



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

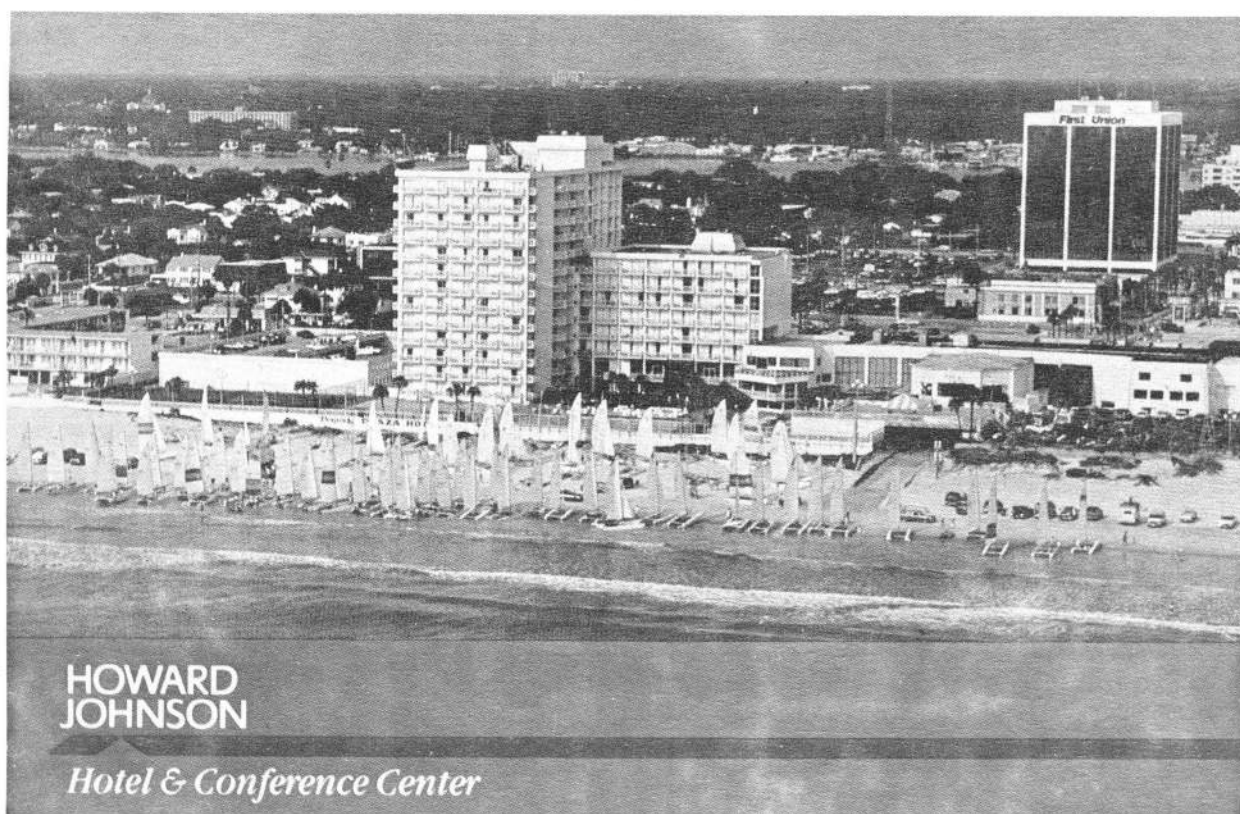
WORLD WAR II

Vol. 48 No. 2

Winter Issue 1993

HOWARD JOHNSON

Hotel & Conference Center



HOWARD
JOHNSON

Hotel & Conference Center

Daytona Beach, Florida
September 30 - October 1-2, 1993

THE THUNDERBOLT
Official Publication
83rd Infantry Division Association Inc.

The THUNDERBOLT is written by and for past members of the 83rd Infantry Division World War II and is published at 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013-9102.

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A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

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

John W. Robinette 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. Lussier 1990
Edgar H. Haynes 1991
* Denotes Deceased

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



BEACH PARTY COMING UP!

The Florida Chapter of the 83rd Infantry Division Association met in Deland, FL January 29 and 30. We all had a very good time working and playing. There were sixty people at the meeting.

The Howard Johnson Hotel is all full for the convention dates. We have changed the back-up hotel from the Whitehall to the Holiday Inn, just one-half block south of the Howard Johnson Hotel. We have blocked off 100 rooms there. Dead-

line will be September 14, 1993.

Our plans are about all put together. We signed a contract with Budget Rental Car with very good prices. They will bring a car to the hotel and pick it up there.

I am working with Delta Airlines to arrange a special rate for people coming to the convention. This information will be in the next Thunderbolt coming out in June. You can fly into Daytona or, if you want to fly into Orlando you can rent a car there and turn it in at Daytona, at the hotel.

We are also working on golf arrangements, and some programs for the ladies.

The next meeting of the Florida Chapter will be at Howard Johnson's April 23 and 24. Our reservation cut-off date for this meeting will be April 9.

Kelly says we are looking good:

Hope to see you all soon,

Ned B. Smith

(See tentative program this issue, final program next issue.)

83RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION - 47TH ANNUAL REUNION - BEACH PARTY HOWARD JOHNSON BEACH HOTEL - DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 29, 30 - OCTOBER 1, 2, 1993

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

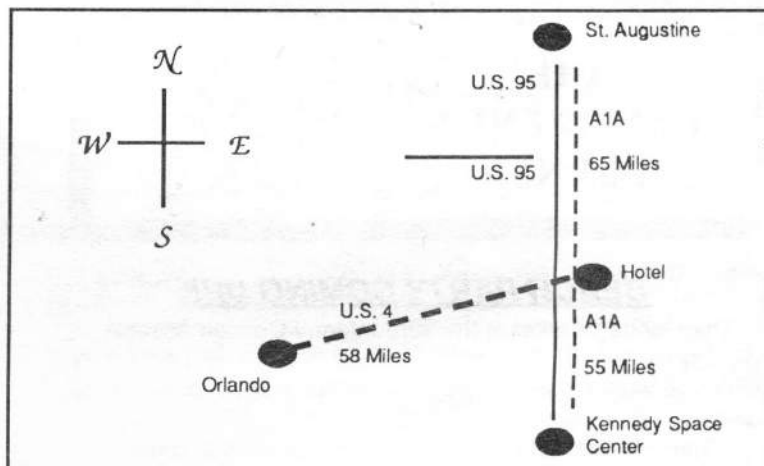
<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENTS*</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Tuesday, Sept. 28 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Registration Otherwise on your own	Lobby
Wednesday, Sept. 29 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ?	Registration Dinner/Entertainment	Lobby
Thursday, Sept. 30 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. All day	Breakfast Registration Hospitality Dinner/Entertainment Visitor Attractions Florida Sunshine	Lobby On the Deck Ballroom See Listing* Beach/Deck
Friday, Oct. 1 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Afternoon 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. All Day	Breakfast Business Meeting Registration 83rd Band Hospitality Dinner/Floor Show Visitor Attractions Florida Sunshine	Ballroom Lobby On the Deck On the Deck Ballroom See Listing* Beach/Deck
Saturday, Oct. 2 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. - Midnight	Breakfast Business Meeting Registration MEMORIAL SERVICE Hospitality Catholic Mass Banquet/Dancing	Ballroom Lobby On the Beach On the Deck Ballroom
Sunday, Oct. 3	Breakfast	Ballroom

* A listing of addresses, telephone numbers and descriptions of recommended entertainment, sports, cultural and historic facilities, shopping centers and restaurants will be provided along with a map showing all locations.

**BUDGET RENT A CAR
OFFICIAL RENTAL CAR
FOR THE 83RD CONVENTION**

<u>Car Type</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Week</u>
Economy	\$20.00	\$89.00
Compact	22.00	99.00
Intermediate	24.00	119.00
Fullsize	27.00	139.00
Luxury	39.00	199.00
Minivan	39.00	199.00

Phone No. 1-800-772-3773 for reservations
CODE NO. - VAR. 3 BOLT



MEAL PACKAGE

Includes: 4 Breakfasts \$75.00 per person
 3 Dinners includes taxes and gratuities

Proposed Menus:

Breakfast Buffet Day 1 (Thursday, 9/30)

Scrambled Eggs, Bacon and Sausage, Homestyle Potatoes, Biscuits, Juice and Coffee. Toast available upon request.

Breakfast Buffet Day 2 (Friday, 10/1)

Fresh Fruit, Cereal, French Toast, Bacon and Ham, Biscuits, Juice and Coffee. Toast available upon request.

Breakfast Buffet Day 3 (Saturday, 10/2)

Scrambled Eggs, Fruit Filled Pancakes, Biscuits and Bagels, Bacon, Juice and Coffee. Toast available upon request.

Breakfast Buffet Day 4 (Sunday, 10/3)

Fresh Breakfast Pastries, Fresh Fruit, Cereal, Juice and Coffee

Dinner Day 1 (Thursday, 9/30)

Garden Salad with House Dressing.

Choice of: Roast Top Sirloin of Beef with Mushroom Sauce or Boneless Breast of Chicken with Supreme Sauce.

Fresh Vegetable, Potato or Rice, Hot Rolls and butter, Dessert and Coffee, "Decaf and Iced Tea"

Dinner Day 2 "Beach Party/Nautical Motif" (Friday 10/1)

Garden Salad with House Dressing

Choice of: Stuffed Flounder with Crabmeat or Chicken Polynesian Fresh Vegetable, Potato or Rice, Hot Rolls and Butter, Dessert and Coffee, Decaf and Iced Tea.

Dinner Day 3 "Annual Banquet" (Saturday, 10/2)

Garden Salad with House Dressing, Roast Prime Rib of Beef au Jus, Baked Stuffed Potato, Steamed Fresh Broccoli and Cauliflower, Hot Rolls and Butter, Dessert and Coffee, Decaf and Iced Tea.

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Just a few lines to let you know that your Board has been busy and trying to get something done about the "GAY" issue that our President has brought upon us. You will find in the Thunderbolt a letter that we wish every member of our Association would sign and send to their respective member of Congress. The more letters that our Congressmen receive the better chances of some kind of legislation will be passed on to keep the Ban on Homo

sexuals. Your Board is going on record opposing the lifting of the Ban on Homosexuals.

Our next Board meeting will be held on April 30th and May 1st at the Pines in South Fallsburg, New York. If you have anything you wish to bring to the Board at that time, you are most welcome to come. I want to wish all of you and your families, "A Very Happy Easter."

Cordially, Your Buddy
Lou Nolan

This letter has been approved by the Executive Board. It is a form letter for you to make a copy and sign your name. Then send to your congressman. Do not send to National Office.

FROM THE UNDERSIGNED MEMBERS OF THE EIGHTY THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION OF WORLD WAR II: TO OUR ELECTED PRESIDENT, SENATORS AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, each of us answered our country's call in time of need and participated as members of the 83rd Infantry Division in ground operations against an armed enemy of the United States in the battles for Normandy, Brittany, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe, to preserve and defend our freedoms; and

WHEREAS, as a well regulated and disciplined militia, that banned known homosexuals from our ranks, we were the first American soldiers to reach the Rhine River, and the only military unit to successfully establish a bridgehead across the Elbe River to become the closest American troops to Berlin when the war ended;

NOW THEREFORE, WE THE UNDERSIGNED, OPPOSE the lifting of the ban against known homosexuals in the Military and Petition that any attempt to lift such ban be overridden.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY AND STATE</u>	<u>ZIP CODE</u>
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from The Office



Greetings to all of you. From the reports the office has received from Florida we are headed for another large reunion. They tell me that all rooms are taken at the Howard Johnson Hotel. They have 100 rooms blocked off at a nearby Hotel. So send your reservations in. We may have another record breaking crowd. Hopefully a great many new people will be there.

The Chaplain's report in the last issue of the Thunderbolt should have had the last column as reading, (Sent in by) instead of Deceased. We are sorry that this happened. We try to keep these mistakes from happening but once in a while they do. We do apologize for this.

We hope that all of you had as wonderful a holiday season as we did. All our children and their spouses, grandchildren and great grandchildren were here for Christmas Day. What a wonderful time. We even had a little snow for the day.

Pearl and I traveled to Jackson, Ohio for Bonnie and Earl Hoover's 50th wedding anniversary in January. Art and Agnes Koener, Chester and Helen Wilson, Mac and

Doris McGowan, were there also. Seems like these 50th are taking place more often now. If you have one coming up or have already had yours we wish you many more.

Pearl will be having her right eye operated on the 2nd of March. We hope that it will be as successful as the one on her left eye last May.

You will find the Omaha Reunion report in this issue. They did very well, and again we congratulate them.

Many of you will remember Col. Jorg Stachel the commander of Camp Atterbury, and all he did towards getting the Memorial for the Camp last August. He has been promoted to be the Adjutant General's Chief of staff for the Indiana Army National Guard.

There are quite a few of you who have not paid your dues. Look at your membership card. If it does not say expires in 8/93 you are delinquent in your payment. Please send them in now. Have a wonderful spring. Will talk to you later. Send a card to Sam Kikppa. He is not well and would be glad to hear from you. He sends you his greetings and wishes you all a happy healthy new year.

Pearl and I went over to Camp Atterbury in January for the Changing of the command. Ames and Helen Miller and Lewis and Mary Tenney were there also from the 83rd. It was quite a ceremony and we all enjoyed being there. We wish you well Col. Stachel. Will miss you.

83rd REUNION '92 HOLIDAY INN CENTRAL - OMAHA, NEBRASKA AUGUST 20, 21, 22, 1992

INCOME:

Advance from National Ass'n.	500.00
Tours	3,800.00
Ad Book	15,189.00
Registration	33,003.00
Women's Activities	1,138.00
Raffles	774.25
Donations	<u>735.00</u>

TOTAL INCOME:

55,139.68

EXPENSE:

Tours	3,589.12
Ad Book - Printing, Postage, Tel. Etc.	4,792.86
Holiday Inn Central	34,511.07
Decorations	1,314.74
Entertainment	2,260.00
Signs, materials, Tickets etc.	273.30
Gift Bag Items	309.08
Video Rental	89.19
Plaques, stationery	126.70
Trophies	107.57
Refunds, Ad Book, Tours, misc.	196.64
Chapter Reunion Exp.	2,897.98
Cash Advance from Nat'l. 83rd	<u>500.00</u>

TOTAL EXPENSE:

50,968.65

NET PROFIT

4,171.03
55,139.68

Chaplain's Report

Dear Robert,

Its time to get a letter out to you, Have been busy with things that needed doing, here at home. How are you and Pearl? Hope this letter finds you both well.

We, The Pgh. Chaplain have been having our monthly meetings, but had to cancel the Christmas party, due to the big snowfall in December. We will have a Valentines Day dinner on February 13th.

The members of the Pgh. Chapter are deeply saddened by the loss of our friend and comrade, Albert J. Suess Sr. "G" 331st, who died on Christmas Day. December 25th, 92. We will all miss Al, very much.

On Dec. 30th I received a letter from John Schommer, his dad, Francis Schommer died, on November 4th 1992. He was 3rd. battalion S-3 HQ 329th. we who knew him will miss him.

Received a letter from John L. Sulliman that his friend Ben Merlino, Hq Co. 1st Bn. 329th Inf. died.

This is all the sad news for now. Here is a poem from a DAV magazine I received some years ago.

Take Time

*A gift is given
Take time to remember
Who made the gift possible.
Take time to appreciate
The nature of the gift in your eyes.
Take time to give thanks
The more so if the gift be priceless
Take time to enjoy
But only with understanding.
The gift is life
Given by a loving Creator,
The gift is freedom
Made possible by men and women
Who to ensure yours gave up their.
The gift is life
Made possible by men and women
Who to ensure yours give up theirs.
--Rev. Carl E. Bergstrom
DAV National Chaplain*

That's all for now, boys!
Your Chaplain, Mathew



Chaplain's Corner

Deceased

Lt. Edward F. Dolan
Robert N. Simmons
Ernest Schultz
Steve M. Click
M/Sgt. Arthur E. Novak
Lester H. Perry
Maj. Francis C. Schommer
Donald A. Smith
Al Suess
Henry A. Trimmer
Carl Sariss
James R. Brown
Henry Kukuiski
William M. Lay Sr.
Daniel C. Morrow

3rd BN. HQ. 329th
329th A.T.C.
A 330th
M 330th
*Regt. Hq. 330th
I 330th

908th Medics
G 331st
M 330th
M 329th
Div. Hqs.
MP Div Hqs.
F Co. 329th
Quartermaster

Reported By

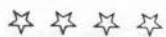
Ed. Hynes
Wife, Eileen
Floyd Pillion
Marvin Hayden
Emil Wehling
Wife Algena
Son, John
Wife Shirley
Gene Costanzo
Gale Baker
Dixie Hull
Charles Spurgeon
Lou Nolan
Wife
Son



Sept. 13, 1944 Co. D. 331st Inf. 83 - from l to r: PFC Minton - Phila. Pa., Cpl. Mueller - Portland, Org., PFC Plotnicovl - Brooklyn, N.Y., PVT. Miller - Gettysburg, Pa., S/SGT. Harman - Chambersburg, Pa.



Frank Meyers - Perkasio, Pa., Dave Harman - Chambersburg, Pa., Zeb Pearson - N.C.



Historian's Corner



Dear Buddies,

The enclosed pictures are from our Combat time of casualties, cold, snow, mud, mines and tree bursts - then on to the "Bulge" and worse weather. Who needed it!

Now, the historians say, it was not necessary that we be there, a military mistake, at the Forest, but not the "Bulge".

These photographs taken almost 50 years ago, like us, are not as sharp as we were then.

There was no help from the Air Force until the weather broke at Christmas.

