



# THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 53 Issue No. 1

Fall Issue 1997



The Holiday Inn City Centre is a 286 room convention hotel located in the heart of down town Peoria. Over 19,000 square feet of meeting and banquet space.

**52nd Annual Reunion**  
Peoria, Illinois August 19, 20, 21, 22, 1998

## 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.....	1987
Jack M. Straus.....	1948	*William M. Doty.....	1966	*Arthur Doggett.....	1987
*Shelly Hughes.....	1949	Albert A. Belvedere.....	1967	*Bernie Cove.....	1987
*Julius Ansel.....	1950	Vito C. Palazzolo.....	1968	Carroll Brown.....	1987
*Walter H. Edwards Jr.....	1951	Pat DiGiammerino.....	1969	John Hobbs.....	1987
Leo Schneider.....	1952	Casey Szubski.....	1970	George Pletcher.....	1987
Finley Heyl.....	1953	*Charles Altomari.....	1971	*Charles Schmidt.....	1987
*Lawrence J. Redmond.....	1954-55	*Harold H. Dopp.....	1972	Edward Reuss.....	1987
*Lt. Gen. Robert H. York.....	1956	Louis J. Volpi.....	1973	Charles J. Lussier.....	1997
*Harry W. Lockwood.....	1957	Bernard O. Riddle.....	1974	Edgar H. Haynes.....	1997
*Raymond J. Voracek.....	1958	Robert G. Taylor.....	1975	Ned Smith.....	1997
Charles Abdinoor.....	1959	Mike Skovran.....	1976	Louis Sandini.....	1997
*Joseph F. Minotti.....	1960	Manlius Goodridge.....	1977	William A. Minick.....	1997
*Frank J. McGrogan.....	1961	Joseph A. Macaluso.....	1978	Casey Szubski.....	1997
John W. Robinette.....	1962	*William J. Chavanne.....	1979	Floyd Richmond.....	1997
*Manuel C. Martin.....	1963	*Samuel Klippa.....	1980		
*Julius Boyles.....	1964	Michael Caprio.....	1981		

\* Denotes Deceased





## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

In August '98 we are "reunioning" in an historic old rivertown on the Illinois River, not far from Lincoln's reconstructed hometown of New Salem and not far from Springfield where he lived and practiced law. You will have a chance to walk the ground and walk the floors that Lincoln walked.

I hope you will all consider a trip to Peoria worthwhile - in addition to seeing old buddies again.

This year we did not have a chapter volunteer to handle our reunion so the Executive Board had to start the planning and making arrangements prior to our adoption of by-law amendments designed to provide for this contingency and to work out a new way of operating.

Our closet committee member to Peoria is about 350 miles away and we have only 2 members within 20 miles of Peoria. One a new member who has not been to a reunion. Our committee has probably generated more than normal travel and telephone expenses making arrangements. Plans and arrangements have been made but we will need volunteers from those attending to help during the reunion. The more volunteers the less time each will spend on their tasks. We need help in the Hospitality Room, to take bus tour tickets, round up the golfers, make table assignments, sell 50/50 tickets etc. Volunteers please, as soon as you can. Let Vice President Floyd Richmond know you are available.

You can all help by registering early so we can arrange busses and tee times etc.

Also we are bringing back the Ad Book and 50/50. Cliff Wooldridge has agreed to handle the Ad Book.

I think you will all enjoy the Peoria Reunion so:

1. Pre-register early
2. Volunteer if you can.
3. Support your Ad Book.

Thanks,  
Keith Davidson  
National President

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER** **FINAL MESSAGE**

Thanks to each person who attended our 51st. Reunion at the Adam's Mark in Indianapolis. Even though there were the usual hang-ups, miscommunications and etc., I hope you enjoyed being there.

I want to thank those people who's time and skills made each day's events proceed as smoothly as possible. I can not single out each person who did a great job, but, I do want to mention Ames Miller and those who helped him organize the Atterbury trip.

Though the Adam's Mark was at fault for the inconvenience caused by booking the wrong room (it was suppose to be double the size provided), Mic McGowan and those who helped him, overcame the dilemma, and did a great job with the Hospitality room.

Earl Hoover and Manny Goodridge did a great job with seating for the banquet. The system used worked well. When your friends did not show, why didn't you turn the tickets back in? The Hotel removed all tables above the number of diners sold, without consulting Manny and Earl. (The food was good)

Bob Derickson did a great job with the pre-registration which prevented long lines. Pearl and her crew Bonnie, Alberta and others did a good job taking care of those who did not pre-register, local walk-ins and etc.

Thanks to Bob and Lois Brinkman for having the Indy 500 Car on display, the car belonged to their nephew which we also extend a special thanks.

Thanks to everyone who attended the business meeting and for their co-operation and input, enabling us to conduct a smooth and orderly meeting, thus we were able to take action on the most pertinent business, being the election of a Member of the Board, the President and his line of officers, Secretary Treasurer, Judge Advocate, Historian and chaplain. Also, in selecting the location for the Reunion Site in 1999, which will be held in Lexington, Kentucky.

I now ask Salvadore Scicolone to accept my apology, I should have introduced him as the Chairman of the Board for 1997 & 1998 and 1998 & 1999. (Sorry Sal)

Floyd J. Richmond  
President 1996 and 1997

## Executive Board Chairman

First I want to thank everyone for electing me on the Executive Board and I will try to serve you in the best way I can. I hope all that attended our 51st Reunion in Indianapolis, Ind. enjoyed themselves and returned home safely after the reunion. Floyd Richmond and his staff should be commended for putting on this great reunion. We are now looking for-

ward to our 52nd reunion in Peoria, Ill. in 1998 and hope you are all beginning to make plans to attend. Our National President, Keith Davidson is planning to restore the Ad Book and we will need all the support that we can get. There will be more information for the Ad Book in a future issue of the Thunderbolt.

Best Wishes To All  
Sal Scicolone  
I Co. 329th Inf.

## *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.

Names of deceased members that Bob Derickson gave to me at the reunion in Indianapolis. These names were read at the Memorial Service at the Indianapolis Reunion.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Reported By</u>
Frank Armento	CN 329th	wife - Mary
George Armstrong	"H" 330th	Mike Caprio
George Bellay	En. 329th	Charles Thormazin
John Caruso	"H" 330th	James McCulla
Joseph Cellura	"D" 331	Al Shawder
Jacob Chevalier	783 Ord.	Warren Rangon
Curtis G. Deisher	"B" 331st	John Daum
Charles E. Durbin	"D" 331st	Al Shawder
Benjamin Johnson	Med. 330	Ellisworth Massie
William C. Klender	Rg. Hq. 330	E. Wehling
A. Wm. Laughter	"A" 908th	Carson Deek
Bill Lodder	No Unit	Lacey Satterfield
Buck Melbro	Hq. 3rd Bn. 331st	" "
Jerry Matteo	Div. Hq.	Wife
Frank W. Sarver	"M" 331st	Wife
Keith Weinsburger	AT 330th	Francis Hostettler

<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Bill Ayers	Co. "A" 329 Inf
John Bailey	Co. "D" 329th Inf.
Sam Bifano	324th F.A. Battalion
Duane Brigstock	1st Bn. Hq. 331st Inf.
Louis W. Day	Co. "D" 331st
Curtis Deisher	Co. "B" 331st Inf.
Harold Groff	Co. "D" 330th Inf.
Rufe Lamon	Co. "M" 331st Inf.
Franklin Meyers	Co. "D" 331st Inf.
Earl Miller	Co. "A" 330th Eng.
John Pallata	Co. "G" 329
Robert Ryan	Co. "K" 330th Inf.
Richard Rynkowski	Co. "M" 330th Inf.
William Stubno	783rd Ord.
Arthur Thomas	Co. "D" 329th Inf.
Joe Wenix	No Unit
Edward Williams	"B" Btry 980th F.A.
Charles Woody	Co. "D" 331st
Joseph Stanisauskis	*83rd Signal
Robert York	Co. "D" 330th Inf.
Virgil Feeney	Co. "F" 329th Inf.
Edward Holmes	Co. "L" 329th Inf.
Willard Holman	Co. "L" 329th Inf.
Bill Goodwin	Co. "L" 329th Inf.
Jim Alexander	Co. "K" 330th Inf.

Correction: A Typo for Wm. Testa, Co. K 331 instead of Wm. Lesta by Franklin Ciampa in Vol. 52 No. 3, Summer Issue 1997.



## From the Office.....



I want to thank all those who supported the 51st Reunion that the Kentucky Chapter hosted at Adam's Mark Hotel in Indianapolis, IN. I was very pleased how the Pre-registering was accepted. Had many good comments. We will be doing the same this year. We will appreciate the same co-operation this year.

The dead line date will be July 15, 1998. There will not be an extension this year. If you miss that date you will have to register on site.

**A reminder - your 98 membership dues are due now!**

It's time to start thinking about Peoria, Illinois. Read your magazine very close. We have a lot of different places for you to visit that are within walking distance along with the bus tours that are great. Be sure to check the centerfold area of the magazine.

Pearls health condition is not improving right now. Hopefully it will soon. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and healthy New Year.

Bob Derickson  
National Secretary

P.S. Lee M. Hetrick 485 E Hazel Hurst, Ferndale, MI 48220 that his wife passed away in Oct. 1997.

## Chapters

### Boston Chapter.....



Mr. & Mrs. A. Tynan, Mr. & Mrs. Leo Beland. A "Memorial" Dinner for Ronald Goodman - Boston Chapter.



Boston Chapter group at lunch after services for Richard Armstrong.



George & Hilda Connors w/Family - 50th Wedding Ann.



Boston group at Chet & Laurette Morley's home - August Meeting.



Enjoying Livy Maynard's back yard at our July Meeting. - Boston Chapter.



**Meeting at Pat & Gin's House - Boston Chapter**

On July 29th a meeting was held at Olivia Maynard's home in Westport, MA. It was a beautiful day so most of the meeting was held outside on the lawn. Fifteen members plus their wife were present. Lou Sandini opened the meeting around 2:30 P.m. Plans were made for the coming year. We will always make progress helping the VA Hospitals as in the past. We picked up a few new members. After the meeting, food was ready and we all enjoyed. Thanks Livie for the great day!

In August at the 51st Reunion, many were there from the Boston Chapter. Congratulations to Lou 'Sandini for being elected to the Executive Board. Lou will do a great job in the years ahead.

The first night of the Reunion not so good, but thanks to Manny Goodridge my second night was more comfortable. My outfit also appreciated all the hard work Manny. Four days goes by so fast when you're with your 83rd buddies.

On September 27th, the Boston Chapter meeting was held at the DiGiammerino Estate in Malden, MA. I did not attend this meeting as I had a family event. Hy Goodman wrote everything about the meeting. There were 23 members present. It was nice to hear Jim Prentice and Phyllis Scott were there. George and Hilda Connors are back from their second honeymoon. I am sorry that I could not make it, but Bart McNeil showed pictures of World War II, which I'm sure were enjoyed by all. Lots of food from Ginny's kitchen. Lou Sandini thanked Pat and Gin for the use of their home.

Those who pass away  
Know not the pain  
That's felt by those  
Who must remain

Those were the thoughts that went through the minds of many of the members of the Boston Chapter at Mesrob Armenian Church in Providence, Rhode Island, June 29th, 1997. About thirty five of us, including eight members of the family of Richard Armstrong, were gathered there to celebrate a Mass in honor of Ronald Goodman, son of the Chapter Secretary, Hy Goodman.

Ronald E. Goodman (1942-1997) son of Hyman Goodman and Lucy (Bozlgian) Goodman died and was buried in California.

Hy and Lucy had invited the Boston Chapter to come down to celebrate the mass which was followed by a marvelous dinner. The Mass was very impressive. It was completely sung by what seemed like to be 4-5

priests and a chorus of many voices all assembled at the altar. The voices were beautiful, it seemed to be a religious opera.

Later in the dining room below the church, many eulogies were given. One was delivered by Hy himself, about his son and Richard Armstrong. It was heart rendering. During the time that Hy was at his son's funeral in California he made a call to his close friend, Richard Armstrong. He received no response. After making many calls with no answer, he called others who went to Armstrong's house and found that he had died. While reciting this double tragedy poor Hy had to stop many times. Everybody present had to restrain their tears. Our President, Lou Sandini, made a short speech of sympathy to the families of the deceased and thanked the Goodman family for allowing us to participate. After the eulogies, there was time when individuals offered their personal condolences before we departed as a body to the Veteran's Cemetery in Exeter to visit Armstrong's grave. After a wild ride in a ten car column, we were met at the cemetery in Exeter, Rhode Island by the family of Richard Armstrong, who led us to Dick's grave. At the location we made a large ring around the grave and held hands while we said a silent prayer.

**Richard L. Armstrong (1910-1997) Son of John and Lillian (Carpenter) Armstrong died May 19, 1997. Member of the A Co. 328th Infantry: owner of the two most brag-worthy decorations. The Combat Infantry Badge and the Purple Heart. He also earned 4 Battle Stars (missing 1 Battle Star while he was wounded) along with the many other medals and badges earned by the 83rd who served in Europe.**

Pat Digaimmerino opened the proceedings by expressing the Boston Chapters regrets for not having been in a body at the Armstrong funeral. The reason being that his death was so unexpected that the news could not have been sent to us in time to gather the troops. Pat said:

"We shall miss dear Armstrong  
Accordion and all  
But you are in heaven  
Playing a song."

Many other groups will miss Armstrong's music. Dick used to go around different places, such as nursing homes and play his accordion in sing-a-longs. They will miss his sunny nature and his dry humor.

"Ne'er shall your story be forgot  
While fame her record keeps  
And honor points this hallowed ground  
where valor proudly sleeps."

Next Hyman Goodman was introduced and he made the following poetic speech,

"Sleep O soldier your war is over:  
Fear the battlefield no more.  
Scary nights that kept you quaking  
Will no longer keep you waking.

You're no longer cannon fodder  
For now you're blessed with holy water  
With this thought, we do not weep.  
In heaven's arms is where you sleep



Our love for you will not wane  
But time along will ease the pain.  
Deserved peace you shall now find  
For the war you fought for all mankind."

A white cross, made by Fred Sylvia was planted at the head of the grave and a cross of flowers presented by the Chapter was leaned against it along with other flowers that were brought by members of the family headed by James W. Armstrong, A brother, and Alice Baxter, a sister.

Next Jim Burton sang, My Buddy. The emotion felt by the assemblage was almost overwhelming. Joe Macaluso called the troops to attention and honor guard, led Al Belvedere, fired their rifles. Then **Taps** was played. The Winged Victory Singers sang **You'll Never Walk Alone**. This was followed by Kate Smith singing (along with many assembled there) **God Bless America**. Of course all of the things in this paragraph were done by tape and a boom box.

Charlie Lussier made the final goodbyes for all who were present; speaking from the heart and directly to Armstrong. We know that Richard hears.

After the ceremony all of the participants went to a restaurant nearby where they were treated to drinks and dessert.

Funerals and cemeteries are not the things that elate the souls; but somehow on the way home we all must have felt a kind of satisfaction for the things we did. We know that Richard Armstrong liked it. We all loved him and he loved us.

It is sad for me to report the most recent death in the Chapter. Raymond Bjork. Ray was a loyal Boston Chapter member for years and a true 83rd member. We went to the wake and funeral. Condolences to the Bjork family.

Amby Tynan, Boston Reporter

## *Cleveland Chapter.....*

Another reunion behind us and everyone is preparing for the next one. I will say one thing, it sure was nice

having our own bus, our bus driver and our "tour director" Laura Kowalic did a fantastic job. The bus was at our disposal anytime. To bad the Mizerock's weren't there, but they had better things to do, such as celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary and where did they celebrate their anniversary, in Las Vegas. Making big bucks - Ha! Congratulations to you both.

