



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 48 No. 3

Summer Issue 1993

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



NED B. SMITH

BEACH PARTY IS ALL SET TO GO:

The Florida Chapter of the 83rd Infantry Division met in April at the Howard Johnson Hotel. Fifty-four people were at the meeting, and we put the final program together.

Wednesday evening we are planning an Hawaiian Luau on the deck at the Hotel. Dinner, entertainment and dancing (wear your Hawaiian dress), 7:00 - 11:00 P.M. There will be an extra charge of \$16.00 per person. (*See form below)

We have a good contract with Budget-Rent-A-Car. Good price. Pick-up at the Hotel both ways. Just called Kelly Roan at the Hotel. We now have over eight hundred people booked in.

Ned B. Smith

Anyone having knowledge of or possession of the wreaths and crosses for the Memorial Service, please call: Ned B. Smith, (407) 286-9720 or Bob Derickson, (513) 863-2199.

The CITY OF DAYTONA BEACH "THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS BEACH" Office of the Mayor



WELCOME 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION WORLD WAR II

Dear Delegates:

On behalf of the Daytona Beach City Commission and all our citizens, we are most pleased and honored that your organization has chosen to hold your conference in Daytona Beach. I am pleased to extend a very cordial welcome to all of you.

We are happy you are here, and encourage you to take time from your busy schedule to enjoy the recreational and cultural facilities with which our community abounds.

We know your conference will be successful, and it is our hope that you will return in the near future, as an organization and individually, to what we consider to be the finest city in our state.

Sincerely,
LAWRENCE J. KELLY
Mayor

Send to:

Mr. Joseph Stek
396 Prince Charles Street
Port Orange, FL 32119

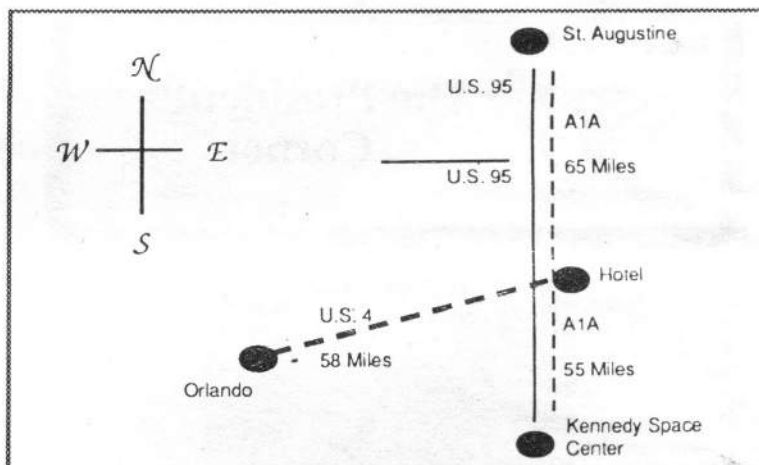
Please make reservations for _____ person(s) for the Hawaiian Luau on Wed., Sept. 29. I am enclosing \$ _____ (\$16.00 per person).

Signed: _____

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

| Car Type | Day | Week |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|
| 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.

REUNION CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This is my last report before the Reunion and we in Florida think our program will suit you to a tee. We are doing our best so that you will enjoy this Reunion. So many of you have registered that we have gone into a second hotel and possibly will go to a third one. I was told "Oh, you won't get a big crowd in Florida as it's too

far". As of now that is the understatement of the year. Don't forget the Ad Book as that is what keeps the cost down for the various expenses and also keeps your dues at a minimum. We all wish you a happy Reunion and whenever you get the urge to come to Florida, call one of us to find out when our next Chapter Meeting is, and then y'all come down here.

Ralph B. Gunderson

\$5.00 Registration Fee Per Person

83RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION - 47TH ANNUAL REUNION - BEACH PARTY HOWARD JOHNSON BEACH HOTEL - DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA SEPTEMBER 29, 30 - OCTOBER 1, 2, 1993

DATE

Tuesday, Sept. 28

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 29

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 30

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

All day

Friday, Oct. 1

10:00 a.m. -

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. - 11:00 p.m.

All Day

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

Sunday, Oct. 3

EVENTS

Registration

Otherwise on your own

Registration

Hawaiian Luau (Hawaiian Dress)

Breakfast

Registration

Hospitality

Dinner - Country/Western Show

and Dance (Western Gear)

Visitor Attractions

Florida Surfshine

Breakfast

Bingo for Ladies

Business Meeting

Registration

83rd Band

Hospitality

Dinner/Floor Show

Florida Sunshine

Breakfast

Business Meeting

Registration

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Hospitality

Catholic Mass

Banquet/Dancing

Breakfast

LOCATION

Lobby

Lobby

On the Deck

Ballroom

Lobby

On the Deck

Ballroom

See Listing

Beach and Deck

Ballroom

Ballroom

Ballroom

Lobby

On the Deck

On the Deck

Ballroom

Beach/Deck

Ballroom

Lobby

On the Beach

On the Deck

Ballroom

Ballroom

BOARD CHAIRMEN'S REPORT

It's hard to believe, but my time as your Board Chairman is almost over with! I will conduct our final meetings in September and the first part of October at our 47th annual re-union down in Daytona Beach, Fla. We held our last board meeting at The Pines, in South Fallsburg, N.Y.

At the meeting in New York, the Florida Chapter gave their final report for our up-coming reunion to be held this coming September 29th through October 2nd 1993 at The Howard Johnson Hotel. They have done a Super Job, and I hope we have the biggest attendance ever at our 47th. I can assure you that everyone will have a very, very, good time.

Boston too presented their tentative program for the 48th re-union which will be held at, The Pines, and here again I can assure you they will conduct another great re-union, so I hope you all are planning to attend both this year and in 1994 as well.

I want to thank all of my Buddies for having me serve on the Board of Directors for the past five years, and I also hope that I have served well. Thank you one and all & hope to see you in Daytona Beach come September.

Most sincerely,

Lou Nolan, Board Chairman. 1992 - 93.

FROM



THE

OFFICE

Another year of the Thunderbolt is about over. This will be the last Thunderbolt and in August we will be sending out the Roster. Florida has been very cooperative with their reunion plans and we know they will have plenty for you to do when you arrive there.

In the meantime we have had to send out about 400 reminders to you men who haven't sent in your dues for this the 1993 year. Please get them in men we need you.

Since our last Thunderbolt we have attended the Board meeting at the Pines Hotel in New York. It was a beautiful week end. Pearl was recovering from eye surgery and could see so much better. The flowers up in the mountains were so colorful. She could see them all. Thanks to all of you for your prayers. They were answered.

Florida Chapter was there. Full of plans they had for this fall. We know we are going to have a good time. Plan on attending the Luau. It will be worth your time.

The Boston Chapter are up on their plans for the re-union in 1994. We know you will enjoy your time up there.

Get your reservation in to Florida if you have not done so. Time is flying by and we would like to have you there with us.

We have attended Kentucky Chapter meetings. Clarksville in March and Chillicothe in the Spring. We were all kept busy at both meetings. A good group of friends. The men at the meeting in Chillicothe went to Camp Sherman. Art Koerner had pictures of Camp Sherman and some of the men who trained there. I think that Leroy Johnson and Chester Wilson's father's had trained their. Pearl's grandfather had been there also. So some very sentimental memories of that place.

We went to see Tecumseh on Saturday night. A vivid play that kept you jumping.

Pearl and I are both looking forward to seeing you in Daytona Beach. Hope that you are there with us.

Bob

CAMP ATTERBURY NATIONAL GUARD TRAINING SITE

It is Camp Atterbury's tradition to annually commemorate important events in its heritage. We invite members of your organization to join us in the first annual Veterans' Memorial Commemorative Ceremony. This year's Memorial Commemorative Ceremony will be held at 1400 hours on 8 August 1993 in front of the Veterans' Memorial.

The 1993 Commemorative Ceremony will last approximately 30 minutes. It will include a wreath-laying ceremony, and remarks by a guest speaker. You may also want to attend the POW Chapel Commemorative Ceremony in the morning. It will begin at 1100 hours in front of the Chapel in the Meadow and will be followed by Mass at 1200 hours.

Garry L. Willis
COL., EN, INARNG
Post Commander

Chaplain's Report



*Be at war with your vices,
at peace with your neighbors and
let every year find you a better man.*
--Benjamin Franklin

Matthew Pintar

Susan Leonardi wife of Larry Leonardi passed away on June 3, 1993. We were all saddened to hear this. Pearl and I had stopped in Crafton, Pa. on our way home from the Board meeting and we called Sue. We will all miss Sue with her happy smile and always a good word for everyone. Sue helped out at the registration table.



Chaplain's Corner

Deceased

James Marshall Adams
Charles Walter Barefoot
Casimir J. Bialkowski
O.L. Dickerson
Harry Dorsey
Bill Drugash
Robert E. Farr
Arthur Federici
John Fisher
Gene P. Fritts
Oscar Fuller
Dr. David Gray
Carolyn Griffin
wife of James H. Griffin
Jack Harrison
Howard Hergenhan
Joseph W. Hoover
Paul A. Kressley
John Kruczynski
Joe Kuzma
Walter Merriman
George Miller
Stephen Mushala
William H. Owen
Robert M. Overton
James Porter
G.B. Robinson
Maj. Francis
C. Schommer
Donald A. Smith
George Frederick Studor
Bernard Thome
Henry Trimmer
Frank M. Turcham
Richard Violet
Glenn D. Vining
Rex Wood
Steve Zombeck

"D" 330th
"D" 330th
"CN" 3301st
83rd SIGNAL
"H" 330th
"F" 331st
"E" 331st
"A" "H" 329th
Quartermaster
"D" 330th
"Hq" 1st BN 329th
3rd Bn. Hq. 329th
"HQ" 329th
"H" 331st
"B" 330th
908th F.A.
A.T. 331st
"G" 331st
"K" 331st
"G" 331st
"M" 329th
"C" 331st
"E" 330th
"G" 331st
"G" 331st
3rd BN. HQ. 329th
908th F.A.
329th A.T.
"A" 329th
"M" 330th
A.T. 331st
"I" 329th
783rd ORD
"M" 330th
"M" 330th

Reported By

Haran Martin
Haran & Whit East
Lee M. Hetrick
O.L. Cook
Larry Redmond
W. Allen Fisher
Wife
Matt Pintar
Pat DiGiammerino
Larry Redmond
John Sullivan
Wife
Keith Eckerd
Frank Fauver
Pat DiGiammerino
Wife
Wife
Frank Beerhalter
Wife, Ceil
John Marek
George Tysick
Doran Padgett
F.M. Haney
son John Schommer
Wife
Wife
Earl Deisher
Gale Baker
Donald R. Porter
Orval Turner
Larry Redmond
Pat DiGiammerino
Bill Macek

Golf - Pelican Bay

Oct. 1, Friday - Tee Time 8:00 - 9:45 a.m.

Cost: Greens Fee/Cart Tax Incl. \$27.56

If Interested Send Reservation To:

Al Bensimer 365 S. Shore Dr., Osprey FL., 34229

**IMPORTANT: Reservations must be received by Sept. 1
or sooner to assure availability.**

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

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 over-head expenses. 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 Aug. 15, 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

---- Historian's Corner ----

Dear Buddies,

This, the latest report on our own 83rd Division, of which we are so justly proud, is presented to you.

It is excerpted from the "Last Battle" written by Cornelious Ryan in 1966 (Simon & Schuster)

His book is a paean to the 'Queen of Battles'

The Infantryman

It was sent to me by Jack Flanagan, veteran & historian of the 612th Tank Destroyer Bn. Assoc.

His buddy and school mate Edward J. Buckley, who was originally in Co. H, 329th, was transferred to the cavalry of the 83rd Recon Troop at Barby.

He was K.I.A. near there on April 12, 1945, the area where our "Truman Bridge" was built on the Elbe River.

My buddy Paul Horstman died at about the same time and place.

Rest in Peace to both of them

--We Won't Forget --

Jack's "Quest" has ended. He knows about his friend Ed.

Mine has not as I don't know and can't find out where Paul is buried.

According to the Army, you have to be a blood relative -- I'm only a Buddy!

Sincerely

'We Were The Best'

Wm. Kent O'Connell - Historian, 83rd

M.P.

"One unit, the illustrious 83rd Infantry Division, which was moving as fast as an armored task force, had recently been nicknamed "The Rag-Tag Circus" by the correspondents. Its resourceful commander, Major General Robert C. Macon, had given orders to supplement the division's transport with anything that moved; "no questions asked." Now the Rag-Tag Circus was going flat out in a weird assortment of hurriedly repainted captured German vehicles: Wehrmacht jeeps, staff cars, ammunition trucks, Mark V and Tiger panzers, motor bikes, buses and two cherished fire engines. Out in front with infantrymen hanging over it, was one of the fire trucks. On its rear bumper was a large flapping banner. It read,

NEXT STOP: BERLIN.

Now, along the Ninth Army's fifty-odd miles of front, Gen. White's 2nd Armored Div. was spearheading the drive. The division was one of the largest formations on the western front. With its tanks, self-propelled guns, armored cars, bulldozers, trucks, jeeps and artillery, it formed a stream more than seventy-two miles long. To create maximum effectiveness, the force had been broken into three armored units -- Combat Commands A, B and R, the latter held in reserve. Even so, the division, moving in tandem and averaging about two miles an hour, took nearly twelve hours to pass a given point. This ponderous armored force was running ahead of every other unit of the Ninth Army -- with one notable exception.

On its right flank, tenaciously pacing the 2nd Armored Div. mile for mile, and fighting all the way, was a wildly assorted col-

lection of vehicles crammed with troops. From the air it bore no resemblance to either an armored or an infantry division. In fact, but for a number of U.S. Army trucks interspersed among its columns, it might easily have been mistaken for a German convoy. Major General Robert C. Macon's highly individualistic 83rd Infantry Division, the "Rag-Tag Circus" was going hell-for-leather toward the Elbe in its captured booty. Every enemy unit or town that surrendered or was captured subscribed its quota of rolling stock for the division, usually at gunpoint. Every newly acquired vehicle got a quick coat of olive-green paint and a U.S. star slapped on its side; then it joined the 83rd. The men of the Rag-Tag Circus had even managed to liberate a German airplane and, harder, had found someone to fly it, and it was spreading consternation all over the front. First Sergeant William G. Presnell of the 30th Infantry Division, who had fought all the way from Omaha Beach, knew the silhouette of every Luftwaffe fighter. So when he saw what was obviously a German plane heading in his direction, he yelled "ME-109!" and dived for cover. Puzzled when there was no burst of machine gun fire, he raised his head and stared as the fighter sped away. The plane was painted a blotchy olive-green. On the undersides of the wings were the words "83rd Inf. Div."

If their compatriots were confused by the 83rd's vehicles, the Germans were even more so. As the division rushed pell mell toward the Elbe, Major Haley Kohler heard the insistent blowing of a car horn. "This Mercedes came up behind us," he recalls, "and then began passing everything on the road." Captain John J. Devenney saw it, too. "The car weaved in and out of our column, going in our direction," he remembered. As it passed, Devenney was astounded to see that it was a chauffeur-driven German staff car with a full load of officers. A burst of machine gun fire stopped the vehicle, and the bewildered Germans were taken prisoner in the middle of what they had supposed to be one of their own columns. The Mercedes, in top condition, received the usual hurried paint job and was immediately put to use.

General Macon was determined that the 83rd would be the first infantry division to cross the Elbe and advance to Berlin. The rivalry between the 83rd and the 2nd Armored was now so intense that when leading units of the two divisions reached the Weser River at the same time on April 5 "there was considerable argument," as Macon put it, "as to who was to cross the river first." Eventually a compromise was reached: the divisions crossed together, by sandwiching their units. Back at 83rd headquarters rumor had it that General White was furious with the Rag-Tag Circus. "No damned infantry division," the 2nd's commander was quoted as saying, "is going to beat my outfit to the Elbe."

"Get across! Get across! And keep moving!" Colonel Edwin "Buckshot" Crabill of the 329th Inf. Regt. of the 83rd Division stalked up and down the river bank, pushing men into assault boats and, here and there, helping slow starters with the toe of his boot.

"Don't waste this opportunity," he yelled at another boatload. "You're on your way to Berlin!" As other men began to move across in DUKWs, the short, peppery Crabill admonished them, "Don't wait to organize! Don't wait for someone to tell you what to do! Get over there in any shape you can! If you move now, you can make it without a shot being fired!"

Crabill was right. At the Town of Barby, fifteen miles south-east of Magdeburg and just below the spot where their arch ri-

vals, the 2nd Armored, were desperately trying to make use of their cable ferry, the men of the 83rd were crossing the river in droves, unopposed. They had entered the town to find that the bridge had been blown but, without waiting for orders from the 83rd's commanding officer, Crabill had ordered an immediate crossing. Assault boats had been rushed up and in a matter of hours a full battalion had been put across. Now another was enroute. Simultaneously, artillery was being floated over on pontoons and engineers were building a treadway bridge that should be finished by nightfall. Even Col. Crabill was impressed by the frenetic activity his orders had set off. As he dashed from group to group urging more speed, he kept repeating triumphantly to the other officers, "They'll never believe this back at Fort Benning!"

