



THUNDERBOLT

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WORLD WAR II

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Fort Lauderdale



The 83rd. in '83

THE THUNDERBOLT
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 EDITOR..... Robert Derickson

STAFF REPORTERS

Vito Palazzolo	20000 Lancaster, Harper Woods, MI 48236	Al Urdel	3784 E. 53rd St. Cleveland OH 44105
Ambrose Tynan	121 Sanborn Ave. W. Roxbury MA 02136	Lawrence Leonard	1360 Preston St., Pittsburgh, PA 15205
James Emanouil	185 Littleton Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824	Keith Echerd	Box 297 Taylorsville NC 28681
John T. Piscitelli	1903 Iseminger St., Phila. PA 19148	Ralph .. Hamilton	P.O. Box 374, Marion KY 42064
Joe Adam	1753 Columbin Ave. Chicago, IL 60626	Richrd M. Sullivan	2150 W. Buffalo Ave. Tampa, FL 33607
Joseph A. Macaluso	5353 Pasteur Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70122	Eugene Persinger	3013 - 30th St. Nitro, W.VA. 25143
George Cooley, Sr.	Box 1057 Indian Shores, FL 33535	S. Bielen	71 Glenwood Terrace, Fords, N.J. 08863

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

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 35 Shephard Ave
 Providence, RI 02904

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Pat Di Giammerino
 36 East Border Road
 Madlen, MA 02148

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Rernie Cove
 Pox 274
 South Fallsburgh, NY 12779

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

James Prentice
 28 Mapleton Street
 Hartford, CT 06114

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Robert Derickson
 3749 Stahlheber Road
 Hamilton, OH 45013

CHAPLAIN

John T. Piscitelli
 1903 Iseminger Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19148

ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN

Casey Kowalec
 7719 Edgewood Lane
 Seven Hills, OH 44131

JUDGE ADVOCATE

John Raikos
 4039 Fir Court
 Indianapolis, IN 46250

ASSISTANT JUDGE ADVOCATE

William M. Doty
 123 W. Madison - Suite 1000
 Chicago, IL 60602

SERVICE OFFICER

Remis V. Mikel
 2969 ZR 16W
 Elkhart, IN 46514

HISTORIAN

Wm. Kent O'Connell
 183 Acre Lane
 Hicksville, NY 11801

SERGEANTS-AT-ARMS

Manny Epstein
 1900 Quentin Rd.
 Brooklyn, NY 11229

Hyman E. Goodman
 P.O. Box 6611
 Providence, RI 02940

Arthur Waples
 Box 42 Pine St.
 Alton, NH 03809

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mike Skovran
 2447 Reeves Road
 Warren, OH 44483

Manlius Goodridge
 621 Oak Street
 Ludlow, KY 41016

Joseph A. Macaluso
 5353 Pasteur Blvd.
 New Orleans, LA 70122

Robert G. Taylor
 231 Indian Trail Dr.
 Columbiaville, MI 48421

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 7041 Rutland St.
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A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

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Harry W. Lockwood	1957	PatDiGiammerino	1969	William J. Chavanne	1979
Raymond J. Voracek	1958			Samuel Klippa	1980

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As the term of President of the 83rd. Infantry Division Association for the 1982-83 year has begun, you have selected me for this high honor and with humility I have accepted the challenge, along with my fellow members of the Florida Chapter, to present on August 18, 19, and 20th. 1983 an outstanding Reunion in FT. LAUDERDALE.

We have just completed another memorable Reunion using a different concept which may be our salvation in future years. I'm sure everyone in attendance enjoyed the camaraderie this year in always being near your buddies and having more time to retell the old stories. Appreciation of the highest order is due the Boston Chapter and to Bernie Cove, who initiated to us the "PINES" as a new idea to coming Reunions.

Every passing year makes each Reunion more endearing as we renew old friendships and meet new members. Perhaps I am prejudiced, but it is impossible to believe there can be any other organization that publishes a magazine to write the editor a note requesting the publishing of an item about our association and have inquiries directed to our National Secretary. Of the thousands of men who were members of the 83rd. Division in this country and Europe, there are still those who are unaware of our group or do not know how to contact us.

Our Fort Lauderdale Reunion is progressing well, and we will submit the agenda in later issues. The Florida Chapter is making every effort to make your stay in FT. LAUDERDALE one that you will prize for many years to come. We have a surprise for you but no hints, so you will have to come to the 37th. Annual Reunion to be dazzled.

At this time I wish to thank your Reunion Chairman, Sam Schwartz, for the extraordinary effort he has made to date. Sam is a relative newcomer to the Association, having been unaware of us for many years, and "discovered" the 83rd Assn. through

a notice in his DAV magazine. You see, it does pay to advertise. He has been putting a great package together and has a few rough edges to hone before presenting the finished product. This may be a little early but we of the FLORIDA CHAPTER wish all of you a Happy Holiday and especially a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Remember FORT LAUDERDALE In '83 for the 83rd.

Y'ALL COME - HEAH!!

Ralph B. Gunderson

WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER REPORT

We are still having our regular monthly dinners and having a real good turnout. We could use more members to come out and be with us. We have been sending out our membership renewals to our members and have been getting a good response, but we need more members to renew to have a strong chapter. If anyone knows of any 83rd men from West Virginia, or anywhere else please let one of the Officers know about it.

We have just concluded another one of our regular chapter meetings on June 20th, and had a real good turnout. Our President, John Shepherd, called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The meeting was then opened with a prayer by our Chaplain Eugene Persinger. Our secretary, Don Pettry, gave a report of the last meeting. We also voted and passed a motion to place an ad in the reunion book for this year.

We have set a date for our Summer Picnic, which will be on July 18, 1983, near the Veterans's Home in Barboursville, West Virginia. We are also going to visit the Home after our picnic is over.

We had a nomination of officers at this meeting, which will be elected at our September meeting, so be prepared to vote for your choice of whom you wish to serve you during the next year.

We had two \$5.00 drawings at this meeting, and they were won by John Swecker and his wife Bernice of Parkersburg, West Virginia. We are hoping to have some of our members present at the National reunion in New York in September or at least three or four have promised to be there.

I have not heard from Sam for sometime. But I have talked to Bob, and he said that Sam and his wife have both been sick.

Well, this all the news that I have for now, and may the Lord Bless you all real good.

We will be having our next regular meeting at The Wilmar Cafeteria in Parkersburg, West Virginia on September 12, 1982, at 1 P.M.

Eugene E. Persinger
Co. A & D 329th



Samuel Klippa presenting the W.Va. Charter to President Eugene Persinger.



Women of the W.Va. Chapter. You can see the Boat in Background.
L-R: Esta Pettry, Evelyn Shepherd, Bootsie Crouch, Helen Persinger, Mary Pauley.



Taken on our Boat Ride to Bleemerhassett Island at our last meeting in Parkersburg, W.Va.
L-R: Front Row: Eugene Persinger, Don Pettry, John Shepherd. L-R: Back Row: Paul Pauley and Harold Crouch.



Pictures taken at our Charter Presentation, W.Va. Chapter.
L-R, John Governor, Eugene Persinger and Don Pettry.

SECRETARY TREASURER REPORT

Back home again after attending another wonderful reunion. To those of you who were there you know what I am talking about and to those of you who were not there for any reason we wish you could have been there. From the time we arrived on Sunday afternoon until we left Thursday morning we were entertained. It was everything Bernie Cove said it would be and more. The Boston Chapter all did a great job. Their hospitality room was one of the best. It was large and roomy. Plenty of room to mingle with everyone and mingle they did.

As all of us who have ever attended a reunion have said, there is no way any of us can describe it adequately. You have to come to a reunion yourself and see the smile on the face of men who have not seen each other for all these years. You see tears and arm grasping, hugging, and just stand and look with unbelieving eyes at a former fox hole buddy.

Think about Florida and plan on getting there to see for yourself this wonderful sight.

ALSO MEN AND I MEAN ALL OF YOU LOOK AT YOUR 83RD MEMBERSHIP CARD. IF IT DOES NOT SAY 1983 ON IT YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS NOW PAST DUE. PLEASE GET THESE DUES INTO ME RIGHT AWAY. THAT \$10.00 IS ALL THAT KEEPS YOUR THUNDERBOLT COMING TO YOU. WITHOUT IT WE CANNOT OPERATE. LET'S ALL GET THEM IN BEFORE CHRISTMAS AND THEN PEARL AND I WON'T HAVE TO SENT OUT THOSE REMINDERS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY.

The memorial service was something special. It was out in the open and taps was played by a West Point Man who was out among the pines. The sun was shining and it was a very impressive service. The singing by Hank Leids was very well done. Thank you Hank for a job well done and on such short notice. There is no way we can tell you about all the things that

went on to make this a great time. The dining room on the night of the banquet. The speaker who talked in Italian, and made us all realize we "don't know everything".

As we come to the close of another year we realize how much we have to be thankful for. Pearl and I are truly blessed. We have friends we never dreamed about. We both feeling fine and that is a blessing from God. Thanks to all of you for your friendship. We are going to miss Mike Skovran and Liz. They have helped us through this five years. Thank you both for all you have done for us. As you all know Mike went off of the Executive Board at this reunion. We know you are there though if we need you. Our new chairman will be Manny Goodridge. Give him your support.

AT THIS YEAR CLOSES WE HOPE YOU ALL HAVE A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON. STAY WELL AND GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU.

