



THUNDERBOLT

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WORLD WAR II

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Triple Crown Panoramic

53rd Annual Reunion

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THE THUNDERBOLT

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A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

*James C. Hanrahan..... 1947
Jack M. Straus..... 1948
*Shelly Hughes..... 1949
*Julius Ansel..... 1950
*Walter H. Edwards Jr..... 1951
Leo Schneider..... 1952
Finley Heyl..... 1953
*Lawrence J. Redmond..... 1954-55
*Lt. Gen. Robert H. York..... 1956
*Harry W. Lockwood..... 1957
*Raymond J. Voracek..... 1958
Charles Abdinoor..... 1959
*Joseph F. Minotti..... 1960
*Frank J. McGrogan..... 1961
John W. Robinette..... 1962
*Manuel C. Martin..... 1963
*Julius Boyles..... 1964

*Samuel Klippa..... 1965
*William M. Doty..... 1966
Albert A. Belvedere..... 1967
Vito C. Palazzolo..... 1968
Pat DiGiammerino..... 1969
Casey Szubski..... 1970
*Charles Altomari..... 1971
*Harold H. Dopp..... 1972
Louis J. Volpi..... 1973
Bernard O. Riddle..... 1974
Robert G. Taylor..... 1975
Mike Skovran..... 1976
Manlius Goodridge..... 1977
Joseph A. Macaluso..... 1978
*William J. Chavanne..... 1979
*Samuel Klippa..... 1980
Michael Caprio..... 1981

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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. Lussler..... 1990
Edgar H. Haynes..... 1991
Ned Smith..... 1992
Louis Sandini..... 1993
William A. Minick..... 1994
Casey Szubski..... 1995
Floyd Richmond..... 1996
Keith Davidson..... 1997
R.C. Hamilton..... 1998
* Denotes Deceased



Comrades:

Once again thanks to all involved for a great reunion in Peoria.

Since I was only in the Division for about three months in early 1945, it is gratifying to know you have so much confidence in me by electing me president for 1998-99. I hope I will be able to serve you in such a way that all will be pleased.

The committee met in Lexington, Ky. with Mitch Kirchner of Mitch's Meetings Management, Inc. Some tentative plans were made which we believe will be satisfactory with all. Program and other information is elsewhere in the Thunderbolt.

I would like to urge your support for the Ad Book this year. It is extremely important to the reunion's success. Please be generous and get your ads in as early as possible. The ad application is in the Thunderbolt.

I think everyone will be pleased with Lexington and the Radisson Hotel. There is a free parking garage at the hotel. Across the street from the hotel is the Civic Center which has numerous shops and fast food restaurants and other restaurants are nearby.

The airport is served by all major airlines with free transportation by the hotel.

Lexington is served by major Interstates I-75 North and South and I-64 East and West. Additional information and a map of the city is included elsewhere in the Thunderbolt.

Let's make it a GREAT REUNION in 1999.

Your president,
R.C. Hamilton



The reunion in Peoria, Ill. is now history. It was another great reunion and was enjoyed by all who attended. Keith Davidson, Bob Derickson and Floyd Richmond are to be commended for all the work in planning almost everything for this reunion which was backed up by the executive board. The Par-A-Dice gambling ship trip was a big success. Most all the tours were very interesting especially the walking tour of Abraham Lincoln's Log Cabin home, his home in Springfield and the Lincoln Tomb and Monument. Joe Macaluso and family were unable to attend because of his wife's illness and they were missed at the memorial service. The memorial service went very well due to Joe Macaluso sending the memorial tapes to us by overnight mail. Ninety Seven of our buddies passed away since our last reunion.

The reunion at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Lexington, KY. should be another great reunion. Let us start now planning to attend this reunion and pre-register early. Since no chapter is hosting this reunion we will have a professional reunion planner who will work with the executive board and the officers in planning this reunion.

The Ad Book was a great help at our Peoria reunion. We are looking forward for more support for the Ad Book at the Lexington, KY. reunion. It was great to see Pearl attend the Peoria reunion since her long hospital stay. Everyone was happy to see her.

In the last issue of the Thunderbolt in the Executive Board minutes it was approved to have a Monument Fund for the 83rd Inf. Div. to be placed in Arlington National Cemetery and for it to be financed with donations by the membership. Donations should be sent to the Secretary/Treasurer Bob Derickson and the money will be in a separate fund for the 83rd Div. Monument. This will be a permanent memorial for all who have served in the 83rd Inf. Div. An application form will be in this issue. Let us all get together and support this important project.

Sal Scicolone
Executive Board Chairman

PAST PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Thanks to those who attended our 52nd Reunion in Peoria. I hope you all enjoyed it.

The attendance, about 275, was lower than the 300 we had conservatively based our cost estimates on. Even so, with the Ad Book and the 50/50 lottery, we did not lose money. A reunion financial report will be in the next Thunderbolt.

Earl Hover and Manny Goodridge again did an excellent job handling the banquet seating and deserve all our thanks. And again the pre-registration reduced time and lines.

We did have a pre-registration problem which caused excessive wait time for transportation, particularly to the Par-A-Dice Riverboat Casino. Almost 100 people, who had not pre-registered for the event, showed up to go to the Friday lunch and Par-A-Dice Riverboat Casino trip. As a result not enough initial transportation had been arranged and about 50 people waited almost one hour for a bus. Even though an event is free or not charged for separately, it is important for planning purposes to know how many will participate so adequate arrangements can be made.

I hope to see more old friends next year in Lexington Ky.

Keith Davidson

President 1997/98

Deceased List



Taps



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

NAME	UNIT	REPORTED BY			
Amicone, Mike	CN. Co. - 331st	Mike Caprio	Crampton, Roger W.	"B" 330th	Wife, Barbara
Barbaire, Nicholas	"A" 323rd F.A.	Ray Orsene	Deck, Robert L.	"D" 331st Reg.	Al Shrawder
Barnes, Fred	HQ CO 331st	George H. Waple	Johnson, Rolan S.	"I" 331st	Mail Ret. -Deceased
Baucom, Beecher Wilson	83rd Inf. Div.	George S. Baker	Kittle, Paul R.	2nd BN HQ 331st	Wife, Rita
Boggs, John W.	"F" 331st	Richard Ryan	Klenger, Paul	"H" 331st	Vitie A. Kocius
Broadfoot, Thomas H.	"F" Co - 330th	Mike Caprio	Korn, Donald	HQ Btry.	Dick Alexander
Carlbom, Howard	Unknown	Wife, Clarice	Propst, Martin P.	330th Cannon Co.	Leslie T. Johnson
Carpenter, Claude V.	908th FA Btry "B"	Wife, Betty	Rummel, Stanley A.	"D" 331st	Al Shrawder
Caruso, John S.	HQ 330th	Irene Zober, Exec.	Kadylak, Michael	3rd BN HQ 329th	Mail Ret-Deceased
Chicos, Steve	83rd Signal	Wife, Elia	Sharpe COL.		
			Grandville A.	2nd BN. 329th	Bob Whitcom





Greetings from the Secretary-Treasurer's Office

I want to thank all those who supported the 52nd Reunion at Peoria, IL. It was well planned and everybody certainly did enjoy themselves. Pearl enjoyed herself but do to her handicap condition she was limited.

Sal Salvatore sent a letter stating that (Danny Klippa) our passed Sec-Tres., Sam Klippa had passed away Sept. 28, 1998. May God let him rest in peace.

Lou Sandini called and remind me that a lot of area codes have been changed since our last Roster. This I have been aware of. I have some to call and notify me and at that time we up grade our files. I'm asking when any member has a change of telephone number or address please send me a post card stating old and new. Until we get a new Roster give me a call and I will be happy to assist you if we have it.

In the centerfold of this magazine we'll give the changes of procedure for this 1998-99. You will not be sending your pre-registration to the national office this year - but you are to send dues to national office only and you will receive your membership card. This will be your ID for the reunion.

Update on our History Book. At this time I was notified that it looks like it will be ready to mail sometime between now and spring. In the rear of the magazine you will find application blanks for those who have not done so.

We will have an Ad Book again this year. The application is in this magazine. Even though you are not attending the reunion you can place a \$5.00 Booster Ad. Your name will be placed in that area.

Dead line for information to be edited for the summer issue of Thunderbolt magazine is being changed to May 10. This will allow me to make last minute changes if necessary before the reunion.

Remember you have two slip-in applications. One for the hotel and one for your pre-registration. These will be only a one shot deal. If for any reason you need another one you should write or call the office for a replacement. I will have some extra on hand.

Check the centerfold area for information about the 1999 Reunion Program in Lexington. Will be looking forward to seeing you all. Come and join us - you won't be disappointed. Lexington has a lot to enjoy.

Bob Derickson
National Secretary



Historian's Corner

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

In the last issue (Summer '98), I wrote that I had not as yet been notified of the board's decision concerning the erection of a monument at Arlington National Cemetery.

Now, I am happy to report to those who may not have yet heard, that the executive board is indeed in favor of the idea. That is GREAT NEWS---BUT--(and it is a very BIG "but"), the project will have to be funded separately and quite apart from our existing treasury.

Therefore, I have been asked to solicit our MEMBERS and/or our various CHARTERS for donations - whatever each can afford or is willing to contribute. I estimate that we will need approximately \$2,000 - perhaps a bit more - to make this permanent memorial a reality. That's really not a lot of money in exchange for what we will receive.

Just consider that generation after future generation, as they visit the all-hallowed grounds that honor America's heroes of past wars, will pause and observe a beautifully etched granite stone which honors every man who ever wore the "Ohio" black and gold triangular 83rd Infantry Division shoulder patch in World War II.

Please therefore, don't delay - get out the check-books and make your donation today. Checks should be made out to the 83rd Div. Assoc. - Memorial Fund and mailed to Bob Derickson, our Secretary/Treasurer at 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013.

Remember, while I will go forward preliminarily to start the ball rolling, I cannot make a financial commitment to Arlington, or the stone manufacturer or anyone else, for that matter, until the project is funded - if not totally, surely substantially funded.

Be sure to include your name, current address, phone number, and the amount of your donation.

THIS INFORMATION
WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL

Surely there is no better worth-while cause. I therefore extend my heartfelt thanks, in advance, and promise to keep you informed of our progress.

After all, you will also have to agree that

We were INDEED the very best.

B. John Prinzi
Historian



**53rd ANNUAL REUNION
OF 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION
AUGUST 18 - 21, 1999
SEND ADS IN EARLY!**

PLEASE Select size of Ad

FULL PAGE @	HALF PAGE @	THIRD PAGE @	QUARTER PAGE @
\$60.00	\$35.00	\$24.00	\$18.00

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

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

URGENT - ACT NOW

**Please mail your checks for the Ad Book as soon as possible. As you know,
this money is needed to help pay for some expenses for our 53rd reunion.**

DEADLINE - JUNE 22, 1999

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

Chapters

Dixie Chapter News

Dixie turned out in a way to make me proud to be the chapter reporter. The count of 32 present from 12 states speaks for itself. This included married couples, widows, bachelors, widowers and courting couples. All were gathered with our comrades of the national to remember and honor those who have gone from us in the past year and those who gave their all in combat and all those in between that we miss so much. Many were sick and could not be present to take part in the celebration and memorial services.

New faces were evident filling in the gaps. Tw'as so good to meet at least five new members there for the very first time. Be sure to come again next year to Lexington, Ky. A great meeting is shaping up already. I wouldn't miss it for anything. Try it you'll like it!

We noticed some chapters were not represented and send our very best wishes to each hoping that we'll see you next year.

This was a 2000 mile trip for me lasting more than two weeks. Of course I visited two army friends, two cousins and two personal friends in Ill. and Ky. Now that I'm home I can't find any of my notes! Maybe it's my age.

There were so many human interest happenings taking place. Relatives searching for some of us who knew their kinfolks who are buried in our cemeteries in Europe. Some were successful but many were disappointed. Fortunately I was able to help out in a couple cases.

Finally after 53 years I got to meet my old (84 years) executive officer and promptly signed him up! It took some doing by some other buddies - Congratulations!! to Bob Long and Curtis Heinmiller for getting Joe Stanaszek to Peoria. You made a great event take place for Joe Sechrest and E. Massie. We hope other "A 322" men can join us next year. Next time Bob make sure Joe brings his medicine with him!

Tw'as good to meet Pittmans family from Spokane, Wash. and Charlie Kerr from CA. All the others from Maine to Texas and Florida just made my day being there with you.

I had lots of names written down to mention but I can't locate them and the deadline is drawing near so I must move on.

Lets remember those 98 names of the deceased mentioned in the Memorial Service and keep their loved ones in our thoughts for one day our names will be on that list! This is reality. That's where we find ourselves in

our journey thru life.

Let me say how proud I am of our widows present. Keep up the good work.

Cleveland Chapter, you guys adopted me 40 years ago! I've appreciated and enjoyed our relationship for many years. This year I really missed you!!

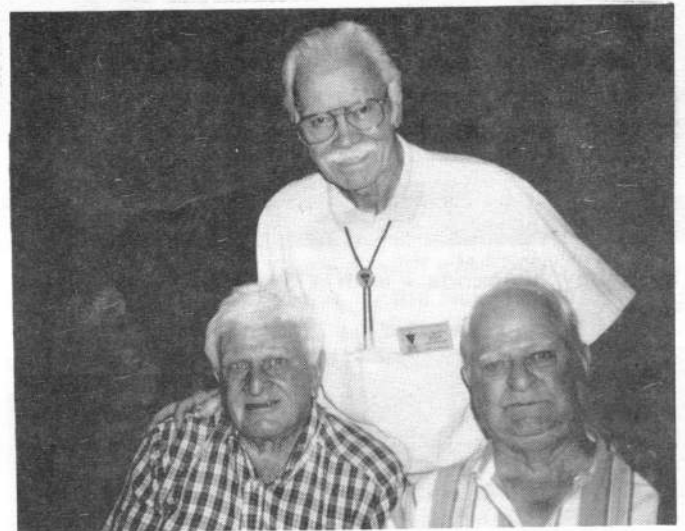
Warren Chapter, where were you? I'm hoping for next year to be better.

Kirby of the Engineers and Phila., you had a heavy responsibility and carried it off well.

