



# THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 46 No. 2

Winter Issue 1991

## THE 45TH ANNUAL REUNION



YOU'LL



N.Y.

SEPTEMBER 22-27, 1991

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

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\*Joseph F. Minotti ..... 1960  
\*Frank J. McGrogan ..... 1961

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Albert A. Belvedere ..... 1967  
Vito C. Palazzolo ..... 1968  
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Casey Szubski ..... 1970  
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\*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 Fletcher ..... 1987  
Charles Schmidt ..... 1988  
Edward Reuss ..... 1989  
\* Denotes Deceased





## The Presidents Corner

DEAR BUDDIES,

We are now in 1991 -- a new year ahead of us. I would like to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year. We, The Boston Chapter, held our Christmas Party on December 8th at the Ramada Inn in SeeKonk, MA. A total of 46 members attended, and all enjoyed the festivities. This year we will have another reunion at the Pines. I know it seems early to write about this, but you know the months have a way of just slipping by--so we must plan the reunion early as possible. Without you members that are the Association, we could not have made the progress that we did in 1990.

On events at the Pines in our last Fall issue, it's mention of the Golf Tournament and a day trip of your choice. The package deal includes all events and a few surprises. The Reunion Committee is working hard to please everyone.

At this time I'd like to invite all members, their spouses, and their friends and relatives to try to attend September 22, 1991.

I hope this letter finds all of you doing fine. As for myself -- I am feeling fine and really looking forward to seeing all of you in the future. God Bless.

I Remain, Yours Truly

Charles J. Lussier.

## FROM THE OFFICE

Hard to believe that we are in 1991. We ended the 1990 year on both a sad note and yet a happy one also. As many of you know Pearl fell the first of December while decorating the house and had a compound fracture of the right leg and a very badly bruised left leg. Was not allowed to put any weight on the right leg and could not put any on the left leg so she was confined to bed and a wheel chair for the complete month of December. But the good news is that the doctor was able to save her right foot. She is getting better now and we want to thank all of you who came to visit and who sent cards and flowers. You are a great bunch of people.

We are starting to think about the reunion at the Pines this Fall. Hope that many of you are doing the same thing. We have told you before that they have done a great deal of renovation there and we are sure you will enjoy yourselves. The Board will be going to Omaha, Nebraska for the Executive Board meeting

the first week end of May. We will get a full report on the Pines plans at that time. The Pines brochure is in this issue of the Thunderbolt. The group in Omaha is certainly making great plans for our visit there in May. Be sure and get your reservations in to the Pines right away so they have some idea of how many they are going to have.

Men, we are having a great deal of calls about your not receiving your Thunderbolt. They all go out at the same time from the Post Office here. But if you have changed addresses and do not let me know, then the Post Office, if they have the address will send them on and then send me a notice for which we have to pay and additional \$.30 cents. If your address time has run out, then that Thunderbolt goes into the trash barrel and you do not receive it. Then you call the office wondering where your Thunderbolt is. **BE SURE AND SEND A CORRECT ADDRESS EVERY TIME YOU CHANGE PLACES.** When I change an address on the computer the old address is lost and therefore you must send in an address change every time or you will not get your Thunderbolt. **THIS IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.**

For those of you who have not sent in your dues for 1991 please do so immediately. Look at your membership card. It should say EXPIRES 8/91. If anything else you are in arrears.

Pearl and I both thank you for a good year. You are a wonderful bunch of people. We hope your New Year is a wonderful one. Look forward to seeing all of you at the Pines.

Bob

## Past President

Lee and I received an invitation by General Losecamp to the 83rd ARCOM Ball held in November at the Raddison Airport Hotel in Columbus, Ohio. We attended with Theresa and Sal Scicolone. This was indeed an honor. Sgt. Anderson was our escort and about 400 plus attended. It was a pleasure to meet such grand people and it was truly a beautiful affair. A special thanks to all the ARCOM for a wonderful weekend.

For those of you who are not familiar with the 83rd U.S. ARMY RESERVE COMMAND, they are very interested in a closer relationship with us. They will have an open house again this year, at which time anyone is welcome. I'm not sure of the dates as yet, but Bob Derickson will have an article in the Thunderbolt if you are interested. It would be nice to have some of them at our affairs also. I'm sure I'm speaking for the rest of you.

We were in contact with American School Pictures regarding our Reunion Book and they will be mailed by February. They are running two weeks behind as they moved their offices.

For those of you who ordered group pictures or videos you should have them by now. I apologize for the delay. It was not my fault. I called him just about every week. He claims he was so busy with reunions this year he couldn't get them out any sooner. I hope

(Continued On Page 3)

**- Financial Statement -**  
**44th Annual Reunion - 83rd Infantry Division Association**  
**Pittsburgh, Pa.**  
**August 16, 17, 18, 19th., 1990**

**Income:**

Advance Money - by Pgh. Pa. Chapter	\$ 2000.00
Registrations	54500.00
Boat Ride - Dinner Dance	13569.00
Advance Money - Ad Book	100.00
Ad Book	12806.00
Donations - Grace Brick	1000.00
- Others	12.00
Assoc. Dues	10.00
50 - 50 Raffle	548.00
Other Raffle	983.00
Interest Income - on Bank Deposits	938.78

**Total Income \$ 86466.78**

**Disbursements:**

Cost Printing Ad Book	\$ 2706.00
Vista Hotel - All Charges - Wed. to Sunday	57389.91
Assoc. Dues	10.00
Reunion Exp. - by Pgh. - Supp. - Travel - Meetings - Etc.	3901.72
Bank Charges -	251.91
Advance Money - Ad. Book	100.00
Plaques: Mrs. Brick-Ames Miller-Derickson-Costanzo	143.10
Boat Ride Exp. - Also Refunds	13447.30
Name Tags Holders W/Pins	205.43
Printing Tickets - For Each Days Events	79.50
Entertainment: Wed. - Thurs. - Fri. - Sat. -	1825.00
Women's Fashion & Doll Show Exp.	240.00
Flowers & Balloons - Sat. Banquet	132.84
Advance Money - Pgh. Chapter	2000.00
Prize Winner - 2 for Pines Reunion-Francis Glasson	518.00
Raffle Exp. -	355.00

<b>Total</b>	
<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 83305.71</b>

<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>\$ 3161.07</b>
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everyone is satisfied. If not, his phone is 314 576-5010.

I had a contract with Mark Richman - P.O. Box 1361, Maryland Heights, Mo., 63043. This read six working weeks and he did not live up to his commitment. Perhaps we were too much for him. I would hesitate recommending him to others.

Hope you all had a blessed holiday season, and wish you a healthy and happy New Year.

Ed Reuss

P.S. Enclosed is picture with Sal and I and General Losekamp at the Ball.



Here are the names of the members who have passed on since our last publication.

This is all for now,  
God Bless  
Mathew J. Pintar

Gravley "Scrappy" Dyer	Hq. 1st Bn. 329th	John Sullivan
Sal D'Amico	"E" 330th	Pat DiGiammerino
Harry Keith Evans	"A" 331st	Ted Guzek
Alfred Faedi	"I" 330th	Francis Greene
Harold E. Fisher	Regt'l HQ. 329th	Frank M. Fauver
Francis A. Gauthier	"E" 330th	Amby Tynan
Fred Haddad	"E" 330th	Wife - Margaret
Marvin O. Hall	"G" 330th	Wife - Ella
Walter Huddleson	"E" 329th	Carroll Brown
Major Donald B. Kern	"CN" 331st	Wife - Mildred
Major John P. Kilbride	"H" 329th	Kent O'Connell
Einar A. Koivula	3rd BN. HQ. 330th	Wife - Bertha
Col. Lawrence A. Labiberte	2nd BN. 331st	John Aller
Anthony Provenzano	"B" 330th	His Son
Lt. Col. Herman W. Reeder	"E" 330th	Daughter, Naomi D'Amoto
Lt. Henry W. Satterthwaite	"E" 329th	Carroll Brown
Leo Schwartz	"A" 329th	Pat DiGiammerino
Omer F. Tyree	Div. HQS.	Perry Bobo
James T. Waugh	"A" 908th	Charles Stine
William Worgan	"A" 908th	Charles Stine

### **Past President - 1957-58** **RAY VORACEK** **1921 - 1990**

On October 12, 1990, Ray boarded an airplane with a few friends from Cleveland, to New Orleans, to attend the Cleveland Browns - New Orleans Saints football game on October 14. He landed in New Orleans and got on a bus to go to the Hotel and suddenly got sick enroute to the Hotel. He suffered a massive heart attack and never reached the Hotel. He was D.O.A. at the hospital. What a shock it was to all of us and especially his family, to hear this news. His wife Margaret was in Los Vegas, Nevada, with Ray's Aunt and they couldn't get a hold of her. She learned of his death when she returned to Cleveland.

Ray had three great loves in his life. The 83rd Division Association, The Cleveland Browns and of course his family. He was a continuous member of the 83rd Association since its inception in 1947 and served in all offices except Secretary-Treasurer. He served as our President in 1957 - 1958 and later on the Executive Board for five years. He attended all of the Reunions except maybe, three or four and was an outstanding member and if he didn't like something that was going on, he was quick to criticize and was usually right. He despised people who rode the middle of the fence. Ray always said that if you had something to say -- "Say it - then forget it". He was a loveable family man and was always talking about his children and grand-children.

All of us in the Warren Chapter loved Ray like a brother. He was a great organizer and put on several Cleveland Reunions of the 83rd Association and was Reunion Chairman of the 1977 Warren Reunion, which in my opinion was the greatest reunion of all time, and the cheapest.



## **Chaplain's Report**

Dear Robert,

May your Christmas be a happy one! We went through Veterans Day with a lot of mixed feelings. We remembered a lot of old friends. I hope all of you had a blessed Thanksgiving.

On December 2nd the Pittsburgh Chapter held their meeting at the V.F.W. Post in Brentwood, Pa. Here is a small prayer, that was given to me.

### **A Thanksgiving Prayer**

O, heavenly Father, we thank you for the food and remember the hungry.

We thank you for health and remember the sick.

We thank you for freedom and remember the enslaved.

May these remembrances stir us to service, that your gifts to us may be used for others.

And dear God, please bless and watch over the men and women in our Armed Forces, especially those in the Middle East and bring them home safely -- and soon.

Amen.

Ray also was a great camper. He and Marge owned a trailer at Paradise Lake near Salem, Ohio and talked my wife, Birdie and I into buying one there, along with Babe and Theresa Gautschi. We spent many years there together during the summers, until last summer, when Ray and Marge sold their trailer to one of my sons.

The 83rd has lost an outstanding member and I will miss him very much, but know he is looking down on us with a smile on his face. Good-Bye my friend...

Lee Titus

## FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN

Dear Buddies, Ladies too,

I hope everyone enjoyed the festivities of the Christmas - New Years Holiday Season. I know that I did.

Now that another year is upon us, let's reorganize our priorities and put our agendas in proper perspective. Functions of your great 83rd Infantry Division Association should rank very high on your priority list. Early in the year is a good time to assess our situation and plan accordingly.

As we move forward, let's pause and remember those comrades and ladies who are no longer with us and who have contributed so much to the success of the Association.

The business affairs of your Association are moving along smoothly at this writing. Your Officers and Executive Board are continuing their work toward final plans for the Pines in New York in September. They are also making plans to go to Omaha the first weekend in May to initiate plans for the 1992 Reunion. Please include these functions in planning for the months ahead.

Pearl, we are very sorry to learn that you are confined to the wheelchair as a result of your unfortunate accident. Knowing the strong person that you are, I am sure that you will bounce back in short order.

If you have not paid your current dues, we ask you to please do so as soon as you possibly can. Your membership is the lifeblood of the 83rd Division Association. Let's keep our Association a strong and viable organization.

