



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 49

#3 Issue 1994



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THE THUNDERBOLT

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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
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*Julius Ansel 1950
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Leo Schneider 1952
Finley Heyl 1953
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*Raymond J. Voracek 1958
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Carroll Brown 1985
John Hobbs 1986
George Fletcher 1987
Charles Schmidt 1988
Edward Reuss 1989
Charles J. Lussier 1990
Edgar H. Haynes 1991
Ned Smith 1992

* Denotes Deceased



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

To the heroes and gallant men of the 83rd Division:
I am in the same plight as the mosquito who arrived at the nudist camp, surveyed the territory and said, "I don't know where to begin."

Since my last message to you in the last issue of the Thunderbolt, I have been almost totally involved with the memorial ceremonies which will take place here in Marlborough, July 23rd. 1994.

Everything is now in place. The four Veterans organizations in Marlborough have agreed to cooperate with us, along with the Central Massachusetts Veterans of the Battle Of The Bulge. They will gather with us on the appointed date to honor Joseph Duca and Angelo Karopoulos; two 83rd men from Marlborough who were killed in action 50 years ago.

On the 25th of May the Marlborough Enterprise printed an article concerning our efforts and included a picture of the committee in charge which included Pat DiGiammerino, his wife Ginny and my sweetheart Pat Worrick. I am sure Pat will send in a picture for publication with his Chairman's report.

On the 26 of May I will appear on local television telling about some of the Division's experiences after D Day. I hope that I can put in a plug for the sale of some ads for our ad book or for the book I am having printed which tells about what all the Generals of the Army (in their own words) thought about the 83rd Division.

On the first week of May I was in Myrtle Beach with the Board Of Directors and a finer bunch of men I ever met. I was especially impressed with the efficient way they do the business of the Division. The people of the Dixie Chapter are doing a very good job for the 49th convention.

But I should be bragging about the great time we are going to have at the Pines. Pat DiGiammerino reports that everything is going well. He expects to sell more ads for the Division ad book than was ever sold before in our history. Knowing Pat I am sure he is going to succeed. What a luxury for me to have such a team which includes Bernie Cove and Pat DiGiammerino. The rooms are selling out fast. Send in for your reservations as soon as possible so you won't be disappointed in any way.

I now close with this thought, The writer writes best who gives his reader the most knowledge in the shortest possible time.

Louis R. Sandini



REUNION CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

It won't be long before September will be here and our 48th reunion will be in full swing. I hope you have made your reservations. I would like to thank everyone for their cooperation in putting this reunion together.

Don't forget your ad program, as this is what makes the reunion work. The Boston Chapter has been hard at work on this program and still is. Larry Redmond has been a tremendous help to us; there are not enough ways to say "Thanks, Larry".

This reunion will be long remembered for food, fun, and many surprises. There will also be square dancing at pool side, as well as outdoors, so get ready to swing your partner.

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".

Our plans for 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.

For those who want to play golf and/or tennis, indoor or outdoor, there will be no fees.

Come and have a lot of good fun.

Pat DiGiammerino

323rd F. A.

Our condolences to the family of Sam Klippa



The Executive Board - Where Will We Eat?



The Executive Board at it's best!



The "BIG" Winners of the Kentucky Derby.
Grace Minnick, Pearl Derickson and
"Go For Gin" DiGlammerino

...from the Office



TO ALL THE GOOD BUDDIES OF THE 83RD

Well, here we are into the heat of summer. Our trip overseas was a great and wonderful experience. Sam Badgett came up from North Carolina on the 27th of May and Fran Hostettler, his son and daughter-in law, Craig and Sally came from Defiance, Ohio on Saturday, the 29th. We loaded all our baggage into our van and we were off. Caught our plane in Cincinnati for New York. There we met up with more of the group. The Rangnow's, the Dickson's, Badgett, Biller, Owen, Mildred and Dr. Tom, DeSimone, Silverio, Stanley Gardner. When we reached Belgium, we met the rest of the group. What a great bunch of friends. We had two bus loads and there was no disagreements between any of us. For twelve days it was a fun trip. We had great bus drivers and wonderful tour guides. They did everything they could to make the trip enjoyable. We had a total of 87 people. We arrived in Brussels on Sunday morning. Formed our tour groups and went to our Hotel. Had a Welcome reception that evening. We met early the next morning and left the hotel to travel to the Henri Chapelle American Cemetery for a wreath laying ceremony. Left there and visited the different battle towns. Our days were filled with visiting the different battle towns and the routes that took us back in time. Cannot begin to tell you of the different places we visited. It all brought back memories, memories and more memories of those long ago days. On June 5, we visited Normandy and were guests at the luncheon and the Memorial Service. All Service Men who had served in the Liberation of Sainteny were honored by having a badge with the red, white and blue ribbon placed around their neck. We had medals placed on our jackets and a plaque presented to be placed in the office.

June 6, Normandy, D - Day plus 50 years. That morning we left our hotel very early in the morning and

traveled to Utah Beach. It was a chilly, dreary morning. We were seated in the VIP area along with the speakers. Some of us got to shake the President's hand and received his autograph. After that ceremony we returned to our buses and traveled to Omaha Beach. The sun was shining and we had a beautiful afternoon. It was a very touching day. All in all we all enjoyed that travel back in time. The people over there could not have treated us any better.

We had a full day in Paris and the women were in their height of glory to get to go shopping. We wish that all of you could have been there with us. Will mention more details in other Thunderbolts.

Home and back to work. Am still trying to get caught up on the mail. Be patient. Bonnie and Earl Hoover and Pearl and I entertained our Kentucky Chapter on June 17, 18 and 19. Leroy Johnson has written it all up for you. He does a wonderful job and takes pictures like they were going out of style. Great job Leroy!

We want to thank Hal Ryer and all the staff of the Galaxy Tours for a wonderful trip. They worked very hard to put on and make all the arrangements for us. Thanks people. Be sure and asked some of the travelers about our housing on the Sea. Quite an experience but we had a good time.

Now we must turn our thoughts to the up coming reunion at the Pines. We hope that many of you are planning to attend. You will have a great time. We will take a boat trip up the Hudson River to Ellis Island and have our Memorial Service there. This is included in your cost so you have nothing more to pay for that trip. Come and enjoy it. You will certainly be glad that you did. I know Pearl and I are looking forward to it. That will be here before we know it. I hope you look forward to seeing all our friends as much as Pearl and I.

Some of you still have not paid your dues for this year (1994). Remember if you do not get them paid before reunion time we will have to take your name off the mailing list. We would sure hate to lose you that way.

This has to be drawn to a close or reunion time will be here. We are looking forward to seeing all of you there at the Pines with us. We miss you when you are not there. Take care and we will look forward to seeing you.

Bob
Secretary Treasurer

"K" Co. 3rd Bn. 330th

"K" Co. members are trying to get together in May 1995 for a reunion. All interested "K" Co. members contact:

Homer Rickenbaugh
Box 11 RR 3
English, Ind. 47118
812-338-2063

SAMUEL KLIPPA

4/03/21 - 6/01/94

Sam was born in Lyndora, Pa. April 3rd, 1921. The Family soon moved to McKees Rocks from where Sam enlisted October, 1942. He was in the 83rd Infantry Div. Co. "D", 331st until his discharge December, 1945. He had been wounded 3 times. Sam married during the war, and he and Frances (also a vet) continued to live in McKees Rocks until 1956, when they moved to Pittsburgh with their two children, Diane Jo and Danny. In the early 1960's, he helped to restart the Pittsburgh Chapter and was very active even holding the office of president of the association. As secretary-treasurer, he put in many hours. It kept him going after being retired in 1967 due to disability. He was also active in the Kentucky Colonels, VFW, DAV and Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox church functions. Sam went to most reunions and one highlights was the return to Europe with the gang for an ETO trip. He looked so forward to returning for the 50th Anniversary of D-Day. But his health would not let him. The Pittsburgh gang promised to take lots of pictures for him. Ironically, he died the day he planned to leave, I guess he's there with his buddies.

My dad loved his family and friends, creating things out of wood and mostly he loved the 83rd. We, his family, thank you all for your friendship and memories over the years. It means a lot to all of us.

Greatly missed by Frances,
Danny and Diane Jo Klippa

Chaplain's Corner



Our list is long this time. We think about these many friends that we have lost this summer. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all the families.

<u>Members</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Reported By:</u>
Roger Barga	Reg. HQ, 331st	Bob Brinkman
Fred Campbell	"E" 331st	Norma, Wife
Howard Carter	"C" 324th	J.W. Nicholson
Ira Dederick	"B" 329th	Bob Uher
Frank DiFranco	"F" 330th	Mail Returned marked Deceased
Claude Dodd	"D" 330th	Larry Redmond
Lyod Downs	"B" 330th	Ames Miller
Keith Echerd	"G" 329	Wife, Marguerite & Al Starburg
Harland P. Elbel	"B" 324th	Wife Esther
Carl Gano	"H" 329th	Mail returned marked Deceased
Fred B. Hartman	Div. Hqs.	Ed Haynes
George Hayes	"A" 908th	Charles Stine
Lester Hauck	"C" 308th ENGR	Jim Prentice & Lou Volpi
William Hoolan	"A" 329th	Larry Redmond
SAM KLIPPA	"D" 331st	Joe Macaluso while we overseas
Carmi Lockhart	"B" 331st	Wife & Norman Kruse
Austin McCann	"M" 331st	Wife Helen
Eldon McGinnis	"H" 330th	Ben Johnson
Charles Meyer	A.T. 329th	Marie Sullivan
Charles Miller	Reg. Hq. MED. 330th	Nick Francullo
Armin Nauer	"C" 308th ENGR.	John Capelli
Emmert E. Pack	83rd BAND	Ben Johnson
Arthur H. Rasper	3rd BM "I" 330th	Don Thiebolt
Martin A. Recknagel	"M" 331st	Donna Recknagel
Eugene Rhodes	"C" 329th	Wife Charlotte
Ernie Schmidt	1st BN. HQ. 331st	Ken Downer
Steve Slivenski	"E" 330th	Larry Redmond
Sam Stepanovich	"L" 329th	J.W. Nicholson
Robert M. Stulley	"H" 330th	Larry Redmond
Woodrow Swift	"H" 330th	Larry Redmond
Lucian Szafarski	"C" 324th	Sister Jan Novak
Ralph Wavra	"L" 329th	Wife Gladys
H.O. Williamson	"K" 330th	Robert A. Young
Worth Willis	"B" 329th	Bob Uher
Troy Wooldridge	"E" 330th	Furman Haney

*Robert A. Young's Wife
Elaine Young
Passed Away
June, 1993*

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

(June 6th 1994 - "D" Day + 50 Yrs.)

Dear Buddies,

I had a stroke, one of many over the last two years. It happened in church after my 10:15 Mass in January 2nd 1994.

I am under the care of a Neurologist and my family physician.

Thank God, it left me alive but not fully myself in speech, reading and worst of all, writing, etc.

Next year, if I'm still here, will be my 25th year (1970-1995) as your historian and archivist.

I am very proud of these years of writing for the 'Thunderbolt'

Say a prayer and wish me luck. He didn't want me yet! - also I don't want to go!

This report will be on the celebration of our training time for the big show from Omaha to the Elbe River, at Camp Atterbury. Remember?

I have plans for the next report which will be different also - if He is willing!

Now, I hope you enjoyed my many years of dedication, difficult as it was to always give you something different to think about.

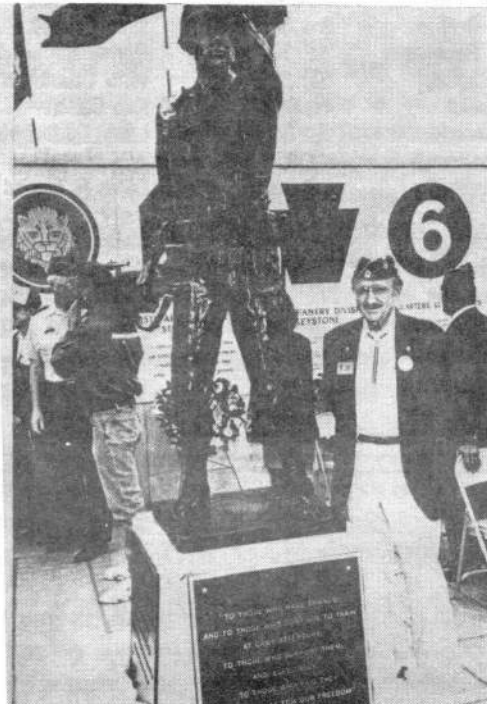
"We Were The Best"

and

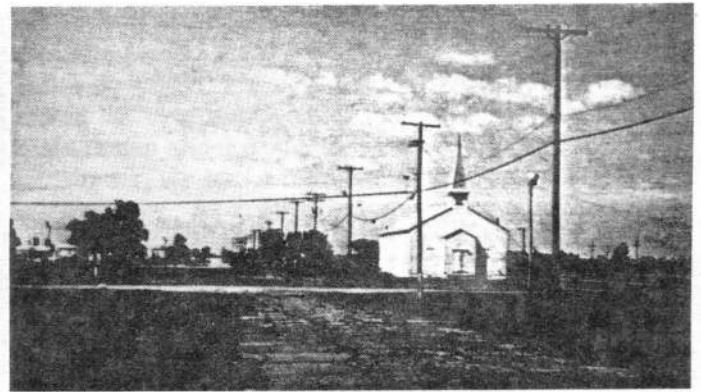
Always Will Be

Wm. Kent O'Connell

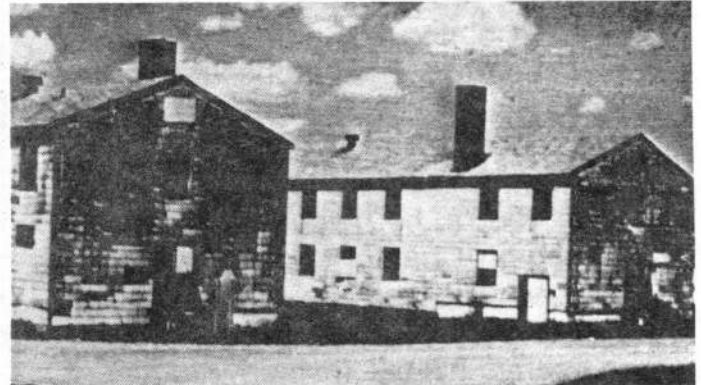
Historian/Archivist & 83rd M.P.



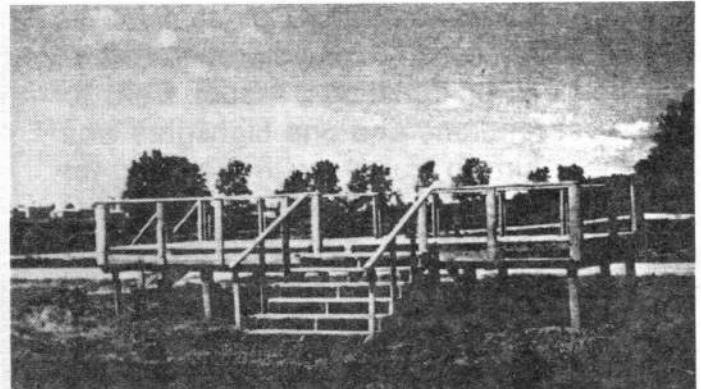
Statue "The Point"



P.W. Chapel



329th Inf. Barracks 1942



Original of Reviewing Stand - 1942



330th Inf. Barracks - Home of Museum



Historian's Corner - Camp Atterbury 1924 - 1992 Veterans' Memorial Dedication



Camp Atterbury 1942 to Present

The genesis of Camp Atterbury came in the late 1930s. With war clouds looming, land surveys were made in the rolling farm country and woodlands west of Edinburgh.

War came to America December 7, 1941. A month later, the War Department announced Camp Atterbury would be built.

An estimated 500-600 farm families were displaced as the Army took over 40,000 acres. Two communities, Kansas and Mount Pisgah, disappeared forever. The lands were transformed. Workmen quickly erected hundreds of buildings.

The 1560th Service Command Unit began operating the camp June 2, 1942. Ten weeks later, the reactivation of the 83rd Infantry Division brought thousands of soldiers to Camp Atterbury. The soldiers in this division were followed by many more...in other divisions. Over 275,000 soldiers trained at Camp Atterbury in World War II.

An enemy prisoner of war camp was built in late 1942. It later held 3,000 Italian prisoners, some of whom built the Chapel in the Meadow. By war's end, over 9,000 German prisoners were held at Camp Atterbury and satellite camps at Austin and Brown County.

With the end of hostilities, portions of Camp Atterbury were dismantled. The post was deactivated December 31, 1968.

Since then, Camp Atterbury has had a new use -- equally important. Camp Atterbury is the principal training site for the Indiana National Guard. The post also serves as a regional training site for other National Guard, active and reserve component forces.

With a series of improvements and new construction, Camp Atterbury passes the half century mark of service to America's citizens.

Program

0900 - Band Concert: 38th Infantry Div. Band
Seating of guests

1000 - Arrival of Official Party,
Introductions and Salutes

Posting of Colors - Camp Atterbury color Guard and
Veterans' organizations - National
Anthem - 38th ID Band & Mr. David Galbraith

Invocation - Post Chaplain (MAJ) Charles McDaniel
- Indiana Army National Guard Flyover - History of Camp
Atterbury - Post Commander's Welcome - Major Atterbury
Unit Representatives - Wreath Laying Ceremony

World War II Vocalist: Jim Burton, 83rd
Infantry Division - Rappelling Exercise, Congress-
man Lee Hamilton, Unveiling of "On Point" Statue - India-
na Air National Guard F-16 Flyover

Benediction - Post chaplain (MAJ) Charles McDaniel
- 1130 to 1600 Bus Tours of Camp Atterbury, Open
House Activities & Reception.

History of the Veterans' Memorial

Like most ideas, the dream of a Camp Atterbury Veterans' Memorial formed slowly.

COL. Jorg Stachel, Camp Atterbury commander, was conscious of the approach of the installation's 50th anniversary. Fifty years earlier to the day, August 15, 1942, the fledgling Army post had conducted a day-long open house.

While forming his thoughts, COL Stachel learned in the fall of 1990 that MG Charles Whitaker, Indiana National Guard Adjutant General, wished to relocate a number of vintage pieces of military equipment from the organization's headquarters at Stout Field in Indianapolis.

Musing over his thoughts, COL Stachel invited Roger Cobb, a Camp Atterbury maintenance technician with artistic skills, to walk the site with him one day later that year. Their purpose was to develop a visual image for a proposed veterans' memorial and adjacent park.