The Szubski's couldn't make it, Casey was in the hospital; had several things taken care of. He's OK now, but he was missed at the meeting. So "Capt. Mac" had to stand in for him. "Somebody had to do it Casey"

Camp Atterbury was a great experience. Couldn't recognize anything. Enjoyed the tour, the N.C.O. Lunch - "Well?"

The Cleveland Chapter took the bus to the "Argosy's Route 66" had a terrific meal **"FREE"**, because of a mix up on their part. Saturday morning. Then we all went on a 2 hour gambling river cruise. Hank Trzeciak and I were having such a great time. "I was having a great time watching Hank winning that we forgot all about the time. Thanks to Laura Kowalic and the bus driver they found us. Boy did we get the Raspberry's when we got on the bus. But they all forgave us "I think."

We are sad to report one of our members wife has passed away. Julie Lanza, wife of Joe, the last of June. She will be missed by all.

Bob Miller gave me a picture of his mine platoon, 330th Reg. HDQ. Picture taken at the Cointreau Chateau in Angers France. They had tough duty there. Ask him about it. He would like to know if you recognize anyone in this picture? Bob is in the first row, 4th from the left. The only one that has his hair combed "Ha" Bob Miller's address is 111 Hampshire Cove, Painesville, Ohio 44077.

Sick List - Ruth Lindsey is doing better. She had heart problems at Reunion time and couldn't go with us. Warren Owen also is on the sick list as is Ben Kasputis our guest member.

This is all for now - Take Care!

Bob Grobelny  
Cleveland Chapter



330th Reg. Hdq. 83rd DIV - Mine Platoon. Picture taken at the Cointreau Chateau in Angers France. Are you in this picture? Bob Miller, 111 Hampshire Cove, Painesville, OH. 44077.



## *New England Chapter.....*

We of the New England Chapter would like to thank Floyd Richmond for running our 51st reunion it is a thankless job.

Thanks again Floyd.

After spending two weeks in Owensboro Ky, visiting Mary family we drove to Indianapolis, Indiana for the reunion.

It was a great time meeting our buddies and there wives again after a year. Boy have we all changed Ha Ha Ha!

Our members of the New England Chapter who were there were Mike & Marie Champey of Middletown Ct., Ed & Carmela Mudre of Stratford and Irine of Hazel Pk, Michigan. Mike & Nina Pefitti of Spring Hill, Fla., Karl & Ingrid Burkhard of Carmel, N.Y., Nick & Mary Francullo of Lynn, Ma., John & Ester Ferriera of Chelmsford, Ma.

We hope all of the rest of our Chapter members who did not make it are OK and had other commitments.

It was great to see Tom Sullivan of Wilmington, Del., Hq. Co. 3rd Bn. 330th.

Sorry we did not see Tony Nugent, of Kansas City, Mo., Vitie Atkocius of Forestville, Md., Fred & Nellie Messina of Newbern, North Carolina, Ben Cunningham of Madison, Tn. 04853 of Hq. Co. 3rd Bn. 330. Hope you are all O.K.

I would like to thank Ames & Helen Miller for the bus trip to Camp Atterbury, it was great and it brought back some memories and a big thanks for Pearl and all her girls at the registration desk for another job well done, for it were not for the women we would not have nothing. Thanks again, Bob & Pearl and the good women. Yes we need you.

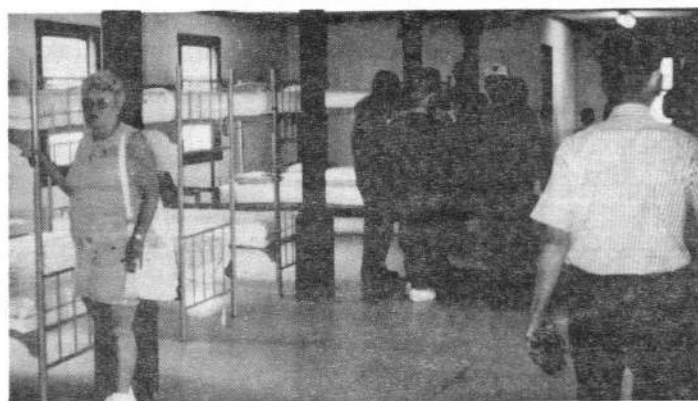
Talked to Bill Davis and he and Betty are doing O.K. thanks to the doctors. They were not able to make the reunion but are looking forward to next year.

The Brennans will be off to Falls Church, Va. where son-in-law Lt. Col. Mike Daved and family have been transferred by the Air Force.

Dutchy and Helen Smiths daughter Deborah Smith Walsh our Councilor at large has been re-elected in our primary election. Good luck Deb in the Nov. election.



**New England Chapter Gang.**



**Inside of Camp Atterbury.**



**New England Chapter Gang.**



**Mary Francullo, Mike & Nina Petitti**



**Jim Brennan, Nick Francullo, Mike Petitti**  
New England Chapter

Received info from Chuck Abdinoor for the New England News. Now that the fall is here, we will be looking forward to our Xmas party which will be held in R.I.

As usual Spike is getting restless and looking forward to seeing Karl & Mike at the party. They were in H Co. 330th together also Bedcheck Bjork.

Haven't heard lately from John and Stacy Marcyz, hope all is well with them. Dutchy & Helen Smith are fine. They are regulars on the flights to Atlantic City and Las Vegas. They are on the preferred list (High Rollers)

John & Esther Ferreria are always on the road visiting friends and relatives.

Chuk & Bernices granddaughter Joelle is honorably discharged from the Coast Guard, trying to talk her into joining the reserves, but we will see.

Looking forward to seeing Dolores & Paul Reed this winter in Baltimore, Md. Paul was my Platoon leader in Co. A. 330th.

One incident that happened was we were taking a town in the Ruhr Valley, Paul was directing the Bazooka man to fire a round at a window in the next house, which was holding us up. Being occupied by some Germans firing at us.

As you know, when you pat the man's helmet then he fires. He was explaining to the men when I touch your helmet fire. He did not realize it, but touched his helmet and the man fired. Paul was blasted through the door from the blast. Lucky for him he was not seriously hurt. But it taught us all a lesson. We finally cleared that house and took the town. That incident is always brought up when we meet.

Looking forward to seeing our Chapter at our next meeting and hope to be more active this Coming year, but we are getting older. Hope to have more news in the next issue.

That is it.

Your Buddy,

Nick Francullo

Hq. Co. 3rd Bn. 330th

P.S. New England Chapter members. Your 1998 Dues are now due. Thanks

*New England Chapter Nick Francullo.*

*I received the V.F.W. Mag. on June & July copy and read this story on the Normandy Medal and I sent away to France for it and while at the reunion I received the Jubilee of Liberty medal from the President of France.*

*So if you men who served in Normandy in WWII would like to send for it this is how you can send for it.*

*N. Francullo, Sr.*

*10 Bessom St.*

*Lynn, MA 01902*

## **Normandy Medal Unavailable in U.S.**

The French Embassy does not issue medals to U.S. WWII vets who served in the Normandy Campaign. Nor does the U.S. government issue the "Jubilee of Liberty" medal created by the Regional Council of Normandy in 1994 to commemorate D-Day's 50th anniversary.

To request this medal, send a copy of your military records to prove Normandy involvement to: *Association Debarquement et Bataille de Normandie 1944, Abbaye aux Dames, Place Reine Mathilde, B.P. 311, 14015 Caen Cedex, France. Fax 011-33-2-3195 1281.*

## *New Jersey Chapter.....*

The Chapter Members who attended the reunion had an enjoyable time at the reunion. We want to thank all who put in the time and effort for putting on a fine reunion. The trips to Little Nashville and the City Tour that we went on were very interesting and well planned. I came away with a different view of Indiana from which I had from a previous visit. The trip to Little Nashville took us to a very pretty area of Indiana, also a very historic area with a court house where John Dillinger was tried. The town also had many antique stores and quaint eating establishments. We didn't go to Camp Atterbury as it was at the same time as the Little Nashville tour, but those (that I spoke to) that went enjoyed that trip.

Attending from the chapter were Manny Epstein who had to leave early on Saturday to attend a Bar Mitzva for a relative of Jerry Seinfeld from



TV's Seinfeld Show. Emil Wehling told me he enjoyed himself, but as all of us was saddened by John Caruso dying at the reunion after the Saturday Banquet. John was a cook in Emil's company. Charley Sihlanick spent his time with his artillery buddies but missed the Cleveland buddies that didn't attend.

Also attending were George and Dot Foster who gave us a good news about their up-coming marriage. Sam and Edith Manzi spent quite a lot of time with Fran and I at this reunion and it was fun being with them. Tony Hroncich with Lena always smiling were enjoying it all. Tony is a real fun guy and was at our meeting in September. Cookie Seneca had his daughter Mary Ann, son Jim and daughter-in-law Darlene attend with him again. It's always great to be with the Seneca family. The reunion in Peoria next year is in their backyard. Jim Seneca works a block from the hotel we are using for the reunion.

We missed Mike and Liz Skovran at the reunion. I don't remember them ever missing a reunion. We send them all our best wishes.

It was great seeing Wilson and Vi Day at the reunion. They both looked good and promised to be in Peoria next year. Wilson was the only other one to attend from my company.

At the reunion we enjoyed sharing a table at dinner with Jim and Dolores Price and for another meal with Ed and Lee Reuss at the hotel restaurant. A nice way to get to know fellow 83rder's. Larry Leonardi joined us another night with Ken and Phyllis Biard for dinner.

Those of you that took the 1976 tour to Europe will remember Ken and Phyllis had their daughter Beth and son Bruce on the tour and how much they contributed to the enjoyment of the tour.

Beth and Bruce attended the Saturday Banquet. It was great seeing them again and to see how great they look.

On October 10th, Joe De Peri's daughter Joann married Joseph Beatrice at St. Joseph's R.C Church in Lodi, N.J. Our best wishes for a long and happy life together.

Addie Rein is back home in Kenilworth. We look forward to her participating with the chapter activities again.

December 6th is the day of our Christmas Party. I have sent out the invitations to all the chapter members. If you do not plan to attend, please send your 1998 dues (\$3.00) to me.

In closing, the chapter wishes you and your families a Happy Holiday Season and a Healthy and Happy 1998.

Stan Bielen, 1st Bn. Hdqs. 331

## *Dixie Chapter.....*

It was 51 years in the making. Five days in length and well worth all the work by the hard working crew who pulled it off. I'm ready for next year already.

Monday finds me on the road getting an early start. I'm enjoying the leisure trip, just crossing into Ohio when I stop to use the rest stop and collect some maps. I'm getting a cold drink from my cooler when a car pulls in next to me blowing the horn, rolling the window down (electric) yelling. Lincoln Town Car - turned out it was Elaine Watkins, one of our precious widows. James wife with Lacy & Melba Satterfield. Invited me to share a sandwich, I declined thinking I'd better hurry on with a 2 hr. lead to be sure of getting a parking space. It was a good move. Before I arrived I met Paul Ohirs on the road, got to talk with him later at the hotel. Things are looking good.

Tuesday In the lobby I see 83rders everywhere. Some old timers some first timers. Frank Phillips and Therapist, Pearl & Bonnie, Floyd Richmond, Keith Davidson, Less Pittman and family, Sam Badgett - these I see before I can check in. They appeared to be living at the hotel permanently. There would be many more to come, very soon.

Wednesday Early birds from 908 F.A. show up. Chas Stine and Lois, Grace Brick, Henry Hudson, Tetlack and bride. They just appear by magic apparently. Then theres Mike Champey, Tony Hodovich, Buford Funk, Joe Sechrest, Earl Macdonald. All with their lovely wives. What a trip this is going to be!! Everywhere I look theres more old and new friends. I just can't believe it. How sweet it is!!

Thursday Reveille 5:30 for bus trip to Atterbury breakfast, loaded on bus - bus wrong one - unloaded to another waited, finally got underway for a memorable trip with the past seeing the remains of what we knew 50 years ago and into the future as the facility has changed with the needs of the day. Helen and Ames Miller seem to be every where at once helping everyone to enjoy the day and sights.

All our guides are to be complimented on a job well done. The memorial was especially impressive at the entrance to the past. Many were seeing it for the first time. I was happy to see it dedicated in 1992. The equipment park is quite impressive. We are enjoying the PX, finding momentos and gifts for those back home. Finally we get home to Adam's Mark and leave immediately for an excellent eatery at Greenwood, Indiana. We are lucky to find this place, having a local buddy with us helped greatly. Another full day. Kathryn is reminding me that I'm 75 and need to pace myself but the 51st only happens one time. Dixie is honored to have at least 30 present with at least 3 charter members among them. I'm so proud of them as I am of all those who took time and expense to come "Remembering those who are gone from us" and celebrating being alive and able after all these years.

Friday Some took the trip to Nashville, I choos in-



dianapolis tour with the Brickyard, Ind, Memorial and Legion Headquarters and other points of interest. I could only recognize "The Circle" after 50 years the changes are unbelievable. We finally wind up with enough "Red Legs" for 1 Howitzer Section, Batt. commander, Executive officer, Forward observer and a couple spares. Zingg, Sihlanick, Sechrest and Massie congratulate our commissioned leadership for being there to help out when we really needed a guiding hand. Twas a good showing! Now we have a good 322. Many on the Executive board. We want our Infantry Buddies to know we're in full support until the last five mission is complete, March order is given and we move on the next field of battle whenever, that is!! Where were our Engineers? We needed you badly but some how made out with just a handful. Fearing that I'd leave one out I won't mention any by name. Next time let it be different!!

Cancellations came in though out the meeting. Bill & Lill Benlow, Donald & Grace Cramer from a 322 had to cancel. A dozen others never showed up! Whats wrong? I hope all are not sick or disabled. I wish you well.

Saturday Business is handled by our President in order by fashion. The big news is Lexington, KY. in 2 years. Peoria, Ill. next year. Buford Funk and I visited the site. I was visiting him and he only lives 40 minutes away. We are sure to have a good one at this location. Both our wives accompanied us and they approved the sight and look forward to next year.

I'm in the memorial service to honor our members who passed away in the past year. I look over the troops and guests and feel both fortunate and humbled by the events that have brought us to this point. Remembering those we left in Europe brings a tear to the eye. Yes! after 50 years it still does. Capt. Mac and all the others do a great job! I commend each one for a job well done! We missed each one sick who could not come.

The banquet is one to remember and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The entertainment is top quality. I am enjoying most of all the comradeship developed over the last 50 years from all over our country. Lets keep on doing this all together as long as possible. There's just nothing like it from my life's experience. I'm thankful for this experience and grateful to each of you who has helped make it better!

Ellsworth Massie  
Dixie Reporter 322, 908



**Buford Funk "E" 331 and Family on Banquet nite in Indy.**



**Dixie Shines again! - A few of the 30 + attending from Dixie Chapter.**



**Sechrest leads the way for "A" 322 in Indy!  
Sechrest, Zingg, Sihlanick, Anderson, Massie.**



**Our own Dixie Man, Carroll Brown receives accolades as outgoing Chairman of Ex. Board.**



Ames and Helen Miller - The busy patrons of the Atterbury Memorial. Thank you both!



Dominic Christoford "C" 323 F.A. - 85 yrs. old. Wife Alma 85 yrs + 2 months. Living it up. Oldest man and wife attending.

## *Kentucky Chapter.....*

The Kentucky Chapter met on October 10th and 11th at Shoney's Inn in Georgetown, Kentucky. It was hosted by Raymond and Mary Betty Morrison. They did a great job of setting up the Hospitality Room. Members & their wives brought in goodies. I am sure all who attended extend their thanks and appreciation to the Morrisons.

