



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

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Knoxville Tennessee



The 40th Annual Reunion At
The Hyatt Regency Hotel
August 21-22-23, 1986



THE THUNDERBOLT
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83rd Infantry Division Association Inc.

The THUNDERBOLT is written by and for past members of the 83rd Infantry Division World War II and is published at 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013

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A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

*James C. Hanrahan 1947
Jack M. Straus 1948
*Shelly Hughes 1949
*Julius Ansel 1950
Walter H. Edwards Jr. 1951
Leo Schneider 1952
Finley Heyl 1953
Lawrence J. Redmond 1954-55
Lt. Gen. Robert H. York 1956
*Harry W. Lockwood 1957
Raymond J. Voracek 1958
Charles Abdinoor 1959

*Joseph F. Minotti 1960
*Frank J. McGrogan 1961
John W. Robinette 1962
*Manuel C. Martin 1963
Julius Boyles 1964
Samuel Klippa 1965
*William M. Doty 1966
Albert A. Belvedere 1967
Vito C. Palazzolo 1968
Pat DiGiammarino 1969
Casey Szubski 1970
* Charles Altomari 1971

*Harold H. Dopp 1972
Louis J. Volpi 1973
Bernard O. Riddle 1974
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Mike Skovran 1976
Manlius Goodridge 1977
Joseph A. Macaluso 1978
*William J. Chavanne 1979
Samuel Klippa 1980
Michael Caprio 1981
Ralph Gunderson 1982
Arthur Doggett 1983
Bernie Cove 1984
*Denotes Deceased



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings Buddies:

It seems only yesterday we were having that wonderful time at the Pines in South Fallsburg, N.Y., but time marches on.

I have had a very busy fall with all my Lions club activities in addition to doing some additional work toward our 40th reunion and with the Dixie Chapter Christmas party in Gatlinburg. That party is over now and we will again get down to more pressing items relative to the 40th reunion which will be held in Knoxville, Tn.

Many of our plans are beginning to fall in place and as time progresses so will our plans. Specifics will be in the reunion chairman's column consequently I will not elaborate.

The Dixie Chapter was fortunate to have several members of the Kentucky Chapter and the Florida Chapter at our Christmas party. Your secretary-treasurer, Bob Derickson, board members Ralph Gunderson and Ames Miller joined us and we enjoyed having all our guests. We hope they enjoyed themselves as well. There were 131 for our banquet- the best attendance ever.

I hope you will take the time to snip the room reservation form in this "Thunderbolt", fill it out and mail it in immediately. The sooner the reservations are in, the better we will be able to plan for your every need to make this 40th reunion a real pleasurable one. Also get your ad for our ad book in as soon as possible. This is a very necessary part of our reunion and will help insure a more enjoyable occasion for all.

We, of the Dixie Chapter, are counting on your presence in Knoxville, Tn August 21 through 23, 1986. We want to share our southern hospitality with you so come early if you can, but ya'll come.

Your buddy

Carroll B. Brown, President



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Because of the short time I had to write my last message in the Fall Issue of the Thunderbolt, I put off writing some of my message until now.

First I would like to express to Bob and Rita Taylor my deep appreciation for all they have contributed to our association. When Bob couldn't be at the reunion, because of Rita's health, he asked me to take his place as chairman. He went to a great amount of effort briefing me on what transpired during the past year he served as chairman. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the duties of the chairman, it is a lot of responsibility and could be exasperating at times. Bob despite Rita's illness, when her health mattered above all, gave his all for the association. Thanks again, and may God reward you for your devotion to the association.

Next, it is my pleasure to welcome to the Executive Board, Ames Miller. Ames has always been a hard worker at whatever job he undertook for the association. I'm sure the association will benefit by your place on the Executive Board:

At this time I would like to thank those of you that contribute articles for the Thunderbolt Magazine. I especially want to thank Kent O'Connell for his articles and pictures that has contributed much to the enjoyment we get from reading the Thunderbolt. Also I would like to encourage more of you to write your personal stories for publication in the Thunderbolt. I'm sure there are many of you who had an experience that would be interesting reading. All who contribute to the Association in all manners--National Officers; Chapter Officers and Members, Reunion Committees and All Members assure the strength of this great association.

Our goal, now that our membership has reached 1620, is to reach the 2000 mark. It can be done and I ask all of you to help by contacting your Buddies to join us. The more members we have make us a stronger organization and the association benefits in many ways. The buying power of many gives us the power to dictate for a better reunion. The association expenses are also less per man thus allowing more to be spent on the members. Hope I can count on you.

Our reunion in Knoxville has the makings to be a good one. Get your reservations in early so you won't be disappointed. I would like to see all who can, contribute an Ad to our Reunion Ad Book. The importance of this Ad Book cannot be stressed to much. This money is used for expenses of the reunion. It cannot be used for any other!!! You have been very generous in the past and for this I'm sure all the members are grateful.

On one of my trips to France recently, the French referred to those of us who fought in World War II as Ancient Combatants. It was an expression of endearment. So to all you Ancient Ones, be good and stay well.

Stan Bielen

Executive Board, Chairman



**FROM THE OFFICE
SECRETARY - TREASURER REPORT**

By the time you read this the holidays will be over, decorations will be down and we will all be looking forward to spring and the reunion in Knoxville, Tennessee in August.

Pearl and I have had a busy schedule this fall. As always when we come home from the reunion we are swamped but when it is in September it is worse. We just get home and it is time for the Thunderbolt. Then we try to get caught up with memberships. Checking all the registration forms from the reunion, making up zip code cards for everyone who attended and sending cards to those who had pre-registered but did not attend. Now we are trying to get the memberships caught up that have come in since we returned home. Thank you men for being so considerate.

We were in Colorado Springs for a week the first of November. We really enjoyed ourself. In fact it was our vacation. I had some meetings to attend to but going and coming we stopped if we saw something that we thought would be interesting. The weather cooperated and it was beautiful. No snow. In fact it was up in the 60's all the time we were there. Our room at the Broadmoor Hotel looked out on Pike's Peak and we saw all the snow we wanted to see right up there. We attended the Dixie Chapter meeting the first week-end of December at Gatlinburg. That Southern Hospitality was great. You really have a treat in store for you next August. Be sure and get those reservations in early. From the President on down to the newest member they will all be there to greet you and make you feel wanted. Our hotel was right in the middle of town. Ames and Helen Miller went with us and Pearl and Helen didn't waste a minute of their time being out of those stores. The weather again cooperated and was great. Made it even better for all the women. We stopped on the way home at the Museum of the Appalachia. Everyone will enjoy that spot. Takes you back in time and makes you appreciate what we all have now. That will be the "Early Bird."

This past week end was our Kentucky Chapter meeting at Columbus, Indiana with Ames and Helen Miller in charge. It was snowing when Babe and Charley Schmidt got here about 10:00 a.m. and we left in the van. Pearl got in the back seat of the van and worked on favors and napkin holders for the party so she did not have to watch that road. We stopped about halfway, which instead of taking one hour took almost two hours, and had our lunch.

We finally arrived at the Rodeway Inn all safe and sound. Cold weekend but we all enjoyed ourselves. There were approximately thirty of us there. We felt that was good considering the weather. We voted that we would go back to our first week-end of December for the Christmas meeting next year. We will be going to Owensboro, Kentucky for our meeting in April. Will be on the 5th of April. Would love to see some of you attend our meeting with us.

Thanks to all of you who remembered Pearl and I with those beautiful Christmas cards and notes. We really appreciate all of your kindness to us.

We are now up between 1000 and 1100 members paid up. So the first of the year we will start sending reminders to the rest of you that it is time for those dues to be here in the office. It is important that we keep our membership growing. You know I was told that membership would start dropping but every year you men have responded and the membership has gone up. Let's keep the good work up. I am so proud of this organization and I know you all are too or we wouldn't be the close group that we are.

Again Pearl and I both Thank you and hope that your holidays will be Merry and Bright and your New Year Happy.

We just received word from Bob Taylor that his wife Rita passed away today. All who knew Rita know how devoted she was to the 83rd. Bob was our Chairman last year and could not make the reunion because of Rita's illness. She fought a good fight and we kept praying that she would get better but God had better ideas for her. He needed her smile up there to cheer people up and Pearl and I both know that is what she is doing. Our prayers go out to Bob and daughter Ginny and her family.

GET DUES IN IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID FOR 1986.

**Bob 3rd BN.HQ. 329th
National Secretary Treasurer**

REUNION REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE

At the reunion at the Pines in September we had the following:

| | |
|---|------------|
| Members | 392 |
| Wives of members | 339 |
| Guests who came with members | 11 |
| TOTAL NUMBER | 742 |
| FIRST TIME MEMBERS INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE COUNT | 9 |
| Wives who attended with first time members | 5 |
| Other guests who attend the reunion | 55 |
| Members who registered but did not attend | 35 |
| Wives of members who registered but did not attend | 34 |

This report is made up here in the National Office from our records of attendance taken from the forms you made out at registration.

PAST BOARD CHAIRMAN

As most of you know I could not attend this past reunion at the Pines Hotel due to my wife's illness. She cried when the decision was made not to try to make it to the reunion.

I am writing this article as a tribute to Rita, my beloved wife, whom the Lord chose to take to Heaven during what, for most, would be the most joyful and happy season of the year, Christmas.

Way back in 1939, upon just entering high school, I met a girl named Rita Gamber, a class-mate, who needed help with her Algebra class. She was, by far, the most popular person in our class, so I, being rather awkward and shy boy, could not have dared to ask her for a date. I was happy just to help her with her Algebra problems in the Study Hall. She was a happy person, a laughing person, one who was a joy just to know.

After high school it wasn't until 1960 that we met again, both having just ended previous marriages. She was the same happy and popular person that I had known before but I had grown bolder by now and no longer feared the possibility of rejection, so I asked for a date. She said yes, and we were married four years later, in 1964. That same year her daughter became my daughter through adoption and in 1970 Rita and I became Grand-parents, only 2 days after we joined the newly formed Michigan Chapter.

Rita's outgoing, friendly personality have made us many friends across the country, both within and outside of this Association. She must get the credit for it for I still tend towards a shyness that she never knew.

I miss her terribly! Our family misses her just as much. And this Association will miss her. She was the joyous one. Perhaps God, who gave us the joyful Christmas season through the birth of His Son, decided to add to the happiness in Heaven. If so, He picked the right person.

On behalf of our family I want to express our deep appreciation for the kind expressions of sympathy which we've received from the Association, the Chapters, and from all of the individual members. May God bless you all!

Bob Taylor B-329
Past Ex. Bd. Chairman



CHAPLAIN'S STEEPLE

Dear Buddies:

By the time our Thunderbolt is printed and issued, the Holidays will have passed by. A Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanakah to all, A Happy and Healthy New Year to all 83rd Members and families.

Frank L. Cilinski "D" 330th by wife Ada
Wilford Luby "B" 308th ENGR.
reported to John by Larry Redmond
Al Misler "D" 331st reported by wife
Ken Moody "D" 331st reported by Ralph Gunderson
Hubert Edwards "B" 331st
reported to office by his wife Pauline
Thomas Ledford 329th reported by Cecil Walters
Eugene Lafferty "A" & "D" 329th
reported by Eugene Persinger
Carl Jecmen no outfit reported by John Shepherd
Glendon C. Bryden "C" 330th by wife Edythe
John J. Arrizzo "E" 330th by John DeSimone
Harvey Vollmer "G" Co. 331 Dec. 5, 1985
Lt. Arthur Haught "D" 331 Inf. "Wife of:"

Frank Cilinski has been a long time member of our National Association. He was also a member of our Philadelphia Chapter ever since our beginning. Frank was a wheel chair veteran ever since our combat days of World War II. He attended most of our Philadelphia Chapter reunions even though he could not attend any of our affairs. He'd always be ready to help others when ever he could. Our prayers and condolence's go to his wife and family.

Well buddies try to remember whenever a person is reported ill or deceased to please try to get it verified. And whenever possible to get unit, Btn and Regimental number.

Buddies let us all hope and pray to hear all good news for the coming year.

See you all in Knoxville, You hear.

Your Buddie
John T. Piscitelli



EULOGY - Thomas Coyen Ledford

Thomas Coyen Ledford was born October 23, 1920 in the North Fork Community of the Red River Valley of Powel County. He died August 22, 1985. He was the son of White, and Stella Tackett Ledford. One of fourteen children, he was born with a God-given talent and love for mountain music. Indeed, other members of his family were similarly endowed. Three of his sisters namely, Charlotte, Lilly Mae and Minnie attained international fame for their vocal and instrumental rendition of traditional folk ballads. They once played for former President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the his guests, the King and Queen of England.

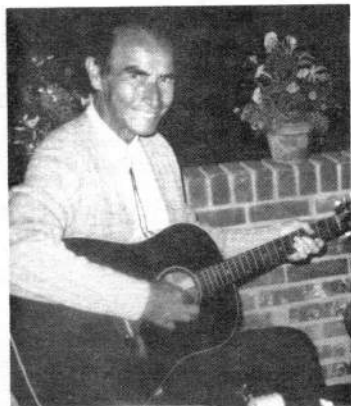
(Continued on next page)

There probably is not a person here who has not heard Coyen's rendition of John Henry, Wake up Susan, Goin up Cripple Creek. Perhaps not so many of us know he was an accomplished violinist as well as a noted fiddler. When he was twelve years old, Coyen, together with his sisters and Morgan Skidmore, a neighbor and friend, formed a group that called themselves the "Red River Ramblers" and thus began his musical career. Beginning in 1938, he performed over various radio stations across America including WKRC, WSAI, Cincinnati, WCKY, Covington, KCSJ, Sioux City, Iowa and WLAP, Lexington to name only a few.

Nine and a half years of Coyen's life were spent in service to his country. Serving in the 83rd Infantry Division during World War II, he fought in the battles of Normandy, Brittany and Central Europe and was wounded in battle. -- Written by Nora Lee Walters.

May I interject this personal word: I had Coyen as a student at Hon School in 1936. As a student, he was king, courteous, co-operative--eager to learn and quite helpful in working with the younger children.

I feel honored to be asked to participate in this ceremony, paying our final respect to the memory of Thomas Coyen Ledford. -- Narrated by Herbert Proffitt.



Thomas Coyen Ledford



HISTORIAN CORNER

RUSSIA AND THE ELBE RIVER

In our summer issue of the "THUNDERBOLT" (Page 14) announcement was made of a planned tour into the Soviet Union departing on May 6, 1985. Arranged especially for U.S. and Soviet veterans who made contact on the Elbe River in 1945 culminating the encirclement of Nazi Germany, the trip was eventually postponed at the request of the President of

the United States in support of his protest to the Soviets for the unfortunate death of Major Nicholson who was shot by a Soviet soldier in East Germany.

With the new understandings reached at the summit meeting in Geneva between President Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev, an expansion of tourism between each nation has been made part of the agreement between our two countries. In fact, Article 14 of the general agreement states: "the parties will encourage the expansion of tourism between the two countries with the aim of more fully satisfying the requests of tourist to become acquainted with the life, work and culture of the people of each country. In this connection the parties will encourage, on a mutually acceptable basis, tourist trips on a group and individual basis....."

