



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

VOL. 33 NO. 3

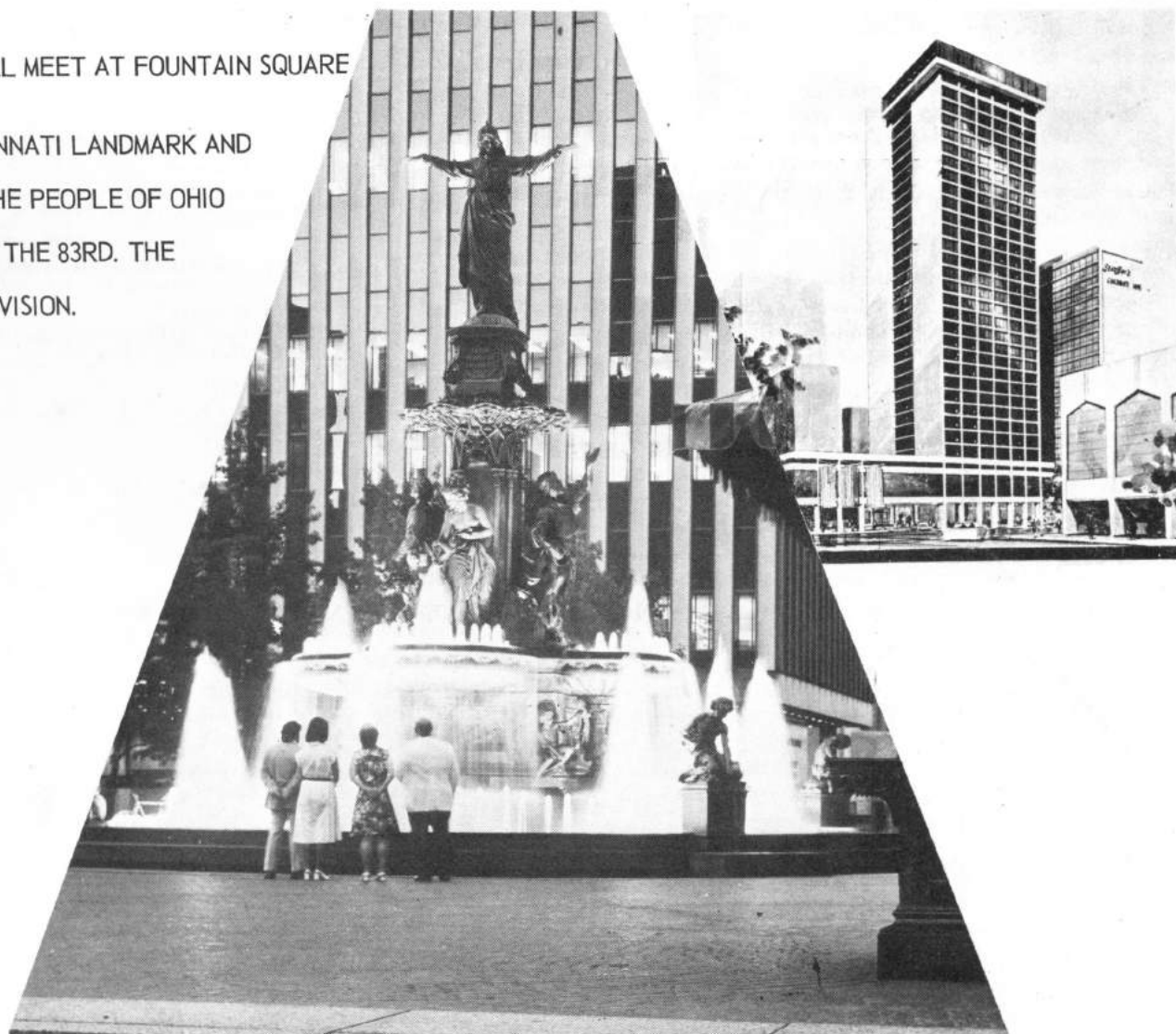
MARCH, APRIL, MAY, 1978

Cincinnati, Ohio

August 17, 18, and 19, 1978.

LET' ALL MEET AT FOUNTAIN SQUARE

A CINCINNATI LANDMARK AND
SHOW THE PEOPLE OF OHIO
WE ARE THE 83RD. THE
OHIO DIVISION.



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

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A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS

Who Have Served Us Well

*JAMES C. HANRAHAN 1947
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FINLEY HEYL 1953
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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
ROBERT G. TAYLOR 1975
MIKE SKOVRAN 1976

*Deceased

THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

Sorry for missing the last THUNDERBOLT. I'm sure that miss has triggered some questions relative to the Reunion. Hopefully I'll be able to answer some of those questions with this up-date. Yes, we've been working frantically here and have had some set-backs and of course some progress. We the Kentucky Chapter, are of the opinion that this will be a Reunion you'll remember. The arrangements for each night has been completed, this includes the music, beer and food. The Friday tours to the breweries and Proctor and Gamble are firm and complete. The Saturday Memorial Service is questionable at this time and may be changed to Thursday, but in either case, will not be a problem. There will be a Cosmetic, Skin Care Party, for the ladies, on Thursday from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon, each lady attending will receive a free facial and Friday from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon the ladies Bingo will be held.

Actually, we're beginning to wind down to that time in August, however we are looking forward to meeting with the Executive Board on May 6th for their approval of our plan.

R.C. Hamilton, our Program Book Chairman has informed me that the ADS are slow coming, so don't forget, we need your help.

There has been an item brought to my attention and that is a pre-Reunion Party, to be held Wednesday night, August 16. Having not attended any of these, I'm somewhat in the dark, however, arrangements can be made with the Hotel for the Party with a cash bar. The music would have to be tapes and records, which would not present a problem, the only question is, will there be enough present to warrant these arrangements? Please let me know, as soon as possible if you want this done.

Well that's about all for now, any questions you might have that have not been answered, I'll try to answer the next time.

Respectfully Submitted
Manny Goodridge
President

HERE ARE SOME REMINDERS:

1. *Don't forget to make your plans for the Reunion as early as possible and get your reservations in the mail now to insure that room. Reservation cards were mailed out to everyone in our files, member and non-member, with plenty of time to spare.*

2. *ADS ARE VERY IMPORTANT. Let's not forget to send them to R.C. Hamilton with the AD application on the inside of the back cover of this THUNDERBOLT. Do it now before you forget again.*

3. *If you are not planning to attend this great Reunion in Cincinnati, then now is the time to get those Dues in for the coming year. It's your guarantee of getting the news about this Reunion and the one coming up next year in New Orleans. Learn about all your Buddies that did attend.*

4. *The next DEADLINE for the THUNDERBOLT is just a short time off and you should get your articles in early as possible to insure that they are printed. This is the busiest time of year for this office and your cooperation is needed. JUNE 10 IS THE DEADLINE. News should be in by 8th.*

5. *Don't forget to sign up a Buddy and get him interested in this great Association of ours.*

Your Editor
Samuel Klippa

SECRETARY-TREASURERS REPORT

My column was missing in the last issue because of the amount of material that was available for it, and rather than leave out somebody else, I thought it was better to leave mine out. The last issue was the largest ever put out from the time I became Editor. It was also the costliest because of the amount of photos. We are now back to normal and I hope to keep it that way.

There were so many things I wanted to write about to make up for lost time, but as I sit here, I find it hard to think of them all.

SNOW!!! That was the uppermost in my mind because it was just too much. I was never so tired of snow in my life as this past Winter. I'm glad that it is all gone for now, and we can get back to the regular duties of caring for the lawn and the flowers. I like green better than white.

The very best thing that happened since my last writing, is the fact that we hit the 1200 mark in membership and this makes it our biggest year ever. We've done it three years in a row, gone over that THOUSAND MARK that we tried to reach for so many years. Many, many thanks to all of you that have been writing to your Buddies all year. The biggest pickup came in November right after the yearly Membership Letter was sent to everybody in the files. It took me many days to catch up on getting out the Cards and THUNDERBOLTS. Because of the membership rise, we are in really good shape, financially and otherwise.

Another Membership Letter was put out in January and it too worked out very well. In the two mailings, we had several hundred returns (each costing \$.25) because people moved and left no forwarding address or because the Post Office failed to send me the changes of address as our envelopes request them to. This kind of expense we can do without.

A month ago, I sent out the Presidents letter along with the reservation cards and a note to those who were members last year and did not renew this year. Their names are listed elsewhere in this issue. Some of them have paid since the list was typed up and should disregard any complaints as the complete membership will be in the last issue.

Wouldn't it be nice if all those unpaids would pay up?

In February, I travelled to Philly to attend to some business and to again see the Mummers Show with members of the Philly Chapter and their wives. As before, the show was fantastic. Bill and Bea Chavanne had us some real good seats this time. I got to see Volpi's mansion while there and it sure is a beauty. We had dinner at a great new Restaurant and a little get-together afterwards at the Philly Chapter meeting room.

That night, I travelled up to Sellersville to visit with a Buddy of mine from 'D' 331, Norman Schuster. As always, it was great to relive the War with another Buddy. The night was one I will always remember. It was nice being there and just talking. Norm had a hip socket replaced and next year will have the other one replaced. After leaving his place, I got lost and didn't get to bed until 4:30 A.M.

On leaving Sellersville, I decided on taking the mountain route home and ran into much snow which made my return

hazardous and two hours longer. Those mountains must be awful beautiful in the Summer time.

In March, I went to Louisville for the Kentucky Chapter meeting. We stuffed envelopes and being that there wasn't enough material, I brought the rest home and did about 1600 myself. That wasn't so bad but when I went to the Post Office to mail them, they came up with a figure of 5900 instead of 3032 which was the actual figure. I had to bring all that mail home, go through every envelope and pull out the excess to make each envelope weigh the same, then I had to re-bundle them, re-sack them and get them to the Post Office again. It took 23 hours and this could have been avoided if they had taken my word for the count. My Address-o-graph has an accurate counter on it.

The meeting was a successful one and I did learn that the Kentucky Chapter members were working hard to get us another great Reunion. Hope all of you are planning to attend to help make this Reunion the kind of success they worked so hard for. Make it a MUST to go this year.

Soon, I'll be going to the Board Meeting in Cincinnati, to South Carolina immediately afterwards, to Ft. Benning to see if I can finally, once and for all, get our display put up the way we bargained for it from the beginning. It's a darned shame the way the whole thing was handled.

After returning from Georgia, I'll be going to Europe for a couple of weeks. I'll be taking care of some business in England for the trip I am planning next year. It is also in my plans to attend the D-Day Celebration in France.

Don't forget! The next Issue Deadline is June 10, the shortest time between books because of the Vacation schedule of the printers employees. Everyone was early with their articles this time and I really appreciate that very much because it eases the burden of last minute rush. Many thanks to all the writers. Please do the same this time.

The bad news pertains to the many of our Buddies who are ill and suffering, and to the many that have passed away. We don't hear about a lot of them because a lot of our people just won't take the time to drop me a line. Sometimes when a letter is returned, I get the news with the help of the Post Office because the envelope is marked: 'Deceased.'

In closing, I'd like to ask all of you to send me any and all news about our 83rd Buddies. Your Buddies like to see your names in the book too. It tells them that you are one of the interested 83rds. If you know of a Buddy who is not a member, ask him to sign up or at least tell us why he doesn't want to belong. Maybe we are doing something wrong in our operation. I would like to know what it might be.

Again, thanks to all of you that have been in contact with your Buddies. This has been a great help to our Association.

The final figures on our Membership for this year will appear in the next issue. Much of the news will be omitted to allow for the names and addresses as last year.

Samuel Klippa
Secretary-Treasurer

DUES ARE STILL JUST \$6.00

BE PROMPT. GET THEM IN EARLY.

I received a very lengthy letter from Thomas J. Keegan of 'K' 331st Infantry who is looking for some help for a claim he is filing with the V.A. It would be very nice if all of you that knew him, would drop him a line with any help you may be able to provide. Claims are sometimes very hard to prove without the help of Buddies like you.

He writes:

Dear Sam:

I was very happy to hear from you last November. The reason for delay in answering you is that my ten year old Grandson had to be hospitalized for a bad asthma attack.

I have been suffering since 1938 with my stomach, and my left knee which I had Osteo Melitis in. The knee was all reconstructed through surgery. Now it keeps dislocating. The pain is so bad that I have to take several different medications every day.

I am hoping that my try for 'Service Connection' will be a success with your help and the boys in 'K' Company that will write a letter for me. God Bless you one and all.

Thomas J. Keegan
'K' Co. 331st Inf.

Achtung!

PAY YOUR 1978 DUES

OL' BUDDY...thanks



"I know you're disappointed dad, but try to understand. I had to go awol. They were gonna cut my hair."

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

Hi Buddies:

Well, here it is April again and in another four months it will be Reunion time. It's a long time between Reunions but when we get older, it seems the time goes faster. Getting together is the nice part, getting older is nice if you're healthy, but when your bones start to squeak, it's tough. You would think the older you got, the stronger you'd get, like a tree, but it's not that way. I guess someday we'll find out why.

Our meetings have been very poor as of late with the same faces there all the time, thank God for them. It's just too bad that the wives don't come like they do at the other Chapters. They all seem to have a lot of good times together. It's just too bad we all can't get together on the same night, but it's tough.

