



THUNDERBOLT

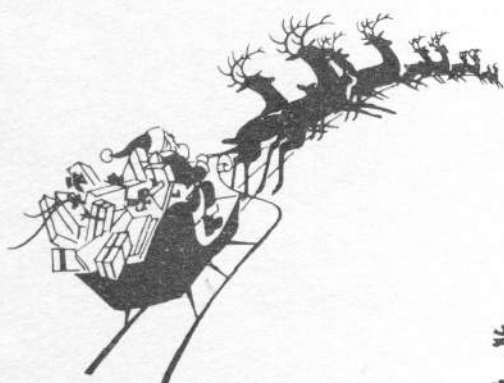
83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

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Merry Christmas



Pines Hotel -- South Fallsburgh, NY.

September 7 - 11, 1994

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Charles Schmidt 1988
Edward Reuss 1989
Charles J. Lussier 1990
Edgar H. Haynes 1991
Ned Smith 1992
* Denotes Deceased



The President's Corner

THANK YOU....THANK YOU.....THANK YOU...

For the confidence you showed in me to be the next President of the 83rd Infantry Division Association. I always stuck my big nose in any business of the organization and look where I find myself.

First I want to congratulate Ned Smith and Ralph Gunderson for the tremendous success of the Florida Reunion. Overcoming tremendous obstacles caused by occurrences beyond their control, they managed to make things go smoothly and keep everybody happy. Even the good lord helped by giving us superb weather for the occasion.

During the year 1993 before I even dreamed of my election, the men of the Boston Chapter, headed by the most experienced reunion experts in the 83rd, Pat DiAmmerino, my friend Bernie Cove and Bruce Seigel (well known to reunion goers) have drawn up an ideal plan for the celebration of our 48th reunion. I know the Board of Directors will give swift and final approval to our plans at the next Board meeting. By now most of you have read the flyer passed out to you at the Florida meeting. I particularly like and applaud the plans for the New York Trip and the Ellis Island Memorial.

It has been said that I am obsessed with getting more officers of the 83rd to take part in our reunions. I am going to make an effort to honor the officers in some way next September. So all you men of officer's rank within reading distance of this report, please make every effort to get to the 48th Reunion which is the 50th anniversary of the 83rd Divisions entry into combat. Get your men to once more see the men who led them successfully into combat. One of my greatest thrills was to introduce two of my Officers from "B" Battery, Lt. Szczech and Lt. Long, along with my radio man buddy Sgt. Heinmiller to the assemblage at the reunion in Florida. So come one, come all you Officers. Its your duty.

So at your next meeting after your moment of silence, turn to the left and turn to the right, look at one another, shake hands and or hug one another. God grant that we will be able to do this at our next reunion at the Pines.

Louis R. Sandini



BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.....

The 47th annual reunion at Daytona Beach is now past. I hope everyone had a safe trip home from this great reunion. Although they had problems with a fire at the Howard Johnson Hotel, Ned Smith and the Florida Chapter put on a very fine reunion. Everyone who attended seemed to have a great time especially the Hawaiian Luau and the Country Western night. Ed Reuss, Sal Scicolone and myself went to visit Sam Klippa about a week ago at the Aspinwall Veterans Hospital. There will be a photo of Sam in the next Thunderbolt.

I hope you are all starting to make plans for the reunion at the Pines in 1994. It looks like another great reunion. A big thank you to retiring chairman Lou Nolan for a job well done. I wish all of the Association members, their wives and friends the best of health and a good holiday season. Many thanks to Ned Smith and the Florida chapter for a great reunion.

Until next time.

Good Luck
Sincerely, your buddy
Board Chairman
Gene Costanzo

REUNION CHAIRMAN CORNER.....

We would like to thank the Florida Chapter for a job well done. It was a great time.

The Boston Chapter has been working on the upcoming reunion, to be held at the Pines in New York and our ladies auxiliary has a lot of surprises the making.

Make your reservations early. It's going to be a sell-out.

Thank You
Pat DiGiammerino
323rd FA.

PAST REUNION CHAIRMAN.....

Dear Bob:

I forgot to send the enclosed when I wrote to you a few days ago. I was going to read this at our reunion when I would have given my thank you speech. Geese and friends have a lot in common, right?

Kate is coming along pretty good and I can notice improvement every day. She sends her greeting to both you and to Pearl.

Many thanks Bob.

In Haste, with regards,

Lou Nolan.

ON GEESE AND FRIENDS

When you see geese flying in a "V" formation, you might be interested in knowing what facts scientists have discovered about why they fly that way.

1. (Fact) As each bird flaps its wings it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds at least 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own. (Truth) People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the trust of one another.
2. (Fact) Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front. (Truth) There is strength and power and safety in numbers when traveling in the same direction with whom we share a common goal.
3. (Fact) When the lead goose gets tired, he rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point. (Truth) It pays to take turns doing hard jobs.
4. (Fact) The geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. (Truth) We all need to be remembered with active support and praise.
5. (Fact) When a goose gets sick or is wounded and falls out, two geese fall out of formation and follow him down to help and protect him. They stay with him until the crisis resolves, and then they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with their group. (Truth) We must stand by each other in times of need.

We are fortunate that there are more geese in life than turkeys. Let's remember to uphold each other in friendship and to give each other a big "honk" more often!

---Author Unknown

From the Office



Once again we are saying "Another year is over".

Pearl and I both are happy to be able to say that to you. I started feeling bad in the spring and I kept saying that I needed to get to the doctor but kept putting it off. Finally in June I went and they took tests and then in June they decided I should go to Cincinnati and have another angiogram taken. Well, the upshot of it was that I did not even get to come back home. The doctor came out and told Pearl that he could not let her bring me home. They

scheduled surgery for the next morning at 7:00 A.M. Our son Ed came from work and brought Pearl back home and they were there the next morning by six o'clock. Thank goodness everything went well. I came home and was home three weeks and had a gall bladder attack. Again Pearl and Ed took me to the hospital. Had to have surgery again to remove a gangrenous gall bladder. Oh! ME!. I was really set back that time. Pearl and the printers got the summer issue of the Thunderbolt out.

We then had to get ready for the reunion. We made that with the help of Francis Hostettler. Francis came down from Defiance, Ohio and drove the van for us. We left on Sunday morning and went to Jackson, Ohio and picked up Earl and Bonnie Hoover.

We left there and went to Raleigh, North Carolina and stayed all night with Sam Badgett. Left there Monday morning and arrived in Daytona Beach, that night. What a great bunch of people. They watched over me and never left me do a thing. When anything had to be lifted or moved they were right there to do it. The women did the registration and anything that had to be lifted or moved there was a great bunch of friends to do it. I just can't say enough for all of you. Without all your help I would have missed this reunion.

I am doing fine now. Pearl and I are working hard trying to get caught up with all the work there is to do. Please be patient with us. We are getting there slowly. It is time now for the Thunderbolt and we have quite a bit of material already over to the printer and they are doing that. It will be late but just bear with me. When we got home they helped me get the Roster out. It was sure our lucky day when we got them. They are absolutely great.

The Board voted that I should get a new computer. This one has started losing names. We will have to check our card file. If you have not received your roster as yet please let us know.

You know December is the month we usually take off for our vacation but we won't be able to this year. It will keep us busy trying to get caught up. All of you have a very Happy Holiday. We will be thinking of all of you.

Bob

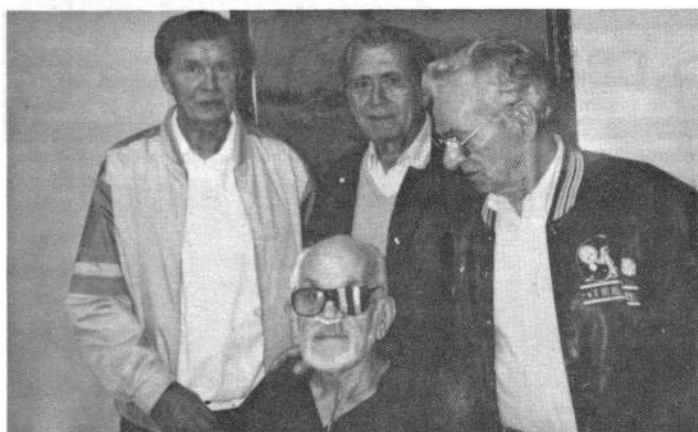
P.S. Our Chaplain Frank M. Hornack has been very ill with a viral infection and will soon be dismissed from the hospital. He would enjoy having some cards of encouragement. His address is:

Rt. D. 2 Box 370 F
Latrobe, PA 15650

Sgt. Geroge R. Hall 324th FA

Author of Rounds Complete, Mission Accomplished.

Would you please contact Louis Volpi, 410 Merion Road, Merion PA. 19066 or give him a call (215) 664-5791



Edward Reuss, Sal, Gene Costanzo, Sam Kilppa

Dear Bob:

When we visited Sam he had an eye patch to enable him to see better (double vision). He is still in the old hospital. They are going to open the new one in a couple of months.

He and Fran celebrated their 50th on Sept. 21.
His address is Veterans Affairs Medical Center.
Aspinwall Division
Delafield Rd.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15215

Enclosed is a picture we took last week, perhaps you can put in the Thunderbolt.

Thanks,
Ed Reuss

Chaplin's Report



Carl Orner	K Co. 331st
Frank Scott	G Co. 330th
Joseph S. Snyder	H Co. 331st Inf.
Clair Thornhill	MC 331st Inf.
Merrill White	3rd Bn. Hq. 329th
Clarence Zellner	C Co. 329th
Rex Wood	Mc Co. 330th
Charles Hopta	A Co. 331st
Walter Meczka	F Co. 330th
Joseph Lichaz	308th Eng.
Joseph F. Stefancin	A Co. 329th
Aubrey Wilcox	783rd Ord.
Ralph Helenthal	783rd Ord.
Clyde Sutton	783rd Ord.
William Lucas	783rd Ord.
Ernie Jim Christian	783rd Ord.
Fred Tucker	D Co. 331st Inf.
William Owen	C Co. 331st Inf.
Bernard A. Thome	A Co. 329th Inf.
Charles Adams	A Co. 308th Eng.
Richard M. Hinton	H Co. 331st Inf.
Edgar J. Smith	K Co. 331st Inf.

Joseph A. Krepp	C Co. 308th Eng.
George Porter	Hq. 323rd Fa.
John W. Samsa	908th Fa.
Herb Davies	A Co. 308th Eng.
Manuel Neucom	H Co. 330th Inf.
William Swift Arrants	A Co. 330th Inf.
Donald B. Ernier	HQ Co.
Thomas Rybarczyk	F Co. 329th Inf
Richard H. Meyer	A Co. 308th Eng.
Orlando Cavalcante	M Co. 329th Inf.
Herman De Haven	F Co. 331st Inf.
Ralph B. Johnson	B Co. 330th Inf.
George A. Polites	323rd FA
Joseph A. Kuzma	G Co. 331st Inf.
Lt. Edward F. Dolan	3rd Bn. Hq. 329th Inf.
Robert N. Simmons	Anti Tank Co. 329th Inf.
William Irwin	C Btry 323rd FA
Lewis E. Garney	329th
Rex Owen Wood	324th
James Harris	83rd Band
John A McDonnell	329 Hq.
Clarence Bowers	329th Hq.
Danny Newell	329th Hq.
Nohel Johnston	329th Hq.
Carl Gano	
George Kutska	H Co. 329th

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

I enjoyed, as usual, our Reunion and seeing you all again -- even with our aches and pains -- our memories are still as strong as is our comradeship.

Enclosed are the last of Col. "Wild Bill White's" war pictures, who is still missed.

They are not captioned this trip, but you were there too --- use your own imagination.

Many of you stopped at Charles Petterson's display of Nick Firfires (308 Engineers Bn.) art.

Nick and I were friends when we were both at Div. Hq. I was sorry to hear of his death. He was a great artist with a sense of humor. (we needed it)

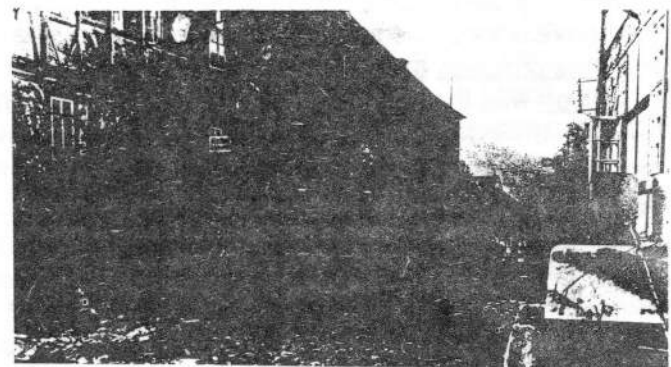
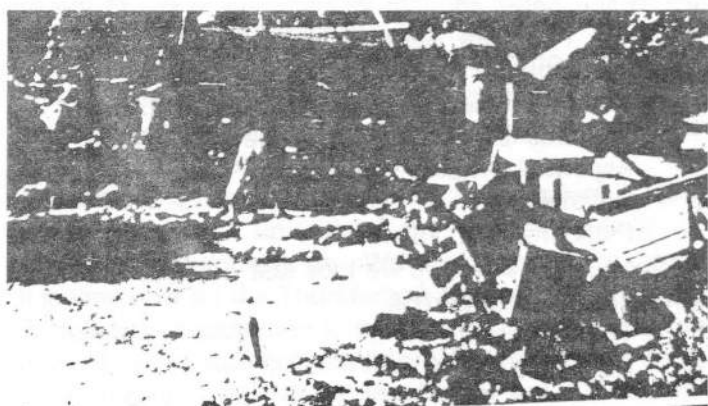
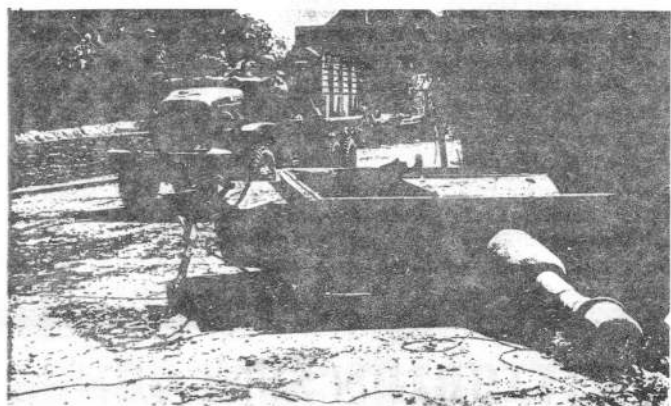
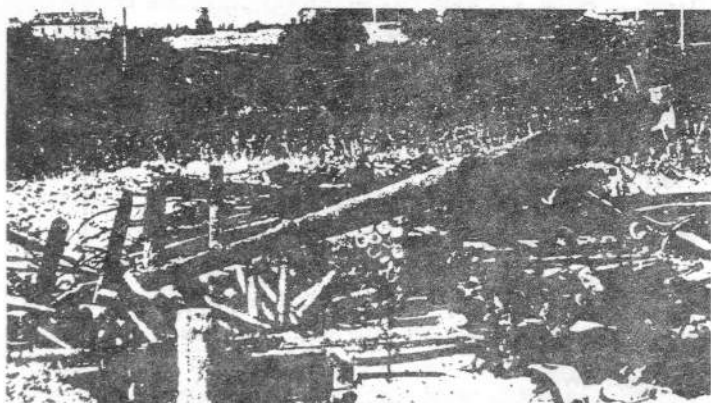
I have enclosed some and also the reverse side with the war's progress and dates.

Gilbert was the only humor we had -- we needed him.

By the way, did any "H" Co. 329th know Edward Buckley before he was transferred to the Recon Troop and K.I.A. at Barby?

Stay Well and Happy
'We Were The Best'
Wm Kent O'Connell
Historian/Archivist - 83rd M.P.

HISTORIAN'S CORNER



He always helps him with that sort of thing! Who wouldn't!

FRANCE:

The assault on the City of Aachen has been resumed following the expiring of the American ultimatum. The shelling and bombing of the city went on today. A Berlin correspondent said today that the Americans are using masses of bombers, artillery, tanks and flamethrowers at Aachen. Last night 200 big American guns lobbed shells into the doomed city. Earlier in the day more than 300 American dive bombers had dive bombed and strafed the Germans holding out in Aachen. The bombing and shelling caused huge fires to break out and the flames raged throughout the night. American air crews could see German troops and vehicles trying to get away. The Luftwaffe made no attempt to defend the city last night. An attempt by Germans outside to break through to the Nazis holding out in Aachen was smashed by artillery and planes. American patrols entered part of the city last night. American correspondents say that although Aachen has suffered a terrible pounding already, the full scale attack by planes and artillery has not yet begun.

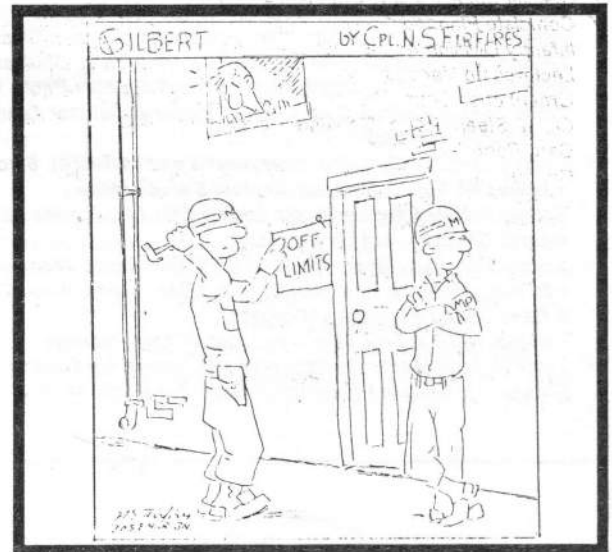
The Germans who had established a bridgehead across the Lek or Dutch Rhine River. To the West of Arnhem have withdrawn and now British Second Army troops hold the whole of the south bank of the river for 12 miles West of Arnhem. The Canadian and United Kingdom bridgeheads north and south of the Scheldt pocket have been strengthened despite the fact that the Germans have thrown more reinforcements in the battle. Yesterday, RAF Lancasters breached the already battered sea wall surrounding Walcheren Island at yet another place. RAF planes returned to bomb Walcheren again today. The Germans left on this island are in a very bad way for the causeway leading to the mainland has been cut by Canadian troops. Most of the island is now under water due to RAF attacks on the great sea wall.

General Patton's Third Army troops have gained more ground to the north of Metz and violent street fighting was reported in the little town of Maizieres.

the small town of Schmidt about 15 miles southeast of Aachen. Today the Yanks are attacking towards the town once more. General Hodge's troops have made more gains in the Hutgen forest.

RAF bomber command had more than 1000 bombers over western Germany during the night. Their chief target was the town of Bochum. Hanover was also bombed during the night by the RAF. In daylight yesterday, RAF Lancasters made an attack on the town of Solingen in Germany. More than 1100 escorted American heavy bombers yesterday went for oil and rail targets in western Germany. American losses were 8 Bombers and 6 fighters.

British fighters and fighter bombers ranged over Holland and western Germany during the day yesterday shooting up and bombing German guns and transport. RAF tactical Mosquitos last night roamed up and down the Ruhr Valley attacking German transport.



