

THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

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PORT OF PITTSBURGH



35th. Annual Reunion · 83rd. Infantry

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A SALUTÉ TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

*James C. Hanrahan	1947	Charles Abdinoor	1959	Casey Szubski	1970
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*Harry W. Lockwood	1957	Vito C. Palazzolo	1968	William J. Chavanne	1979
Raymond J. Voracek	1958	Pat DiGiammerino	1969		

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To every member in the Association Files: Dear Buddy:

We are fast approaching our 35TH. AN-NUAL REUNION, which means that this great Association of ours has been active for that number of years. Many things have happened during that time ---- some good, some bad, but mostly for the betterment of our deep friendship for each other and the love of being together once a year. Naturally, the good happenings pertain to our friendships and being able to tell our War Stories over and over again, each year getting better. The bad things that happened pertain to those of us that got sick during the years and many passing on. There aren't too many years left for us to enjoy each others company because we are strictly a World War II Organization and probably have about ten years or so

In the beginning, it was a case of having small children going to school, having big mortgages and a lot of other debts that kept many from being able to attend the Reunions. Today, most of us should be out of debt, surely don't have youngsters going to school, and if we have been lucky enough to have good health, should be out of debt (or at least big debt) and now able to attend the Reunions to be with our Buddies. All of the Old Timers look forward to seeing new faces each year and to hear new stories.

There have been 35 years of good times and enjoyment.

There have been 35 years of wonderful friendships.

Our Membership, over the years, has been one of the very best of all Associations in the country, and we are proud of that accomplishment. Last year we suffered a big loss in Membership because of a change over in the Office, but this year we are hoping to make up that lost ground, plus, pick up many of those that fell by the wayside over the years and many of you that never belonged to the Association at all. It's beyond me, why so many of you never cared to get together with your Buddies, or never were at all interested in

corresponding with them. You are at a time in your life now where this sort of thing would be most enjoyable for you, so get out the pen and paper and start working yourway into the 83RD. INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION INC.

Dues this year are still just \$6.00 and you can send them to: Robert Derickson, 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, OH 45313. Next year, the Dues go up to \$10.00 because this thing called INFLATION has caught up with us. Pay now and get a full year of benefit for your money. Those of you that are members, please look at the expiration date and be sure it is: AUGUST-1981. If not, you are behind in your Dues.

If you live in one of the areas where we have a Chapter, why don't you join them also and share in the fun and enjoyment of attending their Meetings, go to their Picnics and Dances etc. You'll find much fun and enjoyment in all their doings. Some of our members complain of the distance they must travel to be able to attend the affairs of the various Chapters. You can do what some of the others do, make a weekend out of it. Some of the Dixie Chapter People travel as much as 400 miles to be with their Buddies. The newly organized Florida Chapter does the same. West Virginia is similar. If you really like being with your Buddies, you'll travel any length to see

If you want Address Lists of your Unit, drop me a line at: Samuel Klippa, 1500 Mutual Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15204. I still carry an up to date file, alphabetical, Company and State. Your request will be answered immediately in the hope that you will start writing to your long lost Buddies.

This is my second term as President of the Association, and I really want it to be the very best year in our History. You can help by doing your share to get all your old Buddies to join us in the Association, and at the 35TH. ANNUAL REUNION on August 20, 21 and 22, 1981. Why not make it a whole week?

Thank you one and all for your time.

Sincerely Samuel Klippa, President 83rd. Inf. Div. Assoc. Inc.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Buddies:

Time is really flying by this year, and I sure believe that old age makes it fly by so much faster. Before you know it, the Reunion will be upon us and another great year will go into the record books of the 83rd History. Hope all of your plans are complete to join in the festivities of the 35th. Annual Reunion to be held at the Pittsburgh Marriott in Monroeville, PA on August 20, 21 and 22 of 1981. We are planning a great time for all.

Because of the lateness of the last Thunderbolt, I have asked our Editor to put this issue out on time because it was very necessary to get out all the Reunion news to the Membership in plenty of time to make final plans and arrangements. He promised to be prompt this time.

Our entire program will be in the Center-Fold along with a map of the general area of Monroeville, PA. The most important thing to remember, is that if you travel the Pennsylvania Turnpike, take Exit # 6 to Monroeville and you are almost there. Those coming from the north or south can place the map on your travel map and locate the proper entry. It's really not that hard to find.

I put out a letter to more than 1300 members which they should have received by now, and I certainly hope that you are taking advantage of getting your reservations in early. REMEMBER! You can always cancel, but you cannot make reservations at the last minute. Do it now while the thought is still fresh in your minds. In the letter, there was an application soliciting your ADS and I wish you would take the time to fill one out and do your share to help with some of the expense of putting on a Reunion for your benefit. ADS play a very important role each year in the financial portion.

(A copy of my message follows this letter).

No doubt most of you have heard about the health problems that have struck Frank McGrogan. He has been very ill and in Intensive Care for quite some time, but I understand that he is on the road to recovery now and coming along just fine. Hope he can make a complete recovery before Reunion time because we all want to see him there.

Aside from working with the members of the Pittsburgh Chapter in making the arrangements for our Reunion, I haven't been doing too much traveling as in the past. I did go to Cleveland where I talked to a Travel Agent about my plans for the Tour that goes along with the Plaque Dedication in Luxembourg. By the time you read this, the Itineraries should be in the hands of those in the 331st. who expressed their interest in making the trip and we should be all set for September. I am hoping that this will be the best trip of all. Italy aand Spain are in the plans this time. If you are on of those that did

not get a letter from me (I sent out 923 letters on this Tour) drop me a line and I'll get the literature out to you right away, Time is very short on this one so you'll have to hurry.

I stayed over in Cleveland to attend the February Meeting of the Chapter and was certainly glad that I did. These guys have a real feast each month, a little Reunion. Good gosh, you should see the food they put out, enough for any size appetite. There were about twenty in attendance and there were their wives who joined them when the meeting was over. Plenty of jokes and plenty of stories were told, all good with plenty of laughs. They held their Election of Officers and you will probably read that in their Reporters Column elsewhere in this issue. THANK YOU Cleveland for your wonderful hospitality.

Fellows! We still haven't made up the members that we lost last year and there is no doubt in my mind that many have put their applications on the side somewhere and figured to take care of them on another day, and now have forgotten altogether. If you know one of these men, or if you are one of them, please get those Dues in right away. Let's keep this great Organization on the move and break all records of the past. You can help a great deal by writing to a Buddy or friend and ask them to get their Dues in.

I keep hearing from others that our memers are dying and that we will be dropping in membership from now on, but I still don't think that we are at that point. We are at an age now where we should all want to be members of the Association because we can go places and do things that we were unable to do before because of small children and because of debts etc. We can grow just like all the other Associations that I hear from. They are breaking all records of the past and we can do the same. All we have to do is get out the advertising, the correspondence between members and creating an interest in a great outfit that can have another good ten years. Do your share and you'll not be sorry that you did. This outfit is only as good as you make it.

Following this letter, I have sent in many short articles that will be used to build up the book. They are of interest and I hope you enjoy reading them.

I want to wish all of you the very best of good luck, health and happiness for now and always. Most of all, I wish to see all of you at the 35th. Annual Reunion of the 83rd. Infantry Division Association in Pittsburgh on August 20, 21 and 22nd., 1981. We'll be talking about the 1982 Reunion in the Catskills of New York at that time. (You'll read about it elsewhere in this issue.)

Samuel Klippa, President 83rd. Inf. Div. Ass'n. Inc.

SECRETARY-TREASURER REPORT

To all 83rder's:

The first thing I want to do is apologize for the lateness of the last Thunderbolt. Part of it was my fault and the flu that took me down. Then the next was the postal service. Here we are going to have an increase in postage and the service does not seem to improve. But for the lateness, I truly apologize to all of you.

Here we are getting ready for your Executive Board meeting in Pittsburgh and to make plans for your reunion in August. Last year Avalon and Pearl did not go but this year Manny and I have convinced them to go with us. Really did not take much coaxing as long as we did not fly.

If you can send in an ad for the Program book, it would sure help. Five dollars (5) will take care of a booster ad, or you do a quarter page for eighteen (18) dollars, half page for thirty-five dollars (35), or a whole page for sixty dollars (60). Help your reunion people. Send an ad to the Pittsburgh Chapter. I know they will apreciate it.

If you know of someone who has not sent their membership dues in for this year get them to get the \$6.00 to me right away. Let's keep our membership growing. Remember friendships mean a great deal. It something that no one can take away from you. An 83rder is truly a friend in deed. I would not take anything for all the new friends and the old ones that I have in this organization. Get your dues in right away. I want to be able to tell the Executive Board that we are going strong. I want to remind you also. I have been asked by the Executive Board to have an active membership list ready for the reunion for anyone who wants such a list. In order to do this I will cut off taking membership dues for the year 1981 on July 1, 1981. If I do not have your dues by that time I cannot get your name on the list. So if your membership card does not have August 1981 as the expiration date get your \$6.00 to me right away. Next year remember the dues go up to \$10.00.

