



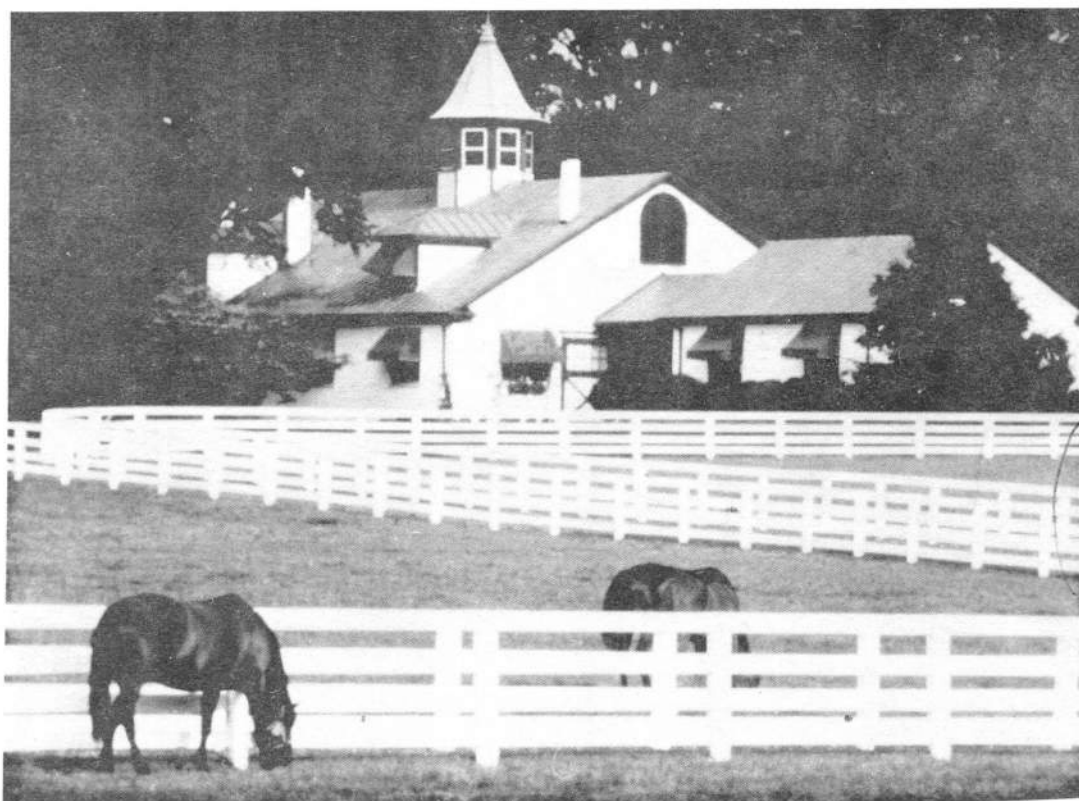
THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 54 Issue No. 2

Spring Issue 1999



New Barn at Calumet

53rd Annual Reunion

Lexington, Kentucky August 18, 19, 20, 21, 1999

THE THUNDERBOLT

Official Publication - 83rd Infantry Division Association Inc.

The THUNDERBOLT is written for all members of the 83rd Infantry Division World War II and is published at 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013-8907

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A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

*James C. Hanrahan..... 1947
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. Voranck..... 1958
Charles Aldrin..... 1959
*Joseph F. Minick..... 1960
*Frank J. McGrogan..... 1961
John W. Robinette..... 1962
*Manuel C. Martin..... 1963
*Julius Boyles..... 1964

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

Ralph Gunderson..... 1982
*Arthur Doggett..... 1983
*Bernie Cove..... 1984
Carroll Brown..... 1985
John Hobbs..... 1986
George Pletcher..... 1987
*Charles Schmidt..... 1988
Edward Reuss..... 1989
Charles J. Lussier..... 1990
Edgar H. Haynes..... 1991
Ned Smith..... 1992
Louis Sandini..... 1993
William A. Minick..... 1994
Casey Szubski..... 1995
Floyd Richmond..... 1996
Keith Davidson..... 1997
R.C. Hamilton..... 1998

* Denotes Deceased



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Another note to let you know that the Reunion plans are on the move.

We met on 2/3/99 with MITCH OF MITCH'S MEETINGS AND PLANNING in Lexington. Things are shaping up well. We have received several reservations for the Bourbon and Bridle Tour. The hotel is also receiving several reservations. Get yours in NOW. Remember the hotel has free parking and transportation to and from the airport.

Don't forget the Ad book. Get your ads in as soon as possible.

Ad applications are in the Thunderbolt as well as the other activities.

Again, I believe you will enjoy the hotel. It is located in downtown Lexington with shops and restaurants within walking distance.

Your President,
R.C. Hamilton



Peoria, Ill. Reunion 1998

Executive Board Chairman

I hope that everyone had a great holiday season and the new year 1999 will be a healthy and prosperous one for all. Our National President R.C. Hamilton informed me that he and his committee are working with Reunion Planner Mitch Kirchner and reunion plans are coming along fine. We should all start now making plans to attend this, our 53rd reunion. I think everyone will like the location of the Radisson Hotel. The hotel has a free parking garage and many fast food restaurants and shops are located in the area.

Please support the Ad Book and try to send your Ads in early. The Ad Book is very important for a successful reunion.

Our historian, John Prinzi, is doing a fine job and a lot of work for our 83rd Div. memorial monument to be placed in Arlington National Cemetery. It will honor every person who ever served in the 83rd Inf. Div. during World War II. We need donations from members and chapters for this permanent memorial. Please send your donation whatever amount you can afford so that this important project can be completed in early 1999. Check for the 83rd memorial should be made to the **83rd Inf. Div. Assoc. Memorial Fund** and should be mailed to **Bob Derlickson** our Secretary/Treasurer, **3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013.**

Please read your Thunderbolt for information and plan to pre-register. Applications were in the #1 fall issue Thunderbolt.

Let us plan early and think Kentucky.

Executive Board Chairman
Sal Scicolone



Peoria, Ill. Reunion 1998



Greetings from the Secretary-Treasurer's Office

Time does keep moving ahead. First I want to remind you that their will not be pre-registration form and hotel registration envelope in this issue. If for any reason you do not have pre-registration form etc, check for the loose forms in between cover and the pages. If you need a copy of forms send me a post-card requesting and also if you need them for a friend or a 83rd man not on the mailing list. I have some extra or I can make copies and send them right away.

Check the centerfold area for information about the reunion. The IRS has granted 83rd Inf Div. Association fiscal year to a calendar fiscal year (Jan. 1, to Dec. 31.)

Again I want to remind those who send in information for the magazine, the deadline has been changed to May 10, 1999.

*For all that have not paid your 98 dues please do so right away. You can save us some postage by not having to send you a reminder. You can send your 98 & 99 dues in on one check.
Thanks Bob*

I got a call from Nancy O'Connell that Kent had had a very serious stroke and is in nursing care center. He would enjoy some (get well cards).

Address:

Kent O'Connell Rm 129D
Central Island Health Care
825 Old Country Road
Plainview, NY 11803-4979

I want to advise you to get your ad in for the Ad Book. Time is passing by quicker than we realize. Also your pre-registration for the reunion and hotel registration.

I got a call from Norm Wolke that past President Ed Haynes wife passed away Jan. 8, 1999.

The time table for the new 83rd Book is to be ready for mailing sometime in June for those who have ordered.

If you did not send in your biography, the updated active roster will be in this BOOK.

A limited amount of these Books is being printed. Please get your order in now if you are interested.

NOTICE - NOTICE

The formal unveiling and dedication ceremony will take place June 6, 1999 at the Arlington National Cemetery. The next page is the Historian Corner which will explain it thoroughly. We should all get behind this project which was approved by Executive Board. We are giving everybody opportunity to be a part of this project

Bob Derickson
Nat" Sec./Tres.

Deceased List

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Reported By</u>
Baxter, Robert	M Co. 329th	Pat DiGiammerino
Chronisteer, Burl	HQ. CO 3rd BN 330th	N. Francullo
Epps, Leo M.	HQ 3rd BN 329th	R.V. Loftin
Fleischer, Martin	Co. B 329	Lester Fleischer
Gruss, John	Co. L 331st	Stan Bielen
Gundersen, Paul M.	Co. A 308th ENG.	Pat DiGiammerino
Hume, Donald F	HQ. 2nd BN 331st	Bill Flahaven
Hunter, Bedford L.	MED 908th F.A.	Son
Krebs, John B.	HQ. 330th	R. E. Gotwalt
Monnin, Leo	Co. K 329th	Family
Peters, Malcolm E. Sr.	HQ. 1st BN. 329th	
Sabo, John L.	323rd F.A. HQ.	Ed L. McConch
Smallwood, Francis	Co. A 331st	
Snyder, Robert C.	Co. D 330th	Wife-B. Snyder
Weaver, William R	Co. D 329th	Wife-M. Weaver
Wilson, Roy R.	Co. M 329th	Jim Watkins
Wojcieszak, John	Co. B 329	Bob Uher

CORRECTION: KADYLAK, MICHAEL, name was in issue #1 as deceased. That is incorrect, he is living.

83RD Infantry Division "The Thunderbolt"



An Everlasting Memorial tribute to the valor and Sacrifices of all who proudly served their country wearing this insignia.

WORLD WAR II 1941 - 1945

This is an URGENT appeal to ALL for donations to help fund the cost and thus permit the establishment of a PERMANENT MEMORIAL in the Arlington National Cemetery to honor the 83rd's valor and accomplishments during WWII.

THIS IS IT! WE MUST ACT NOW! Your prompt donation - in any amount you care to give - will be used for this worthwhile purpose and will be appreciated by future generations of descendants who will point to it with pride.

Checks payable to "83rd Division Ass. Memorial Fund" should be mailed to our treasurer, Bob Derickson at 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013. (One note:...the cost is estimated to be \$2,500, not \$2,000 as erroneously printed in the last "THUNDERBOLT")

Here is the current (1/19/99) status of this project:

- Our site preference request was approved thru channels and final permission of our selection has been granted by the Superintendent of Arlington. It is in Section 37 - at the border of Section 2 - close to the gravesite of General Robert C. Macon.

- The memorial will be two-fold: a granite stone approx 12: x 14: x 18:) with a bronze plaque; and a "living memorial" dogwood tree planted near the stone. (There is no charge made by the ANC for

allowing the monument to be erected on its grounds but instead, a donation of a tree as a living memorial is expected.)

- On the bronze plaque will be depicted the 83rd's "Ohio" shoulder patch, its five battles and stars, and a dedication tribute to all who served under that patch in WWII. It will be truly an "EVERLASTING MEMORIAL TRIBUTE".

I have ordered the stone and plaque from a monument dealer and will obtain its final approval from the authorities at ANC. Also arrangements will be made for the planting of a suitable dogwood tree when weather permits.

- The formal dedication ceremony will take place on June 6, 1999. It will be truly a memorable occasion complete with U.S. Army color guard, bugler, wreath bearer, etc. Members are invited (and urged) to attend.

For now, PLEASE send in your donations ASAP. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL. Here's your chance to prove, for all time, that

We were INDEED the very best.

B. John Prinzi, Historian

NAME _____ UNIT _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

AMOUNT _____

Chapters

Dixie Chapter News

Recollections of 25th Anniversary Christmas party Dixie Style

A great time was had by all! Those absent were missed. Those who have passed on were honored and held in memory. We will be indebted to those eternally.

After a most pleasant visit with Mary and Felix Livingston, their 100+ cows and calves and their 30,000 light display not to forget their kind hospitality I got to Gatlinburg with my wife Dec. 1, 1998 to get a jump on the shoppers. Fate was with me - I had one day to settle in, rest up and get going.

On Wednesday, 14 souls arrived for the celebration and celebrate they did! On Thursday many more signed on for the duration. By Saturday we had 163 for the banquet and entertainment. All are invited next year same weekend. Make plans early! In 1998 we were from 14 states, from Texas to Penn., Michigan to Florida, and all places in between.

Three Charter members blessed us with their presence. O.L. Cook, Dick Riddle, Dr. Kieth. They kept us straight with help from our able officers.

Our guest list reads like "Who's Who?", past presidents, Exec. board members etc.

Many of our widows were there quite busy helping in many ways.

Hosts Flo Jackson and Carol Brown and their helpers did an unbelievable job thru the entire week.



Dick Riddle watches parade in style.

Twas so good to have Virginia and John Cox with us! Virginia's eye sight is much improved. We were happy for them. John Hobbs arrived but had to leave his lovely wife home due to illness.

The Bluegrass Boys from Kentucky showed up with their lovely ladies under the leadership of John Hudnall.

We enjoyed the fellowship of all the members of the Ky. Chapter and missed those not able to join us.

New for the first time were the Joe Camps from "F" Co. 330th. O.L. Cook the old Co. Clerk kept them straight. Stan Gardner, a first timer, were welcomed.

Captain Hill made it in spite of all his health problems - his wife and daughter accompanied him. Four good men from 329th "B" Co. were there to support him.

Small groups at Co level seemed to be the order of the day due to age and sickness.

In spite of this a great time was had by all.

Dr. Kieth shared some heart moving human interest happenings with us. As a medic and really concerned trooper he has enough of these to write a book.

Entertainment was top notch. Friday night the all Electric Parade was enjoyed by all. Mary attended Christmas shows. All the reports were good! We danced till closing time, then celebrated some more as we unwound from the day's excitement.

Food was out of this world. Desserts, favorite dishes, liquid refreshment and other goodies.

