



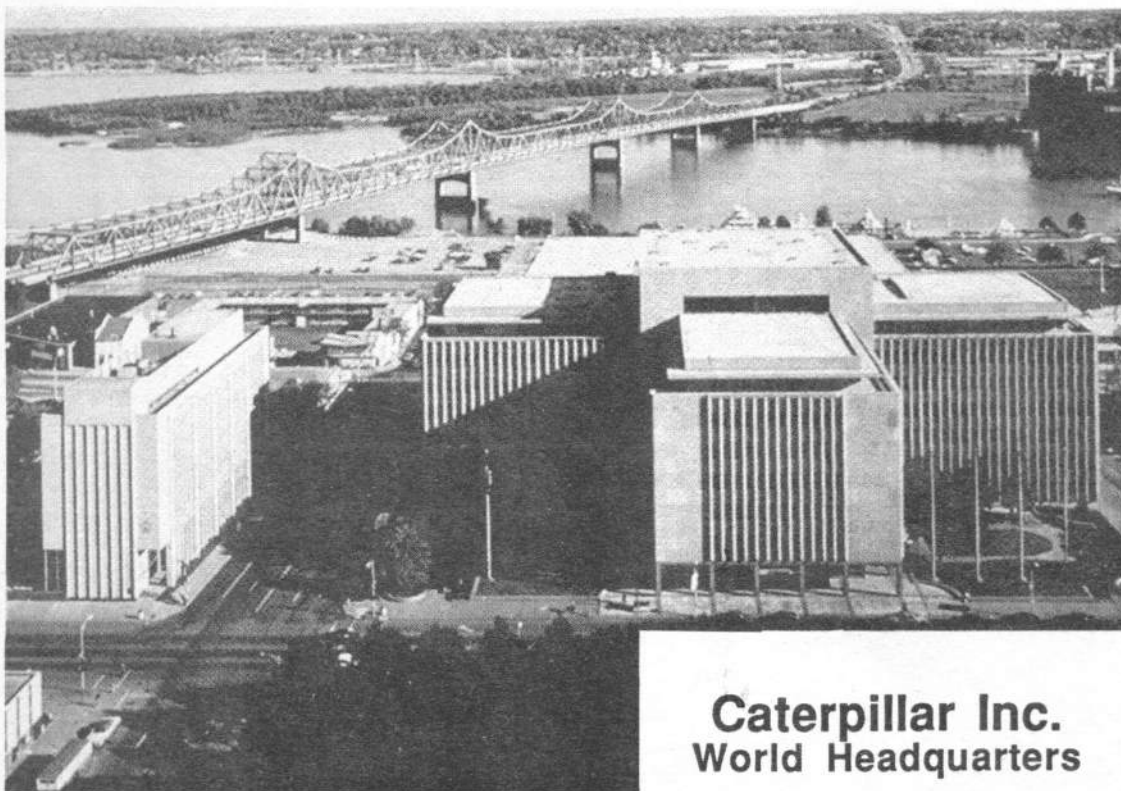
THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

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Caterpillar Inc.
World Headquarters

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. Volpl..... 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

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*Arthur Doggett..... 1983
*Bernie Cove..... 1984
Carroll Brown..... 1985
John Hobbs..... 1986
George Fletcher..... 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
Keith Davidson..... 1997
* Denotes Deceased



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Our 52nd Reunion is getting closer and closer and there are still a few details to settle. There is still a need for volunteers to take tickets at the busses for tours. We can't handle last minute additions to the two tours where box lunches or meals are to be provided. Early pre-registration will help in making all arrangements. Incidentally, pre-registrations are coming in rather slowly. Please pre-register as soon as you can, note the deadline and that of the Ad Book. If you need a wheel chair, note that on your pre-registration form. The special women's program during the Friday business session will be from 10 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. in the Hospitality room. It will be a ladies program "Animal Humanitarian" who brings in birds and animals.

There are several items to be considered at our business meetings which should be thought about and prepared for by the membership so we can have productive discussions.

At our Friday meeting bids for putting on the year 2000 reunion need to be presented so that we can vote on the location during our Saturday meeting. We expect to have two hotels and at least one chapter making presentations. Presentations should include preliminary cost estimates and entertainment activities.

Since no chapter bid on the 1999 reunion and at our 1997 reunion we voted to go to Lexington Ky., The Executive Board at its May 1998 meeting in Lexington hired a professional planner for the Lexington reunion. Three professional planners were interviewed. Two of them had been in business for several years and would arrange a reunion anywhere. The third was a local reunion planner who the Board hired.

Something the membership should think about is how we need to operate in the future when no chapter volunteers to run the reunion, as happened here in Peoria. By-laws may need to be changed to clearly provide for reunions with or without a chapter putting it on. For instance, in the past, the chapter which made all the arrangements for a reunion normally selected their president or whoever was responsible for the reunion to be voted in as the Division Association President and Vice President. This being a deserved honor and reward for spending the time and doing the work of arranging for the reunion. Now without a chapter

involved, who do we elect as our Division Association President and Vice President? Per our by-laws, The president will essentially have no duties other than chair two business meetings at next years reunion and the vice president nothing to do at all.

One suggestion has been made that when a professional reunion planner is hired the outgoing Chairman of the Executive Board move to the Division Association President. He will have served on the board for 4 years and as chairman one year. As Board Chairman he would probably be the single contact with the professional planner to provide The Executive Boards approval of the planners proposed plans and arrangements. He could also be responsible for monitoring the progress of arrangements. This additional effort and time spent could justify his moving to president of the Division Association where he could provide continuity and experience to the board or we could just recognize the chairman of the Executive Board who was initially elected by the membership, as president..

At our Friday business meeting, in accordance with our by-laws unless the membership decides to do otherwise, we will be nominating at least 12 people to be voted on at the Saturday business meeting. We will elect a new member of the Executive Board for a five year term who, in accordance with past practice would move to chairman of the board in his fifth year. Those who want to run for office and those who want someone to run should arrange for their nomination in accordance with the by-laws. Nominees must agree to being nominated and to take on the responsibilities of the office. They must be personally registered at the convention which restricts the selection of qualified members for Judge Advocate, Historian, and Chaplin. For instance, our Historian who has done a lot of work will not be able to attend the reunion this year. It has also been suggested that only a President, Vice-President and Executive Board member be elected at the reunion and that the elected 5 member board along with the elected President and Vice President appoint the others who are now elected.

The current by-laws provide that the president shall appoint a 5 person membership committee. I did not do this and, to my knowledge, it has not been done for 6 or 7 years. Since our membership is falling, perhaps we need an active membership committee. Those interested in serving or who have ideas for increasing membership should talk to the next president.

I hope all of you members will give serious thought to the above comments and come to the business meetings prepared for serious discus-

sion of the above ideas you may have for keeping a smooth running organization. I'm sure you recognize we are all getting older with less energy, ability, and enthusiasm for taking on time consuming, non-paying jobs in this widespread volunteer organization. How many of you will run for and arrange to be nominated for the current 12 elective positions (listed inside the front cover of your Thunderbolt) or volunteer to serve on the membership committee?

Anyone who wants any particular subject matter brought up at the Friday meeting, let me know about it on Thursday.

See you in Peoria!

Sincerely
Keith Davidson
National President

Executive Board Chairman

This will be my last message before our reunion in Peoria, Ill. Our May Executive Board Meeting in Lexington, Ky. was very productive. Many things were discussed to better serve the members of our Association. The Radisson Plaza Hotel in Lexington, Ky. is being renovated and should be finished by the end of this year.

Our 52nd Reunion in Peoria, Ill is coming along fine. Please read the pre-registration instructions in the Thunderbolt and pre-register. We still need volunteers to help with the reunion. Volunteers should contact Vice President Floyd Richmond. Let us all support the Ad Book and send Ads as soon as you can. The Ad Book is very important for a successful reunion. Those flying into Peoria will be picked up at the airport by the Holiday Inn City Centre Van. Just call the Hotel. Make your plans now to attend the reunion so we can try to make it another great reunion. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Peoria.

Sincerely,

Sal Scicolone
Executive Board Chairman.



Greetings from the Secretary-Treasurer's Office

I want to explain something about the Peoria, IL. Reunion, 19, 20, 21, 22/98. In the #2 issue I stated a dead line for Pre-registration forms be in by July 15/98. Since they have been so slow, I'm going to extend it to Aug. 1/98. It is a well planned program and I think you will enjoy yourself. It's a very historical area.

I want to apology for the delay of the financial report and reunion report. I created my own problem by putting 83rd money and reunion money in the same account. To separate them was not an easy thing to do. This year each account has been put into two separate accounts in two separate banks. By changing from our present fiscal year to a calendar fiscal year will make it much easier for the financial report to be completed on time. We have applied for the change with IRS and indication shows this will be granted.

For those who are concerned about my ability to preform my duties. I have hired a lady to come in 6 days a week to help care for Pearl. She is improving slowly from a fall that she fractured her pelvis in two places. I also have a retired lady to help in Pearls place as Assistant Secretary. She is paid from my Secretary fees. No 83rd check is written for her.

I talked to Keith Steele "Turner Publishers" and his goal is to have the new History Book finished in December, 1998.

Looking forward to seeing you in Peoria, IL. on Aug. 19-22/98. May all have a safe and pleasant trip.

Bob Derickson
National Secretary-Treasurer





Deceased List



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

NAME	UNIT	REPORTED BY	NAME	UNIT	REPORTED BY
Adrain, Arthur	"M" 329	Wife	Kohler, George F.	331st	Son Ray Kohler
Augustine, Nicholas R.	"S" Btry 324	Joseph P. Mulligan	Magill, Richard M.	"B" 323rd	Wife Virginia
Balconis, Andrew T.	"K" 329th	Wife Lucille	Marchel, John Sr.	"H" 329th	Basil Polinsky
Bowen, Edgar J.	"H" 330th	Pat Digiammerino	Medling, Will H.	"B" 323rd	Wife Geraldine
Cellura, Joseph A.	"D" 331st	Wife Dorothy	Miller, John W.	"L" 329th	Sister Marie Drygas
Cullars, Arlie	"B" 329th	Bob Uher	Mominee, N.A.	"C" 331st	Florent Soucy
Daniel, Col. William J.	Unknown	Edward Foy	Notaro, Joseph A.	"D" 331st	Al Shrawder
Diller, Edwin C.	"HQ" Btry	Wife	Piascki, Edward S.	"C" 329th	Pat Digiammerino
Evans, Paul M.	Unknown	John J. Gruss	Rader, Ervin E.	"D" 331st	Al Shrawder
Funino, Peter J.	"G" 331st	His Wife	Sargent, Guy R.	"A" 323rd	Pat Digiammerino
Galimi, Lawrence A.	"A" 331st	Pat Digiammerino	Toya, Benhart W.	"D" 331st	Al Shrawder
Herhuth, William A.	"HQ" 324th	Wife Alma	West, Clarence	"G" 330	Roy Wilson
Johnson, Benjamin	330th Medics	Unknown	Wiegand, William B.	16th MM Ord.	Wife Eleanor
Kahapea, Alexander N.	"L" 331st	W.J. Jackson	York, Robert L.	"D" 330th	Wife

Historian's Corner

I've delayed preparing this article until the very last minute - the printer's deadline.

I had hoped that by now, I would have received permission from the Executive Board, following their meeting in Lexington, Ky earlier this month (May 7/10), to proceed with the idea of erecting a permanent monument at Arlington National Cemetery honoring all who served in the 83rd.

Perhaps the OK will still come. The problem is that I'm going away for a while. I will advise you further on this in the next edition of the THUNDERBOLT.

On a related subject, a bill was introduced last month that would require the armed services to provide full military burial honors to any veteran's family that requests them at any cemetery. Seems that a Korean veteran, in preparing for his own funeral was told that only one Army representative and a cassette recording of taps were all that would be provided. That infuriated the family and after enlisting the help of some local lawmakers, the family succeeded in receiving a full military escort, bugler and a 21-gun salute.

The logistics that precluded that from happening routinely are sobering. The passage of each year dramatically increases the number of veterans who would qualify for such a grand military funeral. Quite aside from the increasing numbers annually, there's the matter of costs. The proposed bill does not

provide additional funds for this purpose but the sponsor believes the costs could be covered by redirecting monies within the military's budget.

Regarding last issue's article: GIs in German Garb??. I've received two versions of that possibility:

Bob Keck (L, 329th) because he spoke German was picked for a night combat patrol to reach the Rhine (in the vicinity of Neuss) to determine whether the bridge was passable for our troops. They wore the GI uniforms. They got to within 50 yards from the edge of the bridge when the enemy began to blow it up. On their return back to their lines, they were stopped and held by American troops who thought they had captured Germans in GI uniforms.

In John Toland's book: "The Last 100 Days", he cites an incident in which some tanks from the 83rd, learning that they were only 15 miles from an intact bridge to Dusseldorf, disguised their tanks to look like panzers, mounted German speaking GIs on their fronts, while infantry followed behind. They made it thru enemy lines for about 10 miles without a challenge. At dawn, the tanks were in sight of the bridge but a German soldier (on a bike, of all things!) recognized the GI uniforms and a fire fight ensued. The enemy was quickly wiped out; but the alarm was shrieking. As the first tank lumbered on to the bridge, it was blown-most of the bridge disappeared.

My thanks to Bob Keck and Horst Reinhold for their input on this subject.

Remember, we were INDEED the very best.

B. John Prinzi
Your Historian

CHAPTERS

Cleveland Chapter

We had our election of officers Feb. 18, 1998 and our officers are: Earl Lindsey - president, Bob Grobelny - vice president, Joe Belock - secretary, and Hank Trzeciak - treasurer.

Joe Lanza is Sgt. at arms, and our trustee's are: - 3 years Al Klugiewicz, 2 years Bob Grobelny, and 1 year Earl Lindsey. Appointed - Bob Grobelny reporter, and Bob Uher Historian.

Joe Lanza is still trying to organize a bus to the Peoria Reunion. It looks like a lot of members won't make it this year for one reason or another.

We want to commend our mess Sgt. Mike Mizerock for the great dinners he puts on. We also want to thank Ann Christopher for all the years she's been making her special pizza's for us before the meetings. "Thanks to both of you"

Birthday Anniversary's

January Bernice Grobelny, Steve Ferko, Elaine Lacin-ski and Ronnie Linsey.

February Casey Szubski, Ann Mizerock and Ed Jocek.

April Bob Uher, Joe Belock, Hank Trzeciak, Janet Wil-liams and Betty Jakubowski.

May Ann Christopher, Larry Coladangelo, Kid Williams, John Jakubowski.

June Chester Czek, Bob Grobelny, Al Klugiewicz and Paul Novak.

Happy Birthday To All and Many More!!

Wedding Anniversary's

January - Earl & Ronnie Lindsey, Bob & Marge Miller, Casey & Eleanore Szubski, and Paul & Mary Dallos.

May Chester & Emily Czech, Al & Eleanor Klugiewicz, Kid & Janet Willims, Ed & Delores Jocek, and Al & Elaine Lacinski.

June Bob & Bernice Grobelny. Happy Anniversary To Everyone and Many More!!

Casey Szubski had a quadruple bypass and is doing very well. Ann Mizerock had surgery and is getting treat-ments and is doing well. Warren Owen is getting treat-ments but is able to come to the meetings. Hang in there members we need you all.