I'm so proud of each one. Those present and those wanting to be there. Zingg, Anderson, Benbow. I really needed you -- We made it though with a little help from the old and the new!!

Plan to be in Dixie for our 25th anniversary at Riverside in Gatlinburg 1st weekend in Dec. 98. We promise you'll be back again next year.

Yours,
E. Massie



3 Artillery men, 322 FA together after 53 years. Then Lt. Lowe, Lt. Stanszek seated Forward Observer Btry. Exec. Cannoneer E. Massie Standing



O.L. Cook "F" 330 Co. Clerk. Elaine Watkins "L" 330 Widow of Olin Watkins. Always present and ready to help out!



K. Massie, Elvera Fink, Norma Sechrest patiently waiting for their gabby husbands.



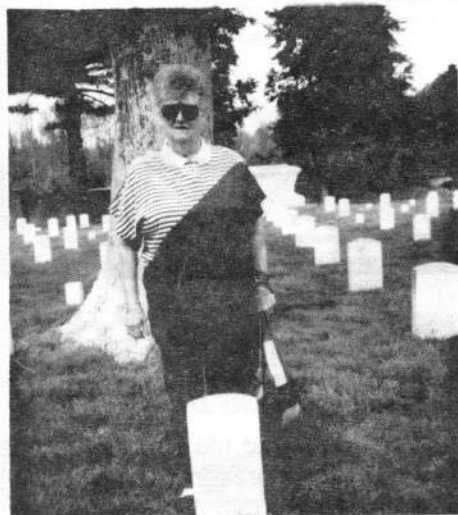
The gabby husbands - with a few more tales to tell.



Grace Brick, widow of Mike Brick "A" 908 planning on next years meeting with fellow cannoneers.



Hostess Elaine Watkins, one of our widow ladies who we couldn't do without, sits with others at Banquet table.



Kathryn Massie stands beside the grave of her ancestor, Abraham Hackman of Pennsylvania buried at Cold Harbor, Richmond Va. Civil War battle.

Summer Meet of Dixie Chapter

Winston Salem N.C. Days Inn was the location. Elaine Watkins, Host. Dot and Haran Martin, Alta and Ray Wilson Co-hosts were there to greet the 30 some hearty souls that were able to attend. A great time was had by all. Business was attended to - banquet went off in fine fashion. President Roy Whitaker presided keeping things straight and moving along.

Sad to report that our sick list was long. We counted our known sick. They were located in 12 states and wanted very much to be present. They appreciate your prayers and best wishes for better times.

The Maryland delegation was completely missing. Happy to find Virginia and John Cox could make the meet. We've really missed them for a couple of years.

Haran Martin stepped in and did a fine job of acting Chaplin, with prayers, Pledge of Allegiance and several of his poems. If you don't have his book of poems see him and get one.

Plans are moving for our 25th anniversary meet in Gatlinburg, Dec. 3, 4, 5, 1998. Make your plans now. Call in your reservation to Riverside Hotel. Plan to be there. It will be a gala affair. That's the word from the committee chairman and hostess "Flo Jackson".

So happy that Tom Thompson finally got a chance to tell it like it is - you know he and his wife Betty have been members (honorary) for 23 years and have meant much to us over the years.

We can't thank our hostess and host enough for their hospitality, banquet, and refreshments from our ladies deserve special notice of appreciation.

Thanks again to Ray and June Whitaker for the pizza treat.

Your reporter thanks Jeanette McCray for these notes since he lost the month of May and most of June due to sickness. Right now the future seems much brighter. Hopefully all our sick will be with us in December and many of our members will be in Peoria, Ill. in August for the national. I have plans to be at both places

See you there!!

Your reporter
E. S. Massie

New England Chapter News

First of all we of the New England Chapter would like to thank John and Ester Ferriera for our July 19th cook-out at their home in Chelmsford, Ma. and thanks to the great barbecue cooks Johns and Esters sons John Larry son-in-law Ray and daughter Jacklin and friend Don and Gang. Thanks you all did a great job and we love you for that.

We had Chuck & Bernice Abdinoor, of Draut, Ma., Francis & Pat Hovey of Lowell Ma., Bill & Betty Davis of Newburyport, Ma., John & Ester Ferriera of Chelmsford, Ma., Dutchy & Helen Smith of Lynn Ma., Nick & Mary Francullo of Lynn Ma., Bill & Jeanette McKee of Three Rivers, Ma., Jim & Dot Brennan of Warwick, R.I., Jo & Helen Petrucci of No. Prov. R.I., Al & Ann Tartaglia of Johnston, R.I., Americo & Marie George of Warwick, R.I., Mike & Marie Champey of Middletown Ct., John & Priscilla Walsh of Portland Maine & Karl & Ingrid Burkhard of Carmel, N.Y.

We missed the Burgess, Simons, Etzels, Sullivens, Orsine's and all our New England Chapter gang and hope you are all O.K.

The Reunion in Peoria, Illinois was a good time and we enjoyed seeing all our buddies. Boy are we getting old Ha! Ha!. We enjoyed the Riverboat Casino, but Mary & I paid for the fuel for the boat ha, ha and Mike Pettitti came home happy.

The Hospitality Room was a full house and we met Al and Elaine Beinemann of Sheboygan, Wisconsin who sat at our table with the Ferriera's & Pettittis. It was nice meeting you Al & Elaine and hope to see you next year.

My greatest joy of this reunion was meeting Oscar Lee Harrington and his son Scott from Louisville, Ky.

Son Scott saw in the Inter Net that the 83rd Div. was having a reunion in Peoria Ill. and Oscar's father was in the 83rd and was killed in action in Barby, Germany. He was in F Co 329th and they wanted to meet anyone who remembered him.

So we talked about the 83rd and Oscar was only 2 yr. old when his dad was killed and at the registration we were looking at the F Co. 329th book when this fellow came in looking for the 329th book and Oscar asked if he knew his dad Oscar Henry Harrington and he said yes I was with him when he got killed, this fellows name is Lowell Fickle of Tuskin County and I left them to talk about their dad and grandfather.

I will always remember the look on their faces forever.

Talked to the Brennans and they are doing O.K. and also Dutchy & Helen Smith. Also heard from Bill & Betty Davis that Bill was operated on Sept. 14th for a removal of a malignant area on his right leg and will be home the next day.

We hope that will be it for a long time as Bill has had his problems.

Several of Bills buddies from Co. B 308th Eng. have been quite sick and they called Bill & Betty that they would not make the reunion. O.W. "Bill" Coffey of Va.

and Jim Redden of Greenwood Ind.

Hope you will all be able to make it next year.

Heard from Ray & Isabelle Orsene and the Simons, they are O.K. Buddy Balf said that he missed the reunion, but will be at next years in Lexington, Ky.

Got some info from Chuck Abdinoor that he and Bernice just came back from Montreal. They were there for one week on R & R and lost his shirt at the casino. I should have brought Dutchy & Tag, the Pros.

Seen Frank and Rita Burgess, they are still always on the run.

Haven't heard from John and Stacy Marcyz and hope all is well with them.

Dutchy and Helen Smith recently went to Nova Scotia, to look up his mothers roots. Ernie Jr. Dutchy's son was their guide, incidentally Joseph. Dutchy's grand son made in Professional debut on T.V. with Nancy Kwan on a Disney Special seen Nationwide. Good luck Joseph. Don't forget us.

Received a call from Lee Milligan from A-330 and it sure was a surprise. He is well. I have not seen him since our Washington D.C. reunion.

Naturally, I had to call Paul Reed and our #1 Soldier from A Co. & Walt Pillion to let them know. They appreciated the call and wants us to stick together. There isn't to many left from A 330. Lee is from Wichita, Kansas. His head was so small, there wasn't a helmet liner to fit him. He always wore a tankers hat. He was a jeep driver.

That's it and hope all is well with everybody.

That's all the news I have for the New England Chapter and hope other members will write me info so it can be put in the Thunderbolt.

Your Buddy,

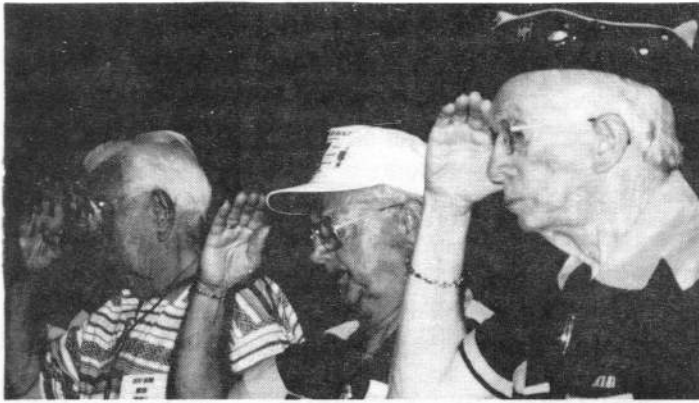
Nick Francullo, Hq. Co. 3rd Bn 330th

P.S. We of the New England Chapter wish all our members and the 83rd Association a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. "God Bless You All"



New England Chapter Cookout.





New England - Memorial Services



New England Chapter Ladies.



New England Chapter Gang.



New England Chapter Great Reunion

Cleveland Chapter News



I don't have to much to report this time, so this will be rather short.

Most of the Cleveland Chapter did not go to the reunion this year. Some of us were not up to it. Some just did not want to go alone. Bernice and I went on a cruise. The few that did go had a good time. Paul Dallos represented the Cleveland Chapter at the meeting.

We had a min-reunion at our regular meeting and it happened to be at the same time as the national reunion. I'm sending a picture of the cake. The patch is upside down, but the cake was D-e-l-i-c-i-o-u-s.

We had a nice surprise the day of the mini-reunion. Jerry and Mary Ann Zingg came in from California to be with us. They stayed at the Mizerock's. Can you imagine two old war horses talking about old times? I wonder if they had anything to drink? Ha.

Ann Christopher fell and broke her hip. She's getting a lot of therapy and is doing a lot better. Ted Karagedrge is having all kinds of tests, and is having surgery on blocked arteries in his neck. George Calore is having knee problems. He had surgery in October and is doing well. Ann Mizerock is hanging in there, so is Warren Owen. Ed Jocek had cataract surgery. He also is doing very well. Ronnie Lindsey is having 2 knee's replaced Nov. 2.

Joe Belock and I got hearing aids from the V.A. - both ears!! And I want to tell you they are great. Bernice tells me I talk softer. She does not have to repeat things to me and I never knew the floor's squeaked so much. I could hear birds across the street, and the car sure does make a lot of noise.

A little bit on the happy side now. Sam and Charlotte Cordiano's grand daughter is getting married Oct. 16, 1998 and Dorothy Kasputis is a grand mother of twins - a boy and a girl. CONGRATULATIONS! Sam and Charlotte and Dorothy!!!

This is all for now. We want to wish everyone AMER-
RY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HANUKKAH and a HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

Bob Grobelny
"A" Co. - 329th

Kentucky Chapter News

The Kentucky Chapter held its summer meeting on June 19th and 20th at the Hampton Inn in Frankfort, Kentucky, the state capital. This meeting was hosted by John and Hazel Hudnall and R. T. and Betty Brooks. They did a fine job of setting it up so we could enjoy ourselves. Our wives brought all the goodies we liked and we all picked up a pound or two.

Was happy to see Larry and Jesse Dalton who informed me that they soon leave Georgia and return to Indiana. All I can say is that Georgia's loss is Indiana's gain. They both looked very happy.

We were happy to see Clara Johnson and Linda who came with Bill and Alice Kremlin. I always enjoy teasing Linda.

Was glad to see Cecil Walters and Nora Lee, Hershell and Imogene McIntosh as it has been a couple of years since they attended a meeting. I have never forgotten the time we were in Stanton, Ky. looking for Cecil's home but no one knew him until we told someone that Cecil was a 83rd Inf. Div. Assn. member. They then said, Oh you mean Pete Walters.

Chester and Helen Wilson were there. Chester had to take over the meeting because Earl Hoover was unable to attend because Bonnie was still hospitalized. We all signed a card for Bonnie and we hope by the time she reads it, she will be home and on the road to recovery.

Pearl Derickson was still in the extended care unit in Oxford, Ohio. We all have you in our prayers and hope you soon will be home. Bob made it just in time for our business meeting on Saturday. I never got a chance to talk to Bob as I found out I had no car keys in my pocket and was really uptight about the loss. Being a retired detective, I finally found them at Frisches Big Boy where Vi and I ate lunch.

Al and Dorothy Henry arrived with Al still limping from his recent knee operation.

Floyd and Alberta Richmond came from Kokomo, Ind. Floyd and Hershell McIntosh entertained the crowd with Floyd playing the banjo and Hershall playing guitar and singing. As young people say, "it was cool"

Paul and Doris Lear drove down from Springfield, Ohio. Marvin and Wanda Haydon came from Louisville, Ky. I checked the Haydon's car for Fred Fowler but was again disappointed as he was not there.

Raymond and Mary Betty Morrison joined us, also Homer and Ruth Rickenbaugh. The Rickenbaughs had family members with them.

Manny Goodridge drove down from Ludlow, Ky. or I should say flew down. Manny has a heavy foot on the gas peddle. He saw his old buddy Larry Hamilton and Larry's wife Maxine from Evansville, Ind. Larry became ill and had to leave early. Larry always cheats eating sweets.

Tom and Gail Hensley drove over from Lexington, Ky. They had just returned from a trip to Australia.

Alton and Bev Carter came in from Louisville but did not stay too long. I heard Alton became ill and had to return home early.

We had thirty-seven people at Frankfort. If I forgot to mention anyone who was at the Summer meeting, forgive me. I will be 82 years old Oct. 26th.

Well, the 1998 Reunion at Peoria, Ill. has come and gone. I haven't heard any comments but what I saw the short time Vi and I were there, I think people enjoyed the Reunion, seeing army buddies, their wives and friends.

Vi and I stopped for a day at the Reunion on our way to Iowa to visit our brother-in-law who had just had a leg amputated. We ate at Jims Friday night. It was gourmet dining, we both enjoyed dining there very much.

I was happy to see my old army buddy, Stan Bielen and his wife, Fran. Stan was the kid of our company. In October, they are celebrating their 50 years of marriage. Hope they enjoy the item I carved for them and enjoy many more years together.

