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CENTRAL EUROPE

THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

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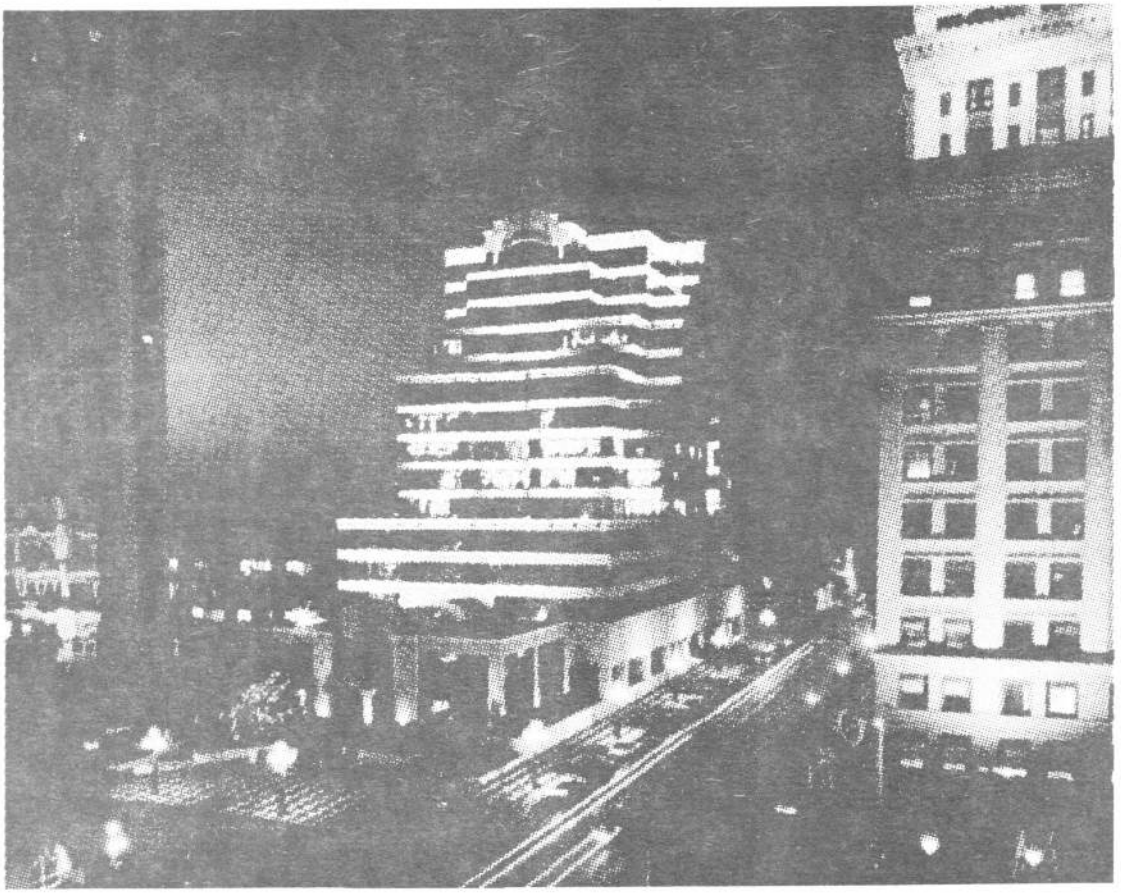

DOWNTOWN PEORIA

52nd Annual Reunion

Peoria, Illinois August 19, 20, 21, 22, 1998

THE THUNDERBOLT
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A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

*James C. Hanrahan..... 1947
Jack M. Straus..... 1948
*Shelly Hughes..... 1949
*Julius Ansel..... 1950
*Walter H. Edwards Jr..... 1951
Leo Schneider..... 1952
Finley Heyl..... 1953
* Lawrence J. Redmond..... 1954-55
*Lt. Gen. Robert H. York..... 1956
*Harry W. Lockwood..... 1957
*Raymond J. Voracek..... 1958
Charles Abdinoor..... 1959
*Joseph F. Minotti..... 1960
*Frank J. McGrogan..... 1961
John W. Robinette..... 1962
*Manuel C. Martin..... 1963
*Julius Boyles..... 1964
*Samuel Klippa..... 1965
*William M. Doty..... 1966
Albert A. Belvedere..... 1967
Vito C. Palazzolo..... 1968
Pat DiGiammerino..... 1969
Casey Szubski..... 1970
*Charles Altomari..... 1971
*Harold H. Dopp..... 1972
Louis J. Volpi..... 1973
Bernard O. Riddle..... 1974
Robert G. Taylor..... 1975
Mike Skovran..... 1976
Manlius Goodridge..... 1977
Joseph A. Macaluso..... 1978
*William J. Chavanne..... 1979
*Samuel Klippa..... 1980
Michael Caprio..... 1981
Ralph Gunderson..... 1982
*Arthur Doggett..... 1983
*Bernie Cove..... 1984
Carroll Brown..... 1985
John Hobbs..... 1986
George Pletcher..... 1987
*Charles Schmidt..... 1988
Edward Reuss..... 1989
Charles J. Lussier..... 1990
Edgar H. Haynes..... 1991
Ned Smith..... 1992
Louis Sandini..... 1993
William A. Minick..... 1994
Casey Szubski..... 1995
Floyd Richmond..... 1996

* Denotes Deceased

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

El Nino has been blamed for many things but up here in Minnesota it has brought us (so far) a very good winter, I hope it has done the same for most of you and I hope it brings good weather out East in Peoria this summer. As I write we are enjoying 40 degree temperature.

As indicated in the last Thunderbolt, reunion plans are pretty well arranged. We have yet to develop a program for the spouses during the business meetings and to firm up a DJ for the dancing. My biggest concern is that we will not have the volunteers for help in the Hospitality Room, take bus tour tickets, sell 50/50 tickets etc. I know one of the Basic rules in the Army was never to volunteer, but we are no longer in the Army and this volunteering will help the reunion run smoothly and make it more enjoyable for your buddies.

It's early so as of this writing very little pre-registration has come in, however I urge you to pre-register as soon as you can so we can arrange for the right number of busses, tee times etc. Please note the pre-register deadlines.

As noted in the last issue, we are bringing back the Ad Book. You know how important the Ad Book is to the success of the reunions so we hope you will support it as you have in the past and respond as soon as possible.

Pre-register, volunteer if you can and support your Ad Book.

Wishing you all good health and a safe trip to Peoria for the 52nd Annual Reunion.

PEORIA PARKING PARTICULARS

There will be free parking at the rear of the Hotel off Monroe Street at the entrance to a parking ramp for automobiles which are not higher than 6 ft. 7 inches. Everytime before leaving the ramp have your parking ticket stamped at the Hotel front desk and there will be no parking charge.

Vans which can't get into the parking ramp should park along Madison Avenue, Hamilton Blvd. or Monroe street next to the Holiday and let the hotel front desk know your vehicle's license number so you will not need to pay the parking meters.

RV's, Trailers, or Motorhomes can park in the corner (Madison Avenue and Hamilton Blvd.) parking lot west across Hamilton from the Holiday Inn. Your parking cost will be reimbursed by the Holiday Inn on presentation of your receipt.

For those arriving by air the Holiday City Center van will pick you up - Just call

Sincerely,
Keith Davidson
National President

EXECUTIVE BOARD CHAIRMAN

First I want to mention the fine job our past board chairman, Carroll Brown, did for our great 83rd Inf. Div. Association and wish him good health and good luck. I hope everyone had a good holiday season and 1998 will be healthy and prosperous for all. Our 52nd Reunion will take place not very far from where our 16th President Abraham Lincoln once lived. It should be a great experience to visit his hometown. The Executive Board is doing the planning for this reunion and we are trying to make it one of the best but we will need much help and volunteers. Volunteers should contact Vice President Floyd Richmond as soon as they can. The Holiday Inn City Centre Hotel is located in the heart of downtown Peoria and is ideal with restaurants and shops nearby. The Par-A-Dice Riverboat Casino is also a big attraction.

Please read carefully the pre-registration instructions in the Thunderbolt and pre-register early and this will save time. Support the Ad Book and send your checks in as soon as possible. The Ad Book is a big help for the reunion. Let us start now making reunion plans and look forward to seeing our buddies and friends in Peoria, Ill.

Good Health and Best Wishes,
Sal Scicolone, I-Co. 329th Inf

Greetings from the Secretary-Treasurer's Office

Now the Holidays are over and it is time to think about Peoria, IL. Reunion Aug. 19-20-21-22/98. It is important for you to get your Pre-registration forms in before July 15, 1998.

I would like to explain more about the Par-A-Dice Riverboat Casino. The buffet lunch will

be served at the Pavilion in the Grandview Dining room located near the Par-A-Dice Riverboat not on the boat. After lunch those who would like to enter the BOAT will do so after LUNCH. The people who don't want to play the machines just pass by and go to the top deck to enjoy the cruise down the river. The river front renovation will be completed by the time of our Reunion.

Next I need to explain and correct a mistake on my part of proofing the Hotel application. It doesn't have an address on it. Where to send it. The slip in application will have the hotel address on it. "Please send them to the Hotel" not the National Office. You may call your reservation by using the 1-800-474-2501 or fill out the application and fax it in by using this Fax # 1-309-674-8705. Mailing Address is Holiday Inn City Centre, 500 Hamilton Blvd, Peoria, IL 61602

Remember there will be a Ad Book this year. Your Ads are to be sent to Clifford Woolridge, the address is on add page in centerfold. This money is to help with the Hospitality Room and Reunion Expenses.

A REMINDER - YOUR 98 DUES ARE DUE NOW! Sending them in now will save us money by not having to send a special reminder.

When any of you members change your address please send it to the office immediately so that it can be changed on the computer, then you will never miss one Issue of your magazine.

I feel as though this reunion has been very well planned and you will enjoy yourself.

I have received calls about the new 83rd Inf. Div. History Book that is to be printed. I have talk to Keith Steele "Turner Publishing" and said he was going to send out one more flyer for a "Final Deadline" of March 31, 1998. He would like to have some more Biography and Photos. He gave me a tentative time the publication should be sometime this fall.

Bob Derickson
National Secretary

Deceased List

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

Name	Unit	Reported By
Arnfield, Roy	"F" Co. 329	Bob Whitcomb
Bella, Steve	"D" Co. 331	Al Shrawder
Bledsoe, Herman	"E" Co. 331	Herman Rickenbaugh
Brigstock, Duane	"1st" Bn Hq. 331	Family
Bjork, Raymond A.	"G" & "H" 330	Pat DiGammerino
Brinkman, Robert F.		Floyd Richmond
Choate, Glen	"A" Btry 322	Ellworth Massie
Chojnowski, Walter J.	"C" Co. 331	Wife Mary
Chipps, Richard L.	"L" Co. 331	Pat DiGammerino
Columbus, Steve	"2nd BNHQ 329	Son
Daily, Charles	"A" Btry 908th	Charles Stine
Daugherty, John N.	"L" 329	Lee Hetrick
Davis, Ray D.	"A" Co. 331	Fran Beerhalter
Eachus, Walter	Serv. 322 FA	Wife
Gano, Robert L.	"D" 331	Al Shrawder
Grenwood, Charles	"I" 330	Wife Mary
Hensley	"A" 329	Bob Grobelmy
Holden, Joseph	"G" Co. 331	Joe Macaluso
House, Grover	Medic 329	Bob Whitcomb
Hughes, R.C.	"D" 331	Al Shrawder
Johnson, Richard H.	Unknown	Joe Petruci
Kolman, Chester	"F" 331	Wife Dora

Name	Unit	Reported By
Ladley, Harold W.	"G" 331	Ed. McCouch
Lamon, Rufe M.	"M" 331	Wife Frances
Leblanic, Rene	"I" Co. 331	John Hennig
Mabe, Vinson	"3rd" BNHQ 329	Miles Poole
Marsh, Frank	"G" 330	Florent J. Soucy
McCartin, WM. T.	"H" 330	Father McCartin
McManaway, LeRoy	"M" 329	Wife Marva
Neofes, John J.	"D" 331	Al Shrawder
Palasky, Frank	"A" Btry. 908 F.A.	Walter Pickett
Peters, Malcom	"1st" BNHQ 329	Miles Poole
Piechowski, Leonard J.	"D" 331	Miles Poole
Plaks, Max	"1st" BNHQ 331	Wife Pauline
Rosenburg, David J.	"F" 331	John Daum
Rynkowski, Richard	"M" 330	Wife Helen
Silva, Manuel	"L" 330	Pat DiGammerino
Stanisauskis, Joseph A.	"83rd" Sig.	"Fran" Beerhalter
Swanson, Harlan A.	"K" 331	Charlotte Crosen
Wechsler, Alfred	"2 Bn" Hq. 331	Wife Bernice
Welsh, Walter	"K" 331	Stanley Duff
Wilson, Owen	"A" 329	by Bob Grobelmy

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Arlington National Cemetery

Last December we read of the wrongful internment at Arlington of a "well connected" individual who had fabricated a tale about his WWII escapades as a merchant mariner.

An aftermath of the expose was the introduction of draft legislation by the House Veterans Affairs Committee that would tighten and clarify eligibility standards for burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

According to a recent article in the Washington Post (received through the courtesy of Rudy Zamula, 83rd Signal), the proposed bill would continue to permit armed forces members who die on active duty, were retired from the military, were prisoners of war, or held the nation's highest military decorations, burial at Arlington. ("Highest military decorations" are currently described as the: Congressional Medal of Honor; Distinguished Service Medal; Distinguished "Service Medal; Silver Star, or Purple Heart. (Whether the proposed bill accepts all these in its definition of "highest decorations" is not explained in the Post's article.)

The proposed bill would continue to permit the internment of any former president.

(At this writing, it is expected that the measure, called the Stump-Evans bill, will be fast tracked for passage in March.)

The Elbe River Crossing

Kudos are in order to Louis Gomori - Co. I, 329th - because for the better part of two years (perhaps even more), he has been carrying on a personal, one man battle against giants in the media to prove, for history's sake, that the 83rd crossed the Elbe River in April, 1945.

The VFW magazine published a series about WWII in 1995. It failed to give recognition that the 83rd not only reached the Elbe, but also crossed it, established and held a beachhead on its eastern bank and built The Truman Bridge across it. After much insistence by Lou over a period of months, the magazine ultimately printed a small correction and announced to Lou that WWII would no longer be a topic in their publication.

He also took on the local Public Broadcasting Station when they televised THE BATTLEFIELD series which also failed to give credit to the 83rd for the Elbe crossing. More letters, documentary copies, even made threats to meet with Washington officials to urge cuts in PBS subsidies if they did not reply and comply with his repeated demands concerning this event.

The PBS ultimately forwarded Lou's dispatches to THE BATTLEFIELD producers in Scotland who subsequently sent them on to their historical consultant. He, in turn bucked the whole issue to the producer's senior consultant, a professor emeritus and an Honorary Fellow in Defense Studies at the University of Edinburgh.

Lou and the professor exchanged a ream of correspondence over the many, many months the upshot of which is that he (the professor) has promised to take steps to amend the content of THE BATTLEFIELD series. He proposes to do this in what he terms is "An Accompaniment of Documentation" which will be linked to the films. When this is ultimately accomplished in the archival record, the professor has told Lou that "you will be the very first person to receive this"

Lou has tirelessly and selflessly worked for literally years to achieve these changes and deserves recognition and thanks from each of us.

GIs in German garb??

Can any member shed light on an alleged incident in March '45 in which German-speaking 83rd soldiers were furnished German army uniforms and equipment for a mission behind enemy lines? They supposedly almost captured a bridge across the Rhine.

Bill Dyer (Hdqtrs - 329th) recently informed me that in a book entitled "Citizen Soldier" (Simon & Schuster) the author, Stephen E. Ambrose, quoting from an interview with Gunter Materne, reported the above incident.

Can any reader confirm and/or expound on this?

329th-ers

I've been asked to inquire if there may be an interest - and how much of an interest - by former 329th members in acquiring a copy of the history of the regiment which was originally published in occupied Germany in July 1945. The book has long since been out of print but Horse Reinhold (who was captured at Barby, you'll recall) claims to have received quite a few inquiries about it at the last reunion. Horst is willing to take on the task of having it photocopied for those interested at an estimated cost of $20 plus postage.

If interested, contact Horst Reinhold at 207-1 Peppermint Lane, Naples, Fl. 34112.

THIS IS NOT AN UNDERTAKING NOR IN ANY WAY ENDORSED BY THIS ASSOCIATION.

Lest we forget - we were INDEED the very best.

B. John Prinzi
Your Historian

ALLIES IN CONFLICT

Anglo-American Strategic Negotiations, 1938-1944
By Dr. Steve Weiss, 213 pages.
$50 St. Martin's Press, New York
Reviewed by Franklin L. Gurley

This book tells how a handful of men - Roosevelt, Churchill and their chiefs of staff - worked closely together in committee sessions from before Pearl Harbor until V-E Day in 1945 to develop the strategy and timetable that brought about Germany's unconditional surrender. Their achievement was all the more noteworthy considering Hitler's head start and his conquest of most of Western Europe between 1939 and 1941.

The author, Steve Weiss, concludes that the small Allied planning group "was good enough - just" to win out over Hitler. Weiss took part in the Southern France invasion on August 15, 1944 as a rifleman with the 36th Division. Until that summer, the American strategy planners - George Marshall, Hap Arnold and Ernest King - had been "led by the nose" by their more experienced British partners. The British had shot down Marshall's plan (drafted by his aide Dwight Eisenhower) to invade Northern France in 1942. Instead, the British proposed landings in North Africa where the odds of success would be greater. Marshall argued that committing resources in Africa might delay the invasion of France until 1944. To Marshall's and Eisenhower's dismay, President Roosevelt sided with the British. Weiss writes: "Marshall considered it to be a momentous change in grand strategy and Eisenhower considered it the blackest day in the history of the war."

As everyone remembers, the Allies made seaborne landings in North Africa in Nov. 1942, Sicily in July 1943 and Italy in September 1943 and January 1944 (Anzio). Churchill wanted to limit Allied operations to Italy and to scrap plans for invading France. However, at the Big Three conference in Tehran in November 1943, Roosevelt and Stalin out voted Churchill. The Normandy landings were scheduled for Spring 1944.

Marshall and Eisenhower wanted to invade Southern France to guarantee the flow of supplies to the main force in Northern France. However, Churchill threatened to resign if this happened, and finally withdrew his opposition on August 9, 1944, six days before the Riviera landings. Churchill's predictions that the invasion would end in disaster were proved unfounded. The landings by U.S. VI Corps and the 1st French Army were the most flawlessly executed of the entire war.

