



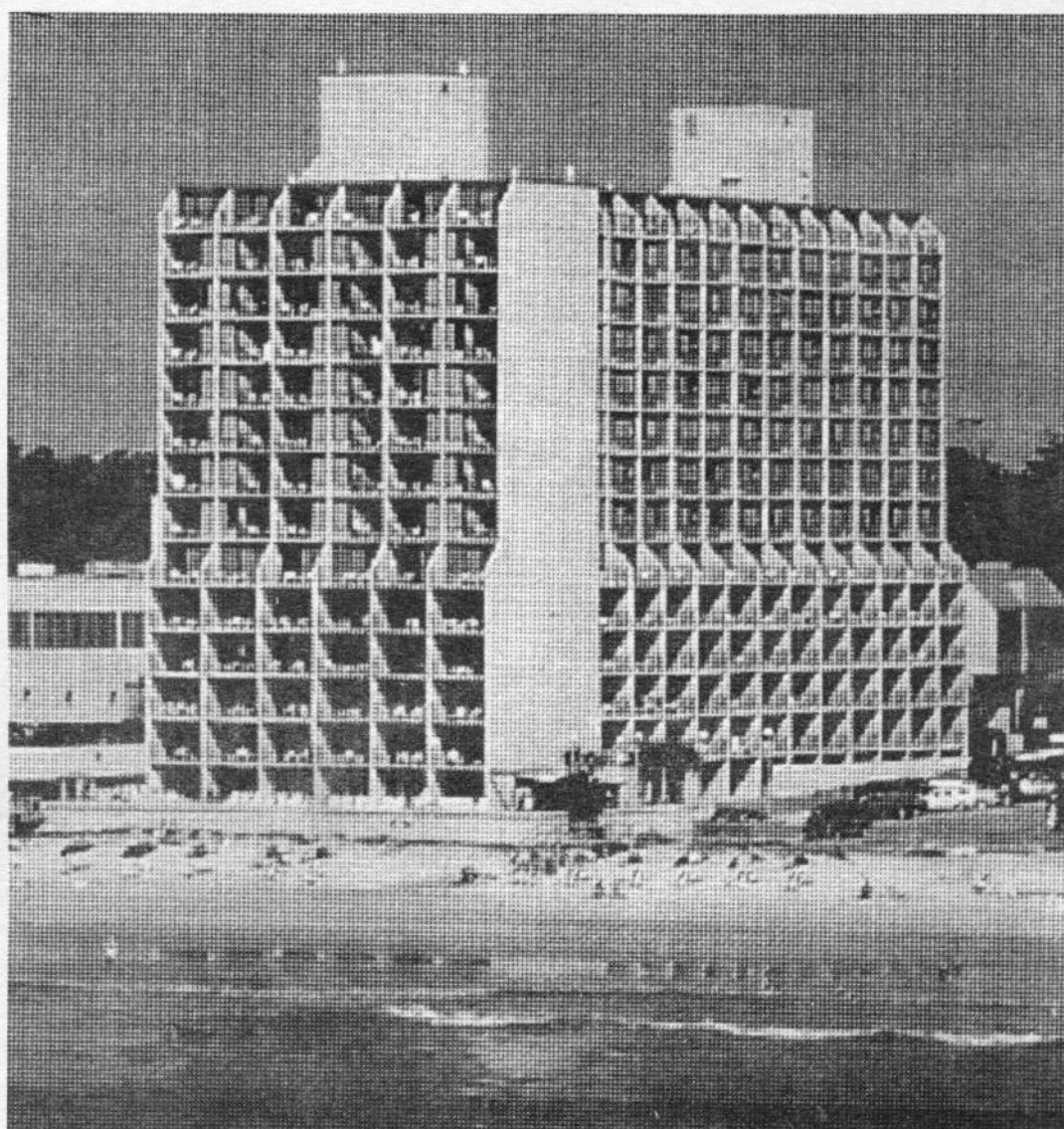
THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 50 No. 3

Summer 1995



OCEAN FRONT

49TH ANNUAL REUNION

Landmark Resort Hotel - Myrtle Beach, S.C.

THE THUNDERBOLT

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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
*Shelly Hughes..... 1949
*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. Lussler..... 1990
Edgar H. Haynes..... 1991
Ned Smith..... 1992
Louis Sandini..... 1993

* Denotes Deceased



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hope this issue of the Thunderbolt finds you in good health and very enthusiastic about the upcoming Reunion in Myrtle Beach.

All rooms at the Landmark Hotel are reserved, and we have only a few rooms left in our other contracted hotels. If it becomes necessary, we are prepared to provide additional rooms at a hotel in the immediate vicinity. If you have not made your reservations already, I urge you to do so immediately. If you have a problem in securing a room, please let us know and we will do everything we can to help.

We were very saddened to learn that one of your Executive Board members, Carroll Brown, suffered a heart attack on June 16th. I understand that he is recovering well and will be back with us soon. Our Prayers are with you Carroll.

Reservations for the Gatlin Bros. Show on the 14th of Sept. are coming in at a good clip. It looks like we will have a good turn-out for this event.

I hope to have a copy of the Reunion Activities in this Thunderbolt, subject to some possible changes at the last minute.

Don't forget to let us know if you are staying in a hotel other than the hotels we have contracted with. We will need to know the number of people in your party so that we can properly arrange for your meals, etc.

We are ready for the onslaught, so be there.

Sincerely your Buddy,
Wm. M. Minick, President



THUNDERBOLT NEWS ITEM Submitted by Wm. M. Minick William A. Laughter Btry "A" 908th FA Bn. Honored

To have an honor or accolade bestowed upon you at any time in life is always very much appreciated. But, to be honored after 50 years, by your peers with whom you served during your military career, is especially heart warming and appreciated.

This has happened to William A. Laughter of Btry "A" 908th FA Bn. I have known "Bill" for many years as a member of the Dixie Chapter and I can readily see why this man commands the respect of his peers. A very subtle, easy going, quiet, honest, gentleman, "Bill" continues to unselfishly support those things in which he believes to be in the best interest of all concerned.

The idea to honor "Bill" was spawned by Grace Brick whose husband Mike served with "Bill". Grace Brick, Walter Bernhardt, Charles Daily, and Charles Stine joined together and donated the amount of \$580.00 to the Dixie Chapter in honor of this very respected gentleman, William A. Laughter.

We of the Dixie Chapter graciously accept this \$580.00 and will see that it is responsibly used to further benefit its members.

This unselfish love shown among long time comrades should be a lesson to us all.

REUNION CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

This is my final report on our Myrtle Beach Reunion. September 13, 14, 15, 16 at the Landmark Motel. Get your reservation in now. It will help out in our name tags for each member. Dead line for ad book is July 15th. We urge you to get your ad in now. Thanks to Larry Redmond for an outstanding job getting out letters to the membership. Larry well done, Thanks again.

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

83th INF DIV. ASSOC. LANDMARK HOTEL MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.

Sept. 13 through Sept. 17, 1995
Schedule of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Function</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
Sept. 13	Registration	1:00 - 4:30 PM	Expo Foyer
	Hospitality	3:00 - 5:00 PM	Expo ABC
	Special Entertainment	8:00 - 11:00 PM	To be announce
Sept. 14	Registration	9:00 - 12:00 AM	Expo Foyer
	Golf Tournament	1:00 - 4:30 P.M.	
	Hospitality	To be announced	
	Country Music Theatre	2:00 - 5:00 PM	Expo ABC
		6:00 Til PM	Parking Lot
Sept. 15 Ladies Dance Class Placed to be announce	Registration	9:00 - 12:00 AM	Expo Foyer
	Business Meeting	1:00 - 4:30 PM	Expo ABC
	Hospitality	10:00 - 12:00 AM	Expo ABC
	Exec. Board	2:00 - 5:00 PM	Board Rm 3
	Dinner and Dance	7:00- 12:00 PM	Grand Ball R.
Sept. 16	Registration	9:00 - 12:00 noon	Expo Foyer
	Business Meeting	10:00 - 12:00 noon	Expo ABCd
	Memorial Service	2:00 - 3:00 PM	Grand Ballrm.
	Hospitality	3:00 - 5:00 PM	Expo ABC
	Exec Board	3:00 - 4:00 PM	Board Rm 3.
	Catholic Mass	4:00 PM Til	To be announced
Sept. 17	Gala Banquet and Dance	7:00 - 10:00 PM	Grand Ballrm.
	Buffet Breakfast Departure	7:00 - 10:00 AM At your leisure	Grand Ballrm.

Some Functions time and place subject to change.

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As I write this report it is hard to believe that I am winding up my 5th year on your board. It has been a privilege to serve this fine organization.

The last of April, Ned Smith sent me an invitation to the Fl. chapter meeting in Tarpon Springs, Fl. They had a very nice turn out and I enjoyed their meeting. My only disappointment was that I didn't win the door prize. It was a beautiful clock that Walter Marshall made and donated to the Fl. Chapter. Walter has had serious health problems but his attitude is very up beat and his wife gives him her tender loving care.

A week later we had our Executive board Meeting at the Holiday Inn in Cleveland, Ohio. We had a very successful meeting and I believe future reunions will benefit greatly by the ideas your board will recommend at our next business meeting in Myrtle Bch.

Meadows Minick and Lacy Satterfield finalized their program and I'm sure you all will enjoy the Myrtle Bch. reunion. It really looks terrific.

Casey Szubski, Earl Lindsey and Henry Frze-ciak, were also present to offer their program for our 50th reunion in Cleveland in August 1996. The hotel is great and is being completely renovated before our arrival. Their program is shaping up to being an outstanding one.

Being our 50th Anniversary Reunion and the location being located in the mid-west we should have a very large turn out.

Let's all take real good care of ourselves and keep in good health and look forward to the big 50 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Once again, it has been a privilege to serve on your board and as your chairman.

Sincerely
Jim Burton
Executive Board Chairman
Co. "D" - 329th Reg.

**DUES FOR
1995 & 1996. THEY
CAN BE SENT IN
TOGETHER! PLEASE
STAY UP
TO DATE**

from The Office



We have started on the second half of this year. Thoughts of the upcoming reunion in Myrtle Beach are in our thoughts. The Board met in Cleveland, Ohio the first weekend of May and met with both the Dixie Chapter and the Cleveland Chapter. You have two good groups working on these reunions. They are trying their best to plan reunions that all will enjoy. It really doesn't make any difference where the reunion is held or what hotel you are in, the main thing is that we all get together. We get to see each other and talk. Isn't that what counts in the long run. We should take advantage of this and be glad that we can still go and do these things.

We hope that if you plan to attend the reunion you will get your 1996 dues in to us so that we will have all the pre registration done. Please do this so that you do not have to stand and the women do not have to hurry and get your registration done. It will make it so much easier for everyone. If you will do this your packet with your registration sheet, and member ship card will be ready for you to pick up.

No matter where you are staying, please let us know and send in your dues. We look forward to seeing all of you at this reunion.

No matter where you are staying, please let us know and send in your dues. We look forward to seeing all of you at this reunion.

Those of you members that are not staying in the Landmar, Grand Strand, or Wave Rider.

Please notify Meadors Minick or this office when you send in your dues for 1996 so we get you pre registered.

We had word when we got back home from the Board meeting that Carroll Brown had had a heart attack and was recovering. Then a few weeks ago we had word that he had had another one. We hope that he is doing well at this time. We are glad to report that Al Belvedere is doing much better and was able to be with us. Everyone take care. We hope you can be with us. Pearl will have foot surgery on the 7th of July. Be on crutches for awhile.

See you in Myrtle Beach.
Bob Derickson

Chaplain's Corner

Hapless heroes

There is a real problem in this country when Michael Jordan returning to basketball makes headlines, the president of our country intervenes in a baseball strike, and the only reason the death of a young man is front page news is because he was a Braves replacement player.

I think it's high time this country and its citizens took a good look at the priorities they have set. Until we start recognizing the firefighters, volunteers and all the other people who actually contribute something *valuable* to our lives -- we will continue down the spiral of despair.

Let's start looking at athletes as people who have superior physical strengths and entertainment value, and seeing those true heroes in our society as the force that will the future for the good of us all.

This is the list of names we have received here in the office. To all the families of these men we offer our sincere sympathy. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

<u>Deceased</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Reported By</u>
James Barber	HQ. 3rd BN. 330th	Nick Francullo
Albert Benjamin	"K" 329th	News Clipping
Fred "Hump" Campbell	"E" 331st	Nick Boyd
A.J. Charron	"A.T." 330th	George Robson
Charles Cole	1ST BN 330TH	News Clipping
Angelo Disiena	"B" 331st	George Calore
John J. Gallagher	"E" 330th	John DeSimone
Frank Hutchinson	"E" 330th	Harry Stevenson
Frederick Kilby	"I" 329th	Rose Hanna
John J. Kovak	"D" 331st	Al Shrawder
John D. Lancaster	"D" 331st	Al Shrwder
Ben Levine	"K" 33st	Jean Levine, Wife
Elmer Mace	"G" 331st	Joe Macaluso
Frank McABEE	"D" 331st	Joe Macaluso
Norman M. Mould	None listed	John G. Daum
Alex P. Obrien	"K" 329th	Albert Benjamin
Loyal Pangle	"G" 331st	Joe Macaluso
Joe Phillipone	"G" 331st	Joe Macaluso
Richard J. Powell	"D" 329th	Pat DiGiammerino
Kenneth D. Rogers	"B" 330th	Pat DiGiammerino
Earl Ross	"A" 322nd	Hazel Ball
Dr. Charles P. Snyder	331st MEDICS	Sal Siccolone
John Stewart	"D" 331st	Ralph Gunderson
Loren Thacker	"H" 329th	Joe Macaluso
Homer Thompson	"H" 331st	Darrell Chism
James R. Vaughn	"M" 329th	News Clipping
James P. Williamson	"I" 331st	Steven P. Dart
Orland Yots	"CN" 331st	Larry Redmond
Nicola Zichelle	"A" 330th	Larry Redmond

'The Blue and the Gray'

by Francis Miles Finch

By the flow of the inland river,
whence the fleets of iron have fled;
Where the blades of grass quiver,
asleep are the ranks of the dead;
Under the sod and the dew,
waiting their judgement day;
Under the one, the Blue,
under the other, the Gray.

From the silence of sorrowful hours,
the desolate mourners go;
Lovingly laden with flowers,
alike for friend and foe;
Under the sod and the dew,
waiting their judgement day;
Under the roses, the Blue,
under the lilies, the Gray.

So, when the summer calleth,
on forest and fields of grain;
With an equal murmur falleth,
the cooling drip of rain;
Under the sod and the dew,
waiting their judgement day;
Wet with rain, the Blue,
wet with rain, the Gray.

No more shall the war-cry sever,
or the winding rivers be red;
They banish our anger forever,
when they laurel the graves of our dead!
Under the sod and the dew,
waiting their judgement day;
Love and Tears for the Blue,
Tears and Love for the Gray.

Sent in By Frank Morris



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 _____

CHAPTERS.....

Boston Chapter News

We have been very active in 1995, planning for the reunion in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Most of us have reservations at the hotel.

Pat DiGiammerio is still bringing new members into the Boston Chapter.

Aprils meeting was held at Larry and Fran Arrigo's home. We had a good meeting, plus lots to eat. Fran you did an excellent job, as always. Then we played some Bocci in the yard. President Piantedosi thanked Larry and Fran for the use of their home with everyone having a nice day!

Our May meeting was at the home of Phylis Scott in Florence, MA. Phylis kept up the tradition of having a meeting every year, as her husband did before his death. Phylis did a wonderful job. We enjoyed meeting some of Scot's children and grandchildren again. It was a beautiful day for the meeting. After the meeting, Phylis put out alot of good cooking. We want to thank the Scott's for putting out the red carpet for us.

Charlie Lussier has had problems with his heart, but after several months is making a good recovery. I talked with him on the telephone and he said he will be attending our next meeting.

Albert Remy is back after his recent illness. Boy, he looked wonderful at our last meeting.

Richard Armstrong is back after an eye operation. He'll be ready to play for the Red Sox next year.

I was told that Ray Peligun and Warren Bourier have been ill. We wish them a speedy recovery.

We also have a member of the 83rd in the Veterans Hospital in New Hampshire. His name is Spofford Floyd.

Two members of the Boston Chapter have passed away. Richard Powell, from Louisiana and Kenneth Rogers from Buffalo, Wyoming. Condolences to their families.

Lou Sandini just came back from Florida after a wonderful vacation. Lou really knows how to live. Glad to see you back!

Pat DiGiammerino had a nice letter from Major General retired Robert B. Smith, S3 in Division artillery, also served with 322 F.A. BN. We really enjoyed your letter.

Our next regular meeting will be at Pat and Ginny DiGiammerino's house on June 17th. In July it will be at Chet and Lorette Morley's house in Ashland, New Hampshire.

Hope to see all the 323 F.A. BN. at the reunion in September. I have had a bad case of the flu so will not be writing for this issue.

Amby Tynan
Boston Chapter



Getting ready for a business meeting - Boston "Chapter."



Boston Chapter Meeting in Bridgeport, Conn.



