



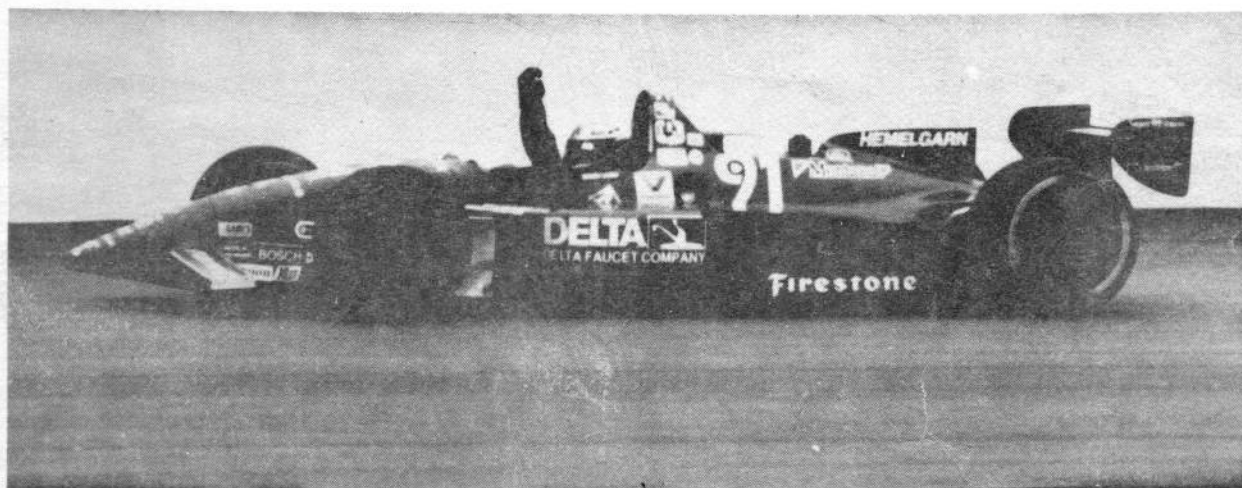
THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 52 No. 2

Spring Issue 1997



Hemelgarn Racing driver Buddy Lazier and his Hemelgarn Racing/Delta Faucet/Montana '95 Reynard-Ford speed to victory at the 80th running of the Indianapolis 500.

51st Annual Reunion

Indianapolis, Indiana

August 20, 21, 22, 23, 1997

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	*Samuel Klippa.....	1965	Ralph Gunderson.....	1982
Jack M. Straus.....	1948	*William M. Doty.....	1966	Arthur Doggett.....	1983
*Shelly Hughes.....	1949	Albert A. Belvedere.....	1967	Bernie Cove.....	1984
*Julius Ansel.....	1950	Vito C. Palazzolo.....	1968	Carroll Brown.....	1985
*Walter H. Edwards Jr.....	1951	Pat DiGiammerino.....	1969	John Hobbs.....	1986
Leo Schneider.....	1951	Casey Szubski.....	1970	George Pletcher.....	1987
Finley Heyl.....	1953	*Charles Altomari.....	1971	*Charles Schmidt.....	1988
*Lawrence J. Redmond.....	1954-55	*Harold H. Dopp.....	1972	Edward Reuss.....	1989
*Lt. Gen. Robert H. York.....	1956	Louis J. Volpi.....	1973	Charles J. Lussier.....	1990
*Harry W. Lockwood.....	1957	Bernard O. Riddle.....	1974	Edgar H. Haynes.....	1991
*Raymond J. Voracek.....	1958	Robert G. Taylor.....	1975	Ned Smith.....	1992
Charles Abdinoor.....	1959	Mike Skovran.....	1976	Louis Sandini.....	1993
*Joseph F. Minotti.....	1960	Manlius Goodridge.....	1977	William A. Minick.....	1994
*Frank J. McGrogan.....	1961	Joseph A. Macaluso.....	1978	Casey Szubski.....	1995
John W. Robinette.....	1962	*William J. Chavanne.....	1979		
*Manuel C. Martin.....	1963	*Samuel Klippa.....	1980		
*Julius Boyles.....	1964	Michael Caprio.....	1981		

* Denotes Deceased

On The Cover.....

The picture of the car on the cover is the car that won the Indy 500 race May 26, 1996. The car is owned by Ron Hemelgarn of Hemelgarn Racing and was driven by Buddy Lazier.

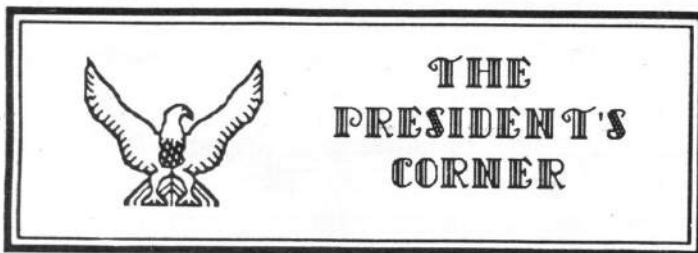
Hemelgarn will have a race car on display at Adams Mark Hotel in Indianapolis the entire stay of our reunion.

Hemelgarn has his office building in Toledo, Ohio and has become one of Americas most successful entrepreneurs in the fitness business (over 300 health spas), real estate development, financing institutions and automobile racing.

Hemelgarn's first direct involvement with the Indy 500 came in 1978 when he sponsored Dick Simons entry. He continued as a sponsor through 1983.

In 1984 he decided to buy his own Indy car team with the hope of winning the Indy 500. Car team with the hope of winning the Indy 500. Hemelgarn has teamed with some of the most well known drivers such as Gordon Johncock, Jacques Villeneuve, Arie Luyendyk, Tom Sneva, Billy Urvich, Paul Tracy, Robby Unser, Star Fox and Buddy Lazier the 1996 Indy 500 winner.

Ron Hemelgarn is the nephew of an 83rd member, Bob and Lois Brinkman of Minster, Ohio 'G' Co. 329.



Greetings to each and everyone! This is a message of information in request to special accommodations.

Enclosed is a list of suites available. Included are their locations, sizes, and pricing. Your chapter, group, company, or individuals may choose the one that best meets your needs. Once you have made your selection, please notify the hotel of your reservation choice and method of payment.

If a group decides to reserve a suite and several members want in the same general location, you may make personal reservations and mail them in a package. The suite should be reserved first. There are limitations and they are not guaranteed. Early reservations would be helpful!

We have a large hospitality room that will be open long hours. It will be available for everyone to visit and party.

This is also a special invitation to each of

you to attend our 51st Reunion at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Indianapolis, August 20 through 23, 1997.

If I can be of help please contact me at (765) 453-3439. Wishing the best for each and every 83rd and his family.

Your 1997 President,
Floyd J. Richmond

ADAM'S MARK HOTEL - INDIANAPOLIS SUITES

"62" Suite (29' x 19') Features a comfortable sitting area with couch, two chairs, coffee table, desk, kitchen/wet bar w/refrigerator, and a permanent conference table which seats up to 16 people. Built-in white board and pull down screens in all "62" suites with the exception of 162, which has a blackboard. Both a king size and double/double room connect to each "62" parlor on the 2nd-6th floors. All "62" suites have a Murphy Bed. (6 - "62" suites available) **\$200.00 per night.**

"19" Suite (29' x 19') Features a comfortable sitting area with couch, two chairs, coffee table, desk, kitchen/wet bar w/refrigerator, and a permanent conference table serving up to 10 people. A double/double room connects to each "19" suite on the 2nd-4th floors, and a king size room connects on the 5th and 6th floor. Suite 619 is a balcony suite. Suites 519 and 619 have no beds. (5 - "19" Suites available) **\$200.00 per night.**

"65" Parlor (21' x 19') Features a comfortable sitting area with couch, two chairs, coffee table, desk, and a small bar top with sink (no refrigerator). Both a king size and double/double room connect to each "65" parlor on the 3rd - 6th floors. (4 - "65" Suites available. **\$150.00 per night.**

"02" Parlor (20' x 19') Features a comfortable sitting area with couch, two chairs, coffee table, desk, and a small wet bar and refrigerator. A double/double room connects to each "02" parlor on the 3rd - 6th floors. Suite 202 has no connectors, Suite 602 is a balcony suite. All "02" Suites have a Murphy bed. (5 - "02" Suites available) **\$150.00 per night.**

"56" Parlor (18' x 15') Features a comfortable sitting area with couch, chairs and a desk. A king size room connects to each on the 1st - 6th floors. (6 - "56" Suites)

"73" Parlor (20' x 15') Features a comfortable sitting area with couch and chairs, and a desk. A double/double room connects to each "73" Suite on the 1st - 6th floors. (6 - "73" Suites available)

"48" Parlor (15' x 17') Features a comfortable sitting area with couch and chairs, and a desk. No connecting rooms. ("48" parlors available)

Board Chairman's Corner

My hope is that you had a good holiday season and that the coming year will be healthy, productive, and pleasant.

In response to the last article I had in the "Thunderbolt" I received one letter and I am grateful for that. If our organization is to remain viable, your executive board needs, indeed requires your input. We welcome your comments, your desires for the organization,

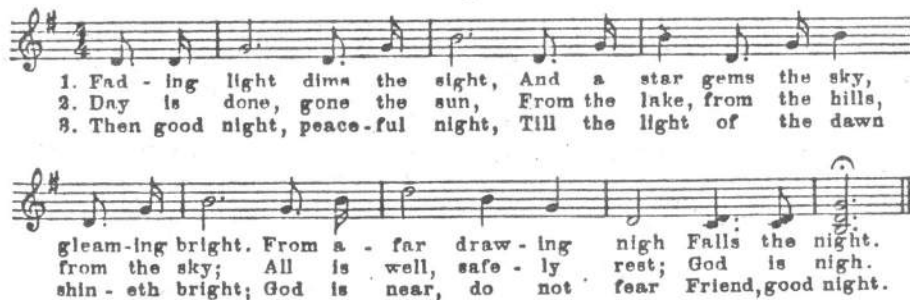
your recommendations on improvements, and how we, as your board, may serve you better as well as more efficiently. Please direct all your correspondence to me, and rest assured it will be discussed with all board members. It is my intention to provide you, the membership with the best operating organization possible under the present constitution and by-laws.

It appears that our reunion in Indianapolis is shaping up real well. Please formulate your plans to attend now in order that you may enjoy being in the presence of your buddies and second family, the 83d division Association.

Carroll Brown

Deceased List

Taps



1. Fad - ing light dims the sight, And a star gems the sky,
 2. Day is done, gone the sun, From the lake, from the hills,
 3. Then good night, peace - ful night, Till the light of the dawn

gleam - ing bright. From a - far draw - ing nigh Falls the night.
 from the sky; All is well, safe - ly rest; God is nigh.
 shin - eth bright; God is near, do not fear Friend, good night.

Our sympathy goes out to all the families of these veterans. We will miss you all.

<u>Deceased</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Reported By</u>	<u>Deceased</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Reported By</u>
Amoral, John	"D" 329th	Pat DiGiammerino	Hurley William	"H" 329th	Family
Bailey, Charles	"C" 453rd	Fred Pearson	Joyce, Peter II	"HQ" 331st	Pat DiGiammerino
Bane, William	"H" 330th	Wife	Kenzie, James	"A" 329th	Beth Kenzie
Beasley, Elmer	"A" 329	John Gruss	Kickline, Morris	Div. HQ	Wm Wilkly
Brewer, Everett	"HQ" 324	W. Ballard	Lagaly, Roy	1st BNHQ 331	Wilson Day
Boyer, Donald A	Sig. Co.	Sal Scicolone	Lamos, Dennis	"M" 331st	Pat DiGiammerino
Burt, James	HQ 331st	Allen Fisher	Lozowski	"E" 329th	Jim McCulla
Cathell, Merle	"B" 453rd	Fred Pearson	Martin, Lawrence	"L" 331st	Pat DiGiammerino
Cline, Austin	"CN" 331st	Pat DiGiammerino	McCabe, Francis		Daughter
Consiglio, John	"Div.. HQS"	Wm. Wilhelmy	Meade, Victor	"G" 331	Wilson Day
Cutlys, Orval G.	"D" 331st	Al Shrawder	Mitself, Ray	"F" 329th	Bob Whitecomb
Dallon, Marvin	"HQ" 453	Fred Pearson	Padgett, Doran		Wife, Alice
Deisher, Earl	"HQ" 329th	Casey Szubski	Peterson, George	308 Eng.	Gordon Dorningfield
Dillard, Everett	"E" 329th	wife	Rein, Fred	"K" 330th	Stan Bielen
Ferari LeVerne	"B" 453rd	Fred Pearson	Revise, Millard	"H" 330th	Carroll Brown
Fraunberger, Stephen	329th	wife	Ruscito, Frank	"E" 331	Allen Jisher
Garnier Ralph	"G" 331st	Joe Macaluso	Schachtmeister, Sid.	"Med 331st"	wife
Harrell, Robert		wife	Scott, Leroy	"A" 308th	Pauline, wife
			Wilberwicz, Francis	"F" 331	Wm. Wilhelmy

From the Office.....



I hope everybody has had a good winter and ready for some good spring weather. By the time this issue gets to you the 1st quarter of 1997 would have gone by. That means we need to be making plans for the Reunion at Adams Mark Hotel in Indianapolis. Since our 1st issue of the Thunderbolt magazine we have made some improvement in our way of explaining changes of procedures. Look for it to be in the center fold of the magazine. If anybody would have any question please write us a note or give me a call. In my message in issue #1 I said the dead time for pre-registration to be into the office by July 24, 1997. I would like to move it up to July 1, 1997. The reason is we need to have a final count of registration for tours by July 15th to reserve a number of busses. If for some reason you miss the Dead Line don't hesitate to send in your pre-registration form we will try to accommodate.

As some of you know at the last reunion Pearl had a problem of walking. Had to have surgery the second time on her foot. That cleared up that problem. That was not a cure of her walking disability. By having a MRI they have found a spur pinching a nerve controlling her left leg. Now she will be going through some physical therapy to relieve the pressure; so that she can have better walking mobility.

