



# THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 45 No. 4

Summer Issue 1990

## THE 44TH ANNUAL REUNION

August 16, 17 & 18



Station Square includes the Gateway Clipper Fleet  
of five sightseeing and excursion boats.

**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.

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\*Lt. Gen. Claude Ferebaugh  
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Samuel Klippa

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**A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL**

\*James C. Hanrahan ..... 1947  
Jack M. Straus ..... 1948  
\*Shelly Hughes ..... 1949  
\*Julius Ansel ..... 1950  
\*Walter H. Edwards Jr. .... 1951  
Leo Schneider ..... 1952  
Finley Heyl ..... 1953  
Lawrence J. Redmond ..... 1954-55  
\*Lt. Gen. Robert H. York ..... 1956  
\*Harry W. Lockwood ..... 1957  
Raymond J. Voracek ..... 1958  
Charles Abdinoor ..... 1959  
\*Joseph F. Minotti ..... 1960  
\*Frank J. McGrogan ..... 1961

John W. Jobinette ..... 1962  
\*Manuel C. Martin ..... 1963  
\*Julius Boyles ..... 1964  
Samuel Klippa ..... 1965  
\*William M. Doty ..... 1966  
Albert A. Belvedere ..... 1967  
Vito C. Palazzolo ..... 1968  
Pat DiGiammerino ..... 1969  
Casey Szubski ..... 1970  
\*Charles Altomari ..... 1971  
\*Harold H. Dopp ..... 1972  
Louis J. Volpi ..... 1973  
Bernard O. Riddle ..... 1974  
Robert G. Taylor ..... 1975

Mike Skovran ..... 1976  
Manlius Goodridge ..... 1977  
Joseph A. Macaluso ..... 1978  
\*William J. Chavanne ..... 1979  
Samuel Klippa ..... 1980  
Michael Caprio ..... 1981  
Ralph Gunderson ..... 1982  
Arthur Doggett ..... 1983  
Bernie Cove ..... 1984  
Carroll Brown ..... 1985  
John Hobbs ..... 1986  
George Pletcher ..... 1987  
Charles Schmidt ..... 1988  
\* Denotes Deceased





## THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

We have less than two months and the Pittsburgh reunion will be over.

I hope you don't miss out as we have a full schedule of events for all. We are out to please everyone of you, which I hope we can do.

Sal Scicolone and wife Theresa, Gene Costanzo and friend Carm and my wife and I attended the Executive Board meeting at the Pines in New York. We had a wonderful time and it looks like they are planning a great reunion for you in 1991. Since we were there last they have done an extensive amount of remodeling. I think each of you will be planning on attending this one.

I would like to thank Pat DiGiammerino and the Boston Chapter for the wonderful hospitality, and also Bruce Selgel, the director of sales for a memorable event. Bruce offered to assist us in Pittsburgh. That was a very nice gesture on his part.

Since I have had the opportunity of dealing with the executive board I learned they are responsible for holding this great organization together. They are out to please each and everyone of you. You can't have everyone on the same thought, so our support goes to the majority.

We hope you get your reservations in soon for the boat and hotel. We will be looking forward to seeing you in Pittsburgh.

Ed Reuss  
National President

## From The Secretary's Desk

Dear Buddies:

Here we are with our last issue of The Thunderbolt for this year. It has been a good year. We had to send reminders out to some of you but the memberships are now coming in. By the time the year ends in July we should be around the 1700 mark. We can be proud of our organization for sticking together like we do. We are fortunate to have the great bunch of men that we do. So many of the Associations do not get together at all. They envy us.

To all of you who have worked so hard this year on memberships we thank you. I think Art Koerner and Haran Martin went out in the bushes and gathered them up. Anyway, to all of you we appreciate it.

Reunion time is coming up and we are working on getting the registration forms prepared. Some of you have already paid your dues for 1991 and we will have your membership cards ready for you to pick up at the reunion. The new roster will be ready at the reunion. It will be from the computer. Our labels will be coming from the computer. It is working well.

To all of you men who have been so kind to write to us during the year with personal notes, Pearl and I both appreciate them. They kept us going.

Pittsburgh has been working hard on their reunion and planning a good time for all of us. That boat ride will really be great. It is a beautiful boat and just to be able to walk around on it and speak to everyone is something to look forward to. Get your name in. Thanks to all of you who have supported their Ad Book. That has let the reunion

host know that we all are trying to help them make a great success of this reunion.

I am looking forward to getting the print-out from the Hotel and seeing how many of you are coming. We will start our pre-registration at that time. Hopefully I will see your name on there.

It is Summer time here in Ohio and finally the rains have stopped. The garden is planted and the grass is mowed.

Your Executive Board met at the Pines Hotel the last week of April and the first of May. What a change. You will be pleased. The Pittsburgh Chapter went over all the reunion program. They are trying to work out all angles. Let's all go and enjoy ourselves. We fought to have this freedom to be with our buddies so let's all come and have a pleasant reunion in Pittsburgh. Looking forward to seeing all you there.

May God Bless You All  
Bob Derickson  
3rd BN. HQ. 329th



## Chaplain's Corner

Dear Buddies:

It is raining lightly this Memorial Day Afternoon. We gave our respect and honor, to our fellow friends and buddies. A moment to remember them and our loved ones, who one by one have departed us.

How we will miss them always!

With all the plans being finalized for the upcoming 83rd Division reunion nearing completion, we can take a moment also to be a little kinder and remember those who would like to come to the reunion and for reasons only they will know, will not be able to. Let us all say a prayer for them and their families.

God Bless All  
Will be looking forward to seeing you.  
Mathew J. Pintar

The following are the names of friends who have gone to prepare a place for us. The sympathy of the entire 83rd goes out the families.

		Reported By
Lloyd Ashburn	B Co. 329th	Haran Martin
Hobert Belt	783 ORD. 10/7/89	Rags Rangnow
John R. Bullard, Jr.	A Co. 330th	Haran Martin
Daniel Donahue	2nd Bn. HQ. 330th	Philip Simons
Richard K. Ellis	C Co. 308th Med	Haran Martin
Celia Epstein	Mother of Manny Epstein	2/3/90
Wm. Gorman	Hdqs. 308th 1-15-90	Wife
Andy Grant	783rd 10-7-89	Rags Rangnow
Sidney H. Gregory	B Co. 308th 5/29/90	O.L. Cook
Bernard C. Harris	A Co. 331st 5/28/88	Wife Marcia
Edwin L. Isenberg	A Co. 308th Engr.	Wife
Charles T. Jones	A.T. 329th	Haran Martin
Frederic E. Julian	Div. Arty. 3/90	Nick Francullo
Walter Korsznjak	83rd Recon. 5/590	Larry Redmond
Gerthie Little	D Co. 331st	Haran Martin
Dr. Eugene Mason	B Co. 331st 4/90	Larry Leonardi
Dale E. Nansteel	D Co. 331st 10/20/89	Wife, Evelyn
Charles Navish	I Co. 329th	Art Koerner
John Nazarian	H Co. 330	Larry Redmond
Lawrence Paoella	E Co. 330th 2/16/90	Bernard Newton

Joseph R. Perry  
Ralph Stackhausen  
Novy Sturgeon

308th ENGR 2/17/90  
B Co. 308 Engr. 4-88  
K Co. 330th 4/14/90

Donald H. Tesmer  
Elmer Zmina

B Co. 329th 3/27/90  
B Co. 330th

Joan Ward  
Wife Mac  
Homer  
Rickenbaugh  
Ralph Wavra  
Bob Uher

#### Correction to Spring Death Notices.

John Undercofler should have  
read James Undercofler



**James Undercofler**

We have had word from Nick  
Francullo that Captain Jack  
Masters is very ill. Our get  
well wishes go out to him.

Captain Jack Masters  
P.O. Box 335 Dudak Road  
Hibernia, New Jersey 07842

## Program Chairman Report

I would like to thank Pat DiGammerino, The Boston Chapter and Bruce Seigel for having a fine Boston Chapter reunion. We really had a great time and enjoyed seeing all our friends. While at the Pines, we had interesting and productive meetings with the National Executive Board, and on our return to Pittsburgh, we had another meeting with our reunion committee at the home of Jules and Agnes Desgain. After the meeting a fine time was had by all. This will be my last article before our Pittsburgh reunion and the men and women of the Pittsburgh Chapter are ready to welcome all of our 83rd members and their friends. I trust that all of our 83rd members and friends who are planning to come to the reunion have made their reservations for the Vista Hotel and for the 3 Rivers Dinner Dance Cruise on the new beautiful Majestic Riverboat. As I have mentioned in previous articles, this Dinner Dance Cruise is one event you don't want to miss. On this cruise you will be able to see the Pittsburgh Golden Triangle and the Pittsburgh Skyline lit at night, Station Square and other sights. We still have some room available for the cruise so hurry and send in your reservation as soon as you can. Reservation forms are in the Thunderbolt. The cut-off date for this event is July 15, 1990.

Reunion time is closer than we think, so I would like to remind you to send in your ads for the Ad Book as soon as possible. Gene Costanzo and I visited Sam Klippa and he said to give his regards to all his friends. At the last visit Sam was home from the hospital and seemed to be in good spirit and improving. The Pittsburgh Chapter is planning to make this a great and memorable reunion for all, so let us plan to attend and have an enjoyable time with all our friends. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Pittsburgh Reunion. Good Health and Good Luck.

Sal Scicolone  
I Co. 329th  
Program Chairman

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Buddies:

This is my last time to be writing you as Executive Board Chairman of this great organization, The 83rd Infantry Division Association. April 30th and May 1st, The Executive Board met in south Fallsburg, New York at the Pines Hotel for our Spring Meeting. On the agenda were the final plans for the Pittsburgh Reunion. Our President, Ed Reuss, presented the Program which should make for a very enjoyable reunion for those that are attending. We on the Executive Board have done our best to keep costs down so that more of you can be with your buddies.

Also the Boston Chapter held their Mini Reunion at the time of the Executive Board meeting. Members of the Executive Board were given a tour of the Pines Motel. All rooms have been remodeled to ensure satisfaction for the 1991 reunion.

This is my final message as your Chairman. It has been an honor to serve you. It has been an honor to serve with all the men and women who give so much to the Association. It is work to keep an Association going. A big "Thanks" goes to all of you. Last but not least a "Thank You" to each Executive Board Member for endless effort put forth through all the year. I wish great success to William Minick, a great friend, who will succeed me as chairman.

I am compiling my letter while having lunch at the Holiday Inn in Omaha, Nebraska, future 1992 reunion. We were given a tour by Kay Telford. Extensive Renovations are taking place. This hotel is easy access from I-80 off of the 72nd Street Exit. The Hotel far exceeds the presentation with the new up-grade. When finished will have the largest lobby of any Holiday Inn. There are three different restaurants that serve delicious food. Ed Haynes made a good selection when choosing this Hotel.

Also folks there is a dog track close by so save your money. Yes, Ladies there is a gift shop.

Looking forward to being with all of you in Pittsburgh.

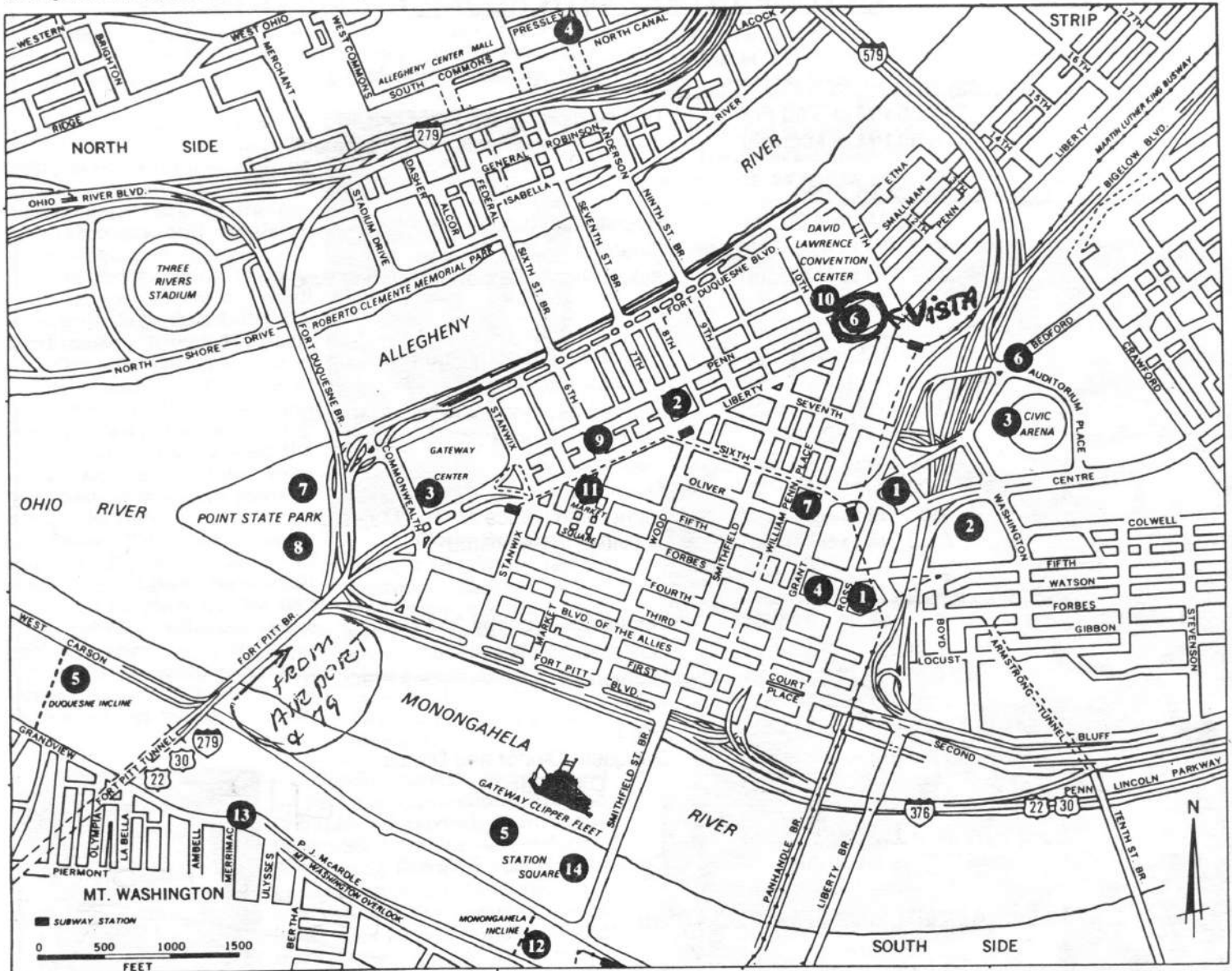
Executive Board Chairman  
Ames Miller





## 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 Galley/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

## **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.

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**

Parking fees depend on location - anywhere from \$3.00 to \$7.50.

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

412  
938-9100  
281  
3700



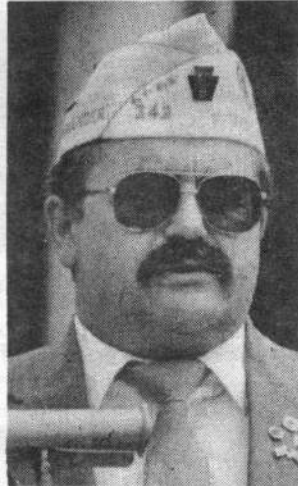
# Hundreds Turn Out For Memorial Rites In Sellersville Monday

Perfectly sunny skies helped bring out one of the largest crowds in recent years on Monday for the Pennridge area's traditional Memorial Day parade and ceremony, held this year in Sellersville.