FRANCE:

General Patton's Third Army forces have battered their way forward to a point 17 miles east of the Moselle River to the northeast of Nancy. The Yanks are steadily pushing forward despite rain, snow and swollen rivers. The communication center of Chateau Salins to the northeast of Nancy has fallen and at one point above Metz, Third Army troops were last reported 8 miles from the German border. German resistance east of Nancy is reported to be light. The Americans beat off one small German counterattack north of Metz this morning. American armor has been thrown into the battle and Sherman tanks were well across the flooded Seille River yesterday. Yesterday, about 2000 planes including 1300 heavies plastered targets ahead of the advance mainly around Metz and Saarbrücken. Fourteen (14) bombers and 19 fighters are missing from these operations. This new advance has already out flanked Metz from the south.

American First Army troops have made more local gains to the southeast of Aachen. Heavy fighting continues in the Hutgen forest.

In the southwest Netherlands, all enemy resistance south of the Maas River has ended. Heavy rain and mud have made operations difficult along the Maas. All the Germans on the Scheidt Estuary Island of Walcheren have either been killed or captured.

More than 750 heavy American bombers escorted by 600 fighters today attacked airfields and transport centers in the areas of Cologne and Frankfurt. Last night RAF Mosquitos and Night Intruder fighters went for targets in western Germany.

RUSSIA:

The new Russian drive across the upper Tisza River has already gained more than 12 miles. The Russians are now bringing up the right wing of their armies in Hungary for the assault on Budapest and are rapidly closing in on the Hungarian capital from the east and north-east. The former chief of staff of the Hungarian armies has called on Hungarian troops to join him behind the Russian lines. Bad weather is slowing down operations from Latvia to Budapest.



I saw ya look at dat girl - is dat yer basic weabon - whats yer name?

FRANCE:

United Kingdom and Canadian troops are rapidly clearing up Walcheren Island in the Scheldt Estuary. British troops that liberated flushing are striking north from that town. Scottish troops that landed on the western coast of the island have driven inland to link up with Canadian troops who battled down the south Beveland-Walcheren causeway.

British Second Army troops in a new attack aimed at breaking through to the Maas River gained two and a half miles yesterday and extended their two bridgeheads over the last water barrier before the Maas. Canadian troops have cleared the Germans from the town of Steenherger which covers the bridge's of the lower Rhine. American troops have regained more of the ground lost to the Germans in recent counterattacks near Venlo at the eastern flank of the Nijmegen-Salient. In Germany, American troops yesterday were forced to yield

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[] MC [] Visa CC# _____
Exp. Date _____ # of People _____
Name (s) to appear on nametags _____
Name of Unit Served With: _____

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**Roast Old Falls Quartered Capon of Chicken, Cressioniere
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George Peach Cobbler Clover Honey Cake
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Cafe Noir Decaf Ceylon Tea

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75th Infantry Division Association	225th AAA
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77th Division Association	Army Division Association
86th Infantry Division Association	WV's State Convention of NJ
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36th Field Artillery	Organizations. VFW's, etc. from
783rd Base Depot	around the country.



A Typical Days Activities at the Pines Resort Hotel "The Fun Never Stops"

- 7:30 AM Good Morning!! Complimentary Coffee served in Main Lobby
Newspapers available at Service Desk
- 8:00 AM Breakfast is served - Main Dining Room
- 8:00 AM Golf Course Opens - Tom Duplessis, Pro - Carts, Lessons,
Snack Bar - FREE Putting Green
- 9:00 AM Activities Desk Opens
Sign up for Nite at the Races - Monticello Raceway
Mr. Pines Beautiful Legs Contest
Apollo Mall Shopping Trip - Activity Desk
- 9:30 AM Detective Quiz with Johnny for Prizes - Main Lobby
Art on Aluminum Foil with Sue & Preston - South Lobby
Hairstyling Demo with Mr. Jay - Unisex Salon - Main Lobby
- 10:00 AM Tennis Center Opens - Pravin Singh, Pro - Rentals/Lessons
Indoor and Outdoor Pools Open - Werner, Head Lifeguard
Health Clubs Open - Sauna, Steam, Massages, Exercise
Equipment. Call for appt.
Cosmetic Demo with Serafina - South Lobby
Exercise Class - Slim Down with Jackie - Ascot Hall
Ping Pong Ball in the Ice Bucket Contest - Lower Promenade
Helpful Hints at Home with Eve Carter - Main Lobby
- 10:30 AM Tee Shirt/Costume Contest
Three Dimensional Art with Judy - Lower Promenade
- 11:00 AM Rughooking & Needlepoint with Rita - South Lobby
Bocci Tournament ala Al Capone - Side Lawn
Aerobics with Werner - Indoor Pool
- 11:30 AM The Catskills Famous Simon Says Show -
Starring T.V. Personality Lou Goldstein
Shuffleboard Tournament - Game Room
The Flapper is Back for More Line Dancing - Ascot Hall
- 12:00 PM A Look into the Future - Tarot Card Reading with Don -
South Lobby
- 12:15 PM Sing-A-Long before Lunch
- 12:30 PM Lunch is served - Main Dining Room
- 1:45 PM Pines Famous Greenhouse Tour
- 2:15 PM Mr. Pines Beautiful Leg Contest with Eve Carter -
Main Lobby
Handwriting & Doodling Analysis - Lower Promenade
- 2:30 PM Ping Pong Tournament - Game Room
Golf Clinic with Tom Duplessis - First Tee
- 3:00 PM Trivia for Prizes - Main Lobby
- 4:00 PM Bingo for Bucks - Main Lobby
- 4:30 PM Mini Golf Tournament - Indoor Pool
- 5:00 PM Happy Hour - Reduced Prices - Lobby Bar
- 5:30 PM Gala Complimentary Cocktail Party - Main Lobby
- 6:30 PM Surprise Theme Dinner - Main Dining Room
- 7:30 PM Buses Leave for Monticello Raceway - Front of Hotel
- 7:45 PM Play Card Sharks - Wheel of Fortune, Family Group Feud
- 8:15 PM Sing-A-Long with Shirley - Main Lobby
- 8:30 PM Music & Dancing with The Don Moore Quartet
and Billy Alfred Orch - Wedgewood Room
- 9:15 PM Showtime: Starring: The Comedy of Jay Jason and
The Dynamic Voice of the Winged Victory Singers
(Different Two Act Shows Each Night)
- Music and Dancing Continues after the Show in
our Wedgewood Room to our 2 Great Bands

83rd Infantry Division Association

RATES & ACCOMMODATIONS Per Person, Double Occupancy

September 7 - 11, 1994

5 Days/4 Nights

Wednesday - Sunday

	<u>Double</u>	<u>Single</u>
Super Deluxe rooms	\$460.00	n/a
Deluxe rooms.....	\$415.00	n/a
Standard rooms	\$364.00	\$479.00

September 8 - 11, 1994

4 Days/3 Nights

Thursday - Sunday

	<u>Double</u>	<u>Single</u>
Super Deluxe rooms	\$365.00	n/a
Deluxe rooms.....	\$330.00	n/a
Standard rooms	\$289.00	\$399.00

The above rate are per person, per stay, double occupancy (2 persons in room), based on a three night minimum stay from Thursday - Sunday.

The above rates include three meals per day and all other features in your program outlined in this brochure designed exclusively for the 83rd Infantry Division Association.

Rates also include gratuities for waiters, busboys, for all dining room service, as well as daily chambermaid service. Please note, bellmen & bartenders are not included.

Rates are subject to NYS and Local Taxes, currently 8%, on the net rate after gratuities are deducted.

Early arrivals and late departures are available at a pro-rated daily rate less \$10 per person, per day.

INCLUDED IN PACKAGE - Friday, September 9, 1994

- ★ Memorial Service and Cruise down the Hudson River to New York City.
- ★ Deluxe Round Trip Motorcoach Transportation.
- ★ Cruise Around New York City Harbor
- ★ Gala Luncheon Aboard Cruise.
- ★ Memorial Service on Ellis Island.
- ★ Tour of Ellis Island and New York Harbor.
- ★ A Great Day for One and All!



CHAPTERS.....

Pittsburgh Chapter

The Pittsburgh Chapter was well represented at the past reunion at Daytona Beach. But one of our continuous reunion attendees was not there. I speak of Charles Hopta who died the Friday before the start of the reunion.

Chuck was one of our most vocal members at chapter meetings. He introduced a number of important issues.

Other deaths and hospitalization news of the Pittsburgh Chapter include: George Kutska, a former member of the chapter who died on May 25 in Jefferson Hills Manor, Jefferson Boro, Pa. He served with H Co., 329th and received two purple hearts. George Komlos brother, Emil died on May 6 after a lengthy illness. Sam Klippa is in Oakland VA Hospital, Pittsburgh with internal bleeding. Sal Scicolone, Ed Reuss and Gene Costanzo visited him in September. Steve Blasko is in the Kendrik Nursing Home, Donora, Pa. Ralph Baron spent eleven days in hospital prior to the reunion. John Gallo, our past treasurer was also hospitalized recently. Our present treasurer, Bill Jacobs was operated for appendicitis on September 26. Larry Leonardi spent three days in the hospital in Florida following the reunion with congestive heart failure. He drove home after his release. Joe Danylo wife, Louise died on Thursday, October 21.

OTHER NEWS -- Smokey Alicandri was returning home from Canada in September and traveling through Fredonia, New York, William Hopf, 331st Hqs. noticed Smokey's 83rd bumper sign and stopped him for a chat. \$50 was donated to the Marine Corps Toys-for-Tots campaign of which Diann Klippa is the Pittsburgh area chairperson. \$100 was donated to KDKA's Thanksgiving Turkey fund. Gene Costanzo and his lady friend Flo Bogan, Don and Joan Bower spent the 4th of July weekend in Erie where they toured and took in the sights from English sail boats. The following week he attended the Cleveland and Warren Chapter meetings. Then went to Warren, Ohio for a few days where he attended the funeral of Leroy "Boau" Titus. They were both in G Co. 331st. Gene, along with Sal Scicolone and Ed Reuss attended the Bakers Convention of which Sal is a member. This was in Wildwood New Jersey. They also spent a few days in Atlantic City with their ladies.

The chapter Christmas Party will be held Friday, December 10 at the Holiday Inn, Rt. 28N, Blaw Knox, Pa. with a cocktail hour beginning at 6 p.m. Of course, Gene Costanzo is the chairman. To wit I submit this poem penned by our chapter poet Jim McCulla.

A Poem to a Cool Evening

If during the Fall you have what not to do,
Just wait for the Winter, and I am telling you,
You'll wish for a party, an evening with friends,
Then join the 83rd, we are the sweetened end.

The End

The Greater Pittsburgh Chapter 1994 elected and appointed officers: president, Michael Rudy; vice-president, Charles Caven; treasurer, William Mattes; secretary, James J. McCulla; sergeant-at-arms, Andrew Churpak; publications, Francis Beerhalter; historian, Lawrence Leonardi; trustees, Joseph Danylo, Francis Beerhalter, William DeMarino; chaplain, Matthew Pintar; auditor, Joseph Danylo; sick committee, chairman, Charles Caven; vice-chairman, Edward Wlash; member, James J. McCulla. Meetings are conducted the first Sunday of the month at the Brentwood VFW Post 1810 at 2 p.m. New members are always welcome.

This photo was taken following the memorial services at the past reunion.



Front row: Jules Desgain and Gene Costanzo; back row: unknown, Sal Scicolone, Ed Reuss.

H CO. 329TH NOTES

I wish to thank Don Rickert for informing me of the death of Carl Gano on October 9. He had been ill for some time and had been in a coma when he died. He last attended the reunion in Pittsburgh several years ago. He and I were wounded on December 16, 1944 in Luxembourg. He was a very fine soldier. Don also sent me a copy of a book published by the deceased company commander Frank C. Carmichael entitled, *Two Memoirs: The Battle of Normandy and The Battle of McMinn County*. The latter part had to do with his political activities after his discharge.

"Fran" Beerhalter

Dixie Chapter

I'm very excited about the 47th reunion, planning to be there, meeting old friends, making new ones, remembering those who gave their all in our memorial service. Its so close I can almost feel the common bond that binds us together getting stronger day by day.

Leaving home early so we could visit Mary and Felix Livingston in S. C. What a visit we had! Helping in the garden, digging sweet potatoes, picking okra and peas, frying fish, and a dozen other enjoyable activities. O.L. Cook joined us for a fish fry with hush puppies. All of Mary's specialties, cakes, pies and three sit down meals a day played havoc with the waist line.

We picked grapes, made wine. Now I'll have to visit and test the finished product. What Fun!!

Finally we are at Daytona Beach. The early birds have things under control in spite of some problems. Joe and Ruth Stek in charge ofare doing great. Everything is in style, good food, great show, excellent company and girls girls girls. Even fire eaters and dancers imported from wherever.

Dixie is well represented. By Saturday we had 79 present from 14 states but regret that some had to cancel due to sickness.

We missed many who won't be with us anymore. Sure makes us realize how old we are getting!.

The reunion committees and Florida Chapter deserve all our thanks for the great effort they put forth and the "Cool" they displayed under very difficult conditions. Thank you one and all.

Hospitality hours have never been better than this time around. Business meetings were well conducted. Even the bus trips to the evening festivities were fun. Music and shows were out of this world with a different theme each night.

As usual Capt. Mac and the Memorial Committee came up with a most meaningful tribute to our fallen comrades. Each one taking part deserves a hearty "Thank You". I believe the 3rd Brigade under Commander George Waple looked the best. I'm probably prejudiced though Everyone looked just fine.

Our banquet went off well in spite of some small hitches. I especially enjoyed the company of those folk at table 22. See you next year!!

The good byes get tougher each year but we made it through them and we're on our way home by mid morning Sunday. Happy that some were able to stay longer.

Expect to see many of you in Gatlinburg Dec. 3-4-5, at the Riverside. Plan on the pines next Sept. Lets have another great time together See You!

A special thanks to the Benlows, O.L. Cook, Meadors Minick for doing a fine job of reporting in my absence at the spring and summer meetings.

Welcome to all the "First Timers" We hope to get to see and know you better in the years ahead.



New Colors presented by Pat DeGamerino of Boston Chapter. Him & by E. Massie of Dixie Chapter.



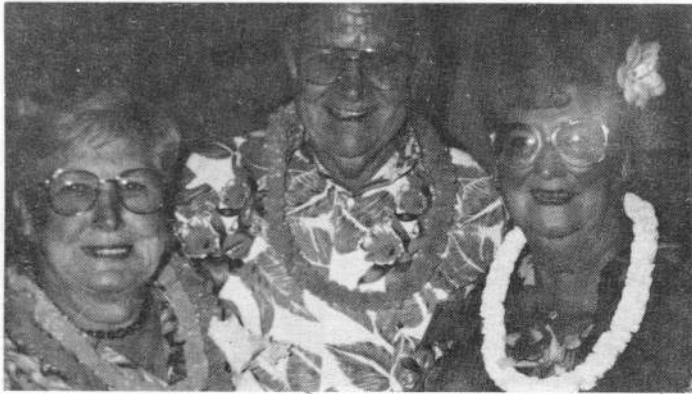
Hospitality Hour for Btry A 322. Felix Livingston, Buford Funk, Kathryn Massie, E. Massie, B. Benlow, Norma Sechrest, Joe Sechrest, Mary Livingston and Elvira Funk.



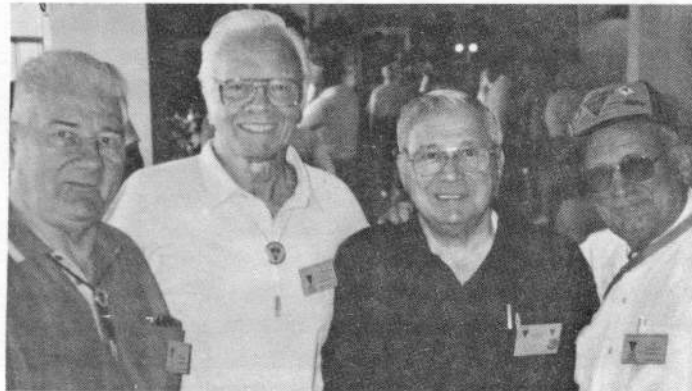
Four 83rds at Luau. Felix & Mary Livingston, Kathryn & E. Massie.



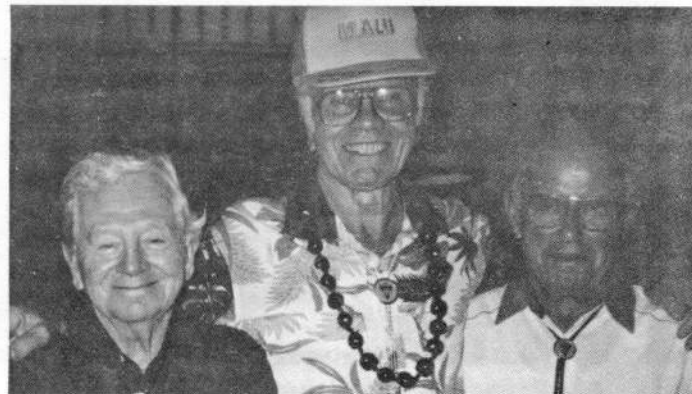
Outgoing President - Ned Smith and Incoming Lou Sandini



June Watkins has all he can handle at Luau with Elain Payne and Kathryn Massie.



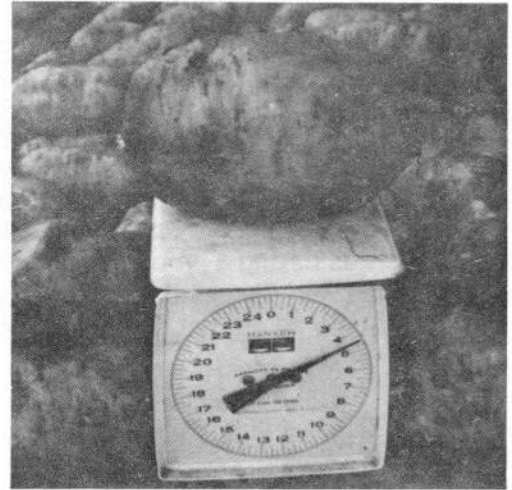
First time together since 1945 in Europe. Benbow, Massie, Karageorge and Sechrest.



Btry A 908. Warren Boucher, E. Massie and Chas Stine.



Three Dixie Beauties. Grace Prater, Florence Simons, and Willie Viglione.



4 1/4 Lb. Sweet Potato from Felix and Mary Livingston's garden - 1993.

Bty "A" 322 & Bty "A" 908

Holding a dual veteranship in these two fine units gives me a great feeling! "A" 322 had 6 men present. Benbow, Sechrest, Zingg, Sihlanick, Karageorge, Massie. Twas my first meeting with Karageorge since Washington in the fifties. We had lots of catching up to do. Missed a Year! Where are you? Stopped to see Joe Rankin and got the scoop on Emmett Anderson. Sorry to hear of your mother's death. Hoping to see you next year. Also talked to Cramer who canceled due to his wife's health. Hurry & feel better!

A 908 had Stine, Boucher, Bernhart, Grace Brick and yours truly present. We looked for Carlborn until Sunday morning before we gave up on him. We sure miss our 1st Sgt. John Clevenger and his wife. Elanor and all the others who used to be there and helpers out. Next time we expect to have more present. Forgive me if I missed anyone. Just let me know and I'll try harder next time.

Happy to have Officers from "B" 322 to help keep thing straight.

Lou Sandine our new president has our support in the coming year. Expect great things in 94. A great big "Thank You" to those wonderful "Artillery Wives" for putting up with "The Over Hill Over Dale Gang"

Ellsworth Massie.



Philadelphia Chapter

The Philadelphia chapter held its Annual Picnic with Lester and Elsie Hauck at their home in Perkiomenville, PA., on Sunday, July 11. As always, we thoroughly enjoyed the Hauck's outstanding hospitality even though, at that time, Lester was having a problem with his knee and was getting around with the aid of a walker. As you can see from the pictures taken that day, even the weather cooperated with us.

