



# THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 42 No. 2

Winter Issue 1987

## THE 41ST ANNUAL REUNION



The Marriott  
Town Center

*Charleston  
West Virginia*

is the site for the  
**41st  
Annual Reunion**

It is set for  
August 20, 21, 22  
1987

Start making your  
plans now  
to attend!

**THE THUNDERBOLT**  
**Official Publication**  
**83rd Infantry Division Association Inc.**

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

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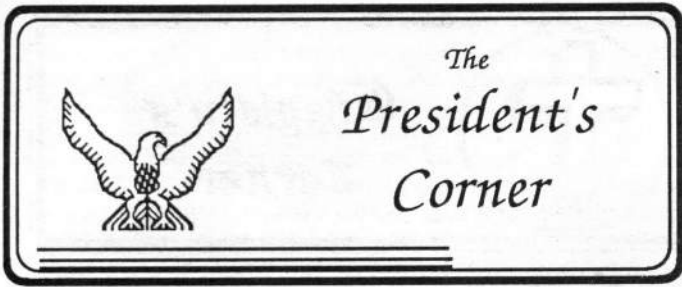
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**A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL**

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Charles Abdinoor . . . . . 1959	*Harold H. Dopp . . . . . 1972	Carroll Brown . . . . . 1985
*Joseph F. Minotti . . . . . 1960	Louis J. Volpi . . . . . 1973	

\*Denotes Deceased



The  
*President's*  
*Corner*

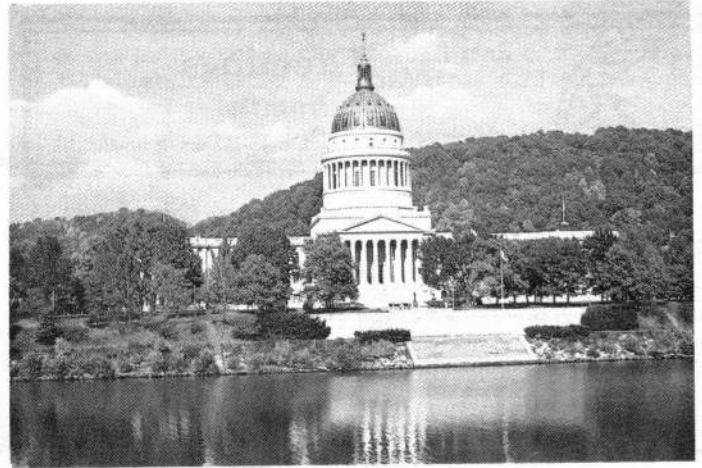
***Hello Buddies:***

Hoping each of you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The West Virginia Chapter has been working on the reunion, but now we must get into serious business. Our program and reunion costs are still in the planning stage, but will have it completed for the next issue of the Thunderbolt.

I would like to say thanks again to the Kentucky Chapter for the hospitality shown Freeda and me at their Christmas party.

The West Virginia Chapter hopes each member of this great association will attend the 41st reunion in Charleston, West Virginia in August, 1987.

*John Hobbs*



**West Virginia's State Capital**



**Towne Center, Charleston, West Virginia**

**Chairman's Message**

The Executive Board met November 7th and 8th in Charleston, W. Va. with the Reunion Committee for the purpose of joining with them in negotiations with the two hotels which will be used for the upcoming reunion.

The reason the Board met in November instead of the usual May meeting was that the earlier date gave us a better position in our negotiations, thus we were able to make a better deal. Because of this meeting we were able to reduce the room rates from \$59.00 to \$49.00 at the Marriott Hotel and the Elk River Hotel from \$40.00 to \$35.00. This is in addition to the rates that were discounted for the reunion committee. The room rates are usually \$80.00 to \$90.00 at the Marriott and \$60.00 at the Elk River. I would bring to your attention that both hotels are excellent.

This I believe is the first time the Executive Board was directly involved in negotiations. In the past the Board would advise and recommend from afar. The meeting in May just before Reunion was too late for change in many cases. By being there in person during negotiations we were directly involved and we were able to accomplish what we were after.

Because of the success of this meeting it was decided that the Board would meet with all future reunion committees in their final negotiation with the hotels used for our reunions. As an example, we will meet in May '87 with the Philly Chapter in Hershey, Pa.

the site of the 1988 reunion.

A board member serves five years, because of this the association will benefit. He will gain experience as he moves up the ladder to when he becomes Board Chairman and he in turn will pass on his knowledge to those who are coming after him. This will give the association an experienced and knowledgeable negotiator for our future reunions.

My trip to Charleston was by auto. I had never been to West Virginia before. It is a beautiful state, especially in the fall. The mountains, and they have plenty, were ablaze with the gold leaves. Charleston is a fine site for a reunion. The hotel is in the center of the city, everything is within walking distance. I found the people to be very friendly, especially the girls, (could it be my good looks?) Ha! Ha! I'm sure you will find it the same. There are many fine restaurants close-by and many other attractions in the area. I's sure you will enjoy this reunion. One other thing-the prices for meals were inexpensive so if you're on a budget, take heed.

Our President John Hobbs along with the dedicated members and their wives are working hard so that you will enjoy this reunion. We expect a very good number of Thunderbolts to attend. So you will not be disappointed, get in your reservations as soon as possible. For those of you who have not paid their dues, we need you!!

Remember our goal 2000!!!

***Stan Bielen, Executive Board-Chairman***



**Greetings**  
from the  
**Secretary-Treasurer's Office**

Well men the first thing I will get in this report is my apology for the lateness of this Thunderbolt. Pearl, as I told you the last issue had to have surgery. She was out of the office for two months and she was just getting back to her old self when my mother became very seriously ill. We had to put her in the hospital and my brother and two sisters and myself took turns being with her all the time and then someone had to be with my father in the evening. For a while someone had to stay with my mother every evening until 11 or 12 at night. She is now in the Nursing Care Center in a partial coma. The holidays have been very busy for both Pearl and I.

Our membership is growing, for which we have much to be thankful for as we begin to look forward to a New Year. There are quite a few of you who still owe your 1987 dues. We will be sending out the reminder cards in January.

Thanks to all of you for the lovely cards you sent to Pearl and I. We appreciate them very much.

I have been working with the West Virginia Chapter on their upcoming reunion. We hope they have their program ready for us to get in the next issue. The application for the hotels are in this issue. Get your reservation in right away to the one you wish to stay in. They are both nice and are within walking distance of each other. The Marriott will be the headquarters. There will be a golf tournament. The Early Bird will be on Wednesday night. For those of you who like dog races, I am sure you will enjoy the arrangements that the W. Va. Chapter has planned for us.

John and Freeda Hobbs came to the Kentucky Chapter Christmas Party and John, Ames and I worked Saturday afternoon on their program. We hope that you all had a Happy Holiday Season.

I talked to Milton Ferguson. The book should be ready any time now. I hope by the time you receive this Thunderbolt some of you will have received yours. If not surely shortly afterwards.

Again, I ask all of you who have not sent in your dues for 1987, please do so right away. That will save us on post cards and postage to remind you.

Look forward to seeing you all in West Virginia

**Bob Derickson,**  
*Secretary Treasurer 3rd Bn. Hw. 329th*



**Chaplain's**  
**Corner**

It's Thanksgiving morning, my home is very quiet as Laura, my son John, and my mother are still snoozing away. They will soon be getting up and we'll be going to church services, as we do have so much to be thankful for.

The paper boy must also be sleeping in, as the daily paper has not been delivered. So, as I'm enjoying my second cup of coffee, and it looks like it's going to be a beautiful day, I'm counting my blessings, as we all should be, and feel it's a great way to start this column, so that it will meet the deadline for the next issue of the "Thunderbolt."

A few weeks ago, Sat., Nov. 9th, Laura, Casey and Eleanor Szubski and I took a trip to Charleston, W. Va. - our 1987 reunion site, and did a little socializing with the Executive Board and the people of the W. Va. Chapter, who will be in charge of the reunion. The trip coming and going was beautiful with the countryside still basked in sunshine and gorgeous colors. From our home to downtown Charleston, it's only 4 hours. Let me inform you that the people who are organizing and planning your reunion, are doing an outstanding job, and it looks as if we are in for a great time.

I had two calls that Leo Labuda "H"330th and Thomas Evans A-329th had passed away. Bob D. and John P. will combine any names they have received, and they should be listed in this issue.

**REMEMBER** - Someone once said "life is a contact sport." In life we cannot help affecting and being affected by others. Sometimes we come away with good feelings about others and sometimes we get bruised by them. That is life.

When we go through life with a positive attitude we affect others in a positive way. On the other hand, if we go throughout life with a "I don't want to get involved" attitude, others are affected by that too. That is life. Think about it.

When you finish reading this issue of the "Thunderbolt" why don't you sit down and write that letter to an 83rd buddy that you have been planning to do since our last reunion. Or pick up that phone and call that friend who has been waiting for you to cheer them up.

**THIS DAY IS A GIFT** -- enjoy it and use it wisely.  
Have a Blessed Holiday Season and a healthy 1987.

**Casey Kowalec**  
**"C" Btry. 3322 F.A.**

**83rd friends:**

This mere little thank you written for this issue of the Thunderbolt to thank all of you for the many get well cards sent to me, the gifts of flowers, and the other many different kinds of gifts sent to me while I was in the hospital and then recuperating at home afterwards were so deeply appreciated. I cannot thank you enough. I wish I could see all of you and give you a big hug for all of them. For those of you who came to visit me it was wonderful. Robert and I both were overwhelmed with it all.

I had to miss the Kentucky Chapter meeting in October. That was a sad week-end but Irene and Gale Baker came over and took me out to eat that Saturday night. Robert said he was never going to go again if I could not go along. He was so glad to know that I wasn't alone on Saturday. So we got through it.

On the 5th of December I was given permission to go to the Christmas party and meeting. This was held at the Quality Inn at Kings Island. There were approximately 40 members and their wives. We took Leslie along with us. Did she have a good time. Was made over by everyone and did that suit her. We all went to Winterfest at Kings

Island on Friday night. Cold, cold. Leslie had all the men carrying her. On Saturday morning Ames and Irene Baker drove the cars and took all the women shopping. The rest of the men went to the Football Hall of Fame. Everyone enjoyed their morning. We met at six o'clock for our Christmas dinner in a special room and afterwards our meeting and then the party.

Helen Wilson and Babe Schmidt had taken care of all the decorations. The tables all looked so pretty. They did a wonderful job. After dinner we had our meeting. We will be going to Clarksville, Indiana for our spring meeting on March 13 and 14. This will be held at the Sheraton Lakeview Hotel. A very nice place. First time the Kentucky Chapter has been to this Hotel. The phone number is 812-283-4411 if any of you members would like to attend this meeting. Would be glad to have one and all of you. After the meeting we had our Christmas Party with our exchange of gifts. Bonnie and Earl Hoover had planned a delightful evening of fun for us all.