Looking forward to seeing and saying "Hi" to all of you at the reunion in Pittsburgh.

Bob

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

Hi Everyone,

I hope this article finds you all well. We here in Jersey are well and raring to go after a bitter winter. Not only has it been hard on our pocketbooks due to fuel costs. It has been one of the driest winter's in years. We are now in a situation of having restrictions on water use. Some communities have a limit of 50 gallons a person and if you exceed it, you could be fined.

Now on to some news of our group. Joe DePeri has two sons that recently went into the catering business. He

wants me to pass this on to you. If you have a need for same, you can contact Mondi's Catering in Cliffside Park. They will take good care of you if you mention, "Joe sent me". They cover a wide area in New Jersey.

Congratulations to Emil and Hazel Wheling. June 15 they will celebrate 35 years of married life. Two fine people who we wish many more years of happiness. Also Arnold "Ace" Cipperly who was in Emil's company while in service, is to be congratulated for 40 years with General Electric in Schnectedy, N.Y. Ace has done an outstanding job as they showed a billion dollar profit last year. I think Bielen Machine Co. helped as we did some work for them.

Last report had Charlie Shilanick on his way to Florida for another vacation. He seems to think he needs it before he continues his search for a new career. NOTE! I didn't say work as that's a 4 letter word to Charlie. He also considers the upcoming reunion in Monroeville a hometown reunion. as he was born and raised in nearby Leechburg, Pa.

As the birdscome north we can look forward to seeing Millie and Dave Benick. They have a Condo in Del Ray Beach, Florida where they live the good life. Fran and I have enjoyed being their guests and we always have a wonderful time with them.

Thought you might like to hear something funny. Walt Sokolski who originally comes from New Jersey and now lives in Kalamazoo. Michigan, sent us a postcard from Taiwan for the holidays. He mentions that the women there are really beautiful but can really hurt a guy. Seems they call Walt "Grandpa". Walt is a consultant in the medical field and spent 13 weeks doing the same there.

A reminder to all in the Jersey area. We have our meeting the 3rd Friday of the month at the V.F.W. Post in Garrfield at 8 P.M. The Post Commander. Angelo Commardo is a former 83rd man. He was with Hdqs. Co. 330. If you would like to have a inexpensive night out with your buddies or make new friends which will make the yearly reunion more enjoyable, come join us. I have the word of our good friend and bartender Bucky Polcaro that he will take special care of you as he has taken care of us for the past 25 years. He is a great guy and deserves our thanks for donating so many years to serving us.

Hope and pray our good buddie Frank McGrogen has recovered from his illness. Another who has donated so much time and effort to the association.

In closing we here in Jersey are looking forward to seeing our many friends at the reunion. It should be a great one as they usually are when we go to Pittsburgh.

Take care and God Bless You All.

Stan Bielen 1st Bn. 331

Please send me the address of a fellow whose last name was Otto. He attended his first Reunion in Philly and was a member of "D" 331.

Albert R. Otto P.O. Box 251 Harleysville, Pennsylvania 19438

"D" 331st. INFANTRY REPORT

Dear Buddies:

I'm afraid this is going to be one of my shortest notes to you because there hasn't been too much correspondence between us through this terrible Winter. Hope none of us see another Winter as bad, and you know, they call it a mild one. Wonder what a bad one is like.

Since giving up the Secretary-Treasurer job, I don't know exactly how many paid up members we have in the Association, but I'd appreciate it very much if when you write to a Buddy, that you mention getting their Dues paid. We have been one of the tops in Paid-up membership and I'd like to see us stay there.

Norm Schuster wrote to tell me that he has contacted all those "D" men in his area and is hoping to get them to Pittsburgh in August for another great "D" celebration. Several of our members sent their donations for the Plaque that we plan to dedicate in Luxembourg in September and I want to thank all of them. The 331st has exceeded all my expectations in this endeavor and we can put up something other than just an ordinary Plaque. I'm sure everyone will be proud of this one.

I attended the Cleveland Meeting in February and had the pleasure of getting together with Henry Trzeciak who I haven't seen in more than 25 years. He looks just great after his open Heart surgery, is working at his regular job again and says that he will be with us in August. It's always nice to see a new face. He told me that Lt. Cellura lives near him, but I didn't have the time to look him up. Next time for sure.

Andrew Churpak is the new President of the Pittsburgh Chapter and is already swinging a mean gavel. Wilber Campbell is doing fine these days and is planning another trip to Florida in May. George Komlos comes to the meetings regularly and is quite well also.

Just one reminder before closing. Last year was the first time in many that another company passed us up in attendance and I think all of you should make plans now to put a stop to this. We ought to be # 1 always.

Best wishes for the best of everything to all of you. God Bless You.

Samuel Klippa "D" 331st. Inf.

Maybe some of you men remember these places. The pictures were sent in by Vernon B. Williams of Morganton, North Carolina. Vernon was in "C" 329th.



Dear Bob:

Some of the men of 329th Regimental Headquarters Company got together last summer for a family picnic at Roger Lemasters. We had a wonderful time visiting together. We are going to hold another picnic next summer June 28th at Virgil Thobes place in Maria Stein, Ohio. We cordially invite any member of the 329th Regimental Headquarters Company to attend.

Enclosed is a picture of the 11 men who made it last summer. Hope you can find room for it in the next issue of the Thunderbolt.



First row: Left to right: Joe Tabor, Orvale Ellis, Henry Brziski, Virgil Thobe.

Second row: Left to right: Roger Lemaster, Wilbur Cowgill, Frank Fauver, Darrell Thorp, John North, Hank Fisher, Danny Newell.

Anyone wanting more information can contact: Virgil Thobe, 8202 St. Rt. 119, Maria Stein, Ohio, 45860, or Roger Lemaster, 7490 W. National Road, New Carlisle, Ohio 45344, or Orval Ellis, 922 Motz Street, St. Mary, Ohio 45885.

Sincerely, Roger Lemaster

Sounds like fun men. Never miss an opportunity to get together with your friends.



France --- Sgt. Williams.



A GOOD TIME --- Sgt. Volbarck, Cpl. Williams, Cpl. Lemaster and P.F.C. Gordon.



PLT. Sgt. Shaving --- Sgt. Garca and Sgt. Volbarick



AT REST --- CPL. Williams



MAIL CALL --- CPL. Williams and PFC. Dillon



PLT. LEADER --- Lt. Beaureguard



FRANCE --- October 9, 1945 CPL. Williams



CPL. Pechin, CPL. William, P.F.C. Dillon, P.F.C. Cantell



Hello Buddies:

Our Christmas party was held after the deadline so we will give a report on it. It was held at the Venetian Garden in Warwick, Rhode Island and what a fabulous time it was. The dinner and dancing was also great.

Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus topped it off.

Our group who attended were Helen & Dutchy Smith, Karl and Ingrid Burkhard, Michael and Marie Champey, Louis and Emma Rossi, Spike and Gloria McCartin, Warren & Sue Boucher, Jim and Dot Brennan, Ann and Al Tartaglia, Jim and Georgia Emanouil, Joe and Helen Petrucci, Mary and Nick Francullo and all the guests of the New England Chapter.

Oh, Yes, before we all went to the Venetian Garden's there was a cocktail party at the home of Jim and Dot Brennan's for a few hours. Then we went to our Christmas Party. Thanks Jim and Dot for having us over.

It was like a mini reunion because after the place closed we all headed for the Rhode Island Inn in Warwick, Rhode Island and did more drinking in Jim and Georgia Emanouil room and telling of stories. We did not get to sleep till the wee hours of the morning. On Sunday morning we all had breakfast and checked out and headed home.

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING. IT WAS A GREAT TIME.

I must say something about the great band we had at the Venetian Garden. The Golden Aires. Joe Petrucci plays and sings in the band and he sang our songs and THANKS again Joe, it was great.

We missed our strong man, Mr. President, John J. Donahue. Our John has been up and down for a few years. He is not able to travel which makes it tough as he is all 83rd. Chin up John, the good weather is coming and that will make you feel better. We received a card from Mike and Nina Petitti from Bridgeport, Connecticut. Mike was operated on November 18th and he was not able to travel. Take your time Mike. Still a lot of good times to come.

Art and Mary DelPadre are in Florida and could not make it. All you other New Englander's who could not make it for the Christmas Party, we will be having our Summer get together and we will have a good time then.

We will be sending out letters for our Sunday meeting so you can plan to attend one or two of our great times.

P.S. They should be out by now.

On February 15, Jim and Georgia Emanouii and Nick and Mary Franullo went to visit John Donahue, our President at his home in Burlington, Massachusetts.

