



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 43 NO.1

Fall Issue 1987

THE 42nd ANNUAL REUNION



LET'S MAKE A DATE

SEPTEMBER 8-9-10, 1988

AT THE HERSHEY LODGE HERSHEY, PA.

WITH YOUR HOST CHAPTER *PHILLY*

THE THUNDERBOLT
Official Publication
83rd Infantry Division Association Inc.

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

Editor: Robert Derickson

STAFF REPORTERS

Vito Palazzolo 2000 Lancaster, Harper Woods, MI 48236	Francis G. Beerhalter ... 4548 Valley View St., Pittsburgh, PA 15214
Ambrose Tynan 121 Sanborn Ave., W. Robury, MA 02136	Leroy McManaway.... 218 Ashmore Bridge St., Mauldin, S.C. 29662
Nick Francullo 10 Bessom St., Lynn MA 01903	Dan McCarthy 3204 Layside Court, Louisville, KY 40220
Joe Adam 1753 Columbia Ave., Chicago, IL 60626	David Benick 353 Brittany H 353, Delray Beach, FL 33446
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Lee Titus 534 Roosevelt St. Warren, OH 44483	S. Bielen 71 Glenwood Terrace, Fords, NJ 08863
Al Uridel 3784 E. 53rd St., Cleveland, OH 44105	

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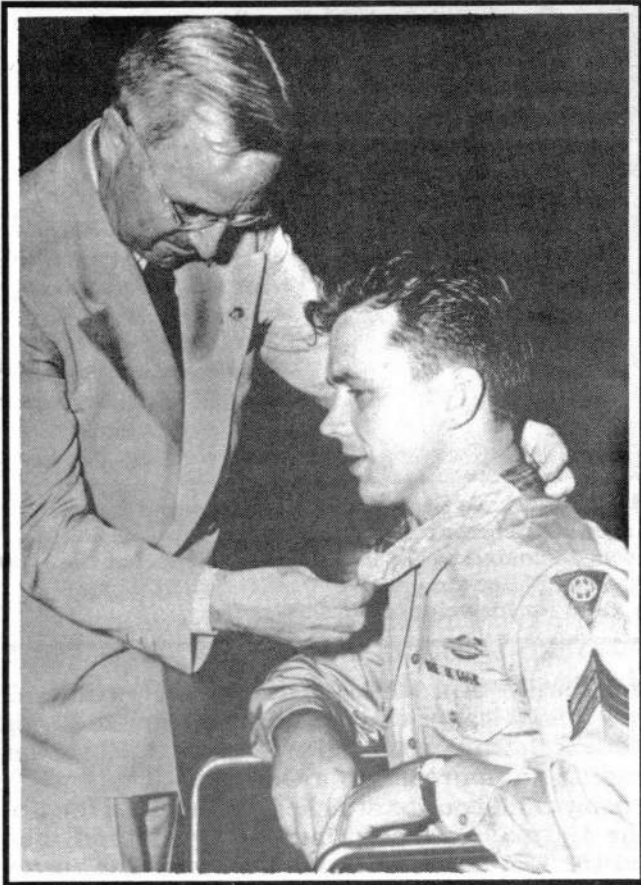
A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

*James C. Hanrahan 1947	*Frank J. McGrogan 1961	Bernard O. Riddle 1974
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*Joseph F. Minotti 1960	Louis J. Volpi 1973	John Hobbs 1986

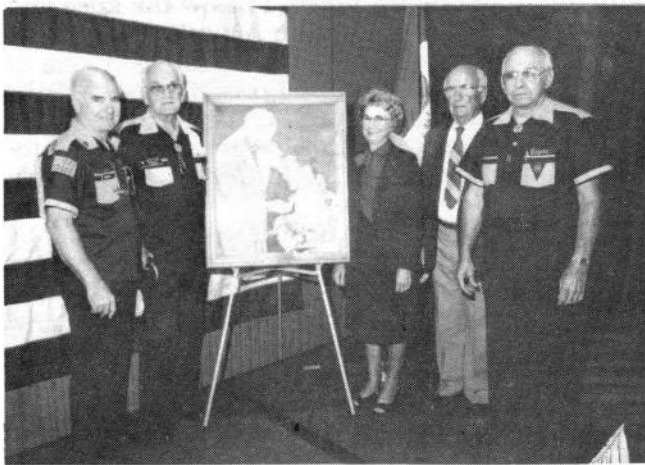
*Denotes Deceased



Buena Vista College
FOUNDERS' DAY
Sunday, September 6, 1987



August 23, 1945



Left to Right: Jules Desgain (Pittsburgh, Pa.), Sam Klippa (Pittsburgh, Pa.), Jean Neppel (Iowa City, Iowa), Louis Nolan (St. Peter, Min.), Edgar Haynes (Plattsmouth, Neb.)

RALPH G. NEPPEL

October 31, 1923 January 27, 1987



A native of Lidderdale, Iowa, SGT Neppel grew up on a rented farm with his widowed mother, and six brothers and sisters. In March of 1943, he entered the U.S. Army and deployed to Europe as a member of Company M, 329th Infantry, 83rd Division (Ohio).

SGT Neppel was the leader of a machine gun detachment in the American-held town of Birgel, Germany, on December 14, 1944, when combined forces of German tanks and infantry conducted a fierce counterattack on the town. SGT Neppel waited as a German tank and supporting infantrymen came to within 100 yards of his position, then opened fire, killing several enemy soldiers point blank range, the tank fired a high-velocity shell into SGT Neppel's emplacement. SGT Neppel was blown 10 yards from the position by the impact. With one leg severed at the knee, and severe injuries to his other leg SGT Neppel used his elbows to crawl back to the machine gun, reassembled it, then opened fire and eliminated the advancing German infantry. Losing the supporting infantrymen, the tank retreated.

For exceptionally meritorious heroism against an enemy of the United States, at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty, SGT Neppel was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Harry S. Truman in Washington, D.C., on August 23, 1945.

While convalescing at McCloskey Hospital in Temple, Texas, having been fitted with two artificial legs, Ralph married Jean Moore, his childhood sweetheart from Lidderdale. After returning home, Ralph graduated from Buena Vista College in Storm Lake and began work with the Veterans Administration in Waterloo, then Iowa City, where Ralph and Jean raised their four children.

In civilian life, Ralph was best known as a devoted family man. All who knew him felt his wit, humor, and fun-loving nature and were touched by the strength of his commitment as a friend and helper to others in need.



Jean Neppel & Family
Buena Vista College Iowa
September 6, 1987

MEMORIAL DAY

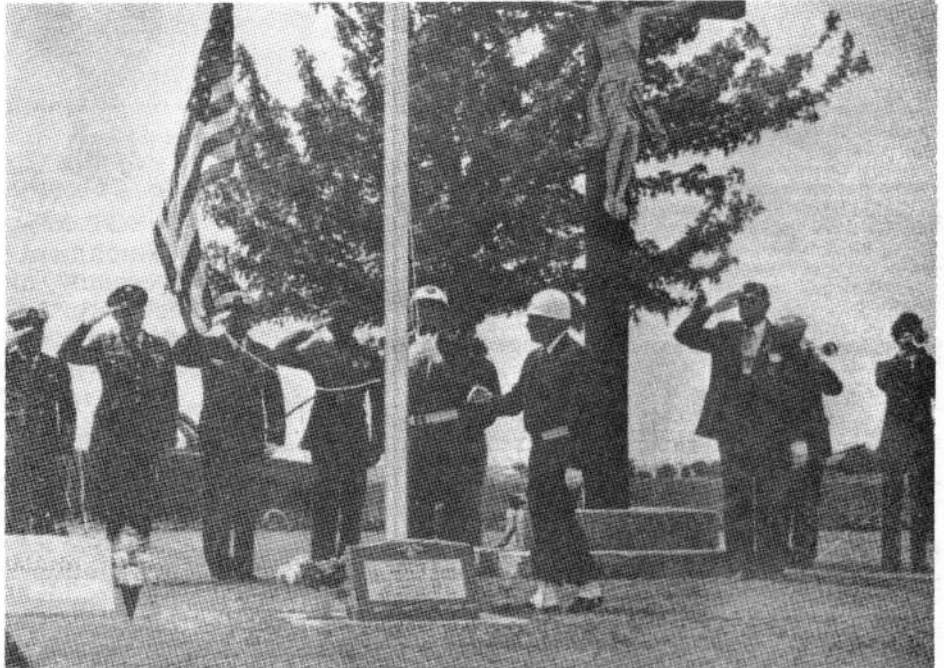
Neppel gets tribute fit for hero

By **LARRY DEVINE**
Times Herald News Editor

LIDDERDALE - Ralph Neppel's valor in World War II earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor. His zest for life and love for his family won him many friends and admirers.

Carrying that memory, about 125 friends and family members dedicated a memorial to Neppel Saturday afternoon at Holy Family Cemetery just south of Lidderdale. The Willey area native died on Jan. 27, at age 63, and he was buried at the Lidderdale cemetery.

Although he received the nation's highest military honor, Neppel insisted that he wasn't a hero. He maintained that the heroes didn't live.



Honor guards from various American Legion and Veterans of Foreign War clubs in the Carroll area participated in flag-raising ceremonies Saturday when a memorial was dedicated to the late Ralph G. Neppel at the Lidderdale cemetery. Neppel, a Willey-area native, received the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1945 for his valor in World War II.

Governor's Branstad Statement at Dedication of Carroll Armory September 11, 1987

General Christensen, thank you. It's a pleasure to be in Carroll today for the dedication of your new armory. The dedication of this new armory is yet another significant accomplishment for our Iowa National Guard. We are proud of our Iowa National Guard.

Presently, the Iowa Guard is at 100 percent of strength, the highest level of strength and readiness in recent history.

As we dedicate the Carroll armory today, I think it is only fitting that we take a few minutes to reflect on the outstanding history of this unit and its battalion affiliation.

The Second Battalion, 113rd Infantry, is headquartered in Sioux City, and has sister units throughout northwest Iowa. The battalion's history dates back to the Civil War and includes service in the Spanish - American War, World War I, and with the famous 34th Division in World War II. It is for these heroic deeds in World War II that this armory is being dedicated and will be forever remembered. The battalion's history continued in Vietnam, where 12 soldiers from this northwest Iowa battalion made the supreme sacrifice.

This battalion has a history of professionalism and sacrifice; a history that the members of the Carroll National Guard unit can be proud to be a part of.

The armory namesake is SGT Ralph Neppel, a

Carroll native and Medal of Honor recipient. SGT Neppel was a leader of a machinegun squad during World War II. On December 14, 1944, SGT Neppel was defending an approach to a German village - when an enemy tank counterattacked. He held his fire until the Germans were within 100 yards and then raked the foot soldiers beside the tank. The enemy tank continued to press forward and at pointblank range of 30 yards, fired a high velocity shell from his gun and had one leg severed below the knee and suffered other wounds. Despite his injuries and the danger from the onrushing tank, he dragged himself back to his position on his elbows, remounted the gun and killed the remaining enemy riflemen.

Ralph Neppel was proud to represent Iowa veterans on many occasions, including the Normandy Reunion of a few years ago.

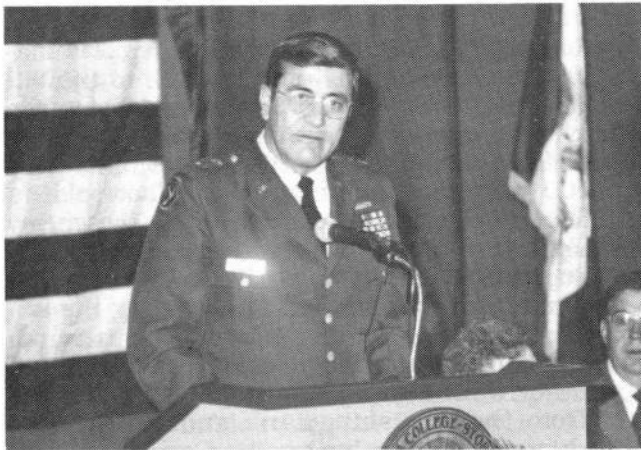
It is fitting that we pay tribute to SGT Neppel by naming this armory in his memory. This armory cost over \$760,000, with \$244,000 of that being funded by state government through lottery funds.

We are proud of this new National Guard armory.

We are even more proud of the dedicated men and women who make up this National Guard unit in Carroll, Iowa.

It is with great pleasure that I ask your commander, CPT Richard Schuett to come forward to receive the keys to the armory. Congratulations.

Terry E. Branstad
Governor



Iowa State Major General Warren G. Lawson (Adj. General) Sept. 6, 1987, Pres. Briscoe of Buena Vista College

Dear Bob:

Here are some pictures that we took at Buena Vista College.

Use them as you see fit.

We, all of the 83rd Personnel, were graciously and enthusiastically received by the Neppel's, the College and the Personnel of the Iowa National Guard. Betty and I were honored and pleased to have been able to represent such a great organization at two such auspicious occasions.

Ed and Betty Haynes



Left to right: Jules Desgain (Pittsburgh), Sam Klippa (Pittsburgh), Mrs. Louis Nolan (St. Petes, Mn), Louis Nolan (St. Petes, Mn.), Betty Haynes (Platsmouth, Ne), Ed Haynes (Platsmouth, Ne)

"Memories Never Die"

*Ralph Neppel was a courageous man
Who said Heroes are dead.
This became official Jan. 27th, 1987
A hero now, according to what he said.
He never thought of himself a Hero
No self pity for all that he lost.
A congressional medal of honor winner
Lost Both legs was the sacrifice cost.
Said He had a job to do
He was blown from his machine gun.
He crawled back on his elbows
Said with no legs he couldn't run.
He continued with his Heroic battle
Shooting down the enemy driving them
away.
Fighting for his life and his comrades
He was a Hero then, and still one today.
Ralph was always kind and cheerful
He would never grumble or complain.
Often he was a practical joker
One never knew when there was pain.
The memories will live on and on
His Heroism will never be buried.
His honor goes down in history
As a brave man of the Eighty-Third.
He will be missed by all comrades
Without his presence we all feel sad.
This Hero has gone to meet his maker
God Bless the Family, We loved your Dad.*

Haran Martin

Dear Bob:

Here are some pictures we took at the college.

We all were graciously received by the Neppel Family, the College and the Personnel of the National Guard.

It was an honor for Kate and I to represent the 83rd Inf. Division Association at such an occasion.

Lou and Kate Nolan

Ralph Neppel Dedication Ceremony

by Sam Klippa

I'm almost to the point of being late with this article because of my trip to Storm Lake in Iowa where I, along with Jules Desgains of the 908th, F.A. attended the Ceremony for the unvailing of the portrait of our one and only Ralph Neppel. It was a hectic trip and it's good to be home again. We just arrived home yesterday.

I had written a lot of notes previous to this and threw them away as they did not apply to this article. It was written at home partly and the rest in Iowa and it just didn't sound right. The instruction I received at home was not complete enough and those in Iowa didn't help much.

First, on the Reunion. There is no doubt in my mind that you will be reading about the Reunion in other articles from the Chapters and I will not bore you with repetition. It was O.K. Reunion to a point and it was a real pleasure to meet all of my "D" Company Buddies of the 331st. We had 23 there and I doubt very much that anyone had more. In all of the years that we had Reunions, I think that "D" Company held the record attendance for more than 35 of them. We'll continue to do so in the future. We still have to get those that never attended to come just once to meet with their Buddies of old, and then I know they will come every year.

Now for the trip to Iowa:

Sgt. Nolan, Col. Haynes, Sgt. Jules Desgains, and myself were the only ones in attendance at the Ceremony at the Buena Vista College, representing the 83rd. Infantry Division Association. Jules and I arrived there on Friday and didn't see anyone until Sunday just before the Luncheon. We were very disappointed and very downhearted on Saturday, but Sunday made a great difference. Sunday made the difference because we met a lot of the people we knew and a good many very friendly people from the College and the honored guests.

The Ceremony was called "Dedication of Portraits". It was to honor Ralph Neppel of the 83rd. Infantry and Captain Darrell R. Lindsey, both of whom attended the Buena Vista College. It was a rare occasion for one College to have two C.M.H. winners. This was also "Founders Day" at the College.

The welcome was given by Greg Evans who was the Director of Alumni Relations. Introduction was given by Dr. Robert Meinard, President of the Alumni Association. Invocation was by Rev. Lloyd DeJong, the College Chaplain. Remarks were given by Major General Warren G. Lawson who is the Adjutant General of Iowa. The Citations were by E.S. Lawbaugh who was the Director of Development; Lt. Col., U.S.M.C. (Ret.) and the closing remarks were made by Edgar Mack, Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Here is the reading of the Citation of Sgt. Ralph Neppel:

Rank and Organization: Sgt. U.S. Army, Company "M", 329th Infantry, 83rd. Infantry Division. Place and date: Birgel, Germany, 14 December 1944. Entered Service: Glidden, Iowa. Birth: Willey, Iowa.

G.O. number: 77, 10 September 1945.