Immediately following this agreement, contact was once again made by officials of the Soviet Union with Hal Ryder of Galaxy Tours to reintroduce the 'Elbe River Veterans' reunion which had been cancelled this year.

Plans are now being finalized to organize the tour for departure during the first week of October 1986. This time, however, the trip will begin in East Germany in the Elbe River area including Barby. Details are not yet final but it is expected that Soviet veterans will join the American veterans there for joint ceremonies. Members of all eight U.S. divisions who made initial contact have been invited to participate, and Galaxy Tours is now in the process of developing the best itinerary to fulfill the wishes of each division, the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

It is tentatively arranged that visits will then be made in Berlin followed by an air flight into Moscow for the purpose of scheduling reunions there with Soviet Veterans. Special receptions and ceremonies are planned.

Details will be announced as soon as circumstances allow, but if you are interested in participating, please notify Galaxy tours by telephone (toll-free outside Pa.) - 800-523-7287...(in Pa.) - 215-254-6600. Or write to Galaxy Tours, P.O. Box 234, Wayne, Pa., 19087.

DUTY HONOR COUNTRY
U.S.M.A.

On Wednesday, September 11, 1985 we the combat Veterans of the 83rd Infantry Division of World War II were honored on the Plain of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

To the best of my knowledge, this has never been done before in the Point's long and Heric history.

With the West Point Army Band giving us the cadence, we greying veterans passed in review on the Parade Grounds.

We trod in the footsteps of the Cadets, Thayer, Grant, Lee, Sheridan, Jackson Pershing, MacArthur and our contemporaries, Eisenhower, Bradley, Patton and York. We, of course, can never really be any part of the "long Grey Line" but we can hope it never falters. We were lined up in Regimental order with our Special Troops.

(Continued on next page)

Not the Spit and Polish of the Cadets, but we looked like what we were old ex-combat soldiers..

Our Color Guards were there as was the U.S. Army Color Guards. The Battle Streamers almost hiding the U.S. Army Standard (I wrote for ours back in 1975 but they are only allowed on the original Divisional flag.)

The reviewing post consisted of three Army Chaplains and our own Father McCartin and Lanza among others.

We were addressed by the Superintendent of Cadets. Lt. General Willard W. Scott, Jr. He was flanked by Ralph Neppel, C.M.H., Lt. General Robert H. York, U.S.A., Ret. and our own 83rd officials.

The pagentry, as was the day beautiful -- General Scott's three star flag moving in the breeze. We all will probably never forget the scene.

It made it more personal being there, as two of my boyhood friends were West Pointers who died in Korea. We also have a West Pointer in our family. While all this was going on a huge American Eagle, flying free, from the Hudson River soared over our Memorial Services.

I like to think it was the Spirit of General Macon keeping an eye on his men.

How proud he would have been and how proud we were to be so graciously given this great honor. After our Mass (which I believe is also a first) we lunched at the Officer's Club and then toured West Point.

"God bless and Keep us All."

That night back at the Pines we had our Grand Reunion Banquet. The dining room was ablaze in Red, White and Blue, our 83rd insignia prominent everywhere. Bernie Cove's staff have to be complimented for a job well done!

By the way, Lt. General, then Col "Bob" York had a reunion with his men of the 331st. The love and respect shown him was such as I had for General Macon. "See it Through" they did as also the 329th and the 330th.

Our principal speaker was General William S. Westmoreland, U.S.A. Retd. Before the dinner he paid your historian a very kind compliment. I'll not soon forget. A month sooner I wrote to him and sent an extensive report on the History of the 83rd. I believe his initial remarks on who was the best was due to my usual ending, "We Were The Best."

The General, after his speech, took a good natured kidding from Professor (?) Corey the guest comedian.

I must pass on to you remarks by one of our guests and I quote -- "I am most impressed by the obvious pride of all the members, as well as the love that permeated the entire occasion". Also "I have never been to one that came close matching it."

We are a Family, a Bond of Brothers exofficers and E.M. alike.

It makes no difference if you carried an M.I, repaired ordinance, laid wire, directed traffic, did recon, or last but surely not least were a medic. YOU WERE THE BEST 83RD. We are the lucky ones. We came home.

Let us never forget and say a prayer for those who did not make it. May they Rest in Peace.

WE WERE THE BEST

Vidi et Scio-I saw and I know

William Kent O'Connell

83rd M.P.

REUNION 1986

Dear Buddies,

Hope you had a very happy and joyous holiday season. I know that you ate too much, drank too much and went to too many parties. Now that you have overcome the after effects, it's time to start making plans for the 40th Reunion in Knoxville, Tennessee.

I have received some correspondence from members making suggestions as to their wishes for the 40th Reunion. These suggestions will be carefully considered and incorporated into our program, if at all possible. I wish to thank each of you for your input and support. If there are others with good suggestions, please write to me and your wishes will be given due consideration.

Let me remind you to be sure and preregister for "A night in Appalachia" on Wednesday night, July 21, 1986. Registration fee is \$25.00 per person. This fee will cover diner, entertainment, and transportation. We must have your reservation prior to July 1, 1986. You may make your reservation by sending your name(s) and \$25.00 per person to me at the address shown at the end of this article. A form for doing this is provided elsewhere in your "Thunderbolt".

Our entertainment committee has been hard at work to provide you with the best permissible entertainment during your stay at the Hyatt-Regency. You will find a scheduled program of what is planned for you in this and subsequent issues of your "Thunderbolt". Some minor changes may have to be made, but none are foreseen at this time.

Hotel room rates published in this issue are quoted on a per room basis. Make your reservations by or before January 1, 1986. A reservation form is published in this "Thunderbolt". Forms will also be in subsequent issues.

I wish to remind you again to participate in our ad program. This will help to keep our registration fee to a minimum.

To those of you who have never attended a reunion, let me urge you to come to Knoxville and enjoy the camaraderie that many of us have enjoyed over the years. We want you to be a part of this great organization. Remember, it's "Now or Never". Time is running out.

More information will be coming to you as it develops. Please respond to the requests and suggestions in this article on a timely basis so that we can avoid any embarrassment to you.

Sincerely,

W. Meadors Minick, Reunion

Rt. 2

Kinards, SC 29355

DIXIE CHAPTER

The October meeting of the Dixie Chapter was held in Newberry, South Carolina on the 19th and 20th. It was good seeing some people we had not seen for a long time. Frank and Elinor McNeil were there. It was also good having Hazel and Johnny Ball, and M. L. Baker spent some time with us. We will look forward to seeing each of you again soon. If your name is not mentioned be assured you were and are always welcome.

More and More of our group are retiring. We wish all of them many happy and relaxing times. Of course, Jessie Pirkle is too young -- his chance will come-- he is bound to catch up with us. This reporter and Marva sold their business on August 1st of this year after 35 years of candy making.

All who went to New York had a good time. Thirty-two members and wives were in attendance.

business meeting was called to order promptly at 2 o'clock with our President John Cox in charge. A prayer was given by Meadors Minnick and a pledge to the flag by all present.

We had happy news from some members of new grandchildren to love. Lucille and Earle Ross's grandson, just a few days old, kept Lucille away from the meeting so she could help out with the baby and I'm sure it was fun for her. Hurry back Lucille--we will even let you brag a bit. Virginia and John Cox told about their latest grandson only 3 weeks old. Flo and Frank Jackson shared news about their grandchildren, too. We congratulate all grandparents. Sixty four were on hand at supper time. Good food and fellowship made the evening a pleasure.

Carroll and Ruby Brown and the committees are very busy with plans for the 1986, 40th reunion at the Hyatt in Knoxville, Tennessee. So make plans to be there. We are excited about having you. You will be hearing more details later.

Mark your calendars for the March 13th, 14th and 15th meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia

The annual Christmas party was held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee at the Riverside Motor Lodge. Ruby and Carroll Brown and their committee were super host and hostess. Over one hundred members and their guests enjoyed the reindeer favors, the good food and dance band. We were glad to have joining us Bob Derickson, National Secretary Treasurer and his wife Pearl along with our newest Board Member Ames Miller and his wife Helen.

The business meeting included reports regarding preparation for the Knoxville, Tennessee National Reunion at the Hyatt Regency on August 21st, 22nd, and 23rd. Dixie Chapter says, Ya all come, Hear!" We are looking forward and are planning things to make your stay in our area a fun time.

If you are or have been sick we wish you well and hope you can join us at the March meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia. Watch your mail for further details.

John and Virginia Cox will be working hard to see that we have a good time. Lucille and Earl Ross brought their new granddaughter along to her first 83rd meeting. Hope we will see her at many more.

My wishes are for much happiness for all 83rd members and their families everywhere for 1986.

LeRoy McManaway
"M" 329th

NOTICE

Needed Bugle Player, a man or lady from the 83RD. INF. ASSOC. or a member of the family. Also need a accordion player to play "How Great Thou Art" and "My Buddy" as a back up to the singing of our comrade Jim Burton, the man with a golden voice. If anyone out there in our great organization who will render this service as a favor to the memorial service of our deceased comrades who fought and died while serving their duties to save our homeland and keep it free. Also the memory of the ones who survived that have passed on and members of their dear families. These needed people will perform at the national association in Knoxville, Tenn. on August 23, 1986. If anyone can assist please write to address below with my appreciation.

Haran R. Martin, Sec. ' Tres.
83rd Inf. Dixie Chapter
148 Queensbury Rd.
Winston Salem, N.C. 27104



PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

Dear Bob:

Here is my column for the Pittsburgh Chapter. In the mast head would you delete the name of Lawrence Leonardi as Pittsburgh Staff Reporter and insert mine: Francis G. Beerhalter. . . 4548 Valley View St., Pittsburgh, PA 15214.

I apologize for not submitting a column for the past issue of the Thunderbolt, but conditions beyond my control prevented me from doing so.

At the July meeting we had as a guest speaker Ed Janosko, Sr. Vets Counselor of the Veterans Administration, Pittsburgh Regional Office. He explained the benefits available to us as World War II veterans. After each segment of his talk a question and answer period followed. After the meeting the Ladies Auxiliary of Brentwood Post 1810 V.F.W. served a buffet luncheon. We had a tremendous turnout of members accompanied by their wives.

Fourteen of our members attended the reunion at the Pines. FLORIDA VACATIONLAND.

The following have taken up winter residences in the Sunshine State; Steve and Gertrude Blasko to Lakeland; Bob and Betty Damarchi to Venice; Larry and Sue Leonardi are leaving for Flagler Beach on January 2, returning in May. Word has it that past president of our chapter Lou Kanen has taken up permanent residence in Florida and has intentions of joining that state's chapter.

RETIREMENTS

December 31 was the last day of work for Greer Thompson at The Pittsburgh Press. No plans as yet. Yolanda Costanzo has retired from her job; therefore husband Gene has sold his house, properties and business and intends to do some extensive traveling starting in January. The state of California will be a main stop on these travels. With these two retirements, only a few of us remain in the work force. Yours truly included.

HERE & THERE

15 year old Lori Blasko, niece of our secretary Steve Blasko of West Lake, Calif. is in training for future Winter Olympic games. . . Ezio "Smokey" and Frances Alicandri have just returned from a two month plus tour of Italy ... Matt Pintar's daughter Cathy Wabrath is a Master Sgt. in the Air Force and stationed at the Minot Air Force base, North Dakota. Her husband is also in the AF and stationed with her. Matt Jr. is an Airman First Class at Langley AFB, Virginia. . . Bill and Eleanor Wallis are grandparents for the second time. A grandson - Adam Wallis ... Chapter president John Gallo's son suffered minor injuries in a motorcycle accident this past summer. . . John Marek suffered injuries in a fall from his home. The extent of these injuries is unknown as word of this was received shortly before writing this column.

In conclusion I am trying to learn the whereabouts of Harold F. "Heavy" Miller, of "H" 329; formerly of the West Alexander, Pa.-Wheeling, W. Va. area. If anyone has any information of him write me at my address at the front of this issue or call me at 412-931-7978, reverse charges.

Francis "Fran" Beerhalter
4548 Valleyview Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15214

323RD REPORT

We hope everyone had Happy Holidays and 1986 will be a good year for all of us.

I spent a Sunday afternoon with George Polites at his home in Dracut, Ma. It was a very enjoyable visit talking over old times. George taught most of us what could be done with a deck of playing cards in the Army.

Recently I talked by phone to Buck Taylor, Bill Shaner and Dave Nellies. All are doing well in their retirement years.

Romeo Maynard, George Connors, Pat DiGiammerino, with the best cook in Service Battery Herbert, along with myself, attended a Christmas Party together. George Connors sang a few Irish songs for us. We are indebted to him. Erwin Erhardt, Al Covi and Dave Nellies would have been proud of him.

Ralph Morgan has been doing very well with his treatments. Ralph also has made contact with Chester Zubeck in New York. He also mentioned talking to Frank Wirth. Al Covi always said he would get these guys at his table next year in Knoxville, Tenn.

I forgot to mention George Connors son will be getting married in a few months. Hilda and George will have the homestead to themselves. How lucky they are. Huh!

Well I think I will end it here until the next issue. Send me some news.

Amby Tynan
323rd F.A. Bn.

P.S. Hqt. Battery

Don't forget to send your money in early for this years Memorial Page to me.

CLEVELAND CHAPTER

Hello Buddies:

Now that the reunion at The Pines is over and all of us that graced the premises are through talking about what a wonderful time we had, we can now look forward to the next one in Tennessee. It is not too early to make plans now, especially for those of you that are still working. We, that are retired can go anytime, anywhere providing the funds hold out.

We have a few ladies that are ill, especially Marge Miller, she has that nagging heart problem. Dolores Jocek had a heart catheterization performed on her, she is now doing fine, from what I can gather. Get well real quick ladies as we don't want to lose anyone again.

We welcomed a new member aboard, Larry is a buddy of the (Godfather), (Christopher). Seems that the Godfather needs help in beating Bob Uher in that

(Continued on next page)

Italian crap game. Bob has him in the palm of his hand.

Our November meeting was held at Czech's Acres and everyone had a good time. We saw the video tape of our reunion which everyone enjoyed no end. The food prepared by Emily Czech and her daughter Donna was scrumptious and the refreshments were as usual, plentiful.

Our annual Christmas Party will be December 7th and a full house is in the making. We always have a good turnout for our parties, maybe it's because we are like one big family.

I am going deer hunting in Southern Ohio so my glass eye better work for me. I'll get this report in early and maybe have a report on the results of the Party. Before I forget, with the holidays fast approaching, all you wonderful people out there have a really good one this year and a healthy happy year after.

Stay nice, fight nice and God Bless. Sincerely,
P.S. Al Uridel, "C" 329th

I heard from my buddies Goldman and Hockman since the reunion which was nice. Would like to hear from more of my outfit. Our Christmas party was well attended and enjoyed by everybody. The Godfather put on a dancing act for us, all it took was a few belts and he was off and running. Most of the guys got up and danced for a change. It was a sight to behold. The food was good and plentiful, the refreshments were also plentiful which of course is standard procedure for us. We must be grateful to Chet and Emily Czech for arranging the party, getting the caterer and hall and supplying the music. Donna Czech took care of the record playing which was nice of her. I took pretty good care of the women, making sure their glasses were full (most of them anyway). All in all, everyone enjoyed themselves, including our new member and his wife, Larry and Angela Colodangelo. My good buddy Rollie even got up to dance despite nagging pains in his legs, the result of driving a truck for 40 years.