Crowds lined Main Street to watch the short parade, with several hundred walking to the veterans memorial in Lake Lenape Park for the formal ceremony and salute to the war dead.

Youngsters along the parade route received small American flags distributed by local mayors Joseph Hufnagle of Sellersville, Jay Godshall of Perkaspie and Albert Reese of Silverdale. Each of the mayors gave brief remarks during the ceremony and praised the crowd for taking time from their holiday weekend plans to attend the rites.

Sellersville host commander David Williams of American Legion Nase-Kraft Post 255 touched on the fact that military veterans were gathered once again so those who died in service of their country are not forgotten, a theme echoed by each speaker.



**Guest Speaker**  
**Joseph Glazier of Quakertown, Eastern section vice commander of the American Legion, addresses the crowd at Monday's Memorial Day rites in Lake Lenape Park, Sellersville.**

Similar remarks were offered by Perkaspie Commander Norman Schuster of Hartzell-Crouthamel Post 280 from his wheelchair. Addressing the gathering with a choked up voice, Schuster said the youngsters waving flags along the parade route brought tears to his eyes as he remembered his fallen buddies.

State Rep. Paul I. Clymer said the legacy left to us is to preserve our nation through protection of the Constitution and Bill of Rights which granted us our precious freedoms.

The main speaker was Joseph Glazier of Quakertown, eastern section vice commander, who urged the crowd to use the freedoms the soldiers have fought for to honor their memory.

He assailed the attack in recent decades on the Constitution's prayer in schools and the American flag. "Did our fallen comrades die in vain?" he asked.

"I've watched as veterans in need of medical care are given shoddy treatment and are told by their government they will get even less aid in the future," he said. "I see a total disrespect for the law by a growing majority of people. If this continues, anarchy is on the ho-

rizon."

"If we teach our children the responsibilities that go with their freedom, we will be on the right road...showing proper honor to the flag, the laws of our country, respect for one another's property and for an individual's rights are lessons all Americans need to learn again. Rebuilding the work ethic in America is paramount to our survival as a nation."

Glazier told the crowd that they should exercise their right to vote so that they have a voice in government.

"If we do these things to preserve our freedoms, than they will not have died in vain," he concluded.

The Pennridge High School band participated in the parade and service, as well as pastor George Schmidt of St. Paul's UCC, Sellersville and retired Perkaspie pastor Rev. Walton Horn.



**Tears In His Eyes**  
**Norman Schuster, commander of Perkaspie's Hartzell-Crouthamel Post 280, American Legion, said he had tears in his eyes during the parade as he recalled his deceased comrades.**

their government they will get even less aid in the future," he said. "I see a total disrespect for the law by a growing majority of people. If this continues, anarchy is on the ho-



**Young Marines**

Several members of the Smedley D. Butler Young Marines depict the Mt. Suribachi flag raising during Monday's Memorial Day parade in Sellersville. Front to back are: Dan Polachek, Jonathan Holnick, Rodney McDonald, Jameson Schular, Chris Duna and Anthony Kupris.

# HISTORIAN'S CORNER

## The 83rd In "The Rhineland"

Buddies,

These enclosed pictures, will be the next to the last ones being published. One more set and then off to something different.

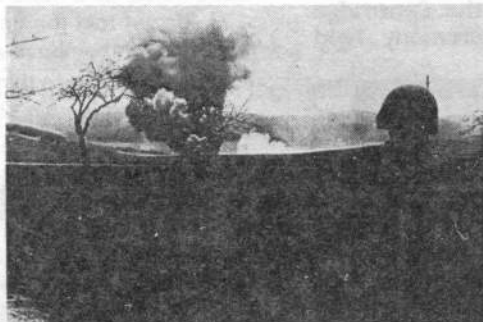
There has never in my 20 years of writing been a repetition in any of my reports to you, I'm proud of that!

Not to reopen "a can of worms" like the last time, which I bitterly resented, I will write of my 'Russian War Time' friend who has been visiting me.

No 329 or 330 histories around? I don't have them, I can't write about your exploits.

**'We Were The Best'**  
Wm. Kent O'Connell  
Historian/Archivist,  
83rd M.P.

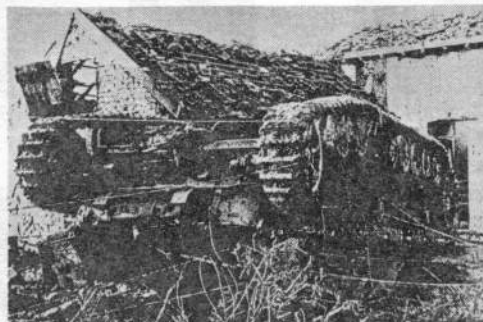
P.S. Some of the captions on these pictures are the originals, others, with my knowledge of the terrain, are mine.



Advancing Fire By 83rd Artillery



Rhineland Forest Fighting



Rhineland 'Alles Kaput'



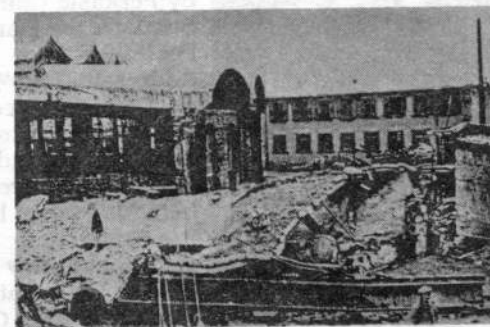
Rhineland Smoke



Beautiful - Deadly - Dead  
"The Only Woman - I Ever Killed" B. W.



Destroyed Rhine Bridge



Rhineland Destroyed German Barracks



81 MM Mortar, Badetz, Germany on Elbe River  
Bridghead.



## Battle Of The Bulge Historical Foundation

Mr. Robert E. Derickson  
83rd Infantry Division Association  
3749 Stalheber Road  
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

Dear Mr. Derickson:

We need your help with our Battle of the Bulge Gallery.

Most of the 7,000 members of the still growing Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge were with one of the divisions that served in what has been described as the greatest battle ever fought by the U.S. Army. The majority of other members were with separate units attached to one or more divisions.

VBOB was formed in 1981 to bring together veterans of this great battle, and to serve as a focal point for historical activities related to the Bulge. We know that VBOB membership has enhanced the friendships formed among those who shared the hardships and the horrors of war. The strongest of relationships have been forged between combat soldiers who were strangers a few years ago.

But facilitating friendships and sharing memories is not enough. VBOB has a larger mission: to provide a permanent memorial to those who served, and to educate future generations about this historic battle and the war it affected so significantly.

Thus our major priority right now is the construction of the Battle of the Bulge Gallery at the U.S. Army Museum at Fort Meade, Maryland -- our historic legacy for future generations.

The funding requirement for Gallery construction is \$1.5 million. Contributions from members and the DAV have provided good kick-off capability, and we anticipate that other funds will become available from foundation, corporate and other sources.

However, we need your help to achieve our goal. Gifts from division organizations could make the critical difference between success and failure, and we ask that you consider making a contribution from your unrestricted funds.

Members of Various divisions have advised us that their assets are substantial and, in many cases, growing. We request that you and other division leaders consider making a gift of at least 20% of your unrestricted funds for the Battle of the Bulge Gallery.

Contributing divisions will be honored through the dedication of a special memorial plaque at the Gallery, which will complement our founder's 500 plaque and will honor in perpetuity the generosity and involvement of each participating division.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,  
Clyde D. Boden  
Second Vice President  
Battle of the Bulge  
Historical Foundation  
Founder  
Veterans of the Battle of the  
Bulge



## Museum Gets Lawyer's \$400,000 Bequest

A Port Huron lawyer will long be remembered by the Museum of Arts & History.

John R. Dolan, who died April 16 in Marwood Manor, bequeathed \$400,000 to the museum, officials said today.

"We are very, very grateful to Mr. Dolan for thinking of the museum in this generous bequest," said Dorothy Henry, president of the museum board of trustees.

"His gift will further the work of the museum in promoting and protecting the area's artistic culture and historical heritage for all our citizens."

Mr. Dolan, who practiced in Detroit, suffered from Parkinson's disease.

His trust will be administered by the Community Foundation of St. Clair County, foundation president John F. Wismer said.

Wismer said the bequest is the largest single contributor on the 4-year-old foundation has received.

"His bequest stands to benefit our country twice -- by what it will provide through the programs it will fund and by the inspiration his gift provides for others," he said.

The trust provides that income from the \$400,000 go to the museum for 10 years. After that, foundation trustees also may distribute portions of the principal to the museum.

Foundation board member Douglas R. Austin, who helped to establish the trust, estimated it would yield and museum about \$35,000 annually.

Mr. Dolan was born in London, Ontario, and moved to Port Huron with his mother when he was 9 years old. His father had died three years earlier.

He attended St. Joseph Catholic School and Barboar Hall in Nazareth, Mich., and was graduated from St. Stephen High School in 1934. In 1939, he received a bachelor of arts degree from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and was continuing his studies in its law school when he entered the U.S. Army in 1942.

He served with the **83rd Infantry Division**, seeing action in France, Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany, and was awarded the Bronze Star.

Returning to Georgetown after world war II, he received his law degree in 1947.

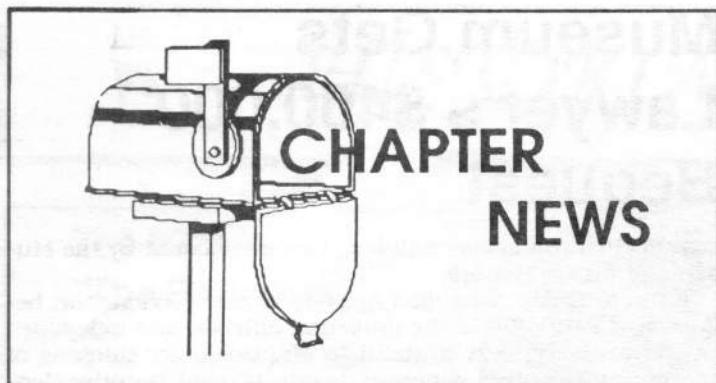
Mr. Dolan never married, and lived in the family home on Military Street with his mother and two aunts. A cousin, Robert Fitzgibbon, of Port Huron, is among surviving relatives.

Mr. Dolan practiced in Detroit and continued to commute to the city after his retirement. He also did occasional legal work on trust and estates locally and for the St. Clair County Friend of Court.

He was a frequent museum visitor, attending many of its special programs and activities, according to Walter K. Brooks, a neighbor and a former museum president. Mr. Dolan also spent many hours reading newspapers and periodicals in the St. Clair Follower of his alma mater's basketball team, the Hoyas.

The Community Foundation was established in 1985, Wismer said.

Clipping from Times Herald  
Sent in by Bob Burns  
783rd Ord. Co.



## **BOSTON CHAPTER**

### **FROM THE PINES**

A big thank you to the "Pines" and staff for making our stay so pleasant. Even the weather co-operated. There was a very large group, and everyone seemed to be having a good time.

On our arrival Sunday, April 29, The Pines Hotel had a welcome for us - hot coffee and goodies plus a bountiful buffet table and drinks.



**The Philly Chapter taking a beating from the Boston Chapter.**

Mike Caprio came up with a busload of folks from Rhode Island and Mike Malik brought a large crowd from Connecticut. There were folks from Boston, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York.

Our women entered the hat contest, and Lucille Petite



**Boston Chapter women wearing their fancy Bonnets.**

won the champagne. Even the men got into the act; Frank Scott won the T-shirt contest, Livy Maynard won a trophy in the bocce tournament, and Larry Arrigo took home a golf trophy.

A young boxer, an Olympic silver medal winner, was in training there and everyone was invited to watch him box.

There were several first timers attending - John & Gloria Gentile; George & Lee Baker, and Mr. & Mrs. Delvecchio, all from New York. Also attending for the first time was the wife of Lowell Claxton of New York, an army nurse (Captain) who had been bayoneted by the Japanese while rescuing troops from Corregidor. Her stories send shivers up your spine.

Others we hadn't seen in a while were Chuck & Bernice Abdinoor, and Spike & Gloria McCartin.

We missed Amby & Nancy Tynan, but they had other commitments.

The bocce game between the Philadelphia Chapter and the Boston Chapter was too close to call, right guys!

We missed Bernie & Jeanie Cove, but they were on a trip to Israel, Bernie said he was going to try to straighten them out.

Thanks again to The Pines Hotel and Bruce Seigel for a job well done.

Boston Chapter  
Pat DiGammerino



**Boston Chapter & Friends at the Pines**





**First Timers & New Members of the Boston Chapter at Pines**

## **BOSTON CHAPTER**

Since the get together at the Pines in So. Fallsburg, N.Y. where everyone had a wonderful time. I am told the 83rd has some good golfers from Ohio. Livie Maynard won a Trophy playing Bocce. Congratulations Livie.

A meeting was held at Charlie and Rita Lussiers home in Westport, Ma. The girls did a great job with the refreshments as usual. Rita is always a first class hostess. Charlie tells World War II stories about the Anti Tank 331st Company in action. It is like listening to our Boston Fish stories. I was unable to attend this meeting as I was at a family 50th Wedding Anniversary. President Charlie Lussier knows we can say anything about the men at the top.

Bob Hunnewell is presently the best in music being accompanied by Fred Silva, also of I Company 329th. Hunnewell also came with the latest in Hats for his show. Mike Caprio and Larry Arrigo said I missed a good one.

I am told we picked up Albert Remy of Fall River, Ma. as a new member. Welcome aboard Albert.

Nancy and I want to thank Larry Redmond for reminding us to send in the money for our Ad Book. The checks are on the way. I hope everyone appreciates all the work Larry does for all Chapters. Thanks for not giving up. I walked Larry through the streets of Boston 31 years ago.

Next time we will go on a sightseeing bus for the trip.

Pat DiGiammerino and Arthru Waples are doing a fine job on the membership. We would certainly like to see more members.

Our next meeting will be at Frank and Phyllis Scotts in Florence, Ma. The pool will be open and bathing suits and towels are a must on June 23rd, 1990. Frank says come early and enjoy yourselves.

The July 21st meeting will be at Chet and Laurette Morleys house in New Hampshire.

Louis Sandini and Mike Malik are doing a lot of work for the Boston Chapter. We need their help along with the rest of the gang in the year ahead to make our best reunion at the Pines Resort in 1991.

I am at work now and my wife Nancy called to tell me she had been talking to Jim Prentice on the telephone. It was certainly nice to hear from our Executive board member, a great guy

This is all from Boston for now.

Amby Tynan

Hq. 323rd F.A. Bn.



## **NEW JERSEY CHAPTER**

Activities for the Chapter have increased and those attending are really enjoying themselves. The meetings are still held at the VFW Post in Garfield and are well attended. We invite all of you who want to join us to come to the Post on the third Friday of the month at 8 P.M.