Citation: Sgt. Ralph Neppel was leader of a machine gun squad defending an approach to the Village of Birgel, Germany, on 14 December 1944, when an enemy tank, supported by Infantrymen, counter-attacked. He held his fire until the Germans were within 100 yards and then raked the foot soldiers beside the tank, killing several of them. The enemy armor continued to press forward and, at point-blank range of 30 yards, fired a high velocity shell into the American emplacement, wounding the entire squad. Sgt. Ralph Neppel, blown 10 yards from his gun, had one leg severed below the knee and had several other wounds. Despite his injuries and the danger from the onrushing tank and infantry, he dragged himself back to his position on his elbows, remounted his gun and killed the remaining enemy riflemen. Stripped of its infantry protection, the tank was forced to withdraw. By his superb courage and indomitable fighting spirit, Sgt. Neppel inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy and broke a determined counterattack.

Sgt. Neppel graduated from Buena Vista College in 1952.

The Ceremony was very touching and at times a tear jerker. The four of us from the 83rd. were honored to be the ones to unvail the Portrait of Ralph with President Truman handing him the Congressional Medal of Honor in Washington, D.C. I'll never forget the occasion. It was a real pleasure to meet his wife Jean there, along with his wonderful family and grandson. Many thanks to all of you for having us there. Too bad we had to leave right after the Ceremonies or we would have had a better chance to get to know all of you. It was a long way home and we wanted to make some time on Sunday so that we would get home sooner. Jules was going on another trip the following weekend.

In the beginning, I had some problems getting someone to go along with me to share the driving. Gene Costanzo was originally going, but had to cancel out because of his bleeding piles. Joe Danylo couldn't go because of his business and he had two employees on vacation and no replacement for them. Jules Desgain agreed to go along and this made my day. It seemed like I wasn't going to make it.

Anyhow, we left on September 3rd at 6:30 A.M. and traveled about 525 miles the first day, to the west side of Ottawa in Illinois. The next day, we traveled about 471 miles to Storm Lake in Iowa. Saturday we figured would be a day of rest so we just goofed around town, checked out the College and the surrounding area. Looked at the Show of balloons crossing over for the Labor Day Celebration, stopped in at an antique display. We went to the local Armory to see if the Armory Dedication was there and found out that it was not. Went to the AMVETS Club to see if they knew anything, and they did not. We decided that it would be best to wait until Sunday to be updated on what was going on.

When we arrived in Iowa City in the morning, we called Mrs. Neppel for instructions and learned that she knew as much as we did. She did tell us that we were to proceed to Storm Lake and that it was still

258 miles away.

When we arrived in Storm Lake, I called Mr. Lawbaugh at the College and all he was able to tell us was that we had arrangements made at the Buena Vista Motel and that the others were staying there. We met none of the others there. The Motel knew nothing about the others and had no messages.

It was a very boring ride over the flat country. The roads seemed to run in a continuous straight line for as far as you could see and there was nothing but a farm here or there, with so much corn that you wonder what is going to be done with it all. To me, there is nothing like the mountains of Pennsylvania where the scenery is so enjoyable. I do appreciate the fact that I was able to see the flat country of Iowa.

On the way back, we took a different route and were able to go by a most enjoyable town of Indianapolis and to Camp Atterbury. Remember that. Boy! That place brought back a lot of memories. At the Camp Gate we talked to the Sgt. who gave us permission to tour the Camp for a half hour, but we took a couple of hours and nothing was said about it. There were troops from England there in training and some of our troops were in England on an exchange. We got to talk to some of them and it was difficult understanding them.

The 331st. barracks were torn out and concrete block buildings replaced them. Very few of the old barracks remained. The 908 F.A. barracks were still up and the one where Jules Desgain was quartered is still there. We were able to look inside them and talked about the old days. The cots and mattresses were still in them. I brought back a souvenir of one of them.

You wouldn't recognize the P.X. It is a modern place now and the prices are not very much different from ours. The girls gave us a lot of information about the place and sold us Licence Plates about 1942 and they have the Corps Emblem on them. We browsed around for awhile but then the place got busy and we had to go. We got a camp newspaper and bought a book on the history of Camp Atterbury.

When we left the camp, I rode through the town of Franklin and believe it or not. I recognized some of the old landmarks. By the way, there will be none of the old barracks left in Atterbury in 1991.

From Atterbury, we traveled to Richmond, Indiana for overnight rest which was much needed. We left at 4:30 in the morning and ran into a terrific storm in Peoria, Illinois which made it difficult to see in the dark. This was tough but the next morning we run into heavy fog most of the way and we finally got to our City of Pittsburgh and the traffic. We spent more than an hour getting to the home of Jules and I still had to get home from there. It's always real nice to be home after a week away.

I am still very tired and probably will feel it more tomorrow. The trip was worth it and it was a real honor to take part in the Ceremony for one of the greatest and finest friends I knew in the 83rd. Division.

I am rushing through this article and hope that I got everything in. If I forgot anything, I'll bring it to your attention next time.

Best of good luck, health and happiness to all of

you always.

Get those Dues in now and keep up to date on all the news about your Buddies.

Sincerely
Samuel Klippa
"D" Company 331st

P.S.

I almost forgot to tell you that the trip was almost 2200 miles and that the best gas mileage was in the flat country of Iowa. You may not believe it, but I got 27 miles to the gallon on my 8 cylinder Buick. That's unbelievable.

PAST PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Sept. 10, 1987

To All 83rd Members and Family

I would like to say to the entire membership, it has been a real pleasure to have served as your President during the year 1986-87.

It would not be truthful if I said we did not encounter some snags in preparing for the Reunion. With the expertise guidance of the Charleston Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Marriott Hotel personnel, the Executive Board and Bob and Pearl, certainly helpfull in planning of the Reunion. We realize it is impossible for everyone to be pleased but we hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

I also hope you enjoyed our Town Center Mall and all the activities.

We are also pleased for the people who attended for the first time. I had two from my company "B" 908th. I also want to thank the members of my company for attending the reunion. It was certainly good to see them and talk about past times.

We have received thank you letters and cards from several people and we are most appreciative. When they say we enjoyed the Reunion, had a good time, then our mission was accomplished. We just hope there was something that pleased everyone.

I feel the entire membership owes a "Thank You" to our chaplain, Casey Kowalec, for the Memorial Service.

Let us all get behind our new president, George Pletcher, and the Philadelphia Chapter and make plans to go to Hershey.

Again, let me say thanks to everyone that attended, because without you there would be no reunion. A special thanks to all the W. Va Chapter for hosting "Almost Heaven '87" Reunion in Charleston!

Your Buddy,
John Hobbs



Stan Bielen, Executive Board Final Report

Past Executive Board Chairmans Message

Sept. 7, 1987

New Jersey Chapter

I hope all arrived home safely from the reunion in Charleston. It was a great reunion for all the New Jersey Chapter members who attended. Our thanks and congratulations to the West Virginia men and ladies who gave so much of themselves to assure that all who attended would remember their wonderful hospitality and the wonderful city of Charleston. Thanks again, you did yourselves proud.

New Jersey members who attended were Joe and Hazel Barton, Dave and Millie Benick, Al and Ruth Bensimon, Sam and Ann Galati, Ted and Irene Quzek, Manny Epstein, Joe DePeri, Fred and Addie Rein, Charlie and Mary Sihlanick, Joe and Dorothy Skurka, Emil and Hazel Wehling, Stan and Fran Bielen. We were able to get a new member for our chapter at the reunion. We welcome Sam Manzi of New Hyde Park, N.Y. We look forward to having him join us at the meetings at the VFW in Garfield and at our dinner outings.

We missed Fred and Marcie Klein. It would be nice if they could come to their first reunion and see for

themselves what they have been missing all these years. Also missed were Frank and Paula Reichmann. Frank is unable to travel as yet, we're hoping his problems are over soon so we can enjoy their company again. Joe Kuzma spoke to me on the phone telling me he wouldn't make it this year but he plans to attend the next reunion in Hershey. Also missing were Mr. and Mrs. Tony Marrone, Bernard and Ida Rosenberg, Ed and Erna Russell and Mr. and Mrs. Russell Whitehead.

Some of us were invited to the wedding of Joe DePeri's daughter Joanne to Mr. Tim Dobson of West Virginia. The wedding was held at the Chanticleer in Millburn, N.J. It was a beautiful wedding and we all had a wonderful time. Dave and Millie Benick came up from Florida for the wedding. Being that Joanne and Tim reside in West Virginia they were with us for the reunion in Charleston. We were happy they were able to join us as they are a wonderful couple. We wish them much happiness together.

Received a letter from Bob Nordblom. Bob informed me that he and Bette were going to Nice, France to be guests of their French friends, Dominique and Phillipie. These are the folks that Bob befriended from his stay at Angers during the war. Hope you both enjoyed the visit. Look forward to seeing you in Hershey next year.

I had a call from Russell Whitehead telling me about his concern that his buddy Ozzie Kieffer (Co. F, 329) who died in Jan. 1986 was never listed in our Thunderbolt. I called Bob on this and he informed me he would include it in the next issue. Russell told me about his life before and after the service years. He was raised in New Bedford, Mass. (The only one besides Ozzie he remembers from his company also resides in New Bedford that being August "Mousey" Farias.) Russell ran away to join the circus when he was 10 years old. He specialized in animal acts, training Bears, Lions and Tigers for head-liners like Clyde Beatty. The next time his family saw him was when he was discharged from the service at the age of twenty two. His life's story would be interesting reading. Maybe I can persuade him to write it for the Thunderbolt.

He also told me about Ozzie's life. Ozzie and Russell were in the same squad. On the last day of combat, Ozzie volunteered to take Russell's place as lead scout. They approached a building, Ozzie went ahead to check it out, when he opened the door it set off a booby-trap. The injuries he received made him a quadriplegic confined to a bed for the rest of his life. Ozzie lived with sister Ida Smith who cared for him those many years.

Leon Kuhl (Co. G, 329) attended his first reunion in Charleston. Leon has joined our chapter and we welcome him. Talk about having it made, Leon spends the summer in New Jersey and the rest of the year in Waikiki, Hawaii.

Sam and Ann Galati have purchased a home in Boca Rotan, Florida. They will be moving from Brooklyn as soon as they can to enjoy the warm weather. Our best wishes go out to you both.

That's it for now. God Bless You All.

Stan Bielen

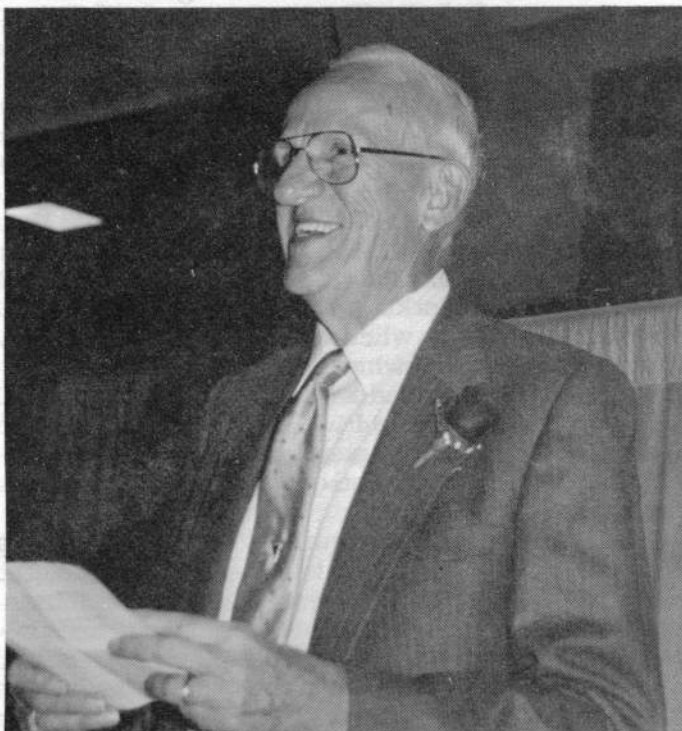
1st Bn. Hdqs. 331




YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD



Wives and Guests of the Executive Board



Pres. George Fletcher, Acceptance Speech



The
**President's
Corner**

It is an honor to be able to serve as President of our great association for the year September 1987-88. I will do the best of my ability, along with the help of the members of the Philadelphia Chapter to serve the Association this year and make our 42nd Reunion in Hershey, Pennsylvania a great success.

I would like to thank everyone for granting me this opportunity to serve our association.

Contact your buddies and get them to join the association. It is great to have new members join us. The last four reunions I had the joy of meeting buddies that I had not seen since the war.

George A. Fletcher
L-330

Reunion Chairmans Corner

I guess we all are settled down after another fine Reunion in West Virginia. For those of You who did not attend the Reunion, Our Reunion Site for September, 1988 is at the Hershey Lodge, Hershey, Pa. Hosted by the Philadelphia Chapter. The dates of the Reunion are September 8th - 9th - and 10th; and departing on the 11th.

Reservation Blanks are being made up and will be sent to the People and Chapters who requested them at the West Virginia Reunion. Reservation Blanks with the Price List will be advertised in the next issue of the Thunderbolt.

Get your Reservations in Early. We have blocked off 425 Rooms at the Lodge.

You will have Free Parking and Parking Facilities are right outside your room.

The Area around the Hershey Lodge is Tranquil Beauty, surround a world of Excitement. Sites of interest close to the Hershey Lodge are as follows:

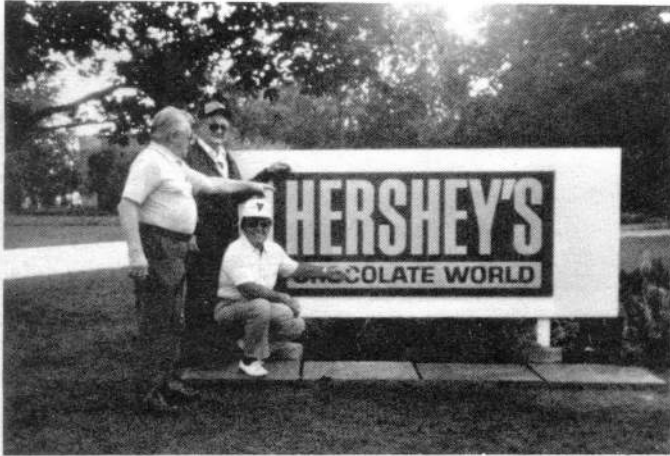
- Hersheypark
- Hershey's Chocolate World
- Founders Hall
- Hershey Museum of American Life
- Hershey Gardens
- ZooAmerica, Wildlife Park

Hershey Lodge also has a Huge Convention Center. Our Banquet Facilities hold 1250 people and it is a beautiful room.

Everything is under one roof, making the Hershey Lodge unique.

Reunion Chairman

Albert Belvedere, Co. K., 331st Inf.



John T. Piscitelli, Al Belvedere, Louis Volpi

EXECUTIVE BOARD CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Our wonderful 83rd Association held its 41st successful reunion in Charleston, W. Va. I want to thank all who attended and also those who wanted to be there and couldn't make it this time. Please take a bow because you are the primary reasons why we have remained as strong as we are.

Many thanks to John Hobbs, Jim Dunkin, Don Pettry, and wives, members of the W. Va. Chapter and also to the people of Charleston for making it possible an most enjoyable and successful reunion.

We are indebted to Stan Bielen for doing an outstanding job as Executive Board Chairman last year and also the year before when it was necessary to take the reins when Chairman Bill Chavanne passed away. Stan left behind a large pair of shoes to fill. I will sincerely try my very best to do that. It won't be easy but you can be sure you have a dedicated, hard working Executive Board team working for you all the time.

Welcome to the newest Executive Board member, James Prentice. Jim is well known to many. He has been 3rd V. Pres. for several years, performing an excellent Public Relations service for the 83rd. Please join me in wishing Jim the best in his new position as a board member. I'm sure he will be a great asset, helping to make the right decisions for our association.

My congratulations to our new President George Pletcher and all other Officers for the 1987-88 term. We are looking forward to next year at Hershey.

The Executive Board's change in policy to meet with the Reunion Committee at the future sight, 15 months in advance, has proven to be an advantage. At the May 1987 Board meeting with Philadelphia and Hershey management, we were able to help the Reunion Committee in its negotiations for the lowest price, and a contract was approved.

At these same meetings we met with the W. Va. Reunion Committee to finalize the Charleston reunion.

At this writing we have 1,843 members. That's great but we are still striving for the 2,000 mark. Do you have an 83rd buddy out there somewhere who is still not a member? Contact him. If you are a member, please keep your dues up to date.

Stay healthy and happy and God Bless You All.