Hope to have more information in the coming months. Take care and I hope to see you at The Pines in September.

Fraternally yours,  
William Meadors Minick,  
Chairman

## Historian's Corner

Dear Buddies,

In April of 1945, we the 83rd, linked up with the Elite 6th Guards Division of the Russians.

They were moving West from Berlin toward the Elbe River. We were moving East to Berlin.

This year my Russian friend and his wife visited my home.

Among the presents we exchanged, was the enclosed portfolio, dedicated to the veterans of the 83rd Infantry Division, the Rag Tag Circus.

The newspaper write-up was from an English translation published in a Russian paper.

The third officer, from the left, in the photograph, is our own Maj. Gen'l Robert C. Macon (Makon) and the fifth is Maj. Gen'l Raymond S. McLain 19th Corps - U.S. Army.

The meeting, was held just over the Elbe River, beyond Zerbst.

The war was shortly over and we left Calbe for Bad Harzburg, and occupation duty.

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

P.S. I hope you all had a Happy Holidays!

## PRESERVE THE SPIRIT OF 1945

What did in fact, O'Connell mean speaking about the whims of glory? It is common knowledge that the first meeting of Soviet and American troops during joint actions at the end of WWII took place on April 25, 1945 in the vicinity of Torgau.

According to William, the soldiers of the 69th Division who reached the Elbe near Torgau were lucky in a way. His 83rd Division had no less reason to be the first to meet with the Red Army but it had a hard time waging battles in those last days of the war and it was not until April 30 that its troops reached the Elbe not far from Wittenberg.

Here are the reminiscences of a Soviet veteran who participated in that memorable meeting, Junior Lieutenant, Rtd. Zynov Zysmanovsky:

"Having defeated the division of Hitler's personal guards, the 10th SS Armor Division and other Nazi units which tried to break out of encircled Berlin, our troops, among which was my self-propelled artillery regiment, pressed home the attack on Wittenberg. Beyond the Elbe we could bear the cannonade of approaching American units. We went to meet them...Our combat outpost was stationed in a house on the river bank. The crew of the self-propelled gun under my command was part of the outpost. "Soon, two jeeps carrying American liaison officers crossed over to our bank by the bridge launched across the Elbe. First We saluted each other in a formal way, and then everybody let his hair down and forgot the formalities. We threw ourselves in each other's arms, shouting joyful in our own languages, tossing up helmets into the air and shooting off our weapons. The Americans opened a bottle of whiskey and raised the first glass to the joint victory. I glanced at my watch: It was 14:00... Then the jeeps took us to Americans' positions, but on our way there was an incident occurred which even now makes my heart palpitate.

"As we passed by gloomy casemates we decided to make a stop. We knocked the padlocks off, opened the gates and found ourselves in a crowd of exhausted, shouting and sobbing women. The Ukrainian language prevailed, "Is anyone from Poltava Region here?" I cried out, for I come from those parts, too.

"Tens of voices responded positively. As it turned out it was a camp of the women who had been forcibly brought to Germany for hard labor.

"When we came to the Americans' positions we were met right on the street. There were greetings and hugs, in a word it was a real fraternization. Soon, an impromptu meeting was held. Speaking at it were both our and American soldiers. We excitedly spoke about the long-awaited victory and that the peace for which a dear price had been paid had to be everlasting."

The correspondence between the Soviet war veteran and William Kent O'Connell has lasted for many years now Both of them attended that memorable impromptu meeting on April 30, 1945, on the Elbe, although they didn't meet personally then. They began to exchange letters in the early 1980s when a group of U.S. WWII veterans visited Leningrad, where Zynovy now resides, and gave his address to William.

What do war veterans normally reminisce about? About the years they have lived through, battle scenes and what connected them in those distant years and what is imprinted in their minds forever.

In a letter to William Zynovy recalled, as excitedly as in case with the freeing of the Soviet women, how on their way to Wittenberg, Soviet troops drove the Nazis out of the towns of Herberg and Zehna where SS men were about to execute the remaining PWs in the concentration camps. Among the 25 thousand inmates freed at that time there were some Americans. In response, William sent some unique snapshots, in particular one showing the festivities marking the Elbe encounter with Hero of the Soviet Union, Lieutenant General Cherekmanov and the 83rd Infantry Division Commander Robert Macon sitting at the table, Soviet and American state flags hanging crossed over their heads.

In this correspondence there were moments when emotions were far from positive. This was the case last year, when, during the celebration of the 40th anniversary of D-Day, a former commander of the 10th SS Armor Division, Harmel, was presented with a memorial medal. "My friends and myself," wrote Zysmanovsky on this score, "would like to remind that beaten general about the combat that took place April 20, 1945, near the German town of Kausche near Berlin when his tanks rushed, sweeping populated centers and running over his civilian fellow countrymen. Our armor regiment blocked their advance. My tank crew destroyed

(Con'd on page 5)





# Historian's Corner



АССОЦИАЦИЯ  
ВETERАНОВ 83 ПЕХОТНОЙ ДИВИЗИИ США  
*Dear Friends!*

В ДНИ ПРАЗДНОВАНИЯ 45 ГОДИЩИНЫ ОКОНЧАНИЯ ВТОРОЙ МИРОВОЙ ВОЙНЫ И НАШИХ СОБЕСТВЕННЫХ БОЕВЫХ ДЕЙСТВИЙ НА ЗАПЕ ПРОТИВ ОБЩЕГО ВРАГА РЯДЫМЫМ МЕНЕ ПОЗДРАВЛЯТЬ ВАС С ЭТИМ КНИЖЕМ И ПОЖЕЛАТЬ ВАМ КРЕПКОГО ЗДОРОВЬЯ И ДОЛГИХ ЛЕТ ЖИЗНИ.

Я НАВСЕГДА НЕ СМЕШАЛСЯ В ТОМ, ЧТО ВОЗНИКШЕЕ В БОИ БРАТСТВО УСТОИТ ПЕРЕД ЛЮБЫМИ ИСПЫТАНИЯМИ.

ТОЛЬКО БЛАГОДАРИ НАШЕЙ ПЕРЕСТРОЙКИ Я СМОГ ЛУЧШЕ 45 ЛЕТ СЕБЯ ВСТРЕТИТЬ С ВАМИ, ДА И ВЕЕ И НА ВАШЕЙ ПРЕКРАСНОЙ РОДИНЕ И ОБИГНУТЬСЯ ТАК ЭТО БЫЛО НА ЗАПЕ В 1945 ГОДУ.

ВНЕ НЕДАВНО ЭТО МОЖНО БЫЛО СЧИТАТЬ ОБЛАСТЬЮ ФАНТАСТИКИ, НО РАЗ ЭТО СЛУЧИЛОСЬ НАШЕ ЗНАЧИТ МЫ НА ПРИКЛИКНОМ ПУТИ, ОСТАЕТСЯ ТОЛЬКО ПОЖЕЛАТЬ ВАМ ВСЕМ НЕ СМЕНИТЬ С ЭТОГО ПУТИ.

Я БУДУ РАД ПРОДОЛЖЕНИЮ И РАШИРЕНИЮ НАШИХ КОНТАКТОВ НАПРАВЛЕННЫХ НА УКРЕПЛЕНИЕ ДРУЖБЫ И МИРА МЕЖДУ НАШИМИ СТРАНАМИ И НАРОДАМИ.

БЫВШИЙ КОМАНДИР ТАНА,  
ВETERАН 972 ПБ, САП, 6  
ПБ, МЕДИЦИНСКОГО НАПРАВЛЕНИЯ  
ДИВИЗИИ, А НАШЕ ВРАЧ-  
ИЗБЕРАТЕЛЬ

*William O'Connell*

З.С.МАНОВСКИЙ З.А.

СССР  
19844, ЛЕНИНГРАД  
5 ОБЩЕСТВА 34 К.42  
тел.271-56-04

13.04.90 г.



to the veteran association  
of the 83 US division

*Dear friends!*

Celebrating 45th anniversary of the end of WWII and our joint actions against Nazi troops. Let me congratulate you with this jubilee and wish you health and long years of life. I always know, that our brotherhood, which was forming in battles will stand against all troubles.

Thanks to perestroika, that after 45 years since we met in 1945 I can see you again, more than that, meet you in your beautiful country, to share hands, like an old friend.

Not very long time ago it could seem fantastical, but it's real and it means, that our way is right. I only wish - never to go from this way. I will be glad to

make our contacts, which are aimed to make peace and friendship between our countries and peoples stronger.

ex-commander of the tank,  
new inventor in medicine  
ZOSMANOVSKI Z.A.

(con'd from page 4)

six panzers. Who could imagine at that time that even the very name of the 10th SS Armor Division would be revived 40 years later, and surrounded with glory at that...The attempts of those who would like to turn the past upside down and whitewash the Nazi criminals seem really monstrous."

In his reply William O'Connell wrote that he shared Zynovy's indignation at the invitation of former SS men to attend the 40th anniversary of the opening of the Second Front. Nazis are odd men out at our celebrations. "Let us meet on the Elbe again to shake hands on behalf of the peoples of our countries" he concluded.

A noble goal, a good desire... But to fulfill them was not that easy. William got a consent from over a fifty of his former regimental comrades, while the counteraction from the official Washington was growing as the memorable date neared. The trip of veterans of the 83rd Infantry Division never came to pass.

"Stubbornness is a characteristic feature of my ancestors -- the Irishmen," O'Connell wrote jokingly on this score. He did not give up his attempts to get to the Elbe.

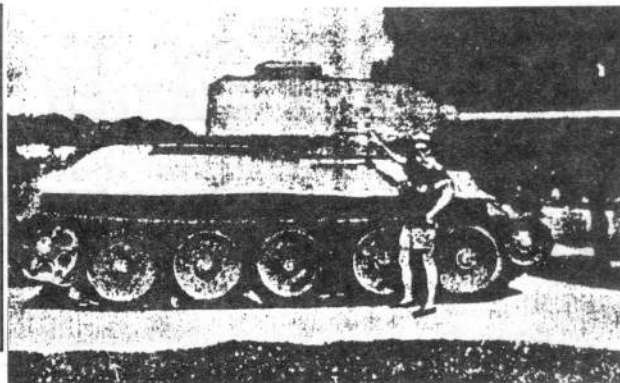
Judging by the latest news from him, William will visit Torgau together with veterans of the 69th Division, where American and Soviet participants in the Elbe meeting will honor the memory of millions of victims of nazism and will confirm their loyalty to the spirit of wartime cooperation in 1945.

VOLODYMYR KANASH (NFU)



During a war, glory, awards and honors not always find those who have deserved them.

At least this is the opinion held (and not without reason) by William Kent O'Connell (Hicksville, N.Y.), American war veteran and today's historian of the 83rd Infantry Division Association of the U.S. 9th Army of the WWII period. However, William also believes that glory is not the main thing for those who fought against Nazism.



As a souvenir of the Elbe meeting, a Soviet T-34 tank was taken to the United States from the Wittenberg area after the war ended. As to fair-minded Americans, it does not evoke an "Russians-are-coming" ideas which are instigated by certain quarters in the West. On the contrary, each year, veterans of the 83rd Infantry Division hold their traditional reunions near it. PHOTO: The division's historian William Kent O'Connell near the T-34 tank.