I was notified that Meadors Minich had a triple by pass done on his heart and is home recuperating. May God keep us all in good health so we can enjoy another great Reunion.

Bob Derickson, Nat'l Sec. - Treas.



Message from Vito Palazzolo

I was asked by many of our members to come up with a 50 year Anniversary Tee shirt for a remembrance of the 50th year Reunion and a keepsake. I have come up with a tee shirt with a 83rd logo on front & back, a very colorful keepsake. One with 51st will be available. Also you can order one with Logos only. Sizes -sm- Med. - Large - X Lg. - XX Lg. You may call or write Vito C. Palazzolo, 2000 Lancaster, Harper Woods, MI 48225-1630, (313-881-2364) for more information.



50th Year Remembrance Tee Shirt



The 83rd Infantry Div. Logo



Historian's Corner



War is a strange phenomenon indeed. Funk & Wagnalls' describes "phenomenon" as being "something or an action that is an unusual occurrence, marvel" Certainly World War II can be classified as having been a phenomenon - no one will argue that...

Since the last publication of "THE THUNDERBOLT", I've received no less than three inquiries about engagements of the 83rd from veterans who for various reasons want to learn more about specific events that affected their individual lives in different ways. That in and of itself is not too unusual even the passage of MORE than a half century.

What is unusual is that these veterans seeking information served in the German Army - our former enemy, our former adversaries. That was a long, long time ago. Much has happened in the world since then and therefore. I believe we should try to help them in their quest which I will briefly describe below using only initials as identification.

HGS - says he had a brother that died from wounds received in a battle on or about April 10, 1945 - just before the war's end. The action supposedly involved units of the 83rd and took place in a small village named LIEBENBURG, which is west of Magdeburg, between Salzgitter and Goslar. The pastor of the local protestant church thinks he is buried in one of the seven German graves in the churchyard. However, HGS believes his wounded brother may have been taken to a large hospital at Salzgitter-Drutte where he later died. HGS would appreciate corroboration or any information about this action.

JM - was a member of the 6th Parachute Regiment under the command of Oberstleutnant Von der Heydte. His interest centers around the December '44/January '45 period in the Hurtgen Forest area - south of the city of Duren, - the line (he says) ran from Untermuibach to Obermauibach (on the Ruhr river) to Zerkall to Nideggen to Abenden to Schmidt. JM would like to hear from anyone who partici-

pated in engagements in this vicinity (the Bulge???) and would be willing to share his experiences with him. (He has provided detailed area maps which I'd would send to anyone who expresses an interest in this query).

HHR - was a 17 year old youth when he was conscripted into the German Army in December 1944. He was serving as a private with the 1st battalion, 1064th Grenadier Regiment on April 12th or 13th 1945 at the town of Barby on the Elbe when he was captured (by men of the 329th, he later learned) and became a POW until released in July. It was when he returned home that he found out that his father's print shop in Braunschweig published a History of the 329th "Buckshot" Infantry Regiment - Edited by 1st Lt. Daniel P. O'Connor with a preface by Colonel Edwin B. Crabhill. HHR is trying to make contact with anyone who served with the 329th in or around the town of Barby on or about the 12th or 13th of April. He is to travel to Indianapolis to meet such an individual at the next reunion. (HHR spends a considerable amount of time in the Florida and elsewhere in the states. Since he was in my area, I met with HHR yesterday and found him to be most pleasant and fully conversant in the English language Although I had served in the 329th, since I was no longer with them at Barby, I was not very helpful.

There you have it. Three individuals from "the other side" of history's greatest conflict, all, for their own personal reasons, wishing to learn some little specifics to help satisfy their curiosities about an important part of their lives.

Contact me if you wish to respond to any of the above three veterans.

Remember, we were INDEED, the very best.

B. John Prinzi
Your Historian

Army Unit honored at new center

After 79 years, 83rd Command is out of business

By Felix Hoover - Dispatch Staff Reporter

Minutes after the 83rd Army Command flag flew for the last time, a \$14 million building complex was dedicated to thousands of soldiers who have represented Ohio since World War I.

The 83rd's command flag received the respect of about 150 military and civilian audience members in a ceremony of endings and beginnings.

Also raised at the dedication was a 48-star U.S. flag from a personnel carrier that carried Ohio troops during World War II. The flags were raised at the dedication yesterday of the 83rd Infantry Division Memorial U.S. Army Reserve Center, 161-185 N. Yearling Rd. in Whitehall.

The center will house 14 units that are being reassigned to the 88th Regional Support Command based in Minneapolis.

The units have been part of the 83rd Army Command, with headquarters at the Defense Supply Center Columbus, 3990 E. Broad St.

Yesterday's ceremony included deactivation of the 83rd, one of the commands eliminated in the army's reduction program.

Maj. Gen. Rollyn C. Gibbs, who retires next month as commanding general of the 83rd ARCOM, presided over the ceremony. He pointed to the end of the Cold War and the introduction of new computer technology as reasons for the army's changing structure.

During a reception following the ceremony, he talked about some of the advantage of the new reserve center. The 758th Maintenance Company, for example, has \$30 million worth of equipment but until now lacked the space to use much of it, Gibbs said. The new center also provides space to help units prepare for future mobilization.

The complex, on 150,000 acres, includes a state-of-the-art rehearsal hall and studio for the 338th Army Reserve Band and a dark room for the 367th Public Affairs Detachment, he said.

The 83rd Army Command was established in 1967 at Fort Hayes on the Near East Side. It carried on the tradition of the 83rd Infantry Division, which was organized in 1917 at Camp Sherman near Chillicothe.

A plaque marking yesterday's dedication is affixed to a rock from Camp Sherman.

Col. John Bartosh of the 5025th Garrison Support Unit will be the highest ranking reservist based at the center. The facility manager will be Robert Miller.

"With the heritage of the 83rd, that makes it even more special,"

Miller said.

'Thunderbolt' will aim blow no more

Ohio's 83rd Army Reserve Command will look back in pride Sunday as it marks the end of an era.

By Scott Powers - Dispatch Staff Reporter

It sent Ohio-based Army reservists to Bosnia, Haiti, Somalia, the Persian Gulf, Panama and Vietnam, built roads in Honduras and helped Ohioans dig out from the Blizzard of '78. But now the Thunderbolt will go silent.



Gibbs

The 83rd Army Reserve Command, headquarters for most Ohio based Army Reserve units, will end next month as federal budget cuts transfer command to a regional headquarters in Minneapolis.

The change officially takes place Sept. 15 but will be heralded at ceremonies Sunday.

The move will bring an end to Ohio's only Army Reserve command, located at 3990 E. Broad St. Created in 1967, its inspira-

tional roots date back to World War I through its namesake predecessor, the Army's famed 83rd Infantry Division, known as the "Thunderbolt"

Ohio's citizen soldiers and their Army Reserve units are not likely to be affected much. The 4,000 reservists in 85 units in Ohio are being reassigned to the newly formed 88th Regional Support Command in Minneapolis.

The 83rd's commander, Maj. Gen. Rollyn C. Gibbs of Columbus, and his staff looked back with pride and forward with understanding.

"You can't cut back without cutting something," said Sgt. Maj. John Schilling.

"It's the prize of winning the Cold War," added Col. Doug Browell.

"We should say 'That's great! Gibbs said. 'We don't need that layer of military establishment.'"

But none of that pragmatism reflects the Ohio heritage being retired with the 83rd.

Perhaps the biggest moment came in the Persian Gulf deployment and war of 1990-91 when 22 units under the 83rd, involving 3,400 troops, were deployed, and 2,000 troops sent to the gulf.

"We were very proud of our efforts because we had one of the highest contributions to Desert Shield and Desert Storm," Gibbs said. "It was a real mobilization of the reserve units. It showed what the American Army can do."

Once there, the Ohio Army reservists distinguished themselves for being highly trained and prepared, Gibbs said. It is a distinction that had been seen so often it was already a reputation, he said.

"Ohioans don't always wear their patriotism on their shoulders, but when they are called upon, they respond," Gibbs said.

On Sunday, ceremonies will mark the passing of the 83rd, the retirement of several top officers and noncommissioned officer, said a new beginning -- the opening of a new Army Reserve training center at 165 Yearling Rd.

Gibbs, deputy commander Brig. Gen. James A. Johnson, chief of staff Col. Girard E. Bescancency, Schilling and Chief Warrant Officer James A. Cobb, will retire.

So, too, will the 83rd's nickname, insignia and shoulder

patch - and with them some identification of the soldiers with Ohio and the respect that went with that, Becancency said.

The patch features a stylized gun sight made from the "O", "H," "I" and "O". The insignia is a blue cross with the Latin word Fulge - meaning thunder.

They were passed down from the Army's 83rd Infantry Division, which was organized in 1917 at Camp Sherman near Chillicothe, Ohio, and deactivated in 1965. The 83rd Infantry fought in both world wars and featured the first American units to meet the Russian Army at the Elbe River, before Germany.

The new Army Reserve training center will be called the 83rd Infantry Division Memorial Army Reserve Center.

Gibbs, a lawyer with Arter and Hadden in Columbus, believes he is the last active former member of the 83rd Infantry Division. He came under the 83rd Army Reserve Command when it was formed in 1967 and became commander in 1991.

"Yes, I regret the 83rd is going away because, after all, I've spent a long time devoting a portion of my life to the Army Reserve," he said. "But as the Ohio State University song says: 'time and change' Time and change say you have to move on."

Associated Press Carries First News Release of Division's Belgium Fight.

BY EDWARD D. BALL (AP)

Troops of the 83rd Infantry Division helped to blunt the tip of the German break-through thrust into Belgium and now are biting back into the enemy bulge on the First Army front.

Major General Robert C. Macon's doughboys played their Rochefort, not according to plan, as the communiques would put it, but of a confused situation in which the Germans were more confused than the Americans. The situation was resolved with happy ending for our side.

The 83rd went straight into action around Rochefort the night of Dec. 28 after a truck-borne dash from the Roer River front through the snow-whitened, moonlit German, Netherlands and Belgium countryside.

During the night, Company "B. 329th Infantry, commanded by Lt. Maurie L. Hill of Booneville, Miss, managed to knife into the town, while other units of the division crowded to the river outside Rochefort. For the next two days the Germans laid down massive artillery, tank and infantry fire from their part of the town. Company B took to the cellars.

The division lost radio contact with the company and sent a six man patrol to investigate. The patrol did not return. (It got in, made contact with the company but could not withdraw, so remained.) An attempt to send in reinforcements would have been plain suicide.

The division, which had just about decided that Company B was captured and could be written off, laid down a white phosphorous screen, anyway to cover the company's withdrawal on the off-chance that it existed. And not only did the company come out, it had sustained only three casualties (and brought along 6 prisoners including 3 officers).

In the meantime the Germans, who did not know Company B was still alive and kicking took the white phosphorous to mean a major attack was coming. They too, withdrew during the night. (The next day the British relieved the 83rd, entered battered Rochefort).

"When we were out of contact, the Krauts did their best to blast us to pieces, but we played tag with them and sniped them at every turn. - said Lt. Hill.

"My squad killed a bunch of Jerries and managed to capture three prisoners, including officers, - said Sgt. Perly Price, West Liberty, Ky. - When we withdrew the prisoners withdrew with us.

"Pvt. Henry J. Reday of Cleveland, Ohio, cut down six Germans, and Sgt. Robert Trevillian of Ashland, Ky., knocked out two German tanks with a bazooka.

Pfc. Wilbert Janke of Sheboygan, Wis., who speaks a smattering of German, answered a German's shouted demand for surrender with a burst from his BAR. - There was plenty of shooting and killing, said Janke. - But the Germans, not us, were on the receiving end.

Hello My Friends In The 83rd Div.

Although I did not serve with you, I feel as though we share a part of our lives in as much as we all served at Camp Atterbury.

During WW 2, you fought your way from one bloody battle to the next, while I was a 5 year old German child that was enduring bombing raids in Berlin and later survived the occupation by the Russians.

We all have traumatic memories of those days and we have learned to deal with them in our own ways.

Now, 52 years later, we will all gather in Indianapolis to share camaraderie and fellowship.

I look forward to meeting some more members of your organization and to listen to your reminiscence.

As you know, we successfully dedicated the Camp Atterbury Veterans Memorial in 1992 and many of you shared in that celebration with us.

We are now in our next phase of memorializing the great units that trained at Atterbury in preparation for battle:

The Camp Atterbury Indoor Museum

We have selected a WW2 Building on Post that will be configured into an indoor Museum. So far, we have raised \$10,000 from the Custer Foundation in Columbus and \$4000 from various Veterans.

We are using the available money to complete the work that will allow us to receive, catalogue, and display the items that you wish to have displayed under your name.

What we need from you when you come to visit during your reunion in 97 are three things:

- a) You and your good health
- b) The items that you wish to have displayed
- c) Your contribution to finish building restoration

We are counting on each one of you to assist in this endeavor because the museum along with the memorial will tell your story to the generations to follow. Please contemplate and resolve to do your part one more time.

I look forward to toasting you fellows and your gals in August 97.

Sincerely

Col. Jorg Stachel, AUSA
Former Post Commander
Camp Atterbury, Indiana

CHAPTERS

Pittsburgh Chapter.....

The chapter Christmas Party was held Sunday, December 15, 1996 at the Royal Two Restaurant in Castle Shannon, Pa. with 39 persons attending. The only absentees were Ezio and Frances Alicandri. "Smokey" as he is commonly known was imbedded by the flu bug. This affair was chaired by Charles Hawkins with an assist from his wife Susan. This was an afternoon affair with the only deterrent from socializing was the pro football game between the Steelers and forty-niners. A number of the men watched the game on TV in the lounge. All in all a nice affair.

A two lb. box of assorted chocolate candy was given to all ladies attending.

