



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

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A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

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*Walter H. Edwards Jr. 1951
Leo Schneider 1952
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Lawrence J. Redmond 1954-55
*Lt. Gen. Robert H. York 1956
*Harry W. Lockwood 1957
*Raymond J. Voracek 1958
Charles Abdinoor 1959
*Joseph F. Minotti 1960
*Frank J. McGrogan 1961

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

Mike Skovran 1976
Manlius Goodridge 1977
Joseph A. Macaluso 1978
*William J. Chavanne 1979
Samuel Klippa 1980
Michael Caprio 1981
Ralph Gunderson 1982
Arthur Doggett 1983
Bernie Cove 1984
Carroll Brown 1985
John Hobbs 1986
George Pletcher 1987
Charles Schmidt 1988
Edward Reuss 1989
Charles J. Lussler 1990
* Denotes Deceased



THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

Congratulations to Charles Lussier, Pat DiGiammerino, and the entire Boston Chapter for a superior reunion at The Pines.

I wish to thank the members of The Association for the honor they have bestowed on me by electing me to the select group which has held this position in past years. I pledge to you my best efforts to follow in the tradition those who have preceded me have established.

The members of The Central Plains Chapter are working diligently to give you a most rewarding and enjoyable visit in Omaha, at our 46th Annual Reunion 19-22 August 1992, during the 50th Anniversary Year/Month of the activation of the 83rd Infantry Division for duty in WW II.

A Chapter meeting was held 16 October, at Howard Johnson Hotel, Omaha. During the cocktail hour, the tape of our Memorial Service and Gala Banquet was shown. After dinner, a business meeting was held, reports of this year's reunion were given and further planning for the Omaha reunion was done.

Edgar Haynes

P.S. Your reservation applications will be in your next issue. I thought maybe this article might be of interest of what Omaha has to offer.

Veterans Find Omaha A Welcome Landing Spot

By T.L. Henion
World-Herald Staff Writer

The first time members of the 2nd Indian Head Division landed at a place called Omaha -- a sandy beach in France -- they were welcomed by German gunfire.

Last week about 450 members of the famed division made a second landing at a place called Omaha -- Nebraska -- and were welcomed with open arms.

The hotel's lobby was a four-day whirlwind of activity. Veterans and their wives milled around the souvenir tables, bulletin boards and reception areas.

"I've been going to these reunions for 15 years in a row, all over the country. This is one of the best ones that we've ever had," said Charles Myers of Hammonton, N.J.

Myers was a first sergeant when the division landed in Normandy June 7, 1944. The 2nd Indian Head also fought in World War I and the Korean War.

"People here in Omaha really go overboard to see what they can do for you," Myers said. "Last year we were in Las Vegas. They gave us a bad deal. We paid twice as much for the rooms as everybody else. Too many distractions. I never had time to talk with anybody. I personally don't care if we ever go back there."

Military reunions, particularly among World War II outfits, are a rapidly growing segment of the convention industry,

said Nan Schwerts, a marketing representative for the Greater Omaha Convention and Visitors Bureau. Military reunions make up 10 percent to 15 percent of Omaha's conventions, she said.

Omaha's central location, affordable lodging, good restaurants and friendly people are natural assets in the eyes of convention planners. The city also offers attractions such as Boys Town, Offutt Air Force Base, the Strategic Air Command Headquarters and museum, Ak-Sar-Ben horse racing, the Old Market, Museums and the Henry Doorly Zoo.

"Most of the military reunions like to have some sort of military site to go see," Ms. Schwerts said.

Ms. Schwerts said a military reunion probably averages about 200 people who stay an average of three days. They spend an average of \$100 per person each day. With 50 reunions this year, that's more than \$3 million.

At least 25 are booked for 1992, said Arlene Lee, Convention sales manager for the bureau.

"We have really been zeroing in on it the last few years," Ms. Schwerts said. "It used to be kind of a silent business, but it's really getting big now. And you wouldn't believe the competition between cities to book these military reunions. It is incredible."

Bigger Cities Rejected

Ed Price of Columbus, Ohio, reunion planner for the 2nd Indian Head Division, said Omaha beat out New Orleans, Kansas City, Oklahoma City and Baltimore for the 1991 bash.

"I was so surprised at what Omaha had to offer. And the hospitality! The restaurants! The hotel rates are right, you can get good meals and you have good people here. That's what you look for in a convention site," Price said.

"And there are the little things that might not seem important, but they are. Things like the hotel providing transportation to and from the airport...Look, I want to be at a place where I can show my photo album around and look at other people's pictures. Talk, trade stories, that sort of thing. This is perfect.

The Omaha bureau's marketing program for military reunions is simple but effective: An aggressive program sends direct mail to reunion planners across the country. Those who answer are invited to take a familiarization tour of the city. The tour costs are subsidized by airlines, hotels, restaurants and attractions, Ms. Schwerts said.

"We get a lot of support. Our marketing budget for these military reunions is --ballpark figure -- maybe \$3,500. So the only way that we can do it is through support from everybody," Ms. Schwerts said. "We like to think that once we get the reunion planner to come to Omaha, we'll get them hooked on the city."

In 1989, 20 reunion planners and their spouses, representing 17 groups, visited Omaha. Six groups selected Omaha as their convention site. In 1990, 20 planners for 16 groups came to town, and 12 picked Omaha for their reunions.

Darryl Henderson, Ms. Schwerts' counterpart in Kansas City, Mo., said military reunions translate into big business - and heavy competition.

"A lot of cities in the Midwest have similar things to offer," Henderson said. "Us, Omaha, Des Moines, Indianapolis, Cincinnati -- we all compete for that trade. We advertise in trade magazines and that sort of thing. It is a segment of the industry that is mushrooming every year."

Price said Omaha's bureau has completed well.

"I didn't realize until after we had booked it here that Omaha had such a large Czech population. You know, we liberated Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, in 1945. They are building a statue there now to honor the 2nd Indian Head Division. Anyway, the people from the bureau here set up a local Czech dance group to come in and surprise everybody," Price said.

"They have been so helpful to us. They have been with us every step of the way. I'll tell you this: I've been planning these for years and I would recommend Omaha to any military reunion. It's been one of the best we've ever had. Everybody is saying so."

Familiar Symbol

One woman asked a companion what the big building was that had the division's Indian head symbol on its exterior. A bystander told her that it was Mutual of Omaha's main headquarters building. The insurance company's logo closely resembles that of the 2nd Indian Head Division.

"Oh, I thought maybe they had done it special for us," she said, giggling.

Prince said he wouldn't have been surprised.

"I was in the motel business until I retired, and I helped put on a convention like this in my hometown once. I know what it takes to make a convention successful. The people here in Omaha have gone the extra mile for us," Price said. "I just can't think of too many places that we've been to that did it as well as Omaha. This reunion has been one of the best."

Past President Message

Dear Members,

It has been a great honor to have been your President for 1990-91. As I am writing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all that came to the Pines. I sincerely hope that all of you enjoyed yourselves. Among the people I would like to thank are The Executive Board, for all the support they gave me. Secretary Treasurer-Robert E. Derickson and his wife Pearl and all who assisted in the registration and various other jobs. I appreciate all your efforts. The ladies of the Boston chapter deserve many thanks, as well, for the bazaar table and the time they put into it. Thanks to the men as well for the great service at a time of need.

A Special thanks to the Chairman--one of the greatest and sincere workers, Pat Digiammerino, who worked extra hard for our great reunion. Thanks to Al Belvedere and the Philadelphia Honor Guard for the great memorial service and Joseph Macaluso for the great service. Thanks to all that contributed to the Ad book and made it a great success.

Thanks to our 83rd Band for the outstanding music they provided. In conclusion--thanks to the whole Chapter, with-

out whose help, none of these events would have been possible. In my opinion, the 83rd Members and their wives are the greatest--and Rita and I are proud to be part of this organization. It is a lot of work, but the members make it all worth the effort. It has been a great year and we shall never forget it.

The President for 1991-92 is Edgar Haynes. Rita and I wish him all the best, as I'm sure does the rest of the Chapter. Best of luck for a successful reunion in Omaha. We know he will do a great job with all the Chapter Members.

Good luck and good health to all. God Bless. We'll be looking forward to seeing all of you at the next reunion.

Keep Well,
Your past President and Friend
Charles J. Lussier

RETIRED REUNION CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Hope everyone had a pleasant stay at the Pines Hotel Resort and everyone is home safe and sound.

I'm happy to report that we had a very successful reunion, with a number of new members. It was a pleasure working with Charlie Lussier & the reunion committee.

The Original 83rd Band at its best. Thank you Buddy King and Bob Smith. The band reservations have been made for 1994.

Bill and Martha Appleby did an outstanding job at the square dancing.

Louis Sandini was our golf pro. A job well done.

I want to thank all the chapters for their help.

The Pines Resort did a great job. More than we bargained for.

With the help of Larry Redmond, the Boston Chapter had a record breaking Ad Book.

I can't mention everyone by name, the book isn't big enough. Thank you all.

The financial report will be in the next issue of the Thunderbolt.

Pat Digiammerino,
323rd F.A. Btn.

FROM THE OFFICE

When the Board met at the Pines Reunion we thought we could not get an issue of the Thunderbolt out this Fall, but you men have come through with your articles and the printer is cooperating with us, so here we go. We will have this one to you before Christmas. Will make two close together but that can't be helped with the reunion late in September.

I am sure that we all enjoyed the reunion at The Pines. The Boston Chapter did a wonderful job. Bruce Siegel could not have tried any harder to please us all. I want to thank Pearl, Bonnie and Earl Hoover, Fred and Nellie Messina for the wonderful job they all did at the Registration table. At no time did I see a line there. A great deal different than it used to be. Nellie and Bonnie had your money and your card to you before you knew what was happening. Thanks to all of you five people for the wonderful job. Could not get along without you.

Ames Miller had quite a set up for the Camp Atterbury Memorial. Had papers there for you to read along with the display. Thanks Ames. If any of you men did not get one of the newspapers about Atterbury write to either Ames or myself and we will gladly send you one. Ames and I both are on the Board for the Memorial and we will be meeting again January 15. We will let you all know what is going by then.

For those of you who missed the reunion for one reason or another we missed you. Pearl and I went on the Boat Cruise on the Hudson River to West Point. I heard some remark that they could do that anytime and that is true but you don't get the atmosphere of all the buddies that were on that trip. It was great and we all enjoyed it. Helen Miller and Flo Jackson did a great job of helping Pearl's cold with HOT CIDER. But we still had to take Pearl to the Emergency Room at the hospital that night. Her voice went completely. Thank you Bruce for the help you quickly provided to get her there. We certainly appreciated that.

We all were very impressed with the Parade at West Point. The luncheon at Hotel Thayer was something else. Thanks again Boston Chapter and Bruce for a most impressive trip. It was something some of us will never get to witness again. The Memorial Service on the lawn at The Pine's on Thursday was one we wish all of you could have seen and been a part of. We missed you. Joe Macaluso does a wonderful job. It was a wonderful week with all the rain we had. Now off to Omaha. They too are planning a great one for us.

I wish that all of you could have heard that 83rd Band in the lobby of the Hotel.

Zeno and Bob can direct those men and make the tears of joy and bring back memories that you will never forget. You were wonderful men and we hope that you can be at every reunion. Wish we could get together and hear you every SATURDAY NIGHT. You are "THE BEST".

Home now and hard at work trying to get all this caught up. We thought there could not be a Thunderbolt put out this time but we are glad the printer can get it worked in this late. All the reporters have done a great job. Thanks fellows.

Pearl and I wish all of you a very HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON. I will try and keep Pearl off the tables and stools. Stay well and make your plans to "GO WEST" next August. I know you will enjoy the sights out there.

Bob

P.S. If any of you fellows should have a change in your address. Please send it in immediately so that we can change it on the computer. Then you will not miss a copy of the Thunderbolt.

PINES REUNION REPORT

According to our records the membership who planned to attend but cancelled was 46. Membership attending was 339, wives was 288, guest of membership was 8, and widows was 10 for a total of 691.

Chaplain's Report

The Reunion was wonderful! I wish to thank all organizations and individuals who helped us, in the Memorial Service.

First of all Joe Macaluso, who always does an outstanding job. The West Point color Guard. The Philadelphia Color Guard. The 83rd Division Band. The Winged Victory Singers and last but not least, Col. Patrick Toffler, from the U.S. Military at West Point.

The beautiful voice of Jim Burton, also The Pines Hotel, The fine young man on the Pines Hotel staff. It was nice meeting, old and dear friends and to meet so many new ones. We will all remember our trip to West Point. Never to be forgotten!

Enclosed is a poem, author unknown that I have kept for many years.

Chaplain Matthew Pintar

HOPE OF THE WORLD

World, O world of muddled men,
Seek the Peace of God again:
In the humble faith that kneels,
In the hallowed Word that heals;
In the courage of a tree,
In the rock's integrity;
In the hill that holds the sky,
The star you pull your heart up by;
In the laughter of a child.
Altogether underfired;
In the hope that answers doubt,
Love that drives the darkness out...
Frantic, frightened, foolish men,
Take God by the hand again.

Death notices that have been received here in the office. The sympathy of the entire 83rd goes out to the families.

| Name | Unit | Reported By |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Parker T. Black, Jr. | A.T. 331st | Wife Rose |
| Wilson W. Brittingham | HDQ 330th | Sam Klippa |
| Paul Buckman | G 329th | R. Gunderson |
| Arthur B. Calhoun | | Mrs. Calhoun |
| Albert Hancher | C 308th ENGR | George Settle |
| Weldon R. Higginbotham | H 330th | Wife Charlotte |
| William (Jake) Irvin | 323rd Ser. Bat. | P. DiGiammerico |
| Joseph Lenarth | Service 322nd | Arth Koerner |
| MacKenzie, Col Alan F.S. | Division HDQS | Robert Costello |
| Morgan, Col. Ralph | 323rd. F..A. | Wife, V. Morgan |
| William Overcash | E 331st | George Kohler |
| George Polites | 323 rd. F.A. | P. DiGiammerico |
| Clayton A. Reichenberg | AC Bat. 908 F.A. | P. DiGiammerico |
| Henry Rogers | A 308th | George Settle |
| Harold W. Shafer | E 331st | Wife Ramona |
| Robert Schwamberger | None given | Art Koerner |
| Joseph Szot | H 330th | Larry Redmond |
| James L. Taylor | HQ. 323rd. F.A. | P. DiGiammerico |
| Hans J. Treutel | D 331st | Larry Redmond |
| Vernon H Turner | H 330th | Sister B. Harris |
| Hayes Webster | HDQS 331st | Son D. Webster |
| Theodore Wezlowski | A 331st | Owen Biller |

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Congratulations, to the "Pines" and the Boston Chapter for another fine Reunion. They certainly kept everyone well supplied with plenty of food, drinks and entertainment along with tours, to make sure everyone enjoyed themselves.