Our friends from Erie, Pennsylvania just left for home, they have a beautiful day, dunny and bright out.

Casey and Laura Kowalec did their share of dancing so did my friend Alice and I. We did a few new Polka steps to show off our talents how about it Casey!

Bob Uher did the Santa routine, I'll bet he has sore knees today. Oh yes, we missed Joanne Uher, she was in bed with a slipped disc, and unable to make the Party. That's it for now. God Bless Again

COMPANY "H" 330th

HELLO BUDDIES:

Here is that man again, as I look at the recent issue of *THE THUNDERBOLT*, I notice the deadline date for news is only a few days away, and as I sit here like a little kid, putting my Christmas Platform up and getting the Electric Trains ready to run, I take a little time out to drop this line to you all.

First of all, in behalf of my Wife, Mary and I, here's wishing you all a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR. May GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

As we sit and let our minds wander back over the years, we can't help but stop and think of where we were at this time forty-one years ago. And as we watch the weather reports on the Television News and they mention about snow, we can't help but remember how deep we were in snow in Belgium at that time. Those of us who came back home without any serious injury have a lot to be thankful for, and to those less fortunate, who came back either seriously wounded or did not return at all, let us all take a minute out as we sit eating our Christmas Dinner and say a special Prayer to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Again I want to thank each and every man from Co. "H" 330th for the support you have given me in the past. We of Co. "H" can hold our heads high for the support we have given the Association. I will be calling on you again for your help this year, in the meantime, any of you who are delinquent in your Dues, please send them at once. We need your support. I spoke to a man from another Division Association the other day and he stated that they have about 700 paid up members and have about 150 men and women at a reunion, he thought that was great. Dixie Chapter has almost that many attending their Annual Christmas Party.

Again, my sincere BEST WISHES TO YOU ALL FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS. Larry Redmond

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Hi You All:

Our October get together was held at Jim and Georgia Emanouil's in Chelmsford, Massachusetts. It was a beautiful turnout and our first member to show up was our great one -- John Donahue from Burlington, Mass. John is only a stone throw from Jim's house so he was able to make it. John was a very surprised person when he was presented with our new National Cap and he said that he would wear it with pride.

Helen Smith is coming along slow but sure after her shoulder operation. We had at the Emanouil's house the Benedetti's from Palmer Mass, Davis's from Newburyport, Rossi's, Francullo, Smith's from Lynn, McCartin's from Lowell, Brennan's from R.I., Champi's from Conn. and the Burkhard's from N.Y. As the weather gets colder the meetings will get smaller due to the bad driving conditions that it takes to get to each others homes, but that is New England. They say if you don't like New England weather just wait a minute and it will change. Ho! Ho! We would rather have a small get together and have everyone home safe for the good summer days.

The McCartin's have been spending some time in California with their daughter and grand children and they may spend Christmas there. If not they will be at the Marriott in Providence, R.I.

Had a telephone call from Jim Barber from Winsted, Conn. and they just got back from Alabama. They went to a Bingo game while there and Jim made a big hit, so he is going back down again. He may move

down there. Joe Petrucci gave us a report on Nick Penero and he had come out of his heart surgery with flying colors. We all say a prayer for Nick.

Sorry to hear about the death of Kyle Sluder from 3rd 330th "A" & P" Lt. I met Kyle for the first time and Dot Brennan. They were our Christmas chairmen. annual Christmas Party was held December 7 at the Marriott in Providence, R.I. Boy what a great time we all had. When we got there the table was all set up in the Chapter Room with food and drinks, thanks to Jim and Dot Brennan. They were our Christmas chairmen. After a fine luncheon we told jokes and etc., until 7:00 p.m. We then went back to our rooms to get dressed up for dinner in the dining room and after a very fine meal we all headed back to our Chapter room for more drinks and fun and to share our Christmas gifts with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus.

Our Annual Christmas Party is getting bigger every year. We had for the first time Walter and Bee Koss of Marlborough, Ct., John and Esther Ferriera, of Chelmsford, Brennan's, Boucher's Petrucci's Tartaglia's of R.I., Burkhard's of N.Y., Champey's of Ct., Francullo's Smith's, Rossi's of Lynn, Mass, Emanouil's of Chelmsford, Farias's New Bedford, Beneditti's of Palmer, Mass., Davis's of Newburyport, Ma. and the McKee' of Three Rivers, Mass.

We missed some of our regular members but we were thinking of them.

Again we would like to give Jim and Dot Brennan a big Thanks for the wonderful spread and great time that we all had at the Providence, Marriott, R.I. Now our Christmas raffle was won by Michael Champey, 370 East Riddle Road, Middletown, Ct. Good Luck, Mike.

Well I guess that I have to close now until the next issue.

Your Buddy always
Nick Francullo
Hq. Co. 3rd BN. 330th



Dear Nick:

Ray Duckworth and I were both drivers transporting troops to Burtches Gardens in August 1945. Someone decided to take our picture. We were having a bottle of wine at the time. Maybe I will hear from Ray after 40 years.

Albert Tartaglia
"H" 331st



The Boys from "K" 330th



Cleaning off the head for a new Hat.

WARREN CHAPTER NEWS

Since this article will not be read until after the New Year, Warren Chapter members and our ladies extend our best wishes to all of our friends in the association for Good Health, Good Luck and Prosperity for 1986.

Congratulations To: Ray and Mary Voracek on the birth of their tenth grandchild. Son Ralph and wife, Michelle are the proud parents of their second child, this time a girl, named Chelsea Marie, Born Sept. 18, 1985.

Get Well Wishes To: Millie Kelly who is now home and recuperating from surgery in November. -- Also to a friend of Warren Chapter members, Mort Gaynor, Co. G. 331st who underwent by-pass surgery for an aneurysm on the aorta in November.

MEETINGS:

October 13th: This was our last outdoor meeting and picnic of the season. Once again the men played golf in the morning, followed by our meeting, then our ladies brought the chow to go with the delicious hamburgs and Hot Dogs prepared by our great chefs, John Teringo and George Bellay. Babe Gautschi brought his

(Continued on next page)

T.V. so the men watched the Cleveland Browns beat hell of out Houston, while the girls held their meeting. Our usual card game followed with Theresa Gautschi and Dolly Houbka winning all the money. Many thanks and a tip of the old hat to George Bellay and John Teringo who did an outstanding job of setting up our summer events, and also doing a superb job on the grills.

November 17th: To start off our winter house meetings, we all gathered at the home of Mike and Liz Skovran. The ladies held their meeting upstairs, while the men held their bull session, amid much booze, in the recreation room. After a delicious meal of sliced roast beef, potatoes, etc., cooked to perfection by Liz Skovron, we settled down to usual card game and stayed quite late.

December 15th: There will be no meeting this month, but we will hold our annual Christmas party at the Cafe 422 on the Strip. George Bellay and John Teringo were again called on by our Prexy, Ray Voracek to handle the arrangements.

Well folks that's it for now, from Warren Best
Wishes to one and all.

Lee Titus

Chapter Reporter

FLORIDA CHAPTER

The Florida Chapter had a wonderful week-end at the Sarasota Inn in Sarasota, Florida on November 9th and 10th. We had a fantastic turn-out. There were fifty-six (56) of us for dinner on Saturday evening. Rose and Parker Black made all the arrangements for this week-end and did a magnificent job. We missed some of our regulars due to illness and other commitments. Dave Feig is in the hospital, and I hope when you read this he will be home recuperating. Richard Ammon is back in Indiana, and is under a doctor's care, and the same goes for John Stewart. These three men are from "A" 331st, so all our buddies can send them cards for a speedy recovery.

Ann and Sam Galati were in Florida visiting her brother in Cooper City. We went to see them, and went out to dinner. It sure was great spending the afternoon and evening with them.

Congratulations to Fritzie and Sam Schwartz on the marriage of their son Elliott to Joyce. The reception was at the Holiday Inn in Plantation. A wonderful time was had by all who attended.

I hope everyone had a Happy Holiday Season and am looking forwards to our next meeting in Winter Haven, either the end of January or the beginning of February. It will be hosted by Bill and Alma Herhuth. Anyone being in this area around that time, and would like to join us, please contact me for more information. Robert Livingston, "D" 330th passed away on June 7th, 1985.

The following men have been elected to serve us for the coming year: John Clevenger, President; Walter Marshall, Vice President; Dave Benick, Secretary-Treasurer; Paul Buchman, Judge Advocate; Lou Kanes, Chaplain. Happy Holidays to all.

Dave Benick "A" 331st

THE LOUISIANA CHAPTER:

I missed sending in an article for the last issues of the Thunderbolt. We had just returned from the reunion at the Pines and time did not permit.

For those of you that did not attend the reunion, you missed one of the better reunions of the 83rd Division. The turn out was excellent and the Hotel was packed. As usual when you attend a reunion at the Pines, your days and nights are packed with entertainment. The trip to West Point was the climax, as I told a number of members, when you see the Military Academy and all the fine young men and women that attend, it makes you feel that your tax dollar is well spent, and you don't mind paying your Income Tax. What History and Beauty that surround that site on the Hudson.

Laurence Armand and your truly were the only one in attendance from the Chapter. We are hoping that more of us will be able to attend the reunion in Knoxville in August 1986. Start making your plans it will be here before you know it.

I haven't heard from Labbe in some months, I hope that all of the bad weather that hit the Louisiana Coast this year did not effect his area. Now and then I see little articles in the Thunderbolt from members of the Chapter from Northern Louisiana. Maybe you fellows can drop me a line some time and see if we can't get together for a Louisiana reunion.

I would like to extend to each and every one of you Happy Holidays and may the new year bring you everything that you would like to have.

783rd Ord

Joe Macaluso

Well, here it is Jingle Bell time again already, seems like we were just packing for the Pines reunion, yesterday. Does anyone know how to slow up the retirement years. Boy, don't they fly!

This is one article that I'm really going to enjoy writing. Number one, its all good news this month and secondly we found two more fellows from the 783rd. The first buddy comes through the efforts of Carl Frederick and Bill Lucas. Carl left my house in Philly and stopped off to see Bill and he gave Carl the address of Bill Stubno. I put my finger to work and found Bill at 4701 Sparkman Drive Huntsville Ala. 35810 Tel. 205-852-7141. Bill's health is good, retired from working on space programs. He was amazed at the call and showed the old interest in the 783rd ring of friendship. Bill also referred me to Donald Vandimergal. That struck a bell so I pulled out Marcel Amrhein's old letter in which he gave me a clue on Donald. I called the number again and hit pay dirt. Don was really excited about being found, as he said, "When's the next reunion? I have an 83 Olds sitting in the garage with low mileage." Don's been a widower for four years, health is also ok and he has two good daughters who look in on him. Now who said we couldn't find more fellows! Oh, Don lives at 103 Blair St. Portage Pa. 15946 Tel. 814-736-8613. I believe our "found" list now stands at 110 which really amazes me.

I know you fellows that didn't attend the reunion want to know how it went so I'll keep it brief and to the point by telling you about some of the sights of the reunion-like-Herm and new bride Norma Hackstock cutting a rug- then twisting her back and had to go home early. A later phone call was good news. Norma came around slowly.-like- Candy's unbelievable stories of his and Doc's first days at Atterbury. -like-the good sight of Bill and Martha Appleby leading the square dance again-like-George Harris and his brother Ed taking the Kosher Pines to heart by wearing their hats to dinner. Like - Bob Hammond still lifting his head on his iron shots-like Gene and Ginny Del Prete taking the honors of marathon dancers plus Gene walked away with the title of Marathon Talker! like-Carl and Alyce Federick standing in awe of West Point, without jackets, shivering and praying for the sun to come out and it did! - like- Al and Ruth Bensimon having a call enjoying all the food- like Doc and Agnes, like always, taking in every event like it was a first reunion and finally me for all you hackers that didn't make it. I actually had a first, losing a ball 20 feet from the hole, in a sand trap.

All in all it was another terrific reunion with the highlight being the West Point experience of marching down the parade ground then listening to taps as Gene Bond and George Parkers names were read. Our hats are off again to all the dedicated fellows who spent the hours and days putting the reunion together.

This was the first reunion for Gene Del Prete and he had a ball and we all enjoyed the virgin! Now we look to next year at Knoxville where we sure hope to meet you all plus our newest funds Bill Stubno and Don Vandimergal.

Since the reunion I have heard from Hobart Belt, all is well, still cutting lawns and looking forward to Knoxville. Al Bensimon sent another invitation for his shore villa and we've been too busy to accept. Art Doggett keeps calling me about our Mayor Goode. Does Verona have a Mayor besides their Dogchatcher? Art is doing well, dancing and raking leaves. Millie has been a little under the weather with a little slow pulse. Herm Hackstock got a new trailer and had instant trouble. Two tractor trailers whizzed by him and he rolled off the highway totaling his new rig but Herm is okay and thankfully because of Normas back she wasn't along.

The "Can you top this line" comes from Carl's visit to Bill Lucas. Bill is still quite upset because Doc Pfiefer never gave him his Sgt. stripes.

If your wondering about all this rain and snow blame it on George Harris, he wrote a letter to Art!

Last and least. After the reunion Carl and Alyce came to Philly and stayed with us for a few days. Ginny, trying to be the perfect hostess served different juices at breakfasts. Carl really liked the idea especially when Ginny transposed a carafe of apple juice with one of wine. After finishing the glass Carl asks, "Can I have another glass of APPLE JUICE?"

Get those Knoxville Reservations in early or you will walk to dinner.

Hut two, Rags Rangnow

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

Another New Year is upon us and another year to look forward to. We in the New Jersey Chapter want to extend to all you Thunderbolts and your Familys a sincere wish for a most Healthy and Happy 1986-and we also hope you all enjoyed your holidays with all your loved ones. As this article is being written in early December- we can't report on how well Santa stuffed our stockings, but as in previous years-I'm sure we'll do alright.

Now to report on what has transpired at the New Jersey Chapter meetings since the last article. There was no September meeting because of the short time between the reunion and the meeting date of our chapter. The meeting in October was a most enjoyable ones as we all reviewed the good time at the Pines Reunion. What amazes me about this review is how much is missed by an individual. I would guess there is too many things happening and not enough time to enjoy it all.

Following the reunion Charlie Sihlanicks hosted the two Caseys from Cleveland. that being Casey Kowalec (our national chaplain) and Casey Szubski with their wives. They went on to Atlantic City to try their luck. While we're on the subject- Fran and I were there for our 37th anniversary. It was the night before the big hurricane. We had decided to walk to the Golden Nugget as we weren't doing well at the Tropicana, (they are about a half mile apart). When we decided to return to the Tropicana for our bus, the wind and rain had already arrived. There wasn't a soul on the Boardwalk, all the Businesses were boarding up, our only hope for a ride was when a car bearing the Governor of New Jersey (on a inspection trip,) came by. We tried to thumb a ride from him - but he refused. Boy, did we take a soaking, both in and out of the Casinos.