There is one other member of our group, however, who is ill, and who was sorely missed that day. He is another Philadelphia Chapter engineer, George Settle, who is in a nursing home at the present time after a very serious and sudden stroke. We have not had a great deal of information on his present condition, but we do know that his progress is being watched very closely, and he is being cared for by a very caring family.

The Philadelphia Chapter members, under the leadership of Al Belvedere, provided the color guard and firing squad at the memorial services during our reunion at Daytona Beach in Florida. Joe Macaluso seems to get better as Master of Ceremonies every year, even though the list of deceased for the year just past does grow longer each year.

The Memorial Service was held at the hotel beach front complex and it was outstanding. Everyone was so still; the weather was perfect; and Jim Burton, who sang "My Buddy" brought tears to the eyes of Lou Volpi's relative who had come over to see the ceremony for the first time as he has been a native of Florida.

The 83rd Infantry Band is still in existence and it too was brought together again for one more time. Overall, it was a well planned ceremony with a lot of thought put into making the most of the space available on the ocean front of the hotel. Congratulations!

This year the Philadelphia Chapter has three couples who are celebrating their Fiftieth Anniversary. We all give our congratulations to Lou and Lucy Volpi, Al and Anna Belvedere, and Harry and Marie Stevenson. May all have many more happy years together.

We are now looking forwards to our Christmas Party which will be held again this year at The Coastline Restaurant over in New Jersey. We have been told that the Cut-off date for reservations will be the 27th of November.

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



Anna & Al's 50th Wedding Anniversary at Church



Color Guard & Rifle Squad - Daytona Beach, FL.
1993 - 10/02



(L to R.) Lucy Volpi, Jean Pletcher, Mgt Daum, Mary Silverio, Marie Stevenson, Elsie Hauck and Anna Belvedere.



Anna & Al Belvedere, Lucy & Lou Volpi celebrating 50th Wedding Anniversary.



(L. to R.) Al Belvedere, Geo. Pletcher, John Daum, Lou Volpi (ID by his four-star hat), Lester Hauck, Harry Stevenson & Mary & Al Silverio.

Florida Chapter

The Florida chapter is recuperating from their latest endeavor and the prognosis is, that the patient will live. We do wish to thank all of you who attended especially those who came from such great distances. We hope that you enjoyed yourselves as true 83rds always make their own Reunion out of what is presented to them. We wish Boston, Dixie and Cleveland Chapters the best in their programming for the future Reunions of our association.

The Chapter met at the Holiday Inn in New Port Richey on Nov. 6th, 1993. and was hosted by Jim & Georgia Emanouil, who did an excellent job. There were 48 members, wives and guests present at the Saturday night banquet. We also had entertainment by our very own members, Al & Mary Fisher. We had four new members, Paul Hancher, Robert Lyons, Wm. Rippley, and Joe Daniels join us which we welcome and hope to see more of. We were very happy to have Walt & Elizabeth Marshall able to join us after their illnesses. We hope Larry Leonardi is fully recovered after his health problem in Daytona. We missed the Hurhuths, John Miklos, the Bensimons, Chuzis, Nickolls and John Stewart. Hope to see all of you at the next Meeting.

New officers were elected for the year 1994:

President - Al Bensimon, V. President - Bob Taylor, Secretary - Al Fisher, Treasurer - Jim Emanouil, Chaplain - Lou Kanes, Sgt. at Arms - Dick Senger, Judge Advocate - Ralph Gunderson.

Ralph Gunderson
Acting Reporter

New England Chapter

Our August 8 get together was at Chuck and Bernice's home in Dracut, Ma. with the help from Spike and Gloria McCartin. It was one of our biggest turn outs yet. We had a great day and the food was out of this world, starting with Continental Breakfast then chicken, roast beef, hot dogs, hamburgers, sausages, peppers & onions and corn on the cob and topped off with coffee and cake and the drinks went on all day long.

Our 83rd cake was from the Etzels, Simons & Sullivans from Conn. Thank guys it was great, and our Chef was Marcello who did all the grill work.

Thanks Chuck & Bernice and Spike and Gloria for putting a good time.

Chuck had Ret. General Caraganis of the 4th Armored Div. who was with Gen. Patten and told us some very interesting stories and also a Phil Dancause, who is an Army Historian, Civil War and WW II and he was also an Officer in the Korean war.

It was nice to see John and Priscilla Walsh from Portland Maine. John had a hip replacement and doing good and playing golf. Mike and Marie Champey of Middletown, Conn. came up, but Mike has to have his hip

done over again. Hope this will be the last Mike.

Also received a letter from good old Nick Boyd, Mich. and he tells me retirement Sucks, its not bad you will get over it Nick. Also received a letter from Ray and Helen Rudd of Lathan, N.Y. Ray was in the Hospital with circulation problems and Dr. orders take it easy and Ray said they will not be able to make the reunion and said to say Hello to all his buddies. Take it easy Ray we will miss you all.

On July 1st the Francullo took off for 2 week vacation to Owensboro, Ky and we had a fine time and after 2 week Mary's brother Ray and sister-in-law took us to Evansville Indiana airport on Sat. We got home Sat. night and on Sunday 6:30 p.m. we received a telephone call from her sister that Ray & Alene 52 & 53 were killed by semi-trailer truck so we had to take off again for Ky and it was a sad time for the family.

Mary took it hard but life must go on and she is doing better.

I received a call from Betty & Bill Daves that Joseph Lichacz of Touton Mass passed away Sept. 13th. Joe was with Bill in Co. B 308th Eng. Our sympathy goes out to the Lichacz family.

Also Hazel & Gus (Mousie) Farias are O.K. Mousie is up in N.Y. to see the Red Socks and Yankees games he will hold off on the Hernia operation for a later date. The ball games comes first said Mousie.

At this time we of the New England Chapter would like to thank the Florida Chapter for a fine reunion and it was good seeing all our buddies and wives again!

The Brennans & Francullos rented a car and we put over 400 miles on it going to St. Augustine for the day and that is some place to see and we also spent a day at the Kennedy Space Center and also spent a day in Orlando We enjoyed ourselves in Fla. and also walking the beach in the morning.

The New England Chapter had a good turn out for this reunion, but we missed some who could not make it for some reason and we hope everything is O.K.

Mary Francullo and Dot Brennan would like to thank Bob and Pearl Derickson and National for the Plaques they received for working at the registration desk for years. They enjoy doing it and thanks again.

After the reunion the Ferriera's and Chuck and Bernice and Grand daughter took off for an extended vacation and we hope they enjoy it.

I could write more but I must stop and say, Our Christmas party will be held on Dec. 4th at the Boston Marriott in Peabody, Mass. and it should be another great turnout as it is a weekend deal.

Your Buddy

Nick Francullo

Hq. Co. 3rd Bn 330th

P.S. Any New England 83rd ers who do not belong to a Chapter we welcome you. Write to:

Nick Francullo

10 Bessom St.

Lynn Mass 01402



C. Abdinoor - Chef Marcello



Look at this and we won the war!



Just enjoying a good time!



We honor our deceased Buddies.



New England Chapter group.



Our forever loving girls!



C. Abdinoor - Chuck Abdinoor, General Costas Caraganis, 4th Armored Division, Dutchy Smith.



The food is great!



Our 83rd Cake.

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 214).

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:



Cleveland Chapter

Sorry to inform you the loss of Walter Meczka. He was the long time treasurer of the Cleveland Chapter. He and his wife Mary of 52 years, were host at our June meeting at their home in Cleveland. He will be missed.

Earl Lindsey our Chaplain and 22 Members attended the impressive services on Tuesday Sept. 28.



June 1993
Walter & Mary
Meczka

Our July meeting was held at the home of Al and Eleanor Klugewigz of Erie PA. Godfather furnished the ribs, which were cooked to perfection by Al. A large cake & ice cream served to celebrate 5 birthdays in the month of July.

Paul Novak (H Co. 330) from Elyria attended Oct. meeting. Paul has had many hospital stays this year. Feeling better now.

Paul Dallos (D 331) of Elyria was proud to report that 27 men from his Co. attended the reunion in Daytona.

It was good to see Jerry Zingg and Mary Ann in Daytona. They flew in from San Diego Ca. Also Charley Sinlanick flying in from Little Ferry N.J. Hope to see them next year at the Pines.

Henry Trzeciak has taken over as treasurer until election of officers in Feb.

Our Christmas party will be held on Dec. 11 at Rugles Inn in Cleveland.

Best Wishes for the Holiday Season to All
Kid Williams
2 Bn Hq. Co. 330, Staff Reporter



June, 1993 Men of Cleveland Chapter.



June 1993, Men & Wives of Cleveland Chapter.

Warren Chapter

Since our last reunion and the previous Thunderbolt the Warren Chapter has suffered two great losses. Two of our active and original members passed away within one month. Dick Kelly, 908 FA passed away June 20, 1993. Both Dick and Leroy joined the 83rd Division at Camp Atterbury Indiana in September 1942 and served with the division continually until the end of hostilities in Germany. Both were charter members of the Warren Chapter, the first chartered Chapter of the 83rd Division Association. Dick served several terms as President, Vice-President and Sgt.-at-arms of the Warren Chapter. Upon his passing Leroy was the Warren Chapter reporter to the Thunderbolt and had been for many years. He also served in all of the Chapter offices and was past member of the Executive Board of the 83rd Division Association. He was Co-Chairman of the National Reunion in Warren in 1977 along with Ray Voracek. Leroy and this writer were both inducted into the Army the same day as indicated by our ASN the last three numbers were 873 and 874. They will both be sadly missed.

Although our numbers have decreased considerably the remaining seven members remain strongly committed to continue the close relationship and comradeship we have enjoyed these many years with each other and our wives and families. Of the original 23 members whose names appear on the Warren Chapter Charter, only 3 remain. The widows of the Chapter members now outnumber the remaining members.

The Warren Chapter held its annual Steak Fry on October 24, 1993 at the Ash Hill Golf Course Club House. Chief Butcher and Chef Charlie Tomazin (Our President) ably assisted by Babe Gautschi and Ted Halubka cut and barbecued the steaks to everyone's individual preference. The Ladies Auxiliary under President Birdie Titus provided the usual side dishes and goodies. This constitutes our final outdoor activity for the year. The remainder of the meetings for the year will be held in the homes of members.

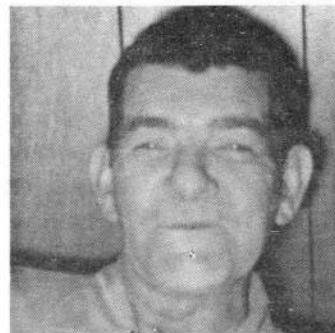
The annual election of Chapter Officers was held on October 24 with the following results: Charles Tomazin,

President, John Shamrock Vice President, Mike Skovran, Secy-Treas.

The Warren Chapter annual Christmas Party will be held on December 11, 1993 at the Caffé 422. This annual affair closes out the years activities for the Chapter. All surviving spouses of the deceased Chapter Members will be invited as special guests of the Chapter.

Three members of the Warren Chapter and their wives attended the Association Reunion at Daytona Beach Florida. They were Joe Phillipone, Charlie Tomazin and Mike Skovran. Sincerest good wishes and many thanks go out to the Florida Chapters and their wives for truly great reunion. It was truly great.

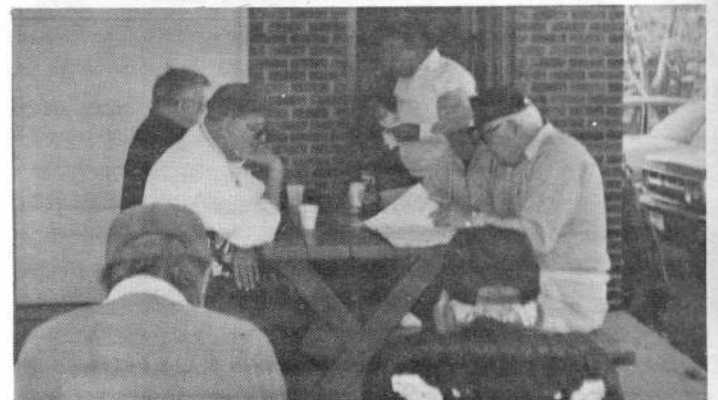
Finally the Warren Chapter members and the Ladies Auxiliary would like to extend their sincerest good wishes to all of the Eighty Third Infantry Division Members and their families for a joyous and prayer full Christmas and New Year.



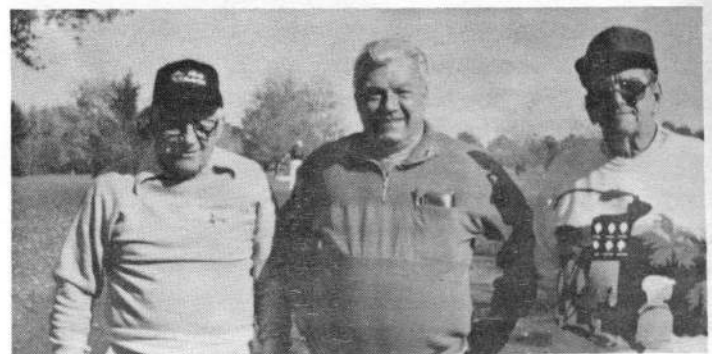
Dick Kelly - Warren, OH
Passed Away 6/20/93



Leroy-Birdline Titus. Leroy
passed away July 17, 1993



Warren Chapter Meeting.



Warren Chapter Officers - Mike Skovran, Secy-Treas.
John Shamrock, Vice Pres., Charlie Tomazin, Pres.



The Ladies Auxiliary of the Warren Chapter. (Back Row - Ann Tomazin, Mildred Kelly, Helen Caparanis, Birdie Titus, Pat Shamrock, Thresa Gautschl. Front Row - Liz Skovran, Marge Voracek, Dolly Halubka, Angie Phillipone.

Boston Chapter

I just arrived back from the 83rd Reunion in Florida. Nancy and I had a very nice trip home. Many thanks to the Florida Chapter and Ned Smith for a marvelous time. Everything was great. The Boston Chapter really enjoyed themselves.

Bruce Winchell did an excellent job with the 50/50 drawing. However, I did not win.

Our June 1993 meeting was at Larry and Fran Arri-go's house in Norwood, MA. Dick Armstrong beat Bob Hunnewell in our entertainment contest. Both men are from the 329th Infantry. The Judges were Walter Koss and Mike Amicone. After the meeting Fran put all the good food out and everyone had their fill. Pat DiGiammerino had the men playing Bocci. A nice time was had by all.

The July 1993 meeting was held at Joe and Terry Vandrevil's in Holden, MA. Their son, Bob, and his wife, Sheila, did all the cooking. It was a great day for a cook-out. We never have a dull moment with Terry and Joe. There were 37 in attendance, including Jim Prentice (who held all the high ranks in the 83rd Association). It is always nice to have Jim at our meetings. Thanks Terry and Joe for a wonderful day.

The August 1993 meeting was at Meredith, N.H. at the home of Chet and Laurette Morley. Many stayed over night with the Morleys. Nancy and I had to go back to Boston because of a family time. Laurette belongs to a Barber Shop Quartet and the Girls always come over and sing for us when we have our meetings in N.H. We really enjoy this entertainment. Also, Laurette showed a lot of her Crafts work which was very interesting and she showed the women how it was done. The men had a very good meeting with Lou Sandimi filling in as secretary as Hy Goodman was unable to make it. Hy we really missed you, however, Lou did a good job. We got all the business taken care of and then formed a chow line. Laurette you did a wonderful job everything was en-

joyed.

Pat and Ginny DiGiammerino held a meeting at their home in Malden, MA in September before the reunion. At the meeting we were saddened by the death of Frank Scott. We made plans to attend his wake and funeral. A buffet was served by Ginny and maybe we all ate too much food, Thanks Ginny.

At Florence, MA many members attended Frank Scott's wake and funeral. We joined in the Florence VFW Post Honor Guards. Charles Lussier and Charlie Petit folded the Flag. Pat DiGiammerino presented it to Frank Scott's wife. Condolences to the Scott Family from the Boston Chapter.

On September 21st several members from the Boston Chapter went to the meeting and luncheon of the Battle of the Bulge Association in Worcester, MA. An enjoyable time was had by all.

On Saturday, October 23rd a meeting was held in Westport, MA at the home of Charlie and Rita Lussier.

Charlie Lussier signed up three members on his Florida trip from the 331st Anti Tank Company.

Bob Hunnewell said it was his Birthday. Joseph Zenz will be glad to hear you are grow-ing up. Fred Silvia said, Company I 329th Infantry are proud of Hunnewell.

Larry Redmond offered his help with the Ad Book in 1944. It was nice to hear from Larry. We are very glad to receive his help.

Our National President Lou Sandini spoke about the 1994 Reunion along with Pat DiGiammerino so everyone would know what is going on to date.

I want to thank Hy Goodman who has been a lot of help to me over the year. Rita Lussier put out the food with many goodies and desserts.

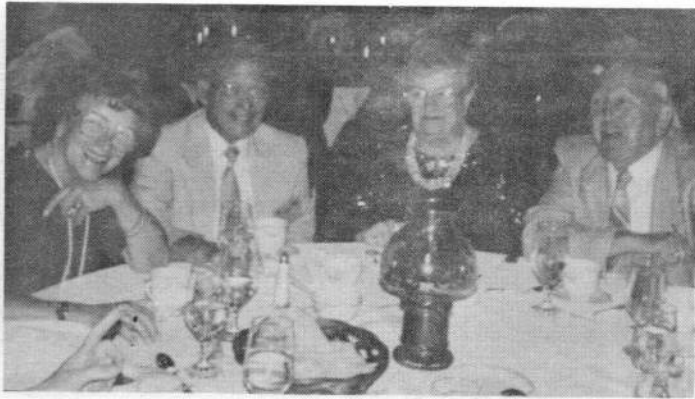
A Tip of the Irishman's Hat to you Rita for a job well done.

The Boston Chapter Christmas Party will be held at the Holiday Inn in Worcester, MA. on December 11th, 1993. That's it for now.

Amby Tynan



Rose & Joe Collette, Nick Ostuni, Pat & Ginny DiGiammerino



Gail & Nick Ostuni, Rose & Joe Collette,
Boston Chapter at Florida Reunion.



Nancy & Amby Tynan, Ray Bjork, Hy Goodman (Florida).



Members of Boston Chapter of Bulge Club Luncheon in
Worcester, Mass.



This photo needs no explanation. (Florida)
Boston Chapter



Female Bocce Champs of Boston Chapter.

New Jersey Chapter

We here in New Jersey want to thank Ned Smith, Ralph Gunderson and the Florida Chapter for putting on a wonderful reunion. It was evident at the reunion for the Florida Chapter members to attend to every detail to please those members, wives and guests who were present at the reunion. Great Job!!

Accolades to former New Jersey members, Al Bensimon for arranging the terrific Crazy Carol Show and to Joe Stek for the Wednesday Night Luau. I especially enjoyed dancing with all of the Beautiful Tahitian Dancers at the Luau. Joe DePeri where were you with your video camcorder when I needed you?

As usual the chapter was well represented at the reunion. Manny Epstein went around telling everyone who would listen, about the great room he had at a hotel up the street. George Foster had his usual great smile, so we know he was having a good time. Ted and Irene Guzek despite both having a bad cold had a good time. After the reunion, Ted and Irene planned to spend some time with a brother in Florida and also to visit some of the Theme Parks. They received word that Ted's brother has passed away in New Jersey. They cut short their trip to return home. Our deepest sympathy to you and your family.