The Marshall-Eisenhower strategic plan was finally vindicated, as the main Allied effort shifted away from the Mediterranean and into France. Author Weiss does a good job describing how heated the debates between the respective chiefs of staff became at times. At a pre-Tehran meeting in Cairo, U.S. Admiral Ernest King became so incensed that he tried to crawl across the conference table to slug the chief of staff of the British Army, Field Marshal. Alan Brooke. Weiss writes: "...with Admiral King red in the neck and inarticulate, General Arnold apparently furious but quiet, Brooke equally redfaced and inarticulate, it was British Air Chief Charles Portal and General Marshall who calmed things down in very simple language: 'We can't blow up on things like this. Something has to be done. Let's get on with it.'"

And get on with it they did, until May 8, 1945 when the German side threw in the towel nine days after Hitler's suicide in his Berlin command bunker.

Franklin L. Gurley
1626 Romanens
(Fribourg)
Switzerland
Tel. & Fax 26 9178302

YOUR 1998 DUES ARE DUE NOW!

Chapters

Florida Chapter News.....

The Florida Chapter held it's winter meeting on Jan. 23 & 24 in Sebring, FL. at the Inn-On-The-Lake. This is a good site for a winter meeting because it is located away from the busy winter visitor locations. It also has a sizeable hospitality room for meetings and banquet.

The attendance was a little below our normal for mid-winter, but most of the regulars were there. Our new president, Harry Gravelyn, presided and Ralph Gunderson, a member of the National Executive Board reviewed some proposed changes that will be acted on this year.

We were also pleased to welcome Fred McGowen and his wife, members of the Kentucky Chapter. It was appropriate at this time, as they celebrated their 50th Wedding anniversary with us. They have a winter residence several miles south of Sebring, so we are hoping to see them more often.

Our vice-president, Bruce Winchell, cancelled at the last minute, due to a back injury. I understand he was still trying to do a young mans work. It was good to have Glen Wible and his wife, but we missed regulars Russell Antt, Bill Herhuth and John Miklos due to ill health.

Following the Sat. night banquet, attended by 55 members and guests, Master-of-Ceremonies Scotty Kost "dug up" Sonny and Cher, A.K.A. Allen and Mary Fisher to perform, in costume, one of their popular hits; "I Ain't Got Nobody" and "You Got Me Babe". Following a quick costume change, Mary honored a special request to appear as "Lily from Philly" to dance the "Stripper". It is my hope that pictures of this performance will be available before the next edition goes to press.

Thanks to the generosity of our loving spouses, a goodly number of door prizes were awarded. The chapter plans to meet on April 24 & 25 at this same hotel. If any 83rd member will be visiting in Florida during that time, contact me at (561) 461-3640 for information. Best wishes to all.

W. Allen Fisher, Sec'y.

New Jersey Chapter News.....

New Jersey Chapter News.....

The Chapter's Christmas Party held at Cryan's Restaurant was a huge success. There were 39 people at the party and all had a great time. Everyone received a gift from the grab-bag and there were so many door prizes that almost all got a prize. The door prizes were donations from some of our talented wives who made them and also some were bought and donated. We thank them and also want to thank Joe DePeri for all the cook books he brought for the door prizes. Our thanks to Mary and Linda Sihlanick for the delicious hors doeuvres and for the favors that were presented to all.

Attending for the first time was Fred Policastro (C Co, 331) with his lady friend who won one of Vi Waple's Christmas Wreaths. Good to see both of them and hope you can join us at future parties. Talk about parties, included in our Christmas Party was a surprise birthday party for Russell Whitehead. (picture included) His wife Margarita arranged for the birthday cake and we all celebrated his birthday.

Rein came to the party with her daughter Pat and son-in-law Tony Watkins. Tony was born and raised in Wales and is very well acquainted with the area of Roman Bridge where we trained. Remember the creek that flooded over and washed much of our equipment away. Tony told me the creek would flood during every heavy rain and the Welsh Boys would use big nets to scoop out some of the items floating by. I told him also about our climbing the highest mountain in Wales for one of our training exercises. I never knew the name of the mountain until he told me it was Mount Snowden. I do remember it took us seven and a half hours to climb to the plateau before the peak. I remember it only took two hours to descend sliding on our butt. The Welsh people were wonderful to us and invited us into their homes for tea and cookies and one time walking the street of Olag Trasfinnegg (spelt phonetically) and being approached by a girl inviting me to her sweet sixteen birthday party. There were six GIs and the like number of girls at the party and it was our introduction to the dance the Hoky Poky which I believe the GIs were responsible for bringing the dance to America. I hope you had and remember the good times in Wales.

Christmas also brings us the welcome cards from our buddies and the wives of our departed buddies. It always nice to read when all is well and we are saddened by those who have suffered a loss of a loved one or have health problems.

We lost a good buddy when Bill McCartin died December 10th. Bill will be missed by all who knew him. Our heartfelt sympathy to his wife Gloria and brother Father Frances.

A card we received from Kay Bowie told us she lost her son Tom on July 2nd. Fran and I were very close to Jim and Kay Bowie and shared much together. We knew their family well and are saddened by his death. Our sympathy to all the Bowies on their loss.

Our sincere sympathy to Lee Hetrick who lost his wife Dorothy last October 6th.

Frank Reichmann, Fred Klein and Ed Jones wrote no change all is well as can be. Fred Ouellette and his wife Dorothy are still recovering from sickness of a year and a half ago. Our hope is for your full recovery and that we can meet someday.

A card from Don Theibolt told of some heart problems last May. Hope all is well now and look forward to meeting again.

A card from Ginny and Rags Rangow informed me of his attending the Peoria Reunion but his reluctance to go on the Gamble Boat. Don't fear Rags, it's not you who will go overboard, if they pay like Atlantic City, it will be me jumping in.

Along with this article, I am sending two pictures taken at the Indianapolis Reunion. One is of Dr. Shad, John Prinzi and myself. Dr. Shad was with the German 6th Parachute Regiment which was one of the units fighting us in Normandy. He was a medic and was seriously wounded in Normandy by 83rd artillery never to return to battle. He has often attended the ceremonies in Normandy with the 83rd and has become good friends with some of our members, especially August (Mousie) Farias. The other of Cookie Seneca with family and friends. Also two pictures taken at our Christmas Party. Whitehead with his ice cream birthday cake and all awaiting their turn to grab their prizes.

That's it for now and don't forget to make your plans for Peoria, we'd love to see you there.

Stan Bielen
1st Bn. Hdqs. Co. 331 Inf.

Father Frances P. McCartin honored by 83rd Association

Father Frances P. McCartin O.M.I. brother of William McCartin a member of Company H, 330 Infantry was honored with a Plaque on October 18, 1997 for his service and dedication to the members of the 83rd Division Association and their families.

Father McCartin joined our first tour of Europe in 1973 and has over the last 25 years had a close relationship with the 83rd. During that trip, and others to follow, Father Frank was always able to hold a mass for all and was to become a dear friend to many of us.

Father Frank travelled wide and far to be with us at most of our reunions. His masses, open to all, not only catholics, had special meaning and many times the homily was of the sacrifices and hardships endorsed by the 83rd Infantry Division in the fierce battles of the European Theater. We always looked forward to seeing Father Frank at our reunions and attending the celebration of the mass with him.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation for all you have done for the 83rd and our best wishes for a long and happy relationship with you and the 83rd.

Stan Bielen, New Jersey Chapter

Pittsburgh Chapter News.....

I wish to apologize for not having a column published in the previous issue of The Thunderbolt. One was sent but apparently it got sidetracked between here and National Headquarters. I checked with the Post Office and a trace was put on but to this day I haven't heard anything. This was not only the mail that I have experience since the later part of last year. Four total -- one being a check. A report from the past reunion found us losing a terrific member -- John Caruso. He had a heart attack in Indianapolis and was hospitalized for a short period, treated and told to report to his own medical personnel on his return to Pittsburgh. He was rushed to the hospital on that Saturday and passed away at 2 a.m. on Sunday, August 24, 1997.

These few words are in honor of John Caruso

You know Johnny wore many hats

He was the 7th child of 10 children

To Nick and Frances Caruso

He was the husband of Bulah/Father of Nancy and Mary Kay

He was the brother to Charles, Pat, Rose and Grace...Anthony, Joe, Franny, Eugene and Raymond.

He was the grandfather to Christina, Pamela, Bryan and Joey

He was the loving companion to Irene for 33 years.

And of course, he was a TERRIFIC Uncle and Friend.

I believe Johnny led a full and rich life: I also believe that he exemplified the most important virtue of man...He shared his unconditional love.

The real tests of love are quiet and deep.

They are the inner tests we receive from God. Like...

Continuing to care when no one's looking.

Enduring pain so that others will not feel it.

And standing alone, when you are forgotten.

The hallmarks of human love in its truest and deepest sense include protectiveness, tenderness, tolerance and spiritual exhilaration.

Uncle John protected me when he rescued me from a burning house when I was six months old.

I always felt bonded to Uncle John from that time. And he always made me remember to be enthusiastic and joyful about the beautiful life God gave us.

He was a very tender and talented man...

Every spring, Johnny would plant a garden in Grace's yard. And every summer he picked the first tomato and presented it to my Mother Grace. She had to be the first one to receive the bounty of the harvest. And according to Grace it was the best tomato she would taste until he re-planted and harvested the next ones next year.

Johnny would tolerate just about anything or anyone.

But he could never be around people who were confrontational to him, or to one another.

You would notice at the slightest sound of anger that John had vanished from the scene.

He was proud of his family and loved them all very much. He was proud of his son-in-laws and the love and care they gave to his daughters and grandchildren.

Each one of us will remember Johnny for a long time.

And He would have wanted you to continue to find joy, love and tolerance in each other.

Let's not dwell on John's death. Let's all find hope and joy in the time he spent with us here on earth.

And let's thank him in our hearts once more for sharing his unconditional love.

Spoken by Donna Roefaro Henke at North American Martyrs Church, Monroeville August 28, 1997. John died August 24, 1997 at the age of 97.

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Twenty some members attended the past reunion, some with their wives and guests. A few former members of the chapter died recently. They were Ray D. Davis, Co. A 331st.: Joseph C. "Clem" Stanisauskis, 83rd Signal, Steve F. Columbus, 2nd Bn. Hq. 329th.

Recent hospital list: Joe DeLuca spent six days in Presbyterian Hospital; triple by-pass for Felix Marra , member from Fairmont, W. Va. Hele Allen is presently in a wheel chair; Sam Clippa's wife, Frances passed away and was buried on July 5.

Ed Walsh's wife, Dottie spent some time in Bellevue Suburban Hospital. Frank Hornack's wife, Norma Jean spent some time in a hospital. Mike Fitch's brother, Nick died in January. In a recent issue of the Thunderbolt, I had listed our Sergeant-at-Arms, wife name as being Frances. It is actually Margaret. I apologize to both of them, especially "Andy." They celebrated fifty years of marriage on August 2, 1997. Our recent Christmas party was held on Sunday, December 7 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Calabria's in Castle Shannon, Pa. Forty-three meals were served with each lady receiving a box of home made candy. We were entertained by Mickey's One-Man band. A very enjoyable get-to-gether. Paul and Rita Deithrich their 50th wedding anniversary on December 5, 1997 with a surprise party, compliments of their children. They took a five-day river cruise from New Orleans with stops at Natchez, Mississippi; St. Francisville, Mississippi; Baton Rouge and back to New Orleans. At the February meeting it was approved to place an ad in a commemorative book in honor of Brentwood VFW 1810's Man-of-the-Year, Sam Crouder on Friday, February 27, 1998 at the Post Home, Route 51.

John Marek was presented a 50-year pin on behalf of Big Sewickley Fire Co. of Bell Acres, Pa. on January 31, 1997.

At present our membership stands at 31 active members and six inactive members. We are always looking for members. The cost is minimal but you must be a member of the National Association. If anyone is interested in joining from the tri-state area they can contact me at 412-931-2304.

Three men from H 329 attended the past reunion: myself, Ed Cox and George Bourget. Heard from Wendell Horvath. He is doing fine after two operations: a carotid and a triple bypass. When fully recovered from this he faces an abdomenal aneurism operation. Spent a few hours of Christmas Day with "Bill" Jones. He lives a few minutes away from my oldest daughter in Cranberry Twp.

"Fran" Beerhalter

THE GREATER PITTSBURGH CHAPTER OF THE 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION -1998-

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

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

Yearly dues are payable at January meetings. Twelve Dollars ($12.00)

SICK COMMITTEE

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

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

Cleveland Chapter News.....

Cleveland area sure has been blessed so far as weather is concerned. Here it is February and no snow. El Nino has been good to us. Not so good in other parts of the country.

Our Christmas party at the Ruggles Inn was a great success. Food was great and plenty of liquid refreshments. Everyone was there. Our mess Sgt. Mike Mizerock sure did put up a terrific hors d'oeuvres bar.

Warren and Mary Jane Owen became proud great grand parents Jan. 8th, 1998. Congratulations to you both.

We had a lot of wedding anniversaries this past year. Casey & Eleanore Szubski 51 years, Paul & Mary Dallos 36 years, Ed & Josephine Glinka 53 years, Sam & Charlotte Cordiano 52 years, George & Martha Calore 51 years, John & Betty Jakubowski 52 years, Warren & Mary Jane Owen. 49 Years, Dominic & Ann Christopher (The Godfather) 48 years, Ed & Delores Jocek 51 years, paul & Milly Novak 51 years. Congratulations to all of you.

Every year in the Maple Hts. area all the veteran organizations have church services at different denominations each year for the 4 chaplains that gave their life jackets to soldiers during the sinking of the "U.S.S. Dorchester" on Feb. 3, 1943. and proud to say the 83rd is always represented. This year it was the Maple Hts. Presbyterian church on Feb. 1, 1998.

Some of you may remember this. Early on the morning of Feb. 3, 1943 the troop transport "Dorchester" was wallowing through icy seas off Greenland. Most of the 900 troops on board were asleep in their bunks. Suddenly a torpedo smashed into the "Dorchester's" flank. Frantically pounding up the ladders, the troops milled in confusion on the decks.

In those dark moments of panic, the coolest men aboard were four U.S. Army Chaplains - First Lieutenants Clark V. Poling (Reformed Church of America), Alexander D. Goode (Jewish Rabbi), John P. Washington (Catholic), George L. Fox (Methodist). The four Chaplains led the men to boxes of life jackets, passed them out to the soldiers with boat drill precision. When the boxes were empty, the four chaplains quietly slipped off their own precious life preservers, put them on four young GI's and told them to jump.

The "Dorchester" went down 25 minutes later in a rumble of steam. Some 600 men were lost but the heroic chaplains had helped save over 200. The last anyone saw of them, they were standing on the slanting deck, their arms linked in prayer, to one God they all served.

Talked with Eleanore Szubski today, she told me that Casey is in the Cleveland Clinic. Had a bad heart attack. They may operate some time this week. Hang in there buddy - our prayers are with you.

We had some sadness in our chapter; Ben Kasputis our guest member from Erie Pa. passed away Oct. 8, 1997. The Mizorock's, Szubski's, Grobelny and Hal Trzeciak and Marie Bene, all went to Erie for the "Wake". We were early, so we all went to Al and Eleanor Klugiewicz's home. Spent some time there and then we went to the wake together.

Our new meeting place, starting March 19, 1998 (Every 3rd Thursday) will be at the V.F.W Hall in Bedford, Ohio (same town) at Forbes Road and Northfield Road. We changed because the F.O.P. had stairs going up. made it difficult to go up with supplies and down. The V.F.W. is ground level. So remember anyone that wants to come to our meeting, remember the new place. Meeting time (same time) 2 p.m. Hope to see you there.

This is all for now--. Stay healthy and take care.

Bob Grobelny
Cleveland Chapter.

YOUR DUES FOR 1998 ARE DUE NOW

Dixie Chapter News.....

Reflections of 97' Dixie Christmas!

With Thanksgiving over, the thoughts are totally on our Christmas meet in Gatlinburg, Tenn. Dixie has been meeting at same place 1st weekend in Dec. for 23 years - this is year 24. Plan to be there on Tuesday Dec. 2. First I must visit Felix and Mary Livingston in Pomaria, S.C. for our annual visit. This year is even better. Arriving on Sunday, attending a 50th Wedding Anniversary - Then to the livestock market with a load of calves with Felix enjoying the auction. Dinner at Shealy's truly southern cooking with the best of them. Each year it just gets better. Felix and Mary had 25,000+ lights burning. Everything not moving was decorated in white or colored lights including 1/4 mile of barbed wire fence along the road. What a sight!!

Took leave of the S.C. hospitality with plans to meet in Gatlinburg on Wednesday. Our trip was routine but exciting as our anticipation was running high. Arrived at hotel, checked in, checked over the reservations and found we had an attendance estimated at 150.

My son, Gerry and wife Missy soon arrived and got in the swing immediately. Shopping, sightseeing, eating and all the good stuff.

Sadly we had many cancellations coming up. Sickness and all things that happen at our age kept our banquet attendance down to 128. All had a terrific weekend!

Wed. Things are looking up, its snowing on the mountain, raining at the hotel just enough to make the fireplace and lobby enjoyable. By night fall 8 rooms were filled with 16 early arrivals. A most enjoyable evening was spent catching up and planning for the future.

Thurs. A banner day for Dixie with 35 more rooms filled with old and new 83rd people coming once again to share the holiday joys with each other. Our official hostess - Flo Jackson is here quietly getting things going. Carrol Brown also on the job, knowing what to do and how to do it. With 23 years experience behind him! President and Jane Whitaker doing all those things to make being here such a memorable occasion. Our wives and lady friends brought goodies to keep us munching thru each day. What a great group!! I can't thank you enough. We could not get along with our faithful, loyal, beautiful "widows". Elaine Watkin's, Jeanette McCroy, Dorine Blancett, Flo Jackson. Thanks to the top of the line. Each added much to our enjoyment. Flo had 19 members of her family present. That must be some kind of a record.

Friday Today brings more comrades. 13 more rooms are filled with Merry Makers. The place is overrun with our famous infantrymen. Each has a new or old story to tell and find willing listeners. The Engineers are quietly going about their work. Greeting all, building a few bridges, delivering supplies, and those necessary task's to made a successful get together. Finally the artillery is here in force conducting fire missions for each unit calling for them. Cliff Melton and Larry Dalton kept us busy since there were only two of us Wm. Rembow and yours truly. We supported each mission with not one "Short Round" reported.

Many took in the music shows and the sights today but most returned to Hospitality Room and the evening entertainment. Twas most enjoyable with dancing till the stroke of 12 midnight.

Sat. All eyes look to our banquet and entertainment, business is conducted and closed with the plans to come back in 1998 to celebrate our 25th year here for Christmas. Celebrating our Silver Anniversary will be something to remember. We invite all who can to come join with us. Make plans now!

We're seated by seven for banquet, took care of business - recognized our quests, took part in a "Memorial" remembering "Pearl Harbor Day" and all our own who have given their lives making it possible for us to celebrate. Included in this number are six of our very own who have passed on since June 1997.

Two lucky visitors Nancy Ledger and Bill McKee won the 50/50 drawings. I know we can expect them back next year.

Mr. & Mrs. Santa were on hand and performed beautifully. In the excitement I missed getting a picture of them. I'd appreciate one for the paper.