Bob

PAST REUNION CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

With the end of the 36th reunion in So. Fallsburg, N. Y. Just a memory - a "Great Memory", I am hoping that everyone enjoyed themselves.

The Pines Hotel did not live up to its comfort and agreement with the Boston Chapter, they did better than that. They really went all outdoors for us, they gave us more than what we had agreed upon.

I would like to thank the Ehrlich family, Bernie Cove and his staff for a job well done.

It takes a lot of hard work to host a reunion. You want everyone to enjoy themselves and have a good time, and I'm sure that this just did happen.

I want to thank everyone for a great turnout. To me it was one of the Biggest and best.

I want to thank everyone who helped us out it sure was appreciated.

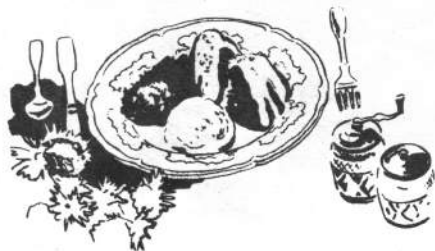
As you know the 1985 Reunion is going to be at the Pines again.

Some reservations have already been made for 1985, some members asking for the same room.

It's going to be another sellout so don't wait for the last minute.

Thank you and stay well,

Pat DiGiammerino
Past Reunion Chairman



A THANK YOU NOTE

A great big thank you from the women of the Greater Boston Chapter, for your help in making our arts & crafts table, the success it was.

Thanks to everyone who contributed, your gifts were most welcome and added to our success.

Sincerely

The women of the Boston Chapter

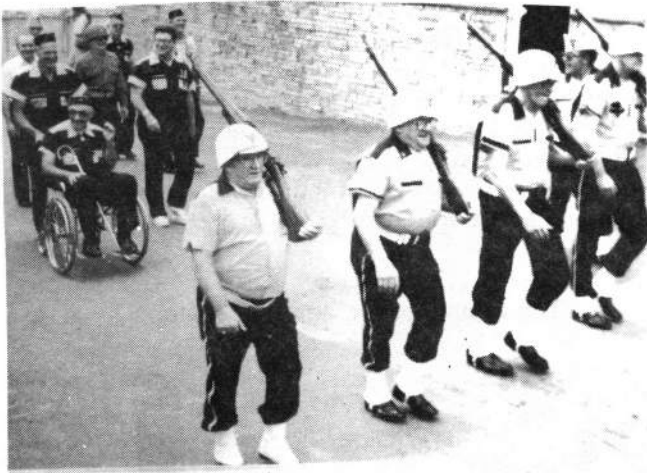


Both Generals planning their next move.



Remember this?

323rd FA BN REPORT



The Philly Chapter at it's best



Vera Caprio, Ginny DiGiammerino, at Memorial Services



Jean & Bernie Cove

The members of the 323rd FA BN had a real nice time at the reunion in South Fallsburg in New York. Charlie Battery once again had the most attendance.

John Piscitelli and Bill Doty were honored at the 83rd Reunion Banquet. The men of the 323rd FA BN are proud of these gentlemen. John Piscitelli has served many years as the 83rd Infantry Division Association Chaplain. Bill Doty has also been more than outstanding as Judge Advocate - Bill has tried to retire from this position, but he is always drafted back on the job.

Joe Gioia from Charlie Battery accepted an award for Larry Redmond. Larry was unable to attend this reunion.

Dom Christopher has proven to me who has the most money in Charlie Battery, that is Maury Candido. Sorry Dom, I always thought you were the richest!

Tony Piantedosi told me that David Hurt had to cross the Hudson River to get to The Pines at South Fallsburg.

Bill Shaner, Don St. John, and George Connors were seated at the same table in the dining room. I can just image the "war stories" at that table. Don St. John suffered a heart attack during the past years. However, he now looks back in shape.

Romeo Maynard, Pat DiGiammerino and myself were at the next table - being the youngest of all the group, I had to look after the senior citizens!!

Harry Herman from "A" Battery was at the reunion. I am sorry Harry and Paul Dietrich did not get together. However, there will always be a next time.

We lost a few members of our unit during the past year. Norman Thornton past away in Michigan, George Connors told me. Walter Dryburg wrote to me to let me know that Bill Gliebe died. Just yesterday I received word from Walter Harding saying that Bob Kendell died 11 September 1982. Our condolences to the families of all of these fine men.

Norman Bessette died of a heart attack a few years ago. I talked with Norman's wife while I was traveling in Vermont in August.

I will have a new list of names and addresses for HQ BTRY in the mail as soon as possible. I will close for now as I have to meet the deadline.

Until Next Issue

Amby Tynan
323rd FA





Nancy Tynan and Santa Amby



George Connors with Santa, Larry Arrigo 308 Eng. to the side.



President Romeo Maynard telling Santa

Dear Sir:

Your assistance is requested in compiling a comprehensive list of Infantrymen who have earned the Third Award of the Combat Infantryman Badge. The roster of these triple CIB holders will be presented to the Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, GA.

All Infantrymen who hold the Combat Infantryman Badge with two stars are requested to send their name and grade in which retired, together with a copy of the order for each award, to Colonel Donald A. Seibert, USA Ret. 525 Southwick Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28303. If orders are not available, please provide the designation of the unit with which serving when each CIB was earned and the approximate dates in combat. The information will be used to complete a Roll of Honor for the Infantry Museum. Kindly notify anyone you know who holds the CIB with two stars and ask them to send the necessary information.

It would be appreciated if you would publish this letter or the information in the paragraph above in your Newsletter. Many thanks for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Donald A. Seiber
Colonel USA Ret.

783rd ORDINANCE NEWS

Our big news of a terrific reunion was the sight of John Forster, Phil Barbara, Paul Bryars and Bod Hammond. All of the "virgins" new comers. They like each of us who have experienced these encounters were impressed with it all. Paul Bryars put it best when he stated "It's really amazing meeting your old buddies. It's like all the in between years suddenly fall and you feel like we never left one another.

Big John Forster, his wife Dot and son John were the highlight of Tuesday. Son John drove them down from Troy, New York for the day. John had cancer six years ago and lost his voice box and a leg, but he sure hasn't lost his spirit or his sense of humor. We know this was the highlight of the year for John and his visit was truly the highlight of the reunion for us.

Phil Barbara wore a smile all week which perplexed his wife Ann. The answer was simple as Phil beat Paul Bryars by one stroke shooting an 85. Bill Appleby took the bobby prize but he came in first place as a professional square dance caller. He was so good that after three hours the first day they called him and Martha back the second day. Bill Manning clapped and laughed as Carl and Alice Frederick cut a rug. Not to be out done Doc and Agnes Pfeifer cut and tied a rug or two.

Arthur Doggett, would you believe won a contest for the best "LEGS"!!! Millie Doggett can't see why not.

But Gene and Jane Bond are saying "No Way" he has too much liquid on the left knee!!!

Percy Mohon, Isodore Labbe and Herschel Weaver all couldn't make it at the last minute and that was our only disappointment for this was by far the best reunion for one and all.

"Cap" Kimball wants to be remembered to one and all. He just lost his wife in June and he would appreciate hearing from you. Take the time and drop him a line.

"Rags" Rangnow

WOW! WHAT A REUNION! Thanks to Mr. Ehrlich and his son, Steve (owners of the "Pines") for supporting Bernie Cove and letting him put on a great reunion.

It really was a great affair. Bernie, said he was going all out and he sure did.

They sure have a great organization at the "Pines", from the desk clerks, waiters, and maids to Don Browar, the asst. Maitre'd, who handled the dining room, while Bernie was busy with the 83rd. A great group who showed us a fine time, indeed.

We had a great Memorial Service, thanks to Chaplins, John Piscitelli and Casey Kowalec who set it up and organized it. Thanks also, to Col White, Col. Macalus, and Commander of the Color Guard and Firing Squad, Al Belvedere, who barked out the orders and kept us in line. In fact, we all know, Col. White has health problems from his many injuries received during the war, but, I hope he can keep coming to the reunions, as he sure keeps us in line and I swear, when he gives them commands, I'm back on the parade grounds at Camp Atterbury. A fine gentlemen, great Officer and he has a fine asst. in Col Macaluso.

Bernie Cove, true to his word, came through for us when needed. Chaplain John Piscitelli, informed me an hour before the service, that we had no singer as our beloved Jim Burton, wasn't here. I had him talk to Bernie. Bernie, got on the phone and within minutes, Hank Leids, Program Director and M.C. at the "Pines", volunteered. He went home, changed clothes, came back and did a fine job singing at the Memorial Service for us.

Mike Caprio, did an excellent job presiding at the meetings and Pat DiGiammerino, did a great job setting up the reunion with his Boston Chapter.

All in all, it was a great reunion and sure makes one proud to be an 83rder.

**"Jim" Prentice
3rd Vice-President**

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

FUN!!!, FANTASTIC!!!, FABULOUS!!!, these are just some of the adjectives used to describe the 1982 Reunion at the Pines.

Our sincere thanks to Mike Caprio, Pat DiGiammerino and the rest of the Boston Chapter for their efforts in hosting the reunion. Of course they could not have put on such a fine reunion without the Inside-Man, Bernie Cove, the Maitre D' at the Pines.

