



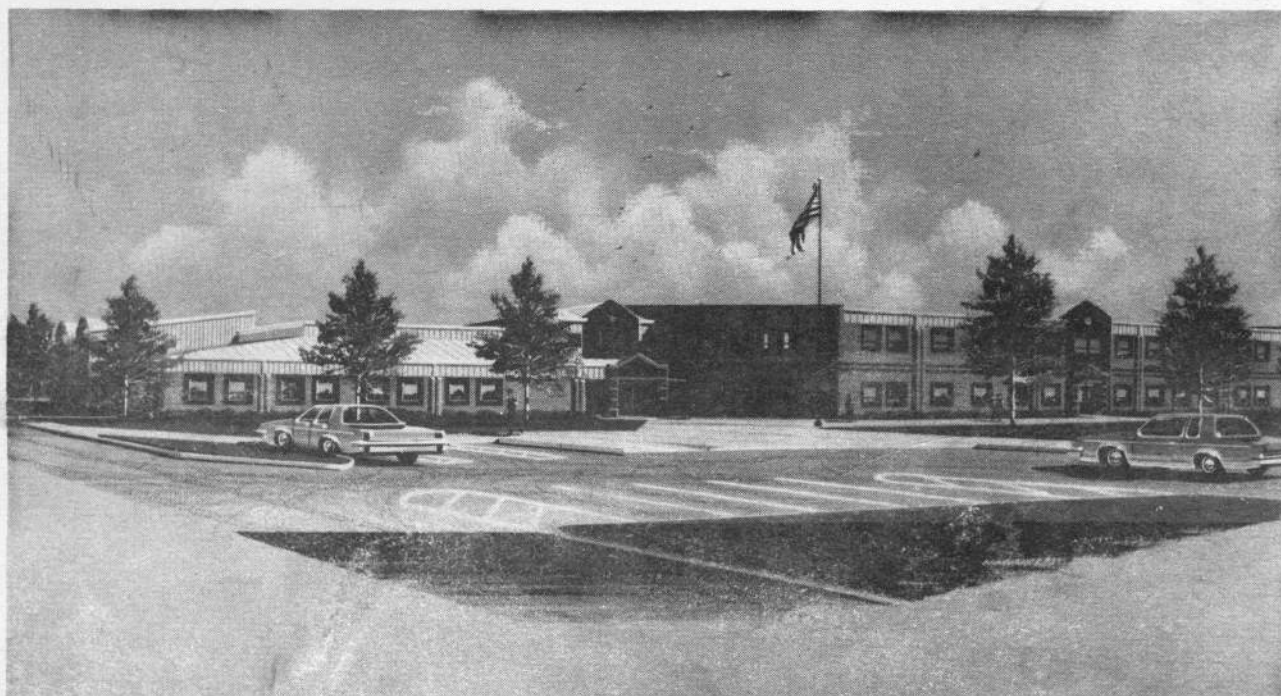
THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 51 No. 3

Summer Issue 1996



The 83D Infantry Division Memorial
Army Reserve Center

50th Annual Reunion

Cleveland/Independence OH.
August 14, 15, 16, 17, 1996

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. Lusster..... 1990
Edgar H. Haynes..... 1991
Ned Smith..... 1992
Louis Sandini..... 1993
William A. Minick..... 1994
* Denotes Deceased



The President's Corner

Last Message from the President:

Now we are in the final countdown to our 50th Reunion. The allotted rooms at the Holiday Inn are almost fully booked. If you cannot get reservations there are several motels across the road, Red Roof Inn, Comfort Inn, Budget-tel. Remember that if you stay in any of them you must notify Earl Lindsey so that we can get an accurate count for our banquet etc.

The Goodtime Dinner Cruise is also filling rapidly. To those who have already made their reservations you will pick up your ticket from Mike Mizerack at the registration desk, he has your name filed and will take care of you.

We are busy finalizing our plans for the Reunion. The ladies of the Cleveland chapter have been busy making gifts for the Ladies Bingo on Friday morning, also crafts and other things they have been working hard and we appreciate all they are doing.

The ads are coming slowly and we are hoping for a good response so that we can defray some of the costs of the reunion. This was a very good job done by our Buddy Larry Redmond who passed away this year, may he rest in peace.

A job well done by him and he will be sorely missed by all.

The 83rd Infantry Division was the reserve Div. of the state of Ohio and was continued after the War. The Mote Armory was named for a lieutenant in Capt. Joe Macaluso's "G" Company, 331st Regiment, it is located in Parma, Ohio. The Div. was later reorganized as the Arcom. Unit. After some 20 years it is now being disbanded. The headquarters in Columbus, Ohio is dedicating a memorial to the 83rd Div. on Sunday, August 18, 1996 the day after our reunion and they are hoping that some of our men can attend, this will be at 1:30 P.M. Columbus is about 2 hours south of Cleveland. Maybe some who are traveling that way can attend the ceremony. See the page in this

Thunderbolt for more information.

So there it is, all systems are go and we know you will be impressed with Cleveland in this our BiCentennial year, many things have been done to make it the City to visit so lets' make this Reunion to remember.

As Kent O'Connell always stated,
"We were the Best"
President
Casey Szubski

Executive Board Chairman

The Executive Board had their meeting on May 11, 12, & 13. All the board members were in attendance. The meeting was very informative.

President Casey Szubski gave us a briefing on their schedule for our 50th reunion. Everything is A-Day. I hope everyone has their reservations in and most of all, send in your ads. Lets make the 50th reunion one to remember.

The board meeting was held at the 1997 reunion site: The Adam's Mark Hotel in Indianapolis.

The Sleeping, meeting and banquet rooms are excellent for our reunion. The Kentucky Chapter will have a tentative schedule in Cleveland and the body will be briefed.

We just received word of Ruby Brown's passing. Anna and I were happy to have dinner with them on Saturday night with the rest of the board members.

On behalf of the Philadelphia Chapter and Ourselves, we send Carroll our deepest condolences.

Hope to see all of you in Cleveland.
Best Wishes and good health to all.

Al Belvedere
Co. K., 331st Inf.



Reunion Chairman Corner

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 50TH REUNION in Cleveland, Ohio is.....*all systems GO!* Time is running out so you must get all your reservations and ads in soon.

A recent meeting with the Cleveland Convention Bureau has added new light...literally..to our reunion plans. The 200th Centennial for the city of Cleveland, will be held a week prior to our Convention, the celebration will light up all the bridges in the city. This area will be visible during our Boat Cruise and make a great trip even better. Reservations for the Boat Cruise can be made with:

Mike Mizerack
12041 Woodridge Drive
North Royalton, OH 44133
(216) 237-1140

The hotel, HOLIDAY INN, Independence, Ohio has indicated that it will provide a seating layout of the dinner tables and when you sign the chart you will use the same tables for all the dinner functions at the hotel. This will eliminate any confusion or mix ups at dinner. Those *not* staying at the Holiday Inn will sign up for seating upon registration.

The golf outing will be on Thursday, at Pine Valley Golf Course, at 10 a.m. Sign up sheets will be at the hotel during registration.

Ads are still being accepted. Please send money and information to:

Henry Trzeciak
57 Greencliff Drive
Bedford, OH 44146
(216) 662-3607

Overflow hotel reservations can be made at the following hotels. These hotels are all in the same location as the Holiday Inn (some within walking distance), and at the same Interstate

Exchange (I-480 and I-77).

RED ROOF INN (216) 447-0030
BUDGETEL INN (216) 447-1133
COMFORT INN (216) 328-7777

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please give me a call. Thank you for your prompt attention to all the details needed to make our **50th REUNION** the best.....

Earl Lindsey
6600 Rogers Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44127
(216) 883-1724

- - - - DECEASED - - - -

The following names are our deceased buddies since our last THUNDERBOLT. The sympathy of the entire 83rd goes out to the families.

<u>Deceased</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Reported By</u>
Arnold, Herbert Neil	Div. Hqs.	Son, Neil
Bell, Marvin L.	None Given	Pat DiGiammerino
Cash, Ray	"E" 331st	Nick Boyd
Cook, James T. M.D.	"A" 308th	Wife
DeCarolis, Frankie	"E" 331st	Thomas P. DePiano
Fleischer, Mike	"B" 329th	Wife
Goodwin, William C.	"L" 329th	Lee M. Hetrick
Hach, Edward		Bev. Hach
Johnson, Leroy V.	HQ 3rd BN. 331st	Wife Clara and Vi Day
Jordon, Ormand E.	"K" 330th	Mary J. Sach-Jordan
Kelly, Harold	"B" 453	Fred Pearson
King, Roe	"B" 453rd	Fred Pearson
Kreiser, Edward	"D" 331st	Al Shrawder
Langlois, Gerard	"D" 331st	Pat DiGiammerino
May, Lenzie	"D" 331st	Al Shrawder
Oliver, Major Francis J.		Pat DiGiammerino
Riech, Arthur A.	This notice was sent to the Office.	
Speakman, Robert L.	"G" 331st	Notice sent to Office
Sheppard, Elvis G.	"D" 331st	Al Shrawder
Starbuck, Grant	"G" 331st	
Streit, Philip	"D" 331st	Al Shrawder
Walker, Olin J.	"L" 330th	Lacy Satterfield
William Edward	"B" 908th	James Prentice
York, Lonnie	"E" 331st	Nick Boyd

Please men put the outfit and who is sending the notice in. We would sure appreciate it here in the office.

THE LAST WORDS

The last words that I heard him say
As he stepped aboard the train that day
Were, "Don't worry, Mom, I'll be all right,
But say a prayer for me each night."
The train was slowly moving on,
My son, aboard the train was gone;
Yet in my heart I'll always know
It was of his own will to go.
Now with this message in my hand,
My son dead in some foreign land;
My hands are trembling, I'm full of fear;
I've lost a son whom I've loved so dear.
But I must be brave, I must be strong,
Because I know to grieve is wrong.
His last words I will always remember,
They'll linger in my heart as a growing ember,
"Don't worry, Mom, I'll be all right,
Just say a prayer for me each night."

—Eleanor Mahalik



From the Office.....

Greetings to all and best wishes for everyone's health. The year is slipping by fast. Can you believe that in a few months we will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary. I did not think any of us were that old. Cleveland must think so they are sure planning a big celebration. Let's as many as are able be there to help celebrate.

I know you will be reading about this in other articles. From our 83rd Headquarters we all wish to express our sympathy to Carroll Brown and his family in the death of Carroll's wife, Ruby. Ruby passed away about a week after our Board meeting in Indianapolis. It is hard to believe that this could happen in such a short time. We will all miss Ruby very much. Our sympathy goes out to the family and friends.

For those of you who have two (2) different addresses please notify the office. By sending it to me thirty (30) days before you are to arrive at your new address we can get it recorded on the computer before the book goes out. If you don't do this it will cost fifty (50) cents to forward it on to you. If forwarding time has expired when your magazine is returned to the office it will cost us the First Class price when returned with your new address. This will save us postage and helps me keep your record up to date.

For those of you who have not paid your 1996 dues please do so now. You have received all of your Thunderbolts. That costs the organization money. Please take care of your dues. It will be

\$10.00 for 1996 and then next year the dues will be \$15.00.. If your payment is not in the office soon your name will be taken off the roster.

Camp Atterbury will be having the Annual Memorial Service this year on August 4, 1996, at 9:30 A.M., Indiana Time. They have done some upgrading in the area and have added a Hedge Row Tank. If anyone has any questions, you may contact Ames Miller, 2666 Central Avenue, Columbus, Indiana, 47201-3123. Telephone # 812-373-5028, "G" 329th.

Time just does not seem to stand still. We have added over fifty (50) new men to our roster this year. Great. But we have lost that

many also. But we keep holding on. We are fortunate to have this large a group. Stay with us men and keep your dues up-dated.

See you in Cleveland, we hope
Bob

Planet Earth

Since God in his wisdom
Gave all of us humans birth,
Look what we have done to each other
And to old "Mother Earth".

Nature's warnings are all around,
Strange we can't hear her pleading sounds.
Toxic wastes and wars,
Misery for many of us.

It's time we all got together
And settled all this fuss,
All this hatred, Killing and all that it hurts,
And learn to care for each other on this "Planet Earth."

Robert L. Gerber

CIVILIANS TO BE HONORED AT CAMP ATTERBURY

Civilians who were in support of the military at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, during World War II and the Korean Conflict will be honored on August 4th, 1996 in a rededication ceremony for the military units that have served at Camp Atterbury. The ceremony will be held at the Camp Atterbury Veterans' Memorial at 9:30 a.m. The camp is west of U.S. #31 near Edin burgh, Indiana. The memorial in the camp is on Schoolhouse Road.

Three chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution, descendants of patriots of the American Revolution, will be dedicating a marker honoring the civilians. The chapters are the Alexander Hamilton Chapter, Franklin, Indiana (representing Johnson County), the Joseph Hart Chapter, Columbus, Indiana (representing Johnson

County), the Joseph Hart Chapter, Columbus, Indiana (representing Bartholomew County), and the Ten O'Clock Line Chapter, Martinsville, Indiana (representing Brown county). Land from these three counties was condemned to make way for the construction of Camp Atterbury in 1942.

Those civilian groups that will be recognized on the marker are: volunteers of the U.S.O., Red Cross and Salvation Army, civil service employees, Wakeman General Hospital personnel, construction crews, and the families who by eminent domain lost their homes and farms and had the graves of their loved ones relocated.

The Camp Atterbury Veterans' Memorial was dedicated on August 15, 1992 for the 50th anniversary of the original dedication of the camp on August 15, 1942. The memorial is a 40 foot long, 8 foot high concrete wall with limestone plates displaying the crests of the 10 major organizations that trained there. On the memorial plaza is a display of military equipment. In 1995 the 38th Division dedicated a monument there.

When the Veterans' Memorial was built the theme for it was: "To those who have trained, and to those who continue to train at Camp Atterbury. To those who support them; and especially, to those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom."

HISTORIANS CORNER

On the eve of the half-century mark of our association, I thought it only fitting to publish a ritual that has been practiced in the Florida Chapter for some years. Credit is given to the late Paul Buchman and Walter Marshall who jointly created it and to Lou Kanes (329th B) who later resurrected and put the following words to it.

'THE FIVE STAR SALUTE'

1. NORMANDY

We landed in Normandy and found out what the hedgerows were. We saw our buddies lying dead along the embankment's edge of the hedgerows. We pushed on and won the Battle of Normandy. The days of hell and hedgerows were gone, but never to be forgotten.

TO OUR FALLEN COMRADES WE LEFT IN NORMANDY: (We salute you with a toast of Calvodos).

2. BRITTANY

We drove to the Cherbourg Peninsula and into Brittany. We captured St. Malo and forced Colonel Von Aulock out of the Island Fortress. Then our drive towards Paris started.

TO OUR FALLEN COMRADES WE LEFT IN BRIT-

TANY: (We salute you with a toast of Cognac).

3. ARDENNES - HURTGEN FOREST LUXEMBOURG

We left Brittany and moved to the Loire Valley to protect the right flank of the 3rd Army. We moved across France and liberated Luxembourg. We entered Germany and the Hurtgen Forest. On December 23rd Von Rundstedt launched a counter offensive. Overnight the 83rd raced from the Hurtgen Forest into Belgium, without rest, to the vicinity of Rochefort to hit the tip of The Bulge. Again, the 83rd stopped a German offensive.

TO OUR FALLEN COMRADES WE LEFT BEHIND IN THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE: (we salute you with a toast of Mandarin Liqueur).

4. RHINELAND

After the battle of the Ardennes we moved to Holland for a well deserved rest. On the 25th of February we left Holland and moved into Germany and started our drive to the Rhine River. We reached the Rhine and captured the town of Nevers and the 83rd won the race to the Rhine.

TO OUR FALLEN COMRADES WE LEFT IN GERMANY: (We salute you with a toast of Schnapps).

5. CENTRAL EUROPE

March 29th we raced 215 miles across Germany, keeping up with the armored divisions. There the Rag Tag Circus was formed. On Friday the 13th we crossed the Elbe River and held the only bridgehead across the Elbe. We made contact with the Russians and on May 9th the fighting in Europe ceased.

* * * * *

To the foregoing, in recognition of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the 83rd Infantry Division Association, I wish to add the following salute:

6. POST-WAR U.S.A.

Our job in the ETO was finished. We returned to the U.S.A., were separated from military service and we scattered throughout our beloved country whose freedom we most definitely helped to preserve. Over the years - fifty of them - many of our former comrade in arms succumbed to that which is inevitable for all.

TO THE COMRADES WHO HAVE PASSED ON DURING THIS PAST HALF CENTURY: (We honor your memory with a sincere, snappy, hand salute. It was a privilege to know and serve with you).

Remember, we were INDEED THE VERY BEST!!!

B. John Prinzi (L 329),
Your Historian

CHAPTERS

Florida Chapter

As usual, I feel like I should be a creative author to prepare material for the next Thunderbolt. As our membership, (now about 70) is so scattered around this state, including a number of "snow birds", personal news is hard to come by.

Our last meeting was held on April 26 & 27 in New Port Richey, and hosted by Mike and Nina Petitti. At the business meeting, held on Sat. morning, 28 members signed in and we welcomed four new members. They are: Joe Camp, F-330th, Clifford Cox, A-330th, Jesse Stamper, G-330th, and Ted Stockton, G-330th.

Several others arrived later in the day and 63 people were in attendance for a catered banquet.

In the afternoon, following the meeting, several of the members visited with Walter Marshall, who lives nearby, but was unable to venture out that day.

In addition to welcoming four new members, it was great to have Ken Scott and his wife Mary Lee with us for the first time. Ken was in 1st Bn. Hdq. 331st and made a career in the Army. Bruce Winchell left to go to Michigan before the meeting. Bob Taylor and Harry Gravelyn left for Michigan the following week.