Watching the feverish scene in silence was an audience of Germans, standing on a balcony below the clock tower of the town hall. For hours, as Lieutenant Colonel Granville Sharpe, commanding an infantry battalion, cleaned up what little resistance there was in the town, he had been aware of the audience, and he had grown increasingly annoyed. "My men were being shot at, but there stood the Germans watching the fighting and the river assault with intense interest," he recalled. Now Sharpe had had enough. Going up to a tank, he told the gunner, "Put one round through the clock face at, say, about five o'clock." The tanker obliged, scoring a clean bull's-eye on the number five. The gallery suddenly dispersed.

In any case, the show was over. The 83rd was across. The first solid bridgehead had been established on the east bank of the Elbe.

By the evening of the thirteenth, engineers had finished their task and, thorough to the end, had put up a sign on the approach to the bridge. In honor of the new President and, with the division's customary high morale and keen appreciation for the value of advertising, it read: TRUMAN BRIDGE. GATEWAY TO BERLIN. COURTESY OF THE 83RD INFANTRY "THUNDERBOLT" DIVISION - CONSTRUCTED BY THE 295TH ENG. BN. AND THE 992ND BRIDGE CO.

The news was flashed back to General Simpson and from there to General Bradley. He immediately telephoned Eisenhower. Suddenly the 83rd's bridgehead was uppermost in everybody's thoughts. The Supreme Commander listened carefully to the news. Then, at the end of the report, he put a question to Bradley. As Bradley later reconstructed the conversation, Eisenhower asked: "Brad, what do you think it might cost us to break through from the Elbe and take Berlin?"

Bradley had been considering that same question for days. Like Eisenhower, he did not now see Berlin as a military objective, but if it could be taken easily he was for its capture. Still, Bradley, like his chief, was concerned about too deep a penetration into the future Soviet zone and about the casualties that would occur as U.S. troops moved forward into areas from which, eventually, they would have to withdraw. He did not believe losses on the way to Berlin would be too high, but it might be a different story in the city itself. Taking Berlin might be costly.

Now he answered the Supreme Commander, "I estimate that it might cost us 100,000 men."

There was a pause. Then Bradley added, "It would be a pretty stiff price to pay for a prestige objective, especially when we know that we've got to pull back and let the other fellow take over."

There the conversation ended. The Supreme Commander did not reveal his intentions. But Bradley had made his own opinion unmistakably clear: U.S. lives were more important than mere prestige or the temporary occupation of meaning-

less real estate.

At headquarters of the 19th Corps. General McLain stood before his map studying the situation. In his opinion the enemy line on the eastern bank of the Elbe was a hard crust, nothing more. Once his divisions got across and broke through it, nothing would stop them from rolling into Berlin. Colonel George B. Sloan, McLain's Operations Officer, believed the Americans would hit the same sort of opposition they had encountered en route from the Rhine -- pockets of last-ditch resistance that could be bypassed by fast moving forces. He had every confidence that within forty-eight hours of resuming the attack, leading elements of U.S. armored units would enter Berlin.

McLain made a few quick decisions. The surprising accomplishment of the Rag-Tag Circus in grabbing a bridgehead, rushing troops across and then straddling the Elbe with a bridge, all within a few hours, had changed the whole river picture. The men of the 83rd were not merely expanding the beachhead on the eastern bank; they were advancing out of it.

McLain was sure that the 83rd's bridgehead was permanent. He was not so sure that the 2nd Armored's puny cable ferry operation would survive the shelling. Still, the 2nd had three battalions across and they were holding. Arrangements had been made for part of the 2nd Armored to begin crossing the 83rd's "Truman Bridge". McLain, therefore, saw no reason for the 30th Inf. Division, now moving into position, to attack Magdeburg and go for the Autobahn bridge. At the rate the troops were moving now, the 83rd's bridgehead could be quickly expanded to link with the cut-off battalions opposite the 2nd's cable ferry site. From this vastly enlarged bridgehead, the drive could continue. McLain decided to bypass Magdeburg entirely. The Truman Bridge, as the 83rd had anticipated, would be the gateway to Berlin.

At dawn, Saturday, April 14, at the 2nd Armored's cable ferry, General Hinds waited for the three pontoons to be strapped together. They would form the ferry platform which the cable would pull back and forth pending construction of a bridge. Shells were still falling about both banks of the bridgehead and troops on the eastern side were involved in heavy fighting. They could hold out for some time against opposing infantry, but Hinds' great fear was of a panzer attack. The Americans on the east bank were still without supporting artillery or armor.

The first vehicle to roll onto the pontoon ferry was a bulldozer; the eastern bank of the river had had to be scraped and graded before tanks and heavy weapons could climb it. A DUKW would tow the platform, speeding the ferry by helping the cable move faster. Hinds watched anxiously. Two cables had been damaged and washed downstream. He had only one left; and his last outsized pontoons had gone to make the ferry.

The cumbersome operation began. As men watched, the ferry moved slowly out into the middle of the Elbe. then, as it neared the eastern shore, the unbelievable happened. A single shell creamed in and, in a million-to-one shot, severed the cable. Hinds stood frozen in shock as cable, ferry and bulldozer disappeared down the river. Bitterly he said, "There it goes to hell!"

As though the incredible bull's-eye had been a signal for total disaster, word now came that the troops on the eastern bank were being attacked by armored vehicles.

On the eastern side of the Elbe, through the wisps of morning haze and the smoke from artillery fire, Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Anderson watched the German armor smashing through his infantry defense lines. There were seven or eight armored vehicles, among them a couple of tanks. Through his

glasses Anderson saw the group, well out of range of his own anti-tank bazookas, firing methodically into the American foxholes. Even as he watched, one of his companies holding positions on the far right of his command post was overrun. Troops dashed from their foxholes, making for the safety of the woods. Now the Germans were working over the positions of Anderson's other two companies, blasting the foxholes one by one. Frantically Anderson radioed the batteries on the Elbe's western bank for help. But the attack had taken place so fast that even as the 2nd Armored's shells came screaming in, Anderson knew they were too late.

Farther along the bridgehead, Lieutenant Bill Parkins, commanding I Company, suddenly heard his machine guns open up and then the answering fire of German burp guns. A platoon runner dashed up. Three German vehicles with infantry, he reported, were coming down along the line, "cleaning out everything as they go." Parkins sent back word to the troops to remain in position and to keep firing. Then he dashed out of his command post to find out for himself what was happening. "I saw three Mark V tanks about a hundred yards away, approaching from the east," he later reported, "and each one appeared to have a platoon of infantry with it. They had American prisoners marching in front. Their guns were firing right through them." Some of Parkins' men returned the fire with their bazookas, but the range was too great; those projectiles that hit merely ricocheted off the tanks. His men were being chewed up. Parkins ordered them to pull back, before they were all captured or killed.

From north, east and south of the bridgehead, German vehicles came in fast. Staff Sergeant Wilfred Kramer, in charge of an infantry platoon, saw a German tank about 220 yards away. Infantry was fanned out about it and coming up behind. Kramer ordered his men to wait. Then, when the Germans were about forty yards away, he yelled to open fire. "We were doing all right and holding our own," he later explained. "But then the tank opened up. The first round landed about ten yards from our machine gun. Then Jerry went right down the line. He could see where every one of our holes was. It was point-blank fire." Kramer held out for as long as he dared; then he, too, ordered his men back.

The fighting was so fierce around Grünewalde that Lieutenant Colonel Carlton E. Stewart, commanding a battalion, got a call for artillery from one of his companies and was told to "throw it right in our positions as our men are in the cellars of the houses." Everyone was asking for air strikes to knock out the tanks, but only a few planes showed up during the entire dawn-to-noon battle. In the dash to the Elbe, fighter strips had been left so far behind that the planes had to carry extra gasoline wing tanks to keep up with the ground advance and that meant they couldn't carry bombs.

By noon General Hinds had ordered all infantry on the east bank to withdraw back across the Elbe. Although casualties were at first through to be high, men kept trickling in for days. Total east bank casualties were ultimately set at 304: one battalion lost 7 officers and 146 enlisted men killed, wounded or missing. "The fight ended the last hope of getting a 2nd Armored bridge or bridgehead across the Elbe. Now General White, the 2nd's commander, had no choice but to use the 83rd's bridge at Barby. The Germans had halted successfully, and with lightning speed, the great momentum that the 2nd Armored had built up.

The erasing of the bridgehead had been so sudden and the fighting so fierce that American commanders did not even know what units had attacked them. In fact, they were scarcely units at all. As General Wenck had foreseen, his fledgling

cadets and training officers had served him well. Ambitious and eager for glory, they had pushed themselves and their meager equipment to the limit, buying the time Wenck needed. In throwing back the 2nd Armored Division these mobile shock troops had accomplished something no other German unit had managed in thirty months of combat. Had the division been able to secure either a bridge or a bridgehead across the Elbe, the 2nd might have roared right on to Berlin without ever waiting for orders.

On the Elbe, all through the night of the fourteenth, men of the Rag-Tag Circus and the 2nd Armored moved across the 83rd's bridges at Barby. Although a second bridge had been built near the first, the movement across remained slow. General White's armored column, however, planned to begin the Berlin drive again the moment it reassembled on the western bank. Among the troops of the 83rd the story was going the rounds that Colonel Crabill had offered to lend the 2nd Armored a large, newly confiscated red bus, capable of holding fifty soldiers, which he had liberated in Barby. The 83rd had every reason to feel triumphant. Already its patrols were north of the town of Zerbst, less than forty-eight miles from Berlin.

Early Sunday morning, April 15, the Ninth Army commander, General Simpson, got a call from General Bradley. Simpson was to fly immediately to the Twelfth Army Group headquarters at Weisbaden. "I've something very important to tell you," Bradley said, "and I don't want to say it on the phone."

Bradley was waiting for his commander at the airfield. "We shook hands," Simpson recalled, "and there and then he told me the news. Brad Said, "You must stop on the Elbe. You are not to advance any farther in the direction of Berlin. I'm sorry, Simp, but there it is."

"Where in the hell did you get this?" Simpson demanded.

"From Ike," Bradley said.

from

Jack Flanagan, Historian - 612 Tank Destroyer Bn.

Kent O'Connell, Historian - 83rd Inf. Div. Assoc.



CHAPTERS

DIXIE CHAPTER



Tony and Willie Viglione in their kitchen cooking a Italian dinner for 90 people. Tony is wearing his cooking outfit.

We just came back from Macon, Georgia. The meeting was great. Willie and Tony did one great job as host's. So did the rest of the crew.

Thursday evening we went to Tony's and Willie's for an Italian dinner and it was delicious. Willie and Tony you out did yourselves Thank's so much. The menu was, chicken cacciatore, antipasti salad, meatballs, eggplant Parmesan, lasagna, and very good Italian bread and cakes. Also the ice tea was delicious.

Our good friend Ellsworth Massie, broke his arm and couldn't be with us, we want you to know Ellsworth, how much we missed you and Catherine and hope you will be at the next meeting.

Friday was also great. We had all kinds of goodies in the hospitality room which was way upon the sixteenth floor.

The banquet was really good to. We had steak and potatoes, green beans, and dessert. After dinner we had a very good band. Willie and her crew decorated the hall beautifully with cherry blossom's.

Also we want to wish O.L. Cook a speedy recovery, we missed you to. There were several sick members that couldn't be there and we wish each and everyone of you a speedy recovery, and hope to see you all in Nashville in June.

We went up to third St. to the Cherry Blossom Festival and got a free ice cream, and a coke. We saw Elsie The Cow and her three week old calf Beau.

The weather was wet but it didn't dampen our good time. We left on Saturday because we had a long way to drive.

Tony you looked great in your cooking outfit. We want to thank everyone for their kind hospitality, it was really great. The hotel was very beautiful. It was the hotel Radisson.

Again we want to say thank's to our host's, The Vigli

one's, The Simmon's, The Collin's, and The Jackson's. Hats off and a great big thank's to each one of you. We know how hard you worked.

We are writing this report at the request of our good friend Ellsworth Massie. His arm is on the mend and we hope he and his lovely wife Catherine will be at the meeting in Nashville, in June.

The Benbow's
Dixie Chapter

All the memorable days in life
are those laughter times when a child.
Now and then they cross my mind
at this age they bring hardly a smile.

Feeling those aches and pains
that hurt both night and day.
There are problems and troubles
that never seem to go away.

But God has been good to me
Life at times has been hard to bear.
Many times he has helped me to get well.
It seems he is always there.

Good advice to everyone
when life seems so unfair,
Don't suffer your problems alone,
Take them to God in prayer.

Co. "C" 331
Haran Martin

DIXIE CHAPTER REPORT

I hope you have survived the winter months in grand style. It seems that the cold weather gets colder and the hot weather gets hotter in these years of arthritis and poor circulation. However, I know that the tough Thunderbolts will keep moving forward.

The Dixie Chapter moved in on Macon, Georgia for it's early Spring meeting on March 29, 1993 with seventy in attendance. Macon was celebrating it's Cherry Blossom Festival at the time and everyone had a Cherry good time. All seventy Thunderbolts converged on the home of Willie and Tony Viglione on Friday night for a delicious Italian bill of fare. Tony was the Chef for this Gala affair and did a superb job of preparing a delicious Italian meal. We sincerely enjoyed ourselves and thank you both for your untiring efforts to make us feel at home.

As usual, the hospitality room was fully stocked with munching goodies and favorite beverages for the entire time that we were there..

On "Saturday evening we enjoyed a delicious Steak in the Hotel, and danced away the evening to the Bob Cummings band.

Ellsworth Massie and Bride couldn't be with us because of a broken arm. Hope you are well by now and

will join us in Nashville, Tenn. on June 4, 1993. O.L. Cook Underwent Heart Surgery on March 31 and had three by-passes. He seems to be recuperating rapidly and we hope to see him in Nashville as well. Phillip Simmons was ill with Bronchitis at the time and was unable to join us while we were in his hometown of Macon. Hope everything is under control now and will see you in Nashville. Looking forward to seeing all of you in Nashville on June 4.

Sincerely,
Your Buddy
Wm. Meadors Minick,
acting Reporter

DIXIE CHAPTER

Ellsworth Massi called and asked that I substitute for him as reporter for the meeting in Nashville, TN. which was held this past week-end at the Ramada Inn in Nashville, across from the Opryland Hotel. It was a very nice week-end and was enjoyed by all that attended. On Thursday night eleven of us attended the Nashville Now live television show. We were VIP's - thanks going to Henry Hipsher and his wife, Tommy for getting us this special treatment. We had seats on the first and second row; and when the show opened the cameras showed the audience and we were included in this. We did not know this until we got back to the motel and those that had watched saw us. We were very thrilled. On the show were guest Lee Greenwood, Rob Crosby, Duane Eddy, and Marlene Ricci. It was a wonderful show.

Ellsworth broke his arm in two places during the snow storm that they had some months ago. His arm is not healing like it should, so he and Katherine were unable to attend the meeting. Ellsworth still cannot drive, and Katherine didn't feel that she could drive that distance from Maryland.

O. L. Cook had triple by-pass heart surgery on March 31st, but with the doctors permission attended the meeting. The doctor would not let him drive or handle his luggage, but with the help of Meadors Minick and Grace Prater, everything went well.

Mary and Buck Muldrow continue on the disabled list. They are in our thoughts and prayers and we wish for them a quick recovery. "Emory & Chris Culclasure were unable to make the Nashville meeting as Emory had shoulder surgery about three weeks ago. Flo and Frank Jackson were able to come to the meeting despite Flo's surgery on her shoulder. Flo missed out on her dancing, but looks forward to doing this in Daytona Beach at the reunion. Jesse and Carolyn Pirkle were leaving Nashville to go to Branson, Missouri to take in some shows there.

The next meeting of the Dixie Chapter will be at the reunion in Daytona Beach, and then we will look forward to the Christmas party in Gatlinburg, Tn. the first week-end in December.

Newly elected officers were elected for the coming year which to us is June to June. Those elected were:

James McCoy, Pres.
Larry Dalton, 1st Vice Pres.
George Naylor, 2nd Vice Pres.
Meadors Minick, Sec. - Treas.
F.M. Haney, Chaplin
Ellsworth Massi, Reporter
O.L. Cook for
Ellsworth Massi

P.S. The Dixie Chapter will hold its next regular meeting at the National Reunion in Daytona. No letters will be mailed to announce this meeting.

Thanks a lot. Give my love to Pearl and will see you in Daytona.

Your Buddy, Meadors Minick

FLORIDA CHAPTER

The spring meeting of the Florida Chapter was held on April 23 and 24 at Howard Johnson Hotel in Daytona Beach, the site of the 1993 National Reunion. Twenty three members plus spouses and guests were in attendance. Our hosts were Joe and Ruth Stek, who did a great job handling all the arrangements. A Friday evening dinner was enjoyed at Bennigans', about two miles north of the hotel. The Saturday evening dinner, at the hotel, was a barbecue served on the beachside deck. A pleasant ocean breeze was a bit strong at times, so some people resorted to wearing sweaters.

At this time there were two other organizations having weekend meetings at the hotel: cat lovers and piano technicians, as well as some "spring breakers" still there.

Our business meeting was entirely about activities for the up-coming reunion. More about this in other sections of this publication.

We received a telephone call from Alma Herhuth, last week, advising the sudden death of Bill Drugash. On May 14 while waiting in his car for Lois he suffered a massive heart attack. As residents of Miami, Bill and Lois survived the fury of Hurricane Andrew last year, and his presence will be missed by the Florida chapter.