As always with our group it is a delightful time. We all get along so well and everyone looks out for the other one. We did not get to eat together on Sunday morning because of the smallness of the dining room but we managed to get our goodbyes and wishes of Happy Holidays to all before we broke up to come home.

Again, Robert and I both hope that your Holidays were wonderful and that we get to see all of you in Charleston next August.

*Love you all, Pearl*

## Death Notices

**Joseph Lacy** . Service 331st

Reported by Larry Redmond.

**Frederick A. Fogelsonger** . 83rd Recon. Reported by

Curtis Myers.

**Eugene Persinger**, Co. "A" 329

Reported by John Hobbs

**Ralph Malec**, 329th.

From newspaper article

**Levitt F. Frey**, "M" 331st.

Sent in by Austin McCann.

**Woodrow W. Carberry**, 323rd,

Sent in by Raymond C. Richter.

**Vincent J. Damico**, "HQ" 324th.

Sent in by wife, Mrs. Damico.

**William Turner**, Service Co. 330th .

Reported by Emil Wehling REGT HQ 330th

**Marvin Vick**, COD.

Reported by John Walker

**Leo Labude**, Co. "H" 330th

Reported by Casey Kowalec

**Thomas Evans**, Co. "A" 329th

Reported by Casey Kowalec

*This is our listing of deaths. The sympathy of the entire 83rd Division goes out to the family and friends of all these men. They will be missed.*

## Tribute to a local boy

Ralph Malec, 65, of 5104 Barkwill Ave., Cleveland, passed away June 8, 1984, of an apparent heart attack. He was one of the great button accordian players and had recorded on Ray Records.

He was born, raised and always resided in the Ziskov area of Cleveland. He began his musical career at an early age of 9 on a two-row Koch button accordian, which his parents purchased for his twin brother Otto. A natural musician, Ralph learned to play the songs he heard his mother, Bertha, hum and sing.

Along with other men from the area, Ralph served in World War II as a member of the Army, 329th Infantry with the 83rd Division that occupied Pilsen, Czechoslovakia. He received the Silver Star, Bronze Star and also liberated a few breweries in Czechoslovakia.

He was a member of Anton Blazek Post No. 2079 V.F.W., 83rd Division Cleveland Chapter, Officer of Prazskych Pepiku Club, member of St. Joseph Society No. 156 C.C.U., Happy Chums Outing Club, Bicycle Club, Lions Club, Life member of Karlin Club.

## Message from John Governor

I received a phone call from John Shephard, 3rd. BN. HQ. 331st., Sunday, December 14, 1986 informing me that Eugene Persinger, "D", 329th., had died that morning. Nostalgia began to take over, and I keep thinking about Eugene, couldn't get him out of my mind. Seems like I have a thousand things to do, but something tells me to write something about Eugene.

In the summer of 1978, noticed in the Charleston paper, very small notice, a Eugene Persinger was trying to contact anyone that was in the 83rd. DIV. I cut it out, laid it to one side, several weeks went by, and I decided to phone him, we talked several times over the phone, more weeks went by, before we met. He explained his idea was to form a W. Va. Chapter, that he had contacted others, and would I help, my answer was yes.

With help from others we began the task of trying to

organize a chapter. I recall we had to have ten members present, before we could receive a Charter. Just days before our first scheduled meeting, Eugene phoned me and said only six people promised to attend, and should we cancel the meeting, my answer was, we have gone this far, Mr. Samuel Klippa was coming in from Pittsburgh to explain the fundamentals required to obtain a State Charter, we would have our meeting and hope we have ten. Eleven showed up, we were in business, and with the determination, we would grow, Eugene was made president at that meeting.

Now it's 1986 - nine years later - the 41st Reunion will be held in Charleston, W.Va. Nine years ago, we never thought this would be possible. Reunions are not held in West Va., but New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Ohio, Louisiana, and etc., but never, never, West Va. This Reunion in Charleston is a dream come true - I can see Eugene smiling now, finding it hard to believe, but so very, very happy.

Eugene was not 6'5", weight 250 lbs., in fact the opposite. He had a physical handicap, not wealthy, like so many of us, financial life is hard.

Eugene gave all he had to the 83rd. Infantry Division and Thunderbolt, and The West Va. Chapter. Some may say who was Eugene Persinger, and who gives a damn, well, friend, I care. I know Eugene will be there for the Charleston Reunion, Will You?? Is there such a thing as dedicating a reunion to someone, if so, guess who I nominate for that honor - We Salute you, Eugene.

**John S. Governor "I" & "M" 331st  
3929 Moorman Drive  
Lynchburg, Va. 24501  
804-847-4666**

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## The 783rd Fixer Uppers

Here I am thinking about all the Christmas cards I still have to write and all your wives are now thinking about their new Easter dresses. There's not much we can do about the time delay in getting this good magazine out to you, but I think we really need a motion to move the date back one month. Why you ask? Well, right now I don't have much news but all you fellows will be sending me Christmas cards in a couple of days, with all those nice interesting notes of good cheer. Because of the printing schedule I won't be able to get the Christmas news to you until June. It's a good thought anyway.

The news I do have isn't good or too bad. First, Doc called with the bad news that Lloyd Grayson was in the hospital with a heart attack. Doc gave me the number and said it was ok to call and sure enough there was Lloyd his "young" cheerful self. He had had quite a time of it, was recovering well. I did a check-up on Lloyd last night and found him in the best of spirits and "feeling fine". Lloyd had to go back in the hospital for the ballon procedure so now he and Doc Pfeifer are the senior members of the

"Ballon Club."

Arthur Doggett has been giving Millie a bad time of it again and while Art would of liked to have joined the membership of the Ballon Club they wouldn't let him. Art has had the usual tests and as of last night he will have two by pass's done on the 15th of December. Our hope and prayer right now is that Art and Lloyd will be in the best of health again, as you read this.

The rest of the news is bits and drabs. I've heard from Ivan Gilman, he sent me a complete set of reunion pictures and they were very good. There weren't any pictures with his thumb over the lens! Art sent Joe Brown some old reunion pictures and can you imagine, Joe said he couldn't recognize hardly anyone. That does it Joe, let's see your picture.

My first Christmas card came from Herman and Norma Hackstock. They are enjoying life and one another with a little travel and quite a bit of dancing, which they do so well. That's just about all the news I have except for myself, and like it or not, I have to say something about us as we have moved. The house I built from scratch I sold and we are in the process of moving into a two floor 2000 foot apartment. Of course, nothing is easy these days and I guess that goes for any move. Our new place isn't finished so we ended up with a double move. We are living with my son, in the cellar! It's really not bad, the grandchildren love it as they sneak downstairs to crawl into bed with Nana and Pop. Naturally, the son loves the built in baby sitters but wait until he gets the bill. You want to know why we did such a thing? Well, Ginny always answers "Twenty-one windows" and the real answer is somewhere inbetween. My bad back, the place is too large for two people, the price was right and I wanted to get outside the city. Would you believe we are moving a mile and a quarter from our old house but I will be sleeping just about sixty-two feet outside of Philly.

My new address in January will be, 515 A Woodland Ave., Cheltenham, Penna., 19012. Phone 215-663-1544. I'll let you know in the next article whether Ginny made a mistake or not. In the meantime I want all you investment experts to tell me where to put this money. Ivan, do you know any good oil stock?

*Hut Two,*

*Rags Rangnow*

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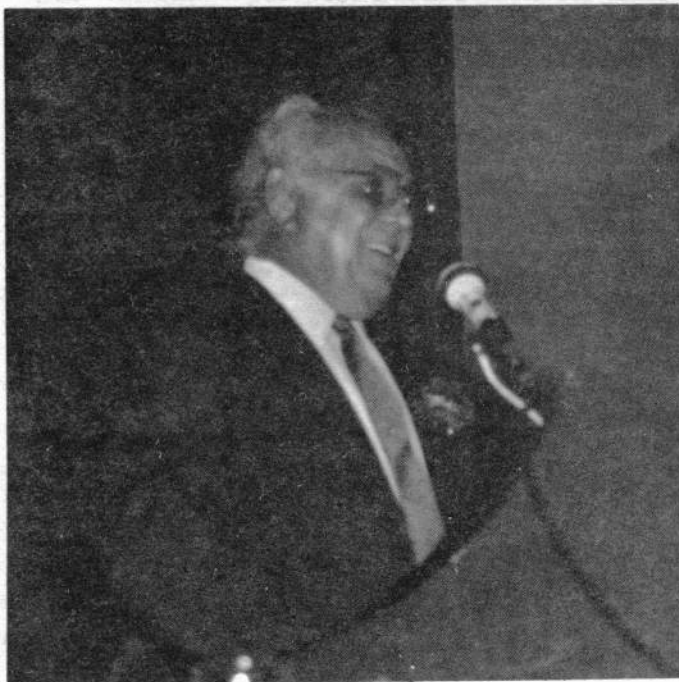
## Pittsburgh Chapter



Since this column is being compiled the latter part of 1986 I shall briefly review the year just concluded. Our membership remains strong, with never less



than 30 members at a meeting. We gained three new members in the past year. Our meetings are held the first Sunday of the month at the V.F.W. Post in Brentwood, Pa. 2:00 p.m. Our social events are also well attended, namely the Spring Dance and the Christmas party. Although the Christmas affair this year was not as well attended as previous ones, there was still a fine crowd on hand. All who attended enjoyed themselves. At the November meeting the following were elected to serve as officers for the coming two years: President, Ed Walsh; Vice President, Sal Scicolone; Treasurer, John Gallo; Secretary, Steve Blasko; Asst. Secretary, Ed Reuss; Chaplain, Matt Pintar; Auditors, Joe Danylo and Fran Beerhalter; Sergeant-at-Arms, Al Suess. As reported in the previous issue, Sam Klippa, who has served as treasurer for oh so many years has decided to call it quits for health reasons.



## NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

Jules Desgain, Sam Klippa, John Gallo and Paul Diethrich journeyed to Charleston, W.Va. recently to attend the West Virginia Chapter meeting and to check the site of the 1987 reunion. Our chapter has reserved thirty rooms at the Marriott...Andy Churpak had a hip operation on October 14 and is in tip-top shape...Greer and Catherine Thompson spent the Christmas holidays at the home of their son, Alan in Snellville, Ga. where he is the account manager for Comdial Corp...Bill and Betty Mattes spent the holidays in Texas...Paul Diethrich spent Dec.3 to Dec. 5 in the hospital for a hernia operation...Larry and Sue Leonardi are spending the winter months and part of the spring in Florida. He will attend Florida chapter meetings while there. Due to return in May...John Gallo's son David is teaching Business Education at Plum Boro High School...Sam Klippa's daughter Dianne was the chairperson for the recent Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" campaign in the Pittsburgh area. We understand she did one heck of a job. The Chapter played a small role with a donation...Curly Ruprecht has decided to join the ranks of the retired after January, 1987.