The November meeting was an interesting one. The meeting centered on planning for a Luncheon Meeting to be held in late winter. We feel this type of meeting with members and wives will attract more interest in our chapter. We plan at this meeting to discuss future social events and other ways to enjoy each others company. We'd like to have all of you come to this meeting. It could be the start of something BIG!!

The December meeting was postponed. The next meeting will be in January at the VFW Post in Garfield, the third Friday of the month at 8 P.M.

Wishing you all well.

Stan Bielen

G COMPANY 331st INFANTRY

The months just seem to roll by, we now find ourselves only fifteen days from Christmas. For a person that has retired I just can't seem to find the time I need to do all of the things I am supposed to do.

Beginning in early November, Mort Gaynor called to tell me that he would be going into the Hospital to be operated on around November 15th. Mort had developed an aneurism on the main aorta. It scemed serious to me, but the Doctor scheduled the operation

(Continued on next page)

two weeks in advance. In the meantime, Mort Gaynor, because of the Hurrican that drifted thru his area, put in an excessive number of overtime hours to help electrical power back to the area.

Mort Gaynor was operated on to repair the aorta, and during the operation they found two blockages, which had caused Mort some problem with his legs.

As of ten days ago Mort is recuperating at his brother's home in Stafford, Conn. He is in good spirits and seems to be getting along fine. Take care of yourself Mort. Maybe this will lead you into retirement that you deserve.

The wife and I had to take a trip to Missouri because of a death in her family. We had our share of cold weather in those few days we spent in Missouri. The sleet, then the rain, then the cold and finally the snow, believe me you people living in the North can have it all for yourselves.

It is not too early to start making plans for the reunion in Knoxville in August of 1986. This copy of the Thunderbolt should have the reservation forms for the Hotel. The people in the Dixie Chapter are planning a great reunion for 1986. Come join us.

Kate Pangle informs me that Loyal is doing fine, he seems to be putting on some weight. Keep up the good work.

I talked with Mary Rung, she is real proud of herself for having taken a picture with Gen. Westmoreland.

Joe Phillipone called last Sunday, I had ask Joe to look up a Capt Swider in the Youngstown Area. No luck, but he did an excellent job of tracking the man.

Once again at this time of the year, my thoughts go back to the winter of 1944-45 and the terrible ordeal that we went through during the Battle of the Bulge. We were very fortunate to have survived, but this happened only because you men served your country well. Each and every one of you should be proud of your achievements.

During the next week I hope to get all of my Christmas Cards in the mail. In the event that I do not reach all of you, Mena, Monicia and Myself wish to extend to each of you A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. A New Year that I hope will bring good health and prosperity to all of you.

Capt Mac

KENTUCKY CHAPTER CHATTERS

Our fall meeting was held at Natural Bridge State Park in Slade, Kentucky the week end of October 12. There were thirty five (35) people in attendance. We could not have chosen a better weekend, the trees were beautiful. It is truly God's country. Some of us got there a day early so we took hikes and enjoyed the great outdoors. I had Wilson puffing. Nora Lee and Cecil Walters, Imogene and Hershel McIntosh hosted the fall meeting and they did a terrific job. They had a party for Ames and Helen Miller's twenty seventh anniversary on Friday Nite, even entertainment. They also planned a sight seeing trip in the foothills of the Smokies on Saturday for us. We had a little excitement

on our outing. Nora Lee's battery on her car went dead. Some of the fellows got it started and we moved on. Then a new red truck with several young men in it ran in a ditch to avoid a head on collision. It really jammed up traffic for miles and miles. All of our men got out of their cars to help. The tried pushing, shaking and lifting to no avail. Bob Derickson remembered that he had a tow chain in his van so they pulled and pushed the truck out. The young men in the truck thought the men from the Kentucky Chapter of the 83rd Infantry Division Association was great. I took pictures to put in the Thunderbolt but Pearl told me that the color red does not show up well on the paper used in the Thunderbolt. You missed a treat but I can tell you it was entertainment. We finally made it to the top of the mountains where we had our picnic lunch and took pictures. We came back to the Lodge for dinner and our meeting. Alberta Richmond sneaked a birthday in on us. We had our election of officers and they are as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Chester Wilson | President |
| Charles Schmidt | Vice President |
| Manlius Goodridge | Secretary-Treasurer |
| Floyd Richmond | Chaplain |
| Viola Day | Auxiliary News Reporter |

I was honored to have been elected the Chapter's reporter. We know the ladies in the Chapter work hard to help make the 83rd Infantry Division Association a great organization, but I now have a title. After breakfast on Sunday morning, we went to Walter's lovely home for more togetherness and a delicious buffet.

I will back up to the 39th Reunion at The Pines. The deadline for articles in the Thunderbolt was September 10th and we were still at the Pines at that time.

We thank the Boston Chapter for hosting a great reunion. We also thank all the people who drove many miles or flew to the Catskills for the reunion. It was so nice seeing old friends and making new ones. It was a great honor having General William Westmoreland, General Robert York, General Willard Scott and our Medal of Honor recipient, Ralph Neppel at the reunion.

The Kentucky Chapter had twenty-nine members, wives and friends at the Reunion. There were thirteen of us who stopped overnite at La Mar, Pennsylvania and would you believe all thirteen fit in our room with room to spare. We could even have gotten the small room we had at the Pines in it. It was a fun stop for all of us. Wilson Day won the Legg's contest. Wilson and all the other contestants put on a good show. They gave us lots of laughs. I thought I lost Wilson when a man dashed up on the stage and kissed him. Avalon Goodridge played the piano for the Legg's contest. Thanks Avalon.

There were three women who had injuries at the Pines and West Point. We pray they had no ill effects from their injuries. I even saw a door at the Pines wearing a band aid.

The Memorial Service at West Point was a day for memories. How about the way the sun came through to shine on all of us.

The Grand Finale for the Days--Elmer, Dee, Wilson and I was stopping at Washington, D.C. on our way home. We visited the Vietnam Hall, Arlington Museum and Cemetery and Pat Moss Gallery in Georgetown. When we were in the Museum, Elmer, the renegade, saw his railsplitter's 84th Infantry Division Association plaque and emblem in a case and gave Wilson the Hee Haw. The Thunderbolt's do not have a plaque in the case. Needless to say, Wilson has written a letter inquiring about what the Thunderbolt must do to get their plaque and emblem in the Museum. That's it folks. Take care and God Bless you.

Vi Wilson,
Auxiliary Reporter

KENTUCKY CHAPTER REPORT

The Kentucky Chapter met on December 13, 14 and 15 at the Rodeway Inn in Columbus, Indiana with Ames and Helen Miller in charge of arrangements. It was a really early winter week-end. Cold and snowy. Charley Schmidt was my navigator on the way over to Columbus. Pearl and Babe crawled in the back of the van and worked on decorations. We had gotten as far as Batesville and the rest of us had been drinking coffee. Pearl said she would like a cup of hot chocolate. It was so snowy that we just went on by Batesville. Needless to say Pearl did not get that cup of hot chocolate. The ones of us who braved the elements really enjoyed ourselves. Missed our regulars who did not get there and all the rest of you who could not come we wished that you could have come.

On Saturday morning as cold and snowy as it was the men decided to go ahead with the tour that Ames had set up to go to Atterbury. Robert drove the van and Manny Goodridge drove his car. All who went enjoyed themselves. Quite a change from the days when we trained there. Nothing much left now. Just a great deal of memories.

Helen Miller and Margaret Reddin drove their cards and the women went shopping. We all met back in the Chapter room that the hotel furnished us for our meeting room and socialized until time to get ready for our meeting and dinner. I think the older we get the more we look forward to seeing each other.

Our meal was delicious and Pearl, Babe Schmidt, Helen Wilson had made favors and napkin holders, Helen Miller had brought pine and holly. So they really had the tables looking Christmas. The hotel had set up a Christmas tree and Helen had brought one of her ceramic ones.

Chester Wilson, our President, conducted our meeting. We voted in our meeting to go back to our original first week-end of December for our Christmas Party. We will meet in April at the Executive Inn for our Spring meeting. Hope everyone can be there. The June meeting, our picnic, will be here in Oxford with Pearl and I in charge. We would like to see some of our

other chapters visit with us. Let us know if you can come.

Arthur and Mildred Doggett were in charge of the program. We played Bingo with all winner's getting pretty wrapped presents. Then we played a game of shall I call it "Place the balloon", or whatever you call it, there was a great deal of laughter to it. Thanks Arthur and Mildred.

Helen and Ames made sure there were enough snacks and Ames "famous fudge" to feed a whole Battalion of people. All kinds of drinks. They were also in charge of the grab bag. Did a good job. After all the games were over Pearl had brought along Christmas music. Arthur led us in carols and then the whole group participated in singing "The Twelve Days of Christmas". What a riot. Manny and Avalon were the "first Day" but sometimes they were laughing so hard we could hardly get through the first day. A really fun time. We all enjoyed ourselves and it made us all remember that we were among the fortunate ones to get to come back home and stay healthy. As we closed our meeting Pearl turned out the lights and we all sang "Silent Night" in the lights of just the Christmas trees glowing. As we turned on the lights and sang "We wish you a Merry Christmas" that also is the thoughts of the Kentucky Chapter to all of you. We hope your New Year is bright.

Bob and Pearl Derickson, reporting

WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER

On Saturday, October 12th, for our monthly dinner, we met at the Wren's Nest Diner at St. Albans, W. Va. A very unique place, with displays of uniforms of all American Armed Forces and also a display of division Insignias of almost all our Military (and that includes an Insignia of the 83rd). A very good attendance at this dinner.

Also on Saturday December 7th, for our Christmas Dinner we met at the same place, with special orders for our favorite food being made at the time of making reservation for that date. A very good attendance at this dinner, with an exchange of Christmas Gifts and an impromptu discussion on matters of importance. A good time was had by all. (Continued on next page)



L-R: Paul Pauley, Freda and John Hobbs, Arthur Blankenship, John Shepherd, Eugene Persinger.

Eugene Persinger was not present at this dinner due to a slight injury to his leg. A Special Get Well card was signed by all for Leonard Larry Hoskins who has been in the hospital for heart by-pass surgery.

We Wish Every One A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.

Sincerely!
 John T. Shepherd (Reporter)
 "L" & "HQ" 331st.



Jim and Linda Dunkin



Bootsie Crouch, Mary Pauley, Esta and Don Pettry, Helen Persinger.



L-R: Eugene Persinger, Don and Esta Pettry, Mary Pauley, Bootsie Crouch.

*ONCE UPON A BATTLEFIELD
 IN RAIN, MUD AND SNOW
 IT WAS TOUCH AND GO TO STAY ALIVE
 AND KEEP EVERYTHING IN TOW
 WE NEVER FAILED OR FALTERED
 WHEN WE WERE ON THE GO
 TRYING TO GET FROM ONE PLACE OR ANOTHER
 DESPITE THE OBSTACLES WE ALL KNOW
 WHEN IT WAS ALL OVER
 TEARS OF JOY WERE SHED BY ALL
 THOUGHTS OF HOME AND THE GOOD TIMES
 WE KNEW WE WOULD SOON BE ON A ROLL
 LET'S NOT FORGET OUR FALLEN COMRADES
 THEY NEVER WILL RETURN
 TO PEACE AND JOY AND LOVE OF LIFE
 IT JUST SEEMS SO UNFAIR
 KNOWING THAT OUR VERY GOOD FRIENDS
 WILL REST ETERNALLY THERE*

My Dear Friends of the 83rd....

To all those persons who sent me the most complimentary letters of praise regarding our last reunion which was held at the PINES, you realize that all the hard work and effort that went into all the planning was not in vain.

Now that the holiday season is upon us, I would like to take this opportunity together with my wife Jean and I to wish all of you "Seasons Greetings" and may you all stay healthy and happy for years to come.

We are planning to stay in Florida for the month of January, and, if anyone of you are in the Ft. Lauderdale or Miami area, please call us, perhaps we can get together. 305-741-1678; 305-662-6978.

BERNIE COVE
 "D" Co. 331st Boston Chapter

Boston Chapter Report

Boston Chapter had three meetings since leaving the Pines Hotel with excellent attendance.

Santa Claus came along with Mrs. Claus to our fabulous Christmas Party at the Red Snapper in Walpole, Ma. Santa was from 331st Anti Tank Company, Charlie Lussier and his lovely wife Rita as Mrs. Santa. Thanks for a job well done. Bob Hunnewell was really a marvelous one-man-band doing all the members requests, especially Jingle Bells his favorite. Hunnewell is from So. Braintree, Ma. and is from I Company 329th Infantry.

Jim Prentice came home from "Phillie" to be with us. Jim is well known in all our Chapters as 83rd Infantry Association Publicity man for a number of years.

Mike Malik from Bridgeport, Ct. who was a member of 331st A Company as a replacement and Ex P.O.W. and Sam Hebert from Walpole, Ma. were new Boston Chapter members at the Christmas Party.

It was nice to see our Past-President, Romeo Maynard and his wife Livie at the recent meeting. Romeo has not been well in the last few years.

(Continued on page 17)

However, the "Ole Soldier" keeps going. Both Romeo and Livie have done a lot for the Boston Chapter.

Charlie Miller is our new President, and Hy Goodman is our Treasurer. I can't find my list of the other new officers as I am writing this at work. I called home but "Murphy" my dog does not answer the telephone when the Boss is out so I will list them in the next issue.

Mike Caprio is giving up the Treasurers job. Mike did this job for a number of years. Our books were in good hands.

Mike and Pat DiGiammerino will still continue doing their hard work for the Chapter which is good.

I had a nice note from my pal Howie Carlom in California. Howie is living it up at the weddings of the grandchildren. He will be in Knoxville, Tenn. next August. It will surely be good to see him and the BETTER HALF again at a reunion. It will not be like the good old days without many of our friends but Howie we can make the best of it.

Boston's next meeting will be in Lynn, Ma. in January.