Good Friends - Good Food - Boston Chapter



Some of Boston Chapter members at Caprio's home in Rhode Island.



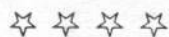
Best part of the Meetings - Food! - Boston Chapter



Boston Chapter - Group at Battle of the Bulge luncheon.



Ray B Jork & Son, Ray Jr., Bob Hunnewell - Boston Chapter.



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Florida Chapter

The spring meeting of the Florida Chapter took place on April 21 thru 23 at the Tahitian Resort near Tarpon Springs. The weather, which started with heavy rain on Thurs. and Friday, cleared up to be a beautiful weekend. The hotel had a nice courtyard pool which attracted a number of our party.

An adjoining restaurant, with a private room, was the setting for both Friday & Saturday dinners as well as the business meeting.

At the business meeting, 34 members were in attendance. We welcomed three new members; Joseph Cellura, D-331st, Arthur Spaulding, G-331st, and Leonard Risley, Serv. - 331st. Also attending the Chapter meeting for the first time was Bernie Cove and his wife. Also were glad to have Larry Leonardi with us again and looking well after heart surgery.

As this location is close to their home, Walter Marshall and his wife Elizabeth were able to attend. Walt depends on a motorized chair to get around and tires quickly. The Chapter presented a beautiful recognition plaque to Walt for all the items and services he has done for the Chapter in the past. At this meeting, a clock with picture pockets, made by Walt, was raffled off.

We were also pleased to have Jim Burton with us and a couple items were referred to him to discuss with the Exec. Board.

Ralph Gunderson earned his laurels by having six men from Co D-331st. Believe this is the most from one company at a Chapter meeting.

Jim and Georgia Emanuol were the hosts for the meeting and the meal arrangements & room locations were handled very well. A winter meeting was held in Jan. at Silver Springs near Ocala, hosted by the Sharpes & Lizottes. As this correspondent was unable to attend due to family visitation, I can't report any details.

A fall meeting is being planned for Nov. 3 & 4th in Vero Beach. We plan to have more details at the Reunion in Myrtle Beach. It is our hope that more of the members residing in Florida try to make the Nov. meeting as the election of officers is held at this time. Meeting notices are being mailed only to paid up members, so if you are interested in receiving notices, contact Jim Emanuol, Chapter treasurer, and get up to date with your dues.

With our membership spread so widely, it is a challenge to get our members to accept the responsibility of selecting a site and hosting a meeting. A site in Sebring is being considered for a Jan. 1996 meeting.

Look forward to seeing you at Myrtle Beach in Sept.

W. Allen Fisher
Serv. Co. 331st.

New England Chapter



Talking about there golf game - New England Chapter



Enjoying the story - New England Chapter.



New England Chapter.



New England Chapter.

We hope you all got over the winter months and are ready for the good months to come.

The Brennans, Abdinoors, Burkherd & the McKees are back from Fla. But the rest of us stuck out the New England Weather.

Got a call from Ester Ferriera that John had not been feeling good and in the hospital and on March 31st he had a colon operation and is coming along fine. Get well John as we all miss you.

Also got call from Betty Davis that Bill was having a problem with his prostate and he was operated on April 5th and is coming along slow but he will be O.K. Everything came out negative.

Take it slow Bill as we need your old jokes Ha ha ha.

The Brennans tell us that Al Tartoglia had a little problem with a blood clot but he is O.K. now.

Spike McCartin has just had his 80th birthday "Happy Birthday" Spike and hope you will have good health and more to come.

On March 14th Mary Francullo had her gull-bladder out and she is doing fine.

So you can see that we are all getting older and things are starting to show up, but outside of that we are all doing fine.

I just got over pneumonia April 26 and back in good shape again. Also got word that Mike Petitti has had cataracts removed from both eyes and is recovering well.

Oh yes Jim and Dot Brennans daughter Bernidet David and family are moving out to Tacoma, Washington. Her husband Mike is a Lt. Colonel in the Air Force and will be a Flight Squadron Commander. P.S. Jim that is a lot better than the Infantry - Good Luck Mike.

The Francullo's just got back from Fort Collins, Colorado to see their grand-daughter graduate from Denver State University. It is beautiful out there.

Received a letter from Chuck Abdinoor that he had a rough year. He lost 4 brothers and a brother-in-law all in one year and he is the last.

Chuck tells me that he received a phone call from Edgar Allison whom he has not heard from since the war. He lives in Charlisle, Ky. and from Paul Reed. He is retired and was on the radio in Baltimore Md. to talk of our war experiences & where we were and he plugged the 83rd Div.

Gloria & Spike McCartin are in Maine quite a lot. Her sister is quite ill. Father Frank McCartin is back from Fla. Chuck also stopped in N.C. to see John Bullard he was in A - 330th and also his Sgt. Ed Mareka. He stayed in and saw action in Korea & Viet Nam and came out a Major. Also his C.O. in B Co Joe Desantis stayed in and came out a Bird Colonel. Col. Cambell gave him his Eagles and at one time were stationed together. Both their wives socialized with one another. Also seen handsome Harry, he was in Co. "B" with me and also went to Army Ski school together in Garmish, Germany I could ski better then him Ha ha.

Stopped in New Britan, Ct. to see Bill & Florence Schiffert also of Co. H. 330th he got the measles while in the Bulge. Since then he was known as Schiffless Schiffert.

Chuck also stopped to see John & Stacy Marryce from Westmenister, Ma. He went through a major operation and is on his way to a fast recovery.

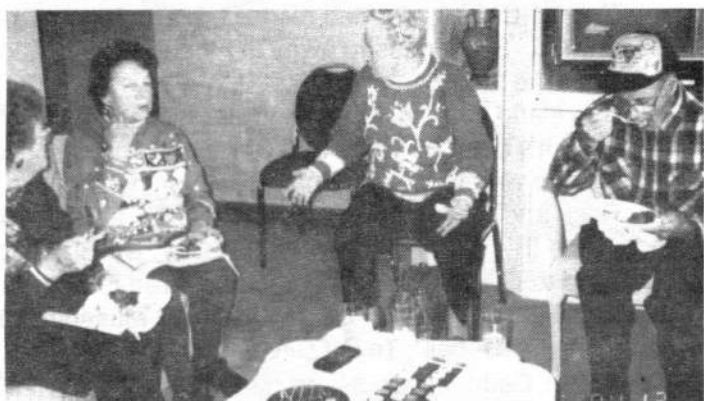
Hope to see you at Myrtle Beach. John & Stacy are going to be grand-parents again. His son Jimmy & his wife are expecting. Thanks Chuck for a great report.

Just received a phone call from Betty Barber that her husband Jim passed away May 11, 95. They are from Winsted Ct. and in my Co. Hq. Co. 3rd Bn 330th. Our condolences go out to the Barber family.

Our big cookout is June 25 at the Abdinoor Estate.

That's it for now
Your Buddy
Nick
Hq. Co. 3rd Bn 330th

P.S. New England Chapter members your dues are now due - Thanks



Mike the food is good! - New England Chapter



Great Food! - New England Chapter

New Jersey Chapter

The New Jersey Chapter held it's Spring Dinner on April 8th at Cryan's in Metuchen. We had a good turnout for this event and all enjoyed the excellent food. The prime rib had to be at least 2 pounds and most of us took what we couldn't finish home in a doggie-bag. Everyone agreed it was a great place, so Fred and Addie Rein and Fran and myself arranged to have our Christmas Party there on December 3rd, which is a Sunday. The dinner will start at 4 PM so that you will be traveling to Cryan's in daylight.

On a recent visit to Atlantic City, I met Bob Nordblom (1st Bn. Hdqs. 330) at Ceaser's Casino. Remember, Bob was on Bus #4 on the 1973 trip to Europe. Bob looked great and as we talked, I continued to play the slots and mentioned to Bob, he was going to bring me luck and sure enough I hit for a pretty good amount. Bob is interested in coming to our Christmas Party. If any of you are interested, contact Fred Rein and he will send you information on the party. The cost is \$20.00 per person with a choice of Prime Rib, Chicken or Fish. This also includes an Open Bar for 4 hours. Tax and Gratuity are included in the price.

We missed having George and Vi Waple and also Manny Epstein at the spring dinner. All three were having health problems at the time. Manny had a hip operation and talking to him on the phone, he said "he is coming along fine and will be in Myrtle Beach for the reunion."

On Memorial Day Weekend, some of the chapter were invited to Tom and Candy Dowd's home in Wayne for a picnic. As always we had a good time. Irene Guzek brought her famous rice pudding to the picnic and it was scooped up quickly.

Charlie Sihlanick asked me to mention in this article that a friend of Linda and Sal's whose name is Tom Bateman has donated thousands of pull-tabs from beverage cans. These are sent to the Boston Chapter who exchange them for equipment for the needy and disabled. We all thank you Tom for your humanitarian effort.

Many of the Chapter members have put their application in for the New Jersey Distinguish Service Medal. Harold Everham brought the applications to our spring dinner and also showed us the beautiful medal. This is the same medal that Governor Whitman gave to General H. Norman Schwarzkopf at the recent dedication of the New Jersey Vietnam Memorial. To qualify for this medal, you had to be inducted into the service from New Jersey and awarded any of the following: Medal of Honor; Distinguished Service Cross; Defense Distinguished Service Medal; Distinguished Service Medal; Silver Star; Defense Superior Service Medal; Legion of Merit; Distinguished Flying Cross; Soldier's Medal (Navy and Marine Medal); Bronze Star Medal; Combat Infantry Badge and Purple Heart. Write to N. J. Dept. of Military and Veteran's Affairs, ATTN: CW3 Francis M. Kennedy, AD-

GSB, Eggert Crossing Road, JCN 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340.

We expect that most of the chapter will be at the reunion in Myrtle Beach. Most are staying at the Waikiki Village Motel across the street from the Landmark Hotel. Fran and I have many pleasant memories from our annual get-togethers with Jim and Kay Bowie, Ed and Betty Kirgan and Don and Twyla Theibolt. I have a funny story to tell you. Jim, Ed, Don and I went to play at the Raccoon Run Golf Course in Myrtle Beach. The ground was very wet and I had on a pair of suede golf shoes. Jim, Ed and Don were on the first green watching while I approached the green, as I started to walk on the green, my right foot suddenly got soaked, another few steps my left foot felt the same. The guys were roaring with laughter as I looked back at what they were pointing at, the soles of my shoes had come off.

The chapter is looking forward to another fun reunion. Have a safe trip to Myrtle Beach.

Stan Bielen
1st Bn. Hdqs. 331

A sad fact: Wall of Liberty was not built.
A guide said it wasn't the French government, but our own, that had ordered work to be stopped.

Another year has passed, and we have witnessed the 51st anniversary of D-Day. It was one hell of a battle on Omaha Beach. We came there to restore peace and freedom and to keep the war from American shores.

Last month, I traveled to attend what was supposed to be a dedication of a Wall of Liberty in Caen, France. This was to commemorate the 50th anniversary of V-E Day in Europe. I had been to France before, arriving first on June 6, 1944 - D-Day - and was wounded at the Battle of Saint-Lo, where Allied troops made our break through German lines. My wife's family is from the French city of Cambrai near the Belgian border, and I had traveled back on several other occasions commemorating the D-Day battles.

The Wall of Liberty project was headed by Pierre Salinger, former press aide to President John F. Kennedy. This wall was to be dedicated to all servicemen who fought, and many of whom died, in those Normandy battles.

As a donation, veterans of the battle were asked to send a check for \$40 to the Wall of Liberty-Normandy War Foundation in Washington D.C., and a copy of our discharge papers to prove our presence at D-Day.

However, when I arrived at Caen, there was no wall, only a partial entrance on which work had stopped. The wall was supposed to list on one side those soldiers who had lost their lives, and on the other veterans who survived the battle.

I asked a guide where the wall was. She said it wasn't the French government, but our own, that had ordered work to be stopped. She showed me a stop order which cited insufficient funding for the project and listed

a new address for the Normandy War Foundation -- in Huntsville, Md. When I called the foundation to inquire about the wall, a woman who answered told me a lot of ex-GIs from all over the country had traveled to France in hopes of seeing their names etched on the wall, only to be disappointed. I felt bad for them. Since I have family in France, my trip was not completely wasted.

I feel ashamed to be an American who did my part in the war only to be told there's no money for this memorial. This country has a lot of money for other countries. This is a slap in the face to ex-GIs whose names were supposed to be on the wall. All I can say is that the foundation should refund our money and issue an apology to Normandy veterans.

Michael James Abaray
Woodbridge

Cleveland Chapter

On May 29, Memorial Day after the parade 15 members and their wives met at the FOP hall for our picnic. An enjoyable time was had by all. A big thank you to Ann Christopher for her great homemade pizza which she serves before our meetings each month.

Warren Owen had a four day stay in the hospital. He is doing well and he and Mary Jane attended the May meeting.

George Calore informed me his brother Angela Disiena of D Co. 331st passed away in Florida. Our condolence to all the family.

Cleveland Chapter is working hard for the Big 50th next year. It's been 25 years and Cleveland has changed a lot in those years. More to do and see for instance:

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame-opens this Labor Day, Good Time III - boat ride, Lolly the Trolley, BP Building, Cleveland zoo and Rain Forest, Gund Arena, Calleria, Geauga Lake, WWII Sub. "Gar", NASA, Art Museum, Jacobs Field - "Baseball", Tower City, Sea World.

Foster Deffenbauch asked me to place this note in the Thunderbolt. "I'd like to comment on the passing of a good friend and a member of both our 83rd Assoc. and of the A & P Platoon of the 2nd Bn. Hq. 330th Inf.

As his platoon leader and friend, we shared a good association. His willingness to function with a smile and a great sense of humor made many friends among our unit. That friendship continued after service with enjoyable summer visits from Howard and his wonderful family. I'm sure the good Lord has added the name of Howard Wendel to his roll call. With Deepest Sympathy" to Lillian and family. Foster Deffenbauch Hq. Co. 2nd Bn. 330th"

I received my ordered copy of "I Saw It Through" last month. It was written by Robert Aller of Sun City, Az. He was a mortar man in "F" Co. 331. I enjoyed it very much.

Most of the Cleveland Chapter are looking forward to seeing many of you in Myrtle Beach.

Kid L. Williams, 2 Bn Hq. Co. 330th

Philadelphia Chapter

The Philadelphia Chapter held a meeting on Sunday, May 21, and one of the things we decided at this meeting was for a change in the handling of our participation in the Memorial Day Parade. We agreed to give up extended marching on Memorial Day as every year fewer members are physically able to march the three-and-a-half miles distance -- and for this special reason, the time had come to ride.

Memorial Day was cloudy with a slight drizzle in the morning -- not a promising day for the planned ceremonies. However, we met at Lou Volpi's restaurant and learned that the Parade Marshall, on the strength of a promising weather report, had decided to go with the parade and the ceremonies.

To make adjustments for these changes, Lou Volpi drove with Harry Kirby, George Pletcher and me as passengers, and we were very much into extending greetings along the way. We waved to all the children along the parade route, and Lou Volpi was especially greeted by his many friends as well. By the end of the parade, the weather had improved to a point where people were comfortable at the Memorial Service. We missed our usual buddy, Jim Prentice, who was unable to attend this year. We all wish him well.

Lou Volpi, Harry Kirby and I joined five veterans of either Korea or Vietnam to form an eight man rifle squad. After the memorial service we had an excellent lunch in the Legion Hall where we were greeted by Larry Redmond and John Nordbloom. After lunch we returned to Lou Volpi's restaurant for our own 83rd Memorial Service. We were joined there by Mike Russo and Manny Lima, and the Volpi's usual hospitality was very much in evidence.

The whole day was a series of special events, and as the weather improved, the ceremonies were especially enjoyable as the speakers at the Narberth War Memori-

al were outstanding.

A lot of time and effort went into the preparation of the War Memorial ceremony, and we were impressed with the quality of the whole day. Our thanks to all who participated.

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

To the wonderful people of the 83rd infantry division association: Al and Anna Belvedere would like to thank you for the telephone calls and cards Al received when he was in the hospital and at home. He is doing well and we attended the Executive Board meeting in Ohio. It was great to see all the officers and their wives again. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated.

God Bless You All,
Hope to see you in Myrtle Beach
Al & Anna



George & Jean Pletcher, John & Mgt. Daum, Lou & Lucy Volpi, Mike Russo, Larry Redmond, Manny Lima and Harry Kirby.



Christmas Party - Philadelphia Chapter - Bocci Trophy

Kentucky Chapter

The Kentucky Chapter of the 83rd Infantry Division, met at the Jackson Ohio Comfort Inn, for the spring meeting March 31, April, 1st.

The 321 mile trip to Jackson was in good weather but the traffic was heavy. The run on Highway 32 across southern Ohio was a new route for me, not as hilly as I had expected since we were getting close to W. Va.

Most of the members were already there when we arrived since we had to drive so far, lucky there were no trips scheduled for Fri. afternoon. Coming into a different time zone where you lose a hour makes those Friday trips extremely hard to make unless they are late in the day.