In October, Don Boyer died. He served with the 83rd Signal Co. He died the same way as his buddy Gene Costanzo, while sitting in a chair. Another death was Theodore "Ted" Lozowski. Although he was not a current member of the chapter, he had been ill for some time. He died December 7, 1996 at the age of 87. He served with Co. E 329th. He is survived by his wife, Maryann and a sister, Sr. Judith, C.S.F.N. from Ohio. There were five boys in this family and all served in the armed service during World War II. A get-well card was sent to deceased member Charles Altomari's wife Mary who is in ill health. Also Matthew Pintar's wife, Dara is in ill health also. In January the chapter took out a full page ad for a testimonial dinner for Harry Readshaw, a member of VFW 1810. He is the man of the year for the post. This post is our meeting place. Ed Walsh, with wife Dottie and son, Danny moved from inner-city to a suburb residence. His wife is in ill health and a change to the not-so-crowded area will do him some good. At the February meeting a suggestion was made that the chapter look into the possibility of renting a bus to the upcoming Indianapolis reunion in August. A majority of those present were in favor undertaking. A show-of-hands resulting in the over twenty agreeing with this.

The Greater Pittsburgh Chapter of The 83rd Infantry Division - 1997 -

President.....	Charles Caven
Vice-President.....	Jules Desgain
Treasurer.....	William Mattes
Secretary.....	James J. McCulla
Sergeant-at-Arms.....	Andrew Churpak
Publications.....	Francis Beerhalter
Historian.....	Lawrence Leonardi
Trustees.....	Joseph Danylo
	Francis Beerhalter
	Wm. A. Demarino
Chaplin.....	Matthew Pintar
Auditor.....	Joseph Danylo
National Board Member.....	Sal Scicolone

Chapter meetings are conducted the first (1st.) Sunday of each month at the Brentwood V.F.W. Post 1810 beginning at 2:00 P.M.

SICK COMMITTEE

Chairman.....	Charles Caven
Vic-Chairman.....	Edward Walsh
Member.....	James J. McCulla

Members are requested to contact one of the above when sickness or a death occurs so appropriate action may be taken.

New England Chapter.....



Thanks Elve Amy - New England Chapter

First of all we of the New England Chapter hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and are in good health.

On Dec. 7th Helen & Dutchy Smith and Chuck & Ber

nice Adbinor hosted our Chapter Christmas Party at the Peabody Marriott Hotel.

It was a bad weekend weather wise but we had a good turn out. We all arrived at 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. and headed for our private suite. The bar was set up and all sorts of hors d'oeuvre and desserts and coffee was enjoyed. At 7:30 p.m. we all headed for the Newport Room for our Christmas Dinner and after dinner Santa and his little elf came in to pass out gifts to all our members and again thanks Bernice for getting those special gifts for our Chapter and the big winner was Dutchy & Helen Smith with a T.V. and I would also like to thank elf Amy for helping Santa passing out the gifts.

The next morning we all headed for breakfast and wished each other a safe drive home.

Those who came to our time were Dutchy & Helen Smith, Chuck & Bernice Adbinor, Bill & Betty Davis, Nick & Mary Francullo, Bill & Jeanette McKee all from Mass. Jim & Dot Brennan, Americo & Marie George, Joe & Helen Petrucci, Al & Ann Tartaglio all from R.I. Bill & Eleanor Sullivan, Burt & Rose Simon all from Conn.

Received a call from the Ferriers's that John was not feeling good and could not make the time also the McCartini's and the Farias's. We also missed seeing the Collins's, the Champey's and the Orsine's and the Walsh's.

Got a card from Ray Rudd that they are not able to make it also.

Hope you are all getting better and looking forward to the spring.

Received a card from Bill Burdin of N.J. that he was not able to make the Cleveland Reunion due to hard times, but looking forward to Indianapolis. Also from Grace Brick and looking forward to next year also. We love you Grace.

We of the New England Chapter would like to send out our sympathy to Leroy Trombly Co. "K" 330th Northfield Vt. who's wife passed away Oct. 14, 1996. They had fifty-five wonderful years together Good bless you Leroy.

Also received card from William C. Biere of Brookville, Ind. that on Jan. 7, 97 he will be 83 just like the 83rd Div. Hi hoha good luck Bill.

Now I would like to call on all my gang that were with me in the A.T. Plt. of Hq. Co. 3rd Bn. 330th Inf. Bill Biere, Wayne Turner, Russ Wagner, Raynor Burchan, Bob Blout, Burl Chronister and Joe Buli and if you all have other guys of the squads address send them a card and all get together at Indianapolis Ind. Aug. 20-23, 1997 at the Convention Center.

It would be great to see each other again. Please Try

Your Buddy Always

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

P.S. Also like to say thanks to Joe Petrucci for his great sing along on his accordion we enjoyed it.



Chuck, what did Santa say? - New England Chapter



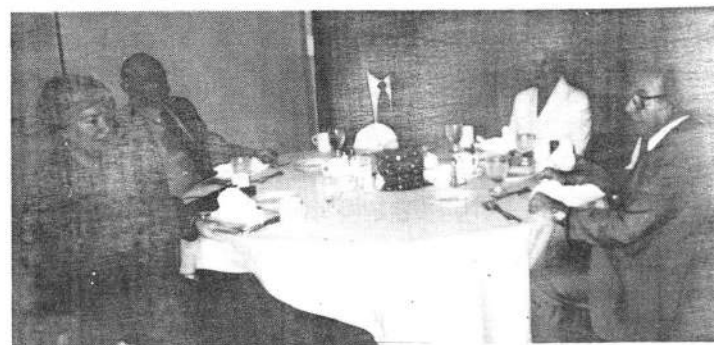
The America's, The Doviss' & the McKees



Looking for Santa!! - The New England Chapter



This is a great time. - New England Chapter



Dixie Chapter.....

Christmas Party - Around the Fireplace.....

My! how time flies. I'm trying to collect my thoughts and remember what has happened during these last few weeks.

I know I attended our 50th 83rd reunion because I read about it in the paper already. The Massies celebrated Thanksgiving together, then Kathryn and I left for our Annual Festival of Lights with Mary and Felix Livingston in South Carolina. Its getting better each year with 25,000 lights this year. Its quite a treat and I drove 10 hours in the rain to get there. It was worth every hour.

Felix and Mary got us in the mood for the Christmas party so I went to Gatlinburg on Tuesday. Of course no one was their yet so I relaxed and checked the reservation list.

Before I could finish, Lo and behold here comes Milton Singleton with his clan. He wound up the winner with 14 family present.

On Wednesday we got our shopping done when we returned there were 6 couples to greet us. President Whitaker was in full charge but without his better half. June, we missed her and look forward to seeing her next time around.

By the next day the place was completely overrun by 83rds and their friends. Flo Jackson and Carroll Brown, our official hosts were on hand by now and had everything under control. What a great job they and their helpers turned in! I give them the highest praises!

Some flew in from Texas, some drove from Pa. Some hitch hiked. Some canceled because of sickness but all who came had a great time.

We had old soldiers who thought we're young from 13 states present. Most brought their wives, some their friends. We were happy to see each one. Some came alone.

I'm so proud of our widows, we had at least six present. Twas so great to see and enjoy the good times with them and in some cases their children and grand children.

Those who had passed away were greatly missed and remembered in a memorial to them.

Men from 19 units showed up. B 308 Eng. took the record with 6 men present.

Each one who wanted to come was sadly missed. Put us on your list for next year and show up and bring us some new jokes. I know there are plenty out there.

Friday's music was great - visiting and dancing went on till midnite with plenty of refreshments. Joe Fagleman helped me clear up a fifty year old mystery from the service years. Its worth sharing and I sure will in time.

George Naylor had a new man with him 1st timer Andre Beaumont from Delaware. I'll have to look him up. We're practically neighbors. Welcome to the group! Come again and bring a buddy! Three Charter members O.L. Cook, Dick Riddle, Carson Deck were with us to celebrate.

Twas so good to have Pearl and Bob our Natl. Secy Treas. with us again.

I had a short visit with Curtis Sharps in Columbia. He had to cancel due to sickness.

Wm. Benbow and Bill (My Baty "A" Buddy) had to cancel. Bill has been hospitalized with leukemia was treated and is now do-

ing better and home once more. Many others are in the same position. Ben Johnson and Pat canceled due to Ben's illness. We hope for improvement there.

Excitement was running high on Saturday nite with everybody dressed up and ready to celebrate. Santa came right on time and there were gifts for the kiddies and gift exchange for grownups! Surprise! Surprise! All were enjoyed.

This year was special for me. I had my son Gerry and his wife Missy visit with us. Twas his first trip to Gatlinburg since 1967 and Missy's first ever. It made me feel guilty for having been there so often.

We welcome those Kentucky Chapter friends with us and hope one day to pay them a visit at there Christmas party. Until then just keep on coming to Gatlinburg and we'll celebrate together!

Next year same week end in December, in the meantime, spring meet in Ga, Summer meet in Nashville Tenn. and National in Indianapolis. Wishing all safe traveling and happiness throughout the new year.

We'll be seeing you there. Now lets keep in mind and pray for the deceased and their families left behind.

Sincerely

E.S. Massie, Dixie Reporter

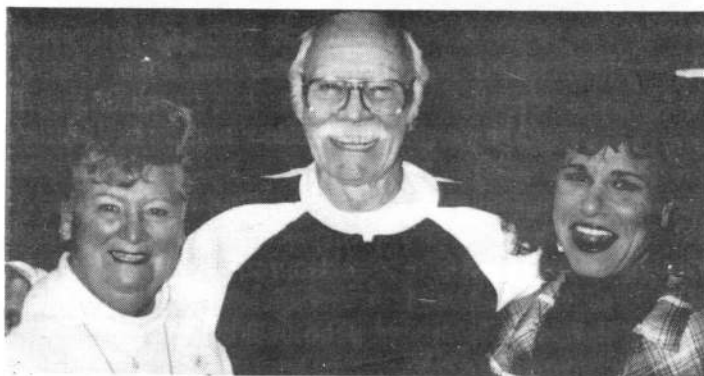
Robert L. Parsons, of Dixie Chapter has written a book. "Remembrances of a War", based on his experiences in our War.

If you wish further information about this book, please contact Bob at his home address.

Robert L. Parsons

2401 McIntyre Court, Franklin, Tennessee 37064

P.S. All proceeds go to his church.



Dixie Photographer with two of his favorite people! Kathryn & Michelle Massie.



Pearl Derickson, Nancy Dail. Pearl - I'm sorry about the Pic. I'll try again & do better in 97' It's a promise!! ES Massie.



"F" Co. 331st Inf. 6 good men: MacIntosh, Helms, Naylor, Beaumont, Hoosier, Dalton. first time together in 51 years.



Flo Jackson - Hostess of Party. Ellen Freeman - winner of 50/50. Two of our Remarkable widows - God bless Them!!



"308th" Eng. Bn. - Dec. 96 Dixie Party: Stimmel, Coffey, Wallo, Cox, Ramsey, Porterfield.

New Jersey Chapter.....

This is the first article I am writing on my new computer. I don't know if it will improve the text but it's a lot easier to write and correct if need be. Anyway, I am enjoying the new experience and hopefully some day I can consider myself proficient in it's use.

I'll start the report with the Chapter Christmas Party. We had 27 people attend and all agreed it was a wonderful party. Attending were Joe and Hazel Barton, Fran and Stan Bielen, Joe DePeri with Joann, Casey and Joe, also



A Christmas Party

Tom and Candy Dowd, Manny Epstein, Ted and Irene Guzek, Sam and Edith Manzi, Frank and Mary Sabine, Joe and Dot Skurka, Andy Socha, Ralph and Sally Stat, George and Vi Waple, Emil Wehling, Russell and Margarita Whitehead. Harold and Doris Everham called to say his health problems kept him from attending, Fred and Addie Rein with their daughter and son-in-law had planned to attend. Fred died just 3 days before the party and his viewing was after we had the party. After a great dinner, we had our exchange of gifts (which is a lot of fun) and then the raffle for gifts donated by some of our members and their wives. This time Joe DePeri didn't need his truck to bring home all the prizes. Vi Waple, a very talented florist made 2 wreaths for the raffle and the lucky Edith Manzi and Fran Bielen each won one. All who donated prizes, are appreciated for their generous donation.

I have included 3 pictures that were taken at the party. Thanks to George Waple who sent them to me and he was thoughtful enough to bring a camera to the party.

Back in January, Ted Guzek went to visit Charlie Sihla-

nick and reported to me that Charlie was looking pretty good. Come the meeting in January when the temperature was 5 degrees and kept some of us from attending, that didn't keep Charlie from the meeting.

We are all thrilled that you are well enough to be with us again.

Those of us that received pictures from Sylvester Smith that were taken at the reunion want to thank you for the picture.

I received many Christmas Cards from my Army Buddies and I enjoy them most when they include some news about themselves and their families. Frank Reichmann always writes a nice letter about how he is doing. I also received a call from Ed Jones way out in San Diego and Fred Klein who told me he has retired but still does some consulting work, if you call what he does work, traveling around the world. Fred told me he has reservations to spend New Years Eve, December 31st, 1999 at a posh hotel in Paris with his wife and friends. To further enjoy the trip, take your wife and friends to see all the foxholes you dug in France to escape all the fireworks of 1944.

Rags Rangnow called to let me know he received a copy of Nathalie Leconte's Thesis about the history of her hometown of Sainteny. It is in French and Rags has someone translating it to English. He has promised to send me a copy as I helped her by sending her my recollections of my experiences around Sainteny during the war.

I just want you all to know what a great person Rags is and I just can't say enough to tell you about his dedication to helping others. He does a tremendous job as a volunteer for the Fox Chase Cancer Hospital in Philadelphia helping patients and families to ease their pain from this terrible disease. He was always there when Fred Rein was in that hospital.

I have taken over for Fred Rein as the Chapter Treasurer. You can send your Chapter dues (still \$3.00) to me when due, Thanks!

That's it for now, take care of yourselves.

Stan Bielen.

Florida Chapter.....

The winter meeting of the Florida Chapter was held on Feb. 1, 1997 at the Inn on the Lakes, Sebring, Fl. The weather was great, clear and in the 70's. No we didn't have any golfers that play in those numbers. This Inn is a base for three day golf outings, and is very busy this time of year.

The Inn has a fairly large meeting room and we used it for hospitality, evening dinners and meetings.

