



# THUNDERBOLT

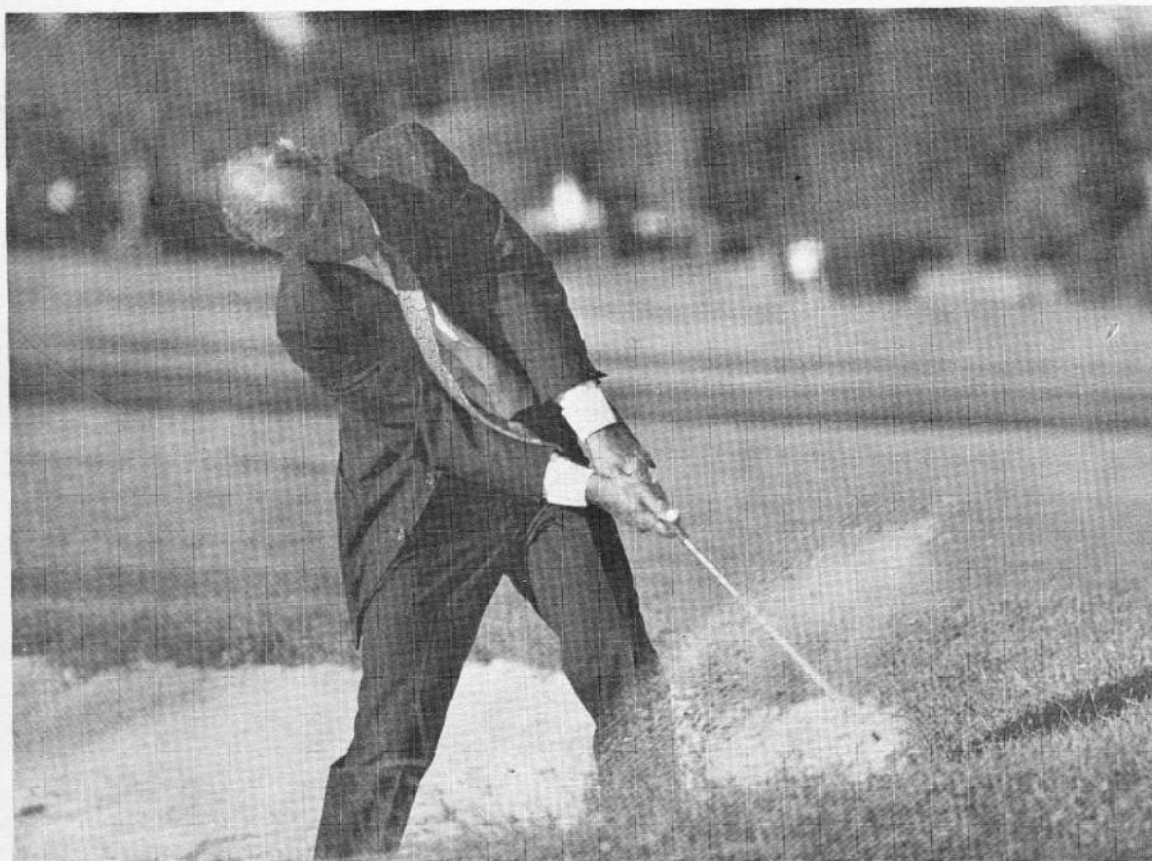
83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 49 No. 2

#2 Issue 1994

**Meet At  
The Pines Resort Hotel  
& Conference Center  
*in the Catskills/New York***



**Pines Hotel -- South Fallsburgh, NY.  
September 7 - 11, 1994**

**THE THUNDERBOLT**  
**Official Publication**  
**83rd Infantry Division Association Inc.**

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

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**A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL**

\*James C. Hanrahan ..... 1947  
Jack M. Straus ..... 1948  
\*Shelly Hughes ..... 1949  
\*Julius Ansel ..... 1950  
\*Walter H. Edwards Jr. .... 1951  
Leo Schneider ..... 1952  
Finley Heyl ..... 1953  
Lawrence J. Redmond ..... 1954-55  
\*Lt. Gen. Robert H. York ..... 1956  
\*Harry W. Lockwood ..... 1957  
\*Raymond J. Voracek ..... 1958  
Charles Abdinoor ..... 1959  
\*Joseph F. Minotti ..... 1960  
\*Frank J. McGrogan ..... 1961  
John W. Robinette ..... 1962

\*Manuel C. Martin ..... 1963  
\*Julius Boyles ..... 1964  
Samuel Klippa ..... 1965  
\*William M. Doty ..... 1966  
Albert A. Belvedere ..... 1967  
Vito C. Palazzolo ..... 1968  
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Casey Szubski ..... 1970  
\*Charles Altomari ..... 1971  
\*Harold H. Dopp ..... 1972  
Louis J. Volpi ..... 1973  
Bernard O. Riddle ..... 1974  
Robert G. Taylor ..... 1975  
Mike Skovran ..... 1976  
Manlius Goodridge ..... 1977

Joseph A. Macaluso ..... 1978  
\*William J. Chavanne ..... 1979  
Samuel Klippa ..... 1980  
Michael Caprio ..... 1981  
Ralph Gunderson ..... 1982  
Arthur Doggett ..... 1983  
Bernie Cove ..... 1984  
Carroll Brown ..... 1985  
John Hobbs ..... 1986  
George Fletcher ..... 1987  
Charles Schmidt ..... 1988  
Edward Reuss ..... 1989  
Charles J. Lussler ..... 1990  
Edgar H. Haynes ..... 1991  
Ned Smith ..... 1992  
\* Denotes Deceased





## The President's Corner

The City of Marlborough had a population of only 15,000 people in 1942. At least 14 men from our city, whom I knew personally, were members of the 83rd Division.

A short while ago, I solicited our Mayor, J. Michael McGorty, for a full page ad in our annual reunion ad book. I explained to the mayor that at these reunions we honor our war dead and also those who have died since the end of the great conflict.

During our conversation, I told the mayor that two of our Marlborough men were killed in action and that I especially wished to honor them in the ad book. In the course of our conversation, the mayor suggested that the 83rd Division Association hold a commemorative celebration in their honor, here at home in Marlborough.

The two Marlborough men from the 83rd Division who were killed in action were Joseph Duca, a real close friend of mine, who was a member of the 83rd Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop. Joe was killed in a tank skirmish near Julich. While he lived, he won the Silver Star as well as the Purple Heart. The other war hero from Marlborough was Angelo Karopoulos, a young man who grew up near my neighborhood. We all called him "Gully". Angelo was a member of the Service Battery of the 323 Field artillery. Early in the war, he was killed at St. Malo by a sniper while bringing up supplies and food to the front lines. He also, of course, was awarded the Purple Heart.

The Boston Chapter met on January 22nd and voted to have a wreath laying ceremony for these men at the World War II Monument in Marlborough sometime in the latter part of July or early August. John McAuliffe, Commander of the Central Massachusetts Post of the Veterans Of The Battle Of The Bulge, who was present as a guest speaker, agreed to invite the members of his Post to attend the ceremonies. He was later unanimously elected an honorary member of the Boston Chapter.

On the sixteenth of December I attended a commemorative ceremony at a monument in Worcester, honoring Irving R. Syrene, who as a member of the 82nd Airborne Division was killed in action in the Battle Of The Bulge. Joe Collette, one of our Sergeants at Arms, represented the 83rd with me at that ceremony. Senator Chase, a state legislator was the official representative for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at that affair.

The following week, on invitation of John E. McAuliffe, I accompanied Pat DiGiammerino, our Vice President and chairman of the Reunion Committee, to attend an official ceremony at the governor's Office where the proclamation was read making December 16th officially "Battle Of The Bulge Day" in Massachusetts. Many pictures were taken. We enjoyed this very much and need-

less to say, we were very proud of the part the 83rd played in these proceedings.

It is remarkable about the cooperation there is between the VBOB based in Worcester Mass. and the Boston Chapter of the 83rd. I am very proud of the work being done by the men in our organization.

And as one wise person once wrote, "Never write anything until you have something to write, and when you have written it, cease."

Louis R. Sandini

## REUNION CHAIRMAN CORNER

Our plans for our reunion are coming along great. Reservations are already coming in, so don't wait too long before sending yours in.

We have a great program going--especially the trip to Ellis Island, where we will hold our Memorial Services.

A great big Thank You to Larry Redmond for again helping out with our Ad Book.

The Auxiliary is working on their "gift" table. We owe another big Thank You to our group of women for all their help. Our monthly meetings are successful, thanks to them and their "goodies".

Don't forget to bring your golf clubs!

Reunion Chairman, 323rd F. A.

Pat DiGiammerino

P.S. There will be no registration fee at The Pines this year.

## ASK THE GLOBE (617) 929-2990

**Q.** What's the story on the Wall of Liberty organization, which has been soliciting \$40 from World War II veterans and their families, supposedly to list their names on a memorial in Normandy near the French city of Caen?

J.P. Hopkinton

**A.** The US State Department has warned the French Embassy in Washington to steer clear of the Battle of Normandy Foundation, which has proposed the wall, and its president, Anthony Stout. Although more than \$8 million has been collected by Stout, the money has dribbled away on overseas travel, for entertainment, salaries and for Stout's personal and business expenses. Stout was formerly president of a Washington firm called International Reporting and Information Systems, which filed for bankruptcy in 1983, having lost \$15 million.

**Upon further investigation I called the Battle of Normandy Foundation and I quote, "The foundation board of directors commissioned an independent review committee and audit by Pricewaterhouse and examination by GAO, all of which proved all accusations are false. Anyone who questions can call the foundation to receive a summary."**

Bob

## FROM THE OFFICE

A beautiful sun shiny day here in Ohio. After all the snow and sleet and ice that we have had this certainly looks good out of the Office windows. I was out every day but Pearl stayed right here. Said there was nothing out there that she needed. So she worked here in the office.

1994 -- Just think back these 50 years that we have covered. It was cold and snowy that year of 1944. So much so that I and I know that all you made the same vow, that if we ever got back to the states and got warm we would never if we could help it be cold again. The good Lord has been good to me I have always had a warm place.

I feel so much better. 1994 has started out with Pearl and I both in good health. For that and all your good wishes we are sincerely thankful.

We hope that you are all planning on going to the reunion at the Pines in New York. The trip on the boat to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty for the Memorial Service will be one that you all will enjoy. It is the first week of September so the weather should be nice. Louis Sandini and all of the Boston Chapter are working hard to make it enjoyable for all of us.

I want to thank Lou Nolan for practically five years of dedication to the 83rd. We were all sorry that he had to give up and not get to come to the reunion to fulfill his duties as Chairman. This was due to the fact that Katherine had hip problems and had to have surgery so they did not get to come to Florida. We do thank Lou. He was a great person to work with and always took time to take care of any problems that we had. Thank you Lou and we hope you and Kate are able to enjoy this winter in California. Look forward to seeing you at the Pines.

I would like to announce that Keith Davidson was elected to fill the opening on the Executive Board for a five year term.

We welcome Gene Costanzo as our new Chairman. Gene also has been having back problems so we hope that he stays well and gets to enjoy his year as Chairman. We also enjoy working with Gene. We are indeed fortunate in the 83rd in having great men to work with on the Board. When I take a problem to them they are very gracious in trying to work it out.

I must thank all of them for the assistance they gave me in 1993 with all the problems that Pearl and I had. They were great.

This should have all been in the last Thunderbolt but when I got back home all I could think about was just being able to get the Thunderbolt out. Anyway to all of you men "THANKS".

There are still quite a few of you who have not sent in your dues for 1994. You must get this done immediately or we will have to pull you from the mailing list and send you a reminder. Take care of it so we save that reminder money. PLEASE.

## ATTENDANCE REPORT FROM THE REUNION IN DATONA BEACH, FLORIDA 1993

Members in attendance	368
Wives in attendance	310
New Members	7
Guests of Members	13
Widows	<u>11</u>
Total in attendance	709

Members and their wives who had planned on attending but had to cancel. 53 members and 53 wives.

## FLORIDA CHAPTER REUNION FINANCIAL STATEMENT SEPT. 29 - OCT. 2, 1993

### INCOME:

Ad Book	\$13,582.00	
Bank Fund (Collected in 1992)	612.00	
Miscellaneous Donation	500.00	
Wed. Evening Luau	4,897.00	
50/50 Collection	<u>1,330.00</u>	
Total	\$20,921.00	20,921.00

### DISBURSEMENTS:

Ad Book (Printing & Shipping)	\$4,582.06
Saturday Night Banquet	901.57
Friday Night Entertainment	350.00
Thursday Night Entertainment	300.00
Wed. Night Luau & Show	5,354.39
Hospitality Room	2,117.41
Memorial Service	244.24
83rd Div. Band Expense	600.00
Ladies Program	523.35
Travel & Hotels	733.05
Trophies	51.94
50/50 Prizes Awarded	670.00
Printing	338.45
Telephone & Postage	260.61
Administration & Misc.	212.63
	-----

	\$17,239.70	-17,239.70
BALANCE, 12/31/93		3,681.30





# What Was It Like for GIs To Go to War?

Mike Cummings  
GRIT

Folks my age have only dim memories of World War II days. We were much too young to know why our fathers or uncles or brothers had to pack up and head over to the old Pennsylvania Railroad Station for the next troop train out.

Bataan, Corregidor, Anzio, Normandy, Iwo Jima, Tunis, Rome, Tarawa, Okinawa -- those were the ultimate destinations. Our GIs had to go there to drink rain, eat K rations, sleep in the mud and generally conduct a war.

They knew when they left that they might not be coming back. A lot of them didn't come back. Must have been hard for them to wave good-bye at the old station, a big steam locomotive -- that great conveyor of America's military might -- waiting patiently to pull them away.

What was it like to go off to war in a troop train, the smell of mom's perfume or dad's cigar smoke still lingering in the mind? What was it like to leave home and family for a faraway foxhole? I'm thinking about those things now as I see today's American servicemen leaving the country for Lebanon and other global hot spots.

(Williamsporter) Jim Stabley brought me the answer one day in the form of a newspaper advertisement published by the New Haven Railroad during World War II. Entitled "The Kid in Upper 4," it told how it was for young soldiers facing an uncertain future and asked passengers not to complain about trains crowded with GIs. Here is what it said:

*It is 3:42 a.m. on a troop train. Men wrapped in blankets are breathing heavily. Two in every lower berth. One in every upper. This is no ordinary trip. It may be their last in the U.S.A. till the end of the war. Tomorrow they will be on the high seas. One is wide awake...listening...staring into blackness. It is the kid in Upper 4.*

*Tonight, he knows, he is leaving behind a lot of little things -- and big ones. The taste of hamburgers and pop...the feel of driving a roadster over a six-lane highway...a dog named Shucks, or Spot, or Barnacle Bill.*

*The pretty girl who writes so often...that gray-haired man so proud and awkward at the station...the mother who knits socks he'll wear soon.*

*Tonight he's thinking them over. There's a lump in his throat. And maybe a tear fills his eyes. It doesn't matter, kid. Nobody will see...it's too dark.*

*A couple of thousand miles away, where he's going, they don't know him very well. But people all over the world are waiting, praying for him to come. And he will come, this kid in Upper 4. With new hope, peace and freedom for a tired, bleeding world.*

*Next time you are on the train, remember the kid in Upper 4. If you have to stand en route -- it is so he may have a seat.*

*If there is no berth for you it is so he may sleep.  
If you have to wait for a seat in the diner -- it is so he ...and thousands like him...may have a meal they won't forget in the days to come.*

*For to treat him as our most honored guest is the least we can do to pay a mighty debt of gratitude.*

## CHAPLIN'S REPORT



The following deaths have been reported. The love and sympathy of the 83rd goes out to the families.

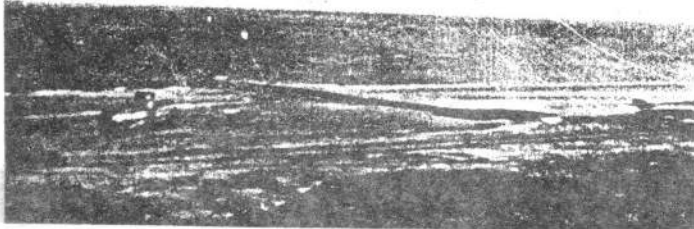
NAME	OUTFIT	REPORTED BY:
Adachowski, Frank	"A" 908th	Grace Brick & Charles Stine
Arrants, William S.	"A" 330th	O.L. Cook
Barbara, Phil	783rd ORD	Rags Rangnow
Cessna, Elmer	83rd Signal	Daughter-Jody Jones
Dodd, Claude	"D" 330th	Bemis Michael
Dutra, Edward	Hdq. Co. 330th Inf.	Pat D. DiGiammerino
Felingo, Michael A.		Anthony Bagano
Gano, Carl	"H" 329th	Mail returned marked Deceased
Greene, F. George	DIVARTY	Daughter-Janet Pautot
Harris, James C.	83rd Band	Emmett Pack
Hicks, Addie D.	"F" 330th	O.L. Cook
Iemole, Camillo	"B" 329th	Bob Uher
Johnson, Chandos	MG Platoon	Al Shrawder
Jones, Herman	"B" 323rd	Owen Jones
Larimer, John	783rd ORD	Rags Rangnow
Marshall, Allan	323rd	Cliff Woolridge
McCoy, James R.	"B" 331st	Carroll Brown & Bob Parsons
Miller, Charles	330th Medics	Nick Francullo
Peterson, Ida (wife of Herbert)		R. Bob Whitcomb
Porter, Donald R.	331st A.T.	Brother, William
Recknagel, Martin	"M" 331st	James Prentice
Roberge, Alton	"C" Co. 308 En	Pat DiGiammerino
Scott, Frank	"HQ" 908th	Pat DiGiammerino & Florent Soucy
Shea, Matthew	HDQ 331st	Pat DiGiammerino
Smith, James W.	MG Platoon	Al Shrawder
Stat, Dr. Sidney	MEDICS	Tom Sullivan
White, Col. George C.	3rd Bn. Hq. 329th	Wife Helen & Paul MacFarlane
Whitley, Offie	"E" 329th	Daughter Judy Collins