The hotel didn't lack for anything. All the facilities and activities were so convenient that it kept us together most of the time. Those of you who couldn't make it to the reunion, missed a great one.

Our Jersey Chapter was well represented. We had tables assigned to us for the entire stay. Much of our enjoyment came from eating together. How about our Joe DePeri borrowing the waiter's coat and serving them for a change, or Viola and Wilson Day introduced to toasted bagel with smoked lox and cream cheese. They had it for breakfast every day. The cold borsch for lunch was a favorite for Ed Kirgan. Betty wasn't as adventurous as Ed. Arnold and Bev Cipperly tried the schav (sour grass) and didn't like it, so I drank it and really enjoyed it. "My Mother makes it". Manny Epstein forgot about his diet, everytime I looked his way all I could see was knife and fork flashing. For John and Florence Nazarian, this had to be quite an experience being with this group.

Of course there were other activities beside the dining room. Ed and Erna Russell, along with Frank Reichmann played the golf course so much the fairways took a beating. Wilson Day took second place in the Mr. Pines Beautiful Legs Contest. Talking about blowing your horn, Emil Wheling blew his all during the banquet, right into Hazel's ear. You all know Vito Lascari's appetite, well he had to leave early missing the big steak on banquet night.

We also had many others from New Jersey who attended. The Joe Steks from Woodbridge, Tony Hroncich from Cliffside Park, Ted Guziks from Jersey City. Charlie Sihlanick from Little Ferry along with wife Mary, spent their time with the Szubskis and others from the Artillery. Also Mort Goldman from Toms River, and from Cedar Grove we had John Pfeifer and wife, and Bob and Coral whose last name I forgot. (Sorry about that.)

How nice it was to see George and Sara DePhilipps, Dave and Millie Benick. Both men looked just great after their recent illness. The 19 that attended from our Bus #4, 1973 trip to Europe.

I could go on and on mentioning the wonderful people who attended. It was great seeing you all again, and we hope you will continue to come to the reunions, for this above all is what makes it so great. It gets better every year.

The Jersey Chapter should consider meeting at the Pines for a annual holiday. All interested should attend our meetings at the VFW in Garfield, the third Friday of the month at 8 P.M.

Thats it for now, wishing you all well.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Stan Bielen

HELLO BUDDIES:

Now that the Reunion is all over and everyone is back home to start off another year. Unfortunately, Mary and I were unable to make this, one of the finest Reunions ever held from all reports that I have gotten, and I have had many phone calls and cards and letters about it so far, plus some visitors.

I think that each and everyone of us owe a great vote of thanks and praise to the boys from the Greater Boston Chapter for a good job well done. I have heard nothing but praise about how wonderful the entire Reunion was, and hearing the reports that I have heard so far makes both Mary and I even feel worse that we were unable to attend with you.

Today, I received one of the greatest surprises of my life, the doorbell rang and when Mary answered it, there was John Piscitelli and his Wife to visit us. John handed me a package and told me to open it and when I did, I was so taken back that I was unable to do anything but cry. There was a beautiful Plaque from the Greater Boston Chapter in appreciation of the help I gave them on the ad book. Believe me, I can't begin to express my sincere thanks to them for their thoughts. I am only too glad to have been able to help them in some way, not being able to be there, that was the least I could do.

I appreciate their thanks for what I did, but were it not for you great men who contributed to this ad book, my help would have been in vain. I can't give each and every one of you a plaque for what you did, but I can at least thank each and every one of you. I sincerely hope tht maybe next year we can join with the Florida Chapter and help make their ad book a success also. Again, I thank you one and all.

Sincerely
Larry Redmond

Dear Members of "L" Company:

I'm trying to locate anyone that may have known my father, the late P.F.C. Robert C. Caine, SN 32366581, who was killed in action somewhere near St. Servan, France. Date of death was August 12, 1944, and his remains were initially interred in plot B, row 9, grave 211, of the U.S. Military Cemetery, St. James, France. He was from Bridgeton, N.J. and he had been given the nickname 'Kill-er Caine' because he used to box in his spare time.

After the death of my father, my mother had to give my older brother and me up for adoption as she wasn't able to raise us on her own. I was born Sept. 24, 1944, after his death, and so he never had a chance to see me. Over the I have met my natural mother, brother, and my father's

relatives.

The family has asked me to try to find out how my father died and if there were any witnesses near-by at the time of his death. Although I never knew my dad I'm making a special memorial case in honor of him. To many he was just another American soldier killed in the line of duty, but to me he will go down in history as a man that gave his life for the freedom of others. No military honors will ever be bestowed upon him, but the memorial case I'm making in his honor will be the best honor given any soldier or father one could ask for.

I understand there were books published in 1945 called "Buckshot" and "Thunderbolt Across Europe". If there is any way to get copies of these books to add to the memorial case it would be deeply appreciated.

My dad's name is listed in the book "Buckshot" on the casualties list from July to August, 1944.

If there is any information you may be able to supply me with, it would be deeply appreciated by the Caine family and myself.

Sincerely,

Lyndal W. Kellogg

(formerly Clarence W. Caine)
Lyndal W. Kellogg
Sooy Rd. RD 1
Vincentown, N.J. 08088



KENTUCKY CHAPTER REPORT

The Kentucky Chapter had a meeting in August at the Executive Inn in Owensboro, Kentucky. We had about 45 people in attendance at this meeting. From Kansas, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio. Good work people. Keep it up. Fran and Wally Roberts were back with us. Wally had a heart attack and then had a bad fall. Looking much better, keep up the good work Wally. Hope to see you at Christmas.

Much talk was about the reunion at the Pines. Many of our group will be there. It was voted to have the summer meeting again in Oxford with Bob and Pearl Derickson as our host and hostess. Start making things gals. We will have our annual craft sale.

A short meeting was held at The Pines, in New York. Final plans were made for the Christmas Party to be held at Slade, Kentucky at Natural Bridge State Park. There will be the gift exchange. Man gift for a man and woman gift for woman. Please mark gift accordingly. Limit of \$7.00. Each couple is to bring one (1) door prize. Date is December 4, 1982 at 4:00 in the afternoon. Send your reservation in to Natural Bridge State Park, Slade, Kentucky, 40376. Reservations must be in by November 1, 1982. Phone 606-663-2214. The Chapter will furnish soft drinks. Everyone is welcome.

If we don't see you there to wish you Happy Holidays, we do it now. To each and everyone of you we wish you only the best in the New Year.

These pictures were taken at the Executive Inn in Owensboro, Ky. At the Kentucky Chapter meeting.



Tom & Gayle Hensiey at Owensboro, Ky. - Executive Inn.

JUNE 1977



Left Side: Gale Baker, Pearl Derickson, Sam Klippa
Right Side: Gene Castanzo, Irene Baker, Fred Fowler, Margaret Schwartz.



Sam Klippa, Gene Castanzo, Pearl Derickson, Bob Derickson, Fred Fowler.

CLEVELAND CHAPTER

Hello Buddies:

Here it is reunion time again and by the time this edition reaches the print, we'll have it all over again.

I have some sad news to report, something that is hard to even mention. We lost our good buddy Henry Giersz a couple of weeks ago. Hank went to work and had, from what I gather, a massive heart attack. Hank and Phyllis were relatively new members but very active in all phases of club activities, and will surely be missed. Hank was a good ticket seller and it is needless to say that we'll miss him. They were planning on attending the reunion at The Pines, in fact they went to every one since joining our Chapter.

Our July meeting was held at Czeck's acres, and a good turnout it was, fine weather with the exception of a little shower. We all enjoyed the refreshments and

food available, and the main topic of course was the reunion.

The August meeting we all took a ride to the Donnelly's residence, and once again fine weather prevailed and a good attendance magnified the situation. Cleveland Chapter should be about 98% at The Pines, unless some unforeseeable thing arises. There are a few of us planning on leaving together in sort of a convoy, which should be a little different.

Eleanor Szubski is walking around with a temporary cast on her leg, she fell in a department store and stretched some ligaments in her leg.

Erma Lesjak recovering from surgery and doing fine, it was nice to see them at our meeting for a change, have to work on Louie a little. (Get on the stick you two). Our post reunion meeting will be held at the home of Bob and Marge Miller. Bob was a member about 30 years ago, and joined us last year I believe. Time goes by so fast it has one humping trying to keep up. Anyway welcome aboard Bob and Marge.

Ronnie Lindsey just called to inform me that her brother had passed away. Our deepest sympathy to Ronnie and family. Ronnie will be going back to Pennsylvania to attend the funeral.

Heard about Charlie Sihlanick, having some problems, but they won't stop Charlie from attending the reunion.

There isn't any more news from this end, so I'll close by saying, see you in the Catskills. Stay nice, fight nice and God Bless.

Al Uridel
"CN" 329th

G COMPANY 331st. Infantry

Arrived home safe and sound after 4 enjoyable days at the PINES. One week later I am still trying to lose the seven pounds that I gained in those four days.

The wife, Monica and I had a great time. We want to thank the people from the Warren Chapter for inviting us on their bus trip to the Pines.

That is what makes those reunions so enjoyable, being with people you know and meeting new ones at each reunion.

G Company as usual had a good turnout, but I was a bit disappointed because some of the fellows from the New England area could not be with us, you missed the fun.

The people from the Boston Chapter and Bernie Cove from the Pines should be commended for a great reunion, it was different for most of us.