On Fri. most of the members ate at The Colonial House where we had a good meal even if we like to never got waited on. On Sat. we ate at the Lewis Family Restaurant, it sat on a hill with a excellent view, this time the food was good and the service much better, maybe because I had Earl Hoover siting next to me to keep things moving like he used to keep "I" Co. in line.

On Sat. morning most of us toured the town of Jackson we visited what I would call a Mini-mall that contained among many other things, a antique store and craft store so new that they were still in the process of stocking them. Some of the antiques were so old that I didn't know what they were, and thats old. Clare had a ball checking out the many crafts for new ideas.

Sat. at 2 P.M. we held the business where some of the details of the 1997, National meeting were discussed. After the meeting I passed out 27 of the photo albums of members of the Kentucky Chapter, I hope everyone enjoyed them. It was a lot bigger job than I had expected. Without the help of Clara I don't know what I would have done. We did get two thank you cards for our efforts.

So many people missed the October meeting that it was voted to have one this year at Shively Ky. at the Holiday Inn. Oct. 13-14 This will be hosted by Alton and Beverly Carter, co-hosted by Marvin and Wanda Hayden. Hope we can have a good turn out this is a location that is easily reached by many of the members.

We would like to thank Hosts and Co-hosts Earl and Bonnie Hoover and Bob and Pearl Derickson for a good job with the Jackson meeting, the table was loaded with snacks of all kinds, you hardly knew where to start, every time I see all the goodies at these meetings I wonder how we

can eat all of that, but somehow we rise to the occasion and put a disappearing act on all that food.

I would like to thank Earl & Bonnies daughter & son-in-law Lonnie and Diane Lemaster for making so many meetings and helping out Mom & Pop Hoover and the rest of the chapter. Due to our ages and a lot of the members children having moved away to far from home, we seldom get to meet any of their offspring. On this trip we continued on over to W. Va. to check on Dencil Hoover one of my platoon members who is in the hospital a lot with a lung problem.

Dencil is on oxygen nearly full time but seemed perked up by our visit. On this occasion we got to meet his daughter who lives nearby. If the rest of his family is as nice looking and charming as she is he has a wonderful family.

Sorry I don't know much news as I have said before if you don't inform me I can't turn it in to Bob & Pearl to get it in print.

Kentucky Chapter members Lawrence Hamilton, Norm Weaks and Albert Fowler along with national member Walter Picket and former 908th Field Art. Bn. members who are not national members Dan Witt, Melvin Ingram and Robert Knisley, held a mini reunion at the Lees Inn in Evansville with a big feed at the Hamilton home. I went down to Lees Inn on Sat. nite April 29th and got in on the tall tale telling, everyone seemed to be having a good time. It was real good that Melvin Ingram had stopped off in Indiana got together with two of his brothers and all came together to the meeting, Robert Knisley was driven down from Ohio by his son-in-law, a nice gesture some of the younger generation helping out us old war vet's.

I was recently contacted by a former "M" 331st member who had just recently heard of the 83rd Inf. Div. Assoc. It always amazes me to find someone who has been wondering all these years about what happened to their old buddies and the information is there all the time just waiting for someone to help them.

Hope to see everyone at the Wapakoneta meeting.

Leroy V. Johnson

3rd BN 331st INF.

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Kentucky Chapter Summer Meeting Wapakoneta, Ohio. The meeting was held June 9th and 10th at the Holiday Inn, in Wapakoneta, Ohio. Hosted by Harold and Catherine Fisher, co-hosts Fred and Doris McGowan. We thank them very much for their hospitality and for the sightseeing tours they arranged at the St. Marys canal boat and bridge over the St. Marys river on Friday, and the Spaceship Museum at Wapakoneta on Saturday.

Total attendance for the meeting was 43 of which 22 were members including new member, Frank Belino. We would like to welcome Frank and his wife Pat to the

Kentucky Chapter and hope they enjoy being members of the chapter.

A business meeting was held on Saturday, some of the problems and details of the coming 1997 convention were discussed. Just prior to the meeting the Drawbridge Estate gave a presentation on why we should hold 97 convention at their hotel in Ft. Mitchell Ky. The Adam's Mark Hotel of Indianapolis had made their presentation on Friday evening, both sounded convincing and it will be a hard decision which one to pick.,

The 50/50 pot was won by Norm Weaks who gave his part back to the Chapter; thanks Norm. The museum door prize was won by Owen Jones and the carved Santa door prize donated by Wilson Day was won by Bob Derickson.

The next Chapter meeting will be Oct. 13 & 14 at Holiday Inn Southwest at Shively, Ky. Hosted by Alton & Beverly Carter co-hosted by Marvin & Wanda Hayden we will be visiting Ft. Knox on Sat. more on this in a brochure to be sent out later.

Don't forget the celebrations at Camp Atterbury & Columbus, In. on July 14 & 15, K-Co. 331st has some rooms reserved at Holiday Inn Columbus that have not been taken and can be reserved until June 30th.

December meeting will be at Piqua Ohio Dec. 8th & 9th. We always have a good time and a good turn-out for the Christmas Party.

We here in Newburgh In. were hit by a bad storm June 8th. and got away late on the 9th. Had the power not came back on we would not have been able to attend.

I called the motel at Wapakoneta and told them we would be late we appreciate the concern evidenced for us at the check-in desk, by the desk clerk and the members of the Kentucky Chapter.

Kentucky Chapter Reporter
Leroy V. Johnson



Pittsburgh Chapter

In a previous issue I reported that Larry Leonardi had a hip replacement when in essence he had a triple bypass. He had been in Florida for the winter and just returned for the June meeting. Recent hospitalizations included Andy Churpak for gall bladder on Feb. 21 at South Side Hospital; Bill Harrold, a quadruple bypass at Westmoreland Hospital; Joe DeLuca was operated for an aneurism on May 17 at Mercy Hospital. Bill and Joe are recuperating at home while Andy has returned to his duties as sergeant-at-arms. Normally those confined to the hospital for a minimum of three days are given a basket of fruit, but instead those mentioned received a check for \$25 each. Bill Nese's wife, Joan also received a check for her recent hospital stay. Additional members on the sick list are Steve Blasko at a nursing home; John Gallo at home; Ralph Barron at home and Ed Reuss at home. Before his trip to the hospital Joe DeLuca and his wife Juliette celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary on April 3 with a family dinner.

Additional new: John Marek attended the 15th reunion of the 278th R.C.T. association he trained with during the Korean War, March 17 and 18 in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. While he was there his buddy, Henry Hipster from Nashville visited him. Henry was in the A.T. Co. with John. Henry came from the 5th Ranger Btn. after the invasion. He was in the third wave of the invasion. The chapter Xmas party will be held on Sat., Dec. 16 at the Lamplighter Restaurant in Delmont, Pa. Greer Thompson is the chairman of this affair. The chapter was sad to hear of the death of Dr. Charles Snyder. He was the 331st regimental surgeon. He attended the first reunion in 1947 and stayed in touch as a member of the association these many years. The funeral service was on April 18, 1995 at the Manor Presbyterian Church, Manor, Pa.

The following was submitted by the national chaplain Frank Hornack for use at the memorial service in Myrtle Beach: The Pittsburgh Chapter has been greatly saddened by the death of two members this past year: Gene Costanzo and Sam Klippa.

The following was submitted by the national chaplain Frank Hornack for use at the memorial service in Myrtle Beach: The Pittsburgh Chapter has been greatly saddened by the death of two members this past year: Gene Costanzo and Sam Klippa. Each year at the memorial service we are sadly reminded of our dwindling ranks. but to lose two great ones in less than a year is extremely grieving. To the members of their families the Pittsburgh Chapter would like you to know how much they will be missed by our masters.

Recalling and Reliving Victory-in-Europe Day

Vets who missed the hoopla in '45 to get second chance at area commemoration.

By Gary Rotstein - Post-Gazette Writer



Veteran Jules Desgain with some of the WWII memorabilia in his Penn Hills garage

Tony Tye/Post-Gazette

U.S. soldiers stationed in Europe when Nazi Germany announced its surrender to the Allies 50 years ago don't recall experiencing the type of street parties and jubilation that their loved ones back home enjoyed.

Most war combatants were tired, dirty, homesick, wounded or all of the above by May 8, 1945. For many, the surrender was caused more for relief than celebration.

Its impact was tempered by the soldiers' knowledge that they might be sent to do battle against Japan instead of returning to their families and civilian lives.

"We were just out in a field someplace waiting to go home. It was no big hoopla about it at all," said Jules Desgain of Penn Hills, who was a private in the 83rd Infantry Division, which had just crossed the Elbe River in Germany when receiving the news of surrender.

Beaver County Commissioner James Albert, then an Army corporal, was lying in a hospital in England recovering from injuries received when crossing the Rhine River in March 1945.

"Our nurse came in...She said, 'You know the Germans just surrendered, and you guys won the war. It's a shame you're lying here -- they're celebrating all over the world.'

"She went down to the medicine locker where they kept the whiskey. She brought out some shot glasses, and said we were going to have a celebration of our own. She poured a couple of shots for everyone of us. and I'll never forget that as long as I live. We lay there with tears in our eyes." Albert recalled.

It is on behalf of such veterans that a few events are taking place around southwestern Pennsylvania this month to commemorate the end of the war in Europe, known as V-E Day, for Victory-in-Europe.

One of the biggest begins today in Bloomfield, inside and outside the VFW's Jene-Mager Post 278,4660 Gangwish St. near Liberty Avenue.

The Lower Bloomfield Unity Council, with help from the World War II Historical Preservation Federation, has organized three days of tank and vehicle displays, weaponry demonstrations, memorabilia collections and "living history" in which veterans discuss what life was like for them.

"We became aware of veterans' issues and felt there was more being done in Europe to celebrate the end of World War II than in the United States," Donna Uram, coordinator for the unity council said in explaining the event. "We'd really like the children to see what their grandfathers went through."

David Shaw, a Waynesburg resident who is president of the federation based in Leesburg, Va., said his organization had heard of few V-E Day events taking place this weekend outside of Washington, D.C., and New York City.

That's why the federation arranged for collectors to donate Sherman and Stuart tanks and other war vehicles for display outside the Bloomfield VFW post. Desgain and 10 to 20 other World War II buffs who are members of the federation will spend the weekend at the VFW sleeping in Army cots at night and educating the public during the day.

The public can tour inside and outside the VFW from 12:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. today. Tomorrow's events include the daytime displays and a USO dance costing \$8 per couple at 7 p.m. inside the VFW. Speeches and commemorative flag presentations will take place there at 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

"Most of our World War II vets are pretty old, and they think it's pretty fantastic just to show other people what they did," said Cmdr. Ray Fern of the VFW post.

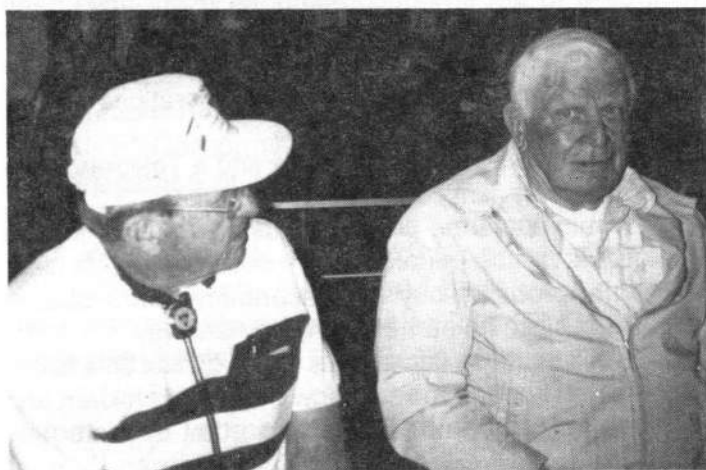
With annual patriotic occasions of Memorial Day and Flag Day ahead, some communities are awaiting Victory-in-Japan Day's 50th anniversary in August to commemorate the end of the war.

Allegheny County and Pittsburgh officials decided this week to cosponsor a joint V-E/V-J Day commemoration at noon and the evening of June 9 at Point State Park, followed by a fireworks finale, said George Thomas, county director of communications.

Dixie Chapter



**322nd F.A.
Long. Benbow, Massie - 50 years later**



**Remembering Rochefont
Pirkle & Young - 50 years later.**



**Former Lt. Long "B" 322nd
Capt. Mac "G" 331st**



Dixie Chapter

I'm really excited about the Dixie meeting in Chattanooga and looking forward to being there with friends both old and new. First I must get things in order at home. My wife is home from the hospital recovering from surgery. Her doctor released her to me and cautioned me about the trip - take plenty of time, stop when tired etc. - relax and enjoy each hour - with all this in mind I decided to leave early for the 740 mile trip to Chattanooga from Jappa, Md. Off we go! Christiansburg, Va is far enough for one day. Then Gatlinburg, Tenn. the next. One more easy day to our destination. On March 22 only to find the hotel is changing hands and my reservation have been canceled. After some doing, a room is found and we're settled in to find we're all alone. No one from Dixie is here. Finally I find someone who knows what's happening and got a reservation list. Things are looking up. Fourteen rooms are reserved for the 23rd. The fun is just beginning. They all showed up, each one with a different story. Cap Mac & wife from New Orleans, The Benbows from Balt. Two of our widows (God Bless Them), Kitty Thomas and Jeanette McCroy and all those other wonderful friends of Dixie Chapter and "Comrades in Arms" that we look forward to seeing one more time. The hospitality room (104) opens with the help of Leroy & Jessie Dalton and Carroll Brown who had to leave due to his mother's illness. He was alone without Ruby. He returned on Sunday to help us close down. Hope to see you next time around Ruby!

On the 24 we got into our hospitality room and meeting place. The one we were supposed to be in. Things are going well! 17 more rooms are filled. The good folk from Columbia S.C. and Macon Ga and the Carolinas are pouring in. Haran Martin, Dot and friends are here and Maury More. We're happy to see each one. Jim Price had to cancel due to sickness. Harlen Swanson showed up from just over the hill in Ga. Kermit Ramsey and Joe Wallo were in to take care of the engineer duties. They did a great job. I'm proud to be in the same chapter with you fellows.

Our Infantry really shined. Each regiment was represented. Captain Hill couldn't make it but Jesse Pirkle was in charge. Captain Mac got the job done with a couple good men. Lt. Robert Long was the leader of the 322 FA delegation with 2 faithful. "Red Legs" from "A" Btry. Benbow and Massie. I'm happy to report that our forward ob-

server directed all the fine missions and we completed them and didn't fire one "short round" we had plenty time to celebrate too and talked about all you fellows who didn't show up for what ever reason.

Our Secy had many cards to send to the sick. We wish each a speedy recovery - miss you all and look forward to being with each other again soon.

Flo Jackson I watched for you till banquet time, then gave up. Let us see you soon.

Business is attended to, The Banquet goes off in style. The sightseeing is over with. The celebration is over. Now we must go our separate ways with fond memories in our hearts. T'was great to be together again.

I just can't believe how sweet it was! And how fast it went. I want to do it all over again as soon as possible with even more of you out there. Plan to be with us.

Time is getting short. We've "The Now Generation" If we don't do it now we won't be doing it and it won't be done. We'll be left out and will have missed our window of opportunity to celebrate. "Being alive and coming together remembering those who couldn't be with us in body because they have given their all! Surely they are with us in spirit. We can't let them down. Can we?

We bet we won't. Plan to be in Myrtle Beach in Sept. We expect to see many old and new faces - then our committees are hard at work planning for a great time together.

A special thanks from us to all the ladies who brought and prepared all the refreshments. Thanks again to our hosts the Daltons and each one who showed up and made the news.

Til next time,
Ellsworth Massie
Dixie Reporter

It was 50 years ago in Rockefont, Belgium when they were together. Lt. Long "B" Bty. 322 FA forward observer and Lt. Hill "B" Co. 329 Co Commander were there. They almost met in Chatanooga, Tenn. At the Dixie meeting - sickness kept the Inf. Commander away but Lt. Long got there and found at least one "B" 329th man to greet him. Jesse Pirkle took over and they were in action once again. Also there were two 322 men present to help Lt. Long get acquainted all over again with many old timers. Benbown and Massie were happy to follow our former leader thru the good times at the meeting and look forward to being together again soon.

Companies.....

Co "A" 330th Inf.

Our Dad, JAMES GORY EADS ASN 35779196, Co. A, 330th INF. REG 83rd INF DIVISION was killed in action November 6, 1944 in Luxembourg (?) He was buried at U.S. Military Cemetery, Henri Chapelle Eupen in Belgium. He was brought back to Ohio to be reburied in 1947.

Dad entered the Army in January 1944 and joined the 83rd as a replacement in June or July 1944.

We have tried for years to get a copy of his military records & to get any decorations he might have been due or awarded.

He has no discharge on record in St. Louis & Army Personnel Center will not issue any decorations without proper authorization - DD214, ETC.

All we have is a Purple Heart and a Telegram from the War Department confirming his death.

Would someone please tell us how and where we can get his military records & any decorations due him. We could probably buy the decorations but it doesn't seem right since he earned them the hard way.

We want these decorations so we can fix up a family memorial to honor him & to show the grand children and great grand children that he died so that freedom may live.

Also would like to hear from anyone who may remember him.

