



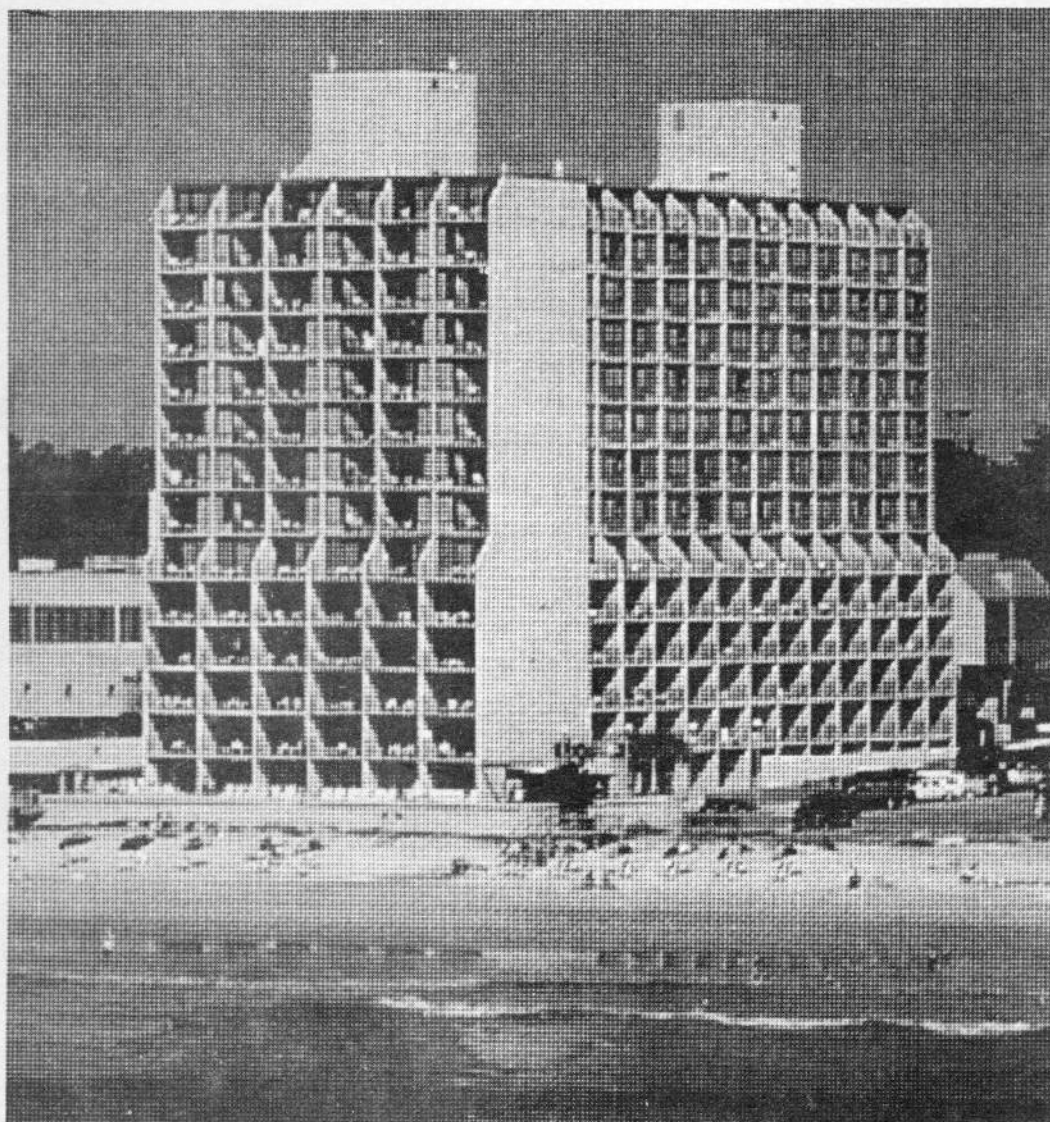
# THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 50 No. 2

Spring Issue 1995



**OCEAN FRONT**

**49TH ANNUAL REUNION**

*Landmark Resort Hotel - Myrtle Beach, S.C.*

## THE THUNDERBOLT

Official Publication - 83rd Infantry Division Association Inc.

The THUNDERBOLT is written for all members of the 83rd Infantry Division World War II and is published at 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013-8907

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

\*James C. Hanrahan..... 1947  
Jack M. Straus..... 1948  
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\*Julius Ansel..... 1950  
\*Walter H. Edwards Jr..... 1951  
Leo Schneider..... 1951  
Finley Heyl..... 1953  
Lawrence J. Redmond..... 1954-55  
\*Lt. Gen. Robert H. York..... 1956  
\*Harry W. Lockwood..... 1957  
\*Raymond J. Voracek..... 1958  
Charles Abdinoor..... 1959  
\*Joseph F. Minotti..... 1960  
\*Frank J. McGrogan..... 1961  
John W. Robinette..... 1962  
\*Manuel C. Martin..... 1963

\*Julius Boyles..... 1964  
\*Samuel Klippa..... 1965  
\*William M. Doty..... 1966  
Albert A. Belvedere..... 1967  
Vito C. Palazzolo..... 1968  
Pat DiGiammerino..... 1969  
Casey Szubski..... 1970  
\*Charles Altomari..... 1971  
\*Harold H. Dopp..... 1972  
Louis J. Volpi..... 1973  
Bernard O. Riddle..... 1974  
Robert G. Taylor..... 1975  
Mike Skovran..... 1976  
Manlius Goodridge..... 1977  
Joseph A. Macaluso..... 1978  
\*William J. Chavanne..... 1979

\*Samuel Klippa..... 1980  
Michael Caprio..... 1981  
Ralph Gunderson..... 1982  
Arthur Doggett..... 1983  
Bernie Cove..... 1984  
Carroll Brown..... 1985  
John Hobbs..... 1986  
George Pletcher..... 1987  
Charles Schmidt..... 1988  
Edward Reuss..... 1989  
Charles J. Lussier..... 1990  
Edgar H. Haynes..... 1991  
Ned Smith..... 1992  
Louis Sandini..... 1993

\* Denotes Deceased



## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Buddies,

The year is moving very rapidly and Reunion time 1995 will be here soon. I hope all of you are well and enjoying life in this New Year.

Preparation at Myrtle Beach is shaping up to our expectations and all aspects of planning are about ready to go. I hope we will have good turn-out for this Gala affair, because I am sure all will have a good time.

Reservations are coming in at a fast clip at this time. So far we have 174 rooms reserved. If you don't have your reservation in, please do so as soon as possible. The overflow Hotels that we have contracted with are very nice and I think you will be pleased with these accommodations. If you have special needs in your accommodations, please notify the Hotel when you make your reservation.

Elsewhere in this issue of the Thunderbolt, you will find a form to request tickets for the Gatlin Brothers Theatre on Thursday Sept. 14th. Please send in your request as soon as possible because our deadline is July 1, 1995. Requests after that date cannot be honored. Seating space is limited so get your request in now.

Some of you may wish to make your reservation with other Hotels of your choosing in the area. If you do this, please let us know about it so that we can include you in our planning for meals and evening functions. We need this information prior to your arrival at Myrtle Beach. If you do not let us know ahead of time, we may not have meals ordered for you on Friday and Saturday evening.

Those of you arriving by Plane need only to call your Hotel and transportation will be furnished for you. Check with your travel agent for carriers serving Myrtle Beach. Air Transportation is changing so rapidly, I hesitate to give you names of carriers serving that area.

Many of our members have had or have health problems at this time and I sincerely hope that you will be well and able to join us at Myrtle Beach. My Prayers are with each of you.

Hope to see you at Myrtle Beach

Sincerely your Buddy

Wm. M. Minick, Pres., 83rd Inf. Div. Assoc.

## GATLIN BROTHERS THEATRE TICKETS

The Gatlin Bros. will be performing on Sept. 14, 1995 at Myrtle Beach. Please mail your requests for tickets before July 1, 1995. No requests will be honored after that date. Seats are limited. Requests will be honored on a first come first serve basis. Costs for transportation are included in the price of the ticket. The price of \$26.00 includes all costs except for food. Your passes will be furnished to you upon registration at Myrtle Beach. Refunds will be made in case of hardship. We cannot accept Credit Cards for this function. Please remit by check or money order. Use the form below to make your requests.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ at \$26.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Remit to: Wm. M. Minick  
110 Angel St.  
Saluda, S. C. 29138  
Tel# 803-445-8509

## Reunion Chairman's Corner

This is to bring you up to date on the reunion in September 13, 14, 15, 16 at the Landmark Myrtle Beach. Minick and I just returned from Myrtle Beach on February 7, 1995.

We met with the hotel everything is working out fine. We have two over flow motel if needed. Rooms are filling up fast. We urge you to get your reservation in early. You may come early and stay late for same price. Please get your ad's in early.

Chairman  
Lacy Satterfield  
Co. "D" 330th INF.





## from The Office



This has been a winter of sickness, snow and ice, and deaths. I guess that is par for the course.

Pearl and I have both been very well for which we are both thankful. We are caught up with what dues have come in. There are still many of you out there that have not paid their dues. Please get them in. We cannot operate this organization without those dues. We will have to cut down on the mailing list if they do not come in within the next couple of weeks. We have a reminder notice ready to go out, but we hope you won't wait for that.

It is time to start thinking about the reunion. Meadors and his group of workers from the Dixie Chapter are working hard to have everything planned for us when we get there in September.

We have gotten our first Printout. This is the soonest we have gotten this ever. They have quite a few rooms taken already for the reunion. Great, great. Some of our entertainment is planned already.

That printout means that we can get started on the registration sheets.

If you will have your dues in for next year all you will have to do is pick up your material at the desk. No waiting.

I hope that we can get the work done here in the office early and not be tearing our hair out in August. So get your dues in for 1995 and 1996 both. It will sure help out.

We are all looking forward to seeing you all at the reunion. We still have summer to get over. I hope that when we send out the Thunderbolt for the Summer Issue everyone will be paid up. That will really be something to celebrate.

Bob Derickson, Sec./Treas.



## Chaplain's Corner

### Deceased

Acton Gordon  
Antiposto, Nello  
Burkett, Clarence W.  
Bristow, Robert J.  
Cleaver, Alfred  
Costanzo, (Sam) Gene  
Dunn, Dennis O.  
Furnish, Claude G.  
Gauman, Donald J.  
Glasgow, Robert L.  
Gonsalves, Anthony  
Hersh Alvin W.  
Kehler, Frank  
Lascari, Vito S.

Lockhart, Carmi  
McGinnis, Eldon  
McGree, Frank  
Morman, Robert  
Nagel, Bill  
Otto, Albert  
Realm, Willard  
Reed, Willard  
Rogers, Robert  
Rokes, Steve  
Rose, Homer  
Scepanski, Alexander  
Strauss, Willard H.  
Vandrevil, Joseph  
Voelkner, Robert  
Welsh, Lloyd  
Wendel, Howard  
Whelan, Henry  
Wilms, Glen  
Wood, Rex  
Yost, Orlando  
Vogt Lewis C.

### Unit

"L" 331st  
"G" 329th  
"I" 329th  
Unit Unknown  
3rd BN HQ. 330th  
"G" 331st  
"L" 329th  
"L" 329th  
331st  
3rd BN. HQ. 329th  
"B" 324th  
Eng.  
Sig. Co.  
REGT. HQS. 330th  
"B" 331st  
"H" 330th  
"G" 331st  
"H" 329th  
"D" 331st  
"D" 331st  
"M" 330th  
"M" 330th  
"K" 330th  
"HQ" 330th  
3rd BN. 329th  
MED 330th  
"F" 331st  
"D" 329th  
"L" 331st  
unknown  
2nd BN HQ. 330th  
"E" 331st  
Q.M.  
Q.M.  
CN 331st  
Sig. Co.

### Reported By

Bob Derickson  
Ames Miller  
Frank Bellino  
Bob Taylor  
Nick "Francullo"  
Salvatore Siccolone  
Wife - Elizabeth  
O.L. Cook  
Wife - Ruth  
Wife  
Pat DiGiammerino  
Bob Grobelmy  
Erwin L. Hawk  
Emil Wehling  
Stan Bielen  
Norman Kruse  
Wife, Veotrice  
Joe Macaluso  
Fran Beerhalter  
Ralph Gunderson  
Ralph Gunderson  
Gale Baker  
Gale Baker  
Bob Whitcomb  
Son Stephen  
Nick Francullo  
Lowell Claxton  
Wife  
Pat DiGiammerino  
Lowell Claxton  
Lowell Claxton  
Matt Pintar  
Manny Goodridge  
Wife, Edith  
Matt Pintar  
Anthony Krukowski  
Son, Lewis C. Vogt  
Jr.

**REMEMBER!**  
*Dues Are Due Now  
For 1995*



## Board Chairman's Report

I'm sure there will be several mentions made of the sad news in this issue. However I would be remiss, as your chairman, if I didn't comment also.

We were saddened to hear that your former chairman of the board, Gene Costanza passed away last December. I understand he passed away in his sleep. Gene was a staunch member of the 83rd and he will be missed by all.

Also another board member has become seriously ill. Our good friend Al Belvedere has become a victim of leukemia. While I'm sure he has gone through a terrible time, I spoke to him the last of Jan. and his spirits were high and he hopes to be home soon. I hope that is true and that Anna will give him her tender loving care and we all hope Al will be 1st rate real soon.

I have spoken with Meadows Minick a couple of times and he informs me that everything is going

well in Myrtle Beach and that we should have a great time. If you haven't already done so, be sure to make your reservations now.

While I have mentioned GENE and Al, I'm sure there are many 83rd members who are going through sad times and our thoughts & prayers go out to you and your families.

Looking forward to and hoping to have a great reunion in Myrtle Beach.

Best Wishes,  
Jim Burton  
Executive Board Chairman  
Co. "D" - 329th Reg.



## 49th ANNUAL REUNION OF 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION SEPTEMBER 14, 15, 16, 1995

**PLEASE Type or Print Ad Clearly and State Size of Ad!**

FULL PAGE @  
\$60.00

HALF PAGE @  
\$35.00

QUARTER PAGE @  
\$18.00

BOOSTER ADS are \$5.00. Make check payable to: 83rd Div. Reunion Fund and send to:

**Lacy Satterfield  
P.O. Bx #28  
Prospect Hill, N.C. 27314**

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

# 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION THUNDERBOLTS

ROOM RESERVATION FORM - SEPT. 14, 15, 16, 1995  
THE BEST WESTERN LANDMARK RESORT HOTEL  
1501 SOUTH OCEAN BOULEVARD  
MYRTLE BEACH, SC 29577  
PHONE: (803) 448-9441 (800) 845-0658

ALL ROOMS BEING HELD FOR THE 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION THAT HAVE NOT BEEN RESERVED BY AUGUST 10, 1995 WILL BE RELEASED FOR SALE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. AFTER AUGUST 10, 1995, RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON AN AVAILABILITY BASIS ONLY.

WE DO NOT ACCEPT 6:00 P.M. RESERVATIONS. ALL ROOMS MUST BE GUARANTEED BY A MAJOR CREDIT CARD OR A CHECK TO COVER ROOM AND TAX FOR THE FIRST NIGHT. IF YOU CALL THE HOTEL DIRECT TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION AND PLAN TO GUARANTEE BY SENDING US A CHECK, THIS CHECK MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN 10 DAYS OF YOUR CALL TO THE HOTEL, OR THE ROOM IS AUTOMATICALLY CANCELLED.

WE DO NOT CHARGE YOUR CREDIT CARD UNTIL YOU ARRIVE AT THE HOTEL...UNLESS... 1) YOU DO NOT SHOW UP ON THE DAY SCHEDULED...OR... 2) YOU DO NOT CANCEL YOUR RESERVATION AT LEAST 72 HOURS PRIOR TO YOUR SCHEDULED ARRIVAL. ON ARRIVAL, YOU MAY ELECT TO PAY CASH RATHER THAN USE THE CREDIT CARD.

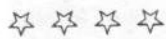
CONVENTION RATE WILL BE HONORED FOR THREE DAYS PRIOR TO THE CONVENTION AND THREE DAYS AFTER THE CONVENTION, BASED ON AVAILABILITY.

CHECK-IN TIME: 3:00 P.M. CHECK-OUT TIME: 11:00 A.M.

AT CHECK-IN, IF YOU ARE NOT USING A MAJOR CREDIT CARD, THE HOTEL REQUIRES A CASH DEPOSIT OF \$25.00 TO REMOVE THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE TELEPHONE AND THE PAY MOVIES.

-----

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Roommate Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last First Last  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: Area Code (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Rooms: \_\_\_\_\_ Oceanview - \$60.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Oceanfront - \$70.00 (7% TAX)  
Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Guaranteed: \_\_\_\_\_ Check In Amount Of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Type Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_



## 'Historian's "Corner'



### HISTORIAN'S CORNER

February 1995

*This report will be the next to last one I will write.*

*I find it difficult to concentrate, and put on paper what I want to say.*

*These two enclosures from military newspapers were probably the grandest words we have ever read. - (Ed, Zerucha, F. Co. 329, thanks)*

*The Normandie Invasion was printed in France for 'D Day'*

*Enjoy it now, we Sur n' hell didn't then!*

*The 'Casino' in St. Malo in 1944, and it now, in 1994.*

*All units were partners in liberating it in August of 1944 - terrible destruction of an ancient Brettany.*

*The 'Obituary' will only be of interest to the then*

*M.P. Plt., 83rd Div. We named Major Ogilvie Old 'Mean & Lean'*

*He was quite a soldier, he saved me from the 329th infantry. - Bless him!*

*The old 'Thunderbolt' will remind you of how we have grown in 30 years.*

*I took this picture of our Maj. General Robert Macon somewhere in Germany.*

*A great leader of soldiers in WWII from the Beach to the Elbe River and a greater human being!*

*We will always be the Best*

*Wm. Kent (ABE) O'Connell*

*Ex Historian/Archivist*

*83rd M.P.*

*Best Wishes for John Prinze'*

*Historian.*

## VICTORY

*Edward Zerucha "F" 329th 83rd - THE STARS AND STRIPES  
Tuesday, May 8, 1945 - PARIS EDITION*

### Nazis Reveal Surrender To Western Allies, Russia

The unconditional surrender of Germany to the Western Allies and Soviet Russia was announced by the German high command yesterday morning.

The official announcements from the Allied governments are expected to simultaneously from Washington, London and Moscow today.

The British Ministry of Information, proclaiming that today would be 'Victory in Europe Day,' said Prime Minister Churchill would make an official announcement' at 3 PM.

President Truman said he had agreed with the British and Russian governments that no surrender proclamation would be made 'until simultaneous announcements could be made by the three governments.'

King George VI of England sent Gen. Eisenhower a cablegram last night congratulating him and his armies on the 'complete and crushing victory' in Europe.

The Associated Press broke the news of the surrender in a story from Rheims, France, that the Allies had announced German's surrender at 0241 hours yesterday morning. It said the surrender took place in the little red school house that is Gen. Eisenhower's headquarters.

Col. Gen. Gustaf Jodl, German army chief of staff, signed for Germany, it was reported.

The Associated Press story apparently was premature. From dispatches coming from Washington and London, it appeared that arrangements were being

made to announce the surrender simultaneously in the three capitals when the news broke. This seemed apparent from President Truman's statement and Churchill and Stalin had conferred by telephone during the day.

## JAPAN QUIT

*Edward Zerucha "F" 329 83rd Div.  
Stage - Calas, St-Victoret, Arles  
By Barney Kramer and Maurice McQuillen*

The Japs finally quit.

Coming directly on the heels of the terrific pasting handed them by the new atomic bomb and the growlings of war by the big bear of Russia, the little Nips threw in the sponge today in a message addressed to the Swiss and Swedish Governments respectively for transmission to the United States, Great Britain, China and the Soviet Union.

The only condition to the capitulation was the request that Emperor Hirohito's garden and palace grounds be spared the sight and sound of GI combat boots.

The message, which was couched in the Typically apologetic phraseology of the Japanese, expressed concern over the personal safety of the Emperor, and said that the Japanese Government is "ready to accept the terms enumerated in the joint declaration which was issued at Potsdam on July 26th, 1945.

The Japanese Domei News Agency periodically advised its offices throughout the Orient to stand by for possible emergency transmissions which "might come at any time et Thursday night through Saturday."



## Historian's Corner - continued Obituary

We have just been informed of the death of Major George Ogilvie, 63, of Lancaster, Pa.

Major Ogilvie died of cancer at the Watson Army Hospital in Fort Dix, N.J. where he had been admitted as a patient a few days before. There are no known survivors.

Originally from Edinburgh, Scotland, he came to this country with his parents at the age of three. He had lived in Lancaster since 1951.

He saw combat duty in both World Wars and also served on the orderly staff of Gen. John J. Gershing.

When World War II broke out he was a first lieutenant and was promoted to captain upon assignment to the 83rd Infantry Division at Camp Atterbury, to serve as assistant Division Adjutant in 1943.

Before the Division moved overseas he made major, Military Police and became the Divisional Provost Marshall.

With the 83rd he landed in France on June 20, 1944, moving with the combat columns around St. Lo, Avranches, St. Mere Eglise and on through the Hurtgen Forest.

After V-E Day he remained in Berlin as an American Provost Marshall and was familiarly known as "The Sheriff".

Upon his return to the states he served briefly in Birmingham, Alabama and was discharged at Fort Dix in 1947 with the permanent rank of Major.

## THUNDERBOLT- President's Corner

Manuel C. Martin - Co. F-329

Vol. 17 - No. 3 --- Jan., Feb., Mar., 1964

As my tenure of office reaches the half way mark it disturbs me, deeply, that though membership is running about par with other years there are still some 220 last year members who have not paid dues yet for this year. This and this alone is the reason that this Association is not one of the largest of its kind in the country.

Your Association officers had been concerned with this problem for a number of years and cannot understand why a man is proud to be a member one year and the very next year he neglects to send in his dues and even acts like he never heard of the 83rd Infantry Division Association.

This organization can be as good and as big as you want it to be and if every man we have had on the books over the years had sent in his dues annually perhaps the Association would have been in a position, financially, to offer benefits, of some sort to its members. Please do not shirk your duty, dues are now due, please, please send yours in. Do it now.