I believe that I can name all of those that were in attendance Titus, Piette, Gaynor, Mizerock, Tuttle, Bogacz, Rung, Costanza, Suess, Walsh, Teringo, Philipone, Macaluso, Gautschi, Halubka. I sin-

cerely believe, that everyone had a good time. If we can measure it by the food we ate and the booze we drank we should have had an outstanding time.

Within the next few months I will contact each of you in hopes that we can increase the number of G Company men that belong to the 83rd Association. We should all join, because in each issue of the Thunderbolt that you receive we will try to keep you abreast of those members from G Company that contact me during the year.

Next year we will be going to Florida for the reunion, and we hope that all G Company in that area can find time to join us.

Capt Mac

LOUISIANA CHAPTER

I believe that all three members from the Louisiana Chapter, that attended the reunion at the Pines, had a wonderful time.

I know that Laurence Armand enjoyed his trip, he played Golf each morning with Major Charles Synder from the 331 Medical unit, and each night at the bar he tried to entertain the Comedians.

Leonard Prelutsky and his wife Pauline had an enjoyable time. They joined the group from the 331st Medical unit which seems to get larger each reunion.

My wife, daughter and I are now on a diet trying to lose some of the weight that we put on during those four days.

Easy Labbe was expected, but he did not show, he must have had trouble getting reservations. Your buddy Doggett from the Ordnance outfit was asking about you. He will be in charge of the 1984 reunion in Owensboro, Kentucky.

I am hoping that we can have a meeting of the Chapter sometime in early December, either the 4. or the 11. of December, I will get the letter out to each of you within the next two weeks setting a date and place for our quarterly meeting.

Joe Macaluso

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER NEWS

Dear Buddies:

We of the Phillie Chapter went out of town for our June meeting. We went to the home of the Jim Prices's in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, with Jim's wife Dolores as hostess. Many thanks to them both for a job well done. In the near future we wish to hold a meeting in the Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, D.C. area. We expect to make contact at the Pines reunion from Chapter members in that area.

The 50-50 at our July meeting was won by Josephine and John Piscitelli. Sorry buddies. At our August meeting we

had a great turnout of members and their wives. Our lovely wives served stromboli, pizza and other goodies. Catering was done by Tommy Coppola - son-in-law of Lou Volpi. A lot of work and accomplishments was done at this meeting, including our coming lectures and annual dinner arrangements.

Well buddies, wives and all friends - due to September and by the time for Thunderbolt issue, we here in Phillie wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Your Buddie and Reporter
John T. Piscitelli
"C" 322

Dear Buddies:

Hope all of you are doing well and that those of you who attended the Reunion in New York are rested and planning for next year in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

At the Reunion, it was announced that the deadline for the T'Bolt was extended and that made us all happier. We would have been reading about the Reunion in February otherwise.

EXCEPTIONAL! TERRIFIC! FANTASTIC! How else could you describe a Reunion that went off so well. I don't know of anyone that had reason to complain. The food satisfied just about everyone. The entertainment was out of this world with a different show each night. There were plenty of activities going on all day to keep everyone occupied and satisfied. This was so different from any of our Reunions of the past.

The big surprise was that Actor who portrayed the Italian General. He was really something special. I know he had just about everyone fooled except for the few of us that knew his act for quite some time. I'll never forget him or any of the other acts we enjoyed at the Pines Hotel. This is something that will remain in our memories for many years to come.

Those of you that could not make the Reunion for one reason or another, you missed out on one of the very best Reunions ever. We'll be going back there in 1985 and now is a good time for you to start planning to be there. Lord willing, I'll be there.

When you enjoy something so much, you search everywhere for words that would be appropriate enough to thank all the people involved in making the Reunion the success that it was. Thanks to Mike Caprio and the Boston members who worked on our behalf. Special thanks are in order for Bernie Cove who has really put in a 100% effort for the 83rd. His assistant Don Browar worked just as hard. They had very little time off and it seemed that they never slept. **THANK YOU ONE AND ALL.** I'm sure that everyone who attended, appreciates your efforts. You were superb.

As happened just once before, we were shocked at the news that one of our people passed away in her room one night. Mrs. Minick, the wife of Meadows Minick, died suddenly. We extend our condolences to **Meadows** on his great loss. We shall all miss her presence at future Reunions.

After leaving the Reunion, I extended my Vacation to Reading, PA, where we did some shopping for bargains. Bargains they were too. We spent one night in York, PA and then proceeded to Busch Gardens in Virginia. We got to see

the Oakridge Boys who put on three shows that night and they were a real joy. I didn't care for the Park portion because it involved so much walking, a lot of it up hill. On Saturday we headed for home. Altogether it was very tiring, I guess it's because this ole boy is getting old. The only thing wrong with a Vacation is that you need another Vacation to rest up a bit. It was certainly worthwhile though and I plan to keep on doing the same things for as long as I can. It's later than we think and we better enjoy life on earth for as long as we can. You don't get a second chance.

Before I forget, "D" Company of the 331st Infantry had the most members in attendance again. There were 4 of us, three of them for the first time. Vern Mueller of Oregon came for the first time and he took home the golf trophy this year. Romeo Lettieri came from New York City and Albert Voisin attended their first and enjoyed themselves very much. Many of our regulars were missing. We will try to improve our attendance even more next year.

I'm planning to attend the Florida Chapter Meeting in West Palm Beach in November if all goes well and in December it will be the Kentucky Chapter Xmas Party in Slade, Kentucky. I don't think it's too early to wish all of you the **VERY MERRIEST CHRISTMAS** and a **HAPPY NEW YEAR.** The next issue will be too late.

In May plans are being made to go to Europe by boat. Air Lines are out for me now because of the difficulties they cause me. Those of you that expressed a desire to join me in this leisurely tour, can drop me a line and I'll keep you informed on the plans as they progress. Several of my Buddies plan to fly and join up with me somewhere in Europe.

In closing, I want to thank all the Officers that served our Association so well the past year, and also those that will serve us in the coming year. To all of you, **GOOD LUCK, GOOD HEALTH** and **MUCH HAPPINESS.** Thank You.

Sincerely

Samuel Klippa
"D" Co. 331st. Inf.

FROM THE OLD OFFICE

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION:

I am writing a narrative whose climax will feature the 83rd. Infantry Division in combat in Brittany during August of 1944. Any assistance or guidance you may wish to provide in securing certain **documentary** information would be deeply appreciated.

This true story will tell the experiences of six American enlisted men (among them myself) as Prisoners of War, together with our captors in the German 77th Infantry Division, in a sixteen day period during most of which we were under attack by the 83rd, other Units, and Aircraft in various parts of coastal Brittany (with the 77th were some remnants of the 5th Para-

chute Division, the 17th S.S. Panzer Grenadier Division, and a Pioneer Unit of German led Russians.)

While memory has dimmed somewhat, two P.W.'s, "Shorty England from Dalton, GA, and a tall, thin man called "Smitty", who also may have been a southerner, may have belonged to the 83rd.

I would indeed be grateful to receive the following information, or suggested sources:

1. Full name and address of Major Shaw.
 2. Identity of Major Shaw's Unit on August 15, 1944.
 3. General Macon's mailing address. (If furnishing the officer's addresses is contrary to policy, I would be happy to hear from them by mail.)
 4. The address of any eyewitnesses to August 15.
 5. Present location of Official record (or Combat Log) for August 15 made by the Unit or Units which captured the 77th Division and liberated it's six prisoners at Hill # 26 (Festung Paulus) in vicinity of St. Brieuç, Brittany. Hopefully the six prisoner's names, ranks, and Serial Numbers would be included.
 6. A record (perhaps included in the above log) of the names and ranks of the German 77th Division Staff Officer's.
 7. The number of 83rd personell killed or wounded in combat against the 77th.
 8. The number of 77th killed or wounded and captured by the 83rd.
 9. Verrification that St. Brieuç was the town to which the P.O.W.'s were taken by the 83rd.
- All information should be sent to:

Mr. Ackley C. Schuyler
1853 White Plains Road
Bronx, NY 10462

331ST INFANTRY PLAQUE REPORT

I think most of you are aware that the Plaque for the 331st Infantry Regiment was erected in Gravenmacher last September, and a real beauty it is. The people of Luxembourg went all out to make it elaborate as possible and I'm sure that all of you will agree that it is super. We now have three Plaques for the 331st, one in Sainteny, France, the other in St. Hilaire and the one in Luxembourg.

I was able to collect \$1,702.00 toward the cost of this project. The Plaque cost us \$728.70 and expenses (including the Plaque) were \$1,109.25. We have \$592.75 left to send to Gravenmacher for their costs. The photos are self explaining. I hope you like the job they have done for us.

If you ever plan on going to Europe, don't miss this sight. It's a beauty. I plan to thank them on my next tour in May.



I am looking for information regarding a particular Unit of the 83rd that was in Schonebeck, on the west bank of the Elbe River in Germany on April 26, 1944. I don't think it was more than a Platoon in strength because it was only a Lt. in charge. The Unit was guarding the west side of the bridge which the Germans had blown to keep the Americans from crossing to the east side.

At that time the War was drawing to a close and an agreement had been reached by the Russians and the Western Allies that the Americans would do the same on the eastern side. No one was to cross from either side.