On the way to Georgetown, Vi & I picked up our good friend, Mildred Doggett. I missed the McDonald restaurant for breakfast so stopped at a honky-tonk restaurant. Mildred & Vi were good sports about it. It was a pleasure to have Millie with us.

This meeting was our election meeting. Since the rumors of my death were rampant at the Indianapolis Reunion & were false, the chapter elected me reporter. Vi wasn't too happy about it. We elected Earl Hoover as President, he has two

good helpers at home in his wife Bonnie & daughter Diane. Chester Wilson was elected Vice President, Homer Rickenbaugh was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer and Manny Goodridge was re-elected Chaplin.

We had two gorgeous days at Georgetown. The men chatted and played cards, the women chatted and shopped.

I talked to Dorothy Henry thinking she was Clara Johnson. They do not look anything alike so my face was a little red.

I was glad to see Jessie & Larry Dalton who came from Georgia, also Cecil & Nora Lee Walters as they have not been coming to the meetings. Cecil is having eye problems & will be going back to the hospital.

I haven't seen my old First Sergeant Fred Fowler for quite awhile. Guess we will have to have a meeting in Louisville to see him.

Alberta & Floyd Richmond looked very happy. It must have been because Floyd's reign as President of the National & Kentucky Chapters are over.

It was great to see Pearl Derickson in spite of her health problems. She always has a smile on her face. She now has a driver's license for her wheel chair.

People who attended the meeting were Raymond & Mary Betty Morrison, Al & Dorothy Henry, Bonnie & Earl Hoover, Diane Lemaster, "Mick" & Doris McGowan, Floyd & Alberta Richmond, Chester & Helen Wilson, Larry & Jessie Dalton, Manny Goodridge, James E. Denney, Marvin & Wanda Haydon, Bob & Pearl Derickson, Cecil & Nora Lee Walters, Alton & Beverly Carter, Lawrence & Maxine Hamilton, Wilson & Vi Day, Mildred Doggett, Paul & Doris Lear, Homer & Ruth Rickenbaugh, Norman Weaks, John Hudnall, R.T. Brooks and Orval Turner. It was so nice seeing all our 83rd. Inf. Div. Assn. friends.

Our next meeting will be held at Piqua, Ohio on December 12th & 13th at Comfort Inn. It will be hosted by Al & Dorothy Henry, "Mick" & Doris McGowan & Bob & Lois Brinkman. If you are in the vicinity, stop in & have a chat with your old buddies.

The Kentucky Chapter wishes all of you a Merry Christmas & a Happy & Healthy New Year.

Wilson Day, reporter

# COMPANIES

## "G" Co. 331 Inf.....

Another year and another reunion has come and gone, anyway we all seem to be getting up in the years. This makes it harder for us to get things done, and when we do it, it takes twice as long. It is a good thing that we were young during the war years, or we would still be crawling around in the foxholes in Normandy.

In Indianapolis we had a few G Company show up. Bill Ripley came in and it was good to see him once again. Phil Graff made his second appearance at a reunion, his first was in Cleveland. Phil is one of the younger fellows of the group. He was one of the mainstays in Company Headquarters. He and Phillip Wiggenhauer had the responsibility of writing the citation for the awards that were given out after each encounter.

Kermit Ralston drove in from Terre Haute with his wife. Since his retirement he has added a few pounds, but it was good to see after so many years. He was my driver and chaperon in southern Germany.

Kenny Baird and his wife attended each day, and on Saturday night his son and his wife were at the banquet.

Clyde Flannary and his wife attended the Friday dinner. Flannary is still getting along fine. Like the rest of us he does have some ailments.

Thought we would have more in attendance, but Bush wrote that he could not attend because of the flooding condition in Evansville. Mike did not attend, because he has orders from his wife that on their 25th wedding anniversary they would make other plans. The attendance is general was down this year for the Division, mainly because most of the members are unable to travel, age is finally catching up with them. It was also noted that many more requested wheel chairs, because it is hard for them to get around without some assistance.

A sign of the times, there was over 100 members from the 83rd Division that have died since the last reunion in Cleveland.

Next year's reunion will be held in Peoria, Illi-

nois. This is a reunion that will be sponsored by the Executive Board. Here again we find that the Chapters are having a hard time sponsoring a reunion because of the work that goes into the planning, and also on the days of the reunion.

We are hoping that many of you start planning for next year. Our mailing list for G Company is down to about 50 members, when I first started to send out the news letter in April, I had over 75 names on the roster.

From time to time I still hear from Singleton in Ohio, Budd and Mayse in North Carolina. Selma Corder in Virginia, Bob Goldstein in New Jersey, Conrad Grove in Pennsylvania, Bush keeps in touch with Harold Ladley.

Glen Mathey in Ohio, Joe Ruberto is living in Fresno, California William Sears in Alabama, Ed Walsh in Pittsburgh Edward Foy in Texas. Harold Higgins in New Hampshire, James Fall in Oregon, Yoder in Delaware, Joe Henley from Tennessee.

The next issue of the Thunderbolt will not be published until after the first of the year.

Here's hoping that we all have a healthy and Happy New Year and may we all enjoy a Merry Christmas.

Capt. Mac

## "G" Co. 329 Inf.....



Front: Bob Brinkman, Bounce Freitag, Ames Miller  
Left Back: Vito Palazzolo, Francis Markuns,  
Middle Back: Leonard Reynolds  
Right Back: John Cupino, Jim Ransdell







Helen Miller, Ether Reynolds, Shirley Ransdell, Virginia Markuns  
Back: Babe Freitag, Virginia Palazzolo, Lois Brinkman.

We all had a great time in Indiana.

Attending:

Virginia and Vito Palazzoli from Mi. Virginia sold jewelry. Vito kept busy selling the 50-51st Reunion shirts and other 83rd articles.

Etha and Leonard Reynold from Virginia: They won first prize at their complex for the beautiful flowers in their garden. They will have a new address in the spring.

John Cupino from Binghamton left Bernice home. She had surgery. I hope she feels better.

Shirley and Jim Ranadel from IL.; great to see them again!

Virginia and Frances Markins from Boston: He sat on his glasses. One more bad day.

Lena and Tony Hroncich from N.J.; Tony didn't dance; he missed Ruth. We missed you too.

Helen and Ames Miller from Indiana showed everybody Camp Atterbury and all the flowers they planted and many other interesting things they had their hearts and hands into.

Lois and Bob Brinkman from Ohio: The race car that won Indianapolis 500 at the 80th Running in '95. Lois and Bob kept watch over the car. Hemelgain, the owner, is the nephew of Lois and Bob.

Bob took Co. G to Gasoline Alley. We visited Hemelgain's garage and had a guide explain how the car was built and repaired. Real interesting.

Babe and Bounce Freitag stopped at Brinkman's in Ohio on the way to the reunion. Lois makes great apple pie! They played pinnacle. I'm not saying who won, but in Indiana the ladies didn't do bad.

In September the Freitags and Brinkmans met in Pa. They visited Loualla and Sterling Rubright. Sterling is recovering from back surgery. He enjoyed all our stories about the reunion. He said it was better than a doctor. We all ate Loualla Pa. cooking great.

We played pinnacle back at our motel. The men are ahead.

We missed Grace and John Askey, Jim Griffin, Ruth and Chet Miller, Loualla and Sterling Rubright, and John Fay.

Babe Freitag  
102 Phillip Ave.  
Elmwood Park, NJ 07407



At George & Hilda Conners 50th Wedding Ann.

## 323rd Report.....

I went to Indiana in August to the 83rd reunion. We went to see Camp Atterbury and what was left of it. We traveled by bus which was very relaxing. Yes, they still have some mud to walk in. We went into a couple of barracks but they are not the same.

I certainly enjoyed going there along with the rest of the 323rd men who attended. Eddie McCouch, Erwin Erhardt, Walt Harding, Harold Michaels, Willie Snodgrass and myself attended from Hq. Battery.

Ed Nowak, Gene Desh and Will Medling from Baker Battery. Dom Christopher from Charlie Battery. Dom was the life of the party along with his wife Ann. Nancy and I enjoyed their company at the reunion.

I guess all of us expected to see a lot more buddies but I know we are all getting older. However, the young ones made the trip.

I talked on the phone with Dustin Starbuck and Phil Shogren and they are both in good health. Starbuck lives in Virginia and is building a home in Florida.

A year ago Americo George had heart surgery but I am told he is doing fine.

Dallas must be getting old as he does not use the phone anymore.

Don Willis is still using that very sharp pencil on his golf score.

Larry Boyle should make the next reunion as it is in his own back yard.

If anyone has contact with Brooks Farmer, Melvin Powell of East Gastonia, N.C., Ernest Sprinkle of Va., Carson Barton or L. Spencer, let me know.

Willis Snodgrass is in training walking down in the hills of Kentucky. He walks on a tread mill in his basement. He walked 2,400 miles on last years journey and won a medal for this walking tour. (This does not include his walking to church or chores around the house.)

On September 13th, Nancy and I along with a delegation from the 83rd Infantry Division attended a 50th Wedding Anniversary time for George and Hilda Connors at Whites Restaurant in Westport, Ma. The band leader gave out George's life to date and also mentioned that Hilda was a famous singer in the late 40s. We all had a wonderful time and many laughs. They both looked to young to be married that long.

Good luck and Health to both of them.

The men of Hq. Battery will get a news letter in the mail to bring them up to date. I am sorry to report that Jack Knight passed away since my last writing. Our condolences to his family.

That's all the news for now.

Amby Tynan  
323rd F.A.

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## "A" Co. 329 Inf.....

Hi - Just got off the phone with Bill Tisher and he tells me that he got new glasses. Physically he is doing O.K., but mentally he says that he's not doing so good. But I don't know; he cooks for himself, cleans house, drives around Rittman etc. So he must be doing "OK". His daughter checks up on him frequently.

Tish said it's kind of lonely living by yourself. His wife Bert died 1st of April. He invited Bernice and I to come down to see him and he would take us to a Amish auction sale. Sounds interesting Tish. Just might do that.

I received a tape from George Suchdimelly and wow, he sure did inform me of a lot of things that happened during the war, and of the guys in the 2nd platoon. Thanks "Sucky" I sure did appreciate that.

Eddy Gilbert sent me a rather large envelope with 2 menus in it. Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 1943: Fruit cup - roast turkey with dressing and gravy-cranberry sauce-mashed potatoes-buttered peas-tomato and lettuce with Thousand Island dressing-crisp celery and assorted pickles - hot rolls with butter - Pumpkin pie with whipped cream - marble cake and ice cream - coffee with cream and sugar - cigars - now thats living! Why is it you guy's were always bitching about the food! Mess Sgt. George Calore and all the cooks did a great job.

At the time we had 149 officers and enlisted men. 7 officers - 6 staff sergeants plus a 1st sergeant - 15 sergeants - 14 corporals - 2 tech - Nical 4th grade - 5 technicians 5th grade - 49 private 1st class and 59 privates.

Last year Feb 16th Lee and Carl Pliske were married 50 years. I mentioned it in last years "Thunderbolt" but misplaced the picture. If

you'd see my desk you'd know why. "Ha" - A handsome couple they do make. - congratulations again.

At our A.A.R.P. meeting a cousin of Joe Stefancin came up to me and gave me an article that was in the local paper there. Here are some of the things said about Joe.

A memorial dedication honoring the late Joseph F. "Ringy" Stefancin took place on Sunday May 11, 1997 at Areford Community Park in South Union township.

The "Ringy" Stefancin walkway was dedicated amidst family and friends of the former coach and teacher.

He graduated from the high school where he was later to teach in 1935, and was according to township supervisor Robert Schiffbauer, considered to be one of the best athletes to come out of South Union High School.

Stefancin attended Mt. St. Mary's College, where he was given a scholarship for baseball as a walk-on athlete. He then went to West Virginia University where he pursued his master's degree in education.

He began working at South Union High School in 1950, where he taught English and history and coached several sports.

In 1966, when the Jr. High school was built, Stefancin began teaching and coaching there.

"He touched the lives of so many people," said Schiffbauer. "He was a coach and a mentor and a friend."

Stefancin's son Patrick said "I think this is a great honor. We appreciate it, the family appreciates it and my dad would have appreciated it"

"His students were the most important people to him, next to his family, and he took pride in them" His wife Helen said.

The Invocation for the Walkway was given by former U.S. Congressman Austin Murphy.

State Rep. Larry Roberts was also on hand to praise the supervisors in their efforts in obtaining grants and funding for the park.

Wow what an honor, what a guy. Stay Healthy.

Bob Grobelny  
"A" Co. - 329th

P.S. There were only 3 "A" Co. fellows at the reunion - Calore - Mudre and myself.

## 783rd Ordnance Co.....

Can you believe here it is Thanksgiving Day time and all we can do is say, "Wow, this year has really flown by." Right now, for me, I'm scratching my head to come up with some paragraphs that will be of some interest to each of you. Like me, I'm sure your tired of getting everyone's medical report, but it's that time of life when we, or someone close to us, has a medical story.

So to get around some of this I decided to contact some of the guys and gals that you seldom read about. The first "girl" I called was Ann Barbara. She was a delight to talk to. In fact she said, "Rags, you've made my week." Ann has maintained the business which means she is driving every other day to the center of New York City. Many of us wouldn't like the thought of doing that every other month! She still gets the Thunderbolt so there wasn't too much new that I could tell her but she did ask about many of you.

We then shifted our sights to Michigan and Jane Bond. Now Jane, of course, was also delightfully surprised to hear my sexy voice. But she needed catching up on the news from the Christmas cards of 1996. At 77 Jane is doing well maintaining her home and seven dogs. (Our "girls" are getting in that time period where they proudly disclose their age) Now this dog bit gives me another thought. Jane admits that caring for seven dogs is quite a chore. She can't show them anymore and Jane's had them so long they are her family. Now down in Ohio, just east of Cleveland, there's another lonely dog lover who goes by the name of Frank Salontay. Wouldn't that be something if you two met walking your dogs around the lake? Strange things can happen when you walk eight dogs!

Now while on the subject of Frank I have to tell you he is at the top of my list of most faithful. Not only does he call us every Christmas morning but he also calls after every reunion to get the latest news on you fellows and gals. Frank was shocked when I told him Bob Hammond and his friends, Jack and Joanne were our only representatives at the reunion. This is sad news to report and I'm hoping it was a one time happening. Why the complete drop off? Well, and this is my short editorial to THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS...We realize it's the 83rd law to hold reunions in August but that doesn't make it right in the year of 1998. It was ok years ago but now the highways and restaurants are at their highest traffic peaks for cars and families in August plus it's the hottest month.





So please fellows lets do the 2000 year thing and be like other successful Divisions. Let's hold the reunions in a slower, cooler month and our attendance will be sure to respond.

Now for the rest of the story on Frank. His legs are not 100% but he's up to playing nine holes of golf and that ain't bad.

Telephoning old buddy's is an interesting experience. In trying to contact Ed Cutty all I got for four days was a busy signal. So I checked the listing and there were no Cuddy's to be found. Being an old phone man I knew it was a "false busy" so I asked the fellow for the repair number in Mass. He said, "What do you want that for?" I told him. He said, "I haven't a clue, you need an operator." After giving her the troubled number and telling my story she asked, "What's the number?" Seconds later she came back and said, "That numbers busy." I won't go into what I told her but after leaving me the third time she returned to announce, "There's trouble in Boston."

Turning to Jim Demarinis in Springfield the trouble was a little different. His number produced a hotel and "Do you want to book a room?" On rechecking there are no Demarinis's in the area so that's not very positive news on these fellows.