Take Care,

Bob Grobelny
Cleveland Chapter

New Jersey Chapter

The chapter had no activities since I last wrote. Linda Sihla-nick was to have a spring dinner, but because the place she had in mind wasn't available at the time she wanted to have the dinner, she decided to not have it. Maybe she will arrange to have one at a later date. I will make arrangements for our Christmas Party again to be held at Cryan's Restaurant. Eve-ryone enjoys having it there and the deal they give us can't be matched by any other place. I will send out the notices in early October and hope we have as great a turnout as we had last year.

We had those members that attend the meetings, which is still the third Friday of the month at the VFW Hall in Garfield at 8:00 pm, were invited to Tom and Candy Dowd's for the Memori-al Day picnic. As usual, it was enjoyed by all who attended. The Sihlanicks didn't come to the picnic because Mary wasn't felling well, and at the time of this writing, is in the hospital. Hopefully all will be taken care of and have you feeling fine, Mary.

A few weeks ago, I received a wonderful surprise when Fran called me in from cutting the lawn and told me there was a call from an army buddy. Joe Botti who drove for Colonel Henry Neilson, the 1st Bn. 331 C.O. and who I hadn't seen or talked to since we were in Bavaria in 1945 was calling from Orange, Massachusetts. It was a thrill for me, as well as Joe told me, it was for him. Joe is fine and from what he told me, has been successful in his career and raised a fine family. He likes to spend time in New Hampshire and Maine. It would be great if we could meet sometime soon. The Boston Chapter is having a Mini-Reunion in the Catskills from September 28 to October 1st and I was hoping Joe and I could meet there, but there's doubt as to whether I can attend. My daughter Joyce is due to have her second baby October 1st.

I had to call Frank Reichmann after Joe Botti's call. Frank was another buddy of Joe's and enjoyed hearing about him. Frank told me he is fine, doing well for an 86 year young guy.

I also received an interesting and welcomed letter from Frank Monan who served with A Co., 331 as a platoon leader. Frank has some very interesting reading. With his family's urg-ing, Frank wrote about his experiences with the 83rd in Nor-mandy a few years back. It is excellent and I am fortunate to have a copy.

One of our New Jersey Chapter members, George Waple who was the First Sergeant of Reg. Hdqs. Co. 331st has written a book titled "Country Boy Gone Soldiering". It should be inter-esting reading as it tells of his 24 years in the Army from the days with the 3rd Horse Cavalry under Colonel's Wainright and George S. Patton, then assigned to the 331st as Cadre. After WWII he was at Fort Myer, Virginia as 1st Sgt. of the Ceremoni-al Detachment under General Farenbaugh, former 83rd Assist-ant Division Commander. He along with some of his unit, worked as ushers in the White House under President Truman in 1946-47. Was selected to join the personal staff of General Omar N. Bradley from August 1948 until January 1952 when George received his commission in the General's office with the General pinning on his bars. The book may be purchased by calling 1-888-795-4274.

Now for our upcoming reunion. There is interest from our members and hopefully we can have a good group attending from the chapter. We're looking forward to being in Peoria, which is considered home country to one of our chapter mem-bers Cookie Seneca and his family. Also in nearby Pekin lives Betty Kirgan who we hope to see at the reunion. As always, it's great getting together with all 83rds and enjoying the time we are with you.

One other thing before I close, Manny Epstein called Waple and I to join him and Leo Schneider for lunch in New York City. Leo was visiting the city and wanted a little get-together. I'm sorry I couldn't make it as I was running a bus trip to Atlantic City that day. Leo, come to the reunion in Peoria and we'll have lunch together.

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

Stan Bielen

1st Bn. Hdqs. 331 Inf.

Kentucky Chapter

The Kentucky Chapter held its Spring meeting in Portsmouth, Ohio the weekend of March 27th & 28th. It was hosted by Bonnie & Earl Hoover with the help of their two daughters. The early arrivals on Friday were the Hoovers, Diane Lemaster, Chester and Helen Wilson, Paul and Doris Lear, "Mick" and Doris McGowan, Manny Goodridge, Marvin and Wanda Haydon, Alton and Beverly Carter, Floyd and Alberta Richmond, Vi and I. A very small but happy group. The late comers on Saturday were R. I. Brooks and Betty, John and Hazel Hudnall, Orval Turner and Bob Derickson. The Hoovers and their daughter Diane brought in lots of delicious food. Other member's wives also brought in yummy foods. We all pigged out. We also ate at Damons in Ramada Inn one evening. They had three or four huge TV screens in the dining rooms. Vi was impressed.

One of the highlights of the weekend were the murals painted on the floodwall. Some of us walked, some rode in cars, Alton Carter rode his neat motor scooter with his wife Beverly walking by his side. The wind was furious. The walkers felt they needed another shower when they got back to the hotel. It was worth all the dirt the wind blew at us.

Some of the ladies went to antique stores, I also went to some as I was out looking for a drugstore as I left my shaving items at home. Is that a sign of old age? Some of the ladies & men stayed in the Hospitality Room, talking, telling jokes & playing cards.

At the business meeting, we decided to return to four meetings a year. Our next meeting will be held at the Hampton Inn in Frankfort, Ky. on June 19th & 20th. This meeting will be hosted by John Hudnall, R.T. Brooks and their wives. They have some interesting plans for us. Hopefully we will have a good turn out.

Some of our members were unable to attend the Spring meeting due to illness. Pearl Derickson is in a Extended Care Unit in Oxford, Ohio. I believe this was the first Kentucky meeting Pearl has missed. We have visited her there in April 6th, May 19th & June 6th. She has been in very good spirits. We think that the young, good looking, Caring physical therapist is really helping. She may be able to come home in July.

Al Henry had knee surgery. We missed Dorothy & Al at our Spring meeting.

Ronnie Hoover had surgery, came home for a brief time but had to go back to the hospital for more loving tender care. We hope she now is on the road to recovery.

ery.

Vi had a call from Clara Johnson. Linda & Clara plan on coming to our Summer meeting.

Vi has been having health problems. Tests and X-rays showed a enlarged heart and minor congestive heart failure. Vi said she always knew she had a big heart.

That's all the news I have.

Take care & God Bless all of you.

Wilson Day, reporter

1st. Bn. Hqts. 331st

Pittsburgh Chapter

The Pittsburgh Chapter is doing quite well with the membership at its present level. We have been averaging twenty members at a meeting. Our president, Charles Hawkins is working on a membership drive for the near future.

Approximately fifteen members have expressed interest in attending the reunion in Peoria and going by bus with the Cleveland Chapter participating. Bill Demarino is coordinating this endeavor. He can be reached at 412-673-5288.

Helen Allen died recently. She was the wife of deceased member Ralph Allen of B Battery, 908th FA who died sometime ago. Mrs. Allen and a few other wives of deceased members continue to receive the fund raising tickets allocated to their husbands before death. This enables us to continue our financial success. Received a note from Marie Drygas informing me of the death of her brother John W. Miller on June 12, 1997. He was with Co. L 329th, and resided in Philadelphia, Pa. Dottie Walsh, wife of Ed hospitalized in Suburban General Hospital in June for problems with her ileum. Bill Neese's wife has been in and out of the hospital recently. The same goes for Joe Deluca. In April I had been having trouble with my left knee. I was diagnosed as having fluid on the knee. I had to have it drained. Periodically I have to have this done. A subsequent physical exam disclosed I had osteoporetosis and am suffering from hypertension. I am taking medication and will be unable to attend the upcoming reunion.

Larry Leonardi returned from his winter sojourn in Florida and informed us of his engagement to Jan Martin of Port Orange, Florida.

The following poem was submitted for publication by our secretary, Jim McCulla.

Francis Beerhalter

MISS ME - BUT LET ME GO

WHEN I COME TO THE END OF THE ROAD
AND THE SUN HAS SET FOR ME
I WANT NO RITES IN A GLOOM FILLED ROOM;
WHY CRY FOR A SOUL SET FREE!

MISS ME A LITTLE - BUT NOT TOO LONG
AND NOT WITH YOUR HEAD BOWED LOW;
REMEMBER THE LOVE THAT WE ONCE SHARED
MISS ME - BUT LET ME GO!

FOR THIS IS A JOURNEY WE ALL MUST TAKE AND EACH
MUST GO ALONE;
IT'S ALL A PART OF THE MASTER'S PLAN
A STEP ON THE ROAD TO HOME.

WHEN YOU ARE LONELY AND SICK OF HEART
GO TO THE FRIENDS WE KNOW
AND BURY YOUR SORROWS IN DOING GOOD DEEDS
MISS ME - BUT LET ME GO!

(Author Unknown)

New England Chapter



New England Chapter



New England Chapter



The joke was on Joe, can't you tell? - New England Chapter



Do we look good! - New England Chapter



Al Tartaglia & grand children - New England Chapter

Well things are all O.K. here. Nick and Mary Francullo have just become great grandparents for the second time. Our grand daughter Jennifer Tellef of Grapevine, Texas had another baby boy and we will be going out there on June 5, on my birthday 76 years young Ha Ha. for the Christening, also on May 17 we went to Keen State College in New Hampshire for my other grand daughter Katie Walsh's graduating exercise and the next day we had to make my other grand daughters conformation so the Francullo have been out stright.

Mary is coming along slow after her back operation.

Received a report from Jim & Dot Brennan and they report that all is going well with them They seem to be very happy with their children especially their grand children, five in number who are all in the honors and high honors programs..

In February they visited their daughter Bernadette who now lives in Virginia, Mike is going to school at the Industrial Collage of the Armed Forces, National Defense University.

When he finishes in June he will be attached to the Pentagon for at least two years.

Bernadette is a stay at home Mom and does a lot of volun-

teer work at both of the girls schools. Of course they see a lot of their daughters. Christine and her family since they live close by. Christine is also a stay at home mom, but teaches child birth education part time.

He husband Deen has been quite busy since he started his own business which seems quite successful.

Jim and I spent a week in San Diego which we enjoyed very much. They say it's beautiful out there with lots of things to see and do. Jim is back to walking three miles a day after having orthoscopic surgery in October.

They won't be attending the reunion this year but plan to be in Lexington, Ky in 1999.

Also got some info from Chuck Abdinoor that he was watching the To-Day-Show and sure enough, There was our own Mousie Farias of the New England Chapter. He must of been going to a sporting event in New York, Mousie is quite a sports enthusiast. He takes in all sporting events throughout the country.

The Abdinoor's are finally back from Florida.

The weather was not the best, but getting away was the name of the game. Also picked clean all of our grapefruit trees. All the fruit quite delicious straight from the source.

Gloria McCartin is back from California, having spent the winter there, Welcome Back Gloria.

Have not heard from the Burkhardt's they spend all winter in Florida, Karl and Ingrid really enjoy the hot days, they are beach people and enjoy swimming.

Have not heard from the Ferrars so we assume all is well, Good.

Talked with Paul Reed from Baltimore and he is anxious to get out on the golf course. Also from Frank Burgess.

Looking forward to our next get-to-gether which will be held at the Ferrar's on July 26 in Chelmsford, Ma. They really go all out.

Thanks Chuck for the Info. Great.

From the Davis's - Bill was in the hospital nine days and



New England Chapter

had those mini strokes (T.I.A.S.) and pneumonia. Then when he got home the medication they gave him caused a bad reaction glad to report he is starting to feel better.

We are looking forward to warmer weather when we can go down the boardwalk and visit with our friends and enjoy the scenery.

We like to say hello to all our friends in the 83rd.

We just had this prayer given to us and hope that members enjoy it. With Love Bill & Betty.

Talked to Dutchy and Helen Smith and they are doing O.K.

Also from John & Ester Ferriera of Chelmsford, Ma. and they are OK and looking forward to our cookout at there house.

We'll that is it for now and hope the next write up I will hear from more members.

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

P.S. Your New England Chapter dues for 1999 are now due
Thanks!

HOW TO GROW OLD WITH INSIGHT, GRACE AND WIT

Prayer for the aged

'LORD, THOU KNOWEST BETTER THAN I KNOW MYSELF,
THAT I AM GROWING OLDER, AND WILL SOMEDAY BE OLD.
'KEEP ME FROM GETTING TALKATIVE AND PARTICULARLY
FROM THE FATAL HABIT OF THINKING I MUST SAY SOME-
THING ON EVERY OCCASION.

'RELEASE ME FROM CRAVING TO TRY TO STRAIGHTEN OUT
EVERYBODY'S AFFAIRS.

'KEEP MY MIND FREE FROM THE RECITAL OF ENDLESS DE-
TAILS - GIVE ME WINGS TO GET TO THE POINT.

'I ASK FOR GRACE ENOUGH TO LISTEN TO THE TALES OF
OTHERS' PAINS. HELP ME TO ENDURE THEM WITH PATIENCE.

'BUT SEAL MY LIPS OF MY OWN ACHES AND PAINS - THEY
ARE INCREASING, AND MY LOVE OF REHEARSING THEM IS BE-
COMING SWEETER AS THE YEARS GO BY.

'TEACH ME THE GLORIOUS LESSON THAT OCCASIONALLY IT
IS POSSIBLE THAT I MAY BE MISTAKEN.

'KEEP ME REASONABLY SWEET; I DO NOT WANT TO BE A
SAINT -- SOME OF THEM ARE TOO HARD TO LIVE WITH - BUT A
SOUR OLD PERSON IS ONE OF THE CROWNING WORKS OF THE
DEVIL.

'MAKE ME THOUGHTFUL, BUT NOT MOODY; HELPFUL, BUT
NOT BOSSY. WITH MY VAST STORE OF WISDOM, IT SEEMS A
PITY NOT TO USE IT ALL -- BUT THOU KNOWEST, LORD, THAT I
WANT A FEW FRIENDS IN THE END.'

(author unknown - from Betty & Bill Davis)

Dixie Chapter News

Time moves at its own pace so we must stay on our toes lest we miss something we've waited so long to be a part of.

We're on the way to Myrtle Beach to meet with "Dixie" chapter for our spring meet. The sight is chosen, reservations are in, many plan to be there. I want to be early!

First stop "Cold Harbor" an important Civil War battle sight, cemetery and Memorial.

Its quite impressive and moving to be here 136 years after the events took place.

Then just a few miles away a special treat awaits me. I've located a war time comrade. After 52 years ago on the Danube River we finally meet again. Jim Beadles, a Section Sgt. is here with his family showing us some famous Southern Hospitality.

Our time is short but the visit is sweet. Jim prepared the entire meal having lost his wife just a year ago. I'm hoping for another get together soon with him.

Now its on to Loris S.C. to visit my old "Mess Sgt." Joe Rankin and family. Sadly I found him in the hospital on the critical list.

How disappointed I am. I can't see him. His condition worsens. My only contact is thru his daughter, Jo Marie. The news is all bad. He lingers but dies on April 5 and is buried on April 8. This I found out by two cross country calls. One from "Red Anderson" and the other from "Wm. Benbow." William, who is fighting for his life in the greatest battle of his life, with leukemia. Take care of him Lillian.

The meeting gets under way - I meet some early birds, Flo Jackson and family are here. We celebrate just being able to be here.

Tomorrow things really move. Friends from Fla. to Indiana to Mass. to Texas and points inbetween. Our facilities are the best with goodies from our ladies and plenty liquid refreshments. It's such a treat to be a part of a celebration like this

one. Remembering and looking ahead to greater things is a big part of my life, at this stage of life.

