



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 56 Issue No. 2

Spring Issue 2001



Holiday Inn Hampton Hotel

55th Annual Reunion

Hampton, VA. Sept. 26, 27, 28, 29, 2001

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 110 Angel St., Saluda, SC. 29138-1002.

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A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

*James C. Hanrahan..... 1947	*William M. Doty..... 1966	*Bernie Cove..... 1984
Jack M. Straus..... 1948	Albert A. Belvedere..... 1967	Carroll Brown..... 1985
*Shelly Hughes..... 1949	Vito C. Palazzolo..... 1968	John Hobbs..... 1986
*Julius Ansel..... 1950	Pat DiGiammerino..... 1969	George Pletcher..... 1987
*Walter H. Edwards Jr..... 1951	Casey Szubskd..... 1970	*Charles Schmidt..... 1988
Leo Schneider..... 1952	*Charles Altomari..... 1971	Edward Reuss..... 1989
Finley Heyl..... 1953	*Harold H. Dopp..... 1972	Charles J. Lussler..... 1990
*Lawrence J. Redmond..... 1954-55	Louis J. Volpt..... 1973	Edgar H. Haynes..... 1991
*Lt. Gen. Robert H. York..... 1956	Bernard O. Riddle..... 1974	Ned Smith..... 1992
*Harry W. Lockwood..... 1957	Robert G. Taylor..... 1975	Louis Sandini..... 1993
*Raymond J. Voracek..... 1958	Mike Skovran..... 1976	William A. Minick..... 1994
Charles Abdinoor..... 1959	Manlius Goodridge..... 1977	Casey Szubskd..... 1995
*Joseph F. Minotti..... 1960	Joseph A. Macaluso..... 1978	Floyd Richmond..... 1996
*Frank J. McGrogan..... 1961	*William J. Chavanne..... 1979	Keith Davidson..... 1997
John W. Robinette..... 1962	*Samuel Klippa..... 1980	R.C. Hamilton..... 1998
*Manuel C. Martin..... 1963	Michael Caprio..... 1981	Pat DiGiammerino..... 1999
*Julius Boyles..... 1964	Ralph Gunderson..... 1982	Salvatore Scicolone..... 2000
*Samuel Klippa..... 1965	*Arthur Doggett..... 1983	* Denotes Deceased

NOTICE

NOTICE

NOTICE

Please Read Carefully

Remove your Hotel slip in application and send to the Hotel. The Pre-Registration form will be in the next magazine. Please notify the office when you have a change of address.

When you move, most post offices will not forward the magazine. It will be discarded at that point.



**55TH ANNUAL REUNION
OF 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION
SEPT. 26 - 29, 2001**

SEND ADS IN EARLY!

PLEASE Select size of Ad

FULL PAGE @ \$60.00	HALF PAGE @ \$35.00	THIRD PAGE @ \$24.00	QUARTER PAGE \$18.00
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BOOSTER ADS are \$5.00

Make check payable and send to:

**83rd INFANTRY DIV. ASSN. REUNION
CLIFF WOOLDRIDGE
EAST SIDE DRIVE P.O. BOX 406
ALTON BAY, NH 03810-0406**

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 55th reunion.

DEADLINE - AUGUST 1, 2001

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



President's Corner

I hope a very happy Christmas was had by all. We are now in the year 2001 and I wish each and everyone a very healthy, prosperous and happy new year. I hope all have survived this cold and snowy winter so far.

Our reunion at the Holiday Inn, Hampton, VA is coming along as planned. Let us all plan to attend our 55th reunion and see our buddies and friends. It is later than we think so we should make an effort to attend. The next issue of the Thunderbolt Magazine will have more information about the reunion. Please send in your ads and your dues. Wishing all a very happy Easter.

Good Luck and Good Health
Sal Scicolone
National President

From The Sec/Treas. Office

This guest column is dedicated to my father, Robert E. Derickson, your national secretary-treasure for the past 21 years. Bob past away on March 10, 2001. Dad's dedication to serve others was an inspiration to all that have known him. He believed in hard work and to never quit until the job was done. He continued to work on the behalf of your association through the end of January. Even when he was suffering with great pain from liver cancer he continued to do his best. His pride of serving the 83rd Inf. Div. WWII members was truly remarkable. He continued coaching me right up to the end on what had to be done to get this issue of the Thunderbolt published and sent out to all the members. It was only possible due to the great effort of his neighbor Mrs. Imogene Cornett, Mr. Jay Hartleb and Dennis Butterfield of J & D Printing, your President, Salvatore Scicolone and members of Executive Board. I wish to thank everyone for their help. I apologize to those chapters that were not contacted about dad's poor health.

The following is an excerpt from dad's Obituary: Robert E. Derickson, age 78, of Hamilton, Ohio, died at the McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital at 3:10 pm on March 10, 2001. He was born May 9, 1922, the son of Earl E. and Gertrude M. (Leugers) Derickson of Oxford, Ohio. He was educated in the Millville/Ross local school district, graduating from Ross High School in 1940. He married Pearl E. McDuffee on May 15, 1943 in Millville, Ohio. He farmed for three years prior to being drafted into the US Army during WWII. The date of entry was Oct. 10, 1942. He reported to Fort Thomas, Kentucky for induction and then to Camp Atterbury, Indiana for basic training. Robert was attached to the 3rd BN HQ 329th Rgt. of the 83rd Inf. Div. the unit he remained with throughout the campaign. His unit was part of the initial invasion force in Normandy, France that commenced on June 6, 1944 through July 23, 1944. His unit saw action in five other major battles: Northern France July 24, 1944 - Sept. 14, 1944; Luxembourg Sept. 15, 1944 - Dec. 31, 1944; Ardennes Jan. 1, 1945 - Jan. 31, 1945; Rhineland Mar. 1, 1945 - Mar. 31, 1945 and Central Germany where his 83rd Div. established the Bridgehead at the Elbe River for the final assault on Berlin April 1, 1945 - May 9, 1945 V - E Day. Germany's surrender was Bob's best birthday ever. The 329th Inf. Rgt. sustained 942 casualties of Officer and Enlisted men with several thousand wounded-in-action. He was awarded the Purple Heart from shrapnel wound during the Ardennes campaign Jan. 1945. His wound was dressed in the field hospital. He returned to action immediately. Robert was discharged from military service October 12, 1945.

After returning from WWII he worked in a paper mill and then returned to farming for six years. He became involved with 4-H as an advisor and the Butler County Fair Board while his children were growing up. The next 15 years he was a retail salesman, prior to working for Miami University of Ohio as a Food Service Manager for 25 years. He retired from Miami and began devoting his time to the 83rd Infantry Division. He served as their National Secretary/Treasurer for the past 21 years. Simultaneously, he also served on the Board of the Southwest Regional Water District. A life long member of Faith United Church of Christ of Millville, Ohio, he was a Tri-F member since the 1960's and held numerous positions in the church over the past 40 years, including a one time President of Counsel and current Treasurer of the Tri-F. Bob was also the recent Treasurer of the Millville-Ross School Alumni Association.

Robert and Pearl had two sons born prior and

during the war and four daughters born after he returned from the war. He is survived by his six children and their spouses - Edward E. and wife Kathryn A. Derickson of Oxford, Oh; Robert (Mike) and Judith A. Derickson of Hamilton, Oh; Barbara D. and Lancer R. Weinrich of Middletown, Oh; Frances N. and Michael M. Middaugh of Columbus, Oh; Marie A. and Timothy W. Lynch of Henderson, Ky. and Catherine J. and Bruce E. Darner of Hamilton, Oh. He has nine grandchildren, five great grandchildren, one brother and two sisters.

His wife of 58 years, Pearl, preceded him in death a year ago on March 4th, 2000.

Funeral services were held at the Faith United Church of Christ, 1877 Millville Avenue, at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, March 17, 2001 with Rev. George W. Hurter and Rev. Allen C. Minor, officiating. Burial was at the Greenwood Cemetery in Hamilton, Ohio. The Hamilton, Ohio DAV Military honor guard commemorated dad's service to his country, played taps and presented the American flag to the family as the Butler County Sheriff's Bagpipe Corps played "Going Home" followed with "Amazing Grace", Chaplain Frank Hornack of 83rd Inf. Div. WWII Association gave honor for Dad's service to his country, the 83rd Inf. WWII Association, his life long service to his church and many organizations that he belonged was for the betterment of mankind. Chaplain Hornack's kind remarks were greatly appreciated. Norma Hornack read a beautiful poem during the funeral service.

My brother, four sisters and I feel blessed and graced with a father and mother that were so generous and kind to all they have known. We believe there were three things in dad's life that endeared him to be such a caring and humble man. Dad was raised on a farm during the depression. He learned the value of hard work at an early age. Dad found himself in the same situation that most young men of your generation when he was called to serve his country during a horrible conflict of WWII. Lastly, he felt fortunate to have served and returned home safely from war to raise a family of six children during a Cultural Revolution. This later experience may have been more humbling than the previous two experiences.

He dedicated his life to his country, family, friends and God. We wish to extend our thanks to all who have been a buddy, friend and comrade of dad.

The family suggests memorials to either Faith United Church of Christ or the Robert E. Derickson WWII Memorial Fund. Please send memorials to the First National Bank of Southwestern Ohio, 3rd & High St., Hamilton, Ohio 45013.

We wish to preserve the memory of our father and mother. If you have a fond memory (or an extra photo) that you wish to share about Bob and Pearl, please write it down and send it c/o Robert E. Derickson family, 4000 Oxford-Millville Rd., Oxford, Oh. 45056.

Sincerely,
Edward E. Derickson

Deceased List

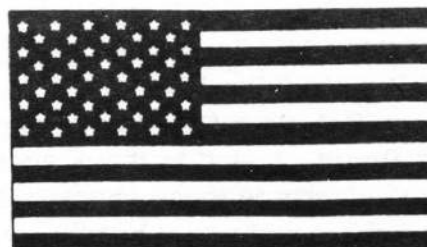
Our sympathy goes out to all the families of these veterans. We will miss all of them.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Reported By</u>
Barrett, Harold B.	Co. D, 331st	Al Shrawder
Bellino, Frank	Co. I, 329th	Earl Hoover
Bernhardt, Walter A.	Co. A, 998 F.A.	Charles B. Stein, Sr.
Burgess, Frank R.	Co. A, 330th	Charles Abdinoor A 330th
Crabtree, John	Co. F, 329th	Bob Whitcomb
Daniel, Joseph	3rd BN Hq/K	Doris Daniel
Derickson, Robert E.	3rd BN HQ 329th	Family
Dukes, Robert	Co. H, 1st BN 330th	Daughter
Dunkin, James C.	Co. I, 331st	Linda Dunkin
Fetterolf, Louis	Co. C, 308th	Harry Kirly
Francis, Max A.	Co. I, 329th	Sally Francis
Franke, Charles A	83rd Band	David Franke (son)
Giza, Walter F.	Co. I, 331st	Mrs. Walter Giza
Gregory, Richard E.	Co. I, 330th	Henry Goddard
Hand, Leo Kenneth	Co. M, 330th	Martha J. Hand (wife)
Helmes, Jonas Robert	1st BN HQ, 330th	Robert W. Helmes (son)
Hendricks, Clarence J.	Co. C, 330th	Agnes Hendricks
Hurst, David	Co. C, 323rd	John Daum
Jones, Lewis	Co. D, 330th	John Daum
Leonard, Arnold L.	Co. L, 331st	Nancy (wife)
Odenweller, George F.	Co. D, 331st	Al Shrawder
Pauley, Paul	Co. I, 330	Mike Russo
Price, Dowling Jones	Co. C, 308th Eng.	Sharon Price Leggon (daughter)
Rickenbaugh, Homer	Co. K, 330th	Family
Rider, George	Co. D	Al Shrawder
Rudd, Raymond	Co. E, F, G, H 330th	Robert Rudd
Sanders, James R.	Co. B & C 908th	Marian Sanders (wife)
Schuster, Norman	Co. D, 331st	John Daum & Lorraine Schuster
Spowart, Frank W.	Co. A, 324th F.A.	Mary Spowart
Uher, Robert	Co. B, 329th	
White, Norman F.	329th	Dorothy White
Wyant, Ellis D.	Co. K, 331st	Wife
Young, Roy D.	Co. C, Combat 308th	Cliff Woodridged

Correction

Samuel G. Chiappone, Sr.

Samuel G.
Chiappone Jr. (son)



83RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION INC. BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 2000

ASSETS

Cash in Bank - Checking Account	\$12,175.70	
CD at First Natl Bank of SWO	2,643.57	
**Inventory-Saleable Items	720.00	
*Office Machines & Equipment	500.00	
Total Other Assets	1,220.00	1,220.00
Total Assets		\$16,039.27

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities	00.00
Equity	13,395.70
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$16,039.27
**Inventory-Saleable Items	
16 Bolo Ties x \$10.00 =	\$160.00
56 Necklaces x \$10.00=	\$560.00
Total	\$720.00
*Office Machines & Equipment	
Computer & Printer, Copier, Fax, Typewriter	

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN. 2000 REUNION AD BOOK ACCOUNT NEW YORK

Total Ad Book Receipts		\$8,006.00
Woodridge Printing/Ad Book	3,887.10	
Apex Photo	285.00	
MCS Industries	484.59	
Emblem & Badge Co.	256.00	
Total Expenses	\$4,912.69	
Other Expenses		
4 Rolls Raffle Tickets	19.00	
Liquor for Hospitality Room	310.00	
Buglers for Memorial Services	40.00	
Tips for 5 days	65.00	
Floral Arrangements	30.00	
1-22" Wreath for Memorial Service	10.10	
4 People Traveling	345.00	
Postage	385.10	
Postage & Stationery	88.00	
Total Other Expenses	\$1,292.22	
Expenses - Sal Scicolone		
Bank Charges	36.75	
Shipping-		
2 flags and stands		
wood crosses		
large wreaths with stands	99.25	
1 By Law Book	16.00	
Flower arrangements for head table	67.60	
AT&T Phone	285.00	
Total	\$ 504.60	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$6,709.51
PROFIT		\$1,296.49
50/50 CLUB	611.00	
DONATIONS	86.00	
NET PROFIT		\$1993.49

83rd Infantry Div Assoc Inc. CASH FLOW REPORT December 31, 2000 (Last Half of Year Statement)

Cash Brought Forward		
(Bank Bal 6/30/2000)	\$13,236.67	
Brought Forward		\$13,236.67
INCOME		
Current Dues	1,555.00	
Prepaid Dues 2001	7,825.00	
Prepaid Dues 2002	620.00	
Donations	115.00	
Interest Rec Checking	110.83	
Saleable Items	460.00	
Transfer from Reunion Fund	4,778.45	
Total Income		\$15,464.28
TOTAL BAL FORWARD AND INCOME		\$28,700.95
DISBURSEMENTS		
Bond Insurance	239.00	
Check Printing	45.75	
Computer Upgrade	200.44	
Office Supplies	39.45	
Phone	217.13	
Postage		
Thunderbolt	689.77	
Stamps & Post Cards	571.51	1,261.28
Printing		
Thunderbolt	5,458.00	5,458.00
Returned Check	15.00	
Returned Check Fee	5.00	
Roster Expenses		
Printing	3,553.00	
Postage	319.39	
9 Shipping Cartons	153.81	4,026.20
Reunion Fund	18.00	
Sec/Treasurer Fee	5,000.00	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$16,525.25
NET CASH BALANCE (12/31/2000)		\$12,175.70
NET CASH BALANCE FORWARD-END OF YEAR		\$12,175.70

Historian's Corner

We wish that everybody had a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. At this time, I would like to explain the reason I feel that the 83rd Infantry Division deserves another Battle Campaign Star making it 6 instead of 5. The Rhineland and Central European Campaigns were separated by the Rhine River. All Western Allies were told to halt at the Elbe River which was to be the Eastern boundary for Central Europe, but the 2nd Armored Division and the 83rd Infantry Division was ordered to establish a Bridgehead East of the Elbe River. For some strange reason, there were American made assault boats on the west bank of the Elbe at Barby. I realize that the 6th Campaign Star wouldn't buy a cup of coffee but the 83rd and other units need to have it documented for the record and History. If we fail to have the Eastern European Campaign documented, the future generations will not know the true final weeks of WW II and its ending. True, a few books acknowledge this fact and to others, it didn't happen but, we must see to it that all corrections are properly made.