Banquet was 1st class, gift exchange with Mr. & Mrs. Santa, Fifty-fifty drawings, dozens of door prizes, seemed as thou everyone but me won a prize. I never saw so many before. These things don't just happen. It takes many dedicated people working toward a common goal! I think it all came together and we can all be proud of each other. Lets keep it that way as together we remember those who have gone before us and keep a special place in our hearts for them in the coming years.

Your Reporter
Ellsworth Massie



Notables of Dixie watch parade.





Hostess takes well earned vest.



Three cannoneers F.A. Battery Alert. 908th



Capt. Hill with four of his faithful "B" 329th.



"F" Co. 331 Combat Infantry men.

Cleveland Chapter News

We had a heck of a now storm the first of January and it lasted about 2 weeks. Now when a few sprinkles come down we get all excited. But the ground hog did not see his shadow so "They Say", spring is right around the corner. We'll See!

Our Mess Sgt. Mike Mizerock had his other knee replaced and is doing fine, but Mike is getting cabin fever. He wants to get out. The Dr. said - soon. Ann is taking good care of him. She's doing fine.

Ronnie Lindsey had 2 knees replaced at the same time. Wow! She's doing fine.

Casey Szubski is doing ok after his heart attack and surgery, but his knees are still giving him a hard time.

Ted Karagedrge was given a clean bill of health. He's a very busy man with the D.A.V.

George Calore and Martha came to our last months meeting. He fell down some stairs at home and had to have surgery on his face, otherwise he's hanging in there.

Mary Jane Owen and Paul Dallos had eye surgery (cataracts) removed.

Al Lacinski had pneumonia but is ok now. He was at our last meeting.

Ann Christopher is back making pizza's for us. She's a great "Little" lady. "Thanks" Ann. We missed you.

Bernice Grobelny will have a cataract removed on her right eye February 22nd. Good Luck Bernie!

Ed Glinka gave us a scare last month when he fell going up a couple of stairs, at the V.F.W. home. 911 was called and the medics came. They checked him out, but thank goodness everything was ok. Eddy, don't scare us that way.

Emily Chech and Delores Jocek took over the cooking arrangements while Mike Mizerock was recuperating. Thanks ladies, good job.

February will be our election of officers and it will be a free-bee, meaning "Free Food."

This is all for now! Get well everyone!! Stay healthy.

Bob Grobelny, "A" Co. - 329th INF.

New England Chapter News

Here we are coming to another years end. On Dec. 6th we all headed for our yearly Christmas Party in R.I. at the Crowne Plaza at The Crossings in Warwick, R.I.

At this time we would like to thank Americo "Cutty" and wife Marie George for hosting our Christmas party and with help from Jim and Dot Brennan.

Nick and Mary Francullo went to the Brennans on Friday and on Saturday we headed for the Crowne Plaza.

We all got there around 11:00 a.m. and all got our rooms and it was a great turn out from Mass. We had Chuck & Bernice Abdinoor from Dracut Ma., August "Mousie" and Hazle Farias of New Bedford Ma. John & Ester Ferrier of Chelmsford Ma., Nick & Mary Francullo of Lynn Ma., Dutchy and Helen Smith of Lynn Ma., Bill & Jeanette of three Rivers Mas., Jim & Dot Brennan of Warwick R.I., Leon & Catherine Collins of Esmond R.I. Americo & Marie George of Warwick R.I., Joe & Helen Petrucci of N. Prov. R.I., Albert & Ann of Johnston R.I., Mike & Marie Champey of Middletown, Ct., Simon & Kathren Etzel of N. Guilford, Ct., Ray & Isabelle Orsini of Branford Ct. Burt & Rose Simons of Hamden Ct., and Bill & Eleanor Sullivan of Hamden Ct.

We missed not having Bill & Betty Davis as they were not able to travel. Also John & Priscilla Walsh of Portland, Maine. She had a operation and could not travel. Get well we miss you. Also the Burkhardts, The Judds, Budd Balfe and Will Burdin and the Merrells. Hope next Dec. we will have you all with us. Henry & Eleanor Foss and all the chapter members. It is a great weekend so lets try next year.

We would like to thank Dot & Jim Brennan for making the table pieces that were given out to the winners and also Cutty George for making gifts for all the women. Cutty is a very talented person. I was at his house and your mouth would open to see the Christmas display he has made. Cutty could not do to much at the party as he had to have his arm in a sling. Get well Cutty as we all pray that it will come out O.K.

After our Christmas Party Mousie and Hazle Ferias took off with senior citizens for a weekend at the Beacon in N.H.

Got a card from Wayne Turner & Janet that they are doing O.K. Wayne had a pace maker put in on Aug. 28th and getting along very well. Keep up the good news. We will pray for you. Also a card from the Wagners that Vera has Arthritis of the muscles and is doing O.K. and also got word that Bob Blout is not well. He has cancer and pray he will fight it off. June Zenz reports that husband Joe has lung cancer and being treated and doing fine and hope to make the Kentucky reunion.

Nick Boyd is doing O.K. but Irene had both hips replaced during the summer and coming along slow. Lets hope 1999 will be better for us all.

Big Red Burchan and Virginia, Al and Helen Vivio and Fred and Nellie Messina are all O.K. Just received a telephone call for the great one Vitie Atkocius of Forestville, Md. and he is doing fine. Received word that Bur Chronister who was in my squad passed away June 21, 198, he was a great soldier. Bob Blouts wife Blanche passed away in June our sympathy go out to the Blouts and the Chronister.

Received some info from Chuck Abdinoor and he reports that Dutchy Smiths Grandson Joseph was the feature performer in the Disney Ice show "Alladin" which is on a national tour. Dutchy was in H. Co. 330th. He was a section leader and Mousie Farias who is on the Executive Board was in his squad. They specialized in short rounds, to make sure the line Co. boys would keep moving forward Ha! Ha!

Our condolences to Frank Burgess of A. Co. 330 of the passing of his mother. She was 106 year old when she died recently.

Bernice & Chuck Abdinoor will be leaving for Florida. Shortly, as soon as their taxes are done. They are looking forward to it, especially Chuck, to try out his new fishing equipment.

Have not heard from two many of our N. E Chapter people, they must be all hibernating for the winter.

Heard from A Co. 330th Pillion, Reed, Milligan Spychala, Burgess, Scaiffeit and hope all is well with the rest.

Helen and Dutchy Smith were in Arruba again. They usually go four times a year. They have a wealthy son Ernest Jr. and they also frequent Atlantic City with Tag also.

Have not heard from John & Stacy Marsyz, hope all is well with them.

Hope you all had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and wish you all a Healthy 1999.

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



New England Chapter

Pittsburgh Chapter News

In the previous issue of the Thunderbolt it was noted that one of our ex-chapter presidents, Mike Kadylak had died, stating that correspondence had been returned marked deceased. This is not true--although Mike has very bad eyesight, he has been unable to attend meetings, but Jim McCulla is in contact with him on a regular basis and keeps us informed. The Chapter Xmas party was held on Sunday, December 20, 1998 with forty people attending. Each lady received a box of home-made chocolate candy. It was held at the Brentwood Post 1810 VFW. The Ladies Auxiliary of the Post cooked a nice meal, which was followed by an entertainment feature. This is where the chapter meets regularly. We were pleased to see Dottie Walsh present as she has been in and out of the hospital the past year or so. The chapter purchased a \$20 ad for the Post's "Man-of-the-Year" banquet on Feb. 27, honoring "Andy" (himself) Flani an honored as the youngest "99" year-old in these parts. This is a very energetic Post with a large turnout for all their events. Paul Diethrich's wife, Rita had a thrid operation in Dec., Paul is hail and hearty after a knee transplant. Our meetings although holding at around twenty are showing wear and tear. Our latest departees include George Komlos who fell and has trouble walking and moved from the area. "Andy" Churpak suffered a heart attack with depression. Rocco Catalfamo was in Passavant Hospital recently for pneumonia. Joe DeLuca, who is unable to drive was in attendance at the Feb. meeting. He was driven by his wife. The same for our chaplain Frank Hornack who also was driven by his wife, Margaret. He is confined to a wheel chair. Your reporter with his wife Joann and youngest daughter, Ann who is attending college sold their house in Pittsburgh and moved to a retirement village in Butler County some twenty miles north. This village is dotted with a fair amount of veterans. One in particular, Jim Ranker, who served with the 26th Inf. Div. suffered frozen feet in the Battle of the Bulge. What is notable that we exchanged memorabilia. He has a daughter who resides in Ashatbula, Ohio, who sent him a copy of the Ashtabula Star-Beacon which included an 8-page section dealing with the Battle of the Bulge. This edition was in a Dec. 1994 edition. In this two 83rd men were mentioned prominently. Ralph Higginbotham, assigned to a 40mm anti-aircraft gun which worked with a 105mm battery to ward off enemy aircraft. The other Cpl. Rudowski of the Signal Corps setting up the electronic and communication lines. I leafed through the roster but neither was listed.

Fran Beerhalter

To H Co. 329: my new address is 147 York Rd.,
Cranberry, PA 16066.

Phone 1-724-452-2297.



New England Chapter



New England Chapter



New England Chapter



New England Chapter

Florida Chapter News

We are happy to report that the Florida Chapter is alive and flourishing. At our last meeting held on Jan. 23 & 24 in Sebring Fl. we had a major event. The Chapter officially celebrated it's 20th anniversary, however the actual charter date was May 13, 1978.

For the record, there were 31 members attending the business meeting and a total of 68 people at the banquet. Hosting this meeting was our past President, Harry Gravelyn and his wife, Barbara.

A year ago the Sunshine Ladies with guidance from Geri Gunderson, Helen Sullivan suggested preparing a book about the Chapter as a fitting memorial to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Chapter. Geri and her helpers spent many hours and phone calls, contacting stray members as well as regulars for pictures and personal information.

At our Nov. 1998 meeting a number of enlarged photos were displayed (without names) and a contest to identify the pictures was held. Very few of these WWII pictures were identified. Age has taken it's toll.

Of the 16 charter members, 7 are still living and only 4 are able to attend meetings. These are Ralph Gunderson, Bill Nickell, Dick Sullivan, and Walter Harding. Our present membership is around 60, but varies each year due to death and occasional new members.

At this meeting, due to the efforts of Geri Gunderson, we welcomed 5 widows out of 11 contacted. As our ages increase, travel distance is a concern. At our banquet many accolades were made to the persons responsible for putting together this great book, tracing the history of the Chapter and all those who have served it well. In our short life, we are proud to have had four members who have served as National Presidents, and hosted three National Reunions.

This chapter usually meets three times a year, Jan., April, & Nov. in different locations, mostly in central Florida. Our present active membership includes about 15 true "Snow Birds" who summer in the northern tier and maintain 2 or more chapter memberships. Any association members who may be visiting at those times are welcome at our affairs. Notices are mailed a month prior to meetings, so if you are interested, contact the secretary. (Phone # at end of the article)

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 23 & 24 at Ospey Fl. (near Venice) hosted by Al & Ruth Bensimon. If you are visiting in Florida during that time, try to visit with us.

As this article dealt with our anniversary celebration, news of personal nature was not available. Having Ralph Gunderson, member of National Exec Board, and John Prinzi, Historian, we are kept up to date on news of national importance.

I hope to have more news for next publication.

W. Allen Fisher, Serv. Co. 331st Inf.
(561) 461-3640

Michigan Chapter News

Dear Member, former Member, a Member's surviving spouse and friends,

The salutation addresses men (and women, our Members surviving spouses) and asks you to join a group of buddies, who served honorably in the 83rd Infantry Division and it's attached units in WWII.

Now, that recorded, as strange as it may sound, there seems to be an interest in asking you about remembering your service in the World's Biggest War, with buddies from the 83rd INF Thunderbolt Division. The diminishing attendance at DIV Reunions, may indicate a closer to home regional type reunion is more easily attended. We are lucky to get old, but our members are slipping away. **It's later than you think!** Count your blessings and don't you want to be with the people, whose War experience has never been matched. Now, casual travel is tedious, vision is dimmer, teeth are more trouble, hair is on the comb, it's easier to be close to home where it's comfortable, staying at home is less expensive. These are common reasons, most of us have today, Remember our valiant buddies, who gave it all, their actions allowed us to come home in peace. Wouldn't these valiant men want the privilege of a reunion with soldiers of their 83rd Infantry "Thunderbolt Division WWII?

The plan is simply to:

1. Verify and refresh all available addresses.
2. Add names and addresses of interested individuals, most will probably be from your referral.
3. Gauge interest in a (revived) "Michigan (State Wide) Chapter".
4. Plan a first meeting and rotate meetings as close to the midst of the interested responding persons. We have been "Mustering" at the Hazel Park Michigan Quality Inn, on the corner of John R Road and 9 Mile Road. Until we check the response, to determine a more central location, please consider this a default location for now. It is handy to I-75 and I-696 exits. Our business is welcome with no advance requirements.
5. Schedule 3 meetings per year, the 3 meeting would probably fall on or close to, 17 March, 10 June and 09 September 1999. A possible 4th meeting August (at the 83rd Division Annual Reunion),
6. To assist in starting a resemblance of Chapter Meetings, we will NOT have elections, but rather everyone please contribute their efforts and talents, to the reorganization effort. If we are successful in the resumption of a Chapter, we will probably have to report some organization to the Association, but let's go for a nice bunch of people, sharing a common interest, who as a group served in the same WWII outfit.
7. We ask you to please respond to this inquiry, to assist us in putting together a roster.
8. The top section of the Data Page has 6 questions (your answers aren't etched in stone, but as you see it now, no problem to change either way).. To help plan, please, send in the reply envelope.