Best wishes to all who had to cancel for any reason! Thanks to all who took part in any way! Lets plan to do it all over again next year. Remember this! It doesn't just happen by itself - We have to make it happen!!

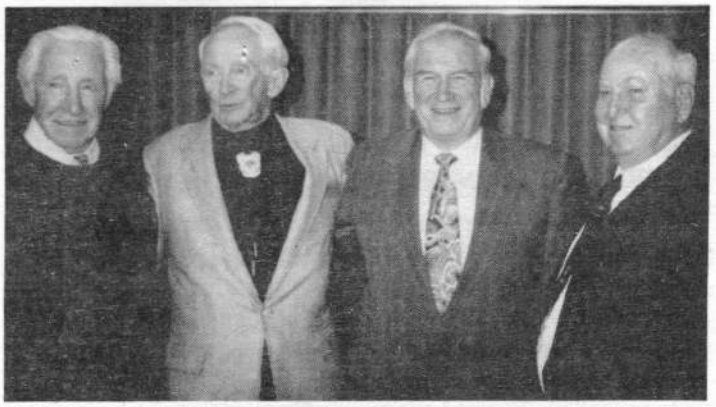
Dixie promised to be present at "Peoria" in strength for our National. Lets have a 1998 to remember never forgetting those we've lost along the way and their love ones.

Where ever they maybe.

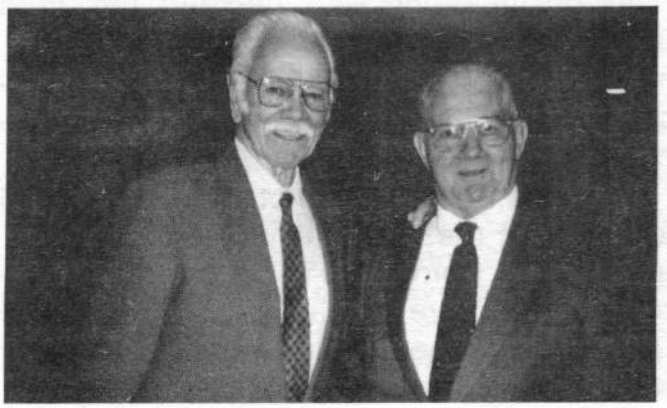
Yours
E.S. Massie

Carroll Brown, E-329 and Owen Biller, A-331 "Two of the best from the "Best".

The Massie Family early arrivals.



3rd Bn. Hdq. 329. - Four Good Men. Brooks, Badgett, Hudnall, Riddle. All Equipment Rolling.



A-322 F.A. Benbow, Massie, Mission Complete and Standing by!

Two famous 308 Engineers and wives. Stimmel & Cox - Getting the job done.

Owen Biller - A-331. Wife Mildred only man in uniform of 50 yrs. ago. "Awaiting Orders"

Kentucky Chapter News.....

The Kentucky Chapter had their Christmas party & Winter meeting on December 12th and 13th at the Comfort Inn in Piqua, Ohio. It was hosted by Hayes and Betty Wilt, Al and Dorothy Henry and Bob & Lois Brinkman. In my last article, I goofed on saying that "Mick" and Doris McGowan would be helping to host the meeting but they are in Florida dodging the Hurricanes. Sorry about my goof.

The members & wives in attendance were Paul and Doris Lear, Chester and Helen Wilson, Floyd and Alberta Richmond, Alton and Beverly Carter, Albert and Dorothy Flowler, Bob and Pearl Derickson, Harold and Catherine Fisher, Gale and Irene Baker, Earl and Bonnie Hoover, Homer and Ruth Rickenbaugh, Norman Weaks, Orval Turner, Manny Goodridge, Diane Lemaster, Al and Dorothy Henry, Bob and Lois Brinkman, Hayes and

Betty Wilt, Marvin and Wanda Hayden and Vi and I.

I again missed Fred Fowler at the meeting I looked in the car trunks of the Carters and the Haydens as they are from Louisville. Fred was not in their trunks. We also missed others who were not at the meeting.

At our meeting Earl Hoover read a letter from Margaret Bledsoe, wife of Herman Bledsoe, she told of the failing health of Herman which sadden all of us. We are not getting any younger, so see your friends every chance you get.

At our meeting, we decided the third meeting would be held at the National Reunions. Our Spring meeting will be at Portsmouth, Ohio. Earl Hoover will be making arrangements. It will be march 27, 28, 1998.

As usual, there was a lot of delicious food and drinks at the Hospitality Room at Piqua, thanks to the women. I kept eye balling the food but Eagle Eye Vi was watching, she had a hidden stick. She took me to Red Lobster for a delicious luncheon.

The group exchanged Christmas gifts. Vi and I don't get into this. Vi gave Pearl one of the Santa spoons I carved. Don't put the spoon in the dishwasher, Pearl and don't stir up trouble for Bob with it.

To all members of the Kentucky Chapter, if you have any news, please let me know. My address is on the inside cover of the Thunderbolt.

The Kentucky Chapter members & wives wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Vi called Bob & Pearl Derickson on Jan. 19th. They told her the sad news of the deaths of two of our members, Bob Brinkman and Herman Bledsoe. Bob died before Christmas & Herman the early part of January. We do not know the exact dates. We extend our deepest sympathy to friends & family members.

Vi also called Clara Johnson to tell her the sad news. She then told Vi that she had some treatments for skin cancer and that Maxine Hamilton was going to have an operation on her ear. We wish both ladies quick recoveries.

Wilson Day, Reporter
1st Bn. Hdgs, 331st.

Philadelphia Chapter News..

The Philadelphia Chapter held their annual Christmas dinner and get-together, December 11th, at the Coastline Restaurant.

We welcomed some we haven't seen for awhile and others who are active at all our regular meetings. Present were Al and Anne Belvedere, Michael and Betty Russo, Chris and Dot Heinz, Lou and Lucy Volpi, Harry and Marie Stephenson, Jim and Ceil Fish, Manny Lima, Harry Kirby and his friend Eleanor Beasom.

The meal was very good and our 50/50 winner picked.

Our next meeting will be in February to discuss our future plans. All Philadelphia members are invited to Lou's Restaurant as always.

Harry Kirby

Gloria McCartin & Bernice & Chuck Abdinoor

New England Chapter - Leon & Catherine Collins.

New England Chapter News

On Dec. 6th we all came to R.I. for our yearly Christmas Party which was a great success. Thanks to Dot & JimBrennan and Mory & Nick Francullo for a great weekend and great weather.

We all arrived at 1:00 P.M. and got our rooms and then headed for our private suite where the chapter provided a complimentry bar, snacks, pastry and coffee, and at 7:30 P.M. we all went to our private dining room for dinner and after dinner back up to the Chapter room where we all exchanged gifts. After that Cuffy & Marie George donated a basket of Spirits which was raffled off for free.

Thanks again Cuffy & Marie.

We had at the party Chuck & Bernice Abdinoor of Dracut Ma. August & Hazle Farias of New Bedford Ma., John & Ester Ferriera of Chelmsford, Ma., Nick & Mary Francullo of Lynn Ma., Dutchy & Helen Smith of Lynn, Ma., Spike & Gloria McCartin of Lowell Ma., John & Priscilla, Walsh of Portland Maine, Jim & Dot Brennan of Warwick, RI., Leon & Catherine Collins of Esmond, R.I., Americo & Marie George of Warwick, R.I., Joe & Helen Petrucci of N. Prov. R.I., Al & Ann Tartaglia of Johnston, R.I., Mike & Marie Champey of Middletown, Ct., Simon & Kathren Etzel of N. Gilford, Ct., Ray & Isabelle Orsini of Branford, Ct., Burt & Rose Simon of Hamden Ct., and our new member Kenneth & Louise Reynolds of Narragansett, R.I.

Sorry that Bill & Betty Davis, Bill & Eleanor Sullivan, Ray & Helen Rudd could not make it due to sickness. Hope you are all getting better.

Now I have something sad after we all got home from our Christmas Party I received a call from Chuck Abdinoor on Dec. 10th that Bill "Spike" McCartin had passeed away, what a shock. We of the New England Chapter send out our sympathy to the McCartin family and he will be missed by all.

Chuck Abdinoor, Dutchy Smith, Nick & Mary Francallo, & John & Ester Ferriera attended the wake in Lowell, Ma.

Oh Yes we also missed Ed & Carmela Mudre of Stanford Ct. and hope you are O.K.

Received a Christmas Card from Joe & Anne Buli of Tonawanda, NY. and Joe is recovered very good from his by-pass surgery and joined a fitness club. They also went with Russ & Vera Wagner of Chambersburg, Pa. to Wayne & Janet Turner's 50th Wedding Anniversary Nov. 8th in Greenville, Ohio and had a great time. May the Turners have many more. Good Luck.

Also heard from Bill Berrie, Wilfred Burden, Raynor Burcham.

Also received word that Blanche & Bob Blout are not to good, hope everything comes out O.K. Bob & Blanche and Dot Brennan called that Ray Orsine of Branford Ct. is recovering from colan operation and doing fine.

Well that's it for now.

Your Buddy
Nick Francullo
Hq. Co. 3rd BN. 330th

P.S. New England Chapter dues are now due and we of the New England Chapter wish all the members of 83rd a good and healthy 1998.

More New England Chapter News.....

The New England Chapter regrets the passing of William (Spike) McCartin, our condolences go out to Gloria, we will miss Spike, he was one of our main stay of our chapter.

Finally heard from John and Stacy Marysz, he has been sidelined with a few problems, but has his heart set on Peoria. John has been a member for over 40 years. He has made the overseas trip with Spike & Gloria McCartin.

Dutchy & Helen Smith should be proud of their grandson Joseph Walsh. He is now a professional ice skater, he is a member of Disney World of ice, skating throughout the U.S. Good Luck Joseph.

Missed the McKees at the Christmas Party also the Burkharts, but they were in Florida. Lucky ones they spend the winters there, also the Davis's.

Chuck and Bernice Abdinoor, will be heading south in February . Looking forward to their honeymoon cottage.

Frank & Rita Burgess are planning to hit the road to see some buddies from A-330, mainly John Bullard, Paul Rees, Jr. and our own Sgt. York of A-330 Walter Pillion, Pill got a Battlefield Commision and all kinds of decorations. He was A-330 highly decorated man. Also heard from Shorty Glasser & Lee Milligan also of A-330. Where is Wm. Kent O'Connell abe to his friends, haven't heard about him at all?

By Chuck Abdinoor

Enjoying a good time!

New England Chapter - Plenty of Gifts!

New England Chapter - The Next Winner is!

New England Chapter - Xmas Party

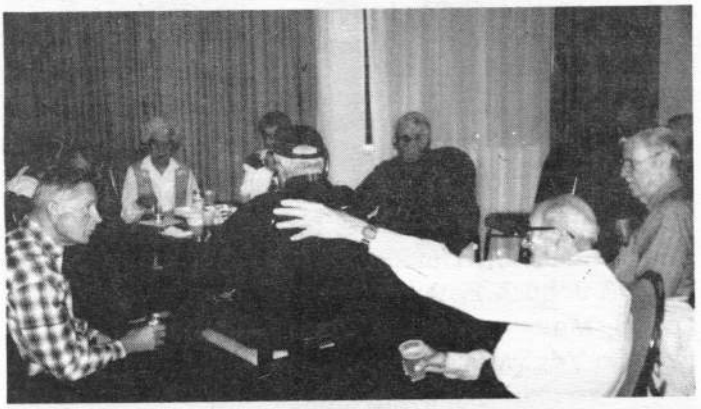
Boston Chapter News.....

Nancy & Amby Tynam's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Boston Chapter News.....

Christmas Party '97 at Ramada Inn - Boston Chapter

Dinner is Served - Christmas Party at Ramada Inn



Hospitality Room at Ramada Inn

Helping Nany & Amby Celebrate 50 Happy Years

Boston Chapter News.....

The Boston Chapter had their October Meeting at Rose and Frank Young's home. I was not able to attend this meeting as it conflicted with a family event. However, I understand it was a success with a guest speaker Juliette Lancier from Luxemburg. I was told she was very interesting. Rose I am sorry I missed your good cooking.

On November 22nd, 1997, Nancy and I celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Norwood, Ma. Many of our 83rd friends were invited, along with family and friends.

Our November meeting was at Pat and Ginny DiGiammerino's house in Malden, MA. Pat reported that we had signed up four new members. Mike Caprio gave the Treasurers report. The Chapter is in good shape, Mike makes sure of that. We have one of the best treasurers in the business. He also read some correspondence from 83rd members. Lou Sandini was presented a Plaque for his Boston Chapter Leadership in 1994-96. There were 26 members in attendance. It was nice to see Al and Jackie Remy back. Al keeps us up with different events. Ginny served the food and it was delicious.

Our Christmas Party in December was a real success. It was held at the Ramada Inn in Seekonk, Ma. It was very well attended. Chet Morley's wife gave us a lot of laughs, and Chet was like a Saint. Charlie Lussier did an excellent job putting this time on. We had marvelous food and entertainment. Santa also made everyone very happy. Thanks to Bob Session from F Co. 331st Infantry for a job well done.

Winners in the drawing are as follows:

Fred Klein - New Jersey $100.00
Chris Escalante - Bradcliff Manor, N.Y. $50.00
Stanley Johnson - North Carolina $50.00
Betty Gorlzynski - Worcester, Ma. $25.00
Al Carm - York Beach, Me. $25.00
Rose Ciam - York Beach, Me. $25.00
Ed Bowen - S. Dartmouth, MA. $25.00

Seven Members have received shut-in checks from the Boston Chapter plus we have been very active in the V.A. Hospitals helping veterans.

Cliff Wooldridge and Charlie Lussier, who have been on the sick list, are now doing well at their homes.

Boston Chapter Members Active in VBOB

Many members of the Boston Chapter of the 83rd Infantry Division Association have been very active in the affairs of the Central Massachusetts Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. As a result Pat DiGiammerino was elected to the Board of Directors, Louis Sandini was employed in a quasi legal capacity and Ted Gorczyinski is the Chaplain.

Louis Sandini, Our President was the principal speaker at one of their meetings, an excerpt from his speech is as follows:

Now Ladies and Gentlemen, you will notice in front of you, the table of the yellow shirts of the 83rd Infantry Division Association. Some may think that we are overly proud of our Association. There is a reason. We are all Americans and proud of it. Some of us are Italian Americans, some of us are Franco Americans, some Irish Americans, etc. all the way down the line. All you have to do is come out on St. Patricks Day or Columbus Day to see how proud we are of the type of Americans we are. So we, of the 83rd are proud that we are an Infantry Division. We are not as well known as the 82nd Airbourne or the 101st Screaming Eagles. We did not say nuts for posterity, but we had long noses which we kept to the ground and dug a long nose trench from Brest to the outskirts of Potsdam, a suburb of Berlin. We were in all the bloodiest battles of Northern Europe. In fact, we had just come out of the bloodiest battle of the war, the
Hurtgen Forest, 24,000 killed in action, to enter the Battle of the Bulge. In the Battle of the Bulge, we were the Infantry Division that cleared the way for the Third Armored Division to get to the Houfalize Highway and join up with Patton's forces and cut-off the Germans West of that line. The most proudly worn badges in our organization are the Purple Heart Medal and the Rifleman's Badge. Enough of that, except to say that:

1. The deepest penetration of the German lines in 2944 was made by patrols of the 329th, a regiment in the 83rd, across the Roer River into Duren.
2.We were the first Infantry Division to reach the Lower Rhine River.
3. We set an Infantry record by racing 213 miles across 4 rivers in two weeks to establish and hold the only American bridgehead over the Elbe River close to Berlin itself.

In 1994 with Pat DiGiammerino and about 100 others of our organization we took a nostalgic trip over our war time courses. The only things that we really recognized were the

physical, detergent, natural or man built, that made our progress difficult and the broad vistas, like the view in Luxemburg from the heights across the vineyards and over the Moselle River, into Germany. Of course we took pictures. Pictures that are proof that some of the things you read in books and some of the things you see when you go over there are not completely accurate at the present time. For instance, I have here a picture of the monument of La Voie De LaLiberte Km O and a video tape showing it. They were taken at the monument of the Citadel in St. Malo, not at Ste Mere Eglise as quoted in our bulletin, The Ardens Echo. Maybe some one should write to Tillie of CEBU about it and get the full story. Further (Captain) Joe Macaluso, an 83rder who was in the town of Rochefort in Belgium reported that the monument there, built in honor of the American soldiers was dedicated to the 84th Division. Rochefort is the town where Company B of the 329th Regiment of the 83rd Division waded across the cold water of the L'Homme River, taking the Germans by surprise and entering the town, entering some building for cover. The enemy came to life and surrounded the company for 2 or 3 days and nights were bombarded by tanks and infantry. B Company withstood it all. On the third day, under pressure of the rest of the 329th, the German abandoned the town and B Company emerged safely to their comrades. We have no pictures of that, but we do have on the video tape of our passage through Mamady. A picture of the whole scene with a description of an interview with an old lady, an eye witness to the massacre.

In December at the most recent memorial celebration the boys were also active. Louis Sandini was seen in action videotaping the whole ceremony while Ted Gorczynski did his service as Chaplain.

That's all for now.

Amby Tynan
Boston Reporter

Feb. 19, 1998

Mr. Robert E. Derickson
3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013-9102

Mr. Derickson,

This letter is a response to our recent phone conversation (February 18). During this conversation, I had expressed an interest in finding information about my grandfather and the time he spent with the 331st Inf. Regt. during World War II. The information that I have is not much. Hopefully this will help. My grandfathers name was Joseph C. Mack. He was a first Lieutenant, a Captain, and received his separation orders on November 28, 1945. His identification number was/is: 0-1296056. He was in Camp Wheeler, Georgia in 1943 where he was an instructor at the school for officers and non-commissioned officers. Then he was sent to Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky. In Europe, he was with Company B and then his assignment changed. He was sent to headquarters of the First Battalion, where he was part of the regimental staff. During this time it is believed that his principle duty was S-3.

I hope this information is accurate, so I can find information about my grandfather. He died when I was four years old. I never got the chance to talk to him about the years he spent in Europe. My grandmother remembers some things, but as time goes by those memories become unclear and forgotten. My dad, with help from his Congressman, tried to obtain records from the National Archives and Record Administration but that effort was in vain due to a fire in 1973 that destroyed all of his records along with 18 million others. Any information gathered would be helpful for my family and I. If you need any more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank You,
Joseph C. Mack III

My address and phone # are:
Joseph C. Mack III
44 Rickard Street Apartment A-12
Cortland, NY 13045
(607) 756-7915

COMPANIES

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

Well another deadline approaches and because of some health problems I almost missed it.

On January, 22nd. I was admitted to the hospital for what was supposed to be some checkup work and by midnight a triple by-pass had been completed. I was discharged 90 hours later and sent home to recuperate. I get tired very easily, but other than getting exasperated because I can not get things done as I used to, I'm progressing better than most heart patients, per my cardiologist.

