



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 45 No. 3

Spring Issue 1990

THE 44TH ANNUAL REUNION

August 16, 17 & 18



PITTSBURGH'S NEW SKYLINE

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 45013-9102.

Editor: Robert Derickson

STAFF REPORTERS

Vito Palazzolo 20,000 Lancaster, Harper Woods, MI 48236
Ambrose Tynan 121 Sanborn Ave., W. Roxbury, MA 02136
Nick Francullo 10 Bessom St., Lynn MA 01903
Joe Adam 6757 N. Avers, Ave., #1, Chicago, IL. 60645
Joseph A. Macaluso 5353 Pasteur Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70122
Lee Titus 534 Roosevelt St. Warren, OH 44483
Bill Herhuth 27 Alpine Dr. Swiss Village Winter Haven, Fl. 33881

Robert Uher 7603 Pelham Dr., Parma, OH 44129
Francis G. Beerhalter...4548 Valley View St., Pittsburgh, PA 15214
John Shepherd.....210 Lee Ave., Nitro W. Va. 25143
S. Bielen..... 71 Glenwood Terrace, Fords, NJ 08863
John G. Daum 746 Fairfax Rd., Drexel Hill, PA. 19026
Frank Jackson R.F.D. #1 Box 264, Oliver Springs, TN. 37840
Wilson Day..... 5310 Ponderosa Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45239

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

*Ralph G. Neppel, CMH
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ORGANIZATION 1988-89

PRESIDENT

Edward S. Reuss
10939 High Point Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15235
(412)793-5326

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Salvatore Scicolone
5709 Wellesly Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
(412)441-5245

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Lawrence Leonardi
1360 Preston St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
(412)922-3489

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

Nick Francullo
10 Bessom Street
Lynn, MA 01903
(617)592-9154

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Robert E. Derickson
3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, OH 45013-9102
(513)863-2199

CHAPLAIN

*Casey Kowalec
7719 Edgewood Lane
Seven Hills, OH 44131
(216)524-7690

CHAPLAIN

Matthew Pintar
P.O. Box 186
Mingo Church Rd.
(412)348-7898

JUDGE ADVOCATE

John Raikos
4039 Fir Court
Indianapolis, IN 46250
(317)849-5139

ASST. JUDGE ADVOCATE

Paul S. Buchman
1010 N. Knight St.
Plant City, FL
(813)752-3172

HISTORIAN

Wm. Kent O'Connell
183 Acre Lane
Hicksville, L.,I., NY 11801
(516)931-4366

SERGEANTS-AT ARMS

Albert Suess
2731 Shelley St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Joe Daluca
1193 Graham Ave.
Monesson, PA 15062

Michael Kadalyk
1215 Foster Ave. Apt. 312
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Ames Miller
4283 W. 200 So.
Columbus, IN 47201
(812)342-9263

William Minick
R.R. #2
Kinards, SC 29355
(803)276-1633

James Prentice
R.R. #3 Box 140D
Claremont, NH 03743
(603)543-0243

Louis M. Nolan
520 W. Park Row
St. Peter, MN 560822
(507)931-4016

Gene Costanzo
915 High St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15215
(412)781-8205

A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

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Jack M. Straus 1948
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*Julius Ansel 1950
*Walter H. Edwards Jr. 1951
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Finley Heyl..... 1953
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*Harry W. Lockwood..... 1957
Raymond J. Voracek..... 1958
Charles Abdinoor 1959
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*Harold H. Dopp 1972
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Manlius Goodridge..... 1977
Joseph A. Macaluso 1978
*William J. Chavanne 1979
Samuel Klippa 1980
Michael Caprio..... 1981
Ralph Gunderson 1982
Arthur Doggett..... 1983
Bernie Cove 1984
Carroll Brown 1985
John Hobbs 1986
George Pletcher..... 1987
Charles Schmidt 1988
* Denotes Deceased



THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

I would like to bring to your attention a few of the highlights as our reunion is drawing closer.

Our memorial service will be held inside of the hotel in the main ballroom. We decided it would be better for those who cannot get around very well, and also we can not predict weather conditions. Jules Desgain has a wonderful program setup and at this time we want to thank Joe Macaluso for filling in for our departed Casey.

I also would like to mention the committee people that put a lot of effort in making this reunion a success. As you well know these affairs are not put together overnight. They have been in progress for over a year. First Sal Scicolone, our committee chairman who has put many hours and still going strong. Gene Costanzo, entertainment chairman, who did not let his heart attack stop him (while in the hospital that's all he talked about. Larry Leonardi who filled in at the last minute and agreed to take care of the ad book. This ad book contributes a lot to these reunions. Jim McCulla who agreed to assist Larry in any way possible. Joe Danylo who is taking charge of all finances, which is quite a job. You better believe he spends a tight nickel. Also, let us not forget the women who most of the time don't get the credit they deserve, one in particular is my wife, Lee. I don't think there is a day that's gone by in the last year that she hasn't done or reminded me of things to be done. They play an important roll in the success of all our reunions. I would like to let them all know I couldn't have appointed a more reliable committee.

Now, I would like to mention a couple of people who will not be at this reunion, they are Sam Klippa and John Ruprecht (Curley) due to illness. If it wasn't for the dedication of people like them who contributed so much to this organization, it wouldn't be what it is today. We certainly will miss them in our preparation for this event as they always played an important roll.

The hotel reservation which was inserted in the last issue of the Thunderbolt should have read July 26, 1990 instead of Sept. 26, 1990 for the deadline.

If you want special hotel rooms, they should be made soon as possible. Let's try and make our reunion here a great one, so that we can accommodate everyone and please all of you by eliminating last minute reservations.

I also want to thank the people outside the Pittsburgh Chapter who offered their assistance.

Many of you attended the one reunion where a boat ride was included, which was the Gateway Clipper. This is not the same boat. The Majestic is only a few years old and is a dinner dance cruise with three hours of sailing, live music and dancing and buffet dinner.

Buses will be provided from the hotel to the Station Square and a great view of the city. I'm sure that you will be pleased with the spectacular view of Pittsburgh from each of the three rivers. The only thing I can't promise you is a full moon.

We are having a reunion book with everyone's picture in it. If you do not care to have one we would still appreciate your picture. Those who cannot come can still have their picture in it also. We have pre-mailers sent with the Thunderbolt and if you fill them out it will reduce time spent at the registration table. They will also be available the night of the banquet.

If you unable to attend you may submit a small picture

of yourself, vertical and not larger than 1 1/4 x 1 3/4.

My wife and I, Gene and Carm attended the reunion in Williamsburg. I must say it was a wonderful event, and we want to thank John and Virginia and the Dixie Chapter for making us feel right at home.

At this time if you haven't sent your ads in, please do so. Larry Leonardi is in charge and he will appreciate hearing from you.

Ed Reuss
National President

From The Secretary's Desk

Dear Buddies:

Just think Buddies this is the third Issue of the Thunderbolt for this year. Over half way. If you have not sent in your reservation card for the hotel be sure and get that done. They also need your reservation for that beautiful boat ride they have planned for us. That will be a great way for us all to be together and enjoy the evening. Get that reservation in.

They must have so many or they will not be able to engage the boat. If you have not sent your ad in to support the reunion get that in to Larry Leonardi right away. That helps with the cost of the reunion. Support your organization men. They have planned a great time for all of us.

We are fortunate that Chapter's want to host a reunion and give us all the chance to get to be with our buddies once a year. This is one of the things we fought for. Freedom to do and be with the people we think so much of. But the host Chapter cannot do it all alone. It takes all of you to make it go. Show them you want to help out. Get both your reservations in today for the hotel and boat ride and send an ad to Larry to help defray the cost. I know that the Pittsburgh Chapter will appreciate all the help and support that you give them.

You will notice at the bottom of this article a letter from our Former Secretary Treasurer, Sam Klippa. Sam has not been well this year and he needs all our prayers and support. Send him a card and if you are in that area I know he would appreciate a visit. But be sure and call the house and check with Fran before you go because some days he does not feel as well as others. We are all pulling for you Sam. Get well.

Kentucky Chapter met in Owensboro for their Spring Meeting. Good attendance and lots of fun. Pearl and some of the other ladies went Cookbook Shopping on Saturday morning. They all came back with some.

Owen and Jeanette Jones are hosting the Summer meeting in Muncie, Indiana. You are all invited.

Getting to Williamsburg we went through a Snow Storm. Beckley and up in the mountains had 8 inches. Coming back in the same solid fog. While there in Williamsburg we visited our daughter in Virginia Beach. Our son-in-law had emergency surgery and was placed on dialysis. He is doing fine now. Pearl and I want to thank all of you for your kindness during that time. Your prayers really helped.

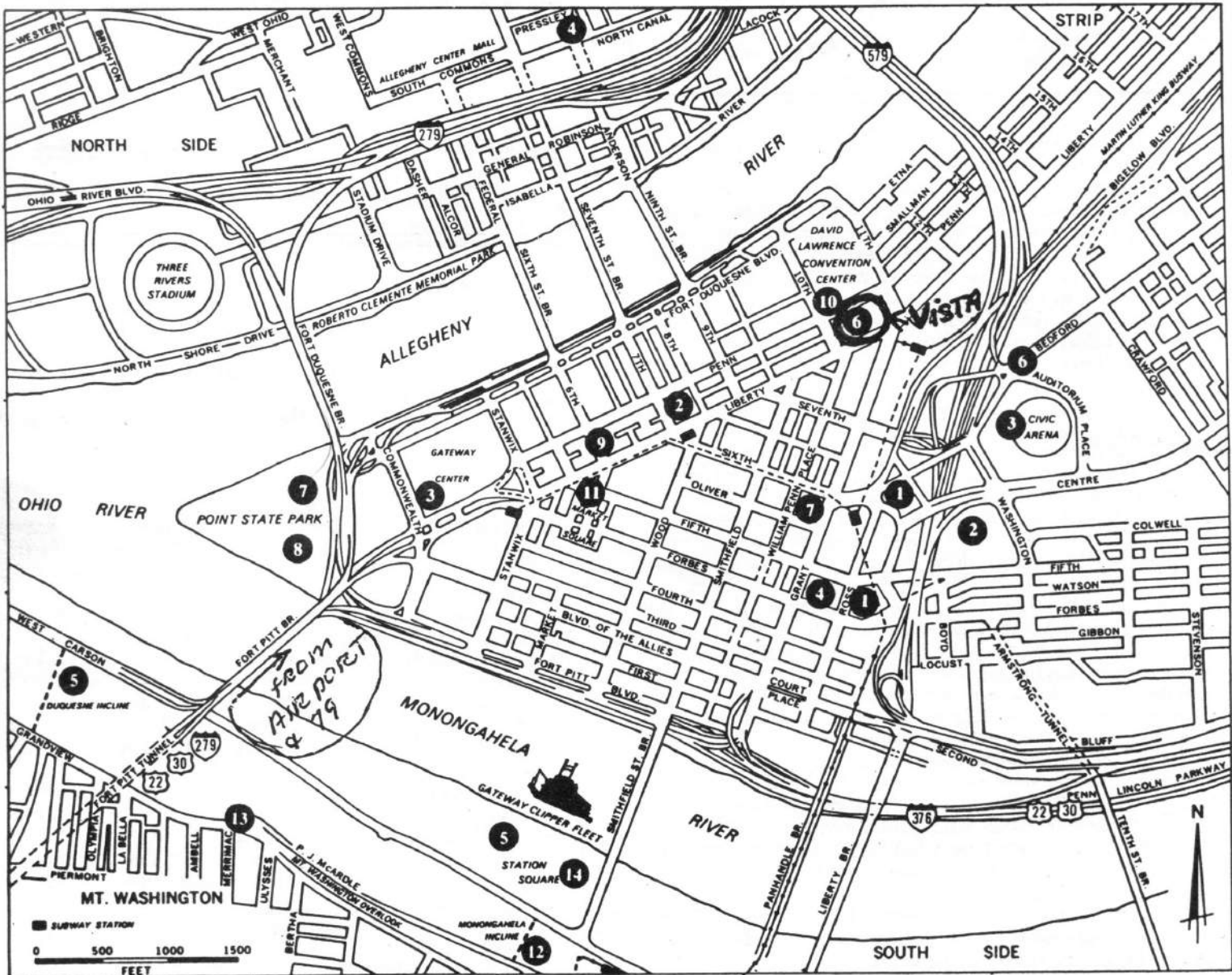
We soon will be headed for the Pines and meeting with both the Pittsburgh Chapter and the Boston Chapters. Will give you that report in the next issue.

There is a letter elsewhere in this Issue of the Thunderbolt from Major Michael Finnegan of the 83rd Arcom telling about an Open House to be held in Columbus, Ohio on August 4. They are hoping for a good crowd. If there are any changes in this they will be printed in the next issue of the Thunderbolt.

Some of you still have not paid your dues for 1990. PLEASE GET THEM IN TO ME RIGHT AWAY. You know an

DOWNTOWN

Framed by three picturesque rivers, Pittsburgh's Golden Triangle captures the essence of a cosmopolitan city without forfeiting its small town charm. Pittsburgh's Downtown area tastefully combines turn-of-the-century architectural masterpieces with uniquely styled structures to create a dazzling skyline. Within 10 square blocks, Pittsburgh offers first-class accommodations, diverse restaurants, fashionable shops, historic attractions and opulent entertainment facilities. Small parks, ideal for relaxing, are located throughout the heart of the city.



Points of Interest

- 1 Allegheny County Jail
- 2 Benedum Center for the Performing Arts
- 3 Civic Arena
- 4 Courthouse Gallery/Forum
- 5 Duquesne Incline
- 6 Flag Plaza
- 7 Fort Pitt Blockhouse
- 8 Fort Pitt Museum
- 9 Heinz Hall
- 10 Lawrence Convention Center
- 11 Market Square
- 12 Monongahela Incline
- 13 Mt. Washington Overlook
- 14 Station Square

Accommodations

- 1 The Bigelow
- 2 Hyatt Pittsburgh
- 3 Pittsburgh Hilton and Towers
- 4 The Priory—A City Inn
- 5 Sheraton Hotel at Station Square
- 6 Vista International Hotel—Pittsburgh
- 7 Westin William Penn



organization cannot keep going with out funds. So if you wish to get your Thunderbolt and be a part of the 83rd Organization check your membership card and if it does not say 1990 on it you are late in your payment. Get your \$10.00 in right away.

This seems to be it for this time. Will be in to Summer by the time the next Issue comes out. Happy yard work.
Bob

A NOTE FROM SAM

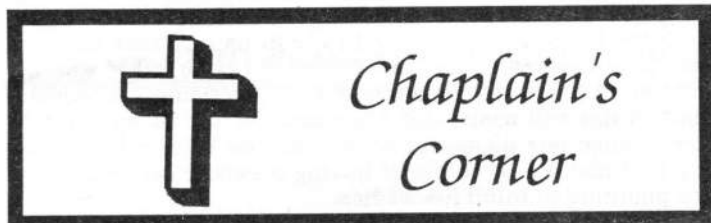
Dear Bob:

Please publish in the book that I won't be able to attend the reunion here in Pittsburgh as bad health won't permit me to travel or leave the house. Please tell my friends to drop in and see me as it has been sometime since I have seen them.

Sam

If you have time I am sure it would boost Sam's morale if you dropped in but if you can't do that send him a card. That will mean a great deal. We are all thinking of you Sam and hope that you will soon feel better. Regards to Fran, Diane and Danny.

Bob



Words cannot express my feeling of deep loss, of our good friend and comrade. My heart goes out to Laura, her family and the Cleveland Chapter.

Sometime ago, I received this poem from Casey. I would like to share it with all of you.

TO A FRIEND

You have touched my life,
and so became a part of me
Everything I am, everything I will be
is enriched and enlightened day after day
By Good friends such as you
who I meet along the way
"CASEY"

Words cannot express my feelings of loss. With love to all of you always.

Matthew Pintar

The following are the names of the men who have passed away since the last printing of the Thunderbolt. These are the names that have been sent here to the office.