If you can help please call collect 1-614-446-0306 or write to address below.

Thank You Very Much!

Sincerely, Barbara Combs
35 Smithers St., Gallipolis, Ohio 45631-9239

Used Stamps Needed

DAVer Bernie Elmore and the Senior Citizens Volunteers of the Buffalo, N.Y. Chapter American Lung Association collect and donate cancelled postage stamps to the VA Hospitals in Buffalo, Washington, D.C., and over the nation. At present, 90% of the stamps go to the Veterans Stamp and Coin Club in Tucson, AZ.

Individuals are asked to send stamps to: Stamps for Veterans, c/o Bernie Elmore, P.O. Box 398, Depew, N.Y., 14043-0398.

THANK YOU

**Help Hospitalized Veterans
United We Stand - America**

Co "F" 329th

Medic! Medic! Medic! Familiar words of long ago. Two of "F" Company's long time Medics "Pop" Sylvain J. Fishman and "Doc" Dr. Marshall D. Keith are still with us, continue to support "F" Company activities and maintain their memberships in the 83rd Infantry Division Association.

Following is an open letter from our own "Doc" Keith, a part of "F" Company's last newsletter which we wanted to share with all of "Docs" 83rd fellow Combat Medics and friends.

All "F" Company was privileged, honored and fortunate to have had "Pop" and "Doc" as our Medics.

To all past and present members of "F" Company, 329th.

I have recently returned from a small gathering of "F" Company. As always, I came away with a deep sense of pride and humility such as I have never found the equal.

When the St. Lo breakthrough was but days old I came to join the second battalion aid station and was quickly passed on to join "F" Company. Little did I know what lay ahead of me.

The first man I met was a man I could never forget. We soon came to be known as father and son. I came to feel a well deserved love and respect that is still alive and well to this day. To the rest of the men in the company he was respectfully and lovingly call "Pop", our own S.J. Fishman.

Sgt. James Fowler immediately saw to my training in what was known to all of us as combat. "To this day he is known as the toughest, meanest, most demanding "pussy cat" one could find. He was the backbone of "F" Company.

After a very few days of active combat a long list of heroes began to emerge.

During one of our many rough days Hervey Ward led me out of a hot spot I had gotten myself into. It was several years after the war that I found out who directed me safely across the railroad and back into the fold of "F" Company.

The night following that tough day I experienced an occasion that possibly has been the greatest impact on my life. I was asked to go to the front to a wounded officer. After a long walk into what was obviously "No man's land" we found the officer. There sat a lone soldier who elected to stay with his Lt. with nothing but a carbine. Never before nor since have I known the real meaning that "greater love hath no man than to give his life

for a friend". Roy Arnfield took this so much for granted that he didn't remember it but I did. To this day I use the term "friend" very carefully and sparingly for on that night I learned the real meaning of the word.

All across France and into Luxemburg I learned to know and love those men of "F" Company.

The boys who replaced those we lost so very quickly matured into men and combat soldiers. Throughout this time I came to be many things to these brave men. In my very limited capacity I came to be their "Father Confessor" to many and "Doc" to all. I wrote many letters to the homes of men we lost. The greatest words in my vocabulary could not adequately express how these men performed, only those of us who were there could know.

Out of respect grew friendships that last to this day. Nothing can weld men together like our experiences "overthere".

I remember the day of attack in the Hurtgen Forest. I felt compelled to talk to most of the men and I went very early to talk to them before the artillery started coming in. We lost most of the company that day. Even Dale Lewis a veteran of "F" Company for three days got wounded early in the day. We are glad to have him with us still.

It has been my privilege to renew these friendships after not seeing some of these men for fifty years. The feeling remains - do we ever forget? I think not.

And gentle loveable James McCoy whose presence gave me comfort like no other; left us some years ago as have many others I feel sure that God in his infinite wisdom has reserved a very special place in heaven for "F" Company. There with so many are Mac, Disher, Boyd, Begalla, Behan, Boyer, Degnan, Madore, Varley, Smitty, so many more we remember so well. Rest well comrades for you so richly deserve it.

You remember the Bulge when the cold was surpassed by the Ardennes Campaign. They are stories in them selves.

I shall always remember Alphus Smith who always found me and slipped his '45 in my belt when the battle grew hot. He would then come after the battle, reach for the '45 and smell the barrel to see if it had been fired. He never showed me how to fire it but I'll always love him for caring. I wonder where he is today.

To you great and wonderful men of "F" Company let me say this to you. I never felt alone for you were there with me. I was very rarely afraid for you were there with me. Because of you and what you were to me throughout these experiences we shared I am a better person for having known each and every one of you.

To those of you who can't join us, please know we miss you. To those of you who do come I know you are richer for it. To those of you who try so hard to keep us together I thank you.

I could never have picked a better group of men to serve and serve with and honored to be your medic.

I salute you all, Doc Keith

Expect to see some of you in Myrtle Beach

Most of the news is good. The grass is green and the flowers planted. Capt. Hill is back home in Miss. and doing great. I talked to his wife Zena, who said that his is coming along nicely. She wants to thank everyone for there get well cards. I talked with Al Trofimuk and Red? Geyer who also talked with the Hills, and reported that he is on the road to recovery. Get Well Sir! First time I gave an order to an officer.

Well I finally made it. On Memorial Day I made my 50th parade, but I think it will be my last. The parade route seems to be getting longer, and the hills higher. Sorry to say the old infantry legs are going. There were only 6 from the chapter that marched in the parade. Seems a shame.

Thanks to Joe Stek and Bob Taylor for sending me a copy of "B" Co. History from the landing, to the hedgerows to St. Malo. It was written by Richard Dickson, a B.A.R. man in "B" Co. who kept a diary and finally decided to write his exploits. To bad more names are not mentioned in the manuscript. Good reading Dick. Lt Jacobs called me to set a date for our annual luncheon. Always good to hear from him. I read where the 83rd had the 9th most casualties in deaths, 3,620, and 11 807 more wounded. In the last 2 issues of the T Bolt. I listed 28 members of "B" Co. who were killed in combat. Here is another list of men who never made it home.

Fred Baldrige, Lonnie Bien, Bernard Chudy, August Dominick, Robert Kirks, Steve Sebens, James Beck, Joseph Saviola, Georg Jeska, William H Burns, Paul Bullock, Chester Klevan, Anthony Payne, Regis Ruffing, Edward Breider.

Most of the soldiers I didn't know personally. 3 of them were good buddies. I tried to remember these, and the others listed in the last 2 issues. More names to follow.

Haven't heard from the Melton's, Waddle's, Pirkle's, Heuvel's, 'Dicksons, Hirko's and the rest, so thinks most be good.

Short "B" Co. Story.

While we were in the hedgerows, we had a Jeep driver by the name of G. Renich. One day while going like a bat out of hell, he hit a land mine and tore off the back end of the jeep. He bounced in a field with him holding on the steering wheel, and the rear end off. When it finally stopped, he than took off running to the rear. To this day I don't know what happened to him. He never returned to the Outfit. Sorry to say we won't see you in M.B. We are going to Maui. See you all in Cleveland in 96. Left a few for me.

Know God - Know Peace - No God - No Peace.

Bob Uher
329th "B" Co
216-885-1195

HELLO BUDDIES:

Here comes that adopted Co. "D" member once again. I have worked with you men of Co. "D" for so many years that I can't help but think that I was a member of your great company. After the war, I had the great pleasure of meeting a man from your company, "Frank McGrogan", Frank was a very fine man and being from Philadelphia, we became very close. At the reunions, Frank and I used to meet and I had the great pleasure of meeting Company "D" men. I also had the great honor and pleasure of meeting a man who later became your company commander, "Gene Fritts" when I was assigned to Co. "H", Gene Fritts was a young Second Lieutenant and was my Platoon Leader. He was also a very fine Gentleman.

Well Buddies, as you look at your calendars, you can't help but see that we are approaching the end of another great year in the history of the 83rd Infantry Division. Over the years we have had annual reunions and have met men that we served with and had the great chance to relieve the memories of our first meeting so many years ago. Some of us met in good old Camp Atterbury, others in Camp Breckenridge and others in Europe.

As we sit back and think of those first days in the Army, we can't help of us having to start a new life with strangers. After a brief period, these strangers became like part of our own family. We shared Barracks together, we ate in the mess halls together, we spent time at the P.X. together as well as weekends in town.

Many of us are getting older and travel was harder for us. To those of you who have never attended a reunion, you can't know what you have missed. Remember, that clock is ticking fast and time is running out for many of us. Try to make at least one Reunion and see if that old buddy still looks like the buddy you once knew.

I wish to thank those of you who have responded to my request for a donation to the Company "D" page in the reunion Ad Book. The returns have been very slow, but my special thanks to those of you who have made a special donation so that the page could appear once again. I have received some very nice letters from Co. "D" men thanking me for having kept Co. "D" still alive both in the reunion Ad Book and the "THUNDERBOLT". I have appreciated having had this great honor for so long. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

Your buddy,
Larry Redmond

Co. "H" 330th

Once again it is time for you to have to listen to my old line. As I sat here this morning I just happened to realize that it is almost deadline date for our "THUNDERBOLT NEWS", so I had to turn off the television, and also put those newspapers aside and having to give up reading about the O.J. Simpson case, the stories that are trying so hard to steal from Ringling Brothers - Barnum & Baily Circus as the Greatest Show on Earth.

Well Buddies, as you know, time is flying by. In a few short months we will be heading for Myrtle Beach, South Carolina to attend, this our 49th Annual Reunion. It seems almost impossible that this association is that old, but just think, we are no longer the young men that we were when we were in the service.

As I sit here looking at the mail I receive, and learn of the men who have recently passed away and those who are in nursing homes and hospitals, we can't help but realize that we are getting older. I hate to think that last month, I started my 82nd year.

Over the years, I have had the great pleasure of being in touch with quite a few men from Co. "H" that I served with. The other night I had a phone call from a man who served in our company, whom I often thought of and had written too, but that phone call was like a dose of medicine. It brought tears to my mind to think that the last time I talked to him was in Germany as we waited out our shipping orders and I left there and went to Camp Lucky Strike to await my boat.

As we sit here reading this final issue of the "THUNDERBOLT" for this year, we had better give some thought about getting those bags backed so we can join our buddies at the reunion. To those of you who have never attended one, remember, time is running out, and give some thought about the possibility of meeting a buddy that you last saw on the battlefield or some other place those many years ago.

Once again I wish to express my sincere thanks for being able to keep in touch with as many of you men as I have for all these years. I wish to thank all of you for the support in making the Co. "H" Page possible in the Reunion Ad Book. Your support is a great help. May GOD BLESS YOU ALL, and grant Health and Happiness to you and your families.

Your buddy,
Larry Redmond

Co. "D" 331st

Is everyone ready for the Reunion??

Looks like we will have another good turnout from the company as well as the National. Talked to Pres. Minick and V.P. Satterfield and they are expecting to see many of the men and their families.

Bernie & Jean Cove have returned to the Cat-skills for the summer; left the end of May. They went with us to the Florida Chapter meeting in April.

There, we were surprised with a visit from Frank Cancasci and a renewal of friendship with Lt. Joe Cellura who shipped out when we were in Breckinridge, winding up with the 36th. Division.

Haught & I had some chats at the Chapter meeting and I tried to sell him on coming to live in our community, but it looks like I struck out. ce sera, sera.

Bernie Cove had his 70th. Birthday in February and the Gravelyns, and McKees joined Geri & I to add to the crowd in celebrating at his daughters beautiful home in Miami.

In April the Mueller and McKees toured from Palm Springs, Ca. to Portland, Or. via Sacramento where they visited Russell Sparks and his wife. In Portland they celebrated Vern's 70th. Birthday along with his family. Bill McKee was both Vern and Bernie's Sergeant.

Frank Sharp had an abdominal operation and wife Dana was shocked when she saw him cutting grass after a very short recovery time. It is hard to keep these Co. D. Sergeants "Generals" down!!

At the present time I know that the following members have planned to be in Myrtle Beach - Adkins, Coves, Dalloses, Gravelyns, Gunderson, Hamiltions, Lynches, McJermotts, McKees, Muellers, M. Nolte, Odenwellers, Sabines, Schusters, Sharps and Shrawder. Haven't been able to confirm others but feel these members will be there: Cancasci, East, Hancock, Harman, Haught, Lee, Meyers, Miklos, Dorothy Nagel, Rummel and Trzeciack. At this stage of our lives we plan ahead and hope for the best. We lost another long time member of the company, John Kovak of Warren, Ohio. Last time I saw him was at the Warren Reunion.

Al Shrawder spent a week in New Jersey visiting his sister and revisiting childhood locations. Just spoke with him for news to report but he hadn't heard anything lately, and is just recovering from a flu bout, Tha-a-a-t's all Folks.

Ralph B. Gunderson,
Reporter.

783rd Ordnance Co.

Ah, the windows are open and the birds are chirping, just the perfect time to sit down and do a little chirping with you fine, young fellows. At this age we can't say that nothing is happening. Everything is happening too fast. Like always we have to have the good and not so good news.

As most of you are well aware I finally got my book "Hut Two" finished before we all stood our last retreat. In doing so I sent out letters to most of the company and I have to thank you all for responding so well. But the sad part of this is I also received four letters from nieces with the following information. Al Scaggs died on Sept. 8, 1993, - Harland MacMillan on Oct. 9, 1993 and Norris Basham on Dec. 14th, 1994. Sadly, this also means that their wives preceded them. You might like to pause here and give a thought to these fellows who were our longtime friends.

Earl Graham's niece has written twice on Earl's and Verdell's deteriorating conditions. She has managed to still keep them in their home under her constant care. Four other letters came back, Jesse Tilford, Pat Keller, Frank Amodea and Sam Hoffman. I used my fingers to run around the dial but it was to no avail. So if by chance any of you know their whereabouts please let us know.

Now I did refind "Snooks" Snook. He not only moved but he was also very sick but recovering from a serious operation. My problem is this book of mine has created so many letters of response I seem to have mislaid your address, Snooks. Now this is a good reason to write us and tell us how you're doing.

Now I have heard from a good number of you fellows but I'm stuck for words. Most of the letters were congratulations on THE BOOK. So even though you all deserve big bold headlines, for being so intelligent and well read, the chief, Robert Derickson says, "Don't you dare." I have received a letter from George Harris. He'll be 86, I think, on Aug. 9th. He is looking forward to Myrtle Beach. I talked to his nephew, George, in Texas, and he confirmed that he and brother Keith would again be bringing George to the reunion. Bill Manning, age a secret, will also be making a guest appearance.

I'm not going to list all the fellows and wives that are coming to M.B. It's too repetitious. All the regulars including a sunburned Arthur Doggett will be there plus a number of fellows who have missed the last couple of years. So if you are on the edge you all come on down. It's not too late,

there are plenty of good close motels.

Last night I talked to Bill Appleby and he was his jolly old self. He'd enjoy hearing from you so maybe you can pay him back for all the letters he delivered to us by taking time to drop Bill and Martha a line.

This is a good time to remind all you husbands and wives to please keep us in touch on sickness's and worse. We sure don't like to see anyone ignored but we can only do a good job if we are kept informed. Along those lines I heard from Don Vandermergel. He has moved to -116 Carolwoods Drive, Youngsville, NC. and the Zip Ha! I've written in my Zip!! Now I know I need a vacation.

As most of you know I dedicated "Hut Two" to Less Wolf. I did this because he earned it by being a class friend to many but my inseparable buddy over the last six months of the war. He died of lung cancer at 44 leaving wife Lee and 16 year old son Ron. Last week I completed what felt like the binding of a life cycle. Ginny and I traveled to Oak Harbor, Ohio and met the family for the first time. We ourselves felt like we were returning family to our old home town.

Inasmuch as we were passing within four miles of Columbiana, Ohio we had to call Charlie and Pat Rohrer. They too said, "Come on down!" We spent a grand old Memorial Day with them.

This is what is great about the small towns. You can feel, smell and taste the America of the 1940's.

It was a mini, fast trip that was quickly thrown together. Les Wolf's older brother Emerson not only resembled Les but he also had his laugh and dry wit. It was a one of a kind trip and one that Ginny and I will remember for the rest of our lives.

Many of you have asked how is the book going. Thanks to Bob Derickson and the Thunderbolts full page plug I am now into another 500 books. I want you to know that I'm never going to get rich on this unless it goes Hollywood. You must have a big name publisher or it's almost impossible to put a book in the national book stores without losing money. My reward is the unbelievable number of responses I have received by phone and mail from all walks of life and from every branch of the service. I'm sure you will be glad to know that this 83rd Division book is in the libraries at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, West Point Academy and the United States War College of Carlisle, Pa. This was Joe Brown's last Army home.

Many of you should be interested to know the War College is quite a place. We'll have to get Joe to give us a lecture at the reunion. My young,

neighbor friend got so excited after reading "Hut Two" he insisted he fly me up to visit the post. Joe you have to do something about that airport. It needs someone waving a huge American flag. We didn't spot the runway until we were passing it and I still insisted it was someones back driveway.