Many of our precious widows are here with us. Mac Peters passed away Dec. 25, 1997. His wife is here with son Mac, his wife and daughter. Some had to cancel because of sickness. Some are here after a lengthy absence. Its so good to see each one. We even have a couple for the first time even, we hope they'll become regulars.

We have all sorts of dignitaries, past presidents, executive board members, old timers, new timers, all special to me. I value the friendship of each one as we pause to give thanks for each one we lost thru death and their loved ones left behind. As we look around we miss many faces that we've come to expect to see at each meeting.

Entertainment was good. Many attend shows, swimming and hot tubs are popular past times during day with the more active, strolling this beautiful beach with music and dancing in the evenings.

Food is reasonably priced and very good eating. Buffet style here in the dining facility - looks like a good place for a national meeting in the future.

Our business is handled in an orderly fashion and our banquet goes off without a hitch. Dancing to the music of Disk Jockey Wm. Minnick was such fun for all the old timers, also young timers.

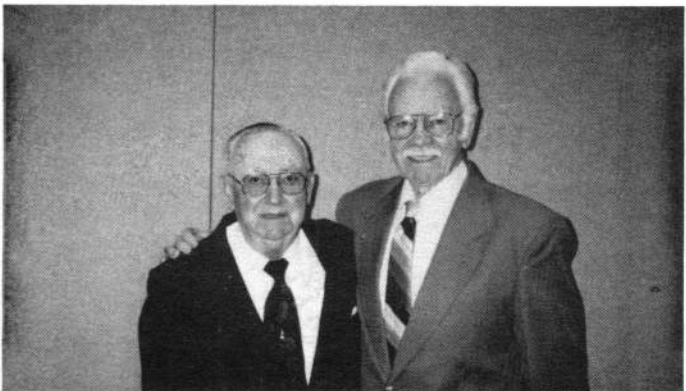
Parting is such sweet sorrow! Of course we must go our ways and hope to meet again.

Let it be the National in Peoria.

Ellsworth Massie



Mac Peters - Hq. 1st Bn. 329th Inf - Died Dec. 25, 1997.
Picture is wife Shirley, Son, Mac and family



Joe Fagleman, Medic 308 assigned to Bty A 322 and E. Massie.



Our meeting place & fishing pier.



Chow looks good - and troops look hungry!



Jim Beadles - A Btry 322 FA Bn.
Ellsworth Massie - A Btry 322 FA Bn First meeting since 1945
Jochenstein on Danube River at Austrian border.

Boston Chapter News

On April 4th a meeting was held at Pat and Ginny DiGiammerino home with twenty two members in attendance. It was nice to see Jim Prentice from Claremont, New Hampshire. Jim said he was feeling better. We certainly appreciated him making the trip. It was a good meeting.

It was voted to have our Christmas Party at the Ramada Inn in Seekonk, MA. It will be held on Saturday December 12, 1998. The Boston Chapter has had many parties here with great success. Remember the date.

Contact Charles Lussier to make arrangements to attend.

The meeting was closed with Lou Sandini thanking Pat and Ginny for the use of their home. Everyone art lots of good food, off the diets for the day.

The May Meeting was held at the home of Phyllis Scott in Florence, MA. My Brother Bill was celebrating his 50th Anniversary the same day so I was unable to attend.

The meeting was a small cheerful group. Everyone that attended told me they enjoyed themselves. Thanks Phyllis for doing so much for the Boston Chapter.

The next meeting will be June 27th at Frank and Rose Young, 26 Harvard Rd. Billerica, MA.

Had correspondence from Bernie Epstein, Bob Uher, Dan Murphy, John Gentile, Frank Monan, Charles Stine, Harlan Parker, Vern Mueller, Joe Catalano, Clifford Lemke, etc. It was nice to hear from all you men. Lou Sandini was at the Directors Meeting in Kentucky. I will be with Lou for lunch next week.

Hy Goodman had a hip replacement. Nancy called his lovely wife who said Hy was doing well. I will go down to see him this weekend. He was having a hard time with the old hip so this should make it a lot better for him. He should be dancing in no time.

On September 28th to October 1st. the Boston Chapter is having a Mini Reunion at the Paramount Hotel (Best of Western) in New York. This should be a good time, anyone interested in attending should write the Boston Chapter.

Condolences to the Family of Charles Lussier on the recent death of his brother.

I took a fall recently going to church. I broke my glasses and hurt my hand. Everything seems to be healing ok with the exception of the hand which I am writing with. It is improving daily.

That's all for now.

Amby Tynan
Boston Reporter



Boston Chapter at Bill and Barbara Anniversary at Lynn Yacht Club.



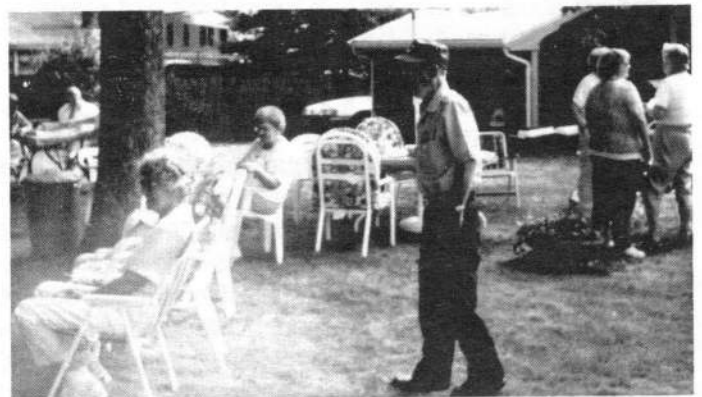
Congratulating Barbara - Boston Chapter Group



Bill and Barbara Rowe - Happy 35th at Volunteer Yacht Club, Lynn, Mass. - Boston Chapter



You'll make it to 50 Barb, predict Ginny DiGiammerino and Rita Lussier.



Some of the Boston Chapter relaxing at Livy Maynards home.



Food, Drink and Friends keep us happy - Boston Chapter

Central Plains Chapter



Front Row: Virlene Stahlhut, Ann Teenor, Laura Mae Geisinger, Mimi Wiggins, Naomi Wolke, Nevorah Adams.
Back Row: Charles Stahlhut, Carl Teenor, Harold Geisinger, Don Dutcher, Ray Wiggins, Vincent Miller, Norbert Wolke, Dwight Adams, Keith Davidson.

The Central Plains Chapter held a meeting in Omaha Nebraska Friday, April 24, 1998, with nine of the fourteen members attending. Members came to Omaha from as far away as Inola, Oklahoma; Brookings, South Dakota; and Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Keith Davidson

453rd AAA (AW) Bn.

Since the last Issue of the Thunderbolt we have been to two 453rd get-togethers'.

One, was a mini reunion in Unionville OH. It was held on May 8th. A great get together was enjoyed by all at the famous Unionville Tavern. This Tavern was one of the stops when the underground railway was in operation during the Civil War. Those attending were, The Pearsons: Moricks: Lochs: Lawrences: Manzors: Kreps: Martins: Nichols; and Wilbur Cornelius and his daughter.

On the 15th and 16th. of May, a group on the West Coast got together for a reunion. It was held at the SHILO INN SUITES near the Portland Airport. This get together was sponsored by Frank and Jeanne Moore, and Bob and Mary Hemstreet of Oregon.

MARK HEMSTREET, owner of the **SHILO INNS**, and a nephew of Bob Hemstreet, was the 453rd. benefactor. He literally turned over the Hotel to us. His benevolence will never be forgotten. All those attending wish to offer their thanks to him for his thoughtfulness and kindness to a bunch of "Old War Horses." We were sorry that we could not thank him in person, but family must come first and his daughter was graduating from College in California, and had to attend the Ceremony.

Bruce Ulrich the General Manager of Shilo Inns Suites at Portland airport, and his entire staff made us all feel like

Royalty. We thought we were treated special, and I suppose we were, but I understand that anyone who stays at any SHILO INN is treated the same way. Mark must employ special people. We wish to thank this group too, for all their kindness.

A special trip to Lincoln City Oregon was made on Sunday via a bus supplied by Mark Hemstreet. This took us to the site of a Monument to the Service people who gave their lives during the Gulf War.

This Monument was erected and is maintained by MARK HEMSTREET.

A ceremony was held at the Memorial, and Certificates of appreciation were presented to those present by Major Bob Hagen, representing Lt. Gen. Claude Kicklighter, Deputy Under Secretary of the Army.(Internal Affairs) A "Ruptured Duck" Lapel pin was also presented to each man.

'We are sorry to report that Leo Wigen had a small stroke and had to cancel his plans.

Also Walter Fisher had surgery a few days before the Reunion and had to cancel out.

"Corky" Apple was scheduled to make it, but he must have lost his road map on the way from Montana, as he never did show up.

The Banquet on Saturday night was tremendous, again thanks to Mark Hemstreet.

A drawing was held for a couple of donated door prizes. Two Embroidered Caps, and a shirt/jacket that was hand painted on the back with the exploits of the 453rd. The shirt was won by Walter Cole from California. I don't know who was the most excited, he or Francis.

Bruce Ulrich, general manager of the Shilo Inn, representing Mark Hemstreet, accepted a plaque on his behalf, presented by the 453rd. AAA. (AW) Bn. Veterans honoring his kindness to all who attended the West Coast Reunion.

There were several of the group who had never been to a Reunion before. It was sure great seeing some of the old Buddies that you hadn't seen in fifty some years., swapping stories with them of by gone years. For those that are curios, ask Dave Carter about the episode that happened between him and Fred Pearson at Camp Blackshaw Moor in England in 1944. I had forgotten it, but he brought back the memories.

Several couples from the Eastern States also attended.

Our featured Speaker at our Banquet was Major General Tony McPeak. U.S. Air Force. He had a very short agenda, but emphasized the importance of the role we played in W.W. II. His main theme was to thank all Veterans, and those that gave the supreme sacrifice, for their service to the Country. We went on to say that the whole nation should be thanking us for the part we played in helping to make the United States what it is today.

Our Guests were: Bruce Ulrich, General Manager of the Shilo Inn, and his wife; Jake Krahenbuhl, Brother of John, and Peggy; Eric Echols and Earl Klien and their wives, son in laws of Leo Dabrowski; and Bob Hemstreet's daughter and her family.

Those attending from the Eastern States were; Fred and Irene Pearson; John and Betty Dickens; John and Anne Loch; Mike and Isabelle Manzo; and Lou and Kathy Martin, all from Ohio.

The State of West "BY GOD" Virginia was not left out as Bill Buzzard and friend Hazel Hy de, and Virgil and Norma Starkey were there.

California was represented by, Walter and Francis Cole; Leo and Margaret Dabrowski; George Edwards and Mabel; and Ray and Rose Lagergren.

Harold and Dorothy Berger were the loners from Arizona.

From Oregon we had; David Carter; Marion Cheshier; Bob and Mary Hemstreet; James Lovegren and his wife; Frank and Jeanne Moore; W. Potwora; Arba Feye Stearns; and Warren and Lila Rae Stocker.

Those attending from Washington State were: Larry and Jo Carman; Elsworth and Monty DeLarm; Oscar and Jean Farnsworth; Eugene and Louise Hendrickson; Don and Jackie Jopp; Loren and Anita Kissick; John and Peggy Krahenbuhl; Roy and Pat Millican; Van Werven; and Clarence E. Williams.

The 453rd AAA. (AW) Bn. Regular reunion will be held over the Labor Day weekend in Urbana, IL.

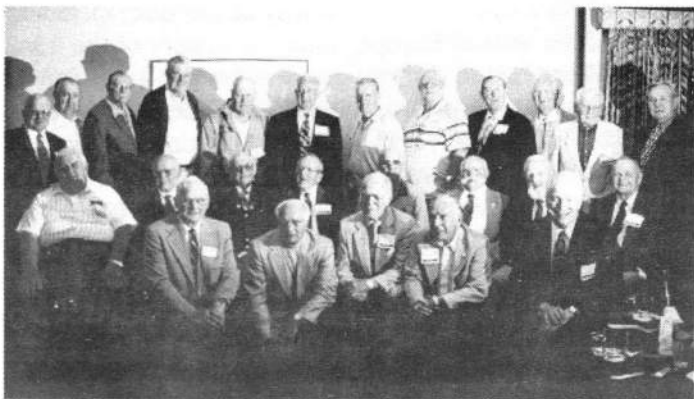
This event will be sponsored by Jim and Doris Hull, assisted by Gordon and Cora Vee Rush and Thelmer and Mary Cline.

A letter will be sent to all those on the mailing list in late August

For any information contact our Recording Secretary; Betty Dickens. PO Box. 4332. Lisbon, Ohio 44432

Late note. I've just received word that Leo Wigen passed away just after the Reunion.

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



Picture of most of the men attending the West Coast Reunion.

COMPANIES

783rd ORDNANCE

I know many of you fellows have shared my present feelings. I'm sitting here staring at the keys of this word processor wondering how I'll ever fill a page of interesting chat. Of course the personal health list has to be covered so let's start there.

Many of you know that our long time, good friend, Easy Labbe stood his last retreat. He had excellent family care and his daughter kept in touch. Lu was very appreciative of the planter from the 783rd. Easy was a man who was a friend to all and he is sadly missed by one and all.

"The family is the essential presence - the thing that never leaves you, even if you find you have to leave it." - Bill Buford, *The New Yorker*.

Phil Reese has the honors of being the only known one to make sick call. He's almost himself again after a tough operation. Most of us are coming up with weak spots in the head. Reese came up with a weak, ballooned artery behind the stomach. It was a long, tricky operation but Phil's back to eating those famous South Philly cheese steaks so he must be okay. Reese found out Doctors are amazing. They cure poor people faster.

Reese told the Doctor that he had a pain in his arm. The doctor asked if he ever had it there before. Reese said, "Yes." "Well," the doctor said, "You've got it there again."

To keep Al and Ruth Bensimon off my back I must correct the only mistake I've ever made writing for the Thunderbolt. The Bensimons HAVE NOT made another trip to Jerusalem. In his letter Al said, "I took Ruth to Spain! You know how it is - you always take something you don't need!" Then he added, "Ruth must be descended from Noah. When we travel she takes two of everything!" So if the speeches get too long at the reunion banquet we'll have Al and Ruth to give us their exciting experiences of Spain.

In a May conversation with the Wiggins we finally straightened out the mistake HE made on his moving. You can always learn from the mistakes of others. The trouble is - I'm always the others! What Mimi and Ray are doing is thinking, looking and trying to decide on a potential move! They are still rooted in the clock house. Ray is amazing, he'll be 84 on 10/25 and he is still CAR-RYING his golf clubs at least twice a week. Ray told me, "Aging isn't all that bad. Think of the trouble many of us would have if the wrinkles hurt." Then Ray mentioned he went to his new doctor, a woman, for his annual physical. She told him to go into the examining room and take off all his clothes. Ray did so. After a few minutes there was a knock at the door. The doctor entered. She proceeded to examine him completely, looking closely at every part of his body. Then she asked, "Do you have any questions?" Ray said, "I have one - why did you knock?"

With each issue of the Thunderbolt I've made it a practice to call someone we don't hear from. This time I picked Victor Mutignani from across the river in New Jersey. Right now Vic is doing OK but he too was quite sick. He had an infection, allergy or both, with a 105 temperature and many weeks in the hospital. Poor Vic still doesn't know what his problem was. He asked the doctor, "Should I get a second opinion?"

The Doc replied, "Why not, come back tomorrow?"