John is not able to go to far from home now. We met John's daughter Maureen Bass and daughters Heather, Heidi and son Michael. We did not get to meet son Shawn or son-in-law Fred as they were not home. Fred is some kind of a wood craftsman from what we saw he has done around the house. The wood carving is beautiful and so is all of his work. We had a vry nice afternoon talking with John and Maureen and hope to see them all again. Take care John.

On December 30, I received a letter from Mrs. Boyd Simmons of Clarksburg, West Virginia, that Boyd had passed away on October 21, 1977 of cancer. He was a 3rd Bn. 330th Hq. Co. man.

Received a Christmas card and letter from Wayne Turner, 251 Hickory Drive, Greenville, Ohio. He says he and his wife are still working at the Fram Corp. and looking forward to retiring in a few years. Also Howard McDonald, 4251 Nicolet Avenue, Fremont, California, are doing fine and also looking forward to retiring. Doesn't anyone want to work anymore.

Well I think that is about it for now.

Your buddy Nick Francullo Hq. Co. 3rd Bn. 330th



Lou and Emma Rossi, Helen & Dutchy Smith ____



Joe taking a break with wife Helen Petrucci



Gloria McCartin, Warren & Sue Boucher



Dot and Jim Brennan, Al and Ann Tartaglio



New England Chapter Girls Christmas party



Gang of New England Christmas party



Mike and Marie Champey, Karl Burkhard and Dutchey. (Christmas party)



Where does it hurt Dutchey?

BOSTON CHAPTER REPORT

This writing is just prior to our regular March Meeting which is to be at the Arrigo's home in Norwood, MA. The agenda for this meeting should be about the reunion in New York and bring us up to date on the Catskills.

Recently, Mike Caprio had Nancy and I down to an Italian Party in Rhode Island and we sure did have a blast. While down there, I tried to contact both Americo George and George Conners, but they were both out. I hope I have better luck next time.

Mike Caprio who is the Commander of the American Legion Post in Providence, R.I., has been keeping busy with his duties there. This post is a new building which requires a lot of care because the mortgage has to be paid. Mike has a St. Pat's Day Party planned in a couple of weeks for which I hope I will be able to attend.

Jim Prentice was talking to Frank McGrogan down in Phillie, and said that Frank was doing much better! I will try to drop a line to Frank and Mary tomorrow, along with my good friends Larry and Mary Redmond. As this writing is for the month of March, I will have to make a couple of Irishmen out there in Phillie, John Piscitelli and All O'Belvedere. Now, McGrogan won't feel so all alone out there! (HA! HA!)

Nancy and I were in Hartford, CT for a weekend but were not able to contact Jim Prentice. Jim we had a wonderful time in your big city.

A TIP OF THE IRISHMAN'S HAT goes to Kent O'Connell for his coverage on General Robert Macon. Kent, you always have done an excellent job for our 83rd Association and all I can say is "THANKS A MILLION!"

I was quite surprised to read that the Cleveland, Ohio Chapter was eating so well. Al Uridel always tells us that they are all on diets!! However, that can't be true according to the last issue of the Thunderbolt, or maybe it is the girls that did all the eating!!!!

Pat DiGiammerino just called me, and we spoke of going horseback riding in the Catskills. However,I think we will be better at night clubbing huh? Anyway, seeing is believing!

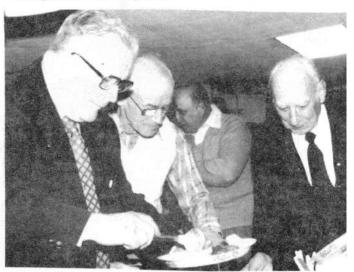
The Boston Chapter was sorry to hear that Mike Brick was hospitalized. It is good to hear that he is back home with his lovely wife and on his way to recovery.

Well, until the next Thunderbolt Issue . . . take good care of yourselfes!

Amby Tynan BOSTON REPORTER



Stuart Hitt- New ways & Means Chairman. Larry Arrigo, Romeo Maynard



Chow Line at Pat & Gin's House



Romeo Maynar, George Connors & Santa - No just Ray Bjork



What's so interesting fellows?



Part of the Boston Chapter Aux. discussing the Cost of everything.

323rd REPORT

This will be a short report as time has slipped by and I have to maek the deadline.

have to make the deadline.

I spoke to James "Buck" Taylor and his lovely wife Marge the other night, and James told me that Marge is going to her family reunion in Germany. I was sorry to hear that Marge wasn't going to have a stop over in Boston, as Nancy and I would have gone to the airport to see her.

Bill Shaner and Don St. John have been enjoying life out in Altoona. Pa. Nancy has written to them and we have spoken to them a few times on the telephone.

My timing must be off, as I haven't had any luck in trying to get in contact with the Dallas Williams' Family or the Dave Nellies'. However, I will keep on trying as I want to be sure that they will be attending the Pittsburgh Reunion.

All these men that I have mentioned are very good at getting men from Headquarter's Battery to the reunions.

Bill Covi and Ed McCouch are doing an excellent job. and we call these two men the "OLD STEM ENGINES". John "RED" Frawley from "A" Battery is doing fine in Lynn. Ma. and is always asking for his Buddies.

Captain Bob Costello is in the Sunshine State. I hope that Orlo Hoover and Walt Harding got to see him down

there. Walt, you should give these old timers some advice on that Sunshine State.

I had a chat with Tony Piantedose quite recently as he is from the local area. Tony keeps me up on Charlie Battery News.

We were sorry to hear about Ann Tessitore's mother, and Josie Piscitelli's brother-in-law passing away. Our sympathy goes to their families. Also, we saw in the last Thunderbolt of the passing of Mere "Tiny" Maser. Tiny was one of our favorites in the 323rd and was a strong man with a Heart of Gold. He will be missed by all of us.

At the Philadelphia Reunion, a lot of us agreed to donate two dollars towards submitting a memorial for the deceased member of headquarter's battery to the reunion book this year. I believe I know most of the men that have passed away, but if any of you know of anyone, please send their name along to me and I will check it against my list, as we do want to have all mentioned. Also, please send the two dollar donation for the memorial to me. Buck Taylor already has his two dollars on the way to me now. We will appreciate your cooperation in this matter as this is a first for us. John Piscitelli will pray for all of you at the Pittsburgh Reunion.

This is all the news for now. I hope to have more news in the next issue.

Amby Tynan

THE KENTUCKY CHAPTER

We had our Spring meeting at the General Buttler State Park in Carrolton, Ky. March 21. 1981. Had four new members to attend for their first time. Our total attendance was 40 people including wifes. We are very proud of our growth. Bob Derickson was unable to attend, because of being in the Hospital with Penumonia. We wish him a speedy recovery. Also missed the Hamiltons, Wolters and the McCarthys. Hope to see them at the Summer meeting plus all others. Any one wishing to visit us we would be happy to have you.

The Summer meeting will be held at Oxford Ohio on June 6, 1981 with the Derickson hosting. We will all meet at the College View Motel. Then we will go to Peiffer Park near by for our meeting at 4 P.M. and a cover dish picnic Dinner at 6 P.M. We have 20 Rooms reserved at the College View Motel to accommodate you if you wish to stay overnight. The rates will be \$24.68 tax included for two people. Any additional person will be \$4.00 per person. Would like for you to have your reservation in by or before May 22, 1981. You need not send a check for a confirmation. If your not in by 6 P.M. or some arrangement made ahead the reservations will be canceled.

Please send your reservation to:

College View Motel 4000 Millville Oxford Rd. Oxford, Ohio 45056

Also state you are a member of the Ky. Chapter. 83rd Inf. Div. Association or a guest from the 83rd. In. Div. Association.

MICHIGAN CHAPTER NEWS

We are just about over with another winter and we've had more gloomy days than other years gone by.

We here in Michigan are planning another of our 3 month meetings as we had in November of last year and as you have read in the last Thunderbolt it was a real success.

Nick Barbu and Jack Doughtery, our special committee for this meeting have been working longand hard to make the necessary arrangements for an escape from the winter blahs!!!

The Presidential Inn, in Southgate, Michigan (a suburb of Detroit) has offered us a special weekend rate of \$32.50 per nite. The motel is located at I-75 and Northline Road, visible from I-75. Check-in time is approximately noon on Saturday, March 21, 1981. Nick Barbu is receiving all reservations in advance (313-336-4373).

The Presidential Inn has a fine restaurant located on the premises offering good food at reasonable prices. (example, Queen size New York Steak at \$8.75; Shrimp or Frog Legs \$5.95; dinner includes, soup, salad bar, and vegetables.

Jack Doughtery has made arrangements for our group to enjoy an evening of fun, dancing, drinking and cavorting at his Moose Lodge located about 10 minutes from the motel.