Read about a Buddy looking for information in the last V.F.W. Magazine, so I wrote to him with the data he was looking for and he was the first one in about eight fellows who I read about looking for something that wrote to me and thanked me. His name is Lawrence Thomas from Columbus, Ohio. He has promised to be at the Reunion in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Still haven't been out golfing with Stan Bielen this year yet, but it looks like we'll be going next week. Don Thiebolt said he went out with his sweet wife Twyla and used orange balls, but now they have to wait until Spring to see if they made Par or Bogey. I hope the snow is melted by then.

My Buddy, Charlie Waldrop down in good old South Carolina hasn't been feeling too well in this cold weather but I know with the good old Summer time coming, he will be on the ball again.

Had a problem getting some furniture moved last month and then thought of our Buddy Vito Lascari and his brother who have a moving business in Lodi, so I stopped in to see them. The next day the furniture was moved and the price was right. If you guys know of anyone who needs a good mover, give them a call. They go all over and know their job well.

Emil Wehling still supplies us with Magazines and T.V. Guides every meeting night and I think it has drawn more members to the V.F.W. I just wish more 83rd Members would show up.

Haven't heard how Father McCartin is making out. Sure hope he is well again. He's a great guy and his heart is with the 83rd. If he reads this, I hope he'd drop a line as I would like to write to him also.

You know anyone of you guys and wives who would like to join us at Myrtle Beach come October 1st., just send your reservation to Waikiki Village Motel and we'll see you there. Promise you a swell time with a great bunch of guys and gals.

Just remember: It's later than we think and I'll see you come Reunion time.

Yours Truly
Jim Bowie
Co. 'B' 330th. Inf.

THE YEARLY SPRING DINNER DANCE OF THE
GREATER PITTSBURGH CHAPTER WILL BE HELD IN
NEW STANTON, PA. MAY 13, 1978 IS THE DATE AND IT
STARTS AT 6:30 SHARP.

PITTSBURGH CHAPTER REPORT

Hi Buddies:

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Lou Kanes (B-329) and I will be reporting all the news from the Greater Pittsburgh Chapter. It is going to be a big job trying to fill the shoes of my predecessors, Ed Reuss and Gene Costanzo. I just hope I can do half as good as they have done in the past.

The Pittsburgh Chapter has been keeping pretty active despite the bad weather and road conditions. We have had all our Monthly Meetings and have averaged over 38 members at each meeting. At our last meeting we all received our Pittsburgh Chapter Shirts. They are black and yellow. Boy, if you want to see a sharp outfit, just wait until Reunion time when we will all be wearing them!

Plans are going ahead for our Spring Dinner Dance which will be held at the Inn America in New Stanton, PA. It's right off the Pennsylvania Turnpike at exit 8. The date is set for May 13, 1978 at 6:30 P.M. We had our last affair there last year and we all enjoyed it very much. Joe DeLuca is in charge of the affair. He handled the last one, so you can be sure this year will be just as successful.

By the way, Congradulations to Joe DeLuca upon his graduation from California State College.

Our Chapter also discussed the possibility of chartering a Bus to the Reunion in Cincinnati, Ohio, but it seems like we will not get enough members who want to ride down on a Bus. Maybe everybody remembers the Bus ride to Myrtle Beach!

Glad to see that Gene Costanzo is back on the semi-professional bowling tour after being held up for one month. He had a cut on the third finger of his bowling hand. Gene is also going back to Allegheny Community College and is majoring in Union Business Law. Good luck, Gene!

Vic Premro is passing out cigars again. He became a grandfather for the third time. It's a girl! Congradulations to both Vic and Marge. Also, for 'Spearhead' Campbell and his wife, we send Congradulations. Their son and daughter-in-law have a new son named Justin who weighed in at eight pounds and nine ounces.

Congradulations to Al Suess' son Al Jr. on his coming marriage on April 15th. Best of luck and many happy years. ---- Charlie and Jo Altomari's daughter, Diane, is attending West Virginia University and is majoring in Computer Science. Good luck, Diane. ---- Ralph Allen, of 'B' Battery, 908 F.A. is sporting a nice tan after spending two weeks in Hawaii with his wife. ---- We want to welcome our newest member to the Pittsburgh Chapter, Steve Columbus of Hq. Co. 2nd. Bn. 329th. Inf. Steve hails

from Bethel Park, PA. Hope you will enjoy it as much as we all have over the past years. ---- We are sorry to hear about our Buddy Todd McLaughlin going back into the Hospital. (Todd has passed away since this news was sent to the THUNDERBOLT.)

Coming events for the Pittsburgh Chapter are: May 13, our Annual Dinner Dance. In June, our Picnic. In August our big event of the year, our Reunion. Boy, we can hardly wait! Until then, stay healthy and happy.

Lou Kanes
'B' 329th. Inf.



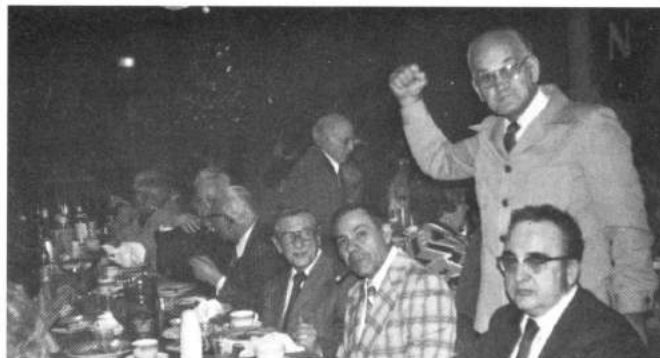
L. to R. Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. DeMarino, Mrs. Klippa, Mrs. Alicandri, Mrs. Lozowski, Mrs. Premro and Mrs. Golembiewski.



Andy Churpak, William DeMarino, Wilbur Campbell, Greer Thompson, Sam Klippa, Ted Lozowski and Ezio Alicandri.



A World War I Buddy we met at our Christmas Party and Ezio Alicandri. The Ole Boy was in 308 Engineers.



Some of the Pittsburgh gang chowing up before the booze started to flow. Smokey is about to be bopped.



More of our lovely women. Mrs. Reuss, Mrs. Diethrich, Mrs. Mattes, Mrs. Blasko and Steve.

KENTUCKY CHAPTER NEWS

Hello to all you 83rders from the Kentucky Chapter. We are looking forward to seeing everyone here in Cincinnati in August.

We met in Louisville the first part of March. All plans look good for a wonderful Reunion. Everyone has been working hard on their part to make this a memorable one. REMEMBER! This is the first time the Reunion has been held in this area. Plenty to do and see.

We want to thank Sam Klippa for coming to our meeting and helping us make some of the decisions about the Reunion. He brought along lots of information that needed to be gotten ready to send all men about the Reunion. So we had a regular assembly line and helped him get it ready. Lots of fun for all of us and yet it helped Sam. After that we had the Chapter Meeting before going to Dinner, then, back to the club house for a delightful social gathering with all those who stayed overnight.

We are really looking forward to seeing all of you in August. Make your plans now to attend. We promise a time will be had by all.

Robert E. Derickson
3 Bn Hq 329th Inf.

CLEVELAND REPORT

Hello Buddies:

All is well here in Cleveland, now that is. Bob Grobelny was hospitalized with an emergency appendectomy and is now getting along real well. My wife Eleanor went to the hospital for a pace maker replacement in January. I took her in on the day of our big blizzard. She went through that real good, then a month later I rushed her back to get the new one worked on. The new one was to be good for six to ten years, but malfunctioned. I don't know who suffered more this year, my wife or yours truly. Her Doctor credited me with saving her from certain death for not listening to her, she insisted that everything was fine, but I hustled her off to the hospital ignoring her plea to keep her at home, and that all would pass over. She is doing real fine now and so am I, it sure is good to relax again.

Our Annual Meeting was held in February, this included our Election too. It wasn't much of an election as all those in office graciously accepted for another year. 'Graciously' is a mis-nomer, they took the job because nobody else would volunteer, and it is a shame for some members to decline every time they are nominated for a position. The slate for 1978 is once again:

Lindsey	President
Kowalec	Secretary
Meczka	Treasurer
Warner	Sergeant-at-arms

Trustees

Szubski	Three years
Giersz	Two years
Balcerzak	One year

The meeting was followed by a chili-dinner that I made. The guys all raved about how good it was. I am sure that all the wives heard from their husbands that night --- 'Screaming Meemies for sound effects.'

Bob and Joann Uher enjoyed a vacation in Mexico this past February. I inquired as to whether Bob swallowed any water while showering and he said 'heck no, I didn't want any of that fluid drive that we hear so much about.'

Our meeting in the month of March was held at the home of Earl and Ronnie Lindsey, and as usual, the Reunion was foremost in our minds. We also finished all of our odds and ends of our 25th Anniversary Party, which will be the 15th of April. We discussed sending Invitations to the various members of our organization and making it a big splash but finances proved to be too skimpy, and we didn't want to offend anyone, so that was voted down. After the meeting we partook in some gourmet style eating, venison stew that Ronnie and Earl cooked up for us. I don't have to say anything but 'delicious', and that it was, believe me.

Chester Czech was on 'Bowling for dollars' and hit the jackpot for over \$400.00, however, he had to split with his partner so he didn't come away too heavy. Guess that's about all from our neck of the woods except that if you haven't paid your Dues, do so now and make plans for our Reunion in Cinci, Ohio, August 17, 18 and 19.

Al Uridel

Cn. Co. 329th. Inf.

A REPORT FROM NEW ORLEANS CONVENTION SITE FOR 1979

Communications from the Division Association are excellent. I have received letters from Mike Skovran, Sam Klippa, Manny Goodridge and Pat DiGiammerino.

Representatives of our group here in Louisiana have been invited to the Executive Board meeting to be held in Cincinnati on May 6. We will be there. Myself, I am looking forward to the meeting and I am sure that the information received will be very helpful to us in planning for the Annual Reunion in New Orleans, in August 1979.

We are thankful that the members of the Executive Board take the time to keep us informed and up to date with the latest happenings.

Our Planning Committee is constantly working on a program for the Reunion, one which will be accepted by all members. Our planning for the three days program is based on a theme that will involve all members and their families. There is no possible way that we can show you New Orleans in three days, but we will keep you on the go. Our hope is that you come early and stay late.

For those who are members of the V.F.W., our Reunion in New Orleans; will be followed by the National V.F.W. Convention in New Orleans. For those members, here is a chance for you to get a headstart on your V.F.W.

There are a number of events that will be open to a few of the members. Events that some of the members will not be interested in, these events will be scheduled for the interested individuals so that it will not interfere with the three day schedule of events.

For the gambler, a day at the races; for the golfer, a tournament is planned to find out who is the Number One Golfer in the Association; for the music lover, the best in Jazz and Dixieland music. And then there is the Superdome.

We plan to distribute a survey at the Reunion in Cincinnati to determine the various interests of the members as we want you and your family to enjoy yourselves when you come to our great City of New Orleans.

The city itself is growing, the downtown area in 1979 promises to be one of the better downtown areas in the country. Numerous activities are being planned for the tourists that come to visit our city.

The history of New Orleans is fabulous. The Vieux Carre (The French Quarter) is a treat in itself, not only for Bourbon Street, but for the historical buildings in and around the Quarters. New Orleans dates back to the 18th Century and the growth of the city is built around the area where history was made. For those who have always wanted to see New Orleans, now is your chance. DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY.

Joe Macaluso

'G' Co. 331st. Inf.

REMEMBER TO BLOCK OFF YOUR VACATION IN 1979 SO THAT YOU WILL NOT MISS THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME DREAM REUNION. THERE IS PLENTY OF TIME TO GET PREFERENCE FROM YOUR EMPLOYER. AUGUST 1979 WILL BE A GREAT TIME IN THE HISTORY OF OUR ASSOCIATION. ED.

Bill Chavanne the new Secretary of the Philadelphia Chapter has asked me to publish the names and addresses of those members in his area who have become lost. If anyone of you can give him new addresses for these people, please send same to: Bill Chavanne - 7041 Rutland Street - Philadelphia, PA 19149. I'm sure that Bill will appreciate your help.