We were glad to see Bonnie Hoover who spent most of the summer recovering from health problems.

Pearl Derickson was also at the Reunion but I did not see her as she had a tiring day on the gambling boat losing all her mad money. She was in her room resting Friday nite.

It was also nice seeing Lois Brinkman from Minster, Ohio. She was with family members.

Hope all of our sick and ailing friends are recovering and making plans for the 1999 reunion in Lexington, Ky. Lexington is about thirty-eight from Frankfort. I suggest that you make plans for a day trip to Frankfort. R.T. Brooks and John Hudnall took some of us to see the capital building and Daniel Boone's grave. The flowers on the capital grounds were beautiful. It is a interesting, historic city.

Oh, Vi got a call from Clara Johnson. She had just gotten home from the hospital. She had a 3 by-pass heart operation. She came thru with flying colors but now Linda is in the hospital. We are keeping them in our thoughts and prayers.

Vi also talked to Mildred Doggett. She seems to have seven lives like a cat. Don't know how many she has used up but recently she choked on a pill because she did not wash it down with water. She thought she was a goner but God did not want her just yet. She then touched a live wire while gardening and could not get her hand off of it until she used other hand to pull off the stuck hand. We think she is a very lucky lady.

We, the Ky. Chapter, wish everyone a beautiful, happy, healthy holiday season.

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

New Jersey Chapter News

Another reunion has come to past. It always is a wonderful time for all 83rders and this Peoria Reunion was no exception. Thanks to Keith Davidson and his Committee, their efforts were appreciated by those that attended the reunion.

The New Jersey members attending weren't as many as previous reunions. Attending for the chapter were Joe DePeri and his family, Manny Epstein, George and Dot Foster, Sam and Edith Manzi, also Cookie Seneca with Mary Ann, Jim and Darlene. As I wrote in the last Thunderbolt, the Senecas live in the Peoria Area and had much to do with our enjoying our time in Peoria. Cookie hosted a great dinner for a group from Jersey at a great restaurant called Jumer's in Peoria. The next night, Jim and Darlene Seneca had entertained us at their beautiful home and the whole Seneca family made sure we had an enjoyable time during our stay in Peoria. Our thanks for all you did.

It was wonderful for Fran and I to see Betty Kirgan who lives close to Peoria. Betty has been a dear friend since our 1973 tour of Europe. This is her first time to a reunion since her husband Ed died. It was great talking about the wonderful times we shared together.

I enjoyed having the pleasure of spending time with Ginny and Rags Rangnow. Rags the famed author of "Hut Two" has because of the success of his book, become quite extravagant, he no longer throws water, now it's pennies. All kidding aside, Rags is due for surgery. Rags our prayers are with you always and hope all will go well with the operation.

Enjoyed our time spent with Wilson and Viola Day at the reunion. Both looked great! Joe DePeri celebrated his birthday at the banquet night. Our table again had 2 desserts.

Our trip on the Par-A-Dice Casino was fun. Would you believe they had a thousand slot machines on the boat. The trip to Springfield to see Lincoln's Home was interesting. The US Park Service does a great job preserving these historic places. The tours are also well planned and managed.

Sally Stat wrote to tell us Ralph has had problems this past year with his heart. We hope all is well with you now.

Fran and I will be celebrating our 50th Wedding Anniversary on October 30th.

Our daughter Joyce gave birth to our newest grandson Evan James McNally on October 1st.

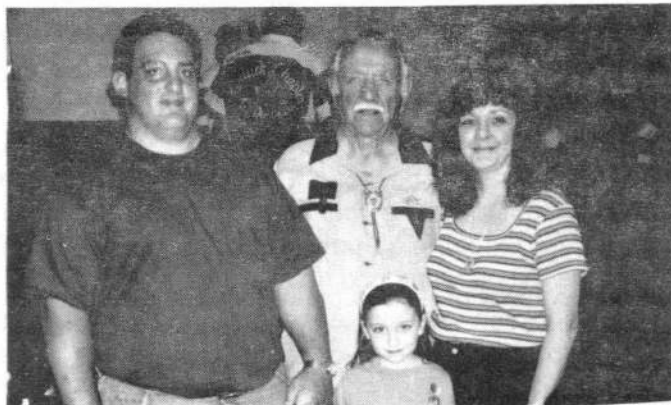
I have included 4 pictures taken at the reunion for your enjoyment.

I want to thank Dan Pelose for sending me the 1998 New York State stickers. Our thanks to Al Donahue for providing them.

All the chapter wishes you all a "HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS IN 1999"

Stan Bielen

1st Bn., Hdqs, 331st



Joe Deperi and family



Friday night banquet - New Jersey Chapter



Stan and Fran Bielen and Wilson and Viola Day



Manny Lamb and Manny Epstein

Philadelphia Chapter News

The Philadelphia Chapter held their bi-monthly meeting September 20th. After our local business was over, we talked of attending the Boston Chapters Mini-reunion at the Best Western hotel in Parksville, N.Y. Thirteen planned on going. Boston sent a bus to pick us up, bag and baggage.

We welcomed Lucy Volpi back to our activities after her surgery. It was nice to have her back with us again.

At Parksville, Philadelphia played bocci with Boston, as we do each year. Philadelphia won both games.

All of us attending had a very nice time. The food was good, (plenty of it) entertainment excellent, as well as the dancing afterward.

Attending were:

Al Belvedere & Anne

Jim Fish & Ceil

Harry Kirby & Anne Alimonti

Manny Lima

Mike Russo & Betty
Al Silverio & Mary
Lou & Lucy Volpi

Our Christmas dinner this year will be held at the Coast Line restaurant in New Jersey, Thursday, December 17th.

We extend to all, a very nice holiday season.

Harry Kirby,
"C" Co. 308th Engrs.

Pittsburgh Chapter News

Six members attended the 1998 reunion in Peoria. Charles Hawkins, John Marek, Frank Hornack, Paul Diethrich, Sal Scicolone and William Mattes. John Marek participated in a wreath laying and armistice signing for Korean War veterans on July 27. This is an annual event of the Korean War Veterans Assn. of Western Pennsylvania on the North Side of Pittsburgh, across from the Point at their monument. They meet the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial in Pittsburgh. The chapter Christmas party will be held on Sunday, December 20 at the Brentwood FFW Post 1810 at 2:00 p.m. After the Sunday, October 4 meeting a buffet and social gathering was held. Our sick list gets bigger. A letter from Catherine Thompson informing us that her husband, Greer has been in the hospital for a period August 9 thru September 20. She doubts that he would be unable to attend any further meetings or functions. George Komlos fell prior to the October meeting and unable to attend the October gathering. This meant that Joe DeLuca was also unable to attend as George is his chauffeur. John DeLuca, Joe's brother died recently. Daniel Klippa, son of deceased Sam died recently. Mary Allen's daughter, Patty died recently. Jan Martin, fiancée of Larry Leonardi had a heart bypass operation recently. Paul Diethrich to have a right knee transplant on October 22. Former chapter member Glenn Wible is now a member of the Florida Chapter. At our October meeting a discussion on the 83rd monument to be constructed at Arlington National Cemetery was discussed.

Fran Beerhalter

Boston Chapter News

On June 2nd a meeting was held at Rose and Frank Young's home in Billerica, MA. Ron Plat was thanked for coming after a long drive to get there. Rose and her daughters really put out the food for us. Frank you are a lucky "Infantry Man" having three women to take care of you. Also thanks to all the other women for making the delicious treats. We had a very successful meeting. Thanks to Rose and Frank.

On August 15, 1998 the meeting was held at Chet and Laurette Morley's home in Merideth, N.H. A poem was read by Lou Sandini extolling the virtues and importance of Pat DiGiammerino to the Boston Chapter. Thanks to Tony Piantedosi for pinch hitting as secretary. Pat reported 4 new members in the Chapter. Many stayed over at Chet and Laurettes house as Chet loves to cook for the troops in the Morning. Thanks to the Morley's for a great time.

On September 19th the meeting was held at Pat and Gin DiGiammerino's home in Malden, MA. I'm sorry I did not make this one due to another commitment. Jim Prentice, my good friend, came down from New Hampshire for the meeting. Sorry I missed you Jim. See you next time. Thanks to Hy Goodman for reporting this meeting for me. It is good to have you back Hy after your operation. It was voted that the meetings will start earlier for the winter months so everyone can travel in daylight hours for safety. Thanks Pat and Gin for hosting this meeting.

Many thanks to Lou Sandini for doing so much for the Veterans of Massachusetts at the State House.

On Sept. 28th the Boston Chapter held its Mini Reunion at the Best of Western in Paramont, New York in the Catskills. It was a real good time. We had buses from Worcester, Fall River, Rhode Island and Philadelphia. Some people came by car, some as far away as Ohio. I must admit there was too much food though everything else was great. The Philly Chapter played Bocce with Boston. I have to give the winning game to Philly. Lima was honest with the rules. The bus trip was great both ways with a lot of singing. Ted and Betty Gorezynski did a fine job in that department. Charlie Lusser served the drinks. Lots of laughs all the way.

The first day in New York we received the bad news about Mike Amicone who passed away. Mike was always a true 83rder. Our condolences to his family.

Amby Tynan

Boston Chapter Reporter



Friendly rivals! -- Boston Chapter



Laurette Marley with her arts & crafts. Boston Chapter



Betty and Barry Crites of Bath N.H. setting up the buffet. Boston Chapter



Where there's food um-mm-m - Boston Chapter

Companies

783rd Ordnance Co. News

Writing this column is beginning to feel like traveling through a time warp. Here I'm reporting on the August reunion in October and at the time I'm wishing you all a happy family Thanksgiving Day. All this in the day of E mail! So if your a little confused I want you to know I'm with you.

From the opinions of our sixteen members in attendance the Peoria reunion was a pleasant success. Sam Hoffman and his delightful wife Vi were one of those rare, first time, wide eyed attenders. We all know that look? To wife Vi, Sam is whispering, 'Boy, all these guys have gotten old except you and me.' And of course you know, from past experiences, these "Virgins" always bring forth new, unheard of stories. This always adds some new luster around the dinner tables. There's nothing like meeting an old buddy and his wife of 55 years ago.

Of course the faithful showed up again, none looking the worse from wear and tear. Al and Ruth Bensimon drove up from Fla., Al's eating all those great oranges and grapefruit from the back garden but he's still not growing any hair. Carl and Alyce Frederick had a shorter haul from Wis. Both of them have been putting around with his retirement golf clubs. Carl then takes Alyce on the tour of great eating places where they both whiff down these great meals and then silently take their penalty strokes.

Ray (Par) and Mimi Wiggins also drove in. I thought Ray was plugging his good State. His hair resembled the silk of Kansas corn. Some unnamed person also remarked about the similarity of his jokes and Kansas corn.

It was great to again break bread with Bill and Eloise Manning, plus Joe Hendrix, both from nearby Ind. Dr. Bill is still enjoying doing his dentistry five days a week and hasn't any intentions of retiring. He said something about having all these women patients around the age of forty. Eloise said that was no problem. His office is attached to her well equipped kitchen.

Joe is still protecting Camp Atterbury from his Franklin Ind. home. We sure all remember those

long hikes when they would march us through Joe's town. I could never understand why his neighbors didn't greet us with iced tea.

Lastly from Cinn. came our perennial attendee's Bob Hammond and Bob's caretakers Jack and Joanne Keller. How nice to have a young couple take care of an old gizzer. It's always been a pleasure to see the "youngins" who have adopted us.

We were kept quite busy and we had some nice side trips learning the ancient history of Peoria. Some took a most interesting trip around the huge Caterpillar Plant. Others of us took the five hour tour of the old whiskey mansions and the 800 foot bluffs overlooking the Illinois River while eating a huge box lunch which the hotel manager brought to us. Did you know that the Illinois River has more tonnage pass down it than the Suez Canal. First thing you know I'll be as smart as that young Ivan Gilman.

There was also a large group, wearing that green shade over their eyes, who thought they could scoop up gold by showing up at the riverboat casino. But you know how that story generally ends. The one armed bandit is always quicker on the draw.

Right before I left home I decided it was about time to up date the Company's mailing list. Coming across inactive names such as Ameduri, Amodeo, Cutty, and Demarentis I decided to give each a call. These days if you talk nicely to the telephone information people they will cover a whole state for you in two minutes. Sadly, all of the above mentioned fellows have disappeared from their home states. Naturally some could be living with a daughter or in a retirement home without a phone. Then I came across Henry McQuaig's wife and Joe Zilionis's daughter. Henry had died in 1992 and Joe just this year. I offered the Company's condolences to the families. I'm sure those two names will trigger some long, forgotten memories.

Not everyone was lost. I did talk to Ted Leash who still lives in Trenton N.J. Ted was in good spirits and was asking about most of his automotive crew. Unfortunately Ted's health is not good. He is confined to his home. The last of the lost tribe was Bob Shutte. Sadly, Bob for some reason has become very bitter. He said he only had one friend in the Army and that was Martin. I wasn't his friend, I was nuts for remembering all those guys, he called me a bad name and hung up. I must say he caught me staring at the phone with a wide open mouth.

So our updated address list now contains just

39 names. If you would care for one just let me know. This is another sneaky way of getting some news from you.

Some of you fellows should be ashamed of yourselves. This past month I've had two letters from George Harris, who as many of the know, is our patriarch having turned 89 in August. George is doing ok and I have all kinds of ways of staying in touch. It's a small world. Those who have attended the reunions will certainly remember George's good nephews who brought him to the reunions. They are George from Texas and Keith Waltz from N.Y. Well Keith's daughter in law is a Philadelphia lawyer. The firm has been doing my will, etc. for the past 25 years. Can you imagine my surprise when, at the Myrtle Beach reunion, Keith told me where she hung her shingle? Naturally she now handles all my millions. She's so much better looking than the guy up in the front office.

Doc stated he and Agnes miss all of us at the reunions but they are doing okay. During the cooler weather they go out for little walks. Charlie Rohrer wanted to attend the reunion but once again the August date was the same as their family reunion. Hersch Weaver had reservations but his ticker was misfiring so he is getting his medication adjusted. Midge is doing well. She takes Hersch for walks!