Thank you for your attention,
Vito (Bill) Palazzolo G 329th
and Wm. Ferguson F 329

Boston Chapter News

In November a meeting was held at the Taknuk Post American Legion with 39 members present. Attendance was good and the meeting was very successful. A new place had been chosen for our next Mini Reunion. The details will be available at a meeting after the winter months. Our meeting ended with a dinner cooked right at the Post. A good time was had by all.

Jim Prentice was sick but is doing much better.

Three Cheers for Charlie Lussier and also for Pat Digiammerino and the rest of the Christmas Party Committee, for one of the most happy and decorous Xmas parties ever held at the Ramada Inn at Seekonk, MA. We had a very good crowd from all around New England.

Missed were all of the Bridgeport crowd which is usually led by Mike Malick who is reported as being ill. Also missed was Al Remi and especially his wife Jackie who usually led our singing of the Xmas Carols. Their absence was made up by the Maine contingent led by Al King and Judy.

After spending the whole afternoon in the hospitality room, we entered the banquet hall which was decorated in the usual red and green decorations for Xmas. On one side of the hall was a billboard set up by Fred Sylvia showing about thirty five professional looking photographs taken at our last mini reunion at the Paramount. After viewing these very good pictures we all sat down to a prepare for a sumptuous meal.

After saying grace, the President, Louis Sandini, welcomed everyone to the holiday party and the music started playing while we ate. Not many people danced but some did between courses and after the meal. Christmas carols were sung throughout the festivities.

Next a handsome, mysterious, Santa Claus, who went by the name of Charlie, came in and amidst great hilarity and lap-sitting, distributed gifts to everyone present.

After the noise died down a little, the annual lottery drawing was held. The First Prize \$100.00 was won by S.J. Lawrence of Plainesville, Ohio; second prize \$50.00 was won by Al Runge of Hingham, MA; The third prize was won by Pat Pacheco of Fall River, MA.;----zonds!! who do you think won the fourth prize of \$25.00? None other than S.J. Lawrence, fifth prize of \$25.00 was won by Robert Hollowell of MA.

After more singing and dancing, we all returned to the Hospitality room where we all reminisced about the past and how we all missed Armstrong and his Accordion. This continued into the wee hours of the morning.

Mike Amicone passed away since the November Meeting. Condolences to his family.

At the time of this writing, many have been sick with the flu. Most all are doing better. Some have already booked flights to Kentucky. Thats all for now.

Amby Tynan



Philly Chapter - bragging about their bocce win



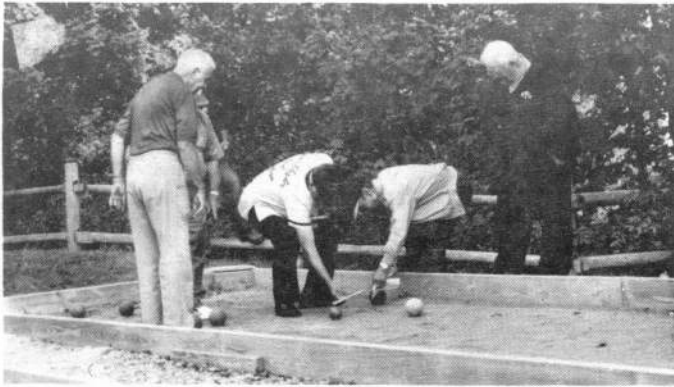
Happy Eating at Paramount Hotel



Memorial Service at Paramount Hotel, N.Y.



Santa Greeting Al King & daughter Judy (from Maine) & June Petit.



Philly Chapter - trying to squeeze a point.



Cheerleaders?

Kentucky Chapter News

The Kentucky Chapter met on Dec. 11th and 12th at the Comfort Inn in Piqua, Ohio for our annual Christmas meeting. This is a great place as the hotel doors open to a shopping mall. Our wives and families really like that. It seems like every time I looked around the lobby, I would see ladies either going out or coming back with shopping bags loaded with merchandise. God Bless them.

This meeting was hosted by Al & Dorothy Henry, Lois Brinkman, Hays & Betty Wilt. They are great hosts & hostesses making the meeting enjoyable for all of us.

We were happy to see Bonnie Hoover back after her lengthy illness. She brought our President Earl with her also daughters Diane and Beth. Randy Trent was there too.

Manny Goodridge flew up I-75 from Kentucky to meet with his buddy Norman Weaks who drove in from Indianapolis. Norman brought along a fake parrot who kept repeating what someone said. We had a lot of laughs from the parrot.

Was happy to see Joan Barga, wife of late Robert Barga. She came with one of her sons & a grandchild.

We were happy to see Ames & Helen Miller at the meeting. It was the first time in a long time that they attended.

Some of the other members and wives who attended the meeting were Floyd and Alberta Richmond, Paul and Doris Lear, Harold and Catherine Fisher, Chester and Helen Wilson, Homer and Ruth Rickenbaugh and family members, Orval R. Turner and Joe & Delores Henry and Gale Baker.

We heard that Dorothy Fowler is confined in a rest home at 12836, 14 mile Road, Warren, Mich. I'm sure she would enjoy hearing from some of you.

Hershell McIntosh is recovering from surgery he had on Dec. 18th to repair a blocked artery in his neck. Hope by the time he reads this he will be fully recovered so he can play his guitar at our next meeting.

Missed Wanda & Marvin Hayden from Louisville also Alton & Beverly Carter due to illness. Marvin had been in the Hospital for tests. I sure hope he studied a lot before he took them. I think Beverly had cataract surgery.

Heard that Bill Payne was in a car accident on March 21st and was hospitalized until May 11th. Sure hope he is well again.

Helen Miller called to tell us that Irene Baker, wife of Gale Baker died. She had been ill. We all extend our deepest sympathy to Gale & family.

We received a call from Nora Lee Walters telling us that on Dec. 20th, she celebrated 100 years of marriage, 50 years with Cecil and 50 years with Pete. My last article explained Pete. They had about one hundred people helping them celebrate. We wish them a lot of happiness & many more years together.

Vi and I went to the Dixie Chapter Christmas meeting in Gatlinburg, Tenn. It was their 25th year at the Riverside Motel. The decorations were beautiful and the food at the banquet was great. It was so nice seeing people we had not seen for years especially my army buddy, Jim Davis from Bells, Tenn. Vi bought five Santas. Santas are Vi's weakness. She must now have about four hundred of them. My weakness and obsession is carving.

Fran Bielen wrote to us to tell us that Stanley joined our By-Pass Club. They had to cancel their 50th Anniversary celebration and Fran returned the beautiful dress she purchased for the occasion. We hope and pray for Stan's full recovery.

Vi just called Bob Derickson to check on Pearl. Pearl is home and has physical therapy twice a week. Hope it won't be long before we see her smiling face at our meetings and the reunion in Lexington.

All of us from the Kentucky Chapter wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Wilson Day,
1st Bn. Hdqs. 331st

Companies

CO. "F" 329TH.....

OVER BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: Our North/South Get-Togethers. You have read this by-line before and the writer believes it to be factual for many wonderful reasons. At each we usually conduct a small amount of rather unstructured business which some agree with while other do not, at least not a 100%. Our results however have been to keep growing, not bad considering our age group is at best declining. Remembrances of those no longer with us instituted early on by Bill Ferguson is always a part of our times together. These moments are generally conducted by our own Dr. Marshall D. Keith affectionately known to us as just "Doc". The moniker comes not from his profession but for the outstanding combat medic he was to "F" Company 329th. Over the years "Doc" has been ably assisted by Dale Lewis, George Fuller, Bill Ferguson and others along the way, some on an impromptu basis, as happened at North '98. Just after George Fuller's lovely harmonica rendition of "Amazing Grace". Hal Newell got us all on our feet and while joining hands in a big circle led us in singing that beautiful old hymn. "Doc's" vignettes of each Buddy in attendance together with some no longer with us were exceptional as to recall and his delivery, causing many eyes to sweat, some profusely. "Doc's" remarks included S/Sgt. Oscar H. Harrington, Father/Grandfather respectively of Oscar L. and Scott Harrington who were with us from Louisville, Ky. S/Sgt. Harrington was killed at Barby, April 13, 1945.

Those of you not attending "F" Co. Minis are really missing a Great! time in your life. To those who just can't we understand and you are always in our thoughts as we meet.

This story from World War I has always reminded me of our "Doc" Keith, see if it does you. A soldier in the trenches asked his officer if he might go out into "No Man's Land" to bring in one of his comrades who lay grievously wounded. "You can go" said the officer, "but it's not worth it. Your friend is probably dead and you will throw your own life away." The soldier went, receiving wounds on the way, got to his friend, hoisted him onto his shoulder and brought him back to the trenches. The two of them tumbled in together and

lay at the bottom. The soldiers' officer came by, looked very tenderly on the would-be rescuer, and them said, "I told you it wouldn't be worth it. Your friend is dead and you are mortally wounded." It was worth it, though sir," he said. How do you mean, worth it? I tell you your friend is dead." "Yes sir," the soldier answered, "but it was worth it, because when I got to him he was still alive, and he said to me, 'Jim, I knew you'd come.'"

In "Thunderbolt" Vol. 50 No. 3 1995 Pg. 17 is an open letter by "Doc" Keith. It is worth your reading again then plan to attend the next scheduled Get-Together. I can't guarantee you, who will be there, the weather, the entertainment, the food, Nothing except the camaraderie of Buddys and of years gone by. What! More can you ask?

IN REMEMBRANCE: Colonel Granville Attaway Sharpe April 4, 1920 - October 17, 1998. Col. Sharpe was assigned to the 329th Infantry Regiment 83rd Infantry Division at Camp Atterbury, Indiana December 1942, landed at Omaha Beach June 23, 1944 as commanding officer (Captain) of G Company 2nd Battalion 329th Infantry Regiment. After being wounded and upon his return he became the 2nd Battalion's commanding officer, later being promoted to Major and on January 21, 1945 to Lt. Colonel. At 24 years old reportedly the youngest Colonel in the ETO. Col. Sharpe remained in command of the 2nd Battalion 329th meeting the Russians at Zerst, Germany. After V.E. Day moving to Plattling, Germany from where he was transferred to 83rd Division Headquarters and shortly thereafter was returned to the U.S. to attend Command and General Staff College. Colonel Sharpe continued a varied and distinguished military career. His final army assignment was to Ft. Benning Georgia as commander of the Student Brigade of the Army Infantry school retiring in 1968. Colonel Sharpe died on October 17, 1998 after a long fight with Parkinson's disease. Burial was November 10, 1998 in Arlington National Cemetery w/Full Military Honors w/Cassion. All who knew and knew of Colonel Sharpe knew of his battlefield skills and valor and shared a mutual respect and admiration for his unselfish duty to his family, his country and his God.

CONDOLENCES: To Alice Sharpe on the death of your husband Col. Granville A. Sharpe. Your children's printed Tribute says more and says it better than any others could. Speaking for company "F" and many others I'm sure, may God's comfort and love be with you and your family during this time of grieving.

HERE & THERE: Next "Thunderbolt"

COMING EVENTS: 53rd Annual Reunion Lexington, Kentucky August 18, 19, 20, 21, 1999. At present we know of three men two wives planning to attend. Anyone else drop us a line it will be helpful. - North '99-October 10th-13th'99.

J'EVER NOTICE: Smashing heads does not open minds.

C.R. Bob Whitcomb

CO. "D" 331st.....

The last report wished you a Happy and Healthy 1999. By the time you receive this, spring will be upon us. Now for the news:

The Reunion in Lexington is not that far off so for those of you just contemplating, get off your duff and send in your reservations.

Didn't hear from Harry Adkins and hope everything is okay. Tryeciak does see him at the Cleveland Chapter Meetings. Pop Akam says he saw Norman Schuster and that Norm had eye surgery, but as we all know Norm, he just keeps plugging and given off happy thoughts. Ken Barker sent a card, but no news so I hope he'll be in Lexington. Frank Cancasci says he's happy enjoying life so I hope he'll make Lexington. In February 1998 Whit East fell and broke his left leg and hip. He says he's pretty well back to normal again and we hope to see him and Doris next summer.

We're sorry to tell you Harry Fetzer lost his wife two years ago. Our sympathy to you Harry. Try to make a Reunion or Dixie Chapter meeting. Harry Gravelyn finished his term as President of the FLORIDA CHAPTER in November on a high note. (Hi-C) He and Barbara were in Sebring, Fl. last week where we celebrated 20 years of the FLORIDA CHAPTER.

R.C. Hamilton, Association President is looking forward to the Reunion. He has his daughter and granddaughter now near him in Tennessee. Dave Harman just signed his card but whenever I call him he says he'll join us at a Reunion but doesn't make it. Try hard Dave. Art Haught is still holding down the Fort in Naples. He and Peggy made the 20th. Celebration of the Florida chapter.

George Komlos fell and cracked 3 ribs which required a 10 day hospital stay and now recuperating at his sisters. I am sure he will be at the Reunion. Jimmy Lynch is recovering from his stroke and is home but has some therapy yet to go before he can really move around like the Jimmy we all know. Hang is there Jim and Harriet. The JDan McDermotts have been flitting about the country entertaining family, and say they'll see us at the Reunion. We spent a wonderful week together aboard the 'GRAND PRINCESS'.

Bill and Jeannette were another Co. D helping to celebrate the 83rd FLORIDA CHAPTER meeting. He has promised to be in Lexington at least for one day - August is such a bad time of year for so many members. Someday maybe this can be changed!! Finally Tom Morris wrote a little more than his signature. Due to health reasons they

don't drive any more. Would like to come to a reunion. Maybe not this year but up in N.Y. State in 2000. O.K. Tom?