Our energetic Sunshine Ladies are beginning to develop bits of entertainment for our banquets. Yours truly brought his portable keyboard and Mary, some costuming, and we provided some music and comedy. As part of our entertainment, it was decided to honor members who had been married fifty years or more. Geri Gunderson did the honors of introducing those members. The fifty year celebrants were Al and Ruth Bensimon. Frank and Ruth Brown, Herb and Mickey Frankel, Harry and Barbara Gravelyn, and Walter and Esther Harding. Those celebrating 55 years are Scotty and Ann Kost and Frank and Dana Sharp. The Winners at 62 years of marriage

are Ludger and Liz Lizotte. All received enthusiastic accolades for their devotion to each other.

For the benefit of the dual residence members and others who visit in the winter, our next meeting will be Nov. 8 & 9 in Ormond Beach, Fl. at the Granada Inn. If you are not on our mailing list and are interested in attending, contact me before Oct. and I will see that you get the necessary information.

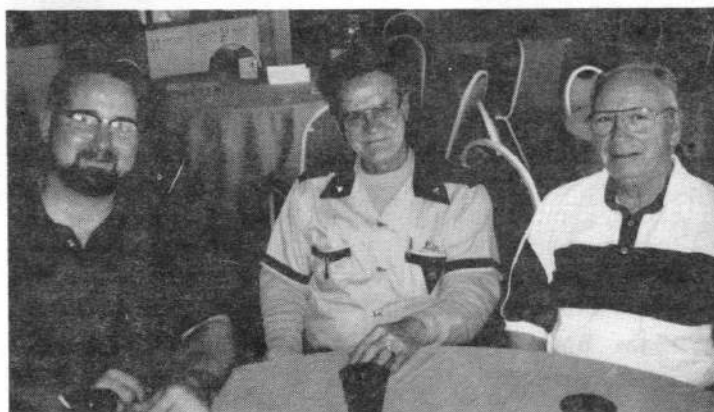
Thats all for now. Gotta make the deadline.

W. Allen Fisher

1 Bolero, Ft. Pierce, Fl. 34951

561-461-3640

Dixie Chapter



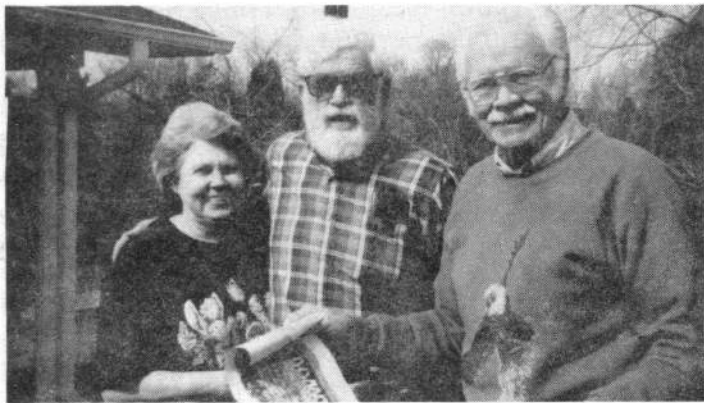
Kerry Fowler, Ben Johnson, O.L. Cook.



Roy and June Whitaker



Jeanette McCroy, widow of James McCroy, daughter Margaret, grand daughter Honey Bee. Margaret won the 50/50



Silas Grant A-331 and wife showing Ellsworth Massie a picture of Co A 331 from WWII years.



William Biere - resting on a bridge in Leblin-burg, Germany.

The news has been made - Now its my duty to report it. I have just arrived at my home in Joppa, Md. after a 2846 mile trip which included the Dixie Spring Meet at Oak Ridge Tenn. A search for a couple long lost comrades in arms, a wedding, a visit to three army buddies and finally home in time to celebrate my 50th wedding anniversary with my wife Kathryn and many friends.

The meeting got off to a great start with our hosts Roy and June Whitaker doing an unforgettable job and catering to our every whim. Twas good to see so many gathered.

We were saddened to learn of 2 deaths since our December meet. V. B. Atchison and Larry Redmond. We shall miss them greatly! Walter Blancett passed away while we were in our meeting. He was sick at home and of course his family was with him and called to inform us of his condition and death. I know brother Carl will keep Walter's group together with his wife Mary Jane. We look forward to seeing Dorine and family soon.

Several canceled for different reasons. My buddy from "A" Bty., William Benlow was not up to making the trip but hoping for the next one. If nurse Lillian has her way I know it will happen.

Guests and members present were more than

60. Flo Jackson (God Bless her) had two tables full of family and friends there. We enjoyed them all! O. L. Cook had a special guest, Kerry Fowler, the grandson of Walter Fowler from the service years. I enjoyed meeting him! He added much to the festivities.

Ben Johnson and Pat showed up and had lots of jokes and stories for us. Twas truly great to see them once more.

Jeanette McCroy, another of our courageous widows was there in great spirits with two members of her family and brought goodies too. Dignitaries were plentiful. You name it, we had it. Joe Macaluso and wife Mena came from New Orleans. Carroll Brown from Sweetwater. He and Ruby will host our May meet in their own home town! They just never rest! We appreciate them both so much.

Leonard Reynolds and Etha made it after a long absence. Good to see them again!!

Owen Biller made everyone jealous with his original World Warr II uniform on fitting just like 50 years ago with his wife Mildred - Keep up the good work. Both of you.

Six faithful from Macon, Ga. showed up of course. Bill Jackson, Dave and Tony and Phil Slept all the way from Ga. The wives entertained themselves!

Everyone had something to add. I'd like to mention each one for each contributed much to the success of the meeting.

We toured the Oak Ridge Facility, mostly we just enjoyed each others company and remembered those who have left us behind to carry on and those with sick in the family. Dick and Lessie Riddle, Burton and Trina Salos, Lill and Bill Benbow, Ray and Ann Durand, Henry Hipler, Hazel Ball and many others wanted to be there but could not.

All the others who could have come and didn't We want to see you please lets get together again in the very near future!!

Plan to be in Cleveland at the National. It promises to be great! It won't just happen, we have to make it happen!! I'm counting on Dixie to make the news in Cleveland with at least 100 present. If we can't be present lets all remember those who are no longer with us and the courageous loved ones the have left behind and lend them all the support we can!

Your Reporter
E. S. Massie

Boston Chapter

The Boston Chapter still holds meetings in most of the New England states with excellent attendance.

On February 24th, Pat DiGiammerino reported we had eight new members all from the 453 AAA, plus Windberry, Rosmussen, Cyrs and Nardone since the last meeting.

On March 16th the Arrigos' had a meeting at their home in Norwood, MA. It was very successful with a new couple, Peter and Shirley Joyce, from Weymouth, MA attending. It was a good meeting with lots of goodies from Fran's Kitchen. Larry opened up the Wine Cellar and a good time was had by all.

The April 20th meeting was held at Pat and Ginnys house in Malden, MA. A new member was introduced, Bob Louis, with a standing ovation. Lou Sandini is back from Florida. His golf game was a little off but he looks good. Hunnewell and Armstrong told new jokes and sang old music for entertainment. Frank Bradley was a guest who was very active in the 4th Division. Bill Rowe from Lynn, MA is trying to teach the Boston Chapter how to improve their Bocci Game.

Al and Helen Olsen are also back from the sunny south looking wonderful.

President Tony Piantedosi thanked Pat and Ginny for the use of their home.

Our next meeting will be on June 8th at Phylis Scott's house in Florence, MA. in the western part of the state.

Charlie Lussier is recovering from his injury. We hope to see him at the June Meeting.

Ray Bjork has been very sick in the Tewksbury Hospital.

Joe Collette has been very sick but is fighting back. Joe was in A Company, 331st Infantry.

Many thanks to Fred Sylvia for his fine work making things happen for the Chapter and also to Albert Remy for his work on getting prices for trips for the Boston people.

That's all for this issue. I hope to see you all in Cleveland in August.

Amby Tynan



Boston Meeting at Battle of the Bulge Luncheon - Boston Chapter



Just enjoying ourselves - Boston Chapter



Charlie Lussier showing off his cast - Boston Chapter



Hy Goodman, Mike Caprio, Peter Joyce (new member) - Boston Chapter



Meeting at Larry & Fran Arrigo's home - Boston Chapter



Happy Birthday to Livy Maynard - Boston Chapter

8 February 1996

SUBJECT: Francis Joseph Oliver

TO: Lt. Larry L. Dalton, George T. Dalzell, Edgiel Shepherd, CPT. Joseph A. Macaluso, Leon Collins, and Pat D. Giammerino.

On 11 July 1944 I joined Company E, 331st Infantry, 83rd Infantry Division near Ste Mere Eglise, in the Hedgerow Country of France, as a replacement officer - 1st Lt. Inf. At that time the Company Commander was 1st Lt. Francis J. Oliver. He assigned me to the 4th Platoon - Weapons.

On 16 July I was seriously wounded by "Overhead Fire" which resulted in the lost of my right leg and multiple wounds to the left leg. After I left the Company I did keep in contact with "Olie" for several months. When the hospitalization period came to an end (Feb. 45) I was able to get myself assigned to the First Service Command in Boston. I remained there for 8 years and retired in May 1953. During that period I had a desk job and was promoted to Captain and Major.

Over the years I have thought about "Olie" and members of Company E but never seemed to get around to contacting anyone. Only recently did I decide to make an attempt to find "Olie" to see how he made out. Thru Pat Giammerino of the Boston

Chapter of the 83rd Div. Assoc. I was able to get addresses of several enlisted men who were in Company E. I wrote to them looking for "Olie's" current address but was unsuccessful. Finally, on 12 January, I sent a letter to "Olie" at his mother's 1944 address in New York City.

Today I received a reply from "Olie's" Brother, who's address is:

MICHAEL T. OLIVER
169 N. Richmond Avenue
Massapequa, NY 11758-3441

Michael informed me that Major Francis J. Oliver, Ret., passed away in March 1994. Major Oliver was accorded full military honors as he was laid to rest in a Cemetery in Queens, New York. His death was due to Lung Cancer. (Michael's oldest Brother died of Lung Cancer four years ago). Michael advises, "If you or any member of your family smoke, in the name of God, STOP, immediately. Please remember him in your prayers as I'm sure you will".

Prior to WWII Major Oliver was the 1st Sgt. of Company G, 71st Infantry, 44th Infantry Division, New York National Guard. During WWII he earned a Silver Star and was given the Purple Heart. He never married. He was 76 years old when he died.

Pat would you please notify the 83rd Infantry Division Association of the of Major Oliver status. (I am not a member) There may be others who would like to know this information. Thanks.

Captain Macaluso, Company G, 331st Infantry, has advised Pat that Captain Oliver and about 20 men were captured at the Rhine. Joe said that Oliver made it back to the states but lost track of him after that.

Prior to WWII I was a 2nd Lt. in Company F, 181st Infantry, 26th Infantry Division, Massachusetts National Guard. Because of this background I felt a little closer to "Olie" than I would have under other circumstances.

I have put this letter together to advise the addresses of the status of Major Oliver and to make this information available to anyone else who knew Major Oliver. May he rest in peace.

Best Regards, Ted Simmington Jr.



New England Chapter

Well I hope everyone is happy that the bad winter is over and the good weather is here to stay for some time.

On Feb. 23, 1996 Nick and Mary Francullo celebrated their fifty years of marriage. Mary's family and others are traveling from Ky. and other parts of the states. Boy what a tough fifty Ha! ha! ho! No it was great and looking for another 50th.

On March 29th I received a call from Jack Merrell of New Canaan, Ct. that he and his wife Rosemary would be in the Boston area and would like to stop over for an hour or two as his wife was in Boston. Boy it was great to see Doc. as we all called him in the service Jack was in the 308 Med. and was in our Plt. until he was sent to Co. M 330th as a Med. Capt. McKena was C.O. of M Co. and we were looking over same pictures and I have a picture of Capt. McKena and Burnard Hands carrying a German pilot who was shot down and are carrying him back to the C.P. and I had those pictures blown up for him so he could send it to Capt. McKena's wife.

Jack it was great seeing you and talking about those ruff times over 50 yrs. ago, also got a call from Nick Boyd. Hazel PK, Mi. that he would be in West Warwick R.I. to see a friend of his Frank Myers who is the city manager in July. Hope to see him.

Received card from Burl Chronister of Springfield, IL that his wife Louise passed away 1-24-95 and that has changed his life around and he is doing better after being hospitalized for pneumonia take care Burl and hope to see you in Cleveland, Ohio for the reunion.

The Brennans are O.K. and are going out to Tacoma, Wash. to visit daughter Bernadett and family and on July 1st will fly out to Hawaii for ten days and back to Tacoma for a week and then home.

Dot talked to Nina Petitti in Fla. and Mike sister in Ct. is not well with cancer and they could be called up any time.

Received some info from Chuck Abdinoor for the chapter news.

John Marcyz is doing fine after major surgery this past year. We hope to see Stacy and John in Cleveland for the 50th.

They usually attend all our reunions, and all of their friends missed them.

Paul Reed is writing to all members of A Co. who is on the roster to come to Cleveland. Paul was a platoon leader of the 3rd platoon in Co. A. The First Sgt. called his platoon Reeds Raiders. Keep up the good work Paul.

Chuck and Bernice Abdinoor are finally back from Fla. after 8 weeks. They could not find June and Joe Zenz in Vero Beach.

Spike and Gloria McCartin are back from California after spending the winter. There Gloria bought Spike a dog and what does he name it but "Charlie"

Father Frank McCartin spent the winter around the Hollywood, Fla. area, doing Missionary work. Further Frank is over 80 years old and still going strong. God Bless Him.

Dutchy and Helen Smith are back from Arruba, there was a rumor that Dutchy broke the bank at the Holiday Inn. Helen was right, there to help Dutchy Cart off the loot.

Karl and Ingrid Burkhardt are back home after spending the winter in Fla.

Mickey and Marie Champy are anxious for our first get together of the new season. They are true regulars, Karl, Spike, and Mickey were all in Co. H 330th.

Thanks again Chuck for your info. I wish we could get more info from other Chapter members.

Hope to see Ben and Martha Cunningham at Cleveland and more 3rd 330th men. Received a call from Dot Brennan that Joe Petruccis sister Lucy Perini passed away on May 6, 1996. We of the New England Chapter send out our sympathy to the Petrucci family.

Talked to John and Esta Ferriera Chelmsford, Mass. and they are doing O.K. and looking forward to the July cookout of the New England Chapter at there estate.

Bill and Belly Davis of New Buryport, Mass after his aneurysm operation.

Well that is it until the next write up.

Your Buddy, Nick Francullo

Hq. Co. 3rd Bn. 330t

P.S. New England Chapter dues are now due for 1997

Where To Write For Your Medals

In order to obtain initial issue or replacement of medals, the Standard Form 180 is no longer the vehicle used to accomplish this. The new guide is to submit a letter requesting the medals. Where to write, and sample application letter are shown below:

ARMY - U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center, ATTN: DARP-PAS-EAW, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132-5200

AIR FORCE - Air Force Reference Branch NCPMF, National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132-5200

MARINE CORPS/COAST GUARD - Navy Liaison Office (N314), Room 3475, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132-5200

SAMPLE APPLICATION LETTER

(Addresses shown for each military department.)

I request that I be issued all award emblems to which I am entitled. I have attached a copy of my separation document (DD Form 214).

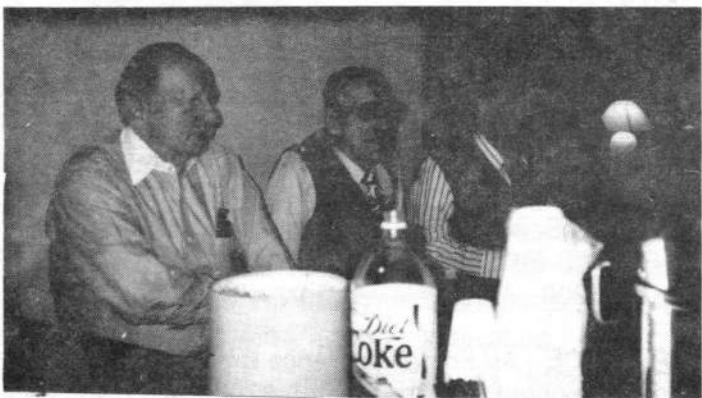
My Social Security number is:
 My former Service Number is:
 My VA Claim Number is:
 Date and Place of Birth:
 Full Name, Address, and Phone Number:
 - - - - -



You girls look good - New England Chapter



New England Chapter



Bring on the drinks - New England Chapter



New England Chapter

Cleveland Chapter

On February 18th all present accepted these officers by acclamation:



L to R: Joe Belock, Earl Lindsey, Henry Treziak, Casey Szubski.

President - Earl Lindsey
 Vice President - Casey Szubski
 Treasurer - Henry Treziak
 2nd Vice President - Mike Mizerack
 Secretary - Joe Belock
 Sergeant-at-Arms - Bob Grobelny
 3rd year Trustee - Paul Dallos
 2nd year Trustee - Bob Grobelny
 1st year Trustee - Ed Jocek

Our meetings are held at the F.O.P. hall in Bedford, Ohio. The May meeting was attended by nineteen men and sixteen wives. Victoria "Ronnie" Lindsey cooked us a great dinner of stuffed cabbage, green beans and creamed potatoes. Some ladies brought yummy desserts.

It was good to have Mike Mizerack back after his hip operation in Feb. He is a hard worker and in charge of the Boat Trip on Thursday, August 15th during Convention.

On Jan. 19th Earl and Bonnie Lindsey celebrated their Golden Anniversary. In May three couples celebrated their Golden.

May 9 Kid and Janet Williams, Mentor, OH.

May 25 Chester and Emily Czech, Cleveland OH.

May 25 Al and Eleanor Klugiewicz, Erie, Pa.

Bob and Bernice Grobelny's special date is June 22, 1996. On May 15 one of my old time Army buddies called. I haven't seen him since we left Camp Chesterfield, France, fifty-two years ago. Via 'phone Bob Derickson had given him my number and address from the new roster. Tom Corish, you made my day and I'm looking forward to see-

ing you at the reunion in August.