Our new president, Scotty Kost and his wife Ann

did a great job as hosts. Both Friday and Sat. night dinners were capped off with humorous games and many door prizes.

Out of our approximately 75 paid up members, we had 31 in attendance at the business meeting. Our winter visitors, who belong to the other northern chapters, were Jules & Agnes Desgain. George & Carol Naylor, Bill & Jeanette McKee. Missing this time were the Gundersons, who were "time sharing" in Can Cun, Mx. We learned that Jules Desgain recently had a double heart bypass, and is doing well now.

Since our last letter we learned of the passing of two of our long time members; Jim Burt, Hdq. 331st and Frank Ruscito, E-330th. They were very loyal in supporting this chapter.

We also had a new member, Henry Hauser and his wife Esther, who divide time between Chicago and Daytona Beach. He may have the record of the shortest time in the 83rd Div. He had one month of service with the 330th Medics in Normandy before being wounded. I didn't get any more information about the rest of his military service career.

The chapter is planning the next meeting on April 25 & 26 in Sarasota, hosted by John and Ona Prinzi. We enjoyed the stay last Nov. at the Granada Inn in Ormond Beach, and the members voted to go there again next Nov., if the Steks will handle it.

Overhearing a conversation, I learned that Jules Desgain and Louis Kanen are planning another European trip in June 1999. Hope they make it.

Bill Herhuth has been in poor health since Cleveland was not there, as well as Frank Sharp, who cancelled at the last minute. We want to express our appreciation to a recent addition to our chapter, Joe Camp, for the great sign to be set up at our meetings.

W. Allen Fisher, Secy.
(561)-461-3640

Remember!
Dues are due
now for
1997

Cleveland Chapter.....

We ended the year 1996 with a happy Christmas party on Dec. 7th afternoon at Ruggles Inn. Fifty meals were served to the Cleveland Chapter and guests followed by music and dancing. All enjoyed themselves.

One member unable to attend was Earl Deisher who was hospitalized by a heart attack. Earl was in the A Co. 329th. A long and dedicated man of the Chapter passed away on Dec. 21st. He is survived by a brother and daughters Dawn and Sue and one granddaughter. The young ladies attended many reunions with him. He will be sadly missed.

Sixteen members and their wives attended the wake on Dec. 23 at the Dicken Funeral Home in Elyria, Ohio. Internment is at Ridge Hill Memorial Park in Amherst Township, Ohio. Earl was also a Lifetime member of Elyria V.F.W. Post 1076.

Casey and Eleanore Szubski celebrated their Golden Anniversary with family and many friends Jan. 18th. Casey has been president of the Cleveland Chapter several times and the National President twice. They have two children and two grandchildren. All attended the Cleveland Reunion.

We had the pleasure of the company of Jim and Ruth Lindsey at our Christmas party. This was their 50th wedding anniversary.

Sam and Charlotte Cordiano celebrated their 50th with their family Dec. 19th.

Plans for a bus trip to the reunion in Indianapolis are in the works. We hope to see you all their in good health.

Kid L. Williams
Cleveland Chapter Reporter

Kentucky Chapter.....

The Kentucky Chapter Christmas Party was held at the Comfort Inn in Piqua, Ohio on December 13 and 14, with the following members in attendance. Bob and Pearl Derickson, Al and Dorothy Henry, Vito and Ginny Palazolla, Bob and Doris Brinkman, Norman Weaks, Floyd and Alberta Richmond, Earl and Bonnie Hoover, Fred and Doris McGowan, Gale and Irene Baker, Doris and Paul Lear, Tom and Gail Hensley, Manny Goodridge, Homer and Ruth Rickenbaugh, Orval Turner, Ames and Helen Miller, Chester and Helen Wilson, Al & Pat Fowler, Betty & Hayeswilt.

Bob Derickson was appointed Reporter.

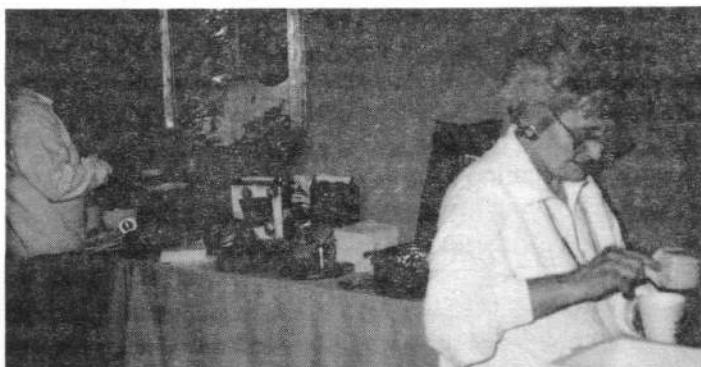
The program for the reunion at Indianapolis was worked on. Manny Goodridge and Earl Hoover, were appointed to be in charge of

table assignments for the two meals. The Christmas Party then took place. Everyone received a very nice gift. All had a good time.

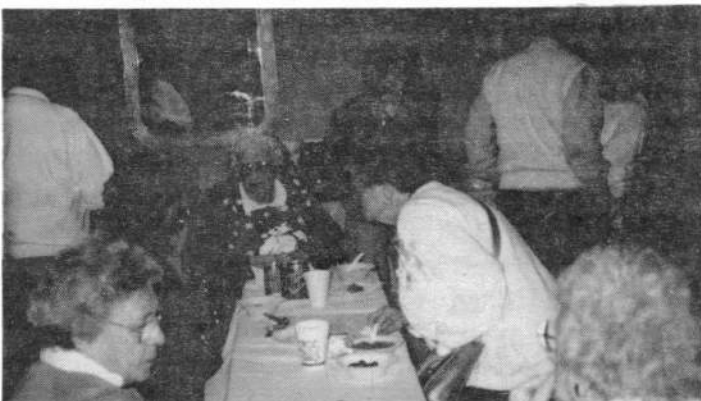
The Chapter will meet at the Drawbridge Estate in Covington, Kentucky on April 18 and 19th. Anyone is invited to attend.

Bob Derickson
Reporter Ky Chap.

P.S. Arthur Doggett a Ky chapter member has had a very severe stroke. He has been moved to the Florence Care Center, 6975 Burlington Parks, Florence, Ky. I'm sure he would enjoy a card from his buddies.



Snack Table at Christmas Party. On the Right - Ginny Palazolo and left is Doris Brinkman.



Boston Chapter.....

The Boston Chapter has been working together as a Team and we seem to be doing well. Charlie Lussier says when we work together it seems we get better.

On November 10th Mr. & Mrs Michael Caprio celebrated their Golden Anniversary at the West Valley Inn in West Warwick, R.I. This event was run by the Caprio children. It started at noontime and ended at Mike and Vera home early the next morning. We told the Caprios' we would return for their 75th. Thanks to the Caprio children for an excellent party.

On November 16th Frank and Rose Young had the monthly meeting at their home. It was attended by 26 members. A good time was had by all. Thanks for having us.

Our Christmas Party was held on December 14th at the Ramada Inn in Swansea, MA. The food and music were perfect with dancing til midnight. Santa Claus made a visit and gave everyone gifts. After it ended we went to the Boston Chapter C.P. where Dick Armstrong supplied the music and we had a sing-along til two in the morning when George Connors turned off the lights. The next morning we had breakfast together at the hotel before starting home. Thanks to Father Richard McCouch SJ for coming from Scranton, PA.

Winners of the Christmas Drawing are listed below:

Barry A. Crites, Bath, N.H.	\$100.00
Frank Lawrence, Painesville, OH	50.00
Chet Morley, Ashland, N.H.	50.00
Andy Topalian, Bridgeport, CT.	25.00
Bob Hunnewell, Braintree, MA.	25.00
Norm Malo, Woonsocket, RI.	25.00
Dane Nardone, Mt. Vernon, NY.	25.00

On January 25th the Boston Meeting was at Pat and Ginny DiGiammerino home in Malden, MA. Some of our members from the North were buried in snow and others were in Florida basking in the sun. However, we had 23 present which made for a successful meeting. It was voted to have a Mini-Reunion at the newly decorated Pines Hotel in So., Fallsburg, NY in May 1997.

On our sick list this month are Ray Bjork, Bernie Cove, Mike Malik, Al Remy, Silvia from "I" Co. 329th.. We hope to hear that all of you are feeling better next month. P.S. We need the man from Bridgeport, CT. with the "Red Underwear".

On Friday November 15th, 1996 a group of ten attended the wake of Peter Joyce. All were in 83rd gear which made quite an impression on relatives and friends. His wife Shirley and family thanked the Boston Chapter for attending.

Also, John Amaral Jr. was killed in a car accident in Swansea, MA. The Boston Chapter also had a group attend John's wake.

Condolences to both of these families.

AMBY TYNAN



Lining up for Santa - Boston Chapter



Mike & Vera Caprio - cutting their 50th Ann. cake. Boston Chapter



Barbara Rowe & the Wreath for a Raffle. Boston Chapter.



Mike & Vera Caprio & Friends - 50th Ann. - Boston Chapter.



Waiting is half the fun - Boston Chapter.



COMPANIES

329 "B" Bag.....

First of all, thanks to all for the many letters and notes on the Xmas cards regarding the "B" Bag... congratulations are in order for John & Doris Hennies and Jesse & Carolyn Pirkle for celebrating their 50th wedding anniversaries recently. It is great to hear in these days that people stay married for 50 years. God bless you both and many more years of marital bliss, health and happiness. I talked to our fearless leader Capt. Hill. He is improving slowly. Zena take good care of him because he took good care of us over there. I heard the Melton's bought a place in Florida. With all of the "B" Baggers down there, maybe we could have a company reunion. The Steks, Taylor's, Kane's, Bollards, Plummer, and now the Meltons all living in the sunshine and with Waddle, Nichols, Beam's, Hill and Pirkle cross the state line, we could have a good time.

Now for the bad news. Yesterday I learned that they took Jesse Pirkle to the hospital for a blood clot in his leg. We will keep him in our prayers. Maybe you can drop him a card in Georgia. Jesse has been at most of the reunions. As you know I listed the 64 names of "B" Co that were killed in the E.T.O. On the last list was a name of Mike LiGouri. A few weeks later I got a call from his son Jerry in Cal. He also talked to "Red Geyer. He wants to know how his dad was killed and also talk to anyone who knew him. He is planning to come to the reunion this year and meet Mike's buddies. I remember the name but can't recall him. His son Mike LiGouri is on the left. Does anybody remember what happened to Lt. Hoffman. He went overseas with us, and there is no record of him being hit or killed.

A "B" Co. Short Story

After getting off the beach, we stayed overnight in a field. The next morning, they took us

to Carentan.. On the way we were walking over a wooden bridge, There was an M.P. on duty and told us to get going because the bridge would be blowed up by the Germans about 3:00 p.m. While walking over the bridge we saw engineers starting to build another bridge. We heard later the bridge had a direct hit at 3:10 p.m. and another bridge was up in place. Stationed in this field in Carentan we had nothing to do except oil guns, check equipment. So some one started a big crap game! While the game was going shell hit about a 100 yards away. Everybody grabbed a hand full of money and dove in a Fox hole that was the fastest end of a game and no arguments. Enclosed is a picture of the Company banner being past to J. Pirkle. He will pass it on to A "B" Bagger in Indy. J. Pirkle is on the left. Hardiman, B. Waddle, and B. Uher.

"B" Co. Friends Forever
Bob Uher
12700 Lane Ave #1602
Lakewood ch 10 44107
(216) 221 2012



LEFT TO RIGHT: Jessie Pirkle, J. Hardiman, Bob Waddle, and Bob Uher.



June ?, 1944 (Brooklyn, N.Y.) Left - Mike, Mom and Right Pat.

Co. G, 331st Infantry.....

Another year has gone by, and we are entering into the year 1997. Whoever thought that we would be around this long, and now with a good chance of reaching into the next Century. However, I don't think I will participate in building the Bridge into the next Century as requested by our president.

Nothing much has happened in G Company since the last issue of the Thunderbolt. We had a great Christmas, the family was together once again.

As usual at this time of the year, my thoughts go back to 1945 in the Ardennes and how we managed to survive during those days. It is a wonder that we are still here to talk about it.

Had a call from Mike Mizerock a couple of nights ago. We was worried that he had not heard from me. He and His wife Anne are doing fine. He did inform me that Ralph Guarnier had passed away around the time of the last reunion in August. Ralph was one of the cooks with Mike in the kitchen area. He was the singer who always managed a good tune when things were not going well. As Mike and I talked it was evident that he is the only one of the Kitchen personnel that is still with us. Froggy, Benny Goldnertz, Robson, Charlie Arnold have all passed away, and each one of them was a character. I had a great respect for those men, because they always came through with a hot meal when it was needed the most. In G Company we should be thankful because very few company units enjoyed the pleasures of having good and reliable mess personnel as we did. I can remember Christmas Eve 1944 when we moved into the Aachen area before going into the Battle of the Bulge. Mike came to me and ask when I wanted to feed the Christmas meal. I told Mike if at all possible on Christmas Day at 12:00 noon. I sent Lt. Mote into Aachen to find some plates. On Christmas Day at noon the men of G Company went through the Chow line and each received two plates of food. Mike and his crew and a number of the other men pitched in, and the food was ready and we had a chance to enjoy our food. The other units in the Battalion fed on the 26th and before they had chance to digest their food, orders were received to move up the front in the Bulge.

We were fortunate, because on many occasions I have read that some rifle company units went weeks at a time without a hot meal. That should never happen in the American Army.

The month of January was spent on getting medical attention for my wife. Mena has been going thru a series of test. She has experienced a shortness of Breath. In checking the test the Doctor found that sometime ago she did have a heart attack. A Catscan; showed that she had a blockage around the Lung. Last week we spent the day in the outpatient clinic to remove that blockage. On Monday she goes back to the Doctor for another check up. Hopeful every thing will be all right, but even

now we are not making any plans to attend the Dixie chapter meeting in March. If the test are good, we may still make that meeting.

We are looking forward to the reunion in Indianapolis in August

Our condolences to Mike and Liz Skovran for the death of their son from a heart attack. Their son in his late 40;s was in good health and was the football coach at the high school in Warren, Ohio.