Steve Greecher in Penna. got a little better. I called and told him I was "Rags from Philadelphia" and he promptly hung up. An hour later I recalled and got the Mrs. She said Steve was ok just a little deaf. He will be 80 in Dec., he has had a bout of cancer so they are taking it easy, living on the same hill next to their daughter for 49 years.

Jake Chevalier was a much different story. Jake died in Jan. 1995! It's also interesting to see the impression some of YOU fellows have left on some of our widows. Jake's wife told me Jake stopped drinking twenty five years ago when he found the Lord. "He turned his life around." The reason they never came to a reunion was because she thought YOU guys were all booze hounds. I told her that was a shame for in reality we are all former altar boys and Sunday School teachers. At least we know that good old Jake is resting in peace.

Another girl I talked to was an utter delight. Her name is Midge the girl who has survived the cooking of Hersch Weaver. Midge has fully recovered from her heart operation setback. They are walking (hand in hand) two miles every day, looking over the river and keeping an eye on Clinton and those fellows posing as Congressmen.

In September, that cool month, we took a trip on empty roads to Canada. It was a great trip. We saw one fox, two huge turtles and a looney bird. On the way back it just so happened that we hit Williamsport, Pa. at 4:30 p.m. I picked up the phone and invited a surprised George Harris to dinner. At 88 my old Sgt. is in good shape still unveiling that keen sense of dry humor. His

two good nephews, Keith and George, from N.Y. and Texas, call him every week.

Close to home we have Reese Phillips. He and Carmella are trying to get the hang of all the gadgets on their new car. Except for Reese's tack hammer toe he is doing well.

Our summer plans to play golf with Joe Brown and Jim Jones went down the drain. Joe has himself a big, new play toy, a home on the 12th green in Punta Gorda, Fl. He spent the month of Aug. hanging the new drapes for Betty but now it's all set for the winter. His new address is 7312 A Eagle Creek Rd. Punta Gorda, Fl. 33955. Jim had a frustrating summer trying to find the right medicine for his fibrillation. It's leaving him with little energy for golf but the last thing Jim will do is complain. Gee Jim, maybe we could make arrangements to putt on the 12th at Punta Gorda.

Had a nice pre-reunion talk with Bill Manning. He hoped to spend an afternoon at the reunion but if he did he never saw Hammond. Bill is amazing. He's like the battery ad that never runs out of juice. Bill is still on his feet every day drilling and drilling and drilling teeth. He is our most religious man. Gilman will get that old pun if we just wait.

The Wiggins are likewise in the process of leaving "Home" and moving into a retirement golf course. They must be busy but Ray still has the time to send me insulting post cards. I have the same trouble with Ginny. I don't get any respect.

Martha Appleby was down for another pleasing check-up this week at the Fox Chase Cancer Center. While I played golf Martha, daughter Sherry and Ginny had a nice lunch. Martha gave me some of Bill's old Thunderbolts. Boy some of you guys have gotten old!

Lastly a report on my foreign friends from New Jersey. Addie Rein called to say she was fine. I think part of her cancer recovery was due to the good care of her daughter Pat in Penna. plus she didn't have to see Stan Bielen. Actually, as you all know, Stan is a great guy and a true friend of the Rein's. I just hope Stan that the coming year will bring you an abundance of sunshine and maybe I can get Beatrice to write you too.

For the first time in history B 329th is coming up in the rear. Our good friends Dixie and Evelyn Dickson plus the youngsters Mike and Judy Johnson had the pleasure of dining with us recently on the banks of the Delaware. A great afternoon of remembrances and laughter.

So in closing a Merry Christmas and a healthy new year to all and please keep the info flowing this way. It is you who make this column possible.

Hut two,

Rags Rangnow

P.S. Don't forget to send your dues check to Bob.

## 329th "B" Bag.....

First off all, my wife and I celebrated out 50 years of marriage. We celebrated by going on a two week cruise of Alaska. We really enjoyed the trip, scenery, and glaciers. The trip was great. Two week later I went to Indy on the Cleveland Chapter bus. Again "B" Co. was well represented at the reunion with the Taylors, Pirkles, Dickersons, B. Waddle, Meltons who came in for I Day, Al Trofimur and his wife, to my surprise brought John Wojasiak, my buddy machine gunner. This was his first reunion, and the first time I saw him in 52 years. Thanks All for bringing John. He looks the same only a lot thinner. He said I looked the same only heavier, a lot. He is correct. "Red" Geyer made his first reunion and brought Jerry Ligouri, a son of a buddy who was KIA. He wanted to know how is father died, but nobody there knew. How or where it happened. Jerry said sadly he was finally closing the book on his dad. As usual it was great to see all of "B" Co. and recall the old memories. It was also a pleasure to see Kitty Thomas again, a widow of the late Ed, her husband. Lois Hirko also a widow came and brought her son and daughter-in-law to the reunion. I'm sorry to report that Ken Higgins, a runner for the 4th platoon passed away. He was a high school teacher in Adrian Mich. Our deepest sympathy to the family. Doris Hennies called me just before the reunion that they could not come to the reunion as he was in the hospital with pneumonia. He was still in the hospital when I got back. Finally after 2 weeks, he came home, and still taking it easy. Take care of yourself. During the reunion, Jesse Pirkle gave the company flag to Bill Waddle, who in turn will give to another "B" bagger in Peoria. Cliff Melton reported Capt. Hill is still on the road to recovery and doing good. Hank Redais still hanging in there. That's about all the news for now. I'm still waiting to hear from the Steks, Ballards, Hardiman, Spricklers, Janke and the rest.

### Another "B" Co. short story.

After we left Walteniburg (last issue) we left for Zerbst, we had our last battle with the Germans. We were walking through the woods, when we were fired upon. At least 7 men were killed in the battle, including Burns, Companaha, Housneichs. Later we started to enter Zerbst, when we heard like a tank moving in. We had some tanks with us, much to our surprise it was a German staff car with a driver and 2 officers. The tank hit the car with a direct hit causing it to burn. Consequently we had

to get our chow with these 3 dead, burned and smelly bodies nearby. Finally after 2 days they were removed and we could enjoy chow again. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Remember if at first you don't succeed, don't take up sky diving.

God Bless  
Bob Uher  
12700 Lake Ave. #1602  
Lakewood, Ohio  
(216) 221-2012

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## "D" Co. 331 .....

I'm back and sorry I just missed the last issue of the "THUNDERBOLT" Lots of news - some good, some bad, but we can't have the best all of the time.

We are sorry to report the death of Joe Cellura, who passed just before the Reunion. All of Co. D sends their heartfelt sympathy to Dorothy and family. Al Shrawder located Joe a couple of years ago, and he and Dorothy attended several Florida Chapter Meetings and seemed very interested in Co. D. Our buddy Frank Meyers left us a couple of months ago. He was a true and faithful member who attended many functions of Company D. And as you know Bernie Cove (Plotnicov) left us in March. We just spoke with Jeanne and she sold their home in New York and will be a permanent Florida Resident and near her family here. We heard that Ben Douglas lost his long struggle and passed in a Columbus, Ohio hospital. Our sympathy to the family of each of these four men. Gee, it is later than we think and probably will increase in the coming year. All the more reason to keep in touch and we surely try to meet as often as possible.

At the Reunion in Indianapolis we had an increase in attendance for "D" COMPANY. There were 20 men present, including Adkins, Barker, Cotney, Dallos, Diaz, Gravelyn, Gunderson, Hamilton, Haught, Hockensmith, Lynch, McDermott, Miklos, Mueller, Pflieger, Richter, Ryder, Sharp, Shrawder and Trezciak. Al had just located Barker before the Reunion, and he was able to come up from Louisville for a day. Joe Diaz and his lovely wife came for the first time and it was so good for them to come and hope they will continue to be part of this great COMPANY D GROUP. We have a lot to THANK SAM KLIPPA for in the early years



and also AL SHRAWDER for the "COMPANY D NEWSLETTER" that he sends.

Those missing: Cancasci (he called about Cellura), Churpak, Clements, East, (just spoke to him - He hopes to meet us in Gatlinburg in December.) Fetzner, Hancock, Harmon, (Dave is grieving over the loss of his beloved wife but hopes to see us soon.) Komlos, (Where are you George??) Lee, Morris, Odenweller (He cancelled Reservations at the last minute) Rummel (unable to travel right now) Sabine (They attended a family wedding in California) and Schuster (Norman - hope you are much improved) - McKee is unable to attend in August - September would be a MUCH BETTER MONTH for all of us!!

After the Reunion Co. D. had three days of Rest and Relaxation at a Indiana State Park and the Hamiltons, Gravelyns, Gundersons, Lynchs, Mueller, McDermotts, and Shrawders were in attendance. As always it was good to be together for a few additional days.

The McKees, Shrawders and Gunderson just made reservations for the Dixie Chapter Meeting held the first week of December in Gatlinburg. Please contact me for any news you may have.

Sincerely,  
Ralph Gunderson

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

It hardly seems possible that October is upon us, summer a thing of the past.

Our lives seem to be following the same pattern, getting shorter, but still enjoyable. (Mostly?)

Our Annual Reunion is now a thing of the past. Thanks to Ruth King, Widow of Roe, and her family. Great little statues were given to each man in attendance, and also were sent to some shut in members who were not able to attend this year. These were given in memory of her husband Roe, who had been a member of "B" Battery.

We had several first timers attend this year. John Murphy, son of Sylvester, "B" Battery Mess Sergeant. The Perreaut's, Norman and Doris, from "C" Battery, and Lemoyne Collum, B. Bat. and his wife Grace and daughter. There was also several of our 'Old Faithful'.who could not make it, but hopefully will be able to attend next year when it is held in Urbana, IL. on the 4th and 5th. of September. It will be hosted by Jim Hull and his wife Doris. Volunteering to help them were Marvin Lagenour, and his wife Betty, and Gordon Rush and his wife, Cora Vee.

On May 15th, 1998 a Mini Reunion will be held in Eugene Oregon. Many of our group are from the West Coast, and have not been able to attend reunions held on the Eastern side of the country. Of course some of our group from the East are going to make the trip West, besides attending our Annual in Urbana, IL.

We are still going to try for a Mini Reunion in Ohio later in October.

We still have some on the sick list, with some improvements being shown. Mike Morick, 'B' Battery has had his Operations and greatly improved. Both Virgil, 'A' Battery, and his wife Wilma were improved enough to be able to attend the Columbus Annual reunion. There are probably others that should be mentioned, but I do not have a complete list. Sorry to report that we had some of the wives pass away this year, they will be sorely missed. Peter Severhoff, of 'A' Battery lost his wife Donna. Also Bill Buzzard of 'A' Battery lost his wife Ernestine. Ernestine and her daughters and families were the spearhead of our Reunion in Lewisburg WV. In 1996. A very vibrant person, who will be greatly missed.

Some of our 453rd. "Buddies" also passed away this year and will be listed in the Obit Column in this issue of the "Thunderbolt".

The listing of those who have passed on, includes those who also had not previously been included, as notifications had not been forth coming.

Any one wishing more information about the 453rd. Group, as we have found out there are many who did not know of our existence, can correspond with our Secretary.

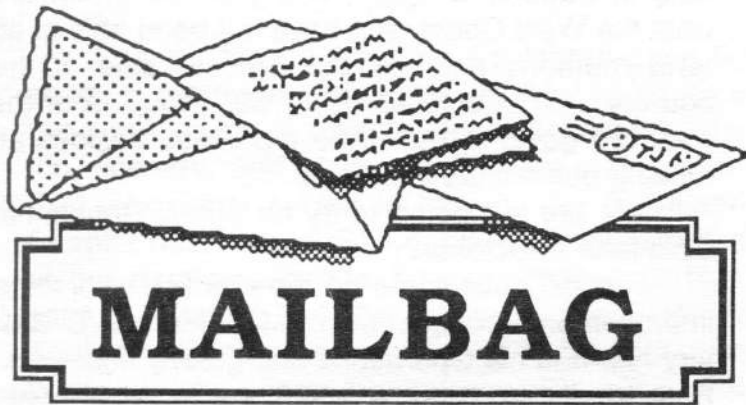
Betty Dickens P.O.  
Box. 432. Lisbon, OH. 44432.  
Tel. 330-427-2036. Or me.  
Submitted by

Fred C. Pearson, 5704 Middle Ridge Rd.  
Madison, OH. 44057-2838 Tel. 440-428-3237  
Roster Coordinator for 453rd. AAA. (AW)Bn.

The following men of the 453rd. AAA (AW) Bn. have recently passed on, or notification has just been received of their death. Please put in Obit Column.

		By Fred Pearson
Crites, Charles	A Bat. 453rd.	.....
Dykiel, Victor	? Bat. 453rd	.....
Fabion, Nelson	C Bat. 453rd	.....
Goodpaster, Guy	Hd. Qtrs. 453rd	.....
Grimberg, Gordon	B Bat. 453rd	.....
Kershner, Wallace	A Bat. 453rd	.....
Kiger, Wilbert	A Bat. 453rd	.....
Knisely, Robert	? Bat. 453rd	.....
Martin, Burchell	C Bat. 453rd	.....
Powers, Theodore	? Bat. 453rd	.....
Yaden, William	? Bat. 453rd	.....





## FROM A GRANDCHILD'S VIEWPOINT

So whether I speak as a boy or a girl,  
 Or as several kids in this old world.  
 Our Grandpa gives us so much pleasure,  
 We consider him a family treasure.  
 We Grandkids just love to hug his neck,  
 Especially when he writes a check.  
 He is a dear fellow we love so fully,  
 He is brave and bold but he's no bully.  
 So let's tell you a story that is true,  
 Our grandpa fought in World War Two.  
 He fought so that we might all be free,  
 And to protect this land for you and me.  
 War is so evil we know for a fact,  
 A lot of good men didn't make it back.  
 Grandpa is one of our favorite men,  
 He's already passed three score and ten.  
 Grandpa is known as a wise old sage,  
 He says Grandma must lie about her age.  
 No one could stay pretty for so long,  
 Unless she's been telling her age wrong.  
 Grandpa worked hard when he first started,  
 But now we think he's become retarded.  
 We love to crawl into Grandpa's lap,  
 Then all of us can take a nap.  
 When we wake up we always know,  
 He will tell us stories of long ago.  
 Listening to Grandpa is a lot of fun.  
 And we kids enjoy each and every one,  
 We really think Grandpa is cool and great,  
 But he's put too much food upon his plate.  
 He doesn't move fast or with great haste,  
 He is a little too big around the waist.  
 But if he was called to fight once more,  
 His feet would surely hit the floor.  
 After all these years of toil and strife,  
 He still loves his country more than life.  
 So no matter how we pronounce his name,  
 He's earned his place in our Hall of Fame.

D. Cooper

## A SOLDIER - NAME UNKNOWN

A mother, poorly dressed and sadly gray,  
 Made journey's end at Romange's gate one day.  
 She stood there sorrowful, her manner meek.  
 When someone asked of her "Whom do you seek?"  
 She saw a soldier, tall and straight and fair,  
 And answered; "John, my boy, who died Out There!"  
 Gently the soldier took her by the hand,  
 To lead her to her son's own hallowed land.  
 They searched until the sun had dyed the West,  
 But could not find his grave among the rest.  
 Then with a smile of sweetish, purest love,  
 As though 'twere God Who sent it from above,  
 The soldier lead her off to where a mound  
 Lay far from all the graves in that vast ground.  
 The grass around it seemed a brighter green.  
 Its cross gave forth a blinding, radiant sheen.  
 Shielding his eyes so that he still might see,  
 The soldier said: "This, Mother, is for Thee."  
 Upon the cross in letters firm and bold,  
 There ran this legend writ in purest gold:  
 "Beneath this humble mound there keepeth tryst  
 A soldier -- name unknown -- with Jesus Christ."