The Memorial Service was well organized with many groups participating in our service. Col. Macaluso, along with Al Belevedere and the Chaplains coordinated their efforts along with the "Pines" to make it an excellent Memorial Service and are to be commended for a job well done.

On behalf of the Assn., I wish to extend our thanks and our appreciation to our Past Board Chairman, Bill Minick, for the fine work he has rendered to the board the past five years. I enjoyed working with Bill and found him to be a quiet, efficient, southern gentleman, who was truly devoted to the 83rd Div. Assn. He's well versed in accounting and was responsible for making major changes in our system of bookkeeping, so that Bob, the Board and members could understand our financial report. He's such a good man with figures that the board voted to retain him as our auditor. Judging by his very attractive lady friend, Grace, I'd have to say, he's a very good judge of human figures.

We also wish to welcome our newly elected board member, Al Belevedere. He was nominated by the board and ran against a well liked and highly regarded member, Manny Epstein, who was nominated from the floor.

Al Belevedere, a past National President, former board member, has been active for many years and his experience as reunion chairman for two successful reunions will be of great help to the board.

Next year, our reunion will be held in Omaha, Nebraska. My congratulations to our new President, Ed Haynes. After talking to him, he assured me, that he and the members of the Central Plains Chapter will have a fine program for us. He said the meal prices are much cheaper out there with excellent steak dinners. There also will be tours to Boys Town and the Sac Air Base.

It's our first reunion west of the Mississippi and do hope everyone will give them the same support as you have done for past reunions.

On August 15th, 1992, the week-end before our reunion, Camp Atterbury will be celebrating the 50th activation of the camp and all members of the 83rd Assn. are invited to attend. We hope that many will plan to make a week of it, by attending the dedication at Camp Atterbury, then continuing on to our reunion in Omaha.

With best wishes to the members and wives of the 83rd Div. Assn.

Your Buddy,
"Jim" Prentice



REUNION CHAIRMAN

This will be a short report because the deadline for publication is October 5 and I just returned from the Pines reunion on the 4th.

As a first time attendant at an 83rd division reunion I have to sing the praises of the Boston chapter for a very well organized affair. From the first day's registration to the final Friday luncheon everything worked beautifully.

Now with the convention coming to Omaha in August 1992 those of us in the Central Plains chapter have our work cut out for us. A steering committee meeting is scheduled for October 11. This will be followed by a meeting of the entire chapter on October 16. You can be sure these meetings and the many that follow will be more work than play as we plan for this reunion.

I think I can speak for others of our group who were at the Pines and say---"it was fun all the way." It may have been "old hat" to those of you who have attended previous reunions; from our group these men were: Keith Davidson, Jacob Esbenshade, Ed Haynes, Louis Nolan, Anthony Nugent, Les Volkmer, Ray Wiggins and myself. There seemed to be a general feeling of "togetherness" which was very uplifting.

It was very reassuring to receive so many offers of cooperation from reunion Chairman Pat DiGiammerino, President Charles Lussier, members of the Executive Board and many others in attendance. Bob Derickson has already been counted in as a key advisor for us.

More news of our activities and other advance planning information will appear in future issues of the THUNDERBOLT.

Norb Wolke
Reporter
D Co. - 329th

Historians' Corner

Dear Buddies

Last month, following the Francis Chorwin family visit from Dinan, France to my home lead to this article being written.

It brought back memories of the time in 1944 when we fought and liberated their area of Brittany.

It contains four A.A.R.'s and photographs, etc, from many references.

The second part, shows the rebuilding after its destruction we had to do to force its capture.

I hope you find it interesting, especially, if like me, you were there.

Because I had so much in the report, it may be in two issues of the Thunderbolt -- Then & Now.

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

P.S. Sorry I couldn't be with you at the Pines, K.

Historians' Corner

4/A.A.R. - Normandie & Bretagne from Gen'l Macon to HQ.

First part of Report.

APO 83, U.S. Army - 22 July 44

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Report.

TO: Adjutant General, Washington, D.C.
(thru channels)

1. In compliance with par 10 (C3), AR 345-105, the following "Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports" is submitted covering the period 26-30 June 1944.

2. a. 83d Inf Div relieved the 101st A/B Div under cover of darkness nights 26-27 and 27-28 June 44, to maintain the defense. Div assumed responsibility at 1900, 27 June 44.

Attchd Units: 65th Armd FA Bn

1st Bn, 66th Armd Regt

b. Dispositions of troops are shown on item No 199, G-2, G-3 Journal, 25-30 June 44.

3. Activities: (Map Ref: CARENTAN 31/18 SE, ISIGNY 34/18 SW, Scale: 1/25,000).

a. 329th Inf: Placed in Div Res SW CARENTAN. Detachment went into town of CARENTAN evening of 28 June to spot and clear snipers. Continued in Div Res throughout period of this report.

B. 330th Inf: During the night 27-28 June 44 only activity was enemy patrols of unknown strength. Both 2d and 3d Bns made contact with enemy patrols. Some mortar fire was placed on enemy during night 27-28 June 44. The 3d Bn reported that the Germans were using dogs with their patrols. 330th Inf patrols to the east were active throughout the period. These patrols encountered fairly heavy small arms fire. Most of these patrols reported locations of enemy MG emplacements and evidences that enemy was improving his defensive positions. Sporadic enemy arty fire was received in the area of the 330th Inf throughout the period.

C. 331st Inf: The night of 27-28 June was fairly quiet. Enemy MG emplacements were reported at (349812) by patrols. These emplacements were well camouflaged. About 1840, 28 June 44, the enemy made a raid against the outpost line of the 331st Inf. These raiding parties were supported by machine pistols and mortars. The mortars were used to place fire between the outpost line and the main line of resistance. The enemy took no prisoners. No German prisoners taken. The 331st reported that civilians came through the German lines on their front. Active patrolling was carried out by 331st Inf to the west throughout the period 27-30 June 44. Reports from these patrols indicated that enemy was digging and moving mortars into position south of HAFFOVILLE (330807). Several patrols sent out to determine width, depth, and condition of streams on front of 331st Inf. Sporadic enemy arty fire was received throughout the period 27-30 June 44.

D. 83d Div Arty: Fired harassing missions on enemy positions throughout period 27-30 June 44.

E. 1st Bn, 66th Tk Regt: Supported the fires of the 322d FA Bn and 323d FA Bn.

F. 83d Cav Rcn Tr: Patrolled both east and west flank of the Div. One platoon established OP's with particular attention to the east flank. Remainder of Troop was in Div Res during the period 27-30 June 44. Used frequently to re-establish communications between Regts and Div.

G. 308th Engr Bn: Made minefield reconnaissance. Took

over guarding of bridges at 364872, 383862, and 404843. Set up water point in CARENTAN.

4. Casualties:

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Killed in Action | 10 |
| Wounded in action | 56 |
| Missing | 0 |
| Captured | 0 |

Robt. C. Macon,
Major General, U.S. Army,
Commanding

Division Command Post at (T 361779) was closed and new Command Post opened at 1735 at (T 351711).

Some air activity was encountered over the Division area and the 329th Infantry received some bombing and strafing. Patrols were sent out and made contact with the 1st, 9th, and 90th Infantry Divisions. The Division at this time had advanced approximately eight miles from its position north of the TAUTE RIVER.

29 July 1944

The Division received TWX from VIII Corps ordering the Division to await orders in present location (see Item 1878, G-2, G-3 Journal, 29 July 1944).

The Division improved its defensive position and spent most of the day in reconnaissance, reorganization, and rehabilitation.

The Division Commander held a critique with each Infantry Regiment, covering the lessons learned in the operation just completed.

Division Command Post at (T 351711) was closed and new Command Post opened 1200 at (T340681).

30 July 1944

The Division remained in its defensive position and carried on training programs, to include firing by replacements at AT grenade launchers, AT rifle grenades at burned out enemy tanks together with machine gun and mortar firing. Technique of hedgerow fighting was stressed.

31 July 1944

The Division continued its training program in the same position (southeast of PERIERS (T 351711)) and awaited further orders.

4. Personnel:

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| a. Casualties | 413 Officers | 7572 Enlisted Men |
| b. Replacements | 406 Officers | 7073 Enlisted Men |
| c. Returness | 26 Officers | 519 Enlisted Men |
| d. Prisoners taken | | 370 |

GENERAL SUMMARY:

On 1 August following the close of the NORMANDY operation, the Division was assembled in the vicinity of FEUGERES. Here a program of rehabilitation and training was initiated. Personnel and equipment were brought up to combat strength.

The division was assigned to XV Corps and ordered to make the necessary

reconnaissance and preparations for a foot and motor movement to the south: Routes were selected but in the meantime the Divi-

Historians' Corner

sion was reassigned to VIII Corps.

On VIII Corps order units began to move into assembly areas in the vicinity of PONTORSON early in the morning of 3 August. Orders were received from Corps attaching Task Force "A" to the Division and assigning the Division the mission of capturing ST MALO and DINARD. During the 3 and 4 August CT 330 advanced west and captured DOL DE BRETAGNE. The 329th Infantry also proceeded west and was attached to Task Force "A". Task Force "A" thus reinforced attacked north and captured MIN-IAC and LA COSTARDARS.

A coordinated attack was launched on 5 August. Task Force "A" captured the stubbornly defended town of CHATEPUNEUF. The 331st Infantry advanced northwest along the coast. Late in the day of 5 August orders were received from VIII Corps relieving Task Force "A" from attachment to the Division and attaching to it one infantry battalion from the Division (3d Battalion; 330th Infantry).

On 6 August Combat Team 121 was attached to the Division by Corps order. It was assigned the mission of crossing the RA-NOE RIVER and capturing DINARD. The Combat Team crossed the river, cleared DINAN, and continued the attack toward DE-NARD. Its advance was halted on 8 August south of PLEURTUIT by determined enemy resistance.



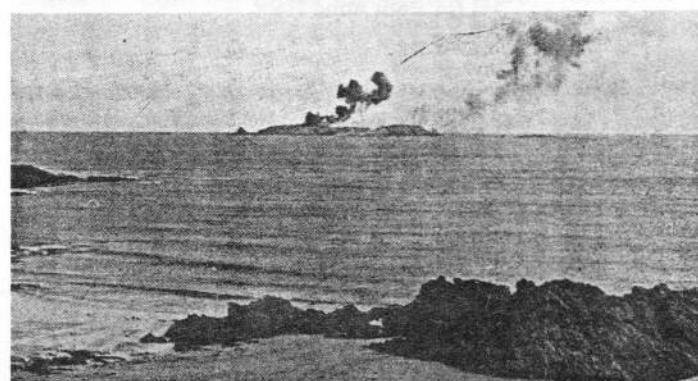
General Maj. Robt. C. Macon, 83rd CMDR. and Brig. General Claude Firenbaugh watching bombing of Isle de Cezembre.



Gen'l Macon (M.C. Lt. Col.) Gen'l Ferenbaugh, Gen'l Montague & Col. Boyle (future Chief of Staff of 83rd) I was his jeep machine gunner)



Street by street fighting, through out the area.



Bombing of Isle de Cezembre.



Outskirts of St. Malo

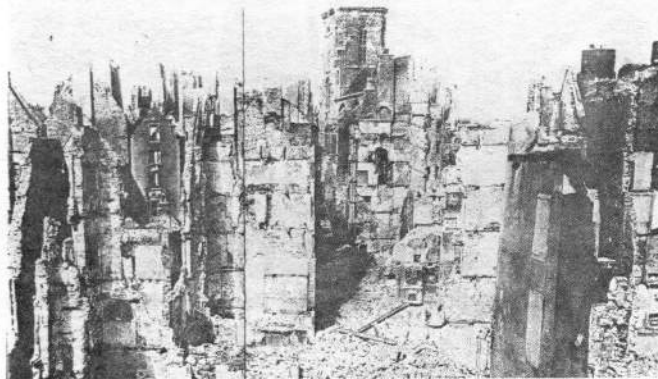


Firing into streets of St. Servan.

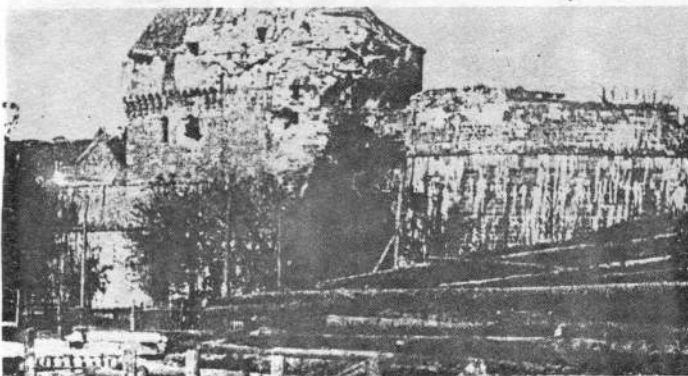
Historians' Corner



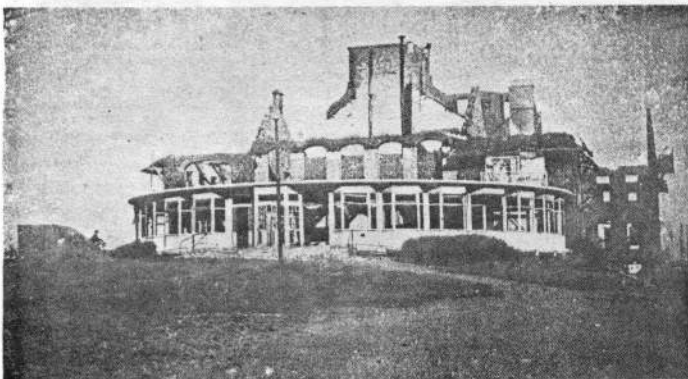
Destruction of St. Malo & St. Servan before their surrender!



