



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 43 NO.2

Winter Issue 1988

THE 42nd ANNUAL REUNION



Hershey Factory and "Hershey Cocoa" Bushes, Hershey PA.

mark your calendar now

SEPTEMBER 8, 9 and 10

PHILLY CHAPTER WILL BE HERE TO GREET YOU

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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A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

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*Denotes Deceased



The President's Corner

Hi There 83rd Buddies:

How is everyone out there this New Year? I hope that each of you and your families had a Happy Holiday Season and I hope everyone has a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Our reunion committee is working hard and making good progress for the reunion in Hershey, Pa. in September 8-9-10 of 1988. Reservations are coming in very good so the rest of you should get yours in as soon as possible too. They are coming in so good that the people at the Hershey Lodge are amazed at how fast Our 83rd Infantry Division Association goes into action. Keep up the good work.

Our Association is still the greatest and it is up to each one of us to help keep it that way.

In closing buddies I want to wish the best to you and your families, may God bless you.

*National President
George A. Fletcher
Co. L 330th*



Reunion Chairmans Corner

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and will have a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Special Mention should be made for our Color Guards, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. The Firing Squad always does an outstanding Job. These Men give their All. Our Memorial Division Commander, Joe Macaluso, and his designated Battalion Com-manders, do a great job in leading the Body to the Memorial Site. Casey Kowalec, Our Chaplain, always does an excellent job and he is always so organized.

Our Plans for the 1988 Reunion in Hershey are set, with a few loose ends. I am sure they will be resolved as the Ads come rolling in. The

Ad Blanks are in the Thunderbolt, plus the ones I mailed to various Chapters. Please get them in early; don't wait until You receive reminders. This will determine what type of Hospitality Room we will have. Registration Forms are also in this issue of the Thunderbolt. The Hershey Lodge has already received quite a few Reservations. Get Your Reservations in early.

Travel schedules are being checked for Amtrak and U. S. Air. I received a letter from U. S. Air, stating a 35% Discount for Special Convention Fare. A Reservation Blank for U. S. Air is being included in this Issue of the Thunderbolt. So You see, men read Your Thunderbolt carefully as there is a great deal of important Forms in it concerning the Reunion. Those of You who are coming into Harrisburg by Amtrak or U. S. Air, the Hershey Lodge will provide complimentary Transportation if they are notified by You 24 hours prior to arrival. Telephone Nos. (717-533-3311 or 800-533-3131).

Please note, the "New" Tentative schedule in this Thunderbolt. Our Memorial Service will be Friday, 2:00 - 3:00 P. M. in lieu of Saturday. Hershey Park will only be open Saturday and Sunday of that week.

A Special Note for Co. K, 331st Inf; Keep sending your Booster Ads in. I understand, 12 Men of Co. K. have already sent in Reservations for Hershey. I really appreciate the cooperation that My Co. K. Buddies are giving Me and the Philadelphia Chapter.

Of course I need and appreciate the cooperation of all the Men of the 83rd Infantry Division too. Thank You in advance.

Don't forget to get Your Dues in for 1987-88, if You have not done so. Let's hit the 2,000 Mark.

*Albert Belvedere
Co. K. 331st Inf.*



Josephine Piscitelli, Anna Belvedere, Lucy Volpi

Here's hoping all of you had an enjoyable Holiday Season and the New Year will be a healthy and happy one.

I just don't know where the time goes anymore. The weeks and months seem to slip by so fast when we are Senior Citizens. Because the time does pass so quickly, please don't delay too long to send in your reservations for the Hershey Reunion to assure the accommodations you want. Reservation forms are included in this issue of the Thunderbolt. Pres. George Pletcher, Reunion Chrmn. Al Belvedere and the Philadelphia Reunion Committee are putting together a great package at a very reasonable cost. I know it is the very lowest price that could have been obtained from the Hershey management. We have 425 rooms available to us in the Lodge. Get your reservations in NOW!