Edward Baechle - 6420 N. 11th. St. - Philadelphia, PA 19126
 R.K. Baker - 9510 Fordham Road - Philadelphia, PA 19114
 Charles Banner - 3011 Oakford Road - Philadelphia, PA 19146
 Harry L. Breiner - 44 Bayberry Road - Trenton, NJ 08618
 Thomas W. Crusemire - 3724 S. Hereford Lane - Philadelphia, PA 19114
 Otto Deising - 721 N. 24th. St. - Allentown, PA 18101
 Frank Ebling - (Current address unknown)
 M.J. DeMaria - 1201 Easton Road - Roslyn, PA 19001
 Louis Ganzelli - 507 Wharton Street - Philadelphia, PA 19147
 Ralph A. Guarnieri - 14 Arch Lane - Levittown, PA 19055
 Raymond Haas - (Current address unknown)
 John D. Hanft - 185 Ladderback Lane - Devon, PA 19333
 Bernard Huck - 325 Jackie Ave. - Robesonia, PA 19551
 Frank H. Johnson - 209 S. 34th. St. - Camden, NJ 08105
 James E. Kennedy - 402 Bryn Mawr Ave. - Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
 James Kincade - 33 Evergreen ave. - Broomall, PA 19008
 Joseph Lacy - 2809 Somerset Court - Riverton, NJ 08007
 Charles McCardle - 519 N. Manoa Road - Havertown, PA 19083
 Leslie Martin - 525 Shortridge Drive - Wynnwood, PA 19096
 John A. Miller, Jr. - 12 Hawthorne Road - Bridgeport, PA 19405
 Domenic Potena - 1204 Sylvan Ave. - Haddon Hts., NJ 08035
 Philip J. Sandmaier - 111 Ridgewood Road - Radnor, PA 19088
 Alfred E. Sinesi - 7161 Willgoos Ave. - Pennsauken, NJ 08110
 Eugene Toltzis - 1028 Brighton Street - Philadelphia, PA 19111
 Edwin S. Vile - 2532 Trenton Road - Cornwell Hts., PA 19020

WHY NOT SEND YOUR
 UPDATED LISTS OF
 NAMES AND ADDRESSES
 TO NATIONAL HQ. TOO?
 WE COULD USE A LOT
 OF THEM TO BOOST OUR
 MEMBERSHIP.

CHAPLAINS STEEPLE

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER NEWS

On Saturday night, March 18th, our Chapter held a St. Paddy's Party with an Italian covered dish, supplied by our wonderful and faithful wives. Bless them. They really did a wonderful job. Our ladies go all out to help make our Chapter a success.

Our Vice President, Al Belvedere of 'K' 331, has drawn up a schedule for our coming year, and it looks like a great one. We of our Philly Chapter gave Al Belvedere the O.K. to charter the Bus for our gang.

Anyone interested in the Bus trip to our Reunion in Cincinnati, in August, contact Al Belvedere - 609-663-0784 or mail for info to his address: 1428 Hillside Terrace in Pennsauken, NJ 08110.

Sorry to hear our good Buddy Larry Redmond resigned as Chapter Secretary due to personal reasons. Larry wished to nominate Bill Chavanne as Secretary to finish his term. His wishes were approved by the members. A great job was done by Larry - and we know Bill will carry on. Good luck to both of them.

Two new members joined us for our St. Paddy's Party with their lovely wives: Joseph Nitroy of 'C' 331 and James F. Price of 'C' 331. Also, Ernie (Juicy) DeFrancesco of Hq. 331 arrived and surprised everyone.

Hope to see everyone soon.

John T. Piscitelli

Dear Buddies:

So far, since our last Reunion, fifteen have passed away. Our ranks have been thinning out very slowly. The following men's names were sent in without their Company or their Battalion letter or number.

Henry Berchick - Ralph Moore - Ronald Surbaugh, Sr. - George Berlet and Cliff Unbekant.

Anyone knowing Company or Unit of these our deceased Comrades, please drop me a line. We would like to read each man's outfit off for our ceremonies at the Reunion.

Thank You

O'Lord:

Father of us all - accept our Prayers in behalf of the souls of our faithfully departed. These things we ask in Your Name. Amen.

Our following Buddies have been pretty ill due to injuries. Our good Buddy Lou Volpi of 'A' 324 F.A. due to fractured ribs from a fall. Our Prayers are with him also. Bernard (Bookie) Mendelsohn of 'C' 308 Eng. was walking with a collar harness due to a neck injury. Another good Buddy Manny Martin has been laid up due to illness. Pete Constantino of Hq. 324 F.A. has been laid up quite awhile and a card or letter can always cheer up a Buddy.

Thank You

Also, Phil E. Remillard of R.D. -1 Swanton Road - St. Albans, VT 05478 needs help. Phil served in 'C' 323rd. F.A. Battalion as forward observer with our outfit. Anyone

who was with him on outpost or with our Battery or our Battalion, who remembers his injuries, and illnesses, please contact him. Thank you.

John T. Piscitelli
Chaplain
'C' 323 F.A. Bn.

MEMBERS OF 'G' CO. 331ST.

As time passes by, we find that our Reunion for 1978 is getting near. We are only five months away from our August date in Cincinnati in 1978. Time for us to make plans to attend.

It is always refreshing to come back from the Reunion knowing that your Buddies can still enjoy themselves even though the years keep adding on. We are always hopeful that more and more can attend. Whenever the Reunion is in your area, take time to drop in and see the gang, they will be glad to see you. This year in Cincinnati we will be close to a large group of 'G' Company men. Contact your Buddies and tell them to meet us. In the near future, I will write a letter to each of you with the latest information about the men of 'G' Company. Once again we hope to sponsor an AD in the Program Book to let men from the other units in the Division, that 'G' Company 331st is interested in the welfare of all members of our great Division.

Once again, I have some news to pass on to the men of 'G' Company. Mort Gaynor's wife passed away after a long illness. It is hard on us when our loved ones die, but Mort's courage under trying conditions is still great. We are sorry Mort, but we know that it is a Blessing, because your wife did suffer a great deal of pain.

Haven't heard from too many of the boys, but as we get up in years, we do have a tendency to idle our time. For those of us that are members, drop me a card to let me know how things are with you, and with my yearly correspondence to each member, we can keep abreast of the situation.

Also, our best regards to Bill Bogacz who had a serious accident at work. Take good care of yourself, Bill, and we hope to see you in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Captain Mac
'G' Co. 331st. Inf.

BOSTON CHAPTER REPORT

Well, the snow is about gone here in Boston with the help of the real good weather we have had this past week. It was something to be able to put away the well worn shovel. Also, many of us here had a bout with the Flu.

We had several meetings since the last report. At the March meeting, we elected a new slate of Officers:

Romeo Maynard	President
Paul Gundersen	Vice President
Michael Caprio	Secretary-Treasurer
Ambrose Tynan	Judge Advocate
Fr. Morrisette	Chaplain
Larry Arrigo	Assistant Chaplain
Ambrose Tynan	Reporter
Raymond Bjork	Sergeant-at-Arms
Robert Hunnewell	Chairman of Membership
Norman Bilodeau	Recording Secretary

This is a fine group of men and we hope to have a very successful year. Of course, I wish to thank the membership for electing me to be their Reporter for another year.

On March 28th, Mike Caprio invited me down to a nice dinner he runs to make money for his Veterans Post. Along with my brother John and son, a wonderful time was had with Mike and his Comrades of the Post. I might add that we came back from Rhode Island with a few extra pounds (Vera is a good cook like everyone said.) Thanks again Mike.

This Boston Reporter paid a visit to Wellesley Fire Chief, Bill Donahue at his office. Bill and I talked about the men in the 83rd for over an hour. He told me to tell Dick Kelly from the Warren Chapter that he will be in Ohio in September 1978. Bill Donahue and Dick Kelly have some real fish stories to talk about when they get together. I enjoyed a lot of laughs with my friend Bill. Dick, Donahue is talking mostly of retirement and all his money.

Boston has a meeting in Walpole, MA on the 18th of April. You can have a steak dinner or whatever you want on the menu. Romeo Maynard will be able to get off to a good year ahead as our new President. Between meetings we will have several telephone calls making plans for this coming meeting. Sam Klippa will be happy to hear that we are going out strong on a membership drive. Sam has been writing me and he himself has been having good luck in getting new members. It is very helpful when everyone is helping out. That's why we have such a wonderful Assoc.

I have to add to this letter a note about Page One of the last issue of the THUNDERBOLT about the Boston Chapter. The members of the New England Chapter should know better. The Boston Chapter is doing very well 'Gentlemen'. I will drop it for the good of the 83rd. As Norm Campbell once said, 'We don't need this in the THUNDERBOLT'. I do hope that the THUNDERBOLT can stop downing other Chapters of this fine Association to get ahead in membership of their own Chapters but try and get new memberships for our National Association. Enough said.

Members of the Boston Chapter requested that in this report we thank the outgoing President, Pat DiGiammerino for his fine leadership and all that he has done for the Boston Chapter. Pat, you have done a real good job for us, and I am very happy to hear you say that you will help us in the future. That also goes for his lovely wife Ginny.

Romeo Maynard has many ideas on building up the membership of our Boston Chapter which will be talked about at the next meeting in Walpole, MA. The months coming we hope will be a real success. Dues are coming in the mail very well without asking for them. The loyal members in Boston are on the membership drive also for new members as in our plans made at our last meeting.

Thanks to Teddy and Jim Prentice for coming so far, with poor road conditions to attend the Boston Chapter meeting in March. Jim makes as many meetings of the Chapters as he can. I know he and his wife Teddy have been almost to every Chapter in this country.

This will be all the news for the Boston Chapter.

Amby Tynan
Boston Reporter
323rd F.A.



AMBY TYNAN, WALTER GUTT AND DAVE NELLIES



BILL AND LOIS SHANER

323F.A. REPORT

Time is going by fast and Nancy and I are looking forward to doing some traveling this coming month. In May we will be in Altoona, PA. with Bill Shaner and Don St. John, and hopefully Eddie McCouch, for a weekend.

March 4th, 1978 Donald St. John, Jr. married Terri Hopkins at St. Bridgets Church in Meadville, PA. with the snow and all. I was told a good time was had by all. Good luck to both of them. Sorry we missed it.

John Turkett wrote to me since the last issue of the THUNDERBOLT. John has had a lot of suffering but seems in good spirits now. It is needless to say, I was very happy to hear from John.

Romeo Maynard and I have been seeing quite a bit of each other now. He is the new President of our Boston Chapter. Maybe we can bring more 323 boys in this area to join in with us. We will be trying.

I talked to Tom Papile on the phone, also Red Frawley from 'A' Battery. They are both getting along very well.

Bill Shaner tells me that James 'Buck' Taylor talks to him on the telephone quite often! They were members of the Old Army that us kids had to straighten out back in '42.

Next month I should be in Washington D.C. and hope to see Otto Koivisto while I am there. Also, I am glad to hear that Tom Houlette and Jack Knight are members in the 83rd Association.

Well gang, that's it for this issue.

Amby Tynan
323rd. F.A.

WARREN CHAPTER REPORT

Hello again from Warren:

We haven't had any big affairs going of late, but now the Summer will be coming up and we are getting out of the deep freeze. This Winter has really been a son-of-a-gun here in Warren. But this year, after it hit here, we shipped quite a bit of it up to the New England States. Especially around Boston. Please take note, Bill Donahue. Let me know and we will ship another batch next year.

In January, we had our meeting at the home of Charlie Tomazin. We had a very productive meeting and Charlie kept the food and liquid refreshments coming.

February meeting was held at the home of Babe Gautschi and Babe did his usual great job as Host. Good meeting.

March meeting was held at Ray Voracek's home in Cleveland. I could not attend as my wife and I flew to Florida for a couple of weeks. We spent a week in Miami. It was great; nice and warm. I have a son and daughter living there, also a brother and sister.

The following week we went to Clearwater Beach and it was chilly. While there we journeyed over to Orlando to Disneyland and I just about got icicles on my butt while we were there.

We went to Port Richey and visited Angie and Joe Phillipone. They were down there for a couple of weeks. We ran into Mike and Liz Skovran as they were getting ready to leave. They were also on Vacation. So we had a real Warren Day together.

The April meeting will be held at Joe Phillipone's home in Youngstown.

On May 20th, we will hold our Annual Anniversary Party and it will be Warren's 25th. Babe Gautschi, John Shamrock and myself will be the committee. It will be held at the Holiday Inn Motel. The same place we held the Reunion and the same Ballroom where we gathered during the day. We are inviting all of you to attend. The charge will be \$20.00 per couple. That includes the dinner, drinks and dancing.

The price of the rooms at the Motel is \$20.00 or \$22.00 for a double room.

Please make your reservations if you plan to attend. We plan on having a very good time. Hope to see you in Warren.

Contact our Secretary:

Michael Skovran
2447 Reeves Road NE
Warren, OH 44483

We are going to try to relive the past Reunion, so try to make it.

Yours Truly
Dick Kelly
908 F.A. Bn.

**THIRTY FIRST ANNUAL REUNION
83RD. INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION INC.
WARREN, OHIO - 1977**

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

INCOME:

Registration	\$19,006.25
Program Book	3,985.00
Raffles	1,051.00
Advance from Association	200.00
TOTAL	\$24,242.25

EXPENSES:

Holiday Inn	\$ 673.00
Divieste's Hall	450.00
Program Book	1,596.00
Transportation	975.00
Kenley Players	1,220.00
Registration Desk	225.00
Hospitality Room	1,360.50
Thursday Night Party	3,070.78
Friday Night Party	1,285.94
Saturday Night Party	5,092.85
Bands	1,100.00
Advance from Association	200.00
Ladies Breakfasts	1,058.00
Presidents Letter	210.00
Return of Program AD Monies	110.00
Dues to Assoc.; Paid to National Sec'y.	1,944.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,618.00
Badge Holders	75.00

TOTAL EXPENSES \$22,264.07

TOTAL INCOME	\$24,242.25
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$22,264.07
PROFIT	\$ 1,978.18

This Report is being published late at the request of the Warren Chapter. It was to be omitted completely and reported and shown only at the next Reunion. I was of the understanding that we would not publish these reports. ED.