Adeline and I hit the turnpikes on Friday, January 24 to attend the Philadelphia Chapter banquet on Saturday, January 25th. As always, it gave us a most wonderful feeling to spend a day or two with these grand people. It kind of acts like a tonic to us to be able to see all our friends between reunions. We really missed Dave and Ann and sincerely hope that at the time this Thunderbolt goes to press that Dave has fully recovered from his illness and is once again his jovial self. We wish to thank the Philadelphia Chapter for their kind invitation, a truly wonderful time and the warmth of their welcome that made us feel right at home.

In this issue of Thunderbolt is an application blank for ads to be printed in the program book for this year's reunion and even your dollar booster ads will help, and are extremely welcome.

The Fall River Chapter has been hard at work for two years running many different affairs to raise funds for this reunion

and, though we have a substantial amount of money in the kitty, we ask that you remember that many of the functions we have planned for you are costing us as much as a whole convention, less the banquet, has cost in previous years. Therefore we are soliciting the support of the people who would like to advertise in our program book.

Please mail your ad copy and checks to me, Manuel C. Martin, 424 Freelove St., Fall River, Mass. Make your checks payable to the 83rd Infantry Division Assn.

Until the next issue all the best to all Thunderbolts, and their families everywhere, from Manny Martin.

The TOP TEN in paid up membership as of the time this Thunderbolt went to press were:

Co. G-331.....	29
Div. Hqtrs.....	26
324 FA.....	24
All Medics.....	24
Co. F0329.....	24
308 Engineers.....	22
323 FA.....	17
908 FA.....	17
Co. F-330.....	17
Co. A-331.....	17
322 FA.....	16



Gen. Macon - April '45 - Germany

## 83rd Gets New Commander

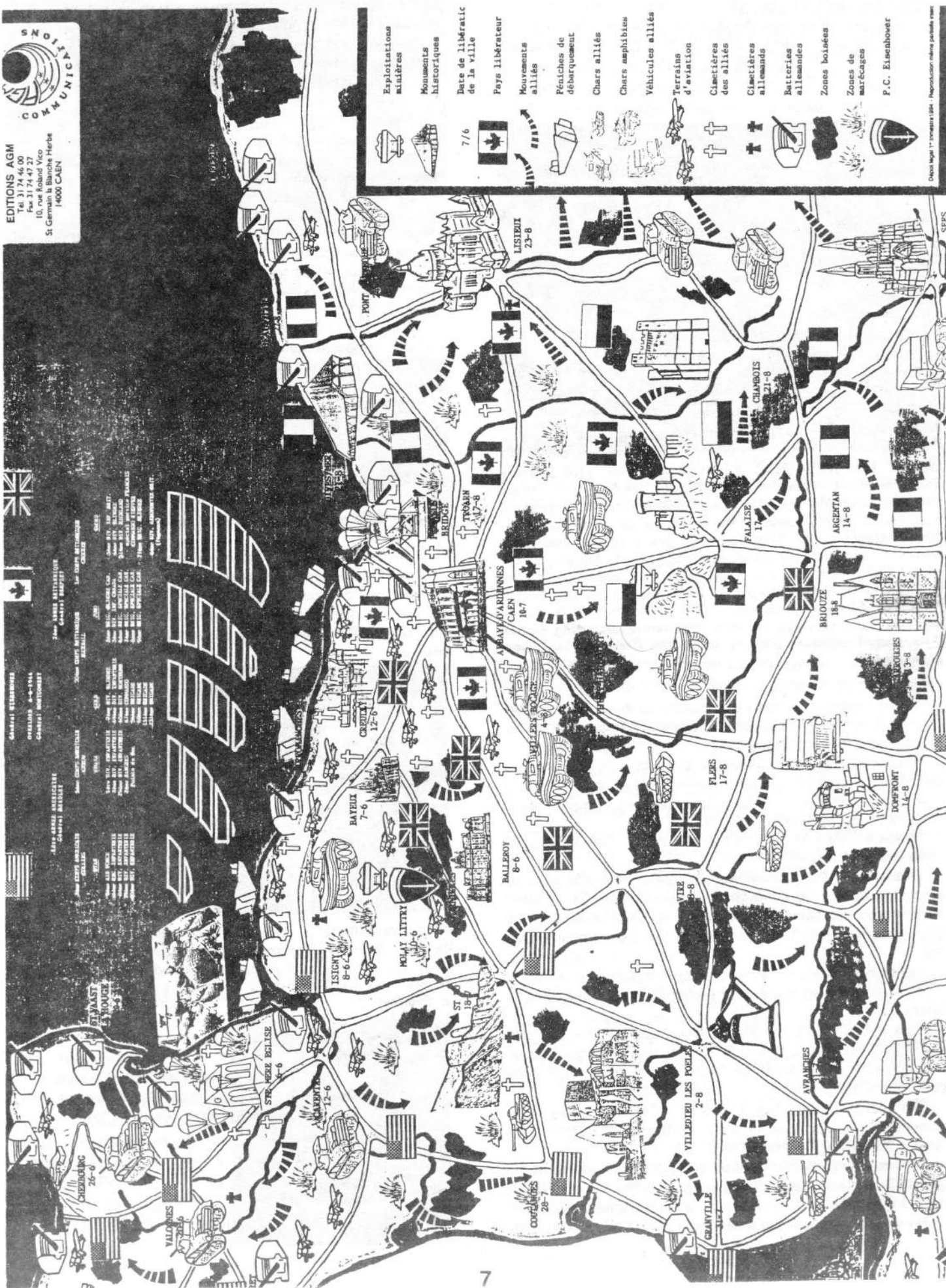
*Brig. Gen. R.C. Macon Was In Italy Invasion.*

CAMP BRECKINRIDGE, Ky., Jan. 24 - (Special) - Appointment of Brig. Gen. Robert C. Macon as commanding general of the 83rd Infantry Division has been announced.

Gen. Macon, who has been with the 83rd Division since April, 1943, has had an active career. A native of Washington, D.C., he attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute, graduating in 1913 with the degree of mechanical engineer. He was commissioned in the infantry in 1916 at Washington. He completed both the basic and advanced courses in infantry school, after which he attended the Chemical Warfare School and the Command and General Staff School. He completed the latter in 1931. General Macon was graduated from the Army War College in 1934.

General Macon was commanding officer of Company I, 15th Infantry, in China from 1919 to 1921. From 1931 to 1933 he served as a general staff officer with troops in Panama. Stationed at Pine Camp, N.Y., in 1940, he served as a general staff officer in the 4th Armored Division and later as commander of an armored regiment.

General Macon commanded a regimental landing group during the invasion of Africa on Nov. 8, 1942, under Lieut. Gen. George S. Patton. He was decorated with the silver star in January, 1943, for gallantry in action in November, 1942.





## D-Day Revisited

### Back From Normandy: Reliving Memories

MAIN LINE TIMES

By Beth E. Yanofsky - Staff Writer



**LAYING THE WREATHS.** Veterans from the 83rd Infantry Division joined President Bill Clinton and French Prime Minister Francois Maurice Marie Mitterrand in laying of wreaths on Utah Beach in the morning on June 6, 1994. Participating in the historic event were (front row, from left) Bob and Pearl Derickson of Ohio and Alphier J. Silverio, along with (back row) the national secretary of the Division in Ohio, the mayor of Senteny and an Interpreter.

Alphier Silverio recalled, "Twenty-seven plane loads came in from Washington with dignitaries including Robert Dole and President Clinton, four star generals and Congressmen."

It was a subject he rarely discussed and therefore a subject his wife knew little about until they went to Normandy earlier this summer to relive the events of D-Day through his eyes.

Alphier 'Al' J. Silverio of 248 Lee Circle in Bryn Mawr and his wife, Mary, joined 83rd Infantry Division veterans for a tour of various towns in France, Belgium and Germany in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

"It was a wonderful trip," he said last month. "We left May 28 and came back June 9."

He explained, "On D-Day, they took us to the towns we liberated. Going back to some of these towns was nice. Some have stayed the same...Since then, they've built around the cities, but much of the center stayed the same as 50 years ago."

Mary Silverio added, "We were busy from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m."

Al Silverio served in the engineering Division of the 83rd Infantry.

Back in the 1940's, the 83rd Division was credited with taking 12,366 prisoners, of which 984 cleared through medical channels during its operations in Brittany and Normandy, according to a news clipping.

The infantry formed Aug. 15, 1942 at Camp Atterbury, Ind., comprising recruits from 47 states in the United States and Alaska and Hawaii, Al Silverio said.

Silverio was promoted to staff sergeant from private in the United States and after fighting with the 308th Combat Engineers for 21 months, he was promoted to first lieutenant.

He was hospitalized for three months in a hospital in Eng-

land for treatment of a shrapnel wound to his left wrist he received in the Hurtgen Forest on Dec. 19, 1944.

Besides receiving a Purple Heart for his injuries, he earned battle star medals including a bronze star medal for his efforts during a battle in Normandy during the summer of 1944.

Silverio left the Army after 39 months of service.

Born in Scerni, Italy, he grew up in Bryn Mawr and graduated from Lower Merion High School in 1938.

Al Silverio recalled bittersweet memories while looking through a photo album Mary Silverio put together.

"We stayed in Steinsel on May 31, a town we had liberated and met some of the people we had known," he said. "We also visited the burial site of General George Patton and memorial plaque in Greuenmacher."

They also visited the war room of the old school house where the Armistice was signed in Reims on May 7, 1945.

Shaking his head in sadness he recalled, "In St Malo, we lost a lot of people there. We fought to keep the Germans out. In the 83rd Infantry, there were 1000s and 1000s of marble graves."

The Infantry went through St. Malo, Mont St. Michel, St. James, Caen, Bayeux and visited American cemeteries, including La Porte de siles and Ossuary of Douaumont where 4,000 French soldiers were killed during World War I in Verdun.

Recounting a stop at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial overlooking Omaha Beach, he said, "All of us were between 18 and 22. (There's) 9,386 military dead, 1,557 missing in unknown graves."

Mary Silverio added, "That was the worst."

The 83rd Infantry scheduled a national reunion at the Pines Hotel in the Poconos in September.

"We expect there will be 700 people at least," he said. "People from the 83rd Division are scattered from Maine to California."

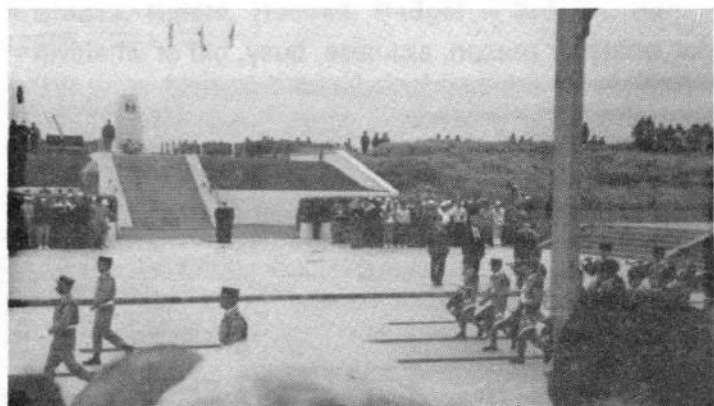


**VETERANS UNITED.** Wearing their medals of honor, 83rd Division Infantry Veterans Harry Kirby of Chadde Ford and Alphier Silverio of Bryn Mawr stand among a crowd of people who commemorated the 50th anniversary of D-Day in France.



**WAR PHOTO:** Private Alphier J. Silverio of Bryn Mawr in 1942.





# CHAPTERS

## Pittsburgh Chapter

There were 43 present at the Christmas Party held at the Alpine Club in Monessen, Pa. Included were widows of deceased members: Mrs. Hassick, Mrs. McLaughlin, Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Altomari. At the December meeting Felix Morro of Fairmont, W. Va. was introduced as a potential new member of the chapter. He had previously resided in California for 35 years. He served with D Co. 330th. Also at the December meeting \$50 was donated to the Wayne Van Dine KDKA-TV's Homeless Fund. Along with donations at the February meeting the chapter placed a \$40 full page ad in the program book for the Brentwood Post 1810 VFW Man-Of-the-Year dinner on February 24 to honor John F. Slater, Jr.

SHORT NOTES -- Our past secretary Steve Blasko is

in a care home in Washington, Pa. A get-well card was sent to Al Belvedere of the Philadelphia Chapter. Bill Nese's wife, Joan was hospitalized for four weeks recently. Bill DeMarino had a eye implant on Thursday, Dec. 1. Former National President Ed Reuss is home recovering from an operation recently. Dottie Walsh had out-patient surgery at Allegheny General Hospital for Carpel Tunnel Syndrome. Our present secretary James McCulla missed the February meeting because of a prostate problem.

The latter part of last year the chapter initiated a membership campaign. Articles were to appear in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, a local daily newspaper and several other publications. The Post-Gazette considered our article as an advertisement and were informed that it would cost \$70 to publish. The idea was scrapped. However, we are looking for new members. Recently, when I received the 1994-95 association roster I went through it and came up with about fifty men who belong to the national association and who live in the Pittsburgh area who are not chapter members. To those I suggest why not give us a try. Presently we have men who commute upwards of thirty miles just to attend our meetings. We feel the location of our meetings is centralized for all. We meet the first Sunday of the month at 2:00 p.m. in the VFW Post 1810, Route 51, Brentwood, Pa. If anyone desires more information call me at 412-931-0728 or send me a note at the address listed in the front of the Thunderbolt.

Fran Beerhalter

On Saturday, Dec. 10 at 11:00 a.m. - the morning of our Christmas Party -- Gene Costanza died of a heart attack. He was the immediate past member of the Executive Board.

Sam Gene Costanzo, 73, died Saturday, Dec. 10, 1994 at home.

He was born Aug. 24, 1921, in Pittsburgh, son of the late Pasquale and Ellie Wade Costanzo.

Mr. Costanzo was a retired truck driver for Dravo Corp.

He was a member of Madonna of Jerusalem Roman Catholic Church in Sharpsburg, Etna Elks Lodge 932, the Regina Elena Society in Sharpsburg and the national and Sharpsburg chapters of the American Association of Retired Persons.

A World War II veteran, Mr. Costanzo served with the Army's 83rd Infantry.

He was a lifetime member of Disabled American Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars. Mr. Costanzo also belonged to Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

Survivors include one daughter, Sandy M. Ramsey of Sharpsburg; one brother, Thomas Costanzo of Coraopolis; three sisters, Rose Uwart and Lena Glasso, both of Pittsburgh, and Annie Incho of Ohio; one grandson; and nieces and nephews.

Mr. Costanzo was preceded in death by his wife, Yolanda Iusi Costanzo; one son, George Costanzo; one grandson, Sean Ramsey; and two sisters, Mary Olivo and Betty Lewandowski.

## ***Dixie Chapter***

### ***Dixie Christmas Party Meet***

Excitement was at a very high level, I could hardly wait to get to the Christmas party Dixie Chapter style so I rushed thru my chores, helped Kathryn pack and got underway on Friday after Thanksgiving, of course. I had plans to make two visits along the way stretching my 600 mile trip into 900 miles.

Twas most enjoyable to stop and visit dear friends on the way to meet old friends and make new ones. Our trip was most rewarding. Arriving at Mary and Felix Livingstons Sunday and truly celebrating with them until Tuesday. Their lights is the greatest privately owned I have ever seen. You should see it. 15 to 20 thousand lights in all sorts of displays outside. I tasted and sampled all the goodies Mary made for Gatlinburg so I knew they were good even before she got here with them. Of course Felix had the last word on quality control. Wisely he kept his comments to himself and didn't breathe a word to Kathryn and Mary.

After a beautiful drive over I 26 & I 40 to Foothill Parkway, we arrived at Riverside early enough to be the first arrivals. Checked in and checked the reservations. I had a full day to shop, etc. before the troops began to arrive. By nite on Nov 30 we had 6 rooms filled with celebrating comrades.

On Dec. 1 we had 37 rooms occupied with folk coming to celebrate Christmas Dixie style. Things were starting to heat up.

Although suffering from the loss of her husband and our friend Flo Jackson came as our official host and never stopped a minute helping us have a most wonderful and unforgettable time.

Ably supported by our good friends and hosts for many years Carroll and Ruby Brown were everywhere at one time. They and each one who helped did one fantastic job. The know what its all about. I can't thank them enough.

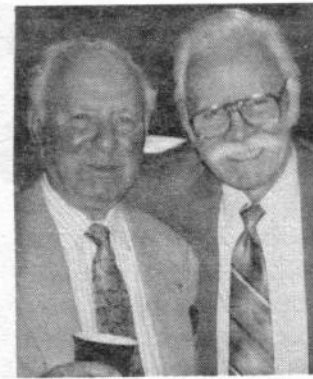
We went to Pigeon Forge and were overcome with all the light displays as well as Gatlinburgs. I did manage to recover enough to enjoy a giant T Bone at the "Cattlemans" before the week end rush. Twas well worth the trip. Couldn't finish it all so I dutifully wrapped it up for lunch the next day.

Friday 27 more rooms filled. Everyone ready for the big parade. No one was disappointed. Twas the best yet. Floats of all kinds, all lit up with Christmas themes, carolers, Balloons and all the big city things. Tony almost got kidnapped by a bevy of high stepping beauties, but we were able to save him much to his disappointment.

After the parade the hospitality room was going full blast. Then came the entertainment better than ever with good dance music and friends galore. Can't remember having so much fun. Sorry some couldn't be there



**Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus**  
**The Don Church's**



**Viglione & Massie**

for whatever reason, sickness, busy, old or whatever - we missed each and look forward to next year at the same time.

Sat. we had some late comers join us. They just kept coming. Five rooms in the overflow hotel we had taken.

I finally tracked down Wm. Miller C 323 there. Twas his first meeting. He got to the business meeting was recognized and I promptly lost him. Next time it'll be different.

Muldrows daughter from Md. came and brought her dad. Twas good to meet both of them.

D.L. Glasscocks daughter and family came and met with several of her father's comrades from Hdq. 3rd Bn. 329. Her dad never made it to a meeting but she and her family have lots of memories from their meetings there this year.

Our ladies just plain out did themselves this year. I never saw so much food on Sat. and we still had the Banquet to attend.

Business Meeting was orderly and well attended. Progress reports on the National were given. More plans were made and put into action. Responses to ad book was good and other plans are going fullspeed ahead. Ladies have plans for many items for sale and raffle.

Our Old Man Walter Blancett made a good showing but didn't have a chance with our young man "Milton Singleton who had 14 family and friends in his party. I believe our oldest men was Capt. Hill of B 329 who was well supported by his comrades in Arms. We were happy to have many widows of former members present looking great and adding much to the festivities. Also happy to report that we have several serious courting couples so we can expect most anything from these young 70 year olds!

Banquet time, gift exchange with Mr. & Mrs. Santa was a great time. Entertainment was tops. Plans for Chattanooga in March completed with the Daltons as hosts.

Lets plan for the next meet but be ready for anything that prevents us from carrying out plans. Remember those who could not be with us for any reason.

Our Sincere Best Wishes to each one.

Ellsworth Massie Rep.





**Brooks, Riddle, Hudnall, Badget -- 3rd Bn. Hdq. 329th.**



**308th Engineers - Porterfield, Humphrey, Walls, Ramsey, Cox, Coffey, and Walter.**

## **New England Chapter**

First of all we hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope 1995 will be a good year for all of us.

Our Christmas Party on Dec 3rd was a great success thanks to Jim & Dot Brennan and Nick & Mary Francullo.

We had Chuck & Bernice Abdiinor from Dracut Ma., Bill & Betty Davis from Newburyport, Ma., Dutchy & Helen Smith from Lynn, Ma., Nick & Mary Francullo of Lynn, Ma., August "Mousie" & Hazel Farias of New Bedford, Ma., Bill & Claria McCortin of Lowell, Ma., Bill & Jeanett McKee of Three Rivers, Ma., John & Priscilla Walsh of Portland, Maine, Jim & Dot Brennan of Warwick RI, Joseph & Helen Petrucci of No. Prov. RI\*, Al & Ann Tartaglia of Johnston, RI, Leon & Catherine Collins of Esmond, RI. Mike & Marie Chempey of Conn Ray & Isabella Orsini of Branford, Conn., Burt & Rose Simons of Hamden, Conn., Simon & Kathren Etzel of No. Guilford Conn., Bill & Eleanor Sullivan of Hamden Conn. When we all arrived at the Inn at the Crossings in RI. We had our Chapter Room all set up for snacks, drinks and relaxation. At 7:30 P.M. we all headed for dinner.



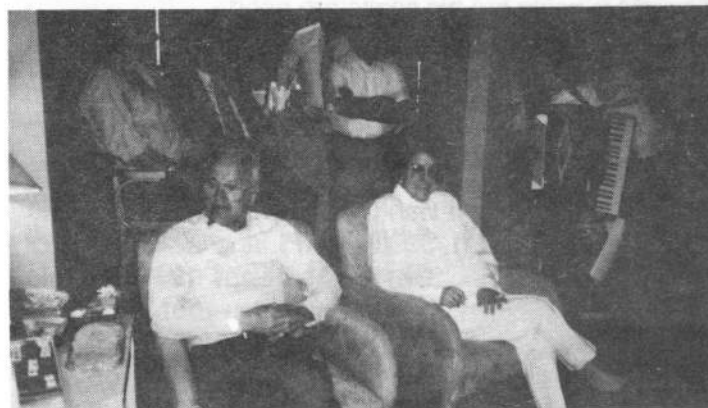
**Boy! Do we look good.**



**Bring on the food!**



**We love a good time!**



**Joe, you did a good job!**



Thanks to Chuck for your special after dinner drink. It went over very well.

Oh Yes we had our daughter Helena and husband Burt Walsh of Madison Conn. come up and stay over also.

We always tell our kids what a good time we all have and they found out, they enjoyed it also.

After dinner we all headed back up to the Chapter room. for more drinks and a Yankee Swap. We also put in five dollars each for a Christmas donation to St. Williams Church, Warwick, RI.

Dot & Jim gave it to Fr. Randy Cheu and he sent this letter back.

*Dear Dot & Jim*

*May I say on behalf of two very grateful families of our parish community how grateful we are to you and your friends for the wonderful food baskets during this past Christmas season.*

*You'll never know how much joy you brought to them. So in their names, I thank you and your dear friends.*

*May God be good to all of you for a very health filled and happy new year.*

*My thanks again! Peace and Goodness*

*Fr. Randy Cheu*

We all thank you Jim & Dot for thinking of such a good thing after our Yankee swap good old Joe Petrucci pulled out his fine accordion and we sang songs up to the wee hours. The next morning every one came back to the Chapter room for a continental breakfast and wished each other a good holiday and a safe trip home.