Vic Mutinani is having a similar problem but he is his jolly old self. I tried to get him and Reese Phillips out to lunch but Vic Says he likes the quiet life. Time changes everything. Reese I'm still working on.

Just got a wedding invitation from Martha Appleby's son. That's some good news that Martha deserves. Martha has also been getting the "all clear" signs on her cancer check-ups.

Had two good conversations with both Joe Brown and Ivan Gilman on the great movie "Searching For Private Ryan." I must admit I was shocked when it released some of my hidden emotions. I'm glad I saw it and I would hope everyone under forty would go to see it but I would reserve recommending it for any veteran who experienced real combat in any war.

Can someone tell me if Ivan Gilman is the real baby of the 783rd? He was 76 on July 11th. Wife Pat has her own opinion.

Just checking my notes and I by-passed Eino Suome-la. He is still on his farm but like so many of us he has a bad back from a fall. He asked about many of you and he remembers the good times. He said he would cut my hair if I trusted him.

No column would be complete if I didn't say something about everybody's, (Christine, Beatrice, Ruth, Ann,) good friend Stan Bielen, 1st Bn. Hq. 331st. At the reunion Stan and I came to a truce. We're not going to rib one another any more in our Thunderbolt columns. We're mature now and Stan is playing Santa Claus for the kids. That's great Stan I noticed this year you won't be need-

ing a pillow.

So here we are again, it's time to warm up that song "I'm Dreaming Of A White Christmas" with a happy, healthy New Year tacked on.

Hut Two,
Rags Rangnow

329th "B" Bag

I'm sorry to report that Bill Waddle's wife Dixie passed away before the reunion and he couldn't attend it. Our deepest sympathy to Bill and the entire family.

Al Trofimuk had a severe heart attack and is making a good recovery. Hang in there "Yo". Speaking of the reunion "B" Co. had 1 man present at the reunion. It was Bob Taylor. Kitty Thomas, the widow of Ed was there also. I don't believe she has missed a reunion in many years. Keep it up Kitty. Kitty also reported that a first time attendee from "B" Co. was there. His name was Dan McKimmie from S. Caro, but he didn't know what platoon or who was his squad leader. He picked the wrong reunion to attend. This summer we had the pleasure of meeting John Hennies and his wife Doris at a halfway point between Cleveland and Louisville. We had a good time with drinks and plenty of laughs. John is starting to slow down on his catering business. Age must be catching up.

Incidentally the company banner was mailed back to me since I've had it for years. I would like to pass it on to someone in "B" Co or to a museum. If you want it or have a place to send it, drop a line or give me a ring. I haven't heard from anyone in quite awhile so I guess every one is ok.

A short "B" Co. Story

"B" Company had an Indian by the name of Newton Games, after basic training we had to report to the first Sgt. for inspection to get our pass, Games couldn't pass because his hair was too long. He could not pass inspection after 3 tries. On his fourth try he went to first Sgt. and asked for his pass. The Sgt. had him remove his cap and saw a mohawk cut with nicks and blood on his head. He shaved his head. The Sgt. was hot and mad, he told Games to shave it all off. Games refused and didn't get his pass. It was about a week before he shaved the rest of the Mohawk. Later when we went overseas, before landing in Liverpool, a Red Cross boat came alongside and took Newton Games to a hospital as a mental case. Never heard what happened to him. God Bless.

"B" Co. Friends Forever
Bob Uher
12700 Lake Ave. #1602,
Lakewood, Ohio 44107
(216) 221-2012

You are getting old when someone asks you what was a running board.

NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE

Please Read Carefully

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO FILL OUT THE 1999 PRE-REGISTRATION FORM AND SEND IT TOGETHER WITH YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER **(TO MITCH KIRCHNER OF MITCH'S MEETINGS MANAGEMENT, INC. BEFORE JULY 15, 1999)** 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 MEMBERSHIP CARD 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. PULL OUT YOUR PRE-REGISTRATION FORM-IT'S 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 ONLY. MITCH KIRCHNER WILL HAVE ALL WORK DONE AND YOUR NAME TAGS WILL BE IN THE PACKET.

YOU MAY CANCEL YOUR PRE-REGISTRATION IF NEEDED. YOU WILL RECEIVE A REFUND LESS A \$10.00 SURCHARGE.

Bridles, Bourbon and Boutiques-

**A special tour for the
83rd Infantry Division Association's
1999 Annual Reunion**

As a hostess/guide begins an entertaining Kentucky narration, you can sit back and enjoy the sights as you cruise through the Blue Grass enroute to one of central Kentucky's prominent horse farms for a personal visit. Here, you will get a behind-the-scenes view of this multi-million dollar industry, and experience these valuable horses up close.

Then it's on through the countryside as we make our way to the Labrot & Graham Distillery. This is Kentucky's oldest distillery site, and you will delight in the beautifully restored facilities. After a personal tour of the distillery, you will probably want to spend some time in the lovely gift shop and perhaps take some of this smooth bourbon home with you.

Lunch will be in the unique, historic village of Midway. You can select from a variety of restaurants for lunch on your own, and enjoy browsing the specialty shops which line each side of the railroad track which goes right through the center of this little town.

Returning to Lexington, we'll stop by Old Kentucky Chocolates for touring and sampling. . . . literally a real treat!

Note: pre-registration and an additional fee are required. Please refer to your registration form.

THE SETTING & ATTRACTIONS ARE UNFORGETTABLE

* Known as the "Horse Capital of the World," and home to such world-renowned attractions as the Kentucky Horse Park, the world's only park devoted to the horse; Keeneland Race Course; The Red Mile Harness Track; and many of the world's most famous private horse farms situated on hundreds of miles of rolling hills outlined with white or black fencing.

* Over 15 public and private golf courses, including the Pete Dye-designed Kearney Hill Links

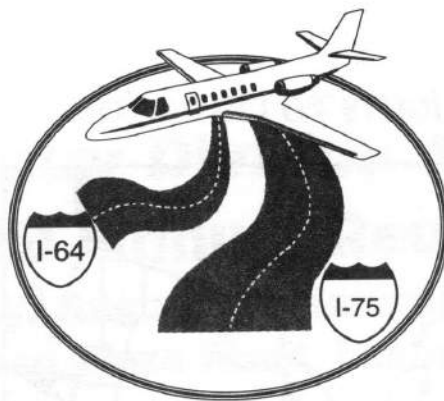
* 23,000-seat Rupp Arena, home court for the 1996 and 1998 NCAA basketball champions, the University of Kentucky Wildcats, as well as the site for headliner concerts and other special events

* Numerous historic homes, including Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate; The Hunt-Morgan House; the Mary Todd Lincoln House; and Waveland State Historic Site; fourth among states in number of sites on the National Register of Historic Places

* Excellent dining, entertainment and shopping facilities: Fayette Mall, with 1.1 million square feet of shops, Kentucky's largest mall; hundreds of antiques and specialty shops offering skilled craft demonstrations in Lexington and surrounding Bluegrass communities.

* Home to the University of Kentucky, one of the leading research universities in the nation, and Transylvania University, the oldest university west of the Alleghenies

* Nearby attractions: bourbon distilleries, museums, and state parks (among the nation's largest state park system); more miles of inland navigable waterways than any other state except Alaska.



TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Lexington's Blue Grass Airport is just a 10-minute drive from the heart of downtown. The airport is located near Keeneland Race Course and is surrounded by horse farms, creating one of America's most beautiful air approaches.

In the downtown area, attractions, restaurants and shops are within walking distance of major hotels. An intra-city bus system and taxicabs provide convenient transportation.

BLUE GRASS AIRPORT

4000 Versailles Road
Lexington, KY 40510
(606) 254-9336

CARRIERS

ASA (Atlantic Southeast Airlines)	800-282-3424
Comair	800-354-9822
Continental Express	800-525-0280
Delta Air Lines	800-221-1212
Northwest Airlink Express/Mesaba	800-525-0280
TWExpress	800-221-2000
United Express	800-241-6522
USAirways	800-428-4322
USAirways Express	800-428-4322

NONSTOP AND DIRECT FLIGHT CITIES/TIMES

46 total inbound flights

Nonstop

Atlanta, GA	1 hr, 15 min
Charleston, WV	40 min
Charlotte, NC	1 hr
Chicago, IL	1 hr
Cincinnati, OH	35 min
Cleveland, OH	1 hr, 15 min
Detroit, MI	1 hr, 45 min
Louisville, KY	30 min
Memphis, TN	1 hr, 30 min
Pittsburgh, PA	1 hr
St. Louis, MO	1 hr, 15 min

Direct*

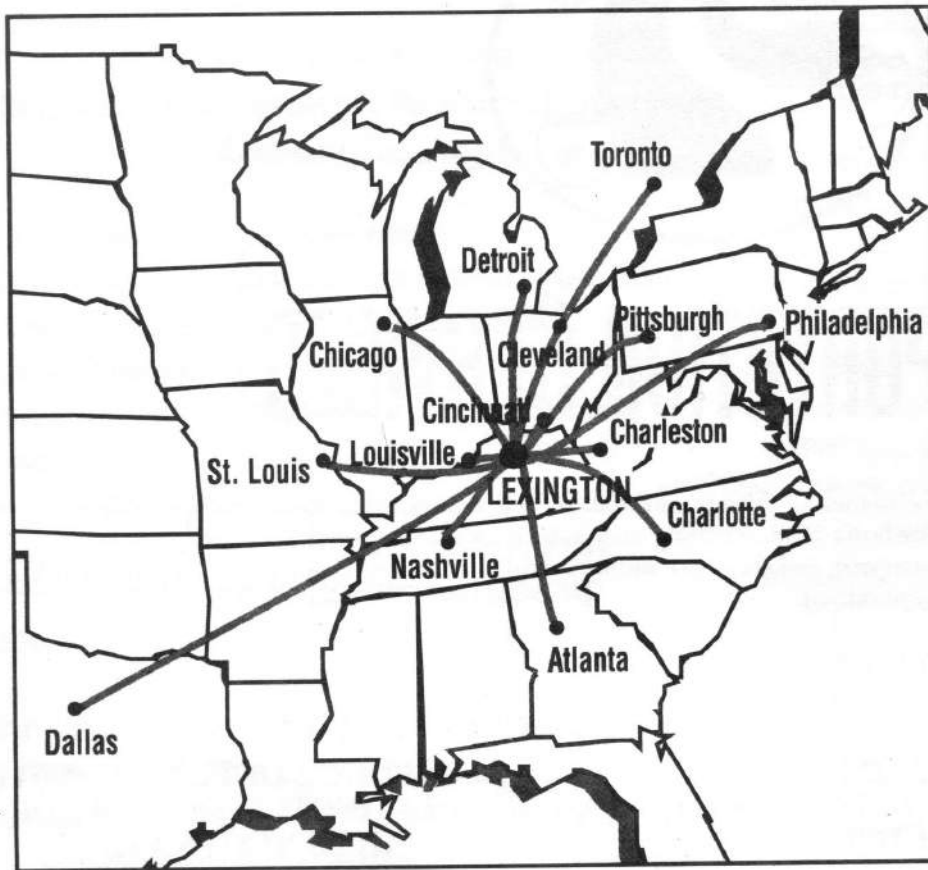
Akron/Canton, OH	2 hrs, 45 min
Bangor, ME	3 hrs, 30 min
Dallas, TX	3 hrs, 45 min
Detroit, MI	2 hrs, 20 min
Kalamazoo, MI	2 hrs, 30 min
Madison, WI	3 hrs, 15 min
Montgomery, AL	2 hrs, 50 min
Oklahoma City, OK	4 hrs
Philadelphia, PA	2 hrs, 40 min
Richmond, VA	3 hrs
Tallahassee, FL	3 hrs
Toronto, ON	2 hrs, 40 min

* Direct flights are subject to change

LENGTH OF FLIGHTS TO LEXINGTON FROM MAJOR UNITED STATES AND INTERNATIONAL CITIES

Boston	3 1/2 hrs
Dallas	4 1/2 hrs
Denver	6 1/2 hrs
Des Moines	4 hrs
Houston	5 hrs
Kansas City	4 hrs
Little Rock	4 hrs
Los Angeles	9 1/2 hrs
Miami	4 1/2 hrs
Milwaukee	3 hrs
Minneapolis	4 1/2 hrs
New Orleans	3 1/2 hrs
New York	3 1/2 hrs
Orlando	3 1/2 hrs
Philadelphia	3 hrs
Phoenix	9 hrs
San Antonio	5 hrs
San Diego	9 1/2 hrs
San Francisco	9 1/2 hrs
Seattle	9 hrs
Washington	2 1/2 hrs
Frankfurt	6 1/2 hrs
London	6 hrs
Mexico City	8 hrs
Montreal	4 hrs
Ottawa	4 1/2 hrs
Paris	5 1/2 hrs
Rome	7 hrs
Tokyo	24 hrs
Toronto	3 hrs
Zurich	6 hrs

NONSTOP AND DIRECT FLIGHTS TO LEXINGTON



DISTANCE FROM AIRPORT TO CONVENTION AND MEETING HOTELS

Campbell House	4.5 miles
Continental Inn	10 miles
Sheraton Suites	12 miles
Harley Hotel	10 miles
Hilton Suites	7 miles
Holiday Inn North	9 miles
Holiday Inn South	17 miles
Hyatt Regency	6 miles
Marriott's Griffin Gate Resort	9 miles
Radisson Plaza Hotel	6 miles
Wyndham Garden Hotel	9 miles
Springs Inn	5 miles
The Kentucky Inn	4.5 miles

MAJOR HIGHWAYS

Interstate 75 (north-south)
 Interstate 64 (east-west)
 U.S. Highway 27
 U.S. Highway 68
 U.S. Highway 60
 U.S. Highway 25

MAJOR INTERSTATES TO LEXINGTON



MILEAGE CHART OF MAJOR CITIES WITHIN 600 MILES OF LEXINGTON

Atlanta, GA	392 miles
Baltimore, MD	579 miles
Birmingham, AL	402 miles
Buffalo, NY	549 miles
Charleston, SC	535 miles
Charlotte, NC	429 miles
Chicago, IL	377 miles
Cincinnati, OH	82 miles
Cleveland, OH	335 miles
Columbia, SC	443 miles
Columbus, OH	193 miles
Detroit, MI	354 miles
Indianapolis, IN	192 miles
Kansas City, MO	593 miles
Knoxville, TN	173 miles
Little Rock, AR	594 miles
Louisville, KY	79 miles
Memphis, TN	424 miles
Milwaukee, WI	467 miles
Nashville, TN	214 miles
Norfolk, VA	572 miles
Pittsburgh, PA	380 miles
St. Louis, MO	332 miles
Toronto, ON	600 miles
Washington, DC	530 miles

83rd Infantry Division Association 1999 Annual Reunion

**Wednesday, August 18 - Saturday, August 21
Radisson Plaza Hotel, Lexington, KY**

Wed., Aug. 18, 1999

	BREAKFAST - On your own
1:00 pm - 9:00 pm	HOSPITALITY ROOM - (Free beer, soft drinks and snacks 3:00 - 9:00)
	LUNCH - On your own
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	REGISTRATION
	MAKE DINNER TABLE RESERVATIONS
	DINNER - On your own - Refer to the list of options and map provided on-site.