"We Were the Best"

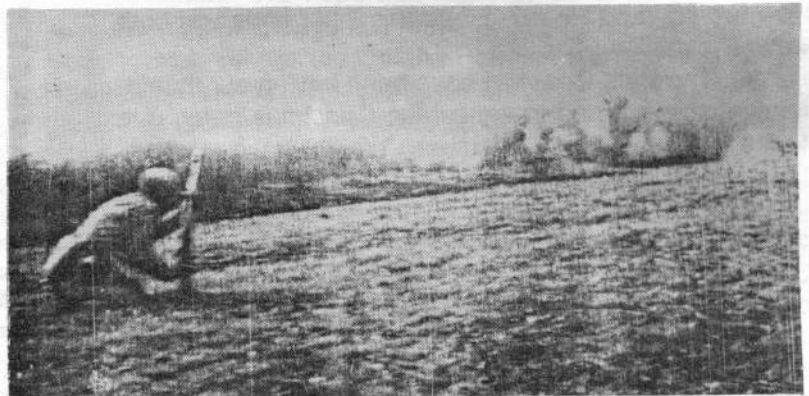
Wm. Kent O'Connell

Historian/Archivist

83rd M.P.



Lore Adolph - while surrounded by destruction.



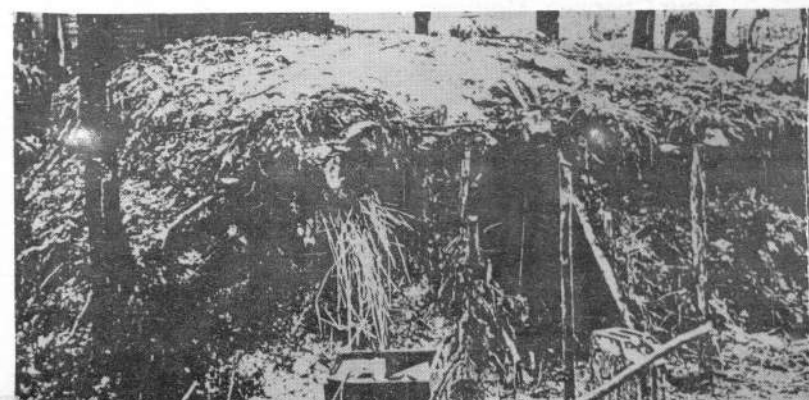
Incoming mail - plains of Germany



Tally Ho - Time to go hunting again, better than walking?



The Huertgen Super Highways - Oh Yeah!



BN Hq - all the comforts of home!



Col. Jorg Stachel, left, turns over command of Camp Atterbury to Col. Garry Willis.

Atterbury neighbors lose friend.

The Republic, Columbus, Ind., Tuesday Jan. 12, 1993
Photo by Joe Harpring

If being a good neighbor is a mark of success, then Jorg Stachel's tenure as commandant of Camp Atterbury has been one of the most notable in the half-century history of the installation.

Col. Stachel turned over command of the post to Col. Garry Willis in a time-honored military ceremony Saturday. Those ceremonies capped a six-year term marked by a number of major initiatives that went beyond the administrative and custodial duties associated with a scaled down facility.

At its peak in World War II and the Korean conflict, Camp Atterbury was a major military training facility, home to thousands of soldiers preparing for war.

In recent years its military role has diminished to the point it is primarily a training facility for National Guard and reserve units.

That is not to say Atterbury has become a ghost base. Far from it. The military portion of the sprawling post sitting on the Bartholomew-Johnson County line is still a beehive of activity.

It speaks well of Stachel's military job performance he was promoted to be chief of staff for the Indiana adjutant general.

However, it is what he did as a good neighbor that made Stachel's term of office so important to area residents.

Stachel took several steps that bridged a gap between Atterbury and the people of the surrounding communities. Some of those steps were taken as the result of outside influences, but others were made on his own initiative.

Relationships between many military installations - active and semi-active - and neighboring communities are often stilted and sometimes downright hostile.

While Atterbury does not pose the same problems or benefits of other installations to communities, Stachel and his staff still assumed an active and positive role in community relations.

Over the past six years there have been a number of occasions and projects requiring the neighbors to come together.

- Atterbury became a focal point of the 1987 Pan Am Games, hosting the equestrian events at Johnson County Horse Park and shooting competition on camp ranges.

- Stachel and local residents spearheaded a fund-raising

project to restore the Chapel in the Meadows, the small building built and painted by Italian prisoners of war during its history.

- He was instrumental in encouraging and organizing regular meetings of Atterbury alumni who included people who had lived in the area prior to it becoming a military installation.

Obviously there have been points of contention in a military-civilian relationship. One sore point for some local residents has been the noise of artillery practice, which can echo for miles under certain atmospheric conditions.

Because of the necessity for the live-fire practices, Stachel could not halt the exercises, but he required units to adhere to established conditions. Even more appreciated was the courtesy extended to neighbors who called with complaints.

That is what being a good neighbor is all about.

Atterbury's new guard to keep old promise

By Paul Wagner
The Republic, Columbus, Ind.
Sunday, January 10, 1993

Col. Garry L. Willis said he will maintain Camp Atterbury's standing as a showcase for military training as he takes the helm of the post.

"The New Year brings many challenges," Willis said. "The world is changing daily. Future arms reductions will put more and more emphasis on the citizen soldier."

Willis is replacing Col. Jorg Stachel who has been promoted as the chief of staff for the state's adjutant general effective Jan. 1.

Stachel formally turned over command to Willis during a post ceremony Saturday attended by friends family and dignitaries.

"When I came here in 1986, I promised I would reshape Camp Atterbury and make it into a showcase," Stachel said. "I'm proud to tell you that not only the dedicated soldiers of the installation support unit, but our neighbors and community leaders as well, accepted that challenge."

The change of command ceremony consisted of Stachel passing organizational colors to Commander of Troops Brigadier General Robert J. Mitchell who passed them to Willis. The colors were then passed to Post Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Macy.

The ceremony dates back to the days of Roman armies, said Maj. C.J. Sullivan, who was the master of ceremonies.

"On the occasion of the change of commander, representatives for each subordinate command were always present as a witness to the change," he said. "Those representatives then returned to their units with the news of the new commander."

Members of the 83rd Infantry Division attending were Mr. & Mrs. Robert Derickson, Hamilton Ohio, Mr. & Mrs Ames Miller and Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Tenney of Columbus, Ind.



47th ANNUAL REUNION 83rd INFANTRY DIV. ASS'N.

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

PLEASE CIRCLE THE SIZE AD YOU PREFER:

FULL PAGE
\$60.00

HALF PAGE
\$35.00

THIRD PAGE
\$24.00

QUARTER PAGE
\$18.00

BOOSTER ADS ARE \$5.00

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

TYPE OR PRINT YOUR AD CLEARLY IN SPACE BELOW

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:

FLORIDA CHP. REUNION FUND 83rd DIV.

AND SEND TO:

Larry Redmond
Apt. F-1 Evergreen Club Apt.
3041 West Chester Pike
Broomal, PA 19008

Frank G. Sharp
50 South Fillmore St.
Beverly Hills, FL 34465-3625

This year we hope to cut down on our mailings to you requesting ads so that we may lower overhead expenses. This ad form will be in the Thunderbolt for (2) two issues. Please cut out your ad from last year's book and attach to this page or rewrite it on this form. Our deadline date for ads will be June 25, 1993. This will give the printer time to set-up the book and print it. Thank you. We are most grateful for your cooperation.

FLORIDA CHAPTER

83rd Infantry Division Association

47th Annual Reunion

Sept. 29-30 Oct. 1-2, 1993

**You May Come 5 Days Early + Reunion Dates or
5 Days After Reunion Dates At The Reunion Room Rate.**

**Howard Johnson Hotel Welcomes You
600 N. Atlantic Ave.
Daytona Beach, FL 32118**

**For Convention Assistance
Call Kelly Roan
1-800-767-4471
FAX 904-253-7543**

**1st 147 Rooms are ocean view
rooms and will be assigned first.
Reservations will open Jan. 1,
1993**

Flat Rate of \$50.00 Per Room + Tax

RESERVATION REQUEST

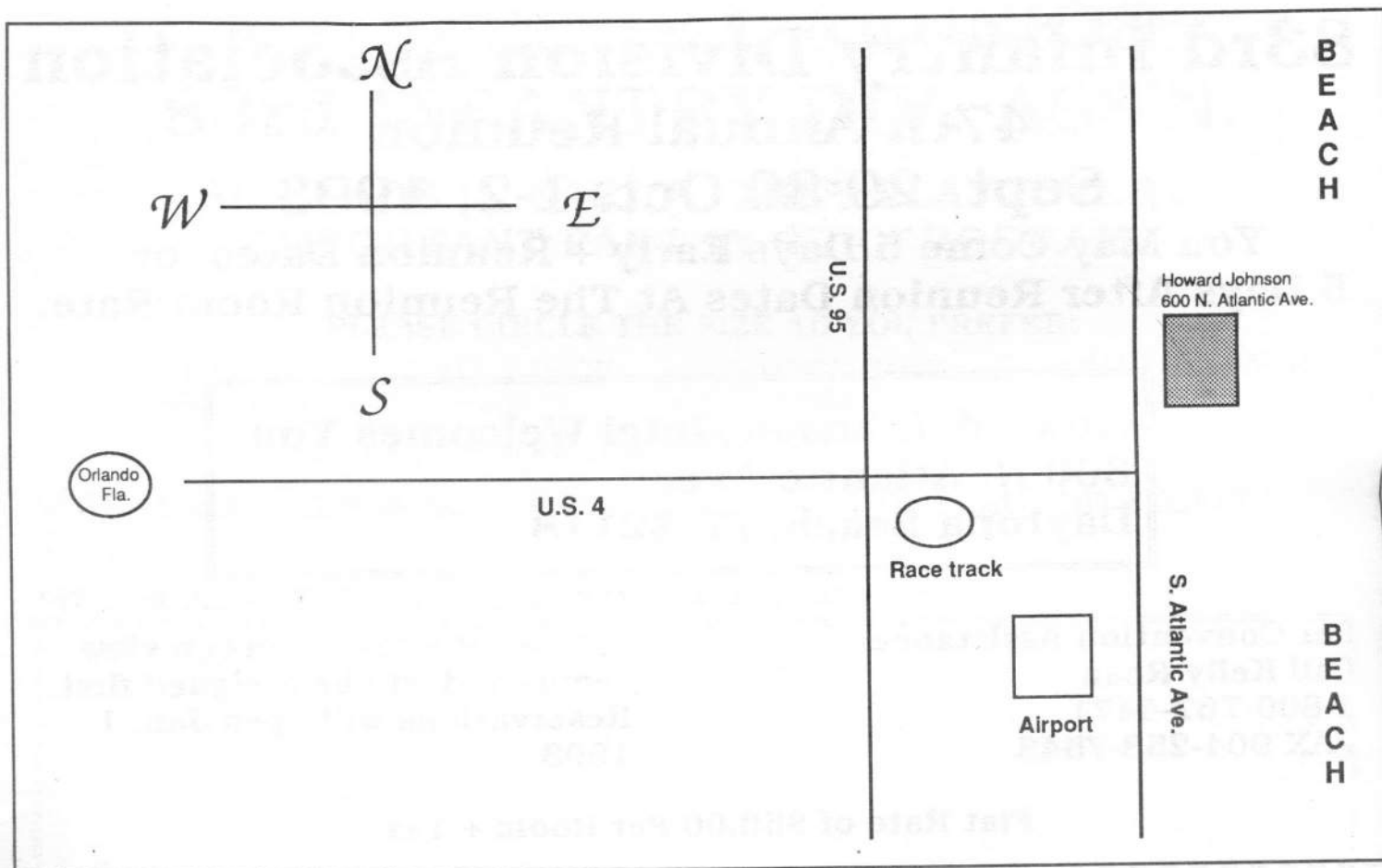
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Person - 1 Bed | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Person - 2 Bed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Persons - 2 Beds | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Persons - 2 Beds |
- ☐ FIRST NIGHT 50.00 DEPOSIT is required. If I have to cancel, I must do so before 6 P.M. on day of arrival.
- ☐ Credit Card Number Guarantee of Any Major Card:
Dinner Club _____ Master _____ American Express _____ Discover _____
- ☐ Visa _____ Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____
- ☐ Check if Handicapped.

To avoid duplication, please submit one reservation only for a guest room to be shared by two or more people. To help with pre-registration, list all names of guests in this room.

Please print names of guests or members

- | | |
|----------|-------------------------|
| 1. _____ | () member
() guest |
| 2. _____ | () member
() guest |

YOUR SIGNATURE AND ADDRESS FOR CONFIRMATION



The Atterbury Memorial Board of Directors are planning a memorial service event for August 8, 1993. This will include the Italian Chapel in memory of the Italian prisoners: the outside museum and Memorial Wall in memory of all veterans who have trained at Camp Atterbury.

More detailed information will follow in the summer issue of the Thunderbolt.

REMINDER

**For those
members that
have not paid
your 1993 dues.
Please send
your check in
now.**

CHAPTERS

PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

The grim reaper visited the Pittsburgh Chapter on Christmas Day. He took one of our most liked members, Al Sues. He fell victim to a cerebral hemorrhage attack. True to form at the time of his death he was on a mission for the chapter. Thomas J. Gmitter Funeral Home on the South Side of Pittsburgh handled the arrangements. The chapter scheduled a memorial service on Sunday, December 27 at 2 o'clock. Although attendance at the service was sparse, the majority of the chapter filed in at various times that afternoon. Al was sergeant-of-arms of the chapter and the liaison between us and the Brentwood Post 1810 VFW.

On Thursday, December 10 the Pittsburgh area was hit by a gigantic snow storm which caused us to cancel our Christmas party on Saturday, December 12. It was re-scheduled as a Valentine Day party on Saturday, February 13, 1993. The site remained the same -- Ciccantis Ristorante in Jefferson Boro, Pa. The hours remained the same from 1 to 6 p.m. Shortly after the last members left, the weather turned nasty and highways became slippery. Forty dinners were served and we were entertained before, during and after the affair by the accordion music of Paul Calise. A 50-50 raffle was held and three door prizes awarded to the ladies.

SHORT NOTES -- In my column in the last issue of the Thunderbolt I inadvertently left out the names of Charles and Ruth Hopta as attending the past reunion in Omaha, Nebraska.

Charley met former S/Sgt. Ray Martinik from Oregon who was attending his first reunion. At the December meeting the chapter voted to give \$50 to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign.

Diane Klippa remains local chairperson for this organization.

\$25 was also given to Ray Kastroll, Sr. of Brentwood Post 1810 VFW for services rendered each month while we meet. Our former secretary Steve Blasko is in a nursing home suffering with Alzheimer disease. Bill DeMarino's son, Bill, Jr. was killed in an automobile accident in Evansville, Indiana where he resided with his wife and two children. He was 48 years of age. In lieu of flowers \$25 was given to his widow from the chapter. Dottie Walsh, wife of Ed was hospitalized on January 28 with an Angina attack at Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh for one week. She was in attendance at the Valentine party. Larry Leonardi left for his winter home in Florida on December 1. While there he will render his assistance to the Florida Chapter for the 1993 reunion. Paul Diethrich and wife Rita and another couple spent over three months touring the mid-western and western parts of the United States. A great time was had by Sal Scicolone and his wife, Theresa on their recent trip to Italy. The tour took them to Rome, Vatican City, Venice, Florence, Pisa and many other points of interest. They were also able to spend a few days with cousins and an uncle and

aunt and visit Sal's birthplace near Palermo.

The 1993 slate of officers is as follows: president, Michael Kadylak; vice-president, H. Greer Thompson; treasurer, William Jacobs; secretary, James J. McCulla; sergeant-of-arms, Andrew Churpak; publications, Francis Beerhalter; historian, Lawrence Leonardi; trustees, Joseph Danylo, William DeMarino and Francis Beerhalter; chaplain, Matthew Pintar; National Board member, Costanzo; sick committee: chairman, H. Greer Thompson; vice-chairman, Edward Walsh; members, Charles Caven and James J. McCulla.

--Fran Beerhalter
Reporter

FLORIDA CHAPTER

Greetings to all Thunderbolts from sunny (?) and warm Florida. The Florida Chapter has had two meetings since the last issue of the Thunderbolt. At the meeting held Nov. 7, 1992 at Holiday Inn, Vero Beach, Fl., the officers for 1993 were elected. They are as follows: President, Bill Nagel; Vice-President, Albert Bensimon; Secretary, Allen Fisher; Treasurer, Jim Emanuol; Sgt's at Arms, Dick Senger and Bruce Winchell; Chaplin, Louis Kaness; Judge Advocate, Ralph Gundersen.

Following the meeting, several members visited a military museum on the beach near Ft. Pierce, built and operated by the SEALS. This is the name of the Underwater Demolition and Assault units that trained at that location during WWII.

After the banquet, the hosts, Allen and Mary Fisher entertained with a sing-a-long, followed by Bingo and cards.

The winter meeting was held on Jan. 29 & 30 at the Holiday Inn in Deland, Fl. Hosted by Bill & Alma Herhuth., with 30 members in attendance. At this meeting a comprehensive review of all activities associated with the 1993 reunion was presented by Ned Smith. A table of organization was accepted and chairmen for all functions were appointed. As there will be more details regarding the upcoming reunion elsewhere in the Thunderbolt, I will not comment further in this letter.

We are sorry to report that a number of our usual winter visitors were not in attendance at this meeting. Larry Leonardi reported that his wife Sue was in the hospital, having recently undergone by-pass surgery. The Gundersons were in Mexico with the Muellers from Oregon. The Naylor's came down from Virginia, but we missed some of the other "snow birds".

The Florida Chapter will hold the next meeting at Daytona Beach, the site of the 1993 reunion on April 23 & 24. The meeting will be at the Howard Johnson Hotel on the beach. At that meeting all activities for the reunion will be finalized and chairmen will be orientated about their duties.

A review of the 1992 membership roster, indicates about 70 men with national membership that have Florida addresses. We would encourage you 83rd buddies to become members of this chapter.

We have several fellows taking pictures at our meetings, but they never give me any to send to the Thunderbolt. Hey guys, please help.