# CHAPTERS

## PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

Our annual Christmas party was held on Friday, December 7 at the Lamplighter in Delmont, Pa. Forty-four were in attendance and all the ladies were presented a two-pound box of home-made chocolate candy. H. Greer Thompson and wife Catherine handled all the details and did a bang-up job. Happy hour was from 7 to 8 with dinner being served shortly after. A very fine meal indeed. Five door prizes were awarded. The bar remained open until midnight. A goodly number took advantage of the low rates at a motel adjacent to the restaurant to spend the night. In fact Jules Desgain's room served as chapter hospitality room until the wee hours of the morning. The chapter at it's monthly meeting held on October 28, 1990 nominated and elected the following to the respective offices as follows: president, Michael Kadylak; vice-president, H. Greer Thompson; treasurer, William Jacobs; secretary, James J. McCulla; sergeant-at-arms, Albert Suess; publications, Francis Beerhalter; historian, Lawrence Leonardi; trustees, Joseph Danylo, Francis Beerhalter, William DeMarino; chaplain, Matthew Pintar. Also at this meeting the names of sixteen deceased chapter members were read and a moment of silence was observed. This is to be an annual ceremony at November meetings. The present commander of Brentwood Post 1810 V.F.W. was introduced and gave a short speech. Larry Leonardi gave his final report for the past reunion ad book.

SHORT NOTES -- Joe Deluca's mother passed away on August 9. Smokey Alicandri spent the week-end of October 6-7 in Canada for their observance of Thanksgiving. Sam Klippa unable to participate in future chapter activities. John Marek became a great grandfather on November 6, 1990. In fact two in one day. Grandaughter and husband a son -- Sean Bryan Bailey; grandson and wife had a daughter, Jessica Lee Bortle.

Fran Beerhalter

## KENTUCKY CHAPTER

Well here it is 1991 and another year has gone by in our lives. It has been 50 years since that day of infamy at Pearl Harbor which eventually caused us to get together to form the 83rd Infantry Division at Camp Atterbury.

The Kentucky Chapter wishes all of the 83rd members and their families a very Happy and Prosperous New Year, but more important, a healthy one in which all of your aches and pains can be taken care of by a couple of aspirins.

Just returned from our Christmas party in Renfro

Valley, Ky. and it was a dandy. Vi and I really enjoyed it and from the looks on the faces of about 50 other people who attended, I would say it was a great success. In fact, it would be a good idea to make it our yearly Christmas Party site.

The affair was hosted by Cecil and Nora Lee Walters, Hershel and Imogene McIntosh, Owen and Jeanette Jones and they really put an effort into it to please all those attending. Owen even made heart shaped candle holders for the goody bags they passed out. Gifts were exchanged among those who participated. Gale and Irene Baker gave each couple a set of 4 custard cups and Leroy Johnson's wife, Clara gave each couple a Xmas tree ornament she had made. The shows on Friday and Saturday nights were really entertaining and enjoyed by all. We heard at the meeting that Marvin Hayden was confined in a Louisville hospital. We hope by the time this is printed, he will be home and on the road to recovery. Also heard that Pearl Derickson slipped and fell while putting up Christmas decorations. She received bruises and broke three bones in her ankle. We hope this finds her up and out of the wheel chair.

Our next meeting will be hosted by Fred and Doris McGowan and Al and Dorothy Henry. It will be held on March 15th and 16th at the Comfort Inn on Rt 47 in Sidney, Ohio just North of Dayton, Ohio off of Interstate 75 so if anyone is in the neighborhood stop in and join us, you are welcome.

We picked up a new member, Archie Cope, Co. A, 329th who resides in Manchester Ky. with his wife Ethel. We were happy to see Thessa Richie at our Christmas Party.

One week before our party, Vi and I attended the Dixie Chapter party at Gatlinburg Tenn. which was also attended by Kentucky Chapter members, the Ledgers, Walters and McIntoshs. I also saw my old Company buddy James Davis and his wife Carolyn. He asked about Stan Bielen, Fred Fowler and Roger Barga. Motorcycle Jim is still in good shape. It's always good to be able to talk to old buddies from way back.

Sorry to hear that Ruby and Carroll Brown after 18 years of hosting the Dixie Chapter's Christmas Party in Gatlinburg will be giving it up. They turned in their resignation at this years meeting. I know a lot of Kentucky Chapter members who attended many of the parties enjoyed the great effort the Browns put into making the affair enjoyable for all. Thanks again Ruby and Carroll for a job well done. We missed our friends, Buck and Mary Muldrow and Virginia and John box. We hope they are feeling much better and hope to see them in Williamsburg.

The last time I thanked some one for a job well done in the Thunderbolt there was a postscript to my article that was so asinine it does not deserve a answer. Please don't mess with my Civil Rights.

Had a nice Thanksgiving dinner with Charlie and Kathleen Schmidt at our favorite restaurant, Forest View Gardens and saw a excellent show along with a fine dinner. We had a couple of very enjoyable day trips with Mildred and Arthur Doggett. One of the trips was to Waynesville, Ohio to see one of our favorite Artists, Pat Buckley Moss. Another was a cruise down the Ohio River on a Houseboat. Mildred really

has a big heart. She picked up a very ill cat at the Mall she shops at. She took cat home then to her Vet. It really cost her. She named the cat "Lucky." Thanks to Millie, Lucky is doing very well.

It's about time to close in order to make the January 5th deadline. Just heard that Marvin Hayden got home for the Holidays but must return for more tests later.

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

## **NEW JERSEY CHAPTER**

The holidays are over and after spending many happy days with family and friends, it's time to relax and return to a normal pace.

One of the happier occasions of the holiday season was the Chapter Christmas Party. It was held at the Landmark Inn, located in Woodbridge. There was an excellent turnout for the party and from the reports I received, everyone had a great time.

Fred and Addie Rein along with Fran and I made the arrangements for the party. Addie also made the Christmas Favors which she gave to everyone attending. A raffle was held for the Chapter Treasury which in turn will pay for the ad for the Pines Reunion. Mary Sihlanick, Addie and Fred Rein, Manny Epstein, Fran Bielen and Caroline and Bob Voelkner donated the prizes that were raffled off. This year the lucky ones were Ida and Bernie Rosenberg, they won the two prizes donated by Fran. Joanne DePeri Dotson won the homemade condiments contributed by Mary Sihlanick. Fran and I were the big winners this year. We won the Christmas Basket donated by Addie, the women's scarf and the expensive men's tie donated by Manny and the champagne given by Caroline and Bob.

Linda Sihlanick did her usual excellent job conducting the raffle. Linda and Sal contribute much to the enjoyment of our parties and it is always a pleasure to be with them.

Joining us at the party for the first time was Frank and Mary Sabine (Co. D, 331st). We welcome them to our chapter and look forward to their joining us at future affairs. I found out that Frank was in professional baseball after his service years. He also pitched for the 331Regt. Championship team following the war. I believe another of our members Vitie Atkocius was a pitcher for the same team.

Ted and Irene Guzek got lost on their way to the Landmark, but that didn't deter them from their usual jovial selves. We sent everyone a map - Joe and Dot Skurka didn't get lost, George and Vi Waple didn't get lost, Sam and Edith Manzi who drove from New Hyde Park, New York didn't get lost and Emil Wehling was the first one there. Next time we'll send a limo.

Joe and Hazel Barton couldn't make the party because Hazel had a bad cold. As I am writing this article, Hazel is flying to Florida where Joe is waiting at the airport. Joe left a few days earlier by car as Hazel is still recuperating from hip surgery and couldn't

take the trip by car.

For those of you who missed this party, we missed you and try making the next get-together.

Joe DePeri is excited about daughter Joanne expecting her first child. Joanne and Tim will make wonderful parents and they can always count on Joe when in need of a baby-sitter.

Frank Reichmann wrote to tell us of his operation. He is coming along fine. We hope this corrects his problem and once again look forward to seeing him at our get-togethers.

Our newest member of the chapter is Manny Lamb (Co. H, 331). It's nice to have you with us to enjoy the companionship of a wonderful group of men and women.

The pictures I took weren't of good enough quality for reprint in the Thunderbolt. Sorry about that!

That's it for now, take care.

Stan Bielen,  
1st Bn. Hdqs. 331st.

## **DIXIE CHAPTER**

Christmas Party Headquarters - Dec. 1990 -

**Tues.** - Your reporter checked in and found the Hotel empty and quiet but rapidly taking on a festive air as the Hotel Elves were decorating the tree, getting up the "Welcome Banner", wreaths on the doors and candles in the windows.

**Wed.** - Checked with the desk, found that Bob and Margaret Parsons would arrive today. My evening by the fireplace with Bob did not materialize as his plans were changed so I missed the briefings on the last European trip.

**Thurs.** - Today started off with a bang. A truck load of firewood came in. Carol and Ruby Brown, our hosts, arrived with a truck load (no fooling) of Christmas Cheer and "goodies" for everyone. Members and guests are pouring in, old and young, from far and near to celebrate our good fortune of being able to come and to honor those who are not with us and made it possible for us to be here! By night fall we had 36 rooms filled. The Hospitality room was filled with us taking care of the business at hand; namely getting into the Christmas spirit. Our president Lacey Satterfield was directing the activities with a gentle hand. Everything was beautiful including the full moon and the heavy jack frost in the morning.

**Fri.** - Up early for a busy day of shopping and sightseeing. Everybody is busy doing his own thing. Gatlinburg has something to offer for everyone. Even Dolly Wood is open and decorated with 1/2 million lights. Pigeon Forge looks a dreamland. Gatlinburg is a dream come true. The decorations are breathtaking! Our people are really coming in today, from Fla., Cal., Texas and nine other states getting together for Christmas "One More Time." Col. Royall at 86 years of age drove in from Chapel Hill N.C. all by himself. Westpoint was really turning out some fine leaders when he was here. Of course this is still true but this writer won't be able to write about them when they are 86 and still going strong.



The lobby is full, fireplace is beautiful. So much is going on I can't find time to talk to Bob who finally arrived. The community Carol Sing and Christmas Tree lighting along with Welcome was enjoyed by all. The All Electric parade lasted from 7:30 to 9:30 and was beautiful. We were children again for two hours and fascinated by its beauty.

Burton (Bear Man) Sales and Toina took time off from the farm and cattle to lead us in dancing to that fantastic "foot stomping" music.

**Sat.** - Big day ahead. Ruby Brown registering guests for banquet with her faithful helpers doing a beautiful job. Haran Martin busy welcoming old and new and signing up some new members. I don't know how we'd manage without him. Dot we missed you! Next time! Be there. I hope Still coming in and looking good! Young and old. I'm so happy to be here with all the love flowing and best wishes being exchanged.

Business Meeting went smoothly. Took time to remember the absent and sick and got on with the celebrating. Banquet time is here - the Hall is beautifully decorated, filled to capacity, 188 seated and enjoying a Christmas Feast. Two family groups were tied with Eleven members each. The Patterson group and the Walter Blancett family are challenging all comers next year.

The McCas' family had seven members present. Mr. & Mrs. Santa had gifts for the kiddies and grown ups. Door prizes galore were passed out. Speeches were short - the floor was cleared. Music began and the floor was filled with dancing couples. Twas truly a beautiful evening.. Your writer got a dance with Honey Bee Mantooth. Thanks "Mary" for the gift of "Your Canned Possum." Sorry John couldn't be with us. It seems like everyone is in love tonight.

**Sat. Midnite** - It's bedtime, so we danced the last dance and retired after a long to be remembered evening. Tomorrow is such a busy day. Each must journey home to his own small family leaving our larger family till next time.

**Sun.** - 6 A.M. I'm in line to pay my bill and make reservations for next year. It promises to be even better in Dec. 1991. I missed so many who are sick, especially Virginia Cox and John. Take good care of her John. We hope to be with you both in Williamsburg in March - 91. Our prayer for each who couldn't be with us as well as those who were able to come this year. May we all attend many more Christmas Celebrations "Dixie Chapter Style" just like this one or maybe even better!

Thanks to all our guests! Now your almost home folks.

The biggest thanks of all to Carol & Ruby Brown, our hosts and all who helped make this one to remember and cherish forever.