Sam and Edith Manzi were their usual happy selves. They missed having Fred and Nellie Messina who were in New Hampshire at a family gathering. Joe DePeri with daughter Joann, granddaughter Casey and Joann's friend Joe, came to the reunion after visiting Joe DePeri's son in the Keys. Two year old Casey was terrific dancing for everyone's enjoyment.

Fred and Addie Rein had to put up with me, as I drove with them to Florida. They tried to shake me but I tailed along when they went to New Smyrna Beach, then to a Rein's Family reunion near Orlando, where I enjoyed a great turkey dinner, and then on to Epcot and Disneyworld. In Epcot we ran into Joe and Dot Skurka. When they returned home Dot called us to tell us they saw Mike and Liz Skovran at Disneyworld. Mike, Liz and I were out early every morning walking in the surf at Daytona. We did see one string bikini - it was on a GUY!

Cookie and Jim Seneca were at the reunion. Both looked great and it's always a pleasure to see them. In fact I went to the Catholic Mass with them where we had our own Father McCartin celebrating the Mass. Always a pleasure to have father McCartin join us at the reunions. Father told me Bill and Gloria were in Rome thus didn't make the reunion.

Charlie Sihlanick spent his time with Casey and Zingg. Charlie told me later he didn't feel well at the reunion. George and Vi Waples on their way to Florida stayed at Army Bases for overnight lodging. Interesting!! I wonder if they had SOS for breakfast. Emil Wehling and Andy Socha shared a room at the reunion. Emil broke his arm just prior to the reunion and Andy had the job of nursing him. Emil is fine now, thanks to Andy.

Russell and Margarita Whitehead were present and accounted for. They really enjoy themselves at the reunions with much enthusiasm and the spill-over of such to those who are with them. Great people to be with. Don and Twyla Thiebolt, you could say the same for these fine people. It was good to see them as Fran and I shared many good times with them in the past with our dear friends Ed and Betty Krigan.

Mary and Frank Sabine I met before the reunion at a local shopping center, Frank was on his way to the Horse Races. At the reunion Frank went to the Dog Track, I hear you did well, now how are you doing in Atlantic City?

Our newest chapter member Fred Policastro (Co. C, 331) was at the reunion. Fred glad to have you join us, hope to see you again at some of our get-togethers.

Ralph and Sally Stat, your friends Tony and Willie Viglione asked about you at the reunion.

Did any of you see The Walter Croonkite Report on PBS? They showed a parade in Worthington, Ohio being led by flag-bearers carrying the American Flag and the 83rd Division Flag. I wonder if any of our members were in that parade?

I'm sure all of you want to wish Judy Bielen and Brent Smith a long and happy life together. They will be married Nov. 6th.

Best Wishes to all for a Happy Holidays and New Year.

Stan Bielen - 1st Bn. Hdqs. 331

Kentucky Chapter

"The sun shines bright on my old Kentucky home", says the song; but for the Kentucky Chapter a more appropriate one would have been, "Rain drops keep falling on my head".

On Friday the weather was picture perfect. As the Chapter gathered the door to the hospitality room was wide open and it still got a little warm, everyone was thinking what beautiful weather our hosts Bill & Verna Payne and co-hosts Ames & Helen Miller had ordered.

On Sat. Oct. 16th reality set in as a light drizzle set in

as we made our way to the Kentucky river for our cruise on the Dixie Belle, it stopped long enough for us to walk about a block from the parking lot down the bank and board boat. Then a shower ran everyone down from the top deck, as we docked the rain held off until we got up the bank to our cars then as if on cue started again, as we made our way to the Shaker Village. After a brief lecture we toured the living quarters, then we dashed between and thru showers to the various craft displays showing how they were made, rug weaving, barrel making, silk spinning, broom making ect. for a while the black and gold colors of the 83rd dominated the gift shop as the ladies browsed thru the many unique gifts.

A lady came out from behind the counter and asked me if we were ever near the 17th. Air-borne Div. Her husband's glider had come down "East of the Rhine" in front of a waiting tank that took him away from her and his eight month son he had never seen.

A very good lunch was served at the Shakertown restaurant if anything it was better than the delicious meal we had at the 19th Hole Restaurant on the golf course at Harrodsburg the night before, the service was good and the price hard to beat, after a extra helping of cherry cobbler I waddled out to the car vowing I would never have to eat again.

Our fall meeting and election was held at the Best Western of Harrodsburg in the hospitality room presided over by our outgoing President Ames Miller, Our incoming President Fred (mick) McGowan was unable to attend due to a fall off a ladder, I had tried that in June and don't recommend it to anyone, I hesitate to repeat anything not from the horse's mouth but I heard he had four broken ribs. The election results were as follows: President Fred McGowan, Vice Pres. Bill Payne, Secretary Treasurer Manny Goodridge, assistant Wally Roberts, Chaplain Owen Jones, Reporter Leroy Johnson.

I have decided it wouldn't do any good to miss a meeting to avoid a office since Bill Payne got a call out to the front office was gone just a few minutes and came back to find he was the new Vice President. After a pause to get a deep breath and with a surprised look on his face he graciously accepted, and I am sure will be a good one.

Welcome back to Owen Jones and thanks to Floyd Richmen, outgoing Chaplain and Ames Miller for their years of devoted service you have both earned a rest.

Thanks to Manny Goodridge for staying on and giving us the benefit of his scruples performance.

Alex Ford and Fred Fowler came in after the meeting started so after the meeting the raffle was opened for them, and Fred (lucky devil) won.

Alex Ford gave me a report on his grandson who has had so many health problems, not only has his mobility deteriorated but he has now been declared legally blind. Our sympathy goes out to the family. By adding the names of eleven people who didn't sign the log book I came up with a total of 47 members, wives, and guests. I can plead with tears in my eyes big as grapefruit and they just won't sign the log book.

I understand wedding of grand children and a 50th wedding anniversary kept some of the regulars from attending the meeting, but that is also hearsay, no one bothers to call me and tell me any news.

We thank Bill and Verna Payne and Ames and Helen Miller for a well run enjoyable meeting certainly a good job.

Anyone who attends a Kentucky Chapter meeting had better be prepared to put on some weight a table will be facing them loaded with irresistible goodies.....

Bob Derickson reports several of the Kentucky Chapter at the National Convention and a good time despite some unaboidable problems due to a fire in the kitchen. The Johnsons had intended to attend and had our reservations since first week in Jan., but Clara's 95 year old mother fell two weeks before convention time and broke her hip, I waited until a week before convention date and canceled, she wound up being in the hospital a month.

I had it set up to meet with two platoon members, John Leonard was to come down from Penn. and we would meet at Paul Stockingers in Fla. I had to call and cancel that also. I did get to visit Dorsey Jones and Nadine in Tenn. We are always treated to Tenn. barbeque when I get to see my old jeep driving buddy, we used to dig fox-holes together in Normandy and in those days were two foxhole digging fools. I never got to see Dencil Hoover of Elkins W. Va. the weather got so hot he was having difficult times in the very hot summer we had, it was rough on his bad lungs. Getting to see one out of four you planned on meeting isn't very good percentage. He called me last Sunday and we are going to try next year.

Good to see Raymond Morrison and Mary attend the meeting also John Hudnall and Hazel. Welcome to the chapter to new member R.T. Brooks and Betty, we hope they enjoy the chapter. He has promised to inquire in the Frankfort Ky. area about a place for our Spring meeting in March.

Our Christmas party will be at the Comfort Inn in Piqua, Ohio Dec. 10th an 11th. hosted by Bob & Lois Brinkman, Al & Dorothy Henry, and Fred & Doris McGowan. The only ones present at the Harrodsburg meeting were Al & Dorothy Henry. They assured us that everything will be ready and judging from past performances and knowing how hard working they are we know a good time is waiting in Piqua. This is the one the ladies love, the motel opens into the mall, just step out of the motel and shop until you drop remember the merchants love you, and always will as long as you have money. So order some good weather for that weekend, and we will be rolling the 300 miles up that way:

See-Ya All
Leroy V. Johnson
Reporter
3rd. Bn. Hq. 331 Inf.

Companies

908th Refights The War from A to Z

Yes, it was from Atterbury to Zerbst! The tales of training and of battle were flowing fast and furious in Eastern Pennsylvania, as former members of Headquarters, 908th Field Artillery, gathered from June 22nd to 24th. The arena was at Jerry Rowan's Bed-and-Breakfast Highland Manor in West Chester, and Jerry was the perfect host. Highland Manor is a beautiful place, built in 1805, with an addition made in 1845, and it was the ideal location with excellent facilities and favorable weather. Many of the veterans had not seen one another since 1945, but all agreed that none seemed any older (relatively speaking).

The members who got together were Russ and Jean Williams from Bethesda, MD; Harold and Jerry Weinzierl from Altoona, PA; Bob and Helen Wessel from Fairfield, OH; Del and Eileen Jurden from Kansas City, KS; and of course, Jerry Rowan. Much of the action took place around a swimming pool at the manor, but a fierce battle raged at a nearby golf course between Weinzierl, Wessel, and Jurden. No victor(s) were declared because of the high rate of casualties. Experiences related included about everything, from the induction centers from which all were drafted to the final linking up with the Russians over the Elbe River at Zerbst.

While yarns were spun by the battered veterans of the war and of subsequent professions, the wives partook of more constructive activities, such as visiting a nearby art museum and conducting colloquia about current politics and suggestions about how to solve the many problems of the world.

All participants agreed that this was just a "First", and that more meetings would be forthcoming in future years.

Del Jurden
Hq, 908th FA Bn.

Co. "B" 329th

Enclosed please find snapshots of these 83rd guys of Co. B, 329th, 83rd. Infantry Division.

They are left to right: Capt. Maurice Hill, of Booneville Ms., Jesse Pirkle, Rex, Ga., William Waddle of Pine Bluff Ar. and Lt. Clifton C. Melton of W. Carrollton OH. This snapshot was made in Nashville Tn. on June 5, 1993 at our Dixie Chapter Meeting.

The large group snapshot was the Dixie Chapter members. Then the nice couple sitting at the table are Capt. Hill and Mrs. Hill. The three sitting at the table are William (Bill) Waddle, his daughter and grand daughter. These are our Dixie Chapter members.

We all enjoyed the meeting in Nashville. We had around 65 that attended. Please put these snapshots in the Thunderbolt if possible.

God Bless All 83rd Guys and Gal's
Jesse Pirkle



Co. "H" 330TH

HELLO BUDDIES:

Here is that man once again starting off a new year in the History of our great Association. We have just completed 47 years and I dare say they have been 47 wonderful years in that we have been able to keep in contact with men who served side by side with us.

I have tried very hard over these 47 years to try and locate men who served in Co. "H", and although I have been able to locate quite a few, there are a lot more I would like to reach. This past year I was able to locate and contact our First Sergeant, Harry Dorsey. I had hoped to have the pleasure of meeting him, he passed away.

If you have the name and address of one of our men, please let me know, maybe I can contact him and try to sell him on the idea of being with us for the 48th Annual Reunion in the Pines in New York for what I am sure will be a very fine Reunion in September.

I wish to thank each and everyone of you who contributed to the Co. "H" Page in the Ad Book and sincerely hope that I can see your name in there this year again.

I am sorry that I was unable to attend the Reunion, but I have a bad heart condition and my travel is limited. Both the help of God, I hope to be there next year.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL

Co. "D" 330TH

HELLO BUDDIES:

Here comes that Man that has become an adopted Member of Co. "D" 330th. As many of you know, we have just completed our 47th Annual Reunion, which means that this Association has just celebrated their 47th birthday.

There has been lots of water that has flown over the Dam in these 47 years. Quite a number of our members have passed on to their Eternal Reward. As we start off our 48th year I am once again going to appeal to each and everyone of you to join with me in trying to make this a bigger and better Association, "if such a thing is possible". Over the years we have had many hard struggles which many of you are unaware of. Being true 83rd Division men, we have fought a hard battle and have come back.

This year I was fortunate to have the Co. "D" Page appear in the Ad Book, it was a very hard struggle, but thanks to a few men of your company, I was able to meet it. It is amazing how many of you couldn't even see fit to send in a \$5.00 Ad for the Co. "D" Page.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the reunion, my heart problem just wouldn't allow it. I may not be able to attend again this year, but I may still seek the same support from you. To those of you who failed to contribute this year, please put that extra \$5.00 that you didn't spend last year into the Page for this year.

As we start the year off, I wish to extend my best wishes to all of you for a Healthy and Happy year this year.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL

HELLO BUDDIES:

Here it is that time again, just returning for another very fine reunion, this year sponsored by the Florida Chapter, and from what I learned from cards I received, they did a very fine job. Unfortunately I was unable to attend due to illness, but my Heart and Soul was with everyone.

Our Reunions have a very significant meaning, it means that we have reached the end of another year in the History of our great Association. There are quite a number of Veterans Organizations throughout the Association, but none of them has the meaning of the 83rd Infantry Division Association. This is more than just another Veterans Organization in that it is composed of men who served with the 83rd Infantry Division in World War II, we do not have men who served in other Wars or Conflicts, which makes it more of a family association.

It is amazing how many men who served in the 83rd Division but are either unknown or not members of our association, yet I can bet you that many of these men belong to the American Legion or the VFW or other veterans organizations. In the past few years we have gained several men for the first time. I am sure that many of you have buddies that are unaware of our association. Let us all sit down and try to get at least one new member. Our members are dying off, and we badly need new members.

Well Buddies, as we start our 48th year of our great association, let us all start planning now to be able to attend our next Reunion which will be sponsored by the Boston Chapter. I also wish to thank all of you who contributed so generously to our Ad Book this year. I sincerely hope that you will give the same support to Boston Chapter.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

Your Buddy
Larry Redmond

329th Infantry Regiment

Constituted on August 5, 1917, in the National Army as the 329th Infantry and assigned to the 83rd Division. Organized August 30, 1917, at Camp Sherman, Ohio. Demobilized February 15, 1919, at Camp Sherman. Reconstituted June 24, 1921, in the Organized Reserves and assigned to the 83rd Division. Organized during December, 1921, with Headquarters in Dayton, Ohio. Ordered into active military service, less personnel, and organized August 15, 1942, at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. Inactivated April 6, 1946, at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. Activated October 13, 1946, with Headquarters at Indianapolis, Indiana. (Organized Reserve Corps, March 25, 1948). Withdrawn from the 83rd Division and assigned to the 70th Infantry Division on March 1, 1952. (Organized Reserve Corps and redesignated Army Reserve

on July 9, 1952). Relieved from the 70th Infantry Division, reorganized and redesignated as the 329th Regiment (Basic Combat Training), 70th Division (Training) on May 1, 1959. Redesignated 329th Regiment (Infantry One station Unit Training), 70th Division (Training) in 1979.

CAMPAIGN STREAMERS

World War I

Streamer without inscription

World War II

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

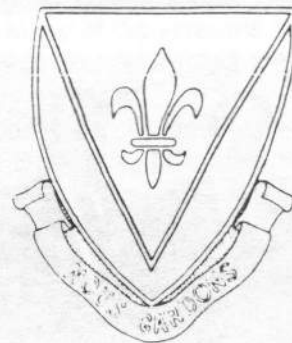
Central Europe

DECORATIONS

Presidential Unit Citation, (Army) Streamer embroidered GURZENICH

(2d Battalion, 329th Infantry cited:

WD GO 90, 1945)



Sent in by William G. Ferguson



L. to R. Lou Gaybrant, Bill Nickell, Bill Meyerhoeffer, V.B. (Tex) Atchison, Russell Whitehead.

Dear Bob,

Here is a picture of five men from Co. "F" 329, that attended the reunion in Daytona Beach, Fla. They are Lou Gaybrant, Bill Nickell, Bill Meyerhoeffer, V.B. (Tex) Atchison and Russell Whitehead. Dale Lewis was there but unavailable at picture taking. All enjoyed being together and had a big time. Looking forward to next year at the Pines.

V.B. (Tex) Atchison

212 Diane, Sanger, Tx. 76266

323rd Report

Nancy and I went to the Ordination of Richard McCouch who became a Jesuit Priest in Baltimore, Maryland with a reception after at the Layola College. The next day we met at St. Lukes Church for Father McCouch's first Mass. After Mass we had a reception at Eddie McCouch's home. Richard is one of 11 children. He is really proud of them all. Thanks to all the McCouchs for a marvelous time.

I had letters from Innc Suilman, Pete Weltevrede, Tony Houlette, Doctor Monroe Colman, Frank Wirth, Willie Snodgrass and Eddie McCouch. I received phone calls from Errin Erhardt, McCouch, Starbuck and George Connors. Everyone seems to be doing well.

I saw George Connors at the Boston Chapter Meeting in Westport, Ma. Livie Maynard, wife of Romeo was also at the meeting. She does a lot of work for us in Boston and for the National Association. We can't thank her enough.

I had a long talk on the phone with Norman McCormack. He wants us to go to Maine for a visit. We hope to do so in the coming weeks before the snow falls.

Dallas Williams had quite a chat with me. He likes to hear about everyone. He is dug into the Hills of North Carolina now.

R. Don Willis is still playing Golf. On my way to Florida I almost stopped in Greenville, S. C. to beat him in a round of golf. However, I did not want to hurt his feelings in Rebel Country.

At the reunion in Florida was Willie "Snodgrass, Harold Michaels, John Sabo, and Eddie McCouch from Hq. Btry. Will Medling of Baker Btry. Tony Piantedosi, Dave Hurt and Dom Christopher from C Batry. Pat DiGiammerino of service Btry.

Doctor Monroe Coleman just returned from Europe. He will send me news on it later. He spent time in Bastogne Museum where the 83rd Insignia was at the top of the column. I will have more on this in my next report for men going to the 50th.

Sgt. Bob Reasoner passed away in April from a heart attack. Condolences to his family.

Thats all for now gang.

AMBY K

CO. "E" 331st

We had a good time at Daytona Beach, Florida and E Company was well represented. We had the following members attend the 47th reunion.

Mr. & Mrs. Buford Funk
Mr. & Mrs. Al Henery
Mr. & Mrs. George Kohler
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Olden
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Delimen
Mr. & Mrs. Herm Bledsoe
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Meyer
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Payne
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Campbell
Mr. & Mrs. Jake Esbenshade
Mr. Fred Willman
Mr. Ed Sheperd

Jake Esbenshade
"E" Co. 331st

B" Btry 908 F.A. Bn.

We had the same number in attendance at the Florida reunion as we did in Omaha, sixteen men and women.

They included: Dick and Pat Bevins, Fla; Mike Bacha and Victoria, Ohio; Jules and Agnes Desgain, Pa.; Ed and Helen Williams, Pa.; Mike and friend, Sadie, Pa.; John and Faye Prescott, Ga.; Past President John and Freda Hobbs, W.Va.; Helen Allen, Pa.; and Jim Prentice, N.H.

Dick and Pat Bevins stayed at the "Thunderbird" next door to Howard Johnson's due to their dog not being allowed to stay at Howard Johnson's. They made out much better with their motel room at \$24.00 instead of \$55.00. Quite a few members of the Battery stayed there too and just bought tickets for the Saturday night Banquet, so I didn't get to see many of you folks as often while at the reunion.

Dick and Pat acted as host to our group and took them out to eat and tours around the area. I wish to thank them for meeting me at the airport and also getting up at 5 A.M. to deliver me to the airport for my trip home.

They certainly made our visit to Daytona, a pleasurable one and on behalf of the gang of "B" Btry. I wish to extend our thanks to them for being the perfect host. In fact, Ed and Helen Williams were invited to spend another week at their home in Eutis, Fla.