The sympathy of the entire 83rd Organization goes to the families of these men. They will be missed.

Robert Bessler	Div. Hqs.	Wife Ann
Angelo S. Camardo	Regt. Hqs.	Emil Wehling
Don Clark	308th Engineer	Bob Uher
Favis A. Dent	"A" 908th	Charles B. Stine
		Wife, Mary
David Dillard	"D" 330th	O.L. Cook
Howard Edwards	"C" & "B" 329th	Rags Rangnow
Nimard Fifield	324th	Pat Digiammerino
John Gale	No outfit given	Pat DiGiammerino
James P. Guyder	3rd BN.HQ. 331st	Wife, Mary
Donald R. Johnson	"CN" 331st	Wife, Mary
		Lee Hetrick
Archie Kelly	"C" 308th	Wife, Deloris
Stuart B. Hitt	"A" 908th	Kent O'Connell
		Charles Stine
		Robert Hitt
		Stuart Hitt
		Dorothy Silvia
		Kathleen Godino
		Pat DiGiammerino
Joseph M. Sullivan	A.T. 329th	Daughter,
		Carol Fudale
John Undercofler	"D" 329th	Wife, Evelyn

"Pittsburgh Reunion 1990"

PLEASE RESPOND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

I will attend the Reunion: PLEASE CIRCLE DATES OF ARRIVAL

Myself _____

Guest _____

August 15 16 17 18

I wish to go on the "Majestic: (Boat - Dinner and Dance \$29.00 Each)

Myself _____

Guest _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

PGH. CHP. 83rd DIV. ASSO.

Mail to:

**Salvatore Scicolone
5709 Wellesley Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206**

Cut-off date for this event will be July 15, 1990, so that tickets can be purchased and final arrangements can be made.

Robert L. Von Gunten	Arthur Koener	"C" 323rd
Edward J. Watts	"I" 329th	Returned card from
		Postal Service
James E. Wilson	"I" 329th	Arthur Koener
Elmer Zonina	"B" 329th	Bob Uher

NOTE: Just had word that Dick Riddle will have surgery on May 16. Good luck, Dick. We are all pulling for you.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN REPORT

Hi Buddies,

I hope everyone is in good health and have made plans to attend the reunion. Since the last issue of the Thunderbolt, our reunion plans are pretty well finalized. The reunion schedule was listed in the Thunderbolt and there will be many things for people to do and see in Pittsburgh. We will have more brochures available describing the many points of interest in Pittsburgh. Our committee is putting forth every effort toward making this a great and enjoyable reunion for everyone. Those arriving by plane, reliable ground transportation is available.

Airlines Transportation Company is the official transportation carrier for the Greater Pitt International airport and offers motorcoach service to downtown Pittsburgh for \$8.00 per person with stops at the Vista Hotel and other major hotels downtown. Those arriving by train, Penn Railroad Station is conveniently located near the Vista Hotel and for those arriving by bus, the Greyhound Bus Terminal is also located near the hotel. There also is 24 hours taxicab service from the airport with The Yellow Cab Company

of Pittsburgh and The People Cab Company. Chapters who are coming in by charterbus should contact the Vista Hotel so arrangements can be made for them. Our reunion committee recently had another meeting with the Vista Hotel management and they said hotel reservations are coming in steady, so send in your reservations to the Vista Hotel as soon as you can. The Dinner Dance Cruise on the New Majestic Riverboat will tour the three rivers around Pittsburgh and offer beautiful night views of the city skyline and the Golden Triangle.

This is one event you do not want to miss. Reunion time is fast approaching, so send in your reservations as soon as possible. Our new Executive Board member, Gene Costanzo, has recuperated very well from his heart attack and would like to thank everyone for the many get well wishes he has received. Hoping to see everyone at the Pittsburgh Reunion. Good Health and Good Luck to All.

The Memorial Service

I would like to mention our memorial service is being very well planned by Jules Desgain. We are very happy that Joe Macaluso has agreed to help us and take over for our late beloved Chaplain Casey Kowalec who will be missed and always remembered by everyone. Chaplain Matt Pintar will assist Joe Macaluso for the memorial service. Since our memorial service will be held indoors, Casey had mentioned to me of having a candle service, so we are planning to fulfill his wishes.

Sal Scicolone
I Co. 329th
Program Chairman

Hotel Rooms are \$62.00, plus 9% tax.
You may call or write the Hotel for early reservations if you choose.

Hotel Address:
Vista International Hotel
1000 Penn Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA. 15222
Telephone No. 1-800-223-1146

"There will be a reservation application in the next issue."

Parking fees depend on location - anywhere from \$3.00 to \$7.50. There is hotel parking which is \$6.00 at the present time.

Cost from the airport - Limo Service \$7.00 per person.

44th ANNUAL REUNION 83rd INFANTRY DIV. ASS'N.

SEND ADS IN EARLY. THEY PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT PART IN OUR PROGRAM.

PLEASE CIRCLE THE SIZE AD YOU PREFER:

FULL PAGE
\$60.00

HALF PAGE
\$35.00

THIRD PAGE
\$24.00

QUARTER PAGE
\$18.00

BOOSTER ADS ARE \$5.00

NOTE: EACH NAME IS \$5.00 WHEN PRINTED WITHIN AN AD AND EXCEEDS THE COST OF THE AD SPACE.

TYPE OR PRINT YOUR AD CLEARLY IN SPACE BELOW

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:

PGH. CHP. REUNION FUND 83rd DIV.

AND SEND TO:

LARRY LEONARDI
P.O. Box 44303
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15205

This year we hope to cut down on our mailings to you requesting ads so that we may lower overhead expenses. This ad form will be in the Thunderbolt for (2) two issues. Please cut out your ad from last year's book and attach to this page or rewrite it on this form. Our deadline date for ads will be June 25, 1990. This will give the printer time to set-up the book and print it. Thank you. We are most grateful for your cooperation.

PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

PITTSBURGH **83RD INFANTRY - 44TH REUNION**

Wednesday, August 15, 1990 (Early Bird)

12:00 PM to 3:00 PM	Registration (Lobby 2nd Floor)
8:00 PM to Midnight	Beer - Refreshments - Entertainment

Thursday, August 16, 1990

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Registration (Lobby 2nd Floor)
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Open Bar
7:00 PM to Midnight	Italian Night - Dinner and Dance Paid Bar

Friday, August 17, 1990

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Registration (Lobby 2nd Floor)
10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon	Business Meeting
10:00 AM to 12:00 "	Women Meeting (Activities Planned)
1:30 PM to 2:30 PM	Memorial Service
3:00 PM to 5:00 PM	Registration
3:00 PM to 5:00 PM	Open Bar
7:00 PM to 11:00 PM	Dinner and Dance on the "Majestic"
8:00 PM to Midnight	Activities to be posted

Saturday, August 18, 1990

10:00 AM to 12 Noon	Registration (Lobby 2nd Floor)
10:00 AM to 12 Noon	Business Meeting
10:00 AM to 12 Noon	Women Meeting (Activities Planned)
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Open Bar
4:00 PM to 5:00 PM	Mass
7:00 PM to Midnight	Banquet - Dinner and Dance Cash Bar

Sunday, August 19, 1990

8:00 to 10:00 AM	Coffee and Rolls - Farewell
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Tentative Registration Fees (per-person)

Total cost for four days.	\$ 90.00
Total cost for three days.	80.00
Total cost for two days.	60.00
Total cost for one day.	40.00

Boat, dinner and orchestra - 29.00. This cost does include buses to and from the dock.
This is not included in registration charge.



Chairman's Message

It is with great pleasure that I represent the 83rd Infantry Division Association.

Time passes so fast. Within 6 weeks the Executive Board will meet with the Boston Chapter at the Pines Resort.

The Board will review the new renovated Pines and discuss plans for the 1991 reunion to be held at the Pines. The Boston Chapter is working hard for a successful reunion.

Reunion President Edward Reuss and Pittsburgh Chapter members are spending countless hours working on the 1990 reunion to be held in Pittsburgh.

All past reunions have been successful.

Chapter members work hard to provide good reunions.

Remember Buddies, without you there would be no association as great as the 83rd Infantry Division is. You have made this association and you are the ones that have kept it going.

Keep contacting your Buddies.

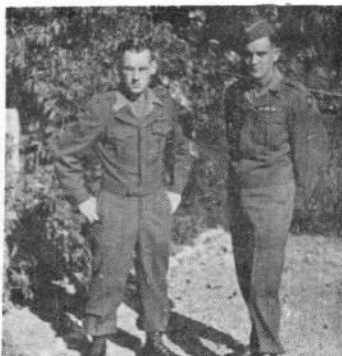
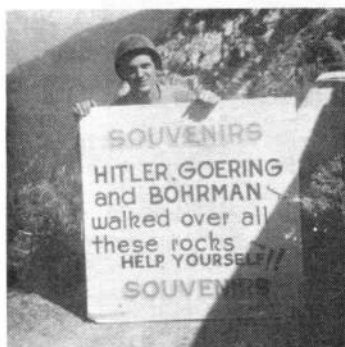
I am proud to be a member.

God Bless All of You

Ames Miller

Executive Board Chairman

Pictures From New Member Joseph Kopec



PITTSBURGH CHARM

By Randy Kraft
Allentown Morning Call

PITTSBURGH -- Linger in Point State Park at dusk and you may begin to understand why so many love Pittsburgh.

In the distance, the city's tall skyline gleams like a 21st century Oz. Lights from handsome buildings and graceful bridges sparkle on the rivers that surround the heart of Pittsburgh.

On the point, where the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers meet to form the Ohio, a man-made geyser sprays water 150 feet into the air.

Couples and families stroll along the rivers through the 36-acre park, which is well-lit and patrolled by police.

Children squeal with delight as the fountain's mist reaches them. A couple of joggers break the rules and run through the pool at its base.

A lone fisherman on the point has the three rivers to himself. Occasionally, a fish jumps.

Across the Allegheny, the Pirates are playing in Three Rivers Stadium. Some people sit on a wall in the park and stare at the stadium, as though they can see what is going on inside. Organ music and the public address announcer's voice drift over the water.

East of the stadium, an intricate series of Westinghouse blue "Ws" blink on a factory and, nearby, a Clark candy bar sign flashes.

The other way from the park, a tugboat pushes a barge up the Monongahela, creating waves on the calm surface. A small power boat skims across the darkening water. A long freight train rolls along the far bank, competing with the hum of traffic on the maze of highways crossing near the point. Commercial jetliners, making final landing approaches to Pittsburgh International Airport, bank overhead.

Farther up the river, the lights of Station Square's shops and restaurants glisten invitingly. A river cruise boat moves downstream to pick up passengers after the baseball game.

Across the Monongahela, Mount Washington rises like a high protective wall. The ridge is topped with homes, churches, communications towers, even high-rise apartment buildings and condos. The base of one apartment building is constructed partway down the cliff. On the heights, a flashing ALCJOA sign tells the time.

A narrow ribbon of orange lights stretches up the side of the 400 foot-high Mount Washington. The toylike cable cars of the Duquesne Incline pass on tracks running up the steep wooded slope.

For visitors arriving from the airport, seeing Pittsburgh pop before them as they emerge from the Fort Pitt Tunnel might mean love at first sight.

It's a modern, vibrant, sophisticated city that also is cleaner and friendlier than first-time visitors might expect.

"Pittsburgh is a well-kept secret," said one native. "When I travel and tell people I'm from Pittsburgh, they turn up their noses. They say 'Pittsburgh -- why would anybody want to live there?'"

City promoters are proud that, in 1985, Rand McNally called Pittsburgh "the most livable city in the United States." But a tourism market study done two years ago showed the old image of Pittsburgh as a dirty city of steel mills and smokestacks prevails in the minds of many.

"We're starting way back, because we have to overcome an image problem," said Corrine Laboon of the Pittsburgh Convention and Visitors Bureau. "It's going to take time, but I'm sure we can do it."

"Pittsburgh is becoming a regional tourist destination. Those who have been to Pittsburgh are much more positive about us. To know us is to love us."

from Lou Nolan

Historian's Corner

Dear Buddies:

Here are more reminders of our time in Hell---We've been there--so we are all entitled to a quick, peaceful Heaven--we hope!!!

The pictures are from the Huertgen Forest and also our time with the British and Canadians of "Grenade" at the Rhineland before we broke out and pushed on to the Elbe.

The front and inside cover of the "Thunderbolt" is published by the 83rd (our old outfit) Arcom of Ohio who had just returned from training at Camp Castle in Honduras C.A.

I have more pictures which will be in the next issue.

Again check and see if you have a second copy of the 329th and 330th Histories.

They can help me, as references, if your buddies bring up questions about their time in the E.T.O. I have the 331st.

We were the best.

Wm. Kent O'Connell

Historian of Archives 83rd M.P.

P.S. I am very sorry to have to add Casey's name to my list of buddies I pray for at Mass.

Hang in there Laura and family. We are all with you!

Kent



I checked in "See It Through" and couldn't find this Captain - does anyone know him? - Rhineland



G.I.'s returning to the line - Huertgen Forest in December, 1944.



Passing dead Germans on the way - Huertgen Forest.



60 MM mortar in action - Huertgen. We should never have fought there - a sad waste of men.



Getting ready to go back - Huertgen.



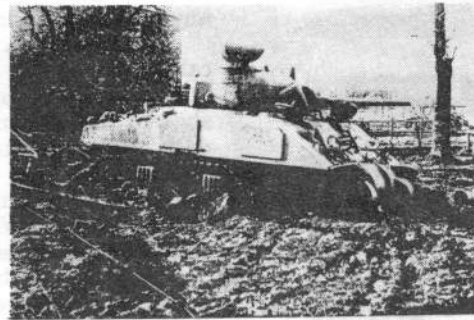
This was a close near miss - Rhineland



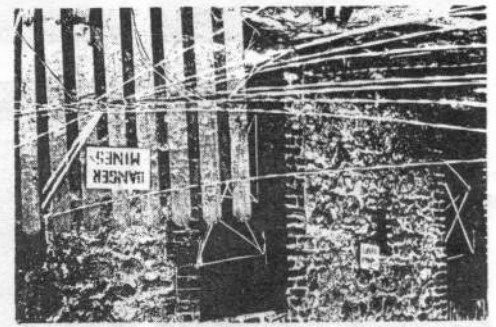
Advancing under smoke - Rhineland



Heading into another Hell - Rhineland



Another one wiped out - Rhineland



Grosshaus - November 29, 1944 - Engineer's tape and Signal's wire.

Commander's Comments

Annual training (AT) '89 is fast drawing to a close for units of the 83rd Army Reserve Command (83rd ARCOM). I have visited many of you at Annual Training and observed your training. For others I have reviewed the various AT reports and evaluations.

Annual Training was especially challenging this year as we had more diverse missions than usual. This required increased dedication, flexibility and understanding on the part of all. You met these challenges well.

To give you an idea of our total involvement with diversified AT, a partial list of AT missions follows: Major Exercise Participation, Site Support, USARF School Instruction (both MOS and Professional Development), Construction and Road Building/Upgrade Projects, Medical Support DEPMEDS Training, ARTEP's, Technical Research Projects, Legal Training, Joint Service Training, Refresher Training, Capstone Participation, Support of Special Operations Forces, Support of the National Boy Scout Jamboree and Support of the National Rifle Matches.



Maj. Gen. Bernard F. Losekamp



This is S.F.C. James Rapp, N.C.O. , the backbone of the Army.

We trained in Honduras, Panama, Korea, Federal Republic of Germany, Southwest Asia in addition to the traditional conus sites such as Camps Atterbury, Bullis, Grayling, Perry and Ripley; Forts Bliss, Bragg, Dix, Gordon, AP. Hill Hood Knox, Le McCellan, McCoy, Riley and San Houston; installations at Carlisle Barracks, Charlottesville & Washington and Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base. Overall, AT '89 was a tremendous success for this command by any standard - one of the best in the history of the 83rd ARCOM. I was most impressed by the dedication, hard work, professionalism and enthusiasm demonstrated by most soldiers. There is no doubt that many good things are happening in the field. The credit for this goes to you, the soldiers of the 83rd, for making things happen.