The members of this chapter are looking forward to greeting their 83rd. Division buddies who will attend the reunion this fall. We are anxious to anticipate your needs and will work hard to satisfy them. Stay healthy and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

W. Allen Fisher, Secretary



BOSTON CHAPTER REPORT

Boston Chapter has had a meeting every month with outstanding attendance. Our women have done a excellent job in making our meetings a real good time.

A tip of the Irishmans Hat to them.

On January 23rd our meeting was held at Pat and Ginny DiGiammerino's home in Malden, MA. It was good to see Marlene Bernier from Maine. We had 27 people at this meeting which was very good with our January weather.

This meeting started early so everyone could travel home before dark. Thanks to Ginny and the women for getting the chow out on time. The diets started the next day.

Joe and Rose Collette had the February meeting at their Club in Worcester, MA. We had a few new members in attendance. Stan Nelson of 331st Anti Tank Co. came. Charlie Lussier was so happy to see him. They talked about the bad times and the good times. The attendance was 39 people with excellent food served by the club. Thanks to Rose and Joe for a great time. Music and dancing was also first class. Many members did some shopping at No Bags Spags where you save money.

A special meeting was held at the 83rd room at Pats house with 22 members present. This meeting was called to take care of some Boston Chapter business. After the meeting Dick Armstrong had his accordion with him and we all enjoyed a sing-a-long until the food was served by the women. Thanks again Ginny and Girls.

In March we had a meeting at Frank and Rose Youngs house in Marblehead, MA. We got to meet their (2) lovely daughters as they helped Rose served the food. Frank and Rose will be moving to their new home in Billerica, MA in April. We wish them Good Luck in their new home and also many thanks for all their help in the Chapter.

The April meeting was held at Rita and Charlie Lussiers. Charlie told a lot of good jokes. He is quite a story teller. Bob Hunnewell and Fred Sylvia told a few stories about Co. I 329th Infantry. Rita got the chow put out and boy did we eat. Thanks Rita. We had 30 present at this meeting.

It was voted that we will have our Christmas party in Worcester, MA at the Holiday Inn on December 4th. Pat DiGiammerino is going to Europe for the 50th Anniversary. Boston Chapter now has its own computer program.

Our May meeting was held at the home of Frank and Phyliss Scott in Florcence, MA. It was a beautiful day so we had a cook out in their yard. It was good to see Jim Prentice at our meeting. Its nice to have a former National Officer coming to the local meetings. Of course Jim always was good for attending. Frank Scott enjoyed being with Walter J. Koss again. If only Dallas Williams was here it would have been a full house. Thanks to Phylis for a great time, fine food and hospitality. We had 29 members attending this meeting.

Reporting on the Mini Reunion at the Pines.

Lou Sandini arrived on Wednesday morning and got a very fine room. It wasn't long before he went hunting for our old friends. Pat Worrick found Millie Varone from N.Y., Laurette Morely from New Hampshire, Gale Astoni from N.Y., Rita Lussier and Livy Maynard from Fall River, MA., Rose Collette from Worcester, MA., Lucey Volpi and Ann Belvedere from New Jersey, Marlene Bernier and her sister Nancy from the State of Maine and last but not least was Rae from Pittsburg, PA. They immediately made plans for a two car safari to the shopping malls. All their husbands and boy friends "back at the ranch" suddenly found themselves losing weight. A later search of their billfolds told them why.

Lou Sandini sought out anybody who was willing to play golf with him the next day. We found Dom Varone from New York and John Houston, (no not the actor, this Houston was better looking) from Maine. They went out and played like professionals. (Actors, that is, who never played golf before.) During the meal that evening, challenges were hurled back and forth about the next days bocci game. The Philadelphia Chapter dared the Boston Champions to a game. Boston accepted even though some of their best players were back home. (Caprio, Arrigo and Tony Piantedosi.

The next morning Pat DiGiammerino, Charlie Lussier and Louis Sandini attended the Executive Board meeting to talk and make plans about our coming National Reunion at the Pines.

In the afternoon the bocci game were played. Philadelphia won the first game and Boston eeked out a win in the second game. The third game was scheduled for the next day. The next day Philadelphia won easily to the moaning and groaning of Pat DiGiammerino and Louis Sandini who vowed dire revenge at the next Pines reunion. We'll have our first team said Pat.

Anybody who misses these mini reunions is missing a good time, a maximum of good fun and a minimum of work. See you all there on the next one.

Amby Tynan

Boston Chapter Reporter



Part of the Boston Chapter



The Bocce Champs



Some of the Spectators



Executive Board



Executive Board

PHILADELPHIA DEFEATS BOSTON

At the Mini reunion held at the Pines by the Boston Chapter at the end of April, Philadelphia defeated Boston.

"Foul, we had our second team." So spoke Pat Degiammerino star of the Boston Bocce team which failed miserably. (I mean they felt miserable when they lost.) Actually the Boston second team put up the good fight against the Philadelphia team headed by the two star players from Pa., Chapter, Louis Volpe and Al Belvedere. Wait until next year says Louis Sandini who is now in the process of setting up the champion of champions tournament at the Pines in '94. All other chapter teams will be invited to participate.

In a fiercely contested first game Philadelphia easily won on Thursday _____, Boston won the second game setting up the championship game the next day. The intervening evening was spent in fierce but friendly threats and challenges thrown back and forth between the members of the two chapters. On the next day the Boston team strove valiantly to overcome the Philadelphia first team superiority, but it became quickly evident who the 1943 champions were.

Wait! we get you next year cried Louis, we'll have Caprio and Piantedosi and the rest of our first team.

After the games the Boston team graciously presented the Philadelphia team with a round of the raspberries. And a good time was had by all.



Lou Volpi giving the spectators the latest scores at the Bocci games.



Lou & Pat discussing the rules under which the Bocci games were to be played.



The ladies watching the Bocci contestants at the Pines, and giving advice!



Harry & Marie Stevenson, Annabelle Logue and Herb Levin, George & Jeanne Pletcher & James Logue at Lou's May 16 dinner.

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

The Philadelphia Chapter has decided to move its chapter meetings to Sunday afternoons at 2:00 P.M. to allow for daylight driving for the members, some of whom live a decent distance away. The move seems to be working out well as attendance has been better recently at the meetings which are now being held every other month. Our next get-together is scheduled as a picnic on Sunday, July 11, at Lester Hauck's home in Perkiomenville starting about noon.

We will have a meeting at Lou Volpi's Restaurant on Sunday, September 12, at 2:00 P.M. to plan our role in the memorial service at the Annual Reunion, and to arrange the transportation of equipment to Daytona Beach.

At our earlier meeting on Sunday, May 16, we enjoyed a special dinner prepared by Lou Volpi and his restaurant staff. The whole day was relaxing, as well as enjoyable, and the food and the conversation received high marks at the end of the evening.

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, at 8:30 A.M., our color guard once again led the parade in Narberth, Pa., and after the large patriotic affair, the Narberth community had an open house buffet at the VFW's Hall located not too far from the dedicated memorial. Later, Lou and Lucy hosted a gathering of 83rd members, plus some

long-time friends, in their home. Needless to say, there was plenty of food, and plenty of laughter and enjoyment, and of course the stories told by most everyone came up to all expectations.

Too, we were all so glad to see Jean Pletcher who has recovered so well from heart surgery. She and George look relaxed and well. We did miss Lester Hauck who is not able to drive because of a knee problem. His potential chauffeur was to have been George Settle who is a close neighbor, but we were all saddened as well as shocked, to learn that George has suffered a stroke. I am sure he would be cheered to receive cards or letters from his Company "A", 308th Engineers friends. George is a man for all seasons as well as enjoyable company, and we are all thinking positive for such an intelligent and pleasant buddy.

At the end of April, several Philadelphia Chapter members traveled to the Boston Chapter Mini-Reunion at "The Pines". The weather had broken from winter to spring the week before and we all enjoyed walking around the extended grounds in the sunshine. Some members even combined chasing golf balls with their walks. Then again, just the walks were great -- it has been a long winter!!

There was another challenging, and very noisy, outdoor activity at the Pines that created intense interest, and that was a challenge for a bocci match between the Boston team led by Pat DiGiammerino, and a Philadelphia team led by Lou Volpi.

This match was a carry-over from the year before when both sides claimed victory, and the Supreme Court at that time was not available. Pat DiGiammerino claimed victory last year, and this year Lou Volpi's team, on the last play of the game, won the match. Needless to say, we're all looking forward to next year!

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

323RD REPORT

Just had a phone call from Dusty Starbuck. He says that his health is fairly good and he is still working all over Virginia. Dusty's son just graduated from law school in Columbus, Ohio.

Doctor Monroe Coleman has been very good for writing. He still is practicing medicine. I hope to see him in the coming month.

Tom Houlette wrote me a nice long letter recently. Tom and his wife took a tour to Washington D.C. He called and had a chat with Frank Wirth. He really enjoyed his trip.

Erwin Erhardt has phoned and wrote to me and also to Pete Weltevrede. Erwin enjoyed paying taxes for the year 1992, he pays in cash too. Innc Suilmann retired and is doing very well with the loving care from his wife. Innc said he had a visit from Harold Michael which he really enjoyed. Harold is also retired now but still keeps up with Lectures on Engineering, plus going around spending time with his family keeps him busy these days.

Willis Snodgrass checked in. He and his family are in good health. I promise you fellows that I will answer everyone when I return from a trip to Maryland.

I'm going to Maryland to join the family of Ed McCouch as his son Richard is ordained a Jesuit Priest. This is really an honor for Nancy and me to be invited.

I have been seeing Pat DiGiammerino, Tony Piantedosi and George Connor at our Boston Chapter Meetings.

George saw Walt Harding while vacationing in Florida. Pat DiGiammerino failed us in New York playing Bocci. He lost a three game series with the 324th men from Phillie. I guess the Boston Irishman will have to be in the return match next year. Huh!

I will sign off for now. Hope to see everyone at the reunion in Florida.

Amby Tynan
323 FA BN

P.S. Sorry to hear my buddy Al Covi has been on the sick list. I hope he is doing better now.

CLEVELAND CHAPTER

Our Feb. and March meetings were attended by 21 men. Feb. we celebrated our 40 years anniversary with a cake decorated with the 83rd logo.

Election of officers for Cleveland Chapter for 1993 are:

Bob Grobelny - President
Walter Meczka - Treasurer
Henry Trezciak - Sgt. at Arms
Paul Dallas - Trustee (2 yrs.)
Casey Szubaske - Vice President
Joe Belock - Recording Secretary
Earl Lindsey - Trustee (3 yrs.)
Ed Jocek - Trustee (1 Yr.)



A & P Platoon, Lt. Defenbaugh - Kanak - Luxemburg 1944.
James Bradshaw, Jack Arms, Finkelstien, Tiddle, Lewis Mitchell, Joseph Boyd, T. Sgt. Alexander, Ollie Ragsdale, Clyde Knowles, George G.I. Ham, Jeep Driver Dennis Hovey, Moses, Howard Wendell, Sgt. Shaffin, Sgt. Raymond Julian, Murray Lanter, Sgt. Jones, Waldo, Harry Mulholand

Mike Mizerack helped recording secretary Joe Belock, by updating the mailing roster for the Clev. Chapter.

Dominic Christopher and wife Ann serves her delicious pizza before each meeting which everyone enjoys.

Steve Ferko and Al Lacinski are playing baseball with the seniors again this year.

Earl Lindsey lead his troops in the Memorial Day Parade at Maple Hts.. A small but impressive review.

At noon we had our meeting in FOP Hall in Bedford Hts.. Twenty-one members and their wives attended with a summer picnic lunch cooked by Chef Mike Mizerick and wife Ann. Many treats served by the ladies.

George Calore (A-G Co 329) will be hospitalized in two weeks for surgery.

Mary Dallas, wife of Paul Dallos, is home from the hospital with a new hip. 'Getting around pretty well, we hear.'

Paul Novak is home from the hospital recovering from knee surgery.

Our June meeting will be held at the home of Walter and Mary Meczka in Garfield Hts. Ohio. Our July meeting will be held in Erie, Pa. at Al and Eleanor Klugiewicz home.

I received a letter and the enclosed photo from Foster Deffenbaugh. The photo is of his A & P platoon, 2nd Bn. Hg. 330th Inf.. It was taken in Luxemburg after the 4th Armored Division relieved us along the Mousel River. The names are on the back of the photo.

The 'A & P' platoon was awakened one cold January night during the 'Bulge' to help two message center drivers whose jeeps were stuck in the mud within firing range of the Germans. In the dawn that mud hole (ice hole) had been shelled. This reporter is happy to be here because of that platoon. Bless them all.

Dennis Hovey, pictured in the middle, was my assistant driver for 21 days in Paris after the war.

Foster has been pleased to have been contacted by former members of the 83rd since his letter published in the winter Thunderbolt. He learned from a buddy "that was assigned to a different company when we were replacements in France. After all these years I finally learned he was a casualty two days later but made it thru the scrap and is writing a book on his experiences."

It is good to hear old soldiers are still communicating after fifty years, thanks to the Thunderbolt.

Many of us in the Cleveland Chapter are looking forward to seeing you all in Daytona.

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



PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

The crime wave that has engulfed our country lately claimed one of our members. Ed Walsh was accosted while shoveling snow in front of his house on Thursday, March 4 at two o'clock in the afternoon. Demanding money the assailant hurried off after Ed repeatedly screamed for help. But in the meantime he was hit with a snow shovel and bitten on his left hand. He missed the March meeting due to this. He also missed the April meeting, as he was hospitalized for pneumonia and his diabetes problem. He also missed the May meeting due to a railroad workers outing. He attended the Spring dance.

As just stated the Spring dance was held on Friday, May 14 at the Holiday Inn at the RIDC Park, Blawnox, PA. Thirty-six persons attended. Gene Costanzo chaired this affair. In fact he did everything connected with making this a fine party. In fact he may have had a hand in making the meal. A fine orchestra entertained the assembled for dancing after the festivities were concluded.

Our treasurer, Bill Jacobs had cataract surgery recently. Larry Leonardi's wife Sue was hospitalized in Florida this past winter with cancer and her condition is very bad. Larry is hoping for a miracle, as are the members of the chapter. Our ex-secretary Steve Blasko has been released from the nursing home, where he had spent a good deal of time, in the care of his wife.

Two new members were welcomed to the chapter at the April meeting -- William Nece, Co. I, 331, proposed by Ed Reuss; Charles Hawkins, Hq. Co., 330, proposed by John Caruso. Both attended the Spring Dance with their wives.

At the May meeting George Komlos reported that his brother was near death. No further report as of this at the time of being submitted for publication. Jules Desgain gave a report on his recent tour of Normandy. Joe DeLuca and his wife Juliette have been married fifty years this year. Greer Thompson and his wife Catherine also celebrated fifty years together with a family gathering at Peters Place, Bridgeville, Pa. on June 5. Their son, Alan from Georgia and daughter, Francine from Minnesota attended.

The following was submitted by George Komlos and was taken from the Monessen Daily News:

John Kruczynski - Private funeral services were held for John A. "Slick" Kruczynski, 79, of 58 Schoonmaker Ave., Monessen, who died Monday, March 15, 1993, at 12:17 p.m. in Mon Valley Hospital, Carroll Township. He was born April 15, 1912, in Charleroi, a son of the late Anthony and Bernice Rylka Kruczynski. He was a life-long resident of Monessen. A World War II veteran, he had served with the U.S. Army. He served with the 330th Infantry, 83rd Division, Anti-Tank Company. He was decorated with the Purple Heart and five campaign stars. He was formerly employed by the Pittsburgh Steel Co. of Monessen.

He was a member of Epiphany of Our Lord Roman Catholic Church of Monessen. Survivors include one brother, Alex of Monessen; one sister, Eleanor of Long Island, N.Y., nieces and nephews and friend William Hyrachak.

Quite a few chapter members are planning on attending the reunion at Daytona Beach, Florida this fall. Majority have incomplete travel plans.

"Fran" Beerhalter

Where To Write For Your Medals

In order to obtain initial issue or replacement of medals, the Standard Form 180 is no longer the vehicle used to accomplish this. The new guide is to submit a letter requesting the medals. Where to write, and sample application letter are shown below:

| BRANCH | WHERE TO WRITE FOR MEDALS |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
|---------------|----------------------------------|

Army

U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center
ATTN: DARP-PAS-EAW
9700 Page Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63132-5200

Air Force

Air Force Reference Branch NCPMF
National Personnel Records Center
9700 Page Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63132-5200

Marine Corps/Coast Guard

Navy Liaison Office (N314)
Room 3475
9700 Page Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63132-5200

SAMPLE APPLICATION LETTER

(Addresses shown for each military department.)

I request that I be issued all award emblems to which I am entitled. I have attached a copy of my separation document (DD Form 213).

My Social Security number is:

My former Service Number is:

My VA Claim Number is:

Date and Place of Birth:

Full Name, Address, and Phone Number:

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Well we of the New England area have had our fill of bad weather and also weekends.

Things have changed now and lets hope we will get the good weather here on out.

As you all have grand children having birthday parties, First communion, graduation & etc. Its hard to get a get together but we will soon.

I received letter from good buddy Chuck Abdinoor about the Omaha reunion. Chuck finally met his old C.O. of Co. B. His name is "Red" Farrell and he is living in Hawaii. He came all the way to attend the reunion, his first.

