's Larry and his Goatee.

Jo Altomari is so fond of her dog. The only comment Charlie had is the dog is treated better than him.

Johnny Caruso reports that he had a nice time in Acapulco.

Louise Danylo has been nursing her Dad back to health since his Stroke this past summer. He is now able to walk a little and I'm sure with Louise at his side, he'll improve each day.

Already plans are being made for the second Trip to Europe. For any of you who did not make the first one, you shouldn't miss out on this one.

Hope you all had a Blessed Christmas and do have a Happy New Year. Stay Healthy.

Ed Reuss

'I' Co. 331st. Inf.

(The Pittsburgh Chapter Report was made up just before the death of our dear Member Al Gruber and that is the reason it was not mentioned in the Column. The Obituary should suffice and all of you surely know that we shall miss him very much, because he was one of our main leaders.)

(Here is a late letter from Mrs. Louise B. Berry of Dallas, Texas.)

I regret to inform you of the death of retired Lt. Col. Louie B. Berry (my beloved husband) on July 19, 1975. He had just begun to receive his Monthly-Retirement Checks the February before. He had many friends in the 83rd. Division and it was quite dear to his heart. He did subscribe to the Thunderbolt.

My family and I are proud of his (and many others in the 83rd.) contributions for our Country in World War II. We decided to drape a U.S. Flag across his Casket instead of a Floral Offering.

May God continue to Bless the many friendships and lives of those 83rd. Division men.

Mrs. Louie B. Berry

(Our deepest sympathies go out to Mrs. Berry and the children.)

(Here is another late one that just reached me by telephone. It came from Joseph DePalma and Pat Caruccio from right here in Pittsburgh.)

Rex E. Marvel who resided in Granger, Indiana, who was a Member of 'K' 330th. Infantry, passed away on January 2nd. 1976. He had a blocked artery (the same problem that our Al Gruber had) and I'm sure that all of his Buddies: Joe DePalma, Pete Ferrelli, Pat Caruccio, Junior Krebs and O.L. Cook and many others will miss him very much. His family will miss him most and to them we send our deepest condolences on behalf of the entire 83rd. Division.

Rex was a machine gun Sgt. in World War II, in 'K' Co., was severely wounded in the arm in July of 1944, was sent to England and never returned to the Outfit. He was a regular Member of our Association probably every year since the beginning.

I just learned from my last mailings to all the Members in the files that Charles F. Arbaugh passed away many years ago.

Max Nestler, who was a Member last year, passed away on the 29th. of May 1975.

Harry P. Reed died on November 15, 1975 from a Heart Condition.

William L. Sherman died of a Subdural Hematoma on the 10th. of August 1975.

SOME OF THE NEWS ABOUT OUR DECEASED BUDDIES IS REACHING ME ONLY BECAUSE THEIR MAIL IS BEING RETURNED, MARKED: DECEASED. ONE OF THOSE I HAD WRITTEN TO DIED IN 1970 AND THIS MADE ME FEEL JUST TERRIBLE. I BELIEVE THAT THE FILES ARE NOW CLEARED OF ALL THESE.

WHEN YOU SEND ME NEWS OF A DECEASED BUDDY, TRY TO GIVE ME SOME OF THE DETAILS, OR JUST AN OBITUARY OUT OF YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER.

Every heart has its secret sorrows, which the world knows not; and oftentimes we call a man cold when he is only sad.

The best cure for worry, depression, melancholy and brooding is to go deliberately forth and try to lift with one's sympathy the gloom of somebody else.

What Sunshine is to Flowers, smiles are to Humanity. They are but trifles to be sure; but scattered along life's pathway, the good they do is inconceivable.

DIXIE REUNION REPORT

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is the Final Statement of Income and Disbursements for the 29th Annual Reunion held at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; August 14-16, 1975.

I am forwarding a Check in the amount of \$3,271.06 to Sam Klippa for Deposit to the Account of the 83rd Infantry Division Association.

Yours Very Truly
W.M. Minick
Kinards, SC 29355

FINAL INCOME STATEMENT 83rd. INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION INC. 29th. ANNUAL REUNION MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA

INCOME:	
REGISTRATION	\$17,487.00
DUES	1,908.00
ADVERTISING	1,923.00
RAFFLES	526.20

TOTAL INCOME	\$21,844.20

DISBURSEMENTS:	
LANDMARK MOTOR INN	\$11,439.10
NATIONAL DUES	1,908.00
ENTERTAINMENT	1,725.00
BEVERAGES	2,396.54
PRINTING	650.53
HOSPITALITY SUPPLIES	116.82
FLOWERS AND MEMORIAL SERVICE	72.50
TELEPHONE AND POSTAGE	96.40
TIPS	25.00
TRANSCRIPTION OF TAPES	143.25

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$18,573.14
TOTAL NET INCOME	\$3,271.06

CONGRADULATIONS DIXIE! A JOB WELL DONE.

WARREN, OHIO CHAPTER

First of all, let it be known that the Warren, Ohio Chapter is still alive and kicking, and wishing everyone A VERY HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR. 1975 was another good and very eventful year for the Warren Chapter and for this we are truly grateful and thankful.

Although our ranks get smaller as the years creep up on us and some of our Buddies take that last long hike to that great Bivouac, the bonds grow stronger and firmer among those remaining. Whether this is true Association wide, and we're sure it is,

it most certainly is true among the Members of the Warren Chapter.

Every month that passes is blessed with one or more Chapter Gatherings, enjoying each others company, sharing everyone's problems, reminiscing of the past and talking and preparing for the future. What more can anyone ask for?

One of the gatherings held to help close out the year 1975 was the Annual Steak-Fray held at the home of Liz and Mike Skovran. The succulent steaks as prepared by Chef John Teringo, topped off by the delicious Pastries of Mary Nuzzi and of course the offerings of Chief Bartender, Lee Titus can't be overlooked and only appreciated.