As we enter the next training year we must keep up the momentum and spirit we built together this year. New missions and challenges looms. We need all, pulling together, to continue to make things happen and to be all that we can be in the Army Reserve.

Keep up the good work, soldiers of the 83rd ARCOM!

1989 Army Theme: The NCO

The choice of noncommissioned officers is an abject of the greatest importance. Honesty, sobriety, and a remarkable attention to every point of duty, with a neatness in their dress, are indispensable prerequisites.

-- Maj. Gen. Friedrich von Steuben.

Thunderbolt...August-September 1989

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Commander, 83d ARCOMMaj. Gen. Bernard F. Losekamp
Public Affairs OfficerMaj. Mike Finnigan
Commander, 367th Public Affairs Maj. Patricia Redman
Community Relations Officer.....Capt. Thomas N. King
Press Officer.....1st Lt. Timothy L. Bowers
Public Affairs Supervisor MSgt. Loring R. Richardson
Editor SFC James T. Lowery

Assistant Editor..... Sgt. Mike Simpkins
Photojournalist.....Sgt. John S. Wagner
Broadcast Supervisor SSgt. William S. Krestel
Broadcast JournalistSpec. Gene L. Batey
Broadcast Journalist Spec. Evangelos D. Kalyakis
Broadcast JournalistSpec. Roger Ruth

THE MYSTERIOUS STRANGER

BY
WILLIAM DYER

Honyelez, Belgium, January 15, 1945 -- After five days of constant contact with the cream of the German Army, the war-weary, half-frozen GIs of the Second Battalion, 329th Regiment reached the small Belgium village of Honyelez in the Ardennes and bedded down for the night.

With cows for companions, and warm animal bodies for heat, these quarters were a blessing in comparison to the waterlogged, shallow fox holes that had sheltered the men of the battalion for almost a week previously.

Beginning at 0800 on January 10 zero weather, the battalion jumped off in a column of companies, E.F. and G from the vicinity of Bra with the objective: to take the Belgium hamlet, Petite Langlir, some six miles to the south.

This operation, according to battalion records, show that it was the toughest since Normandy, but in spite of the incessant fire from enemy tanks and the increase in the number of cases of frozen feet, the GI's moved steadily on until it became apparent that the enemy had no intention of moving without a major engagement.

The enemy got his walking papers when the 2nd Battalion, 329th coordinated a night attack with the 1st Battalion, 331st Regiment. This maneuver was accomplished by cutting the road between Petite Langlir and Langlir, and the capture of an important bridge.

On the morning of the 14th, both the 1st and 2nd Battalions, 329th jumped off at 1000. By nightfall Companies G, B, and C had advanced almost two miles and within sight of the objective.

The objective, Honyelez, offered shelter to the men who had braved the zero-cold weather for a week, and when the order was given to take the village, there was no hesitation. By 1900 the men of G Company had taken several buildings and were ready for a good night's rest.

This story should stop here. He it been dispatched from the front, it would have stopped here. But something else happened that night which is the real story: a visit from The Mysterious Stranger.

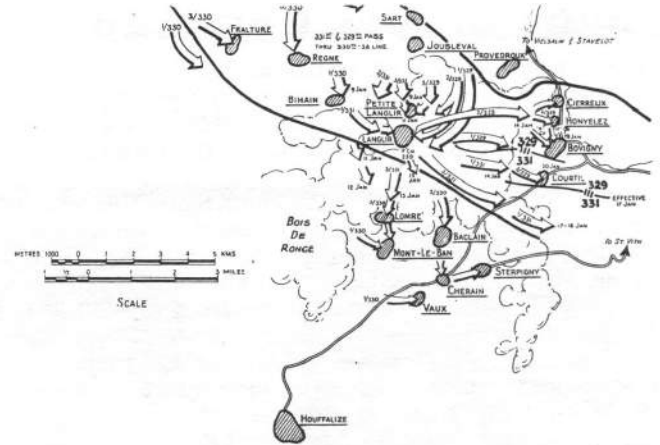
Sometime after midnight, making it January 15, the story dateline, a lone soldier approached one of the buildings occupied by G Company, and was challenged by the GI manning a guard post. The sentry soon learned through questioning that the individual did not know the password. Wandering around at the frontline with knowing the password is one way to keep from growing old, and the sentry knew this. He placed a round in the chamber of his M-1 rifle and was prepared to do whatever one does to an unknown person approaching a guard post in the middle of a dark night and within a stone's throw of the enemy.

Time sometimes seems to stand still. In this case it did stop long enough to keep the sentry from disposing of the unknown by whatever means necessary. The stranger probably saved his life by shouting "wounded" as he held up an arm showing a missing hand.

Pity seems to have taken the place of prudence in this instance. The guard, being a typical soft-hearted GI, allowed the stranger to enter the building where other members of G Company were sleeping.

The reasoning, as later stated, was that the man was dressed like any other GI. He was wounded, seriously. He spoke "English, and he argued that he was lost from an adjoining division.

At this point this incident did not cause much commotion with the other soldiers in the building. They were dog-tired, hungry, miserable, and somewhat like the Prodigal Son: sleeping with the animals in the foreign land. What the hell? Go to sleep--which they did.



This situation map shows the path taken by G Company, 329th during the period 9-15 January 1945 which led to the visit by The Mysterious Stranger

Some time passed. The length is unknown, but soon after the stranger entered the building there was a loud explosion. When the dust had settled and everything became calm, it was found that the stranger had exploded some kind of device, blowing off his remaining hand and leaving only a hole where his stomach had been. Four G Company men were so badly injured they were evacuated to the rear through medical channels.

It was found after his death that the stranger, even though dressed in regular GI uniform and wearing GI identification tags, was also wearing a German camouflage suit.

The question then: Was the stranger really a GI who was suffering so much that he took his own life just to relieve the pain? Or, was he a fanatical Nazi who gave his own life just to wound four GIs? Was the camouflage suit being worn just to keep out the intense cold? What was the name on the ID tag taken from the body? And who were the four GIs that were wounded? The most pressing question at this time, 45 years later: Did it really happen?

In a recent TV program produced by Bill Moyers, he is shown with a group of former infantrymen as they took a trip through the battlefields of Europe. They visited places remembered during the war and talked of incidents that had happened to them then. Most were of the opinion that time and space have taken their toll and they sometimes wondered, too, if some incidents recalled really happened or was it all a bad dream.

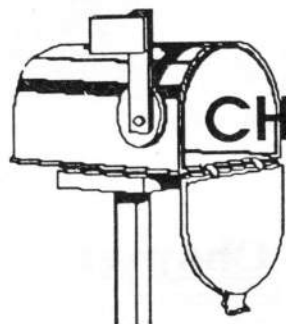
History has recorded the big picture. General Bradley in his book, *The Soldier's Story*, quotes the War Department report on battle casualties for that month in the Ardennes as surpassing those of any 30 days in the war. The total, as he stated: Of the 59,000 we lost in battle, 6700 were listed as dead; another 33,400 wounded. The remaining 18,900 were counted as missing though most were presumed to have been captured when cut off at the German breakthrough.

General Eisenhower said in his book, *Crusade in Europe*: The losses on both sides in the Battle of the Ardennes were considerable. Field commanders estimated that in the month ending January 16 the enemy suffered 120,000 serious casualties. We calculated our losses at a total of 77,000 men, of whom about 8000 were killed, 48,000 wounded, and 21,000 captured or missing.

For its part in the Ardennes battle, the 83rd Division received a commendation from Major General Collins, Commanding VII Corps, which reads in part:

Fighting under the most severe weather conditions yet encountered on the Western Front, with little or no shelter from driving snow and freezing cold, the division advanced almost twenty thousand yards in the First United States Army's drive against the north shoulder of the German salient in the critical state of the attack to break across the Langlir-Ronce River and through the heavy woods to the

south, the 83rd Division made two consecutive night attacks and fought continuously without let-up for three days in order to open the way for the final drive of the 3rd Armored Division to cut the vital Houffalize-St Vith road which spelled disaster for the entire German position north of the elements as well as the vicious fire of the enemy's defense and overcame them both.



CHAPTER NEWS

Florida Chapter News

Our first meeting of the New Year was held in New Port Richey, Florida at the Knights Inn hosted by Jim and Georgia Emanouil, co-hosts Charles and Ann Halligan and Walt and Elizabeth Marshall.

It was a warm and wonderful weekend for all.

A cocktail party was held at the home of Walt and Elizabeth Marshall with all the members who arrived on Friday. Everyone was made welcome and it was truly a great way to become acquainted with all the members, guests and friends of which there were many.

The drinks and snacks flowed. A wonderful time was had by all.

Thank you Walt and Liz for a great time and for your hospitality in your lovely home.

Our Friday evening dinner was held at a Greek Restaurant called Hella's on the Sponge Docks at Tarpon Springs with 65 present.

The food was delicious, and the entertainment was a beautiful belly dancer named Sherri, well you know where the eyes of the men were. It truly is artistic dancing. Mary Fisher and Al Bensimon can vouch for that, just kidding, you were great.

Such talent.

Saturday, the day was spent shopping for the women and the men did their own thing, reminiscing and getting reacquainted. This is their day. Saturday night we again had dinner at Hella's with 82 present. Good to see so many present. We have more snowbirds coming all the time, and we always welcome you to visit our meetings. The show was enjoyed by all (men), ladies too.

A beautiful clock was donated by Walt Marshall who also made it and was won by Georgia Emanouil. Several other door prizes which were donated to the Chapter through the efforts of the hosts were won by those present.

We were glad to have Wm. Minich of L 330 and O.L. Cook of F-330 as our guests from South Carolina, hope to see you again, for others who came for the first time, I didn't get your names and for that I apologize. You're always welcome in Sunny Florida and to the Florida Chapter.

We just lost another member, Joe Perry of 308th Engr. Our sympathy goes to Joan and the family. We will miss him.

For those who are ill, we wish you a speedy recovery and hope to see you all soon. To Helen Sullivan who has been recovering for some time, remember, the warmth of the sun and the good feeling of a smile, May they find their way to you today. Hope to see you soon, we miss you and Sully.

Our next meeting is in Pompano or Ft. Lauderdale area with Harry Shoemaker as host and Ralph Gunderson assisting. Hope to see you all back in the fall and invite you to our November meeting. Details will be in the next Thunderbolt. All the best from your buddies in Florida.

Bill Herhuth
324th Hdq. Btry. F.A.
Wm. Herhuth

New England Chapter News

Things have been on the quiet side due to the New England weather, but we will be on the go as soon as the weather brakes.

First of all Jim and Dot Brennan became grandparents for the 5th time. Daughter Christine Duckworth gave birth on Jan 30th to a baby boy Branden James. All are doing fine.

Jim and Dot will be off to Fla. on March 13 for 3 weeks and also got word that Bill Davis is going to have a nose job Ha Ha Ha! He has a little growth in his nose and after the stitches are out he and Betty will be off to Fla. also.

Simon and Kathren Etzel of N. Guilford, Conn. are doing OK and will be making the reunion and also Burt and Rose Simons are doing fine. Burt is coming a long after a struggle with heart surgery. He will also be making the reunion.

John and Ester Ferriera and Manny and Mary Sousa are all set for another reunion and another shopping spree for more dolls. Ha Ha Ha!



Just a Happy New England Couple

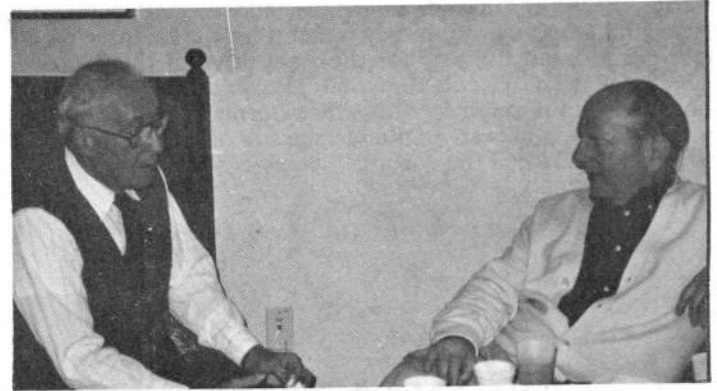


New England - Simon and Kathren Etzel

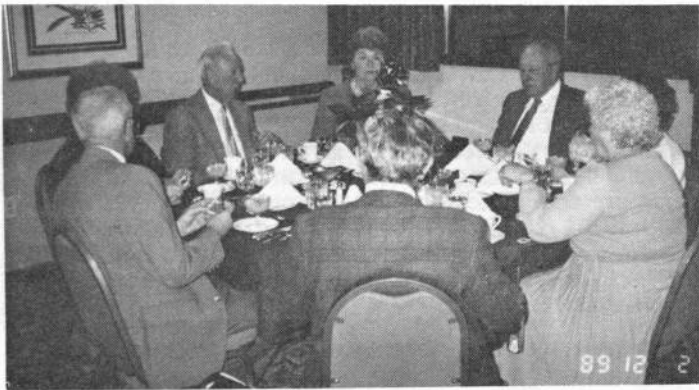
I received two letters this week one from a John J. Block Sr. 19 Kimble Ct. Pomton Plains N.J. that he saw in the Bugle-Bugle that the 83rd was having a reunion and that he was with the 774 Tank Bn. and was with the 83rd



New England



New England -- Dutchy tell him that story



New England Chapter -- Bring on the Food

Div from Aug. 44 - Feb. 45 and that he would like to make the reunion and would like more info. I sent him a letter back and also to Bob, to give him more about the reunion and the 83rd also to get in touch with Stan Bieln about the N.J. Chapter. A letter also from a Wade Perry 3695 Cahaba Beach Rd. Birmingham, Ala. also stating that he saw it in the Bugle-Bugle and Wade was in Co. A. 308 Med. Bn as a litter bearer and sent to Co. A. 329th and then sent to 3rd Bn. Aid station till Nov. 45 and then sent to the 90th Div. to come home. Wade has been on disability retirement since 1980 and can not make the reunion. So if anyone remembers Wade write to him. He also has written a book on his autobiography as a medic and he is selling them for \$3.00 Plus \$1.00 postage. It is a good book and I am reading it and will bring it to the reunion. The paper back book has 101 pages and pictures.

Well just heard from Dutchy and Helen Smith and they just got back from a little trip to Nasul and it was great until the plane trip home. When they landed there was all kinds of equipment around the plane, fire engines and the works, but every thing came out O.K. as Helen said, it was a frightening thing. Thank God.

Well, that is it for now

Your Buddy
Nick Francullo
Hq. Co. 3rd Bn. 330th ATPH

P.S. New England Chapter is in good shape member wise, but we still have a few who have forgotten to pay there dues. So let me here from you good buddies.

P.S. Please put in these pictures we are not getting all the pictures that I send in put in the book. Thanks.

**\$10 DUES ARE DUE NOW
FOR 1990**

New Jersey Chapter

We're just back a few days after our trip to Williamsburg, meeting with the Dixie Chapter. As usual we had a great time thanks to John and Virginia Cox who hosted the meeting. Also the donated food by the members was delicious and enjoyed by all. As for the bar, you name it and it was available. All this for twelve hours a day at the hospitality room. Then on Saturday evening a dinner and dance to finish off a very enjoyable three days.

We had a group from the Jersey Chapter attending. Fred and Addie Rein were There for the third year and look forward to going every year. Sam and Edith Manzi meet with K-330 buddies Fred and Nellie Messina. Emil Wehling and Bucky (Navy) Polcari were enjoying it all. Mike and Liz Skovran have a great time wherever they go. Vitie Atkocius and wife Julie had themselves a ball.

Prior to the trip to Williamsburg Fran and I were in Las Vegas. While playing at one of the casinos downtown, who do we run into sitting two stools away from us, talk about a small world, Casey and Eleanor Szubski from Cleveland. I hope they had better luck than we did.