**A request for the 329th Reg. book on K.I.A. and wounded. Will pay reasonable amount.**

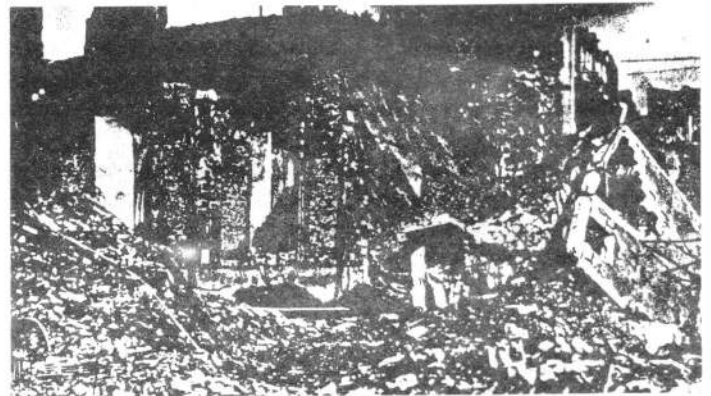
**Roy R. Wilson, M Co. 329th  
457 Joe Hege Rd.  
Clemmons, N.C. 27012**

# *HISTORIANS CORNER* by Wm. Kent O'Connell

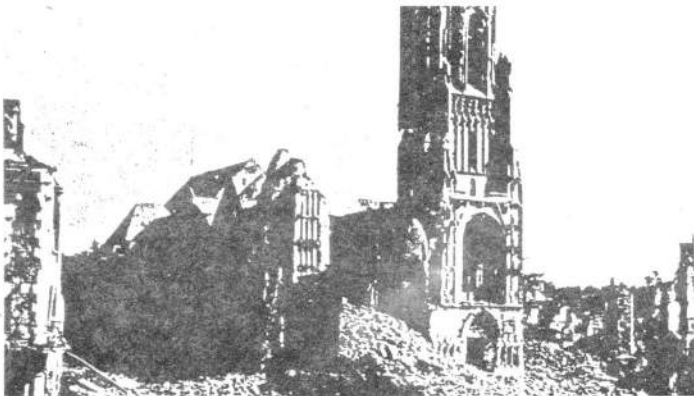
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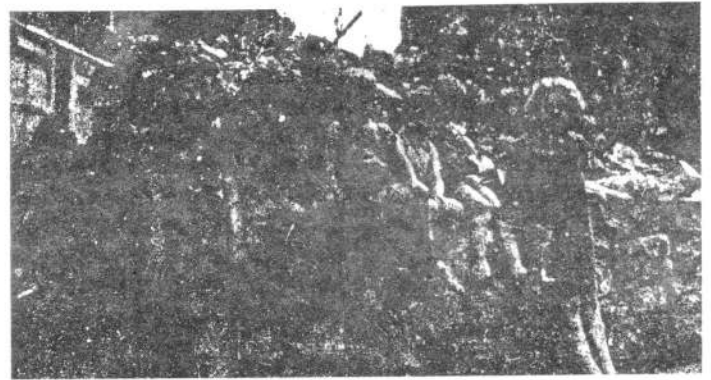
Omaha Beach - June 6, 1945



St. Lo. Frances - Chapels de L'Hospice July 25, 1944



Notre Dame de St. Lo. France



Little Children of St. Lo. France - July 25, 1944



"The Tower" July 25, 1944



Ruins of the Battle of St. Lo



St. Lo France - 25 July 1944 - Palace of Justeré



U.S. Army Military Cemetery - June 6, 1945



# 48th ANNUAL REUNION OF 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION September 7-11, 1994

(type or print your AD clearly in this space.)

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- ✓ Track Night at Monticello Raceway with Special 83rd Infantry Division Association Presentation Race and Much, Much More!

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FOR ALL MEMBERS, FRIENDS &  
FAMILY OF  
83rd INFANTRY  
DIVISION ASSOCIATION



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Wednesday - Sunday

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Two Great Packages to Choose From



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American Airlines

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For reservations, call toll free  
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- 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  
Aquarobics 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

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 rates are per person, per stay, double occupancy (2 persons in a 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.

**To confirm reservation, please mail a \$25 per room deposit or provide credit card information below and**

**mail with reservation form below to:**

**THE PINES RESORT HOTEL  
83rd Infantry Division Association  
South Fallsburg, N.Y. 12779**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] MC [ ] Visa CC# \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ # of People \_\_\_\_\_

Name (s) to appear on nametags \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Unit Served With: \_\_\_\_\_



**Hello Bob,**

***This is an example of what I called you about. This is in the local Franklin, Ind. paper. Pictures and notes of what happened to you while you were stationed at Camp Atterbury.***

**JamesC. Redden**

## **THERE WAS A TIME**

### ***Romance at Camp Atterbury sparked by the 1940s***

**Compiled by Annette Jones**

*Fifty years ago, during the Second World War, Camp Atterbury in southern Johnson County was a bustling Army camp. The county population swelled as camp officers sought offbase housing, and soldiers sought refuge off-duty in bars, ice cream parlors and churches.*

*And the community responded with warmth and generosity toward the young soldiers who lived with the possibility of having to face the enemy any day.*

*Families befriended them at church and invited them into their homes. Young girls who mingled with the soldiers at local teen-age hangouts invited them home for dinner. Some lasting friendships formed and a few romances blossomed.*

*The Daily Journal asked couples who met as a result of Camp Atterbury's presence in Johnson County to send in their stories of who they met, what it was like dating in Johnson County during World War II, and the highlights of their lives in the last 50 years.*

*Here are their stories.*

I entered the Army in October of 1945 and took training in Camp Roberts, Calif., spent a year (1946 to 1947) in Korea and then was discharged. Nine months later I reenlisted and was sent to Fort Knox, Ky., and assigned to the Utilities Division, Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 3rd Armored Division.

For about a year during the years of 1949 and 1950, I was part of a 50-man detail assigned to Camp Atterbury, accompanied by two officers. Our mission was to demolish what remained of some old steel-framed gymnasiums and clean up the remains of the once prisoner of war buildings. As I recall there were maybe a dozen permanent personnel still in the camp at that time.

Our group was assigned one barracks, a kitchen-dining hall area, a tool room and an area in the motor pool in which to keep our trucks and other equipment. I remember that it was so cold that winter that we slept on one mattress and laid another mattress plus our covers on top of our bodies trying to keep warm.

I was in the habit of attending church and as soon as I could, hitchhiked a ride to Columbus one Sunday and attended services. By the time I was able to go again, I had heard of a little Baptist Church on the way to

Indianapolis called Amity Baptist Church. I decided I would attend a service at that church. I managed to get out to the intersection of Highway 31 near Edinburgh, and was standing there thumbing a ride to church.

Suddenly, a vehicle stopped and to my surprise, and fear, the driver was the commanding officer of my outfit. He dropped me off at Amity Baptist Church with orders to report to him in his office at 8 sharp on Monday morning. I just knew I'd had it. They sorta frowned on soldiers hitchhiking -- though we did it anyway. Well, I enjoyed the services at Amity and went back for the evening service as well. I don't remember how I got back to camp.

Monday morning came and I reported as ordered to my commanding officer, expecting the worst. He asked if I was in the habit of hitch-hiking to church and I told him that was my only means of transportation. Then he did something of which I have often spoken since -- he told me to report to the sergeant in charge at the motor pool and take a driver's test. He told me that during the week, "the staff car is mine to drive, but on Sunday it belongs to you. You get it serviced on Saturday and you drive it on Sunday. I don't want to catch you hitchhiking anymore to church."

You could have knocked me over, and I almost did when I saluted him and did an about-face and departed.

I went immediately and took my driver's test and when Saturday came, I made sure the vehicle was serviced. On Sunday morning, I dressed up in my uniform, my brass polished and my shoes spitshined, checked out "my" staff car, stopped back by the barracks, loaded the car with fellow GIs and headed off to Amity Baptist Church.

The people at Amity Baptist were friendly and warm toward this carload of soldiers. We attended about every Sunday. And I made sure I attended because I now had my own transportation and also there were some pretty girls attending there.

One girl in particular made me wish I didn't have to return to Fort Knox. Her name was Marjorie Weddle. She lived with her parents and a sister and two brothers on a farm between Trafalgar and Morgantown. Almost everyone in Johnson County knew her family, Robert and Amy Weddle and their 17 children.

She had a sister, Christine, and her husband, Lester Castner and their family who live in Franklin, and they saw to it that we soldiers had a place to relax and food to eat. We often went to the homes of some of the other members, and the young people had a lot of socials, and we enjoyed the good fellowship.

Our unit finally returned to Fort Knox and during the next several months I would hitchhike back on Sunday afternoon or stay for the evening services and catch a ride with the pastor, Howard Golden, who was a semi-nary student at Louisville.

In May of 1951, this Weddle girl and I were married at Amity Baptist Church. In July of that year, I was sent to Germany, and Marjorie joined me about six months later. My best man for my wedding was my brother Jack, and Marjorie's maid of honor was her sister Kath-



leen. This was the first time these two had met, but five years later they were married also at Amity Baptist Church. I had a younger brother, but Mom Weddle said she was glad she didn't have any more daughters.

Both my brother and I were called by our Lord into His ministry. I have pastored Baptist churches for 39 years, and Marjorie and I have been happily married for 41 years. Thanks to the Lord and to Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

**Delbert Bishop**  
Cuba, Mo.



Marjorie Weddle, who lived on a farm between Trafalgar and Morgantown, and Delbert Bishop were married at Amity Baptist Church after meeting at a church service while Bishop served at Camp Atterbury near Edinburgh.

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This write-up in your paper sounds so romantic! Truthfully, those were romantic days and this gives us another chance to count our blessings for a lifetime of happy memories, even though the war had just started. Many, many of the young fellows were so angered that the war came about that they volunteered their lives and time to save our country.

Since the soldiers were to be at Camp Atterbury only a short time, they were not allowed to have their automobiles. Their mode of transportation was by bus or foot. With Nineveh such a short distance from the west military post gate, some chose to come to Nineveh even though it had no bars or lounges. But Nineveh did have an ice cream parlor where we could go and dance to the music of the juke box and use each others' shoulders to cry on. Most of the soldiers had left their girls back home, and we girls that were there had our special friends off to another camp or field.

After sharing a few dances and a lot of exchanging thoughts of our loved ones, we soon became friends. This was a wonderful opportunity to learn about each other just from sharing our thoughts.

The next thing we knew I had invited Lloyd to meet

my family and even share some of Mother's good cooking. I really think it was Mother's cooking that stole his heart. Then, too, my father invited him to go on short drives with him on Lloyd's days off, which was a wonderful opportunity for Lloyd to learn what our section of the country was like, and meet many new people. Also, Lloyd attended church with me and met many more people.

It wasn't too long until Lloyd invited me to Fort Wayne to meet his folks and family and attend his church on his long weekend passes. And, too, he invited my folks to come meet his folks. The rest was history, we all became good friends.

Three months after we were married on Easter Sunday, April 25, 1943, Lloyd was sent to somewhere in Alaska. Of course, we wrote to each other every day and one day I got a letter with an extra dot (stationery had a map with dots for cities, but cities weren't named) on his Alaskan stationery. The dot was so far up into Alaska that I thought the bears and wildlife wouldn't dare to live there, let alone our enemies. But it wasn't too much behind times, because on the 25th of every month I received a dozen red roses.

Lloyd was in Alaska for 10 months. Then on Mother's Day I got a phone call and the voice on the other end said, "I haven't talked to you for about a year." Needless to say in less than an hour we were at Union Station and in each other's arms. We picked up his three huge bags of soiled laundry and were on our way home where we spent the next two weeks together.

From there he was sent to Camp Butner, N.C., for redistribution. At that time, we were almost sure it would be an assignment overseas and didn't know for how long.

Much to our surprise he was assigned to Fort Myers, D.C., both North and South posts, and remained until he was discharged. It was then that I was allowed to be with him and share the lifestyle of a soldier. Our first apartment, on the third floor at 17th and L in Washington, was one room and we shared the bath and washrooms. Of course, we were only paid once a month, so the first few days we lived high on the hog and at the end of the month, we ate lots of popcorn and cereal. Being in the service, one really grows up and learns what life truly means to us.

In October of 1945, Lloyd was discharged and came home to us when Annell was 2 months old.

In 1946, we moved to Fort Wayne and bought our first little home. I went to work in 1949 (only for a year) but somehow it stretched to 24 years. Guess I'd still be there if health hadn't interfered. Anyway, in 1952 we built our first new suburban home, and have been moving ever since.

Our life has been full of many fishing trips to Minnesota and Michigan, boating, camping, going to Europe, Lloyd's Shrine activities, and parades. We did live in Florida a few years.

Last, but not least, our family consists of a loving and caring daughter and son-in-law, who is truly like a son. We have one granddaughter, a graduate of Indiana University and a grandson, a graduate of Purdue University. Yes, Grandpa has to wear two different hats!

Just think -- this all happened just by two people sharing thoughts and caring when needed most.

**Lloyd and Geneva Richards Hoover**



Lloyd and Geneva (Richards) Hoover of Fort Wayne met at a soda fountain in Nineveh while Lloyd served at Camp Atterbury.

I graduated from Franklin high school in 1942 and my commercial teacher, Lawrence Thompson, suggested that since Camp Atterbury was just opening and there were a lot of jobs there that I should go down and apply. So I went to a construction company and worked two or three months. (It was by the railroad and Old 31 just north of Edinburgh.)

Then I went over to the quartermaster property office on temporary civil service. At first we waded in mud and water -- with our shoes off -- and washed our feet under the lister bags in the corner.

The property office issued clothing, bedding, equipment and tents. We had a lot of young people, soldiers' wives and old people working there that hadn't worked before. Some of their strange habits from other parts of the country and accents, too, were different than what we were used to in Johnson County. Lots of the old officers and the young people didn't know what to do and would just say "Throw it into file 13," or throw up their hands in despair!

We worked hard six days a week. So many troops were coming into Atterbury and some of them went over into the worst fighting in Europe. We had the 83rd and 91st divisions and lots that I can't remember.

One night, I had stayed to work overtime and my girlfriend talked me into going to a picnic with her office people and that is where I met Clifford Johnson. We were all sitting on a blanket and he insisted on riding home with us. He had to take a bus back down to Atterbury. After that he always looked into our office when he was taking papers over to the chief clerk's office. With his nice smile it didn't take us too long to start dating.

He had to take the bus into Franklin and then back late at night. So when it started to become wintertime, he thought we should get married. We were married at the Tabernacle Christian Church, with the Rev. Richard Lentz doing the vows.

We had our first apartment upstairs at Mrs. Godwin's house on South Home Avenue, then we lived in Robert Townsend's house on (State Road) 44 until

March 1946.

We moved to Wickliffe, Ohio, after Cliff was discharged from the Army. We brought a little four-room house and our two sons were born there. We lived there five years, and Cliff's folks had moved to California, so we decided we should move back to Indiana. It took Cliff an hour each way on the bus to go back and forth to downtown Cleveland to work. He went to work for the Charles Mayer Co., and after working there went to L.S. Ayres. Later we decided we needed more room in a house as we now had three sons. We have liked our present neighborhood and feel we have been a lucky couple as our boys have turned out good and, Greenwood has been a good place to live. We also like our church. People around us are good people and we are lucky.

Ruth Annette Paris Johnson,  
Greenwood, Fort Wayne.



Ruth (Paris) and Clifford V. Johnson of Greenwood met at a picnic while Johnson was stationed at Camp Atterbury.



Delbert and Marjorie (Weddle) Bishop with their granddaughter, Megan Marie Bishop.



Lloyd and Geneva (Richards) Hoover celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary April 25, 1993.



# Chapters

## BOSTON CHAPTER

On November 20th, 1993 our meeting was held at the home of Pat and Ginny DiGiammerino in Malden, MA. Pres. Larry Arrigo along with Secretary Hy Goodman opened the meeting.

We were happy to hear from Stella Herman, wife of the late Harry Herman of Able Battery 323 F.A.B. Many of the wives attend the Boston Chapter Meetings and we appreciate their help.

Pat DiGiammerino read off a list of 18 new members in the Boston Chapter. Pat, keep up the good work there are more out there.

There were 24 members in attendance. Thanks Ginny for the collation which was great.

The Boston Chapter Christmas Party was held in Worcester, MA. at the Holiday Inn. It snowed that night but 43 members were present. A wonderful dinner was served with an open bar and a singing piano player. Santa Claus made an appearance with gifts for all. Mrs. Santa Claus looked a lot younger than last year but Santa seemed to age. Try to answer that one for me Santa. We had a sing along and dancing till 12:30 a.m. Many stayed over at the Holiday Inn where it continued to the early morning hours. Nancy and I had a family time in Dennisport on Cape Cod the next day so we had to leave. I was told a great time was had after I left.

Thanks to Frank and Rose Collette for an excellent job on making the arrangements for this party. Also thanks to Bob Sessions and Chet Morley for traveling in such bad weather coming down from the North.

The January 8th meeting was cancelled because of snow and was rescheduled for January 22nd at the American Legion Post 288 in Worcester, MA. The Tack-nick Post 288 had a wonderful home cooked chicken dinner. The women of the Post did a perfect job for us. A Tip of the Irishman's Hat to the cook and the girls that served us and also the bartenders.

We had an early meeting so the men traveling a distance could get home early.

It was a good meeting with election of Officers as follows:

President - Anthony Piantedosi

1st Vice President - Pat DiGiammerino

2nd Vice President - Larry Arrigo

Secretary - Hyman Goodman

Treasurer - Michael Caprio

Chaplain - Father Richard McCouch, S.J.

Sargent at Arms - Joe Collette, Bob Hunnewell and Joe Vaudrevil

Staff Reporter - Amby Tynan

Ways and Means Committee - Charlie Lussier, Mike Amicone, Chet Morley and Fred Silvia

Tony Piantedosi thanked Larry Arrigo for his many years of fine work as President of the Boston Chapter.

I must thank President Lou Sandini and Pat Worrick for getting the American Legion Post. Everything was well done.

Charles Miller passed away recently. He will be sadly missed by the Boston Chapter. Condolences to Charlie's family.

A note to Kent O'Connell - Have a Happy St. Patrick's Day in New York.

That's all for now.

Amby Tynan, Boston Chapter Reporter

## Sessions Named Trustee



NORWAY - Governor John R. McKernan Jr. has announced the appointment of Robert Sessions of Norway as a trustee of the Maine Veterans Homes. The 10-member board of trustees is responsible for operating the three existing and two pending veterans nursing homes in Maine. The board recently approved the construction of a 90-bed facility in South Paris.

"I am pleased that Bob Sessions is willing to serve in this important position," said Governor McKernan. "Bob's longstanding dedication to community service and his hard work for Maine veterans will make him an excellent addition to the board."