A drawing emerged from that walk. Remarkably, Cobb's original drawing became the reality of the memorial's final shape and design. It is the same drawing in the centerspread of this program.

Engineers and contractors estimated site planning, preparation and material costs in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The memorial you see today cost considerably less. Dozens of businessmen, contractors, tradesmen and Guardsmen provided their time, talents, and materials at considerable discounts or as an entire donation.

When an obstacle appeared -- a solution was found. It was pride in community...pride in Camp Atterbury...pride in the things that make America great that made this memorial possible.

Cash donations were essential, too. They came in, large and small. The donations came from big corporations and local townspeople. They came from Camp Atterbury veterans living in the area or in faraway places. The donations came from the famous...and from ordinary citizens.

That is why it happened.

That is why we are here today.

Contributors - (Over \$2,000)

In grateful recognition of the individuals and corporate sponsors who so generously supported the building of this Memorial and Park with donations in excess of \$2,000 each.

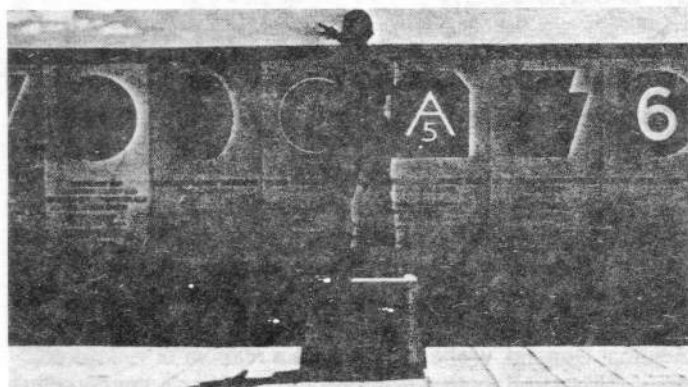
83rd INF Div. Assn., 106th INF Div. Assn., Roger Cobb, Cummins Engine Co., Town of Edinburgh, Jack K. Elrod Co., Hoffman Consulting Eng., Hoosier Horse Park, Indiana Bell Telephone Co., Indiana Limestone Co., Installation Support Unit - Camp Atterbury, Alexa K. Laver, Mr. & Mrs. Ames & Helen Miller & Family, MINACT (Job Corps Center - Atterbury), Public Service of Indiana, Robert Souder Enterprises, Inc., Robert's Asphalt, Inc., State Armory Board, J.E. Summit Builders, Inc., LTC (IGR) Lewis M. Tenney, VFW Hobart Beach Post #15324, VFW Wagner Reddick Post #1987

For fifty years, thousands of soldiers and civilians alike have contributed to the history and legacy of Camp Atterbury. Were they here today, they would join me in giving special thanks and praise to the hundreds of individuals, companies and organizations who contributed their time, money and resources to the building of this memorial.

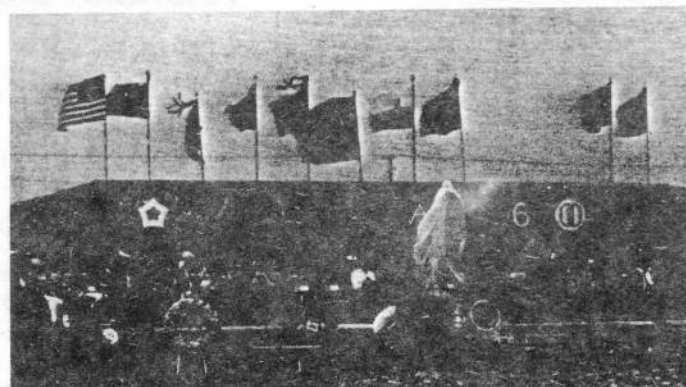
Jorg Stachel, COL, QM, INARNG, Post Commander.



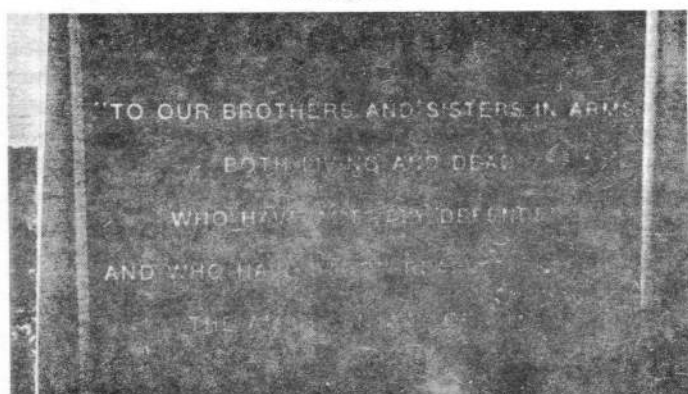
Historian's Corner



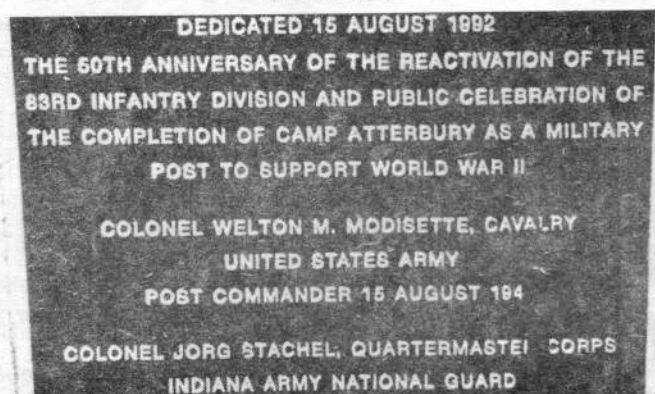
Memorial



Memorial



Base of Statue



Dedication to 83rd



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

PLEASE CIRCLE the size AD you prefer

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\$60.00

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OR

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83rd INFANTRY DIV. ASSOC.
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PROVIDENCE, RI 02904

SEND YOUR ADS EARLY, as they play a very important role in our program.

83rd Infantry Division Association

RATES & ACCOMMODATIONS

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5 Days/4 Nights

Wednesday - Sunday

	<u>Double</u>	<u>Single</u>
Super Deluxe rooms.....	\$460.00	n/a
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Standard rooms.....	\$364.00	\$399.00

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

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

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

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

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

INCLUDED IN PACKAGE - Friday, September 9, 1994

- * Memorial Service and Cruise down the Hudson River to new York City.
- * Deluxe Round Trip Motorcoach Transportation.
- * Cruise Around New York City Harbor
- * Gala Luncheon Aboard Cruise.
- * Memorial Service on Ellis Island.
- * Tour of Ellis Island and New York Harbor.
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South Fallsburg, New York 12779

BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS
FOR ALL MEMBERS, FRIENDS &
FAMILY OF



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DIVISION ASSOCIATION**

SEPTEMBER 7 - 11, 1994

Wednesday - Sunday

✓ Weekend Included

Two Great Packages to Choose From



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83RD INFANTRY
DIVISION ASSOC.
AT THE PINES**

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By special arrangements through the offices of USAir & American Airlines, host airlines of the 83rd Infantry Division Association, Discount Airline tickets are available with COMPLIMENTARY ROUND TRIP SERVICE to the Newburgh/Stewart International Airport located approximately 45 minutes from THE PINES.

For discount airline information, Contact Ann at Kent Travel at 1 - 800 - 537 - 8218.

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: _____

NOTICE!

KEITH DAVIDSON would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to play tennis at the Pines to join him. Bring your tennis rackets and enjoy a game of tennis!

CHAPTERS

Central Plains Chapter

The Central Plains Chapter of the 83rd Inf. Div. met on March 26th in Salina, Kansas.

Those in attendance:

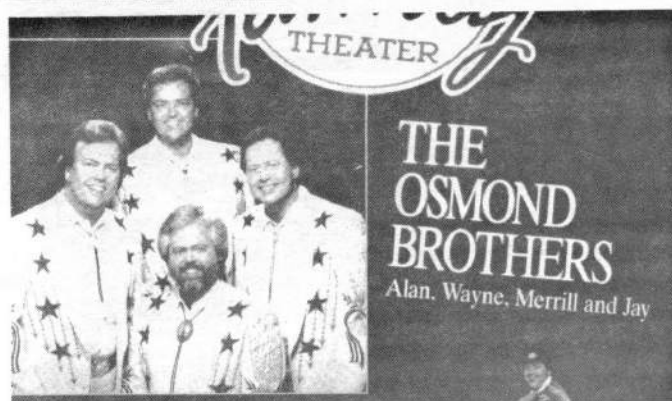
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Lloyd L. Lutkemier & wife
Carl W. Teenor & Friend
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Eugene Toler & wife
James H. Kinzie & wife

Meeting was called to order by Col. Haynes. The reading of the minutes was accepted as they were sent to the membership in the last mailing. Gene Toler made a motion that the chapter have meetings 3 times a year instead of 4. Then notify the membership of the meetings well ahead of time. Seconded by Lloyd Lutkemier. After much discussion the vote was taken. This motion passed. The dates and locations were discussed and it was decided that we would meet in K.C. for our July meeting. A final date will be set when we can get ticket arrangements made for tickets for the game. Hoping to get this in the 3rd week of July. Our Nov. meeting will be in Branson, Mo. brochure enclosed. The March 1995 meeting location was not set. Motion was made by Lloyd Lutkemier and seconded by Eugene Toler to hold the same officers for another year. Motion carried. Motion was made by Norb Wolk and seconded Carl Teenor that we get the minutes of the meeting out to the membership within three weeks after our meeting and notify them of future meetings. Motion passed. Motion made by Norb Wolke for adjournment seconded by Carl Teenor Meeting was adjourned.

•The tickets that I mentioned are for the K.C. Royals baseball game.

Submitted by

James H. Kinzie, Sec.etary



BRANSON'S HIGHLIGHTS

New England Chapter

O Boy the weather has finally broke and we are now able to get our wheels rolling again.

On May 15th the Francullo's & the Brennan's had a get together at Nick & Mary's home in Lynn, Mass. and the day was very nice. We had Dutchie & Helen Smith from Lynn Mass., Chuck & Bernice Abdinoor from Dracut Mass., Spike & Gloria McCartin from Lowell, Mass., Joe & Helen Petrucci from Prov. R.I., Mike & Marie Champey from Middletown Ct., Burt & Rose Simon from Hamden Ct., Simon Etzel from North Guilford Ct., poor Kathren could not make it and we missed her. Bill & Eleanor Sullivan from Hamden Ct. and Karl & Ingrid Burkhard from Carmel, N.Y.

Bill & Betty Davis could not make it as Bill was not feeling good.

Got a phone call from Raymond Rudd from Latham, N.Y. that he had not been feeling good and would not be able to come also John & Ester Ferriera of Chelmsford, Mass had something going on and John and Priscilla Walsh of Portland, Maine had a first Communion and also got a phone call from Jim Barber of Torrington, Ct. that he had a mild heart condition and could not travel as yet.

We hope that you will all be able to make our next get together.

I received a letter from Mouise & Hazel. Farias that they could not make it. They were going to a college graduation of Guss's great neice.

Gus will be going to the D-Day 50 anniversary of Normandy on May 28th - June 9th.

On our sad side I received a phone call from John and Ester Ferreir that their daughter in law had died suddenly on April 8 and she was the wife of Lawrence. She was only 45 yrs. old. She will be sadly missed by our chapter as she was one of the great bunch that put on our cookout at the Ferreirs Estate.

Our sympathy goes out to the Ferreir Family. She will be missed by our Chapter. May she rest in peace.

Also if any one has any news please send it in to me so I can put it in the Thunderbolt.

Your Buddy

Nick Francullo, Hq. Co. 3rd Bn 330th

P.S. All my good Buddies of the New England Chapter your 1994 dues are now due. \$5.00 Help me out send them in Please Thanks, Nick Francullo, 10 Bessom St., Lynn Mass. 01902



"Bill slow down!"



"Girls you did a great job!"



"Chuck" I Minnet



New England Chapter Gang



The food is great!



"Old War Stories"



Our fine ladies make the day

New Jersey Chapter

I am preparing to attend the 50th Anniversary Commemorations in Normandy and as I will be in France from May 31st to June 15th, I decided I better get this article out before the trip rather than after when I will be suffering from Jet-Lag and it takes me a while to get over it. I will tell you about the trip in the next issue of the Thunderbolt. I am going on my own accompanied by my daughter Judy who was a French major in college and should be very helpful. She's excited, as this will be her first visit to France. In Normandy we will be staying with the Leahy family in Sainteny.

As this will be the last of the Thunderbolt before the reunion at the Pines, I am listing the names of the people who will be attending, that I know of: Joe and Hazel Barton, Stan and Fran Bielen, Manny Epstein, Joe DePeri, Bernard and Ida Rosenberg, Emil Wehling, Russell and Margarita Whitehead, Andy Socha. The rest of the New Jersey Chapter have their reasons for not attending and others I haven't heard from.

On the health report, Emil Wehling had a mini-stroke, was in the hospital for a few days and at the last meeting of the chapter, Emil was back to his old self, except that wine had replaced scotch and water. Joe DePeri came down with shingles and was still recuperating at our last meeting. Russell Whitehead's wife Margarita, from a report I received from Addie Rein, is back to work after her accident. Fred Rein is coming along fine after major surgery performed at a Philadelphia hospital. Fred lost a lot of weight and now must eat often during the day to try to put it back on.

When Fred Rein was at the hospital being operated on, who should approach the Rein Family but our own Rags Rangnow from the 783rd Ordnance. Rags volunteers at the hospital and helps the patient and the family during this stressful time. We all want to extend to Rags our appreciation for taking care of our dear buddy Fred.

We have a new member joining our chapter, Harold Everham (Co. C, 330) joined the 83rd in Camp Breckenridge from the 63rd Division. Harold is planning to be at the Pines Reunion and hopes to meet some of his new chapter members and buddies from army days.

Fran and I are repeating the exciting days when our daughter Judy was married last November. Our other daughter Joyce will marry John McNally from Smithtown, Long Island on July 16th. I'm sure all 83rds extend their best wishes for a long and happy life together. God bless you both!

The 50th anniversary of D-Day has sparked a resurgence of interest to what happened to some of our war-time buddies. Such a case was when my sister (who still lives at the family home) received a letter addressed to me from Edward Jones. Ed was writing to everyone of the S-2 Section to find out what had happened to those he served with. My letter was forwarded to me and another found James DeLuca in Windsor Locks, Conn.

The others were returned "address unknown". I wrote Ed back and gave him the address of Frank Reichmann, Fred Klein and Alfred Ouellette. Ed wrote them and the interest created had us writing and phoning our buddies from the section. The special bond we have among ourselves was shown by this activity. Fred Ouellette spoke to me for an hour and a half from East Providence, Rhode Island. It was a thrill for me and Fred after not being in touch since our time in Germany. Ed Jones expressed the wish that some day we can all meet together again. That would be wonderful and I hope we keep in touch and arrange to have this happen.

For those of you going for the D-Day ceremonies, have a wonderful time. That also goes for you who will be at the Pines Reunion.

That's it for now. God Bless you All!!!

Stan Bielen

1st Bn. Hdqs. 331

Pittsburgh Chapter

The month of June began on a very sad note, the death of Sam Klippa was reported. The life of Sam had to be all 83rd. Any office on the national and Pittsburgh chapter level seemed to have been filled by Sam at one time or another. Sam gave it all. Absent from the 83rd scene for the past four or five years, it did not dampen the enthusiasm for the boys. Any time one of the members went to visit him at the Aspinwall VA Hospital where he died of pneumonia, he asked about the chapter and the national. He was laid out at the Valerian F. Szal Funeral Home in McKees Rocks, Pa. His funeral was held at 9:15 a.m. on Saturday, June 4 at the Holy Trinity Serbian Church of Pittsburgh nearly all of the chapter members visited the funeral home to pay their last respects on the two viewing days, Thursday, June 2 and Friday, June 3. Charles Caven, Sal Scicolone, Paul and Rita Dietrich represented the chapter on Saturday, June 4.

In other chapter news, five members were in Normandy for the fiftieth anniversary of D-Day: Frank Hornack, Gene Costanzo, Mike Rudy, Joe Danylo and Jules Desgain. Gene was in St. Margaret's Hospital for five days for a spinal operation in early February. He and his lady friend, Flo spent May 5 to 10 in Myrtle Beach South Carolina. Ed and Dottie Walsh were both in Allegheny General Hospital in April. Ed fell into the basement of his home and fractured his hip. Dottie was in for a heart condition. Both are recovering nicely, although Ed has not yet resumed attending monthly meetings.

At the time of this writing Larry Leonardi is in Allegheny General Hospital after having a triple bypass operation.

On April 15 Andy Churpak had a prostate operation at South Side Hospital. After spending two weeks in the hospital he is back amongst us fulfilling his duties as sergeant-of-arms at our meetings. Charles Caven arrived

back in Pittsburgh on April 30th from Boynton Beach, Florida where he spent the winter Charles received a card from Jack Stewart informing him on the death of his father John, May 7 in Florida. Both served in Co. A, 331st. Your reporter and his wife JoAnn spent the weekend of May 3 at the home of Wendell and Irene Horvath in Akron, Ohio. While there he called Russ Wheeler in Ewart, Michigan. Russ has not attended a reunion in a number of years. He is fine and still plays golf on a regular basis. Wendell and Irene left the past reunion in Daytona Beach, Florida early on a very sour note.

Fran Beerhalter, H 329

Cleveland Chapter

The Cleveland Chapter hosted a Christmas dinner party for 40 members and their guests at Ruggles Inn on Harvard Ave. We danced to live music after a delicious dinner and cocktails. There was several lucky winners in the 50-50 drawing. The party was so enjoyed the men want a repeat this December 10, 1994.

We have a list of people who have had health problems this winter: Bob Uher, Bob Miller, Elenore Szubaki, Ann Mizerack, Mary Jane Owen, Mary Dallos, Ronnie Lindsey and Janet Williams. We are happy to say all are up and around.

In March the slate of officers elected are:

President and Chaplin	Treasurer
Earl Lindsey	Henry Trzeciak
Vice President	Sgt. at Arms
Casey Szubski	Dominic Christopher
Secretary	Reporter
Joe Belock	Kid Williams

Thirteen members marched in the Memorial Day Parade in Maple Hts.. The two flag bearers were: Al Lacin-ski and Paul Dallos. The two riflemen were: Henry Trze-ciak and Ed Jocek. We were lead by our President Earl Lindsey. Bob Grobelny lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the Memorial Service. All members enjoyed the luncheon prepared by Mike and Ann Mizerack at the F.O.P. hall in Bedford.