We had gone to Las Vegas with a senior group and one morning at breakfast sitting with us were Ken and Jo Miglionico who are new members of the Fords Seniors. I took my usual big portion of grits, as I really enjoy them, and asked Ken why he hadn't taken any. He said when he was in the army they fed him grits and since then has never liked them. He then surprised me by telling me he was with Co. C, 308 Engineers, 83rd. Div. Ken never knew of the existence of our association. I'll try to get Ken to become a member.

All in the Chapter express our deepest sympathy to Manny Epstein on the recent loss of his mother. Manny told me he was planning on attending the Memorial Dedication for General Robert H. York at Fort Benning.

I received a letter from Austin McCann asking if I could locate Sol Reznick who served with Austin in Co. M, 331st. Sol came from the Orange, N.J. area. If you can locate him pass the information on to Austin at 251 Florida Ave., Sheandoah, Pa. 17976.

Getting back to the meeting at Williamsburg, it amazes me when talking to the members the interesting lives that some have had. Charles Madison of Co. E, 329 was telling me of his interest, collecting artifacts for the museums around the historical area of Virginia. Charlie told me when searching the wilds many hazards are encountered. Snakes and Bears are the most dangerous. He has developed a sense of smell that can alert him when a particular snake is close by. He can actually tell if the snake is a Rattler or Moccasin as they all smell different.

Ask Earl McDonald, former First Sergeant of K Co. 331st, to look at the photo album of his military career. Earl was part of the old 3rd (Horse) Calvary and after his WW2 service went on to spend 20 years in the Army ending

his career as a Major.

The Chapter Meetings are still held every month at the V.F.W. in Garfield. They are a lot of fun so come and join us the third Friday of each month.

Stan Bielen
1st Bn. Hdqs. 331st

Kentucky Chapter News

The Kentucky Chapter returned to the scene of one of our Reunions, the 1984 affair at Owensboro, Ky., for our Spring meeting. Everyone was on their own to do the things they like to do when they are away from home. I know many went to a Shopping Mall and some went through the Antique Shops in the area. I bought something that my wife and alot of members wish I was like. "A Mute Swan" Its a blank. I will finish it by carving in the feathers and other features and then paint it.

We had a turn out of 52 members, wives and guests. We voted that our summer meeting would be held in Muncie Indiana on June 22nd and 23rd hosted by Owen and Jeanette Jones. They are making the arrangements at the Signature Motel. Lets have a big turn out and any 83rder in the area, come on down and meet some of your buddies. I am sure you will enjoy it.

While in Owensboro, Clara and Leroy Johnson invited Elmer and Dee Day, Vi and myself to their home in Paradise, Ind. for lunch but we could not eat it, because it was made up of one of the finest collection of Soapstone that we have ever seen. I swear I could see the steam rising from the stone that looked just like a hamburger and the other food look alike. I know that Clara and Leroy spend many enjoyable hours searching for their Soapstone. They have a beautiful and very interesting collection and Linda's, Elvis Presley, memorabilia and stuffed bears were also interesting.

The Kentucky Chapter was well represented at the Dixie Chapters Spring meeting in Williamsburg, Va., held the third week of March. Helen and Ames Miller, Bob and Lois Brinkman, Bonnie and Earl Hoover, Pearl and Bob Derickson and Vi and myself were in attendance. There were also people from other chapters. We all went on our own, on side trips to the many areas of interest. After a day of sightseeing, shopping and eating out, it was time for the Hospitality Room where the drinks, snacks and jokes were enjoyed by all. Who will ever forget Flo Jackson's windshield wiper joke? John and Virginia Cox have been the Host and Hostess of this affair for the past five years and they do a tremendous job trying to make everything turn out for our pleasure. I have heard rumors that St. Peter won't let you through the Pearly Gates unless you have been to Williamsburg at least once in your life.

As of this writing, I know of no one on the sick list. Charlie Schmidt is recovering from his knee operation caused by too much Pepper (his dog). Charlie is using a cane now and getting ready to go to Europe. Our Chapter President, Floyd Richmond, has recovered from his recent operation and presided at our Owensboro meeting.

Well thats it for now folks, take care and God Bless you. Hope to see all of you in Pittsburgh.

Wilson E. Day
1st Bn. Hqs. Co. 331

Philadelphia Chapter News

As we mentioned in our last issue, we had our Christmas Party just after Thanksgiving because of reservation difficulties just prior to Christmas. What we didn't know at the time was that a doomsday cloud was about to descend on the Delaware Valley at the beginning of the year in the form of unbelievable weather, particularly on weekends,

when snow, sleet, rain and hazardous driving conditions became a way of life from December to the middle of March.

Merchants were beginning to advertise the dog and the ranch towards the end of February as every weekend became a replay of the weekend before. However, by this time the public in general had rediscovered the warm hearth, and the TV with its own weekend specials that were being offered, so there were not too many takers for the after-season sales offers. There was a lot of complaining heard in the area, but not by the husbands.

In our own situation, the first scheduled meeting for January had to be cancelled, so the following week we had a short meeting at Lou Volpi's home. The February meeting had to be cancelled too as by this time, judging from the weeks before, we were beginning to expect anything.

Our March meeting, however, was another story. It had been scheduled for a Saturday night meeting on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, at Lou's Restaurant with a corned beef and cabbage dinner after the meeting. Contrary to expectations, the weather turned pleasant and we had a good showing. Needless to say, the dinner was excellent and Chefs Lou and Lucy did their usual first-class job. The restaurant is closed on Saturday night, but a few of the regulars stopped by to check on why the place was lighted -- a bit of a testimony to the Volpis and to the quality of their food.

As for the business conducted at this March meeting, we have once again committed ourselves to be color guard and firing squad for the Narberth Memorial Day Parade to be held this year. However, we are making plans to have some sort of vehicle so that marchers, if they wish, may ride part of the four miles as the realities of where we are in time are accepted. This year we are planning to have dinner at a local restaurant after the Memorial Day Parade ceremonies are over, and in this instance, members are being asked to take responsibility for their own individual expenses at the restaurant selected on that particular day.

The Philadelphia Chapter also plans to have a picnic again this summer at Lester Hauck's home in Perkiomenville. We have enjoyed their hospitality and swimming pool for the past several years and it has always been an enjoyable time. Any 83rd members, as well as Philadelphia Chapter members, are welcome as Lester can furnish directions to anyone interested with just a call to his home.

John G. Daum
Co. "D" -- 330th

Warren Chapter News

Once again it's "Thunderbolt" time and the men and ladies of our chapter extend a big hello to all of you nice people in the 83rd. Association and wish everyone continued good health and good luck for 1990. Spring is here and it's time to put away the snow shovels and winter gear and prepare for summer activities.

George Bellay and John Shamrock are ready to start their gardens and Liz Skovran is already a step ahead of them. She bought her tomato plants in Williamsburg, Virginia and they are now growing in her house until planting time.

Our golf league members are prepared to start playing golf on the next sunny Tuesday, and the Gautschi, Voracek and Titus families will open up their trailers in a few weeks at Paradise Lake.

The Skovran's, Tomazin's, Voracek's and Titus' just returned this week from a most enjoyable weekend at the Dixie Chapter meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia. It was sure nice to join Mena and Joe Macaluso there, and while the old soldiers toured the old battlegrounds, the ladies visited Colonial Williamsburg and did plenty of shopping. Many other 83rd members of the Association were there and I'm sure they join us in saying "Thank You" Dixie Chapter for inviting us. Special thanks to John and Virginia Cox for the tremendous amount of work they did, to host

such a big event. They never ran out of refreshments and made sure that the hot dog machine was always full, and the beer was always iced down in the bathtub in the hospitality room.

MEETINGS

We have held three meetings since our Christmas party. A tip of the old hat to Charlie Tomazin (Jan.) Millie and Dick Kelly (Feb.) and Pat and John Shamrock (March), our gracious hosts for these meetings.

SICK CALL

Louise Bellay was in the hospital again, for a week in March and is feeling much better now and back to work.

SYMPATHY CARDS

Birdie and Lee Titus wish to thank chapter members for their cards, in January on the death of Lee's brother Chuck who died of a Brain Tumor in Florida.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW GRAND PARENTS

Marge and Ray Voracek - Daughter Jane and husband Joe Milczewski had a baby girl on February 24th and named her Brittany. (number 11 for the Voraceks).

Theresa and Babe Gautschi - Daughter Norma Jean and husband Ken Barrickman had a baby boy on March 7th and named him Bryan Allen. (number 5 for the Gautschi's) Well that is all the news from Warren for now, so from all of us to all of you, take care of yourselves, listen to your doctors, then go out and live it up like there's no tomorrow.

Lee Titus

Chapter Reporter

Pittsburgh Chapter

First of all I must apologize for not having a column in the last issue. But due to a bout with the flu bug and another problem, I could not get one ready in time.

It seems to be out of place right now, but I will report on last year's Christmas party. This affair was held at the Brentwood VFW Post 1810 on Dec. 2. Another good crowd was on hand, with the women attending receiving a two pound box of homemade candy. In attendance was Steve Blasko, our former secretary with his wife Gertrude. He sold his winter home in Florida. He cited one reason for selling, that his two sons have not been together with him for seven years at Christmas time. The site for this year's Christmas party has been set. It will be held at The Lamp-lighter--a fancy nite club in Delmont, Pa. on Friday, December 7. More details will be forthcoming.

The report on Sam Klippa is not good. He definitely will miss the upcoming reunion. He is in failing health and reports from his wife, Frances does not offer anything good in the near future. Gene Costanzo wishes to thank all who sent him cards and get-well wishes while he was in the hospital for two blocked arteries right after this past Christmas. Over 150 were received while he was in the hospital and in convalescence. He is back and acting as nothing had happened.

SHORT NOTES: Josephine Altomari, wife of the late chapter member and national president, Charles Altomari became a grandmother for the first time, a grandson Christopher David Luciani. Sal and Theresa Scicolone became grandparents for the fourth time. Tom and Sandra Parker, proud parents of baby boy Daniel Patrick. We understand that Bill Harrold is in Florida for the winter. Ed Walsh turned seventy recently. His wife, Dottie had a cataract removed and an eye implant on Feb. 20. She is doing fine. They have eight grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and one great, great grandchild. Paul Dietrich has been absent from the last two meetings. His wife, Rita retired several months ago and as a retirement bonus she received an Hawaiian vacation. They extended it for a little longer then went on a tour of California and spending some time with one of their sons, who resides permanently in that state. They will be back sometime later in April.

At the April meeting of the chapter the women were in at-

tendance. The role of the women for the August reunion were outlined. A luncheon was served after the meeting. A joint crowd of over sixty attended. Reports have it that the 78th Division will be having a reunion at the same time as ours, but at the Hilton Hotel, at the other end of the downtown area.

For the men of Co. H 329 who read this column: Recently Bill Jones came across an old address for 1st Platoon leader Lt. William Keeton of Florida. He called me and asked me if I had anything up-to-date. Saying I had not heard from him since the war ended, he said he would take a chance and send him a letter. A short time later he called and said that his letter was forwarded to his present address, and received a reply. He had been out of touch with everyone for a long period of time and never knew an association of the 83rd existed. He plans to be in attendance at the Pittsburgh reunion. So you men of Co. H, here is your chance to renew acquaintances with a popular officer.

If there are members of the association in the Pittsburgh area reading this and would like to belong to a good chapter, give me a call at 412-931-7978 and I will be glad to give you any info I can. We meet the first Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at the Brentwood VFW Post 1810, Rt. 51, Brentwood, Pa.

Fran Beerhalter
H 329th

Boston Chapter News

Louis Sandini will be in charge of the golf tournament at The Pines in 1991. Prizes will be awarded to all caliber players; good, bad, or indifferent. Our Chapter President will be looking forward to seeing all of the good members of the 83rd in Pittsburgh. This includes all of my buddies that I served with during my time in the 83rd.

We had a very good turnout at our last meeting which was held at the house of our President, Charles Lussier.

Our condolences to Lou Sandini on the loss of his sister, also to our President, Charles Lussier, on the loss of his brother. We also want to express our sympathy to Richard Armstrong, on the loss of his wife Virginia.



New member, Charlie Piete & wife Lucille

At our meeting on March 24, we discussed many things concerning our Mini-Reunion at The Pines, and also about the up-coming reunion in Pittsburgh in August. From all indications, we will have a very large turnout at the reunion.

We usually have a raffle at our Monthly Meeting, and the winner is usually Bob Hunnewell, but we made sure that Bob didn't win this time. The winner was none other than Lou Sandini's friend Pat Worrich.

For the Boston Chapter Members that haven't paid their dues, kindly drop it in the mail at your earliest convenience.

Our good Members Larry and his wife Fran finally came



Hy Goodman & Nancy Tynan in tune

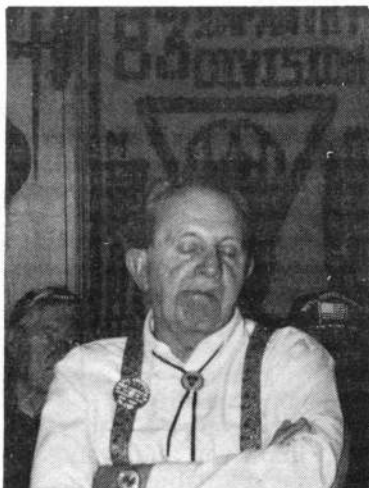


John Clement receiving fruit basket from Pres. Charlie Miller & Pat DiGiammerino



Boston Chapter's New President Charlie Lussier & Lovely Wife Rita

back from their cruise in the Carriibbean. They go there every year, maybe they are looking for a piece of land in the ocean.



Mike Malik "Sleeping Beauty"

George Connors is recuperating from surgery very well. Our Staff Reporter and his wife are enjoying a trip, seeing his army buddies. This is being put together by other Boston Members. Hurry back George and Amby, we all miss you at the meetings.

I have been trying to locate Maj. Charles Cluade Thompson, who was stationed at Camp Atterbury in 1942. If anyone has any information please contact Pat DiGiammerino, 36 East Border Rd., Malden, Mass.

02148.

CLEVELAND CHAPTER

Since the snowplows and shovels have been put away for this winter it is time to get ready for spring and the reunion. First the news. At our February meeting we had the chapter's election of officers. Elected for the slate of officers for 1990 are:

President	Bob Grobelny
Vice President	Casey Szubski
Treasurer	Walt Meczka
Secretary	Joe Belock
Sgt-at-Arms	Hank Trzeciak
3rd year Trustee	Bob Miller
2nd year Trustee	Rollie Warner
1st year Trustee	Lou Donnelly

Congratulations to all. The meal after the meeting was a surprise. A big pot of chili with all the trimmings. To our surprise the Chef, Earl Lindsey told us it was Deer meat in the Chili. Earl shot the Deer in Pennsylvania. He and his wife prepared the chili. It was fantastic. No one could tell the difference. At the January meeting we had Army Stew made by George Calore (Ex Army Mess Sgt.)

Again the meal was excellent. In March not to be outdone Mike Mizerock cooked up a big batch of Corn Beef, Cabbage and Potatoes. Delicious! The Lovely Ladies brought in the home baked bakery, desserts, and calories at all our meetings. If the food and goodies keep up we will have to do close order drills and calisthenics to keep in shape. Ann Christopher always brings her home made pizza which everyone enjoys. During the March meeting we were interrupted by a delegation of officers from the D.A.V. who presented a beautiful flag to the Chapter that we can use in our parades. It was a great pleasure to receive the flag. On behalf of the chapter I would like to thank the D.A.V. for the gift. We will carry it high in our Memorial Day Parade. Now for the bad news. Three weeks after the loss of Casey Kowalec, the Chapter lost another member. Don Clark passed away on January 22, after a short illness. Don was the quiet member of the chapter but when he spoke everyone listened. Our deepest sympathy to Walt Meczka on the loss of his sister-in-law and also to Hank Trzeciak on the loss of his sister. Earl Deisher and Betty Jakubowski are up and about after recent surgery. Good luck the both of you. It seems Casey Szubski met Stan Bielek at the crap table in Vegas during March. Talk about the odds of that happening. I understand they both took a beating at the tables but there is always next time. It is rumored that Bob Miller and his wife Marge sold their home and are moving to a condo. Getting ready to lead the good and easy life.