The conversation at the meetings are mainly on the upcoming reunion in Pittsburgh. Those people who are planning to attend the reunion are Charlie and Mary Sihlanick (322 F.A.) who are anxious to join the Massies, Szubskis and the rest of the 322 for a rip-roaring reunion. Also planning to attend are Joe and Hazel Barton, Ted and Irene Guzek, Sam and Edith Manzi, Joe DePeri, Manny Epstein, Fred and Addie Rein, Joe and Dorothy Skurka, Emil Wehling, Mike and Liz Skovran and Fran and I. We hope to see George Foster (Co. F 330) at the reunion. George lives quite a distance from Garfield but still managed to attend a meeting this past year.

Colonel Manny Epstein, no kidding that was his title when he went to Fort Benning to participate in the Dedication Service for General York, called me to tell me of the most impressive ceremony. Manny also invited me to his place in St. Petersburg, Florida, but at the time I was getting ready for the Pines. To further entice me to join him in Florida, Manny sent me a Postcard with three gorgeous behinds sitting on the beach, OPPS! I meant to say scenery. Once Fran got a look at the postcard there was no way she would allow me to go.

The Chapter joined the Boston Chapter Reunion at the Pines and we really had a Ball!! Attending were Irene and Ted Guzek, Joe and Hazel Barton, Emil Wehling who brought his sister-in-law and his niece Pat and Fran and I. Our chapter members from Warren, Liz and Mike Skovran and Marge and Ray Voracek shared a table in the dining room with us and contributed to our having a wonderful time.

The Pines has done an exceptional job on improving their whole plant. All you golfers will notice a vast improvement in the course. The Pines has hired new ground-keepers and they have put the course in beautiful shape. George Settle, Lester Hauck, Skovran and myself played every day of our stay. A new addition at the Pines. It is now a training camp for boxers. During our stay, Riddick Bowe who won a medal at the last Olympics was training for an upcoming bout. The sparring-sessions are open to the guests and were quite interesting. Bill McCartin and Charlie Abdinoor were ringside, it looked like both were ready to jump in the ring to show their ring-savvy.

The Executive board of our association met at the Pines during our stay. President Ed Reuss and First VP Sal Sciclone promised all who attended the reunion a enjoyable time in Pittsburgh. The Chapter Members are looking forward to being with all you good people once again.

CUPID STRIKES; Emil Wehling had his niece Pat at the Pines with him. Pat met Paul the Assistant Maitre'D at the Pines and it was love at first sight. Their wedding is set for late July. Our best wishes to the couple for a happy life together.

50th Anniversary; Our congratulations and best wishes to Fred and Addie Rein. June 1st was their day and to celebrate the occasion their daughters Pat and Nancy planned a reception for June 2nd. Addie hasn't been well since the trip to Williamsburg. She has been hospitalized for tests and of this date, still doesn't feel well. The reception was postponed until September and we are looking forward to her complete recovery. We are looking forward to sharing that day with two wonderful friends. Addie and Fred, God Bless You Both and give you many more years of happiness together.

Picnic; Tom and Candy Dowd had the Chapter over for another of their fabulous picnics. There is always plenty to eat and drink and all of us had our fill.

Received a call from Allen Fisher (Serv. Co. 331, attached to 1st Bn. Hdqs.) Allen and Mary left May 31st for a European Tour and have plans to visit Simbach/Inn and also Braunau across the river. We were stationed there after the war and were part of a Dance Band that played for the men and their Hungarian and German girlfriends. I guess we both have fond memories of that area, as I have been back there a number of times.

In the last Thunderbolt there was a letter from Duane Brigstock about the accident at Camp Breckenridge. The similarity of both our experiences there is almost unbelievable. Both our rifles and packs were torn apart by shrapnel. I was but two feet on the right of Furgang who was decapitated. The shrapnel that went through my pack took the arm off the man next to me. The only difference was that Duane was wounded in the arm while I received a wound in the thigh. I hope to see Duane at the reunion.

That's it for this issue, Stay well and have a safe trip to the reunion in Pittsburgh.

Stan Bielen  
1st Bn Hdqs. 331st

## The Florida Chapter News

We of the Florida Chapter held our April Meeting in Coral Springs, Florida at the Holiday Inn which was hosted by Ralph and Gerri Gunderson. The Gunderson Family was well represented by their son Rick and his wife and granddaughters who came to join in the festivities, also their friends Helen Mary and Fred Pavia. Always glad to have them with us. Our Friday evening dinner was held at the Hotel outside on the patio, overlooking the golf course. It was very pleasant indeed, and Saturday night we went to Gepetto's Wale of a Tale and a whale of a dinner we had. Our group was a little smaller, because many of our members had already left sunny Florida to go back north. We hope to see you all back in the fall to join us.

When we arrived at the hotel we were told that Gene Mason Co. B-331st had passed away that day. We, the chapter and friends extend our condolences to his wife Mildred and their family. We missed several of our buddies at this meeting because of illness and we wish them a speedy recovery and hope to see you all soon, they are Walt Marshall, Art Haight and Charlie Halligan. To Syl Fishman, John DeFebbo and Jim McDonald we send our best wishes. The good feeling of a smile, may they find their way to you today.

For a little extra news, Richard and Mary Senger are the proud grandparents of a second great grandchild born in March 1990. The first one was in July of 1989.

Congratulations! Also Ben and Sue Chuzi had news that their son Johnathan and his wife Caroline were going on a trip to Greenland.

We were all happy to see Dick and Helen Sullivan joining us at this meeting, we have missed seeing them, due to Helen having surgeries, but she is recuperating since last November and is progressing very well. Keep smiling. We hope to see you both more often.

Our next meeting after the reunion will be held on Nov. 9-10th at the:

Best Western Motel.  
1800 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.  
West Palm Beach, Florida, 33401  
407-863-8810

For those of you who come to Florida for the winter, we would like to extend to you an invitation to join us at this meeting Ned and Genie Smith will be our host. More infor-

mation will be available in the next issue of the Thunderbolt.

Bill Herhuth  
Hdq. Btry. 324 F.A.Bn.

## KENTUCKY CHAPTER NEWS

It is getting close to the deadline for getting our news into the Thunderbolt but since our next meeting is June 22nd and 23rd in Muncie, Indiana there is not much news to write about.

Just returned from the Bank where I took out a second mortgage on the old homestead. So now you know we are planning on going to the Pittsburgh Reunion.

I agree with Rags Rangnow that we should seriously think about changing the dates of the Reunion from the present month of August to the off season months of September or October, maybe we can attract more members who cannot afford the higher hotel rates in August. I know there are many of our buddies out there who are not as lucky as most of us and are living on a fixed low income and cannot afford to come to the Reunions. So I appeal to the present and to future Executive Board members and to Chapters who will host future Reunions to keep our less fortunate buddies in mind when planning future Reunions. Don't forget they were there when we were. The weather also might be more comfortable in the later months.

I haven't talked to any "Chapter members lately so I don't know how many are planning on going to the Reunion but we usually have a good turn out from our group.

Vi and I are like most Chapter members at this time of the year, running in between the rain drops trying to get our lawn, flower and vegetable gardens into shape for the summer so we can have more time to do the things we like to do.

A Tornado decided to set down on the Leroy and Clara Johnson's homestead. It missed their home but took out many old beautiful trees. They were very lucky.

Some of our Chapter members along with some Dixie Chapter members are now in Europe visiting the French people who were at the Reunion in Cincinnati last year. They are Charlie Schmidt, Larry Hamilton, and Norman Weaks. They were joined in Chicago for their flight to Europe by Robert Parsons, George Naylor and Larry Hamilton's son, Lawrence Jr. Hope they are having a good time and get to see all of the things they had planned on.

Well this is about it for this issue, will see you in August in Pittsburgh.

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





## NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER NEWS



**New England Chapter -- We all had a great time!**

We finally got out of our winter season and are all set to have our good times together again. The month of May was all set to have our first get together but due to graduations and confirmation it looks like we will be a little late this year. As you all know the grand children come first now. Ha Ha Ha.

Received word from Newburyport Mass. that Bill Davis is still having some problems with his nose. He is to have some tests at Salem. Hospital. Lets hope that you get some good reports Bill.

I called Dot & Jim Brennan and they are to stay at their daughters house, Christine Duckworth, as Christine is to be operated on March 25th and Dot and Jim will be taking care of the three children. Lets hope Christine will get a good report and Dot and Jim will be able to get back in the swing of things again.

John and Ester Ferrier are in great shape and are looking forward to their family reunion on the 4th of July when the whole town of Chemsford Mass. invade the Ferrier Estate Ha, Ha.

Lets hope for good weather for John & Estes.

Helen and Dutchy Smith are also looking forward to a graduation. There grand daughter, Marisa Walsh is graduating from Bingree Private School and will be entering Smith College in the western part of the State. Good luck Marisa.



**New England Chapter - Dutchy and Ray**

Mary and Nick Francullo's house has been a Motel for Mary's brothers and sisters from Ky. We had five for one week and a weeks rest and then 4 more for one week, go old Mary is about to close the Motel for the year and gone on one for herself. It is good to see them all and boy it is good to see them go Ha, Ha, Ha. No, we loved it all.

Well, that is it for now and looking forward to a great reunion in Pittsburgh.

Your Buddy  
Nick Francullo

P.S. Come on New England Chapter members who have not payed your dues and lets all meet in Pittsburgh Pa. for another good time.



**New England Chapter - Our Happy Girls**



**New England Chapter - John you put on a good meal.**



**New England Chapter - Joe stay in tune.**

## WARREN CHAPTER NEWS

Summer has finally arrived and we have all come out of hibernation, to enjoy the nice weather. Our golf league has started, gardens have been planted, our monthly golf/picnic/meetings began in May and our campers have opened up their trailers at Paradise Lake--with one exception: Ray and Marge Voracek will not be there. They sold their trailer and have quit camping...Sorry to report that Liz Skovran had one of those freak accidents at home. She tripped and fell down the steps from their second floor and suffered fractures of both wrists. Mike will have to weed the garden now, until the casts come off. Ted and Dolly Halubka were our genial hosts for our last winter meeting and as usual the food and refreshments were great.

Louise Bellay was an out patient at the hospital in late May, with a kidney stone problem. As of this writing, she is still in pain and has not returned to work yet.

Congratulations to newlyweds James Caparanis and his bride, Winter Harford. Jim is the son of John and Helen Caparanis. Most of our chapter members attended the reception, held at the Golden Gate and enjoyed talking with John and Helen again. We miss them at our various functions. It was also great to see and talk to Dimps Minoti and daughter Laura, who were there.

Well, that's all of the news from Warren for now, so from all of us to all of you, good health and much happiness.

Lee Titus  
Chapter Reporter

## Cleveland Chapter News

On Memorial Day Maple Heights parade, eighteen men of the Cleveland Chapter marched with rifles and new flag we received from the D.A.V.. Our Chapter President Bob Grobelny spoke on the origin of T.A.P.S., a very informative speech.

After the parade all members and guests met at the home hall for an afternoon of partying. Our two wonderful mess sgts. Mike Mizerack and George Calore out did themselves as cooks and coordinators of a great meal.

Most members are looking forward to Pittsburgh reunion in August.

Casey and Eleanore Szubski are proud of their second grandchild Jenna Lee.

Lou Donnelly - C Co. 331st is convalescing at home in Salem, Ohio from surgery.

Kid L. Williams  
2nd Bn. Hq. Co. 330

Enclosure: Picture from Maple Heights Press



**Members of the Cleveland Chapter of WWII veterans, 83rd Division, were among the many representatives of those who preserved peace and safety by service in the wars participating in Monday's Memorial Day parade in Maple Heights**

## WEST VIRGINIA

My how time flies when you're having fun, this is the last of the sixties for me. This time next year June 8 (Lord's willing) I'll be looking at the big 70.

The 'Ole bones seem to be getting a bit rusty now, sometimes they just don't want to bend the right way.

Received the spring issue of the Thunderbolt recently, I really enjoy reading the stories and seeing the pictures of places that bring back memories.

May 20th was our meeting day in Ripley WV. at the McCoy's Best Western Motor Lodge, weather wise was perfect.

Had a good turnout, glad to see Paul Pauley back on his feet after a bout with pneumonia.

Some items of interest brought to our attention by our President John Hobbs were, our Veteran's Home in Barboursville WV. needs help in filling their rooms, they do have rooms available.

If anyone knows of a veteran who needs a good home, contact Mr. Gail Harper of Veterans Affairs or the Veterans Home.

The home is first class all around, our chapter had the Grand Tour, some of us had lunch with the Veterans on a couple of visits.

Also, rotating of officer's was discussed for the upcoming elections.

Our attendance was as follows, Albert Martin, Paul McMahon, Walter and Estella Sobel, John and Freda Hobbs, Paul and Mary Pauley, Rex and Lillian Carson, Chauncey and Tress Hunt, Fred and Cloda Statts, Don and Esta Pettry, John and Evelyn Shepherd.

Door prizes were won by Freda Hobbs and Don Pettry. Prizes were donated back to the Chapter, thank's for that fine gesture Freda and Don.

After refreshment's were served, and a jam session everyone headed for home.

John Shepherd

"L & HQ. 331st

## PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

I will start this column with a short note that I neglected to include in my last column of the Spring issue: Bill and Betty Mattes are the proud grandparents of their 12th grandchild--a son born to Barry and Cindy Mattes of Pleasant Hills, Pa.

Our hospital list is as follows as of the May meeting: George Graf and Sam Klippa. George is also a member of the 8th Armored Division Association. He keeps us informed of their activities. Frank Hornack had his left foot amputated at the Cleveland Clinic and after some complications he returned home on June 2 and will not be at the upcoming reunion. Our usual gift for hospital patients--a fruit basket was sent to his home.

Larry Leonardi and Bill Harrold have returned from Florida. Also Paul Dietrich has returned from his Hawaii and California tour.

Nick Aloisi of Monessen, Pa. was in attendance at the May meeting. He was a member of the 83rd Band. He was captured on July 8, 1944 while serving as a medic with a unit of the 330th. He and our Joe DeLuca were boyhood chums and attended school together. We hope he becomes a member of the chapter. He did not know that he was eligible to join.

Another human interest story concerns Ezio "Smokey" Alicandri. Every Memorial Day he will be at the grave site of his buddy, Art Schubert, who was killed in action while serving with the 101st Airborne Division. He even decorates the grave as the family does not take care of it. This

is in Uniondale Cemetery--Division No. 3 War Veterans Plot, North Side Pittsburgh. Your columnist participates in the ceremonies each year at the cemetery with the War Veterans Memorial Association of the 21st and 25th Wards of the City of Pittsburgh.

This is all I have for this issue except that all is proceeding on schedule with the upcoming reunion. See you all in August.

"Fran" Beerhalter--H-329

## Company News

### *"A" Company 329th Infantry*

It sure is nice to receive letters from old friends. I received a letter from good ole John Camp, a 2nd Platoon medic, and he sent me some pictures. Owen Wilson, "looks great", John said and I believe he does not look over 50, but is 65! He's retired, but works part time at a school. Grady "Mutt" Adair also is in good health and is retired, but works on week ends as a security guard. Enoch Earl Ursery has cataract problems, but is retired and also works part time. John also sent me a picture of S/Sgt. Cashman. Remember that good looking guy, fellows? He was killed in Rochfort.