In my next report I'll give an account of our weekend outing.

Bruce and Jean Winshell will have a wedding at the end of March when their lovely daughter Carol will be married. Congratulations Bruce and Jean.

I have been told that to break things up for the winter Jean Winshell and Rita Taylor went to Florida to visit their parents while Bob Taylor and Bruce Winshell went winter sporting on Snow Mobiles, nice if you can do it.

Jack and Hankie Doughtery also went to Florida for a couple of weeks and on the way down they stopped to visit with Don and Betty Spanos, who have moved down permanently. After their visit they went down to Pompano and Hollywood to visit with relatives.

This reporter has joined the rank of retirement this year and as yet I haven't felt that I'm retired. I'm still busy as ever and don't know how it should feel. I hope by the time golfing days come around I'll finish doing all things I put of doing since I had been working.

Virginia and I have been on two trips already to Toronto, Canada in January and then we were invited to Philadelphia by Lou and Lucy Volpe to attend the Mummers show on Saturday, February 21st. We decided to make a long weekend of it so we drove there and stayed for 4 days. Of course Lou and Lucy asked us to stay at their home, a beautiful house and they are both beautiful people. Al Ithe food they served, WOW - I'm putting on a few extra pounds I really don't need. On Friday nite we arrived

around 4:30 p.m., and we were joined by Al and Ann Belvedere. We just stayed at home and relaxed after the long trip. On Saturday we attended the Mummers show and Jim Prentice, who drove down from Hartford, Conn. joined us. Several Philly Chapter members were also there. After the beautiful show (and h sincerely recommend everyone outside the extreme East to see it) we went to the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Philly and had a real nice dinner. (A large group of Philly members joined us for dinner too. 21 members to be exact).

I really did miss some of the more familiar faces that had attended the last few years that I've gone to Philly.

Anyway after dinner we settled in the Suite of rooms of Al and Ann Belvedere and Lou and Lucy Volpe. Plenty of drinks and more food and a lot of talk to pass the evening. We broke up about 2:30 a.m. and those of us who had rooms in the hotel settled in for the nite.

On Sunday morning we went to church, (we walked the few blocks) after Mass Lou, Lucy, Al & Ann, Virginia & I and Jim Prentice went to the old Market Area where the store owners sell their wares, everything is outside on the sidewalks. It was an experience we will remember always.

While looking around at all the various item to buy I spotted Squid on one table. They looked so fresh and good. I asked Lou & Lucy if I could buy some and prepare them my style for that day's dinner. Lucy said that I should buy them and bring them home and that she would buy some for me to cook that day.

We all made good purchases and went back to Lou and Lucy's home. I really enjoyed working as the Chef that day, Ann Belvedere helped me clean the Squid, Lucy started the sauce, Lou Volpe made his special peppers and mushrooms and then we settled down to eat our specialties.

After dinner, Lou called Mary McGrogan and asked her if it was alright if we went to their house to see Frank. She said come along and we went. It was a real nice visit, Frank has made a lot of progress and he sure was glad to see Jim Prentice, Al Belvedere, Lou Volpe & myself.

Being so far East, I asked Lou and Al if they would take me to Bergenfield, New Jersey on Monday on our last day there. So all of us went. There is a music store I wanted to see and get some old style music for my band. Would you believe that after driving 90 miles, the Music store was closed. We really had a great time of it. Had lunch and returned to Al and Ann Belvedere's home in Pennsauken, New Jersey. A lovely home they have. Ann made a real good dinner for us and so much too. Sausage cutchatore, steak and melted cheese, and all the things to put on a few more pounds. Thanks again Al and Ann, Lou and Lucy for a real pleasant stay. On Tuesday morning we left for home. That's about it for now until next time. Regards to all Chapters and members of the 83rd from us here in Michigan.

Just received word on the untimely death of our Judge Advocate Andy McKenna. We of the Michigan Chapter send our condolences and prayers to the McKenna family. Many Andy's soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

Sincerely
Vito Palazzolo
"G" 329th
Michigan Chapter Reporter

WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER REPORT

The West Virginia Chapter met at The Wilmar Cafeteria on March 15th, in Parkersburgh W.Va. and we got off to another tremendous Start. Our President, Mr. John Shepherd opened the meeting, with Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and prayer by Eugene Persinger our Chaplain. The Secretary's Report was given by Don Pettry, our Secretary.

Mr. Gail Harper. Deputy Field Director of The W.Va. Veterans Affairs, was our Speaker for the Evening, he gave a wonderful talk on the Veterans Home in Barboursville, W.Va. Which will accept it's first Veteran on May 12th of this year, and have their Open House on June 14th, with our Governor Jay Rockefellower speaking. Mr Harper also answered questions from all of us concerning the Veterans Benefits.

We also had two of my Buddies from Co. D. 329th there, of which I had not seen for about 39-years. They were Ronald Harris, of Clinton, Ohio and Carl Reidl, of Sandyville, Ohio. We had a wonderful time taling about Camp Atterbury, which was called Camp Mudder-Bury, on account it was so muddy, we would train up to our Knees in Mud and Snow.

We also had some of our Member's with us that had not been with us for sometime on account of illnesses. Mr. Warren Knicely of Parsons, and William Stark of Shinnston. We enjoyed having them with us. We had Larry Hoskins from Wheeling, who is one of our very Faithful Members with us also.

I am also enclosing a report from one of our Auxillary Member's of which I feel that is worth mentioning.

Mrs. Beulah H. Crouch (Bootsie), wife of Harold M. Crouch, Cn. 330th. graduated from West Virginia State College, on December 19. 1980, with a Reagents Bachelor of Arts Degree. She graduated from McMillan Hospital School of Nursing in September of 1947, and is a Registered Nurse with The Kanawha County Board of Education. She and Harold are the Parents of two children, Carmen and Max. Who are Registered Nurses. Max did his part to keep Nursing in the family, by marrying a nurse. All three of them graduated from St. Mary's School of Nursing, in Huntington W.Va. Carmen's Husband works at Dupont in Belle, W.Va. (Also enclosing a photo of her).

I would like to make a apology for Sam Klippa (Mr. 83rd to us here in West Virginia) for not making our Meeting as he had scheduled, we missed seeing you Sam. But we will be looking for you at our next meeting.

We are a fast growing Chapter, with 54-members strong. But we need more hard working Faithful Member's, that will attend our Meetings and help us have the strongest Chapter in the Organization. We can do it by each and every Member doing their Part. We also made The Wilmar Cafeteria in Parkersburg, W.Va. as our Regular Meeting Place, for The West Virginia Chapter. of the 83rd Inf. Div. Asso.

I will be closing for this time, and May the Lord Bless you. Our next Meeting will be at The Wilmar Cafeteria, on May 24, 1981, in Parkersburg, W.Va. at 1:00 P.M.

Eugene E. Persinger Co. A & D. 329th

I am also enclosing some pictures.

P.S. We also have been having our Regular Dinners Every Month, and been haiving a good turnout, and enjoying ourselves. Will be seeing you in Pittsburgh in August.



Beulah H. Crouch (Bootsie) Wife of Harold M. Crouch - Cn. 330



L-R: John Shepherd, Evelyn Shepherd & Helen Persinger.

35TH. ANNUAL REUNION

PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY -	AUGUST 19	1981:
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Earlybird Registration	1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Earlybird Party with Beer, Pretzels & Dancing	7:30 P.M. to Midnight.
Race Track - (If there are enough interested)	Time to be set later.

THURSDAY - AUGUST 20, 1981:

Registration	9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Golf Tournament for those interested	Early A.M.
Hospitality Room (free booze)	1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Octoberfest, Dancing and Refreshments	6:30 to Midnight.

FRIDAY - AUGUST 21, 1981:

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	Registration	9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
	Business Meeting	10:00 A.M. to Noon.
	Bingo for the ladies (Plans not complete as yet)	10:00 A.M. to ?????
	Hospitality Room (free booze)	2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
	Beer Party and Dancing (free booze)	8:00 P.M. to Midnight.

SATURDAY - AUGUST 22, 1981:

Registration	9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.
Business Meeting	10:00 A.M. to Noon.
Hairdressing Show for the Ladies	10:00 A.M. to ?????
Unit Luncheons (48 hour notice is a MUST)	After the Meeting.
Memorial Services	2:00 P.M. to ??????
Hospitality Room (free booze)	3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Mass for all faiths	4:00 P.M. to ?????
Banquet	6:30 P.M.
Dancing (free booze)	Till Midnight.

We are contemplating a few minor changes to the above Program, nothing drastic enough to make a great big change in the overall picture.

There will be no Cash Bars during your stay at our scheduled three days.

IF YOU HAVEN''T MADE YOUR RESERVATIONS AS YET, PLEASE DO SO NOW WHILE THE THOUGHT IS FRESH IN YOUR MINDS.

