



# THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 46 No.3

Spring Issue 1991

## THE 45TH ANNUAL REUNION



COMING EVENTS AT THE PINES  
September 22-27, 1991

**THE THUNDERBOLT**  
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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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\*Harold H. Dopp ..... 1972  
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\*William J. Chavanne ..... 1979  
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Michael Caprio ..... 1981  
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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

**To: All the men and women of The 83rd Infantry Division.**

This is just a brief update and reminder of the upcoming reunion that will be held at the Pines in September.

Please get your reservations in as early as possible. We are trying to get as many activities as possible -- and a few surprises as well.. You can come on Monday...or Sunday if you can make it and spend more time with your buddies and their wives.

Please pay your dues as soon as possible!! And don't forget the adds and boosters, etc.

We, the Boston Chapter, had a meeting at my home in Westport, and were quite pleased with the attendance. We discussed a few important memos.

So far, my year has been a hectic one -- going places and doing things to keep association a great one. Believe me when I say that no other organization can say this with the pride that we can.

May each and every one of you stay well and in good spirits in these times of despair and tribulations. Do all you can to help your fellow men and I will keep everyone informed as things develop.

The management at the Pines will be waiting for all of you with open arms.

God Bless!!  
Charles J. Lussier

## FROM THE OFFICE

Here we are in the Spring of the Year. The grass is getting green and waiting to be mowed.

We sent out reminders in February to all those who had forgotten to send in their dues for 1991. The majority of you sent them in pronto. Still some of you who have not gotten them in yet. But we keep hoping. Would sure be nice to have 100% in by the end of May.

Pearl is doing much better. Getting around without the walker for which she is real thankful. Will be in the air cast for quite a while but she is content with that.

**REMEMBER THOSE ADDRESSES. KEEP THEM CURRENT.**

We will be going to Omaha the 30th of April for the Board Meeting on the 3rd of May. Will be meeting with the men from the Pines and the men from the Central Plains Chapter. It will be a different atmosphere out in the West. The Board is looking forward to going. We will arrive out there on Thursday and leave on Sunday morning.

Pearl and I along with Bonnie and Earl Hoover and Sam Badgett who came from Raleigh, N.C. to Cincinnati to ride with us to Williamsburg, Virginia, attended the Dixie Chapter. Lot of fun to travel with good friends. Dixie Chapter had quite a crowd. It was warm there so doors were open and greetings

were given as each group arrived. Plenty of food was on the table in the Hospitality room as people from all over brought in food. John and Virginia Cox are typical Southern hosts. They saw that everyone was taken care of. Thank you John and Virginia and the complete Dixie Chapter.

We got to see our daughter Cathy in Virginia Beach. Had our granddaughter, Leslie with us for a couple of the days. Leslie thinks she is the 83rd.

We had our Kentucky Chapter meeting in Sidney, Ohio the weekend before we went to Williamsburg. A good turnout for that also. Snow was on the ground at that meeting. Bob and Lois Brinkman, Al and Dorothy Henry and Fred and Doris McGowan were wonderful hosts for that meeting..

Al and Dorothy had us all to their home on Friday evening for a regular banquet buffet meal. We all enjoyed it very much.

These chapter meetings are really something to look forward to. The comradeship is wonderful. Attend everyone you can because you never know when you may not get to go to one.

It is where good friends meet and enjoy each other's company. Take advantage of this wonderful country and be glad you are here. Thanks to all the reporters for getting their material in to the office. I really appreciate that. Without you there would not be much of a Thunderbolt.

Get your reservations in to The Pines. Think of the fun you will have as you get to see those friends you have made over the years. Take care of yourself and GOD BLESS.

Bob Derickson  
3rd BN HQ. 329th



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Dear Robert,

I hope that this letter finds you both well, and that Pearl has recovered from her accident.

The Pittsburgh Chapter held its Mar. 3rd meeting at the Brentwood VFW Post.

We are happy the war is over! God, has answered all of our prayers, Most of our children will soon be home.

Enclosed is a prayer. It covers our heartfelt feelings better than I ever could.

Looks like winter is behind us. Getting ready for our 45th annual reunion, at The Pines in New York.

I was notified that Howard Hergenhan 331st Co. H passed away, about a month ago. Was notified by his son.

607 Riverside Dr., Pasadena, Md. 21122 May God watch over each and everyone of you Thunderbolts. Till we meet again.

Mathew J. Pinter



## Prayers, Yellow Ribbons And Tears

by Anna Ridilla

There are reasons of joy and seasons of sorrow,  
Seasons uncertain that face us tomorrow,  
There were seasons of peace and of war through the years;  
Now's a season of prayers, yellow ribbons and tears.

Now's a time of prayers and deep meditations,  
Fears that nuclear bombs may destroy all the nations,  
And pollute the great seas, and poison the air,  
And millions may perish in death and despair.

Only God can save us and bring peace to our land,  
Bring home safely our troops from the strange desert sand.  
Give wisdom to those who are working for peace,  
Like the winds He once silenced, He can make this war cease.

Yellow ribbons remind us to pray endlessly,  
That our troops all come home and our world is free  
From death and destruction, pollution and fears,  
In this season of prayers, yellow ribbons, and tears.

Death Notices that have come to the Office and to Chaplain Matt Pintar since the last publication of the Thunderbolt. The sympathy of the entire 83rd goes out to the families.

Lloyd M. Ashburn	"B" 329th	Haran Martin
Theodore H. Bricker	"C" 908th	wife, Jean
Arthur B. Calhoun, Jr.	"I" 329th	Don Thiebolt
Andrew N. Carras	"HQ" 331st	Matt Pintar
Louis L. Donnelly	"C" 331st	Bob Uher
Ray E. Downing	783rd ORD	Ed Haynes
Benny Gasiorok	"E" 331st	wife, Ann
Victor Karaciuc	"K" 331st	Pat DiGiammerino
Ed Kirgan	"I" & "M" 330th	Don Thiebolt
Joseph Lavinski	"L" 329th	Pat DiGiammerino
Romeo J. Lettieri	"D" 331st	Norm Schuster
Joseph A. Lonteen	"E" 329th	Bill Ledger
Rev. Gerhard L. Luecke	Div. Arty. Chap.	Edwin Diller
Jack R. Masters	"H" 330th	Larry Redmond
Edwin O. Mays	"A" 330th	Charles Abdinoor
Bert Mobley	"A" 330th	Charles Abdinoor
Joseph F. McMillan	"A" 308th	George Settle
John Nazarian	"H" 330th	wife, Margaret
David Nellies	"HQ" 323rd	Amby Tynan
Merritt A. Perry	None Giben	Ames Miller
Carl Reidl	"D" 329th	wife, Ruby
Elmer Reuter	"M" 330th	Gale Baker & wife, Sharon
Harold W. Shafer	"E" 330th	wife, Ramona
Glenn D. Vining	783 ORD	Rags Rangnow
Roland R. Warner	"CN" 329th	Bob Uher
Hayes Webster	"HQS" 331st	son, Dan Webster
Joseph H. Whiting	"HQ" 330th	wife, Mildred
Gordon D. Williams	324th	wife, Mary
Daniel Purcell		step son Daniel
James J. Conner	331st	daughter

## Board Chairman

Dear Buddies,

The year is moving along very rapidly and September will be here soon. I hope you are making your plans to attend the reunion at the Pines in New York. A fabalous reunion awaits you.

The Executive Board has its plans in place to meet in Omaha at the Holiday Inn. We hope to make final plans for The Pines Reunion and to meet with the hotel staff there and initiate plans for 1992.

I have been very busy with last minute tax returns and haven't had much time for other activities.

There is nothing new to report to you at this time, which means that everything is moving along as planned with no major complications.

Be sure to keep your dues current. If your membership card does not read Aug. 1991 you are in arrears. Continue to support your organization and keep it strong.

Have a good and joyous summer and will see you at The Pines.

Sincerely  
W.M. Minick, Chairman

## REUNION CHAIRMAN

In our last Boston Chapter report we had a great showing with most of our members present. We are making good progress toward our upcoming 45th reunion and we are very excited about it. We want to make this a memorable occasion for everyone.

This reunion will be long remembered for fun, food, and surprises.

I would like to mention that the reservations are coming in fast. Make sure to send yours in soon. This is going to be a sellout.

Larry Redmond is working with the Boston Chapter on the ad book program. The co-operation of everyone is needed for the ad book. Send in your ads as soon as possible. Forms and prices will be in your Thunderbolt. Larry Redmond is a dedicated 83rd man and works hard for the Chapters.

If there is anything I can help you with, please get in touch with me. A copy of the Reunion schedule has been put in this issue for your convenience.

Looking forward to seeing you, and feeling sure you will have the best reunion ever.

Thank you,  
Pat DiGiammerino  
323rd F.A.

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



## HISTORIAN'S REPORT

You may remember the enclosed Booklet, of the 83rd men and their wives. It was taken at the Benj. Franklin Hotel Reunion. Franklin Hotel Reunion.

Unhappily, there are some of these good buddies who are no longer with us. We miss them all.

Who said we aren't getting any younger? He is so right!

During the 'Gulf War', were you depressed, as I was with grief and your own memories?

What a wonderful Blessing that we lost so few men and women in the services. I also prayed for them like you.

My 'Flag' flies everyday in memory of our generals, Bob Macon, Bob York, Colonels, Bill White, Norman Campbell (all were personal friends) my buddy Paul and all our 83rd G.I.s.

"We Were The Best."

Wm Kent O'Connell

Historian - 83rd MP

'Normodie to the Elbe'

P.S. In my next article, I will have remembrances of the 1940's

K.



Al & Anna Belvedere

THE BELVEDERES and THE VOLPIS, together with the PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER, hope this pictorial display of some of The 83rd Couples remind you of the reunion in Philadelphia, "1968".



Lou & Lucy Volpi

## 22nd ANNUAL REUNION 1968

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

August 22-23-24



83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
WORLD WAR II

## PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

## A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS

### WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

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Jack M. Straus		1948
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Walter H. Edwards, Jr.		1951
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Joseph F. Minotti		1960
Frank J. McGrogan		1961
John W. Robinette		1962
Manuel C. Martin		1963
Julius C. Boyles		1964
Samuel Klippa		1965
William M. Doty		1966
Albert A. Belvedere		1967

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Mr. & Mrs.  
Raymond Young



Edward Zerucha



Mr. & Mrs.  
Jerome Zing



# World War II veterans who were POWs experience 'sinking feeling' over crisis

Buffalo, N.Y. News 1-26-91

By Agnes Palazzetti  
News Staff Reporter

It happened 45 or more years ago, but when pictures of captured pilots flashed across the television this week, the nightmare returned.

"I remembered the helplessness," said John Zale, who was a prisoner of war during World War II. "You cannot do a dam thing about it."

As he spoke, the heads of 30 or more men in the room nodded in agreement. They, too, had been watching films of captured U.S. airmen in Iraq that were shown repeatedly on television. They knew exactly what Zale was talking about and what he was feeling.

They are among 130,201 Americans who were prisoners of war during World War II. They had been beaten, starved, worked to exhaustion. More than 14,000 died in prison camps.

These local veterans meet regularly at Veterans Hospital to talk about their experiences and to try to help each other -- especially now that another war has begun.

"I don't think I have been right since I heard that another war had started," said Henry Pacer, who spent 42 months in Japanese prison camps.

It doesn't matter that they endured hardships and often times tortures.