REMEMBER: In every tree of life, there's a little sap in it.

Bob Uher
Cleveland Chapter

Don't have much news this time. I heard from Al Trofimuk (The Flea Market King of Chicago) that he still is doing well and that he lost some weight. T. Waddle wrote me a letter, with a couple of pictures that he took in Rochefort. He visited there in 1989. It doesn't look like the way I remembered the town. Both of them are planning on being at the reunion. I guess Camels is having some problem with his eyes. Hope he makes the reunion with his wife Millie. Another short story from the "B" BN.

"B" Company replaced "A" Company of the 4th Division, 8th Regiment in the Hurtgen FJorest. Sgt. Dye of the 2nd Platoon had a brother in

"A" Company. He went to the C.O. and asked to see his brother.

The C.O. told him he didn't want to see his brother. Sgt. Day insisted on seeing his brother. Finally the C.O. gave in and pointed to a shelter half and told him his brother

er was under it and was killed the night before in hand to hand combat. Sgt Dye went to the shelter half and prayed a few minutes and then came back to join us. He was a bitter soldier after this. All I know he was from Texas.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone planning to be in Pittsburgh for the reunion. Please drop me a line or give me a call. (216) 885-1152.

Bob Uher

Dixie Chapter at Williamsburgh 1990

Bob was glad to have been with you again. I arrived early on Monday, you see I did not want to miss anything. After all it has been a year since we all have been together here. It is slow today, Tuesday, a few checked in. We are off and running. Things are looking up, Mike and Liz are here from Warren. Snowed a little but no problems. Host John and Virginia Cox arrived here on Wednesday and the Southern Hospitality, Cox Style started flowing. The Day's pulled in from Cincinnati. Vito and his wife looked like they lived here, just going and coming all the time. Thursday the desk looked like it needed extra help. Looked like everyone and his brother would be in Sunday. Emil and Bucky are here and acting like natives. We really miss you Charlie and Mary.

By Friday the group had really grown. We had some folks for the first time and new members, sweethearts and grand children etc. James McCroy and family with grandchild got to see the ocean and wade in the surf.

Earl and Fran McDonald rolled in with their 32 footer. What a nice surprise. What a pleasure to have John and Bobby White with us after a long absence. Do keep in touch. In my excitement I ruined all my snapshots of you so I am hoping for Pittsburgh. Who was that fellow in the overalls and Stetson Hat? Now I recall, Burton and Torina from Strawberry Plains---Good Boy, Burton!!!!

More came from Pennsylvania, Ed Reuss and Lee and others. Some from Cleveland, Warren, Ohio. Boston Chapter looked great. That one VFW Post from New Jersey had enough present for a business meeting. 308th Engineers just about broke a record. I did not get a count but I heard the stories. They were great.

I saw seven National Presidents, our National Secretary Treasurer and I lost track of all the Executive Board members. Was great to have all of you.

Of course Bob and Ames came with their wives and brought friends with them. A great time was had by all.

Joe Macaluso and Mena came from New Orleans. Come again. Come on back Ray and LeRoy next year and bring Charlie with you. The Dixie Artillery needs all the help they can get. Jamestown, Yorktown, Tge Ferry, Beach Plantation Row and the Pottery were all popular Spots to visit. Sorry that Bob and Margaret Parsons could not make it do to an auto accident. Trust you both are well and planning on our next date.

Happy to say we visited with you Bob and the French delegation at your place through the magic of "Renee" and V.C.R.

On Saturday a few more showed up. Some had to leave early. Who knows why. We missed you.

Our President F.M. Haney gave us an opportunity to speak at the banquet. Only two accepted. Ed Reuss brought us a report on the August reunion. John White presented Memorabilia belonging to his father, our Colonel, Bill White. Thank you so much. I really enjoyed the picture from long ago and far away. It seems only yesterday.

The dance was great, our famous courting couples danced the last dance.

Duly chaperoned by the Cox's, Benbow's, and Massie's and closed the place down.

Sunday I enjoyed watching everyone and wishing them well on their journey home.

I had decided to stay over. Believe me it was difficult after you all left. Just know this, wherever you are you are each with me in my heart felt memories and hope to see you at the reunion.

Till then I'll be looking forward to seeing each of you.

Ellsworth Massie

322nd 908th

Thanks Dixie Chapter. It was a great time and we all enjoyed it.

Statistics from Williamsburg

Attendance by Unit	
331st	22
330th	14
329th	13
308th Engineers	8
Division Artillery	8
Total	65
Wives or friends	65
Navy	2
Widows	2
Children	8
Grandchildren	6
Social Members	4
Friends of Dixie	8

Thanks especially to our Secretary-treasurer, Haran Martin and Our Host and Hostess John and Virginia Cox and all those who supplied the goodies.

We'll be better next year!

We'll see you then---Bring a Buddy
Ellsworth

PRAYER OF THANKS

When I rise at early morning
Just before I begin my day.
I get down on bending knees
Giving thanks to God as I pray.

It's so quite and peaceful
With Nature bursting everywhere,
Just God and me alone
While mind and thoughts are clear.

There I talk with Jesus
Thanking him for his special care.
From the moment I awake
I can feel his presents there.

Lord every day has it's demands
And I must do my share.
To full fill my Christian duty
I must start my day with prayer.

Lord guide me through this day,
With your help I depend.
As I am asking this morning
Be with me at days end.

Haran Martin
Co. C. 331 st
Dixie Chapter

Bob & Pearl

Hope you are OK, we are having the Dixie meeting in Clemmons N.C. 9 miles out of Winston Salem NC. in June 1st-2nd 1990.

Join us if you can. I know you and everyone are busy for the National in Pittsburgh, Pa. Hope to see you there.



Ava Barber, formerly with Lawrence Welk Band - Gatlinburg, Tenn. Dec. 1989



Left to Right: Dorcas Green, Donna Hatcher, Pat Turner



Francis Crouch



Jim & Helen McDonald

The Dixie Chapter held its 1st quarter meeting at the Westpark Hotel in Williamsburg, Va. on the 23rd and 24th of March. This meeting was well attended, and we were very proud that we had around 135 for the banquet on Sat. night. The weather was not perfect, but I think that everyone that attended had a real good time.

We were very fortunate to have with us our National President Ed Reuss, and his wife, Lee, from Pittsburgh. They gave us a rundown of the upcoming reunion in Pittsburgh in August. Also attending were three Executive Board members, Ames Miller, Meadors Minick and Gene Costanzo. Our National Secretary, Bob Derickson, and wife, Pearl were also in attendance.

A report was heard at our business meeting that we had lost a member, David Dillard, from Seneca, S.C. Our sympathy goes out to Lois and the family on the passing of David. Mary Muldrow, wife of Buck Muldrow, had returned to the hospital in Atlanta, Ga. for treatment.

Get well soon, Mary, we are missing you at our meetings.

O.L. Cook and Meadors Minick attended the Florida Chapter meeting at New Port Richey, Fla. on Feb. 1st and 2nd as guest of Ralph and Geri Gunderson. While there they visited with Jim and Helen McDonald at the Brentwood in the Meadows Nursing and Care Center in Lecanto, Fla. Jim and Helen were overwhelmed at this surprise visit. They both looked very good.

Our Next Chapter Meeting will be June 1,2,3 in Clemmons, N.C.

Y'All Come
O.L. Cook

COMPANY NEWS

Co. K -- 331st Infantry

Dear Buddies:

Our 44th Annual Reunion will be at the Vista International Hotel in Pittsburgh, Pa. August 16, 17 & 18th, 1990.

As some of you know, our last Reunion was held in Cincinnati, Ohio. It was great to get together with approximately ten men from Co. K., and I hope more will come this year.

In the past, Co. K was represented in the Ad Book. The Booster Ad is \$5.00 per person, living or deceased.

Please send your name and any deceased member you would like to remember.

If you know of anyone who was in Co. K., 331st., please let me know. I might not have him on my roster.

Please send your ad in to me by June 15, 1990 as follows:

Albert Belvedere
65 Westminster Dr. So.
Vincentown, N.J. 08088

Thanking you and hoping this note finds you and yours in good health, I remain

Your 83rd Buddy,
Albert Belvedere

**\$10 DUES ARE DUE NOW
FOR 1990**

Co 'K' -- 331st Infantry

Hi Buddies:

Rogers has been on patrol again! Gene and I left for West Virginia December 21st for the Holidays with our families. The farther East we traveled the colder it got. We hadn't had any trouble but had seen many tractor-trailers stalled along the highway. When we stopped in Joplin, Missouri, the wind was blowing and getting colder. Since we wanted to get an early start the next morning we were up at five. It was 15 below zero with a wind chill factor of 30. The car hardly had a grunt when I tried to start it. We had to be towed in and the fuel system thawed. I had the garage replace the battery. One hundred fifty dollars and five hours later we were on the road again.

We arrived home Christmas Eve, and we had a nice visit with family and friends.

After New Years we made a trip to Columbus, Ohio. On our way we stopped and visited with a war buddy. We hadn't seen each other since 1944. We had a wonderful visit with Paul Ours and wife, Pauline. We got Paul signed up with the 83rd Association. He had sent money each year for the Booster Ad to Al Belvedere but didn't know exactly how the money was being used. Since we have him as an Association member he can read the Thunderbolt and learn all about us. Paul called me on March 15th and he is making reservations for the Pittsburgh reunion.

While in Columbus on patrol we visited Wilder and Flossie Mathena. It is a pleasure to visit him since we always think of new things to discuss.

A follow up report is a must on another good buddy. We made a trip to Maine, and on our way we stopped to see Subby Vasquez. Thanks to all of you who saw my previous letter in the fall issue and contacted Subby, by letter or phone; prayers were answered. Subby has improved greatly, he gained 30 pounds and in his good arm he is building muscles. I only wish you could see the sparkle in his eyes. Sue is doing a great job. She is so patient and cares for Subby with tender loving care. We received a call from them March 16th, and he is continuing to improve. They have measured his leg for a brace. It was great to see such a change, keep up the good work fellows, the response was super. He still needs prayers, letters, and phone calls.

We came from West Virginia to South Carolina and visited with Junious and MaeDelle Louder for three days. We did some patrolling while there. We and the Lowders went to see O.L. Cook. He had called Meadors Minick that we were coming and he met us there. It was good seeing you fellows. We went to Little Mountain, a short ways from Cook's, to visit a deceased buddy's, Bunk Cumalander, wife, Jo and son, Earl. She took us to see another Co. K war buddy whom we hadn't seen since 1944, Carroll E. Frick. Junious and I were sadden at what we found. Carroll is alone and has leukemia. He has no desire to live. He would like to hear from men that served with him. So here I am asking you to remember him in your prayers. Letters could do much for his loneliness. Send your letters to Carroll E. Frick, Route 1, Little Mountain, South Carolina 29075.

Junious will visit him again soon.

Jo we appreciate you taking us to see Carroll. You are a nice lady. We sure miss Bunk.

Thanks again for your help and prayers.

It's surprising what a phone call or letter will do for someone lonely or ill.

We were the greatest in the war days and we still are. God bless you all.

A Company "K" Buddy
Everett Eugene Rogers
12827 North 42nd Drive
Phoenix, Arizona 85029

Co. M -- 330th Infantry

Co. M -- 330th Inf. holds mini-reunion in Fla.

Co. M -- 330th Infantry held its mini-reunion in Bradenton, Fla. on March 9th at Frank and Bunny Ashe's condo club house. Everyone brought a picnic item for lunch. The afternoon was spent "shooting the breeze" and at 6:45 we left to go to the southern part of the city to have dinner at the 306th Bomb Group Squadron Restaurant. This building is located right on the edge of the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport and was the Officers Club during World War II. It still contains numerous pictures and other Army and Air Corps memorabilia of the years 1942-1945. The get together adjourned after dinner. Those in attendance were: Russell and Jennie Antt, Frank and Bunny Ashe, Edd and Delana Etter, Jim and Martha Fowler, Leo and Martha Hand, Mert and Jeanne Johnston, Bill and Juanita Robbins, Walter and Edith Wheeler, and Joe Rittersharp, who drove all the way from Indiana to attend the mini-reunion.

Thank You
Leo K. Hand
Co. M -- 330 Infantry

"G" Company -- 331st Infantry

March 30, 1990

Once again I got a good taste of cold weather, together with the snow and the ice.

The wife and I took the trip to Williamsburg this year, and we did get snow and ice and hail. I know now why the people from up north head for sunny Florida during the winter months. This was the first day of spring and in Virginia, which is still part of the southern states, and we had freezing weather.

I want to thank the Dixie Chapter and John Cox for a warm and relaxed reunion. It was fun to meet with the group and enjoy yourself without the added burdens of meetings.

I was good to meet with Beau Titus and Gene Costanzo from G Company. Incidentally, Gene seems to be back in good health, but still burning the candle at both ends. Beau is doing fine, Berdie seems to be taking good care of him.

The wife and I did renew some old acquaintances from other units of the 83rd Division.

Williamsburg is a beautiful Colonial setting, and there is a great deal of American history in that area of the country. Beau, Voraeck, and Tomazin and myself took a tour of the Yorktown battle area. A very interesting tour.

We are beginning to make our plans for the reunion in Pittsburgh in August (16th-17th-18th). I plan to arrive there on Tuesday Aug. 14, and hope that we can get some of the G Company men to meet us on Wednesday Aug. 15. Hopefully, they can spend the remaining days of the reunion in Pittsburgh with the rest of the Association. We are looking for a good turn out and a pleasant stay in Pittsburgh. Gene and the group from that area are promising us a good reunion, and a good program.

The list of the men that die during the year seems to be getting longer, and we should try to enjoy ourselves and meet with some of our wartime buddies.

This seems to be catching on throughout the other Divisions. As I sit here writing this article, I received a call from a Art Lee from the Chicago area trying to locate a John Macaluso in the New Orleans area that served with him in the 42nd Division during World War II.

Just talked to Mort Gaynor, he is not feeling good these days. His operation and his blood pressure seems to be bothering him.

There are still many of the men that served with G Company that I have never been able to contact. Al Belvedere of K Company located a former G & F Company officer

in the Philadelphia area, a James Fish who was a platoon leader, he will attend the reunion in Pittsburgh.

Let's make plans to be in Pittsburgh in August.
Capt. Mac

Co "T" -- 329th Infantry

It's sad to report that we have lost another Co. I buddy. James E. Wilson formally of Rittman, OH., died Mar. 30, 1990 in North Fort Myers, Fla. Burial is April 4th in Rittman, Oh. Walt and Joyce Henschel, Agnes and I are going over to pay our respects Tuesday evening.

Walt had an operation in January and was laid up for about 10 weeks but is now back to work and feeling much better.

Last year was the Henschels first reunion and they are looking forward to this years.

In case you have forgotten they were the **young couple** who didn't miss very many dances on Friday and Saturday nights.

Talked to Mich & Doris McGowan the other night. Mich had spent sometime in the Dayton VA Hospital and had a pace maker inserted. Getting along just fine now.

Also called Bonnie & Earl Hoover they will arrive in Pittsburgh on Tuesday the 14th. Bonnie is always ready to give Pearl and Bob a hand with their work.

Last week I called Frank & Pat Bellino in Port Charlotte told them I was just checking up on them and looking forward to seeing them in Pittsburgh. They said that Joe and June Zenz visited them this winter. The Zenzs just have to drive across the state for this years reunion.

Pat and Frank were surprised by a phone call from Steve and Pat Bartha, they called from Sebring, Fla. they just bought a house there after selling their home in Pine, Arizona. Moving date is May 7th. The Bartha's are coming up to Ohio in August to spend sometime with Steve's brothers in Salem Ohio and hopefully a couple of days with us. We have plans to go to Pittsburgh on the 15th of August. Spend four days rather than just three with old buddies.