German civilians, deserting Germans, foreign people forced in German labor camps and a couple hundred American P.O.W.'s tried crossing the bridge to the American side but were turned back. I, and some of my Buddies were amongst the P.O.W.'s trying to cross but were turned back when one of the G.I.'s started to swear in the filthiest, fowlest language you ever heard. That was the password! They turned the others back but let us cross.

Eventually, the 83rd Division sent some boats across to the east bank to pick up the rest of the G.I.'s.

I would like to know: Which platoon from which Company, of which Regiment was at the bridge that day? What was the Lieutenant's name? What was the name of the town at the other end? There was a War

Correspondent there who took down our names. What was his name?

I'm writing because I want to ascertain the facts. One of the fellows was a Henry L. Garrity of Pittsburgh, PA.

Thank you in advance for any help I may get.

Joe DiMare
30-04 89th St.
Jackson Hts., NY 11369

(If any of you have the information this man is seeking, please drop him a line and help him all you can.)

This is all I have from the old office.

Samuel Klippa
"D" 331st. Inf.

Hi Bob,

Well, we're all set for the reunion and it seems a little odd writing at this time for the issue after the reunion but that is the way with deadlines.

783 RD ORDINANCE

Inasmuch as the reunion will be a happy memory by the time you receive this we are going to dwell a little on news pertaining to more "refound buddies" for those of you who couldn't make the reunion.

Good and bad news always seem to come together and such was the case with "Cap" Kimball. He called to tell me his wife had lost a long bout with cancer. (Please take a little time and drop him a line) At the same time he gave me the good news that Lloyd Grayson called him out of the blue, from Fresno Calif.

Bob Hammond and Paul Bryars dropped in on Arthur Doggett. Ed Perko was found alive and well in Willard, Wis. as was Glenn Vinning in Morrison Col. Marcel Amrhein in Kane, Pa., and Charlie Garrison in Columbus, Ohio. Naturally all were surprised and elated to have "been found." Grayson was so elated that he immediately picked up his Cal. phone at 8 P.M. and called Doc Pfeifer. Naturally Doc answered, "Hellwhoa" at midnight in N.J.!

Last but not least Ray Downing from Seneca Kansas, went to Kentucky to join the Kentucky Chapter with Arthur Doggett. Old friendships can be easily renewed, simply write a letter or make a phone call, but do it now!

Rags Rangnow

Feel free to edit what you must Bob, keep up the good work and we'll see you in a week.

FLORIDA CHAPTER

At our meeting in May, we met at the Carriage House in New Port Richey. Approximately 40 members and their wives attended. Most of us spent the weekend here, and all arrangements were made by Elizabeth and Walter Marshall. During dinner the Marshall's donated a clock which he made, and was won by Manny Epstein. The Marshall's invited us over the next morning for brunch, and I would like on behalf of all who attended, thank the Marshall's for the fantastic few hour we spent at their home.

At present we are making plans for our meeting in November. It will be at the Holiday Inn in West Palm Beach, on Nov. 6th. If any of the 83rd will be in the West Palm Beach area on Nov. 6th we would like to have you attend our meeting, and have dinner with us, and perhaps spend the weekend with us, at a very reasonable rate.

As you all know, our next reunion will be at the Marriott Hotel in Ft. Lauderdale. Sam Schwartz, Ben Chuzi, Ralph Gunderson and myself, met with management to plan our reunion. We are going again to finalize plans, and it will be in the next issue.

I hope when you read this, we will all have returned from a wonderful reunion at the Pines in New York.

I would like to congratulate Ruth and Dave Feig on becoming grandparents again to a beautiful baby boy, and also that my daughter Donna was married on Aug. 5th in New York. We had to make a fast trip to New York for the wedding.

Earl Mills is retiring about the end of the year, and is leaving Orlando for his native state of Kansas. We think he'll return in the fold to Florida after a winter or two in Kansas.

Dave Benick
Co. A-331st.

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Hello you all:

Well this issue will be in Hamilton, Ohio on deadline date and we will be at the reunion. So we will have to talk about the reunion in the next issue of the Thunderbolt.

When Nick and Mary Francullo took off for Kentucky, Mike and Nine Petitti were going to Kentucky alos, so we made plans to meet at the Big "E" in Owensboro, Kentucky and spent the day there. When we met there Mike and Nina fell in love with the place. We had dinner and checked out the place and set out to go on our way. The next week end we went to Eddyville, Kentucky so see Mike and Nine and her sisters and brother in law, Pat. We then took a trip to the Kentucky Lake and also to the Kentucky Dam. All of us had a ball. Thanks Mike and Nina for showing us a good time.

At our July get together at Jim and Georgia Emanouils we had a great time. The weather must have been in the 100's. It was so hot that we all spent some time in Jim's cellar as it was like an ice box, nice and cool. All in all it was nice. We had John Donahue drop in and stay a while, it was good to see John. He is looking good. Stay in good health John. We also had the Benedetti's from Springfield, Mass. the Champey's from Connecticut, Burkhard's of New York, Smith's, Rossis and the Francullo's of Lynn and Ann and Charlie Halligan of Chelmsford, Mass. We missed the Brennan's, Petruccis, Tartaglia's McCarten's and Pettittis. We know you would have come if you were able, but we thought of you.

On August 29th we had a pre-reunion gathering of Lou and Emma Rossis Home in Lynn and it was also a good turnout. We had the honor of having a new member drop in and have a good time. He is Bill Davis and his wife Betty. Bill and Betty are from Newburyport, Mass. Bill was inducted into the army from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on October 7, 1944. Trained and went overseas with "B" 308th Eng. Bn., and was discharged November 16, 1945. He spent 9 years in Mass., National Guard 26th Infantry Division 1949-1958. Re-entered Army on May 1, 1958 and retired September 1, 1974 with total of 26 years, 9 months. Bill served overseas in Germany, Thailand and two tours in Viet Nam, plus many stateside Forts with following units, 1st, 9th, 20th, 35th and 175th ENG. BN "C", 84th, 92nd, 538th ENG. BN (const) 4th training BDE. USADLB, USARPAC. Bill has two children Judy and Bill, Jr. Hope to see you at more get togethers.

I heard that Helen and Dutchy Smith took a trip to Atlantic City to try their luck, but I was told that they just helped Atlantic city to get a little bigger. Better luck next time Helen and Dutchy. Also taking a little trip to Canada was Mike and Nina Petitti.

On the sad side we wish to extend to Mim Emanouil and his family our deepest sympathy on the death of his nephew who was killed recently in a vicious motorcycle and automobile encounter.

Also Lou and Emma Rossi's son-in-law is in the Boston Hospital (Richard Hargrave) and coming along. Get well Richard we miss you.

Well I guess it is time to call it a day and hope you all had a good summer.

**YOUR Buddy always
Nick Francullo
3rd BN HQ 330th**



Nina what was the Joke



Kentucky Dam



Having a good time

DIXIE CHAPTER NEWS



L-R Dot & Jim Brennan, Lou Rossi, Mike Champy.

Bob:

It is my sad duty to report the death of Robert B. Turner of a stroke on August 14. He was of Company "M" 330th. As he was one of the original men at Atterbury he will be sadly missed by many.

Here is a picture of him with his lovely wife Delores taken in 1979. Since the picture was taken he had lost 38 pounds.

This was a man that was loved by the men, even if he did end being their cook.

Sincerely
Elmer Reuter



Bob, Delores & Sugar
Dec. 25th, 1979

P.S. since this picture Bob lost 38 lbs and I lost 26.

The Dixie Chapter has not met since last reported in the Thunderbolt. Our last meeting was held in Greenville, S.C., and we had a real good crowd attending this meeting.

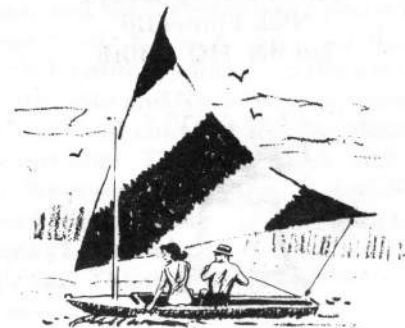
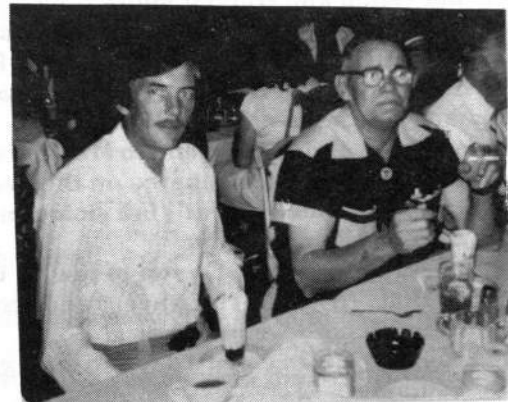
We of the Dixie Chapter had very bad news on July 7th when word was received from Knoxville, Tenn. that one of our beloved comrades had died. Jacob L. (Jake) Glenn, Sr. passed away on that date and we were very saddened with this news. Jake was the right arm of our organization, and you know how it feels to lose someone that has meant so much for so many years. Eleven members of the Dixie Chapter, and three wives, attended Jake's funeral in Knoxville on July 9th. The eleven members acted as honorary pall bearers.

Our sympathy goes to Jake's wife, Billie, and to their three children, Pricilla, Jake, Jr. and Susi.

We look forward to our Christmas party in Gatlinburg, Tenn. the first week-end in December. This has always proved a very good time for everyone attending.