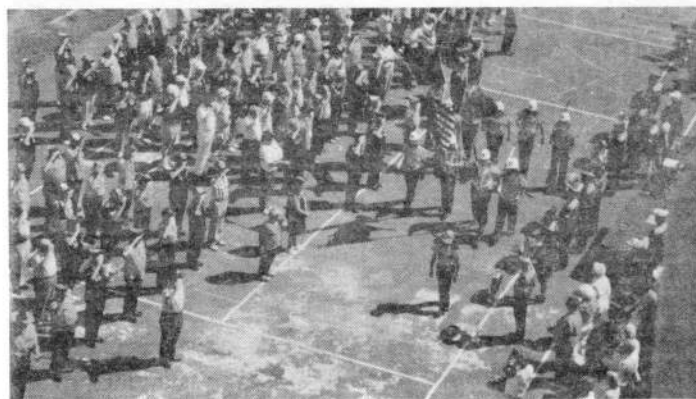
Larry Coladangelo and Chris returned from their wintering in Florida to join us. It was good to have Jim and Ruth Lindsey come up from Canton, Ohio. Jim joined the marchers in the parade. Hank Trzeciak was glad to guard his friend Marie Bene and her \$5,000.00 winnings home from their trip to Atlantic City recently. What three quarters can do!!

The committee is working on our big 50th in Cleveland in '96" to be held at a Holiday Inn.

Until the Pines,
Cleveland Staff Reporter
Kid L. Williams
Hq. Co. 2nd Bn. 330th



Elenore & Casey Szubski



Daytona



Mary Jane & Warren Owen



Marie Bene and Hank Trzeciak
Ann & Dominic Christopher, Earl Lindsey

Philadelphia Chapter

In our Summer 1993 issue of The Thunderbolt, under Philadelphia Chapter News, we advised our members that we had decided to move our chapter meetings to 2:00 P.M. on Sunday afternoons to allow for daytime driving as some of our members do live a distance away.

For the last several years we have had our summer picnic at Lester Hauck's home, in Perkiomenville. Needless to say, all of us were shocked by Lester's unexpected death. While he had been suffering poor health recently, most of the chapter did not think his ailments to be life threatening.

Members attending his funeral included Norm Schuster, Tony Harbon, Larry Redmond, Bea Chavanne, Al & Anne Belvedere, Lou & Lucy Volpi, George & Jean-Pletcher, Harry & Marie Stevenson, and Margaret and me.

Also attending Lester's funeral services were Clifton Woodridge and his wife. Clifton and Lester were friends for years as they were together with the 308th Engineers during World War II, and they continued to remain close friends over the years. The Woodridges drove down from Massachusetts to attend their longtime friend's funeral services.

The funeral home was crowded too with local people who served with Lester in the Lion's Club, the First Aid Squad, and other organizations in their town where Lester was always available to serve his fellow neighbors and friends in his lifetime. He was a compassionate man and a very special person. May he rest in peace.

The Philadelphia Chapter is now limiting its participation in the Memorial Day ceremonies as members are now getting beyond the physical ability to march the three-and-a-half miles. Only Al Belvedere and Joe Gioia actually marched with a color guard filled out with veterans of more recent service. Others, me included, rode in vans and then dismounted to fire volleys at the services.

Lou Volpi was the grand marshal for the parade and rode in an open car. Later, Lou addressed the large and diverse crowd at the Memorial Services, and he was warmly and enthusiastically received. Needless to say, Lou is well known and appreciated in Narberth, and it shows.

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



ELSIE & LESTER HAUCK - AND GEORGE SETTLE -
A VERY SPECIAL TRIO.



WHEN GOOD FELLAS GET TOGETHER
- AND LADIES TOO!



THANK YOU, LESTER AND ELSIE!



LOU VOLPI, AS HE GREETED HIS MANY
FRIENDS



Dixie Chapter

The Dixie Chapter spring meeting seemed very important to me, having missed last years due to a broken arm. My luck was good. My broken knee cap came early Dec. 30, 1993. With surgery on Jan. 1, 1994 extensive therapy, excellent care by my wife Kathryn, the good wishes and prayers of many, I recovered soon enough to make the 600 mile trip to Col. SC. to be with the 82 souls present for our banquet. What a great experience. Each one added something special to the meet.

I left home early to visit with the Livingstons. Enjoying their hospitality and overeating 3 times a day and in between meals. I had to leave and go on to the meeting place Days Inn., Col. S.C.

Thur. I planned to be there early, relax and be ready for the arrival of the troops. Not to be done. Jim Price and Delores, our Yankees from Pa. were already there doing their thing. By supper time we had 13 couples and 2 singles on hand after supper together we enjoyed the hospitality room with plenty of goodies, beverages and comradeship. We got underway. A great first night was had by all.

Fri. The supporting troops began to arrive and they meant business. Hosts Elroy Culclasure and Cristie had a plan and followed it to make each one welcome and have plenty to eat. Aided by the Thompsons and Burrows doing all those things that needed doing. They even filled two tables with friends and family for our banquet. We got to meet and enjoy each one.

All who came brought something special to share with others. We had a great time. Each day got better. Friends continued to arrive until Sat. afternoon!

Our new man, Bill Nash came for the very first time. Welcome to Bill and friend Jean, a great couple. Hope you're signed up for the National.

With 2 newlywed couples, The Thimcks & Watkins, we were kept busy congratulating and giving advice. Oh! Boy! What Fun. Elaine where's the cake?

Two past National presidents and their wives were there and kept us straight. Carroll Brown and Joe Macaluso we enjoyed seeing them again. O.L. Cook was our lone charter member on hand. We need more of you next time. Our business meeting was attended by 45 and well handled by president Larry Dalton. LeRoy was there with lots of new jokes and games! He had one the right size for everyone. They were enjoyed by all!

Sorry to report that Carolyn Pinkle fell, chipped a bone in her wrist and had to leave early. Take good care of her Jess, you know she's the only Carolyn Pinkle we have and we need her spirit, smile, and presence more than ever. Glad to say that Willie is coming around from her injury. Tony you're doing a great job. The Benbows, Bill & Lall could be there since Bill is in Chemotherapy but they plan to be at National in September.

Many plan to be in Europe for D Day celebrations. Others will gather in Clemmons N.C. for our summer meet with hosts, the Martins and Watkins.

Best wishes to all who could be with for what ever reason. Our prayer is that we may be able to meet again real soon.

Our thanks to each who helped in anyway to make the meeting a success. Plan to do it all over again at the next opportunity and bring someone with us. The Martins, Mac Manawerps, Blancetts did it this time. Mr. & Mrs. Don Church (Mr. & Mrs. Santa) and James & Ellen Freeman made it again.

While away my very first great grand daughter was born. Jordyn Leigh - What a treat to come home too!! I do love it so!

Your Reporter
E.S. Massie



President - Larry Dalton & wife



Carroll Brown, Joe Macaluso
in high level Planning



Oldest man - Walter Blancett
& Dorine (wife)



Newly Weds - O.J. Watkins & Elaine



Host - Emory & Christle Culclasure



Kathryn Massle Jordyn Leigh
Great Grand-daughter



Newlyweds M. Minnick & Grace

Kentucky Chapter

The spring meeting of the Kentucky Chapter was held at the Days Inn, Frankfort, Ky. March 18-19, 1994. Fri., 18th was a beautiful Spring afternoon as the crowd started arriving. Soon the room being used as a hospitality room was overflowing. After a short move to the main Hospitality Room, the gab-fest started up where it had left off and the crowd still poured in, soon this room was full also.

It had been over 3 months since the last meeting so there was a lot of catching up to do. Ailment's or lack of, was a major topic of discussion. Also grand children stories and pictures. recipes swaping and the favorite of the ladies, along with the never failing war story's. I always listen very closely to these interesting tales, but I am cautious for fear that I might also start telling them.

Sat. 19th we are ready to roll on our tour of historic Frankfort ably led by our host's R.T. Brook's & John Hudnall.

First we toured the old state capital museum. We viewed the many relics on display & walked the halls where many famous people carried out their duties. The thing that stands out in my mind, "was the beautiful spiral stairway" that led to the upper level's.

Next on our tours was the military museum, a tour was conducted by Mr. Tom Fugate the curator, Here is a man who knows his museum forward & backward he never stopped talking, except to answer question's. Describing things in great detail, anticipating many questions & having a ready answer.

This museum has weapons of many wars including some of civil war era where they were experimenting with automatic firepower that long ago.

A reminder of our thunderbolt day's was a bronze plaque from the wall of Hitler's cell where he was imprisoned in the early 20's and wrote Mein Kamp. This was a large Plaque, maybe 2 foot square, out of thick heavy bronze. Whoever acquired it was my kind of collector.

We would like to thank all who gave their time on Sat. morning to open up & conduct these tours for the Kentucky Chapter.

On our way to the new state capitol we viewed the floral clock, but it was a little too early in the season to appreciate all it's beauty. Part of the new state capitol was opened for us, enough to marvel at its huge vaulted hall's. It is hard to imagine how the huge marble column's were cut turned down & polished, they are truly beautiful as is also the stained glass in the window's. Due to lack of time some of us didn't get to visit the graves of Daniel & Rebecca Boone, as we hurried back, to get a bite to eat and rush to our business meeting.

It was voted to have our summer meeting June 24 & 25, at College View Motel, Oxford, Ohio. Hosted by Bob & Pearl Derickson & Earl & Bonnie Hoover.

It was voted to have a meeting of the Kentucky Chapter at the National Meeting in New York & omit the October for this year.

The Christmas meeting will be at Piqua, Ohio. Sec-

ond weekend in December.

It was decided it would be nice to have a photo album of the member's & wives & the chapter would pay the cost of film & Photo's!

Since I have done this for several years for my wife's club 23ers of United States and Canada and can get it done at a reasonable price. I agreed to see what I could come up with & report at the next meeting.

I immediately took 27 photos and while some may not like their pose they are easy to identify. I will try to get some next meeting & already have most everyone in stock.

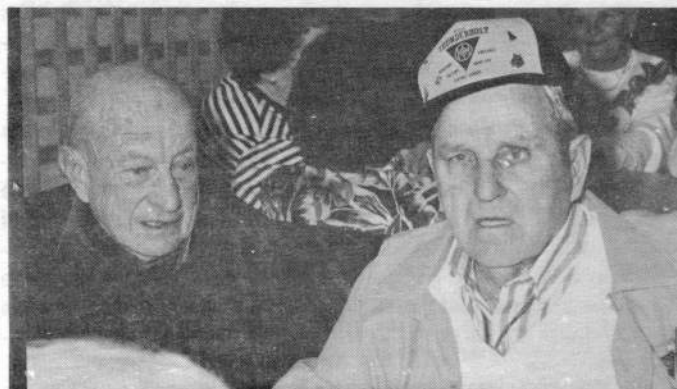
We would like to welcome Sam Badgett to the Kentucky chapter. Sam Promptly won the 50/50 drawing & after getting over the excitement of winning gave it back to the chapter. Thanks alot Sam.

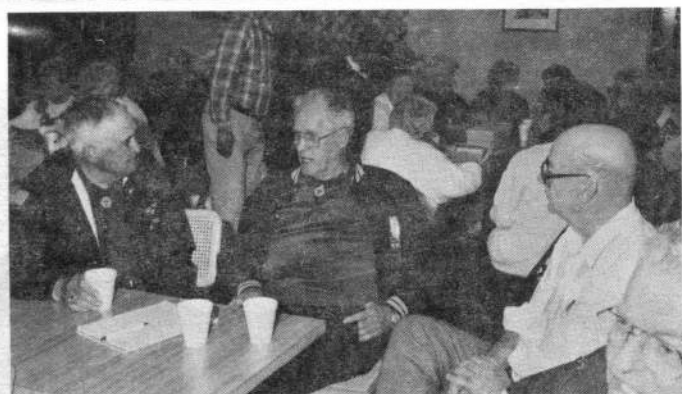
When I sent in my last report I did not know that Elmer Day had passed on, he was Wilson Day's brother, attended many of our meeting's and was a Kentucky chapter member for awhile. Although he fought with the 84th (rail splitter's) Div. He and Wilson had a standing joke about when they got together in Germany & had a picture of one of them riding on a bicycle with a German girl whoever it was had his head turned so you couldn't tell which one it was & they both said it was the other very convincingly (in fact, I believed both).

We thank John & Hazel Hudnall & R.T. & Betty Brooks for the good job & attention to detail in hosting the spring meeting we appreciate it very much.

Leroy V. Johnson

Kentucky Chapter Reporter





Kentucky Chapter

The Kentucky Chapter held their summer, 1994 meeting June 24 and 25th at College View Motel, Oxford, Ohio. This meeting was hosted by Bob & Pearl Derickson and Earl & Bonnie Hoover.

We arrived on Fri. 24th between showers' and shortly after cooler weather arrived soon everyone started putting on or wishing for their long neglected sweaters and jackets & shorts disappeared for the rest of the meeting.

On Friday night most of the group traveled to Forest View Garden for dinner & entertainment. Some of you will remember our trip to Forest View Gardens, that Vi and Wilson Day planned for you at the reunion in Cincinnati. Well, they again arranged that for the Kentucky Chapter when they were here in June. It was a wonderful trip and a wonderful evening. Food was delicious. Kurt and Trudy and owners made much of the Chapter and the entertainment was wonderful. Thanks Vi and Wilson for helping us out.

On Saturday Wilson Day gave a demonstration on his carving and displayed some of his many carvings along with the razor sharp tools. I didn't see any bandages on his fingers so not only has he turned out some beautiful carvings he has mastered not carving on himself.

On Saturday evening after a good meal that our Host's had catered in, Bertha Roosa displayed her versatility by singing & playing the guitar, banjo, dulcimer, harmonica, & Juice Harp; also had her little wooden man danced in time to one of her songs. We finally coaxed Herschell McIntosh into accompanying Bertha using her guitar, he finally got on some old time favorites and was just going strong when he quit on us. Maybe he will favor us at our Christmas Party with a longer performance.

We thank Bertha for taking time to give us this smooth professional performance.

Our sympathy goes out to Dorothy Henry who along with Al. Would have attended the meeting if it were not for her major surgery, we all hope you get well quick.

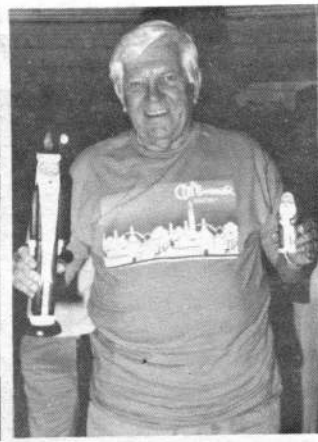
Bob & Pearl looking none the worse for their rigorous trip to the "D" Day celebration shared part of their trip with us and promised us some pictures next meeting.

Norm week's who was part of a group of five who celebrated "D" Day showed us the medal and lovely ribbon being presented to those going back this year Norm also had a beautifully decorated bottle of Calvados that had been presented to him.

A friend of mine in France Mr. Claude Helias who holds the same job as Bob in a French WWII research organization and has a P.H.D. in history sent me some pictures he had taken for me in Parame "A suburb of St. Malo" this June. Also the English newspaper by council of lower Normandy program's of "D" Day events, also a French Newspaper about the August celebration in Brittany; this had several pictures of 83rd Div. men in it. Claude had previously sent me a battle of Normandy map that is the best I have seen Ky. Chapter member enjoyed looking over it.

Thanks to our hosts Bob and Pearl and Bonnie and Earl they did a great job despite having to battle the cold, wind and rain. The meeting was very enjoyable thank's to Wilson Day for trying to teach us to carve, and to Vi Day for helping to set up Friday nights entertainment. Thanks to Bertha for her fine performance and to Herschell for his part. See you all at the Pines or in Dec at Piqua.

Leroy V. Johnson
3rd HQ - 331st Inf.
Reporter



Boston Chapter Report

We have been very active in the Boston Chapter this past year with the reunion getting close. Boston hopes to have the best reunion ever at the Pines Hotel in South Fallsburg.

We have our Bocci Team in training for a return match with the Phillie Chapter. I am giving fair warning to all, the Boston Chapter will be the best.

Our March meeting was in Malden, MA at Pat and Gin DiGiammerinos' home. Many of the members came from Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Connecticut. It was a great day for everyone. Ginny was an excellent hostess. Thanks to the DiGiammerino Family for

having the meeting at their home.

The April meeting was held at Larry and Fran Arrigos' house. I was unable to attend but my wife Nancy was there with 37 other people present. Fran served some of her home cooking which was enjoyed by all. Dick Armstrong and Hunnewell were the entertainment. Charlie Lussier, Mike Caprio, Larry Arrigo, Hy Goodman, Bob Hunnewell, Pat DiGiammerino and a lot more were out practicing Bocci until the Flood Lights came on. The Boston Chapter thanks the Arrigos' for a nice time.

The May meeting was held at Phylis Scott's house in Florence, MA. President Tony Piantedosi thanked Phylis for continuing to have our meeting. However, Frank was really missed. Frank was a member of Hq. Btry. 908 F.A. Bn. and passed away a year ago. They always had us every year for a meeting and Phylis is keeping up the tradition. Our National President, Lou Sandini and Boston Chapter President went into the Pool for a swim. I guess they think there will be a swimming contest at the Reunion. Larry Arrigo and Jim Prentice also took a dip. Bob Hunnewell chickened out at the end. I was not present at this meeting but Larry and Fran Arrigo drove my wife Nancy as she did not want to drive alone. Thanks again Phylis for everything.

I am told that Lou Sandini has written a book which will be going on sale real soon. Be on the lookout for this book.

Nancy Tynan and Arrigo are in charge of planning the Christmas Party this year. Plans have been made at the Comfort Inn in Dedham, MA. Nancy and Fran as a committee did a great job. The Party will be on December 10th, 1994. We are hoping to have people from other Chapters come and enjoy with us.

There is lots of time till then, ask about it at the Reunion.

A lot of the gang from the Boston Chapter have gone to Normandy so we will have a lot to talk about at our next meeting.

That's all for now.