"Mut" really seemed glad to hear from me. He remembered many good times with a number of you and how he and Donald Dayton thought C ration, baked beans on bread was the greatest. "Mut" said he was enjoying life, couldn't believe he was seventy six. He says his wife never lies about her age. She just tells people she's as old as he is. Then she lies about his age. It would be great to see Vic at a reunion.

Also, had a nice long conversation with Jim Jones. He is doing OK, but like me, he has lost most of his golf partners. Jim is again thinking about taking over the old farm in Penna. That will be quite a job because Jim told me the egg prices are so low it wasn't worth getting the chickens to lay them. Milk prices are worse. So I asked Jim what he was going to do. He said, "I don't know. I sat up half the night trying to find something else for the hens and cows to do."

At least I warned you that this article was going to be difficult to write. If Jim does move he will be close to his daughter. She might enjoy that. Jim is an expert cook. It's a shame he learned that after his 783rd tour.

Let me thank all of you who contributed to the "flower" fund for our deceased members. Some of you won't know what I'm writing about. When I received the call of Easy's death I phoned a number of you and some contacted others to make up an emergency fund. Fourteen of you came up with ten dollars apiece. 'Because of time, and nobody answering the phone, I wasn't able to contact everyone. We presently have \$100.00 available and if anyone would like to add to this just send me your offering. Now I can't guarantee your name won't be the next one picked out of the hat if you contribute but why take the chance? Bill Manning still has the bottle, with the two glasses, and his was the first check in! He's a Dentist and you know how smart they are.

Bill told me two good ways to keep my teeth. Brush after meals and keep my mouth shut. Then Bill told me of a guy named Dixie, from B-329, came in complaining that his teeth didn't fit. Bill said, "OK put them in your mouth and I'll check them."

"In my mouth they're fine. They don't fit in my glass!

Now to finish off this gem, and knowing many of you are in the same boat, I must tell you about my cataract removal and new lenses implant operation. I walked into the operating room, layed down and seven minutes later I got up and walked out! I never felt a thing!! An hour later we stopped for breakfast and I was amazed to discover I could read the baseball box scores without glasses! And I could also see the toe nails on the GIRLS crowd feet! This was disturbing. Now I was wishing I could check out Stan Bielen's roving eyes!

Seriously, these new procedures are just amazing. Now that my eyes have settled in I will need glasses to

make the eyes equal. But if your suffering with cataract's here is an easy out for you. It was funny when I asked the Doc how he knew I would be ready for the removal. He said, "give me three reasons and we'll proceed. So I thought and said,

"Headlights at night are glaring."

"That's one."

"After reading a short time I start blinking to get some words in focus."

"That's two."

"Oh, and I can no longer see my 280 yard drives!"

"Well, you should have said that first, that's all you needed. Let's get you signed in."

Now it's off to Reading Pa. for the 8th annual WWII Weekend which should feature a mini 83rd Reunion thanks to the efforts of young Jim Swope. Look for a report and pictures in this issue of the Thunderbolt.

See you all in Peoria!

Hut two,
Rags Rangnow

83rd Division Reborn in Reading, PA.

The sun was shining bright, early, on Saturday, June 6 as Ginny and I drove into the parking lot of the Reading Airport to attend the grand affair called the 8th ANNUAL WWII COMMEMORATIVE WEEKEND.

We had only walked a hundred yards inside the entrance and there sat a command tent with a stake and sign that proclaimed it the 83RD DIVISION. Sitting in front of the tent was an unblemished Jeep of the 329th.

Inside the tent there were a couple of cots and two original Company "desks." These were generally the 1st Sgt's. in which he stored the Company log. Sitting around the desk were many remembrances. A box of Hersey bars, an original full coke and a box of flea powder were just three items. By the cots were the old foot lockers stocked with official Army garb. The smell of the tent canvas was the final touch of almost being on Tennessee maneuvers.

It wasn't long before young Jim Swope, an Associate member of the 83rd, came by and gave me my orders of the day. He had made up a history of the 83rd including a map of our tour of Europe, plus the history of the 83rd Jeep. All we had to do was give the people these hand-outs and extol the history of the Thunderbolt.

For two days Ginny and I talked to hundreds of people who stopped by but we got some terrific help on Saturday. Out of the crowds there started to appear fellows with triangles on their caps. These handsome guys were all excited and they would lean against the Jeep and spin some often told yarns of their fighting experiences. I sat back and watched as passing by young people overheard these true stories. They would stop and then edge closer to this circle and listen. I noticed their mouths would drop a little and the eyes became a little wider and suddenly they were in on the conversations and asking questions.

A little while later Jim Swope stopped by and gave his

83RD INFANTRY DIVISION OF W.W. II EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

9:30 A.M. - THURSDAY - MAY 7, 1998 - RADISSON HOTEL - LEXINGTON, KY.

Board Chairman, Salvatore Scicolone called the meeting to order asking for a Silent Prayer by all, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call:			Board Chairman	Salvatore Scicolone	Present
President	Keith Davidson	Present	Board Member	August Farias	Present
1st Vice President	Floyd Richmond	Present	Board Member	Ralph Gunderson	Present
Secretary/Treasurer	Bob Derickson	Present	Board Member	Louis Sandini	Present
Judge Advocate	John Raikos	Present	Board Member	Wm. Minick	Present

Wm. Minick made a motion that we go with the adjusted agenda as proposed to include the changes. Louis Sandini, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

At 10 A.M. Larry Echard from Locator and Reunion Services Inc. from Hickory, NC came to make his presentation of how they perform their duties of assisting Military Reunions, etc.

Keith Davidson made a motion that the Board Chairman appoint a committee to accomplish Ralph Gunderson's proposal to separate the Sec/Tres position and create an additional position of Treasurer. This committee is to formulate wording to accomplish this. Ralph Gunderson second the motion. The motion did not carry. Three (3) YES votes for it and six (6) NO votes against.

Keith Davidson made a motion that if any Chapter develops their own Letter Head, they must include the Chapters identification along with the 83rd Logo. Bob Derickson second the motion. Motion carried.

John Raikos made a motion to conform the by-laws (The Sec/Tres) for the board to adopt a resolution that all association checks be counter signed by the Sec/Tres., the president, and/or a board member. In the event of a untimely incapacitation of the Sec/Tres. the bank will honor a check, drawn on the account in full, to be transferred to a chosen bank by the Executive Board with 2 co-signers. Wm. Minick second the motion. Motion carried.

The board voted to adjourn for 1 1/2 hours for a lunch break.

At 1:30 P.M. all members reported.

Virginia Fish from Armed Forces Reunion Inc. came to give a presentation of how they perform their duties of assisting Military Reunions.

Keith Davidson moved that the Sec/Tres. obtain estimates for printing the Thunderbolt Magazine and the Active Membership Roster. This quote is to be based on same number of THB magazines and an updated Active Membership Roster. These estimates are to be from present printer and Cliff Wooldrige by July 15, 1998. Louis Sandini second the motion. The motion carried.

Keith Davidson made a motion that the Executive Board get out of salable items business and sell the salable items inventory to Vito Palazzolo at wholesale cost. Motion second by Bob Derickson. Motion carried.

Floyd Richmond made a motion that the Cash Flow Balance Sheet and Reunion Report be accepted. August Farias second the motion. The motion carried.

Ralph Gunderson made a motion that we proceed with changing our fiscal year to a calendar year. This will create a short term beginning August 1, 1998 to December 31, 1998. This will require sending form 1128 to change our accounting fiscal year to a calendar year, January 1, to December 31, 1999. Bob Derickson second the motion. Motion carried.

John Raikos made a motion in view of the adoption of the preceding resolution by the board, it will be necessary to amend Article 4, Section 3, as a code of the by-laws. I propose that the board adopt the following:

By deletion from Section 3, Fiscal Year, By substituting--The calendar year of the association shall begin on the first day of January of each year and end on the thirty-first day of December of each year. Further resolve that Article 7 duties of officers with respect of the Sec/Tres., in the 4th line from the bottom line of section 3, amended by deleting word (Wednesday) be replaced by the words (May meeting) preceding the official opening of the annual reunion of that year, remainder of section be approved as written. Ralph Gunderson second the motion. Motion carried.

Keith Davidson made a motion that the Board Minutes be published in the Thunderbolt Magazine after the May Meeting and from there after. Louis Sandini second the motion. Motion carried.

Ralph Gunderson moved to adjourn. John Raikos second the motion. Chairman declared meeting adjourned.

RESOLUTION AMENDING ARTICLE IV, SECTION 3

Article 4, Section 3 - Fiscal year shall read. The fiscal year of the Association shall begin on the first day of Jan. in each year and end on the thirty-first day of December in each year.

RESOLUTION AMENDING AUDITING OF ASSOCIATION

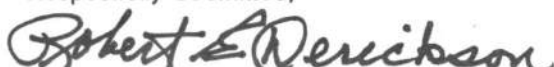
Be it resolved by the board of directors of the 83rd Infantry Division Association that Article VII, Secretary Treasurer be amended to require the auditing of the books of the Association to be audited and presented to the May meeting of the Directors preceding the annual membership meeting, for presentation to the membership at the annual meeting;

Further resolved that so much of the last sentence of Article VII, duties of officers, Reading:

"The accounts shall be audited once a year by the Executive Board on the Wednesday preceding the official opening of the annual reunion." be amended to read:

The accounts of the Association shall be audited once a year by the Executive Board which audit shall be presented to the directors at the May meeting of the Directors in each year preceding the official opening of the annual reunion.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert E. Derickson, Secretary/Treasurer

83RD INFANTRY DIVISION OF W.W. II EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

9:30 A.M. - FRIDAY - MAY 8, 1998 - RADISSON HOTEL - LEXINGTON, KY.

Board Chairman, Salvatore Scicolone called the meeting to order asking for a moment of silent prayer and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call:

President	Keith Davidson	Present
1st Vice President	Floyd Richmond	Present
Secretary/Treasurer	Bob Derickson	Present
Judge Advocate	John Raikos	Present
Board Chairman	Salvatore Scicolone	Present
Board Member	August Farias	Present
Board Member	Ralph Gunderson	Present
Board Member	Louis Sandini	Present
Board Member	Wm. Minick	Absent

At 10 A.M. the hotel representative, Joe Mitchell, came in and reported to the Board what they have offered and we toured the Hotel. Confirmed the rate will be \$75.00 for single, double, triple and quad. Told us they were doing some renovation in the lobby area which will be completed by this fall.

Mitch's Reunion Planner was interviewed to be our planner for 1999. He was excused for awhile for the Board to discuss the presentation he gave. He was asked to come back into the room. After some negotiations he was to write a contract to be ratified by the Board.

1:30 P.M. Friday, May 8, 1998 all members present that was at the A.M. meeting.

I, Bob Derickson, want to make a motion that it be resolved by the Executive Board for the third week of August (21, 22, 23) 1999, Reunion to be held at Lexington, Ky., only. The Executive Board to hire an outside civilian reunion planner to make a presentation to the Executive Board with a fixed cost and rate to be put on by the board. Floyd Richmond second the motion. The motion carried. Ralph Gunderson made a motion for the Executive Board to hire Mitch's Planning Inc. to plan a program for the reunion at Lexington, Ky., only, in August 1999. At his offered rate of \$10.00 per person subject to ratification of the membership at the '98 August meeting in Peoria, IL., at which time the president will be elected to sign the agreement. August Farias second the motion. Motion carried.

Keith Davidson made motion that we adjourn. August Farias second the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,


Robert E. Derickson, Secretary/Treasurer

83RD INFANTRY DIVISION OF W.W. II EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

9:30 A.M. - SATURDAY - MAY 9, 1998 - RADISSON HOTEL - LEXINGTON, KY.

Board Chairman Salvatore Scicolone called the meeting to order asking for a moment of silent prayer and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call:

President	Keith Davidson	Present
1st Vice President	Floyd Richmond	Present
Secretary/Treasurer	Bob Derickson	Present
Judge Advocate	John Raikos	Present
Board Chairman	Salvatore Scicolone	Present
Board Member	August Farias	Present
Board Member	Ralph Gunderson	Present
Board Member	Louis Sandini	Present
Board Member	Wm. Minick	Absent

I, John Raikos, speaking on behalf of John B. Prinzi, he has spent a lot of time negotiating for a monument to be placed at College Park, Maryland. It will be a permanent monument. I recommend that the board adopt the following resolution: The 83rd Division create a Monument Fund for the purpose of financing a monument at College Park, Maryland, in the amount of \$2,000 not to exceed \$2,500 to be financed by the membership, for financial support. The Sec/Treas. to include information in the next issue. Money to be in a separate fund for the 83rd Division Monument. Ralph Gunderson second the motion. Motion carried.

Keith Davidson made a motion the board authorize Lou Gomori and Historian to incorporate 83rd operation at, and across the Elbe River into an appropriate history publication and to publicize to the media these 83rd Division operation. Lou Sandini second the motion. Motion carried.

Keith Davidson made motion the board authorize our Judge Advocate and Historian to authorize an Honorary 83rd Memberships for substantial help in research of documents and publicizing the 83rd Operation across the Elbe River. Lou Sandini second the motion. Motion carried.

I, Bob Derickson, recommend for an option for further reunions, on behalf of the reunion committee, with authorization from Executive Board for a final decision on the following: Boston Chapter or Holiday Inn, Hampton, Virginia and/or Roanoke, Virginia, at the membership meeting in Peoria, IL.

John Raikos moved that we authorize the Sec/Treas. to buy the closed out volumes of 83rd Infantry Division in World War II video program at a price of \$400.00. August Farias second the motion. Motion carried.

Ralph Gunderson made motion to adjourn. John Raikos second the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert E. Derickson
Robert E. Derickson
Secretary/Treasurer

1997 REUNION REPORT INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

REUNION INCOME

Registration fee	\$11,300.00
Camp Atterbury Tour	2,825.00
City Bus Tour	1,700.00
Total Income	\$15,825.00

REUNION EXPENSES

Eric Gnezda Productions	2750.00
Carl E. Hurley - Speaker	3,000.00
Spotlight - Sat. Nite Dis Jockey	325.00
Hospitality Room	2,800.88
Woman A.M. Break	262.50
Southeastern Trailway	2,782.00
Over Time Atterbury Tour	352.00
Meal Ticket Money Sent	704.34
Camp Atterbury Meals	1,210.00
Room rent for Eric Gnezda	77.01
Room rent for Carl Hurley	61.05
Refund - Cancellations	1,149.00
Pro Ad Inc. - Canvas bags	1,828.73
Secretarial work for reunion	1,039.75
Printing - Envelopes, badges, tickets, name tags	689.50
Total Expenses	\$19,031.76
Shortage	(\$3,206.76)

Cash Flow Report

8/1/96 through 7/31/97

Cash Brought Forward (Bank Bal 8/1/96)	\$8,589.09	\$8,589.09
INCOME		
Current Dues	22,337.00	
Prepaid Dues	3,410.00	
Donations	6.00	
Interest Rec. Checking	301.57	
Inventory Sold	1,010.00	
Cleveland Chp. Reunion (repayment)	1,929.29	
Total Income		\$28,993.86
Total Bal. Forward & Income		\$37,582.95
DISBURSEMENTS		
Office Supplies	323.10	
Printing (Thunderbolt)	8,894.00	
Printing (other)		
(Labels & Update 49.00)		
(Letter head & envelopes 466.95)		
(Labels - mailing 10.00)	525.95	
Postage (Thunderbolt)	924.14	
Postage (Other)	912.27	
1 Year Bonding Ins.	335.00	
Telephone	611.48	
Saleable Items	1,052.15	
Equipment Repairs - typewriter	65.00	
Computer Program-mailing	298.00	
Keith Davidson (travel-Peoria)	74.00	
Bank Chg-Return Check	5.00	
Insf Check	95.00	
Nat'l Archives-copies	158.25	
Sec/Treasury Fee	6,000.00	
Exec. Board Travel Exp.	2,700.00	
Total Disbursements		\$22,973.34
Net Cash Balance (7/31/97) Forward		\$14,609.61

83rd Infantry Div. Assoc. Inc.