The 83rd Infantry Division reunion will be held August 14, 15, 16 and 17 in the bicentennial city of Cleveland. Add to the long list of new sights, newly opened Science Museum on the lakefront. Men of the Cleveland Chapter are busy working for a great fiftieth reunion. Please come and have a good time.

Sincerely,

Kid Williams, Staff Reporter, Cleveland, Chapter

Philadelphia Chapter



83rd MEMBERS at Larry Redmond's funeral.

Left to right: Pat DiGiammerino, Clifton Wooldridge, Louis J. Volpi, Joseph Gioia, Norman Schuster, Harry R. Stevenson, Bernard Mendelsohn, Emmanuel Lima, John G. Daum, Frank R. Loeb, Alan N. Tatham, Harry J. Kirby.

The Philadelphia Chapter News, AGAIN THIS YEAR, took part in the Memorial Day Parade in Narberth. Most of the members chose to ride, although Lou Volpi and Harry Kirby, along with two Vietnam veterans, formed a color guard to lead the parade. At the end of the parade, after the memorial service, four 83rd members and four American Legion members fired three rounds before the bugler played taps. Paraders then retired to the Legion Hall for a buffet and refreshments.

The Philadelphia Chapter members came to the funeral for Larry Redmond. We had our 83rd ceremony before the general public was allowed in. Flower baskets were sent by the National 83rd, and also from the Philadelphia, Boston, and Dixie Chapter, as well as one from Lou and Lucy Volpi. There was one other flower basket that I did not find the card.

Clif Wooldridge drove down from Massachusetts and brought Pat DiGiammerino along with him.

After the funeral, we learned that when Larry's relatives removed his possessions from his apartment, they discarded all his records pertaining to the 83rd. It was a great loss to the organization as he kept records of people who sent in ads for the Reunion Ad Book.

We are looking forward to another great Reunion in Cleveland.

John G. Daum, "D", 330th

¹⁹⁹⁶ New Jersey Chapter



With Reunion Time just around the corner, most of the chapter have sent in their reservations. I expect we will have a good amount attending the reunion.

Ted Guzek has done a lot of research on the Cleveland area and has kept us informed with periodic releases. Andy Socha is going and is excited about meeting his former lieutenant. Emil Wehling will share a room with Andy. Joe DePeri will have his daughter, grand-daughter and daughter's friend Joe attending. Remember Casey, the grand-daughter, she was the darling of the Florida Reunion. I don't know if Fred and Addie Rein will attend. Fred at the present time, has been undergoing tests for a kidney problem. I'm sure all the chapter wishes Fred a speedy recovery.

In the last Thunderbolt, I wrote that some of the chapter were invited to a 75th Birthday Party for Charles and Mary Sihlanick. The party was given by daughter Linda and it was a fabulous party. I have enclosed 2 pictures taken at the party. It was a happy time shared with many relatives and friends. The day after the party Charlie suffered great pains and was hospitalized. It took a week for the doctors to find he had a gall bladder problem. Then the doctors found he needed a by-pass operation. All this caused a problem with his ability to walk. Now he is in the Kessler Institute for rehabilitation. Hopefully, his rehab will be successful and quick.

I also received a picture from the Myrtle Beach Reunion from Bernie Rosenberg which I have included. Also George and Vi Waple sent some pictures to me and I have included one taken at our Chapter Christmas Party.

I received a call from Russell Whitehead asking about our spring get-together. We didn't have one but maybe we can have one in the fall. Some of the chapter were invited to Tom and Candy's Memorial Day Picnic at their place. As usual, it was great.

I received a book titled Rag Tag Circus authored by our own Lou Sandini to be donated to my local library. I will donate the book in the name of the New Jersey Chapter.

Joe and Dot Skurka let us know their plans. They might be at the reunion but plan on going to the Pines Mini-reunion. I got a call from the son of Les Roof (Division Headquarters) 22 Toby Drive, Succasunna, N.J. 07876 inquiring about medals and our association. Another inquiry about our reunion from Harry L. Breiner, 34 Douglas Drive, Jackson, N.J. 08527. He was with the 83rd but didn't give his unit.

I received a postcard from Daniel and Marie

Auvray, the French couple from St. Hilaire, Normandy who were at our reunion in Myrtle Beach. They were touring our southwest and wrote me from Las Vegas. A NOTE TO RAGS RANGNOW!! NO-----!, Christine wasn't with them. I'm sure if they had brought her, they would have left her with me in Fords.

Ken Miglionico told me he has located a buddy from Co. B. 308 Engineers from the roster. His name is William Stimell and Ken wrote to him and sent him some pictures of both during the war. Ken is a neighbor of mine.

In the last Thunderbolt, there was a request from Harold D. Erickson asking of details and circumstances of his death when he was 1st Bn. 331st Battalion Commander. I was with Lt. Col. Harold A. Erickson at the time. I wrote Harold D. telling him what happened and shortly after received a call from him telling me he has conducted a search for two years and received no results until he received my letter. He and his family expressed their appreciation for my help and it gave me a good feeling being able to help them. The Erickson Family migrated to America in the 1650's and keep a family history from that time.

The New Jersey Chapter wishes you a Very Happy 50th Reunion.

Stan Bielen
1st BN. Hdqs. 331st

Pittsburgh Chapter

Pittsburgh Chapter's secretary Jim McCulla's project has come to an end. This was a scrapbook of chapter members with photos of the present and those upon entry into service with a brief biographical sketch. He wanted to reproduce it into booklet forms, but the cost was prohibitive. Therefore he will turn over his completed work to the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh.

This will be on display in the military display section of this building. This particular building has been around for a long while and I never visited it even though I live in the near vicinity of it. On Sunday, April 21 Allegheny County Council VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Loyalty Day 1996-96 Patriotic Rally Was held at the Hall. This was the first annual affair. I attended with my wife and several other mem-

bers of Chateau Post #258 VFW. It was a most enjoyable program. After the conclusion of the program we toured part of the military aspect of the hall. We spent almost an hour taking in the displays; however there was still a lot to be seen. I talked with John Marek at the June meeting and he is a regular visitor at the hall. John, at the present time is promoting Korean War rallies. One being Sat., June 22, 1996, the Korean War Remembrance ceremonies at the Pittsburgh Korean Church Assembly of God in Monroeville, Pa. at noon. The other being Korean War Memorial Services on Saturday, July 27, 1996, 10:00 a.m. in the Roberto Clemente Park on the North Shore of the Allegheny River. John is also a veteran of the Korean War.

Several suggestions were brought up for a Spring affair, but the committee suggested that the money appropriated for this be allocated for chapter members, so that they who are planning the reunion be reimbursed for part of the costs. A small group of chapter members meet the first Thursday after chapter meetings at the McDonald's restaurant in Verona, Pa. at 9:00 a.m. They are looking for others to attend.

Jules Desgain, Joe Danylo and Mike Rudy were to visit Europe this spring, but plans were put off until later in the summer.

SICK LIST -- Jim McCulla in hospital twice in recent months. Frank Hornack is home at the present time after being confined in the hospital for an extended stay. Our Sergeant-at-Arms Andy Churpak had a cataract removed from left eye and an implant inserted. Chuck Hawkins had a gall bladder attack and was hospitalized. Former treasurer John Gallo is suffering from depression. A thank you card was received from our president's wife Lu Caven for the gift she received while being hospitalized. Another received from Dottie Walsh. She suffered a heart attack recently. Mrs. Ralph Allen is in rehab from a broken hip after a fall at her home; she suffered a stroke in right arm and leg after that fall. She is planning to attend reunion. Flowers were sent to the family of Larry Redmond upon the notification of his death.

On a recent trip to a shopping mall I was stopped by a young man who had noticed the 83rd plate in the rear window of my car. He

was Bill Wible, son of former member Glenn who now resides in Florida. Finally, my daughter Ann graduated June 12 from Perry Traditional Academy with honors. Planning to attend Community College of Allegheny County for next two years.

"Fran" Beerhalter

Kentucky Chapter

The Kentucky Chapter was deeply saddened when we all received word on May 10, that our loyal member, Leroy Johnson had passed away. The sympathy of the entire chapter went out to Clara, Linda, and Mike.

We met for our regular June meeting on June 7 and 8 at the Lee's Inn in Evansville, Indiana. We all thank Clara for going on with the meeting plans. Forty-four members were in attendance.

On Friday evening Larry and Maxine Hamilton had obtained tickets for all who wanted to go on the Casino Aztar. All who went had a very good time. It is a beautiful boat.

The hotel provided us with a wonderful hospitality room.

Saturday morning some gathered in the hospitality room. Some went shopping. At 2:00 the meeting was called to order by Floyd Richmond. Plans for the Kentucky Chapter to host the 1997 reunion were discussed.

We will have a meeting in Cleveland at the time of the Reunion. It has not been decided for the October meeting. December meeting will be held at our usual place in Piqua.

It was voted to put an ad in the Cleveland Ad Book.

The ladies ended the meeting with a very nice birthday party for Pearl's birthday. She was truly surprised. Red roses and a beautiful cake. Thank you ladies.

Thank you Clara, Linda, Mike, and Larry and Maxine Hamilton for a wonderful meeting. We are sure going to miss you Leroy. Thanks for all our beautiful Albums. We will always remember you for them.

Bob Derickson

COMPANIES

453rd. A.A.A. (AW.) Bn.

Well, our Spring Fling in April was quite well attended. It was held at The Unionville Tavern, in Unionville, Ohio. This is one of the Historic Landmarks of the area. It was used as part of the Underground Railway System during the War between the States.

We had some new faces show up this time, and for a N.E. Ohio affair, we had some couples come from Lisbon, Ohio, and Mansfield.

We were glad to see them. This is not a closed door affair, the more that attend, the happier we are.

Those attending the "Spring Fling", were J. Nichols, F. Pearson, F. Lawrence, M. Morick, J. Loch, J. Dickens, R. Creps, and their wives, M. Manzo, with his wife and sister-in-law, and W. Cornelius with his daughter.

We were disappointed that some of our regulars were not able to attend.

We hope they can make our next N.E.O. get together in Mid July. Notices will be sent out in Early June. This time it will be held in the Akron Area.

The Annual 453rd. A.A.A. (AW.) BN. reunion will be held over the weekend of September, 13, 14, & 15, 1996. This will be held in Lewisburg, W.V. Our Hosts this year will be Ernestine and Bill Buzzard. Early letters will be sent out so that those that plan to attend can formulate their plans early.

I received the clue to locate Major Speedie from Bob Wolfe, and was able to make contact with Colonel Speedie Retired. I am enclosing a copy of the letter he sent me, some of it was "hard copy", but I've done the best I can with it, and I have Colonel Speedie's permission to send it on the the Thunderbolt for publication. He led quite an active life after WWII.

As time permits, I am going to try to get some correspondence going with Sam Magill. He was a local person from the North East Ohio area. It will be interesting to know of his exploits.

I have been looking for old copies of the Thunderbolt and The Spearhead that were printed during WWII. I have Feb. 3rd and Feb. 24th, 1945 of the Spearheads, and April 28th, 1945 issue of the Thunderbolt. I have been making copies of them and sending them to those that are interested. I've borrowed the originals, made copies and returned originals to their owners. There has been quite a bit of interest in the 453rd. There may be some interest in the 83rd. group.

Possibly some one in the 83rd. may have some others that I could borrow to make copies from. I have not

charged for doing this, but may have to, just to cover copy expense, if the demand warrants. So far I have a druggist friend who has a large copy machine, and has been kind enough to let me use it to make my copies, but I don't want to push it to far. I only print a few copies at a time. If you would like, I'll send you copies of what I have.

The enclosed photo was taken at out "Spring Fling", Frank Lawrence was missing as he left early. He never seems to be there when we take pictures after our get together.

Back Row, Left to Right, John Dickens, John Loch, Mike Manzo, Bob Creps.

Front Row, Left to Right, Wilber Cornelius, Mike Morick, Jim Nichols, and Fred Pearson.

Fred C. Pearson 453rd Roster Coordinator
5704 Middle Ridge Rd. Madison, OH 44057-2838



Col. John C. Speedie
5209 Churubusco Dr.
San Antonio TX 78239-3069

Dear Fred,

I have in hand your letter which you addressed to my son, Ken.

It is great to hear from you.

After receiving the capture of the Citadel of Saint Malo we moved on to Orleans, France where my Battalion was given the job of receiving the surrender of remnants of a German Army. 30,000 without incident. (I believe the official Number was 20,000 F.C.P.)

We continued the march through Luxemburg, Belgium, Holland and Germany. I presume you were there.

My last Hurrah in WWII, was to take a reinforced task force from the Edge of the Hartz Mountains to the Elbe River and cross same, which we did. Task Force Speedie was reinforced with the Division Recon. Troop, Regimental Cannon Co., a Battery of 105 Artillery, an Engineer Company, and Special Signal Detachment.

Were you there too?

After establishing the Truman Bridge and a Bridgehead, which we held while an Armored Division (5th?) was put across, we moved out in the direction of Berlin, about 45 miles. While approaching the Village of Zerbst, the Germans presented me with my fifth Purple Heart, by trying to put a Mortar round in my hip pocket, which put me in the hospital for six months. It occurred on the last combat day of WWII.

The 1st Cavalry Div. (G3) and the 82nd Air Borne Div. C. (505 A????1st Regiment).

I also saw service in Korea [500{??} M.L.G.P. and in Viet Nam [MAAG, Chief of Plans and Operations {two years}. Three years in k Corps.] C.O. Eastern Sector command, and finally retired as Deputy Commander, Fort Campbell, Ky. in July 1964.

We live here in the Army Residence Community, which was planned, built, and operated by Retired Army Officers, where we are spoiled and pampered, approximately 700 of us.

That's about it for this old soldier. Please let me hear from you, and about your own exploits.

Warmest pleasant regards,
John Speedie

Cannon Company 329th Infantry

FIRE MISSION

TO: All Members of Cannon Co. 329th Inf.

WHAT: The 50th Reunion of the 83rd Div.

WHEN: August 14th-18th 1996

Independence, Ohio (Outside Cleveland)

WHERE: Holiday Inn, 6601 Rd.,
Independence, Ohio

Dear Friends:

As we enter the 50th Anniversary of our great Association I wish to call on each and every one of you to lend your support to make this reunion a great one for the members of the Cannon Company - 329th Infantry together with the rest of the 83rd Division.

The years are going by very quickly and we are all getting older, so lets make a Real Effort to get together once again for old times sake. I have sent in my reservation for the 15th - 18th to the Holiday Inn. The Gala banquet is scheduled for Saturday August 17th at 6 P.M.. But come for as many days as you can - BUT COME.

I'll bring an album of our company from our beginning to the end in Germany.

Let me know if I can count on you to be there and how you are. I'll be glad to hear from you.

Your Old Ex-Ec, Mort Goldman
807 B Westminster Ct., Lakehurst,
N.J.
908-657-5133

329 "B" Bag

First of all, my wife and I have moved to a Condo on Lake Erie, we sold our house and moved here. We are about 10 minutes from downtown Cleveland. Our new address is at the end of this column. Secondly I haven't heard from anyone who is planning to attend the national reunion this year in Cleveland. I will try and get Hank Reda to come down to the reunion. I asked and never got an answer how Lt. Phelps was K.I.A. Joe Stek thought he was killed by friendly artillery. I'll ask again if anyone remembers how he was killed, drop me a line or give me a ring. I'm glad to report that John Wodjasek, "My Machine Gun Buddy" and his wife Mary recently celebrated 50 years of marriage. Congratulations to them and many more years of happiness. I called Capt. Hill the other day, we had a good talk. The good Capt. has a little trouble speaking but he seems in good spirits. His wife Zena is taking good care of him. Hang in there Captain. Maybe you guys can drop him a card. Heard from Yo Trofimuk that he might make the reunion.

Here is the final list of "B" Co. men who never came back to their loved ones.

L.B. Carr, Arthur Carle, Louis Allram, Michael Li-guori, William Alford, Arnold Justic, George Kline, James Svenson, William Trumbo, Victor Fountain, Gilbert Peterson, Michael Redina, Ernest Lynham, Melton Fohr, Jim Compnotta.

This makes a total of 2 officers and 68 enlisted men from "B" Co. who were killed in the defense of our country. Again many I knew very personally and others I never knew, but they all did their duty to country.

Another "B" co. short story.

While we were in Camp Atterbury we had a old draftee, as he couldn't soldier, he was made the barracks fireman. One morning he never made roll call and was reported A.W.O.L. After 2 days the barracks were damn cold, they sent somebody to check the furnaces. After 1 hour of checking they found the trouble. They brought out the fireman out dead drunk. He spent 3 days on the coal pile. He was the dirtiest and happiest guy I ever saw. They didn't court martial him, but gave him company punishment back to the furnaces. That's all now. Hope to see you all in Cleveland at the reunion in Aug. or let me hear from you.

Here's the new address - God Bless

Bob Uher, Your "B" Buddy Forever
12700 Lake Ave. #1602
Lakewood, Ohio 44107
1-216-221-2012

Co. "D" 331st

I haven't heard from everyone but it appears we will have a big turnout at the Reunion in Cleveland (Independence). With the ranks starting to dwindle a little faster, you better make this one or miss one of your buddies at the next one.

Paul Dallos and Hank Trzeciak are busy helping the Cleveland Chapter put the finishing touches on the Reunion.

Bob Pflieger just notified us that Elvis Sheppard passed away the latter part of May.

Ben Douglas is having a tough time with his health and the VA isn't helping for reasons unknown. It seems as though WWII Vets as well as the later War and Combat Action Vets are being forgotten by the younger generations who would sweep us under the rug if they could.

At the April meeting of the Florida Chapter, Gravelyn, Cellura, Sharp, Gunderson and wives were present. We were surprised to see Col. Ken Scott at the meeting and he and his wife seemed to enjoy it. Art Haught felt it would be a little too much for him to attend. John Miklos had an operation but is recuperating slowly. Hang in there John!!!