Thurs., Aug. 19, 1999

6 am	BREAKFAST - Room Service or <i>Cafe on the Park</i>
7 am - 9 am	CASH CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (Tentative)
9 am - 12n; 1 - 4 pm	REGISTRATION & table reservations
9 am - 9 pm	HOSPITALITY ROOM (Free beer, soft drinks and snacks 3:00 - 9:00)
9 am - 4 pm	<i>BRIDLES, BOURBON and BOUTIQUES</i> - SIGHTSEEING TOUR - Enjoy this tour of a prominent, central Kentucky horse farm, a bourbon distillery and a quaint shopping village. Pre-registration required.
	OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES
	LUNCH - On your own
	DINNER - On your own - see list of options and map provided on-site

Fri., Aug. 20, 1999

6 am	BREAKFAST - Room Service or <i>Cafe on the Park</i>
7 am - 9 am	CASH CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (Tentative)
8 am - 10 am	REGISTRATION & table reservations
10 am - 12 pm	BUSINESS MEETING
12 pm - 1:30 pm	LUNCH - On your own
1:30 pm - 5 pm	OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES
3 pm - 4 pm	REGISTRATION & table reservations
8:30 pm - 10:30 pm	ENTERTAINMENT and HOSPITALITY ROOM - Enjoy the swing music of the Lexington Swing Society Quartet. A cash bar will be available.

Sat., Aug. 21, 1999

6 am	BREAKFAST - Room Service or <i>Cafe on the Park</i>
7 am - 9 am	CASH CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (Tentative)
9 am - 12 noon	BUSINESS MEETING
9 am - 12 noon	WOMEN'S PROGRAM
	LUNCH - On your own
2 pm - 3 pm	MEMORIAL SERVICES
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	CATHOLIC MASS
5:30 pm - 10:30 pm	CASH BAR
6:30 pm - 8 pm	DINNER
8 pm - 8:30 pm	PROGRAM
8:30 pm - 10:30 pm	ENTERTAINMENT AND DANCING - Enjoy the sound of the Lexington Swing Society Octet.

Sun., Aug. 22, 1999

6 am	BREAKFAST - Room Service or <i>Cafe on the Park</i>
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Well, it seems as I get older, that the time between getting an article to the Thunderbolt Editor gets shorter. It must be my imagination.

Another year has gone by, and another of our Annual Reunions is a thing of the past.

Our attendance this year was less than in previous years do to illness and old age creeping up on us. Some had trouble fitting in the date to their schedule, as the date was changed due to Hotel accommodations being booked up ahead for college football games.

A fine time was enjoyed by all who attended. Our hosts, the Hulls, the Clines, and the Rushs, did an excellent job of sponsoring the event.

The highly entertaining stories, (Stretched?) of Thelmer Cline were probably the best entertainment presented. All those that were in earshot couldn't keep from laughing, and as I look back on it, perhaps Ex. Capt. Chambers had him pegged and he should have gotten a Discharge back state side to Leavenworth. Just kidding Thelmer, if that had happened we would not have been privy to all those yarns.

Everyone present was given a canvas tote bag, printed with the 'OOZELFINCH' and dated in commemoration of the Illinois reunion. This was a present from the Clines.

A plaque was also given to all of the men present, depicting the travels of the 453rd AAA. AW. (BN.) from Camp Black Shaw Moor, at Leek, England, through Maiden Newton, in southern England, to the beaches of Normandy and through Europe to the Elbe River in Germany.

Many door prizes were also given to some lucky recipients.

We are all now looking forward to our next annual reunion in Toledo, Ohio. In the Middle of September 1999. This Reunion will be hosted by Al and Ruth Drysel, and who ever he can recruit for assistance.

Picture enclosed of those that attended the 52nd Annual Reunion of the 453rd AAA. AW. (BN.)

We have several of our members, or their wives who are on the sick list. I don't have a list of all, but Dave Bell, Oscar Farnsworth, Omar Peavey's wife, Alice, Molly and Jim Dalton, the Starkeys, and Plummers are a few of them.

We also have word that Mike Davino passed away in early September. His wife Jean had passed away suddenly in May. The demise of Ruth King, widow of Roe King was also a sudden event, that no one expected, this happened early this summer.

Submitted by,

Fred C. Pearson 5704 Middle Ridge Rd.
Madison, Ohio 44057-2838.
Roster Coordinator for the 453rd AAA. AW. (BN.)

W.W. II MUSEUM

A short time ago I attended what was advertised as a WWII vintage demonstration of some of the mementos of that era. The exhibits were all privately owned equipment of former G.I. issue. They had a few Army Vehicles, a variety of guns, bazookas etc. There also was an exhibit by the Tuskegee Airmans Institute, a bivouac set up of the Big Red ONE Div., and an Air Corp. command post and kitchen set up.

Upon entering the fairgrounds, the first piece of equipment that met my eye was a half track with quad mounted fifty caliber machine guns.

I was flabbergasted, as this was the first one I'd seen since returning from the E.T.O. on Nov. 1945.

These vehicles were the results of the 453rd AAA.AW. (BN.) working with the Armored Forces at Fort Knox KY. In the spring of 1943. We were invited to Fort Knox as a demonstration Battalion because of the superior performance of the Battalion in training at Fort Bliss Texas, where the Battalion was first organized. Previous to this we had 40 mm Bofers anti-aircraft cannon and water cooled 50 caliber machine guns.

The first quad mount fifties were on a small trailer, but by the time we arrived in England, previous to "D" Day we were equipped with track units.

I inquired about the half track and found out that it was owned by a man in Hubbard Ohio, near Youngstown, who has several items of equipment from WW. II.

I finally was able to contact this man, who confirmed the information.

He has established a museum of a variety of WW. II memorabilia, including small arms, through tanks. He told me that he established the museum in honor of the vets from the war.

The equipment is all indoors, so weather is no problem when visiting the museum.

For more information

Contact:

Henry Vanetta
C/O L.E.C. Inc.
5959 W. Liberty St.
Hubbard, Ohio 44425
330-534-8125

I have been told this is the largest private collection of Army equipment owned by one person.

Mr. Vanetta also told me that he had an uncle that served with the 323rd FA. 83rd Div. and was killed in the area of the Bulge. He didn't tell me which battery, but he would like to contact someone who might have known him. I gave him a list of men from the 323rd. that I copied from the last 83rd. roster we had received.

The 453rd. will attend the museum at our next North East Ohio Mini Reunion this fall. I will report on our findings in the next "Thunderbolt".

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



Camp Atterbury's "Walk of Honor"

Bricks to honor all individuals with a present or past
connection to Camp Atterbury

SFC Bill Miller
83rd Inf Div
1942-1945

John W. Smith
USMC 67-68
Viet Nam

The Camp Atterbury Veterans Memorial Association is announcing a program that allows all **veterans (active and retired), reservists (active and retired) and individuals with a connection to Camp Atterbury to adopt a brick for a relative, loved one, friend, or themselves. This will allow you to have the individual's name, branch of service and years of service engraved on the brick. The Walk of Honor will be constructed in front of the Veterans Memorial and form a walk way to the Memorial Wall.

The cost of this honor is \$25.00 per brick. Some examples of qualifying service are listed below. (not all inclusive)

USA=Army
USN=Navy
USCG=Coast Guard
WAAC=Women's Army Auxiliary Corps
WAF=Women of the Air Force
USMC=Marine Corps
USAF=Air Force
D.A.R.
Gray Ladies
Construction Workers

WASP=Women Pilots
ARNG=Army National Guard
ANG=Air National Guard
USMCR=Marine Corps Res
USNR=Navy Res
USCGR=Coast Guard Res
Salvation Army
WAVE=Women of the Navy
WM=Women of the Marine Corps

U.S.O.
Former Land Owner
Red Cross
CCC=Civilian Conservation Corps
Civil Service
Wakeman Hospital
USAAC=Army Air Corps
AUS=Army of U.S.
SPAR=Women of Coast Guard

**note: This offer is available to any veteran regardless of a connection to Cp Atterbury

Line 1: ----- NAME
Seventeen Characters per Line including Spaces 17

Line 2: ----- BRANCH/YR.
Branch of Service, Unit, Specialty, Years of Service, etc. 17

Line 3: ----- OPTIONAL
Country, Campaigns, Silver Star, Air-borne, Pilot, Ranger, etc. 17

Name Submitted by:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Make \$25 Check Payable To:
Camp Atterbury Veterans Mem Association Inc.

Address: _____ mail to: NAF ACCOUNTANT
Bldg #1 Cp Atterbury
Edinburgh, In. 46124

Phone: _____ 22

"F" Company - 329th

OVER BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: Will be North '98 Oct. 11th - 14th - '98. Present registration at Ameri-Host Inn Ashland, Ohio stands at 36 total members and guests, from 13 states.

Oscar Lee Harrington and Scott Harrington - son and grandson respectively of S/Sgt. Oscar Henry Harrington of "F" Co. 329th will be with us. Anyone who attended the Saturday banquet at the 52nd Reunion in Peoria, Ill. may recall our National Sec./Tr. stating "It was like finding a needle in a haystack" for Scott and his dad who were at the reunion in search of men who knew S/Sgt. Harrington, to run into Lowell Fickle of Justin, California a member of Oscar's squad and in close proximity to him when he was killed in action on April 13, 1945 at Barby, Germany.



North '97 Bill Hutton - Harold Newell - Bill Ferguson

THANKS: To Lowell Fickle/Dale and Marge Lewis in being able to attend the 52nd Reunion. The only two members from Co. "F" 329th. Lowell, the Harringtons will never forget your being on hand or the Service you were able to render to them. Dale was also with Co "K" 330th and as such shares allegiance with both. They reported a good time plus a smooth running reunion. To all 28 who replied to the last Co. "F" newsletter and for your generous contributions. We needed them.

CONDOLENCES: To Warren G. Black on the death of his wife Mattie who passed away July 27, 1998. Your buddies thoughts and prayers are with you.

HERE & THERE: Margie Arnfield was to move to the Norwalk, Ohio area so she would be closer to her daughter. Margie has had very painful arthritis for years in spite of this has always been a

very faithful participant in Co. "F" and 83rd events. She says she is giving her wheelchair a lot more use these days. Will pass on new address when available. Wright J. wouldn't want me to tell you, however he's not as young as he once was. Falling off a tank on to hard frozen ground hasn't helped much either, plus he still keeps working too hard as does Lucille. Billie Collins had back surgery in July to remove parts of steel rods, which had been implanted some years ago, that were protruding thru her back. Last I talked she was home, really doing terrific. T Ballard still having serious back problems, having physical therapy hoping to forego surgery. George Fuller recently had treatment for a gas bubble in his left eye apparently caused by debris left over from previous cataract surgery and laser treatment. Recent letters from Warren Black and Alvin Sperling. Warren informed me of the death of his lovely wife Mattie. He says he is doing OK and appreciates his good health so far. Al reports he and Dutch are well, having little setbacks that everyone over 39 will have. Roy Clemons, Dottie Hutton as well as Vi Begalla & Rose Gundros will not be at North '98. Roy says they are moving but doesn't say where, we'll keep in touch. In other words don't write us we'll write you Amen. Begalla will be in Europe visiting her daughter. Rose at our age we're all harmless Ha! This will be the second year Dottie has had to miss, still having eye and leg problems. Perhaps in '99 she'll be back. Andy Hutton will be driving his dad to Ashland. That's really Great! The Beckers are off on a cruise, a 50th Anniversary gift from their children.

IN SEARCH OF: Gerard Red Fennessey is trying to locate Harold Connors of E. Providence, R.I. any help contact Red in last 1995-96 Roster. Dan Bell is trying to locate men who served with his father S/Sgt. Willard D. Bell in "E" Co. 329th. He's interested in joining the 83rd Div Assoc. and attending a reunion. Any help contact Dan at 68 Greewood Ave. Whelling W. Va. 26003.

COMING EVENTS: South '99 Will keep you informed.

DID YOU EVER NOTICE: Some minds are like concrete - all mixed up and completely set.

C.R. Bob Whitcomb

"D" Company - 331st News

Well, the Peoria Reunion is past and it was a quiet one for us and for the association. I believe we had just under 300 for the Saturday night banquet. There were nine guys from D company in attendance; a very low count for us to have. Adkins, Barker, Dallos, Gunderson, Hamilton, Lynch, Mueller, Richter, Shrawder and a new man who lives near Peoria. Al Niesman came, along with his two son-in-laws. Hope to see him again along with many of you who missed this one.

"G" Company 331st Inf.

HIP, HIP, HOORAY for the Company! R.C. Hamilton is our new President of the Association. 1st Vice President, Manny Goodridge, 2nd Vice President, Al Shrawder and Bob Derickson, Secretary met in Lexington at the Raddison Hotel in September. They are setting up a fine reunion there for 1999.

Sorry to hear of the passing of Stan Rummel in September. Stan was one of the originals. After Jimmy Lynch returned home he had a slight stroke the middle of September. Harriet says he is recovering nicely. This was one thing I never thought would happen to Baby Face Jim. Our prayers and thoughts are with you Jimmy.