Please send in ads for the Program Book too. I know you realize this additional money is almost a necessity today. With a successful Program Book, the Reunion Committee can do so much more to enhance the reunion activities.

Don't forget the \$5.00 Booster Ads! They mount up and help out more than you might think. Just as in the past, I know we can count on your support.

It has been brought to my attention that the suggested Changes and Additions to the 83rd Bylaws, which appeared in the last issue of the Thunderbolt, may have been misunderstood as Bylaws that have already been changed. These are ONLY suggestions, which may be brought up on the floor at the next annual meeting at Hershey. These suggested changes and additions are NOT to be taken lightly. There is a small, well meaning faction, who believe that the duties and authority of the Executive Board should be changed. When originally written, the 83rd Infantry Division Association Bylaws pertaining to the powers of the Executive Board, were very explicit, all-encompassing and I think they were meant to withstand the test of time-AND THEY HAVE--for more than forty years!

This past November, I called a meeting of the elected Executive Board members to primarily discuss the up-coming Cincinnati annual reunion for 1989. We are planning to have our Board Meeting there in May of 1988, when we will also finalize the Hershey Reunion for this year.

Among other matters on the agenda was Chaplain Casey Kowalec's recommendation to the Board to appoint Matthew Pintar a Chaplain to serve the 83rd with Casey. Pintar said, "It will be a privilege to serve if appointed." And we did, because we think Matt is an excellent choice to fill the vacancy created by the untimely passing of John Piscitelli. Matt Pintar is my chapter buddy and also serves as our Chaplain in the Pittsburgh Chapter.

Also discussed, additional memorials to be bestowed in memory of Sgt. Ralph Neppel, CMH by the 83rd Div. Assn. There will be more information

about this later.

The Board Meeting was in Batesville, Ind. with Sec-Treas. Bob Derickson, Judge Advocate John Raikos, Ralph Gunderson and Meadors Minick. I'm grateful to all who attended, especially Ralph and Meadors, who had to travel a great distance. Jim Prentice could not be with us because of a prior commitment and Ames Miller had to be in Nebraska because of the death of his brother. We missed these two men.

Since this was not a regularly scheduled meeting, expenses were paid personally, at no cost to the Association.

Sue and I are now in Florida until the end of April. Our address here is: Mayo Condo #3 112 So. 7th St., Flagler Bch., Fla. 32036 Tel. AC 904-439-0132.

We have been attending the Florida Chapter meetings the past several years. It won't be the same this time around because we've lost our buddy, David Benick, unexpectedly, in November, after a heart operation. Dave and I were in A Co. 331 with several other guys who always enjoy getting together at reunions or any other time we can. We were all close with Dave. We will miss him.

Until the next issue,

God Bless, Keep Well and Happy

Larry Leonardi



Greetings
from the
Secretary-Treasurer's Office

Dear Men:

The holidays are over and our thoughts have turned from Christmas Shopping to the REUNION IN HERSHEY. Pearl and I both thank all of you who were so kind as to send us the beautiful cards that you did. We enjoyed them very much. That seems to be the first place the children go when they arrive home for the holidays. The card baskets and all the beautiful messages that are on the cards.

George Pletcher, Al Belvedere and Lou Volpi are working hard to make sure that everything is up to standard when we arrive in September. We hope that as soon as you receive this issue of the Thunderbolt you will hurry and clip the application and get it sent in right away. As we have told you it is a beautiful spot with plenty to see on the way up and while you are there. There is even a movie theater at the Lodge so that you may go there if you can't find anything else to do. Remember also to send in an ad for the ad book. If not a big ad then just send the booster. That is only five dollars but your name is there and giving your support to the reunion.

Remember that this reunion is a package deal and is just one price for everything. If it seems high to you remember that the one price takes care of it all. Room, meals and entertainment. There are golf courses, flower gardens, indoor and outdoor swimming pools. Indoor and outdoor tennis courts. The Lodge is set on 30 landscaped acres. So plenty of

room to move around. Please plan on being there with us. I know that everyone will enjoy themselves. I really think it is wonderful that we as the 83rd are privileged to be able to see these places. How many of us could or would go if it wasn't for the fact that our friends were going to be with us. If we went by ourselves it would cost a great deal more and we would not get to see all we do.