Bernie Cove had to have the gall bladder out and has a few complications but is struggling through it. We will be visiting him shortly.

The Hamilton's have plans to attend the Reunion as they can make it in a day. Hope to see them there.

Jimmy Lynch is planning to pick up the Odenwellers on the way to the Reunion, providing George feels able to make the trip. Last contact with George, he was looking forward to being there.

Heard that Dan McDermott had bypass surgery in the late winter but as a true Co. D. man has recuperated and plans to be at the Reunion.

The McKees left Florida the end of March and went home. Bill is a real Buddy as he volunteered to pick up and store our granddaughter's (Kelly) belongings until she goes back to Mt. Holyoke college in September. Many thanks Bill and I will take care of you in January down here.

Haven't heard whether Meyers and Rummel will be there with bells on. Don't ring too much Vern, as we are getting crotchety in our old age.

Hope to see Ernie Ryder this year. He was all set for Myrtle Beach then became subject to the heart operation plague.

Hey, Norman Schuster, shine up the Van and get yourself (and Lorraine) up to Independence for

the big 50th. We don't want to miss you.

Frank Sharp is always up in Ohio for the summer so he might just walk up to the Reunion.

I usually leave Al Shrawder for last because he's such a great buddy, not only to me but to Company D as a whole, by issuing the Co. D NEWSLETTER three times a year, and using any method he can find to root out members we can't locate. He's picked up several, but since it's 50 years ago, some have passed away. Thanks Al for all your work.

Geri fell a couple of weeks ago and guess who she pulled down on top of her? She has a badly bruised hip and walked with a cane for a few days but is recuperating normally. No broken bones but a bad bruise.

We just heard that Ruby Brown of Sweetwater, Tennessee passed away. She was a great lady and all of Co. D. send their condolences.

See you in Independence,
Ralph B. Gunderson

Co. "C" 330th Inf.

Robert Derickson
3749 Stahlheber Rd.
Hamilton, Ohio 45013-8907

Dear Sir:

I would like to thank my platoon sergeants for saving my life on December 15, 1944 in the Hurtgen Forest, Germany. Their names are Sgt. Hatfield, and the platoon sergeant.

It would make me happy to hear from them, if possible. My phone number is 908-549-0561, or you can write to me to the address shown below.

Sincerely,
Bejamin J. Franko
52 Grove Ave.
Metuchen, N.J. 08840-2157



783rd Ordnance Co.

Talk about being patriotic, not only do I have my flag up but I'm also writing this column on Memorial Day. This time I'm really scratching my head for something that will be of interest to all of our thousands of readers.

Naturally there are always some in the "under the weather" group. Here of late it seems like we are being hit by sections. This time it is the Armament Sections turn. We're starting off with the commissioned group with none other than the kid of the group, Ivan Gilman. His sad experience was almost the repeat of Phil Barbara's. Fortunately Ivan's prognosis is excellent. Of all times, and places, Ivan was attending a banquet when stricken. (I hope your not eating now). He started to hemorrhage and before he could get out he passed out. The good news is Ivan was located in a medical center. After three laser treatments on his colon they stopped the bleeding. He was in ICU most of the week but in a recent phone call he sounded like his old, glib self. All he needs now are a few meals at San Francisco's Fishermans Wharf to put the color and dimples into his cheeks. (facial)

Counting down the line we come to that other colorful boss of the Armament Section, George Harris. He had to have a colon blockage removed.

At 86 plus this is no laughing matter but you know George. "Well gee, I missed my round of scotch." I just finished talking to George and he is at home, from the nursing home, and in good spirits. He is getting Meals on Wheels but today he can't wait to drive down the block to get a few afternoon beers at the Legion. I told George it sure sounded like the patriotic thing to do on this holiday.

Next comes Charlie Rohrer. He is in right now for a hernia operation. Gee, this is colon too. What's going on here? Maybe I should conclude with the latest in fiber diets. Charlie was having a real problem this past winter playing golf in Florida. Every time he hit his drive the hernia would pop out. Charlie had to lay down to put it back in before he went after his ball. This sounds like the old joke, hit one and drag Charlie. The good news is Charlie and George will both be coming to the reunion.

George Harris's good nephews, Keith Waltz from N.Y. and George Waltz from Texas, those guys in the white hats, will again accompany George to the reunion. George, from Texas, sent me two white golf caps telling me, "Almost any-

thing will improve your game." Once again he was wrong but at least my nose is staying white.

Jim Jones called wanting me to go on a golf trip but I too was on the Armament sick list with a torn rotor cuff. I threw a left and a right at my 19 year old grandson and the next day I couldn't scratch my nose. I'm glad to report I'm now able to scratch both ends.

Doc and Agnes Pfeifer wish everyone well as they returned from a rough Bermuda voyage. Today Doc had the pleasure of leading his group in the Memorial Day parade. You know Doc is very active with the Shriners both leading and hands on projects. Their float portraying the needs of the children took 1st place.

Like me Doc, is also concerned about the lack of knowledge our youth of today display on the why's and wherefore's of WWII. The job we Vets have to do is to teach our youth that the freedoms we have today were paid for with many young lives of yesterday. They are not being taught in school. But the good news is they are willing listeners. This spring I have addressed a number of 8th grade classes. Not only do a few hundred youth now know the history of the 83rd but all of them have been moved by a simple little talk and the showing of my video tape "Hut Two." One class, the very next day, sent me 53 letters. I'll send one to be printed wherever Bob chooses. Their words tell where they are so I would urge you to contact your local schools. You will be welcomed with open arms and you too will come away feeling good because your actions are honoring those who have given us our freedom.

Now please believe me, I'm not trying to sell tapes. I present the schools with a tape and book because I know they will use them. I've received invites for next year. You can easily do it without a tape, I have. The main thing is to contact the schools and offer your services. Fifty years may have passed but we still have work to do. If the children don't learn from our historical mistakes they will repeat them.

Here's two follow up's from the last issue. Gene DelPrete went to the War College of Carlisle to find the size of the 83rd's private room. It's a confusing set-up. One part is college and the other museum.

It appears one doesn't know what the other has to offer. Our former Colonel ran into a blank wall but I made a phone call and have a standing invitation to come see the room. Hopefully Gene and I can look this room over before the reunion. (See article - "We Should Do It." elsewhere in this issue.)

The second item was trying to find Jake Houser. Remember I have a list of 78 Housers in Arkan-

sas. I'm past the half way mark in phoning and there's not a trace of his trail. Remember the girls that came to see him at Camp Atterbury? They were dressed in real fur coats and there were stories of Jakes oil wells! I'm betting he's got a non-published number or he's resting peacefully in a secret burial ground.

We're glad to report that Martha Appleby had encouraging news following her operation in Philadelphia. The good part of this ordeal was the opportunity of getting to know Martha's caring daughter, Sherry. Martha is just finishing her radiation treatments in Reading and is looking forward to a relaxing summer.

The Doggett's and the Fredericks are constant, good writers and all is well in their wigwams. They are getting anxious for the reunion so what more can be said? We'll see you all in Cleveland.

Hut two,
Rags Rangnow

Our Youth Do Care

The following is one of fifty three letters I received the day after I loaned the eight graders of Presentation School my "Hut Two" tape.

April 3, 1996

Dear Mr. Rangnow:

Thank you for lending us that wonderful movie. I feel it was very interesting. I now have a better understanding of what went on in that war. The movie made me cry when I saw all those crosses where all the men who died were. It was also very sad when we found out that the teenager you showed died the next day.

Your video helped show me better how the soldiers and even just the people who lived during the war. You showed us things that we could never learn from any textbook.

Thank you for serving this country in World War 11. I will never forget this enlightening film and I will always be grateful to you. I will now give veterans the respect and the attention they deserve.

Stephanie Wells
Jessica Taylor

The following week I returned to the school and spoke and answered questions for seventy minutes before presenting the school with a book and a tape. I would urge my fellow 83rds to do the same in their neighborhoods and you don't need my book or tape. The youth are eager to learn.

Warren Rangnow
783rd Ordnance

WE SHOULD DO IT!

Amongst us it's a well known fact that during the war the 83rd hardly ever received the headlines it deserved. Just recently a total stranger called me on the phone inquiring about my book "Hut Two." He had just come from the Library Of Congress where he was gathering reference material. He read all the history of the 83rd. He told me that of all the hundreds of Divisions in WWII the 83rd was ranked 8th in total casualties. He knew what we had done in every battle and he too was puzzled as to why our exploits were not given more recognition.

By chance, a few hours later he made the acquaintance of a retired, high-command officer. He posed the question to him and his answer, if correct, sheds some light on our publicity problems. In Normandy there were reporters staying with us but for some reason the top brass of Headquarters suddenly made it tough on the media so they packed their typewriters and left.

But you know what? That was 52 years ago and if that was the situation we can't do anything about it. However, we can still change the future way the Army looks at the 83rd's history and I think it's very simple.

You know the Army and the Navy both have war colleges where the top leaders go to learn how to fight wars. The Navy's is in Newport R.I. and the Army's is in Carlisle, Pa. Now there is a new 50 million dollar academic building, which houses the Army's technology strategic war gaming facility. The building is named in honor of General J. Lawton Collins, former Army Chief of Staff, who commanded the US VII Corps on several occasions. Just eleven Divisions served in this Corps and we are duly listed on the large plaque along with a flagstaff bearing the 83rd's insignia in the rotunda.

Now we come to the sad part. Each of these eleven Divisions has been allotted a room to display appropriate memorabilia of their Divisions history. Except for a painting of an unknown medic our room is blank. Requests have been sent out to each of the eleven Divisions. Can you believe four Divisions never replied and three said they were not interested?

So fellows here is our challenge and here is our chance to bring forth the history of the 83rd. These rooms are used for meeting places of not just our top military men but also the best leaders of our allies. We have many excellent photo's and how about a colorful map depicting our record breaking march to the Elbe. I think this is the time and the place for us to put on our thinking caps and spend just a little money to place the 83rd in the forefront for all our future leaders to see and to learn. Is there any question? We should do it and do it now! Bring your ideas to Cleveland!

Warren Rangnow
783 Ordnance Co.

AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IX OF THE CODE OF BY-LAWS OF THE 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN., INC.

The Executive Board in executive session at its May 1996 Meeting at Indianapolis, Indiana, and by individual polling of its Members, has adopted the proposed Resolutions to amend ARTICLE IX of the Code of By-Laws, for submission to the Membership at the Annual Meeting of this Association to be held at the Holiday Inn, 6001 Rockside Road, in the City of Cleveland, [Independence] Ohio 44131 for approval and ratification pursuant to ARTICLE XII of the By-Laws by 3/4ths of the Members present during the 3rd weekend in August 1996, as follows to-wit:

RESOLVED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD: That ARTICLE IX of the Code of By-Laws of the 83rd Infantry Division Association, Incorporated, ("this Association") be amended by addition to Sections 1 and 2, Sections 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, effective upon ratification. ARTICLE IX is hereby amended and hereafter reads as follows:

SECTION 1. ANNUAL MEETING. The Annual Meeting of this Association shall be held on the third Friday/Saturday of August of each year, unless otherwise determined by the Executive Board. [unchanged].

SECTION 2. NOTICES. In the event of the date of any annual Meeting shall be changed for any reason whatsoever, notice of such change must be sent to all Members of this Association by the Secretary-Treasurer at least ninety (90) days prior to such Meeting. [unchanged]

SECTION 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT "ON SITE" REUNION COMMITTEE. ("The Reunion Committee")

The Executive Board upon ratification of these Resolutions, does hereby establish a PERMANENT "ON SITE" REUNION COMMITTEE to have overall responsibility under the Executive Board for putting on the Annual Meeting of the Membership [Annual Reunions] beginning with the 1998 Annual Meeting, and thereafter, as empowered and in accordance with these Resolutions. [new]

SECTION 4. REUNION COMMITTEE MEMBERS. The Reunion Committee shall consist of the following four (4) Members:

- a) The Chairman of the Executive Board, by virtue of his office that year, who shall chair the Committee;
- b) The Secretary-Treasurer, by virtue of his office that year, who shall be Secretary-Treasurer of the Reunion Committee.
- c) The Reunion Chairman who shall be appointed annually by the Executive Board as the "On-Site" Reunion Chairman from the Membership at large, who shall be the Reunion Chairman at the Host City selected by the Executive Board, beginning with the 1998 Annual Meeting and thereafter. [new]

- d) The Judge Advocate, by virtue of his office that year, who shall provide legal assistance requested by the Reunion Committee or the Executive Board. [new]
- e) Vacancies occurring from time to time in the Reunion Committee shall be filled by the Executive Board. [new]

SECTION 5. FUNDING. Beginning with Fiscal Year 1998, and thereafter, there shall be budgeted and maintained by the Executive Board in the Treasury of this Association, liquid reserves readily convertible to cash, of not less than Twenty Thousand Dollars, (\$20,000) to fund all of this Association's activities. [new]

a) **ACCOUNTING.** The receipt of dues, and of monies from all other sources taken in by this Association, to include the "net" receipts to be received by the Reunion Committee from the "Ad Book" beginning with the Annual Meeting to be held in 1998 and thereafter, and all additions of revenue thereto, shall be reported by the Treasurer at the Annual Meeting of the Membership on written Form, together with all expenses made or incurred in such Fiscal Year; and a copy of such financial report shall be available annually to each Member in attendance at the Annual Reunion, followed by a brief explanation by the Treasurer to the Membership.

b) **ANNUAL REPORT.** The Treasurer's Annual report to the Membership shall be presented, or mailed, to each Member of the Executive Board prior to the Annual Meeting of the Membership and shall be on such printed Form and in the style and content as from time to time directed by the Executive Board;

c) **NET RECEIPTS.** All revenues received beginning with the fiscal year 1998, and there after from "Ad Book" and registration fees be made payable to the 83rd Inf. Div. Assoc. and be deposited by the Secretary-Treasurer to the National Treasury and all disbursements to be paid by check there from, with an accounting to the Executive Board. The net proceeds shall from time to time be expended as the Executive Board shall direct; [new]

d) **PRIOR AUTHORIZATION.** Beginning with Fiscal Year 1998, no funds of this Association shall be incurred, obligated or expended, by any Officer of this Association, without the prior approval, of the Executive Board, or as directed by its Chairman; [new]

e) **CASH AUDITS.** The Executive Board shall from time to time, conduct such cash audits by Members of this Association appointed for such purpose, or by fee paid outside auditors, to verify the receipt and disbursement of all monies of this Association; [new]

SECTION 6. BIDDING TO SELECT HOST CITY. Beginning with the Annual Meeting to be held in 1998 and annually thereafter Chartered Chapters, or newly Chartered Chapters, shall advise the Secretary-Treasurer of their desire to host a Annual (Reunion) Membership Meeting.

a) **PROPOSAL BY CHAPTERS.** Each Chartered Chapter, or newly Chartered Chapter of this Association, beginning with 1996 Annual Meeting [Reunion] shall submit their Proposal to host a Membership Annual Meeting to the Secretary-Treasurer, for transmission to the Executive Board which shall include the following details:

- 1) The City and Hotel[s] nominated to host the Annual Meeting, to include the dates and number of rooms to be blocked off for the Association;
- 2) The capacity of the facilities and accommodations available for such Annual Meeting, and amenities available or offered by the Host Hotel to include all complimentary offerings and courtesies;
- 3) Proposed plan for registration of Members and Guests to attend such Annual Meeting, and how payments are to be collected and paid to the Host Hotel;
- 4) Proposed complete slate of National Officers to include the four (4) Members of the Reunion Committee appointed by virtue of their office, who shall have overall responsibility for coordinating the putting on of such Annual Reunion with the Executive Board;
- 5) Itemized breakdown of all costs by unit and package;
- 6) Proposed activities and times of scheduling;
- 7) Proposed temporary funding of Annual Meeting at the Host Hotel, and planned payback to the Association, including assessments to Members if any, made at time of registration;

b) **PROPOSED CONTRACT.** A proposed contract shall be prepared and signed by the Host Hotel outlining all terms for hosting such Annual Meeting, and to the extent possible shall include exemption from State taxation of not-for-profit tax-exempt Associations, [of which this Association is one], which Proposal when approved by the Executive Board at its Annual May Meeting held at such Host City, shall be signed by the Reunion Committee on behalf of this Association, and shall bind this Association to its terms. [new]

SECTION 7. SELECTION OF HOST CITY FOR 1998 AND THEREAFTER. To the extent possible, the Reunion Committee shall present to the Executive Board, at its annual August Meeting in 1996, and thereafter at the annual May Meeting of the Executive Board, not less than three (3) Proposals from Chartered Chapters, from newly Chartered Chapters, or from the Reunion Committee, for hosting the Annual Meeting of the Membership at one or more Host Hotels in one or more Host Cities, to be selected by the Executive Board as the Host City in 1998 which shall be presented to the Membership for its concurrence at the 1996 Meeting of the Membership, and for concurrence of annual Meetings of Host cities thereafter.

a) **APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL OFFICERS.** Beginning with the Annual Meeting to be held in 1998, and thereafter the National Officers of this Association nominated by the Chartered Chapter, or newly Chartered Chapter, and if none, by the Reunion Committee as the slate of officers to host such Annual Reunion, at the host City selected by the Executive Board, shall be appointed by the Executive Board and shall hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Membership next following, and until their successors are elected or otherwise selected.

b) **SHALL BE IN LIEU OF STANDING FOR ELECTION.** The nomination of such National Officers by a Chartered Chapter, newly Chartered Chapter, or the Reunion Committee, and their appointment by the Executive Board as the slate of officers to host an Annual Reunion, shall hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Membership next following, and shall be deemed to constitute a nomination and election to each such National Office by this Association for one year, with the same force and effect as though each such Officer was nominated and elected under the provisions of ARTICLE V, OFFICERS -- QUALIFICATION, NOMINATION AND ELECTION of the Code of By-Laws of this Association; provided however, nothing here in shall in any way be construed to supersede any provisions of ARTICLE V, with respect to election by the Membership of a Member to the Executive Board, which provisions in full force and effect, shall nevertheless remain inviolate.
[new]

FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:

That the Secretary comply with ARTICLE XII of the By-Laws by submitted this proposed Amendment to ARTICLE IX in written form to all Members not less than thirty (30) days prior to the August 1996 Annual Meeting, and that a copy thereof be included in the next publication of the THUNDERBOLT, the official publication of this Association.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:

That the Reunion Committee be and it is hereby authorized to eliminate so much of the formal Membership business pertaining to the election of National Officers as have been already appointed by the Executive Board, from the Agenda of such business scheduled for Friday/Saturday at the Annual Meeting of the Membership beginning in 1998 and thereafter.