The first of November the Gravelyn's, McDermotts, McKee's, Shrawders, and Gunderson's are sailing on the "Grand Princess." Cruising the Eastern Caribbean for 7 nights. A few other 83rd's are joining us too.

Pop Akam has changed addresses and I am sure Al Shrawder will have that in his Co. D Newsletter before you receive this. We have not heard from Frank Cancasci - how about a note Frank? We thought Harvey Clements would stop by Peoria for at least one day, but no see!! Ewell Cotney didn't show, possibly too far to travel. Never hear from Whit East, but he always rings in for the Christmas news. Harry Fetzer was at Myrtle Beach but guess Peoria was just too far west! Haven't heard from Bynum Hancock since Myrtle Beach. Miss you Bynum! We also missed Peggy and Arthur Haught. Hope to see you two at the Florida Chapter Meeting in November. The McDermott's were all set to be in Peoria when a few days earlier, their son and granddaughter came in from Bangladesh, so they had to cancel. Bill McKee can't get away in August because of business. We still are hoping for a September Reunion before we all get too old! We are trying to persuade them to come to Lexington - at least for one day! The Odenweller's can't drive that far anymore as health has become a problem.

Hang in their George and Polly. Happy 55th. Anniversary!! Hope to see the Ryder's in Lexington. Peoria was just too far for many of us. Frank Sabine says he has a standing obligation in California at that time of year but is going to try, along with Mary, to make Lexington if at all possible. Norman Schuster still has those myriad of ailments that prevent him from traveling so far. He is always chipper on the phone or in his letters. The Sharps intended to be in Peoria but ailments precluded the trip. Hope to see you in Vero Beach in November. Hank Trazeciak just didn't get there but we hope to see him in Lexington. Last April John Miklos was going to have an operation and we have not heard from him since. Hope to see you in Vero Beach in November John.

Geri and I hope you've all had a great summer, and by the time you read this Christmas will be just around the corner. So, we wish you happy holidays and good health for 1999.

Ralph Gunderson

The Macaluso family have a lot to be thankful these days. I was not able to attend the reunion in Peoria for many reasons. The car was packed and we were heading for the interstate, about a half mile from home, Mena could not breathe, we hooked up the oxygen, but that did not help. Instead of heading for the Interstate we headed for the Emergency Room at the hospital. The family doctor was coming out of the hospital, and a later comment to her was "You scared the hell out of me." She was blue. She was taken into the Emergency Room, afterwards she was placed in Intensive Care for two days. Her lungs were full of fluid. Two days in ICU and five more days in the hospital, and everything turned out fine.

I had to mail all of the memorial services tapes and papers to the hotel in Peoria. I understand that Manny Goodridge conducted the Memorial Service and did an outstanding job. Thanks Manny. That did not surprise me, because Manny had performed another great job during the WWII, as a forward observer for the 908th FA. He was assigned to the 2nd Bn. 331st and directed all of the artillery fire that was needed.

A month later, in September, the weather report had the hurricane George is heading straight for New Orleans with 110 miles an hour winds and a storm surge. Mena and Monica headed to Baton Rouge to my son's house, I stayed put and was ready to ride out the storm. Sometime on Sunday 27th the storm decided to take a Northern turn, and hit shore some 80 miles east of New Orleans. Outside of being without power for some 25 hours, we managed to survive another hurricane. So we do have a lot to be thankful for.

On Thursday Louisiana State University dedicated a War Memorial to the Graduates who lost their lives, in WWII, Korean and Vietnam. Some 625 names are listed on the Memorial. It was a beautiful ceremony to honor those men and women. As guest speaker, we had President George Bush, a veteran himself, knew of the sacrifices these individual had paid. He also paid tribute to two LSU men who aided him in his ordeal. One flew coverage over the Area in the Pacific, the other was a member of the submarine crew that pulled him from the ocean.

Recently I had a letter from Dave Sefton in Pennsylvania, he is trying to get in touch with Singleton.

Birdie Titus, Beau Titus's wife underwent surgery to remove part of both lungs. She seems to be doing fine. Haven't talked to Mizerock lately, but plan to do so in the near future. The men of G Company would be thankful that we had one of the best mess sergeants in the army. That Christmas meal in Achen, Germany in 1944 is one we should all remember.

We were indeed fortunate in G Company to have some outstanding sergeants and company grade officers, and we all also had some of the best enlisted men in the army. I am proud to have commanded such an outstanding group of Americans.



"A New Day"

*Morning and taking a exercising walk
 Alone and peaceful in the quiet of early dawn
 Watching the sun come up low in the eastern sky
 Observing puffs of white clouds as they drift by
 The sun shining golden rays on leaves of a near by tree
 You take a deep breath and feel wonderfully free
 Watching people making all their usual necessary sounds
 And wonder what they are thinking as they rush all around
 Kids waiting for busses to take them to school
 To get an education and hopefully also to learn the golden rule
 You buy a newspaper at a automatic newstand
 And find the world still in misery, and wonder when will all this
 end?*

*Because violence and wars solve nothing, even after they end
 You listen to birds chattering in the trees
 A train in the distance sounding its mournful horn
 Yes, all the usual happenings of morning, as a new day is born*

Poet

Robert L. Gerber

Dear Mr. Derickson:

My husband, Benjamin Chuzi, of C Btry., 324 FA, passed away on March 18, 1998. I wish to keep up our membership and am enclosing a check for \$15.00

I read every single word of the Thunderbolt, and so learn all that is new with my friends. I do enjoy receiving the bulletin.

I am taking the liberty of enclosing some of my poems, which you can publish or not, as you please. I was a semi-finalist in an international competition of poets and received a plaque inducting me into their society. I hope it will be all right if I send you some of my poems from time to time. I am also enclosing a poem which my neighbor wrote. It was published in the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel. I read it every day and cry.

I am a member of the Florida Chapter and planning to go to their 20th anniversary in January, 1999.

The best of luck and health to all the brave veterans everywhere.

Sincerely,
 Sue Chuzi
 1600 N.W. 85th Terrace
 Plantation, FL 33322

I Wonder

By Sue Chuzi

*Sometimes when riding in our car,
 I see people and wonder who they are
 As they whiz by in their car.
 I often wonder if and when
 I will ever see them again.*

*So many have passed by 'in review';
 Thousands and thousands, but few I knew.
 And I wonder how it would be
 To meet these people and to see
 What they are like, just them and me.*

The Game of "Menu" and "Ironing"

By Sue Chuzi

*I am writing about a 'menu,'
 But it's probably not what you think.
 It isn't about food at all
 Or their dishes you put in the sink.*

*It's a strange 'Menu' we meet every day,
 And have to think what to do.
 In order for this game to play
 You must call upon what you knew.*

*There is also 'ironing' to be done,
 Although they don't call it that.
 If you cannot guess what will be won,
 Well, you are not alone in that.*

*The game is called 'The Telephone'
 Where they give 'The Menu' to you.
 And then the 'Ironing' comes in
 When a voice says 'Press one' of 'Press two.'*



A few words for fallen warriors

DAVID H. HACKWORTH - King Features Syndicate



On this traditional Memorial Day, American warriors are committed around the globe, many in life-and-death missions other than war. Sy Taylor, of Plantation, is a young 84 and has lived through nearly a century of almost continuous war. He sent me this poem, which he wrote. I found it very moving and appropriate for this day.

Who'll Be the New Unknown Soldier?

This question always comes to mind
When there is talk of war.
Will Congress make the same mistake
That has been made before?
Must we become embroiled, again,
With distant foreign nations,
Where humans feed the flames of hate,
In "no win" situations?
Will one more unknown here be
A part of our history,
When the president and the Congress
Issue their decree?
Who'll be the new unknown soldier,
To fill a hero's grave?
Who will receive this honor
In return for the life he gave?
Who'll lie in a flag-draped coffin
Never hearing his country's acclaim?
Who'll be the new unknown soldier,
A hero...without a name?
We'll never know what rank he held
Or the color of his skin.
There'll be no way of telling
What outfit he was in.
Stories will be getting 'round,
Folks anxious to receive them.
And I, for one, will heed them all
And, most likely, believe them.
Five confrontations noted,
In nearly 80 years
With naught to show, excepting
Gruesome souvenirs.
Who'll be the new unknown soldier,
Nevermore to parade?
Laid out, in state, in Washington
For the sacrifice he made.
Which mother's son will be chosen
For everlasting fame?

Who'll be the new unknown soldier,
A hero...without a name?
In '17, the war was fought
In trenches, man to man.
In '41 we had it out
With Hitler and Japan.
The '50s found us off again,
For South Korea's sake
This time it got us nowhere
And the price was hard to take.
First 'Nam, then Desert Storm ensued,
The decades filled with pain.
Are we on the brink once more,
Of doing it again?
Who'll be the new unknown soldier,
Could it be someone we know?
I can't keep from wonderin'
When I hear that last bugle blow
Who'll rest in peace in Arlington,
Never pointing the finger of shame.
Who'll be the new unknown soldier,
A hero...without a name?

Epilogue

Taken from the path of glory
And placed upon a hero's throne
Like those who lie beside him.
Only known to God...alone.

Hackworth, a retired U.S. Army colonel whose military and journalism careers spanned nearly a dozen wars and conflicts, is America's most decorated living veteran. Write to him in care of King Features, 216 E. 45th St., New York, N.Y. 10017.

My grandfather, Malcolm J. Burton of Spindale, NC, was a staff sergeant in the 330th Infantry, 83rd Infantry Division, of the U.S. Army during World War II. He was wounded in action 12/5/1944, and he died in a hospital in Solars, France, 12/16/1944. He is buried in Spartanburg, SC.

I do not know exactly where he was wounded, possibly the Hurtgen Forest area. I also do not know what company he was in.

I would like to contact veterans who served with my grandfather during the war. I am hoping some might be willing to share anything they remember about Malcolm J. Burton. Is there a way to go about this search through The 83rd Infantry Division Association?

Thanks in advance for any help and advice you can give.

Tim Hartis
1420 Springsteen Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730

"BARRACKS LIFE"

At Army basic training the single story, wood barracks without interior finish, toilets or showers had two pot bellied, soft coal stoves for heat and six widely spaced, dim lights hanging from the open attic. These temporary (since World War I ?) buildings held sixty wooden cots with rope springs and corn shuck (noisy) mattresses. A single toilet-shower building served four of these barracks. Soot from the stoves was a constant problem and so was the hauling in of coal, stoking and taking out the ashes.

I drew a bed next to a stove and a light. I occasionally rented my bunk to all night card players who used blankets to block the light after Lights Out. I slept in a card player's bunk.

For about a week we had noticed a strange odor in our barracks and at the morning Roll Call one of our Tennessee boys was drunk. This had us stumped until smoke began to come up through the floor. Underneath the barrack was a boarded in crawl space and the smoke was from a still built by the Tennessee G.I. He laid there most of the night draining a canteen cup as fast as the liquor dripped from the coil. The mash was from fruit and other items from the Mess Hall. The Army does not like entrepreneurs.

One night I awoke near midnight to hear men swearing and men running outside in their underwear or less. I thought they were crazy until it hit me. I dashed outside to run for the latrine building, but it was full to overflowing. The creamed oysters we had for supper were tainted and over a hundred men were vomiting, had diarrhea, or both. I staggered into the shower to clean off, but two medics put me in an ambulance. The Post Hospital was jammed and extra doctors were awakened.

One decided that I had a swollen appendix and I was put into a small room. An hour later I felt emptied of all traces of the oysters and went looking for a bathroom to wash. When I came out I couldn't find my room and took the first vacant bed I saw. No one missed me and I was sent back to the training area in time for noon chow.

I still have the appendix, but do not care for creamed oysters.

Hal O'Neill
83rd Signal

"CENSORING THE MAIL"

Reading the mail for purposes of censorship was a boring job rotated among the junior officers or permanently assigned to some officer the CO disliked. Many censors operated under the principle, "When in doubt, cut it out!" On V-Mail this meant black it out with ink.

Some men had simple codes to keep their girlfriends, wives or parents informed of their whereabouts. For example, If your letter asked, "How is Aunt Emma?" it meant England. Aunt Wilma for Wales, Sara for Scotland, etc. Another man wrote about buying a piece of property. The dimensions were the longitude and latitude of his present location. He had high I.Q. girl friends.

A few censors saw secret messages hidden in every letter. I wrote a friend about a book on the Macedonian phalanx and the censor wanted to know what it really meant? I soon discovered he knew nothing of ancient history or Alexander the Great. Another officer backed me up, that censor never liked me after that. One censor cut out most of my letter, but let the enclosed postcards of Luxembourg go through.

At times some censors drafted a couple of EM to help censor letters. This was against regulations, but helped a censor catch up with the mail or because he was lazy. Many censors did not read the letters, they blacked out words and sentences on a random basis in case the CO checked. One censor had a fixation on weather - any reference to weather was to be censored. The crafty enemy intelligence could pinpoint, "it's a nice day." Another worried about food as a giveaway - "We went to town and ate blue cheese in a local pub." He took out the cheese and left in the pub. One idealistic young officer was upset by "you are my only love" to three different girls from the same soldier.

Late in the war, parcels were fluoroscope on a random basis. The newspaper, Stars and Stripes, reported one G.I. was caught mailing home a jeep piece by piece. A non-too-bright officer in our unit was caught sending civilian shotguns home. He did not remove the German owner's nameplates from the stocks.

Hal O'Neill
83rd Signal



"THE LAST LAUGH"

The Division Headquarters was scattered in tents in a thick forest shortly after we landed in Normandy to relieve the Airbourne. It was a beautiful June morning when we heard a strange "wo'wo" sound overhead. We were about to enjoy our first shelling by German 88's. The contact fused shells exploded in the treetops and the shrapnel fragments bounced down through the branches to the ground. This made the shelling usually harmless. At first we headed for a slit trench or foxhole a few cautious souls had dug. Some trenches had men three deep; others got under vehicles. After hourly shellings of four rounds each time (the 88 battery had four guns), we began to ignore it. Outside of a few holes in the tents and a few men burned picking up pieces of shell casing for a souvenir, we were unhurt.