AMBY TYNAN
Boston Chapter

1985 Reunion at The Pines

EXPENSES

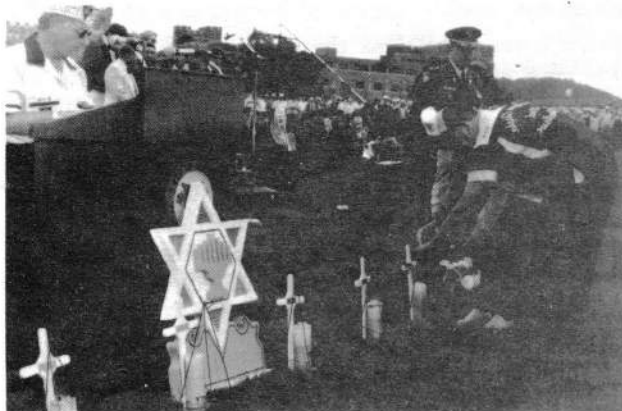
| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Add Book 750 | \$1600.00 |
| Court recorder | 389.50 |
| Court recorder | 25.00 |
| Two's Co. 312 Shirts | 1239.50 |
| Plastic Shields & inserts | 129.00 |
| Add book letters | 97.00 |
| Overseas caps 20 | 100.00 |
| Rolls of Raffle tickets | 68.00 |
| 83rd hats | 427.80 |
| Rental charges for van | 405.00 |
| Gas for van | 72.68 |
| Flowers and Corsages | 91.00 |
| Placques 6 | 197.50 |
| Liquor & goodies for CP | 180.34 |
| Security | 195.00 |
| Bank charges | 21.75 |
| Ladd printing | 250.29 |
| Services-parking & delivery | 147.00 |
| Exec. Board Hosp. in May | 136.50 |
| Stationery | 42.50 |
| UPS | 39.76 |
| USPS | 417.79 |
| Postage & Stationery L. Redmond | 978.15 |
| Printing for weekend raffle | 72.50 |
| Liquor | 2240.50 |
| Wine 4 gals. | 28.80 |
| Beer 4 kegs | 150.00 |
| 50/50 Club | 1052.00 |
| Total | \$10,794.86 |

INCOME

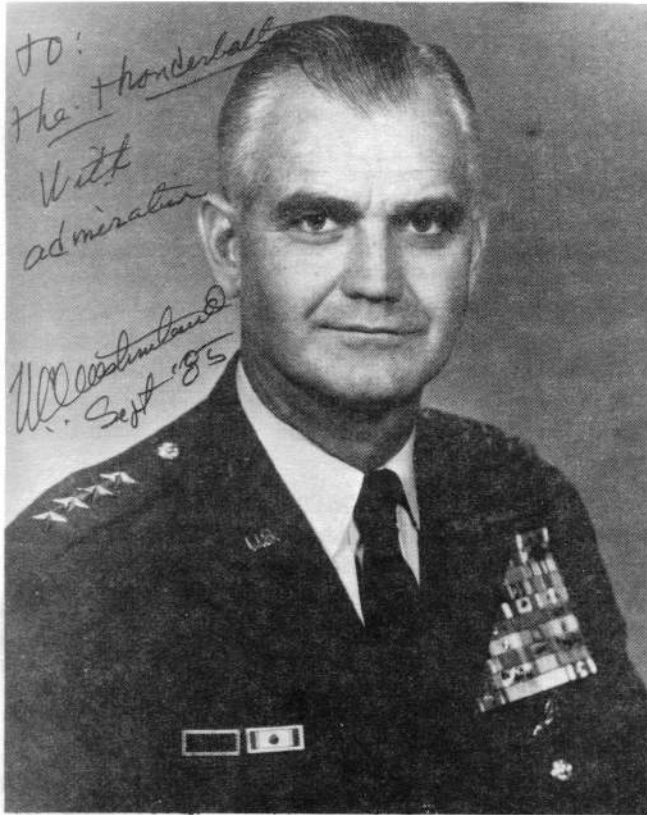
| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Add Book | \$7645.00 |
| 50/50 Club | 2104.00 |
| Shirts | 1255.00 |
| Hats | 750.00 |
| Weekend raffle | 330.00 |
| Arts & Crafts | 1260.00 |
| Total | \$13,344.00 |
| Income | \$13,344.00 |
| Expenses | - 10,794.86 |
| Profit to National | \$2,549.14 |

VETS HOLD MEMORIAL SERVICE

West Point welcomed veterans of the 83rd Infantry Division recently with a memorial service held on the Plain. Bernie Cove, president of the 83rd Infantry division Association, presented Lt. Gen. Willard W. Scott Jr., USMA superintendent, with a cap emblazoned with the division's insignia during the ceremony. The 83rd Division, which suffered 15,013 casualties during World War II, served with distinction in the European Theater of Operations. After hitting the beaches at Normandy on D-Day, the division swept across occupied territory, engaging enemy soldiers in such locations as Brittany, the Ardennes and the Rhineland. (photo by Jim Holman)



Truly a Great Memory at West Point



Dear Bernie:

You staged a great reunion and I was privileged to be a part of it. A great gang of men.

Your invitation for a bit of R & R at the Pines is appreciated. I won't forget your kind offer.

Regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,
W.C. Westmoreland

Bernie--

What a reunion!! Has there ever been one like it? Mrs. York and I will never forget it. And we will be forever grateful to you and the others who spent so much time, effort and money to make it such a success.

The setting -- nestled down in the beautiful Catskill Mountains as it is -- facilities sufficient for everyone's needs and desires -- the great entertainment -- the gourmet meals -- the band, always playing appropriate music -- the cheerful service -- the moving ceremonies -- the hospitality -- all combined to make it an unsurpassed occasion.

How good it was to be with so many 'foxhold friends'! Men who answered when their Country called -- who are justifiably proud of doing the toughest of jobs in World War II.

I am especially grateful, Bernie, for the warm reception everyone gave to me and to Mrs. York. I know she felt like a queen.

Sincerely
Bob York



Above: Bernie Cove and Casey Kowalec at the memorial service at West Point



HOMILY - 83RD INFANTRY
DIVISION ASSOCIATION (WWII)
MASS AT WEST POINT (September 11, 1985)

It is hard for me to understand what you know and feel. I was not there. You were. And you saw it through: Normandy, Brittany, the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe.

For me, these names are simply places on a map. But for you these names represent a time of testing, a time you left youth behind, a time the world was at war.

And you yourselves were caught up in it all. Perhaps these names trigger in your the memory of blood and fear, evil and death, destruction and chaos. But perhaps these names also trigger in you the memory of heroism and valor, comradeship and sacrifice, determination and victory.

And to the degree you are able to enter into the Spirit of these memorial gatherings with emotion, with faith, and with thanksgiving--to that degree-- you also proclaim to us that you survived that time of war not just by luck, or fortune, or force of arms.

You may not articulate it this way, but your emotion here and now tells me that you survived that struggle by strength of character, by the power of your faith, and a desire for what was right. Call it a combination of guts, fortitude, and drive.

We all still need those qualities because the story of the thunderbolt across Europe does not end with VE day. The world is still not perfect and still not entirely peaceful. What I'm saying is that we people who follow Jesus are a people primarily of peace and therefore the story of the thunderbolt, your story, continues here and now whenever you and all those of good will realize that some nations are still enslaved, some peoples are still discriminated against, and some governments actively sow hatred, violence, and disorder.

But you say, 'what can I do about those things? I'm just an individual. And there's not really a war, a dramatic battlefield.' you say, 'I'm not part of a division, an army, anymore!'

True. But as followers of Jesus we can and do make a global difference when we work for peace and the kingdom of God: In our homes and among our families, in our neighborhoods and cities, and at our workplaces.

Jesus promises us in the gospel that in this simple, quiet fashion we join the great company of holy men and women throughout history and around the world who have raised their eyes to heaven and by their actions revealed the love of God among us.

You understand this, I think, in your very bones, because you have seen it through.

And you know, deep down, that the story of the thunderbolt division did not end forty years ago in Europe, but it lives on, in all of you, right here, right now.

Rev. Steven M. Lanza
Readings for Mass:

HEADQUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIVISION

Office of the Commanding General

SUBJECT: V-E Day.

10 May 1945

TO: All Ranks, 83d Infantry Division.

1. At 1500, 8 May 1945, V-E day was declared by President Truman and all hostilities officially ceased in this theater. The war against Germany has ended in a complete victory for the United States and its Allies.

2. The accomplishments of this Division in combat against the Germans have been outstanding. The hard fighting done by the Division in Normandy against Germany's best troops helped to prepare the way for the breakthrough at St. Lo. In Brittany, we secured a port for the Allies by the capture of St. Malo and Dinard, and a battalion combat team assisted in the reduction of Brest. By successfully blocking along the Laire River on a frontage of some 300 miles, we protected the south flank of the armies advancing eastward and freed other combat units for use in that drive. In Luxembourg, we drove the enemy east of the Sauer and Moselle Rivers in a wide zone. In our first battle in Germany, we secured a decisive victory by breaking out of the Hurtgen Forest and driving the enemy east of the Roer River. Immediately following this, and without time for rest, the Division was moved to the Ardennes where it attacked to the south on the shoulder of the German penetration ("Bulge"). In extremely severe weather conditions and again against the best German troops, we accomplished our mission by securing a breakthrough that was exploited by an armored division. After a period of rest and training in Belgium and Holland, the Division was again of peak efficiency as was proved by its operations east of the Rhine. In these, the Division showed that, in addition to its excellence in hard fighting and close combat, it had speed and audacity in a breakthrough. At the end of the last drive, we secured the only American bridgehead over the Elbe River and held it against repeated counterattacks.

3. These are accomplishments of which you may well be proud. They were achieved by your stamina, your courage, your skill, and your devotion to duty.

4. We are now engaged in occupational duties. On these you should put forth your best efforts, for our success or failure as an Occupational Army will have a direct bearing on the years to come.

5. We must be watchful that we do not harm in any way the fine name the Division has earned in combat. So, show by your dress, your bearing, and your conduct that you are superior soldiers in a superior Division, for that is what you have already proven yourselves to be.

6. The United States is still engaged in a bitter war against the Japanese. We may be called on to play our part in that war. For this reason, the Division must maintain its combat efficiency. So, when the time comes for training, put the same spirit and enthusiasm into it that you have put into your training in the past. It has proven well worthwhile as you know.

(Continued on next page)

7. The question that is uppermost in all of your minds is: "What happens now? Will I be discharged; will I be sent to the Pacific; will I remain here in the Army of Occupation; or will I be placed on duty in the United States?" I do not know the answers to these questions. Any one of the things that I have listed is a possibility. I will give you the best advice I can. That is, select the alternative that seems least desirable and then prepare your mind for that eventuality. If you will do this, it will prevent many cruel disappointments, and if what you consider to be the worst does not come to pass, then it will be so much to the good.

8. You may be assured that to the very best of our abilities, the policies on discharge and return of individuals to the United States will be carried out with the maximum speed and fairness.

9. Whatever happens to you individually, I wish you the best of luck, and want to express to each of you my appreciation for what you have done. It has been in the finest tradition of our people.

ROBT. C. MACON
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding.

Dear Bob:

Just a note to say I was sorry to miss the reunion. However Audrey and I were traveling in Europe and in particular the area along the Mosel River.

Ran across this monument to the Divisions that fought in this area--this was about 20 klm. north of Renich, Luxembourg. Also visited the cemetery near Maastricht, Holland where there are about 300 83rd men buried. The Caretaker ran off a list for me and if it would be of any interest in a future publication I would be happy to send it on to you. Also have many pictures 1944-45. However, you probably get more than you can use of that type of material.

Sincerely,
Malcolm O'Malley
"D" 330th

The plaque reads:

FROM SEP 1944 TO MAR 1945 THE VALIANT
SOLDIERS OF THESE
U.S. DIVS. LIBERATED AND HEROICALLY
DEFENDED THIS AREA

5TH AMD - 28TH INF - 83D INF
4TH INF - 9TH AMD - 5TH INF
87TH INF - TD - FA - 76TH INF

MANY GAVE THEIR LIVES SO THAT WE CAN
LIVE IN FREEDOM
WE THE LIVING MUST ENSURE THAT THEY
HAVE NOT DIED IN VAIN

Mr. Robert Derickson
Secretary-Treasurer and Editor
83rd Infantry Division Association
3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

Dear Bob:

Enclosed is a letter I sent last February to the widow of the late Arnold "Ace" Cipperly who had been a long-time and devoted member of the Association I would appreciate it if you would be kind enough to print the letter in the next issue of the "Thunderbolt" as a tribute and memorial to "Ace" from one of his army buddies.

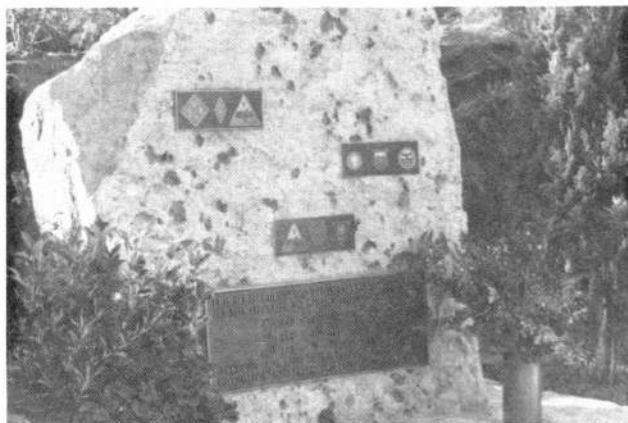
Also enclosed are three pictures of "Ace" taken in Germany during his service there with the 330 Regiment Headquarters Company in 1945. You may print any or all of them, as you deem proper. If possible, please return the pictures to me after they have served their purpose.

I am sending you here a contribution of \$10.00, in memory of "Ace". Included are also an additional \$10.00 for my own dues, to renew my membership for next year.

Thank you for your kind cooperation. You are doing an excellent job for the Association. Best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving Holiday.

Sincerely Yours,
Jair Kaplan
"HQ" 330th Inf
Fed. Adm. Law Judge (Ret.)

Arnold "Ace" Cipperly and
Jair "Jerry" Kaplan "HQ"
330th Inf., Bavaria, Germany,
1945



February 18, 1985

Mrs. Beverly Cipperly
8 Wendell Avenue
Troy, New York 12180

Dear Beverly:

I was very shocked and saddened to read in the last issue of Thunderbolt, the publication of the 83rd Infantry Division Association, about the sudden and unexpected passing of Arnold "Ace" Cipperly. What can I say upon the loss of a beloved husband, father and grandfather, when words seem to be quite inadequate to express my deep sympathy to you and the family.

Arnold and I were buddies during our service together with Headquarters Company of the 330th Infantry Regiment in Germany in World War II. While Arnold was the driver regularly assigned to Capt. Ralph Cook, the Regimental Commandant and Company Commander, since the Battle of the Bulge I had become a member of the Regimental M.P. Platoon and Capt. Cook's interpreter. Arnold and I spent many pleasant, as well as fearful, days, weeks and months together on the highways, byways, towns, cities and villages of Europe, as evidenced by the snapshots we had taken. After the war, on several occasions he and Irene stopped over to see me and my wife Irene here in Maryland; we visited Troy once on our way to Canada; and we always awaited and enjoyed your holiday season letter of greetings.

Arnold was friendly and cheerful, with a smile on his lips and a twinkle in his bright eyes. I had a soft spot for "Ace" in my heart. I shall always remember him for good and for blessing. May you be somewhat consoled with the knowledge that many of Arnold's friends and former army colleagues share your grief.

Since I do not have the addresses of Arnold's two daughters, would you be kind enough to convey our sympathy to them and to their respective families by sending them copies of this letter.

Sincerely,
Jair S. Kaplan



L-R: Pink, Jair "Jerry" Kaplan, Rielly and Arnold "Ace" Cipperly, Bavaria, Germany, 1945



Arnold "Ace" Cipperly, Capt. Ralph Cook's driver, HQ 330 Inf, Bavaria, Germany, 1945

Dear Bob:

I am enclosing some photos that I hope you can use in a forthcoming issue of the Thunderbolt.