More destruction of city.



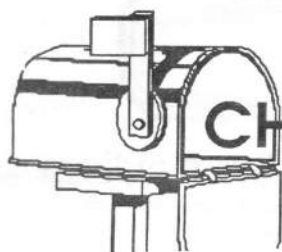
'Great Keep' a shambles used as a spotter by the Germans.



The 'Casino' - heavy fighting here.

The Cathedral and Surroundings





CHAPTER NEWS

Warren Chapter

Thank you Boston Chapter and the Pines Hotel, for another fine reunion. The food, refreshments and entertainment was great. The climax of course, was the well organized Memorial Service on Thursday, conducted by Joe Macaluso and when he read off the names of our 84 departed comrades, the tears began to flow throughout the crowd. Jim Burton, again sang "My Buddy" and the West Point Color Guard, our Philadelphia color guard and the Choral Singers all contributed to a fine program. I'm sure that everyone who drove, enjoyed the brilliant display of colors, as they passed thru the mountains, on the way home. It was just too, beautiful to describe.

SICK CALL

George Bellay suffered a stroke in August and could not attend the reunion. He is recovering nicely now and expects to be out on the golf course in a few weeks.

Joe Phillipone and John Shamrock continue to improve and both were at the Pines.

CONGRATULATIONS

To our old friends, Kate and Loyal Pangle, from Flushing, Michigan, who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on October 11th.

MEETINGS

We still hold our meetings once a month, on the third Sunday. In June, August and September, we went out to Ash Hills Golf Course, with Pavillion, and in July, everyone came down to our trailers at Paradise Lake, near Salem, Ohio. We play golf in the morning and our lovely ladies arrive about noon with the food. Then we play our favorite card game.

At our September meeting we re-elected our present slate of officers.

George Bellay.....President

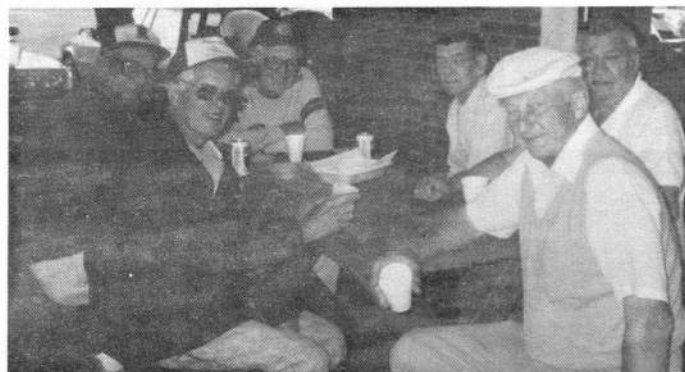
Charlie Tomazin.....V. President

Mike Skovran.....Sec'y - Treas.

On behalf of all of the Warren Chapter members, I would like to thank Mike Skovran, for all his work thru the years as our Secretary-Treasurer and also his fine co-ordination of arranging with the management of the Pines, for our rooms and seating arrangements.

Since the next issue of the Thunderbolt will probably miss the holidays, we in Warren, would like to wish all members of the 83rd and their families, a Merry Christmas and good health, good luck, much happiness to you all for 1992.

Lee Titus
Co. "G" 331st.



One of our golf picnic outings at Ash Hills



Millie & Rich Kelly - 50th Anniversary Party, April 14, 1991



Golf picnic outing at Paradise Lake - July 21, 1991



Warren Chapter Auxiliary Luncheon

Dixie Chapter

Lets begin with a round of applause for the Boston Chapter, all the comittees and "The Pines" for superb job of putting on another reunion.

The milestone 45th of 83rd will long be remembered! Thank you one and all, I was there 6 days and gained 10 lbs. Everywhere I looked there were old friends. Many new friends were made during that week also. Twas truly a beautiful experiance with each day getting better building to the great Memorial Service and Banquet - I'd say "The Best Ever"

According to my count Dixie chapter was represented by 35 (members & guests) from 9 states. Some for the very first time, some for the 40th time. Each with one purpose. To honor those who have gone on before us and to fellow-ship with those still here and support those who would come if they could.

We met friends from Texas, Calif, Washington, Every state on East coast and most states in between. -- Twas simply wonderful!

The trip to West Point was a once in a lifetime experiance. Likewise the memorial service. The food and entertainment was out of this world! Truly impressive was the display by the 83rd Preservation group.

Happy to see do many of our deceased comrades wid-ows at the reunion. They are an inspiration to us all.

Grace Brick, Marge Voracek, Eleanor Clevenger and Many others. Keep on coming, we need each one of you!

322 Btry A managed to fill a table of 14 this time and really enjoyed each meal together. Btry A 908th was represented by 9 faithful souls. A great time was had by all.

Lets all plan to be in Omaha in 1992 for our National meet with the Central Plains Chapters. I met several of those men and I'm really excited about going. "West of Mississippi" for the first time.

In the meantime lets keep our chapters striving in the spirit of brotherly love and comeradship.

Dixie meets next in Gatlinburg, Tenn. Dec. 5, 6, 7. Meet us there at the Riverside.

Twas Truly a great plan. Come Together at the "Pines". A great job done by all. Thank you one and all once again. Lets get together again real soon. God! I do love it so!!

E.S. Massie
Dixie Chapter Reporter



THE WILLIAMSBURG WESTPARK HOTEL
1600 RICHMOND ROAD
WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23185

RESERVATION FOR: THE 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION/DIXIE CHAPTER REUNION
WILLIAMSBURG, VA. - MARCH 26, 27, & 28, 1992

Please reserve; _____ Single Room(s) _____ Double Room(s)
No. of Rms (1 person) No. of Rms (2 people)

We will arrive: _____
Day Month Date

We will depart: _____
Day Month Date

Name: _____ Telephone No. _____

Address: _____

Deposit Enclosed In The Amount Of \$ _____ To Guarantee Reservation

I Will Attend The Saturday Night Banquet and Guarantee Dinner For _____
people
Reunion Rates: 1 Person \$27.00; 2 Persons \$27.00 - Rates Are Per Night

"B" Battery - 908th F.A. Bn.

Another great reunion was held at the "Pines" hotel and "B" Btry was well represented.

Those in attendance were: Dick and Pat Bevin, Mike and Veronica Bacha, Nick and Catherine Bertovich, Jerry and Vi Wenzel, Ed and Helen Williams, Arthur Waples, Nelson Reisinger, Mike Rudy, Helen Allen and Jim Prentice.

We were sorry Jules and Agnes couldn't attend along with the McCaniels and our old buddy. Mike Jarmoska.

We enjoyed having our good friend and former officer of "B" Btry, Capt. Ed Tetlack and his brother-in-law, along with retired Col. Del Jurden from Headquarters Battery join us at our table.

I want to thank Ed Williams for taking care of the little details for me while I attended meetings. The "boys" found out Nick had a birthday while at the "Pines". So we surprised him with a birthday cake. He certainly was surprised.

Next year will be Omaha, Nebraska and certainly all of you will try your best to be there.

"Jim" Prentice

Louisiana Chapter

Once again; the Louisiana Chapter was represented at the 83rd Division reunion at the Pines in New York. Izzy Labbe and wife travelled from Dusan, and Joe Macaluso and his wife from New Orleans. That was a long trip about 1400 miles from New Orleans and over 1600 miles from Dusan. It was well worth it, because it is a beautiful ride up Interstate 81 thru Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania and into New York.

For John Cordaro, your buddies from C Co 330th send their best regards, and hope in the near future you can find time to be with them at the reunion.

Each year I always manage to find another 83rd members in Louisiana. This past year I had a call from Herman Day that had served with E Company 331st. He was captured at the Rhine River and was a POW for the last two months of the War.

Yesterday, I spoke with Lionel St. Martin, in Laplace and informed him that Sgt. Schuster wanted him to take an active part in the Association. I will send St. Martin a roster of the D Co. 331st men who are members of the Association along with a membership application for him to join.

Also talked with Leonard Prelutsky who could not be present at the reunion. Just got off the phone with Carl Bidner from G Company 329th. I may get some of these fellows to attend a reunion in the near future.

Joe Macaluso

******* HOTEL POLICY *******

Reservations must be received no later than February 26, 1992 to receive the above mentioned rate. Reservations received later will be subject to availability and regular hotel rates. Deposit must be received with the reservation to guarantee room. Any rooms not guaranteed will be released March 1.

Please fill in the blank for the dinner banquet Saturday night to assure a proper count for preparations.

Deposit for room fully refundable with cancellation notice in our office no later than three (3) days prior to arrival date.

REUNION RATES DO NOT INCLUDE SUITE ROOMS. ANY REQUESTS FOR SUITES ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND RATES APPLICABLE AT THAT TIME.

CHECK IN TIME: 3:00 PM

CHECK OUT TIME: 11:00 AM

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO HAVING THE 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION/DIXIE CHAPTER REUNION AT OUR WESTPARK HOTEL AGAIN THIS YEAR.

MAIL THIS FORM TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION - ONCE RECEIVED WITH DEPOSIT YOU WILL RECEIVE A HOTEL CONFIRMATION !!

RATES SUBJECT TO 8½% SALES TAX

Pittsburgh Chapter

I wish that I could start out this column with something else beside the hospital report of members and their spouses. Since July the list reads this way: Sal Scicolone had Diverticulitis and after sufficient amount of rest at home, he is back near normal. Joe Danylo's wife Louise was operated on for a bleeding ulcer at North Hills Passavant Hospital. Bill Wallis' wife Eleanor died on August 19 of congestive heart failure. Word of this was not received until reunion time. Because of this Bill has not acted kindly to chapter inquiries. At the October meeting President Mike Kadylak has appointed Jim McCulla, Ed Walsh and Charles Caven as the hospital committee. All members have chapter rosters so there shall be no excuse for reporting illnesses, etc. Word received from former treasurer John Gallo has trouble getting around. Charles Hopta's wife Ruth was in the Medical Center of Beaver County for some tests. As of this writing no word of the outcome. Joe DeLuca had hernia and eye problems. Have not seen him for a few months. Sam Klippa confined as of this writing to Divine Providence in Pittsburgh, and the prognosis is not good.

Now for some other news: At the August meeting a \$100 donation was made to the Camp Atterbury Memorial fund. An orchestra has been obtained for the Christmas Party to be held at the Churchill County Club on Saturday, November 30. Jules Desgain as chairman gave a report at the October meeting. Robert P. Lang was accepted as a new member at the October meeting. He was originally cadre at Camp Atterbury, Ind., then transferred to the 75th Division. Thirty-four persons traveled by chartered bus to the Pines Reunion in September. A few others went by other modes of transportation. A total who attended from the chapter was not available at this writing. Plans are being formulated at this time to attend the 1992 reunion in Omaha, Nebraska. Talk of going by Amtrak is being kicked around. Perhaps other chapters may be interested in this form of transportation, and could be picked up along the way. In the summer Al Suess and members of his family were returning from a trip to Reading, Pa. via the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and along the way Al spotted the car ahead with 83rd decal several times in the Brighton Heights section of the North Side of Pittsburgh. I have been unable to identify the driver. It is a full size car, red in color. Although I am not a resident of this section of the city, I am frequently in that neighborhood as my son-in-law and daughter operate a pizza shop on California Avenue. If this person reads this, give me a call.

**83d United States Army Reserve Command
Columbus, Ohio 43216-5004
July 31, 1991**

Dear Sal:

I want to thank all in the Pittsburgh Chapter of the 83d Infantry Division Association, especially Jules, Gene, Ed and yourself, for the very special recognition plaque I re-

ceived from the Chapter. I am humbled by this recognition, to say the least. Thank you all!

Today is my last day in the Army after over 33 years of service. I am privileged to have had the good fortune to have served most of these years in the 83d Infantry Division (USAR) or the 83d ARCOM. I am extremely proud to have been part of the glorious 83d.

I look forward to seeing you all again and to perhaps being designated as 83d ARCOM Liaison Office to the 83d Infantry Division Association.

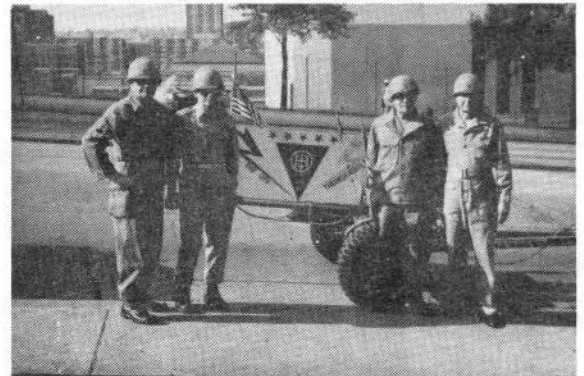
My best regards to all of you.

Sincerely,
Bernard F. Losekamp
Major General,

U.S. Army Reserve, Commanding
Pittsburgh had a welcome home parade for the Desert Storm Troops, June 15, 1991.

Representing the 83rd Division were Jules Desgain, Ed Reuss, Gene Costanzo and Sal Scicolone. This was the largest parade ever held in the city.

Jules' jeep was certainly a welcome sight, due to the length of the parade. It lasted about four hours.





Philadelphia Chapter

This year the Narberth community continued a practice that has become a tradition. The title of their ad book, Narberth 49th Annual 4th of July Celebration 1991, gives an indication of just how long this special memorial has been continued. In recent years, a member of the community has been selected each year by its Civic Association to be their "Man of the Year", and as shown here, their "1991 Dedication" was made to Lou Volpi. A ceremony was held at the Center just prior to the beginning of the morning's activities, and a special presentation of a plaque to Lou was held on the grounds. The activities of the day (including a baby parade) started at 10:00 A.M. The conclusion was a crowd pleasing fire works display at the end of the day.