"You always feel guilty about the fact that you came back and your buddies didn't," said Joseph Fragale, who spent 42 months in Japanese prison camps.

Memories that have never ceased to haunt the former POWs are being recycled as they watch the new war played out on television.

"When I saw those pilots, who had been captured, it bothered me more than anything I had seen on TV," Robert Howie said. "I kept thinking, 'Thank God, the Japs didn't get them.' I know they (Japanese) are our allies but I will never forget what they did to me."

Howie lived through the Bataan Death March and also was a prisoner for 42 months.

Memories are painful, but these men have managed to keep a sense of humor about their experiences, albeit black humor at times.

As Paul Feigenbaum walked into the small meeting room at the VA Hospital, he announced: "Right now, my son is on his way to the gulf. You know what I told him?"

"I told him that when the Germans captured me, I knew they made bars of soap out of Jews, so I threw away my dog tags and told them my name was Finnegan. I told him that, where he's going they don't like the Jews much better, so maybe he better think about throwing away his dog tags if he is captured and picking another name."

"War is hell," Gordon Tucker said to no one in particular.

"If it weren't for coming here and talking with these guys every week, I'd be on the 10th floor of this place," William Kal-

way admitted, referring to the psychiatric ward.

He spent 26 months in Africa as a prisoner of the Germans.

These men have another thing in common besides being former POWs. Most suffer from an illness only recently recognized by the medical world -- posttraumatic stress disorder.

It was only many years after the Vietnam conflict that the VA began to realize the problems many former POWs were continuing to experience, said Jean Dittman, a VA Hospital social worker and coordinator for this group.

These former POWs have been meeting weekly for the past three years, talking about what happened to them then and since they returned home, Ms. Dittman said.

"They have had multiple problems to cope with," she said. "Getting together, like this, is important to them. They support one another, particularly at this age. Most of them are retired so that leaves more time to think."

Just two months ago, the VA Hospital brought on staff Dr. Karen A. Larsen, a psychiatrist who has run similar programs in Vermont for the past 10 years.

"It's a chronic recurring condition," she said. "One of the cardinal manifestations of the illness is that events that even symbolically represent the trauma can cause a recurrence. So it is not surprising that the former POWs had the reaction they did."

"They are also my father's age, and he was a pilot in two wars, so part of me has been thinking that what they are going through he could have gone through if he had been a prisoner."

"Once you are captured, your life is no longer yours," Donald Meckle said. "They can do whatever they want with you."

Meckle spent six months in a German camp after his plane was shot down.

"You just try to survive...to live another day," Zale said.

"And if you are not religious you will get religious fast," Tucker said. "I know that helped sustain a lot of guys."

Robert MacPherson worried about what is ahead in Iraq, and not just for the POWs.

"There are going to be a lot of wounded and a lot who will be disabled for the rest of their lives," he said. "They are going to need help and need it immediately. But what are we hearing? We're hearing that the government is cutting back on VA hospitals? Where are all those men going to go?"

From Lowell Claxton



## WE MEET THE RUSSIANS

Our Radio Section had been picking up Russian radio traffic for days before we reached the river Elbe south of Magdeburg. Our bridgehead across the river was withdrawn soon after the Russian troops arrived. The G.I.'s and Ivans celebrated with impromptu parties and many toasts accompanied by mostly incomprehensible speeches. After a few hours things began to blur for a good many Americans and Russians.

I remember an elaborate Russian drink in a tall glass with different colored layers of liquor and a raw egg yolk in the bottom. The trick was to swallow the egg yolk without breaking it on your teeth. The idea was to let your tonsils break the yolk as it passed. Most of us gagged, choked, or sprayed flecks of yolk over those near-by.

One of the Russian trucks had a woman driver who spoke some English. It was a Len-Lease Chevrolet one-and-a-half ton. She told us it was made in the Russian Siberian city of Detroitsky and was a no shift model. We discovered it was jammed in second gear and she had driven it for hundreds of miles in second. To reverse, she had men push it. She used the floor shift to hang her helmet on.

Business began almost at once for German, U.S. and Russian pistols, knives, helmets, insignia, etc. Then there was a boom in wristwatches in exchange for U.S. Occupation marks. The Russians seemed to have an unlimited supply. The most wanted watch was a Mickey Mouse watch. Jeweled movements, water proofed, fancy straps, etc, meant nothing. A Mickey Mouse watch brought fifty dollars or more. One enterprising G.I. tried removing the watch crystal and gluing a paper picture of Mickey on the watch face. Two days later we found him beaten unconscious.

A few days later, I was sent into a Russian occupied town for what I recall not and watched the take over of a German house. All furniture, except for bedding was thrown in the yard. The bathroom was used for sleeping and the yard for a latrine. One man made more room by removing a toilet bowl. I had to show them how to shut off the water in the cellar.

The following was sworn to be others, so I pass it on. One Ivan noticed that in a German house whenever he turned a handle water came out. When his unit moved he ripped the handle (faucet) and a piece of the attached pipe out of the wall. At the next place he was billeted, he stuck the pipe in the wall, turned the handle and waited for the water to gush out.

Overnight the white Russian Troops were replaced by Mongolians that spoke neither Russian or English. This cut out contacts down to dumb-show barter.

Hal O'Neill  
83rd Signal

## **BESSIE GROSSMAN**

Our condolences to Bernie and Jean Cove on the death of Jean's mother Bessie Grossman, who passed away in April 1991. Bessie was a good person, I'm sure that she will be greatly missed.

Pat DiGiammerino

# CHAPTERS

## **BOSTON CHAPTER**

In the last issue I put Dick Armstrong our Director of Music as a member of the 331st Infantry in error. He was a proud member of the 329th Infantry. I am very sorry for this mistake.

My wife Nancy had hip surgery in February. She had two operations and had her troubles for a while. She is recovering at home and is doing well.

The last Boston Chapter Meeting was held at President Charles and Rita Lussiers home in Westport, Ma. I believe this was one of the largest meetings. I did not count how many attended but there had to be 50 or more people.

The women assisted Rita putting out the chow. Everything was wonderful. Thanks Rita very much.

Chet Morley received a call at the meeting that his Brother-in-law had died so they had to head right back to New Hampshire. Our Condolences to Chet and Laurette.

Our next regular meeting will be at Larry and Fran Arrigo's. Most of the meetings are about our reunion being held at the Pines Hotel. We are making improvements and are always trying to do better each reunion.

I attended the Dixie Chapter Meeting in Williamsburg, Va. It was nice to get together with so many. Thanks to John Cox and his wife for all the work they did planning this great time. I hope to be back next year.

In Williamsburg it was good to meet Ernie from 329th I Co. Hunnewell and Fred Sylvia got your message on my return to Boston.

Lou Sandini is happy with his Golfing. So you fellows from Warren and Cleveland better get some practice in this summer of Lou will beat you all.

Pat DiGiammerino told me Joseph Lavinski passed away. Our Condolences to Joe's family. He was a member of L Company 329th Infantry.

That's all for now.

Amby Tynan  
Boston Reporter

**JOIN FOR GOLF AT THE PINES**  
**Entrance is \$2.00**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Gross ☐ Net ☐ Callaway ☐

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**Mail Coupon with \$2.00 to:**

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36 East Border Rd.  
Malden Ma. 02148**

# DRAFT ITINERARY for 83rd INFANTRY'S REUNION at THE PINES HOTEL Sept. 22 - 27, 1991

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

3:00 PM Check in begins.  
4:00 PM Check hotel activities for all entertainment & activities throughout the Pines' facility.  
4:00 PM Hospitality Room opens - Ascot Hall  
6:30 PM Dinner  
7:45 PM Evening entertainment  
8:30 PM Music & dancing begins - to our two great bands.  
9:30 PM Showtime

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

8:00 AM Good morning! Breakfast is served (Main Dining Rm.)  
9:30 AM All facilities & activities are ready for the 83rd Infantry. Registration going on throughout the day.  
12:30 PM Lunch is served  
2:00 PM All facilities reopen. Hospitality Room reopens.  
5:00 PM Welcome cocktail party  
7:00 PM Dinner is served  
8:15 PM Lou Goldstein & his famous adult Simon Sez Comedy Hour.  
8:30 PM Music & Dancing  
9:30 PM Showtime

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 - DAY TRIP DAY

7:00 AM Good Morning! Breakfast is served for those going on the West Point Day Trip.  
7:45 AM Breakfast is served for those going on the Vanderbilt/Roosevelt mansions day trip.  
8:00 AM Departure for West Point Day Trip  
8:00 AM Breakfast is served for guests staying in the Hotel.  
9:00 AM Departure for Vanderbilt/Roosevelt mansions Day Trip  
9:30 AM All Facilities reopen  
Full day of planned activities & events.  
12:30 PM Lunch is served  
2:00 PM Hospitality Room reopens  
5:30 PM Day trippers arrive back at the Pines  
5:30 PM Happy Hour - Lobby Bar  
7:00 PM Dinner is served  
AFTER DINNER ACTIVITY  
8:30 PM Music & Dancing  
9:30 PM Showtime

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

8:00 AM Breakfast is served.  
10:00 AM Business Meeting - Niteclub  
10:00 AM Full day of activities & lectures  
12:30 PM Lunch is served  
2:00 PM All hotel facilities reopen  
Hospitality room reopens  
2:30 PM Ladies day trip to Apollo Mall  
5:00 PM Happy Hour  
7:00 PM Dinner  
8:30 PM Music & dancing  
9:30 PM Showtime

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

8:00 AM Breakfast is served  
10:00 AM Business Meeting - Niteclub

10:00 AM Full day of activities & lectures  
12:30 PM Lunch is served  
2:00 PM Memorial service - Pines Hotel front lawn. U.S. Military Academy support.  
Catholic Mass  
4:00 PM Happy Hour  
5:00 PM Gala Cocktail Party  
6:00 PM Banquet  
7:30 PM Showtime  
10:00 PM

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

7:30 AM Breakfast is served.  
Full Morning of activities  
12 NOON Lunch  
Departure after lunch.

## TRAVEL DIRECTIONS

### Door to Door Limousine Service from N.Y. area or N.Y. Airports:

Howard Mt. Line: In N.Y.S. call toll-free (800) 545-5605  
Outside of N.Y.S., call (914) 482-5574.

### BY CAR:

#### From New York City/Long Island Area:

1. New York West Side Highway to George Washington Bridge to New Jersey. Take Route 4 for eight miles, turn right into Route 17 (N.Y.) and at Mahwah, enter New York State Thruway... Leave Thruway at Exit 16 and proceed on Quickway Route 17 to Exit 107 to South Fallsburg. In So. Fallsburg, turn left at traffic light (movie on corner). Continue for one mile.
2. Cross Tappan Zee Bridge, enter New York State Thruway and leave at Exit 16 and proceed on Quickway Route 17 to Exit 107 to So. Fallsburg and proceed as above.

**From Philadelphia, New Jersey & Southern States:** New Jersey Turnpike to Exit 11. Garden State Parkway to New York State Thruway West. Leave Thruway at Exit 16 and proceed on Quickway Route 17 West to Exit 107 to So. Fallsburg. In So. Fallsburg, turn left at traffic light (movie on corner). Continue for one mile.

**From Boston & Eastern States:** Take Massachusetts Turnpike to Route 86 (Sturbridge Exit) into Route 84. Take Exit 4W (Middletown, N.Y.) and proceed on Quickway Route 17 to Exit 107 to So. Fallsburg. In So. Fallsburg, turn left at traffic light (movie on corner). Continue for one mile.