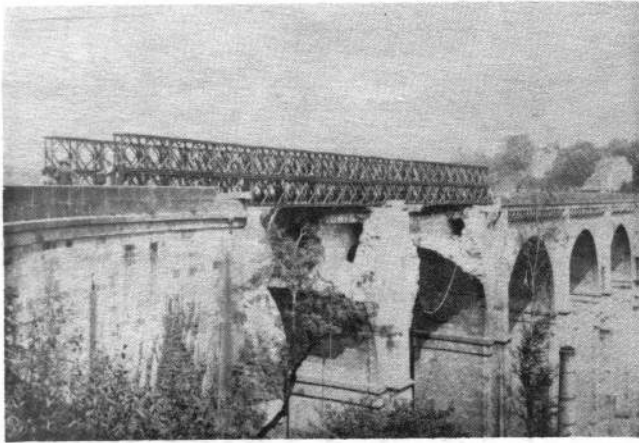
These pictures were sent to me by Earl Graham who made copies from pictures that Lt. Doeringsfeld loaned him.

The officers a "A" 308th Engr. Seated left to right, Lt. John Hanf, Capt. Andrew Brand, Lt. Doeringsfeld, back row, Lt. Robert Clary, Lt. Richard Myer. The bridge (pictured on page 22) is a double Bailey built by "A" 308th Engr. and was built on a main route to the Brest Peninsula, at Dinan, France.

I would like to add that Capt. Brand was a co-winner in the contest to name our division "Thunderbolt".

George C. Settle
"A" 308th





Hello Bob:

When I was at Breckenridge I was staff boy for the officers. Cleaned rooms, made beds, saw that the dress uniforms were cleaned, tended bar, kept it well stocked with the aid of Lt. Jacobs. Got to know a lot of them. Thinking back quite a few. The picture in the fall Issue 1982, was "C" 329th. Sending the picture with additional names. Lost a lot of good Officers and men. While I was there here are some of the ones I knew.

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Carl Schroder | Issac Williams | Peter Barksdale |
| Richard Dixon | Capt. Dwight Adams | Ralph Hartgraves |
| William Holland | Jack Hansel | Daniel Gust |
| Porter Hartman | Ralph Renfroe | Frank Carmichael |
| Lloyd Rubbe Ike | Vitus Zukys | Chancy Addleman |
| William Shaw | Jack Ponthitz | Daniel Lord |
| John Raikos | William Wheeler | Orvel Shelton |
| James Baker | Lt. Poynter | Col. Crabill |
| Lt. Silverstien | Capt. John J. Luther | Lt. Sheridan |
| Gilbert Teuke | Lt. Hughes | Lt. Boreggard |
| Lt. Jacobs | | |

Left before we went to Camp Shanks:

Major Goerge Wishart He now works at Middlebury College in New Hampshire (1978) When I went to visit Andrew LaFiennive who was with the anti-tank group. As of this writing he is still alive, and a member. He has a bullet in his spine. I sent a History to the 83rd Division publication last year Nov. 7, 1984, all paid for. Bob put a couple more names in for the Thunderbolt, 83rd membership.

John J. Donahue 1st Bn Hq. 329th

Thanks John. We have some men who are having a hard time so will use your money to pay their Thunderbolt dues. Bob

SECRETS AND SPIES

One of the most extraordinary conferences on World War II ever arranged is scheduled to be held in Luxembourg in March 1986. The official name is "Resistance Symposium of the Secret Forces of WWII (Western Campaign)," but it could perhaps better be called, "SECRETS AND SPIES," since it is based on the "Real Life," behind-the-scenes experiences of the men and women who supported the active military forces. Their "stranger-than-fiction" adventures are intriguing and emphasize the courage, ingenuity, resourcefulness and dedication to their perilous roles. Incredible tales reminiscent of "JAMES BOND 007" will be told, but these are TRUE, not fiction. Resistance, Underground and Strategic Service leaders of eleven countries will make presentations of human interest stories and the role of the individual in the creation and operation of the Secret Forces, groups which assured the success of the Normandy invasion, the Battle of the Bulge, and virtually every other major action in western Europe. These leaders will represent Austria, Belgium, Canada (Camp "X" - OSS), Denmark, France, Great Britain (S.O.E.), Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway and the United States (O.S.S.). Mr. Knut Haukelid, who destroyed the heavy water plant in Norway to keep Hitler from having the atomic bomb before the U.S., Pierre Fourcaud, DeGaulle's personal military aide who helped establish the resistance, underground in France, and other prestigious leaders in clandestine matters will make the presentations. William Colby, former Director of the C.I.A. and World War II O.S.S. member, will represent the United States.

Attendance is limited and includes both the symposium and field trips into the Battle of the Bulge areas.

Veterans who saw action in Europe will be particularly interested - and certainly members of the 83rd Division whose success on the battlefields is directly related to many of the stories which will be featured in these unique presentations. AND, everyone who attends will have the chance to meet and talk with these "heroes" in person!

For brochure and other details, call GALAXY TOURS - toll-free(outside PA) at 800-523-7287- or in PA at 215-254-660.

Wayne, PA
December 13, 1985

Dear Buddies:

I have all the "after active" reports of the 83rd and those of the "M.P.'s", the history of the 331st, and much more.

However is there a spare history I could send of the 329th, 330th, Divarty, and Special Troops for our archives? My address is on the back of front cover of the "Thunderbolt".

Thanks for any help in this matter.

"We were the best"

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

DUTCH MAN

By Carolyn Wildes
Neighbor Staff Writer

Forty years later he is still expressing his gratitude for the American soldiers who liberated his hometown of Heerlen, Holland.

Peter Bardoul of Tucker is in the process of organizing a victory party, bringing together foreign nationals whose countries were liberated and the American soldiers who helped set them free from Nazi control.

A life insurance agent for Sunlife of Canada for the past 19 years, he lives in DeKalb County with his Dutch wife, Suzanne, and their four children: Betty, Gary, Raymond and Jean-Pierre.

May 8 will mark the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II and the event will be held May 11 at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Atlanta at Courtland and International Boulevards at 6:30 p.m.

Bardoul says he has plenty of American war veterans coming to the reception, dinner and dance - 50 veteran couples.

Among the veterans attending will be retired Brigadier General Ed Mackie from the 30th Infantry Division and retired Brigadier General John Gillette, who was a private in the 104th Infantry Division - "The Timberwolves" - and a former assistant adjutant general for Georgia.

But Bardoul says he wants to especially encourage those with Dutch, French, Luxembourg and Holland origins to attend.

Bardoul does have commitments from 64 foreign nationals who will be attending and from the Belgian, Dutch and French consuls in Atlanta.

He also has invited the Canada and Great Britain consuls in Atlanta "as a small gesture to both of their countries for their sons who participated alongside the U.S. troops in the liberation of Europe."

"We want to say to the American veterans: 'We as foreigners are so thankful for what you did'," Bardoul notes.

"I have a \$5,000 budget which includes the cost of mementos and gifts for the veterans as well as the cost of their meals and drinks. I don't want them to have to spend a dime. After all, they spent some of their best years to liberate all of us," he asserts.

"I want more foreign nationals to attend. I think we should go all out. This may be our last chance to really show our appreciation for what they did 40 years ago. After all, these veterans are not getting any younger," he says.

Bardoul emphasizes, "What I would like to see is an overflow crowd of Dutch, French, Belgium and Luxembourg nationals. The bigger the crowd, the more impressive the event."

Those wanting more information or who would like to help donate money to pay for the party's expense may call Bardoul at 393-2300 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

In addition, he has invited many national, state and local dignitaries to attend.

A combo band from FORSCOM at Fort McPherson and the Atlanta Pipe Band, a Scottish drum and pipe band, will play for the opening ceremonies.

A 20-piece band, the "Joe Dance Band," will play 1940s and 50s music.

Also, World War II veteran Frank Marchese will "entertain the troops" on his accordion, leading the audience in sing-along songs made famous during World War II.

Marchese is the leader of a polka band called "The Hoffbrau Society."

One of those who took part in the liberation effort and who, having known Bardoul for years, is helping him in his efforts to put on the party is WXIA-TV Channel 11 Anchorman Hal Suit.

"I think Peter is trying to say: 'I want to take care of that veteran who nobody knows fought in that war'," Suit says.

Suit belonged to the 117th Regiment of the 30th Infantry division - also known as the "Old Hickory Division" - which along with those who belonged to the Second Armored Division - known as "Hell on Wheels" - were the main military forces responsible for the liberation of Holland in mid-September 1944.

He says the 30th Infantry Division - whose members living in the Atlanta area still meet quarterly at the Fort McPherson Officer's Club near the Lakewood Freeway south of Atlanta - was rated number one by President Dwight Eisenhower when he was a WWII general, while the propagandists referred to them as "FDR's SS Troops."

Suit notes that their group at Fort McPherson has made Bardoul an honorary member, continuing the response with which Bardoul has been met from American soldiers since he was a young boy.

"My life is completely changed as a direct result of my contact with the veterans," states Bardoul who now belongs to the Georgia National Guard, which was part of the 30th Infantry Division during World War II.

"I couldn't believe it when I found out that the unit in which I now serve actually liberated me 40 years ago," he points out.

He has contacted about 30 of "the liberators" since he immigrated to America at the age of 21 in 1955 - only to join the U.S. Army and be sent back to Germany for three years before being stationed back in America.

Bardoul says he was only 10 years old - the second oldest of 10 children - when the Americans freed his hometown of Heerlen, Holland on Sept. 17, 1944.

Neuenrade, d.

Dear Bob:

Hope you had a safe and pleasant trip home. Reunion seemed to be a big success from all the people whom I have spoken to.

Enclosed you will find a very interesting letter that I received yesterday. I already wrote back to Col. Boylan and told him I was forwarding this letter to you so that it can be published in the next issue of the Thunderbolt.

I am sure you will do this. Best regards to you and Pearl. Please keep in touch.

Sincerely,
Bernie Cove
"D"331st

September 11, 1985

CINCUSAREUR Liaison Office
SUBJECT: Request for WWII Information

83rd Infantry Division Association, Inc.
Mr. Bernie Cove
Box 274
South Fallsburg, New York 12779

Dear Mr. Cove:

Commemorative events this year, 40 years after the end of WW II, have rekindled the interest of many Germans in things which happened back in 1945. Often they write to the Bonn Embassy hoping to get in contact with former American soldiers.

Attached letter is self-explanatory and perhaps you have a way of checking in your organization if anybody has knowledge of the events described therein. Please let me know what you find out, even if you are unsuccessful.

Sincerely,
STEVEN V. BOYLAN
JClonel, GS
CINCUSAREUR Liaison Officer

Dear Gentlemen,

May be, I have a very extraordinary interest, nevertheless I hope you can help me. I would like to have an information.

But before I will express my desire, I introduce by myself. I hope I will not bore you too much. But I think it's important to understand my desire.

Well, I'm a german forest-chief-inspector and as well a master-sergant in the reserve of the german Bundeswehr. I was born the 15th of April 1944. I've been told by my parents that the 10th of April 1945, US-soldiers had occupied the city of Goslar as well as the city of Vienenburg.

I've been born in Vienenburg. That's the reason of my question. My parents also told me that we had to leave our house, because the US-soldiers lived in our house. The behaviour of this soldiers was without any protest. They destroyed nothing in our house. They even gave chocolate to my grandmother for me (the baby). It could have been the quartermaster who has lived in our house. I am sorry to say, we don't have the name.

In the meantime I got very busy to find out, which unit has been in Vienenburg on the 10th of April 1945.

It was: 9th US-army
XIX US-corps (McLain)

83rd US Infantry Division (Macon)
and especially in the north-west Harz the
329th Infantry Regiment

And one of the three Battalions of this regiment was in Vienenburg. May not be possible now to find out, which company, platoon or even group has been there. They must also have had tanks in Vienenburg. The tanks stood on the end of our street beside a little creek. I think you can find it in the war-diary of the 9th Division.

I know, it cannot be very easy for you to answer my expactations. But I hope you'll have some sympathy for my solicitation. It would be great if you could tell me the names of that soldiers. May be possible if some of them are still alive and you could bring me in touch with them. You know as well as I know that soldiers are able to remember things from the war which are 40 years ago. They know details from the war you are surprised. You will agree with me that it would be fantastic to make a meeting- if possible.

In expectation hoping to your answer, I thank you.

With my best regards,

DENSCH

Editors Note:

We do not have the complete address of Mr. Densch for you to answer his request for information. Please send any information you may have or wish to contribute to:

Bernie Cove
Box 274
South Fallsburg, NY 12779

Medal is coming 40 years late

Hallstead vet awaiting Bronze Star from WW2

By JERRY HANDTE

HALLSTEAD, Pa. — In Normandy, on a summer day in 1944, a German soldier pulled the pin on a hand grenade and tossed the grenade over a tall, thick hedgegrow.

On the other side of the hedge, separating fields worked by Norman farmers in peacetime, Elmer Rumage, now 63, of 14 Church St., Hallstead, Pa., was headed for a corner of a field and an opening to the next one when the grenade exploded.

Rumage, then a rifleman of the 83rd Infantry Division, received a number of wounds from grenade fragments. Now, 39 years later, he will receive recognition.

The 83rd landed on Omaha Beach on June 8, 1944, D-Day plus two, and worked its way out of Normandy beachhead with other American and British divisions.

The division, formed in Ohio to go to France in the spring of 1918 to win the "war to end wars," spent the late summer and fall of 1944 fighting across northern France, through Luxembourg and Belgium, and into the German Rhineland.

Rumage once was wounded in the buttocks by a German rifle shot, when his platoon had fought its way behind disorganized German troops.

The worst of three hits for Rumage came when his platoon was under fire from German artillery. Shrapnel ripped into his right arm, which has not been right since, although he still bowls right-handed.

Rumage recently retired from Vail-Ballou Press in the Kirkwood Industrial Park, where he had been a printer for 15 years.

Before that, he was a tractor-trailer driver for three years. And before his over-the-road years, he worked at the Hallstead Iron Foundry for 15 years.

When he was drafted in November 1942, Rumage was a cafeteria worker in an aircraft factory in Hartford, Conn.

He is a quiet man, who played baseball before World War II but had to give it up after the war because he no longer could raise his arm to throw a ball.

The grenade, the rifle shot and the shell translated themselves into a Purple Heart Medal with two Oakleaf Clusters and a stiff arm.

News of a higher decoration for the Pennsylvanian - a Bronze Star for meritorious service - came to Rumage (a French named pronounced ROOM-ahge) in general orders of the 83rd Division dated 16 October 1945.

The orders read, in part:

"PFC Elmer Rumage (is awarded the Bronze Star)...for distinguishing himself by meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States from 4 July 1944 to 5 May 1945."

Shortly before he received an honorable discharge from the army in November 1945 at Fort Devens, Mass., near Boston, Rumage received a citation for the Bronze Star from his divisional headquarters.

Maj. Gen. John L. Marsh Jr., division commander, awarded the medal to Rumage because, says the citation, he "performed his duties in a highly commendable and exemplary manner, often working long hours in hazardous conditions..."

The medal, hung by a ribbon from a clasp, and the accompanying lapel pin, never was sent to Rumage.

Rumage gave his best girl an engagement ring less than a minute before he climbed on a train after his last leave before going overseas.

They became Elmer and Ruth Rumage Dec. 14, 1945, less than a month after he became a civilian again.

The Rumages, fellow students at Baptist Bible Seminary, raised a family of three sons and two daughters, including overseas Baptist missionaries.