The 83rds Bridgehead held due to the swift action of all involved. The Combat Engineers quickly put a bridge across the Elbe for tanks, artillery and support units to cross. The 2nd Armored's bridgehead did not hold for this reason. The Central European and Eastern European Sectors were divided by the Elbe River. I am enclosing a letter from Lieutenant Colonel Bernard P. Gabriel, U.S. Army, Chief, Military Awards Branch. He admits to the fact that the 83rd was indeed in the Eastern European Sector during World War II. He outlines the procedure to follow to receive the award. Now that the elections are over, it is time to approach a Congressman to pursue the glory the 83rd rightly deserves.

Sadly, the 83rd Infantry Divisions Public Relations Office was inactive from February to May, 1945 and therefore, missed out on all of the glory and Awards earned by the Veterans of the 83rd Infantry Division and Support Units. The information about the Public Relations office was obtained from the Files Richard Boyland gave me at the reunion in Catskill, New York and is greatly appreciated. There are quite a few interesting files listed and I will attempt to send for them.

Now for my intended trip to Germany for the German Veterans Reunion. Horst Reinhold is contacting the German Veterans that agree to being video taped regarding their experiences and at the exact location in their attempt to push the 83rd back across the Elbe River. Horst informed me that Peter Rettich agreed to allow the 83rd to use his War Diary in the intended movie. I asked Horst to submit his report regarding this. See you at the reunion at Hampton, VA, September 26 - 30, 2001.

And remember, we were indeed the Best of the Best. Best wishes and regards to all.

Sincerely,
Louis Gomori

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. TOTAL ARMY PERSONNEL COMMAND
ALEXANDRIA, VA
22332-0741

MR. LOUIS GOMORI
309 EAST LOCUST STREET
BUTLER, PA 16001-4826

Dear Mr. Gomori:

Thank you for your letter of July 22, 1999 to President Clinton concerning your desire to see members of the 83rd Infantry Division authorized a Battle Campaign Star for the Elbe Bridgehead battle in the Eastern European sector during World War II. Your letter was forwarded to this office, as the proponent for the Army's Awards and Decorations Program, for review and reply.

Unfortunately, the Elbe Bridgehead battle was not designated a campaign during or after World War II. During World War II, the senior Army commander in the theater of operations was authorized to grant campaign participation credit to units under his or her command. This authority was not further delegated. Although the 83rd Infantry Division did not receive campaign credit for the Elbe Bridgehead, they should be proud of their valiant combat record during World War II which included Battle campaign credit for Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe, Normandy, Northern France, and Rhineland; Meritorious Unit Commendation (1 December 1944-31 January 1948): and occupation credit (Germany) (2 May 1945 - 27 December 1945).

In this regard, Title 10, United States Code, Section 1130, allows for referral of an award recommendation by a Member of Congress. The burden and costs for researching and assembling documentation to support award recommendations rest with the requester. Once received and upon review, a determination will be made as to the merit of approving the award or decoration, or any other determination necessary to comply with the provisions of the statute.

Completed award recommendations must be referred by a Congressional Member and forwarded to: Department of the Army, Military Awards Branch, 200 Stovall Street, Suite 7SO7, Alexandria, Virginia 22332-0471.

I trust the information I have provided will be helpful. Thank you for your interest in the Military Awards Program.

Sincerely,
Bernard P. Gabriel
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Chief, Military Awards Branch

CHAPTERS

Dixie Chapter News

Dixie Style Christmas

The celebration is over but the memories still are vivid in my mind of our 27th meeting in Gatlinburg, Tenn. I want to thank each one who was instrumental in getting this underway back in 1973 and keeping it going strong thru the years. There have been many strong will volunteers over the years doing the tasks that are needed to keep going. Thank you so very much from this reporter!

Saturday - My experience starts early so that I may visit Mary & Felix Livingston in S. C. at their home. It just gets better each year. I look forward to the southern style cooking and hospitality and am not disappointed. Being a farm boy at heart I enjoy the cattle 100+ head and calves and all the other country things going on. I must move on.

Tuesday - comes to quickly so I'm off to Gatlinburg with my wife, Katheryn to get the shopping out of the way before the rush. This was accomplished. Now I'm ready!

Wednesday - 14 rooms are filled with 83rd people ready to celebrate once again coming from 14 states. Each had a special story to tell so naturally I was busy taking time to listen a little and talk a little.

Thursday - The place is filling up fast. Many are taking in shows and sight seeing. The fire is going in the fireplace. The Hospitality Room is going full blast with too many goodies to mention. All are having a good time once again. Some are here for the very first time. Now they know why we come every year.

Friday - Our compatriots still come in. I'm saddened by sickness of some have cancelled out. I'm impressed by the number of our precious widows who have come. Some having lost their loved ones during the past year. You and your presence mean so much to us. I dare not name you lest I leave out one and thereby insult you all. Dignitaries are everywhere. Executive Board members, past national presidents and national officers. Visitors from other Chapters. Sadly we only have one of our Chapter charter members present. Marshall Keith and his wife. Company Commander Capt. Hill has four of his faithful present. Most of our people are infantrymen but engineers, medics, artillery are represented and carrying on performing the duties of an operation of this sort.

Milton Singleton has 19 members of his family with him. Our official host, Flo Jackson has two tables full, one of which is only 17 days old! What a great time we're having by now. We have every room filled with some in overflow hotel.

The Electric Parade goes off on schedule and is enjoyed by all at 9:00 p.m. Our music starts and we dance til midnite. It just gets better each year.

This year Col. White's son, John and his wife Bobby came for the first time. They'll be back, I'm sure. We really enjoyed having them.

Saturday - Threat of snow is real. Many decide to leave before the banquet. We miss each one. The Banquet goes off on time. Our president handles the business meeting. We take care of business and get down to the fun part. Santa arrives with presents for each, but alas Santa has to leave to get ahead of the snow. The music and frivolity go on till midnight and is enjoyed by all.

I decide to wait out the snow by noon on Sunday everyone is gone - except me. The place is so quiet I can't believe the big change in such a short time. Just makes you thankful to be able to be here with all these good people from all over coming together because we are bound together by the impossible to describe events we have been a part of. We need to remember those who are not with us but have given their all. Some who lie buried in foreign lands, some here in this country of ours. Most of all we think of those loved ones left behind, children and family members and widows.

Our deceased list grows longer and our ranks grow thinner but lets keep upper most in our thinking these reasons and let this help us to be stronger in our daily lives so that we do not betray the sacrifice of those who are no longer with us!

Respectfully Yours,
Your Reporter
Ellsworth Massie



Mr. & Mrs. Santa



**Five good men - Co. "B" 329th
Pirkle, Taylor, Capt. Hill, Waddle, and Melton**



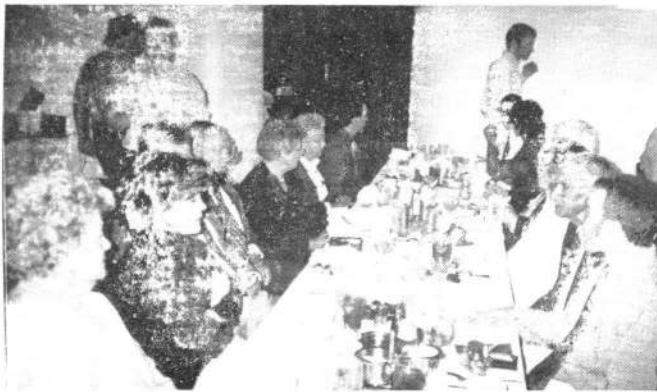
**"F" 331st - Four good men
(One good squad)**



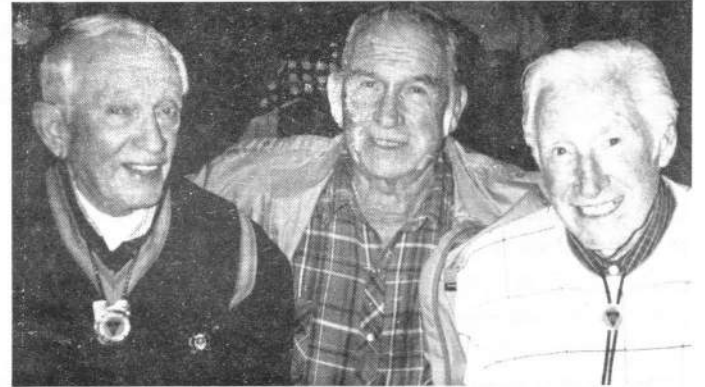
John & Bobble White and Bill White's son.



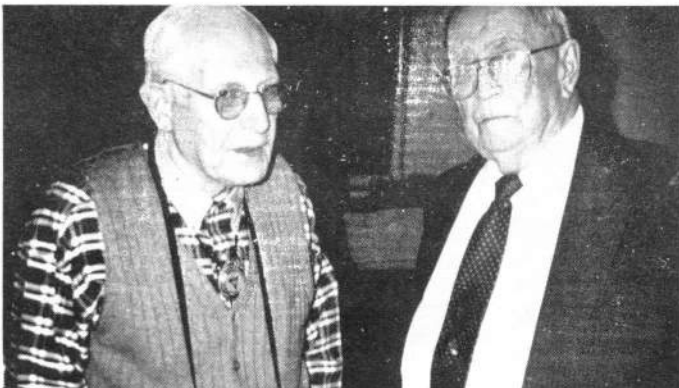
Ladies of "Dixie"



Singleton with 19 members of family present.



**Three man crew 3rd Bn. 329th
Badgett, Hudnall, and Brooks**



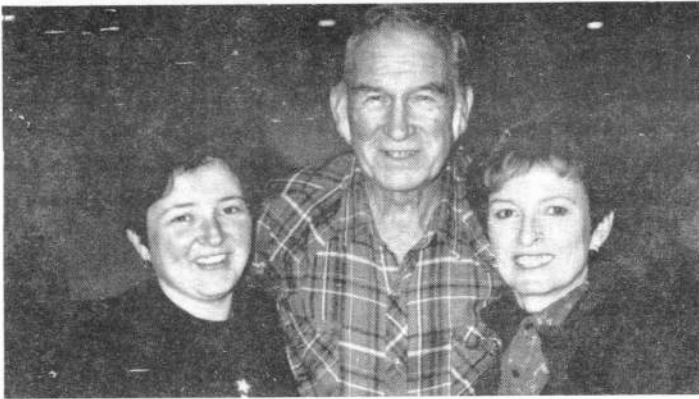
Derickson and Hobbs - serious business



President John Cox and wife Virginia



Old and New Massies from MD.



John Hudnall welcomes Buddy Glasscock's daughter and Yowl's daughter
First Timers - Dad never made it!



Nancy Ledger and Daughter (Bill Ledger Widow)

Florida Chapter News

The Florida Chapter is still functioning, but very little activities are newsworthy. Bob Taylor is the president for this year and our next meeting will be on April 20 & 21, in Port St. Lucie, Fl.

Bob & Horey Gravelyn are trying to gather bits of information and prepare a newsletter of sorts.

At our last meeting on Jan. 26 & 27, we had 26 mem-

bers in attendance plus spouses and guests at the banquet. Our membership stands at 50 at this time. Illness is taking its toll, the latest casualties are John Miklos, who can't travel and Frank Sharp who is returning to Ohio because of several heart attacks.

Also last year we lost Walter Marshall and Larry Leonardi. If you can print any of this OK. but hopefully Bob Taylor will send something.

Sincerely,
W. Allen Fisher

As the Heralds raise their Trumpets and blow their song of past deeds, old 83rd soldiers lift up their heads and along with the song hear the sound of marching feet, the noise and confusion of mortal combat, the roar of the big guns, the cries of agony, and the dead silence of the post battlefield. As their thoughts drift in and out, now, more and more often as their life of memories begin to fade, they are more conscious of their passing years and the loss of comrades along the way. Their trials and hardships no longer seem so eventful or catastrophic and their solace is more in the sharing of their comradeship. They feel no one other than themselves fully understand their sacrifice, their ultimate risk, their hardships, and their accomplishments. In the present day analysis no one does, therefore they retreat into their own groups, chapters, and reunions. Thus we have the FLORIDA CHAPTER.

SQ - there is life below the Mason Dixie Line! The Florida Chapter consisting of a blend of Florida natives, tax dodgers, and sno-birds, meet three times a year in November, January, and April. We even have a German Soldier visitor who visits once in awhile. He was captured and saved by the 83rd from transfer to the Russians.

Our November 2000 meeting was hosted by President Joe Camp and his wife Donna in Lake Wales at the Green Gables Motel. Our January meeting was hosted by Harry Gravelyn and his wife Barbara, at the Inn on the Lakes, in Sebring. We have snacks, drinks, card playing, and discussion. Our largest get-together is in January when we have the most sno-birds present. Our total number present in January 2001 was 51. All those who served at one time or another with the 83rd are welcome.

You should contact Al Fisher at 1 Bolero SP Lake CCV, Ft. Pierce, Fl. 34951, or mafisher@gate.net. PH (561) 461-3640.

In our meetings we have a grand time absent from injuries caused by canes, crutches, and walkers. Hearing aids are present and you can tell who owns them by all the shouting of those who do not. When the party was finally over the men won the war again and the women won or lost at their card games.

Respectfully submitted
Harry C. Gravelyn

Kentucky Chapter News

Longtime English businessman, Homer Rickenbaugh, dies at 78

By **CHRIS ADAMS**
Editor



Homer Z. Rickenbaugh, owner and operator of several businesses, including English Hardware for almost 20 years, died at his home Monday, Jan. 8. He was 78.

Rickenbaugh and his wife, the former Ruth E. Wiseman, whom he married on May 2, 1942, opened their first business, a restaurant in English, in 1946.

Back then, the couple had been living in Evansville for a few weeks while Rickenbaugh, who had recently been discharged from the Army, worked at the Marine Hospital.