Sorry John & Ester Ferriera of Chelmsford Ma., could not make it due to sickness. Also Ray and Helen Rudd of Latham, NY could not come as Helen fell down ten sets of stairs carrying 2 grocery bags, she hurt her head and broke her foot and has a brace up to her knee and using a walker now. Helen get well! We would like to see you at Myrtle Beach.

Karl & Ingrid Burkhard we also miss you too.

Received a letter from Buddy Balfe of Winsted, Conn. that he was out to Arizona for a family wedding and had a heart attack and is coming along fine. Take it slow Buddy, Jim Barber also of Winsted, Conn. was in the hospital. His sight is going but his spirits are good.

I received a letter from good old Nick Boyd of Hazel Pk, Mich. that he is retired for 2 yr and taking it easy now and looks for the mail man for his S.S. Check every mo. Ha! Ho! Ho!

One the sad side I received 2 letters that Homer Rose of R.R. 1 Box 69 Alum Bank, Pa., died Nov. 29, 94. He was in Hq. Co. 3rd Bn. 330th A.T.PI. and Alfred Cleaver of 5730 N. 550 E. Lebanon In. died Sept. 19, 1994. He was in Hq. Co. 3rd Bn. 330th Comm. Pt.

Also received a note from Anson Willard of R.R. 2, Box 159C, Newport, Vt. H. Co. 331st that his wife is on oxygen and not able to make the reunions, but get around. Take care Rose and received a letter from Jeanne Johnson of South Chelmsford, Ma. that husband Merton was

in the West Roxbury V.A. Hospital for surgery and hopes that he will be home soon.

Just received a note from John & Ester Ferreira that Johns brother Alfred Ferreira past away Jan. 13, he was 70 years old.

We of the New England Chapter sends out our condolence to the Ferreira Family. Very sorry John and Estera

Nick Francullo  
Hq Co 3rd Bn. 330th



**We are still in good shape.**



**Don't they look good?**



**Dot & Jim, Mary & Nick  
- Thanks for a great Party.**

## New Jersey Chapter

The Chapter is meeting every month at the V.F.W. on Outwater Lane in Garfield, the third Friday at 8 p.m. The meetings are a lot of fun, usually consist of what's new about our 83rd buddies and families, and there are refreshments and pizza.

We were pleased when Tony Hroncich (G-329) came to a recent meeting. Tony is one tough cookie he still works in construction and isn't able to attend the meetings as much as he would like.

In October my wife and two daughters gave me a surprise 70th Birthday Party. A group from the chapter were there to help make it a special day. Also attending were family and friends to enjoy the great food, drink and the 4 piece band. When they brought in the Birthday Cake with so many candles burning, there was no way I could blow them out with one breath. They should have given me a fire extinguisher along with the cake.

The party was held at Cryan's Restaurant in Metuchen, NJ. We will have our Spring Dinner there on April 8th. Also we are contemplating having our Christmas Party there also. I heard recently that the Landmark where we have been holding our Christmas Party is being torn down to be replaced by a shopping center.

On December 3rd we held our Christmas Party at the Landmark. We had 32 people attend and as usual it was a great time for all. We missed Russell Whitehead and wife Marguarita who were just returning from a trip to Spain. We were saddened to hear that Robert Voelkner (L-331) had died that morning. Robert and Carolyn were always present at the Chapter Parties, we always enjoyed being with them.

On January 29th, there was a beautiful Memorial Service held for Robert Voelkner at the Community Church in Cedar Grove. A good number of men and women attended from the Chapter to pay our respects to Robert and Carolyn.

Vito Lascari (Hdqs. - 330) who had been ill for a long time and confined to a nursing home passed away.

Harold Everham (C-330) was recently honored by the State of New Jersey. A Joint Legislative Resolution was read before the Senate and General Assembly at the State House, Trenton, New Jersey. Harold was also featured in the Newspapers and on a Philadelphia Television Station regarding him receiving his medals. I have enclosed an article from the newspaper so you can see Harold being honored by Senator Jack Casey.

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As promised, I will continue writing about my trip to France. My daughter and I were at the Utah Beach Ceremonies and didn't go to Omaha Beach for the ceremony held there. Our French hosts along with some of their family traveling in two cars took us on a tour where the 331st had fought. I first asked to see the ruin of the Chapel in Auxais. It still stands and is well cared for with well kept lawn and flower beds where the French, American, British and Canadian Flags fly. This is situated at a cross-roads and if you remember, the Krauts had it zeroed in. Next, we went over the Taute River to the other side of the marsh to look at the area where the Jerries had their positions before the break-thru. The roads there were wagon-tracks, it was difficult to get to the La Varde Peninsula but we managed. There you realize what a perfect defensive position the Germans had and why we weren't able to cross the swamp with the Taute River running right down the middle with a depth of 10 feet. We then went to the Lehay Farm which was close-by. The Lehays are the parents of our host. They entertained us and then showed us around the area. Their house still is imbedded with hundreds of pieces of shrapnel and yet not one window was broken. The son showed us helmets, bayonet, trench knife, M1 rifle and other military hardware which he has found while plowing the fields. You can imagine the shape they are in after 50 years.

While I was in Carentan for the 101st Ceremony, I met Doctor Shad who is a friend of Mousey Farias and was disappointed for not being able to meet with Mousey. Doctor Shad told me he was a member of the Elite 6th Parachute Regiment was commanded by Col. Frederick von der Heydte, a legend for his exploits in Crete. This was the outfit the 83rd fought in Normandy.

As I wasn't able to get my medal in Carentan due to a foul-up, my French Friends arranged a solo presentation by the Mayor of Sainteny. On June 7th in Sainteny along with Lehays, Fereys, some other townsfolk, the Mayor with his official banner presented my the medal and the usual kiss



on both cheeks.

After parties at the Dubois' and the Lehays at which time they showered us with gifts, including a litre of calvados, we left the morning of the 8th on our way to Brittany.

I'll close now, but first I'd like to share a paragraph from a letter I received from the Dubois Family this past Christmas. "We are glad you and your daughter had a nice time in France. Your visit gave us the occasion of showing our liberators how grateful we were."

Stan Bielen

1st Bn. Hdqs. 331st

## Belated honor for war hero



By Debra L. Bickling, Courier-Post

**Tribute:** Harold Everham receives his World War II service medals, including a Purple Heart, from state Sen. Jack Casey, D-Burlington, on Tuesday at a party in Delran.

By LINDA BUSCHE  
Courier-Post Staff

Harold Everham was discharged from the Army in 1946 with little more than a war injury to show for his service.

Almost half a century later, he still hadn't received the Purple Heart and other medals he earned for being

wounded in combat.

"I just assumed they would come sooner or later," he said.

Everham, 74, of Palmyra, received belated recognition Tuesday for his valor.

State Sen. Jack Casey, D-Burlington, awarded Everham eight medals at the annual holiday party held in Delran for members of the Military Order of the Heart, Chapter 26, of Burlington County.

"This is a big surprise and a pleasant one," said Everham, who was not told in advance that he was getting the medals.

He received the following medals: the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, Honorable Service Lapel Button, Combat Infantry Badge, Army Good Conduct Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, American Campaign Medal, and Army of Occupation Medal.

Last September, Everham received a letter saying he qualified for the Purple Heart and Bronze Star, but wouldn't receive them for another year. But he was afraid he'd never receive the medals as mementos for his two children and three grandchildren.

Then he ran into his old friend Casey at an Acme Supermarket and told him about his plight. Casey told him to call the office, which then began working for a speedy delivery of the medals.

At Tuesday's award service, Casey pretended he'd run into Santa at the Moorestown Mall.

"Well, guess what," Casey said, his voice breaking. "What I have from Santa is a group of medals."

Friends and family applauded as Casey pinned the medals to Everham's lapel.

Most knew of the surprise, including Everham's granddaughter, Michelle Keller.

"I've always been proud of my grandpop," Keller, 15, said. "This just adds to it."

## Cleveland Chapter



Oct. 16, 1994 L. to R. George Calore - Mess Sgt., Bob Grobelny - K.P., Mike Mizerock - Mess Sgt., 83rd Inf. Div. - Cleveland Chapter.



Kid Williams and Janet are in California and Las Vegas making money playing the slots and all that good stuff. He asked me if I would pinch hit for him this time, so, bare with me, if you will.

We had our Christmas Party the 10th of December at Ruggles Party Center, and had a great meal with plenty of spirits and dancing. We should commend our president, Earl Lindsey, for a great time. Our ladies looked wonderful dressed in their finery as usual. As for the guys, you hardly recognized them, all dressed up. They all looked great! Of course, our two Mess Sgts. had a lot of snicky snackies. Excellent!

Two group pictures were taken. One of our ladies, and one of our men. Ladies, left to right; top row - Ellie Szubski, Ann Mizerock, Jo Glinka, Charlotte Cordiano, Martha Calore, Bernice Grobelny, Emily Czech, Marie Bene, Ronnie Lindsey, Dorothy Dasputis, and Mary Jane Owen; Middle row - Elaine Lacinski, Mary Dallos, Delores Jocek, and Julie Lanza; bottom row - Ann Christopher, Marge Miller, Janet Williams and Ellie Klugiewicz.

The men are as follows; top row - left to right - Ben Kasputis, President Earl Lindsey, Mess Sgt. George Calore, Joe Lanza, Sam Cordiano, Hank Trzeciak, and Chester Czech; bottom row - Earl Disher, Al Lasinski, Dom Christopher ("The Godfather"), Ed Glinka, Warren Owen, Bob Grobelny, Ed Josed, and Bob Miller.

Last October 16th, we celebrated George Washington's birthday with a terrific Italian meal. Mess Sgt. George Calore had the honor cooking that meal. Spaghetti and meatball! His helper was Mike Mizerock, and Bob Grobelny was the K-P. Great! Szubski, and committee are working very hard on the 1996 reunion, and it looks like they are getting it together. Good luck, guys!

We were saddened to hear our old buddy, Gene Costanza, passed away. Our condolences to all concerned.

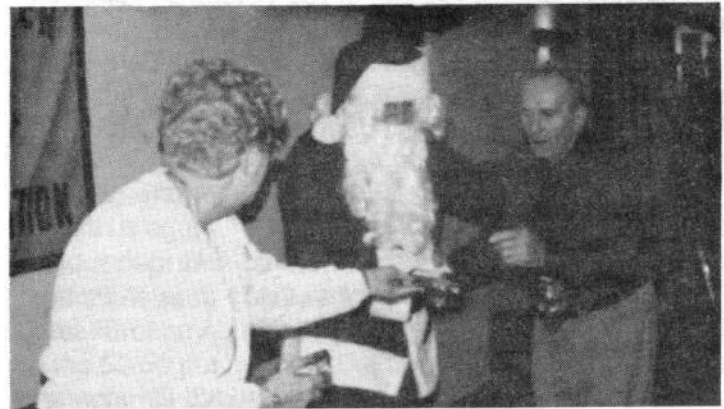
Bob Miller gave me a note. He saw in The News Herald, Alvin W. Hersh, who was a member of the 83rd Assn., but he also was in the 305th engineering battalion, and the 992 Bridge Co. He died on December 6th, at Geauga Hospital. He was a member of The Fraternal Order of Eagles, V.F.W., and was also a former "Class D" baseball coach for Chardon Little League. He was a supervisor for the former Cleveland Crane, in Cleveland, for 30 years, and retired in 1982. Burial was in Whitehaven Cemetery, in Mayfield Village, Ohio. Our condolences to the family.

Don't miss the 49th Reunion!! Make your reservations now!! Myrtle Beach, South Carolina! So long for now.

Bob Grobelny  
Pinch Hitting for Kid Williams  
"A" Co - 329th Inf.



## ***Boston Chapter***



**Nancy Tynan, Mike Malik & Santa Claus - Boston Chapter**



**Mike Malik - Serenading the group - Boston Chapter**

On December 11th, Boston Chapter had their Christmas party in Dedham, Massachusetts with over 50 chapter members, plus 12 friends of Mike Malik of A. Company 331st Infantry from Bridgeport, Ct.

Everyone had the meal of their choice. Santa Claus arrived and gave everyone presents with the help of Mrs. Clause. There was dancing until midnight. Everyone seemed to have a great time. Our Christmas raffle was held, the winners were, 1st prize, Stanley Kiel, 100 dollars, 2nd prize, Ray Haywood, 50 dollars, 3rd prize, Maryann DiGiammerino, 25 dollars, 4th prize, Roy Cellers, 25 dollars, 5th prize, William, 25 dollars.

At midnight we went back to the hotel C.P. where we had snacks, drinks, and entertainment by some of the CT. group. We partied till 3 A.M. Many thanks to the folks from CT.

My wife Nancy and Fran Arrigo did all the planning for this time. Everyone said it was a job well done!

I forgot to mention a girlfriend from Harris-Rogers Post #145 V.F.W. Bridgeport CT. came to see Bob Hunnewell of Co. I 329 Infantry.

The Boston Chapter on January 9th gave a Bingo Party for the veterans in the West Roxbury Veterans Hospital. President Tony Piantadosi, Larry Arrigo, Pat DiGiammerino, Charlie Lussier, Mike Caprio, and Amby Tynan attended along with Fran Arrigo, Vera Caprio, Livie Maynard, Rita Lussier and Nancy Tynan helped the patients playing the games. The women put out all the goodies. The patients were given fruit to take back to their rooms. A good time was had by all.

Thanks to Charlie Atwood of the Veterans Hospital for his help at all our Bingo Parties.

The Boston Chapter has been meeting once a month with excellent attendance. Our membership is still growing. Pat DiGiammerino has been doing a fine job getting new members.

We are making plans to go to the next reunion in South Carolina.

Many of us received letters from my old friend, Larry Redmond for Ad Book donations. Larry does more than his share for the 83rders. Larry, if you come to Boston I will show you our city.

On January 22, 1995, 8 men of the 83'd Division and about nine women of the auxiliary attended a wake in Holden Massachusetts for Joe Vaudreuil. They all offered our condolences to Terry, his faithful wife.

In their 83'd outfits the whole contingency, men and women, later surrounded the casket and said a silent prayer. A short eulogy was then given by Louis R. Sandini. They all sat guard for the rest of the time at the wake.

The next day they formed an honor guard, stood guard at the church then headed the automobile parade to the cemetery in Paxton, Massachusetts.

With George Jurgiel, of the Worcester, Tatnuck Post, American Legion and an honorary member of the Boston Chapter, as Sargeant, the eight men of the 83'd did their duties as honor guard. It was as cold as it had been at the Battle of the Bulge.

During the ceremony the flag was folded by our President, Tony Piantadosi and Charlie Lussier. Taps was

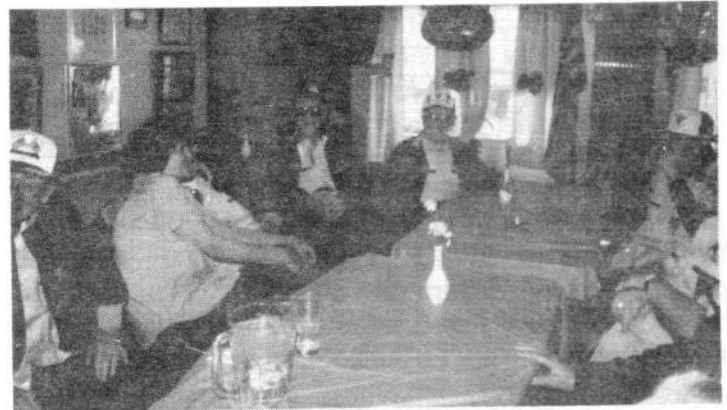
played and a short speech was made to the widow and her family by Pat DiGiammerino as he presented them with the flag. At this was done while George Juriel, Larry Arrigo, Joe Collette and Bob Hunnewell stood guard with the flags and guns.

After both the wake and the funeral, all the 83'ders partook of a sumptuous meal at the home of Bob and Sheila Vaudreuil, the son and the daughter in law of our buddy Joe. Nothing but high praise can be given for the treatment we were given.

The accolades we received from everyone concerned, proves the worth of the work we, the members of the Boston Chapter, are doing.

That's it for now as I need to get this in the mail tonight.

Amby Tynan  
Boston Chapter



Boston Chapter meeting at V.F.W. Post #145 - Bridgeport Conn., Boston Chapter



Rose Young representing Boston Chapter at Battle of Bulge Luncheon - Boston Chapter.



Some of the Boston Chapter at Battle of Bulge Luncheon



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## 1994 REUNION BOSTON CHAPTER

### Expenses

Printing Ad Book.....	\$3,976.00
Plaques.....	213.00
Trophies -- Golf & Bocci.....	114.00
Reunion--Travel, Supplies, Meetings.....	1,161.05
83rd Historical Society.....	300.00
7 rolls--raffle tickets.....	49.00
Bank Charges.....	125.55
Photocopies.....	195.56
Bellhop services, 5 days.....	465.00
USPS--Larry Redmond.....	393.50
USPS--Overnight--Redmond.....	10.70
USPS--Overnight--Pines.....	14.70
USPS--Overnight--Pines.....	27.31
USPS--Derrickson--Overnight.....	53.65
Printing--Wooldridge Press--Nat'l.....	412.00
Photocopies--Redmond.....	114.61
Stationery--Redmond.....	50.00
Corsages & Centerpieces.....	219.00
Flag Spear.....	25.00
Name Tag & Shields.....	134.00
USPS Boston Mailings.....	313.57
Envelopes.....	412.00
1 Flag Carrying Case.....	35.00
Rental of Van.....	234.00
Gas for Van.....	38.60
Road Service.....	32.00
Liquor for VIP Room.....	397.00
Hospitality Room Liquor, 4 days.....	3,804.00
Phone.....	212.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,531.80</b>

### Income

Ad Book.....	\$15,769.00
50/50 Club.....	467.00
Craft Table.....	901.30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,137.30</b>

<b>INCOME</b> .....	<b>\$17,137.30</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b> .....	<b>13,531.80</b>
Balance to National	\$ 3,605.50



## Kentucky Chapter

### Spring Report 1995

The Kentucky Chapter Christmas Party was held at Piqua, Ohio, Dec. 9-10.

It was raining as we pulled out of our driveway and rained every step of the way until Dayton, (262) miles, let up for about 10 miles then started again. When I pulled in under the canopy at the Comfort Inn at Piqua, I could see the smiling faces of some of the chapter members looking out of the windows of the lobby, or it could have been they were just laughing at me for driving so far in the rain.

I can always depend on getting the correct room at Piqua, although I sometimes worry friends getting in so late in the day, today was no different and we were soon settled in, and on our way to the hospitality room where tables along the wall were lined with all kinds of goodies designed to demolish any well intended diet.

After sampling many of the various treats to see if they were as good as they looked, "they were" we loaded up and proceeded to Dales where we got down to some serious eating.

Back at the motel after a good meal some gathered in the hospitality room and some played cards in the lobby where Norm Weaks had on display a large picture from Belgium showing a soldier in white walking in the snow toward a American flag in the background after he had just walked on a Nazi flag in the foreground. This was a large picture I would say on the order of around four feet tall. Norm had gone to a lot of trouble framing it and it was very nice, "thanks a lot Norm for bringing it in".

The Christmas Party was ably hosted by Bob and Lois Brinkman, Al and Dorothy Henry, and Fred and Doris McGowan. They always do a good job and things run so smooth. Thanks a lot from all who attended for putting up with us again.

Counting members, wives and guests my log-book shows a total of 47 attending. One new member joined, Orval Turner. We picked him up, and he promptly picked up the 50/50 pot, nothing like first time luck. Visiting with him were his daughter-in-law, Ruth, and granddaughters Tina and LeAnne.

At the business meeting it was voted to have our next meeting at Jackson Ohio Comfort Inn, hosted by the Earl & Bonnie Hoover and Bob & Pearl Derickson on March 31, April 1st, Phone 614-286-7581 or 1-800-228-5150. Hope to see you all there.

After the business meeting the Christmas party was held and the gifts were flying thick and fast, several door prizes were donated. Paul (lucky) Lear, won the candle-holder Santa donated by Wilson Day.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Avalon Goodridge, wife of Manny Goodridge, Kentucky Chapter Secretary Treasurer.

She was a dedicated, religious lady, always meticulously dressed, she stood out as the fashion-plate of the crowd. Manny has our heart-felt sympathy along with the rest of her family in their loss.



Vi Day, called about Avalon then about half a hour Bob Derickson called. Less than a week Vi, called to say that Ann, McCarthy had called to say that Henry Whalen, had passed away, Henry like Avalon, ailing for some time, I don't think most of us realized how bad she was. Or Henry either. In checking the log book the last time he had attended a meeting was in Georgia in Oct. 1992. I know he must have felt bad for there were two things he liked to do that was to go 83rd meetings and garden. I remember the last time I talked to him he was talking about helping control the displaced persons camps after the war. I ran up to Louisville to the funeral home and while there got to meet two of his sisters and one of his brothers. I will miss our little chats at the meetings.

I hate to have so much bad news, but the Kentucky Chapter has had more than its share. Bill Ledger has had problems with leg since last August. He soon will be or has by now been fitted with a new leg, hopefully this will enable him to get around good again. Art Koerner, had a stroke back in Nov. he is making progress on the road to recovery. Art Doggett, has been in the hospital a time or two to get his pacemaker checked out, knowing Art like we all do I guess it just couldn't keep up with him. Fred Fowler has had surgery but I don't know enough about him to give a report that I know to be correct. Wally Roberts, and wife Frances have been ailing but they came by the other day and both were looking good so maybe they will be back with us before long. On Dec. 7th my wife Clara broke her foot, she spent some painful holidays but never slowed in her daily routine, she took the hospital boot off her foot the other day (against doctors orders) and seems to get better each day.

I probably have missed someone but if not for the help of Vi Day, (the eyes and ears of the Kentucky Chapter) I wouldn't know this much, she knows the problems Wilson had with this reporters job and helps what she can which I appreciate very much. Late news - Gordon Acton passed away Feb. 18th.

On a more happy note Lawrence Hamilton and Maxine, flew to Indianapolis, joined Norm Weaks then flew to Texas for a mini reunion with some of their buddies of the 908th. Fa. Art. Bn. Pickett and Whitt, I believe he said Oil City Texas, Lawrence said they showed them a good time.