So many of you have written encouraging letters to me. I really appreciate them and more than ever this year. It seems as though there are a few who are not satisfied with the way I do the office. As one man wrote to me "no one is 100% correct but when you do 99% correct we should all be happy." It has been brought to our attention and there are also some remarks in this issue that the Executive Board and the Secretary Treasurer are not keeping the Membership informed about all the business of the 83rd. Every article that the Chairman of the Executive Board and the article that is in from the Office of the Secretary-Treasurer in the Thunderbolt tries to tell you what is going on. If any of you out there feel that we are not giving you the correct information please write or call this office and you will be told anything that you wish to know. We do not try to hide anything. Your Executive Board and your Judge Advocate and myself all try our best to keep this organization the fine organization that it is.

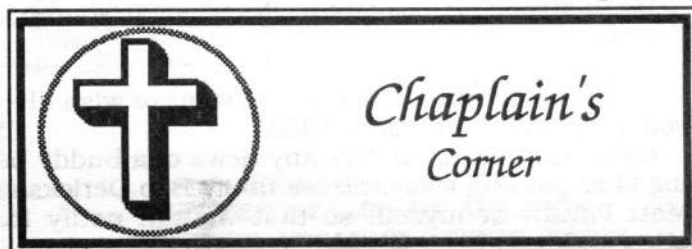
The Executive Board commends the Philadelphia Chapter for the wonderful way they are working on the up-coming reunion. They have followed all procedures and guide lines which was provided to them. It is the Executive Board's place to follow through and review with the host chapters by using the procedures and additional guide-lines that was adopted in 1984 when Joe Macaluso presented them to the Executive Board. When all negotiations and the program is completed the Executive Board does give its final approval. The Executive Board will meet with the Philadelphia Chapter in Cincinnati the second week-end in May to approve their final plans and review the Kentucky Chapter negotiations and their tentative program for the reunion in 1989. This will take place at the Clarion Hotel, the site of the 1989 reunion.

The Executive Board is responsible for informing the membership of the progress of the program for each reunion. These are new procedures that the Executive Board plans to follow through with from now on. It will give them a better understanding of the plans for future reunions. These plans will begin immediately starting in May 1988. The Executive Board will be meeting three (3) times with a Host Chapter during the planning period. The **First** review will take place approximately (15) months prior to the reunion date (Aug. 1989) with the Host Chapter reunion committee. The Executive Board will review expenses and charges. At this time the Executive Board shall give approval of the chosen site. **Second** review will be approximately twelve (12) months prior to the 1989 Reunion date at the 1988 Reunion in Hershey, PA. The Executive Board will again meet with the Host Chapter committee about their tentative program and the final contract shall be signed for the Hotel facilities with our judge

advocate. The **Third** (3) and **final** review will be done in May 1989 in Pittsburgh, PA. The Executive Board shall give their final approval. At that time the same procedures will start for the next future reunion. Hope this gives you some idea of the Executive Board's responsibilities.

We must apologize for the delay in getting some of the mail out since the first of December. First we had an attempted break-in, (Our security system scared them away) but we had to replace a large picture window which caused quite a mess. Then yours truly had to have surgery. One on my wrist (Corpra Syndrome) which is coming along fine. Then during the holidays I had to have balloon surgery on my heart which I also came through great. We will be caught up soon, I promise you. Please bear with us. I have Pearl working hard.

Bob Derickson, Secretary Treasurer
3rd Bn Hq. 329th



Oh--what a cold, blustery morning. Living about 15 miles from the Lake Erie Snow Belt, we don't get the heavy snow too often, but when that arctic clipper comes through Minn., Wisconsin, and Illinois, even the eskimos who have migrated to our high elevation head south.