It was good to see Ed Williams, up and around after being laid up for five months with a broken pelvis. He was doing a good deed for his church by putting in new windows and fell backwards off the ladder, landing on the ladder. Nick and Cathy Bertovich, Pa. couldn't make it, as Nick had a kidney stone operation scheduled. I called him after the reunion and everything turned out well. He sure was disappointed that he couldn't come to Florida.

We missed our good friends Vi and Jerry Wenzel and Mike Jarmoska and hope they're keeping well. Of course, we're getting to the age where most of us are having health problems, but it was a great turn-out for the reunion.

It was too bad that we were unable to use the banquet room at the Howard Johnson's, due to renovations and had to be bussed to the Marriot Hotel for our dinner meals, but everything seemed organized and I'm sure everyone at the reunion had a good time.

Hope we can have a good turn-out at the "Pines" next year, as the Boston Chapter and Bernie cove have a fine program in store for us. Although, we're all getting older, it's still nice that once a year we can still get together and enjoy each other's company.

"Jim" Prentice

329 "B" Bag

We just got back home after the reunion and a golfing week in N.C. I must say even with all the adversities in Daytona, it was still a great reunion. The Luau, hospitality room, memorial services, banquet were excellent. The Western band and Crazy Carol were exceptional. "B" Co. had 2 members on the reunion committee, Joe & Ruth Stek were in charge of the Luau, and many other duties. Lou Kane was in charge of the memorial services. They did an outstanding job. B Co. had another good turnout, the Taylor's, Hennie's, Dickson's, Perkle's, Stek's, Uher's, Kane's, Waddle and Kitty Thomas, Ed's widow. All had a good time. A big surprise was the arrival of Cal Vadden Heuvel, and his wife Hazel. This was their first reunion, never heard of a reunion before. It was the first time I've seen him in 48 years. We had a good time talking over old times, and I reminded him he was the cause me being busted. It was rumored that he and his wife came down on their Honda. What a trip. After the reunion we were the guests of Joe & Ruth Stek, who live nearby. They entertained us royally. They took us to Daytona Raceway and had a ride on the race track, it has a 31 degree angle on the turns, 80 miles an hour must be kept on the curves. We also went to the Kennedy Space Center, and to St. Augustine, very impressive. We ate at some great restaurants. Incidentally Joe does excellent stain glass work, he gave us some of his work which we hung up when we got back. Thanks Joe & Ruth for the wonderful time. It is great to have Friends like the both of you.

The next time you see the Bob Taylor's ask them about their trip this past summer. They drove through the wilds of Alaska in a van, they were gone from their home for 7 1/2 weeks. They had quite a few stories to tell. Must have been a once in lifetime trip. But thanks we are not interested in that trip.

I found out that the Dicksons and Waddle's signed up for the reunion on Omaha Beach for the 50th anniversary of d-Day. I hope you all have a good time in the E.T.O. There was talk that not many of the people were planning to go to the Pines in 94. They want to have a company reunion around Labor Day Weekend in Louisville Ky.

John Henniss will let us know. I also got a letter from Leo Gilmore, a fellow machine gunner, who sent me this picture taken after the war.

L to R Back Row: V. Premro, J. Wodjiasek, C. Strong, M. Knowles, B. Uhler, L. Kirkman, L. Gilmore, W. Johnson.

L to R Front Row: J. Benoit, B. Tucker, G. Workman, A. Trofimuk.

There will be no short story this time, instead a composite of "B" Co. casualties taken from old records. From June 23, 1944 to April 30, 1945. Original strength of the company 6/22/44 - 187.

Reinforcements	357
Returnees	233
Killed in Action	63
Died of Wounds	12
Seriously Wounded in Action	79
Slightly Wounded in Action	158
Seriously Injured in Action	26
Non Battle Casualties	205
Non Battle Injuries	45
Self Inflicted Wounds	3

I hope your troubles disappear as your new years resolutions.

Have a very Happy Holiday and a Better New Year.

Bob Uher

(216) 885-1152



Hengerburg, Germany L to R: Back Row V. Premro, J. Wodjiasek, C. Strong, M. Knowles, B. Uher, L. Kirkman, L. Gilmore, W. Johnson. Front Row: J. Benoit, B. Tucker, G. Workman, A. Trofimuk.

Co. "G" 329th Inf.



Howie Freitag - One of the Beautiful Dolls



Co. "G" 329th Inf.

Another Great Reunion! Florida Chapter did a wonderful job!

We all enjoyed the Hawaiian Show.

Hope you all enjoyed Company "G's" show at the hospitality room. We all had a lot of fun getting the "girls?" ready. Weren't they beautiful?

We all got together and celebrated Sterling Rubright, Howie Freitag birthdays and Doris & John Fays 50th Anniversary.

Crazy Carol was the best. We all laughed so hard the tears came.

Attending the reunion: Grace & John Askey, Lois & Bob Brinkman, Bernice & John Cupino, Doris & John Fay, Ruth & Chester Morgan, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Randell, Etha & Henry Reynolds, Luella & Sterling Rubright, Virginia & Vito Palazzola, Tony Hronicich.

Sadly missed Morris Gimple who passed away in July.

Looking forward to the next reunion at the Pines.

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

Co. "D" 331st

The Company had a good turnout of it's alumni at the Reunion in Daytona Beach in September. There were 25 members present with many wives and friends also present.

After the Reunion 22 of us went to Kissimmee Florida for "R & R". We had rented four 3-bedroom condos and were able to enjoy being together and enjoyed many of the attractions in the Central Florida Area.

We were sorry to hear that our Chief, SAM KLIPPA, is now residing at a V.A. Hospital in the Pittsburgh area. Bernie Cove created a stir with his account of meeting with a Russian general, while Bernie & Jean were on a trip to Russia. Gave the general an 83rd. patch as a remembrance, as this man was on duty east of the Elbe. Al Shrawder still has 75 D Co. men on his roster and receiving the Co. D newsletter. Seems that as we lose one another long lost buddy pops up. Norm Schuster was quite active at the Reunion, not allowing his wheel chair to be a hindrance to activities. R.C. Hamilton takes the roster of our "Unable to locate" buddies whenever he travels and has come up with several new additions to Al's roster. The Muellers, McKees, and Gundersons are going to Cancun, Mexico in February for R & R. The Harmons attended the Reunion for the first time since being at one of the very early Reunions and promised to continue attendance. We welcome back Ray Richter, however we missed Stan Rummel and Frank Meyers. We were also happy to have Marcella Nolte, Gene Noltes sister, join us and hope she will always feel a part of Co. D.

The D Co. members in the Florida Chapter wish to thank those D. Co. Men and many of the wives who

pitched in and helped when the Chapter became short handed in some of the functions. Especially Bill McKee and Al Shrawder who helped me with the table seating arrangements.

Ralph B. Gunderson
Reporter

308 Engineers

A few months ago we were enjoying the Omaha Reunion, and now the great Reunion of Daytona Beach has just gone past with wonderful get-togethers with buddies and friends, a very memorable, heart-wrenching and tearful Memorial Service, with a very appropriate setting on the deck of the Hotel, with a view of the beach and ocean. First of all, before we give our report of this Reunion, we have apologies with much embarrassment on our parts, about an unintended over-site in the last issue of the Reunion in Omaha.

We inadvertently left out the name of Ralph Baron, a buddy from Co. A who was there and not only in person, but also was kind in bringing us dessert on the night of the banquet. We sincerely apologize to Ralph for this oversight, and do not know how it could have happened.

Also, in another apology, we did not mention that the Brands, Andy and June, brought Co. A people warm cinnamon rolls one evening. Again, our apologies to the Brands. Hopefully our memories will not be so lax in the future.

Yes, the Reunion at Daytona Beach was a memorable one. We tip our hats to the Committee and the Howard Johnson Hotel for their efforts and work in making it a success, in spite of the fact that they had endured a fire about 2 weeks before the Reunion and had to make fast arrangements for dinner meals, with the Marriott Hotel, for bus service for transporting those attending the Reunion dinners. We understand that about 700 people were served at the Banquet. Thanks again to the Committee and the Howard Johnson Hotel and the Marriott Hotel. We sorely missed some of our 308 Engineers, due to health or distance, etc. Our buddy, George Settle, was not able to be with us, due to a stroke in May. We are all pulling for him, and are looking forward to having him with us next year at the Pines. Work hard on that therapy, George.

Also missed were: Owen Wellman, George Dubos, Earl Miller, Tony DeGregario, Ansel Petersen, George Peterson, Andy Brand, Frank J Blakely, Ray Bankowsky, & Paul Conrad.

The following men were signed on the attendance sheet: Paul & Dottie Gunderson, Earl & Evalyn Graham, Charles & Elenore Auer, Ralph Baron, Frank & Pearlina Davis, Virgil and Jane Hume, Larry Arrigo, & Gordon and Cel Doeringsfeld.

From Co. B: Clyde Porterfield and Jo, Ody Coffey, Emil Di Waldo, Q. DeAntoni, & Francis, James Redden and Margot, and from Headquarters: Earl & Betty Mills, Curtis Meyers and Ester, and Jack Farrell & Helen, and from Co. C: Harry Kirby and Ann, Cliff Wooldridge and Shirley, Richard Senger and Mary, Cecil Walters, Carson Deck & Gilda, John Capelli & Natalie, Howard Mason, and Paul Hancher.

We sincerely hope that we have not left off anyone. We enjoyed looking at the scrapbook of pictures that Virgil Hume brought, taken during the War. Gordon Doeringsfeld also brought his scrapbook of pictures of his trip in 1992 to Normandy and France, visits to Dinan, and the beaches, museums, cemeteries, hedgerows and bunkers.

It appears that Co. C out-numbered Co. A this year for attendance at the reunion. Let's hope that Co. A will do better next year.

The Grahams, Earl and Evalyn, really went through a series of mishaps in order to get to this Reunion. They left on Sept. 28th from Ohio, after 3 tornadoes had passed through their area the day before, and left them with no electricity, no lights, freezer and refrigeration off, garage door opener won't work. They went to close their Anderson windows, and the handle broke. He canceled his golf tournament the next day, in order to fix the window. Friends took them to the airport. Upon arrival there, they discovered they didn't have their tickets, so had to buy new ones. (don't feel embarrassed, Earl and Evalyn; we didn't have our passports when we were ready to leave for Germany that morning: they were safe in our deposit box at the bank, and the bank would not be opened til the next morning.) The Grahams arrived at their condo in Florida and their car would not start, with a dead battery. They tried to charge it, but it would not work, so called the garage, they charged it, Earl drove it out of the garage, and it stopped again, called the garage again, and this time they took it to their garage, changed the oil, and etc. On Sept 30, they left the condo and were on the road again, and the brakes were not working, so they got off the expressway and into a small town, found a garage, discovered a low-pressure hose had to be replaced on the power steering.

On the road again, but the car started to ride rough, so pulled off the road, and examined the tires, and found that all four tires had splits in them. So they had to replace all four tires. They finally arrived at the Howard Johnson Hotel, and we sincerely hope that all is well with them now. What a series of events!!!

Would like to mention the Memorial Service again. It was held in such an appropriate setting, out on the deck of the Hotel, with a band of made up young people, and to look out over the 83rd Division men the beach and the ocean. It was a beautiful sunny day with a warm breeze, and large white caps on the waves of the ocean. Many, many people were out on their balconies of the Hotel watching.

This was the last time the 83rd Division band would be playing at the Reunions.

I just talked to George Settle's son, Mark, and I am happy to report that George has made strides in his therapy, and has been out in his wheel chair: they have taken him out to a park, and he is eating regular food now. They have cut down on his pain medicine, and he is happy to see anyone who comes to visit him.

Anyone in Headquarters, A, "B", and C Companies that have any information that they would like to put in the Thunderbolt, please get in touch with me at 7451 Western Circle Drive, Brooksville, Fla., 34613-7304, Phone 904 596 5082.

Gordon Doeringsfeld

Co. "A" 329th

I have good news and I have some bad news. I will give the good news first. The Cleveland Chapter was well represented at the reunion! I'll let Kid Williams tell you all about that. Sorry to say, but there were only 2 of us from Company "A", and our wives. Eddy and Alyce Gilbert and Bernice and myself. It was a nice reunion. The Florida Chapter did a nice job! Congratulations! It was sure nice to see Eddy and Alyce again. We had lunch together. As a matter of fact, Sam Bass, (Co. "C"), and his lovely wife, Ethel, were with us, also. We sure did a lot of jawing about old times. Bernice and I made a nice Florida vacation after the reunion. We went to the Kennedy Space Center and saw the "Columbia" getting prepared for the launch, (from a distance). After that, we went through Holmsted, (by the way, it is still not in A-1 shape), saw the wild life in the Everglades, and then, we drove on to Key West. Key West is a very interesting place. We saw different things in Florida than at home. It was nice - about 15 days.

I received a letter from George Suchomelly, and they had their mini reunion in St. Clairsville, Ohio. Out of seventeen that George expected to come, I guess only five men and 4 gals showed up.

Here comes some of the bad news; Mutt Adair has no frontal vision, Bill Ursery has a bad back and leg, Jim Kinzie had open heart surgery. The ones that toughed it out were, John and Marge Camp, George and Pauline Suchomelly, Dean and Irene Daniels, Renee and Red Emrich, and Clarence Hunter. The ones, that were there had a great time! They went to Wheeling, West Virginia, which is a stone's throw from St. Clairsville, visited there and then went on a dinner cruise on the great "Ohio River". Sounds like they all had a great time. George tells me that Dean Daniels retired from his auto repair shop, but helps out when they need extra help.

The real sad news that I received was that Joe Stefancin died on Friday, June 18, 1993, in Uniontown Hospital. Everyone remembers Joe. First, it was Sergeant Joe, then he got his battle field commission, and it was

Lieutenant Joe. He was the Second Platoon Leader, and a great guy! He is survived by his wife Helen, two daughters, and four sons, and their families. Joe Stefancin graduated from Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, MD. for his Bachelor's Degree in Education, and from West Virginia University, receiving his Master's Degree in Education. He taught in the South Union/Laurel Highland School District for 35 years, retiring in 1981. He was one of the most outstanding athletes to come out of South Union Township. He was the football coach at South Union High School, track coach, in which he coached the only team to the W.P.I.A.L. Championship. In 1961, he was the first swimming coach at Laurel Highlands High to coach his team to the 1968 "Big 10" Championship, and was the Junior High basketball coach. He also was a member of St. Mary's Church in Uniontown, the Fayette County Coaches Assn., Laurel Highlands Education Assn., Fayette County Assn. of Retired Teachers, Penn. Assn. of Retired Teachers, Uniontown V.F.W. Post 47, and American Legion Post 51. He received the Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

Mrs. Stefancin called the latter part of August to thank us for the sympathy card. I had a nice chat with her. she and her family miss "Ringy", (as he was called at home), very much!

This is all for now guys, so stay healthy and God Bless.

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

G" Co. 331st Inf.

We had another good reunion of the 83rd Division in Daytona Beach. The men and women of the Florida Chapter should be congratulated for an outstanding job and for their many hours of work.

Mena and I enjoyed ourselves. It was good to get away for a few days. After spending a few days on the East Coast of the Country, she and I took a trip to San Francisco two weeks later to spend a few days on the West Coast. Her hospital unit had a pleasant reunion. The crowd was much smaller, due to the fact that the hospital unit had only two to three hundred members.

G Company did have some members in attendance: Joe Philipone, William Ripley, Gene Costanzo, Kenny Baird and yours truly. I thought that we would have more men in attendance, but after reading off 96 names of men that passed away during the year, I know why we are having fewer members in attendance. Six of the 96 names were men from G Company. Al Suess, Beau Titus, George Miller, Jim Porter, G/B. Robinson and Joe Kuzma. I know that I have written about Al and Joe, but since our last article in the June issue, I was informed by

Singleton that Jim Porter had passed away, and that G.B. Robinson had died sometime before. Mrs. Miller informed me that George died some two years ago. Some of the old reliables were missing from the reunion, Clyde Flanary, Selma Corder, and Mike Mizerrock. I was hoping that Mike would be there, because the Cleveland Chapter has made a request to Host the 50th Reunion of the 83rd Division Association in August 1996. Next year the reunion will be in New York and a good program is being planned. I hope that we will be able to get some of the men from the New England area to attend the reunion.

If any of you men are visiting in the area of Parma, Ohio (a suburb of Cleveland), you should plan a visit to the Army Reserve Center in the City. The Center is named in honor of Lt. Kingston Mote, who the Ex Officer in G Company, when he was killed in Action. The captain in charge of the Center will be glad to show you around.

I had a call from a G Company man, named Housley, who was in the 2nd Platoon, he now lives in St. Helens, Oregon. Also had a card from Glen Mathey's daughter. Glen and his wife Alice will be celebrating their Fiftieth wedding anniversary on the 6th of November. Sorry I will not be able to attend, however, I did send a card and a note from the men of G Company. Glen was one of the men that joined the unit in Atterbury. He was wounded with fragments from the same 88 shell that hit me on July 6, 1944. His wound was more serious than mine, because I don't believe that he ever returned to Combat Duty.

I was saddened by the news of the death of Leroy (Beau) Titus. I was somewhat angry with him because once that he found out that he had cancer of the lung, he had given up on himself. I don't believe that he wanted to live thru the pain caused by cancer. He had heard how Mort Gaynor had suffered, and I don't believe that Beau wanted that for himself.

I had called him that Saturday morning with the intent of getting on him for letting himself get into that mess. When I called I was informed by his son that Beau had passed away an hour before I called. Birdie, his wife informed me that Beau had told her on Friday night before he died that he did not want her to call me until after he was gone. His funeral arrangements were made on a short notice and I was unable to attend. I did want to show my respect for him, but because of the distance, I was unable to attend. I was informed by the Funeral Home, that it was requested that he wanted a Military Funeral. The Command at Fort Knox, Ky. buried Beau Titus with full Military Honors. A nice tribute to a very good soldier and a dear friend.

Another member of G Company is in bad health in Louisiana. Earnest Gagnard, a member of the 2nd Platoon, and one of the men that I used as an interpreter in France. His ailments are too numerous to mention, but some prayers may help him.

Capt. Mac

Co. "I" 329th Inf.

The 47th Reunion is now history, so lets all make plans to be at the Pines. The Cruise down the Hudson River to New York City and the trip around the Harbor, with Memorial services to be held on Ellis Island is sure an added incentive for people to attend.

For the members of I Co. who couldn't make it to Daytona Beach, the following were in attendance. Walt & Joyce Henschel, Fred & Doris McGowan, Earl & Bonnie Hoover, Max & Sally Francis, Jesse & Elizabeth Hayes, Joe & June Zennz, G.L. & Ilene Pittman, Ray & Gennie Hayward, Sal & Theresa Scicolone, Burt & Rose Simon, Fred Sylvia & Maria, Bob Hunnewell, Frank Bellino, Curtis & Lucille Mills, Art & Agnes Koerner, Pat & Steve Bqrtha were excused, Pat had gone out to California to have an operation on her back. Steve left early went home to Sebring had the house redecorated for Pat's homecoming which was Nov. 4th. Welcome home Pat. Pat Bellino also stayed home, had to keep Dobie Company and prepare for their trip down Nov. 10th for their winter home in Port Charlotte.

Bob & Mary Olney must have been in Michigan for the summer and didn't want to make the trip down to the reunion in Oct. Then have to make another trip to Zephyrhills in November. Sent Forest Brown the map he ordered of the "83rd across Europe" Forest and Dorothy are planning another trip to Ohio next summer, perhaps they can also include the trip to the Pines.