Don't forget our spring meeting. Maybe by then it will be spring for sure.

Kentucky Chapter Reporter

Leroy V. Johnson, #rd. Bn. Hq. 331st Inf.



Hamilton, Pickett, Weaks, and Whitt. Texas City, Oct. 1994.



Kentucky Chapter Members.



Kentucky Chapter Members.



Clara Johnson, Linda Johnson, Pearl Derickson.



Doris McGowan, Wilson Day, Mick McGowan.

## **Philadelphia Chapter**

January 23, 1995

Again this year, the Philadelphia Chapter held its Christmas Party at the Coastline Restaurant over in New Jersey. This is the third year at this location for us, and it still continues to be an enjoyable and well attended afternoon. Al Belvedere arranges for the menu and the reservations. Despite the fact that Al Belvedere was not feeling too well at this time, however, he still managed to arrange for the reservations, and the menu too.

Shortly after the Christmas party, Al then went for a health check up, and at that time it was discovered that he was suffering from leukemia. His doctor admitted him to the Burlington County Hospital for several weeks of chemotherapy. Our latest report to date is that he is responding favorably to the treatment, and we look for a complete recovery.

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



1994 - Christmas Party at the Coastline Restaurant: I. to r. Betty Russo, Margaret Daum, Anna Belvedere, Dot Helne, Mary Schlesinger, Cele Fish. Seated: Marie Stevenson and Lucy Volpi.



1994 - Christmas Party at the Coastline Restaurant: I. to r. Mike Russo, Harry Kirby, Larry Redmond, Lucy and Lou Volpi.

## **Battle Rages**

True Southerners will resent Tuesday's editorial about the Georgia flag. Not about whether the Confederacy ever intended or attempted to overthrow the federal government.

When the 13 colonies rebelled against English rule, they did not intend to overthrow the mother government. They merely seceded, as did recently, for example, 12 former Soviet republics, five or six former Yugoslavian republics, and even little Eritrea.

The Constitution and James Coleman harm their cause by insisting that the Civil War was all about ending slavery. The War against Northern Aggression was equally about industrial policy and tariffs, control of frontier territories, and states' rights.

It was also about the right of the North to impose its moral principles on the South. The federal government is still trying to legislate love, and it still doesn't work. It only builds resentment.

Tom Smith  
Vinings, GA

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## **A Crime Plan that Works**

It seems to me our crime problem can easily be solved. The problem is that our elected officials are only worried about getting elected, not stopping crime. Go back to the Georgia chain-gangs. Once a criminal does his time wearing a ball and chain 24 hours a day, growing his own meals, working on roads, ditches and what have you, that will change a lot of minds here in Georgia. Once Georgia was crime-free. Then came the Bible-toters and do-gooders. Just look back a few years and compare.

Frank Morris, Co. "K" 331st  
Smyrna, GA





# COMPANIES

## "G" Company 331st Inf.

Again it is time for me to get busy and send in the article for the next issue of the Thunderbolt. Time seems to wait for no one. My time has been well occupied since last October. Last week I completed my sixth phase of chemotherapy, that is: suppose to be the end of it. A check of my bladder will determine if I need additional treatments.

We have had two more members of G Company that have passed away since the last article.

Gene Costanzo passed away in December. He was carrying on with his daily routine. Went home from breakfast, sat in his chair to watch television with his dog on his lap. About two in the afternoon his brother in law went to check up on him and found him in his chair. He died peacefully. One thing I can say about Gene, he enjoyed life, but I found in his later years he was pushing both ends against the middle.

Ripley sent me a note from Florida that Frank McAbee passed away in January. We may know him as John. He was platoon sergeant in the 2nd platoon and did an outstanding job from Normandy to the Elbe River. He was a quiet soldier and never would accept the full credit that was due him. While in the Brittany area, when we were outposting, a German soldier jumped out from behind a hedgerow and demanded that myself, the platoon leader, McAbee and Mulholland surrender. McAbee would not do that and fired on the German, hitting him and caused him to return to his outfit. A good soldier who learned from the Movie KILL or be KILLED. Sorry that I did not get in touch with him until last year.

Other sad news Joe Phillipone has been diagnosis with cancer of the liver and is now taking treatments. He has lost some weight, but he must learn to never give up. A card from the members of G Company will help him pull through. His address: 849 Bears Deen Road, Youngstown, Ohio 44511.

Selma Corder from Nokesville, Va. call to inform he that he has had problems with his health. He was a member of the weapons platoon and again a card from you will give him a lift. His address 10313 Burwell RD., Nokesville, Va 22123.

All the news so far has been on the bad side, and we are at that age, when all the parts start to fail. One of the wives of an 83rd man said - what is the matter with all of these men, they seem to be falling apart. My answer to her was, that after 50 years it is time we fall apart, because the wives of the 83rd men did not go through one year of combat. It is a wonder that we are still here to celebrate.

The reunion this year will be at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 14, 15, 16th in September. I will have a letter out to the men of G Company in early April given all the details. Those of us that live in the area, should make a good effort to attend. It is fun getting together with your buddies.

Capt. Mac

## "D" Company 331st

Time for another report and go to the sorrowful news first. We lost Bill Nagel in November. Bill was an original GI in Atterbury and a solid D Co. man through the years, attending many Reunions, Florida Chapter Meetings and spontaneous Company D get togethers with his wife Dorothy. He will be missed more than words can say. We surely hope Dot will continue to join us at our annual affairs. We also lost Albert Otto in October, also a GI in Atterbury, captured in Germany, remained in the service till retirement. We offer our condolences to both families.

The mid-winter Florida Chapter Meeting in Silver Springs (Ocala) should result in the appearance of snowbirds, Gravelyns and McKees. Hopefully the Florida contingent of Haughts, Gundersons, Miklos and our hosts, the Sharps, will also be present. We are hoping for a few others but haven't heard of anyone as yet.

Dallas and Trzeciak are helping in the planning of the 50th. Reunion in Cleveland.

Whit East says he'll see us in Myrtle Beach and guide us to the great restaurant hideaway he took us to twenty years ago.

Talked to George & Polly Odenweller and George is some better but still on medication. Hang in there George.

Jimmy Lynch called about what we are preparing for the After-Reunion get together.

Haven't seen or heard from Andy Churpak for some time, although we've heard he attends Pittsburgh Chapter Meetings. Will see you in Myrtle Beach Andy?

Bernie & Jeanne Cove are back in sunny Florida and we visit every week or so. Bernie seems more calm now that he has retired for good (I think).

Marcella Nolte has recovered from her illness that befell her at the conclusion of the Reunion at the PINES. She sends all her love and many thanks to Bernie & Jeanne Cove for all their help.

The Hamiltons send their best, and had their entire family together for the holidays, less a grandson they lost in a car accident last summer.

Bynum Hancock said he and son really enjoyed being at the Pines and seeing his buddies.

Dave Harman said he was sorry he missed the Reunion but expects to be at Myrtle Beach.

George Komlos just rolls along, has a new address, and says he will see us at the Reunion.

The McDermotts went to San Diego for the holidays to be with family. Don't know if they explored other parts of the West or not.



Vern Mueller says Ruthe will be with him at Myrtle Beach, and they want to do some more exploring of Florida that they missed on previous trips.

Stan Rummel says all is well with him in Eastern Pa.

Norm Schuster continues to write long newsy letters and still is active in the Philly Chapter as well as around his home area in Sellersville.

Al Shrawder, our Company newsletter editor, is coming down to our place for a few days of relaxation as well as attending the Florida Chapter meeting in January. Al & I go back as far as Atterbury and since renewing friendship some years ago have become close. We keep Ma Bell in business but really enjoy our conversations and passing on the latest news.

If I missed anyone, let me know and I'll catch you the next time.

Ralph B. Gunderson, Reporter

## **"K" Company 331st**

If possible I would like to have these pictures of my visit to Luxemburg on the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII, appear in the next issue of "Thunderbolt" magazine.

My reception was beyond my expectations. They were generous with their time and willingness to make my stay enjoyable. Each day brought another surprise visit to some interesting site that figured a great part in the liberation of Europe. I visited Ardennes, Bastogne, Belgium, France and Hurtgenwald, Germany (Hurtgen Forest) where I sustained frostbite.

The weather was agreeable "Indian Summer" the first three weeks but then became cold, wet and windy. Several of the trips we made were almost as bad as the actual encounters we had in 1944.

I know that I could never have remained in New England after I returned from the war. Even in California my feet at times have been chilled to the bone.

Thank you for all your grueling work for the members of the 83rd who look forward to receiving the Thunderbolt. Wishing you and yours the best of health and pleasant memories of enjoyable times during this year.

Sincerely, Franklin L. Crampa



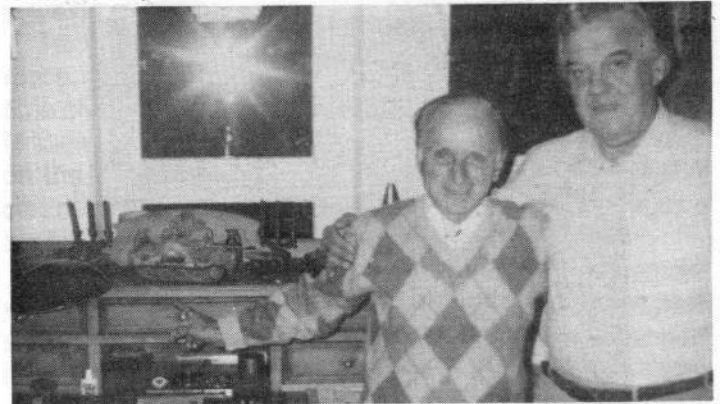
Personnel at Community Service Bldg. at Hurtgenwald, Germany. It's now a great resort - summer and winter sports.



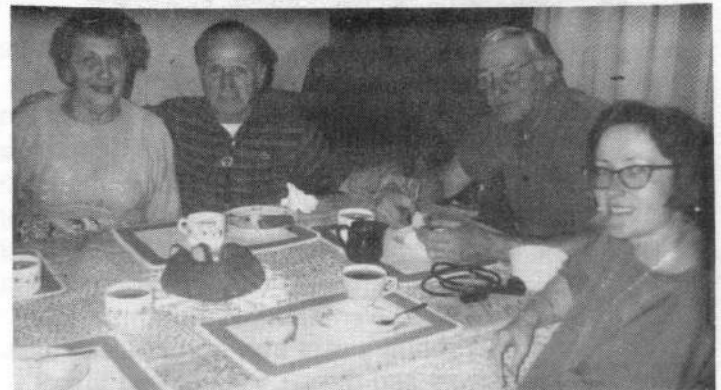
Niki Entringer holding Certificate of Appreciation given to me and the medal pinned on me for service at Ardennes and Bostogne.



S/Sgt. Franklin L. Crampa with Co-hosts Jean and Marie Lheres Winondy at Hotel de Commerce, Clarevaux, Lux.



At Commille Kohn's home - he's president of C.E.B.A. (Commune Europa Bastogne Ardennes. He arranges tours and visits throughout Belgium & Lux.



Relaxing at hosts' home in Cents, Lux. Simone Entringer, Franklin Crampa Niki and Elsie, their son's fiancée.

## 329th "B" Bag



U.S. Armored Tank, Clorevaux, Lux. Old Castle and Museum of WW II relics.



A view of Clorevaux Castle, Lux.



"G.I. Joe" monument Clorevaux, Lux.

First of all a sincere thanks for all of the Xmas cards; and all of the kind words, even though I got on at the end of January. Now for the bad news - Billy Walker had his leg amputated, and is recuperating in a nursing home. Hang in there Billy. On Jan. 5, Captain Hill, Our fearless leader had knee surgery. After the surgery he had a stroke. Jesse Pirkle told me that he has difficulty in talking. At the present time he is getting therapy treatments.

His address is Rosevelt Institue, East Wing, P.O. Box 1000 Warm Springs GA, 31830-0268. Drop him a card. All of B Co wishes the very best and a quick recovery to the best company commander in the 83rd. It was great to see him and his wife in Louisville last year. Speaking of Louisville, I haven't heard from the mayor or the first lady lately. Must be busy running the city. From the grape vine I hear the Meltons are vacationing in Florida and looking for a spot to settle down. Good Luck Cliff and Lucille. Yo Trofimokis is still bouncing in and out of the hospital. Thanks to Joe and Ruth Stek for sending me that writeup about the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. It brought back a lot of old memories, snow, bad weather, trench foot, and being cut off from the division for 3 days in Rochfort Belgium.

A short story about Rochfort while the company was in the town being cut off, the cooks, HDQ, drivers, and supply room were on the otherside of the river waiting for our return. 8 replacements arrived, and asked where is B Co?. Jake Lawliss the mess Sgt told them. That they were the company, as the company was across the river and surrounded and cutoff. One of the replacements was supposed to have fainted and 2 other got sick. That's what Jake told me. In the last Issue I listed 12 names that we lost in combat. Here are 18 more names, maybe you can remember them, and keep them in your prayers.

Irvin Mays  
Charles Sarlo  
Denver Melton  
Joseph Mims  
Robert Carnay  
Everette Williams

Sidney Lee  
Gaiza Chertisky  
Clarence Sesterhan  
John Farrel  
Leslie McVey  
Isidore Robinowitz

Otis Griggs  
Myrl McGurer  
Raymond Hillyer  
William Barton  
Fred Baldrige  
Lonnis Bien

More names to follow. As of now I don't think we will be able to make the reunion, Sorry.

Remember: The squeaking wheel does not always get the oil. Many times it is replaced.

Bob Uher  
(216) 885-1152





## "A" Company 308th

At Christmas time I heard from Bill and Bertha Loner, also from Irv and Phyl Katz who said they had been doing community service and traveling and have not attended a reunion in many years, and membership has lapsed. They asked about Buddy George Settle and when the next Reunion is. A note from Charles and Eleanor Auer told me that they hope to make it to the next Reunion. She's "had a few heart problems but is better now." They have had only 2 inches of snow, as of before Christmas. Their 2 grand-children and daughter and husbands were coming for a weekend so Charley and Eleanor get a chance to spoil them! Hope the heart problems are taken care of for good. Ray and Joan Bankowski sent greetings telling us they are "back, living in your home state and plenty of snow on the ground." My wife and I drove over to Schaumburg, Ill. and had a great visit with Ray and Joan. They both have health problems but are cheerful and welcomed us warmly. Was a wonderful afternoon. Greetings came from Andy and June Brand and told us that "if all goes well, we'll see you at Myrtle Beach". Got a card and note from Frank and Pearlina Davis, and they are looking forward to seeing us all at Myrtle Beach. "We're as good as ole folk's can be. We're thankful indeed for that". What a great out-look in spite of any problems. Virgil and Jane Hume sent best wishes and said "we may make it to Myrtle Beach in '95." Good news! Had a call from Ralph Baron and he had a letter from Mike Leiber's daughter, Donna. She hopes to keep in touch with the activities of Co. A, 308th. We sent some info and news to her. Ralph and Betty hope to be at Myrtle Beach. We're looking forward to seeing them. John and Ann Hanft wrote that they had a phone call from Bob Clary in Sept. Bob's been in foreign service and traveled all over the world. I got a call from Bob, too, when we got back from the Pines Reunion last year. Bob's address is: 1812 W. Belaire Ave., Peoria, Ill. 61614-5617. Ph.# 309-693-7720. I had a nice note from Lucy McMillan, Mac's great lady. We all miss him very much. Lucy had sad news of their youngest son (Bill), who had a heart attack in Feb. and passed away. Our deep sympathy to Lucy. We miss you, too, Lucy, Paul and Valeska Conrad wrote that they "couldn't make the last few Reunions. Maybe we will see you at Myrtle Beach. We missed seeing everyone." We all missed you, too, Paul and Valeska. Loved watching you 2 experts dance. Hope all stays well. We had a long note from Ansel (Pete) Petersen. He says he's had the same trouble this year as last year. "I turned 80 on May 8, 1994, and have 2 great-grand daughters." He was in Wisconsin in '94 fishing but had no luck getting the muskies. "If my digestive system settles down maybe I can make an 83rd Reunion again. The radiation treatment I had 2 years ago hasn't all worn off. Don't dare fly." We're pulling for you, Pete. And from Owen and Arlene Wellman, "Yes, we hope to make it to Myrtle Beach next year." And from Frank and Nellie Biakely, "It was nice seeing you this fall" My wife, and I and the Biakely's were

the only Co. A. 308th Engineers people to be at the Pines. It was great being there with them, but we sure did miss everyone else of our Engineer buddies and wives. From Earl and Evalyn Graham, their card told us of a double by-pass in April on Earl. His heart therapy lasted so long they just never got anywhere. He's felling fine now. We hope they'll be O.K. to come to Myrtle Beach this year. It sounds like we may have a good turn out of Co. A., 308th Engineers at Myrtle Beach Sept. 14, 15, and 16th. We hope everyone has sent in reservations. We're looking forward to seeing you, ALL

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

## 783rd ORDNANCE

Stop the world a minute so we can catch up on all the news. Do you get the same impression that the months just keep going faster?

Now let's see, it's a little late but I'm going to pick out some of the interesting news from some of your Christmas cards. I won't be able to cover everything as some of you wrote good, long letters.

Doc Pfeifer gave us the sad news from a Christmas note. Tom Riley died on Oct. 1, 1994 after a long illness. Tom had a series of strokes a few years back. Tom will always be remembered as a jolly hard worker.

Two weeks ago I received a letter from Earl Graham's niece. Earl and Verdell have been having a real tough time of it. Thanks to this loving girl they managed to stay in their home. She had found them both unconscious on the floor. They were put in a nursing home but she cleaned up the house and brought them back and is caring for them. Sad.

Art Doggett had a problem with a corroded pacemaker. The darn thing infected which required a hospital stay. As of this day Jan. 25 Art is doing ok. Now for better news

On a trip to central Pa. Ginny and I stopped to see George Harris. He will be 86 in August and he is doing well. He has a unique system of getting rid of the shakes before he eats. He downs a shot.

I talked to Percy Mohon and he sounded great and said like the rest of us, "Take each day and use it."

Vin Musser dropped a nice note. As you know Vin remembers nothing of the war except my name and being seasick. From time to time I send him some of his war stories from my book. "I can't picture anything you have written about. I'm sorry. Thanks for the good work your doing." Now Wiggins, I don't want to hear you complain about burned toast.

The card from Nancy Chevalier was also sad. "Dear Jake doesn't know he's in this world. Best wishes."

Better news is Joe Brown has moved twice. He and Betty are in their Fla. home until the end of April. 2396 Prague La., Punta Gorda, Fl. 33983-8650 Tel. 813-743-



0200 (Boy, Joe, your going to get wrong numbers) The new Pa. address - 6266 So. Highlands Circle, Harrisburg, Pa. 17111 Phone - 717-540-7962. Please - change your address book now and call for reservations.

I sent Troy Bishop a reunion picture. He said, "You are looking good." He didn't say anything about Jim Jones. I will. Jim drove alone to Calif. for a nice six week family visit. Then his daughter flew out and drove back with him stopping at all the neat wilderness area's. He didn't make her pitch a pup tent but it's a trip she'll never forget. Jim will be 76 on - 3/29.

This brings up Hersch and Midge Weaver who will be 76 on 3/25. One cake should do it! They bought winter quarters in Az. near the kids - but I threw the envelope away. I was 73 on 1/14. The good news - "If the Devil permits we'll make Myrtle Beach for sure."

We've had dinner with Bill and Martha Appleby and we have talked on the phone. He wants us to drive UP to see Milly & Art. Now Milly is a nice Southern Belle but I'd rather go and see Betty, Pat or Ruth all southern bathers in Florida. They are doing well. Al is picking fruit and Charlie Rorher is singing "Alone." Pat was staying in Ohio to have another grandchild. Charlie? He'll be 83 on 11/14.

Ed Perko seems fine but he's tired of making snowballs. Not only that Ed but I don't have your age. Was it 69?

A scary letter from Jane Bond. She's ok now but she had a kitchen fire and received third degree burns on her leg as well as arm and facial burns. She says she has stopped showing her dogs and I guess Jane the same goes for your legs. Janes age? A definite 65!

Jim Foster who will be 79 in Sept. says he is still able to get around but with a shaky hand. Jim, refer back to George Harris's remedy.

And quite a nice surprise. Three cards from Lee Wolf, Les Wolf's widow, her son Ron and Les's brother Emerson. Ron has helped make my book of the 83rd, "Hut Two", possible. This proves it's never too late to make new friends.

Another nice long letter from Ginny and Gene Delprete and I'm happy to report "Ginny finally appears to be coming out of the woods." Gene, the guy who doesn't like driving to reunions states, "The famous Northstar Eldorado - 32 valve, four exhaust pipe system and does it have zip!" Doggett, on hearing this said, "Two of those pipes are to let off Genes hot air."

While we were having that great reunion in Sept. Herm and Norma Hackstock were having a great European trip to Hungary the birthplace of Herm's parents. Now they too are in Fla. hoping to be in Myrtle Beach in Sept. Get your reservations!

Dot Forster was sick but her sons took over. She says she is ok now. And this from Bill Manning I have to put into print. "I absolutely intend to see you at the next reunion." The great news is, "Eloise's health gets better each day and I feel good."

The Stubber's and the Reese's checked in and saluted with a, "We're doing well and hope you are too." And of course you know there always has to be a wise guy in the crowd and his name is MiMi married to Ray. "Here's our Christmas message to you,

- 1) ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
- 2) ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Now you must remember Wiggins was knocked out by a golf ball last summer. Answer at the end of column.

Frank Salontay is cheerful for all his leg problems. He is improving, using canes he does get out on the golf course as a ranger. Lets hope you get some golf in this year Frank.

Bob and May Burns had a nice year of visiting the daughters in Va. and Wis. At home they weren't so lucky. They took a

canoe ride in the local river, hit a log and went under. They were pulled out for a trip to the E.J.R. A little later Bob was pushing a wheelbarrow which went over a rake. Get the picture - the rake came up and got MAY! This was another E.R. trip. An exciting time for at least one 75 year older.

Easy and Lou Labbe reported in as, "We are doing fine see YOU ALL in Myrtle Beach."

Ivan Gilman not only sent me a perspicacious Christmas felicitation. (He loves these prodigious words) but he also sent me a birthday card without money. He'll be 73 on 7/11 which unfortunately makes him six months younger than yours truly which I am not allowed to forget!