## CONDOLENCES GO OUT TO

Joe Danylo on the death of his mother on Dec. 6...Ed Walsh on the death of his sister in November...Sam Klippa on the death of his brother-in-law on Dec.6. Gene Costanzo's wife Yolanda is back in the hospital in serious condition. We wish her a speedy recovery. Any cards or get-well wishes can be sent to their home at 915 High St., Pittsburgh, Pa.,15215

I hope all members of the 83rd had a Merry Christmas and the members of the Pittsburgh chapter wish each one a Prosperous New Year.

*Fran Beerhalter, Staff Reporter*

## Florida Chapter

Hope you all had a very happy holiday season, and let me wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. I'm glad to report that the Florida Chapter met the week-end of November 21st and 22nd at the Quality Inn in Winter Haven. There were fifty (50) members and wives present, where we had a very delightful week-end. The Herhuths, and the Senger's hosted this meeting, and as usual did a wonderful job. From the Friday night dinner and show, until our Saturday night dinner and meeting, everything went smoothly. We all had a great time, and that's the name of the game. Of course our hospitality room was always open, where refreshments were served.

We had four (4) new members attending this meeting, and from what I have seen, they all had a good time. They were Michael Petite and his wife Nina (who won the door prize donated by Manny Epstein, Joseph McNicholas and his wife Mary, Frank Ruscitto and Joseph De Marchi.

Our next meeting will be January 29th and 30th at the Silver Lake Lodge in Ocala, Lou Lizotte and Frank Sharp are making all arrangements for us, and from the information I have received, they have gotten a good deal on the rooms and the dinner. Of course, they can't do without the help of their lovely wives and I'm sure they will come up with surprises for us. If any 83rd is in Florida around January 29th and would like to join us, just contact me and I'll send you all the information, and directions to the Hotel.

Congratulations to Stan and Fran Bielen on the arrival of their new grandson.

That is all the news for now, and have a Happy Valentine's Day.

Bill Nickell and John Defebbo have been ill and we wish them a speedy recovery.

**Dave Benick "A" 331st**

### A 331st

I'm very happy to report that at our reunion in Knoxville, the boys of "A" 331st have decided that we should get together at least one other time before our reunion in Charleston, West Virginia. So we have planned a week-end in Concord, North Carolina, which is the town near Charlotte, North Carolina. It is more centrally located for all of us. Bill and Billie Bullard are going to make arrangements for us. As soon as Bill has the date. I will send out the mail to all of our Buddies. If any "A" 331st men would like to attend our mini reunion, just contact me for all particulars.

Just to let our boys know that John Stewart was in the hospital with ulcers, and is coming along well. He will be at our next meeting in Florida. Richard Ammon did attend our meeting and is coming along fine. I received a call from Bill Bullard that Noel Villarreal (the chief) was going into the hospital. The boys of "A" 331st wish you well for a speedy recovery and will see you in Concord, N.C., in March. We all love you.

**Dave Benick "A" 331st  
353 Brittany H  
Delray Beach, Florida 33446**



## Historian's Corner



### Buddies:

*"A Christmas Carol"*

December 25, 1944

You must also have your favorite story of the first and Thank God the last Christmas in combat.

We are the fortunate ones who came back. It was beautiful! The carols we heard were the sounds of German planes straffing, our ACK, ACK and artillery.

The Dove of Peace was an L-5 spotter plane, in a field nearby.

The Star was planes in the distance, lighting up the combat of the Bulge. The snowy forest was the background for a Greeting Card---a deadly one in 1944.

The White Christmas was the sheets from the beds of Belgian civilians over our uniforms. The white paint on our tanks and vehicles to blend in with the snow and ice.

After 40 years it is slowly leaving our memories---but not quite.

We can still shiver even in our warm comfortable homes, with the memory of cold, wet, nasty dark days and darker nights. We were hungry, weary, miserable and scared.

Then the weather lifted, and our planes bombed and straffed. They made wreaths of vapor trails from horizon to horizon. A scene we had waited for.

We began to push the Germans back to his fatherland and kept him running.

Remembering those days have a really enjoyable holiday this 1986-1987. We earned them!!!

*We Were The Best.*

**Kent O'Connell  
Historian and 83rd M.P.**

## Boston Chapter Report

Since the last issue we had several meetings. One was at Larry Arrigo's home. Larry has been sick but was able to be home for the meeting. Fran, his wife, did an excellent job putting food and goodies out for some 32 people. A "Little Bird" told me that Larry and Fran are going to have another grandchild.

In November we had a large gathering at Pat and Gin DiGiammerino's home. Ray Bjork and Bob Hunnewell gave the best entertainment in the 83rd





**Group 1 Boston Chapter Members at annual Christmas Party.**

room. We made quick plans for a Christmas Party in Somerset, Ma. Charlie Lussier from the 331st Infantry A.T. Co. made arrangements at a restaurant for December 6th, 1986. Walter Waples had to get started for home so we had the drawing. Jake Irwin of Sugar Grove, Va. won the basket of cheer. The turkeys were also drawn. We then adjourned the



**Group 2 at Boston Chapter annual Christmas party meeting.**

Our Christmas party was a success with a nice dinner. Santa Claus came with lots of gifts. We sang songs and the joke tellers were terrific. At 12:00 o'clock some headed home and the rest of us stayed at a motel. We had another party at the motel which lasted way into the morning hours. We talked about old times in the forties with music by Bob Hunnewell



**Group 3, Greater Boston Christmas Party at Magonis Ferry.**

and Mike Amicone. Next morning most of us had breakfast at Leo's Restaurant and went on our way. A good time was had by all. Thanks and a "tip of the Irishman's hat" to Charlie Lussier and his lovely wife Rita.



**Group 4. A good time at annual Boston Chapter Christmas Party.**

A note to Dallas A. Williams from Portland, Oregon. Frank Scott and Walter Coss were at our Christmas Party looking for you and hope to see you at the next reunion in West Virginia.

Mike Caprio's wife Vera is recuperating from a leg injury. We hope that she has a speedy recovery.

That's all for this issue,

Amby Tynan  
323rd F.A.



**Group 5 Boston chapter members at annual Christmas Party.**



**Group 6. Boston chapter member at annual Christmas Party.**

## G Company, 331st

The days are getting shorter, and that can only mean one thing: It is near the end of the year and the Holidays season is upon us once again. When I began to get older, I didn't realize that the days and the years would go by so fast. Don't know why they are in such a hurry, I am just beginning to enjoy my self.

Mena and I just returned from New Jersey where we spent a few days with the daughter and her family. We attended the Army-Navy football game in Philly. What an enjoyable game and the wonderful show that is put on by the cadets and Midshipmen from the Navy. When you look at all of the young men and women who represent the service academies, it makes you feel proud to be an American. It gives you a sense of security to know that these young people will serve and defend this great country of ours.

Had a call from Mort Gaynor some weeks ago. He was selected to serve on a jury, don't know how he made out, but I guess in a few weeks when it is all over he will call and give me the details. I talked with Loyal Pangle for a few minutes today. He seems to be feeling much better than he has in a long time, but he still has some handicaps, which is hard for him to get over. My hat is off to Kate, his wife, Loyal claims he made a good choice in selecting a wife.

A few weeks ago Mena and I had the pleasure of spending an evening with Olga Teringo and her friend. Olga was on a visit to New Orleans, so Mena and I decided to show them some of the city, with an automobile tour, then we had dinner together. I did get a chance to call William Sears on a recent trip to Birmingham. He is still active in the real estate business.

I realize that when you read this in the Thunderbolt that the holiday season will be over, and the bills will remain. But I do wish each and every one of you the best for the holiday season, and hope that 1987 will bring us closer together, and also the good health that we will need to carry us further into life. Maybe one of these days we will once again arrange to have another G Company reunion, where we will be able to spend more time with our group, and we can set the fees to meet our needs. I realize that our reunions, while they are great for getting our men together, they are getting more expensive, and for those on limited incomes it is hard for them to attend. It is too bad that the American tourist community is after the almighty dollar. They don't take into consideration that when we attend a reunion, the funds come out of our pockets, this makes us different from a convention where most of the bills and cost comes out of the company pocket and are tax deductible as an expense.

Before I get on the soap box, I better sign off for this edition of G. Co. Best of luck to all of you.

**Capt. Mac**

## Dixie Chapter News

Our annual Christmas party was held December 5 and 6 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The city does many things to make the city a pretty sight at Christmas. We saw a parade on Friday night and the display of 60 or so decorated Christmas trees all different at the auditorium. The town was alive with many sight see'ers and much seasonal spirit. Our hosts and hostesses deserve many thanks for the well planned party. Thank you Ruby and Carroll and Frank and Flo. Although the group has been returning each Christmas to the Riverside Hotel for twelve years, it was this reporter's first trip there. The open fire in the lobby and the rocking chairs made me feel so welcome and being surrounded by the 95, more or less, friends of the 83rd in attendance.

People came from far and near. The Massie's from Maryland, the Hamlin's from Missouri among them. Be assured your presence was appreciated and helped make the time together more fun.

The banquet decorations and food were enjoyed by all. The tables and serving done beautifully. The exchange of gifts showed many original ideas and having Santa and Mrs. Claus with us is always a special treat. Some good dancers were having fun. Don't tell anyone, but there was a poker game goin on.

Remember in our prayers the members with sickness--M.L. Baker, Bill Laughter, Johnnie Ball and others. Furman Epps lost a brother and our thoughts are with him. We are sad with you, Jim and Irene Burrows, in the loss of your young grandchild. John W. Wells will be missed by all since his death this year on July 22, 1986.

Hope to see everyone again at the March 12, 13, and 14th meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia. Be there.

Since there is a possibility of Atlanta area being the sight of the May meeting. Watch and listen for details.

If you hear news you would like to see in print in the Thunderbolt let me know.

### LeRoy McManaway-Dixie Chapter

*It's a pleasure to be in Gatlinburg and associated with friends that brings,  
Big hearts filled with Christmas spirits spreading love and joy of pleasant things.*

*The heart is like a memory book that has shared joys and the tears.  
It holds so many, many memories of these Christmas parties for years.*

*Here we find the nicest people that this world has ever known.  
Who will never be forgotten for all the kindness they have shown.*

*We've all seen sad and happy times  
We've seen some dreams come true.  
All these are embedded in my memory  
Always I shall remember dear friends like you.*

**Haran Martin  
Dixie Chapter C-331**

## Kentucky Chapter

We had our Fall meeting at Natural Bridge State Park in Slade, Kentucky the weekend of October 10th. There were forty-six members, wives and guests in attendance. It was a beautiful weekend but tree leaves had not change color. We all did a lot of hiking. Pearl Derickson was not at the meeting. She was recuperating from surgery. We missed her and I think she missed us.