Unhappy in the city and the barracks where they were living, they jumped at the opportunity when they heard the restaurant was for sale.

After they sold the restaurant, known as "Rick's Place" and "The Town Grill," they opened several other businesses in English, including a drug store, shoe shop, dry cleaners, two grocery stores and a "Drey" business, which involved delivering mail from the incoming trains to the Post Office.

In 1959 the couple opened English Hardware. They operated it for 19 years, before selling it in 1978. Although the couple sold the business, Rickenbaugh stayed active in different business ventures, until poor health caught up with him in the 1990s.

Rickenbaugh's wife and two daughters, Angela Thompson of Eckerty and Priseilla Roberson of Spice-land, Ind., said he was a quiet man. That is unless he was around the men he served with in World War II.

"We always said Daddy wasn't much of a talker, but you'd take him to those gatherings, and he opened up," Roberson said.

Rickenbaugh, who was drafted in October 1942, spent three years in the 83rd Infantry Division of the Army before being discharged on Nov. 3, 1945. He was a jeep driver, serving in the European Theater of operation, seeing battles and campaigns at Normandy, northern France, Rhineland, central Europe and Ardennes.

Throughout the years, he stayed close to those with whom he served. He was an active member of several veterans organizations, including English VFW Post 6160, Marengo American Legion Post 84, Kentucky Chapter 83rd Infantry Division World War II, Dixie Chapter

Homer Z. Rickenbaugh served as a jeep driver for the 83rd Infantry Division of the Army in World War II. He and his wife, the former Ruth E. Wiseman, attended several regional and national reunions over the years.

83rd Infantry Division and Crawford County Disabled American Veterans.

"The VFW was his first love," Ruth said.

The couple often attended the regional and national meetings of the 83rd Infantry Division, nicknamed the "Thunderbolt Division," even hosting a Kentucky Chapter event one year in Corydon.

"We had a really good time," Ruth said, remembering taking a train ride from Corydon to Crandall.

The Rickenbaughs also went to Camp Atterbury south of Indianapolis each year for a memorial service. Rickenbaugh trained there prior to going overseas during World War II.

Rickenbaugh also has another tie to the military base. He wrote a story about his time in the service that was published in the anthology "Atterbury Files" that dealt with the camp.

Rickenbaugh, whose unit landed on the beaches of Normandy just days after the D-Day invasion, received several honors, including an EAME Theater Ribbon with five bronze stars, Victory Medal, Bronze Star Medal, American Theater Ribbon and Good Conduct Ribbon.

The dedication he displayed in the Army was representative of his entire life, Ruth said. "There wasn't anything he couldn't or wouldn't do," she said.

"I don't think we could finish a meal," she said, joking that he would work all hours if somebody needed something done.

Born on June 25, 1922, in Celina, Ind., to the late Emory and Laura Mason Rickenbaugh, Rickenbaugh attended McWilliams and Taswell schools in western Crawford County before joining the U.S. Civilian Conservation Corps after the seventh grade. Stationed in Tell City, he helped plant pine trees.

Rickenbaugh also worked briefly as a truck driver and for Southern Railway, building bridges. The latter was a job that he did not enjoy too much, Ruth said.

After the war, Rickenbaugh also served his community by serving on the English Civic Club and Town Council for several years. He would get calls at all hours from residents wanting him to do things, from restoring electrical power to removing a cat from the yard, that he, as a council member, had no power to do. However, he didn't mind.

"He just loved his community and his country," Thompson said.

Later, he was active in the English Senior Citizens organization and attended Eckerty Christian Church.

Rickenbaugh's kindness and service was appreciated by the community. More than 300 people came to Denbo Funeral Home in English last week to say goodby to their friend and comfort his family.

Besides his wife and daughters, Rickenbaugh was survived by three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The funeral was last Wednesday, with burial in "Mathers cemetery in English. The Revs. Brian Martin and Bob Kelly officiated. Lois Blevins was the organist. Military rites were performed by English VFW Post 6160.

Cleveland Chapter News

Hi everyone, here it is February 2nd Ground Hog Day, and it's snowing hard.

I was told by my wife Bernice that Punxsutawny Phil saw his shadow. Well here in the Cleveland area, Buckeye Chuck did not see his shadow. So we're going to have weather, whether we like it or not.

It's been a bad winter for the Cleveland Chapter so far. Earl Lindsey our president had angioplasty January 31st, but is doing fine. He had chest pains and couldn't breath. Well, Bob Uher is weak and is bedridden. Jo Gunka hurt her hip and Al Klugiewicz (Erie Pa.) Had Carpultunnel operation on his hand. George Calore takes a bus every day to be with his wife at the nursing home.

We did not have a meeting in January. The weather is usually bad, so we called it off. Our next meeting is February 15th. I wonder what our Mess Sgt Mike Mizerock will cook up for us? Whatever it will be you can bet it'll be "Good"

This is all for now,

Stay Healthy,
Bob Grobelny,
"A" Co. 329th

New England Chapter



New England Chapter at Ferrlera's Cookout.



Karl & Ingrid Burkhard - Nina & Mike Petitti

Hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and also wish you all a very healthy 2001.

Received Christmas cards from Wayne Turner of Greenville, Ohio that he had open heart surgery in July. Had two bypasses, a valve repaired and a hole repaired in his heart and is doing fine now. Helen and Ray Rudd do not go out much and stay close to home, and Virginia and "Big Red" Raynor Burcham that they are doing OK., for "Old Folks" Ray 87 and Virginia is 88 years old and they also do not drive much. Wilfred Burdin of Edison, N.J. that he no longer drives and he is also 86 years young and walks to stay in good health. Good old buddy. Nick Boyd had a small stroke but doing O.K. at 83. Fred & Nellie Messina of New Bern, N.C. missed the reunion and hope to make the next one. The Burkhardts are doing OK. Chuck & Bernice are in Florida for the winter, but I think he wished he stayed home. Haha. Also Bob Blout of Ky., is doing OK. Got news from Russ Wagner that Vera is to have hip surgery on Jan. 9 and later the other hip. Good luck and Russ got arthritis and doing O. K. with medicine.

Received a letter from Chuck Abdinoor that he is in Florida and the weather is in it's low 80's. I have some sad news to report. Frank Burgess who was a member of the New England Chapter passed away. He received word from his wife, Rita who called him from Mass. He had a tough time the last three month.

He was a member of A. Co. 330th with Chuck. We will certainly miss him. Also he got a call from Dutchy Smith that he was on his way to Arruba, with Helen. He seems to think he has better luck there than in Atlantic City.

I see Mousie on the today show again while the world series was on. He doesn't miss many games. Also dropped in to see Johnny Marysz, he still has his problem with his health, but I am sure he will make Hampton, Va.

Our deepest regrets to Nancy and Amby Tynan in loosing their daughter this past year. They are true 83rd'ers.

We already have our reservation in for Hampton Va and I am expecting a good crowd from Co. "A" 330th.

Thanks Chuck for your report. If a member has something to report please send it to me. Thanks.

I checked with John and Ester Ferriera and they are O.K. and looking forward to the reunion.

Received some news from the Brennans from R.I. and there isn't much news but the Brennans just found out that their son-in-law who is retiring in March has been hired by Continental Airlines and hopes to be based out in Newark N.J. Good Luck Mike.

That is all the news I have for now.

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



New England Chapter In New York



John Welsh, Al Tartaglia, Chuck Abdinoor & Jim Brennan.



Reunion In New York.



Having a great time.



Michigan Chapter News

The Michigan Chapter, had a Christmas Party hosted by Nick & Sylvia Barbu, at their home in Dearborn Michigan, on December, 13th, 2000 and a good turnout were present. Evelyn and Charlie McAuliff, Nick and Sylvia Barbu, Lee Hetrick, Ed Zerucha, Nick Boyd, Vito and Virginia Palazzolo. All enjoys being together and reminiscing of old times. We looked at a picture of our reunion, held in Detroit in 1969, picture enclosed, charley - Nick and Vito looking at it. Ladys only gifts, were exchanged, a delicious lunch was served and by 6 P.M. that evening all set out for home.

Our next meeting will be at the "Regional Shopping Center" in Sterling Hights, Mi. Location - on Gratiot, between 15 and 16 Mile Rd., at "The Old Country Buffet" any one in the area are welcome to come and join us, we'd love to have you.

We will be meeting again the second Thursday of July and also the second Thursday of October. We will be seeing you at the "National Reunion in Sept." Enclosed are pictures that were taken at the Christmas party by Evelyn Mc Auliff.

See you in Sept.
Vito Palazzolo, Co "G" - 329th



Charles McAuliff looking at picture of 1969 Reunion in Detroit, Michigan.



Virginia Palazzolo and Sylvia Barbu.



Sylvia Barbu, Virginia Palazzolo & Evelyn McAuliff



Vito Palazzolo, Nick Barbu, Ed Zerucha, Lee Hetrick and Charlie McAuliff



Nick Boyd Ed Zerucha and Lee Hetrick



Charlie McAuliff, Nick Barbu and Vito Palazzolo

New Jersey Chapter News

The Christmas Party was the big event held at Cryan's Restaurant. We had twenty-seven people attend and from all accounts it was a great success. Joe Cryan always treats us very special. The huge portions of Prime Rib were delicious as was the salmon and the chicken. Those that couldn't come missed out on a wonderful party. I must give some credit to the success to Joe DePeri and Manny Epstein for running a very enjoyable raffle. Prizes at the raffle were donated by those who attended.

The whole Chapter appreciates their generosity. Our newly drafted Chaplain Russell Whitehead is also to be commended for his prayers before dinner. From now on folks, treat Chaplain Russell with reverence!

The highlight of the party was the presence of Ted and Irene Guzek. It had been a long time since many had seen them and it was very emotional to see the reaction when they saw Ted and Irene. We hope they will come again as both enjoy being with us again as we enjoyed being with them.

Also attending after not seeing them for a few years were Joe and Hazel Barton whom we expected to see at the reunion at Friar Tuck but couldn't make it. Always enjoy being with them. Tom and Candy Dowd joined us as always. Tom is a Navy Veteran who is a very active member of our Chapter for the last thirty-five years.

Frank and Mary Sabine had attended and it was good to see them and how well Frank looked after his mild stroke. Their son had a very serious operation and our hope and prayers are he will have a complete recovery.

Charles Sihlanick was considering going to a New York Giant football game the day of our party but with a lot of arm twisting and threats of taking away his privileges as a chapter member, he came to the party and was happy he did.

Joe and Dot Skurka gave up their favorite pastime, Atlantic City, to attend the party and it probably cost them a bundle that they would have won in Atlantic City. I'm not kidding! They are the High Rollers of our chapter, I checked with the Tropicana Casino to verify this statement.

Andy Socha has always been the one to count on whenever some one needs a helping hand and this time he drove Sihlanick to the party as Linda had other plans and couldn't be with us.

We were happy to have George and Vi Waple with us. Vi had undergone a serious operation a few months prior and she still was able to make one of her beautiful Christmas Wreaths for the raffle. George brought along some of his books and some people purchased them and were impressed with our famous author. George will be celebrating his 80th birthday at the Officers Club at Fort Monmouth on February 9th.

We had the pleasure of welcoming to the Christmas Party two new members and their wives. Chet and Mary Kochan (Co. F 331) also Vic and Jackie Terzano (Co I 329). I received a letter from Vic telling how much they

enjoyed the party and are looking forward to our spring dinner. They might bring Mort Goldman and his wife along with them.

Fred Policastro, Sam Manzi and Tony Hroncich had other plans and we missed seeing them. Hopefully they will join us at our next affair. We also missed the Beatrice Family.

Our good friends and neighbors Ken and Jo Miglionaco along with Rita Fitzgerald were at the Christmas Party. Ken said they enjoyed it all. Ken was with Company B of the 308 Engineers. We see them often at the Fords senior meetings.

I received a note from Don Theibolt, both he and Twyla are having health problems. They do little traveling and do miss seeing everyone at the reunions. We do miss seeing you both too.

Got a call from Ned Jones (1st Bn. Hdqs., 331st) that they have moved to upstate New York from California. He called Frank Reichmann and Fred Klein hoping that the four of us can have a reunion this spring. Fred, using his authority? told me to arrange it for around the end of May in Princeton, New Jersey close to Frank as he can't travel any distance. Hopefully this can happen.

On a Christmas Card we received from Frank and Joyce Monan (Co. A, 331st Inf.) he wanted me to pass on this information to all 83rds. At a dinner they went to for hospital volunteers they met one of the officers of the TROA (The Reserve Officers Ass'n.) who asked Frank who he served with in WWII. When Frank told him he was with the 83rd, he said that he served as a Staff Officer with one of the Army Staffs and the 83rd was one of the best regarded Divisions during the war. He asked Frank to pass this on to other 83rd men he kept in touch with. I'm happy to share this with all 83rds and YOU WERE INDEED THE VERY BEST.

Manny Epstein and I were invited to Manny Goodridge's daughter's wedding, Amy to Jeffrey Bakst in Cincinnati. It was just one big celebration starting on Friday evening, October 6th to the afternoon of October 8th, 2000. It was a really beautiful affair and we were happy to be invited. Our Best Wishes To Amy and Jeffrey for a Wonderful Life Together!

I saw a message on the internet asking for information on Larry Leonardi (Co. A, 331) who died about two years ago, the fellow asking had purchased Larry's reissued medals from Ebay. He is a collector and a history buff for WWII. I thought you all ought to know how precious all your possessions are to people who are collectors and to those that have joined WWII Reactors Groups. He lives in Spokane, Washington and is interested in personal histories of those who served in WWII.

More and more people are now on the internet. I find it a great way to communicate to family and friends using the E-Mail.

I have included 3 pictures from the Friar Tuck Reunion.

That's it for now, GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

Stan Bielen, (1st Bn., Hdqs., 331st)

Pittsburgh Chapter News



Twenty-seven persons attended the chapter Christmas Party held at Dietz Tavern and Lounge in Blawnox, Pa. on December 9. A box of homemade candy was presented to all the women in attendance. Our chapter meetings have in attendance with 15 to 20 in attendance. Sick list includes Smokey Alicandri still afflicted with shingles.

Our chaplain Matt Pintar has been absent a few months. We understand his wife is ailing. Xmas greetings were received from ex-secretary Jim McCulla who is confined to an assisted home in Emporium, Pa. His address is RR Box 75, Emporium, Pa., 15834. Word also reached us from George Komlos, a shut-in at 391 May St., Belle Vernon, Pa. 15012. In December your reporter was bothered by inflammation, itching of skin on the right hand. A doctor prescribed lotion and was told that in 30 days would be cured, Lo and behold not so. Got another opinion. I have carpal tunnel syndrome in both hands. Right hand surgery on Feb. 15 and left hand a month later. I received a book from ex-Lt. Ed Fitzgerald. It is entitled "The Bloody Forest. It is about the battle of the Huertgen Forest.