The museum has more than 7,000,000 million items relating to military history including 780,000 photographs, 150,000 - audio-visual items 5,600,000 manuscripts. (diaries, memoirs, letters, and other papers) Most of this is from the Civil, Spanish American and WWI. There is now a big effort being made for WWII. You can help! Every Division, Army, and Special Units have a personal bin. I'm sorry to report that the 83rd's "Bin" has just nine folders sent in from nine different men of the 83rd. "Hut Two" is helping represent the 83rd in the massive library. You too can help put the 83rd in its place in history by submitting some of your letters, photo's and memorabilia. "They are also looking for every former military man to fill out a questionnaire. Most of it is true and false with space to fill in your comments. Ray Wiggins could do this without batting an eye. If your interested, and I think you will be, please right a request to:

Dr. Richard Sommers, Archivist - Historian
U.S. Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks
Carlisle, Pa. 17013 - 5008

Dat-dat's all folks, see you in Myrtle Beach. I'll save you a front row seat for Joe Brown's lecture on the War College.

Hut Two, Rags Rangnow

"G" Co. 331st Inf.

The summer issue of the Thunderbolt goes to press in a few days, and by the time you receive it, there will be less than two months before the 83rd reunion at Myrtle Beach in South Carolina. I know a number of the men have already made their reservations to attend. It is later than you think, and time is getting short.

Since last reunion in New York, five members of G Company have died. Gene Costanzo in December, Frank McAbee in January, Joe Phillipone in February, Loyal Pangle in April and Elmer Mace died in 1990, but I just received the information last week. All of those men made a great contribution to the success of G Company. I had depended on McAbee and Pangle, because both of them were Platoon Sergeants, and were always ready to step in when the platoon Leader was wounded. They were outstanding soldiers. Costanzo served as runner and liaison between the company and battalion. Joe Phillipone was in Company Headquarters and served there during the period when Bill Watters was Company Commander. He was wounded before I took over command of the Company, and when he returned to combat he was assigned to the 104th Division.

And I am sure all of you remember Elmer Mace. Elmer went through two wars. World War II and the Korean

War. The only man I know that served in the infantry in two wars and was never wounded. To top it off he never dug a foxhole. He said that men get killed in foxholes; and dared his platoon sergeants to make him dig a foxhole.

Had a letter from Casel Bush, he still lives in Evansville, and he informs me that Harold Ladley is suffering from smoking too many cigarettes, He is now on oxygen.

Joe Henley writes that he was operated on for a tumor and had to take treatments, he is doing fine and is retired in Nashville. He was trying to get in touch with Everett Singleton. I had just received a letter from "Singleton, so I sent them the addresses so they could get together.

Ed Walsh is doing fine in Pittsburgh, he is the only one left in G Company from Pittsburgh and over the years he has been the one that was sick. Al Suess died of a heart attack, and Gene Costanzo died also from a heart attack.

Loyal Pangle was given a full military funeral by the members of the veterans organization in Flushing.

Had a call from another Joseph Macaluso in the new Orleans Area, and he informed me that a Phillip Graff was trying to contact me. It has been 50 years since we parted in Pocking, Germany. It was sure good to hear from him after all of these years. He wrote a very long letter, bring me up to date on his whereabouts. He is now living in North Hollywood, California, and has been able to get in touch with Jack Strauss. Jack is the one that published the 331st Infantry during the war.

Also had a letter from a Higgins, I don't recall the name, but Joe Henley remembers him. He was in the first platoon, and he is now a member of the Boston Chapter.

Both of these men are now members of the 83rd Division Assn., and will receive the Thunderbolt, when it is mailed.

I met with the Dixie Chapter at the end of March in Chattanooga, it is always good to see those people. Larry Dalton and George Naylor from F Company are both members of that Chapter. I have been in contact with Anthony Vaccaro from New York. Anthony was the photographer for the 2nd battalion and has many photos that he took during the war. He has travelled to Europe on many occasions to display his photos. In July he will be in Luxembourg City for a review of his pictures and will be presented a medal by the Government of Luxembourg. Many of his pictures were taken when the division was in that country for a period of two months before we went into the Hurtgen Forest. He will be at the reunion in Myrtle Beach in September.

My health seems to be improving, but I still have some problems. I had a cat scan and a bone scan about two weeks ago. The doctor believes that he will have to operate once again. Those guys sure get nosy, they always want to look inside; your body. We will have an ad in Ad Book for the reunion, and I only hope that the men from that area will be able to attend.

Good Luck to all of you and the Best of Health to each of you.

Capt. Mac.

""A" Co. 329th Inf.

In the last Thunderbolt that was published, I had asked if anyone heard from 1st Sgt. Art Wadkins and Capt. Combes. Well, old reliable Lt. Steve Fraunberger went to the library and found Art Wadkins' phone number. He talked to his wife, Cleo, and found out that Art had died. Steve gave me her phone number and I called her. We had a nice long talk. Art was from Joplin, Missouri. He had died back in June of 1969, of prostate cancer. Art was a golf pro at a country club in Joplin, Missouri, for 23 years. He was a sports fan and did much for Junior Golf in the community. Art said, "If it hadn't been for the Depression, I might never have gotten interested in golf". Money was scarce for the Wadkins family during those years, (as a lot of us can remember). Art, then 12 years old, and his brother, Lloyd, began caddying to help put food on the table. With this came the love of the game that was to last for nearly 35 years. Many of the 'ole timers helped the boys, giving them clubs to play with. The brothers learned by watching the professionals.



ENSHRINED -- Mrs. Art Wadkins presents a photograph of an oil painting of her late husband to Dr. Mel Sheehan, director of athletics at the University of Missouri, during ceremonies at Twin Hills Golf and Country Club in Joplin. The photograph is to be placed in the Hearnest Multipurpose Auditorium on the university campus as a permanent memorial to Wadkins. (Photo by Baird Studios, Joplin)

A year before Art's death in 1969, perhaps his final interview, his body already weakened and bowed with pain, he would say, "Golf has been good to me, and I intend to always treat it good. You can compare it to life in that you get out of it what you put in. You can't stand on the fairway and wish you could shoot a good game, the only way you'll ever make it is through your own efforts".

Art was inducted into the Army in Sept. of 1942, and joined the 83rd shortly afterwards. He participated in all five campaigns and was distinguished in combat and awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster. At the end of WWII, he returned to the states in 1945, and married the former Cleo Martin.

Soon after, he began giving golf lessons at Oak Hill, and in 1946, was hired as golf professional, which lasted for

23 years. It was under his guidance that the Junior Golf Program was started at Twin Hills. It was through his interest and love of young golfers that the program has become one of the finest in the southwest. Many of the fine local golfers started playing in his classes. Art helped many a young caddy, as he was helped as a boy.

One of the greatest thrills of his life was being asked by the Pentagon to participate in golf clinics for the Air Force servicemen serving in Europe. In July of 1967, he and three other golf pros put on clinics in France, Germany, and Spain. Twenty months after his trip to Europe, Art died of cancer. A memorial to Missouri University at Columbia was suggested by a good friend, the late George Osborn. The trust started with \$1,600.42 in donations. Hoping to make it a perpetual memorial through the work of good friends Jimmy Thomas, Clyde Love and Marvin Porter, the Inaugural Art Wadkins Memorial Pro-Am Tournament was started in August of 1973. The first tournament brought in \$1300, and the event was so successful that Wadkins Golf Scholarships are now offered at both the University of Missouri and Missouri Southern State College in Joplin. "It is our intention to assist fine young golfers who have thoroughly demonstrated their desire to receive a college education", Jimmy Thomas said. "We're indebted to our sponsors. They're the people who have made the tournament an enjoyable event and a successful one." Anyone interested in donating to this wonderful scholarship fund can send checks to the Art Wadkins Memorial Golf Scholarship, either to the University of Missouri or to Mrs. Arthur Wadkins - 1728 Kansas - Joplin, Missouri, 64804.

Unfortunately, Lt. Fraunberger could not find any information about Capt. Combes.

Dean Danials called me on May 7th, 1995. We talked about old times in Co. "A" and the war. He was in Company HQ. Dean has a son near Cleveland, (Euclid, Ohio). Sure was nice talking to him.

Our "ole" mess Sgt. George Calore's brother-in-law, Angelo Disiena, died in Florida. He was in "D" Co-331st Inf, Martha's brother. Our condolences to the entire family.

I want to mention again about the mini reunion that Blackie Mossman is organizing for "Co A". Make your reservations at the Executive Inn in Evansville, Indiana, for the 2nd weekend of August, 10, 11, 12, 1995. Make reservations by calling, 1-800-457-3841, or writing Executive Inn at 600 Walnut St., Evansville, Indiana, 47708. A good time is planned. Please let Blackie know by calling him at 1-618-276-4259, or writing Herbert Mossman at P.O. Box 295, Equality, Illinois, 62954.

And let us not forget our National Reunion at the Landmark Resort Hotel in Myrtle Beach, S.C., Sept, 14, 15, 16, 1995. Make your reservations now!! Looks like the reunion committee has it well organized.

This is all for now. Hang in there ! God Bless.

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

Co "M" 330th



Corral Beach Hotel - Myrtle Beach S.C. Reunion at one of many outings. "M" Co. 330th 83rd.

Just a little information of the re-activation of the 83rd Division.

The cadre of officers and N.C.O.'s came from so many different outfits to form the division. Some of us came from the 2nd Horse Cavalry and some came from the 1st Cavalry some from Ft. Benning.

I can remember the Day of the Ceremonies, before we started to receive the recruits, as we stood in the hot sun and the speakers talked on. We were at parade rest and men were dropping all around. It was in August at Camp Atterbury.

When the cadre arrived we stayed at the first barrack that were built and they (the carpenters) were putting up so many so very fast. Guess everyone anywhere near the past was a carpenter. The whole area was a mess of mud. We had training in the mornings then we made "duck boards" out of scrap lumber all afternoon, we used these for walk ways for a very long time.

When the recruits began to arrive by the train full we had teams that had to meet the trains take them to barracks to bed down (if at night) and to mess halls to eat and wait in barracks till they could be assigned to companies.

These teams were on call day and night so we had to be ready to go to the train tracks in camp and pick up so many to a team.

The first time some of us met our Company Commander and the first sergeant they came to our barracks and gave us our assignments in the company we had been assigned

to. I was in "M" Co. 330th Reg. heavy weapons, so being senior N.C.O. they let me choose the platoon I wanted so I chose the 81 MM Mortars cause I had been Sgt of Light Machine Gun platoon in the 14th Cavalry of the 2nd Cav. Division at Ft. Riley Kansas.

Figured we could learn more about mortars together and we sure did. Cause the cadre learned it all before we began the training cycle. There was a lot of training going on before the recruits arrived and it was hard work in a short time.

The first reunion I had the chance to attend was the Division at Owensboro and there I was able to go to "K" Company's hospitality room and met so many old friends after so many years away. I left the Division in early 1943 to go to OCS in Tank Destroyers.

"M" Company is like family and they have their reunion every two years, sure wish I could have been able to attend them all. Often, look back and wonder what happened to the original people in the Division. Reading the Division book some names are familiar but it's been so long.

Well, Bob, that's it for now maybe can write some more later, as you know the Division is at Myrtle Beach a month before our "M" Company, wish I could attend both, but lucky to make one. Good Luck & Good Health

As Ever

Bob Duncan "M" Co. 330th

Co. "M" 330th Inf. held their 7th annual Mini-Reunion at the home of Frank and Bunny Aishe of Bradenton, Fla. on Mar. 10, 1995. The group went to Sarastoa, Fla. for a luncheon cruise. A good time was had by all. After the cruise they returned to Bradenton for more fellowship and snacks. Those attending were. Leo K. and Martha J. Hand, Ann Smith, Al Biron, Frank and Bunny Aishe, Walter and Edith Wheeler, Mert and Jeanne Johnston, Leslie and Ellen Johnson, Bill and Juanita Roblins, BJill and Doris Bryant.

Leo K. Hand

Co. "M" 33rd Inf.

1700 S. Hwy. 57

Washington, Ind. 47501

Camp survivors, liberators share 50 years of memories.

By Sally Friedman
Special to the BCT

CHERRY HILL - More than 800 people sat silent and spellbound, some openly weeping, at Congregation Sons of Israel Synagogue last night as a small white-haired man told his story.

Rabbi Herschel Schacter, the keynote speaker at the annual community Holocaust Remembrance (Yom Hashoa) ceremonies, shared his searing memories as the first Jewish Army chaplain to enter the Buchenwald Concentration Camp in Germany in April 1945, and of seeing sights for which he still cannot find words.

"It is a story that cannot be told, yet it must be told," Rabbi Schacter told an overflow audience that had gathered to mark the 50th anniversary of the liberation of World War II's concentration camps.

The event was sponsored by the Holocaust Resource Center of the Jewish Community Center of Southern New Jersey.

Calling it a "tragic and grievous privilege" to have walked through the gates of Buchenwald just hours after the liberation of the camp, the rabbi spoke stirring of his memories.

"I saw a huge crematorium with smoke still curling up from its chimney. I saw hundreds of human bodies piled up and men and boys turned into skin and bones, more dead than alive, looking at me," said the rabbi. "Their eyes and their faces were haunted and crippled and paralyzed with fear."

The young chaplain cried out to them in Yiddish, the only language they shared, "You are free! The war is over! I'm an American, a rabbi, and I'm here to help."

The question the dazed survivors asked him almost immediately was "Does the world know?"

Acknowledging that his own life changed irrevocably from that experience, Rabbi Schacter lamented the terrible toll of the Holocaust, the loss of "sages and saints, rabbis and scientists, simple, ordinary people and over 1 million children.

The rabbi also told the audience gathered last night that "it is the obligation of generations yet unborn to remember and honor the beauty and sanctity of European Jewish life."

He also spoke of the "shafts of light kindled by a few noble souls," referring to the "Righteous Gentiles," as they are now known, who risked their own lives to help Jews.

It was an emotional evening for the hundreds who gathered to remember, from the dramatic entrance of more than 100 area children carrying candles and signs with names of both concentration camps and liberating army units, to the candle-lighting ceremonies that linked

survivors and liberators.

Rabbi Richard Levine of Willingboro's Temple Adath Emanu-El, president of the Tri-County Board of Rabbis, led the audience in a responsive reading of the 23rd Psalm, and Ruth Respler of Cherry Hill, a child of survivors, read the thoughts of a "second-generation survivor," in Yiddish so that the large contingent of Soviet Jews now living in South Jersey could understand her words.

Speaking to her parent's generation, Respler promised: "We will never let the world forget."

For Irwin Spandau of Willingboro, who served with the 83rd Division, 329 Infantry that liberated Buchenwald, last night was particularly powerful.

After participating in the memorial candle-lighting ceremony and hearing the rabbi's keynote address, Spandau was visibly moved.

"I felt the same chill tonight that I felt walking into Buchenwald," he said. "I felt it down to my toes. 'I think I was born so do what I did,' said the local man who has written a book called 'Lost Diary' about his World War II experiences.

Ken Barry of Mount Laurel attended last night's Holocaust observance with his wife Bermice.

"I wept -- I remember that terrible chapter like it was yesterday," said the retired comedian/magician who once toured with USO camp shows.

Holocaust survivor Sidney Newman of Cherry Hill, a window cleaner, has chosen to give away the monthly reparations he receives from the German government to charities, including the Masonic Home in Burlington, he said last night.

Yet he insists he is not bitter.

"You must go on, you must help others because the life becomes very precious," said Newman, who survived four camps.

"You must do good no matter what was done to you."

The National Order of Battlefield Commissions
JOHN C. ANGIER, III #338
67 OCEAN DRIVE
ST. Augustine, FL 32084

E GRADIBUS AD AMPLIOREM HONOREM TRADUCERE
(To rise from the rands to greater distinction)

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

NOTES & LETTERS

To all members and friends of the 83rd Infantry Division Association:

My father, Sgt. Ernie Hayhow, wrote "Thunderbolt Across Europe," the history of the 83rd Infantry Division in World War II. My father was an aide to General Macon, and he wrote the book in Germany shortly after the end of the war.

Several years before he died in 1987, my father loaned out his one and only copy of the book, and that was the last my family ever saw of it. That is until we met Pat DiGiammerino of the Boston Chapter. He was kind enough to loan me his copy of the book, and I had photo copies made of it. I thank Pat for his kindness and assistance, but I continue to look for a copy of the original book that my family once again can call our own.

That is why I am writing to you. I know that it is unlikely now -- in the 50th anniversary of the end of the war and the heroic role the 83rd Infantry Division played in that great victory -- that anyone who has a copy of the original book would be willing to part with it. Nonetheless, I must ask.

I am not looking for any handouts. If anyone has a copy of the original book in good condition and would be willing to sell it, I am prepared to pay a fair price. Please feel free to contact me at the address or telephone number below.

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation and assistance, I remain.

Sincerely yours,
Peter P. Hayhow
54 Canedy St.
West Wareham, MA 02576
(508) 748-3612

A Request

I am looking for the three "See it Through," 331st medals. Fair price will be paid to complete all of my medals for burial when I die.