At our meeting I brought up having an 83rd Infantry Division emblem and plaque in the museum at Arlington Cemetery. Wilson brought up the subject at the meeting in Knoxville. Needless to say, both times the subject was brought up it was not well received. I cannot understand why the 83rd Infantry Division members are not in favor of it. I personally think it would be a great honor and would be there for people to see long after we are all deceased.

Our fall meeting was hosted by Nora Lee and Cecil Walters, Imogene and Herschel McIntosh. Cecil, Nora Lee, their daughter, grandchildren, niece and her husband or a friend entertained us Saturday afternoon with their clogging. We all enjoyed watching them.

Alberta Richmond had her 39th birthday. I'm only kidding, Alberta, but you are holding up beautifully whatever age. We went to Imogene and Herschell McIntosh's lovely home on Sunday for more togetherness. We had a delicious buffet before we started back to our homes.

The Kentucky Chapter had their meeting and Christmas party at King's Island, Cincinnati, Ohio. Pearl Derickson will write about it as Wilson and I went to Gatlinburg, Tennessee for the Dixie Chapter meeting and Christmas Party.

Gatlinburg was decorated beautifully for Christmas. They had Carolers, Festival of Trees, Yule log burning and an Electrical Parade at night. There were over ninety people in attendance. It was great being with the Chapter members, wives and friends. They had an open bar for three days. The banquet was Saturday night with a delicious prime rib dinner followed by a dance. The Walters and McIntosh's were also at the Christmas gathering. The McIntosh's had two guests and we had a guest, Pauline Reed, from Mountain City, Georgia. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus were at the banquet and the true spirit of Christmas was all around us. We had a great time.

We did a lot of shopping in Gatlinburg, ate several times at Burning Bush and once at Open Hearth, listened to the Carolers, saw the Festival of Trees, watched the Parade and went to Christus Gardens, an inspiring portrayal of the Life of Christ.

Sorry to report Wilson Day had a heart attack on Monday, December 8th and is in the hospital. He is stabilized and is doing okay. Arthur Doggett will go into the hospital on Monday December 15th for heart surgery. They competed in the leg contest several years ago at the Pines and now it is their hearts. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

That is it folks. We wish you Happy Holidays. **Vi. Day**

## WE ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE !!!

The Mayor of Saint-Hilaire-Petitville, Carentan, France has been corresponding with Jules Desgain (Pittsburgh Chapter) who visited Normandy two summers ago when the 40th Anniversary of D-Day was celebrated.

Jules took the photo shown here of the "PLACE of the 83rd DIVISION" sign. It is a square in Saint-Hilaire to be named in honor of men of the 83rd Infantry Division who helped liberate these forever grateful people.

The following letter, translated into English, is an open invitation from Mayor L. Lerond to all 83rd veterans who may be interested in joining in the celebration ceremonies to dedicate "83rd DIVISION SQUARE" on June 6, 1987.-----:

October 17, 1986

Dear Sir, (Jules Desgain)

I was very interested in reading your letter dated August 28th. I didn't reply sooner because I wanted to

read it to my Town Councilors, and the meeting was scheduled for October 3rd.

The Council and I have decided to organize a friendly celebration on June 6th, 1987 when the "83rd Division Square" is dedicated.

Of course, we do hope some 83rd veterans will be interested, and we will let you know about further details in connection with the celebration a bit later.

As for the Veterans' accommodations, a lot of inhabitants would wish to welcome them at their home if they would like to.

We'll book rooms in a hotel for those who would prefer this sort of accommodation. The main thing, at the moment, is for you not to forget this date. June 6th, 1987.

Of course, if you want to, you can stay here for a few days and visit the area.

Please, will you pass this letter on to the Veterans interested in attending. I'm looking forward to meeting you again.

Friendly regards,  
L. Lerond, Mayor

If you wish, Mayor Lerond may be contacted directly for additional information at the following address:

**Mr. L. Lerond, Mayor  
Saint-Hilaire-Petitville  
50500 Carentan, France**

Jules Desgain, at this time, is planning to be there but does not wish to take any responsibility to arrange or set up a group tour. Nevertheless, Jules will be happy to pass along any information he may have about the dedication. His address is: Jules P. Desgain, 117 Swale Drive, Verona, Pa., 15147

## Frankly Speaking

Due to the V.F.W. National Convention being held at the same time as the 83rd, I was unable to attend our reunion held in Knoxville, Tennessee. Most years this happens but we have enjoyed the 25 or so that we have attended.

Received a nice report from John Daum and he states that everyone attending had a great time. Those attending from Company "D" were John Daum, Frank Jackson, Lacy Satterfield, Paul Schick, George Tangalas and Harold Felton. Also Howard E. Brown, Bernard Rosenberg, Harold Groff and John Dickens.

Received a letter a few weeks ago from Rudy Vick to tell me that Marvin had passed away on July 4th. She said he had been really sick since March and he died from a brain tumor. Vick and I were #1 and #2 gunners in the fourth squad, mortars. We send our condolences to the Vick family.

While attending the V.F.W. Convention in Minnesota I called and had a 83rd reunion with an old buddy who went through basics with me in Texas, the Ski troops in Wisconsin and Michigan. Company "A" and Company "D", 330th Infantry at Atterbury and Breckenridge. Norman Ffelsted. Every one remembers him as a punjab. We had a long talk and he hasn't changed a bit, only a little older.

It was real nice to hear from Steve Ferko. He and I used to write real often but over the years we got away from it. He was asking about Francis (Slim) Barnum. If anyone knows anything about him let me or Steve know. The little short guy he was asking about, I believe was Charles Owings. Charley passed away several years ago.

This is all the news I have at this time. If you have any news you want passed on send it to me and I will make every effort to get it sent on.

Yours truly,

**John Walker  
Company "D"**

## Dear Buddy:

As you will find out in the next Thunderbolt, I didn't get a Co. "D" article in for this quarter. I have heard from several over the past few weeks, which prompts this letter to you.

I have heard from Alfred Custeau and Clarence Zimmerman through Larry Redmond, also a nice note from Lewis Jones. Mrs. Claude Dodd wrote and said that Claude was doing fine and that he wished great success with the reunion. Capt. Fritts says "Hello" and sends his regards.

Lt. Harold Felton sends best wishes to all of his Co. "D" buddies and stated he and Mrs. Felton were hoping to be in Knoxville for the reunion. Received a nice note from Bernie "Rosie" Rosenberg and he sends his regards to everyone. I got a nice long letter from Ben Herr who lives here in Indiana, this is the first I've heard of him in over 40 years. He stated he had recently talked to Capt. Fritts while in Dallas, Texas.

Other good ole Co. "D" men I've heard from in recent weeks are Paul Smith, Howard Scheirner, John Daum, Lt. O'Malley, Lt. Robert Harrell, Ted Gurgol, James Fairfield, Lt. George Tangles, Johnnie Ball and Paul Schick.

Yesterday, I received a short note from Lt. Felix Marra

who sends his best and states that he will not attend the reunion.

These announcements I have saved for last. Donald Crouse, deceased as of Oct. 22, 1985. A letter from Mrs. Marvin Vick, my ole side kick on the mortar has a brain tumor and that he wishes he could hear from some old friends. Why not send him a get well card upon receipt of this letter. I know he would be glad to hear from you.

As for my self, Ruth and I are trying to make plans for the reunion, at least the tail end of it as we have to attend the V.F.W. Convention in Minn. If we don't make it some of you who attend send me the names and info of who attends.

I still would like to see a Co. "D" reunion here in Indpls. next year, either in July or Sept. So many things have changed and you would not know Camp Atterbury. I am here and can arrange it for everyone that wishes to come back to Indpls. We could hold it during the middle of the week and you would have the weekends for travel. Think about it and let me know of your thinking. It would be an enjoyable outing for all.

Believe me to be your buddy,

**John Walker, Jr.**

## 323rd Report

This report is the last of 1986. It was a successful year for me getting to find two men in Virginia from Hq. Battery - Dustin Starbuck and William Hopcroft. However, we had lost Faye Davis, Romeo Maynard, Chester Żubek and Victor Bravman.

Orlo Hoover told me that he and his wife visited with Sgt. Siulmann in Ellsworth, Wi. Orlo said they had a marvelous time.

Buck Taylor wrote me a nice letter and wanted to be remembered to all. Tom Houlette also wrote me which I appreciated very much.

Alvis Waldrep is doing all right deep in the heart of Texas. His young wife is very good at keeping in touch.

Erwin Erhardt came to Boston on a surprise visit to me in September. His son Larry came to New England so Erwin came along for the ride. We had a few days together. We went to Rhode Island and had an enjoyable evening with George Connors and Americo George. The next night we went to George Polites house in Dracut, Ma. George called Bill Metilous to come over to make 5 of us.. Polites showed us a few card tricks and a share of "tea". Boy! did the night go by fast for us. It was really like the good old days. Polites wanted us to stay over but we decided to head home. George Connors said, 40 odd years ago would you think the three of us would be traveling on a Super Highway together, in the dark and Tynan with NO MACHINE GUN in the wee hours of the morning. It was really a night of laughs.

Eddie McCouch had a heart attack and when he came home his wife Joyce went back to the hospital. At this writing they are both home recuperating and doing much better now.

Bill and Lois Shaner are certainly doing a lot of traveling. I can't keep up with them. They are certainly enjoying their retirement.

I am sorry to report that Harry Herman of a Battery passed away since the last issue of the Thunderbolt. Condolences to his wife Stella and his family. Harry will be missed by us all.

That's it for now,

**Amby Tynan  
323rd F. A. Bn.**

# Cleveland Chapter

## Hello Buddies:

We here in Cleveland hope you all enjoyed the Holidays and are surviving the bitter chill of winter, (they do get more unbearable don't they?) Hank Treziack's lady friend just had a triple by-pass. You hear of more women being afflicted with this problem. Marie is coming along fine as reported to me by Hank, so we're all happy for her, and hope that she can attend our annual Christmas party.



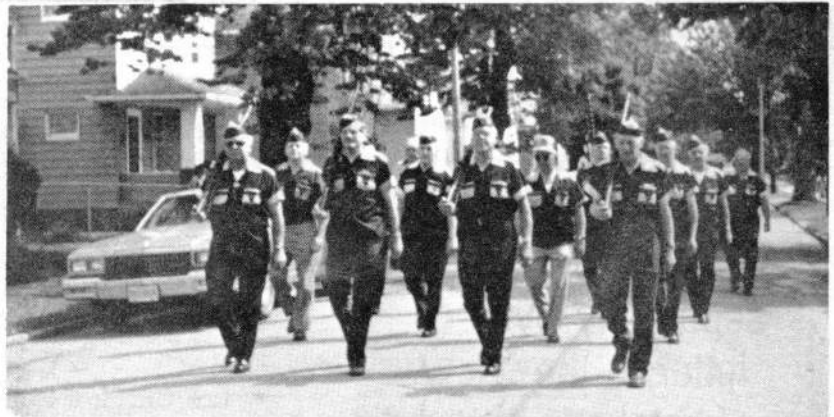
Walt and Mary Meczka are in California visiting their son and their grandson. They'll be gone all month.