And lastly there's faithful Carl and Alyce. Always a long cheerful letter and both are in great health. Since Carl has retired Alyce is busting out all over. Carl's birthday? Would you believe he'll be 78 on 11/17? How come the girls that 17 yr. old Western Union girl in Indianapolis.

Ans. Miss U no L!

Well that's all folks. Try and stay well and treat yourselves. Come to Myrtle Beach in Sept.

Hut Two,  
Rags Rangnow

Reunion alert: All of you kind people please send some of your loose bucks to me for the Ad Book to Carl Frederick, N. 84 West 16111 Donald Court Menomonee Falls, 53051

## "G" Company 329th

Lois & Bob Brinkman of Minster Ohio hosted the Kentucky Chapter Christmas Party in Piqua with the Henrys & the McGowans. Forty-five people attended including: Doris & John Fay from Illinois, and Helen & Ames Miller from Indiana. Virginia and Vito Palazzolo were snowed in.

Helen & Ames Miller spent Christmas in Paulsra, 75 miles from Seattle.

Ruth & Chet Morgan from Ithaca, N.Y. will be in Florida for the winter.

Luella & Sterling Rubright from Shoemakerville, Pa. are already sunning in Florida.

Babe & Borence Freitag from N.J. are at Daytona keeping warm.

John Cupina of Buffalo went to Belgium & Luxenberg for the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. Had a great time. Lots of partying.

Virginia & Frank Morkums of Boston had a great 94. Their son, Rickey won the BIG Lottery. Couldn't happen to better people. Good Luck.

We are all looking forward to Myrtle Beach. Maybe the Boompas will play.

Babe Freitag.

## **"F" Company 329th**

*In his book "On War", Karl von Clausewitz, wrote, "Combat is the only effective force in War"*

### **"WE WERE TOGETHER THEN LET'S GET-TOGETHER AGAIN".**

We wanted you to know of Eunice's death and report to you about our North '94 Get-Together. We had Lunch at Ashland U's Accent Room, examined 4 floors of Rubbermaid Products, roamed a (2 acre) Country Hardware Store, Supper at the Amish Door and Breakfast at Friendly's: with these F Co people; Charles - Chuck & Emma Anderson, Ohio; Roy & Margie Arnfield, Pennsylvania; Wright J. & Lucille Cotter, Illinois; Bill Ferguson, Michigan; George & Elva Fuller, Indiana; W. Ed & Margaret Hammond, Maryland; Burnette - Hellcat & Katie Helleckson, Wisconsin; Bill & Dot Hutton, Pennsylvania; Dr. Marshall - - Doc & De Loris Keith, North Carolina; Lloyd & Verleen Lutkemeier, Nebraska; George & Gail Maranovich, Indiana - Brother of "Pop" - Late Michael Maranovich; George & Anne Trebonyak, Michigan; Bob & Lavona Whitcomb, Ohio and Ed Zerucha, Michigan. We asked this question, "Is 2 F Co Get-Togethers (N & S) every year, too much?" In the discussion, everyone liked having two chances to Get-Together, because "it is later than you think" and it is not always possible to attend both or either, but a decision to attend one, is independent of the other. Then we asked about South '95 in Punta Gorda Florida, both Anderson and Arnfield read about crime in Florida and stayed home last year, We explained, "We're on the West Coast where it is quieter, more laid back" and we convinced them Bill Nickell allows "no problems" so they will reconsider for 1995. Everyone in Ashland, other than one or two, plan to attend Punta Gorda in 1995. George Fuller played a solo "It is no secret what God can do" on his Harmonica to close Tuesday night.

**\* "We were together then, let's Get-Together again" at these scheduled activities:**

South '95 - Punta Gorda, 23, 24, 25 February, Florida. Sponsor F Co - Bill and Arline Nickell

83rd Div - Myrtle Beach SC, 83rd INF DIV WW II 49th Reunion, Sponsor 83rd Dixie Chapter.

\* North '95 - Ashland, 15, 16, 17 October, Sponsor F Co - Bob and Lavona Whitcomb.

South '96 - Punta Gorda, 22, 23, 24 February, Sponsor F Co - Bill and Arline Nickell.

\*\* North '96 - Cleveland Ohio, Sponsor 83rd INF DIV WWII 50th Reunion

South '97 - Punta Gorda, 20, 21, 22 February, Sponsor F Co - Bill and Arline Nickell.

North '97 - Ashland, 12, 13, 14 October, Sponsor F

Co - Bob and Lavona Whitcomb. South '98 - Punta Gorda, 26, 27, 28 February, Sponsor F Co - Bill and Arline Nickell.

North '98 - Ashland, 11, 12, 13 October, Sponsor F Co - Bob and Lavona Whitcomb.

South '99 - Punta Gorda, 25, 26, 27 February, Sponsor F Co - Bill and Arline Nickell.

North '99 - Ashland, 17, 18, 19 October, Sponsor F Co - Bob and Lavona Whitcomb.

\* North '95 - Ed Hammond, promised to bring a bushel of Chesapeake Bay Maryland Blue Crabs for a "Crab Spread in Ashland" But how about this, he said, "My wife, Margaret, can eat a bushel herself", let's hope he brings two (2) bushels so there will be some for his Buddys.

\*\*North '96 - F Co plans to join the 83rd INF DIV WWII 50th Reunion in Cleveland, the 1946 reunion city, please consider this reunion as a F Co 329 "all out attack" and plan to be there. The old mailman Vic Landis (RIP) came close to getting 50 F Co men into a reunion, but we can have 50 (or more) if you "bite the bullet" and make up your mind to be at the 50th Reunion of the WWII 83rd INF DIV. Some of us don't travel much anymore, especially long distance, but we hold a slow pace, stop to catch our breath and we do manage to get along. Supper is like a "sick call" pharmacy when we get out our pills and shots, but, it's worth the bother and bother to see my F Co 329 Buddys. We were busy overseas, after the War busy at home and didn't have much companionable time, but now we can enjoy friendships that were shaped in F 329 a long time ago. Please contact the Widows; Families of F Co Men and Men of the Company who are out of touch now and all of us assemble in Cleveland Ohio for 1996.

Hope you are well,  
Love, Bob and Lavona

Looking toward 1996, it will be great; but I hope this little ditty suggests what we all do, next February:

*Come to Florida in Ninety Five; while some of us are still alive.*

*Come one, come all, before it's too late; the more the merrier to celebrate.*

*Don't believe everything you read; Three years in a row, Nickells fulfilled our need.*

*It's HOJO on the riverside again this year, really ya'll there's nothing here to fear.*

*February's the month and 23rd is the date. Walk, drive or fly; just don't wait too late.*

*How to tell us you are coming our way, will be in an invitation to come your way.*

*You come along and we'll forgo our rest; to show you Florida is really the best.*

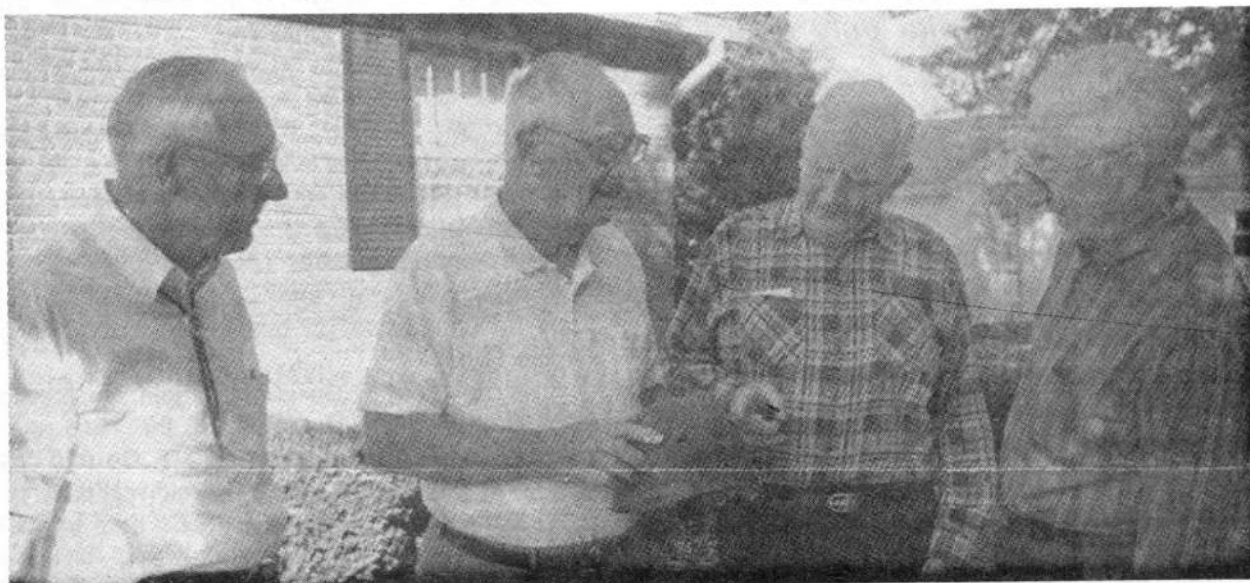
*"We were together then. Let's Get-Together again."*

Co. "F" 329th Infantry, South '95 Reunion, February 23, 24, 25, 1995, HOJO Lodge, Punta Gorda Florida.

Bob Whitcomb, 1994



# Company "F" vets hold reunion



Roy Arnfield (second from l) shows a bullet-pierced helmet liner (which he was wearing at the time the bullet pierced it) to fellow veterans Lloyd Lutkemeler (l), Bill Hutton (second from r) and Dr. Marshall Keith.

Thirteen veterans of World War II from nine states and their wives met for the third time in Ashland at the home of Robert and Lavona Whitcomb, 1314 Center Lane Drive, for a three-day reunion.

Veterans from Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin attended.

The men served with Company "F" 329th Infantry Regiment 83rd Infantry Division in World War II.

Some of the men attending first met in October 1942 at Camp Atterbury, Ind., where the 83rd Division was reactivated

and went ashore at Omaha Beach in Normandy, France, relieving the 101st Airborne Division.

The division was engaged in all five major ETO Theater Campaigns, Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe, meeting the Russians in Zerst, Germany, 35 kilometers from Berlin.

Company "F" members attend their yearly National Association reunions and also meet in Punta Gorda, Fla., for a south winter reunion.

Bill and Arline Nickell will serve as hosts

## Company "F" Takes Advantage Again of the Ashland Advantage



Is 13 an unlucky number? Not at all when it represents thirteen men who served together overseas during World War II with Company "F" 329th. Infantry Regiment 83rd. Infantry Division and their ladies are able to get together in Ashland for the third consecutive year to attend the rifle company's North Fall Reunion, in the home of Robert and Lavona Whitcomb, 1314 Center Lane Drive.

Nine states were represented with Lloyd and Verleen Lutkemeler from Hastings, Nebraska traveling the greatest distance.

George Maranovich and wife Gail from Clinton, Indiana, brother of Michael (Pops) Maranovich, a deceased member of Co. F were welcome guest. This allowed George to meet some of his brother's buddies for the first time.

50 Years ago the 83rd Infantry Division entered the ETO via France's Omaha Beach relieving the 101st Airborne Division on June 27, 1944. The 101st had jumped on D-Day, June 6, 1944. While in the ETO the 83rd. Division participated in all 5 major Theater Campaigns, Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe, concluding 233 days of actual contact with the enemy by breaching the Elbe River at Barby, establishing the first solid amphibious bridgehead on the East Bank, the last natural barrier before Berlin, then proceeded on to meet the Russians at Zerst, Germany approximately 35 kilometers from Berlin. After turning over the Elbe River bridgehead to the Russians on May 6, 1945, Occupation Army duty followed until return to the States.

"F" Company men and wives meet annually at HoJo's Lodge in Punta Gorda, Florida for a South Winter Reunion hosted by Bill and Arline Nickell. Members also attend the yearly National Reunions of the 83rd. Infantry Division Association, Inc. The 1995, 49th, will be at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, September 14, 15, 16 1995. The 50th. Reunion will be in Cleveland, Ohio in 1996. Any area 83rders not now members of the Association can write National Secretary Robert E. Derickson, 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013-8907 or call (513) 863-2199.

## "D" Company 330th

HELLO BUDDIES:

Here it is that time again to get my newsletter off for the coming edition of the "THUNDERBOLT", I don't know how many of you take time out to read the "THUNDERBOLT" from cover to cover, it is just about the greatest publication that we can look for thanks to our great Secretary-Treasurer, who is the Editor of it.

Bob has done a tremendous job as our Secretary-Treasurer for many years, it isn't an easy job I know as I once held that Office for several years.

Well Buddies, getting away from that and on to my Co. "D" letter, at this time there isn't too much to write about as I haven't had any good or bad news to report to you. I had a very nice little letter from the daughter of your late First Sergeant, Sgt. Barefoot, asking me where she could find a book that gave full information of the 83rd Infantry Division in action. That is a question that I can't answer so I am referring her letter to our very able Historian, he is very knowledgeable of our Division. I have been asked many times about why the 83rd never appears in stories or movies. My only answer is that we were a fighting outfit and not one from Hollywood. Being assigned as we were to conflicts where Angels feared to tread, no reporters or cameramen could be sent to the areas.

Well Buddies, I have a little news for you, and that is that in a few short weeks I will be contacting you asking for your help in the Co. "D" Page in the Reunion Ad Book. As I have said many times, my work with the book is coming closer to the end and I have decided that this is my last year. I sincerely hope that one of you will take over as I hate to see that page not in the Book.

Your buddy  
Larry Redmond

## "H" Company 330th

HELLO BUDDIES:

Here it is time for me to sit here once again trying to think of all I have to mention to you at this time. As you all know, that old clock gets to tick faster and faster each day. We get up in the morning and sit down to breakfast and before we can get the dishes off the table and the mess cleaned up, it is time to start the lunch menus, and again before we know it dinner time has arrived and where has all those hours of the day gone. As I sit here trying to think of what I have to say next, I do want to say that I have been very ill since Christmas and have little or no desire to do anything but lay around. At the present time I am hard at work once again on the Ad Book, and before you get the chance to read this, I will be asking you for your help to make the Co. "H" page the success that it has been over the years. Well Buddies, I am afraid that I have some news that may or may not be good news to you. At the present time, I think that this will be my last

letter to you asking your support of the Ad Book. I have done this for about 35 years and it keeps getting harder and harder to get responses from you, so I feel that it is time that I stepped down and set on the sidelines like so many others have. I wish to thank you all for the help you have given me in the past. I will always remain a dedicated Co. "H" 330th Man. It is not easy to make this decision, but due to my health at this time, I feel that this is the proper time to do it.

I will always be here if any of you need me. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL AND GRANT YOU HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.

your buddy  
Larry Redmond

## 323rd F.A. Bn Report

Jack Brewer of Canton, Ohio called me on the telephone. It was nice hearing from him. Jack was in A Battery 323 FA.

Erwin Erhardt, Eddie McCouch, Nancy Nellies, Marge Taylor, Elvira Hoover, Al Covi, Anita McCormack, Alice Ann Costello, Willie Snodgrass, Louie DiMichele, Doctor Monroe Coleman, Richard Audette, Dustin Starbuck, George Connor, Walter Harding, Frank Wirth and Don St. John have checked in with me from Hq. Battery. It is nice to hear from them. I guess some are getting to old to write.

I would like to hear some news from other Batteries. Some say I am only writting on Hq. Battery, but I have to receive news to write on others. This last year Hq. Battery lost four men. Thomas Papile died February 17, 1994 in Malden, Ma. Elie Paul Kinder died August 1994 in California. Norman McCormack died October 7, 1994 in Hartland, ME Inccence Suilmann, died January 2, 1995 in Min. Our condolences to the families of these men.

I am trying to locate Brooks Farmer, Max Edgin, Efrim Fruchtmian, Don Graneuro, Elser Pomery, Jesse Thompson, and Melvin Powell. Anyone in contact with these men please send me their addresses.

Alvis Waldrep was in the hospital but is at home recovering. I talked to his wife Virgie on the telephone.

Al Covi is doing well. I heard from him at Christmas time. Maybe at the next reunion he will give the southern golfers a run for their money. Covi I think I could beat Don Willis myself.

Well I guess that is all for now.

Amby Tynan  
Hq. 323rd FA



## **"F" Company 329th**

From information furnished me I can report six men, four wives from Co. "F" attended and enjoyed the 48th annual reunion in September '94 at the Pines. VV (Tex) Mildred Atchison, Louis Gaybrant, Dale/Marge Lewis, Bill/Lois Meyerhoeffer, Russell/ Marguerite Whitehead and George Thompson. Buddies your representation is appreciated. My thanks to Bill Meyerhoeffer for sending me the Ad Book for our Company's use.

Having very recently in 1994 remembered D-Day, VE Day and VJ Day I take the liberty of offering the following, a recently dedicated Memorial Day Plaque reads:

"All Gave Some  
Some Gave All"

I feel all buddies who may read this could relate to the words, as this personifies the 83rd Infantry Division.

Since our last communication some of us have been together, talked via phone or corresponded by letter, therefore know about some of our group who have had sickness, operations, and deaths so far those who do not I will briefly mention those made known to me. Charles Anderson knee replacement Jan. 18, '95, Falton Ballard still experiencing difficulty since back operation. Bille Collins reported considerable back problems no surgery scheduled only medication. Roy Clemons multiple (5) heart bypass Aug. 24, '94 doing fine. Margaret Ferguson on sick leave unable to attend North '94 in October expects to be with us Feb. '95 at South '95. Bill Ferguson says he now looks like Doctor Spock of Star Trek, (not really) after removal of a growth on his ear, everything OK, no further problems anticipated. Niles Johnson hospitalized in Sept. (kidney stones). Niles wife Delphia acute stomach problems. Lloyd Lutkemeier triple bypass plus pneumonia in June, getting along great! able to attend North '94. Verleen Lutkemeier doing real well with her new knees. DeLorie Keith indicated in Ashland she is putting up with her back problems which were aggravated by the automobile accident she experienced awhile back. According to Marie, Ado Langenkamp (heart condition), is doing pretty good, tires easily doesn't get too far away from home. Arlene Nickell says she is feeling pretty good these days and is getting back on track in the right direction with her health. Herbert Peterson is feeling one of life's trying times since the death of his wife Ida last year '93 a card would offer some encouragement. If I missed any I should have acknowledged my apologies.

### **Excerpts from Past Thunderbolts.**

TB Vol. II No. 4 June 1958 - from letter addressed to George Cooley, Warren, Ohio: Now George I have another challenge to throw at all the other units in the 83rd Div. and specifically this is it. I on behalf of Co. "F" 329th Inf. will buy a ten dollar ad for the program, in fact I have already taken care of that function, Vic Landis. Reporter's note: Remember how much \$10 was back then.

TB Vol. 12 No. 2 Jan. 1959 Hats off to Jim Fowler, our former top Sgt. who drove all the way from Okla City, Okla (1100 miles) to be with us here in Dayton. To Bill and Arlene Nickell, who have never missed a reunion. By Vic Landis

TB Vol. 13 No. 1 Sept - Oct. 1959 Upon my arrival at the Statler-Hilton, after contacting division headquarters, Ed Zowcha took me to his home, where his wonderful wife Jean, served us a sumptuous dinner. Major Bill Ferguson and Ed Zerucha, did invaluable service and I would also like to compliment their very wonderful wives Margaret Ferguson and Jean Zerucha for their important part they had in the success of the reunion. By Vic Landis.

TB Vol. 13 No. 2 Nov - Dec. 1959 We of Co "F" 329 are trying to stage a reunion of our own. We plan on having it here in Dayton, Ohio or at Bill Nickells place in Mich City, Indiana. Probable date will be over Memorial Day weekend. The old guard will always attend the national reunion and in this way, many of our men can afford the Co. "F" reunion only Am working on the details. By Vic Landis

TB Vol. 13 No 4 April - May 1960 All and Sundry are hereby invited to a bit of early elbow bending in the "F" 329 CP and rumpus room. We will command the post and raise a rumpus. By Vic Landis Reporters' Note My! how calm things are now.

TB Vol 13 No. 5 July - Aug. 1960 - Am very happy to report at the time of this writing that Co "F" 329 now has 40 paid up members. If memory serves me right and I have every reason to believe it does, this sets a record for paid-up members of a single unit. By Vic Landis.

TB Vol. 14 No 1 & 2 Sept. - Dec. 1960 Vic Landis' Account of Jim Fowlers' Tracer Haircut in the Hedgerows. Reporters Note, of those mentioned in the account Ado Langenkamp of Rossburg, Ohio is the only known one now living.

Scheduled activities to Remember:

South '95 - Punta Garda, Fl.

Feb. 23, 24, 25.

83rd Div. Reunion - Myrtle Beach, S.C. Sept. 14, 15, 16.

North '95 - Ashland, OH. October 15, 16, 17

South '96 - Punta Gorda, Fl. Feb. 22, 23, 24

83rd 50th Div. Re. - Cleveland, Ohio

"WE WERE TOGETHER THEN -

LET'S GET TOGETHER AGAIN"

Call or Write a Buddy - Both of you will be glad you did.

CR Bob Whitcomb  
13143 Center Lane Dr.  
Ashland, Ohio 44805

## **"A" Company 329th Inf.**

Another new year coming up. We have a lot to look forward to, so, let's try and stay healthy.

I received a lot of cards and letters at Christmastime. John Camp, our medic, was batching it for awhile. His wife, Majorie, was taking care of her mother. I guess everything turned out ok. Eddy and Alyce Gilbert are still touring the country, and are in good health. Jim and Beth Kinzie are going to Memphis, Tenn., and then to Texas for the winter. Ernest and Hilda Perry are hanging in there. I heard from Owen and Lois Wilson, and Lois has arthritis and it pains her a lot. Melvin and Nancy Mag-ee seem ok; Nancy had to get a pace maker for her heart. Carl and Lee Pliske will celebrate 49 years of married bliss. Carl tells me that his son, Patrick, while vacationing in Las Vegas with his buddy, took a nasty fall over some construction work that wasn't marked. He broke his left wrist in four places, and it required surgery. They had to take bone chips from his hip as replacements for his shattered wrist. Otherwise, the rest of his family is ok.

George and Pauline Suchomelly went to Europe to celebrate D-Day + 50 years. He said it brought back memories. George also tells me that he and his wife went to see John Camp, Bill Ursery and Mutt Adair, then they left to see Haden Beasley, near Springfield, Missouri.