Haden Beasley writes that he would be glad to attend the reunion, but still has a small "dairy farm" and it keeps him busy. He told me that John Camp visited him in April, with whom he keeps in touch, as well as a few others. Beasley said "hi" to everyone in Co "A"

Hold on to your hats guys! I received a letter from our Company Commander Capt. James M. Gibson. He replaced Capt. Comes before we crossed the Elbe River. Comes went home on "rotation". Capt. Gibson stayed with us until the war ended.

James Gibson stayed in the service and had a great career; here is his letter.

Your Buddie,  
Bob Grobelny  
Co. A-329th-

P.S. Keep those letters coming in to me!

**\$10 DUES ARE  
DUE NOW  
FOR 1991**



## Co. "I" - 329th Infantry

We are expecting a good turn out for this years Reunion. I phoned and talked to James Harned in Louisville, Ky., he is going to be there this year. I was in Butler, Pa. on the 16th of May. I talked to Louis Gomoric, him and his wife are coming down to Pittsburgh even if its just for one day. I also talked to, and wrote to Julian Queevy in Patton, Pa. he can't make it this year. While in Columbus, Ohio last weekend I located and talked to James Shelling of Grove City, Ohio. I sent him an application and info about the Reunion. I had been trying to locate Orval Turner in Col. Oh. So when Bob Derickson was good enough to send me a list of the paid up members of I Co. Orval name was on the list. So I wrote to him, urging him to make it to this years reunion.



**Bernie Hirte and John Allen in Sun City Arizona**

I called and talked to Mrs. Paul Edwards in Everett, Pa. She informed me that Paul died in 1987. I told her about the reunions and the latest news about I Co. members. They hadn't been in touch with anyone from the company since 1950. She was happy that I called and said that my calling her had made her day.

I also wrote letters to Jesse Hayes and Curtiss Mills, I gave them some old address's of I Co. men in their near vicinity, told them to send out patrols and seek them out.

Received a letter from our Vice President Sal Siccolone who just happens to be an I Co. man. Him and his crew are very hard at work putting this years reunion together. He urged me to have the I Co. men get in their reservations and ads in, the ads are so essential for the success of the reunions.

Frank & Pat Bellino called to let us know that they are back home in Michigan for the summer. Pat and Steve Bartha should be all settled, in their new home in Sebring, Fla. Doris McGowan wrote an said that Mick's sisters wintered also in Sebring, Fla. They intend to visit them this winter. So while we are together in Pittsburgh maybe I Co. can plan a get together in the Sebring area this winter, maybe we can talk Frank Bellino into taking out the gang deep sea fishing for Sardines!!

I also made phone calls to the old hometowns and could not locate the following : 1. Paul Mulcahey - Worcester, Mass. 2. Harold Betz - Mansfield, Ohio. 3. Richard Erikson - Ames, Iowa. 4. Victor Terzano - West N.Y., N.J. 5. Leong J. Thing - Newark, N.J. 6. Clair Beam - Johnstown, Pa. 7. Felix Lorenz - Wilmerding, Pa. 8. George Mall - Jackson, Mich. Any information about any of these men will be appreciated.

Yours Truly is representing the V.F.W. and will be Pa-

rade Marshall for the Memorial day parade in Kent, Ohio.

I hope I'm not aiming to high, but if the people show up who have intentions of being there, we could have 25 members or more present, plus wives, it should be a great reunion.

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

## 323RD REPORT

Bob Costello wrote a few days ago from Florida. He is planning a trip north for the U.S. Golf Opening. He will also visit his two daughters, one in Illinois and the other in Minnesota. He will then go back into retirement to rest up.

Don Willis, let me know if you are coming to the reunion this year. If not, I will drive a few miles to see you from Hendersonville, N.C. when I visit my brother.

Willis Snodgrass wrote to let me know all his family are well and he hopes to be in Pittsburgh, Pa., the "Good Lord Willing".

In a letter I received today, Erwin Erhardt told me he was cutting the grass and how hard it is to do. Well, Erwin, the women do the grass cutting in Boston. My two grand-nephews will be out to visit you in July and they will show you how it is done.

I owe Pete Weltevrede a letter which I must do this evening before he starts calling me names.

Lois Shaner and her daughter Sandy are coming to Boston in July. I hope the weather is nice. It will be Sandy's first trip here and I am sure they will be busy. Maybe we could have a "Tea Party" for old times.

All the men of the 323rd should write their Buddies and try to get them to the reunion this year in Pittsburgh. I hope Al Covi will write William George in Cleveland and get him to the reunion. By the way, Phil Shogren was asking for both of you.

I will get in touch with George Polites in the coming weeks. My pal Les Taylor could do me a favor and drop a few lines.

Don St. John will be at the reunion. I plan to spend a day with Don on the way to the reunion.

Maybe Ralph Morgan can get Dusty Starbuck out of his foxhole to join us.

I had a long talk with Tom Papile. He had trouble with his knee and hip which he hopes will be straightened out before long.

Well Gang, hope to see you in Pittsburgh in August.  
Amby Tynan  
323rd F.A.

## 329 "B" Bag

Sorry to report that I didn't hear from anyone in the past few months, although I got a call from a Gus Contat. He was with us in basic training at Camp Atterbury, he went home on a pass and was severely injured in a car accident, and never returned to the company. He told me he used to see Paul Shoemaker (Company Cook) at a fruit stand he owned in South Bend. I called "Red" Geyer and told me he visited Ray Snapp. Ray Still lives in the hills of Kentucky. From what Red told me they had a good visit. I am sorry to see that Howard Edwards passed away. The last time I saw him was at a reunion in Myrtle Beach. Howard told me he stayed in the army and ended up in Japan. Our deepest sympathy to his family.

One "B" Co. short story while in Montargis Joe Lang, Hank Reda, and myself went to a French Cafe and had some Cognac with the French people. After a few hours we left the cafe and returned to our area, singing and laughing

when we were stopped by a guard who asked "who goes there." Joe Lang answered "3 drunken GI's. All at once Sgt. Szymanski bellowed, "Get Over Here!" He read the riot act to us and told us to report to him in the A.M. Fortunately for us we moved out the next day. Thank God. I often wondered what happened to Sgt. Szymanski. What a guy. See all of you in Pittsburgh. Let's make it a good turn out.

P.S. Just got word that Jesse Pirkle was operated on. A speedy recovery to you Jesse, hope to see you & yours in Pittsburgh.

Bob Uher  
"B" Co.

## "L" 329TH

In May 1942, when Robert Keck dropped out of his sophomore year at the old Manor High School, getting a high school diploma was not exactly a priority.

There was planting to be done on his father's farm in West Hempfield Township.

Then, there was the war effort. Keck, now a resident of 209 S. Manor St., was drafted in May 1944, and high school disappeared into the international swirl of events.

He became a scout for the U.S. Army's 83rd infantry division, which took a pounding in the Ardennes Forest, Rhineland and central Europe. He was awarded a Purple Heart medal and a Bronze Star.

After the war, he worked for the old New Holland Manufacturing Co., making quarry equipment.

The idea of school soon became relevant again, and in 1946 Keck passed the test for a General Education Development diploma.

In the fall of 1946, Keck received a brief letter from A. Norman Ranck, then principal of Manor High School, informing him that he had passed the test. Ranck pointed out, though, that he still lacked a required course: sophomore year history.

"Please accept my congratulations on this achievement and in form us as soon as you have completed this one year of work," Ranck wrote.

Keck folded the envelope, put it away and resumed his life.

First came an 11-year stint as a draftsman for a construction company, then a 25-year career as a project engineer for ITT Grinnell in Columbia.

He continued learning. "We took courses and courses. You never stopped, really," recalled Keck, a retiree who says he had "degreed Men" working under his direction at Grinnell.

This spring, he came across a yellowed envelope with an embossed, 3-cent stamp.

Inside was Norman Ranck's neatly typed letter dated Sept. 20, 1946.

"I said to my wife, 'Phyllis, I wonder if this is still good'," Keck said of Ranck's offer of a diploma. "So I went over to see them."

Penn Manor principal Randall Kahler looked at the



**Robert Keck**  
Graduating retiree

1946 letter, talked with Keck and studied his stack of certificates of completion of college-level courses from Penn State University.

"Everything that was required for a diploma, I had," said Keck.

Except that credit for sophomore American history.

Keck returned to Kahler's office on April 11.

"Here he had a history book and two tests," Keck says, grinning. "The mid-term and the final."

There was a lot to do. "There must have been 800 pages in that skunk," he laughs.

But Keck was serious about his task. "I wore the pages thin on that book," finished both tests and turned them in a week later.

"History was always my favorite," says Keck, who serves as Judge of Elections for Mountville Borough. "So when they gave me a history book, that was no problem....Don't forget, a lot of that history for kids, we lived."

Why did he go to the trouble to get his high school diploma after so many years?

Keck, 64, who graduates tonight from Penn Manor High School, leaned back in his chair.

He has two children, he says. Both have finished high school and one finished college.

"And here the old man didn't have a high school diploma and the kids did," Keck said slowly. "You like to stay on par -- prove to them the old man can still do it."

Sent in by James Price  
165 Hillcrest Lane  
Elizabethtown, PA. 17022

## COMPANY "H" 330TH

Hello Buddies:

Here we are winding down another year in the history of the 83rd Infantry Division Association. The reunion committee is hard at work trying to bring us another wonderful reunion. These great reunions are made possible by men like you who contribute to our Ad Book, to help raise the necessary monies needed to make the commitments that need to be made. I am proud of Co. "H" for the fine dedication to our association.

Well buddies, during this past year, our company commander, Capt. Jack Masters has been very ill. He is recently out of a hospital, and will be unable to attend this reunion. We also had a loss of a member of Co. "H", he was John Nazarian who passed away recently. When I hear of a serious illness or a death, I try to let you men know. We are like a large family and mean a lot to each other.

I would like to appeal to each and everyone of you men from Co. "H", if you haven't paid your dues as yet, send them in today. The association needs the financial help of each and everyone of you. If you have a buddy and would like to give him a gift, give him a membership in our great association. I have a roster of names and addresses of between 50 and 75 men, and only about a dozen of them are members of our association.

This week I had a letter from a man who was a lieutenant in Co. "H", and went on to become a company commander of Co. "D", he is none other than Capt. Eugene Fritts, a great man and good soldier. He is also very ill. Well buddies, I wish to thank you for the help you have given me in making the Co. "H" page the great page that it is in the reunion Ad Book. May God bless you all.

Your Buddy  
Larry Redmond



## 783 RD ORDANCE

Can you believe, as I write this in June that it's July already? Now I can believe the words of my Dad, "Each decade after forty goes twice as fast as the one before it." That also means if you are coming to another reunion you better be in Pittsburgh this August.

I have received a number of calls about the reunion and it seems everyone wants to make the boat ride. Just an hour ago, my answering machine had a call from Capt. Jack Getty, inquiring about the reunion. Now, he doesn't answer, but I will try and get a report before I finish. Had a nice chat with Steve Blasko and he is really looking forward to being our host. Well, its his city!! You can all relax, Steve included, we are not hiring a bus this year for any Doggett type lawn-party's. You see, I knew the way to Doggett's ranch but I have never been to Blasko's palace.

Speaking of Arthur Doggett, do you remember what I said about him being a Southern Baptist, "cutting rugs" during the week?" I also asked what the difference was between Southern and Northern Baptists? Well, good old Hobert Belt wrote me a long letter. He gave me an excellent description of Southern Baptists. I don't want to go on a long dissertation on religion, but I think Arthur is in trouble. Thank heavens, Hobert is not. He says he is enjoying good health and he is still cutting lawns. He would like to see us but he says he has too many lawns to cut. Maybe this is where Arthur has gone astray. He's spending too much time cutting the wrong material.

Actually old Dog did a good deed this last quarter of the year. He wrote me a letter and he passed one on from Ed Perko. Ed's letter brought us the sad news that Andy Grant died late last year. I called Ruth on the phone and she informed me Andy died on Oct. 7, 1989. Andy's lungs were real bad and he had been sick all year. He would have been eighty-one in December. So our thanks to Ed for passing that on. Ed says he has his aches and pains, like the rest of us, and he hopes to see all of us in Pitt.

Jim Jones called yesterday looking for a new bed partner in Pitt. Sadly Joe Brown has a vacation commitment. (Darn these Aug. reunions - Sept. is a great month and cheaper) Jim was his usual delightful self and why not, he has a parttime job working with a bunch of young girls. He's also so "old" he gets away with calling them all "Honey!" I have good news for Phil Barbara and Bryers, who also has a good Southern Baptist first name of Paul. Jim had a bad, bug virus this spring and it laid him low for a month. He lost over twenty pounds and he hasn't played any rounds of golf yet. If there's ever a year you are going to beat him this is the year!

Speaking of Phil and Ann Barbara, they are feeling so good they decided not to retire. They found a new place with just 3000 sq. feet so why shouldn't he be taking all the peoples money. He plays golf when he wants (Bryers take notes) if it rains he goes to work and you know we have had a lot of sunny days! Phil is looking forward to the Pitts.links but he wants all you golfers handicaps in print.

Can you imagine Easy and Lou Labbe's daughter Charlotte called us while on a conference in Philly. Sadly, she got the darn answering machine. We would have loved to talk to her and treat her to a Philadelphia pretzel with a side dish of scrapple. As usual the Labbe's are fine, chasing after all their grandchildren.

Carl and Alyce are really enjoying Carl's retirement. The Frederick's had a nice Calif. and Hawaii vacation this spring. Some of this was retirement presents. Couldn't happen to a nicer couple. I also want to thank Carl for all his efforts in doing our job on the Ad Book. At the same time I guess I had better also thank each and everyone of you for your 783RSD contributions. "Merci Boo Cool!"

Herschel and Midge Weaver also had a real nice trip out west. The flew to Ariz. and used the kids location as a

home base. They rented a car and did a nice big circle of Calif. and all points north and south. The Weavers will be making a real trip of the reunion as they will visit all the kin folk in western Penn.

And Ginny wants to say, "Thanks" for all who inquired about her health. She seems to be doing quite well on the Inderol and touch wood, the headaches seem to be gone. You asked about me??? I'm fine, I think. Some of you would be interested like "Doc's" Manning and Pfeifer, to know that I am in a scientific study on cholesterol. My chol. has been bouncing all over the place from 200 to 319, so I decided to enter this study. Simply put, I have to be on the American Heart Assoc. diet and at the same time eat one "Japanese" egg a day. These are eggs whereby the chickens are fed kulp or seaweed. They are trying to prove a correlation between the egg and lowering your Chol. level. It's a twelve week study. I'm in my seventh week and I still can't catch Ginny. Stay tuned. Oh, the bottom line is they are paying me \$300. to eat twelve dozen eggs. Thats more eggs than I've had in the last three years.

Well, I just had a nice twenty minute conversation with Capt. Major, Lt. Col. Jack Getty. He sounds in real good shape and is looking forward to meeting the 783rd for the first time in forty five years. He says he is a little apprehensive for fear he won't remember anyone. He also talked to Joe Brown today and Joe assured him the faces and names would all come back. For sure he won't have any problems with Jim Jones and Doc Pfeifer. There is also a good chance that Joe might also now be in Pitt. The reunion looks like its shaping up rather well.

Received another nice letter from George Harris. George still has many problems associated with visiting Mettie twice a day and trying to take care of the house. He offered \$8.00 an hour to cut his grass and the teenagers said that wasn't enough. There are Hobert, you can come and work your way - to the reunion.