Larry Leonardi
Chairman, Executive Board



Bob and Pearl Derickson W. VA Reunion



Greetings
from the
Secretary-Treasurer's Office

Well, men and ladies, (we could not do without you), another reunion has come and gone. We ended the year with 1843 members. Just lacked 157 members to take us up to that 2000 goal. Let's all work real hard this year and maybe next year our goal will be attained. We have reached the end of the year when we must say "Goodbye" to a fine executive Board Member. A man who stepped in and took over for two other Board Members. Bob Taylor who almost reached his goal of Board Chairman and then had to step aside when Rita became so ill. Then for Bill Chavanne who also had a dream and it ended with his Death. Working with Stan has been a real pleasure. No matter whether he was shoveling snow or watching a movie, when I called him he put everything aside and helped me out. It has been a real pleasure Stan and one I will never forget. You and Fran are two very dear people. Pearl and I both appreciate all the help and encouragement that you gave us.

Now we say Hello to Jim Prentice. Jim is not a stranger to any of us. He is very supportive of the 83rd and has certainly worked hard for the organization. A great deal of our members are with us because they saw the articles in the magazines and wrote to us. I know that he will work just as hard in his new position. We welcome Nick Francullo to our group of officers. Nick, too, has been very good to

Pearl and I. We are happy to be working with this group of men. We also want to welcome George and Jean Pletcher into the circle.

We have previously said Hello to two other potential President's in the Philadelphia Chapter. George please stay well. We need you. As all of you know we lost John Piscitelli before he could realize his dream. Norm Schuster is in the hospital at this time and will be for a period of five (5) or six (6) more weeks. Norm we are sorry that your dream of being the National President did not come true but we are all in back of you wishing you well and hoping for only the best for you. Just mind the doctors and LORRAINE and we will see you next year in Hershey.

Most of you have written of the highlights of the reunion. We must thank Jim and Linda Dunkin for a most delightful evening on Tuesday when Don and Esta, Jim and Linda arranged a wonderful time at the Wren's Nest. There were around forty (40) of us who went in cars and our van to this restaurant. What a delight. I know we all enjoyed ourselves even if we did lose Jim somewhere between the Wren's Nest and Charleston. But we sure had a lot of laughs on the way back. Don and Esta finally rescued us. Don't ever ask any of us how we got there or where it was. We did good to get there and back. But if you ever get a chance to visit the Wren's Nest, do so. The food was very good and the atmosphere was something else. This owner has enclosed in glass all the uniforms of different wars and much of the artillery, and put it on display. They played the piano and sang songs we all knew way back when. A good time. Thanks, Jim, Linda, Don and Esta.

I know that some of you wondered where the women of the West Virginia Chapter were. They were back in that well loaded Craft room. I am afraid to start naming names because I am afraid I will miss some. But here are some, Esta, Linda, Mary and Tessie. If there are more please let me know and I will put them in next issue. That whole group worked very hard and they had a good variety. Pearl managed to sneak back there and get some. Thanks ladies, you did a good job. We also want to thank all the men of the Chapter. They were pitching in wherever they were needed. We appreciate all you did to make our stay a good one. To John and Freeda for overseeing it all, thank you.

Now we are on to Hershey. September 8, 9, and 10 of 1988. I know there are some of you who do not believe in the ad book and do not believe that there should be any registration fee of any kind. Some of you do not believe there should be any money in the reserve. I really do not know how some of you men kept or ran a business. What did you use for expenses? We must pay for postage, address labels, telephone bills, electric, paper, envelopes, general office supplies such as ribbons, corrective tape, pencils, pens, staples, etc. Some of you think that the \$10.00 pays for everything. I wish it did. Think of the postage it takes to send each one of you the Thunderbolt. Printing costs have gone up. You get the Thunderbolt four times a year out of that \$10.00. How do you think we keep the membership up? We send out letters to all who request information about the upcoming reunion. Ask any new member and he will

tell you that he has received about four pieces of information in his letter. The cost of the Roster that you want printed each year. I get a fee out of that \$10.00 for each member. We must keep a reserve fund in case a chapter has a problem with a reunion. The host chapter must make a commitment 48 hours prior to the meal, to the hotel. These figures are derived from the reservations at the Hotel or Hotels and membership registration. Our count from membership registration may be more than show up for the meals. This is bad men. WE MUST SUPPORT OUR CHAPTERS. Be good enough to let us know if you do not intend to eat the meals. THE 83rd IS NOT BUILT ON THAT WAY OF DOING. It is built on a good foundation. SUPPORT ALL PHASES OF YOUR REUNION.

We want to thank Casey Kowalec for coming and taking over the Memorial Service right after the death of his mother. We really should thank Laura. She is the one who made sure he came. He was afraid that he would be eating off the counter by himself otherwise. Thanks Laura. You are a dear. Thanks also to you Casey. You did a wonderful job. Some of you don't believe that your Board is doing its best job. Believe me men we have a great group. They work on every aspect. They really have only your wishes at heart. We have a great lawyer in John Raikos. We can ask him anything and he will work it out for us. Ralph and Ames and Meadors are in there working and thinking all the time. Asking questions and making sure they get the answer they are seeking. What more could you ask. They give up all pleasures of the reunion to make sure the reunion is working out. It is five (5) years of real dedication. They must have cooperation from all of you. THEY DESERVE THAT.

Larry, Ralph, Ames, Meadors, Jim, John and myself will be working hard with George Pletcher, Al Belvedere and Lou Volpi this coming year to make sure you will all enjoy yourself next year. Hershey is a beautiful place and I cannot see why anyone would have any gripes. (BUT I WILL MAKE A BET THAT SOME WILL).

Thank your Board instead of griping. You will enjoy yourself more. Smile at us instead of frowning, it will spread farther.

A special thank you to all the people who so kindly gave of their time to help at the membership registration table. We really appreciate all your help. I also want to thank Zeno King, 83rd Band and Fred William, "E" 331st, for all the members they brought in this past year.

Think how many times you eat out this year and the cost. Keep track of it. Think of your cigarettes. Smoke down the drain. When you add all of this up, I'll bet you won't spend as much at the reunion. Come on anyway.

I love working with you.

**Bob
3rd Bn. Hq. 329th**

We had a couple more 3rd. Bn. Hq. men. John Raikos, Dick Riddle, Sam Badgett, Michael Kadylak, and John Kanyuscisk (NEW Ones), and of course myself. It was a great one for all of us. We enjoyed ourselves. DID YOU??????



Chaplain's Corner

COMPLIMENTS AND COMPLAINTS

Do compliment the W. Va. Chapter members who gave a 110% effort in putting on a warm and friendly reunion. At times during the past and present year, you will say, "was it worth it?" From the many of us who have hosted past reunions, we say "Thanks" for your hard work.

Compliments to Lou Nolan, Sam Klippa and the rest of the men who volunteered to travel to Iowa to represent the 83rd Inf. Div. Assn., honoring Ralph Neppel, our C.M.H. recipient at the special dedication services.

Compliments to Charlie Sihlanich who gave many a guided tour and showed you from the 15th floor of the hotel the home that has 5 kitchens. Many of you people in Charleston did not even know you had such a home in the middle of your city. It is occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Kitchen and their three children.

Compliments to all of you who joined in the celebration of the Catholic Mass, to Rev. P. Edw. Sadie, who was the celebrant, to Kent O'Connell, Florentino Casile, Mary Francullo, Sam and Irene Galati, Earl Lindsey, who were part of the team, helping with the Mass. It was the largest attendance at any reunion, and to you who were, regardless of your religious inclinations, attending for the first time, thanks for sharing your love and prayers with all of us.

If your name was omitted in any way, our apologies. That Sam Carnegie Memory Course fails us some time. Was that Sam or Dale?

In the department of complaints - you do have every right to complain, as it does get results most of the time. It's just the way you complain and to whom. If the food is not to your satisfaction, see the Maitre D'. Or the chef, but don't take it out on the person who is serving you, by telling them to go to the fast food chain to get you some decent food. The young people only work there, and were trying their best to please you.

Don't come to the reunion with a chip on your shoulder or carrying a heavy stick. Leave them outside your door at home, otherwise you're not going to have a pleasant time. Come to enjoy yourself with your buddies, and when you get back home, the chip may have blown away and the stick may be lighter.

Remember - no one ever guaranteed you a tomorrow, so make each day you have a good one, by reaching out and touching someone with kindness.

It is proven that love and faith are non-sectarian. The following prayer would be appropriate for people of all denominations in any house of worship.

"I have been humiliated and hurt by a certain person. You know who I mean, God. You know, too, that

I am struggling to keep bitterness and hate out of my heart. But it's so very difficult to find the grace to forgive. Will you help me, God? I don't want to crowd these bad feelings into the dark corners of my mind. I don't want to deny to myself the fact that I feel awful. But I do want to forgive and get the hostility and anger out of my system. At this very moment perhaps someone, somewhere, is having a hard time forgiving me for something I said or did. I might have hurt that person without knowing it. So please, God, help me to forgive now. It would be terrible to harbor ill will against someone who might not even know he has hurt me.

Casey Kowalec

"C" BTRY 322 F.A.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

What a great way to start a report for the "Thunderbolt" by not having a single death notice to include in this column. Spoke with Bob D. a few days ago and he also had none. Hoping that as we go to press we have no sad news to report.

It was a great reunion, but once again there had to be a few adjustments here and there, and at times in just a few moments notice. Haven't yet been to a reunion where we were able to please everyone, and things can only be done properly with your cooperation, patience and understanding.

We were 99% prepared for the Memorial Service, when the sudden change of weather (wind, humidity) meant a couple relocation and cutting a few corners so that the troops would not be out there in the heat too long. Applause from all of us goes to Jim Dunkin for preparing all of the setting, equipment, directing the Civic Center people and our own 83rd volunteers in moving to the new area without too much delay (couldn't have done it without ya', Jim).

Thanks also to the representatives from the different units: 329th Milton Pitnar, Tom Rybarczyk; 330th - Nick Francullo, Fred Messina; 331st - Dan McCarthy, Manny Epstein; F.A. - Bill Shaner, Donald St. John; Special Units - Bill Appleby, Carl Frederick, and Bea Chavanne, Jan Murphy who placed the wreaths honoring our deceased buddies, and deceased wives and children of members.

Applause and thanks to the two buglers, the gentlemen who sang so beautifully, but mostly to you who participated in the formation of the parade itself. As one of you said when asked if you would rather go in advance to be positioned ahead, "heck no, - I want to march with the troops."

Many of you saw yourself on T.V. and gentlemen, you should be very proud of yourselves.

Once again a reminder - any news of a buddy being seriously ill or passing away, please notify the secretary or myself and we will pass the news along.

P.S. Jules Desgain - your "Jeep" added a lot of class to the Memorial Service and reunion.

Casey Kowalec

"C" Btry. 322 F.A.

Death Notices

THESE ARE THE DEATH NOTICES THAT HAVE COME TO THIS OFFICE. THE ENTIRE 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION SEND THEIR SYMPATHY.

William H. Hutcherson 3rd BN.HQ. 330th Tennessee sent in by cousin Bill Hutcherson

James H. Price "G" 331st Ohio sent in by J.W. Nicholson

Herbert E. Kiefer "F" 329th Penn. sent in by Sister-In-Law Ida E. Smith

Brig. Gen. Theodore R. Naimoli "A" 329th N.Y. Sent in by G.N. Persica

William "Doc" Allen "L" 329th Sent in By Ralph Wavra

Sgt. Waldo Odom No outfit Ga. sent in by daughter Thorton, Norman B. 323rd HQ. sent in by wife Doris

M. Larry DeLapp No outfit listed sent in by Ames Miller

Donald H. Hildebrand No outfit listed sent in by F.B. Selby

Herman Thompson reported that his wife Stella Marie passed away. Our sympathy to Herman and his family.

Rex V. Ritz "F" 330th sent in by son Raymond

In the summer issue of the Thunderbolt no outfit was listed for George W. Rhyne. Word from Bob Stotzer that the outfit was 83rd Signal. Thanks Bob.

Joel L. Oliver None listed sent in by Laurie J. Oliver

Walter J. Yurkoski none listed sent in by Kar Sauer

Border D. Glazier none listed sent in by Kary Sauer

Donald J. Hall service 331st sent in by daughter Mary Kay Hall

Paul Dickison "E" 330th sent in by Furman Haney

Ossie Kieffer "F" 329th sent in by Russell Whitehead

Joseph T. Conroy "B" 329th sent in by Pat DiGiammerino

Dear Bob:

I wish to thank you and all of the various members of the different Chapters of the 83rd Infantry Division Association across the United States who expressed their kind sympathy to me at the time of my husband's death.

I received many sympathy cards and donations to the American Cancer Society in John's name, as well as flowers at home from the 83rd members.

In addition I was very appreciative of the fine Memorial Service at the Cemetery. It was very well done.

Please pass on my thanks to all of the 83rd Chapters in including a note of "Thank You" in the next issue of the Thunderbolt.

Again, many thanks.

Very gratefully yours,

Josephine Piscitelli

HISTORIANS CORNER

ARMY VEHICLE CHANGE

The Army's plans to install a \$43 part on the Bradley Fighting Vehicle should keep the \$1.5 million amphibious troop carriers from sinking when they go in the water, a House subcommittee said yesterday. The problem turned out to be a canvas barrier that is put up to keep out water while the Bradley is going across a river, the investigation found. "It was designed so the driver could collapse it an instant after leaving the water", said Rep. Bill Nichols (D-Ala.) chairman of the subcommittee. "However, the mechanism was too sensitive and the barrier sometimes collapsed while the Bradley was still in the water." "The modifications holds the barrier more firmly in place but will require a crewman to climb atop the vehicle to take it down."

Dear Buddies:

The reasons for the enclosure of the newspaper report of August 31, 1987 will become apparent as you read the following report.

None of us knew when we landed on Omaha Beach that we sailed over U.S. Tanks and their G.I. tankers trapped in them.

It is a well kept secret of what happened to some of the 741st Tank Battalion. The tanks and crews left their Mother ship on June 5-6 1944, to support invading infantry men coming ashore.

They were named D.D. Tank (Duplex Drive Tank) as they had a high canvas collar around the tank and fitted with twin props to propel them.

The weather was stormy and high seas soon swamped them and they foundered. They were a mile from the beach.

The opinion of high American and British Officer's differed as to their sea worthiness and safety in rough weather. They were sent off anyhow and a few did make it to the beach.

The tanks and their crews are still there within sight of the now cemetery on the hill we climbed from the Beach to In Truck for Caratan.

The funds to raise the dozen tanks and bury the lost G.I.'s ashore was never available.

So to this day there are men out there, within sight of St. Laurent Sur Ner, who never got to the beach and go into combat. This report is taken from the May/June 1987 "Issue of American Heritage." Alan D. Wiener.

WE WERE THE BEST

William Kent O'Connell

Historian
83rd M.P.

"A Christmas Carol"

December, 1944

Men, this poem sent in by our Historian, Kent O'Connell, published in the 1987 Winter Issue. Part of it was not published. We are once again putting it in.

You must also have your favorite story of the first and "Thank God" the last Christmas in Combat.

We are the fortunate ones who came back to enjoy our future holidays and be home with our families and loved ones. In 1944 we had our Christmas in Huertgen. Dinner was cold turkey and trimmings, a welcome change from 10/1's and "K" rations. Our tree was a poor scraggly, miserable specimen cut from the forest and trimmed with anything we could get our hands on. IT WAS BEAUTIFUL!!! The carols we heard were the sounds of German planes strafing, our ACK ACK and Artillery.

The Dove of Peace was an "L" - 5 spotter plane in a field nearby. The Star was flares in the distance lighting up the Combat of the Bulge. The snowy forest was the background for a Greeting Card, -- A deadly one in 1944. The White Christmas was the sheets from the beds of Belgian Civilians over our uniforms. The white paint on our tanks and vehicles to blend in with the snow and ice.

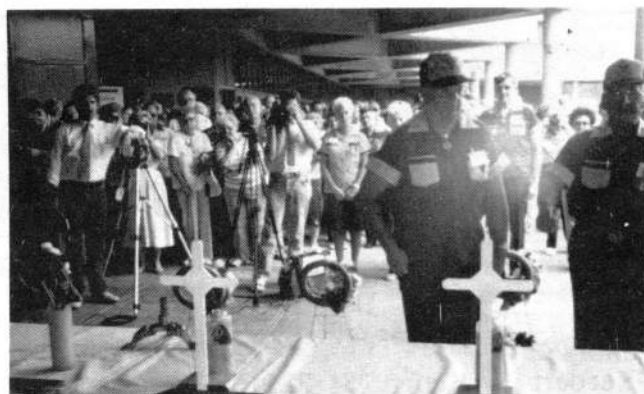
After forty (40) years it is slowly leaving our memories -- but not quite. We can still shiver even in our warm comfortable homes, with the memory of cold, wet, nasty dark days and darker nights. We were hungry, weary, miserable and SCARED.

Then the weather lifted, and our planes bombed and strafed. They made WREATHS OF VAPOR TRAILS FROM HORIZON TO HORIZON. A scene we had waited for. We began to push the Germans back to his fatherland and kept him running. Remembering those days have a really enjoyable Holiday this 1987 WE EARNED THEM.