It was a pleasure to see him and we talked of old times, unfortunately he was wounded at the Bulge, He stayed in the Army, and retired as a Colonel. His place was taken by the Exec. who was Joe Desantis who also stayed in and retired as a Bird Colonel. He gave me Joe's address and I, since have been corresponding with both of them. They are now members of the association. Joe DeSantis gave me a pair of socks, this was in the Bulge, and told me to keep them under my shirt, so they would be dry, I remembered that very well, I was only 18 yrs old at that time. There is quite a lot more, but I will close for now. Hope this helps out for news for New England Chapter.

Yes Chuck I like this and I wish more members would send something like this for our news. Thanks again Chuck.

Also got a letter from Bill and Betty Davis that his buddy Phil Mann who he met for the 1st time in Omaha and he brought his wife and their son, Phil Jr. and daughter-in-law. Well Phil called Bill and told him that his son Phil Jr. had passed away suddenly at the age of 59.

All of our members send our sympathy to the Mann family.

Also received word that Merrill E. White of Concord N.H. passed away on March 18, 1993 our sympathy to the White family. He was a New England Chapter member since 1983.

The Brennans are off to Utah to stay with their daughter Bernice & David and family for 5 wk. and we hope they are having a good time.

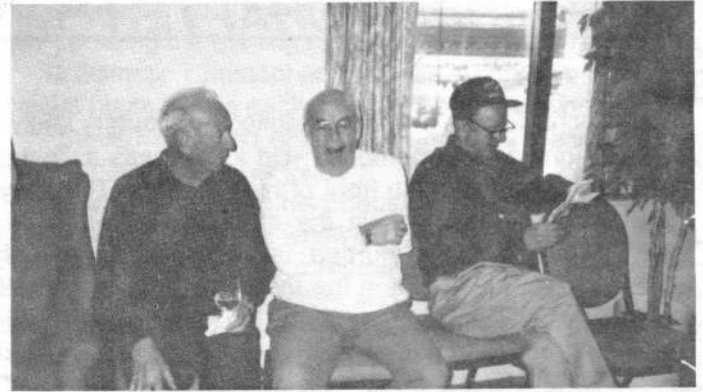
Received a letter from Hazel & Gus. (Mousie) Faria. stating that Mousie was operated on April 23rd to have a tumor removed from his bladder at St. Lukes Hospital in New Bedford Mass. He is now home and healing fine and doing little walking everyday to get his strength back and drinking several glasses of water and juices daily and his appetite is good and gets that loving care from Hazel, Boy! Mousie you got it made. Ha Ha Ha, you tough Portuigue and then when he is back chasing all the women again he will have a hernia operation. Then we will have a new and young Mousie again, Ha Ha Ha.

We all love you Mousie and get well soon as you have to make the Fla. reunion.

The Francullo's are off to Owensboro Ky July 1st for 17 days and then we will see you all in Fla.

Your Buddy

Nick Francullo, Hq Co 3rd Bn 330th



Jim, Dutchy is not hearing you!



Taking it easy after lunch.



Boy, are we getting old.



Chuck! What did Dutchy say?



They keep us together.

(REUNION by Julie Bealljett)

I'm glad we met today, my friend,
To take sometime to share,
We laughed and talked and shed
Some tears, and laid aside our chores

We wandered back to yesterday
a younger you and me.
Remembering when hopes were high
and dreams were and dreams for free

We dusted off old memories
The happy and the sad.
The things we did, the way we were
and all the joys we had.
You took my hand, and walking back

We stopped along the way to look
along the paths we took.
That led us to today
So promise that we'll meet again

This day has meant so much
Unknown tomorrows lie ahead
But friends must keep in touch

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

I am writing this article during the Memorial Day weekend when we remember those who gave their lives for our Country. As participants, we of the 83rd who witnessed the courage, bravery and heroism of our men when in battle with the enemy, wonder to this day, what power within them kept them attacking in the face of certain death.

I am reading the book "Decision in Normandy" by Carlo D'Este. Chapter 16, titled "The Price of Caution" tells about the difficulty the British Commanders had trying to get the infantry units to battle the Germans. These units weren't new to battle. They were the famous divisions from Montgomery's Eight Army who

fought so magnificently in North Africa. The writings by some experienced military minds try to explain the actions by those soldiers timidity.

You can realize the many heroic actions of our own 83rd men when attacking the Germans, while reading this book.

Fran and I along with Ted and Irene Guzek, Fred and Addie Rein, Mike and Liz Skovran, Emil Wehling went to the Pines Hotel to join the Boston chapter at their Mini-Reunion. We all agree that it was an enjoyable time to be with all the 83rds who were there.

The Executive Board had their pre-reunion meeting at the Pines while we were there. It was good to see Board Chairman Lou Nolan along with the rest of the Board, President Ned Smith and Ralph Gunderson from the Florida Chapter and Pat DiGiammerino from the Boston Chapter working so hard on the upcoming reunions.

While Al Belvedere our Board Member was working hard at the meetings, I took his place on the Philly Bocci Team, The Philly chapter and the Boston Chapter are arch enemies on the Bocci Court. Amidst a crowd estimated to be in the thousands, well anyway maybe fifty, the Philadelphia Team was victorious in this two day tournament. Now, I don't know if Pat Digiammerino will ever talk to me again.

The weather was perfect for our stay at the Pines. The Golf Course was in great shape attracting such avid sportsmen as George Settle and Mike Skovran. I tagged along to benefit from these fine sportsmen.

Ted Guzek (Co. A, 331) was very happy to meet three members from his company who made it to the Pines. Nick and Gail Ostuni and Joe Gocette with his wife Rose, and also Frank Nonan from Arlington, Va. who was a platoon leader in Co. A during the Normandy Campaign. I was also pleased to meet Frank for the first time as we had corresponded previously. This was the first time I met Nick and Joe and was really surprised when Nick gave me a photocopy of Frank Reichmann, Fred Klein and myself along with the actor Mickey Rooney taken from the 331st book. He was there when the picture was taken and I haven't seen him since. That's amazing!

After the reunion Addie Rein was hospitalized for a few days and is now feeling fine.

Dot and Joe Skurka called to let us know they wouldn't be at the Pines as Joe was busy working on the house.

The New Jersey Chapter is invited to Tom and Candy Dowd's place in Wayne, N.J. for a picnic on June 19th. All invitations were sent out by Fred Rein and from responses received we expect about 35 to attend.

Ceil Kuzma called me to express her thanks to the members on the 83rd who sent cards of condolence on the recent loss of her husband Joe (Co. G, 331).

Florida - get ready for the invasion of the Jersey Troops. We expect most of the Chapter will attend and all are looking forward to being with you and all 83rds.

Wishing you all the best.

Stan Bielen
1st Bn. Hdqs. 331

KENTUCKY CHAPTER

Have you ever had the feeling, "you can't get there from here"? After having driven in every state in the lower 48, Mexico and Canada, I missed the exit in my home state barely 100 miles from home and wound up in Kentucky. "Lucky the state line is less than a mile from the motel". Maybe I wouldn't have missed it if I hadn't been so busy waving at the people in the oncoming lane, then I realized they were Kentucky chapter members who had overshot their exit going North. Oh well after we got there as the saying goes; "a good time was had by all".

Welcome, new members to the Kentucky Chapter John Cox, (wife Virginia) John Hobbs, (wife Freeda) Alton Carter, (wife Beverly) John Cox and John Hobbs are old-timers well known in the Dixie and West Virginia chapters, Alton Carter is new to the National and Kentucky Chapters but plans to try some catching up as he intends to attend the Spring meeting in Chillicothe, Ohio and the National one in Daytona.

The Spring meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn in Chillicothe on June 11th & 12th hosted by Gordon and Bessie Acton and Chester and Helen Wilson. Chester and I share a common fact our Fathers both served at Camp Sherman at Chillicothe in W.W.# one. I have been in Chillicothe in 1943 when my company camped there overnight while on our way to Clarksburgh W. Va. to help guard president Roosevelt on his return trip from Mexico, then in 1977 I tried to look up Louis A. Parr a platoon member who was one of the nicest men you will ever meet, I was very disappointed not to find him, nor would anyone extend any help.

Members unable to attend due to health problems at the last meeting were Wallace Geyer, Paul Lear, Vitto Palazzolo and Henry Whalen. Fred Fowler gave a detailed report on how Henry was doing they are both from the Louisville area.

It was good to have back from illness or surgery, Marvin Hayden, Tom Hensley, Hershell McIntosh and Cecil Walters along with their wives Gail, Nora Lee, Imagene and Wanda it was all so good to see Jeanette Jones back welcome everyone.

Pearl Derickson had eye surgery March 12th but like a trooper was at the meeting eye patch and all I don't know if the doctor knew she was there or not, but she said she was feeling fine, that is a lot better than I did, and we hope continued progress for her.

Congratulations to Lew Tenny on his promotion to Colonel and good luck on his job with the Army Reserve General Staff in Indianapolis. He has come a long way since he used to visit the young man who bunked next to me in Camp Atterbury who like Lew was from Buckhannon W. Va. I always suspected Dencil of burning a hole in my blanket while I was home on a weekend pass and he admits it may have been.

I started keeping an attendance log since our meeting in Evansville, and find it a great help in remembering who was there, and especially the names of guests, I for-

got my book but with Ames and Helens help I came up with very good turn out total of 56 names. John Hobbs with newcomers luck, beginners luck, or whatever; won the 50/50 jackpot. In addition to the previously mentioned meeting at Chillicothe Ohio, it was decided to hold our fall meeting at best western hotel in Harrodsburgh Ky. phone (606) 734-9431 Hosted by Bill and Verna Payne and Ames and Helen Miller. The Kentucky Chapter owes Ames and Helen a debt of gratitude for the untiring effort they put into the Kentucky Chapter to keep it running smoothly, planned co-hosts at Clarksville In. were John and Doris Fay, who were lucky enough to get to go to Hawaii, and Bill and Nancy Ledger, who were unlucky in having a conflict in schedules and not being able to make the meeting, we hope they can all make it next meeting.

The Christmas Party will be held Dec. 10-11th at Comfort Inn at Piqua, Ohio if all plans fall in place. Mick and Doris McGowan, Bob and Lois Brinkman and Al and Dorothy Henry are the Hosts.

The Highlight of the Clarksville meeting was the play "Driving Miss Daisy" The performance was at the Dinner Theater, adjacent to and walking distance from Lakeview Motel. The young actors did a excellent job and were able to create a lot of the scenes from the movie closer than I had imagined they could, they received round after round of applause from the overflowing crowd.

Thanks again, to Ames & Helen for putting on a great meeting and thanks for going to all the trouble in getting the tickets so we could get a group rate I know it is a headache handling all the money and trying to keep up to date on who has decided at the last minute to go or who has a last minute cancelation, lots and lots of headaches.

Your Kentucky Chapter Reporter
Leroy V. Johnson
3rd. Bn. Hqs. 331 Inf.



Kentucky Chapter



CHILLICOTHE OHIO - June 11-12, 1993

The Kentucky chapter meeting at Holiday Inn had a good turn out with 49 members, wives and guest's attending. I had never had the pleasure of meeting Earl & Bonnie Hoover's son, wife and grandson Butch, Pat and Brent Hoover before. I also got to meet Chester & Helen Wilson's son Larry & grandson's Tod & Chad. I was surprised when the oldest boy knew about Evansville's Division One basketball team, I had forgotten their best guard was from this area in Ohio.

Friday, a group took a trip out to the Mound's Park and site of the old Camp Sherman army camp, a peaceful and beautiful National Park now where some of our father's had trained 75 years ago, and where several of us had camped briefly 50 years ago. I was with a feeling of reverence standing there thinking about what had happened there those long years ago, especially thinking of all the bodies stacked like cordwood from the flu epidemic that devastated the camp in 1918.

Art Koerner, brought in some pictures of Camp Sherman in the height of its glory in W.W. I era they were still in their wood frames with glass still intact one was a wide angle view that must have been over two feet wide with very good detail that amazes me how they could take such good pictures back then. I had only seen one like it, and that was on the Army Reserve. Art you have a treasure there.

I called the local newspaper and tried to get a write-up on the 83rd being here in W.W. I and the W.W. II vets of the 83rd being back after all the years but was met with the use you and throw you away attitude of indifference that I had met with 26 years ago in Chillicothe, I was not surprised.

I was treated with kindness and a helping hand when Earl Hoover took me along with Bob Derickson, Art Koerner and Mick McGowan to V.F.W. Post 106. on a visit. I talked to a Korean Vet (who's wife happened to be from down my way Owensboro, Ky.) also a ex-post commander, unfortunately he had never heard of my old Platoon Buddy Louis A. Parr who was from Chillicothe.

On Friday night a bingo was held with most of the many prizes donated by our generous hosts the Actons & Wilsons, my wife Clara threw in a few odds and ends and our new member Alton Carter added a Camp Breckinridge bookmatch, Vito Papazzolo the lucky winner of the cover was so proud that I couldn't get him to strike one. I had the hot card and yelled Bingo so much that I had to quit taking prizes while Gail Hensley who sat to my right had just as bad a card as I had good. Its about time I had some good luck a 13 stitch gash on my head is just healing from a runin with a ceiling fan.

On Sat. the business meeting was conducted by our Vice Pres. Mick McGowan due to the absence of Pres. Ames Miller and Wife Helen due to a prolonged bout with the flu. Owen Jones filled in for chaplain Floyd Richmond who along with wife alberta was enjoying Myr-

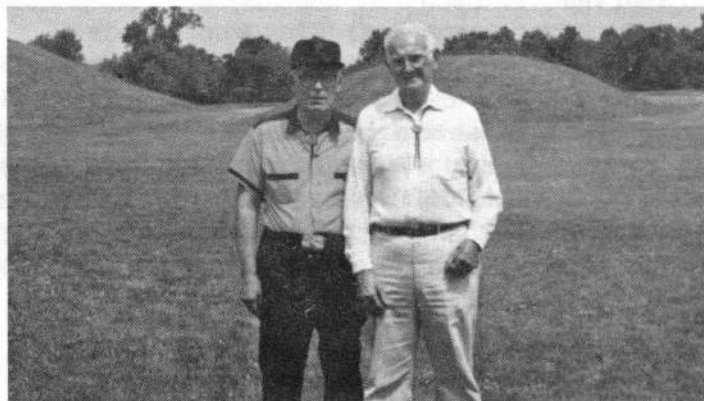
tle Beach S. C. Manny Goodridge gave his usual detailed and precise report of our financial status, sounded like we are in good shape. The meeting was smooth and swift as an early dinner date was scheduled at Richards (house of beef & seafood) before the trip out to the outdoor drama TECUMSEH which was well attended and enjoyed. Everyone was worried as it sure looked like rain, but only sprinkled. Those who didn't go to the Drama, played cards and talked long up into the night.

Before going out to the "Tecumseh" presentation a large cake beautifully decorated, was enjoyed by all in honor of the Birthdays and Anniversaries celebrated in this period of the year. I took pictures of the cake and those who were celebrating, hope they turn out O.K.

Charlie Schmidt reports, by way of Manny Goodridge that wife Kathleen, is not doing well at all, she is in St. Elizabeth Medical Center Hospice Unit 401 East 20th St. Covington Ky. 41014. Vito Palazzolo and Paul Lear were back from their illness and looking good, Henry Whalen is still not feeling good enough to attend, Lawrence and Maxine Hamilton bought another home in Evansville and all the moving, redecorating and such must have got them down, they didn't feel like making the over 300 mile drive to Chillicothe. I only live 30 miles from Owensboro but don't know the health condition of Wally & Frances Roberts, many asked about them. Herman and Margaret Bledsoe made it from Indianapolis but Norm Weak's failed to show up from the big city, Larry & Jessie Dalton made the long drive up from Georgia. They said they saw more snow there this year than they had seen in Indiana in years. We welcome Alton Carter & wife Beverly to the Kentucky Chapter they seemed to fit right in, I believe they will enjoy belonging, we missed Ames and Helen Miller Hurry up and get well.

A one in a million thing happened on this trip, we stopped at a rest stop about a hour's drive from Chillicothe and while there, Homer and Ruth Rickenbaugh drove up, we chatted awhile and continued to Chillicothe. On our way back home we stopped again, you guessed it up drove Homer and Ruth, we had like usual got a late start and I supposed they were a long way ahead of us.

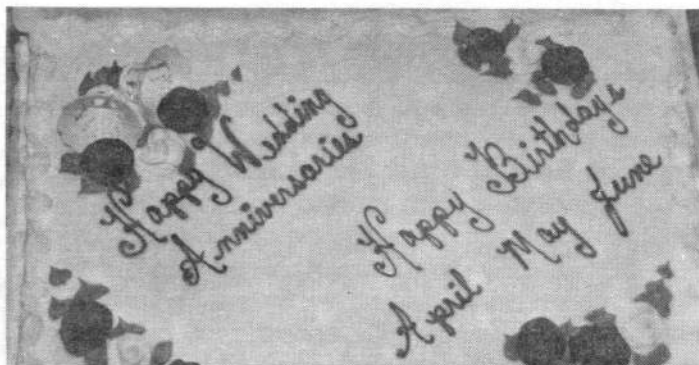
Kentucky Chapter Reporter
Leroy V. Johnson
3rd Bn Hq Co. 331st Inf.