Amby Tynan, Boston Reporter



Lou Sandini - 83rd - John McAuliffe of the Battle of the Bulge



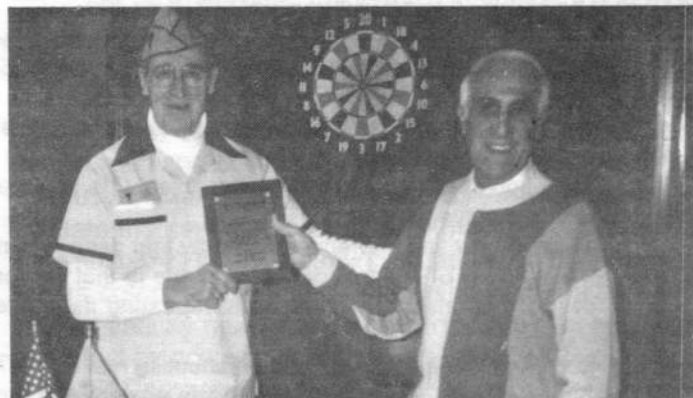
Boston Chapter & The Mayor of Marlborough - Michael McGorty



Lou Sandini, Pat DiGiammerino - In Front of WWII Memorial in City of Marlborough



Cheering the Troops



New President - Tony Piantedosi presenting plaque to retiring President Larry Arrigo

COMBAT MUST BE THE ULTIMATE GUT-CHECK

Editors note: Lewis Grizzard is on vacation. This column is excerpted from Lewis Grizzard's newest book,

Lewis Grizzard

The television reporter was talking to a few good kid-Marines in Saudi Arabia as The Deadline neared.

What an appropriate term I was thinking. Dead-line.

One young man had this to say: "I've never had a bullet fired at me, and had never fired at anyone else. I've never been in the real thing.

I just hope when it all starts I'll be able to do my job and be just as ready to die as the Iraqi soldier I'm fighting."

What the young man was saying he hoped when the shooting started, he wouldn't be a coward.

How many times I've thought that myself. Combat must be the ultimate test of courage, the ultimate gut check.

Facing that test, would I scream and cry and run the other way? Or would I stand and fight?

A physical problem kept me out of Vietnam, and I'm too old for the Persian Gulf. I'm not complaining, but I'll never know the answer.

But still that question lingers. Bombs exploding around me. Bullets whizzing through the air.

Noise. Blood. Death. Hell. Could I have hacked it?

I know a man who is a few years older than I am. I consider him to be one of the strongest individuals I've ever met.

I've seen him handle countless adversities with amazing courage.

He remains calm in the midst of madness. His is always the voice of reason. I ever I had to follow someone into battle, I would want it to be him.

But he told me this once:

"I really wanted a career in the service. I went into the army out of college, a few years before Korea.

"But when my father died, I had to leave and go back home to take care of the family. A million times since, I've wondered if I'd stayed in and had been sent to Korea how I would have handled it.

"Until you've been in combat, you'll never know the limits of your courage. I might have just turned tail and run."

So I sit and watch the television and see those kids. I think about my own father.

He was in World War II and then went back to Korea. He passed the test. In two wars. I have his Silver Star and his Purple Heart framed on my wall as proof.

But can courage be passed on genetically? I've gone into two heart surgeries without screaming and crying and kicking.

That's a big deal? Nobody was trying to kill me. They were trying to save my life.

This "support for our boys," is a nice thing. Tie your yellow ribbons and wave your flags.

But also know and appreciate and pray that deep in hundreds of thousands of minds, souls and hearts in that godforsaken desert that unsettling question is repeating itself over and over.

How will I handle it when they start shooting real bullets?

The strain must be overwhelming, the anxiety a mountain.

May God help them all. Wrestling with such a hideous unknown must be a hell all its own.

COMPANIES

Co. "D" 330th

HELLO BUDDIES:

Here I am once again, your adopted Reporter trying to get a message off to all of you. Having just sat watching the Memorial Service in Normandy on television. I find it hard to wipe away all the tears so that I can see what I am writing. It was a wonderful Memorial and brought back many memories. As you sat and watched those landing crafts bobbing on the water, you just couldn't help but remember that day that you were aboard one of them.

Well Buddies, as we sit thinking of the coming reunion it is hard to believe that this will be the 48th Annual Reunion of the great 83rd Infantry Division Association. This will be the last issue of the "THUNDERBOLT" for the year, the next issue will mean the start of another great year in our history.

It is almost impossible to believe that there are so many men who served with us who are not members, it is possible that some of them do not know of our Association. This is when I ask you to try and drop them a line telling them of it or send me their name and address and see if I can sell them in joining us at a Reunion. Time is running out, I know that there are some of you like myself who are into their 80th year and those days on the calendar are running by faster and faster.

I would like to once again express my sincere thanks to those of you who knowing that I am not a Co. "D" man, have accepted me as one of you. Believe me, I am not just a company man, I am a dedicated 83rd man, and feel that I am a part of all companies and units within the 83rd Infantry Division. I feel that when we attend a Reunion, we are not there to be just Men who served in our particularly Unit, but to see all men who wore the uniform with an 83rd Division Emblem.

Again I wish to say thanks to all of you who have supported both me and the Association over the years. May GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

Your Buddy
Larry Redmond
Co. "H" 330th



Co. "I" 329th Infantry

With this being the 50th anniversary of D-Day and all of the ceremonies on T.V. I think it made all of us reminisce of our own experience's. Also of our old buddies who didn't make it and also the ones who have passed on since then

This is the reason I mailed out 26 short notes to the men of Co. I, trying to get a good turn out for the 48th reunion, at our age its getting to be twilight time, face it, the next meeting may be the last one.

Here listed are the people who already have plans to attend. 1- Harold Geisinger, 2 - Sal Scicolone, 3 - Walt Henschel, 4 - Ray Hayward, 5 - Frank Bellino, 6 - Frank Hanus, 7 - Art Koerner, 8 - Fred McGowan, 9 - Earl Hoover, also we can always depend on 1 - Hunnewell, 2 - Joe Zenz, 3 - Fred Slyvia, 4 - Burt Simons, 5 - G.L. Pittman. Also Mrs. Delvina Lorenzen, who is the sister of Sgt. Elmer Marcotta, plans to attend, she has hopes that some of us present can answer some questions about her brother.

Still waiting to hear from Steve Bactha, Dick Haas, Don Allen, Jim Fornof, Frank McCabe, Curtis Mills, Jim St. John, Bob Wolfe, Harry Davine, Julian Quevy.

Recently I have talked via the phone with Harold Geisinger was happy to hear that last years flood missed his part of Iowa, Frank Bellino says that he is still not up to par from his operation last winter.

In talking to the Hoovers, I told them I'll miss the June Kentucky chapter meeting. I'm going to attend my 56th class reunion. Also Anna Hanus said that Frank is well enough that he is able to drive his car again. Ginny Hayward said that Ray had his 4th heart operation, on New Years Eve. He was only out of the hospital two weeks before they left to spend the month of February in Hawaii.

The people who can't be present for the reunion are 1 - Jesse Hayes, don't like to fly and to far to drive. 2 - Chas Grey - his brother paid his fare for a trip to Istanbul, Turkey. 3 - Dorothy & Forest Brown and their two daughters will be in Europe until Sept. 14th. 4 - The Olney's have sold their house in Michigan and will be moving to Florida permanently.

Max & Sally Francis will be in Michigan this month, on the way home, they hope to stop in Kent to visit with us also hope to see the Henschel's who are going to Europe July 29th to Aug. 12th. The Henschels are traveling to the Pines with us, we plan to spend a day with the Hanus in Binghamton, N.Y., then the six of us will go on to the Pines. Max and Sally are going to be on the road so much this summer there plans are uncertain about the reunion.

In Sal Scicolone's note he said he was surprised to hear from an original Co. I man. Joe McClure who was sent to the 75th Division. Joe lives in Huntington, Pa.

On the way to the Kentucky chapter meeting in March I located two more original I Co. men, I stopped in Corinth, Ky. to see Ed Dempsey, he had moved to Williamstown, Ky., I was able to talk to him on the phone, I

then stopped in Sadieville, Ky. to see Cecil Underwood. I found out that he had also moved to Georgetown, Ky. I went to his home and had a short but nice visit, also had Agnes take a couple of pictures of Cecil and I. Couldn't talk him into coming into Frankfort for the Kentucky Chapter meeting. Upon returning home I wrote to both of them, also sent them an application, hoping that they join the association.

Last night I called the McGowans, no answer but Earl Hoover said he had talked with them lately, will see them at the Pines. Also no answer when calling Lucy & Curtis Mills waiting to hear about their plans. Hoping to see you all and hoping for a good crowd for our 48th reunion.

Art Koerner
Kent, Ohio

Co. "F" 329th

It was February 1994, from far and near, rising all modes of transportation buses, automobiles, planes and even on foot they came on their Annual trek to Ho Jo's on the Peace River, Punta Gorda, Florida. It was "F" Company's Winter Mini time again. Our hosts the Nickells (the shanks horses attendees). You see they only live a stones throw away in a newly refurbished, refurbished, redecorated house beautiful condominium.

Twelve men from nine states answered roll call Feb. 23 - 27. Twenty eight in all including wives, guests and friends enjoyed taste watering meals, delightful snacks, peaceful nights sleep and most of all the opportunity of being united once again as a family. The effort put forth by those attending is always appreciated so very much by everyone. Nickells, again from the bottom of our hearts - Thanks for a Great! time.

As in years past new faces appeared again this year, which always adds much to our Minis, after all thats the name of the game. Gerard (Red) and Connie Fennessey were our first timers this year, by virtue of their vacationing in Florida at the right time. By the way "Red" has offered anyone flying into Albany far the Pines, "I can drive them." No charges quoted you're on you're own, check directly with him Ha!

For us to continue to increase in numbers at our get togethers while in reality our numbers are decreasing is we feel fantastic. How long can we keep it up? Only you folks hold that answer.

You've heard the saying the only difference between men and boys is the price of their toys. Well Mrs. Ferguson, (Margaret) Mrs. Wonderful that is, helped perpetuate the saying this past Christmas by giving William (her husband) our company clerk an HPDJ 550 a printer for us computer illiterates as a result of the gift he now has an entirely new computer system. It works beautifully, in fact by now you have been recipients of its technology. "F" Company's interval communications will continue to be enhanced greatly from Margaret's gift to Bill.



Bill & Arline Nickell
April 9, 1944 - April 9, 1994
Happy 50th



Our own Mr. McGregor - Dale Lewis

2 Regiments - 2 Companies Platoon Leader
F 329th - K 330th

Excerpts from a full color page featured article in the Kenosha News - Kenosha, Wisconsin April 3, 1994 by Don Jensen Staff Writer titled "Doin' what comes naturally"

I've been into organic for 35 years says 72 year old gardener Dale Lewis, "long before most people began thinking about it." He said his interest in back to nature gardening began when he read an article that asked where have all the birds gone?"

Lewis agrees that "in my garden poison is a no-no. The only exception is in his apple orchard, where if you don't spray them, you don't get apples you can eat."

One of the things Lewis does is to use a non-toxic agricultural soap spray on his plants.

My garden is 40' x 40' and is surrounded by a wire rabbit fence.

Lewis combats weeds the old fashioned way, a lot of hoeing and pulling.

Besides vegetables Lewis also has plenty of organically grown flowers in beds surrounding his home. Dale's wife Marge relies on bundles of multicolored blossoms he grows and preserves for the dried flower craft she creates, which are sold at Hawthorne Hollow nature preserve which Dale and Marge actively support.

New Grandparents: Fred J & Betty Senatori, their daughter Lori gave birth to twins May 17, 1994 a girl Mari 4 lb. 11 oz. a boy Gage 3 lb. 9 oz.

Sick Call: Those known about, all the same. Our prayers and thoughts are with you.

Dates to remember:

September 7-11-1994 - Division Reunion The Pines South, Fallsburg, N.Y.

October 17-19-1994 Ashland, Ohio 3rd F Co. 4 FF.

February 23-25-1995, Punta Gorda, Fl. South '95

Please return your reply cards they are postage paid Sponsor a Buddy in the Association. It's not too late.

C.R. Bob Whitcomb.

783rd Ordnance

In this historical 50th anniversary year the theme of this column will be a little different. You might call it - life is a game of opportunities.

As I'm packing my bags for Normandy I have nothing but good news to report. As far as I know, despite the creaks and groans, everyone is enjoying the "Golden Years."

From Williamsport, Pa. comes the news that George Harris is coming to the Pines. It seems that he was not only a good guy to us but also his nephews. Two of them are coming as far away as Texas just to accompany George to the Sept. reunion.

A few months ago I was volunteering at the Fox Chase Cancer Center. I was pinch hitting for Ginny while she was recovering from her back operation. Spouse Ginny has charge of the post operative family room. As I walked in to set up I couldn't help but notice this attractive, young woman taking up half of my desk. I kidded her about the costs of such usage.

After that ice breaker we settled into a conversation on her medical reason for being there. Her Dad was undergoing an eight hour operation and they were concerned about his heart condition. Dad had been wounded in the chest and was a WWII veteran.

Further questioning soon revealed that dear old Dad was a member of the 83rd. Slowly I withdrew my wallet and exposed my 83rd card. Immediately there was a bedlam as both daughters and wife Addie screamed some foreign, New Jersey yell of delight.

The patient was Fred Rein from the 330th. Later in the week I had a nice visit with Fred and now I'm happy to report that I just talked to him on the phone and he sounds great. We intend to meet again on his check-up visit in July.

Last week "Nosey" Nordblom, 330th called and asked, "Hey Rags, how would you like to come on TV with me?" So if any of your ears were burning it was because I took Nosey's offer. They interviewed us two hours for two five minute segments on the 10:00 o'clock news. They showed some of my 1944 movies which included shots of Doc, Manning, Salontay, Reese and

Wolf hiking in England.

As most of you 783rd members know Les Wolf was a best friend. Many of you also know that I've been trying to finish my war memoirs for five years. Well, now this historical and humorous account is finished. In putting on the finishing touches I needed a better picture of Les Wolf. On contacting his family I talked to wife Lee, brother Emerson and Les's only heir, son Ron. From Emerson I received an excellent photograph. From Ron I received much more.

I am never amazed at the turns that life takes or the possibilities and opportunities that are hidden in life's problems. It's been forty eight years since Ginny and I visited Wolf on his Ohio farm. I had never met Ron. Believe me it was quite an experience to talk to Ron for the first time.

Les Wolf died from lung cancer at the early age of 46 while Ron was a young teenager. Twenty six years later while on my quest to again locate all of the 783rd company I was shocked to learn of Les's early death.

As most of you know it's not only difficult to publish a book but it also gets quite expensive. "OUR" book has a hollywood ending. Ron Wolf, as a tribute to his Dad, to our buddies that didn't make it home and to all the other Division members who gave their service, Ron has stepped forward and is making it possible to publish "Hut Two."

As former Top Sgt. Jim Jones said, while waiting to tee off, at the Owensboro reunion, "Who of us could have imagined in Normandy that forty five years later we would have the pleasure of playing golf in green Kentucky?" Now I can add who would have imagined in 1944 I would write a book 50 years later, dedicated to Les Wolf and have his unknown son make it all possible? Life has many good turns.

Hut Two, Rags Rangnow

Co. "A" 329th Infantry

Each Memorial Day we honor the memory of those men and women who went off to war, never to return. Thomas Jefferson said; "The ground of liberty must be gained by inches". Yes, by inches, and by the lives of those who fought for liberty's hollowed ground.

On Memorial Day, with grateful hearts, we honor those who selflessly gave all they had to give. They died for their country, for their families, and friends, and for you and me.

Cleveland Chapter marched 1.8 miles on Memorial Day. They looked great. George Calore, Mess Sgt. A & C Co., didn't march with us because he had to cook for the American Legion in Wickliffe, Ohio, where he lives. Earl Deisher marched in Elyria, Ohio, but there were 13 of us that marched proudly and in step!

I did not hear from too many guys this time. George "Sucky" Suchomelly told me that "Mutt" Adair and Bill Urvery still have some problems, but are doing better. Mutt's frontal vision is gone, but he can still view a little

T.V. with his side vision. "Sucky" also said he keeps busy working in his garden. John Camp our "ole" medic, writes and says he's well and still farming. I imagine by now the crops are up and doing fine. How are the ponies doing?

One day I was sweeping the walk in front of the house, and the mailman gave me an assortment of bills and letters. One letter was from Steve J. Fraunberger. Lt. Fraunberger came to us while "A" Co. was in a rest area in St. Gertrude, Holland, in Feb. 1945. He was in charge of the 1st platoon. His platoon Sgt. was T/Sgt. Bredberg. He also sent me some memorabilia and pictures. I am sending in a before and after picture. A little heavier, but you can tell it is the same person.

Steve stayed with us to the end of the war, then, was transferred as a Regimental Personnel Officer, to Deggendorf, Germany, on the Danube River. Steve was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in March 1943, in the Air Force, but transferred to the infantry in 1944.

I called Steve since that letter and he filled me in about himself. He was a detective on the police force for 20 plus years, celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary 2 years ago, has 2 sons, 4 grandchildren, and lives in a retirement village in Tomes River, N.J. Steve had a quadruple by pass in 1989, and bladder tumors, (which he's still being treated for). He had cataracts removed from both eyes and implants put in, laser surgery on the retina of the left eye, and his teeth pulled out and replaced with dentures. Finally, he had a new knee joint put in last January. He calls this his "Reconstruction Period", but he has a good outlook; He said, "Whats gotta be, is gotta be and we'll enjoy life at a diminished quality and continue to live", - that's the old 83rd spirit, Steve!

Anyone who knew and would like to write to Steve, his address follows;

Steve J. Fraunberger, 12 Thornbury Ct.
Tomes River, N.J. 08757

As you all know, the reunion this year is at the Pines Hotel, South Fallsburgh, N.Y., Sept. 7-11, 1994. Bernice and I will miss this great place this year as we will be in Europe, visiting about eight countries.

So long for now; stay well and God Bless.

Your Buddy, Bob Grobelny
1581 Lander Rd., Mayfield Hts., OH 44124
1-216-449-5085



Lt. Steve Fraunberger and wife Elsie on Caribbean Cruise Nov. 1992.

Co. "M" 330th Infantry

Co. "M" 330th Inf. held its annual "Mini-Reunion" at the residence of Frank and Bunny Ashie in , Fla. on March 10-11. The guests were staying at the Sarasota Motor Inn. on 41 South. They had supper at Stacey's Cafeteria on 41 South Thursday night, and on Friday they had lunch in the recreation room at Ashie's condo. Then at two o'clock they took a three hour boat ride on the Seafood Showboat and had dinner at the Seafood Shack in Cortex, Fla. A good time was had by all. Those attending was as follows, Russell and Jennie Antt, Frank and Gunny Ashie, Al Biran (Jeannie Johnston's brother.) Doris and Bill Bryant (Visitors), Carl Dreon, Ed and Delana Etter, Jim and Martha Fowler, Leo and Martha Hand, Mert and Jeanne Johnston, Bill and Juanita Robbins, Ann Smith Falle, Walter and Edith Wheeler, Dorothy Caughran.