There is little more can be added to the eloquent dedication. It would seem that for many years Lou has been a man for all seasons. While many may say it has been a privilege to know him, there are also those whose lives have been turned around for the better after they received his quiet help, and often at a time when to them at that mo-

ment there seemed no workable solution to a troubling problem. Now there is a possibility that the Philadelphia Chapter may have a year ahead of it keeping Lou's feet attached firmly to the ground. Not to worry. At the first sign of a halo, we all know what to do, First, we call a meeting!

The Philadelphia Chapter usually schedules a picnic for the July meeting and, as in the last several years, it was held at Lester Hauck's home in Perkiomenville. He has a spacious outside area with large trees for shade. Members usually bring lawn chairs and special foods, and it's a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Lester's home is about an hour's drive from the city, and even though Les puts out signs at pertinent locations first-time picnic goers outside their area usually have some difficulty with the rural roads. This year was no exception. When a certain member arrived several hours late and explained that he was told to turn left where an old farm wagon had been sitting aside the road for years, he said he could not find the wagon. Later he was told that, due to the cold winter, the wagon had been used for fuel. To Herb and Fran Levin's credit, after their initial surprise at the unusual explanation, they graciously accepted it and immediately settled in to join the others that afternoon. It's situations like this that separate the men from the boys. Maybe a sign should be put up explaining that, "This is the site of that landmark, the old farm wagon -- never mind and it's not here now -- turn left anyhow!"

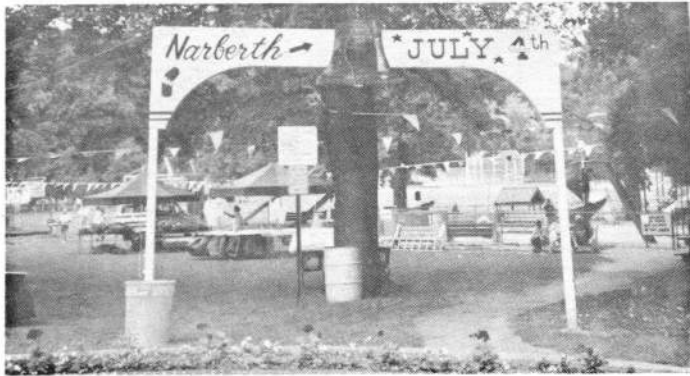
John G. Daum
Co. "D" 330th



Lisa, Lucy, Lou, Carrie and Linda Volpi at the dedication ceremonies for Lou.



Lorraine and Norm Schuster with Lucy and Lou Volpi on the 4th of July, at Narberth.

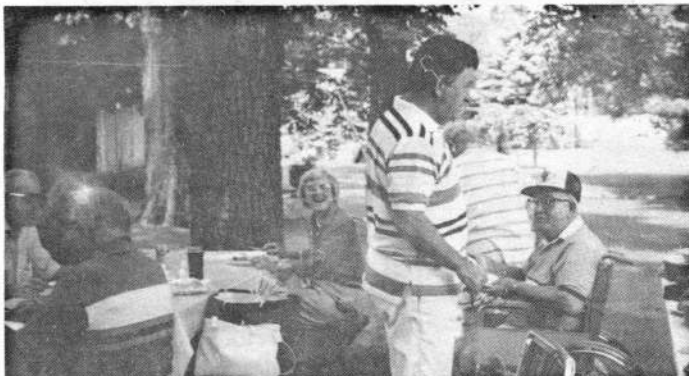


The final preparations under way before the ceremonies and activities started. The Narberth 4th of July celebration.

LESTER HAUCK'S PICNIC



The meeting will now come to order. Les Hauck, George Pletcher, Norm Schuster, Lou Volpi, Albert Otto and Harry Stevenson listening intently.



Herb Levin, our new member, deciding at one of several tables of food.



A sure sign the afternoon is well underway. The women are all collected around the one table, and the men have collected around another.

1991 DEDICATION - LOU VOLPI

Lou Volpi is being recognized for his outstanding contributions to Narberth as a restaurant owner and friend to everyone.

Lou was born in Narberth in 1921 and has remained here except for the time spent in Europe during WWII. He married his lovely wife, Lucy, in 1943 and has a daughter Linda and two grandchildren Elisa and Carrie.

He is a member of St. Margaret's Church and Sodality. He is also a member of the American Legion Post 857, Knights of Columbus, VFW, 83 Infantry Division, President of Bala-Narberth Lions Club, and his help on the War Memorial Committee was invaluable. Lou has always been there to help out, the Boy Scouts with their dinners, the fireman with their parties and a hot cup of coffee for the policemen, anytime.

Lou and his army buddies have led our Memorial Day Parade for 31 years and the Fourth of July would be nothing without his great hoagies and drinks.

Many kids in Narberth had their first jobs at Lou's Restaurant, a Narberth landmark. When Lou thinks of Narberth he thinks of a town where people all know each other and are willing to get involved in good times and bad times.

Thank you, Lou, for all of your help and in making Narberth a nicer place to live.

Florida Chapter

The Florida Chapter was well represented at the reunion as 25 members were accounted for at the Pines. At the chapter meeting, discussion primarily concerned the 1993 reunion in Florida. The Howard Johnson Hotel in Daytona Beach has been selected as the site, and the committee will meet at the hotel in late October to finalize a contract to be presented to the Executive Board. Those who have hosted reunions in the past realize there are always the nitty gritty items that must be settled by the contract.

Our secretary, Bill Herbuth, was unable to attend the reunion as he became ill while visiting family in Cleveland and as a result had to have an operation on the carotid artery. He is now recuperating at his home in Florida. In a conversation with him, he expected to attend the chapter meeting in West Palm Beach on Nov. 8-9.

We hope some of our other members who have been under the weather will be in attendance at West Palm Beach.

Our winter meeting site will be determined at West Palm Beach along with the date, which will probably be around the end of January. Anyone interested in attending, who is not a member and does not receive our letter, should contact Bill Herbuth. His address is in the Thunderbolt under Staff Reporters. Come one, come all you snowbirds and enjoy it.

As I was closing this report I was shocked to learn that our National Asst. Judge Advocate and Florida Chapter Judge Advocate, was felled by a stroke on Sunday Oct. 6 and is in critical condition as of this writing. Our prayers and sympathy to Paul's family that he will recover quickly.

Acting Reporter
Ralph Gunderson

New England Chapter

First of all we would like to thank Jim and Dot Brennan for a great time and good food at there get together in War-wich R.I. The weather was great and also a fine turn out. Thanks again Jim & Dot.

Now on July 28th another big blast was held at John and Ester Ferrier's estate in Chelmsford Mass. The day was beautiful and the barbecue chicken, corn, hot dogs and hamburgers were out of this world. And then topped off with good drinks and goodies.

Now this food could not have been done without our bar-becue cooks John and Ester's sons Larry, John, son-in-law Ray and friend Don and daughter Jacklin and friend Pau-line.

Thanks gang for putting on a great spread. We had three new friends and members join us in Charles & Ann Halligan from Fla. and Mertorie Jeanne Johnston of South Chelmsford and good old John & Priscilla Welsh of Port-land Maine good. to see you all. Also our good old stand by's in the Burkherd's, Rudds, Chempey, Brennen's, Tarta-glia, Petruccis, Smiths, Francallo's, McGartins, and the McKeet

We missed the Davis's and Bernice and Chuck Abdi-moor Orsinis, the Simons and the Etzels from Conn. Hope you are all O.K.

Dutchy and Helen Smith are working very hard these days holding fundriaser for there daughter school commit-tee women Deborah Smith Walsh. She is a candidate for councilar at large for the city of Lynn. she come in 3rd and should have no trouble in Nov. election . Good Luck Debbi.

The Francallos just got back from Macro and Owensboro Ky. on our family reunion and to see our nephew Marty Brown perform with the Everly Brothers Home Coming in Central City Ky. We were part of the 22,000 people of the turn out, and now Marty Brown is on tour at all Wal-Mart in the south.

Just received a phone call from the Brennan's that she got a call from Helen Smith while we were in Ky that Spike McCartin had a stroke is doing O.K. now.

Spike you and my wife Mary are very Lucky that you came out of it in good shape. Hope you are doing.

We are now starting to set up for our Christmas Party for Dec 7, at the Boston Marriott Peabody Mass. and it will be another great time. Thats it for now.

Your Buddy

Nick Francallo

Hq. co. 3rd, Bn. 330th

P.S. If you have not paid your New England Chapter Drive. Please help us out and send it in to me. Thanks again.



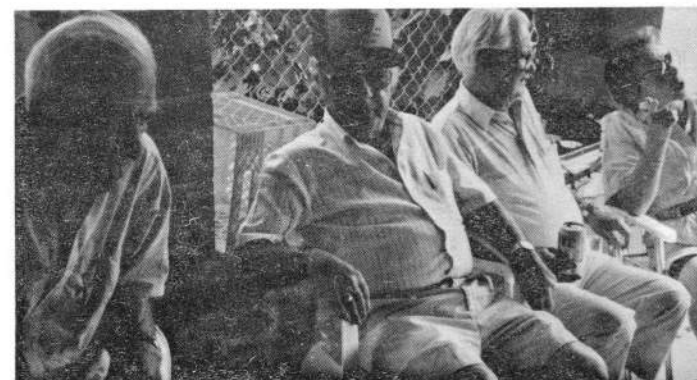
Our great New England gang!



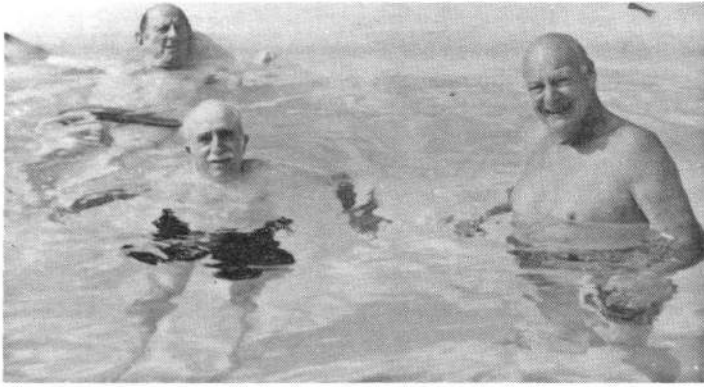
Burt Simons entertaining Jim & Karl with a joke.



Some of the gang waiting for chow.



Just had a great meal.



Yes! the water is great.



Our fine women of the New England Chapter.

Kentucky Chapter

Well, its that time again to get another article in before the dead line and I feel just like a mosquito does at a nudist camp, I don't know where to start.

The surgery I had on my right hand is healing up nicely except that I can't play the piano anymore.

Just returned from our meeting in Evansville, Ind., hosted by Leroy and Clara Johnson and Larry and Maxine Hamilton and they really put on a good meeting with enough food to feed the entire Division. We stayed at Lees Motel which was located in the middle of everything, all you needed was a idea of what you wanted to do, then go and do it. A lot of the ladies shopped at the nearby mall. Gordon and Bess Acton located some flea markets and enjoyed themselves doing what they liked to do. My wife, Vi, learned of a Grand Opening at Rose Maries' Gift Store. Maxine Hamilton went with us so we wouldn't get lost. Vi found a 20" Bernardi carving she had been looking for and purchased it. Just think if that hunk of wood did not get into Bernardi's hands it most likely would have wound up in someones fireplace.

At the meeting in Evansville, Nancy Ledger had an apparent heart attack and was taken to the hospital. After a

check up, it was determined that the attack was due to stress caused by a terrible thunderstorm we all went through on our way to the meeting.

Old lucky me won the jackpot but this old wood carver couldn't let the Chicken Farmer's Earl and Bonnie Hoover get ahead of me with the chicken feed so I turned the money back to the chapter.

Leroy Johnson helped carry the musician's instruments up the stairs on Saturday night for our entertainment but he pulled some wrong muscles and has been suffering for it since.

Well, its almost time for the Reunion at the Pines but since we are not going to it this year, I can't seem to get enthused about it as I did in other years. I hope all the people who go have a very good time and return home safely.

Heard from Al and Dorothy Henry. Al is recovering from his recent heart attack and intends to go to the Pines with Wanda and Marvin Hayden. While on the subject of sickness, just heard that Henry Whalen is confined to a hospital in Louisville Ky. Hope by the time this is published, Henry will be back home and recovered. Haven't heard from Manny and Avalon Goodridge except that Avalon is recuperating at home.

I was driving on I-71 near Verona, Ky when I noticed what I thought was a freak snow storm. Upon further investigation, I found out it was just Millie Doggett doing another carving and was really making the chips fly while Arthur was trying to figure out what it was going to be. Well, it turned out to be a Mennonite figurine.

Heard from Clara and Leroy Johnson and they sent us a very well written article from the Horizon magazine about Leroy's hobby of photography. He really puts in alot of time and effort into his subjects before he snaps the picture.

I've seen some of his work and he does an excellent job. Congratulations Leroy.

Our fall meeting will be held in Vevay, Ind. It should be a nice drive now that the leaves are turning color. We were there last year and enjoyed the area and our friends.

Well, its about time for me to wrap up this article as Vi and I are getting ready for a trip to the mountains of N.E. Georgia to visit our friend, Pauline. Many of you know her especially those in the Dixie "chapter.

After thinking it over and giving it a lot of thought, I have decided that after 3 years of writing articles in the Thunderbolt its about time to give someone else a crack at it. I have enjoyed writing the articles and certainly hope I have not offended anyone.

So since this will come out in December, the Kentucky Chapter wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

By the way, I couldn't play the piano before I had the surgery.

Wilson Day
1st Bn. HQ. Co. 331



New Jersey Chapter

This article is being written just a couple of days upon returning from our 45th Reunion. It was a fabulous reunion and all who attended will agree. Charlie, Pat and the Boston Chapter did an outstanding job. Our thanks to you all.

Bruce Seigal, the General Manager of the Pines Hotel, once again did his utmost to assure our having a great reunion. Many thanks from all of us Bruce!!! Our thanks to Bernie Cove for his part in making this reunion a success. The Pines Staff also did their part in making this a great reunion. Special thanks to Diane and Carmen from the Pines dining room. These two ladies are the TOPS!!! Over the last four or five visits we have made to the Pines, Diane and Carmen have made our stay so much more enjoyable. Thanks again.