Kentucky Chapter



Kentucky Chapter



Kentucky Chapter

COMPANY NEWS

908th Field Artillery Service Battery

Dear Bob:

Several fellows from the Service Battery had a little mini-reunion over the weekend of June 5th and 6th. at the Holiday Inn in Florence, KY. Some of those present had not seen each other since the end of the war. Those in attendance were: Walt Pickett, Manny Goodridge, Richard Barbee, Lawrence Hamilton, Melvin Ingram, Robert Knisley and Norman Weak. Such a good time was had by all that a meeting is being planned for next year; at which time, hopefully, more of the Service Battery can be contacted.

We sure would like to hear from any other 908th Field Artillery, Service Battery former members who might like to hear from an old buddy or attend the next get-together. Contact: Walter Pickett, 1513 15th. Ave. No. Texas City, TX. 77590. We really had a good time reminiscing and exchanging old war stories. No formal activities were planned and it turned out that none were needed as the fellows used up all the time just visiting.

Hope to hear from more members of Service Battery.

Sincerely,

Walter Pickett

1513 15th Ave. No.

Texas City, TX. 77590

"G" Company 331st Inf.

The annual letter to G Co men went out a little late this year, and this article to the Thunderbolt will also be late. Old age must be catching up with me, never seem to get things done on time.

The wife and I just return from a trip to Omaha, Nebraska for the College World Series. A very pleasant trip, and the icing on the cake was that Louisiana State won the Championship. Had a nice visit with Cap Wheeler from the Association. He took the wife and I out to breakfast one morning and showed us the better part of the town.

I have received some replies from the men of G Company. Had a response from Kermit Ralston, he is still working. Loyal Pangle is doing fine, Kate informed me that she had a call from Herk Kontoulas in Vero Beach. Casel Bush dropped a note that he had talked with Harold Ladley. Angie informed me that Joe Phillipone is doing O.K. I had a good letter from Singleton, he had told me sometime ago that Jim Porter had passed away. Mike Mizerock is still rolling with the punches.

The news from Joe Mayse was not as good, he told me that Perry had informed him that G.B Robinson has passed away in the earlier part of the year.

Ed Walsh from Pittsburgh said that he has been in the hospital with pneumonia and his wife had also been ill. No news on Gene Costanza, I will probably have to wait until the reunion to find out how his new love life is.

Berdie Titus wrote to say that Leroy has lung cancer. He was due to have additional test to see what type of treatment he will have to take. Hang in there Beau, we are all pulling for you. I will be in Daytona Beach for the Reunion in late September, and hope that we can get a few G Company men there.

It has been almost 50 years ago that I joined the 83rd Division and what a wonderful experience it has been.

Capt. Mac



83RD ARCOM COLOR GUARD NCOIC

"D" Co. 330th

HELLO BUDDIES:

Here comes that Co. "D" 330th News Reporter once again, only this time I don't have much News for you. This is the third and final Issue of the "THUNDERBOLT" for this year. At the Reunion last year we agreed to eliminate one Issue to help with the Association Financial Expenses.

As you all know, I have tried hard to pass on to each and everyone of you any and all information pertaining to Co. "D" 330th that comes to me during the year. A few years ago, someone sent me word that one of your men had passed away and they gave me the name of Lt. Felix Marra, I immediately sent word to all men on the mailing list informing them of it, and all of a sudden I received a very nice letter from Lt. Marra, that he was very much alive. Doing things like this makes me feel very bad.

A couple of weeks ago, I received a letter from another Widow informing me of the death of her husband. Along with the letter was a news clipping of the obituary and as I read it over I saw the name of Charles Barefoot and he was listed as First Sergeant. I don't know why I sent such a notice out as I had been aware that Claude Dodd was your First Sergeant. On Monday at a Memorial Service I was approached by a Co. "D" Man who informed me of my mistake and it has made me feel very bad once again. I owe a special apology to 1st Sgt. Claude Dodd, which I hope to have in the mail to-day.

Well Buddies, the returns for the Co. "D" 330th Page Ad was not as well responded too as I had hoped, but thanks to some dedicated men I think that I have enough money in to complete the page. If there are any of you who haven't replied, but would like too, we still have a little time.

Your buddy,
Larry Redmond

"H" Co. 330th

HELLO BUDDIES:

As we are about to close out another year in the History of our great Association, we are preparing our Final Issue of the "THUNDERBOLT" for the Printer, it is time for me to sit down and get off a few words to you members.

As I sit here going over my Co. "H" Roster, I can't help but see that we added a name to it this year, (Lt. Bob Lyons) and have unfortunately dropped one who has passed away (Sgt. Harry Dorsey). It took a long time to locate both of these men, I only regret that Sgt. Dorsey didn't have the pleasure of attending at least one reunion and meet some of his buddies. He was loved by just about every man in the company.

Well Buddies, as you know, our reunion this year will be in Florida. We have several of our company members who live down that way and I am sure that this will be a reunion to remember for many of you. Once again I ask each and everyone of you to check over your records to see if you have the name and address of a long lost buddy and let me try to use my sales pitch to get him to join us.

Our Co. "H" Page in the Ad Book this year I hope will be as big as it has been in the past. There are several of you who have not sent me an Ad, but thanks to a few really dedicated men I have been able to obtain some extra money. Remember, it still isn't too late to send your donation in to help assure

me that I will be able to have as large a page as I had last year. I hate to be a nuisance, but if you were as proud and dedicated to Co. "H" as I am, your check would have been in the mail the day after you received my letter.

Well buddies, as we close out another great year, we have a few men who are on the sick list. Let us all offer a little prayer for those who are unable to be with us at the reunion.

Your buddy,
Larry Redmond

HELLO BUDDIES:

Here we are once again winding down another great year in the history of the 83rd Infantry Division Assn. As many of you know, at the Reunion last year we decided that there would be only three Issues of the "THUNDERBOLT" this year.

Well buddies, the main purpose of my letter to you is in regards to the Reunion Ad Book. For quite a few years I have worked hard as part of the Ad Book committee, and we wish to thank each and everyone of you for the help that you have given us.

Over the years our solicitation of Ads from you have had great success, but as I sit here going over the replies to the requests that have been sent out, there is a noticeable drop this year. As I mentioned earlier our obituary column is growing and growing fast, and among the names that appear on it are quite a few who were consistent Ad Takers. Along with this, due to the ever growing Fixed Income Group, quite a number of the Ads have been reduced in size, which means less income coming in. It is amazing how many are missing from the \$5.00 Booster pages so far, I sincerely hope that those of you who have not responded as yet will soon comply. I received a phone call from the Printer the other day informing me that the deadline date is not the middle of June, but is the middle of August. I sincerely hope that you receive this "THUNDERBOLT" in time so that you can get your ad in to the Committee. Again, thank you for your help. Remember this is your Association as well as the Reunion Committees and Ad Book Committees.

Your Buddy,
Larry Redmond

"A" Co. 329th

Well fellows this is the last issue before the reunion at Daytona Beach Florida, and I haven't heard from too many guys.

Of course some of "A" Co. fellows said they will attend the reunion but "things happen."

Earl Deisher was back in the hospital for a short while. Did not need surgery. He is feeling much better, but is on medication.

Our "Ole" "A" Co. mess Sgt. George Calore will have surgery June 16th. Good Luck George we will be thinking about you.

I just got through talking with George Suchomelly. He has a big garden that keeps him busy but tells me that "Bill" Urserly fell, hurt his back and can't walk to well.

Also that "Mutt" Adair lost vision in one eye. Clarence F. Hunter had surgery and had a rough time for a while but is doing fine now.

George Schomelly is in charge of the 2nd platoon mini-reunion this year and invites anyone that was in Co. "A" to come. It will be held at the Hampton Inn, in St. Clairsville Ohio, Sept. 17, 18 and 19th. It's right off of interstate 70, about 15 miles from Wheeling, West Virginia.

I was born not to far from St. Clairsville, a little town call Fairpoint. About 5 miles from St. Clairsville. used to be a coal mining town.

Bernice and I will not be able to attend. Sorry!! We'll be in Branson Missouri at that time. You know when you go on these senior bus trips you make reservations 6 to 8 months ahead.

The Cleveland Chapter marched Memorial Day. There were 13 of us that marched almost two miles. They still look great and in step too.

Bernice and I will be going to D.A.V. Convention in Columbus Ohio June 11th & 12th. We will be representing our chapter 125.

Haven't heard anything from our "Ole" medic John Camp. I hope everything is OK.

Well guys this is about it. So we'll see you in Florida.

Stay healthy and God Bless.

Your Buddy,

Bob Grobelny

1581 Lander Rd.

Mayfield Hts., Ohio 44124

(216) 449-5085

"F" Co. 329th

Having taken the path of least resistance using mostly pictures for our last article and having had some unfavorable comments because of it this report will consist only of the printed word. One comment however, I thought it might provide some of our buddies not in the pictures a chance perhaps to see a buddy they haven't seen for awhile, maybe the first since overseas and ones who make the effort to attend association reunions. Please don't misunderstand me buddies, I fully realize there are those of you who for legitimate reasons can not make division reunions. The same applies to others of us from time to time irregardless of how some may interrupt the word priority. The thought I wish to leave with you is the more of us able to be together at these reunions the greater the enjoyment for all and the better times we have. I personally thoroughly enjoy myself. In addition to meeting with my "F" Co. buddies I appreciate the opportunity to meet some members who have worked hard and long in holding the association together low these many years. My congratulations again to those men and women without naming names, as you know who you are and so do the rest of us.

Response to our request for Ad \$ and various information was very well received. As a result Ad copy for a page and a half in the Reunion Ad Book has been forwarded thru Larry Redmond. What a fine job he does for the association. At present early replies indicate a possible 9 men and wives as Daytona attendees perhaps more later. Majority of those reporting indicated being in reasonably good condition. At this stage of the game naturally all are not so fortunate.

Ed Zerucha still battling with eye problems, says some improvement. Ed's one of the possible for Daytona just all depends, he has made most of them. Niles Johnson had foot surgery Feb. 26th, released next day, 4 days later back in for 8

more with infection out 3 days later in for 6 more. Niles here's hoping things are going better for you now. Verleen Lutkemier had her right knee replaced June 19th and was to have the left one done also. Luke said she really had a lot of pain that pain pills wouldn't touch. We surely hope she is now experiencing relief and progressing satisfactorily. Accidents do happen just ask Katie Helleckson, Katie fell over her great grandson Mar. 30 breaking her left arm. Coming along fine now she says. Sylvain Fishman has some problems but a good attitude as he replied on our inquiry (fair to midlin). Pop when I'm 85 hope I can say the same buddy. Bill Ferguson still kinda miserable with his diabetes related problems but managed to hobble around Hawaii far a week or so in May. A little RR at the Hale KOA Hotel on the beach at Waikiki.

Local hosts Arline/Bill Nickell made our Punta Gorda, FL 93 get together a very special occasion for 24 of us who were privileged to attend, 23 including wives plus a guest. Our guest Jeanette Dan friend of Dale/Marge Lewis and now ours, a darling little lady with a short name but long on humor and enthusiasm.

A familiar phrase to some of us, (it is not always the same men and women who can attend), was true again this year, as Herington/Helen Drake, Dale/Marge Lewis and George Thompson were first timers at our Minis. We're not getting older, we're getting better and growing, noticed a grandson added to the Whiteheads/Russell/Margarita Congratulations.

10 early arrivers invaded the Nickels at their then home in Port charlotte far an evening of enjoyment. Since then they (Nickells) have taken care of that. They sold and moved across the Peace river to Punta Gorda, (didn't want to have to drive so far to the Mini), into a condominium, only kidding Nickells. We welcome all buddies to join us in Punta Gorda in '94, no not at Nickells probably at HOJO's.

Thanks Carroll B. Brown for the info re Capt. Frank Carmichael's book "Two Memoirs" TB Fall Issue '92 Pg. 32. I sent for and received it, enjoyed both accounts very much. I would recommend it to anyone especially 83 orders. Thanks also to Becky Carmichael Rochelle for seeing I got the book.

Mark your calendars with these dates

Attend all you can

83rd Division Association Reunion: Daytona Bch., FL.

Sept. 30 - Oct. 1 - 2, 1993

"F" Co. 329th Inf. Regt., Ashland, Oh. 2nd 4FF

Oct. 11-12-13, 1993

"F" Co. 329th Inf. Regt. Punta Gorda, FL.

Feb. 24-25-26, 1994

Have fun at Howard Johnson's on the Beach

CR Bob Whitcomb



THE EIGHTY THIRD IN TENNESSEE

By Chaplain H.H. WEBSTER

'Twas in the summer of 'forty three
They roamed the hills of Tennessee
On the first maneuvers of the Eighty Third,
That bouncing outfit that keeps their word,
The Blues and The Reds there played at war,
But knew what they were preparing for.

They played the game and made it real,
And Never 'griped' when they missed a meal.
Some vowed they would go over the hill,
But the end of the week found them in there still
Those dough-boys sweat and ate the dust
Kicked up by tanks, which they always cussed.
Some got too hot, and some 'passed out';
but then the 'doc' would bring them about.
And the Chaplains' words of cheer and smiles
Seemed to lighten the load and shorten the miles.

Some days they rode, but most times walked
Twenty miles or more but never squawked.
Muscles grew hard and faces turned brown
As they 'picked 'em up and laid 'em down'.
Fifty minutes with a full field pack
Then: "Take a break! Flat on your back".
"Alright, GET GOIN'", The sergeant would yell,
"On your feet, let's hit the trail".
Hardly time for a smoke it seemed
Before that hard-boiled sergeant screamed.

"Chow time at last". The private sighed,
"Another mile and I think I'd have died".
Then settling down in relaxation
He opened his lunch with expectation.
"Aw nertz, the same old cheese and dog",
He grinned, as he leaned against a log.
"When I was back in the old home town
'Cheese on rye' had a pleasant round;
But when this is over and I get a break
I'm gonna' eat nothin' but chicken and steak".
Though that dog and cheese was not so hot,
Yet, when You're famished they hit the spot.
And you quench your thirst and think it's fine
Though the water tasted like iodine.

So on they went, day after day,
Running and "bouncing" into the fray.
Flanking, enveloping, capturing a Blue
Defending, withdrawing, "seeing it through".

At the end of the week came time for play,
If you were lucky and got away.
Some washed their clothes, wrote Mom a letter,
And looked to see if their chiggers were better;
Cleaned up equipment, wet from the rains,
And always some played "certain games".
Some would start a crazy rumor,
But that was part of army humor
"We're going there", "We're going here",
Maneuvers cut short, no water I hear.

So week after week they battled it through,
For there was a job ahead to do.
In years to come, when the war is won,
And they spin some yarn to a wide-eyed son,
They'll say as they wink like a wise old bird,
"I, too, served a hitch with the Eighty Third".

"I" Co. 329th Inf.

Had a good turn out for the Kentucky Chapter meeting March 26th & 27th in Clarksville, Ind. Jim Harned and Walter Mack both reside in Louisville, Ky. I called both of them hoping that they could come over to the hotel to visit with their old "I" Co. buddies but both had previous plans and couldn't make it.

The Kentucky Chapter meeting June 11th & 12th is being held in Chillicothe, Ohio. Camp Sherman was there in W.W. I and the 83rd Div. trained there. During W.W. I the 83rd had four regiments. 329 - 330 - 331st was sent over to France, the 332nd was sent to Italy, they ate many of the Italians grapes they earned the nickname of the Grape Eaters.

I have borrowed two pictures from the Kent V.F.W. which I am taking to the meeting. One is of Camp Sherman taken in 1917, the second is Co. B 339th Inf. taken in 1919 at Camp Sherman. I'm not sure is the 339th part of the 84th Div.?

Agnes and I are going up to Lettle Valley, N.Y. for a wedding June 26th. Then we are going over to Binghamton N.Y. for a High School graduation party, while there we plan to visit with Anna & Frank Hanus who live in Vestal, N.Y., which is close by.

The telephone is a good way of keeping in touch and checking up with the old gang. Lately we have talked with the - Mills, Barthas, McGowans, Bellinos, the Henschels who have come over to the Kent VFW for a steak dinner and dance. Also talked with Elizabeth and Jesse Hayes, on our way down to the reunion.

We are going to stop in Clemmons N.C. to pick up Liz & Jesse they will ride with us down to Daytona and we can drop them off on the way back home.

Forest Brown wrote saying they missed getting in touch with us when they were in Ohio last summer. He and Harold Gresinger talked via phone while the Giesingers were in Phoenix last February.

The 47th Reunion is rapidly approaching, looking forward with great anticipation of seeing the old gang. We usually can depend on 14 or so who try to make it every year unless something unexpected or illness comes up. We also hope that someone new will surprise us and also attend. You can write, phone and even visit some of these people and ask them to come to a reunion. Some of them have legitimate excuses and can't make even thou they would like to. I have found out if you can get them to come to one, they enjoy it so much that they can't wait until next year for another meeting.

Well here's hoping that you have your reservations in, God willing see you all in Daytona.

Art Koerner

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

308th ENGINEERS

Well, it is now "Summer-time Florida" and already we are looking forward to October when Florida goes into beautiful, write-home-about weather. But we also are looking forward to our 83rd Division Reunion in Daytona Beach, Sept. 30, Oct. 1 and 2, 1993, at the Howard Johnson Hotel. My news is a little short this time. We talked to Buddy George Settle, and he told us that Lester Hauck wrote that he has trouble with his knees and is not getting around very well. He is waiting to hear of possible surgery. Best of luck, Lester. Congratulations go to Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Brand, who celebrate their 50th Wedding anniversary this year. Their children are giving them a reception on June 5th, 1993. Best of wishes, and many more anniversaries in good health.