**From Montreal & Northeastern, N.Y.:** Go to U.S. Route 9 to New York State Thruway. Leave Thruway at Exit No. 19 and proceed to Route 209 to Ellenville. Take Route 52 to Woodbourne and then bear left to Route 42 to So. Fallsburg. In So. Fallsburg turn right at traffic light (movie on corner). Continue for one mile.

**From Toronto & Western, N.Y.:** New York State Thruway. Exit at Syracuse #36. Pick up Route #81 South in Syracuse (toll free super highway) to Route #17 East at Binghamton. Take Route #17 to Exit 105B #42 North. Merge left (North on 42) to South Fallsburg, at movie theater turn left, 1 mile to the Pines.

### FLYING TO THE

### 83rd INFANTRY REUNION AT THE PINES

83rd members can take advantage of special discount airline packages direct to THE PINES THROUGH Stewart International Airport, located at Newburgh, NY, 30 minutes from the Pines.

For discounted airline and transfer information, contact Ann at Kent Travel, Toll-Free 1-800-537-8218.





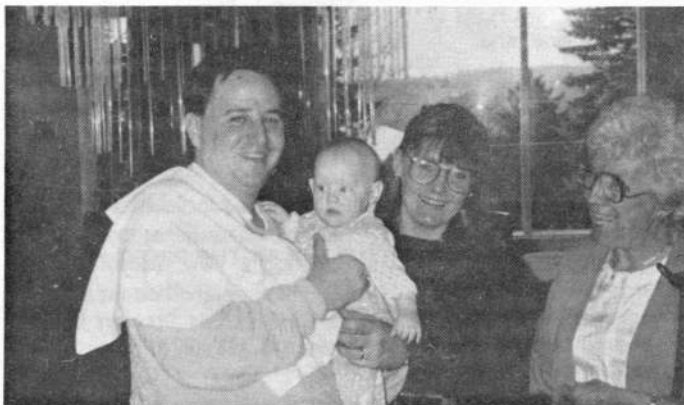
The Boston Chapter with "Simon Says" at the Pines.



Ralph & Gerri Gunderson & Ginny DiGlammerino at Gunderson's Florida home.



Rose Young & Marge Sessions



Bruce & Rosalie Selgie with their pride and joy Caitlin.



Happy Birthday Charlie



Nate Wentworth & Paul Brodeur. New members at Lussler's meeting.

## UNBELIEVABLE

On a Sunday morning in November 1990, prior to going to a hospital to visit my wife. I stopped by a local bowling alley to grab a sandwich. While I was eating, I watched some of the Senior bowlers of the state of Missouri bowl in the state tournament which was being held there.

I noticed that one of the guys I was watching was bowling pretty good. When they had finished their singles competition I went to the scoring table to see what series he had bowled. Looking at the score sheet, I noticed the name of his partner for the doubles competition. I could not believe what I was reading. I made the remark to the scorer whom I know, "There can't be two guys in this country with a name like that. I was overseas with a guy from Chicago or Detroit with that same name." The scorer said, "Maybe it's the same guy". I said that I did not know, but I was going to find out. When the chance arose, I asked the guy if he was in World War II, and he replied yes. I then asked him what outfit he was with and he answered with the 83rd Infantry Division. I said, "Yeah, Anti-Tank Co. 330th regiment." He asked, "How the Hell did you know that?" I replied, "Because I was there with you for damn near two years."

This was a reunion of two guys of A.T. Co. 330th, who had not seen each other for 45 years - Aldo Consani - Springfield, MO and Kenneth Tucker - Moberly, Mo. By the way, neither of us recognized one another.

Ken Tucker

AT Co. 330th

## **FLORIDA CHAPTER**

Our first meeting of the New Year was held at the Silver Lake Lodge in Ocala, Florida on Feb. 1st and 2nd 1991 with 72 people present. We were very pleased to see such a nice turnout, with the help of our northern members who were there and we are always glad to see them and have them with us. The Florida Chapter welcomes two new members they are Vern Mueller Co. D-331st of Portland, Oregon who came a long way and Franklin Meyers Co. D-331st of Perkasié, Pa. Glad you are with us. Jeanette and Bill McKee brought their daughter and her friend with them, Jules Desgain and his wife Agnes joined us as always in January to be in the sunshine. From the New England Chapter we had Mike and Marie Champy, Karl and Ingrid Burkhardt and their grandson and Harry and Ires Benedetti. Happy to have you.

We miss you Leo Schneider, we hope your feeling better and will be able to join us soon. To those confined to your homes, our thoughts and prayers are with you always. Please contact me if you have any news concerning our Florida Chapter and our members. If I don't hear anything, I can't write anything, as you know our meetings are only held in Jan. April, and November other than the Reunion in August. I would appreciate any news you have. Will the man who sent us his address as 7500 Captains Harbor #802 Bokelia, Fl. 33922 call me or write and give us his name so he can receive mail concerning our meeting.

Our Saturday night banquet was held at the Lodge with our group and we wish to thank our hosts Frank and Dana Sharp, who also donated some lovely door prizes. Thank you for a wonderful weekend. Our next meeting will be in New Port Richey, at the Governors Inn on April 26th and 27th with Nina and Frank Petitti hosting. See you all in "April. Till then, take care and God Bless.

Bill Herhuth, 324 Hdq. Btry.  
27 Alpine Dr. S.  
Winter Haven, Fla, 33881  
813-294-7175

## **DIXIE CHAPTER**

The spring 1991 Dixie Chapter meeting is now history. Let us go back remember this very special time in our lives.

Tue. 19. Somebody has to be first. I found out it was me when I arrived to find we had 16 rooms reserved for Wed. I knew it would not be quiet for long so I settled in.

Wed. 20. Here they come checking in early coming from Pa., New Jersey, Ohio, Kentucky, New York, Tenn. and Virginia. Twas good to have Marge Voracak along with a good group from Warren O. With such a large group on hand our hosts, John & Virginia Cox pulled some strings and had the hospitality suite open a full day early. What a treat to be with old friends once more and to be able to make new ones.

Thur. 21. This proves to be a great day with 46 rooms reserved. Sorry to say we had five cancellations due to sickness or accident. We trust all are better soon and able to be with us in Alabama in May or September in New York for certain. We're pulling for you all.

Whether it be bypass (Marva, The Candy Lady) or Broken

home Chiltee George Cox). We missed Coffey and his Enquirer but we did manage to carry on without him.

The record looks like this. They came from 17 states. Cap. Mac from New Orleans, La. to Bob Uher, Cleveland Ohio to Amby Tyman, Boston Mass. and 14 states in between. Wish I could mention each one because we certainly enjoyed each one of you. Thanks for bringing your wives, children, grandchildren, friends. What a beautiful sight to behold! Such a terrific group for all over bound together by a common cause. To celebrate life together and remember those not with us that have made the supreme sacrifice that we may be together once again. Lets continue to spread the word!!

Twas good to see Pirkle, Uher, Melton, B329 together after trying so many times.

Captain Mac had his troops lined up for inspection. They passed with flying colors - looked good and are in good shape. Old 1st Sgt. Earl McDonald was there with his K331 members - all doing great. They shared a couple experiences with me twas great.

Fri. 22 We have 11 more rooms reserved today. They're showing up and joining in the festivities. Lots of shopping, sightseeing and conversation from early til late.

Bill & Lill Bendow finally got here and trying to make up for lost time. We had seven states represented today. All rebel or Dixie States. The Yankees are already here and we've getting along just fine thank you!

John Cox had a tough job keeping up with this group. Hungry and thirsty is the word. John took care of each need, hopefully all are filled and happy. Lots of jokes and good stories going around. So many great pictures both new and old! Thanks, Jules Desgain for those from the war years. Twas really a ball to have you and your wife. Gene Costanzo still dances just like back in the Service Club Days. He changes partners so often I can't tell who he's with. I'm kidding of course. I really know because she told me.

Sat. 23. One room reserved, it's filled. Here comes Bob Smith. Our real life dirt farmer who's too busy to stay long but always comes but just hurrys back to the cows, chickens, pigs and all that good stuff. Keep it up Bob!

No one has slowed down yet. Excitement is running high. Banquet & Dance coming up at seven o'clock. Vitie Atkocion hasn't been quiet one minute since he got here. He even talks in his sleep.

Banquets on. Our president recognized guests and visitors. No one wanted to make a speech so we got on with the business at hand.

I counted 8 past National presidents and 6 past Board Members and 3 present Board Members. Bob & Pearl came with Kinfolk that somehow I missed. Bob, you take care of Pearl so those bones can heal quickly. See you in New York Pearl!

James Price came with two car loads from Pen. and helped keep Martin in line.

James Maruy came from Ridgetop Tenn. with a carload of beauties but alas! his lovely wife Jeanette was too busy to come. We missed you. John, you just keep sending Mary! Walter Blancett there with brother Carl, Navy Man and their lovely wives. Got fast and jumped a flock of wild turkeys on a sight seeing trip. Lou and Lucy Volpi didn't miss many dances but Al and Ann Blevedere didn't miss any. Twas so good to be there with each and everyone.

Thanks to all who brought goodies. Thanks to Haran Martin our hard working Sec. Treas. He never quits.

Most of all I want to Thank John & Virginia Cox for hosting a terrific meet. We just couldn't do it without you. Next March



well do it again. John has invited us - We've voted to come. We'll see you there in 1992. Come early - stay late. Bring an old friend. Make a new one & enjoy!!

Remember those who want to come but can't. For some this 1991 was their last. Lets remember them. Lets be there and make it another one to remember! See you!

Sun. 24. Up at six A.M. to depart. Parting is such sweet sorrow. I don't like to dwell on it! Your Dixie Reporter  
Ellsworth Massie

## **KENTUCKY CHAPTER**

On March 15th 1991, the famous 83rd. Ragtag Circus became activated again when about 15 cars and vans made the trek across the Western Central Ohio farm lands from Sidney, Ohio to the home of Al and Dorothy Henry where 50 of us sat down to a beautiful prepared supper of ham, beef, home made noodles, vegetables, 5 salads, relish tray, pies cakes and ice cream. It was a feast if I ever saw one.

I can't say enough for our host and hostess, Al and Dorothy Henry, Mick and Doris McGowan and I can't forget Bob and Lois Brinkman who I inadvertently left out of the last Thunderbolt, sorry about that Bob and Lois. This group really put on a good affair with a decorated hospitality room well stocked with food and drinks and a well planned weekend. Mick even baked a big chocolate cake for my wife's 71st birthday. I am sure everyone who attended will agree with me that the weekend turned out to be good comradeship among the many friends acquired over the years of attending 83rd affairs. We even had goodie bags. We were happy to see Marvin and Wanda Haydon at Sidney after Marvin's recent bout with the old heart. Also happy to see Bob and Pearl Derickson with Pearl getting around on a walker. I sure hope its not Johnny, but then at our ages a little spirits won't hurt anyone.

Chapter President, Floyd Richmond and wife Alberta were unable to make the trip due to the ice storm that hit Indiana earlier in the week especially the Kodomo area where they reside. It knocked the electricity out which I heard was still out on Saturday. Hope by the time this is printed, everything will be back to normal in Indiana.

Manny and Avalon Goodridge did not make it to Sidney because of Avalon's cracked vertebrae. She is still under doctor's care. Since Charlie and Kathleen Schmidt usually ride with the Goodridges they didn't make it either. Charlie had a growth removed from his neck. Hope by now everyone is back in good shape again.