W. Allen Fisher, Secretary

WARREN CHAPTER

Cheer up folks -- only 5 more weeks of winter, then spring will be here. We can put away our snow removal equipment and get out our spades and grass seed, fix our lawn mowers and prepare for some good weather. At the moment, the Warren Chapters health problems have improved, Joe Phillipone is okay and is in Florida, for two months with wife Angie. Dolly Halubka is feeling better after about eight or nine trips to the hospital. She and husband Ted, just returned from a trip to Florida, to see their son and family.

We got a call from George Bellay a month ago. He is feeling okay, but wife Louise has had surgery on both sides of her neck for replacement of the veins. She is doing quite well now and they plan a trip to Warren in March.

We just heard yesterday that Theresa Gautschi is in bed with pneumonia. She refused to go to the hospital, so we are praying for her, for a full recovery. This happened two days after daughter Gail, presented her and husband Babe with their sixth Grandchild. That makes five Grandsons and one Granddaughter. Each of their three daughters have two children.

Joe Macaluso called from New Orleans and reports that wife Mena, is recuperating from her gall bladder troubles. He also said that we lost another good friend on Christmas day. Al Suess, from Pittsburgh, died after a two day illness.

MEETINGS

OCTOBER - Our annual steak fry was held at our summer pavilion, at Ash Hills golf course and Chef, Charlie Tomazin, cut the steaks to each members wishes and cooked them to our tastes. Great job Charlie and your crew and also to Babe Gautschi, who was Chairman of our summer refreshments.

NOVEMBER AND JANUARY - Our indoor meetings started at the home of John and Helen Caparanis, in November. Refreshments and food were great. The same accolades, go to Charlie and Ann Tomazin, who hosted our January meeting.

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY - Mike Skovran and the writer, made arrangements for our annual Christmas party, at Cafe 422 and everyone had a good time. Most of our chapter and our wonderful ladies, attended plus three of our widows. Dimps Minotti, Marge Voracek and Vera Venuti. Mary Nuzzi couldn't attend this year. Our thanks to Theresa Gautschi, Birdie Titus and Millie Kelly for their handiwork on the favors and the centerpieces. We missed Dick Kelly, who couldn't make it, due to his illness.

CONGRATULATIONS- To Pat Shamrock, who retired from General Motors January 29th, after many years of service. Husband John, is still waiting approval from the medics to have his back operated on. Good Luck, John.

Well, that's all the news from Warren for now, so from all of us to all of you, continued good health and good luck for 1993.

Lee Titus
Co. "G" 331st Inf.

NEW JERSERY CHAPTER

This being the first news article after the Christmas and New Year Holiday, I will give you a report starting with the Chapter Christmas Party.

The party was held at the Landmark in Woodbridge. we had a good turnout for this Dinner/Party. attending were Joe and Hazel barton, Stan and Fran Bielen, Tom and Candy Dowd, Manny Epstein and Ann Williams, Sam and Edith Manzi, Joe DePeri, Fred and Addie Rein, Charlie and Mary Sihlanick with daughter Linda and Bea, Joe and Dot Skurka, George and Vi Wample, Emil Wehling, Russell and Margarita Whitehead, Ralph and Sally Stat, Frank and Mary Sabine, Andy Socha.

Ted and Irene Guzek decided to attend the Dixie chapter Party in Gatlinburg and were missed at out party. Ted reported later "that they had a good time except it rained everyday". Bernie and Ida Rosenberg had a previous engagement and were missed. Also Bob and Carolyn Voelkner were missed as they had other plans. Frank Reichmann wrote to let us know that he still can't travel any distance or drive at night.. One of these days Frank, Fred and I will drop-by to see you in Princeton.

Congratulations to the Whiteheads on the birth of Grandson Matthew Thomas. Also to Fran and Stan for winning all the prizes at the raffle. Boy!!!, it's about time we won something, now, if we could be that lucky in Atlantic City.

Our thanks to Addie and Fred for their usual great job in running the party, also to Joann DePeri Dotson for the Santa Claus in a Bubble, which incidently is one of the party items she makes for any affair or party. Thanks to all the ladies who donated the prizes that were raffled off for the chapter coffers. Thanks to all the members for attending, it was great!!

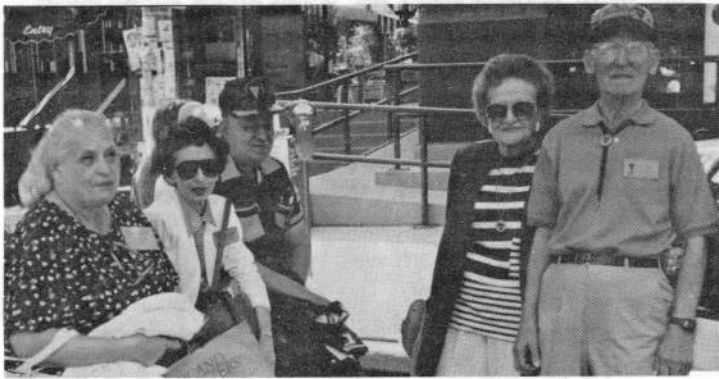
Traveling---Joe and Hazel Barton spending the next few months in Florida. Addie and Fred Rein going to Florida the end of January for a couple of weeks for a family wedding and visiting friends. Manny Epstein went to New Zealand and Australia.

Interesting Facts -- In reading the book Truman by David McCullough, it is written that the Troopship George Washington, on which the 331st Infantry went to England, was used to transport Harry Truman's Artillery Unit in World War I, and at the conclusion of that war took President Woodrow Wilson to Europe for the conferences for the League of Nations.

I'm sending along with this article four pictures one taken at the Omaha reunion with Mike Skovran, Wayne Green and myself, another taken at Omaha with Irene Guzek, Dot Skurka, Ted Guzek, Fred and Addie Rein. Two more taken at the Christmas Party, of Russell and Margarita Whitehead and Joe DePeri watching over the prizes before Fran and I took them home.

That's it for this issue. Wishing you all the best.

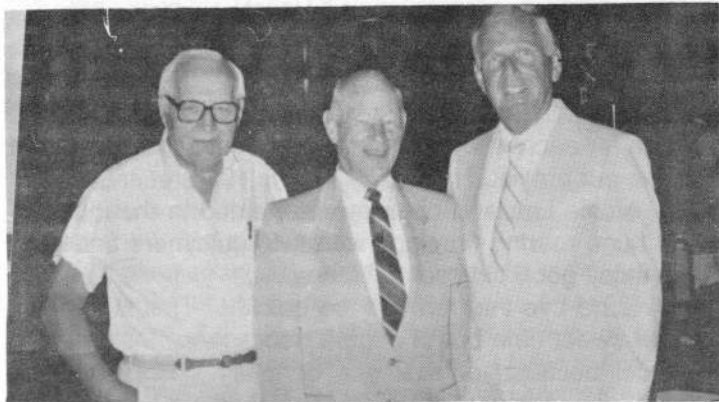
Stan Bielen
1st Bn. Hdqs. 331



Irene Guzek, Dot Skurka, Ted Guzek, Addle & Fred Rein
Market Square, Omaha



Joe DePeri - X'mas Party



Mike Skovran, Wayne Green, Stan Bielen - Omaha '92



Russell & Margarita Whitehead - X'mas Party - New Grand Parents

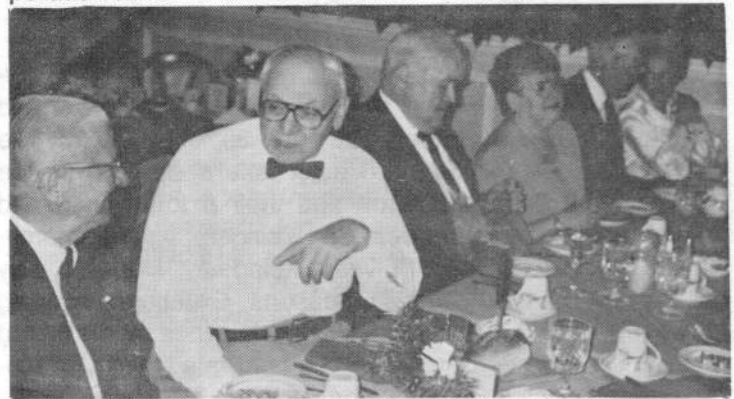
PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

After we returned from the excellent and enjoyable Reunion in Omaha, the Philadelphia Chapter held a meeting and elected the following men as chapter officers for the next two years:

Herry Kirby - President
George Settle - Vice President
Albert Belvedere - Treasurer
John Daum - Secretary
Louis Volpi - Chaplain
Herb Levin & Albert Otto - Sergeants-at-Arms

The Philadelphia Chapter then decided to change the day and the time of our meetings from Saturday evening to Sunday afternoon to allow for daylight driving. The Sunday meetings are planned for 2:00 P.M. at Lou Volpi's Restaurant in Narberth.

The Philadelphia Chapter, after discussing various places and times, decided to hold its Christmas Season banquet at the coastline Restaurant in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. This location was proposed by Al Belvedere and the time was set for 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 6. The Christmas decorations at the restaurant were exceptional, starting with a white and silver tree in the center of the entrance lobby, and we had an excellent dinner and were glad to see all who came. We were especially happy to see Jean Pletcher who underwent open heart surgery recently. She looked remarkably well considering the length of time of the operation, as well as her recuperation time. That is one resilient woman.



Larry Redmond, Art Federici, Harry & Marie Stevenson, Chris & Dottie Heine



Coastline Restaurant in Cherry Hill, New Jersey John Daum, George Pletcher, Lou Volpi, Al Belvedere, Anna Belvedere, Jean Pletcher & Margaret Daum



Lou Volpi (front) Albert Otto, John Daum, Art Federici, Chris Hein, Al Belvedere, George Pletcher, Jim Fish

Our first Sunday afternoon meeting was successful, and this may be the future for the Chapter as members find it better to drive in daylight. I could say we are getting older -- and hopefully wiser. A decision like this makes the wiser a fact that we can all accept for the future ahead of us.

Lester Hauck, and his wife Elsie, have again agreed to host our annual picnic at their home in Perkiomenville. The date is Sunday, July 11th, starting about noon. This has been a very enjoyable get-together for the past several years and we expect this year will be no exception.

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

DIXIE CHAPTER

The Dixie Chapter has big plans for the Christmas party so I want to be there early to be a part of everything and enter into all the festivities. To do this I find myself leaving home on Sat. Nov. 28, one week before our banquet. Of course I must take a side trip to see Mary and Felix Livingston and their 8 to 10 thousand light display. Living trees, Carol singers, lighted churches, Santa Clauses, Elves, Reindeer, Huge Candy Canes, manger scenes, Seasons Greetings, running lights, even a rainbow. All this in white and colored lights. Felix even had his section of State Road 28 decorated. All this was well worth the trip but added to the round the clock hospitality made the visit one to be long remembered.

Tuesday found us in Gatlinburg. I thought I was early but Kermit Ramsey and wife had been there since November 23rd. Carroll Brown and Ruby were already there on another mission and Bob Parsons and Marguerite were next door living it up in the true holiday spirit. We got our shopping done so we could help the troops as they arrived. And they did arrive in record numbers.

Frank and Flo Jackson, our hosts, were getting everything ready and doing a wonderful job. Thank you so much for everything. I don't see how it could get better but we'll see in the coming years. We already voted to go back next year.

By Thursday the hotel was almost full. We had 4 charter members present, past and present national offi-

cers were everywhere. 14 states were represented. Coming from Missouri, Florida, Texas, Michigan, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and all states in between almost. New people came for their very first "Dixie Christmas". Come next year and bring a buddy or two.

Twas so great to see old comrades reunited after many years of separation. We had good reports on several Mini reunions being held.

The hospitality room was truly that. Non stop from Thursday thru Saturday. Thanks to the ladies and men who brought all the goodies!! Kathryn came home with many new recipes to try in our kitchen here in Joppa Md.

Walter Blancett seems to be unbeatable with 12 family members at the banquet. I'd like to know his secret. President McCroy wasn't far behind though with Milton Singleton right up there.

Friday nite was special. Wow!! What a one man band! Great listening and dancing music with a country western twist.

We had many great dancing couples, but even the rookies took to the floor to dance their favorite numbers with their favorite partners. The many members of the Kentucky chapter added to the festivities and we enjoyed each one's presence.

Saturday business meeting was well attended with 63 percent. All went smoothly. Important committees were formed to work on our upcoming National meet in 1995.

We'll meet in Macon, Ga. in March and Nashville Tenn. in June. Then on to Daytona Fla. for the National expecting a good group at each. Sat. is the highlight with our banquet, dance, Mr. & Mrs. Santa, gift exchange, door prizes galore and big 50/50 winners with music and dancing till midnight. Twas truly a beautiful meeting with something for everyone. Thank you so much for each who had a part in making it so great. We broke our previous record by having 197 present.

Archie Lee and his wife entertained in the lobby by the huge roaring fireplace with twin dulcimers and singing those good old country songs.

Good bye time arrived too quickly. This is the sad, bitter sweet time but of course necessary. Many had to cancel because of sickness or injury. Hopefully you have gotten much better by the time you read this. There were many getwell cards to be signed and sent. I trust that none were left out. The Johnsons, McDermits, Hills, Lambs, Guseks, New Folk, Old Timers had a great time together once again.

Will be guests of the Viglione's, Simmons, Collins' Jacksons' in Macon in March!!! Its cherry blossom time so lets be there!!

Lets not forget those comrades who didn't come back from ETO to celebrate with us. In many cases they made it possible for us to be together. They should be ever in our thoughts because we are eternally in their debt.

I'm home now and experiencing our first snow of the season Dec. 10, 1992. Have a safe and healthy 1993. I want to meet each one of you next year at one of our scheduled meetings. See Yah!

E. Massie
Dixie Reporter

KENTUCKY CHAPTER

Southbound thru the fog and drizzle, to our fall Kentucky chapter meeting; we are almost out of it when we meet the last semi being pulled away from a five truck wreck that resulted in one fatality. We are lucky that it is in the oncoming lane for it is closed for several miles and traffic rerouted from I 24 down old highway 41. What a contrast to the days eight months shy of 50 years ago when we were on maneuvers in this part of Tennessee. A few miles from here about midnight the enemy blew a bridge and machine gunned us, since I was dead for 24 hours, I climbed a fence in the dark crawled in a briarpatch to keep the cows and horses from stepping on me, and went to sleep. I woke up to the sun in my eyes and a old sow about 300 pounds in size grunting, and trying to decide if I was food or not. (Such was Tennessee Maneuvers) Friday afternoon the chapter toured the Mount Vernon textile mill in Trion Ga. They said it was a very interesting trip. We had stopped in Chattanooga, intending to dash thru their new eight story aquarium, not knowing that it was a Ga. school holiday and every kid in the state was there, (what a crowd and noise) no place for old people, so we were late for the tour.

Saturday it's sight-seeing time, and the LaFayette Motel is a busy place, the Duncan's and Dalton's are lining up the convoy. Larry lets me ride with him and from the third seat of his Suburban it looks like he is a hedgerow away. He skillfully takes us around the curves and up the mountains and soon has us on top of Lookout Mountain, the wind was blowing, especially on Lovers Leap, and we soon headed back to the shelter of the rocks, and the warm gift shops, where the ladies soon had the registers in high gear.

We visited the Medal Of Honor Museum in Chattanooga. It is a two story building packed with old pictures, newspapers, clippings, guns, bayonets, and equipment that had been used in the many wars it represented. They are trying to raise money for a badly needed larger building. We noted with pride the writeup on the 83rd's own Ralph Nepple.

After lunch at Ft. Oglethorpe we toured the battlefield museum where we viewed a large screen enactment of a part of the Civil War. (Very Realistic)

By special arrangement with our hosts the 6th Calvary Museum opened for us; being a old calvaryman Ames Miller was right at home. I don't know if he found anyone in the old pictures of Ft. Riley, Kansas he knew or not. I failed to find any of my cousin who was at both Ft. Riley and Ft. Oglethorpe.

After a drive thru Chickamauga battlefield we returned to the motel to get ready for the banquet at Western Sizzlin the Duncans and Daltons had arranged for a private room. It was a delicious meal at a very reasonable price along with our dessert. Management turned us loose on the ice cream bar, just another gesture of southern good-will that we encountered throughout our stay in LaFayette. A super job by everyone concerned with the banquet.

After the meal the Duncans introduced their son Steve, a detective in the Sheriffs office who in turn introduced the sheriff of Walker County who gave a speech about the duties and problems of his office, this was timely and well received.

Back at the hospitality room in the business meeting the following officers were elected for the coming year. Ames Miller Pres., Fred McGowan, Vice Pres., Manny Goodridge, Sect. Treas., Wally Robert Assistant Sec. Tres., Floyd Richmond Chaplin and Leroy Johnson, Reporter.

We were glad to have several guests, Cliff and Jane Washer, came with the Roberts, Lonnie and Diane LeMaster, were

with her parents. Earl and Bonnie Hoover. From the Dixie Chapter, F.M. and Vivian Haney, from AL. Curtis and Lucy Mills, from Ga., George and Carol Naylor, from Va. Frank Dahl and his wife came down from Chattanooga to see about joining, he had just heard we had about the organization he served in I Co. 329th.

Its always good to have guests from the other chapters visit, George Naylor was very interesting describing some of the several trips he has made back overseas to the old battle grounds. It was nice to see R.C. and Louise Hamilton with us again. Art and Agnes Koerner made the long trip down. Arthur and Mildred Doggett, & Bill & Verna Payne, were among the 46 thanking James & Ann Duncan and Larry & Jesse Dalton for Hosting a delightful meeting. Everything clicked in place like well oiled machinery those of us who have hosted a meeting know it takes a lot of effort.

Leroy V. Johnson
Kentucky Chapter Reporter

Here is a list of the people who were at Georgia. Ames, Vi, George & Carol Naylor, Floyd Richmond, Hoover, Lonnie & Deane Lemaster, Doggett, Henry, Baker, IM & Vivian Haney (Dixie), Roberts, Jane & Cliff Washer guest of Roberts Lee sister., James & Ann Duncan, Johnson, Hamilton RC & Louise, McGarnawn, Dalton, Verna & Bill Payne, Henry Whelan, Curtis & Lucy Mills, Art & Agnes Koerner.