LET'S ALL GET BEHIND THE KENTUCKY CHAPTER IN AUGUST AND MAKE THE CINCINNATI REUNION ONE THAT THEY WILL ALL BE PROUD OF. LET'S SHOW THEM THAT WE APPRECIATE ALL THE WORK AND EFFORT THEY ARE PUTTING INTO IT.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN WHEN WE MUST SUPPORT THEM WITHOUT ADS BECAUSE REGISTRATION FEES ALONE ARE NOT ENOUGH TO PUT ON SUCH A GREAT SHOW FOR US.

AUGUST 17, 18 AND 19, 1978.

IN CINCINNATI, OHIO.

PUBLICITY DIRECTORS REPORT

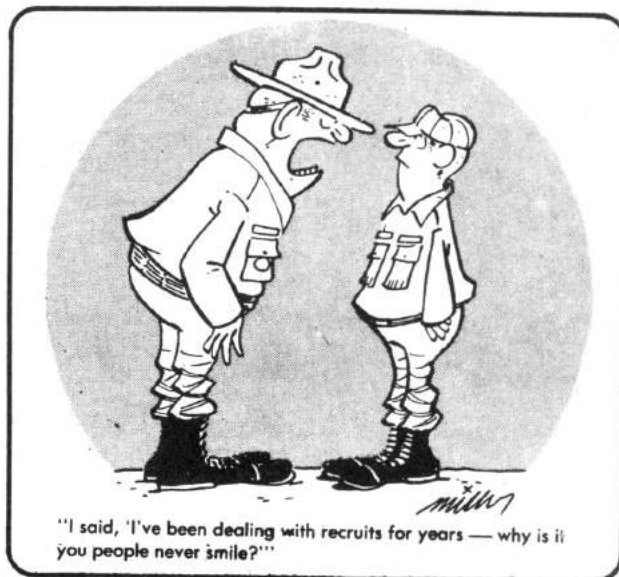
First of all, I want to congratulate Sam Klippa, our hard working Secretary on his idea of mailing a letter out to the membership, reminding them of their Dues being due in the Fall, which resulted in our membership going over the THOUSAND MARK again. Sam certainly deserves all the credit for that as that is the best way to keep our membership up over the thousand mark. The articles in the Newspapers and the Veteran's Magazines help get the word around, but it's the personal contact that gets the job done.

This year, I have some good news for the Association as I was able to get word of our Reunion sent over the Wire Services of U.P.I. This is a big help as it does the job and saves expenses. It's really doing the job as the following day, I received a call from a local Radio Station stating that they noticed the article on the U.P.I. Wire Service and wanted me to tape a report about the Reunion, which I did, and it was on the six o'clock news.

Do hope that you get a good response from the Papers and Magazines to add more members to the great number you've already rounded up, Sam. I was sorry to see that - the V.F.W. Magazine put in the 4 instead of the 3 - making it the 84th instead of the 83rd in their Reunion Notices. Sam and I both wrote in to ask them to correct it and it should have been done by now. These notices for the Veteran's Magazines were sent in to them last October and November, but you just have to wait until they're ready to print them.

Well, with Sam's excellent membership drive and the notices and bulletins being sent out, we'll all be hoping for a big turnout in Cincinnati in August. I spoke to Manny Goodridge and he said his Committee is working hard getting it together for a fine Reunion at the Stouffers Hotel. Don't forget the AD Book, as the Kentucky Chapter would appreciate the help in putting on a successful Reunion in August.

Jim Prentice
Publicity Director
'B' 908 F.A.



WARREN AUXILIARY

Hi Everybody:

It looks like Spring has sprung. It is a lovely 55 degrees this morning and the air smells so good. We had rain yesterday but more promised for this evening. But who cares about a little rain after that horrible Winter. I don't think anybody will forget the monstrous snow, blizzards and ice storms.

We got away from it all for two weeks and when we got back to Warren, the snow and ice were gone. Caught up to Liz and Mike Skovran and Angie and Joe Phillipone in Port Richey, FL. Then we each went in different directions. Ted and Dolly Halubka were also in Florida at the same time but we did not make connections. We would have had a small Reunion together.

Our January meeting was held at the home of Louise Bellay and the following Officers were elected for the year:

Millie Kelly	President
Berdie Titus	Vice President
Liz Skovran	Secretary
Angie Phillipone	Treasurer
Dolores Halubka	Sunshine Lady
Mary Cooley	Auxiliary Reporter

We thank Theresa Gautschi, our President for the past two years, for her dedication to our Auxiliary. She really kept us on the ball and looking for new things to do. I hope I can follow in her footsteps. Thanks again, Theresa.

In February we were all at Theresa and Babe Gautschi's home. The men held their meeting in the Rec Room and the women upstairs. Then we all got together for a chit-chat.

Some of us could not attend the March meeting in Cleveland at the home of Margie Voracek. We were soaking up that Florida sunshine.

Our Hostesses serve us delicious snacks after each meeting and each one comes up with something different. We have a bunch of marvelous cooks.

This month, Angie and Joe Phillipone will open their doors for the Warren Chapter and Auxiliary meetings. The weather should be nice by the 16th.

On May 11th, we are going to the Carousel Dinner Theater to see 'Cabaret'. We love that place and really have a very enjoyable evening. LADIES NIGHT OUT! Dolly Halubka gets us the best seats.

John Teringo has been on the sick list and we all hope he will be his jolly self soon.

Dick and I became grand-parents again. Another bouncing boy to our daughter, Kathy. Number three for her.

Mike and Liz Skovran said they had the good fortune to be stopped by our good friends, Charlie and Mary Sihlanick from Little Ferry, NJ on their way to Florida. They saw the 83rd Insignia in the window of Mikes car. It pays to advertise the Mighty 83rd Division as it is known in Warren.

We are all making plans to see all of our wonderful people (who helped to make our Warren Reunion so successful in 1977) in Cincinnati on August 17, 18 and 19, 1978.

Good luck, Manny, Avalon and Committee from the Warren, Ohio Chapter.

It has been so nice these past few years as a Reporter

for our Auxiliary. Our new Reporter will be --- Mary Cooley.
Who resides at: 1459 Beechwood NE
Warren, OH 44483

Any news or questions that you may have concerning the Auxiliary will gladly be answered in the next issue of the THUNDERBOLT. Just write to Mary or any other member of our Auxiliary.

So Long
Millie Kelly
214 Oregon Ave. NW
Warren, OH 44485

CHICAGO CHAPTER NEWS

Hello Buddies:

Our first meeting of 1978 was held at a V.F.W. Post that Frank Phillips joined. They have a very active membership and twelve of us had a pleasant evening of dancing and companionship.

The second meeting was at the home of Joe and Irene Szech in March. What a feast that gal put out! Polish sausage, pierogi and golumpki.

Bill Bogacz is fully recovered after his accident. Lottie Kukulski showed up and looks great after her surgery. Burton a former Chicago member came in from Indianapolis for a Lucky 13 evening.

Joe Adam
'A' Co. 330th Inf.

'FRANKLY SPEAKING'

To the men of 'D' 330th:

I have to apologize this time as I don't have too much news. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men who sent in their Dues this year so far. We now have 29 paid-up National Members from 'D' Company.

I had a couple of surprises --- I received a nice letter from George Tangelo's wife with a check for his Dues and she also told me that she and George will be attending the Reunion this year and also that Malcolm O'Malley and his wife are coming along with them, plus, Jim Young and his wife.

I also received a letter from Milo McDaniel with his Dues and this is the first time he has been a member. Leo Sanino sent me his Dues, this is a first for him since 1949. Jim DiAntonio sent me his Dues, the first time since 1957 and said he would see us at the Reunion this year. There is one other fellow I am looking for who has not been a member for the past couple of years, namely, Johnny Walker. I know Johnny is very active in the V.F.W., he is now State Commander of Indiana but I don't like to see him forget the boys of 'D' Company.

This year, from what everyone tells me, we should have a very good turnout in Cincinnati. If we get the turnout, I think we should make a one night affair for the men of 'D' Company and their wives.

This is all I have for this issue --- there will be another one before Reunion and I hope to have more to say about 'D' Company Night.

If anyone has any addresses that I can use, please send them to me.

Frank M. Grogan
Company 'D' 330th.

HISTORIANS CORNER

Dear Buddies:

Were you there in the Loire Valley during the Fall of '44, the beautiful Chateau country and the great cities of Angers, Orleans and Chateaubriant?

These were the first big towns (not too badly wrecked by us or the Germans) we saw. The stocked shops, the well dressed civilians and the petite French girls - on their bicycles and off. Our food was better, thanks to some German stores and good cooks with time to cook - we even got some liberated wine. Some of us even got to eat out when off duty. To name a drink in a bar, and those way out modern toilets - the foot prints and the hole - you had to aim right!

We got to Church. And there was the night some unhappy G.I.'s machine gunned the Hotel De Gare in Chateaubriant. Something to do with 'Chickens'?

The days and nights were so quiet they made you nervous.

The pictures are of the Chateau in the middle of the town of Angers. I'll have some of Orleans and Chateaubriant in the next report.

Wm. Kent O'Connell
83rd. M.P.

1 SEPTEMBER 1944

The Division was engaged in the missions of capturing the Isle De Cezembre and patrolling the Loire River line from Redon to Orleans. The 3rd Battalion, 330th Infantry, and Battery 'C', 324th F.A. Battalion continued operations in the Brest area under Task Force 'B'.

On September 1 the Command Post of the 83rd Infantry Division was at Chateaubriant with an advance Command Post at Dinard.

In the Dinard area the 330th Infantry (1st and 3rd Bns.) supported by artillery and air continued operations against the Isle De Cezembre. Details for the assault were completed and H-hour was set for 1545, 2 September 1944. In the preparation for this, artillery fire on the island was increased and direct fire from 8" guns (2 Battalions) was placed on troop shelters and pillboxes, guarding the landing site. Some shelters were destroyed. A party was sent to the Isle De Cezembre to again demand the surrender of the enemy garrison, but it was not successful. During the night, time fire was placed on the beaches to prevent the enemy from laying mines or constructing additional beach obstacles.

On the Loire River the remainder of the Division was disposed as follows: The 331st Infantry from Redon to Champtoce exclusive; the 329th Infantry with 2nd Battalion, 330th Infantry attached from Champtoce inclusive to Orleans exclusive. The 1st Battalion 329th Infantry, was in Regimental reserve in vicinity of Chateau La Valliere.

The 774th Tank Battalion (less Companies A and B, which were attached to the 329th Infantry and 331st Regiments, respectively) closed in vicinity of Chateau La Valliere in Division Reserve 1830, 1 September 1944. This Battalion was attached to the Division 27 August, and was slated to remain with the Division. The unit was equipped with the

new 76MM tank gun. An intensive training program was instituted to perfect the training of Infantry-Tank team work and to give the new members of the Division the benefit of the battle experiences of the old units and personnel.

2 SEPTEMBER 1944

At 0800 white flags were seen on the Isle De Cezembre. A detachment was sent to the Island at 0930 to accept the surrender of the German Garrison and to occupy the Island. Prisoners of War totaled 323 Officers and men, including a small group of Italians.

Inspection of the Island revealed that the flat trajectory fire of the 155 MM and 8" guns had penetrated the concrete walls of many of the pillboxes and troop shelters, making them untenable. Many of the weapons on the upper positions of the Island had been sheared off by artillery fire and bombing. Bombing had severely damaged the Island, destroyed weapons in the open, removed camouflage and exposed troop shelters to view, making it possible to take them under fire with large caliber artillery.

Patrolling continued north of the Loire River without incident.

3 SEPTEMBER 1944

The Division continued patrolling on the north bank of the Loire River from Nantes to Orleans. The 1st Battalion of the 330th Infantry, relieved the 329th in area Champtoce to Saumur. The 329th Infantry, reinforced, patrolled from Tours to Orleans. The 83rd Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop was given a sector to patrol from Nantes to Champtoce, north of the Loire River. The 2nd Battalion, 330th Infantry, detailed one reinforced Company to occupy the Isle De Cezembre and policed St. Malo and Dinard.

The 331st Infantry continued its combat mission from Redon to Nantes. Training of units in reserve continued with special emphasis on the Infantry-Tank Team. The 308th Engineer Battalion was relieved from the attachment to the 329th Infantry and given the mission of repairing crossing over Sapthe River north of Angers to facilitate Communications to the east.

4 SEPTEMBER 1944

Division continued patrolling the Loire River but made no contact with the enemy. The 2nd Battalion, 330th Infantry continued occupation of the St. Malo area.

The 330th Infantry Command Post was moved from Dinard to Angers. The 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry, relieved the 2nd Battalion of the 329th Infantry, moved into reserve in the vicinity of Vendome.

The pilot of one of the Division Liaison planes reported the movement of several cargo ships out of the port of St. Nazaire. The information was reported to higher headquarters.

5 September 1944

The VIII Corps, including all attached units, passed to control of the Ninth U.S. Army, effective 5 September 1944.

Units of the Division were regrouped as follows: 331st from Redon to Champtoce exclusive; 330th Infantry from

Champtoce to Saumur exclusive; 329th Infantry from Saumur to Orleans. The 2nd Battalion 329th Infantry was in process of moving to Vendome for employment to the east of the Regimental sector.