In leafing thru it a few paragraphs caught my eye: Quote: With Company "E" of the 22nd Regiment, Captain Don Faulkner and his troops burrowed into the earth in a wooded area just beyond Grosshau. We were told we were to be relieved and that morning, the new division, a sorry-looking outfit came to relieve us.

The new division, a sorry-looking outfit (the 83rd Infantry Division came to relieve us and "Like Faulkner, Wilson viewed the newcomers as undisciplined and poorly led." Upon my retirement from the printing industry I was employed as a part-time security guard for a branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. I got to read a lot and read alot about WWII. I never came upon any bad reports about the 83rd "H" Co. 329th news: Lt. Fitzgerald retired from the practice of Radiology in 1993. Mary, his wife are in general good health. Received greeting card from Donald Rikert, "Mousey" Farias, Ed Cox and "Frenchy" Bourget. I visited with "Bill" Jones a few times around the holidays. He is doing fine but his wife Anna has emphysema and is on oxygen 24 hours a day. I am also sending photos of the past Xmas party. Sorry I couldn't come up with captions.

"Fran" Beerhalter
"H" 329th

**If you are not
up to date with
your dues payment -
Please send them in
NOW!**

Boston Chapter News

*At the eighty-third party there was an air of quiet
Was it because they were all on a diet?
Almost every order seemed to be chicken or fish
At dinners end, mashed potato was left on the dish.*

Of course some of us had shrimp and beef and it was all good...but the air of quiet did permeate the air. We missed those of us who were not there. Of about thirty-five or more who signed up only twenty-nine could make it. Cancer reports, heart operations, etc. have been a plague for the Boston Chapter over the last few years....not to mention deaths.

At any rate, festivities commenced in the afternoon in the hospitality room where hors d'oeuvres and drinks were always available. By six o'clock, the hospitality room was nearly full.

At seven o'clock they all piled into the dining room. Pat DiGiammerino, the president, opened the festivities with a welcome and called upon Fred Sylvia to do the Chaplain's duties. Charlie Lussier, the chairman, (who deserves great credit for his hard work) then said a few words before we started eating.

Very good music and singing was supplied by Eileen and Gail while we had dinner and I am sure that at any future party, these two talented girls will be hired for the work. Some of us got up and danced. Even though there wasn't an official leader, everyone would either be singing the words or humming when the appropriate songs were played...especially the carols.

After the dancing was over, Charlie Lussier, who can play Santa Claus better than anyone, came in, and playing that role, passed out gifts to everyone with the usual girl kissing and hand shaking with the men, with many Ho-Ho's and Merry X-mases.

Next on the schedule was the drawing for the winners of the Annual Charity Raffle. The tickets are sold throughout the country to our members in order to have money for our varied charities. Ed Ulrich of New York, won first prize of one-hundred dollars. Dan Pelose of Putname Valley or is it Mt. Kisco, New York sold Ed the ticket. Dan, himself, won the second prize of fifty dollars. Frank Lawrence of Painesville, Ohio won third prize of fifty dollars as well. All the other prizes were for twenty-five dollars and were won by Vitie Atkocius of Forestville, Maryland, Anita Randall of New Palestine, Indiana, Jean Nappel of Iowa City, Iowa, Laurent Maurier of Manchester, New Hampshire, and lastly, the ever popular Theresa Scicolone, from the Pittsburgh Chapter, the new "First Lady" of the National Organization.

After the party, we all went back to the hospitality room where nothing really exciting happened, but...where warmth and friendliness (stories of the war too) abounded. A toast was drank to all the departed (for whom we miss at these parties) and then we all went home or to our rooms at the hotel.

The next morning, those of us who stayed at the hotel, partook of a free meal provided by the hotel before departing for home.

I had a nice chat on the telephone with Lou Sandine before Marlborough got hit with a eighteen inch snow storm. Lou must have been digging out for days. Pat DiGiammerino only got seven inches of snow, however, Pat has a very long walk and driveway. Nancy and I went out to shovel but a boy from across the street had done our stairs and the man next door did the rest with his snowblower. We surely lucked out during that storm!!! If Tom Houlette and Erwin Erhardt don't get their driveways shoveled, I will do it for them in July as I am always willing to help out!!!

Nancy and I were out shopping when we happened upon



Fred Sylvia spending all his money. Meeting Fred was a real surprise because we live fifty miles apart. However, "I" Company is everywhere.

Chuck Abdinoor is hiding out in Florida for the winter. He said he will be in Loon Hill for the summer. George Connors of the 323rd HQ. is also in the Sunshine State. I got a nice letter from Walter Harding, who is a year round resident of Florida. Boy,...some of the troops have the **best of all worlds!!!**

Larry Arrigo recently moved down to Kingston, Ma. Fran and Larry were having health problems but are better now. Best wishes in your new home!

I was told that Mike Caprio is doing well. He has Vera, his wife, running around doing his bidding. Keep up the good work, Vera!

Bob and Marge Sessions have been busy in Maine with Veterans Work. Bob tries to help all the Veteran'.

Jim Prentice is doing well in New Hampshire along with Chet Morley. As of this date, they are *snowed in!*

Russ Whitehead, I am still looking around South Boston for the person you are looking for. One day I will find someone who knows him. I promise to telephone you right away. A friend of mine is taking me to the polish club in March, maybe someone will know him there.

I hope to be seeing Vitie Atkocius in Williamsburg, Va. on March 8, 2001 at the mini reunion. John Cox always has a great reunion down there. Last year, I missed it because I was in poor health, but this year Nancy and I will make up for lost time. A reminder to Vitie...our friends have the *White House!*

Captain Robert H. Costello passed away November 2, 2000 at Holmes Beach, Florida. Captain Costello commanded "B" Battery of the 323rd during the war. Our sincere sympathy goes out to his family.

The next regular meeting of the Boston Chapter will be in March.

Your comrade, Amby Tynan



Bill Rowe, Fred Sylvia & Charlie Lussler - Bill always keeps us laughing - Boston Chapter



Hospitality Room at Frlar Tuck Boston Chapter.



Getting a point across - Boston Chapter



Mary from Belgium seeking Information Boston Chapter



Helen Plantedosi - Referee



Meeting In Worcester, Mass. - Boston Chapter

COMPANIES

Co. "L" - 331st.

We have had annual reunions since 1948 but attendance has really dwindled.

This year our reunion was hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Chester Reagon at the Hilton Inn, south of Knoxville, Tennessee, Oct. 7th and 8th. Only 6 ex-GI's were able to attend. They were: Harold Edwards, Martinsville, Indiana; James Brown, Louisville, Kentucky; Albert Runge, Hingham, Massachusetts; John E. Miller, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida; Chester Reagon, Maryville, Tennessee; and Charles E. Rudler, Linesville, PA.

We have a small roster containing a list of 56 deceased buddies, names and addresses of 63 living ex-GI's and 48 names but no available addresses.

WE WOULD BE SO HAPPY TO HEAR FROM ANYONE WHO CAN GIVE US ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT Co. "L".

Respectfully,
Charles E. Rudler
6547 U.S. Hwy #6
Linesville, PA. 16424

Co. "A" - 330th

Hi Buddies,

Hope all is well with you. I have a little bit of sad news to report. Frank Burgess died Dec. 31, 2000. Frank was a member of the 3rd platoon and was well known. We will certainly miss him, and our sympathy goes out to Rita and the family.

Received via E-mail that one Chester Cuzynski is looking for information about the 83rd Division. Needless to say I sent him an Ad Book plus information on how to join. He was known in our platoon as Whitey. Since I am now down here in Florida for the winter, I will

follow up more when I get back home. Also got a call for one of our buddies who passed on. Name is James Sansone from Illinois. I do not remember him, but Paul Reed, our platoon leader did, and will follow through on that.

Got a letter from Walt Pillion who hopes to make the next reunion with Shorty Glasser.

Also got Christmas cards from Earl Dunn and Bob Gangnath, they are our new members.

I hope that Edgar Allison will also make our reunion. He wants to see Walter Pillion.

I have a little more sad news. My C.O. from "B" Co. - 330th passed on last year. His name is Joseph DeSantis. He stayed in the army and got out a Bird Colonel. I will certainly miss him. During the Battle of the Bulge he gave me a pair of socks and told me to keep them under my shirt and keep them dry and change them when I had a chance. I met him a few years ago and told him of that incident. He told me he also gave his gloves to somebody and did not get them back. Incidentally he is from Hampton, VA. and I was going to bring him to the reunion. My sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

I try to keep in touch with Bob (Spike) Spychala from Buffalo, N.Y. He has a slight health problem but will try to make it. Also the same with John Bulard from Garland, N.C. I expect to see Adolph (Cookie) Seneca. He hardly misses one. I always get a Christmas card from Bert Mobley's wife, he passed on, but she is very interested in the activities of the Div. Also from "Butch" Klug, her husband Arthur was our armorer.

Got a call from Lee Milligan from Wichita, Ks. Would love to see him again, last time was in Washington, D.C.

William (Shiftless) is to busy going to Foxwood's Casino, and I can't talk him into coming to Hampton, on our way home.

I will stop to see Paul Reed and spend a few hours with him and Dolores. He is interested in the 83rd and keeps in contact with me. I called him about Frank Burgess and he called his wife Rita to give her their sympathy.

Write to me of any news of the 83rd. so we can keep our Company "A" - 330th active, and banded together.

Your Buddy
Charles (Abbie) Abdinoor
P.S. Stay Healthy

**HOLIDAY INN HAMPTON HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER
HAMPTON, VA
(757) 838-0200**

HOTEL LOCATION

The Holiday Inn Hampton is located at 1815 West Mercury Boulevard, Hampton, VA 23666. The hotel is located midway between Colonial Williamsburg and Virginia Beach. If you are driving, call the hotel directly for directions.

HOTEL EXTRAS

The Holiday Inn Hampton offers their guests remote control television with complimentary Showtime, ESPN, and CNN. The 320 guest rooms feature coffee makers, voice mail, hair dryers, irons and ironing boards, and in-room movies. There are exercise facilities, which include indoor/outdoor pools, sauna, and a whirlpool. There is also a gift shop on the premises.

Handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms are subject to availability. Please request these special accommodations when making your hotel reservation. Parking is complimentary for hotel guests. Check-in time is 4pm; check-out is 11am.

Hotel dining facilities:

Tivoli Gardens serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

The Garden Court Lounge serves drink and light fare nightly.

Room service is also available.

AIRPORT SHUTTLE

Complimentary shuttle is provided by the hotel if flying into the Newport News/Williamsburg Airport. Please call (800) 842-9370 to make these arrangements. If you are flying into the Norfolk airport, Groome Transportation provides shuttle service. To make your reservation with Groome Transportation, call (757) 857-1231. Currently, Groome Transportation's rates are as follows: \$22.00 for 1 person, \$28.00 for 2 people, and \$34.50 for 3 people. For your return trip to either airport, reservations should be made twenty-four hours in advance with either shuttle service.

NEARBY RV PARK

There is limited space for RV parking at the hotel. The Gosnold-Hope Park is the nearest campground with full hookup service. They are located at 901 E. Little Back River Road. Call (757) 850-5116 for information, reservations, and directions. The park is approximately fifteen minutes from the hotel. Spaces are available on a first come, first serve basis.

WHEELCHAIRS

Taylor Rental (757) 826-7557 currently rents standard wheelchairs. Call Taylor Rental in advance if you need to rent a wheelchair.

ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS in the form of check or money order (no credit cards or phone reservations accepted). Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before **August 28, 2001**. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
P.O. Box 11327
Norfolk, VA 23517
ATTN: 83rd Infantry

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Check # _____	Date Received _____
Inputted _____	Nametag Completed _____

CUT OFF DATE IS AUGUST 28, 2001

	Price Per	No. of People	Total
TOURS			
Thursday: War Memorial Museum	\$16		\$
Friday: MacArthur Memorial / Spirit of Norfolk	\$43		\$
REGISTRATION FEE			
Registration Fee, which includes Hospitality Room & administrative expenses, Saturday Banquet, & DJ. Please select your entrée below:			
Prime Rib	\$46		\$
Stuffed Breast of Chicken	\$46		\$
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (Please do not staple or tape your payment.)			\$

PLEASE PRINT

NAME (for nametags) _____

UNIT: (ex: I CO; 329th INF) _____

SPOUSE NAME _____

GUEST NAMES _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, ST, ZIP _____ PH. NUMBER (____) ____ - _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PH. NUMBER (____) ____ - _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

ARE YOU STAYING AT THE HOTEL? YES NO ARE YOU FLYING? DRIVING? RV?

Full refunds will be sent for the above-mentioned activities if cancellation is received by **August 28, 2001**, less a \$3 processing fee. After that date, refund amount will depend on vendor policies and/or the resale of tickets. **CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9am-5pm eastern time (excluding holidays).** CALL (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain your cancellation code.

83rd Infantry Division Reunion
Tour Descriptions

VIRGINIA WAR MUSEUM

Thursday, September 27

After lunch on your own, board bus for a tour to the War Memorial Museum. This museum outlines the history of all America's wars, with special emphasis on World War II. It contains one of the largest collections of propaganda posters and boasts several specialized exhibits.

1:30pm board bus, 3:30pm back at hotel.

\$16/Person includes bus, escort, and admission. Lunch on your own.

MACARTHUR MEMORIAL / SPIRIT OF NORFOLK

Friday, September 28

Board bus for a driving tour of Norfolk. Drive by the Moses Myers House, where one of America's first millionaires lived; the Willoughby-Baylor House, built in 1794 and representative of both Georgian and Federal architecture; and St. Paul's Church, built in 1739 and the lone survivor of the British bombardment and fiery destruction of the city by Lord Dunmore in 1776. A British cannonball is still embedded in the southeastern wall of the church. Afterwards, stop at the MacArthur Memorial, the final resting place of the late General and eleven-gallery museum. Visit the gift shop and see a film summarizing the General's life and achievements. Next, enjoy a cruise aboard the Spirit of Norfolk, the premiere cruise boat on Norfolk's waterfront. The harbor lunch cruise with live entertainment features the sights of Hampton Roads harbor and the mighty ships at Norfolk Naval Station. Enjoy a wonderful buffet while the captain narrates.

9:00am board bus, 2:45pm back at hotel.

\$43/Person includes bus, guide, and lunch cruise.

Driver and guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices.

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION REUNION
SEPTEMBER 26 – 30, 2001
HOLIDAY INN HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER, HAMPTON

Wednesday, September 26

- 12:00pm - 7:00pm **Reunion Registration open**
1:00pm - 9:00pm Hospitality Room open (complimentary beer, soda, and snacks will be available from 3:00pm – 9:00pm).