Ruth and the children thought her husband and their father should have his Bronze Star.

Ruth Rumage, last fall, wrote to the Veterans Administration about it, enclosing copies of his military papers.

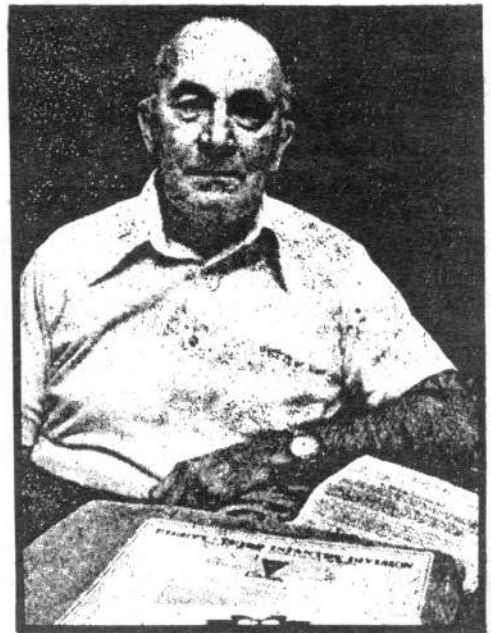
Elmer Rumage, who has a 40 percent disability rating and is a member of a Scranton, Pa., chapter of Disabled American Veterans, got a letter from the VA last month, confirming the award of his Bronze Star and explaining the 39-year delay.

A VA representative said a fire that destroyed a warehouse in Ohio filled with military records had sidetracked the delivery of many such World War II decorations.

The VA letter said Rumage might have to wait as long as 140 days for his medal - or until April - because they are temporarily in short supply.

The Rumages advise other veterans promised medals they never got to write to the VA, with help from local veterans organizations like the DAV.

This man is not on our roster of 83rd Association. Perhaps some one from this outfit might be interested what has happened to him.



John Cupina
G-329

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

HELLO BUDDIES:

Here it is that time again, time to sit down and write a letter to all our Buddies, and as we approach the Holiday Season, extend Best wishes for a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

As we look at the date on the calendar, we can't help but see that another year has passed us by, adding yet another year to the milestone of our life.

As we take time out to think about things, I just noticed on the calendar that Saturday is December 7th, a date for all of us to remember, the date of Pearl Harbor Attack, and to me it is another great day to remember, on the morning of December 7th, 1945, I stepped off the train in Ardmore, Pennsylvania and walked across the Lincoln Highway to catch a trolley that took me back to my Wife, who got a pleasant surprise when I rang the doorbell and she found me back home once again to continue our married life, which had been broken up by my being away in the Army.

This year, 40 years later, we will be able to celebrate a MERRY CHRISTMAS to-gether again. Although we have both been in failing health this past four or five years, we still have each other.

As we sit and think of the past, we begin to realize how lucky many of us were to be able to come back home as we did. To-night on the TV, was the show, "THE RATTLE OF THE BULGE" and although our Units weren't in the pictures, it brought back many memories. To all of you may I say, GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

Your Buddy
Larry Redmond

Dear Robert Derickson,

I was in Co. F of the 329th 83rd div. I was wounded on or around July 22, 1944. I am trying to find anyone who was around at the time of my injury. I received my injuries in St. Lo France. I was a second machine gunner.

When I was hit, I was taken to the First Aid Station. We were then loaded into a Red Cross Ambulance. They had 3 of us on one side and had gone to get someone else. Then a shell hit the side of the ambulance and destroyed the ambulance as well as the First Aid Station. We were trapped in the ambulance the whole day and night, the next morning new troops came up and heard our screaming and forced the doors open and gave us water from their canteens. About 11 a.m., 2 jeeps came to our rescue. They had stretchers over the hood and back seat of the jeeps. they loaded us in and drove us back to the English Channel, then on to a LST Navy Hospital Ship, then on to a Salisbury England hospital.

This is the information I need verified. If you know of anyone who can verify this, I would appreciate it greatly if they would write to me. Best Wishes.

Yours truly,
Roland Tripoli
10323 Santana Ranch Dr. Santee, CA 92071

Dear Bob:

I finally made it to a reunion again and it was wonderful seeing all the 83'rd'ers again. Had a wonderful time even if I did have to change buses four times to get there.

The trip to West Point was also nice and especially the memorial services. But all the reunions were great and the Chapters sure do a good job of having great reunions. I was glad to see that a few of the 908th BATRY was there. Maybe if you have room in the Thunderbolt you can list their names, Clevenger and Eleanor, Boucher and Sue, Boyers and Dolores, Bernhardt and Ann and also Adachowski and Mary and also me, Grace. Maybe if some more of the 908th see the names in the Thunderbolt that the 908th is still going to the reunions they might come next year. Also included is the ten dollars for the Thunderbolt and will you please reinstate Charlie Dailey. I have the impression that he thinks if he doesn't go to the reunions then you don't bother with the Thunderbolt. His address is Box 312 Claysville, Pennsylvania, 15323. Maybe next year some of those other 908th's will go to the reunion. Say Hello to Pearl. I think I saw her one night in the Persian room and I wanted to go and talk to her but then the show started and later on I looked to see if she was still there but she had gone.

Well you two take good care of yourselves and I know I'm going to the reunion next year.

Sincerely,
Grace Brick

OPINION

Parts of the fall issue of the Thunderbolt - Vol. 41 No. 1, have really teed me off. I enjoy reading all articles and seeing pictures in the Thunderbolts because they represent the 83rd Assoc., however, I do not enjoy seeing pictures and reading articles of Russian soldiers and especially the pictures on pages 28 & 29, of a Russian with our 83rd triangular patch on his left shoulder. I'm sick and tired of reading about Mr. Wm. Kent O'Connell's buddy Zinori Zuemandvski, his pictures and about his Dental office. I thought we had seen and read enough about the Russians in the Summer issue of 1985, Vol. 40, No. 4. There are at least four pictures of Zinori and other Russians, this so soon after you published a letter written to Zinori (Winter issue 1984, Vol. 39, No. 2) in which you protested the shooting down of a commercial So. Korean Jet by a Russian rocket and stated "One Russian Rocket equals the loss of 239 innocent civilians of multi-national backgrounds of which 51 were U.S. Citizens, including a member of the Congress of the United States." You signed the letter "In anger and sorrow, Kent".

I'm sorry to be so bitter about this but I had to get it off my chest and I know that many 83rd members join me in saying "We Have Had Enough. PLEASE No More Publicity about the Russians."

Lee Titus
Co. G, 331st Inf.

This is a personal opinion of one individual and does not necessarily represent the view(s) of the publisher, editor or of the 83rd Association. The author of this opinion is solely responsible.

AMERICA IS NUMBER ONE THANKS TO OUR VETERANS

Several months ago, I asked our publisher if he would consider publishing this information that most of you could probably use, or maybe even your children who might have been in the service. To my knowledge, this was never in the T'Bolt. Permission was received from the V.A. to have this put in our book.

I don't know how many issues it will take to get this all, but space permitting, in time you will have all of it and you should keep it for reference when it is of use to you. Some information was left out because I thought it didn't pertain to us and if there is something you think is missing, you can always get an answer from your nearest V.A. Office. They are the experts and have all the answers.

Remember that this information concerns our women who served and are entitled to the same benefits as men veterans since Public Law 98-160 was passed in November of 1983. Parents, children, brothers and sisters are also mentioned as you read along. Hope this is of help to most to you.

I will try to keep you informed on all the changes that are passed along to me from time to time. Lately many things have been changing especially where they concern the veteran. Don't forget that we are "Number One" and the "American Veteran" has made that possible. **Samuel Klippa** (*With permission of the V.A.*)

VETERANS BENEFITS FOR VETERANS AND DEPENDENTS

Veterans Administration benefits counselors are as near as your telephone. Toll-free benefits information is available to all veterans at V.A. Regional offices. See the listing of V.A. facilities in your local telephone directory assistance operator. You can also get information from state and local offices of veterans affairs.

There is a National toll-free number for Prisoners of War - 800 821 8139, and they offer special assistance. Calls received in Washington, D.C. after normal business hours are recorded for response the next business day.

Women veterans are entitled to the same benefits as men veterans. Public Law 89-160 enacted in 1983, assures that appropriate care is provided in a timely fashion to any eligible woman veteran for any gender-specific disability. The care is provided in a V.A. facility or is made available through V.A. contracts with private health care providers or sharing agreements with other health care agencies and facilities.

V.A. BENEFITS Compensation

Eligibility

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

Nature of Benefits

Veterans who are found to be eligible for disability compensation are entitled to monthly payments. These range from \$62 for a 10 percent degree of disability to \$1,213 for 100 percent disability rating.

In addition, specific rates, up to \$3,461 per month, are paid when the eligible veteran is adjudged to have suffered certain specific, severe disabilities. These are all decided on an individual basis.

Allowances for Dependents

Veterans whose service-connected disabilities are rated 30 percent or more are entitled to additional allowances for dependents. (The additional amount is determined according to the number of dependents and degree of disability.)

In lieu of additional compensation payable on account of spouse, a disabled veteran evaluated 30 percent or more is entitled to receive an allowance for a spouse who is in need of the aid and attendance of another person. The maximum amount of \$134 is payable to 100 percent disabled veteran with proportionately reduced amounts payable to veterans evaluated from 30 to 90 percent disabled.

Prisoners of War

Former prisoners of war who were incarcerated for at least 30 days are entitled to a presumption of service connection for disabilities resulting from certain diseases if manifested to a degree of 10 percent at any time after active service, including psychosis and the anxiety states, regardless of when first shown. These presumptions may be rebutted by proof of other intervening causes.

OLD LAW PENSION - ENTITLEMENT PRIOR TO Income JULY 1, 1960

Countable income includes all income received by the individual, less specific exclusions. The income of the veteran's spouse is not countable. The income limitations are \$5,490 for a veteran with no dependents and \$7,919 for a veteran with dependents.

Reduction While in Hospital, Nursing Home or Domiciliary

When a veteran without a spouse or child is furnished hospital, nursing home or domiciliary care by the V.A., the pension is reduced to \$30 or fifty percent of the amount of the pension payable, whichever is greater, after six full months of care. Payment of the amount withheld may be made upon termination of hospitalization.

HOSPITALIZATION

Eligibility - General

Discharge or release from the active military service under conditions other than dishonorable.

General Admission Priorities

FIRST - Veterans needing hospitalization because of injuries of disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in active service have top priority for admission for treatment of the service-incurred or service-aggravated disability.

SECOND - Veterans who were discharged or retired for disability incurred or aggravated in line of duty or who were receiving compensation, or would be eligible to receive compensation, except for receipt of retirement pay, who need treatment for some ailment not connected with service, will be admitted as beds are available.

THIRD - Veterans who were not discharged or retired for disability or are not receiving compensation, and who apply for treatment of non-service connected disability may be admitted to a V.A. hospital (1) if hospitalization is deemed necessary, (2) if they are unable to defray the cost of necessary hospital charges elsewhere and (3) if beds are available. **NOTE:** The "Inability to Pay" requirement does not apply to any veteran who is 65 years of age or older, is in receipt of V.A. pension, is eligible for Medicaid, is rated service-connected, or is a former P.O.W. Also the requirement does not apply to veterans requesting medical services in connection with exposure to dioxin or exposure to toxic substance in Nam, August 5, 1967 through May 7, 1975; or to veterans requesting medical services in connection with exposure to ionizing radiation from the detonation of a nuclear device as a result of participation in either the testing of such a device or the American occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki, Japan, between September 11, 1945, and July 1, 1946.

Where to Apply

Any V.A. Medical facility

AID AND ATTENDANCE OF HOUSEBOUND

A veteran who is a patient in a nursing home or otherwise determined to be in need of the regular aid and attendance of another person, or is permanently housebound, may be entitled to higher income limitations or additional benefits, depending on the type of pension received.

Purpose

NURSING HOME CARE

To provide skilled or intermediate type nursing care and related medical care in V.A. or private nursing homes for convalescent or persons who are not acutely ill and not in need of hospital care.

Eligibility

For admission or transfer to a V.A. Nursing Care Units, it is essentially the same as for hospitalization. Direct admission to private nursing homes at V.A. expense is limited to (1) veterans who require nursing care for a service-connected disability after medical determination by the V.A., and (2) any person in an Armed Forces hospital who requires a protracted period of nursing care and who will become a veteran upon discharge from the Armed Forces. V.A. may transfer hospitalized veterans who need a protracted period of nursing care to a private nursing home at V.A. expense. Normally V.A. authorized care may not be provided for a service-connected disability.

General Admission Priorities

Veterans in need of care in a V.A. Nursing Home Care Unit may be admitted or transferred according to the following priorities:

FIRST - Veterans receiving hospital or domiciliary care in a V.A. facility when transfer is required for service-connected or adjunct disabilities and persons being furnished care in Armed Forces hospitals who will require a protracted period of nursing home care upon release therefrom, and will become veterans on discharge from active military service.

SECOND - Veterans not hospitalized or domiciled who are receiving V.A. hospital care and require nursing home care for nonservice-connected disabilities.

THIRD - Veterans with service-connected disability who are receiving V.A. hospital care and require nursing home care for nonservice-connected disabilities.

FOURTH - Veterans with a service-connected disability not hospitalized by the V.A. who require nursing home care for nonservice-connected disabilities.

FIFTH - Veterans receiving hospital or domiciliary care in a V.A. facility whose transfer is required for nonservice-connected disabilities.

SIXTH - Veterans not hospitalized or domiciled by V.A. who require nursing home care for nonservice-connected disabilities.

Where to Apply

Any V.A. Office.

DOMICILIARY CARE

For Veterans Who Have a Permanent Disability

Purpose

To provide care on an ambulatory self-care basis for veterans disabled by age or disease who are not in need of acute hospitalization and who do not need the skilled nursing services provided in nursing homes.

Eligibility

Veterans of the various military services who were discharged for a disability or are in receipt of disability compensation and suffering from a permanent disability, have no adequate means of support, are incapacitated from earning a living and meet certain other requirements. Veterans with nonservice-connected disabilities that incapacitate them from earning a living, but which are not so severe as to require hospitalization, are also eligible if they are unable to defray the expense of domiciliary care and if they meet certain other requirements for residence in a domiciliary.

Where to Apply

At any V.A. Office. Prior approval needed for admission.

PROSTHETIC APPLIANCES

Eligibility

All Veterans

Veterans may be provided prosthetic appliances necessary for treatment of any condition when receiving hospital, domiciliary or nursing home care in

a facility under the direct jurisdiction of the V.A. Veterans who meet the basic requirements for outpatient medical treatment may be provided prosthetic services if the appliance is required: (1) For service-connected disability or adjunct condition, (2) for a disability for which a veteran was discharged or released from the active military, naval or air service, (3) for a veteran participating in a Rehabilitation Program, (4) for a Spanish-American War Veteran, (5) as part of outpatient care to complete treatment of a disability for which hospital treatment was provided, (6) for any medical condition for a veteran with a service-connected disability rated at 50% or more, (7) for a veteran in receipt of increased pension or allowance based on the need of aid and attendance or being permanently housebound, (8) for a veteran of World War I or the Mexican Border period, or (9) for a former prisoner of war.