Jean C. Smith  
 83rd Band & Ex POW  
 321 N. 71st St.  
 Harrisburg PA 17111

## "K" Co. 3rd Bn 330th

By Homer Rickbaugh

First, I would like to congratulate the President of the Ky. Chapter and all his staff for the good job they did conducting the four day meeting in Indianapolis for the 83rd National. The Ladies did an exceptional job with the registry. We want to thank them too.

We had a good turn out about 450 or more. We once again met & enjoyed the company of our friends and we missed the ones that could not be there. Next year the meeting will be in Peoria, Ill. So we hope the people from the Western U.S. can be there.

Those present from "K" Co. 3rd Bn. 330th were:

Homer & Ruth Rickenbaugh  
 Sam & Edith Mangy  
 Dale & Mary Lewis  
 Geo. Palmera  
 Paul & Doris Lear  
 Chester & Helen Wilson  
 Dorothy Elkins

Good luck & good health in the coming year & hope to see all next time.

Homer & Ruth E. Rickenbaugh

WE ARE LOOKING FOR FORMER MEMBERS OF THE 919TH  
 EAMC (SCARWAF)  
 CONTACT ME AT: (941) 967-7737

Paul Repsher, 1823 34th St. N.W., Winter Haven, FL.  
 33881

# Twins return to Camp Atterbury after 55 Years

By Norma Jenkins  
Managing Editor

**YORKSHIRE** -- Alfred and Joseph Henry, twin brothers, returned to Camp Atterbury, Indiana, to take part in a memorial commemorative on Aug. 3. The brothers were in the first infantry unit that trained at Camp Atterbury in 1942. War was declared Dec. 7, 1941 and a month later, the War Department announced that Camp Atterbury would be built.

An estimated 500 to 600 farm families were displaced as the Army took over 40,000 acres. Two Indiana communities disappeared forever - Kansas and Mount Pisgah.

Three bus loads of inducted men left Greenville on Oct. 28, 1942. They didn't know where they were going, but almost all went to camp Atterbury for training. Joseph Henry went to Company L. 329th Infantry Regiment and Alfred Henry went to Company E. 331st Infantry Regiment. Both were in the 83rd Infantry Division - "Thunderbolt." Over 275,000 soldiers trained at Camp Atterbury in World War II.

During the Veterans' Memorial Commemorative, the Henry twins attended the placing of the wreaths and later they attended ass at the Chapel in the Meadow. The chapel was built by the Italian Prisoners of War at Camp Atterbury.

It is rather ironic that of the 145 buildings, nine guard-towers and hundreds of thousands of feet of woven and barbed-wire which made up the Second World War Camp Atterbury prisoner of war internment camp, the only structure remaining today, is a small chapel built not by the captors but by the captives.

The first prisoners of war, 767 Italian servicemen who had been captured in North Africa, arrived at Camp Atterbury on April 30, 1943. By May 1 an additional 400 had arrived and by September, 1943, there were approximately 3,000 Italian soldiers, sailors and airmen interned. Many of the Italian prisoners were skilled artisans, trained specially in wood and stone carving, masonry and painting.

The prisoners constructed their chapel during the summer of 1943 and completed it in September of that year. Work on the chapel was voluntary and was all done during off duty hours.

The brick, cement and wood used for con-

struction was material left over from the other construction projects at Camp Atterbury. The altar at the north end was painted to look like marble and



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Henry, on the left, and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Henry are shown after the placing of the wreaths ceremony.

a painting of a crucifix with two cherubs adorns the wall above it. The Eye of God is painted on the ceiling and frescoes of the Virgin Mary, St. Anthony, The Dove of Peace and Angels were painted on the other two walls. These paintings are reproductions of small pictures which were donated by the Chaplain, Father Maurice Imhoff. The floor was painted red to simulate a carpet. A smaller altar was constructed outside for the celebration of Mass in nice weather.

The prisoners had limited art supplies. They mixed dyes from berries, flower petals, plants, and even their own blood to achieve the desired colors for the paintings.

Over the years, various groups and organizations made efforts to preserve and/or restore the chapel, but it was not until July 1988 that the late Major General Carl G. Farrell, then Adjutant General of the State of Indiana, announced that non-appropriated funds had been earmarked for the project.

Camp Atterbury was deactivated Dec. 31, 1968 but since then it has had a new use. It is the principal training site for the Indiana National Guard. The post also serves as a regional training site for other National Guard, active and reserve component forces.



## 83RD DIVISION VETS STILL IN ACTION!

The 1996 and 1997 World War II Commemorative weekend at the Mid Atlantic Air Museum located in Reading PA. saw many 83rd Division vets still in action.



**Rev. Hap Reeser (83rd Band) preformed Chaplin services on the hood of event coordinator Jim Swope's authentic 83rd Division Jeep. (Thunderbolt Vol. 50 No. 3)**



**George Suchomelly (A 329th) is caught signing his name and unit on the 1944 Red Cross Clubmobile. This picture ran in the local newspaper: The Reading Eagle-Times.**



**In 1996 Kathy Carr brought her dad James McCaulley (C Btry. 323rd F.A.) for a ride in the 83rd Jeep.**



**Our good buddy Shorty Schuster (D 331st) hops a ride. When Shorty's son Troy was in grade school he told his teacher that his dad captured Adolf Hitler! We all know Shorty and we believe Troy!**



**And, you all heard about that Rags Rangnow (783rd ORD) who, based on information in his book Hut Two!, very well may have driven this very jeep in March of 1945. He drove it again in June of 1997!**

The 1998 World War II Commemorative Weekend is scheduled for June 5th 6th and 7th . For more information contact:

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



**BOCK'S CAR, 1945** This B-29 was the world's second atomic bomber. The nose art was added after the aircraft's August 9, 1945, combat flight against Nagasaki. Photograph by C. Garner.



# **NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE**

## **Please Read Carefully!**

### **PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO FILL OUT THE 1998 PRE-REGISTRATION FORM AND SEND IT TOGETHER WITH YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER (**TO THE NATIONAL OFFICE BEFORE JULY 15, 1998**) BY DOING THIS YOU PICK UP A PACKET WITH ALL OF YOUR TICKETS AND INFORMATION NEEDED. THIS ALSO CUTS DOWN ON YOUR WAITING TIME. BRING YOUR CONFIRMATION FORM WITH YOU FOR VERIFICATION.

WE WILL HAVE AN (ON SITE REGISTRATION) FOR WALK IN PEOPLE OR LAST MINUTE DECISION PEOPLE WHO DECIDE TO COME. THIS WILL CONSUME MUCH MORE TIME THAN IF YOU PRE-REGISTER NOW.

THESE FORMS ARE HERE FOR YOU TO USE. THIS WILL ELIMINATE COLLECTION AND HANDLING OF ALL MONEY ON SITE. EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT PLANNING TO GO ON ANY TOURS. SEND IN A PRE-REGISTRATION FORM WITH REGISTRATION FEE AND YOUR DUES. WE WILL HAVE ALL WORK DONE AND YOUR NAME TAGS WILL BE IN THE PACKET. IF YOU NEED TO CANCEL YOU WILL RECEIVE A REFUND LESS YOUR DUES, AND A \$5.00 SURCHARGE TO COVER CHECK MAINTENANCE AND POSTAGE.



**52nd ANNUAL REUNION  
OF 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION  
AUGUST 19 - 22, 1998  
SEND ADS IN EARLY!**

**PLEASE Select size of Ad**

<b>FULL PAGE @</b>	<b>HALF PAGE @</b>	<b>QUARTER PAGE @</b>
<b>\$60.00</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>	<b>\$18.00</b>

**BOOSTER ADS are \$5.00  
Make check payable and send to:**

**83rd Infantry Division Assn. Reunion Fund  
Wooldridge Press  
74 Maple Street  
Stoneham, MA 02180**

**URGENT - ACT NOW**

**Please mail your checks for the Ad Book as soon as possible. As you know, this money is needed to help pay for some expenses for our 52nd reunion.**

**DEADLINE - JUNE 22, 1998**

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

# 1998 Pre-Registration Form

**83rd Infantry Division Association Reunion**  
**August. 19, 20, 21, 22, 1998 at Holiday Inn Centre**

Please Type or Print

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Nick Name for Badge \_\_\_\_\_

Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (       ) \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Nick Name for Badge \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE TO PRE-REGISTER BEFORE JULY 15/98**

**AMOUNT**

MEMBERSHIP DUES 1999 \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

WIDOWS DUES 1999 \$ 5.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEE**

**Per Member & Per Guest**

(For Friday & Saturday Banquet,  
Hospitality, Entertainment, Boat Fee  
and General Expenses)

\$70.00 X  \_\_\_\_\_

**LINCOLN BUS TOUR** ( per person)

\$30.00 X  \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday 9 a.m. - 4:30 Includes bag lunch

**PEORIA HISTORICAL BUS TOUR** (per person) \$22.00 X  \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday 10 A.M. - 3 P.M. Includes bag lunch

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL NON-REGISTER GUESTS for Dinner & Entertainment ONLY**

Friday Evening - per person \$26.00 X  \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Evening - per person \$27.00 X  \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO:**

**National Office**  
**3749 Stahlheber Road**  
**Hamilton, OH. 45013 - 8907**  
**Attn: Bob Derickson**



# 1998 Special Events Registration for number attending

## Caterpillar Assembly Tour (no charge - pre-register by June 15)

Wednesday 12:45 p.m. - 3 p.m. (1 1/2 hr. walk) No. \_\_\_\_\_ Attending

Thursday 12:45 - 3 p.m. (1 1/2 hr. walk) No. \_\_\_\_\_ Attending

## Golf (Payable at Course #15)

Wednesday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Attending

Thursday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Attending

## Par-A-Dice Riverboat Casino

Buffet Lunch & Cruise No. \_\_\_\_\_ Attending

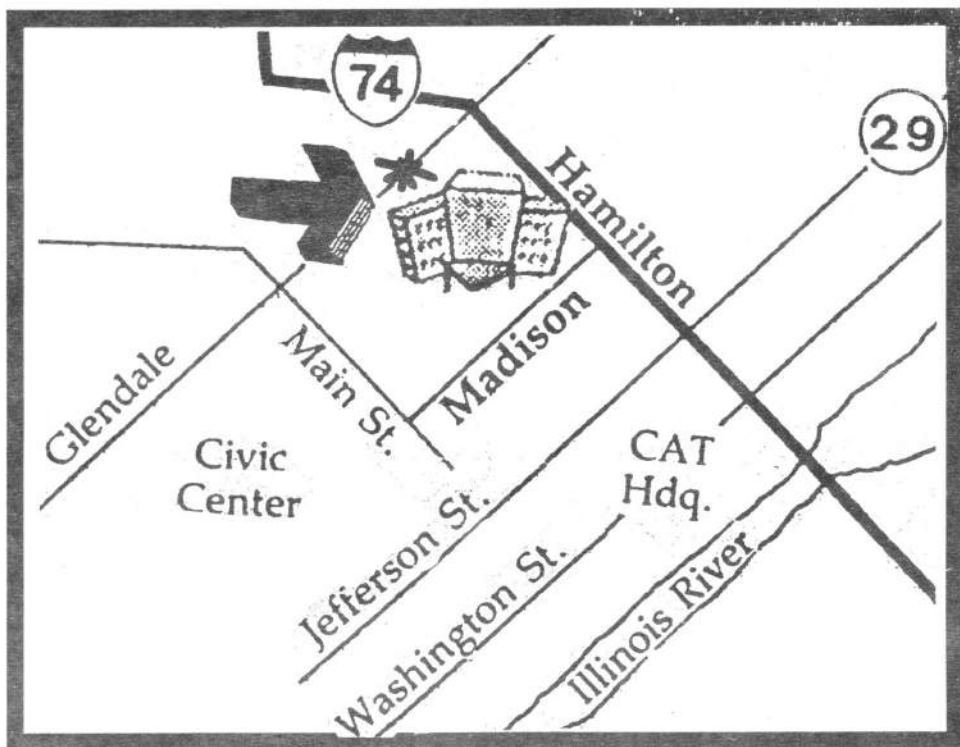
Friday 10:40 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

(Cost is in Registration)

ALL NON PRE-REGISTER PEOPLE - IT WILL

COST \$5.00 PER PERSON WHEN ENTERING BUS.

**MAIL TO:** National Office  
3749 Stahlheber Road  
Hamilton, OH. 45013 - 8907  
Attn: Bob Derickson



## I-74 Eastbound Exit Glendale, Westbound Exit Jefferson



**Denotes Parking**

### Directions:

Interstate 74-West Exit Jefferson Street.

(2) Blocks (1) Fayette  
(2) Hamilton Blvd. - turn right Proceed (1) Block - Corner of Hamilton Blvd. and Madison/Holiday Inn City Centre.

**Guest parking** (1) block further, turn right, turn right again in the middle of the block.

### SEND THIS HALF.

To ensure accurate reservations, please complete this reservation request and return it before Aug. 1, 1998. Requests received after this date will be accepted based on room and rate availability. Reservation requests must be accompanied by a deposit after this date will be accepted based on room rate plus 11.5% sales tax. This deposit will be applied to the last night of the reservation.

#### **RESERVATIONS MUST BE GUARANTEED WITH CREDIT CARD OR \$100 DEPOSIT**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Group Rate (No meals Included) |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Nts. 1 person \$288.00               | Special Requests (subject to availability)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Nts. 2 people \$288.00               | <input type="checkbox"/> Roll-Away Bed ( \$10 per night)                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Nts. 1 person \$216.00               | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheelchair accessible Room                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Nts. 2 people \$216.00               | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonsmoking Room   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Nts. 1 person \$144.00               | <input type="checkbox"/> King Bed <input type="checkbox"/> Two Double Beds         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Nts. 2 People \$144.00               | <input type="checkbox"/> A \$10 per person charge for a additional people per room |

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I have enclosed a check in the amount of one night's room rate plus 11.5% sales tax.  
☐ Please charge one night's room rate plus 11.5% sales tax to the following credit card:  
☐ Master Card, ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Carte Blanche/Diners Club, ☐ Discover ☐ JCB

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I am liable for one night's room rate plus 11.5% occupancy tax which will be covered by my deposit in the event that I do not arrive, cancel by noon on the date of arrival, or deposit earlier than scheduled.

Name of Credit Card Holder \_\_\_\_\_ Sig. Of Card Holder \_\_\_\_\_

- Check-in time after 3:00 PM Check-out time is 12:00 Noon. Sale tax is subject to change.
- Cancellation or modification of reservation must be made at least 48 hours prior to arrival to avoid forfeiture of deposit. Ask for and retain cancellation number until you receive refund of deposit or credit to credit card.
- No charge for children under 18 when sharing room with parents and using existing bed space.
- All hotel accounts are subject to credit arrangements at time of registration and payable at departure

**Please call 1-800-474-2501 for reservation assistance FAX: 305-674-8705**





**83RD INF. DIVISION ASSOCIATION 1998 REUNION**  
**WED., AUG. 19 - SAT., AUG. 22, 1998**  
**HOLIDAY INN CITY CENTER, PEORIA, ILLINOIS**

TUES., AUG. 18, 1998

1 P.M. - 10 P.M. Hospitality Room (open, no service) - Salon A & B Lower Lobby  
REGISTRATION - NONE  
MEALS - On your own.