I also have promises of four more Co. "T" men and their wives to attend their first reunion this August. They are Jim & Wilma St. John, Scranton, Pa., Jim & Dorothy Fornof, Cheswick, Pa., Max & Sallie Francis, Lake Monroe Fla., Frank & Ollie Dahl of Chatanoga, Tenn. Also Frank McCabe promised to make it this year.

Chas Grey of Chatham, Mass. wrote to me telling that it was him who had been putting the ad in the ad book about the Mod Squad of the 3rd platoon. We could not figure out who Chas Grey was, he informed me that overseas we knew him as Julius Zelinsky, his father changed their name right after the war. Also Jessie & Liz Hayes we missed them last year.

Talked to Jessie & Liz around Christmas time, they plan to make it this August.

Also hoping that our old stand-bys have their reservations in for the Boat ride and Hotel reservations. They are the following: The Allens, Hannas, Haas, Honnewell, Haywards, Olneys, Pittmans, Mills and Simons.

I'm also hoping because of the Pittsburgh location some other old buddies will surprise us and show up this year and help us make this a big and happy and joyous reunion.

Arthur P. Koerner
2592 Meloy Rd.
Ravenna, Ohio 44266



323rd F.A.

Nancy and I are just back from The Dixie Chapter Meeting in Williamsburg, Va., where we had a marvelous time for three days.

While in Washington D.C., I talked to Frank Wirth and Ralph Morgan. They told me they are both doing well. I also visited Dorothy O'Farrell, sister of Gerald Costello, and her daughter. We had a nice visit.

Then on to Altoona, Pa. Bill Shaner's wife Lois and family were wonderful to us along with Don St. John and his wife Amy. My last night we were at a party and Gordon Williams of 324 F.A. Bn. Charlie Battery was there, which made it a real nice evening with all the 83rd folks.

George Connors is on his way back to good health after being in the hospital. George, we hope to see you soon.

James "Buck" Taylor is doing much better. I was certainly glad to hear from him recently.

I met Bill Metellinous at the Jamaica Plain Veterans Hospital. He was in for a checkup and looks good.

I have made contact with Lt. Leo Miller and Capt. Phil Shogren. I had a phone call from Phil Shogren. His voice has not changed a bit over the years. Phil was first in Baker Battery then in Headquarters overseas, a well liked Commander.

Erwin Erhardt is flying now with trips to Mexico and California with his lovely wife. He tells me that they had a wonderful time.

I hope to see Joe Malone and Norman McCormack sometime this month. Nancy and I plan to spend a few days vacationing in Maine. Also, we may visit George Polites in Dracut, Ma.

Tom Papile is doing well after his operation. He is out with his grandchildren every day.

Tony Piantedosi tells me that their Captain Bob Von Gunten passed away since being with us at the reunion in Cincinnati. Bob came from Stillwater, Oklahoma to the reunions and was the Commanding Officer of Charlie Battery.

Erwin Erhardt told me John Centrullo died on March 12, 1990. Erwin attended his funeral. John was a good friend and soldier.

Our Condolences to the families of both these men.

I forgot to mention in the last book for Headquarters Battery to send a few dollars to me to cover the Ad Book in Memory of our men. It is nice to remember these men as Ralph Morgan says, they were the best.

Thanks, see you at the reunion.

Amby Tynan

"G" 329th

Dixie Chapter welcomed all of us at Williamsburg.

Lois and Bob Brinkman, Helen and Ames Miller, Etha and Leonard Reynolds, Virginia and Vito Palazzola and Babe and Howie Freitag attended.

We all visited Colonel Williamsburg and ate at the Williamsburg Inn. Really elegant.

Also went to Norfolk and went aboard "The Raleigh" Carrier. Very impressive.

Leonard Reynolds (PFC) gave us all a look and how all 83rd men should look. His uniform fit him great!

Dixie Chapter really went all out with that Southern Hospitality. All sorts of goodies to eat and plenty to wet the whistle. The dinner was excellent and the dance floor was always full, which means a good band.

Thank you so much for a great time.

Babe Freitag

"A" Company -- 329th Infantry

I received a couple of letters from Co. "A" 329th fellows. One was from John Camp, who was the Medic in the 2nd Platoon, of "A" Co. He had a stroke in 1988, but is getting along pretty well. We got to see each other for the first time, since the War, in Cincinnati, Ohio. He still helps his son do a little farming. He gave me a bunch of addresses and pictures of the 2nd Platoon guys. (I'm going to try to get them to come to the Reunion). He visited quite a few of these guys and asked them to come to Pittsburgh.

The second letter I got was from Lt. Joe "Ringy" Stefancin. (Everyone back home called him "Ringy"). He wanted to know the names of the officers in the Company "A" picture. I knew all but one. From left to right: Comes, Shaw, Capt. Hartgraves, Shroeder, the next officer I do not know, and the last, Holland. Could anyone out there in Co. "A" help us out? Call me at (216) 449-5085, or write Bob Grobelny -- 1581 Lander Rd., Mayfield Hts., Ohio 44124, or, Ringy Stefancin - 93 8th Street, Uniontown, Pa., 15401. Ringy also told me that he had a bad cough for 5 weeks, went to Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh where they diagnosed it as a heart condition. (I hope you are better now Ringy). Well Co. "A", what do you say - How about coming to the Pittsburgh Reunion and renew our acquaintances!

I was Communications Sgt. in the hedge rows; got wounded going into St. Malo, evacuated and flown to England to recuperate. I then came back to Co. "A" in November. You all were in the Hurtgen Forest. Wow! What a 2nd baptismal of fire for me! Since there was a Communications Sgt. there already, Capt. T/Sgt. Einzig was the Platoon Sgt. then, and was Platoon Leader to the end of the war.

My wife Bernice and I went to a "Mini" 4th Platoon Reunion held in the Akron, Ohio area. We saw Bill Tisher and his wife Bert, (they got it together), Blakie Mossman and his wife Margaret, Roy Chapman and wife Shirley, Carl Pliske and wife Lee, Cordon Liberatore and wife Eileen, John Ivans and wife Jean, and "Sleepy" Fred Hemsley and wife Jean. The reunion was held one week before our National Reunion. We had a great time getting re-acquainted! The guys look great and the gals look beautiful!

This is all for now, so see you all in Pittsburgh!

Your Buddie,
Bob Grobelny
Co. "A" 329th Cleveland Chapter

783rd Ordnance Co.

Before I get anymore comments on that great picture of "the gang", at the picnic on Doggetts back lawn, I want to state someone else was responsible for it. I'm not quite sure how, nor am I sure who came up with our "New" fellows, "Wiggions, Henderix, Hadstock, Pheffer, Barbour and our comic Charlie Brown." I don't know about you fellows but I sure got a good laugh at some one else's expense.

This is that in between issue where there isn't too much to write about. Of course you don't have to be reminded to get your reservations in for the Pitt. reunion. I can't give exact numbers but quite a few of us have been signed up for months. I truly expect we'll have a 783rd attendance similar to our outings of the past five years. Some of the fellows will again not make it because of family vacation commitments. (That's another plug for reunions in the off period, less crowded, less expensive month of September)

The good news is I don't have any bad news. Many of the gang didn't let any moss grow under their feet this past winter. Midge and Hersh Weaver reported in from Tucson Az. visiting the kids. They stopped in Vegas and optimistic Midge brought along an empty suitcase. Al and Ruth Ben-simon have decided to become one home owners. They are selling the New Jersey homestead and leaving the entire state to the Pfeifers. There's your chance Doc to own a great shore home with clean beaches. Al is offering ten percent off to any 783rd member. Al also wrote, quite interest-

ingly, of his long sought visit with Henry Krebs. I quote, "Henry looks good, did not gain weight (Appleby note) has greyish hair, glasses and is still the mild introvert we knew.

His interests are church, golf and tennis." It sounds to me that Henry has his priorities in order. If your going to be a golfer you should have your religion in order first. Al and Ruth are going back to Luxembourg and Dinard this fall. If you fellows have any little notes you would like to pass on to any ole girl friends just mail them to Al.- Not Ruth, she seems to side with our wives!!

Charlie and Pat Rohrer have also had a wonderful winter at their Fla. retreat. Charlie said he has been playing Popeye the sailor man eating his spinach and looking forward to outdrive Phil Barbara on the golf course in Pitt. Just called Steve Blasko for some golf info in the Pitt. area. Steve and Gert sound great and Steve is looking forward to beating the pants off of Paul Bryars. All of you fellows who saw Jones good video shots of the Cinn. golf also heard that Paul didn't realize he was on his own course. And speaking of Jim Jones I think he deserves a tip of the cap from us. A number of the fellows took advantage of Jim's generosity and had him cut video tapes of the Cinn. reunion. Believe me, that's a job putting everything together and wrapping forty five degree, bedsheet, corners on the packaged tapes. So thanks Jim, and are you bringing your camera this year. I promise I won't hit off my right leg this year. (golf observation).

This month was phone call month. Lloyd Grayson called to relay the passing of an 83rd friend from the 329th who found Lloyd some years back. The full details are in the Chaplains report. Lloyd is still his "up" self. If anyone gets near Lloyd's home in Calif. Make sure you stop in. He will put out the extra thick red carpet.

Ernie Jim Christian and Justine reported they are also doing OK. Actually, Ernie's worst problem is trying to live with the Texas sport scene. Being from Philadelphia I can fully realize his depression. Good old Ivan and his young wife Pat graciously called to check on Ginny's health as did the Carl and Alyce Frederick's. They have diagnosed Ginny's problem as "Classical migraine headaches," and she is coping well at the moment. So too are Ivan and Pat, running around with the grandchildren. Carl and Alyce have just been running to Fla. and Hawaii. Now Carl knows why I told him to retire years ago and let Alyce bring the bacon home. And, a thank you to Bob and Pearl Derickson for their friendly card to Ginny.

Speaking of Carl, he is once again going to be our Ad book person. If you haven't done so already would you please send Carl some of your loose green fins. Carl will be making up a memorial page for the 783rd.

And, just like our ten or twenty five mile hikes, bringing up the rear, we have Art Doggett. Millie says Art is just as good as ever. He sits quietly in Sunday School every Sunday then goes out all week cutting up rugs. I don't know, I do know Northern Baptists can't drink, smoke or dance. Can anyone out there tell me about Southern Baptists???

Hut two,
Rags Rangnow

Carl's address: N. 84 West 16111 Donald Court, Menomonee Falls, Wis. 53051.

P.S. Boy, almost got in trouble again. That elegant couple from Kansas - the Wiggins spent a great deal of time composing a prostrate letter dealing with Ray's prowness. The good news is, Mimi showing her wisdom, never added a single word at Ray's attempt of a facetious epistle. I really believe the long winter caused Ray to spend too much time in his clock room-next to the Cuckoo's!!

Howie Edwards of the 329th Inf. Co. C & B. died on Feb. 25th 1990. Howie had four purple hearts. He was in Buckshot Trables Co. The Edwards were living in Calif. but were originally from the Boston Chapter. This was reported by his wife Dorothy to, his friend of a few years, Lloyd Grayson of the 783 Rd. Ordnance.

Thanks Bob

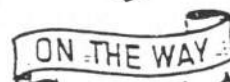


MEMORIES

908th Field Artillery Bn.



I'VE GOT SIX-PENCE, JOLLY, JOLLY SIX - PENCE.



Vol. III, No. 1

April 6, 1990

EDITORIAL:

I had intended to publish another newsletter last month, because I found I had some extra time on my hands. Then, in early March, my wife broke her leg, so my time became somewhat limited. Besides, I had taken a job of teaching two courses in U.S. History at a local college (just to fill in time). Things are settling down now, so here goes with another issue. Our plans are to visit Europe again this summer, and I hope to get some good pictures of

the Hurtgen Forest area, particularly the little village of GEY, where the outfit was heavily engaged. I will try to bring some photographs to the reunion this fall if anyone is interested. I appreciate Bob Derickson publishing this news in the Thunderbolt, which increases the distribution. Many thanks to GRACE BRICK, BOB WESSEL, and JULES DESGAIN, who contributed to help out on the cost of printing and postage for this edition.

HISTORICAL NOTE:

The 908th started its voyage across the English Channel just 12 days after

D-Day, on June 18th. It landed on June 22nd and 23rd and took up positions near Carentan, being assigned to the First U.S. Army. Historical records show that the First Army got the 83rd Division about a week sooner than planned. As a part of the VII Corps, the battalion fired its first rounds at the enemy on June 26th. For about a month the 908th supported the 331st Infantry in fierce fighting in the hedgerow sections of Normandy, pushing in costly actions which eventually took our troops across the Taute River. At this time the 4th Armored Division was on our right flank and the 9th Infantry Division on our left. The division was opposed by two crack German divisions: The 2nd SS Panzer Grenadier Division and the 17th SS Panzer Division. On July 25th the devastating blanket-bombing took place, and our troops were able to execute a massive break-through that would take us out of Normandy. On that day we were transferred to the VIII Corps. The breakthrough came mainly through the 9th Infantry Division zone, but some elements of the 1st Infantry Division passed through the lines of the 331st. Leading the spearhead, which would eventually take them to St. Malo and Brest were combat commands of the 2nd and 3rd Armored Divisions. The next edition will cover our action in Brittany, which will include Dinan, St. Malo, and Nantes. PLEASE SEND IN SOME STORIES ABOUT BRITANNY so I

can print them. Send to Del Jurden, 4512 Sutton Court, Kansas City, KS 66106.

NEWS ITEMS:

Charles Stine reported to me recently that Stuart Hitt, formerly of A Battery, died in his sleep on February 10th. Stuart would have been 81 years old on June 16th. Your prayers are requested for him. Another jolt came when Eleanor Clevenger wrote to me on her Christmas card and informed me that Jack had died. Such tragic news make us sad, of course, but they also make us thankful to have had such friends for so long a time of our lives. In case you have forgotten, the 44th Annual Reunion will be held at the Vista International Hotel in Pittsburgh, PA., from August 15th to the 19th. Let's have a big turn-out for the old 908th and enjoy each others' company while we have a chance. Salvatore Scicolone (329th) reports that plans are well under way, and the program in the Thunderbolt looks like this coming reunion will be a good one with plenty of opportunities for us to get together and reminisce about the old outfit.

HEDGEROW HIGHLIGHTS:

From Charles Stine: ... I remember on the LST. They gave us seasick pills to take in case you got sick. Donald Barnhart took too many of them, and he wanted to jump overboard. We sure had a time with him. I think he was scared of what we were going to get into when we hit the beach in Normandy.

From Walt Pickett: When we arrived off the beaches of France, we laid anchor to wait our turn to unload. We could make out the smoke and shell fire on the beach. Some of our ships in the convoy had huge balloons floating on cables high above. This was to prevent the enemy aircraft from flying directly over the convoy....Just off the beach, we pulled into an apple orchard for our first night on shore. It was there that I dug the deepest foxhole of the whole war. Anyone who says he wasn't scared was just trying to kid himself—I surely was scared like I'd never been before.

From Jules Desgain: I was so sea sick when we crossed the channel, but, as I remember, I was not alone.....I almost missed the landing...another G.I. and myself decided to look for a place to sack out for a while. We found a couple of empty bunks in the Navy quarters, but before I fell asleep, I told him to wake me if we are starting to debark...when I woke up, he was gone. The ship was not moving. I jumped up and ran to where the trucks were. They were all gone. The big doors were open, the ramp was down, and I could see dry beach...I ran out and Col. Thompson was standing on the beach...He told me there were still a couple of jeeps to come down from the top deck and for me to get on the next one...No room on it. I let it go by. Col. Thompson turned around and saw me still standing there. He said "I told you to get on the next jeep." I said "Sir, no room on it." He said "I don't care if there is room or not on the next jeep. You get on it." (the next jeep) was stacked sky high, and I was on top of it. I don't know how I managed to stay up there, but I did.