Election of our 1975-76 Officers were also held that evening with the following results:

President	John Caparanis
Vice President	Charlie Tomazin
Sec't. Treas.	Joseph Nuzzi
Chaplain	Joseph Phillipone
Chapter Reporter	Mike Skovran

Our final event of the year was the Annual Christmas Party sponsored by the No.1 Ladies Auxiliary of the 83rd, the Warren, Ohio Auxiliary at the El Rio Supper Club, followed by dancing at Kuzman's Nite Club in Girard, Ohio. This event is made possible by the arduous fund raising activities of the Warren Chapter Auxiliary, under the leadership of their President, Mary Nuzzi. Many thanks and all our love to our wonderful ladies.

Our wishes for a speedy and complete recovery go out to one of our Members, Don Schwartz, Larchmont, NY following his second illness. More of the same to Eleanor Uridel and Casey Kowalec of our sister Ohio Chapter, Cleveland.

Our deepest and heartfelt sympathies are extended to the family of Al Gruber of the Pittsburgh Chapter. As past Executive Board Member and Executive Board President, Al was truly one of the leaders of the Association.

The planning to bring the 1977 Reunion of the 83rd Infantry Division Association to the Gardenspot of the Midwest, Trumbul County and the banks of the Mahoning River made famous by the ballads of Stephen Foster, and the County Seat of the Great Western Reserve, Warren, Ohio, is moving ahead. Under the leadership of Ray Voracek, veteran of past Reunions, Lee Titus and the rest of the Warren Chapter, plans are being formulated to attempt to give the Association the type of Reunions that have been so successful in the past. More of this will be submitted to the next Thunderbolt by Ray Voracek.

Our Congradulations and good wishes go out to the new slate of Association Officers - President Bob Taylor, Executive Board President Casey Szubski, our own Joe Phillipone, Sam Klippa and all the others. To Sam Klippa, on a Thunderbolt that is looking better all the time, and if he will permit

one small bit of constructive criticism, please keep Association and Chapter Reports as top priority.

For now, this will have to be it, so from the Warren Chapter to all of our Buddies and their loved ones, GOD BLESS.

Mike Skovran
1 Bn. Hq. 331st. Inf.

DIXIE CHAPTER NEWS

Well, another year has passed us by and the Dixie Chapter is still going strong. We had a Meeting in Charlotte, NC on October 25th and had a good crowd present and everyone seemed to have a good time with no worries or planning for a Reunion.

If everyone had registered that was at Myrtle Beach, we would have set a record. I know of several that were there but didn't take part in the Reunion. We had a few goofs, but no more than I have seen at the others. My kids are all enjoying the Dixie Meetings. Some of them go with me to most of the Meetings and say they have discovered how we won the War, the 83rd gang talked them to death. Ha! Ha!

We had our Christmas Party at Greenville, SC on December 13th and really had a good turnout. There were 74 at this one and everyone seemed to have a good time. We were honored to have Larry and Mary Redmond with us. The Hospitality Room had a specially good attendance and a lot of elbows needed greasing later, mine included. Our next Meeting will be in March at Columbia, SC.

Hope everyone had a nice Christmas and wishing all of you the best in the New Year. Billie said Hello to everyone and we hope to see all of you in Florida in August, 1976. Bye for now!

Jake L. Glenn, Sr.
'L' Co. 330th. Inf.

FROM YOUR EDITOR

The Holidays are over, the Bills will soon start pouring in very soon; it's time to get organized for another year. The past year has been good in most instances, but there have been many occurrences that were on the disheartening side.

First, we'll mention the good things. There have been many letters that came to this Office, that perked up my spirits when I really felt downhearted, and I want to Thank all of you that took the time to drop me a line. Many Thanks also to those that sent me Christmas Cards. Most of all, I, and I'm sure the Association, wants to Thank everyone that sent in their Dues, enabling us to pass last years mark already. This really makes me feel great. It was through the help of others that this was possible, men like Bob Taylor, who sent out 1,800 Christmas Cards with Applications in them. Those Cards are

still coming in and I am keeping tabs on the outcome for Bob. There were others deserving of Thanks too, but since they are not all known to me, I'll just let it go at that, and say, Thanks a Million.

This Issue is devoted to mostly just printed matter, as you can see there are very few Photographs, And I have much more that could have been put in, but want to stay within the limits of pages that were set by the Board. All the Chapter Reports are included in this Issue, and everything that is most important for your reading enjoyment. Other material can wait for a future Issue.

There has been a lot of bad news since our last Reunion, namely, sickness and death among our Member population and their families. The death listings in this Issue alone are staggering. We are surely at the age now when we will be hearing more and more about such occurrences. Guess we just have to go along with the fact that we ARE getting old.

This Office put out a letter to everyone in the Stencil Files and results of the letter were beyond my beliefs. Most of the people signing up were not Members last year and I want to Welcome them into the Association. There are 194 Members from last year that did not renew their Membership and I will send them a 'LAST CALL' Application to remind them again that Dues are Due.

I believe that now the files are cleared of all the DECEASED, NOT FORWARDABLE, LEFT NO FORWARDING ADDRESS, NOT DELIVERABLE AS ADDRESSED people we had in the files. These were removed, atleast until I can get new addresses for them.

I have one letter complaining about the many write-ups we had in past Thunderbolts, concerning the ETO 1973 Tour of the 83rd. Division, because you took up too much space that could have been used for other things, more important to the reading of the Members. The complaint also mentioned the 2½ Page Ad that was in the last Issue and questioned who was to pay for it. The ETO 1976 Application was sent out with the Membership Application to save on the cost of mailing, and this was questioned also. Well, I want all of you to know that none of the ETO mail or the Ad cost this Association one red cent. The cost of getting the first ETO Tour together was all done at my own expense because the Board Members told me to run it the way I saw fit, but only as long as the Association didn't have to put out any money for it. In Myrtle Beach, the Board said that they wanted a report on this Tour, and the profits were to go to the Association, but when I asked about the losses, there was no comment. You be the Judge.