Sincerely,  
Ellsworth Massie



## GIVE GOD THE CREDIT

*I awake and smell the morning freshness  
I see the sun light on the window pain.  
The aroma of coffee perking in the kitchen  
I stop and listen as my darling sang.*

*Then I looked up into the heavens  
and gave my thanks to thee.  
For the many-many blessings  
That God has bestowed to me.*

*Yesterday seems like a dream  
But today brings new life.  
With fifty four years of happiness  
With the same loving wife.*

*I'll not take the credit  
and neither will she.  
It all belongs to our heavenly Father  
Who has bless Roth her and me.*

Haran Martin  
Co. C. 331st.

## NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Our Christmas Party in Prov. RI. was another great success and Santa had his hands full. We had forty true 83rd husband and wives attend and a great sing-along with Joe Petrucci and his accordion. It was a very late party.

Our dinner was topped off with a beautiful cake specially made from Ray & Bittie Orsini of Conn. Thanks Ray & Bittie.

We also had a visit from Dot and Jim's daughter Christine & husband Dean and their three children and from Joe & Helen's daughter and her two children. It was good seeing them all.

Also thanks to Dot Brennan and Mary Francullo for making our beautiful Center pieces and favors the center pieces were done by Ray Rudd, John Black, John Sullivan and Joe Petrucci.

Received a telephone call from Dutchy Smith stating that Chuck Abdinoor called to tell him that Gloria McCartin's brother had passed away. Our sympathy goes out to Gloria's family.

Also after getting home from the reunion I checked the new corrected roster and came across a Jack Merrell 24 Dunning Rd. New Canaan, Ct. Med 308. att. to M. & C. Co. 330th I sent him a letter and application to join our chapter and after checking on him more I found out that he was in my squad anti-tank Pt. Hq. Co. 3rd Bn 330th I will be looking forward to seeing you again Jack or as we all called him, "Doc."

P.S. Received a card from Jeanne Johnston of S.



Chelmsford that Mert was in the V.H. Hospital from Aug. 20th to Sept. 21st.

He had a triple by pass and the arteries in his neck operated on. He is coming along slow, but tired of doing nothing.

Mert was in Co. M. 330th

Take it slow Mert and we will all be thinking of you.

Mike & Nina Petitti Spent a night with the Brennans on their way back to Florida after spending Christmas with their daughter, Michelle, and her family in New Hampshire. Jim & Dot were happy to see them.

I would like to make it clear that the New England Chapter is a separate and independent chapter. We have our own charter and 44 legitimate paid members. We are not affiliated with any other chapter.

Our New England Chapter wish all our 83rd members a good and Happy New Year.

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



New England Chapter - Hezle, Betty & Bill



Kathren & Simon Etzel & Jannet & Bill McKee



Bring on the food!



Enjoying a good Breakfast



Mike & Marie Champey, Ann & Al Tartoglia



John, tell me that joke again.



Santa giving out gifts.

## FLORIDA CHAPTER

Another year has come and gone and we of the Florida Chapter wish all of our friends and their families a Happy New Year, in which we all can find strength, courage and love.

Our Veterans Day meeting was held on Nov. 11-12 at the Best Western Motel in West Palm Beach, Fla. with Ned and Gerri Smith as host and hostess. They made it a great weekend. There were 52 people present, including members and guests, at this gathering.



**Florida Gals - Waiting for the parade!**

We were invited to participate in the Veterans Day Parade through the efforts of Ned Smith. The parade was held in Lake Worth. It was a great parade and very inspiring. Our men sure made a good impression. The young bystanders were impressed when they found out they had fought in World War II. I guess they expected to see Old Men. To us they are still young and can still march like the soldiers they are. All of us are sure proud of them.

We hope that all who could not attend this meeting will be with us in February. The meeting is in Silver Lake Lodge, Ocala, FL.

Take care and get well soon.

Our April meeting is still not decided upon where it will be, so anyone visiting here in Florida who would like to come and your more than welcome can contact your friends or call me and I will be more than glad to give you the information.

Till next time!

Bill Herhuth 324th F/A  
Hdq. Btry.  
Winter Haven, FL 33991  
813-294-7175



**The proud men of Florida Chapter**



**Lou Kanes  
Flagbearer**



**Ned Smith - Hey!  
Where is Everybody**



**Kelly & Kristy  
Emiminger**

## WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE:

At this writing, The Holidays have come and gone, hope all of you had a wonderful time.

Cannot comment on the meeting at Glen Dale, I didn't make it again.

On Oct. 20th our meeting at Best Western, Ripley, WV. was a good meeting. All officers were present. A discussion on how to get more people out to our meetings was held at length. "They're out there." Approved \$50.00 for the Veteran's Home for supplies. Election of Officers were left as is. Door Prizes of \$5.00 ea. was won by Lillian Carson and Paul Pauley. The money was donated back to the Chapter.

Those in attendance were: Mary and Paul Pauley, Esta and Don Pettry, Freeda and John Hobbs, Tress and Chaucy Hunt, Cloda and Fred Satts, Lillian and Rex Carson, Evelyn and John Shepherd, Walter, Estella, ana Cathey Sobel, and Lillian and Howard Wendel.

I really enjoy all the beautiful Christmas Cards at Christmas Time. This year was a sad note in one from HiLo, Hawaii, Lt. C (Ret.) Alex Kahapea, His Wife Florence had passed away. He was a Lt. in L-331 during Basic Training.

That's all for now.  
John Shepherd  
"L" and "Hq" 331





**West Virginia Chapter -  
L to R: Linda Dunkin, Jim Dunkin, Paul Pauley**



**Back Row, L to R: Esta Pettry, Evelyn Shepherd, Tress Hunt, Cloda Statts, Freeda Hobbs. Front Row, L to R: Estella Sobel, Lillian Carson, Mary Pauley.**



**Back Row, L to R: Charles Marsh, David Baker, Don Pettry, Tony Didio. Front Row, L to R: Chancy Hunt, John Hobbs, Walter Gobel.**



**Lillian and Howard Wendel - new member**



**Sandi and Tony Didio - Honorary member.**

## **PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER**

On the evening of December 1, to start the holiday season off on the right note, we held our annual Christmas party at Williamson's Restaurant in Philadelphia located on the top floor of one of the buildings on City Line. The season's decorations were in place shortly after Thanksgiving and the top floor, glass enclosed on four sides, made its own holiday statement.

During the cocktail hour, Larry Redmond enjoyed pointing out the buildings below now standing on the site where he lived and went to school as a boy in Belmont Hills, an area just bordering on City Line. Urban renewal is an on-going thing in our city now, and as with the mobility of our younger generation, it has now been accepted as a way of life. There was one thing I could not help but notice that evening, however, and that was one particularly unusual similarity among those present. The majority of us were born and raised in Philadelphia or its neighboring areas, and while taking time out to go to Europe, we all returned to our Philadelphia areas, married, made our homes here, and raised our families here. Those from South Philadelphia particularly continued, and still continue, to keep close ties to their old neighborhoods and friends despite the fact that they are now living in the surrounding city areas. As a result, they have kept alive strong lifelong friendships and close family ties.

To paraphrase an old saying -- "You can take the boy (girl) out of the city, but you can't take the city out of the boy", we did have an unexpected and hilarious home talent show after dessert time at our party this year. The best way to describe it is to call it "The Home Talent Comedy Hour", featuring Dave and Anne Rosenberg, Al and Anne Belvedere, Harry Stevenson and Norm Schuster. Yes, Norm and Lorraine were there, looking great, as was Jim Prentice who came down from Vermont to visit the Volpis as well as attend the dinner. Also present were Rita Talucci, Harry Kirby's friend, Jim and Annabelle Logue, Anne Bonafiglia, Charlie's widow who took such good care of him, and a relatively new addition to our group, Mike and Betty Russo, who were in Pittsburgh with us this past summer, as well as Herb and Frances Levin, the latest new members of our group.

The entertainment started with the unexpected pleasure of the company of Anne and Dave Rosenberg who, due to poor health, have not been able to attend meetings for some time. However, as they are now living in an apartment on City Line, Lou and Lucy Volpi contacted them to suggest that they might find it convenient to attend. Everyone was delighted and surprised to see them, and while the years can make changes, Anne's rapport with the punch line (aided, of course, by Dave who plays a great straight man to her routines), she is still as vital and full of life as those who know her, remember, despite the fact that some physical problems have had to be met. Before the evening was over, Anne and Al Belvedere more than held their own with their routines, as did Norm Schuster and Harry Stevenson. While we had a private room because of the fact that there were about



thirty of us there, the laughter had the waitresses standing in a circle at the door, and the evening, thanks to our members as well as our home talent, was a really good time to be had by all.

While Margaret and I were not a part of the Philadelphia Chapter when it started in our area, we have enjoyed the company of the people we have met over these past years, and we can understand how friendships can take up where they left off in just a few hours when such strong bonds have been forged in the past. After the first hour, between those who had friendships going far into the past, and those whose friendships had come about as late as this past year, there was a warmth and unity felt in the course of the evening that became the meaning of the holiday season for all of us.

At times, like Larry Redmond who looked down on new buildings and for a moment saw instead a home and a school, I think many of us look at our daily surroundings and still have moments when the focus changes and we see row homes (now called town houses), trees and grass lined streets, front porches, front steps (then called stoops), even block parties (a practice of shutting off both ends of a street to traffic on an evening during the summer, putting up strings of lights across the length of the street so that all the families living there could share specially prepared foods, enjoyed the company of friends and neighbors because you knew everyone living on the street -- and, of course, enjoy the music). While feuds too could become a way of life at times in those close quarters, peace treaties were not too uncommon, and life was enjoyed.

A good number of our Philadelphia Chapter members were born and raised in the large Italian community that was a part of South Philadelphia, and a large Italian community that was a part of South Philadelphia, and a large part of the musical talent that later became a part of the popular music of our generation originated there. I later checked with some of the men present that evening at Williamson's to identify a few who went on to become a household word. I learned that this list includes Mario Lanza, Eddie Fisher, Bobby Rydell, Frankie Avalon, Fabian and Teresa Brewer, to name the ones that came to mind. There was, and still is, a restaurant and night spot located in this area called Palumbo's. After the war it became the social entertainment center of the musical community and is still being managed capably by the following Palumbo generations. Needless to say, when the successful and well-known entertainers return to the city, a stop there is a must and the reception received is still enthusiastic and nostalgic.

As this is New Year's Day, another segment of music in the South Philadelphia community comes to mind, and that is the present organization of string

bands. This group, unlike the individual vocalist, have meeting halls in the community where they meet regularly throughout the year, and starting with the middle of January following their annual New Year's Day Parade, they begin planning for their next year's presentation. It is a strong family endeavor as the women, and often the children, help with the con



**L to R: Lucy Volpi, Rita Talucci, Fran Levin, Mary Bonafiglia, Marie Stevenson & Betty Russo.**



**A smiling  
Norm Schuster**

tinuing preparation of the costumes for the next year, as well as the continuing planning of the year's social activities. As with all areas, change is a constant, and the young Polish families now settling in the area are being welcomed as a part of these organizations. The tradition is continuing. After the parade up Broad Street on New Year's Day, there is a second lesser known parade called the "Two Street Parade:" which is the return back from center city to South Philadelphia. In this second parade, each group goes up the individual street of the captain of its club and serenades the family and friends waiting there at the captain's home. In checking some of this information with Al and Anne Belvedere today, they told us that later today they too are heading over the bridge for the parade and the visit once again with friends. Heritage and tradition can be two strong words.

To return to our own meeting hall, and our own organization, we do have a sick list of our members which we would like to share with you. Our list includes Nick Taglianetti, John Nordbloom, Edward McCouch, John Devenney and Bernie Mendelsohn. We extend our sincere wishes to all of these men for a speedy recovery. We have also learned that Lorraine Schuster sprained her ankle recently, and while limiting her some, she is still the same Lorraine. Onward and upward with her are two strong words.