From John Henderson: I remember Bert Hohenfelt. I think he was the Motor Sgt. I know one day I went down to the motor pool and Hohenfelt and three or more fellows were all sharpening butcher knives. I asked them what they were doing. They said that not too far down the road they had found some cows in a pasture and when night came they were going down and butcher one of those cows so we could have some fresh meat. I think our cook, Sgt. Miller, was on this deal....Next day I asked them about the steaks. They told me that they caught a calf, Hohenfelt hit the calf in the head with a hammer and turned the calf loose. They said the calf went backward for a distance, fell, got up, and ran off, and they couldn't catch him again. That was the last of our steaks.

From a former member of headquarters Battery: In Normandy during the first few weeks our main rations were K-rations. After the blanket-bombing on July 25th, we moved rather rapidly to new positions, keeping in support of the advancing infantry. A couple guys, Pfc. Calloway and Pvt. Wally Turner, asked permission to go out to forage for some decent food, so they took off one morning. In about three hours they came down the road, each carrying baskets of eggs and with a bottle of Calvados. Ahead of them marched two German prisoners--and the prisoners were carrying Calloway's and Turner's Carbines. It so happened that as the two were on their trip, they saw a small bunker, and one of them yelled, "All right! Come out of there!" To their surprise, out came the two Germans. On the way back to the battery position, they entrusted the prisoners with their weapons rather than with the more valuable food and drink.

Delbert A. Jorden Lt.Col., Ret.
4512 Sutton Court
Kansas City, Kansas 66106

Does anyone remember the artillery "accident" at Camp Breckenridge in March 1944, just before we shipped overseas? As one of the "slightly" wounded, I thought some of you might have an interest in how I described the incident to my wife. Here is my letter:

From the Desk of Duane Brigstock

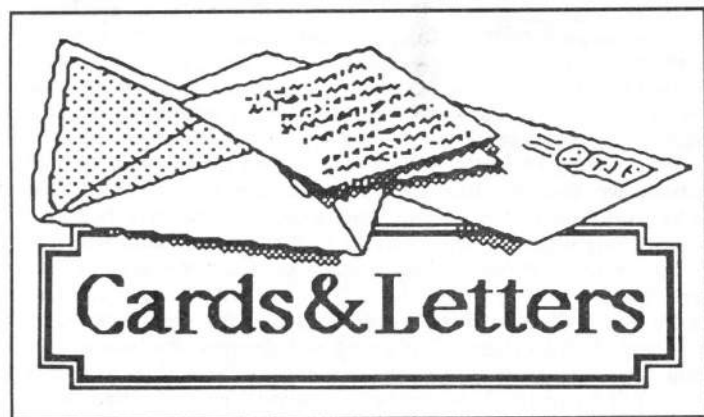
Bob:

I have thought many times of making a contribution to your Association publication. Here is one you may care to use. It is actually an excerpt from a book I have worked on off and on, for several years and am now at the point of trying to find a publisher. A story of my war experiences as told in a couple of hundred letters to my wife and saved by her. It covers basic training with the 63rd Division, overseas and combat with the 83rd, months of hospitalization in England and finally a year in Paris with the I&E Division where I was billeted with Stars and Stripes.

This particular letter to my wife covers the artillery "accident" at Breckenridge in March 1944, just before we shipped overseas. I was one of the "slightly" wounded (4 were killed, 28 wounded, as you may remember). Just thought it might bring back memories to some of our Buddies who may have been there at the time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call. 616 964-7418. Hope to make the next Reunion.

Warm regards,
Duane
Hq. Co. 1st Bn.
331st.



Dear Sir,

I am looking for anybody that was in the Hq. Co. 2nd Bn. 330th Reg. I was a cook in Hq. Co. I would love to hear from someone who might remember me (Howard Wendel)

Please write to:
Howard Wendel
605 Market St.
Wheeling, WV 26003

Maybe by publishing this letter in the Thunderbolt Magazine someone might see my name and remember me.

Thank you kindly for your time.

Sincerely
Howard Wendel

What Did You Do In The Big War, Grandpa? Duane Brigstock

Sorry you had to get the news of our "little" accident the way you did. There wasn't any way for me to get in touch with you before. First, there was a "blackout" on the news of the accident and then, too, I couldn't get to a telephone. Anyway, I appreciate your call and I hope I convinced you that I am OK and doing fine and should be out of here, the hospital, in a few days, at least I'm off the sulfa diet, which consisted of about a dozen pills a day with gallons of water and the nurses carefully monitoring my intake and output! Now that the story has been released to the Press, I guess I can safely tell you about it, as I witnessed it.

The exercise was to have us advance under the cover of our own artillery. As we moved up, the artillery was to increase its range so that it was always 100 to 150 yards ahead of the advancing troops. Nearly the entire Division participated, probably 10 to 12 thousand men. We were strung out in long lines which, as you can imagine, with that many men was a long one. The plan was that the first battalions of each regiment would start out (that was us, Headquarters Company, 1st Bn) move up 200 yards then the 2nd Battalions would start. When we reached the 400 mark our part would be over, the 2nd would go thru our lines and the 3rd Battalion would start moving, etc. I do not know how many guns there were, but there were plenty, as all the Division artillery were involved. The barrage was continuous and it was supposed to condition us for battle situations. Apparently, it was not too well planned or someone goofed. We were leading the exercise advancing rather rapidly as we started out running carrying our M1s at port hitting the ground every 15 or 20 yards as we watched the shells hit beyond us. You can hear them whistle overhead, see a cloud of smoke go up and then hear the explosion. The old timers tell us that when you hear the

whistle you know you are OK. When you don't hear it, look out! I was half running, half walking with just a few more yards to go and kidding with a buddy beside me. He was bitching and griping about the snow and slush being wet and miserable. As for me, I couldn't have been happier knowing that as soon as the exercise was over I was going to have a 3 day pass and be on my way to Battle Creek. This had been agreed to because my Company Commander knew I had been shortchanged of two days on my furlough and he wanted to make up for it. My Lieutenant said as soon as I had run the exercise a jeep would take me to Evansville to catch the noon train to Chicago. Suddenly, the loudest noise I ever heard went off, seemingly right beside me. At the same time, something stung my arm and I hit the ground fast! I mean fast, whether by my own accord or by the concussion, or both! I'll never know. I just laid there hugging the ground and praying that another one would not score a direct hit on me. I have always heard of the things people think about in tight situations. All I can remember thinking was "There goes my 3 day pass!" I had no idea what had happened. I knew I must be hit but I didn't feel any pain or see any blood, only numbness in my hand. Then I noticed the hole in my field jacket. A medical corpsman crawled over and took out some scissors from his kit and cut off the sleeve to see the wound just above my wrist. It was not bleeding much so he just sprinkled some sulfa on it and covered it with a bandage. He said, "You were sure lucky, look at your rifle and field pack!" The stock of my M1 was shattered and the field pack looked like someone had cut it off my back. I started to look around and it was horrible. A round had fallen short and exploded just in back of our Company. Men were laying all over with the medics working on them. The officers were running around like crazy with the barrage still going on. It really is too horrible to write about, but to sum it up, we had 18 casualties in our Company with 3 dead. Overall 4 were killed and 28 wounded. Our Battalion Chaplain came over to me to see how I was doing. "I'm okay, who got hurt?" "Furgang got killed." "That can't be, I was walking with him!" "It's true, the shrapnel decapitated him!" And so you can see I was lucky, someone was watching over me! My wound is minor and nothing for you to worry about. We were rushed to the Station Hospital and the shrapnel removed from my arm. I feel pretty good, the arm is sore and a couple of fingers are kinda numb. They treat us like we were something special, and the food is good. Even the General stopped by to see me yesterday. I understand an inspection team from the Pentagon is here to try to find out what happened. Guess a few asses are to be chewed. I've never seen so much "Brass" in my short military career. I was about half asleep when the General came by. He said, "What are you thinking about?" "My 3 day pass." I told him what had happened. He said, "Well, son, we will be moving out of here in a couple of weeks. You get well and I will personally see that you get your pass. But hurry." "Make note of that," he told his aide. I started to get up. The General said, "What are you doing?" "I'm ready to go right now!" So it will be a few days, so I guess I might as well enjoy this special attention.

See you soon!

I would like to thank all my friends who called and sent cards during my recent illness. I'm feeling fine and as good as new. Looking forward to seeing everyone at our reunion.

Gene Costanzo
Executive Board

Dear Bob,

I am sorry I was unable to attend the last reunion, but sincerely hope to make the next in Pittsburgh.

I am enclosing check for our history book and wonder if

you have access to records as to locating the medic in my platoon name Lester Gallon Co. "C" 330 --- 1st platoon, If so, I would really like to contact him as he is the one that assisted me when I was shot thru the chest April 14, 1945.

Thanking you in advance I remain, If I owe dues advise me.

Sincerely
Carl W. Teenor
Rt 1 Box 207
Inola, Ok 74036

Dear Bob,

We had such a good response from my letter, published in the fall issue of the Thunderbolt, we felt there should be a follow-up.

I missed much before I found the association and am trying to make up far last years. It does my heart good to get a new person signed up with us or to visit with any of our buddies.

Bob, I think you and Pearl do a wonderful job. We really appreciate you, and thanks for a job well done.

See you in Pittsburgh, we have our reservations.

Everett

Mr. Mannuel Klippa
83rd Infantry Division Association
1500 Mutual Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15204
U.S.A.

Dear Mannuel:

I am writing to you because I need very urgent information. For my work, I am looking for the names, first names, and ranks of the officers, sergeants and soldiers who belonged to the 331st C.T. of the 83rd Infantry Division of the US Army in September, October and November 1944. I am also looking for those who belonged to the field ambulance of this combat team (medical combat team of the 83rd Infantry Division of the US Army).

These units fought and stationed in September, October and November 1944 in Contz les Bains, a village near the Southern Luxemburg boarder on the left side of the river Moselle. There, was the 83rd Infantry Division which, at the time, belonged to the 8th Corps but which had been on secondment of the 20th Corps of the 3rd US Army.

I am particularly interested in finding the addresses of the following veterans:

Lt. Jerry Drucker	Captain Mitchell
T/Sergeant Purcell	Sergeant Kelly
Sergeant Kelly	Sergeant Weithehead
Sergeant Moriss	GI Jimmy Kingstone

Are they members of the 83rd Veteran Association? I am also interested in finding the names and addresses of the medical captain and his male nurses of the company which liberated Contz les Bains on September 29, 1944. They looked after the civilian wounded and evacuated them as well as the inhabitants of this little boarder village of Lorraine. The people of Contz les Bains would like to invite these veterans in order to thank them.

I would also appreciate it if you could send me the history of the 83rd Infantry Division of the US Army and especially the one of its 331st C.T.

Thank you, my dear friend, for the generous help you can give me. Please give my regards to the Veteran Association of the 83rd Infantry Division of the US Army.

Merry Christmas to you all.

Sincerely yours,
Mr. Rene Caboz
Veteran-Historian
3rd U.S. Army
10, rue des Freres
Lacretelle
57000 Metz
France



**Advancing under smoke. Huertgen, Germany
This may be my father, Andy Buffalino**

A.J. BUFFALINO
459 Dover Street
Westbury, New York 11590
Dear Bob:

Please can you do one thing for me. This picture may be my father. He was in the Huertgen Forest. We have many pictures of W.W. II.

He was in "I" 331st as a T/Sgt. We are very happy to be part of a great Association. He enjoys all of the Thunderbolts when they come. He will be the Grand Marshal for our Memorial Day in Westbury, New York.

Thank you and God Bless You

Andy, Jr.

Mr. Robert Derickson
3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, Ohio

Dear Mr. Derickson,

I haven't seen any letters or mention of the 83rd Signal in recent issues of the Thunderbolt. Therefore, I am writing to say a few of us are still on the outside of Heaven. Just realized that could mean in that other place down below.

Over the years, I have kept in touch with a few 83rd Signalmen, but the number keeps dwindling. The coming 83rd Reunion may conflict with my 50th high school class reunion making my plans for August uncertain.

A local school asked me to appear in uniform (still fits) to talk about WWII and answer questions. I brought along a German gas-operated rifle picked up in Normandy, a Belgian Browning pistol stamped with eagle and swastika, (both non-operable) assorted bayonets and insignia from the submarine base at St. Malo. The talk was video taped as part of a project to preserve our fading past. They are worried now that only a few million WWII vets are still around.

The students' questions ranged from, "How many did you kill?" "Did you see General Patton?" "What did a concentration camp look like?" "Where did you meet the Russians?" to unbelievably, "Just who was Hitler?"

I was contacted concerning the H.M.S. Samaria (His Majesty's Transport) that took many of the 83rd to Liverpool. I suggested writing to the British Navy and to the 83rd Association. He may or may not do so.

Enclosed please find my dues for 1990.

Hal O'Neill
83rd Signal
136 Rider Avenue
Patchogue, N.Y. 11772

March 29, 1990

Dear Friends.

On March 11, 1990, at 6:34 p.m., Don's battle with cancer ended.

He was at home; our daughters and our grandchildren were all at home and with him. He wanted to die at home surrounded by his family, and that is what we gave him.

He had time to talk with the grandchildren; they expressed their love for him, and told him how much he meant to them and the influence he had had on their lives. We were very proud of them; they went to his side individually and talked; he gave each of them a big hug. The last three days one of us was with him constantly, and at the end we were sitting on the bed beside him; Bob was reading his favorite Psalm; then he left us for his "Peaceful Home" with the Lord. Our daughter closed his eyes, and this was our last goodbye to our beloved Don.

He fought bravely to conquer this last battle, but to no avail. The tumor has ruptured a small artery, and he had to have twelve units of blood in one day. That was stopped, but no assurance that it would not happen again. He was just tired of all the chemo, the laser surgery and the transfusion, so he decided it was enough. He was on rather mild medication so he was awake, then sleeping a bit, then awake, so he was very aware until the end.

Don had strong faith, as does all our family, and we know that he is now safe at home with the Lord. His pain is gone; he now has a new life, a glorious new body, and a perfect home. Not too long and I will see him once again.

We took him back to our former home area and he was buried there. Military rites at the graveside, and with taps I thought of all the battles he had been in, and now, no more.

Thank you all for your letters, phone calls; he was always so happy to hear from you. I tried to call Tony and Lee, but for some reason my son-in-law who was assigned to make all the calls was not able to get through.

Thanks for all the lovely cards. God bless you all; have a wonderful reunion this year.

Love,

Mary Johnson March 29, 1990

83rd Hosts "Open House"

COLUMBUS, Ohio --- The 83rd U.S. Army Reserve Command (ARCOM), which traces its heritage back to the 83rd Infantry Division, will be holding an "Open House" August 4, 1990, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The "Open House" is designed to educate the soldiers and the families of those serving in all units of the 83rd Army Reserve Command about the command; its present and its past.

A special invitation to attend the event goes to the veterans of the 83rd Infantry Division, Major Mike Finnigan, the Public Affairs Officer of the 83rd ARCOM, said.

"We hope to see a lot of 83rd veterans there so we can visit with them," Finnigan said. "We didn't get to where we are today without their efforts and sacrifices during World War II and World War I. Today we are carrying on the tradition of the 83rd and we proudly wear its patch throughout the state of Ohio."

The "Open House," will consist of military static displays such as Radioteletype Communication systems, a command military tracked vehicle used today, Special Forces displays, field dining preparations, military identification tags and bands being made up for families, blood pressure checks and many other activities.

The "Open House" will be held inside the main gate of the Defense Construction Supply Center (DCSC) in Columbus, Ohio.

DCSC is located on Columbus Eastside and is located on Broad Street. The Complex is bounded by James Road

and Yearling Road.

Those attending must enter the Broad Street gate. A security guard there will allow entrance to the event. Admission is free.

Dear Bob,

I would like to say something in defense of the often misunderstood Company Clerk or "cluck" or "jerk" as we were often referred to. Before I go on, I would like to say that even under the most adverse of conditions that we were often subjected to, we had it made in comparison to what our buddies up on the front lines had. However, there was at least one Company Clerk killed by artillery shelling. One man in my unit was hit by shrapnel from a shelling. At the same time the rope of my tent was cut by shrapnel.

We were in Germany in the Hurtgen Forest at the time. Back during basic training we were often misunderstood by the other men as to just what our duties were.