"Numbers" Nolan was sitting under a tree writing to his girl. He got his nickname because in civilian life he was an information clerk in a big city train station. He had memorized hundreds of train schedules and when one of us was on leave back in the states he could tell you what train to catch. Late in the afternoon, small sliver of steel shell casing struck Numbers in the back of his left hand. Three of us half dragged him, despite his protests it was nothing, to the Division Surgeons' tent. The Colonel seemed delighted to see us and carefully cleaned and dressed the small wound. He then had the four of us stand at attention while he made a speech about Numbers being the first of the Division's heroes and pinned a medal on him. We saluted and left. The medal was heart shaped with a purple ribbon. We told Numbers it was one the Colonel had got for perfect attendance at Sunday School. We had never heard of the Purple Heart at that time. Numbers was happy with the medal since he had a new topic to write about to his girl.

We forgot about his medal until the war ended. Then, under the point system for discharge, Purple Heart holders received five extra points. Numbers went home two months ahead of most of us.

He had the last laugh.

Hal O'Neill
83rd Signal

I received Vol. 53, Issue No. 3 from you and was happy to see that you put all the information in it for me.

Received a letter from a man in service with the 83rd Division and he was very helpful. If you could repeat the article for one more time I may have a better chance of meeting someone that was with him. I looked at another letter my brother sent 6 days prior to his death and said he was in a different Co. His status are as follows.

Thanking you for all you have done for me.

Pvt. Michael J Fusco, 42101606

83rd Div. Co. "L" Reg. 330th Infantry

Thank you

Salvatore Fusco

3156 Beachview Dr.

Toms River N.J. 08753

Thanks for including my memo in the Summer 1998 issue of "Thunderbolt".

In my youth I worked as a typesetter in a printing plant so I am very aware of the possibility of spelling slips between the copy and the printing. In my memo these were:

Colonel Crebell should be Crabill.

General Maren should be Macon

Ernelius Ryan should be Cornelius Ryan

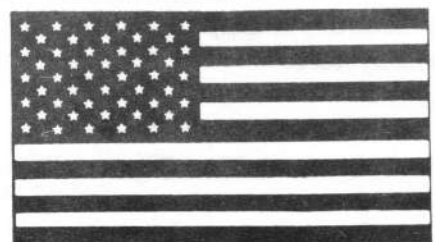
I've seen publications of many different organizations and I think "Thunderbolt" is one of the best. I appreciate getting it.

Sincerely,

Harold Freeman

4824 Glenwood St.

Flushing, NY 11362



It just occurred to me a few days ago while I was reading some of the 83rd history books that nothing has ever been done or said about those wonderful regular army non-coms who were sent to Camp Atterbury as cadre personnel.

I was fortunate enough to have three in particular who helped me form a platoon and led me through the difficult first days as platoon leader.

There were three of these men who showed me the receipt of how best to control men and get the most from each individual. In addition they were filled with discipline and loyalty.

Hope you can give the attached some small space.

Sincerely,

William F. Dyer

REGULAR ARMY CADRE HELPS OCS GRADUATE

When the 83rd was activated at Camp Atterbury, I was among a large group of new second lieutenants, recent OCS graduates, who formed most of the officer corps in the infantry regiments.

My training from the day of induction in the army was, at best, mediocre. I never knew why but I was assigned to a military police company in a newly activated National Guard division and almost immediately started policing the small town of Alexandria, LA., which was surrounded by three new divisions plus special troops.

Soon after my new job assignment, the division was scheduled for deployment to the South Pacific. I was taken from the list scheduled for this job and sent to Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, GA. Many members of the three regiments were in class 30, and all have done outstanding work in the 83rd.

At first I was assigned to Co. E, 329th but only lasted a few days when I was sent to the M.P. platoon of Division Headquarters Co. where I remained until September 1944. At this point I was transferred to Headquarters Company, 329th Reg.

Col. Crabill was not too happy about getting an M.P. officer for he said that this was one outfit the Army could do without. I was not immediately sent to a line company but did odd chores like transporting new personnel from division to regiment.

As luck would have it, orders were sent from division to regiment to form an M.P. unit and I was given this job.

The good colonel, whom I respected more than any officer I have ever known, told me that he

knew little about M.P. duties or their responsibility but since it was an order he would obey it. When he found that I particularly wanted men who had been wounded and had returned, his attitude changed a bit. He allowed the men to be issued new clothing and other supplies needed by an M.P. he approved and so on October 15, 1944 a platoon was formed with men from all three battalions.

It is now time to get to the purpose of this piece and that is a tribute to the regulars who formed the cadres in the new division.

Among those sent to me were M/Sgt. Vandiver, S/Sgt. Gregory and S/Sgt. Smith. As was the custom in the regular army, these men addressed me in the third person -- "Would the lieutenant wish.." etc. I kind of liked this and would address Col. Crabill in the same manner. His attitude toward me changed to the better when he saw that the M.P.s did more than harass members of the military.

The platoon did work such as guard the colonel, take prisoners from the battalions, confine those serving sentences, traffic patrol though the good leadership of the old sergeants, we soon had a working platoon, well disciplined and loyal.

I recall one episode with Sgt. Gregory which has become one of my best war stories. Gregory had several members of the platoon on duty just in rear of an attacking battalion. He had found a house that was ideal -- a basement for POWs, a kitchen, plenty of room for his men to be inside and only one entrance to be guarded. The upstairs had a bedroom, recently occupied, and as a British soldier would describe, "a jollybillet."

I had gone there on routine inspection and was caught by darkness and danger to the extent that the better part of valor was to spend the night. The unit had 10 in 1 rations and this plus a crock of pickled onions - previously tasted by a PW from the celler - made a good meal. The offer of a bed upstairs added to my visit. I must have been tired for I fell asleep immediately. My deep sleep was interrupted by a noise at the front of the building and I stuck my head out of a window to see what was happening.

To my distress I watched as Sgt. Gregory pounded on the guard with both hands. The guard was pleading for mercy, but none was forthcoming.

Finally the guard said to the sergeant, "Why are you treating me like this?" to which Gregory replied "You were asleep on guard duty and worst of all you may have let a German in and he would have killed the lieutenant."

By this time the fighting was over and I didn't have to interfere. Justice, I thought, had been done. The guard had learned his lesson. I felt the old soldier had done the right thing and he was loyal to his commanding officer. No mention was ever made to me about the incident so I was in the clear about a possible court martial. "This was the way the old army solved many of its problems.

Sgt. Vandiver came to me fresh from a hospital where he had been treated for a gunshot wound. First he returned to his old unit only to find that his position as first sergeant had been filled. In addition, the new captain of the company was playing poker with the enlisted men. All this he could not adjust to so he came to regiment for re-assignment. Lucky for me the organization of an M.P. platoon had been ordered. Since there was no table of organization for such a unit, he fit in just fine. The platoon was organized on a company basis. We had our own morning report, duty roster, etc. and all this was approved by the Headquarters Commander.

Vandiver often talked about the recruits he received while in the hedgerow fighting. He was particularly disturbed by the number who would report for duty in the night and were dead by the next morning. He laid this at the door of lack of discipline. "If that boy's parents had taught him to obey orders he would be alive. His method of making the recruit get into a foxhole and staying put until ordered out saved many lives. But all recruits didn't do as ordered. During the night they would leave the hole for any reason and subject themselves to land mines, artillery or dozens of other ways of getting killed.

These sergeants were not too much older than their 20+ lieutenant, but they seemed. They had been in the Army in the days when rank meant a great deal and a sergeant's orders were obeyed instantly. The new Army had changed this somewhat, but orders were still expected to be filled. I often felt that the age difference would cause problems, but if it did make a difference I was never aware of it. I was the lieutenant and that was that, period.

Sgt. Smith was one of those extra special persons. Soft spoken, he did his job in an excellent manner without hesitation. In his capacity of supply sergeant he was responsible for the feeding of those persons who were not near the kitchen at meal time, and a reconnaissance party could expect hot coffee and something to eat when they returned during the night. I don't know who he did it, but I didn't interfere. It was working so good that I

didn't try to fix it.

Somehow I think that we didn't give enough credit to these grand old soldiers. They were homeless when their old outfits such as the cavalry were disbanded and they were at the mercy of being transferred into some unknown unit. They didn't know it at the time but the unit receiving them was the winner. They could adapt to any situation.

One more remembrance about Sgt. Vandiver.

I PW enclosure was set up in a small village in the Hurtgen Forest and one entire battalion surrendered. This was more than an infantry company wanted because of the number of personnel needed to guard a group of this size.

A building was found which was more like a shed than a building with walls, and it was cold as the dickens that night. Sgt. Vandiver supervised the placing of the PW's so that each could get inside and on inspection found that one man was inside but his feet and legs were subjected to the cold outside.

In the nicest way of doing things, especially to Germans, Sgt. Vandiver kicked this soldier on the bottom of his feet, shouting at the time "rouse, rouse". Everything became quiet for a time and from inside the group of Germans came the cry, "Oh shit sarge".

Again there was a moment of silence and suddenly all the German and American soldier started laughing and everyone was having a jolly good time.

The soldier who had said this to Vandiver was pulled from the group and said that he had formerly lived in Chicago but had gone back to Germany and was drafted into the Army.

After all this, some bread was issued the PWs and they were given water. No attempt was made to escape.

From that time until the end of the war when a GI was given a job during the night, and Sergeant Vandiver was not present you could be certain that whomever received the order, his reply would be, "Oh shit sarge".

It always caused roars of laughter for all involved -- except Sgt. Vandiver.



HISTORIAN QUERY GETS RESULTS

An inquiry in the Winter issue concerning the near capture of Rhine River bridges has been confirmed by letters from Robert Keck of Mountville, PA and Robert D. Wolfe of Mena, Arizona.

Keck says in his letter: It is surprising that after 53 years someone would ask (about Rhine crossings). I believe I was involved in the patrol that tried to capture the bridge.

I was a scout on a patrol from L Co. 329th Regiment, and I will tell the story as best I can remember, starting the night before with some help from the 329th history book. A time of my life that I shall never forget.

During the night we kept moving and waiting for support. We heard lots of artillery and small arms fire, but nothing real close. About daybreak we were hit by small arms and 20 MM.

Our position was at the east edge of Neuss, Germany. We moved from this position to another clearing. We also were being shelled by artillery air bursts.

According to the 329 history when L Co. lined up, three platoons in the prone - behind a railroad dirt bank we got up and started walking very fast in a skirmish line, shooting at the trenches and bomb craters in order to get to the Germans.

I no longer remember how far we went, maybe 500 yards or more. The word was passed along the line to take cover wherever you can find it. We are running out of ammunition. There were many bomb and artillery craters, plus trenches to take cover. The history book states that we had reached the Rhine. This is not true.

We tried to silence the 20 MM with a bazooka, but couldn't reach him. We saw the Germans back and forth in front of us.

Since we were low in ammo we started using German rifles to snipe. Soon we were receiving machine gun fire from the rear. Our weapons platoon hearing the German rifles thought we were the enemy. This was soon corrected. Later a few Germans came in to surrender.

After dark we were told our squad and others from our platoon had been chosen to get the bridge and see if it were possible for troops to accomplish this.

We had a combat patrol of about fifteen men. Pfc. Hildaige G. Savoie and I were the scouts. I could speak some German and I suppose that was the reason I was picked. We were dressed in American uniforms.

I don't know how far we were from the bridge that night and it is hard to guess, may be a mile or two. The night was such, snow flurries, clouds would pass, moon again. Our artillery was supposed to be dropping at the German side at ten minute intervals, but they were dropping short on and around us. Now we had wounded to care for.

The other scout, Savoie, and I would move ahead of the main patrol which would move when all was clear. We

were advised not to shoot unless shot at. Because of the artillery, the snow and sometimes the moon, it became a slow process to move without being seen by the Germans. That night I think I crawled a few miles on my knees and gut.

There was a German guard but I got a loop around him on my gut. We got approximately 150 yards from the last ground pier before it starts out over the Rhine River when it happened. A couple of the spans at our end of the bridge were blown up at this time. Later the remainder was blown up.

Now we had to find our way back to our lines and our company. Suddenly out of the dark came another company in an early morning attack. Savoie and I were held at gun point because the GIs thought we were Germans in GI uniforms. Their officer soon cleared us because he had been advised to check if we were killed, captured or lost because we were so many hours overdue. We were lucky to have made it.

I DO BELIEVE L COMPANY, 329TH REGIMENT WAS THE FIRST TO THE RHINE.

We did get back to our company and started to clear the flanks south to the Erft Canal. A few days later in a fox hole behind the dike, March 13, I celebrated my 19th birthday. The Germans used some big artillery that day.

Last year, 1997, my daughter Carol and I returned to see if I could find any trace of the bridge. I talked to a gas station attendant and he advised me of the pier still standing on the Neuss side of the Rhine, next to the new bridge. I took pictures of the old piers and the new bridge. We walked to the Erft Canal. I did not find my old fox hole.

The names of the men on the patrol that I remember are Lt. Baker, patrol leader; S/Sgt. J. B. Latham, squad leader, Sgt. Ralph Wavra, asst. squad leader, Pfc. Hildaige G. Savoie, scout, Pfc. Robert Keck, scout, Pfc. Gilbert King, asst. BAR, Pfc. Elmer Rice, BAR, Clem Crocker, flank, and Pfc. Calvin Allen, flank.

The Wolfe letter follows:

I have a copy of the Time-Life History of WWII, copyright 1989, page 338 which mentions the event.

"As the battle raged in the northern sector, the main force of Simpson's Ninth Army in the southern sector had raced toward the Rhine against little resistance. On the night of March 2 they reached the Rhine at Neuss (I can confirm this I was there) opposite the great industrial city of Dusseldorf. Several American tanks were already rumbling across the bridge at Urdengen when the Germans blew it up. Nearby at Oberkassel, Simpson tried a less direct tactic. The commander of 330th Infantry Regiment had a bright idea of painting out the white star insignia on his tanks and applying German crosses. Hoping to pass unnoticed through the Germans and snatch the bridge from under their noses. He had German speaking GIs standing in the turrents. The ruse seemed success-

ful until the moment the lead tank reached the bridge itself. Then sirens sounded and a massive explosion sent the structure tumbling into the Rhine.

Another reference to that event was in the March 10, 1945 issue of the 83rd Spearhead paper.