I have not been updated on our sick list, but do know that Mike Morick, 'B' Battery is recuperating quite well, but slow. He can't wait for some decent weather so that he can get outside and try to exercise his legs, and do some walking so that he is not reliant on the wheel chair. Virgil and Wilma Starkey, are well on the mend and hope to make the mini in Oregon. Dave Bell has had another nasty bout with double pneumonia, but is fighting his way back. Jim Dalton has had more problems, but seems to be getting back to normal. I don't have any details, but understand Mabel Edwards, wife of former Captain Edwards of "BZ" Battery is having serious health problems. We wish them all well, and hope all have a speedy recovery. Bob Creps, is also back on the mend again, after some surgery and treatment this past fall.

I haven't received much news from our members lately so this column will be a little light.

A great Mini Reunion in Portland Oregon will be held at the Portland Airport Shiloh Inn, on the 15th and 16th of May 1998. This event was planned to try to give some of our West Coast members a chance to get together, as many had never been able to attend a National Reunion. As usual some of our members from various areas of the country plan to attend also.

For more information on this event contact one of the following persons.

Frank Moore, 595 Moore Hill Lane, Idleyld Park, Or. 97447.

Robert Hemstreet, 28880 Thomson Mill Rd., Sheridan, Or. 97378.

I am happy to report that I have found the address of another long lost Buddy from "B" Battery. Bob Obradovich from Bessemer, MI. I called him on the phone and he was quite surprised to make contact again. We welcome him back into the fold.

I also have made telephone contact with Phil "Frenchy" Parent, a few times. He had been in the Roster with a good address, but I was the first person to talk to him from the 453rd since our separation in 1945. Needless to say the first call really set him back, he had a little trouble getting his 'memory bank' back into gear again. I was able to send both of these old buddies some pictures that I had acquired from various sources over the last few years.

'Frenchy', lives on the Border of Maine and New Burnswick, Canada. Almost a Canadian. Bob lives up in the Woods of Northern Michigan, no wonder they got lost.

Our National Reunion for 1998 will be held over Labor Day weekend this year, but will revert back to the middle of September the following years. This was caused by a conflict due to acquiring hotel accommodations. The event is being hosted by Jim Hull and his wife Doris, and co-hosted by Thelmer Cline and his wife Mary, and Gordon Rush and his wife CoraVee. It will take place in Urbana, IL.

Contacts for this event can be made with, Betty Dickens, Rec./Cor. Secretary, 453rd AAA AW ., P.O. Box 432 Lisbon, OH. 44432 or James Hull, 19 Potawatomi Trail, Urbana, IL. 61801.

Fred C. Pearson
Roster Coordinator
5704 Middle Ridge Rd.
Madison, OH. 440-57-2838

"G" CO. 331st Infantry.....

The New year came in with a bang and first thing you know January has come and gone. Time does seem to past by when you get older. Bob Derickson's wife, Pearl has been having her problems. I talked with Bob a few days ago and I was told that she has a brain tumor. For myself and for the men of G Company, we are hoping for a full recovery.

I have spent the better part of last week in the hospital with my wife, Mena. She was having breathing problems along with other ailments. The doctors install a pacemaker to help. They are now trying to clear up the other breathing problems that she had. Last week, I spent a few hours with another 83rd man that has shown up in the New Orleans area. Normant Harford, a member of the 83rd MP's. He is now living in the New Orleans area after spending most of his life in Pittsburgh.

Had a letter from Casel Bush notifying me that Harold Ladley had passed away. Ladley was in charge of the "G" Company jeeps after Widner was killed. Ladley was a quiet individual and did a good job with the other drivers, who were somewhat erratic.

I also received a call from the son of Joseph Holden, Joseph too has passed away. Joe stayed in the Army after the war and retired as a Master Sergeant from the Regular Army. He served in the first platoon with Singeleton and Frank Bunk.

We did not realize what good soldiers we had in "G" Company, it is only after the war the potentials showed up.

Had a call from Bobby Goldstein, in New Jersey. Bob has had his problems and has one of his joints replaced. Bob has retired from his contracting business. Bob told me that his grandchildren wanted to know why he did not have any medals. I will send him the address to write so that he can get the medals that are due him. This also applied to any of you that want to obtain the medals due. You have to write to National Personnel Records Center

ATTN: Army Reference Branch (NCPMA)
9700 Page Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63132

When you write you should send a copy of DD Form 214 discharge Form. Give a brief history as to what unit, the time you joined the outfit, and the battles. Most of this should be on the 214 but it always help to give other information.

Also had a call from Higgins up on the Northeast, I have missed placed his address, but he too wanted some information. He was planning a trip to Europe and wanted to know some of the areas we were in. I made some copies of the maps I had to help him. plan his trip.

The reunion is in Peoria, IL. this year in August, and we should all enjoy ourselves, so if you are able to attend, please send in for information. Our attendance has been down the past few years, but we always hope to reach into new areas to locate some of our lost buddies.

I will have a news letter coming our at the end of April to bring you up to date on members of "G" Company.

Capt. Mac

"G" Co 329th Infantry.....

Co. "G" has lost one of our own. Bob Brinkman of Minster, Ohio.

Bob took care of everything at the reunions, table seating for the banquet, finding all the rooms where all Co. "G" were staying, holding a table at the hospitality room. Of course Lois was there to arrange it all. The race car at the last Reunion.

He will be sadly missed!

Virginia and Vito Palazzolo from Michigan and Helen & Ames Miller from Indiana attended the funeral.

There were many Kentucky chapter members there.

Sterling Rubrigut, Pa is coming along. Luella is making sure he's doing all he can to help him get better.

Grace & John Askey, Pa. had all their family together for the holiday. Their son, Ron is still at Fort Bragg. He is recovering from back surgery.

Ruth & Chet Morgan, N.Y. are in Florida waiting for the warm weather.

Virginia & Frances Markuns are busy planning their grandson. NOTE: the E in (Frances).

John Fay II. is at a nursing home as he broke his arm. His son is living at home so he can visit him. Get well John.

Etha & Leonard Reynolds (Virginia) are getting ready to move.

Shirley & Jim Randell (Il.) keep busy with their grand children.

Bernice & John Cupino (N.Y.) stayed away from the ice this year.

Bounce & Babe Freitag (N.J.) are in Florida until the snow leaves in N.J.

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

Spike & Gloria McCartin & Charles & Bernice Abdinoor

B & A - 330th News.....

A Buddy Who Will Be Missed

By Charles Abdinoor

Recently, the 83rd lost one of it's true & devoted member, William T. (Spike) McCartin. SPIKE as he was well known was past president of the New England Chapter, as well as a member of the Boston Chapter. He died at home Dec. 11 1997. He was the section leader of a machine gun squad, of "H" Co. 330th, his health has been failing these past few years, but his heart was always with the 83rd. His brother, Father Frank an O.M.I. Missionary priest, always managed to find time to attend our reunions, and say mass for our members. Spike & Gloria recently attended the New England Chapter's Christmas party, which was held Dec. 6th in Rhode Island. He saw all his buddies, and had a wonderful time. He and his way of speaking either by phone, or in person. Here is an sample. Sgt. Abdinoor, hello Spike how are you doing? Getting by graciously, thank Jesus, and he would make the sign of the cross and say I mean that sincerely. The conversation would go on and at the end he would always say, cease fire, Roger and out. Well Friend & Buddy, I say to you, "Cease Fire, Roger and out" You will be missed and I mean that sincerely.

329 "B" Bag.....

I want to thank all for the many Xmas cards and the kind words that we received from the "B" Baggers. Not one card of bad news. I guess they are all hale & hearty. I got a card from "Jiggs" Janke in Wisc. His phone bill must have been high as we talked for a very long time and fought the war again. He and his wife were ailing for a while. In Dec. I had my yearly lunch with Lt. Herb Jacobs, who gave me the company picture and wanted me to point out Sgt. Cassidy in the picture. I couldn't find him in the picture. I called "Red" Geyer. He couldn't find him either. If anyone knows where Cassidy is in the picture, drop a line or give me ring also. Lt. Hoffman is in the picture, but I can't find out what happened to him. I have no record of him in the E.T.O. Capt. Hill was supposed to go to Gatlinburg in Dec. The Day before he got sick and didn't make the trip. He's got our best wishes for good health. My buddy Nicholas is slowly deteriorating. He was shot in the head while in Germany and spent 3 years in Walter Reed Hospital. He is forbidden to do any work or drive a car. So he just sleeps a good part of the day.

The Meltons bought a place in Florida, they want to spend the winters there. He also had a visit with Lt. Ballard. Must of been a nice visit for old times sakes.

I'm sad to report that we will not be going to Peoria this year. I hope that Bill Waddle will pass the Co "B" Banner to another "B" Bagger.

A short "B" Bag story. While we were in Zerbst we stayed there for about 10 days waiting for the Russians to take Berlin. Periodically we were shelled. A G.I. from Green Bay, Wisc. got a minor scratch on his back side. The medic cleaned the wound and told him he was going to get the Purple Heart. Sgt. Szymanski said he wouldn't get it for a scratch, that he was lowering the standards for the Purple Heart. The medic said he decides who gets the medal not a first Sgt. To this day I don't know if he even got the Purple Heart.

God Bless
"B" Co friends forever
Bob Uher
12700 Lake Ave. #1602
216-221-2012

"F" 329th News.....

EXPLANATION: Some of you have contacted me as to why NO "F" Co. article in the 1997 Fall Issue of the "Thunderbolt". The reason apparently is due to the late mailing date of Oct. 8, 1997 by me, missing the deadline of October 10th for arrival at the National Office. Some of this report will be a re do in abbreviated form, some of update information available to me at this writing.

OVER BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: North 97 Ashland Ameri Host Inn, Oct. 12-15th - 14 men plus wives and guests a total of 31. Will be South '98 at Punta Gorda, Florida by the time you read this.

IN REMEMBRANCE: Even though our expressions of sympathy have been extended to the family of Virgil Feeney we again want Grace and family to know of our concerns during their time of bereavment. Funeral services were held May 12, 1997 at Defiance, Ohio.

IN REMEMBRANCE: Roy Arnfield July 2, 1917. It doesn't seem possible yet as we all know! "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven" Ecc 3.1 Roy and Margie exemplified this thru 50 plus years of marriage. Great! supporters of the 83rd Association and always Company "F". Roy's quiet, cooperative, unassuming manner contributed much to the success of our get-togethers. It seems so little to just say he will be missed, but he will be, Greatly. Appreciation has been received from Roys' family for "F" Companys' floral tribute and support. Margie , out thoughts and prayers are with you.

CONDOLENCES: To Helen and Herington Drake on the death of Helens' sister who passed away in July '97.

HERE & THERE: or Sick Call or whatever Ferguson called it one time. Chuck Anderson doing alright with the carotid artery blockage, the same with the polyps in the bladder being checked every 3 months. He along with Nickells and Lewises were in Indianapolis. Emma is having laser treatments for glaucoma.

Dottie Hutton couldn't make North '97 due to her leg problems, had cataract surgery some complications at this time, will hope for the best. Joe Putnak reporting in good shape, wife Geraldines' hip replacement coming along alright. As of Oct. 97 Kittrell had been out of action for a month due to problems with two wisdom teeth. How long do you keep those things? Drakes have had the responsibility and care of Helens' sister and understandably have not been with us for sometime, however continue to support us. Hope to make South '98. Marie reports Ada doing some better. Still hard on Marie. The children are helping out. Lutkemeiers, those people way out there brought us up to their goings on in their nice Christmas letter. Dale and Marge Lewis two of our few at Indianapolis reported a nice time, sent pictures for our albums. Our Go-Go Girl Jeannette Dav still going. She is still in therapy from her bad automobile accident. Appreciated the nice long letter from George Thompson. From February thru November. George is extremely involved with youth sports, 15-16 year olds in the Mickey Mantle Division 95 teams in the American Amateur Baseball Congress in all of New Jersey and Rockland Co. New York. In football he works with 56 teams in grades 2nd to 8th. Mildred Atchison was so happy to receive a tape of the 1996 Reunion which included the Memorial service. Thanks Louis Sandini. The Fergusons seem to be doing alright, are planning on South '98 in February. Bill was hospitalized in December with fluid billed up. OK Now. When he was at North '(& we all knew (Didn't We!) he was full of something, we didn't think about it being that. My Buddy. Geo Trebonyak was having difficulty moving his arms due to rotator cups causing them to miss North '97, continues with out patient therapy. Jane Newell went to Wilmer Eye Clinic at John Hopkins, doctors confirmed her sight to be O.K. not able to do anything for her dry eye problem except drops. Cataract surgery planned for the other eye. Lucille Cotter says she is coming along alright after what could have been a very tragic in fact even a fatal accident which involved a 4 x 4 truck. Lucille had just returned home from running a farm errand for Wright, pulled in their place got out, was walking away, noticed the truck continued to stay in gear and moving, attempting to stop it by climbing back onto the cab she fell with both legs winding up under the truck with the wheels rolling over both of her legs. Needless to say she had some badly swollen, bruised and blacken legs for sometime, from you know where to where. One good part of this story - No broken bones in addition to the Miracle Itself, Thank You Lord.

DEFINITION: A Reunion-Paraphrase - A first timer called a buddy for some information regarding the Reunion. Second buddy described it as going to a meeting with a group of people you know very little or nothing about. Had a Great Time!

COMING EVENTS: 52nd Annual Reunion - Peoria, Illinois - August 19, 20, 21, 22, 1998

North '98 Ashland, Ohio October 11-14, 1998 Reasonable Cost Transportation now available from Cleveland or Columbus, Ohio and return. More on this later.

C.R. Bob Whitcomb

"A" Co 329th Infantry.....

Christmas time is about the only time I hear from most of the guys. Ed and Carm Mudre were at the reunion in Indianapolis and mentioned they missed Bernice. Helen Harmon (supply Sgt's Wife) is 85 yrs. old. She calls herself the "Old Lady" (Don't kid yourself Helen, you a young chick.) She keeps busy and is doing fine. Bob & Eunice Qooley are in good health and Keeping busy, as are Mutt & Dorothy Adair. George & Pauline Suchomely have a big garden and George is busy with veteran groups. George said I should keep writing about "A" Co. - George if I don't hear from anyone I can't write anything. So you fellows out there let me hear from you. Write, call or like George, send me a tape. Pat and Florence Dandola are OK. Bill Tisher is also. Ernie and Peg Knowles, Peg writes, that Ernie is doing a lot better. You remember she almost lost him. Max and Kathy Wood still live in Royal Oak, Michigan and are doing fine. Johnny and Eunice Punch also are in good health. Ernest and Hilda Perry send greetings to everyone. Hubert & Juanita Taylor have been telling that "They are coming up to see Bernice and I for "Years". I don't believe they can find themselves outside North Carolina. Come Hube, do it. I sent you "Instructions." Melvin and Nancy Magee are OK.

Carl and Lee Pliske went on a 10 day trip to Dollywood, Tennessee with a couple of their kids, saw alot of shows and especially liked "Dixie Stampede." Carl will be 76 years old and lee 73 and will be married 52 years. Patrio and Carl are busy with chickens (eggs) and John & Marian are in the Bee Business, (Honey). They keep a big garden that provides them throughout the winter.

Dale and Pauline Edgar bought a mobile home in Newport Richey Florida so they will be spending there winters there. Pauline tells me they will be married 50 years this April. - Congratulations!

Red "Mario" and Edna Emrick tell me everything is about the same, Red is still having trouble getting short of breath. He's using inhalers etc. Their family is growing - 4 children, 12 grand children and 8 great grand children. They've been married 51 years.

Dean and Irene Daniels had a son living in the Cleveland area; but he has moved, so I guess we won't see you guys now.

Ed Gilbert and his wife Alyce are the travelers. We can't keep up with them. He did say that he will be up to Ohio in April or May and wishes everyone a happy & healthy New Year.

Received a letter from Lois Wilson. It was a shock. Owen died June 7th, 1997. He had cancer.

Also heard from Herbert and Margaret Mossman, He tells me that Fred Hensley died in October. He had cancer. Lived with it for 1 1/2 years. Our deepest sympathy to the Hensley's.

Bernice and I are in pretty good health, considering all the aches and pains.

We had some graduations last year, our son Wally and daughter-in-law colleen's youngest daughter Holly, graduated from high school, and now is attending Baldwin Wallace college; so now, they have three daughters attending Baldwin Wallace. Julie is a Senior, Shelly a Junior, and Holly a Freshman.

Our daughter Peggy, graduated from Cleveland State University (Magna-cum-laude) in June. Her Husband Jerry and family are very proud of her so are we. Their 2 sons, Scott and Roger graduated from Bowling Green University, Scott in 1996 and Roger in December of 1997. Six months after his mother. He graduated (Cum Laude). Their daughter Jenny attended Cleveland State. So for a while mom and daughter were going to school together. Jenny is working now, maybe she'll finish later.

Six months after Peggy graduated she found out that she had a malignant kidney, and it had to be removed. She had a tough time of it - but she's doing fine now.

Well guy's this is it for now. Write, call or send a tape. Stay Healthy - God Bless

Bob Grobelny
1581 Lander Rd.
Mayfield Hts, Ohio 44124
PHONE 1-440-449-5085

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

As I write, the last vestiges of the Holidays have disappeared and we are looking forward to the balance of January. Geri just celebrated her birthday, with family once, with friends once, and with me once.

The Gatlinburg trip was great as the Dixie Chapter always does a good job as hosts. The only sour note, I caught a cold, then tried home remedies and wound up in the hospital for three days.

Pop Akam says he had to miss Indy. but will try for Peoria. Frank Cancasci never misses sending Christmas cards but doesn't give out information. Paul Dallos couldn't make the Mini Reunion as he came on the Cleveland Chapter bus, but expects to see us in Peoria. So nice to see the DeMarino's again, and Anne your "goodies" are just great and much appreciated. Whit East is looking forward to Peoria since he had to miss Indy. Harry Fetzer sent a card but didn't say why he missed Indy or will he make Peoria. The Harry Gravelyn's spent Thanksgiving with us as they escaped the cold earlier this year. They spent Christmas with family in Spartinburg, S.C. The R.C. Hamiltons had much of the family visiting for the Holidays. They expect to be in Peoria. Art Haught is still doing well, and hope to get together this spring with he and Peggy. Dave Harman didn't say much but guess all is well with he and his daughter Rhonda. Komlos expects to see us in Peoria, as he's missed a couple and it would be good to see you George.

Sir Jimmy Lynch and family are fine and extends Holiday greetings to all. The McDermotts are looking for a place to hold our Mini-Reunion after Peoria. The McKees returned home safely from the great Gatlinburg trip with Shrawder's & us. They are now enjoying the Florida Sunshine and will be joining us in Cancun next week. We are looking forward to a week of fun in the Sun with Vern and Ruth Mueller in our yearly jaunt to Mexico. Tom Morris signed a card and wished us well. Let us know how you are doing Tom. Had a nice note from Dot Nagel but she had a scare from the heart, needed a pacemaker and is recuperating nicely. Marcella Nolte has ensconced herself in a new residence and had to miss Indy. She always enjoys being with her brother Gene's Co. D. Buddies!! The Odenwellers said that George Didn't quite feel up to it for Indy., though they had reservations. He keeps being optimistic about the future. The Sabines are sorry about missing the Reunion. Frank says they have a commitment at the same time as the reunion in August.