Capt. Mac

Co. G, 329th Infantry.....

Now that Christmas and New Year is over, it's time to think about the reunion in Indiana.

Make your reservations now.

Grace and John Askey are planning a cruise, visiting the beach in South Carolina and seeing more of Ga.

Lois and Bob Brinkman of Minister Ohio and Virginia and Vito Palozzolo. of Michigan went to the Kentucky chapter Christmas Party in Piqua, Ohio. Virginia and Lois won five games of pinnacle against Bob and Vito, good playing pays off.

Helen & Ames Miller of Indiana attended also.

Bernice and John Cupina of Binghamton, New York are staying away from icy steps so they are ready for the reunion.

Etha and Leonard Reynods of Virginia send the tapes to Vito!

Shirley and Jim Rans still wish everybody good luck in 1997. The Morgans, Ruth and Chet are packing for Florida. They have been busy. Chet is ringing the bells for the Salavation Army in Utica N.Y..

Luella and Sterling of Pa. went by Amtrak to Florida.

Sylvia Gimple of Brooklyn sends regards to all. Her two grandsons keep her busy.

John Fay of Illinois sends good wishes. His grand daughter has been real helpful.

Virginia and Franks Markuns of Boston keeps busy with the Church breakfasts.

Bake and Bounce Friday of N.J. are leaving for Florida. They will stop for a visit with their grand children in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Babe Freitag

102 Philip Ave., Elmwood Park
N.J. 07407



83rd Co. "G" Inf. - Independence, Ohio - Aug. 96
 Left John Askey, Chet Morgan, Frank Markums, Joe Hudock.
 Left Front, Tony Hronich, Bounce Freitag, Bob Brinkman, Vito Pazzolo.



83rd Co. "G" Inf. - Independence, Ohio - Aug. 96
 Left Babe Freitag, Lois Brinkman, Ruth Morgan, Grace Askey,
 Virginia Markums, Etha Lenard.
 Front: Tonys' Lena Hronich, Virginia Pazzolo, Bernice Cupino.

Co. F 329th.....

Over But Not Forgotten: Will be South '97 Punta Gorda, Florida at HoJo's by the Rivers' Edge where hosts Bill/Arlene Nickell have once again made excellent arrangements for their snowbird comrades including the well known Riverview C.P. Eight known men plus their wives have now planned to be there, not as many as some years But! what a Great Time! They'll have. A service is planned in Lashley Park, Punta Gorda at the plaque (see TB Vol. 52 No. 1 Pg 23) dedicated to the men of the 83rd Infantry Division WWII, erected there thru the efforts of William & Arline Nickell. Those of us not able to be with you in person were there with you in spirit.

IN REMEMBRANCE: Raymond A. Mitzelfelt September 30, 1919 - January 3, 1997. Thanks to Lloyd/Verleen Lutkemeier "F" Co. was represented at the funeral January 3, 1997 of our Buddy Ray. Ray with much effort was with us in Omaha at our 46th Division Reunion. To Esther and family from all of us please accept our sincere thoughts and prayers.

HERE & THERE: Ferguson in the last letter from the orderly Room brought us up to speed relative to a number of our group, knowing nothing new or any of those he mentioned will leave it at that. Talton Ballard doing well after back surgery. Billie Collins' back surgery has not been as successful walking is limited, full recovery to be slow. We will hope for the best. T. would like to hear from anyone who remembers him while at Breckenridge (if any out there) especially if they remember the problems he had that hospitalized him while there. John Crabtree continues to have lots of trouble with his illness (Parkinson) has some fair days and takes advantage of them under limited conditions. Marie hangs in there during these difficult times. Emma Anderson had her carpal tunnel taken care of in Oct. doing alright. Daughter Karen had her right hand carpal tunnel operation in Jan. 97. Chuck had an MRI on his carotid arteries, one quite heavily blocked, no surgery elected at this time, however in Jan. '97 he had some tumors removed from the bladder, is doing fine. A pleasant surprise was a really nice page and a half letter from Warren Black. Warren wants all to know he is fine., doing well for a 74 year Old Vet of 329th and would like to be able to attend a Reunion with all of us but it's just not possible at this time. His wife Mattie has broken her hip twice which along with other complications keeps Warren close home providing for her care. He still works a 75 acre farm keeping 60 - 70 head cattle plus working two sales a week at a local stockyard hauling livestock with his own truck and trailer. Drakes had hopes of going to Florida however since Helen's sister is taking chemo treatments they feel a responsibility to her and want to be close to her at this time. Talked to Fishman Nov. 4 his 89th birthday, he had, so deservedly, received many cards and calls and was really pleased. How very nice. Talked to Kittrell in Nov. Yes I'm happy to report he is still among the living, had cataract surgery on both eyes doing fine. Becky sounded well. Kitt still working, The Patriarch of the flooring industry in the Portsmouth area. Marie writes Ado doing pretty good in Dec. was troubled with a cold and sore eyes, She didn't specify the eye problem, did say it was improving. Didn't report on herself so will take no news as being good news. As stated elsewhere Luke and Verleen attended and represented "F" Co. at Ray Mitzelfelt funeral which we all appreciate. They also arranged for an "F" Co. floral piece being present. Hammond called in Dec. he had the other knee replaced, coming along alright just a little slower than the first one. Margaret was at church when he called. This is an inside joke ask him about it when you next see or talk with him. Harold Newell still working on his first million or maybe it's his second or however he says he will get in sync with us eventually. He reported Jane doing pretty good after having had the lateral cartilage removed from her right knee in Sept. and having gone through rehab. Zerucha like some of the rest of us with muscular problems is groping around staying busy and watching out for Jean who I understand continues to show some improvement. To many I owe Thanks for cards calls and remembrances please accept this as my Thanks to You.

C.R. Bob Whitcomb



308th Engineers Co. A.....

Christmas Holidays are over and we're now waiting for spring and warmer weather. As I write this we are experiencing some rather cool days and nights here in Florida. But robins have been coming into our area by the droves so that must be telling us something.

My wife and I flew to Boulder City, Nev. and spent Christmas and New Years with our daughter and son-in-law and 2 grown children, along with our daughter and husband from ILL. When we got back here we had many Christmas cards and notes and letters awaiting us. It's always great to hear from everyone and we are glad to pass on the news from them to everyone else.

We received cards from Lucy McMillan, Bertha Peterson, Bill and Bertha Loner, Earl and Evalyn Graham, with the note, "Earl is coming along nicely. Still getting his chemo every week. He will be finished the end of Feb." And from Ann and John Hanft, "Good to hear from you again. Gordon really is trying out the medical system, as is some here. Sorry to read of Earl Grahams problem. Age is not very kind to us, as if we didn't know. Thanks for keeping Co. A 308th up front in the Thunderbolt."

And from Nellie and Frank Berkley, "We had a busy fall. Finally got down here Nov. 20, all settled in for the winter." And news from Pearline and Frank Davis, "We are both well and happy generally. Sorry to hear you are cursed with diabetes, Celia. Well, I know the problem, but Frank is in excellent physical condition, thank God. We no longer aid the elderly, we are they. Hope we can make the Association meeting in Indianapolis." Then Charles and Eleanor Auer wrote, "We spent Thanksgiving with our daughters and family in Va. It was beautiful there and we had a wonderful time. They are all coming home for Christmas and we are having 19 for dinner. We hope we can make the next Reunion in Indianapolis."

From Ray Bankowski, "So happy to hear from you and that all is well. Have a very happy Holiday and hoping to see you all in Indy.."

Paul and Valeska Conrad wrote, "We are both well and doing fine, and glad to hear you both are O.K." The Wellman's wrote, "Owen and I are both fine and we miss being with you folks this year, also. Hope we can make it next year if all is well. Both Rhonda and Ronnie and families were with us Thanksgiving and we had a great time. Our son finished our new garage, all except the siding. ?Sorry so much sickness in the reunion this past year. Owen is always pleased to hear from any of his buddies. It's so nice for Owen and I to be in our new home and to be able to go and come when we want to." Here is Owen's address, and I am sure he would really like to hear from anyone: 354 Augusta Rd. Washington, Maine 04574-3214.

Virgil and Jane Hume wrote, "We were in the Myrtle Beach area for a week and Calgary, Alberta for 2 weeks last summer with family. The Brands were here for 2 or 3 days earlier this year. Indianapolis????? We would like to. We are fine here and going to have a quiet Christmas season. We've had some poor airline experiences dur-

ing the Holidays so---

We received a very welcome letter from George Settle's son, Mark. "My father has not had any change since his stroke. We recently moved dad to the veterans home in Spring City, Pa. 19475. We hope he will be more at home with the Vets. He seems to be getting better care now. Unfortunately tonight we got a call from the home saying he has Clostridium Difficile which is contagious. With the great-grandchildren and a baby due any day, we decided it would be better not to bring him home for Christmas. Everyone was looking forward to have Dad at home.

Other than this last minute news he is doing fine. Please inform the rest of his buddies. Again we want to put George's address here as we know that all of you would like to write to him: Mr. George Settle, Veteran's Home, Spring City, PA. 19475.

And from Ansel Petersen, "Still doing what we call TEAM VOLUNTEER HELP at the Sacred Heart Hospital. Lately with less volunteers. I fill in 3 times a week for either 2 or 3 or 4 hour shifts. Keeps me in exercise. Been 7 1/2 years now. When my wife died in Mar. of '73, I had to have something to occupy myself so I joined the Knights of Columbus and they were a Godsend. I've been retired from the Army Corps of Engineers, Civilian duty, since Dec. '75. From '76 to '94 I did some land surveying, enough to pay for my equipment. Still have 3 horses, 2 mares and a very beautiful colt that took third at the horse show in Omaha, Neb. Will keep it but am selling one mare that gets moody spells. Have an eye on a well trained 4 year old quarter horse gelding we can buy. They are all registered quarter horses. Went fishing in Northern Wisc. for ten days in June. I have a grand-son who is a Coca-cola Sales Rep. at Tomahawk, Wis. He has a daughter, 2 1/2 years old, Kaylene. I now have 2 great-grand-daughters and one great-grandson. With Great-grand children you know you are old and I am 82, coming to 83 in May, '97. We have a very early, cold winter here. It seems most weekends it's snow and very cold. So far snow has been light, 2 or 3 inches. When we get sleet and snow, roads are bad. Didn't get my deer license again this year, but I really don't care since we live 6 miles out in the hills, more or less. We have deer, wild turkeys and pheasants feeding in the back of the house. I have 11 acres of pastures and trees. The deer get most of my apples in the fall. They are welcome to them as the apples are usually wormy. I am hoping I am in shape for the Reunion in '97. Depends on how my digestive system acts, etc. My aches and pains are minor: knees go snap, crackle, pop when I get up but settle down after I walk a bit. After this lengthy biography, which, if I am any judge of writing, you'll have to guess at the words. Anyway, best of everything to you and the other buddies. If it's any help I use Aspercreme or Sportscreme liberally on my legs nearly every day. As they say, Try it, you'll like it. As ever, Pete.

And from Irv and Phyl, Katz, another nice, long letter, "This year, traveling seems to head our list, and no grass grows under our feet. We have been on the East Coast of FL. three times. Singer Island, Orlando, and Boca Ra-

ton. In Mar. we flew into Cleveland, then drove to Akron for our grand-daughter Erin's Bat Mitzvah and moved to our present address on the 22nd. In April off to one of our most favorite places in the world Scottsdale, Ariz. and in May, back to Akron to stay with Erin while her parents flew to Fla. Also, stopped in W.Va. and Penn. to visit with our other children. The very beginning of June we drove to Lexington, Ky. as our nephew, Craig, 42 years and married one day short of 5 years, succumbed to brain cancer. Always heart-wrenching when a young person dies. On 31 Aug., celebrating our Anniv., we were off to Orlando and then Boca Raton, a very short one. Oct. we flew to Calif and stayed at the Carlsbad Inn, a wonderful trip. Toured to Encenada, Mex. and brought back some interesting pieces of stained glass: the price was right. We enjoyed a Super Turkey Day, in Akron with 36 adults and 6 children, on Irv's side of the family. The weather offered a little bit of everything: cold, rain, snow, none of the above which was appreciated. Drove home, stayed for 5 days and left again on 8 Dec. actually, Friday 7 Dec. and had a fun cruise into the Bahamas, Freeport and Nassua. Monday night was one to remember, as 80% of those on board, including the crew became sick to the stomach. The Captain announced about 30 minutes after we left port. The waters will become rough and last this way as we go thru the Gulf for 4 hours. No words were truer. The swells were from 6 to 7 ft. but the ship was coming up and down. Our table seats 10 and we were the only 2 left. Fortunately, we were not taken ill, and went dancing and participated in Karioke,: had a blast...Have now joined Irv in golf, and truly enjoying the sport. Went to the flea market on Sample Rd. in Deerfield, and found a big Bertha. Now that is a fete, since I play left handed golf."

That is all for now. Wishing everyone a good summer, and hope to see everyone in Indianapolis.

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

783rd Ordinance.....

At this stage in life we all know that life is not always a lark. There's a lot to report but I'm struggling in how to go about it and keep the article positive. Tonight, just as I sat down to type Milly Doggett called to say Art had a massive stroke and it doesn't look good with all his other complications. So my heart goes out tonight to my good buddy and his family.

In calling I've also learned of the death of Pat Keller in 1994. Perci Mohon is very sick and Jesse Tilford can't be found. So live each day to it's fullest.

Now as we get into the Christmas card greetings things get a little better but there's bad news first. Very

sadly Joe Brown told of losing his daughter Gwen at the age of 39. She had been in perfect health and since Aug. Joe has been writing and calling to find the cause of death. I can't imagine anything worse than the loss of a child regardless of age.

Doc and Agnes had a pre Christmas trip to visit the Calif. son. Agnes has that feisty spirit while using her walker.

Doc reports,"I'm chief cook and bottle washer plus the laundry man but we've sure got pleasant traveling memories.