Plans for the Tour in June are mostly completed, and except for the size of the group and Plane we will be using, there isn't much more to be done. The preceding paragraph was put in this letter, just to update all of you on the facts, and so you will not get the idea that Yours Truly is making money on you as was being said at the Reunion and in the mail. I would like to see someone else do all the leg work,

use his own money to get the Tour on the road, and then just let me go and enjoy everything that he had put all his efforts into. I'd like that too.

The Board Members and your President are doing a lot of work this year to get the plans formulated for the upcoming Florida Reunion. Bob Taylor and Doc Keeler were down at the Hotel discussing their plans and soon the Board will be meeting down there to finalize the plans as best they could. I'm sure this is going to be a Reunion that none of us will ever forget. Make your plans early, why not right now, so you won't miss out on another great 83rd Reunion.

Doc Keeler sent me a lot of literature about Florida and the area in which we will be staying, so in the next Issue, you'll be getting a lot of the information you are looking for. If you have any questions you want answered, don't hesitate to write to any of us for the answers.

W. Ford Pierce of the Museum Fund in Georgia, wrote to tell me that Harry Libshutz of 'F' 330th. Inf. and Leonard Reynolds of 'G' 329th. Inf. have sent in their Donations. John Samuelian of 'M' 329 and Paul S. Havrilka of the 329th., both sent, \$5.00 each for the Fund. Many Thanks to all of you. The New Museum is set to open on the 4th of July, just in time for the Bicentennial Celebration.

Last of all, at this writing, our Membership is 870 and rising. Maybe by the time that you have the Thunderbolt in your hands, we will be near that THOUSAND MARK. Even over that would be great. Best of luck to all of you always.

Samuel Klippa
Editor

WITH LOVE-----FROM DIXIE

Hi:

Missed the last Issue but that doesn't mean you can count me out. First of all, time slipped up on me and too, I had a short stay in the Hospital. All is fine now and I'm back in the swing again.

Have had lots of comments on our efforts in Myrtle Beach. All I can say is my THANKS to everyone who helped out in so many different ways. Didn't expect Bill and Bea Chavanne to take up tickets at the door, but they were doing just that. They saw a job that needed to be done and just pitched in and went to work. Now you can't beat that for true dedication and friendship. Also, there is not enough I can say about our Dixie Chapter. You will not find a better group of men anywhere. I feel so fortunate to be associated with each and everyone of them. We enjoyed being Host to our great organization and everything we did was out of love for our fellow Members and their loved ones. We did our best. We have said so many times it is not a one man effort. It takes the whole organization. We of the Dixie Chapter are grateful for your comments, and who

knows, we just may have the opportunity to do it again. We are ready.

It was really a great shock to hear about Al Gruber. Now this was one terrific guy and he will be missed. Our love to Millie and his family. Also, Herbert Barber died August 16, 1975. We will always be grateful for the support he and Julia gave us in our first Dixie Chapter. The 83rd. has lost two men who was loved by all who knew them.

Larry and Mary Redmond came down for our Christmas Party on December 13 in Greenville, SC. This is one swell couple and we always look forward to being with them. Larry has contributed so much to the Association and we are looking forward to seeing more of him in the future.

Hope everyone had a Very Happy Holiday Season and are now looking forward to a new and successful New Year. Our thoughts are that we are so Thankful for all the Blessings that have been given us through the years. We are not worthy but very Thankful. Looking forward to Orlando. Let's all get with Bob Taylor and Doc Keeler and give them our support. OUR LOVE AND BEST WISHES.

Dick Riddle



President Riddle at Memorial Service



Cindy Paulino, Jackie Riddle, Donna Griffis



Riddle and Glenn
Beside Memorial Magnolia



Redmond and Volpi
With Kentucky Colonel Charter



Al Starling and John Folsom



Bill & Tina White, Doris & Frank Ball



Jim McDonald and Larry Redmond



Meadows Minick, Dick Riddle and Al Cooper



Al and Ann Belvedere



Ralph Nepple, Bill Laughter, Dick Riddle



Larry & Fran Arrigo
Cake Cutting -Their
Twenty Fifth Anniversary



Congradulating The Arrigo's
Mary Tynan, Vera Caprio, Ginny DiGiammerino

BOSTON NEWS

Hi Buddies:

Time is really going by fast since the Reunion in Myrtle Beach. Before we know it, Orlando, Florida Reunion will be here. Incidentally, if anyone is interested in flying to Florida from Boston, please write me--so I can see if we can get a trip together.

The Boston Chapter had a Ball at their Christmas Party this year. Nick Francullo was Old St. Nick and Ginny DiGiammerino played Mrs. Claus giving out gifts. Plenty of food and tea for all. The Party ended in the early hours of the morning. I am very happy to say, this was our best meeting for attendance in three years.

John Donahue was back after recovering from several Operations. However, John said, it's hard to get rid of a bad penny. The Boston Chapter sure are glad to have you back, John, looking so well.

Many of the Boston gang celebrated Mike and Vera Caprio's 29th Anniversary at the Hilltop House with a big steak dinner. Mike found out we have excellent Eating Places around Boston.

Since the last issue of the Thunderbolt, the Chapter started an Issue of Boston News which turned out to be very successful. It is our contention to continue this practice for it is making the Membership more active.

Last issue I reported that Lucien Elie had another grandchild. At the last meeting Gram and Gramp Elie had some real stories about their four lovely grandchildren from New Hampshire.

Father McCartin, I regret missing you in Brookline in November. I was at a time in St. Mary's School that Sunday but you were not around. However, the people of St. Mary's really spoke well of you.

Working the hours I do makes it difficult for me to get around during the week. Father Ryan and Burns talked to me about you so I had an excellent run down. Ha! Ha! St. Mary's was my Parish for fifty years when I lived in Brookline, Massachussetts. Thanks again from all of us.

Looking forward to the next Reunion in Orlando, Florida. I am sure plans are going along well down there. Bob Taylor would not have it any other way and with Dr. Keeler as a backup man we will have to have a blast. Keep up the good work boys. It will be more than appreciated in Orlando this coming August.