Rep. Richard Bennett (R-Norway) has worked closely with Sessions in the effort to site the new Western Maine Veterans Home in the Oxford Hills. "Bob's appointment is terrific news for our area and for veterans across Maine," Bennett commented. "Bob is a tireless and selfless volunteer for so many groups and causes. We are fortunate to have his devotion and his diligence working for us."

Sessions is a World War II veteran who served in the Pacific Theater in 1943 and 1944 and in the Ardennes, Rhineland and central Europe campaigns in 1945, as an infantry squad leader.

A member of the American Legion for the past 47 years, he has held all offices at the local level, presently serving his 10th year as service officer of Stone-Smart Post #82. Dedicated to veterans' affairs, Sessions is co-chairman of the Western Maine Veterans' Home Committee, which was formed to attract a veterans' home to the Oxford Hills area and exists to assist the veterans' home trustees in any way possible to that end.



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

By His Excellency

GOVERNOR WILLIAM F. WELD

1993

- WHEREAS:** Massachusetts' veterans of the Battle of the Bulge are represented by the Central Massachusetts Chapter, Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc.; and
- WHEREAS:** VBOB is an international organization composed of veterans who fought in the heavily forested Ardennes region of Eastern Belgium and Northern Luxembourg from December 16, 1944 to January 25, 1945; and
- WHEREAS:** The veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, although thinly spread across the American line, presented fierce opposition to three powerful German armies, plunging headlong into the rugged mountains and dense snow-covered forests of the Ardennes; and
- WHEREAS:** These veterans fought for four weeks in bitter cold and hip-deep snow to thwart Hitler's last effort to show strength and demoralize allied forces; and
- WHEREAS:** These veterans held a firm line allowing only a small bulge (thus giving the battle its name) in the line;
- WHEREAS:** The victory won by these brave and determined veterans was one of America's greatest hours in the field of battle and helped turn the tide of World War II; and
- WHEREAS:** It is fitting for the citizens of the Commonwealth to honor the 19,000 heroes of the Battle of the Bulge who made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve freedom in our land; those comrades who have passed away since that time; and those who are with us today;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM F. WELD, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim December 16th, 1993 as

### VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE DAY

and urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this twenty-first day of December, in the year one thousand nine hundred and ninety-three, and in the year of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and eighteenth.

*W. F. Weld*

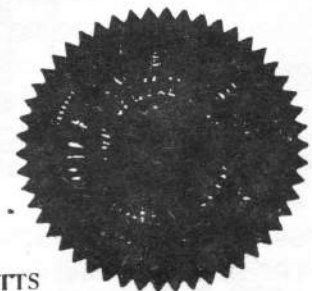
WILLIAM F. WELD

By His Excellency the Governor

*Michael J. Connolly*

MICHAEL J. CONNOLLY  
Secretary of the Commonwealth

GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS



## Boston Chapter Members & Others Who Fought in the Battle of the Bulge



From Left to Right: State Senator Matthew J. Amorello, Pat DiGiammerino - 83rd Inf. Div., Lou Sandini, 83rd Inf. Div., John McAuliffe, Pres. 87th Inf. Div., Gov. William Weld, Gov. of Mass., Frank Wooldridge, V. Pres. 90th Div., Donato Marini, 87th Inf. Div., Senator Arthur E. Chase.



Jackie Remy - making a point



Charlie Lussier, Mike Malik, Larry Arrigo



Marji Sessions & Santa - Boston Chapter



Lou Sandini - making a point - Boston Chap.



Frank Young - Joe & Rose Collette



Nancy Tynan & Fred Sylvia - Making a deal with Santa



Ginny DiGiammerino helping Santa & Lou Sandini

## NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

I'm writing this article on Ground Hog's Day, the exact middle of winter, and the sun is shining. As folk-lore says we are in for six more weeks of cold weather. The first six weeks has been the worst winter in memory. We had seven ice and snow storms in January alone with temperatures hovering around zero. We're all looking forward to the warmer days ahead.

Our daughter Judy was married to Brenton Smith of Bensalem, Pennsylvania on November 6th, 1993. Among the guests were some members of the New Jersey Chapter, (picture enclosed with this article). This past Christmas our other daughter Joyce was engaged to marry John McNally from Hicksville, Long Island. The wedding is planned for July 16, 1994.

The Chapter Christmas Party was held at the Landmark Inn in Woodbridge on December 11th. We had a good turnout, but a sudden snow storm played havoc on driving conditions. The weather was clear in Woodbridge when I received a call from Manny Epstein in Brooklyn telling me, "It is impossible for me to drive to the party the snow is so deep". It took Ted and Irene Guzek 3 hours to drive 15 miles from Jersey City. We missed those who couldn't attend but we were still able to enjoy the party thanks again to the efforts of Fred and Addie Rein. At this writing Fred is scheduled to go to the hospital for an operation on February 8th. The Reins are an example of what this association is all about, always ready to help and contribute to it's success. We are fortunate to call them our good friends and wish them all the best.

Missing from the Christmas Party were Russell and Margarita Whitehead. Margarita was involved in a very serious auto accident and was seriously injured. Our prayers and hopes are for a speedy recovery.

We received many Christmas Cards from 83rders and always enjoy them. Frank Reichmann always sends a note to let us know how he is doing. He still has health problems and can't travel far from home. Kay Bowie also writes to tell us she is well and doing fine. She still lives in Toms River, N.J. Fred Klein called me in January. Fred was in the S-2 Section with me and we shared many patrol and Battalion OP duties. Fred is a very successful executive with a major drug firm and thru his position has the opportunity to travel to many distant lands. On his own, Fred recently went to Antarctica.

Oh!, lets get back to the Christmas Party-who won all the prizes at the raffle? Lucky Joe DePeri and daughter Jo-Ann needed one of his flat-bed tractor trailers to haul home the loot. Funny when I won last year everyone hooted, Joe wins there is applause. Thanks to everyone who donated the prizes says Joe DePeri. I say "wait till next year".

I read where the 50th Anniversary of D-Day will attract many thousands of veterans. I had planned to go with George Settle on our own, as you know George suffered a stroke and is unable to go. According to the article I read, it will require special passes to attend the ceremonies at the beach. These free I.D. Badges can be



Taken at the Florida Reunion

obtained from World War II Commemoration Committee, Veterans Identification Program, 5001 Eisenhower Ave. Alexandria, Va. 22333. Also available is a special medal to honor those who fought in Normandy. Presentation to veterans, or posthumously to their families, will be made during their visits to Normandy throughout the year. Applications should be sent two months prior to arrival to: Association Debarquement et Bataille de Normandie, Abbaye aux Dames, Place Reine Mathilde, B.P. 311, 14015 Caen Cedex, France.

I want to thank Ben Johnson for the fine article he sent in the last Thunderbolt, also for the picture taken at the reunion in Florida.

That's it for this issue, God Bless You All with good health!

Stan Bielen

1st Bn. Hdqs, 331

## PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

We have returned from another excellent Reunion hosted by the Florida Chapter and held in September at Daytona Beach, Florida. The members of the host chapter, as well as the participating hotels, had worked together prior to our coming to provide us with activities and entertainment, and the time went quickly. Needless to say, everyone seemed to enjoy the camaraderie, the fine weather, and the evening dinners provided each night by the Marriott Hotel as bus service was provided from the hotels to the Marriott and returned after the entertainment by the same service. In view of the fact that there were over 750 people attending the banquet the last night, it was impressive to see how well organized the staff of the Marriott was in providing transportation, dinner, and entertainment for all. It was an evening of excellence on all counts.

From Reunion to Christmas -- The Philadelphia Chapter attended our Christmas Party on December 5 at the Coastline Restaurant in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. The arrangements were handled again this year by Al Belvedere, and although the weather was rainy, the Coastline was warm and pleasant and very quickly everyone got into the spirit of the occasion. While we



managed to get to the Christmas Party in spite of a day-long rain storm that was equally severe as we returned home, we were forced to cancel January and February meetings because the continued ice, snow and cold were making driving more than hazardous. The winter ice and snow storms that have been continuing since the first of the year have given new meaning to the term "glazier weather conditions".

With reference to several special loyal members of long standing in our organization, I thought you might want to know that Lester Hauck and George Settle were not at the Florida reunion because of circumstances beyond their control. Lester has been having problems with the muscles of his legs. Now that a diagnosis has been made, we're hoping for modern science to kick in for him with some help. George Settle suffered a stroke shortly after the Boston Chapter Mini-Reunion at the Pines, and we're all pulling for him.

George Pletcher too was side-lined recently with cataract surgery and he has made a good recovery after the operation. We will keep Lester Hauck and George Settle in our thoughts and in our contacts as they are two very special people who always helped to make a get together enjoyable no matter where it was held.

John G. Daum  
Co. "D" 330th

## FLORIDA CHAPTER

The winter meeting of the Florida Chapter was held in Sebring, at a new hotel, "Inn-on-the-Lakes" on Jan. 28 & 29, 1994. The meeting was hosted by charter members Dick & Helen Sullivan. At the Nov. meeting, Al Bensimon was elected president in absentia, so this was his baptism of fire.

At the business meeting held Saturday morning, 36 members were present, including new member Herb Frankel from Del0Ray Beach. Herb never heard of the association until he read the newspaper article about Bernie Cove's experience in Russia. He located Bernie here in Florida and he was introduced to Ralph Gunderson and was invited to this meeting.

Several of our northern 83rd members were with us either at the meeting or the banquet: Sterling & Louella Rubright from Pa., George & Carol Naylor, from Va., Karl & Ingrid Burkhard, from New England Chapter. Joe Zenz of Pa, was visiting with Steve Bartha, both of I Co. 329, and stopped in for a brief visit at the end of the meeting.

The Saturday night dinner was attended by 64 members and guests, and was held at a neighboring restaurant, as the hotel dining room couldn't accommodate us.

Ned Smith, past president, and Allen Fisher, Reunion treasurer, presented the final financial statement of the 1993 reunion showing a remaining balance of \$3680 which will be turned in to the National Treasurer.

As this chapter still has a sizable membership, and gaining new ones at every meeting, opinions were ex-

pressed whereby we could assist in holding future reunions in Florida, if the hotels here could provide the complete package of services with-in acceptable price ranges. This matter was discussed as a contingency, in case some other proposed site could not be worked out.

Our spring 1994 meeting will be held on April 22 & 23 in Venice, Fl. at the Best Western Hotel. Al & Ruth Bensimon will host this affair and more information be forthcoming. We missed seeing Bill & Dot Nagel, Walt & Liz Marshall, and Charlie Harrigan, who could not travel due to ill health. Hope they are in better shape by April.

As our meetings are always close to "Thunderbolt" deadlines, I must cut this off and get it in the mail. Looking for a good turn-out in April.

W. Allen Fisher  
Secy. Florida Chapter

## WARREN OHIO CHAPTER

The Warren Chapter closed out it's yearly functions with the annual Christmas party at Cafe 422 here in Warren on December 11, 1993. All Chapter members and their wives were present except John Caparanis who was at home recuperating from major surgery. Also present as invited guests, were Mildred Kelly, Birdie Titus, Vera Venuti, Mary Nuzzi and Marge Voracek, wives of our departed members. Our hard working Ladies Auxillary under their President Birdie Titus presented to the Chapter a sizable monetary gift, for this we extend our most humble and sincerest thanks. They also provided the table favors and door prizes. The door prizes were won by Anne Tomazin and Angie Phillipone. Demps Minotti and Thresa Gautschi were and the big money winners of our annual S-----neighbor card game.

As I mentioned before John Caparanis had major surgery and is now at this writing in Florida with his lovely wife Helen recuperating. He has since retired, having sold his place of business "Cap's Newton Lumber". John and Helen celebrated their fiftieth (50) wedding anniversary on Feb. 19. Congratulations and good luck to the both of them. Joe and Angie Phillipone are now enjoying their annual hiatus in Florida where they will be until March 31. Their address is the Pelican Cove Motel, 125 Brightwater Drive, Clearwater Beach, Fla.

The Warren Chapter plans to attend the annual 83rd Association reunion at the "Pines" Hotel, South Fallsburg, NY in September. All members and their wives, with but one exception, will be attending. All those planning to attend this gala event have already received confirmation of their reservations from the "Pines". Also attending will be Birdie Titus and Marge Voracek. For all of those who have never been to the "Pines", take it from this writer who has been there many times, you better come, I think you will really like it. (this is a special note to Nick Franculo) At one of our recent Chapter meetings the annual election of officers for the coming year was held with the following results; President Charlie Tomazin, VicePresident John Shamrock,

Jr., Secretary Treasurer Mike Skovran, Head Trustee John Caparanis, Trustee Babe Gautschi and Ted Halubka. Chaplain Joe Phillipone.

The Warren Chapter still continues to hold their winter meetings every month at the homes of Chapter members. The Chapter meetings scheduled for the remainder of the year will be - February at the home of Ted and Dolly Halubka, March meeting at the home of John and Pat Shamrock and the April meeting will be at the home of Mildred Kelly. These meetings are usually held on the third Sunday of the month. Beginning in May our meeting will be held at Smelko's Ach Hill Golf Course in the form of a golf field Day and family picnic.

The Warren Chapter golf league has already been formed and will be playing every Tuesday morning at the Champion Links Golf course in Champion, Ohio. Ted Halubka will be the league commissioner assisted by Babe Gautschi. Charlie Tomazin will be the league Statistion and record keeper. If any 83rder is in the area, give us a call or just come on out at 9:00 A.M. League action will begin as soon as weather permits.

Our illustrious leader and newly re-elected President Charlie Tomazin sent out the old year with a bang on New Years Eve. As he was leaving a restaurant upon completing "dinner" with his wife Anne, he slipped on the ice in the parking lot, upon falling down he broke his left arm. Hopefully the cast on his left arm will be removed by this time and all is well where it was broken.

Liz Skovran is busy two days a week bussing "our two grandchildren" on the school bus. Sometimes this is no easy chore. She along with John Shamrock are anxiously awaiting spring planting weather so they can get their plants in so as to who will have the bragging rights for producing the first red tomato.

This is all for now, so to all 83rd Association members and their loved ones, stay healthy and if the Good Lord is willing, S. Peter don't call and the creek don't rise, we'll see you at the "Pines" in September. God Bless us all. Mike Skovran, 1st Bn. Hq., 331st Inf.

Warren Chapter Reporter-



Soon to be married chapter president Mike Rudy and Alice Ankney taken at the Christmas Party on December 10.



Another photo taken at The Christmas Party shows again Mike Rudy and Alice Ankney; Steve and Sue Puhac, Joann and Fran Beerhalter. The Puhacs are the son-in-law and daughter of the Beerhalters.

## PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

The Pittsburgh Chapter Christmas Party held on December 10 at the Holiday Inn in Blawnox, Pa. was attended by thirty-seven persons.

A two-pound box of homemade chocolates was given to all the ladies in attendance. The feature of the evening was the announcement of the engagement of our president Mike Rudy to Alice Ankney. Friends since childhood they married separately and both spouses are deceased. A wedding date will be announced later.

National chaplain Frank Hornak was hospitalized at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio for what was thought to be a heart attack while he was visiting his daughter who is a resident of that city on Oct. 4. It was diagnosed later that his sugar diabetes was acting up. He was transferred to Latrobe Hospital from where he was subsequently discharged. He was in attendance at the February meeting on Sunday, February 6. John Caruso was hospitalized for eleven days in Florida. Bill Harold was in the Latrobe Hospital, then transferred to a hospital in Pittsburgh. He was sent home presumably suffering from an inoperable heart condition. Gene Costanzo has been experiencing back problems for the past six to eight weeks.

At the February meeting four Valentine Day Cards were signed by the members who are hospitalized or recuperating from surgery. Sam Klippa at the VA Hospital at Aspinwall. Steve Blasko at the Kendrix Nursing Home in Donora. John Gall at home and Ralph Baron who is completing chemotherapy treatments.

A plan to hire a bus to transport members to the Pines reunion in September was introduced. A favorable response was forthcoming with discussion at future meetings.





## **NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER**

We would like to give a big thanks to Dutch & Helen Smith and Chuck and Bernice Abdinoor for the great Christmas Party that they hosted at the Marriott in Peabody Mass. on Dec. 4th.

We had a wonderful turn out: John & Priscilla Walsh of Portland, Maine, Les & Ellen Johnson of New Philadelphia, Ohio, Paul & Rita Dietrich of Pittsburgh, Pa., Jim & Dot Brennan, Joe & Helen Petrucci, Al & Ann Tartaglia from R.I., Bill & Eleanor Sullivan, Rose & Burt Simons, Simon & Kathren Etzel of Conn., Bill & Jeanette McKee, John & Ester Ferriera & Nick & Mary Franicullo from Mass.

Our hospitality room was just full of food and drinks and happiness and at seven p.m. we all got dressed in our best and headed for dinner and after dinner we headed back to our chapter room and we greeted Mr. & Mrs. Claus who gave out gifts to all and then we all had a fine sing along with our top shelf accordion player. Mr. Joe Petrucci. He just burned the ivory off of that squeeze box in to the wee hours of the morning.

The next morning we all went down stairs for breakfast and after we all filled up on good food we all wished each other a safe trip home.

Thanks again Dutchy & Helen and Chuck & Bernice. We loved it.

On our sad side Charles Miller of Reg. Hq. 330 passed away in Dec. He was very active in Veterans organization.

Also Jim Barber of Hq. Co. 3rd Bn. 330 is not doing to good. He is loosing his sight, but his sprite is good.

Mike Champey is to have his hip done over again. We hope that this is it Mike Raynon "Big Red" Burchan of Hq. Co. 3rd Bn. 330th. of Procterville, Ohio has had the shingles and then they found a vein in his leg clogged and is on medication.

Russ & Vera Wagner are doing O.K. and Bob & Blanche Blout are O.K.

Ray Rudd has had a tripple by pass and is coming along very slow.

The Burkhardts are down South. HaHa.

Got a card from Wayne Turner that his wife Janet fell square dancing and broke her wrist and is doing fine now and Wayne is still selling real estate.

Wm. C. Biere will be 80 yr. old Jan. 94 and still plays poker and fishing.

Bill Burdin of Edison N.J. K. Co. 330th had his left eye operated on again to have scar tissues removed.

Also received a card from Burl & Louise Chronister of Plymouth, Ill. that they had lost everything in the big flood and are very lucky.

That is it for now and hope you all had a nice Christmas and the New England Chapter wish you all a very healthy 1994.

Your Buddy,  
Nick Francullo

Hq. Co. 3rd Bn. 330th.

P.S. If you have not paid your chapter dues for 1994 they are due!