Thursday, September 27

- 9:00am - 9:00pm Hospitality Room open (complimentary beer, soda, and snacks will be available from 3:00pm – 9:00pm).
10:00am - 12:00pm Executive Committee Meeting
1:00pm - 7:00pm **Reunion Registration open**
1:30pm - 3:30pm War Memorial Museum (description follows)

Friday, September 28

- 8:00am - 9:00am **Reunion Registration open**
9:00am - 10:00pm Hospitality Room open (complimentary beer, soda, and snacks will be available from 7:00pm – 10:00pm).
9:00am - 2:45pm MACARTHUR MEMORIAL / SPRIT OF NORFOLK LUNCH CRUISE
2:00pm - 7:00pm **Reunion Registration open** (Additional hours will be posted if necessary).
3:30pm - 5:30pm General Session Meeting
6:00pm - 11:00pm Welcome Reception

Saturday, September 29

- 8:30am - 10:30am Executive Committee Meeting
10:30am - 12:30pm General Session Meeting
2:00pm - 3:00pm Memorial Service
3:30pm - 4:30pm Catholic Mass
6:00pm - 7:00pm Social Hour with cash bar
7:00pm - 12:00am Banquet dinner with music provided by a DJ for your listening and dancing pleasure.

Sunday, September 30

Farewells and departures

783rd Ordnance Co.

Doesn't seem possible but as you read this article 2001 is almost one quarter gone. Remember when you were in High School, in the 30's, and any talk about the year 2000 was one of awe and certainly not one you expected to relax in. Time does march on so quickly.

To some of you this may come as a shock but Ginny and I would like to begin this report by thanking all of you for sharing your love with us as we endured the sad experience of watching our son succumb to Agent Orange on Jan. 7, 2001. He was 51, with five children, two grandchildren and a Masters Degree in Physical and Special Education. As many of you have already experienced, it's difficult to lose a family member especially an only son. All of your cards, contributions, and phone calls of condolences, were of great solace. Once again you guys and gals have proven what 59 years of 83rd Inf. friendship really means.

Please forgive me if you didn't receive a Christmas card. I did manage to get some out from Bill's hospital room and you know the rest of the story. Now here in a nut shell are some of the news we did receive at Christmas.

Bob Burns Same positive Bob report in spite of a hernia operation and hospitalization with a heart problem. "I guess I better give up this snow shoveling and get us an Apt."

Victor Mutinani His lung cancer is so improved that he and Rita took a mini vacation to N.Y. Now can you imagine this? I met his two beautiful daughters and they informed me that Mute, for years, has been all over, singing like Frank Sinatra! Do any of you recall Mute singing in the shower? He is quite a guy. He called me the other week and his closing, spoken, thought was, "I love you, Rags."

Ivan Gilman Was like old mother Hubbard. He had so many children at Christmas he had to squeeze them in surrounding hotels. He gripped a bit, as former Lts. are apt to do, but he enjoyed every minute of it. Pat's complete recovery of a very serious eye operation also put a little more glitter on the tree. Because of Calif's poor electricity management Ivan had another first. His tree had a 78.6 candles, in honor of his age. Of course he was "safety first" he had the garden hose running through the living room window.

Fred Pearson "B" 453rd AAA - lives in the same town as Frank Salontay and being the good guy he is, he has been inviting Frank to Christmas dinners and field trips to nearby museums. Frank didn't feel quite up to it but he really appreciated Fred's kindness. Frank also continued his Christmas ritual of calling me on Christmas morning. We covered everything from soup to nuts.

On learning of Bill's critical condition Carl and Alyce Frederick have been in constant touch. Carl also reported they have had 47 inches of snow and they are grateful for shoveling neighbors.

Al Bensimon an avid Tampa Bay football fan not only

had to endure our Phila. Eagles trouncing HIM but then he went and rooted for the N.Y. Giants! His tears raised the Gulf of Mexico a whole inch. However Al is not as crabby as he used to be. He recently pulled in his crab traps and got just five crabs. Two years ago he was getting 140! We were sorry to hear that Ruth has been under the weather with undetermined problems which they are wisely addressing through the larger clinics. We wish you well Ruth.

A beautiful card from the Bill Mannings who had a tough summer losing a sister and brother-in-law. Unfortunately Eloise is also battling many Post Polio Syndromes while Dr. Bill is in "great shape" and finally he has cut his dental practice back to four days.

Hersch and Midge Weaver are up and running well again. They cancelled out their annual Christmas trip to Arz. to the spring but for a good reason. They want to see the grandson graduate from college. Hersch told me he didn't have to go to college to acquire a vocabulary. He married Midge.

Agnes and Doc Pfeifer are taking one day at a time and smelling the winter roses. Doc has now cut back all his organizational activities to concentrate on being Mr. Mom. We saw the great job he's doing at the reunion and we all gave Doc an 83rd "salute."

Amazing Charlie Rohrer is again back in Florida enjoying fishing and gardening and eating out with Pat. Charlie said he's been catching so many salmon! All week long he's eating salmon steak, salmon salad, salmon croquettes and poached salmon. Now he's worried about spring and that urge to go North to spawn.

Gene Delprete must be surrounded by black cats. He recently started going out with an old girlfriend and unfortunately she immediately had to have three bypasses. Gene added, "My health is good and I'm not on Viagra yet." I wonder if there is a message in there for us?

Les Wolf's wife Lee and son Ron checked in reporting all is well at Oak Harbor, Ohio.

Handsome Stan (like in Bielen) from the sands of New Jersey, graciously offered an invitation to their rousing Christmas party. Sorry we couldn't make it. Stan's party's are so fancy he now has Perrier on the knees.

Jack and Jo Ann Keller are still keeping tabs on Bob Hammond. We should all have friends like these two.

Troy Bishop new mailing address is P.O. Box 466 Ocean Springs, Miss. 39566, 228-392-4822. He'd like to hear from some of you automotive men. He's living alone, two major operations, and loves to talk about his 18 years in the Air Force! That was a new one on me.

Joe Brown "My health is as good as any 83 year old vet. My golf varies - shoot my age one day but other times I go to pot." That's normal Joe. Ray Wiggins has had so much "pot" trouble over 18 holes he is carrying his old 783rd foxhole shovel as an extra club. Ray was his usual witty self and this is his actual report, "I now have a motorized scooter, \$200, it goes our speed limit of 15 miles an hour. I use it in the malls." Are you guys visualizing this!! Ray goes on to say he's having knee problems and is no longer walking the course. Let's hope Ray doesn't fall off the scooter and hit his head.

Mimi sounded contented and happy but I'm hoping her short term memory is OK. She closed with, "Have a great year 2000!" Maybe this is why Wiggy is always telling us about their need to hold on to the ever present long knotted rope extending throughout their retirement village.

That other 82 year old golfer, Jim Jones phoned in his Christmas greetings from his new home in Winchester Va. I wonder if educated Jim knows this. Jim lives in Civil War country right next to Harpers Ferry. The question is what Southern town holds the record for being captured and recaptured? This town was recaptured an amazing 75 times and of course it was Winchester. And Ginny is a HARPER! Honest.

Sam and Vi Hoffman might also have need of that knotted rope. They reported that they turned right coming out of the Catskill Hotel and they ended up in Conn.!! Honest.

And sadly I have to report that Martha Appleby is not doing well. Her cancer is now metastasis and she has opted for no further treatment. I must tell you Martha is cool, calm and collected. The children are proud of her handling of this most difficult time and so are we. This would be a good time to drop Martha a line.

Now I've written so much it's almost time for the mini 83rd reunion at the Reading, Pa. Airport. Our young associate 83rd member, JIM SWOPE, is again organizing a huge three day weekend June 8, 9th and 10th. The 83rd will have special tents, by the main gate. International troops will be camping out and the B17's and the Mustangs will be flying up a storm. Put it on your calendar now! It makes for a great mini vacation. The wife can shop the numerous factory outlets while you travel back to 1944. Trust me, other than 1944 you have never experienced anything like the WWII Memorial Weekend. Call me for any other info. 215-947-1203.

Thats all folks,
Rags Rangnow

453rd Anti Aircraft (AW) BN.

To start this column off this time I must confess that I maligned a persons name. I have been promoting all that are able, to visit the **Vehicle Museum and Learning Center In Hubbard, Ohio**. On visiting there on January 26, with **Dave Curry, the son of a KIA Veteran from the 331st**, to present the Museum with a Plaque that had been prepared for them to display, depicting the association of the 453rd AAA (AW) BN. with the 83rd. Infantry Division in WWII. I found out to my dismay that I had been incorrectly spelling the Owners name. I have been referring to his last name as **VANETTA**. This is incorrect, it should be **VENETTA**. I am sorry for this error, and I am making an apology to **Henry**, as I would like to visit again and don't want to be locked out. My only consolation is that my error was not

as bad as the error in the **Pittsburgh Chapter News**, makes reference to him as **HARRY BENETTI**. Henry is a very dedicated man, who is a very staunch supporter of the 83rd Division.

Our Battalion news is not the greatest this time.

The death of our Recording and Corresponding Secretary, **BETTY DICKENS** has left us with a big hole to fill. She was a real asset to our organization, she worked very closely with me, and did her darndest to keep everyone informed as to the goings on of the Unit. We shall all miss her. Our sympathy goes out to her Husband, **John Dickens** and her Family. They will miss her the most, but I think I am a close second.

Until a new Secretary can be elected in September at our **Annual Reunion in Lewisburg, WV**. I will take on the duties of the Secretary. This makes three hats I'll be wearing for awhile. President, Secretary, and Roster Coordinator.

Each year, as we get older we lose more of our old comrades. The year 2000 was no exception. **Clement Beyers, Lewis Carter, Wilber Cornelius, Ellsworth DeLarm, Joe Enderle, Elmer Horton, Marvin Lagenaur, Woodrow Plummer**, All have gone to a better place, to meet up with us later on.

Many of the wives of our Members have also passed away, and we offer the Condolence of the 453rd AAA. Battalion to their families.

Many of our Members and Wives are sick or in ailing health of various degrees.

Those that I know of are; **Mike and Lorraine Morrick, - Jim and Doris Hull, - Oscar and Jean Farnsworth, - Ruth Nichols, Donald and Jackie Jopp, - Frank Lawrence, - Jim Dalton, - Doris Plummer, - John and Bettie Norris, - Larry Carman, - Russ. Gonda, -**

We have some of our group that should be 'on the mend' after various operations and illnesses. **Molly Dalton, - Katie Bell, - Mary Schultz**, to name the few that I am aware of, there probably are many others, but with a Battalion that is scattered all over the U.S. that do not respond to our efforts, it is hard to keep everyone informed.

Many of our group, and there are many, not named above are what I call Pluggers', they have problems that don't seem to respond to treatment, but keep on 'Plugging Along'.

I received word from **Fred Edwards**, down in "Golf Cart City," FL. That there was an article in the Paper down there about a "Thank You America" Certificate from the French Government, available to any **LIVING Veteran** of the Freedom Battle of France, by making application to the French Consulate, or some veterans Affairs Offices for the application blank. It can be also downloaded from the Internet. At: www.info-france-usa.org This will give you a copy of the Application and the proper place to send it.

After reading the Article in the Thunderbolt about the Normandy Jubilee Medal, I called the French Consulate in D.C. and was referred to the French Legion Office in D.C.

They informed me that the Normandy Medal supply had been exhausted about 4 years ago, and this certificate was being given out in its place. It sounds like 'Horse fertilizer to me. There were several recipients of the medal whose names were listed in the last issue of the Thunderbolt, who received them last June.

RAGS RANGOW take note, **Frank Solontay**, from the **783rd Ordnance**, lives just around the corner from me. I'm starting to think he is a recluse, every time I ask him to get together he has an excuse, some legit, and some others I think are malarkey. Irene and I asked him over for Christmas Dinner, as he lives alone?? Same excuse. Last week I asked him to go to the Hubbard Museum with me, but this time I guess he really had a problem and had an appointment at Kaiser Med. Center. To give the devil his due, Frank is a diabetic and does have some problems, but I wish I could shake him loose. He needs to get out more often.

He tells me he gets out every day, to take his dog for a walk, but he can't have an intelligent conversation with his dog, unless it's one sided. Jack him up 'RAGS.'

A special engraved and colored glass plaque, with the **453rd AAA. (AW) BN. Oozelfinch** and the **83rd Div. Thunderbolt Patch**, beside each other, commemorating the close association between the two units during WWII, was presented to **HENRY VENETTA**, to be displayed in the **WWII VEHICLE and LEARNING CENTER** in Hubbard Ohio. Along with a Certificate explaining the reason for its existence.

The plaque was presented to **Henry Venetta** by **Fred C. Pearson (Pres.)** on behalf of the **453rd AAA (AW) BN.**

This is a plea for all to consider. If you have any WWII memorabilia. Anything at all, including letters, files, propaganda leaflets, uniforms, insignia, just about anything that pertains to WWII, **Henry Venetta**, would most graciously accept, to be included in his displays of WWII.

REMEMBER, "WE ARE THE GREATEST GENERATION" and the only way we will be remembered is by having as many mementos of our History available for following generations to view. My efforts to work with the local schools have been welcomed, but when the time comes up, they apologize for not making enough time available. This has happened two years in a row, so I gave up.

Mr. Venetta has an ideal setup to teach, or explain, and show visitors, adults and children alike, the many weapons of the war, along with video presentation and documentaries. He has a staff of volunteers who will escort you through the Museum, and explain the uses of the various equipment. Some **83rd vets** help out in this capacity. Open week days 9/12 and 1/5. Saturdays by appointment. Tel. 330-534-8125---Fax. 330-534-3695.

Remember the 453rd AAA. (AW) BN. Reunion In Sept. at **Lewisberg, WV.**

Submitted by: **Fred C. Pearson Pres.**
453rd ANTI AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY (AW) BN.
 Email k8uet@lightstream.net

Fred Pearson on left, Presenting Plaque to Henry Venetta, Museum Owner. Below, close up view of Plaque.



453rd AAA (AW) BN
 E Y O W II
 NORMANDY BRITAIN
 ARDENNES RHINELAND
 CENTRAL EUROPE
 42 CONFIRMED KILLS



This plaque was especially made to Commemorate the **83rd INFANTRY DIVISION** and its Association with the **453rd ANTI AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY (AW) BATTALION** During World War II

The Plaque is presented to **HENRY VENETTA**, Owner of the **WWII VEHICLE MUSEUM AND LEARNING CENTER** in Hubbard, Ohio

For his support of the "GREATEST GENERATION"
 And Devotion to the **83rd INFANTRY DIVISION**

Presented this 26th Day of January, 2001

By **Fred C. Pearson**, President on behalf of the Members
 of the **453rd ANTI AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY (AW) BN.**

**Certificate explaining
 existence of the Plaque**

Co. "F" - 329th

OVER BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: North 2000 Oct. 8-11, 2000. As of Oct. 2nd 23 expected only 19 were able to make it, however from various comments then and since all had a good time. The consensus was to return in 2001. We failed to discuss the closeness of the 55th Annual Réunion and North 2001 dates, so if I don't hear too many objections on or before June 1, 2001 we will have North 2001 as planned October 7, 8, 9, 10, 2001.

IN REMEMBRANCE: John D. Crabtree - January 27, 2001 - December 15, 2000. John joined the 83rd Division from Raleigh N.C. in time to eat his first army Christmas dinner at Camp Atterbury Indiana. He may have helped cook our Christmas dinner in the Huertgen Forest area as John served Co "F" as a cook, a rifleman and a company runner, during which he received these known awards the Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge, EAME Service Medal (Ribbon) w/5 Bronze Stars.