My wife and I receive letters and picture post cards from our friend, Francois Choin, the gentleman in France who took us to Dinan last Fall on our visit over there. He plans on coming to the U.S. in 1994 with his wife and son, Patrick. Incidentally, Patrick is looking for a poster or picture of our President Clinton. So far, we have been unable to find one. Help, anyone??

We look forward to seeing the Wellmans and the Auers at the 83rd Division Reunion. We hope everyone has sent in their reservations for this 47th Annual Reunion.

We were sorry to hear of an auto accident with George Settle. He was driving on an icy pavement and hit a patch of ice. The approaching car behind him was driving fast, so George grabbed the wheel tightly and the man behind braked, but hit George's car causing damage to the bumper, and the rear fender. George's car is AOK now after being fixed, but the main thing is that George was not injured. Good news for that. But the bad part is that he had to miss the meeting in Macon, Ga.

We also received this letter from Gen. Dodge which gave us a little chuckle.

"Among the papers I have saved from WWII I have a few of the daily overlays that were submitted by each company showing the roads that had been cleared of mines that day. These were consolidated by Major George Hannaman and published throughout the Division daily. It was a very popular publication and General Montague, Division Artillery Commander, was at our headquarters early every day to get his copy before he made his plans for moving his artillery units. I recently ran across one of the reports from Company B, dated December 15, 1944. A footnote on the bottom read as follows:

1 mine removed by Company Commander's jeep and vice versa

1 mine removed by Brockway truck.

Louis E. Wegner 1st. Sgt.

(no officer available)

I recall, happily, that Captain Allan Gillis only suffered a bit of damage to his eardrums. I hope he does not have any after-effects today.

Roy T. Dodge

Co. 308th Engrs at the time."

We have just received this news on June 3, 1993:

"Dear Fellow Veterans:

I'm writing to you on behalf of my father, George C. Settle. He was recently admitted to the Pottstown Memorial Medical Center on Tuesday, May 25, for pain in his lower back. Then on Thursday, May 27, he suffered a stroke leaving him partially paralyzed on the right side and unable to speak. Hearing from

you, I know will raise his spirits and he'll be out of that hospital bed in no time! You can write to him at the Pottstown Memorial Medical Center, 1600 E. High Street, Pottstown, PA 19464, Room No. 529.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Settle, Dr."

We called Mark and talked to a granddaughter who gave us the information that George will be taking therapy soon and right now he is aware of everyone around him, and knows everyone. Our prayers and thoughts are with you, George. Hang in there, we are all behind you and pulling for you.

Gordon Doeringsfeld

7451 Western Circle Dr.

Brooksville, Fla. 34613

Ph. # 904 596 5082

329 "B" Bag

Again I'm writing this column after spending a few minutes in church with prayers for all of the deceased buddies and officers of "B" Company. Then went to march with the Cleveland Chapter in the Annual Memorial Day Parade. This was my 47th parade. Haven't heard from to many of the guys, Herb Jacobs called me the other day, and we reminisced about the Company. H. Jacobs was the 2nd Platoon leader in the states, however he didn't go over seas with us. We talked about Sgts. Cassidy, Companoha and Kirminas and some of the other guys including Capt. Shelton. He promised we would have lunch in the near future. I'm trying to talk to him in going to Daytona for the reunion. Talking about Daytona I received a letter from Ruth & Joe Stek telling me about the effort there're putting into this reunion. Joe wrote that about 6 "B" Co. have signed up so far. I hope that there will be a bigger turnout than that. Let's get off our duffs and get down there and enjoy the gettogether and the sun. See everybody down there.

A Short "B" Co. Story

While stationed in OberDonavan Lux., one platoon and a machine gun squad was sent on a reverse side of a hill as an outpost. Every day a different platoon was sent to replace the other platoon. After dug in for about a week, the hill was attacked by the Germans, after the shoot out in which a machine gunner by the name of Ed Campbell was killed. (I believe he was the only casualty). A wounded German was found and we got him up, he was the biggest enemy I ever saw, he looked at least 7 foot tall, and was an SS officer. Since I had a 45 I was told to march him to headquarters. This guy was shot at least 7 times in the arms, legs, thighs, and shoulders. We threw a blanket over him and marched him down the hill to the medic station. Our medic was named Radake, and could talk good German, while giving him first aid he asked him questions in German. The SS Officer looked up at the medic and said "I'm a German Officer and German Officer's don't talk," and with that he didn't say another word. Capt Hill took over and sent us back and was going to send him back to Div Hdq. under heavy guard. I often wondered what happened to him, He sure was big and tough.

Bob Uher

Co. "B" 329th

(216) 885-1152

P.S. Your getting Old when you tell someone you are having an affair, and they ask who is catering it.

783 rd Ordnance

Boy, is this possible, here we are at the last issue before the Fla. reunion. Old Doggett always told me that when I got as old as him I would find out that time went so fast I would have to keep one hand on my drawers or I would lose them.

Some, or all you fellows except hole in one Phil, have to get tired of reading about the infamous 783rd golfers. So this issue we are doing something different.

Out of three Company sections I picked three fellows we haven't heard from in quite some time. From the deep south we have Bill Stubno who is still cruising at eighty. Now don't all you fellows get in line for a haircut for Bill informed me that he left his clippers in Europe. He said after the sand got into them they were no good. You mean after Normandy we didn't get anymore haircuts? Come to think of it some of you guys did look rather wild. Here all this time I thought it was from the vodka and French curves.

Bill had a by-pass two years ago and he said, "it's slowed me up some." Let me tell you he is still cutting his grass and sounds very chipper.

Representing the Supply Section is Jim Foster from Indiana. Jim, who will be seventy seven in Sept. has a good positive attitude. His "Little" problem is circulation in the legs. He informed me that he would not be taking the full pack, ten mile hike with us next Monday. Jim's memories are keen and he reminisced about some of the good times he had with Reese and Manning. Jim is still hoping to get to see us at a reunion. They say that Indianapolis is quite a town now. Anyone for a meal in that cafeteria right off the town circle?

And representing the Armory Section is Vin Musser. Vin was really pleased to hear from me. You recall Vin had problems on returning home and he ended up getting shock treatments. This not only wiped out all of his war memories but also his profession as a jeweler. Vin and I were close Buddies and when I first "Refound" him he did remember my nickname Rags and the fact that he was very seasick. He will be seventy nine in Oct. and he is leading quite a normal life.

He opened a hernia while trying to lift a bale of hay for their horses this winter but he has recovered well.

On the subject of golf Vin said he finally gave it up when he could no longer get the distance. I know all our golfers will agree with Vin's words of wisdom on the subject of golf. "Golf brings out what ever's in you."

I always tell Vin that you fellows ask about him and he says, "Well I'm sure sorry I don't remember any of them but please thank them. I appreciate that." His experience is one that cause us to shake our heads and be thankful his life has turned out this well.

One of our fellows is missing and his name is Frank Amodea. I called his old Staten Island number and he is just nowhere to be found around New York City. Anyone got any clues? If Frank has left the city can you blame him? Any of the fellows heard about the Mets? I hope as your reading this you are still reading about the Phillies. Poor Philadelphia needs a good shot in the arm. If you don't know just let me tell you what Phila. is losing. There's the huge Navy yard, the only Naval Aviation Depot in the world, massive Sears complex, Canada Dry plant, Keeblers, Whitmans Chocolates and Mrs. Pauls. Please send donations to my address.

There is some good news from Phila., though. Our son is making a miraculous recovery from his rare illness. Weather permitting we will go on our first golf outing this week. His next

goal is to get back to teaching in Sept. He knows they will not let him coach but he has his quality of life back and that's all one can ask.

Carl Frederick and I would like to thank all of you who came through again with your donations for the reunion Ad book. I wish to thank Carl too as many of you received a personal letter from Carl which served the dual purpose of staying in touch and getting touched in the wallet.

A nice long letter was received from Gene DelPrete. Gene is doing fine however Ginny has come up with a rare illness which is now being described as Temporal Arteritis. In simple terms this is an inflamed condition of the arteries. Right now it can only be treated with high doses of prednisone and as most of you know this is a steroid and a hard drug to take. Gene States "Ginny has done heroically, even to the point where she still wants to trip the light fantastic but our jitterbugging has been toned down quite a bit. This disease can go into remission so lets hope we soon get better news from Ginny and Gene.

For sure it's a sign of the times but I always feel a little sorry that most of the articles in the Thunderbolt have to deal with all our health problems. So here's a breather. You know at the last reunion lots of people thought MiMi was spoiled. Actually it was just the perfume she was wearing.

I'm now sorry to report that both Herman Hackstock and Phil Barbara have been under the weather. Herm has been having dizzy like spells, "it feels like I have an alka seltzer in my head." He has been checked out at the Mayo Clinic and they can't find anything wrong. He and Norma are not letting this condition stop them. They were planning a late May camping trip to the east. Phil on the other hand is having trouble catching his breath. He too has had tests and as of May 18th he was going to get his lungs checked out. Phil is very positive and up about the whole situation. He hasn't been able to play any golf so he is anxious to know what handicap Jim Jones is going to give him at the reunion. I'm not giving any to a hole in one shooter!

Ivan Gilman asked the scientist what he should do if there was an earthquake in San Francisco. He replied, "Two things first stand in a doorway." And astute Gilman inquired: "And what's the second thing? The scientist sighed and replied, "Make sure the doorway is in Iowa!"

It's also an unhappy report from Steve and Gert Blasko. Steve has been in the out of both hospital and nursing home. Presently Steve is home and I know they would enjoy getting a card from you.

Al and Ruth Bensimon have been working hard with the Fla. Chapter on the reunion, and like me, they can't wait to see Millie's and MiMi's new bathing suit. So lets pack and we'll see it all on the beach.

Hut two, Rags Rangnow



LETTERS

Bob Derickson,

When I joined the 83rd Inf. in Camp Atterbury, Ind. we were told that the 83rd Inf. originated in Ohio WWI.

Reading the "Civil War Times" I ran across this story about Steven Feather that was in the 83rd Penn. Vol. Inf. Do any of our Erie, Pa. vets know anything about the 83rd "Erie Regt".

Best Regards

George Tysick, (Serve 331st)



Name: Stephen Feather

Allegiance: Union

Rank: Private

Unit: The 83d Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry - "The Erie Regiment"

Service Record: 1861 - enlisted, 83rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Co. F (Aug. 19). 1862 - Siege of Yorktown, Va. (Apr. 5 - May 4); engagement, Hanover Court House, Va. (May 27); Battle of Mechanicsville, Va. (June 26); Battle of Gaines' Mill, Va. (June 27); Battle of Savage's Station, Va. (June 29); Battle of Turkey Bridge, Va. (June 30); wounded, Battle of Malvern Hill, Va. (July 1); wounded, Second Battle of Manassas, Va., hospitalized (Aug. 30). - 1863 - discharged due to medical disability (Feb. 27); enlisted, 55th Pennsylvania (Emergency) Militia, Co. H (June 15); first lieutenant; discharged at Pittsburgh (Aug. 26); 1864 - commissioned captain, Iowa State Militia (Aug. 13 to the close of the war).

Dear Sir,

Our office is attempting to assist Mr. Dean to establish service connection for the SFW to the back that he sustained on April 7, 1945 in Germany. He was attached to Co. B 331 Inf. 83 Division near the Elbe River in Germany.

Mr. Dean received the Purple Heart, but his Service Medical Records were mostly destroyed by the 1973 fire at the St. Louis, Missouri Records Center.

Any assistance that you could provide in verifying the injury

that he sustained would be crucial to his VA claim. If anybody can help with any information on Edward M. Dean injury please send info to:

Commonwealth of Virginia

Department of Veterans' Affairs

211 W. Frederick Street

P.O. Box 296

Staunton, Virginia 24401

Attn: John W. Layman, Vet. Claim Agent

I just healed up foot and leg ulcers, after three and a half years.

Please put it in the Thunderbolt. Any one interested can contact me. This is serious and painful. Some people never heal up. Thank you.

Ralph Wavra

Rolla N. Dak.

58367 - 0012

L. Co. 329 Inf 83 Div.

Dear Mr. Derickson,

I am an author compiling material for a book on the art of sniping. I am reaching out to as a wide group of veterans as possible, to draw on a myriad of experiences. With this mixture, the final result will hopefully be a solid manual on the training, tactics, and anecdotes of snipers and their teams.

The idea is to be functional as well as entertaining.

My request is to have my address made available to your organization.

Thank You!

Sincerely,

Keith Everett

260 S. Atlanta Drive

Tucson, Arizona 85747

Dear Sir:

My brother Adrian Leroy Gurringer, PFC. ASN 6854 563 served in the 83 Infantry Div. in Germany during 1945. He was killed in action April 15, 1945 during the 9th Army's drive across the Elbe River to Berlin. He was hit by small arms fire at Waltermienburg. Other places mentioned by his letters before his death are Dusseldorf and Neuss.

I am interested in trying to locate a History of the 83rd Division during World War II.

Also, Adrian would have been seventy six years old had he lived. I wonder if some veterans may still be living who may have known him.

Adrian was buried in Margraten, Holland and then moved home to Gibsonville to the family plot in 1948.

I will appreciate any information you can supply.

Yours Truly,

Mrs. Ianthia G. LaMarr

5715 Burlington Road

McLeansville, North Carolina 27301

Co "M" 330th Inf. Mini Reunion

Co. "M" 330th Inf. held its 5th annual Mini-reunion at the residence of Frank and Bunny Ashe in Bradenton, Fla. on Mar. 12, 1993. Bunny and Frank had everything well planned and had arranged for a delightful lunch of fried chicken, ham, slaw, several salads, vegetables, and dip, cake, cold and hot drinks etc. Those who arrived on Thursday went out to eat that night at Mrs. Appleton's Buffet. Friday evening the group went to the Olive Gardens (an Italian Restaurant) for dinner. As usual, our time together was just too short. Besides several guests those in attendance were: Jim Fowler, Russ and Jennie Antt, Edward and Delana Etter, Mert & Jeanne Johnston, Leo K and Martha Hand, Harold and Winnie Molter, Frank and Bunny Ashe, Carlton Eby and his sister Eleanor James, and Doris and Bill Ryan.

Martha, Jim's wife would have been there, but she had to go home due to a death in her family. We missed her very much. Carlton Ely and his sister traveled the farthest. They came from Debran, New Jersey.

Leo K. Hand
Co. "M" 330th Inf.
1700 S. Hwy. 57
Washington, Indiana 47501



Dear Bob;

Here is a picture of two men from Co "B" 330 Inf., but they did not know each other. Both were replacements into the company at different times. The small guy Platoon Sgt. Tony Mako served with the 83rd from July 1944 to Dec. 10, 1944, when he was wounded. P.F.C. Roland Grebinger joined Co. "B" at the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge.

I read Roland's story in the "THUNDERBOLT". I looked for him, found him and met him. We had a nice time at the Mason's Lodge where he is the MASTER. Both of us come from New York, I live in Brooklyn and Roland lives in "Queens". My only regret was he could not remember some of the people I left behind. O well that was a life-time ago.

Hope you can use the picture Bob.

Have fun & enjoy!

Anthony J. Mako

109 Russell St., Brooklyn NY 11222

Bob

Here is a little something I put together one day. I thought it might be appropriate for the Thunderbolt.

Harry Kirby
C Co. 308 Engrs.

I've stood and heard the bugle
Sound the sad and lonely taps
While the people all assembled
Kept their feelings under wraps

A time ago some friends I lost
Their faces plainly yet I see
The guys you lived with every day
Were like your family

Each of us do have our thoughts
Of the ones we left behind
And though they may be absent
They're never out of mind

One day we'll be together
At that last ever roll call
Then the final 83rd formation
Will be attended by one and all

Harry Kriby -- 308 Engrs.

Dear Mr. Derickson

As per our telephone conversation this date. I would like to request a copy of the publication of "83rd Infantry Division World War II, Thunderbolt Across Europe", latest printing. If there is someone who has a copy and would like to sell - I would appreciate it very much.

You stated you could publish this request in your magazine. Please advise what the expense is and I will forward immediately.

Thank you so much for your help.

Sincerely

Adeline S. Thwashen
3255 Ashwood Lane
Beaumont Texas 77703
409-898-8703

My husband John L. Thwashen Jr., was with F Co. 330th Inf. He became deceased February 1974.

10008 West Coggins Drive
Sun City, AZ 85351

Bob

I would very much appreciate if you would make a notation in the next "Thunderbolt" as follows:

I will be at the 47th Annual Reunion at Daytona, Fla. as I have attended many including Omaha Neb. Health permitting, to sell my book "I SAW IT THROUGH", of the experiences that WE of the 83rd Div. endured from Camp Atterbury, Ind. to across the Elbe River being wounded at that time in "Wittenburg, Germany.

Many had purchased my book and I want to thank the members and wives for there support.

I have a few left and after they are gone they're will be no more.

It not only tells of the individual hardships of a front line soldier but as a fighting team.

Many of my books have been sold to people from the countries that we liberated.

It can be purchased beforehand by sending check of \$15.00 to the above address.

Thanking You - I Remain
John A. Aller

Dear Buddies:

How are you all doing, we hope everybody is in the best of health. Once again we come to that time again of year, when we all start thinking about meeting our friends and buddies at the great 83rd reunion.