Vern Mueller is batching it while Ruthe takes a so journ to Mexico They'll be in Cancun when Bill, Jeanette, Geri and I arrive on the 30th. of January Think they'll be at Lexington. Marcella Nolte said she misses the Reunions and seeing all of Gene's buddies. The George 's are hanging in there and hoping to make a Reunion. Lexington isn't so far George, how about it? Hooray, we'll get to see the Frank Sabines again They've had to be in California the last few years in August, same times as the Reunion. Glad to see you back Frank.

Norm Schuster is still having his health problems, but remains his cherry self. Said Ed Smith called him from Florida and said he had health problems also. Hang in there you guys!! Frank Sharp is back in Florida and joined the other five Co. D men at the FLORIDA CHAPTER Anniversary.. Al Shrawder, since he picked up a better computer sends us E-Mail frequently. We used to talk by phone very often but now its demourter with its instantaneous talk back and forth. Al liked the "D" Co. Cruise so much he's pushing for another one. We'll see Al. Hank Trzechiak says he's feeling better and expects to be at the Reunion. He meets Dallos and Adkins at the Cleveland Chapter meetings. I just called Bhynum Hancock and he still has the same number but was unable to reach him. John Miklos was at the 20th. CELEBRATION of the Florida Chapter too. Our sympathy to John as he lost a grandson in a car accident in October.

At the FLORIDA CHAPTER MEETING in January we had 6 from Co. D present. Gravelyn, McKee, Sharp, Haught, Miklos and myself. Geri presented her 20th. Anniversary Chapter book and then emceed for two hours and brought the house down. Honoring the deceased of the Chapter which included Sam Klippa, Nep Campbell, Gene Nolte, Bill Nagel and Bernie Dove plus all the deceased men of the 83rd of the FLORIDA CHAPTER. There were five widows to help travel down memory lane along with a total of 69 guys and gals at this meeting.

Ralph B. Gunderson.



It's hard to believe isn't it? Here we are a quarter of the way through 1999. It brings back memories from high school classes when we would discuss that far off year 2000. You remember then, grand parents who lived to be 75 were relics. Now here we are and most of YOU guys are in your eighty's. Can you believe, this year? George Harris will be 90, Charlie Rohrer 87, Ray Wiggins 85 and Doc Pfeifer is not far behind.

Naturally your all sitting on the edges of your seats waiting for my personal medical report. As brief as I can, for those of you who haven't heard, on Oct. 7th I had one third of my last kidney successfully removed because of the sudden growth of a tumor. It's been a tough struggle but I'm feeling rather good since the removal of a "Stent" last Friday, which ran from the kidney into the bladder. I'm smelling the roses!

My surgeon, who is just about the best in Philly, advised me to get a second opinion at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio. We took his good advice and we met the worlds greatest, A Dr. Andrew Novick; a kind and gentle man. He said, "I have to tell you that I got the whole tumor, your are a lucky man and I want you to go home and enjoy the rest of your life." Of course cancer is still cancer so, like you, however remaining years are left I will try to live them to the fullest.

Before going on I would like you to learn through my experience. The bottom line is, if you come up with a serious illness, you should not only get a second opinion but a second option! Most of us have had good, long-time, friendly doctors. However, if he suggests you see "Dr. Jones" at your local hospital, that's ok, but just make sure you also get that second opinion and search for another opinion. The life you save will be your own.

This is also the time to check in with the reports on Christmas messages. I know many of you are also exchanging cards so I'll keep this as short as possible.

The Hackstocks: both fine wintering in Fla. "maybe we'll see you at next reunion."

"The Reese's: some medical problems but carrying on.

Doc and Agnes: Managed a months trip to son in Ca. and still had enough energy to build the granddaughter a bureau. Doc signs off "from the 783rd sick, lame and lazy nurse-less home." We all need Doc's sense of humor.

Joe Brown: doing fine off the course. Jack Getty called Joe for Gilmans number and they refought the war for an hour.

The sun tanned Bensimons: Picking fruit every day. (This explains a lot.) Al and Ruth will be hosting the spring Fla. Chapter reunion.

Perko and sons are doing well in spite of some very bitter winter.

Charlie Rohrer reported in from Fla. still enjoying his boat fishing. He says he'll try to make Lexington in spite of the Aug. date.

The Fredericks: They were doing fine, clearing the snow from their little castle, until Carl fell and broke an ankle! Carl is taking it well but hates giving up eating at the steak houses.

Gilmans: Not only managed putting up some fifteen family members but Ivan also found time, in seven weeks, to send me seven unique cards, each with seven different lectures on how I should take care of myself and listen to Ginny. Along with this also came, seven week-end, phone calls. The loving thoughts were much appreciated but I couldn't help but wonder about all the enforced duty's of 1944-45!

Faithful Weavers: Still smiling and walking the malls. What's a few miss beats of the heart? They too hope to make it to KY. in August.

Frank Salontay: Boy, what can you add to a buddy who calls you every Christmas day? Frank's cancer is under control and he's been playing six holes of golf with his buddy Samantha. Maybe I should say, Frank's four legged girlfriend.

Troy and Marie Bishop: A nice seasons greeting but no further message. Hope all is well Troy...

Martha Appleby: Martha took a nice cruise with her daughter Sherry and granddaughter Nicole. So Martha is doing well and we will have lunch with Martha when she comes down, to our mutual Cancer Center, for a check up on Feb. 2nd.

George Harris: Or amazing George. George is still managing his apartment and occasionally drives the car down to the legion to have a nip with the young ones. He wrote me two letters in two months and I keep in touch by calling him and his good nephews who brought George to the reunions. Who can forget Keith and George Waltz?

Lou Labbe: Lou reported in, both in card and phone call. She sounds great and says she is doing well. Being surrounded by her close children I knew she would and she wants to be remembered to all the Labbe's longtime reunion friends.

Other girls heard from: Lee Wolf, Dot Foster and Jane Bond. Like us, there are aches and problems but they too are smelling the roses and recalling fond memories.

The Mannings: Bill wrote and called as he was quite concerned about my condition. You know how it is with these medical people. "Gilly gee," the Mannings are all fine.

The Burns: They are doing well. Bob not only volunteers at the hospital but at tax time he helps the seniors with their tax forms. Bob is on the internet. His E-mail is Msbur@ Tir. com or you can talk to him on ICQ 14351280.

Sam and VI Hoffman: They had such a good time at their first reunion they can't wait for Lexington to meet some more fellows that Sam can't remember.

The Wiggins: Ray is finally going to unroll his money and give Mimi a brake. They have signed up for a March 22nd move-in, if Ray doesn't get cold feet. At his age he always has cold feet! He's going to have a two car garage which means he can set up cots. Then I can visit

and get back at all the insulting "get well" cards he sent me.

The latest on Jim Jones is he has moved back to his old homestead in Chambersburg, Pa. Of course this is farm land with some fence post repairs. I'll report on Jim's back in the next issue. Jim's new address is: 5947 Fort McCord Rd. Chambersburg, Pa. 17201, 717-263-4807.

Oh my, just found Milly Dogget under my desk! She is fine, trying to keep up with all her grandchildren in all the college's. Sounds familiar. The reunion is only 65 miles from Milly so she is looking forward to August.

Elsewhere is this Thunderbolt is an article by young Jim Swope, our honorary member from Reading, Pa., who is a prime mover for the 9th Annual WWII Commemorative Weekend. You remember last year we had a mini 83rd Div. reunion here with 19 buddies in attendance. Cliff Snyder, 331st came down from N.Y. while the champs were Wes Sutton 330th from MI. and Buddy King, Band, flew up from Texas. So whether your near or far maybe you can include reading and the weekend of June 6th in your travel plans.

Joe Brown's keen eye picked up a picture from the Oct. 98 Life magazine in regards to the Private Ryan movie. It was during the cemetery scene and the cross to the right was inscribed, John Miller, "died from injuries on D Day" 83rd Inf. Div. from Penna. Anybody have any clues? There has to be an interesting story here.

Many of you may have read Tom Brokaw's best seller "The Greatest Generation. I think it is one of those "must read" books that you will not only enjoy but one that should be shared with your children and your grandchildren. It's better than "Hut Two" but don't tell Ginny.

In closing Ginny and I would like to thank all of you who sent get well cards or called. It was truly a lift to feel the long lasting love. Why, I even got a call and two cards from my rival Stan Bielen Hdq. 331st. What a great guy and he was just recovering from his open heart surgery. Stan, I'll bet my incision is longer than yours!

Hut two,
Rags Rangnow



323rd FA News.....

Not much to report on the other batteries this time.

Tony and Helen Piantedose were on a ship recently. Pat DiGammerino and Ginny are busy working on our Boston Chapter membership. They do a good job.

Al Covi is doing well. I knew he would. Ralph Morgan would be proud of you Al.

Ed McCouch will be a year older in April, I believe.

Erwin Erhardt is doing well. I've talked to him a lot on the phone. He sent me some of his cigars to help me make it to the pine box sooner, also a horse to take me.

Don Willis is on the Golf Course in South Carolina. He must ride now as I think it is the only way he could make 18 holes. Enough said.

Willis Snodgrass is still working out everyday to show us up at the reunion. I think Willie is going to bring his family this year.

I will try to get Joe Malone to go this year if I can get him out of Maine.

Had a nice letter from Doctor Monroe Cohen. He is doing very well.

Haven't heard from Harold Michaels lately but he must be on the move.

Walt Harding has been taken it one day at a time. He said if he makes it to the reunion his son will have to drive him.

In the past year Joe Costello had a triple by pass and took a year off from his law practice. He is now back to work. Joe is the son of Jerry and Alice Ann Costello.

I just phoned Don St. John. His wife Amy said he was out with his club but was doing fine.

I had a letter from Tom Houlette. It certainly was nice to hear from him. He had some health problems but is doing much better.

Alice Ann Costello, Margaret Taylor and Nancy Nellies all wrote to me at Christmas time. It was sure nice to hear from them. Also talked to Norman McCormacks wife on the phone.

John Sabo passed away in November. John was a true friend to all of us. Condolences to John's Family.

Amby Tynan
323rd FA Bn.

We just got back from the "Battle of the Bulge" recreation. We burned the candle at both ends, so we came back bushed. Not much walking to speak of, but early morning reveille just about killed us.

We were disappointed in the Battle itself, the spectators were on top of one side of the mountain, and the Battle took place at the bottom of the Valley and in the woods. All viewing had to be done with good binoculars as the distance was to great. Unless you had an expensive camera with telephoto lenses you could not get a picture. The recreation is an exercise for the guys who participate not the viewers. They all did a good job of acting their parts. Uniforms and equipment were authentic. There was even German Jeeps, Trucks, Motor cycles, and even a German field kitchen set up that they demonstrated by cooking their supper on Saturday night. Of course there were many pieces of U.S. equipment also.

We met three British Soldiers that came over for the event. They were returning the courtesy of some of the Irish Guards from the U.S. that had been to Britain for one of their reenactments. They had also participated in some sort of reenactment in England during the 1994 "D. Day" Commemoration.

The 83rd Division was represented by the reenactors, but I didn't see much of them.

Did not meet a soul that we knew, but met many Ex GI's and reenactors. I did run into one person that had on an 83rd patch on a field jacket, and I told him he was never in the 83rd. When he turned toward me he said that he had been told to look me up by a friend of mine. I couldn't figure what was going on, and then he said he had been looking for some one wearing a 453rd. Cap with an 83rd patch and I was the one. He is a friend of 'Rags' Rangnow, who wrote the book "HUT TWO", and Rags is a friend of mine and had asked him to look for me.

Rags couldn't make it this year as he had some serious heart work done at the Cleveland Clinic recently. Rags was in an Ordinance section of the 83rd. I don't think Jim would have ever found me except for the encounter. He is a History teacher that specializes in current American history that is being overlooked in many school districts. He bought a surplus jeep, and found out that it had been an 83rd jeep, so he became an 83rd "Hanger on". Copy of his brochure enclosed. His story has been related in the THUNDERBOLT by Rags previous to this.

Met some AAA men from a couple of different Battalions, with only two or three Campaign stars. Also met about 6 veterans from the 83rd. Some from 329th Regiment and 331st Regiment.

On Friday afternoon they dedicated a Memorial to the men who fought in the Bulge. Quite a nice ceremony. Many veterans were there. The 28th Div. were heavily represented as that group is still active as an Army Reserve Division based at Fort Indiantown Gap. A representative from Belgium was there, as well as a representative from Luxembourg. They both gave short speeches thanking the GI's for their efforts on behalf of

their respective governments.

Friday evening in the Veteran's Day Room, some home spun entertainment was provided by one of the vets, and I'm sorry to say that I did not catch his name, but he went on for at least an hour telling tall tales about the Irish, Germans, Poles and Hungarians, all in the proper dialect. Very funny stuff. Of course a couple of the old timers had a little to much liquid refreshment, but that made the skit that was pulled a little funnier.

On Saturday evening after the dinner, they had 1940's type of entertainment. It was kind of setup like a U.S.O. type of thing. Three young ladies and two young fellows from somewhere in Mass. did a singing routine. Depicting Dorothy Lamore, Betty Grable, the Andrews Sisters, and some of the others of that time. They did a great job of all the old songs. There also was a couple of skits that were done by some of the audience. A great evening.

We also had the pleasure meeting a person who depicted Gen. Patton. He had on all the proper regalia, but was rather naked as he only had one pearl handled pistol. He recited most of Patton's speech that was given to his Third Army troops before he left England. He left out some parts that I think might have caused some consternation with some people. I have copies of this speech, which I will send to those who would like it. Just send me a self-addressed stamped envelope and request 'Patton's Speech'.