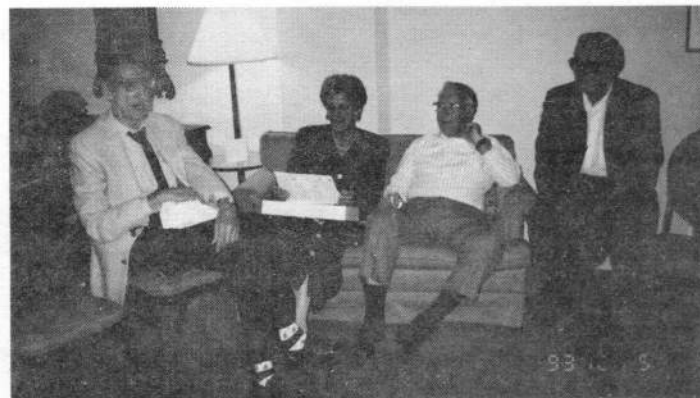
**Bring on the food!**



**Where is Nick?**



**Happy New England Group!**



**More jokes by Bill.**





Nick & Joe you made the day!



Co. Boys

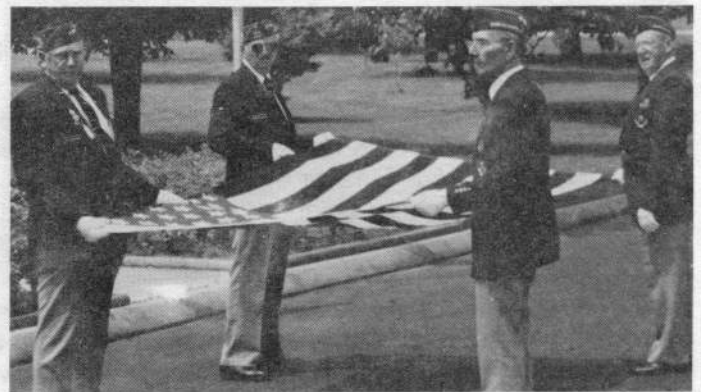


Have another drink Girls!



Dutchy & Helen & Chuck & Bernice  
John & Pricilla Welsh

## Dixie Chapter Pictures



Flag Ceremony & Presentation in June 92.



Guests & Friends at Memorial Service - June 92.



83rd Dixie men at Memorial Service - June 92.



District 11 VFW NC Honor Guard Firing 21 gun salute.  
Three 83rd men are in this guard.

## DIXIE CHAPTER

The notices went out inviting members and friends to the 19th Christmas party of the Dixie Chapter 83rd for 1993. They showed up. 170 strong hearted souls responded. They were not dissapointed. Many already have reservations for 1994 and they will come again to celebrate and remember those who have gone from us.

We are saddened by the sudden death of our president James McCroy on Nov. 16, 1993. His wife Jeantte with five members of his family joined us. She was presented a memorial flag by Haran Martin on behalf of the chapter. Twas a most impressive and moving time for all present.

Old buddies got together and new friends were made. The reservation list ran from Atkinson to Whitaker with just about every letter represented. For instance, Benbow, Cook, Dalton and Owadow. Walter Blancett was there with eleven members of his family. Milton Singleton was close behind. Engineers were out in full force. The Infantry was out in front as usual with artillery in close support. Special Forces brought up the rear with honor.

Food was out of the world. The ladies really outdid themselves this year with all the food and special goodies.

Four chapter members were there setting a good example for all of us rookies.

Some had to cancel out. Some came for the very first time looking for a familiar face of the long lost buddy. Some were dissapointed but before it was over all were glad they had come.

Twas truly a time of real comradship and enjoying the holiday season with each one adding something in his own way.

Mr. and Mrs. Santa were there with gifts for the children and the gift exchange for the grown ups.

Many took in a show or two, some went to Dollie-wood. All went shopping. The parade was enjoyed by all.

Music and dancing Friday and Sat. nites was a big hit. I stayed till the last dance each nite along with many others who just wanted the evening to last and last.

Greetings on arrival were so happy but the good byes were bettersweet so we didn't say as many good-byes as we did hellos.

Altogether 14 states were represented. Our new president, Larry Dalton promises to keep us straight for another year. I'm sure he will if we'll just co operate with him and our slate of officers.

Plan now to attend the national in 1994. A great program is shaping up.

Thanks to everyone who did anything to make our party such a memorable occassion, especially our hosts "The Jacksons" and all who helped in any way.

Next year will be even better if we all show up and get in the spirit of the holidays remembering those who made it possible for us to come and share these very special moments together.

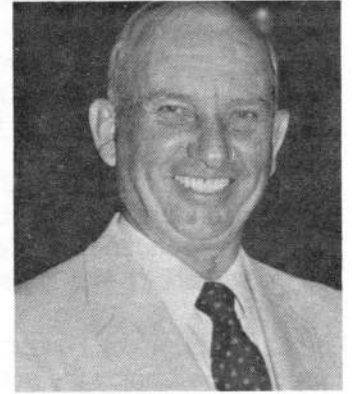
I truly wanted to meet and talk to every one present

if I failed please let me know next year. I promise to try and do better!

Your Dixie Reporter  
Ellsworth Massie



**Commander Haran Martin**  
presiding at Memorial Service - June 92



**James McCroy**  
Pres. Dixie Chapter

### MCCROY, Mr. James Richard

-Age 70 of Ridgetop, TN died on Tuesday, November 16, 1993 at Jesse Holman Jones Hospital in Springfield, TN of a heart attack. He was born July 12, 1923 in Cedar Hill, TN to James Richard and Emma Hunter McCroy. He graduated from Cedar Hill High School, Tennessee Polytechnic Institute and the University of Tennessee. Mr. McCroy worked with the University of Tennessee Extension Service as County Agricultural Agent in Polk County, TV for 19 years. He served two years in India with the U.S. AID Program as a seed specialist. He was state program director for community services with the Farmer's Home Administration until his retirement. Mr. McCroy served with the 83rd Infantry Division in the European Theatre during World War II. He was presently serving as president of the Dixie Chapter of the 83rd Infantry Division. Through the years, he had been an active member for the Lions Club, Ruritan Club, Hiwassee River Watershed Development Association, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Farm Bureau, City Farmers of Middle Tennessee, Ocoee and Greenbrier Free and Accepted Masons, Benton Order of the Eastern Star, Al Menah Temple and the Robertson County Shrine Club. Mr. K was a member of the First Baptist Church of Greenbrier. He was an alderman of the City of Ridgetop. He was engaged in farming in the Barren Plains Community. He is survived by wife, Jeannette Ware McCroy, Ridgetop; daughters, Margaret Ann McCroy, Ridgetop and Mary McCroy Mantooth, Adams; grandchildren, James Dunn Mantooth, Lori Jean Mantooth, Hunter Bryn "Huni B" Mantooth and John Quentin "Bo" Mantooth, Adams; sister, Sylvia McCroy Wieger, Greenbrier; nieces, nephews, cousins and aunts, Margaret Hunter, Adams and Mattie Whitman, Ridgetop. Remains are at the Austin & Bell Funeral Home in Springfield where services will be conducted Friday, November 19, 1:00 p.m. Interment Bellwood Cemetery. AUSTIN & BELL. 384-1000



## KENTUCKY CHAPTER

It was Christmas time on the Piqua Mall  
The shoppers were welcome, old young, short and tall,  
The merchants were watching the shoppers pass by  
When a group of ladies they happened to spy.  
With a spring in their step and their purses clutched tight  
stuffed with crisp new bills and big bargains in sight.  
Let's shop till we drop was the cry that was heard,  
for those were the Gals from the Eighty Third.

The Kentucky Chapter Christmas party was held at the Comfort Inn, at Piqua, Ohio December 10th-11th.

The attendance was good with a total of 51 names on the log book. We are happy to report that some are new ones. We welcome Harold and Catherine Fisher and Al and Dorothy Fowler to the Kentucky Chapter, and hope they will enjoy the activities of the Chapter.

On Friday we enjoyed a gab session, then a good meal reasonably priced, at Dales in a mall about a mile away. On Saturday morning at the mall that adjourns the Comfort Inn, the shopping started in earnest, while some went back to the other mall and took in a large flea-market.

On Saturday afternoon came the event everyone was waiting for, the gift exchange. There were lots of OOH's and AAH's as the wrappings came off the many gifts.

Wilson and Vi Day brought a large fancy Santa that Wilson carved for a man's door prize. It was won by Harold Fisher. Maxine Hamilton made a beautiful Christmas wreath that was won by Alberta Richmond. Gale and Irene Baker brought Pyrex dishes. Vi Day won the large salad dish and two smaller dishes that are called collector items were won by my wife Clara and Dorothy Fowler. special thanks to those who donated these prizes. They will be a treasured memory of this Christmas Party.

At our business meeting it was voted to have our Spring meeting at Frankfort, Ky, at the Day's Inn on March 18---19. (Note that this is a change from April 2. This meeting will be hosted by R.T. Brooks and his wife Betty and John Hudnall and his wife Hazel. Let's show these new hosts a good turn out. It seems like they have a good program planned..

Our summer meeting will be in Oxford, Ohio with Bob and Pearl hosting with Earl and Bonnie Hoover assisting. The dates are June 24 and 25.

The 50-50 drawing was won by Alberta Richmond who promptly gave it back to the Chapter, as lucky as she was that day I believe I would have invested in Lottery tickets.

With Al Fowler coming to the meeting there were three 908th F.A. Buddies together for the first time since the war. They were Lawrence Hamilton, Norm Weaks and Al. They had a ball going back down Memory Lane. Lawrence has been having problems with his sugar and has been staying close to the house for awhile. With all the bad weather we have been having since Christmas it has not been fit for man or beast.

Dorothy Henry had a round of feeling bad and be-

ing dizzy. She spent three days in the hospital having tests and we hope is much better by now.

Kentucky Chapter reporter  
Leroy Johnson  
3rd BN. HQ. 331st INF.

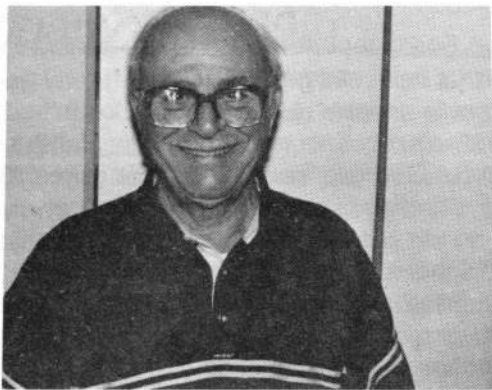
## Do You Just Belong?

*from Indiana V.F.W. Paper*

Are you an active member?  
The kind that would be missed  
Or are you just contented that  
Your name is on the list?  
Do you attend the meetings  
And mingle with the flock?  
Or do you stay away  
And criticize and knock?  
Do you take an active part  
To help the work along?  
Or are you satisfied to be  
The kind who "just belongs"?  
Do you ever work on committees  
To see there is no trick?  
Or leave the work to just a few  
And talk about the clique?  
So go to meetings often  
And help with hand and heart.  
Don't just be a member  
But take an active part.  
Think this over, people  
You know right from wrong;  
Are you an active member,  
Or do you just belong?



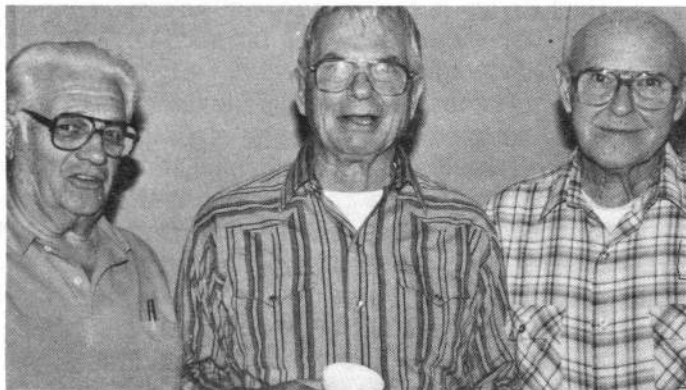




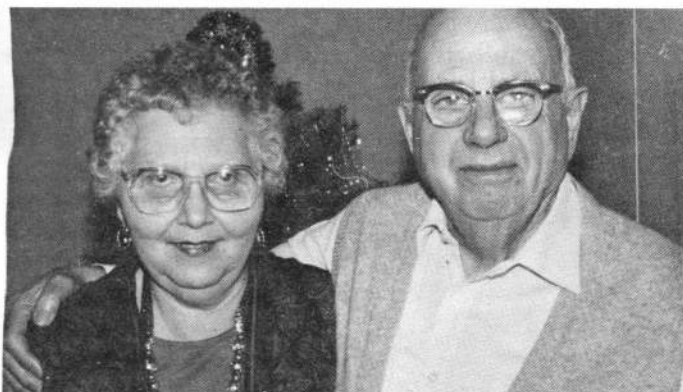
Vito Palazzolo -- turning on the charm  
(12-11-93 Piqua, Ohio)



Bonnie Hoover with a Christmas smile  
(12-10-93 Piqua, Ohio)



Left to right: Al Fowler, Lawrence Hamilton, Norm Weeks.



Harold & Catherine Fisher, Piqua Christmas Party.  
(12-11-93)

## COMPANIES

If anyone knew  
Charles W. Schneider  
"C" 330 please contact  
**James E. Schneider**  
179 Webster Ave.  
Brooklyn, New York 11230

### 783rd Ordnance Company

As I start to write this the bad news is we have been snowed in, and iced in, for two weeks and old Ben-simon, Rohrer and Gilman are laughing. The good news is, by the time you read this I'll be enjoying spring weather but the gnats will be biting in Florida and they'll be looking for water in San Francisco.

Now first things first. It's always difficult reporting the loss of another buddy. The normal phrases always seem inadequate. So with that in mind I know your feelings when I write that both Phil Barbara and John Larimer have died. Being the Company Clerk Phil was known and liked by everyone. He and Ann always added a lot to the reunions with their upbeat personalities. Recently I talked to Ann and she was doing well. She wanted to thank everyone who sent well wishes. For the present she is driving to N.Y. and maintaining the business.

There are no details about John. A letter I sent him was returned and stamped, "Deceased a couple of years." He lived near Lloyd Grayson but as far as I know he never stayed in contact with anyone. Maybe some of you can fill us in.

With Wiggins age I guess we got to expect a lengthening of the sick list. So now for our necessary, "General Hospital" winter episode of 1993-94.

Sadly Nancy Chevalier's Xmas card told us that Jake "doesn't know he's in this world." I'm assuming he had a stroke as he wrote to me last year telling me about his huge family. Tom Riley in a nursing home, after a series of strokes, is now alert but he is laid up and has speech problems. Frank Salontay simply had a bad year. He got a pinched nerve in his back that affected his legs. Then to top things off he got a blood clot in his legs. Then to top things off he got a blood clot and his diabetes cropped up again while waiting for an operation. Frank, we hope you have had a successful operation and that by now your at least putting around on your second home, the golf course.

Reese Phillips called. He also sounds like he could use some new parts from his, Lt. Joe Brown's, old Supply trucks. While checking out a kidney they located a aneurysm near his stomach. So before fixing that they

did a heart catheterization and found clogged plumbing to the heart. The drugs seem to be working because he says, "Rags, I feel great."

Gene Del Prete writes long medical epistles. He has to describe Ginny's rare disease. He is having quite a time of it getting all the necessary medicines at the proper times. You'll understand when I tell you he is getting them from Walter Reed in Baltimore, another from Ft. Meade and the rest from the Carlisle Depot. One thing about these two, they are always up and trying to dance.

Now I mentioned Wiggins and as you know he is a real story. He is our golfing champ. (age) And, the game finally caught up to him on the 12th green of his home course. Can you imagine, one of his own buddies landed his ball on the soft part of Wiggy's head. It knocked him out, you might see a replay on 911. Everyone at the next reunion is going to have to see his nine stitches. It cost me a twelve buck phone bill to hear about it!

Now for a rundown: Lou and Easy Labbe are first because they called me on my birthday. They were checking on Ginny but that's still ok, it was my birthday. They are great and enjoying their warm weather. Phooey!

Apparently ok are Troy and Marie Bishop and Patty and Joe Stubber having both sent warm wishes. Now the same can't be said for the Appleby's. All you 99 people who called or wrote asking, "Did you get a Christmas card from the Appleby's?" can now relax. Talking to Bill last night he said he was sorry. He didn't know what happened. It was just like 50 yrs. ago. Bill took his Jeep, got lost, or distracted, and never delivered the mail.

Another nice note from Joe Brown who is enjoying a well earned good life except for a bad shoulder, which all good golfers get, and house cleaning his big home.

Now the same can't be said for the other guy, Bud, Ivan Gilman. He's a nice guy, always sends me a moneyless birthday card, faithfully checked up on Ginny, but why does a so called friend have to rub it in that he is still younger?

We were glad to hear that while Norma and Herm Hackstock had a rough health year it was nothing really serious. They are now relaxing, getting tanned in Fla.

The other two lucky Fla. couples Ruth and Al Bensimon and giggling Pat and Charlie Rohrer, are living it up. Ruth is taking advantage of Al's recharged battery and the Rohrers are enjoying golf. Oh yes, Al's battery belongs to the boat, the other ones kapuut!

May and Bob Burns get 1st prize for the longest and most informative Christmas greeting in spite of being written on recycled toilet paper. Bob is quite busy still helping at the funeral home and assisting older folks with tax forms.

Doc and Agnes Pfeifer are rightfully still talking about their great African safari. There's also a lot to be said for big family's but having 56 for Christmas is a little much. The bottom line is, do it and enjoy while we can.

Ed Perko reported in from the winterland of Wisconsin that he is still getting around, "pretty good." He'd like to get to another reunion but he doesn't want to travel that far alone. This is also George Harris's problem. Oh to have George's sense of humor in your 81st year. George, I hope you don't mind my quoting you. "I'm still dating an old girl friend but I've had to cut it down to a couple nights a week. She talks continuously and lately has been talking marriage. I shouldn't complain. She has me for dinner at least once a week and I always go home with a couple of dinners. In return I take her to the VFW for dinner each week. Aren't you glad I told you all of this?" I sure am George and I'm sure we're all saying, "right on!"

Had a conversation with our, forever stuck in Indiana, boy Bill Manning. He happily reports that Eliese has come through her stomach operation in flying colors. And "God willing, we'll see you at the Pines."

Milly Doggett had the sad experience of losing her sister but she is continuing her active live. Art is a different story. He and his new electric typewriter have crawled into some Kentucky cave for the winter. At least that's how Wiggins, Fredericks and I see it.