I have to mention the excellent job done by Sam Klippa and Cliff Wooldridge on this issue of the Thunderbolt. A tip of the Irishmans Hat to both of you.

I just received a phone call from Pat DiGiammerino with the sad news that Al Gruber passed away. It is needless to say, we were sorry to hear about Al. He will be missed by the 83rds for he did so much for us. Our deepest sympathy to Al's family.

In Boston, Carl and Doris Olson on the loss of Doris's mother who passed away this past week.

Since the last issue, Pat DiGiammerino had another sister pass away, which was a real shock to Pat. This was his second sister to die in a few months.

Larry Arrigo suffered a great loss also, his younger brother Charlie passed away.

John R. (Jack) Meaney, 53, 62 Main St., Peabody, Mass. died after a lengthy illness. He served in the 308 Combat Engineers Battalion. Condolences go out to all these families.

Just talked to Erwin Erhardt on the phone. Nancy and Edwins wife Norma also had a long talk. Edwins Birthday is New Years Day and we phone each other every January 1st. The Old Bugler never works on his

Birthday! Erwin and Norma have two children going to College in Ohio. Edwin and Kathy, they are real proud of them.

Received Cards from 1st. Sgt. Jim Taylor, pallas Williams, Lt. Michaels, Dick Brown, Walt Dryburg, Tiny Maser and others that we have not seen for some time. In the weeks ahead I plan to write them all.

Recently I was to see Joe Rector. He asked for Captain Bob Costello from Chicago. Also, Major Pegg and Tiny Maser! Joe was busy running his meat business so I did not stay long with him.

John Piscitelli is doing a fine job with the Thunderbolt. John, I hope to see you at the Phillie Party. Pat DiGiammerino will keep me posted on this event. If I know in time, maybe Les Taylor and a few more will be able to make it.

Since the last Thunderbolt Issue, Nancy and I went to Altoona, PA to visit with Bill Shaner.

Don St. John and Bill really took me out and showed me the countryside and, of course, the Nite Clubs. Amy St. John, Lois Shaner and my wife Nancy had a real blast too. Thanks again to the Altoona folks for a wonderful time.

Well gang, this is about all for now. I hope some of you will send me some news for the next Issue as I will have more to write about.

Amby Tynan
323rd. F.A.



Lucien Elie
Grandpa Retires



Father 'Spike' And Fran Gaetani
At Pat DiGiammerino's Party



Lucien and Millie Elie
With Granddaughter Melissa

ALMOST FORGOT



Fran Bolands Nephew Art Sharpe, George Gelety,
O.L. Cook, Jim McDonald, Helen, Mary Boland, and
Walter Meczka of 'F' Company, 330th. Infantry.

REMINDERS

THE NEXT THUNDERBOLT DEADLINE IS APRIL 10, 1976. IT DOESN'T HURT TO GET YOUR ARTICLES IN LONG BEFORE A DEADLINE SO WE CAN GET THE BOOK OUT THAT MUCH SOONER AND LATE FLASHES CAN ALWAYS BE ADDED.

THE ORLANDO, FLORIDA REUNION OF THE 83RD. INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION INC. WILL BE HELD ON THE 19TH., 20TH. AND 21ST. OF AUGUST, 1976. GET YOUR RESERVATIONS IN EARLY. DON'T TRY TO DO EVERYTHING AT THE LAST MINUTE AND LOSE OUT.

TO THE CHAPTERS AND TO YOU THAT DO NOT BELONG TO ANY CHAPTER, IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO GET YOUR ADS OR CONTRIBUTIONS IN FOR THE REUNION FUND PROGRAM BOOK, AND ALL MONEY SHOULD BE SENT TO CASEY SZUBSKI, THE REUNION FUND CHAIRMAN. DO IT NOW. BE AN EARLY BIRD.



WARREN CHAPTER
 Joe Phillipone-Chaplain
 Charlie Tomazin-V. Pres.
 John Caparanis-Pres.
 Joe Nuzzi-Sec't. Treas.

Hello Buddies:

Here I am once again, I hope that I am not too late for this Edition. Every time I write, I get too late for the Issue, but I can't help it. I have a lot of problems right now between work and my mother not being too well. That is my problem and not yours.

A few weeks ago, Mary and I had an Invitation to go to the Dixie Chapter to attend their Christmas Party, we went, and believe me, I am glad that we did. At the Reunion in Myrtle Beach, we thought that we learned what Southern Hospitality was, but at this Party, we really learned what it was. We received the Red Carpet treatment, and were we able to accept all the invitations that we received there, we would be spending the next couple of years in South Carolina, just visiting friends.

We both wish to extend our fullest Thanks to the members of the great Dixie Chapter and sincerely hope we can be with them many more times, as a matter of fact, we would like to join the Dixie Chapter as well as the Philadelphia Chapter.

After our arrival home, we just recuperated from our trip, when we had a sad call, informing us of the death of Al Gruber, one of our Past Presidents. Al was a very fine man and dedicated member, a man who had the Association at heart. I was saddened at the news of this, and immediately, Mary and I got in touch with the Airlines and booked passage so that we could attend his viewing. We flew to Pittsburgh on Sunday morning and went to the viewing and flew back home. Our deepest sympathies was with Millie, a wonderful wife and a great lady. I was only too

happy that we were able to pay our respects, and extend our sincere sympathy to Millie and her very fine children.

Sincerely
 Larry Redmond

Dear America:

In a few months you will be 200 years old. That's pretty young, considering there are others who are thousands of years old.

You've really accomplished a lot in your short life. People have criticized you, scorned you, loved you and fought over you. You've had to cope with disrupt, within yourself, too. Somehow, though, you've always pulled through, bettering yourself along the way. I'm proud of all that you have done, even though it may have seemed wrong at the time.

You have your problems, again and again, because people abandon you and just don't care. Your Allies don't seem to care to help you very much, even though you've helped them out many times, in the past. That shows how much they know.

Don't worry America, you'll pull through, again, as you always have, and you'll show them all up.