SEPTEMBER would be much better for lots of us. Now we come to the Schusters. Norm is still struggling with his health problems. It isn't one thing that stirs him up and then some other illness keeps him home. Norm, hang in there, and as soon as Lorraine retires you two will not miss anymore Reunions. Al Shrawder is joining the McKees and us at Myrtle Beach the end of March for the Dixie Chapter Meeting. He keeps putting out those great D-331 NEWS LETTERS. Thanks Al from all of us. Hank Trzeiak enjoyed seeing everyone at Indy. He is planning on coming to Fl. in January.

Just returned from Florida Chapter Meeting in Sebring, we were greeted by Danna & Frank Sharp, Bill & Jeannette McKee and Barb & Harry Gravelyn. Harry is now Chapter President and he conducted his first meeting. He did a great job and we are proud of you Harry!! John Miklos was missed - hope all is well with you John! Art & Peggy Haught was also missed. Next is the National Board Meeting in May. That's all I've heard of any news, so watch out for those 88's.

Ralph B. Gunderson

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.

NORMANDY ARDENNES
BRITTANY RHINELAND
CENTRAL EUROPE

52nd ANNUAL REUNION OF 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION

AUGUST 19 - 22, 1998

SEND ADS IN EARLY!

PLEASE Select size of Ad

FULL PAGE @	HALF PAGE @	QUARTER PAGE @
$60.00	$35.00	$18.00

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) Thursday 9 a.m. - 4:30 Includes bag lunch	$30.00 X	[ ]	_____
PEORIA HISTORICAL BUS TOUR (per person) Thursday 10 A.M. - 3 P.M. Includes bag lunch	$22.00 X	[ ]	_____
		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

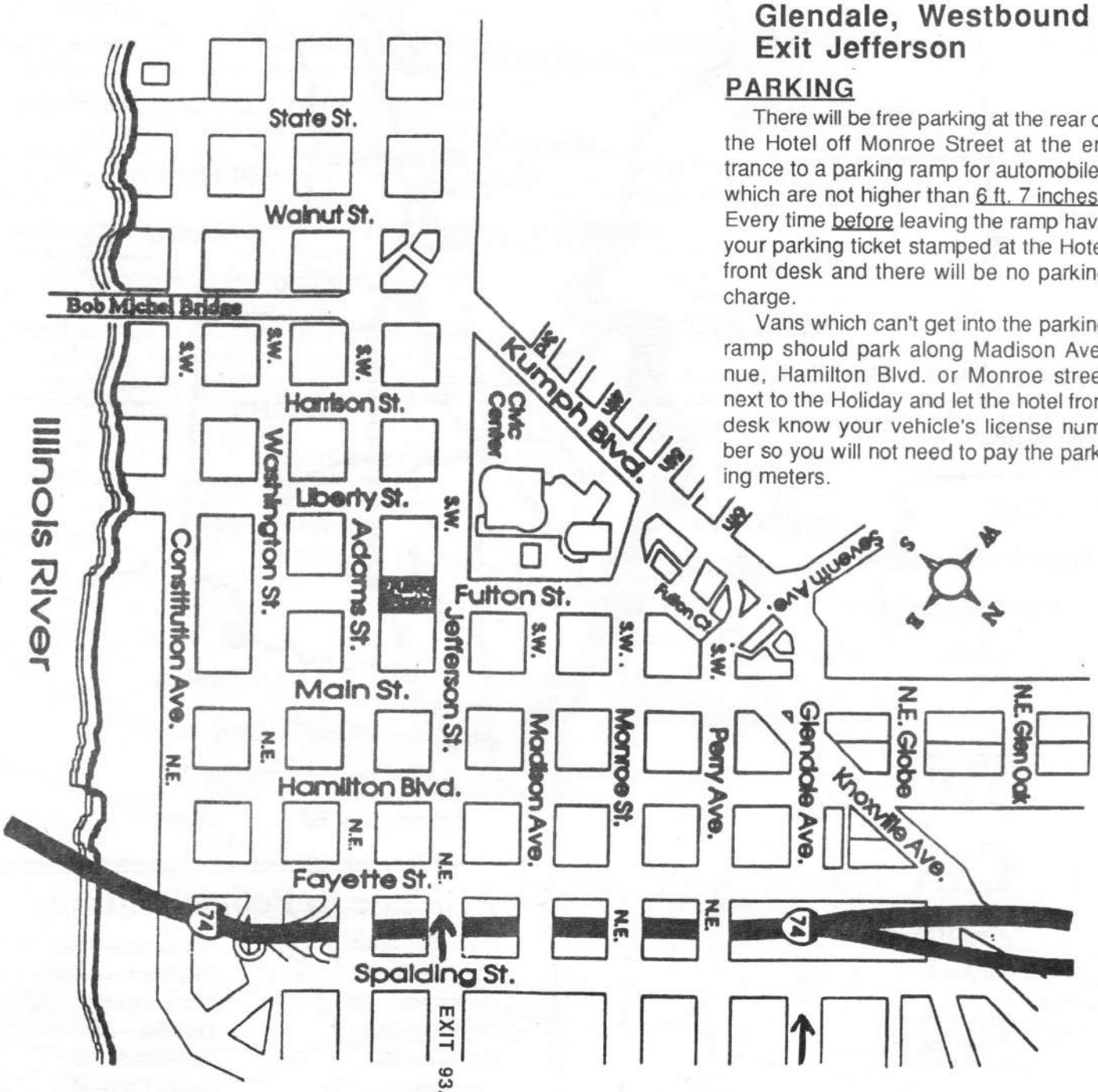
Downtown Peoria

I-74 Eastbound Exit Glendale, Westbound Exit Jefferson

PARKING

There will be free parking at the rear of the Hotel off Monroe Street at the entrance to a parking ramp for automobiles which are not higher than 6 ft. 7 inches. Every time before leaving the ramp have your parking ticket stamped at the Hotel front desk and there will be no parking charge.

Vans which can't get into the parking ramp should park along Madison Avenue, Hamilton Blvd. or Monroe street next to the Holiday and let the hotel front desk know your vehicle's license number so you will not need to pay the parking meters.



YOU MUST EXIT 93 A

Holiday Inn City Centre
500 Hamilton Blvd.
Peoria, Illinois 61602

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

83rd Infantry Division Association

Golf Peoria

The Peoria Park District operates 5 golf courses in Peoria including Detweiller, Leo Donovan, Kellogg, Newman and Madison. Call (309) 674-4364.

Quail Meadows, 2215 Centennial Drive, East Peoria.

Eighteen hole golf course, indoor swimming pool. Call (309) 694-3139.

Wildlife Prairie Park, 3826 N. Taylor Road, Peoria.

Located 10 miles west of Peoria via I-74 exit 82. Discover the animals that called Illinois home during the pioneer days. This unique 2,000 acre zoological park is home to wolves, bison, black bear, cougar, and much more. Call (309) 676-0998.

Forest Park Nature Cent., 5809 Forest Park Dr., Peoria.

Take Route 29 to Gardner Lane, turn left. Enjoy 500 acres of Illinois Nature Preserve with 7 miles of walking trails. An excellent spot for bird watching. Call (309) 686-3360.

Tower Park, 1222 E. Kingman Drive, Peoria Heights.

Head up the hill from Forest Park Nature Center and turn left on Prospect towards Peoria Heights. Enjoy the panoramic view of the Illinois River valley from a glass-enclosed elevator rising 175 feet. Call (309) 682-8548.

Lakeview Museum, 1125 W. Lake, Peoria.

The largest downstate museum featuring art and science exhibits. While there, visit the largest planetarium in Illinois. Call (309) 686-7000.

Luthy Botanical Gardens, 2218 N. Prospect Rd, Peoria.

Four acres of herbs, perrenials, and rose gardens. Conservatory with tropical plants and gift shop. Call (309) 686-3362.

Riverfront and Spirit of Peoria, downtown Peoria.

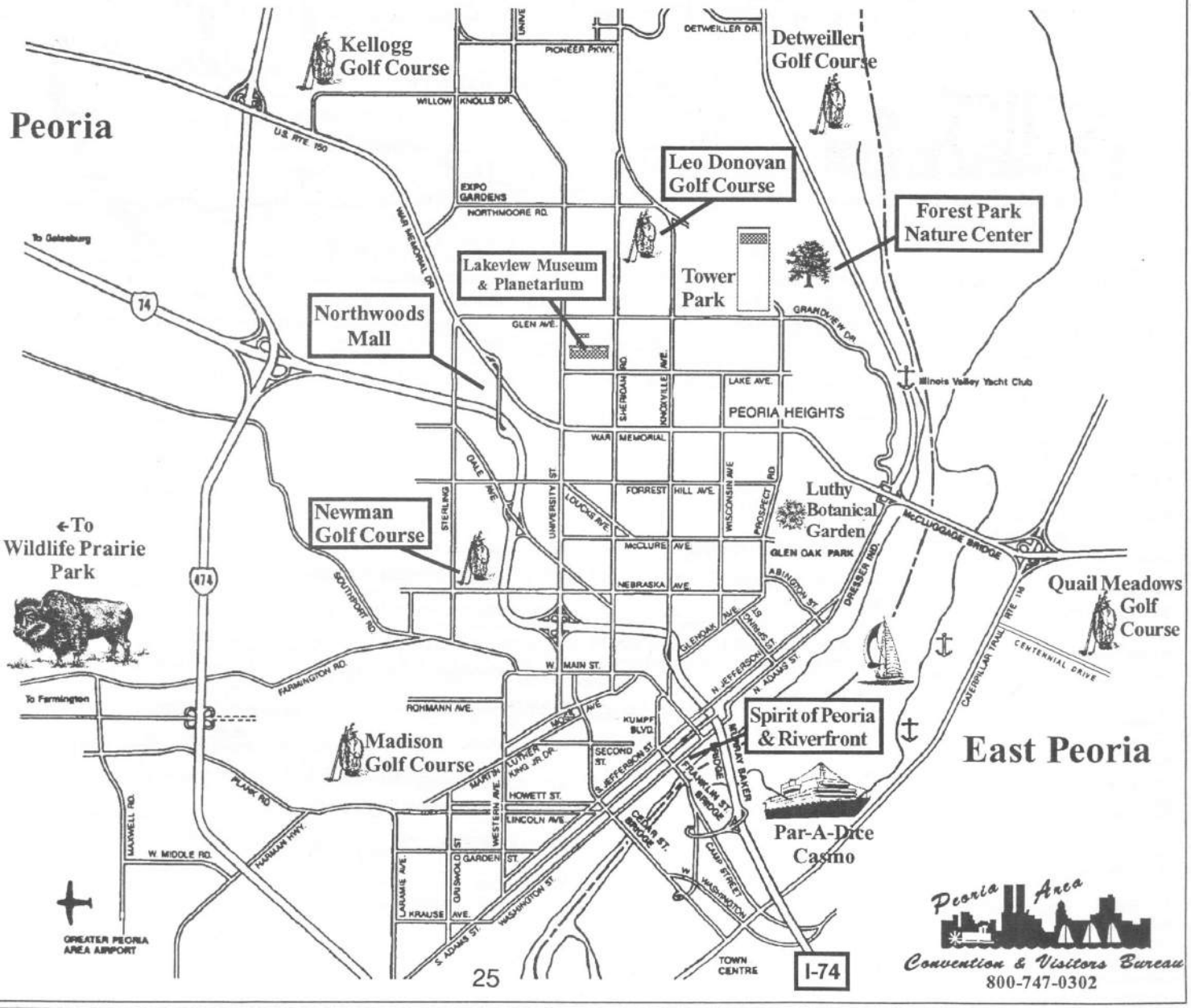
The Spirit of Peoria is an authentic replica of a Mark Twain era sternwheel offering daily sight-seeing cruises. Call (309) 674-8888. Interested in antiques? Stop by the Illinois Antique Center, 308 S.W. Commercial Street, (309) 673-3354.

Par-A-Dice Casino, 21 Blackjack Blvd., East Peoria.

A short trip across the Illinois River to East Peoria via I-74 east, take exit 95 B. Enjoy high stakes action, big six, craps, blackjack, roulette, Caribbean stud poker, mini-baccarat, video poker and over 800 slots. Dining available. Call 1-800-PARADICE.

Northwoods Mall, off of War Memorial Drive, Peoria.

Peoria's two story mall offers over 100 shops. Take I-74 west to exit 89.



83rd Infantry Division Association

Peoria Downtown Dining Map

HICC - **Holiday Inn City Center**
500 Hamilton
Phone: (309) 674-2500

HPM - **Hotel Pere Marquette**
501 Main Street
Phone: (309) 637-6500

IAC - **Illinois Antique Center**
308 S.W. Commercial
(309) 673-3354
One of the Midwest's finest! Over 100 booths and 100 showcases filled with the best from the 1800's to the 1960's. No crafts or repos. Air conditioned, free parking and handicap access.

Peoria Area
Convention & Visitors Bureau
1-800-747-0302

1. Alexander Street Steakhouse

190 Alexander Street
Phone:(309) 688-0404
Hours:5-10 p.m. weekdays
5-11 p.m. Fri. & Sat.,4-9 p.m.Sun.
Steak,chicken, fresh seafood, and BBQ ribs.

2. American Cafe

501 Main Street
in the Hotel Pere Marquette
Phone:(309) 637-6500
Hours: 6 a.m.- 2 p.m. & 5 -10 p.m.
Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Carnegies

501 Main in the Hotel Pere Marquette
Phone: (309) 637-6500
Hours: 5:30-10 Mon.-Sat.ClosedSun.
Exceptional continental cuisine.

Sigrid's Cafe and Grille

106 SW Monroe
Phone:(309) 673-0740
Hours:Opens at 7 a.m. Mon.-Fri., 3 a.m. Sat.& Sun. Pub open til 12 a.m. Dining until 8 p.m. on Mon.& Tue., til 10 p.m. on Wed. & Thur.,til11 p.m. on Fri.& Sat.,3 p.m. on Sun.

3. Blimpies

456 Fulton
Phone: (309) 673-5511
Hours: 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Evenings &Weekends vary depending on Civic Center Events.Subs prepared fresh to order.

Grill on Fulton

456 Fulton in the Twin Towers
Phone:(309) 674-6870
Hours:Dinner 5-10 p.m. Sat., 5-9 p.m. Sun; Lunch 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Casual, elegant dining, with the finest steaks, seafood & pasta.

Twin Towers Bakery

456 Fulton
Phone: (309) 637-7262
Hours: 6:30a.m. to 3 p.m., Lunch 11-1:30, M-Fri.
Pastries, cookies, danish, lunch, etc.

4. Bixby's Bagel Company

315 Main Street
Phone:(309) 676-5063
Hours:6 a.m.-5:30 p.m. daily
8 a.m.- 4 p.m. Sat. 8 a.m.- 3 p.m. Sun.
Bagels, cream cheese, coffee, sandwiches & gifts.

The End Zone

211 SW Jefferson
Phone: (309) 673-7777
Hours: 3p.m.-4a.m. M-Fri.4p.m. 4a.m. Sat. Sports Bar with 20 TVs.

Imo's Pizza

114 S.W. Jefferson
Phone: (309) 674-4667
Hours: M-Th. 11-11, Fr-Sat 11-12, Sun. 12-8
Original St. Louis Style Pizza.

Jim's Downtown Steakhouse

110 SW Jefferson
Phone:(309) 673-5300
Hours:Dinner 5 -11:30 p.m. Mon. -Sat., 5 -10 p.m. Sun.; Lunch 11- 2 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Rest. and pub with piano bar nightly.

Subway

323 Main Street
Phone: (309) 673-8000
Hours: 11:30-2 p.m. Sat./9-6 Mon.-Fri

Sally's Irish Pub

121 S.W. Adams
Phone: (309) 674-0238
Hours:11-1 a.m. Mon.-Wed.11-3 a.m. Thur., 11-4 a.m. Fri.& Sat.Closed Sun.
Exciting nightlife compliment this full service restaurant and full sports bar.

5. Bleachers Sports Bar and Grill

In the Holiday Inn City Centre
500 Hamilton
Phone:(309) 674-2572
Hours:11 a.m.-12 a.m. Sun. - Thur. 11 a.m.- 2 a.m. Fri. & Sat.
Catch all the sports action from the Bleachers!

6. Crooked Waters Brewery & Pub

330 Constitution
Phone: (309) 673-BREW
Hours:Opens11 a.m. daily. Dinner served til 9 p.m. Mon.- Thur.; 10 p.m. Fri. & Sat., closes at 11 p.m. on Sun.
Peoria's first and only brew pub.

7. Raintree Restaurant

in the Holiday Inn City Centre
500 Hamilton
Phone:(309) 674-2500
Hours:6 a.m- 2 p.m., 5-10 p.m. daily
American Cuisine.

8. River Station

212 Constitution Ave.
Phone:(309) 676-7106
Hours:Dinner 5 -10 p.m. M-Fri. 5 -11 p.m. Sat., 5- 9 p.m. Sun.; Lunch 11 a.m.-2 p.m. M-Fri. Historic Depot as a steakhouse on the River. Sunday brunch.

9. Steamers Restaurant & Lounge

225 N.E. Adams
Phone: (309) 676-4100
Hours: 6:30a.m.-10p.m.daily.
Mark Twain era full service restaurant.

10. Katie Hooper Pub & Pasta Cafe

Foot of Main Street
Phone: (309) 673-2628
Hours: Open May-September for lunch/dinner. Call ahead.
Authentic tugboat on the river. Pasta & microbrews.

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) Donavan 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	

783rd Ordnance News.....

Unless someone can tell me otherwise it looks like we did it again! We got through that hectic time called the holidays. It won't matter to you but I have to tell you it's the first Christmas in many a moon that I didn't get one sweater. What Ginny and I did receive was a full body massage which you place on a bed or lounge chair. It gently moves up and down your body at your command with a nice mellow glow of heat. Guess where Ginny spends part of every afternoon with the door locked?

Now it's February which means it's time to report on your Christmas greetings. So in random order here goes. A card but no message from Que and Inez Boyett...Vin Musser's wife died. He and a son are trying to run the home which has five bedrooms. We all remember Muss. He is 83.

Patty and Joe Stubber, "Will write after the holidays." Phil and Carmela Reese, "I'll call you on that lunch date." Phil hurry up, I'm getting hungry.

Troy Bishop sent his new address: P.O. Box 466 Ocean Springs, MS. 39566-0466. Marie has Alzheimer so they are now living in a care center. Our thoughts are with you Troy.

Bob and May Burns always send an informative letter. They are both enjoying good health. Bob is still very active he just doesn't care to drive too far in August but just maybe they'll make the reunion.

Jim Foster just got out of the hospital minus a clogged gall bladder but he says they are doing O.K. for the shape their in.