Concerning our meetings schedule for the next several months, it has been decided to reduce the number of chapter meetings from once a month to once every other month. We find that winter meetings are poorly attended because of weather concerns, and in the summer many members are away on vacation. For this reason, the following dates for the next Philadelphia Chapter meetings in Narberth are: January 19, March 16 and May 18. Each of these meetings will be held on Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m.

Have a happy and healthy New Year, all of you.

**John G. Daum  
Co. "D", 330th**



L to R: Mike Russo, Harry Stevenson, Herb Levin & Harry Kirby.



Anne & Dave Rosenberg, Annabelle Logue & John Daum.



L to R: Al & Anne Belvedere and George & Jean Pletcher.



Norm & Lorraine Schuster listening attentively to Anne Rosenberg.

## WARREN CHAPTER

The men and women of the Warren Chapter would like to start the New Year off with a big hello to all of you nice people in the 83rd Association and extend our good wishes to everyone for a healthful, Happy New Year.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Marge Voracek and children, on the death of Ray Voracek. He was a good, solid member of the Warren Chapter, serving 2 years as our President and as everyone will remember, he was our Reunion Chairman for the 1977 Reunion here in Warren. Ray will be sadly missed by all of us in the Warren Chapter.

The Warren Chapter and Ladies Auxiliary, continue to hold our monthly meetings on the third Sunday of the month. After our annual October golf and steak fry, at Ash Hills Golf Course, we went indoors for the Winter. In November, George Bellay hosted the mens meeting, while the ladies held their meeting at the home of Millie Kelly. In December, we held our Christmas Party at Cafe 422 and from all reports, everyone had a great time.

SICK CALL Joe Phillipone entered St. Elizabeth Hospital in Youngstown, Ohio, in October for a 5 bypass heart operation. He missed our November meeting, but did attend our December Christmas party, however, I just received word that he was rushed back to the hospital on Jan. 5th by ambulance, with some more problems. Angie reports that he is feeling pretty good at this writing and will probably be there for another 3 or 4 days.

Dick Kelly was in the hospital for a week with a prostate problem, but is now home and recuperating.

George Bellay and Roscoe Gautschi have been under the weather, but are feeling better now. John Shamrock continues to improve from his heart operation in August.

CONGRATULATIONS TO - Former members George and Mary Cooley, who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in November. George and Mary were part of the Warren Chapter until they moved South to Texas, then Florida in 1980.

Our golf season ended the last week of October and Ted Halubka was again our best player with a zero (0) handicap. We are now in our 8th week of bowling and we are all about even. None of us are great bowlers, but at least, it's a chance to get out once a week and get a little exercise.

Well that's all from Warren for now. Maybe in my next report I can give you some good news, but as we all grown older, I guess we must expect some illness and a few deaths, so Good Health and good Luck to one and all, from all of us from Warren.

CHAPTER REPORTER  
Lee Titus





## **BOSTON CHAPTER**

Our October meeting was at Larry and Fran Arrigo home in Norwood, Massachusetts.

It was said, that Larry Redmond was going to help us with the Ad Book. Larry has done this in the past and we are very grateful to him.

In Bocci, the Team "A" was Hunnewell, Cyr and Goodman. Team "B" was Sandini, Arrigo and DiGiammerino. It was very close in score but Team "A" came out the winners.

Bob Hunnewell suggested that Lou Sandini stay with golf, so Lou went to Florida for a months vacation on the golf course.

The first week in November the members of the Boston Chapter were invited to be guests for dinner by Mayor Carlton Viveiros of Fall River, Ma. Many thanks to Mayor Viveiros for a wonderful time from the members of the 83rd Boston Chapter.

Although I could not attend the November meeting due to another commitment, it was held at Pat and Ginny DiGiammerino home on the 17th. Hy Goodman told me there was a large turnout. The turkey drawing was held with the following winners:

1. Elmer Marsh, Norwood, Ma.
2. Albert Remy, Fall River, Ma.
3. Paul Sadlon, Windbar, Pa.
4. John Genaro, Bridgeport, Ct.
5. George Baker, Albertson, N.Y.

Thanks to Fran Arrigo and Ginny DiGiammerino for the fine food and drinks at the meeting. Both of them always make a special dish for the troops.

December 8th we held our Christmas party at the Ramada Inn in Seekook, Ma. The Boston Chapter C.P. opened at 1:00 p.m. until the dinner at 7:00 p.m. After dinner there was dancing and talking til midnite. Santa made a surprise visit and gave gifts to everyone.

Santa joined in a Sing-along. The Director of music was Dick Armstrong of 331 Infantry. Everything was perfect with 43 attending. We have already booked this Hotel for next year. Most members stayed over which was good after drinking a few "Teas", Huh! A tip of the "Irishmans Hat" to Charlie Lussier our National President for making arrangements for this great evening and also to Santa, Charles Miller, for a job well done.

I read in the Thunderbolt Sam Klippa enjoyed seeing us at the reunion. Sam, it is needless to say, we were very happy to see you. Thanks Diane for bringing him to the reunion.

I am sorry to report that one of my lifetime friends passed away on November 21st, 1990, Francis Gauthier of Company "E" 330 Infantry.

Pat DiGiammerino told me that Adelare Larue an 83rder from Fall River, Ma. died. I do not know his outfit.

Ruth Lavinski passed away. She was the wife of Joseph Lavinski of L Company 329th Infantry.

Our Condolences to the above families.

Late news, Pearl Derickson is making a good recovery after her recent fall. Pearl take care of yourself because we need you.

That's all for now.

Amby Tynan  
Boston Chapter



**Boston Chapter Christmas Party**



**Boston Chapter Christmas Party**



**Boston Chapter Christmas Party**



**Bob & Marge Sessions from Maine & Conn. Group**



**Santa Charlie Miller &  
Helper Ginny  
DiGiammerino**



**Bob Sessions - Maine  
Singing Carols with  
Boston Group**



**Ray Martin, Pat Fiorito, Mike Malik from Conn.**

We are the men of the Thundering Herd.  
Thundering Herd is the 83rd.  
83rd Infantry Division of World War II.  
All of us steadfast and true.

We did our very best  
Nothing left for the rest.  
We never ever had a plan,  
But always there to lend a hand.

Here we are, there we go.  
We always manage to be in the show.  
There was never time to eat,  
Always on the move, the enemy to meet.

Take it from me, its hard to bear,  
But the 83rd was always there.  
Five (5) hard fought battles Division won.  
Through it all it was no fun.

No one knows who lives or dies,  
But Comrades all tried to stay alive.  
Once and for all let me say,  
Boston Chapter 83rd Infantry Division is here to stay.

I hope you can read between the lines,  
See you all at "The Pines".

Hy Goodman

## COMPANIES

### CO. "H" 330th

HELLO BUDDIES,

Here I am once again. It seems as if I just get finished writing when it is time to sit down and get another letter ready. That is a sign of old age, when there is no longer twenty-four hours in a day, or seven days in a week. It is the same with our financial living. We used to have one hundred pennies to a dollar, but now, there seems to be less than fifty of them, the cost of everything has escalated so much it is hard to keep up with it.

Here it is Christmas Day, and as I sit here alone, my mind wanders back over the years and I can't help but think of those Christmas's when we were either in Camp here in these United States or in Combat in Europe. Prior to our going overseas, many of us were able to get passes to go home with our families, others had their families there in the camp area. Then came the time to go overseas and there we were, not with our families, but there in the freezing cold, in deep snow, facing an Enemy. Think of those poor Men and Women who are in Saudi-Arabia, spending their first Christmas away from home.

Well Buddies, as you well know, in September, we will be Celebrating our 45th Annual Reunion. To those of you who are able to attend, start saving now for the great Reunion that is ahead of you. Also, I will be after you for your Ad for the Annual Reunion Ad Book, Always remember, that although you have received your Honorable Discharge from the Army, you haven't received your Discharge from the 83rd Infantry Division Association. Keep your National Dues paid up and also your contribution to the Co. "H" Ad in the Reunion Ad Book.

Your buddy,  
Larry Redmond

HELLO BUDDIES,

Now that Christmas and New Years has passed us by, it is time to realize that another year is just upon us. As we sit here reading Newspapers and watching television news in regards to what is taking place in Saudi-Arabia, we can't help but think back over the years of the days and nights we sat and laid in the area of Carentan, watching and waiting for what was to take place. With Christmas just having passed us, we can't help but think of those days when we were overseas listening to those recordings of "I'll Be Home For Christmas". As I sit here listening to it being played on various Television Programs, I sit with tears in my eyes and think of how that song sounded to us, when knowingly we knew that there wasn't a chance of us being back here for that. Being former Combat Soldiers and knowing only too well what a Hell Combat really is, let us all take a minute out to



say a prayer for those great Men and Women who are facing a challenge to-day.

Well Buddies, as the pages on the calendar keep turning so fast, let us not forget that in September we will be holding another great Reunion. This year the Boston Chapter is our host, and I can assure you that they are doing everything in their power to give us a fine Reunion. We have been fortunate over the past years in having Chapters who work so hard to put on a fine Reunion. It isn't as easy as it was for some of us many years ago. Costs of food and entertainment have spiraled over the years, that is why your help is needed.

As we look over our last issue of the "THUNDER-BOLT", we can't help but be amazed at the ever growing list of our Deceased Buddies. Let us all join hands while we can and try to keep in contact with those former buddies, their names or your name may appear on this list before we realize it.

I would like to remind all of you that once again I will be working with the Ad Book and will be annoying you. This year I am serving as Chairmen of the campaign, so I may be a bigger nuisance that I have been in the past.

Larry Redmond

## MAIN LINE TIMES

### Letters Section

### "Home For Christmas" Only in Their Dreams

To The Citizens Of These United States:

As we sit here awaiting the Holy Season of Christmas, which is fastly approaching us, let us not forget those less fortunate men and women who are sitting or laying in the sands of Saudi Arabia, awaiting for that powder keg to explode, knowing only too well that their families will not have the pleasure of their appearance for the Holiday Season.

As a Veteran of World War II, I sit here at home listening to the radio and television and hear them playing that tune over and over again, "I'll Be Home For Christmas." Although it is a very beautiful song, it can't help but bring back memories of the days and nights we listened to it as we sat, stood or laid in the battlefields of Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge, in zero weather with snow two or three feet high, listening to Axis Sal sing for us, knowing only too well that being home was an impossibility.

I am sure that many veterans like myself can feel the tears flow as that song is played. As I sit here listening to that song once again, I would like to ask each and everyone of you to give the greatest Christmas you could give, that is a prayer that those great men and women who are over there now will be back home soon to spend a belated Christmas with their families. Let us all bow our heads in prayer, that God will grant them the graces of an early and safe trip back home with their families and loved ones.

**LARRY REDMOND**

Havertown

## Life Below

The 83rd Division was somewhere in the Duren area fighting street by street, house by house and room by room. One of the front line Regimental Headquarters telephone lines to the Div. HQ were maintained by six Signal men. The Reg. HQ in a series of reinforced cellars was only a few blocks from the fighting front. We ran the telephone lines underground via cellars and tunnels for many blocks before coming up above ground in the rear area. The German reinforced cellars and understreet tunnels had arches of brick, ventilators and were further protected by many feet of rubble from smashed buildings. Telephone lines were cut by shellfire, falling rubble, collapsing tunnels, passing tanks, and by G.I.'s needing a piece of clothesline.

We six Signalmen set up a suite of cellar rooms - a kitchen, bedrooms and a recreation room. We tapped (without permission) into the Reg. HQ generator for electric light and to power our radio. Tapping in had the advantage that someone else had to get up to put gasoline in the generator every few hours. A phone connected to the Reg. Switchboard alerted us to line troubles. An extra deep cellar a hundred feet away served as a toilet and garbage pit.