In October we had our Mini Reunion for North East Ohio. We picked Youngstown as our focal point, as we made plans to go through **Henry Vanetta's Armament Museum. In Hubbard Ohio. He has a standing invitation to all to come and visit.** Perhaps by the time you read this his expansion will be completed. This was a very worthwhile trip and we intend to do it again. For those interested his address is: **Henry Vanetta, c/o L.E.C. Inc., 5959 W. Liberty St. Hubbard, OH. 44425. Tel. 330-53408125.** He has everything from Jeeps to Sherman tanks, Tank Destroyer, Tank Retriever, Half tracks with Quad Fifty Caliber Machine guns and much more. If you go take your cameras.

I've had no report on our sick list, but the last I had any correspondence about, Dave Bell was still having difficulty, and Jim Dalton was also not responding to well. The Starkeys' and the Plummers must be on the mend, at least a little, as they both have had company stay with them a few days., The Dickens to the Starkeys, and the Manzos' to the Plummers.

Some of our less hardy members have become 'Snow Birds' for a few weeks, down in Florida, the land of the mighty cockroach. I don't know who has the biggest, Florida or Texas. I've seen them in both states. They do have some good citrus fruit though. My sons will hate me for knocking their states.

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

CO. "G" 331st INF.....

Here we are in the month of February, the second month of the year and we are still wondering where the first month went. With the summer weather we are having in New Orleans, it could be April or May. The Carnival Season doesn't matter.

To bring you up to date, I had a letter from Phillip Graff, he had written to tell me that he would not be in Peoria, because a family occasion. In another letter he told me he did not attend because he had some heart problems and was operated on. He is doing much better after undertaking a diet to lose weight, and an exercise program.

Mike Mizerock had another knee replacement operation and seems to be doing fine. After the first one he gave up smoking, and he told me after the second, he intended to give up drinking. When I talk with him he was o.k., but had a hard time getting home because of the heavy snow in the Cleveland area.

It seems like Dave Sefton and Singleton finally got together after all of these years Dave is still taking care of his cattle farm in Pa. and Singleton is now enjoying life. Those were two fine soldiers.

In going thru my World War II collection I came across the papers that were published by the Division and the Regiment during the war.: Phillip Graff from G Company was one of the reporters for the 331st. There are some interesting articles.

Had a call from Tony Vaccaro. He was the photographer for the second battalion. He has his pictures of the battalion and the regiment on display in 15 countries of Europe and is looking forward to making a documentary for the French Government about the 83rd. This will be done when the 83rd takes a tour of France in the later part of June 1999.

I talked to Manny Goodridge the other day, he is on the staff for the 1999 reunion in Lexington, KY. Plans are well on the way for another good reunion.

For Christmas I received a box of French goodies from a fellow I have become friends with in the Brittany Peninsula, also received a number of Christmas cards from a number of

people in Brittany and in Normandy. Those people still look to us as heroes and can't thank us enough for liberating their country. When we return as visitors, we are welcomed with open arms.

I had Christmas cards from Troy Mayse, Jeramih Budd, Singleton, Edward Foy, Ivan Yoder, Edward Walsh, James Fall, Oscar Rutstein. Willima Ripley, Kermit Ralston, Casel Bush, Harold Dickinson, Clyde Flannary. Haven't heard from Selma Corder.

I will continue to keep in touch with as many men as possible from G Company. It was one of the greatest honors I have had in my life, commanding such an outstanding bunch of men.

Capt. Mac

329 "B" Bag.....

Many thanks to all for the many Xmas Cards and also for the kind words about the "B" Bag. I'm sorry to report that John Wojcieszik passed away in early December. He was in the process of moving from Chicago to Florida to live with his sister. John was a gunner in my squad and a very damn good soldier. I never heard him complain or raise his voice. He was a confirmed pipe smoker and had the pipe in his mouth even when sleeping. We had to give him our tobacco ration. To his sister we sent our deepest sympathy to her and the family. Since no one wanted the Company "B" Banner, I decided to send to Rich Dickson who will present it to a military museum for all to see. When or where it will be displayed, I'll let you know. Speaking of Rich, he sent me 2 books to read, the first was "Remembrances" by Robert Parson, It is all about Co. "F" 331. It is about his day in combat from Normandy to Zerbst. If you are interested in the book write to Robert Parson, 2101 Old Hickory Blvd, Nashville, Tenn. 37215. I believe the cost of the book is \$15.00. The other book about the ordinance Regt. in the 83rd. The name of the book is "Hut, Two", written by Rags Rangow. Good books to read, but very little about the 329 in both books. Write to Rags Rangow, 515 Woodland Ave. #A, Cheltenham, PA. I hear that our fearless leader, Capt. Hill is still on the road to recovery. Hurry and get well so that the both of you can make and enjoy the reunion. The same goes for "Yo" Trofimuk. He is confined to a wheel chair. Hang tough Al. We heard that Lt. Ballard is having eye trouble and is getting rather difficult for him driving. "Red" Geyer has troubles with his legs. Too much marching in the Army. He might have to retire from farming. As of now we are planning to see all in Lexington.

A Short Story from the "B" Bag

"B" Company had an excellent Executive Officer Lt. Jack Luther who was a graduate of West Point. He was wounded in action. When he returned, he was made Company Commander of C Co. When the war ended, he came to our C.P. and wanted to see me. He wanted me to go with him to Austria, under Gen. Mark Clark. I refused by telling him I wanted to get out of these army clothes. A few years later while stationed at Fort Riley Ks. he was found murdered long side of the road. His car was missing also. To my knowledge his murder was never solved. What a terrible way for a good officer to die.

If you see someone without a smile, give him yours.

"B" Co. Friend forever
Bob Uher
12700 Lake Ave.
Lakewood, Ohio 44107
(216) 221-2012

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.



**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.

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.

(606)
231-
9000

6/2/99 conf #
3482

note to:
Jerome, ZING-G

Thurs., Aug. 19, 1999

6 am BREAKFAST - Room Service or Cafe on the Park

7 am - 9 am CASH CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

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 BRIDLES, BOURBON and BOUTIQUES -
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

6/16/99

Spoke to
Ramon

request to
send another
reservations

flyer for

[Signature]

Fri., Aug. 20, 1999

6 am	BREAKFAST - Room Service or <i>Cafe on the Park</i>
7 am - 9 am	CASH CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
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 were listed in #1 Issue on page 16.
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
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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Camp Atterbury's "Walk of Honor"

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

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, Airborne, 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: _____



"Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
in a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney with presents to give,
and to see just who in this home did live.

I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand,
on the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.

With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,
A sober thought came through my mind.

For this house was different,
It was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier,
Once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured a United States soldier.

Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, The floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night,
owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight

Soon round the world, the children would play,
and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.

They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
Because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas eve in a land far from home.

The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.

The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
My life is my God, my country, my corps."

The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours, so silent and still
and we both shivered from the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night,
This guardian of honor so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over,
with a voice soft and pure,
Whispered, "Carry on Santa,
It's Christmas day, All is secure."

One look at my watch, and I knew he was right,
Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night.



Enclosed is a picture of left to right S/Sgt Johnny Whiting, T/5 Richard Hartman & P.F.C. Charles Abdinoor that was taken in Lipstadt, Germany on our way to Berlin. Both Whiting & Hartman were killed in a fire fight in the Harz Mts. members of A-330 would appreciate it in the Thunderbolt.

Thanks, Sincerely
Charles Abdinoor, B&A Co. 330th.

Gentlemen:

My brother-in-law served in Germany with the 749th Tank Battalion. He sent me his journal in order to write a book from the daily occurrences from the time his outfit left England until the war was over. In order to make it an even more interesting historical book, I'm trying to locate men with whom his outfit served of which you will note above.

My brother-in-law, Ernest Humphrise, resides in Ohio after living in Indiana for many years. His outfit served 179 days without any relief; he was discharged as a S/ Sgt. Approximately two months ago, he suffered a stroke and is unable to assist me in any way. My main problem is locating a book or pamphlet with World War II military abbreviations. It has only been within the past 2 years or so he would even talk about what occurred overseas.

If you can help, are willing to help, please advise. If you are unable to help but know someone who is willing to but who but not a member of the above, please ask them to get in touch with me.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. While I have the opportunity, I would also like to thank each and every one of you who served for what you did, for your efforts, for the shedding of your blood for our country and with that, I'll say God bless you all and God Bless America!

With sincerest regards,

Ms. Bonnie Shofner-Bryan,
Genealogist/Researcher
420 Burchett St. Apt. 6
Glandale, CA 91203

ATTEMPTS TO CAPTURE THE RHINE BRIDGE

After reading the 1998 Winter Issue of "Thunderbolt" articles pertaining to the above subject, I can relate another attempt to capture the bridge.

The night before the bridge was destroyed, a four man patrol was selected to search for a place to cross the Erft Canal and enter the City of Neuss. The plan was to find a route that C Co., 330 Inf. could use to move quickly into the city and infiltrate combat engineers in civilian clothes with the many German civilians and "displaced persons" who were fleeing across the bridge. After gaining access, the engineers would attempt to defuse the powerful charges placed in the bridge's inter-structure.

I was a member of that patrol. The four of us started out shortly after dark. It was a cloudy night with an intermittent full moon braking through, making travel very treacherous.

As we crossed a railroad track, a flare was tripped. There were two bursts of machine gun fire down the track. As there was no further action by the Germans, we proceeded with out search for the Erft Canal.

We came to a stream approximately 10-15 feet wide. Based on the briefing provided by G-2, we had to assume this was the Erft Canal. We located a small footbridge and continued toward Neuss.

We came to a road leading into the city. We could now see the outlines of buildings. We could hear the noise of German soldiers digging fox holes and were near enough to hear their conversations. We had found the route and completed our mission. It was time to return to our own lines.

We went back to the footbridge and moved to our left to enter our A Co. sector. As we approached A Co., we could hear motorized equipment coming down a road to their front. A fire fight broke out and a number of explosions occurred. Not knowing what was going on, the four of us knelt against a wall for protection. We heard foot-steps running towards us. Looking over the wall we saw four German soldiers approaching. We challenged them. "Hind de ho!" They returned the challenge. "Hands up!" It was a momentary stand off. One of the Germans was seriously wounded and the fact that they could not see us convinced them to surrender.

We marched them back to the A Co. area, where we found that accurate fire from a bazooka and small arms had destroyed two enemy half-tracks

with artillery attached.

Before daylight the following morning, we crossed the Erft Canal and entered the City of Neuss. We encountered small arms fire and were not able to reach the bridge before it was destroyed. It was certainly a night that I think of frequently. The idea was a good one but never came to fruition.

Cliff Snyder

C Co. 330th-REGT (2nd PLT)

Parable

*People who pick up weapons
To solve their problems are a fool
They show they don't care or
Have never heard of the 'Golden Rule'*

Robert L. Gerber

A-Fat-Bit-Of-Humor

*There was a girl that was so fat
Her boyfriend wouldn't let her sit on his lap
If she did she might squash him flat
Oh! what a situation to be in for this poor old
chap*

Poet Robert Luigi Gerberowski

A-Universal-Proverb

*Kiss wife in morning
She make breakfast
You go to work
With great big smile*

Robert L. Gerber

A future on ice

Lynn native skates his way to FleetCenter in 'Anastasia'



By Sarah Rodman

Clipping that was in the Boston, MA paper. This is the Grandson of Ernest "Dutchy" Smith who was in "H" Co. 329th.

Joseph Walsh has been skating for half his life.

Of course, he's only 20. But for the Lynn native, that decade on the ice is now paving the way to what looks to be a very bright future.

Walsh is skating in "Anastasia on Ice," which begins a four-day, nine-performance run at the FleetCenter on Saturday. He can be seen as a chorus member in a 40-strong cast, and is understudying the role of Vladimir.

The show, based on the 1997 Fox animated musical, depicts the scene to pass off a young amnesiac as Anastasia, fabled daughter of the last Russian czar. It follows the travels of Anya, her love interest and scheme mastermind Dimitri and his jolly partner Vladimir, from Imperial Russia to 1920s jazz-age Paris and their tangles with a supernatural Rasputin and his henchmen.

"It's such an amazing show. I'm so proud to be in it that I can't wait to get to Boston because I know they're going to love it," Walsh said from a Pittsburgh tour stop.

Produced by longtime ice-show purveyor Feld Entertainment, this is 20th Century Fox's first attempt to translate one of its animated features into an ice show. And Walsh -- who appeared last year in "Pocahontas on Ice" and in a television special for Mulan on Ice -- goes out of his way to stress that "Anastasia" isn't Disney.

"It's amazing how many times you'll see 'Disney on Ice presents Anastasia' in articles," the skater said with a laugh.

Walsh, who skates the Vladimir role at the Saturday afternoon performance, is a little anxious about returning to "the old stomping grounds."

"I think I'm just worried about the number of people that are coming to the same show, because my mother tried to organize a Joe-in-Anastasia Day," he said with a laugh. "She has 80 in her group, but that doesn't include all of my friends, who are coming separately."

Unlike previous ice shows, such as "Aladdin" and "Beauty and the Beast," this show doesn't force the skaters into heavy headgear as they maneuver through their routines.

"Most of us are human," he said. But he adds, "Some of the ghosts in the ball scene wear cobweb like shrouds" and during these quences with Rasputin and his minions, "we have wings that have a 6-foot wingspan, 2 feet of ears and big teeth, so there are some really interesting masks and costumes."