IF YOU HAVEN"T SENT IN YOUR ADS AS YET, DO IT NOW. THE ADS PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR REUNIONS.

DON'T FORGET TO WRITE TO THAT BUDDY OF YOURS, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IN A GOOD NUMBER OF YEARS. HE MIGHT NEED A LITTLE BIT OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO GET HIM OFF HIS BUTT.

WE WELCOME YOU, ONE AND ALL, TO PITTSBURGH.

1981

35th. Annual

Reunion

ALL ROADS LEAD TO

PITTSBURGH - THE

CITY OF CHAMPIONS.

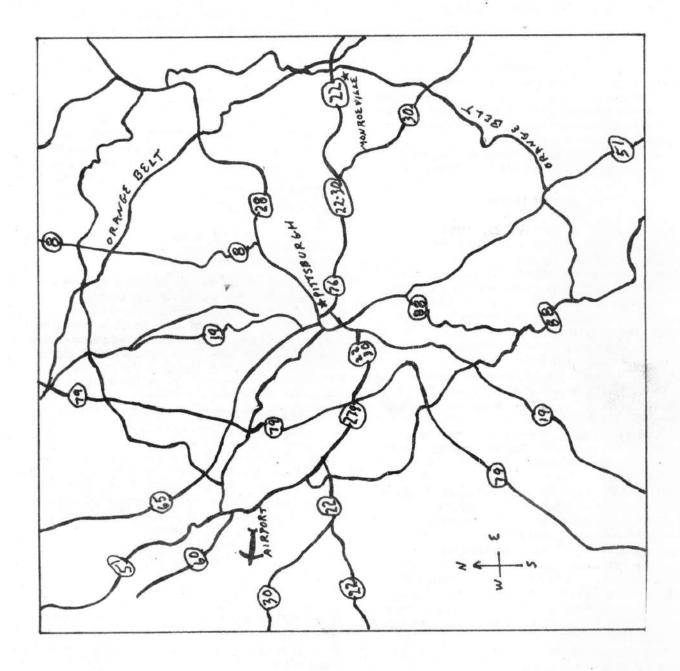
I have tried to draw in all the main roads that lead into the city. Use this layout on your map and you should have no problems finding your way into Monroeville.

There are going to be many detours in the area at that time of the year, because of construction and roadway repairs, so if at all possible, try to come in off of Route #76 (Pa. Turnpike) and get off at Exit #6. This is just a short distance from the Hotel and will save you much time in the traffic around the area.

S. Klippa

August

20,21, & 22nd.



DIXIE CHAPTER REPORT

Hello Buddies:

Can't make much of a report, we will be having our first meeting of the year on March 7th in Greenwood, South Carlina. Our sick are much better and hope they will be able to make the meeting. The Ladies Auxiliary are planning a cook book. The Dixie Chapter is looking forward to going to Pittsburgh in August.

Now I'm going to share with you all another story from our chaplain. See you in Greenwood, South

Carolina.

Johnnie H. Ball "D" 330th

I pulled into the shopping center the other day and I saw this little boy playing with a little pup. As I got out he said, "Hey Mister," When I turned the little boy looked up and said, "Sir, I have a question." What is the 83rd Thunderbolt I see on your van. I said son I served with this army division in World War II, when I was just a young man. Then he said, "please tell me about it. For we have always wanted to know about it. My granddaddy was in World War II. That was a long long time ago. In fact I wasn't even born and my daddy was just a small kid. My daddy was never in the war. So he doesn't know what granddaddy did. Then I told him some combat stories of some of the battles that we were in and I suppose your brave granddaddy would want you to be proud of him because he gave his life in Battle, that his family back home may survive. He was one of thousands of brave soldiers that didn't get back to their families alive. I said, "son I am so sorry that you lost your granddad. I have some wonderful grandchildren and without me they would be sad. Then he said I never did see him, but many times I wish I had. Just what you told me about the war makes me feel better about granddad. They say he died in Battle, a hero. What he went through we never knew. He was killed in the Battle of the Bulge. Fighting in the war over there with you. Son, I never knew your brave granddad, but I know he was a regular guy and you ask why we were fighting, so I'll tell you the reason why we fought for the love of our country and freedom for little boys like you, that you could live in this free land. To have and do things you want too. Now son something you must remember if you want to keep your country free. You must fight to protect it the way we did your granddad and me.

I hope there will never be another war, but if it happens then we all must fight to protect our country, women and children. We must stand up for what we think is right. May I say God bless you little one. I hope I've done you no harm fighting for our freedom rights, I don't think would be wrong.

The little boy turned to walk away and then he said, Thanks for what I've heard. I know you must be very proud to have served with the eighty-third. This little boy did my heart good. He was sincere and listened to every word. I thank God for this little boy, and all the men who served and fought with the eightythird.

Haran Martin

LETTERS

Peter Tymoski of "L" 330th. Infantry, writes that: "I finally heard about my 83rd Division for the first time and would like for you to send some information about my Army Buddies."

(A complete Company Roster was sent to him along with a short update on the Association to date).

S. Klippa

Jim Moye writes that he will be attending his first Reunion this year. He contacted me for information about his Company and I sent him a roster also so he could write to all his Buddies for first hand information. He is filing for a claim and needs your help. Jim served in "K" 331st.

S. Klippa

I have been a Dues Paying Member, but not a participating member for a number of years and this year, if all goes well, I hope to be at the 1981, 35th. Annual Reunion in Pittsburgh. I wish to take advantage of your offer to supply a list of names and addresses in my Unit, "B" Battery of the 324th. Although only Editorial to me, your return is beneficial to the Organization.

S. Klippa (By Joseph Harrington) "B" 324 F.A.

Malcolm Wade of "F" 331st. Infantry, and his wife enjoyed a trip to Luxembourg last August, which was his first trip back since World War II. At this time, they are living and working in Indonesia.

Ann Wade, Agent for Malcolm S. Wade

Enjoy reading the Thunderbolt very much but very seldom hear about the guys in the 308th. Medical Battalion. Would like to have an Address List, so I can contact those that I knew. I hope more of the guys would put a note in the Thunderbolt about the 308th. Hope that someday I can attend another of the Reunions.

Arthur Amundson "C" & "D" 308 Med. Hello Buddies:

Here we are, about the halfway mark of another great year in the History of our great Association. Before we know it, Reunion time will be upon us. To those of you who have ever taken an active part in putting on a Reunion, you are well aware of all the hard work that it entails. There are a lot of man hours spent, for which the only compensation the Reunion Committee gets is a pat on the back if it is a successful Reunion. No one knows any better than I do, what it is to work as hard as you have to work to put on a successful Reunion, only to be faced with all sorts of complaints, so before we get to the Reunion this year, let us all remember, the complaint department is closed, so if you find anything to complain about, just walk up to the first mirror that you can find and complain away to the person who is looking at you. Maybe talking to yourself sounds crazy, but so is the complaint that you may have.

Remember, the 83rd Infantry Division Association, Inc. is like any other big corporation, we have Officers who are duly elected to Office, and we have our Executive Committee, which is like a Board of Directors, and along with that, we have our stockholders, who are you the Dues Paying Members. Each year we hold a Reunion, which is like a Corporation Meeting, at this Reunion we hold our business meetings which you the stockholders are asked to attend and express your views for the good of the Corporation. Fortunately this past few years our stockholders have taken a greater interest in our Corporation and have attended these meetings. This what we need, more interest in the good of the Corporation. (or Association). This is one Corporation that is not run by Officers picked or elected by our Board of Directors, or Executive Board. The Officers of this Association are duly elected by the vote of you the Members (or stockholders).

We ask each and everyone of you to lend a helping hand in keeping this Association going on as it has by helping to obtain at least one new member. If you can't talk him into joining, shame him into becoming a member by paying his dues for a year and let him have the chance to learn a little more about our Association. I am sure that there are many of you who would have never have become a Member. were it not for that Buddy of yours who kept after you

for several years.

Now talking once more about our Reunion. The Reunion Committee does a great job every year trying to give you a great Reunion without having to raise the cost any more than is necessary, and this is where each and everyone of you can do your. part in helping to make this possible. You can do your part by taking an Add in our Reunion Program Book. Over the years I have spent a lot of money writing to Members asking for an Add, it has reached a point where I am unable to do all the letter writing that I did in the past because I am living on a fixed income and no longer have that extra money for having letters printed and stamps to mail them out.

This year I am going to try and put reminders in the "THUNDERBOLT", in the hopes that those of you who have sent me Adds in the past will continue to do so. This is your way of taking an active part in both the sucess of the Reunion and the success of the Association.

Let us not sit around just waiting for Reunion time to get here, start now by helping your Reunion Committee with your Add. If you are in business and can afford a full page, we welcome that also and if you only want a Booster Add, that is acceptable, remember every dollar counts. I will gladly forward any Adds that are sent to me as I have done in the past.