We had many from the chapter at the reunion. Charlie and Mary Sihlanick made it. It was great to see them enjoying themselves. Charlie looked great after his recent illness, of course Mary always looks terrific. Joe and Hazel Barton were preparing for their upcoming cruise to Bermuda, by stuffing themselves in the dining room. You'll know about the six or seven meals aboard ship. The cruise is to celebrate their 55th Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations and God Bless You. Manny Epstein was nominated for the Executive Board but lost out in the voting to Al Belvidere. Our congratulations to Al, and to Manny, there's always next year. George Foster had the misfortune of having his car broken into and a radar detector stolen. Aside from that George had a good time.

Ted and Irene Guzek always are fun to be with. Irene would have enjoyed being at the meetings listening to Ted quiz our new President Edgar Haynes about the Omaha Reunion. For a while I mistook Ted for Dan Rather. Sam and Edith Manzi were in the company of Fred and Nellie Messina talking about the times when both were the battery on their softball team. For those who don't know, the battery is the pitcher and catcher. Lovable Joe DePeri was all over the place video-taping it all. Joe was one of the lucky winners of the 50/50. Talk about winners Fred and Addie Rein bought 2 tickets from the Nevada Club. Addie gave Fred one to open, it turned out to be the big winner. "Generous Fred" gave half to Addie.

Bernie Rosenberg looked every bit the soldier marching at the Memorial Service. His wife Ida looked on with admiration. Mary and Cookie Seneca told us of their son Jim being married recently. Jim had attended some of our reunions and we got to know and like him. Our best wishes to Jim and his Bride.

Joe and Dot Skurka would have made a great pair in today's Army. They both love to hike. They hiked all over the Pines. George and Vi Waple took it all. George won the beautiful legs contest even though Vi was one of the judges, or do you think it helped. He then went on to win the Top Prize in the golf tournament. Bu-----t was he happy, not when Tom Morris recognized Lt. Fred Barnes and couldn't remember George being his first sergeant. Emil Wehling did his usual mixing with all at the reunion, trying to sign up members for the Boston Chapter.

For the first time we met Russell Whitehead whom I have spoken to previously on the phone. This was Russell's first reunion since Providence, Rhode Island. I believe he had a ball. When he and "Mousie" Farias saw each other for the first time in 46 years, their hugging each other brought a tear to those watching. Vitie Atkocius wore the hat with the fish stuck through it. Mike and Liz Skovran were farmed-out to the Warren Chapter to put a little life in their life. But after the reunion we recalled them to the BIG LEAGUE.

Frank and Mary Sabine were with the 26 men from Co. D, 331 and their wives. Remember Frank was a pitcher on the 331st baseball team. At the reunion I introduced Frank to Andy Socha who caught Frank's pitches in those days.

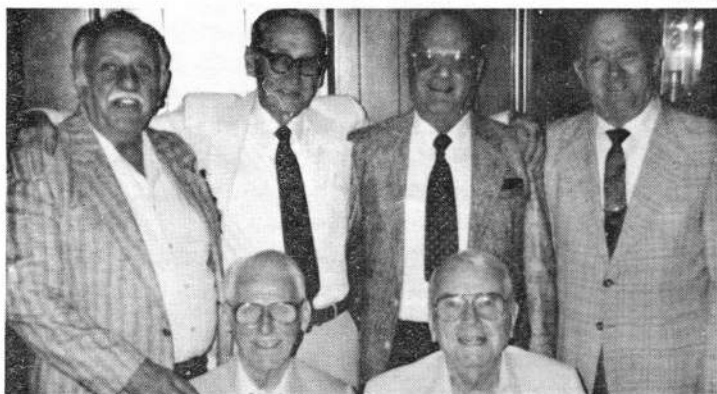
Ken Collard, B Co. 331, was at our last meeting of the chapter and told us he would be at the Memorial service at the Pines. He was there with his wife video-taping it all.

Upcoming Chapter Activities; The annual Christmas Party will be held at the Landmark Inn, located in Woodbridge. The date is December 7th. Remember the Chapter meets every month on the third Friday at 8 P.M. at the VFW Post in Garfield.

Enclosed are three pictures of the chapter members who were at the last dinner at the Landmark Inn.

In closing, We here in New Jersey wish all fellow Thunderbolts and their Families a 'MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY and HEALTHY NEW YEAR'.

Stan Bielen,
1st Bn. Hdqs. 331st



**Curtis Sharpe - 138 Pineview Rd.
W. Columbia S.C. 29169**



Curtis & Clara Sharpe. Clara passed away June 17th, 1991

Two lovely people who were so dear.
Lived miles away but thoughts were near.
Curtis and Clara enjoyed a good life.
A considerate husband and darling wife.
Now Curtis lives there all alone.
God called Clara to her heavenly home.
Sympathy to Curtis we all did share.
He knows how much we really care.
There was grieving through out the 83rd.
When the -Sad-Sad- news was heard.
You are a Eighty-Third member.
So keep in mind and please remember
We are family we share our love as such.
You have our prayers and condoling touch.
Haran

Boston Chapter

The June meeting was held at Chet and Laurette Morleys house in Meridith, N.H. Where some members stayed at the Morleys home, and others stayed at a motel close by on Lake Winnepausakee. I understand they played Bocci games, swimming in the pool (Larry Arrigo was the Life Guard). Nancy and I were not at this meeting because of a family event. My thanks to Hy Goodman for the news. Hy told me that 36 were present, plus other guests and the SWEET ADELINES QUARTET sang songs.

Boston has become more active than ever. In July we had our meeting at Donald and Marlene Bernier's home at China Lake, in Maine. The neighbors were great and did a lot of the cooking. One had a Party Boat for trips around the Lake. Thirty-eight 83rd people attended. Most stayed over and went that night to the American Legion for entertainment. Thanks to the Bermier's for a good time.

August meeting was held at Phyllis and Frank Scott's home in Florence, MA. Phyllis did a wonderful Job with the food and goodies. Too bad Scotty your on a diet.

In September we had a meeting at Pat and Gin DiGiammerino's home. Pat and Gin were "50 Years" married. So

the girls served RUM CAKE and ITALIAN TEA. A good time was had by all.

It was really wonderful to see so many at the Pines Hotel, So Fallsburg, N.Y. for the 83rd Reunion. Boston Chapter did their best to put on a Reunion for everyone to enjoy, which I am sure they did. President, Charlie Lussier was mentioning to me that he and his wife, Rita enjoyed all the backing from Members of the Chapters and people not in the Chapters that made his year the success that it was. It was appreciated. Lou Sandini did a find job getting the golfers out, as chairman of the Golf Tournament, which despite the rainy days, gave all the Golfers a lot of fun.

The 83rd National Championship was won by George Waple of Eatontown, New Jersey who shot a 76. Lou says the green were fast as lightening and the holes were placed in positions by the Devil instead of the Greenskeeper.

In the womens division the 83rd National Championship was won by Liz Winterling.

Ray Orsini of Bradford, Conn. won on the players handicap with a 62. Paul Reed who had a 67 score won figured on the Calloway System. Congratulations to all of these Winners.

Lou Sandini said, he would like to have played a round with his Warren Chapter friends but rain prevented this. Maybe in Omaha next August. The good Lord willing.

I must say, we had very good Bartenders attending to our needs, which has slowed down over the years.

The U.S. Historical Society did an excellent job displaying the World War II equipment that they have restored. Thanks to these folks. Everyone enjoyed the memories that were returned to us.

I must sign off for now.

Amby Tynan
323rd F.A. BN

**Kill in action, Strass, Germany
A Member of K Co. 330th 83rd Inf. Div.
December 14th, 1944**

SELECTMEN'S RECOMMENDATION

This article was submitted by the Veterans' Services Director at the request of the family of John T. McDonald. It calls for dedicating a square on a public way to John T. McDonald, a Brookline veteran who was killed in action while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States during World War II.

The Board unanimously supports this well deserved recognition for a Brookline resident who sacrificed his life for all of us. The Board unanimously recommends FAVORABLE ACTION on the following vote:

VOTED: To authorize the dedication of a square in memory of Brookline veteran and lifelong resident, John T. McDonald, who was killed in action while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States during the Battle of the Bulge of World War II, to be located on the following public way in the Town of Brookline, pursuant to G.L. C. 40, section 5, clause 12:

Corner of Eliot Crescent and Eliot Street.

*A Special Note From
Rose Young*

Dear 83rd Buddies,

I do thank all of you for the surprise introduction by General Dodge.

I have great affection for my friends in the Boston Chapter and now express my warm feelings for all '83rd' men and wives that I met at this reunion.

I love you all.

Rose Young RN

from the Boston Chapter Auxiliary

The Boston Chapter wishes to express thanks to all who contributed to or helped with the craft table. The hard work of these women (and men) helped to make the reunion the success it was.



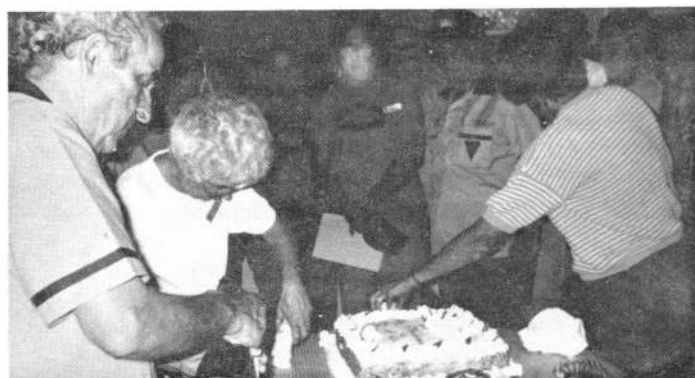
Bernie Cove with friends of the Boston Chapter.



Pres. Charlie Lussier making a point.



Philadelphia Chapter at it's finest.



Ginny & Pat DiGlammerino at their 50th anniversary.



John Fay and Norm Schuster at Memorial Services.



Boston Chapter group from Maine.

COMPANIES

CO "D" 331ST

We had another good attendance at the reunion at the Pines when 25 members were present. When the company picture was taken there were 2 missing, John Miklos and (of all people) Bernie Cove, but he was so busy making sure the 83rd members were enjoying themselves he missed our picture.

We welcomed first time attendees Dan and Joy McDermott and long time absentees Leonard and Colleen Bader.

On our way north Geri and I stopped in Winchester Va. and had dinner and an evening of conversation with Dave and Mary Gail Harman and their daughter.

We missed seeing several buddies who have been fairly regular attendees -- Art Haught, Nick Barbie, Andy Churpak, Tom Morris, Hank Trzeciak, Archie Lee, Whit East.

On a sad note we learned of the passing of Lyle Scribner.

After the reunion we had a convoy to Hampton Beach N.H. for many of those at the reunion, having been invited by Bill and Jeannette McKee to their cottage in N.H. We spent 4 days there, relaxing on Sat. after the prior 6 active days.

On Sunday we all went to Boston to sightsee and before returning Bernie had called Pat DiGiammerino who invited us to stop by on our return to N.H. We did and thanks to Pat and Ginny for putting up with the crowd.

On Monday we all went to Kennebunkport Maine and shopping centers on the way.

On Tuesday was getaway day and Geri and I drove 1724 miles to our house and were done in. Al Shrawder, our company secretary, will put out his fine newsletter in a month or so with more details and pictures.

Finally, I was really surprised by the birthday party given me and I'm sorry more of my good friends were not there. The guests were limited to 75 so after family, old friends from up north and D Co. there wasn't enough to invite everyone I would have liked to have been present.

Ralph Gunderson

DUES ARE DUE NOW FOR 1992!

Anyone who has not paid they're 1992
dues are delinquent as of now.

CO. "F" 329th

The 45th Reunion is now in the history books and while the writer was not able to be in attendance I'm sure everyone who was fortunate enough to be there had a terrific time as always and appreciated the tremendous amount of work put into it by the Boston Chapter. Congratulations Boston for another huge undertaking.

A memoriam to our departed buddies and spouses in the form of a full page Ad in the reunion Ad Book made possible by the following families: Cotter's, Ferguson's, Fishman's, Hutton's, Nickell's, Keith's, Whitcomb's and Zerucha's, was greatly appreciated. If anyone has an Ad as it appeared in the Ad Book I would appreciate a copy of it for our records. There were other individually sponsored Ads we know and appreciate those also.

Bill and Margaret Ferguson were here September 30th for a few hours of chet chat. It was real nice of them to make the effort, we appreciated the visit. Bill has been carrying the ball in getting and keeping "F" Co. together and has been doing a tremendous job. I know I speak for all "F" Co. when I say Thanks Bill.

October 1st Doc Keith called from Cincinnati, Ohio saying he and Deloris were going to be at the Crabtree's in Fostoria, Ohio the 2nd so Lavona and I drove over and spent a delightful day with them at and with John and Marie jCrabtree, including a unexpected evening meal (by Marie and Us), Thanks again Marie. While we were there the Cotter's called from Galatia, Ill. which was another pleasant happening of the day. This summer's drought was extremely bad for the Cotter's popcorn crop and trust things will get back to normal next year.

Come One Come All, February 14-16, 1992 Arbogate Inn, 4100 Tamani Trail Port Charlotte Florida, 33952, Tele 813-743-2442 Early count 15 plus spouses, friends, etc. In 1991 our arrival was at various times on Thursday and took off Sunday as departure times were necessary. The only scheduled event is Saturday night (15th) at the Naples - Ft. Myers Greyhound Track Clubhouse for dinner and an evening of racing. Other options are being considered to present to you. The physical set up is good, the price is right, need additional information? Call Florida Hosts Bill-Arlene Nickell 813-625-3712.

Have had letters from Hutton's and Zerucha's and everything seemed OK in their neck of the woods.

Nickell's were in Michigan City, Ind. this summer attending a grandson's high school graduation. Bill didn't have enough to keep him busy in the screen and vinyl area and he's too young to retire so now hi's beginning to work with glass, who says you can't teach an ole dog new tricks.