July 31, 1997

BALANCE SHEET - July 31, 1997**ASSETS**

Cash in Bank		14,609.61
Inventory-Saleable Items	1,175.00	
Office Machines & Equipment	2,590.65	
Total Other Assets		3,765.65
Total Assets		18,375.26

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities		00.00
Equity		18,375.26
Total Liabilities & Equity		\$18,375.26

BANK BAL. INFORMATION - 7/31/97

Bank Bal 7/31/97	\$20,393.13
Less Reunion Deposits	-12,140.00
Plus Reunion Expenses	+6,356.48

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.

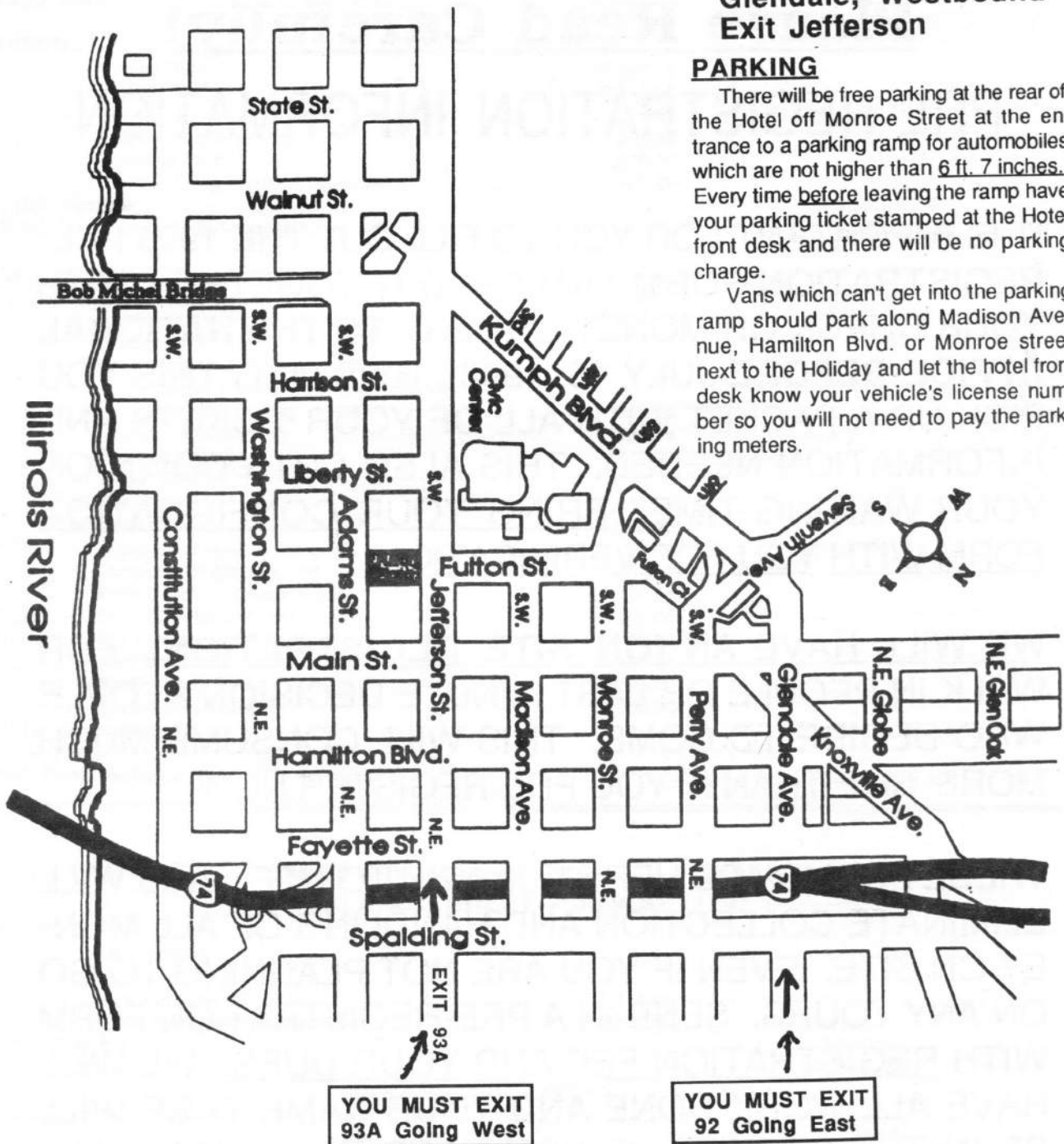
Downtown Peoria

**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.



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

**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. Catapillar Assembly Plant Tour - 1 1/2 hour walk. (Pre-register by June 15)
1 P.M. - 5 P.M. GOLF (Pre-register by June 15) Donovan Golf Course.
Fee under \$15, cart rental available.
1 P.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
1 P.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, restaurant meal 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 home 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 - Animal Humanitarian (Brings Animals and Birds) 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

second order of the day. "Rags, make sure you get every 83rd guy to sign his signature under the cushion on the seat." These guys wrote small and a little shaky but would you believe we had to use both front seats.

These are the fellows who proudly signed for you.

Shorty Schuster	D331st.	Penna.
Bill Way	Rec.	Penna.
Bill Hutton	F 329th	Penna.
Buddy King	Band	Texas
Cliff Snyder	C 331st	N.Y.
George Apsokardu	2nd BN 331st	Penna.
Emmanuel Lima	K 331st	Penna.
Gordon Frank	Band	Penna.
Ray Oswald	Band	Penna.
George Suchomelly	A 329th	Penna.
Wes Sutton	I 330th	MI.
Art Yoy	Band	Penna.
Alan Tatham	HQ. Arty.	Penna.
Lou Volpe	324th F.A.	Penna.
Bud Reeser (Rev.)	Band	Penna.

So here was our 83rd mini reunion reborn in Reading Pa. all sixteen of us and we had a ball. Jim Swope and this whole staff do a tremendous job of remembering the WWII veteran. Of course with two B17's, two B25's, P51, P40, Hellcats etc. plus flyby's of the Stealth and a C141 and the encampment of the U.S., Germans, Irish, British Poland Etc. he didn't need any help in keeping up our interests.

Bud Reeser had an excellent service and sermon at nine on Sunday morning. His altar was the 83rd Jeep and it sure brought back memories to see a hundred men in uniform listening to a Chaplain. Part of Bud's intriguing message was the question, "Why do these young people put so much effort into keeping the history of WWII alive?" The answer is it's history or his-story and Snyder's story. This is what makes history, and while we are all going to pass on, all the artifacts should be continually displayed so that our grandchildren will learn and remember.

So, Jim Swope we give you a well deserved salute for all the time and effort you have put into putting the 83rd Division out front. Merci Boo Cool

My last thought as we were driving back to Philly was: Because of our age it's apparent that our reunions times are winding down. Can you just imagine the impact we could have if we brought the 83rd Division Reunion to Reading on June 6th. We would not only be telling his story but we would be telling our story and that's what makes history. Let's give it some thought.

Rags Rangnow, 783rd Ord.



Rev. Hap Reeser conducting the church service. F.D.R. is sitting next to Eleanor.



She's dressed like 44 but she's not 44.



Salute before entering. Note the cook's at work.



Gordon Frank, Rag's Rangnow, Hap Reeser, Jim Swope, Buddy King, Cliff Snyder. Gathering in front of the 83rd tent and jeep.



This was a very active German tent.



Which way is the 83rd going?



"G" CO. 331st Inf.

Another three months have gone by since the last article, and believe it or not the reunion is only two months away. Time does pass by when you get up in age.

Since the last article G Company has lost two more men: Casel Bush informed me that Harold Ladley had passed away. Ladley was in charge of the jeeps in G Company and had taken over when Widner was killed in Brittany Joe Holden who was a member of the 1st Platoon also passed away. His son had called me. Joe had remained in service and had retired as a Master Sergeant. You see we did have some hidden talent in G Company. I believe Joe was a squad leader under Frank Bunk.

I have been in touch with some of the members of the Executive Board. They inform me that some changes are in the making. And since they now have taken on the responsibility of running the reunion, they will have to make some changes. My interest was the financial status of the Organization. We were due to get a Treasurer's report in the Thunderbolt, and after two issues were published we had no report, I am hoping that we get one in this issue.

Had a call from Mrs. Hornack, she is the wife of the Association Chaplain. With all of his trouble, he fell and broke his hip and is at present in the hospital. He still says that he will be in Peoria.

That reminds me, any of you who are planning to attend the reunion should put in their reservations, because we only two months away. August 19-22. I know that we are getting older and it is much harder for us to travel. A few weeks ago it did not look good for me to attend. I was having more aches and pains. I have been seeing a number of doctors and running many test; Two months ago my blood count was very good, only recently I have come up with a low blood count. Get very

tired and have to rest quite a bit. The wife had a pacemaker inserted in her body, and is on oxygen twenty-four hours a day. But, we are still hoping to find some way to attend the reunion.

The people in Brittany still remember the 83rd Division. I received a letter thru the French Embassy in Washington from a Irene Martin of St. Lunaire. She wants to have a plaque made honoring the men that were killed in the battle for St. Lunaire. St. Lunaire is the town next to St. Braic. I wrote to her and informed her that a monument was already in place on the road between the two towns. Another friend that I had met from Brittany sent a box of Belgium Chocolate. We were always given a good reception when we visited the town in Brittany.

Had a call from Harold Higgins in New Hampshire, he was planning a trip to France and wanted some information. Singleton still takes time to drop me a line.

By the time you receive your Thunderbolt, you should have received a letter to all men of G Company. I was late this year, but managed to get off letters to 50 men still on my mailing list. The list gets smaller each year. The youngest man in the Company is now between 71 and 72 years old.

Looking forward to seeing you in Peoria in August.

Capt. Mac

329 "B" Bag

This will be a short report as I don't have any information to write about. "Red" Geyer called that Arlie Cullars passed away in May. Arlie was a B.A.R. man in his squad.

They kept in contact with each other. Our deepest sympathy to his family, he was a good soldier.

"Red" also told me Bill Coombs is alive and living in Florida. I thought he passed away. My letter was returned to me, no forwarding address, so naturally I thought the worse of it. "Yo" Trofmuk called that he still goes to the V.A. Hospital periodically for tests. He and his wife are planning to attend the reunion. He and his group have given up the fight to have Fort Sheridan made into a National Cemetery. Too much politics and money. Haven't heard the Florida group: Stek, Taylors, Kane, Ballard, Melton's. They must be living the good life. I still haven't found out how Lt. Phelps was killed. If you have any knowledge, please let me know. I have a party who knew him and wants any details of what happened on his demise. We hope everybody has a great time at the reunion, as we won't be there sorry. I hope somebody let's me know who was there, and has the Company Banner.

A Short "B" Co. Story

We had a fellow by the name of General Lee in the Company. Guess where he was from? We were told not to call him by his first. Name, just call him G. Lee. He signed the Pay Book as G.E. Lee. The Army didn't want a rank of Private General. I'm sorry to say that I don't know what happened to the General.

Bob Uher
12700 Lake Ave #1602
Lakewood, Ohio 4407
Know God - Know Peace
No Good - No Peace

329 "F" Company

Over But Not Forgotten: South '98 - February 26 - 28, 1998 As late as January 22, '98 our hosts the Nickells had received only 7 reply forms with no indications of anybody planning to attend and enjoy the efforts being made by them on your behalf for South '98 Now!, you all can do better than that! To end this on a happier note the final report is much, much better. Sixteen (16) were in attendance and all had a great time!. The faithful as written on a card I received and appreciated were Margaret & Bill Ferguson, George & Elva Fuller, Eddie & Margaret Hammond, Doc & DeLoris Keith, Bill & Lois Meyerhoeffer, Bill & Arline Nickell, Fred Senatori & Betty, and Russ & Marguerite Whitehead (First Timers at a Co "F" Min) Terrific! more First Timers are needed.

HERE & THERE: Generally speaking my contacts from issue to issue are with the same faithful Buddys, consequently they are the folks you hear about the most. This is just fine however there are others of you out there that all of us are interested in. Please get in touch and we'll pass it on. Pops Fishman was hospitalized a couple weeks in March due to breathing problems. He is back at the retirement home in room 27A where he can receive additional help if needed. Pops will be 91 November 4, 1998. "F" Company's oldest that I know of. Remember he kept up with you young bucks just fine. Jane Newell in February was having physical therapy on her back and hip area due to a fall at Christmas time, trust things went well. Hal's allergies were kicking up due to Mountain Feeder which can cause much discomfort to say the least. I had to ask also? (a plant like weed I guess). Lucille Colter says she is doing fine after her scrap with that 4 x 4, also that Wright J. doing pretty good still working too hard. Ferguson recently heard from Major Franklin Howard last with us in Pittsburgh in '90 Our BN. CO. for a short time before being severely wounded. Many of us never knew him as our C.O. at the time, but then that was War! Nice to hear from you Frank, keep in touch. Doc Keith reports he has retired again. He and DeLoris plan a little traveling. They may drop in on you! Ed Hammond continues to do well with his new knees, now bothered with a gastrointestinal problem. Margaret still attending church regularly, on Tuesdays I guess Ha! (an inside joke.) Andersons in checking in seem to all be about the same.

Could be better could be worse but then after all Chuck just turned 77 May 1st. Ferguson had cataract surgery recently. The numbers indicate a tremendous improvement even though he would

have liked better. The Doc reminded him he wasn't 21 anymore. Margaret doing fine, working now and then. The Lutkemeiers doing OK. They were at a friend or relatives 50th and gave Verleens' new knees a workout on the dance floor. All went great! Huttons indicate Dotties real problem is Mocular Degeneration as the reason for not as favorable cataract surgery as hoped for. Dottie says what can she do and likewise what can we do but keep her in our prayers and expect the best for her.

Dale & Marge Lewis and Lowell Fickle are those known to have made plans to be in Peoria.

Hellecksons are fine Katie just had a birthday May 23rd I'll let her tell you which one.

CONDOLENCES: To Marge & Dale Lewis on the death of Marges' brother of Evansville, Ind. Full military rights were conducted. To Jane & Harold Newell on the death of Janes' sister who passed away February 14th.

THANKS: The following was intended for the 1997 Fall Issue which I missed. Then my copy for the 1998 Winter Issue grew to the point I felt it might be more than the Editor would be able to allocate space for. Finally, to Robert L. Parsons Jr. Co. "F" 331st Thanks for the autographed copy of your book titled "REMEMBRANCES" My Journey through a War. Upon receiving it I sat down and read it cover to cover, thoroughly enjoying every remembrance. Bob brings events alive as only one who was there could do. For what it's worth Buddys I highly recommend it. "Remembrances" will bring back those of your own perhaps long since forgotten. If interested contact Bob at 2401 McIntyre Ct. Franklin, TN. 37069-6953.