An article titled "Rhine River Bridges Blown as 83rd Hits River" by Hal Boyle, A.P. In the article he states "Last Bridge Falls". The third bridge, a smaller highway link, above the railway bridge at Oberkassel, a suburb of Dusseldorf, was reached by a tank and doughboy force of the 3rd battalion, 330th d Infantry, commanded by Col. George M. Shuster of Marbleton, PA. A group of doughboys led by Capt. Wilford Barber of Oklahoma City, OK, A Company commander 331st, operating with Schuster's outfit, reached the western entrance of the bridge at 0930. "At exactly 0935, five minutes later, the Germans on the other side of the river blew this last bridge", said Lt. John Clevenger of Perth Amboy, N.J., S-2 of the 1st Battalion, 331st Infantry.

This article verifies such an attack took place as does the 329th Buckshot book on 329th action. No mention of using German speaking GIs is in the division or regimental book. The above named officers are not found in the roster of 83rd Assn. members. Maybe Col. Shuster could be located through 83rd or 330th records.

Submitted by William F. Dyer



**Carl & Lee Pliske
"A" Co. - 329th
50th Anniversary 1996**

Memorial Service at Peoria IL.



L. to R.: J.I. Lamb, Laddie Lawrence, Albert Burkevage, and Robert Keck.



Keck and Burkevage posting the colors.



The men holding a map of which shows where we crossed Germany.



Enclosed are my dues for 1999 and hope Pearl is much better.

In reading of the Summer Issue of the Thunderbolt on page 33 there are pictures of Milton & Margie Lovejoy. He was one of our cooks. The second picture says who is this? S-e section - 3rd BN. 329th Hq. Co. 83rd Division.

(1) I went through some old army clippings and pictures. This soldier is John Rothermel in the single picture.

(2) In the picture of six soldiers are John Rothermel, Mosby Toms, Mike Kadylak, John Sales, Jim Cronion, and Joe Colby. I went through the address book of 1994-95 - he is not listed so I don't know his address.

This whole group was in the S-2 section of 3rd Bn. 329th Hq Co. - You asked the question who is this? I hope this will explain & help you out.

Sincerely

Mosby C. Toms

401 S. Ellison Lane, Waynesboro, VA 22980

(540) 942-9221



#1



#2



LAST ISSUE

WHO IS THIS?

S-2 Section

3RD BN.

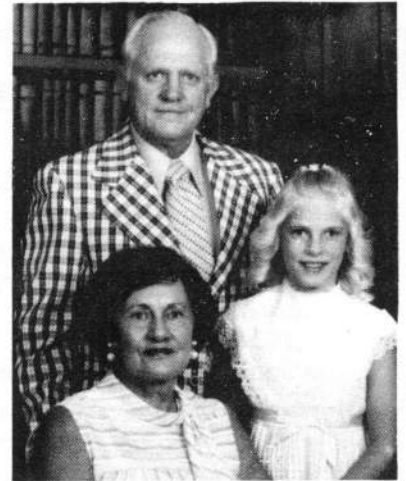
329th Hq. Co.

83Rd Division

I really did enjoy the chat we had today over the phone. I wish we could do it more often. I have a bad knee looks like & may have to have a replacement. My health is good other than that. I wish we could meet again at Myrtle Beach S.C. soon. I went back in 1965.

I'm original 330th Company "C" 83rd. I was wounded July 4th 1944 about 5 o'clock. Went back to England and stayed seventeen days, then return to the old outfit at St. Malo. Stayed with the outfit until Jan 15th in the breakthrough. Got

Norman, wife
Elga Rhea and
daughter, Tondra



#1



#3



#2



my feet frozen and had to leave at Behain Belgium. I really had some close calls. I had to go on many patrols.

I'm sending you a couple of pictures. Picture #1 was taken at Denard France. From left to right. James Dianton. He was from West Virginia, then me 2nd and I don't remember the name of the guy to my right.

Picture #2 From Left to right - Vincent Muro. He was from Staten Island, New York. Next me again taken in Luxemburg.

Picture #3 1st row - Nelson Gallagher

2nd row - Brown can't remember the 2nd guy, then me again.

3rd row - Gerold, Daniele, Myer, can't remember the 3rd fella and Markwick

I'm sending you a old picture of me, my wife, Elga Rhea and daughter Tondra. We have one grand daughter now.

My address is 827 Lucky Road, Bishopville, S.C. 29010

My phone # is 803-428-3525

Your Buddie

Norwood Hatfield

Attention!

330th Regiment, Members of Company "L". I am searching for anyone who served with my father, **Alfred Tyrala** during European action, 1944.

Please contact:

Eileen Tyrala
152 Highland Avenue
Jenkintown, PA 19046 or 1-888-223-8128

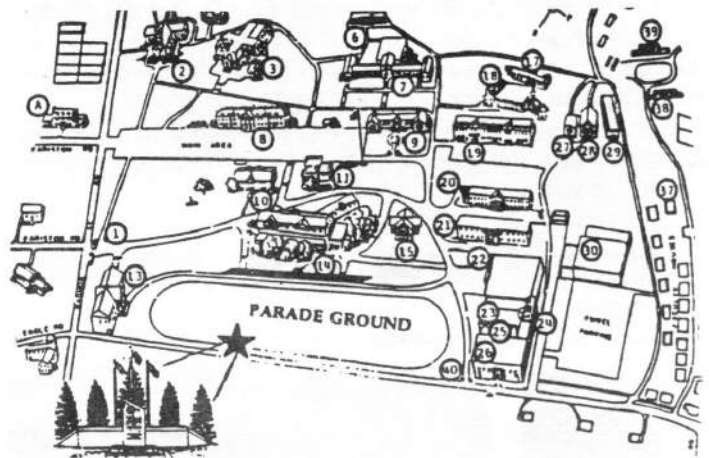
To my friend who has left us. I asked Fred in the fall of 1942 - who are you? I see that you are not the same as the others - older and a lot wiser, he response was, I am Fred Barnes from Philadelphia, PA. I soon learned of his astuteness as he was older than most of the incoming soldiers who would form the 331st Infantry; of the newly formed 83rd Infantry Division. He learned faster, and became one of the most outstanding soldiers of the unit. Fred had also played semi pro football in New Jersey and led the 331st Infantry to Division Champs. I was his "Top Kick" and center on the football squad throughout the year and half of training. He was "outstanding" "heads above his peers." On Omaha Beach in France in June 1944 he received a battlefield commission for outstanding performance of duty. From Normandy to the Elbe River to meet the Russians, Fred received many accolades for the outstanding job he was doing. We served together for over three years and I have told many people over the last fifty years that Fred Barnes was the best soldier that I ever served with - he was the type one could depend on, always a soldier, loyal to the end.

Since WWII, at Division reunions and over the telephone I always cherished his voice and laughter, we would tell stories of the war, each time the battle was more furious than the last - the stories our Comrades in Arms and of their hopes and achievements. Fred was a great person, a great friend and brother.

Good bye Fred, we'll miss you. God speed and keep laughing - I will be joining you in a few years - I love you. Your ol' "Top Kick" George Henry Waple, III, Soldier Retired.

"This is undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever famous American victory."

*- Sir Winston Churchill
addressing the House of Commons
following The Battle of the Bulge.*



There is no American military event more decisive than the World War II Battle of the Bulge, which erupted on December 16, 1944. Launched by the German army, with surprise in the worst conditions of winter by a lightning strike aimed at "divide and conquer" of the American and British armies, their success would have inevitably forced a negotiated peace with Hitler. But the true character of the U.S. Forces came to the fore and not only repelled this massive onslaught, but it imposed such a staggering defeat on the enemy, that it proved to be the "coup de grace" for the Nazis. In just over a month, the American casualties swelled to 76,890. It was the "biggest battle in American history".

Monuments are built to commemorate a certain event or series of events, to stand alone as an identification of its singular importance. Now, however such a memorial has been erected on the grounds of the renowned institution of learning, the Valley Forge Military Academy and College in Wayne, Pennsylvania a scant three miles from Valley Forge National Park. Where under the intrepid guidance of Generals George Washington and Frederick von Stueben, the American army was born. By virtue of its prestigious location this memorial is a constant reminder to every student and visitor, of this great battle, and its role in our heritage. The monument is located adjacent to the formal parade oval and is visible from both within and without the Academy grounds.

It is a Tribute to the Courage and Valor of the American Soldier.

Norman Schuster
49 E. Grandview Ave.
Sellersville, PA
18960-2612

Dear Bob:

I'm sorry the wife and I couldn't make it to the reunion but I'm sure going to try for the next one. Also sorry for the delay in sending these zeroxos but I wanted to do some research at the library to see what is on record in regards to the 329th Inf. Regiments taking and holding the only bridgehead East of the Elbe River. I'm going to write to the Publishers with zeroxos of this bridgehead as I think that it should be of record.

By the way, I'm wondering how many of our members know that a Bronze Star is issued on the basis of earning the Combat Infantrymans Badge? I had one issued to me in 1984 and keep forgetting to write about it. I'm enclosing a zerox in this regard. Had I not sent for a duplicate set, I may not have known.

I would like to know if there are any members that have their 329th Infantry Regiment History Book or if anyone purchased any video tapes or other history books documenting the Elbe Bridgehead.

On August 12, 1996 I watched the last of the 6 part series of Battlefield and the narrator stated that there will be no Allied Troops East of the Elbe! Excuse me! I was there. I wrote a letter to our Public Broadcasting Station with zeroxos, including the one with the sign "Truman Bridge, Gateway to Berlin over the Elbe Courtesy 83rd Thunderbolt Division Constructed by 295 Engr. Bn., 992 Bridge Co."

The TV station in turn sent my letter to a Historical Consultant that researched the history for the production company and he stated that he was unaware of us having a Bridgehead East of the Elbe River and assured me that this will be corrected. I included 3 of his letters to me. Have you had any similar situations such as this? By the way you can have my phone number listed in the future Roster.

As for Captain Hoover, I don't remember him along with other officers. I do remember a Second Lieutenant during the Bulge as he was to my front right during an episode of marching fire. He may have gotten my muzzle blast as he turned and looked at me and then I ran to catch up to him and was along side of him. Towards the end of the Bulge I didn't see him and he must have gotten wounded for when we were relieved and went to a town in Belgium, I was laid up in a bed for a while with frozen feet. I remember a doctor coming around and lifted the sheet up by my feet and asked me if I felt this. I said "no sir". He must have been sticking a needle into my feet or toes to see if there was any feeling there and there was none. Of course, they don't give purple hearts for frozen feet.

A few days later I remember a Sgt. Haas getting a Battlefield Commission in this town and I assumed that he replaced the one I mentioned. We were able to go to a photo studio to get a picture taken. I still have Russel E. Garvers but I can't forward it as he is unlisted in the books.

After the war while stationed in a small town I believed to be Zwesel I remember a GI was taking care of the Officers house and he asked me if I could help him get some firewood as there were geese there that kept after him

and I remember seeing some officers then but was not acquainted with them. I'll look forward to meeting Captain Hoover, I'll send my 35 dollars for my dues on the 3rd of Dec. Best regards.

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

Dear Bob:

Firstly, we wish Pearl has recovered completely and is doing well. Give her our best regards.

I have received some interesting information from Horst Reinhold and am enclosing a zerox of his letters where he has contacted 2 former German soldiers that opposed us on the East bank of the Elbe and am going to attempt to get whatever information from them as I can.

I am also enclosing 2 zeroxos of maps that Horst has furnished and I would like you to publish them in the "Thunderbolt" with a request to all the members to trace their route the best they can and forward it to me so that I can compile these to be published so that the American people will know that the 83rd Inf. Div. did indeed do battle on the Eastern bank of the Elbe River against a then fierce enemy and continued to hold the only Bridgehead East of the Elbe till wars end regardless of what other documentaries show that were produced with their great flawed version.

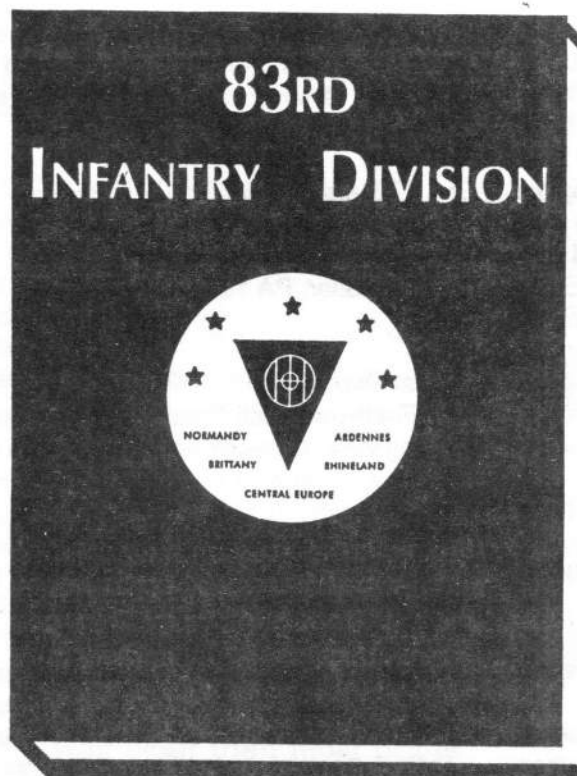
The resulting document will be forwarded to the 83rd Inf. Div. Asso., Inc. for approval and use it as the Executive Board sees fit. At the same time, I ask that I will have permission to distribute a number of these to the networks along with copies I will make of the video tape C.I.B Media's "83rd Infantry Division in WWII" with the opening title "Objective-Berlin" as this tape is Public Domain and is not copyrighted.

I have gone through my past copies of the "Thunderbolt" and there are many great stories and photographs you had published of experiences submitted by members that should also be included in this document if it could be approved by the Executive Board. I am sending a zerox of the photographs I have taken and will then turn the originals to the 83rd National Headquarters or B. John Prinzi, 83rd Historian. One was taken when we stopped for a breather on our dash to the Elbe and DP's can be seen on the road and something burning in the distance. I'll keep in touch and wish you and Pearl our best regards and thank you.

Respectfully,
Lou

Louis Gomori
309 E. Locust Street
Butler, PA 16001-4826
(724) 283-4340

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for information. He will send you an application form.

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