O.L. Cook, Jr.
Reporter

Mr. Derickson,
I am enclosing a snapshot of Jake Glenn and his son Jake, Jr. which was taken at Greenville at our last meeting. Please publish this in the Thunderbolt if at all possible.



Dear Bob,

Back in 1979 "Thunderbolt" printed several of my pictures of "C" Co., 329th. Here are three more. They are shots of "C", 329th's Thanksgiving Day, 1944 feast in Berburg, Luxembourg. One shows the 1st Squad at the table. The fuzzy face in the foreground is Fred Goosens. He is alive and well in Brewster, N.Y. We, and our wives, spent a pleasant evening together recently. On his right is Steve Kopacki. Next to him, with the glasses, is me - and behind me is Dills. Across the table facing the camera with a wine glass is, I believe, Blanchard. Standing behind him is "Big Dick". That is all I can remember. Within a month or so at least four of the men in the picture were wounded in action.

One photo shows the officers. On the extreme left is Lt. Williams. In the middle, leaning on the table is the C.O., Capt. Luther, W.I.A. a couple of weeks later and replaced by Capt. Addelman. On the extreme right is Lt. Barkman, Exec. Standing is Lt. Snyder. I believe the other men were guests from Battalion.

The third photo is a general view of the "banquet hall" - which was the Town Hall of Berburg. Note the blackout "curtains" over the windows. We were only a few miles from the German lines. The dishes were collected from the house in town (the civilians had all been evacuated to the rear). So they could be returned the number of each house was marked on each piece. Unfortunately the K.P.s did their job too well and all the numbers were wiped out. When we left town we just piled all the dishes on a table in the Town Hall. I would have loved to have been there when the townspeople



The Banquet Room

sorted it all out. By the way, these pictures were taken by a civilian photographer brought in from Luxembourg City.

Berburg was the town from which we left for training in the Maginot Line back in France. Before we left several of us were billeted in a cafe - Cafe Meyer, in front of which I was photographed. While we were gone the Germans lobbed a few shells into town and Cafe Meyer was burned out. I have a photo to that. In 1963 my wife and I were in Europe and we visited Berburg. Cafe Meyer was there again, exactly as before the shelling in 1944 - and again photographed by me.

On that trip we also visited Gravenmacher in Luxembourg. "C" Co. was holed up there in the cellar of a winery right on the Moselle River, just across from the Little Siegfried Line. It was called Caves Bernard-Massard. That is where, because the water supply was shut off, we flushed the toilet with buckets of wine taken from the tremendous vats in the cellar that ran back into the hillside. There was tragedy too, in Gravenmacher. Several men were killed and wounded by booby traps planted by German patrols that crossed the river at night.

Sorry we cannot make the Reunion. We will be in England visiting my daughter and grand-daughter who live there.

Sincerely

Harold Freeman

P.S. If you can use them I can send more photos of "C", 329th in action. There is no rush but I would appreciate my prints back.



November in Luxembourg
Thanksgiving Day, 1944



**Lt. Williams - Platoon Leader (seated extreme left)
 Capt. Luther - Company Commander (leaning on
 table) Lt. Barkman - Company Exec. Officer (seated
 in extreme right) Lt. Snyder - Platoon Leader, 3rd
 Platoon (standing).**

Al Belevedere Jr. and his wife are the proud parents of a baby girl. John Belevedere and his wife, not to be outdone by Al, Jr. had twins. Al, Sr. and Ann Belevedere - grandparents now numbering 7 grandchildren, beat John and Josie Piscitelli by one grandchild. May all have a long life.

Well Buddies now that our reunion is over all we can say is a great job well done, by the Boston Chapter and with the help of our good buddie Bernie Cove, his assistant, Don Browar and his secretary Miss Rhoda. Any trouble or assistance that was needed one of the three were very happy to assist or aid everybody. God Bless them. Hats off to all the Help. Bus Boys and Head Waiters. A Job well done!!!!!!

To General Augusta D'Floria we thank him for being our guest speaker. He shafted everybody. If he would have just left the Dais without speaking in English, no one would have been the wiser. He deserved the standing ovation the whole body of men and women gave him. All we can say is "CHOW".

The Phillie Chapter practiced all Thursday night between drinks and rolling Bocci Balls down the halls. Friday morning Phillie was 100% present for their game with Boston. The Bean city chapter forfeited the game by not showing up. Rumor has it. Boston wanted to use square balls. The officials would not hear of it.

I thank Boston and the National Association for their great honor and faith in me, and for the plaque that was given to me by our National President Mike Caprio. Our Philadelphia Chapter President received a plaque for Larry Redmond who was ill at home. Our President was continuing his vacation and he asked me to take the plaque to Larry. Happy to say Larry and Mary Redmond looked much healthier and happy than when we last met. Larry was very much surprised, but he deserved it. Good luck Larry and Mary. The Best of Health to you both.

John T. Piscitelli

CHAPLAIN'S STEEPLE

Dear Buddies:

As of this chaplain's report prior to our 36th annual reunion forty (40) of our comrades have left us since August 1981. Our deceased reports have been running 40 to 50 men these past six (6) years or so.

We of the Philadelphia chapter have lost six (6) men in the past few months notably Frank McGrogan-Michael Brick-Charles Anello-Al Williams-Eric Holmes and Ralph Himmelburger. We ask the Good Lord to keep them all in his care. May they all through his mercy rest in Peace. AMEN.

Quite a few members attended Frank McGrogan's funeral. We had the Honor Guard in attendance at the viewing. Frank's wife Mary thanked all members for paying their respects. God bless each and every one. Larry Redmond attended, and he has been very ill himself. Larry and his wife cannot attend our reunion due to their illness. We miss them both. God Speed for their recovery. Our good Buddy Joe Nitroy has also been pretty ill. Hope he's on his feet by now.

We pray for the Lord to guide us all through the coming years as we go into our 60's and 70's and for us all to have a good life as we get older.

Our sympathy to Jake Glenn's wife in the death of her husband Jake. Also we have received word of the death of Henry P. Giersz from Al Uridel. Robert B. Turner passed away in August.

We ask God to be with these families.

SECOND PART OF THE CHAPLAIN'S STEEPLE

Again the 83rd stood next to none for our memorial services on Wednesday, September 15 at The Pines. We wish to thank Al Belevedere and the firing Squad. Also our Color Guard, and the Color from West Point. We also thank the woman and man soldier who played taps. The Greatest rendition that we heard yet.. Our hats off to the 12 wreath and candle lighters for a job well done. There wasn't a dry eyed GI out there, when Pat DiGiammerino read the prayer on Old Soldier's Never die, including yours truly. All of us Thunderbolts are getting older and mellower, and into true comradeship.

Our Burton couldn't make the reunion so the Pines Master of Ceremonies Hank Leids volunteered to sing in his place. Hank did a wonderful job. God Bless Him. Hope we can always do such a great job as we did this time. Again I thank the Boston Chapter for the cross and wreaths, they had for the memorial services. As always we pray for all our deceased comrades, especially the Forty-three (43) that have gone from us this past year. Also we pray for Mrs. Minich, the wife of Meadows Minich "L" 330th. She passed away at The Pines the night before her birthday. We pray for her and all the souls of our faithfully departed comrades. May they all through the Lord's Good mercy rest in

Peace. This we ask through his Son Jesus. His Son our Lord and Savior. AMEN.

John Piscitelli

As most of you know Mildred Minich passed away while attending the reunion. We were all saddened by this and our sympathy goes to the family.

When we arrived home we got a letter from Larry and Jessie Dalton telling us that William T. Oliver of Chicago, Illinois passed away on August 4, 1982. Here is a quote that Jessie included in her letter that his wife Margaret had written. "Bill had been battling oral cancer for the past few years but the many, many radiation treatments in 1978-79 and again this past Spring and Summer were just too much for his body and heart and he died of cardiac arrest."

Our sympathy to the family.

LeRoy McManaway sent us word that Alfred Lupo, a member of Hdq. Company 3rd Battalion 329th passed away on August 17, 1982. Our sympathy to this family also.



Bob & Pearl!