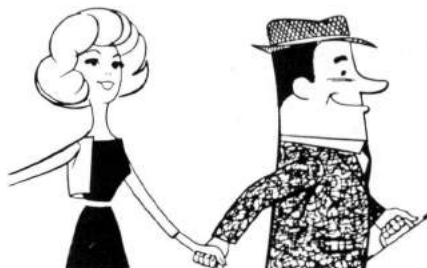
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA, you're 200 years-- young and the greatest country in the world.

Courtesy
 Michael Brick
 'A' 908 F.A.

(Taken out of his Local Newspaper.)

achtung!

PAY YOUR 1976 DUES
 OL' BUDDY...thanks



**WE'RE
 MOVING**

OUR NEW

ADDRESS IS..

(Keith Echerd is one of the people in our 83rd. Association that really does a lot of writing and one of those that was very helpful in putting on the Dixie Reunion. He located one of my 'D' 331 Buddies down his way, and for the first time since the War, signed him up as a Member.)

Dear Sam:

This past Sunday and Monday, I took a fast two day trip to our old maneuvering area in Tennessee. Lebanon, Murphreysboro, Cookeville, Rome, Carthage, Watertown, Statesville etc. I really did enjoy it, as it was my first trip back since 1943. I went to Horn Springs just outside Lebanon where our Division C.P. was. The people there are as wonderful as ever. The Red Carpet is out the minute you tell them you were on Tennessee Maneuvers. I took some pictures of the places in Statesville, where 'G' 329 stayed one week-end.

Various ones told me the farmers were still plowing up land mines and 30 Cal. shells etc! They said there were plenty of fox holes in the area. One fellow said he kept busy filling up canteens for the soldiers from his fathers well and when night came he had \$90.00. He was only twelve years old at that time. Yoo Hoo Ben Lear found out about it and came to his fathers house to investigate the incident, to get it stopped, and his father told him he owned that 200 acres of land and he would give anyone a drink of water that wanted one, and that even included him (Gen. Lear) and if he didn't like it to 'Get the hell off his property.'

I heard all sorts of stories, but this one struck my fancy.

A fellow that owns the Western Auto Store in Lebanon told me that Gen. Ben Lear was in the V.A. Hospital in Murphreysboro. I don't know how many 83rd. men have been back to Tennessee. If they get the chance, I'm sure they would enjoy it. It would be a good place to have our Annual Reunion, sometime in the future.

Murphreysboro and Lebanon have Motels large enough to accomodate one. Just being in the area, would be enough for our entertainment. It looks pretty much the same, except most of the dirty roads we hiked on are now paved. Interstate 40 about splits the heart of our area. Goes just the outside of Lebanon. The Nostalgia bug will bite you when you get there. I'll be going back.

Yours in Buddyship
Keith Echerd
Co. 'G' 329th. Inf.

Dear Sam:

Congradulations - the new magazine is a great improvement over the old one - I have found all the articles interesting.

Several months ago, I met a former member of the

83rd. Division, who lived here and he was about to join the Association when he got sick and died. I'm enclosing his Obituary - thought you might want to publish it.

(This is the one that got lost on my desk.) ED
William R. Stevens, 54, Perryville, Md. died on Wednesday, August 27, 1975 at the V.A. Hospital in Perry Point, after a short illness.

A semi retired Electrician, Mr. Stevens was a member of Susquehanna American Legion Post 135. He was the son of the late Oliver W. and Florence Fogleman Stevens.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Mary Stevens of Little Hockey, Ohio, two stepsons, Kevin Johnson of Colora and Charles Johnson of Perryville; seven stepdaughters, two brothers: Kemper Stevens of Oliver Springs and George Stevens of Lebanon, Va.; two sisters: Mrs. Sarah Yates of Kansas City and Mrs. Alta Ellioth of Pleasant Hill, Mo., and 14 grandchildren.

Charles E. Nothnagel

'C' 324 F.A.

P.S. I'm past 72 now and do not get around so well. Pittsburgh was my last Reunion and both my wife and I miss them. Say Hello to everyone for me.

Dear Sam:

My wife and I are leaving on September 20, 1975 for Lisbon, Madrid, Granada, Seville, Algarve and Tangiers for 17 days. This will be our second International trip this year---in May we went to Rome, Florence, Venice in Italy, Innsbruck, Austria and Vaduz in Lichenstein; also Lucerne and Zurich in Switzerland. Next year our trips will be domestic.

We were sorry to miss the Reunion at Myrtle Beach this year. We enjoy every issue of the Thunderbolt.

Sincerely

Edmund St. Lawrence

'C' 329th. Inf.

Many Thanks to Ed for the article about the death of General Ferenbaugh. ED.

The Washington Star (Washington, D.C.) carried the following story in it's afternoon Edition and I'm sure it will sadden all of the 83rdrs. that knew General Claude Berkert Ferenbaugh. He was sure some kind of guy.

Army Lt. Gen. Claude Berkert Ferenbaugh, 76, former commander of the Military District of Washington and Chief of Staff to Gen. George S. Patton Jr., died yesterday, Sept. 10, 1975.

Ferenbaugh served in World War II as a desk and field officer, as assistant chief of staff of the Headquarters II Corps in Jacksonville, FL and later in the same capacity in North Africa during 1942.

Upon his return from North Africa he was designated chief, European-North African Theatre, of the

operations division in the War Department General Staff. He later was made chief of the North African section, where he served until 1944 when he became assistant Division Commander of the 83rd Infantry Division, (Thunderbolt) stationed at Camp Breckenridge, Ky. When that division was shipped overseas in 1944, he went as its Commander. The following year he was assigned to the office of the chief of staff in the Operations and Plans Division here.

For his service as chief of the European-North African Section Theater Group, Ferenbaugh received the Legion of Merit.

He fought with the 83rd in Carentan, Normandy, for which he received the Distinguished Service Medal and the Silver Star.

In 1944 he assisted Lt. Gen. Fredendall in troop instruction of the North African Invasion force and he landed with the first Infantry Units on Oran-beachhead in the Normandy Invasion. He was chief of staff to Gen. George S. Patton Jr. in the European Theater and was with Patton at the time of his death in an automobile accident.