Was disappointed that Jim & Dorthy Fornof didn't attend, some of their children live in Florida, could have combined the visit.

Harold & Laura May Geisinger told me that they have plans to be at the Pines, Chas, Gray can go to "Europe for R & R but can't make it to a reunion in the U.S.A. Lets see you at the Pines Chas.

Dick & Jean Haas must have been in Michigan at their summer home and didn't want to make two trips down to Florida, they winter in Sebring.

Frank & Anna Hanes had their reservations in, Plane tickets and were planning to visit their daughter and family in Florida also the reunion. Frank had to go in for surgery, been in twice and has one more session scheduled, big disappointment but he enjoyed the get well card we all signed & mailed to him.

Walt & Joyce Henschel visited an old home town friend also Disney World and spent sometime with Max & Sally Francis. It was also good to see Ray & Gennie Hayward missed them in Omaha, also good to see Rose & Burt Simon after missing the last couple reunions.

We also missed having Earl & Bonnie Hoover's daughter Diane with them, she is always such a joy to have around, besides that she is good looking, must take after her mother.

Agnes and I enjoyed our visit and trip with Jesse & Elizabeth Hayes, they were the most gracious host, good food and good company. Hunnewell told a woman in the lobby of the hotel that Jesse Hayes saved his life while overseas, he didn't eat any of Jesse cooking upon

his return home Mick McGowan fell off a ladder and broke four ribs, you know that smarts, so it kinda messed up their plans for taking their trailer down to Sebring, so when he recovers well enough perhaps about the middle of the month they will head south.

Hunnewell still insist that Curtis & Lucy Mills talks funny with their rebel accent of course. His New England accent isn't present? Got to give credit to G.L. & Ilene Pittman they hop in their truck and camper and always drive all those miles from Spokane, Wa. to wherever the reunion is. Its a shame that some people live within a short distance of some of the reunions but never show up.

Fred Sylvia and Maria also spent sometime while in Florida with some of their relatives. Joe and June Zenz also did same and planned to spend some time at their Vero Beach home.

Robert Wolfe needed a statement signed and notarized by some of the members of Co. "I" which we took care of and mailed it on to him. Hope this will encourage him to make it to the Pines.

Harry Davine informed Walt Henschel that his wife Nan has a problem with Emphsema which limits their traveling, but Pittsfield, Ma. isn't to great of a distance from the Pines. We hope and pray that they can make the trip, even if for a short visit.

I have tried to inform all of you the latest news and happenings with your old friends, so when I hear from one of you I pass the news onto the old gang. Its plain to see that people of our age sure are having our medical problems.

In fact Agnes has to go in for surgery Nov. 16th. Nothing majer we hope, but she will be laid up for about six weeks. Can't you just see me running around the house with an apron on wearing a chef's hat. - No Problems!!

Art Koerner
Kent, Ohio

783rd Ordnance

This months report is going to be "before and after the reunion."

It's only natural when you think of writing this column the first thing that comes to your mind are the fellows experiencing health problems. If your name doesn't start with B count yourself lucky. I just talked to Gert Blasko and believe me she is a real Florence Nightingale. She has Steve home for the week-ends for some enjoyed home cooking. Steve reads the Thunderbolt so I would like to say, "Hi Steve" for all of us. And you know Steve, at the reunion, we'll be talking about all the good laughs you supplied us over the years.

Phil Barbara is the other son of a B. (Phil needs a laugh) Like so many of us he is having doctor communication problems. His first radiation did not do what they had been hoping. Phil called this past Sunday still waiting for the doctors to call him with their recommendations. I can't print Phil's comments. Phil was all set for the reunion and then a niece had to up and

get married on Oct. 2nd. If this happens next year Phil, you can bring them to the Pines for a real reception.

Doc and Agnes Pfeifer are leaving this week on a real adventure. They are going to Africa to play Tarzan and Jane. The monkeys will never be the same. What is amazing about this, think back to your own parents, can you imagine them in their 78th year tracking off into the jungle? Now wait a minute I'm not giving away Agne's age!

At this same time Jim Jones is probably going down the Oregon trail to his yearly, family get together. I talked to my young Sgt. George Harris. Everything about him is amazing except time hangs a little heavy on his hands. He really misses gabbing with you guys but he was happy to learn the next reunion was within his reach.

Did any of you fellows see my Mother-In-Law on Good Morning America? Yep, she was there celebrating her 100th birthday. Can you imagine having a Mother In Law all your married life. I tell her if I had known this was going to happen I would of stayed single. She gets back at me by always introducing me as, "This is the clown of the family."

A change of pace. I sent this into Readers Digest from the book I'm trying to write, "Hut Two." How many of you remember, right before the invasion, all the lectures we received? The last two lectures were, "First Aid" and "How To Handle German Prisoners." When the Lt. asked, "Are there any questions?" Doggett raised his hand and asked, "Sir, are you telling us we could soon be getting hurt but at least we'll be winning the war?" Knowing Art you know this is a true tale of the 783rd. This is a true story too. Art and Millie Doggett's children threw them a big 50th wedding anniversary in the Hilton. Not to be outdone Art is taking Millie for a second honeymoon in Daytona.

Our dear censor, Ivan Gilman ex-Lt., along with his good wife Pat, had an usual week in the south. Pat had a convention to attend in Baltimore. So she flew from Calif. with her guide Ivan, better known as Bud. He promptly left her at the airport as he took off in his rented car and went on a weeks tour of the Civil War battlegrounds. He met Pat back at the airport a week later. As they climbed aboard he was heard to mutter, "I don't want anything to do with a town that bore a Doggett."

At reunion time the Gilmans were playing host to a group of relatives from England. Lets hope next year he gets relatives to his home town of Palmyra N.Y. at Pines reunion time.

Because of the Oct. 4th deadline on the Thunderbolt I started this article before the reunion. Bob Derickson gave us some needed writing room. So now sit back and I'll try to relate all the action at Daytona. Down to the last man, and woman, everyone of the nineteen people representing the 783rd, remarked about the great feeling of being together.

Al and Ruth Bensimon worked hard on this reunion and did themselves proud. Al provided the female entertainer for one night and she left everyone rolling in the aisles.

We were all thrilled to see the slimed down versions of Milly and Art Doggett. and it was great bending elbows with them again and hearing Art denying his Army capers.

Bob Hammond once again brought his traveling friends of twenty years, Joe Ann and John Keller. They fit right in with the fun of the young soldiers!

Lou and Easy Labbe while cruising to the reunion stopped and called Troy Bishop in Biloxi Miss. Easy was sorry to learn Troy and his wife are both having health problems.

Martha and Bill Appleby looked and acted their normal cheerful selves. Bill had to tear home in two days to call a dance in Quakertown. And he does it all without eating green

vegetables. A reunion is an education. Both Midge and gay Hersch Weaver had bouts with illness this year however they looked and acted in top shape. Hersch had Midge pier fishing and riding the Dune buggys. Some guys never grow up. Carl and Mimi Wiggins were a real disappointment. Not once were they seen on the beach with their new bathing suits. Ray took Mimi's place by showing off his golf talents. I know Phil Barbara will agree with me. Anyone who plays 155 rounds of golf a year and carry's a full set of clubs, should be giving out strokes for his bragging rights.

After the reunion I drove Ginny to her cousins which happened to be just five miles from the Bensimons pad. Al and Ruth invited us over and I have to tell you it was a bummer of a visit. They have a neat property and Ruth has done a terrific job in the house. The whole place is surrounded with all kinds of fruit trees but I didn't even get a glass of orange juice. Al has his boat parked right off his back lawn and he was going to take us for a ride but his battery was dead. I didn't ask but I assume Al meant the boats battery. Oh well, if I worked all year long getting a reunion together I guess my battery would be down too.

The whole reunion I promised that Bill Manning would be in attendance but it never happened. Bill's yearly reunion problems are too numerous to mention and this year was no exception. Bill never got his Fla. birthday party with his daughter because Eloise came down with a serious stomach problem. She does not have cancer and as you read this I'm hoping she will have regained full health after her operation. I hope I can say the same for Ginny. She called the surgeon as soon as we got home and her lumbar laminectomy is now scheduled for Nov. 11. And so it goes, we all get our chance to use health insurance. Thank heavens for all of us who have it.

This is a weird article, yeh I know Phil, they all are. I started this in Sept. and now I realize I could save myself a lot of cards with stamps by just signing off and saying, "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

Hut two,
Rags Rangnow

NOTES & LETTERS

Dear Mr. Derickson

Members of the 83rd are members of the combat infantry men's association along with countless other veterans from other army units. Send notices of 83 events, we will place in our newsletter. Please place following in your publications.

Veterans who earned and were awarded the combat infantry badge are eligible for membership in the combat infantry men's association. For information send stamped, self-addressed legal size envelope to C.I.A. 138 Locust Ave., New Rochelle, N.Y. 10805. Thank You,

Norman S. Kantor, Combat Infantrymen's Ass'c
138 Locust Avenue
New Rochelle, New York 10805

We'll Be In The U.S. Before You!

The booklet on Sam Magill at the Florida Reunion reminded me of a game played by some of us assigned to transport the 20,000 German Prisoners from various collection points to a temporary holding camp.

Each two and a half ton truck driver and assistant driver put a dollar or the equivalent in British or French money in a large mess hall pot. The first truck to get 100 prisoners in the back (all canvas and bows were removed) would win the pot.

Some German NCO's spoke English and began sorting out the fat and the large men. No one could hang on the outside, so we pushed, shoved and forced the tailgate shut. The Germans were mostly cheerful and cooperative. They told us over and over, "We'll be in the USA before you!" They were right. Most of the prisoners were shipped to the U.S. to ease housing problems and lessen chances of escape.

Our truck got over ninety prisoners aboard, but another truck got the hundred and won the pot.

Hal O'Neill
83rd Signal

The heroes who died aren't remembered,
The wounded we try to forget.
And we poor, damn sinners who came out as winners,
Are blamed for the National Debt!

Bless'em all, Bless'em all, Bless'em all,
The long, the short and the tall.
There will be no promotion this side of the ocean.
But I still say, my lads, Bless'em all!

Hal O'Neill
83rd Signal

Dear Bob,

Just a few lines to let you know that a member of our association has been ill. His name is Lee Hetrick. He and his wife Dorothy Hetrick have had a real rough time staying well this last year. They both had Angina plastic, but Lee was worse off as he's had to have 4 heart bypasses the 22nd of June. He seems to be doing better at this time, so far his wife Dorothy is better as of now. I hope Bob that you would be kind enough to put this in the next issue of the Thunderbolt.

As Ever
Mr. & Mrs. John Dougherty

Lee Hetrick (C.N. 331)
485 E. Hazelhurst
Ferndale, Mich. 48220

Dear Mr. Derickson:

I am retired U.S. military and a member of the Belgian American Association (BAA). I am writing to ask your assistance in obtaining first-person accounts and anecdotes of the experiences of your organization's members in Belgium during World War II and, specifically, during the Battle of the Bulge.

In the run-up to the 50th anniversary of the battle I would like to compile some first-person experiences of American soldiers, who served in Belgium, with the Belgian people that I may then provide to the BAA membership through the association's newsletter. As your unit participated in the Battle of the Bulge I thought perhaps some of your members would have recollections of their experiences with the Belgians that they might like to share with the members of the Belgian community living here in the United States and Americans such as myself who have lived in Belgium.

I intend to periodically publish these accounts in the BAA newsletter over the next 21 months leading up to December of 1994, the 50th anniversary of the battle. It would therefore be helpful, though not a necessity, if anyone who passed along their experiences to me could include the approximate dates, location (city/village names if possible), and description of the environment at the time (weather, rural or urban, battle damage, condition of the local population, etc.).

Having had two tours of duty at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe near Mons in Belgium with nearly seven years among the Belgians I know from personal experience the degree of appreciation those Belgians who endured WWII and the occupation of their country feel toward the American forces that liberated them. I'm sure that they and succeeding generations of their countrymen would be interested in reading any accounts your members could provide relating to those critical days of World War II.

Should anyone within your organization wish to get in touch with me please have them contact me at the following address:

Phillip E. Aigner
2920 Motherwell Court
Herndon, VA 22071-4065
Home phone: (703) 709-0045

Thank you for any assistance you can provide.
Sincerely,

Phillip E. Aigner



Mr. Derickson, Editor Thunderbolt

At the 47th annual reunion of the 83rd Inf. Div. Assn., Howard Johnson Hotel, Daytona Beach, Fl. Sept. 28 - Oct. 2, I learned that many members in attendance were formerly with the 63rd Inf. Div. based at Camp Van Dorn, near Gloster, Mississippi. I, too, was a member of the 63rd Div. at Van Dorn prior to joining the 83rd Div. at Camp Breckenridge, Ky. in January 1944.

In talking to some former 63rd people at Daytona Beach I found that some of those sent to the 83rd left behind good friends and buddies in the 63rd and have lost all contact with them and the division.

Therefore Editors Derickson and Spiegel, thru their respective publications, should make an effort to get these lost people reunited. The 63rd Div. held their reunion in Burlington, Mn. (Minneapolis/St. Paul area) August 23, 1993; their 1994 reunion will be in Jacksonville, Fl. The 48th annual reunion of 83rd will be at the Pines resort (New York State) in Sept. 1994. I understand the dues in the 63rd Div. is \$4000 lifetime or \$10 annually. Those formerly in the 63rd may want to join the association.

My 63rd Div. buddy, Robert E. Flaspohler, (763rd Ord. Co.) 2904 W. 50th Terrace, Shawnee Mission, Ks. 66205, phone 913 236-5047 furnished the above information to the 63rd Div. Assn. You former 63rders may wish to write or call Mr. Spiegel and share any information you have and seek answers to some of your questions.

Raymond G. Wiggins, 783rd Ord. Co.
6900 West 100 Terrace
Overland Park, Ks. 66212
Phone 913 648-3868 10/19/93

FOR ALL THOSE BORN BEFORE 1945

WE ARE SURVIVORS!!! Consider the changes we have witnessed: We were born before television, before penicillin, before polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, frisbees and the Pill.

We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens, before panty hose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes -- and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together. How quaint can you be? In our time, closets were for clothes, not for "coming out of". Bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagens. Designer jeans were scheming girls named Jean and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along well with your cousins.

We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent, and Outer Space was the back seat at the drive-in theater or Dave's Top Hat.

We were before house-husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and commuter marriages. We

were before day-care centers, group therapy and nursing homes. We never heard of FM radios, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt, and guys wearing earrings. For us, time-sharing meant togetherness - not computers or condominiums; a "chip" was a piece of wood; hardware meant hardware, and software wasn't even a word.

In 1940, "made in Japan" meant junk and the term "making out" referred to how you did on your exams. Pizzas, "McDonalds" and instant coffee were unheard of.

We hit the scene when there were 5 and 10 cent stores, where you bought things for five and ten cents. Borden's or Shamrock sold ice cream cones for a nickel or a dime. For one nickel you could buy a bag of popcorn, make a phone call, buy a Pepsi or enough stamps to mail one letter and two postcards. You could buy a new Chevy Coup for \$600, but who could afford one? A pity, too, because gas was 11 cents a gallon.

In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, CRACK was in the sidewalk, GRASS was mowed, COKE was a cold drink and POT was something you cooked in. ROCK MUSIC was a grandma's lullaby and AIDS were helpers in the principal's office.

We were certainly not before the difference between the sexes was discovered but we were before the sex change; we made do with what we had, and we were the last generation that was so dumb as to think you needed a husband to have a baby!

No wonder we are so confused and there is such a generation gap today!

BUT WE SURVIVED!!!!!! What better reason to celebrate!!!!

Frank Morris
83rd Div. 331 Bn. Co. "K"

Dear Bob,

I want to take this opportunity to thank those responsible for presenting me with the beautiful plaque at our last reunion. I have always enjoyed singing for the Memorial Services and at the banquet and have appreciated the kind remarks from our members. This really puts the frosting on the cake.

Thanks to all,
Jim Burton
Executive Board
Co. "D" 329th

AT THE FLORIDA REUNION

*Daniel Pelose from 'C' Co. 331st. meets his
buddy Fred Policastro.
First time since the Luxemburg Days.*

Lille, May the 10th 1946
 Accident took place April 1, 1945 -
 Rouen, France
 Awrecked bridge blown
 while with the 390th M.P.



DANIEL PELOSE - 272
 Sprout Brook Rd., Putnam
 Valley, N.Y. 10579



VICTOR ABRAHAM - 2120
 8th St. N.E., Canton, OH



Dear Friend,

No doubt you think we have forgotten you. Still there is nothing like it and specially last Easter we have been thankfully thinking of you.

We hope that you are now at home, safe and sound, that your family too is in good health. They must have been so happy to see you again after so long an absence.

Our little Anny remembers very well her accident and the way you rescued her so generously. She speaks very often of you and your friend.

We send you her picture, that will remind you that their is in France a thankful family which will remember you for ever.

We got the picture only a few days ago and that is the reason why we did not write to you before.

Please give our kind regards to your family whom we should be pleased to know and be sure of our friendly gratitude.

Yours truly
 P. GeGowx
 117 Av. de la République
 La Madeleine, France

Hi Bob,

We have registered at the White Hall Hotel in Daytona for the Reunion. The Howard Johnson was full. Hope to see you there.

We were in Florence, Ky. back in June but missed being with Walter Pickett & the Mini Reunion there but did talk with Manny Goodridge on the phone. Did not get to see him since I had to be in Louisville, Ky. the next day to see my granddaughter graduate.

Saw Walter Pickett in 1990 out in Texas City, Texas, 1st time since 1945 in Bahamas, also Clem Slatt in Whitewater, Wis, in 1989 then in 1991 saw Edward Horrox in Woonsochet, Rd. near Bellington Mass where we were staying.

We were all in the 908th S. Btry, in which Manny was a Lt. We all have 5 Battle Stars and served in E.T.O. & Camp Breckinridge.trained with the 124th Inf. 31st Div. in Camp Blanding, Fl in 1941, also Ft. Benning Ga. with the Infantry School with the 124th Inf. FNG - Ft. Jackson with the 4th Div. & 106th Div. Tenn.

The 31st Dixie Div. fought at New Gueina, West India. I had a lot of friends with it. We have a museum at Camp Blanding for the men & units that fought & trained there. So we meet there also.

Donald W. Jarrell
 1205 Kenmore Street
 Jacksonville, Fl.

48 years after a historic meeting at the Elbe, old soldiers link up again

Tom Kelly
 Editorial Writer



Two old soldiers who helped make military history 48 years ago met for the first time last month in a modest apartment in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Col. Yevgeni Barkowski, artilleryman, and Sgt. Bernard Plotnicov, infantryman, were on opposite banks of the Elbe River when Russian and American forces linked up in April 1945 to begin the final push to defeat Nazi Germany and end World War II in Europe.

Their improbable June meeting in Barkowski's flat was the culmination of an unlikely series of events that began in January. I had met the 74-year-old Barkowski, a retired journalist, on an assignment in Russia, and had written of his desire to correspond with American veterans of what Russians call The Great Patriotic War.

Plotnicov, a New Yorker who winters in Sunrise, read the column and wrote to Barkowski. A meeting was arranged and last month, Plotnicov, his wife Jean and brother Leonard, a social anthropologist at the University of Pittsburgh, traveled to the former "Soviet Union" to spend three weeks in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Kishinev, Moldova.