John Camp tells me that Bill Ursery had a tumor removed from his neck. He also had a light stroke. Mutt had a bout with walking pneumonia, and still can't get his strength back. Otherwise, the rest of the gang seemed in pretty good shape. Johnny and Eunice Punch are fine. Ed and Carm Mudre did not make The Pines last reunion because Ed had some health problems. He did not elaborate as to what his problem was. He did say that he hopes to see us all in Myrtle Beach.

I received a letter from Bert and Bill Tisher. He had a call from Vince Bauman. I guess the Baumans are enjoying life. Bert tells me that Bill is having some memory problems. He had tests but they can't seem to find anything wrong. Bert fell in the living room and sprained her ankle. She had to use a walker for 3 weeks. She says with a smile, that these golden years are tarnishing, but they are pushing on.

Bernice and I visited the Tishers last fall and had a nice visit. Bill showed me a lot of pictures of the men in the company. Do any of you guys remember 1st Sgt. Getchell, back at Camp Atterbury? Well, see the pictures below. How about 1st Sgt. Art Watkins?

Our 'ole "medic", John Camp, sent me some pictures. Here is one of George Suchomelly, Bill Ursery and John. Pretty nice looking guys, eh? A few pounds heavier, maybe.

Question: does anyone remember Blanchard, "Frenchy"? He was rotated home with Captain Combes at the Elbe River. And, has anyone heard about, or from, Capt. Combes?

Next issue I will have some more pictures.

I received a letter and map from Herbert "Blackie" Mossman. (Remember the Mossman twins, "Red" and

"Blackie")? Red passed away a few years back. Anyway, "Blackie" is having a mini reunion for the 4th Platoon, and all "A" CO guys. Reservations have been made at the Executive Inn, in Evansville, Indiana, for the 2nd week-end of August. (10th, 11th, 12th), 1995. Make reservations by calling 1-800-457-3841. A good time is being planned and will not conflict with our national reunion. Let Blackie know.

This is all for now. God Bless and stay healthy!

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



**1st Sgt. Getchell "A"**  
Co. - 329th Inf. - 83rd  
Div., Camp Atterbury,  
Ind. Oct., 1942



**1st Sgt. that went over-**  
seas with us and stayed to  
the end of war 1945. 1st  
Sgt. Art Wadkins. Picture  
taken in Germany.



**Camp's House - June of 94. Left to Right. George**  
Suchomelly, Bill Ursery and our "Ole medic John  
Camp at Camps farm. - Armstrong II.





# NOTES & LETTERS

## LEARN WHAT THE GENERALS AND AUTHORS SAID ABOUT THE 83'rd WHILE IT WAS HAPPENING AND AFTER

The Boston Chapter of the 83'd is still offering for sale some of its books entitled **83'rd THUNDERBIRD RAG TAG CIRCUS**. For the small price of \$10.00 plus \$3.00 postage you may obtain the book to read and to donate to your home town library. Read what General Eisenhower, General Montgomery, General Patton, and many other Generals said about the 83'rd. Also what World War II authors said. Your heart will swell up with pride, when you read what Cornelius Ryan, the author of **THE LONGEST DAY** says about the "illustrious" 83'rd **RAG TAG CIRCUS**. These books are offered for sale by the Boston Chapter of the 83'rd Division Association for its fund drive. With some of this money we run bingo parties at veteran's hospitals, bring gifts to the ill, give Christmas gifts etc. to veterans in our area. It's a black and gold hard cover book.

Pat D. DiGiammerino, 83rd Infantry Div. Assoc.  
36 East Border Road, Malden, Mass. 02148

Lehigh, Pa.  
February 2, 1995

Dear Bob:

Enclosed is a check for my 1995 dues in the 83rd Infantry Division Association.

My wife, Ann, died January 4, 1994, a brother Walter, who served with the Seabees during World War II in the South Pacific, died December 26, 1994, and another brother, Thomas, who served with the 4th Infantry Division during the Invasion and Battle of the Bulge, and who I met twice overseas, died January 12, 1995.

Also, Frank Kehler of Ashland, PA., who served with the construction platoon of the 83rd Signal Company, died January 7, 1994.

So you see, I had a bad year.

Sincerely,  
Erin L Hawk

## LOST AND FOUND

Mademoiselle Alice EDUC, 16 rue Porcon de la Barbinair, 22100 DINAN, FRANCE has a photo of six soldiers and some girls taken in Brittany in 1944. One of the soldiers was Bill Wilson of 308th Engineers. Your latest roster does not show his name, but if any others who think they may be in that photo, Alice will appreciate hearing from them.

Mr. Bernard DESCURE, 111 rue Monge, 75005 PARIS, FRANCE showed me a helmet liner he found in Saint-Malo in August, 1944. Printed inside is "Lieutenant Daniel (A or M) MURPHY 0-132 (5 Or 3) 161. His name is not on the roster either, but someone else may know him and should write to Mr. DESCURE. Perhaps the helmet liner can be returned to Lt. Murphy or some member of his family.

Hope you find the above and my letter of 11th worthy of being included in your next edition of the THUNDERBOLT.

Colonel (Ret) Rupert G. Macpherson  
2707 West Macon Street  
Decatur, Illinois 62522  
217-422-6117

M. MARIE Jean-Luc  
03 rue Hochelaga - BP 77  
35406 SAINT-MALO Cedex (FRANCE)

Dear Colonel MACPHERSON,

Thank you so much for your letter and for the photos and shoulder patches enclosed. I took the liberty of keeping one patch for myself, but the others go to the club. I made sure each member of the club read your letter full of encouragement.

Last August, it was the first time I had the opportunity to meet veterans of the U.S. Army who liberated the area in which we now live free. You cannot imagine what it meant to me and I can assure you it was such a privilege to all of us.

You said in your letter that your association should know what we are doing, and that the photos and video will be shown in Virginia next April. May we ask yet another favor, that is to speak on our behalf as we obviously cannot attend such meeting.

One day, after a ceremony in a small village, an old lady said to us: "IT LOOKS LIKE 50 YEARS AGO!". This meant a lot to us because this is exactly the purpose of our association. Like we told you many times last August, we are not fanatics who worship war and weapons. Through our club we want people to remember that thousands of young men came 50 years ago to this foreign continent they had never seen before, to bring peace and freedom. We like to think that what we do, we do it for those who never made it and couldn't see the liberation and parade through villages, sharing the happiness of the liberated people. Those who would never know they had won. We like to think that we do it for all of you, who sacrificed 2 years of your life for ours.

In your letter, it sounds like we are the ones to be admired. But it's easy for us to wear a G.I. Uniform and carry a U.S.M. 1 Carbine. We don't have to fight with them, just parade through villages in peace time. You are the ones we are proud of, and who deserve recognition.

I haven't had copies of my photos yet, but I will send them to you as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to hearing from you. Please give all our regards to the other members of your association, and my warmest regards to Mrs. MACPHERSON, a wonderful lady.

Yours Faithfully,  
Jean-Luc MARIE

A woman gets into a taxi at the airport and gives the driver her address. He starts out and she says, "Wait a minute. It looks like you're going through the tunnel; take the bridge." He drives on and she says, "Can you drive a little faster, you'll miss the light -- wait a minute, slower, there's a guy on your tail and he's making me nervous. Now when you get off the bridge make a left, I can tell you're about to make a right." When he finally gets her home she says, "How much do I owe you?" He says, "Nothing, you did most of the driving."

Charles B Stine Sr.  
14260 Ridge Rd.  
Waynesboro, PA 17268-9543

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Bad Schellerback, Austria, when we went to school. I don't know the names.

Can anybody identify these guys? They all were in the 83rd Div. We went to 83rd school in Bad Schellerback, Austria.

Tony Pagno NCO, 329th Reg.  
874 E. Princeton Ave., Palmerton, PA 18071  
Phone # 610-826-2997

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621 Oak Street  
Ludlow, Kentucky 41016

Many of you know my wife, Avalon Goodridge, passed away last month on January 18. She had been sick since March 1991 with Multiple Myeloma, a cancer that affects blood plasma cells. She had been doing extremely well until her sister, Vivian Craven, dropped dead of a massive heart attack this past October 25. After Vivian's death, Avalon went steadily downhill. Ironically, it was not the cancer that killed her. While getting into the car to go for her doctor's appointment, her heart stopped. During this period of our grief, your many cards and flowers were greatly appreciated.

On a brighter note, my son Keith and daughter Amy have written and illustrated a new children's book, Discovery of the Little Yodel People. This book is the first in a series and introduces the Little Yodel People characters. These green little people are only 3 inches tall and are responsible for all echoes throughout the world. It is a great story for children between two and eight years old. If anyone is interested in the book, please call or write me. The project took nearly a year to complete and I am very thankful Avalon was able to see the finished product before she died.

Sincerely, Manny Goodridge



Co "B", 331st REGT. Simbach, Germany - June, 1945 Occupation duty. S/Sgt. Carmi Lockhart has his Squad of 2nd Platoon ready to fall in. Members of Squad: L - R. Sgt. Carmi Lockhart, Thomas Judge, Herbert Seaman, Phil Poso, Bruce Lambert, Donald Caddy, Killen, Luther, Roll, Childers, and Harold Shelley.

Norman L. Kruse

C.O. Co. B. 331st Regt. June, 1945

Carmi Lockhart of Junction City, Kentucky passed away at his home in Feb. 1994. He had been a Squad Leader during the War and in Occupation duty in Simbach, Germany.

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Dear Mr. Derickson,

I am interested in finding out how to get the book Thunderbolt Across Europe and My 329th Regiment Book. My book got lost in a fire and I really would like to get another one. My army serial # is 34609568 if that helps.

I would appreciate any help you could give me.

Thank you, Graham B. Humphries  
3840 Melissa Dr., Harrisburg, N.C. 28075  
Phone 704-455-2878

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Dear Bob

I am writing to find out if any members of the 324th F.A. Battalion, especially service battery members would be interested in visiting the places we were during and after the war in April, May, or June 1995.

Places like Cartentan and Dole in France. Also in the Passau area of Germany.

Of course there are many other places we could visit also.

Anyone interested can write or phone me.

Sincerely  
Joseph P. Mulligan  
737 Laurel Lane  
Clifton Heights, Pa. 19018  
Phone: (610) 259-2790





**Anthony**



**Gino**



**Rocco**

The Torrieri family had three sons fighting in World War II. Anthony, Gino, and Rocco Torrieri. God was good to our family, we all made it home safe. I Anthony served with Co. L. 331st Reg. 83rd INF. I participated in three major campaigns. The Battle of the Bulge, Rhineland and Central Europe. My Brother Gino served with the 97th Infantry Div in Europe and later sent to the Pacific. My younger brother Rocco served his time in the continental U.S.A. We are all proud of having served our country.

Yours Truly, Anthony Torrieri  
8 Hyatt Ave., Yonkers N.Y. 10704

## **Horrors of Huertgen Recalled**

Jan. 1995 - VFW Magazine

Enjoyed reading David Colley's "Horror in the Huertgen Forest" (November). I served with B Co., 330th Inf. Regt., 83rd Div. in that terrible battle. I cannot begin to tell you how bad it really was. But I was one of the fortunate ones, suffering only a bad case of trench foot. However, I lost a close buddy with whom I had trained in the states.

I still cry to this day about the American dead there, especially on Memorial Day and Veterans Day when I think of the great sacrifices made. Thank you for putting out such a fine magazine. I enjoy it very much. Keep up the good work.

Roland N. Grebinger, 70-30 72nd Place,  
Glendale, N.Y. 11385

Dear Bob:

I just received my fall issue of the "Thunderbolt", all I want to say is every time I receive it I enjoy it more, and more reading all about the buddies and whats going on in the different chapters, and what a wonderful time everyone has at the reunions especially the last one just held up in the Pines, in New York.

I read the article on page 31 from buddy Andrew Buffalino CO "I" 331st who lives in Westbury N.Y. which isn't to far from where I live, I saw his phone No. gave him a call even though he was in CO. "I" 331st and I was in CO. "B" 330th. We are both 83rd men, we had a very nice long conversation on the phone and we plan on getting together real soon.

Bob as I stated once before I am a member of the Masonic Fraternity and every year in September they have what is called Masonic family day up in the West Point Military Academy. We get there early, there's a ceremony where we place a wreath at the statue of General Douglas MacArthur who was a Mason, then we march over to the parade grounds and watch the Cadets on parade (what a beautiful sight) then we go back to the parking fields and have our tail gate picnics. After that we take the shuttle bus up to the stadium and see a football game between Army and what ever college they happen to be playing that day.

When ever I go I always wear my 83rd Jacket and hat and let me tell you Bob when ever the young Cadets pass you and see what your wearing they give you a great big High Ball.

I have gotten a lot of compliments from Cadets and other people about the jacket and how proud of us W.W.II veterans and what we did for our country. My wife always says what are you crying about, I said because it makes you feel so good and a lot of our buddies are not hear to hear it.

Bob it makes me feel so proud that I fought with the 83rd and like Bill Kent O'Connell say's we were the best "BAR NONE"

Bob I want to wish you and your family and all the buddies and their families of the 83rd many, many more years of continued good health, and happiness, "GOD BLESS YOU ALL" maybe you can put this in the next issue of the Thunderbolt.

Your Buddy  
Roland N. Grebinger  
70-30 72nd Place  
Glendale, New York 11385-7735  
(718) 497-2666  
"B" Co. 330th - "B:" Batt. 324th F.A.

## *A Request:*

*Anyone who has a size 44 uniform OD jacket I could be buried in when I die Please contact:*

*Henry W. Good  
11454 Westfall Rd.  
Frankfort, OH 45628*

Dear Mr. Derickson,

My name is Basil Polinsky and I am an active member of the 83rd Infantry Division.

Recently, while reading the Scranton Times-Tribune, which is published locally, I came across a very inspiring and touching letter. It was sent to a family in the states. They had lost a son in Belgium during world War II. My family as well as myself were emotionally moved by its contents.

We believe this letter should be published in an upcoming edition of the thunderbolt magazine.

I believe my comrades and their families would appreciate it as much as my family and friends did.

I am enclosing a copy of the letter and the article as it appeared in our paper.

Please consider having it published. We believe it will touch the hearts of many Thunderbolt families.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Wishing you and your loved ones a healthy, happy new year.

Cordially yours,

Mr. Basil Polinsky

1033 Carmalt St.

Dickson City, PA., 18519

1-717-489-5447

## Wartime Vignette Recalled

Belgique Pomméral - November 1945

ORDINARY AMERICAN, ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

On Oct. 20, 1943, on a mission to Duren, Germany, a B-17 Flying Fortress, Shack Rabbit III, had engine trouble, fell out of formation and was shot down by German fighters over occupied Belgium. Copilot Art Pickett was among those who got out, but his parachute opened too late and he died soon after landing in a Belgian churchyard.

For more than two years the circumstances surrounding his death were unknown to his family and squadron mates. Then in November 1945, his family received a package in the mail containing his personal belongings - letter, his pilot's ring, his gold-capped pen, some parachute cords and three locks of his hair. Also included was a letter in which a woman the family had never met vividly described his final moments. The letter is reprinted here.

Dear Madam

I am writing this to let you know that you are not alone. Though great sorrow has befallen you, we feel it as our own.

In his last hour, dear madame, your son had loving care,

Almost as though, dear madame, that you were standing there.

Until now we could not tell you of what we dared and did

Or send this sacred little box which that dark hour we hid.

Through those years of the monster, we who watched your son's last breath

Dared not let these things be known. The k was death. The parachute opened much too late, almost to earth it trailed

He fell by a shrine - of Calvary, where the Gentle One was nailed

And - The Gentle One seemed to quiver upon His cross anew

I know how strange it seems, this tale I tell you.

It may have been a distant bomb that made the wracked earth quake.

But I saw Christ shudder on His cross, and seemed to writhe and shake

And a whispering sigh seemed filling the air, from the lips of the Gentle One

To the sluggard guilty of all the ear: 'O Behold! Behold! Thy son!'

He lived a few minutes, but just before he died

Our priest put a cross within his hand by the shrine of the Crucified.

His church it did not matter. His soul was God's alone.

And it seemed fitting to us all to treat him as our own.

The last blessing of our church was given to your son

By the pastor of our village church by the shrine of the Gentle One.

We laid him to rest with a rosary within his boyish hand

It was our love more than our church, We hope you understand.

Now in this little box, dear madame, are the things we spoke about

We took them from his body before the Gestapo could find out.

Some letters from home we found, his pilot's ring and then

Another ring and a pin, and his gold-capped fountain pen.

We had to hurry, madame, but before the Germans came

We cut short cords from his parachute, by the shrine of the Holy Name.

And reverently, dear madam, as though you were standing there

We took from the head of the one you bore three locks of light brown hair.

Now before I close, dear madame - there is one impression I had

As I looked, before we buried him, on the form of your dyeing lad

He looked to me like the Gentle One, like a younger, fair-haired brother

As he died by the shrine of Calvary, near the Son of another mother.

Sincerely Yours, Madame Fraz Lefebse

President de la Section Locale, Crois-rouge

Pickett was reinterred on Dec. 6, 1948, in the Netherlands American Cemetery at Margraten, Holland.



# A LETTER HOME

NOVEMBER 1944

By Victor L. ImMasche  
- 83rd Infantry Division

Instead of sitting here and thinking, I'll write. It's not good for a guy to sit around and think by himself; he thinks too much and he could get morbid. However, I can always think back to when I was a happy family man with a wonderful home life, but those thoughts make me blue.

This was a big day in my life; I went to a village and got my first shower since leaving England in July. It was a real treat. I really envy the rear-echelon G.I.s with their clean, pressed clothes, haircuts, leggings and shoes without mud on them. I went into a tearoom and had meringue-covered candy cherries, (I guess that's what they were) ice cream and coffee. I hardly knew how to act.

I miss the guys we have lost. When you've lived together for days, weeks and months, shared the same experiences, hardships and dangers, you learn to understand and know them well. You have arguments and get sore at one another, but when the going is tough, you forget your differences. After this is all over, those of us who are left will probably forget the worst parts and remember only the pleasant times.

It seems like an eternity since I was taking basic training at Camp Blanding and used to get to St. Augustine each weekend to see my family and live for a brief few hours. My days home on furlough are also precious memories, as are my civilian days when we enjoyed a happy and contented married life. There's no doubt about the outcome of this conflict, but I wonder when I can get back to those good old days. Guess I'd better stop talking like this or I'll get myself home-sick. Guess we're going to have turkey brought up to us on Thursday, but knowing our mess crew, I'm not anticipating too much!

Gosh, I wish I knew when I'd be home to go to bed and sleep uninterrupted all through the night.

I'd better get a little shut-eye because I'll be called for guard soon. I'll take a night-cap of white wine and then dream about my darlings.

Victor L. ImMasche, "A" 330th  
3906 Willshire, Lawrence, KS 66049  
913-841-3960



Luxemburg - 1944. Back Row -- Rippey, Gundry, Pritchard, Proettl. Middle Row -- Sollinger, Gray, Gratcar, O'Neal. Front Row -- ImMasche, Hickerson. Maker -- 1st Platoon - Co. A, 330th.

Does anyone from 3rd Bn. 330th Medics or 83rd Recon remember staying in the town of St. Helen, Brittany, France, during a week in August 1944 before jumping off to fight in Brest?

If so, I have a French gentleman who would like to correspond with you. If you would forward your name to me, I'll see that he receives it.

James R. Prentice  
R.R. 3 Box 140 - D  
Claremont, N.H.  
03743-9341  
Ph. 1-603-543-0243

## HELLO BUDDIES:

Here it is time once again to get our news together for our next issue of the "THUNDERBOLT". Many of you can't fully appreciate the real meaning of this magazine. It is made possible by the hard work of our Secretary and men like you and I who send in our publications.

It is almost impossible to think that this years Reunion will be our 49th Annual Reunion. A lot of water has flowed over the dam since our first one. This is a tremendous organization in that although it is a Veterans Organization, this one is different in that it is composed of men who served together from the days of basic training until the last shot was fired in World War II. We are more than a Veterans Organization, we are like a large family. Unfortunately there are many of our Buddies who lie at rest on foreign soil, they may be gone, but never will they be forgotten.

As we prepare for this our 49th Annual Reunion of the 83rd Infantry Division Association, Inc., we can't help but think of how hard our Buddies who are members of the Dixie Chapter are trying so hard to make this a reunion to long remember. I only wish that there were enough pages in this book for us to write some of the experiences of this great association. and how we were saved from destruction by a few hard working men, whom many of you didn't know. It is real proof of what is meant by saying that this is more than a Veterans Association, it is a large family.

I sincerely hope that you will all join with me in lending the support that you can to the Dixie Chapter. Start planning today so that come September you can be there to enjoy the sands of Myrtle Beach and that real Southern Hospitality, that only a Dixie Chapter Member can offer.

Your buddy,  
Larry Redmond

## D-DAY TOUR

Evelyn and I attended the 1994 D-Day ceremonies at Utah and Omaha beaches in the company of two busloads of veterans of the 83rd Infantry Division. (The 83rd did not take part in the D-Day invasion - most elements of the Division landed on Omaha beach about two weeks later. I was a telephone lineman in the 83rd Signal Company. We rode in 2 1/2 ton trucks from Keele Hall, near Stoke-on-Trent (Staffordshire) to Southampton on 17 June. I recall that we were throwing any British coins we still had in our pockets to children in the street as we neared the port. In Southampton, we were allowed to go into town, and I went for a haircut in a barber shop whose proprietor had won an Olympic Medal in a walking competition. The sky over the port area was filled with barrage balloons. We slept on the dock in a sheltered area next to stacks of temporary crosses that were being shipped to Normandy on our troop ship. We sailed on June 18, a beautiful sunny day. We were playing cards on the deck until a gust of wind blew some of the cards away - after that we just sat with our thoughts and enjoyed the trip. When we arrived in France, a storm had destroyed the Mulberry (temporary dock made by sinking ships) and we had to wait a few days to land. The crews of the landing craft told us what it had been like on D-Day, soldiers crying for their mother as they faced the reality of dying on the beach. On shore, we were driven to our bivouac area in an apple orchard near Carentan. We either found or dug fox holes, since the Germans were shelling the area, and the Luftwaffe, no longer a threat by day, was dropping 500-pound bombs in the beachheads area at night.