Talked to Fishman, all his "F" Co buddies and Florida friends will be glad to know hi's hanging tough. Happy 84th Birthday Pops, November 11th.

Indications are "F" Co. will have a good turn out in '92 so all "F" Company think Omaha in '92.

Company "F" 329th
Charles R. Whitcomb
1314 Center Ln Dr.
Ashland, Ohio 44805

CO. "K" 331ST INF.

Dear Buddies:

The wife and I wish to praise past Pres. Charles Lussier, Pat DiGiammerino, Mike Caprio and the Boston chapter for the wonderful program they had prepared for all of us at our annual reunion. The Pines management certainly lived up to its reputation and the service was excellent in all areas.

I was somewhat disappointed by the lack of Co. "K" members, though the nine that were in attendance will most certainly remember the 45th as one of the very best.

It was a delight once again to get together with Everett and Eugene Rogers. The evening we spent in their room along with other buddies reminiscing the past, will never be forgotten. Again dear friends from the Valley of the Sun, our heartfelt thanks for the fine hospitality and warm welcome.

Meeting my former squad leader, S/Sgt. Paul Ours and his attractive wife Pauline for the first time since 1946 was a real joy and many moments were spent during the week re-hashing the old days. Other members in attendance were Al Belvedere and his charming wife Anne, 1st Sgt Earl MacDonald and wife, George and Lee Baker, Manny Epstein, Emmanuel Lima and Franklin Ciampa.

Unfortunately the 3rd day Mrs. Lee Baker had to be admitted to the hospital very early in the morning and was still there under observation when we departed. We sincerely hope and pray that her recovery was quick and complete, and that she is back in good health at this time.

The members of "K" were put into a predicament at the business meeting when the only two candidates nominated from the floor for the vacant position on the Executive Board, a five-year term, happened to be Al Belvedere and Manny Epstein both from our company. Al won the nomination and our congratulations, though I'm told the final outcome was a close battle.

Both Al and Manny have missed but one convention over these past 45 years and they deserve our applause for their many years of faithfulness to our association. For his devotion Manny certainly deserves some recognition in the future and should never be forgotten by any of us.

It's impossible for me not to mention a few words about the Memorial service honoring our deceased comrades. Our group, ably led by our 1st Sgt. Earl MacDonald, sharply dressed in his major uniform, marched like we did in our younger days. The fine music of the 83rd Division orchestra was accompanied by the excellent singing of James Burton and the Winged Victory Singers, and when the roll call of our departed friends was read, the names of Sabastian Vasquez and Junious Lowder brought a few tears.

The ceremony was mournful, emotional, though very beautiful.

Each and every former member of our proud Division should do his utmost to attend at least one more reunion before it's too late. It's an event and an encounter with old buddies that no one can possibly forget.

May each and everyone of you be blessed with good health and happiness throughout the New Year.

Normand Malo
Co. "K" 331st

CO "K" 331ST INF

Dear Buddies:

As you know, we have just returned from our 45th reunion of the 83rd Infantry Division Association. This year, we celebrated it at the Pines in Fallsburg, N.Y.

I would like to congratulate Charles J. Lussier, President, Pat DiGiammerino and Bernie Cove with all the Boston Chapter for an outstanding Reunion.

I also want to commend our Division Commander, Joseph Macaluso for conducting a super Memorial Service for our deceased Comrades. We are not getting Old, we are just getting Better.

At this time, I would like to thank the board for nominating me for the executive board and the body voting me in. I will try my utmost to enhance the growth of our great organization.

Anna and I are looking forward to our 46th Reunion in Omaha, Nebraska.

We always enjoy seeing all of our friends of the 83rd at the Reunions, especially members of Co. K., 331st Infantry.

Albert Belvedere
Co. K., 331st Inf.

CO. "G" 331ST INF.

A little late on getting the article in, the wife and I took a few extra days to spend sometime with our daughter and her family in Virginia. As usual, when you leave for a few days the work seems to pile up and it does take a while to get everything back in order. For a person that is supposed to be retired, I can't seem to find time to do the things I would like to do.

G Company had a good turnout at the reunion at the Pines, it was late in September, but we did manage to draw a good crowd to the reunion. There were 12 G Company (Beau Titus, Mike Mizerock, Clyde Flanary, Joe Philipone, Babe Gautschi, Ted Haluba, Gene Costanzo, Ed Walsh, John Rung, John Gentile, Jim Fish, and Joe Macaluso.

There were a few that did not show. I thought that Mort Gaynor would try to be with us, but after some treatment and test, he felt that he could not make it to the reunion. Mort, our prayers are with you. Oscar Rutstein and Bob Goldstein tried to come for a couple of days, but they could not be there for the four days. We did bring a couple of newcomers, John Gentile, who served a short time with one of the platoons, and after he was wounded, and return to the unit, he was assigned to Service Co. and worked with our Clerk, Charles Pioreschi. Jim Fish made his first reunion, and although he was not sure that he was in G Company, we had a picture taken at Camp Breckenridge that showed him in G Company. Then he was assigned to G Company for a short time in Normandy, and; when he returned from the Hospital he was assigned to F Co. It was good to renew our friendship with those two men.

Those of us that took the boat trip down the Hudson River, was also treated to a Military Parade by two regiments of the Cadets at West Point. What a beautiful site to see. I have always been impressed with a good Military Parade.

Our Memorial Services were extra special this year, because we did have some time to prepare. We were well supported by the Color Guard and Firing Squad from West Point, along with our own Color Guard and Firing Squad from the Philadelphia Chapter. Also in attendance was the Winged Victory Singers, and to the delight of all, our own 83rd Infantry Division Band.

My special thanks goes to the four men that led the troops in their March at the Memorial Services, George Waple, Fred Barnes, Edgar Haynes, and Earl McDonald.

My wife, Mena, was very disturbed at the banquet. Gen. Dodge from the Engineers introduced a nurse that had served in the European theater. The people at the table thought sure that they would introduce my wife, much to their surprise a Mrs. Young was announced. The information was given to Gen. Dodge by some member of the Bpston Chapter. I thought sure that most of them knew that Mena had also served in the European Theater with the 110th Evac Hospital.

The 110th Evac received a large number of the 83rd Casualties from Luxenbourg and from the Battle of the Bulge, and after the War the 110th was stationed in Passau, and took care of the non battle casualties after the fighting was over in Europe.

It was an honor for me to take part in the Memorial Services, the one thing that I did not enjoy, was the reading of Eighty Four (84) names of our buddies that had passed away since our last reunion in Pittsburg. Each year the list seems to get longer. For those of you that have been putting off your attendance at a reunion, believe me it is much later than you think. If you feel that you would like to meet with you old buddies, make plans to attend the next reunion in Omaha, in August 1992.

Capt. Mac

CO "A" 329TH

"Hi" everybody! I didn't hear from anyone for the summer issue of The Thunderbolt, that's why I did not write. Keep me posted guys!

We had a great time at the reunion this year. There were 6 fellows from "A" Co. at the "Pines". Roy Powell from Mechanicsville, Va. had knee surgery the second time, (right knee), had 5 operations on his left hip. He has 2 daughters, 1 son, 5 grandchildren, and 1 great grandchild. He was a squad leader in the 4th platoon and was wounded in Luxemburg.

Hazen and Irene Lloyd enjoyed themselves. Hazen had a benign tumor removed that made his hand numb. Also, 2 discs were removed from his neck. He walks a lot better this year. (He was losing his balance before).

We enjoyed talking to Ed and Carm Mudre. Ed had some problems with his right knee, and had it replaced, and now walks with a cane.

Earl Deisher brought his two daughters again this year. They all had a great time!

Do you fellows remember Dick Armstrong? He was in Hazen Lloyd's platoon. He has palsy on the right side of his face, and arthritis in his right hip. He was wounded in

Gravenmacher, Sept. 30, 1944. He plays the accordion for a nursing home in his area. He gets around in a wheel chair.

Bernice and I had a grand time, as usual. You sure can have a great time at the "Pines". I had open heart surgery on July 2, 1991 - a quadruple bypass. So far - so good! I lost 20 pounds, but I think I'm slowly gaining back a few. Bernice makes sure I eat the proper food.

I talked to Bill Tisher. He had a heart attack and an angioplasty. He feels a lot better and is gaining weight. His wife, Bert, had a cataract removed and is having another one removed in November.

(Bill Tisher and Ed Mudre received a letter from Edward E. Haffner's daughter. She is currently putting together some information about her father's life, and would like anyone that knew her dad to write to her. Most of the children were very small when he died: Mary Haffner/405 Holly Drive/Berea, Ohio 44017.)

Lt. Ringy Joe Stafancin talked to me before the reunion. He's to take it easy because he had a cardiac arrest, so he is on a lot of medication.

Bill Enoch Ursery told me that the 2nd platoon had a mini reunion in Summerset Ky. He said the fellows look about the same. Maybe a little older. George Schomelly, John Camp, Mutt Adair, and Red Merich were there with their wives. They had a grand time!

I see George Calore, our "ole" mess Sgt., once a month. He belongs to our Cleveland Chapter. Of course, he brings his charming wife, Martha, with him. He cooks some pretty good meals for us!

This is all for now buddies. Keep in touch. Stay healthy, and God Bless.

Your "A" Co. Buddie,
Bob Grobelny
1581 Lander Rd.
Mayfield Hts., Ohio 44124
1-216-449-5085

Co. "H" 329th Inf.

The 83rd Division Rangers A Recall by Don Rickert, Co. H, 329

I read with great interest reports of the strategic, behind the lines, tactics of allied forces in Desert Storm, that contributed to the speedy allied victory. I was impressed by the many missions assigned to special troop forces. These units were not mentioned publicly until recently, but, apparently every branch of service depended greatly on secret missions by their own special troops. Green Berets, Navy Seals, Comandos, Paratroops and others were involved in tactics that directly assisted the 100 hour lightning ground assault that vanquished Iraq.

These troops are very special and their training so severe that only the survivors of a "kill off" period are declared fit to continue with their units. Training involves what is referred to as "Hell Week" where every kind of physical and

mental stress that could possibly be encountered in combat, is applied to break the spirit and physical abilities of the candidates.

It was natural for me to remember the early days at Camp Atterbury, Ind. when the 83rd Division formed such a special training force in 1943. I was a candidate and eventual member of the 83rd Division Rangers.

Little was known of the 83rd Division Rangers by the regular troops as the candidates were advised to low key talk about the special troop training.

Following are some of the operations and actions of the special training that may be of interest to readers of the "Thunderbolt". The rangers were staffed by choosing one officer and two non-coms from every company in the 83rd Division. Co. H, 329 was represented by non-coms from every company in the 83rd Division. Co. H, 329 was represented by non-coms Rickert and Mobilia, but, I do not recall the name of the Co. H officer representative. Participants were chosen for physical and leadership capabilities, but we were not ordered to participate. Most of us considered it an honor to be chosen.

Ranger Battalions had proven successful in Africa and Italy and it was our understanding that plans were for every U.S. Army combat infantry division to organize and train their own ranger company, which then would be in direct support to division commanders. Col. Earl Rudder (then Major), who was so heroic on D-Day, leading the 2nd Ranger Battalion into combat, was selected to organize and oversee training of the 83rd rangers. We also had a "Hell Week" patterned after U.S. Ranger training. All training was conducted by seasoned British Commandos and regular rangers, each an expert at hand to hand combat and judo martial arts. Rank was not honored and all bars and stripes were removed from our uniforms (fatigues). Each candidate was subjected to the same tough treatment and verbal abuse.

Our motto was..." Beat'em, Bleed'em and Kill'em"

The vigorous training, outlined below, was designed to discourage completion by the less hardy participants.

The day began at 6:30 a.m. at a designated pick-up spot where we had to jump on a moving truck carrying rifles, bayonets and toggle ropes on our belts. If we missed the truck for any reason, there was a long hike to the training area and a greeting of ridicule for being late. Once there, 300 trainees were paired up and were told to smear mud on each others face. The dirtier the better. This was repeated each day. Next, we had to forward tumble a 50 yard course and then backward tumble 50 yards to the starting point. Quite a few men dropped out at this time and the measured course was messy from stomach sick G.I.'s. However, the day was only beginning and became much tougher as it continued. After a session of judo and hand to hand instructions, we were paired up for an hour of wrestling trying to knock each other off their feet using leverage and holds that we had previously learned. A large circle was then formed and we marched around pounding the shoulder of the guy in front, using the edge of the hand and alternating hands on command. This drill was to

toughen hands for judo and other disabling blows. As the guy in back hit you harder each day, you in turn pounded harder on the guy in front. By completion of the drills, a week later many of us could break a board with a sharp blow of the hand.

We learned the vulnerable areas for killing an enemy with blows from the hand. Daily bayonet drills were conducted with bare bayonets which was not permitted in standard infantry training. We became skilled at throwing bayonets and could hit a dummy with the sharp end at quite a distance. We scaled straight up cliffs using rope ladders and grapple ropes. There were daily reports of injuries, some serious, and our group became smaller each day. The challenge was great but Mobilia and I agreed we would complete "Hell Week" unless forced out by injury.

All standard obstacle courses for infantry training were tough but the special ranger obstacle courses were higher, wider, larger and deeper.

Live ammunition and dynamite were used extensively throughout which made things a little sticky.

We had daily speed marches that were physically demanding, learned how to neutralize barbed wire entanglements, disarm a knife attacker, parry an enemy bayonet and other possible combat situations.

I estimate that half of the original group survived the tough ordeal. Most days we returned to our companies 10:00 or 11:00 P.M., covered with mud, rifles clogged and by the time we showered with clothes on and also our rifles and then cleaned and oiled our rifles, it was after midnight.

We missed most dinners and some breakfasts, but knew it would be over in a few more days. We arose at 5:30 a.m. to catch the moving truck at 6:30 a.m. -- many breakfasts were missed due to the early hour.

The toggle ropes we carried were made with a wooden handle woven into the rope and the other end a loop. We had to make a rope bridge by joining many ropes, handle in loop, etc. and then prove the bridge would hold traffic.