While at Atterbury John met Marie who in time became his wife.

As a compositor John retired in 1984 from Gray Printing in Fostoria, Ohio after 37 years of service.

Unfortunately John became ill a victim of Parkinson Disease. As with the rest of his life and with Marie's help he managed his illness well, indicative of the fighter he was.

John attended numerous 83rd Reunions in the early years of the organization. Marie saw to it he was able to be with his buddies in Ashland at North '95. Rest well ole Buddy we are all better for having shared sometime with you. To you Marie comes love and sympathy, the thoughts of many are with you.

CONGRATULATIONS: Mort/Dot Goldman 60th Wedding Anniversary January 27th, 2001. Mort was EO of Cannon Company 329th, formerly a 2nd Lt. with "F" Company in Atterbury.

JUST SO YOU KNOW: Token Memorials were sent remembering William Meyerhoeffer and John Crabtree.



COMING EVENTS: 55th Annual Reunion Hampton, VA Sept. 26, 27, 28, 29, 2001 - Early indications "F" Company may have six or more plus wives or ? - North 2001 Ashland, Ohio October 7, 8, 9, 10, 2001

J' EVER NOTICE: TimeFlies... Spend it with those who mean the most to you.

C.R. Bob Whitcomb
1314 Center Lane Dr.
Ashland Ohio 44805-3403

Co. "A" - 329th

I received a lot of cards and letters from "A" Co. guys and thought I should pass it on to you (Xmas time)

Melvin and Nancy Magee, we call him "Mac" (2nd platoon) celebrated their 64th Wedding Anniversary and they are both 86 yrs. old. **CONGRATULATION!!** Magee's. They also had their first great grand child - a baby boy. They have 5 grand children. Mac said they both are in pretty good health.

Ed and Alyce Gilbert (Goldberg) "Company Jeep Driver" are very busy doing volunteer work with the V.F.W, Jewish war veterans and V.A. hospital and nursing homes. They usually come to Ohio (They live in Florida) at least once a year but had to miss it this year (2000). His kid brother was killed at St. Lo Aug. 1st, 1944 and is buried in Canton, Ohio.

George & Pauline Suchomelny (2nd platoon) are doing very well. George has a nice big garden and is very active with veteran groups.

Do you remember William (Bill) Jewell? I think he was in the 2nd platoon; well he passed away a long time ago, but I received a letter from his son, also named Bill; he lives in Sinking Springs, PA. He sent me a nice poem and it seems so apropos.

To Comrades in Arms

We fought in bloody battles
From the hedgerows to the Rhine
Both the Hurtgen and the Ardennes
Made us leave some friends behind
When the lead and steel fell silent
And the Thunderbolt stood still
The word came down from Macon
That we'd taken our last hill.
Among the tales of glory
Let our story now be heard.
When the mighty Reich had fallen
There proudly stood the 83rd.

Thanks Bill - Well said.

Carl & Lee Pliske (4th platoon) had their 1st great grand child - baby girl - April 15th, 2000. They are very happy and proud. Their son Patrick was rushed to the hospital with a bowel obstruction. He lost a lot of weight but seems to be doing fine.

Ed & Carm Mudre had a terrible year. Carm had back surgery in (Jan. 2000) and has difficulty walking. She has to use a walker and wheel chair. Two days after she came home from the hospital - Ed got very sick. He is a diabetic. It started with the heel of his foot, then his toes. He had a heart blockage after his first surgery of his toes. They had to put a pacemaker in. Things didn't go well, they had to amputate his leg. he had surgery at Yale New Haven. Plus being in 2 convalescent hospitals. When that was healing he came home with full equipment and a

crew, plus a live in. He was on the road to recovery when on Thanksgiving night he fell out of his wheel chair and broke his hip. This sent him back to the hospital for 1 week and back to a convalescent home. Carm and family were working on getting him home for Christmas and looking forward to a better new year when he will heal and be fitted for a prosthesis. Their daughter who has 4 children and is a teacher finds time to take care of Ed and Carm. This is why they were not at the reunion. Sure do hope this year 2001 will be better for both of you. God Bless.

Earl Deisher's daughters Sue Allen and Dawn and granddaughter are doing well, they say hello to all in "A" Co. - Sorry Dennis didn't mean to leave you out. Dennis is Sue's husband.

Enclosed is a letter I received from John Camp's grand daughter, Wendy McLaughlin. I wish you would print it under "A" Company. John was a medic in "A" Co. as long as I can remember. All the medic's were great! But John "The Ole' Medic" was special to us. "He was great" He died October 8th 2000 at the V.A. hospital in Danville, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Grobelny:

I am writing on behalf of the John Camp family: I am his granddaughter, Wendy (Camp) McLaughlin. I was looking through some of grandpa's things and wanted to report to you some news I thought others from Co. A 329th would appreciate knowing.

My grandfather, John H. Camp, I believe known to all of you as "the Ole' medic," died last Sunday morning, October 8th, at the Veteran's Administration in Danville, Illinois of complications of diabetes. Grandpa had put up a long hard battle with the disease but in the end, it won over his body. I wanted to tell you because I know how fervently he read the *Thunderbolt* and how much he thought of all of you. I've written up a note here that I would sincerely appreciate your including with your next submission to the *Thunderbolt*. It is a thank you from a generation of grandchildren who never really knew what the war was like until Grandpa began to get in touch with you all and tell us his stories.

Thank you so much to all the men and women who shared in his life. He loved you all very much and thought very highly of every person in Co. A. God Bless and thank you, again.

Sincerely,
Wendy McLaughlin

PS -- on a more personal note, I am compiling any information I can regarding Grandpa John's service in the European campaign. If anyone would have information about things he did, I would greatly appreciate hearing them. Grandpa frequently kept in touch with George Suchonelly and Grady Adair so I have their addresses and things. Thanks so much.

A certain generation goes by and there are things we don't know or can't understand. That's the way it is with WWII. Many of the men and women who fought so bravely for the sake of other's rights are no longer here to tell us of their feats. Many wouldn't anyway, as they are our grandfathers and great uncles, and neighbors. Our unsung heroes. But occasionally, they do tell us bits and pieces of life with toes so cold and black they know they'll lose them, or of sleeping in shallow muddy foxholes with a single blanket for two men scared and trying desperately to keep from freezing, or dying.

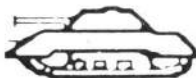
My grandfather, John H. Camp, served with Company A of the 329th Division of the 83rd Infantry Thunderbolt. He served as a medic and did not carry a gun, according to the rules of war. He told us few of these feats and struggles, not with pity, but as facts. Simply the way things were. So many of the comforts that we take for granted now were unspoken dreams to many of the boys, now old men, just praying to get home. There are still so many things my generation doesn't know. We get a glimpse by talking to our grandfathers and watching movies like *Saving Private Ryan*. But we will never really know the frigid cold nights and blood and mindset that comes with bringing peace. All we know and understand was that it was unthinkable, awful, amazing that it could be endured, incredible that anyone would be so noble to sacrifice their life for the freedom of someone else. It makes us ask ourselves, would we do that now should we be faced with it? Could we endure watching our neighbors lose toes, and whatever else? Are we equipped with that incredible honor and sense of duty that possessed those of you in my grandfather's generation? Would we be willing to give at all costs?

I don't know. But I would like to think so. The stories we were told, the places we've visited, the books we read, we know are only glimpses of what was done for us fifty some odd years ago in Europe and the Pacific. But from those of us who've heard even the tiniest bits, and specifically from all the family of John Camp, we want to say thank you. Thank you for what you did. Because of the bravery you all displayed, we are here today to acknowledge the fine men and women who served their country and their God so well.

God Bless you all and know we appreciate your efforts, not only for what you saved then, but for what you've created now.

On behalf of the family of John Camp, *the Ole' Medic*,
Co. A, 329th, 308th Medical Battalion

This is all for now,
Stay Well,
Bob Grobelny
"A" Co. - 329th Inf.



Co. "G" - 331st

Well we made it into the 21st century. In 1944 and 1945, I never believed that it would happen. We who lived through it are very fortunate, and I know that a lot of us believed that if we survived the war we would live forever. Hope each an every one of you many more years of good health.

I had a lot of holiday cards and wishes from "G" Company men. I am now in the process of reading the book "The Bloody Forest" all about the Huertgen Forest. It was one of the hardest battles fought during the war. Other divisions suffered many, many casualties, then turned it over to us to finally push through the forest to the Roer River. I believe that there were more Medal of Honor for that battle than any other one, including the storming of the beaches in Normandy.

On Nov. 3 and 4th, I had a wonderful experience. There in New York was a Germany Television crew making a documentary on the 83rd Division and Tony Vaccaro. Tony is well known throughout Europe for his display of pictures in many countries. These are pictures that he took of the 2nd Bn. 331st and of the 331st Regiment during the war. The Television Co. provide air fare for me to New York. On Friday they filmed the area around New Rochelle and the Yacht Harbor which was a picture of the Marina in St. Malo. I was brought to New York, because I have in my possession the battle maps from the war.

On Saturday morning we went to the roof of Tony's apartment in Long Island City, to do the filming of the route of the 83rd in World War II. I spread the maps on a table and detailed what the 83rd had done in Normandy and in Brittany. They were interested in how we reached the Rhine River, and in detail of the route that the "Rag Tag Circus" took thru Germany. A lot of the filming was on the 83rd reaching the Elbe River at Barby and the crossing of the river. I was able to show the positions of the 329th and 331st in the first town across the river.

Then as we broke out of the bridgehead, and to final points of our advance to the town of Zebrst and how we had a chance to make history by being the first American troops to make contact with the Russians. We were never given that credit because at the Yalta Conference in February, the Americans were suppose to stop at the Elbe River. Under the leadership of Col. Crabill and Col. York we made the successful crossing (the only crossing). The 2nd Armored Division had crossed the day before (April 12) but they were pushed back across the river.

The documentary will be shown on Germany Television on May 2, 2001 Tony and I are suppose to get copies of the film. It is strange that on a tour of Europe with Steven Ambrosse, I related to him that we were the only Division to make a successful crossing of the river. I told him that when we did cross the river, the fighting was so intense that I had two options, one to go back across the river, or stay there and fight the Germans. His next question was "what was your decision, my answer to him was" "I couldn't swim."

Co "D" - 331st

Another THUNDERBOLT will be due shortly so here goes:

Had a nice card from the Rev. Ken Barker but no news. Frank Cancasci says he's still dancing and puttering in his yard. The Paul Dallos's had a great time at the Reunion and looking forward to the next one. Whit East wrote a short note but didn't mention why he's missing the Reunions. Art Haught is still perking but has trouble with his eye sight. We just spent the weekend with him and Peggy in Sebring, Fl., at the Chapter Meeting the end of January. George Komlos Keeps rolling along from day to day. He is missed at the Reunions by all of us. We all miss Jimmy Lynch, but just spoke with Harriet and they are going to try to make it to Hampton. It was so good to hear from them. We are all with you Jimmy Baby! The Dan McDermotts surely like to travel. They have kids all over the World and spend time together which makes it so enjoyable.

We just spoke to John Miklos, but is unable to come to the Fl. Chap. Meetings but we do talk on the phone. He is very grateful that his Buddies helped him with his disability pension. Lt. Truman Miller had a busy year traveling with family and spending Thanksgiving together. Pop Akam is getting along, but like me and others, age is becoming a factor. He is very lucky to have a daughter and son-in-law who bring him to the Reunions. Saw the Gravelyn's at the Florida Chapter Meeting and Harry looks weller than well. We have plans on getting together later this month. The Hamilton's are busy with their business and family. They too have had lots of illness and we need to keep them in our thoughts and prayers. Byum Hancock is looking good. He and his son surprised us at the Reunion and we hope to see them in Hampton also. That goes for all of you too. Hampton is a little easier to get to and hope to see all of you there. Dave Harmon is still grieving over the loss of his wife but since the Reunion is in his home state we hope to see him in September. How about some of you sending him a note of encouragement? Ruth Mueller still misses Vern, as we all do. Vern was a fixture at the Reunions. Bill and Jeannette McKee will be spending next week with Ruth and their annual Cancun trip. Geri and I are not going this year, but we will be with them in our thoughts! The McKees were at the Fl. Chapter Meeting, also spent a few days with us afterwards. The Sabines seem to be weathering the weather

in New Jersey well and we are looking forward to being with them in Hampton.

Sorry to say that Frank Sharp has experienced a series of heart problems in the last month. He and Dana had returned to Ohio before the Fl. Chapter Meeting, to be near their family. Hang in there Frank and let the M.D.'s fix you up. Our love, concerns and prayers are with you. Al Shrawder and Charlotte spent a week with us and also took in the Florida Chapter Meeting. He never seems to change. No, Company D has not taken over the Florida Chapter, but we did have 5 guys at the January meeting. Hank Trazeciak but without a message as to what is doing in his life! Hope to see him at the Reunion.

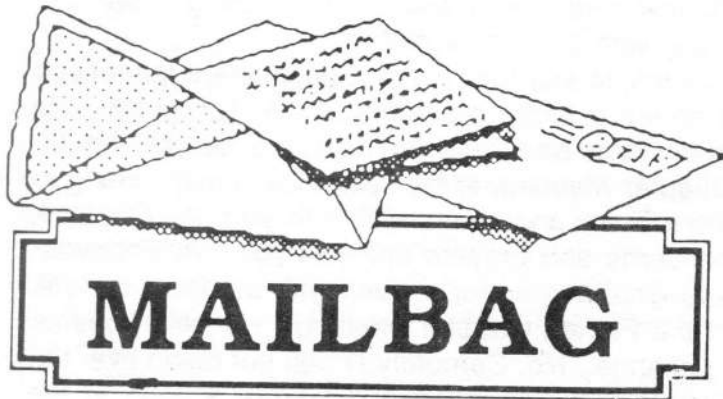
Now comes, for me the saddest part of this column. Some of you already know about this, so here goes: We lost one of our best buddies and cheer leader, Norman Schuster, who always had a cheerful letter even though he was feeling terrible.

May his soul rest in peace. We will all join you someday in the future and have a great Company D. Reunion. Our sympathy goes to his wife Lorraine and their son Troy and family. The Lord took Norman on February 3, 2001.

Another one of our "Boys" have left us for the great beyond. George Odenweller, who I considered to be a great friend left us on November 1, 2000. He, Norm, Burnie, Vern, Nep, and Sam are talking over our futures! Our thoughts go to Polly and family.

Did see Harry Adkins at the Reunion but he slipped away before it was over. Hope Gerald Boston and family are O.K. Andy Churpak, is another that have joined the ailing group. Harry Clements was a no show but hope he is O.K. Let me hear from you Ewell Cotney. Dr. Claude Davis is a new found member. We hope to see him at a Reunion. Or if in Florida at a Chapter meeting. Best wishes to Harry Fetzer, our thoughts and prayers are with you. Get well soon Harry! Haven't heard anything from Bob Plieger, hope all is O.K. Saw Ray Richter at the Reunion -- He never seems to change and is very faithful to attend the Reunions. The following I have no news: Mario Vollomen, Ed Smith, Bill Sauer, Ernest Ryder. Let us hear what is going on in your life. I wish to thank each of you for your prayers, phone calls, cards. I am improving and very thankful be as well as I am.