Training of the Infantry-Tank Team continued.

The 308th Engineer Battalion worked on a bridge in the vicinity of Chateaufort Sur-Sapthe.

6 SEPTEMBER 1944

The Division continued the mission of protecting the right flank of the Army and patrolled the Loire River from Redon to Orleans.

The 2nd Battalion, 330th Infantry, continued its mission of defending the Dinard-St. Malo area.

The 331st Infantry captured 240 Russian Soldiers who had crossed the north side of the Loire River in the Vicinity of Nantes. Another patrol in the 331st area contacted an enemy patrol and killed five. The remainder withdrew.

7 SEPTEMBER 1944

In accordance with instructions from Ninth U.S. Army, the Division alerted the 2nd Battalion, 330th Infantry for movement from the St. Malo area to rejoin the Division. On the Loire River, patrols of the 2nd Battalion, 331st Infantry engaged an enemy patrol of approximately 30 men at Fay de Bretagne. Six of the enemy were captured and four were killed.

Free French Patriots brought reports of enemy movements south of the Loire River.

Units took advantage of the lull in activity to accomplish much training.

8 SEPTEMBER 1944

The Division continued patrolling and training.

Ninety-eight Prisoners of War were captured along the Loire River.

A directive on training was issued by the Division Commander stressing a diminishing need for Hedgerow tactics and directed training be modified to cover situations in more open terrain.

Responsibility for the defense of the St. Malo-Dinard area was turned over to the communication zone. The 2nd Battalion, 330th Infantry was ordered to rejoin the regiment.

9 SEPTEMBER 1944

The 2nd Battalion, 330th Infantry having been relieved in the St. Malo-Dinard area, closed in the vicinity of Angers and patrolling continued along the Loire River, and patrol duties were rotated by regimental commanders to provide all units maximum time for training.

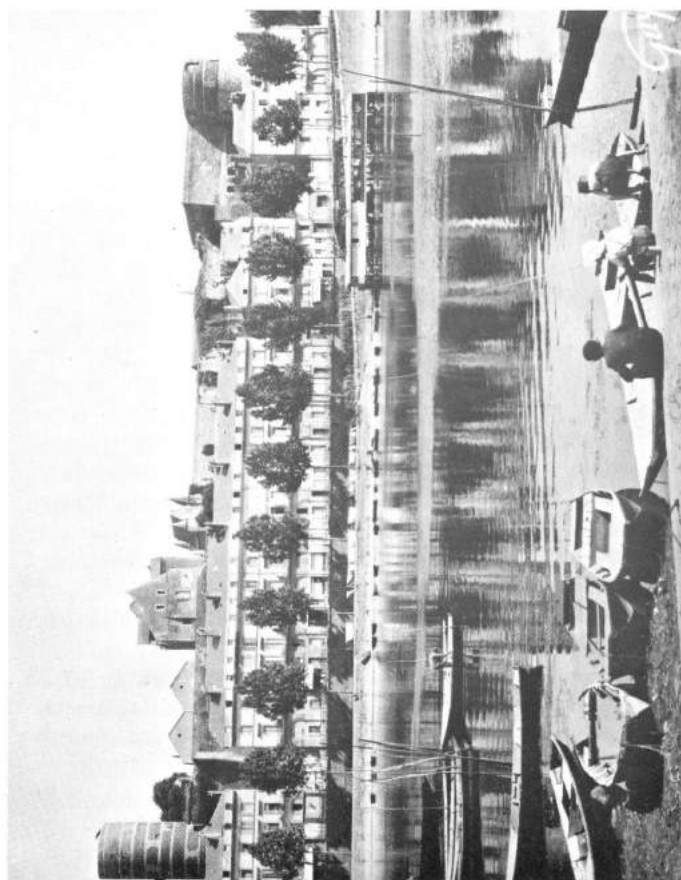
FFI sources reported to Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon Leaders of the 329th Infantry that a German march column under the command of Brigadier General Elster wished to surrender to an American force under conditions which he desired to stipulate.

Information was reported through channels to Ninth U.S. Army and negotiations were begun for surrender of these forces.

Wm. Kent O'Connell
83rd M.P.



CHATEAU AT ANGERS



LOIRE RIVER SCENE



TROOPS OF THE 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION MOVE THROUGH THE CAPTURED TOWN OF BIRGEL, GERMANY, ENROUTE TO ROER RIVER OBJECTIVES. THE TOWN SHOWS EFFECTS OF ARTILLERY FIRE.

LETTERS

I finally got around to joining the Association and I noticed in the last issue of the **THUNDERBOLT** that Dave Springer of C-329th. Infantry is a member of this Organization. I would appreciate getting his address and any others of C-329, since I took quite a few pictures of them with a liberated camera. If you are interested in any of them, please let me know.

I understand glossy prints are best for publication. What form would you like them in?

Harold Freeman
C-329th. Inf.

Enclosed are the names and addresses of M-329th. men and would you please send them information about the next Reunion in Cincinnati. I have sent them some of the late information in my Christmas Cards but maybe if they were to get it from you, they may get down to brass tacks and make plans to attend the Reunion in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Louis Lesjak
M-329th. Inf.

Eight addresses were sent of which six were not in the files and the information was sent out immediately. We hope to get them all in the fold and to the Reunion in August.
ED.

For once, I'm sending my check in advance, heretofore I've been rather slow. Please give my best to all the great guys in E-329th. Infantry. I hear from several of them at Christmas time and recall our struggles and good times together. I also recall that the Great Division never took a step backwards. Too bad they didn't let us continue into Berlin.

Hank Satterwaite
E-329th. Inf.

Just received my **THUNDERBOLT** and as usual am now in the process of re-reading it for the third time and will go back a time or two more.

I have several pictures taken of some of the guys that I served with overseas and if they would be worth a place in the **THUNDERBOLT**, I would send them to you, but I sure would hate to lose them.

Andrew J. Carroll
F-329th. Inf.

Send the pictures of your Buddies as we have already shown quite a few of the wrecked yards etc. Photos surely are the most interesting to everyone.
ED.

I am thirteen years old, my hobby is collecting Relics from U.S. Wars. I am hoping your 83rd Infantry might have a Newsletter in which my request could be printed. I promise to write to anyone I hear from.

Larry Lyons - 106 Elnora Dr. - Hendersonville, TN 37075

Sorry we didn't get to attend the Reunion last year, but we are planning to be in Cincinnati this year for sure. I had the pleasure of meeting with 12 men of the 308th Med. Battalion, Company B and I believe they were attached to the 330th Infantry. I showed them my **THUNDERBOLT** Magazine hoping they would join the Division Assoc. They held their Annual Reunion in Wausau as one of the men lives here.

Just received my **THUNDERBOLT** and always look forward to receiving it. Was reading the Historian's Corner about the Division movements around the Dinard, Dinard and St. Malo area. I believe Captain Dan Halladay was our Company Commander at the time as K-331 entered Dinard and secured a section of the City.

Am enclosing a couple of snapshots of our men in the City of Dinard. One is where T. Sgt. Winters, an FFI man and myself were watching the planes dive bombing the Isle of Cezembre with jelled gasoline. It was quite a sight to see.



T/Sgt. Winters, FFI Member and Wm. P. Schneider. Plane watching the bombing of the Isle of Cezembre.

The other shot is of myself, T/Sgt. Winters and our Lieutenant Anderson just relaxing after securing the area.



S/Sgt. Schneider, T/Sgt. Winters and Lt. Anderson.

Am looking forward to getting the reprint of 83rd Across Europe from Robert Taylor.

William (Bill) P. Schneider
K-331st Inf.

JUST A REMINDER THAT OUR REPRINT OF THE 83 HISTORY IS AVAILABLE ONLY FROM ROBERT TAYLOR.

In the last issue of the THUNDERBOLT I noticed the name of John P. Dowd who was my Communications Officer



Left to right are: John P. Dowd, myself and Johnny Coffey, the Jeep Driver.

Would like to see a lot of the boys at the Cincinnati Reunion in August.

William J. Clark
Hq. Co. 331

Enclosed is my check for \$11.00 for my 1978 Dues and \$5.00 for the Museum Fund in memory of Sgt. Albert Foster of Cumberland Center, ME who also served in the 3rd. Bn. of the 330th. Infantry. He died in May of 1976.

Ed Koivula
Hq. 330th. Inf.

I'm enclosing a copy of a letter I received from the wife of Alvis Waldrep. Alvis was in Hq. 323 F.A. They have never missed sending a card and a note at Christmas time since Ed left the Service. Although I have never met them I feel sorry for their troubles now. I wonder if you could mention him in your next THUNDERBOLT and perhaps some of the men who knew him would write and give his spirit a lift in his time of need.

Thank You
Joyce McCouch
Wife of Edward
Hq. 323 F.A.

P.S. His home address is:

Mr. Alvis Waldrep
14222 Rossiter Lane
Houston, TX 77049

Mrs. Waldrep wrote:

Hope all of you had a good year. As for us, it has been another bad year. Alvis had another brain operation in May and two last year. He is retired now because he wasn't able to return to work. It looks as though we will never get to come by your way because he is unable to travel.

Mrs. Alvis Waldrep

(All you guys in the 323rd, get out your pens and do your part to cheer up one of your Buddies.) ED.

It took me years to find out that the great 83rd had an Association. I served in the A.T. 331st Infantry. I had a serious accident on the 22nd of July and was unable to attend the Reunion because I was hospitalized for nine weeks with both legs fractured and a crushed chest. Am doing good now and barring anymore misfortune, will see you all in Cincinnati, Ohio in August.

I would like to hear from any of you in the A.T. Co. 331.

Charles P. Parker
P.O. Box 12
Richland, MO 65556

My wife Adele and I have plans of attending a Reunion someday, but the problem is that our vacations don't fall on the Reunion dates. We're still hoping. When I was a single fellow, I was fortunate enough to travel a lot. I have seen a lot of my 'M' 331st Buddies two or three times and some of my old Buddies from the 87th Division. Here is a list of some of those that correspond with me at Xmas time. (Addresses were listed and they were filed.)

Please send Edwin B. Collins a rundown on our great organization.

Took a trip to the old country about seven years ago along with Ireland and England. Wanted to see what that damned swamp looked like. The old Bailey Bridge was still there and they are just now building a new one beside the old one.

Dennis Lamos
'M' 331st Inf.

To hear from you brings back many good and exciting things that happened to us in Europe. Most certainly, I would like to attend the next Reunion, should there be another, but I do not know whether that will be possible. In the meantime, I would enjoy seeing you or any of our Buddies when they are in this area or I'm in theirs.

Is there any sort of organized plan for keeping track of us? How many attend the Reunions?

Ed Collins
'M' Co. 331st Inf.

(All the necessary info was sent to Ed Collins along

with the names and addresses of 'M' 331st. Infantry. Hope to have Ed Collins in the Active File very soon.) ED.

I am hoping to go to the Reunion this year and want all the information you can send me. I have been a Dues paying member for a number of years and have yet to receive my first THUNDERBOLT.

Raymond Pumpa
'A' 330th. Inf.

(All available past issues were sent to Ray and we will be looking forward to seeing him in Cincinnati.) ED.

This is the first time to get any news from any of the 83rd. I joined the 83rd in Camp Atterbury on Oct. 27, 1942, and stayed with them for three years one month and two days. If you have any news of the book 'THUNDERBOLT ACROSS EUROPE', I sure would appreciate the information and will be looking forward to seeing all of you in Cincy.

Dorsey L. Jones
3 Bn Hq 331st. Inf.

Hope to be able to pay next year's Dues in Cincinnati, At the Reunion.

Robert G. Piette
'G' 331st. Inf.

Had been in 1 Bn Hq 331st Infantry. Still a member of the USAR in grade of Colonel, as mobilization designee to Hq Fifth USA, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, in Operations.

Dr. Sanford B. Halperin
1 Bn Hq 331st. Inf.

Since we have changed our address, we didn't receive the November Notice. We spend our Winters in Florida but we are in Port Hope, MI all summer. We had planned to attend the 1977 Reunion but we were both ill. Our Deposit of \$24.00 was sent to the Motel and we notified them to cancel and as yet have not had the Deposit returned. I wrote two letters to them. We surely hope to be at the next Reunion in Aug.

Mrs. Matthew Banasik
A.T. 331st. Inf.

I am very sorry that I overlooked the payment of my Membership Dues. I am enclosing \$12.00 for two years.

I must congratulate you for the wonderful job that you and the rest of the Officers are doing in running the 83rd Organization. I am sure that the rest of the members agree with me and are proud of belonging to such a great outfit.

David Chin
Div. Hq.

DON'T FORGET! IT'S CINCINNATI IN 1978.
AUGUST 17, 18 AND 19TH.

START WRITING TO YOUR BUDDIES NOW AND GET THEM TO MAKE THEIR PLANS NOW TO BE THERE.

Here is an address for the THUNDERBOLT:

Bruce W. Richmond
Veterans Hospital - Ward 2318
10701 East Boulevard
Cleveland, OH 44106

He lost his wife last year.

Russell E. Davy
'C' 908 F.A.

(I wrote to Russell and said that I would rather have his permanent address for our files, so that we could keep in touch with Bruce always.) ED.