Midge is still keeping Hersch Weaver smiling. She tells him jokes about Hilary's medical plan for the 783rd.

Jim Jones has been very faithful with his calls inquiring about any happenings in the group. He was a bit frustrated with W. Vir. weather keeping him from his workshop out back.

Paul Bryars is feeling so great he's sounding like Wiggins. "Oh yeah I play golf all winter." Isn't Cinn. Ohio above W. Virginia?

Last but never least is Alyce and her champion, letter writing, husband Carl Frederick. Carl is enjoying his retirement. They were to Hawaii again, he's keeping up with the Wisconsin snow by shoveling and babying sitting young grandchildren to boot. All this in his 78th year. I think Alyce should bottle the water and bring it to the reunion.

As for this years reunion Jones, Doc, Frederick., Mimi ourselves and "I'll be there Manning." are already committed to coming. So sign up today, this is going to be another great time.

As for Ginny she had a number of adhesions removed from her spinal cord. She woke up out of pain. Since then she had done her daily exercises and is now almost back to normal. I still have to scrub the floor. Thank you for all of your expressions and concern.

Hut two,  
Rags Rangnow





## Company "F" 329th

What a Great! Family "F" Company and 83rd Division Association is. Blood related families are scattered throughout these United States, likewise combat related families are also. We experience the same joys and sorrows, with these feelings combining to make our reunions together "Something Special"

It has really been a long time since we have had the enjoyment of receiving and reading a "Thunderbolt" Lest anyone misunderstand me I am not complaining, as being able to have an annual updated roster is certainly worthwhile, especially one as well done as our's always are.

During the above mentioned period of time and before another TB is in our hands, our Division Reunion and two "F" Co. Minis will have been attended by various of our members. It is my understanding that 6 or 7 were together in Daytona, enjoyed the reunion activities having had a real good time together. Louis Gaybrant who has been AWOL for a number of years was present and accounted for. Lou we have been trying to locate you all this time. Welcome back and keep in touch.

Our newsletter which you receive courtesy of Bill Ferguson has covered the impromptu June gathering in Livonia, the October get together in "Ashland, the reminder of the February '94 4F Festivity in Punta Gorda, where we are assuming our Hosts local Captain an Ex. O. Bill/Arline Nickell will be there to greet us. They are known to travel quite a bit between Florida and Luxembourg so we can't be sure.

Since Cincinnati 11 members have been added to our active group. Recent first timers ever at any reunion Ed Hammond and Talton Ballard. Joe Putnak and Lou Gaybrant having just been reunited with us this year. Ed Hammond helped me get in touch with Alvin B. Sperling, an original Atterburian who I have been trying to locate via all kind of means for years. A letter update from him informs me he was wounded in the leg on that 4th of July that many of you remember, was captured, later liberated, shipped back to the States to Walter Reed Hospital, spent 3 years there receiving bone grafts to save the leg which they were able to do. Others of you will remember Alvin I'm sure. We anticipate getting together in Florida for the first time since the war, it will be fantastic.

### HE-R-RE'S THE GIRLS



Pictured below is the "F" Company license plate available thru Bill Ferguson as mentioned in the last newsletter.



As Bill Nickells' guest it was my privilege to attend the Jan. 29th Florida Chapter meeting in Sebring together with Frank Bellino of I Co., Bill reported to those in attendance of Col. Sharpe's return to his home from the nursing home.

Many of you know our former Bn. Commander Col. Granville Sharpe and family are going thru a rough period and their lives. May the good Lord be merciful unto them. I am sure an appropriate card would be appreciated.

It was learned thru Dr. Charlotte Daly (The Cols. daughter) that Lt. Robert W. McGhee has died. Some of you will remember him first as private McGhee at Atterbury. What! a shine he could put on a pair of GI shoes.

Wright J. Cotter known never to be wrong reports people are coming in from out of state to see the Jumping Fiddler Catfish at his spread in Galatia, Ill. Who! would have thought a couple of lines in our "Thunderbolt" would create such a Torrist Attraction?

C.R. Bob Whitcomb

## Company "D" 330th

### HELLO BUDDIES:

Well here I am once again, even though we have cut down on the issues of the "THUNDERBOLT", press time still keeps rolling along.

As you all know that although I didn't serve with Co. "D" 330th, I feel like a part of it. I had the great pleasure of having known the late Captain Fritz, who was the First Lieutenant that I served under in our Company. I also knew such great men as Frank McGrogan and Johnnie Walker and many more who served in your company.

Well Buddies, once again I have started work on the Ad Book and the Co. "D" letters will be in the mail soon. I am going to ask each and everyone of you to be a little extra generous. As you know our Obituary column is getting greater each year which means that I have one more less man to contact. We still do wish to see their names appear on the page.



Well Buddies, the Boston Chapter is hard at work trying to give us another great Reunion, remember that time is running out, we are all getting older and illness are creeping up on us that limits our activities, so take advantage of it while you can and get a chance to see that Buddy that was side by side with you during the War and you haven't seen since you left those Battlefields behind.

I know that I am getting older and my health has limited my activities so I hope to be able to attend at least one more Reunion. I also wish to inform you that this may be the last year for the Co. "D" page to appear in the Ad Book as I am planning to step aside from the Ad Book Committee.

I wish to thank you all for all the support you have given me since I took over the job of my old Buddy, Frank McGrogan. As he laid in the Hospital I promised him that Co. "D" would never become a forgotten Company. I sincerely hope that someone who served in it will take over where I left off.

Your buddy  
Larry Redmond

## Company "H" 330th

### HELLO BUDDIES:

Here comes that man once again to brag about the best "Damned" company to serve in the 83rd Infantry Division. We had just about the finest group of soldiers that any company could have, and our officers were tops. Under the leadership that we had, we couldn't help but be the best.

Over the year I have had the great honor to meet many of you in person, and enjoy the pleasure of your friendship and company. At reunions is just about the only place that we can have the chance to meet as we live all over the country. Over the years we have had some very nice times at reunions, and several of the men who have attended have now passed away that is why I ask each and everyone of you to give attendance at least one reunion and meet that buddy you haven't seen since we left Europe. You can't imagine the great feeling it is to be sitting there in the lobby of the hotel or wherever and see a man walk in and know that you have met him before and as you approach him to introduce yourself, you find that he was a man who served in one of the machine gun platoons with you or in the mortar platoon with you. It is a wonderful feeling how your mind travels back so many years and that man you were about to introduce yourself too turns out to be a man you haven't forgotten.

Well buddies, as I sit and write this letter, I can't help but think that it is that damned old time for me to start getting letters off to you seeking Ads for the Ad Book for the reunion. The Boston Chapter is hard at work planning a great reunion, and your donation helps

play an important role in it. This year I am going to ask you to be a little more generous to help us cover that name of a deceased buddy who can't send in his name. We don't want to see any of our men dropped, and with your help it won't be.

Well buddies, I have one more big thing to say and that is that due to my poor health at this time, I may have to give my being on the Ad Book Committee. I hate to see the thoughts of the name of Co. "H" not appear in the add book. This is a hard thing for me to say, but I can't help it. My heart and soul is with the 83rd and I hope that it can remain there until the day I die. We of the 83rd are more than just a group of war veterans, we are one large family and I sincerely hope that we can remain that way for years to come.

Your Buddy  
Larry Redmond

## 323rd F.A. Bn.

Congratulations to Tony Piantedosi of Charlie Battery who was recently elected President of the Boston Chapter. I hear his buddy Dom Christopher of the Cleveland Chapter is under control now.

Pat DiGiammerino of Service Battery deserves thanks for getting new members in the 323rd. Keep up the good work.

Thanks to Larry Boyle for his phone call sorry I was not at home. However, I received a card from Eli Kinder the same day.

I have not heard from Bob Costello for some time now. Must be old age, Huh! Betty give him a push for me.

Don Willis has not been heard from for a while. His golf stories must be poor. Donald do a little fishing.

Frank Wirth is doing fine. His wife Eleanor writes a good note.

I had cards from Alice Ann Costello, Nancy Nellies, Violet Morgan, Yvette Polites, Elvira Hoover and Bill Shaner's daughter, Sandy, with notes. Thanks for remembering me. I certainly appreciate hearing from everyone.

It was nice to hear Al Covi is doing so well. He always was a fighter that is why he is going to win the health battle. Good Luck Al.

John Sabo has had a little setback since the Florida reunion and is using a cane now. Hope it is helping you John.

Les Taylor I assume went to the Hershey 100th Birthday Party. The TV in Boston tells us it was a big "blast".

Many thanks to Amy St. John for writing with the Altoona news. It was nice to hear from you.

That's all for this issue.  
Amby Tynan

## Company "K" 331st Infantry

Dear Buddies:

Our 48th Annual Reunion will be held at the Pines Hotel, South Fallsburgh, N.Y., September 7 to 11, 1994. This reunion is given by the Boston Chapter of the 83rd Infantry Division Association.

As some of you know, our last reunion was held at Daytona Beach, Florida. It was great to get together with about ten men from Co. K. We hope to see more of you this year. We all had a good time.

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

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

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

Please send your ad to me by July 25th, 1994 as follows: (The sooner the Better)

Albert Belvedere

65 Westminster Dr. So.

Southampton, N.J. 08088

Thanking you and hoping this note finds you and yours in good health, I remain.

Your 83rd buddy

Al Belvedere

Co. K., 331st Inf.

## Company ""K" 331st Infantry

I want to inform the men of Co. K., 331st Infantry that Mike Filingo passed away December 11, 1993.

Mike and I became very good friends during the War and after the war. As a result, we became friendly with his dear wife Mary and lovely daughters, Michelle and Darlene. We managed to see each other a few times during the year.

Mike was a replacement from the 63rd Division. He joined us in Camp Breckenridge, Ky. I was in charge of quarters the night he arrived. He came to the Orderly Room with a severe soar throat. I, in turn, got some medicine for him. It is funny how these little moments come back to you after all this time.

My wife Anna and Mike's wonderful wife Mary met each other and became very good friends. They came to see us in Camp Breckenridge a few times. They were there the day we left for Overseas.

Mike helped me over the hedgerow in France. The next time I saw him was back in the States just before the War ended. We were both wounded. Mike was a good soldier and a good friend.

We are still in touch with his daughter Michelle.

Attached is an Obituary from his hometown paper.

Al Belvedere,

Co. K - 331st Infantry



### **MICHAEL A. FILINGO**

Roseto, Pa. - Michael A. Filingo, 77, of 309 Falcone Ave., died Saturday, Dec. 11, in the V.A. Medical Center, Wilkes-Barre, after a short illness.

He was a member of the V.F.W. Post 739 of Bangor and the American Legion Post 397 of Hellertown.

He served in the Army in the 83rd Infantry Division during World War II, where he received four Battle Stars, Combat Infantry badge and the Purple Heart.

He was a former Scoutmaster of Boy Scout troop 36 of Roseto and roundtable commissioner of the Blue Mountain District.

He was the tax collector for the Borough of Roseto for 36 years, retiring this past June. He also served four years as a judge of elections.

He was last employed by Quartet Fashions of Nazareth and the former Bangor Cloth Factory as a pattern cutter and prior to that he was a wire saw operator in local slate quarries for 20 years.

Born March 14, 1916, in Roseto, he was a son of the late Michael and Maria Sabatine Filingo.

He was a member of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church, Roseto.

## Company ""I" 329th Infantry

I received a phone call Sunday Jan. 30th from Mrs. Delina Lozenzen she is the sister of Sgt. Elmer Marcotta, all these years she had been trying to get a hold of someone from Co. I. She even paid \$35.00 thru a magazine ad trying to find out when I Co. 329th held their reunion, they notified her that there was no Co. I 329th. I think they meant that we didn't hold a Co. reunion, like some Co's, Battalion or Regiments do. We have our's at our annual 83rd Div. Reunion. She had heard that we were having one at the Pines in Sept. which she plans to attend, so I sent her a brochure of the Pines so she could make reservations. I surprised her when I described Elmer, she said I made her day. He got killed the day we took the town of Barby. It would be a pleasant surprise if one of you Co. I men might have a picture of Elmer, taken when he was in the company, check your photo albums, bring it to the pines or mail it to her. (Mrs. Delina Lozenzen, 17025 Ruby Lane, Brookfield, W: 53005. Her son is one of the best known cardiology specialist in the Milwaukee area, he even could be your doctor, if so introduce yourself.

Sad news Frank Dahl's wife Ollie passed away July 17, 1993. Our symphony and prayers for Frank. Frank

and Ollie came down to Lafayette, Ga. when the Kentucky Chapter had a meeting there, they visited with the I Co. people Saturday afternoon.

Medical reports - after two operations Anna Hanus says that Frank is making some progress; But it has been slow going - the same goes for Pat Bartha's after her operation on her back, Jean Haas Knee's is still mending.

Frank Bellino called from Port Charlotte, he said that Mich & Doris McGowan just arrived with a truck, he was afraid that they were going to raid his citrus trees. McGowans had stopped to visit the Bartha's also got to visit with Dick & Jean Haas. Talked with Mich, he said that they would meet us at Kentucky Chapter meeting at Frankfort, Ky. March 18 & 19. Joe & June Zenz were also in Vero Beach but they didn't get together. Bellino said that he already had confirmation for rooms at the Pines. So I got busy and set for ours, also sent in an ad for the ad book, also sent for a room for the Kentucky Chapter meeting in Frankfort, Ky. Mich McGowan also said that the I Co. gang was going to attend the Florida Chapter meeting in Sebring, Fl. He didn't give the date, but you people in Florida, know it.

Don Allen said the visit to Ellis Island sounds interesting, will try to make it, the Geisinger's Harold & Laura May plan to be at the Pines, also Jim & Dorothy Fornof's Xmas Card said they would try to make it. Also Jim St. John's card said that he would see us soon. I take it that he also meant the Pines.

Other's planning to attend Max & Sally Francis, also Chas. Grey said he also might surprise us. Don't know for sure about Jesse & Elizabeth Hayes, Jessie doesn't like to fly. Talked to Walt and Joyce Henschel have tentative plans to travel with Agnes and I. Its a short trip for the Hayward's & Hunnewell. Will check with Earl and Bonnie Hoover when we see them in Frankfort. Also would be a short trip for the Harry Davines. Waiting for word from the Mills, Olneys, Pittmans, Scicolones, Simons, Sylvia and Zenz all of whom usually make it. Also hoping now that Robert Wolfe is now a member they can make it to the Pines. The same goes for Forest and Dorothy Brown. Also have hopes for Frank McCabe.

Did you know that in World War #1 - the 83rd Inf. Div. casualties were 67 killed in action 257 wounded. The 332nd Ret. served in Italy and the 329th, 330th and 331st served in France and Germany.

You men who are members of the American legion D.A.V. - V.F.W. or other veteran organization's. Your post can get an M60 tank - weighing 93,000 lbs from the Dept of the Army for display on your post property. The Stinger is that it will cost for demilitarize the tank for shipping by rail \$2,200.00 by truck, \$1800.00. You also have to pay for the cost of transporting it from Ft. McClellan, AL. I got two estimates for our post approximately 650 miles. Cost of one was \$6,200.00, 2nd was \$10,500.00. this was by truck. Case closed. Now trying to get one from the Ohio Nat. Guard. Even a Mark IV would do. The Army has so many of these surplus M60's, the state of Florida is considering purchasing some of these tanks and our planing to dump them in the Atlantic ocean to serve as a barrier reef.

Art Koerner, Kent, Ohio

## Company ""A" 329th Infantry

As I woke up this morning, I find that it is Ground Hog Day, and later on the sun shone. So what does that mean? Well, I found out later that ole Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow, as 2500 people shivered in subzero weather to see him emerge from his burrow. According to legend, he saw his shadow 98 times in 108 years. But Jimmy in Sun Prairie, Wis., 20 miles N.E. of Milwaukee, did not see his shadow, and neither did old General Beauregard Lee in suburban Atlanta. So you figure it out.

I trust that you all had a nice Holiday, and I hope you all have a healthy New 1994 Year. Kind of late, I know, but better late than never, as they say.

I received some letters and cards over the holidays. Carl Pliske sent me a picture of his lovely family and grandchildren. They all seem in good health. Ernie Knowels writes and tells me that he would like to get together. Well, Ernie, we have a reunion every year. You must not get the Thunderbolt. Bill Ursery says he likes reading the T'Bolt, and likes to be abreast with "A" Co. Dean Daniels from Sandusky, Ohio, enjoyed the mini reunion that George Suchomelly put on in St. Clairsville, Ohio.

Owen and Lois Wilson write that Hannibal, Missouri, and area was flooded badly, but that they and their family were spared. They have 2 married children; a daughter, 38, has a daughter and a son, who has a stepson that he loves dearly.

George Suchomelly and Pauline are in good health and doing fine. Mutt and Dorothy Adair are doing fairly well, Mutt cannot see to drive, so Dorothy has to take him to the doctors. Pat Dandola writes that he remembers alot of the names that are mentioned in the T'Bolt. Margaret Powell tells me that Roy is still in McQuire Vets Hospital. He is better than he was, but has a way to go. He is in a wheel chair, but his spirits are good. Hang in there, Roy, we're pulling for you. Johnny and Eunice Punch are O.K. They tell me if anyone is ever in N.C. to stop and see them. Phone # 1-704-462-1829.

Bill and Bert Tisher are hanging in there. Bert said she is finally on the mend. Ed and Alyce Gilbert seem to be very active with veterans groups, and travel a lot. Our 'ole medic John Camp and his wife, Marge, are doing O.K. George Calore is still cooking, (Mess Sgt. for "A" Co.), occasionally. He shares it with Mike Mizerock, from "G" 331st, for our Cleveland Chapter meetings.

On November 3, Hazen Lloyd entered Lehigh Valley Hospital Center for the removal of an intramedullary tumor. This benign tumor is located within the spinal cord, at the neck, and was known for the past 5 years and was monitored by the neurosurgeon. Surgical intervention was warranted. The operation took 10 hours and with excellent nursing care, Hazen improved each day. He received physical therapy and was home for the holidays. Way to go, Hazen! A true 83rd infantry man!

Well, fellows, this is about all the news I have this time. Either call me, or write to me, and the news will get into the Thunderbolt!

Stay Healthy and God Bless.

Your Buddy, Bob Grobelny

1581 Lander RD. Mayfield Hts., Ohio 44124

1-216-449-5085



## Company "G" 331st Infantry

The old year 1993 just rolled on by and left us all a year older and I hope, wiser and wealthy, but most of all I hope it has left us with better health. At our age we have to have everything going our way.