Earl and Bonnie Hoover always said that if either one won the 50/50 they would turn their share back to the Chapter. So when lucky Earl won it, he gave it back. I guess it was chicken feed to these two chicken farmers of southwestern Ohio.

We signed up a new member while in Sidney, Ohio, Tom Reynolds and his wife Clara, 408 Western Ave., Toledo Ohio 42609. Tom served in the 908 F.A. short rounders with Manny Goodridge.

We received a very nice write up in the Sidney Daily News along with a photo of Doris McGowan. We hope some members who do not know we exist saw it and will now contact us so they can enjoy the fellowship like we do.

While in Sidney many of us went to visit the Titanic Museum and enjoyed the collection put together by the owner. Found out alot of things we did not know about that disaster.

Mick McGowan conducted our meeting in the absence of Floyd Richmond and Charlie Schmidt. He did a very nice job.

Our June meeting will be hosted by Leroy and Clara Johnson tentatively on June 21st and 22nd. The Motel has not been chosen yet but it will be in or around Evansville, Ind.

Our Fall meeting will be hosted by Nancy and Bill Ledger and Helen and Ames Miller at the Ogle House on Oct 18th & 19th in Vevay, Ind. It is located about 50 miles down the Ohio River from Cincinnati. Its a very beautiful spot. Hope to see some of our members who haven't been to a meeting for awhile. Don't forget we are all at the age where every meeting may be the last one you get to see your buddies and friends.

Two days after we returned from Sidney, Ohio we packed up again and took off for Williamsburg Va. John & Virginia Cox hosted the Dixie Chapter Spring meeting and they had everything ready for the invasion by the Chapters. I saw representatives from almost all the chapters. East of the Mississippi and I am sure they all had a good time. Mark your calendar for March 26, 27, 28, 1992, that's when us Yankees will invade Williamsburg again.

Heard a lot of discussions about the high cost of the Reunions so I suggest that a questionnaire be placed in the Thunderbolt so the people who attend the Reunions can let the people who run the Reunions know what they want and how much they are willing to pay.

Thats it folks, there aint no more  
Wilson Day,  
1st Bn Hqs Co. 331 St.

## **NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER**

Well the weather is about to break and we will be on the go again and another year and a year older o-boy.

Received a telephone call from Jim & Dot Brennan that Albert Tartaglia of Johnston, R.I. had a double By Pass the end of March and is coming along slow and if you would like to send him a get well card, his address 13 Vincent Dr. Johnston, R.I. 02919. Get well Al as we will be praying for your quick recovery.

Also our sympathy go out to Bill and Jeanette McKee of Three Rivers, Mass on the passing of their grand daughter Crystal Lagonas of Drocot Mass. and also to Claudio Faedi and her fine family on the loss of her husband Alfred Faedi Co. I 330 Canaan, Conn Al was a good soldier. He came to the 83rd Oct. 42 and made it. to the end of the war. He was a good member of the New England Chapter.

On the good side Mary Francullos Sister Barber and Husband Vince Brown of Macro, Ky. are proud parents.

Their son Marty Brown has made it in country music. Marty was on 48 hours March 13. Look at Nashville and the country music industry and the new up coming stars. Marty - singer/sing writer isn't scheduled to have an album out until late summer or early fall. M.C.A. said C.B.S. is using him to represent newcomer to Nashville the label said.

If all you remember our Owensboro Reunion the Ky. Chapter had him and his father playing at the beer party. Marty and his family would play at all our family reunions in Macro or Owensboro Ky. Good Luck Marty from Uncle Nick & Aunt Mary and the 83rd Inf. Div. Asso.

That is all the news I got for now.  
Your Buddy  
Nick Francello  
Hq. Co. 3rd Bn 330th



## **CLEVELAND CHAPTER**

Louis Donnelly, C Co. 331st passed away on Jan. 22, '91. Lou a long time member of the Clev. Chapter lived in Salem, Ohio. He attended most meetings with his wife Priscilla. They hosted many summer meetings at their home. Twenty-five members and their wives attended the funeral. Pall bearers were Bob Grobelny, Joe Belock, Casey Szubski, Bob Uher, Michael Mizerack and Earl Linsey.

We were sorry to hear in Feb. that Walter Meczka and Ed Jocek each lost brothers.

Steve Ferko, D Co. 330 and Al Lacinski, 331 will be playing baseball this summer in the 62 and over league.

Paul Dallos, D Co. 331 and Mary became grandparents of Dec. 28th. A grandson (born to their son and daughter-in-law Jon and Jill) was named Matthew Kevin III.

Our meeting on March 17, St. Patrick's Day was enjoyed by all. Our two cooks, (picture enclosed ) served a great corned beef and cabbage dinner with all the trimmings. The ladies provided thirteen deserts.

### **Officers for Cleveland Chapter 1991-1992**

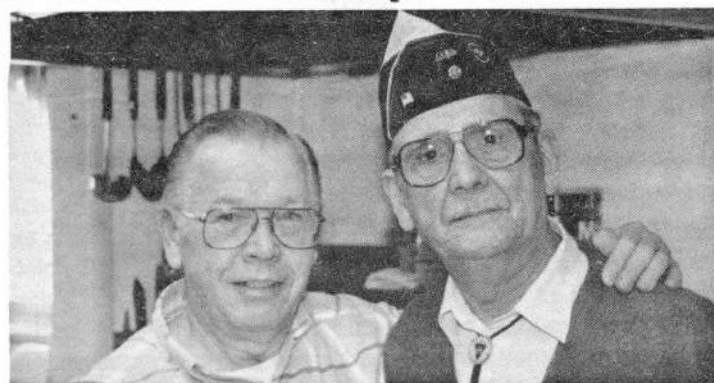
President	Bob Grobelny	A Co. 329
Vice Pres.	Casey Szubski	C Batt 322
Treasurer	Walter Meczka	F Co. 330
Rec. Sect.	Joe Belock	Hq. Co. 2nd Bn. 331
	listed as in enclosed picture	
Sgt. at Arms	Henry Trzeciak	D Co. 331
Trustees	Ed Jocek 3 yrs.	C Co. 329
	Bob Miller 2"	Hq. 330
	George Calore 1"	A&C 329
Chaplin	Earl Lindsey	M Co. 331

We invite new members. Meetings are held at F.O.P. Hall Bedford Hts., Ohio the third Sunday of the month. Please call President Bob Grobelny at 216-449-5085.

Kid L. Williams  
2 Bn. Hq. Co. 330  
Staff Reporter  
Cleveland Chapter



**Drink Up!**



**Cooks - Michael Mizerack and George Calore**

## **HOW DOES A SON TELL HIS FATHER HE LOVES HIM?**

Men are funny in their ego way,  
Society controls them not to say,  
An "I love you" to another male,  
Caught saying this you're sent to "jail."  
So how does a son tell his father he loves him?

He has given me friendship beyond required,  
He has carried me when my legs were tired,  
He has given the love of a mother,  
I would never ask for another.  
So how does a son tell his father he loves him?

He came to my games and I made him proud,  
"That's my boy," he'd yell to the crowd.  
After the game he'd pat my shoulder,  
"You play this game like you're five years older."  
So how does a son tell his father he loves him?

Low on cash he paid the way,  
Probably spoiled, I must say.  
He set the rules they had to be,  
When trouble occurred he was fair with me.  
So how does a son tell his father he loves him?

It is obvious I care very much about my father,  
For if I didn't I wouldn't bother.  
So how do I say that I care for him,  
While staying in the boundaries that are given?

I tell the boundaries to go to hell and I say -  
"I love you Dad!"

**Michael Szubski 1979**



**Chow Down**



**V.Pres. Casey Szubski - President, Bob Grobelny - Treasurer, Walter Meczka - Rec. Sect., Joe Belock**

## NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

Let me start this article off with the news that on March 12th, Kelly Lynn Dotson was born to Joann and Tim Dotson. Gandpa Joe DePeri is on cloud-nine. Congratulations!!!, God Bless You and May your New-born much happiness to you all.

Our meetings have been our only chapter activities since I last wrote. As usual we have a great time socializing. We sure do miss our buddy Bucky Polcaro. Bucky is still receiving treatment for his throat. Our prayers are that soon he will be well and again be with us.

A group of us went to Williamsburg for the Dixie Chapter Meeting. John and Virginia Cox did their exceptional job as hosts for this meeting. I'm sure, I speak for everyone who attended, everyone had a great time.

It didn't concern Ted Guzek when some Dixie Men kept looking for his wife Irene. Seems Irene ("Diamond Lil") kept beating them at poker and they wanted a chance at winning some back. NO WAY JOSE! Fred and Addie Rein and Fran and myself enjoyed the shopping, touring, Shoneys and all the rest Williamsburg has to offer. Sam and Edith Manzi were enjoying it all but missed seeing Fred and Nellie Messina. Mike and Liz Skovran were busy as usual. Mike had visited the Navy Yard at Norfolk with some of the men from Warren and Capt. Mac from New Orleans.

Don and Twyla Thiebolt were present and were thrilled to meet with Don's Company Commander who hadn't seen each other since WW2. The C.O. took them for dinner to the Kings Tavern, one of Colonial Williamsburg famous eating places and then to their home which is located near the famous golf course. Curtis Strange is the pro there and the green fees are only \$80.00, cart extra.

Son follows Father; Al Rinaldi retired football coach for a Richmond, Va. high school has his son Bruce replacing him. Al was instrumental in sending some of his players to star in college and the pro's.

We missed Emil Wehling and Bucky Polcaro in Williamsburg. They usually drove here together, but due to Bucky's condition it was out for this year. It was nice to see Marge Voracek again. We missed Ray but hope Marge will continue to be a part of us. It was good seeing Bob and Pearl again. They both looked great even the walker Pearl was using didn't keep her from being her usual chipper self.

Charlie sure missed something by not going. Ellsworth Massie, Charlie's 1st Sgt., attired in a rebel uniform and sporting a five month old beard had us Yankees running for cover. The following day he showed up wearing a combat camouflage outfit seeking volunteers for Desert Storm. This time the Rebels joined the Yankees in a mass exodus.

I was fortunate and honored to be in the presence of two Crack Thunderbolt Reporters. Imagine how a cub reporter would react to meeting Walter Cronkite. This was my reaction being with the renown Bob Uher from Cleveland and the equally renown Amby Tynan from Boston. I sure appreciate you fellows letting me tag along.

Haran Martin keeps Wilson Day and Myself informed about Buck Muldrow and Leland Thorton. Always nice to hear about and remember those you served with. Our best wishes to both and also to Mary Muldrow.

That's it for now. Take care.

Stan Bielen

1st Bn. Hdqs. 331

## WARREN CHAPTER

It is the first of April, Spring has officially arrived and members of the Warren Chapter and their wives have returned from that nice trip to Williamsburg, VA, for The Dixie Chapter March meeting. Once you cross the Blue Ridge Mountains, the weather was beautiful, except for one day of rain. We all got wet on that day. Joe Macaluso, took the men to the Norfolk Naval Base, in his new Chrysler car with his "Colonels Eagle on the bumper and we toured the base and was aboard the U.S.S. Wasp II, when the rains hit. The Navy boys saluted Mac and passed us right thru, otherwise the base was closed to the public...Mike Skovran, Charlie Tomazin, Babe Gautschi and Lee Titus accompanied Mac and despite the rain, it was a memorable trip...Meanwhile, the ladies got wet touring Colonial Williamsburg; Liz Skovran, Mena Macaluso, Ann Tomazin, Theresa Gautschi, Margaret Voracek and Birdie Titus thoroughly enjoyed themselves, shopping and spending money. We all wish to thank John and Virginia Cox, for all the work involved in hosting the Dixie Chapter meeting. As always, the hospitality room never ran out of refreshments and especially the Chile and Meatballs sure hit the spot...Thanks again to all you nice people from the south for a memorable three days.