The Szubski's (spelled right, Bob. After 30 years or so I should know how to spell it,) will be celebrating their 40th Anniversary in January. It's a big surprise for them, so by the time January rolls around this won't screw up the affair.

We are holding meetings in another place now. They charge us \$25.00 per meeting and leave the place clean, a good deal. The last place was a V.F.W. hall and they kept going out of our range in the price, so they were told to shove it.

All in all, we are in good shape, nobody has come to me with any news. Al Lacinske's wife is coming along, we hope to see her for the Christmas Party. Rollie Warner and I have to take charge of the next meeting's food and refreshments, (where can we pick up some "K" rations? a novel idea, "Ha Ha"!)

I'm not too worried about the food, this crowd is real easy to please, never heard a complaint yet. Where can you get fed along with refreshments for \$3.00 a head?



Bob, here are a few pictures of our Memorial Day Parade. If you think it is too late don't print them. We just received them from the guy that took them. The guys look pretty good, in fact, we made the Parade as the other guys are leaving this world too soon. Like I keep saying, time waits for no one, so take care of yourselves and God Bless!!

Al Uridel "CN" 329th

*P.S. Here are a couple of goodies: You know you're getting old when--Dialing a long distance wears you out. You just can't stand people who are intolerant. A fortune teller offers to ready your face. You begin to outlive enthusiasm.*



# 83rd Division

The 83rd Infantry Division Association Incorporated was formed by three men (all residents of the District of Columbia and Citizens of the United States). They are Alan F.S. Mackenzie, Gurney S. Jaynes, and Daniel G. Hagman. This organization's birth date was in 1946 and is having it's 41th Reunion in Charleston, WV August 20, 21, 22, 1987.

The 83rd Infantry Division Association holds a reunion every year at different locations through the United States. By doing this it allows more men to have the opportunity to attend regularly. Now we are finding that our attendance is growing larger and larger since we have more fellows retiring and less family responsibilities. It is a wonderful sight

and feeling to see these men meet up with old buddies they haven't seen since they were discharged. You can also make a lot of new friends that helped make the Division have the outstanding record it owns. From the time it landed on the Omaha Beech and Utah Beaches through Normandy, Ardennes, Brittany, Rhineland and Central Europe where we ended up 40 to 50 miles short of Berlin to wait for the RUssians to join us at the Elbe River.

Now we would like you members out there to take this page from your book to the editor of your local newspaper or broadcasting facilities in your vicinity. That way we can pass the information about our reunion on to those 83rd men who do not know about this organization. They may wish to join our organization or go to a reunion to meet a buddy they haven't seen for a long time.

We would like to thank you in advance for doing this and for helping to make the 83rd Association even greater.

Please send any request for information to:

•**Robert Derickson**, National Secretary & Treasurer, National Headquarters, 83rd Infantry Division Association, 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, OH 45013

or

•**Stanley Bielen**, Executive Board Chairman, 83rd Infantry Division Association, 71 Glenwood Terrace, Fords, New Jersey 08863

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*I understand this reservation will not be held for me after 6 p.m. unless checked below.*

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## New England Chapter News

**Hi you all:**

We of the New England Chapter hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope the New 1987 will be good to you.



*Boy is this food good!*

First of all I would like to report on our two good buddies, Lou Ross and John Donahue. Lou was operated on and he came out of it very well and he is now home and it will be a long time before he will be able to pick up a saw and hammer again. But the main



*Smile, Mike!*

thing is that he is going to have to take it one day at a time. Lou we are all behind you so take it slow. If any of you "A" 322nd F.A. boys would like to send Lou a card and cheer him up do so. His address is: Lou Ross, 16 Brook Road, Lynn, Massachusetts 01902.



*No, you take him!*

Also our good Buddy, Ex-President, John Donahue is coming along slow due to a heart operation, so you buddies of 1st Bn. Hq. Co. 329th A.T., would like to drop John a card at 4 Chadwick Road, Burlington, Massachusetts 01803. John can't go too far due to his condition and it would make him a little happy. Thanks.



*Cheers to you all...*

Well, on the good side now. When I retired from the Post Office as a letter carrier I thought that I would have all the time in the world to do things. Well not so. The days just are not long enough. It has been go, go, go and every retired person that I have talked to say the same thing. Hey, let's slow down. Ha! Ha! Ha!

Just got through talking to Dutchy and Helen Smith and they just got back from a little trip to Los Angeles, California, and Disneyland. They also made a special stop in Las Vegas for four days. They visited Hoover Dam and Dutchy said that it is some-



thing to see, just out of this world. Oh yes, they visited the machines also, but Helen said she just can't make those one arm bandits go her way. Ho! Helen just have a little patience. They will some day. Dutchy had to keep Helen in quarters all night. Oh! Boy, what a good husband.



*What are you thinking of John?*

Jim and Georgia Emonouil have sold their home in Chelmsford, and have moved to Florida. We will miss them at our Christmas party. Also, Karl Burkhard was operated on and had his gall bladder removed. He is coming along fine, just can't keep a good man down for long. We are all behind you,



*Mouse Singing "God Bless America."*

Karl.

Our Christmas Party returns are coming in great. It will be on December 6 at the Marriot in Providence, Rhode Island. Thanks, Jim and Dot Brennan for setting it all up. As of the last count we will have over

thirty-one people at our Christmas Party.

Just received a letter from Ann and Al Tartaglia from Johnston, Rhode Island. They spent a week in Florida and they had a ball. Temperature was in the 70-80--86 every day. When they got home in Rhode Island it was cold. While in Florida they drove to Spring Hill to visit Mike and Nina Pettiti for a couple of days and they also visited with Jim and Georgia



*Our New England Chapter strong man.*

Emonouil and Charlie and Ann Halligan. They also have beautiful homes. Al said that Mike is trying to get him to move to Florida. It's not a bad thought, he said. They will think about it. It is a hard decision to make right now.

Well, this is it people for now.  
*Your buddy always,*

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



*Get together at Al. Tartaglie's house in R.I.*

## Philadelphia Chapter News



*John Piscitelli reading prayers, honoring our deceased 83rd buddies on Memorial Day.*



*Dave Rosenberg lighting candle for 83rd buddies.*



*Lighting candles for 83rd buddies in front of Lou Volpi's Restaurant.*

### Dear Buddies:

At our October 18th meeting a new slate of officers were voted in for the coming two years 1987 and 1988. They are as follows: President: Norm Schuster; Vice President: George Pletcher; Secretary: Lou Volpi; Treasurer: Al Belevedere; Chaplain: John Piscitelli; Sgts. at Arms: Charles Bonafiglia, Lester Hauck and Carl Dalhroos.

Discussion of a bus for Charleston, West Virginia in 1987. This was due to old age and a lot of us can't drive too much any more.

In lieu of our November 16th meeting our gang with our lovely wives made for the New town square Restaurant and Club with our lown private room.

A beautiful plaque was given to Bill Pugh for his devotion for his service as past president. A silver tray was given to yours truly, John T. Piscitelli for 25 years as chaplain of our Greater Philadelphia Chapter. My wife Jody and I thank all our members and wives. May we with God's help have 25 more years into the future.

Jody and I thank each and every one for almost 8 months out of 12 that I was in the hospital. For all the get well cards, mass cards and gifts. Also for all the sympathy cards that were sent to my family.

You're all buddies and it was the thought and love and comradeship that counted.

All our love,

**John and Jody Piscitelli**

On December 14, 1986, our chapter members went all out to make it one of our greatest Christmas Parties. The Schuster's donated a tree, and worked into the late hours with Lou and Lucy Volpi and Jim Prentice to decorate the tree and our Chapter home.

Members who were present were Lou and Lucy Volpi, Norm and Lorraine Schuster, George and Jean Pletcher, John and Josie Piscitelli, Bea Chavanne, Al and Ann Belevedere, Jim Prentice and Sally, Harry and Marie Stevenson, Bookie Mendelson and Josephine and their friends, Ray and Rose, Charles and Ann Bonefiglia, Bill and Virginia Pugh, John Miklos and Mrs. John and Margaret Daum, Harry Kirby and Phyliss. Our quartet, considered one of the best in our 83rd Division consisted of our buddies, Norm Schuster, Lou Volpi, Harry Stevenson, Al Belevedere. Music and Arrangements supplied by John Daum, and Harry Kirby, orchestration and leadership by George Pletcher. A great time was had by all. Santa Claus (Harry Stevenson) had his picture taken with all the women individually.

Our dinner catered by Lou and Lucy Volpi-prime rib with all the trimmings. Our lovely wives supplied the sweet table and other goodies. God bless them one and all.

Our 50-50 winner of \$105.00 is a Philadelphia Chapter member Edward Williams.

*Well folks, God willing see you all in West Virginia.*

## CO. "H" 330th INF.

### HELLO BUDDIES:

Once again I am here to say hello to all the men of Co. "H" 330th, the best Unit in the entire 83rd Division. I say this with a true feeling that our Company was second to none. We had the greatest Company Commander and the best staff of Officers of any Company, along with that we had the greatest Non-Coms in the Division. I know that I may get repercussions for making such statements, but we all know that the truth hurts quiet often.

Well Buddies, it is almost impossible to believe that it has been about four months since our Reunion. We are lucky to have such dedicated men as we have to put on such great Reunions. It is getting to a point that it is almost impossible to say which was our best Reunion. In my book, every one of them was great. Granted several years back our Association was having a recession and we had to look forward to a greater profit from a Reunion, thereby making it harder for the Reunion Committee to be able to give us as much as we get at our Reunions to-day.

To the men of Company "H" 330th, I would like to ask each and every one of you to try and locate at least one Buddy and try talking him into becoming a Member and also attending a Reunion. Time is flying by for all of us, let us take advantage of it and try to be at as many more Reunions as we can. I am still asking for names and addresses of men that were in Co. "H" so that I can update my mailing list and try to sell them on becoming an active Member. If you have any names and addresses, please send them to me, if I already have them, I will still appreciate your effort.

In behalf of my wife Mary and myself, we wish to extend our Holiday Greetings to you and your Families. May God Bless You All.

Your buddy

**Sgt. Redmond**

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## *The West Virginia Report*

The West Virginia Chapter Meeting was held on Sunday, December 7th at The Up Towner Inn in Parkersburg, with all the makings of a Christmas Party and an exchange of gifts. We had a very good attendance.