In December, I attended the funeral services of Earnest Gagnard in Batchelor, La. I had been in contact with his wife, because he has been extremely ill for the past year. Mena and I, had paid a visit to Earnest and his family, and spent an enjoyable day with them. For you men that did not know him, he was a member of the 2nd Platoon, and he along with Paradis were the interpreters for the Company during our stay in France and Belgium. He was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge and never returned to the Company. He and his wife were unable to have children, but over the years they raised 54 Foster Children.

Since the last report in November, Rippley sent to me the address and Phone number of Frank McAbee. McAbee was Platoon Sergeant of the 2nd Platoon from early in July 1944 to the end of the war across the Elbe River. I was able to get in touch with him and found that he is in good health. I hope someday that when I am crossing the North Caroline-South Carolina border I will stop in and spend some time with him. He lives a short distance from Troy Mayse and Jeremih Budd. McAbee was one of the unsung heroes of G Company. He was very dependable and when in command of the 2nd Platoon, he accomplished every mission assigned to him.

I feel sorry for you members that live in the Northern States, with all the cold and snow and ice, you must feel like the good old days in the Battle of the Bulge. Only, this time you can get out of the cold.

I have been in touch with Gene Costanzo, because I know that he is planning a trip to France during June 1944. I am hoping that I can tag along, because, I am also making plans for a return to Normandy for the 50th Anniversary of D Day.

In checking over the 1993 Roster of the Association, G Company has 35 paid up members. New names have surface for the first time:

Edward Foy, Georgetown, Texas

Harold Higgins, Rye, NH

William Seese, Kent, Ohio

Sterling Rubright, Shoemakerville, Pa.

Maj. (ret.) Arthur Spaulding, Sun City Center, Fla.

I recognized only two of the names, Foy who with the 2nd Platoon and Arthur Spaulding, who was a 1st Lt. and Platoon Leader of the 1st Platoon.

There are still a lot of G Company men out there to be found. I am hoping that we can meet with some of them at the Pines in September. Men from the Northeast section should be making their plans to attend the reunion. Rutstein, Gentile, Goldstein. Sometime in April I will have a newsletter out to each of you and bring you up to date with all of the member of G Company.

Capt. Mac

# Letters

HELP! HELP! HELP! Is there anyone in the 83rd Infantry Division 308 Engineers who remembers Harry I. Densler being hurt?

He went into the service October 14, 1942 - basic training (engineer) for three months and water purification for eight months where a tank of sands and water rolled off a trailer and landed on his back. He was taken to Camp Atterbury Field Hospital and was treated. He has a large scar on his upper back. He was taken off the water supply division because of the injury and transferred to 308 Engineers Headquarters. Somehow the report was never mentioned on his records.

I am writing because he has since been in the hospital about 40 times -- back, loss of an eye, heart failure, abscesses of the brain, touch of Alzheimer's and an aneurysm of the aorta. He also had a prostate operation.

He has five bronze service stars. He was discharged on September 28, 1945.

While overseas (like several others), his toes on his left foot became frost bidden. These toes are still black from poor circulation. The VFW wanted to know if he saw a doctor in the Ardennes. Harry said, "Hell, no, how could I - we were being shot at"

I don't think anyone under 50 knows about World War II.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Harry I. Densler  
339 N. Cherry St.  
Easton, PA. 18042  
(610) 258-9322

-----  
Bob,

There was a group of us that was captured across from the Dusseldorf bridge, a place called Nuess (maybe misspelled) only about 1 platoon plus platoon commander. I've never seen any history of this group. We were in Co. E 331st. It seems we could have been the (1st) first to cross the Rhine.

If you have and know where I can get information on this would appreciate some info.

Thanks,  
H.E. "Red" Day  
Co. "E" 331st 83rd

## OVERLORD COMMEMORATIVE DIARY 1944/1994

### D-DAY 50th Anniversary

The U.S. Defense Attache together with the Canadian High Commission in London, estimate around 400,000 Veterans and their families will be visiting Europe this year for the D-Day Celebrations. As a tribute to the Allied Forces who took part in the Normandy Campaign we are publishing 'The Overlord Commemorative Diary' and would ask you to include the following details in the next issue of your newsletter "Thunderbolt".

### "The Overlord Commemorative Diary 1944/1994"

Printed full-color on art paper, the book will be both a personal record of the part you and your Unit took in the greatest military invasion in world history - as well as a day-by-day account of your return to Europe 50 years on. This will provide a lasting record to be treasured by you, your family and succeeding generations.

The left-hand Diary pages cover May to August 1944, listing Allied troop movements and events from the Invasion build-up in Southern England, D-Day and the aftermath up to the liberation of Paris. Space is provided to write your personal recollections of events which led to the ultimate Victory in Europe!

The facing right-hand pages cover the same dates in 1994, listing the many ceremonies, exhibitions and events scheduled in England and France to welcome returning Veterans and their families. Again space is available to write your impressions of your return visit to Europe after 50 years and to pre-plan your day.

In order to get the most from your visit, keep this essential reference book (measuring 8" x 6") with you throughout your stay. There are useful articles on military museums, London stores with tax-free shopping, restaurants, theatres, hotel/motel listings with prices plus a 'Then & Now' guide to places you may remember from 1944 that are still around. Hertz have a great discount offer for Veterans renting cars to tour W.W. II sites in England & France using Veterans renting cars to tour W.W. II sites in English Channel (remember the storms that delayed the Invasion in June 1944!)

As a result of commercial sponsorship we are able to waive the \$35 cover price to Veterans of Units that were involved in the Normandy Campaign. For your free copy send check for \$9.75 to cover 1st class airmail and packaging, payable to:

H.P. Information Services,  
64 Princes Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 6DH,  
England."

If you or your members require any advice in planning a London re-union we would be pleased to help. With thanks for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely,  
John Frampton  
D-Day - 50 Years On

### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

I wish to contact any member of the 2nd Bn. 329th Regiment, 83rd Infantry Division who fought near the Truman-Bridge on the Elbe river near villages of FLOTZ or WALTERNIENBURG. Date: Friday the 13th and Saturday the 14th of April 1945. I had taken prison four GI's about at seven o'clock in the evening on this Friday and spent with them the night in the cellar of the house, that we had occupied. Next morning I went in prisonship because I had three wounded men.

I think it would be possible by this way to find out at least one of this company which had occupied the little village FLOTZ. What about the veterans FITZGERALD and LEUTKEMEIER from the 2nd Bn.? Could you ask too for: SECOND BATTALION COMPANY COMMANDING OFFICERS.

Co. "E" Capt. John J. Devenney April 1-17

Co. "F" 1st Lt. Ira E. Boyer April 17-30

Co. "R" Capt. Hugh Bates 1-5 April

Who was the Commanding Officer in the meantime 6-16 April.

Co. "G" 1st Lt. Arthur D. Littlepage April 5-30

Co. "H" Capt. George Costa. One of them still alive? Let me know.

Joachim Kirchner

Germany 94086 Bad Griesbach,  
den 25.1.94 AM Steinbart 13

Dear Sir:

I have just found out thru the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge organization that the Division my brother was in during World War II was the 83rd. He served in the 329th Infantry, 3rd Battalion, Hq. Company as 'I believe' a Signal Corp linesman. I would like the following notice placed in your publication, Thunderbolt - I believe it comes out in February.

*"I would appreciate hearing from anyone who served with or knew my brother, Herbert E. (Eddie) Johnes, who was with the 329th Infantry, 3rd Battalion, Hq. Company (possibly attached to the 3rd Army). Ed was killed on January 9th in Belgium - after being wounded earlier in France on July 6, 1944. If anyone has information on Ed's activities during this period, it would be appreciated! Write to: Walt Johnes, Box 363, Greenville, Indiana 47124-0363.*

I am a associate member now of the VBOB and receive their quarterly magazine, which I really appreciate. I am a veteran of WWII but served all my time in the South and Central Pacific areas, so learning of this publication, as well as the Thunderbolt, after all these years, is a great boon to me!

I would like to subscribe to the Thunderbolt, if that is permissible and would be glad to remit whatever the subscription cost is...and am enclosing a self-addressed envelope for your reply. I thank you very much.

Walt Johnes

Box 363

Greenville, Indiana 47124-0363

PS: My brother was brought home and buried right here in the National Cemetery - close to my present home! Located in New Albany, Indiana.

Rte 2, Box 238  
Canton, N.C. 28716-9608  
January 11, 1994  
Tel: (704) 235-8136

Re: Bud Lite  
Commercial

Mr. Mark Niebling  
c/o Flushman-Hillard  
200 North Broadway,  
St. Louis, MO 63102

Dear Mr. Niebling:

After calling Budweiser of Sylva, N.C., the district Budweiser office in Charlotte, N.C., the main office in St. Louis, I was given your name and number at Flushman-Hillard. Unfortunately your answering machine indicated your absence from the office.

The purpose of this letter is to register a strong objection and complaint with you and the Anheiser Bush Corporation to the Bud-Lite commercial now being shown on television. I make reference to the commercial depicting a scene in a World War II bomber in distress.

It is quite obvious the commercial is trying to be amusing, clever and cute. It is also obvious, to me at least, that the script writers have no notion, understanding or sympathy for what it is like to be in a disabled bomber which is going down. I find the commercial can affront to the memories of thousands of pilots and crew members who died while flying combat missions in WW II and subsequent conflicts. You can rest assured in their final moments, while trying to stay airborne, their thoughts were not on a can of beer (Bud-Lite or any other).

Very truly yours,  
Richard T. Alexander, Jr.  
WW II Veteran  
83rd Infantry Division

cc:

Mountaineer, Waynesville, N.C.  
Asheville Citizen-Times  
83rd Inf. Div. Ass'n.  
Budweiser - Charlotte

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 by-passes 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 Daugherty  
(or Jack & Hankie)

P.S. I'm also sending in my dues for this year  
Jack Daugherty

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



### **Honoring our Veterans**

**Cecil "Pete" Walters and Nora Lee Walters were one of the many participates who rang bells across the county to honor veterans of all wars. The Red River Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution sponsored the event which took place on the 11th month, on the 11th day, and at the 11th hour.**

Dear Bob & Pearl

November 11, 1993 was the 75th Anniversary of the Armistice of World War I, a day of unique significance in the history of our great nation. Here in Powell Co. Ky. we had our Judge issue a proclamation to observe this event by ringing of bells all over the county at the eleventh hour, eleventh day & eleventh month to honor veterans of all wars. All churches, schools, offices and business participated with a moment of silence. Hope you can use this picture of Cecil & I shown ringing the bell at our church, courtesy of the Clay City Times.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Jeff Crump of Paris, Ky. and Alton Roberge of Winslow, ME. Hope you all are having good health, Now.

Love,  
Nora Lee & Cecil





This is not a good picture was made at a parade in Smyrna Ga. 1991. Will try to send better next time. Frank



Parade in Smyrna Ga. - Frank Morris

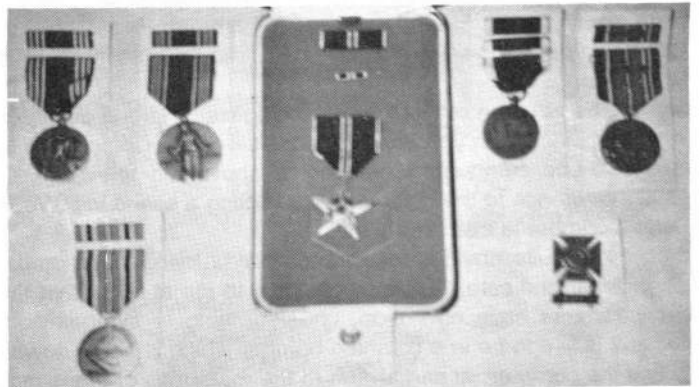
Hey There!

Robert sure thank you for the patches. I couldn't find any around here. I have a Pinto Ford as you can see by the picture. Note the hood. If you have any larger stick on the out side please send. "Hey" will pay glad to get them. Bob when we were at Le Age Belgium, up on the plat, I fell in one of those Belgium "S" holes that was on the outside of the "S" house, remember and Hey the whole Co. past in review and seen a Belgium woman throwing water on this child, trying to clean me up. Hey! great story in this, I'm trying to find some one in my Co. that remembers this Wheeeee! great copy their. Take care, got hit by a rock going into the Crup steel mill on the inside of my knee. Busted the cartilage couldn't grease so over the years my knee has wore out. Got to have a knee replacement this fall right leg was blown off before the Ebb river. Hey, that is me at a parade here in Smyrna Ga.

Stay Cool, Love Use Guys!  
Frank Morris  
4275 Lake Laurel Dr.  
Smyrna, Ga 30082



My wife Rose & I were married in 1991



My Decorations

Dear Mr. Derickson

I have just learned that my friend Mike Filingo who comes from my hometown was also in the 83rd.

I thought I would send the whole obituary.

My twin daughter died July 19, 1993. No apparent cause. She was 43, 3 children, one grand son.

I joined the 83rd after the war in Regansburg, Ga. I think.

Enclosed is a picture of one of the pair of glass book-ends I had made in Austria when I was with the 83rd.

Anthony Pagano

874 E. Princeton Ave., Palmerton, PA 18071 - 610 - 826-2997

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



## Shrine Club Installation

The 1994 Officers of the Waynesboro Shrine Club were installed Friday evening at Lynn's Restaurant. They are (from left) front: Michael Hicks, secretary/treasurer; Charlie Mehler, president-elect; Mosby Toms, vice-president; Back: Warren Swartz, board member; Lynwood Lowry, director; Jefferson D. Diffie, board member. 1-7-94

Dear Bob,

I thought I would write a few lines, can't do anything else the weather is terrible here and I know it is in Ohio. We have had snow since Xmas. Ice & snow now, Temp. today was -10, Jan. 19. Should warm up by weekend. I hope to make the reunion this September at the Pines.

I heard from Kadylak and R.T Brooks recently. They both say they hope to make the reunion.

I am enclosing several pictures, one from newspaper is our Shrine Club. I have been President, Vice, Sect. and Treasurer, Up and down, hard to get men to fill these offices. We have ladies to come out to keep attendance up. The wives help to get some of the men to attend. Hope this finds you and Pearl in good health.

Mosby & Mary Toms

Jan. 11, 1994

Dear Mr. Derickson:

Per our conversation last week, we are seeking WWII veterans who were assigned to the DUKWs during the Normandy/D-Day invasion. We would like to interview these individuals and prepare material for publication about this historic event and the vehicles involved from the point of view of the men who were there.

We would appreciate it if you would include the following information in your association's next newsletter or bulletin:

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the D-Day invasion on Normandy Beach, the Original Wisconsin Ducks, owners of the largest collection of DUKWs ("Ducks"), the original amphibious vehicles used in the Normandy/D-Day invasion, are seeking the insight of individuals who rode on or operated a Duck during that operation.

The Original Wisconsin Ducks are providing a toll free number for veterans to call and discuss their experiences at Normandy Beach. Interview material may be used to create literature about the mission and the role played by the Ducks.

Anyone who is interested in participating in this brief interview may call Maggie Wiseman or Randi Holm-Bertelsen at 1-800-860-0528.

We thank you for assisting us in this endeavor. If you have any questions regarding the Original Wisconsin Ducks or this project, please phone us at (312) 541-8787 or please feel free to use the toll free number.

Sincerely,

Randi Holm-Bertelsen  
Account Coordinator

P.S. If you are interested in pursuing a feature story for your association's newsletter or bulletin about the Original Wisconsin Ducks and their historical significance, a media kit is forthcoming which will contain information regarding the Ducks and photos.

Dear Mr. Macaluso,

We are very interested by HISTORY and in particular by HISTORY of WORLD WAR II.

In 1944 I was only 8 years old, and I have conserved a good remember of US SOLDIERS in BRITANNY. We try to found again adress of US VETERANS having stayed-bivouac during 2 Weeks approximately in fields near woods in the vicinity of ST HELEN behind the National Road 176 between DOL DE DE BRETAGNE and DINAN, before 2 miles from LANVAL-LAY, and during the battle of ST MALO.

On the US trucks I remember the name of UTAH BEACH, ST LO, PERCY, CARENTAN etc...

We permit to ask you if you have the possibility to help us and say us if you know if elements of 83rd INF DIV or other was stayed in ST HELEN.

IN AWAITING A REPLY, MANY THANKS BY ADVANCE  
AND OUR BEST WISHES FOR 1994

SINCERELY

Mr. or Mrs. Francois CHOUIN  
7 Rue de la Gare  
49.240 ARVILLE  
FRANCE

We think it was probably elements of Engineer (MEDICAL BATALION OF 308TH) OR RESERVE, OR INTENDANCE.

*Co. "I" - 331st Reg.  
Will Be Holding Their Reunion  
June 17, 18, 19, 1994  
Contact Leigh Earnshaw, Box 12  
Morgantown, PA. 19548*

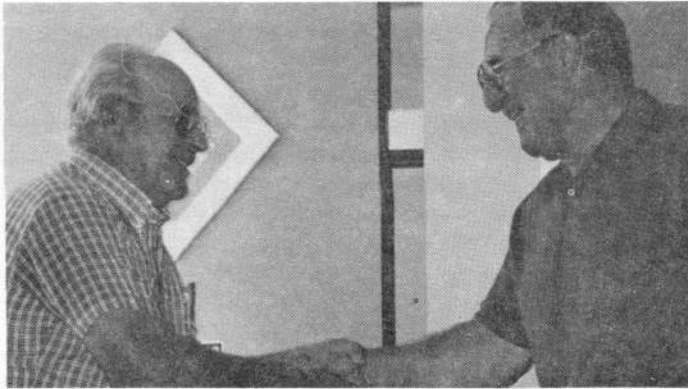
Frenchville, PA  
Nov. 30, 1993

Dear Bob,

I am sending you a picture of Plummer Peeler and I meeting for the first time in 48 years. This picture was not planned for. It was a very happy moment in both of our lives. He had not seen or heard from anybody from the 83rd. He did not know there was an association. My son tracked him down on July 3, 1993. I thought if you ran out of material for the Thunderbolt you might use it.

Your Friend  
John Askey

Keep up the good work.



L to R: Plumer Peeler & John Askey meeting for the first time in 48 hrs in Malvern, Ark. 8-24-93. Plumer & John were wounded with the same shell on Jan. 15, 1945 in Honvezel, Belg. Co. G. 329th Inf. 83rd Inf. Div.

Dear 83rd friends,

I hope you like the copy of a painting of 60 x 40 cm we offered last year in Wilkes-Barre by 80th. We look forward to seeing you and the 83rd group end of May. CEBA will be happy to org. your schedule. Please, Bob, let me know if you have a special desire.