### MEETINGS

Liz and Mike Skovran hosted the January meeting, Birdie and Lee Titus hosted the February meeting and Charlie Tomazin had the men tour his new Condominium for the March meeting.

### SICK CALL

Louise Bellay spent another week in March at the local hospital. She is O.K. now and back at work.

Joe Phillipone and John Shamrock continue to improve from their heart operations.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO

Millie and Dick Kelly, who will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary April 14th with a party. We will all be there to drink a toast to them.

### NEW GRANDPARENTS

Charlie Tomazin, Jr. and wife Lesley, presented Charlie, Sr. and Ann with their 4th grandson, Jan. 16 and named him Sean.

### OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

To Liz & Mike Skovran on the loss of brother, James A. Wojtowicz, who died on Easter Sunday.

Although the snow is falling as I write this column, we will open our trailers at Paradise Lake this weekend. Liz Skovran, John Shamrock, Cheese Bellay and Ted Halubka, will be starting their gardens very soon now and our golfers are finishing up their bowling season and will probably start golf in several weeks.

Once again it's time to close this report, so Good Health and Good Luck to one and all, from all of us in Warren.

Lee Titus

G-331





## **PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER** **NEWS**

To get on with the scheduling again for our Chapter this summer, for our May event the Chapter is now busy preparing for the Memorial Day Parade to be held in Narberth as this year an expanded parade in honor of the Desert Storm Troops is being planned by the community. After the community activities are finished, the Chapter then usually holds a memorial service of its own in order to honor our own Philadelphia Chapter members, as well as all 83rd members, who are now deceased. As usual, all are invited to attend and details as to time and date can be obtained from any of the Chapter officers.

For our July event, the Chapter is also planning a picnic to be held on Sunday, July 14, at Lester Hauck's home in Perkio-menville. This is always a very enjoyable afternoon, and any 83rd member who wishes to attend is always welcome to join our group that afternoon. There is plenty of room as Lester has a lot of ground, as well as picnic tables to accommodate.

Then our September event is the Reunion. We are now sending in reservations for the Reunion at the Pines to be held September 22-27. I hope to meet a good group of not only Philadelphia Chapter members but also other buddies as well.

While not always pleasant reporting this kind of news, Bernie Mendelson and John Devinney are still on our sick list. We hope they are feeling improved now that the really bad weather is behind us. We learned just recently that Joe Ponzio is in very poor health at this writing. Joe is in the Alexandria Hospital, Alexandria, VA 22300 and is seriously ill. This was surprising news to us as he looked well at the reunion in Pittsburgh. It was also reported at the last meeting that Mary McGrogan has passed away.

On a lighter side, our chapter member, Lou Volpi, is a man who is qualified to wear more than one overseas cap as a member of an organization. Recently he made the front page of the Narberth Main Line Times (wearing the appropriate cap) when the Lions Club, of which he is the current president, in conjunction with the (DARE) Drug Abuse Resistance Education program sponsored by the Boro Police Department, held a poster contest among their schools' fifth graders in order to publicize the anti-drug program the Police Department was conducting in the community, and the prize was \$100 donated by the Lions Club. The picture showed Lou, the young girl who was the winner, the police officer who conducts the DARE program, and the school's fifth grade teacher. No wonder Narberth continues to grow.

While we learned recently that Larry Redmond has sold his home and has moved into an apartment in Broomall, PA., at the present time I have not received his new address. However, when it is available, it will be reported.

Hope all of you have a good summer -- and we'll see you in September.

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

NOTE: This article was to have been taken to the post office yesterday, but our emergency news report concerning the air collision between a plane carrying Senator Heinz to Philadelphia and a local helicopter made me delay in order to check with the Volpis as we know they live close to the grammar school involved. I spoke to Lucy later in the day and she told me the crash was just about four squares from their home. At the time she heard the explosion, she went to her basement to

see if the heater had been the cause. It was when she heard the sirens and the ambulances, and people running, that she knew it was a major catastrophe. Knowing the kind of people who live in that area, there will be a lot of exceptional support for those who were affected. Life is definitely a day at a time.

JGD

## **PITTSBURGH CHAPTER**

On March 29 my brother Joseph died at the age of 73 and buried on April 2. He served with the MP Battalion of the 5th Infantry Division in World War II. Our paths crossed towards the end of the war and was fortunate to spend a day with him. He was self-employed after discharge and got to know several members of the Pittsburgh Chapter, Ed Walsh and Al Suess.

In my last column I failed to mention the names of the door prize winners at the past Christmas party. They were Ed Walsh, George Komlos, Greer Thompson, Bill Mattes. Kathleen Rudy, daughter of Mike and a nurse at the Jeannette Hospital was at the Lamplighter the same time as our Christmas party. The nurses had their party there. She has since been transferred to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C. She is attached to the 99th Arcom. TID BITS -- Charles Caven in Florida, will be back in May. Bill Arrol just back from there. Jules Desgain in the Sunshine State and Attended the Florida Reunion. Rose DeLuca, mother of Joe died recently--a mass will be said in her honor by the chapter. Joe's neighbor Anthony Madison killed in Iraqi scud attack housing the 14th Quartermaster Detachment. A bus being chartered by the chapter for the reunion in September at the Pines. A number of members are planning to attend the 1992 reunion in Omaha and travel by Amtrak. At the March meeting retiring treasurer John Gallo was given a standing ovation for a job well done. He had to retire for personal reasons. Also at this meeting a motion was made to purchase an attache case for our executive board member Gene Costanzo. Gene's mother-in-law died after Christmas last year. His sister-in-law died in January. His grandson Sean Bozel died in February. I think everyone know Sean from our picnics. A study in courage he was. A plan is in the works to revive our Spring Dance. Joe DeLuca and Bill Mattes are looking into the Days Inn in New Stanton, Pa. This year's Christmas Party is tentatively planned for the Churchill Country on Saturday, November 30. Joe Danylo is retiring and is selling his restaurant and his interest in the roofing business.

The baby of the chapter Al Suess turned 65 on January 22. Al is in charge of hospitality at all chapter meetings. He also hustles fund raisers at the bar of the VFW post where our meetings are held. One final note: our secretary Jim McCulla is seeking a 1942 roster of Co. C 329th Inf. If there is someone out there in possession of such a roster you may send a copy to me and I'll relay it to him. He took basic training with Co. C and then was transferred and spent overseas in the CBI campaign.

Fran Beerhalter  
H 329







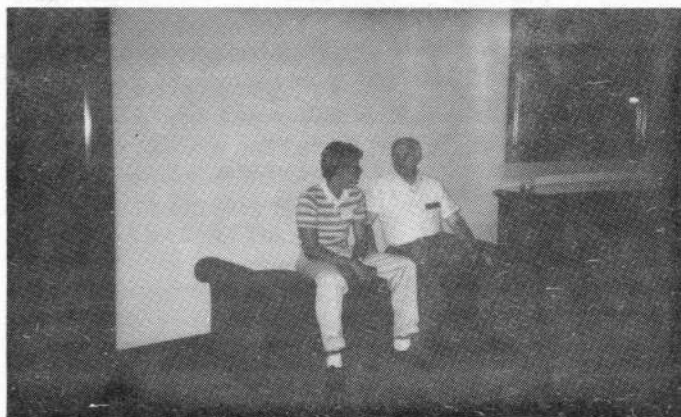
Past Christmas party head table; left to right: Lee and Ed Reuss, Theresa and Sal Scicolone.



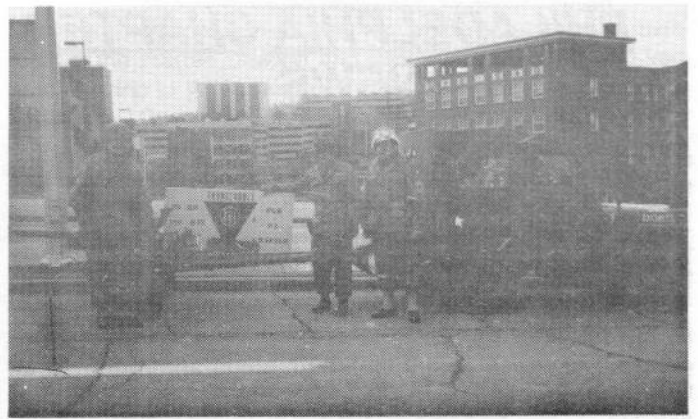
Face behind lamp, Al Sues; Dot and Ed Walsh.



Other half of Christmas party head table; left to right Gene Costanzo, Carmela DePalma, Agnes and Jules Desgain.



John Caruso, Jr. and Andy Churpak taken at past reunion.



Left to right: Jules Desgain, Gene Costanzo and Sal Scicolone. Picture taken at Pittsburgh Veterans Day parade. Equipment is property of Jules.

## Story of Atterbury Important

The Republic, Columbus, Ind.  
Monday, February 25, 1991

A lot of the hoopla surrounding the 1992 celebrations understandably is about the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' discovery of the New World.

While it may not have the antique value of that historic moment in time, events planned next year for neighboring Camp Atterbury are equally important to local residents.

They may be of even higher value since there are still a lot of people around who remember when the old military training base opened in 1942.

Thankfully, that is another historic moment that will be dusted off because of the efforts of Atterbury officials who will mark the anniversary of its activation in a permanent manner.

By erecting a memorial park -- featuring a bronze statue of an infantryman, a pond and a display of old military equipment -- project planners not only pay tribute to the camp's past but add a valuable contribution to the area's tourist attractions.



Camp Atterbury Post Commander Jorg Stachel points out some of the features on a proposed memorial park to mark the 50th anniversary of the activation of the old army base.

The dedication of Post Commander Col. Jorg Stachel in bringing the project to this point goes well beyond anything listed in his job description.

So does the work he has put into the preservation of the Chapel in the Meadow, the small but historically significant building erected by Italian prisoners of war who were held at Camp Atterbury in the '50s.

That building is also emotionally significant to dozens of Bartholomew County families who can remember the truck loads of prisoners being transported to area businesses and farms on work details.

Younger generations who have known Atterbury only as a training station for national guardsmen and reservists, a medium security prison or the home of the Job Corps need to be told of a time when it was teeming with young men on their way to war.

In restoring the camp's history Col. Stachel has had a tremendous supporting cast made up of local residents and businesses and veterans of units which were stationed at the camp in its heyday.

But additional help is needed. Materials for the memorial project will be paid for in voluntary contributions.

Donations of \$10.00 - \$20.00 - \$30.00 - \$40.00 - \$50.00, any amount you can afford would be appreciated. Please make all checks payable to Camp Atterbury Veterans Memorial Association. You may send them by mail to:

Camp Atterbury Mem. Assn.  
Attn: Comptrollers Office Bldg. #1  
Edinburgh, IN. 46124 - 1096

It's worth anything you can afford. History is worth preserving. You are cordially invited to attend the dedication ceremony on Saturday, 15 Aug. 1992 at Camp Atterbury to honor the veterans of WWII, Korea, Vietnam and operation Desert Storm.