The Plotnicovs and Barkowskis got together on a brilliant summer afternoon. Yevgeni's wife was in the countryside recuperating from recent bypass surgery, so his daughter Marianne acted as hostess for a repast of traditional Russian zakuski, a variety of fish and meat dishes served with bread and vodka.

"What a beauty his daughter is," Plotnicov recalled. "Tall, with chiseled features and fluent in English because she teaches the language at St. Petersburg University. I told her she ought to be a movie star."

But Marianne mostly stayed in the background as the former allies compared war stories. "We hauled out old maps and followed the campaigns of our divisions," said Plotnicov, whose 83rd Infantry "Thunderbolts" were one of the fightingest and most decorated American units of the war.

From June, 1944 until the war's end, the Thunderbolts took part in five decisive campaigns -- Normandy, Brittany, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe -- marching 1,408 miles across the continent and losing an estimated 3,275 men in the process.

Plotnicov, who had survived the Battle of the Bulge, was wounded in the leg and face by mortar fire when the Germans counterattacked across the Elbe on April 18, 1945. He received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, along with a citation for "heroic devotion to duty and complete disregard for personal safety."

The soldiers reminisced together for four fleeting hours. "It was like being in a dream," Plotnicov said. When it was time to go, the 68-year-old Plotnicov gave Barkowski three Time-Life books on the war. He also gave him two 83rd Infantry hats -- including an authentic Thunderbolts overseas cap. The gesture brought tears to the older man's eyes.

"There was a lot of sadness in him because the changes in Russia have caused him to lose everything he had," Plotnicov said. As a member of the Communist Party and a decorated veteran, Barkowski was entitled to special privileges and a generous pension under the old system. Now his privileges have vanished and his life savings have been wiped out by inflation.

The two men parted in the Russian manner. "It was very emotional with a lot of hugging and kissing, even on the mouth," Plotnicov said, "but I was very comfortable with it. It was like saying goodbye to a long-lost brother."

Plotnicov will never forget Barkowski's last words to

him. "He asked me, 'What happened to our two countries? We had so much hope and promise 50 years ago and then we started a race neither of us could win. It buried us and it nearly buried you'." The sergeant admitted he had no answer for the old colonel.

Sent in by Bernie Cove
Box 274
S. Fallsbury, NY 12779

PLH Normandy, Ltd.

At the successful reunion of the famous 83rd Infantry Division of WW 2 in Daytona Beach, Florida during late September and early October of 1993, two fellows sat in the northeast corner of the lobby of the Howard Johnson Hotel, surrounded by original artwork of the late Nicholas S. Firfires of the 83rd Division. Though Nick became a celebrated and famous artist of Western and horse-culture scenes in the Western United States after the war, his work shown at Daytona was his art work done while on duty with the 83rd.

The two gentlemen sitting in that corner represent PLH Normandy, Ltd, a partnership dedicated to the marketing of the Firfires Art Collection. PLH Normandy, Ltd., owns all rights and copyrights of the material purchased from the Firfires estate.

There is another story about those two gentlemen: "They are combat veterans of WW #2 and were flying over occupied Europe for 1 1/2 years prior to the famous D-Day invasion. Between them their combat decorations include the Silver Star; a few Distinguished Flying Crosses; more than ten Air Medals; the French Croix de Guerre avec Etoile de Argent and many other appropriate awards.

These gentlemen were proud to be in the company of the heroes of the 83rd Infantry Division.

It is believable that many 83rd members have the original copy, but do not know the condition it is in at present. When we purchased the WW2 Art collection of 83rd Tech 4 Nicholas S. Firfires, there were 6 of the originals. During our reproduction operation we had to be very very careful lest it fall apart. Our reproduction is printed with four-color processing on 60# paper. It is a good item for 83rd veterans to pass on to their descendants and to keep in their memorabilia of a tremendous victory in which they had a great part.

Copies may be obtained by sending a check or money order in amount of \$16.50 payable to: (\$15.00 + \$1.50 shipping & handling).

PLH Normandy, Ltd.

P.O. Box 3006

HALF MOON BAY, CA 94019-3006

Thank you,
William Heller

Rounds Complete

Mission Accomplished

Sgt. George R. Hall - 324th F A Bn
continued from Summer Issue

NORTHERN FRANCE

After five days "rest" at Hauteville, the Battalion assembled in the vicinity of Pontorson, France for an attack on the city of Dol.

Placed in general support it was not necessary to fire a round as the infantry overcame weak and scattered resistance to take the city with no artillery preparation. Close on the infantry's heels we moved to Hirel on August 5th, then again to Limonay France, next day for the assault on St. Malo. Almost immediately a fierce artillery duel broke out. One of C Battery's howitzers was knocked out of action when an enemy shell ignited powder charges and burned a tire. Five casualties, all wounded, were sustained during the exchange.

Service Battery's ammunition train was subjected to a sustained bombing attack by enemy aircraft but escaped damage. Several prisoners were taken by one of the ammunition trucks after an exchange of hand grenades between them and the driver.

Although the Citadel held out until the 17th, the town of St. Malo was cleared on August 10th and we moved on Dinard, a French resort town, taking up positions one mile north of Pleslin, France.

This city was defended by numerous strong points consisting of heavily reinforced concrete pill boxes connected by a series of underground communication trenches. A direct hit by one of the howitzers neutralized the entire system forcing 600 occupants to surrender. Dinard was cleared and occupied on the 14th of August, and the howitzers turned on the Ile de Cezembre.

The Ile de Cezembre was a fortified island in the harbor, that had been harrassing 83rd Division troops during the battle of St Malo. An OP was established on Hill 42, near St. Lunaire, France, and picked gun crews, manning three captured 15 cm SP guns, placed effective fire on the island until ammunition ran low. Two of our 155's were brought forward August 16th and promptly knocked out an entire battery of 15 cm guns with a single shell. Shortly afterwards the island lost its last remaining artillery piece, and leaving the garrison imprisoned in the battered stronghold, movement was made to a bivouac area near La Germondais, France to overhaul and Service equipment.

In the battles of St. Malo and Dinard 4460 rounds were fired in a type of warfare distinctly different from that of the Normandy hedgerows. The men faced savage resistance by an enemy who fought from specially prepared stone and concrete positions, who had considerable heavy artillery at his disposal and, as usual, a previous well established knowledge of the terrain. Despite this definite disadvantage the 324th displayed magnificent courage by setting up in open fields and, from comparatively unprotected positions, under accurate concentrated enemy shelling, pounding the dazed defenders of these elaborate positions into helpless submission.

Members of the battalion were privileged to wear a second battle participation star for the Northern France Campaign.

LORIE RIVER

After a long motor march, howitzers went into defensive positions along the Lorie River, just outside the city of Angers, France. The 83rd Division was holding a ninety mile front, maintaining a strict Surveillance of the sector in an attempt to keep the enemy south of the river. Later 20,000 German troops in this area surrendered.

Battery "A" was detached and sent to a position west of the city and shelled a small town south of the line to soften it up for an attack by the FFI.

There were many pretty French girls in Angers so naturally, after firing only 390 rounds, the battalion was suddenly ordered back to Dinard for decisive action against the Ile de Cezembre.

Completing the 130 miles of March on August 29th, the guns immediately went into action.

The garrison, still holed up with sufficient food to last many months, had consistently refused to surrender. The plan was to reduce the island by artillery fire and if unsuccessful, commit the infantry to an amphibious landing. As the enemy's artillery had been neutralized, fire was directed from OPs located in luxurious summer homes along the beach. Additional artillery was brought up and a heavy fire maintained against the island.

Liberator bombers dropped tons of explosive and flaming oil on the installations while hundreds of French civilians and "GIs attending movies in town, watched the strange war from vantage points along the shore.

On September 1st, the garrison, unable to hold out longer under the terrific pressure, surrendered. The battalion fired 3,092 rounds during the siege and its accurate fire proved largely responsible for the island's final capitulation.

CHATEAUBRIANT, FRANCE

On September 3rd the battalion moved to Chateaubriant, and daily drill schedules were placed in effect. A Softball tournament featuring many tight and bitterly contested games saw Battery "B" finally emerge winner.

September 12th found us in an assembly area near Vendome, France. Passes were issued. On September 18th, at a battalion formation Maj Gen. Robert C. Macon, Division Commander, presented Silver Star Medals, Bronze Star Medals, and Air Medals to several members of the battalion.

The next move was on September 20th and took us to Montargis, France. Here we remained for four days until orders sent us into the Duchy of Luxembourg and re-entry into combat.

LUXEMBOURG

A gruelling March of 324 miles, including a 3 hour layover north of St Mihiel, brought us to an assembly area one mile south of Leudelange, Luxembourg, on September 24th. The battalion remained in Luxembourg until the 4th of December, occupying ten positions near the towns of Brouch, Berbourg, Canach, Mondorf, Beyren, Ellange and Wecker.

When the remaining Germans were driven across the Moselle the Division adopted defensive positions designed to prevent their recrossing the river. During this period a crisis in ammunition supply found us using shells originally manufactured for use in World War I howitzers. Terrain here was well suited for fixed observation posts, and each battery maintained one most of the time.

In Berbourg we were subjected to heavy enemy fire from large calibre artillery, that fell on the area, generally at meal times. Once again Battery "B" was hard hit, losing a Chief of

Section and two cannoneers, while four others were wounded. Batteries changes positions, Berbourg civilians were evacuated and men billeted in houses. During the lengthy Berbourg stay from October 9th to November 8th costly fire was laid on installations, personnel, rail lines, and batteries. At almost extreme range, 15,000 yards, hits were registered on freight and passenger trains running through the city of Kinz-Karthus.

Total number of rounds fired in Luxembourg was 6141. The first round to land on German soil was fired by Battery "B", September 26th, at 0934 hours.

When in Mondorf the battalion had an OP in France while howitzers 8in Luxembourg were firing at targets in Germany.

HURTGEN FOREST

December 4th the battalion left Canach, Luxembourg and bivouacked that night in the woods near Houffalize, Belgium. Little did we realize that 6 weeks later this area would be a bitterly contested portion of the "Bulge". On December 5th the 324th entered Germany and went in to firing position next day in the bloody Hurtgen Forest, relieving the 4th Division's 20th FA Bn.

We were now entering a new and disagreeable phase of fighting - winter combat. The winter was wet and cold, mud lay ankle deep in the roads that twisted and turned through the dark and gloomy forest. The ground was thick with anti-tank and hated anti-personnel mines. Log cabins were laboriously constructed, the men went on a menu of "C" rations - the chill of winter seeped through summer uniforms and left everyone cold and miserable.

The long dormant Luftwaffe suddenly came to life and on December 18th a low flying plane bombed and strafed Battery "C" wounding six men and damaging four vehicles. There were ominous reports of a serious German counter - offensive in Belgium. Enemy paratroops dropped in our sector causing increased vigilance on the part of night guards. A tractor was completely wrecked when it hit a mine - the men escaping with minor injuries.

Support was given the infantry attacking the villages of Gey, Stras, Gurzenich, Birgel, Hufferath and Rolsdorf. The enemy was driven back across the Roer, and our infantry patrols entered Duren. The approaches to Germany were cleared and the Cologne Plain lay open before us. During the 20 days in Germany 7,368 rounds were expended. Due to poor visibility most firing was done by forward observers. A blanket of fog obscured all targets, keeping Allied planes grounded until December 24th when the skies cleared.

With rumors of enemy success in the South substantiated, a rather grim Christmas was spent on the outskirts of Duren but a genuine turkey dinner contributed considerably towards restoring our sagging morale.

The battalion was authorized to wear a third Bronze service star for the Germany campaign.

March order, on December, took us to Havelange, Belgium, where sleeping bags were issued and the next day we were placing pressure on the norther shoulder of the Bulge. As the year 1944 ended the 324th was supporting infantry in an attack on the city of Rochefort, Belgium. We had fired 35,741 rounds and traveled 1,405 miles.

ARDENNES, BELGIUM

The fighting in Belgium was a slugging match in a nightmare of cold, over uneven terrain, into small villages and through irregular patches of snow covered woods. There were two enemies to fight - a confident Wehrmacht, cocky now, and flushed

with initial successes in the counter-offensive and the most relentless foe of all - Nature, with its snow and ice and a bitter cold that killed quickly, indiscriminately and without mercy.

The German fought cleverly while he was winning and utterly without quarter. When the tide of battle turned he clung stubbornly to each inhabited place crowding into the buildings for warmth. He defended every house, every barn, every meager shelter with a desperation born of the knowledge that to withdraw meant fighting in the frigid open fields. In the numbing cold of these same fields, the battalion brushed aside waist deep snow, dug in the howitzers, fired and serviced them without complaint. For these were the kinds of targets they had been awaiting so long. The snow was a sea of white and friendless space. Winds screamed down the valley filling gun pits and covering ammunition with drifting snow.

But the 155s raced on through the short days and the long winter nights, smashing attacks, halting tanks, toppling the sturdy little houses down upon their occupants and driving the survivors back up the road which they had rolled so triumphantly a few weeks earlier.

New Years Day, 1945, was just another day except for the turkey dinner. Jan 1st was spent at Biron, Belgium, firing on tanks, troop convoys, installations, and an enemy assembly area. From Biron we moved on Jan 2nd to assemble at Lantroul and then to a firing position at Harre on the 4th, where harassing fire was laid on enemy troops. German prisoners, their arrogance gone, came down the road staring fearfully at the 155's as they plodded dejectedly to the rear.

Tanks put in an appearance on the 5th, and a barrage broke up the column. On Jan 6th one gun section moved up to Vaux-Chavanne for registration. Next day the entire battalion crept forward over icy roads to Hierlot and from a position near Lierneux, "Belgium, placed heavy fire on hosed and cross roads in the vicinity. The corridor was narrowing now, and the enemy was slowly pulling out his men and equipment.

From Hierlot, the batteries moved Jan 12th to positions near the towns of Verleumont, Hebronval and Joubieval, Belgium. Four Battery "B" men were injured when their truck hit a mine in the latter position. Targets here were towns, enemy columns, and road junctions. The battalion fired its 40,000th round.

January 16th, the battalion moved to Petite - Langlir, Belgium, the last firing position in the Ardennes, and about 4000 yards closer to the enemy than the light battalions. Batteries "B" and "C" were subjected to a heavy concentration of German artillery fire but suffered no damage. Service Battery trucks on the way up with ammunition were pinned down by the intense shell fire on the road. Some harassing fire bracketed the CP, seriously damaging an ambulance outside.

A strong German counter - attack was launched on the 17th. The 155s smashed leading tanks, destroyed an entire company of enemy infantry, and completely smothered the attack. The 83rd then struck back quickly after a thorough artillery barrage. Our infantry, riding 3rd Armored tanks, crashed through the forests cut the road from Houffalize to St Vith, knocked the last props out from under the defense of Bovigny, and, rolled on into the city. The Ardennes Bulge was now squeezed off, and the enemy withdrew northeast leaving a trail of burnt - out armor and dead Panzergrenadiers.

In that bloody pilgrimage from Rochefort to Houffalize the German losses from 155s were heavy. Thus it was that in the tiny villages of Belgium the myth of the German superman died forever, and the 324th helped write his tragic finish on the crimson snow of the Ardennes.

The batteries packed up and moved to assigned billets in

the nearby towns of Chene-Al-Pierre, La Fourche and Mont Derieux. The inevitable training schedule was set in motion but there were compensations in the form of hot showers, clean clothes, movies, passes to Paris and Viviers, USO shows, and above all, the wonderful experience of living in houses again.

Brigadier General Montague, Division Artillery Commander, presented awards and decorations for valor and achievement to many members of the battalion.

All equipment was cleaned, given proper maintenance - carbines, pistols, machine guns fired on a hastily constructed range knee deep in snow. Howitzers calibrated February 2nd and the battalion placed on a three hour alert. A break in the weather caused the removal of cleats from the tracts of all prime movers.

The pending move being of top secret importance, to gain strategic surprise all division insignia, were removed from outer garments, unit markings from vehicles and the organization referred to as "Task Force Irvine".

At 2015 hours, February 6th, in the usual heavy downpour of rain, the battalion set out for Mortier, Belgium, arriving 0230 hours next morning. Later that same day our guns were crossing over into Germany once more for another crack at the vaunted defense line.

THE ROER RIVER

Durboslar, Germany, was a wrecked and battered town, its empty ruins barely distinguishable in the artificial moonlight, when the battalion arrived near midnight. A cold rain had been falling since late afternoon, and orders to dig in every vehicle and thoroughly camouflage all equipment before retiring seemed particularly irritating to wet and tired men that night.

When morning came there was a full appreciation of the circumstances necessitating more than the usual degree of camouflage discipline. For as far as the eye could see, enemy held territory, flat and unbroken, stretched out before us - the bursts of our exploding projectiles, clearly visible along the horizon, appeared uncomfortably close. This position was just west of the Roer River, swollen to a raging torrent by enemy demolition of the Schwamman Dam, a tough obstacle for attacking troops. Poised on the banks of this formidable natural water barrier, the battalion sat back to await the assault.

Comparative inactivity marked the three weeks spent in Durboslar. Top secrecy of our presence in the vicinity was maintained, and all addresses on incoming mail destroyed. Our telephone Code name was temporarily changed from "Blank" to "Armored King 63". One man evacuated to a hospital took the secrecy so literally that he would not disclose his unit designation, even to the colonel commanding the hospital, until he had talked to Captain Martz, our battalion surgeon, on the telephone and received permission. Vehicles not actually needed were sent back to Service Battery at Alsdorf. Movies and showers were enjoyed frequently.

There was little enemy fire save on February 12th when a moderate concentration was laid among the batteries. Periodic night bombings were carried out by the Luftwaffe - a particular prolonged and determined strafing attack reminiscent of Omaha Beach, occurred on the 21st.

Preceded by a terrific artillery barrage of 45 minutes duration, the attack jumped off on the morning of February 23rd. It was an experience few will ever forget, for the night was ablaze with crimson flames and the earth shuddered and trembled for miles around. Infantry of the 29th Division crossed the river and drove ahead with little opposition.

During this 24 hour period the 324th fired 1600 rounds at varied targets while participating in one of the greatest artillery concentrations of the War.

The enemy was driven from range February 26th, and the 324th was released from 29th Division control, but remained in the XIX Corps, and was placed in Reserve. The battalion left Durboslar February 28th and moved 14 miles to an assembly area at Stettelnich, across the Roer River. The German retreat had by now turned into a hopeless rout and the 83rd, committed to action, drove headlong toward the Rhine.

At times our forward parties were reconnoitering one part of a town while the enemy was still fighting in the building down the street. White surrender flags appeared on all the houses as the 155s rolled into towns and villages along the route. Civilians seemed stunned at the speed of advance and size of the guns so close to the German retreating columns.

At Luttenlehn, Germany, the first rounds from the battalion were fired across the Rhine by Batteries "A" and "B" on March 2nd at 1100 hours.

On March 3rd took up positions in the city of Neuss, on the banks of the Rhine opposite Dusseldorf.

NEUSS, GERMANY

The 83rd had been the first American division to reach the lower Rhine. The 34th rolled into Neuss, a city of 56,000 population, and took up positions just off the paved streets. Civilians evacuated nearby houses to provide living quarters for the battalion and fearfully remained indoors for several days.

Having gun positions in town was a new and somewhat pleasant deviation from muddy trenches and confining fox-holes and presented distinctly new possibilities. Orders were issued to curb the art of "Liberating", an art that had attained a high degree of perfection from Normandy to Neuss. And when the timid population finally emerged from their homes, the appearance of large numbers of pretty frauleins on the streets introduced a new note in the sour symphony of War-Non-Fraternization.