Ralph B. Gunderson



Dear Sir,

I am sending you this letter. It has been a long time for me to remember this veteran.

May somebody else might remember him.

Clifford Cox

7203 Carmel Ave.

New Port Richey, FL 34655-2512

Dear Clifford,

I got your name from Walter Pillion.

I've been looking for vets from the 83rd Div. who might have known my dad. He was with the 330th Inf. "A" Co. Not sure which platoon, but may have been 1st platoon. His name was Peter Sansone.

He trained at Camp Croft, S.C. and served in Europe from June of '44 thru January of '45.

He didn't talk much about the war, and didn't save any pictures or memorabilia. (I only have one picture of him in uniform.) If you have any pictures or stories to share from the 330th "A" Co. or if by chance you remember my dad, please let me know.

I'd like to put together a scrapbook about "A" Co. so anything you can share would be appreciated. I have included my mailing address, e-mail, and phone number. (I can send you the names of the other 83rd vets that I have as well if you are interested.) I look forward to hearing from you, and I hope all is well with you and your family.

Best regards,

Jim Sansone

639 North Michigan

Villa Park, IL 60181

Phone: (630) 530-9558

E-Mail: j12685@home.com

The following poem was received by Mrs. John Henson from her brother, S. Sgt. Jimmy McDaniel, who fought in the battle mentioned.

THE BATTLE OF ST. MALO

I was sitting in my pup tent one night
I was just looking around
Some of the boys were still eating chow
Sitting around upon the ground.

I got to looking for faces that I used to know
But there were lots of the boys that weren't there
Since the battle of St. Malo.

Boys that was one rough battle
And we lost lots of men
But what few of us there was left
Just kept pounding them.

The Jerries made it hot for us
They threw everything they had
But when we threw it back at them
They hollered Kamerad.

We started our attack one morn
It was just at crack of dawn
It was then that hell broke loose
But still we carried on.

They shelled us all the way along
With mortar and eighty-eight
They even used the ack-ack
And boy they used it straight.

They got two of my best men
And also the old man
Then the riflemen withdrew
But still we made our stand.

The Jerries were coming up the trench
Out in front a little ways
I held a little bunch in front
My buddy held the strays.

Boys we beat off that counter attack
With just a very few
Later we got our orders
It was then that we withdrew.

We reorganized and started again
And then we had our fun
We saw victory was in sight
We had them on the run.

We fought them on up through the town
Boys we were not slow
We backed them up to the water
And they had no place to go.

Well we cleaned them out all around
And marched them to and fro
But never will I forget
The Battle of St. Malo.

Written By S. Sgt. James McDaniel

Submitted by Joe Camp - Co. "F" 330th

WALMART
702 SW 8th St
Bentonville, AR 72716-9002
Tom Montgomery
Community Programs Manager

February 29, 2000

Vitie C. Atkocius
2602 Lorryng Dr.
Forestville, MD 20747-3310

Vitie,

It was great talking to you today. Thanks for sharing some of your experiences in Europe during the war. Make sure and tell everyone from the 83rd Infantry Division thank you for fighting for the principles we enjoy today. You are all true heroes.

Last June it was brought to our attention that there was no national memorial to honor the millions of Americans who were part of World War II. We were shocked.

Now, that's about to change. We are excited to be a part of the World War II Memorial dedicated to all that served in the U.S. Armed Forces and at home during World War II. We know the memorial will stand for all time as an important symbol of American national unity, a timeless reminder of the moral strength and awesome power that can flow when a free people are at once united and bonded together in a common and just cause.

We are raising the money to help build the memorial one store, one associate, one customer at a time with pennies, nickels and dimes. We have not announced it yet, but I wanted you to know that as of today those pennies, nickels and dimes have accumulated to quite a bit of money. We have raised over \$10 million for the World War II Memorial, and we are not finished yet.

Vitie, when you are in Northwest Arkansas look me up at Wal-Mart's home office. If it's a nice day I'll take off and we'll go trout fishing.

Have a great time at your reunions.

Sincerely,
Tom Montgomery

Dear Editor:

Several days ago I sent money for the subscription of the 83rd division magazine. I failed to give you the following information on his service in the division.

PFC John W. Eaves, Sr.

ASN 34972306

Company "I" 329th Infantry

Stationed in occupied Austria from 1945 (Oct. Nov. etc) until March 1946 when he was discharged.

Incidentally he was a great friend of Louis Gormori, and Gen. George S. Patton & believed the way Gen. Patton ruled his men and the Army. We lived in College Pk., Ga. when John was discharged, and moved several times. Now the last five years we have lived in Griffin, Ga. we will celebrate our 61st wedding anniversary the 29th of January 2001.

I hope you receive this in time for the next edition of the Thunderbolt's magazine.

Sincerely

Mrs. Florence Eaves, 2880 Fayetteville Rd.,
Griffin, GA 30223-6331

P.S. We are the parents of 5 boys, 2 girls, 17 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

Dear Mr. Derickson,

I would like to submit this poem for publication in the next issue of the Thunderbolt.

My father was an auto rifleman in company "A" of the 329. I wrote this poem to honor all the men of the eighty third. I hope you can use it.

Sincerely Yours,

William Jewell

466 Penn Ave.

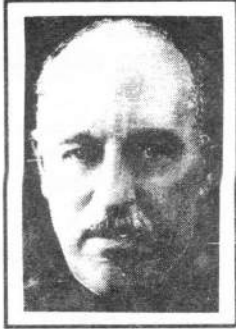
Sinking Spg. PA 19608 - 1110



Brig. Gen. Atterbury's custom rail car finds home on base.

*By John Clark
The Republic
Columbus, Indiana*

A 1927 custom rail car built for then-Pennsylvania Railroad executive William Wallace Atterbury is scheduled to finish its journey this week to the military base that bears his name.



WILLIAM WALLACE
ATTERBURY

The battered, rusting hulk was scheduled to move from the Louisville & Indiana Railroad yard in Columbus today to Camp Atterbury, where it will become part of the base's museum -- the culmination of a three-year search for the antique car.

Camp Atterbury was named in Atterbury's honor when it was opened as an U.S. Army training site in 1942.

Atterbury was a vice-president of the Pennsylvania Railroad during World War I, when he was recruited by Gen. John "Black Jack" Pershing to organize the Allied transportation system in Europe.

Appointed a brigadier general, he returned to civilian life six months after the war and became president of the railroad in 1925.

The company's top executives all had private railcars, designed to allow them to conduct business while traveling, said Sgt. Cecelia Ellis, Camp Atterbury's public information officer.

Camp Atterbury officials first became aware of the rail cars through the 1994 book "The Railroad General: William Wallace Atterbury," by Patricia Davis.

Ellis began a search for the car, finally finding it last year as part of the collection of a Philadelphia businessman and train buff, Bennett Levin.

The collector owned three of the railroad's former cars, including one he had refurbished for his private use, Ellis said.

Levin agreed to donate the Atterbury car to Camp Atterbury. Norfolk and Southern Railroad

picked up the \$50,000 bill for loading and moving the antique car.

Col. Michael McGowen, Camp Atterbury's post commander, said the base will put the car behind the base's indoor museum, where it will eventually become an annex devoted to Atterbury.

McGowen hopes to have the car's rusted exterior repainted before the end of the year in the railroad's red and gold colors. Levin is also donating the original "Pennsylvania Railroad" lettering that adorned the car's exterior.

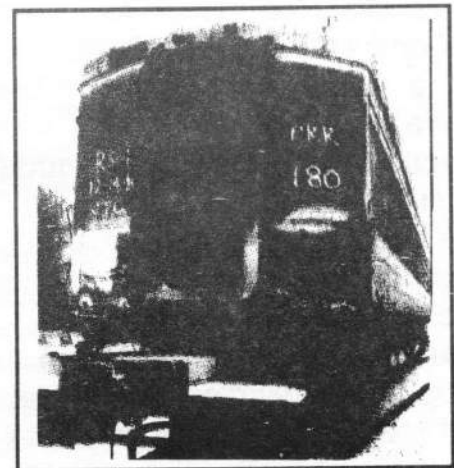
But it will take longer to restore the car's interior. Camp Atterbury officials have not had a chance to inspect the car's interior, but have heard from Levin that the car was nearly gutted.

In Davis' book, Atterbury's sons reminisced about the car, known as Car No. 180. According to their recollections, the car had a fireplace, two small and one large stateroom, a dining room, living quarters for a chef and steward, a galley and a pantry.

"There was no inlaid mahogany or the plushness of the Orient Express cars," George Atterbury said in the book. "Most of the furniture was made of steel. It was as wreck proof and fireproof as possible.

McGowen said the plan is to restore the car's parlor to its original state. But monetary limits will restrict how quickly the work can be completed.

The base can use federal funds to maintain the car once it is completed, but cannot use federal money to restore it. A fund-raising campaign will have to be used for the upgrades, McGowen said.



**This 1927 custom rail car
belonged to Brig. Gen.
William Wallace Atterbury.**

Sent in by Ames Miller,
2666 Central Ave., Columbus, IN 47201



My dress uniform showing the 83rd (Ohio) Division shoulder patch. (Jan. 2001) Btry. A 322nd F.A.

Here's a picture of George Lazarus, Btry A, 322 F.A. Bn. wounded Dec. 1944 in Hurtgen Forrest. After being lost for 57 years we finally got together. I'm sure you've heard from him since he would like to join the Assn. and makeup for lost time. I'm the first contact he's had in all these years. We welcome him back. Maybe you could get his picture in the magazine.

Ellsworth s. Massie
2514 Lincrest Rd.
Joppa, MD 21085-1906

Henry Hausen, a member of our Florida Chapter sent this personal article asking me if it was suitable as acceptable for the Thunderbolt. I thought it was, so I am forwarding it to you for publication.

*Sincerely
Harry C. Gravelyn
Florida Chapter*

Henry Hauser - 83rd Div. 330th Reg.
2nd Bat. 1st aid man

It was some time around July 12th, 1944 when we were moving through the hedgerows of Normandy. The German artillery of 88's and mortars were coming in and casualties were heavy. We knew which direction the 88's were coming, either left or right or right & toward us.

When the whistle round of 88's came toward us we dove into ditches or hedgerows. Mortars coming were soundless and we never knew when they would explode around us. For this reason, we always stayed as close to the ground as possible. Around twilight all German artillery would stop and we would get in some rest. Every other soldier would be awake for one hour and then the other half would wake up and keep alert. As an aid man, I slept or rested until the call for "medic" was heard and then I would go to work - what ever was needed.

One evening, around July 12, 1944, we were dug in for the night when one of our soldiers peaked over our hedgerow and saw a white flag across the field, about a hundred yards south. The alert was sounded and every soldier along our section was up and their rifles toward the white flag as we watched about fifty German soldiers came out of the hedgerow, walking with their hands on their head, indicating that they were surrendering. Our rifle men slowly moved out and surrounded the Germans. We only had about sixty soldiers spread out along our hedgerow, so we had to be careful. As we moved around the Germans, one German prisoner noticed my red cross band around my left arm and wave me to him. I carefully walked toward him, and he blurted out in clear English, stating that he was an American and came from Detroit. I asked him what in the hell was he doing in the German army and he explained that he and his wife was visiting Germany and stayed too long, and eventually got thrown into the army. Then I asked him how this large group decided to surrender and he explained that they managed this because there were no SS officers around. I told him he had it made now and he would be headed toward the beach while we still were headed toward Germany.

When some of our rifle men escorted the Germans back and we were back in our fox holes we thought maybe the end of this horrible war was coming to an end. It didn't happen that way. I lasted until July 17, 1944, when we were on the outskirts of St. Lo. I was wounded and sent back to England. Around Nov. I was sent back into France and assigned to the 101st Air borne Div. I never returned to the 83rd Div. The war went on for nine more months.

If any members of the 83rd, 2nd Battalion remember this episode, please contact me.

Henry Hauser,
402N
Daytona Beach, FL, 32118
Phone 1-904-252-0027



Attention 83rd Vets,

This went out to all the guys who signed my jeep. Your name is on the 83rd Jeep that is featured at the 83rd Division Encampment at the WWII Weekend Show at the Reading Regional Airport, Reading Pa. The jeep is also in the most recent Division history book on page 53. The jeep, with me in the driver's seat, is on the cover of the enclosed event brochure. I am a WWII Weekend co-founder, the event coordinator, and the author of the brochure.

This year the show is scheduled for Friday, June 8, 2001, Saturday, June 9, 2001, and Sunday June 10, 2001. This year we will refer to our set-up as "Camp Schuster" in honor of our dear departed buddy Norman "Shorty" Schuster "D" Co. 331st Inf.

You are invited to attend the show for free, if you can spend a small amount of time hanging around "Camp Schuster" to hand out information on the jeep and the division and to answer questions by the public about the 83rd Division's activities during WW II.

You can contact either myself, or Warren "Rags" Rangnow 783 Ord. Rags is the noted author of the book Hut Two and may well have driven the very jeep you signed back to the Division from Liege Belgium the first week of March 1945.

We will schedule you for the time slot(s) of your choice on Friday or Saturday or Sunday. Keep in mind that on Sunday we run a Chaplin's field service starting at 8:30 AM.

Don't miss this opportunity, your wife can come too. It is like a mini-reunion. In fact contact a buddy and invite him to come along, just let us know. So, if you're up to it, join in the fun. There will be a place to sit, shade, and I'll provide a supply of soda and water.

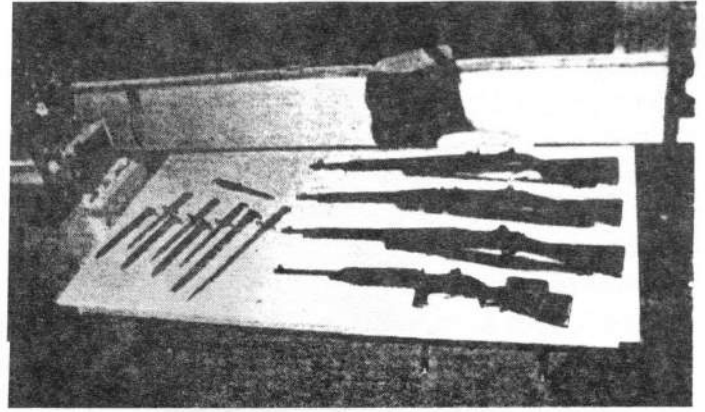
Please contact me, Jim Swope, at 610-779-4789, or Rags Rangnow, at 215-947-1203. This show brings 20,000 people to the former Reading Army Airfield and is the major fund-raiser for the Mid-Atlantic Air Museum and has been called the "Best WWII show in the U.S., bar none."

In addition to our group of vets, our camp will also be staffed by a number of my students, in uniform with 83rd patches, who are members of the Wilson High School WWII Study Group. I've also enclosed a paper showing some of the activities from my 20th Century American Conflict class.