Those components particularly thrill the young skater because, he said, "It's always been my two loves, skating and theater, so doing an ice show like this is really great, because it's a musical on ice. There's acting and singing and dancing."

Walsh first became interested in skating at 10. "I remember watching the 1988 Olympics and the Battle of the Brians, Brian Boitano and Brian Orser, and their skating and their competition is what made me really want to start."

So, he began to live and breathe ice skating, competing in "novice national" competitions and finally, after prodding from his coach, auditioning for a show.

"I went in and auditioned last year at this time, when 'Aladdin' was in the Fleet Center," said Walsh, who is taking time off from pursuing a degree in theater at Emerson College. "I basically went just for fun, thinking that I'd finish out that school year and probably wouldn't get a job until the next year."

Those thoughts quickly faded when, he said, "I got a call about a week later asking me if I could fly out in a week to do 'Pocahontas.'"

Since then, Walsh has been happily traveling the country and living out of his suitcase. So much so that he could give tips to people, "you know, 'A packing seminar with the cast of Anastasia on Ice.' Call the PR department, we'll set it up."

*Sent in by Charles Abdinoor,
B & A Co. 330th.*

Dear Bob

If possible, would you please put the following article in our spring THUNDERBOLT.

I would like to get copies of SEE IT THROUGH (the story of the 331st Infantry) and THUNDERBOLT ACROSS EUROPE (the story of the 83rd Infantry division).

I served with Company D, 331st Infantry, 83rd division and would be willing to pay for the books.

My address is: Whit East, 1020 Watson Avenue, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27103, telephone number (910) 723-5101.

Thank you Bob and God Bless you.

Sincerely, Whit East

GRANVILLE ATTAWAY SHARPE

April 4, 1920 - October 17, 1998

COL Granville Attaway Sharpe (ret.), the elder son of Robert and Hilda Sharpe, was born in Burlington, NC, on April 4, 1920, resided on Front Street and then West Davis Street during his childhood, and was graduated from Burlington High School. He was graduated from Davidson College with a BS in Biology, where he played quarterback for the football team and was on the golf team, and where he met and married Alice McCoy Withers. He served in the US Army during World War II, landing at Omaha Beach on the afternoon of June 23, 1944, as commanding officer of G Company, 2d Battalion, 329th Infantry Regiment, 83rd Division. He became commanding officer of the 2d Battalion just one month later. He participated in the Battle of the Bulge, as the 329th was rushed into the 83rd Division joined VII Corps in the American counterattack. At 24 years old, he became the youngest colonel in the European theater of operations.

During the Berlin Blockade in 1947, as commander of the 2d Battalion of the 26th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division, his mission was to lead the assault from West Germany toward Berlin should the Soviets cut off the airlift. Lieutenant Colonel Sharpe did combat service in Korea in the 25th Infantry Division. He was promoted to full colonel in 1955, at 35 years old. In 1960 Colonel Sharpe was sent to Agadir, Morocco, after an earthquake destroyed the town to command a force of US troops to free people trapped in the rubble. In that same year, he was ordered to take helicopters and small fixed wing planes to the Congo, which had just acquired its independence from Belgium, to evacuate Americans and other noncombatants caught in the rioting and rebel fighting. Some of the decorations earned during his distinguished military career are two Silver Stars, two Legion of Merit, five Bronze Stars, the Army Commendation Medal, two Presidential Unit Citations, and the Joint Service Commendation Medal. He was chosen to attend the Command and General Staff College, the Armed Forces Staff College, and the National War College, and he was on the staff and faculty of the Army War College. He received his Master's degree from George Washington University. His final Army assignment was to Ft. Benning, Georgia as commander of the Student Brigade of the Army Infantry School. He retired in 1968. After several years as president of Sharpe Construction, he retired again to pursue his favorite hobby, golf, at which he excelled.

He died on October 17, 1998, after a long fight with Parkinson's disease. His life was characterized by love for his family, unselfish duty to his country, and unswerving commitment to his faith in Jesus Christ. He is face to face with his Savior in heaven. He is survived by his wife Alice Withers Sharpe, his daughters Dr. Charlotte Sharpe Daly and Martha Withers Sharpe, his son Granville Attaway Sharpe, Jr., his three grandchildren, his sisters Calva Sharpe Sellars and Margaret Sharpe Younger, and his three grandchildren, his sisters Calva Sharpe Sellars and

Margaret Sharpe Younger, and his brother Robert Adam Sharpe, Jr. Burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR MOTHER

When our father died on October 17, 1998, our mother lost her partner of 58 years. From the first symptoms of his illness to the last moments of his life, she dedicated herself to providing him the best medical attention available, comforting him, and making his life as pleasant as possible. During the past eight years, she has met his every need, keeping his beard trimmed and hair cut, monitoring his condition, nursing him back to a stable condition after each crisis, and sitting with him day and night. Her loving care of him has been a revelation to the nurses, aides, doctors, specialists, technicians, social workers, and medical suppliers who have come to her house in a steady stream during that time. Mother has the wonderful assurance that she did everything possible for him during his life and will have no regrets to cloud her memories. As we remember Daddy with love and pride, we also praised and admire Mother for her extraordinary sacrifice, unselfish devotion, and unflinching faith in God's loving protection.

*Charlotte S. Daly
Martha W. Sharpe
Granville A. Sharpe, Jr.*

Dear Bob,

In reference to "Historian Query Gets Results" in the Thunderbolt Winter Issue 1988.

The article titled "Rhine River Bridge Blown as 83rd Hits River" by Hal Boyle AP could be the correct version of what happened. Our platoon the 1st "Co. A 331st" led by Thomas J. Dood assisted by tanks arrived at the Rhine bridge. We were to cross over and secure a bridgehead but were informed the structure was blown.

Until this day I thought our combat team was the first to reach the Rhine.

Submitted by Nick Ostuni, Co. A 331st.
154-25 21st Ave.
Whitestone N.Y. 11357

In Memory of



LTC. (Ret.) Alexander N. Kahapea
July 8, 1916 to March 24, 1998

CIVILIAN EDUCATION

1936 Graduate of Kamehameha School.
University of Temple, Philadelphia, Pa.

MILITARY EDUCATION

Officers Candidate School. Fort Benning, GA.
Advance Officers School. at Ft. Benning, GA.
Intelligence & Planning School at III Corp.,
Fort Hood, Texas.
Classified Officers "TOP SECRETS" School,
1st Army HQS. New York

MILITARY PROJECTS AND EMPLOYMENT

US Army drafted on March 25, 1941
Promoted 2nd Lt. to 1st LT. at Camp Wheeler, Georgia;
1943. To Captain during World War II in
Rhineland, Germany.
Promoted to Lt. Colonel at Schofield Barracks,
Hawaii; in 1960
Retired from US Army on April 1, 1965,
Schofield Barracks; HI.

CITATIONS

Legion of Merit Medal USARHAW,
Hawaii for Outstanding Service. 1965.
Presidential Unit Citation.
3rd Bn. 331st Regt., 83rd Inf. Div.
French Croix De Guerre
the Highest French Medal. World War II.
The Na Po'okela Award.
Commemorative of Ho'olako.
The Year of the Hawaiian.

MEMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS

TROA. The Retired Officers Association. (Life Member)
BIRMA. Big Island Retired Military Association.
Hawaii Haili Church Member. Hilo, Hawaii

Dear Mr. Derickson,

Last August, I attended my first military reunion in Peoria. Meeting other folks with similar experiences was very interesting and rewarding.

Enclosed are five pictures taken in 1945 as the 83rd Division Rest Center at Passau, Germany. Perhaps others would enjoy these pictures.

Hope to see you in Lexington in 1999.

Happy Holidays

L.W. Schiller

7689 Schiller Ct.

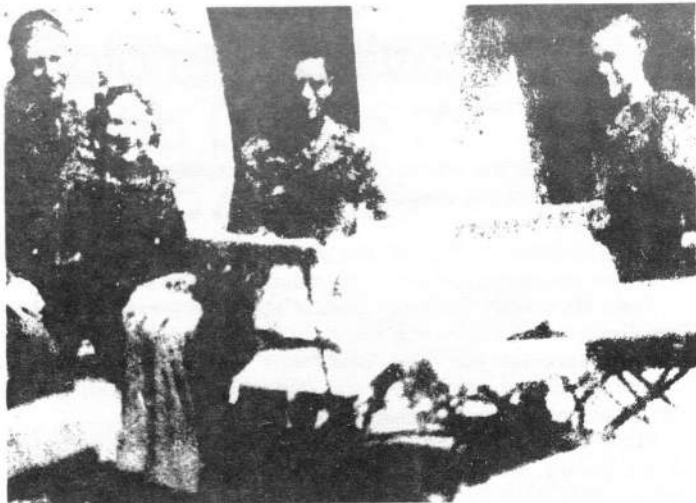
Verona, WI 53 593



Wishing Well



Beer Garden



Beer Garden - Female Red Cross Worker



Entrance to Oberhaus (Rest Center)



View of Passau, Germany from Rest Center.

Dear Mr. Derickson:

I am initiating a search for additional information concerning my grandfather who was KIA 11 Aug. 44 in France. His name is PVT Jack E. Greene (33710887) of Pennsylvania and he was a member of "F" Company, 331st Regiment, 83rd Division.

I ran across your name on a list of reunion POCs and was hoping that you may provide me with some information which may aid my research. I have very little data thus far and am interested in determining the circumstance surrounding his service in France and would be particularly interested in finding someone who may have known him. If you have any information which may be of use or can suggest any means of obtaining such, I would certainly appreciate your help. Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

LCDR Brian D. Whitten, USN
2005 38th Street
Anacortes, WA 98221
(360) 293-6704
whitten@fidalgo.net

THE REAL JOHN MILLER

Life Magazine
October, 1998

In Saving Private Ryan, the character of Capt. John Miller is commemorated by a grave marker at the Normandy American Cemetery. Though Miller - and the headstone - are make-believe, believers have been coming to pay their respects. "We have sixty-five Millers, but none are captains," says caretaker Michael Green. "One guy told me, 'You burst my bubble.'" The John Miller who lies beneath this cross was a private first class with the 83rd Division; he died from injuries suffered on D-Day. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart.

Sent in by Harold J. O'Neil
136 Rider Ave.
Patchogue, NY. 11772



WWII COMES TO LIFE AT READING AIRFIELD

MID ATLANTIC AIR MUSEUM

Reading Regional Airport,

11 Museum Drive

Reading, PA 19605

610-372-7333

Fax: 610-372-1702

<http://www.avdigest.com/maam/maam.html>

Contact: Pete Malashevitz

On June 4th, 5th and 6th Channel 69 Berks News and the Mid Atlantic Air Museum, located at the Reading PA Regional Airport, will transport more than 15,000 visitors back in time as 50 World War II aircraft, 70 restored military vehicles and more than 300 living history re-enactors and performers join together to recreate the sights, sounds, and the "feel" of a World War II airfield, at the Museum's 9th annual World War II Weekend.

Featured is a recreated encampment complete with barracks, offices, and briefing tents. Visitors can wander into the officer's club which replicates one in England in 1943 to enjoy a Coke and the 1940's song styling of Hannan & McKenna, and can join in singing the tunes of the times. Aircraft scheduled to appear include two B-17 "Flying Fortress" bombers, two B-25 "Mitchell" bombers, P-51 Mustang, "FM2 "Wildcat", P-40 "Tomahawk", FG1D "Corsair" and a C-47 "Dakota".

These special features are planned for this year's event:

FRIDAY:

- "The Big Broadcast of 1943" a special big band show from 5:30 PM until 9:30PM featuring The Brooks Tegner Band and Joe Zeigler and Bill Riley as Abbott and Costello and a Swing Dance contest.
- Aircraft rides in the Mid Atlantic Air Museum's restored WWII "Texan" trainer
- The event's largest military collectible flea market ever, with more than 60 dealers from 8 states

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY:

- The largest encampment in the history of the show, complete with American, Irish, Russian, and German living history groups...more than 300 re-enactors!
- Period aircraft flying both days from 1-4 PM.
- An infantry battle re-enactment between German and Allied troops.
- Renowned Franklin Delano Roosevelt scholar Delmas P. Wood, who will bring the presence of FDR to life throughout the show.
- The popular Swing Fever dance band on Saturday night from 7-10 PM and Sunday from 1-3 PM.

This year's very special featured guests include five members of the famed "Flying Tigers"...the American volunteers who struck the first successful blows against the Japanese following Pearl Harbor. Visitors will have a chance to meet pilots Dick Rossi, Ed Rector, Charley Mott, Peter Wright and nurse "Red" Petuch Hanks. **Other special guests on Saturday and Sunday will include:**

- "Memphis Belle"...pilot Robert Morgan, co-pilot Jim Verinis
- Lt. Col. Fred Olivi...co-pilot on the B-29 bomber that dropped the Atomic bomb on Nagasaki...the mission that

ended the war.

Col. David Pergrin, whose combat engineer unit bridged the Rhine river at Remagen and was instrumental in the Battle of the Bulge.

In addition to the encampment these displays will be featured throughout the weekend:

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

From Maryland: American Medical Military Impressions will perform simulated operations in a fully-recreated WWII field hospital.

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

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

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

Members of Grossdeutschland: a living history group which portrays the life of the German infantryman during the war.

The Large scale naval ship models of Task Force 50. A chance to see the continuing restoration of the Museum's 's rare P-61 "Black Widow" night fighter.

Displays of military artifacts from the Pete Benethum Aviation Collection.