Bob Burns included a nice long letter. He and May are in good health and Bob is still putting in time at the funeral home and being treasurer of the Assoc. Of Retired Federal Employee's. Easy and Lou Labbe "are both doing fine." I talked to George Harris last week and he can't wait for winter to end. He won't drive to the Legion in the dark so he has a very, dry handicap.

Patty and Joe Stubber signed on with a promise to drop a line. Carl and Alyce Frederick are really enjoying retirement and they don't seem to mind those winters. Ugh! Troy and Marie Bishop are riding the waves of life and want to be remembered to everyone.

Amazing Bill Manning missed last years reunion because he had to close a business deal in Indianapolis. Bill if you had waited a year you could have done both. "I've been blessed with good health and I'm still going full time at the office." Bill, I think you have the record. For sure you are the oldest dentist in the 83rd.

Our South Philly high school chum, Phil and Carmella Reese are maintaining the good life with pills and doctors. Then there's good "old" Al and Ruth Bensimon. Al keeps me informed all year. Most guys think Al is balding. It's not so. As you read this Al and Ruth have just returned from their fifth trip to Jerusalem. That's Al's halo!!

Ed Perko wrote a nice note. Ed can almost see the north pole so he reports, "I keep the fireplace burning to keep warm and I'm making a lot of venison sausage." The other extreme is Charlie Rohrer all alone fishing the warm waters of Florida. Maybe you guys should get together.

Up north again we have the happy, healthy, Herman and Norma Hackstock. They visited the family in the southwest during the reunion. Wouldn't it be nice to see the 83rd's board of directors learn that many of the men visit their vacationing families in the summertime?

Midge and Hersh Weaver are trying to keep an eye on Washington and their doctor bills. Both were in the hospital last year but Hersh smiles and says, "They had enough thread and tape to get us going again so we're doing fine."

Always humorous Ray and Mimi Wiggins reported in with, "I got one of those cut-rate flu shots that were advertised for \$5.00 with a bag of groceries. Wouldn't you know I got the African flu for which there is no cure. For five weeks I've been near the end. I think they injected me with ice tea."

Gene Del Prete said Ginny's health was much better since she stopped popping the endless line of pills.

Yes, of course, they are still going out every week-end and dancing to the big bands.

Frank Salantay is walking much better and enjoyed meeting with everyone at the reunion. True to form Frank called us again on Christmas morning to wish us the best. And then there's Ivan "Bud" Gilman and suffering wife Pat. He makes it a point to call on my birthday to remind me I'm still six months older than he. I'm happy to report both Pat and Ivan are on the healthy trail and enjoyed a family gathering this year with their daughter home from Lebanon.

It's amazing to us how our work at the Fox Chase Cancer Center keeps us in contact with 83rd men. I had mentioned before how I met Fred Rein - K330 about four years ago. Stan Bielen also of N.J. and the 331st called to tell me of Fred dying right at Christmas. Now Fred's good wife Addie is being treated at Fox Chase. Let me tell you she is one great gal and I'm glad we have the opportunity of visiting her. Just last week I had a man sign in at the post operative, family room. After a brief conversation imagine our mutual surprise to learn he was a replacement to the 83rd in Normandy. His name is Frank Paul. He was a wire layer and he served the whole way. He has never been in contact with anyone and knew nothing of the association. Sadly he can't remember his regiment or company. Some fellows just put everything behind them. He is well spoken, maybe someone can remember him. He's 71.

In the same vein we also went with Martha Appleby and daughter Sheri for Martha's hospital check-up at Fox Chase. Martha got a gold star and she was so happy she treated for lunch. Ivan always taught me, if the lady wants to treat eat heartily.

Here's a surprise. Not only did I hear from Hobart Belt but also Sam Hoffman. They both wanted to know about you all and they both appear to be in good health. Hobart is still mowing the lower end of Fla. and Sam has joined the 83rd Association.

Lastly, I thought I'd better find out about Wiggins so I called. He's still not 100%, he never will be, but HE SAYS he's hitting 300 balls a day in his basement. Not bad for a guy who carries an age matching our division number.

Don't forget the prunes and get in touch.

Hut Two,
Rags Rangnow

The Battle Of The Bulge 1997

This is going to be a surprise to many of you but this past week-end, January 25th, I stood and watched as the 83rd Division charged out of the cold, foggy, woods and chased the Germans across the icy valley of Fort Indian-town Gap located near Harrisburg, Pa.

Everyone has heard about the Civil War reenactments. Well this is the fifth year that the "Federation" of Leesburg, Va. has staged this event, Reenactment Of The Battle Of The Bulge. It was truly a nostalgic experience of sight, sound and smell of the historic battle of 1944-45.

In the combat there were a thousand men and women from as far away as St. Louis and Maine. There were just about 500 on each side with over a hundred of us veterans observing. Fighting the Germans were the fully uniformed soldiers from the British, Canadian, Irish and the Americans. Needless to say the Allies Won again.

My two brothers inlaws, Dick Landis U.S. Navy and Russ Brown a defense worker, came along for the excitement. We started out our weekend by signing up for our barracks and bunks. Now I found out how to get that lower bunk, just be a veteran. It was snowing outside, for that Belgium touch, but unlike 1942 the barracks were nice and warm. We all came with sleeping bags so we couldn't have to take the bouncing coin test. After stowing our gear away, in big steel closets, we headed for the Military "Flea Markets" being held in three other buildings. As I went through the entrance I walked smack into four, big, fully uniformed, SS troopers. My brain went into a time warp stall. This was a weird new experience. All the Allied troops addressed every veteran as "Sir!" These guys just stood and stared at me. I shook my head, looked them all over, then stepped around them. These guys were great they played their parts right to the hilt.

This was a two night stay with two good meals in a nice community hall, hot dogs in the field and all you could drink and nibble on in the main barracks where John Bowden acted as leader and host. All this for \$30.00! How could you beat it? In the evening they presented us with a professional entertainer. He poised as a former Russian General. He was talented and funny.

Saturday morning the bugle didn't blow but somehow all the light went on at six. Chow was at seven. After real bacon and eggs we went back to the Company street and watched all the troops and equipment assemble. There were motorcycles, Jeeps, all size trucks, armored cars and a half track with a life-like General Patton making a battle speech. Soon we were following the troops into the field up icy roads that were restricted to one vehicle at a time.

The battle began at ten in heavy mist which cleared at noon. It was hard to tell who was winning as the line of fire moved back and forth from mountainside to valley. The resounding sound of all the various weapons firing, some screens and the roar of the tanks made for a interesting day. By three p.m. the wind came up, the temperature dropped and most of us vets retreated to the confines of the war barracks. It was a great show and you will be pleased to know the 83rd was well represented by a Company of reenactors many from the same 83rd group who were at the Pines. Their Company Commander is Mark Feldbin from Kingston NY. What nice guys. The first three that I met brought four "Hut Two's!"

Seriously, It's really great the time and the effort all

these men put forth to keep the history alive and at the same time paying tribute to our fallen comrades and to those of us still alive. We wanted to get some further insight on the make-up of the German soldier. Their barracks were decked out in 44 styling. Many of them have been doing this for as long as fifteen years and we found a number who joined the German ranks because they are outnumbered. This night they were celebrating Christmas with St. Nick, gifts, those little lit German candles and Silent Night. Naturally I captured it all on video.

As for the real 83rd men, well I bumped into Jules Desgain from the 908th who always looks great. He said he also felt great now that he has had by-pass surgery. Then while filming the battle this fellow began reading my name tag aloud. Lo and behold it was George ? Sushomelly, 329th, from Reading. He was up for the day with his two nephews.

On the way out of camp we stopped and took pictures of the Pennsylvania 40 x 8. This is one of the 48 cars that France has stocked and gave to reach of the States. Here was a good finishing touch to a great week-end. Mark it on your calendar and next year you too can take a step back in time.

Rags Rangnow
783rd Ord.

"A" Co - 329th Inf.....

I guess Punxsatawny Phil of Pennsylvania, Buckeye Chuck of Ohio and General Beauregard Lee of Atlanta Georgia did not see their shadows so that means spring is just around the corner. - HA! But if you want sure signs of spring, forget the ground hogs and go with the skunk cabbage, Just now thrusting through the snow. Now thats real scientific advice - HA!

So much for weather forecasting.

At Christmas time I received a lot of cards and news.

Pauline Edgar writes that Dale had two knees replaced in June. Both at once. He's doing very well. She said he'll be 75 in February. Keep up the good work Dale. They will be married 50 years in April. Congratulations to both of you.

Remember Ernie Knoels? He was my 1st scout in the 2nd Platoon. He and his wife Peggy were at a dance. While dancing he had a massive cardiac arrest. An emergency medical technologist, and former nurse began CPR on Ernie. After 18-20 minutes using the defibrillator, they got a heartbeat and transported Ernie to Corning hospital. This happened on Thursday, Aug. 29th. On Sept. 4th Ernie was transferred to Robert Packer in Sayre, where he suffered another Cardiac Arrest. Several complications prevented him from receiving his defibrillator impact until Sept. 20th. With the expert care of Dr.

Rupp and many prayers he was able to return home Sept.. 25. Ernie thats too scary. We sure are glad that you are better. Thank God Prior to his retirement, Ernie taught automotives at Alfred Tech.

Hubert Taylor and his wife Juanita celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, the 24th of Dec. congratulations. Hube had surgery in Oct. he did not elaborate. Hope everything went well.

Lee and Carl Pliske also celebrated their 50th Anniversary Feb. 16, 1996, Congratulations.

Dean and Irene Daniels seem to be doing well.

March 27th, 1997 Nancy and Melvin Magee will make their 60th wedding anniversary. I would say congratulations are in order!!

Received a Xmas card from Carm and Ed Mudre. He said the reason they did not make the Cleveland Reunion was he had health problems. They are planning to attend the Indianapolis Reunion if everything is O.K.. 2nd scout 2nd platoon Max Wood Called me Dec. 19th Woody's first wife died. After being a widower for a while, he met Kathy. They have been married for 10 years. Congratulations. He has 2 grand daughters and 2 grandsons. He celebrated his 70th birthday. Woody and I would like to know if anyone in A Co. Remembers Pallick from Nebraska. A sniper shot him in the chest, went thru the back or the otherway around this happened after we crossed the Elbe River near the city of Zerbs. Write to me or Woody. - Max Wood, 535 Girard, Royal Oak Michigan 48073.

Medic John Camp Couldn't make the Cleveland Reunion, he said he has a hard time getting around, but is doing O.K.. otherwise. His daughter drove him up to see George Suchomelly and they visited for quite awhile.

George and Pauline Suchomelly keep busy and young as he puts it, by swimming in their pool. He also has a big garden, does community work, vets organizations etc. Keep up the good work "Suchy."

Owen Wilson is taking chemo treatments. Hang in there owen.

Ed and Alyce Gilbert Seem to be in good health. They travel so much it's hard to keep up with them. He sent me a couple of pictures from the Reunion. They had a good time in Cleveland.

Speaking of the Cleveland Reunion I would like to tell all of you "A" Co. guys that missed it. You really missed a great reunion. Everyone had a great time. I sure want to congratulate Casey Szubski, Earl Linsey and all the committee members four all the hard work they put into it. "Job well done."

Our Cleveland Chapter had a great turn out for our Xmas party. hors D'oeuvres, great dinner, spirits and dancing. Our own "A" Co. Mess Sgt. "Twinkle Toes" George Calore and wife Martha leads the Parade in line dancing. These guys never give up.

Above I gave you some good news, but as you know there is always some bad news. John Camp told me that Elmer Beasley died of cancer Sept. 10, 1996. Elmer was from Grove Spring, Missouri. Earl Deisher died Dec. 21, 1996. He was from Elyria, Ohio and a loyal Cleveland Chapter member. Funeral services were at the Dicken

Funeral Home in Elyria. 13 men and 6 women were present from our chapter. Our chapter president and Chaplin, Earl Lindsey had a wonderful service for Earl. Also Jim "Tiney" Kizie Died Aug. 20th. His wife Betty wrote to me and said his heart went out of rhythm and could not be successfully revived by ambulance crew or the heart specialist. Although they worked on him for 2 1/2 to 3 hrs. Beth said he wasn't doing very well for more than 6 months or more. Jim was from Springfield, Missouri. Our heartfelt condolences to all of the families.

Well Fellows this is all for now. Keep me informed so I could write this column. That's why I did not write anything in the last thunderbolt. I did not received any news.

Stay Healthy,
Bob Grodelny
1581 Lander Rd.
Mayfield Hts, Ohio
1-216-449-5085

"D" Co. 331st.....

Time again for the newsletter and there is some news although some of you are pretty quiet. Pop Akam thinks old age is creeping up. Don't you think we all know it. Frank Cancasci says he's doing great (dancing probably) but don't say anything about the Reunion in Indy. Paul Dallos says he expects to see us all in Indy. Bernie Cove is taking it easy, we will report more on him next newsletter.

Whit East said he had a couple of sojourns in hospital because of heart. Hope he can make Indy. Harry Fetzer sent a card but no info - hope he makes Indy too. Geri & I went to the Harry Gravelyn's for Geri's birthday and were joined by the Bill McKees. The four of us went to Naples and lunch with the Arthur Haughts. He looks real good!! The R.C. Hamiltons don't like the cold weather they had this winter, but went to Oklahoma to be introduced to their new grand-daughter Holly, and visit new mom Robin in January.

We were so sorry to hear that Dave Harman lost his wife and then his mother. Speaking for our Co. D. GUYS, we express our deepest sympathy to he and daughter Rhonda. George Kimlos said he was sorry to have missed us in Cleveland, but will try to get to Indy. Jimmy Lynch is his usual bubbly self and expects to be in Indy. Dan McDermott

was recuperating well from heart surgery but he wasn't feeling so hot in Las Vegas for my 80th. birthday bash. Expecting to see the Bill McKee's along with the Gravelyn's at my place in the latter part of Feb. We will be joining them for our yearly trek to the Strawberry Festival in Plant City, Fl. in early March.