## Companies

### CO. G 329 INF.

The weekend of March 15-16 the Kentucky Chapter meeting was held in Sidney, Ohio co-hosted by the McGowan's and the Henry's and Bob and Lois Brinkman of Co. G.

Vito Pallozzolo and Virginia were there too. John and Doris Fay, Helen and Ames Miller. Afterwards everybody went to the Brinkman's. They all toured Minster, Ohio and then to the Brinkman. The men talked mostly about if Co. G were in the Gulf and how they would win the war.

The women gabbed about food, clothes and just enjoyed each other company.

Grace & John Askey's son did his part in the Persian Gulf.

Luella & Sterling Rubright's also prayed for their son in the Gulf.

Ruth and Chet Morgan visited Babe and Howard Freitag in Florida.

Babe and Howard visited Luella & Sterling Rubright in Florida.

We are all looking forward to the Pines.

Drop me a line if you want something to be added to G. Company. 329th Inf.

Babe Freitag  
102 Philip Ave.  
Elmwood Park  
N.J. 07407

### 329TH "B" BAG

We just got back from a terrific trip to Williamsburg for a Dixie meeting. While we were there we met a lot of swell people who showed us their southern hospitality, except in the poker games. Those rebels are ruthless when it comes to poker. They made a believer out of me. I was a little disappointed that there were not too many from "B" Co., that showed up. The Melton's, Cliff and Lucille, the Pirkle's, Jesse and Carolyn were there. It was a pleasure to be with them. We enjoyed a few stories, pictures over some drinks and eats. I thought Frank Ballard, and some of the southern boys would be there. However there was a big fellow with a beautiful wife at the meeting, dressed in a camouflage outfit with a big beard that I never recognized him for the entire 3 days. When I asked who he was, I got answers, Kenny Rogers, Santa Clause, and EM. Even the great Stan Bielen didn't know who he was. I wish I knew who the bearded one was.

Heard at the Latrine.

That our fearless leader Capt. Hill has some surgery and is doing fine. Here's hoping the best to the best.

That Jesse Pirkle has finally retired and is taking it easy. Lots of luck and Happy Days ahead.

That the Trofimuk's, Al and Rose will be celebrating their 50 years of marriage in August. Many, many more years



ahead.

That Camels lemole is still having eye problems. Hang in there Sarge.

That the Stek's Joe & Ruth have moved permanently to the great state of Florida. Lots of luck.

That Billie Walker has moved to his sisters home and is doing fine.

That John Hennies is still in the dough business, cooking and in the catering business.

#### A Short Story

After a 3 day problem in Wales, we finally reached our battalion area. Shortly an officers tent was on fire. Everybody tried to put it out. After the fire was put out, they found the officers liquor was missing. To my knowledge, they never found the liquor or how the fire started, but we had countless shake-down examinations, even during the middle of the night. They even tried to smell our breaths. They sure made it miserable for us.

Have a good summer  
Bob Uher  
1-216-885-1152

## 783RD ORDNANCE

It's been a long time since I got caught with my pants down. Last night I was watching T.V. and I was suddenly awakened to the fact that it was April the 4th. and Bob wants this on the fifth! Well I know you won't work on Sunday Bob so I hope you have room on Monday.

The worse part of this is I really don't have much news and that's when I get in trouble. I'll try to be good to my "Dear old censor Bud Gilman."

The first bit of news is not good and it came by way of Ed Perko. Ed received a note from Glenn Vinings wife. Glen died from lung cancer last September. We certainly all remember Glenn as a friendly, talkative fellow who used his talented hand to our advantage. I was not aware that he was sick. I am glad we all had the opportunity of meeting Glenn at the Owensboro reunion.

I am glad to report that Ernie Jim Christian has improved with his lung condition. Two weeks ago he could get off his oxygen bottle for two hour stretches. This makes Justine happy too as they love to eat out.

Paul Bryers beware. Jim Jones will be in tip top shape come reunion time. Not only has he been in Fla. playing golf but he has also bought himself a little workshop. He is making wooden toys for children. Arthur Doggett here is your first chance to get in good with your former boss. Why not contact Jim and order something for your grandchildren. Oh. I'm sorry Art. I keep forgetting how much older you are than me. I meant to say your great grandchildren. And that's the truth.

Our turn-out at the Pines seems to be shaping up real well. I think we will have around twenty fellows. My golfing partner spent a week there last summer and he still raves about the food and entertainment. A number of us have signed up for the West Point boat trip. If any of you are on the fence about coming just jump that fence. I assure you the days will pass all to quickly and I don't have to remind anyone - it's later than you think.

You know writing like that can be hazardous to the health. Last month I received a threatening phone call suggesting I better have a good Philadelphia lawyer. I was being sued for

defamation of character. The person doing the suing was Phil Barbara. You recall I wrote that brilliant article on his and Ann's outstanding climb up the ladder of success. Phil took extreme exception to the one small error that was in that knowledgeable article. Phil is not Italian. To Phil I must say, "I'm sorry for these my offenses" now pass me the wafer and wine. What is Phil? Well, Ann's been trying to figure that out for years. Inasmuch as none of the buddies picked up my slight error I'm going to let you guess where you think Phil originated? Your clues are: it is an island, it begins with an S and it's in a sea that begins with an M. First five winners get to play free golf at the Pines. The next five correct answers get a free stay over in Verona Ky.

Another nice letter came in from Jake Chevalier. Jake will be 74 this year and he seems in good health. He says he is too old to travel but he wants to be remembered to all his old friends. Jake says he can remember names but not faces. Would you like to trade Jake?

Bob Hammond sent me an article of the Battle Of the Bulge and stated he would be at the Pines. It was also nice to learn that Bryers called Christian as fifty years of real friendship.

Carl and Alyce took the grandchildren to Disneyland and Carl had such a great time he went on some of the rides twice. Now for some of you fellows who are feeling old for yourselves. I just want to tell you Carl is not the youngest man in the 783rd.

Bill Litrenta a name out of our past. I finally found Bill at home and for 76 he sounds as feisty as ever. He said he has his ups and downs but he is living each day to its fullest. He works twenty five hours a week as a volunteer at the local centers. He wants to be remembered to everyone and he has a special message for Phil. "Don't put your hand through any-more windows."

That's it for this month. For those of you who haven't written for a while drop me a line so I can keep the chatter flowing.

Also one last reminder. Carl Fredericks is accepting green backs or checks for the 783RD ad book. Lets do our fair share. Carl's address is N. 84 West 16111 Donald Court, Menomonee Falls, Wis. 53051.

Hut Two,  
Rags Rangnor

## CO. I 329TH INF. 83RD - DIV.

Mission accomplished, Agnes and I spent the month of February on a trip down south. First stop was at Clemmons, N.C. with Elizabeth and Jesse Hayes, took us on a tour of the R.J. Reynolds tobacco company and also Wake Forest University, Elizabeth is scheduled to have surgery that may cause them to miss the trip to the Pines. Praying that she has it done and recovered in time to make it to the Pines.

Next we spent a couple of days in Sanford Fla. and visited with Max and Sally Francis in Lake Monroe, they intend to be at the reunion.

Then on to Sebring, Pat and Steve Bartha's were most gracious host. Pat kept us supplied with home made bread with her bread machine, we also helped them with their yard sale, they made so much money, I had to ride shotgun for Steve when he went to the bank. Just ask Pat about the tour I took them on in the big town of Arcadia Fla. The four of us



went over to Vero Beach stopped in to visit June & Joe Zenz. We also stopped at the Bartha's on their way down to see the Bellino's in Port Charlotte. We had a cook out, Steve did a good job broiled the steaks on the grille. Also with the Bartha's we went down to visit Pat & Frank Bellino's, we raided Franks trees of grapefruit, lemons and oranges.

The Bartha's also went with us over to Bradenton. We went shopping and I also visited with two of my old friends from Kent, Ohio. Also when we went shopping at a Wal Mart store in Sebring. I had on my 83rd Jacket, a man said to me I was in the 331st, Inf., he now lives in Sebring, we took his name and address and the next day we mailed him an application so that he could join the association.

Agnes and I then went down to Palm Beach to spend sometime with my cousins. From there we headed north to Zephrrhills, I hadn't called the Olneys in advance so when I got there they were not home, they were down in the Everglades enjoying an air boat ride. So I left them a note and took a picture of their house to prove that I was there. Received a letter from them, sorry we missed connections, they said they will see us at the Pines.

Next stop was Decatur Ga., Lucy and Curtis Mills took us on a tour that included the Jimmy Carter Library, Martin Luther King Center, and Stone Mountain also a nice restaurant called Gordy's, they are undecided about the trip to the reunion, hope they do decide to come.

Doris and Mac McGowan also visited the Mills, Bartha's and Bellino's on their trip south.

On our return, Agnes and I spent a Sunday with Walt & Joyce Henschel in Medina, Ohio. They are making the trip to the Pines with us.

We then went to the Kentucky Chapter meeting in Sidney, Ohio, which was hosted by the hard working people who were the McGowans, Brinkmans and the Henrys. And what a meal we had at the Henry's. I voted for Dorothy for cook of the year.

While in Columbus, O. for Easter weekend I talked to Fred Kibbey on the phone, he said that he and Dorothy weren't able to travel, but to say hello to the gang for them while at the Pines.

I know that the following people already have their reservations for the Pines, including us, are the Henschels, Bellino's, the Bartha's who are flying up, they are being picked up at the airport by Ginny & Ray Hayward who will drive them over to the Pines. By now the Hoover's, Zenzs and McGowan's should also have theirs in. We have also appointed Honnewell and Fred Sylvia point men to take care of the I Co. people at the reunion so you other people get your reservations in right now.

I also talked to Estel Taylor in St. Joe, Ind. He said that he and his wife were not able to travel, so they can't make it. I also tried to reach Orval Turner via phone while in Columbus, but couldn't make connection.

Also couldn't get ahold of Jean and Dick Haas, thought maybe they would come down to Sidney, O. for the Kentucky Chapter meeting, Mac McGowan thought that maybe they were still in Florida.

Jim Fornof also sent me some pictures of I Co. men taken overseas, must be because of our old age or memory loss we can't identify some of the men, Will bring the pictures to the Pines, maybe some one else will know them.

Art Koerner



**Back Row: Left to Right Jim Fornof, unknown, Arvil Clemons, unknown.**

**Front Row: unknown, Stan Jurgonski, unknown**

April 3, 1991  
Ravenna, Ohio

Bob:

Included is a picture taking of I Co. men, sent to me by Jim Fornof, a jeep driver from I Co. maybe you can put it in the Thunderbolt, I showed it to Hoover, McGowan, Bartha & Bellino, we can only identify 3 of the men in the picture, maybe someone else can identify them. I don't know if it was taken in either France or Germany.

Art

## **G CO. 331ST INF.**

A little late in getting my article this quarter. I decided that I had to have some time off, so off we went. The wife and I took a trip to Virginia to see our daughter and her family. Then down to Williamsburg to meet with the men of the Dixie Chapter. That mini reunion has turned out to be quite an event. Beau Titus, Babe Gautchi, and Gene Costanzo were there from G Company and a few others from units in the 2nd Battalion. We took a drive to Norfolk to see how the Navy lives. We did manage to get aboard a Naval ship, we did not get a tour of the ship, but we saw enough to be impressed.