PIQUA Meeting

The weatherman decided to smile on Piqua Ohio as the threatening snow storm decided to take a different path.

The hosts of the coming Christmas party the Brinkmans, Henrys, and the McGowans heaved a sigh of relief and renewed their efforts for their job of hosting The Kentucky Chapter Christmas Party.

300 miles away in Southwestern Indiana, we had no snow, but suspended our packing until after three phone calls to Piqua, convinced us to hit the road.

After a uneventful trip, we arrived at the new, large, and beautiful Comfort Inn a multi-storied motel that anchored one end of a new mall and opened right out from the lobby into the Mall. We met several of the gang as we were unloading and after a gab-fest in the hospitality room. We formed a convoy and went to Dales a large buffet type eating place where the food was both good and priced right.

The Piqua meeting could be called the shop till you drop, before you stop, meeting. The close proximity of the mall was too much temptation to the ladies of the 83rd, they soon were playing a merry tune on the cash registers, and making a big lump swell up in the pocket books of the local merchants.

Exclamations of surprise and joyous laughter filled the hospitality room, as brightly decorated gifts were passed out. I hope everyone was happy with their gift, my wife was sure pleased with hers. Wilson and Vi. Day donated a beautiful Santa Clause, carved by, "you guessed it," Wilson. It was won in the drawing by John Fay. I don't know which was more pleased, John or his wife Doris. Wilson carves several types now and is getting better all the time.

On Sat. evening a show and tell was held, Helen Miller displayed her Grandma and Grandpa doll she made; "everyone loved them". Good job Helen. Lois Brinkman showed some beautiful crochet table-cloths she is making for her children: fine work.

Irene Baker brought her cross stitch Christmas tree (star) ornaments and little Christmas buildings, she painted; very nice.

Doris McGowan told the ladies how she made a neckware accessory to wear with clothing, unique and useful. Clara Johnson showed a few of her watercolor and acrylic paintings she grabbed up at the last minute. Ames Miller displayed some old antique farm tools. Hope I didn't leave anyone out.

A note from Nora Lee says Cecil's emphysema is still giving him problems. Frances Roberts writes she has had some surgery and Wally fell again hurt his head and arm but didn't look too bad for their 50th wedding anniversary, he is getting smarter about where he falls this time the old fox fell right in front of Mercy Hospital. Maxine Hamilton is getting better but her hip still bothers her a lot. I hesitate to quote second-hand information but I have heard from several sources that Hershell McIntosh has had by-pass surgery, and Marvin Haydon has been in the hospital with breathing problems but I don't know the current status of their disabilities.

At the business meeting it was decided to hold the spring meeting at Clarksville, In. at Lakeview Motel this was formerly the Sheraton this is just a short distance north of Louisville on I-65. 25 rooms plus one handicapped rooms are reserved for the March 26, 27 dates cut off date for holding rooms March 6th. National Watts. 1-800-544-7075 In. Watts. 1-800-824-7740.

We welcome Wallace Geyer as a new member to the Kentucky Chapter and hope he enjoyed the meeting and will attend many more, he brought the total up to 41 for the Piqua meeting according to my log book and I try to get everyone to sign. Happy New Year everyone.

Leroy V. Johnson
Kentucky Chapter Reporte
3rd Bn. HQ. CO. 331st INF

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As you all saw in the news. T.V. and etc, we in New England got the hell knocked out of us Dec. 11-12-13th.

Well on Dec. 12 our Chapters Christmas party was to be held at the Marriott in Prov. R.I. and we had to cancel one weekend party. We got calls that nobody could make it, so we will have to wait until next year.

But on the other hand we had a true 83rder. It was Antony and Joise Theodore of Philadelphia, Pa. They came by train on Friday in the rain and woke up with snow. Joe Petrucci had to go to the Hotel to bring them to his house and they spent the weekend with them and Al & Ann Tartoglio and they took the train back to Pa. on Sunday.

Better luck Antony and Joise next year HaHaHa.

Nick and Mary Francullo had the same experience. We left by car from Lynn, Mass. on Friday in the rain to go to Jim & Dot Brennans in Warwick R.I. It was bad driving in that heavy rain but we got there and on Sat. morning we were locked in with that white snow.

We would loose power off and on but not long and on Sunday noon we headed back home and made it O.K. Jims daughter and family came to stay with them as they had no power or heat since Sat. at 11:00 a.m., but we all survived.

On Friday, Dec. 11 we got a call from John and Ester Fer-

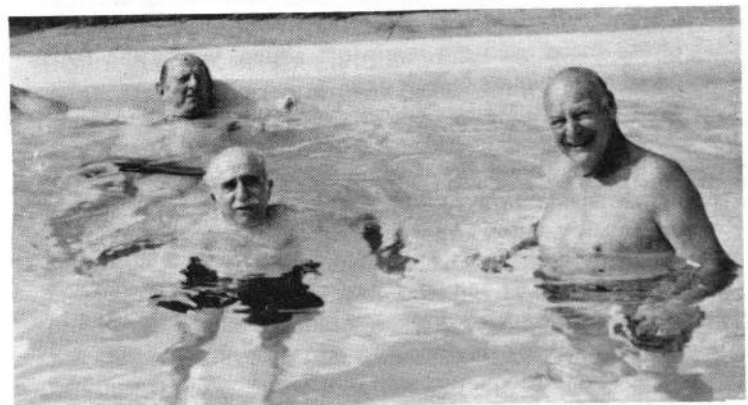
riero that there brother-in-law Manuel Sousa was in the hospital and would not make our Christmas Party and on Sat. morning he had past away. Manny was an associate member of our New England Chapter and a very fine person. He was in the Air Force in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe and he would say we served you guys and he did at that. He will be missed by his many friends and his family and brother-in-law John. Also got a call from Gloria McGartin that Spike had some polyps in his throat taken out and he is doing O.K. and his voice is coming back slow. Take care Spike listen to Gloria Ha! Ha! Ha!

Bill Davis is coming along slow but sure and also Betty. Take care you two.

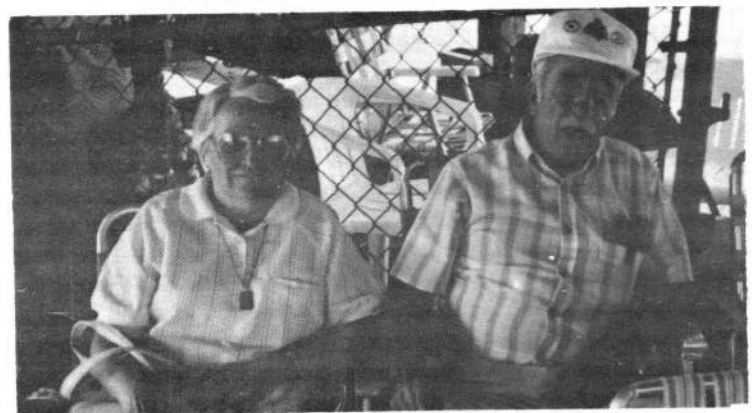
Now for John Ferriero they tell me that he paid \$150.00 in fines coming home from Omaha after the reunion, Boy John you were flying low. Then when he got home he was in his garden cutting up turnips and cut the top off of his left thumb. He picked up the top of the thumb and went to the hospital and had it sewed back on, but he got blood poison through his body and spent some time in the Hospital and almost died. but John made it like a strong man that he is and is doing fine now.

Yes I have one more tuff story. Good buddy Mike Champey is recovering from a broken hip from a fall and is coming along slow but sure take care Mike and Marie, will make sure of that.

Your Buddy
Nick Francullo
H.Q. Co. 3rd Bn. 330th



Boy! The water is great.



Wake up Gus!



Our fine women.



Charlie's story is not true!



Just resting after a good meal.



What a fine bunch.

CLEVELAND CHAPTER

On Nov. 15th 26 members attended. Business Discussed: The 50th Reunion if held in Cleveland, Ohio. It will be chaired by the officers and the membership chosen. They will contact the hotels and places of entertainment. Details and other information were presented to the members at this meeting. Thus far the Holiday Inn at Rockside and I-77 presented a wonderful brochure. The Ritz Carlton, Marriott and the "Downtown" hotels, Stoffers on the Square, Holiday Inn and Sheraton have been contacted.

Cleveland Chapter held it's Christmas party on Dec. 12th at Ruggels Inn on Harvard Ave. Our party chairmen, Earl Lindsey, did a beautiful job. 45 dinners were served. Chester Czeck presented the ladies with corsages. Live music was played all evening. A good time was had by all. Our 50-50 Raffle was won by Ruth Lindsey, Al Lacinsky, Earl Lindsey, Emily Czeck and Janet Williams. Each won \$10.00. The poinsettia plant went to Ronnie Lindsey. The announcement was made that Sam Bass CC. 329 and Ethel Klien were married in Nov. in Akron, Oh. They will make their home in Akron.

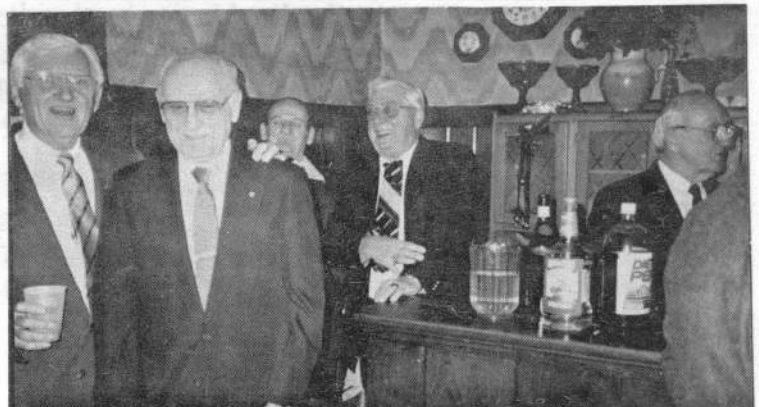
January 16th meeting was attended by 21 men and 12 ladies. Kid and Janet Williams have their ninth grandchild. Leah Elizabeth Williams was born Dec. 3.

Ann Mizerack had spinal surgery in January. Now recovering at home. Ed and Jo Glinka had a stay in the hospital in November. Glad to see them both at the meeting in January. The "Early Birds" with confirmed reservations for Howard Johnson's in Dayton, Fl. are: Paul Dallas, Warren Owen and Kid Williams. Many are sending their requests in soon.

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



Sam & Ethel Bass ("C" Co. 329th)



L. to R. Bob Grobeliny, Sam Bass, Chester Czeck, Earl Lindsey, Al Klugiewicz



L. to R. Charlotta & Sam Cordiano "God Father" Dominic Christopher, Martha & George Calore.



L. to R Eleanor Kluglewicz, Julie Lanza, Steve Ferko, Al Lacinski, Ruth & Jim Lindsey.



L. to R. Mary Jane & Warren Owen, Deloris & Ed Jocke, Julie & Joe Lantz



George & Lee Baker - N.Y. & Ginny DiGiammerino - Boston Chapter

BOSTON CHAPTER

Our Christmas Party was a real success. We had members from New York, New Jersey, plus from all the New England States. The piano player kept everyone singing and dancing all night. Santa gave out gifts. Livie Maynard made basket place cards for the tables and lovely pen holders for the women. Charlie Lussier of 331st Ante Tank Company bought lipstick for the women and battery operated Santa hats.

Winners in our Christmas Drawing Are:

1. Contantine Spanos, Chelmsford, MA.
2. Mark DiGiammerino, Malden, MA.
3. Adam Caldow, Rhode Island
4. Mitch Hamil, New Hampshire
5. George White, Oak Bluffs, MA.

Christmas baskets were given to our sick members of the Boston Chapter.

The Boston Chapter would like to thank the V.F.W. Post 3389 for their donation to our Christmas Party.

The January 23rd meeting was held at Pat and Ginny DiGiammerino home in Malden, Ma. Larry Arrigo, the President, was not at the meeting due to a death in the family. I was unable to attend as I attended a family time. However, there were 31 in attendance.

The Boston Chapter will be having a Bingo Party at the West Roxbury Veterans Hospital on February 9th.

Thanks to Joe and Rose Collette for hosting our February meeting at the Frohsinn Club in Shrewsbury, MA. The meeting will be held on Saturday, February 20th.

The Mini Reunion will be held at the Pines Hotel in So. Fallsburg, N.Y. on April 28th. Anyone wishing to attend please contact Pat DiGiammerino.

Thanks to a phone call from Joe Macaluso of the U.S.A. Chapter who helped me locate a member from Ohio. Joe, I hope you and Mena had a good time at 110th Evacuation Hospital which she served with in World War II.

The Artillery Men of 322nd Dixie Chapter certainly make Charlie Sihlanick and Jerry Zing look good in the picture in the Thunderbolt.

It was good to see that Lou Sandini went out to play golf with the boys in the Warren Chapter. I noticed that they ride the golf course now.

In case the New England Chapter missed seeing "Mousie" Farias on T.V. at Larry Birds night in Boston, I did and he spoke very well to the reporters.

Bob Hunnewell, Ray Bjork and Dick Armstrong are doing a great job with the Boston Chapter entertainment section.

Many thanks to Hy Goodman for his help in keeping me informed on everything.

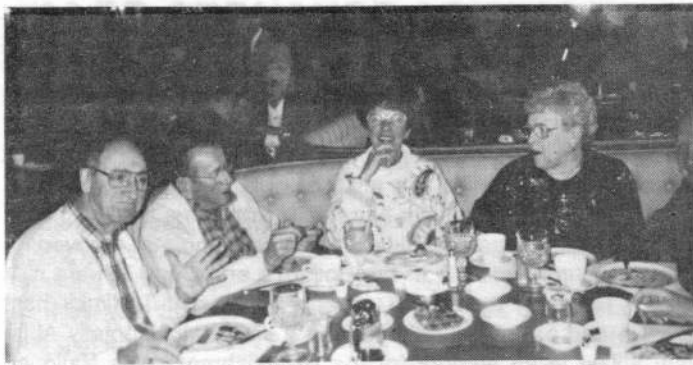
Vitie Atkocius must be a happy man with his friend being elected Commander In Chief. The next four years will tell the difference, if any.

Condolences to Charlie Miller on the death of his wife Arlene. She was a very active member with the women in our Boston Chapter.

Also Condolences to Charlie Lussier on the death of his brother, I believe this is the second brother this year, and to Larry Arrigo whose sister died a week ago, Sally Dunn. Nancy and I were very friendly with Sally and her family. She was a wonderful person.

I guess that's all for this issue. Stay in good health.

AMBY TYNAN
Boston Chapter Reporter



The Morning After & Still Smiling. - Boston Chapter



Santas Helpers - Boston Chapter



Boston Chapter at it's best eating



A Sing-A-Long - Boston Chapter



"Scottie" receiving Fruit Basket from Boston Chapter



83rd'ers from Conn. - Boston Chapter



BOSTON CHAPTER REUNION 8th ANNUAL Pines Get-Together

Another great get-together in planned by the Boston Chapter at the Pines Hotel in the Catskills. So. Fallsburg, NY.

ANNUAL MINI-REUNION Wednesday - Sunday
APRIL 28 - MAY 2, 1993

All 83rd Members and their friends are welcome.

FOR RESERVATIONS, CALL TOLL-FREE

ENTIRE U.S.A. - 1-800-367-4637

or Pat DiGiammerino at 1-617-322-2754 or

drop a line to Pat at 36 E. Border Rd., Malden, MA 02148-1104

Cordially, **THE PINES HOTEL**
Bruce B. Seigel, Director of Sales

COMPANIES

CO "G" 329TH INF.

Get well wishes to Carolyn Griffin of Florida. Virginia Palazzolo, Lois & Bob Brinkman from Ohio hosted Kentucky chapter Christmas party. Helen & Ames Miller & Doris & John Fay attended.

The Fays from Illinois will be leaving for Hawaii to visit their son and family in March.

Grace & John Askey from Pa. visited family in Nags Head North Carolina.

Shirley & Jim Ransdell of Ill. vacationed in Hawaii, Branson Mo. and Memphis Tenn.

Louella & Sterling Rubright, PA., Ruth & Chester Morgan Ithaca, N.Y., Sylvia & Morris Gimple and Babe & Bounce Freitag are snowbirding in Florida.

Vito Palazolo would like his tapes returned if they are on your desk please send on their way. Bounce & I visited the Howard Johnson Hotel at Daytona We spoke to Kelly Roan They are ready for us.

Hope to see all Co G. 329th at Daytona in Sept. & October.

Babe Freitag
102 Philip Ave.
Elmwood Park
New Jersey 07407

MAILBAG

In the Fall 1992 issue of the Thunderbolt, in the Mailbag Section of that issue, on page 30 there was a letter from John and Bernice to Paul and All. It showed a date of August 18, 1992. The John and Bernice referred to are John B. Herr, and his wife, Bernice, of Columbia City, Indiana. The Paul referred to is Paul E. Smith of Kansas City, Missouri. These men were members of Company "D", 330th Infantry Division.

John Herr had been injured and was waiting to be sent back to the field hospital for further treatment. However, before this could be done, a tank and several Germans arrived at the station and took everyone who could walk as prisoners. John survived until the end of the war.

The signature on the letter, John and Bernice, is that of John B. Herr and his wife, Bernice. It was addressed to his longtime friend, Paul E. Smith.

John G. Daum
Co. "D" 330th

329th "B" Bag

While waiting for the snow to go away, and getting the golf clubs ready, I thought I'd write some news. First I would like to thank everyone for the many Xmas cards and all of the great messages in them. Old age must be creeping up on us when I hear all of the problems we have. Cliff Melton is finally up and hobbling on his busted ankle. "Camels" Lemole is recovering from eye surgery. Both of the Bollard's and Capt. Hill are still ailing. Hope for a speedy recovery to all. Al Trofimuk has been in and out of the hospital a few times. Incidentally Al is very active in an attempt for the establishment of a National Cemetery at Camp Sheridan in Ill. Good luck Al in this endeavor. Al also lost a brother recently. Our deepest sympathy to the family. It seems that Bob Taylor and Jesse Pirkle finally over their heart problems. Sure hope so. John Hennies is still in the dough (catering) and doing fine financially. "RED" Geyer is still down after the loss of his wife. Red has a large farm in western Ohio, and George Nichols, my buddy, has his good and bad days. The rest Stek's, Dickson's, Beams, Waddle, Janke, Hirko's and Spicklers are rolling along and enjoying life.