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

North '98 Ashland, Ohio October 11-14, 1998 at Amerihost Inn 741 U.S. 250 East - Intersection of 71 & U.S. 250 Reservations must be in by September 25, 1998. Be sure to mention Co. "F" 329th Phone 419-281-8090 Reasonable cost transportation available from Cleveland and Columbus airports and return. Call Larry "Brewer JAC 419-289-1484.

C.R. Bob Whitcomb





May 6, 1998
 Pat D. DiGiammerino
 83rd Infantry Association
 36 East Border Road
 Malden, MA 02148

I am trying to find information on the 329th Inf., 83rd ID. My grandfather, PVT Thruman G. Hill, was buried in Brittany American Cemetery in St. James, France on 6 Aug. 1944. This is the only information that I have. I received your name from Robert & Linda Shumate via an internet search. I would appreciate any information you can provide. I can be reached at the above address or e-mail at scott.neff@smtp.cnet.navy.mil. Thanks in advance.

Sincerely,
 Scott Neff



March, 1945 - Eastern bank of Elbe River:
 Fire Direction Center Crew: Standing L - R Capt Maul, Maj. Kirkland, T/4 Ziegler, T/4 Sudano, PFC Ubiak, Sgt. Voracek. Seated: T/5 Digani, Pvt. Bielski, Pfc Borchert, T/4 McNulty, (? Diagani)
 This Btn. 324th F.A. Btn. 83rd Inf. Div. (Hqtrd Btry.)
 Shot 155 MM Howitzers

Thought this would be of interest for one of the news letters you send out.

Cordially
 Hans Bielski
 7302 Bryrwood
 Aberdeen, WA 98520 (360) 532-4211

51 Reunions held by the 83rd Infantry Division showing City and Hotel.

1 - 1947	Cleveland, OH.	Statler
2 - 1948	Indianapolis, IN.	Claypool
3 - 1949	Pittsburgh, PA.	William Penn
4 - 1950	Boston, MA.	Statler
5 - 1951	Columbus, OH.	Deshler-Wallick
6 - 1952	Columbus, OH.	Deshler-Wallick
7 - 1953	Cleveland, OH.	Hollenden
8 - 1954	Pittsburgh, PA.	William Penn
9 - 1955	Philadelphia, PA.	Benjamin Franklin
10 - 1956	Washington, D.C.	The Willard
11 - 1957	New York, N.Y.	Roosevelt
12 - 1958	Dayton, OH.	Biltmore-Dayton
13 - 1959	Detroit, MI.	Statler Hilton
14 - 1960	Boston, MA.	Statler Hilton
15 - 1961	Cleveland, OH.	Manger
16 - 1962	Atlantic, N.J.	Ambassador
17 - 1963	Indianapolis, IN.	Claypool
18 - 1964	Providence, R.I.	Sheraton Biltmore
19 - 1965	Myrtle Beach, S.C.	Ocean Forest
20 - 1966	Pittsburgh, PA.	Hilton
21 - 1967	Chicago, IL.	LaSalle
22 - 1968	Philadelphia, PA.	Benjamin Franklin
23 - 1969	Detroit, MI.	Statler Hilton
24 - 1970	Boston, MA.	Sheraton
25 - 1971	Cleveland, OH.	Pick-Carter
26 - 1972	Pittsburgh, PA.	Hilton
27 - 1973	Chicago	LaSalle
28 - 1974	Philadelphia PA.	Sheraton
29 - 1975	Myrtle Beach, S.C.	Landmark Inn
30 - 1976	Orlando, FL.	Sheraton Towers
31 - 1977	Warren, OH.	Holidan Inn
32 - 1978	Cincinnati, OH.	Stouffers
33 - 1979	New Orleans, LA.	Grand
34 - 1980	Philadelphia, PA.	Marriott
35 - 1981	Pittsburgh, PA.	Monroeville Marriott
36 - 1982	S.Fallsburgh, N.Y.	The Pines
37 - 1983	W. Palm Beach, FL.	Hyatt
38 - 1984	Owensboro, KY.	Executive Inn
39 - 1985	S. Fallsburg, N.Y.	The Pines
40 - 1986	Knoxville, TN.	Hyatt Regency
41 - 1987	Charlestown, WV.	Marriott Town Ctr.
42 - 1988	Hershey, PA.	Hershey
43 - 1989	Cincinnati, OH.	Clarion
44 - 1990	Pittsburgh, PA.	Vista Interl.
45 - 1991	S. Fallsburgh, N.Y.	The Pines
46 - 1992	Omaha, Ne.	Holiday Inn Central
47 - 1993	Daytona Beach, FL.	Howard Johnson
48 - 1994	S. Fallsburgh, N.Y.	The Pines
49 - 1995	Myrtle Beach, S.C.	Landmark Inn
50 - 1996	Cleveland, OH.	Holiday Inn Indep.
51 - 1997	Indianapolis, IN.	Adams Mark

James R. Prentice
 Past Board Chairman

I suppose that you have already received a correction of the misinformation published in the winter addition of "THE THUNDERBOLT PUBLICATION" about the "ORIGIN OF TAPS". However I am sending you this correction that was published in "DEAR ABBY'S" column on Feb. 4, 1998, I have included this article's version of the "ORIGIN OF TAPS". Some believe other versions are true.

I was involved with the planning of the 1997 Veterans Day Prayer Service in one of our churches in Sheboygan that welcomed Veterans regardless of their denomination, and we read to those in attendance "THE ORIGIN OF TAPS", that our "Bugler", was going to play for us at the end of our program. It was the same article that was published in "THE THUNDERBOLT PUBLICATION"

Since then I have sent out to the teachers that were involved with the Veteran's program another version of "THE ORIGIN OF TAPS" published in the DEAR ABBY column. I hope that this will clear up the misinformation about "THE ORIGIN OF TAPS". But I suppose some of our readers will disagree with me but that is why history is so interesting.

The correction was sent in by Alfred E. Beinemann, 3rd BN Hqs. Co. 331 Inf. who writes articles for the "DEPOT DISPATCH" a monthly newspaper under the by-line "FOOTPRINTS OF THE PAST" Most articles are about historical events. He lectures about the American Civil War, American Plains Indians, The Oregon Trail and period from 1800-1860 in American history that includes Mountain Men, Fur Traders and Trappers and the American Revolutionary War. His favorite topic in American History is The Battle Of The Bulge, fought in Europe during WWII.

He doesn't charge for his lectures and is available for lectures to all students and other groups. He doesn't want the WWII Veterans or their stories to be forgotten and changed around by all the revisionist that want our children to believe history that isn't true about what happened in WWII.

Note, I am still waiting for some 83rd men to form a chapter in Wisconsin, any interest please write or call, Al Beinemann, 2405 N. 25th St. Sheboygan WI. 53083-4432, (920) 452-9330.

I hope that you will find space to publish this information in the next THUNDERBOLT.

THANK YOU,
AL BEINEMANN
3RD BN HQS. CO. 331ST INF.
WIRE SECTION

TRUE STORY OF 'TAPS' BLOWS AWAY EARLIER MISINFORMATION

DEAR ABBY: Last Veterans Day, you printed a story that someone sent you about why "Taps" is played at military funerals.

Since I spent 22 years in the Army and studied military traditions, I knew it was not a true story - nice and sentimental, but untrue.

I have enclosed the true story of "Taps". Please share it with your readers.

DEAR JIM: Hundreds of veterans and students of history wrote to correct the misinformation.

The following is a condensed version of the origin of "Taps" taken from many published accounts, including a U.S. Army Military District of Washington Fact sheet:

The 24-note melancholy bugle call known as "Taps" is thought to be a revision of a French bugle signal, called "tatoo," that notified soldiers to cease an evening's drinking and return to their garrisons.

It was sounded an hour before the final bugle call to end the day by extinguishing fires and lights. The last five measures of the "tatoo" resemble "Taps."

The revision that gave us the present-day "Taps" was made during America's Civil War by Union Gen. Daniel Adams Butterfield, heading a brigade camped at Harrison Landing, Va., near Richmond.

Up to that time, the U.S. Army's infantry call to end the day was the French final call, "L'Extinction des feux." Gen. Butterfield decided the lights out" music was too formal to signal the day's end.

One day in July 1862, he recalled the "tatoo" music and hummed a version of it to an aide who wrote it down in music. Butterfield then asked the brigade bugler, Oliver W. Norton, to play the notes and, after listening, lengthened and shortened them while keeping his original melody.

He ordered Norton to play this new call at the end of each day thereafter, instead of the regulation call.

The music was heard and appreciated by other brigades, who asked for copies and adopted this bugle call. It was even adopted by Confederates buglers.

This music was made the official Army bugler call after the war, but was not given the name "Taps" until 1874.

The first time "Taps" was played at a military funeral may also have been in Virginia soon after Butterfield composed it.

Union Capt. John Tidball, head of an artillery battery, ordered it played for the burial of a cannoner killed in action. Not wanting to reveal the battery's position in the woods to the enemy nearby, Tidball substituted "Taps" for the traditional three rifle volleys fired over the grave.

"Taps" was also played at the funeral of Confederate Gen. Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson 10 months after it was composed.

"Taps" now is played by the military at burial and memorial services, to accompany the lowering of the flag, and to signal the "lights out" command at day's end.

Now, dear readers, I believe I am on target about the origin of "Taps" - although a few details differ from other version.

Dear Sir,

In the fall 1997 issue of Thunderbolt there was an article written by staff writer Kevin O'Neal called "Vets make friends of WW II foe."

In the story he states "The veterans recalled how they wanted to cross the Elbe River at Barby, Germany and beat the soldiers from the Soviet Union to the German Capital. But the allies agreed the Soviets would be allowed the honor."

I was in Co. I, 329th, 3rd battalion and on April 13th, 1945 the 1st battalion crossed the Elbe in assault boats followed by the 2nd and 3rd battalions. A bridgehead was set up protecting the building of a pontoon bridge by engineers and the pontoon bridge was completed the morning of the 14th of April.

The bridgehead was attacked several times but Germans were held back. On the 15 the 1st and 3rd battalions attacked and under stiff resistance managed to gain 5 kilometers to Nutha and Gutergluck. We were in Gutergluck when on the 16th at dawn the Germans counter attacked with tanks and assault guns and gained part of the town with the help of T.D's and P47 fighters the Germans were driven out of town. On the 28th of April we went into Zerbst and we took it without firing a shot and took 900 prisoners. This was the last action of the 329th. Some more information can be found in the 329th Buckshot History on pages 103 and 112.

Regards,
Robert D. Wolfe
Co. I, 329th Infantry.

J.D. Hanft
906 Weatherstone Dr.
Paoli, PA 19301

Dear Col. Hanft:

Yours is the 3rd response from the TROA magazine Oct. 1990 insert, and I'd like to thank you for taking the time to write.

I plan to write a short story yet this year re: the surrender of the 20,000 Germans. Mine is an unusual anecdote immediately prededing the formal surrender, and I want to tell the story before all four of us P-51 Tac Recon pilots are encased in wood. Two are already gone

and I've been unable to locate the other.

There's the twist to that surrender.

We were flying cover, keeping an eye on the 20,000 on the other side of the river" and were briefed daily by our G-2. On the day of the scheduled noon surrender, four of us "hot pilots" received HQ approval to drive the 20 or 30 miles to Beaugency to see if we could pick up some "souvenirs". On the way, we spotted a barge on the river, hailed the Frenchman and in my "pigeon" French convinced him to haul our jeep, trailer and the four of us across the river (the German side). We drove north parallel to the river and reached a road, coming from the east, just as the Germans, led by what-turned-out-to-be Gen. Elster, approached the river and bridge where the surrender was to take place.

We were around a curve in the road, and Gen. Simpson and his aides were unable to view us.

Upon seeing us, the German column stopped, Gen. Elster stepped from his Mercedes-Benz 4-door sedan, and one of his subordinates jumped from his motorcycle. We didn't know what was to happen, but one of our foursome hopped into the Mercedes, another onto the bike and headed down the intersecting road back about 4 miles to the barge, while the other two of us motioned for the troops to toss their guns, daggers, cameras, etc, into the jeep trailer. This all happened in just a few minutes, and we took off after the car and bike, drove onto the barge and back to our base.

We passed out the contraband to the men back at the base, kept the Mercedes throught the war, but scrapped the motorcycle when a couple of the fellas rolled it over.

That's the true story which I'll thell with details.

Best regards,
Francis O. "Bud" "Retired
101 Cedar Ridge Dr. N346
West Bend, WI 53095



Gerald A. Willey
10201/2 North Street
Caldwell, OH 43724-1048

William S. Cohen, Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense, The Pentagon
Washington, D. C. 20301

Dear Secretary of Defense Cohen,

These two policies greatly contributed to causing poor morale in the Korean War: 1. Rotation of experienced soldiers and officers. 2. Lack of promotion of enlisted men so that PFC's were often leading squads and even platoons, and as chiefs of sections.

I recommend you place all military personnel on three shifts, including basic training. Basic training should be expanded to 24 weeks for all infantry troops and combat troops.

Russia and Red China want to get control of oil in the Middle East and the strategic minerals in Africa.

Book to read: "Korean War Heroes" by Edward F. Murphy (Medal of Honor).

The meningial worm can attack the backs and brains of llamas and kill them. Llamas have to be treated to prevent infestation with meningial worms.

White tailed deer are causing many diseases and parasites among humans and animals and among them are: head lice; tuberculosis; Lyme disease from the deer tick.

Our Army reserves and modern combat soldiers do not know about the weapons called "Punji sticks" which can be made from plastic or metal and either spring loaded or explosives loaded to penetrate the combat boots of frontline soldiers from beneath ground level. Train all military personnel about Punji sticks.

Red China may have large quantities of the Bouncing Betty land mine which Germany used during World War II: Iran and Libya may have them, too.

I recommend our Army and Navy and Air Force base personnel be stocked with 6-gauge shotguns and trained to use them in the event Cuba and Red China drops paratroopers on our military camps and bases.

Populations of white-tailed deer in Ohio, West Virginia and other states should be 95 percent eliminated and the meat given to poor people because of all of the diseases that are transmitted to humans and animals. Deer can transmit the black leg disease to cattle, unless the cattle have been vaccinated.

I recommend titanium composite boot soles for combat boots to protect our soldiers against Punji sticks.

There was such a lack of maps in the Korean War that most soldiers, including myself, often did not know where we were located.

Soldiers should know the basic language terms that are spoken in the countries in which they may be fighting.

Norway plans to use a body fastened computer chip to let some prisoners to serve their time outside prison. Can our military use this method for non-violent prisoners to alleviate prison over-crowding?

Germany's investors are buying historic buildings in Poland. Can Germany be planning an invasion of Poland and other Slavic countries?

U.S. Army needs a light machine gun that can be fired on the run and which has a shorter barrel.

Red Chinese Ambassador Li Zhaxoxing appears to be using a secret sign language in the two pictures on the front page of the "Marietta Times," Marietta, Ohio 45750 for May 11, 1998

U.S. Army and Marines must invade and Capture Yemen and Somalia or else our positions in the Middle East will become untenable.

Why doesn't the U.S. Army have an 88 MM cannon like the Germans had in World War II? An 88 MM cannon can be used against tanks, and also as artillery, and as an anti-aircraft weapon.