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

Co. "G" 329th

Enclosed is a copy of a photo that I recently came across while going through some of my personal papers.

The photo was taken at Plattling, Germany on Sept. 2, 1945.

It is the Medical Section of the 2nd Battalion of the 329th Inf. Regiment.

I am the person 2nd from the right in the front row.

Perhaps some of the medical group may recognize themselves and if so we may renew old times at the reunion at the "Pines" in September.

Hoping to see all of you at that time.

Ralph Stat
"G" Co. 329th
1st Platoon Aid Man
56 Nevada Drive.
Haglet, N.J. 07730



Co. "D" 331st REGT.

Just had a visit from Al Shrawder and we had a great time rehashing some of the happenings in the company during WWII. Al has an extensive library of books, magazines, and statistical records of the 83rd's accomplishments. He is our company secretary now, and has a mailing list of seventy plus members of the company. He reported receiving notice of the death of Jimmy Smith (Ridgefield, Ct.) who was an original at Atterbury.

Heard that the near-Philly contingent of Norm Schuster, Frank Meyers and Stan Rummel got together frequently over the winter and re-hash the Hurtgen and Bulge campaigns with similar weather this year. The Florida contingent of Sharp, Haught, Miklos and Gunderson were joined by snowbirds McKee and Gravelyn at Sebring for the January chapter meeting. We were together at Venice chapter meeting along with absentee Nagel and Springbird Al Shrawder of Evansville, Ind.

Understand the Lynchs and Odenwellers will visit the R.C. Hamiltons in Kentucky in July. Geri and I are going to Cincinnati the end of June for her family reunion and may run over to Shrawder's for a couple of days. Maybe we can get the McDermotts there too.

Gravelyns invited us up to the frozen north in Michigan but don't think we can swing that far. Harry & Barb Gravelyn rushed back from Florida so they could join their daughter and son-in-law in a trip to Hawaii. They reported a great time!! The Bill McKees. Vern Muellers and Ralph Gundersons spent two weeks in Cancun, Mexico and took a side trip to Merida in February. Vern Mueller is coming to the Reunion stag as Ruthe had other commitments. They also just returned from a trip to Aruba and a cruise in the caribbean. The Paul Dallos's sent the Florida Contingent a hello by way of Fl. Chap. buddy, Bill Herhuth, when they met at the Cleveland Chap. meeting in December. After a long absence the Harmon's returned to the fold at Daytona Beach and will be at the Pines. The McKees are busy working on their cottages in Hampton Beach, N., H. in preparation for the summer rental season. We've been meeting with Bernie and Jeanne Cove during the past several months but now they are leaving for S. Fallsburg, N.Y. for the summer.

We all miss our "Godfather", Sam Klippa, who was the original buddy to keep pushing us to attend Reunions and visit each other. THANK YOU, SAM, our strong attendance and the company newsletter are two of the many things we dedicate to you.

Whoever has been omitted, it is because I haven't heard any news of you. Let me hear from you.

Ralph B. Gunderson



329 "B" Bag

I hope the weather has improved greatly, what a miserable winter it has been. Thanks for all of the Xmas cards and all of the kind words. It was great to read them, and be remembered. I finally had lunch with Herb Jacobs. He was a Lt., while we were at Camp Atterbury, and in charge of the second Platoon. We had a good time, and reminisced. About the good old days, we are setting up a company reunion in Louisville Ky. At the end of August John Hennig will be in charge of this detail. Congratulations to John and Lois Herko on their 50th year anniversary. Sorry we couldn't make your celebration. Many more years to the both of you, George Nichols has still not fully recovered from his head wound. He sleeps quite a bit during the day. Cliff Melton is coming around after his broken foot accident. It was broken in 3 places and took a long time to heal. I was in for eye surgery in Dec. I'm still having problems with the eye.

Now for the toughest job of being a reporter. Just before Christmas I got a call from Al Trofimuk in Chicago that "Camels" lemole had a very severe Stroke and was in a coma. On Dec. 27, Al called that "Camel's" passed away. He joined us in Carentan; and went all the way, in fact while in Germany he made First Sgt. Al also told me that 'Camels' got the Silver Star in the Hedge Rows. I remember we were in the Hurtgen Forest. We were told, we were going to attack with marching fire. We fired our machine gun from the hip, a La Stallone. On behalf of "B" company, I want to express our deepest sympathy to Millie, his wife, children and grand children, 'Camels' was one hellava soldier. I was proud to serve with him. He later had a small farm in Michigan where he grew grapes, and made excellent wine. A great guy.

A "B" Bag Short Story

While at Camp Breckinridge, and on the last problem before going overseas, we were to have a rolling barrage. A short round from the artillery killed a Cecil Geyer from our company. Since he was from our platoon, 10 of us were picked to be on the honor guard to escort the body to Vincennes Ind., his home town.

We went to the mortuary, and explained what we were there for. The mortician wanted to know which body we wanted, and explained he had 9 bodies, of which were 2 being held for further notice. He said 2 GI's from the 92nd Div. were on the night infiltration course, and when the lights came on, 2 GI's were found dead, each shot in the head fired from 45's, and the weapons were found on the ground besides them. Never heard any word about this.

See you all either in Louisville, or the Pines. Have a great summer "Enjoy"

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

329 "B" Bag

I'm sorry to say that my report was omitted from the last issue. I was promised that it will be in this issue along with this one. I just received word that Worth Wells, and Irv Dederick passed away recently. Our deepest sympathy to the families of both damn good soldiers. I believe Worth had been on more patrols than anyone in the company. He volunteered to go on most patrols. I heard from Ken Higgins of Albion, Mich. His wife wrote that Ken has Parkinson disease, and is house ridden. She wrote that Ken was a school teacher for years and that his children and grand children followed in his footsteps and all are school teachers. Best of everything to you both.

I heard from the Steks, Hennies, Pirkles and the Premo's. All are doing fine except for Ache's and Pains. John Hennies gave me a bum tip on the Kentucky Race. He will have to pay for that, since I dropped a bundle on that dog. They all promised to be in Louisville, Ky. at the Radisson Hotel on Aug. 26, 27 and 28th. It will be a "B" Co. reunion. All members of "B" Co. their wives and their guests are invited. Hope to see most of the old gang there. Please make your reservations to the Radisson Hotel. 44 letters were sent to the address we had, since then we got 5 new. addresses, Let's make it a good turnout. John Hennies promises a good time. Pass the word along to your buddies.

By the time you read this, I hope to have made my 48 Memorial Day March.

There will be no short story this month, only some important dates and facts taken from "B" company records.

1944:

5 - April - Boarded H.M.T. Samaria at 11:00. Heavy snow.

6 - April - Ship departed N.Y. harbor at 0900 hours. Poor food.

18 - April - Arrived Liverpool, England

20 - April - Disembarked 0200, went by train to Wrex Ham, Wales walked 2 miles to Bivouac area, Camp Plas Power, Neighbenshire, Wales

3 - May - Had a 3-day problem - bad food and weather

6 - June - D-Day

19 - June - Departed Plymouth, England on H.M.S. Chesterfield sailed for Idaho? Beach, water was too rough to land, anchored off coast for four days.

23 - June - Arrived France at 1330, walked into a minefield at 1345. 2 killed, 2 died of wounds, 19 wounded. First casualties of the 83rd Div.

28 - June - Left area by trucks, went thru Carentan to camp area.

4 - July - 2nd Btn 329 committed to battle. Two companies E & F almost wiped out

5 - July - 1st Bn committed, first casualties, 7 em, 1 officer killed and 3 em KIA.

There will be more dates in the future. Hope every body said a prayer on D-Day. See you in Louisville.

Bob Uher

Co. "G" 331st Infantry

I am not sure that this article will make it for this issue, but I will give it a try.

Since April 26th, I have been on a whirl. Medical test on the 26th indicated, that I would have to have one of my kidneys removed, because of growths inside the kidney. Twelve days in the hospital, then 3 weeks of home care took most of the time. I had planned on going over to Normandy for the Celebration, that was the first thing I asked the Doctor when I came out of surgery. He delayed a few days before he gave me the O.K. to travel.

I left on the 2nd of June with Gene Costanzo to fly into Paris, rented a car and travelled to St. Hillaire, where we met Jules Desgain. We spent four days in Normandy, and one day at Dinard and St. Braic in Brittany. Then a trip to Luxembourg, and travel through the Battle of the Bulge area. Arrived back in New Orleans, on the 13th of June. Everything went fine, and was able to start my Chemotherapy treatments on the 16th.

For the boys in G Co 329th, it may be of interest to you to know that your foxholes are waiting for you in Osweiler and Hebron. A fellow that was 11 years old at the time gave us a complete description of the battle for Ecternack.

We met the 83rd tour in Sainteny, and what a celebration, those Frenchmen appreciate everything that we did for them.

I had a letter from Lt. Spaulding last month, he's living in Florida and enjoying his retirement. Had a letter from Edward Foy who was in the 2nd Platoon, he is now living in Georgetown, Texas. In his letter he described how Mike; Mizerock brought up hot C rations to the front in Normandy and about the meal he served in Achen on Christmas Day. Those two and others have now joined the 83rd Assn. I am looking forward to making the reunion at the Pines in September. Hope that we can get a few of the G Co. boys from that area to attend. I will have a letter out to member of the company before you receive this article in the Thunderbolt.

Our numbers are getting smaller, and I am hoping that we can find a few more to keep in touch with.

Capt. Mac

Co. "H" 330th

HELLO BUDDIES:

Here I am once again, as I sit writing this, it is hard to believe that this year we will be attending the 48th Annual Reunion of the great 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, it is hard to believe that so many years have passed us by. We have a lot to be thankful for, the main thing is our thanks to those great men who conceived the idea of an Association, and those men who accepted office and strived so hard to see that it continued on like it has.

To those of you from Co. "H" 330th, I wish to personally thank you for the support you have given me.

We were a fortunate company to have had one of the greatest Company Commanders that any company ever had, along with that we had a very fine group of officers to lead us on and along with them, we had some of the best Non-Coms in the Division.

Now that I have rendered my Praise to our leaders, I wish to remind you that our Membership Ranks within the company are dropping very fast. This year we lost four members of Co. "H" that I have been informed of. I am sure that there have been others who are not members of our great association. I wish to once again call on each and everyone of you who have names and addresses of men who served on Co. "H" 330th, to send them to me and see if I can sell them a Membership or sell them on the idea of trying to make at least one Reunion. I know that there are men who like myself are living on a fixed income and they don't have those extra \$10.00 to toss around. This is the greatest investment that you can make "keeping in touch with a Buddy".

To those of you who have never attended a Reunion, you can't begin to realize the feeling it is to walk into a Hotel Lobby and see that Buddy that you have waited so many years to meet. I have had it happen many times and I know what it is.

Again I wish to thank you all for your support and may GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

Your Buddy

Larry Redmond

Dear Mr. Derickson,

I am writing in the hope that you can help me. I would like to contact any veterans who might have known and served with my father during World War II. He was killed in Normandy July 11, 1944 and is buried there. I am going to France on May 6th to visit the grave. I would like to find out more about his last days and where he was killed.

His name was Steve Zorich and he was a PFC in the 330th Inf. 83 DIV. Any help that you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

Thank You

Steve Zorich

819 Ashland Ave.

St. Paul Mrs. 55104

Tel. 612 290-2564



D-DAY SECTION

Mayor's Speech at Sainteny

Today, in the village of Sainteny, together with its population, our families and friends and the families of the neighboring districts of Auxais and Raids, their mayors and war veterans, we have come on this day, June 5th, to remember and commemorate the heroism of the American soldiers.

Some of them are with us today and we welcome them back to celebrate their achievement.

The flags fluttering here today and the wreathes show that our countries even share the same colors, and they symbolize this extraordinary moment which brings us together.

In recent weeks, those old enough to remember have gathered together to review the page of history that tells the story of their personal participation and the stories of their communities in terms of their flight to safety and the destruction of their villages.

True, time has passed, but our hearts are still overwhelmed by emotion.

We do remember your heroics efforts and we also remember the higher price paid by your comrades whose memory is still alive.

Whether it be in our marshes where your tanks were bogged down and under fire,

- in our narrow banked country roads which served as fortresses for the cannons of the enemy.

- in our fertile fields, which were a deadly labyrinth of mines,

- in our farms and villages and even in our belltower which eventually rang with the joy of our liberation.

The invaders had made themselves at home, only because of the force of their arms, their ability to intimidate, the threat of deportation and the climate of fear that they fostered. We were under the heel of an oppressor. And we here held hostage.

Many of us had parents, brothers, sisters, and friends who perished in the rain of fire and terror and shared the same fate in the defense of liberty and of our identity.

That was fifty years ago. At the time, I was seven years old and you were barely 20 and certainly not more than 30. As young men, your idealism served a great cause.

We remember that you answered the call to arms. The Old World was suffering under a megalomaniac named Hitler, and had to be saved by the New World.

In addition to your sense of duty, you brought your marvelous technology. Crossing the ocean, you reversed the route of the Mayflower to arrive in friendly England and discovered the land of your ancestors.

This added to the legend of America's patriotism. Quite obviously, your mission carried great risks. And yet no one could really imagine the bloodshed of modern warfare. Faith and a generous spirit helped you face the grim prospect.

And indeed it did take 3 weeks of ferocious fighting to free our town Sainteny. Strategically, our town is located on a sliver of land between the Sèvres and Taute rivers and could not be bypassed. In the process of the liberation of our district, 2000 of your youth died for every kilometer of progress.

Can we imagine it?

Are there adequate words to describe it?

And would we pick "hell" or "apocalypse"?

We want to express our feelings towards you, in the utmost solemnity. And to THANK YOU.

We believe the courage you have shown was a lesson to the free world.

That lesson, that example, the victory of courage over fear and your heroism are now being rediscovered by our younger generations.

For our children, this 50th anniversary is an opportunity to learn more about this period of the world's history.

Their teachers can confirm their curiosity.

Today, they have a wonderful chance to see you in person, in their village. "Victorious Grandfathers", what an event for them!

Using their imagination, they have prepared several surprises for you that you will discover in the "salle des fetes".

SAINTENY: 50 YEARS LATER

A few words about our village as it is today. We now number 750 people who have maintained the tradition of the peaceful country life. And you are confident that they can adapt to the challenges of the next century.

Agriculture is still the mainstay of the local economy, with 43 active farms. Although the land and the marshes are still here, the last generation of farmers has had to adjust to technological change.

You will note that our wooded copses have been reshaped and that the elm trees have disappeared. The little country roads have been widened.

We have become modern and this is a natural and necessary process to meet the demand of European agriculture.

Nevertheless, we remain faithful to the Normand dawn to earth and traditions, which encourage us to safeguard our landscapes and natural heritage so that they can be passed to future generations in all their beauty.

Our town is also home to a thriving businesses that provide services to the surrounding area, with shopping facilities, young doctor, pharmacists and nurses. And local cottage industry contributes to the village's vitality.

Our population is proud of its church, townhall and school with 150 students.

Working with the municipality, nearly a dozen charitable athletic, cultural and religious organizations contribute to an active civic life.

On behalf of this community, let me say how happy we are to welcome you.

We want you to feel at home here, with us, in all friendship. During these few hours, rest assured that all of us are ready to answer your questions and help you in any way.

We are all thrilled on this 50th anniversary of our liberation.

Although our means are modest, we hope the warmth of our reception will compensate and that an atmosphere of kinship born of shared experience will contribute to the success of the 50th anniversary festivities taking place tomorrow at Omaha and Utah Beach.

In conclusion, let me say 3 simple things:

- God bless the 83rd Infantry.

- God bless America.

and Vive la France.

D-Day memories still vivid after 50 years for local vet.

By Jody Sallor - Herald Staff Writer
1994 St. Peter Publishing Company

Former U.S. Army Sgt. Lou Nolan says he wishes he could find his diary from his days in Normandy so he could recall all the details.

But 50 years later, they seem to be fairly clear in his mind.

With the anniversary of D-Day passing this week, the St. Peter resident remembers the fighting -- and the reasons he was fighting -- well.

"If we wouldn't have the freedom (we have)," he said.

He pauses for a moment to imagine a world at that time under German rule.

'If we wouldn't have been successful...we wouldn't have the freedom (we have). They never touched the United States. They were fighting our friends. We were fighting the war with them as well as for ourselves.'

Lou Nolan

"They never touched the United States," he said. They were fighting our friends. We were fighting the war with them as well as for ourselves," he said.

Nolan said he voluntarily enlisted with the Army in 1943 at the age of 31, despite the likelihood that he wouldn't be drafted because of his age. Married, he was also district manager for Mid-Continent Airlines in Rochester at that time.

"I was very patriotic like a lot of young men were those days, like I wish a lot of young men were today," he said.

Starting his service, he went to Fort Snelling, and then went on to Camp Joseph T. Robinson in Little Rock, Ark., for basic training.

A chief clerk in special services for the 83rd Infantry Division (Thunderbolt), he went to further training in Kentucky and England before landing on Omaha Beach in Normandy.

"The day we landed was supposed to be the original D-Day," remembered Nolan.

But rainy weather and a rocky English channel pushed the 83rd Infantry Division's date of arrival back. Nolan says his headquarters unit landed on "D+3 or 'D+4'" -- three or four days after the original June 6 date.

Arriving, Nolan remembers many soldiers getting sick and losing their duffel bags in the wavy waters.

"They had a lot of boats broken up deliberately to make the landing easier," he recalled.

A book detailing the Thunderbolt division's duty documents scores of ships waiting to land, while German planes circled the fleet -- "sometimes raising hell."

With blasted machine gun and mortar emplacements and obstacles, the book said the division had no idea what the Germans had in store.

For Nolan and many other soldiers, it was their first experience with war.

"We couldn't at first figure out what the devil was going on, we were actually caught kind of short," Nolan said.

Typically, he said, the headquarters unit of the division is the last to arrive. This time, the division landed "backward" with the "fighting typewriters" arriving about three days ahead of the rest of the division.



Lou Nolan of St. Peter looks over a yearbook documenting the 83rd Infantry Division's (Thunderbolt) activities. His division landed on Omaha Beach in Normandy 50 years ago this week.

"Things got a little tense," said Nolan. "It was a long wait and we were happy to see the so-called fighting troops come ashore."