Russell wrote back and sent his permanent address but said that he would be at the hospital and that his home was to be sold to pay the bills for his wife's Doctors and their hospital bills.

Russell is Bruce's brother-in-law.

It would be nice if all of his 908 F.A. Buddies would drop him a line of cheer at the hospital. ED.

I'm sorry I haven't kept up my Dues but the past two years have been hectic. My Company has transferred me to Henderson, KY to their new plant. Things have been time consuming and I have been negligent in letting other things slide. (Such as membership in the Association.)

I was transferred just before the Warren Reunion in June. Henderson, KY is just 14 miles from Evansville, IN and 25 miles from Camp Breckenridge. I drove there just once to see what the place looked like but couldn't get on the grounds that particular day. The camp is now a Job Training Center and most of the barracks have been torn down.

Please keep me informed on the Cincinnati Reunion.

Sam Orsich
'M' Co. 331st. Inf.

Do you have any memorabilia of the 83rd for sale or know of anyone who does? I proudly display the 83rd Decal on the window of my car. Make a lot of trips throughout the south, but in all these years, never met an ex 83rder. To my surprise, about a month ago, a man I have known for atleast 15 years and worked with at the same plant for 13 years, came up to me and said: 'I saw the 83rd Emblem on your car. I was in the 330th Infantry all five campaigns. So, it's a small world sometimes as we look so far for something that is so near.

Leroy V. Johnson
3 Bn Hq 331st. Inf.

Sorry I missed the last Reunion, as much as we wanted to go, we were too busy at that time of year. Maybe we can make the next one. Say 'Hello' to everyone for us.

Andy Buffalino
'I' Co. 331st. Inf.

Life is so exhausting for me that I just don't get all the things done that I'd like to. I am still teaching and then go every evening to the Nursing Home to see Gene. It has been

bitter cold and there was so much ice and snow. I am always so tense out there in the weather since I broke my hip. I'm so afraid that I'll fall again and that makes every muscle in my body ache.

Gene is about the same. He seems to get along better with someone other than his family. Sometimes he is pretty mobile and other times he drags his legs. Being very persistent is the reason why he gets around so well.

I'd sure like to bring him to the next Reunion in the City of Cincinnati. He is completely disabled and will be 65 next May 13th. Would you know if he is entitled to any Veterans Benefits? It is always nice to hear from you and any of Gene's friends from his days in the service. Give our best regards to all of them.

Elaine Nelson
'A' 908 F.A.

I have long wanted to join the Association but was hampered here and there along the way, but John Dowd who is a very good friend finally put me on the right track.

Let me thank you once again and hope to see you all at the next Reunion.

Bob Grazier
A.T. 331st. Inf.

Greetings Buds and Beaus:

Mule and the hitch are ready for the Cincy Reunion in August. Leland Boyers and wife Dolores from Wauseon Ohio paid us a delightful visit March 1-4. Also spent a day at the Mangums in Modesto, CA. Our gabfests were centered on the Reunion in Cincy and also on all we had in Warren, Ohio.

Our Buddies in 'A' Battery have responded in the past and we know they will rise to the occasion to help Manny Goodridge and committee to make our 83rd Reunion another huge success. Mike Brick and John Clevenger are constantly refreshing men in our proud outfit to get off their stick, and make their presence known in Cincy.

So, sweet dreams, you lucky people that will make it.

Clarice and Howard Carlborn
'A' Battery 908 F.A.
Stockton, CA.

Please send me any information you may have regarding the 83rd Division Reunion in August. I was Communications Chief in Division Artillery from activation to the end of the conflict. It seems that I may be able to attend the Reunion for the very first time this year.

Ted McGee
Divarty.

IF YOU ARE NOT PLANNING TO BE AT THE NEXT REUNION IN CINCINNATI, NOW IS THE TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES FOR THE COMING YEAR. DON'T MISS OUT ON THE THUNDERBOLTS OR INFORMATION LETTERS THAT COME OUT DURING THE YEAR. WE ARE A GREAT ASSOCIATION! LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY.

I visited with Colonel Crabill this Winter, and am sending a picture of him - thought you might want it for the next THUNDERBOLT. He is 83 years old now, quite deaf, but feeling pretty good. Tried to persuade him to come to Cincinnati in August, but he said: His travel days are over, and could not get much out of Conventions anymore, because of his hearing problem. He is writing his Memoirs and says the 83rd, and especially his 329th, was the best fighting outfit there ever was.

He can read well, and enjoys getting cards from any of the 83rd men.

A.H. Winterburn
Serv. 329th Inf.



Al Winterburn, Col. E.B. Crabill and Merle Cailor.

Anyone interested in donating artifacts or funds to the National Infantry Museum should contact the Curator, Mr. Dick D. Grube, at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning, GA 31905. (PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY OF YOUR SOUVENIRS OR MONEY TO THIS OFFICE.)
ED.

No doubt, many of you have seen the error in the V.F.W. Magazine, advertising the 84th Division Reunion with our address as their headquarters. A letter was sent to them immediately but it takes about two months to correct a error and get it in print. Several of the 84th people have inquired and I have answered, but now am forwarding their letters to their Secretary in Indiana.

ED.

Just a short note here to tell all of you that I was in Philly for the Mummers Show again, and as the first time, it was a really fantastic show. To the Buddy that won the weekend in Philly for the Mummers Show, sponsored by the Philadelphia Chapter: "Buddy, you sure don't realize what you missed." For the rest of our Buddies: you must make an effort to see this show atleast once. IT'S GREAT.

ED.

WE STILL HAVE 150 UNPAIDS FROM LAST YEAR WHO ARE NOT GETTING THE THUNDERBOLT NOW. I AM SENDING THEM A QUESTIONAIRE TO FIND OUT THEIR REASONS. IF WE ARE DOING SOMETHING TO THEIR DISATISFACTION, WE WILL CORRECT IT.

OUR FLAG FROM 1776 TO 1978

By Col. William G. White

The following article was written by Colonel White of 3 Bn Hq 330th Infantry for his local Newspaper.

During the Revolutionary period, the colonies designed their own flags that were equivalent to our present day flags. Several of them primarily among the New England Colonies, used a pine tree motif. For example, the flag that was flown by Washington's six cruisers flew a flag which was known as the pine tree flag. This was a white flag with a pine tree centered and the words 'An Appeal To Heaven' inscribed above it. This flag was later modified for use by the Massachusetts Navy by adding a snake coiled around the trunk of the tree and the words 'Don't Tread On Me' below.

The flag that was flown at the Battle of Bunker Hill (although the battle was not fought at Bunker Hill but at Breeds Hill), and which had also been carried at Lexington and Concord, consisted of a blue field with the red cross of St. George on a white background occupying the canton which was similar to our Union and a pine tree was placed in the upper right corner of the cross. The book calls it the upper left but the right of the flag is the side towards the staff. This is considered as the honor point of the flag and regardless of which side you may be on looking at the flag, that side next to the staff is always the right of the flag.

Another group of Colony flags was known as the rattle-snake group and was particularly favored by the southern Colonies. Included in this group was the Virginia Colony which was a white, or yellow field with a coiled rattle-snake centered and the words 'Don't Tread On Me' placed below the snake. This was a favorite motto of the Colonies and it was included on the first Navy Jack of 1775. This flag consisted of thirteen horizontal alternating red and white stripes having a rattlesnake stretched across the field and the motto 'Don't Tread On Me' placed beneath the snake.

During the early years of the Revolution, not only did each of the Colonies have its own flag but brigades, and even separate Companies had their own distinctive flags and this only added to the confusion. Examples of some of these were: 'Culpepper Minute Men'. This was a white flag with the coiled rattlesnake, the familiar 'Don't Tread On Me' beneath the snake and the famous quote of Patrick Henry 'Liberty Or Death' in the space above.

The 'Bedford Flag' was carried by the Minute Men of Bedford at the Battle Of Concord. This flag was a red field containing three cannon balls and a hand bearing a sword. On the scroll were the words 'Vince Aut Morire' meaning 'Conquer Or Die'. The original of this flag had been made for the English Three County Troop in King Phillips War.

The Philadelphia Light Horse Troop, which escorted General Washington from Philadelphia to New York when he was to assume command of the Continental Army, is supposed to have had the first flag that recognized the thirteen Colonies by the use of the thirteen stripes, was yellow and almost square, it had a canton consisting of thirteen blue and silver stripes with a center knot tied with thirteen cords.

In tracing the history of our flag, we find that much is based on supposition and legend without any documentary fact. For example, the 'Eutaw Standard' which was carried

by the Cavalry Troop commanded by Colonel William Washington at the battle Coupens and of Eutaw Springs. This was merely a square crimson flag. Legend has it that Colonel Washington visited his fiancée, Miss Jane Elliot, prior to leading his troops into battle. She wished him victory and expressed hope that the flag of his troop would remain aloft. When he told her that his troop had no flag she supposedly snipped a square of red tapestry from her chair and gave it to him. The original of this flag has been preserved and was given to the Washington Light Infantry of Charleston in 1827 by Mrs. Jane Elliot Washington.

The first American Revolutionary Flag to be used by the south is generally conceded to have been the 'Moultrie Flag'. This was supposedly designed by Colonel William Moultrie after the capture of Fort Johnson, South Carolina, when he realized that he had no flag to raise over the fort. This flag was a blue field with a silver crescent in the flags upper right corner. This had been perpetuated in the state flag of South Carolina with the addition of a white palmetto in the center of the flag.

The flag is considered the direct ancestor of our 1st. National flag and was known as the 'Grand Union', the first Continental Navy flag and hoisted by John Paul Jones in 1775. This flag was hoisted by General George Washington as the Continental Army flag at Prospect Hill in Somerville on January 1, 1776. Some writers claim that the flag was flown over Washingtons Headquarters at Cambridge two miles away and for this reason it is sometimes referred to as the 'Cambridge Flag'. In this, the field consisted of seven red and white stripes alternating with the British Union Jack in the canton. The Jack at the time consisted of the Cross of St. George and of St. Anthony on a blue field. The presence of the British Union Jack was indicative that the Colonies did not entertain any thought of separation from the Mother Country. It also caused the British Representative of the King and the Loyalists who were opposed to resisting England to construe the flag as a symbol of submission by Washington and the Rebel Colonies. Needless to say this feeling was corrected when the Continental Army drove the British out of Boston. Despite the fact that the 'Grand Union Flag' was also the flag that was raised to represent the United States in 1776, when the Declaration of Independance was read, there is no record of it ever being adopted by Congress and it also was an exact replica of the flag used by the East India Company.

Despit the fact that the Colonies committed to the new course of action of complete independence and that consequently the Union Jack had to be removed from their flag, it was not until June 14, 1777 that Congress passed the first Flag Act: 'Resolved that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes alternating red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars in a blue field representing a new Constellation.' It is to be noted that the Act did not fix the arrangement of the stars and this led to considerable confusion for a number of years. The first flag complying with this Act had thirteen stars arranged in a circle and orten referred to as the Betsy Ross Flag as she is supposed to have made it and presented it to George Washington. No documentary evidence has ever been found to support this supposition.

Because of the wording of the first Flag Act and the failure of the Congress to designate the design of the stars, we find ourselves with as varied an array of flags as there was prior to the passage of the Act as individual

flags continued to be made to fly over various forts and to designate various units.

The Third Maryland Regimental Flag also known as The Eastern Flag showed twelve stars in a circle with the thirteenth star in the center of the circle. This flag was carried by the regiment at the 'Battle of the Cowpens'.

The 'Bennington Flag' showed eleven stars arranged in the form of an arch with an additional star at each end of the upper corners and the numerals '76' in white inside the arch. These stars were seven pointed.

North Carolina was not to be outdone by anyone. Despite the fact that the Flag Act was passed in 1777, the flag carried by the North Carolina Militia at the Battle of Guilford in 1781, was completely different. This flag known as the 'Guilford Flag' was longer and narrower than the 'Betsy Ross' flag and had red and blue horizontal stripes with a white canton having thirteen eight pointed stars arranged in three rows. There were five stars in each of the top and bottom rows and three in the center row. They were placed alternately rather than directly under each other.

For the next eighteen years our National Flags continued as prescribed by the Flag Act even though new states, Vermont in 1791 and Kentucky in 1792 had been admitted to the Union. It was then proposed that the flag be changed to represent the new states and after considerable debate, the Second Flag Act was passed by Congress and approved by President Washington on January 15, 1794. It established that from and after the first day of May 1795 the flag of the United States be fifteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be fifteen stars white on a blue field. Again no specifications were set for the design of the stars and again we find variations being made. The flag raised in Tripoli by U.S. Marines had the fifteen stripes and fifteen stars. Probably the most famous of these flags was the one known as the 'Fort McHenry Flag' which was flown over Fort McHenry in September of 1814 during the British bombardment and was the inspiration for Francis Scott Key writing the 'Star Spangled Banner' while he was a prisoner of war aboard one of the British ships during the bombardment. The flag had the fifteen stars in five rows of three each and flies today over his grave at Mt. Olive Cemetery in Frederick, MD.