Co. "E" 331st

I am writing you as the son-in-law of Frankie "Fooch" DeCarolus (Company E/331st) with some sad news. On 17 Oct. 95, he passed away suddenly from a heart attack. It was a shock since he had no history of heart problems. I am enclosing his obituary so you can ensure that it makes the Chaplain's Corner in the next bulletin.

I am also enclosing a copy of a newspaper article that you may find interesting. It is in French with an English translation. In April 1991 (before Frankie joined the 83rd Division Association), I took a vacation with him to Belgium when he retired. He always wanted to re-visit locations where his unit was engaged in action in the Bulge. We found many exact locations and towns that he fought in since his recollection was amazing. I found it fascinating because my hobby is World War II history and here I had a firsthand account of what the men endured.

We diverted up to Liege, particularly a hamlet outside called Bombaye, in search of a farm where E/331st had R & R from the front lines in February 1945. He had some black and white photos of himself posing in front of the house with a young woman he befriended named Lea Lambert. A few letters went back and forth in 1945 and the correspondence ended. Then 46 years passed like the blink of an eye.

With some good luck and fate, we located the exact farm/farmhouse and Lea still lived there with her family (She was 70 years old in 1991). She immediately recognized him and was in shock. She and her whole family welcomed us with open arms, meals and cocktails celebrating his return. She even had a photo album of some of the men of the unit including Frankie. A reporter from LaMeuse, the local Liege newspaper, came by, interviewed the both of them and published a nice article. I think the reunion was the highlight of the trip. This trip renewed the correspondence with Lea and her family.

After that, I got him to join the 83rd Division

Association. He loved to read the bulletins and elaborate to me when he recognized names of men in E/331st. He finally attended the reunion in Myrtle Beach in September, 1995. Unfortunately, it was his first and only. Nonetheless, he was thrilled to meet other men from his unit. I wrote to them just before writing this letter.

He was always proud of the 83rd Division and what it accomplished. However, I had to weave my way through his modesty to draw out his experiences in conversation. His funeral was simple, but with class. I ensured he received his American flag and buried him with his Bronze Star. He would have liked it that way.

Maybe you can see fit to synopsise the article or my explanation. It may solicit comments from other members of E/331st that stayed at the Lambert farm outside of Liege for three weeks in February 1945 before returning to the business of war.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. DePiano

P.S. I intend to continue a membership in my name when Frankie's membership expires.

While browsing through a recently purchased book entitled U.S. Infantry Weapons of WWII by Bruce Canfield, I came across an interesting photo. It is captioned as identifying the GI as Frank Vukasin of company C, 331st, 83rd Division near Houffalize, Belgium. I checked the 1995 roster with no luck. Possibly a mention of this in the next bulletin will solicit comments of those who may have served with him. (Included is a copy of the picture with a polaroid also).



Co. "F" 329th

OVER BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: South '96 Punta Gorda, Florida, our number was smaller than past years, however the 17 attending appreciated tremendously the efforts put forth by the Nickells so all could enjoy the perfect conditions for R & R. The C.P. arrangements, refreshments & snacks, great choices of dinner reservations, the delightful "Sunset Cruise" on Charlotte Harbor all made for a wonderful time together. It was real nice having Bill & Arline's daughter Joan from Indiana join our sessions. Joan is no stranger to 83rd occasions having attended past Division Reunions in various locations as a teenager or younger. Appreciated were Doc Keith's beautiful and appropriate comments enhanced by George Fuller's harmonica selections during our Moments of Remembrance.

THANKS: To Frank Bellino I 329 for the delicious fruit from his trees. Frank couldn't be with us as in years past due to health problems. Trust things are looking up for you buddy. To the Hellecksons for the summer sausage and crackers, some of Wisconsin's best. It was literally devoured. It reminded me of when packages were received overseas.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: This year request for Ad Book dollars was very good, 39 of you responded. Thanks to those who could contribute it allowed "F" Co. to support this worthy project with two full pages. To whom congrats belong, the new format of the 1995-96 Association's Roster is really very well done and easily read. The 50 Year Reunion Mode brings to mind the 50th Wedding Anniversaries of our members that keep occurring at an ever increasing rate, however for which we are thankful. The beautiful in color Co. "F" remembrance of the occasion which some of us have received was designed and produced by our own Bill Ferguson.

VISITATIONS: Doc Keith has been talking about and searching for Alphas C. Smith, Smitty, as Doc Always referred to him, for as long as I can remember (No Comment), finally locating him last September, so Doc and DeL-

aris on their way to South '96 and again on their way home stopped to visit A.C. and Fannie at their lovely home in Zephyrhills, Florida. The reports naturally were one most enjoyable time for all. A.C. and Fannie were to have come down to South '96, but alas! No Show. I was told later it was because of a dense fog situation. Now! I've known A.C. from A to Z (Atterbury to Zerst) and I never recall fog ever keeping him from making contact with the Germans, so in 97 we'll be hoping for better weather conditions. I've probably just assured no more full course chicken dinners as Fannie fixed for Lavona and me when we stopped to see them on our way home in April. Folks we really did enjoy our visit. Your hospitality was fantastic.

HERE & THERE: Together with the Ad \$ I received many letters/notes which are always so welcome. I wish I could properly reconvey them to each of you so that you would have the opportunity to appreciate them as much as I do, because I know those writing are doing so for all of us and want all of us to know their thanks, their cares & concerns and the love they have for us all. Some have lost their spouses, some are quite ill with various health problems. Yes! Some are terminal, others have rather minor ailments and still others are in good or reasonably good health, so any of us who can, should make every effort to get together as often as possible. Not Possible!

Consider this: for thirty two cents you can keep in touch with a friend or a buddy you love very much.

P.S. If this issue is in your hands before our big five-O and you haven't made reservations, please give some thought. We should be at least 37 strong.

C.R. Bob Whitcomb
1314 Center Lane Dr.
Ashland, Ohio 44805-3403



"A" Co - 329th INF.

Hi Guys!!!

Maybe, just maybe summer is finely here. We sure had a tough winter and the spring was not that great either.

I haven't heard from to many guys since Christmas so the news this time will be short.

Carl and Lee Pliske celebrated 50 years of married bliss. Sorry we could not attend, because Bernice and I celebrated our 50th at the same time. June 22nd. I tell you I don't know how Bernice put up with me for so many years. She said "It wasn't too bad!!"

First Scout - "Spear Head" Ernie Knowles was married 55 years May 31st. He has 3 children, 5 grand children and 2 great grand children.

John Camp our "Medic" was in the Danville Ill. V.A. Hospital for 6 weeks. The V.A. did a lot for him. He said he used a walker.

John and Marge also celebrated 50 years of marriage. June 8th.

I called George Suchomelly, he tells me Reading, Pa. airport and the regional airport museum is having a big display of WWII vehicles, artillery, rifles, etc. If it was closer I wouldn't mind seeing it. George and Pauline celebrated their 49th year of marriage. Congratulation to You All and many more.

Don't forget the 50th annual reunion in Cleveland, Independence, Ohio, Aug. 14, 15, 16, 17, 1996. Our committee is working very hard for everyone to have a good time. Send in your reservations for your motel and the Goodtime III Cruise.

This is it for now. See you all at the "50th Reunion."

Bob Grobelny
"A" Co. - 329th
1581 Lander Rd.
Mayfield Hts. Ohio 44124

Co. "M" 330

Most of us gave three years of our lives to our country but Ira Day gave almost all of his life. He was severely wounded in the war, was sent back to the States and was permanently and totally disabled for the rest of his life, many of those years spent in bed. Martha and I visited him twice in Kentucky and were amazed both times as to his attitude in life, his cheerfulness, and lack of resentment. Each time we left with a feeling, not of sorrowfulness, but in admiration for a fellow who was satisfied that he had given his all his entire life for his country! Naturally Ira was never able to attend a Company "M" reunion but he was as great a member as any of us, or more so! Each year he would faithfully send in his contribution to the Expense Fund and always sent in more than the suggested amount of seven dollars and fifty cents. Ira was a 100% dedicated member of Company "M". I shall never forget him!

Jim Fowler,
Gale & Irene Baker

----- Old Age Is Hell

Your body gets stiff
You get cramps in your legs
Corns on our feet as big as an egg
Gas in your stomach, elimination is poor
Take Ex-lax at night, and then your not sure
You soak in the tub, or the body will smell
Just like I said, "Old are is hell!"

Teeth start decaying, eyesight is poor
Hair Falling out all over the floor
Sex life is short, it.s a thing of the past
Don't kid yourself, friends, even that doesn't last
Can't go to parties, don't dance anymore
Just putting it mildly, you're a Hell of a bore
Liquor is out, can't take a chance
Bladder is weak, might pee in my pants
Nothing to plan for, nothing to expect
Just the mailman, with your Social Security Check

Now be sure your affairs are in order,
And your will is made out right
Or, on the way to the grave
There will be a helluva fight
So if this New Year you feel fairly well
Thank God you're alive, although old age is Hell.

Co. ""G" 331st INF.

The month of June has arrived and that can mean only one thing the reunion is just two months away. The dates August 14, 15, 16, and 17th at Cleveland/Independence, Ohio.

I talked with Mike Mizerock during the week and he informed me that there were only a few rooms left in the Main Hotel. However, there are additional rooms available across the road from the Holiday Inn. For those that are thinking about attending, you should have made your reservations by the time you received this issue of the Thunderbolt.

I had a good response to the letter I mailed to the members in April. I am sending an AD to the Cleveland Chapter, one page will be in memory of those men in G Company that lost their lives during the War. There won't be enough room to include the 78 men that were killed in the Company. I have the complete list some where, but as things go you can never find it when you need it. Also on the first page will be the names of men in the Company that have passed away in the past few years.

The second page will be to those men that are still with us and still going strong.

It was reported by Selma Corder, that Robert Speakman, a member of the weapons platoon passed away this year. Selma has had health problems and will not be able to attend the reunion.

The letter to Grant Starbuck was returned "Deceased". Had letters from three of the widows, Birdie Titus, Kate Pangle and Angie Phillipone.

Had a note from Harold Higgins, one from Troy Mayse, who hopes to be in Cleveland. A letter from James Fall, who has moved to the West Coast in Oregon.. Casel Bush writes that he still in touch with Harold Ladley. Bush has had some health problems and wears a nitro-patch 12 hours a day.

Ed Walsh is hanging in there, but his wife seems to have some problems, first the heart, and now the kidneys.

Clycle Flanary is getting along fine, but his wife seems to be having a few set backs. Mike Mizerock is coming along fine after his knee replacement, he says the Cleveland Chapter is ready for a good reunion.

Had a card from William Sears in Alabama, and Kermit Ralson in Indiana, he is now retired and should be able to make the Reunion.

Jeremiah Budd still lives in Fayetteville, NC. and is doing fine.

Had a good letter from Everett Singleton. He is still able to cut his grass and to grow a garden. His Doctors tell him he needs both knees and a hip replacement. He says he is not ready for that.

Someday I would like to talk with him, because he can fill me in with what went wrong on the 4th of July, with the first and second platoons. His letter was the reason I decided to dedicate one page in the program book for those that were killed in Normandy. Namely, the three platoon leaders, Gahn, Ernest, and Dellow, along with Balke, Saunders, Kuforish and others. It is too bad that we did not take time in the early years after the war to get all of this information together, because it is evident that as inexperienced troops we made too many mistakes.

For those of us that are still able to work and to enjoy life, we should Always remember those men of G Company that were our buddies and were not as fortunate as we are.

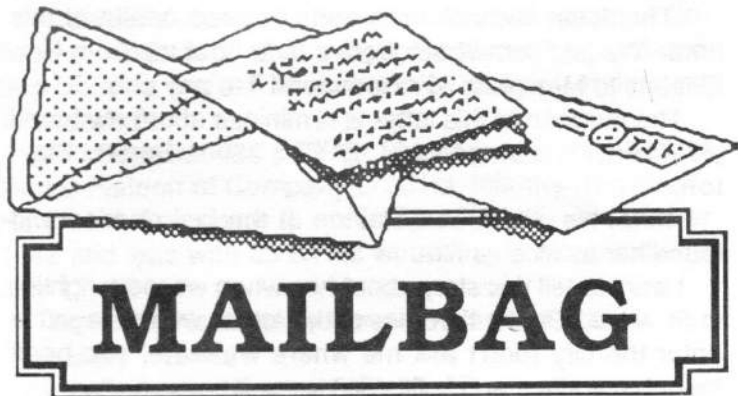
I am always thankful that I was able to survive and to be part of G Company, when we gained the experience needed to fight a war and to be able to meet each challenge.

All of this was evident when we successfully held the Bridge head across the Elbe River and continued the push into the heart of Germany.

Hoping to see you in Cleveland

Capt. Mac.





MAILBAG

"Hello, It's Frankie"

45 years later, former American GI comes back to Bombaye and meets Lea at whose home he stayed for 3 weeks during the war.

What surprise for Lea Lambert opening her door Wednesday afternoon and seeing Frankie DeCarolis whom she hadn't seen since 1945.

At the time, Frankie was 19 years old and a radioman in the 83rd Division en route to Germany. In February of 1945 with some friends of his regiment he spent nearly 3 weeks at the home of Lea Lambert's parents.

45 years later, Lea remembered perfectly Frankie and his friends. "My mother adored them - from time to time she would cook for them. One day she made fries for 50 soldiers. These fries reminded Frankie also.

Today, the former GI who lives in Boonton is 65 years old and has been retired for several months. He decided to re-visit Belgium with his son-in-law, Tom with the thought of finding some of the places where he stayed during the war.

His itinerary passed through Bastogne, Houffalize and La-Roche, but also to Bombaye, a small hamlet situated between Vise and Dalhem.

"I've never come back to Europe since 1945", he explains. "Everything has changed here and it was only while entering the farm that I recognized the places".

The only thing that led him to this address was a little address book and a letter written by Lea in 1945. "Several people couldn't tell us the way. Finally, we met a policeman who took us there."

Frankie's son-in-law, Tom, comes to Europe from time to time. He was in Brussels last year. Frankie is very proud of his son-in-law and his profession. He works for the Secret Service and is charged with protecting government officials, particularly Nicholas Brady - The Secretary of State of Finances.

Frankie and Lea were very happy and emotional to have met once again.



Flore "Frankie" DeCarolis & Lea Lambert (Same house & same farm, Bombaye, Belgium, April 1991



Flore "Frankie" DeCarolis - Co. E/331st & Lea Lambert, Bombaye, Belgium - February 1945.

Dear Sirs,

My name is Brian Kelly and my father served with your unit during World War II.

His name was James J. Kelly and he was either a Lt. or Captain and served as a liason officer and had a serial number of 01304908. He was awarded the Bronze Star and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery having died in 1962.

I'm writing this letter on behalf of my mother, his widow. We would like to know why he was awarded the Bronze Star, what battles his unit was involved in and exactly what a liason officer did during that period of service. We would appreciate any information you can provide.

Sincerely Yours

Brian F. Kelly

1012 Bay Ave.

Toms River, N.J. 08753

Tel. No. 908-929-4202

I've stood and heard the bugle
Sound the sad and lonely taps
While the people all assembled
Kept their feelings under wraps

A time ago some friends I lost
Their faces plainly yet I see
The guys you lived with everyday
Were like your family

Each of us do have our thoughts
Of the ones we left behind
And though they may be absent
They're never out of mind.

One day we'll be together
At the last ever roll call
Then the final 83rd formation
Will be attended by one and all

Mr. Harry Kirby "C" Co. 308 Engrs.
20 Pennsbury East
Chadds Ford, PA 19317-9302

Mr. Robert E. Derickson
83rd Infantry Div. Assn. Inc.

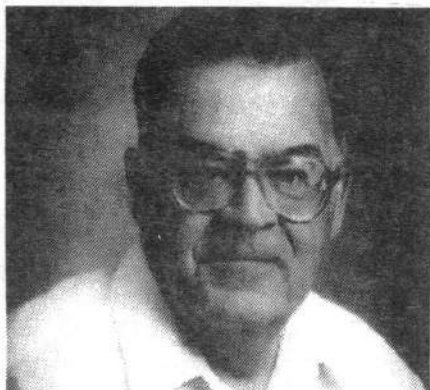
Dear Sir,

Persuant to our conversation on May 16, 1996, at 6:00 p.m., I am still trying to locate my uncle, Joseph (Josef) Puehringer, or anyone who may know his whereabouts. As I indicated to you in our conversation, Joseph and served in H (possibly HQ company) 329th Inf. Regt. Any information that you or your members could provide would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,
Keith A. Bakewell
P.O. Box 7370
Westchester, IL 60154-2644

KRIEGIE

(Kriegsgefangene)
by Robert L. Jackson



Almost a half century has passed since the first draft of KRIEGIE was hand written. Through the years it has taken form as an autobiography so that generations will not forget that we live on the margins of an overly active and anxious world.

As an American soldier I tell of World War II, fighting in the Ardennes Forest and the Allied debacle of the Battle of the Bulge. My ordeal as a German Prisoner of War is grim and terrible. Live with me in the foxholes. Experience the trauma of surrender. Endure the death marches and the forced labor camps. KRIEGIE tells little of the pageantry of war; only the ordeal of the G I's fight for survival is important.