Al and Ruth Bensimon reported in with another nice letter and told how they came up from Fla. They stopped in Carlisle Pa. and after contacting Sam Hoffman. Sam came to the motel and they had a nice time going over old times. Al's home is still for sale in N.J. I just don't know why Doc and Agnes or money bags Phil and Ann don't jump at this opportunity of a vacation home, especially when its 25% off for 783rd members.

Last and certainly least is Ray "Wiggy" Wiggins (not Mimi she is a classy lady). I'm sorry to proclaim to you that Ray has really gotten out of hand. It sounds like poor Ray is going through his change of life. but he is too old for that. Let me give you a few quotes and maybe you can advise me what to do about our old buddy. "You know how old Rags is; he always was and will always be a screw-up. He can't drive a jeep around a square block without getting lost." And there's more..."Rags makes up most of that junk he puts in the Thunderbolt. The people he mentions as being there died years ago." He lives in a fantasy world which aids him in his literary endeavors." And lastly, "We nicknamed you Rabbi so pronounced to rhyme with "Flabby". We sometimes called you Flabby Rabbi. You were always quoting the Old Testament and deriding us "Incense Twirlers" about our primitive ways." Now I'm sure you can better understand the problem I have with one Ray Wiggins. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated. I guess we could all start by saying a silent prayer for poor Mimi.

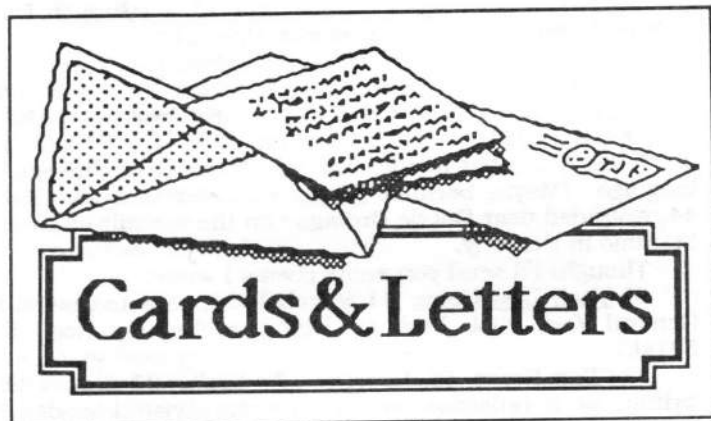
See you all in Pittsburgh!

Hut two,  
Rags Rangnow





May 29, 1990  
1460 Black Oak Drive  
Centerville, OH. 45459



22, May, 1990

Dear Bob:

I saw your letter about Company "A" 329th Infantry, in the Spring Issue of the Thunderbolt, and thought I would drop you a line. My name is Gibson, I was a rifle platoon leader in Company "C", 329th Infantry. Wounded in the hedgerows and evacuated to England, by the time I worked my way back through the replacement system, the 83rd Division was in Luxemburg. I served as the 1st platoon leader Company "C" through the Hurtgen Forest, the Ardennes, and the Rhineland Campaign. I was hit again in the Hurtgen Forest, but this time not serious enough to be evacuated.

Shortly after we crossed the Rhine I was transferred to command Company "A" and served with it to the end of the war. Perhaps you remember me.

I stayed in the Army after the war, served as a Battalion Commander in the Korean War, as a Brigade Commander in Vietnam, and retired from the Army in 1973 in the rank of Brigadier General. Married to the same lady for 47 years, I have two daughters, three grand-daughters, and three grandson's. The oldest grandson is named after me.

It's been 45 years, this past April, since Company "A" was first across the Elbe River at Barby; took Walternienburg; and fought its last battle in the outskirts of Zerbst, Germany. I've long since lost track of all those who served in Company "A" during those days. That's why I enjoyed your letter so much. They were the best!

Sincerely,  
James M. Gibson

9-19-89

Dear Mr. Derickson,

I am writing this letter regarding our phone conversation on 9-18-89.

I am trying to locate a Mr. Robert R. Meyerhoff and if you could put a notice in the "Thunderbolt" it would be appreciated.

Here are some facts:

- He was from New York City
- 19 years in 1945
- played the trumpet
- played trumpet in dance band in Linz, Austria December, 1945

Well we will see what happens and thank you. Enclosed find check for \$2.00 for postage for a few "Thunderbolts."

Sincerely,  
Harold J. Quinn  
314 S. Valley Forge Rd.  
Devon, Pa. 19333

Dear Mr. Derickson,

I am writing to you in reference to the reunion of the 83rd Infantry Division, WWII, to be held in Pittsburgh on August 16-18. I learned of this through my husband's Retired Officer magazine.

My interest in the reunion has to do with my father, Bernard P. Donnelly, who was with the 83rd from the spring of 1942 until the fall of 1943. He served as Commander of the 3rd Battalion, 331st Inf. Regiment, at Camp Atterbury, and on Maneuvers in Tennessee.

My father was a Reserve officer who came on active duty in 1940, serving first at Camp Roberts, Calif. His years with the 83rd were the most satisfying of his 9 plus years of active duty. It was with great pride that he spoke of the low casualty rate of his officers, who I believe, landed on D-day and followed the war in Europe to its conclusion. It was always his hope that the young men he trained for the front lines also had a low percentage of casualties. It was his greatest disappointment that he was not allowed to go into battle with them. He cared greatly about his troops, officers and G.I.'s alike, and in general, this feeling seemed to be mutual. He was known as "The Boss" to the young officers under him, and my mother, thou not yet 40 herself, was known as "Mom".

For many years my parents heard from many of these young people, until they, too, were no longer young. Some of the names which come to mind are "Butch" Sellers, Ashmore, Tyrell, Deger, Capshaw. We know that both of the Capshaws passed away: "Butch" Sellers is also gone thou I'm still in touch with his wife, who lives in Baltimore. We also maintained correspondence with Chaplain E. Tipton Carroll and his family. He passed away about 7 years ago; his wife lives in Kentucky.

When my father left the 83rd he was assigned to train the Brazilian Expeditionary Force, and took them to Italy where he, and they, saw combat. Later Dad saw duty at Ft. Ord, then spent 3 years in postwar Germany, before being rified in March of 1950. He returned to his home in the Washington, D.C. area where he lived until his death in 1961 at age 58. My mother lived until 1988 and spent her last years near us, in the Otterbein Home, in Lebanon, Oh.

I married an Army man and continued the service life until his retirement in 1967, after duty in both Korea and Viet Nam. My two brothers are still living; we were frequent visitors to Camp Atterbury during the year we lived in Columbus, In. and Murfreesboro, Tn.

We all have happy memories of our association with the 83rd, and wish all you veterans our best. I hope that the information about our dad is of some interest to you.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth D. Burgess  
(Betty Donnelly)

Dear Bob:

Enclosed find check for my 90-91 dues.

In the new "Spring Issue 1990 Thunderbolt" I read the article by William Dyer Titled "The Mysterious Stranger"

There is a question in the article, Did it really happen?

The article is written in every detail as it really happened. I know because I was one of the soldiers wounded in that action & hold the Purple Heart for wounds in my right leg.

He was a German soldier dressed in G.I. uniform. This will verify the article.

Yours Very Truly  
Bob Cowder

First Machine Gunner  
Robert B. Cowder (PFC)  
Co. "G" 2nd Bn. 329th Reg.  
83rd Div.

Hello Buddies:

As you all know, we are coming down the homestretch of another year in the history of the 83rd Infantry Division Association. This being the final edition of the "Thunderbolt" for this year, then the annual reunion, the end of our 44th year comes to a close.

Over the years, this association has had its ups and downs, many of you have been members since the start of the association and are aware of the hard work it took to, first, get this association going, then to pull it out of the woods when it once almost collapsed.

Were it not for the hard work of a few certain men, who were more than just dedicated, we may have faltered. Thank God, we are now a solvent association. This has been made possible by you men who have so graciously paid your dues, and also contributed to our ad book to help make the reunions success that they have been.

As we sit and think over this association, and what it is and what it means to all of us. This is more than just a veterans organization, it is an association composed of men who entered into the military service during a time of war. We were strangers more or less to one another, but after a short period of time we became like one large family. We shared our barracks together, we shared the mess hall together, went through basic training together and shared our lives together in the fields of battle.

Now we are back home still sharing our lives together as members of this great association. I, as a former officer of this association, can't begin to tell you how wonderful it is to be associated with such a fine group of men. I would like to personally thank each and everyone of you for the support you have given to the reunion committees in helping to make the Ad Book the success that it has been.

We have been very fortunate in the past in having some of the finest men in our association to serve as officers in the association. I sincerely hope that we can carry on with such fine leadership for many years to come. During combat overseas we were under the leadership of some of the greatest officers that the United States Army could have ever had. Back Home, our great association is under the greatest leadership that any organization could ever have.

As we come to our final day of the reunion, and we assemble to hold our memorial service, and listen to that roll call of men who have passed on during the year, May we all bow our heads in silence for a moment and pay our respects to those great men who served with us during the war, and joined with at reunions of the past. May God Bless you all.

Your Buddy  
Larry Redmond  
H Co. 330th

5/30/90

Dear Bob,

Please put this news of the death of a former member of the 83rd reunions in the Thunderbolt.

We received the sad news on May 1st of the sudden death of Anna Bouchard. She died on April 18th of a heart attack at her daughter's home in West Springfield, Mass.

She was a friend of Frank Albano who died in January, 1986 of cancer. We kept in touch with her and became close friends and kept her up to date of the reunions and news of the 83rd as she was unable to go after his death.

We will miss her as we do Frank.

We will see you in Pittsburgh. Hope this reaches you in time for the next issue of the Thunderbolt. Thanking you in advance we remain.

Sincerely yours,  
August & Hazel  
(Mousic) Farias  
P.O. Box F-356  
New Bedford, MA. 02742

June 3, 1990

Robert Derickson

Dear Robert:

Hope you are well, enjoying life. Enclosed is a check for 1990 dues (\$10)

I was a combat medic, 3rd bn., 331st Regt. Seems so long ago. (Maybe because it was) I lasted 'til August 5th/44, wounded near Dol de Bretagne on the assault on Brest/St. Malo in Brittany.

Thought I'd send you some poems I wrote.

#1 Their Last Home 11 March 1990, as a dedication to General York (Col. York in 1944 heading my Regt. the 331st.)

#2 Two Roses, St. Laurent - Colleville, 21 Sept. 1983, written as a reflection on the cemetery visit I made, 39 years later.

#3 Un Diplômé du Lapin for Max and one for Angel 20 Sept. 1983

Omaha Beach War Museum there & American Military Cemetery Colleville, Normandy, France. On top of a cliff overlooking Omaha Beach.

Max & Angela was an English couple I met on the visit to Cherbourg. Max had been a child of 11 year old when Britain was being blitzed. His job was to find a rabbit a day for food. He never ate rabbit since then until we met in 1983.

Well-long story. Thanks for being there.

Be Well - enjoy life.  
Warm Regrds  
Lenny (Pvt.) Greenberg  
ASN 32784161

Dedicated in love and respect to General York. I regret never having known him personally. I am sure he must have been a fine man, from what I've heard about him from those who did know him.

March 11, 1990

#### Their Last Home

So peaceful in death, their battle over  
the young soldiers sleep on.  
Lonely in the years that go  
the young soldiers sleep on.  
waiting for their leader, General York

French earth is home  
for these brave soldiers of the 83rd  
Who came to Norway's beaches in '44  
with Colonel York to lead them,  
now to join them in their last home.

"...and I have come to join you now  
at battle's end, the victory ours.  
Sleep on in peace, your job well done  
At ease, men, We are all together again."

Bugler, it's time to play the last call of day,  
Play Taps for General York and his men  
Taken home to answer the call  
of a greater reveille.





Two Roses, St. Laurent-Colleville

...by Lenny Greenberg

September 21, 1983

Two roses, one scarlet dark, its friend  
soft pink resting  
Against the fine white marble,  
leaning a bit, wilting now  
As if they watched and waited  
for an answer  
from the ones below.

A message from a loved one  
lost, O, lost so long ago.  
The years have gone  
and lost love will not return  
For the giver of the rose  
or the loved one gone so long.  
A soldiers' Cemetery is so quiet,  
peaceful in its lonely vigil,  
Lonely in the years that go  
and no one comes to visit.

Should those beneath cry out,  
"Why are we here? We did our  
job to save the world. How did it end. Did we  
win?"

What answer would come back  
from those who never come,  
And the few who visit  
the cold stones and cool green grass?

Sleep well, brave ones. Your  
world is safe. Your gift to us  
is marked with  
two red roses near your stone,  
And the silent tears of those  
who come to see you in your  
last home of lost dreams.

(C) 83

Un Diplomé du Lapin for Max

and one for Angela

...by Lenny Greenbert

September 20, 1983

There are all kinds of bravery  
in a war,  
And all kinds of courage.

A soldier's gun, a mother's giving  
of her son  
to the awful sounds and smells of war.  
Add to that the children's wounds,  
The fear that comes and stays  
when years are young and toys are  
laid aside  
To hunt for rabbit to survive.

"Bring home the food or else  
we shall have none to eat," he hears  
And the enemy is hunger and the  
bombs, and the hope is in this  
boy to search the wood and  
find the precious rabbit.

Un Diplomé du Lapin for Max,  
well-earned by this little boy  
Who won his war  
and brought his rabbit home.

And now after almost 40 years, the boy  
has risked to eat his fear

by eating du Lapin in Cherbourg.

Max, the boy, has won his private war  
against the silent, buried fears of his boy-  
hood,  
And Max, the man, has earned  
un Diplomé du Lapin  
Given him this day by Angela  
who loves him.

(C) 83.

By one of his men of the 331st  
June -- August 1944  
Pvt. Leonard Greenbert (Ret?)

When I was wounded in combat on January 20, 1945  
near Bech, Belgium I was hospitalized in various military  
units for the next ten months.

During my hospitalization I not only occupied my time  
by writing down all remembrances of service, drew sketches  
of specific occurrences, but managed to save all copies of  
the "Outfit" periodical that came into my possession.

Recently while compiling all data regarding the 75th In-  
fantry Division, for whom I serve as Historian, I also did the  
same for all units in the ETO that was recorded in the Is-  
sues of "Outfit". Unfortunately I do not have all copies of  
all dates, but I've included all data at my disposal.

Hopefully this data from a little known source will be  
helpful to your unit historian as we all benefit from our  
cross-fertilization of material & information.

Ted S. Breeder

**5 February 45**

83D INF...Pfc William C. Lewis, Newport, Wash, has  
been living on a diet of lemon juice powder and dehydrated  
eggs, the consequence of sticking to the practice of keeping  
one's mouth open to minimize concussion. One heavy ex-  
plosion blew him out of his foxhole. As he sailed through  
the air with mouth open, his GI store teeth fell out. In his  
hast to gain new cover, Bill didn't tarry for them.

Teamed with the 3rd Armd Div. the 83rd turned back  
four German counter-attacks near the Houffalize-St. Vith  
highway which they had cut.

**26 Feb. 45**

83D...Radio operator, T/5 Allen S. Nemrow, of New  
York and the 1st Bn, 330th Regt, was pleased about his  
capture of two Germans, especially after hearing of the bru-  
tal manner in which the Nazis executed more than 100  
Yank prisoners. He saw the two, playing possum; the  
steam from their breath gave them away. "Think I'll put a  
bullet through the heads of these lugs to make sure they  
are dead," he said aloud. The "corpses" immediately  
sprang to life.