John Miklos now is operating on an electric scooter but I haven't seen him in action yet. I missed the Jan. Fl. Chapter meeting, as the Vern Muellers, Al Shrawder and us were in Cancun, Mexico. for our annual mini "D" Co. Reunion - the weather was great - What a beautiful place it is !! Tom Morris used my old address and his card was returned. Thought he may have been ill, but he remailed the card and all is well. Dot Nagel did considerable traveling but we would like to see her more often.

Marcella Nolte just wrote that she just lost her last surviving brother, Melvin Nolte in January. She is well and hope to see her in Indy.

George Odenweller sadly missed the Cleveland Reunion because Polly fell and fractured leg and ankle; has recovered to the point of walking again and looking towards the Indy Reunion. Stan Rummel said he and Frank Meyers were both under the weather in 1996, but hopes it will be different in 1997. Frank & Mary Sabine are well & while they didn't mention it, I am assuming they'll be at Indy in August. Norm Schuster is still upset that he had to miss last year's Reunion but is gearing up to Indy with Lorraine come hell or high water. Frank Sharp expects to go with Dana to Indy, because it's only a hop, skip, and jump from Ohio where they spend the summer.

Now we come to my good buddy Al Shrader who with Charlotte accompanied Geri and I to Lake Tahoe for the week then on to Las Vegas for another week and celebrating with Gravelyn, McKees, Mueller's and McCermotts, my 80th birthday. Hank Trzeciak was incapacitated last year but is raring to go to Indy. We missed Harry Adkins and hope he will be in Indy. Bynum Hancock didn't make Cleveland but we're hoping he's in Indy. Ray Richter was in Cleveland and we hope to see him in Indy. Ewell Cotney didn't make Cleveland because of personal reasons but should be at Indy.

Ralph Gunderson

323rd Report.....

Don St. John broke his hip and had to have a replacement. He is home now but has to return to the hospital three times a week. I'm sure he is enjoying all the attention he is receiving.

I would certainly like to hear from Al Covi, Americo George and a few more who have not written in a long while.

Joe Malone phoned me last week. He has retired. I have plans to meet him after the "snow" season.

I believe Dusty Starbuck is in Florida for the winter with his family.

They tell me Les Taylor has made a good comeback and even cuts his own lawn. (If I remember correctly he has a machine he rides on.)

Dave Hurts is now doing better. The Godfather and Tony Piantedosi really missed you in Cleveland, Ohio.

George Connors is in Florida for the winter. I really miss George but hope he is enjoying the warm weather.

I talked to Erwin Erhardt and his lovely wife Norma on the phone. Erwin was "39" on January 1st but Eddie McCouch told me he was older, would Erwin lie.

In December Eddie McCouch and four of his boys went on a hunting trip deep in the Maine woods. They almost made a hit but the deer ran away.

Dallas A. Williams is busy keeping up with work on his grounds.

Hope Harold Michaels is keeping his eye on the Indiana Reunion for us.

I am sorry to report that Peter Weltevrede passed away the first week in February 1997. Over the years Pete would write us even with his illness. He never lost his sense of humor. Our condolences to his Family.

That's all for now!
Amby Tynan



To all 3rd BN. HQ. 329th Men:

Just a note to let you know that I am doing pretty well. I miss Milton so much but I want to thank all of the men and their letters. They meant so much to me and you have all been so kind to me. You don't realize how much the phone calls and letters mean until you are alone.

If any of you have the time please send a card to a lonely widow. It will mean a great deal. Milton thought so much of all of you. He died of prostate cancer, eleven months ago. The 329th sent a spray of flowers. They were so pretty. I read the Thunderbolt from cover to cover and I really appreciate all the news. Thanks and I will be looking forward to the Thunderbolt. It is like a big get well card.

Margie Lovejoy, 38 Green Street
Zanesville, OH 43701 - 9681
Telephone 614-454-3867

The Bird

*One winter morning watching snow falling to the ground
Birds hovering on chimney tops trying to keep a little warm
I know snow falling and lights flashing make for winter charm
But I wonder sometimes how birds survive from winter's harm
A sparrow flying by lands on my window sill
Sitting there and staring at me it seems to want to say
'Who are you, are you a friend?
I am cold and very hungry
My friends and I need some food
Please help us, we don't know what to do.'
You throw some bread crumbs out on the drifting snow
The birds swoop down and fly away with all the crumbs
A little later standing outside in the cold
A bird, the same bird lands close to where you're standing
And looking up at you, it seems to say
'Thank you for helping me and my friends.'
Then it takes to wing, circles several times and flies away
And as it flies away you feel you have done a good deed, this day.*

Poet
Robert L. Gerber

As a former citizen of Zerbst/Germany I am about to write a book on the battle of April 1945 re. the bridge-head close to Barby and Zerbst. If you remember having been there as a member of 'Buckshot-Regiment' or 331th or other regiments please write me. Do you have personal memories at that time or do you have any personal contacts with German people? Do you have photographs? Please write to:

UDO PFLEGHAR, ERLÉNWEG 3, 50765 KOLN - Germany.

Dear Mr. Pflleghar;

This letter is with reference to your advertisement in the 83rd Infantry Association booklet, in which you request contacts with former American soldiers in the area of Barby-Zerbst in April, 1945.

I was with "H" Company (Heavy Machine Guns), 331st Regiment, 83rd Inf. Div. and we crossed the Elbe River on a "Pontoon" bridge, which our Engineers built, on or about April 12-13, 1945. This was at the town of BARBY. (named the "Truman" bridge)

The following day, either the 13th or 14th, we met considerable resistance by the Germans in the woods on the east side of the Elbe River. However, we moved in further and on the 15th of April we took the town of HOENLEPTE. I distinctly remember this town, a small farm town with houses on both sides of the street and our platoon, the 2nd, occupied the very last house on the right side of the street. We set up 2 machine guns in the open field just outside of the farm house. The Germans at this time were in the next town of NIEDERLEPTE. On Monday, the 16th of April, at about 5 A.M. in the morning, I was on guard at the machine gun, which we had dug in the night before. As dawn came I could see German soldiers and tanks coming from the town of Niederlepte across my front in the field. The other machine gunner was about 50 yards to my right and we both opened up fire at the German troops and tanks coming across the field. Just about that time, our artillery zeroed in on the tanks and opened fire and hit several tanks which went up in flames. The German infantry surrendered immediately and they came across the field with their hands up waving white flags, etc.

That was the last battle of the war for my platoon and for my company.

I believe other companies in our regiment and possibly the other two regiments, 330th and the 329th sent patrols further into Germany towards the town of Zerbst, which you mention in your ad. About a week or so later we made contact with the Russians and as soon as they came we pulled back across the ELBE river and remained there until after VE day, May 8th We then moved down to Bavaria in the American Occupied Zone.

I am sorry that I cannot help you out with any photos or personal contacts with civilians during that period of time.

However, our regimental book (331st) has a complete history including pictures of combat activities and scenes of the area that you are interested in. I am sure you are

aware of this and if you need more information on that matter perhaps I can be of assistance.

As a closing thought..I don't know how old you are or whether or not you were old enough to remember World War II, but you are a writer of books and so you know history. We American former soldiers in Europe remember the devastation and destruction in Germany, France, Belgium and other countries and also the horrors of the concentration camps which we overran in Germany, this we will never forget. Sometimes one wonders who a supposedly modern civilized country Germany could allow itself to be led into an inferno of horrors and evil crimes by its leaders, whose only agenda was to conquer others and destroy the lives of those people whom they consider to be their enemies. I guess finally good and justice did triumph and we have enjoyed at least 50 years of peace since then. Lets hope this continues in the future.

Yours truly,
EMANUEL LAMB
264 LINCOLN BLV D.
LONG BEACH, N.Y. 11561

Dear Mr. Lamb,

Thank you so much for your very welcome letter. It was a great pleasure that you did answer my ad. Your letter is very interesting because I have another witness, a 17 year old German soldier, who surrendered to the 331th in Hohenlepte. He had written a small book. He speaks from polish speaking American soldiers. Do you remember of this soldiers? Unfortunately I have scarcely reports of the 331st. Most of these events I found in Washington National Archives especially the reports of the 329th. The son of Captain Schommer (2 Btl.) sent me the history of the regiment. Lt. Mac Farlaine who was one of the American officers who went with the white flag into the city of Zerbst to order the capitulation told me about this. The city was bombed, do you remember these air-raid on 16 April at 10 o'clock? The old city was completely destroyed. My parents lived in these town and my father (a surgeon and dentist) was one of the brave Anti-Nazi-Men who helped the incoming Americans of the 329th to disarm the rest of German soldiers in Zerbst. Had you been there? Churchill tried to force General Eisenhower to go to Berlin but he gave the order to stop at the Elbe river. I suppose your comrades were high motivated to go to Berlin all the more to remove the Nazi-plague in their center.

Do you remember an other pontoon-bridge from Breitenhagen to Tochheim south of the Truman-bridge? Your regiment went forward and took the

town of Badetz and later the towns of Eichholz and Bias?

Did you have personal contacts with German people? Do you remember events with your comrades? Did you lose comrades in these areas? There are a lot of questions. Sure, 50 years are a long time. But my intention with that book "The American advance across the Elbe - the tragic fate of Zerbst" is to write how it was at that time. People there in this area got an incorrect picture about the truth: First the Nazis and then 40 years of Anti-American propaganda in the government of the communists over the DDR.

I for my part have a special experience with both. At Nazitime they punished me with 17 years by military tribunal, I was liberated by the Americans in Mecklenburg, April 45, then I have to flee for persecution out of the sovietic zone to Western-Berlin. With help of the Americans I studied at the "Freie Universität" in Western-Berlin. Of course I got a teacher for history to inform the youth what is freedom and the human rights. Later I was Headmaster in a great College here in Cologne.

I write this book to inform people there what happened in the past. Therefore thank you again for our contact. You wrote that you wonder that a modern civilized country Germany could allow itself to be let this inferno and crimes. Well, we tried to clean our house here, but the Allies made a great fault - they hanged only a few of that naziriffraff. Now I hope that we have build a new Germany with freedom and human rights in spite of that all.

With best wishes for your health
in friendship
Udo Pfléghar

P.S. Please excuse my mistakes - but I taught history and not English.

Our Jeep

It is noisy and has no heater
But walking was a lot less sweeter
It bounces, bucks and spins its wheels
And on fast burns its tires squeal
On its engine you can cook a meal
Somewhat flavored with hot steel
Our Jeep had a special flair
That gave it a distinctive air
It smelled of wine and chicken stew
Of gasoline and laundry, too
And to get food for our larder
We would oft times stop and barter
Or the Jeep itself would have a go
And hit a chicken that was too slow
For in a helmet stew they are tasty
As we had no time to make a pastry
A vacant house donated wine
That made the chicken taste just fine

And just to break the chicken habit
The next day we hit a Belgian rabbit!

To Marge

When we ride our home on wheels
Rain or mud are no big deals
This old two and a half called Marge
Across most of France has dodged
Bombs and bullets and Teller mines
A dozen or even more times
And when by night the V-1's roar
As they head for the English shore
Its shape against the misty moon
Is a silhouette of doom
And when that ram jet engine stops
Under Marge we all do flop!

V-1 means vengeance Weapon Number One launched from the Normandy invasion until the fall of Germany against England. Some fell short.

Hal O'Neill

Luxemburg

I don't know who were the first American troops to enter Luxemburg City, but an 83rd Div. officer who thought he was got me in trouble. My two buddies and I were in the Div. HQ Advance communications Team waiting just outside Luxemburg City to move in and set up a new Div. HQ. Comcenter. During the morning local civilians told us that the Germans were gone. So the three of us walked into the city.

The street signs were in German - Adolf Hitler Strasser, Der Herman Goering Platz, etc. The gutters by the sidewalks held hundreds of metal pins inscribed, "Hiems In Reich." (Home in Germany) Hitler had annexed Luxemburg as part of Germany. At an outdoor cafe we ate red, white and blue Victory ice cream. I don't know what it was made of, but oily strings went from the plate to your spoon with each mouth full. Vendors were selling black and white pictures of the German retreat a few hours earlier. They showed them piling into trucks and riding bicycles. Some English speaking civilians seeing our uniforms came up to show us their Maquis membership cards (the French underground resistance movement) and to ask questions. The Maquis cards were a joke - no underground group carries I.D. Street signs were coming down to be replaced in French - Avenue of the Liberation, FDR Place, etc. Centuries of living in the middle between France and Germany made them adept at switching sides.

As we ate lunch, a column of U.S. military vehicles passed by loaded with high ranking 83rd Div. officers. One of the officers saw us and had the company CO threaten us with being deserters. I pointed out that it would be pretty stupid to join enemy who was losing and why would we linger for lunch on a main street? So we were given company punishment for sight-seeing without permission. We were to dig a 6 by 6 hole without stopping until completed. The ground was like iron and it took about 18 hours. We had plenty of support from our comrades who provided food, smokes, candy and blankets. The hole was inspected and the Co dropped in a cigarette butt before ordering us to refill it.

Moral - In the future, eat lunch in a cafe on a side street.

Hal O'Neill, 83rd Signal

I CAN'T REMEMBER

Just a line to say I'm living,
that I'm not among the dead.
Though I'm getting more forgetful
and mixed up in the head.

I got used to my arthritis,
to my dentures I'm resigned.
I can manage my bifocals,
but God I miss my mind.

For sometimes I can't remember
when I stand at the foot of the stairs,
if I must go up for something
or have I just come down from there.

And before the fridge so often,
my poor mind is filled with doubt,
have I just put food away,
or have I come to take some out.

And there's times when it is dark,
with my nightcap on my head,
I don't know if I'm retiring,
or just getting out of bed.

So, if it's my turn to write you,
there's no need for getting sore,
I may think that I have written,
and don't want to be a bore.

So remember that I love you,
and wish that you were near.
Now it's nearly mail time
so must say goodbye dear.

Here I stand beside the mail box,
with a face so very red,
instead of mailing you my letter,
I had opened it instead!

Sent in by Lou Nolan.

Joe Kalinowski is in a nursing home in Williams-
ville, N.Y. near Buffalo. Ray Hayward and
I still represent the 83rd in Patchogue.
Have a Happy Holiday!