A letter was read by John Hobbs from Stan Bielen about his trip to West Virginia and the meeting of the Executive Board in Charleston on November 7th and 8th. We (the West Virginia Chapter) wish to thank the Executive Board for a job well done and hope they enjoyed their stay in Charleston.

We elected to make a donation to The West Virginia Veterans Home for the needy Veterans Christmas Funds. We are looking forward to seeing all of you in Charleston, West Virginia in 1987.

Sincerely,

**Don W. Pettry**  
"B" 323 F.A.

## Warren Chapter News

By the time this article appears in the Thunderbolt, the Holiday Season will be over and old man winter will have a foothold in many of our cities. Some of our members are already making plans to go South, but most of us are getting our snow blowers in running order and the old snow shovels repaired.

At this writing we all seem to be in pretty good health, and there have been no reports of anyone on sick call, so we are thankful for that. We wish to extend our prayers for speedy recoveries to all association family members, who are ill, at home, or in hospitals.

Congratulations to George and Louise Bellay on the marriage of two of their beautiful daughters. Debbie married Bobby Handley on November 8th and Kathleen married Todd Klinedinst on November 22nd.

**MEETINGS:** Our September meeting was held at Oak Hills Pavilion and Golf Course. The men played golf in the morning followed by our Annual "Super" Steak Fry, barbecued to each persons taste by our favorite chefs-George Bellay and Charlie Tomazin. It was also the month for election of new officers for 1987, as follows:

President, Ray Voracek; Vice President, George Bellay; Secretary-Treas., Mike Skovran.

President Voracek immediately appointed Charlie Tomazin to chairman of the Good and Welfare Committee, replacing John Teringo who passed away in June. John had handled this job for about 30 years.

**OCTOBER MEETING:** This was our final outdoor shindig held again at Oak Hills and we were blessed with nice weather for our golf day and picnic, followed by our usual card game. Warren Chapter members congratulated George Bellay and his committee for doing a superb job supervising our summer activities.

**NOVEMBER MEETING:** John and Helen Caparanis were our gracious hosts for our first indoor meeting of the fall. The "Short" meeting was conducted between halves of the Browns' football game and poor Helen had to wait until after the game to serve us delicious refreshments. It's nice that we have such understanding wives.

That winds up our activities to date, so once again from all of us to all of you--Good Luck, Good Health and Happiness for 1987.

**Lee Titus**

Chapter Reporter

## New Jersey Chapter

The Chapter is growing because we really enjoy the meetings. We have a few drinks, usually something to eat and plenty of laughs. Sometimes we are treated to a great pizza by Ted Guzek who picks them up on his way to the meeting.

There is a new enthusiasm to our chapter. It's just great to be a part of it. We welcome those of you who have not joined us, be a part of the resurgents of a once great chapter. We can make it happen again. Come enjoy good times with the wonderful people who belong.

To the wives of those men who are reluctant to join us. I would like you to encour-



age your spouse to attend our meetings. You are just as much a part of the chapter as your husband, don't let him deny you the enjoyment of belonging too. If anyone can build this chapter to where it should be, it is you ladies.

The Chapter held an affair at the Wallington Exchange in Wallington, N.J. last October 5th. Charlie and Mary Sihlanick along with daughter Linda were the hosts. Our congratulations and thanks for a great job. The club features a "Slovak Feast". There was a 10 course meal along with eastern European entertainment. Along with this article I am sending along some pictures to give you an idea of what went on. Everyone



had such a marvelous time that we decided to have our Christmas Party there. Fred and Addie Rein are the hosts for this party which was held December 7th.

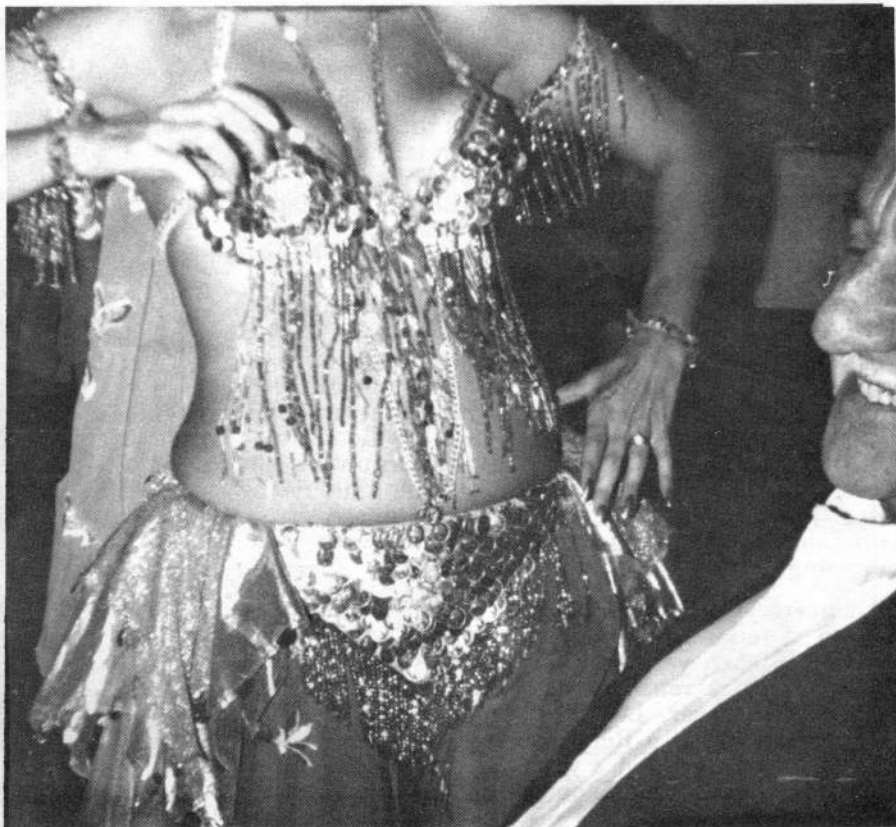
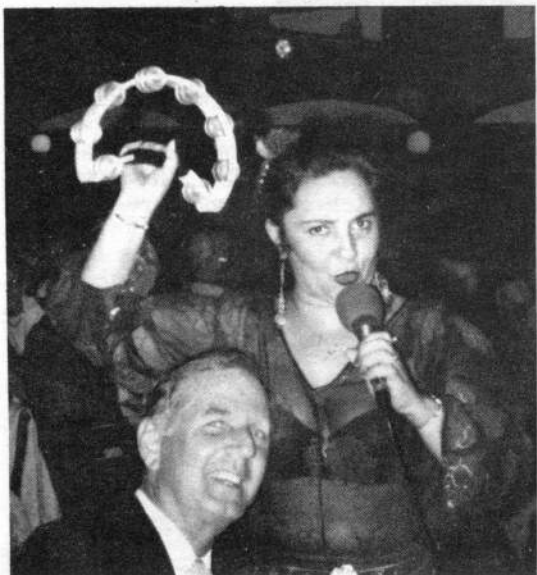
In the last issue of the Thunderbolt I failed to mention Al and Ruth Bensimon attending the reunion. I apologize, especially after the wonderful visit to your home on Long Beach Island. Fred and Addie Rein along with Fran and I enjoyed being with you. Though Al and I were the only ones to enjoy the raw clams, which incidently were caught by the "Clam Digger" himself, as Fred just watched with a squeamish look on his face. The girls wouldn't partake either. They don't know what they are miss-



ing, right, Al?

That's it for now, God Bless you all.

**Stan Bielen,  
1st Bn, Hdqs. 331**



**Pictures on page 16** are of the New Jersey Chapter Dinner in October.

**Above, right,** at the Chapter Dinner, "Could Joe Deperi be sleeping?"

**Above left,** also at the Chapter Dinner, "Better than a pillow."

**At the right:** New Jersey Chapter Christmas party, 1986.

### **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**HELLO BUDDIES:**

Here it is time again to get our letters in for publication in the next Issue of "THE THUNDERBOLT." As time goes on, the "THUNDERBOLT" becomes more and more important to us. As we read through it and learn of many of our Buddies enjoying good health and happiness, we also have to with those less fortunate, who are having poor health problems and also of the deaths of many of our Buddies.

Having taken an active part in the Association for as many years as I have, I often sit here thinking of some of our Members of the past who were quite active in the Association, and were it not for many of

them we would not have the great Association that we have. I only wish that we had enough space in one of our issues to give a brief summary of some of them, and the active part they took when we were facing hard times in trying to keep this Association going.

Many of you are men who have joined in later years, several of you are now taking an active part, which is what we need to keep being a successful Organization. Over the years I have listened to a lot of criticism as well as commendations. I dare say that there have been times when the criticism has overridden the commendations. To those who are carrying a chip on their shoulder, let us take time out and give thought to the great work that has been done. We have had Reunions that have been out of

this world, the Reunion Committees have slaved hard to try and make it a perfect Reunion for you, but somewhere along the line there comes a little slip up, and right away the vultures are ready to spring. I have found that the greatest critics that we have in the Association are men who never took an active part, nor did they ever assume any responsibility. It used to be that to have a successful Reunion, it had to be in a big City, in a big Hotel and close to Shopping Areas and a large Hospitality where the Whiskey and Beer flowed like water, but those days are over. To-day we want a Reunion where we are all close together, granted we still want a nice Hospitality Room, but as you notice, there is less liquid refreshment and more sitting around and being to-gether. I can remember the days when both the men and women would remain in the Hospitality Room until the wee hours of the morning, but as you notice it is almost as if there is a curfew. By midnight, if you are still up, you are one of the few. I suppose that it is because we are all getting older, and night life is becoming a thing of the past.

I sincerely hope that we can continue the great feeling of fellowship that we are enjoying now. As you know, each year when we attend the Reunion, the list that is read at the Memorial Service gets longer and longer. Let us give this some thought when we arrive at a Reunion and greet one another with a handshake and a warm welcome. None of us know if our name will be on that list next year, so let us enjoy the friendship of one another as long as we can. I can remember back in the days when our Secretary-Treasurer got up to read his Treasurers Report and it sounded more like my personal Bank Statement than the report of a great Association like ours. There were more zeros to the account than there were large numbers. I can remember the days when there was less than five hundred dollars in the Treasury at Reunion time. I am sure that there are some of you who can agree with me.

We have come a long way over the years, let us all pitch in and do our part to help, first let us all check and make sure that we are a paid up Member, then let us all try to get at least one new Member to help keep our Association growing. For each man who is Deceased we need at least two new Members, because as we well know, we are all getting older, we need men who have never been Members as well as some of the dropouts.

This year I will not be able to be as active on the Committee as I have been in the past as my Wife has been seriously ill, and I have to devote a lot of my time to helping her. If and when you do get a letter, please respond as soon as possible, help prevent so many follow up letters, this is additional work and expense. Maybe we do start soliciting at the beginning of the year and the Reunion isn't until August, but we need the money coming in to help with the Reunion planning. When you take an ad, you are not taking it for me, you are taking it for the Association. The Reunion Chapters need your support, you can lend that support by your generosity in taking an ad. Let us all remember, this Association belongs to all of its Members, not just a few.