WED., AUG. 19, 1998

LUNCH - On your own.  
1 P.M. - 5 P.M. - REGISTRATION Lower Lobby  
MAKE DINNER TABLE RESERVATIONS  
12:45 P.M. - 3 P.M. Catapiller Assembly Plant Tour - 1 1/2 hour walk. (Pre-register by June 15)  
1 P.M. - 5 P.M. GOLF (Pre-register by June 15) Donovan Golf Course.  
Fee under \$15, cart rental available.  
9 A.M. - 10 P.M. Hospitality Room (12 Noon - 10 P.M. Free beer, soft drinks & snacks.) Lower Lobby  
DINNER - On your own - Hotel Raintree Restaurant or see map.

THURS., AUG. 20, 1998

6 A.M. - BREAKFAST - To order, Available Raintree Restaurant.  
7 A.M. - 9 A.M. - BREAKFAST - Continental, Cash. Lower Lobby  
9 - 12 A.M., 1-4 P.M. REGISTRATION & Dinner Table Reservation Lower Lobby  
9 A.M. - 10 P.M. Hospitality Room  
(12 Noon - 10 P.M. Free beer, soft drinks & snacks.) Lower Lobby  
9 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. Lincoln Bus Tour - Pre-Registration Required \$30  
To New Salem, home of young Lincoln, walk thru log cabin village and to Springfield, bag lunch furnished, walk thru Lincoln home and visitor center, Lincoln tomb  
10 A.M. - 3 P.M. Peoria Historian Bus Tour - Pre-registration Required \$22  
Includes box lunch on Grand View Drive Overlook, an 1850's house tour, drive by 1850's homes and Frank Lloyd house with historical comment.  
9 A.M. - 5 P.M. Optional Activities on your own:  
Illinois Antique Mall - 8 block walk or hotel van.  
Shop at Metro Center - 10 minutes by van.  
Shop at Washington Square - 15 minutes by van.  
"Time Was Museum" - 20 minute drive \$4.00 admission  
Par-A-Dice Riverboat Casino. Lunch \$8.64. Cruise every 2 hours.  
LUNCH - On your own, if not on tour.  
12:45 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. Catapillar Assembly Plant Tour - 1 1/2 hour walk  
Pre-Registration by June 15 Required.  
1 P.M. - 5 P.M. GOLF - Pre-Registration Required by June 15.  
DINNER - On your own - See Downtown Dining Map  
Hotel Raintree Restaurant  
River Station Restaurant by van - make own reservation.  
7 P.M. - 9 P.M. - Hospitality Room - The Harold Wilson Show.  
A free drink - Big Band background music then 1940 and 1950 radio programs provided by Harold Wilson, Holiday Inn Military Reunion Coordinator from his Personal collection.

FRI., AUG. 21, 1998

FRIDAY

6 A.M. - BREAKFAST - to order available in Raintree Restaurant  
7 A.M. - 9 A.M. BREAKFAST - Continental - Cash Lower Lobby  
8 A.M. - 10 A.M. REGISTRATION & Dining Table Reservations Lower Lobby  
8:30 A.M. - 10 A.M. BUSINESS MEETING Hamilton Room  
10:40 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.  
Par-A-Dice Riverboat Casino. Busses leave 10:45 A.M.,  
Buffet Lunch (all you want)  
Hour Cruise (3rd deck, no smoking: 4th deck, outdoor seating, elevators.)  
9 A.M. - 5 P.M. HOSPITALITY ROOM (Beer 2-5 P.M.) Salon A & B Lower Lobby  
9 A.M. - Optional Activity - See Thursday Suggestions  
LUNCH On your Own if not on Par-A-Dice Cruise.  
3 P.M. - 4 P.M. REGISTRATION & Dining Table Reservations.  
5 P.M. - 11:00 P.M. Cash Bar, Hospitality Room, Salons C & D  
6:30 P.M. Banquet served Salons C & D  
7:30 P.M. - 11 P.M. Entertainment  
Royce Elliott, Comedian followed by Disc Jockey and Dancing.

SAT., AUG. 22, 1998

SATURDAY

BREAKFAST - on your own  
7 A.M. - 9 A.M. BREAKFAST - Continental - Cash Lower Lobby  
8:30 A.M. - Members Group Picture Front of Hotel  
Cost framed is \$13. Pick up at banquet.  
9 A.M. - 12 Noon BUSINESS MEETING Hamilton Room  
9 A.M. - 12 Noon HOSPITALITY ROOM Open Only  
Special Womens program Hospitality Room  
LUNCH on your own.  
2 P.M. - 3 P.M. MEMORIAL SERVICES Salon C  
Conducted by Capt. Joe Macaluso  
3:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M. Catholic Mass Hamilton Room  
5:30 P.M. - 10:30 CASH BAR Hospitality Rm. and  
6:30 P.M. Banquet served Salons C & D  
8 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. Program  
8:30 P.M. - 11 P.M. Disc Jockey and Dancing

# Peoria Area... something for everyone!

*Whatever your pleasure, you're sure to find it in the Peoria Area*

There is a wealth of attractions and activities to take part in while visiting the Peoria Area.

A definite hot spot is the Par-A-Dice Riverboat Casino. This art-deco cruise boat offers year-round, high-stakes gambling on six daily cruises. The Illinois River offers much more than gambling. As the river flows past Peoria, it widens to form two lake areas with excellent facilities for water skiing, sailing, and power boating. Marinas provide launching and docking facilities, making the Illinois River a recreational gold mine.

There's something for everyone in the Peoria Area's parks: hiking, golfing, swimming, tennis, baseball, ice skating, sledding, and even horseback riding.

You can view animals from around the world at Glen Oak Zoo or take a short ride to Wildlife Prairie Park. Ranked as one of the top ten sites to view bison by "Country America", Wildlife Prairie Park is a 2,000 acre zoological park that animals and vegetation native to Illinois call home.

If you enjoy attending quality sporting events, Peoria is the place for you. From professional baseball with the Peoria Chiefs, college basketball with the Bradley Braves and International Hockey League's Peoria Rivermen, Peoria has a lot to offer. Peoria is also home to the Steamboat Classic, one of the top 50 road races in the U.S.

Put a little culture in your by attending a concert or theater production at the Peoria Civic Center. Touted as downstate Illinois' largest entertainment and convention complex, the Peoria



**Spirit of Peoria** - Enjoy overnight excursions, private parties, sightseeing trips or dinner theatres aboard one of Illinois' most unique attractions. Catch the "Spirit" today!

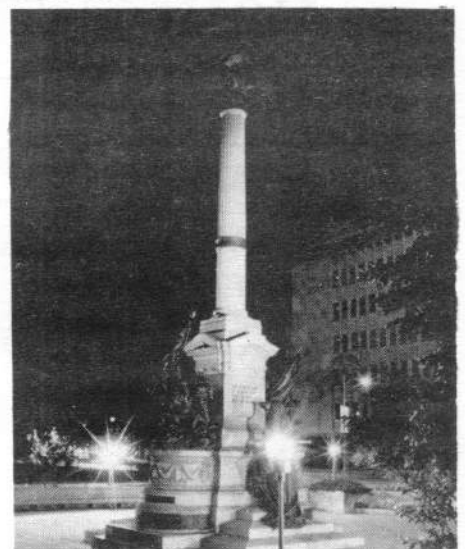
Civic Center is home to Peoria's many performing arts groups. In addition, the Peoria Area is home to several community and dinner theaters.

"You gotta have art"...and the Peoria Area has plenty of it! Browse through Lakeview Museum, the largest independent museum in downstate Illinois. And if you're in the market to "own your own," the Peoria Area also has several commercial galleries. Interesting public sculpture is sprinkled throughout the city, and during the summer months hardly a weekend goes by without an outdoor art show or festival in one of the city's parks or shopping areas.

To finish off the day, the Peoria Area offers a well-rounded variety of nightlife. Catch live reggae, jazz or rock at The Landing, Peoria's only outdoor nightclub, located on the Illinois Riverfront. Catch an act at one

of the several comedy clubs, go dancing at a nightclub or relax with friends at one of the many Peoria Area pubs.

Whatever your Pleasure, you're sure to find it in the **Peoria Area!**



**Soldiers & Sailors Monument, Peoria Courthouse Plaza**

(Photo courtesy of Central Illinois Light Company)





**YOU  
CAN  
GET  
HERE —  
FROM  
THERE!**

### **Mileage to Peoria, Illinois**

Chicago—154	Madison—210
Cleveland—467	Milwaukee—225
Davenport—99	Minneapolis—438
Dayton—319	Omaha—380
Denver—903	Rockford—134
Des Moines—258	Sioux City—471
Detroit—411	Sioux Falls—555
Indianapolis—210	Springfield, IL—70
Kansas City—354	St. Louis—171
Lincoln—420	Terre Haute—180
Louisville—324	Topeka—419

# Peoria Downtown



# DOWNTOWN RESTAURANTS

American Cafe  
Hotel Pere Marquette  
501 Main Street

Imo's Pizza  
114 SW Jefferson

Big John's BBQ/Spotted Cow  
Twin Towers Mall  
456 Fulton

Jim's Downtown Steakhouse  
110 SW Jefferson  
Lower Level

Bixby's Bagel Company  
315 Main Street

Dave Ryan's Lums  
Mark Twain Hotel  
225 N.E. Adams

Blimpie's  
Twin Towers Mall  
456 Fulton Street

Raintree Restaurant  
Holiday Inn City Centre  
500 Hamilton

Carnegie's  
Hotel Pere Marquette  
501 Main Street

River Station Restaurant  
212 Constitution Ave.

Donnelly's Apollo Restaurant  
311 Main Street

Sigrid's Cafe & Grille  
106 S.W. Monroe

The Grill on Fulton  
Twin Towers Mall  
456 Fulton

Sully's Irish Pub  
121 SW Adams

International Sandwich Shop  
Twin Towers Mall  
456 Fulton

Twin Towers Bakery  
456 Fulton



## THE SPRINGFIELD HOME

The house that Lincoln bought was originally built for Rev. Dresser in the fall of 1839, probably by his brother, Henry. The house was one and one-half stories high in the Greek Revival style. The framing was rough-sawn oak with hand-hewn oak sills. Pine was used for the exterior trim and weather-boarding. The laths were of split hickory. Walnut was used for the interior trim and doors, and the floors were random-width oak. Wooden pegs and hand-wrought nails were used in the construction.

In June 1850 Lincoln improved the front yard by constructing a brick retaining wall and fence along the front of the lot. In June 1855 he had the brick wall and fence extended along a quarter of the Jackson Street side.

Little change took place until 1856 when Mary began major improvements to the home, for the family of growing boys needed more room. She enlarged the home to two full stories. The work was done by Hannan and Ragsdale for \$1,300.

The contractors raised the roof of the front part of the house 3 meters (9 feet). New pine studding was inserted and fastened to the existing rough-sawn oak studding of the original walls. The ceiling of the two half-story bedrooms at the front of the house were then raised to a height of 3.5 meters (11 feet). The ceiling of the three rooms at the rear of the house was raised about 30 centimeters (1 foot) and an entire story containing five bedrooms and a storage room was added above them to make the house a full two stories.

Northern pine was used on the interior, and the upstairs woodwork was given an artificial walnut stain to continue the walnut decor of the downstairs. The fireplaces built in the two second-floor bedrooms were false; they served as decorative backgrounds for woodburning stoves.

These were some of the changes that the Lincolns made to their home at 8th and Jackson during the 17 years they lived in the only home they ever owned.

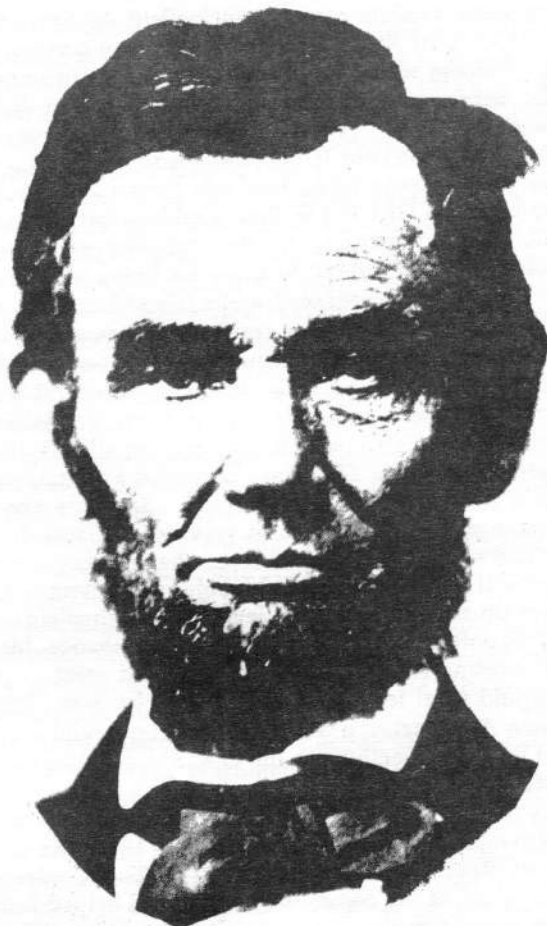
### ABOUT YOUR VISIT

The Lincoln Home National Historic Site is open year-round, seven days a week except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's days. Those who wish to tour the home must obtain a ticket which indicates a specific time for a scheduled tour. Tickets are free of charge and are given out on a first-come, first-served basis at the visitor center, 426 S. 7th St. Organized groups may reserve tickets in advance.

The home is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Contact:

Superintendent, Lincoln Home NHS  
413 S. 8th St.  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 492-4150

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**



Abraham Lincoln came to Springfield on April 15, 1837. Carl Sandburg tells the story of how Lincoln walked into Joshua Speed's store and asked the price of bedclothes. Seventeen dollars was the answer. "Cheap as it is," Lincoln said, "I have not the money to pay, but if you will credit me until Christmas, and my experiment here as a lawyer is a success, I will pay you then. If I fail in that, I will probably never pay at all." Speed took pity on this "gloomy and melancholy" face and offered to share his living quarters above the store. Lincoln accepted, and a friendship was born.

Though Lincoln was a new resident of Springfield, he was not a stranger to the town. Since 1834, Lincoln had represented Sangamon County in the Illinois General Assembly and helped move the capital from Vandalia to Springfield. The prairie city was growing rapidly. A newspaperman wrote in 1839 that Springfield contained "a throng of stores, taverns, and shops . . . and an agreeable assemblage of dwelling houses very neatly painted, most of them white, and situated somewhat retiringly behind tasteful frontyards." For Lincoln, the young lawyer and up-and-coming State legislator, Springfield possessed opportunities which could only enhance his already promising future. Here Lincoln could meet politicians and local leaders from all over the State. One was Stephen A. Douglas, a State senator who would defeat Lincoln in the 1858 election for the U.S. Senate. And here, too, he met Mary Todd.

Mary Todd came from a prominent family. She was born in Lexington, Ky., on December 13, 1818, the daughter of Robert Todd, a banker. The Todds were leading members of the community. They had helped found Lexington and Transylvania University, the first college west of the Appalachians. Mary grew up amidst all the comforts which the times and area offered: she went to a private school which only children of the "best families" attended, and slaves waited on her.

In October 1839, Mary Todd came to Springfield to live with her sister, Elizabeth, the wife of Ninian Wirt Edwards, son of a former governor of Illinois. Here Mary joined the group of single young men and women who often gathered at the Edwards home. Among the young men were Stephen A. Douglas; Edward C. Baker, a future U.S. representative; James Shields, a future U.S. senator from Illinois, Minnesota, and Missouri; Lyman Trumbull, a future U.S. senator from Illinois; and Lincoln.