Thank you very much,
Henry W. Good
11454 Westfall Road.
Frankfort, OH 45628-9785

Dear Friend,

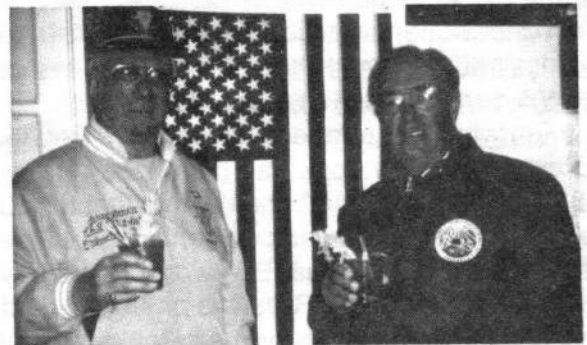
I am trying to get in touch with the guys who were with Co. "E", 329th Inf.. Is it possible that you might be in contact with some of them or a reunion representative? I would be grateful for any assistance in reaching these men. I have a list of names below that you could check.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Charles Beaty	Gordon Gladney	Oscar Puryear
Curtis Bookwater	Marshall Goodman	Edwin Rappuhn
L. Brittingham	Vernon Gould	Doug Saverd
Charles Bruining	Edward Grenier	Red Selby
Jim Burns	Arthur Homan	Ralph Schlissler
Frank Cann*	Lt. R.S. Kendall	Bailey Skinner
Harvey Cordes	Julian Lucas	Leslie Stubbs
John Crane	Dick McClain	Ronald Tester
Joe Crane	Edwin McKenzie	Edward Thomson
Tom Fernino	Bev Moody	A. Torchia
Ernie Friske	Johny Myers	

*(Russell Chavis)

Sincerely and with best wishes, Thomas Borsick
Rt. 3 Box 224 - A Lexington, Va. 24450



Taken 11/11/94 at the American Legion Club in Wenatchee, Wash. preparatory to the annual Armistice Parade. Shown on the left T/Sgt H.B. Hanna, Co. "H" 331st and a neighbor, Don Moos who was with the 28th Division, Co. "G", 110th Infantry. Moos was wounded while in the Bulge at Longeville, Hurtgen Forest Area.

Greetings from the East Wenatchee, Washington Chapter, "H" Company, 331st. There are only two members of the 83rd Thunderbolts in the area that being myself and Clarence Smart of "E" Co., 330th.

In all honesty we have never had a meeting since we can't muster a quorum but we have gotten together and exchanged experiences.

I have been in touch with five 83rd vets all from "H" Company, 331st, namely Vitie Atkosius, Everrette Armstrong, Manny Lamb, Bernie Hirte, and Warren Guttendorf.

On last Veteran's Day (or Armistice Day) November 11th, 1994, a dwindling number of old vets marched in the annual parade -- its only six blocks long. The enclosed photo is a picture of myself on the left and Don Moos who was with the 28th Division, Co "G" 110th Infantry taken at the local American Legion Club. As you can see we were fortyfying ourselves with some Calvados (disguised as Bloody Mary's). We take this opportunity to congratulate you and all of the Thunderbolt staff persons who do so much to keep the association alive & kicking. Keep up the good work!!! Hope to see you in Myrtle Beach.

H.B. "Jerry" Hanna

On 8 April 1995, a ceremony was held in Arlington National Cemetery to dedicate a bronze plaque to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the meeting of American and Soviet troops at the Elbe River. It was a beautiful Spring day, sunny and cool, and Evelyn and I enjoyed a program of Russian folk songs and sousa marches played by a U.S. Army band flanked by an honor guard.

There were about 50 or 60 veterans of the 69th Division and their wives, personnel from the Russian Embassy, and myself - the sole representative of the 83rd Division. The Army Band played the new Russian national anthem, based on a melody by Glinka, and the Star Spangled Banner. There were speeches by Yury Vorontsov, the Russian Ambassador; John Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; General Shpor, one of two Russian generals present; and U.S. Lt. General Kicklighter, who is in charge of the 50th Anniversary commemorations of WWII. High lights of the ceremony was a short speech by Lieutenant Bill Robertson of the 69th, who met Soviet Lieutenant Alexander Silvashko near Torgau, Germany at 4:40 p.m. on 25 April 1945 - the linkup at the Elbe. Robertson pointed out that Buck Kotzebue of the 69th had met the Russians earlier at Strehla, but the Robertson meeting and photo made the headlines and became history. (The times of the above meetings come from Cornelius Ryan's book "The Last Battle," in which he erroneously identifies Robertson as "Robinson." Ryan's book has numerous references to the 83rd "Rag Tag Circus" and the fact that the 83rd Engineers erected the Truman pontoon bridge - Gateway to Berlin - across the Elbe near Barby on 13 April.) Advance units of the 69th met the Russians on 8 April, and that is why this date was chosen for the ceremony. I told anybody who cared to listen that the 83rd met the Russians on 30 April. After the speeches, the Ambassador and the generals autographed programs and shook hands with the audience. Shalikashvili was very approachable, posing and helping the veterans take pictures.

Peter Jennings of ABC News is producing a 25-hour documentary called the 20th Century Project. We met Mike Plante, an ABC reporter/producer who is doing a segment on relations between Americans and Russians between the end of WWII and 1953. Mike came to the Elbe Meeting ceremony expecting to find Russian soldiers who had been there, but in vain. If any 83rd members have interesting stories to tell about the meeting with the Russians (or subsequent relations), they can reach Mike at (212) 456-5091 in New York City. It is unfortunate that this ceremony was not publicized; I'm sure that 83rd members in this area would be interested. I found out about the dedication by chance, through the Russian Embassy, the day before the event.

Rudy Zamula, 83rd Signal

☆☆☆☆

HELLO BUDDIES:

Here we are approaching the end of another great year in the history of the 83rd Infantry Division Assn. Inc. To many of you, this is just another Veterans Organization, but to those of you who know the real meaning of it, it is more than just that.

Yes, we are a Veterans Organization, but the difference in this and other organizations, it is composed of men who upon leaving home for a tour of duty in the armed services, more or less found a new home away from home. We met men from all over the country and lived together in a military fashion, but living as one big family.

Many of our men came into the service as very young men, some never away from home or their families, but learned that every man in our barracks was another brother. We went on through our basic training and moved on to maneuvers, and from there to another camp where we continued our training until that day came that we were shipped off from there to an embarkment center and finally onto a boat to make that grand ocean voyage to England.

We remained there for a while and finally took another boat ride to another country. 'After a brief but restless stay there, along came that great 4th of July when we pushed off to our first combat. As we made our great tour of Europe, we had the great misfortune of seeing many of our new family meet their deaths.

After a long and perilous trip through so many countries of Europe we had the chance to come back home and have to start to live the American Way of life once again. I am sure that many of you like myself kid and joke with our families about what a lucky person we were, we had a chance to take a boat ride across the great Atlantic Ocean, tour so many countries of Europe as we did and have that wonderful boat ride back to America, all expenses paid. We are unable to brag about the luxury liners that we traveled on, or the wonderful hotel accommodations that we had or the luxurious meals that we had or the great transportation we had for our tours.

After this was over, we came back home and some of our officers got together and started this association, and with the hard work of them and some of their followers, we have the great association that we have. We have had our ups and downs, and almost went down the drain a few times but thanks to the hard work and the financial support we were able to band together we have reached the pinnacle of being able to celebrate this our 49th annual reunion. We have had some very hard working men who helped keep this association what it is today, but there are a certain few who are no longer with us who were the real men behind it all. As we go to the reunion this year, let us all say an extra Prayer of thanks to those Men. Have a nice reunion, and GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

Your buddy
Larry Redmond

Hubert Walton 83rd Division

Herald & Review
Decatur, Illinois

"It was cold, cold, cold," recalled Hubert Walton, 75, of Sullivan, who was a first lieutenant in the 83rd Army Division at the time of the Battle of the Bulge.

"The 106th Army was on our right...They were a brand new division...That's where the Germans started their attack," Walton said.

In the middle of the night, Walton said, his division drove with lights out to where they thought the bulge would be.

"I don't know how I, or anybody else, lived through it," Walton said. "We didn't know night from day. We were freezing to death. Cold is the worst kind of combat there is. You have to be a young man to fight like that."

Walton recalled his division was transferred back and forth between Bradley's and Patton's command, and that, difficult as he remembered it, other divisions "had it worse than we did."

Hubert Walton
W 110 E Kennedy Dr.
Sullivan, Ill.

Pvt. Benjamin Gottlieb 83rd Div., 329th Reg.

In the Normandy area I did join the 83rd Division, 329th Regiment as a replacement. I confirm the Mr. Robert Derickson's statement that I did belong to company "G". Mr. Derickson can be assured of the correctness of his information.

The fighting in Normandy was very bitter. At the 2 major battles I was in, at St. Mere Eglise and at St. Lo, the Germans almost seemed suicidal. They would make a stand and be killed at their post. At St. Lo the problem was being able to locate the enemy. I just couldn't see them and so we had to search for them. At St. Mere Eglise it was almost hand to hand fighting at times. The town was in a shambles, virtually destroyed block by block, street by street. I saw many of my buddies killed or severely wounded and maimed. The Germans seemed willing to die and interested in killing as many Americans as they could.

I met Granville Sharpe and shook his hand.

He had a very strong, charismatic personality. His bearing projected confidence, assurance and the feeling that we could defeat any enemy we encountered. He was a soldier's soldier. He created an esprit de corps. He mingled with the smallest units, instilling confidence and an esprit de corps. He fought along side the men in the front lines and did not sit on his ass in the rear. The men loved and revered him. They would follow him anywhere. He had an aura, a charisma of confidence. Joking and laughing.

I arrived in England around May of 1944. I didn't meet or mingle with English civilians much. Most of the time was spent on the base. I arrived at Cherbourg very early in June. It quickly became apparent that I could be wounded or killed outright and I get worried about my wife and baby back home. I am not sure any war buddies are still alive as replacements were constantly added to the units.

It was shocking and frightening to see my buddies killed or disemboweled. It was ghastly. We did everything our officers asked us to do. We did expect the government and the army to take care of our families back home if anything happened to us.

FRANCE JULY 1944

Experiences of Pvt. Ben Gottlieb
83rd Div., 329th Reg.,

I was put ashore early in June near Cherbourg. We were shot at by snipers but we did not meet major resistance until we got to Ste Mere Eglise. The Germans retreated but used delaying tactics. Land mines were not a real problem. They used snipers to slow us down. To cover their retreat. Early on we took very few serious casualties.

But when we arrived at Ste Mere Eglise around June 15 there was heavy resistance - mortars, machine guns, snipers and artillery...The Germans fanatically resisted. We pounded them day and night with artillery, air power, mortars and machine guns. But we were ordered into the town to kill the Germans. Ste Mere Eglise was my first major battle. I saw my buddies killed and maimed. The Germans were determined to kill as many of us as they could. They refused to surrender. We had to go in and wipe them out. I personally did not see the Germans up close but I did shoot at them repeatedly with my rifle. We had to clear the town building by building, street by street. The Germans

fought to the death. They refused every offer to surrender. It was a savage and brutal fight. It was over by around June 18.

We were ordered on to the south. Resistance again petered out to sporadic sniper fire. But at St. Lo again we encountered fanatical German resistance. We couldn't see them. They used camouflage and hid. There was the town and there were irrigation ditches in the surrounding area. I fought near the town in the hedgerows. I was fighting near the town of St. Lo. We were ordered to move forward and kill Germans. They were repeatedly offered surrender and they repeatedly refused. It was kill or be killed. I saw many buddies and men of my outfit blown to pieces, bleeding from serious wounds, heads and arms blown off. I was scared and frightened. But I followed orders. We were ordered to advance. We killed many Germans. On July 20-23 we engaged the enemy almost non-stop. We slept very little. I am not sure how I was killed. I never felt wounded. I was suddenly in a different world. I had no preparation or warning or time to prepare for death.

France 1944 in July

I was bivouacked in Southeastern England near the sea for 5 to 6 weeks. We embarked in June for France. I was used as a replacement and did not enter with original members of the 83rd division. I did not enter France at Omaha beach but rather in the Cherbourg area. I hooked up with the 83rd division early in June when they were already beginning to engage the Germans at St. Mere Eglise. I was put into that battle with the 83rd. Resistance was fierce. They refused to surrender even under generous terms that guaranteed their lives and safety. They seemed to prefer death to surrender and they fought practically to the last man. Hand grenades were present and used but primarily rifles and guns used. It was very dangerous with Germans barricading themselves behind furniture inside buildings and houses. Sometimes we fired at each other in the same room. I saw many of my buddies killed and wounded. Heads blown off, blood everywhere. It was ghastly. In the heat of battle, under the pressure and tension and turmoil we quickly learned to trust and depend upon each other as brothers fighting against a very determined enemy. We quickly learned to trust each other with our lives. We had to kill quite a few Germans. It took several days before we could clear the town and gain a handle on things there.

Around the middle of June we moved on and for awhile there was little resistance. But at St. Lo and the surrounding hedgerows resistance stiffened.

The water that Charlotte Granville referred to was there. That the Germans used to flood the area. It slowed us down and made it difficult for us to carry our supplies and packs but we did manage to move.

Son of Pvt. Ben Gottlieb
550 Grand St. J91
New York, NY 10002

"REMEMBER"

SITTING ON OUR BACK PORCH THE OTHER DAY
MY THOUGHTS BEGAN, TO TUMBLE AND SWAY
OF A DAY TALKING, WITH MY OLD FRIEND JOE
OF SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED, A LONG TIME AGO

WATCHING AN EAGLE FLYING BY IN THE TWILIGHT
AND A ROBIN CROSSING THE YARD, EAGER AND BRIGHT
THE EAGLE CIRCLING, SEARCHING FOR ITS MATE
THE ROBIN CATCHING A WORM, WHICH IT SOON ATE

MY SISTER AND BROTHER PLAYING IN THE BACK YARD
WITH ENERGY AND FUN OF JUST BEING YOUNG
AND BOUNCING A RUBBER BALL OFF A RUG
WHILE TRYING TO CATCH SOME LIGHTNING BUGS

MY FATHER SEARCHING FOR HIS FAVORITE BLUE GLASS
WHICH HE THOUGHT HE HAD LOST, WHILE FISHING FOR BASS
MY MOTHER AT THE WINDOW LOOKING OUT AFAR
STARING AT OUR NEIGHBOR WORKING ON HIS CAR

AND ME SITTING ON OUR BACK PORCH SWING
SILENTLY LOOKING AT ALL THESE THINGS
HAPPY DAYS YOU RECALL, WHEN YOUR OLD AND GRAY
YOU SHOULD TRY TO REMEMBER, EACH AND EVERY DAY

POET BOB GERBER

A TYPICAL MORNING?

WAKING UP EACH MORNING AT THE SOUND OF AN ALARM
AND HOPING YOU WILL GET BY WITH NO PROBLEMS OR HARM
YOU DASH FOR THE BATHROOM AND SLIP AND FALL
YOUR KIDS AND TWO DOGS MAKING A RACKET IN THE HALL

YOU GET UP AND CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR ALRIGHT
YOUR WIFE RUSHES UP ALL LOVELY AND BRIGHT
YOU ASK HER HOW SHE MANAGES TO LOOK SO FINE
ALL THE TIME CHECKING THE BRUISE ON YOUR BEHIND

A TYPICAL MORNING ENSUES AFTER YOU HAVE SHOWERED AND
SHAVED
YOUR WIFE COOKING BREAKFAST AND KEEPING THE KIDS BEHAVED
YOU EAT YOUR BREAKFAST FAST AND THEN RUSH TO THE CAR
TO FIND THE STREET HAS JUST BEEN PAVED WITH A FRESH COAT OF TAR

YOU DRIVE TO THE CORNER AND GET HIT BY A TRUCK
YOU BEGIN TO WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL YOUR LUCK
HAVING TO GET YOUR CAR TOWED TO HAVE IT REPAIRED
IT BEGAN TO SEEM LIKE NOBODY REALLY CARED

YOUR LATE FOR WORK, THE BOSS IS PULLING OUT HIS HAIR
YOU TRY TO EXPLAIN, BUT NOBODY SEEMS TO CARE
THEN YOUR NOSE GETS CAUGHT, IN, A PILLOW SEAM
AND YOU WAKE UP TO FIND OUT, IT WAS ONLY A DREAM

POET BOB GERBER

A Fund Raiser For The 83rd

Jimmy Burton Sings for the 83rd Division Association. Songs I recorded from 1946 - 1966.

Thru the years I have always felt that it was an honor to sing for you at our Memorial Services and for the dance programs whenever possible.

Many of you are aware that I was a professional singer for many years after the war. During that time I carried a portable tape recorder with me and I recorded songs whenever I could and this took place between 1946 - 1966. They were not commercially done. My niece accompanied me on the piano in a living room with one hand held microphone.

I recently took my tapes to a recording studio and with an engineer we worked for several hours to master this collection of songs. The sound came out very good and I was really happy and pleased with the results and I'm sure you will enjoy these songs. There are 35 songs recorded. Some semi-classics - popular song - Irish and show tunes etc.