After VE Day, Ferenbaugh was assigned to duty as chief of the troop control branch of the War Dept., in charge of troop redeployment in the Pacific War.

Ferenbaugh was Commander of the Military District of Washington in 1946 and 1947 and was 7th. Division Commander in Korea as well as Deputy Commander of the 8th Army under Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor. He participated in the U.N. negotiations for a Korea settlement in 1951.

He retired from the Army in 1955, his last post having been Deputy Far East Commander.

A 1919 graduate of West Point, Ferenbaugh also received the Bronze Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster and a second Legion of Merit.

He leaves his wife Dorothy Van Way, and a daughter Dorothy Anne. Services were held at 10:00 A.M. at the Ft. Meyer Chapel. Burial was in Arlington Cemetery.

The family suggested that expressions of sympathy be in the form of contributions to Distaff Hall 6200 Oregon Ave. - Washington, D.C.

“The Washington Star”

(A Check for Distaff Hall, of \$25.00, on behalf of the 83rd Inf. Div. Assoc. Inc. was sent.) ED.

ALFRED H. GRUBER, born November 25, 1924, died suddenly on the 19th of December, and this came as a terrible shock to everyone that knew him. He had just gotten out of the Hospital a few hours before, where he had a Heart Catheter performed. He went to his place of employment, to see his wife and to pick up his car. After getting into his car, he drove it a short distance to the gas pump, slumped over the wheel, was rushed to a nearby Hospital for Emergency Treatment, but it was too late.

Al was Treasurer of the Pittsburgh Chapter since

it's formation the second time. He served on our 83rd Executive Board for five years and was always active in all local and Association Affairs. He served his Community anytime they ever needed him, was always there to help his Church no matter what their needs were. His favorite words, whenever something tough came up, were: “Don't worry about it, everything will work out O.K.” He was Accounts Director for the Braun Baking Company of Pittsburgh, an ITT Subsidiary, and he started there as a truck driver many years ago.

He leaves behind his wife, Millie - a son, Ricky and a daughter - Karen. He has a step-brother by the same name as his: Al.

His family wishes to Thank everyone, Chapters, out-of-town visitors and all the local visitors who came to pay their last respects to Al.

Dear 83rd Friends:

I can't put my feelings into words at this time, for all your kindness, comfort and help. We Thank you for the Flowers, Mass Cards and Contributions. All money given to me will go towards a Memorial in Church. We haven't decided yet, what it will be. Most of all we Thank all of you that were there to say FAREWELL. I'm sure Al will be looking down on your Meetings always.

Thank You Again

Millie, Karen and Ricky Gruber

The Pittsburgh Chapter was saddened by the news that one of its Members passed away on November 13, 1975. WILBERT WILSON, born on the 3rd. of December, 1921, succumbed to a long illness and was in the Hospital several times. He was a Member of A.T. Co. 330th. Infantry.

WISH, (as he was known) was very good at telling stories about the Funerals he worked on. (He was one of those people that installs Vaults.) A few years ago, when Yours Truly had Lung Surgery, he drove up in front of our home with a huge truck that had one of those Vaults on it, and the whole neighborhood got the feeling that I was gone. The Pittsburgh boys will certainly miss him, as will his Buddies in the A.T. Company.

WILLIS HILL, Medic of Company 'B' 329th. Inf. passed away on the 16th. of June 1975. He resided in Moundsville, WV. This news came from Ed Thomas who said that he received the news on one of his Xmas Cards from Mrs. Hill. Both Will and Ed were Assoc. Members in good standing.

Willis was born on the 25th. of Nov. 1925, and this makes him one of our younger Members.

It made all of us sad to read that Robert Costello of the 323rd. F.A. passed away. As it turns

out, this was not true (I don't know who sent me the news) and here is what Bob wrote in his letter.

Dear Sam:

I was very sorry to hear of my death as reported in the June Thunderbolt. As far as I know, the story was untrue - I'm still here.

On the other hand, if you know something I don't know, then don't cash the enclosed Check for next years Dues, my Estate needs the money.

Bob Costello

323rd. F.A.

(I'm glad that Bob has a good sense of humor.) ED.

Mrs. Lisbeth Nestler wrote that her husband Max of Company (unknown) passed away on the 29th. day, of May, 1975 but she gave no details. From the files he was a Member the past year.

Past Issues of the Thunderbolt have carried news about General Patton, and now here is his Prayer to God during those tough days in the ETO.

GENERAL PATTON'S MIRACULOUS TALK WITH GOD

Sir:

This is Patton talking. The last fourteen days have been straight hell. Rain, snow, more rain, more snow - and I'm beginning to wonder what's going on in your Headquarters. Whose side are You on anyway?

For three years my Chaplains have been explaining this as a Religious War. This, they tell me, is the Crusades all over again, except that we're riding tanks instead of chargers. They insist we are here to annihilate the German Army and the godless Hitler so that Religious freedom may return to Europe.

Until now I have gone along with them, ... for You have given us Your unreserved cooperation. Clear skies and calm seas in Africa made the landings highly successful and helped us to eliminate Rommel. Sicily was comparatively easy, and You supplied excellent weather for our Armored dash across France, the greatest Military Victory that You have thus far allowed me. You have often given me excellent guidance in difficult command decisions and You have led German Units into traps that made their elimination fairly simple.

But now, You've changed horses in midstream. You seem to have given Von Runstedt every break in the book and, frankly, he's been beating hell out of us. My Army is neither trained nor equipped for winter Warfare. And, as You know, this weather is more suitable for Eskimos than for Southern Cavalrymen.

But now, Sir, I can't help but feel that I have offended You in some way. That suddenly You have lost all sympathy with our cause. That You are throwing in with Von Runstedt and his paper hanging

god. You know without me telling you that our situation is desperate. Sure, I can tell my staff that everything is going according to plan, but there's no use telling You that my 101st. Airborne is holding out against tremendous odds in Bastogne, and that this continual storm is making it impossible to supply them from the air. I've sent Hugh Gaffey, one of my ablest Generals, with his 4th. Armored Division, north toward that all-important road center to relieve the encircled garrison, and he's finding Your weather much more difficult than he is the Krauts.