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

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

The weekend begins as a convoy of restored military vehicles travels from the Museum to downtown Reading on Friday June 4th, arriving at 11:30 AM. There a special Midday Cafe and Concert, sponsored by

WEEU and Reading's Downtown improvement District will feature entertainment and even an appearance by Joe Zeigler and as Abbott and Costello. Vehicles will be on display until 2:00 PM and the Museum's B-25 "Mitchell" will fly over the town as Reading is "liberated" by Allied troops.

This year the show's major sponsor, **Channel 69 Berks News, WFMZ** will be joined by Boscovs, the Carlino Development Group, First Union Corporation, GPU Energy, New Rhoads Transportation, The Mole Hole of Reading, Sovereign Bank, The Strasburg Railroad, Consolidated Engineers, Schlegel Builders, Weidenhammer Systems, Dolan Construction Co., Elge Precision Machining. From Electric, Industrial Metal Plating, AAA Reading-Berks, Clements Wasts Services, DCC Photo, Northeastern Distributing, Reading Coca Cola, Radio Maintenance Inc., WEEU AM, and the Sunnybrook Ballroom in bringing the show to the public.

Gates at the show open Friday and Saturday at 9:00 AM and Sunday at 8:30 AM, and the show continues on Sunday until 5:00 PM. Tickets at the gate are \$9.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children between the ages of six and 12. (The Admission includes all entertainment.)

For further information about the show, please contact the Mid Atlantic Air Museum at (610) 372-7333, or write Mid Atlantic Air Museum 11 Museum Drive, Reading, PA 19605. More information is also available on the World Wide Web, at address <http://www.avialantic.com/maamwwii.html>.

Sent In By Jim Swope



Soldier receives Tomb Badge after 57 years

By PFC Andrea R. Brown
Old Guard Public Affairs
Virginian Review

A retired officer was presented a Tomb Guards Identification Badge Oct. 9 identifying him as one who has guarded the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.

Retired Maj. Earl F. McDonald, who served as an enlisted Tomb Sentinel from 1939 to 1941, received his badge from 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard) Commander Col. Gregory Gardner.

The Tomb Guards Identification Badge was initiated in 1958, more than 16 years after McDonald stood watch.

The first Badge was awarded to Master Sgt. William E. Daniel, who also recently returned to the Tomb to meet young sentinels. McDonald's name will be added to the Board for Tomb of The Unknown Soldier Permanent Badge Holders, which dates back to 1958.

"I had a good career," McDonald said. "In the Army, I went from horses to missiles."

After beginning as a private, he served under Col. George S. Patton's command in the 3rd Cavalry until the horse cavalry was deactivated.

McDonald rose in rank to first sergeant with the 83rd Infantry Division.

After taking a break from his military career, he returned to active duty and was stationed at Ft. Myer, VA and then the Pentagon as a second lieutenant.

He later commanded a company in the 29th Infantry Regt. and finally made his way to the 15th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division, where he said he always wanted to go.

McDonald said he was introduced to Ordnance Corps during a tour in Puerto Rico before he retired from the Army in Maryland.

McDonald's daughter Maria is responsible for reuniting him with his Old Guard peers. She notified The Old Guard that her father guarded the Tomb before the badge was initiated and had not received a badge.

She joined Gardner, Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Phifer and Sgt. 1st Class Richard Cline in honoring him on his 84th birthday.

McDonald and Maria presented Tomb guards with a photo of McDonald standing guard before the Tomb. The picture now hangs in the Tomb Quarters along with other memorabilia.



Retired Maj. Earl F. McDonald receives his Tomb Guard Badge from 3rd Infantry (The Old Guard) Commander Col. Gregory Gardner.



A photo of retired Maj. Earl F. McDonald (Foreground) shows him standing guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns during his 1939 to 1941 assignment at Arlington National Cemetery (Ft. Myer, VA.)

Covington Native Honored for service at Tomb of Unknowns

By Bill Lumpkin
City Editor
Virginian Review

Fifty-nine years after he joined the Army following his graduation from Covington High School in 1938 retired Army Maj. Earl F. McDonald of Oxen Hill, Md. has been presented with a Tomb Guard Identification Badge recognizing him as one of the military sentinels who has guarded the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers in Arlington National Cemetery.

At a ceremony October 9 at Arlington, he and his wife, Frances, concluded the ceremony by laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. McDonald also received a commemorative Tomb Guard medal and a large plaque in recognition of his service while a young Army private early in his long military career.

He received the Tomb Guard badge from the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard) Commander Col. Gregory Gardner. The Old Guard is the ceremonial unit which conducts military funerals and other ceremonial activities at Arlington National Cemetery.

At 79 Major McDonald is apparently the oldest of the surviving cavalymen who served as tomb guards prior to the year the Tomb Guard badge was established in 1958, more than 16 years after his last service in that capacity. He said the Tomb Guard badge is so difficult to earn, it is currently the most coveted honor in the U.S. military. He said the difficulty of earning the award is indicated by the fact that only 258 have been presented since it was created in 1958.

Although he has earned five rows of military campaign ribbons during an Army career which took him from private to major and from horse cavalry to the missile age, he says his two combat infantryman badges and the tomb badge are the military honors he values the most. He served in the front lines during both World War II and Korea and holds a Purple Heart and Bronze Star among his other military awards. He earned one Combat Infantryman Badge in WWII and the other in Korea.

McDonald, who was born and raised in Covington and has returned regularly over the years for visits with relatives, served as an enlisted Tomb Sentinel from 1939 to 1941 while serving with the 3rd Cavalry Regiment commanded by then Col. George S. Patton as a Private First Class. Col. Patton was promoted to General during World War II and became one of the more famous and successful U.S. commanders of that war. McDonald had asked for assignment to a cavalry unit after he enlisted because he liked horses, having frequently worked with them on his grandfather's farm.

In those days (1939-41) the cavalry was still mounted on horses and the cavalymen wore riding boots and spurs with their uniforms. Enlisted men had to cut off

their own boottops to cavalry length and modify their own trousers for cavalry use. McDonald didn't like tanks and when the horse cavalry was disbanded and the cavalry units began using tanks instead of horses in 1942, he switched to the infantry. He said he retired from the Army in 1962 as a Field Grade Officer in the Ordinance Corps with the rank of major. By then he had held every rank available between private and major. He had switched from the infantry to the Ordinance Corps in 1955.

Although soldiers who can meet the strict requirements can sign up for a full 3-year tour of Honor Guard duty at Arlington National Cemetery, in McDonald's day it was one of several different rotations that might be assigned to young enlisted men in Patton's cavalry unit. During his three years in the unit, he served Honor Guard duty at least twice, for two or three weeks at a time. He still has a picture of himself in uniform, complete with white gloves and cavalry boots and spurs, standing guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns with his rifle on his shoulder.

McDonald and his wife raised a son and three daughters, and McDonald's youngest daughter, Maria, was the one responsible for reuniting him with his Old Guard peers. A journalism major in college, she had read an article on the first female to receive a Tomb Badge and told her father she believed he was qualified to receive one even though he was a tomb guard before the badge was created.

He didn't think he was eligible, but she contacted the Old Guard and found out he was, then helped arrange the ceremony, which was more elaborate and public than McDonald expected. He was pleased his wife was able to participate in the wreath laying ceremony, but wished his mother, who died in 1997 at the age of 99 could have lived to be there.

McDonald and Maria presented Tomb guards with a photo of McDonald standing guard before the tomb sometime between 1939 and 1940 and it now hangs in the Tomb Quarters along with other memorabilia. McDonald's name will be added to the Board for Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Permanent Badge Holders, which was established in 1958.

In a recent interview during a visit to his sister in Covington, McDonald said: "Little did I realize when I was on guard duty at the tomb around Memorial Day of 1941 that 57 years later I'd be back at the cemetery laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in the same ceremony they use when the President lays a wreath there."

When he transferred from the cavalry to the infantry in 1942, McDonald joined the 83rd Infantry Division, working his way up through the ranks to First Sergeant during the remainder of World War II. For a short time after the war, he left the Army and worked for his father's contracting business, by then located in Alexandria. But his old friends from Fort Myer who remained in the military kept urging him to reenlist, and eventually he did and applied for and received a commission as a second lieutenant.

He was assigned to active duty in Okinawa in the Pacific with the 44th Philippine Scouts, and was later named a company commander of the 29th Infantry Regiment on



Earl McDonald and Wife Place Wreath at Tomb

Okinawa. He rotated back to Fort Benning, Ga. where he joined the 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Division of the U.S. Army, which was the regiment in which Audie Murphy, the most decorated veteran of World War II served.

In 1950, McDonald was sent to Korea with the 3rd Division as a first lieutenant and was rotated back to the United States in 1951 and assigned to staff and faculty of the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga., an assignment any infantry officer would consider "a feather in his cap."

From there he was assigned first to duty in the Antilles island chain and then to Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory, and while in Puerto Rico he transferred to the ordinance corps, in 1955. He retired from the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland in 1962 with the rank of major, at the age of 44. Meanwhile, McDonald had managed to continue his education while serving in the U.S. Army.



Retired Master Sgt. Jules Desgain, a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge, will be among the 1,500 re-enactors who will gather at the Gap.

Re-enactors face Battle of Bulge at Indiantown Gap

By Tom Bowman
of Our Lebanon Bureau

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP - Retired Master Sgt. Jules Desgain sits on the edge of his bunk, like one of the countless soldiers who called this barracks home during World War II, Korea or just before the Persian Gulf War.

Desgain, a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge, talks from that blessed part of the mind that filters out the bad, allowing man to remember the only good. It was a war from which he emerged unscathed, a war in which he never saw the enemy he was killing.

So Desgain tells of the time 10 days after the Normandy invasion when he landed with his artillery company at Omaha beach on June 16, 1944.

"I can remember hitting the beach - I had no rifle, no helmet," Desgain said. A colonel yelled at Desgain. Why didn't he have a weapon?

"I said, 'Sir, I fell asleep in the Navy quarters,'" Desgain said. "I told those guys to wake me up."

Within an hour, Desgain found his company.

A few nights later, his unit was dug in, trying to catch some sleep when a German tank rolled into his camp.

"We heard this clank-clank, clank-clank, in the dead of the night," Desgain remembered. "He fired point-blank. I was scared when those first shells came in. I hit the ditch. It was filled with water. But I didn't give a damn."

A smile broke across Desgain's face.

"I love it - God, how I love it - that's a quote," Desgain said, paraphrasing the movie version of Gen. George S. Patton, Jr.

That's why Desgain and 1,500 fellow soldiers, ex-soldiers and wannabe soldiers will be here this weekend. They love it.

At about 9 a.m. Saturday, Desgain and other Allied and German re-enactors will move into their positions about a mile from Desgain's barracks and replay a tiny part of the Battle of the Bulge.

"It's just like stepping back in time, it happens almost instantly," said David Shaw, a re-enactor from Waynesburg.

Shaw never was in the National Guard or the Army. But he's served a 12-year hitch - going on 13 - as a re-enactor.

"There is one advantage being in the Guard," Shaw said. "You can get out. You can get discharged. I have too much time and money invested."

This year is the fourth re-enactors along with the public will gather for the dedication of the Battle of the Bulge monument near the memorial boxcar along Fisher Avenue at the airfield.

WWII battlefield home to horrors, heroism

Dear Mr. Derickson

Pursuant to our conversation a few weeks ago about my husband 1st Lt. William C. Roddick, AUS, Ret'd enclosed please find information on Bills army service. He was discharged in 1945 and became a reservist. Recalled during Korean conflict and discharged in 1952.

Enclosed also are the clippings in our local newspaper which I told you about. The information was derived from his own memories which he actually wrote about 9 months before he died.

Mrs. Doris M. Roddick
3089 Santa Maria Ct.
Concord, Ca. 94518-2811
(925) 685-5159

Nilda Rego - Days Gone By The Times

Two years before his death, labor leader and war hero William C. Roddick of Concord put pen to paper and wrote the war stories he had been telling his wife, Doris, for more than 40 years.

During his Army service as a first lieutenant in the infantry, he won a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars and three Purple Hearts. By the time he came home from World War II, the Army classified him as 40 percent disabled, but that didn't save him from being called back for the Korean War.

He volunteered a few months before the World War II shooting started. He was 22 years old. Although he hadn't been to college, he did take ROTC in high school in Alameda and credited his skill at getting the troops to perform close-order drills as his ticket into officers training school. Roddick was commissioned as a second lieutenant in August 1942 and within a year was sent overseas with the 329th.

"I'm not going to write about all the blood and guts I saw. You wouldn't believe me and I don't feel like writing it," he said in his memoirs, but he didn't leave all the horrors out.

"We left Plymouth, England June 12th and landed on Utah Beach in France. Being young and dumb I guess we felt this was like another maneuver with maybe a little shooting here and there. First thing we saw were bodies floating around, a flight of three bombers heading for somewhere in France with anti-air craft after them, one had lost a wing and spiraled down, one chute and that's all, and orders 'let's go.'...When we landed on the beach, there were tapes showing where to go on up into the country above the beach. We received a few shells, long range, but nothing too bad. Some men got excited and ran away. Thank God my boys didn't. Some were killed and a few lost their legs from mines. If only they would have just stayed within the tapes."

On that same day Roddick earned his first Purple Heart, but it didn't put him out of action. He continued to lead his platoon with its three 57 mm gun crews as the 329th fought its way through the small villages of France. There were hard lessons

to learn along the way.