Very truly Yours,

Gerald A. Willey

Eugene Marcel
78 Rue des Peupliers
F 35400 Saint-Malo
France

Dear Sir,

On the 6th August 1944 the American Soldier Leo J. Brady was killed in action during the battle for the liberation of city Saint-Malo France (precisely: La Cour Galant - Parame' Area), at the beginning of the battle.

Information known of me:

Army Serial Number 36 648 819

Rank: Private First Class

Entry on Active Service 9th March, 1943

Unit: 83rd U.S. Inf. Division, 330th Inf. Reg.

Date of birth: 8th April 1924

Address: Chicago Ill. 2138 West Cortez St.

Burial Place U.S. Military Cemetery - St. James France.

I am a citizen of Saint-Malo, old French soldier, 72 years old, having had the honour of fighting along side of 83rd U.S. Division and 330th U.S. Infantry Regiment precisely.

I was enlisted, on 1944 in the Forces Francaises de l'Interieur (F.F.I.), as volunteer.

On the 6th Aug. 1944 I saw the lifeless body of Leo J. Brady who had just been killed on the front-line in Parame' Area.

I only discovered 44 years later (June 1989) the Brady's grave thanks to information from American Battle Monuments Commission and (October 1993) from U.S. Total Army Personnel Command (Mortuary Affairs and Casualty Support Division) at Alexandria Virginia.



Vincent Muro
Company C, 330th Inf.

Dear Bob:

I don't know if you remember me. I belong to the association. In 1996, I had a stroke and kidney failure. I am unable to attend the reunions but your all in my heart. I am very proud to be a member. If you could please print something in the magazine about my well-being, to inform my friends.

Respectfully Yours
Vincent Muro
139 Wolverine St.
Staten Island, NY 10306
Telephone 718-351-6310

The Women in Military Service for America Memorial was dedicated on 18 October in a ceremony attended by 30,000. It rained heavily the night before the ceremonies, but Saturday morning was partly sunny and pleasant. The Memorial is located at the ceremonial entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, and the Greco-Roman facade was originally built in the 1930's. A reflecting pool has been added and the Memorial includes a computerized registry of women veterans (about 150,000 of the estimated 1.8 million who have served or are now serving have signed up), a theater and exhibit halls.

The ceremonies started with the unveiling of a new stamp honoring women in the five services - the Coast Guard women are now represented. A group of local inductees was sworn in. Female cadets from West Point and from the University of Maryland ROTC marched in through the center of the audience. Then came an honor guard representing the five services, followed by an honor guard carrying the flags of the 50 states. Music was provided by an Army band. Kenny Rogers and Patty Austin dedicated a song, "I'll always remember you" to the women veterans. A flyover of jet airplanes was cancelled because of increasing cloudiness, but there was a flyover of helicopters piloted by women.

Vice President Al Gore and other speakers highlighted the important role of women in the armed services, from piloting the space shuttle to standing guard at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Women disguised as men fought in the Civil War and nurses risked their lives to care for soldiers in every U.S. war. The oldest speaker, at 101 served in a Navy Unit in World War I, and gave the crowd her best wishes because she didn't expect to attend the next ceremony.

The legislation to establish the memorial was introduced by former U.S. representative Mary Rose Oakar of Ohio in 1985. It took 13 years to complete the memorial at a cost of 21.5 million dollars. Parking is available at the Visitor's Center of Arlington National Cemetery, which can also be reached by subway on the Metro Blue and Yellow Lines, and by Tourmobile.

Sincerely,
Rudy Zamula
83rd Signal Co.

Harry Haines
206 Big Hollow Lane
Houston, TX 77042

As promised, I am sending you photographs taken two years ago in Regensburg (Oskar Schindler's home and the Roman Bridge across the Danube).

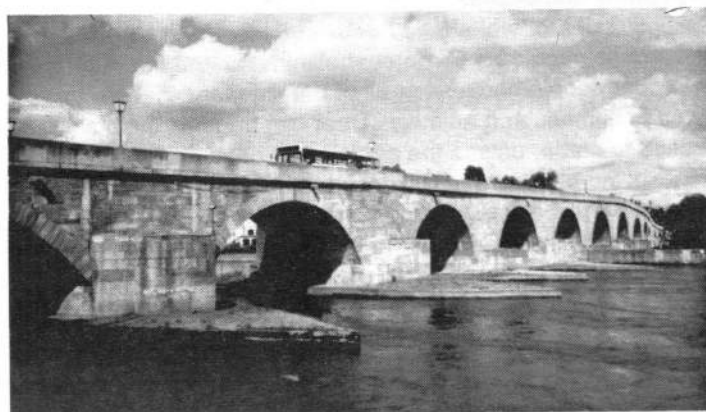
Are the following Soldiers members of your association?

Captain George von Hahn
Corporal Thomas Seal
Ralph W. Madden
John E. Anderson

Frau Gertrude Huber of Soldenau has their signatures in her memory book. I can send them a Xerox Copy of her memory book and her picture.

With kindest regards and best wishes,
Harry

"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 713-706-3272 (e-mail address: harry_h@swbell.net)."



I am writing regarding the letter from William F. Dyer concerning the book "Citizen Soldier by Stephen E. Ambrose.

I read this book and was very upset with his description of U.S. soldiers from the 83rd Div. dressed in German uniforms. I was in "L" Co. a part of that task force which we called "Task Force Schuster" named after our 3rd Bn. 330th Inf. Bn. Cmdr. I know of no one dressed in German uniforms. We had new tanks with the flash hider that looked like the German tanks, especially in the dark. our mission was to proceed during the night to the Rhine river and capture the bridge across the Rhine to Dusseldorf.

The only enemy action I saw was when a platoon sized unit of Germans came out from a side street behind my platoon and marched down the middle of the street we were on. We had been stopped for a short period of time and the men were on the sidewalks on the side of the street. We had tanks in the middle of the street and as the Germans went by them some patted the sides of the tanks and said "das is good", thinking it was a German tank. Our company executive officer Lt. Carl Dillenback, grabbed the leading German by the neck and told him in German to halt and surrender. Then one of my BAR men fired a burst over their heads and the Germans all hit the ground. We disarmed them and sent them to the rear. They told us that they were going over the bridge to Dusseldorf as it was scheduled to be blown at 5:30 A.M. We reached the bridge shortly after 5 A.M. and discovered it was mined and we were instructed to wait for engineers to come up and remove the explosives. It was blown about 5:30 A.M.

I saw no Americans dressed in German uniforms and the tanks had U.S. markings and it is possible that some markings were covered up with 10-1 rations and other items of equipment.

I had planned to write Ambrose about how wrong he was but due to the fact that I received word from a 4 Div. veteran, who had written Ambrose concerning incidents written about his Div. that he didn't agree with and had received no response, I decided not to write him.

Sincerely,
John J. Houston
P.O. Box 112
No. Vassalboro, Maine 04962

*Change my heart O God
Make it ever true
Change my heart O God
May I be like you
You are the Potter, I am the Clay
Mold me and make me
this is what I Pray
Change my heart O God Make it ever true
Change my heart O God May I be like you*

*MY FACE IN THE
MIRROR ISN'T RINKLED
AND DRAWED
MY HOUSE ISN'T DIRTY
THE COBWEBS ARE GONE.
MY GARDEN LOOKS LIVELY
AND SO DOES MY LAWN
I THINK I MIGHT NEVER PUT GLASSES
BACK ON,*

ARE ALL THE CHILDREN IN?

I think ofttimes as the night draws nigh
Of an old house on the hill,
Of a yard all wide and blossom-starred
Where the children played at will.
And when the night at last came down,
Hushing the merry din,
Mother would look around and ask,
"Are all the children in?"

Tis many and many a year since then,
And the old house on the hill
No longer echoes to childish feet,
And the yard is still, so still.
But I see it all, as the shadows creep,
And though many the years have been
Since then, I can hear Mother ask,
"Are all the children in?"

I wonder if when the shadows fall
On the last short, earthly day,
When we say goodbye to the world outside
All tired with our childish play,
When we step out into that Other Land
Where Mother so long has been,
Will we hear her ask, just as of old,
"Are all the children in?"

SENT IN BY
FRANK W. MORRIS
4275 LAKE LAUREL DR.
SMYRNA, GA. 300-82-4310

THE PERILS OF AIR TRAVEL

Beware of Air travel and inconvenience at the hands of your friendly Airlines.

The following happened to my wife and I on our recent trip to attend the 453rd AAA (AW) BN. West Coast Reunion.

If we had not planned an extra couple of days for sight seeing, we would have missed part of the reunion.

We flew with Northwest Airline on a flight from Cleveland to Portland Oregon, with a scheduled change of planes at Minneapolis. A scheduled one hour stop over for the connecting flight was expected.

The plane was at the concourse but was not ready to fly. After our one hour stop over stretched to two hours, we were told that they were trying to fix the hydraulic system and it should be ready in about forty five minutes. Our flight was supposed to leave Minneapolis at 12:00 Noon. Each half hour we were stalled until finally at 4:45 P.M. We were notified that the flight was canceled.

At this time, Northwest started to reassign passengers to another flight, but not enough seats were available. Then several more seats became available on another Airline, that would take you back to Chicago, and then change planes again for a flight to Portland. This tactic only took care of 38 persons. The balance of the passengers, including us, had to wait for another flight that would leave much later, and get us into Portland at 10:30 PM. Instead of 1:20 P.M. Nine hours and twenty minutes late.

The Northwest Ticket Agent at Minneapolis assured me that a Message paging our friends who were waiting for us in Portland would be notified of the situation. This they did not do! Our friends had driven 200 miles to meet us, and sat cooling their heels in the Portland Airport for ten hours.

Needless to say when we did arrive in Portland, our schedule was surely disrupted, and we had to stay at the Shilo Inn that night.

Northwest did give us each a Voucher for Seventy five dollars that could be used on a future flight within a year. This of course is unsatisfactory to us, as we have no idea when we may fly again.

I am trying to get Northwest to make a more equitable settlement with us, and will advise all about what transpires in the next issue of the THUNDERBOLT.

It's no wonder that on the West Coast they are known as Northwest Airline.

Fred C. Pearson 453rd AAA. (AW) BN.

I read with interest the piece in the Winter 1998 issue of "Thunderbolt" about Louis Gomoris campaign to give the 83rd the credit it is due for its lead in crossing the Elbe River.

I know we were in lead because I was there as a rifleman in "C" Co. 329th. We were in the first wave to cross the river. While waiting for the Engineers to put the assault boats in position I took the enclosed photos with my small liberated camera. I was going to take more shots as we crossed but every other man had to row and I ended

up as a rower.

The guns were laying down protective coverage. They also layed down a smoke screen. Actually the crossing, in our area, was unopposed.

I know of two books that do give the 83rd the credit it earned. The Office of the Chief of Military History, United States Army issued a series of books titled "U.S. Army in World War II" In the volume titled "The Last Offensive" it is made quite clear that the 83rd made the first successful crossing of the Elbe. It was the 329th that did it. Colonel Crebill is quoted shouting at us as we got into the boats "Don't waste the opportunity of a lifetime, you are on your way to Berlin." General Maren is also mentioned.

There is another book that gives the 83rd full credit for the crossing. It also discusses its competition with the 2nd Armored Division which crossed the river but was driven back. That book is "The Last Battle" by Ernelius Ryan

The 83rd did a great job and we should get credit for it.

Sincerely
Harold Freeman
4824 Glenwood St.
Flushing, NY 11362

83rd Divison at the Elbe - 4/15/45



Disabled veteran recalls those who didn't return

BY Michelle Cope
for the Times Recorder



JEFF COPE/Times Recorder

Disabled veteran LeRoy Swank displays some of the medals and ribbons he was awarded for his service in France during World War II.

ZANESVILLE -- LeRoy Swank had been in combat for one month and seven days when he was hit by a German 88 shell in France during World War II.

Today, sitting with his wife, Betty, his thoughts are centered not on his disability, but rather on the young men who were killed.

"I don't think a lot of people think about what Memorial

Day means anymore," he said. "It's not just a day off work, it's the day we honor the men who died for this country."

Swank is a disabled and decorated veteran. His motorized easy chair in the family room helps him rise to a standing position. The chair sits across from the wall, where his war medals and honorary plaques hang.

The wounds that kept him in a military hospital for over two years left him with pieces of shrapnel throughout his body, two iron artificial hip sockets and a Purple Heart.

He's a war survivor, but he's had plenty of experience with the death and dying that goes with war.

On July 15, 1944, the war would end for Swank, but it would be a long time before he went home.

"I'd told my mom and dad the last time I was home on leave, that I wouldn't see them for a long time," he said. "I just had a feeling."

Swank had just finished guard duty and climbed into a foxhole with his buddy, Walt. They could hear German rifles firing and German 88 shells whizzing overhead.

"As long as you could hear them, you knew it was OK. If it was quiet, you were in trouble," he said.

From the foxhole Swank could see others from his outfit hit and killed.

"There was this young boy who was just a few feet away from me and a German machine gun hit him. He started screaming 'Oh mama, oh mama.' I'll never forget watching him die and how they just drilled him."

But then it got quiet, very quiet.

A shell dropped into the foxhole. Shrapnel hit Swank from the waist down and another piece went inside his helmet and back out. Walt was killed instantly.

"It blew him to bits," Swank started to explain. He paused for a moment before continuing. "I had his arms, legs, everything on top of me."

Swank was hit in 15 places and doesn't know how long he lay motionless and bleeding. When medics did arrive, they tried to stop his bleeding with tourniquets before moving him by Jeep.

"We had to move real fast because they were still shooting and dropping bombs. We went over a hedgerow and I passed out. When I woke up I was in the hospital with a cast from my waist clear down to my toes."

Swank had 15 operations and didn't walk again until 1946. He still uses a cane and can only stand for a short period of time.

"I thought I was going to die. But I held onto what my mother told me. 'If the good Lord wants you to come back, you'll come back.' And that's the way I believed. It kept me going."

The 76-year-old Swank said he is proud of his Purple Heart and the men he served with who are now gone. It makes him sad when he meets young people who don't know what a Purple Heart is, or what those men were fighting for.

He's sad that they don't know the meaning of this day.

For Swank, the answer is from the heart and his experiences. Memorial Day is a day for the war dead. The men who died fighting for our country.

"I was fighting for my country and I wanted to live, but I will always remember and be grateful to those who died," he said.



John Camp in Helmet and George Suchomely holding carbine.

Hey Fellas, give ole John "Doc" (Medic) Camp a "Ya Ha," it will go a long way in lifting his spirits. He's in a wheelchair most of the time now days.

John H. Camp
Box 106 RR 1
Armstrong, IL. 61812
Birthday 8/4/98

On July 27th, 1944 we received the sad news of my brother, Michael Fuscus death. 42101606 Cos Infantry APO 15331. For the first weeks we received letters he was hospitalized then later received word of his death. All these years we never received any other news of him only that the government said he died from heavy artillery.

I thought if I could find someone or other information about him I will be deeply consoled. Someone gave me your name and said that you might be able to help me. If you could put an article about my brother in your paper or magazine. If you can I will appreciate it very much.

Thank You,
Salvatore Fusco
3156 Beachview Dr.
Toms River, N.J. 08753

Please contact me if you can.
Thanks

American Battle Monuments Commission
Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 501
2300 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201
703-696-6650/5127, Fax 703-696-6667

Dear Veterans.