Joe and Betty Brown sent all kind of news that I have to report. In the last issue I listed Joe's new Fla. address. The only problem is my bifocals skipped a line so I typed in Paul Bryars address! Paul would you please send Joe his Christmas cards and he said you can keep the money.

Joe Brown 10274 Windsong Road
Punta Gorda, Fl. 33955

Joe also said he had made a trip to the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa. and was shocked. He could not find a single thing on the history of the 83rd. All I can add is shame on the 83rd for not following through on the Army's invitation to place something meaningful in "Our" room. Can we continue to say, "We're the greatest," if we can't spend a little time and money to memorialize our buddies who gave their lives?

Joe's Florida neighbors, Al and Ruth Bensimon and Charlie Rohrer, also checked in. Ruth says Al is getting a little fruity. Every morning he picks and eats his grapefruit and oranges. They are looking forward to the Peoria reunion and another spring trip to Jerusalem.

Charlie is twenty miles down the beach fishing and trying to find his golf game. At 85 that is a real task. He is thinking about calling Joe for some lessons.

Gene and Ginny Del Prete's message was one of contrasts. He bought himself a Seville STS but they rarely drive out of the state. Sounds like "old fogies" however "we still do our twice a week forays on the dance floor and continue with our terpsichorean reputation."

You guys are lucky, when Bud Gilman writes me a letter Ginny always says, "That must be from Ivan, your scratching your head." Bud, and Pat are fine but wet from those El Nino clouds.

Bill and Eloise Manning sent a delightful letter. And all YOU fellows who have been razzing Bill about not making reunions now need to apologize. Bill and Eloise made the Indianapolis reunion! They never met Hammond because they were delayed an hour because of an accident on the beltway./ They came in and sat down with the 330th and "had a good dinner." P.S. they are looking forward to the next reunion so we better all get there.

Frank Salontay reports continued improvement in his legs as he is walking six golf holes. He did have a malignant tumor removed from his neck but his doctor did not prescribe any further treatment. I told Frank to please watch that carefully. I'm not a doctor but in my fifteen years at the Fox Chase Cancer Center I've learned with cancer it's best to get a second opinion from one of the 27 cancer centers of at least from a teaching hospital.

Mimi and soapbox Ray Wiggins is again quite upset over my writings on his living quarters and "condition." Of course we all knew he had one them. It's hard to say what they are doing, "We just move place to place living out of the car trunk." The love birds will be in Peoria so maybe we'll find out about the new nest then.

Carl and Alyce Frederick always send a three page letter every other month. They sure are enjoying the retirement which includes the grandchildren and eating out. I think we'll all vote on that. They too will see us in Peoria. By now you should have caught on. Just about everyone is complaining about another August reunion but just about everyone is signing up.

Hersh and Midge Weaver "are a few steps slower and a hand full more pills to take" but are still looking forward to meeting everyone. We both had a nice surprise as Sam Hoffman called me from Washington looking for Hersch. After getting the right number he had a great conversation talking to Hersch about old times.

Ed Perko reports great results from a cataract operation. "No trouble driving the car now." His trouble is snow. Please keep it up there Ed.

The Hackstocks, Herman and Norma, reported, "We are fine, sorry we missed the reunion but we were in Europe, maybe next year." This is the year Herm, Wiggins will dance with you.

Doc and Agnes Pfeifer spent a good holiday seeing the grandchildren in California. He's hoping to make another reunion "but only time will tell." Doc, the reunions are so quiet without you two but we know you'd be there if you could. And cream your dish pan hands.

Now I know many of you received a card and a letter from Lu Labbe on Easy's condition. I talked to Easy during his recent stay in the hospital. He sounded like his old cheerful self. I just called again and our dear friend isn't doing well. He has wonderful hospice care so please keep the Labbe's in your thoughts and prayers..

Jim Jones keeps the doctors guessing on how to keep his heart on the right RPM's. He figured it out himself. Tired of constantly falling asleep he stopped most of his medication and went out and bought himself a new sports vehicle. Now he's feeling great and is looking for some golf weather .

Not to be outdone we naturally also heard from a number of the merry widows. Dot Forster had a bad year losing a son and daughter inlaw. Lee Wolf, Jane Bond and Milly Doggett are all keeping busy and doing quite well. It's always good to hear from the girls and about Milly's new car.

Received a nice expensive card from Stan and Fran Bielen 331st. Stan's not felling too well. It's seems that Beatrice, that young French girl he was "showing" around in Myrtle Beach, is getting married. Stan wasn't invited, I'm still mulling it over!

Kemper, who is Martin Kemper's faithful nephew, called me for information on the new "Thunderbolt Across Europe" edition. He discovered a dreadful mistake in the old editions casualty list. Can you believe Martin Kemper and William Levis are not listed. Gary is going to try and correct this omission.

The oldest shall be last. Just talked to George Harris and he's playing the sad sack part of 1945. He has the GI's but otherwise he's OK.

Now this is my luck, haven't had a cold in 14 months. It's the weekend of the "Battle Of The Bulge" at Indiantown Gap. I was looking forward to meeting Sam Hoffman for the first time in 52 years, plus Norman D331, George Schomelly, A329, Jim Swope, Reading school teacher who owns the original 83rd Jeep and Mark Feldbin and his whole gang of 83rd Division reenactors from New York. The bug that's going around caught me. I almost went until my ex-Marine son gave me a drill Sgt. lecture. "What are you nuts?" Is it that time already? You know, the things you said to your children start coming back. Until next time..

Hut two,
Rags Rangnow

WHITHER FORTH ART THOU

On occasion we get requests to find buddy's and people that are very hard to accomplish. Here is one from our famous author, Bob Parsons F-331st, which shouldn't be too hard to fulfill.

It comes from good friends of the 83rd men Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Auvray of St. Hilaire-Petitville, near Saintney. They attended the reunion in Myrtle Beach with their cute niece Christine. Who can forget the perpetual smile she caused on Stan Bielen's face?

This is the interesting story as told by Daniel Auvray. "In Myrtle Beach we met a veteran of the 83rd whose name and address I do not know. He was nineteen years old at the time he was in Saintney and he helped bring a little girl into this world. His greatest desire, he told me, was to find this woman who gave birth. I did some research and I found a woman who is still alive and who had been helped by an American. Her daughter, whom I know, was born on July 18, 1944."

Bob Parsons adds, "The 329th relieved us on the 12th or 13th of July so it could be a member of the 329th." So 83rd member would you please contact:

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Auvray
23 rue des fleurs
St. Hilaire-Petitville
505000 Carentan
France

So for everyone's sake lets hope we can make this a very happy ending to a great story. And please, "Mystery 83'er" let us and the Thunderbolt know "the rest of the story."

Ghost writer for Bob Parsons
Rags Rangnow

P.S. Richard "Dixie" Dickson of the 329th was in Myrtle Beach and it sounds like one of his stories...but it couldn't be!

308th Engineers Co. "A".....

Hi, to every one. We hope you all had a really nice Christmas. We surely did, with 6 of our 8 grand-children and our 2 girls, 1 from Elgin, IL. and the other from Boulder City, Nev., and our one daughter-in-law, from No. Dakota. Our grand-daughter, Kelli, arrived on Dec. 18th, from College at Normal, Ill. and the rest, including our first great-grand-child, followed on various days. We made 3 trips to Tampa Airport before Christmas, and 3 trips down there after New Years. Our 18 month old great-grand-son, Kyle, was a lively one, and very entertaining, repeating every one's words, singing, and watching the "purple one", Barney, on T.V.

We had a lot of cards from everyone, and we are glad to share them. One from the Auer's, "We were in Las Vegas in May and took the tour thru the bottom of Hoover Dam. We had seen it before, but our friends had not, so we went again. We were there when we went to Calif, years ago. We spent 2 weeks with our daughters in Va. Beach, and Norfolk over Thanksgiving. We had a nice visit and exchanged gifts with one daughter, husband and 2 grand-children. The other one will be home for Christmas. Our daughter, Pat, is moving to Orlando, Fl. Her husband lost his job. He worked for VA Power for 17 years, but they are down sizing and laid off a lot of men. My niece is getting married May 30. She lives in Orlando and we will be going to the wedding. Maybe we will visit you if we can. We want to see Mary and Richard Senger, too, and Charles had 3 sisters in Melbourne. We have lots of snow (this was written on Dec. 13-) and it is beautiful. When it's bad outside, we stay in and look out the window. I still have problems with my legs. The Dr. told me to get support hose. Charles has arthritis in his back, hips and he says everywhere. We still play cards every Fri. and go out to dinner before with our retiree friends. And a card from Valeska and Paul wrote, "We are both O.K. with just a few problems. I know Gordon will be happy with his woodworking. I have been doing it most of my life. I love it. Have a workshop behind the garage. Would like to see you at reunion, but doubt we will make it."

And from snowy Maine we received this letter from the Wellman's, "We are doing fine. Already we have had 5 or 6 snowstorms. It's just beautiful this A.M. You can't see the trees with snow on them, and the sun is shining bright. We're really enjoying retirement. Gordon, Owen hasn't received his dues card so he's wondering if he will get the Thunderbolt book. I talked with Lucy McMillan a few days ago and she's fine."

We wrote to Owen and Arlene and told them they could write to Bob Derickson for information. He might need to know some dates, etc. and he could talk directly to them.

We received a letter from Bertha M. Peterson, "Hope everyone is O.K. by now, I'm fine." Have to keep going. I'm enclosing an address of a girl we wrote to over the years that 83rd Engineers visited during the war. Her father raised rabbits. They (her folks) are dead now and she has married. Her name then was Gwen Painter. I have a suitcase full of the Thunderbolts if any one is interested in them, I'd be glad to give them to them." Bertha's address is: R.F.D. #2, Smethport, PA. 16749.

And the name and address of the girl she spoke of, is: Mrs. Gwen Haynes, 7 Merrington Green Bomeere Heath, Shrewsbury, Sy 43 QE., Shropshire, England. Bertha also said, "Have an address of a boy in Hanover, Germany that found Pete's name in a cupboard there but haven't heard from him for awhile. His name: Horst Hillbreckt, (20 B) Oker, Hape, Germany. And on another card, Bertha wrote, "Missed the reunion. We were ready to go the year Pete died, 1996. Not coming to Florida this year. Have you heard how George Settle is:"

We have not heard this year how George is. We hope he is coming along O.K. We will write to him again soon. From June and Andy Brand, "We recently attended a Pioneer Semi-annual reunion, (like yesterday) It was well attended, excepting 308th Engr. I volunteered for about 45 years repairing tape recorders at a blind school. I've had to give it up, my eyes are going back on me. I have the Div. paper, with the news of the next reunion to be in Peoria. We don't plan to make any future plans."

John Hanft wrote, "We continue in our quiet years, a visit to Charlotte, NC, and to Hilton Head. That is the sum total of the year's travels. Read "Citizen Soldiers: by Stephen Ambrose. Very interesting, even with an encounter reference to the 83rd (I wrote and told him so!) Sent Derickson a story about Beaugency for possible use in Thunderbolt. Stay well, people."

A long letter from buddy Ansel (Pete) Petersen, "News is much the same as last time. My health is much the same though it seems my white blood count keeps going up but its due to what my one oncologist calls low. They read leukemia. When I get a cold it takes so long to recover after 3 weeks of 3 different antibiotics. I still do volunteer work at the local Sacred Heart Hosp. 2 to 3 times a week. I enjoyed it. Lots of pushing wheel chairs

with patients being dismissed or going to dialysis or X-Ray. I have another great-grand-daughter, born May, 1997. So now I have 1 daughter, 3 grand-sons, 4 great-grandchildren. It's a joy to play with them. I don't get to see the great-grand-daughter in Tomahawk, Wis. very often except for a trip there or when my grandson, Jon, has some time off. I miss seeing them. The others live near-by and I see them often. Still have my two horses: a mare and her 2 year old colt, a gelding. The mare is going to have a colt in March or April of '98. Next year we plan on breaking the colt to a saddle, and bridle. We'll take it slow and easy so it won't try to buck. It just takes patience and kind-ness so it will trust us. I gave my youngest grand-son Chad, an acre where he plans to build a house this spring. He has the 2 girls Ashley, 4 yrs., and Alysa, 7 months old. Both Chad and his wife work with good jobs. This spring I plan to redo my little apt. here: the basement, new rugs, linoleum and paint. I sure wish I was able to go to another reunion. I'll know more when I go to my check-up in March at the VA Hosp: blood tests at lab, then the oncologist who will have the lab results. I fish now and then with Chad, and had hopes of a deer license this year but I lost out. Got a few inches of snow this week. I hope it's a mild winter as I hate to drive thru snow. Probably will trade my Mini-van for a good 4-wheel Chev. S-10 Blazer. I have around 300 paper-back Westerns, some 1st print-ing, lots of Louis Amour, Lucke Short, Pete Daw-son, Frank O'Rourk (Ed: Hope these names are printed right) I read them over and over to pass the time when I sit in my new recliner. I belong to the Knights of Columbus and have for 22 years. They do a lot of charity work, and they are a good bunch of guys. We have about 350 or so members. I'm 83, and sometimes I have to use aspercreme on my legs if I start to get cramps. Time to "nuf said" and best of health and everything to you both. Buddy Pete

P.S. Recently was given a new address for the coming year, tho the old one is also good for 6 months to a year, until all the signs get posted. It's: 31041 - 434th Ave. Apt. B - Yankton, SD. 57078-6701"

We had a card from Luciane, Dick Meyer's wife, who passed away and she now lives in Clearwater. "I am between cataract operations (12/1 and 12/15) and as usual, things are not as simple as depicted. The doc said that my eyes are too large and prominent so, something tore and I had to be sewn up. I dread the next one. Other-wise, the year also went very fast for me. Switzer-land in April, the West Coast in June/July, New Jersey at Boris' in between, a trip to Nice in Sept. from N.J. I had hoped to meet up with 2 sets of old friends there, but both were absent because of health problems. 1997 was sad., 5 good friends died, 3 of them younger. You seem very busy with your family, which is good, but I am sorry that your golf game is so reduced. I had flu that not-withstanding 2 massive chest colds and couldn't swim. Did have 2 house guests, Boris is here now to help: drives me around and cooks and gives me the umpteen required eye-drops - a great blessing for me! Even since my eyes got worse, I have not driven more than locally. Got a new car, Olds '88 a year ago and like it fine. Luciane. P.S. No news of George. No Xmas card last year."

We had a long letter from the Katz', Irv and Phyl. "This year Irv made two Star of Davids, from Oak, and they are each lit with 50 blue lights, placed in the front windows of our home. We have indeed been busy, once again, but isn't that the way to stay young? A mind and body is a waste if not put to good use, if possible. So, here goes our agenda this past year: Starting with this past Dec. on a four day cruise to Freeport and Nassau. The year before we had sailed on this ship, "Nordic Empress" owned by Royal Caribbean, impressed us, so returned for another sailing. In Feb. drove down to Siesta Key (off the mainland Sarasota) and enjoyed a week in sunshine and warmer days. Although we live in Fla., our weather is sea-sonal since we are only one hour from Alabama, less than 4 hrs. from New Orleans and 5 hours south of Atlanta.

In April, flew to Reno and naturally drove to Lake Tahoe, partaking of a lake cruise, enjoying the beauty of the snow-crested mountains and the scenery around the lake. May, we drove to Akron, Ohio and Pittsburgh Penn. to visit with our children and grandchildren, as always a fun trip. In august we flew to Seattle, on a 2 week trip on to Vancouv-er, Victoria and Port Townsend. Our accommoda-tions were exceptional, selecting hotels on the har-bors with breathtaking views of Puget Sound, Victoria Harbor. We watched the cruise ships de-part for Alaska, sea planes taking people to and from work, helicopters landing on their pads and freighters and steamers doing business in ports. The restaurants we dined at, served excellent dungeness crab cakes, salmon and many other desirable entrees. Stayed in the only castle in the state of Washington, Manressa Castle, equipped with narrow stairwells, small rooms, old-fashioned bathrooms, seating in the dungeon-like room for complimentary breakfast and of course, ghost sto-ries, but we did not see nor hear any manifesta-

tions. Victoria was our favorite city, with fresh flowers everywhere, the elegant buildings, in design, both inside and out, especially The Parliament Building and the Empress Hotel. We did not stay for high-tea. I do not indulge in tea or coffee and a waste to pay $25 per person. We strolled thru the lobby, halls and dining area and of course the gardens outside. Speaking of such, we spent the day (our anniversary 31 Aug.) touring the grounds of the famous "Butchart Gardens", the most elegant, regal and formal we have ever been privileged to visit. The work, the time it takes to constantly care for each and every garden (there are many) is certainly a labour of love.

We recently drove to Siesta Key, once again, to have a four-day fun mini-vacation and escape from reality, if only briefly. Now home, once again, we are awaiting three teenage grandchildren, who will fly here from three different cities, all arriving on 19 Dec. staying for a week and we get to share some high quality time with them. They will be staying for a week, hectic but fun!!!!! Returning to Siesta Key in Jan. we'll be gone most of the month. Irv's other siblings will be there for two months. Four brothers, two sister-in-laws, two sisters and one brother-in-law. One of our kids will be down with her hubby, for a five day stay. We all enjoy each others' company,..looking forward to this gathering. Still busy with the house, always decorating and just finished our den...all leather and swede..very stately. This is also my office, since I am involved with outside activities, need space. At present, Secretary of our Synagogue. Irv is in charge of the building and grounds. We are in the midst of an expansion which will take quite some time...but will be worth the wait. President of Friends of the Mary Esther Library, and heading a committee, along with the Rabbi for the Anniv. of the Statehood of Israel. Also, involved with the Northwest Symphony Guild., left the Okaloosa Symphony Board and League, after 5 years..too much internal strife. Irv plays golf, 3 times a week with friends, and with yours truly, twice. So, that about sums up our activities, except for the fun and pleasure we have with our new home, always a new project working on with another on the horizon. To all the members of the 83rd, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Xmas, Healthy New Year, Fondly, Irv and Phyl"

We were real glad to hear from the Humes: "We are both well, overall, Jane had a couple cataract operations. Will have 9 extra here for Xmas including 5 grand-children. Most will stay until after New Year's Day. Virg and Jane".

Had a card from Bill and Bertha Loner. and from Frank and Pearline Davis, "I would love to go to Peoria but that is not possible. Pearline is in a nursing home. She spent 30 days in Emory Hosp. for treatment of her condition. She is showing some improvement but the doctors advised me to leave her in the nursing home for the present." Our prayers go out to Pearline and Frank. They seldom missed the 83rd reunions. And there are others, too, who were regulars at the Reunions. An absence is always sorely missed. George Dubos wrote "I don't have much to say. I got a call from Tony DeGregorio from Canton, Ohio. He said Wink Miller died. Wink came to see me about 3 months ago."

That is all for now. We hope everyone is doing better, and looking forward to spring. For those of our buddies that are ill, or in bad health, we pray for them, and we miss each and every one who is not able to be at the Reunions.