No sooner had the new flag been authorized than the State of Tennessee was admitted to the Union to be followed by Ohio, Louisiana and Indiana in 1816. It was clear that some provision had to be made for the entrance of new states without changing the entire flag and on April 4, 1818, President Monroe signed the Act of Congress prescribing: 'That from and after the 4th of July next, the flag of the United States be thirteen horizontal stripes alternate red and white; that the Union be twenty stars white on a blue field and further that on the admission of every new state into the Union, one star be added to the Union of the flag; and that such addition shall take effect on the Fourth of July next succeeding such admission.'

The first flag flown after the passage of this Act had twenty stars arranged to form one great star to be in keeping with the phrase of the original Act 'That the stars represent a new constellation.' This however, did not meet with Congressional approval. Future flags appeared with stars in rows either directly under each other or arranged in checkerboard fashion depending whether there were an even or odd number of stars.

By 1882 four more stars had been added, representing Illinois, Alabama, Maine and Missouri and it is supposedly

from the twenty star flag that the name 'Old Glory' came into being. Credit for the name is given to Captain William Driver of Salem, Massachusetts, commanding the brig 'Charles Doggett.' A large American flag was presented to him as the brig was preparing to leave Salem and when the flag was hoisted and unfurled in the breeze, Captain Driver is reputed to have called it 'Old Glory'. The original flag referred to may be seen in the Essex Institute at Salem.

Between 1836 and 1846 four more stars were added to the flag for Arkansas in 1836, Michigan in 1837, Florida in 1845 and Texas in 1846. The annexation of Texas in 1846 by the United States, which was our 28th State, was the cause of the Mexican War. During this War which lasted two years, both the 28 and 29 star flags were flown as Iowa became our 29th State in 1847. On February 2, 1848 a treaty of peace was signed between Mexico and the United States and this treaty conveyed to the United States all the territory in the west which later became the State California, Nevada, Utah, part of Colorado and the greatest part of Mexico and Arizona.

Wisconsin was admitted to the Union in 1848 to be followed by California in 1850, bringing the total to 31 stars. After this there was a short lull and then in succession Minnesota in 1858, in 1859 Oregon, and Kansas in 1861 were admitted.

During the period of the Civil War though, 11 States had seceded from the Union, no stars were removed from the flag. In fact, during this period two more stars were added to the flag representing West Virginia in 1863 and Nevada in 1864.

In 1867 Nebraska was admitted to the Union and then there was a lapse of ten years before the 38th star was added for Colorado in 1877. An even longer period passed before the next change but in 1890 five stars were added representing North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho and Washington. Idaho was actually admitted only one day before her star was placed on the flag, as she was admitted to the Union on July 3, 1890 and according to law, a star was to be added on July 4 after admission.

Wyoming's star appeared in 1891 and in 1896 Utah was represented by our 45th star.

(At this time I would like to interdict something concerning the Military Forces and our National Colors.)

After the Army was established in 1789, the National Colors carried by the Army consisted of a blue field embroidered with an Eagle. During the War of 1812 the flag carried by various units contained an Eagle in whose breast was a striped shield. Recognition of additional stars showed in the number of stars surrounding the Eagle's head and at this time there were 17 of them.

The Infantry was the first branch of the Army to be given permission to carry the Stars and Stripes as National Colors in 1841. Flags that were used prior to that time were retained by some units as Regimental Colors.

This same state of affairs existed in other branches and services. For example, the flag which was carried by the Marines in the Mexican War was embroidered with an Eagle clasping a shield in its talons. Encircling the Eagle and the shield was a great circle consisting of twenty four stars and inside the circle were five more stars in a parallel arc above the Eagle's head. The Marine Corps was first authorized to carry the Stars and Stripes as National Colors in 1876 and the Cavalry was granted

that right in 1887.

The Army contracted with private manufacturers for its flags and as a result they lacked in uniformity. The Navy, on the other hand, made its own from 1818 on and consequently were uniform. To correct this situation, on March 18, 1896 following the admission of Utah, a War Department order was issued in an attempt to standardize the arrangement of the stars in the Union. The order read:

"The field, or Union, of the National flag in use by the Army will, on and after July 4, 1896 consist of 45 stars in six rows. The first, third and fifth rows to have eight stars and the second, fourth and sixth rows seven each, in a blue field arranged as on the following page. The illustration showed the arrangement in 'Quincunx' order, or like the black spaces on a checkerboard."

When this order was issued by the Secretary of War, the Navy assented to the same arrangement. This forty five star flag was flown by the U.S. Battleship Maine when she was blown up in Havana Harbor causing the Spanish American War.

In 1907 Oklahoma was admitted to the Union and this caused another arrangement of the stars. This time they were arranged in six rows with eight stars in the first, third, fourth and sixth rows and seven stars in the second and fifth rows.

This did not last long either for in 1912 the admission of New Mexico and Arizona brought the number to forty eight, and as prescribed by the President, the order became six rows of eight each with the rows being placed directly beneath each other. This arrangement lasted for forty eight years when Alaska was admitted in 1959 to be followed immediately the following year by our fiftieth star representing Hawaii which had been admitted on the 21st of July 1959.

The significance of the colors on our flag was defined by the Continental Congress as 'White signifies purity and innocence; Red for hardiness and valor; Blue for vigilance, perseverance and justice.'

The following description of our flag is ascribed to George Washington: 'We take the stars from heaven, the Red from our mother country, separating it by white stripes to us showing that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing liberty.'

The flag flown by the United States Army, carries on its standard one hundred and forty five battle streamers representing major battles fought for liberty and freedom throughout the world from the Revolutionary War through Korea. Additional streamers are being placed on these battles fought in Viet Nam.

The American Flag waves over many Cemeteries throughout the world. Row on row of white crosses and stars of David mark the spot where brave American citizen-soldiers, serving in combat under the American Flag, made the final sacrifice that others may continue in freedom.

Col. William G. White
3 Bn Hq 330th Inf.

Many thanks to Col. White for the preceding column. I'm sure that many of us got a bit of an education from it and our youngsters will also learn from it. ED.

OUTDOORS 'N STUFF

By Vitie Atkocius

The following article which was sent to me many months ago by Vitie Atkocius of 'H' 331, and at that time there was no space available, but this is a good time of year for it also. Hope Vitie doesn't mind. ED.

Traditionally, Memorial Day, like Armistice Day, and the Fourth of July, was, when we were kids, a day to thank God that we were Americans and a day to remember those who nobly molded our country into a sanctuary for the human race. It also was the day of the big parade, the day the American Legionnaires and other veterans of the Great War and the Spanish American Conflict, the United States Army and the National Guard, and, the marching bands of young and old dressed in colors bright and bold, proudly marched down Main Street, then, in smaller groups off to solemn ceremony at the Cemeteries. It was a day of flags and flowers, of graveside religious services and prayers, of political platitudes sugar coated patriotism.

We were very young and impressionable then; but, we reached back into the past - with the help of our parents - to again share moments with (mostly about) departed uncles, cousins and aunts. Memorial Day was, in our New England setting, the first day of the new swimming season and the day the sunfish and bass really started biting. Let me say no more about fishing in this column today; instead, let me roll back a few years to a day when I was younger and let me devote it to the memory of one man. It is a story which has never before been written (except for this corner), and has been in my mind and heart for over a quarter of a century.

John Eller, once of Ashville, North Carolina, has been dead since September or October of 1944. He was killed by a German Soldier. He was killed in the War to end all Wars; he was killed in a War which resulted from armed attack upon the United States. I know nothing of his relatives nor do I know where his remains are interred. John was a quiet, simple man of quality and culture, who in War, did more to preserve life and its importance than to destroy it. His was the first friendly voice I heard when as a frightened young volunteer, I was assigned to the 2nd Platoon of 'H' Company 331st Infantry of the 83rd Infantry Division. In the next 19 months, through our tenure at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, thru the heat, parched lips, stone throwing and watermelon stealing on the Tennessee maneuvers, and then, thru the winter months at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky, I had come to feel that this man with the dry humor knew much more than the rest of us; that he knew more of where man had been and where he was going. He was intellectual and compassionate; yet his finest qualities remained unknown until the time of crisis. To me, the revelation began after the Normandy Campaign, when Paris was about to be freed, when we had begun to feel that it was almost over, that 'Festung Europa' was falling apart. I had been wounded and upon returning to my outfit early in August in a place called

St. Briec in Brittany, found John packing the belongings of Iris Hawn (killed in action). 'His wife will want them', he said, 'and you know you can't trust those guys in the rear echelons. This way I know the stuff will get back to the family.' John had undertaken a responsibility, often at great and near mortal danger to his person, to retrieve all personal property of fallen comrades to assure their return to the loved ones back home. And, he had assumed this task since the first man of the 2nd Platoon had been killed in the hedgerows of Normandy.

As the War went eastward, we turned to the south to contain the enemy in the Loire River area. Our Battalion was assigned to the heavily fortified German pocket at St. Nazaire. It was here, near the small French town of Blain, in August of 1944, that John was mortally wounded and it should not have happened, but it did. I had the first squad and he had the second; and, Army 'Standard Operating Procedure' was: 1st squad on the right, 2nd squad on the left. The Lieutenant reversed the procedure; placed several hundred yards between us, in the woods on the right. John was where I should have been. Had he but asked me, I would have told him what I thought of that man! Good Lord, that man could not be trusted to stay awake at night! When the entire episode was later reconstructed, my man admitted that he was 'dozing' on the machine gun when the German raiding party came thru. In the resultant fire fight, one rifleman was killed. John and two of his men were machine gunned, and two men, including my loaned-out gunner (who escaped within the hour) were taken prisoner.

John, blood flowing freely, crawled several hundred yards to get medical attention for his two men. Both of them lived, and are probably alive today. John, after putting up quite a fight for his life for several weeks, died.

Perhaps, wherever his remains are laid, there is a marker where new flags fly on Memorial Day, on the fourth of July and on Veterans Day. I would like also to think that flowers grow by that grave. I was fortunate enough to have known how well he served his fellow soldiers; but only God knows how well he served his fellow man.

Good Lord, when will we ever learn?

This is a good place to ask again, that any of you that would like to see one of your favorite stories in print in the THUNDERBOLT, please send it in. Maybe there is something you can write-up about your very own Buddy or experiences on the battlefield. I'm sure our readers enjoy that kind of reading material. It may not appear right away but when space is available. Sometimes there is too much material to get in one issue and it is held back until a spot is available.

Get your article in today.

Don't wait for the other guys to do the writing for you all the time. We want to read of your experiences too. Sometimes you'll surprise yourself at just how well you can get a story together.

Your Editor

OBITUARIES

Claude Jack Waymire of 'I' Company, 330th Infantry passed away on February 19, 1978. He was a retired dejective of the Knoxville Police Dep't. His survivors are; wife, Marylyn W. Waymire and son Tommy Waymire of Knoxville, TN. Claude was wounded in the hedgerows of Normandy, returned to combat in a short time and was captured by the enemy. He remained a P.O.W. until the end of the War.

'Writer Unknown'

Just a note to let you know that Sterling passed away after suffering another heart attack on January 17th, a third one on the 20th and died on the 24th. We had hoped to make Cincinnati this summer. I will remember and cherish the Reunion at Myrtle Beach. Sterling enjoyed seeing all of you and I was glad to meet you. My very best wishes to a great organization.

Ruby L. Perkinson
(Wife of Sterling)
'A' 908 F.A.

Einar Koivula reported that Albert R. Foster of Hq. 3rd Bn 330th Infantry passed away in May of 1976. No other details were given. The Postal Service should have reported this in one of the many previous mailings. Ed.

David Moore (unit unknown) was killed in January 1978 while trying to help an accident victim. His wife is still alive. This was reported by W.A. Laughter of the 908th F.A. Battalion. No other details were given.

Frank Evans of 'B' Battery 908 F.A. died on the 15th of February, 1978. Cause of death was a heart attack. He visited Jim Prentice last Fall and had intentions then of joining the Association. (There is no record of Frank ever being a member previously.

Among my fathers papers I found an application for membership in the 83rd Infantry Division Association. Unfortunately, on February 24th 1978, my father had collapsed and died after finishing his mail route. The autopsy report showed that the main artery to his heart closed and killed him instantly.

In August, he and my Mom had planned to attend the Reunion in Ohio but his brother died suddenly of a heart attack. He was looking forward to this year's Reunion.

Please omit his name from any future mailings.

Peggy Kowalski
(Daughter of Francis J.)
'G' Co. 331st. Inf.

I am writing to inform you that my husband Jay Dee Sylvester passed away on the 13th of October 1977. If there is anything you might want to know, I will give whatever information is needed. He was very proud of the 83rd Division. We attended several Reunions, but his work kept him from attending all of them, and the last two

years, his health prevented him from traveling.

Mrs. Jay Dee Sylvester
'K', 'L' & Serv. 331

John W. Matthews passed away on the 25th of August 1976. He served in Division Headquarters. This info came from his wife when she returned his application for membership.

ED.

Todd L. McLaughlin of 'C' Battery 908 F.A. died suddenly in the Veterans Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA. He was a retired employee of the Page Division, American Chain and Cable Co. He was recently a Security Guard in Charleroi.

He is survived by his wife Marguerite Kirsh McLaughlin, three sons, Todd J. McLaughlin of Pittsburgh, Danny at home and Thomas of Monesson; and one grandchild.

The Greater Pittsburgh Chapter has lost another one of its members. He will be missed by all.