Sorry we couldn't make it to Omaha last year, we attended the 25th Inf. Div. Asso. convention last year at Valley Forge, Pa. I served with the 25th during the Korean war, and I'm also a member of their association. My wife Lois and I are planning on going to the 83rd reunion this year, and hope to meet alot of our friends there. We have our reservation made at the Holiday Inn. We did want a room at the Howard Johnson, but they sent our check back and referred us to the Holiday Inn. I thought the Howard Johnson was a bigger hotel than that. We sent our reservation in on the last week of January, filled up fast. We received letters from some of our friends and buddies saying that they were going this year. Walter A. Bernhardt, Warren & Sue Boucher, Frank and Mary Adachowski, Howard & Clarice Carlborn, and Clarice said that they were going if they had to crawl and also our dear lady friend Mrs. Grace Brick, who does so much for the association by her contributions and we all want to thank her very much. We haven't heard from Mrs Eleanor Clevenger for a while, but she will probably be there since she won't have too far to go. I wrote to Howard and Clarice and told them that they better start crawling, because they have along ways to crawl. That Howie he never changed one bit. I can't hardly wait to see and meet him after after those 48 years. I'm sorry that we didn't start going to the reunions sooner when the Carlborn's were going regularly.

Well you all enjoy your summer, and we hope to see you all in Daytona Beach, Florida this fall.

Sincerely yours

Charles B. Stine, Sr., A Btry, 908th Fa. Bn.



Fishin 'Fun

The third Annual Handicapped Fishing Derby, sponsored by the Sellersville Chamber of Commerce and the Sellersville Fire Co. was held Saturday at the Firemens' Grove. Norman "Shorty" Schuster takes kidding from "Mully" Freed and Mayor Joseph Hufnagle. Freed said Schuster was catching fish, but he netted a turkey. Schuster bagged the first fish caught Saturday, shortly after 8 a.m., but ran into a string of bad luck by landing only 3-inch sunfish.

Photo by John Gerner.

Dear Fellow Veterans,

History is very much like a window of our experiences and reflections. It has taught us our mistakes and given us our victories over tyranny, in the many wars that we have fought. Not the least of which has been the legendary history of World War II. Within the battlegrounds of fear, anxiety, courage, compassion, bravery and sweat, we, of the 83rd Infantry Division, have truly found out what we are made of!

Simple, ordinary men, in countries all over the world, were brought together on a strange battlefield to fight for their very existence, in order to eliminate forever the tremendous hatred, tryanny and barbarism wrought upon the world by Germany and Japan. Here, then, on this strange battlefield of World War II, brave soldiers such as the men from the 83rd Infantry Division, displayed the courage and fortitude that preserved our freedom.

Perhaps one of the greatest privileges of my life was to be a part of this with the 83rd, to be able to see, feel, hear, and experience history and to record this firsthand in a diary that I kept throughout the war.

This original diary has recently been updated to include the 40th Anniversary of D-Day in 1984, celebrated with a contingent of the 83rd in Belgium, France, Luxembourg, and Germany. As seen through the eyes and the emotions of "just another soldier", I try to show what went on in the mind of every soldier as we fought, and what these people thought of us in 1984.

The revised edition, called Lost Diary, (lost on the battlefield when I was wounded), is now being readied for publication. You can reserve your copy now for only \$19.95 (plus \$3 for postage & handling). **Don't delay!** Only a limited number of this true collector's item will be made available. Order your copy now and send a check or money order to: Irwin B. Spandau, 24 Gabriel Lane, Willingboro, NJ 08046. Be sure to include your name, mailing address and daytime phone number. Respond early to reserve your copy. I look forward to hearing from you.

What organizations had to say about Lost Diary.

West Point Academy

"Entertaining and educational, such diaries provide a human element to the dates and events of W.W. II for the upcoming 50th anniversary."

LIFE Magazine

"We are honored that you would consider LIFE a worthy forum for your diary"

Government Study for Battle of Bulge Museum Grand-Duche de Luxembourg

"We are most interested in your story for our Museum, we shall never forget the liberation of our country by the 83rd Infantry Division."

Sincerely, Irwin B. Spandau (329th Inf. - Co. G)
24 Gabriel Lane
Willingboro, NJ 08046
(609) 871-1572

Mr. Derickson,

Would you put something in your publication on stamps for veterans

Thank you, Bernie Elmore

Dear Friend;

So you'll know who you are sending the stamps to and what they are used for.

I'm age 72, retired insurance & real estate broker, married, active in veterans & senior citizens organizations. Volunteer 3 days a week at Buffalo, N.Y. Chapter American Lung Assn., Past Commander and 30 year member Twin Village Post # 463 VFW. (Named All N.Y. State Commander and awarded plaque by VFW for selling 20,000 American Flags while chairman of VFW Americanism Committee) Serve on Legislative Committee for Twin Village Chapter # 3901 American Association of retired persons. 10% disabled Veteran. Served in Europe with Patton's 4th Armored Division, 6 Battle Stars. Past Depew Village Trustee. Past "Scratch" for Military Order of the Cottie. Had Open Heart Surgery (5 Heart By-Pass Sept. 19th 1989 but the Good Lord has put me back in action.

The stamps, used & mint, US and Foreign, are all donated to; Veterans Hospitals in Buffalo, N.Y. and Washington, DC. Childrens Hospital for Disabled Children in Lackawanna, N.Y. and Chicago, Ill. a Children's poor stamp club (110 members) in Puerto Rico. The stamps are used to keep Veterans busy, some have stamp collections, some are used in art programs, some are used as a means to break up the boredom of long hospital confinement. With the Children in Puerto Rico, who are Spanish speaking with English as 2nd language, they are used to teach the children about the rest of the world. I have more places I'd like to help but never can stretch the supply of stamps on hand far enough.

YOUR HELP IS APPRECIATED FAR MORE THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE. THANK SO MUCH FOR THE STAMPS. We supply the National Veterans Stamp & Coin Club in Tucson, AZ. The Veterans can also use post cards and first day covers.

Bernard Elmore

6120 Transit Road P.O. Box 398

Depew, New York 14043-0398

(716) 684-0182



Dear Sir,

Having your address by Mr. Peloquin, may you show the picture of mine with an American soldier from the 83rd of Military division in your newspaper?

This picture has been taken in the hall of my parents home near the church, at Colleville sur mer (OMAHA BEACH) in June 1944. My mother is also on the picture.

I will be very happy to meet the American soldier or someone from his family in United States.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

Yours sincerely, Mme Bourse

45 rue des Boutiques

14000 Caen France

TOUR WITH GLENN MILLER A BEAT HE REMEMBERS WELL

The Arizona Republic - Feb. 3, 1993



FREDDY GUERRA was the youngest and last inductee in the Glenn Miller Army Air Forces Band during World War II



Now living in Mesa Guerra divides his time between the golf course and playing in and directing the Freddy Guerra Orchestra

By Art Thomason - The Arizona Republic

Army Pvt. Freddy Guerra's Extraordinary musical ear wasn't protected from thundering artillery and crackling gunfire when he put down his M-1 rifle to pick up an alto saxophone.

That was 50 years ago, and Guerra had just completed basic training. He was reporting for duty in an unusual setting as war raged through Europe and the South Pacific.

Seventeen-year-old Guerra was dazzled and frightened as he entered a room of musicians at Yale University.

The band's commanding officer, a stern-looking, bespectacled Army captain, was about to change that.

"Are you going to sit there all week, or are you going to play?" the officer asked.

"I was shaking," Guerra recalled recently as he looked at photographs and other memorabilia in his Mesa home. "I was the youngest and the last inductee to enter that band."

The captain was Glenn Miller, and the musicians formed what musical experts describe as the finest big band to wear armed-forces uniforms: the Glenn Miller Army Air Forces Band.

It was the beginning of an unprecedented war effort a half-century ago.

Big bands brought the sights and sounds of the GIs' cultures to them...and brought them closer to their buddies," said retired Army Col. James J. McDevitt, who works for a foundation assigned by Congress to lead events commemorating World War II.

"These musicians were constantlysharing the danger," said McDevitt, of the Battle of Normandy Foundation.

"Soldiers...admired and respected these people."

Besides Guerra, Miller-band musicians Vince Carbone, James Lynn Allison and Henry Hank Freeman were honored during festivities last month in New York at which plans were unveiled for the Wall of Liberty, a monument to honor American veterans from World War II's European Theater.

The wall will be built in Caen, France, a key objective of American forces when they landed on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

A nationwide registration campaign will be conducted during the next year to register as many as possible of the 5 million European Theater veterans for their names to be inscribed.

The Miller Band performed throughout the war, even though

Glenn Miller died in a plane crash over the English Channel in 1944. Guerra played with the band until his discharge in 1946.

Guerra, 73, hopes to take part in the dedication of the wall next year on the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

Until then, he'll be playing his alto and clarinet and directing his band, the Freddy Guerra Orchestra, during a variety of gigs in the Valley. During the summer, he heads the orchestra at the Balsams Grand Resort Hotel in Dixville Notch, N.H.

Guerra's eyes twinkled as he recalled his experiences with Miller's band.

The journey was launched while Guerra was playing with Stan Kenton's orchestra on the University of Michigan campus in the fall of 1942.

"That's where I received my draft notice," he said.

Guerra wanted to serve his country but didn't want to lay down his horn.

For advice, he called an acquaintance, songwriter Jerry Gray, whose works include *In the Mood* and *String of Pearls*.

"Jerry told me that Glenn Miller was auditioning musicians for an Army band," Guerra recalled.

Three weeks later, Miller called Guerra instructing him to report for a tryout.

Today, Guerra instead reports to the golf course regularly for 18 holes in the morning. Then, it's home to work on new musical scores and to spend time with his wife of 47 years, Ruth.

"I don't think I'll ever stop playing," he said. "It just can't happen."

Rounds Complete Mission Accomplished

Sgt. George R. Hall - 324th F A Bn

Casualties are often heavy in battle. But, if only one man dies in taking a strong point, a pill box or a city -- if that man is a friend, the cost seems unbearably high.

These men were our friends. They died doing their jobs -- and doing them well. Long after the thunder of howitzers has died away and Peace comes to the world again, we shall remember their gallantry -- and their sacrifices.

KILLED IN ACTION

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------|--------------|---------------------|
| Pokela, Meivin W. | S/Sgt | 2 July 1944 | Detroit, Mich. |
| Fuschillo, Richard | Pvt | 9 July 1944 | New Britain, Conn |
| Giannotti, Andrew J. | S/Sgt | 9 July 1944 | Richmond, Va. |
| Staggs, James C. | Pfc | 9 July 1944 | Paragould, Ark |
| Dunn, Daniel J. | Pvt | 6 Aug 1944 | Philadelphia, Pa |
| Whorton, Randale J. | Pvt | 3 Sept 1944 | Moundsville, W. Va. |
| Watts, Joe | Pvt | 21 Oct 1944 | Haddix, Ky |
| Whitehead, Jerom, E. | S/Sgt | 21 Oct 1944 | Denver, Col. |
| Camardi, Frank J. | Pfc | 21 Oct 1944 | Washington, D.C. |
| Leonard Hugh J. | 1st Lt | 23 Nov 1944 | Windsor, Ont. |
| Citrock, Joseph R. | Pvt | 30 Mar. 1945 | Orelando, Pa |

CAMP ATTERBURY, INDIANA

The 324th Field Artillery, a battalion of 155 mm howitzers, became an integral part of the 83rd Infantry Division when the latter was reactivated at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, August 15, 1942.

Its cadre had arrived July 16, 1942, followed four days later by Battalion officers. During this period of formation and the initial phases of training the battalion was under the command of Major Edwin C. Walker. Selectees, scheduled to report August 15th, began to trickle in on October 15th, two months later.

Basic training started in earnest the middle of November and the slow and exceedingly painful transition from civilian to soldier was underway. Camp Atterbury was merely a collection of new buildings standing upon consecutive layers of dust until an

unprecedented amount of rainfall obligingly turned it into a sea of mud. But training slogged on despite the conspiracy of the elements to retard the growth of the embryo cannoneers.

Thanksgiving brought the first grisly experience of spending a night in the field. It was unusually cold and the recent civilians chattered noisily in their tiny tent.

The winter of 1942-1943 was the coldest Indiana had experience in many years and to the green battalion it seemed the coldest they had ever known.

December brought a change of leadership when Lt. Col. William J. Daniel replaced Major Walker as Battalion Commander. Major Owen A. Kirkland became Executive Officer in February and a group of officers and enlisted men were shipped as cadre to the 75th Division located at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri.

There was talk of including the division in the coming Second Army Maneuvers although much of its preliminary training was yet to be completed. When the decision was definitely made to take the green division, two additional weeks were spent in the field in feverish preparations.

On June 19th the 324th left Camp Atterbury for two months of mock warfare in the hills of Tennessee.

MANEUVERS, TENNESSEE

Maneuvers took place in the Cumberland River area bounded on the north by Lebanon and Hartsville, south to Murfreesboro. The battalion was stationed in the vicinity of Springfield and Lebanon, Tennessee. Prior to the maneuvers that started in July, the 83rd held preparatory exercises to sharpen its teeth against the older more experienced divisions. To the uninitiated, maneuvers consisted merely of a confused wandering about in the wilderness saluting command cars, outwitting umpires and searching vainly for food. But unconsciously the artillerymen were learning the lessons of warfare well.

Three division participated - one complete Corps and part of another. One armored and one infantry division was pitted against a reenforced infantry division. Corps artillery took part on both sides.

In all, eight exercises were held, each division having an opportunity to play the attacking and defending forces. Problems involved fighting over all types of terrain, projected river crossings, defense against river crossings and a wide variety of military tactics.

When pieces were laid, an umpire in Fire Direction Center computed where the fire would land, radioed a fire marking detachment which indicated by means of flags where shells were estimated to be falling and a defense umpire then proceeded to assess the casualties inflicted.

Light artillery fired blank cartridges and the medium artillery detonated dynamite charges to provide realism, create combat atmosphere and aid umpires in establishing position and identification of various pieces.

A night crossing over a pontoon bridge was successfully accomplished bringing the battalion in behind the defending forces.

The maneuvers physically were more rigorous than actual combat. No lights were permitted at night and more foxholes were dug in the sandy soil of Tennessee than ever were excavated in the heat of combat.

Supervision was exercised over food and a strict water discipline maintained. The purchase of unauthorized food from civilians was expressly forbidden and a substantial fine levied upon all officers of men found guilty of a violation in this category. Only water allowed to be used had to be derived from approved supplies.

Naturally, in a situation of this nature, there occurred slight irregularities and a few mild and innocent evasions. One watermelon cost an officer the staggering sum of 75.00 and an entire battery developed the G.I.s and milled around the latrines after drinking water from an unauthorized source.

Wood ticks and chiggers cheerfully contributed more than their share to the horrors of the imaginary war, harassing both sides impartially.

The 155s were never roadbound and laid fire whenever and when it was needed, surprising both umpires and enemy. The battalion was commended many times for rapidity of movement and the fluidity with which it surged across fields and difficult terrain to achieve objectives.

Problems were completed during the week and weekends used for returning to assigned areas. Oddly enough, later in Europe, most of the battalion's moves were made on Sunday.

When maneuvers ended in September both battalion and division had performed excellently, displaying aggressiveness, initiative, and unusual combat discipline.

Fifteen day leaves were granted 50% of the organization at the termination of the mock hostilities. As a final conditioning for the strenuous days of motor stables to come, the remainder of the battalion alternately rode and walked the 150 miles to Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky.

CAMP BRECKINRIDGE, KENTUCKY

In contrast to the mud of Indiana and choking dust of Tennessee, Kentucky was a walking soldier's paradise. Camp Breckinridge boasted hard surfaced roads - with mud available for field problems.

Evansville, Indiana replaced Columbus as the pass city and long lines of impatient GIs waited for the bus every Saturday afternoon. Tiny Morganfield bulged at the seams struggling to provide entertainment at the USO and care for the overflow of weekend visitors. In surrounding towns and villages men found new friends, new sweethearts, new favorite hangouts. And the monotonous regimented existence of life in the Army went on.

Training proceeded along lines designed to eliminate the few weaknesses disclosed by maneuvers. Two of the coldest weeks of every month were spent in the field living in pup tents and crowding around battery fires for warmth. Trucks, crowded to the tail gate, sped back to the barracks every evening so that men could attend movies, take showers, or merely stretch out on sagging bed springs in an effort to soak up a little surplus heat before returning to a cold night's sleep in the

great outdoors.

Early in December all batteries were put overstrength by the arrival of a number of officers and men from Fort Bragg, N.C.

Football games between the batteries were discontinued and a battalion basketball team represented the 324th in a decision league. Several clever fighters gave notable performances in the division Boxing Tournament.

Wonderful rumors were afloat in December of 1944 and January 1945. The 83rd was going to California. Musing upon such a delightful possibility carried us cheerfully and happily over the cruelest months of a long cold winter.

In December, Lt. Col. George W. Irvine assumed command of the 324th F.A. when Lt. Col. William J. Daniel was transferred to the 323rd F.A. Bn. Major Norman R. Bottom was assigned to duty as Battalion Executive Officer and Major Owen A. Krikland took over the duties of S-3.

When the California bubble burst, the long grind started anew-calisthenics, motor stables, care and cleaning of equipment and the hundred other garrison duties that men dislike.