Gordon Doeringsfeld
7451 Western Circle Dr.
Brooksville, FL. 34513-7304
Ph. #352-596-5082

83rd
THUNDERBOLT
NORMANDY ARDENNES
BRITTANY RHINELAND
CENTRAL EUROPE

"How To Know You're Gettin Old"

Everything hurts, & what doesn't hurt, doesn't work.

The gleam in your eye comes from the sun shining on your bifocals.

You feel like the morning after and you've never been anywhere.

Your little black book only has names M.D.

Your kids are looking old.

You get to the top of the ladder and find out it's leaning against the wrong wall.

Your mind writes contracts your body can't meet.

You sit in your rocker and can't get it going.

Your knees buckle but your belt won't.

Your 17 around the neck, 42 waist and 106 around the golf course.

Your back goes out more than you do.

Your pacemaker makes the garage door go up when you see a pretty girl.

Sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.

You know all the answers but no one asks you the questions.

MARGIE LOVEJOY

SUBJECT: FROM THE OFFICE

Dear Bob:

In the book "Citizen Soldier" published by Simon & Schuster, New York, N.Y. the author Stephen E. Ambrose, quoting from an interview with Gurter Materne, says that in March 1945 a task force was assembled by the 83rd Division a group of GIs who spoke German, equipped them with German uniforms, driving vehicles resembling German equipment and sent them into Germany where they almost captured a bridge across the Rhine.

I had never heard of this incident before and doubt that it ever happened, so I am asking you to print this in your column and invite your readers to confirm if they know.

William F. Dyer
300 N. 2nd St.
Smithville, TN 37166-1422
Telephone #615-597-6499

83RDS AT DEC. 16, 1997 MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD BY THE VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE - BOSTON CHAPTER

The Origin of Taps

It all began in 1862, during the Civil War, when a Union Army Capt. Robert Ellicombe, was with his men near Harrson's Landing, in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side, of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Capt. Ellicombe heard the moan of a soldier who lay mortally wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate Soldier, the Captain decided, to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gun fire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern. Suddenly he caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, he had enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, the heartbroken father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was partially granted.

The Captain had asked if he could have a group of army band members play a funeral dirge for the son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier, was a Confederate. Out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform.

The wish was granted. That music was the haunting bugle melody we now know as "TAPS" and used at all military funerals.

This article was written by Historian Elizabeth May and first appeared in Rocky's American Legion Posts newsletter, and submitted to the TORCH by Comrade Louis Sanseverino, Revere Ma.

SEASON'S GREETINGS!

It is now two years and ten months since my wife Geraldine has been incapacitated. Her condition has not improved but has slightly deteriorated.

I'm glad to say that luckily my health has held up but I have lost a little steam. As a caretaker, I've been asked, "How do you do it?" And the answer is: "I don't know!" There are a couple of things that have helped to sustain me. First, I do not do the things that do not have to be done and I avoid the acquisition of additional things that must be cared for or maintained. Secondly, it is important to avoid depression and preserve a keen sense of humor. To illustrate how these two factors interact, I present the following story.

When Gerrie was first afflicted with her crippling condition, our wonderful next door neighbors brought over a beautiful potted Poinsettia to express their sympathy and compassion. It was a thoughtful gesture and was a happy occasion for my wife but as a caretaker of a wife, three dogs (at the time) two parakeets, a house and a large yard, I didn't need a plant to water and nurture. This, of course, presented a problem: How do I express my thanks and at the same time politely ask them to not burden me in the future with additional responsibilities? So I wrote a poem especially for them. I share it with you at this time.

A FEW WORDS OF THANKS
TO VERY SPECIAL NEIGHBORS

In the winter of life,
When health seems to wane,
And your body is wracked
With insufferable pain,
Where are the friends?
It hardly seems fair,
But I guess they have
Their own crosses to bear.
Deep down depression
Is hard to resist.
"Dear friends let me know
That you know I exist"
And then, just like magic
There's a knock at the door
And things will not be
As they had been before.
Our generous neighbor,
With a smile on his face,Presents a rare gift,
In a pot, not a vase.
A Poinsettia so breathtaking
In green and in red,
He places it close to her,
At the side of her bed.
The gloom is now gone;
It's replaced by Euphoria.
Thanks to the thoughtful,
Compassionate Gloria.
Her Husband, though thankful,
Is slightly dejected.
Though not the anointed,
He feels slightly neglected.
He won't blame you,
If you say "That's Incredible!"
He'll just hang his head
and spurt out, "It's not edible!"

BILL NURCHES

In 1944, I was sailing on a ship with over 3,000 men in the rough waters of the English Channel, on my way to Omaha Beach. I was lying on a bulkhead with my helmet as a pillow. My clothes were smelly, I was unshaven and I needed a good bath.

While I lay daydreaming, a sailor came up to me and asked me if I wanted a shower. In disbelief, I turned to him and asked if he was kidding. He motioned for me to follow him. He gave me a towel, some soap, and clean underwear. I thanked him when I was through showering and he asked if I would not say anything about this, for he would be sure to get in trouble. Then I thanked him about a million times more.

I wish that I knew that sailor's name, because I think of him often.

P.F.C. Albert (TAG) Tartaglia
3rd Battalion Ammo Driver
331st Infantry 83rd Division.

Turners Married 50 years

R. Wayne and Janet (Liette) Turner celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Nov. 8.

They were married Nov. 8, Greenville.

A buffet dinner and dance, attended by family members and friends, was held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall. The celebration was hosted by their children, Tom and Carolyn Turner, Barbara and John Riley and Rick and Judy Turner.

The family attended Mass on Nov. 9 at St. Mary's Church to commemorate the occasion.

Names of Hoosier WWII Veterans Sought for State Memorial

Every Hoosier World War II veteran can put a personal touch on the Indiana World War II Memorial, dedication of which will highlight this May's 500 Festival memorial Service in downtown Indianapolis.

The Indiana War Memorial Commission is collecting information that will be stored in an electronic database and will become a permanent part of the memorial to those who sacrificed in the bloodiest conflict of the 20th century. The database, which is being built by students at Lake Central High School in St. John, IN will fill a computerized "Book" to be placed at the base of the structure. A computer terminal will allow visitors to locate quickly the names of memorialized veterans.

Seventy honors-level history students of Lake Central teacher Tom Clark are pouring over military archives and interviewing veterans' family members to develop biographical profiles of Hoosier veterans of the Second World War. The honors history class has been researching the contributions of Hoosier veterans of America's wars for 12 years. The students conducted research and database construction for Indiana's Vietnam and Korean memorials.

Hoosier World War II veterans of their loved ones must send the Indiana War Memorial Commission the following information: full name of the World War II veteran, including middle initial; branch of service; service number, if known; city and county of birth (if in Indiana); information indicating the veteran's Hoosier tie, if the individual was born outside of Indiana; if deceased, date and place of death or, for a POW/MIA, date and place reported missing. Information should be sent to the Indiana War Memorial Commission, Attention: World War II Committee, 431 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46294.

The World War II Memorial is being built in downtown Indianapolis on the Pennsylvania Street side of The American Legion Mall, just north of the Korean War Memorial. The World War II Memorial will measure 25 feet in height and more than 18 feet in diameter.

Gov. Frank O'Bannon broke ground for the World War II Memorial on Nov. 11 during the annual Veterans Day Memorial Service. The memorial will be dedicated May 22 during the annual 500 Festival Memorial Service.

Requested by Ned Smith

DUES ARE DUE NOW FOR 1998

SECURE

The reason the U.S. Armed forces have difficulty in coordinating and cooperating with each other is that they do not use the same jargon and misunderstandings frequently occur. For example.....

If you tell the NAVY to secure a building, they will simply turn out the lights and lock the door.

If you tell the MARINES to secure a building, they will occupy the structure and permit only persons with the proper pass to enter.

If you tell the AIR FORCE to secure a building, they will take out a three year lease with an option to buy.

If you tell the U.S. INFANTRY to secure a building, they will call for an air strike, assault the structure with heavy artillery, and small arms fire, capture the facility, fortify and hold the ground at all cost until properly relieved.

Robert L. Parsons
A veteran of the 331st Infantry
83rd Division, U.S. Army.
E.T.O. 1944-45
World War II

THE SULTANA tragedy greater than TITANIC'S

At a time when everybody is rushing out to see the movie TITANIC I feel that I need to remind folks that while the sinking of the oceangoing TITANIC was indeed a tragedy, it is still not our nation's first or greatest mari-time disaster.

That distinction goes to a steam-ship called the SULTANA, which exploded on the Mississippi River, just north of Memphis, on April 27, 1865.

The SULTANA was carrying in excess of 2,400 recently freed Yankee prisoners of war, several civilians and 80 horses and mules - all on a ship built to carry only 376 passengers!

At about 2 a.m., on April 27, three of her four boilers exploded hurling several of the passengers hundreds of yards into the cold Mississippi River where most of them drowned.

Those unlucky enought to have remained on board, for the most part, were either burned alive or forced into the freezing cold water, where again, most of them drowned.

In all, more than 1,800 men and women lost their lives, And all of this took place less than 230 miles from Nashville.

Remember the TITANIC, please don't forget the SULTAN.

Jan. 12, 1998

Dear Nick & Mary,

I am writing a few lines hoping this letter will find you and your family in good health as for Hazel & I , we are in fine health.

Like I told you at the Xmas party that I was going to Ketchikan, Alaska.

We were one of the eight teams and is the first high school from eastern United States to be invited to the competition. We left N.B.M.A. at 9:30 a.m. to Logan Airport. We left 12:20 P.M. Friday 12:26 97 with stops in Chicago and Seatle are expected to arrive at Kechikan Int. airport 8:08 P.M.

The people in Ketchikan were very friendly. We won against Australia (54-47), and won again (67-47) Kechikan King Fish. We lost 85-52 to the California Team that won the Xmas Classic Championship and we came 2nd.

I am sending you some clipping of the tournament.

Whalers: NBHS basketball team off to Alaska

Competitively speaking, the three games the Whalers play in Alaska only add to a schedule already considered among the most difficult in Massachusetts.

But for the cultural experience alone, Rodrigues is happy his team is going.

In addition to New Bedford, the tournament will feature teams from San Francisco; Federal Way, Wash.; Jackson Hole, Wyo.; Melbourne, Australia; two from British Columbia, Canada; and the host squad.

The tournament -- an event staged annually in the quaint city of about 15,000 since 1977 -- begins Saturday with games at 1,3,6 and 8 p.m. local time.

New Bedford taps off against the Australians in the 6 p.m. matchup.

After taking Sunday off, the tournament resumes Monday with Saturday's losers playing in the afternoon; the winners at night. The finals are on tap for Tuesday night at 8 -- or midnight Eastern Standard Time.

This will be the second time in three years New Bedford has taken to the skies to compete in a major holiday tournament.

In 1994, the Whalers traveled to Florida where they finished third in the annual Kissimmee Shootout.

The Clarke Cochrane Tournament is named in honor of a former member of the Ketchikan High School faculty who, in his 16-year association with the school, was actively involved in every sports program and was a founding father of the Christmas Tournament. He died of a heart attack in 1983 during a pick-up basketball game.

Ketchikan is located along the western shoreline of the Revillagigedo Island deep in the Tongass National Forest. Revillagigedo Island is the fifth largest island in southeast Alaska with an area the size of Rhode Island and 309 miles of coastline. Ketchikan is the southernmost city in southeast Alaska and is 1 to 1 1/2 hours from Seattle by air.

The Average temperature for this time of year is between 30 and 40 degrees and the average annual snowfall is 32 inches.

The average annual rainfall, however, is 155 inches which explains Ketchikan's trademark: Liquid Sunshine.

The Whalers will leave Boston's Logan International Airport at 12:20 p.m. on Friday and, after stops in Chicago and Seattle, are expected to arrive at Ketchikan's International Airport at 8:08 p.m. local time.

Gus Farias, the New Bedford sports enthusiast who is on the trip, has been a big hit.

In addition to treating the New Bedford players to pizzas one night, he presented every member of the Australian team with mementos as a gesture of goodwill following Saturday's game against New Bedford.

During the final game of that night, gus brought the house down by dancing with two mascot fishes at midcourt.

Buddy Thomas is in Ketchikan, Alaska, with the New Bedford basketball team.

AUGUST FARIAS

I enjoyed talking to you on the telephone today, and I appreciate your letter of January 22 advising me where I can purchase a history of the 83rd InfantryDivision.

"Harry Haines of the 737th Tank Battalion would like to contact anyone who was in Ortenburg or Soldenau Germany at the end of the war. He may be reached at 206 Big Hollow Lane, Houston, TX, 77042-1016, phone 713-706-3325, fax 713-706-3272 (e-mail address: harry h@swbell.net)."

With kindest regards and best wishes,
Harry Haines

Planet Earth

Since God in his wisdom
Gave all of us humans birth
Look what we have done to each other
And to old "Mother Earth".
Nature's warnings are all around,
Strange we can't hear her pleading sounds.
Toxic Wastes and wars,
Misery for many of us.
It's time we all got together
And settled all this fuss,
All this hatred, killing and all that it hurts,
And learn to care for each other on this
"Plant Earth."

Robert L. Gerber.

WWII COMES TO LIFE AT READING AIRFIELD

Event coordinator and 83rd Division Jeep owner Jim Swope invites all 83rd vets attending the event to stop by the "Back Room" of the Quartermaster tent. Norm Schuster D 331, Rags Rangnow 783 ord., George Suchomelly, A 329, and Hap Reeser 83rd Band will "Hold Court". Stop by for a seat, some shade, and a cold coke. Look for the 83rd Division sign.

U.S. Troops on M-20
"SEE YA IN READING BOYS"

German Troops behind wall.

Members of Grossdeutschland Living History Association will mount a German Army display (no need to bring your weapon)

On June 6th and 7th the Mid Atlantic Air Museum, located at the Reading PA Regional Airport, will transport more than 14,000 visitors back in time as 40 World War II aircraft, 60 restored military vehicles and more than 250 living history reenactors and performers join together to recreate the sights, sounds, and the "feel" of a World War II airfield, at the Museum's 8th annual World War II Commemorative Weekend.

This year the show will be sponsored by GPU Energy, the Strasburg Railroad, Carolina Development Group, Sovereign Bank, New Rhoads Transportation, Weidenhammer Systems. Consolidated Engineers, The Mole Hole of Reading, Schlegel Builders, WEEU AM Stereo and Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers.

Featured is a recreated encampment complete with barracks, offices, and briefing tents. Visitors can wander into the base "club" to enjoy a Coke and the 1940's song stylings of Hannan & McKenna, and can join in singing the tunes of the times. The popular Swing Fever dance band will return again to entertain in the Museum's hanger on Saturday night from 7-10 PM and Sunday from 1-3 PM

These features are planned for this year's event:

* The largest encampment in the history of the show, complete with American, Irish, Russian, and German living history groups.

* Renowned Franklin Delano Roosevelt scholar Delmas P. Wood, who will bring the presence of FDR to life throughout the show.

* An Infantry battle re-enactment between German and Allied troops.

* A church service conducted by ex-POW chaplain Clarence Reeser (83rd Band) on Sunday morning at 9:00 AM

Flying activities also take place throughout the two days:

* Aircraft scheduled include two B-17 "Flying Fortress" bombers, a "TBM" avenger torpedo bomber, three B-25 "Mitchell" bombers. P-51 "Mustang", FM2 "Wildcat", P-40 "Tomahawk", FG1D "Corsaid" and a C-47 "Dakota"

* Period aircraft will fly both days of the display, aircraft rides in selected World War II aircraft will be given and there will even be a chance each day to win a ride in a P-51 Mustang.

* Visitors also have a chance to see the continuing restoration of the Museum's rare P-61 "Black Widow" night fighter.

This year's very special featured guests include four members of the famed 8th Air Force B-17 "Memphis Belle" ...pilot Robert Morgan, co-pilot Jim Verinis, radio operator Bob Hanson, and waist gunner "Cass" Nastal. The event will celebrate not only the 55th anniversary of the "Belle's" 25th mission, but also the eightieth birthday of its pilot, Col. Morgan.

Other special guests will include:

Lt. Col. Fred Olivi...co-pilot on the B-29 bomber that dropped the Atomic Bomb on Nagasaki...the mission that ended the war.

P-51 "Mustang" fighter ace Ben Drew ..first Allied airman to down two German jets in aerial combat.

Honored Japanese American veterans, including Joe Ichiuji and Norman Ikari, who served in Italy as members of the famed 442nd "Go-For-Broke" Regimental Combat Team, and Phil Ichio, who served with Military Intelligence in the Pacific theatre.

In addition to the encampment displays will be featured from these participants:

From Baltimore: Project Liberty ship, operators of the SS John W. Brown, one of only two seaworthy examples of this famous design.

From Reading PA: The American Red Cross, Berks County Chapter will feature displays, and serve doughnuts and coffee to the troops.

From Scranton PA: The "Lost Patrol: not only collects and restores rare military vehicles but also depicts the life of WWII service personnel through an extensive barracks display.

From Ohio, Maryland, and Pennsylvania: The WWII Airmen's Preservation Society, whose presentation is authentic right down to the SPAM being dished out by the unit cook.

From New Jersey: The Army Air Force Historical Society with both an extensive artifact display and fascinating living history presentations.

Members of Gross Deutschland, a living history group which portrays the life of the German infantryman during the war.

Displays of military artifacts from the Pete Benethum Aviation Collection.

Vehicles from the collections of Chick Murdough, Frank Buck, the Military Vehicle Preservation Association and the GPA Military Vehicle Association.

The Museum store, featuring aviation gift items and souvenirs will be open both days, and other aviation oriented vendors will feature everything from leather flight jackets to limited edition prints. A military flea market will be held both days as well, featuring authentic items from the period. Food is available from breakfast both mornings through the close of each day's activities.

The weekend begins as a convoy of restored military vehicles travels from the Museum to downtown Reading on Friday June 5th, arriving at 11:30 AM. There a special Midday Cafe and Concert, sponsored by WEEU and Reading's Downtown Improvement District will feature entertainment and even an appearance by FDR. Vehicles will be on display until 2:00 PM and the Museum's B-25 "Mitchell" will fly over the town as Reading is "liberated" by Allied troops.

Gates at the show open Saturday at 9:00 AM and Sunday at 8:30 AM, and the show continues on Sunday until 5:000 PM. Tickets at the gate are $9.00 for adults and $3.00 for children between the ages of six and 12. (The admission includes all entertainment). Advance tickets are available at a reduced rate through the mail, at the museum, and after May 1st at Boscov's department stores.

For further information on purchasing tickets, or for more details about the show, please contact the Mid Atlantic Air Museum at (610) 372-7333, or write WWII Weekend 11 Museum Drive, Reading, PA19605. More information is also available on the World Wide Wev, at address.

http://www.avialantic.com/maamwwii.html

Dear Bob,

I see in the DAV magazine that the 83rd Inf. Div. is scheduling its reunion for August 20-23rd.