Larry Redmond enter the other out

REPORT FROM THE LOUISIANA CHAPTER

A recent list of paid up members from the Division Association shows that only 7 members have paid their dues for the year 1980-81. Leonard Brelutsky informs me that he had sent in his dues, but we are still looking for some of the other members to get active in the Association. What happened fellows, Smith, Gagnard, St Martin, Cordaro, Overdyke, Smith Halperin.

It was told to see a new name on the roster, Clifton Loup from D 330th. Welcome Aboard.

I received a call from Mrs. Haley Kohler informing me that her husband Haley passed away in January after a long illness. Haley Kohler served as Regimental Supply Officer in Service Company of the 329th Regiment. To add to her troubles, her son was seriously injured in an auto accident. He is recovering, but remains in traction. We are hoping for the best. I met Haley only a few times at our meetings, but I can assure you his blood lines were 83rd through and through. I am quite sure he made a lasting impression on the members of the 329th Regimental Staff and the men of the entire Regiment.

As I was writing this article I received a call from Bob Derickson informing me of the death of Andrew McKenna, the Judge Advocate. Our deepest Sympathies to the McKenna and Kohler families.

We of the Louisiana Chapter are always sadden by the news of a death of one of our buddies.

It is times like this, when we hear of the deaths of our buddies, that we should take a look at our lives. We are getting older each year and if we have a feeling that we would like to see our buddies once again, we should make plans to attend the reunions each year, or plan to attend when the reunion is in your area of the country. If you cannot attend, let's join the Association by sending your dues to Bob Derickson. This membership entitles you to the Thunderbolt which gives the latest news from all parts of the country.

The Philadelphia Chapter should be commended for a successful reunion. The financial report for the 3 day reunion shows the amount of money that must be handled by the Chapter that plays host for the reunions. For future reunion considerable planning must take place in order to assure ourselves of at least a break even report.

Joe Macaluso

To amend the by-laws to add to article 5, Section 3, and new subparagraph to be known as (G) to read as follows:

comment that they were in

"The member who is President during an Annual Meeting shall not be eligible for the Executive Board until he has been out of the Office of President for a period of one (1) year."

WARREN CHAPTER NEWS "and other things"

by GEORGE

The news that we receive from up north is that the usual rhetoric continues on Ad-Infinitum, from Reunion to Reunion. . .Sports Season to Sports Season, and the sempiternal Pseudologue (lying about strokes) of Golf from Spring to Autumn. "Ya wanna know sumpin?", I miss it all!!!! and I know that Mary Ann misses it too.

Oh well, that's about the only draw-back to retirement away from the old home town gang. But now that we are committed, I won't trade it.

SOME ITEMS OF INTEREST!!!

Johnny Teringo went back to Houston, TX for a check-up and received a very good report, he looks great, way to go John!

Mrs. Ann Tomazin (wife of Chaz, B-322-FA) broke a bone in her foot (again) and at last writing was wearing a cast. (We don't know if Annie is a right or left footed Field Goal Kicker.) Marge Voracek (wife of R.J. 324-FA) was operated on both feet again -- last report had her home recuperating in January. (probably will not have her Specialty-Kick-Off Contract renewed this Fall).

.....(Ann, Marge, only kidding and knowing what good sports you are, I know you take the above kidding in the kindred spirit you both have shown in the past. I'll buy you both a drink when I see you in Pittsburgh.)

Pearl Johnson, last we heard, was waiting to go back to the Cleveland Clinic for a third Heart Operation. (we hope and pray that all went well).

... Thank you Chapter guys n' gals for all the Birthday Cards. You really know how to get an old Senior Citizen all misty-eyed. I really love you all. Reminds me of the old couple just retired, sitting hand in hand, with he head on his shoulder, and reminisced, "Mary," he said tenderly, "You're still my Sweetheart. In fact, I've never had another Sweetheart because I never found anyone as sweet and beautiful as you". "George", she replied, "You're as big a liar as ever, and I believe you just the same."....

All is not too lonely here in retirement on the Suncoast of Florida. Mary Ann and I met some good friends of Dick (908-FA) and Millie Kelly who were former residents of Warren, Ohio. Betty and Warren Sanders. What a refreshing couple to talk to. They attended some of the Warren Chapter Functions and know most of them quite well and just to reminisce with them about hometown friends that we were affiliated with was truly ecstatic. They asked about many of the Warren Chapter Members. And along with this rumination, I, too ask many questions about my and Mary Anns Buddys and Gals of the Warren Chapter. Hey! Send us the quips and libes and we'll write 'em up for you. As one Sage said, "Most people have no respect for age unless it be bottled". So don't keep it bottled- up, send it in!!!

Now if I may take a little aside from Warren Chapter Functions. I heard from Ole Buddy, 1st SGT "Sho-Nuff" Massie. Seems he encountered some back trouble since "Philly-'80". Kate probably put him thru the obstacle course of do-it-yourself home repairs, they too, are looking forward to Pittsburgh this August. Lou Rossi up in New England take note 'cause Charlie Sihlanick too is looking forward to Pittsburgh and a big turn-out of A-BTRY-322-FA (and we want to hear the strawberry story too). Gosh, I haven't seen Emma since the first Boston Reunion way-back-when. How about some addresses, you old wore-out cannoneers!!! Send'em to me, I'll write the letters!

In closing, I leave you all with this thought, "if you think old Soldiers just fade away, try getting into your old Army Uniform".

God Bless All You Beloved Thunderbolt Pals.

George Cooley Sr.

Hello Buddies:

Hope all of you are well and thawed out after the winter we just had. We of the Cleveland Chapter enjoyed Casey Szubskis Anniversary (Wedding), Casey's Birthday, and also his retirement from General Motors. We had a peach of a time. Plenty of food and booze, and bakery galore. We also were honored with the presence of our Association President, Sam Klippa. Sam said, boy you guys have orderly meetings. He should see us when we are really orderly.. Not to be boastful, but we do have orderly meetings-- we're too dammed old to fight anymore, so the old saying, quote: "when things are tough, and tempers short, it never hurts to take a snort," prevails. To prove my point, everyone now is showing off the pictures of their grandchildren. Jim and Ruth Lindsay are the latest with pictures, their first, and are they ever proud and happy (a boy). Lou and Erma Lesjak notified me that they were presented with a grandson the fifth of September. The Earl Lindseys are also expecting a grandchild any day the last I heard, their daughter in Detroit, Michigan is doing the honors.

Our March meeting will be hosted by the Godfather, (Christopher and wife Anne) at the Godfather's sister's home, spaghetti will be the main course so we all become Italians for a day. Wait till you see Dominic you guys that were in his outfit, you won't recognize Dominic his new hairdo, he looks like a male Orphan Annie with his afro. "Ha" He will probably have a hit on my tail for this, but I could not

resist.

Our January meeting was also well attended at the home of Al & Elaine Lacinski, with Al proving to be a culinary expert. He came up with his French Onion soup and chicken and rice that had us all going back for seconds, have us over again folks. Casey Szubski, Lindsey and Giersz polished off two kuchens that my wife made, shame on you Casey, you ate one all by yourself. Our new slate for 1981, I should say old slate as nothing has changed except that I am Sgt. at Arms and still Reporter.

The building that contained my clip joint is sold to a Realty Company so today I was given my notice that the month of March will be my last, so after 32 years, "Look out fish here I come", Eleanor is all smiles, thinking I'll be home to be henpecked, no way, retirees get some respite from that sort of

thing. I hope.

Well nothing new has developed so I'll close this hoping everyone is rallying to Frank McGrogan's side and wishing a speedy recovery to him.

Would also like to say that the Cleveland Chapter wants to notify West Virginia Chapter that we appreciate their inviting us to their meetings, but we can't possibly attend. We don't mean to offend in any way, it's just that we have our own Chapter meetings.

See you in the next issue -- so if you don't have your dues in yet, get on the stick and get them paid. Stay nice.

Al Uridel CN Co. 329th

PITTSBURGH CHAPTER NEWS

The Pittsburgh Chapter held its February meeting at the Brentwod VFW and considering the foul weather we've had, the turnout for this meeting was excellent.

Since my last report we have had our election of new officers who will serve for the next two years. Bill DeMarino, who has done one fine job, passed the gavel to the incoming president Andy Churpak. Wilbur Campbell stepped down for incoming vice-president Lou Kanes. Steve Blasko will continue as Secretary and Sam Klippa, who has been handling the Treasurer's job since the passing of our beloved Adam Hassick, has been re-elected to a full term in this office. Congratulations to all. Rest assured the chapter is in capable hands.

Plans for our Spring Dinner-Dance were discussed at the meeting. It will be on Saturday, May 9th. at the Alpine Club in Monesson, Penssylvania. We've had parties there before and always have good turnouts and fine times.