At the close of the week on Friday, March 7, 1943, we were told to assemble the next day at the training site, minus equipment and dressed in O.D.'s. General Milburn would be there for a critique and presentation of certificates. The pick up trucks politely stopped for us this time, avoiding more banged up knees.

When we arrived we knew this was a special day, as there were kegs of beer and other refreshments. About 150 G.I.'s had a beer party on the side of a hill. A wonderful reward after a stressful week of endurance.

General Milburn spoke with praise for everyone who completed the week of tests and stress and then personally presented each of us with a certificate of physical achievement, which I still retain. A copy is included for your interest.

Upon return to our companies the next week, we were told to be prepared to regroup as a ranger company on a moments notice. We reformed many week-ends when Camp Atterbury was practically empty, and then put on

demonstrations for various V.I.P.'s and officials from the Federal Government, defense industries and high ranking

military personnel. We also became instructors for our own company, teaching judo holds and leverage, barbed wire hazards, and hand to hand combat. Within three months the 83rd was preparing for maneuvers in Tennessee and after the summer of battles between red and blue armies there was the famous hike across Kentucky to Camp Breckenridge, KY. By this time everyone was hearing rumors about the 83rd Division going overseas.

I am not certain whether our ranger group reformed and demonstrated at Camp Breckenridge but it was apparent that the plans for a division ranger company were put on the back burner. The invasion of France was near at hand.

We left for England in April of 1944 to be ready for combat action in June 1944.

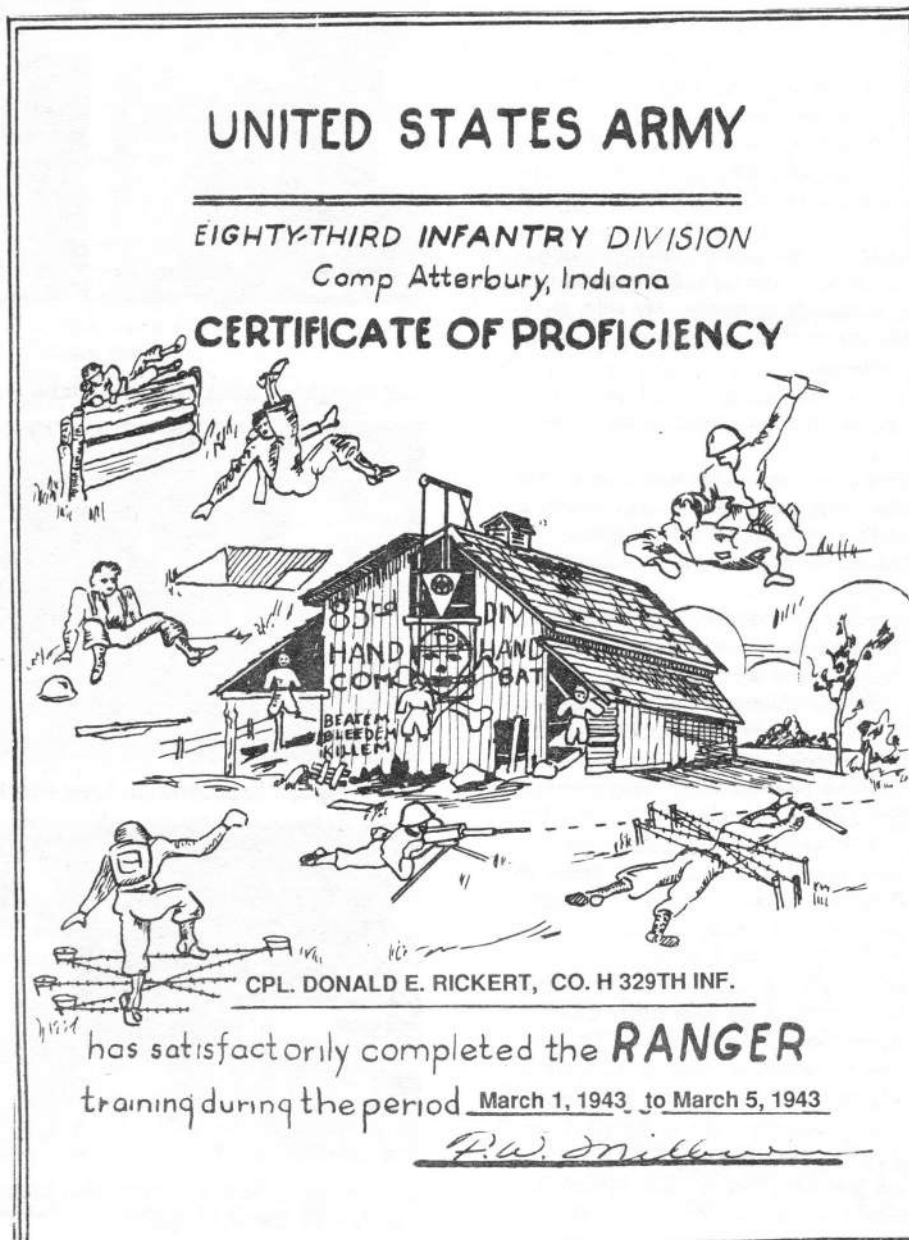
My ranger buddy from Co. H, Sgt. Mobilia, transferred to the 2nd Ranger Battalion, as each 83rd ranger was invited

to join the 2nd Ranger Battalion. I did not wish to leave my friends in Co. H, some of the finest people in my life.

Mobilia wrote to me that he broke his leg in training just prior to the 2nd rangers going overseas. This may have been a blessing for him as the rangers suffered heavy casualties on D-Day and the days following.

I realize that veterans of a high combat division like the 83rd may regard these activities dim by comparison and of course everything pales by comparison to mortal combat. However, I thought that the little known nostalgic to those who were involved. It was after all, an 83rd Division function long before we knew that we would be fighting Jerries in France, Germany and elsewhere.

Donald E. Rickert
Co. H, 329th Infantry



323rd F.A. Report

Many of us attended the recent reunion at the Pines. Dave Hurt, Ed Johnstone and Tony Piantidosi were there from Charlie Co. Dom Christopher did not make it and these men were lost without you.

Pat DiGiammerino from Service Battery was honored with a Plaque presented to him at the Reunion. He has done excellent work for the 83rd Infantry Association. Ed Novak, Will Medling and Leroy Rock were there from Baker Battery. Headquarters Battery had Frank Wirth, George Connors and myself. All these 323rd men had a good time together telling stories of years ago, which gave a lot of laughs after forty-six or so years. Bob Costello would have got a chuckle out of these stories, and also Starbuck and Michaels.

Harold Michaels wrote me that he has been doing a lot of traveling around the country.

Bob Costello wrote a note and sent me a donation for the Memorial Page in the Ad Book, which helped make it a success this year.

Next year some of you other guys should give a little funds to keep this Ad Book going. Only a handful are giving. Our death rate has been extremely heavy in the last few years and some of these men were very generous over the years.

Richard Don Willis sent me a note and a shock it was, believe me. It was good to hear from him. I can remember when we put him in the Yankee Uniform to replace his Blues. That line should get me another letter, HA!HA!

I was to visit Norman McCormack in Hartland, Maine in July. Norman had just got out of the hospital. His wife, Anita, gives him wonderful care which helps in a speedy recovery. My wife, Nancy, and I enjoyed our visit. His memory is really sharp. I plan to go to see him again in November.

My good friend from Florida, Walt Harding wrote that he was unable to be at the Reunion but hopes to be able to come to Omaha, Nebraska next August.

Innc Suilman told me his wife had an accident at home. He hopes by November, she will be okay again, as their son is getting married and she wants to be in tip top shape for the wedding.

Willie Snodgrass was not at the Reunion, but is enjoying good health.

Erwin Erhardt was disappointed in the Cincinnati Reds this year. Erwin, like we say with the Red Sox, wait till next year.

Now the part of this report that I do not like:

On September 13th, 1991 James Lawhead Taylor, died of a heart attack in Modesta, California. His wife, Margaret was at his side. In late years "Buck" had a stroke and was fighting back, Margaret was at his side doing the best for him. This summer when I spoke to Jim we chatted about his buddies.

George Polites, born August, 1916, died on September 16, 1991. I attended his Wake and Funeral in Dracut, MA. Thanks to the men of the 83rd Infantry Division for being there also. George was a real close buddie for 49 years. Recently, George and his wife Yvette celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

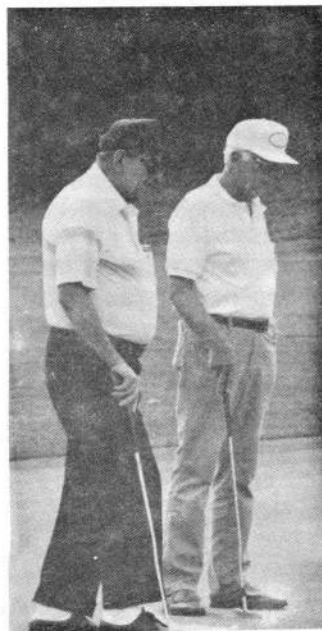
Ralph W. Morgan, Retired Army Colonel, died at the Walter Reed Hospital with Liver Cancer. After a 32 year Army Career. Then taught Social Work at George Mason University for 10 years before retiring. Ralph was a native of Indianapolis, a graduate of Butler University, received a Masters Degree from Indiana University and Doctorate from Catholic University. We in the 83rd new Ralph best for his leadership in jWorld War II in the E.T.O.

Dustin Starbuck phoned me that on October 14th, William Ervin died of a heart attack. Mostly served in Charlie Battery. He had friends throughout the 323rd Bn.

Joyce Z McCouch died on October 14th, wife of Ed McCouch of Headquarters Battery. Joyce was the mother of 11 children. Nancy and I attended Joyce's Services and Funeral burial was in Indiantown Gap.

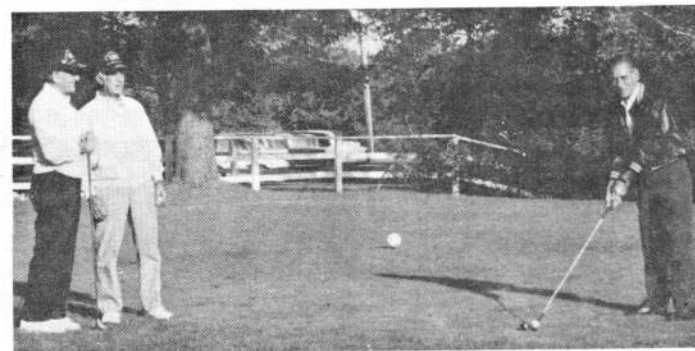
Our condolences to all these families on their loss, and in our loss of our devoted comrades and friends.

Until next issue, Amby Tynan



Chuck Tomazin

Left to right: Chuck Tomazin, Babe Gautski from Warren Ohio



Left to right: Lou Sandini, Tony Plantodosi, Dom Varrone



Left to right: Bom Varrone, Bob Crossen, Lou Sandini, Tony Plantodosi, Larry Arrigo

Co. "H" 330th

HELLO BUDDIES:

Once again we have returned from a great Reunion, to those of you who were not in attendance, you missed just about the greatest Reunion that our Association has had the opportunity to have. The credit goes to the Greater Boston Chapter along with the Pines Hotel. The Boston Chapter deserves congratulations for having chosen the site they did for the Reunion, and the Pines Hotel deserves congratulations for the fine program and meals that they gave us.

I was disappointed at the Co. H attendance, but I am sure that all of you had reasons for not being there. I sincerely hope that it was not because of any grievance or anything like that. I also hope and Pray that it was not because of any serious illness.

Over the years I have tried to keep in touch with the Co. H men that I have on my mailing list, with your help the list could be even longer. Granted, there are many of our Buddies from Co. H who have passed away, there are others who have moved and we are unable to locate them. After many years of trying, I finally was able to locate a man who has been asked for at every Reunion that I was able to attend. He is none other than Sgt. Harry Dorsey, he is now living in Chicago, Ill. I have his address if you wish to try and contact him.

I was a little disappointed at the returns that I received on donations to the Ad Book, were it not for some men sending that extra money in our Co. H page would have been mighty small. Please, when I write you requesting an ad, it is not money for my pocket, it is for money well spent by our Reunion Committees, please try to at least answer, and if at all possible, send that extra donation along with the name of a deceased buddy. In Co., H, we were not just a group of Soldiers, we were a great Family commanded by a great man who was like a Father to many of us along with a terrific staff of Officers and Non-Coms. We served side by side and I dare say that many of us shed tears for those less fortunate Buddies who were either killed or seriously wounded and were unable to return home with us. Let us all take a minute out to think of the horrors of those days in Combat and how fortunate we are to be here alive. We are all getting older and we all have some ailment or pain that bothers us, but let us put our own ailments aside and think of that Buddy of ours who is in a Veterans Hospital never to return home.

Again I wish to thank all of you who so generously contributed to the greatest Ad Book we have ever had the pleasure of having. I am not asking for your Ad Money to-day, but always remember, "You can never give too early, but you can give too late", let us make the Co. H Page the greatest next year. Remember, that extra \$5.00 that you give will help add one more name to the page. If you feel like sending your money to-day. Remember, that extra \$5.00 that you give will help add one more name to the page. If you feel like sending your money to-day, please don't hesitate. Always remember, "don't put off until tomorrow what you can really do to-day".

Your buddy, Larry Redmond

P.S. Do your Christmas Shopping to-day, buy an Ad for the Reunion, Christmas Special, Co. H. Booster Ads, \$10.00.

HELLO BUDDIES:

Here we are back home from what was just about the greatest Reunion that we have ever had. Please don't take the wrong meaning, I don't mean that other Reunions haven't been nice, what I mean is that this one had so much in its favor, a nice Hotel, a wonderful program, a nice group of attendants, and everything ran very smoothly.

We owe a vote of thanks to the Greater Boston Chapter and to

its Members spearheaded by Pat DiGiammerino and his wonderful Staff who orchestrated it. We also owe a vote of thanks to the Pines Hotel for the part they played. Putting on a Reunion today is far different than it was many years ago, we are faced with Unionized Hotels which dictates to us how large an Orchestra we must have for our affairs, how many Waitresses are needed for the serving of the meals, how many Bartenders are needed for the Hospitality Rooms and all liquors must be purchased from the Hotels and can't be brought in like we used to be able to do. Along with all of this, the cost of living has risen so much that we must increase our Registration and cut down on some of the entertainment that we would like to offer.