Where to Apply

Any V.A. Office.

AIDS AND SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

Eligibility **All Veterans**

Blind veterans of World World I, the Spanish-American War or Mexican Border period; or non-service-connected former P.O.W.'s; or veterans entitled to receive compensation from the V.A. for any service-connected condition; or increased pension based on the need for regular aid and attendance, or increased pension by reason of being permanently housebound, are eligible to receive authorized aids for the blind.

Veterans with best-corrected vision no better than 20/200 or less field defect of 20 degrees or less are considered to be blind.

Blind veterans need not be receiving compensation or pension to be eligible admission to a V.A. Blind Rehabilitation Center of Clinic.

Nature of Benefit

1. Annual Visual Impairment Services Team review (total health and benefits review) provided to eligible blind veterans.

2. Adjustment to blind training.

3. Home improvements and structural alterations to homes (HISA PROGRAM). There are also "Specially Adapted Homes."

4. Low vision aids and training in their use.

5. Approved electronic and mechanical aids for the blind, and their necessary repair and replacement.

6. Guide dogs, including the expense of training the veterans to use the dog, and the cost of the dog's medical attention.

7. Talking books, tapes and braille literature are available from the Library of Congress.

Where to Apply

To apply for these services veterans may contact the coordinator for the blind at any V.A. medical center. For the talking books, etc., veterans may contact either the medical center librarian or the coordinator for the blind.

OUTPATIENT MEDICAL TREATMENT

Purpose **All Veterans**

To provide necessary medical services to eligible veterans on an outpatient basis within the limits of Veterans Administration facilities.

Nature of Benefit

Outpatient medical treatment includes medical examination and related medical services including rehabilitation, consultation, professional counseling, training and mental health services as necessary in connection with treatment of physical and mental disabilities.

As part of outpatient medical treatment veterans may be eligible for home health services necessary or appropriate for the effective and economical treatment of disabilities, including such home improvements and structural alterations as are determined necessary to assure the continuation of treatment or to provide access to the home or to essential lavatory and sanitary facilities. Cost limitations apply to these improvements and structural alterations.

Eligibility

1. Any veteran, for service-connected disability

2. Any veteran discharged or released from active military, naval or air service for a disability incurred in line of duty, for that disability.

3. Any veteran with a service-connected disability rated at 50% or more, for any medical condition.

4. Any veteran of World War I or the Mexican Border period, any veteran in receipt of aid and attendance or household benefits, or any former P.O.W. for any medical condition.

5. Spanish-American War veterans, for any disability.

6. Certain disabled veterans participating in a rehabilitation program under chapter 31, title 38, U.S. code.

7. Any veteran eligible for hospitalization, for medical services on an ambulatory care basis when such services are reasonably necessary in preparation for hospital admission or to make the need for hospital admission necessary.

8. Any veteran who has been granted hospital care, medical services reasonably necessary to complete treatment incident to such hospital care.

9. Commonwealth army veterans and new Philippine scouts for service-connected disabilities.

Eligible veterans may be furnished drugs or medicine ordered on prescription.

OUTPATIENT DENTAL TREATMENT

Purpose **All Veterans**

To provide necessary dental services to eligible veterans on an outpatient basis.

Eligibility

1. Veterans whose dental conditions or disabilities are service-connected and compensable in degree may apply at any time.

2. Veterans whose dental conditions or disabilities are service-connected but not compensable in degree, and which are shown to have been in existence at time of discharge or release from active service of at least 180 days must apply to V.A. for outpatient dental care for the service-connected dental condition within 90 days of separation.

3. Veterans with service-connected noncompensable dental conditions resulting from combat wounds or service injuries and former prisoners of war whose service-connected noncompensable dental conditions may apply at any time.

4. Veterans who were prisoners of war for six months or more, and certain veterans who are receiving disability compensation at the 100% rate for service-connected conditions may apply at any time.

5. Veterans whose nonservice-connected dental conditions are determined by the V.A. to be associated with or aggravating a service-connected condition may apply at any time.

6. Disabled veterans participating in a rehabilitation program and Spanish-American War veterans who need dental treatment may apply for this type of treatment as needed.

7. Veterans with nonservice-connected dental condition or disability for which treatment was begun while such veteran was receiving hospital care at V.A. expense when it is professionally determined to be reasonably necessary to complete such dental treatment on an outpatient basis.

Nonapplicable Conditions

1. Veterans in receipt of aid and attendance or housebound benefits are not entitled to dental treatment on an outpatient basis, unless such treatment was started during a period of inpatient care.

2. Veterans whose entitlement to medical services is based solely on need of ambulatory care in preparation for, or to obviate the need of, hospitalization are not entitled to outpatient dental care.

Where to Apply

Any V.A. Office.

SECTION 306 (PUBLIC LAW 86-211) PENSION

Income

Countable income includes all income received by the individual, less specific exclusions. The income received by the veterans spouse is countable income under certain circumstances. The income limitations are \$6,273 for a veteran with no dependents and \$8,435 for a veteran with dependents.

Reduction while in Hospital, Nursing Home or Domiciliary

The restrictions which apply under improved pension also apply to the section 306 plan.

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

World War II educational assistance ran out many years ago.

PENSION

For Veterans of World War II Korean Conflict Period Vietnam Era With Nonservice-Connected Disabilities Eligibility

For wartime veterans with limited income discharged under other than dishonorable conditions after 90 days or more service (or separated from service earlier because of service-connected disability) who are permanently and totally disabled from reasons not traceable to service, or due to wilful misconduct or vicious habits. Veterans 65 years of age or older and not working are considered permanently and totally disabled. Pension is not payable to those who have estates that can provide adequate maintenance.

Periods of Wartime Service For Pension Disability

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

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

Vietnam Era - August 5, 1964, through May 7, 1975.

IMPROVED PENSION

Effective December 1, 1983, the improved pension program provides for the following annual rates, generally payable monthly, reduced by the amount of the annual countable income of the veteran, spouse and dependent children if any.

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Veteran without dependent spouse or child . . . | \$5,515. |
| Veteran with one dependent (spouse or child) . . . | \$7,225. |
| Veteran in need of regular aid and attendance without dependents | \$8,823. |
| Veteran in need of regular aid and attendance with one dependent | \$10,533. |
| Veteran permanently housebound without dependents | \$6,745 |
| Veteran permanently housebound with one dependent | \$8,451 |
| Two veterans married to one another | \$7,225. |
| Increase for each additional dependent | \$935. |

Reduction While in Hospital, Nursing Home or Domiciliary

While a veteran without a spouse or a child is being furnished domiciliary care by the V.A., the pension is reduced to an amount not in excess of \$60 per month after two full calendar months of care, or if furnished hospital or nursing home care the reduction will be after three full calendar months of care, unless the hospital or nursing home care is being continued for the primary purpose of providing the veteran with a prescribed program of rehabilitation services.

G.I. LOANS FOR HOMES, CONDOMINIUMS, AND MANUFACTURED HOMES

For Veterans Who Served During A Period Which Occured Between September 6, 1940 and the Present; Eligible Unmarried Surviving Spouses of Such Veterans; for Spouses of Service Personnel Officially Listed as Missing in Action or Captured for More than 90 Days, and for Service Personnel Who Have Served at Least 181 Days.

CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

All Eligible Veterans

Eligibility

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

Nature of Benefit

Annual clothing allowance of \$327.

Where to Apply

Any V.A. Office.

AUTOMOBILES OR OTHER CONVEYANCES

For Veterans and Current Service Personnel

Eligibility

Veterans and current service personnel with service-connected loss, or permanent loss of use, of one or both hands or feet, or permanent impairment of vision of both eyes to a prescribed degree.

For adaptive equipment eligibility only, veterans entitled to compensation for ankylosis of one or both knees, or one or both hips, also qualify.

Nature of Benefit

For the automobile or other conveyance: A one-time payment by the V.A. of not more than \$4400 toward the purchase of an automobile or other conveyance.

for adaptive equipment: Payment for the adaptive equipment, its repair, replacement or re-installation required because of disability for the safe operation of the vehicle purchased with V.A. assistance for a previously or subsequently acquired vehicle.

Where to Apply

Any V.A. Office.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

For veterans of World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Post Korean Conflict, the Vietnam Era and certain Peacetime Veterans.

Eligibility

Veterans who served in the Armed Forces during World War II or thereafter are eligible for vocational rehabilitation if all three of the following conditions are met:

(a) They suffered service-connected disability in active service which entitles them to compensation, or would do so but for receipt of retirement pay;

(b) They were discharged or released under other than dishonorable conditions, and;

(c) The V.A. determines that they need vocational rehabilitation to overcome the handicap to employment caused by their disabilities.

The Period of Eligibility

Generally, the veteran must complete a rehabilitation program within the 12-year period from the date of notification of entitlement to V.A. compensation. This period may be extended if the veteran was unable to train for a period because of medical condition.

Length of Rehabilitation Program

Eligible disabled veterans may get training up to total of 4 years, or its equivalent in part-time or combination of part-time and full-time training, and in some cases exceeding 4 years. If a veteran with a serious disability receives services under an extended evaluation program to improve his or her training potential, the total of the extended evaluation and training phases of the rehabilitation program may not exceed 4 years.

Following the completion of the training portion of a rehabilitation program, a veteran may generally receive counseling and job search and adjustment services for 18 months. This job search help may also be given veterans who previously took part in a rehabilitation program for at least 90 days under either the V.A. or a State rehabilitation agency.

Type of Rehabilitation Program

A disabled veteran will be given an initial evaluation to establish eligibility and entitlement and to determine whether extended evaluation, independent living services, educational or vocational training, or employment assistance is needed.

Eligible veterans may: (a) enroll in schools or colleges; (b) train on the job or in an apprentice program; (c) take institutional on-farm training (d) enter other programs which combine school and job training, or (e) train in special rehabilitation facilities or at home when this is necessary because of serious disability. Veterans who are seriously disabled may receive services and assistance to improve their ability to live more independently in their community.

After completion of training, the V.A. will assist the veteran to find and hold a suitable job.

Subsistence Allowances and Rehabilitation Program Costs

While in training and for 2 months after, eligible disabled veterans may receive subsistence allowances in addition to their disability compensation. The costs of tuition, books, fees and supplies are paid by the V.A. If during the training program the veteran runs into unexpected financial difficulty, a no-interest loan may be provided to help the veteran meet his or her financial responsibilities. The V.A. may also pay for tutorial assistance and for extraordinary transportation expenses to and from the training facility based upon the veteran's disabilities.

Work Study

(Pertains to: "G.I. Bill Educational Training.")

SURVIVORS' AND DEPENDENTS EDUCATION

Who Are Eligible

Generally survivors of deceased veterans, spouses of living veterans and children of either, between 18 and 26 years old, when the death or permanent and total disability was the result of service in the Armed Forces after the beginning of the Spanish-American War on April 21, 1898, are eligible.

Spouses and children of servicemen or servicewomen, who are in one of the following three categories, are eligible as long as the serviceman or servicewoman has been listed for more than 90 days and remains in one of the following categories: missing in action, captured in line of duty, for forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign power.

If eligible children under 18 have (a) graduated from high school or (b) are above the age of compulsory attendance, the V.A. may begin assistance for this schooling before they reach 18.

In some instances, handicapped children may begin a special vocational or restorative course as early as age 14.

Periods of Eligibility

The period of eligibility for educational or special restorative training ends on an eligible child's 26th birthday (unless extended under certain conditions.)

Generally, the period of eligibility for a spouse or survivor extends to 10 years from the date the veteran was first found to have service-connected disability, whichever is or was later. For spouses of service personnel missing in action, captured in line of duty, or forcibly detained, or interned in line of duty, eligibility extends to December 24, 1980, or 10 years from the date the spouse was listed, whichever is later.

The delimiting date for a spouse pursuing apprenticeship, on-the-job or correspondence training will be based on the 10 year period, or October 24, 1982, whichever is later.

Spouses who were prevented from beginning or completing their chosen program of education because of a physical or mental disability not the result of their own willful misconduct may receive an extension of a delimiting date.

Counseling

The eligible child may receive, upon request, V.A. educational or vocational counseling to assist in selection of a goal and the development of a program of education. An educational plan must be submitted by or for the eligible child showing the selected goal, the program of education, school or schools he or she plans to attend, and an estimate of the total cost of the education. The plan becomes part of the education.

Counseling is available to spouses and survivors on request.

Effect of Marriage

A child's marriage will be no barrier. A survivor's remarriage terminates entitlement unless the remarriage is terminated by death or divorce.

Length of Training

Up to 45 months of schooling - or the equivalent of 45 months if enrolled part time. The aggregate entitlement to educational benefits for persons having entitlement under two or more programs may not exceed 48 months.

Type of Training

Training may be taken in any approved vocational school, business school, college, professional school, or

any establishment providing apprentice or other training on-the-job. Spouses and survivors may also pursue training in secondary schools, by correspondence or in educational institutions offering a farm cooperative program. A program of education outside of the United States may be pursued only at an approved educational institution of higher learning.

All courses must be approved by the designated State approving agency.

Monthly Rates

Monthly Rates under this program are the same rates payable to veterans without dependents pursuing similar programs under chapter 34.

Tutorial Assistance

Tutorial assistance payments as described under G.I. Bill Educational Training apply as well to eligible survivors and dependents.

Education Loan Program

An eligible person, whose eligibility period has expired and who has remaining entitlement, may during the first two years after the eligibility period obtain an education loan. The student may borrow up to \$2,500 per academic year to continue a full-time course leading to a standard college degree. Also, a loan may be provided for those enrolled in a course leading to a professional or vocational objective, which generally requires at least six months to complete. The interest bearing loan is based upon financial need.

Where to Apply

Any V.A. Office.

MEDICAL CARE FOR DEPENDENTS OR SURVIVORS

Eligibility

The Civilian Health and Medical Benefits Program of the Veterans Administration (CHAMPVA) is a medical benefits program through which the V.A. helps pay for medical services and supplies obtained from civilian sources by eligible dependents and survivors of certain veterans. The following persons are eligible for CHAMPVA provided they are not eligible for medical care under CHAMPUS or Medicare:

—The spouse or child of a veteran who has a total disability, permanent in nature, resulting from service-connected disability;

—The surviving spouse or child of a veteran who died as a result of service-connected disability, or who at the time of death had a total disability, permanent in nature, resulting from service-connected disability;

—The surviving spouse or child of a person who died while on active duty. This includes the surviving spouse who remarried and the subsequent marriage was terminated.

Normally care under CHAMPVA program will be provided in non-V.A. facilities. V.A. facilities may be utilized for treatment when: (1) they are equipped to provide the care and (2) use of these facilities does not interfere with care and treatment of veterans.

Where to Apply Any V.A. medical facility

(To be continued in the next issue)

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Contact Bob Derickson

Reunion will be held at the HYATT REGENCY HOTEL in KNOXVILLE, TN. The dates are August 21,22,23, 1986. Start making your plans to attend the 40th reunion.

85-86 DUES ARE DUE NOW!!



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

**Robert Derickson
3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, OH 45013**

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BULLETIN

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Bob