Although this issue will reach you after the Holidays, in behalf of Mary and I, we wish you all a Happy Holiday Season.

**Larry Redmond**

## Two photos submitted by Bill Nickell

**Dear Bob:**

I am enclosing two (2) pictures I would like you to put in the Thunderbolt paper.

On September 25, this year, 42 years after I arrived in Luxembourg (on my birthday) I took my sons, Dennis and Glen back for a visit.

We visited my old fox holes in Herborn, Mompack, and Givenick and spent a wonderful very busy week with the Kohn family as our host and hostess in Mersch.

The top picture are from left to right (at Patton's Grave) Glen, Dennis and Bill Nickell. The lower one is Camille Kohn, Erica Kohn, Henry Tuerweiler and Bill Nickell at the airport.

Thank you and have a Happy Holiday.

Sincerely,

**Bill Nickell**



## Freedom, Liberty Are Worth Fight, Horn Says

"This is the land where freedom and liberty are a way of life, and they are worth fighting for," guest speaker Rev. Walton Horn told a crowd of several hundred at Memorial Day rites at Menlo Park in Perkasio, hosted by Hartzell-Crouthamel Post 280 of Perkasio.

Horn, a retired Lutheran minister, was born and raised in Perkasio. A Navy veteran of World War II, he has never missed a Memorial Day program in the borough.

Horn defined freedom and liberty and said they are our heritage and a right for every American. "But they also have a reverse side-responsibility."

Freedom is like a campfire that needs constant attention and liberty is our torch, he said, adding, "sometimes that requires sweat and blood."

Horn paid tribute to those men and women who fought to keep the fires burning for freedom and liberty. "Let us remember and continue to honor our fallen comrades, the heroes who passed unto us the freedom and liberty we all enjoy. And let us pass these wonderful gifts onto our children."

"We must remember the battle is never finally won. It's an on-going struggle and will be as long as we demand freedom. Let us resolve to keep this nation the way it was kept for us-the land of the free and the home of the brave," he said.

Horn was joined by a number of other participants in the annual Memorial Day rites which are rotated between Perkasio and Sellersville.

Others taking part included the Rev. John H. Ehrhart, Caroline Funk, president of the Hartzell-Crouthamel auxiliary, Pat Donohue, commander of the Nase-Kraft Post 255, American Legion of Sellersville, Elaine Schoen, Nase-Kraft auxiliary president, and State Rep. Paul I. Clymer, R-145th District.

The Pennridge High School Band, under the direction of William Brosius, entertained. It was joined in the preceding mile-long parade by fire company apparatus from units throughout the Pennridge area, Scouts and military units including the motor equipment of the Pennsylvania National Guard from the Sellersville Armory.

Former Pennridge band director Chet Acaley was presented a plaque for his efforts in community service events.

The Memorial Day program was concluded by the placing of wreaths, memorial prayer and gun salute to the dead before a three-plane fly-over by the Upper



*As William Palmer plays Taps, Pennridge guest speaker Rev. Walton Horn and Post 280 Commander Norman Schuster salute their fallen comrades at Monday's rites in Menlo Park.*

Bucks Civil Air Patrol Squadron. William Palmer performed the call to colors and taps on the trumpet.

The war dead were honored with wreaths at the Perkasio memorial on Monday. From left to right are: Winfred Kulp of Hartzell-Crouthamel Post 280 and Auxiliary President Mrs. Caroline Funk, Nase-Kraft Auxiliary President Elaine Schoen and Post 255 Commander Pat Donohue.

## Area Veteran Aided Legend of Sgt. York

By Dave Condren

Like thousands of other doughboys, Army Private First Class John Drozdowski was relieved when his unit got the word that World War I had ended. But the timing could have been better.

Drozdowski's unit, the 83rd Infantry, had been fighting in France's Argonne Forest for 136 consecutive days. Finally, at 3 a.m. on Nov. 11, 1918, they were relieved.

"At 11 a.m. was the armistice," Drozdowski said. "The (French) people were trying to tell us the war was over. We couldn't understand them. When we found out we got mad."

One of a rapidly dwindling number of World War I veterans who are still around to celebrate today's Veterans Day observance, the 91-year-old Drozdowski sat in his apartment in the city's Black Rock sec-

tion Monday, recalling the end of that first great war.

Despite his years, he remembers in great detail his long weeks in the muddy, front-line trenches and many of the men who fought and died beside him.

One of the other survivors was Sgt. Alvin C. York, the Tennessee backwoodsman who emerged as the greatest hero of the war.

"He was my corporal," said Drozdowski, who claims York actually got some help with one of his most celebrated exploits, the "single-handed" capture of 182 German soldiers.

"There were five of us," Drozdowski said. "We surrounded them. If they knew it was just five of us they would have killed us."

Just before their capture and the fight in which York was credited with killing 25 enemy soldiers, Drozdowski said, the corporal gave them a big pep talk.

"Boys, we're gonna die anyway," he said. "So when you pull the trigger you better hit someone."

Drozdowski said he and three other doughboys helped York capture the 182 prisoners and herd them behind the lines.

"We said he could have the credit. They wanted a big hero," he said.

Drozdowski also gained first-hand knowledge of York's legendary marksmanship.

"He would say to smoke a cigarette. Make it this short, or this short or this short," he said, measuring an imaginary cigarette butt between his thumb and index finger.

When the butt got short enough, York would shoot it out of the smoker's mouth, including his own, Drozdowski related.

"He was a shooter. I could get nine bulls-eyes out of 10. He could get 100 out of 100," he said.

Drozdowski, whose bravery won him a Silver Star for gallantry in the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne campaigns, recalled that there were only 12 survivors among the 250 men with whom he went into combat.

"They were sending replacements who had been in the Army for three weeks or a month. They weren't ready for the front lines," he said. "When there was shelling, they would run around. We would tell them to get down. A lot got killed who did not need to."

In one instance, he said, he carried his captain back to a medical unit after the officer lost one leg and had the other badly shot up.

A survivor of several gas attacks, one of which left a spot on one of his lungs, Drozdowski said that at the time he refused to go for medical treatment. It was not until several years later that he learned there had been permanent damage, he said.

He was not even aware of his closest brush with death until his pants fell down, Drozdowski said.

"I pulled them up and they fell down again," he related.

When he checked to find out what was causing the problem, he discovered a bullet had gone through his coat and severed his belt without ever touching him.

A member of the American Legion since 1919, Drozdowski belongs to Niagara Frontier Post 1041 at 533 Amherst St., but is unable to attend unit meetings unless someone offers him a ride.

Another of the area's surviving World War I vets, Michael McCormack of Elma, had a slightly less colorful military career.

McCormack, who will be honored during a Veterans Day dinner this evening in the Harvey D. Morin VFW Post in West Seneca, said he was on a ship headed for France when it was diverted to Haiti.

"They heard things were going pretty good (in Europe) so instead they sent us to Port Au Prince," related the 86-year-old Marine Corps veteran. "They were having a revolution there every six months," he added.

A retired railroad switchman, McCormack who later built his own house in Elma and raised 13 children there, did not seem to be terribly disappointed that he was in Haiti instead of France on the first Armistice Day 68 years ago.

John J. Glegota Jr., director of the Erie County Veterans Service office, said that as of last March, the United States had 28 million veterans, including 24 million who have served during war-time. The World War I veterans, he said, numbered fewer than 200,000 and were reported to be "dying at a rate of nine per hour."



John Drozdowski, 91, recalls World War I



# WW II Forty Years later: Two Vets' Stories

*"Shorty" Schuster: Through  
Hell With The 83rd*

By RON KOHL

War may be hell, but at least for Norman "Shorty" Schuster of Sellersville, it was a collective hell, the kind not to be endured alone. Schuster may have his purple heart, his silver and bronze stars and his souvenirs. He's rather not talk about the, though.

But get to talking about his old outfit - the 83rd Division, 331st Infantry Regiment - and he'll go on for hours. After 40 years, his recollections of war are not so much about individual exploits as they are of group involvement.

And his group was heavily involved, to be sure.

From the time the 83rd landed on Omaha Beach in Normandy on June 16, 1944, (10 days after D-Day) until meeting up with the Russians near the Elbe River just a few days before VE-Day, Schuster's unit was in contact with the enemy for 270 days. They captured 82,146 German troops during that time, destroyed 480 enemy tanks, 61 airplanes, 29 supply trains and 966 artillery pieces. They also earned battle stars on five different occasions.

They fought in the Normandy hedgerows against the crack defenders of Fortress Europa. "We had just come out of the bullpen, and they had been in the game a long time," Schuster recalls. When Patton led the breakthrough through France, the 83rd was right there, skirting around Paris before racing into Luxembourg. When the 101st Airborne Division was surrounded at Bastogne in 1944's end, the 83rd had its part at the Battle of the Bulge, cutting off German supply routes. When the Panzer push through the Ardennes had finally been pushed back, it was the 83rd that swept through 213 miles of Germany in just 13 days before pulling up to await the Russian advance. And it was the 83rd that fought one of the last battles of the European Theater, at Steckby Forest.

They may have started as a green unit, but by war's end, the 83rd was well-blooded, and well-bloodied. More than 15,000 of its troops had wound up as casualties of one sort or another - more than two-thirds of the unit's overall strength back at Normandy.

So if Schuster foregoes the individual praise, you'll

have to pardon him. There were thousands more - in his division and in many others throughout Europe and Asia - that were just as deserving.

"I don't want to make it gory or glory," he stresses. "I did just what anybody else would have done. I'm no hero. I just fought, and I did it to the best of my ability. I'm just one of the fortunate ones. The guys who didn't come back - they were the real heroes."

Schuster's involvement with Post 280 of the American Legion, where he is Post Commander, is only a small part of his on-going struggle to keep the blood of his friends and comrades from having been spilled in vain. This is one average guy who wants to make sure Americans don't forget those who died on their behalf just a few years in the past.

"I made a vow that I would do my little bit in memory of the fellows that didn't come out alive," Schuster says. "And still, I've kept my vow."