William Kent O'Connell



**Memorial Service
New England Chapter**



**Representing 330th
New England chapter**



**How do we line up?
New England Chapter**

NEWS FROM "A" 331st

Just a few words to let you know that "A" 331st was very well represented at this reunion. Of course we missed a number of our buddies of "A" like Dick Ammon, John Stewart, Noel (Chief) Villarreal and Thomas Rothchild. Naturally we missed most of all, our good buddy Dave Feig. Although he is not with us anymore, he will always be in our thoughts.

On Thursday during our reunion, Charles Hopta's brother, Ben, who lives in Charleston, invited all of us over for a barbecue. His home was on top of the mountain, and it was a beautiful place. The food was great, including the Hielbasi. It was as good as that that Stan Bielen makes. Charley Caven came in on Saturday with his son Bill.

We were very happy to learn Lu Caven was coming along fine. Bill Bullard passed his eye operation with flying colors, and we hope it will be smooth sailing now. What can I say about Bill Bullard's brother-in-law, RED. The same goes for the McCAMBRIDGE'S. They are adopted "A" 331st men. (That is the only way I can top Ralph Gunderson).

Hope to see you all in Hershey, Pennsylvania next year. Make your plans early.

Dave Benick
"A" 331st

"B" Btry. 908 F.A. Bn.

We had another good turn-out with fourteen men attending the reunion in Charleston, W. Va.

In attendance, were Mr. and Mrs. Ed Williams, Past President John and Freeda Hobbs, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Underwood, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Shaw, Mr. & Mrs. Jules Desgain, Mr. & Mrs. Dick Bevins, Mr. & Mrs. Alex McDaniels, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Wenzel, Mr. & Mrs. Mike Bacha, Mr. & Mrs. Claude Carpenter, Mrs. Ralph Allen, Nelson Reisinger, Art Waples, Mike Rudy and Jim Prentice. It was good to see Dale Underwood and his lovely wife, as this was their first reunion attended and certainly hope they can make the one at Hershey, Pa. next year. That also goes for the Carpenter's, as they had to miss a few and it was nice to have them back with us again.

I'm sure many of the 83rd were grateful to Jules Desgain, for the free transportation around town riding in his jeep. We certainly missed Mike Jarmaoska and Nick Bertovich with his lovely wife, Cathy. Do hope everyone, God willing, can make it to Hershey, Pa. next year.

Jerry & Vi, really enjoyed themselves and I'm just sorry I couldn't spend more time with the group, as it's always a pleasure to see the "boys" and their lovely wives. Three days is just too short. Next year, will see if we can get a room for "B" Btry. so we all can get together in one spot and be able to spend more time with each other.

So, let's get the pens out and write to any buddies you have addresses on and see if we can get them to Hershey next year, as we're not getting any younger.



"K" 330th Buddies and Ladies at Charleston

"K" 331st

On Behalf of "K", we wish to congratulate the West Virginia Chapter for doing a good job, hosting the reunion. That was one of the better reunion that we have had.

For the last four (4) reunions, "K" Co. has had twenty-on (21) to thirty-one (31) buddies present. This year we had twenty-six (26) fellows and twenty-two (22) ladies. Those present for the first reunion ever, were Stanley Laurance and Marjorie, John Hefner and Edna, Laurane Pavone and Katherine.

Having found such a friendly and interesting group, they all expect to be there in 1988. As for those buddies that do not come, you are missing a wonderful vacation and getting reacquainted with a great group of people.

Six of our group did not get in picture.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in Hershey in 1988.

Your Buddy

Lester Elkins

323rd Report

Traveling to the reunion, Nancy & I visited with Eddie & Joyce McCouch who are recuperating from illness. Eddie started back to work but said he would not attempt a 25 mile hike like Erwin Erhardt and myself. It was nice to see Eddie and Joyce improving in health. We enjoyed our visit in Glenside, Pa. with them.

On to Mechanicsburg, Pa. to see Les Taylor. I found him riding his tractor cutting the lawn. Leslie looks great and enjoys his retirement.

Then on to Chambersburg, Pa. to see Bob Reasner, where we stayed at Elby Motel. I called Bob and he came right over to meet me. We talked and had a few laughs and a couple of hours went by fast. Bob had a little problem with heart trouble but is doing well.

Travel on to Waynesburg then on to Charleston, W. Va. to the 41st reunion. I met with Ralph Morgan, Dusty Starbuck, Bill Shaner, Don St. John, Willie Snodgrass, Orlo Hoover, Al Covi, Walt Harding, Dave Nellies, Erwin Erhardt and Jake Erwin from Hq Battery.

Battery "B" had Willie Medling, Leroy Rock, Don Pettry and a few more I can't recall right now.

Battery "C" had Dave Hurt, Jake Erwin, Don Christopher. I believe they had a few new members that I did not meet.

Don Pettry was very active in this reunion. He helped out when it was needed. A Job well done.

Members of Hq Tontine Club had a meeting at the 41st Reunion at the Marriott Hotel in Charleston, W. Va. The men all checked the seal on the bottle. Dustin Starbuck will be the custodian until August of 1988.

After the reunion, Nancy and I went to Nashville for a week where we had the time of our lives. Coming home I called Starbuck in Abingdon, Va. He wanted me to go over to his house but I had to make time going back to Boston.

Radford, VA. was my next stop. I Phoned Billy Hopcroft who came out to meet me on the highway. It was the first time we met in 42 years. He looks good but like most of us has had some medical problems.

A bird told me that Sgt. James "Buck" Taylor was operated on recently but is doing very well.

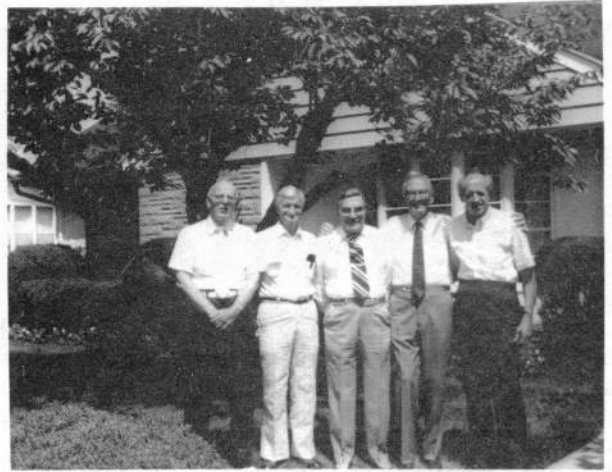
Jack Knight is taking a trip to Florida in November. I told him to call Walt Harding. Maybe a few 323rd men can meet there.

That's all for now

AMBY TYNAN



Group from Luxembourg, at Pat & Gin's House



Pictured from left to right: Jean Smith, Jim Harris Tony Intieri, Bob Smith and Charles Franke.



Boston Chapter at Reunion time in Charleston W VA.



83rd Band Members at Charleston Standing: Emmett Pack, Ray Oswald, Art Yon, Nick Aloisi. Seated: Paul Cooley, Zeno King

83rd Band

On June 28th five members of the 83rd Infantry Division Band and their wives had a mini-reunion in Hershey, Pa. at the home of Bandleader Robert W. Smith. His guests for several days were Jim Harris and his wife Pauline from Charlottesville, Va. Bob contacted several other nearby members and suggested we gather at the Hershey Hotel for brunch.

Prior to this Jim Harris and wife Pauline, Jean Smith and wife Esther from Harrisburg, Pa. along with Bob's wife Doris attended services at the United Methodist Church where Bob plays organ and conducts the choir.

After the service we went to the Hershey Hotel where we were joined by Charles Franke and his wife Ethel from Reading, Pa. and Tony Intieri and wife Sue from Harrisburg, Pa. After the brunch we went to Bob Smith's home and had several hours reminiscing before going our respective ways.

Some of us had not seen each other for over 40 years. Charles Franke and Jean Smith, along with 13 other 83rd bandsmen, were P.O.W.s, having been captured while serving as stretcher bearers in aid station near Carentan.

Jean C. Smith "83rd Band"

Dear Bob:

Sorry I have been away and never looked at my card I am sending you twenty (\$20.00) to help the Association.

I love the 83rd Division and being a member of the 330th, "C".

I am 100% disabled and that makes me feel closer

Yours as always

Raymond C. Bowsher
10550-0 Lakeside Drive
Garden Grove, California 92640

PHONE: 714-530-2499

Come on you more fortunate fellows. Let's get some cards off to this man and make him feel even closer.

Thanks Raymond.

CHANGES TO THE BY LAWS:

Article VIII EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 2 MEETINGS.

(a) A meeting shall be held each year on the first Saturday in May in the City of the Host Chapter for the succeeding Annual Reunion. The Chairman of the Executive Board may, in his discretion, change both the date and the meeting place, but in no event shall such Meeting take place less than seventy-five (75) days before said Annual Meeting.

(b) Executive Board is limited to one meeting per year, and that meeting will be held as specified in Section 2 (a).

(c) Special meetings may be called by the Chairman of the Executive Board at anytime during the Annual Meeting of this Association.

ADDITION TO THE BY LAWS:

Article XIV COMPENSATION AND FEES

Section 1. COMPENSATION

(a) Members of the Executive Board are to be compensated for their travel expenses, room expenses, and their meals when they attend the meeting on the first Saturday in May (as specified in Section 2 (a) of Article VIII.

(b) The amount of compensation is not to exceed \$300.00 per Board Member.

(c) Members are not to be compensated for meeting held during the Annual meeting of the Association.

(d) Any increase in the compensation paid to the members of the Executive Board shall be voted on by the members of the Association at the Annual Meeting (Section 1; Article IX MEETINGS AND QUORUMS).

Section 2. FEES

(a) The Secretary - Treasurer of the Association will receive a fee each year for the work that he has performed in accordance with the Duties of Officers (Article VII - DUTIES OF OFFICERS - SECRETARY-TREASURER.) This fee shall be paid to the Secretary-Treasurer based on the total paid up membership of the Association at the close of the fiscal year. (Thirtieth of July).

(b) Fees paid to the Secretary-Treasurer shall be in the amount of \$3.00 per each paid up member.

(c) Any increase in the fees paid to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association shall be voted on by the members of the Association at the Annual Meeting (Section 1; Article IX MEETINGS AND QUORUMS).

Dear Bob,

Here is the reservation form I would like for you to put in the next Thunderbolt about our Dixie Chapter meeting in Williamsburg, VA in March 1988. Several members asked about this at the National Reunion. I told them I would get this in so they could make their reservation for our meeting.

Hope to see you and Pearl in Williamsburg.

Thanks,
John Cox

THE WILLIAMSBURG WESTPARK HOTEL

1600 RICHMOND ROAD
WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23185
March 24 - 25 - 26, 1988

Name: _____

Address: _____

Attending: 83rd Infantry Division/Dixie Chapter Reunion

Please reserve (No. of rms.) _____ Single room(s) (No. of rms.) _____ Double Occupancy room(s)

Arrival: _____
(Day, Date and Time)

Departure: _____
(Day, Date and Time)

Deposit enclosed in the amount of \$ _____

I will attend the Saturday Banquet and guarantee my reservation for _____ persons.

HOTEL POLICY

Reservations must be received no later than February 25, 1988

Deposit for the first nights lodging (\$22.00) must accompany reservation to guarantee the room.

Reservation for Saturday nights Dinner Banquet must be guaranteed to assure a proper count for preparations.

Deposit for room fully refundable with cancellation notice received no later than 3 days prior to arrival.

CHECK IN TIME - 2:00 P.M.

CHECK IN TIME - 12:00 NOON

MY TRIP OVERSEAS

Dear Buddies:

Just a few words on a wonderful trip to France this past June. Four men, George Naylor, Charley Schmidt, Bob Parsons and B.J. Parsons, Jr. (a decorated helicopter pilot from Vietnam) were in the group.

Flew to Brussels, Belgium and there rented a Van to go back to France. Arrived in Brussels, June 4th and stayed overnight. Left June 5th A.M. for St. Hilaire, Petetville. Arrived late evening and located L. Lerand, Mayor of the town. We were housed with families in St. Hilaire.

Immediately upon our arrival we were taken to the Ceremony decorating the plaque and monument to the 83rd and 4th Division. The plaque was donated by Sam Klippa and located at Crossroads to Aux-Ais and Raid. Wine and cakes were served at the town hall after the ceremonies.

June 6th a.m., George Naylor and Charley Schmidt were taken on a tour of the Utah Beach by our hosts. Windy and raining off the channel, quite a sight. Brought back many poignant memories of Omaha Beach where we were taken on the 7th of June. Back home early from Utah to prepare for ceremonies of named street "Place De 83rd Division" in the Village of St. Hilaire. Beautiful ceremony and speech by the Mayor was very impressive.

Then on to town hall for ceremony at another plaque donated by Sam Klippa. This plaque on the wall in court yard of town hall is to the memory of 331st Regimental Combat Team. Then into town hall and more wine and snacks. Then, a presentation to the Mayor L. Lerand, by George Naylor of a key to the city of Norfolk, Virginia and a letter naming him an honorary citizens of the same city. A presentation by B.J. Parsons, Jr., from the City of Nashville, Tennessee with a key to that city and a letter naming the mayor an honorary citizen of that same city. A presentation by Charley Schmidt from the Governor of the State of Kentucky making the mayor a Kentucky Colonel. More Wine.

Off to the school where our group was honored at a French Banquet. Also in the group were men from the Pittsburgh Chapter, Gene Constanzo, Big Joe, Jules Desgains and also Tony Viglione and his lovely wife Willie. Four men from the 101st Air Borne Division. What a meal. Shrimp, Longostino's, Pork, Lamp, Beef, Salads, Ice Cream, Wine, Calvados, Cognac, Dessert. We were eating for Four (4) hours. Then to the ceremonies for 101st at Carentan. Two monuments. Quite impressive.

June 7th, early a.m. Our hosts were Daniel and Marie Auvoray. Daniel took George and Charley to Pont Du hoc. What a sight. It is today as it was in 1944. No change. Only the over growth of brush has been cut from around the area and also from the hedge row. On down to the museum at Omaha Beach, then to the cemetery there and finally down to the Beach itself. Memories flood back and you say a silent prayer of thanks that you were spared and were able to come back to your loved ones. Back home to Daniel and Marie's and a surprise dinner for all of our group. It is very difficult to say in a few words

how thankful these people are for our help in freeing them from the oppression and slavery of the German Occupation. Only if you visit and stay with these people can you feel the warmth and feeling they have for the American Soldier.

Joined in the afternoon by Tony Viglione and wife Willie, we left at 4 p.m., never having finished the dinner Marie had prepared for us. Went to Cherbourg and stayed over night.

June 8th. Visited museum at Fort De Reule on top of the hill. Now a military museum. On to Sainteny a cafe in the city, recognized by the people. More Wine and Calvados. To St. Lo and sightseeing. On to Caen for over night stay. What a beautiful city Caen is. The city was 800 years old this year and they were celebrating the fact. This city was the seat of Government for William the Conqueror in the 12th Century.

June 9th. Left for Luxembourg City. In the party were George, Charley, Bos, Sr. and Bob, Jr. Tony and Willie, and our interpreter, Carole. Arrived in late evening and had problems locating lodge for the night. All's well.

June 10th. Up early and moved to the Holiday Motel. Motored down to Gravenmacher and had lunch at a sidewalk cafe located on the banks of the Moselle River. Also located plaque donated by Sam Klippa, at Gravenmacher, directly across the road from the Champagne factory, dedicated to the 331st Combat Team. Back to the hotel.

June 11th. Went to Germany and a visit to the town of Gey. Bob, Sr. located a young lady whom he had photographed 5 years previously on a visit. She was now 11 years old and was very impressed that Bob, Sr. would have come back and located her. Also went to the top of the hill outside of Gey. Bob, Sr. had found a gun replacement that he and his squad had knocked out which he showed to the group. It was now made over into a playfield for the children. Also located an aged lady whom he had photographed on his previous visit.

Quite a day of remembrance for the group. Tony and I visited the churches Gey, photo in Thunderbolt, previous issue, some time back, with steeple destroyed. All repaired, same church, but it sure brought back memories.

We then located and visited the small villages of Otte, Bihain and Langlier. These were places where George Naylor had very vivid memories of, not too good, especially Otte, of combat. It was between the villages of Otte and Bihain that "F" lost one complete platoon in a trap and massacre.

June 12th: Visited museum at Batonge and also memorial to American Divisions that had fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

June 13th: Back to Brussels and an afternoon of shopping before departing on the 14th of June for New York and home. Tony Viglione and wife Willie stayed and left the next morning by train for Cologne and other cities in Germany. Put Carole, our lovely little interpreter on the train for France and her home. What a lovely little lady she was.