It is with sadness that I write to tell you of the death March 16, 1978, of my husband Col. (Ret.) Robert W. Pegg, formerly of the 323 F.A. and a member of your organization (membership card No. 3952). Bob retired from active duty December 31, 1960, and for the last 17 years had served as a customs inspector with the U.S. Customs Service here in the Rio Grande Valley.

If you have a newsletter or other publication that your organization puts out, I would appreciate very much if notice of Bob's death could be included. I do not know all all of his friends and acquaintances from the 83rd. to be able to notify them directly.

Sincerely
Ruth B. Pegg

Edward C. Wooldridge, father of Cliff Wooldridge of the 308 Engineers, 'C' Company, passed away about the 1st of April. Beside his children, he was survived by 10 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren, and 1 great great grandchild. He was laid to rest on the 3rd of April.

Amby Tynan

NOTICE!!!

Those of you that are not planning to attend the Reunion in Cincinnati, should get your Dues in now so that you will not miss out on any THUNDERBOLTS and News Letters throughout the coming year. Better to do it now than wait.

Don't forget to write to a Buddy and keep him informed. Sign up one of your Buddies today. Help us grow to No. 1.

ED.

It has come to my attention that some of our 83rd men went overseas on the Queen Mary. (This was news to me as I had never heard of it before.) Just recently, I also learned that there is going to be a 'Queen Mary Veterans Reunion' on the Queen Mary in Long Beach, CA on the 28th of June through the 3rd of July. The cost will be just \$350.00 per person, plus Air Fare from Your City.

Here is a list of last year's unpaid members for this year and I am at a loss to think of any reason for not paying. A Notice was sent to them and I asked that they write me so that corrections can be made to satisfy them. None of them have answered my letter as yet.

Some of these may have paid their Dues since this list was made up, so please don't write to ask if an error was made. Your name will appear in the year-end list.

Russell P. Stetson - B 308 Eng.
Elery W. Heath - Hq. 908 F.A.
Robert W. Leach - 324 F.A.
Joseph Clement - C 308 Eng.
Norman E. Bilodeau - C 330th Inf.
Lawrence Arrigo - A 308 Eng.
Maurice Cristoforo - G 329th Inf.
Carl H. Olson - 1 Bn Hq 331
Thomas Papile - 323 F.A.
Robert F. Uhlig - Hq. 331
Anthony Polites - C 323 F.A.
Nicholaie Pukatch - A.T. 331
Joseph Conroy - C 308 Eng.
Alton W. Roberge - C 308 Eng.
Walter S. Sherys - G 331
Leo Schneider - A.T. 331
Joseph Posh - D 331st Inf.
Frederick B. Cook - Hq. 330th Inf.
Edwin X. Mannion - H 331st Inf.
Anthony M. Esposito - A 331st Inf.
John Stewart - A 331st Inf.
Joseph F. Ponzio - L 330th Inf.
Glendon C. Bryden - C 330th Inf.
Walter Kubiak - M 331st Inf.
Florentino Casile - G 329th Inf.
Rudolph J. Stasi - F 330th Inf.
Theodore Stockton - G 330th Inf.
Bernard H. Epstein - D 308 Med.
Benedict A. Nowik - 330th Inf.
Ellsworth Doherty - K 331st Inf.
Andrew Shuble - C 329th Inf.
Michael A. Lux - I 330th Inf.
Robert T. Engle
Walter F. Merriman - K 331st Inf.
Sam Venturella - 83rd Sig.
Harry Adkins - D 331st Inf.
Peter Mrakovich - K 330th Inf.
Robert A. Young - L 329th Inf.
Karl Sauer - L 329th Inf.
Ervin L. Hawk - 83rd Sig.
Samuel R. Hoffman - Div. Hq.
Robert E. Hughes - 908 F.A.
John Gruss - L 330th Inf.
John McClimans - 323 F.A.
William J. Hoolan - A 324 F.A.
Ken Seiger - H 329th Inf.
Nicholas F. Cimarone - D 330th Inf.
Wiley E. Harmon - K 329th Inf.
Francis S. Bartolo
Lester W. Angstadt - Serv. 329

Roland H. Smith - 83rd Q.M.
 Harold L. Satsky - 83rd M.P.
 John B. White
 Leroy Scott - A 308 Eng.
 Scott W. Dawson - Cn. 329th Inf.
 Edwin R. Ebersole - Serv. 331st Inf.
 Selma G. Corder - G 331st Inf.
 John D. McLaughlin
 William R. Shell - L 330th Inf.
 Ed Thomas - B 329th Inf.
 Joseph E. Downey, Jr. - Hq. 330th Inf.
 Dr. Allen W. Whitmore - L 331st Inf.
 Edgar Perry - G 331st Inf.
 N.A. McIntosh - Div. Hq.
 Kenneth B. Emery - G 329th Inf.
 James C. Ward - Div. Hq.
 Adlie D. Hicks - F 330th Inf.
 Frank J. Mishko - B 330th Inf.
 George E. Perry - D 329th Inf.
 Walter H. Carmichael - M 331st Inf.
 Fred Brown - H 330th Inf.
 Rubin Watford - M 330th Inf.
 Howard S. Day - B 329th Inf.
 Emory Culclasure - E 329th Inf.
 Leroy Morrow - A 308 Eng.
 George Lane - B 330th Inf.
 John M. Samuelian - M 329th Inf.
 George C. Baker - E 329th Inf.
 Raymond Carr - B 331st Inf.
 Donald W. Jarrell - Serv. 908 F.A.
 Willet Rusaw III - B 329th Inf.
 Gerald Schnelker - A 330th Inf.
 Melvin Barclay - Cn. 330th Inf.
 Frank Ball - B 308 Eng.
 Edwin B. Crabill - Hq. 329th Inf.
 John W. Matthews - Div. Hq.
 Walter F. Davis - B 308 Eng.

John W. Scott - C 330th Inf.
 S.L. Gates - F 329th Inf.
 Robert L. Parsons - F 331st Inf.
 Flavis A. Dent - A 908 F.A.
 William Greenway - Hq. Divarty.
 Ebson E. Taylor - A 908 F.A.
 Ernest J. Moore - H 330th Inf.
 Clyde W. Moad - C 308 Eng.
 Henry D. Whelan
 Leroy Mink - D 331st Inf.
 Willard J. Cornelius - I 331st Inf.
 Robert J. Blaut - 3 Bn Hq 330th
 Melvin Ingram - Serv. 908 F.A.
 Robert E. Cosby
 Cobert Coffman - C 308 Med.
 Frank D. Brown - E 329th Inf.
 Francis R. Glasser - A 330th Inf.
 Jay Goodman - 2 Bn Hq 331st
 Michael M. Mizerock - G 331st Inf.
 Frank M. Turchan - A.T. 331st Inf.
 John J. Jakubowski - D 329th Inf.
 Ed Glinka - B 330th Inf.
 Walter Baraneky - Cn. 329th Inf.
 Anthony J. Gullace
 Leonard J. Samulak - C 323 F.A.
 James J. McGuffie - C 324 F.A.
 Robert B. Miller - 329th Inf.
 Ray Minotti - 324th F.A.
 George Guthrie - Serv. 330th Inf.
 Julius Silagy
 Gustav E. Zelmer - 308 Med.
 Ned R. Foltz - 83rd Sig.
 John W. Stauffer - E 331st Inf.
 Robert Hedger - M 330th Inf.
 William C. Seman - 1 Bn Hq 329th Inf.
 Kenneth B. Jones - Hq. 329th Inf.
 Steve Bella - D 331st Inf.
 Irvin B. Coplin - Cn. 330th Inf.

Robert B. Fuller, Sr. - F 330th Inf.
 Walter Cooper - H 330th Inf.
 Rudolph J. Miller - G 330th Inf.
 James E. Townsend - Hq. 329th Inf.
 Albert Zegunis - I 330th Inf.
 Elwood G. Palmer - 3 Bn Hq 329th Inf.
 Cleveland O. Duncan - D 329th Inf.
 Dr. J.R. Miller M.D. - Med 331st Inf.
 Paul N. Graff - A 330th Inf.
 Alexander E. Miceli - C 330th Inf.
 Lawrence A. Boyle - Hq. 323 F.A.
 Casimir C. Makowan - F 331st Inf.
 Harry Holmes - E 329th Inf.
 James T. Phillips - Cn. 330th Inf.
 Jay Dee Sylvester - K 329th Inf.
 William C. Westlake - A 329th Inf.
 Paul C. Decker - A 308 Med.
 Paul S. Havrilka, Sr. - M 329th Inf.
 Louis J. Pottebaum - D 329th Inf.
 Norman L. Kruse - B 331st Inf.
 Sanford B. Halperin - 1 Bn Hq 331
 Jimmy Cassell
 Dr. Larry R. Keeler D.O.
 J.A. Getty - 783rd. Ord.
 Orval H. Potts - G 330th Inf.
 Raymond C. Bowsher - C 330th Inf.
 George E. Sites - Hq. 908 F.A.
 Anthony S. Provenzano - B 330th Inf.
 Philip Cohen - D 330th Inf.
 Ensio J. Tosolini - Hq. 330th Inf.
 Louis Gaybrant - F 329th Inf.
 Jerry Zingg - C 322 F.A.
 Howard C. Carlbon - 908 F.A.
 William G. White, Jr.
 Russell V. Sparks - D 331st Inf.
 Nyal M. Mullins - 1 Bn Hq 330th Inf.

Louis Lesjak of 'M' 329th Inf. sent me a list of names of members that he corresponds with and asked that I send each of them an application to join the Association. This I have done and to date none of them have signed up. It has always been my thought that this is the best way to build up the Association files and to recruit new members. In this case the results have not showed but now they will get all the membership letters and sooner or later we will get them in the fold.

These are the men:
 Richard Tucker - Roland Hauch - Walter Laird - Louis DeVault - Matt Dennison and Carl Haugh.

Get on their tails you 'M' Co. guys.
 Your Editor

Dues are just \$6.00 per year.
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Make check payable to: 83rd Inf. Div. Assoc. Inc.

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NOTIFY THIS OFFICE IN ADVANCE WHEN YOU ARE IN THE PLANNING STAGE OF MOVING. WE NEED YOUR NEW ADDRESS TO KEEP THE THUNDERBOLTS COMING.

If you ever attempt to file a claim with the V.A., here are some good tips to follow so that you will not be refused and become frustrated because you lost.

Disallowances, including unfavorable decisions by the Board of Veterans Appeals, doesn't result from arbitrary conclusions reached by those responsible for evaluating your claim. Most of the time these disallowances are due to lack of evidence that is necessary to substantiate your claim.

A statement from those that you served with while in the Service is good evidence for your claim. A claim for an increase in service-connected disability should not relate to your age as a precipitating factor in the worsening of your disability. All statements should be of service origin.

Statements may come from service comrades, private Drs. and from friends, relatives and employers. A strong word of caution must be included here. Too many times, service-connected disabled Veterans reopen their cases and cause reduction or termination of their claim. Always check out your evidence with the National Service Officer at the V.A. before doing anything.

Go to the people that are educated properly to help you get the best results. That's what they are there for.

Your Editor

FILL-INS

A customer sat down in Als Barber Shop and gave the man some coins.

"But sir, this is the first time I have ever been tipped before a haircut."

"That's not a tip, it's hush money."

"I'm worried about your being at the bottom of your class," confided the father to his teenager.

"Stop fussing, Dad. They teach the same thing at both ends."

The champion golfer was in the lead when his caddie developed hiccups. A deliberate putter, the golfer flinched with each hiccup. On the last hole, facing the winning putt, he hesitated, then stroked the ball. It stopped within a fraction of the hole.

"You and your hiccups," he snarled at the caddie.

"But sir, I didn't hiccup."

"I know, I know, but I had allowed for it."

Another thing they don't make like they used to is people who can fix them like they used to.

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Comrades:

Hope everyone will support the Thirty Second Annual Reunion in Cincinnati, Ohio on August 17, 18, and 19, 1978, sponsored by the Kentucky Chapter,, by purchasing ADS in our Program Book! Not only from members but I urge you to solicit advertising from your business associates who are not members. By the time this goes to Press, all of the Chapters should have applications for ADS in the Program Book.

If each Chapter would sell \$200.00 to \$300.00 in ADS in your locale, plus ADS from members,, it would put the Program AD finances in great shape. So Chapters, please take time to appoint an AD Chairman and issue applications to each member and ask them to PUSH THE ADS.

The more ADS sold, the better our finances will be. Best wishes to all in 1978 - See you in Cincinnati in August.

Ralph C. Hamilton
Chairman
Program Book

NOTICE!!!! NOTICE!!!! NOTICE!!!! NOTICE!!!! NOTICE!!!! NOTICE!!!! NOTICE!!!!

In Warren, Ohio, it was decided by the Members of the Executive Board to change the prices of ADS for future Program Books and here is your ADVANCE NOTICE of the changes.

FULL PAGE \$60.00
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Over the years, prices have soared on just about everything, and I'm sure all of you are aware of that. The cost of printing has gone up too. Booster ADS @\$2.00 just barely covered the cost of getting them in print. In order that our Host Chapters can provide you with more of the things that make our Reunions more successful, it was necessary to raise the cost of ADS for our Program Books.
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