Copies may be obtained from:
Robert L. Jackson
1506 Camp Rd.
Buchanan, MI 49107
Phone: 616-695-1267

This is a LIMITED first edition

Dear Bob,

This letter finds Noreen and I in good health at this time. We just came back from a river boat trip from New Orleans to Memphis, I'd recommend it to any one.

The purpose of this letter is reminiscence about my friend and former first sergeant of "F" Co., 330th, Donald Clayton.

I met his wife Maria Clayton at the last reunion and found her as nice as him.

I want to tell this story about him when we were fighting in St. Malo. On the third day of the attack we managed to enter the city (don't ask me where we were, I've been there twice since and I still don't know where we were.)

We advanced down one of the major streets while the Germans shot the tops of the telephone poles off above our heads. The day before our captain was killed. Anyway when we got to the end of the street we were pretty close to the Citadel. The boys found a French beer parlor and proceeded to indulge. Don Clayton looked around the place.

He found a way to get on the roof. When he got up there and looked around he spotted a German sentry walking a post on a street by the Citadel. Mind you the Citadel was on an island and quite a piece over there. Don laid down in prone position on the roof, ran his sights up to 850 yards (he was old army and knew his piece). He took aim and fired. The German soldier dropped to the street. Don saw another run out to pick him up and put the sight on him and he fell to the street too.

This my good buddy was probably the best shooting in WWII.

That man was always a great guy but demanded our most and we respected him.

I shall miss him and we of "F" Co. 330th have lost a good buddy.

Wishing You All Good Health
Your Buddy, Allen Havens

P.S. When I met him years later and I told this story with my wife present, he said he had never told anyone about this because he thought no one would believe him.

Dear Mr. Derickson:

I have recently acquired the WWI campaign medal, and the Divisional Boxing Championship medal for the below listed soldier.

Corp. John R. Heatherton Jr.
Co. "A" 330th Inf. Div.

Is there anything you can tell me to increase my knowledge about this soldier. This is the second WWI veteran from the 83rd. Division that I have acquired his artifacts, and continue to draw a blank with inquiries. Do you know of any divisional Historian, or know of anyone who has one of the several published books with details of the 332nd divisional operations in Italy?

Anything you can tell me will be appreciated.

Sincerely, John Bankhead

March 3, 1996

Dear Bob,

Received a note and a story from the newspaper in Columbus, Ohio from Ginny Douglas about her husband Ben Douglas and am enclosing it for inclusion in the next Thunderbolt.

Ben Douglas was a S/Sgt. Section Ldr. in the 81 MM Mortar Platoon of Company D 331st. Infantry Regiment. He joined Company D at Camp Atterbury in October 1942 and was with us till his wounding in Normandy on July 12, 1944.

The rest of his life story is covered in the article.

Many Thanks,

Al Shrawder, Former S/Sgt. Co. D

War hero's struggle yields reason enough to have beds for vets

The day I visited Ben Douglas, the surgical intensive-care unit at the Ohio State University Medical Center was awash in rare winter sunlight.

Untangling his paw from hospital bedclothes, he grasped my hand with a firmness I found stunning for a 75-year-old who, a week earlier, had survived a full cardiac arrest.

The man has faced down an unending procession of medical dramas for 52 years.

"I don't know what it's like to have a healthy husband," said his wife, Ginny.

More than a half-century has passed since she received a telegram from the Army telling her that her husband of scarcely more than a year had been "slightly wounded" in France.

Ben, An Army staff sergeant, landed at Normandy in June 1944 and fought through the stubborn bocage and the more stubborn German defenders to the town of Saint-Lo.

On July 12, a German artillery shell that exploded not far from his position ripped away most of the right side of his face. The explosion splintered his jawbone, tore out his teeth, paralyzed his throat, mutilated a half-dozen cranial nerves and robbed him of his hearing.

From that day, anti-convulsives would be required to control seizures. For 50 years, embedded shrapnel would fester and inflame tissue as it worked its way to the skin.

The facial wounds robbed Ben of the ability to form comprehensible speech.

"He never talked after that," Ginny said of his groping efforts to shape words. "I could understand him; the children could -- but no one else."

Doctors who treated him after he was shipped home to the United States speculated that Ben had suffered a heart attack while Army medics were trying to keep him alive.

Before he entered a Massachusetts hospital for two years of reconstructive surgery and rehabilitation as the war drew to an end, he let Ginny know that divorcing him might be better for her.

"You married me for better or worse," she going to get rid of me."

The doctors did their best, but the blast had left them little with which to work.

Ben learned that his epiglottis - the thin flap of tissue in the throat that keeps one from aspirating while swallowing food or liquids -- would not be completely functional again. To swallow, he was told to turn his head to the side and massage his throat to work food down the proper channel.

When he was released from the Army's care, Ben returned to Ohio and took a state job as a printer.

Through the years he battled the effects of his wounds, the losses growing as he aged.

In September, he was admitted to OSU's Doan Hall after a spate of nausea and chest pains.

Ginny, given the severity of his symptoms, did not think she had time to transport her husband to a veterans hospital.

He has had pneumonia several times and endured a tracheotomy and surgery to remove his breastbone.

The scar that traces the midline of the absent sternum ends just above his abdomen. Beneath a blossom of surgical gauze and packing, one can see the outline of his beating heart.

Ginny would like to take Ben home.

The cardiac arrest last week obviously was a major setback.

She thinks he is getting the best care available, lacking a critical-care Veterans Affairs facility in a county with 109,000 veterans.

"Dr. David Brown has saved his life several times," Ginny said of Ben's primary physician.

Five months at Doan, though, has taken its toll.

Ginny recently received a bill -- and not the first one -- for more than \$99,000.

She probably will borrow the money. She has talked about refinancing the house.

Despair has come close to getting the best of her, she admitted.

"I could just end it all, but Ben needs me. Sometimes, you'd just like to go to bed and just not wake up."

She wants Ben home for whatever time remains.

The couple has suffered the latest trials while talks are under way to create an 80-bed veterans unit at the OSU Medical Center.

Betty Thompson, a retired Navy nurse and World War II veteran, is spearheading the fight.

Maintaining the unit, she said, would require not new outlays but simply a reapportionment of VA dollars in Ohio.

Thus, a critical-care center would not be so inaccessible to veterans.

Ginny doesn't know whether her husband would have survived the trip to a unit in Dayton or Cincinnati.

She had to make a snap decision that, over time, has forced the family to court financial ruin.

Ben fought at Normandy and Saint-Lo. His son, Don, flew KC 135s during the Vietnam War, refueling fighters over battle zones. Ben's granddaughter has reached her final year at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

The Douglas family has never given this country less than its due.

Veterans of Ben's war are aging. Eighty beds is not a lot to ask. -----Mike Harden is a Dispatch Columnist.

PATTON

My first contact with General Patton was in England when he made speeches to the Division's top NCO's and the officers on the soon-to-be invasion of France. Signal set up the PA system so I heard him - lots of four letter words and use your bayonets on the enemy tanks.

The Division was assigned to Patton's Third Army in France and it guarded the Loire River as well as the Red Ball Highway supplying Patton's tanks. Some tankers thought Patton was Hell-On-Wheels; others felt he would use them in his drive for glory. We had heard of the needless deaths in the race to take Messina in Sicily before Montgomery's British troops. I was happy to be in the infantry. Despite it being June, he ordered all troops to wear neckties, an impossible edict to enforce. WE carried neckties in our pockets to wear when passing MP's or strange officers.

Later, in the city of Luxemburg, Patton made several visits to our Division Headquarters with his ivory pistols and sometimes with the Duke of Luxemburg.

The newspapers made a big thing of Patton urinating in the Rhine River, but it was not an isolated incident. HQ clerks and MP's saw him use a window in the Division HQ buildings to urinate.

Our Division in the Battle of the Bulge. The press lauded Patton's dash northward to the Bulge, but General Simpson's 9th did as much dashing southward. Gen. Simpson was not colorful and got less press attention.

After Germany surrendered, the Division was sent to occupation duty in Bavaria once more under Patton's command. We were warned of a surprise inspection of the entire Division and it's equipment by Gen. Patton. Dozens of snow chains were dragged behind a truck on a gravel road to make them shiny, the tires of our trucks were painted with brake fluid to make them look new (it was bad for the rubber and wasted brake fluid), all tools cleaned of oil and polished for layout on new canvas by each vehicle. WE lined up at attention as the great man came by in a jeep with a handrail so he could stand while returning salutes. We estimated he inspected our vehicles, equipment and 300 men in about fifteen seconds. His vehicle never stopped, just headed in a cloud of dust for the next unit. It took days to reoil tools, repack and store equipment.

Patton then issued his infamous, "No fraternization Order." No troops were to speak with or socialize with German civilians. A few NCOs and officers used it as a means of working off a personal spite or to get a promotion. One afternoon when three of us were caught on the side of a highway talking with German girls, we explained we were lost and asking for directions. The MP's snickered and left. In towns, some English speaking German girls taunted us. "Hey Yank, I'm talking to you and I can get you court martialed!" Most were kidding and thought Patton's order a joke. There was an increasing amount of critical press coverage that forced Patton to withdraw the order. Rumor had it that he was told to do so by General Eisenhower.

Hal O'Neill, 83rd Signal

YANKEE GIs MAKE SOLO DASH TO BERLIN AS RUSSIANS TAKE CITY

*Our 50th Anniversary
83rd Doughboys reflect
Meeting up with Russians*

*by Jack M. Straus and Phillip Graff
331st - Reg. Hqs. -- 331st - Co. G*

Jack Straus and Phil Graff of the 331st can lay claim to being the first American soldiers from a combat team to enter Berlin during the last days of World War II.

Straus and Graff were members of the 331st Infantry Combat Team of the 83rd Infantry Division which landed on Omaha Beach D-Day plus 12 and relieved the 502nd Parachute Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division in the vicinity of Carentan at Auvers. The 331st fought from the Normandy hedgerows through five major campaigns in Europe to a point within 53 miles southwest of Berlin just before the Russian Army broke the last of the Nazi resistance in Germany's capital.

The 331st together with the 329th Infantry had stopped their offensive on the eastern bank of the Elbe River on orders of SHAEF. At Yalta, Roosevelt had yielded to Stalin who insisted that Russian troops take Berlin; however, with American troops poised at the Elbe River, General Eisenhower was tempted to allow the momentum of the American armies to capture Berlin despite Yalta. General Patton and British General Montgomery urged Ike to keep going. General Bradley told Ike that an offensive on Berlin would cost an estimated 100,000 troops. That was it. Berlin became "off-limits" to the Americans.

This is how we relate our escapade. The 2nd Battalion of the 331st with a company of the 1st Battalion shot across the Elbe in assault boats together with the 329th Infantry, followed by the remaining 1st Battalion. The bridgehead was secured by repulsing five counter-attacks, the fiercest battles being fought against Nazi OCS fanatics in Kameritz and in the Steckby Forest. Meanwhile, "Truman" and "Franklin Roosevelt" pontoon bridges were established across the Elbe which the enemy tried to blast with floating mines, suicide swimmers; and even the weakened Luftwaffe made desperate attempts to bomb the bridges. (The pontoon bridges were constructed by the 295th Engineer Battalion). The 83rd had established the only permanent bridgehead at the Elbe River. Finally, the Russians came. General Macon met them at Opollondorf and Colonel Robert H. York shook hands with Russian Cossacks at Wittemberg. On May 6th, the Russians relieved the 83rd of the Elbe bridgehead. It was at that moment that I impulsively decided to make a dash for Berlin. As I moved forward toward the Truman pontoon bridge in my jeep, I came across a buddy, Phil Graff and said: "I'm going to Berlin. If you want to come with me, you have 30 seconds".

Graff hesitated, yet lost no time climbing into my jeep. Then, I learned, that Graff was in one of the assault boats that had crossed the Elbe.

NOTE: *Several infantry divisions of the U.S. 9th Army met up with units of the Russian Army, including the 83rd, 84th and 69th, each at a different point along the Elbe River.*

As we headed toward Berlin through Wittenberg and Lukenwald, Russian soldiers did not pay any attention to us: Roads were choked with horse-drawn convoys and American jeeps with Red Stars, obviously, "lend-lease" equipment.

In our 4-wheel drive jeep, we moved with great speed up a hill. Reaching the crest, we gasped. Confronting us was a huge Russian tank; momentarily, an inevitable collision head-on, we thought. A Russian soldier's head, perhaps an officer, was jutting out of the tank's turret. He scowled. We said nothing. We held our breath as we maneuvered the jeep around the tank.

We arrived in Berlin at 1715. Detouring around streets filled with bomb and shell craters, bricks and rubble, we finally got to Berlin-Mitte. Here, we stood in the middle of Alexander Platz. All around us there were destroyed buildings, some on fire; and the persistent crack of sniper fire made us feel uneasy, not knowing where they were coming from. Russian soldiers were scurrying around. A civilian with a vacant stare walked by. We were fully ignored. We felt sure that we were the first American soldiers from a combat team to enter Berlin in this world war.

A Russian soldier was sitting in the square sketching the desolation. He smiled at us but didn't stop his work. There was little left of the Reichs-chancellery. Some Russian soldiers were sitting on the steps, a bottle of Vodka in one hand, an automatic weapon in the other. At the foot of the steps lay a dead German soldier. He was clutching the bronze head of Adolf Hitler and his body was covered with medals. The Russians had tied a rope firmly to his hand and around the bronze head to make this grotesque scene of a Nazi who gloriously died for his fuehrer; one of the memorable scenes of the war that I photographed.

We left and drove over to the Unter den Linden. Here we saw a gargantuan archway in the process of construction. A huge 'Red Star' stood on its top.

Finally, a Russian soldier came over and with a hard slap on my back, he bellowed 'Americanski, yutfoya-motch' followed with whole-hearted laughter. This was the one Russian word I knew. So I slapped his back and yelled: "Russki, you sonofabitch" while joining him in laughter. I offered him a cigarette (from my rations) and he took the whole pack. (I never smoked). I offered him a drink of wine from Germany's Rhineland and he grabbed the whole bottle. He guzzled it in seconds.

Evidently, the Russians were becoming aware of us. Four officers approached. They took photographs of us and we photographed them. One of them spoke elementary German as did I so we were able to make ourselves understood. They invited us to spend the night with them. I sighed with great relief. It was fast growing

dark. A pleasant surprise came when we alighted from our jeep at the house they had taken for their headquarters. A Russian Major walked out and greeted us with 'hello, boys'. He was in the Engineer Corps and he had studied in the States during the late thirties.

With the Russian engineer as interpreter, we had an enjoyable discussion. We ate and drank and talked most of the night. Cans of sardines were opened, tall glasses were filled with Vodka. We toasted everyone the world over beginning with Roosevelt, Stalin, Churchill. A final toast to 'our American friends' was offered and we went to bed about 0400 in a room offered us by two junior officers. At sunrise, after a bowl of porridge and a cup of ersatz coffee and goodbyes to our Russian friends, we headed back to our American lines.

Conspicuous on the corners of Berlin streets were women MPs. Swinging their color flags, these chubby girls kept traffic flowing by waving a yellow flag for a go ahead and a red one to stop. We asked directions from one of them and she just smiled and said: 'Amerikanski?'

A few miles out of Berlin, we were stopped at a Russian road-block. A Russian soldier had his rifle directed squarely at us. This is international language meaning "STOP". My first impulse was to accelerate. Fortunately, common sense rationale immediately overcame any such fool hardy thoughts. I slammed the brakes of our jeep. The soldier carefully approached us with his rifle still pointing to us. He climbed into the rear seat and motioned us forward. He directed us to the center of this small town where we pulled up in front of a small red brick building. This turned out to be the headquarters of the Russian Commandant, presumably the military "Mayor" of the town. We agreed that Graff would stay with the jeep to guard, not only the vehicle, but our few possessions as well. Straus would enter the building escorted by the Russian Soldier. Other Russian soldiers gathered around the jeep to keep Graff "company". Inside the Commandant's office, I noted a huge map of Germany on the wall. A red cloth covered a table behind which sat the Commandant. An attractive young woman who, I quickly learned, spoke English, German and Russian fluently.

The Commandant interrogated me through the interpreter. He wanted to know why we were in Germany; what was our assignment; and he asked me to point out on the map the location of American troops. He thought we were Germans dressed in uniforms taken from dead American soldiers.

For the first time we felt scared. We could be shot as spies or turned over to Army headquarters in Europe and court-marshaled for our illegal entry into Berlin. During the interrogation, I suddenly recalled the message that a Russian Colonel, whom I had met at the Elbe river, who had written in my notebook addressed to 'Russia's great American friends.' I showed this to the Russian commandant and it seemed to convince him that we were indeed Amerikanski.

We were on our way again. When we reached the Elbe river once more, we breathed a sigh. It felt good to be back among our Yanks."

I reported our awol escapade immediately to our commanding officer of 331.. His response: "Damn-it, why didn't you tell me. I might have gone with you".

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Straus and Graff had not seen each other nor were they in contact for 50 years, since their mad dash together to Berlin in May of '45. After Straus' discharge, he went directly to Los Angeles in '46. Phil had lived in the east and moved to L.A. in 1985, neither of them knowing the whereabouts of the other. Jack has been a member of the 83rd Division Association since its founding. Phil was not aware of the association until recent years.*

In May of '95, Phil saw an article in a local newspaper about Jack Straus. He called. Yes, it was Straus of the 331st. They met and reminisced of their trip 50 years earlier.

Dear Bob,

Late in April 1945 when things were slow for a change my sister asked me to write some poems, my parents sent this one to the Monasses, Va. Journal. Would you be able to find room for this in a future issue of the Thunderbolt? I'm sure it applies today, as it did 51 years ago.