I just finished reading a very good book. The name of the book A Blood Dimmed Vis, it is about the Battle of the Bulge. Primarily it is about the 106th and the 99th divisions, and supporting troops. The 83rd is not mentioned but it is excellent reading. Reported in the book are 15,000 captured, 19,000 killed and 40,000 wounded among the 600,000 American in the Ardennes. British Casualties totaled 1,400 with 200 K.I.A. The Germans fielded 500,000 soldiers, with figures from 100,000 to 120,000 dead, wounded, or captured. I new the Ardennes was bad, but not that bad. Again I say beg, borrow, or steal the book, or just go to the library. It brought back a lot of memories good and bad. I don't know why they waited so long to publish the book.

A Short "B" Bag Story

While in Luxenburg, near Ecternach, the company was stationed in a huge flour mill. Everyday 1 platoon and 1 machine gun squad was sent to an outpost about 3 or 4 miles from the C.P. While at the outpost it was 2 hours on and 2 hrs. off in the fox holes. It would still be pitch black with the watches showing about 9 a.m., with everybody shoving the hands ahead. After 4 or 5 days of little sleep, it was agreed to lace trip flares and grenades about 100 yards in the front of us. The job was finally done, and everybody got a good night rest. Early in the morning after the third or fourth night we heard some noises like someone going through the mine field, when the noises started to fade away, someone fired a flare, then we saw the enemy. 7 or 8 cows walked through the mine field without setting off anything. We wondered how many krauts got through.

See you all in Daytona. Hope we have a good turnout. Remember old doctors never die, they just lost their patients

Bob Uher "B" Co. 329th
(216) 885-1152

In finishing this letter I received a call from a G.L. Morgan who was with the second platoon and became a media with Cannon Co. 329th. This address is 11141 Dayton Pike. Soddy Daisy Tenn. 37379. He would like to hear from anyone who knew him in B. Co or Cannon Co.

783 RD ORDNANCE COMPANY

It hardly seems possible but here we are a quarter of the way through 1993. Some of you guys are really getting old and that also means we quickly forget. I want you to write yourself a note-now! One, send in your reservations for the Daytona reunion-Sept. 30 - Oct. 1 & 2. Secondly, take a little of the spending money that she gave you and send it to Carl Fredericks for the 783rds share of the Ad book that makes the reunions successful.

Now with the business out of the way we can start our fun and games. Right off I have to tell you that I have not heard of any of our troops being sick. Doc Pfeifer and Jim Jones were both hanging around nurses for a couple of days. Doc finally got his plumbing fixed and Jim got a retuning on his big heart. Now Norma Hackstock, at Christmas, reported that Herm was getting tests for dizzy spells. I have called all hours of the day with no answer so I assume the Hackstocks are enjoying the warm weather of Florida. Doc and Agnes will be pleased to know that Tom Riley cried when he got their Christmas card. Tom is still in a nursing home but he is now able to talk a little and he is aware. The last on the medical front is Easy Labbe. I was concerned when we didn't get his usual, unique, Christmas card with the five bucks. My finger shook as I dialed but Lu allayed my fears with, "Oh, we're ok, just a little late." The house has been torn apart and Easy had an eye operation." Remember that old Lt. Ivan Gilman? Our fearless leader started that trend last year when he sent out his Christmas cards on Valentines Day. Thanks a lot Ivan!

After sending most of you a resume on my 43 yr. old sons health problems of last year I'm sure you will be glad to know he returned home today from his latest, long hospital stay. In simple terms - they hit an artery while draining his lung in a small hospital. He finally got back in the Univ. of Penna. and they removed the chest lining, fighting a pulse of 170. This was his ninth body invasion in eleven months and he is still not out of the woods. We fear the twenty year old radiation treatments that are showing up in his lungs may have also effected his heart. Another catheterization, plus the electrode paddles, in a few weeks will tell us whether he will need a heart replacement. This is all heavy stuff but the news I want to pass along is this - If any of you have a mitral valve pro-lapse (heart murmur) make sure you take a dose of penicillin before just having your teeth cleaned. Endocarditis, infection of the heart, is picked up through a blood infection, 95% of the time, through bleeding in the mouth. So beware, our son didn't smoke and being a physical Ed. instructor was in perfect health. It saved his life. None of us are that young, or healthy, so make sure you check your doctor and dentist to be on the safe side before having your dental check-ups.

Now for a rundown of everyone I know about. A nice letter from George Harris who inadvertently "lost" all his Christmas cards to his cleaning lady. George is doing well and had a nice Christmas dinner with relatives. George would love to get to another reunion but he doesn't like to fly alone. We'll come up with something George. For Phil and Ann Barbara we have to stop the presses. I quote, "Rags I have written to all the 783rd men denouncing you as a fraud and the fastest pencil in the East!" These are sad words out of a poor loser and just to prove to you how big and humble my heart is I want to shout out the written words - PHIL BARBARA HAS ACCOMPLISHED AN UNHEARD OF FEAT, FOR THE FIRST TIME, FOR ANY 783RD MAN-LIVING OR DECEASED!!! Phil struck an International HOLE IN ONE!!! He naturally did this on his home course and it was international as his playing partners

were a Chinese doctor, Jewish business man and a Italian lawyer. Honest, and they all signed his card! Phil bought the rounds of an empty clubhouse and then pocketed a \$400 kitty plus a dozen Titleists. So our sincere congratulations from all of us for your thrill of a lifetime. Oh, yes, the day was windless, the hole was 235 yds!!! AMAZING!! When Jim Jones was informed he said behind him, Phil never hit a ball 200 yds." I really can't say what shape Phil was in before his wedding night but with his International witnesses we'll all gladly tip our hats to our ATHLETE OF THE WEEK - Phil SLUGGER Barbra.

A nice letter came with Bob and May Burns Christmas card. They had a nice healthy year and he got to talk to Carl F. while moving his daughter in Milwaukee. They are interested in attending another reunion. Poor Mimi Wiggins is still trying to soothe the headache Ray gave himself by allowing three 783ers to win all the golf prizes. Don't worry Ray they will never ask you to chair that committee again. Midge and Hersh Weaver have reported in from Green Valley Arz. This is their winter quarters near the grandchildren. Alyce Fredericks is still enjoying going to work while Carl is naturally enjoying being KING of the house. Have you learned to cook yet Carl? Believe me Jim Jones can teach you. But where was he in 1944?--Bill and Eloise missing the reunion had its blessings. Bill sent a four page letter in explanation. "This time his son Tom decided to up and get married. The good news Bill will Positively make this years reunion. So write the Mannings name in now and bet Phil's money on it!! Bill has a daughter in Ft. Pierce and it will be his 65th birthday. It was also good to hear from the girls Jane Bond and Dorothy Forster. They both appear to be doing well with the struggles of life. Ed Perko wanted to attend the reunion but like George it was too far to drive alone. (Again get lessons of Jim Jones) Ed really gets snowed in up in them there wilds. Boy can you easterners remember when you wouldn't see the ground for two months? The weather is changing. Here it is Feb. and not an inch of snow yet.

Pat and Ivan Gilman explained their exciting overseas trip in their on time Christmas card so I won't repeat it. They did call and inquire about our son (he never really did care about me). Ivan said they were thinking about the Fla. reunion but Pat got on and said, "Mark it down he'll be there." This is a good time to mention, already I know of ten couples who have signed up. So get on the band wagon the 783rd is going to be well represented again-AND-P.S. The years are marching on. Now everyone sit down. Not only did I get a nice letter from Art Doggett but they signed up for the reunion in December! That Milly has had that power since she was seventeen working as a Western Union girl in Indianapolis!!

There have been nothing but good reports from Joe Brown. His health is good so he has golfed, and enjoyed a cruise to the likes of Rome and Istanbul. The same is true of Charlie and Pat Rohrer who along with Al and Ruth Benssimon are catching all the fish in sunny Fla. or so they say. We all know fisherman and golfers with their holes in one. Frank Salontay reported in and in good health, walking the golf course daily with his new dog. Thats too cold and windy for me. Phil and Carmella living around the corner from Bill Litrenta have had some health problems but they too are riding the hills and valleys. Bill and Martha Appleby wrote a "quiet" card so we hope they are enjoying people cutting rugs. Slips - Justine Christian wishes to be remembered to everyone. She is doing A-ok. Lastly through Milly we learned that Ginny and Gene DelPrete, while still cutting some rugs, have a rare health problem that hits Scandinavian females. She is on a steroid which they

hope does the trick. We'll get more info in the next issue. And Paul Bryars has received his "Masters" not at golf, like what's his name, but at baby sitting. The years haven't changed Paul much but the ages of the girls sure have!

So enough already - Those whose names did not appear, let's hear from you. You count with us. And - anyone who can remember anything about Mark Kemper and his days with the 783rd, would you pass it on to me. I hope you caught his picture on pg. 35 in the last issue. His nephew Garth is trying to collect his history. Now sign up for Florida.

Hut two,
Rags Rangnow

Co. "F" 329th

Dear Bob,

Please consider this our report for the next Thunderbolt.

Company "F" 329th

Remember Omaha!
Daytona Beach Is Coming Up!

Many of us expressed our birthday wishes to Sylvain Fishman through cards, however we wanted to do it again so he could see it in print, so Happy 85th Pops from all Co. "F".

Bill Ferguson's activities have been curtailed somewhat lately, at first it was thought to be old age opps', I mean shingles, I guess that was ruled out. I can't tell you in print where his pain is, however during combat some fellows were wounded there and had to eat chow and sleep standing up.

C.R. Bob Whitcomb



Front - L to R - Ray Mitzeft, Red Cloud NE who was mentioned in our last TB article



308 ENGINEER BATTALION

Here goes for 1993. Hope everyone will have an even better year than the last one. And hoping, too, that everyone is looking forward to the Reunion in Daytona Beach, Florida, September 29, 30, and October 1 and 2.

James Redden called buddy, George Settle, early in December, and all was well with buddies from Co. B: George Cox, Clyde Porterfield, Odie Coffee, Bill Davis and Bill Stimel.

Harry Kirby from Co. C is now President of the Philadelphia Chapter and George Settle, Co. A., is Vice President.. Congratulations, guys. Lester Hauck of the Philadelphia Chapter is receiving a plague as retiring President. Bernie Mendelsohn Co. C has been ill, but gets around and regrets that he cannot be with us in Daytona. We have heard news of Lester Hauck, Co. C who had surgery and is o.k. and later he will have a "Lazy eye" taken care of. Hank Linsky of Co. A has some health

problems and cannot wander too far from home. We received a letter from Luciane, Dick Meyer's wife, written December 20, telling us she had moved from Pennsylvania to Clearwater, Florida; the beach was nice but too cold to swim at that time. She was busy acquiring furniture, and sewing curtains and drapes. Good luck, Luciane and best wishes.

Had a Christmas card from Luther and Betty Cline. They were well and had a visit from George Settle. They were sorry to hear about buddies Mike Liber and Ray Deal passing away. He "would love to attend the meetings but can't travel too far away. Maybe I can make at least one". We sure hope so, Luther and Betty. It's great to meet so many of the guys and swap stories at the Reunions. So many of the wives tell me that they really enjoy the Reunions, listening to us guys exchanging stories, enjoying the programs for ladies, and the camaraderie in the Hospitality Room.

We have heard that Harry Kirby sent a card to Joe Crepp of Co. C and the card was returned "deceased". Our condolences to all of the family. John Lusakow of Co. A was in the hospital with a knee replacement. Jim Bracknel of Co. A fell and had concussion and fractured neck and had surgery on October 6,. We hope we hear some good news from our buddies in hospitals and after any surgeries of illnesses..

We have heard from the following people: Howard Mason, John Shancer, Ray and Joan Bankowski, Charles and Eleanor Auer, Curtis Meyer, Andy and June brand, George Dubos, Tony and Ida DeGregario, George and "Bertha" Peterson, Lucy McMillan, Hugh Brewer, Mike Liber's daughters, Michael Eannarino, Reggie Archuleta, Mrs. Robert Ryan, Ura Tenney and John Hanft. We also heard from Isadore (Irv) and Phyl Katz who wrote that they "may be in the Middle East (Israel) during the convention." Owen and Arlene Wellman hope to make the Reunion in Florida, Virgil and Jane Hume will "see us in Daytona Beach," Richard and Mary Senger celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 12th in Erie, Pennsylvania. Richard is doing very well after his operation. From Ansel (Pete) Peterson, who wrote that he had 35 radiation treatments at a V.A. Hospital in Sioux Falls, he feels good.

My wife and I had a great trip to Germany, and Normandy France in October. We had been in contact with Francois Chouin, in France through our buddy George Settle's correspondence with him. We flew from Tampa Airport direct to Frankfurt, Germany where our daughter picked us up for the drive to Wiesbaden. On October 3 we took the train on our Eurail Pass for a 6 day tour of Dinan and the Normandy Beaches.

We went through Paris, by way of the Metro, or subway, and on to Rennes, France, where we were met by Francois, and his son, Patrick. They drove us to Dinan, where we met the Mayor of the city, Rene Benoit and his staff in the Mayor's office. We were so welcomed, and were presented with pictures of the bridge over the Rance River in Dinan. This is the bridge where Co. A of the 308th Engineers built a Bailey Bridge over the 2 spans that had been blown out by the Germans. We were invited to accompany the Mayor, his staff, Mr. Choin and others to the small airport where a ceremony was held to honor a young pilot who crashed in 1942. Many of the people present came to me welcoming me to their city. They presented me with a copy of their newspaper of sept. 26th, 1992 showing a picture of the Headquarters Platoon taken in 1945. The caption in their paper read: "in 1944 Gordon Doeringsfeld, who was part of the engineer Battalion of the American 83rd Division, liberated Dinan by constructing an ingenious steel Bailey Bridge over the 2 blown spans of the stone arch bridge over the Rance River. He announced that he would visit Dinan on a October 3, 1992. He will be very surprised to see the

changes in the city."

The Bailey Bridge remained in place til 1952 when the 2 spans were replaced with stone arch masonry. The Bailey Bridge was removed in sections and stored where it could be used to replace any bridge that may be destroyed by floods or other disasters.

I was also presented with books of the history of the city of Dinan, which I will have ready for the next Thunderbolt.

Francois and his son took us on a walking tour of their beautiful medieval city. Dinan still has much of the stone wall, built in the 13th century, surrounding their city. The cobblestone streets are very narrow, the buildings, shops, churches, museums etc., are centuries old, still standing, and occupied today.

Francois drove us to Dol where we boarded a train for Bayeux. He made arrangements for a driver to spend the day driving us to Utah Beach, Omaha Beach, cemeteries at St. Laurent. We had lunch at the John Steele Restaurant in Saint-Mere-Eglise where on June 6, 1944, and American paratrooper's parachute was caught on one of the spires of the church, and his name was John Steele. The Germans shot him as he hung there. And to this day, the towns-people have a parachute and dummy hanging on the steeple of the church. It stands as a reminder to the people of the sacrifices the Allied troops made for them. We saw and walked around and inside of some of the many enormous bunkers the Germans had built along the Normandy coast. They consisted of very thick (4 to 6 feet) solid concrete for their observations and for gun emplacements. We saw all the hedge-row. We visited the American Cemetery on the coast near Bayeux. (Colleville-Sur-Mer).

Please write or call:

Gordon Doeringsfeld
7451 Western Circle Dr.
Brooksville, Fla. 34613

The next report goes in by June 10. See you at the Reunion in Daytona Beach, Sept. 29, 30, Oct 1 and 2.

CO. "D" 330TH

HELLO BUDDIES:

Here comes that fugitive from Co. H once again. I almost didn't get to write this letter, as I am so busy with the Ad Book for the Reunion. I just happened to look at the calendar and see that in a few days, the deadline would pass.

Well Buddies, you can't imagine the honor and pleasure it has been trying to take the place of one of the greatest men who served in Co. D, 330th. Frank McGrogan. He was one of the most dedicated men that we have or had in our Association. Making the promise to him that I did, has been hard to keep at times. I had promised him that this page would remain alive in the "THUNDERBOLT" and also the Co. D page would remain in the Reunion Ad Book.

By the time you receive this issue of the "THUNDERBOLT", I will already have approached you for your Ad in the Reunion Ad Book. I sincerely hope that the returns are better than they have been, or I am afraid that I will be dropping my promise to Frank.

I haven't had any news for you except that the last I heard, Capt. Fritts isn't good at all, he is not allowed Visitors. As for any other Ill Men, I have no reports to give at this time.

Well Buddies, once again I sincerely hope that you are all enjoying good health. I know that we are all getting older and do have our share of aches and pains, but that goes with old age. Here's wishing you all, the best.

Your Buddy,
Larry Redmond, Co. H. 330th

CO. "H" 330TH

HELLO BUDDIES:

Well here I am once again. The time is flying by so fast that before we know it, it will be Reunion time. To those of you who have attended Reunions, I know that you are looking forward to it, and to those of you who have never attended one you can't begin to believe what you have missed.

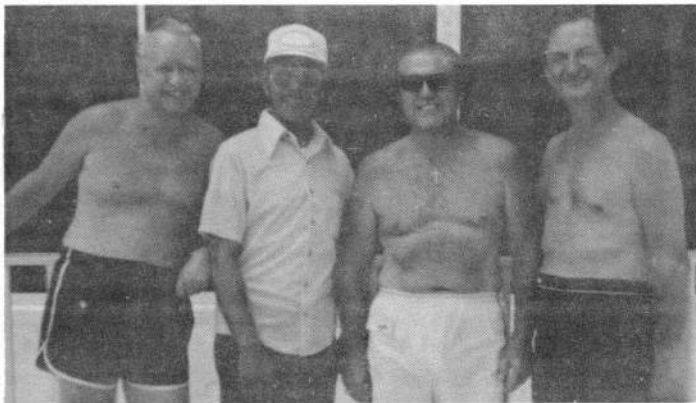
It is almost impossible to stress to you and the feeling it is to walk into the lobby of a Hotel or Motel, or to go to the registration desk and see the name of a man who served with you but that you haven't seen for 47 years. This year, those of us who attended had that happen. We met for the first time in all of those years Lt. Bob Lyons our Mortar Platoon Leader. I am sure that all of you remember Bob as the greatest Mortar Platoon Leader in the Army. Bob only looks a few days older than he did 47 years ago and still has that great smile of his.