Charley Schmidt

"F" 331st

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 42nd ANNUAL REUNION HERSHEY LODGE, HERSHEY PA. SEPTEMBER 8 - 9 - 10

Wednesday, September 7, 1988

Early Bird Special

10:00 a.m. - Noon - 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Registration
Gettysburg Tour
Square Dance Night
(For Beginners & Experienced)

Convention Center
On Your Own
Cash Bar

Thursday, September 8, 1988

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

9:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Breakfast - Buffet
Registration
Dinner
(Sit Down Dinner)
Entertainment & Dance

Convention Center
(Cash Bar)

Friday, September 9, 1988

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

9:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Breakfast
Registration
Business Meeting
Dinner
(Sit Down Dinner)
Entertainment & Dance

Buffet
Convention Center

(Cash Bar)

Saturday, September 10, 1988

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Breakfast
Registration
Business Meeting
Memorial Service
Catholic Mass
Banquet Dinner
Entertainment & Dance

Buffet
Convention Center

(Cash Bar)

Sunday, September 11, 1988

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Brunch

"FAREWELL! HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME"

(Subject to Additions & Deletions in the Future)

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter 42nd ANNUAL REUNION OF 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION

**HERSHEY LODGE & CONVENTION CENTER, HERSHEY PA.
SEPTEMBER 8 - 9 - 10 DEPARTURE SEPT. 11 - 1988**

Name _____ Unit _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(TYPE OR PRINT YOUR AD CLEARLY IN THIS SPACE)

PLEASE CIRCLE THE SIZE OF AD YOU PREFER:

**FULL PAGE AT
\$60.00**

**HALF PAGE AT
\$35.00**

**QUARTER PAGE AT
\$18.00**

BOOSTER ADS ARE \$5.00.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: PHIL. CHP. REUNION FUND AND SEND TO:

GEORGE A. PLETCHER
2057 Roy Ave.
Abington, PA. 19001

ALBERT A. BELVEDERE
65 Westminster Dr., So.
Vincentown, N.J. 08088

LOUIS J. VOLPI
410 Merion Rd.
Merion, PA. 19006

SEND YOUR ADS EARLY, AS THEY PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR PROGRAM

Fellows, we hope to cut down on the cost of the ad book, by not mailing all of those letters requesting your ads. This ad form will be in the Thunderbolt for three (3) issues. Please cut out your ad from last year's book and clip to this form or re-write it on this form. We would like for you to get your ad in before May 1, 1988. This will give the printer time to set-up the book and print it. The Hotel application will be in the next two (2) issues of the Thunderbolt and we advise you to make your reservation EARLY. We have 425 rooms at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center and when those are filled we will have to make arrangements for the overflow. Thank you for your cooperation.

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

BOSTON CHAPTER REPORT

The Boston Chapter has been very active every month. I must say that Arthur Waples and Paul Gundersen are doing an excellent job adding new members to the roster.

Thanks to John Hobbs and his troops for working so hard for the success of our 41st Annual Reunion. Many from Boston were at the reunion in Charleston, W. Va. There does not seem to be enough time at the reunion to spend with our buddies. It is getting like Hello and Goodbye!

Congratulations to Jim Prentice a man who has done so much for the 83rd Infantry Div. Assoc. over the years. Jim was elected to the Executive Board and will do his best over the next 5 years as a member. A Tip of the Irishman's Hat to you Jim.

We must thank Stan Bielen for his very successful years on the Executive Board. Stan retired but will still be around if help is needed. Good luck to Nick Francullo on his election to Third Vice President. Nick has always been a worker for the 83rd.

The last few meetings of the Boston Chapter I did not attend. In June I was at a family wedding while the meeting was being held at Frank Scott's in Florence, Ma. I understand a good time was had by all. Larry Arrigo, Mike Caprio, Hy Goodman and Pat DiGiammerino went in the pool. Frank put life preservers on them all so there was no need for worrying. Of course, it was high tide while they swam. Ha! Ha!

Our August meeting was at Pat & Ginny's house and was a "sellout" There was quite a crowd, with the Sessions from Maine and others from Rhode Island, Conn., New Hampshire, and Mass.

This meeting was really a reception to honor two families from Luxembourg. (Mr. and Mrs. Fred Karen & Mr. and Mrs. Henry Scheither and their daughter Alice). The 83rd Div. means so much to these people. Fred Karen knows a lot about the Division because the 83rd fought in his town of Echternach when he was just a teen-ager. Henry Scheither was younger, but remembers the battles very well.

As good as the Boston Chapter is in Bocce, the Luxembourg's won the game. There was also a large group from the Fourth Div. that the 83rd fought along side of in Luxembourg.

The people from Luxembourg had been invited to many lunches and dinners, but never to a cook-out and enjoyed every minute of it.

It was nice to see Vitie Atkocius and his lovely wife Julie. Vitie looks so wonderful I think I may sign him up for the Red Sox's. That's the winning team next year.

Our National Historian Kent O'Connell tells me that he is planning a trip to Ireland next year. I hope he brings me home a taste of Irish Tea. Ha! Ha!

Casey Kowalic did a very nice memorial service. Thanks so much to you Casey for carrying on for the best.

We have a few people on our "get well" list. There is Arlene Miller our president's wife for eye surgery, Ray Bjork for neck surgery and Mike Caprio. All are improving.



Schmidt Making Presentation



Mayor Making Presentation



Bob Sr. Making Presentation



B.J. Jr. Making Presentation

Jim Prentice's dad passed away just after reunion time and we all send our sympathy. Also, our deepest sympathy to Casey Kowalac on the loss of his mother.

Thats all for now.

Amby Tynan

P.S. Ray Bjork from H Company 330th Infantry is in the V.A. Hospital in Jamaica Plain with eye problems. I hope to visit with him today. Ray was at the reunion with Bob Hunnewell of 329th I Co. Ray I hope you have a speedy recovery and I will have Hunnewell play and sing you a song of good cheer.



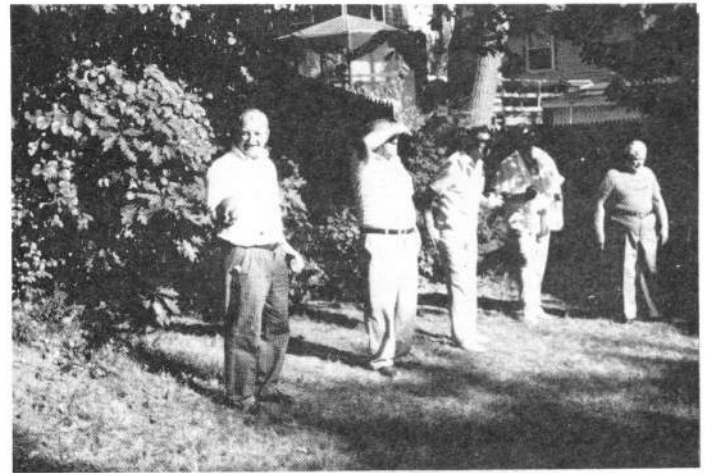
Some of Boston Gang at Scott's House



Fred & Henry from Luxembourg on the right; Pat & Miller from the Boston Chapter on the left



The Boston Chapter & the Folk from Luxembourg having a feast.



Fred, with the winning Bocce Ball on the left.

CLEVELAND CHAPTER

Hello Buddies:

Another reunion has fallen by the wayside and everyone here in Cleveland is happy to be home. The walking from the hotel we were in took its' toll on me. The heat was unbearable. The shuttle bus was okay for those that could get on, there were a lot of people that could not and took taxi's. Most of us from Cleveland did enjoy the reunion and meeting our buddies. I was thoroughly disappointed when Mort Goldman did not show up. If I remember correctly he did promise to attend. Walter Olsen came all the way from Montana, this was his third year, nice going Walt and Virginia. It was good to see you.

The Cleveland Chapter will hold our September meeting at the home of Jim and Ruth Lindsey of Canton, Ohio. Then our Christmas Party will also be at their home with the exception of the dinner which will be at the Four Winds Restaurant. The date is December 12th.

Everyone here is well as far as I know, no news is good news. I hate to write about anyone being sick. Two of our members lost loved ones, Casey Kowalec lost his mother and Rollie Warner lost his mother-in-law. Casey buried his Mom on Wednesday and came with us to the reunion on Thursday. Rollie's mother-in-law died while he was at the reunion. Our sympathy to both of them.

This week-end (Labor Day) I'm going to be First mate aboard a 27' Sportcraft, my buddy had asked me to give him a hand. I'm happy to do so as I get to fish too. My fishing time this year amounted to gilch, being under the weather and boat laid up for 10 weeks really messed me up. I still want to get Rolie and Earl Lindsey out to do some "Perch Jerking" before the snow flies.

Today I'm going to see the air races while on board my buddy's boat, besides getting to fish (Eat your hearts out you guys). I missed all of the good Walleye fishing this year because of my boat being laid up and being under the weather, so I'll make up by going perch fishing. They are better eating anyway. Getting back to the reunion, I had more people come up and ask me how I was feeling, people that I hardly

know, even some I don't know. This is positive proof of the 83rd Division is like a big family. Everyone shows some concern for our well-being. You see less and less on the dance floor, another sign of growing old. It was obvious the two nights of dancing most just sat and enjoyed the good music.

Talk about getting old, you know you are getting old when you feel like the night before and you haven't been anywhere.

Another: A dripping faucet causes an uncontrollable bladder urge. This being the only issue that we will be able to wish everyone a HAPPY Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. The next deadline is December 10th so the December issue will be much too late to extend the Seasons Greetings. So Happy Holidays, everyone.

Stay nice, fight nice.

Sincerely,

Al Uridel

"CN" 329th

Dixie Chapter News

Our reunion in Charleston is history now. Dixie Chapter was well represented. As usual, our hospitality room was a popular place. Thanks to John and Freeda Hobbs and the West Virginia Chapter for a reunion we will never forget.

Several of the Dixie Chapter members made a trip to Europe in June. I will not elaborate on this as a report on this trip will be elsewhere in the Thunderbolt.

Our next Chapter meeting will be in Columbia, S.C., October 9th & 10th. Our host and hostess will be Emory and Christi Culclasure and Columbia friends. We are looking forward to a large crowd as this is a wonderful time of the year to travel. The Fall colors should be at their peak.

Of course, don't forget our annual Christmas party in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, December 4th, 5th and 6th. We are hoping to have several visitors from the other Chapters. EVERYONE WELCOME! Yo'All Come!

Frank Jackson

Friend To Friends With Feelings

On August 3rd, 4th, 5th, 1987 Haran Martin and his son Bucky, took a trip to South Carolina and back through North Carolina, visiting with ailing friends of the Dixie Chapter, first stop was in Statesville, NC, a short visit with Bernice Sluder widow of the late Kyle Sludder. Bernice said she was doing very well and would like to see everyone, she welcomes the 83rd Friends to stop and see her, she sends her love to all.

Next stop was in Whitmire SC to see Buford Shields, he has a Service Station in Whitmire. Then drove a few blocks down the street to visit with M.L. Baker who has been ill since our last meeting at the Pines in New York ML is amazing he has faith and looks real good. His wife Joyce is doing the nursing

and doing a fine job. I learned their son was in a accident very serious, but now is much better. We all will send out our prayers for all our sick comrades.

Stoped in Chester S.C. made phone call to John M. Samuelian M-329. He is a non-member at this time. Then we proceeded to Newberry, S.C. stoped by O.L. Cook's home. He was on the porch resting from the heat after yard word. O.L. spent the remainder of the day with us, we visited Meadors Minck in Kinards, S.C. Meadors under went surgery prostate problem he was not feeling to well. He was to report back to Camp Gordon later in the week. Left Meadors and drove to Saluda, S.C. to see Dick and Lesslie Riddle. O.L. still with us. We found Dick feeling tough, Dick was suffering from swelling that has come and gone time and again. He also is being treated at Camp Gordon each week. We bid them bye and took O.L. back home.

Visited a short time with his folks, then we hit the trail for Columbia, S.C., we spent the night there, but we called Emory Culclasure and Christy and went to their home for refreshments. Christy called our good friends Tom Thompson and Jim Burrows and they joined us, while there I called several non-members of the 83rd who will probably join in October when we meet there. Getting late, so we went to our hotel and sacked out.

Following morning we had breakfast with Emory and Tom then we headed for Summerton S.C. to see Robert (Bob) Grazier. Bob had just got home from the hospital the day before. He was weak but put up a good front. You know Bob, he was more cheerful than I was. Bob has had a multitude of troubles since loosing his lovely wife. His heart has stopped three times, he lost a little toe on the right foot, had gallbladder problems, later they amputated his left leg just below the knee. Bobs daughter was there getting things lined up for the sale of his home. He is moving back to New York. He has high hopes of being able to continue his life with new limbs and motorized wheel chair.

He said the 83rd will see more of him and I think we will, he don't give up easy. I hope when you read this everyone that I have mentioned will be much, much better. This covers South Carolina report, if there is a comrade close by that is sick or confined make their day, drop in on them for a visit. There may be something you can help them with. Winston Salem 83rd comrades send their love and prayers.

Haran Martin

Co. C. 331st

FLORIDA CHAPTER

I am very happy to report that Millie and I arrived back home from Charleston, W. Va. last week from a wonderful reunion. Millie and myself started out from Florida going to see our children in Brooklyn, and Ct. While up North, we attended the wedding of Joe DePeri's daughter Joann to Timothy in New Jersey. It was a lovely affair, and glad that we were able to attend. The newlyweds were able to join us in Charleston, as they are making their home in West Virginia. After spending a few weeks up North, we

headed for Philadelphia, and then on to Pittsburgh to visit Lu Caven, who just came out of the Hospital. From Pittsburgh we continued on to Charleston, and then back home to Florida. It was great seeing all of our buddies, who we can see only once a year. A marvelous four (4) days was spent in Charleston. The hospitality room was very large and it was packed all the time. The tables were filled with snacks, and you very rarely had to wait for a drink. There were bartenders at each corner of the large room. The Memorial Services went off perfectly, and Casey Kowalec did a great job of running it.

The dinners on Friday and Saturday evening were both very good. It was held at the Convention Center, and it was no problem getting a table to be with your buddies. It was a huge place and the service was good. We would like to thank the boys of West Virginia for putting on a swell reunion.

The Florida Chapter was very well represented at this Reunion. I would estimate we had at least forty (40) members present. Of course we missed the regulars who always attend our reunions. Because of health and other reasons they were unable to attend, namely the Lizotte's, Parker Black's, Herhuth's, and the Schnieder's. I hope when you read this they will be all well. The Florida Chapter had a short meeting on Friday and we had twenty-five members present. The next meeting of the Chapter will be on November 13 & 14 in Sarasota, Fla. It will be hosted by Rose and Parker Black. If you recall our last meeting in Sarasota was great. If any 83rd men will be in Florida at that date, and would like to spend a day or two with us, just contact me for details.

We would like to welcome into the Florida Chapter, Albert Bensimon, James Burt, Nick Barbu, and Sam Galati. Congratulations to the Galati family on the upcoming marriage of their son on November 14th.

That is all the news for now, and make your plans early for our reunion in Hershey, Pa., which the Philadelphia Chapter is hosting. Have a Happy Thanksgiving, and enjoy your Winter Holidays.

Dave Benick

"A" 331st

G Company 331st Infantry

The Reunion in Charleston, West Virginia was another memorable occasion. It was not well planned, but we were able to meet with our buddies and enjoy their company for a few days. G Company once again had a good turnout - those attending the reunion were Beau Titus, Mort Gaynor, Babe Gautchi, William Ripley, Troy Mayse, Edgar Perry, Gene Costanzo, Al Suess, Ed Walsh, Joe Phillipone, and Joe Macaluso.

G Company also had a good turnout for its Reunion in Pittsburgh in June. Those in attendance were Gaynor, Titus, Gautchi, Phillipone, Macaluso, Suess, Walsh, Costanzo, Flannary, Selma Corder, Drowniak, Everret Singleton and Jim Porter.

At our meeting in Pittsburgh we decided to hold our Company Reunion the Wednesday before the Division Reunion, at the site of the Annual Reunion. We will try that next year in Hershey, but due to the

cost of reunion in Hershey Lodge, we will have to do some checking to find a Motel in the Area where we can meet. We will not be able to get the Reunion Rates at the Lodge until the Thursday of the reunion. I will get a letter in the mail sometime in the spring as to where we will gather. Sorry that my article was not in the last issue of the Thunderbolt, it was a little late, but I was told that it would be published.

We are in hopes that a future Company reunion we can get a better turnout, and we are hopeful that some of the men who could not attend for some reason or another will make plans to join their buddies. I know that in the past we have lost a lot of men from G Company, but there is still a large number who we are in contact with. We are having our reunion at the same time as the Division in hopes of saving some money for the individuals. A large number of the men are on fixed incomes, and if we can save them some money when we combine the reunions, we are only to glad to do it.

I haven't had a run down on the health of some of our men, and only hope that those that are ill, will continue to improve. We do know that time is getting short. This year the Chaplain of the Association read off 85 names of the men who died during the past year. Those of us that are still hanging tough are very thankful and we continue to offer our prayers for our buddies.