Thank you,

Larry Runion - Ex - PFC Co. B, 330th

POETRY FROM OVERSEAS

The following appeal in verse form was received recently by Mr. and Mrs. Ira E. Runion, of Nokesville, from one of their sons overseas. It expresses no doubt a sentiment echoed several million times over wherever our fighting men may be, and for that reason we reproduce it here:

MAIL CALL

*That's a call we love to hear,
Every day throughout the year,
Remember, I am far away,
So, please sit down and write today.*

*A letter means so much to me,
In this land across the sea,
So when you have some time to spare,
Send a letter off by air.*

*Mail Call! See them gather round,
When they hear that welcome sound.
But if no mail they get today
'Tis sad to see them turn away.*

*Take the time to write today,
To someone dear so far away;
'Twill cheer the heart of someone who
Waits each day to hear from you.*

Lawrence Runion, PFC.
Somewhere in Germany.

Mr. & Mrs. Runion have three other sons in the service. James and Earl are also in Germany, while Joseph is somewhere in the Pacific

The Ides of April

Dear Editor:

April 15 crept up on us again. This year, as this hated day approached, a movement began gaining momentum to make the Ides of April just another spring day, and liberate the United States from the menace of that Death Star call the IRS.

Already HR 3039, the National Sales Tax Act, has been presented to the House. This act would abolish income tax and eliminate the IRS, and put a national sales tax in place. To do so would give our nation a tremendous economic boost. Why?

For one thing, the government pays some \$600 billion annually to collect income tax. Yes, ladies and gentleman -- \$600 billion to squeeze more money out of John and Jane Citizen. This is even more than is spent annually on defense or social programs! Think of the money needed to pay IRS employees, maintain offices, print out all those forms and schedules, and mail those despised Form 1040s every year. What if Uncle Sam got just as much money from a national sales tax? Imagine the savings! Imagine what it would do for reducing the deficit!

"But a national sales tax would put too much of a burden on the poor!" squawk a chorus of naysayers. Funny, I've never heard anybody make such a complaint about state sales taxes. Besides, we already pay a national sales tax, in essence. Approximately 14 percent of the cost of everything you buy goes to pay for costs imposed by the IRS -- not just corporate income taxes, but also accountants to keep track of income and outgo, and tax audits. Eliminating income taxes would reduce the prices of goods from candy to cars, making U.S. - made goods less expensive and thus better able to compete in markets both at home and abroad.

If products made in the USA are less expensive and better able to compete with foreign products, that means the demand for our products will increase, which translates into more money in the treasuries of domestic companies, and more jobs for U.S. workers. Thus, the benefits of a national sales tax replacing the income tax go far beyond peace of mind and larger paychecks for all of us.

Additionally, a national sales tax would hit on the underground economy. Many people who earn money under the table buy goods and services in legitimate markets. Under a national sales tax, they would no longer be able to elude Uncle Sam.

Finally, with a national sales tax, we would be taxed only once, when we make purchases. With the present system, we are taxed twice -- once when our paychecks are docked, and again when we buy goods and services and pay the hidden taxes. A national sales tax gives us more control over how much tax we pay, and it encourages savings by pinching us only when we spend.

Income tax is an idea whose time has gone. It is an experiment that has failed miserably. It has wreaked havoc on the economy of the United States, made criminals of

otherwise decent and law-abiding citizens, and robbed millions of their peace of mind. It punishes us for earning money and gives the government far too much control over our lives. The happiest day in modern U.S. history will be when income tax is dumped on the scrap heap of history, on top of apartheid and the Soviet Union.

Freya H. Harris
Atlanta.

For Pete's Sake

Aunt Essie was 39 for 60 years when she discovered that her age could be a point of pride. Of course by then, she got confused now and then, and sometimes she was 101 or 103, depending upon how unique she wanted to be. I figure that if the gospel writers could differ about a fact or two, yet tell the truth, Aunt Essie could fudge a little on a year or so.

When I was a kid, her third husband used to say to me, as if my aunt couldn't hear him, "Essie's going to live to be a thousand because her tongue is double-dipped in vinegar. That woman is sour as the devil with a hangover."

All Essie would say was, "For Pete's sake, Albert, if you acted like a grown man I wouldn't have to say nothing."

But he would say, "I'm Stanley. You buried Albert - Henry too, probably their way of getting away from the nagging."

Then Essie would turn to me. "For Pete's sake, child, watch your glass. Waste a lot of good teat tugging when there's milk all over the floor."

Of course when Aunt Essie grew older, she spilled a lot more than I ever did. "For Pete's sake, can't they make a cup that would stay still for old ladies? Gonna be 102 on my next birthday, you know."

Essie was three days short of 100 when she died. They said it was quick and in her sleep. Sometimes I picture her arguing with St. Peter at the gate. "For Pete's sake," she would say. "How can I be ready to fly the clouds when I Don't even remember dying?" I'm sure she put on quite a show, the kind only Essie could create. But I'm also sure St. Peter let her in, considering what a fan she was of his.

by Terry Petersen

Dear Bob,

Thanks for printing my letter about our "Belgian friend, Gustine Pascal" in the spring 1996 issue of the Thunderbolt, bottom of page 21 and page 22. In reading the article, I realized that our friend's address had not been included. If the real Ralph Smith or someone else in the picture (bottom of page 22) recognized himself, there was no way to send a letter to Gustine Pascal.

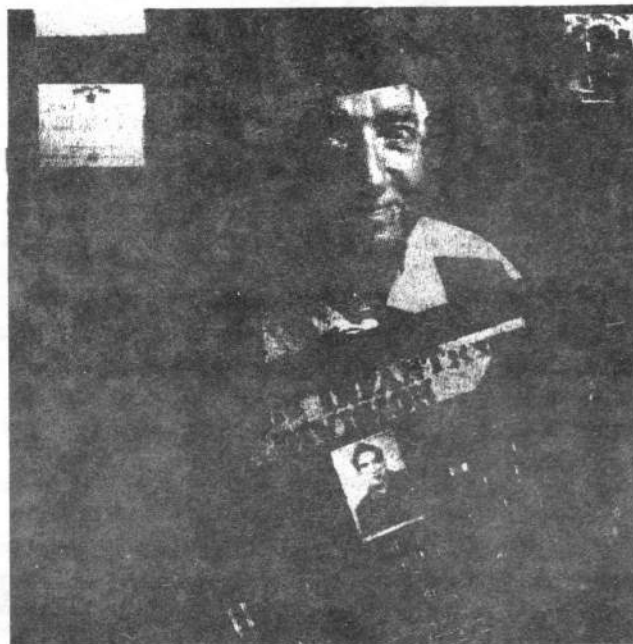
Would you please print the following address in the next issue of the Thunderbolt, and refer to the picture at the bottom of page 22 in the spring edition. Hopefully someone will be able to communicate with this fellow.

GUSTINE PASCAL, RUE DU TERRA 16, 4990
LIERNEUX, BELGIQUE.

Sincerely yours,

Robert W. Smith, CWO, 83rd Div. Band

'Shorty' goes to Washington



Former Army Staff Sgt. Norman 'Shorty' Schuster, 74, of Sellersville, is joining scores of military veterans for a World War II memorial service today in the House of Representatives. Schuster, past commander of American Legion Hartzell-Crouthamel Post 280 in Perkasio, earned the Purple Heart in nine months' of combat in Northern France and Germany.

Sat. June 15, 1996

Robert,

I talked to you by phone this morning concerning my brother Ken who was attached to the 83rd Inf. Div. 331st Inf. who was listed as missing in action for quite some time then eventually was declared killed in Action on July 20, 1944 and buried at the Normandy American Cemetery.

I was always curious if there was someone who knew a little more about what happened, I realize it was an unbelievable time prior to, and during the invasion and also afterward.

I always felt the ground troops had the worst of it and really lived thru hell and back.

I enlisted in the Army Air Corp. late in 1943 and came thru without a scratch while a member of a bomber crew, while always feeling I had it a lot easier than the ground combat guys.

Pertaining to the 83rd Div. Reunion I would like info about it since it is not too far from where I live.

Also about putting a notice in your "Thunderbolt" magazine all I can say is (You can rewrite as you see fit)

Anyone knowing Ken Schilk, trained at Camp Walther's Texas, August to Dec. 1943, went to England Early 1944, died in France July 1944. Contact Ed Schilk (810) 2633080 42755 Sheldon #116 Clinton Twp. MI. 48038 (Near Detroit)

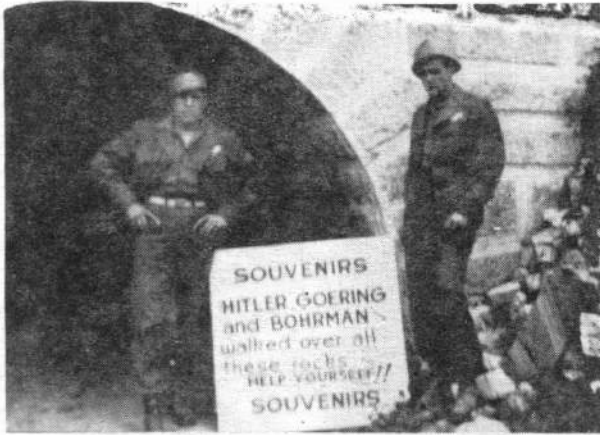
I Thank You for all your help and advice.

Sincerely

Edward Schilk

42755 Sheldon #116

Clinton Twp. MI., 48038-5489



330th Inf. Reg. "M" Co. - July 1945 - left Russell W. Antt and Staley Johnson - Hitler's Eagle Nest, Berchtesgaden, Germany.

U.S. Infantry Weapons of World War II

by Bruce Canfield



PFC. Frank Vukasin, Co. "C", 331st Inf. Regiment, 83rd Div. reloading his M1 rifle near Houffalize, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge. Note the dead Germans in front of his position. (U.S. Army)



Dear Mr. Derickson,

After my discussion with you on June 19, 1996.

I am looking for Donald Roades. He would be 72 - 75 yrs. old. His unit was H0329th Infantry. He was stationed in Austria. Please publish this in your news letter. Your help is appreciated and I may be contacted at U.S.A. 800-543-1316. Thank you.

Vicky Tade

Evansville at war World War II 50th Anniversary

The Evansville Courier

By Patrick W. Wathen - Sr. Staff Writer

With the world at war and America on the brink, Evansville Mayor William H. Dress, Servel's Louis Ruthenburg, International Steel's Walter Koch and Rufus Carnes and Hoosier Lamp and Stamping's C. Nelson Smith knew business as usual was about to end.

These farsighted men knew cities like Evansville could become the first casualties once the country went on a full war footing. Rather than watch opportunities pass, they chose to lead the city into the most vibrant period of its history.

In the summer of 1941, word was coming down that raw materials used to manufacture domestic products such as refrigerators and automobiles - 40 percent of Evansville's production - would be diverted to war production.

Dress and a local committee of business leaders could see but two ways to avoid massive unemployment: persuade the government to reconsider its policy or become aggressive in seeking defense contracts.

More than three months before Pearl Harbor, Dress, at the behest of a local committee, organized a meeting in Chicago to discuss ways to save industries in small cities. Invited were 600 mayors from cities with populations of fewer than 250,000 people. They came from 11 Midwestern states.

At about the same time, the federal Office of Production Management was conducting a survey of Evansville, one of five cities that made up a pilot study, to determine the impact "defense materials priorities" would have on employments.

The local committee took the opportunity to present the agency a four-point plan. The final point called defense industries to be in Evansville. Behind the scenes, Koch, vice president of sales at International Steel, was wooing contacts in the Navy, which was planning shipyards in middle America.

Nelson was promoting Evansville with Ralph Damon, who would become president of Republic Aviation Corp. and meet later with Nelson, Ruthenburg, Carnes and A.J. Hoffman of Hoffman Construction Co. to determine if a plant could be built here.

Because of the planning and pleading, Evansville became a huge producer of war goods. Forty-eight Evansville companies held defense contracts, which accounted for 75 percent of the city's industrial effort.

In 1940, manufacturing employment had been 18,000. That figure would be surpassed by the Evansville Shipyard alone, and total manufacturing employment would increase to 64,000 at the height of war production.

The farm labor pool, though, dwindled with rural people flocking to the high paying defense plants.

"We're really impressed with what happened there," said James H. Kellar, a retired Indiana University professor who is writing a history of the shipyard with his wife, Patricia, also an IU retiree. Kellar served on an Evansville-built LST during World War II.

On Feb. 13, 1942, the Navy announced that it would build a shipyard in Evansville that would produce oceangoing landing ships -- more than 700 miles from the ocean.

The idea still raises questions 50 years later, evidenced by a letter to The Evansville Courier from Alan Fowler of Sheffield, England, a former Royal Navy crewman who served on an LST built in Evansville.

"I have since become interested in the construction of these ships and was surprised to find that Evansville, Ind., a Cornfield Shipyard, is in no way convenient to deep water," wrote Fowler.

"I would be interested to learn how these ships, 328 feet long and with a beam of 50 feet, were transported from Evansville to the Atlantic Seaboard."

The characteristic that made military planners so eager to get the ships was what made inland construction possible. The LST -- Landing Ship Tank -- was capable of navigating in as little as 8 feet of water. With locks and dams maintaining a pool consistently above that, Evansville had an open route to the sea by way of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers.

Responding to Koch's persistence and impressed by the speed with which local officials gathered requested data, the Navy selected Evansville as one of its inland shipyards.

The shipyard was built at a cost of \$6,358 million on a 45 acre site south of Ohio Street between Mead Johnson Terminal and Southern Indiana Gas & Electric Co.'s Ohio River generating plant.

The yard was operated by a group of companies headed by Missouri Valley Bridge and Iron Co. of Leavenworth, Kan.

Reitz Hill, which overlooked the shipyard, was to be off limits to civilians.

"I couldn't understand how they could do that," said longtime Evansville resident John Payne.

The city wouldn't go along with the Navy's request.

"We would have it under surveillance," said Charles Guard, a member of the shipyard security force. Guards used telescopes to watch the hill for anyone acting suspiciously.

"If it was a boy and his girlfriend, that was something else," he said.

With the ship yard still under construction, the first keel was laid on June 25, 1942. That first ship, LST 157, was launched Oct. 31.

"I know when they launched the first one, there was the awful crowd of people you ever saw," said Bernie Horn, a shipyard worker from Patronville, Ind., in Spencer County. "The workers were hanging all over the scaffolds and everything."

The yard was designed to complete four ships a month. That was increased to one every 13 days, then one every five days and, finally, one every three or four days over a period of more than a year.

Exceeding quotas became a habit. In April 1944, for example, the Navy gave the shipyard a 17-ship quota. Evansville built 20. As many as 27 ships were under construction at one time.

The shipyard was one of 11 Evansville companies to earn

Army-Navy "E" awards for excellence in quality and quantity.

Peak employment at the shipyard was 19,500, with an estimated 70,000 people having worked there over its four-year life. Employees were from the Tri-State, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Ohio and Elsewhere.

Of the 1,051 LSTs built during World War II, 670 were built by inland ship yards. Evansville built the most -- 167 LSTs and four amphibious barracks ships naval reference books describe as "LST conversions."

The shipyard also manufactured 13 ammunition lighters and 17 oceangoing barges -- 201 ships total, costing \$300 million. The output made it the largest inland producer of oceangoing ships.

"We built the most and the best," said Roman Ritzert, who started work at the shipyard in March 1942 and became chief hill inspector.

"The biggest majority of them have been scrapped, which is a dirty shame."

To accomplish that production record the shipyard worked around the clock.

"It was as light as day" on the night shifts, Ritzert said. "From here, I'd look down at the shipyard and it looked like the sun was coming up," he said from his home near Weinbach and Bellemeade Avenues.

Building ships was a labor-intensive undertaking, a problem aggravated by so many men being called into the military other resources had to be explored.

"I was a firm believer that women would make good welders," Ritzert said "because she was neat in stitching a seam and, therefore she would lay out a good weld."

The year's first three-position welder -- flat, horizontal, and vertical-overhead - was a woman, Emma Monroe of Oakland City, Ind.

Her husband, Albert, started at the shipyard first, and she followed, getting her training first at Mechanic Arts and the shipyard school.

"They had a call for everybody to go to work, so you went to work," Mrs. Monroe said.

She welded for a year. "The foreman would bring people around to see my welds," she said.

After a year, she began teaching in the shipyard school. She taught 200 men and women to weld. As a teacher, she made more money than her husband, but that caused to rift.

"He was proud of me," she said. After the shipyard, Mrs. Monroe never held another job outside the home.

Ritzert estimated 30 percent to 35 percent of the shipyard employees were women. Besides welding, they were messengers, ship fitters, blueprint readers and office personnel.

Shifts were eight hours, six days a week, said Herman Wickler, who was head coordinator. Welders earned \$60 to \$90 a week, superintendents \$100. Ritzert started as an inspector at \$30, two weeks later he was making \$60 and finally \$90 as chief inspector.

Midgets and dwarfs were used to weld inside small sections in the lower parts of the ship.

Blacks employed at the shipyard held janitor and supply room positions. Ritzert doesn't recall any black applying for training.

"We had a dedicated people down there at the shipyard," said Ritzert whose work experience was in construction.

"They never worked on a ship in their lives. They were farmers, plumbers. You could get anything done with this group. The people of Evansville were outstanding in their contribution."

The ships had a variety of nicknames -- Last Stop Tokyo,

Low Slow Target Ivory Snow. They were sorely needed to conduct the amphibious warfare that set World War II apart from previous conflicts.

Celebrities dropped in from time to time.

Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau addressed the nation from the shipyard while here for the commissioning of LST 128 on Sept. 30, 1943.

Other visitors included Rear Adm. E.L. Cochrane, chief of the Bureau of Ships; James V. Forrestal, undersecretary of the Navy and soon to become secretary of the Navy; actor-dancer Gene Kelly, who rode one of the ships; and Mrs. Mark Clark, wife of the Allied commander in Italy.

Jim Yellig, who would become a nationally known Santa Claus, worked at the shipyard and once donned his red suit on a ship.

Ernie Pyle praised the LST in a column.

Horn was one of five or six men who rode together everyday from Rockfort on took a bus that ran each day out to Owensboro, Ky.

He welded and worked as a lead man until he was drafted in February 1945. The Army went him to Okinawa where he and other soldiers were loaded onto LSTs bound for occupation duty in Korea.