My son in law and I drove over to Indianapolis to see the Basketball games at the Final Four. You men who had the privilege of going to Indianapolis during the war would not recognize the downtown area of that city. What a wonderful job the city has done in rebuilding the downtown area.

We did take a trip down to Camp Atterbury and visit the Chapel where the plaque from the Association is on display.

Placed a call to Kenny Baird, but he was on vacation. On Sunday Clyde Flanary picked us up and gave us a cook's tour of the city.

We had a nice dinner, and then more sightseeing at the Speedway. Clyde seems to be enjoying his retirement and looks good for a man near 75. It was good to see him once again.

I haven't had a chance to talk with Pangle or Gaynor lately, but some time later in the month of April, I will send out my letter to the men of G Company, I hope by that time I will have an up to date health report.

We should be making our plans to attend the reunion in New York, this year, remember that the time of the reunion is changed for this year, it is from 22-27 September.



Maybe, we can get Oscar Rutstein to come down to the reunion as he did a few years ago. And Robert Goldstein should be able to make the trip from New Jersey. I will give more information on the reunion in the letter I send out in April.

My son in Saudi Arabia was able to send me an 83rd patch from one of the Reserve units from the 83rd Army Reserve Command. He has had quite an experience since he has been over there. His war stories may be better than the one I tell each year. He still has some months to spend over there, because his Reserve unit will be one of the last units to leave the Gulf Area.

I was able to locate another 83rd man in Louisiana, A Herman Day who was with E Company and was captured at the Rhine River, I will send him some information and he will become a member of the 83rd Association.

I forgot to mention another member of G Company who has been on sick call, Joe Phillipone, from all indication he is doing fine after another transplant. Take care of yourself, Joe, and go easy on the butter and cokes.

Capt. Mac

## **CO. K - 331ST INF.**

As you know, our 45th Annual Reunion of the 83rd Infantry Division Association is being held at the Pines, So. Fallsburg, New York, September 22nd to the 27th, 1991.

Last year the Reunion was in Pittsburgh, Pa. and there were quite a few men from Co. K in attendance. We all had a great time.

Co. K was always represented in the Ad Book. The Booster Ad is \$5.00 per person. Please note: any additional name submitted must be accompanied with \$5.00. Please make checks payable to the 83rd Infantry Division Assoc. and send it to me:

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

If you know a Company Buddy, please notify them of this information.

Let's show the other Companies that King Company is still one of the Spearheads of the Division.

All Ads must be received no later than July 1, 1991, but I would appreciate it if you would send it to me as soon as possible.

Hope this note finds you well and I am looking forward to seeing more men from Co. K at the Reunion.

Al Belvedere  
Co. K. 331st Inf.

## **323RD F.A. BN.**

Everyone must be o'kay. The only one I had a call from was George Polites from Dracut, Ma. He is doing better. I am going up to see him in April and learn how to play cards. Bill Metellinois lives close by so I will see him too.

George Connors has been at the Boston Chapter meeting so I see him too. Also Livie Maynard comes to the meetings.

It is time for Hq. Battery men to send money for our Memorial Page in the Ad Book to remember our deceased. I am sure everyone wants this to be continued.

I was told by a "Little Bird" that Donald and Amy St. John will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary in May. Congratula-

tions to you both. God Bless You both.

You "Kids" in Florida, I am sorry I did not make it down this year. I had an operation and my wife Nancy had two hip operations. This was enough for one winter.

I hope next issue I will have more time and news.

Amby Tynan  
323rd F.A.

## **CO. "A" - 329TH INF.**

Here it is the top of April already. How time flies!

I hope a lot of you "A" Co. fellows registered for the 45th Reunion at the Catskills. You know it will be held at "The Pines" in New York State.

Lt. Joe "Ringy" Stefancin called me a few weeks ago, and said he was doing pretty good. "Ringy" had some water drained from his heart. He was wounded in the Hurtgen Forest - a sniper shot him. He wondered if anyone remembered that and if they got the sniper. "Ringy" told me he does not do anything strenuous, but does do gardening in spring and summer.

I talked to George Suchornelly the other day and he told me that he loves retirement. He had a slight heart attack in 1985, but is fine now. George worked 36 years for Reading Tube, also called Reading Industries. The company went into "Chapter 11" the last 5 years he worked there. He has 2 children - a son 38, and a daughter 34. All in all they had a pretty good life!

John Camp our "ole" medic, writes and keeps me informed on a lot of old buddies. He told me about "Mutt" Adair having a colon operation. I got a Get Well card for him and a few days later I received a letter from his wife Dorothy. She told me all about "Mutt's" situation. A few weeks later, I called and talked to "Mutt" himself, and, by golly, he sounded great! He wants everyone to know he's going to lick this. I told him, "damn right you will, don't forget you're an old 83rd warrior". We had some good laughs over the phone. Get better "Mutt"! How about sending "ole "Mutt" Adair a card, I'm sure it will make him happy. Grady M. Adair - RR1 Box 104, Saltillo, TX. 75478.

Earl Deisher comes every month to our 83rd Cleveland Chapter meetings. He had his yearly physical and is in good shape! Our Mess Sgt., George Calore, also attends every month. He cooks for our monthly meetings. He told me he ran into Jim Tomola. He tried to talk him into joining our Cleveland Chapter. Keep up the good work, George. A bit of sad news, though, George said. You fellows remember Robert Jindra-he was transferred to the 4th Div. before we went over seas - well, he passed away last fall.

Bernice and I are hanging in there. Bernice does counted cross stitch and loves to crochet. I'm building my 4th doll house and do a little wood carving. Comes summertime, though, I'm still an infantryman - I'll go backpacking with some of my grandchildren. We have fun together. We did it with our 2 kids, now it's with our grandkids! I haven't heard from Bill Tisher or any of the 4th Platoon people. How are things going, Tish?

This is all the news that I have this time fellows. Keep in touch and hope you all had a nice easter of Passover.

Your Buddie,  
Bob Grobelny



## CO. "H" 330TH

Once again I sit at this typewriter, trying to think of what to write and what to say to all of you. I am mighty proud of Co. H for the great support they have shown me over the years. When I have written you men to inform you of the illness or death of a Co. H man, there have been several responses sent to the Families, that proves that Co. H is just like one great Family.

This year, we unfortunately lost some of our Co. H members, and among them, we lost one of the greatest men that ever served in the 83rd Infantry Division in World War II, and that was our old friend, Capt. Jack, the one and only Jack R. Masters. I don't think that there was a man who served under him that didn't have the greatest respect for him. Although he was a real Military Man and wore his bars with pride and honor, he was still dedicated to his men. Capt. Jack was more like a father to many of us than he was a Commanding Officer. I know that there are other men who feel the same way about their Company Commanders and their Officers, and I can't say as I blame them. I had the honor of knowing several of the Officers in the 330th Infantry Regiment and I dare say that most of them that I knew were terrific dedicated men.

Well Buddies, more than likely, before you get a chance to read this letter, the Mailman will be at your door with a personal letter, a letter from me asking you for your help in making the Co. "H" page the largest in the Reunion Ad Book. Over the years I have had great support from you, but this year I need your help even more. We want the Members of this great Association to know that Co. "H" was and still is the greatest Company that served in the 83rd Infantry Division. My mailing list for Co. "H" is shrinking, so if you have any names and addresses, please send them to me. I have recently moved, so check my new address on the letters you will receive. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

Larry Redmond  
Evergreen Club, Apt. F-1  
3041 West Chester Pike  
Broomall, Pa. 19008

## *Cards & Letters*

### THE SOLDIER'S FRIEND

The 88's and 105's  
Sang as they passed, "You're still alive!"  
But the mortar shells, a sneaky thing,  
Dropped & without warning of their sting.  
The night was sprinkled with red and green  
From tracers carrying death unseen.  
I lay in a ditch and watched the show  
As 88's exploded in the field below.  
I picked my moment with a muttered prayer  
And ran like a rabbit for the hedgerow there.  
It was safe and solid and thick  
And to the next field I must move quick  
To reach that soldier's friend  
A big, fat hedgerow once again!

*Hal O'Neill  
-composed while visiting  
Normandy with the 83rd*

## TO A SOLDIER'S HEART....with love.....

Dear Soldier:

Your reassuring bravery has touched my heart,  
thoughts run rampant thru my head,  
praying that God is there with you, as I lie  
safely in my bed.

I ask myself if there is fairness that only  
some must go to fend  
for freedom and for justice...a few brave  
and fearless men.

I ask myself what I can do for you yet I  
feel somewhat at a loss...  
freedom, I've taken for granted, yet it  
comes at quite a cost.

I agree that war is never welcomed  
yet Fate has decided that it be,  
as God stands there beside you, you fight  
for you and me.

Saddam, I do not understand him, how  
one could be so cruel  
so vicious and so uncaring, your  
time he so carelessly has stole (n).

And you stand so brave and ready  
in that uniform that knows no shame  
this time it is the real thing, and no  
longer the boyish game.

Forces come together, as you say, for  
a common cause

and back here in your homeland hearts come to-  
gether

in a silent pause.  
our love goes out to each of you, tears  
upon the pillow fall  
I'm ashamed to be so fearful when you must  
stand so tall...

The Bible by my bedstand, your name engraved  
within its pages divine,  
be strong my special soldier!  
your a special hero of mine!

*Sue Burkholder  
Legislative Assistant  
from Norm Schuster*

Richard Pentz  
894 E. Walnut St.  
Hanover, Pa. 17331

Richard has had a stroke and cannot  
speak. Let's cheer him up by sending  
a card.



Dublin, Ohio  
March 18, 1991

Hello Robert,

Enclosed you will find a poem I attempted to write for my husband T/Sgt. "Mathena" as he was known by the boys in "K" Co. 331st Inf. Div. That was in World War II in Europe "We saw it through" Even Tho' he got wounded, he was one of the lucky ones to see it through. After watching the war in the Middle East I thought of all of the boys, their mothers, fathers, their wives and children praying and waiting patiently with flags flying, yellow ribbons and desert storm signs for their loved ones to return home soon just as myself once did for "my Hero". I know there are many heroes out there and we are proud of every one of them. I decided I'd send in this poem I'd written for my husband and if you print it I'm sure it will bring back many memories to all of the 83rd men who read it. Back in 1942 to 1945 when my husband was in we did not have the news coverage we have today but the TTF news he sent me in letters War is an awful thing but "They saw it through" now we watched it through. Several years have passed we are older, heavier and gray but we have never forgotten what army life was like and so thankful today to send this poem and our picture to share with those who "saw it through" "with My Hero". We were fortunate to spend several days with the "Grays" in Rossville Ga. and the "Browns" in Ala. This summer we all got together since we were all in the 83rd, we had a great time going over our army lives together and our days we spent together in Morganfield Ky. Near camp Breckinridge Kentucky.

I thank you  
Flossie Mathena



### "MY HERO"

It was nearing the end of October  
The leaves were starting to fall.  
Greetings! came from the President,  
My husband had gotten his call.

He was stationed at Camp Atterbury, Indiana,  
His basic training to have been.  
He can still see "Maggie's Drawers" waving,  
To look back it seemed funny to him.  
He learned to make beds and clean rifles,  
And he shined his boots every day.  
His poor arm was tired from saluting  
Each officer who passed by his way.

The weather was cold, the ground frozen hard.  
Mathena has never seen leggins so large,

He learned when on his tummy he fell.  
He tells this and laughs with a chuckle,  
"I guess I didn't lace them too well.