**You two KIDS are really good looking for your age ---
39 and holding!!!!!! Norman Schuster after Banquet.**

HISTORIANS CORNER

Dear Buddies:

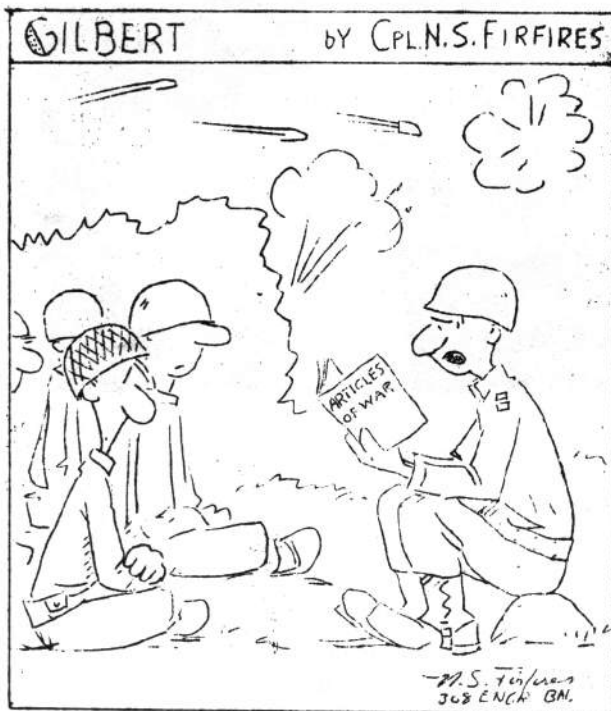
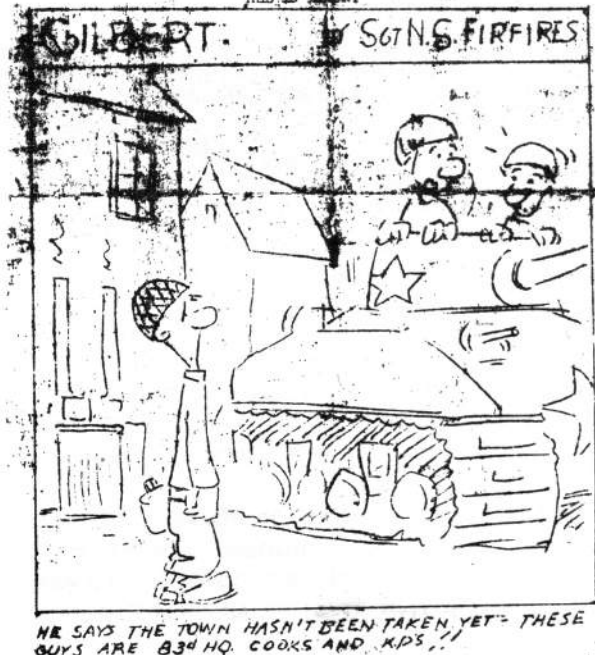
By now you should all be back home after a great reunion. Did you "lift" one for me? I hate to miss them -- but next year!!!!

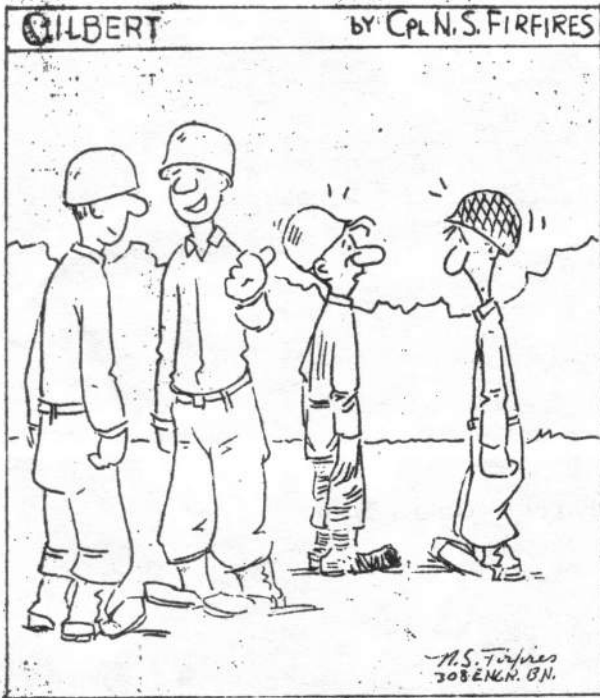
What I have sent in for this issue is a lot lighter than my usual repertoire. Some of you may never have known that we had a "Divisional Mascot". - Gilbert.

The artist, N.S. Firfires, was a member of the outfit. - 308 Engr. Bn. I knew him well - a regular G.I.

If you enjoy them I have plenty more. By the way, the back was a Signal newsletter in the days of the war.

"We Were The Best"
83rd M.P.
Wm. Kent O'Connell

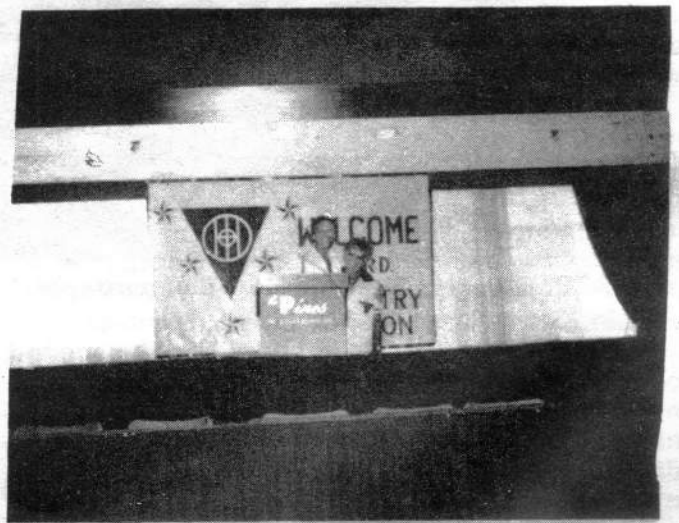




I JUST INTRODUCED THEM, BUT THEY STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT.



I SAW YA LOOK AT DAT GIRL - IS DAT YER BASIC WEAPON - WHATS YER NAME?



Bernie Cove and the Pines Master of Ceremonies Hank Leids. A big Thank You goes to these two guys for their outstanding work.

Bob Derickson

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You will be billed by Vito later. If you want to know the prize write him before ordering.



Vera Caprio, Mike Caprio. Actor portrayed the Italian General.



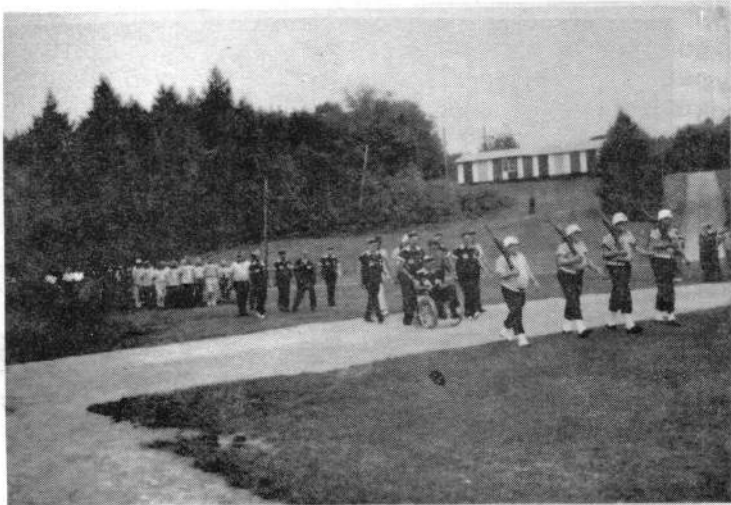
Pat DiGammerino, Mike Caprio's, wife Vera, Mik Caprio, Bernie Cove at the mike, Don Browar Ass Maitre'D. His two Asst.



Bernie Cove, The General

Here are three pictures taken at the 36th reunio banquet dinner. The Maitre'D Bernie Cove of th Pines Hotel and the Honorable Actor who portraye the Italian General. He did a marvelous job. Thank again to the Boston Chapter for an outstandin program.

Bob Derickson



These two pictures were taken at the Memorial Services of the 36th Reunion, which was lead by West Point Color Guard and the Philadelphia firing squad. This was a very impressive high lite of the reunion. This is something you will never forget after being a member of such a great organization.

Bob Derickson

The Warren Chapter wants to thank all the Boston Chapter, last years officers, Bernie Cove and the Pines Hotel staff for a terrific Reunion. All prior promises were fulfilled, and there are no complaints from our group. Special thanks to Mike Skovran for a job well done the last six years. President in 1977, and the last five years on the Executive Board.

Our July and August meetings were held at the summer retreats of Titus, Gautschi, and Voracek at Paradise Lake in southeast Ohio. Food, drinks, and fun galore. Plenty of golf at these events also. John Caparanis and George Bellay seemed to benefit the most, they tore up the Pines course.

The Reunion for us started at 5:30 A.M. Saturday, when our chartered bus left Warren. All Chapter members and wives, plus Bob Piette from Boston, and

Joe Macaluso and family from New Orleans were aboard. Piette was the guest of Lee and Birdie Titus for a week and enjoyed himself in this Wild Western Indian Country. Plenty of food and refreshments, furnished by our ladies were put away. However our return trip was marred by a flat tire and a two hour delay. But by then we were all so content and tired that it did not matter. We decided for future events this is the way to go.

Sunday September 26th we had our annual steak fry hosted by the Skovrans at their home. A tip of the hat to Liz and son Chef Dennis (Mike helped too) for their usual good job. Elections are held at this event and the following men were put in office. Charles Tomazin, Pres., R.J. Voracek, Vice Pres., John Caparanis, Sec. Treas., Joe Venuti, Chaplain, and Leroy Titus, Reporter.

Good health to all,

R.J. Voracek

GREATER BOSTON CHAPTER

A tip of the Irishman's hat to Bernie "Man Of His Word" Cove and The Pines Hotel for the excellent work done with the Boston Chapter in the preparation of the 1982 Reunion. We could not have asked for anything more than we received at this marvelous reunion. Thanks to the owners of The Pines and their sons, along with Bernie Cove and his Staff. This reunion will not be forgotten.

Also many thanks to Mrs. Pearl Derickson, Colonel Bill White's daughter-in-law, along with my own daughters, Kathy and Nancy Ellen, for their hard work and endless hours spent at the Registration Desk.