Soon Lincoln and Mary were fast friends. Their relationship waxed and waned as the months passed, but in the fall of 1842, they decided to marry. It was a decision that her sisters found difficult to accept, for Lincoln's background, in their eyes, did not measure up to Mary's.

On the morning of November 4, 1842, Lincoln went to the home of Rev. Charles Dresser, the Episcopal minister and told him, "I want to get hitched tonight." Lincoln and Mary wanted to be married in the minister's home because of her family's opposition. But when they learned that she was determined to go through with the wedding, the Edwards insisted that the wedding must take place in their home. That evening Mary Todd and Abraham Lincoln stood before Rev. Charles Dresser and repeated their vows.

Their first year together, the Lincolns lived in a hotel boarding house, the Globe Tavern. Here their first child, Robert Todd Lincoln, was born on August 1, 1843. The noisy, crowded conditions in the Globe did not make a homelike environment, so the Lincolns moved and spent the winter in a rented three-room cottage at 214 South Fourth St. The next spring, Lincoln bought Rev. Dresser's home on the corner of Eighth and Jackson Streets for \$1,200 cash and a small lot worth \$300.

They lived on a tight budget. Lincoln himself chopped the wood, carried the water, milked the cow, and did the rest of the chores men did in those days. And to keep the money coming in, Lincoln had to go out and travel the judicial circuit. The Eighth Circuit, in which he practiced, covered 31,073 square kilometers (12,000 square miles) and was sparsely settled with county seats far apart connected by rough roads often in disrepair. Lincoln traveled this circuit on horseback, exposed to the elements, with a volume of the *Revised Statutes*, copies of Blackstone's *Commentaries* and *Chitty On Pleadings*, and an extra shirt and change of underwear in his saddlebags. Lincoln made a name for himself on the circuit, and in 1846 he won election to the U.S. House of Representatives as a Whig. That same year the Lincolns' second son, Edward Baker, was born.

The first session of the 30th Congress was to convene on December 6, 1847. In October the Lincolns rented their house for \$90 a year to Cornelius Ludlum, and they left for Washington via Lexington, Ky., where they visited the Todds. After an arduous stagecoach and railroad trip, the Lincolns arrived in the Nation's Capital.

Though Lincoln was active as a new member of Congress, his colleagues generally appraised him as a droll Westerner of average talents. Lincoln's opposition to the Mexican War which had broken out in May 1846 soon made him unpopular with his constituents. In Illinois the patriotic fervor and hunger for new lands dissipated any doubts that the people may have had about the American cause. Lincoln's "spot" resolutions asking President James Polk to admit that the "spot" where American blood was first shed was Mexican territory and his anti-administration speeches created surprised resentment at home and earned him the nickname "Spotty Lincoln." Illinois Democrats called Lincoln a disgrace.

The war debates also raised the issue of slavery. Whether these newly won territories should be open to slavery was perhaps the most serious question before the 30th Congress. The debates over the Wilmot Proviso showed Lincoln the explosiveness and divisiveness of the slavery question.

In May 1849, the second session of the 30th Congress ended and Lincoln returned home, happy to be reunited with his friends and family, who had stayed in Washington only a short time. Feeling that he had no future in politics, Lincoln took to the dusty roads of the Eighth Circuit to regain the friends and clients who had slipped away while he was in Congress. Lincoln was offered the governorship of the new Oregon Territory, but he declined it.

The first year home from Congress proved to be emotionally hard for the Lincolns, for Mary's father



The home in Springfield.



A. L. in 1847.



Mary Todd Lincoln



and maternal grandmother, both strong constant figures in her life, died. One of Mary's brothers contested her father's will and Lincoln served as the lawyer for Mary and her three sisters in Springfield. The details of the litigation only added to her personal grief. In mid-December their son, Eddie, became ill, apparently with consumption. The Lincolns nursed Eddie for 52 days. On the morning of February 1, 1850, he died. Mary, already worn out from the agony of the past year, collapsed in grief and shock when she heard the news. Soon, however, the Lincolns were heartened by the expected birth of their third son, William Wallace, who was born December 21, 1850. A fourth son, "Tad," was born April 4, 1853.

The Lincolns loved their children and indulged them greatly. Mary paraded their accomplishments before visitors, gave them elaborate birthday parties and often joined in their games, throwing dignity to the wind. Lincoln often took the two youngest to his law office and let them run wild while he worked. William Herndon, a law partner and biographer of Lincoln, frequently grew so mad that he wanted to throw the boys out the window. He dared not say anything, for he knew that Lincoln would side with the boys.

## PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS

In the spring of 1854 Lincoln returned to politics. The spur was Sen. Stephen Douglas's Kansas-Nebraska Act which repealed the Missouri Compromise that prohibited slavery north of 36° 30' N. latitude, Missouri's southern border. Lincoln and many of his fellow Whigs opposed the new law and in the upcoming elections that fall sought to bolster their strength in the Congress and the State legislatures. Consequently, Lincoln's reputation grew.

In 1855, Lincoln ran for the U.S. Senate but lost. One year later, at the first Republican national convention in Philadelphia, the Illinois delegation nominated him for vice president. He lost again but more and more people were beginning to recognize his name.

In 1858 Senator Douglas came up for reelection. On June 16, the State Republican Convention nominated Lincoln for the seat. In his acceptance speech at the State Capitol, Lincoln set the tone of the campaign when he said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand! I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free."

On the advice of his managers, Lincoln challenged Douglas to a series of 7 debates during the fall of 1858. Douglas was reluctant, but finally accepted. The famous Lincoln-Douglas debates ensued. These debates helped make Lincoln a national figure. His logic, moral fervor, spare and elegant language, and skillful debating techniques diminished Douglas' reputation. Douglas found himself backed into a corner before he realized what had happened. Douglas lost the debates but won the election.

Lincoln continued to give speeches, many in support of the Republican party, throughout the Midwest. In October of 1859 he was invited to speak in the East. His speech to the Young Men's Central Republican Union of New York City at Cooper Union on February 27, 1860, brought him to the attention of influential Republicans in

the Northeast. He exhorted his audience to compromise readily if the occasion arose but not to shrink from their opposition to the extension of slavery. "Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it," were the words Lincoln left ringing in their ears.

At the 1860 Republican convention in Chicago, William H. Seward of New York, Salmon P. Chase of Ohio, and Simon Cameron of Pennsylvania were the leading contenders for the party's presidential nomination. But Lincoln was a new man and had few opponents. Through the political astuteness of his managers and his own shrewd politicking he got the nomination on May 16, 1860. Hannibal Hamlin of Maine was selected as his running mate. Lincoln learned of the nominations by telegram in Springfield. Beaming, he shook hands all around and went home to tell Mary the news. That night Springfield went wild.

In the general election, Lincoln faced Stephen Douglas, John Breckinridge, and John Bell. Lincoln spent most of the election day at his office and then went to vote around mid-afternoon. Before the night was over, the outcome of the balloting was certain. Lincoln took only 40 percent of the popular vote, but he received a clear majority of the electoral vote.

On January 27, 1861, Lincoln announced that he would depart for Washington on February 11 and asked for the "utmost privacy" during the rest of his stay in Springfield. Much had to be done before the departure. The house on Eighth Street, with all its memories, had to be vacated and some household articles sold. Lucian Tilton, president of the Great Western Railroad, bought some of the furniture. In 1869 Tilton moved to Chicago and 2 years later the Great Chicago Fire destroyed his home and some of the Lincoln furniture. Many personal possessions were packed for use in the White House. Lincoln himself roped the trunks and put a card on each one labeled "A. Lincoln, White House, Washington, D.C."

And Lincoln also needed some privacy to think about the awesome job that lay ahead of him. Already six States had left the Union and another, Texas, would join them before he left Springfield. Grave times faced him.

On the rainswept morning of February 11, 1861, Lincoln stood on the Springfield train platform. In a voice trembling with emotion he addressed the crowd. *My friends—No one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe every thing. Here I have lived a quarter of a century and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail. Trusting in Him, who can go with me, and remain with you and be every where for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell.*



The traditional birthplace of Abraham Lincoln.



Poisonous snakeroot, whence came the dread "milk sickness."



# Visit the Prairie . . .



**. . . One of the Nation's premier wildlife parks!**

Discover the animals that called Illinois home during pioneer days. This unique 2,000 acre zoological park is home to wolves, bison, waterfowl, black bear, elk, cougar, otter and much more. You will enjoy the Park's spectacular natural settings, butterfly garden, wildflowers, lakes and restored prairie.

Imagine life in the early 1800's at the Pioneer Farmstead complete with farm animals, a one room school house and log cabin. Explore the nature of Illinois while riding the train. When your day is over, you can even spend the night on the Prairie in one of the renovated cabooses or in the Cabin on the Hill.

*Wildlife Prairie Park is conveniently located 2 1/2 miles south of I-74. Take I-74, Exit 82 or I-474, Exit 3 and follow the signs.*

# Good Riddance to WWIIs?

By David L. Smith

Houston Chronicle - Sunday, May 4, 1997

*(Smith, a Vietnam veteran, is a Houston writer and public speaker.)*

Yeah, we're sure gonna miss the World War II generation -- or so they tell us. Ya gotta love a generation who "answered the call" and "put everything on the line," fighting "to keep us safe from the evil forces turned loose in the world" and then went on to "give us a new world of hope and promise and opportunity" by "saving for the future and sticking together through thick and thin."

You hear this sort of rhetoric quite a bit these days, as the John Wayne generation marches off to that great reveille in the sky.

Yeah, we're gonna miss'em. Who will ever forget those wonderful folks who went through college on the GI Bill and bought their houses with veterans' loans and now righteously demand cuts in government support for education and housing in the name of fiscal responsibility? How admirably responsible of them to insist on cuts in welfare, school lunches, food stamps, Head Start and Medicaid while making sure that two-thirds of the government budget goes to a generation owning three-quarters of the nation's wealth. Eat your heart out, Robin Hood.

Isn't it marvelous how they "stuck together through thick and thin," voting to chop their taxes in their peak earning years in the 1980's before retirement, skipping out on \$3 trillion in taxes, while boosting their incomes with lofty salaries, liberal stock options, golden parachutes and the rest?

And speaking of saving, what better way to save for the future than by voting themselves lavish company and government retirement and health plans and handing their children and grandchildren the bill in the greatest Ponzi scheme of all times?

How grateful their grandchildren must be for the crummy educations and low wages they receive, the high rents they pay and the

lung cancer they will suffer from cigarettes their grandparents swore for decades were nonaddictive. How unsparingly generous of them to lend credit card money to the younger generations at rates once considered usurious, then eliminate the tax deduction for interest payments. Is this a great country or what?

And how do we thank a generation for "putting everything on the line." sending 55,000 of their children to die in Vietnam, and laying waste the country in order to "save it" and keep our borders safe from the evil forces of the Viet Cong?

Think of the inspiration their descendants will draw from a generation with the singular distinction of supplying us with the only president to resign in disgrace. Shame on you, Bill Clinton, you perpetual adolescent, for dishonoring the White House by renting out the Lincoln Bedroom!

Look at all the "hope, promise and opportunity" we have to look forward to, thanks to the John Wayne generation's inspired legacy: a \$4 trillion dollar net federal debt on which we will have the privilege of paying \$250 billion a year in interest (most of it payable to them); polluted air and water; the largest foreign debt in the history of the planet; the greatest dependency on foreign oil in our history; the slowest long-term rate of economic and productivity growth in half a century; the greatest inequality of wealth among all industrialized nations, with one child in three living in poverty while Grandpa and Grandma answer the call of the dinner chimes on the Love Boat.

Yeah, we're gonna miss'em for sticking together through thick and thin to leave us a bright new world of opportunity and promise - their thick, our thin.



# Memories prevail at reunion

## 83rd Division reunites to discuss 50 years of military change.

By Cheryl Scott  
The Republic, Columbus, Ind.

From stealth bombers to women in the military, things have changed since the men of the 83rd Division first trained for war at Camp Atterbury.

And when the approximately 220 members and their spouses returned to the base Thursday for their 51st reunion, they talked about all those changes that have taken place at Camp Atterbury and their memories of fighting and living in World War II.

The men traveled from all parts of Indiana, Ohio, Florida, Arizona, California and Washington to join the reunion, but they shared one thing -- they were the first group to train at Camp Atterbury when it opened in 1942.

"I was with Atterbury from the very beginning -- October 1942" said Salvatore Scicolone from Pittsburgh. "It surely has changed."

As the men surveyed the grounds of freshly cut grass and paved roads, a common memory sprang to mind:

"It was all mud," said Nick Francullo, from Lynn, Mass. "Mud-bury' we called it."

Now, the wooden barracks have been replaced by concrete barracks, part of the land has been converted into a park, and the changes in machinery awed the members of the 83rd as they climbed on and in the modern vehicles.

The facility also serves as a training establishment for all branches of the military and civilians such as law enforcement who often use their skills stateside to help in times of natural disasters.

When the men left Atterbury during the war and headed to Kentucky for additional training, they knew they'd eventually end up in battle. It was the brief stay in Kentucky, however, where Francullo formed his best memories of the war -- he met Mary Estes.

"After the war was over, I promised if I made it back, I'd marry her," Francullo said. "My father told me I was crazy to marry a girl from Kentucky."

He made it back, and the couple have been married for 51 years.

"They said it wouldn't last," Mary added with a laugh.

One of the first assignments Marvin Haydon of Louisville, Ky., recalls is guarding President Franklin Roosevelt.

"We didn't really know much what we were doing, to be truthful," Haydon said, noting the men were still young and in the midst of training.

That was one of the lighter tours of duty the men of the 83rd endured.

But the group that trained at Atterbury from August 1942 to June 1943, and became known as the Thunderbolt Division, felt the horrors of war firsthand.

The men took part in the landing on Omaha Beach at Normandy, destroyed the German fortress of St. Malo, spearheaded a drive to the Roar River, established the beachhead on the Elbe to Berlin, captured German POWs and set Allied Force prisoners free.

An immigrant from Slovakia, John Miklos joined the Army and became a machine gunner because he wanted "to be a good American."

Sometimes, as Miklos surveys the scenes of modern military maneuvers, the escapades of a president who avoided

combat and the lack of interest and celebrations in the accomplishments of the veterans, he wonders if it was worth the effort.

"Did we do it for anything, or was it just a waste of time?" Miklos asked.

Still, his pride in the military remains, even if it's through a different branch and one where women compete in the once dominated field.

"I'm glad (I didn't) have an officer as military as my daughter," Miklos said of Navy Cmdr. Lauren Mahoney.

"If the whole woman army is that strict, Ya, ya, ya, I pity the enemy," Miklos said.



Rocco J. Catalfamo peers into an armored personnel carrier during a reunion of veterans of the 83rd Infantry at Camp Atterbury Thursday. Catalfamo commented he was "glad I was walking" after looking at where soldiers had to ride in the carriers.



World War II Veteran Ames Miller of Columbus was one of more than 200 members of the 83rd Infantry visiting Camp Atterbury Thursday for a reunion. Members of the 83rd came from all over the country and from as far as Spokane, Wash., for the reunion.





# Vets make friend of WWII foe

*83rd Infantry reunion  
Welcomes unlikely guest:  
German who had been  
unit's POW 52 years ago.*

**By Kevin O'Neal**  
Staff Writer

The old veterans of the 83rd Army Infantry Division stood in a circle and talked about how they would have captured Berlin near the end of World War II if their officers would have let them.

The veterans recalled how they wanted to cross the Elbe River at Barby, Germany, and beat the soldiers from the Soviet Union to the German capital. But the Allies had agreed the Soviets would be allowed that honor.

In the middle of the circle stood a stout, bald man, who joined in the war stories -- from the German side.