Now a new rumor sprang to life and ran like wildfire through camp. The 83rd Division, on the basis of its performance on maneuvers, had been designated for overseas. Schedules speeded up and interest in training brightened perceptibly. Emphasis was placed on night problems and two nights a week were spent overnight in the field with no fires permitted after dark. There were Service Practices, Rsops and a long Motor March in the dead of night. On Infiltration courses men crawled on their stomachs under machine gun fire and barbed wire entanglements. All individual qualification requirements were completed.

Pictures on "Why We Fight" were attended by roster. One short informative film explained the procedure to be followed in boarding the transport. Twice a week on the screen we viewed the elaborate interior of a spacious troopship filled with hundreds of comfortable bunks. An authoritative voice stated over and over, "You will place bags and equipment on your own individual bunk and remain there awaiting further orders." How well we were to remember those words.

The physical training program stiffened and the Obstacle Course exacted a daily toll of casualties. A surprising number of men developed alarming symptoms of illness prior to the start of each 25 mile hike.

February 10, 1944 the organization officially changed from truck to tractor drawn. Picked men attended a Tractor School and upon their return all drivers quickly became proficient at handling the tracked vehicles.

GHQ tests were successfully passed. Men straggled back into camp from furloughs, weak and exhausted.

The transfer of several officers and 52 men on March 7th brought the battalion down to T/O strength. Hectic weeks set in. Excitement and tension mounted. Supply sergeants had little time for rest. There were numerous inspections day and night. Battery property was crated and packed. Duffel bags strung up in the Supply rooms swelled with new clothing and equipment. When summer clothing was turned in, hearts sank. Could we be going to Iceland?

Service Clubs, Guest Houses and surrounding towns filled up with wives, sweethearts and relatives. In the midst of this feverish preparation a billeting party secretly slipped out for an undisclosed destination.

On March 29th came frantic last minute dates - goodbyes - tears.

On the 30th of March the battalion fell out of the barracks for the last time, formed a column of twos and marched silently up the road to board a special train at 1750 hours. As the train

pulled out and men watched the familiar landmarks of Camp Breckinbridge fall back and fade out in the distance, all wondered what the future held in store for the 324th Field Artillery Battalion.

CAMP SHANKS, NEW YORK

Ask men what they remember most about Camp Shanks, New York and there will be many answers. The long march up the hill and quarters in ramshackle barracks that had given the best years of their lives to World War I - our being the last unit to arrive and, with immediate shipment a probability, the disappointment of having no passes made available - the maddening frequency of inspections - the inevitable gas mask drill - all night poker games after our last pay day in the states - the swell food - final opportunities to make allotments, insurance changes and the interesting "8" ball speech. Some will mention the cordon of sentinels around the area where it was simplicity itself to slip out of the area but an officer's presence necessary to get back in after going to chow - the daily Abandon Ship Drill and the individual with the microphone who prefaced all his remarks with, "When you bo'd that transport...."

And, finally, the rigorous physical inspection some said would disqualify one third the battalion, apparently intended to determine by casual medical appraisal whether each man possessed the required number of arms and legs.

April 5th, after standing for one hour with heavy packs in snow covered streets in accordance with some strange regulation, we marched or lurched to the train, made a short run to Weehawkin, New Jersey, and a quick transfer to New York City by ferry. After last minute coffee and doughnuts by the Red Cross, the battalion came face to face with its future home - H.M.S. Orion.

H.M.S. ORION

His Majesty's Ship Orion could scarcely be called a floating palace. Formerly engaged in West Indian Trade before War had elevated her to a position of respectability in the Battle of the Atlantic, in the eyes of a few irreverent individuals she was a grimy tump of questionable ancestry and doubtful vintage. Months later when word came that she had been sent to the bottom, many an artilleryman heaved a grateful sigh of relief at such an ultimate triumph of justice.

Crowding into the limited confines of a narrow room, men glanced vainly about for the bunks the movie had insisted we sit upon while awaiting further orders. There was a bit of confusion at the door as fifty additional men pushed in. That night two hundred and fifty men swung disconsolately in hammocks suspended from the ceiling while the remainder slept under the tables, atop the tables and two deep on the floor.

Next morning as the ship pitched and tossed, arguments arose as to how far we had travelled during the night. A few less hardy and slightly seasick men groped weakly topside for a breath of fresh air and discovered the Orion still tied firmly to the dock.

Shortly thereafter, everyone was sent below and at 0800 hours, April 6th, the Orion slipped its moorings and set out to sea, past the Statue of Liberty, to join the convoy forming off-shore.

Breakfast. Tables were cleared, a few late sleepers swept up off the floor and the morning meal served by disgruntled KP's. There was strange food in our plates that day. After the first horrible experience with English food most men relied solely upon the Ship's Store for daily rations.

Shipboard diversions consisted mainly of movie everyone

saw six times, poker and black jack games, Abandon Ship Drills, and the ship's amazing public address system. Through the loudspeaker a mysterious unidentified voice in the precise clipped speech of the English dispensed such choice tidbits of information as, Garbage! "Garbage may be dumped aft over the starboard rail at 1000 hours.", "Smoking will be permitted on the upper deck", and Bla-a-a-ckout is now in force!"

There were the usual rumors, considerable conjecture, but no official information as to our destination.

There was no enemy action and, after a voyage of eleven days, on April 16th we pulled a long side the Hersey Docks in Liverpool, England.

ENGLAND AND WALES

An additional 24 hours spent aboard seemed the most difficult on the entire trip. That night we staggered ashore in black-out under a crushing load of equipment and duffel bags, wavering a little uncertainly on unaccustomed firm land. A short walk and then up into one of those miniature English trains. The American Red Cross came to the rescue and a debatable point was raised as to which was more welcome - coffee and doughnuts or the reassuring sight of smiling and pretty American girls again.

A brief ride and at Ruabon, Wales, the organization was transferred to trucks that proceeded in disturbing fashion and in great haste up the wrong side of the road. Arriving at Bryn-y-pys, Flintshire, Wales at 0300, April 18th. The men were assigned to pyramidal tents and dropped off to sleep with little effort.

A battalion kitchen was set up and the batteries ate in turns. Considerable trouble was experienced with the water supply that developed the annoying habit of shutting off, when a man was all soaped up in the shower.

Passes, unhappily, were not immediately forthcoming and many mused on the incongruities of War, standing inside the fence, watching Italian PWs, free to roam the country side, wonder over to state curiously at the imprisoned Americans.

In a few days passes were issued to Wrexham, Chester and Overton. We became familiar with the strange English habits, customs and perplexing monetary system, but the utter lack of modern plumbing facilities caused many a Yank to shake his head in puzzled disbelief.

With the WAAFs and ATS girls and Pubs with weak beer, our futures looked brighter. Kids begged for "Cum Chum", and Fish and Chips became a steady part of the GI diet when on pass.

On May 2nd the battalion marched to Camp Aston Park, Shropshire, England, near Oswestry, bivouacking first, in pup tents, later in pyramidal's and shared the fairways of an exclusive golf course with a flock of English sheep.

Passes were frequent to Oswestry and Shrewsbury. Motor and Gun Parks were established along a second and for miles from the battalion area, and the Puns took a beating en-route. Into a regular training schedule were inserted classes in waterproofing of vehicles and howitzers.

Appetites improved to a point where night guards were placed on every kitchen.

May 16th, Corps Exercises were held on the hills around Ystradfelte, Wales, in cold rain, wind and fog. There were Corps Shoots, Service Practices and Calibration of pieces. On May 27th the battalion returned, exhausted and happy indeed, to the paradise of Aston Park.

On June 6th, news of the Invasion electrified the battalion, and it turned to training with renewed vigor and a grimness of

purpose. Everyone knew he would soon be in combat.

Under cover of darkness June 17th, at 0235, the 324th slipped out and headed southward toward the Channel Ports. A long noisy column of howitzers and vehicles thundered over narrow cobblestoned streets, through England's medieval cities and towns. Curbs lined with excited Englishmen that day waving good luck and goodbye.

In the marshalling area at Camp Winterborn, Abbas, Dorchester, where we at 1550, ammunition was issued, life preservers, anti-seasickness pills distributed, equipment shortages frantically made up and a shower available, the last for many months. Our many hours of practice in waterproofing vehicles and howitzers were gladly thrown into discard when we were told that waterproofing would not be needed. Only 24 hours had elapsed before we boarded four LCT's and one LST at Weymouth, England, and pulled out into the harbor to await darkness.

CHANNEL CROSSING

The night of June 18th our boats joined up with the convoy and started across the English Channel in the worst storm in eighty years. Angry seas buffeted and wrenched at the vessels - swept across decks and tore equipment loose from its moorings. Men huddled weak and miserable against the rails for protection against the howling wind that drenched them with cold sticky salt water, so sick they wanted to die. Some LCT's turned back but our entire organization arrived off Omaha Beach at 2200 hours, June 19th. One LCT almost smashed the famous floating dock.

That night we experienced our first enemy air attack when German Bombers flew down to destroy shipping crowded into the harbor. These were exploding bombs, the deafening, ear-splitting noise of tremendous concentrations of ack-ack fire. The sky was brilliant with tracers cutting strange and beautiful crimson patterns in the night. Parachute flares threw a ghastly half light over the weird scene of pitching creaking craft that constantly threatened to break apart and spill the sick men into the sea.

Next morning the storm had subsided and from the coast of France, dark and forbidding against the skyline, came the sound of battle. Silver barrage balloons swayed overhead and out to the very horizon ships of all shapes and sizes rose and fell on the turbulent waters. Tanks lay grotesque and half submerged in the shallow water. The broken-up condition of the floating dock necessitated landing through the surf, and we wished our vehicles had been waterproofed.

Headquarters Battery was the first ashore on the morning of the 20th. Rapidly rising tides drowned numerous motors, and amphibious bull-dozers came to the assistance by pushing these vehicles ashore. Battery A's LCT sank just short of the beach but the hazardous salvaging operation was completed in 48 hours.

The battalion moved up from the beach through battered Trevis and scenes of utter devastation, to an assembly area near Bricqueville, France, to service and clean its salt-water soaked equipment.

NORMANDY

On June 27th the 83rd relieved the 101st Airborne Division and Battalion went into firing position north of Carentan. The first round against the enemy was fired the 27th of June, 1944 at exactly 2114 by Battery "B", working in general support of the division, the howitzers laid harassing and counter battery fire on enemy guns shelling the Carentan bridge. The first

Base Point was a church tower in Sainteny that the Germans were using as an OP.

July 1st, the batteries displaced forward to a position south of Carentan to better support on attack scheduled for 4th of July. This position proved so close to the infantry lines we were constantly subjected to small arms fire in addition to the usual mortar and artillery shells. In this position we suffered the first casualty of the war when one of our L-4's crashed while flying observation.

In Normandy the awful odor of Death hung heavy in the air, bloated cattle killed by the terrific concussion dotted every field, and German and American equipment was strewn recklessly about.

All batteries participated in firing one round at 1200 hours on July 4th, with every gun in the ETO. Howitzers fired almost continuously throughout the day.

Enemy artillery scored a chance hit near a Battery "B" howitzer, killing the Section Chief and two cannoneers, and wounding a third.

As the enemy fell slowly back through the hedgerows, we occupied new positions near Sainteny and Bois Grimot, firing TOTs on batteries picked up by air OPs. Here the battalion witnessed the terrific Allied air assault preceding the crushing St. Lo offensive that drove the German Army in disastrous retreat from Normandy.

On July 28th the enemy withdrew from range and we moved to cover Division's objectives with defensive fire.

There were wide spread rumors that the war would soon be over, and most of us were half way home.

From four positions in Normandy the battalion fired a total of 13,695 rounds. Success of the Allied bridgehead was now assured, and the action dispelled the last threat that the tiny beach head might be thrown back into the sea. The back of enemy resistance in the hedgerow country had been broken.

On July 29th, in a rest area at Hauteville, Le Guichard, France, vehicles and equipment were checked and cleaned. A drill schedule was inaugurated and, after hours, a few stray chickens were liberated.

All members of the battalion were authorized to wear a Bronze service star for the Normandy campaign.

In Normandy the battalion had taken quickly to the grim ways of combat - learned the bitterness of personal loss - realized the sacrifices necessary for ultimate victory. It had accumulated battle wisdom, developed courage and patience and daring. From the crucible of combat the 24th emerged a smooth and cohesive unit - a powerful and effective fighting force destined to play a major role in the conquest of Germany.

(Rounds Complete - Mission Accomplished continued next issue with Northern France.)

The Ardennes Battle

(Winter of '44 - '45)

The Western front was quiet and soldiers were at rest. They took time out from battle having done their very best. The tired and the wounded, now at recreation time. As replacement troops arrived, to fill the battered line.

The skies lit up one early morn, from the blasts of German guns. The Panzer Troops were breaking through, on another Blitzkrieg run. It was operation CHRISTROSE, Hitler's hidden secret pawn. the sixteenth of December, a cold DECEMBER DAWN.

The outposts were alerted on the thin defended front, Brave soldiers stood their ground but soon were over-run. It was the beginnings of a battle, hereto not divulged. It was "A TIME FOR TRUMPETS"-THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE.

Peiper and his KAMPFGRUPPEN led the foe's attack. The Tiger tanks and Grenadiers drove the Allies back.

Model and Manteuffel let the Wehrmacht on a ruse,
It was Rundstedt's Last offensive to reach the river Meuse.

Now Eisenhower's Lieutenants rushed to halt the German flow
There was Middleton and Hodges and the Corps of Len Gerow.
There were armored tanks with infantry fighting by their side
And bridges blown by Engineers to stem the rushing tide.

The noise of battle sounded throughout the dark ARDENNES
The purrs of churning motors and the tramp of marching men.
Armor clashed with armor on the roads to gain the towns
The GI's met the Grenadiers to hold the frozen ground.

Winter days were harsh that year, with temperatures so low
The bitter cold that claimed the troops became a soldier's woe.
Hip-deep snow and ice slick roads proved the Army's bane
But none-the-less with Stamina the GI staked his fame.

The battle raged from town to town, to Stavelot and St. Vith,
The armored columns turned their tanks to face the Nazi myth.

This was the German "waterloo" as Peiper turned about
His Kampingruppe columns shattered and Panzer tanks en route.

On Christmas Day in Bastogne, McAuliffe's troops prevailed,
The "Battered Bastards" held the town while help was on the trail.
Armor-men and Infantry came to join the bloody fray
The hurrying Fourth Armored arrived to save the day.

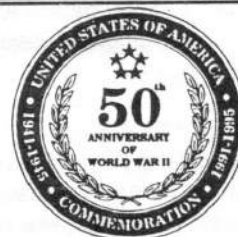
The clouds above cleared that day, our planes were in the skies
Supplies and ammunition dropped - A Christmas Gift surprise.
Now Patton's Best came from the West to end the German thrust
The BULGE was closed by Stalwart men who gave their very best.

A liberated people, now toast those Battling men
Who paid the price for Freedom in the woods of the ARDENNES.
The Battle won by Stamina of youth who stood so tall
Winston Churchill said it, "The Greatest of them all."

John E. McAuliffe
87 INF 347 INF M



ATTEN-SHUN 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION VETERANS!



Time takes its toll on many things...our waistlines, our hairlines, our eyesight...not to mention the ability to quickly follow orders! The initial reveille for our 1994 Return to Europe was sounded in February of 1992. Many of our ranks have responded with 83rd Division enthusiasm and speed, and are registered to participate in exciting events scheduled just for the "Thunderbolt" Division next fall. In fact, we are already filling our second coachload! But when roll-call was taken recently, many 83ID names were still missing from the roster. Is yours among them?

Don't take the chance of being called up for K-P or guard duty for failure to respond! Snap to attention and reserve your place in this special trip through the past. Relive all the great moments we had with "One Hot Infantry Outfit," all the havoc we wrecked along the way, and share with old buddies nearly half a century of living in the places where it all began. We can guarantee this will be one 83rd Division assault that will be greeted with open arms!

Get ready to Shape Up and Ship Out! Call our experienced tour operator, Galaxy Tours, toll-free, at 1-800-523-7287 to request a complete brochure and insure your participation as we relive our days in Brussels, Eupen, Düren, Spa, Clervaux, Luxembourg, Grevenmacher, St. Malo, Carteret, Sainteny, Omaha & Utah Beaches, Paris and more! Look back to our days of youthful active duty and look forward to our days of thoughtful reminiscing. The 83rd Division just gets better with time! But time does march on, and you don't want to be left waving goodbye at the docks! Dust off your uniform, your memories and your Thunderbolt discipline! **ATTEN-SHUN - REGISTER TODAY!**

Skeleton 83ID 1994 Itinerary

Saturday, May 28 - USA/Aloft.
Sunday, May 29 - BRUSSELS.
Monday, May 30 - BRUSSELS/SPA. (Eupen, Düren, Monschau, Hürtgen Forest, Malmedy)
Tuesday, May 31 - SPA/LUXEMBOURG. (Clervaux, Diekirch)
Wednesday, June 1 - LUXEMBOURG. (Remich, Remerschen, Grevenmacher)
Thursday, June 2 - LUXEMBOURG/REIMS. (World War I sites, Verdun, Reims)
Friday, June 3 - REIMS/ST. MALO. (Chartres, LeMans)
Saturday, June 4 - ST. MALO/CARTERET.
Sunday, June 5 - CARTERET. (Sainteny, Omaha Beach)
Monday, June 6 - CARTERET.

50th Anniversary of D-Day!

Tuesday, June 7 - CARTERET/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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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.*