Also, there may be a number of V-BOB members from other units at our site, under their arrangements they pay a donation admission. Pre-registered 83rd Div. members do not have to pay, so don't "let the cat out of the bag" at a V-BOB chapter meeting. Just tell them you don't need a ticket that you already have a pass to get in.

Jim Swope

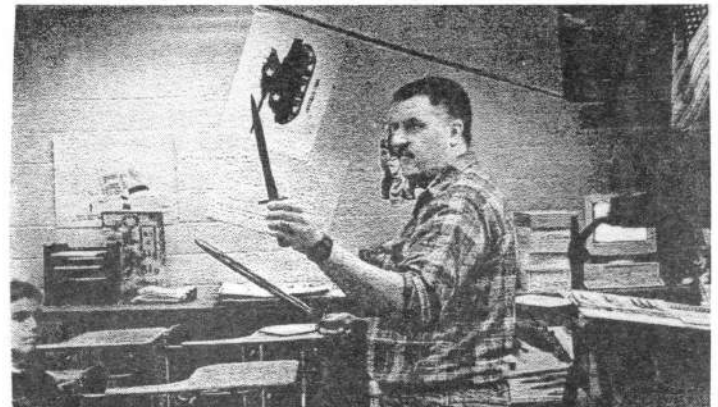
**WORLD WAR II
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LIVING HISTORY AIRFIELD
JUNE 8TH, 9TH & 10TH 2001
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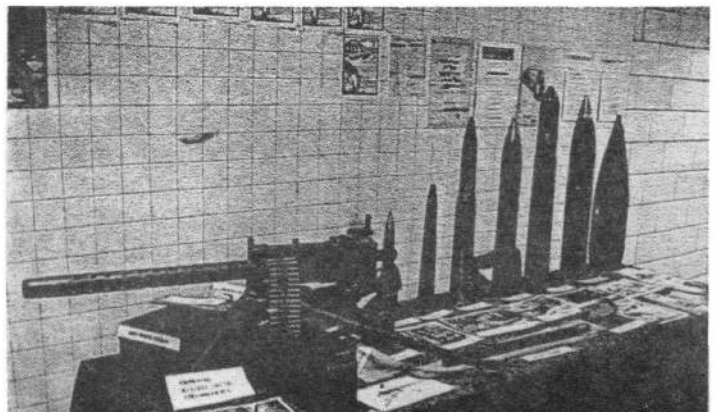
Classroom WW II U.S. infantry weapons display.



No "M-1 Thumb" here!



Classroom explanation of the WW II M-1 long bayonet and the cut-down version.



Cafeteria lobby WW II .30 Cal. machine gun and WW II ordnance display.



Norwood Hatfield and grand daughter , Logan Lee Alderman

Dear Bob,

I enjoyed the chat we had the other night. My legs still are bad, but are getting some better. I wish I could come to the reunion but maybe next time I'll think about coming to Myrtle Beach. I live about 100 miles from the beach.

Thanks for the Roster, I don't see many names from Co. C - 330th. I see Benjamin Franks name, phone # 908-549-0561. This is the buddy I saved his life getting him back to the aid station. Can you check and see if he is deceased. I'm sending a picture of me and my granddaughter. She is 3 years old now. I'm 78 years old. Look for Sam Wright at the reunion, he is from Sumta, a buddy of mine.

Tell everybody hello for me. I'm sending my dues and hope their will bring me up to date. Our weather is real dry down here in S.C. Let me hear from you.

Norwood Hatfield
Co. C 330th
Phone # 803-428-3525

Hope to get a few calls.



My brother, Stephen L. Harris, 83rd Infantry, 331st AT, KIA 1/11/45 at Petel Langlia, Belgium. Could you print this in Thunderbolt to see if anyone recognizes him or the others. Thank you.

Godfrey R. Harris
4209 Abbington CT.
Westlake Village, CA 91361-4504
818 889-3323
Email HARRISGJR@AOL.COM



GEORGE WAPLE'S 80TH birthday party. It was held at the Fort Monmouth Officers Club on February 9th, 2001. This gale affair was attended by eighty relatives and friends. The party started with a cocktail hour followed by a very interesting program at which Maj. Gen. Robert L. Nabors spoke of George's Army Career and his contributions to Fort Monmouth. This was followed by dinner and dancing to a live band.

Former First Sergeant of Regimental Headquarters Company, 331st Infantry, now retired Captain George Henry Waple III and author of his memoirs, "Country Boy Gone Soldiering" is being presented a citation for his citizenship contribution to Fort Monmouth and the surrounding community by Lt. Colonel Stephen Wood, Fort Monmouth Garrison Commander. Stan Bielen of the First Battalion, 331st Infantry, an old buddy of Waple, looks on.

Best Wishes,
Stan Bielen

I saw an interesting interview on the History Channel last week, consisting of film clips from many years ago. A German general, who was in command of the German troops which broke through our lines was speaking about the Battle of the Bulge.

He could not understand why the American press over the years has made so much of Bastogne. He explained that he dropped off a couple divisions to contain the town while the balance of his army continued its forward momentum.

His first main objective was the St. Vitle-Hauffalize highway. He needed this road to make his dash to the Belgium port cities, his ultimate goal. "I was stopped at that point by the American 83rd Division. I could get no further than St. "Vith. I do not understand why your do not talk and write about the American 83rd who halted our progress. At that point, my mission was doomed to failure," said the German general.

Sincerely,
Jim Mellman

We all know the 83rd Infantry Division was referred to as "THE RAG-TAG CIRCUS". Some of our RINGMASTERS were Eisenhower, Bradley, Patton, Montgomery, Macon, Ferenbaugh, and etc. Our "BIG TOP", included the Battle Fields of Normandy, Brittany, Ardenness, Rhineland, and Central Europe. That was some "TIGHT-ROPE", to walk. There were no CLOWNS, only Lions, & Tigers, which consisted of men with courage, bravery, valour, resolute, and spirit. We closed our act with the "COUP DE GRACE", on Germany.

LONG LIVE THE 83rd Infantry Division

John S. Governor
I & M - 331st.
Lot 41 Appleway Drive
Madison Hts., Va. 24572

11-20-00
J. Governorjr
3929 Moorman Dr.
Lynchburg, VA 24501-3135

D-Day Memorial Foundation

202 E. Main St.
Bedford, VA. 24523
(Office M-F 9-5)
540-586-3329

BEST WESTERN-TERRACE
HOUSE INN
921 Blue Ridge Ave.
Bedford, VA
540-586-8286

On September 4th, 2000 Charles & Lois Stine became great grand parents for the seventh time to Garrett Lynn Dice. We hope to see you all at the 2001 reunion at Hampton, Virginia. You all have a very Happy New Year.

Sincerely Yours,
Charles & Lois Stine
A - Btry 908th Fa. Bn.



I got my P.U. with up front Bill Malden stuff and the hood, 83rd patch. I drive it in all the parades trying to members.



Here is the hood shot. I'm trying to get fresh meat their Mack! Get a lot of lookers

Frank Morris, 331st Co "K"
4275 Lake Laurel Dr. SE
Smyrna, GA 30082-4310



Mr. & Mrs. Harold Everham



On their wedding day

Harold and Doris (Selfert) Everham of Palmyra recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. The couple were married April 20, 1940 at the Broad Street Methodist Church in Burlington.

Residents of Palmyra for more than 38 years, the Everhams have two children, Harold Jr. of Sicklerville and Darlene Keller of Palmyra, and three grandchildren.

Everham, a World War II Army veteran, worked for the New Jersey State Highway Department and the Burlington County Highway Department. He served as a volunteer with the Palmyra Police Department for 13 years.

Louis R. Sandini Esq.
ATTORNEY AT LAW
240 Main Street, Marlborough, MA 01752
(508) 485 7222 ---(508) 854 3045
E-MAIL loupat1@email.msn.com

GENTLEMEN:

I just want to explain what is on my mind about new membership in the 83rd Division Association in the future.

What was the 83rd formed for; just for the fun of it -- or to keep alive in the minds of the people of the world what we accomplished? I'm sure it was for both -- with the emphasis on the latter reason.

At our age it is now time to think of how we can accomplish this. Do we want to let our work die with us or do we want it to go on after we are gone? If you want it to die with us, forget it -- Don't come to any reunions except to have fun. -- and -- Please don't even make any arguments to try to deter those who are trying to try to keep the memory of our accomplishments alive and known to the world for as long as is possible. You are not being good for the cause and purpose of the main reason the 83rd Association exists.

The best way we can really and -- whole heartedly -- keep our purposes and memory alive is through our children and grand children, nephews and nieces.

(I sold many books, "THUNDERBOLT RAG TAG CIRCUS" to the children, nephews and nieces who wanted to hear what news could be had about their dads and uncles).

As we age, many of us are going to need help to get around -- to go to meetings -- to reunions. Who better than a son or grandson to help us. As they do they should be able to (pay dues) come to meetings and listen to what goes on even if they are not allowed to vote -- at first -- then after doing so for a certain number of years -- serving their apprenticeship so to speak become full fledged members. (i.e. if the income tax problem can be solved by then). Unfortunately, we could become subject to the income to laws if non veterans become full fledged members. (I heard that there is some effort before Congress to change this). We would never allow them to become voting members until the tax laws are changed; but they could become a sort of youth committee whose vote could be taken into consideration when we have our own vote to make. This way we would know that there was some sort of organization left when we all pass away. It is foolish to say that they would form their own organization with any certainty.

So, I urge you, don't let the matter drop forever. Think up some ideas that you think might work. Keep the memory of the 83rd Division alive long after we are gone. Allow our descendants to join now. Our reunions will be larger and our partially disabled will have more help for attendance. There just might be some young people left who would like to carry on our work.

This idea alone would influence me to vote for an appropriate new bylaw. (Even if we had to pay some minor income tax).

Friendly yours
Louis R. Sandini

CHANGE OF ADDRESSEES AND PHONE NUMBERS

LAST Name	First Name	Address	City	ST	Zip Code	Phone	Company
Arrigo	Larry	18 Bayberry Ln	Kingston	MA	02364-1258		"A" 308th ENGR
Franke	Charles	5921 Kimble Ct.	Falls Church	VA	22041-2418		83rd Band
Harrington	Joseph	186 Deer Run Rd	Meiden	CT	06451	352-326-4064	"B" 324th FA
Helms	Jonas	3842 McGirts Blvd	Jacksonville	FL	32210-4337		1st BN HQ 330t
Hoffman	William H.	2 Chip Lane	Reading	PA	19607-3301		"CN" 331st
Jones	Edward M.	316 E. Fourth St.#1	Watkins Glen	NY	14891	607-535-2049	HQ I & R 331st
King	Raymond	303 Dogwood Dr.	Harriman	TN	37748-8111		"I" 330th
Levin	Willton	290 East Winchester Ave.					
		Apt. 206 W	Langhorne	PA	19047	215-757-4195	A.T. 330th
Lungreen	Rudolph G.	1618 Richard St.	Schenectady	NY	12303-1332	518-393-3911	"F" 329th
Mays	Myrna M.	1135 N 51st ST.	Lincoln	NE	68504-3220		XXXX
McCulla	James	RR 2 Box 75	Emporium	PA	15834-9748		C 329th
McDaniel	Alex N	PO Box 684	Fruitland Park	FL	34731		B 908th
Moore	Joseph	3190 Babbs RD. #6	Nashport	OH	43830-9504		Decendant
Muro	Vincent	144 Alfred Dr.	Greentown	PA	18426-9691		C 330th
		300 Lewis St. NW	Vienna	GA	22180-4207		XXXX
Padgett	Alice	14266 SW 115th Cir	Dunnellon	FL	34432-8707		F 331st
Petrillo	Peter	7715 SouthamptonTer	Tamarac	FL	33321-9109		A 330th
Polisky	Gilbert	308 S. Cedar Bluff Rd	Knoxville	TN	37922-3663	865-693-3341	B 308th ENGR
Porterfield	Clyde	475 W Old Cross Rd.	New Market	VA	22844-9524	540-740-3843	B 330th
Runion	Lawrence	204 Clayton Ave.	Butler	PA	16001-2739		Decendant
Smith	Eric	451 Sand Hill Rd. #222	Hershey	PA	17033-2089		83rd Band
Smith	Robert	1719 Delaney Dr.	Indianapolis	IN	46217-5432		Recon
Soroko	John	4784 Park Encino Ln #104	Encino	CA	91436-3280		HQ 331st
Straus	Jack	512 S. Sand Verbena Way	Mesa	AZ	85208-6744	440-884-3884	I 330th
Strunk	Luther	10200 Ridgewood Dr. #101-2	Parma Hgts	OH	44130		XXXX
Turchan	Marcy	PO Box 687	Prince George	VA	23875		DIV HQS
Vlk, Jr.	Wesley	1477 Long Pond Rd. #415	Rochester	NY	14626-4151		HQ CO
Weber	Carl						

NEW MEMBERS.

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>Zip Code</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Company</u>
Brusa	Elizabeth F.	2461 Central Park Dr.	Lodi	CA	95242-3208	518-583-9170	Decendant
Chiappone	Charles M.	87 Fieldstone Dr.	Gansevorort	NY	12831	518-273-3829	Decendant
Chiappone Jr.	Sammuel G.	33 Excelsior Ave.	Troy	NY	12180	770-412-7603	"I" 329th
Eaves, Sr.	John W.	2880 Fayetteville Rd.	Griffen	GA	30223	315-265-5072	Decendant
Eckert	John	PO Box 46	Hannawa Falls	NY	13676	703-681-6347	Decendant
Franke	David	5921 Kimble Ct	Falls Church	VA	22041	703-979-8927	"K" 329th
Ghillino	Charles R	5564 W. Alder Ave.	Littleton	CO	80128	303-979-8927	"F" 331st
Harris	Kevin P.	8771 DeBlanc Place	Manassas	VA	20110	703-367-8943	"A" 322 FA
Lazarus	George	639 Stephen Dr.	Palatine	IL	60067-2333	847-359-3627	"C" 908 FA
Musgrove	Walter L.	105 Jerome St	Homerville	GA	31634-1220	912-487-5843	BTRY 322 FA
Peak	Donald L	2700 N. US HWY 27 Lot	31 Lake Wales	FL	33853-7853	863-676-5347	"L" 331st
Rudler	Charles E.	6547 US HWY 6	Linesville	PA	16424-6007	814-683-5060	"A" 330th
Sansone	James	639 N. Michigan	Villa Park	IL	60181	630-530-9558	"I" 329th
Terzano	Victor G.	1611 Lacebark Rd.	Toms River	NJ	08755-1811	732-505-4044	324th FA BN
Turchetta	Thomas	368 Allen St.	New Britain	CT	06053	860-229-8675	



NOOO MIZ-OZ



JOHN RAIKOS AND TONY VAGGARO THE BOARD IN ACTION

HAVING A SERIOUS DISCUSSION ABOUT MAKING A MOVIE OF
---"THE LAST BATTLE"---- BY CORNELIUS RYAN

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
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**WM. M. Minick
110 Angel St.
Saluda, SC., 29138-1002**

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