Our Boston Chapter President, Romeo Maynard, and his lovely wife Livvie also deserve special thanks for their hard work at the Registration Desk. Also, Larry Arrigo worked very hard giving out goody bags and my wife, Nancy, also spent several hours working at the Registration Desk. It takes cooperation from everyone to make a reunion a success, and we received cooperation from all fronts!

Pat and Ginny DiGiammerino and the Reunion Committee also deserve alot of thanks - Larry and Fran Arrigo said, "What would we do without Pat and Gin?" That is a true statement. Each person in the Boston Chapter worked very hard to make this reunion a success. We ll helped in our own special way - and I, for one, think it was worth it.

We of the Greater Boston Chapter were proud of our own National President, Mike Caprio, for a job well done.

This year's Memorial Service had one of the largest and impressive turnouts that I have ever seen. it was heartwarming to see the men and their families turn-

out to honor the men and members of the 83rd Divisions's families that have gone on before us. It was touching and something that I will remember always.

John "Reb" Folsom paid his debt to me - it took years, but he has come back to get ready for the real thing - Ha! Ha!

Jim Prentice who comes up to the Boston Chapter meetings from Harford, Connecticut was elected again to the office of Third Vice President. We are proud of Jim for the wonderful work that he has done over the years for the organization.

Ray Bjork, Paul Gunderson, Bob Hunnewell, Romeo Maynard and Hy Goodman did a fabulous job at the bar mixing drinks and serving them to the members of the 83rd.

The Boston Chapter wishes to thank Larry Redmond for his help in getting Ads for the book. He spent tireless hours writing to people to ask for help in getting Ads. Joe Gioia accepted a plaque for Larry at the reunion. Larry was unable to attend this reunion because his wife Mary is not feeling well. We hope that everything is much better now.

We were real sorry to hear Mike Brick from 908 FA BN had passed away. Mike was really missed at the reunion this year - as the backbone of the 908 FA BN. Mike and his wife Grace, have become close friends to many of us over the years. Our Condolences to his wife, Grace.

Another close friend, Mr. Frank McGrogan, passed away this past year. Frank was another man who worked above and beyond the call of duty for the organization. He will be remembered for all that he did for us. Our condolences to the McGrogan family.

We were all sorry to learn of the untimely death at the reunion of Mildred Minich from South Carolina. She was the wife of William M. Minich of Co. L 330th Infantry Regt. Our condolences to her family.

I just received word that my son John's wife delivered a 10 lb., 8 oz. baby boy, Brian Ambrose, today (19 September, 1982) three weeks past the due date. He is very healthy and his mother is very happy.

This is all the news for now. The deadline is close. I would like to say again that it was great to see all my friends in the organization and I am looking forward already to next year.

Till Next Issue

Amby Tynan
Boston Reporter



GREATER BOSTON CHAPTER



Jim Prentice with Santa



Pat and Santa, Mike Caprio at rear.

THE WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER

The West Virginia Chapter met on September 12th, at the Wilmar Cafeteria in Parkersburg. Our speaker for this meeting was Mr. Gail Harper, Field Supervisor of the W.Va. Department of Veterans Affairs. He explained the latest developments of Veterans Benefits and how they are declining. He also spoke about the Barboursville Veterans Home and showed some pictures of the buildings, Vets in residence, and special events they have had since opening list November. (The W.Va. Chapter Members visited this home on July 18th of this year. An enjoyable afternoon. It was great to meet all the fine Vets in residence, the nursing staff, Mr. Tom Honaker, our tour guide, and Mr. Woody Williams, the Home Commandant, and his wife. Our plans are for another visit before the end of '82.

But, to get on with our meeting. We had an election of Officers for the coming year.

Eugene Persinger - President
Leonard Hoskins - Vice President
C.J. Spurgeon - Vice President
Harold Crouch - Vice President
Clark Johnson - Vice President
Don Pettry - Sec. Treas.
John Shepherd - Staff Reporter
John Swecker - Historian
Eugene Persinger - Chaplain

Eugene Persinger read a letter from Sam Klippa. He is going to the Reunion.

The next on program was a report of attendance to Co. "L" 331st. Reunion at Kankakee, Illinois on August 13th to 15th by John Shepherd and his wife. Sounded great. They surely had a wonderful time.

We had a drawing for two door prizes which were won by Harold Crouch and Mrs. Edna Spurgeon. We will have an exchange of Christmas Gifts at our next meeting on Dec. 5th. 1982, the location of which has not been determined at this time.

That's all for now.

Don W. Pettry
"B" 323 F.A.



Subject: 83rd Infantry Division (36th Annual Reunion)

1. On behalf of President Reagan, I wish to congratulate you on the occasion of your 36th annual Reunion and commend you on the spirit involvement and continuing camaraderie evidenced by your attendance.
2. The contributions of the Thunderbolt Division in World War II and its superb performance in all five European Campaigns of World War II were significant contributions to the ultimate Allied Victories and should be a source of great personal pride to each of you. This Nation shall be forever indebted for your efforts and sacrifice.
3. Again, I congratulate you and wish you a most enjoyable reunion, Page 32, RUEADWD4284 UNCLAS

Signed:

Lyle J. Barker, Brigadier General, G3
Chief of Public Affairs

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

P.O. BOX 5510
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22205
(703) 528-7913
June 16, 1982

Mid-Year Report of the President to
VBOB Members

What is six-months old, healthy, growing, and blessed with much potential for a long and prosperous life? You answered correctly if you said the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. This report is geared to bring you up-to-date and to provide a vehicle for increasing your membership.

First of all, may thanks to all who have given so much time, talent, and effort in behalf of VBOB - many thanks, also, to those who have so generously made financial contributions. Veteran and unit publications as well as local newspapers, likewise, merit our sincere thanks as well as radio stations in Alabama and Europe. Great support has come from division and separate unit associations and we really appreciate it; in fact, it has become a mutually beneficial relationship.

As of today we have 1,219 members -- 1,152 are ground and air veterans, 66 are associates, and one is a unit, the 705th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Looking at our first thousand veteran members, as a sample, most are from Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia, Maryland, and Florida and all states (except Alaska), Mexico, and Botswana, South Africa are represented. The three airborne divisions, 17th, 82nd, and 101st, are neck and neck members while the armored divisions are led by the 4th, 3rd, and 9th and the infantry

divisions by the 84th, 28th, 106th, 75th, and 99th; these units account for about 75% of the total. The remainder consists of members from Army and Air Corps higher headquarters and separate units. The associate members are from 21 states, England, Belgium, and Luxembourg. They are relatives or friends of members, military buffs, or individuals greatly interested in the Battle of the Bulge and provide an additional dimension of knowledge and the potential for international growth and continuing existence.

Input to the Museum and Library continues to roll in. At the end of May we had three books, 10 articles, 16 other documents, two maps, two photographs, and one propaganda leaflet. These consist of unit histories, personal reminiscences, unit newsletters and reunion programs and other meaningful accounts of Battle of the Bulge experiences. Be sure when sending in to include a presentation or donation statement or letter which specifically states that researchers may use the material. Your unit and parent organization are important and should be included also. Artifacts and other such items are expected later. No decision has been made as to the location of the M & L; two institutions have indicated a willingness to provide space and an offer of land has been made.

Here are some highlights of the meeting of the Executive Council on May 8, 1982; The treasure is in good shape thanks in large part to the donations made by many of you and due to good management.. The logo, to be re-designed somewhat, will retain the basic circular shape in three equal segments portraying fighting elements, the weather, and other aspects... A medal is being considered...The constitution con-

tinues to be refined...Memorials, monuments, and memorial ceremonies were discussed...Progress is being made on a longrange growth plan relative to state and other chapters; the name Ardennes will not be used for chapter designations...Lifetime memberships are under consideration...A flyer, appropriate for posting on bulletin boards, is being developed... A commemorative stamp, a musical composition, and a trip to the battle are planned for 1984...The annual membership meeting will be held in the Washington, D.C., area, around December 16, 1982, the date that The New York Times is expected to publish a crossword puzzle about the Battle of the Bulge...VBOB continues to be run on an all-volunteer basis, no full-time personnel or paid staff...The next issue of **The Bulge Bugle** is due out in September.

The first public formal VBOB event occurred on Memorial Day when a wreath was placed at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

We are making good progress in achieving our objectives which are: To foster international peace and goodwill, to promote friendship, perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices involved, and to preserve historical data and site.

Best wishes and regards.

Clyde D. Boden
President

Application for Membership

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

P O. Box 5510, Arlington, Virginia 22205

ANNUAL DUES: \$5.00

DONATIONS ARE WELCOME

Name _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____ Phone (____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Unit(s) to which assigned during period December 16, 1944-January 25, 1945 (Div, Regt, Bn, Co) _____

Campaign Ribbons and Battle stars awarded _____

Wounded _____

Captured _____

Make check or money order payable to VBOB and mail with this application to above address.

Reunion will be in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, August 1983.
The dates are August 18, 19, 20, 1983. Start making your
plans to attend the 37th Reunion.

BOLO TIES AND NECKLACES
\$5.50 each

82-83 DUES ARE DUE NOW !!!!

Deadline for ALL articles to be published in
Thunderbolt must be this office by Sept. 10, Dec.
10, March 10, and June 10.

Robert Derickson
3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

BULLETIN

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

Bob

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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Phone No. _____ Renewal _____ new _____

Please Enclose A Check or Money Order.

Dues \$10.00 PAYABLE TO: *ROBERT E. DERICKSON*

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