**5 Mar. 45**

83D...Doughfeet of this division attacked without let-up  
for four days and nights and made good progress despite  
bitter, last-ditch resistance Henry J. Reday, Cleveland,  
Ohio, is credited with killing six Germans and Sgt. Robert  
Trevillier, Ashland, Ky, has two more tanks on his log.

**12 Mar. 45**

83D...Capt. Allen B. Gillie, CO of Co. B, 308th Engrs,  
hit a mine while driving his jeep. Here's how he reported it:  
"Jeep removed mine, and vice versa."...Pvt Robert C. Thom-  
as Speedway, W Va. is being sent home and he doesn't  
want to go. He enlisted at 15 and now is 17. Thomas is  
the third under-ager discovered on the Western Front in  
two weeks.

#### 2 Apr. 45

83D...Anything that happens to Pfc Joseph Bayer, Akron, Ohio in Germany now will be an anti-climax--he hopes. Driving his jeep down a road, he almost collided with a German Tiger tank. He turned his machine and beat a hasty retreat as shells splattered around him...A mine platoon of the 330th led by Lt. Arthur C. Fried recently removed 77 mines under fire without a casualty...Backing his jeep into the bushes, Pfc. Pete Syrolo, Wheeling, W Va. pinned down a German and captured him.

#### 16 Apr. 45

83D...In December before the German breakthrough, Sgt Ralph G. Neppel, Glidden, Iowa, a machinegunner, was blown away from his gun by a shell which also blew off one leg. Shredded the other, nicked him in the head and killed his buddies. Half-conscious, he saw a German tank supported by 20 infantrymen approaching. Using his elbows to pull himself forward, he reached his gun, got into firing position and blazed away. Eight Germans dropped, the others fled and the tank, without support, retreated before the lone GI. Neppel was rescued and is convalescing in England.

#### 23 Apr 45

83D...The great rail center of Hamm, largest in Germany, was mopped up by the 83rd.

**Co. B, 329th Regt:** PFC Earl Rhodes, Kalamazoo, Mich, the tallest BAR man in the division, bagged his first prisoners when his outfit entered Neuss. He collected five of them. Rhodes is 6 feet 5.

#### 30 Apr 45

83D...The division, operating on the right flank of the 9th Army, raced 100 miles in less than a week from captured Hamm, rail center, to break into the Brunswick Province. At one stage, this motorized outfit was out in front of the 2nd Armd Div. It captured dozens of towns in its thrust toward the Elbe River.

**324th FA Bn:** Without training on German 88s, the battalion put three captured guns into action against their ex-owners. Section chiefs of the guns were S/Sgts Arnold B. Cocetti, Eymon, Pa; Julian Piercey, Seneca, Pa, and James J. McGuffie, Warren, Ohio.

#### 7 May 45

83D...Riding captured enemy vehicles, the 83rd raced 57 miles to reach the Elbe River and establish a second bridgehead across it. The division withstood a furious three-hour counter-attack and enlarged its bridgehead even as the 2d Armd Div was forced to give up its stand on the east bank on the river. The bridgehead was near Barby, southwest of Magdeburg.

#### 14 May 45

83D...Its bridgehead across the Elbe established, the 83rd beat off several small attacks but made no major effort to advance. It was waiting, according to plan, for the Russians. Radio contact with advance elements of the Red Army was established early in the last week of April.

**329th Regt:** S/Sgt Vernon C. Satcher, Crandall, Miss, and a patrol of 34 drew the drab rear echelon assignment of guarding a captured warehouse near Halberstadt. The rest of their outfit was up front fighting. Exploring some woods near the warehouse, Satcher and a squad of Yanks rounded up 496 German soldiers including a colonel, lieutenant colonel, three majors, two captains and two lieutenants.

**330th Regt:** A mine platoon of this regiment, also on rear-echelon duty, ran into a "task force" of nine boys, none over 13, led by a girl of 23.

#### 28 May 45

83d...Fresh eggs are a rare delicacy in the front lines. Naturally Cpl. John C. Dietrick, Dayton, Ohio, would not trust the cooking of some that he had to anyone but himself, particularly after he had paid 60 francs each for them. A group of envious onlookers watches him take a generous mouthful and then turn pale and vomit. Dietrick no longer keeps his dubbin and bacon grease cans together in his duffel.

#### 4 Jun 45

83D (Co. B 329th Regt)...While on a mission, PFC Nelson Gray, DeWitt, Ky, literally slid into trouble. His jeep skidded into a ditch and hit a Teller mine. When the smoke cleared, all that remained was the front and seat of the jeep and Gray, a little scared but without a scratch.

#### 18 Jun 45

83D...Settling down to police duties, the 83rd has run into some unusual incidents in the towns of Bad Harzburg and Leiferde. Pvt. Richard K. Detroit, Mich, gripes about the questions the Germans ask. They even ask directions about their town. When they commit a violation or regulation, they seem in mortal fear, yet the usual punishment for illegally riding a bicycle down the center of the street, for instance, is a detail of sweeping sidewalks. The Germans in these towns accept authority without question. One German announced he had been appointed town commissioner by the "United States Gestapo" and was authorized to fine all Nazi party members. When the MPs picked him up, he had collected \$1500 in fines, two automobiles, a motorcycle, typewriter, household furniture and 8000 cigars. Incidentally, the German shows a lot of respect for the MPs.

#### 25 Jun 45

83D...The bridge across the Elbe, built by division engineers after a bridgehead had been established near Barby, has been called the President Truman bridge. The President's artillery outfit served with the 330th Regt. in World War I....Cpl Pete Komarinski, Co M, 330th, received a package from his gal friend in Latrobe, Pa. It contained a pair of black and white sport shoes, to be worn when he goes on pass.

#### 2 Jul 45

83D...In its campaign through France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland and Germany, the Thunderbolt Div. captured more than 90,000 prisoners, fighting with the 1st, 3d and 9th armies. At Beaugency, it took 20,000 without losing a man. It was the first to reach the Rhine opposite Dusseldorf, established the only successful bridgehead across the Elbe and was the first 9th Army division to meet the Russians. Over 3000 Bronze Stars and 500 Silver Stars have been awarded its personnel...Col Edwin B. Crabill, Galax, Va, former CO of the 329th Regt, is now assistant Div. CO. Col Alex D. Reid is now the 329's CO.

#### 30 Jul 45

83D (Sv Co, 329th Regt)...For superior performance of duty, men of the company have been awarded the Meritorious Service Unit plaque. The Thunderbolts are with the 3d Army and assigned to the Grafenau sector.

#### 6 Aug 45

83D...When Sgt. Joseph E. Wynkoop, AT Co, met a civilian who looked exactly like a photo of a German officer he has seen in a Bavarian town he lost no time turning him over to the MPs. "You're right, Sergeant," they told him, "only



you're 25 years too late. This guy was a German officer in Kaiser Bill's army in 1918.

### 13 Aug 45

83rd...After handling hordes of prisoners in France, Belgium and Germany, five GIs of the 83's MP Plat finally have hit a cushy detail -- operating a small Bavarian jail for "short-termers", mostly curfew violators. Running the hoosegow are Sgt Philip Spivak, Philadelphia; Pfc Frank Moody, Springfield, Ohio, and Pvts Henry Kukulski, Chicago, Thomas Lavin, Chester, Pa, and George Alspaugh, Winston-Salem, NC.

### 20 Aug 45

83D...(331st Regt)Annexing eight firsts, four thirds and a flock of fourth places, the 331st breezed into the division's track and field title and the right to represent the Thunderbolts in the XII Corps games. Top point winner for the victors was T/5 Kenneth Delaney, Co. K, who won the 220 and the 440... Continuing its winning ways, the division won the XII Corps swimming crown by amassing 152 points. PFC Stanley Krawitz, Baltimore narrator, was a double winner.

### 27 Aug 45

83D (Co K, 330th Regt)...A stone marking the junction of the German, Czechoslovakian and Austrian boundaries is in the area occupied by the company. According to PFC Gerald L. Kirby, Oxark, Ark, just placing your hand on the top of the marker puts you in three countries at once.

### 30 Jul 45

#### 36 Divisions To Sail For States This Year

Early calculations of the number of troops to be deployed to the States have been upset. There has been an unexpected increase in shipping facilities, with the result that many more doughs will be home this year than originally planned. Of the 62 divisions in ETO at the end of the war, 36 will either be in the States or on ships headed home by the first of the year. Eight more are members of the permanent occupation armies and the other 18 have not as yet been assigned. Within two months of the end of the war in ETO, three full infantry divisions had reached home, as had one Army headquarters, the majority of the personnel of another, and advanced detachments of one armored and six infantry divisions.

As the result of careful screening under the point system, many members of divisions scheduled to come home will be reassigned and remain in ETO with other outfits. THE BEST WAY TO CHECK ON A SOLDIER'S STATUS IS TO CONTACT THE SOLDIER HIMSELF.

This is the schedule of divisions due to sail in July, advance units of which have already reached home (in some instances, the entire division is back): 2d, 4th 5th, 8th, 44th and 87th Inf Divs, and 13th Armd.

Other scheduled sailings: AUGUST -- 28th, 30th, 45th Inf; 20TH Armd. SEPTEMBER --35th, 103d Inf; 5th, 6th, 7th, 14th Armd; 17th Airborne. OCTOBER --26th, 79th, 99th Inf; 9th Armd. NOVEMBER -- 63d, 83d, 106th Inf; 10th Armd; 13th Airborne. DECEMBER -- 76th, 80th, 90th Inf; 2d, 11th Armd.

Awaiting dates to be assigned in 1946: 42d, 65th, 66th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 75th, 78th, 84th, 89th, 94th, 100th, 102d Inf; 3d, 8th, 12th, 16th Armd; 101st Airborne.

Remaining as permanent armies: 1st, 3d, 9th, 29th, 36th Inf; 1st, 4th Armd; 82d Airborne.

During June, 280,000 troops came home. The original plan called for 250,000. The July quota of 265,000 will probably be greatly exceeded. In announcing the redeployment program, the War Department emphasized it was subject to changes.

### 13 Aug 45

More than a million GIs are involved in the following list of battle stars awarded major units for the Ardennes, Central Europe and Rhineland campaigns:

ARDENNES (16 Dec '44 to 25 Jan '45)

ARMY GPL 12th ARMIES: 1st and 3d, and 1st Airborne CORPS: III, V, VII, VIII, XII, XVIII. AIRBORNE CORPS: XIX INF DIVS: 1st, 2d, 4th, 5th, 9th, 26th, 28th, 30th, 35th, 75th, 76th, 78th, 80th, 83d, 84th, 87th, 90th, 94th and 106th.

ARMD DIVS: 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th. AIRBORNE DIVS: Parts of 17th and 101st.

CENTRAL EUROPE (22 March '45 to end of war) ARMY GPS: 6th and 12th. ARMIES: 1st, 3d, 7th, 9th and 1st Airborne. CORPS: III V, VI, XII, XV, XVI, XVIII. AIRBORNE CORPS: XX, XXI, XXII, XXIII. INF DIVS: 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 8th, 9th, 26th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 325th 36th, 42d, 44th, 45th, 63r, 65th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 75th, 76th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 83d, 84th, 87th, 89th, 90th, 94th, 95th, 99th, 100th, 102d 103d, 104th, and 106th. ARMD DIVS: 2d, 3d 4th, 6th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13, 14th, 16th and 20th. AIRBORNE DIVS: 13th, 17th, 82d and 101st.

RHINELAND (15 Sept '44 to 21 March '45)

This list is a revision of the list first approved for the Western Europe Campaign, now known as the Rhineland campaign:

ARMY GPS: 6th and 12th. ARMIES: 1st, 3d, 7th, 9th, and 15th. CORPS: III, V, VI, VII, VIII, XII, XIII, XVI, XVIII. AIRBORNE: XX, XXI, XXII. INF DIVS: 1st, 2d 3d, 4th, 5th, 8th, 9th, 26th, 28th, 29th 30th, 35th, 36th, 42d 44th, 45th 63d, 65th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 75th, 76th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 83d, 84th, 87th, 89th, 90th, 94th, 95, 99th, 102d, 103d, 104th and 106th. ARMD DIVS: 2d3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th. AIRBORNE DIVS: 13th, 17th, 82d and 101st.

## 83d Infantry Division

There was a Colonel at the fortress of St. Malo -- the one they called the "Mad Colonel" -- who didn't want to surrender, and to the east there were 20,000 armed German soldiers of every rank who didn't want to surrender, either. That is, they didn't want to until the 83d Division came along. Then they had to. Colonel Von Aulock was the defiant commander who, in the fall of 1944, decided to hold out, and it looked as if he might for an indefinite time until the "Thunderbolt" Division laid siege to his stronghold and caused him to think better of his initial decision. A few weeks later, when the Division captured 20,000 Germans at one swoop in France, while covering the right flank of the Third Army in the Loire River Valley, the Thunderbolts set a record for the number of prisoners taken by the Allies up to that time on the European continent.

The 83d hoped to get into the battle of Normandy right at the start, but rough weather kept it out in the English Channel for a week, and it finally hit the beaches on D-plus-12. Plunging into the hedgerows, it moved inland to the swamps of Carentan, to relieve the 101st Airborne Division which had jumped just before H-hour on D-day. On the Fourth of July, the 83d launched its first big offensive. With the 9th and 90th Infantry Divisions, it broke through to the St. Lo-Coutances highway, moved early in August by truck to Avranches, and then headed west to take care of the stubborn residents of St. Malo, which fell on August 17.

Operating in the Loire Valley from August 22 to September 20, the 83d covered a 200-mile line from St. Nazaire to Auxerre, made a junction with the Seventh Army, and delivered its celebrated haul of 20,000 Supermen to the Allies. Late in September the division, as part of the Third Army, swung northeastward for the drive through France and Luxembourg. In Luxembourg, relieving the 5th Armored and 28th Infantry Divisions, the 83d made a lasting

impression on the civilians with its lively dance band. It didn't have much time, however, for rest or frivolity. Early in December it was moved into the Hurtgen Forest to relieve the 4th Infantry Division, and from there it fought its way to the western bank of the Roer, near Duren. And then came the Ardennes counteroffensive.

Ordered to Rochefort, the 83d found itself fighting in waist high snow. Morphine syrettes froze, automatic weapons wouldn't function, and the soldiers of the Division suffered from the bitter cold. They stuck to their guns-sometimes literally-and helped turn back the enemy assault. A month later they were assigned to the Ninth Army and, on March 1, approached the Rhine and took Neuss, just outside of Dusseldorf. They were credited with being the first American division to reach the lower Rhine, and, after patrols had made several crossings of the river to probe the enemy defenses on the other side, the whole Division swept across on March 30. Given the job of cleaning up pockets by-passed by the 2d Armored, the Thunderbolts accomplished that mission and then did some by-passing of their own, slicing through the Ruhr Valley and driving for the transportation center of Hamm.

Marching virtually unopposed into the blasted Hamm railyards, the 83d seized so many abandoned vehicles that it was able completely to motorize itself, and it raced east to the province of Brunswick, moving so fast with its borrowed transportation that at one point it outstripped the speedy 2d Armored. Swinging southeast, the 83d pushed 215 miles from the Rhine to the Elbe, which it reached at Barby, just south of the 2nd Armored's bridgehead. On its way, the 83d in 14 days captured 24,000 Germans and liberated 75,000 Allied prisoners.