Capt. Mac

KENTUCKY CHAPTER CHATTER

Our hats are off to our newest 83rd Infantry Division Chapter for hosting the 41st annual reunion at Charleston, West Virginia. We want to thank John Hobbs, his lovely wife Freda and the West Virginia Chapter for making it a fun and pleasant time for all of us. It was a great reunion and it was so nice seeing old friends again and spending time with them. We enjoyed the dog races and patio party on Wednesday evening. Some of us were winners and others were losers but we all had lots of fun. Floyd and Alberta Richmond were winners and enjoyed it so much they even went back a second night.

We had sixty-one (61) Chapter members, wives and guests in attendance at the reunion. They were Robert and Pearl Derickson, Ames and Helen Miller, Alison and Carol Shrawder, Dan AND Ann McCarthy, R. C. and Louise Hamilton, Leroy and Clara Johnson with their daughter Linda, Larry and Jessie Dalton, Earl and Bonnie Hoover, with their daughter and son-in-law, Arthur and Mildred Doggett, Wilson and Vi Day, Chester and Helen Wilson, Charlie and Babe Schmidt, Manny and Avalon Goodridge with their daughter Amy, Paul and Vivian Cravens, Hershel and Imogene McIntosh with their daughter Deane and her friend, Cecil and Nora Lee Walters, Owen and Jeanette Jones, Floyd and Alberta Richmond, Lawrence and Maxine Hamilton, Tom Hensley, Marvin and Wanda Hayden with Wanda's sister, Ruth, Theresa Ritchie and her daughter Judy, James and Margaret Reddin, Wally and Frances

Roberts, William and Nancy Ledger, Leo and Beulah Boyd, Paul Bryars, Erwin and Norma Erhardt. Some of our Chapter members or their wives were having health problems, but they came to the reunion to see all of us. We were so happy to see them. We hope God continues to keep them and all of us in his care. I think we had one of the largest groups. Some of the people at the reunion told me they missed my articles in the Thunderbolt. Sorry about that but one of the reasons for my not writing was the cut off time for the articles. The news then became old hat and who wants to read old news.

I will back up a little. I'll make the news of our outings very brief. Our Spring Meeting was held at Clarksburg, Indiana and our host and hostess were Dan and Ann McCarthy. They had many interesting and fun things planned for us. I'd like to repeat on this one.

Our Summer meeting was a picnic and was at Oxford, Ohio. Our host and our host and hostess were Bob and Pearl Derickson. They also had our days and nights planned for us.

James and Margaret Reddin, Wilson and I joined the Dixie Chapter for their Spring meeting at Williamsburg and Wilson and I joined them for their Summer meeting at Atlanta. We enjoyed both places very much and seeing and being with our friends.

Our Fall meeting will be at Greenville, Ohio, the weekend of October 9, 10 and 11 with Gale and Irene Baker as our host and hostess. We will then have our election of officers. I will end my article with one of My favorite poems.

A PRAYER FOR TODAY

This is the beginning of a new day. God has given me this day to use as I will. I can waste it or use it for good, but what I do today is important, because I am exchanging a day of my life for it! When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, leaving in its place something that I have traded for it. I want it to be gain and not loss; good and not evil; success, and not failure; in order that I shall not regret the price that I have paid for it.

Dr. Heartsill Wilson

Take care and God Bless You
Vi Day

Michigan Chapter

Once again it is time to look forward to next year's reunion. This year we must congratulate John Hobbs and the entire West Virginia Chapter for a happy time we had in Charleston.

A lot of new faces and members came from the Mid Eastern area. I hope they will keep coming each and every year.

Michigan Chapter was well represented at the reunion. There were Jack and Hankie Daugherty, Lee and Dorothy Hectric, Bill and Jean Goodwin, Bruce and Jean Winchell, Nick and Sylvaia Barbu, Vito and Virginia Palazzolo, Bob Taylor and Gladys, Jerry and Elaine Bucholtz, Frank and Jean Bellino, Ed

Zerucha and Son Patches.

I was approached by a member asking if I could use some 83rd patches. I said that I would get back with him and purchase them. Like everything else I forgot to get them and I hope he will write me and send the patches. I will send him a check for them. I also forgot who it was that offered them to me.

JACKETS

I still have a lot of XL and XXL jackets left, both lined and unlined. Anyone wanting them, please write me.

SHIRTS

This coming year I'm going to make another change in the Style of the Shirts. I am going to eliminate the vent on the back. I have made several changes in the past. A member brought a shirt I made him back in 1959, and he wanted to sell it back to me stating that it still holds out well after all these years.

We here in Michigan still hope that we can get together and start to function as a chapter again. We are going to try and have a Christmas Party or get together sometime in December. Letter will follow. Please attend and renew your attendance.

That is it for now. PAY YOUR DUES. Attend the reunions and keep in touch with all your Buddies. Time is passing us by real fast.

VITO PALAZZOLO

"G" 329th

New England Chapter

First of all I would like to thank the Association for electing me Third Vice President of this great organization. It is an honor and I will do my best to fill the shoes of Jim Prentice who did such an admirable job. Thanks again. We would like to congratulate Jim Prentice on being elected to the Executive Board also.

A big hand of applause to John Hobbs and all the West Virginia Chapter for another good reunion. There will always be some sort of complaints, but the most important thing at a reunion is to see your buddies and have a good time. Here we are looking at the 42nd which will be run by the Philadelphia Chapter in Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in September.

Our New England Chapter was well represented with the Davis's of Newburyport Mas., Francullo's and Smith's of Lynn, Mass., Farrias's, New Bedford, Mass., Ferriera's, Chelmsford, Mass., McCartin's, Lowell Mass., McKee's of Three Rivers, Mass., Pettiti, Fla., Burkhard's, N.Y., Barber's of Finksburg, Md., Kent O'Connell, Hicksville, N.Y., Brennen's, Warick, R. I, Boucher, Charlestonw, R.I. Petrucci of N. Prov. R.I., Al Tartaglia, of Johnston, R.I., Champeys, of Middletown, Conn. Mudre's of Stratford, Ct., Jin Prentice of Claremont, N.H., Frank Adachowski, Kensington, Ct., Simon's of Hamden, Ct., Etzel's of N. Guilford, Ct. and our new members whom we picked up and welcome to our chapter. They are Fred Messina of W. Chesterfield, N.H., "K" 330th, of Shillington, Pa. and James F. Erisman, 83rd Signal, of

Reading, Pa. and if anyone who does not or who wishes to join our New England Chapter, please write to me, Nick Francullo, 10 Bessom Street, Lynn, Mass 01902.

We missed seeing Captain Jack Masters due to his illness and we all wish you, Capt. Jack, a quiet recovery, also John Donahue who is a die hard 83rder and is not able to travel. Also to Lou Rossi who is getting better everyday. Missed seeing Raymond Rudd of N.Y., Jim Barber, of Ct., Ray Orsene of Ct. an dNick Boyd of Mich., and also our good buddy, Al, Faedi of Ct., Ed Patch and Leroy Trombley and Richard Freeman of Me., Merrill White of N.H., Harry Benedetti, Mass., Ed Cadran of Mass., and Henry Foss of Mass. I hope you all are O.K. and hope to hear from you all. After the reunion Dot and Jim Brennan took off for Dayton, Ohio to see their daughter, Bernedette and son-in-law, Capt. Mike David and their granddaughters. Capt. Mike is stationed at Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

Mary and I took off for Chambersburg, Pa., to visit with our good buddy Russ and Vera Wagner for a day and then we took off for a days visit to Gettysburg, Pa, and we enjoyed it very much.

Oh, yes how can I miss not mentioning seeing old Buddies Raynor (Big Red) Burcham and Thomas Sullivan of 3rd BN.HQ. 330th. You guys still look great.

I guess I might have to get the whip out for the 3rd BN.HQ. 330th gang. They are a little slow in making the reunions. Get off your BUTTS boys and let's all make Hershey, Pa in 1988.

The New England Chapter is planning our Christmas Party on December 5, 1987 and it will be held at the Marriott in Providence, R.I. We will be sending out more information on that. We hope to have another turn-out and it will be a week-end deal also.

Well, that is it you all
Your Buddy always,

Nick Francullo
3rd BN.HQ. 330th A.T. pt



What a good time. New England Chapter



Just Relaxing. New England Chapter



Mouise & Helen having a ball



**Joe Minottis 1st Reunion 83rd Sig.,
New England Chapter**

NEWS FROM THE 783RD

"Reunion Time is over and we have all gone home, Hoo-Rah, Hoo-Rah, a good time was had by all! Boy, you are lucky you can't hear me sing that.

In as much as we don't have too much bad news, lets start with the negative first. I've been working extra hard in trying to find our fellows that are still "lost". Many phone calls and a few letters produced the finding of two, Joe Berger and Stanley Roznowski. I located Joe's sister in Blanchester, Ohio. Joe died of a heart attack in Sept. of 1977. Stan was better news as he was in good spirits and apparent good health. He lived at 204 E. 8th St. Aspinwall Pa., 15215-412-781-1406. Some of you will not remember Stan as Lt. Norton "invited" him to leave the 783rd for the 331st. in Camp Atterbury. Stan stayed with the 331st for the duration.

The only other negative news is to report on the fellows who signed up for the reunion and then couldn't come. Bill Manning's dental seminar ran a day late so Paul Bryars told Bill to stay home, "Its not worth the time and moneey just to sleep with me one night:" Al Unfried's, Bert, just got herself a new job and no vacation so Al had to stay home and cook, and run the cleaner. Last and certainly least was Phil Barbara. Jim R. Jones asked for Phil's whereabouts and when I told Jim preferred playing golf on some fishy Italian island by the name of Sardinia big Jim let out one big sigh. A small tear dribbled from each blue eye and on composing himself he expressed the feelings of Bryers and Wiggins. "Well its easily explained, Phil can't stand honest competition and defeat."

The reunion itself was quite successful. We couldn't ask for better food, or weather, and they are prime ingredients. If you ever have doubt on a hotel choice, pick a Marriott. They treated us like we were family. One of the smiling bellhops told me, "You're the greatest convention we've ever had, its really a joy coming to work this week." From the 783rd we had a total of twenty nine in attendance and lets see if I can't say a little about each. Everyone was anxious to see Art Doggett and everyone was pleased to see "Old Dog" back to his usual self. On Thursday evening he made the arrangements for all of us, and half the Kentucky Chapter to eat out. He also put his life on the line by stepping out and stopping the center city traffic to allow our safe passage. Millie had to enjoy herself as she was the winner of \$48.00 at the dog races. She laughingly told told us, "Its ok, I've evened things out, I bought a Bible with my ill-gotten gains."

Hersch and Midge were always smiling and they looked great. Hersch almost died from losing four pints of blood from a ruptured ""hiatel" hernia. Always dependable, Joe and Pat Stubber popped in on Friday. Izzy and Lou Labbe flew in and were seen flying everywhere in Charleston. Izzy also restocked us with "fresh" jokes. Alyce Fredericks spent all of Carl's upcoming Christmas bonus in the mall with the excuse, "But, they are all bargains for the grandchildren."

Doc and Agnes Pfeiffer were their usual effervescent selves. Doc brought an interesting conversa-

tional piece from the Tennessee maneuvers, a wooden carbine which many of us had signed. Does that bring back memories? Al and Ruth Bensimon both enjoying their summer and winter beachfront homes, in New Jersey and Florida. All of our elder statesmen showed up again. They are of course the Harris's, George, Mettie, Ed and Vi. George, celebrating his 78th, found the 450 mile drive "a little tiring." They were all their charming selves although Ed, a young 84, tried to steal the show by fainting in the lobby. Fortunately, he was ok and Ed didn't miss a thing. George thought his problem was, "he drank a glass of WATER."

Ray and Mimi added some youthfulness to the reunion by having their charming daughter fly in for Saturday's activities. The only problem was Bryars and Jones insisted on playing "Uncle"; with poor captured Sally. Ray and Mimi were then treating Sally to a week at Williamsburg and places South. Candy Candeliere deserves a medal for coming to the reunion. He just had a prostrate operation and by now hopefully he has finished his radiation treatments. As we age we learn that nothing really changes, if we got our health we have the world.

Bill and Martha "Camper" Appleby sure looked healthy and the good news is Bill will be active in the Hersey reunion, so all you square dancers take note. Bill will also be running the golf tournament so Bryers can concentrate on his game.

The 783rd most unusual guest was Frank Szalontay. We all remember some of the nice girls Frank had but in Charleston he really showed up with a dog. She went by the name of Leipschen and she ate all the steak that our girls left over at the banquet. Frank says he's not going to bring her again because he had to make too many excursions trying to find fire plugs.

Ruth, Agnes, Millie, Alyce, Ginny and Midge after doing the mall on Thursday took their own historic turn on Friday while the fellows were in their business meeting. They toured beautiful, marble State Capital building and the Governor's mansion on a gorgeous river setting. Their last stop was the interesting and educational history of W. Virginia at the Cultural Center. On the return trip home Agnes and some of the others had a few moments of nostalgia as their mode of transportation was an old "Toonerville Trolley."

In the meantime, Bryars, Jones and Wiggins were off into the hills, hitting around their little white balls. When it was all over, Jim prevailed again, with an 81, Wiggins 86, and lost ball Bryers, did himself proud with 89. Boy, am I glad I came up with a back spasm excuse. Without Sardine Barbara here, I sure didn't want to finish last!

On our way home, I once again looked up Lt. Joe Brown and we found him at his new home. I'm very happy to report that Joe is in terrific shape physically and still sharp as a tack.

He inquired about many of you, by first name, and he was sorry about missing the reunion, but he was knee deep in building frustrations. Joe is deeply involved in the War College of Carlisle, and the Exchange Club. He plays golf three days a week and he is looking forward to meeting us all at the Hersey re-

union. It was a real privilege and pleasure after forty-two years to share a Lowenbrau with Joe. His new address (DelPrete) is 910 Alexander Spring Rd. Carlisle, Pa. 17013 717-24999-19909. Easy to find, right off 81 at the Plainfield exit.

Lastly, if you are coming to Hersey, drop Bill Appleby a line of confirmation on your intentions and he will reserve a block of rooms. All I can add is; I know Hersey will be a well run reunion, in a first class Lodge, at a perfect country side setting, for a perfect vacation and it's in September too.

Hut two,

Rags Rangnow

Please Bob, if you have room could you squeeze in the following.

P.S. Thanks to a section photo of Bensimon and Wiggins, which listed the fellows home city. I was able to quickly find two new buddies wanting to know all about us. They are Wilton "Snooks" Snook - 6422 South 127 Place, Seattle Wash. 97178--206-772-6327 and Joseph J. Hendrix ended up ten miles from Atterbury - 1151 Hospital Rd. Franklin, Ind., 46131--317-763-5945. On the sad side I also located Roma Tom French in Indianapolis, Ind. He just died on July 31, 1987. There's a lesson there, if we do our homework we can still find our friends. I'll give you the history on Snooks and Joe in the next issue.

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER NEWS

The Philadelphia Chapter usually schedules a dinner to honor both mothers and fathers in place of our June meeting. This year, under the guidance of our chapter vice-president, George Pletcher, we enjoyed a dinner and show at Lily Langtry's in the Valley Forge Sheraton Hotel. The show and dinner were excellent, and George managed to get into the act on stage as well. I think a few cameras appeared but I think we would have to check with George on that.

For the July meeting, we drove to Perkiomenville and were guests of Lester and Elsie Hauck for a picnic on their spacious grounds. We were joined by two of Lesters' 308th Engineers buddies whom he has not seen in years. They are Raymond A. Cerio and Clayton C. Fickensher radiomen. Both men are making plans to join us at the Annual Reunion to be held in Hershey, Pennsylvania, in September of '88.

As we go to the Reunion in Charleston, we wish for the speedy recovery of our chapter president, Norman Schuster, as well as for Charles Bonafilia and Mary Redmond, all of whom are currently on sick call. Three such faithful attendees of the annual reunions over the years were sorely missed by all of us.

John G. Daum
"D", 330th

CO. "H" 330th

HELLO BUDDIES:

Here it is time to get our news in for the first issue of the new year of the "THUNDERBOLT". As I sit here writing I stop and think, here we are starting our 42nd year in the History of the great 83rd Infantry Division Association. It doesn't seem possible that so many years have passed us by.

Well Buddies, I deeply regret not having been able to attend the 41st Annual Reunion in Charleston. My wife and I were looking forward to it so much, but she has been very sick and although she tried to keep it from me as much as possible, I was able to see that she was not well enough to go so I finally cancelled out. Fortunately I did, because as the days went on, I could see her failing. Finally on the night of the Reunion Banquet, instead of being there, I was in an Ambulance rushing her to the hospital. She was very serious and finally had to have an operation. In which they have little or no hopes. Yesterday the Doctors finally turned on the green light and said she is progressing very well, but still in dangerous position.

I had talked to Capt. Jack Masters, he just came out of the Hospital with a slight Heart Attack and is doing quite well. He like myself hated not being with our Co. "H" men. There were to be some men there that we hadn't met, but God willing maybe we can see them next year. Again I want to thank Co. "H" men for their generous contributions to the ad book, it was a tremendous success. May God Bless you all, will be talking to you in the next issue.