I do not intend to make money from this tape, but if you purchase it, I will donate all profits to the 83rd Div. Assoc. to be used for future reunions. Possibly to help defray the cost of your entertainment programs.

P.S. These tapes will be sold at the reunion and if we run out we will take your order and mail yours to you within a few weeks. Also, an order form will be made available in the next Thunderbolt for those who do not make the reunion.

Sincerely
Jim Burton
Co. "D" 329th



A Collection of My Favorite Songs 1946 - 1966 ----- Jimmy Burton

Side 1	Side 2
For you Alone	The Shadow of Your Smile
Granada	Sunrise-Sunset
You are Love	The Impossible Dream
The Last Hour	You in a Gondola
The World is Mine Tonight	I Wish You Love
Tell Me you Love Me Tonight	There's a Place for Us
Oh Promise Me	This Nearly Was Mine
The Lord's Prayer	What Now My Love
Here	They Called the Wind Maria
With a Song In My Heart	The Little Boy
Thine Alone	It's Easy to Remember
I'll Take You Home Kathleen	LaBomba
If I could Tell You	My Wonderful One
There's No Tomorrow	I Believe
Who Can I turn To?	As Long As She Needs Me
Autumn Leaves (Theme from Dr. Zhivago)	The Night has a Thousand Eyes
	I hear a Rhapsody
	They Call the Wind Maria

It's Easy to Remeber and La Bomba were recorded on Prescott Records in 1955
My Wonderful One and the following 5 songs were recorded in 1963 for my mother's 75th Birthday

In 1944 I was only 8 years and I have conserved a good memory of GI. Also for 2 years I try to find the address of the GI having stayed approximately one week at the beginning of August 1944 during the battle of St. Malo in the vicinity of St. Helen near Dinan in the woods approximately 5 miles before Dinan and near the main road Dol-Dinan.

I think it was probably elements of 83rd Inf. Div and I remember that in this unit was a doctor and a chemist. Probably this unit was Intelligence or Signal or Engineers. Also I wonder if its possible for you to help me find the name of this unit. St. Helen is near Dinan.

Last year I was very happy to meet you in the vicinity of Sainteny near Carentan at the banquet on June 5, 1994 for D Day commmemorative, with many veterans of 83rd Div.

In waiting and the pleasure to read you,
Sincerely

Mr. and Mrs. Francois Chouin
7 Rue de la Gare
49 240 Avrille, France

VICTORY +50 CELEBRATION IN MOSCOW

From 6 to 14 May, I attended the celebration of the 50th anniversary of V-E Day in Moscow, along with 25 other American veterans. According to the Moscow Times, there were about 36 other U.S. veterans present for the event, including the paratroopers and Bill Robertson (of the Elbe link-up) who travelled with the President. We paid for our travel expenses and were the quests of the Russian War Veterans Committee at the Izmaylovo Hotel in Northeast Moscow. Veterans and resistance fighters from the former Soviet Union, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Rumania, Mongolia, France, Italy, Finland, Denmark, Norway, England, China, Japan and other countries also stayed at the Izmaylovo: a total of three busloads of foreign veterans.

On 8 May, we attended the dedication of the equestrian statue of Marshal Zhukov at the rear entrance of the Historical Museum, on Manezh Square. Attendance was very restricted - 30 invitations for the 150 veterans in our group - but at the last minute they let us all proceed to the reviewing stand. Sunny weather, a military band, and ranks of paratroopers and sailors added

sparkle to the occasion. I was in front of Australian Ambassador Geoffrey Bentley, who complained that the Australian veterans had not been invited, even though they had lost a thousand aviators serving in the RAF. U.S. Ambassador Pickering stood two rows above me talking on a cellular phone.

In the evening, we attended a reception at the Kremlin Palace of Congresses, the huge auditorium where members of the Soviet Parliament would listen to the speeches of Stalin, Khrushchev, and Brezhnev. Sitting together in the row in front of me were a Russian Orthodox priest, two rabbis and four Moslem clerics. And as is typical in the new Russia, Aleksey II, the Patriarch of Moscow was up front with the other dignitaries. I later learned that Joe Cocker was to give a concert in the Kremlin Palace on 11 May (call 929-7910 for tickets). I don't think Stalin would have approved.

There were a dozen performances in the program including ballet, poetry recitals, Ukrainian folk dances, ensembles singing folk songs, and a live transmission from the spacecraft Mir on the screen - two cosmonauts and our astronaut Thagard. After the intermission, there was a stirring finale with massed banners of the Ukrainian Fronts (1-4), the Belorussian Fronts (1-3), the Baltic Front, etc, plus files of soldiers and sailors marching down the aisles of the auditorium. After the show, we went into the adjoining reception hall and were cornered by young paratroopers who wanted to know where we were from in the U.S. and asked for autographs.

Yeltsin spoke forcefully about WWII, saying that credit for the victory should not go to the generals or the political leaders, but to the people who rose to the defense of their country after the devastating losses in 1941-42. In a Moscow Times article, retired general Dmitry Volkogonov pointed out that four and a half million Soviet soldiers were captured "through the criminal miscalculations of the country's highest leaders," and fewer than 2 million returned alive. Volkogonov cited the current tally of 26.5 million Soviet dead, including more than 15 million civilian casualties. 158,000 soldiers were executed without trial, and over 400,000 soldiers were sent to penal battalions. In a television interview, Alexander Solzhenitsyn stated flatly that many Russians greeted the Germans as liberators after the Stalinist terror of the 1930's. Solzhenitsyn glimpsed the fireworks on 9 May 1945 through the bars of his cell in the Lubyanka.

9 May, which the Russians celebrate as V-E Day, was bright and sunny thanks to government seeding of clouds to the West to insure good weather. In the morning, we went to the Veterans parade on Red Square, and it took some time to get through the security cordon - we had to show passports as well as the numbered invitations. We had a good vantage point and could see Clinton and Yeltsin walking along the Kremlin wall on their way to the main tribunal. Red Square filled up with military bands, soldiers, sailors, paratroopers, and five thousand WWII veterans in their new gray green suits and caps. Two generals, each in a large convertible, drove along the ranks, and as they saluted each unit, a thousand voices shouted "oorah, oorah, oorah." As the

veterans passed the tribunal with the banners of the Ukrainian and Belorussian fronts, I was touched to see the female veterans marching briskly along with the men. About half a million women served in the Soviet Army during the war, largely in combat roles. When we met the Russians at the Elbe river in April 1945, I saw three soldiers at Calbe, Germany under the command of a female officer, standing around what looked like a Model A Ford pickup truck. In his speech, Yeltsin acknowledged the role of the Western allies in defeating Hitler, and adopted a tone of reconciliation and partnership. After the parade, Clinton and his entourage filed out along the Kremlin wall. Joe Beyerle (101st Airborne), who had met with Clinton in connection with the anniversary, gave a paratrooper yell "Mr. President," and the Prez waved to our group.

From Red Square, our busses took us to Poklonnaya Gora along streets filled with the general public, young families and oldsters enjoying the fine weather and the excitement of the holiday. We walked from our bus to the reviewing stands along with many of the Russian veterans who had marched in Red Square. There was crowding, confusion and impromptu sidewalk stands selling cold soft drinks and beer. We sat on wooden bleachers, along with "6,000 Russian and foreign dignitaries," and watched 10,000 troops march by. There were also cadets from the Frunze Military Academy and the Nakhimov Naval Academy - some of the latter looked about 14 years old. Again the "oorahs" resounded as if in a giant echo chamber. Then armored personnel carriers, self-propelled missile launchers, and the latest T-80-U tanks came rolling along Kutuzovsky Prospekt, spewing out an unbelievable amount of diesel fumes. The first plane in the flyover was a tanker with a jet refueling in flight. There were also Sukhoi-27 fighters and Black Cobra helicopters in the flyby. I sat next to a Belorussian veteran from Minsk who served in the Black Sea Fleet in wartime. He has children in the Ukraine and relatives in Moscow, and has travel to two foreign countries to visit them. The Moscow Times aptly described the day as "part Oktoberfest, part love-in, the biggest carnival Moscow has seen in decades." My impression: the man in the street enjoyed the display of military might, the celebration of WWII heroism, and a day in the sun.

That evening, the American veterans were invited to a reception at the Radisson Slavyanskaya Hotel: hors d'oeuvres, open bar, and music by the Air Force Brass Quintet. Bill Clinton, who was staying at the Radisson, dropped in and greeted the veterans. I shook hands with him twice, the second time for the White House photographer (now I have to figure out how to get the photo). Hillary looked lovely and though she sat demurely to one side, was soon surrounded by admirers. I chatted with Col. Kwiecen, recently promoted and in charge of the U.S. Military Police in Moscow, saying that I was happy to see a fellow Pole making good. She pointed out that the Pope and General Shalikashvili aren't doing too badly, either.

On Wednesday, all the veterans went to a reception at the Central Building of the Russian Army. Vodka,

champagne, and appetizers; along with typical Russian music and songs. Rumanians, Czechs and Slovaks were resplendent in dress uniforms and medals. I had my picture taken with a Mongolian general.

On Thursday I visited the Russian Armed Forces Museum which has a display of uniforms and objects from Hitler's bunker and from Goering's last command post. The museum curator remarked that Goering's pistol had disappeared from the display case. When I heard this, I was tempted by a case with 3,500 Iron Cross medals captured from the Germans, but I didn't have a glass cutter. There is a display of pictures of generals and officers executed by Stalin in 1936-37: a teacher was explaining it to her students as I walked by. When war came in June 1941, Stalin was desperately short of experienced generals, and junior officers were put in command of divisions.

It is a good idea to bring commemorative buttons, key rings, postcards, whatever - when you travel to Russia, so you will not turn up empty-handed when they pin those great Anniversary buttons on your lapel or give you a Zhukov watch (as the Veteran's Committee did for us). Joe Beyrle brought about 20 pounds of V-E Day buttons with the Allied flags on a white background. I had one left as I emerged from the Metro, and tried to give it to a Russian lady with a lapel full of medals. She at first refused, thinking I was a con man or a religious nut, until I showed her the lapel pin I had received (two years ago) from a tank commander in the Russian Sixth Guards Division, the outfit that we met at the Elbe River. It turned out that Nina Zaytseva and her friend were members of the Woman's Brigade of the Sixth Guards Division, and we had a mini-reunion and picture taking outside the Metro entrance.

(Details, numbers and military nomenclature are from the Moscow Times of 6, 10, 11 May.)



May 13, 1995. Rudy Zamula and Nina Zaytseva of Sixth Guards Division that we met at the Elbe in April/May, 1945.

Dear Bob:

You will be pleased to know that one of the items you printed under LOST and FOUND on page 30 of the April, 1995 issue of THE THUNDERBOLT GOT FAST RESULTS.

A few days after I received my copy, I had a phone call from Dan Murphy of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He had recently rejoined the Association and upon reading the issues you had sent him, was amazed to see his name and serial number in print at the top of page 30. He called me immediately.

Dan has been in contact with M. Bernard Descure of Paris, France. The helmet liner he lost at Saint Malo more than fifty years ago will soon be in his own hands again.

Now, if we can find the men who posed with Bill Wilson of the 308th Engineers and some girls at Dinan in 1944, I will really believe in the power of the press.

Thanks Bob, for printing those items and the letter from Jean Luc Marie, one of the Frenchmen who honor the 83rd at ceremonies in France.

Warm regards,
Rupert G. Macpherson
2707 West Macon Street
Decatur, Illinois 62522

Joyce to celebrate victory with Russians

Times Union -- Bob Gardinier
Albany, N.Y.

Ray Joyce, who was touched by the friendliness of the Russians when he fought in the infantry during World War II, is traveling to Tula, Russia, with a seven member delegation of Albany people for a V-E Day commemoration.

The group, the Albany/Tula Alliance, left Saturday for a nine-day visit to the country that was an ally during the war, an enemy during the Cold War, and now a friend again. "We have been trying to assist them in their return to democracy," said Joyce Friday, sitting in his dining room in his Albany home. Behind him a brightly painted samovar set on a table, evidence of his former trips to Russia.

The alliance was formed in 1992 with Tula,

which the Albany groups calls its sister city. The group has worked to facilitate exchanges between the two cities, including help for Tula during the conversion to a post Cold War economy.

Joyce was looking forward to the trip because Russian Red Army veterans of World War II will be present for the commemoration.

He served in the 83rd Division, 329th Infantry during the war and unit moved slowly east, across the Rhine and finally reach the Elbe, where they met the Russian Army. They both knew then that the war must be drawing to a close.

"What a lot of rejoicing," he recalled of the meeting 50 years ago. "We did not understand what each other was saying, but that didn't matter. The Russians were a friendly, out-going bunch, and boy, they sure liked to hug and kiss," Joyce said.

The delegation will deliver a plaque to the residents of Tula, an American Legion Proclamation which begins with the words, "Russia and the U.S. shared a common goal 50 years ago, the defeat of a common enemy."

They will also bear a proclamation from the American Legion Albany County Committee.

Pianist Findlay Cockrell will also travel with the group. He will perform solo and with five string players this week in Tula.

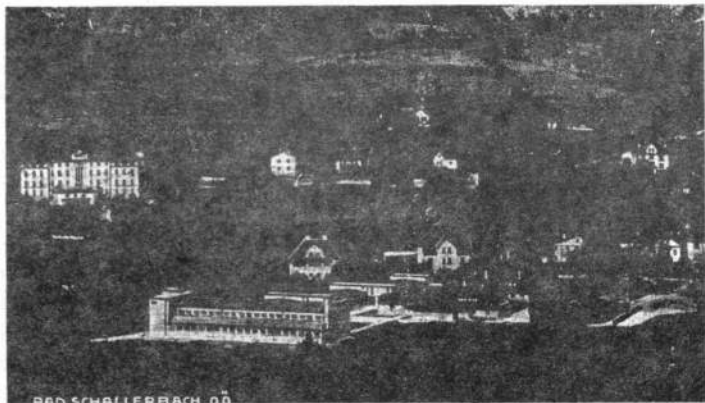
Cockrell will perform in Tula's Lenin Square, Belousov Park, and will perform in a chamber music program with Tula violinist Vladimir Pankin.

Among the other people traveling to Tula will be Charlotte Buchanan, chair of the Albany/Tula Alliance and Nina Reich, who speaks fluent Russian. "She's going to be a big help," Joyce said.

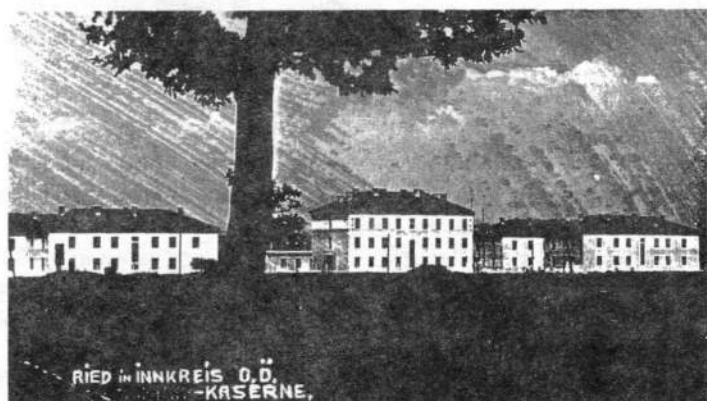
Sent in by Gerard Tennessey



A 22-year-old Ray Joyce of Albany poses in a photograph taken at a captured German village during his Army service during World War II



This is a picture from 1945 of Bad Schallerbach Austria. The location of "I & E School 329th Inf" Nov. Dec. & Jan 1945-46.



Company "F" 329th Regiment, 83rd Division. We were here from mid Oct. of 1945 till March 1946.

Dear Mr. Derickson,

My father as you may know is in a nursing home. Dad is doing fine, he is in a wheel chair and paralyzed on the right side.

Please have his buddies keep in contact with him.

Thank you very much,

Mark Settle, Son

Mark W. Settle Sr.
1988 Little Rd.
Perkiomenville, PA 18074

I have a copy of the Thunderbolt Spring 1995 Vol. 50 #2 from a friend. We just found out today we were in the same division.

I joined the 329th Co. "F" in Sept. 1945 after my division the 89th went back to the states, I didn't have enough points. I can't remember the town in Germany where I joined Company "F". While we were in this town we helped to build a very large stockade, the mess sergeant was able to trade something for black German bread. Also General Patton paid us a surprise visit and several of us along with PW's cleaned up a hospital for his inspection. I sure would like to know the name of this

town. They also had a stable and I was able to ride several times while we were stationed there. The next stop for company "F" of the 329th was Reid, Austria where we stayed in Austrian Army barracks. These barracks were about half mile from the edge of town and today 50 years later they are in the center of Reid. While in Reid they sent 12 of us to a small town Schneegattern, Austria where we guarded PW's. We had app. 500 PW's to cut wood that was shipped to Vienna for fuel. The town really lived up to its name I never have seen that much snow. Maybe some one remembers the night when we got a new officer in charge and he was very unhappy that we didn't have a path around the stockade and we had the PW's line up and make a path in one trip around. Also maybe you remember how cold it was, 20 degrees below zero and we always had water in the tent. I found out about the water, I went back to that spot a couple of years ago, someone had pitched the tent over a spring. I spent 4 weeks at school in Bad Schallerbach I would like to hear from class mates from that school. I am also looking for Erbert and Doble we went to Paris together in Feb. of 46. I am looking forward to "F" Co. reunion's.