We still have our share of sick men on our list, although I am not able to quote names and illnesses at this time. I am hard at work on the Ad Book and by the time you receive this "THUNDERBOLT", I sincerely hope that I will have contacted you and received your Ad for the Co. "H" Page. Unfortunately, Harry Dorsey was unable to be with us in Omaha, and was sadly missed. I haven't heard from him, but sincerely hope that he is well.

Well Buddies, there isn't too much news for me to pass on to you at this time. I sincerely hope that you are all well, and hope that one day before I die, that I can have the pleasure of meeting all of you.

Your buddy,
Larry Redmond

CO. "K" 331st Inf.



L to R James C. Burton, Emmanuel Lima, Al Belvedere, Joseph Gicla - Florida Reunion Oct. 1975

Dear Buddies:

Our 47th Annual Reunion will be held at the HOWARD JOHNSON' HOTEL - 600 N. ATLANTIC AVE., DAYTONA BEACH, FL. 32118 -- SEPT. 29-30 - OCT. 1-2, 1993.

This Reunion is given by the Florida Chapter of the 83rd Infantry Division Association.

As some of you know, our last Reunion was held in Omaha, Nebraska. It was great to get together with so many men from Co. K., and I hope to see more this year. We all had a great time.

In the past Co. K. was represented in the Ad Book. The

Booster Ad is \$5.00 per person, living or deceased.

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

Please send your Ad into me by June 10th, 1993 as follows:

Albert Belvedere

65 Westminster Dr. So.

Southampton, N.J. 08088

Thanking you and hoping this note finds You and Yours in Good Health, I remain,

Your 83rd Buddy,

Al Belvedere

Co. K. 331st Inf.

"G" CO. 331ST INF.

With only three issues of the Thunderbolt, there is too much time between issues, but realizing that we have to cut expenses in some areas, this is one way of doing it.

Many things have happened since the last issue in October.

In Mid October, my wife, Mena spent eight days in the Hospital. She had a gallbladder removed some three years ago, but in October she was having the same type of pain. After running many tests to see where the trouble was, it was found that she still had two gallstones lodged in the duct. The stones were clipped and hopefully they are out of the system. However, I don't think that she has fully recovered.

The one thing that hurt was the fact that the hospital unit, the 110th Evac. was having a reunion in Lafayette, La and she was unable to attend.

At present we are planning on attending the Dixie chapter meeting in Macon, Ga at the end of March. It may be a good time for some of the members of G Company that live in the southern states to meet with their old buddies.

Some three weeks I was able to get in touch with Chaplain Cossette in Lewiston, Maine. At the age of 84 he seems to be doing fine. He did tell me that he has to carry a whistle, so when he falls, he blows the whistle and someone comes to help him to his feet.

Also, last week I was concerned about Col. Nielsen, 1st Battalion Commander, in Texas. I had not received the annual Christmas Card. He informed me that he is doing much better now, but he did have some problems around Christmas time and he was unable to get his cards out to his friends.

On Christmas night I received a phone call from Gene Costanzo informing me that Al Suess had passed away. I later received a letter from Al's wife stating that Al had a heart attack two days before Christmas and was in the hospital when he died Christmas night. In his memory I have had some masses said in his name from the members of G Company. Al was our youngest member and was a good friend and a good soldier. It was good to be with him at the many reunions that we attended.

In the last issue of the Thunderbolt, it was noted that Joe Kuzma of G Company has passed away. I had received the information too late for the last issue. I did write a note, but it was not printed. Joe's wife informed me that he was in the Hospital and was not improving. She thanked me for the number of cards and phone calls that she had received from the members of G Company. He passed away a short time after I had written the last article.

I have been busy doing book work and income taxes, so I have been unable to keep in touch with our walking wounded. From all indications everyone must be getting along fine. Only

hope is that I could say that everyone is enjoying the best of health, but as each of us gets up in age, we find more and more that we have as many bad days as we have good days.

The new topic that has been discussed recently is the Gays in the Military. Our new President is determined to change all policies for the Military. This man who choose not to serve his country, seems to know all the answers as to why Gays should be allowed in the Military. If he had served he would know that there is no place in the Military for Gays. There lifestyle does not fit in the Military.

As one of our Senators stated, when you join the Military the game is played by a different set of rules. An effort is being made to get our Executive Board to send a letter to the people in Washington, to let them know the feelings of the men in the 83rd Division Association. I think each and every one of the members should take some time to let your representatives in Washington know how you feel about this subject. It could have a serious impact on our Military, which is now the best trained Military in the history of the World. Get out your pencils and express your opinion to your representatives.

I remember 50 years ago at Camp Breckinridge, Ky. there was one of the Gays in G Company who's conduct was not what it should have been. I took this individual into Morgantown, purchased him a suit of clothes and shoes, purchased his train ticket, placed him on the train and sent him home with a discharge from the Army.

Sometime in early April I will have a letter to the men of G Company, hoping that we can get some of our Southern boys to attend the reunion at Daytona Beach in late September. As you have seen in the last issue of the Thunderbolt the rates at the Hotel are very reasonable. Let's see if we can get together for a great reunion.

Capt. Mac

323RD FA REPORT

Erwin Erhardt was on the telephone on New Years Day which was his birthday. I received a card from him on January 8th on my birthday with a donation for Hq. Battery Memorial Page. I hope others remember this year. The deadline for donations is July.

I located Doctor Monroe Coleman since our last Thunderbolt. He called me a few times plus wrote a letter. It was nice talking to him.

Dusty Starbuck called me to make sure I am on the ball.

Phil Shogren is doing well and I hope to meet him this summer along with Dick Audette in New York State. Plans are in the making now.

Eddie Shively's letter came back to me saying it was the wrong address. I phoned him and he assured me that it was the right address. I remailed it and hope he received it on my second try. He is doing well in the Hoosier Country.

George Connors and his wife went to Florida for a few months. I hope he gets a chance to meet Bob Costello, Dick Brown and Walter Harding for a Mini Reunion in the sun shine state.

I received a surprise call from Margaret Taylor a few days ago. She is the wife of 1st Sgt. James "Buck" Taylor. She had talked to Nancy Nellies, who is also doing well. Margaret volunteers at the Veterans Hospital which is about 50 miles from her home. I'm sure they appreciate her good work.

Jack Knight sent me a Christmas card. After this report I will have to start catching up on my letter writing to keep up our

interest in our senior years. Huh!

Thanks to Elvira Hoover for writing me with up to date news on her family. I was glad to hear her health has improved. It certainly is nice to hear about the families of our old Buddies.

Eddie McCouch is getting ready for a busy summer. His son Richard will be Ordained a Jesuit Priest in Maryland. Richard is one of 11 children and is finishing his last year of study in Dublin, Ireland.

I am still waiting to hear from Don Willis. Maybe he could spare some time from his golf game, which is a lost cause.

Tony Piantedosi, George Connors and Pat DiGiammerino, along with their wives were at the Christmas Party with the Boston Chapter. A good time was had by all.

I heard from the Horsemen that we made real soldiers out of them, Leroy Rock and Frank Wirth. When they came to Atterbury it was a taste of the NEW WORLD.

Condolences to the Families of Jack W. Wheeler, Ernest Peterson and Clarence Fields.

Jack W. Wheeler died on Nov. 8th, 1991 in Tishomingo, OK.

Ernest Peterson died July 26, 1991. He was a minister in Beaver Falls and Johnsonburg, PA. before he retired.

Clarence Fields died July 26, 1991. He was a Medic in A Battery.

That's all for now,

TYNAN

323rd F.A. Bn.

CO "I" 329TH INF.

Here is a picture of our newest member of the association. You or Pearl told me that Clayton C. Tanquay of Escanaba, Mich sent in his dues. This picture was taken June 1945 in Zwiesel Germany. On the left is Tanquay, center is Mick McGowan, Rt is Art Korner. Tanquay was Supply Sgt. McGowan - Mess Sgt. - Koerner - Communication Sgt.

Hope you can put this in the Thunderbolt with my article.

Would like the picture back. Agnes and I have out reservations for Clarksville, we are coming with the McGowans - Hope to see you there

Art.

Did you ever see three good looking youngsters as these.



Lf. Clayton C. Tanquay - Supply Sgt.
Center Fred McGowan - Mess Sgt.
Right Art Koerner - Communications Sgt.
June 1945

Hope you all have your reservations in for Daytona. The 147 rooms with the Ocean View were gone by Jan. 3rd. Don't let this discourage you from coming, we look forward all year for this get together with our old friends, we are not going down there to sit in the room and look at the ocean. It looks like I Co. is going to have a good turn out even have a maybe promise from Hugh Cantrell, Don Allen & Frank McCabe, besides all the other regulars. They are expecting over 900 to be in attendance.

As expected people our age are having a lot of medical problems. Ray Hayword has been in and out of the hospital, even so he and Jennie spent October in Arizona, also going to Hawai this February. Theresa Allen had surgery last spring. Frank McCabe also had major surgery. Jimmy "Dub" Harned had colon surgery. Les Pittman had a hip replacement. Elizabeth Hayes had surgery, Jesse also going in for eye surgery.

Last week I phoned and talked to the Bellino's and Bartha's, they both were expecting June and Joe Zenz over for a visit. Dick and Jean Haas also winter in Sebring. Jean had knee surgery and is still causing her some pain. Mick and Doris McGowan are also going to spend February in Sebring. They have bought an Air Stream RV and plan to take it down this fall and park it where Mick & two sisters stay.

Max and Sally Francis had their 50th wedding anniversary last fall. They have eleven grand children and one great grand child.

Agnes and I will have our 50th this February 13th. We have Fifteen grand children and one great grand son. January 15th Earl and Bonnie Hoover had their 50th. The 83rd Div. people present for this, were Pearl & Bob Derickson, Helen & Chester Wilson, Doris & Mick McGowan, Agnes & Art Koerner. It took a map and a compass to find that big town of Beaver, Ohio.

When we were at the party, Pearl & Bob told us that Clayton Tanquay had just joined the Association. I think that Capt. Flarity used to call him the Escanaba flash.

We have reservations for the Kentucky Chapter meeting March 26, 27th in Clarksville, Ind. We are going down to spend sometime with our daughter Sue and her family in Centerville. Oh, Doris & Mick McGowan are going to pick us up there, so that we can make the trip with them. Clarksville is a few miles from Louisville Ky. so while there I'm going to try and meet with both Jimmy "Dub" Harned and Walter Mack who both live in Louisville.

I wrote to both Forest & Dorthy Brown, Laura May and Harold Geisinger, telling the Browns that the Geisingers will be in Phoenix in February & March, hoping that they can get together.

Also heard from Clare & Julian Query her mother who is 97 years old makes her home with them, December 2nd she fell down the steps, no broken bones but plenty sore ones.

Chas. Gray asked me if the 83rd Medic's performed the triple by pass on me last June.

Agnes and I drove over to Medina, Oh. to surprise Joyce Henschel last week, didn't get to see Walt so I talked to him on the phone last night, after Daytona they are going to visit some friends in Orlando.

Bob Olney's High School 50th Class reunion is being held this August in Michigan have to try and hurry back to Florida for the 83rd Reunion. I also see that Theresa & Sal Siccolne spent sometime last September in Italy. Do you suppose that he went over there to find some good Chinese food. Hope to see all of you in Daytona.

Art Koerner

"A" CO - 329TH

"Punxsatawney Phil" saw his shadow, so I guess we will have 6 more weeks of winter but our southern friend "General Lee Bouraguard" didn't see his so you figure it out.

First of all I do want to set the record straight about Earl Deisher. The man is well and in good health. Earl sent in that Bernard A. Thome died. He called me and was all shook up. "Which I don't blame him". His family was getting sympathy cards etc. Bob called me and explain how a reader could be confused. In all past issues of the Thunderbolt the Deceased on the left column and in the right column is the name who sent the info into be printed. The words (sent in by) was not printed at the top of the column as has been in the past issues.

Hazen & Irene Lloyd couldn't make the Omaha Reunion because he was in the hospital 3 times that year. Intestinal blockage. Hopes to make Florida.

Clearance F. Hunter from Al Toona Pa. and George Suchomelly and his wife from Reading Pa. Had quite a reunion October 18, 1992. They met at the Dutch Colony Inn in Reading for the first time since the war ended. Needless to say it was a happy reunion. Clarence goes to Reading to see a doctor there, he's been in the hospital about 5 or 6 times. Has been retired totally on disability since 1976. Can't stand on his feet to long. He got hit by a German Panzerfust shell in the upper right leg and hip in Rochefort Belgium. It put him out of action from December 28th 1944 and didn't get back to us until we were at the Elbe River. About April 12th 1945.

Pat & Florece Dandola were back to New Jersey for the Xmas holidays to visit there 5 children but couldn't wait to get back to Florida. He said the north is too cold for him. Pat remember the Bulge? That was cold!

Margaret writes that Roy Powell has been in the hospital since 6-1-92. The Mquire V.A. Hospital she said. Hopefully he'll be out by spring of '93. He sends his love to all. Maybe you guys that knew him can cheer him up by sending a card. Roy L. Powell - Rt. #2 Box 384B - Mechanicsville Virginia 23111.

Received a letter from Ed & Carm Mudre. He tells me that Warren Lenfest had major vascular surgery and is doing well.

The Wilson's Owen & Lois are OK. They live in Hannibal Missouri. Bill Ursery tells me he is in good health. Dick Armstrong seems to be doing well. He also wrote that he heard from Warren Lenfest. I don't see Lenfest's name in the 1992 Thunderbolt Roster. Maybe Dick you should tell him to join the 83rd.

A note to "Tiny" Jim Kinzie, we had our pictures taken together in Omaha by "That" photographer and never received the pictures either.

Dean Daniels writes and tells John Camp and I that he would love to come to the second platoon reunion. It's later than you think he said. And I agree.

The Tisher's are hanging in there. Bart wrote that Bill had another angoplastey last December, but is doing OK. - Bert had eye surgery in October but didn't help much.

The 4th platoon had a mini reunion in Gatlinburg, Tenn. Kris and her family took the Tisher's there. Blackie Mossman and Margaret, Fred and Jean Hensley were the only ones there.

A bit of sad news. Blackie mentioned that his twin brother "Red" died. Remember Red? He was in company HQ while Blackie was in the 4th platoon.

George Suchomelly said the 2nd platoon mini in Hannibal Missouri was a success. They had a great time on the paddle Wheeler. A moonlit river, great meal and 6 Ex G.I.'s and their

wives. George tells me that the "Ole" medic John Camp pulled a garter off the show. Girl's leg. "Johnny!"

A little more on the serious side now. Something that's been bothering George Suchomelly for years. When we crossed the Elbe River, he and 5 others were on outpost near Zerbst. An 88 shell got a machine gunner near him. "Tiny" Kinzie pulled him out of the foxhole for the Medic's to carry him back to the aid station. I can't recall the buddies name. I called Tisher, and being in the mortar platoon he doesn't remember either. So, does anyone in "A" company remember the incident? How about the machine gun section? If so call George Suchimelly 1-215-779-1905 or write 11 Dewald Rd. - Reading Pa. 19606.

We had a lot of tragedies in our Company, but Tisher Tells me the one that happened just after the war was over was the worst. We were in the chow line (I remember that) in the Black Forest Region in Germany, a fellow soldier some how was examining a 45 pistol and it went off and killed another soldier. The soldier's name was Moniac. Several buddies wanted to know about this incident.

This is all for now until next time. Take care and stay healthy - God Bless.

P.S. Our Deepest Sympathy goes out to the Mossman family.

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



Anniversary Dinner (50th) Suzanne & Foster Deffenbaugh

12-4-92

Dear Kid:

I recently made contact and again joined the 83rd Inf. Div. Ass. after years of absence and so pleased to find your name in the last roster. I also noted that you author an article in the news magazine.

From what I gathered, you are looking for article material and if you have the space, I'd appreciate your entering a photo taken at a dinner party on our 50th anniversary. My wife's name is Suzanne.

I don't know if you recall me having been a 1st Lieutenant responsible for the A&P Platoon of 2nd Bn. Hqs. During the Europe Venture?

My recollections are the concern we had when we learned that in spite of my warning, A Major Heinkle insisted in moving up the kitchen trucks during the winter of 1944 and brought on un-needed problems. The other incident was one of the men in the kitchen force was badly injured during a pull out from a town near the Rhur River where every move we made was exposed. The other memories so vivid were the kindness of you and your friends hauling a shell box with my personal things. One being a German Luger which I still enjoy keeping.

Do you recall Louise Mitchel and I bringing back a Fiat Convert we obsconded and you fellows traded it for a cow. Weeks later we found it parked outside an American headquarters where someone took it from the farmer. I've told the story so many times in the past.

Will sign off for now hoping this finds you and yours in good health and wishing you the best of Holiday Seasons.

Sincerely,

Foster Deffenbaugh, 1836 East Ave., Berwyn, Il. 60402
P.S. If space allows, I'd like to say hello to those priceless buddies that traveled Europe with us.



**Earl & Bonnie Hoover
50th Wedding Anniversary**



With Hoovers is Agnes Koerner, Pear Derickson, Doris McGowan, Arthur Koerner, Bob Derickson and Fred McGowan

Dear Bob,

Happy Holiday Season!! I am enclosing a \$25.00 check for my dues and a small donation towards the printing of our Roster. The Roster was deeply appreciated. I am also enclosing an article that Guideposts magazine used this fall.

My sincere thanks for all you do for our 83rd.