"I was the last major resistance at Barby," said Horst Reinhold, a German soldier who was captured April 13, 1945, by the 83rd Infantry.

Now 69 years old, Reinhold retired five years ago after selling his import-export business in Germany. He now spends much of his time traveling across America.

Reinhold is spending this week in Indianapolis as a guest at the reunion of the 83rd Infantry Division Association. Veterans of the "Thunderbolt" Division's charge across France and Belgium into Germany met at the Adam's Mark Hotel.

The remaining members of the division, all in their 70s, came from throughout the country to relive their days of peril and sacrifice. They welcomed Reinhold, a former enemy, with open arms.

"Horst owes us a major debt of gratitude," said John Raikos, 75, an Indianapolis lawyer and an 83rd veteran. "If we hadn't captured him, he wouldn't be here today."

Reinhold believes he might otherwise have been captured by the Soviets when they entered Berlin to end the war in the European Theater. They would have sent me to Siberia for a couple of years and that wasn't much fun," Reinhold said.

## **A meeting in Florida**

The memory of a kindly sergeant in an American prisoner-of-war camp led Reinhold to contact the 83rd Association.

While in Florida in January, Reinhold met with B. John Prinzi of Sarasota, the association's historian, and agreed to attend the reunion this week in Indianapolis.

On Thursday, the veterans took a sentimental journey to Camp Atterbury at Edinburgh, where their division was the first to train when the installation opened Aug. 15, 1942.

The 83rd was part of the Normandy invasion and the Allied dash across Europe. It was rushed to save

Americans caught in the Battle of the Bulge before being sent toward Germany.

While the 83rd approached Berlin, Reinhold was shuffled among German military units in the frenzied final months of the war.

## **A teen soldier**

A high school student from Hamburg, Reinhold was one of the young men inducted into the German army to replace the nation's many killed or maimed soldiers.

After military training at age 15, Reinhold was 17 when he was assigned to fight on the Eastern Front against the advancing Soviets.

He later returned to near Berlin to help defend the capital.

The men of the 83rd were worried that Reinhold's troops would be part of a final counterassault that would dwarf the German offensive at the Bulge.

"Most of us had it in mind that you were going to pull something," said former infantryman Robert Keck, 71, of Mountville, Pa. "We were afraid of it."

In fact, the Americans were approaching a ragtag collection of inexperienced Germans, who were moved haphazardly on the whims of generals trying to satisfy Adolf Hitler.

## **The "Closet armies."**

"I belonged to one of those closet armies," Reinhold told his former captors.

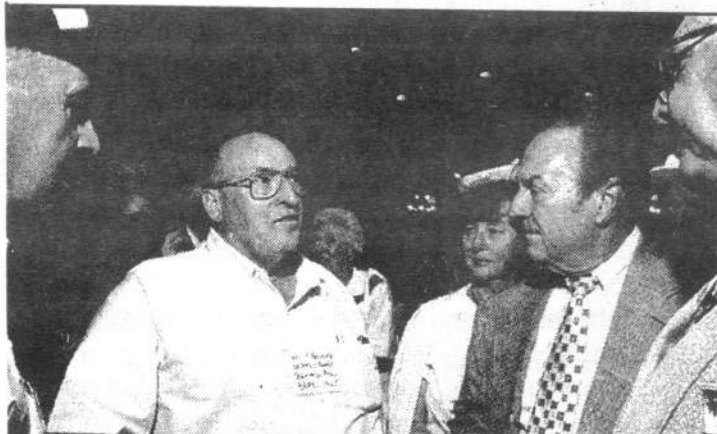
In April 1945, Reinhold was shipped 75 miles southwest of Berlin, in the path of the advancing Americans.

On the west bank of the Elbe River in the small town of Barby, German troops, including Reinhold, were told to defend the bridge over the river at all costs.

One night while Reinhold was sleeping in a barn, he was awakened by an exploding in the rafters. Debris struck him in the head.

"The next day the Americans came in," said Reinhold. "I stuck my arms up and that was it."

Keck told Reinhold lightheartedly: "We didn't think you were worth a bullet."



**FOES NO MORE:** Horst Reinhold (second from left) once was a captive of the U.S. Army. This week, he was surrounded once again -- as a guest of former U.S. soldiers at their reunion.

# Camp's first troops come marching back

By Jennifer Del Vechio  
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

These veterans traveled hundreds of miles to share smiles, old war stories and pats on the back at the place that molded them into soldiers to fight a world war.

Members of the 83rd Infantry returned to Camp Atterbury Thursday to tour the grounds and see old friends.

The unit was the first stationed at Camp Atterbury for World War II, when it was a new training ground for soldiers in the 1940s.

But times have changed since these veterans slept in the barracks more than 50 years ago.

"I don't even know where I am," said John Hudnall, 75, of Shelby County, Ky. "All the buildings are gone."

The camp is also missing a lot of mud.

Nick Francullo of Lynn, Mass., said the camp used to be known as Camp Mudbury because when he was there it was just being sodded.

There's also no more potbellied stoves sitting in the hallways.

"Everything is more up to date," Francullo said. "We used to have to start a fire outside, and detail was the coal bin."

While the camp might look different, the veterans were still able to keep their comradeship and tell stories about one another.

R.T. Brooks of Frankfort, Ky., came to the reunion to meet up with Hudnall and Bernard Riddle of Saluda, S.C.

His favorite story is one about after he and Hudnall finished their training and went to Europe.

Hudnall loaded a piano in an Army truck and asked two girls from a nearby church in Wales to sing to the troops.

"He almost got court-martialed," Brooks said with a grin.

"But when the commander asked him what he was doing he said, 'I was just providing entertainment to the troops.'"

The commander didn't issue the court-martial but sternly warned them to make sure it didn't happen again.

While most of the time was spent reminiscing about happy times, the veterans also came to share their feelings about a war that left its scars.

Each veteran nodded his head when Lester Pittman of Spokane, Wash., said he can't watch a war movie.

After fighting battles in Normandy, Ardennes, Brittany, the Rhineland and Central Europe, these men have their own movie in their minds.

"These are some of my best buddies," Pittman said.

"We get together, and we know each other and can sit down and visit. When I watch a war movie and go to bed I wake up in a sweat, and they understand."

Herbert Gibson of Pittsburgh said the men created a special bond that they try to keep alive by meeting for reunions each year. This is their 51st time together.

"We can tease each other and tell the same stories over and over," Gibson said.

With 240 veterans there were plenty of stories about how they marched across northern Germany in 10 days to how they kept warm during the Battle of the Bulge by heating up their cognac or whiskey for warmth.

The veterans said attendance at the reunions has grown, since most of the vets are retired.

"I'm having a ball," Francullo said. "I always look forward to this."



Keith Davidson, left, of Minneapolis shares some old war stories with Louis Sandini, of Marlborough, MA. The two were among hundreds of veterans belonging to the 83rd Infantry that returned to Camp Atterbury Thursday to reminisce and see old friends. (STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER DEL VECCHIO)



## Atterbury seeks to recapture past

It's been 51 years since men of the 83rd Division last gathered as a group at Camp Atterbury in 1946...55 years since they first gathered in August 1942.

Many of them will be returning Thursday for a short visit.

They and the former military installation which straddles Bartholomew and Johnson counties have changed in the past 50-something years.

The men of the 83rd who will be meeting in their 51st reunion this week at the Adams Mark Hotel in Indianapolis are older.

Some were old when the group held its first reunion in 1946 in Indianapolis, aged not by the passage of time but by the war in which they fought and lost so many friends.

And the base where so many of them were introduced to the military has changed. There is still a military presence, but the wooden barracks in which they slept or stood fire watch were torn down -- the wood sold for scrap.

Much of the base which once bustled with tens of thousands of men in olive drab uniforms has been given over to other uses -- a horse park, a correctional facility, a Job Corps training center and a county park, just to mention a few -- but there are still things in place to keep alive the past.

Two of them will be on the five buses that will bring the veterans to Camp Atterbury for a daylong visit beginning at 10 a.m. Thursday morning -- Ames and Helen Miller of Columbus.

Ames is very much a part of the history of the 83rd Division and Camp Atterbury. He was among the first to come to the newly opened base in 1942. Its newness contributed to the first nickname given the installation which only months before had been farmland.

"We called it 'Mudbury' for obvious reasons," the Columbus retiree likes to tell listeners.

When the 83rd arrived, roads were just being installed and barracks were still being

erected.

Ames and Helen are not only part of the 83rd alumni, they are a welcoming committee for the present-day camp and Columbus.

Helen will be along to help point out the changes at the camp -- the memorial park near the military entrance on which are inscribed the insignias of the units which trained here, the restored chapel on the main grounds and the small. Chapel in the Meadows originally built by Italian prisoners of war.

And while she's making her spiel about the camp and its changes, she also will be tapping them to leave something behind, artifacts that were a part of their stay here.

The artifacts are being sought for the museum which is now under construction, a facility which will trace the multifaceted history of the complex.

Betty Randall of Hope also is helping on that search for Atterbury-related artifacts.

"We're asking anyone who might have Atterbury-related pieces set aside in storage to consider giving them to the museum," Betty said.

"We've already collected quite a bit of material, but we're especially interested in things like original copies of The Crier (the base newspaper) and everyday items like ID badges."

There should be a wealth of material from the men of the 83rd.

It was while the 83rd was in training at the camp that the War Department created one of the more unusual training battalions and put it in the middle of Indiana.

It was carried on the public rosters as the 101 infantry battalion, but it was more accurately referred to as the "Austrian Battalion."

That name was derived from the fact that it initially consisted of Austrians who had escaped the European country after the war had been launched, ironically by a fellow Austrian, Adolf Hitler.

Some members literally had escaped from concentration camps while others were part of the country's nobility.

Three brothers were actually archdukes, but at Camp Atterbury they were buck privates.

The 83rd proved to be one of the most ac-



tive unites in the European Theater.

Its men landed at Normandy, and one particular platoon played a major part in one of the most unusual surrenders in military history.

That took place in Southern France in September 1944 when a platoon of 18 men received word from headquarters that a German unit of 20,000 men was ready to surrender.

An officer of the platoon along with members of other units negotiated with the German general in charge, who confirmed that he was ready to surrender but asked that two battalions of American Infantry first attack his unit so that they could surrender with honor.

Not wishing to incur additional casualties, the platoon commander asked that a formation of American planes fly over the German unit to give them the appearance of a pending attack.

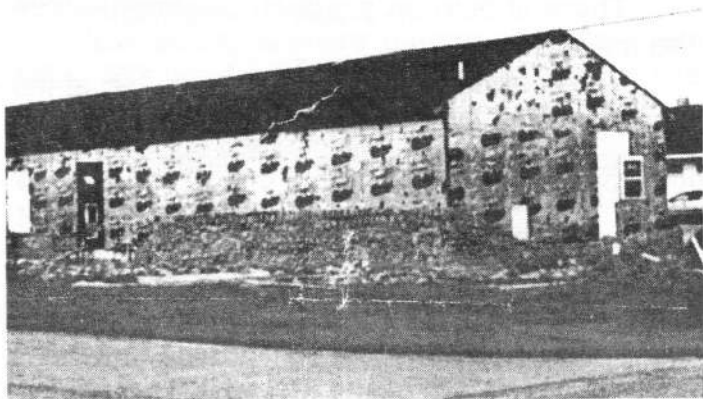
The gesture worked because the next day the Germans turned themselves in during a special ceremony.

The platoon leader recalled later that the event ended when the Germans served champagne to the representatives of the victorious forces.

One wonders if anyone saved any of the glasses used for the occasion. They'd make a fascinating exhibit in the new museum.

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Harry McCawley is associate editor of  
The Republic.



Members of the 83rd Infantry Division visiting Camp Atterbury Thursday will be able to see progress on the museum which will house artifacts from the history of the former military installation. Local residents are being asked to donate items from that history to the museum which is expected to be open sometime next year. People with items should contact CW3 Myles W. Clayburn, Camp Atterbury Building 1, Edinburgh, IN 46124-1096, (526-1103).

## Nature's Friends

*Oh! what a beautiful morning, Oh! what a beautiful day  
Lyrics from a song I remembered, one nice day in May  
As I walked along a wooded path on a beautiful sunny day  
I listened to the birds in nearby trees chirping a musical tone  
and even though I was by myself I knew I was not alone*

*Deciding to rest I sat down and looked around  
And saw a little squirrel who gave me a very curious frown  
A flock of birds took off and flew around in a cloudless blue sky  
I wondered how it would be to just take off and fly*

*Oh! the wondrous things there is in nature for everyone to see  
Lying down and looking up, I felt like I was falling into a deep blue sea  
It was then I closed my eyes and fell into a relaxing sleep  
I woke up in the twilight of the day, hearing a munching little bleep*

*That little squirrel was sitting there looking straight at me  
then more came along and sat there just to watch and to see  
rising to my feet, my little friends continued to look at me  
They must have realized by then, I was no threat that they could see*

*I walked up to the path and stopped to take one last backward look  
still sitting, staring, they then scampered off to their little ground  
hole nooks*

*walking home that evening I began to feel wonderfully well  
Because I began to realize I had experienced something pretty swell*

Robert L. Gerber

---

DEAR BOB,  
As Veteran's Day approaches I want to say hello and wish you and your family and all the men and their families of the 83rd the very best.

God's Love  
And mine-  
Michael Gottlieb  
Son of Pvt. Ben Gottlieb (KIA 7/23/44)

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CAMP ATTERBURY VETERANS  
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To carry out my purpose, I do hereby give, transfer, convey and assign said property, free and clear of all encumbrances, to the Camp Atterbury Veterans Memorial Association Inc., hereby relinquishing for myself, my executors, administrators, heirs, and assigns all ownership, rights (including copyrights and literary), interest, and possession therein to the donee absolutely.

I understand it is my responsibility to have an appraisal of the donated property made if I intend to use this receipt for tax purposes. No appraisals will be performed by the Camp Atterbury Veterans Memorial Association Inc.

Further, I understand that in the interest of conservation and preservation, donated artifacts may not be on display at all times.

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Donor (Signature)

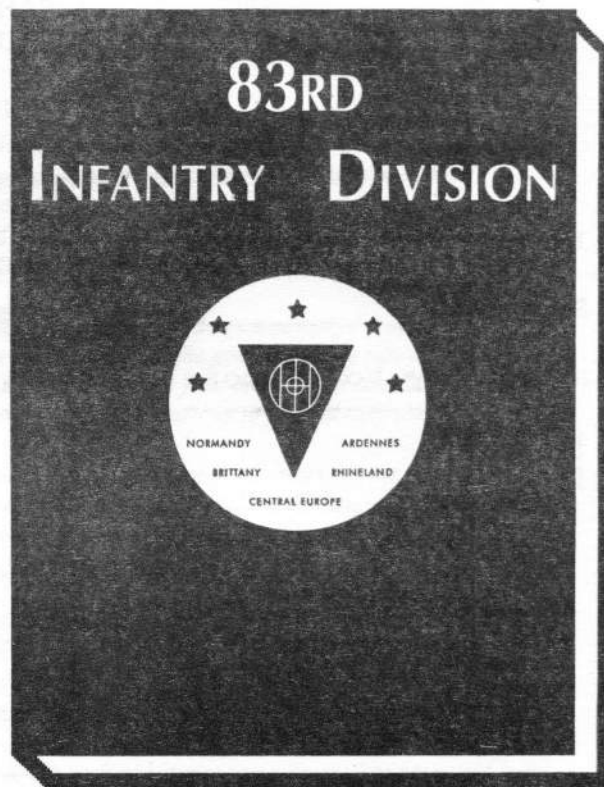
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Receiving Staff Member

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