Roadblocks were established along roads leading in and out of the city to prevent mass movement of civilians and establish security precautions. Men visited the morgue and an elaborate underground hospital.

The War went on and across the river the great industrial city of Dusseldorf began to take a terrific artillery beating. Targets included an enemy CP, tanks, railyards, factories, pill boxes and dugouts. A strong flank counterattack, launched on March 4th, was turned back with heavy enemy losses.

A survey of the city turned up several all-purpose 88 mm guns abandoned intact when their crews fled in disorder. Further search revealed huge stores of ammunition in dumps throughout the area. On March 6th, under the supervision of Lts Bercik and Baber, these were placed in operation against the enemy and during a period of two weeks threw a total of 3551 shells, of his own manufacture, back into the enemy's positions.

During the stay in Neuss we were favored with an Ordnance inspection, a Lily Pons Concert, a few passes to Holland and Paris. Softball games, and the surprise resurrection of an old delightful pastime - listening to the Articles of War.

On March 20th the 360th FA relieved the 324th, and we left the next day for a short rest in the German towns of Heinsberg, Aachen and Schelfendhal. Passes were issued to Maastricht and Sittard, Holland.

The capture of the Remagen bridge was changing the entire complexion of the war and on the 27th of March the battalion moved out of this rest area to become involved in what was to

be the strangest fighting of its career.

GERMANY

After a 48 mile march to Anrath, near Krefeld, the column crossed the Rhine, Germany's last great water barrier, at 2300 hours, March 29th, and then assembled at Uverhof, just south of Wesel. Men again became acutely Mine conscious when a Battery "A" cannoneer was killed by one of the many anti-personnel mines sown in the area.

Starting March 31st the 324th set out in the wildest maddest pursuit in the annals of military history. Disregarding all the orthodox rules of warfare, including the established principle of securing supply lines, the battalion struck quickly and recklessly into the heart of the Reich. German vehicles, picked up along the way, were repaired and pressed into service carrying ammunition, supplies and gasoline.

The long line of howitzers slid ahead of tanks, passed the infantry, and in one instance waited for the recon armored cars to catch up. There was rain and mud and biting wind and burning sun. Men grew bearded and dirty - their faces gray with dust and lined with fatigue. As many as four positions were occupied in one day for the procedure was to pull into position before a suspected strong point, prepare for quick firing, down a fast meal, load up and move forward again.

The risks were great, but the battalion cheerfully accepted the increased hazards involved in what constituted the last phases of the war. As the military disintegration of Germany set in, the vaunted Wehrmacht changed over night into a helpless frightened fugitive mob. The few remaining obstacles were hastily constructed fortifications - rough haphazard defenses thrown up on the spur of the moment by half-hearted Volkssturmers who remained to take them down again. There was a growing conviction that the war was over.

April 1st, the battalion moved up on the city of Hamm, where fierce enemy resistance was still being made. A strong German patrol ambushed a Battery "A" reconnaissance party, capturing three and permitting two to escape. One of the three later returned with several of his erstwhile captors in tow.

From April 2nd to the 11th we moved from Wadersloh to Paderborn, where a powerful counter-attack was beaten off, to Haustenbeck, Holzhausen, Horn, Steinheim, Ottenstein, Tucht-feld, Luerdissen, Imsen, Wispenstein, Rhuden, Oker, Veckenstedt and the airplane center of Halberstadt, making a notable effort to keep up with the 2nd Armored Division on our left.

At night the sky was aflame with piles of burning foodstuffs, and thick black smoke from destroyed oil and gas stocks, military installations and warehouses obscured the horizon. Liberated slave workers streamed down the highways - thousands of soldiers from a demoralized and disorganized German Army, waved white handkerchiefs and pleaded frantically to be taken prisoner.

The 12th of April saw the battalion at Wegeleben, and on the 13th, at Wespen, the howitzers opened up in support of the Elbe River crossing. One battery advanced up the road for a distance of 2 1/2 miles but returned to aid in repelling a determined counter-attack. The entire battalion crossed the river on the 15th, at Barby, taking up positions on the east bank of the Elbe between two bridges that both rated a high priority from the German Air Corps. Bulldozers dug the guns in and the action started.

On the night of the 16th an enemy tank slipped through and threw 60 shells at the bridge. JU 88s flew in every few minutes after dark to blast away at the thin strip connecting us with the opposite shore. Aircraft jettisoned their loads in the limited confines of the narrow bridge head.

The guns were turned on Zerbst, and the town, refusing to surrender, was slowly pounded to pieces. Rations were drawn from a captured warehouse - trucks were sent back to haul ammunition. There were rumors of meetings with the Russians, whose position was estimated at 15,000 yards to the front.

On the 24th of April a few shells turned enemy tanks back toward Zerbst. On April 29th the battalion left Barby to take up new duties - policing the rear areas and administering Military Government.

MILITARY GOVERNMENT

Military Government duties were new, complex, and confusing but somehow order was restored from that first existing chaos. The batteries settled down to extended guard duties, a daily struggle with DPs, the non-fraternization problem, the Burgomeister and the German language.

Headquarters Battery was assigned the city of Schneidlingen and Bornecke; Battery "A", Tartun, Unseburg, Nunsleben; Battery "B", Hakeborn; Battery "C", Schadeleben and Nachterstedt; Service Battery, Cochstet.

Extensive preparations were made for the care, feeding sheltering and shipping of Displaced persons. The problems, numerous and varied at first, were handled with the finesse of a Charge 7 in repelling a counter-attack, then gradually modified as the artillerymen developed tact and a highly improved social technique.

Nazi slogans disappeared from the walls, rubble was cleared up and stones piled neatly along the walls. A few SS were flushed from hiding, arms caches uncovered in out of the way places and two crew members from a crashed German plane were put under arrest. Hostility softened in civilian faces - German kids clustered around the kitchens - frauleins eyed each GI Joe slowly and speculatively.

On May 6th the 30th Division took over the area, and during the remainder of the month the batteries moved from town to town in Landkreis Helmstedt, part of the province at Brunswick. Headquarters remained in the city of Helmstedt; Battery "A" controlled Beendorf, Harbke, Rickensdorf, Boimsdorf, Supplingenleben, exercising control over Barmke and Emmerstedt; Battery "C" went to Runstedt, Walsdorf, Frellstedt, Konigsutter and back to Runstedt; Service Battery held Esbeck, Emmerstedt and Supplingen.

News that World War II was to be over at 0001 on May 9th, strangely enough, to men who had seen such prolonged and ferocious fighting, seemed anti-climatic. Men reported for Profiling May 11th - VE Day was celebrated the 13th - there was the movie Two Down and One to Go - and on the 16th the first high point men left Battalion for the States and home. Censorship regulations were lifted the 18th - passes to Bad Harzburg and Holland. Helmet liners were painted with name, rank and serial number. Division Artillery Commander presented additional Awards - there seemed a possibility of receiving five battle participation stars instead of three. Memorial Day Services were held in the Helmstedt theater at which an impressive tribute was paid to men from Division Artillery Battalions who had been killed in Action. On May 31st, British troops relieved American troops in the area and preparations were made to move to the American Occupation Zone in southern Germany.

To many men, the days spent in the vicinity of Helmstedt were the most enjoyable of the entire period overseas and an extremely reluctant departure was made on June 9th. The long trip through the beautiful Barvarian hill country took three days with overnight stops at Eisleben and Bayreuth being combat soldiers, men griped loudly and lengthily at orders to maintain some vestige of alignment in setting up the pup tents.

On June 11th the 324th arrived at its destination, just north of the Danube River, and batteries were immediately assigned to surrounding towns. Headquarters stayed in Neukirchen overnight and moved to Titting the next day to join Battery "C" Battery A was billeted in Aicha, Battery "B" at Namerling and Service Battery at Haselbach.

Military Government was resumed, a huge PW Endosure taken over and German soldiers discharged at Tittlino, miles of ammunition dumps guarded day and night, hospitals checked and civilians cross-examined in an intensive search for SS men and individuals with strong Nazi Party affiliations.

On June 28th an "A" Battery vehicle was badly damaged while returning from a sight-seeing tour of Berchtesgaden. The rigors and dangers of Peace were already setting in.

In the next few weeks the high-point men and others eligible for discharge were transferred to units outside the division, including about one quarter of the enlisted men and one third of the officers, thus writing a finale to the organization of personnel which had carried the battalion through combat.

A Former POW Remembers

By BEN JOHNSON

FORMER WORLD WAR II POW
LEBANON, TENN.



Ben Johnson in November, 1942

This July and August will mark the 50th anniversary of Tennessee maneuvers for the 83rd Infantry Division, one of the divisions that made up the 2nd Army.

The 83rd was commanded by Maj. Gen. Frank Millburn. His photograph can be found on page 12 of Gene Sloan's *With The Second Army -- Somewhere in Tennessee* (which is to be reproduced as part of the commemoration of the 2nd Army Maneuvers in Tennessee during World War II).

The division consisted of three regiments: the 329th, 330th and the 331st, plus the usual artillery, ordnance, engineers, etc.

I was with the 2nd Battalion 330th. I had turned 21 and classified as a surgical technician in the unit's first aid station.

The entire division had convoyed overnight from Camp Atterbury, Ind. where we had completed our basic training.

It was the early part of July, 1943, when my section turned off Highway 70 onto Cairo Bend Road.

There was no bridge or culvert at that time. We actually forded the stream, crossed the railroad, then turned right and proceeded around to the side of the small ridge -- just a short distance from the road.

This was our first bivouac area. After a night's rest, we became involved in the "War Games."

We walked many miles around Lebanon. We once walked the entire length of Central Pike, only stopping to fill our canteens with sulphur water. Here we would add a drop of iodine to purify its contents.

After a few weeks of maneuvering, I was captured by a unit of the opposing army. An umpire, who was an officer, advised me of the rules of war.

"In real combat, you're to give your name, rank and serial number; nothing else," he said.

To this I replied, "Sir, I'll never allow myself to fall into the hands of the enemy."

Little did I know then that those words would come back to haunt me.

A year later, on July 4, 1944, I and a very few others had survived a terrible counter-attack by the Germans. In spite of our heavy losses, we advanced a few miles.

But on July 8, our unit became surrounded by the German infantry supported by two or three Tiger Tanks. I didn't know the thoughts of the men with me, but my thoughts went back to my words to the officer on maneuvers only a year ago.

I had become somewhat immune to the horrors of battle and was trying to accept the terrible losses of my friends that I had trained with.

I was scared that day and it bothered me to know that I was through. I wanted so badly to get revenge.

Yes, it bothered me that day and it still does to this day.

The remainder of the war was spent in various Stalags and work camps throughout Germany.

I walked a lot under guard and was transported for many miles by truck and railroads. I was cold, hungry and at my lowest ebb.

I couldn't escape for I had no food, no map and only the clothing I had on.

I knew I had to go on. I wanted to be home. I was liberated by the Allied Forces on April 16, 1945 from a labor camp about 30 miles from the Czechoslovakian border.

I had lost about 50 pounds and was shuttled back to various field hospitals where I was examined over and over.

At each stop, I was deloused and issued new clothing. Again, I was under heavy guard or, in this case, close observation.

The war has been over for almost 48 years now. I live in the maneuver area only a short distance from the wooded area that I unintentionally spoke my "Famous Last Words."

Benjamin H. Johnson
1500 Lyle St.
Lebanon Tn 37087

**from The Times - Storm Lake, Iowa
June 1993**



Veterans Chuck McCord of Storm Lake, Clint Hoferman of Alto and Ed Hibbs of Storm Lake paused Sunday to reflect upon World War II. They were standing before a memorial dedicated to former Buena Vista College students Darrell Lindsey and Ralph G. Neppel, two of five Iowans who earned the Congressional Medal of Honor.

BV Memorial Stone Dedicated For War Heroes

Scholarship established

A memorial to Capt. Darrell Lindsey and Sgt. Ralph G. Neppel was dedicated Sunday morning north of Buena Vista College's Siebens Fieldhouse. In addition, an endowment fund has been established for scholarship aid to BV students, ensuring that the memory of the pair lives on.

Lindsey and Neppel, both former Buena Vista students, were two of five lowans awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroic service in World War II.

Lindsey was killed Aug. 9, 1944 when his B-26 bomber was attacked during a raid over an enemy-held bridge on the river Seine in occupied France. Harry S. Truman said Lindsey's bravery enabled five crew members to parachute to safety before he perished. His body was never found.

The Jefferson native attended Buena Vista in 1939-40 before his entry into the war.

Ralph G. Neppel lost both legs in World War II. He returned home to Iowa following this tragedy and was determined to get a college degree. In 1952 he was graduated from Buena Vista. Mr. Neppel died in 1987.

Storm Lake natives Charles Pendleton and Bruce Rhinehart worked together in purchasing the stone and plaque that are now on display on campus. Both men have enjoyed careers in California after studying at BVC.

Pendleton was friends with Lindsey while the pilot attended BV. Rhinehart was later married to Lindsey's widow.

"They wanted to bring a monument from Lindsey Air Station (named for the Captain) to Buena Vista, but the town Jefferson had it," said BV's Director of Planned Giving Tom Ruddy.

So Pendleton and Rhinehart made plans to purchase the stone. "But much of the project was donated, so what they didn't need they put in a scholarship fund," said Ruddy.

Sent In By Harold Geisinger

D-Day Veterans Find France Occupied Again.

By Nicholas Powell
London Observer Service

D-Day Veterans who braved the horrors of "The Longest Day" will find themselves faced in 1994 with the prospect of "The Longest Night" at next year's 50 anniversary.

Hotels throughout the Normandy region are booked solid and, with old soldiers having to search as far afield as Tours, 160 miles inland, authorities are considering appeals to local people to put up soldiers in their homes.

France News, a local newspaper published in Falaise and distributed on Channel ferries, is launching a campaign denouncing the jacking-up of hotel prices and an appeal to raise money to help hard-up old soldiers and their families make the trip from Britain.

"Some hotels have simply doubled the price of their rooms and have asked for the entire stay to be paid in advance. It's a short sighted and greedy policy aimed at making a quick killing which can only harm the region. Local authorities don't care," said France News editor Jacques Aubree.

According to the American Legion, the message is getting through to old soldiers that it's too late to book now.

A total of 1,641 berths have definitely been booked, however, on the Canberra for veterans from four organizations - the RBL, the Royal Canadian Legion, the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States -- who are paying between \$400 and \$1,200 to make the trip.

"That means two-fifths of berths for former British troops, another two-fifths for Americans and one fifth for Canadians, the same proportions as actually landed in 1944," a spokesman for the RBL in London said.

The Canberra will sail from Southampton on June 4, 1994, and meet up with the official flotilla of warships and possibly the Royal Yacht Britannia in the middle of the Channel before docking at Cherbourg. Those will be the lucky ones.

All 18 hotels in Bayeux, a few miles inland from the D-Day beaches, have been booked for six months, sometimes at high prices, and there's virtually no accommodation left in the 40 hotels of Caen.

The 46-room Hotel Mercure, complete with 27-hole golf course on Omaha Beach, site of one of the bloodiest battles, has been booked for nearly two years. Staff said they would be charging 166.50 a night in June 1994 for a double room which now costs only \$103.

The brand-new Hotel Campanile in Bayeux was booked solid 18 months ago before it even opened. The three-star 18th century Chateau Bellefontaine, set in five acres of parkland "amid 200 year old trees" was booked up a year ago by Americans. Rooms and chalets at Le Motel Amazone -- only \$39 a night -- was snatched up en masse by British veterans a year ago.

Meanwhile, the Royal British Legion is chartering the Canberra, which served as a troopship during the Falklands War, to ferry veterans and their families across the Channel and provide somewhere for them to sleep during the main ceremonies on June 5-6, 1994.

A rumor in British military circles had it that the American Legion, not to be outdone, was renting the QE2 to bring their old soldiers over from New York.

In reality, Cunard is organizing a four-day QE2 D-Day Cruise.

Sent in by Chester Morley Jr.
Straits Rd. Box 321
Ashland NH 03217



A SPECIAL HOLIDAY GIFT FOR 83rd DIVISION MEMBERS!

WHAT? Christmas Already? It's incredible, isn't it? It seems the holidays get here earlier and earlier each year! Greeting cards, parties, shopping, visiting friends and relatives...the list of demands on our time just never seem to end.

We don't want to add to the pressure of a fast-moving holiday season! But we thought we'd bring to your attention that with the onset of the holidays and their busy schedules, important events often creep up on us. Before we know it, it's the new year!

For those of you registered for our 83rd Infantry Division special 50th Anniversary Return to Europe next May & June, the coming of the new year will bring the anticipation of travels with our wartime buddies. But if you have put off registering for the tour, the coming of the new year will mean new, higher tour prices! And even possible disappointment if there is no longer space on our 83rd Division Tour! In fact, our **guaranteed 1993** tour prices (which include free comprehensive medical and travel insurance) expired October 31, 1993.



BUT, as a special Christmas gift to you, our guaranteed 1993 tour price will be held for reservations received through January 31st 1994! This represents a savings of \$366 per couple! Don't hesitate & let these substantial savings slip away with the new year!

You may think you have plenty of time to finish your holiday obligations. You may think you have plenty of time to register for our custom-designed tour program. But the truth of the matter is that this revised guaranteed price deadline IS quickly approaching. Why take the chance of paying 1994 prices (or worse yet, being left behind due to lack of tour space!) when you can guarantee your place and your price simply by making one phone call! Call our official tour operator, **Galaxy Tours**, today - toll-free at 1-800-523-7287. Ask for our own 83rd Division Tour Coordinator, Alison Dodge. She can send you another detailed brochure, or even take your reservation over the phone with a major credit card! It's easy! Just pick up that phone!

Perhaps you're still undecided. Then here's a thought that's sure to help you make up your mind. This year, **give the gift of traveling together!** What more perfect present could you give your spouse than a once-in-a-lifetime journey through time, seeing the important sites of your 83rd history as well as some of the most beautiful areas of Europe? You say you think your wife may not be interested in your military days? Think again! Another GI's wife recently returned from a similar tour, commenting, "It was the greatest trip of my life. I left home with a husband and returned with a hero!" This is a trip neither one of you will ever forget! And doesn't your mate deserve something special?

Start marking off your calendar...the days are passing quickly! Call Galaxy Tours TODAY! The trip of a lifetime is just a phone call away

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION SKELETON ITINERARY

Saturday, May 28 - USA/ALOFT.
 Sunday, May 29 - BRUSSELS.
 Monday, May 30 - BRUSSELS/SPA.
 Tuesday, May 31 - SPA/LUXEMBOURG.
 Wednesday, June 1 - LUXEMBOURG.
 Thursday, June 2 - LUXEMBOURG/REIMS.
 Friday, June 3 - REIMS/ST. MALO.
 Saturday, June 4 - ST. MALO/CARTERET.
 Sunday, June 5 - CARTERET.
 Monday, June 6 - NORMANDY. *D-DAY Plus 50 Years!*
 Tuesday, June 7 - NORMANDY/PARIS.
 Wednesday, June 8 - PARIS.
 Thursday June 9 - PARIS/USA.

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

Anyone wishing to purchase shirts, coats, and caps may write to:
Vito C. Palazzolo, 20000 Lancaster, Harper Woods, Michigan 48225
for information. He will send you an application form.

**Bolo Ties, Necklaces, \$5.00 Each
White Golf Caps 10.00 Each**

(Postage and Handling Included)
Contact the Association Office

83rd Reunion will be held at the
Pines Hotel - South Fallsburgh, NY.

**DATES ARE:
September 7-11, 1994**

**DUES ARE DUE NOW
FOR 1994**

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.*