The main topic of the day was the reunion in August. At this meeting we invited our wives to participate and offer suggestions for the ladies reunion activities. As you can imagine, there wasn't a dull moment and there were many suggestions. In the past there is no doubt that our women have played an important, active role for many successful reunions.

We also talked about increasing the monthly chapter dues, but this was tabled for now. We'll put this off as long as possible but it has to come about sooner or later. Now for news from here and there: Our heartfelt sympathy to our reunion chairman, John "Curly" Ruprecht up on the death of his brother, George, this past December. He was seventy years old and was president of the McKees Rocks Provision Company. Bill Wallis, 83rd Signal Co., is happy as a lark retiring after 40 years. Bill and Eleanor will probably enjoy more traveling now. Bill DeMarino was on the sick list for awhile but now he's looking and feeling great. Al Suess became a grandpa for the second time and she was named Alicia. Ed Ruess was not only lucky enough to win our big Chapter raffle but let us know too that he will gain a daughter this summer when his son will take a wife. Yours truly has joined ranks with all other happy retirees after 25 years with Calgon Corporation. Sue and I have just returned from vacationing in Florida and we will be off again in another week to Jamaica. Gosh. They didn't tell me retirement would be this easy to get used to.

Til next time,

Larry Lemardi "A" 331st

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I know that the members get tired at times reading things that don't directly deal with the 83rd Division and its members, but there are times when we have to realize that we are not only members of the 83rd Infantry Division Association, but that we are all Veterans as well.

We are fortunate to have a Veterans Bureau which comes to the aid of the Veterans, but there are also times that we have to come to the aid of one another.

During World War II, we were great men in the eyes of the public, but now we are just another guy in the neighborhood. I can remember when the Veterans Benefits were first started, those who were not Veterans were jealous, they thought that the Government was giving us everything. Granted we did gain the benefits of the G.I. Loan to help us in the purchase of a home, we did get aid for education and we did get Medical treatment for those who had Service connected ailments, but in most cases, these were not gifts, they were only loan guarantees, but the non-veterans had the wrong impression.

Now we are getting older and many of us have medical ailments that can be called Service Connected, but with the shortage of Veterans Hospitals and Medical facilities,

many are forced to wait to be treated.

Here in Pennsylvania, we had a Veterans Hospital which served its purpose well, it has been closed for some time and once before I tried to have it re-opened by writing to the President and the Senators and Congressmen, but was finally told that it was obsolete and unable to be used. About a week ago there was a writeup in the Philadelphia Papers that it was being turned over to the U.S. High Court to give it away to a Bible School. The value of it was set at \$1.3 million dollars. I am not opposed to any Religious Denominations, and I know that Religion is a big factor in our lives, but I still think that if it is good enough to be used as a School, then it could be used as a Hospital or Rehabilitation Center for our Veterans.

This week the Government has struck another low blow to the Veterans, under the Carter Administration, land was purchased and plans were drawn up for a new Veterans Hospital to be erected in the vicinity of Camden, New Jersey, millions of dollars was spent on the purchase of this land and the archetectural work on this project, and now the plans are being scrapped.

We as Veterans should get behind our Veterans Administration and try to further these projects. It is for our own good as well as for the good of other Veterans.

Thave my second letter in the mail to the President and the Senators and congressmen from the areas of Pennsylvaia, New Jersey and Delaware, trying to get them behind this. Let each and every one of you take a minute out to write to the President, or a Congressman or Senator and let themknow that we as Veterans are behind our less fortunate Buddies, the men who are suffering to-day from the ravages of Wars, Conflicts or whatever type of combat they wish to classify it as. Remember, although Vietnam was not a declared War, the participants were subject to the same deadly gunfire, bombings and shellings that we were are in as much need of Medical Aid as any other Veteran. If you need any names and addresses of Senators

or Congressmen, get in touch with me, I have the addresses of all of them. As a real 83rd Man, let us all rally behind any and all Veterans in need of help.

Sincerely Larry Redmond

COMPANY "H" 330TH INFANTRY

Hello Buddies:

Now that we are at the halfway mark in another great year of the 83rd Infantry Division Association, it is time for me to start contacting you men of Co. H, 330th and remind you that we were and still are the greatest unit in the 83rd Infantry Division.

Over the past years, I have pleaded with you men for your dues to help keep this the largest individual Company in the Association. I have had great success, but this year I have been left down just a little. It still isn't too late to pay your dues for 1980-81, so lets get on the ball and get that check for \$6.00 in the mail to-day. To those of you who attended the Reunion this year, you are aware that the dues will be increased to \$10.00 next yearr. This is due to the higher cost of printing, postage and the other incidentals that it takes to keep such an organization operating. Please lend us a helping hand and help make this another great year in the Association. Many of you don't realize exactly what the 83rd Infantry Div ision Association is. It is more than just another Veterans Organization that any man who served in any branch of the Military can join, it is an exclusive Organization, accessable to men who served with the 83rd Division only. It makes us like a family, not just a Veterans Organization.

While I am talking to you Co. H men, how about lending me the same support that you have shown me in the past. Take an add in the program book, no matter how large or how small, adds can run from \$5.00 for a Booster to \$60.00 for a full page Please, at least take a Booster, or even take a couple of extra Booster adds for your Buddy, send me his name so I can have it inserted.

Larry Redmond Co. "H" 330th

FAITHFUL FOURTH Platoon Association, "A" Company, 329th Infantry, 83rd Division. REUNION August 7-9, 1981, St. Louis, MO. Contact Vincent A. Bauman, 364 Mark Drive, Warson Woods, MO 63122 (313) 966-5138.

G COMPANY 331 INFANTRY

With the coming of spring, we know that another year is passing us by, and that our annual reunion is close at hand. A letter will be coming out in a few weeks to all members. We are still trying to build up our membership in the Division Association. According to the Secretary, G Company 331st has 34 paid up members. With the mailing list I have we could reach 50 paid up members with little or no effort.

Good Luck to Beau Titus on his retirement. Was glad to hear from Mort Gaynor. Mort, like myself, should think about retiring and enjoy the remainder of our lives.

Don Schwartz passed through New Orleans on his way west. Sorry I was not able to meet with him, but we do wish him well on his travels. We are looking forward to Pittsburgh in August, we should have an excellent turnout, because of the location. When we had a Company reunion in 1975 20 men showed up. Let's make it 30 for 1981. Time is getting short, and it will be a number of years before we get back to a central location. Make your reservation to attend in Pittsburgh, it is latter than we think.

I will attend the Executive Board meeting in May in Pittsburgh. The Division is considering the Pines Hotel in Fallsburg, N.Y. for a 1982 reunion site, it will be interesting to see how things turn out.

Capt Mac

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER NEWS

In Place of our Feb. meeting the Phillie Chapter, made it a great day. On Feb. 21. in the afternoon from 2 to 5:30 p.m. the Chapter attended it's annual Stringband Show of Shows. After the Show at our Convention Hall, all Thunderbolts and their Ladies reported to Belevedere's and Volpi's Command Post for cocktails. Then off to our private Dinning Room, set out by the Sheraton Hotel. Our Buddies. and wives showed up. Also our good friends, Jim Prentice B-908, Vito and Virginia Pallazollo. John & Peggy Dawn, Lou & Lucy Volpi, Al & Mary Fisher, Bill & Martha Appleby. Joe Gioia & Mary, John & Bea Jones. Al & Ann Belvedere, John & Josie Piscitelli, Augie & Laura Flagangelo. All the men supplied liquid refreshments. Al Belvedere supplied the wine for all the tables. After dinner all went to Al & Lou's suite. The goodie's were set up by Lucy Volpi, Ann Belvedere and all the women that attended our affair. A great time was had by all. Big John Prentice, Gioia & Volpi fought the War through the Artillery's eye's. Belvedere, Vito, Daum, Fisher and the rest fought the Infantry War until the wee hours.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!!!

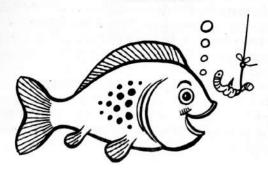
Once again we come to that time of year we all look forward to, reunion time, and with that comes the need for a program book. It gets harder every year to entertain a group of people for three days and keep the registration fee within reason. If we are going to have the best reunion possible, we need a successful program book and the only way we can do this is for each and every member to get out and solicit Ads. They are not going to come to you, you are going to have to go after them. Contact your employer, your friends, family, local establishments, your funeral director, the V.F.W., American Legion etc., the possibilities are endless. but as I said, you are going to have to go out and get them I don't think it's asking the impossible for everyone attending the reunion to send in a full page Ad or it's equivalent. It may take a little effort on your part but in the end you will be the one to benefit by a better reunion and a lower registration fee.