In the days that followed, we strung (on trees or poles) or laid (in the ditch or on the hedgerow) field telephone wire between division and regimental headquarters. At first, we wore green fatigues, but because the German Troops also had green uniforms, we had to switch to wool khaki uniforms. It was hot work laying wire in June, so I took off my shirt and threw it on the 3/4 ton truck. Out of nowhere an infantry colonel appeared and chewed me out for being out of uniform. I had to take him seriously - he had a Colt 45 in his hip holster. We took over some of the telephone lines of the 101st Airborne, and it was obvious that they had been installed in the heat of battle - through a window, down the cellar, up to the roof, etc. We were pretty tired of K-rations after a few weeks, and one day a French kid announced that they had resumed baking bread in town. We feasted on sandwiches of fresh bread, K-ration cheese and onions, and washed it down with red wine. Another time, we came across 6-8 chickens that didn't seem to belong to anybody, so we taped their feet together with friction tape and threw them on the truck. Out of nowhere, Captain Harkey of the 83rd Signal Co. appeared and asked about the chickens. He had some reservations about our explanation, but the thought of Southern fried chicken put his doubts to rest. I don't know how we persuaded the cooks to pluck and dress those tough old birds,

but we did and we had a feast.

In Carentan, which had been liberated by the 101st Airborne on 14 June, we saw our first U.S. casualty at about 100 feet - a GI was hit by an 88 burst at the Carentan Bridge, which was shelled on schedule three times daily. In early July, we (the First Army) were bracing ourselves for a German counterattack. I was assigned to man a 50 caliber machine gun mounted on a 3/4 ton truck we used to lay telephone wire. We had talked to an anti-tank gunner who had hit a Tiger tank seventeen times with 75 mm rounds, and only stopped it by hitting the tank treads. So I sat there in the dark, looking down a narrow country road holding the hand grips of the 50 cal and ready to push the trigger. As it happened, I didn't know how to cock the machine gun, so if I had pushed the trigger, nothing would have happened. Fortunately, the Wehrmacht didn't come; and we broke out of the beachhead on 25 July after a massive U.S. bombardment. But enough of my "D-Day," let's talk about the trip.

Our itinerary retraced 83rd battle sites (with the exception of Holland and most of Germany) in reverse order: Brussels, East to Liege, Eupen and the Aachen area; down to Luxembourg; then all the way across the tip of northern France to St. Malo in Brittany, culminating in the D-Day ceremonies in Normandy on 5 and 6 June.

In Brussels, our hotel window gave us a wonderful view of the Palace of Justice at night, and inspired us to walk over and see it by day. We visited the Brussels Museum and saw one of our favorites - the rebellious angels in Hell by Breughel the Elder. Brussels is a blending of the medieval and the modern: the cobble-stoned Old Square and its winding side-streets, in contrast to the huge, ultra-modern buildings of the European community, and the neighborhoods where additional buildings are being constructed. Luxembourg also has modern new headquarters of EC organizations on a striking hill-top site. When you see the actual building that will house the European Parliament, it makes the idea of a European Community seem less far-fetched.

Our first cemetery stop was the Henri-Military Cemetery near Liege, Belgium. We arrived on Memorial Day, and there were 30-40 large floral wreaths at the foot of the monument to the fallen, a winged angel resembling Mercury. The wreaths were from U.S. organizations such as the Boy Scouts, the U.S. Embassy, and Belgian-American organizations. Bob Derickson, our 83rd Association representative, laid a wreath in honor of the 83rd Division veterans buried there. In addition, there were fresh wreaths at a number of the graves, and a small American flag at each of the eight thousand crosses in the cemetery. It was a bright, sunny day with white clouds that made the sky seem more intensely blue, and dispelled some of the sadness.

We drove east and stopped in Eupen for lunch and a glass of their great Primus beer. We strolled around this pleasant little town, admiring the rich cakes and pastries in the bakery windows, and visited St. Nicholas church. On the bus again, we saw signs for the German cities of Aachen, Julich and Eschweiler, and our destination - Duren. The Hurtgen Forest is in the center of the triang-



le formed by Aachen, Duren, and Cologne. We stopped in Strass to take pictures of the dragon's teeth (concrete anti-tank obstacles) of the Siegfried Line. It was apparently too costly to remove the obstacles, and they have been planted with linden or poplar trees to form meat boundaries for the hayfields. One of the veterans on our bus had walked a night patrol from Strass to Gey. Crossing the border was a non-event; none of the passport and customs checks of the fifties. When we crossed back into Belgium, we stopped at a monument to the 186 captured GIs who were massacred at Malmedy.

(The 83rd took part in the Hurtgen Forest battle in the first two weeks of December 1944, crossed the Roer River and took Duren on 18 December. For me, the Hurtgen Forest was a sea of axle-deep mud and stalled trucks; gray days and rain turning to snow. It was also heavily mined and booby-trapped, so we had to stay in lanes that the engineers had cleared and marked with white tape. We saw several graves of American aviators that the Germans had buried and marked with simple crosses made of tree limbs, inscribed with "Flieger" and the date, and nailed the dog tags to the cross. I spent Christmas of 1944 in nearby Gressenich, east of Aachen.

Our convoy passed through Aachen, and apartment buildings were still collapsing or being bulldozed to clear the way for trucks and tanks. In Gressenich, we found decorated Christmas trees and celebrated with whatever food or drink we could find. We found time to play poker during lulls in wire laying. The fighting on German soil was heavy, and corpses of GIs were being stacked up like cordwood at the collection points. One bright, cold day, I saw a dogfight between a Messerschmitt and some U.S. fighters. They were out of sight in a minute, and it was not like the Red Baron in a Fokker triplane fighting a Spad, as I imagined it when I built model planes as kid.)

Tuesday, 31 May, was a day for war museums. The first, in La Gleize, Belgium, had wax figures in dioramas, U.S. and British uniforms and insignia, and a Tiger Tank. Wehrmacht General Peiper abandoned 175 Tiger Tanks when he retreated, so it's easy to start a war museum in this area. Our next museum, in Diekirch, Luxembourg is housed in a former brewery, and has a wax figure of a telephone lineman high up on a pole - my job. The museum has every weapon and type of ammunition used in WW II, with the exception of a flamethrower. If you have a WW II flamethrower, the curator of the Diekirch museum would like to talk to you. He already has a Tiger Tank, so don't bring it along. In Clervaux, Luxembourg, we stopped at a memorial to the Unknown GI that had a Sherman tank and an anti-tank gun nearby. Another sparkling day on which to admire the medieval town and climb the hill to the round-turreted Clervaux Castle for speeches and a wine toast. At lunch, we were awarded medals and lapel pins commemorating the Luxembourg fighting and the Battle of the Bulge. The ceremonies were arranged by CEBA, the Luxembourg Study Circle for the Battle of the Ardennes. We met Jean Milmeister, CEBA's historian.

On Wednesday, we visited the U.S. military cemetery at Hamm, Luxembourg, where five thousand GIs, includ-

ing George Patton, are buried. Patton's grave is marked by the same standard white cross as the others, but stands alone at the front of the cemetery. (I saw Patton once, in a Third Army review in Germany at war's end, and he was wearing the highly-lacquered helmet liner, which, with the twin 45s, were his icons.) Our next stop was Grevenmacher, the scene of bitter fighting for three months preceding the Bulge. Here, on the bank of the Moselle River, is a memorial to the 83rd Division. At the wreath-laying, there was a honor guard from the U.S. Army in Germany (Trier is just across the river). Best of all, local school kids came waving American and Luxembourg flags. After the ceremony, we retired to the winery across the street for more speeches, champagne, and white wine on a sunlit terrace overlooking the Moselle, followed by lunch at an elegant riverside restaurant with more excellent Moselle wine. Back on the road, those who were still awake got a glimpse of the Patton statue in Ettelbruck as we drove by.

(Despite their strong cultural ties to Germany, the Luxembourg people expressed (in 1944 and now) gratitude for the U.S. liberation from the Nazis. I was in Luxembourg city for three months preceding the Bulge. When we stood guard duty on 50 cal. machine guns used as anti-aircraft weapons, the neighborhood ladies brought us small pots of hot soup and a chunk of sausage from their ration to warm us up.

When the first V-1 buzz bombs were aimed at Luxembourg, we waited until the sound of the engine stopped (that meant the flying bomb was on its way down) and headed for a neighborhood bomb shelter, which we shared with a lot of sleepy Luxembourgers.) Several 83rd veterans were visited at the hotel by members of the families with whom they had been quartered in Luxembourg.

It rained buckets on Thursday, fitting weather for a visit to Verdun, the site of three years of trench warfare in WWI, where mud, rats and disease took their toll. The crosses on the graves were dark and moss-covered, unlike the gleaming white crosses in the American cemeteries, and signs pointing to the ossuaries (boneyards) and sites of towns that were wiped off the map completed a somber picture of WWI. I read somewhere that the Blitzkrieg was designed to preclude a repetition of stalemate in the trenches. A visit and champagne sampling at the Piper Heidseck (the founder was German) winery dispelled the gloom. As we entered Reims, the tour guide suggested that we skip a visit to the Cathedral because of the rain.

Evelyn made some strong representations to the contrary (we've come this far...), so our bus stopped and we spent 20 minutes admiring the stained glass windows. When the rain stopped, we enjoyed a stroll in a park with rose gardens where the barges that ply the Reims canal are moored.

As we approached St. Malo, a fortress town in Brittany, Dick Dickson, 329th Infantry Regiment, took the microphone and talked about some of his experiences in the battle for St. Malo, which started on 4 August 1944 and ended with the surrender of Colonel Von Aulock at the Citadel (Cite D'Alet) on 17 August.

Dick later sent me a 34-page account of the 329th's campaign from Omaha Beach to St. Malo. It is a realistic account of how inexperienced recruits become battle-hardened infantry over a period of 6-8 weeks. He tells of a machine-gun nest that was blocking 1st Battalion's advance in Normandy, and then advancing to find three dead, blonde German Teenagers lying around a still warm machine gun. Towards the end, Germany was drafting 14-year olds and younger, which seemed very young to us, even at age 20. Enroute, we stopped at the U.S. Cemetery at St. James, which has an attractive chapel in the style of a Brittany church. Ken Diehl of the 83rd Signal Co. is buried there.

(Even after the Citadel fell, there were 323 Germans and several hundred Italian soldiers on the Ile de Cézembre, in St. Malo Harbor. American planes dive-bombed the isle for several weeks without success, and a large artillery cannon continued to shell St. Malo. We entered St. Malo on 2 September 1944, and had to jump off our Jeep and take shelter in a doorway as shells came in from the isle. Then P-38s (as I recall) started dive-bombing the isle, and the garrison surrendered. It was like the cavalry rescuing Fort Comanche. When things quieted down, we had the task of laying telephone cable from a small boat, from St. Malo to Dinard across the Rance River. As we approached the shore of Dinard, I shucked my fatigues and GI boots and swam the last 50 yards using the butterfly stroke they taught me at Rutgers. The Signal Co. guys waiting for us on the shore thought I was some crazy Frenchman imitating a duck)

St. Malo was eighty percent destroyed during the war, but has been lovingly restored - steep cobblestone streets and massive walls. There is a museum in town dedicated to the exploits of the 83rd. There was a ceremony and wine tasting in the Dungeon, and a speech by a White House representative from Paris; followed by lunch. Enroute to Normandy, we saw Mont St. Michel and had a very expensive omelet at Hemingway's favorite restaurant, La Mere Poularde.

In Normandy, we stayed at a seaside resort at Port Bail, near Carteret on the Cotentin peninsula. As we unloaded our bags, a band and a procession of local townspeople in native dress appeared; farmers carrying flails and pitchforks. Three busloads of 101st Airborne veterans were also at the resort, and we all filed into the reception hall as the band played the Star Spangled Banner and the Marseillaise. (Did I mention that I'm a great admirer of the 101st ever since I saw them in our first days in Carentan, where we saw their wrecked gliders smashed against telephone pole obstacles in the fields?) For me this was one of the most moving moments of the trip. At night, we were treated to folk dancing, with the women wearing the high starched linen headdresses of Brittany. We did some dancing ourselves to big band tunes of the forties.

The second highpoint of the trip was the reception we received in Sainteny in Normandy on June 5th. The town was bedecked with American and French flags and banners with the 83rd Division emblem. A marching band came into the town square playing slightly off key, preceded by marchers carrying more flags and banners. Parked around the square were Jeeps and 3/4 ton trucks with the markings of the 83rd and its regiments, manned by soldiers in combat dress, helmet liners, and 83rd shoulder patches. Photo opportunity! The French dress up and reenact WWII the way we reenact Civil War battles. We were given colorful medals commemorating the Normandy campaign, and then walked back to the Vin d'Honneur attended by the whole town. There was a wreath-laying at the 83rd memorial in the cemetery. What caught my eye was a WWI monument with large bullet gouges inflicted in the fighting that took place here in early July 1944. After a two-hour speech by the mayor, we went to a lunch prepared by the people of Sainteny. Here and on the streets of Sainteny we heard heartfelt thanks from retired farmers, business people and other citizens of Sainteny, many of whom had lost relatives or suffered property damage in the fighting.

The D-Day ceremonies on June 6 were almost an anti-climax after the warm reception in Sainteny. We did not get to see the "ancien" paratroopers or even the young ones jump, because the area was restricted, but were happy that the 101st veterans were able to attend. (We drove through Ste. Mere Eglise on June 7, and it looked like the 82nd Airborne had one hell of a

party there.) June 6 was overcast, windy and chilly, a reenactment of the weather in 1944. At Utah Beach, President Clinton was late, and Bob Dole was working the grandstand, shaking hands. When Clinton finally showed up, 40 minutes late, the veterans booed, not for political reasons but because it was windy and cold, and we septuagenarians had to pee. There were 2,000 buses in the beach areas, and some of them never made it to the ceremonies. Our bus made it to Omaha Beach in good time, but there was no time for lunch. Fortunately, the Galeries LaFayette department store provided a cloth shopping bag containing sandwiches, candy and Perrier to keep us alive for the next four hours. We caught glimpses of Europe's leaders, two queens, Hillary, and Bill; but you probably saw more if you watched it on television. The Royal British Marine Band, with their white gloves, and the Netherlands Band, among others, put on a stirring show.

In Paris we marched up the Champs Elysee to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with several other Division groups and got a glimpse of Ambassador Pamela Harriman in a chic beige coat. We took a twilight cruise on the bateau mouche - Paris looked great as the lights started twinkling. We went to a reception and dinner at the American club, and sat at a table with survivors of the destroyer USS Corry, which hit a German mine and sank on D-Day.

Rudy Zamula  
7847 Heatherton Lane,  
Potomac, MD 20854

## THE STARS AND STRIPES

### 83rd Infantry Division

In his article on "The Battle of the Huertgen Forest" in the 7-13 Nov. edition of *The Stars and Stripes*, writer George Gosse- lin, probably inadvertently, failed to give any credit to the courageous and valiant efforts of the 83rd Infantry Division, which fought in the forest for three days of fierce fighting against solidly entrenched German forces fighting fiercely in defense of their homeland soil.

The men of the 83rd were awarded many decorations and combat medals for their valiant efforts in the Huertgen Forest battle. They were all earned in blood, with the nation's highest decoration--the Medal of Honor--awarded to Sgt. Ralph G. Neppel, for his heroic action in the battle for the town of Birgel, Germany, on 14 Dec., 1944.

Sgt. Neppel was leader of a machine-gun squad defending an approach to Birgel when an enemy tank, supported by 20 infantrymen, counterattacked. He held his fire until the Germans were within 100 yards and then raked the foot soldiers beside the tank, killing several.

The enemy armor continued to press forward and, at the pointblank range of 30 yards, fired a high-velocity shell into the American emplacement, wounding the entire squad. Sgt. Neppel, blown 10 yards from his gun, had one leg severed below the knee and suffered other wounds. Despite his injuries and the danger from the onrushing tank and infantry, he dragged himself back to his position on his elbows, remounted his gun and killed the remaining enemy riflemen. Stripped of its infantry protection, the tank was forced to withdraw. By his superb courage and indomitable fighting spirit, Neppel inflicted heavy casualties of the enemy and broke a determined counterattack.

Yes, you can say the 83rd Infantry Division was "in" the battle of the Huertgen Forest

— Jack Flagagan, Severna, Park, MD.



# **CELEBRATION 1995**

## **JULY 13, 14, 15, 16, 1995**

### **COLUMBUS, INDIANA**

We wish to invite your organization to participate in the opening ceremonies on July 14 at the Columbus Municipal Airport (Formerly Atterbury and Bakalar). Activities will include a welcome by the Mayor and the Governor. We hope for colors of all units to be present along with a flyover, static displays, demonstrations, and tours of the Air Museum and Camp Atterbury Veteran's Memorial. Activities will begin at noon.

On Saturday, July 15, there will be a parade to honor all veterans followed by a huge picnic with a prominent speaker, entertainment, food and a USO Show. The parade begins at 10:00 a.m.

On Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m., the Air Force units serving at Atterbury and/or Bakalar will have a reunion at Columbus Holiday Inn by invitation only. Also, members of your unit are welcome and will be included if you so desire.

On Sunday, July 16, a memorial service will be held at 9:00 a.m. in Mill Race Park, however the Camp Atterbury Veteran's Memorial Association will have a service at the POW Chapel in the meadow and a rededication of the Veteran's Memorial on Hospital Road.

The purpose of Celebration 1995 is to recognize and to honor all persons, who served, and who are serving, in the Armed Services of the United States, including Reserves and National Guard, and to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the end of World War II.

The month of July was selected because it falls between the end of World War II in Europe, May 1945, and the end of World War II in Asia, August, 1945.

We are planning a large parade, similar to the one held right after the ending of WWII.

The date of the parade is July 15, 1995. It will form in the North Parking lot of Columbus East High School and proceed down Indiana Ave. to State St. then South on State St. to Lindsey and end at Mill Race Park. Parade starts at 10 a.m.. Please respond to Diane Smith at the Columbus Municipal Airport 812-376-2519 if any questions.

#### **MOTELS**

##### **COLUMBUS AREA**

1. Holiday Inn, I-65 & Hwy 46, Columbus, IN 812-372-1541
2. Knights Inn, I-65 & Hwy 46, Columbus, IN 812-378-3100
3. Ramada Inn of Columbus, I-65 & 46, Columbus, IN 812-376-3051
4. Days Inn, I-65 & Road 46 West, Columbus, IN 812-376-9951

##### **EDINBURGH AREA**

1. Hilltop Motel, U.S. 31, Edinburgh, IN 812-526-6555
2. Tearman's Motel, 501 S. Morton (U.S. Hwy 31), Franklin, IN 317-736-5021

##### **FRANKLIN AREA**

1. Days Inn, 2180 E. King ST., Franklin, IN 317-736-8000
2. Tearman's Motel, 501 S. Morton (U.S. Hwy 31), Franklin, IN 317-736-5021

##### **TRAILER PARKS**

1. Driftwood Camp, Highway 31, Edinburgh, IN 812-526-6422
2. Johnson County Park & Recreation, Edinburgh, IN 812-526-6809

COTU Publishing  
P.O. Box 2160  
Reston, VA 22090-0160  
(703) 742-8260

#### **SHANGRI-LA FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS: THE GREENBRIER AS A WORLD WAR II ARMY HOSPITAL**

During World War II, the U.S. Army counted about 775,000 men wounded, injured, or too sick to fight. While the medical care was excellent, few besides the men's families and loved ones ever saw the inside of a stateside Army hospital.

Now, More than a hundred patients, doctors, nurses, orderlies, WACs, MPs, civilian employees, volunteers, and visitors tell -- in their own words and their own ways -- of their experiences at the 2,000-bed Ashford General Hospital in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia.

Before the war, the hospital was the world famous Greenbrier Hotel. Nestled in a spectacularly beautiful and serene mountain setting, with all the former resort's recreational facilities freely available to the recuperating soldiers and airmen, the hospital soon earned the nickname, "Shangri-La for Wounded Soldiers."

The fascinating accounts of the men and women who were at Ashford reveal both sadness and joy. From November 1942 through mid - 1946 more than 24,000 patients were admitted to the hospital, and some 12,000 operations performed. Many men were returned to duty, while many others went home with some kind of permanent disability.

The book's author, Louis E. Keefer, served in the U.S. Army from mid - 1943 through mid - 1946, and spent two years transcribing the stories of people who had known the hospital intimately. A native West Virginian with degrees from Morris Harvey College and West Virginia University, Keefer has written two previous books about World War II (Scholars in Foxholes, McFarland Publishers, 1988, and Italian Prisoners of War In America, Praeger Press, 1992). He writes regularly for Goldenseal and several other historical magazines.

**SHANGRI-LA FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS**, a quality paperback, 330 pages and 150 black and white photographs, is available from COTU PUBLISHING, P.O. Box 2160 Reston, VA 22090-0160, for \$19.95 postage-paid.

## HUT TWO! The Life and Times of a WW II Veteran Warren Rangnow



Here is a video that is unique for many reasons. Not only does it cover the war years of 1943-1945 but it also contains interesting footage of Europe's "Thank You" 50 years later.

By hiding a, 8mm camera in my "Toilet bag" I was able to film the channel crossing, hedgerows and the downed gliders. From there it was the break-through to St. Malo and then on to the front in Luxembourg.

If you are an artillery man you just might find yourself in some of the interesting firing here and in the bitter cold during The Battle Of The Bulge. This footage is in color.

Fifty years later you will return to a number of the towns that you fought through. There's St. Mere Eglise with the paratrooper still hanging from the church. Then it's on to Sainteny, the little town that was freed by the 83rd Div. You will hear first hand interviews with the young people and also parts of speeches from the town leaders of France and Luxembourg who praise the 83rd and thank America for our ultimate sacrifice.

Lastly you may be quite moved as you partake in a final tribute to our brothers in arms at the Normandy Military Cemetery featuring our own Jim Burton.

This is a one of a kind memento, of a very limited edition, which every veteran, son and grandson would be proud to possess.

The book is a hard back, 226 pages plus 20 pages of photos and three map pages showing the movement of the 83rd Div. I was an artillery instrument repairman so I didn't experience the brutal, daily, life of our honorable infantrymen. However having served with the 83rd for 39 months I believe I captured most of the frustrations, humor and anxiety that all of us servicemen experienced.

My intent with this book is to record a bit of histo-

ry as we all lived it and hope that the grandchildren will read and understand the meaning and the true cost of our freedom.

Publishing books is not easy, nor cheap, but I have tried to keep prices at a minimum.