There, they were held at bay for weeks by Germans who had their own system of hedgerows in place. Nolan said the enemy soldiers hid behind the thick hedges to fire at them, while Americans would typically use fences to mark their territory.

Nolan recalls the long wait for air assistance, which came about July 25.

The division, despite losing "considerable" numbers of soldiers, moved on to free the French in Carentan, St. Lo and Brittany.

"From there we moved quite rapidly to Berlin," he said.

But they had to hurry up and wait. At Berlin, the decision was made to let the Russians take over the city.

"The Americans should have and could have in a few hours," said Nolan.

Instead, they had to wait two weeks for the Russians to come through, and then had to go back in and take over half the city from them.

"We had to wait for them before we could agree the war was over," he said.

Nolan said it was a "constant battle" to that point in the spring of 1945.

Because of his service in the many battles, Nolan was able to return home for Christmas that year. He went on to become a traveling shoe salesman.

The veteran said he gets somewhat frustrated with the "carelessness" Americans now feel about defending the flag, although he has been pleased with the attention the D-Day anniversary has gotten.

"I think it's good," he said. "It's about the only way we can say thanks to the boys that are gone."

Nolan adds that his experience has given him an appreciation for others.

"I think it might have made me look at mankind as more friendly," he said, growing more quiet. "When you're (losing) one on your right and one on your left, you realize how lucky you are that you didn't get touched."

While he says he has no regrets, he wouldn't want to do it again.

"I wouldn't give a dime to do it all over," Nolan said. "And I wouldn't take a million for what I saw and went through."

"I wouldn't give a damn to do it over."

There was always room at home for more soldiers.

By Josephine Blades - Columnist
The Republic, Columbus, Ind.

One September day in 1950 Columbus found many Army soldiers walking the streets, eating in the restaurants, looking over the movie advertisements outside the cinema houses.

Soon the soldiers were knocking on doors and ringing doorbells of private homes looking for sleeping rooms and small apartments to rent for their families who were coming to town.

The Army sent its 28th Division to Camp Atterbury to prepare for fighting overseas in Korea. The men knew their time in the United States was limited and were anxious to bring their families here to be with them no matter how short the time before they had to leave.

One soldier from Missouri begged me to take in his wife and baby. He couldn't find a place that would take the baby. I gave in and gave him a big attic bedroom with kitchen privileges. Later, I was glad that I had the couple. They were always helping me do little things around the house.

On June 2 -- Ed's and my anniversary -- another couple, Huey and Mary, knocked on the door. They were a cute pair and came from Redding, Pa. I gave them another upstairs bedroom with kitchen privileges.

Since we had only one very large kitchen, I instructed all of them they had to be congenial and take turns getting their meals.

After Mary and Huey got settled, he said he had to return to base but would be home later. But he didn't get back for several days. He was so impetuous he was always getting into trouble with his Army superiors and as a result, he ended up in the stockade.

He rarely got home. One time he broke out and came home, but the MPs were right there to take him back. It ended up Ed and I were driving Mary out to Atterbury to see her bridegroom.

Mary was a very good cook. She always made Italian spaghetti with all kinds of meat. Her cheapest meal was with chicken wings. Her sauce was thick with vegetables and she cooked it a long time. When Huey didn't make it home, we all got a share of the delicacy.

Every Italian has his own recipe for the BEST spaghetti.

So it was when another soldier, Frank, and his wife came from the Bronx in New York.

"I make the best spaghetti," he said, "but I have to have a pot."

Well, my aluminum pot wouldn't do. So I told him to go to the Fair store and buy one. Ed went along. Frank went in and told the saleslady he wanted a pot. She came back with a bed chamber.

"Oh, no. I want a pot to cook spaghetti," Frank said. Everyone had a good laugh at that.

One evening another young couple came to the house for a room. They were from Florida. Before I could get them situated, he learned he had to leave the next morning for Korea. She had to return home.

A couple from Alabama came and I let them have a small apartment next to us. He was always at camp until night. Soon after they arrived in Columbus, she had a baby boy.

It wasn't long until they brought the baby home. Since the father was gone all day he didn't hear it cry so much. But every night that little thing would cry until it was almost hysterical.

I could hear the father spanking it to shut it up, I just stood so much. Then I yelled at them through the door: "That baby is sick!"

But the father said he was just spoiled. No child that age is spoiled. He hasn't been living that long.

The next morning, I gave them notice to leave. But first I had a good talk with them. "Take that baby back to the hospital and have him examined good. There is something wrong with him."

When they returned that evening without the baby, I found out the poor little thing was starving to death. He needed an operation on his throat. They stayed with us until he took the baby home and he went overseas.

Another couple came to us from Wisconsin. She was a very young girl and her soldier husband was determined to teach her how to cook. He bought all kinds of canned food. Before he left for camp, he would open them for her and give her instructions.

But I was sure they had cooked shrimp every night for dinner. Now the smell of shrimp makes me sick.

All these kids were young and good. I still hear from many of them.

Sent in by Jim Redden



The first troops arrive for training at Camp Atterbury July 16, 1942.
The men were members of the Army's 83rd Division

Hi Buddy Robert:

I am sending some copies made of the interview I had with the local paper. If you can use any of them it would be nice to have them in the Thunderbolt. I have been getting letters from some of my buddies for the first time, they are interested.

Many now are retiring so they have time to make contact. I have had these foot & leg ulcers for 4 years now, so can't get to meetings & reunions.

I am sending my 1994 dues 10.00. I have some contact with buddy from 330th, 331st Inf. Regiments. I haven't met them but they are interested in my situation. I am working for the Central Plains Chapter to grow.

Do what you can with this.

As Ever

Ralph

Rolla N.D.

Christmas on the Front

by David Rossmiller
Turtle Mountain Star
Rolla, North Dakota



RAY MILLER

Over the years, Christmas has meant as many different things as there were people to share it, and the gift of Christmas has taken many forms. But most people, if asked what the gift of Christmas really is, would say being with family and friends once again, sharing a time of love and joy, but above all, peace on earth.

Unfortunately, for all too many people who have lived through the hardships and brutalities of war, Christmases past have been none of these things.

Two such men are Ray Miller and Joe Weidemann, both of Rolla, but each with a vastly different story and a very different history.

Miller, a North Dakota native, served with the U.S. Army in the Southwestern Pacific, taking part in such major campaigns as Guadalcanal, New Britain, the Philippines, Los Negros and the occupation of the southern half of Korea.

Weidemann, who was born and raised in Germany, fought on the side of the Axis powers in the war, serving two years on the now legendary Russian Front with the German 5th Mountain Division.

Despite the differences of country, culture, background, politics and ideology, the two men, along with millions of others, were able to bridge all the gulfs between them at least for one brief day in the year -- Christmas Day. It was celebrated by both men half a world apart in distance, and a world apart in outlook, but there was that one highest common denominator -- Christmas.

By any ordinary measurements, the Christmas Ray Miller spent in 1944 was no present. He was jammed into a troopship on his way to the impending American invasion of Luzon, the main island of the Philippines. There was Christmas dinner and services, and not much more. There was no nighttime bash or extravaganza, no extra

festivities. The ship was blacked out for fear of Japanese submarines.

But in a way, in the midst of the biggest, deadliest, hardest-fought war in the history of Earth, Miller shared in a gift many men, women and children had been denied that Christmas in 1944: life.

And Joe Weidemann also shared in this gift, life, in his two Christmases on the Russian Front, where men were found frozen dead in the morning, gathered and stacked like discarded puppets; or discovered days after death, by men shocked even after all the suffering they had seen, almost devoured by lice, chewed on by rats.

"There was no exchange of fire on Christmas Eve. Not on our Christmas Eve (the German's -- the traditional Latin Dec. 24 date) or on the Russians' (occurring on the Russian Orthodox religious calendar several weeks later)" said Weidemann. "We heard them sing, and they heard us sing -- we had lights showing, people could walk around without fear of being shot, there was absolutely not a shot fired."

From the frigid steppes of Russia to the tropical heat off New Guinea, from the 5th Division of the German Wehrmacht to the U.S. Army's 40th Division, there was not much in common between two men far apart on a Christmas day in the year one thousand nine hundred and forty-four; not much, except perhaps worry, and fear, and loneliness; and a hope for the future called Christmas that, in some mysterious and inexplicable way, made it all seem bearable and distant, if just for one day.

Ray Miller served as a forward observer for both land and naval artillery fire in World War II. He commanded a squad of five men for most of the war, directing fire on enemy positions for the Navy near the shore, and for the Army further inland.

He was attached to the U.S. 40th Division, participating in often fierce action with the Japanese in the Solomons, the Bismarck archipelago and the Philippines, landing on three islands of that nation -- Luzon, Panay and Los Negros -- to help liberate it from the Japanese.

Two weeks after Christmas, Miller landed in the third wave on Luzon January 9, 1945. He said that as the Philippines was being liberated the people cheered and greeted the advancing Americans with enthusiasm. "Marching through one town, we saw a very good-looking Philippine girl up on a balcony, and she was wearing a wedding dress. She had vowed not to get married till the Americans liberated the island -- it was her wedding day," said Miller.

Miller was "processed out" of the Army in December 1945 and arrived home in North Dakota just before Christmas. "It was 20 below. After three years in the tropics, man, I was miserable," Miller said.

He served in the U.S. Army Reserve after his discharge, retiring after attaining the rank of major.

Joe Weidemann was born in the southern part of what is now West Germany. He served with the German army from January 1943 until his capture by the French in May 1945 just before the German capitulation.

Weidemann was involved in some of the worst

fighting of the war: "house-to-house, man -to-man fighting," he said. His outfit, the 5th Mountain Division, was equipped with heavy machine guns "and skis, but we didn't need the skis much in Russia -- too flat," he said.

With the vast steppes of Russia to maneuver on, the Germans and Russians were constantly cutting off hunks of armies, Weidemann said, "then you'd gather together and break out, and surround the enemy." He and his platoon were cut off on one occasion -- some of his buddies advocated surrender. Weidemann replied with an expletive, and he and a comrade took up their machine guns and began marching toward their own lines.

On the way, a Russian tank spotted Weidemann and fired at him. "He fired straight, but too short," said Weidemann. "I went flying ass over teakettle, got up and kept running."

He was wounded three times, the first time he saw a Russian soldier on a hill above him raise his rifle and fire, shooting him through the elbow and torso. After a recuperative period of six months, Weidemann returned to action, again being wounded in December 1943, only days after Christmas. He was wounded again in January 1945 in Poland. He spent the rest of the war in the hospital.

He worked on a farm in France as a forced laborer after his capture for 2 1/2 years. "We earned 130 francs per month -- that's enough for two packs of cigarettes and a bar of soap."

He escaped to Switzerland, then to Germany. Weidemann emigrated to Canada in December 1953. He has lived in Rolla for 18 years.

Wavra recalls the weather as the enemy

by David Rossmiller
Turtle Mountain Star
Rolla, North Dakota



Ralph Wavra



Joe Weidemann

Ralph Wavra of Rolla remembers Christmas of 1944 for a special reason -- he was in the United States 83rd Division as it was retreating before the final German onslaught of World War II.

The 83rd had crossed into Germany near the Roer River when a mass attack in Belgium forced the division to pack up and hurry north to prevent a German breakthrough toward the

English Channel.

Wavra's outfit spent a spartan Christmas that year at "Aachen, Germany, the ancient capital of Charlemagne's empire. There wasn't time for sightseeing, though. "The orders were changing so fast, they moved the kitchen three times before they finally got it settled to cook Christmas dinner," Wavra said. "We didn't have much time for a formal Christmas service or anything like that."

Before the Battle of the Bulge started. Wavra "had heard rumors flying that we (83rd Division) were going back to the United States -- but I sure found out differently."

The German attack, although focused on divisions north of the 83rd, threw the division reeling to keep on the flanks of the advancing Germans, who moved deep into Belgium's Ardennes forest. The enemy spearheaded the attack with paratroop, drops and a tank charge of over 500 initial waves.

The 329th "Buckshot" Battalion, of which Wavra was a member, led one of the first counter-attacks on the German positions, on the Belgian city of Rochefort, of cheese fame. The Germans continued to advance, however, said Wavra, and fighting was intense. The difficulties facing the soldiers were compounded by the intense cold of the winter and the deep snow that year.

Wavra said the cold did not compare to a North Dakota winter, "but then we were outdoors all the time we were fighting, we were cold all the time. If you knew what you were doing you would hang on all right in the cold, but some of those guys from down South weren't used to that kind of weather, they had never been in cold like that. You'd have to tell them to keep moving or put their overshoes on or they'd freeze," said Wavra.

"We were always out in the weather, for weeks on end," said Wavra. "We were aware of the (German offensive), but the weather was the real enemy, you had to fight that every minute."

Wavra said his experiences earlier in the year advancing against the Germans in Normandy made him wary of the danger, but at the same time, "you couldn't really think about it." In the fierce hedgerow fighting and the costly march through the Norman countryside bristling with German mortars, artillery and heavy machine guns, Wavra had seen many buddies go down.

"Unless you'd lived through it you could never know exactly how it (hedgerow fighting) was. It was like a checkerboard, you'd take one row and they'd zero in on you with mortars and machine guns, then you'd have to take another one. One of the scariest things I ever saw in combat was the first time we were under fire -- the twigs from the hedgerow started snapping off and flying through the air. They were being cut by machine gun bullets," said Wavra.

Wavra's worries were compounded by the fact he had a wife and baby daughter at home. He said he was picked by a North Dakota draft board largely because he had recently moved to a different community and the local board was reluctant to pick too many local men. "Some people asked me, 'What are you doing here? Why did they pick you? We've got plenty of guys here who should go.'"

The 83rd Division participated in driving the German troops back and stabilizing the front lines once again. Wavra remained in the 83rd until the end of the war, crossing the Elbe with the division into what later became the Russian sector and then East Germany. "It was the job of our division to link up with the Russians," Wavra said.

Wavra was shipped back to the U.S. in May 1945 after Germany capitulated. He was discharged in November 1945.

The Battle of Normandy Foundation

President,
Communities Foundation of Texas
General John W. Vessey
Former Chairman,
Joint Chiefs of Staff

Dear Mr. Derickson:

It has come to our attention from one of your readers that the 83rd Infantry Division's newsletter, Thunderbolt, published inaccurate information regarding the Battle of Normandy Foundation. In response to the concerns of one of your readers, I want to assure you and your membership that the Foundation is in sound financial shape and that plans for constructing the Wall of Liberty in Normandy are proceeding apace.

The Foundation's books have been audited by Price Waterhouse and its programs and activities were reviewed by a four-member Independent Review Committee chaired by a member of our Board of Directors. Their conclusion was that the reporting by *The Washington Times* was inaccurate. I have enclosed a copy of that report. Also, enclosed is a copy of published letter to the Editor in *The Washington Times* from the Foundation's Chairman of the Board of Directors.

The Foundation has a number of projects in addition to the Wall of Liberty, including a scholarship program and the U.S. Armed Forces Memorial Garden, which broke ground last year and will be completed and dedicated on June 5, 1994 during the 50th Anniversary celebrations in June 1994.

The Independent Review Committee and Price Waterhouse determined that 63 percent of the \$8.2 million raised by the Foundation since 1985 has gone for WWII programs and activities and 37 has gone for administration, fund raising and salaries. These numbers fall well within accepted philanthropy-industry guidelines.

In advance, we greatly appreciate your offer to clarify these matters in your newsletter so that concerned veterans, their families and friends receive accurate fact-based information. For further information please call the Battle of Normandy Foundation at 202-728-0672 or write to us at 1730 Rhode Island Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Best Regards
Beverly Siegel
Director, Public Affairs
& Communications

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY FOUNDATION

Independent Review Committee Members:
William A. McKenzie, Chairman
Former Chairman, Board of Regents
of Texas A & M
Judge H.F. Gierke
U.S. Court of Military Appeals
Edward M. Fjordbak

Conclusion

In Conclusion, *The Washington Times* articles focus on two major accusations, (1) that the Battle of Normandy Foundation was not spending its donations on proper causes; and (2) that Anthony C. Stout and his controlled corporation GIM Corp. took advantage of the Battle of Normandy for personal aggrandizement.

Relative to the first accusation, *The Washington Times* says that the Foundation spent less than ten percent (10%) of its money on World War II commendation programs in fulfilling the Foundation's aims. Such is blatantly untrue in that sixty three percent (63%) of the monies spent by the Foundation was for program service expenses, which well meets the Council of Better Business Bureau's fifty percent (50%) criteria for administration/fund raising. Further, in its allegations *The Washington Times* says nominal dollars were spent on veterans programs by the Foundation in the years 1991-1992. The facts are that in the years 1991-1992 the Foundation spent over \$100,000 averaged over the two years on the Foundation's military and veterans service programs in carrying out the aims of the Foundation to honor Normandy veterans. In fact, the Battle of Normandy Foundation met its stated corporate goals in helping establish and operate the museum at Caen, France; create and establish the Normandy Scholars Program; planning and establishing the Memorial Garden and Wall to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Normandy, and in raising money for all programs and developing the museum site and promoting the use of the Memorial Museum.

On the second point raised by the paper's articles that Stout took personal advantage of the Foundation individually and through GIM Corp., the facts are equally clear. First, there was no significant or material business advantage for GIM Corp. and, to the contrary, GIM Corp. assisted the Foundation in sharing space and personnel in the Foundation's formative years. Stout was the creator and driving force of the Foundation serving as its President without salary for eight (8) years and, in the years 1990-1991, also doubled as its director of fundraising when the then fundraiser resigned, for which Stout was paid one-half of the former director's salary. Further, during the same years or over a four (4) year period, Stout pledged \$120,000 to the Foundation and through 1993 Stout's pledge to the Foundation was paid current in the sum of \$90,000.00, making Stout the Foundation's largest single donor. Stout further made or guaranteed loans of \$451,000.00 to the Foundation when banks would not provide credit without a guarantor. Price Waterhouse in doing its investigative work for the Committee found all specific accusations against Stout and GIM Corp. to be unsupported.

The Committee believes and accordingly submits to the Board of Directors that the author of the articles published either relied on faulty sources or reached unsubstantiated conclusions based on either faulty research or the lack of appropriate research.

Based on an in-depth investigation and on all available evidence, the Committee believes that a campaign to discredit the Foundation and Stout in particular originated from a former employee in the hope that it would conceal or camouflage unauthorized financial misconduct. The Washington Times reporter appears to have accepted assertions and allegations without requiring third-party confirmation which the Committee was unable to find from any source.