Love from Lux,  
Tilly Kimmes  
29, rue de Hunsdorf  
L-7324 Steinsel  
Luxembourg, Europe



Tilly Kimmes



## Normandy Reinvasion

By Dan Carlinsky

Once again they will come, by sea and by air, hundreds of thousands of them thronging a 50 mile stretch of the beaches of Normandy, on the northern coast of France. But this invasion will be quite different from the one that took place half a century ago. This time, the invaders will come not to do battle but to remember.

June 6, 1944: D-day. The opening shots of the Battle of Normandy were fired, launching Europe's liberation from Nazi occupation and the beginning of the end of World War II. Now, as we approach the 50-year mark of the most famous day in 20th-century military history, plans are nearing completion for the biggest-ever commemoration of the anniversary.

Normandy tourism officials expect several times the usual number of visitors during 1994. Among those tourists will be an estimated half-million Americans, many of them veterans who will be returning to the places where they saw action as young men. And, just as it was in 1944, the French are looking forward to the Yanks' arrival -- but with a little apprehension.

The French remember all too well what the 40th anniversary was like. At some key ceremonies, crowds and security blockades for visiting dignitaries created miles of traffic tie-ups on the two-lane roads through Normandy's pastures and vegetable fields, which are more suited to handle hay wagons than limousines. Hotels, restaurants and D-day sites themselves were jammed tighter than the ships that brought Allied troops across the English Channel in 1944. As a result, visiting D-day vets and their families -- not to mention ordinary tourists--didn't always get to see what they wanted to see.

This year, officials on both sides of the Atlantic are doing their best to avoid bottlenecks. While the headline events are scheduled for June 6 - including ceremonies at several war cemeteries and the international official ceremony at Omaha Beach, which President Clinton is slated to attend--the doings won't be confined to one day. For more than two years, planners have been working to spread the crowds out -- to different sites around the Normandy battlefields at different times during the anniversary year. After all, officials point out, not every veteran of the Battle of Normandy landed at Omaha Beach on the morning of June 6.

Many veterans who wish to avoid the crowds at Omaha Beach on June 6 are opting to visit the places where they saw action. Throughout the year, towns and cities across Nor-



mandy will hold their own programs to mark the dates they were liberated (for example, Carentan, June 12; Cherbourg, June 27; Caen, July 9; St. Lo, July 17).

The spring and summer calendars also list a broad range of anniversary-related events, from conferences and flower shows to parachute drops, and a 10-day "Liberty Road" bike race, which will trace the route followed by Patton's Army across France to Bastogne, Belgium.

In addition to the anniversary events, more than a dozen museums will attract visitors to the American and British-Canadian sectors of the Normandy beach area. (Many offer reduced or free admission to veterans.) Chief among these museums, in the city of Caen, is the stunning *Le Mémorial*, which documents the struggle for freedom throughout the 20th century in all parts of the world. As the exhibit halls recreate the mood of wartime Europe with sounds and visuals, it becomes clear that this museum bears a message, as is evidenced by its subtitle -- "A Museum for Peace."

In the western part of the invasion area, near Utah Beach, two smaller museums focus not on the big issues of peace or the war but on the small details of everyday life. One museum is in Ste.-Mère-Eglise, the small inland town made famous by the John Wayne movie "The Longest Day." It was here, in the wee hours of the night, that paratroopers dropped behind the coastal invasion zone to cut off the enemy's defensive movements. Just behind the town church, from which a paratrooper hung by his ropes in the movie's most famous scene, is the *Musée des Troupes Aéroportées* (Airborne Museum). This parachute-shaped museum, with a halftrack on the front lawn and a Douglas C-47 troop transport plane in back, pays tribute to airborne troops by exhibiting everyday objects that were part of a GI's life, from dog tags to metal crickets that were used for signaling.

"A picture of the daily life of civilians can be seen not far up the Cotentin Peninsula at Quinéville in the new *Musée de la Liberté* (Liberty Museum), which calls itself the only war museum in Europe that doesn't contain weaponry. Instead of arms, it offers fascinating bits of the paper trail left by the Nazis; occupation -- posters, propaganda, notices of rules and threats from the *Feldkommandant* -- and other items that give a picture of how difficult daily life was in occupied France. While the museum is still working out some kinks and needs better English translations of information on display, it gives visitors some insight into why the Normandy invasion took place.

But museums aren't all that make the Normandy invasion area worth visiting. The landscape, strewn with leftovers from a war that ended half a century ago, is a startling reminder of the action that took place. Visitors can find dozens of subtle and not-so-subtle remnants of the war, from the bullet-grazed iron fence across from the church at Ste.-Mère-Eglise (a casualty of sniper fire from Germans holed up in the church tower) to the concrete blockhouses and artillery batteries (some bombed out, some surprisingly intact) that litter the beaches and the fields behind them like piles of stones at an ancient Greek ruin.

Many of these remains, which are bits of our history, are already slowly being absorbed by their surroundings. At Juno Beach, where Canadian forces landed on D-day, a tilted blockhouse appears to be sliding gradually into the sand. At Utah Beach, a few paces away from the monuments and museum that mark the landing of the Americans, defensive artillery pieces and their concrete bases stand covered with weeds. Close by, a blockhouse in an open field makes a convenient picnic site.

Most dramatic of the war remnants is the battle-scarred Pointe du Hoc, a 30-acre concrete hamlet on the sea between Utah and Omaha Beaches that was once Hitler's strongest coastal position. Here, a fabled band of elite U.S. Army Rangers used rocket-fired grappling hooks and rope ladders to scale 100-foot-high cliffs under heavy enemy fire on an early morning mission to disable the Germans' biggest guns--six 155mm howitzers capable of hitting both American landing sites. Today, visitors can roam through the network of bunkers that were partially destroyed by Allied bombs just before the Rangers launched their assault. The close-cropped grass is pockmarked with dozens of wide craters, like an eerie moonscape.

Another memorable site can be visited at arromanches-les-Bains, a small resort town. Knowing that no port could survive the fighting that would be necessary to capture it, the Allies built and brought a harbor with them. In terms of military engineering, the famous Mulberry Harbor is right up there with the Trojan horse. For eight months, it served as the gateway for supplies shipped from England that were used to fuel the campaign as it pushed across France. Dozens of the huge concrete caissons that helped form the prefabricated port are still visible just offshore; the best vantage point for visitors is from the downhill road leading to town.

Several German batteries also survived and are worth a visit. Among those not to be missed is the one at Longues-sur-Mer, an installation consisting of pillboxes, a lookout post and two artillery emplacements with their 152mm cannons still in place. At the battery near Crisbecq, where nearly 300 Germans held out for six days firing at Allied battleships in the English Channel until they were finally overrun, there's less to walk through and inspect, but some very informative photos with explanations describe the battery's significance. At Azeville, several blockhouses overgrown with weeds amid pastures filled with grazing cattle are only now being reclaimed and made ready for visitors.

Other soon-to-be attractions include a large German radar station at Douvres-la-Délivrande, which will open in part this coming spring. A major Allied air force museum, just outside Ecausseville, is also underway; a project of the U.S. 9th Air Force, the new museum will be housed in a converted World War I dirigible hangar.

Few visitors from the United States omit the American cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer. White marble crosses mark nearly 10,000 graves, a sobering testament to the human toll of war. Many Americans are surprised to find themselves equally moved at the more somber German war cemetery at nearby La Cambe.

There is so much to see in the invasion beach area of the Normandy coast that it's easy to overdose on World War II. If that happens, try taking half a day off to see things unrelated to the war.

A good, centrally located escape destination is Port-en-Bessin. This lively, attractive fishing port is snugly sandwiched between the scalloped cliffs north of the city of Bayeux. For generations, the village's men have set out for the waters off England to catch fish and scallops, which they sell at early morning auctions on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Visitors can stroll the quays as fisherman deftly move the day's catch into trucks bound for Paris or watch as locals scout for mussels and periwinkles at low tide. If you're in the mood for a slightly more ambitious walk, there are two good choices. A wide, uphill path leads to a 300-year-old defense tower with a spectacular view. Or you can choose to follow a long granite jetty seaward at high tide and mingle with the anglers who are trying their luck; enjoy a view of the village, which lies clus-

tered around the harbor and surrounded by low hills.

By this time, the fresh salt air and exercise may have made you hungry. Luckily, several *créperies* and full menu restaurants are situated on the main harbor. You may want to start with a big plate of assorted seafood and go from there. After all, fish can't get much faster.

Dear Bob,

Find enclosed my check for 1994 membership dues in the 83rd Assn. Also enclosed is a clipping from our daily paper in last Sundays edition. Use it in our 83rd newsletters if you wish. It may bring back home memories to those I served with. My story is also in the American Legion book entitled "Voices from W.W. II"

Best wishes from an old 83rd replacement, I remain a buddy.

Vic ImMasche, 3906 Willshire Dr., Lawrence Ks.  
66049

## Decembers Bring Back War Memories

Story by Nancy Smith

World War II Photos Courtesy Vic ImMasche

Vic ImMasche wasn't supposed to go to World War II. He was 32, had been married for almost 10 years and had a two-year-old child.

The Draft Board took no notice.

A low number -- today, he reckons it must have been about 86 -- catapulted him from the safety of his home and post as principal of Eugene Field Elementary School in Ottawa to a bitterly cold fox hole in Hurtgen Forest in Germany inside of a year.

ImMasche, now a Lawrence resident, has taken a special look back on his war experiences, completing three albums of his letters home, which his wife, Berniece, saved.

The albums also include entries from his secret wartime diary, which he kept against regulations, as well as wartime photographs in this country and overseas, and other memorabilia.

His personal remembrances of being one of the first three Americans to enter Fontevrault, France, in September 1944, after the Germans pulled out, also recently was published in a volume of American Legion members' war remembrances titled "VOICES: Letters from World War II."

In a recent interview, ImMasche said that memorable in several ways for him.

The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941, drawing the United States into World War II, but at that time ImMasche was safe in Atwood, teaching but well aware he was "on borrowed time, so to speak."

The next three December 7ths are his land marks.

Dec. 7, 1943, ImMasche received his draft notice. Dec. 7, 1944, German mortar fire wounded him in the fox hole in Hurtgen Forest, and finally, on Dec. 7, 1945,

he boarded the Queen Mary oceanliner in England for his trip back home to Kansas.

Waiting Christmas Eve when he stepped off the train at Emporia were his "girls" as he called them in his letters home -- wife, Berniece, and young daughter, Ann, who is Ann Eversole, acting dean of student life at Kansas University.

As a draftee, ImMasche said, he did his basic training at Camp Landing, Fla., where, he said, there was "nothing much but sand and pine and alligators."

Seventeen weeks later, he shipped out to Europe, aboard the Queen Elizabeth oceanliner. "I traveled in style," he said, noting he was one of about 15,000 replacements on board headed for the front.

ImMasche was assigned to Company A of the 330th Infantry Regiment of the 83rd Infantry Division, and fought in three campaigns in France, Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany.

"I was in France for my 10th wedding anniversary," he said. In that country, ImMasche experienced the high point of his military career -- the liberation of Fontevrault without a shot being fired.

The townspeople broke out the cider and cognac, and hoisted ImMasche and two buddies on their shoulders for a celebration in the town square.

After ImMasche was wounded in Germany, he was sent to a hospital in England. He said his wounds, from mortar fragments, were not serious, but he also had trench foot and it took four months to recover completely.

At that point, he was reassigned to the Army Air Corps, at Burtonwood Air Base in England. He never rejoined his original unit.

For his military service, ImMasche received the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

## Wife's remembrance

*Berniece ImMasche recounted her memories of World War II for the Chase County Leader in December, 1991. In part, they read:*



ImMasche's wife, Berniece, and daughter, Ann, visited ImMasche at Camp Blanding, Fla., before he shipped overseas.

"On Christmas morning, 1944, I received word that Vic had been wounded in action in Germany. He was hospitalized in an army hospital in England for four months, and then was transferred to a desk job at Burtonwood Air Base in England.

"Christmas of 1945 was the happiest of the war years be-



cause Vic arrived home from overseas. I knew he had boarded the Queen Mary on December 7, at Southampton, England, just four years to the day since the attack on Pearl Harbor. He called on arrival at New York City. Then he boarded a troop train for discharge at Camp Fannin, Texas. After discharge he and another Emporian, John McCreary, started on the final lap home. John's wife, former Chase Coutain Alice Selves, and I met trains all day on Christmas Eve. Finally at midnight the train arrived in Emporia. That was a memorable Christmas. Our family was reunited after two years of separation. I suspect my Christmas experiences were not unique during the world War II conflict but so many of the significant events occurred around the Christmas holidays... Every holiday season we take special pride in remembering our World War II Christmases."

## Warm welcome in a French town



A hero's welcome, at Fontevrault, France, greeted ImMasche, above, and two other U.S. soldier. They were the first Yankees to enter the city after the Germans pulled out in September 1944

**ImMasche's remembrance of Sept. 1, 1944:** On 1 September 1944 three privates of Company A, 330th Infantry, 83rd Infantry Division, crossed the Loire River in France and liberated the village of Fontevrault without a shot being fired.

"Our squad was patrolling several miles along the Loire River and the FFI (French Forces of the Interior) smuggled a note to us stating that the 400 Boche (Germans) occupying Fontevrault had pulled out the day before. They invited us across the river. The 12 section bridge had been blown out by the Germans and the only way to cross was by row-boat manned by a Frenchman.

"Our arrival in Fontevrault prompted spontaneous celebration by the French inhabitants. We were carried to the village square on their shoulders. We were deluged with cider, wine, cognac and champagne. It was evident that each household had hidden special spirits for this awaited day of liberation by the Allies. We were fed a lunch consisting of wine, fried tomatoes, bread, meat loaf, egg omelet, mashed potatoes, roast beef and a baked apple. "The town Mayor insisted that the French women who had consorted with the Germans during the enemy occupation be present. Their heads had been shaved and they were forced to witness the American liberation. In an impassioned speech he pointed out to the women that they had betrayed their homeland.

"None of us were fluent in the French language so we watched the crowd's reaction and cheers. One

Frenchman had an old box camera and took pictures of the town liberation. The townspeople admired our uniforms and M-1 rifles. Later in the afternoon we were rowed back across the river.

"The three 83rd Infantry Privates were: Marty Kopit, Joe Jeff Davis and Victor L. ImMasche. We were all wounded in subsequent campaigns.

"I will never forget 1 September 1944 when I was one of the "Heroes of the Day" when we three liberated Fontevrault, France."

## Off to basic training

**February 3, 1944, diary excerpt:**

"Shipping orders; rode Burlington Silver Streak to K.C. (from Ft. Leavenworth, where ImMasche was inducted). Called Fern Kukuk and Berniece from K.C. We're loaded on the Frisco to ride south to???. 10 p.m., we go through Springfield, Mo."

**February 4, 1944, letter:**

Noon, - "I gave a nice Southern lady a letter to mail to my girls at the last railroad station, and I'll send another when I get a chance. We're going through scrub oak and pine country with red soil. We're still on the same coach and indications are that we still have considerable distance to to. I'm enjoying the trip but I miss my girls. Will try to keep this in the form of a log to keep you posted..."

**March 21, 1944, letter:**

"In bayonet practice this A.M., I got hit just above the elbow on the back of my arm, and my arm is sore. Of course the scabbard was on the bayonet, but the bruise hurts. I had my ankle wrapped again last evening before going on the night problem, and had my blisters drained and dressed. I've had big blisters on the bottom of my heels where the skin is thick, and I haven't been able to get them to drain. The attendant snipped through the skin with scissors, and blood and water gushed out. My feet feel better today..."

## "Somewhere in Luxembourg

**Wed. P.M., Nov. 29, 1944**

"Just got my mail and received your letter of Oct. 29...Also received a letter from Aunt Belle dated Oct. 30. Most of today's mail is of that date. I don't know why the mail comes through that way, unless a batch gets held up somewhere.

Bing Crosby is singing "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas." Everybody gets sober and quiet when Bing sings a song like that.

"Darling, I'm a blank now. Besides mail is supposed to go in to the censor, so I'll say my usual prayer in closing; that you're all right, and that we'll be reunited next year, and not too far into it, either."

## Burtonwood, England

**Monday Night, 3 Dec. 1945**

"Happy birthday, sweetheart. Sorry I'm not with you but I will



be in a few weeks. We still haven't been told when we're leaving....Today we got our November pay in good old American greenbacks and coins. We turned in our English currency and will get U.S. money for that tomorrow...

"Wood received a letter today from the gal he thought he was going to marry as soon as he gets home, and she advised him that it was all off. He and Futrell went out tonight, even though we're restricted, and I suspect they will come in stinking drunk. Hope Wood doesn't get on a crying jag. He got on one of those last summer and sobbed for about three hours before he went to sleep... "For your Christmas present, I will present myself in person, I hope. You needn't get me anything for Christmas. Just being home with you and Ann will be all I want for the holiday season."



At his Lawrence home last week, World War II veteran Vic ImMasche looks over his wartime diary and other military memorabilia he has compiled.

## Wanted: 5 Million Names for Wall of Liberty

Long Beach Press 11/7/93

All U.S. Veterans will be honored next Thursday, but those who served in Europe in World War II will receive a special honor on June 6, the 50th anniversary of D-day. A Wall of Liberty with the names of those 5 million men and women will be dedicated in Caen, capital of Normandy.

It's being sponsored by the nonprofit Battle of Normandy Foundation. Pierre Salinger, a World War II vet who was JFK's press secretary, is volunteer chairman of the effort to gather names for the wall. One problem: In 1973, a fire in St. Louis destroyed the records of millions of veterans who left the Army before 1960 or the Air Force before 1964 and who have last names from Hubbard to Z.

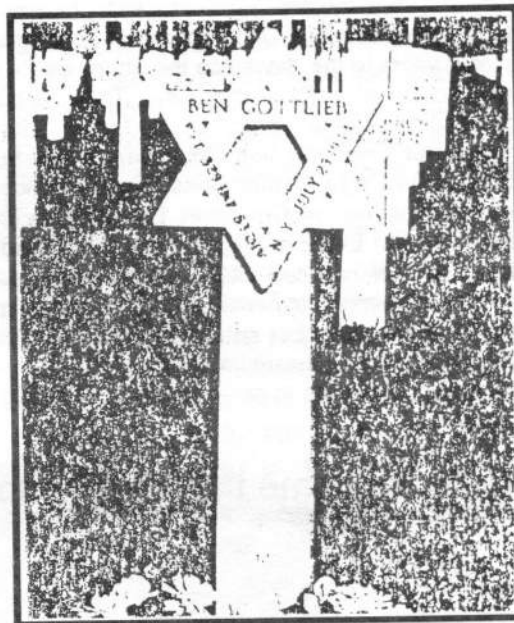
The foundation is asking for \$40 for each name inscribed. A fund-raising effort is being made so the names of those who can't afford to donate--or who can't be found--will not be omitted. For information, call 1-800-992-8387 or write: The Battle of Normandy Foundation, Dept. P, 1730 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Dear Bob,

I commend you for the fine work you have done over the years for our Association. Here we are, coming closer to 50 years and you are able to send us forty pages of interesting articles three or four times a year. An amazing feat of skill and endurance! The **THUNDERBOLT** demonstrates your enthusiasm for our group, and that enthusiasm is contagious for those of us who are your loyal readers.