He had never seen leggins before then,  
He had laced them the hooks all inside.  
When they caught, he went for a tumble.  
My poor "Hero" sure went for a ride.

He hiked many miles, he got blisters,  
He wore G.I. boots don't you see?  
His body shaped up so quickly,  
Like any good soldier should be.

Next came Tennessee maneuvers,  
More technical training had he.  
Each had one canteen of water  
To last for the day so to be.

Then on to Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky,  
More training and joined by his wife.  
These are the days of a life time  
We'll remember the rest of our lives.

While there, he learned the morse code with a flashlight  
To use when he went over there.  
It's funny to hear all these stories.  
They are true, I know "My Hero" too well.

He left for New York's embarkation  
On a ship he was put very "quick",  
The worst part of that sad story  
"My Hero" could not swim a lick.

I worked every day on assembly  
Making rockets for the U.S. Navy abroad.  
As I steadily worked my mind pondered  
To "My Hero" over seas where he trod.

I lay on my pillow at night time,  
Watching the moon up above.  
I couldn't help think as I lay there,  
Is the same moon I see shining brightly  
Shining on "My Hero" I love?

The mail man brought his letters daily  
And picked up mine just as well.  
We kept all our secrets between us,  
Little things that we'd never tell.

I worked on cement eight hours,  
I suffered with leg aching pains.  
No pain could compare to "My Hero's"  
An infantryman in snow and in rains.

One day while working and pondering,

The loud speaker roared with a blast!  
 We were told the war had just ended,  
 "My Hero" would be home at last.  
 I made up my lines and my speeches,  
 I bought myself a new dress  
 To dress for the "special occasion",  
 For "My Hero" who could have cared less.  
 When we met we both were left speechless, My plans  
 had all slipped away.  
 All I saw was the stripes on the shoulder  
 Of his coat, on the chair where it lay.

Now this is the end of my story,  
 The rest you can very well guess.  
 How much "I thank God" for bringing "My Hero"  
 Home to me safe in his uniform well dressed.

By: Flossie Mathena  
 12/25/90  
 For my husband  
 T/Sgt. Wilder C. Mathena  
 Co. "K" 331st 83rd Inf. Div.

Dear Bob:

Please print the following or something like it in the next issue. The roll of 35MM is valuable to someone - hope they respond.

"Lose a roll of exposed 35 MM at the Pittsburgh Reunion?  
 The roll was found near the elevators in the Vista Hotel.  
 There are 24 exposures. One exposure of the sheet in front of the hotel from about the 5th floor or so. 5 exposures of a family in the kitchen. 4 young people (teens) - 3 girls, one boy plus 3 older women, one with a red shirt. 10 exposures of a band practice in a school yard with 2 fiberglass sousaphones. Seven exposures of adults & children enjoying an above ground pool back of a brown brick house.

I will be happy to send the prints to whomever claims them.

Sincerely  
 F. Bollard  
 6878 19th St.  
 St. Petersburg, FL. 33712

Dear Bob:

As per our conversation at the Sidney meeting I am enclosing some pictures you may or may not be able to use. The picture of the Brinkmans is out standing in color I will have a 8 by 10 made and give it to them if they show up at the next meeting.

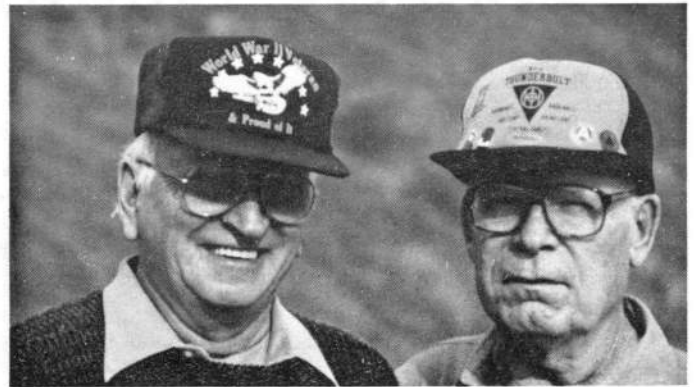
The pictures of the men I was in with are all from H.Q. 3rd Bn. 331 St. however Killion was transferred to L Co. 331 during Battle of the Bulge and badly wounded.

By the same token John Shepherd came from L Co. to Bn. HQ. while we were at Breckinridge

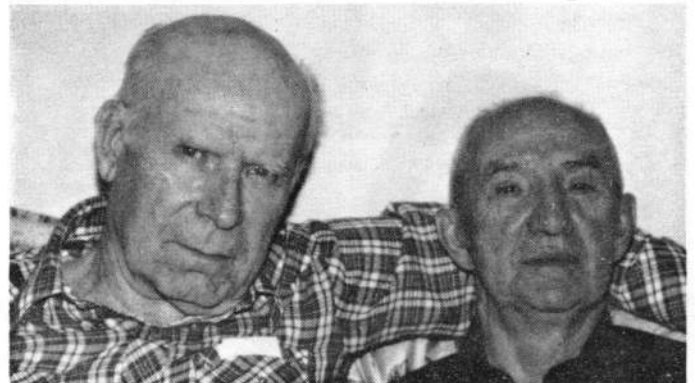
It never pays to give up on locating your old buddies, I located three last year. I hadn't heard from since 1945 one who had moved 11 times and I got lucky and located him in less than 2 hours after starting to find him.

Hope Pearl is coming along good with her broken leg and that she will be in good shape by our meeting in Evansville in June.

Leroy V. Johnson



**Leroy V. Johnson & John Shepherd. Stopped & saw him when on my visit to Dencil Hoover last Nov. 1990.**



**Leroy V. Johnson, Keith Killion, Indiana. First meeting since 1944 in Hurtgen Forest.**



**Leroy V. Johnson & Paul Stockinger, Florida. First meeting since 1945.**



**Leroy Johnson and Dencil Hoover, W. Va. First meeting since 1945.**



**The Brinkmans, Sidney, Ohio**



Dear Bob:

Enclosed find check for 20.00 for Gus Zelmer & myself. Sorry couldn't make the reunion, was visiting Chicago at that time 1990, try to make it in 1991.

Found this picture of myself that was taken at the Elbe River. The picture was taken the same day they (Germans) bombed the original bridge & they opened the Truman Bridge, the same day Roosevelt died, & Truman became President, so the bridge was the first thing named after him.

Thanks  
Lawrence Myerson  
Hq. Det. 308th Medics  
401 Caeiso Drive, Punta Gorda, Fla.



**HELLO BUDDIES:**

Here it is that time again, time for another issue of our great "THUNDERBOLT" to go to press. In the course of moving, I almost forgot how the time was flying by on the calendar. I am finally in my new home, it is an Apartment this time, different than being in a big house, but very comfortable.

Well Buddies, as you well know, it is time for us to start planning for the forth-coming Reunion. The Boston Chapter is hard as work,

and once again, yours truly is in there helping with the Ad Book. I know that the work I have done on this book in the past has caused some controversy, but to those of you who are resentful as to what I am doing, I am very sorry. What I am doing is and has been for the good of the 83rd Infantry Division Association. There was a time when the complaintant was on a Reunion Committee and needed the help, but those days are forgotten.

Getting away from that, and back to the present time, I am once again seeking your help in making this another very successful Reunion. Without this book, it would be almost impossible to put on a Reunion at a price that we could all afford. There are many of you men who have recently joined this Association that are not aware of the hard work that has been put forth to keep this Association alive. There are quite a few men who gave a lot of their time, and I dare say, a few who made serious contributions financially to help this Association keep going, who are now deceased and we owe them a debt of gratitude for it.

I ask you all to once again lend your support to the Boston Chapter to help them with their Reunion planning. Even though the Reunion isn't until September, they are in need of financial help right now to help with the commitments that must be met. We appreciate your contribution, no matter how small it is. Granted, we do like to receive such ads as full page ads, half page ads or a quarter page ad. We even appreciate booster ads, we ask those of you who choosers to take just a booster ad, please make an additional donation and ad the name of a Buddy. Let us not forget those unfortunate Buddies that did not return home from the War with us, or those who were or still are in Hospitals, or those who have passed away in recent years.

As I bring this letter to a close, let me remind you that this Association is the greatest Veterans Organization that any of us could be a Member of because it is composed of men who served together and endured the horrors of War side by side. Our hats are off to those men who over the years have been man enough to accept the duties of an Office that has helped keep this Association going. Through thick or thin we have struggled for 45 years to keep this Association what it is today, let us continue to try keeping it as successful as it is until the last of us are here. **MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.**

Larry Redmond  
Evergreen Club, Apt. F-1  
3041 West Chester Pike  
Broomall, Pa. 19008

I watched the dawn this morning  
as the Sunlight came shining through.  
My thoughts viewed my past life  
and the future what shall I do.

Then I heard the birds singing  
Sounding different than before.  
My heart began to pound  
As if a knocking on the door.

I gazed at the pretty flowers  
And I felt the pounding again.  
Then I felt the pounding again.  
Then I heard a voice speak  
Open - may I come in.

I felt as if a door opened  
While greeting the new day.  
I said Lord is that you speaking  
What do you wish to say.

I said thank you for this world of beauty  
Thank you because I know you care.  
Now that you have open my Eyes.  
I can see you everywhere.

Thank you for this visit  
and all the love you share  
I am looking forward for tomorrow  
Now I know you will be there

*Haran Martin  
Dixie Chapter*





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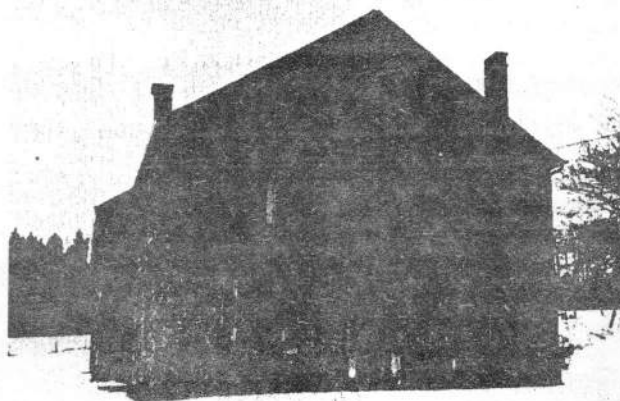
Make check or money order payable to VBOB and mail with this application to above address.

## **A BOY OF SEVEN .....RECOLLECTIONS**

I was a boy of seven when I witnessed a scene of a patrol of two American soldiers being captured with their jeep during the Battle of the Bulge. It was the 3rd week on a cold but sunny day in January, 1945. The country was covered with snow. Our remote farm was situated between Rogery and Beho, 12 km southeast of Vielsalm. It was occupied by a German headquarter; perhaps an SS unit.

My grandmother and my mother ran towards the American jeep to warn the two poor soldiers who nevertheless were captured and questioned in front of our house. One of them spoke some German. From all that I have read, they perhaps must have belonged to the 331th Infantry Regiment, 83rd Infantry Division.

I wonder what happened to them. The last image I recall in those two brave men pushing the jeep that a German soldier was trying to drive. I have never forgotten their pale and frightened eyes during the questioning.



This is a picture of our farm. In those days, the frames of the windows were white and crosswise divided.

**DOES ANYONE REMEMBER???** Jean Timmermann,  
Rue Redouté, Bis. B-6870 Saint-Hubert, Belgium

### **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  
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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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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.**