Whit East



THE QUIET PEOPLE

In the shallow end of the YMCA swimming pool in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, a woman floats on her back. Her face is etched with fear, her jaws locked with tension. Standing beside her in the pool is her instructor, Whit East, who repeats, "Just relax. I'm right here beside you. I won't let you sink."

Whit East's desire to help people feel at home in the water began at age 8, right after he learned to swim. By age 15 he'd earned his senior lifesaving certificate, and a short time later he joined the YMCA as swimming coach and aquatic director.

Then came World War II, Whit was stationed in England with the U.S. Army when he visited a military hospital, where he saw wounded men being put into a swimming pool for therapy. "It gave me an idea," Whit recalls. "I decided that when I got home, in addition to regular swimming lessons, I'd use my aquatic talents to teach people how to overcome their disabilities."

Back in Winston-Salem, Whit rejoined the WMCA staff and spent his free time at the swimming pool, often teaching the disabled. Then in 1987, when he retired after 50 years of service, Whit began working with a group of about 20 men and women who had strokes, back problems, knee and hip replacements, or brain damage.

As word of his classes got around, doctors began sending their patients to Whit, telling him what type of therapy to implement, and helping him devise programs to suit individual needs. Depending on a person's abilities, Whit has him walk through the water, do arm and leg exercises, use a kickboard and aquatic dumbbells, tread water, float or swim.

In addition to regaining the use and control of their bodies, many in Whit's classes find that the water helps them work out their anger and frustration about their physical limitations. "I show them how the water offers support as well as resistance," Whit says. "Life does too. If you can learn to use support and resistance creatively, you can be an overcomer."

Whit East finds his own support through prayer and by "floating with God." He says that God has given him his talent, "so I stay close to Him and pass the talent on."

And what about the woman in the swimming pool? Well, once I was just like her, tense and fearful. But today I swim a third of a mile three times a week--all because of Whit East and his talent from God.

--Allene Robinson
Clemmons, North Carolina

Claude Helias, Ty-Ar-Groas, 29700 Plomelin, France

January 18, 1993

Dear Sir,

I got your name and address from Mr. Albert Lemée of Saint-Malo, France. He felt that you could help me in my researches. I'm the secretary of an association of world war two history buffs and collectors similar to Mr. Lemée's Emeraude Militaria. Our intention is to preserve the memory of the events which took place in our area (department of Finistère, western tip of the Brittany peninsula) during world war two.

I would like to correspond with veterans of the 3rd Battalion, 331st Infantry. On August 5, 1944 this battalion was attached to Brigadier General Earnest's Task Force "A" and it was the only unit of the 83rd Division which fought in the department of Finistère.

I could use names and addresses of veterans of the 3rd Battalion of the 331st Infantry. Also I would like to have the addresses of the 83rd Division Association and the 331st Infantry Association.

I hope you will answer to my requests, if you can help please write to me. I'm a keen world war two researcher and I do my best to collect as much information as I can get on the U.S. Army units which liberated my area in August and September of 1944 (my other subject is U.S.A.A.F. and R.A.F. losses in Brittany from 1940 to 1944). So I try to get in touch with veterans of this campaign for more information and to know about their life in the service (training, duty assignments and combat experiences).

I'm looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours Sincerely, Claude Helias



Co. "L" 3rd Bn. 331st of 83rd Infantry Div. Somewhere in Normandy, France 1944.

Dear Bob,

Happy New Year to you and Pearl and we hope that you both enjoy good health and a good year in '93.

I was reviewing some of the photos which I had sent home to Carolyn when we were lucky enough to have a snapshot taken. This is one which we just had enlarged recently. It was taken in Normandy in 1944. Perhaps it can be included in a publication of the 83rd Thunderbolt in one of the future issues.

I am in the second row on the fender...and left to right in the front row: BYRON SMITH, FRANK GUAS, JOHN CIANCAGALINE, IDZIAK AND MAYNARD. (sorry I do not recall their first names). Then I am in between Byron Smith and rank Gaus.....BOB "JERSEY" VOELKNER.

It certainly brings back some memories!!!!

I have the "original" and now negative, so this does not have to be returned to me. I hope that you too enjoy seeing this group of 83rd members.

Sincerely, Bob Voelkner

Nov. 24, 1992

Dear Bob:

My wife Fay and I, really enjoyed the 83rd Reunion in Omaha, last August. This was our first reunion, since I have been a member for only two years.

I belong to the Pearl Harbor survivors Assn. and go to many of their reunions since 1962. I joined the CA. Nat. Guard in July 1940. Our unit was mobilized on Sept. 16, 1940 and were sent to Hawaii Nov. 40. Our unit 251st CA was at Camp Malakoe near Barbers Point, Oahu, we lost some buddies in the attack. From Hawaii we went to the Fiji's, Guadalcanal. & (Bougainville Infantry). May 1944 returned to states for 6 months, went through Infantry training Nov. & Dec. Camp Houze Texas, sent to Europe to 83rd Div. - 330th Co. K in Jan. 1945. Returned to states June 45.

My wife and I will make another reunion sometime. It was good to see my former Captain Ed Haynes and all my other Buddies from "K" Co. 330th Co. "K"

3 1/2 years Pacific - America Div.

6 months Europe 37th Div.

Your Buddy

"Hutch" Warren Hutchens

**PRESS-TELEGRAM
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1992
SELF-INFLICTED WOUND**

This fellow starts out his day early, having set his alarm clock (made in Japan) for 6 a.m. While his coffee pot (made in Japan) is perking, he puts his hair dryer (made in Taiwan) to work and shaves his face with his electric razor (made in Taiwan). He puts on a dress shirt (made in Taiwan) and designer jeans (made in Hong Kong) with a neat pair of tennis shoes (made in Korea).

After cooking up some breakfast in his new electric skillet (made in Japan), he sits down to figure out how much he can spend this day on his calculator (made in Mexico). After setting his watch (made in Hong Kong) to the radio (made in Japan) he goes out, gets in his car (made in Japan), and goes looking for a good-paying American job.

At the end of an unproductive day, he puts on a pair of sandals (made in Hong Kong), he pours himself a glass of wine (made in France) and turns on his TV (made in Japan), all this time trying to figure out why he can't find a good-paying American job.

Warren H. Hutchens
Westminster

8202 Eastmoor Rd., Mentor, Ohio 44060

Dear Bob:

I received the enclosed letter from 1st Lt. Foster Deffenbaugh of Berwyn, Ill. He is the only man from my Company - 2 Bn. Hq. Co. 330th Inf., to contact me.

I remember him (from his enclosed picture) as a young man.

He would like his letter and 50th Anniversary picture with Suzanne put into the Thunderbolt.

Foster is listed in the 1992 Roster.

I will be writing to you after the Cleveland Chapter Jan. meeting with their news.

We wish you and Pearl the best in this new year.

Sincerely,

Kid L. Williams

BABES IN ARMS

Group formed for underage veterans

When Allan Stover was just 14 he searched hard for a way out of his downtrodden, gang-ridden Cleveland neighborhood. "It was a dead-end situation," he says. "Everyone quit school at 16 and got a job at the local plant." He could think of only one thing to do: Join the armed services. With his sister's help, Stover convinced a recruiter for the Coast Guard that he was 17, the legal sign-up age. Several months later, he was on a ship in the Pacific at the end of the Korean War.

A Life-Changer

Now, at 53, Stover believes his youthful service career profoundly shaped his life--so much so that he has formed the Veterans of Underage Military service, an organization devoted to reuniting those who entered the armed forces while younger than the legal age. Enlisting in the military is "the most important event" in the lives of many young recruits, says Stover, who works as a systems engineer for Westinghouse and is a father of two. "Going in young makes even more of an impact," he adds. "You have to grow up faster and try harder to cope. It was a positive experience for me."

An Elite Group

No one knows how many underage vets can be found across the country, but Stover believes hundreds qualify. An elite group, he calls them. One underage veteran, Jack Lucas, enlisted in the Marines at age 14 and won the Medal of Honor at Iwo Jima just a few days after he turned 17. Another, Jeremy Boorda, joined at 16 and rose from seaman recruit to four-star admiral. Boorda currently serves with NATO as the commander in chief of allied forces in Southern Europe.

Stover has located 215 underage vets so far. Most served in World War II. Some were reluctant to admit they lied about their age for fear it might jeopardize their Veterans Administration benefits. But Stover says the military is tolerant of its zealous recruits.

Stover hopes group members will provide camaraderie and support to each other. He publishes a newsletter and is planning a meeting. "I'd like to see a few hundred of us get together every year or two and swap stories," he says.

To find out more, contact Veterans of Underage Military Service, Allan C. Stover, Commander, 3444 Walker Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21042.

UNDERAGE VETERANS SOUGHT

(ELLCOTT CITY, MD), A national veterans association is seeking veterans who falsified their age and served in the U.S. Military UNDER the age of 17. A national reunion will be held in October. A free handbook on government policy on underage veterans will be sent on request to any underage veteran. For more information, write to Allan Stover, Commander, Veterans of Underage Military Service, 3444 Walker Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc.
P.O. Box 11129
Arlington, Virginia 22210-2129

December 30, 1992

To: Military Units Who Served
in the Battle of the Bulge

From: Nancy C. Monson

Re: Shoulder Patches for "Wall of Patches" for 50th Anniversary;
Battle of the Bulge Documentary; and
Collection of Unit Histories

We have been contacted by *The Discovery Channel* (a cable educational channel), regarding their intent to produce a documentary in connection with the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. They are interested in hearing from any member or group who will be making a trip back to the Ardennes area. It is their intent to be with these veterans to retrace their steps and learn individual experiences. Please contact them directly: Steven Hoggard, *The Discovery Channel*, 7700 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland 20814. Mr. Hoggard's telephone number is 800-637-5432 (extension 5295).

Also in connection with the 50th anniversary, VBOB would like to put together a "Wall of Patches" to display for the first time at our 50th "Anniversary Reunion. Thereafter, we will display same at every reunion. We have not yet worked out what these shoulder patches will be displayed on, it is our hope to have something collapsible that can be easily set up. I can't do this without your help. Would you be able to provide me with any and all patches (or decals) for your group? They will not be returned--they will become a part of a permanent display. If you have one that is rare and you don't want to part with it, see if someone can draw a replica of it--actual size.

In connection with the 50th Anniversary Reunion, some very exciting plans are being made. You will be hearing more from us regarding this in a very short time. We're hopeful that all can be together again for this event.

We are attempting to collect histories for all divisions, regiments, companies, etc. If you have compiled a history, please provide us with a copy. This history will become a part of our archives and will become a part of the record on display at the Battle of the Bulge History Room at Ft. Meade, Maryland. Prior to sending them to Ft. Meade, we will use them for stories in *The Bulge Bugle*.

Thanks to each of you who have put us on your mailing list to receive a copy of your newsletter. We get some very valuable things out of these for our newsletter. Remember to send us your reunion announcement as far ahead of time as possible. At present *The Bulge Bugle* is published in February, May, August and November--cut-off date is at least four weeks before the beginning of each of these months.

Our press releases have generated a lot of correspondence from men wanting to locate their old outfits. In each case, I send them the name of the person I have on file as the contact person for that particular outfit. I hope that some of you have been able to locate some of your men as a result of this.

If we can help you, please let us know.

Sincerely,
Nancy C. Monson
Director, Public Relations.

Nov. 10

Dear Bob,

Tony Mako of Brooklyn, N.Y. sent me some copies of the Thunderbolt. I used to be a member years ago. Seeing the Thunderbolt again made me want to sign up again.

Tony was one of my Company Plt. Sgts. He was awarded the silver star. He is one of the remaining who keep up a correspondence with me. Four others of my former company used to write also. They were 1st Sgt. Fred W. Lord, S/Sgt. Ralph Johnson. PFC Ralph Hoover, and Cpl. Jim Bowie. They have since passed on.

I'm enclosing a poem I had published. It was written in 1945 when I saw the statue of Liberty when I returned home on the hospital ship Queen Elizabeth. I was overwhelmed with emotion upon seeing her uplifted hand and felt sorrowful for those who died on Foreign land, never to experience what I was at her sight.

If possible could you have it printed in one of the Thunderbolts?

Sincerely,
George O. Partanen, Capt. AUS RET.
Co. B 330th Inf.

"COMRADES"

*We sailed away to a foreign land
Our troopships laden aft and fore,
Waving our thoughts to her uplifted hand
Young and frightened off to war.*

*The terrible din, the terrible sin
The awful stench, the soggy trench,
We struggle on with prayer to win
We fight on to free the French.*

*Fallen comrades everywhere
Cries of anguish, pain and prayer,
Mixed with bursts of shells in the air
The noise, the noise, the cries of despair.*

*Now it's done, the fields are still
Homeward now across the sea,
Returning from the awesome kill
Once more to live, once more to be.*

*They lie there buried on a distant shore
Never again to see her waving hand,
Never to return, no nevermore
To say "this is my own, my native land."*

*She lifts her hand in a sad way
Telling us her sorrow,
For those left so far away
She will welcome again, even tomorrow.*

George O. Partanen
Capt. AUS, Ret.

Dept. of the Army
Office of the Secretary of the Army
Washington, D.C. 20310-0107

83rd Infantry Div. Association, Inc.
Mr. Robert E. Derickson
3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013-9102

Dear Sir:

We are writing to you on behalf of Mr. Richard Kaplan, who is producing a film for commercial television on the Battle of the Bulge. Mr. Kaplan has asked for our help in contacting Army WWII veterans who may have visual materials, documents, or anecdotal information to share relating to their experiences in the battle. The enclosed letter contains more specifics on the project.

We would appreciate your assistance in passing Mr. Kaplan's request to any of the members of your association who may have relevant experiences or materials to share.

Sincerely, Randle D. Elms
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Chief, Army WWII
Commemoration Division

December 15, 1992

Hi! There,

Well, it's time for good wishes to all of you, since the end of 1992 is just around the corner, and a date to remember of which is January 10, of 1993. It will be three years since Florence departure, and after 3 years of courtship and 38 years of MEMORABLE and UNFORGETTABLE TOGETHERNESS of LOVING and RICHFUL HAPPINESS. How can one forget? and What more is there to say?

Really miss her tremendously. Well, what can I do and say? At my present age of 76 and a 100% handicapped individual, what more is there to say? My books have covered and indicated the areas and countries that I have travelled and have met many military and civilian dignitaries of different countries. Have also met many political leaders and show people, and to include actors and actresses in New York, Los Angeles, and other countries.

Have completed "PART I" of the "MEMORABLE EVENTS, CITATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS", which covers the period from 1916 to 1946, a total of 30 years. Have planned to write "PART II" and "PART III" in the year of 1993. "PART II" will cover the period from 1947 to 1981, a total of 35 years. "PART III" will cover the period from 1982 to 1992, a total of 10 years...This will cover a grand total of 75 years. "WOW!"..."How time flies?"..."What more can one say?" Well, maybe I have said too much already.

Well, HO! HO! HO! it's time to say bye, bye. Wishing you all a very "MERRY CHRISTMAS" and a very "HAPPY NEW YEAR".

GOD BLESS YOU ALL,
ALEX "ALIKA" KHAPEA



Dec. 21, 1992

83rd Division Association

Dear Bob:

Ralph Johnson of Valdosa Ga. and Co. B 330th found me after 37 years. We corresponded for a time and then made arrangements to meet in West Palm Beach, at the 83rd reunion. WE had a good time there. Well as you know Ralph passed away. However thru him I contacted my Company Commander Captain Partanen, and we have been corresponding for a number years. I think he will join the Association again.

He asked me how I a Brooklyn boy got into the 83rd. So I wrote him a brief story of my time in service. I am sending you a copy. If you care to use it fine, hope so.

Captain George was wounded Dec. 4 1944 and I was wounded Dec. 10, 1944. Perhaps we will get to meet again.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU AND YOURS AND A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO YOUR WIFE FOR HER WONDERFUL WORK HELPING YOU AND THE 83RD. THANKS PEARL

Have Fun
Tony Mako

Capt. George Partanen
Co. "B" 330 Inf.
83rd Inf. Division
Dear Captain;

You asked, where did the replacements come from????? I came to the 83rd in France, as a replacement with a group of men known as X-24D from England. It was one of many moves that started back in 1941.

A short story of my Army career.

Drafted Aug. 19, 1941 -- Camp Upton Long Island N.Y. Early September -- transfer to Camp Wheeler Ga. Heavy weapons. Dec. 7 Pearl Harbor, still at Camp Wheeler and no Xmas Furlough. Mid-December shipped to Camp Shelby Miss. 37th Infantry Division 166 Inf. 166 Inf. relieved from 37th Division Jan. 16 1942, and alerted for over-seas duty, the 1st. Battalion became part of Task Force 1291 and left New Orleans for duty Aruba and Curacao Islands in the Caribbean.

We relieved the KING'S SHROPSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY and took up their job of guarding the large oil refinery on each island. It was great war-time duty, golden sun-shine, peaceful maybe monotonous at times but what a way to fight a war. We worked two days on two days off around the clock. When we were not pulling guard, we kept up doing all types of Army Training. Need I use the old saying "Wine, women and song," What a way to fight a WAR. Substitute the word RUM for Wine which was the favorite drink in the islands.

A Battalion of Puerto Rican soldiers relieved us from duty on Sept. 1, 1943. This Battalion with elements of the 166th formed the 207th Infantry Battalion.

Men from the Caribbean Islands were transferred to Fort Reed Trinidad, Home of the 33rd Infantry Reg. Regular Army. Two companies at a time went into the jungle for six weeks of jungle training. All others were on spit and polish detail and getting ready for Friday's Parade and reviewing of the troops.

The 33rd put on a great show for the Generals and VIP's that stopped at Waller Air Field, before flying to Dakar, in Africa. Our Colonel love to entertain these high-ranking officers with a real smart military review. "What a way to fight a war".

The 37th Buckeye Division from Ohio went to the Pacific Area. The jungle training in Trinidad formed the 33rd Inf. into Merrill's Marauders. Question mark?