I don't like to complain unreasonably, but my soldiers from the Meuse to Echternach are suffering the tortures of the damned. Today I visited several Hospitals, all full of frostbite cases and the wounded are dying in the fields because they cannot be brought back for medical care.

But this isn't the worst of the situation. Lack of visibility, continual rains, have completely grounded my Air Force. My technique of battle calls for close-in-bomber-support, and if my planes Can't fly, how can I use them as aerial artillery? Not only is this a deplorable situation, but, worse yet, my reconnaissance planes haven't been in the air for fourteen days, and I haven't the faintest idea of what's going on behind the German lines.

Dammit, Sir, I can't fight a shadow, without Your cooperation from a weather standpoint; I am deprived of an accurate disposition of the German Armies, and how in hell can I be intelligent in my attack? All this probably sounds unreasonable to You but I have lost all patience with Your Chaplains who insist that this is a typical Ardennes winter, and that I must have Faith.

Faith and patience be damned! You have just got to make up Your mind whose side You're on. You must come to my assistance, so that I may dispatch the entire German Army as a birthday present to Your Prince of Peace.

Sir, I have never been an unreasonable man. I am not going to ask You the impossible. I do not even insist upon a Miracle, for all I request is four days of clear weather.

Give us four days so that my planes can fly; so that my Fighter-bombers can bomb and strafe, so that my reconnaissance may pick out targets for my magnificent artillery. Give me four days of sunshine to dry this blasted mud, so that my tanks may roll, so that ammunition and rations may be taken to my hungry, ill equipped Infantry. I need these four days to send Von Runstedt and his godless Army to their Valhalla. I am sick of unnecessary butchery of American youth, and in exchange for four days of fighting weather, I will deliver You enough Krauts to keep Your bookkeepers months behind in their work.

AMEN.

(A PRAYER WITH REAL SINCERE MEANING)

Dear Sam:

Just a short note to tell you how interesting I have found the new Thunderbolt with its emphasis on the History of the 83rd. Division, in addition to the various Chapter Activities.

If, by chance, you do get here to Columbus to talk further with General Lawrence, I hope you will give me a call and perhaps we can get together.

Keep up the good work on the magazine.

Best Regards

Paul E. Dillon

President

Boulevard Publications

Sam:

I'm sending this information for the good of the 83rd. Division men that didn't know the 83rd. existed. I put an AD in the D.A.V. book about the 83rd. Reunion and the D.A.V. had members contact me. I had twenty letters asking me about the 83rd. from all over the states. All letters were answered and Membership Applications were sent to them. There must be 83rd. men who belong to the D.A.V. who could place their AD in the book to get in touch with them and possibly get them to become Members.

Lowell E. Claxton

'G' 330th. Inf.

(Thank you Lowell for the advertising.)

Dear Sam:

You're doing a good job on the Thunderbolt. Nice to see a few War Stories of the 83rd.

Sam, for what it is worth, I think the Reunion should find a place where most of the men come and keep it there. The place is again too much and too far. They go to Pittsburgh or here in Ohio and get a good group, or in the end of the country and no one is there, and it cost the Division money. Everyone is getting older and strange roads are not too much fun. If you know where you are going, it is a lot easier to get there. Pittsburgh was a good place, easy to get to, and look at the gang you had.

These prices are BAD. I know things have gone up but that is why they should do things to keep the guys together at the HOTEL. You go to a nice Hotel and then they take you all over... what for? I always come to see the men, I can travel anytime. The drinks should be free. Cut down on the shopping tours and these Hotels by the creek. Who will go--- swimming? Look, when they went to New Jersey, no one I knew went in the water. I think it is just too much, the men come to see each other but it is sure made hard. The Reunion is only 72 hours. If you sit down with your Buddies and have some drinks, that is the name of the game. Also, one dance is enough, look at the cost.

Give them something to drink, (free) let them make their own time. Movies, Girlie Shows. Let them

be men again; the women will have to grow up some-time anyway.

Another thought, Sam, if they have the money, guys that are not always paid up, I would send them the Thunderbolt after the Reunion and just before the next one. Keep them interested. Reunions are getting to be for the few guys that have a lot of money and don't think about the guys that never did come. Sam, they better get the guys together. I hope you stay well and all the 83rd. men. Have a wonderful time.

J.W. Nicholson

'C' 324 F.A.

WHY DO WE HAVE AN ASSOCIATION?

WHAT CAN BELONGING TO THE ASSOCIATION DO FOR ME?

These two questions have been asked by many of our members, especially those that don't belong to our Association and those that do go to the Reunions and don't enjoy them. If those that never belonged would join us at a Reunion just once or even give themselves a second chance, I'm sure they would make every effort to come to all of our Reunions. Those that go to the Reunions and don't enjoy them, well, it is my belief that they just don't mix in with the crowd because they are shy or for some reason; unknown to me. It's beyond me why anyone would want to miss out on so much fun and enjoyment.

The 101st. Airborne had an article on the same questions and came up with the best explanation- that I have seen.

Some good words that explain the whole situation are: Togetherness, Fraternity, Espirit and Pride. Togetherness: there is no better feeling anywhere, than when you are with those that you fought with. Fraternity: 1. brotherliness, 2. a group of men joined together by common interests, for fellowship - as we do at Reunions, 3. a group of people with the same beliefs, work etc. Espirit means cooperation and unity. Pride, is self explanatory. We should all be proud of what we can do for the benefit of our Association.

When you get a Membership letter or Application, and you are already a member in good standing, pass it along to one of your 83rd. Buddies or just sign him up and let him know that you did. Do it right away without putting it off for another day. By signing up a member (if everyone of you do it) we can double our membership immediately. Give this some serious thought. It may bring out that long lost Buddy of yours to the next Reunion.