Schuster is the vice president of the Philadelphia chapter of 83rd Division veterans, and that group holds meetings every month. Once a year, division-mates get together somewhere to reacquaint and remember, with each reunion's highlight being a special memorial service for division troops lost during the war. This year, the reunion - their 39th - will be held in the Catskill Mountains, and the memorial ob-

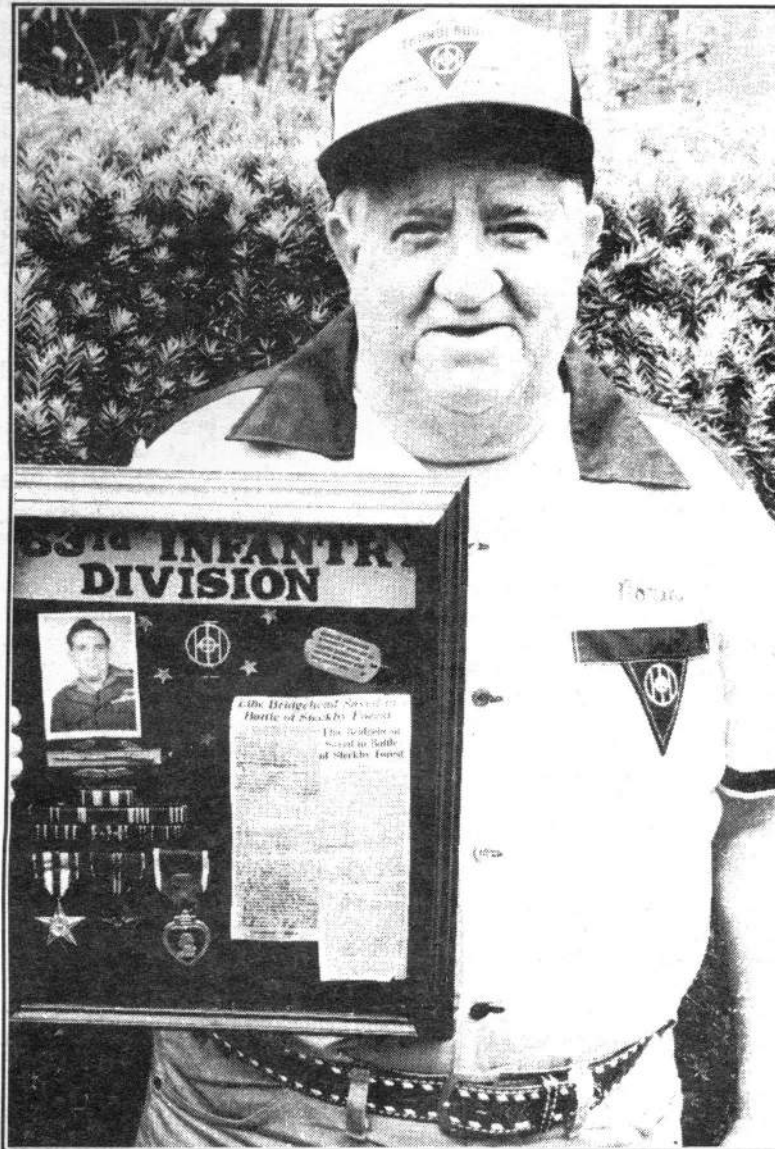
servance will take place at West Point with the cadets there.

"When we go to reunions, we have over a thousand people at each one," Schuster says. "We hash over the war. That's when all the wives leave the room."

"The memories are still fresh, but they get a little more drawn out," he continues. "But when you start talking about it, it comes right back."

Schuster was drafted on his 21st birthday in October, 1942, later training in Camp Atterburg, Indiana, in Tennessee, in Kentucky and at Camp Shanks, New York. From there, it was off to England, to Staffordshire and Wales. As Schuster recalls, his unit would have been on the Normandy beaches on June 6, had it not been for unforeseen events just a few days before. "We would have made D-Day, but we had a flood in Wales, and we lost our equipment. They just couldn't replace it by then."

By June 16th, the Allied first waves had pushed ashore and established front lines a few kilometers inland, although Omaha beach had not yet been complete-



Norman "Shorty" Schuster of Sellersville displays a few mementos from his days with the 83rd division, which fought from Normandy through war's end.

ly cleared of its battle scars. "It was a rough feeling," Schuster, then a staff sergeant, recalls of his first moments in France. "You knew there was a war going on." That was the eeriest feeling there was. HWE knew we were right there.

Although German defenses by that time had been pushed off the beaches, they hadn't been far removed. Within a few days, the 83rd relieved the 101st Airborne at Carentan, and the front was within easy reach. "It wasn't far. We marched it in a matter of one night I think," Schuster recalls. "They were still fighting for Cherbourg, and they were getting the bleep kicked out of them."

The 83rd's first contact with German troops came under the worst of conditions - with the Nazi's settled in behind hedgerows, and the Americans trying to push them out. "They had dug and planted mounds of dirt, then planted trees on top. The Germans were on one side and we were on the other. They called them Bloody Gulches. And the hedgerows were, I believe, some of the fiercest fighting of the war."

Not until July 25th, when 2500 Allied bombers shelled German defenses on the St. Lo-Periers Highway, was the 83rd able to slice through and into central France. "That was when it all broke off, and when Patton headed for us," he remembers, recalling the thrill of awakening to the sound of clouds of bombers overhead. "That was beautiful. They woke me up. I was sleeping in a German pillbox, and my squad woke me up. I heard the ground shake, and I saw the sky filled with them. It was beautiful."

Not so beautiful, though, was the sight when Schuster and company moved into what was left of St. Lo. "The town was levelled. We had to dig (German) infantrymen out of cellars. They were shell-shocked. They were nothing. We had to go in and dig them out - they were incoherent because of the bombing and shelling."

From there, there was street fighting at St. Malo, and a detour around the outskirts of Paris. German general Eister surrendered with 20,000 of his men to elements of the 83rd ("20,000 is a lot of Germans. And they made it really formal. The general wouldn't surrender to anybody less than a general," Schuster remembers), and a push into Luxembourg followed.

"It sounds good to say we went here and we went there, but we fought all the way through," Schuster says, recalling the days of relief were few and very far between. "You may have been pulled off the line for a day or two but that was about it. There was only one way to look at it, and that's that there was only one way out - that's dead. So the only reason you kept going was to stay alive."

By December, the 83rd had pushed into Germany, taking the town of Gey after concentrated Nazi defense in the Hurtgen Forest. "That was about the roughest we've seen since Normandy," Schuster says. "The Hurtgen Forest was rough. It was a helluva battle."

Christmas time saw Schuster's group just outside of Cologne, Germany, one of the furthest groups inside the Reich itself. But any hopes the troops may have had about having the war come to a quick end where shattered about then, as German panzers took advantage of snow and inclement weather to break through the Ardennes, surrounding the 101st at Bastogne, massacre-

ing American prisoners at Malmedy, and positioning for the possible recapture of Belgian ports at Antwerp. The Nazi's had infiltrated American lines using captured uniforms and vehicles, speaking fluent English and even using the right passwords.

"Our challenge was to stop them, and it was very conflicting," Schuster says. "Everybody that moved had to be questioned. And the only way to get 'em was to ask personal questions - who was Betty Grable, who was Babe Ruth. Like that."

Schuster remembers spending New Year's Eve digging in and waiting. "We had gotten word of a battle, and we knew about a German counter attack. We were put up in a sector, and we knew they were gonna hit some place, so we had to stop an attack if it came."

Eventually, the 83rd attacked into the Bulge of the German offensive, fighting constantly for 10 days and nights for just five miles of penetration before getting a chance to pull back after the brunt of the fighting had passed.

When elements of the SS slaughtered American prisoners at Malmedy, news of the massacre left other units stunned and vengeful. "After they found out that they had done that to our boys, we didn't take any prisoners, either. We were so worked up," Schuster said. "At that time, there was hatred. Hey, it was either kill or be killed."

And although German defenses were crumbling, there was still killing to be done. Even just days before Hitler's successor Admiral Karl Doenitz finally ended the thousand year Reich in early May (after just 12 years), the 83rd ran into last-ditch resistance at Tochheim in the

Steckby Forest. It was there that Schuster gained both his Purple Heart, and his Silver Star, because others were far less fortunate. "There were a lot of buddies that were killed there," he notes. "If they would have seen that one through, they would have made it."

After that, what was left of the Wehrmacht stumbled across American lines with hands raised, eager to surrender to American forces instead of the Russians. "I didn't celebrate the end of the war, because we had known the war was over days before. There was nobody firing, and they surrendered to us, because the Russians were killing them. So very German was surrendering to our troops. We used to just send them to the back lines, because we couldn't take care of them."

May brought to an end a war which saw the 83rd earn its stripes at Normandy, at Brittany, in the Ardennes, in the Rhineland, and in Central Europe. Later, Schuster would wind up in Germany once more, joining the National Guard in 1951 when hostilities in Korea and tension in Germany threatened once more.

Ever since, Schuster has done his part to remember the 3,000 plus in his division who never came back except in long wooden boxes. And while the public's memory of World War II may wane, Schuster's certainly will not. At Memorial Day, at Veteran's Day, and whenever the opportunity arises, he'll keep the remembrances alive.

"I've kept my vow," he says.



## *A message to all 83rd members....*

Anyone wishing to purchase shirts, coats, and caps may write to: Vito C. Palazzolo, 20000 Lancaster, Harper Woods, Michigan 48225 for information.

He will send you an application form.

National Lapel Pins, Bolo Ties and Necklaces  
**\$5<sup>00</sup> each**

(Postage and Handling Included) Contact the Association Office

**83rd Reunion** will be held at the Marriott Town Center in Charleston, West Virginia.

The dates are: **August 20-22-23, 1987.**

Start making your plans to attend, now!

## **DELINQUENT DUES NOTICE**

This will serve as the official notification to those of you who have not paid your dues for the year 86/87, which are due on or before August 1st, 1987.

Please refer to your 83rd membership card. If it shows August 31st, 1986, and you have not paid your dues in the last month, you are delinquent. So, respond immediately and provide the financial support that is needed for the continuity of your association.

On the other hand, if you are in such financial circumstances that you require assistance, please notify your Secretary so that a confidential notation can be placed on your record, and we will continue your membership.

Our thanks go out to all of you who responded promptly to our dues requests, and to the many of you so generously contributed additional amounts to help a buddy. It is our sincere hope that those who have not paid their dues to date, will be taking care of this in the very near future.

**Bob Derickson, Executive Secretary-Treasurer.**

## **THUNDERBOLT DEADLINES**

Deadline for ALL articles to be published in Thunderbolt must be at this office by Sept. 10; Dec. 10; March 10; and June 10.

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

**83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.**

3749 Stahlheber Road  
Hamilton, OH 45013



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OXFORD, OHIO

Charles Sihlanick                      A-322 F.A.  
2 Elizabeth Ct.  
Little Ferry, NJ 07643

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**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

NAME (please print) .....

ADDRESS .....

CITY, or TOWN & STATE .....

Company ..... Regiment ..... 83rd Division

Phone No. .... Renewal ..... New .....

Please Enclose A Check or Money Order.

**DUES \$10.00 PAYABLE TO:**

★      ★

**ROBERT DERICKSON**  
3749 Stahlheber Road  
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

OFFICE PHONE:  
513-863-2199

DATE ..... SIGNATURE .....

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# BULLETIN

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

Bob