Van J. Olsen

410 E Fair Harbor Ln

Houston, Texas 77079-2562

713-497-7778

THE LAST WWII JEEP IN A BARN

by Jim Swope

1044 Friedensburg Road

Reading, Pennsylvania 10606 USA

EDITORS NOTE: "The Last WWII Jeep In A Barn" was reprinted from Army Motor the quarterly journal of the military vehicle preservation association (MVPA) - an international organization dedicated to the preservation of military transport. The issue from which the article was reprinted was dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the WWII army jeep.

In the second paragraph the reference to "Clell" would only be recognized by MVPA members. Clell "Ballard is a well known MVPA member who in the past has located military vehicles in rural areas.

The event described at the Mid-Atlantic Air Museum has grown into the annual WWII commemorative weekend. It is held each June and features WWII aircraft, WWII vehicles, WWII living history displays, a big band concert ala Glenn Miller and special guests. This year the event will be held on June 4 and June 5 and the special guest will be Robert Morgan, Pilot of the B-17 bomber Memphis Belle.

Jim Swope is a U.S. history teacher and son of an 80th division vet who's 2nd battalion 318th Infantry Regiment participated in the relief of Bastogne. He reports that the jeep is currently being restored and plans to have it ready for the WWII commemorative weekend this June. Jim is one of the organizers of this event.

Jim is seeking through donation or purchase any military items relating to the 83rd Division or its members for use in a

display that will be set up with the 83rd division jeep.

Jim Swope
1044 Friedensburg Rd.
Reading PA 19606
610-779-4789

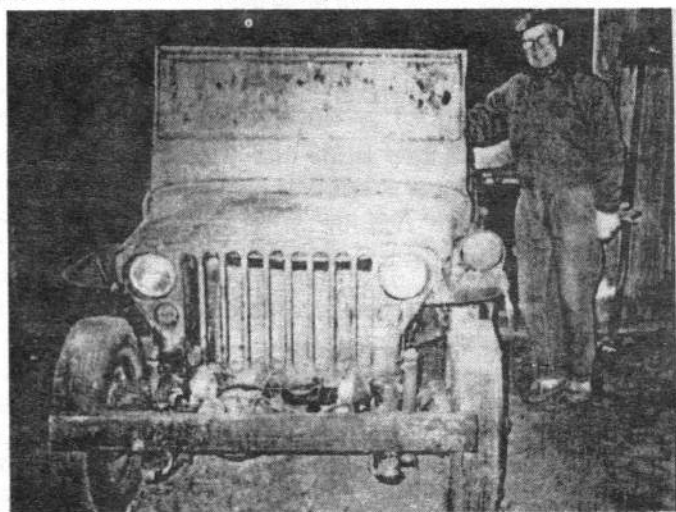
Finding one in a barn - it's classic lore in our hobby and what dreams are made of. It's also the cause of bad driving habits like not watching the road. At one time I was impressed with a birdwatcher's ability to spot a waxed wing whatever at 100 yards with field glasses. But, I've seen MV'ers top that I've lived to tell about it. Picture this -- speeding down a two lane at 55 with oncoming traffic, rain, fog, and the thump-thump of wipers on high. The radio plays that forgotten song, suddenly you hear: "Hey look, there's a Jeep!" Sure enough at 500 yards, spotted by the naked eye, rests a jeep in a fence row. We don't need Paul Harvey for "The Rest of the Story;" upon closer inspection they always turn out to be CJ's.

We've all heard a tale about finding one in a barn, that all it needed was a battery, and how it was driven home. But, be real, it's the 1990's. Unless your name is Clell no one finds WWII stuff in or behind barns anymore, do they?

Now, how about a WWII jeep in a barn finding you? Whoa! How's that again? Go back and re-read it... I'll wait. Yes, I did write: How about a WWII jeep in a barn finding you--or in this case finding me! Read on...

On October 14, 1990 the Mid-Atlantic Air Museum, located in Reading, Pennsylvania, held a weekend display that featured, in addition to its regular exhibits, a full scale WWII diorama. It consisted of MAAM's B-25 "Briefing Time", replica staff car, medium GP tent, and a dozen authentically uniformed aircraft crew reenactors from an organization called the 918th Bomb Group. The Lehigh Valley chapter contributed 2 WWII jeeps with authentically uniformed drivers, a Bantam T-3 trailer, and a 1944 Huffman M-305 bicycle. The combination of planes, uniforms, vehicles, and equipment was very impressive and very realistic.

It was a warm, sunny day and our display was well received. Suddenly, I found myself bumping into and then talking to an energetic character who claimed to be a retired Lt. Colonel. It seems that he enlisted the U.S. Army in 1934, was a crew member on a BT-18 Bomber that sank a U-Boat in the Caribbean early in the WWII, was an aviation ordnance officer with the 9th Air Force in the ETO landing in France D+3, survived the Pusan Perimeter in Korea, and retired from the UJSAF



Lt. Col. Metro Bodnyk USAF (ret.) stands by his 1945 Willys MB after its wake-up call on November 15, 1990. Both are veterans of the ETO.

as a regular officer with the rank of Lt. Colonel in 1960 and took up farming and family life. While my head was spinning from his fantastic experiences he said: "I'll tell you another thing, I have a jeep that was in the war." Then he invited me to stop by and see it. Even though he told me that it didn't run because the motor had been torn apart, it didn't stop my head from spinning in the other direction!

A week or so later I decided to accept the Colonel's invitation and as I drove in his farm lane I was met by -- two German Shepherds. We exchanged greetings as we walked to -- the barn. There it was, tucked in the corner in the shadow of a 60's farm truck, under 30 years of barn dirt, a variety of boards and boxes, 10 sheets of wallboard, and a legal unused still, sat a 1945 Willys MB.

The motor was indeed apart, the body rusty but not gone, and it had been tasefully civilianized:

1. It was painted Air Force blue with a white dash and white pin stripe around the body.
2. The rear handles and top bow brackets were removed and the holes welded shut.
3. Dual horns were added at the base of the grill.
4. The license plate was mounted in place of the gas can holder.
5. Hood rattle was reduced by moving the top hold down clamps to the back of the hood.

Interestingly, the last two modifications appeared in a 1946 MECHANIX ILLUSTRATED magazine article entitled, "Jiven up the Jeep" which is featured in ALL AMERICAN WONDER volume two by Ray Cowdery.

You may wonder what is so special about a rusty 1945 MB with no motor -- well the Colonel's own words will explain:

"The Jeep was purchased a few months after the termination of the war through the U.S. government program known as the OFLC (office-foreign liquidation commission). Under this program first-three-graders and officers were privileged to buy vehicles and light aircraft. Vehicles were restricted to jeeps, carry-alls, ambulances; aircraft were L-4's and L-5's.

To the best of my recollection, the jeeps cost \$250, and the fee was paid to the OFLC in Paris, France. The jeep I purchased was picked up in Rheims, France, where thousands of vehicles were parked. The bumper markings read 83rd division, I do not recall the battalion designation.

When I embarked for the U.S. in July 1946 the jeep accompanied me on a Liberty ship. At the dock the Jeep was prepared for surface shipment, i.e., gasoline was drained, oil was drained, colling system was emptied, battery disconnected, tools and spare tire were inventoried.

When the ship docked in Hoboken, J.J., two U.S. customs agents made a thorough check of the jeep; dock personnel checked the tools that had been inventoried in Le Havre, connected the battery, serviced the jeep with gasoline, oil, and filled the radiator with water.

Once the jeep was properly serviced, I was able to drive home with the military registration remaining on the jeep hood. The OFLC policy was that the buyer was privileged to drive the vehicle with the U.S. registration for a period of 90 days. The owner was then required to register the vehicle according to state law. As I recall, there was some difficulty in registering the vehicle because the regulations laid down by the OFLC had not reached state authorities. After some time the vehicle was duly registered and titled. The military registration numbers were removed; there was no charge other than paying for the license plate."

I expressed an interest in buying the jeep and restoring it to its original 83rd division markings. The Colonel had been very

impressed and approving of our display and restoration efforts and I assured him that his jeep could make a historic contribution to future displays. He told me that he would give it serious consideration and call me after Thanksgiving and let me know his decision.

Much to my surprise on November 14, 1990 only one month since our chance meeting I found my self standing in a notary office handing Lt. Col. Metro Bodnyk USAF (ret.) a one dollar bill for his 1945 Willys MJB 411892. We shook hands and the Colonel insisted that I take the dollar back!

My first goal was to research the 83rd infantry division and try to piece together a history on the jeep. Later that November we had a PA Army National Guard helicopter and vehicle display at the high school where I teach. I told the crew chief of the helicopter about my jeep and that it belonged to the 83rd division during WWII. With a grin he informed me that he also had belonged to the 83rd, but in the 1970's and that it's an army reserve unit based in Columbus, Ohio! I called information in Columbus, Ohio and asked the operator for the phone number of any organization with the number 83 in front of it. She gave me the number of the 83rd ARCOM. I called and left a detailed message on an answering machine. Within an hour a very cooperative Lt. Col. called with the name and number for the 83rd Inf. Div. Association. I called Mr. Robert Derickson of the 83rd Division and was able to purchase a copy of the unit history and become an honorary member of the association.

MB 411892's Birthday was 1/30/45. This turns out to be a historic date because it was President Roosevelt's 73rd birthday and, ironically, it was also the 12th birthday of Hitler's Third Reich. On 1/30/45, as MB 411892 rolled off the assembly line in Toledo, Ohio, celebrations were taking place in Washington and Berlin. These celebrations would prove to be the last of their kind because in the year 1945 both FDR's and Hitler's days were numbered. The president died on April 12, 1945 without savoring final victory and on May 8, 1945 the Third Reich fell 988 years short of it's advertised goal of becoming the 1000 year Reich.

In 1945, war production was geared to support the conquest of the Fatherland itself. In a combat area the average service life of a jeep was expected to be 90 days. The 83rd "Thunderbolt" Division had seen its share of combat, earning 4 battle stars for the Normandy, Brittany, Ardennes and Thimeland campaigns. It was about to earn its 5th battle star in the campaign for Central Europe.

MB 411892's trip to the ETO probably took 45 days. That would have it joining the 83rd in the middle of the month of March 1945. At this time the 83rd was in Belgium and the Netherlands undergoing training in river crossing tactics on the Maas River. The 83rd crossed the Rhine on the 30th of March 1945 near Wesel and fought side by side, a little back of, and a little ahead of the 2nd armored "Hell on Wheels" division across Germany. The "Thunderbolt Express" set infantry speed records and the 329th commandeered everything on wheels they could get. They painted the vehicles O.D., added stars, and they were ready to go. The list included captured Wehrmacht equipment such as bicycles, motorcycles, kubelwagens, staff cars, trucks and tanks. Civilian autos, busses, and even fire trucks were pressed into service. A shiny black Mercedes Benz staff car, mistaking one of these U.S. columns for one of its own, came weaving in and out blowing its horn. A burst from a machine gun convinced the driver to stop, the bewildered German officers were captured, the O.D. paint and stars were applied, and back into the column it went with new owners at the wheel. The unit history recounts the Rage Tag Circus label but gives us a dose of reality when it adds: "To us

it was no circus." The order to stop came with the 83rd across the Elbe River and less than 60 miles from Berlin.

The 9th army boss, General Simpson, was ready to let the 83rd and the 2nd armored race straight down the Reichsautobahn to the outskirts of Berlin. Simpson claimed that this could be accomplished in 24 hours! But it was not to be. At General Eisenhower's order, General Bradley summoned Simpson from his HQ near the Elbe and told him to hold his position! In retrospect Simpson's claim was more than a boast, as it turned out the only force between the 83rd and Berlin had been Eisenhower! But, General Eisenhower did not want to spill one more drop of GI blood for an objective he couldn't keep. Post-war plans would have forced him to withdraw from Berlin.

After making contact with the Russians on the east bank of the Elbe River the 83rd Division withdrew from its much heralded bridgehead, which had carried the name "Truman Bridge" in honor of the new Commander-In-Chief, and active participation in the war ended two days prior to V-E Day. Division activities then turned to military occupation and government duty in Northern Germany and Bavaria. Shortly thereafter the division was designated Category II which meant full scale training for a shift to the Pacific Theater! The news of the Japanese surrender gladly brought an abrupt end to training and the Division returned to their occupation sector until March of 1946.

So, a WWII jeep in a barn found me. I feel that it came my way with a responsibility attached to keep it and its history alive. Is it the last WWII jeep in the barn? Lets hope not! To paraphrase the famous line, keep'em rolling, well, I say: "keep on looking."



Restored Jeep.



The 83rd's black and gold shoulder patch is based on a WWI design approved by the AEF on December 26, 1918. The pattern in the center forms a series of letters that read "OHIO" - the state that supplied the majority of the Division's WWI strength.

83rd DIVISION GENERAL STATISTICS

Casalties

Killed in action	2850
Died of wounds	425
Total Killed	3275
Seriously wounded in action	3809
Slightly wounded in action	6096
Seriously injured in action	111
Slightly injured in action	1044
Total wounded and injured	11060
Captured	177
Missing in action	501
Total captured and missing	678
Total Battle Casualties	15,013

Replacements

Returned to duty	10,187
Reinforcements	15,736
Total replacement	25,923

Enemy Equipment Destroyed

Tanks	480
Planes	61
Supply trains	29
Artillery pieces	966

Miscellaneous

Days of contact with the enemy	270
Prisoners captured	82,146
Battlefield Commissions	75
Round of artillery fired (by Organic Artillery)	410,251
Rounds of small arms and mortar fired	21,299,955
Miles of field wire laid	11,868

STATISTICS OF THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTION

June 26, 1944 - V-E Day, May 8, 1945

Number Vehicles received	2,992
Number vehicles evacuated	603
Number vehicles repaired in shop	2,389
Percentage performed in shop,	approx 80%

Miscellaneous jobs included the following items repaired or rebuilt

Generators (all types)	202
Carburetors (all types)	1,238
Fuel pumps (all types)	177
Starters (all types)	144
Radiators (all types)	711
Tarpaulins (all types)	265
Brake shoes relined (all types)	2,861

Welding Section Installations

Wire cutters on Jeeps	approx 700
Armor Plate on Jeeps	approx 700

STATISTICS OF THE 308th ENGINEER BATTALION

3,000 miles of road reconnoitered
150 miles of road swept for mines and posted
135 miles of road repaired
17 miles of new roads constructed
250 road blocks of various types removed.
These included concrete, steel rail, and log obstacles and abatis.

45 road craters filled
90 wrecked tanks and vehicles removed from roads
5,000 yards of debris removed from city streets
55 bridges built. This includes 11 treadway, 2 Bailey, 19 timber and 23 footbridges.
3 bridges destroyed by demolition
14 ferries operated
4 assault river crossings made
15,000 AT and AP mines removed
28,000 AT mines laid
3,000 yards of triple concertina wire laid
400 dead animals buried
7,500 signs painted
1,050,000 sheets of maps distributed
4,500,000 gallons of water purified
13 prisoners of war cages built
85 artillery emplacements dug
16 splinter-proof shelters and OP's constructed

QUATERMASTER CLASS III SUPPLIES ISSUED TO THE DIVISION June 26, 1944 - V-E Day May 8, 1945

V-80 Gasoline	2,927,540 Gallons
as well as huge quantities of Grease, White gasoline, Kerosene and Diesel fuel.	

Replacement Supplies issued to Division Units by the Supply Section

Vehicles	950
Howitzers, 105 mm	46
Howitzers, 155 mm	13
Guns, 57 mm	48
Small Arms, (incl. MG)	5,292
Mortars (60 and 81 mm)	372
Launchers, Rocket AT	699
Mounts, Gun (misc.)	868
Instruments (all types)	4,255
Bayonets and Trench Knives	4,432
Tires	9,668
Tubes	5,801
Tanks, acetylene	293
Tanks, oxygen	399
Tool Sets	31
Spare Parts & Equip (bulk)	348 tons
Misc. Items (scabbards, Launcher, Grenades. etc.)	11,136

SOURCES

ACROSS THE RHINE by Franklin M. Davis Jr., Time-Life Books, Alexandria, Virginia, 1980.

ALL AMERICAN WONDER, VOLUME TWO by Ray Cowdery with Merrill Madsen, Northstar-Maschek AG, Switzerland, 1990.

THE LAST BATTLE by Cornelius Ryan, Simon and Shuster, New York, 1966

THE LAST 100 DAYS by John Toland, Random House, New York, 1966.

1987 HISTORY OF THE 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION INCLUDING THUNDERBOLT ACROSS EUROPE AND RECORD OF WAR DEATHS by the 83rd Infantry Division Association, 3749 Stahleber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45012.
Ferguson Communications Hillside, Mississippi, 1986. (Add this important work to your personal library - J.S.).

SHOULDER SLIEVE INSIGNIA OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES, 1941-1945, Smith and Pelz, 1981.

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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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.**