Your Buddy
Larry Redmond

PITTSBURGH CHAPTER NEWS

Another reunion is history and once again our chapter turned out in a large number. Twenty-six members attended this year. This is out of a total of thirty-six active members. We are still growing with the acceptance of Frank Hornack, former MP from Latrobe, Pa. He was recommended by Bill Harrold, also an ex-MP. They reside in a reasonable distance from one another. We had several inquiries at the reunion about membership in the chapter. We shall follow up on these. The biggest shall become bigger.

The honor guard at the reunion's memorial services were: your reporter; "Smokey" Alicandri; Sal Scicolone and Ed Reuss. I was informed that on the return trip to Pittsburgh, Jules Desgain had trouble with the towing mechanism on his car, which was towing his Jeep. But, with makeshift repairs, they arrived back with the Jeep in good order. At the reunion I was pleased to renew old acquaintances with Larren Thacker, ex-Lt. Walter McGhee and Clark Johnson, who I have not had contact with in a long period of time. I was also informed of the recent death of Bill Bowman of ElPaso, Illinois. Although not a member of the association, he was a close friend of mine while serving overseas.

Ed and Lee Reuss became grandparents for the

sixth time with the birth of a granddaughter to their son Brian and his wife Kim on June 20, 1987; weighing in at 6 lbs., 7 oz. Charles Caven's wife Lu is home after a lengthy stay in the hospital and doing quite well.

At the September meeting a request was made from the VFW that we donate \$15 towards the coffee and donut fund of the VA Hospital in Oakland (Pittsburgh) for the out-patients receiving treatment at the facility. We did better than that; a donation of \$36 (\$1 for every active member of the chapter) was given to this endeavor. Sometime in the future a party for veterans in VA hospitals will be given or a luncheon will be given for certain patients in a VA facility; along with this is an entertainment feature.

Fred Karen and his wife Maggie, from Echernach, Luxembourg long time friends of Gene Costanzo, and Sam Klippa recently on a trip to Pittsburgh were guests of Gene and some of the chapter members. Fred is an orphan boy since nine years old, and has been an idol of the 83rd Div. since the 40's and has scrapbooks and memorabilia of the 83rd overseas. His wife is the owner of the chapter; where Gene acted as host and showed them sights, took them on tours, attended the Three Rivers Regatta, had boat rides and capped it off with gourmet meal at an exclusive restaurant in Oakmont, Pa. Those in attendance were chapter president Ed Walsh and his wife Dorothy; Sam and Frances Klippa; Joe and Louise Danylo; Jules and Agnes Desgain and of course Gene. We certainly hope they enjoyed our fair city.

I had hoped to have an article of a recent overseas trip taken by Gene Costanzo and Joe Danylo in this issue; but I inadvertently misplaced it. So it must be held up until our next issue.

Fran Beerhalter

"H" 329

Warren Chapter News

Once again we returned from our annual reunion with fond memories of meeting with our old friends, to talk over old times, have a few drinks together and enjoying the sights of a new reunion city. Charleston, West Virginia. Most of our wives spent a lot of time and money, touring the giant shopping mall. The Warren Chapter C.P. was open most of the time, but we all must have cut down on our drinking, because we had booze left over. We would like to thank our wonderful Ladies Auxiliary for furnishing the funds to provide the delicious lunches everyday. A special "Tip of the Hat" goes to Marge Voracek and Birdie Titus, who made several trips to the grocery store and carried back bags of groceries, including doughnuts and rolls to go with coffee each morning. Marge got up early to make sure the coffee pot was turned on and ready for the early birds. Cheese Bellay provided all of the vegetables, right from his garden.

We also wish to thank all of you nice people who bought our 50/50 raffle tickets. We held the drawing on Saturday night and the winner was Al Rinaldi, in room 400, at the Elk River Motel. Al won \$111.00

and lives in Richmond, VA. He served with Co. K - 329th Inf.

Get Well Wishes - To John Caparanis, who had to cancel his reservation at the last minute and spent five days in the hospital with a painful kidney infection. John is okay now and back at the Lumber Yard. Joe Venuti continues to improve and gets around pretty good without his oxygen equipment.

Past Meetings - July: We held our annual "Paradise Lake" meeting on a beautiful sunny day at the campsites of Voracek, Gautschi and Titus who also were the committee. Eighteen golfers participated in our golf "Rodeo" and each man won at least three prizes. Our Prexy - Ray Voracek drove many miles in the beer car to make sure that we all were supplied with cold beer. Later in the afternoon, we were happy to welcome two of our Pittsburgh Chapter buddies, Sam Klippa and Gene Costanzo, who traveled down the pike to be with us. Before they left for home, we introduced them to our favorite card game "Screw your Neighbor" and as you may have guessed, Gene won all the money. The committee wishes to thank our wonderful ladies for supplying the delicious food.

August: Back to Smelko's Golf Course and Picnic Pavillion. We finalized our plans for our C.P. at the Reunion and enjoyed our usual golf match, picnic lunch and our card game.

Well, that is all the news from Warren for now. Since the Winter Issue of the "Thunderbolt" will not be published until after the Holidays, all members of the Warren Chapter and our wonderful ladies wish to extend to all of you nice people, our Best Wishes for a very Merry Christmas and Good Health, Good Luck and much Happiness for the New Year.

Lee Titus

Chapter Reporter

WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER

Hello Good Buddies:

Well what can I say, its over and done, and on behalf of the West Virginia Chapter, I would like to take this moment to give a big thanks to everyone who took part, using their time and effort putting the WEST VIRGINIA REUNION together.

Names are too numerous to mention, the men and ladies of other Chapters, the MARIOTT, the CIVIC CENTER, and anyone else who took part. We kindly THANK YOU each and everyone.

This being my first reunion (please forgive) I enjoyed meeting so many beautiful people, made a lot of new friends, met an old buddie I haven't seen since BRECKINRIDGE.

My first impression was, reminded me of getting ready for field inspection, with the military vehicle (thanks Jules) and the chap with the Helmet & Jacket with all the Medals, (sorry I forgot his name.)

I was asked by several people, how's the reunion going my replay was, I DON'T KNOW I'm too busy to find out. John Hobbs you were right, there was not time for fun & games.

Had a problem with the Van a couple times, like

getting it there on time, but it worked out, gave it my best shot, and really enjoyed every minute, even in the rain.

The Craft Room was a great success the ladies worked hard getting it all together.

Hope everyone enjoyed their stay in Charleston and had a wonderful time.

John Shepherd

Staff Reporter

"L" & "HQ" 331

Letters To The Editor

The Combat Infantry Badge

Frank Halley

Taken From V.F.W. News of Massachusetts

During a visit to an out-of-state coin shop which deals in silver and gold items, I was a bit disappointed to learn that an old Indian-head penny I'd found as a boy was worth just that - one American penny - no more, no less.

As the proprietor was busily telling me: "There's millions of those pennies floating' 'round the country," something among what seemed like hundreds of silver and gold items which were piled in a wicker basket on the counter behind him caught my eye. I recognized it immediately as one of the original "CIBs" (Combat Infantryman Badge). I asked the proprietor if I might see it; and when he handed it to me, I asked him if he knew what it signified. This was his answer.

"Some guy came in the other day... said he got it when he was in the Army ... felt sorry for the guy, so I gave him two bucks for the thing... be lucky if I get half a buck's worth of sterling (silver) outta the thing."

There's an old saying in the Army for those who have earned the Combat Infantry Badge. As an officer pins this badge of courage on a combat infantry man's tunic, it is customary for the officer to say: "Soldier, you are bound to go to heaven because this badge shows the world that you've serve your time in hell."

Yes, this badge with its "Old Bess" flintlock rifle transposed on a field of infantry blue is not easily acquired; for the wearer has seen the lonely, cold stark nakedness of the battlefield. He has seen what the bomber and fighter pilot does not see, nor the artilleryman and those who sit in rear echelon offices and bases of supply do not see - he sees death as it occurs - the mud - the blood - the screams of friend and foe as they die - he sees the eyes and the face of his enemy. And I thought, as I held this "Mark of a Man" in my hands: how many ... how many of these badges were in the hands of those who deal in silver and gold ... how many were awaiting the smelters ladels...?

I would ask those who have earned this most coveted military award to think twice before handing it over to those who see only a small amount of sterling silver in its composition, and could care less about the man and the story behind it. I would ask him to look back ... back to the day when that officer

pinned it on their tunics and told them:

"Soldier, you are bound to go to heaven, because this badge shows the world you have served your time in hell..."

Frank Halley, First Sergeant

USA (Retired)

Edward Thomas

The family of Edward Thomas acknowledges with deep appreciation your kind expression of sympathy.

Thanks to all our friends for the cards and flowers sent to us in our time of need.

Kitty Thomas and Mary Ann

"B" 329th

Frankly Speaking

By John Walker

Co. "D" 330th

Another great Thunderbolt Reunion is over and again I didn't get to make it. John G. Daum was there and he stated in his note to me that nine Co. "D" 330th men were in attendance, but he only has the names of six. They were John G. Daum, Lt. Harold V. Felton, Frank Jackson, Paul Schick, Paul E. Smith and Clarence Zimmerman. Maybe next year since the date has been changed I will be able to attend. The Reunion will be held in Hershey, PA.

I would like to report that I was elected at our last V.F.W. State Convention to the high office of National Councilman representing Indiana and Missouri. I was sworn in at New Orleans during the National Reunion.

I received a nice long letter from Norman "Punjab" Fjelsted this year after visiting with him a couple hours last summer. I will be in Minn. again in October and I plan to look him up again.

Steve Ferko wrote me a nice letter also this year of which I haven't answered. He is coming along great and plans to attend future reunions.

A note from Clarence Zimmerman states his wife has had open heart surgery and that she is now doing fine.

Ted Gurgal writes that he has had several operations, first a stomach problem and then one of his left hip and then later his right hip. We hope by this time he is able to get around. Lt. Malcom O'Malley writes that he spent last Christmas near Liege Bel. And he says just like in 1944, cold and snow. He also would like a trip through Camp Atterbury and if a Reunion could be set up he would be interested. He also states that he just joined the V.F.W. Sgt. Dodd our first Sgt. sends his regards.

A surprise letter came in June from Leo Sanino. He is retired now and hopes to make a reunion one of these years. He sent me his 1988 dues of which I'll forward on today also \$5.00 to take care of Frank Cilinski's name. This money will be used for the 1988 year book. Leo also paid \$5.00 for his 1988 ad.

Another surprise letter came from Francis "Slim" Barham who says I probably don't remember him,

but who could forget anyone who could throw a soft-ball 100 mph and you are the one trying to catch him. He also went to Ind. Central here in Indpls. And I have a newspaper picture of the long and short at the school with both wearing a "Beanie" she struck him just above the belt. He also inquired about his old sidekick Lt. O'Malley, others heard from this past few months were Lt. Robt. Harrell, Paul Smith, Pete Syrylo, Alfred Custeau, Joe Bizzaro, Lacy Satterfield, John Herr, Bernice Rosenberg, Howard Schneiner, and Capt. Eugene Fritts, also Lewis Jones, James Fairfield, Paul Schick, Felix and George Tangolos. George Tangolo's wife Barbara writes that she and George celebrated thier 40th anniversary by touring "America by Rail: and that they plan to attend next reunion in Pa.

We are sorry to hear of the death of Johnnie Ball and we send our condolences to his wife and family.

Will someone at the last Reunion send me a copy of Co. "D" 300th ad in the program book.

I would like to request that all send their 1988 dues to Robert Derickson, 3749 Stahlheber Rd., Hamilton, Ohio 45013, and that you send your \$5.00 for Co. "D" 330th ad to me John Walker 3138 Falcon Dr. Indpls., Ind. 46222.

Let me hear from you and what you are doing for future articles for our Thunderbolt. 1-317-293-3896.

I better mention that I also heard from Lt. Robert Snyder or he might try to court martial me.

Hi Bob:

It was real nice meeting you and your wife, Pearl. Also a pleasant surprise to see my old friend Fred Messina and his wife, working on the committee as well.

For most of us it was our first Division reunion. We all had a real great time and enjoyed our Buddies we haven't seen since the war.

I want you to know that without all of your help it would never have been possible for me to get 14 of the original members who started in Camp Atterbury to attend the reunion.

Most of them knew nothing about the reunion, but for you sending out the 83rd Association information so quick really helped me to get them to go. They all refunded my money.

I see by the last 83rd Booklet that they had in the column "as Passed away", Francis E. Coyne and listed with no company or regiment. He was in my platoon which was the 2nd Platoon, Company "E", 331st. Can this information be put in the next 83rd booklet? It will ring a bell with "E", members. Thank you.

With a little luck and some heavy work, we plan to get more members for the Hershey reunion. I only tried for the Camp Atterbury members this year.

I regret I did not get "E" members to the Division Meeting at the reunion. There were 17 of us all total. Being new at this, I had a lot to learn. Will be smarter next year in Hershey. With a little luck the Division will know "E" has arrived. It was my fault they did not know "E" was in Charleston, West Virginia.

Thank you again for all your help. See you in Hershey.

Your Army Buddie Fred Willman

P.S. We were there when the outfit needed us in WAR and we plan to be there when the Division needs us in PEACE.

P.S. Enclosed is \$10.00 for the following name. Please mail him a membership. Zell H. Oswalk, Box 279, Rt. 4, Greenville, Alabama 36037

As we have said many times that is what we are here for. To help you in any way. But is sure is nice to get this kind of thanks for it. Thanks Fred.

Dear Bob:

I am certain all our membership appreciates all that you and the officers of our great organization do for us during the year. It's a wonder some you fellows have any time for your families or yourselves. In any well run organization there have to be a few dedicated, hard working members if that body is to be successful. Our hats are off to you, Bob, and all those in our Association who do such a marvelous job to keep all of us happy and united.

I am sorry to miss the reunion in West Virginia this August but will be able to thank you and your fellow officers when we meet in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

I would like to say a "Special Hello" to all my good friends in "E" 329th. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think of our fine group.

Henry W. Satterthwaite
"Hank"

Michigan Chapter

Sept. 4, 1987

Bob:

I am sending you this letter for the Thunderbolt because I talked to a lot of fellows that feel the same as I do.

Why is the Hospitality Room necessary when chapters, companies & some individuals have their own C.P.s? Another question asked many times is where is the money we have going to go when there are no 83rd men left?

We, like everyone else enjoyed our stay in Charleston and had a good time at the Reunion but was disappointed in the program and the dinners. Thirty dollars for a chicken dinner was a mite too high.

With the costs of Reunions going up each year we have to find ways of cutting costs. One suggestion is to eliminate the open bar hospitality rooms. Many of us do not drink or are unable to because of the medication we are taking. This money could be used to reduce the registration fee. The association does not have to made a profit every year.

One last thought, it must have been embarrassing for the Charleston Classics to sing and not be heard because of all the noise in the hospitality room. We don't think our gang was very courteous to this group.

Lee Hetrick "CN Co" 331st
Jack Daugherty "L: Co. 329th

Dear Bob:

Your Veterans Alert entry in April Legion Magazine reminded me of my sad neglect of many odd friends and buddies. The latest news I can find from the 83rd Division Association is dated 1965. I am hopeful you may have a (short) list of survivors of former members of 83rd Recon Troop. The troop strength was only one hundred fifty (150) men, so I'm certain there aren't many left as active Association members.

I served with the 83rd Recon from October 1942 to October 1944. The service included Camp Atterbury, Tennessee Maneuvers, Breckenridge, two (2) months in England, then Normandy and Brittany. From Luxembourg I went to a hospital for one (1) week. Then, under protest, I was transferred to the 102nd Cav. Squadron, inside the German border. I served with the 102nd from Nov. 1944 until I was discharged in October 1945.

I attended the 83rd Reunion in Pittsburgh about 1950, but as I already mentioned, I have not kept in contact since 1965.

I am hopeful that other members like myself having reached retirement age will have more time to renew old friendships.

Last Summer 1986 was the first time I had the time and resources to return to Europe. It was a very emotional experience, especially the three (3) days I spent in Normandy. I stayed two (2) nights in a little hotel in Carentan. I spent several hours looking at the hedgerows, the apple orchards, the swamp, the old farm buildings. I realized everything would be drastically changed, and it was, but the familiar sights and names are still there. Perhaps I needed to convince myself it really happened, it wasn't just a bad dream that happened forty-two (42) years ago! I am officially credited as a participant in five (5) major campaigns in Europe, yet Normandy is always remembered as the first and most BRUTAL of them all.

The troop lost several good men in Normandy, so it came as a great surprise to me when I visited St. Laurent Cemetery, to learn the remains of only one of our men are interred there. The Cemetery Superintendent informed us they do not keep records of bodies that have been returned to the U.S.

I was not surprised to see the long listing of 83rd Division names on that sad roster at St. Laurent Cemetery. Our Infantry losses are Staggering. (In Normandy). It is of some comfort to see the beauty and reverence of that cemetery..

If you have the names of any members of the 83rd Recon Troop who may attend the August reunion I would appreciate them very much. Also please give date and location.