We sent an Ad form to each member but if you need more, and we sincerely hope you do, a plain sheet of paper will do. Type or print your Ad clearly. Full page is \$60.00. Half page is \$35.00. Quarter page is \$18.00. Booster is \$5.00. Make checks payable to: Paul Diethrich, 207 Lawrence Ave., Pittsburgh, PA. 15238.

Send in your Ads early as they play a very important part in making for a successful reunion, the plans of which are coming along fine. Hoping to see you all in August.

A few of our Buddies and wives couldn't make the affair, due to illness'es and other committments. Larry Redmond H-330 has been writing all the 83rd men at his own expense. A few Buddies of mine from C-323 called me after 25 or 30 years. Larry's mailing apparently has been waking a few people up. Good work Larry. Again we're asking all Thunderbolts to send their National Dues, and also all Chapter Members to send in their Dues to their Chapters. Help keep your Chapter's going.

Phila. Chapter Reporter John T. Piscitelli C-323-F.A. Bn.



Historians Corner

Dear Buddies.

The following is the full Obituary of "Our General" sent to me by his niece Mary Macon Prior.

I wrote in my report on his death that he was quite a "Man".

Now read this.

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

Hope to see you all in Pittsburgh.

Robert C. Macon, 90, Major General, U.S. Army, died October 20, in the hospital at Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Maryland. General Macon was born July 12, 1890, to Captain and Mrs. Edward Newton Macon in Washington, D.C. He graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute with B.S. and M.E. degrees in 1912. In November 1916, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry.

Following service with the 19th Infantry Regiment, he was with the 15th Infantry at Tientsin, China from 1920 to 1922. Service at various military posts and schools was followed by attendance at the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Upon graduation in June 1931 he was assigned to Headquarters, Panama Canal Division. He served as Assistant Chief of Staff for Supply, Intelligence and Plans and Training at Ft. DeLessops, Panama Canal Zone.

In June 1934, he graduated from the Army War College at Washington, D.C. and became an instructor at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga. Following several assignments as post executive officer, he served with the 6th Infantry (Armored) at Fort Knox, Ky. and as commanding officer of the 80th Armored Regiment of the 4th Armored Division at Pine Camp, N.Y.

In April 1942, he joined the 3rd Infantry Division as commanding officer of the 7th Infantry Regiment, then engaged in amphibious training at Camp Ord, California. He commanded the regiment during the invasion of North Africa in 1942 and conducted the seizure and occupation of the city of Casablanca. At that time he was promoted to Brigadier General and recommended for the Legion of Merit. He returned to the United States in April 1943 to become Deputy Commanding General of the 83rd Infantry Division.

In January 1944, he was named to command the 83rd and he led it through five European Campaigns: Normandy, Brittany, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central European. In the last campaign after crossing the Rhine River, the

Division advanced 280 miles in 13 days and forced a crossing over the Elbe River at Barby on April 13, 1945, where it established a bridgehead, 60 miles from Berlin. Here the 83rd Infantry Division was ordered to stop its advance as it made the first contact with units of the Russian Army.

Upon deactivation of the 83rd Division in April 1946 General Macon was appointed Military Attache to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, U.S.S.R.

He assumed command of the 17th Airborne Division at Camp Ickett, Va. in September 1948. In March 1949, was named Deputy Chief of the Army Field Forces at Fort Monroe, Va.

General Macon retired July 31, 1952 and thereafter made his home at California, Maryland.

General Macon's wife of forty-three years died in 1961. Their daughter, Elizabeth M. Prior, died in 1978. Survivors include three grandsons-Captain Robert F. Prior, U.S. Army Dental Corps, Ft. Bragg, N.C.; Dr. Bruce T. Prior, Baltimore, Md.; and Capt. Donald S. Prior, U.S. Army Medical Corps, Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu, HI.; nephews-Dr. Edward M. Macon, Vienna, Va.; Dr. Robert C. Macon, Rockville, Md.; and niece Mary Macon Prior, California, Md.

General Macon's brother Dr. Edward B. Macon of Washington, D.C. died in 1957, and his sister, Mrs. Dorothy Duke of Northampton, Mass., died in 1977.

During his career General Macon received the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Silver Star, Bronze Star Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Army Commendation Ribbon. His foreign decorations include the French Croix de Guerre with Palm and Legion of Honor, the Netherlands Order of Orange-Nassau, and the Belgian Croix de Guerre with Palm.



O Lord:

We put our buddie Andrew McKenna into your hands -- may he, General RobertC. Macon, and all the men of our "Ragtime" Circus of the 83rd infantry that have gone to you since our last August reunion always be at your side -even until the end of time. This we ask through your son, Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

George Krivak "M" 330th 12/22/80 Hazelton, Pennsylvania Walter Kozak "B" 908th 8/29/80 Henry Roy 908th 9/10/0

Roy Hubbarrd killed in automobile accident on July 19, 1980. Hq. 322nd. Sincere sympathy to Virginia Marquard who lost her father in November 1980. Sincere sympathy to John Clevenger who lost his mother on January 6, 1981.

"C" 329th **Edmund St. Lawrence** October 26, 1980 Letter from his wife. No outfit listed. January 14, 1981 Leroy Mink "M" 330th **Andrew McKenna** March 5, 1981 "A" 330th Johnny Folsom February 1981 "K" 331st Myron H. Miller November 18, 1980 Sherel Doane this came from Sam Klippa with no date of death. "H" 330th Russel E. Davy March 1981 908th C Battery

These are the names of the men who have deceased who the family or friends have notices to the headquarters of the 83rd. If there are others please let us know. We ask God's blessing on the families of all of these. May he keep them in his care until we join them once again.

One more: Lt. Col. J.E. Kohler passed away January 17, 1981. He was buried on Monday, January 19. This came to us from his wife, Mrs. Lela Kohler. He was a supply officer with the 329th of the 83rd.



Andy & Helen McKenna.

CHAPLAIN'S STEEPLE

Dear Buddies:

Since our last Thunderbolt Issue Five (5) more men have passed on to their reward. We pray for the Souls of the following our deceased Comrade's.

Charles Duncan D-330-INF.

George Krivak M-330-INF.

George Toner A-329-INF.

Robert Withers HDQS-308-?

Clement Drolette C-323-F.A.

May the Good Lord keep them at His Side even until the End of Time. Amen.

Our good Buddie Frank McGrogan D-330-INF. is home recuperating from a very serious operation. Our Prayers are with him for a speedy recovery and a swift return to our Chapter. Frank has a great nurse his wife, Mary, God Bless them both. Drop him a line. A letter always cheers up a man, when he hears from his Buddies.

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We pray to the Lord for all our Buddies the living and the dead. Lord hear our Prayers for our beloved Thunderbolts, whom You have summond to Yourself. We thank You for us having known them in this life. We ask You, to forgive their faults. When our call comes O Lord, may we all be with You in Eternal Life even until the end of time. Amen.

REKWERWERWER CHWER

Dear Bob:

I just received the shocking news of our good buddie, Andrew McKenna passing away. Our hearts and prayers go out to his wife and family at this time of bereavement and stress. Andrew and I have been corresponding pretty regularly. One of the greatest moments of his life would have been to receive and 83rd chapter for a Georgia Chapter. The men of Georgia should get together to start a chapter. For Andrew it would be a great honor. To us members of all chapters and individual members of our great 83rd organization, McKenna was a great soldier and a great man. May he always be in the "Graces of the good Lord."

Chaplain 83rd Infantry Division John T. Piscetelli SEND YOUR ADS EARLY, as they play a very important role in our

FULL PAGE @ \$60.00 HALF PAGE @ \$35.00

QUARTER PAGE

(8)

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L-R: Jim Dunkin, Linda Dunkin & Louis M. Knight



Front Row-L-R: Eugene Persinger, Don Pettry. Back Row-L-R: John Shepherd, Larry Hoskins



Co. D, 329th (Buck-Shot) Infantry Regiment. L-R: Carl Reidl, Eugene Persinger & Ronald Harris



L-R: 39-Years ago. Ezio Alicandri & Eugene Persinger

The Executive Board has approved a Logo with the Black and Gold colors the same as our Division Patch. Any 83rd member may purchase this identification Badge individually, by sending to theRosco Industries, 7449 Washington, Suite 507, Forest Park, Illinois, 60130

The price of the Logo is \$2.60 plus \$.50 for mailing. This price is the same for men and women.

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Deadline for <u>ALL</u> articles to be published in Thunderbolt must be in this office by <u>Sept. 10</u>, Dec. 10, Mar. 10, and <u>June 10</u>.

Robert Derickson 3749 Stahlheber Road Hamilton, Ohio 45013

REUNION WILL BE IN PITTSBURGH IN AUGUST 1981. THE DATES ARE: 20. 21. 22. START MAKING YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND THE 35TH REUNION.

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