Finally, the Committee extends its thanks and appreciation to Price Waterhouse and its staff for its detailed work and likewise extends its appreciation to the staff and management of the Battle of Normandy Foundation for its excellent cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,
Judge H. F. Gierke
General John W. Vessey
William A. McKenzie
Edward M. Fjordbak

The Washington Times Friday, March 25, 1994

The Times twists the facts to make a case against Normandy foundation.

The Battle of Normandy Foundation has over the past six months repeatedly sought to respond to charges leveled at its financial operations and founding president by the Washington Times. The charges have been exhaustively addressed point by point in a letter to The Times, which the paper has declined to print or even reference in its coverage. An Independent "Review Committee report and an audit by Price Waterhouse, both of which were subsequently forwarded to The Times, found no evidence of financial impropriety. The paper has yet to report these findings.

On Feb. 23, in yet another article that fails to contain even one word of rebuttal from the foundation, The Times claims in a headline that "Money misconduct knocks Stout off Foundation." As there has been no finding of financial misconduct at the Battle of Normandy Foundation by any of the bodies constituted to investigate its affairs, the statement is not only false, but indeed malicious.

It used to be a customary practice in journalism to report both sides of a story. As The Times has abandoned this tradition in favor of the omniscient voice, perhaps you will extend to us the courtesy of a few inches in

your letters to the editor column to correct but a handful of many distortions.

- Exonerated by an Independent Review Committee and by Price Waterhouse in its investigation, Founding President Anthony C. Stout voluntarily removed himself from direct responsibility for the foundation's affairs. He has taken this step so that the foundation's work can move forward without further distraction.

- According to Price Waterhouse, 63 percent of funds raised by the foundation have been spent on foundation projects, which is within philanthropy guidelines. The Washington Times is aware of this fact, yet persists in claiming otherwise.

- The foundation will enroll any veteran unable to afford the \$40 registration fee for "The Wall of Liberty."

The foundation is working very closely with the Battle Monuments and Fine Arts Commissions, neither of which has charged the foundation with violating any law. Your statement to the contrary is false. In raising funds for its projects, the foundation is engaging in customary nonprofit practices and is in violation of no laws.

WILLIAM A. MCKENZIE
Chairman of the Board
Battle of Normandy Foundation
Dallas

RECALLING A NIGHT AT OMAHA BEACH

Like thousands of G.I.'s, a survivor will return to Normandy with memories of the Allied invasion.

By JAMES BARRON
THE TIMES



Seymour W.
Miller

Seymour W. Miller found the long-forgotten photographs in a scrapbook, and it all came rushing back. There he was in uniform at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. And in Patchway, England, where he never got a good night's sleep -- the ack-ack guns seemed to be going around the clock. But there was nothing in the scrapbook about the lonely voyage across the English Channel, the landing craft piloted by the ensign who hadn't shaved in three days, the climb down the rope ladder, the scramble across the beach they called Omaha.

Like thousands of G.I.'s he hardly needs photos of that daring June 50 years ago: he has his memories of the Normandy invasion.

Like thousands of G.I.'s, he will carry them along when he returns to Normandy in June.

He will travel more comfortably than when he was

First Lieut. Miller on a troop ship -- he is going on a tour with the nonprofit Battle of Normandy Foundation, which is based in Washington. He will attend a ceremony at which President Clinton and other leaders will no doubt say thanks for a job well done.

"But the main reason for my going back is not to see the ceremony," said Mr. Miller, now 79 years old and a major in the retired reserves. "I'm going to the cemetery to say a prayer and an inadequately repeated thank you. All those young lives snuffed out. I lived a lifetime and they didn't." The Normandy American Cemetery in nearby Colleville-sur-Mer has maps that chart troop movements through Normandy -- the American forces pushing across Omaha and Utah Beaches, the British and Canadians at Sword, Juno and Gold. It looked easy, but wasn't: more than 9,300 soldiers are buried in the cemetery.

This will be Mr. Miller's second trip back. He went to Normandy in 1979, and the visit to Omaha Beach turned out to be something of a letdown. "We didn't find any signs, and we're lost," he said. "I remember seeing two cops on the road. I said in fractured French, 'Qu'est-ce que c'est Omaha?' They said they came from Brittany and didn't fight in the war. They didn't know."

But Mr. Miller's knowledge of where he was and when has its gaps, starting with when he hit the beach.

"My outfit, as best I can tell, landed on D plus-3," he said. "I was sent ahead with two sergeants. We were supposed to get some equipment that wasn't there. They shoved us on this strange ship. No friends, didn't know anybody. What a lonely ride that was. I think we left at night and the next day we climbed up the hill. There were no shots."

The Germans had been in observation bunkers nestled in the ravines. But Lieutenant Miller had a problem. "I couldn't find my outfit," he said. "I slept under a quarter-ton truck on a hill over the beach. I saw that the sergeants got some K-rations: cheese, chewing gum, cigarettes, all in a box that looked like it was made of wax paper. God, did I hate it." He found his outfit the next day. A few days later, he buried the unit's first casualty. "He was a kid from Indiana, a private, I don't even remember his name," he said. "He wasn't even killed in combat. He was running around a jeep. That affected me more than all the dead I saw later."

Half a world away that June 5, Mr. Miller's father had a severe heart attack.

Mr. Miller did not find out until he came home from Europe in July 1945; his mother did not tell him and did not ask the Army or the Red Cross to send him home. She also told his friends not to tell him in their letters. "You might have been distracted and therefore hurt," she said. "Your place was there."

Now, for a few days, it will be his place again. But he is visibly uncomfortable when the conversation turns to the notion of heroism.

"I was just another dogface soldier," said Mr. Miller, who went on to a career as a lawyer in New York. "I did what every other soldier did. When we get to the cemetery, we realize we're lucky and they're the great ones.

Madison family sent three to fight in World War II

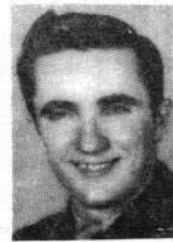
By Edna L. Jakubowski
Journal Staff Writer



Robert
Stepanovich



George
Stepanovich



Sam
Stepanovich

COLUMBIANA -- There once were three brothers working on the family farm outside of Wellsville. It was during the early years of 1940. The three brothers went off to fight in World War II, and only two made it home.

The three brothers were George, Robert and Sam Stepanovich and they lived on a farm in Madison Township.

George and Sam were a part of the invasion of Normandy, France. One came back as a decorated hero and the other never even knew if the Allies won.

George, the oldest of the three brothers, entered the U.S. Army in the early part of 1942 and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. He was a glider.

George had spent time on missions in Sicily, Africa, and Italy campaign and others before going to England for the Invasion of Europe.

On June 6, 1944, George prepared to glide to the Normandy shore. As he was heading toward the shore, his glider crashed into a tree and he was killed.

It wasn't until 15 days later, that the family received a telegram from the government saying George had been killed.

Robert Stepanovich aid 85 percent of the men in George's division were either killed or wounded in the first hour of the D-Day attack.

"The last time I talked to my brother, he knew he wasn't coming back," he said. Robert said the thought wasn't spoken, but was something he could sense George was feeling.

The telegrams didn't stop with the one loss, there were still two brothers in the military and the telegrams kept coming.

Sam was in the second attack wave of D-Day. He was in the 83rd Division. He made it out alive, but not without injury.

The Stepanovich family first received a telegram saying Sam was missing in action, but later through a second telegram they were told he was injured and in a hospital.

Sam stayed with the 83rd Division all the way to Berlin. He was wounded three times and earned three purple hearts, amongst the 10 medals he received during his military career.

Robert Stepanovich always wanted to join the military and almost didn't get his chance. Being the youngest of three, the military almost rejected his offer to join because it would place an undo hardship on the family.

Both of his brothers were drafted and he volunteered.

But with any war there is hardship to experience and the Stepanovich family experienced theirs through the loss of George.

Robert was in the U.S. Air Force. He said when he first went into the service morale was high, but when his brother was killed he realized there was a war going on.

"I'm glad I was in, but I would never want to do it again," Stepanovich said.

He said being in the military was being in a dictatorship.

"Back then you had a job to do and you did it."

"A lot of good people got killed in that," Stepanovich said.

In Fort Monmouth in New Jersey, where George spent part of his time during his military service, the men planted a tree and erected a plaque in his honor.

Robert said no one from the family was able to attend or has visited the memorial. The base did send the family photos of the dedication.

George is buried in the Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

"For all veterans, people should recognize what they did for this country and not throw it away," he said.

Stepanovich said he wanted society to remember D-Day and all the wars so that they don't happen again. He had two sons who served during the "Vietnam era."

Robert now lives near Columbiana and Sam lives in Glenmoor.

The Battlescape of Normandy

To these beaches came the largest armada ever to fight an epic struggle, yet today the countryside seems hardly changed

*By Stephen E. Ambrose
New York Times*

Sgt. D. Zane Schlemmer of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment has vivid memories of the hedgerow country in the Cotentin Peninsula of Normandy. He jumped behind enemy lines at 2:35 A.M. on June 6, 1944, and for the next month his life revolved around hedgerows. They enclosed small fields, often not much larger than a football field, and consisted of ancient trees and shrubs growing out of a mounded base of solid earth, six feet in height, the roots 1,000 years old. Sunken paths between the hedgerows provided the German defenders with a ready-made trench system. This was a special hell for the American infantry of World War II, because each field had to be taken, one by one. The problem for the G.I.'s was that

they could not tell if a field had land mines in it, or if there was a German machine gunner hidden in the hedge on the far side. But Sergeant Schlemmer soon discovered a natural ally. If cows were grazing in the field, there were no mines. "Also," he says, "those cows were by nature quite curious and I could tell whether anyone was hiding in a hedge, because the cows would stand facing him." So, he concluded, "Over the years, I've had a place in my heart for those lovely Norman Cows with the big eyes and big udders."

The cows are still there, but more than half the hedgerows are gone. After the war, the Norman farmers began to acquire tractors. They needed bigger fields to justify the expense, so many of the hedgerows were knocked down by bulldozers. The best place to see hedgerows today the way G.I.'s saw them is in the area around Chef-du-Pont, on the small country roads southwest of Ste.-Mère-Église. Another change in the landscape of great significance to the battlefield visitor is at Omaha Beach.

Everyone knows the story of the men from the first and second wave at Omaha huddling against the seawall (on the west half of the six-mile-long beach) or lying down behind the shingle embankment (east half). The protection afforded by the 10-foot high seawall or 6-foot high embankment was illusory, however, because German mortar fire was dropping on the men from above. There was no possibility of retreating; tanks weren't going to lead the way because no tank could climb and seawall of the embankment; staying put meant getting killed: here, there, soon everywhere along the front junior officers and noncoms called out "Follow me!" and led the way up the steep, 150 foot bluff. The first captain to get his company up on top was Joe Dawson, G Company, 16th Regiment. It was one of the great moments of the war.

But today's visitor sees only a modern, low seawall on the west end, and shingle that is only a few inches high and a couple of feet broad on the west half. The originals are gone because starting on June 7, 1944, Army engineers bulldozed the shingle out of the way and knocked down the seawall, so that vehicles coming in on landing craft could drive off the beach.

The focal point for Americans visiting Normandy is the United States cemetery above Omaha Beach. To get to it from the beach, climb the paved path that winds up the bluff. Start from smack in the middle of the beach, at the sector called Easy Red. You will be following almost the exact route Joe Dawson took. The cemetery is impeccably maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission. No American can visit it without pride, without tears, or without wondering, What did it all mean?

On D-day, the Allies broke through the wall at a cost of more than 2,500 killed. Over the following weeks the battle of Normandy in the hedgerows was frightfully expensive; divisions lost 50 percent and more of their strength. On July 19, St. Lo was captured, and then the liberation of Paris quickly followed.

Normandy today is little changed from the Normandy of 50 years ago. Many villages whose names ring in American ears, like Ste.-Mère-Église or Ste.-Marie-du-Mont, have neither shrunk nor grown. Norman farmers drive tractors today, but their clothes and boots look like those of 50 years ago -- and so do the huge manure piles in their fields. The pace of life continues to be set by bovine time. This is still the land of rich cream and wondrous cheeses and cider and calvados and seafood, small restaurants, and friendly people. Nowhere else in France are Americans so welcome.

To make sense of the battle, visitors should start where the action began, in Ste-Mère - Église. It was there, shortly after midnight on June 6, that Pvt. John Shields got his parachute hung up on the steeple of the church and watched the firefight below him as his buddies from the 82nd Airborne came down in the courtyard. The church is unchanged, the square is unchanged, the little shops around the square are unchanged. Across from the square is the Airborne Troops' Museum, a good place to get an orientation.

From there, drive to the coast at Utah Beach. German bunkers are all around, some half-covered with sand, one now used to grow mushrooms, others used by French vacationers as seaside villas. Then on to Pointe du Hoc, where the United States Army Rangers climbed a 328-foot vertical bluff, going up ropes hand-over-hand, to destroy German guns that threatened both Utah and Omaha Beaches.

Fifty years later, Pointe du Hoc remains an overwhelming sight. It is hard to say which is more impressive, the amount of reinforced concrete the Germans poured to build their bunkers or the damage done to them by Allied shells and bombs. Huge chunks of concrete, as big as houses, are scattered over the half mile square area, as if the gods were playing dice. Surprisingly, the massive concrete observation post at the edge of the cliff remains intact.

At Omaha not only are the shingle and sea wall gone, so are the trenches that crisscrossed the bluff. The concrete emplacements remain. These are huge casements with cannon staring down the beach. The American National Guard Monument is built on top of one of the biggest, at the mouth of the draw coming down the bluff from the village of St.-Laurent-sur-Mer.

Omaha's sand is a fine golden red. The tides are among the highest in the world (behind the Bay of Fundy in Canada and Inchon in South Korea). It is an instructive, if dangerous, place to go for a swim. I have done it some three dozen times. The experience will help you understand why so many of those overloaded American infantrymen in the first wave drowned, as you fall into a runnel or are swept along by the strength of the tidal current.

Just east of Omaha is the German four-gun battery at Longues-sur-Mer. Each gun had its own camouflaged bunker. Two of the guns were knocked out by British cruisers; one gun is intact; on the fourth emplacement, the British cruiser Ajax scored what was either the most accurate or the luckiest hit of the invasion -- perhaps both. The entire breech mechanism of the 155-millimeter cannon is simply gone. The barrel, three-inch-thick steel, lies in little pieces and the emplacement looks as if a tactical nuclear weapon had gone off inside. Evidently Ajax sent one of its six-inch shells through the embrasure of the emplacement at a moment when the breech was open and the gunners were loading a shell into it. The shell must have gone off in the open breech. At that same instant, the steel door leading to the magazine below must have been open; the fire from the explosion ran down into the magazine and set off the piles of 155 millimeter ammunition stored there.

What a bang that must have been! It tore off the six-foot-thick reinforced concrete roof, scattering automobile size chunks of it around. More than any other site, the battery at Longues-sur-Mer gives a sense of the ferocity of the battle.

To the east is Arromanches, code named Gold, one of three British landing sites. Dominating the scene here are the huge caissons, or concrete boxes, that were transported across the Channel by the British shortly after D-Day and sunk to create Breakwaters for the artificial harbor named Mulberry. At low tide you can walk out to them; at high tide they are just

visible. The Invasion Museum in town does a good job of explaining the engineering that made it possible to build instant port facilities. The British beaches are dotted with monuments to the liberators, but more important to the local tourist industry than those monuments are the French people, who come in large numbers for their seaside vacations. Lots of small restaurants and hotels, cotton candy shops, wind surfers and the like.

Pegasus Bridge, over the Orne Canal midway between the coast and Caen, was the left flank of the invasion. It was captured just after midnight by Maj. John Howard's Ox and Bucks Company of the British Sixth Airborne Division, in a glider-borne operation. The Café Gondrée, right beside the bridge, was the first house to be liberated in France. Still in business as a cafe, it is exactly as it was in 1944. Markers show where Major Howard's gliders landed. The bridge, alas, was taken down early this year; a new, larger bridge is being constructed; the French promise it will be finished in time for the anniversary.

Museums abound in the area, some of them so-called outlaw museums, which are privately run for profit, and it is my experience that these should be avoided. The museums that should be seen are the Battle of Normandy Museum in Caen, the Battle of Normandy Museum in Bayeux (where it would be a sin to miss the Tapestry that depicts that other great conflict, the Battle of Hastings in 1066) and the Invasion Museum at La Madeleine on Utah Beach, along with those already mentioned in Arromanches and Ste.-Mère-Église.

There are also too many cemeteries for a single visit. The British always bury their war dead where they fell. Their cemeteries are in Ranville and Bayeux. British military regulations allow parents or widows to choose a bit of poetry, either original or a quotation, that is inscribed on each gravestone; they make compelling reading.

The huge, sombar German cemetery is west of Bayeux on the N-13, on the south side of the road. The Germans are buried four to a grave, most of them unknown soldiers.

The American Army gave parents or widows a choice -- they could leave their dead where they were, or have the bodies disinterred and brought home for burial. For 40 years, some of those parents and widows visited Normandy to bring their sons or husbands home. In virtually every case, after seeing the cemetery at Omaha, the superintendent told me 12 years ago, the parents changed their minds. It seems the right place.

About 30,000 G.I.'s were killed in Normandy campaign; 9,386 are buried here under the crosses and Stars of David. Walking among them, one is struck by how young they were, and how American -- they came from every state in the Union, and the names are Polish, German, Russian, Jewish, Irish, Greek, English, Dutch, Scandinavian.

In the circular chapel in the middle of the cemetery are inscribed these words: "Think not only upon their passing. Remember the glory of their spirit."



50th Anniversary D-Day Pictures



May 30, 1994 - Henri Chapelle American Cemetery in Liege, Belgium.



Henri Chapelle American Cemetery in Liege, Belgium



May 29, 1994 - Welcome Reception at the Hilton Brussels, Belgium.



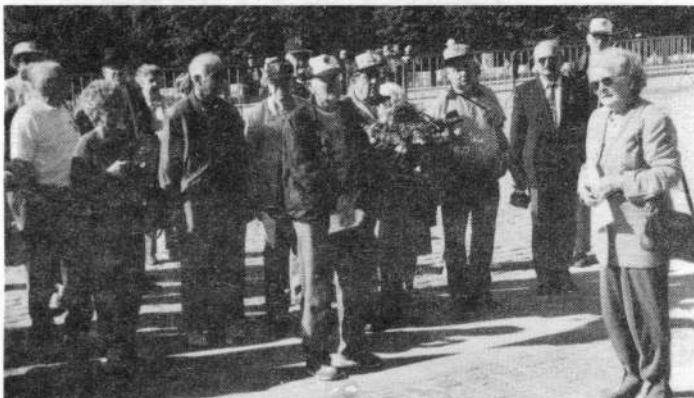
May 29, 1994 - Welcome Reception at the Hilton Brussels, Belgium of the 329th guys.