We would go out and train with the others a half day, then go to Regt'l HQ and work. Then three or four nights a week we went to HQ for classes on just how best to do our jobs. Often just when it came time to scrub the barracks I would have to leave. That didn't go over too well with the others who had to stay back to scrub the floor, even around my bunk. Another time was when I was promoted to Cpl and one of the "acting squad leaders" didn't, he was rather furious as to why I was promoted and he wasn't. "After all you don't do anything around the company."

While we were in England all the clerks from the Corps were assembled in a village hall and were talked to about what our duties were to be when we got into combat.

General Patton strode out on the stage and the first thing he said was "don't go writing home that you saw me here. I'm not supposed to be here." Then he went on to say how important for the moral of the men to get paid on time. And that we might wonder just what a soldier would do with his money in combat. "It's no skin off your ass what they do with their money, just get them paid" were his remarks.

So I can recall typing up the payroll out in the open on nice days, inside a cold damp tent in almost total darkness and freezing fingers in the winter. But we always managed to get the payroll done on time. Of course there were many other duties that we had to perform in connection with keeping all our service records up to date, etc.

The most difficult time I recall was a couple of days after the division first went into combat on the 4th of July 1944. My company was rather hard hit. I was on guard and still had to get my work done. I had piles of wounded, missing and killed in action reports to get done. I took my typewriter and my work out to the guard post and did the work between guard shifts. As I said it was most difficult trying to type up these reports on men that you had slept along side of in the barracks, and knew almost as well as you knew yourself.

With each one the tears would start up anew, but they still had to be done even though your eyes were stinging from the tears.

Then there were the letters from the relatives of those who had been killed wanting to know details. We could not even answer them. I recall one in particular. This was of a Sgt. who had been hit and was sent to the hospital according to the morning report. Nothing else had been heard of him. His folks began writing to everyone they knew in the company. The mail clerk had come back to HQ and had told me of how the Sgt. had been wounded. It was unusual that he had done so, but he knew that I knew the Sgt. and was a friend of his. Later the Sgts sister wrote me and as I said I could not answer her, the only thing I could do was turn the letter over to the Chaplain. But in April 1945, while we were sitting on the Elbe River, just a few days before VE Day, the Personnel Officer called me in and showed

me a TELEX from the War Department asking about this Sgt. He asked me just what I knew about him. I related just what the Mail Clerk had told me. This reminds me of a situation in another war. The Civil War. My great grandfather served in the Confederate Army for just a couple of months. He was 55 years old and had 12 children when he was drafted.

His records in the Nat'l Archives show him being sick and sent to the hospital by the Regt'l Surgeon the 24th Sept. 1863. And "never has been heard from since". However, when his son in law, who was in the same unit, came home after the war, he told of how their outfit was on a march in Northern Georgia and that the last time he saw my great grandfather was that he was sitting against a tree alongside of a river, and that he was too sick to continue the march. The outfit had been involved in a battle the 19th and 20th of Sept. in the "Great Battle of the West" near Chickamauga, Ga. So it seems there there have always been mix ups in personnel records. And the job of keeping them straight had always been monumental.

We clerks of the Division landed at Omaha Beach a day or so before the rest of the Division. We were on a much smaller boat that could come along side of the floating docks and one man would unload at a time, with two from the dock helping him. The seas were rough and when the boat came against the dock he had to jump. We marched up the hill carrying our typewriters and boxes of service records and an empty rifle. About dark we were herded into a field and the Division Inspector General gave us a little speech. He said, "Gentlemen, I don't know where the troops are, I don't know where the front lines are, I don't know where our next meal is coming from, I just know that we are here." All this was cleared up in a day or so when the rest of the Division was able to land.

We clerks were sort of alienated from our companies. From the time we hit England we were with Division HQ and stayed with them all through Normandy and until after we got to Luxembourg. Then we went with our Service Companies. We were not allowed to go to where our companies were when they were in a tactical situation. Then not too often. Even after VE Day I wasn't able to get to the Company very often. It was a real treat to do so on those rare occasions.

There weren't too many that I knew from basic training. Most of the men were just names from my records.

Thank you for letting me get this off my chest. I hope that this will also clear up any misconceptions about the job of the Company Clerk.

Your Buddy,
George S Baker Sr.
Company "K", 331st Inf. Regt.
31 Arleigh Drive
Albertson, New York 11507

Dear Bob:

Enclosed is a check for \$48.00. \$38.00 for the 83rd Infantry Book and \$10.00 for my 1990 dues. I recently returned from Germany. Visited my son Larry, who is a 1st Lt. in the 1st Armored Division in Banberg, Germany. He and I drove up to Luxenburg and the Huertgen Forest. He wanted to see where we had combat with the Germans. We visited Eternach, Luxenburg and Birgel, Germany. I was wounded in Birgel and that is the same town that our Congressional Medal of Honor, Ralph Neppel was wounded. Also, incidently Ralph was one of my two Squad Leaders. I showed my son the exact area where we attacked Birgel from out of the Huertgen Forest the 329th Regiment. We used for the first time ever, General Patton's "Machine Fire Attack". It worked beautifully. The German's had a perimeter defense around Birgel and we attacked running and firing what ever weapon we had, M-1's, Carbines, Machine

Guns, Grease guns, Pistols, ETC., in the direction of the Enemy.

It was open field about 400 to 500 yards to their positions. They fired back, some of our boys were hit, but we kept on firing and running. We overran the defense and took many prisoners. We then moved up into the town of Birgel. When the Germans counterattacked with several tanks and did considerable damage to us and a lot of us got wounded by the Tank Fires. But the "Marching Fire" we rehearsed several times worked to a perfection. When I returned home from Germany my friends asked me if I got a piece of the Berlin Wall. I said, "No", I got a piece of concrete from the Ziegfried Line I brought home with me. I can relate to that, not the Berlin Wall. Bob I hope to see you and the rest of the men from 83rd in Pittsburgh. Take care and best of Health to all.

Sincerely,
Anthony P. Leone
"M" 329th

Dear Robert, enclosed please find a check for \$10 for 1990 dues.

If possible put this in the Thunderbolt.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Lt. Noyles and Elmer Rice, both of L. Co. 329th Inf. Please advise

Thank You
Ralph Wavra
Rolla, N. Dak.
Box 12, 58367

February 9th, our father
STUART B. HITT
died. We, would like to thank you
for writing to him
in past years.

Dad always enjoyed writing to his friends.

It was the hobby which kept
him going through his winters in Providence
as he awaited spring and his return
to his home in Tiverton.

Please accept our appreciation and thanks
for your friendship and love.

Robert B. Hitt
Stuart R. Hitt
Dorothy L. Silvia
and
Kathleen Godino



83RD DIV. Group on tour in June 1989

Thought maybe you could use this picture in "Thunderbolt". Hope to see you in August - Reunion.

B.T. Helleckson
W10941 Corning St.
Poynette, WI. 53955

November 29, 1989

Mr. Robert E. Derickson
3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

Dear Bob:

I enclose herewith a lay-out of a bronze plaque which has already been made honoring General York. This plaque will be dedicated during the spring of 1990.

I would like very much for you to put a copy of this plaque in the center pages of the next issue of The Thunderbolt. I know that each page of The Thunderbolt cost money and if you will let me know the cost of running this in the center spread, I will be glad to send you a check for same.

The total cost of installing this plaque at Fort Benning will be approximately \$2,500.00. At the present time, we have \$1,810.00 in contributions and if any member of the association wants to participate in the cost of this memorial, if they will send the contribution to me - Walter G. Ashmore, P.O. Box 5026, Macon, Georgia 31208, it will be appreciated.

Yours truly,

Walter G. Ashmore
President

April 5, 1990

Mr. Robert E. Derickson
3749 Stahlheber Rd.
Hamilton, Ohio 45013 - 9102

Dear Mr. Derickson:

The plaque honoring General York was installed at Fort Benning, Georgia, on March 23, 1990.

I enclose with copy of the program, and if you feel like it, you can put it in the next issue of Thunderbolt.

Yours Truly,
Walter G. Ashmore

April 17, 1990

Robert Derickson
3749 Stahlheber Rd.
Hamilton, OH 45013

Dear Mr. Derickson:

I am writing you concerning the newly established U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals (CVA) which is scheduled to open its doors in Washington, D.C., later this Fall. The Court will hear appeals from Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) final decisions where a Notice of Disagreement was filed by the veteran on or after November 18, 1988. I have found that many veterans are not aware of judicial review. My belief is that you will do your membership a great service by bringing notice of the new Court to their attention.

I am also enclosing an article that I have written explaining judicial review. I encourage you to reproduce it and disseminate it to all those who attend your reunion. You might also wish to include it in your newsletter. It would be helpful for veterans to contact me if you would include my telephone number. Many veterans have had great difficulty in contacting me without it.

Hudock, Sawyer & Azarcon is a law firm located in Tyson's Corner, Vienna, Virginia, emphasizing veterans law. We are located just outside of Washington, D.C. I am a former staff attorney with the BVA, serving there for 2 years, and also a Vietnam veteran. Our firm will be practicing regularly and extensively before both the BVA and CVA and will also contingent fee arrangements in most cases.

We would be happy to consult with any of your membership, without charge or obligation, concerning benefits appeal representation before either the BVA or CVA in matters involving service connection, increased rating, retroactive benefit rating reductions, total ratings, and the like.

Please feel free to have any aggrieved veteran contact me directly at the above telephone number.

Yours truly,
John D. Sawyer

VETERANS JUDICIAL REVIEW

By John D. Sawyer, Esq.
Hudock, Sawyer & Azarcon
Suite 600
8150 Leesburg Pike
Vienna, VA 22182
(703) 893-0760

Judicial Review

On November 18, 1988, President Reagan signed Public Law 100-687, the Veteran's Judicial Review Act.

For the first time in history, U.S. veterans have the right to court appeal of decisions of the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) involving benefit claims. Prior to enactment of the new legislation, decisions of the BVA were final and court appeals were barred as a matter of law.

The new appeals court, to be known as the "United States Court of Veterans Appeals" (CVA), will consist of a Chief Judge and two to six associate judges, all appointed by the President, but subject to U.S. Senate confirmation. The new Court began operations on October 16, 1989, in Washington, DC.

In hearing appeals, the CVA will decide all questions of law and may review actions of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The Court may force the Secretary to act and can reverse, modify, or remand to the BVA those decisions which are not in accordance with governing law. A BVA finding of a material fact can be reversed only when it is found to be "Clearly erroneous". The CVA, however, is not permitted to give a veteran a new trial of the facts as found by the BVA. Appeals may be taken to the CVA from BVA decisions where a Notice of Disagreement was filed on or after November 18, 1988.

In addition, the new legislation prohibits the CVA from reviewing either the V.A. disability rating schedule or any action of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to revise the rating schedule. A decision of the CVA can be appealed -- except for factual determination -- to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Veterans must pay a fee of not more than \$50 to file an appeal with the CVA, and the notice of appeal must be filed within 120 days after the BVA has mailed its notice of decision to the veteran.

Case records and decisions issued by the CVA will become public records and open to inspection by the general public. However, the new law provides that the CVA can prevent the disclosure of confidential information -- by placing the information under seal -- to protect a veteran's confidentiality, when required. Decisions of the Court will be published for use by veterans, veterans organization and their legal counsel. Although the CVA will be headquartered to Washington, D.C., it is authorized to convene at any place in the United States.

Attorneys' Fee

Since appeals to the CVA will require legal assistance, the old \$10 limit on attorney's fees has been abolished. However, no legal fees may be charged for veterans benefits matters until the BVA has made a final decision on a case. Attorneys' fees cannot exceed 20 percent of the total amount of past-due benefits when legal fees are to be paid to attorneys directly by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from any past-due benefits awarded. Fee agreements must be filed with the BVA for its review, and legal fees may be reduced by the Court if they are excessive, unreasonable, or violate the 20 percent rule referred to above.

An interesting sidelight to the new legislation is that qualified non-lawyers may be permitted to practice before the CVA as long as they meet the Court's proficiency requirements.

Board of Veterans Appeals

The new law also makes several significant changes in the BVA. First, the Chairman of the BVA will be appointed directly by the President and will be subject to Senate confirmation. The Chairman may be removed from office in substantially the same manner as other Presidential appointees. Effectively, the chairman will serve at the pleasure of the President. Second, other members of the BVA, usually doctors and lawyers, will have fixed, nine-year terms of office.

Next, the decisions of the various BVA sections may be rendered by majority, instead of unanimous, vote. For case decision purposes, the BVA is usually divided into three member sections typically consisting of two attorneys and a physician. All are members of the BVA and they are usually assisted by staff attorneys who are frequently assigned to a single BVA section.

Additionally, a veteran must now be given the opportunity for a hearing, prior to the BVA's deciding a case.

Another change will require cases disallowed by the BVA to be reopened where a veteran submits new and material evidence. Also, a veteran no longer will be presumed to agree with any statement of fact contained in the Statement of the Case where he/she does not specifically express disagreement.

Miscellaneous Provisions

Under the new law, claimants seeking statutory benefits will have the burden of submitting evidence sufficient to support their claim. When the opposing evidence in a particular case is roughly equal, the new law requires that veterans must be given the benefit of the doubt. This provision actually constitutes no change from current BVA practice.

Also, independent or outside medical expert opinions (IMO's) are now specifically authorized, and a veteran must be given notice that an IMO has been requested and must also receive a copy of the IMO when it is issued.

Conclusion

The new CVA will give veterans for the first time the

and material evidence. Also, a veteran no longer will be presumed to agree with any statement of fact contained in the Statement of the Case where he/she/ does not specifically express agreement.

Miscellaneous Provisions

Under the new law, claimants seeking statutory benefits will have the burden of submitting evidence sufficient to support their claim. When the opposing evidence in a particular case is roughly equal, the new law requires that veterans must be given the benefit of the doubt. This provision actually constitutes no change from current BVA practice.

Also, independent or outside medical expert opinions (IMO's) are now specifically authorized, and a veteran must be given notice that an IMO has been requested and must also receive a copy of the IMO when it is issued.

Conclusion

The new CVA will give veterans for the first time the right to independent, federal judicial review of all BVA decisions. Increased benefit allowances should be anticipated, and it may be that changes in allowance rates and patterns throughout the Department of Veterans Affairs will emerge as a result an CVA decisions, reversals, and remands.

A Vietnam veteran and former staff attorney with the Board of Veterans Appeals, Mr. Sawyer is a practicing attorney with an emphasis in veterans' law.



Leonard Reynolds "G" 329 can wear his original OD uniform today. Dixie Chapter Spring meeting in Williamsburg. March of 1990

The Combat Infantry Badge

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE
from V.F.W. News of Mass. Aug. 1987

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 floatin' 'round the country," something among what seemed like hundreds of silver and gold items which were piled in a wicker basket on the country 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 served 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 ladles...?

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 them 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 Hailey, First Sergeant
USA (Retired)



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, Necklaces, and 83rd Caps

\$5⁰⁰ each

(Postage and Handling Included) Contact the Association Office

83rd Reunion will be held at the Vista Hotel
Pittsburgh, PA.

The dates are: **August 16, 17 & 18, 1990**

Start making your plans to attend, now!

83rd Infantry Division History Book

AVAILABLE NOW

The Reprint of 83rd Infantry Division (The Thunderbolt Across Europe) is now available. Send your order in with your check payable to: 83rd Infantry Division Association, Robert Derickson, 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013-9012.

The cost of the book is \$38.00 including postage and handling. This is a hard covered book and has in addition to the Thunderbolt Across Europe, two hundred and twenty-five (225) personal stories of 83rd veterans. Also a list of men killed in action and those that have died from wounds during the battles.

THUNDERBOLT DEADLINES

Deadline for ALL articles to be published in Thunderbolt must be at this office by
Oct. 5; Jan. 5; April 5; and June 5.

Robert Derickson, 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, OH 45013-9102

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.
3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, OH 45013-9102

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Company _____ Regiment _____ 83rd Division

Phone No. _____ Renewal _____ New _____

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3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013-9102

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.**