I was sent to Camp Atterbury In. and assigned to Co. H. 331st Inf. on cadry from Co. C, 23rd Inf. Div. which was stationed at Camp McCoy, Wis. I stayed with Co. H, 331st Inf., through France and up across the Elbe river and met the Russians 30 miles outside of Berlin, Germany.

Do you remember the 331st Inf. unit song?

Put on your army bonnet with the blue piping on it,
You'll be the finest soldier in the army parade,
Don't worry about your hiking, its soon to be your liking,
You'll be the finest soldier in the army parade.

By the right flank-march, Tra La La La,
By the left flank-march, Tra La La La La,
To the rear march and then they take you back,
You don't know where you're going cause you don't
know where you're at.
Put on your army bonnet with the blue piping on it,
You'll be the finest soldier in the army parade.

Sang to the tune of (Easter Bonnett)

Charles C. Sager
220 Willwood Circle
Willis, TX 77378-9023

"AMERICAN SERVICEMEN IN COMBAT DURING WW II"

by Michael Gottlieb

I did military research on my dad, Pvt. Benjamin Gottlieb, for many years. My primary goal was to pinpoint his military movements, identify his combat unit (s) so that I could locate and communicate with his war buddies, his comrades-in arms. My dad was killed in action at St. Lo, Normandy on July 23, 1944. A major fire in St. Louis in 1974 destroyed the military records of men with last names starting with "A" through "H". I was a baby when my dad was killed and I felt that his war buddies were the last human beings on earth to know him, to speak to him. Alas, I never found any war buddies. But, in this process, I came to learn about what combat was really like and the effects upon the men who survived. Some of my information I was able to glean from his letters describing his combat experiences. Some I got from talking to combat veterans. Both from what they revealed and what they did not reveal. With the approach of Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day (today is May 3, 1997), I believe it is worthwhile to describe American valor and dedication and courage from 1941 through 1945. Tragically, the vast majority of Americans give little or no thought to the men and women who endured so much, who gave so much so that we can enjoy the sweet fruits of freedom and liberty. Memorial Day is viewed as an opportunity to go to the beach, watch a ball game, pursue personal pleasure without any appreciation or respect for the men and women who made it all possible. Without moralizing or preaching, it requires very little imagination to visualize what our lives would be like today if Germany and Japan had been the victors. It was not foreordained that America would win WWII. It required the dedication, the sweat and blood of our sailors, airmen, marines and ground army to defeat the determined, brutal enemies we had to fight.

BACKGROUND

Some 16.5 million Americans served in uniform during WWII. Some 484,000 did not come home. About 183,000 American children suffered the loss of their dads and often the emotional demise of their moms. Roughly 107,000 servicemen are buried in foreign soil. Never before or since have so many soldiers been buried on foreign soil.

A very revealing story emerges from the major battle at Midway. This was the naval battle in 1942 that began to break the back of the powerful Japanese naval forces. American navy pilots had located the Japanese aircraft carriers and a full scale attack was launched by American aircraft carriers. Repeated attacks by our torpedo and low level bombers had utterly failed. Indeed, they had been cut to pieces with fearful casualties. Dozens of planes had been shot down by the withering anti-aircraft fire from Japanese ships and by Japanese fighter planes. Dozens of pilots were killed. Now it was up to our dive bombing pilots to attack.

Watching these events unfold from the deck of his ship was admiral Yamamoto, one of the architects of the brutal attack upon Pearl Harbor. He wrote in his memoirs later that, as he watched the American dive bombing pilots, his heart started to race and it was "breathtaking" to watch the American naval pilots fly directly into the teeth of tremendous anti-aircraft fire, stay on course and then release their bombs only when they had reached their target position. He said that the raw courage of those American pilots was "breathtaking." He observed the destruction and sinking of 3 of Japan's finest aircraft carriers. When he returned to his quarters he said he knew that Japan would lose to America because Americans were willing to fight, willing to die.

The Japanese had studied American culture and our society prior to the Dec. 7, 1941 attack upon Pearl Harbor. They had miscalculated and misjudged American character. They believed that Americans simply didn't have the stomach to stand and fight and risk their lives. They observed a pleasure oriented, fun loving people who showed little or not interest in military pursuits. They believed that Americans would either immediately sue for peace or make a half-hearted effort to fight and then capitulate. They did not understand that Americans, when attacked, would have a fighting spirit.

INDIVIDUALS

From my dad's letters it is clear, quite frankly, that he was not a military person. That is, he had no desire to shoot or kill Germans or anyone else. He had no desire to be separated from his young wife or his baby son (me). But he did his duty. As were most of the American military, he was not a professional soldier. He was essentially a civilian thrust into a bloody hell. He describes his first major battle, at St. Mere Eglise as a brutal struggle that required going from building to building, indeed room to room, to seek out and kill the Germans who fought virtually to the last man in a fanatic stand. The Germans were offered repeatedly very generous surrender terms. But they refused. Instead, they sought to kill as many Americans as they could. My dad wrote that quite a few Germans were killed at that battle. And he saw horrific wounds inflicted upon his brother American soldiers. Men bleeding from gaping holes in their bodies, men who had their heads blown off, etc. He states that he quickly learned to trust his brother American soldiers with his life and they trusted their lives in his hands. To go into a building to seek out the Germans, to have to go room by room to confront them had to be a very terrifying nightmare that lasted from June 6 through June 10. Virtually every German soldier was killed.

My dad survived that battle but did not survive St. Lo. He was killed by German mortar on July 23, 1944. His last letters describe just how difficult it was to locate the Germans who used the hedgerows, the French irrigation walls, in expert defensive warfare. Many Americans fell at St. Lo. It was inch by inch fighting and killing. Again, repeatedly the Germans were offered generous surrender terms. Again, they chose to fight fanatically and willingly die as long as they could kill as many Americans as possible. My dad was not killed in the fighting for the town itself. He was killed in the surrounding countryside. The town itself was flattened into a mass of rubble.

During the debate on the Senate floor before the Persian Gulf war I was very deeply moved by the senator from North Carolina named Terry Sanford. The entire days of debate was televised and I sat transfixed throughout. However, only this man moved my heart so deeply. He counseled extreme caution about entering a war there or anywhere else. He argued, from his heart, for more patience and caution before committing American servicemen and servicewomen to war and combat. I have never heard before or since such an eloquent and heart-moving speech. After the war was over I wrote to Terry Sanford and here, in part, is what he wrote to me: (September 1, 1992) Dear Mr. Gottlieb: ...while serving in World War II, I had many friends killed during the St. Lo conflict. Memories of the horrors of war are hard to forget; and as a result, I believe the United States should be extremely careful before entering conflicts overseas."

HEALING

In my limited contact with combat veterans of WWII and Vietnam I have seen a strong pattern of avoidance, of an unwillingness to confront and heal the emotional wounds which remain unhealed after all these years. I use the word 'wounds' rather than the word 'scars' because it is far more accurate. A wound is unhealed. A scar is a wound that has been healed. For example, I was able to locate a combat army veteran of St. Mere Eglise. But beyond sharing that he was indeed at that bloody battle and telling me his unit, he was unwilling and unable to open up and indeed became angry when I tried to discover if he indeed knew my dad. I don't want to sound insensitive, callous to this man's emotional pain and suffering but I do believe that it is very healing for combat veterans to explore their emotional wounds with someone or perhaps via writing in a journal. Some opening and release of their pains, fears, guilts, etc. is so vital for these men who endured so much for us. Writing can be very healing as a form of catharsis. I am reminded of the wonderful move "Land of the free, Home of the brave" which explored the emotional wounds of combat veterans after returning from the horrors of the Pacific. These wounds need to be identified and healed. A professional counselor is one way. Writing is another healing avenue.

I recall vividly contacting a combat vet over the phone and listening to him describe his experiences in Normandy during the Battle of the Bulge. In reality he focused on General George Patton and mocking his high pitched voice. I initially was trying to find a war buddy of my dad. I asked no questions and the man was laughing and poking fun at Patton. Suddenly, with no apparent cause, he just broke down and started to weep. I tried to be as supportive as possible. I told him it was ok to cry and that I understood some terrible things happened over there. He never really went in any detail but I understood that he had lost friends at that battle. Clearly, time does <u>not</u> heal emotional wounds.

Stephen E. Ambrose (distinguished military historian) wrote this for the Sunday New York Times (April 17, 1995-to mark the 50th anniversary of D-Day): "The focal point for Americans visiting Normandy is the United States cemetery above Omaha Beach.....No American can visit it without pride, without tears, or without wondering, What did it all mean?"

"About 30,000 G.I.'s were killed in the Normandy campaign; 9,386 are buried here under the crosses and Stars of David. Walking among them, one is struck by how young they were, and how American-they came from every state in the Union, and the names are Polish, German, Russian, Jewish, Irish, Greek, English, Dutch, Scandinavian."

"In the circular chapel in the middle of the cemetery are inscribed these words: "Think not only upon their passing. Remember the glory of their spirit."

AN ART 'whodunnit'

Former soldier fascinated by Camp Breckinridge paintings unraveling mystery about POWs who created them

By LEIGH ANN MOORE
Gleaner staff

There's a "whodunnit?" mystery that's been going on for years in Morganfield. Suspense, death and intrigue are all there.

Ohio resident Eugene Sharik, who has made a study of art created by prisoners of war, has become the sleuth on this case, traveling as far as Germany to interview witnesses and family members of the suspects.

Six years ago, Sharik went to Germany seeking answers about the artists of more than 40 paintings that line the walls of a building near Morganfield. The building served as an Officers Club for Camp Breckinridge during World War II and the Korean Conflict.

For years there had been disagreement about which of two German POWs, Peter Heinz or Daniel Mayer, completed the works.

As a supervisor for the 101st Airborne Division band, Sharik visited the club many times in two years spent at Camp Breckinridge during the Korean War.

"My curiosity was piqued when I saw those paintings," he said.

In Germany, Sharik learned nothing about Heinz, but he made a great discovery about Mayer.

"I visited with his daughter, and she gave me copies of letters he had sent to her mother discussing the paintings," Sharik said.

He was given more than just proof that Mayer worked on the paintings - he was given the chance to learn about the artist through his letters and family members.

Sharik is now in the process of compiling a book using the interviews, documents and pictures he has gathered concerning the Camp Breckinridge paintings and the mysteries surrounding other POW works around the country.

Standing atop a ladder in the Officers Club ballroom, Mayer was fulfilling a life-long dream.

"His intentions were to one day paint frescos," said Sharik.

A house painter and interior decorator, Mayer waved his brush up and down an expanse of wood over the club's front entrance for 18 months.

The ambitious painter, whom his daughter said had never received formal training, paid attention to details.

In a lake reflecting a castle that is now home to Germany's largest orthopedic hospital for children, he made sure to place windows even where tree branches obstructed the view of the on-looker.

When his project was complete, the backside of castle Schloss Werneck adorned a space stretching 16 feet high and 36 feet wide.

Sharik said Mayer never visited the scene he was painting, but copied it from picture postcards sent by his family.

The artist grew up in the Czechoslovakia, but when Hitler invaded, he was drafted into the German army and was captured, Sharik said.

"I suppose he worked on (the paintings) to keep from going batty," he said, adding that being separated from his family was tough for Mayer and possibly took its toll.

Two months after the mural was completed, the 36-year-old artist died of pneumonia. If he had lived a few months longer, he possibly could have returned to his family when the first German POWs were released from Camp Breckinridge on Nov. 9, 1945.

Finding information on artist Heinz has been as easy as looking for a John Smith, Sharik said.

He said he believes that the 21-year-old Heinz also used postcards to paint several of the scenes lining the ballroom and balcony walls, but Mayer alone completed the large castle mural.

Two Italian prisoners were also involved, Sharik said, because a change in style and content occurs in the paintings located in the bar and kitchen/dining area.

None of the ballroom paintings contain people, for example, and most are of pastoral scenes and quaint villages. But the two in the barroom contain a typical bar scene -- a server bringing drinks to a group of men playing cards.

Mayer and Heinz died exactly six months apart, according to the inscriptions on their tombstones. They are buried side-by-side at Fort Campbell where they were moved when Camp Breckinridge became a Job Corps center.

Rumors say that Heinz was murdered by other POWs who were jealous of the privileges he received while working on the paintings. Larry Strehle, curator of the Union County museum, said it is more likely that, like Mayer, Heinz died of pneumonia or some other type of respiratory infection.

After the camp became Job Corps, the Officers Club lay vacant for several years. A development company eventually purchased it to use as office space, said Morganfield businessman Bud Ervin..

Marty Girten stands on a staircase, above, next to the largest of several murals at the former Camp Breckinridge near Morganfield. The paintings were created by German prisoners of war and are in a building that served as an Officer's Club for the Army base during World War II and the Korean Conflict. Girten owns the building, but intends to sell it to Union County. County government would like to restore the building and use it for a museum and possibly a performing arts center. At top, a newer wall clock comes close to covering a spot left when the artists painted a mural around an old clock on the dining room wall of the Officers Club building. The original clock is missing, and Girten replaced it with this one found in Florida. The original tin roof can be seen at top left. (Gleaner photos by Bryan Leazenby)

Five years after the company went bankrupt, Ervin purchased the building from a Newburgh bank. He turned the front part into offices, and rented the ballroom for wedding receptions and parties. The kitchen/dining area was also used as a dance studio in the last few years of his ownership, he said.

Then nearly 43 years after officers last twirled young women around its hardwood dance floor, the sound of boots -- this time cowboy boots -- began scuffling and tapping again.

Marty Girten purchased the building and one of the Tri-state's most popular country line dancing clubs opened in 1991.

The large ballroom was once again alive with the sounds and sights of singing, dancing and laughing. On a given night, as many as 500 dancers, some from as far away as Carmi, Ill., would walk through the two glass doors.

"People were coming from everywhere to dance here, and they were all just amazed with the building and its paintings," Girten said.

Now, however, fewer people are showing up for dances on Friday nights, and Union County is trying to purchase the building from him with hopes of continuing its preservation and possibly opening a museum.

David Morgan, executive director of Kentucky Heritage Council and state historic preservation officer, said the building has important historical value to the state of Kentucky as well as Union County.

"It's a one-of-a-kind resource," he said, adding that its murals are the only example of prisoner-of-war art in the state and an important piece of WWII history.

LOUIS GOMORI JAN. 26, 1998
309 E. LOCUST STREET (412) 283-4340)
BUTLER, PA 16001-4826

Dear Bob:

I spoke to Earl E. Hoover, or Capt. Hoover on the phone 12/3/97 and I really enjoyed it. The more I think about it, the more familiar his name gets. I sent him a photograph of 3 soldiers near the Danube River and the soldier in the center appears to be an Officer. I hope Earl can identify him.

I am also enclosing copies of C.I.B. Media advertisements that were in the Veterans of Foreign Wars magazines. The first is the September, 1997. I called them and talked to Mr. Frank Cambria and told him to open the book he advertised "Conquer" Story of the Ninth Army" and turn to page 295 and he will see a map that showed the 83rds progress across the Elbe River and the advance to Zerbst and towards Apollensdorf and the tape of the 83rd shows the pontoon bridge across the Elbe. He told me that the 83rd Infantry Division History book was republished and will be available for Christmas. I ordered another book and tape. (Conquer: Story of the 9th Army & Tape of 83rd)

Mr Cambria must have looked into this as when I had gotten my December issue of the VFW magazine, he had our 83rd Inf. Division Insignia inserted into the updated ad. I told Mr. Cambria that perhaps our members should know about the material that is available about the 83rd and told him that perhaps he should contact you and possibly have an ad in our 83rd Inf. Division Asso.. Inc., book that you publish for the members. Hope you don't mind. I have decided to send you a zerox of the letter I had received from Professor John Erickson, Historical Consultant for Lamancha Productions. Producers of the BATTLEFIELD series and he assured me that future programs will have our Elbe Bridgehead documented. I hope that you would consider publishing this letter in the Thunderbolt magazine so that our members can look forward to seeing the change.

I have had extra photographs made of the ones I sent you and therefore will not need them. The sergeant on the right side of our pet fawn is "Pappy Hewitt" from the weapons platoon but I can't identify the others by name but I do know them. I believe that they were our cooks. I have 35mm black and white negatives that I had never had a chance to print and wonder if you enlarge 35mm prints, let me know.

Respectfully,
Lou

Mr. Louis Gomori
309 E. Locust Street
Butler, PA 16001-4826

Dear Mr. Gomori,

Let me begin by thanking you for forwarding important and significant historical materials to Dr. Gerard DeGroot, together with your observations on Part Two of The Battle of the Rhine.

Your correspondence and enclosures have been passed to me as the senior historical consultant with LAMANCHA Productions. Perhaps I can say to two things to you at the outset. Your enclosures and observations, important as they are, made a considerable impression on me not only as a military historian but also as one who had earlier served as an infantry sergeant with the British Army. You and I cannot be too far apart in years and share an infantry experience, hence my intensive and sympathetic reading of your comments on the programme. It is no purpose of the BATTLEFIELD series (or any other with which I might be associated) to disparage or slight soldiers in the field and the achievements of their particular army.

This brings me to my second point. I wish to assure you that a major research effort goes into the making of the BATTLEFIELD series. I see that you enclose extracts from The Last Battle. You may know that I worked closely with Connie Ryan on that book, accompanying him to Moscow to undertake work on the Soviet military records and to interview Soviet commanders and soldiers. Both before and after that visit to Moscow your bridgehead came well to the fore in discussion and research as did the achievements of the 83rd Infantry Division.

There are two other aspects which you may wish to consider and which I would like to present to you. The difficulty arises in Part Two over the statement: ' No Allied forces were to cross the river (Elbe). East of the Elbe was to be left to the Russians'. This, of course omits the operational significance of the American bridgehead, your bridgehead, but the statement is intended to convey the sense and context of the **strategic plan** involving all the Allied armies, American, British and Canadian. You will appreciate that limits of time (and film space) make some compression inevitable and this was designed to emphasize the nature of the whole Allied plan.

However, this is by no means the end of the story. Like you, I have long been aware of the possibility of misunderstanding and misinterpretation through the limitations of the medium itself, namely the film. In order to deal exactly with the kind of situation you have illustrated and criticized, I had earlier instituted for the BATTLEFIELD series what I call AN ACCOMPANIMENT OF DOCUMENTATION linked directly to the films. This is designed to supply actual documentation, to indicate the extent of the original research and also to provide further discussion of detailed points (with documents, maps, operational diaries and so on). What you raised with respect to the 83rd's bridgehead east of the Elbe is an exact illustration of what I have in mind. The 'ACCOMPANIMENT 'allows greater space and greater freedom to fill out the picture, to provide elaboration in the place of compression, to make absolutely sure that there is no final damage to the historical record. When the ACCOMPANIMENT to this particular video episode is complete, that is when I have finished compiling the archival record (including the latest Soviet military papers) you will be the very first person to receive this.

Yours sincerely, John Erickson, Professor

P.S. CONQUER: Story of the 9th Army 1944-45 - shows 83rd Div. in great detail. #BP-027 $38.00
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