Sincerely,

James E. Gatten
R. R. 1, Box 158
Scenery Hill, Pa. 15360

Dear Bob:

I just joined your 83rd Div. as I did not know it was in existence for these many years. The following is a small history of my military service.

I enlisted in the Army on Oct. 5, 1942 and was processed at Ft. Meade, Md and then I was on my way to Ft. Benning, Ga. when a flood sent us to Camp Atterbury, Indianapolis, Ind. I was one of thousands that formed the neucleous of the 83rd and so began my second life.

I took my basic training there and when it was finished around March of 1943 I was transferred to the 725th Railway Operation Bn. in Camp Haraden, New Orleans, La. This was at the orders of President Roosevelt. A fine gentleman indeed.

After another sort of basic training at Harahan, Cpl. Claiborne, Cpl. Polk, and myself left for the shores of India and nineteen (19) days of hell or joy. Take your pick. We fought only the bugs, animals, illnesses and some boredom.

Then home and a discharge cak to the civilian life I had left. I serve thirty-nine (39) mos. and no serious sickness or injury so I really have no squalk to make. In fact I had a respite from my life at home and didn't really mind it.

While a member of the original trainees of the 83rd. Co. C, 329th I made friends with several fine fellows but lost contact after going overseas. I now would like to make contact if possible with one of them whose name is Pechin. We were privates in the same company and spent time together in camp and on pass leave.

While going through your roster I didn't come across his name. If at all possible, and if you have a 1942 roster available, could you send me any information as to his address or information as th what happened to him.

Enclosed is a picture of Pvt. Pechin and myself which may be of some assistance. Maybe a notice of this letter in your next printing may help.

Thank you for any help in this matter.

James J. McCulla
Coleman Road
R.D. 2 Box 265-D
New Brighton, PA 15066



Pvt. Pechin and me in Indianapolis on Pass sometime between Nov. 1942 & April 1943. Frineds at Cp. Atterbury Co. C. 329th Inf. 83rd

Dear Bob,

I have just finished reading the issue of the Thunderbolt and wish to order a copy of "The Thunderbolt Across Europe" (check enclosed).

My days with the 83rd ended on Aug. 9, 1944 when I was wounded and eventually sent back to the Cushing General Hospital in Framingham, Massachusetts.

I joined Co. "C" 329th Infantry while they were on Tennessee Manuevers, and I was assigned as leader of the second platoon.

I remained at this command until I was wounded. Time has dimmed my memory for names even though I can see the faces.

A reading of the new book should be a way of bringing back into focus the names of many of those I served with. Those that came quickly to mind are Lt. Carl Schroeder, Amos Pacelli, Orvil Shelton, "B", Lefitoff, Raymond Dunn. All were killed except Pacelli who was wounded.

I wish I could make plans to attend the convention in West Virginia, but family illness makes it difficult to make plans at this time.

Hopefully I will make next years convention in Hershey, Pa.

I trust this letter will be received by you in time for the next publication of the Thunderbolt.

Sincerely,

John H. McDonough "C" 329th
30 Redmond Avenue
North Reading, Massachusetts 01864

Dear Bob:

I'm sorry but I will not make the reunion this year, although we enjoyed last year.

My wife, Patricia passed away January 19, 1987 and I was just released from the V.A. Hospital, after losing my lower right leg a left-over from the Breakthrough at St. Lo. in 1944

It would be a very lonesome trip anyway.

Enclosed are two extra dues in Pat's memory, you may use as you see fit.

Thank You,

John N. Reuter
"C" 331st

Hello Buddies:

Here we are once again, having just passed another milestone in the History of the great 83rd Infantry Division Association. We have just celebrated our 41st Annual Reunion and are embarking on the plans for the 42nd Annual Reunion.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Reunion this year due to the illness of my Wife, Mary. Unfortunately, just about the time you men were assembling in the Banquet Hall, I was riding in an Ambu-

lance, enroute to the Hospital with Mary in a very serious condition. She has been in intensive care for almost two weeks, having had a very serious operation, which the Doctors gave little or no hopes of recovery, but as I sit and write this letter, she has been taken off the critical list and advanced up the ladder of success to serious but stable condition. She is still far from being well and still being watched carefully in the Intensive Care Unit.

Well Buddies, getting away from my personal problems and back to the Association, I have only been able to talk to a few since the Reunion as I have been too tied up, but from what I have heard, it was a great Reunion. The West Virginia Chapter deserves a great round of applause for, being the small Chapter that they are, they took on a full size job of putting on a Reunion and I have heard nothing but praise for it.

I felt greatly honored when our National President, John Hobbs asked me if I would help them with the ad book this year. I have helped with the book for several years, and each year I say, "this is the last", but once again I stuck my neck out and said "yes", and with the help of you great men, I have been given to learn that the book was a success. I feel especially proud of the men of the 908th F.A. for the support they gave a member of their Unit, John Hobbs our National President. Never in all my years as an active member of this great Association, have I ever seen any greater support than what was given our National President John Hobbs, by his own 908th F.A.

I don't want to slight anyone, I think we had great support from everyone throughout the book. The success of an ad book is made possible only by the support of each and everyone of you Members. It is hard to make many of you men realize the importance of this book, but without it, we could not have the kind of Reunions that we have had in the past. When we start our solicitation right after the beginning of the year, a lot of sarcastic letters come in complaining about our early solicitation. The reason for this is that there are a lot of commitments that must be made and money is needed to make them, that is where your money comes from. It is not that we want to get a lot of money in the bank to capitalize on the interest made on your money, another thing is that some men regret being reminded of the ad book, believe me, there are many that would have forgotten about it had I sent follow up letters to them.

I owe a personal apology to one of our regular contributors, Robert Morman, Co H, 329th, I had received his donation, but when compiling the list for the printer, somehow I left his name out. If I did it to anymore members, please forgive me, in compiling lists of hundreds of names, it is easy to miss a few, it is not done on purpose.

Again, thank you to each and everyone of you for your help in making this the great ad book it was. I sincerely hope that you will give the same support to our future Reunion Chapters.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL, you are a great bunch of men.

LARRY REDMOND

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Lyle H. Schribner
150 Lincoln Ave., Apt. 6
Woodland, CA 95695
August 15, 1987

Dear Comrade:

Reading the Thunderbolt, I noticed the lack of input, or mention of members from California. The membership lists show about forty members. I think it would be nice if we got together and formed a Chapter of the Association here in California. Where we could get together two or three times a year, relive old times fight old battles and etc. Most of us, with the exception of the member in Crescent City, are located near a transportation hub. This would make it fairly easy for us to meet at some centrally located site, for a weekend.

I, am enclosing a copy of communication I received from Bob to show you, should we be able to get a chapter going, we would possibly be able to get a National Convention, here in Calif.

While I realize this is reunion time and that this letter is poorly timed I think we should all consider the possibilities of such an undertaking. being 83rd members I am sure there are men among us with the leadership ability, to get us organized, and the ball rolling.

Would greatly appreciate your thoughts and suggestions along this line. Due to poor health, it would be impossible for me to do more than offer a helping hand, to whom ever we elect to carry on for us. LETS GET THE THUNDERBOLT ACROSS EUROPE rolling in California. Looking forward to hearing from you all, and meeting you all.

Lyle Scribner
D-331

No Armistice

By Omar N. Bradley

Armistice Day is a constant reminder that we won a war and lost a peace. It is both a tribute and an indictment. A tribute to men who died that their neighbors might live without fear of aggression. An indictment of those who lived and forfeited their chance for peace.

Neither remorse nor logic can hide the fact that our armistice ended in failure. Not until the armistice myth was shattered in the blast of a Stuka bomb did we learn that the winning of wars does not in itself make peace. And not until Pearl Harbor did we learn that noninvolvement in peace means certain

involvement in war.

It is no longer possible to shield ourselves with arms alone against the ordeal of attack. For modern war visits destruction on the victor and vanquished alike. The atom bomb is far more than a military weapon. It may contain the choice between the quick and the dead. The way to win an atomic war is to make certain it never starts.

No more convincing avowal of their peaceful intentions could have been made by the American people than by their offer to submit to the United Nations the secret of the atom bomb. Yet because we asked adequate guarantees and freedom of worldwide inspection by the community of nations itself, our offer was declined and the atom has been recruited into this contest of nerves. To those people who contend that secrecy and medieval sovereignty are more precious than a system of atomic control, I can only reply that it is a cheap price to pay for peace.

With the monstrous weapons man already has, humanity is in danger of being trapped in this world by its moral adolescents. Our knowledge of science has already outstripped our capacity to control it. We have many men of science, two few men of God.

Man is stumbling blindly through a spiritual darkness while toying with the precarious secrets of life and death. The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living. This is our 20th century's claim to distinction and to progress.

Omar N. Bradley, General of the Army, who died in 1981, delivered the remarks excerpted here in Boston on Nov. 10, 1948.

DEAR BOB AND PEARL:

Sorry that Lorraine and I missed the reunion. I certainly did have big expectations for the reunion but the Good Lord had different expectations. I'm glad that George Pletcher is your National President and I know he will do one hell of a job for next year's reunion in Hershey, along with the rest of the Officers of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter.

I have to stay in the hospital for a six (6) week program for an infection in my "Artificial Hip" and then I am hoping to get the strength back so I can walk again.

Right now I have one thought in mind, and that is to get well enough so I can make next year's reunion at Hershey.

I'm glad everybody had a good time at the reunion and hope every body stays healthy enough to make

next years reunion.

Thanks for the cards and prayers and thanks "D" Co. for the flowers.

Norm Schuster

"D" 331st

Greater Philadelphia Chapter

Dear Buddies:

I am sorry to inform you of the Death of Rex. V. Ritz, Medic "F" 330th Infantry who passed away August 1, 1987 at 8:15 p.m. from Cancer. He will be missed by many friends and family. He kept in touch with quite a few army buddies while traveling. We really enjoyed the story about his outfit in the last issue.

Whenever we visited an old army buddy with dad they were all so grateful for his helping them out when wounded.

If anyone would like to write to us about Dad's actions we (six sons) would appreciate it very much.

Thank You,
Sincerely,

Raymond H. Ritz (Son)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

August 3, 1987

Dear Bob:

The summer issue of "Thunderbolt" arrived at 4214 Black Tree Lane this week and, as usual, it was read from cover to cover. I doubt that I will make an appearance at the convention this year for several reasons.

First, I am not big on conventions of any type; second, none of my comrades-in-arms seem to attend. The 1987 roster listed only four members of the Recon Troop, including myself and one of those passed away last fall. Finally, I made many visits to "Charley-West" during my business career and none of those visits stimulated any desire to return.

I am enclosing my membership dues for the coming year along with a suggestion for future issues of the "Thunderbolt". You do a great job of utilizing what you have to work with, but it seems to me you should be given more material than just some columns of "Dear Buddies, the meeting was great; we had a great time; the girls prepared some great food; more great news later."

Please see the attachment for my suggestion. Of course, I am not aware of the printing costs versus your budget, but the cost per additional page should not be exorbitant. At your convenience, let me know your thoughts on this subject.

Best Wishes,

Rudy Haynes

SUGGESTION

The summer issue of "Thunderbolt" printed a letter from William F. Dyer. He made reference to an article in the previous issue written by Richard A. Dickson and wrote a companion article about Capt. Shelton.

I agree with Mr. Dyer's statement that such articles will spark more interest in the "Thunderbolt." I would recommend that we make such an effort.

You have almost 2000 members in the association, many of whom must have some human interest stories about their former fellow soldiers. Why not solicit these stories?

You could establish guidelines for story format:

- They should be original.
- They should be true.
- They shouldn't be obscene in any way.
- They should be subject to editing by the editor.
- Editor reserves the right to refuse any article.
- Story should not exceed 2500 words.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bob:

I really enjoyed the various articles, letters, etc in the Summer Issue 1987 "Thunderbolt". While I could not recognize any of the names, the article on Page 19 -- 331st Samuel Klippa was the most interesting it brought back a lot of memories since I was in "H" (Heavy Weapons) a Mortar Squad Leader in the Carantan-Pervers Hedgerow area. I was also in "G" as a Rifle Platoon Leader for a short time at the end of 1943 and January of 1944.

As a matter of interest I was picked off by a sniper - wooden bullet, - just outside Pieries on July 8, 1944.

I also enjoyed the articles by James Shadden on Captain Shelton of "B" 329th. He mentions our training in Wales. It rained as I recall 13 or 14 days straight - the top of the hills were just as soaked as the valleys and I recall our pup tents being under water. I didn't have a dry pair of socks for two weeks. He mentioned our relieving the 101st Airborn in Normandy, the morning of July 4th which I'll never forget. Our troops crossed the swamp in the fog and passed up the German Machine guns - the fog lifted and needless to say the Germans cut us to pieces. I recall the day so well I could give you a blow by blow discription of what happened that day. He also mentioned about the field training exercise at Camp

Breckenridge when part of the 83rd advanced ahead too far and got caught by the barrage of artillery - a real disaster. As I recall the artillery goofed on this one. Perhaps I missed it but I never saw any article by anyone from "H" 331st.

Sorry I cannot make the convention but attached is my check for my dues.

If there are any articles, etc., at the convention relative to the 331st, "H", I would appreciate having them.

If you by chance see Sam Klippa or James Shaden, please pass along my thanks for their fine articles. They don't know me by name but they may remember me as I was the Division Special Service Officer that organized and ran the Touch Football League (Division) and the Division Boxing Meets. I did this prior to being assigned to "G" and "H" 331st.

Again, my thanks to you for a wonderful Summer Issue of the Thunderbolt. I really enjoyed it.

Sincerely,

Vincent F. Miller, 1st LT. "H" 331st
634 South 124th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68154

"My Sargent And Friend"

*Our friendship goes back
More than forty years.
We fought side by side
Two soliders, living with fears.
We were where the action was
When the war came to an end.
Then came the separation
When we journeyed home again.
It was some forty years later
In Atlanta where we met.
Happily hugging and laughing
He was my dear friend
Sargent Odom; he was to me.
We talked about our war times
And Buddies we would like to see,
This was the first time for Sarge
Visiting the Dixie Chapter of the Eighty-Third,
He said it would not be his last
To me was his parting word.
We had plans for later
At our next Reunion time.*

*To see how many Buddies
Of our Company we could find.
On August Ninth-A Sunday night
Brought tears I could not hide.
Said: July Twenty-Ninth, Nineteen Eighty Seven
That Sargent Waldo Odom had died.
There was so much to remember
In our beginning and our end.
Thank You God for the favor
For bringing us together again.*

Haran Martin
Co. C. 331st, 1st BN.
83rd Inf. Division

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bob:

I wanted to let you know that I wanted so badly to attend our reunion in Charleston, West Virginia next month but I have been sick and in hospital and am just now able to be up and around again. I hesitate trying to attend the reunion due to this.

Please convey to those attending that I will be thinking of them and wishing that our reunion is a big success. Tell all men of the 308th Engineer Battalion and any other men of the Division that I wish them the best and would appreciate hearing from them.

In the division history book I have an address in Dover, Ohio. As you know my new address is 335 Front Street, S.W., New Philadelphia, Ohio, 44663.

If any of you 83rd people pass this way be sure and stop by and see me.

Good luck and health to all of you out there.

Your friend and buddy,
William L. Gorman

A message to all 83rd members...

Anyone wishing to purchase shirts, coats, and caps may write to: Vito C. Palazzolo, 20000 Lancaster, Harper Woods, Michigan 48225 for information.

He will send you an application form.

National Lapel Pins, Bolo Ties and Necklaces
\$5⁰⁰ each

(Postage and Handling Included) Contact the Association Office

83rd Reunion will be held at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey Pennsylvania.

The dates are: **September 8-9-10, 1988.**
Start making your plans to attend, now!

DELINQUENT DUES NOTICE

This will serve as the official notification to those of you who have not paid your dues for the year 87/88, which are due on or before August 1st, 1988.

Please refer to your 83rd membership card. If it shows August 31st, 1986, and you have not paid your dues in the last month, you are delinquent. So, respond immediately and provide the financial support that is needed for the continuity of your association.

On the other hand, if you are in such financial circumstances that you require assistance, please notify your Secretary so that a confidential notation can be placed on your record, and we will continue your membership.

Our thanks go out to all of you who responded promptly to our dues requests, and to the many of you so generously contributed additional amounts to help a buddy. It is our sincere hope that those who have not paid their dues to date, will be taking care of this in the very near future.

Bob Derickson, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

THUNDERBOLT DEADLINES

Deadline for ALL articles to be published in Thunderbolt must be at this office by Oct. 10; Jan. 10; April 10; and June 10.

Robert Derickson, 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, OH 45013

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

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Hamilton, OH 45013



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Company _____ Regiment _____ 83rd Division

Phone No. _____ Renewal _____ New _____

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DUES \$10.00 PAYABLE TO:

Robert Derickson
3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013



Office Phone:
513-863-2199

Date _____

Signature _____

BULLETIN

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

Bob