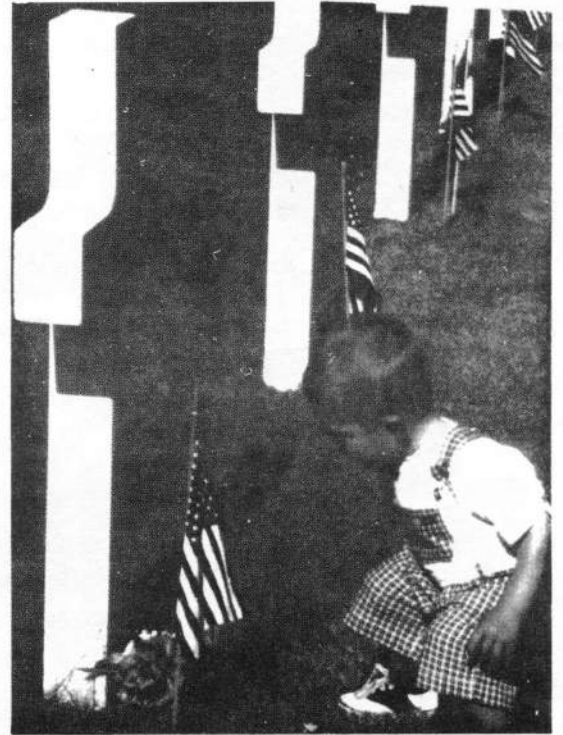
As a combat veteran and as a member of my own reunion group, I believe that every veterans organization should consider supporting the World War II Memorial Campaign. Our National Chairman, Senator Bob Dole, has asked that we contact as many organizations as we can in order to make this memorial a reality as soon as possible. By law, we cannot break ground until all funds required to complete the memorial are on hand.

The letter which Senator Dole has enclosed is from the heart and expresses his deep conviction that the heroic deeds of the World War II generation, both on the battlefields and the home front, must be preserved forever against the tide of time. Our World War II veterans and their families deserve to gather on the National Mall in Washington, DC, and hear their nation's

collective praise and tribute through the dedication of a memorial that will stand forever in remembrance of an entire generation of Americans who saved the world.

I want to make certain that all contributions are appropriately recognized and that all organizations who participate are entered into the Donor Book of Remembrances. This registry will be published and widely circulated following the dedication of the memorial. Once your organization makes contact with us we will ensure that this is accomplished. Begin your participation in history by simply filling out the enclosed postcard and return it to us. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,
John C. Shannon
Director of Veterans Affairs.



Will They Remember?

Frederick W. Smith
National Co-Chairman
Chairman, President, CEO
FDX Corporation

My Fellow Veterans:

Last year I took on the responsibilities as volunteer national chairman for the World War II Memorial Campaign and the challenge of raising \$100 million to build a tribute to an extraordinary generation of Americans. This memorial will be constructed on the National Mall, between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument, on the site of the Rainbow Pool. No site is more appropriate for the commemoration of the defining event of the 20th Century.

Although contributions to construct this memorial are being received from a broad spectrum of American society, including major corporations and foundations, I feel strongly that all veterans of World War II should have the

opportunity to contribute. For that reason we are attempting to communicate with as many veterans groups as possible. We have been very successful reaching the major veterans organizations and, to their great credit, their support has been superb. However, as a member of a reunion group for my old World War II unit, the Tenth Mountain Division Association, I know that the spirit and patriotism of the units that won the war still reside with reunion groups, large and small, that gather occasionally to reminisce and honor the memories of their fallen comrades.

When the war was over we came home, put the uniforms in the attic, placed the wartime pictures of proud men and women on the piano or mantel, and returned to the business of rebuilding our lives and our country. We asked no tribute or glory other than the simple right to begin to enjoy the freedoms we won for our nation and for the world. And every day, we see the fruits of our efforts both during and after the war -- liberty and freedom. We earned them for ourselves and guaranteed them for future generations.

Sadly, each year we are losing more World War II veterans than were killed in action during the entire four years of the war. In the midst of all the abundance and blessings that we enjoy today in this great country of ours, it is easy to forget that there was a price to pay for these things. We as a nation owe a debt to these heroes that can never be adequately repaid. All we can do is commemorate these events that hope that those who come after can somehow learn to appreciate and admire what brave men and women sacrificed on their behalf.

At the same time, we fervently hope that our children and our children's children will never have to choose between life and death for their country.

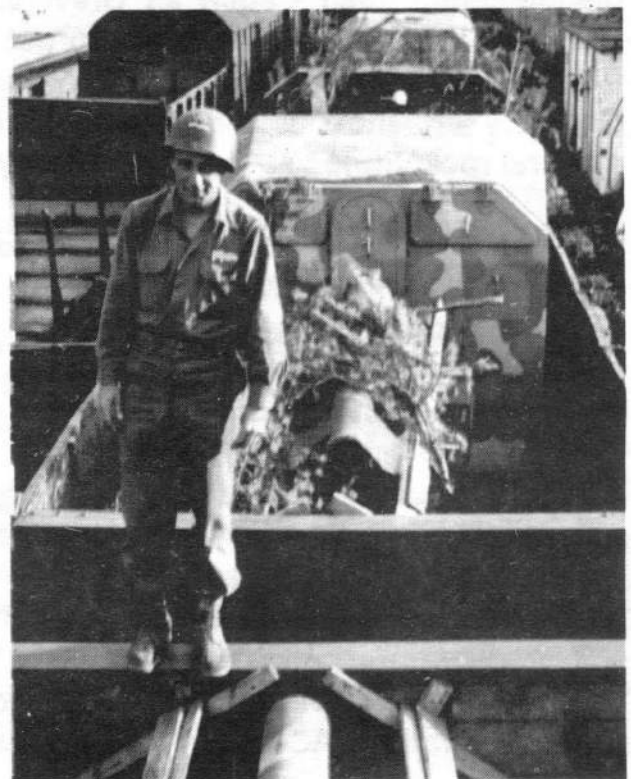
Enclosed is a postcard that describes how you can assist the World War II Memorial Campaign. Please take the time to read it and pledge whatever support you can to help make this memorial a reality.

Thank you in advance. God bless you all and God Bless America.

Sincerely, Bob Dole



Milton & Margie Lovejoy
38 Green St.
Zanesville, OH 43701
3rd Bn. Hq 329th



WHO IS THIS?
S-2 SECTION
3RD BN. 329TH HQ. CO.
83RD DIVISION



"A NOSTALGIC JOURNEY"
Retracing "The Thunderbolt's" Epic Routes of WWII
June 16 - 28, 1999

REMEMBERING THE 55TH!!!!

The "Last Hurrah"? Perhaps - but nothing creates nostalgia in the minds of a WWII GI as much as reflection on the excitement of the time. Those who have gone back know - and it has established a renewed "esprit de corps" with our association.

The remarkable part of this "return trip" is that it will honor the 55th anniversary of our wartime service. Who could ever have imagined it - an incredible 55 years since we landed in Normandy and began our epic journey in the liberation of occupied Europe.

We plan to follow the precise routes of our wartime action (and visit "your" special places from Normandy to Germany. Names familiar to every Thunderbolt will be on our routes - Sainteny (where an 83rd memorial pays tribute to our service there) Coutances, Avranches, St. Malo, St. Brieuc, Dinard, St. Nazaire, and, of course, the "chateau country" (Angers, Tours, Blois, Orleans and more).

It reads like a "who's who" of the 83rd - Reims, France (to see the Surrender Room where the war ended); Luxembourg and its myriad locations where our division distinguished itself - such as Grevenmacher where an 83rd memorial stands - and "the Huertgen Forest" (who can ever forget it) with its now most popular honeymoon center in Germany - the quaint medieval town of Monschau - and naturally the Ruhr District of Germany - in the Dusseldorf area. It is a tour full of nostalgia and special events from mayoral receptions to tributes in the key centers where our fallen 83rd comrades rest.

We begin in Paris, then travel to Normandy on the "actual" 55th anniversary of the divisions landing - an historic occasion and we will pause to remember. We end the tour in a similarly intriguing manner - a Rhine River cruise from Boppard enroute to Frankfurt. What a marvelous way for a climax - a journey full of nostalgia - exciting scenery and events - and fun-time experiences, too.

For a detailed brochure, call Galaxy Tours - toll-free - 1-800-523-7287. Sign up early and receive - FREE - a travel insurance policy that provides for full refunds if you must cancel, medical care overseas, \$1,000 baggage insurance and many more benefits. Don't delay! Bring your children and grandchildren with you (Spend a little of their inheritance). It will preserve our personal history and become an important part of their own heritage to assure that our WWII service will be properly perpetuated. Only 15 couples are needed to assure operation. ACT TODAY! Ask for the brochure now.

A 'NOSTALGIC JOURNEY'
Retracing "The Thunderbolt's" Epic Routes of WWII
June 16 - 28, 1999

Nothing creates the "nostalgic" spirit as much as reflection on the excitement of bygone eras by a WWII GI. This is proven each time we arrange a special "Return Tour to Europe". And it will happen again for our 1999 tour planned to commemorate (incredibly) the 55th anniversary of our wartime service.

This will undoubtedly be "the last hurrah" for many, but the fun and excitement of retracing our routes together where we served is a rare opportunity. Our itinerary is customized to include many of the most important sites.

Our tour will thus be authentic and coincides with our actual dates of arrival in Normandy. It offers a relaxed schedule and our routes from Normandy, Brittany and Luxembourg into the Huertgen Forest, the "Bulge" and the German Ruhr.

JOIN US and share in the fun as we visit "our special places", too, "personalized" to include individual requests. Receptions and commemorative events are planned.

RESERVE NOW to enjoy this last great escapade into the marvelous world which created the camaraderie which forms the foundation of our association. Bring your children and grandchildren. It will preserve history and become an important part of their heritage, assuring that your WWII involvement will be properly perpetuated.

REGISTER with your deposits by September 1st and you will receive a FREE travel insurance policy that provides for full refunds if you must cancel; medical care overseas, \$1,000 baggage insurance and a host of other benefits. DO IT TODAY!

1999

ITINERARY

Wednesday, June 16 - USA/ALOFT. Leave via trans-Atlantic jetliner. Meals served aloft

Thursday, June 17 - PARIS. Arrive Paris this morning. Transfer to hotel. Balance of day free to rest and adjust to time change. Tonight - a welcome dinner and orientation by the Tour Manager is scheduled. (D)

Friday, June 18 - PARIS/BAYEUX. Morning orientation tour of the highlights of Paris. In the afternoon, motor to Normandy, an historic date, coinciding with the arrival of the 83rd troops 55 years earlier - an event we will toast at dinner this evening. (BB, D)

Saturday, June 19 - BAYEUX. This will be an exciting day as we tour the Normandy invasion beaches featuring the original D-Day Museum at Arromanches on Gold Beach in the British sector where remnants of the famous Mulberry (floating) Harbor are still evident. Continue to Omaha Beach with a wreath ceremony in the American Military Cemetery - then to Sainteny where we will place a wreath at our 83rd Monument and the French War Memorial before. We will then be guests at a "vin d'honneur" with local officials. A special luncheon is planned. We will visit St. Mere Eglise and Utah Beach before returning to our hotel. (BB, L)

Sunday, June 20 - BAYEUX/ST. MALO. We motor to St. Lo this morning, site of the greatest aerial bombardment of combat troops in history and gateway to the spectacular breakout of Normandy. We will tour 83rd areas - Coutances, Avranches and other points of interest, arriving in St. Malo

where we will be received in an Official Reception and visit inside the old walls of St. Malo. We will overnight in the area. (BB,D)

Monday, June 21 - DINARD/ST. NAZAIRE/NANTES. A day full of memories - as we visit Dinard, St. Brieuc, St. Lunaire, St. Nazaire and other points of interest to the division, arriving in Nantes for overnight. (CB, D)

Tuesday, June 22 - NANTES/LOIRE VALLEY/ORLEANS. Angers, Chateaubriant, Tours, Blois and Orleans are some of the familiar places to the 83rd on today's route - each charming, beautiful and peaceful. But the highlight will be for family members to see some of the fabulous chateaux of the Loire River Valley where we were stationed - especially the royal chateau of Chenonceaux which was an American Military Hospital in WWI. We'll overnight in Orleans and visit its famous Royal Cathedral. (BB, D)

Wednesday, June 23 - ORLEANS/REIMS/LUXEMBOURG. Motor this morning to Reims where the Germans capitulated on May 7, 1945. We will stop for lunch and see the Surrender Room (still intact), visit the Royal Cathedral, and if possible, tour a champagne cellar. Continue to Luxembourg for overnight. (CB, L)

Thursday, June 24 - LUXEMBOURG. Today, we will visit the American Military Cemetery here to pay homage to 83rd Division men and to see General Patton's grave, then tour the combat areas of the Thunderbolt - Dalheim, Remich, Besch, Mondorff, Osweiler, Remerschen, and the Moselle area.; perhaps "your special place" as time allows. We will stop also in Grevenmacher for a wreath ceremony at our 83rd Division Monument and a Mayoral Reception. (CB, D)

Friday, June 25 - LUXEMBOURG/HUERTGEN FOREST/HEERLEN. We enter areas of some of our fiercest battles today, stopping first in Bastogne where General McAuliffe replied "NUTS" to a surrender demand in the Battle of the Bulge. Continue via Houffalize and "Bulge" sites of 83rd Division action: Rochefort, Melines, Soy and other selected points.. We will return to the infamous Huertgen Forest, also and Division battle areas: Grosshau, Birgel, Bergheim and others, the charming village of Monschau, now Germany's most popular honeymoon resort. We will continue to Heerlen, Holland, for overnight, motoring through Eupen, Duren and Aachen. (CB, D)

Saturday, June 26 - HEERLEN/DUSSELDORF. This morning we will motor to the U.S. Military Cemetery in Margraten, Holland, for a commemorative wreath ceremony honoring our fallen comrades. Continue through other Division's combat areas in the Ruhr enroute to Dusseldorf: Hasselsweiler (Assembly Area), Grevenbroich, Kapellen, Hemmerden, Luttenlehn, Buttgen, Neuss and others. (BB,D)

Sunday, June 27 - DUSSELDORF/RHINE CRUISE/FRANKFURT. Motor to Cologne this morning. Visit the famous Cathedral, then continue to Boppard, quaint, medieval wine center on the Rhine where we will board the popular Rhine steamer for a delightful cruise up the Rhine, passing mountains of vineyards topped by medieval castles and picturesque villages. Disembark, continue to Frankfurt for our Farewell Dinner and lodging. (BB, D)

Monday, June 28 - FRANKFURT/U.S.A. Transfer to the Frankfurt International Airport for homeward flights to the U.S., arriving in the afternoon....or extend your stay in Europe under your own arrangements. (BB)

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

Anyone wishing to purchase coats and caps may write to:
Vito C. Palazzolo, 20000 Lancaster, Harper Woods, Michigan 48225
for information. He will send you an application form.

**83rd Reunion Will be held at
Peoria, Illinois
Holiday Inn City Centre
Dates are
August 19, 20, 21, 22, 1998**

**DUES ARE DUE NOW
FOR 1999 (\$15.00)**

THUNDERBOLT DEADLINES

**Deadline for ALL articles to be published in
Thunderbolt must be at this office by
Oct. 10, Feb. 10 and June 10.**

**Robert Derickson,
3749 Stahlheber Road,
Hamilton, OH 45013 - 8907**

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3749 Stahlheber Road
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BULLETIN

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