Sincerely

Jim Mellman, Hq. Batry - Div. Arty.



Pvt. Ben Gottlieb - 83rd D.V., 329th Inf. Reg.  
- KIA July 23, 1944 - St. Lo, France.

## "My Story"

by Michael Gottlieb

My name has always been Michael Gottlieb. However, as a child growing up in the East New York section of Brooklyn all other members of my family were called 'Tavel'. My mom was Shirley Tavel. My dad was Israel Tavel and my brother was Bruce Tavel. I did not understand why I was so different, why I was a 'Gottlieb' and everyone else in my 'family' was a 'Tavel'. Even my grandpa (Solomon Tavel), my uncle (Goodman Tavel), and my 2 cousins (Ronald Tavel and Harvey Tavel) were all Tavels. It troubled me and distressed me and disturbed me horribly. I was confused and terrified that I really wasn't a member of the Tavel family and could be forced to leave at any moment. Not only was I different but no one, including myself, ever asked the obvious question: "Where did my last name come from? Who is my father and my mother? Do I belong here with the Tavel family? Will I be forced to leave? Why am I so different? I was ravaged by these doubts and fears and terrors and uncertainties and confusion but I kept silent. We all maintained our secrets and no one communicated or shared how they really felt or thought.

Finally, at my bar mitzvah, the rabbi called me up to read the Torah. He announced me as: "Michael Gottlieb, son of Benjamin Gottlieb". I had never heard that name before. Who was Benjamin Gottlieb? Was I his son? The secrets and the silence, at long last, had been broken. As soon as possible I asked my mother about Benjamin Gottlieb. She told me that he was an American soldier killed in combat during World War II and she gave me some of his pictures. For the first time I saw the likeness of my genetic father. Israel Tavel was my stepfather except that I had never been adopted and my last name never changed. I felt largely numb and the real meaning of this, its impact, did not penetrate my defenses.

I first began to search for genealogical records when I was about 20 years old. I was repeatedly turned down by the Dept of Health. It took 29 years just to be able to find my dad's birth certificate. I received absolutely no help from the US Army or the US government or the clerks at the Dept of Health. The document turned out to be at the Municipal Archives, just

2 blocks from the Dept. of Health. I only learned the names of my grandfather and grandmother several months ago. And I first saw a picture of my grandmother a few months ago. I am presently doing intensive genealogical research on both sides of my family, intensive military research on my dad and civilian research on my dad's life. I still know very little about my dad or his family. But I have been able to get many documents on various members of my dad's family as well as on my dad too. Alas, documents do not equal the warmth and love growing up with a dad, with aunts and uncles and grandparents.

At the age of 50, I am beginning to piece together my roots, my heritage. And to link myself to my Gottlieb family and to my Jewish heritage. My research has been Jewish genealogical research and has motivated me to learn more about the traditions and customs at the Jewish people who immigrated to this country at the turn of the century. My bar mitzvah and the rabbi's words ring true to this very day:

Michael Gottlieb, son of Benjamin Gottlieb

550Grand St. J9D

New York, NY 10002

Dear Mr. Derickson,

I have recently made a very moving journey to France to visit the gravesite of my mother's brother in the Normandy American Cemetery. While there, I was given your name in connection with the history of the 83rd Infantry Division. I have retraced my uncle's activities with the 83rd through a copy of "329" "Buckshot" Infantry Regiment - A History" compiled and published in Occupied Germany in July, 1945. The book was in the possession of my grandfather until his death, and now belongs to an aunt. I am interested in obtaining a copy of this or any other literature relevant to the brave history of the division.

My journey took me to England and Wales where my itinerary criss-crossed the bath taken in 1944 by the 329th, including Liverpool, where their ship docked, and Wrexham, Wales, where they visited in their leisure hours during the period of training in the rugged mountains and cold, damp swamps of Wales.

On June 5, 1993, I left Paris on a bus tour of the Normandy beaches of Pointe du Hoc, Omaha Beach and Arromanches, with a stop at the recently dedicated memorial at Caen and a brief visit to a German cemetery along the way. The somber black of the crosses on the German graves was in poignant contrast to the gleaming white of the crosses and stars of David at the Normandy American Cemetery. The Caen Memorial was a deeply moving experience for me as well as the others in our group. especially one veteran who was returning to Normandy for the first time in the forty-nine years since the invasion.

The beach cliffs are a journey back in time. The pock marked terrain has remained, as well as the German fortifications. It is as though German and Allied forces walked away from the scene and never returned. The pink sand of the beaches and the blue of sky and water meld into a peaceful scene. And there, cliffside of Omaha Beach, stands a lovely and lasting memorial to the nearly ten thousand American soldiers who remain. The beauty of the immaculately manicured plateau with its perfectly aligned graves and symmetrical layout of memorial, reflecting pool and chapel were of deep consolation to me. From childhood I had always had grave misgivings about my uncle's burial on foreign soil, but since my visit there I feel it is truly fitting that he should rest there with his "buddies."

I had the privilege and honor of placing a small, American flag at the grave of "John M. Huntington, Jr., Sgt. 329 Inf.

83 Div. Maryland July 5, 1944." It was the first such visit by a member of Jack's family at his grave. His sixteen remaining brothers and sisters have expressed their feelings of consolation as well, especially his brother, who had looked for him during his own march through France and Germany in the months when he was still unaware that Jack had been lost at Normandy.

A son/brother/husband/father/uncle was taken from our family by events which altered the course of history. We shall never know how his life would have been had he not been taken at the tender age of 22. His face, his spirit, his memory will be forever young. The price he and we paid...was it really worth it? In light of the horrible events revealed over the years since the end of that costly war, it is inconceivable that the world should have had to exist under the Demon Hitler. We have been washed of this Disease by the cleansing blood of our innocent, young men who never imagined their own heroism.

Truly, I did not intend to write a book when I started this letter, and I do apologize. Perhaps it is a purging of the soul. If so, again, I apologize. More to the point, I do appreciate any information available.

Sincerely, Lorraine B. Hancock

P.O. Box 98, Loveville, Maryland 20656

# CAMP ATTERBURY VETERAN'S MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

Building #1, Camp Atterbury

Edinburgh, Indiana 46124-1096

Commemorative Order Form

Invoice #

Commemorative Item	Qty.	Price Each	Line Total
VHS Tape: "Memorial Dedication"		\$12.00	
Book (Hardback): "Atterbury File"		\$25.00	
Tee Shirt <u>      </u> S <u>      </u> M <u>      </u> L <u>      </u> XL		\$11.00	
Sweatshirt (Long Sleeved) <u>      </u> S <u>      </u> M <u>      </u> L <u>      </u> XL		\$16.00	
Hat <u>      </u>		\$ 8.00	

Total Received: ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card

Make checks payable to: Camp Atterbury Veteran's Memorial Association

Print Neatly and Firmly: You are making 3 copies, one will be your mailing label.

Ship to:

Name

Address

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Telephone (Area Code) Number

(in case we need to contact you about your order)

Allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery. Thank you for your support.

Top: Association

Middle: Packing List

Bottom: Customer

*If anyone can identify anybody in these pictures please write or give me a call.*

*If anyone has the books 329 Buckshot Infantry Reg. and Thunderbolt Across Europe. I would like to have a copy of each, let me know, I'll be glad to buy them.*

Thanks

William S. Nickell

150 W. Retta Esplanade Apt. 214

Punta Gorda, Fl. 33950

813 575-8746



## 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 50th 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, 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.

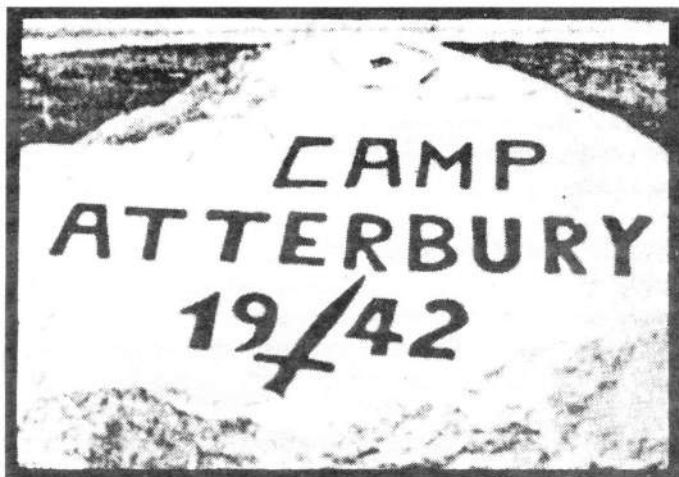
The 46-room Hotel Mercure, complete with 27-hole golf course on Omaha Beach, site of one of the bloodiest battles, has been booked for nearly two years. Staff said they would be charging \$166.50 a night in June 1994 for a double room which now costs only \$103.

The brand-new Hotel Campanile in Baueux 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 D-Day cruise.





## Atterbury Rock Carver returns

Some of the 83rd men were asking me about the rock. It is still in place.

Also they are selling commemorative items.

Also they have found a 1942 Camp Atterbury Lic. plate. (Blue & White) They are reproducing it \$5.00. Write to Camp Atterbury Veterans Memorial Assoc. Building #1 Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, IN 46124-19096

Post Commander.....

## Welcome to Camp Atterbury

Col. Garry Willis



As the new post commander, I want to personally welcome and congratulate you on the selection of Camp Atterbury as your training for 1993. Our mission is to provide you with the highest quality training environment and resources to ensure your experience here is meaningful.

The Camp Atterbury staff is prepared to support your maneuver training, weapons qualification, and morale, welfare and recreational activities.

There is one thing certain about Camp Atterbury, that is change. We are never content, and are continuously striving to improve. As the total military force structure is downsizing, Camp Atterbury is expecting new challenges and opportunities to expand its operations to serve an increased need for our facilities.

As we all follow the changing worldwide political and economic events, we must be reminded of the many potential and economic events, we must be reminded of the many potential trouble spots. We should not forget our individual and collective responsibility to be prepared. Readiness should always be on our minds.

Again, welcome to Camp Atterbury. While you are here, I challenge you to make your training meaningful. Make it count, because you do!

EDINBURGH, IN. - On Sunday, August 7, 1994, Camp Atterbury will host the second annual observance of the dedication of the Camp Atterbury Veterans Memorial and the fifth annual Italian POW Chapel Reunion Picnic.

The Veterans Memorial observance recognizes the thousands of soldiers and civilians that have contributed to the legacy of Camp Atterbury during the past fifty-two years, and especially to those who served during World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Operation Desert Storm.

The Veterans Memorial includes 10 Indiana limestone markers dedicated to the Major Army units that passed through the Atterbury gates on their way to war. Centered between the memorial wall and reflection pond is a 6 foot bronze statue depicting a WWII combat soldier. The ceremony will begin at 2:30 p.m.

The fifth annual Italian POW Chapel Reunion Picnic also will be held here on Sunday, 7 August 1994. The ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. and will be followed by a pitch-in dinner and a tour of Camp Atterbury. The structure known as the "Chapel in the Meadow" was built, after hours, by Italian POW's during the summer of 1943. The 767 Italian servicemen had been captured in North Africa and brought here.

These soldiers dedicated themselves to build this chapel from very limited supplies and leftover materials from Camp Atterbury construction.

MAJ WILLIAM T. CUMMINS  
CAMP ATTERBURY PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
OFFICER  
812-526-1306 weekends only  
317-844-6441

Dear Mr. Derickson:

Let me introduce myself. I am an active duty Army officer stationed in Bad Kreuznach, Germany with the 1st Armored Division Support Command. I am interested in researching the first combat experiences of units. I would like to correspond with any veterans who were involved in operations in the Hurtgen Forest December 1944. I contacted your association several months ago, but my APO has changed and there is the possibility that even if you received my earlier letter, no responses reached me.

Can you place an ad your newsletter which states I am interested in corresponding with veterans:

Army Officer stationed in Germany wants to correspond with veterans of the fighting in the Hurtgen Forest. Please contact MAJ Edward Miller, HHC, DISCOM. 1st Armored Div., CMR 438, Box 1652, APO, AE 09111.



## STOP PRESS! LAST CHANCE! IT'S D-DAY PLUS 50!

In less than two months, the 83rd Infantry Division will return to our former areas of service in Europe, commemorating 50 years since our youthful days there.

You can join us, too, if you act **IMMEDIATELY!** Airlines require at least four weeks advance purchase for affordable, excursion airline tickets. And, due to the large numbers of people expected in Normandy for D-Day, arrangements must be finalized at least 60 days in advance. This means that in order to insure your participation, your reservation must be received by Galaxy Tours no later than April 1, 1994. After that, reservations can only be accepted on a space-available or waitlist basis.

Brochures have been mailed previously to all 83rd Division members, but for those who may have misplaced the information, here is our basic itinerary:

Saturday, 28 May - USA/Aloft.  
Sunday, 29 May - Brussels.  
Monday, 30 May - Brussels/Spa.  
Tuesday, 31 May - Spa/Luxembourg.  
Wednesday, 01 June - Luxembourg.  
Thursday, 02 June - Luxembourg/Reims.  
Friday, 03 June - Reims/St. Malo.



Saturday, 04 June - St. Malo/Normandy.  
Sunday, 05 June - Normandy.  
Monday, 06 June - Normandy.  
Tuesday, 07 June - Normandy/Paris.  
Wednesday, 08 June - Paris.  
Thursday, 09 June - Paris/USA.

1994 prices are just \$3,218.00 per person, including all sightseeing and admission fees, motorcoach transportation, most meals, tips and taxes and airfare from New York. And, you can still purchase comprehensive insurance protection for just \$75.00, including complete coverage, from trip cancellation/interruption to baggage and medical insurance.

Special events and receptions are planned in our honor. We'll see highlights of Thunderbolt action, as well as your "special places," as possible. Our itinerary will be adjusted to include those points most important to the group. Our passenger list already includes the following. . .

Adrian, Arthur & Marjorie; Badgett, Sam; Biller, Owen, Mildred & Tom; Breakiron, Donald; Brown, Frank & Anne; Chubinski, Adam; Crites, Barry & Betty; Dahlin, Suellen; Daniel, Joseph & Doris; DeAntonio, Quinto & Frances; Derickson, Bob & Pearl; DeSimone, John; Dickson, Richard & Evelyn; DiGiammerino, Pat; Esbenschade, Jacob & Dorothy; Etter, Edward & Delana; Farias, August; Gardner, Stanley; Gibson, Herbert & Vera; Halpin, Rosemary; Havens, Allen & Noreen; Hogrefe, Paul & RoseMary; Hornack, Frank & Norma; Hostettler, Francis, Craig, & Sally; Johnson, Michael & Judith; Kabrich, Robert; Kirby, Harry & Joan; Leininger, Barbara; Martinak, Raymond & Isabelle; Michaels, Harold; Minniear, Clarence & Ruby; Morley, Chester; Peloquin, Ray; Pelose, Daniel; Phillips, Frank; Pittard, Joseph; Policastro, Fred; Prentice, James; Rangnow, Warren & Virginia; Rhodes, Marianne; Robbins, Morrison; Runge, Albert; Sandini, Louis; Senger, Richard & Mary; Sessions, Robert; Silverio, Alphier; Simmons, Philip & Florence; Smart, Clarence & Ruth; Stocker, William & Beatrice; Sutton, Wesley & Cassie; Townsend, James & Corinne; Waddle, William; Weisenburger, Keith; Wright; Sim; Young, Amy; Zamula, Rudolph & Evelyn

. . . we'd like to add YOUR name to the list! But you must act NOW! This is your very last chance to participate in these Golden Anniversary Commemorations, honoring the 83rd Division and our wartime buddies. 50th anniversaries only happen once in a lifetime - and if you don't register NOW, it may be too late!

Welcome to the Veterans of the 83rd Division by CEBA, a group of Luxembourgers, especially devoted to WWII veterans from overseas, who were involved in the liberation of our beloved little home country. The Ohio Division, also called Thunderbolts, valiantly battled its way through Northern France, before you reached Luxembourg by the end of September. Here you were to control the Luxembourg/German border along the Moselle River. Beginning of October, you cleared Grevenmacher, Remich, Stromberg Hill. On your way to the Elbe River, you suffered lots of casualties. We'd like to thank you for all the hardships and sacrifices you had to go through. CEBA has helped put up a schedule for your short stay in Luxembourg.

Monday, May 31 - Arrive in Clervaux for a wreath-laying at the GI Monument. A reception will follow at Clervaux Castle. (You may get a lift in a private car.) Lunch will follow before you depart Clervaux to visit the Diekirch Museum and Patton Monument to Luxembourg.

Tuesday, June 1 - Wreath ceremony at Hamm Cemetery. See Patton's Grave. Motor to Grevenmacher for a wreath ceremony at the 83ID Monument, followed by a Reception by the Town Officials in a winery, then lunch. This afternoon, tour former battle areas along Moselle, stopping in Remich and Schengen.

Dear Thunderbolts, we'd like to thank you again and again for your brave performances. We wish you a nice stay in tiny Luxembourg. We love you.

The Officers of Cercle d'Etudes sur la  
Bataille des Ardennes (CEBA)

**Call Galaxy Tours today - toll-free - at 1-800-523-7287.** They can even take your reservation over the phone with a major credit card!

**HURRAY!** If you wait another minute, you may be disappointed. Don't delay - Join Us!

**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**



83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.  
3749 Stahlheber Road  
Hamilton, OH 45013-9102

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Company \_\_\_\_\_ Regiment \_\_\_\_\_ 83rd Division  
Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_

Please Enclose A Check or Money Order.

**DUES \$10.00 PAYABLE TO:**

**Robert Derickson  
3749 Stahlheber Road  
Hamilton, Ohio 45013-9102**

**Office Phone:**  
(513) 863-2199

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## BULLETIN

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