Most of the men of the 83d, when it fought in Italy and France in 1918 had originally come from Ohio, and the Division's shoulder patch is a monogram of the letters of that state. In this war the Division's personnel has been drawn from all over, but the men still like the old patch, and they like to spell out the words for which the letters now stand - "One Hot Infantry Outfit."

Mr. Ted J. Breeden  
19825 Leadwell Street  
Canoga Park, CA. 91306

## 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 unites 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.



Casey Szubski, Charlie Sihlonic & Ted Karageorge. Charlie & Ted were forward observers together in "A" Btry.



Welshar, Sanderson & Booth



Cloyd, Casey & Kelly



Motor Sgt. Konargewski & Jerry Zingg

June 2, 1990

"My Buddy!"  
The two Caseys!

In the past issues of the "Thunderbolt" there have been many tributes to our past Chaplain "Casey Kowalec" which were well deserved.

Many don't know the reason for our close friendship and Association.

We were both assigned to "C" Btry 322nd F.A. Battalion, we were on the same truck that was taking us to our unit. We introduced each other and found that we were both "Casey" and from Cleveland, Ohio. This led to a lasting friendship that lasted for 47 years. He was more than a friend, he was "My Buddy"

After the funeral "Laura" gave me some pictures that Casey had from our time in the service along the Danube River. Casey and I went a long way together. He's a buddy I really miss.

Also some pictures of other guys in our Battery and Battalion.

Your "Buddy"  
Casey Szubski  
"C" Btry. 322 F.A.

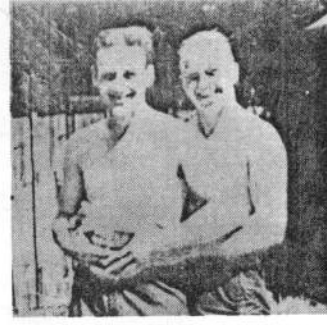
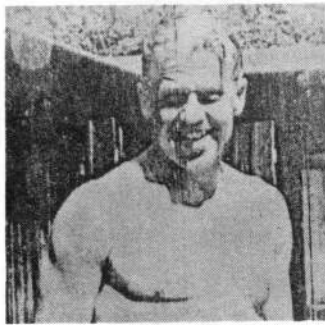




**Earl Geisler**



**Bertoncini**



### **The Two Caseys**

**Casey Kowalec  
Casey Szubski**

Bob:

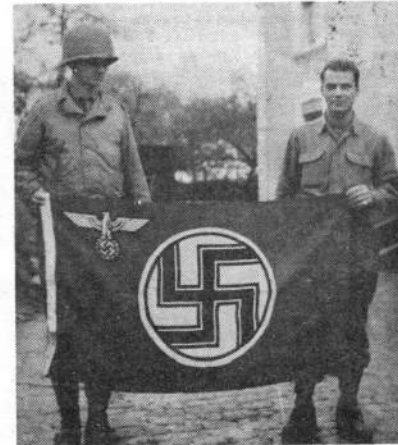
Will you start a page/part page titled: "COMRADES IN DISTRESS" intended for the members only of the 83rd Div. and related military. To be used by those who need witness-  
es for claims, for reopening claims, or for increasing claim-  
payments.

The page to be in every magazine issue: And could be  
an insert from various 83rdrs every time you mail out  
dues notices, receipts OR anything at all.

What would this do? For those who cannot attend get-  
togethers it would mean that the 83rd is trying to do some  
GIVING, NOT JUST GETTING.

**John Floyd  
Box 523  
Reading, Mass. 01867  
THANK-GIVING DAY 1989**

### **Pictures Taken By Jerry Polverino Around Strausburg After The Normandy Battle**



**Tex and Jerry Polverino**



**Jerry Polverino and  
Nathan Cohan**

## **COMRADES IN DISTRESS**

3-1-90  
Lancaster, Pa.

Dear Bob,

I am not able to remember my Co. or Regiment. I  
served with the 83rd. I was a member of the 83rd Associa-  
tion before. I was in possession of an 83rd hard cover his-  
tory book. I am wondering if there is a record available to  
the Association that contains a roster of all personnel in the  
division. All of my records were destroyed in the fire at St.  
Louls. So I am not able to get anything from them. On the  
discharge under Battles and Campaigns there is the follow-  
ing go 33 & 45 Northern France and Rhineland. Would it  
be possible to put my name in the news letter and inquire  
as to the possibility if anyone remembers me. I was only 17  
at the time.

Any info would be helpful.

**Thank you  
Ron McKonly**

P.S. I plan to attend the reunion.





The face of war: Weary infantrymen of the 110th Regiment, 28th Division, First Army rest following the German breakthrough in the Bastogne area: Pvt. Adam H. Davis, left, and T/5 Milford A. Sillars.

## 50 YEARS ON: What WWII was really like

Paul Fussell may be a unique creature among American men of letters: In addition to earning distinction as an essayist, scholar and critic, he led a rifle platoon as a lieutenant in World War II.

This article adapted from his latest book, *Wartime: Understanding and Behavior in the Second World War*, to be published this month by Oxford University Press. The book is written with an infantryman's eye view of "the good war" that began 50 years ago this month. Fussell believes Americans have never understood what the war was really like, the fighting man's experience romanticized beyond recognition by "the sentimental, the loony patriotic, the ignorant and the bloodthirsty."

In the popular and genteel iconography of war during the bourgeois age, all the way from 18th - and 19th century history paintings to 20th century photographs, the bodies of the dead, if inert, are intact. Bloody, sometimes, and sprawled in awkward positions, but except for the absence of life, plausible and acceptable simulacra of the people they once were.

The peruser -- "reader" would be the wrong word -- of the picture collection *"Life Goes to War"*, a volume so popular and widely distributed as to constitute virtually a definitive and official anthology of Second World War photographs, will find even in its starkest images no depiction of bodies dismembered. There are three separated heads shown, but all, significantly, are Asian -- one the head of a Chinese soldier hacked off by the Japanese at Nanking; one a Japanese soldier's badly burnt head (complete with helmet) mounted as a trophy on an American (light) tank at Guadalcanal; and one a former Japanese head, now a skull sent home as a souvenir to a girlfriend by her navy beau in the Pacific. No American dismemberings are regis-

tered, even in the photographs of Tarawa and Iwo Jima. American bodies (decently clothed) are occasionally in evidence, but they are notably intact. The same is true of other popular collections of photographs, like *"Collier's Photographic History of World War II,"* Ronald Heiferman's *"World War II,"* A.J.P. Taylor's *"History of World War II,"* and Charles Herridge's *"Pictorial History of World War II."* In these, no matter how severely wounded, Allied troops are never shown suffering what was termed, in the Vietnam War, traumatic amputation: everyone has all his limbs, his hands and feet and digits, not to mention expressions of courage and cheer. It would be a mistake to assume that dismembering was more common when warfare was largely a matter of cutting weapons, like swords and sabers. Their results are nothing compared with the work of bombs, machine guns, pieces of shell and high explosives in general.

What annoyed the troops and augmented their sardonic, contemptuous attitude toward those who viewed them from afar was in large part this public innocence about the bizarre damage suffered by the human body in modern war. The troops could not contemplate without anger the lack of public knowledge of the Graves Registration form used by the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps with its space for indicating "Members Missing." You would expect front-line soldiers to be struck and hurt by bullets and shell fragments, but such is the popular insulation from the facts that you would not expect them to be hurt, sometimes killed, by being struck by parts of their friends' bodies violently detached. If you asked a wounded soldier or Marine what hit him, you'd hardly be ready for the answer, "My buddy's head," or his sergeant's heel or his hand, or a Japanese leg, complete with shoe and puttees, or West Point

ring on his captain's severed hand. What drove the troops to fury was the complacent, unimaginative innocence of their home fronts and rear echelons about such experiences as the following, repeated in essence tens of thousands of times. Capt. Peter Royle, a British artillery forward observer, was moving up a hill in a night attack in North Africa. "I was following about 20 paces behind," he says, "when there was a blinding flash a few yards in front of me. I had no idea what it was and fell flat on my face. I found out soon enough: A number of infantry were carrying mines strapped to the small of their backs, and either a rifle or machine gun bullet had struck one, which had exploded blowing the man into three pieces--two legs and head and chest. His inside was strewn on the hillside and I crawled into it in the darkness."

In the face of such horror, the distinction between friend and enemy vanishes, and the violent dismemberment of any human being becomes equally traumatic. After the disastrous Canadian raid at Dieppe, one German soldier observed: "The dead on the beach -- I've never seen such obscenities before: There were pieces of human beings littering the beach. There were headless bodies, there were legs, there were arms."

There were even shoes, "with feet in them." The soldiers on one side know what the soldiers on the other side understand about dismemberment and evisceration, even if that knowledge is hardly shared by the civilians behind them.

If American stay-at-homes could be all but entirely sanitized from awareness of the looks and smells of the real war, the British, at least those living in bombed areas, could not.

At home under the bombs on "The Wednesday," Frances Faviell is suddenly aware of the whole house coming down on top of her, and she worries about "Anne," who has been in bed on the top floor:

"With great difficulty I raised my head and shook it free of heavy, choking, dusty stuff. An arm had fallen round my neck -- a warm, living arm, and for one moment I thought that Richard had entered in the darkness and was holding me, but when very, very cautiously I raised my hand to it, I found that it was a woman's bare arm with two rings on the third finger and it stopped short in a sticky mess."

You can't take much of that sort of thing without going mad, as Gen. Sir John Hackett understood when he saw that the world destruction of enemy human beings had in it less of satisfaction than distress. Injured and on the German side of the line at Arnheim, he is being taken to the German medical installation. Along the road he sees "half a body, just naked buttocks and the legs joined on and no more of it than that." To those who might have canted that the Only Good German is a Dead German, Hackett has a message: "There was no comfort here. It was like being in a strange and terrible nightmare from which you longed to wake and could not."

Although in the Great War madness among the troops was most conveniently imputed to the effects of concussion ("shell shock"), in the Second it was more frankly attributed to fear, and in contrast to the expectations of heroic behavior which set the tone of the earlier war, now it was recognized that the fact of fear had to be squarely faced. The result was a whole new literature of fear, implying that terror openly confessed argues no moral disgrace, although failure to control its visible symptoms is reprehensible. The official wartime attitude toward the subject was often expressed by quoting Marshal Ney: "The one who says he never knew fear is a compound liar."

This open, practical confrontation of a subject usually unmentioned has its counterpart in the higher reaches of the wartime literature of fear. The theme of Alan Rook's poem "Dunkirk Pier," enunciated in the opening stanza, is one hardly utterable during earlier wars:

*Deeply across the waves of our darkness fear  
like the silent octopus feeling, groping, clear  
as a star's reflection, nervous and cold as a bird,  
tells us that pain, tells us that death is near.*

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If the anonymous questionnaire, that indispensable mechanism of the social sciences, had been widely used during the Great War, more perhaps could be known or safely conjectured about the actualities of terror on the Western Front. Questionnaires were employed during the Second War, and American soldiers were asked about the precise physical signs of their fear. The soldiers testified that they were well acquainted with such impediments to stability as (in order of occurrence): violent pounding of the hear, sinking feeling in the stomach, shaking or trembling all over, feeling sick at the stomach, cold sweat, feeling weak or faint.

Over one-quarter of the soldiers in one division admitted that they'd been so scared they vomited, and almost a quarter said that at terrifying moments they'd lost control of their bowels. Ten percent had urinated in their pants.

One of the common fears, indeed, is the very fear of wetting oneself and betraying one's fear for all to see by the most childish symptom. The fear of this fear augments as the rank rises: For a colonel to piss his pants under shell-fire is much worse than for a PFC. Landing at Peleliu, U.S. Marine E.B. Sledge confesses, "I felt nauseated and feared that my bladder would surely empty itself and reveal me to be the coward I was." If perfect fear casteth out love, perfect shame can cast out even agony. During the Normandy invasion, a group of American soldiers came upon a paratroop sergeant caught by his chute in a tree. He had broken his leg, and shit and pissed himself as well. He was so ashamed that he begged the soldiers not to come near him, despite his need to be cut down and taken care of. "We just cut off his pants," reports one of the soldiers who found him, "and gently washed him all over, so he wouldn't be humiliated at his next stop."

For the ground troops, artillery and mortar fire were the most terrifying, partly because their noise was so deafening and unignorable, partly because the damage they caused the body -- sometimes total disappearance or atomization into tiny red bits ("spots") -- was worse than most damage by bullets. To be killed by bullets seemed to Sledge "so clean and surgical. But shells would not only tear and rip the body, they tortured one's mind almost beyond the brink of sanity." "Emasculating" was the effect Vernon Scannell imputed to the special fear caused by shelling, "the pure physical terror that savages you when loud and violent death is screaming down from the sky and pounding the earth around you smashing and pulping everything in the search for you."

But for the infantry there was something to be feared almost as much as shelling: the German Schu mine, scattered freely just under the surface on the ground, which blew your foot entirely off when you stepped on one. For years after the war, ex-soldiers seized up when confronted by patches of grass and felt safe only when walking on asphalt or concrete. Fear among the troops was probably greatest in the staging areas just before D-Day: That was the largest assembly of Allied troops yet unblooded and combat-virgin. "Don't think they weren't afraid," says one American woman who worked with the Red Cross. "Just before they went across to France, belts and ties were removed from some of these young men. They were very, very young."

For those who fought, the war had other features unknown to those who looked on or got the war mediated through journalism. One such feature was the rate at which it destroyed human beings -- friendly as well as ene-



my. Training for infantry fighting, few American soldiers were tough-minded enough to accept the full, awful implications of the term replacement in the designation of their Replacement Training Centers. (The proposed euphemism reinforcement never caught on.) What was going to happen to the soldiers they were being trained to replace? Why should so many "replacements" -- hundreds of thousands of them, actually -- be required? The answers came soon enough in the European theater, in Italy, France, and finally in Germany. In six weeks of fighting in Normandy, the 90th Infantry Division had to replace 150 per cent of its officers and over 100 per cent of its men. If a division was engaged for more than three months, the probability was that every one of its second lieutenants, all 132 of them, would be killed or wounded. For those being prepared as replacements at Officer Candidate Schools, it was not healthy, mentally, to dwell on the oddity of the schools' turning out hundreds of new junior officers weekly after the army had reached its full wartime strength. Only experience would make the need clear.

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In war it is not just the weak soldiers, or the sensitive ones, or the highly imaginative or cowardly ones, who will break down. Inevitably, all will break down if in combat long enough. "Long enough" is now defined by physicians and psychiatrists as between 200 and 240 days. As medical observers have reported, "There is no such thing as 'getting used to combat'...Each moment of combat imposes a strain so great that men will break down in direct relation to the intensity and duration of their experience." Thus -- and this is unequivocal: "Psychiatric casualties are as inevitable as gunshot and shrapnel wounds in warfare." Given this ultimate collapse into blubbery tears of the strongest and most experienced soldiers surviving in every outfit, the whole front line would dissolve except for two things: At any given moment, not all men have yet reached the stage of collapse; and there is a constant flow of replacements for those who have. Because "combat is torture, and it will reduce you, sooner or late, to a quivering wreck," to spare themselves the awful moment of psychological breakdown, with its appearance of cowardice, soldiers wanted to be wounded: except for death, a severe wound was the only way out that did not imply letting the side down. For every frontline soldier in the Second World War there was no way out, that...it was only a matter of time before they got killed or maimed or broke down completely." As one British officer put it, "You go in, you come out, you go in again and you keep doing it until they break you or you are dead."