Hal O'Neill
83rd Signal

William M. Calnan
3724 Warwick Circle
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Dear Bob,

If you would be so kind, I should be most grateful if you would publish a note in the next issue of the THUNDERBOLT for me. I am attempting to get some information concerning 1 Lt. Owens H Yeuell who was killed on 17 July 1944, in Normandy while serving as a platoon leader in the 330th Infantry Regiment. He probably joined the Division in Normandy as a replacement Infantry Platoon Leader. The date of his death indicates that it was during the "breakout". I regret that I do not know the exact unit to which he was assigned.

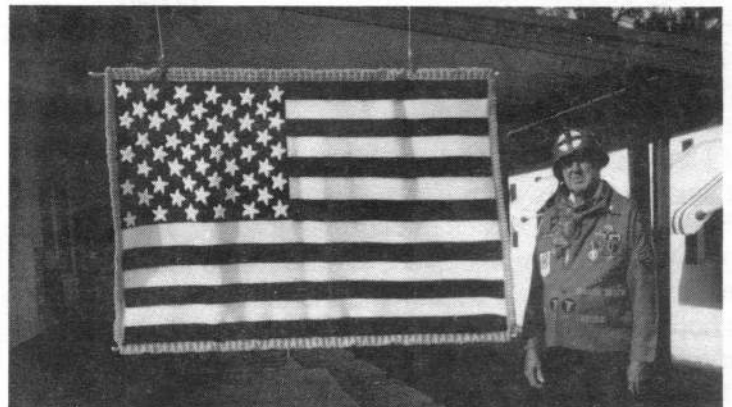
Should any veterans of the famous 330th Infantry Regiment remember Lt. Yeuell, I should appreciate very much hearing from them at the above address.

Sincerely,
Bill Calnan
"C" Co., 308th Engr C BN.

GREETINGS:

I am seeking information and/or photographs from any of your members about the "2nd Armored Division, 66th Armored Regiment, 2nd Battalion" during the periods of (June 1944 to July 1945). This unit is known to have been a part of "Combat Command A" (TASK FORCE "B") from 10 July 1943 until the end of the war in May 1945. Any information or assistance you could provide would be greatly appreciated.

H. Lamar Johnson
14709 Park Hills Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99516



Enclosed picture of myself and a flag my family gave me on my 79th birthday.
Ned.

Indianapolis Northeast KOA
Franchisee of Kampgrounds of America, Inc.

Dear Mr. Derickson,

We were pleased to learn from our Indianapolis Convention and Visitors Association that your organization is scheduled to meet in Indianapolis in the near future.

Our experience has shown that many convention and meeting attendees enjoy using their recreational vehicles while participating in such events. KOA Indianapolis may be the ideal accommodations for your RV members.

If you could advise your members of the availability of our facilities through your newsletter or convention mailings, we would be pleased to furnish all those interested with our brochure and a special discount package for the term of your event. Ask them to contact us directly by phone or mail.

We are proud of our campground and believe your campers will find it very comfortable and convenient to use. We are a short distance by expressway from the center of Indianapolis.

We look forward to your visit and wish you a successful convention in Metro Indianapolis.

Sincerely,

Alan and Donna Read, Owners and Managers
5896 W. 200 N, Greenfield, IN 46140
(317) 894-1397

Dear Bob,

I am writing to inform you that you may not know our Dad Earl N. Deisher passed away Dec. 21, 1996, from a heart attack. It was very unexpected. He had the first one in November, it was a difficult one.

When Dad first found out there was 83rd reunions and meetings to attend, he was excited about it. He told me quite a bit what went on and things you did.

When I started attending the reunions with him 4 years ago, I realize how much dad enjoyed going and how much you all are like a close link family. You all have been through alot, good and hard times. I've gotten to know some of you and learned and listened to what you've been through. Earl's family is very proud of what he did and I know dad was proud too, serving with you and for our country.

We want to still continue to support the 83rd Association. And would very much like to still receive the Thunderbolt and any news concerning the 83rd.

I hope you could print this letter in the issue of Thunderbolt.

Thank You!

Earl N. Deisher, Co. A, 329th
Daughters Susan Allen, Dawn

New Address 921 Salem Ave., Elyria, Ohio 44035

Old Address 932 Sherwood Dr., Elyria, Ohio 44035

International Relations

We could see Paris in the distance, but we had orders to stay put and let the French troops take it. Eventually, a column of trucks appeared caring French Seneglese. They all seemed to be six foot plus, wore big smiles and were carrying World War I rifles with two foot bayonets. Later, we bivouaced in a field near a small airstrip and found some Seneglese already camped there.

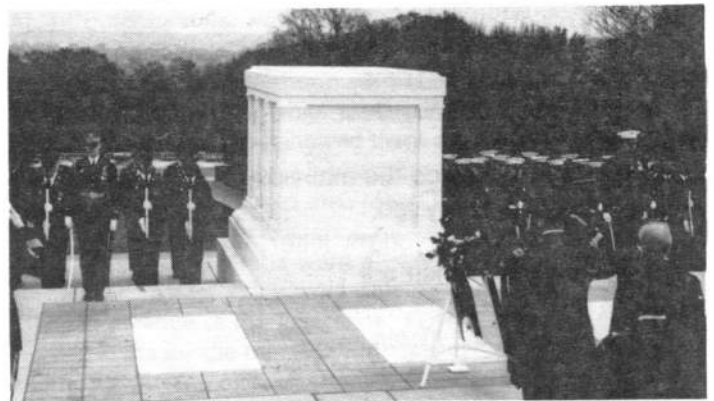
When off duty, the black Africans were friendly and helpful, even though they did not speak French. When a small plane needed gasoline to be poured in from five gallon cans, two Seneglese picked up a fifty-five gallon drum with a hose and held it over head to fill the tank. Another time, one of our jeeps had a flat and we lacked a jack. Two grinning Seneglese took turns holding the jeep level until the wheel was changed.

At night, we had a problem. They patrolled the perimeter next to our latrine area. It was a thrill to see in the dark a flash of teeth and find a two foot bayonet at your throat. When nature called, some of us learned to walk into a field away from the latrines carrying a shovel. Others just became constipated.

Hal O'Neil, 83rd Signal

WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY IN ARLINGTON CEMETERY

A ceremony commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Soviet Marshal Georgiy Zhukov was held in Arlington National Cemetery on Sunday November 24, 1996. The United States Army Band ("Pershing's Own") played the Russian and



American national anthems, and an honor guard representing all the U.S. services presented the Colors, executing an impressive wheel maneuver. Russian Ambassador Yuliy Vorontsov laid a wreath honoring Zhukov at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The Official Party and spectators, including Bill Guise of B Company, 331st Regiment and myself, walked a few yards down the hill where a podium was set up near the bronze tablet commemorating the meeting of Soviet troops with soldiers of the 69th Infantry Division at the Elbe River on April 25, 1945. There were 7-8 members of the 69th Division present. I talked to one of the 69'ers who was in Lieutenant Buck Kotzebue's patrol, which linked up to the Russians earlier than the patrol led by Lieutenant Bill Robertson, who appears in the famous picture of the handshake on the Elbe. Robertson met a Russian soldier in the middle of the Elbe river on what was left of a destroyed bridge at 16:00, and by 16:45 he and two other 69'ers were on the east bank of the Elbe with a large crowd of Russian soldiers.

General Ronald H. Griffith, Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, spoke of the key role Zhukov played at the battles of Moscow, Stalingrad, Kursk, Leningrad and the final capture of Berlin. General Griffith paid special tribute to Joe Beyrle of the 101st Airborne Division, who was present with his wife Joanne and his granddaughter Amanda. Joe jumped into Normandy on 5 June 1945, was captured by the Germans, escaped twice, joined a Russian armored unit and served as a tank gunner, was wounded, and met Marshal Zhukov in a Russian field hospital. Two of Marshal Zhukov's daughters were present, and Mrs. Ella "Zhukova" spoke of the friendship and mutual respect between Zhukov and General Dwight D. Eisenhower. (After the war Stalin, jealous of Zhukov's popularity, sent him into domestic exile by appointing him commander of the Urals military district, far from Moscow. After Stalin's death in 1953, Zhukov was rehabilitated and subsequently because the Soviet Defense Minister.) Ambassador John Eisenhower (he looks a lot like Ike) told of a trip he and General Eisenhower made to Russia after the war, and described the enthusiastic reception Ike received from the Russian people. After a speech by Ambassador Vorontsov and another wreath-laying, a bugler played taps to conclude the ceremony.

Rudy Zamula
83rd Signal Co.

Dear Robert,

Snow is falling outside. It's getting cold. And my memories go back to that awful winter of the year 1944.

Combustible to feed our stoves was rare. Coal had been put on short allowance. A wheelbarrow of coal every three or four months, when you had a good wire to the coal-dealer.

Firewood was not easy to get too. So my father and I fetched dead branches in the nearby forests and took them home on a hand-drawn wagon.

We had no school. All the buildings were full of American soldiers searching for protection from the terrible cold.

There was not enough room for all of them. The crews of M 26 Dragon wagons stationed in our street - one of them just before our house were supposed to sleep in those ice-cold metal monsters. But the people invited them as far as there was the possibility to do so into their houses for eating and sleeping so did we. Only some guards remained outside to watch over the trucks and the equipment.

At noon, they ate in the installed field kitchens. So did we children, when the soldiers had finished their meal.

Our steel mills were protected by large AAA units positioned on the hills around our town. Maybe I told you already that those factories made and still make the biggest steel beams of the world. Those beams were used by your engineers to rebuild the bridges blown up by the Germans. For weeks and weeks, I stayed with the soldiers of these units. At noon they shared their meal with us children. And I remember very well my surprise to discover food sometimes quite different from ours (peanutbutter for instance).

And of course chewing gum. I remember the very place in our town, where I was talking for the first time to one of your soldiers. A jeep-driver. He had only one piece of chewing gum left. We were two kids. So he gave each of us one half of the gum. I kept my half a whole week, putting it for the night in a small metallic Panflavin box. Not without adding some crystal sugar in order to revive the smell of the gum, a useless undertaking.

The food and room situation became critical, when all the people running away from the battle of the Bulge arrived in the South of our country. Also those people found shelter in our houses.

Very often a German Bed Check Charly overflowed our town. We never found out why. And to our great surprise, the AAA units never succeeded in getting down that plane. Maybe they didn't want to hurt that lonely guy high up in the sky. With all the soldiers and military equipment in our town, people were dying of fright thinking at the possibility, that this reconnaissance plane could be followed one day by bomber units.

It seems, that the steel mills were never bombed because the Germans didn't believe in their defeat.

You see my 1944/45 memories are rather pleasant ones.

It surely can't be said of the veteran's memories. More than once I drove them to places, where they tried to bring to life again very special situations, they lived some fifty years ago.

More than once I heard awful details of inhuman fights and reports of men losing their best friends and buddies just from one second to the other.

But there is no doubt, that they lived in those times also pleasant moments. May they prevail after so many years over the other ones.

We have not forgotten, that they brought freedom back to us. We have not forgotten that they made it possible for us to live for more than fifty years in peace.

Let these two facts be part of the good memories of those times.

The veterans may be proud about what they did for us. All the best for the coming year for you and your family.

Gilbert Schmit
12 Batty Weberstrasse
L - 4684 Differdange
Europe.



Chancellor Kohl Invites You.



Message of Greetings

As former members of the American Armed Forces, I would like to bid you and your families a very warm welcome in Germany. We will be delighted to have you here!

The United States and Germany enjoy a close and enduring friendship. We share the same fundamental values, the belief in freedom, democracy, and the rule of law. In our American friends, more than in anyone else, we Germans found succour and support on the road to reunification.

I would be very glad if as many of you as possible could visit us here in Germany. Why not come and show your children this beautiful country of ours which owes you so much?

Sincerely, Helmut Kohl
Chancellor, Federal Republic of Germany

February 4, 1997

YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT!

The German Government and its citizens are HONORING every American veteran who has served in Germany from 1945 to the present - all 10,000,000 plus (and their families) - and it could be YOU! Incredible? Perhaps - but the facts clearly show why. It is a testimony to the character of both the German and American people.

Germany is NOT being philanthropic. They recognize the important role that the United States played in the reunification of their country and the preservation of their freedom during the long years of the Cold War. It is a remarkable gesture of respect and appreciation. These simple facts illustrate the significance of their action:

- (1) It is the only time ever that an occupied country has honored its occupier...and even more startling...
- (2) It is the only time in history that a "military force" has been recognized for its role in peace (not war)! This is a fantastic achievement alone, and the implications it has for the future success of our military forces in peaceful pursuits are staggering.

Best of all - EVERY American military unit and individual who served in Germany in 1945 to the present is eligible. What does it mean to YOU? It depends on you. It offers wonderful opportunities for you to revisit Germany under special arrangements with prices that are almost too good to be true. Imagine, for example, a week in Germany for an inclusive price of just \$999 with round-trip air fare from New York, Boston or Washington, hotel with breakfast for six nights and a car rental for six days. Hard to believe, isn't it? And you can fly into and out of any Lufthansa airport in Germany at the same price.

If you do not want to drive, there are other equally attractive options:

- (1) German rail pass - first class - unlimited use
- (2) Scheduled group tour departures
- (3) Custom-designed group tours for your own unit

In addition, a special "Certificate of Appreciation" is presented to each returning veteran plus vouchers for free gifts and discounted prices on a wide variety of benefits, as well as local hospitality by German families in selected areas.

For complete details, contact Galaxy Tours - toll-free - 1-800-523-7287 - or write P.O. Box 234, Wayne, PA., 19087.

For More Information refer to Page 32 of Issue #1

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

Anyone wishing to purchase tee shirts, coats, and caps may write to:

Vito C. Palazzolo, 20000 Lancaster, Harper Woods, Michigan 48225

Bolo Ties, Necklaces, \$10.00 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
Indianapolis, Indiana

Dates are:

August 20, 21, 22, 23, 1997

DUES ARE DUE NOW

For Fiscal Year (Aug. 1996 - 97)

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

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3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, OH 45013-8907

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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.**