"I kept hounding the men, 'When you stop anyplace you dig a hole for yourself'.... The Germans had a gun called the '88' that they could use as a AA gun, anti-tank, or troops. When they went off, they sounded like a drum. We had been set up about 15 minutes and we heard the drum noise. Their shells travel faster than sound. I dove for a ditch, the boys in their holes. The truck driver that moves the 57 hadn't dug a hole and just stood there. All we found was a small piece of his shoulder."

There were times when Roddick and his men took advantage of German-dug foxholes.

"Lucky for us it was the live-in type, deep and no booby traps. We had been there about five minutes when we heard the clank of tracks down the road. The tank pulled off the road about a block from us shooting at some troops across the field, drove right over us, across the field and back on the road. I heard the 57 fire and we were full of dirt. The tank never knew we were there. Our 57 missed and the tank went on down the road."

Every so often the troops in the front lines were sent to the rear to rest "to shower get sprayed for lice, clean underwear - boy, it felt good."

In Belgium Roddick found out how cold it could get. It was January 1945.

"There was snow and it was cold as hell. We were covering a field below a hill and trees beyond, with a road coming down on our right. It was so cold that bodies loaded on open trucks would bounce off if the truck hit a bump. They were frozen stiff and the next truck would pick them up."

The cold had made it a good road for tanks and Roddick's 57 mm guns couldn't stop them.

"Damn tank came barreling down the road, the gunner had the bead, hit the plunger and it was frozen. That German tank-er will never know."

Later that same day Roddick rescued a young trooper under fire and for that act of heroism was awarded the Silver Star.

"A soldier from the tank destroyer outfit went down on the other side of the hill to check a dead German for side arms...I had gone over there to see if I could get another gun (57) to cover the road. He (the young trooper) had been notched by a machine gun in the leg, probably the same one that was after me. I slipped down the hill and got him under the arm. The machine gunner was a lousy shot and between me pulling the kid, him shoving with his good leg, we got back over the knoll."

A few days later Roddick's fighting career was over.

"A high explosive round hit on the top of my helmet...I was knocked into the mud. I had blood from my mouth, ears, eyes - I was considered dead."

A sergeant, however, discovered Roddick was still breathing and he was sent to a hospital in England. The wound wasn't enough to send him home. At the war's end Roddick was put in charge of 1,500 German prisoners, whose officers wrote a thank you letter for "having taken care of our men's needs and order in a manner which not only has been appreciated by all our men, but which was not anticipated."

Roddick was sent home in October 1945. In November he married the young woman who kept writing to him every week for more than four years. Five years later he was back in the service again with the eruption of the conflict in Korea.

Korea beckons WWII vet, but he never gets there.

Nilda Rego - Days Gone By
The Times

Life was going along pretty well for William Roddick in the beginning of 1951. The memories of World War II battles were receding. His Silver Star, two Bronze Stars and three Purple Hearts had been ticked away. The snapshots of Bill in his battle gear were being replaced by snapshots with his wife, Doris, and baby daughter, Nancy.

"I think I have told all the lies I can dream up - Doris can finish. My life has been quite an adventure."

Bill Roddick

"Doris and I had a good life, not much money...but then my world fell apart. In 1951 during the Korean war I received a letter from the Army that said 'Congratulations, we need you.' I didn't realize I was in the inactive reserve for eight years whether I liked it or not. Back into the Army and on to Korea," said Roddick in his memoirs written two years before his death in 1996.

Roddick was stunned. He had a 40 percent disability. He never dreamed he would be fighting another war.

"When I left Oakland on the train I looked back at the V in the tracks. I just knew I would never make it this time."

He was sent to Georgia in March to train recruits, then in August put on a train back to Camp Stoneman in Pittsburg to await transfer overseas to Korea. He expected to be at Stoneman for just a few days at most waiting for transportation by ferry to Fort Mason. Then one day he ran into the executive officer of the camp, a friend from World War II who was now a lieutenant colonel.

"(He) had been a major in the old outfit and gave me the business: 'What in the hell are you doing here and still a lieutenant?' The old answer, 'you stayed, I didn't.'"

The executive officer needed someone to run the officers' club at Camp Stoneman. It was a financial disaster.

"He couldn't take me off orders, but he could bury them awhile. Boy, what a deal - close to home and no Korea."

Doris, who now lives in Concord, remembered that Roddick had to work very hard to get the officers' club back into the black. He worked almost every evening until 11 p.m., she said. But every once in a while Doris and Nancy did get to join Roddick for dinner at Camp Stoneman.

"Nancy had big fun playing the pinball machines - the ballroom had about 50 of them around the sides," wrote Roddick.

Within a few months, Roddick tightened up the rather lax financial procedures at the club and established its first professional bar.

"We had no regular bar. You left your own bottle with your name on it and we had a man pour and charge you for the mix, I think 25 cents."

Roddick managed to get donations of glasses, mirrors, shelves and even a blender to start the new bar operation. He put the dining room on a paying basis by ordering new meal tags.

"I went to Oakland, got new meal tag books, all numbered. Waitress had to sign for the book number and at the end of the day all had better match. Even started buying steaks pre-cut

by number."

The dining room was well on its way to a tidy profit when the Pentagon caught up with Roddick's misplaced orders.

"This time I had orders to Okinawa. I left Stoneman by ferry to Fort Mason in San Francisco, loaded on the troop ship U.S.S. Mitchell, a two stacker...Had a bunk with an Airedale (pilot) who was sea sick for seven or eight days it took. I fed him soda and crackers for the whole trip.

"When I first landed I was assigned to a room. Also assigned a Moose-O-Maid - women to take care of my washing, clean my room, etc. They were all honest, but I couldn't keep undershirts. I would have to buy six every week. She said 'someone steal, all the kids around the camp wear GI undershirts.' First even went to take a shower, opened shower door and some woman was in there. I left, went back down the hall and told some Captain about it. He laughed, the Moose-O-Maids get to use the showers. Don't worry about it.

"...I toured the island, saw the lepers picking tea, went fishing, saw where the Japanese by the hundreds jumped off the cliff rather than be captured during the war, and dove deep for shells off Naha."

It was this diving that sent Roddick back home. "One day I tasted blood. Guess I dived too deep too many times. Went to the Doc and he sent me to the hospital. Doc there asked my background and his comment was, 'What are you doing here?' He sent for my medical records and in about a week and a half I'd hopped a plane to Travis Air Force Base and I was on my way to Letterman Hospital in San Francisco."

Roddick stopped his memoirs with the year 1952. "I think I have told all the lies I can dream up - Doris can finish. My life has been quite an adventure."

After his service in the Army, Roddick became a labor leader. He was elected secretary-treasurer of the Retail Clerks Union Local 1179 in 1958. He was re-elected year after year, bringing that organization to a membership of 4,000. He retired because of his health in 1974.

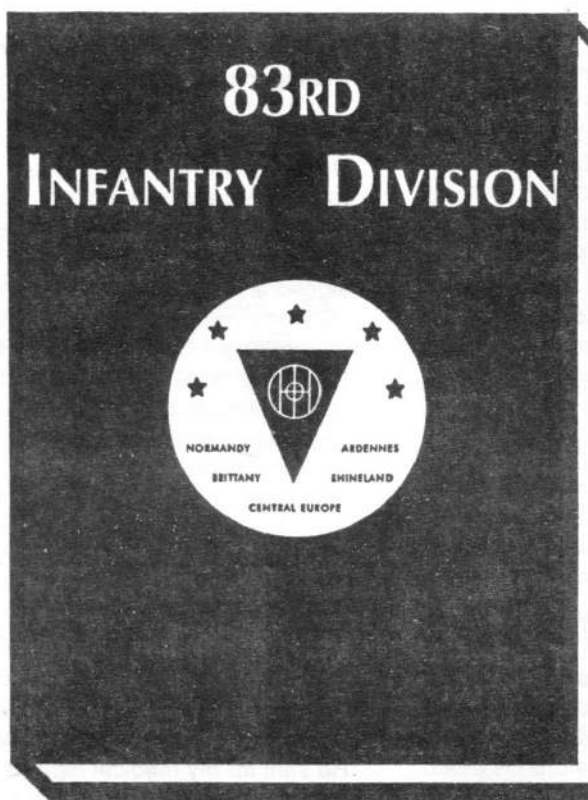
On May 15, 1994, he died and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.



THE RODDICKS, Bill, Doris and Nancy, posed for a family snapshot in 1952 after Bill was sent home from Okinawa.

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The time table for the new 83rd History Book is to be ready for mailing sometime in June for those who have ordered.



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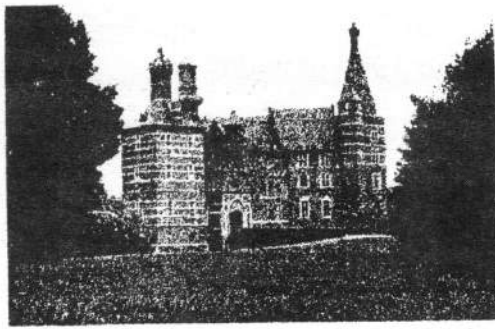
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Dear Friends and Comrades,

this is an invitation concerning our coming reunion, which we will held from May 14, to May 16, 1999 here in our town at Merode.

Our Association was founded in 1992 and it enclosed the veterans of several German Infantry-, Parachute- and Armored Divisions, which was involved in the Battles for Aachen, the Huertgen forest, the Battle of the Bulge, the Roer River area and the Cologne Plain.

At our reunion we will have an very interesting program, like video- and slide shows in the first days, a Bus trip through the Huertgen forest into the Ardennes, were we wanted to visit the famous Camp Elsenborn. Here at Camp Elsenborn we have the opportunity to visit the new museum, which present the history of this camp, which was founded in 1894 by the Prussian Army and is now a modern Belgian trainee area and is used by the NATO forces. The Museum presented the history of the Camp and the history of the battles of the Huertgen forest and the Battle of the Bulge.

We are very enjoyed, if you and perhaps some of your family members are able to attend our 1999 reunion. Again, we will assist you so far as we can. We will make a reservation for you in a nice Hotel here in the town of DUEREN in the "Hotel Jaegerhof". This is the same hotel in which was the American veterans during our 1998 reunion and all of them was very impressed by the Hotel. Also, we will looking forward to transfer you from the hotel to our reunion room with my van.

Every year, some 70 to 80 German veterans, who was involved in the battles above attended our reunion. Our veterans are anxious to meet their former opponents to close a partnership with you. At our 1998 reunion there was some 30 US veterans, incl. there family members, who attended this reunion. Most of them closed a friendship or a partnership.

You can make your flight directly to our closest Airports like Cologne, Frankfurt or Dusseldorf. Then you can rent a car there or come by Railroad to the town of Dueren, or you can make your trip with the follow agency:

RAY & CRISTY PFEIFFER
OWNERS & OPERATORS



Historic Tours/Tour Center/Research Office
(Tours of Historic and Important Places)
2001 Brinson Rd., Unit 202
Lutz, Florida 33549

Here is the program concerning our 1999 reunion:

Thursday, May 13, 1999

During this day you will arrive at your hotel at Dueren. I will be in the Hotel to see you and will assist you, if you come by train from the airport to Dueren. I can transfer you from the Railroad station to the hotel.

Friday, May 14, 1998

The reunion will start at 10.00 h at morning at our reunion room at Schlich/Merode. Here we are in a nice pub and you have the opportunity to call with you American or German comrades. After lunch we will start with a interesting slide- and video show. We are looking forward to have a translator for you, who can translate the German language for you. Some of the video clips are in English Language and all documents are from the years 1944/45.

We will have coffee and cake in the afternoon and Dinner at night at the reunion room too.

Saturday, May 15, 1999

Today we will make a bus excursion into the Huertgen forest to Camp Elsenborn (Elsenborn ridge) We will start at 09.30 h at your hotel and than we will drive via the towns of GEY, GROSSHAU; KLEINHAU; HUERTGEN; GERMETER; RAFFELSBRAND; LAMMERSDORF; SIMMERATH and MONSCHAU to Camp Elsenborn. Here we will visit the Museum and the training area of the Belgian and NATO Forces.

Lunch in a pup in the vicinity of Elsenborn or Butgenbach (Ardennes) At mid afternoon we will drive to the historic town of Monschau and you can visit this beautiful mid-age town, which was not destroyed in the war. You have the opportunity to go for a sightseeing into the Monschau downtown or the area around the town.

We will leave Monschau at 18.00 hours and go back to our reunion room, were we have dinner at night. If we have time enough we will show you another video show or we will transfer you back to your hotel.

Sunday, May 16, 1999

At 11.00 h we will have our annual ceremony at our Merode war grave cemetery. We will hope, that the Commanding General Grange of the 1st Infantry Division is still with us.

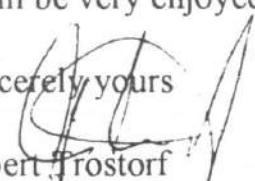
After the ceremony we will have lunch in a romantic restaurant at Merode. After the lunch the reunion will end and we will transfer you back to your hotel.

If you will visited especially places during the rest of this day or the follow days, please let it know me and my friend Ron and I will assist you. We have the opportunity to drive with me in my van to the sites, cities and places you wanted to visit. I will help you so far as I can.

Please, give me a message, if you are able to attend our 1999 reunion until March 31, 1999. You can sent me a letter or you can call to me on phone.

I will be very enjoyed, if we can meet us in May 1999

Sincerely yours


Albert Frostorf
(President)

P.s. If you want more information, please contact me soon.

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

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

**83rd Reunion Will be held at
Lexington, Kentucky
Radisson Plaza Hotel
Dates are
August 18, 19, 20, 21, 1999**

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

THUNDERBOLT DEADLINES

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

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

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BULLETIN

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