One of my early platoon sergeants became a first sergeant in Fort Reed and offered me a deal I could not refuse. The deal was for me to stay at the Fort and become a staff ser-

geant OR GO HOME on rotation. I got to New York Harbor Dec. 18, 1943 my birthday.

BAD NEWS - Winter maneuvers with the 309 Inf. of the 78th Division. One early morning at Camp Pickett all the Privates and Pfc. were shipped out, and I stayed and was going to be a buck sergeant to help train the next group. It never happened they shipped me out late that same night, into X-24-D.

At the beginning we were called casuals, then replacements, at the end we were called REINFORCEMENTS, those words made us seem tougher then we were. Short summary - many companies, four regiment, 166th, 33rd, 309th, and 330th. One Task Force 1291, and three Infantry Divisions.

Hope you make some sense out of this and enjoy it. Well thats how I reached the 83rd.

Enjoy,
Tony Mako

HELLO BUDDIES:

Here it is once again, time for us to gather our news for the "THUNDERBOLT", being as busy as I am with the Ad Book right now, I almost forgot it. How could I ever forget the "THUNDERBOLT", the greatest Publication published in these United States.

Well Buddies, to those of you who attended the Reunion in Omaha, you can't help but brag that this was one of the finest Reunions ever held. The men from the Central Plains Chapter deserve a world of credit. Being a fairly new Chapter and not having the experience of putting on a Reunion, they did a marvelous job.

Now our great FLORIDA CHAPTER is trying every bit as hard to do the same thing, and they do need your help. The biggest help they can ask for is your co-operation in making the Ad Book a financial success, and this can be done only by your generous contribution to the Ad Book. Please don't sit back, send your Donations to-day. If you need any information regarding the Ad, please contact Frank Sharpe or myself to-day.

Thank you all for your help in the past. With the rate of Deceased Members we are having each year, we need even more help from you.

Your Buddy,
Larry Redmond

January 27, 1993

Dear Bob,

Reporting the death of a former 83rd Infantry Division Association Member as reported to me via phone recently by his wife.

William M. Lay Sr. Co. "F" 329th
Died January 2, 1992
Sincerely,
Charles R. Whitcomb
1314 Center Ln. Dr.
Ashland, Ohio 44805

I am presently in Florida thru April at
201 Village Ln
N. Fort Myers, Fl. 33917-3072
Ph. No. 813-543-1353

November 16, 1992

Dear Mr. Derickson,

Thank you for spending time with me on the phone last week, and for sending on the roster so promptly; I appreciate it a great deal.

Here is the notice I hope you will put in your next newsletter:

I am writing a biography of Lee Miller, a Vogue photographer and correspondent who traveled extensively with the 83rd during World War II. She was at the siege of St. Malo, and in Luxembourg and Alsace. I would like very much to hear from anyone who ever met her, or who remembers anything about her. She was tall and blonde and probably at that time the only American woman for miles around. Please write or call me collect. Thank you.

Judy Oppenheimer
3402 Coquel in terrace
Chevy Chase, Md. 20815
301-657-8280

And thank you -- I really appreciate for help.

Sincerely,
Judy Oppenheimer



Past Board Chairman Jim Prentice representing the 83rd Inf. Div. at the presentation of flags during the ceremony at Camp Atterbury Aug. 15, 1992.

Dear Bob:

Thanks to your endeavors in helping me to locate BATTLEFIELD COMMISSIONS, my project could be termed a success.

Your help in running our ad over the past year, has generated over 100 new members to the NOBC, which is quite impressive. We now have over 810 on our roster. Your help and support in putting our ad in your NEWS LETTER frequently is still greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
John C. Angier
Nat. Adjutant

"NATIONAL ORDER OF BATTLEFIELD COMMISSIONS are trying to locate all men, WW11, Korea and Viet Nam, who on the field of battle against an armed enemy, received a COMMISSION from enlisted or Warrant status to commission status. It may be you or someone you know. CONTACT: JOHN ANGIER --- 67 OCEAN DRIVE -- ST. AUGUSTINE, FL. -- 32084 or call 1 - 904 - 471 - 7695.

Dec. 13, 1992

Dear Veteran of the Battle of the Bulge:

We need your help to tell your story!

If any of you have photographs, home movies or other visual materials from the time you were in the Ardennes please let us know by sending a description of what you have. Do not send originals until we request them. We will arrange to have copies made for our use and your irreplaceable originals plus an additional copy returned to you.

Also, if you or any family members have diaries, letters or other memorabilia relating to the Battle of the Bulge we would like to hear from you.

Lastly, we are beginning to assemble a file of veterans (on both sides) and others (relatives, civilian witnesses from Belgium and Luxembourg etc.) with whom we will be conducting video interviews. So if you have a story to tell this is your opportunity. Please send us dates etc. And if you know of others whose stories should be included please send their names and where to contact them.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Richard Kaplan/James Galton



Sainteny (Manche) - Village des Forges



Sainteny (Manche) - La Mairie

Dear Bob:

Not sure how much dues I owe, but the enclosed should cover it.

Although I attended the Camp Atterbury Memorial Park Dedication with others of Div. Arty, I failed to get over to grasp your hand and thank you for all you have done for we Thunderbolts.

You and the many other key members of our Association deserve all sorts of accolades from the rest.

I served with the 802nd Tank Destroyer Battalion which was attached to the 83rd in Normandy. After the St. Malo operation, was promoted to Division Anti-Tank Officer on the Div Arty staff of General Montague. In March of 1945 was appointed to Division General Staff as Asst G-3.

While with the 802nd, was involved in the pre-liberation activities of Dinan and on the west flank of the 121st Regiment of 8th Division which was attached to the 83rd for the Dinard operation. Met several valuable French friends in Dinan, Trigavou and Ploubalay as well as Pleurtuit those memorable days and nights. Am still in touch with many of them.

Have made numerous trips to France and other parts of Europe since the war. It has been most gratifying to see and hear how highly, those who knew the rigors of the occupation, regard their "liberators" though many years have passed.

Recently I received a letter from a Frenchman who as a young lad of 8 was befriended by American soldiers bivouac in a wooded area near St. Helen off the Dol-Dinan highway about 5 miles east of Dinan the early part of August 1944. According to the After Action Report I have, the 329th was near there before they captured Chateauneuf on 5 August. The 308th Engineers were also in the vicinity before they moved out to put a Bailey bridge over the Rance River the night of 6 August.

This French gentleman, now age 55, would appreciate hearing from any of the veterans who recall meeting an interesting young lad of 8 so many years ago. Please write to Mr. Francois Chouin, 7 Rue de la Gare, 49 A40 Avrille, France. He will be certain to respond.

Mr. Chouin enclosed some postcards in one of his letters. You have published several of Carentan and other towns. Those who recall Sainteny will remember the rubble of that town which is now nicely restored. I remember reading in Stars and Stripes that the 83rd had taken Sainteny but having just returned from the outskirts of that town that morning, wished they had dropped Stars and Stripes to the Germans who were still well dug in and shooting. They did not know we had taken it.

Hope one of your readers of the Thunderbolt will remember the young French boy of so many years ago and write to Mr. Chouin.

Warm regards,
Rupert G. Macpherson
2707 West Macon Street
Decatur, IL 62522



WRITTEN BY COL. GEORGE W. IRVINE

Our alert for the move from England to Normandy came on June 17, 1944, my birthday. We had been camped not far from Shrewsbury. The grass cutting of the fairways was taken care of by a herd of sheep and we had to be careful where we stepped.

On arrival at the staging area at Portland Harbor, we were told that we would board our LCTs and LST on the night of the 18th of June and to leave our waterproofing kits on the shoulder of the road as we would not need them, since we should go ashore on a floating dock.

The morning of the 19th found us at sea under cloudy skies and increasing winds. When we reached Omaha Beach, in the late afternoon, the water had become quite rough and we were told to anchor for the night and disembark in the morning. It was difficult to stay in place. Our LCT lost its anchor three times. Battery A's LCT was in a collision with another and its unloading ramp was bent so that it could not be lowered. As some vessels drifted perilously close to the floating dock some Seabees came out on the dock with their rifles and warned us not to bump the dock. We learned later that this was the worst storm on the English Channel in 20 years.

The morning of the 20th (D+14) disclosed that the dock had been pulled loose from its mooring and no longer was usable. Our skippers were told to discharge their cargo through the surf as best they could. After several attempts to get closer to shore, our skipper dropped his ramp into shallow water and wished us luck. My 1/4 ton command car and reconnaissance car led the way. The Motor Sgt. was on the fender with a fire extinguisher spraying on the spark plugs to keep the engine from being shorted out by the salt water. The Seabees came down to the edge with bulldozers to help those vehicles that stalled. The LCT next to ours apparently faced a depression because the first vehicle to drive off, gradually submerged, leaving knapsacks and bedding rolls floating around near the occupants. Much of the Division was on LST's and remained afloat for several days until the storm subsided. The Division Personnel Center had disembarked at Utah Beach and the Adjutant General, Lt. Col. Bob Harrell and I reported to the Beach headquarters and were given a "goose-egg" on a map for the division to use as an assembly area. After reconnaissance we broke it down by regiments division artillery and separate units.

The 324th ended up with an apple orchard. The Battery "A" LCT got washed up onto the beach back-end foremost. With a piece of concrete blocking the ramp and it say there through high tides which soaked the material through a gash in the side. Then the Seabees from the 11th Port Gear and Equipment Section came to our aid. With a bulldozer, they built a sand ramp up to the gunwhale of the LCT. They placed a 10 ton crane on either side of the ramp. The two cranes lifting together hoisted each of the howitzers and M-5 tractors over the side of the LCT and on to the ramp. When the howitzers were lifted, the rear of the cranes momentarily came off the ground as they were operating at capacity.

Following this, we spent the better part of a week in the apple orchard trying to get all of the salt water out of our equipment so as to prevent corrosion.

From there we relieved the 101st Airborne Division in the swamps of Carentan.

Dear Bob,

I ran across these pictures in my army trunk. They were taken by the division surgeon. I think his name was Capt. Marcus.

I have other pictures that were taken across Europe and thought you might want to look them over and possible put them in the Thunderbolt.

Sincerely,

Fred Hartman

P.S. The discription of our battle The Citadel Falls in enclosed.



Maj. Karl Wolf - May 1945



Maj. McPherson - May 1945



Fritz & Sgt. Koop - Calbe, Germany - April, 1945



Fritz & Jack - Calbe, Germany - April, 1945



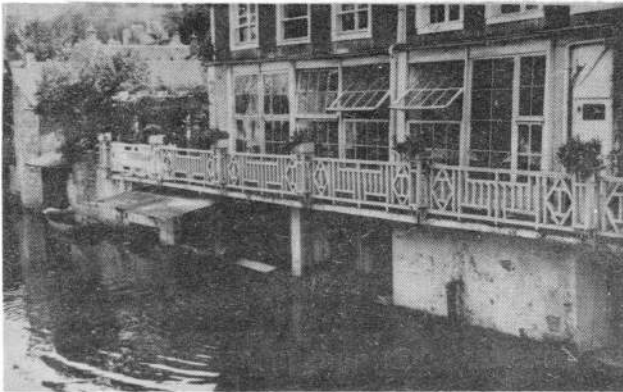
Joe Lorenzo - Bad Harzburg, Germany - May 1945



Joe Lowry & Jack Neff - Wernigerde, Germany



Sgt. Yerges, Sgt. Koop & Sgt. Kessel - Calbe, Germany - April, 1945



Loir River at Vendome, France - September, 1944



Cpl. Sedris Sherrick - Wernigerade, Germany - May, 1945
This driver drove me around late in the war.

THE 83RD DIVISION IN ACTION THE CITADEL FALLS

On August 17, after a heavy pounding by our artillery, the Citadel at St. Servan fell, thus ending the St. Malo - Dinard Campaign and the second successful drive made by our Division since our arrival in France. The fortress, known as the "Citadel", held out for days after the tri-city of St. Malo - St. Servin and Paramé on one side of the Rance River and Dinard on the other had been mopped up and cleared of the enemy. The commanders of the strong points defending the approaches to the fortress had to swear the following oath to their Com-

mander in Chief: "As the commander of a strong point, I am lawfully obligated to defend it under all circumstances, even at the cost of my own life or the lives of my men. This oath also applies in case I am surrounded, cut off, or under siege for an undetermined number of days. In the event that I fail in the execution of my duties as commander of this strong point, I shall be tried, in accordance with the orders of the C in C of the West, by court martial immediately or upon return from military imprisonment."

Every German officer knows the theory of warfare propounded by one of their greatest generals, Von Clausewitz. Von Clausewitz's theory is that the mission of all armies is to "surround and annihilate the enemy." And that is exactly what we did in the St Malo - Dinard drive.

The enemy had over 12,000 men in the area, some 8,000 of which were concentrated on the St Malo side of the Rance River. These 8,000 represented everything from the fanatical paratroops of the 2nd and 5th Parachute Divisions, who saw action in Crete and Italy and whom we met in the Carentan operation, to the unwilling Russians and two Security Battalions. The Security Battalions were the 1220th "M" and the 1222nd "O" Bns. "M" stands for "Magen" which is the German word for "Stomach". All men in this battalion suffered from serious stomach ailments. "O" means "Ohren", German word for "ear". All men in this battalion were afflicted with various stages of deafness.

Our Prisoner of War Cage looked like a League of Nations. Many marines, sailors, and armed customs officials were captured. There were Italian policemen forced into labor by the Germans, Polish seamen manning German boats, engineers and common laborers who built the elaborate forts and "impregnable" strong points. They represented every slave nation of Europe - all working for the Germans. We even captured a member of the Division we chewed up at Carentan - the 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division.

Numerous high ranking German officers surrendered with their men. During our initial breakthrough into St. Malo, we captured Lt. col. Jaeger, an experienced German commander who fought against American troops all the way from Cherbourg to St. Malo. In Dinard, our victorious troops took Col. Bacherer, the commander of the German Garrison in Dinard. Col. Wittenberg and other Nazi staff officers were captured with their leader. Bacherer had escaped once before from an American trap, but this time he had to admit that the game was up.

But the greatest success came on August 17th. Colonel Von Aulock, German C in C of the entire St. Malo area surrendered himself, his staff, his men and the "impregnable" Citadel. Relying heavily on the rock and concrete of his fortress, this veteran of Stalingrad and the wearer of the Knight's Cross to the Iron Cross had repeatedly boasted that a German officer does not know the meaning of the word "surrender". Only on 6 August 44 he issued the following order to the men of his garrison: "With the breakthrough of our Panzer units toward Avranches, the 3 to 4 American division now operating in Brittany are cut off. The Fatherland's eyes are upon us! If everyone discharges his duty and we hold out just a little longer, we shall see the enemy now attacking up caught in the rear and destroyed by our panzer units. Anyone deserting or surrendering is a common dog (Schweinhund!!).

The 83rd Division evidently taught Von Aulock that he was wrong. Over 12,000 of his men were taken prisoner.

Fred Hartman

MEMBERS OF THE 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION...



I WANT YOU!!!

An Update on the 50th!



If anyone had predicted at the end of WWII that we would be returning to Europe to visit our WWII combat areas, that person would probably have been given a Section 8 discharge. But - now it's a reality. We're on our way! Our minimum quota has been exceeded! So - it's a GO! Are you among those who have signed up? If not - don't delay any longer. The nearer we come to 1994, the more difficult it will be to obtain hotel space which is already in short supply. Fortunately - our special 83rd tour has an allotment of space set aside just for the 50th Anniversary for D-Day in Normandy. Final plans are not yet available, of course, but this much is known - the events contemplated will exceed any previous commemorations ever held.

JOIN US! This will be "our last hurrah" and opportunity to share personal experiences together in the places where "it all happened." Scan our fabulous itinerary and see for yourself that this is truly a custom-designed program just for us. Can you imagine any greater joy in life than "returning to yesteryear" with old buddies, friends and family to re-live those pleasurable moments and memories - to be welcomed by mayors, and others in authority, extending the hand of friendship - and to enjoy sights, attractions and events that others less fortunate than our 83rd members cannot do?!

Special reductions in prices are still offered and **guaranteed** if you register now and select the easy monthly prepayment or full payment plans. What's more, you will be given an **insurance policy - completely free** which protects all of your payments if you must cancel before the trip is over, plus full medical coverage (including air evacuation home, with a medical aid if necessary) free baggage insurance, accident protection and other benefits.

SIGN UP NOW! You will **save** almost **\$400** per couple from the 1994 prices and receive all of these other benefits, too. It's a "win-win" situation for everyone!

For a detailed brochure or more information **Call Toll Free, 800-523-7287.** Or write Galaxy Tours, P.O. Box 234, Wayne, PA 19087-0234. Don't miss your chance to be part of history again!

"PERFECT REACTIONS" 50 YEARS LATER



ABBREVIATED 1994 ITINERARY

Saturday, May 28 - USA/Aloft.
Sunday, May 29 - Brussels.
Monday, May 30 - Brussels/Spa.
Tuesday, May 31 - Spa/Luxembourg.
Wednesday, June 1 - Luxembourg.
Thursday, June 2 - Luxembourg/Reims.
Friday, June 3 - Reims/St. Malo.
Saturday, June 4 - St. Malo/Cateret.
Sunday, June 5 - Cateret.
Monday, June 6 - Normandy. D-DAY + 50!
Tuesday, June 7 - Normandy/Paris.
Wednesday, June 8 - Paris.
Thursday, June 9 - Paris/USA.



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.

**Bolo Ties, Necklaces, \$5.00 Each
White Golf Caps \$8.00 Each**

**(Postage and Handling Included)
Contact the Association Office**

83rd Reunion will be held at the
Howard Johnson Hotel, Daytona Beach, Florida.
Dates are:

September 30 - October 1,2, 1993

**DUES ARE DUE NOW
FOR 1993**

**THUNDERBOLT
DEADLINES**

Deadline for ALL articles to be published in Thunderbolt must be at this
office by Oct. 10, Feb. 10, and June 10

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

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3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, OH 45013-9102

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Office Phone:
(513) 863-2199

Date _____ Signature _____

BULLETIN

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