Food was no problem. An infantry mess section nearby had only gasoline lanterns. We provided electric light in exchange for our meals. We lacked light bulb sockets, so we taped bare wire directly to 100 watt bulbs. If too many made illegal taps on the generator, the lights dimmed. We then went out and cut off illegal taps until the lights brightened.

On a typical day some of us got up from our pile of salvaged mattresses for breakfast. Charlie usually went out shooting rats with his 22. It reminded him of his boyhood days of rat shooting in the dumps of Secaucus, New Jersey. The rats in Germany grew large on what lay dead in the rubble. Two men stood-by the phone for troubleshooting and the rest went looking through smashed buildings for items to add to our comfort - dishes, pots, another stove, etc. Concert musician George hoped to find a piano. Some wrote letters, sewed buttons, read or slept.

We had a casualty - George was above ground fixing a wire when a sniper opened up. He missed, but George turned an ankle while running for cover. We had a big discussion - should he get the Purple Heart on the Iron Collar of Stupidity for working in the open in daylight? Others offered to shoot him in the foot to assure a Purple Heart.

And then Adolph launched an attack to the south of us in Belgium. We were yanked out of our cellars and sent into a mess later called the Bulge. Our underground life was over.

Hal O'Neill  
83rd Signal



## 323rd F. A. Bn.

I went to Maine to see Norman McCormack. "Mac" was in the Hospital for a few days but is home now doing fine.

Joe Malone is back in Maine and is in good health. I did not see him on this trip.

Dallas Williams is back in North Carolina and has retired. I hope to meet with him in March in Williamsburg. Maybe we can get old Don Willis to meet with us.

I called Erwin Erhardt on New Years to wish him a Happy Birthday and had quite a chat with him.

I had a note from Jack Knight. Jack is doing well living in Gresham, Oregon for the past few years. Also, he keeps in contact with James "Buck" Taylor.

Ralph Morgan has been helping me get some troops together. So far we are doing well.

Dick and Ardith Brown had all his family members for Christmas. Dick relaxes in Lake Wales, Florida Fishing.

Walt Harding also writes that he is doing fine now in Florida. I am looking forward to taking a trip down to be with Brown and Harding, also maybe we can help Betty Costello to get Robert out of the Pool for a few hours.

Willie Snodgrass has been busy with his family but always writes to me. I know Willie's family and love to hear about them.

John Sabo has been doing much better now. John's wife takes good care of him. He is going to make 1991 a good year for all of us.

Don St. John sent me a picture of his family. They are all like their Mother with the Million Dollar Smile. Don and Amy have been doing a lot of traveling.

Paul (Ellie) Kinder sent a card for the Holidays. Paul now lives in California. A year ago he took a trip with his wife to China.

Richard Audette also wrote that Phil Shogren called him on the telephone. He told him that he was also calling Sgt. Buck Taylor. All are doing well.

Tom Houlette and his wife enjoyed meeting everyone in Pittsburgh, Pa. at the reunion. Tom really enjoyed being with Harold Michaels.

Frank Wirth's wife had surgery and has made a wonderful recovery. Eleanor let me tell you Frank was trained to cook, wash dishes, and even pots and pans. So, relax, and let him do it all.

I was thinking of calling Dusty Starbuck. He phoned my house and talked to Nancy while I was at work. Nancy told me that Starbuck and Shogren got on the wire together. I would have loved to listen to those two. Huh! Maybe Tynan will get off K.P. now.

Les Taylor is enjoying his retirement. Les can't drive his lawn mower around the grounds anymore but he is still golfing.

Recently I heard from Eddie and Joyce McCouch. It's always good to hear about them and eleven in their family, plus grandchildren. Joyce how do you find time to write?

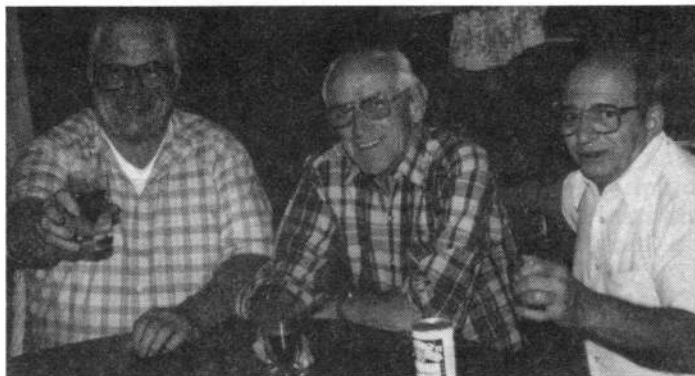
Virgie Waldrep told Alvis is getting around the best he can. It was great hearing about both of you in Cleveland, Texas. Alvis always told me that Texas

was Gods Country. I wish it was closer to us so we could see you more often.

George Connors and Tony Piantedosi I have seen at recent Boston Chapter Meetings. We have a lot of laughs talking about old times.

That will be all for this issue.

Amby Tynan



Tynan, Connors and Polites



L to R: Costello, Harding, Shively, Brown



L to R: Harding, Wirth, Covi, Connors  
Snodgrass, Erhardt



## "CO. A" 308th Engr. Bn.

Christmas is over, and the New Year is here. With a bit of quilt I'll take this opportunity to thank those many buddies who sent me greetings for the holidays.

Unfortunately, I did not respond to all the holiday cards, but believe me, yours were very much appreciated.

We had a good group at the reunion, not quite as many as some other reunions, but we enjoyed and agreed that the Pittsburgh Chapter were very good hosts. Those who were at Pittsburgh were: Paul & Dot Gudersen, Tony Degregorio, George Dubos, Wink Miller, Earl & Evalyn Graham, J.R. & Ann DeMarchi, Owen and Arlene Wellman, Andy & June Brand, Frank and Pearline Davis, Ralph and Betty Baron, Gordon and Cel Doeringsfeld, Tony and Ann Zick, Paul and Valeska Conrad, Larry Arigo, Mike Liber and George Settle.

I've been in touch with many of our buddies, some we haven't heard from for quite some time. Lt. Robert Clary writes that he and his wife are in the U.S. Foreign Service stationed in Malawi Africa.

I see Lt. Dick Meyer and his wife Lucianne regularly. Dick was recently released from the hospital and is doing fine. Mac and Lucy McMillan missed the last reunion because of a death in the family. Ray Bankowski has been hospitalized. He lost part of one lung to cancer but is recovering - our best to you, Ray and we look forward to seeing you at the Pines. Good news from Charlie Adams, he and Emma are doing better. Hank Linsky keeps in touch. He is very much interested in the old outfit, but hesitates to be with us because of poor health. Al Benfari sends his regards to all especially Wink, George D, Owen and Tony. Charlie Aver writes that he and Eleanore plan to be with us at the 1991 reunion. Virgil Hume is well, we hope he will be able to be with us at the Pines. Hugh Brewer sent a card, keep in touch. Robert Ryan is very ill. His wife writes that he is getting weaker. Our thoughts and best wishes are with you. Robert, Irv and Phyllis Katz regret missing the last reunion. Perhaps you read of Phyllis' defence of our Flag in the last issue of the "Thunderbolt". Reggie Archuleta keeps in touch. I recently received a letter with pictures of his cattle grazing on National Forest lands. Mike Eannerino called; the first time I heard from him since the war. He is in Florida and said that he was planning a meeting with DeMarchi. John and Bertha Loner got in touch-try to be with us in September. John Lusakow is in touch - it's getting late Johnny, try to get with us while there are still some of us around. I've been, writing to Mrs. Webster, some of you may remember Chaplain Webster. The Chaplain performed the wedding ceremony for Loretta and me in the Chapel at Camp Breckinridge, KY. He was with us throughout the war. The Chaplain has Alzheimer's disease and is failing. He and Mrs. Webster are in their 90's. It's comforting to know that they have had a long and happy life.

I will be making my yearly trip to Arizona in February. I will see some of you on my way out, but there won't be any surprise stops. I'll be away for most of

February and the beginning of March. One week at an Elder Hotel on the Navajo reservation near Flagstaff Az. and a second week with an old friend in Tucson Az.

The above is the news as I know it. Hope you will find something there to interest you. Later there will be somewhat shorter letter about the reunion to be held at The Pines, in New York's Catskill Mountains. We have some plans to make regarding a hospitality room etc. Would appreciate any suggestions you might have to make this a super reunion.

I'll be happy to discuss any questions you may have of this letter.

Best to you all.  
Buddy George Settle  
Phone (215) 754-9733

## Co. A - 329th INF.

Now that the Holidays are behind us, maybe we can settle down a little.

I received a lot of letters and cards from the fellows! Hazen Lloyd tells me that he is having increased difficulties with his left hand and leg, and will be going to the hospital in March for a neck M.R.I. (Magnetic Resonance Imaging). Good luck Hazen! Dale Edgar has been retired for 3 years, (has trouble with knees), but they did manage to go to Hawaii to visit their son. Charlie Millard seems to be doing O.K. Bob Gooley was in the First Platoon, and is happy to hear from anyone that remembers him. - Bob Gooley, 1220 Petersham Rd., Athol, MA. 01331. Bill Tart says "hi" to everyone. He's sorry he missed the reunion. Melvin and Nancy Magee can't travel anymore, but send their best to everyone. Dean Daniels sends his best. Roy and Sherley Champion from the 4th Platoon are anxious to come to the next reunion. Joe "Ringy" Stefancin wrote me a nice long letter. He was in the hospital for a short spell, but is feeling better now. "Ringy" has two daughters that live in the Dayton, Ohio area, and one son that had to travel 126 miles through mountains to get to Uniontown, PA., for the Holidays. I guess "Ringy" had a house full with all of the grandkids and his own family. God Bless. "Ringy" writes that Uniontown is sort of going down hill. The local stores are going into the big malls, coal mines shut down, some factories moved out. "Ringy", it's like that in the Cleveland area also, so Buddy don't get depressed - hang in there!. You all know what a great sports person "Ringy" used to be? Well, he told me to take care of our Cleveland Browns. "Ringy", I'm trying, but things aren't working out! - Ha.

Harden Beasley sends everyone his greetings. Ernie Knowels retired from the State University of New York. It's an agricultural and technical college. He taught at the technical end of it. Johnny and Eunice Punch Sr. wish everyone a Happy New Year. His phone number is 704-462-1829. Ed Mudre and wife Carm are well and enjoying life. Fred ("Sleepy") and Jean Hensley are planning a cross country Amtrack trip and cruise to Alaska in 1991. They probably

won't come to the reunion.

I received a card from Hilda and Ernest Perry. All is well at their place. Margaret and Roy Powell are well. Pat and Florence Dandola moved back to West Orange, N.J. from South Carolina. We keep in touch with Walter Farnsworth's widow. She's doing O.K. and is remarried. Ralph Harman's widow keeps in touch, (Supply Sgt.), so does Ray Manning's widow.

Max Wood seems to be doing O.K. Bill and Bert Tisher are fine. Bert had a cataract lens implant Aug. 28th. She said she's having a time getting used to the new glasses. They wish everyone well. The Pliske's and the Ivins' are all O.K. (4th Platoon). Ivins is still working. He's a lawyer.

Good ole John Camp sent me a V.C.R. tape of the fellows that met in Nashville, Tenn. I guess George Souchomelly and "Mutt" Adair got this little mini 2nd Platoon together. This was near Enoch Urserrey's home. The fellows and their wives that attended; George Souchomelly, Grady Adair, Enoch Urserrey, Marto "Red" Emrick and John Camp. I recognized everyone except "Mutt" Adair. He's got a lot of hair and a thick mustache, but it didn't take too long and I recognized him. Urserrey hasn't changed much - talks and jokes like he used to. (Even without teeth). Sorry fellows we couldn't make it.

Before I sign off, I do want to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year! As we get a little older and our ranks get smaller, we have to think about the good times we had together. Take Care and God Bless!