June 1, 1994 - Luncheon Reception at Grevennocher, Luxembourg. Germany across the river.



May 31, 1994 - Reception at the Clervaux Castle in Clervaux, Luxembourg



June 1, 1994 - Memorial Service at the Hamm American Military Cemetery Luxembourg.



May 31, 1994 Reception Luxembourg at luncheon with Bob presenting Tillie a copy of the original history book "Thunderbolt across Europe"

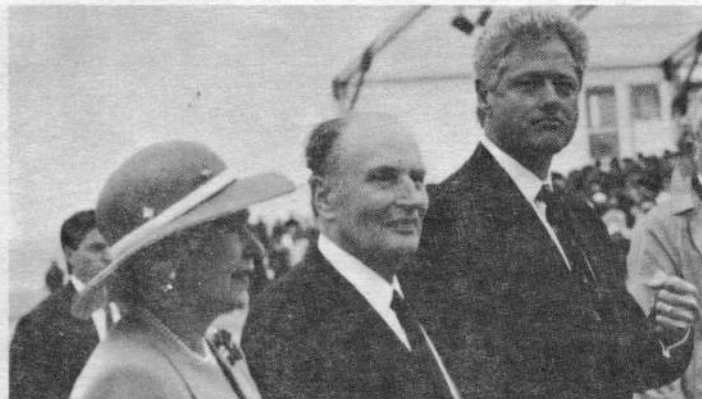
50th Anniversary D-Day Pictures



June 5, 1994 - Bob & Mayor of Sainteny, France at Reception.



June 4, 1994 - Reception at Saint Malo, France with Bob & Mayor.



June 6, 1994 - Omaha Beach, France, Queen of England, Pres. of France and Pres. Clinton.



May 31, 1994 - Luncheon Reception at Clervaux, Luxembourg.



June 7, 1994 - Group at Normandy American Cemetery for special Veterans Memorial Service.



June 4, 1994 - Reception at St. Malo, France with Bob presenting a plaque from the 83rd.



June 6, 1994 - Omaha Beach, France. President Clinton and Hilary.



Bob in front of sign in Bergel, Germany where our CMH Ralph Neppel was wounded.

...Letters...Letters...Letters

Dear Robert:

I am enclosing my dues for the association. It seems that I keep forgetting to send them to you.

When the division was called to active duty in 1942, I was still in high school. I graduated in May of 1943 and was drafted into the army in September of 1943. I was sent to Mississippi to join the 63rd Division for basic training. When basic training was finished I was sent to join the 83rd. in February of 1944. I was in company G. 330th

After being wounded in Normandy I was sent back to England. When returned to the division I was placed in Company A 330th.

I cannot come to all the reunions because I am still working full time due to having two grandchildren to raise. I am signed up for the trip to Europe in May and June.

I am enclosing two items I have written about World War II.

See you in May.

Sincerely:

Robert Kabrich

7609 Helean Drive, Falls Church, Virginia 22043

On that day September one, 1939

The world was immersed into war for the second time.

The world found itself in a trance over the conquest of Poland and France.

The English stood along facing the foe
Determined to defend their shore.

In face of their adversary each day
They showed true grit and found the way

To keep the enemy away from their bay.
On that day June twenty-one 1941

The foe cast its eyes to the east
To conquer the bear
But in the end would get their woe.

On that fatal day December seven, 1941
The East attacked the West
And the whole world found itself in a big mess.

The allies would use hit and run
The enemy using all of its might to conquer the world
The allies having only a few guns.

The world rose to the challenge
Through production and enthusiastic action.

Then came the beginning of the end in 1943,
Stalingrad, North Africa, Sicily, Italy and next year
The big one.

On a spring day six June 1944,
The invasion of a continent
The foe had to know the end was near.

Once again on sixteen December 1944,
A blow was struck by the foe

Which would rely end their power.

On May eight 1945 the end came to those who would dreamed of ruling the world for a thousand years.

Robert Kabrich

Here we are in the Bocage. This place is nothing like the terrain which we had in basic training. In Mississippi everyone joked about digging a fox hole and striking water three feet and the manual specifications stating it should be four feet. Our Company Commander tried to make us think positive, no shortage of water. Every one felt sure we would go to the Pacifica after weeks of hacking our way through grape vines. After seventeen weeks of basic all of us were sent to Kentucky to join another division. There we captured all of the green hills. Six weeks later there we were getting on a ship in New York and wondered where it was headed. The doughboys were in the lowest part of the ship and there speculation as to when a wall might come open with a gush of water. This talk was done to make you forget the fact that you had never learned to swim. On a bright April day, temperature 90, you arrived in England. Orders were given that the uniform to debark is the winter uniform and overcoats. The air on the ship turned blue.

Orders were given for more training in England and in May the conquest of Wales. Look at those mountains. We must be going to Italy. Here we are in France with six foot thick hedgerows, and who knows how tall? Unless you want to guess what is on the other side you have to take your bayonet and dig a space to look through so you will know what is happening in front of you. Our officers told us to quit griping and to think of all the fresh air and sunshine even the environment could be hazardous to your health. Where else could you dig your home every night and it might even have running water when it rains. So here we are in jungle warfare and after all maybe the brass knew what they were doing when they gave us all of that training.

Robert Kabrich

Dear Bob:

Just received my No (2) issue of the Thunderbolt and I saw a picture on page 31 of some of the buddies who are Nobles in the Shrine, I notice by the name on their Fex that they are members of Acca #28 Shrine Temple in Richmond Va., and who just recently were installed as officers in the Waynesboro Shrine Club.



I am also a noble in Kismet #36 Shrine Temple A.A.O.N.M.S. of New Hyde Park, N.Y. I want to send them fraternal greetings and wish them well and good success in their new office, I am also on the transportation committee whereby when a crippled child from New York has to go to the hospital we take them to the Shrine Hospital in Philadelphia Pa. Bob I am sending along a picture of yours truly with my wife Ruth that was taken at our Wine & Cheese concert that we have every year, "How do you like my wife yawning when the picture was taken, "some sport Ha, Ha,"

Bob will you please put this in the next issue of the Thunderbolt, and also I would appreciate it very much if you can return the picture to me.

Best Regards
Roland N. Grebinger
"B" Btry 324 F.A. Bn.
"B" Co. 330th Reg.

Dear Robert,

A lot of years have gone by since the day I joined the 83rd Inf. Division, 331st Regt., 3rd Bn. as a medical Corpsman, litter-bearer....on July 15, 1944. (I had landed on Utah Beach June 22nd and was with Replacement Battalion until that day.

I am sorry I was only able to last until Aug. 5th, 1944 5:00 P.M. (quitting time?) when a German machine gun bullet (s) shattered my femur bone, left leg, while I was patching up a chest wound (behind a tree, I thought) in a wheat field at Dol de Bretagne, Brittany, on our assault on St. Malo.

I've often wondered what happened to the soldier I was patching up when I was shot? It would be nice to know that he survived, also.

Is there some way to find out who else was wounded at Dol de Bretagne on August 5 & 6/1944? If I can match up my memory with the person I was working on I would like that. Otherwise, the war was too impersonal for me. I never know, or can't recall anyone from the 83rd as a person, or ever a name.

August has always been a sad month for me, and I can close a chapter in my life. I do hope the soldier survived, and is possibly still alive and a member of the 83rd Inf. Div. Association, and I can meet him at the Pines Hotel Reunion. (I've never been to a re-union, think of myself only as a replacement...who was replaced himself Aug.5th/1944...and I know nobody then.

Thank You
Lenny Greenberg
360 Hewlett Parkway, Hewlett, N.Y. 11557



Dear Mr. Derickson,

I just got off the telephone with Art Koerner & was talking about my brother Elmer Marcotte. He is so helpful in giving me ideas as to go about finding fellows from Co. I - that may have known Elmer.

He told me to enclose a picture of Elmer to you. The only Army pictures that I have of him. Was this one from Adak, Island.

Elmer left from our hometown - White Bear Lake, Minnesota with the National Guard - January 1941. Stationed at Camp Haan, Riverside, Calif. - was transferred to San Francisco - then to Adak, Is. Aleutians June 1942. Headquarters Battery, 210 AAA Group came home on furlough Sept. '44 - Then to Camp Haan, Camp Howze Texas - Fort Meade, Maryland, Landed in Europe - December 1944.

Joined Co. I 329th Inf. 83rd Div. He was in England - Ireland - France Belgium. Was killed at Barby Germany. April 12, 1945, same day Pres. Roosevelt died.

Elmer was a Sgt. & squad leader when he was killed and is buried at Margraten, Netherlands near Maastricht.

I have tried to search for so many years to find any buddies of Elmer and always ran into a blank wall. Now I feel that I'm getting closer to it.

Thanks to all you fellows that have kept the memories etc. up about WWII.

Delvina Marcotte Lorenzen

I have many more pictures of Elmer in Adak but this was clear. I'm also trying to find out who this fellow was. He's in so many pictures. But no names.

"VETERANS OF 3rd BN, 330th INFANTRY, who liberated Northern Brittany. Task Force "A" is planning a 12 day "Sentimental Journey" along our Liberation Route -- St. Malo to Brest -- 8 Sep. to 20 Sep. 44 with many receptions. The London to London trip will be relatively cheap, a little over \$1250 depending on numb going. Time is Fleeting. Contact soonest.

Bob Dwan
1251 Sobre Lomas
Tucson AZ 85718 Tel (602) 299-6048



CPL. ROBERT N. COLLIER of Marysville, right, who was overseas 40 months with the 37th Division, is pictured right, with Pfc. John M. Hengely, 778 S. 22nd St. who served in Germany with the 83rd Division. The latter has been in service five years, served overseas 20 months, has five battle stars.

Hi Bob & Pearl

Hope you are feeling better. We are all fine here. Haven't heard from George Settle. We may get there to see him for our son lives down that way.

George is looking for John Hager, his last address was Jackson, Ohio. Lost contact. Do you have anything on him.

Keep up the good work but we are all getting older.

No one wants to take our places.

Mrs. George Peterson (Bertha)

Petersons mark 50th Anniversary. An open house honoring Mr. & Mrs. George E. (Pete) Peterson S. of R D #2 Box 125 Smithport, Pa. 16749 on their 50th Wedding Anniversary was held 2 to 6 p.m. March 19th at the Eldred American Legion Post 887. Mr. Peterson of Bradford, Pa. and the former Bertha M. Wood of Lewis Run, Pa. were married March 23rd 1944 at the home of Chaplain Hayes H. Webster at Camp Breckenridge, Ky. They were witness by George Settle and the late Mrs. Settlew.

Hosting the event will be the couples children. Retired Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. George E. Peterson of New Cumberland, Pa. Donald E. Peterson (Whitey) of Smithport and Bertrice Mattson of Warren. The couple also have nine grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren and raised other children. One Boy without legs.

Mr. Peterson retired from Bonaid & Seffang and Dresser Mfg. Division after 37 years.

Mrs. Peterson retired from Case Cutlery after 20 years.

*In honour of the
50th Wedding Anniversary
of
Mr. and Mrs. George E. Peterson
their children and grandchildren
request the pleasure of your company
at a
Buffet Reception
Saturday, March 19, 1994
at 2:00 pm.*

*American Legion
Eldred, Pennsylvania*

1944 50th 1994

Dear Mr. Derickson,

Some filler material that might interest you.

The Defense Department has designated Patchogue, N.Y. as a WWII Commemorative Community for 1994 and 1995. They have sent suggestions covering parades, holidays, me

dia coverage and ways to make people aware of the events of fifty years ago.

I am part of a group of veterans from the local V.F.W. Post visiting elementary and high schools to give some insights on WWII and to answer questions. We have a speaker to cover the Pacific Theater, another on the ETO, and a former POW to tell of civilian life during the war - rationing, Black Market, Air Raid Wardens, Blackouts, Bond Drives, etc.

Those of use that can get into them wear uniforms and bring memorabilia - weapons, helmets, shelter halves, web equipment, etc. When we get our presentations polished, we are to be video taped.

During my talks on the ETO, I have found interest in recreation and entertainment among some of the students. I told them about Bob Hope and Jerry Colonna in Passau on the Danube (and that it was a dirty green instead of blue). They have usually heard of Bob Hope, but most of the other names are known to only a few.

I remember Jack Benny, Martha Tilton (she sang a risqué song "I Wanna Get Married and go to bed in pajama tops."), Ingrid Bergman, but the names of others has faded. One USO troupe featured a man who was the sidekick to the Cisco Kid and he had several girls who sang and danced. The girls had several changes of costumes - all bathing suits!

A world famous violinist and his piano player came one rainy evening and started off with the Second Movement from the Seventh Symphony, paused, and then took off on Boogie-Woogie. He could play almost anything we requested. I can't recall the name.

I recall movies projected from inside a truck onto a bed sheet with the audience sitting outside in the mud. We all had seats of course, our helmets.

After the above, I tell them, "How I Won the War."

Some other 83rd veterans might want to check to see if their hometown has been designated as a WWII Commemorative Community.

Hal O'Neil, 83rd Signal

HELLO BUDDIES:

Here it is time once again to get ready to sit down quietly and read our next issue of our great publication, THE THUNDERBOLT. (After our wives have read it), I say this because I know that many of you like myself may have felt that you are head of the House, but you take second place when this arrives in the Mail.

Well Buddies, having just sat and watched about five and a half hours of television of the 50th year celebration that is taking place in Normandy, I try to wipe away the tears long enough to get this written. To those of you who had the great pleasure to be able to sit and watch this, I am sure that you had many tears flow as you watched those landing crafts bringing our men ashore and knowing that somewhere along the line, you were in one of those boats. As I watched it, I saw that Captain of Co. G, 116th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division tell of he and his communication sergeant and company clerk were fortunate to come ashore, and 30 of his men never left the boat, I couldn't help but think of those other men whose bodies were floating on the water as we went ashore. Once again let us dry our eyes, and try to think of what lies ahead for us. Before we get the eyes too dry, let us all get on our knees and thank God that we were fortunate enough to see it through and come back home. They showed that American Memorial Cemetery at Colliersville, France, where 9,300 + men lie.

Now to get to something more cheerful that is facing us,

the Greater Boston Chapter of our Association is hard at work planning our 48th Annual Reunion. It is almost impossible to realize that this Great Association is about to Celebrate their 48th Year. This was made possible by our hard working Officers who have served us so well over the years, and you our Members who have paid your Dues to help keep our Association alive. We are one of the most fortunate Associations in the Country. We have survived some bad times as well as good times thanks to our great leadership. A good many of our past leaders have passed away, but we have been fortunate to be able to chose men who have the association at heart and are doing their best to keep it going.

There are still many of our members who have never attended a reunion. In view of the fact that age is creeping up on all of us, I ask you to make an effort to attend a reunion and meet that long last Buddy that you haven't seen since you left Europe. Each year our Chaplain's list gets longer and on it is the name of a Buddy you always wanted to meet. Let us make an effort to attend before it is our Name that is the next one on that list.

Once again, in behalf of the Officers of the 83rd Infantry Division Association, I wish to thank each and everyone of you for the support you have rendered. I would like to make a Personal thanks to those of you who have contributed to the Ad Book. Your donation, no matter how large or how small it was, is a great help to the Reunion Committee.

May I once again say thank you and God Bless you all, and may we all meet at the Reunion.

Your buddy, Larry Redmond

Dear Mr. Derickson:

My name is Ron Baringer. I got your name and address from Jim Warren. He writes a column about WWII in our local paper.

He felt that you may be able to help me find out some information about my father or put me in touch with some one who can.

My father was in the 83rd Division and was killed in action on Dec. 5, 1944 in the Hurtgen Forest.

His name was 1st. Lt. Paul Baringer. He was a Forward Observer in Battery A, 323rd Field Artillery Bn. I believe, but I'm not sure that his Battery was supporting the 330th Inf.

We never received any details of his death other than the date and location. He was rather secretive in his letters about the action he was involved in. Of course some of that I'm sure was because of the censors. But he also didn't want my mother to worry. He always said he'd tell her all about it when he got home.

If you could put me in contact with some one from his Battery who knew him or knows some thing about him I would really appreciate it. I was only 5 months old when he was killed so I never had the opportunity to get to know him. Any information about him that I could find out would help me know him better.

I should have pursued this along time ago but the years seem to slip away and before you know it nearly 50 years seem to slip away and before you know it nearly 50 years have passed. I was stationed in Germany when I was in the Army in the late 60s and passed by Achen and the Hurtgen Forest many times but I wasn't aware of its' significance at the time.

But, my mother just died last month and it brought it all back and renewed the need to find out more. He must have

been a special person, because my mother never remarried and lived her life waiting to be reunited with him.

Thank you so much for your time.

Ron Baringer

15312 Meadow Rd., Lynnwood Wa., 98037

(206) 743-3724

**CHEERS!
MERCİ BEAUCOUP!
DANKE SCHON!
THANK YOU**

GALAXY TOURS would like to extend our sincere thanks to those members of the 83rd Infantry Division who joined us for your 50th Anniversary Return to Europe in June! It was an exciting time and we were pleased that you were able to experience this Golden Anniversary journey down memory lane! We've had lots of compliments from local citizens and suppliers alike, expounding on how much they enjoyed the "Friendly Invasion" of the 83rd Infantry Division! You were as popular the second time around as you were fifty years ago! THANKS for joining us and representing the American G.I. so well!

If the travel bug has hit you, and you're anxious to see more, or if you have family or friends who missed the excitement of D-Day, there is still space available on a few of our other special 50th Anniversary programs! Why not "See It As It Was" as we return to the "Benelux" countries in December, marking the beginning of the infamous Battle of the Bulge? OR, join us as the "lights go on again" in Europe for Victory in Europe, May 1995, as we CELEBRATE 50 years of freedom and friendship! Extraordinary events are being planned throughout Europe, and we'd love to have you join us again! Call our too-free number or drop us a postcard. We'll send you full details.

Again, THANK YOU, for putting your faith and trust in Galaxy and allowing us to be part of this once-in-a-lifetime sojourn! It was a pleasure to serve you!



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

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

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

(Postage and Handling Included)

Contact the Association Office

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

DATES ARE:

September 7-11, 1994

**DUES ARE DUE NOW
FOR 1994**

THUNDERBOLT DEADLINES

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

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

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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.*