LET'S ALL DO OUR SHARE AND SEE THE 83RD. GROW RIGHT ON UP TO THE TOP. WE ARE THE BEST DARNED UNIT OF THEM ALL, LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY.

Samuel Klippa Editor

83rd. Inf. Div. Assoc. Inc.

THIRTIETH ANNUAL REUNION

DWERS HOTEL , FLORIDA 20 & 21, 1976

REUNIONS EACH YEAR. ADVERTISE YOUR PLACE OF
INDIVIDUAL ADS AND YOUR BOOSTER ADS. SEND THEM TO

Casey Szuski
8221 Bertha Avenue
Parma, Ohio 44129

: REUNION FUND, 83RD. INF. DIV.

CE BELOW, THE WAY THAT YOU WOULD LIKE FOR IT
ARLY WILL HELP TO AVOID THE LAST MINUTE RUSH
FOR OUR OFFICERS.

THE SHERATON-TOWERS HOTEL WELCOMES THE 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION

Concept: Unique in its make-up of beautifully landscaped grounds, labiate, and handsome buildings in a resort atmosphere brought alive by a staff of professional people dedicated to providing comfort, convenience and service in the true spirit of friendliness.

Location: Located at the intersection of I-4 (exit 438 north) and the Florida Sunshine Parkway (exit 75) the Sheraton-Towers Hotel centralized location in an ideal point of travel for the entire Orlando area.

SHERATON-TOWERS

August 19-21, 1976

Single
(one person)
\$24.00

Double
(two persons/two beds)
\$29.00

One-bedroom
suite
\$60.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Will Arrive On: Date _____

Time _____

State _____

Will Depart On: Date _____

Zip Code _____

Time _____

- First night deposit must be received at least 15 days prior to arrival date to assure your reservation.
- ROOM RESERVATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR OCCUPANCY AFTER 3 P.M. ON DATE OF ARRIVAL.
- Additional person in room, \$5.00. Maximum of 4 to a room. Children under 17 free when sharing room with adults.
- ROOM RATES SUBJECT TO 4% SALES TAX.
- If you request an early arrival and dates are not available, we will confirm nearest open date.
- Retail liquor store on premises.

FULL PAGE
\$50.00

HALF PAGE
\$25.00

QUARTER PAGE
\$12.50

EIGHTH PAGE
\$6.50

PATRON
\$5.00

BOOSTER
\$1.00

(Please circle the size of the AD you prefer.)

KEEPIN' ADDRESSES UP TO DATE IS THE BIGGEST JOB OF ALL

PLEASE! IF YOU'RE PLANNING ON MOVING, LET THIS OFFICE KNOW IN ADVANCE, JUST AS YOU WOULD DO FOR ANYONE ELSE. WE WANT TO SATISFY YOU IN FORWARDING THE THUNDERBOLTS AND LETTERS WITHOUT ANY DELAYS.

THIRTIETH ANNUAL REUNION

DWERS HOTEL

, FLORIDA

20 & 21, 1976

THE SHERATON-TOWERS HOTEL WELCOMES THE 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION

Concept: Unique in its make-up of beautifully landscaped grounds, lakeside, and handsome buildings in a resort atmosphere brought alive by a staff of professional people dedicated to providing comfort, convenience and service in the true spirit of friendliness.

Location: Located at the intersection of I-4 (exit 488 north) and the Florida Sunshine Parkway (exit 79) the Sheraton-Towers Hotel centralized location is an ideal point of travel for the entire Orlando area.

SHERATON-TOWERS

August 19-21, 1976

Single
(one person)
\$24.00

Double
(two persons/two beds)
\$29.00

One-bedroom
suite
\$60.00

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Will Arrive On: Date _____ Time _____ Will Depart On: Date _____ Time _____

- First night deposit must be received at least 15 days prior to arrival date to assure your reservation.
- ROOM RESERVATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR OCCUPANCY AFTER 3 P.M. ON DATE OF ARRIVAL.
- Additional person in room, \$5.00. Maximum of 4 to a room. Children under 17 free when sharing room with adults.
- ROOM RATES SUBJECT TO 4% SALES TAX.
- If you request an early arrival and dates are not available, we will confirm nearest open date.
- Retail liquor store on premises.

UNIONS EACH YEAR. ADVERTISE YOUR PLACE OF
DUAL ADS AND YOUR BOOSTER ADS. SEND THEM TO

sey Szuski
21 Bertha Avenue
ma, Ohio 44129

EUNION FUND, 83RD. INF. DIV.

BELOW, THE WAY THAT YOU WOULD LIKE FOR IT
WILL HELP TO AVOID THE LAST MINUTE RUSH
OUR OFFICERS.

FULL PAGE
\$50.00

HALF PAGE
\$25.00

QUARTER PAGE
\$12.50

EIGHTH PAGE
\$6.50

PATRON
\$5.00

BOOSTER
\$1.00

(Please circle the size of the AD you prefer.)

KEEPIN' ADDRESSES UP TO DATE IS THE BIGGEST JOB OF ALL

PLEASE! IF YOU'RE PLANNING ON MOVING, LET THIS OFFICE KNOW IN ADVANCE, JUST AS YOU WOULD DO FOR ANYONE ELSE. WE WANT TO SATISFY YOU IN FORWARDING THE THUNDERBOLTS AND LETTERS WITHOUT ANY DELAYS.

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

1500 Mutual Street
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15204

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID
PERMIT NO. 1759
PITTSBURGH, PA.

CHARLES SIHLANICK
2 ELIZABETH ST.
LITTLE FERRY, N. J. 07643

A 322 FA

Address Correction Requested

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME (please print)

ADDRESS

CITY, or TOWN & STATE ZIP

COMPANY or BATTALION REG'T

OCCUPATION or BUSINESS

BUSINESS ADDRESS

I have been Honorably Discharged from Army Service or I am still on
Active Duty Enclosed, Check or Money Order.

DUES \$6.00 PAYABLE TO: SAMUEL KLIPPA

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

1500 Mutual Street

Pittsburgh, Pa. 15204

DATE SIGNATURE