Your Buddy,

Bob Grobelny  
1581 Lander Rd.  
Mayfield Hts., Ohio 44124  
(216) 449-5085

## CO. G 329th INF.

Grace & John Askey from Frenchville Pa. had a great Christmas with grandson Ray Charles.

Lois & Bob Brinkman from Minster, Ohio had a houseful of family over the Holidays.

Keith Echard of Taylorville, North Carolina's can view the Smokey Mountains from his barbershop.

Doris & John Fay from Illinois are spending a month in Hawaii with their son's family.

Jim Guffen is enjoying Florida's weather.

Sylvia & Morris Gimple from Brooklyn are keeping busy with their two grandsons.

Helen & Ames Miller from Indiana are staying in town. Helen misses the farm.

Ruth & Chet Morgan pass their time baby sitting in Ithaca, N.Y. They will leave for Florida in January.

Virginia & Vito Pallazzola are resting up in Michigan. They will go to the Dixie Chapter meeting in March at Williamsburg.

Shirley and Jim Ransdell made a trip to Germany and Austria. Their son made them grandparents again. They are back home in Illinois.

Luell & Sterling Rubright were missed at Pitts-

burgh. They are in Florida for the winter.

Babe & Howard Freitag spent a few days at Rubrights in Pa. telling them all the things they missed. Babe & Howard will leave for Florida in January.

Hope everybody had a great Holiday. We did make those plans for the Pines.

Babe Freitag  
102 Philip Ave.  
Elmwood Park  
New Jersey 07407

## THE BRIDGE OF YEARS

We have crossed that fleeting bridge and  
once again we see those whose friendships  
were forged in the heated furnace of war.  
We whose lives were beaten and shaped upon  
the anvil of mortal combat.

We reach again across that bridge as in a  
dream unreal, and yet as vivid as the blood  
of those who fell upon the battlefield and  
now lie in distant lands.

They who are with us yet in memory.

As we look to that vanished day.

A day when we trod the arena where the  
terrible patience of the Infantry was  
our daily portion.

So now we come together to renew old friendships  
and remember back beyond that bridge of years.

Paul J. Willis  
(This was sent to Babe Freitag)



Support Your Country

Support Your Flag

Support Our Troops

PRAY FOR PEACE





## CO I - 329th INF.

We hope that Pearl is getting along O.K. and is on her way to a complete recovery. I know that Bonnie & Earl Hoover went up to see her. The Hoover's and the McGowans made the trip to Renfro Valley for the Kentucky Chapter meeting. We had previous plans, they said we missed out on a good time.

I was concerned about the pictures taken at the reunion, so I called the American School Picture Co. in Cleveland, they promised the pictures before Xmas and they kept their word. They turned out to be very good. The book was still in lay-out, hope to deliver in January.

According to the weather reports, Ilene & Les Pittman up there in Sopkane, Washington are having an unusual rough winter, the kind they are not used to.

Pat and Steve Bartha headed for California for the Thanksgiving and Xmas holidays, also Sally and Max Francis went over there to spend some time with their children, much to their dismay it was much colder in California than it was in Florida.

Got a short note from Fred Kibbey, so when we visit our grand daughter in Columbus, O. Fred is close by so we can plan to get together.

Received word from Sally Fenelon, Ed's daughter, she informed me that Ed died of cancer in March of 1987. Also Hugh Cantrills' wife Jeanne died of cancer in June, they were married 45 years. His daughter Lana now makes her home with Hugh. Jim St John's wife, Wilma has been having her problems and has been in and out of the hospital, we hope that she is getting along O.K. by now. Jim also sent along the directions to their home in Scranton, Pa. so that when we head for the Pines we can stop in and check in on them.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Dorothy and Jim Fornof, their son Dave is bed ridden and needs loving care and nursing, twenty four hours of each day.

Jimmy Kirk Harned also had surgery on his left knee causing him to miss the reunion in Pa. Hopes to make it to the Pines in Sept.

Jeanne Haas also had surgery, that's why we missed her and Dick in Pittsburgh, according to her note she sounds to be in good spirits, also plan to be at the Pines.

Another no show was Theresa and Don Allen, last February they took a trip down the Amazon River, I think Don was looking for a tribe of Amazon women warriors, also promises to see us in September.

Ginny and Ray Haywood are going down to Enroe, S.C. on Jan. 24th to visit Oscar Gwinn.

Chas Gray also wrote saying that since we located Oscar the two of them correspond on a monthly basis.

Fred Sylvia informed me that at the Boston Chapter Xmas party, Bob Hunnewell looked and acted like Fred Astaire, I'm not sure if he said he was light on his feet or light headed.

The members of I Co. have a policy of exchanging Xmas Cards, everyone adds a little note, it keeps us informed of what's happening with their families. We

also exchange pictures taken at the last reunion.

June and Joe Zeng will be at their winter home in Vero Beach from January to April.

Doris & Mick McGowan are going down to Sebring, Fla. in January, sorry to miss them. We still plan to get together with the I Co. people who are in Florida in February.

Did you know that when Frank Bellino takes his boat out either in Monroe, Mich. or Port Charlotte, Fla. that Pat and Frank's dog whose name is Doby, (named after Larry Doby) goes along to help pilot the boat, also when in the car he insist on sitting in the front seat to help steer.

Lucy and Curtiss Mills sent us a map with directions included, so that we can find their home on our way up North, promises to show us all the sights of Historical Atlanta, Ga.

I would like to ask the members of I Co. if you received a Xmas card or have heard from some former member of I Co., who does not belong to the association, please forward their name and address to me and I'll get in contact with them, hoping to bring them into the fold and getting them to come to the reunion.

A Happy New Year to Everyone  
also praying for good health,  
and may God bring peace to  
the Persian Gulf and bring  
our members of the military  
home safely.

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

## 329 "B" Bag

First I would like to thank everyone for all of the cards and pictures that I received during the Christmas season. All of the pictures were great, especially the one that Lt. Bollard sent of the 3rd Platoon taken somewhere in the ETO. I must be getting old, cause I hardly recognized anyone in the picture. I have pictures of Tom Amick and Jim King taken at the Dixie Chapter meeting. It was tough trying to remember them. I haven't seen them in 45 years! Hope they both make the reunion.

Second, I would like to express my sincere sympathy to my buddy George Nichol's and his family on the loss of his brother and his brother-in-law, this past year. Our prayers are with you all. I'm glad to report that the Joe Stek's have moved to the sunshine state permanently, and to all of the snow birds who headed south for the winter, the Taylor's, Hirko's and Boyd Plummer. Hope everyone has a good time. Heard from the Latine, Jiggs Janks traveled to the state of Washington to visit his children. I heard Billy Walker is confined to a wheelchair. Red Geyer is taking it easy on his farm. Can't believe this rumor. John Hennies went into the catering business and making beacoup money.

Incidentally I have the "B" Co guide on flag and we'll bring to the "Pines." No story this time, but this fact. Of all of the 89 Infantry, Airborne, and Armored

Divisions that saw action, the 83rd ranked 10th in casualties, 16,833. The 329th had 1015 deaths and "B" Co. had 85 deaths including 2 officers. (Shelton and Phelps)

Keep your powder dry,  
Bob Uher

## **Co. G 331st Inf. Reg.**

The Macaluso family managed to survive another Christmas Season. We would like to extend to the men of G Company and other members of the 83rd Division Association, the best for the New Year and hope that we all continue to enjoy good health and happiness.

I know that the New Year does not look good for our men serving in the Middle East, all we can hope for is that our leaders make the right decisions. Our prayers are with them.

We in the family have been effected by the Middle East crisis, as our son Captain Wayne Macaluso has been part of Operation Desert Shield since early October, and he hopes to be home long before his duty terminates in late March. It has not been easy for he or his wife, as they had just adopted a three week old baby before he left home in October.

The last issue of the Thunderbolt brought some sad news. We find that Lt. Williard Becker had passed away in September of a heart attack, and some five days later Col. Larry Laliberte of the 2nd BN passed away in North Adams, Ma.

Shortly after I had sent my article for Oct. 10, Ray Voracek on a trip to New Orleans to see his beloved Cleveland Browns, had a heart attack on the bus that was bringing him to the hotel from the airport, and died before they could get him to the hospital.

I know each passing year makes us a year older and a little closer to the promised land. I keep saying that it is later than we think. If you ever had any intentions of seeing your war time buddies, don't put it off.

I was sorry to hear about Pearl's accident and hope that she can make a speedy recovery.

In early November Mena and I had the opportunity to go to San Antonio, Texas for a reunion of the 110th Evacuation Hospital (the unit that Mena's served with during the war)

We had an enjoyable time and Mena was glad to see some of the Doctors and Nurses and Administrative Personnel that she had served with during her stay in the ETO.

I was surprised to see that 40 of a possible 300 people in the unit showed up for the reunion, the first one in twenty five years. The members of that unit were a little older because of the educational requirement needed before they became doctors or nurses. Three of the nurses were in their eighties along with some of the enlisted men and doctors.

While in San Antonio I had a chance to visit with Barney Wiselogle who was a member of the 2nd Bn staff. Another of those officers in the unit that chose to stay in; the regular Army. Barney retired as a

Colonel, and is enjoying his retirement in Texas. I did get him to sign up as a member of the Association and a promise that one day he will make one of the reunions.

Joe Philipone spent many days in the hospital and is now home recovering. I believe that Joe ate to many pieces of bread loaded with butter at the reunion. Angle informs me that he is doing fine and still enjoying his Coca Colas. Stick with it Joe.

On New Year Eve; I had a call from Mike Mizerock, it seems that Mike was fighting a battle with division artillery (Casey Szubski) and he needed some Infantry reinforcements. Mike, I hope we took care of the artillery. If the Artillery would have spent as much time firing at the enemy as they did their own troops, the war would have been over long before May 1945.

I once again thanked Mike for one of the most memorable meals I ever enjoyed in the Army. The meal that he put on the table for the men of G Company in Aachen on Christmas Day 1944. All of the men of the Company that I have been in contact with seem to be getting along fine, Gaynor, Titus, Pangle, and I want to thank the many men of the unit that took time to send the family a thoughtful Christmas greeting.

Capt. Mac

My son informed me that in serving in the Perisan Gulf area he has seen a large number of the 83rd Patch, as a number of the 83rd Res Command units are now serving in Operation Desert Shield.

## **783RD ORDNANCE**

What a way to start out the new year - getting our article in to Bob Derickson on time. At least my head is clear and of the proper size which is more than I can say for some of the fellows in Ohio, Kentucky and Long Island.

I had to start on a humorous note to help counteract the bad news. On Oct. 31 Ginny answered the phone to receive the sad news from Louise Downing that Ray had just died. Ray died from an apparent heart attack. He had been on the kidney machine for a few years. I talked to Ray right before the reunion and he was in good spirits playing nine holes of golf frequently. His daughter Cheryl summed up his life, "There wasn't a mean bone in Dads body." The former Master Sgt. will be sorely missed.

More news of the times came from the Christian's in Texas. Justine wrote to tell me Ernie was shocked to learn he had cancer of the lung. It has been removed completely but as of Dec. 30 Ernie was having an unexpected breathing problem. My calling to razz him about the Dallas and Eagle's game didn't help. Ernie is seeing another doctor on Jan. 2 so let's hope they resolve his problem.

This has nothing to do with Ernie's problem but it has brought it to my mind and I feel I should pass on this information. Most of you know that Ginny and I both volunteer at the Fox Chase Cancer Center.

What you may not know is there are just twenty four cancer centers in all of the fifty states. It's my job to



visit the patients and just listen to them. What I have sadly discovered over these last eight years is a common mistake that too many people make. People are inclined to put as much faith in their family doctor as they do the Pope. If you need an operation or if you come down with cancer make sure you get two opinions.