This year, attendance was at a fairly high level. We had a certain few who did not attend because of their own personal reasons, granted, they were missed, but it is the prerogative of all of us to choose going or not going. As we attend the Memorial Service each year and the names of the deceased are read off, we can't help but stop and thank God that we were able to join our Buddies another year. Our ranks are getting thin, so let's put our every effort in attending as many Reunions as we can.

Now to present some of the interesting highlights of the Reunion, first of all the Greater Boston Chapter did a wonderful job in welcoming our Members as they

arrived on Sunday, they had a wonderful Hospitality Room set up and a warm welcome was there for all who arrived early. The meals in the Hotel were superb, a nice menu to choose from was presented at all meals, all three meals were almost like a Banquet in itself. There was entertainment continuous throughout the day each day. The Hudson River Boat Trip and the Visit to West Point were tremendous. We had the great honor of being able to see a complete West Point Review, the President of South Korea was the Guest of Honor there and was rendered a 21 Gun Salute. Our Members in attendance enjoyed it immensely. Our Business Meetings were well attended. On Thursday morning the Memorial Service was held and a group from West Point was there to take part in it. The 83rd Infantry Division Band rendered the music for the Parade and it was wonderful to see our Members stepping off their to the beat of the music. It was a shame that a few of the West Point Cadets were not used to such a wonderful Band for the marching, a few of them had trouble making their feet keep in step. Our men didn't miss a step. Our Meeting was held in the afternoon as the Cadets were unable to be there in the afternoon. After the Meeting came a Catholic Mass, unfortunately our regular Chaplain, Father McCartin was unable to attend, so another Priest was obtained. After a brief period of relaxation came the Annual Banquet, Again, the meal was out of this world, You had a large Menu to choose from and the service was terrific. Following the dinner, the new President was sworn in and some speeches and presentation of gifts was made and then came the dancing. Just about everyone went around the room shaking hands and saying good-bye to their Buddies as Friday morning was the farewell.

On Friday morning everyone rose fairly early and went to the dining room for the farewell breakfast. Then came the sad part, going to the door and saying good-bye and hoping that we could all meet again next year. As old as we are, there are still tears shed when we try to say good-bye to our many friends.

As you are aware, next years Reunion will be held in Omaha Nebraska. The Central Plains Chapter is a fairly new Chapter and unlike most of the Chapters, they have never had the experience of putting on a Reunion. This is not an easy job and your help is greatly needed. Over the years we have been fortunate in having a nice Ad Book which helps greatly in making the commitments that are necessary. This year we had a wonderful book, thanks to you our real dedicated Members. I ask you all to get behind the Central Plains Chapter, and lend your support to the Ad Book.

Remember when that letter comes to you, don't put it aside, send it off at once. Always remember "you can never be too early, but you can be too late on your contribution". You may not get an early bird prize for sending early, but you can at least show your love for the 83rd Infantry Division Association.

I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the help you have given me in the past with the Ad Book. May GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

Larry Redmond

P.S. At the Memorial Service a group of Professional Singers were engaged to sing a few Musical Selections, but they could not compare with the singing by our own Jim Burton. Put the 83rd on your Christmas List, buy an Ad today.

Cards & Letters



G.G. CA.
Aug. 1991

Bob,

This Photo will give you a better view of the historical site at Behin, Belgium. This was the worse battle in all the war I was in.

Raymond C. Bowsler

Story of Atterbury Important

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

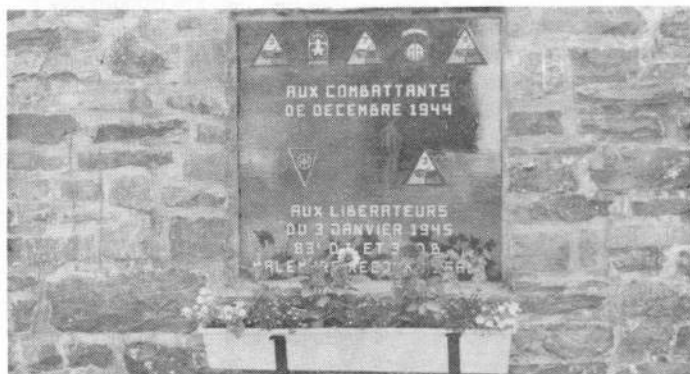
A lot of the hoopla surrounding the 1992 celebrations understandably is about the 50th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' discovery of the New World.

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 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.

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.

Reunions are reviving vets' memories of Camp Breckinridge

By Patrick W. Wathen Senior staff writer
The Evansville Courier Saturday, June 22, 1991

Memories of humorless drill sergeants, physical training, cold winter nights in pup tents and trips to Evansville are being bandied about this weekend at separate reunions of men who trained at Camp Breckinridge near Morganfield, Ky.

One group, the 83rd Infantry Division, was at Camp Breckinridge in 1943 for advanced assault training before being sent to Europe.

About 25 of the 60 members of the 83rd Infantry Division Association's Kentucky Chapter are meeting at Lee's Inn in Evansville.

The other group, veterans who took their basic training at Camp Breckinridge in the period from 1950 through

1954, is holding its first national reunion at the Executive Inn here.

Breckinridge now is the Earle C. Clements Job Corps Center.

Leroy Johnson, an Alcoa retiree who lives in Paradise, Ind., was married only four months before he was drafted in October 1942.

Eleven months later, the 83rd was in Tennessee on maneuvers when word came down it was going down it was going to Camp Breckinridge.

They were replacing the 98th Infantry Division, which had gone to Louisiana for maneuvers.

Johnson, who grew up in Warrick County, couldn't believe his ears when told the news.

"I said, 'You're kidding, I hope we are.'" He volunteered to be in the lead group to go to Breckinridge and then went on two-weeks furlough.

When he arrived at the post, he was met with glares from others who had arrived ahead of him.

They had marched from Springfield, Tenn., and had blistered feet as trophies.

"They looked like an old dog that had been on the prowl," Johnson smiled.

The 83rd spent its weekdays on assault training and rifle practice and, though barracks were aplenty, winter nights found the troops in pup tents in the field.

Then the weekends came and some indeed went on the prowl, but not Johnson.

He was married and knew the best place for him was at home in Warrick County.

Getting to and from Evansville, the destination for weekend revelers and merely a point on the way home for Johnson, was an adventure in itself, he said.

Old buses better suited for the scrap heap were used to shuttle soldiers the 30 miles between the post and Evansville. On one occasion, Johnson said, "It took as many as three buses to get back to Breckinridge."

Another soldier had a Packard and offered to drive his buddies to Evansville. But tires were scarce in those days and flats were plentiful. Johnson said every time a tire went flat, another buddy would abandon the Packard.

In early April 1944, the 83rd went to Europe where it earned five battle stars and had crossed the Elbe River, well on its way to Berlin, when it was ordered to stop. The Red Army had dibs on Berlin.

Charles Casey of Omaha, Neb., was among tens of thousands of troops who took basic training at Camp Breckinridge during the Korean War years. The 101st Airborne Division was the training unit at the post then, which is why the former trainees will be sporting the Screaming Eagle this weekend.

Two years ago, he decided to relieve his youth, as he put it, and passed through Western Kentucky to see what was left of the old Army post.

That triggered the idea for the national reunion of Camp Breckinridge trainees.

About 100 people are attending the reunion, a number that disappointed Casey. But he was assured the number wasn't too bad for the first time out.

Korean War era trainees were targeted for the first reun-

ion, but future reunions will be opened "to anybody and everybody" connected to Camp Breckinridge, Casey said.

People attending this year came from as far away as Phoenix, Ariz.

Expected to arrive Friday night was Ludlow Thorston, an artist from New Jersey.

Unlike other trainees who scattered to places like Korea, Alaska, Panama and Europe, Thorston was assigned to The Servicemen's Center in Evansville where he met "the people of Evansville, the finest of all the people I had ever met," he wrote in a letter to The Evansville Courier. He spent 17 months at the center where he did art work, including a 20 by 4 foot mural.

The reunion will be held here in June the next four years, "then we'll see after that," Casey said.

Friday, former trainees did what Casey did two years ago -- went to see what was left of Camp Breckinridge.

RETIREE ENJOYS PHOTOGRAPHING NATURE

By Debbie Bowman - Horizons

A good photographer will walk over his own grandmother to get the shot he's after," said Warrick Operations retiree Leroy Johnson. "He's got to." Each photographic endeavor presents a new challenge for Johnson, who says he will go to almost any length to get a good picture.

According to Johnson, who retired from Warrick Operations in 1985 as an electrician after 19 years and five months of company service, his interest in photography started during World War II when a friend introduced him to the hobby.

"I had a buddy in the platoon and we would set up a darkroom and move it wherever we went -- even into some locations that were off limits. Taking pictures was a good way to pass the time."

Johnson, who calls himself an advanced amateur photographer, has learned the "tricks of the trade" from watching the pros. "People will think that you're the press if you look like you know what you're doing," he said. "I used to hang three cameras around my neck and go backstage at the USO shows. I met Bob Hope and Jack Benny that way and got their autographs. Even though I didn't have any film in the cameras, I sure had a good time."

Johnson, 70, said that he has had no formal training in photography, and learned the technical things by reading various photography books and magazines. He credits his equipment, two well-worn Canon cameras, for his good work. "Not everybody can own the most expensive equipment, but you should try to get the best lens you can afford," he said.

His favorite subjects to shoot also are his most difficult. "I waste an awful lot of film on flowers, foliage, and wildlife," he said. "They are difficult to shoot because of all the different angles and the variations in light and color."

His wife, Clara, recalls the time her husband nearly injured himself while photographing nature scenes. Leroy always wanted a photo of the natural bridge near Slade, Ky., "said Clara, "but every time we were there, the light was unsuitable. We would leave without getting a good picture. Several months later, we were driving near Slade when Leroy announced that he wanted to try and take another photo. I usually accompany him on his photo shoots, but I was tired so I waited in the car."



Clara and Leroy Johnson

It was getting late. Johnson wanted to get at least one shot in before dusk descended on the clear Kentucky sky. To capture the entire bridge in the photo, the retiree kept stepping backwards in the woods until he fell approximately four feet down the rugged mountain. He grabbed onto a small tree for support. Johnson managed to escape unharmed, except for a skinned knee. "I told him the one time I wasn't with him, he almost killed himself," she said. "Fortunately, the only thing injured in the fall was Leroy's pride."

"But I did get the good picture," he added with a smile.

Johnson states that he has earned a reputation when it comes to taking photos of his favorite subject. He recalls the time when he took some pictures of a blooming Queen-of-the-Night cactus in his garden after midnight. "My neighbors probably thought I was crazy," he said. "Here was this old man outside in his yard on his hands and knees in the wee hours of the morning taking pictures of a cactus! What most people don't realize is that this type of cactus only blooms for a few hour at night. I kept looking behind my shoulder to see if a police car had showed up. Thank goodness none did."

The family's ties to Alcoa began long before Johnson joined the company in 1966. He was one of 50 families who owned tracts of land in rural Warrick County. And Alcoa was interested in that land to build a new plant.

He particularly loved the part of his land that rimmed the mighty Ohio River. But there was just one thing that worried him about the ground on which his white wooden house was built. His home was frighteningly close to the water. After much deliberation, he decided to sell his home site, along with his 25 acres, to Alcoa.

"The day the land buyer came to finalize the deal, it had been raining nonstop for days," he recalled. "The river had crested and most of the low ground was covered with water." "How do you want to sell this land," asked the land buy-

er, "in acres or buckets?" Johnson sold his land for a handsome profit and settled in another location about four miles north of Newburgh, Ind.

The Johnsons have a son, Michael, who works in Warrick Operations' Pack/Ship Department. "Whenever we have a family gathering, Dad's always there taking pictures," said Michael. They also have a daughter, Linda, who lives at home with them.

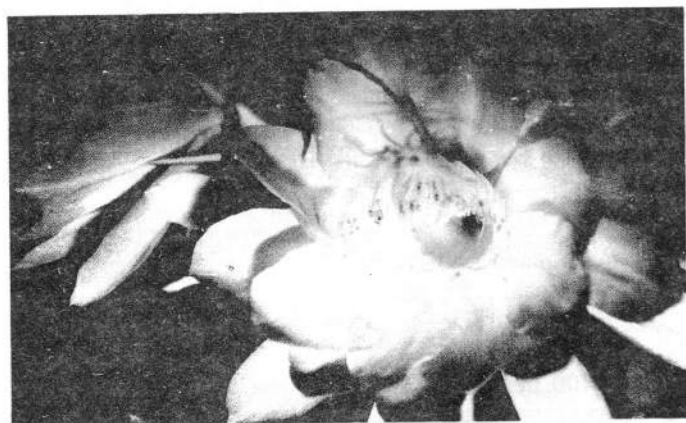
When he's not taking pictures for his personal collection, Johnson works as the Warrick Operations retiree club's staff photographer.

"Leroy is a good photographer and very devoted to his hobby," said Gene Hayhurst, co-chairperson of the Warrick retiree club. "All we have to do is give him a call and he's there with his camera."

Johnson finds photography rewarding in many ways. He explains, "When I look at one of my photographs, I can recall everything associated with being outside and taking it. In this way photographs are like memory triggers. I like the idea that by choosing certain vantage points and lenses, I can frame the world while preserving bits of time and space. It's the best way to capture life as I know it."



Some of Leroy Johnson's favorite flower shots.



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, \$5.00 Each

Black or White Golf Caps \$8⁰⁰ Each

(Postage and Handling Included)
Contact the Association Office

83rd Reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn
Central Hotel, Omaha Nebraska.

Dates are: August 20, 21, 22.

Start making your plans to attend, now!

**DUES ARE DUE NOW
FOR 1992**

**ANYONE WHO HAS NOT PAID THEY'RE
1992 DUES ARE NOW DELINQUENT**

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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BULLETIN

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