The trip was cut short by a typhoon that sent the flotilla back to Okinawa. At Horn's LST, which was built in Pittsburgh, was tossed by the stormy seas, he recalled thinking, "Lord, I wish I had done a better job on the ones I built."

But Ritzert said Evansville's quality record was exemplary. Not one ship built here cracked up because of poor workmanship. Ten were lost during the war: seven by enemy attack and three by accidents.

LSTs rode like the sea.

"You could see the floor flex; they were made to flex; but some of those soldiers were ready to abandon ship when it did," said Daniel Tucker of Evansville, who served on LST 554 built in Evansville.

The March 21, 1942, announcement that Republic Aviation would build a fighter airplane factory in Evansville almost sent the Navy and its shipyard plans packing, Kellar said.

The Navy was concerned that Evansville's labor base could not support two major defense plants.

"There were letters passed back and forth in which there was discussion about moving the shipyard to Paducah and other places," he said.

That discussion continued for about 10 days before it died.

"Moving it would have delayed things too much, I'm sure," Kellar said. Winston Churchill already was complaining that the war was being held up waiting for LSTs.

Workers moved into Republic's administration building two months and two days after ground was broken on April 7, 1942.

The steel for the building came from International Steel's inventory, said John F.W. Koch, Walter Koch's nephew who also worked at International. "The building was built to fit that inventory, that's how it was built that fast."

The assembly plant was constructed in 50-foot sections, with machinery added as construction marched on.

"By the time they got to the end, they started rolling airplanes out," said Frank Whetsel, a Republic worker who started in April 1942.

Evansville's first P-47 Thunderbolt, dubbed the Hoosier Spirit, was built with parts shipped to Evansville from Republic's Farmingdale, Long Island, plant.

The Evansville plant would produce 6,242 fighters, nearly half of all P-47s built.

As many as 30 fighters a day were flown out of Evansville by ferry pilots, some of them women. The arrival of the first woman ferry pilot led to a row.

Plant officials had covered the P-47 she was to fly. When the cover was removed, staring back were the words, "Flying Prostitute."

"Boy, I tell you if that didn't raise a stink," Whetsel said.

Whetsel estimated that half of Republic's 5,000 employees, called RAIDERS, were women.

Servel produced the wings for the P-47. By 1943, women made up 40 percent of the work force there, compared to 15 percent before the war.

"Men were getting in trouble at home from their wives who knew these plants were seething with dubiously enjoyable young women," said Frances Martin, who worked at Servel.

Republic had its share of celebrity visitors.

On April 27, 1943, President Franklin Roosevelt dropped in to see the war work first-hand.

"I was sitting on a wing when he drove under it," Whetsel said. "I could have reached down and cracked him on the head if I wanted to. You don't usually get that close to those guys."

P-47s crashed occasionally, and accidents on the ground demonstrated the power of the fighter's 2,500-horsepower engine.

Airplanes were parked in front of the plant along U.S. 41. Once, Whetsel said, prop wash from a revved engine blew out a plateglass window. On another occasion, an unfortunate cabby driving past the plant crossed paths with the wash from a P-47 and the hood of his taxi vanished.

"It ripped it off and spun it clear across the railroad tracks," Whetsel grinned.

The Modification Center, an AAF facility operated by Republic, was built in late 1942 across the airport from Republic's assembly plant.

It performed a number of post-production jobs such as installing radios, radar, and other modifications.

In three years the center modified nearly 1,100 military airplanes, including P-47s, P-51 Mustangs, P-39 Airacobras and P-61 Black Widow fighters, the Vultee A-35A Vengeance dive bomber, and B-25 Mitchell and B-24 Liberator bombers.

The Modification Center struggled at times to get the materials it needed, but then there was Tuli.

Tuli Filardo came to the center from Republic's Farmingdale plant and became a master at finding what was needed.

"Tuli was a little Italian fellow," said William Ingle, who worked at the center. "He reminded me of Columbo. He always wore an overcoat as long as he could. He would go visit his friends at the Indiana Division. When Tuli would come back, he was barely able to drag that coat."

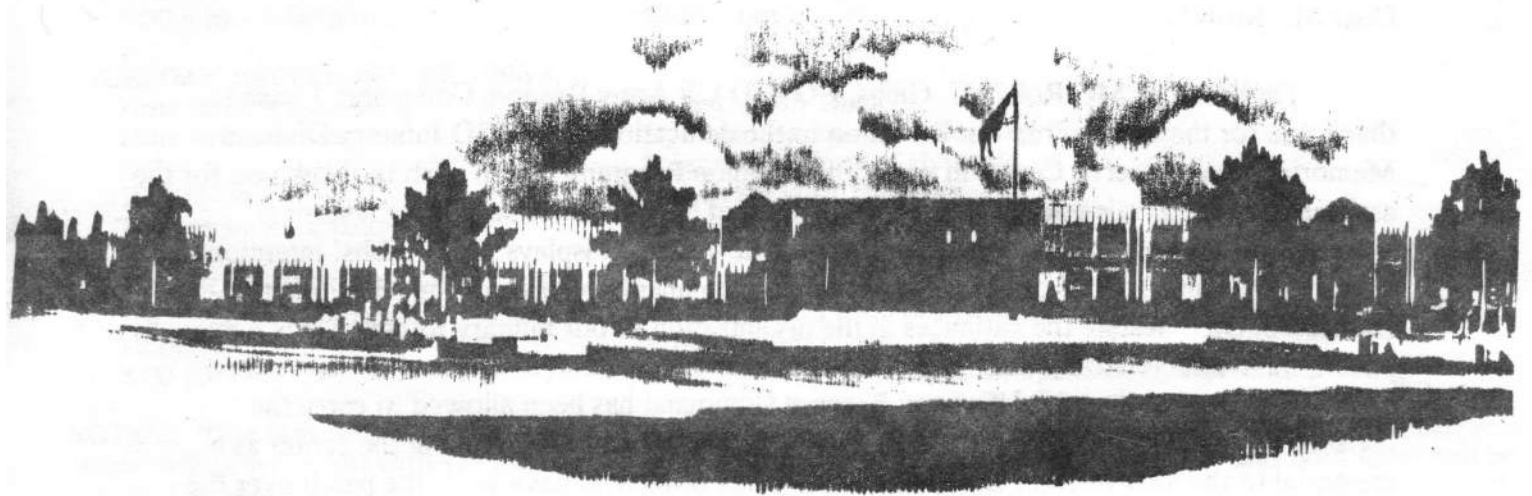
Bill Mullen of Huntingburg, Ind., flew 72 missions in a P-47, 10 escorting heavy bombers, the rest on close support missions.

The plane was maneuverable in a dogfight, and packed a deadly punch with bombs and its eight .50 caliber machine guns. But more important, it was rugged.

"It would bring a pilot home after being hit," Mullen said. "Pilots were real confident with it."

"The people of Evansville can be thanked for making strong airplanes."

The 83D US Army Reserve Command
invites all members of the
83D Infantry Division Association
to the dedication of
The 83D Infantry Division Memorial
Army Reserve Center

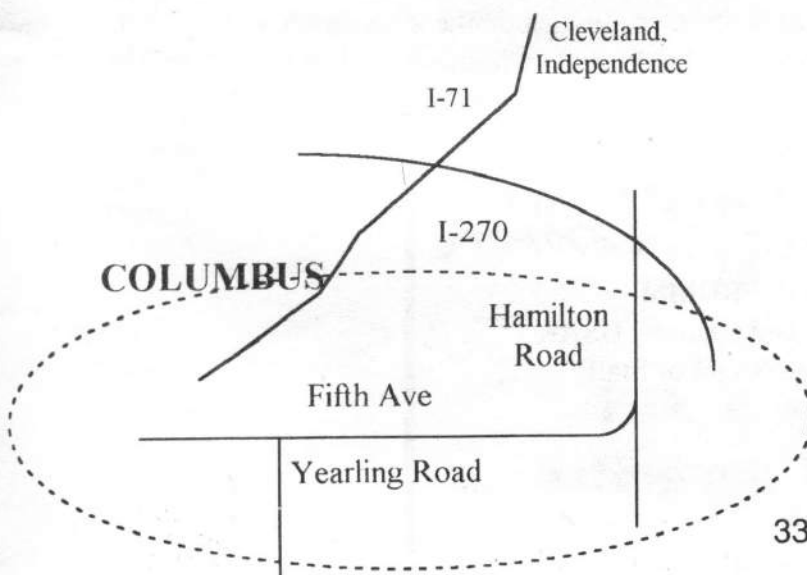


165 Yearling Road, Columbus, Ohio
1330 hours Sunday 18 August 1996

I invite you to join the Officers,
Soldiers and Civilians of the
83D US Army Reserve Command ,
as we dedicate the
US Army Reserve Training Center
as the

83D Infantry Division Memorial
Army Reserve Center
in recognition and memory of the
service and sacrifices the members
of the 83D Infantry Division have
made for our nation.

ROLLYN C. GIBBS
Major General, USAR
Commanding





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
83D UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE COMMAND
3990 EAST BROAD STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 16515
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43216-5004

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

5 April 1996

Mr. Casey Szubski
President
83D Infantry Division Association, Inc.
8221 Bertha Ave
Parma, Ohio 44129

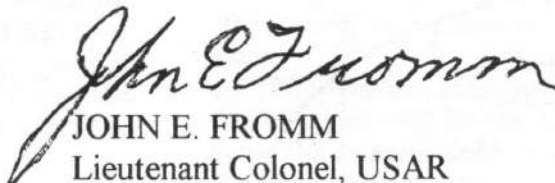
Dear Mr. Szubski,

On behalf of MG Rollyn C. Gibbs, CG 83D US Army Reserve Command, I wish to thank you for the offer to run our invitation to the dedication of the 83D Infantry Division Memorial Army Reserve Center in your 50th Reunion Program. I also wish to thank you for the assistance and referrals you provided to Mr. Barnard Kemter in his search for historical information and materials on the division for the new center displays. MG Gibbs' intention in selecting the name for the center was to create a permanent presence of the 83D Infantry Division in Ohio despite the variances in the organization of our military forces. He is personally proud to have served in the 83D Infantry Division during its assignment to the reserve forces and is honored that the 83D US Army Reserve Command has been allowed to carry the division's colors as custodian during the last 28 years. He feels that naming the center as a memorial to the 83D Infantry Division will honor all of us who have worn the patch over the years in any role.

I have enclosed a sample of how I propose the add appear, a sheet of the text, the drawing used on the add and the two star flag used in composing the sample. I am confident your printer will be able to reproduce the drawing to higher quality than I could on a copier. Feel free to reorganize the add as necessary to fit. You can call me at (614) 692-4117 if there are any questions.

We hope the members of the association are able to attend the dedication. I will be contacting you as we develop the plans for the ceremonies to include the association as participants and to identify individuals to whom we should mail invitations.

Sincerely,


JOHN E. FROMM
Lieutenant Colonel, USAR
Assistant Chief of Staff

TENTATIVE PROGRAM
BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.
REUNION
Hyannis, Massachusetts
September 8 - 11, 1996

• SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1996 •

12:00 Noon - 5:00 p.m.
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Registration, Headquarters Hotel, Cape Codder Hotel, Hyannis
Welcome Wine & Cheese Reception
Welcome Address: Township Manager Warren J. Rutherford

• MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1996 •

9:00 a.m. - 5:00
Time to be announced
12:00 Noon
6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Registration, Headquarters Hotel, Cape Codder Hotel, Hyannis
Whale Watch Trip by Boat
Lunch on your own
Clambake Buffet

• TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1996 •

Time to be announced
Time to be announced

12:00 Noon -
Time to be announced

Registration Desk
Hyannis Harbor Port Tour by Boat
Inland Bus Tour of Hyannis
Lunch on your Hyannis
Membership Meeting at Cape Codder Hotel

• WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1995 •

Time to be announced
12:00 Noon -
7:00 p.m. -

Bus visit and tour of Plymouth Plantation and Plymouth rock
Lunch on your own
Annual Banquet with guest speaker, dinner and dancing.

NOTICE: This tentative Program is provided to allow you to make your plans. The next issue of *The Bulge Bugle* will provide you with complete information regarding times, costs, etc. The bus and boat tours will be optional events.

DELTA AIR LINES (telephone 1-800-241-6760) has been chosen to handle air transportation needs for the Hyannis meeting. Travel dates encompass September 5 thru 14, 1996. Tell them you are with the Battle of the Bulge and the File Number is XR2883. This telephone service is available daily 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. (Eastern Time). To take advantage of the discount offered call the number provided above or your travel agent.

For More Up-To-Date
Info.:
VBOB
P.O. Box 11129
Arlington, VA 22210

European Theater Casualties

During WWII, the U.S. Army deployed 68 combat divisions to the European Theater of Operations. Those infantry, armored, airborne and mountain divisions suffered 78% of all Army casualties sustained in the theater.

The infantry, by far, absorbed the greatest percentage of casualties: 80% of Army killed in action. While only 14% of the Army's total overseas strength, the infantry suffered 70% of all battle casualties. Rifleman equaled

68% of an infantry division's manpower, but accounted for 95% of its casualties.

Divisions varied widely as far as time in combat. For instance, the 3rd Infantry Division went into action in November 1942; the 13th Airborne Division arrived in France on Feb. 6, 1945, but was never deployed in combat. Maximum time in combat for the average infantryman was 200 days before he reached the breaking point.

U.S. Army Division Casualties in Descending Order

Division	Combat Deaths	Wounded In Action	Division	Combat Deaths	Wounded In Action
3rd Inf.	5,558	18,766	104th Inf.	1,114	3,657
4th Inf.	4,854	17,371	7th Armored	1,098	3,811
29th Inf.	4,786	15,541	102nd Inf.	1,077	3,668
9th Inf.	4,504	17,416	6th Armored	989	3,666
1st Inf.	4,280	15,208	100th Inf.	984	3,539
45th Inf.	4,080	14,441	63rd Inf.	974	3,326
90th Inf.	3,930	14,386	10th Mountain	953	3,134
36th Inf.	3,637	13,191	75th Inf.	928	3,314
83rd Inf.	3,620	11,807	70th Inf.	834	2,713
30th Inf.	3,516	13,376	103rd Inf.	821	3,329
2nd Inf.	3,488	12,785	66th Inf.	800	636
80th Inf.	3,480	12,484	10th Armored	774	3,109
34th Inf.	3,350	11,545	12th Armored	725	2,416
35th Inf.	2,947	11,526	5th Armored	710	2,442
79th Inf.	2,943	10,971	9th Armored	693	2,280
8th Inf.	2,820	10,057	42nd Inf.	638	2,212
28th Inf.	2,683	9,609	92nd Inf.	616	2,187
5th Inf.	2,656	9,549	14th Armored	560	1,955
88th Inf.	2,556	9,225	76th Inf.	523	1,811
3rd Armored	2,126	6,963	11th Armored	522	2,394
26th Inf.	2,112	7,886	106th Inf.	470	1,278
101st Airborne	2,090	6,388	8th Armored	466	1,572
82nd Airborne	1,951	6,560	69th Inf.	383	1,146
85th Inf.	1,736	6,314	89th Inf.	325	692
78th Inf.	1,625	6,103	71st Inf.	278	843
91st Inf.	1,575	6,748	65th Inf.	260	927
84th Inf.	1,438	5,098	13th Armored	253	912
1st Armored	1,428	5,168	97th Inf.	214	721
17th Airborne	1,382	4,904	86th Inf.	161	618
95th Inf.	1,372	4,945	20th Armored	59	134
4th Armored	1,356	4,551	16th Armored	5	28
87th Inf.	1,295	4,342	13th Airborne	0	0
44th Inf.	1,206	4,209			
2nd Armored	1,183	4,557			
94th Inf.	1,156	4,789			
99th Inf.	1,134	4,177			

Source: Order of Battle, U.S. Army World War II by Shelby L. Stanton (Navato, Calif: Presidio Press, 1984).

Patches shown represent the 10 divisions that suffered the highest number of killed in action. Patches courtesy of Val Kolesik, Independence, MO.



3rd Infantry



4th Infantry



29th Infantry



9th Infantry



1st Infantry



45th Infantry



90th Infantry



36th Infantry



83rd Infantry



30th Infantry

U.S. Army ETO Combat Casualties By Campaign

Campaign	Dates	Ground KIA	Air KIA	Total KIA	% of All KIA
Rhineland	15 Sept. '44 - 21 March '45	45,649	4,761	50,410	28.9
Ardennes-Alsace	16 Dec. '44 - 25 Jan. '45	17,932	1,314	19,246	11.0
Northern France	25 July - 14 Sept. '44	15,583	2,261	17,844	10.2
Normandy	6 June - 24 July '44	13,787	2,506	16,293	9.3
Central Europe	22 March - 11 May '45	13,376	1,633	15,009	8.6

Source: Computed from Dept. of the Army, Army Battle Casualties and Non-Battle Deaths in WWII: Final Report. Washington, D.C., 1953. *Air campaign beginning dates are earlier. Note: Designated campaign tally excludes 3,459 KIA not categorized by campaign, which brings the grand total to 177,549 KIA.

A MESSAGE TO ALL 83RD MEMBERS.....

Anyone wishing to purchase 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
Jim Burton Tapes \$10.00 Each

(Postage and Handling Included)

Contact the Association Office

**83rd Reunion Will be held at
Independence, Ohio**

**Dates are
August 14, 15, 16, 17, 1996**

**DUES ARE DUE NOW
FOR 1996 (\$10.00)**

Starting Aug. 1, 1997, Dues will be \$15.00.

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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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME (please print) _____

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CITY, or TOWN & STATE _____

Company _____ Regiment _____ 83rd Division

Phone No. _____ Renewal _____ New _____

Please Enclose A Check or Money Order
DUES (1997) \$15.00 PAYABLE TO:

Office Phone:
(513) 863-2199

ROBERT DERICKSON
3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013-8907

Date _____ Signature _____

BULLETIN

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