If you get cancer it's not the end of the world. We have seen many miraculous recovery's but they have all come to the experts a Cancer Center. For sure, not everyone can do that, but you can try to find the hospital and the doctors that have the most experience and the latest technology. We could fill a book of the patients, to whom we have talked, that mistakenly took the trusted family doctors advice and went to a general hospital. It's your life, you owe it the best maintenance and repair shop that you can find. We all raise our eyebrows at automobile mechanics reports, we have to learn to do the same with our doctors reports. You ask the questions and you seek out the experts advice. End of lecture.

I know everyone likes to read their name in print but I also know you rightfully don't care two hoots who all sent me Christmas cards. If I leave out your name it doesn't mean I have forgotten you. More than likely you are perfectly well and your names always expressed here in endearing terms.

It was good to hear Dot Forster is coping and also so nice of Jane Bond to call and ask about the Doggett's, Fredericks and Pfeifers. She's still raising dogs. Maybe Jane, you and Frank Salontay should get together. His new dog is doing better than Frank's massive sore chest.

Hersh Weaver is in trouble reporting that "Midge is as mean as ever. - Ed Perko says he had the flu at the Pitt reunion but he's okay now. - Joe Brown is fine so is his sense of humor - Doc and Agnes are home from traveling the world and you can read the aftermath in the daily headlines. - The Hackstocks were also in Europe and they are looking forward to the Pines. Bob Burns likes the Sept. reunion date and it sounds like he has a good new business venture. He works with an undertaker and then delivers blood. Gee, one of my best friends is an undertaker. ---The Bensimon's and the Rohrer's are sucking up the sun waiting for us Northerners to drop by. -- Mimi reports that Ray is a new man. He also has a new car which he intends to show off at the Pines. Carl is still smiling as Alyce trots off to work on these nice cool Wis. mornings. -- Ivan and Pat, she calls him "Bud," I guess Pat is still waiting for the bloom, are as busy as bee's and enjoying the honey. - Troy Bishop is "hanging in there" taking good care of wife Marie. - The Appleby's, Stubbers and Jake Chevalier are also holding up under the stress of the 90's.

I talked to Al Scaggs. He has that positive spirit but he has had some tough times. Al has been retired sixteen years but he took care of a sick wife most of that time. Last year his son died and this year his last relative a sister also passed away. He would enjoy hearing from some of his old friends from the company. Also had a nicer talk with Earl Graham. Earl is turning 81 and he is still smiling through his wife's problems. - Oh, Bill Manning wrote a nice letter. He has two son's in the service and he

too is looking forward to the Pines.

Now we can close on a happy note. This is the promised story of one little Italian boy born in Brooklyn. Coming up through the depression. Phil Barbara found himself a job of padding upholstery. This was his occupation when he became Pvt. Phil. 1st Sgt. Jones took immediate pity on this connoisseur of fine liquor. One night in Owensboro Ky. he put his arm down around Phil and said, "Phil your O.K., how would you like to be Company clerk?" Phil panicked and replied, "No way, besides I can't type." I should not have to tell you, the next day Phil was a Cpl. and became our perennial carefree Company clerk.

After his discharge Phil went back to the only job he knew. He robbed the cradle in Greenwich Village and married his life saver, a girl by the name of Ann. Phil became disgruntled with union hours and wages.

With his fathers inheritance of a few hundred dollars he struck out with his own upholstery business. He went bankrupt.

With more hard work and a little luck Phil bought out a little neighborhood store owned by a widow. In a few years Phil and Ann's labors brought them some recognition. In a few short years they were doing custom work for the "really big" New York department stores. Then there came a Prince from Arabia who was moving into a new palace. He simply wanted three hundred custom made chairs and sofas.

The Anbar Co. hired and grew and Phil and Ann grew with it.

Instead of retiring this year Phil and Ann opened a new smaller factory in Manhattan. Phil explains. On rainy days I go to work. On clear days I play golf. He is a board member of the oldest private club in New York City and Phil is well known for his charitable contributions to the community.

We tip our hats to the American success story of Phil and Ann. Phils only regret is he has never been able to lose his tack hammer form on the golf course.

That's it for this year. Please, everyone stay healthy in 1991. I hate to write bad news reports.

Hut two,  
Rags Rangnow

P.S. Just received the first call of 1991. It was Frank Salontay wanting to wish us both the best. See, old friendships never die. That little glowing ember can always be rekindled by just one phone call.





# Cards & Letters

5 - 36 47th Avenue  
Long Island City, Ny., 11101  
(718) 706-7239

Dear Bob:

Herewith the pictures you asked me to forward to you. Sorry it took all this time. The place I moved into was in such bad state that it took me all this time to redo the floor, paint the rooms, set up the darkroom, load and unload the boxes with all the negatives and finally make some prints.

It was good to see you again at the Pittsburgh reunion, and was glad that you saw my exhibition. I am planning for The Pines next summer, to exhibit between 500 and 1000 pictures, depending on the wall space they give me. I hope that this will give an opportunity to many of our buddies to recognize themselves from the pictures.

The ultimate purpose for printing all these photos is to 1) publish a large book for the 50th anniversary of D-Day...June 6, 1994. and 2) make a two hour video on the 83rd. Will keep you informed.

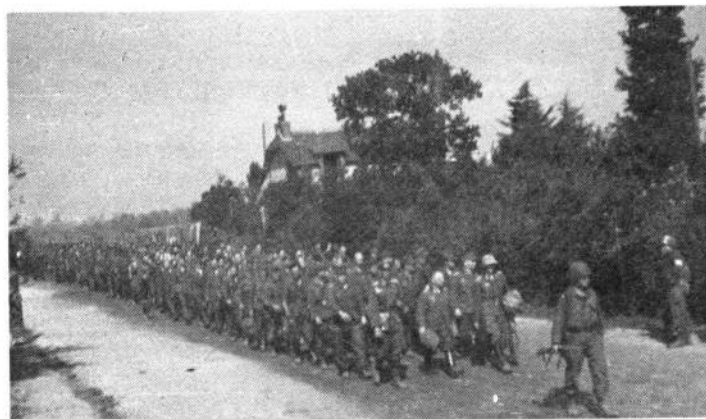
Best Wishes,  
Tony



Pfc. Michael A. "Tony" Vaccar, New Rochelle, NY., on the wing of the B-17, that crashed in Luxemburg. I was assigned to guard the plane and for a few nights slept in it. "Swing Shift Baby", was the name of the airplane.

Lt. Anthony Stewhouser, of Alexandria, Va. saw the plane crash. He was the first to arrive at the scene of the crash at Mandorf-les-bains. "No one was with the plane. It landed all be itself!" he said.

Here I am holding two cameras liberated from German prisoners in Orleous. My camera was used to take this picture, by PFC Anthony Montaria, from Conn. who was also a guard on the plane. The camera I used throughout the war was an Argus C-3 - made in Ann Arbor, Mich.



Towards the beginning of August, 1944, we swing towards Brittainy trying to trap 60,000 German troops. Some of these troops were captured in Brittainy, and some, about 30,000 who had moved south, ultimately surrendered to the 83rd in Orleous, in the Loirle Valley on Sept 9th. Here we see a line of prisoners, headed by Cpl. Oldlearn, of 2nd Bn. Hq. 331st, taking them to the rear from Brittainy to the Loirle Valley.

Att: Robert Derickson

Sunday Nov. 18th thirty-one members and their ladies attended the meeting at the Hall. As at all of our gatherings Ann and "The Godfather" Christopher greeted us with her home made pizza. After our meeting a German Style supper was enjoyed.

Ted Karageorge was a double winner of our 50-50 drawing. Delores Jocek won the third prize.

On the eighth of Oct. at Kemoroski Funeral Home the members and wives paid their respects to our long time member Roland R. Warner CN. Co. 329th who passed away suddenly. We'll miss him.

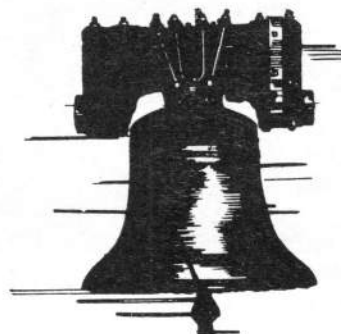
On Dec. 9th Angela Coladangelo wife of Larry ATCo. 329th passed away. Many attended the wake in Wickliffe.

Our deep sympathy to Millie Warner and Larry Coladangelo.

The annual Christmas party was held at Ruggels Inn. Forty party goers danced to live music and enjoyed a catered dinner. Many danced again for hours to "our music".

The Cleveland Chapter wishes you all a good New Year filled with love.

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





Harold Freeman  
48-24 Glenwood Street  
Little Neck, N.Y. 11362  
"C" Co. 329th  
August 19, 1989

Dear Bob,

Here are a few pictures I took "over there". Maybe you can use them in "Thunderbolt".

Harold



Nutha, Germany - across the Elbe River the 329th firing the last rounds of the war.



April 3, 1945 Neuhaus, Germany - German prisoners of the 329th.



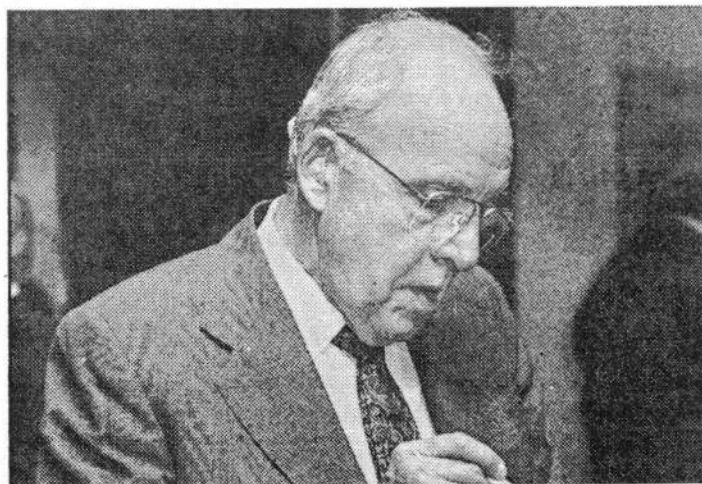
Near Junglister, Luxembourg - November 1944 - "C" Co., 329th on the chow line.



"C" Co., 329th April 8, 1945 - Approaching the Weser River - near the city of Hameln, Germany.



Near Nutha, Germany - April, 1945 - The morning after the last German attack. Pfc. Harold Freeman on the tank.



Robert Wessel, Fairfield's first mayor, toasts the city's 35th anniversary Monday night with a piece of birthday cake. Wessel was among three former mayors to attend the birthday party at the newly remodeled Fairfield Municipal Building.

Wessel said the proudest moment of his term, 1954 to 1956, was the day Fairfield was transformed from a village to a city. The second was the building of the city's waterworks.

City Council returned to the 25 year old city building -- which underwent a \$500,000 makeover -- for its first session since early summer. He was a member of the 908th.

### **A message to all 83rd members...**

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

He will send you an application form.

**National Lapel Pins, Bolo Ties, Necklaces, Golf Caps**

**\$5<sup>00</sup> each**

(Postage and Handling Included) Contact the Association Office

**83rd Reunion** will be held at the Pines Hotel

South Fallsburg, New York

The Dates are: **September 22 - 27, 1991**

Start making your plans to attend, now!

## **83rd Infantry Division History Book**

### **AVAILABLE NOW**

The Reprint of 83rd Infantry Division (The Thunderbolt Across Europe) is now available. Send your order in with your check payable to: 83rd Infantry Division Association, Robert Derickson, 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013-9102.

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

### **THUNDERBOLT DEADLINES**

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

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



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3749 Stahlheber Road  
Hamilton, Ohio 45013-9102

Office Phone:  
(513) 863-2199

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## BULLETIN

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