Book and Video - \$29.95 - Including postage & shipping

Single book - \$16.95 - Including postage & shipping

Single video - \$14.95 - Including postage & shipping

You may order by phone or mail.

Send check or money order to:  
Sharpless Publishers  
515 Suite A. Woodland Ave.  
Cheltenham, Pa. 19012  
1 - 215 - 663 - 1544

## Court honors outstanding residents

*The Advocate-Messenger - Wednesday, Feb. 23, 1994*

A new tradition was started Tuesday by the Boyle County Fiscal Court.

When appropriate, the county will adjourn in memory of residents or former residents who have recently died. County Judge-Executive Tony Wilder made the proposal as a way to honor people who have "contributed a valuable service" to the community.

Tuesday's meeting was adjourned in memory of Carmi Lockhart and Ernest P. Woford. Lockhart was a former Junction City police chief and had served as a constable and on the Danville-Boyle County Planning and Zoning Commission. Woford had been a science teacher at Danville High School for many years and was head football coach there from 1941 to 1949.





## PEACE DECLARED IN EUROPE! MAY 8, 1945 - VE-DAY IS HERE!



As we enter 1995, people around the world are planning to establish new opportunities for renewed peaceful co-existence and friendship. They want to recreate the joy and happiness that abounded in 1945 as "VICTORY IN EUROPE" was declared! Where were you when you heard the news? Most of us can recall the exact time and place we stood 50 years ago, hugging and kissing, as tolling bells proclaimed PEACE! Rarely does the opportunity present itself to relive that kind of joy and excitement, but the 50th Anniversary of VE-Day does just that! Here's your chance to return and remember as we recapture the moment and create new memories to last a lifetime! The fun and excitement of special events and receptions, with local citizens saying *Thank You* to their American liberators, add new dimensions to a holiday abroad which will become almost as meaningful as your own wartime service.

We're happy to advise you that you have **two choices** for exciting VE-Day celebrations! Option 1: Join our Main VE-Day Tour including Paris and Reims over VE-Day, May 8, 1995. You can add to this an optional pre-tour to Normandy and/or an optional extension to WWI and Battle of the Bulge areas in France, Luxembourg, Belgium & Germany. Option 2: Here's an extraordinary opportunity to participate in VE-Day programs in Paris and Reims, PLUS cross the trans-Atlantic ocean on the Queen of the Seas, the QE2! There are few people who have not dreamed of "sailing the Atlantic" and here's your chance for a romantic adventure, blended with a luxurious lifestyle, joined with 50th Anniversary of VE-Day events! Galaxy's special rates (up to 22% off the retail rate) make this elegant vacation affordable to most pocketbooks!

"Skeleton" itineraries follow. For full brochures with complete details, write the "veteran of veterans tours," **GALAXY TOURS**, at P.O. Box 234, Wayne, PA 19087-0234. Or call them, toll-free, at 1-800-523-7287. They'll be happy to send you complete details. But don't delay! This will likely be the last major 50th Anniversary Celebration and space is limited! Reserve your place in "living history" today!

### VE-DAY + 50 YEARS - May 1995:

May 3 - USA/Aloft.  
May 4 - Paris.  
May 5 - Paris.  
May 6 - Paris/Reims.  
May 7 - Reims.  
May 8 - Reims. **VE-DAY!**  
May 9 - Reims/Paris.  
May 10 - Paris/USA.

#### Optional Pre-Tour:

April 29 - USA/Aloft.  
April 30 - Paris.  
May 1 - Paris/Normandy.  
May 2 - Normandy.  
May 3 - Normandy.  
May 4 - Normandy/Paris.  
Join Main Tour

#### Optional Extension Tour:

May 9 - Reims/Verdun.  
May 10 - Verdun/Metz.  
May 11 - Metz/Luxembourg.  
May 12 - Luxembourg.  
May 13 - Luxembourg/Houffalize.  
May 14 - Houffalize.  
May 15 - Houffalize/Boppard.  
May 16 - Boppard/Frankfurt.  
May 17 - Frankfurt/USA.



### VE-DAY ON THE QE2 - May 1995:

April 27 - New York/At Sea.  
April 28 - At Sea aboard the QE2.  
April 29 - At Sea aboard the QE2.  
April 30 - At Sea aboard the QE2.  
May 1 - At Sea aboard the QE2.  
May 2 - Southampton, England.  
May 3 - Southampton (Southern England).  
May 4 - Southampton/Channel Ferry/Paris.  
May 5 - Paris.  
May 6 - Paris/Reims.  
May 7 - Reims.  
May 8 - Reims. **VE-DAY!**  
May 9 - Reims/Paris.  
May 10 - Paris/USA.



### INCLUSIVE PER PERSON TOUR PRICES:

**VE-DAY Main Tour:** \$1,445.00  
**VE-Day Pre-Tour:** \$ 778.00  
**VE-Day Extension:** \$1,419.00

Prices are 2-in-a-room basis and do not include airfare.

### **VE-DAY on the QE2: from \$3,867.00**

Price includes 5-day trans-Atlantic crossing, 2-in-a-room basis, return British Airways air transportation, plus land arrangements May 2, 3 & 4 before joining Main Tour in Paris May 4th. QE2 price includes VE-Day Main Tour price. Full tour inclusions for both programs are listed in the complete tour brochures.

**CALL GALAXY TOURS: 1-800-523-7287**

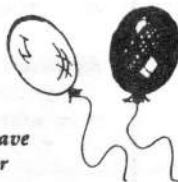
**Saturday, May 6 - REIMS.** We'll visit the Surrender Room this morning, the actual site where the Germans surrendered five decades ago. Special exhibits are planned for the occasion. You'll have some free time to explore the city on your own. Late this afternoon, we'll visit a local champagne cellar for a tour and tasting before the **OFFICIAL CELEBRATIONS** begin. These include a march from the Surrender Room to the War Memorial, a review of the troops, rekindling of the flame and wreath-laying ceremonies. A Sound and Laser Show is planned in the city center, followed by an outdoors public dance, reminiscent of the dancing in the streets seen in 1945! A fireworks display tops of the evening, with festivities continuing until 2:41am on May 7th, the exact time hostilities in Europe came to an end as the surrender was signed. CB, D



**Sunday, May 7 - REIMS/LONDON.** The morning is free to rest from a late night of celebration. For those who wish, services are available this morning at the beautiful Reims Cathedral. Transfer this afternoon by motorcoach to Paris for the short flight to London. After arriving at our hotel, the balance of the evening is free. Why not try some "pub grub" for dinner? CB



"You should have signed up for the tour earlier, Stanley!"



**Monday, May 8 - LONDON. VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY PLUS 50 YEARS!** No one will ever forget where they were or what they were doing when they heard the news...*Victory in Europe...the war is over!* We'll begin the day with a visit to the Britain at War Museum, including its striking rendition of the effects of "the Blitz." Afterwards, we'll go to Hyde Park, for the largest VE-Day event in England. The Gala Festivities will include exhibits, stalls and more, depicting life in the 1939-45 period, as well as showing how England has grown since. One thing is certain. . .it will be a day to remember, not unlike that of 1945! A London TravelCard will be provided for you to return to the hotel at your leisure. CB



**Tuesday, May 9 - LONDON.** This morning we will enjoy a panoramic tour of the city of London! Balance of the afternoon is free to shop or visit some of the sites (such as the Tower of London and the Crown Jewels) on your own. This evening, we'll gather for a Farewell to Europe Dinner! CB, D

**Wednesday, May 10 - LONDON/USA.** Transfer to the London Airport this morning for return flights to the USA, arriving later the same day. OR, continue on our exciting journey to ISRAEL! CB



### PARTICIPATING IN BOTH VE-DAY AND ISRAEL?

If you will be joining us for both portions of this historic tour, you will depart London on Tuesday, May 9th after the Farewell Dinner on an overnight flight to Tel Aviv. Arriving at Ben Gurion Airport the next morning, we'll continue with the itinerary as outlined herein!

### **Take Advantage of Our Valuable Insurance Protection**

Just \$75 will provide you with this complete coverage!  
OR Register with deposit on or before March 10, 1995  
and receive complete coverage absolutely free!

#### Schedule of Coverages:

	<u>Benefit</u>
Accidental Death & Dismemberment	\$10,000
International Medical Assistance	\$10,000
Medical Expenses (Accident & Sickness)	
Emergency Evacuation & Repatriation	
Trip Cancellation Interruption	Up To Tour Cost
Trip Delay	\$500
Baggage/Travel Documents	\$1,000
Baggage Delay	\$100

This is a brief summary of the insurance plan offered. For a full description of the benefits, exclusions & conditions, an insurance brochure is available. Or, call Trip Made Insurance Agency at 1-800-886-7292.





## 1995 ISRAEL ITINERARY

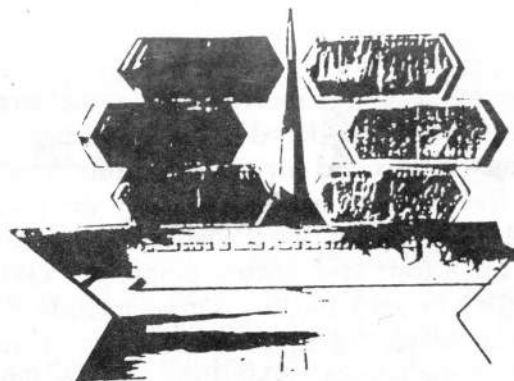
**Tuesday, May 9 - USA/ALOFT.** Depart New York *this morning* via trans-Atlantic jetliner. Meal service aloft. Arriving in London late this evening, we'll change planes and connect to Tel Aviv.

**Wednesday, May 10 - TEL AVIV.** On arrival at Ben Gurion Airport this morning, we will be met by our guide and transferred to our hotel. Balance of the day is free to rest & enjoy on your own. **CB, D**

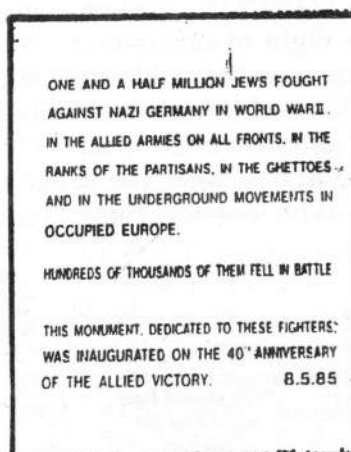
**Thursday, May 11 - TEL AVIV/TIBERIAS.** After a visit to the Port of Jaffa, we drive north along the Mediterranean Sea to Caesarea, Roman capital of Palestine. Here we view the beautifully restored Roman Amphitheater, and the ruins of the ancient town, harbor and aqueduct. We continue north to Haifa and view the city and its bay from atop Mt. Carmel. Below the lookout you will see an American LCT converted into a passenger ship that brought Holocaust victims and others to the homeland. Here we'll have lunch with active-duty Israeli military personnel. In the afternoon, we travel inland to Megiddo, site of the Biblical Armageddon. On to Nazareth, the boyhood home of Jesus, and past Cana, the site of his first miracle, to Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee. **BB, L, D**

**Friday, May 12 - TIBERIAS.** Today we cross the Sea of Galilee by boat to Capernaum and visit the ruins of the ancient synagogue. Continue to Tabgha, site of the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes, then on to the Mt. of Beatitudes, site of the Sermon on the Mount. Here we will take part in an interfaith ceremony. Continue through the Hula Valley, past Hazor, a Canaanite city rebuilt by King Solomon, then ascend the Golan Heights where we will see the remains of a Syrian bunker captured during the '67 war. Then on to Dan and Banias, ancient Caesarea Philippi, at the foot of Mt. Hermon. We return to Tiberias & view the recently excavated boat from the time of Jesus. **BB, D**

**Saturday, May 13 - TIBERIAS/JERUSALEM.** We drive south via the Jordan Valley to Beit She'an, an extraordinary excavation of a Roman city. Continue to Jericho, oldest known city in the Western world. From the top of the hill we can view Elisha's Fountain and Qarantal, the Mt. of Temptation. Continue our drive up to Jerusalem, highlight of our tour, arriving in time for dinner and overnight. **BB, D**



**Sunday, May 14 - JERUSALEM.** A full day sightseeing of the Old City of Jerusalem, exploring Christian heritage and its Jewish roots. Model of the city during the Second Temple period, the Mt. of Olives. Mt. Scopus, Mt. Zion, the site of the Upper Room, the Kidron Valley, and the Garden of Gethsemane. Continue to the Old City within the walls, including the Via Dolorosa, the restored Jewish Quarter, the Western (Wailing) Wall, the Temple Site on Mt. Moriah (Dome of the Rock) and conclude the day at the Garden Tomb. **BB, D**



**Monday, May 15 - JERUSALEM.** Today, we visit the new city outside the walls, including the Shrine of the Book where the Dead Sea scrolls are housed. Continuing, we drive south to Bethlehem, with Shepherd's Field and the Church of the Nativity. After lunch,

we will visit the Memorial to the Holocaust at Yad Vashem. You will be welcomed as heroes by survivors of the Holocaust, participate in a Wreath-Laying Ceremony, Reception, and other tributes in your honor. **BB, D**

**Tuesday, May 16 - JERUSALEM.** Today we visit the fortress of Masada, where Jewish defenders made the last stand of the Judean revolt against Rome. Continue along the shore of the Dead Sea, to Qumran and the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. We will have time for a dip (float) in the mineral filled waters of the Dead Sea, then return to Jerusalem for overnight. **BB, D**

**Wednesday, May 17 - JERUSALEM/TEL AVIV/LONDON/USA.** Transfer to the Tel Aviv Airport early this morning for return flights to New York, arriving later the same day. **CB**

## TOUR PRICES

VE-DAY (May 3 - 10, 1995): \$1,799.00

ISRAEL REUNION: (May 9 - 17, 1995): \$1,894.00

VE-DAY AND ISRAEL: \$2,987.00

Prices are per person, 2-in-a-room basis from New York  
Single Room Additional Cost



### TOUR CONDITIONS

**Tour Prices Include:** \*Non-refundable round-trip excursion airfare from New York on regularly scheduled airlines. \*Deluxe, first-class and selected hotels with private bath, 2-in-a-room basis. Single Room additional cost. \*Continental Breakfast daily (Buffet in Paris & Israel) plus table d'hôte lunches and dinners in accordance with the custom of each country and as follows: 4 Dinners on VE-Day Tour; 1 Lunch & 7 Dinners in Israel. \*Modern motorcoach transportation as required by the itinerary. \*Sightseeing as specified with English-speaking guides & appropriate admission fees. \*Transfers between airports and hotels if traveling on group flights. \*Porterage of one (1) suitcase per person, where available. \*Tips & taxes on all prepaid services. \*Professional Tour Manager while on tour.

**Tour Prices Do Not Include** airport/customs/departure taxes, passports, any applicable visa fees, excess baggage charges, optional sightseeing, meals other than those shown in the itineraries, items not on table d'hôte menus, laundry, liquor, mineral water, beverages with lunch & dinner, customary gratuities to Tour Directors, Coach Drivers & local guides, & any other expenses of a personal nature. **Land Only:** With "land only" purchases, the tour starts at 6pm of the 2nd day, and does not include airport/hotel transfers on arrival or departure.

**Tour Prices** are based on a minimum of 40 tour participants per motorcoach and on tariffs and rates (currency & exchange) known 02/03/95; prices are subject to adjustment without notice in event of changes to such rates prior to departure. SSKRed/020395A

**Airfares** included in tour costs are subject to change without notice. Excursion airfares are often non-refundable and/or subject to cancellation fees. Trip Cancellation Insurance is available and strongly recommended.

**Baggage:** No responsibility is incurred by Galaxy for loss or damage to baggage or any of the passenger's belongings. It is recommended that all passengers purchase baggage insurance.

**Hotels:** Unless otherwise stated, all tour prices are based on two persons sharing a twin/double room. Applicable single supplements are indicated for those wishing single room accommodations. Single rooms are limited in quantity and are sometimes not of the same size or quality as twin/double rooms. Single room reservations will be accepted with the understanding that we cannot guarantee single rooms will be available on all parts of your tour. We do not recommend triple rooms as they tend to be very crowded; in most cases, triple rooms are a twin room with a cot. There is no reduction in tour cost for triple rooms.

**Deposits and Final Payments:** A deposit of \$250 per person is required to effect reservations. This deposit forms part of your final payment which is due when billed but not later than 60 days prior to departure. Acceptance on tour is subject to verification of payment in full to Galaxy Tours.

**Cancellations** for unforeseen and valid reasons in advance of departure are entitled to a full refund less actual expenses incurred and a \$50.00 per person service charge, if written notice is received not later than 120 days prior to departure. If cancellation occurs between 120 and 60 days prior to departure, deposits will be refunded less actual expenses and a \$100 per person service fee; less than 60 days before departure date, deposits will be refunded, less actual expenses incurred and a \$150 per person service charge, plus any cancellation charges assessed against Galaxy Tours by hotels, transportation companies, airlines and other purveyors of services. Trip cancellation and interruption insurance is available and strongly recommended.

**Revisions and Refunds:** All changes must be confirmed in writing. A handling fee of \$20.00 per transaction will be charged for any alteration or revision made to a tour reservation. All claims for refunds must be made within 60 days after termination of the tour. The claim must be accompanied by a statement from the Tour Director, certifying exactly the services not taken. No refund can be made for unused transportation where group tickets or vehicles are involved. No refund can be made for services not taken unless the services omitted cover 72 consecutive hours or more.

**Passports and Visas:** A valid passport is required for all tour participants. If visas are required of U.S. citizens, information will be sent to you.

**Smoking:** Please kindly note that for the safety and well-being of the group, smoking is not permitted on the motorcoach at any time.

**Foreign Currency:** It is recommended to have a small amount of cash in each country's currency before entering the country. Galaxy Tours will provide information to all tour members on the advance purchase of foreign currencies. While the U.S. dollar is accepted in most countries, it is advisable to carry the bulk of your cash in travellers checks and/or use credit cards when possible. U.S. Money Access Cards are now accepted in some countries; inquire with your personal bank for details.

**Tour Participants:** In order to insure the smooth operation of all tours, and to ensure congenial tour groups, Galaxy Tours reserves the right to accept or reject any person as a tour participant and to expel from the tour any person for any reason including anyone whose conduct is deemed incompatible with the interest of the tour group. Any handicapped participant who requires special assistance must be accompanied by a qualified helper who assumes total responsibility for the handicapped participant's well-being. Galaxy Tours reserves the right to exclude from the tour any handicapped participant whose physical condition impairs customary operation of the tour. Should a wheelchair or other special equipment, care, maintenance or services be required at any time, all arrangements shall be made and all costs and obligations will be borne by the tour member. All tour members must be able to make their own way on/off the motorcoach. Well-behaved children over 10 years of age are welcome under the same conditions as noted above.

**Responsibility:** Galaxy Tours and/or its agents act only in the capacity of agent or carriers, hotels, bus operators, and other suppliers of services and shall not be held responsible for any injury or for any loss or damage caused by accidents or events beyond their control, or by any action or negligence of attendants or third parties who are not in their employ and on their payroll. The tour operator and/or its agents can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air, sea or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. The right is reserved to substitute hotels specified for others of similar category. The right is reserved to make minor adjustments in the itinerary. Prices are based upon current tariffs and are subject to adjustment in the event of change. The right is reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour unless arrangements are made prior to departure. The issuance and acceptance of vouchers or tickets shall be deemed to be consent to the above conditions. In addition, transportation companies concerned shall not be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not on board their carriers. The passenger contract in use by the carriers concerned, when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies and the purchaser of the tour and/or passengers. The itineraries shown are planned at the time of issue of this flyer, but are subject to revision should circumstances make it necessary. Such revisions will be shown on the individual traveling itinerary you receive before departure. ©Galaxy Tours 1995.





*If any questions - please call Galaxy Tours*

**RESERVATION APPLICATION**

**GALAXY TOURS**  
**P.O. Box 234**  
**Wayne, PA 19087-0234**

**Toll Free: (800) 523-7287**  
**(610) 964-8010**

\*\*\* Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservation(s) on the 1995 ☐ VE-DAY ANNIVERSARY  
☐ ISRAEL REUNION  
☐ VE-DAY AND ISRAEL COMBINATION.

\*\*\* Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ representing \$250.00 per person deposit. (Please make checks payable to Galaxy Tours.)

\*\*\* ☐ I have registered on or before **March 10, 1995**. Please issue my complimentary insurance policy.

\*\*\* ☐ I would like to purchase the Optional Insurance Protection at \$75.00 each & have included the per person premium with my deposit. (Total \$325.00)

My name followed by the person(s) traveling with me: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Phone Order Confirmation

Birthdates of passengers: \_\_\_\_\_

Nicknames (as desired) for nametags: \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Passport Numbers (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please furnish us with both your street address and post office box to avoid delays in shipment of documents to you by parcel service or courier.*

Telephone: Area Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Any diet/health problems? \_\_\_\_\_

Special requests/places to visit: \_\_\_\_\_

Closest major airport to your home: \_\_\_\_\_

I desire: ☐ 2-in-a-room basis. ☐ Single Room at additional cost. ☐ Willing-to-share, 2-in-a-room basis. Roommate if known: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\* Deposits may be charged to a major credit card if you wish. If you would like to charge your deposit, please complete the following:

Credit Card: ☐ Discover Card ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard - Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as shown on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**I agree to the terms and conditions as outlined in this tour brochure.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ #668

## **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, Nicklaces, \$7.00 Each**  
**White Golf Caps \$10.00 Each**

(Postage and Handling Included)

**Contact the Association Office**

**83rd Reunion Will be held at**  
**Myrtle Beach S. C.**

**DATES ARE:**

**September 14, 15, 16, 1995**

**DUES ARE DUE NOW**  
**FOR 1995**

## **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 - 8907**



83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.  
3749 Stahlheber Road  
Hamilton, OH 45013-8907

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Charles Sihlanick  
2 Elizabeth Court  
Little Ferry, NJ 07643  
322nd F.A.

Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed  
Address Correction Requested

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, or TOWN & STATE \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Regiment \_\_\_\_\_ 83rd Division

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_

Please Enclose A Check or Money Order  
**DUES \$10.00 PAYABLE TO:**

Office Phone:  
(513) 863-2199

**ROBERT DERICKSON**  
3749 Stahlheber Road  
Hamilton, Ohio 45013-8907

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**BULLETIN**

When you move and change your address, **PLEASE**, send 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.**