This "slowly dawning and dreadful realization" usually occurs as a result of two stages of rationalization and one of accurate perception:

- It can't happen to me. I am too clever/agile/well-trained/good-looking/beloved/tightly laced, etc. This persuasion gradually erodes to:
- It can happen to me, and I'd better be more careful. I can avoid the danger by watching more prudently the way I take cover/dig in/expose my position by firing my weapon/keep extra alert at all times, etc. This conviction attenuates in turn to the perception that death and injury are matters more of luck than skill, making inevitable the third stage of awareness:
- It is going to happen to me, and only my not being there is going to prevent it.

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Because of the words "unconditional surrender," it became clear in this war that no sort of lucky armistice or surprise political negotiation was going to give the long term front-line man his pardon. "It soon became apparent," says John Ellis, "that every yard of ground would have

to be torn from the enemy and only killing as many men as possible would enable one to do this. Combat was reduced to its absolute essentials, kill or be killed." It was this that made the "Western Front" war unique this time: It could end only when the line (or the Soviet line) arrived in Berlin. In the Second World War the American military learned something very "modern" -- modern because it was dramatically "psychological," utilitarian, unchivalric, and unheroic: It learned that men will inevitably go mad in battle and that no appeal to patriotism, manliness, or loyalty to the group will ultimately matter.

If most civilians didn't know about these things, most soldiers didn't either, since only a relatively small number did any fighting which brought them into mortal contact with the enemy. For the rest, engaged in supply, transportation, and administrative functions, the war constituted a period of undesired and uncomfortable foreign travel under unaccustomed physical and social conditions, like enforced obedience, bad food and absence of baths. Thus, as William Manchester has said, "All who wore uniforms are called veterans, but more than 90 percent of them are as uninformed about the killing zones as those on the home front. In 1943 the Army of the United States grew by two million men, but only about 365,000 of those went to combat units, and an even smaller number ended in the rifle companies. The bizarre size and weight of the administrative tail dragged across Europe by the American forces is implied by statistics: Between 1941 and 1945, the number of troops whose job was fighting increased by only 100,000. If by the end there were 11 million men in the American Army, only 2 million were in the 90 combat divisions, and of those, fewer than 700,000 were in the infantry.

The relative few who actually fought know that the war was not a matter of rational calculation. They know madness when they see it. They can draw the right conclusions from the fact that in order to invade the Continent the Allies killed 12,000 innocent "French and Belgian civilians who happened to live in the wrong part of town, that is, too near the railway tracks. The few who fought are able to respond appropriately -- that is, without surprise more than 7,000 planes tore into the ground or the water, afflicted by bullets, flak, exhaustion of fuel or crew, "pilot error," discouragement, or suicidal intent. In an article about archaeological excavation in Dutch fields and drained marshes, Les Day has emphasized the multitudinousness, the mad repetitiveness of these 7,000 crashes, reminding readers that "the total fighter and bomber combat force of the U.S. Air Force today amounts to about 3,400 airplanes." Or, "to put it another way, the crash of 7,000 aircraft would mean that every square mile of the entire state of New Jersey would have shaken to the impact of a downed plane."

In the same way, the few who fought have little trouble understanding other outcroppings of the irrational element, in events like Hiroshima and Nagasaki, or for that matter the bombing of Hamburg or Darmstadt or Tokyo or Dresden. Recently a survivor of the bombing of Dresden has ventured to ask "Was there any sense to this mass annihilation, military or otherwise?" Why, he asks, didn't some "humane bomber crews" choose to drop their bombs "off target?" Overlooking the palpable oxymoron "humane bomber crews," any experienced soldier would ask in turn, Why would they do that? To do that would delay the ending of the war and extend their own period of mortal risk. Not to mention, given the inaccuracy of bombing, how the bombardiers could even have directed their bombs to a safe place. Had they tried, they might, given the likelihood of ironic military blunders, really have hit Dresden worse. The problem is that this questioner has somehow been led to expect "sense," not to mention decency, in a war actually characterized by insensate savagery.

The destruction of Dresden et. al., was as little rational as the German shooting of hostages to "punish" an area, or

the Jewish conviction that if you were submissive you might come through, or the American belief that an effective way into Germany was to plunge through the Huertgen Forest, or the British and Canadian belief, years earlier, that a great raid on Dieppe would be worthwhile. Revenge is not a rational motive, but it was the main motive in the American destruction of the Japanese empire. A compiler of "An Oral History of the War Years in America" observes, "I distrust people who speak of the (atom) bombings today as an atrocity they strongly opposed in 1945...I don't believe them. At that time virtually everyone was delighted that we dropped the bombs, not only because they shortened the war and saved thousands of American lives but also (quite irrationally, notice) because the "Japs" deserved it for the terrible things they had done to our boys at Pearl Harbor, Bataan, Guadalcanal and all the way through the Pacific."

Those who fought know this, just as they know that it is as likely for the man next to you to be shot through the eye, ear, testicles, or brain as (the way the cinema does it) through the shoulder. A shell is as likely to blow his whole face off as to lodge a fragment in some mentionable and unvital tissue. Those who fought saw the bodies of thousands of self-destroyed Japanese, men, women, and infants drifting off Saipan -- sheer madness, but not essentially different from what Eisenhower describes in "Crusade in Europe," where, not intending to make our flesh creep or descent to nasty details, he can't help reporting honestly on the carnage in the Falaise Pocket: "It was literally possible to walk for hundred of yards at a time, stepping on nothing but dead and decaying flesh" -- formerly German soldiers who could have lived by surrendering but who chose, madly, not to.

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How is that these data are commonplaces only to the small number who had some direct experience of them? One reason is the normal human talent for looking on the bright side, for not receiving information likely to cause distress or occasion a major overhaul of normal ethical, political or psychological assumptions. But the more important reason is that the large wartime audience never knew these things. The letterpress correspondents, radio broadcasters, and film people who perceived these horrors kept quiet about them on behalf of the War Effort. As John Steinbeck finally confessed in 1977, "We were all part of the war effort. We went along with it, and not only that, we abetted it...I don't mean that the correspondents were liars...It is in the things not mentioned that the untruth lies." By not mentioning a lot of things, a correspondent could give the audience at home the impression that there were no cowards in the service, no thieves and rapists and looters, no cruel or stupid commanders. It is true, Steinbeck is aware, that most military operations are examples of "organized insanity," but the morale of the home front must not be jeopardized by an eye-witness saying so. And even if a correspondent had wanted to deliver the noisome truth, patriotism would join censorship in stopping his mouth. As Steinbeck notes, "The foolish reporter who broke the rules would not be printed at home, and in addition would be put out of the theater by the command..."

Very occasionally there might be an actual encounter between home-front sentimentality and front-line vileness, as in an episode recalled by Charles MacDonald, a rifle company commander in Europe. One glib reporter got far enough forward to encounter some infantrymen on the line, to whom he put cheerful questions like, "What would you like best from the States about now?" At first he got nothing but sullen looks and silence. But finally one soldier spoke: "I've got something to say. Tell them it's too damned serious over here to be talking about hot dogs and

baked beans and things we're missing. 'Them them... (thousand miserable and they're suffering. Tell them it's a matter more serious than they'll ever be able to understand' -- at which point "there was a choking sob in his voice," MacDonald remembers. Then the soldier got out the rest of his inarticulate, impatient message: "Tell 'em it's rough as hell. Tell 'em it's rough, serious business. That's all. That's all."

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In some wartime verses titled "War Poet," the British soldier Donald Bain tried to answer critics and patriots arguing that the poets were failing to register the meaning of the war, choosing instead to notate mere incoherent details and leaving untouched and uninterpreted the great design of the whole. Defending contemporary poets and writers, Bain said:

*We in our haste can only see the small components of the scene;*

*We cannot tell what incidents will focus on the final screen.*

*A barrage of disruptive sound, a petal on a sleeping face.*

*Booth must be noted, both must have their place.*

*It may be that our later selves or else our unborn guns.*

*We only watch, and indicate, and make our scribbled pencil notes.*

*We do not wish to moralize, only to ease our dusty throats.*

But what time seems to have shown our later selves is that perhaps there was less coherent meaning in the events of wartime than we had hoped. Deprived of a satisfying final focus by both the enormity of the war and the unmanageable copiousness of its verbal and visual residue, all the revisitor of this imagery can do, turning now this way, now that, is to indicate a few components of the scene. And despite the preponderance of vileness, not all are vile.

One wartime moment not at all vile occurred on June 5, 1944, when Dwight Eisenhower, alone with himself, for the moment disjunct from his publicity apparatus, changed the passive voice to active in the penciled statement he wrote out to have ready when the invasion was repulsed, his troops torn apart for nothing, his planes ripped and smashed to no end, his warships sunk, his reputation blasted: "Our landings in the Cherbourg-Havre area have failed to gain a satisfactory foothold and I have withdrawn the troops."

Originally he wrote "the troops have been withdrawn," as if by some distant, anonymous agency instead of by an identifiable man making all-but impossible decisions. Having ventured this bold revision, and secure now in his painful acceptance of full personal accountability, he is able to proceed unevasively with "My decision:"

"My decision to attack at this time and place was based on the best information available."

Then, after the conventional "credit," distributed equally to "the troops, the air, and the navy," Eisenhower's noble acceptance of total personal responsibility: "If any blame or fault attaches to this attempt, it is mine alone."

As Norman Mailer says, you use the word "shit" so you can use the word "noble," and you refuse to ignore the stupidity and barbarism and ignobility and poltroonery and filth of the real war so that "it is mine alone" can flash out, a bright signal in a dark time.

Reprint from Army Times  
Sent in by Joe Macaluso



# Violence among German POWs was common

If you thought all the German POW's who spent time at Camp Breckinridge here during World War II were harmless victims of a nasty war, think again.

Morganfield resident Dennis Kirchner has uncovered evidence that at least one POW at Camp Breckinridge was driven to commit suicide because he was not a Nazi sympathizer. Kirchner is a student at Eastern Kentucky University and a daughter of Morganfield resident Peggy Kirchner.

All POW camps had internal problems with the POWs.

A routine examination of the POW project was conducted before the Congressional Committee on Military Affairs.

Lt. Col. C.P. Evers told the committee that the prisoners "had considerable trouble among themselves."

Evers was the commander of Camp Ellis in Illinois.

"On one occasion 15 Nazis so unmercifully assaulted a Polish prisoner that he required hospital treatment for several days."

That information came from the book "Nazi Prisoners of War in America" by Arnold Krammer published in 1979.

Krammer referred to two incidents at Camp Breckinridge in his book.

"So helpless were the authorities in the face of such formless violence that one terrified anti-Nazi prisoner at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky was offered no more protection than a bottle of gentian scent which he was to hurl at his assailant so that the latter might be identified by the scent in the morning.

"When asked why he, or any other POW declined to notify the Red Cross representative or Camp authorities, Hans Werner Richter replied:

"It would have been absolutely impossible. I believe I saw a Red Cross representative once, but he was passing so far away...And besides, if we had dared to tell him something, you can imagine what the consequences would have been...slaughtered in the night."

"And as far as the camp authorities are concerned that would have served only to attract reprisals. For the Americans, it was very simple. Whatever happened among the prisoners was not to be interfered with according to the Geneva Convention, except in the case of murder, of course.

Krammer wrote that when threats against fellow prisoners and beatings failed then murder or forced suicide was used by the pro-Nazis on those prisoners that did not sympathize with their cause.

"The War Department's initial lack of control over the internal events of the prisoner communities led to an eight-month reign of violence, carried on from September 1943 to April, 1944, by the now substantially larger segment of fanatical Nazis. Many of the larger camps organized midnight tribunals and kangaroo courts which censured and condemned "traitors" and "deserters." Threats of impending execution took the form of premature obituary notices and chicken-bones in the anti-Nazis' bunks after which the victims waited in terror for the inevitable."

Another book, "Stalag: USA" by Judith Ginsberg was published in 1977 and it portrays the forced suicide of the German POW at Camp Breckinridge.

"Typical of how the Nazis terrorized anyone they felt was not a believer is the story of Gottfried S. at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky. Gottfried's father, an anti-Nazi college professor, had died at the Dachau concentration camp after the SS had systematically crushed both his legs. His mother had been declared insane and gassed to death in an asylum. Gottfried himself had been a member of the Social Democratic Party, Hitler's chief opposition before he took control.

"For weeks the POW fanatics toyed with Gottfried. They tore up his letters from home before he could read them, smashed his wristwatch, mutilated his wife's picture, spit

on or put ground glass and dirt in his food. They beat him every time he tried to shower, so he began showering at 4:00 a.m., before the water was heated, hoping his antagonists would not awaken. He lost twenty pounds, became extremely nervous and shaky, but was afraid to ask the Americans for help, fearing that the Nazis might do more in revenge.

"After many weeks of this harassment, the Nazi leader approached Gottfried and told him that his "traitorous" behavior had been communicated to the SS in the Reich. In reprisal, the leader alleged, his wife had been taken to Dachau. There was only one way to save her, he warned, as he handed Gottfried a half-full beer bottle and walked out.

Gottfried committed suicide by slashing his wrists with a piece of glass that same night."

The author said that at least five murders and countless suicides were positively traced to clandestine Nazi organizations.

One of the problems dealing with POWs was that very few officers at the camps could speak German.

A New York Herald Tribune revealed on April 13, 1944 that only one officer at Camp Breckinridge spoke German and the situation was the same at 194 other POW camps.

Krammer wrote the following passage in his "Nazi Prisoners of War in America" concerning the inability of an American officer at Camp Breckinridge to understand German and the embarrassment it caused:

"Politically, this language problem became most evident in a particularly embarrassing incident at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky. In late January, 1944, camp commander Colonel Payton Winlock personally led a parade of several hundred prisoners to church on Sunday morning, while the entire group heartily sang the Nazi Horst Wessel song. The incident quickly came to the public's attention through letters smuggled out of camp by anti-Nazi prisoners and eventually received a full airing in a stern broadcast by Walter Winchell. Understandably regretful at the adverse publicity.

"Colonel Winlock could only acknowledge that "he did not either recognize the Horst Wessel tune or understand the words of hate the prisoners sang, since he does not speak German." Despite the language barriers experienced by Sergeant Staff and Colonel Winlock, and the strict regulations against it, fraternization between guards and English-speaking prisoners occurred with some regularity."

The German prisoners had their own newspapers and a March, 1945 study revealed that 33 of the 44 newspapers surveyed were either Nazi or violently Nazi. However the tide began to change later that year.

One of the papers studied was "Die Brucke", the Camp Breckinridge POW paper.

The study showed that in April 1945 Die Brucke contained Nazi propaganda, such as the symbol of the werewolf and sentences like "the eyes of the Fuehrer are stern and severe."

But by August, the Nazi propaganda ceased with new editors. The issue had an article on the revival of labor unions in Germany and an open letter from the editorial staff to the camp commander requesting lectures visit the camp and "present talks about the land and people of the United States.

Clipping from the Union County Advocate  
Morganfield, Ky.

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