We started the Fall Issue Report by not having any death notices, but as we went to press, you did read the names of buddies who had passed away. At the end of September Amby Tynan sent me the obituary notices of my friend Bill Shaner, who was one of the men who placed a wreath honoring our buddies at the West Virginia Reunion. In December during the Hanukkah season, I wrote to Dave Benick, not knowing that he had open heart surgery at the end of November, and passed away a few days later. Millie--The words written in that letter came from the heart and a gut-feeling tells me that Dave knew a buddy was reaching out to touch him.

On the bright side--there were many letters; one from Walter Myers, C. O. of "B" Btry., 322 F. A., one from Jack Brubaker, My C. O., and one from my Btry. Exec. Robert Hines, from whom I haven't heard in 43 years. As I'm looking at some of the snaps that came with the letters, it makes the blustery day "sunshiny."

At the reunion some of you were asked to be the "other chaplain." You did not accept for personal reasons, which was O.K. However, this was leaving our Assn. with just one chaplain, and we should always have two, because the Memorial Services in which you participate are one of the main purposes for us to attend these reunions, and also to honor our deceased buddies. We enjoy the friendship of those who are still able to attend.

The saying goes that the Lord "works in strange ways." As we were preparing for the service, we no-

ticed a helping hand buddy who was wearing a "Legionnaire" cap, on which was embroidered "Chaplain." One curious question led to another and in his haste to attend the reunion, he brought the wrong cap. After some conversation he was asked if he would be interested in the chaplain's position. His reply was that it would be an honor to serve his 83rd buddies.

After the reunion letters were written to the Executive Board members, who have the power to appoint. They all agreed with a response to Chairman of the Board Larry Leonardi, approving the nominee. Let me introduce your new chaplain:

MATT PINTAR

Married to Dara-they have two children, Cathie and Matt, Jr., both of whom are career people with the U.S.A.F. Matt was District Officer and District Chaplain for the Legion, and at the present time is Chaplain of the 83rd Pittsburgh Chapter.

From Laura and my family, we want to wish all of you a Blessed and Healthy 1988.

Once again, a reminder--any news of a buddy being ill or passing away, please notify Bob Derickson, Matt Pintar, or myself, so that we can notify the other buddies.

Charles Dickens once wrote: "Reflect on your present blessings, of which every man has many - not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some." It only takes a minute to begin reflecting on our present blessings: The gift of life itself, the warmth of friendships, the riches of good health, the power of love, the glory of sunrise, the privilege of prayer, the joys of music, the satisfaction of work, the treasures of books, the beauty of art, the grandeur of winter, the miracle of spring, the grace of God...BE MORE GRATEFUL, AND YOU WILL BECOME MORE JOYFUL!

AT
DAY'S
END



- Is anybody happier because you passed his way?
- Does anyone remember that you spoke to him today?
- The day is almost over, and its tolling time is through.
- Is there anyone to utter now a kindly word of you?
- Can you say tonight, in parting with the day that's slipping fast.
- That you helped a single brother of the many that you passed?
- Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said?
- Does the man whose hopes were fading now with courage look ahead?
- Did you waste the day, or lose it. Was it well or sorely spent?
- Did you leave a trail of kindness or a scar of discontent?
- As you close your eyes in slumber, do you think God will say?
- You have earned one more tomorrow by the work you did today?

Casey Kowalec
"C" Btry. 322 F. A.

Here are the names of the deceased that have come to the attention of Bob Derickson or myself. Some are on our rosters and some are not but in any case the sympathy of the entire 83rd Association goes out to the families of these men.



Conrad D. VanKirk	"E" 331st	August 2, 1987
Thomas Martin	783rd	
Robert McLaughlin	783rd	
Larry Paulson	783rd	February 19, 1987
Alex Zakerchemney	783rd	December 15, 1987
William S. Mastin	"F" 329th	October 26, 1987
Alex Zakerche	908th	
Wilfred Puhl	"K" 330th	October 28, 1987
Marvin W. Peper	Div. HQS.	
William M. Shaner	HQS. 323rd	
Waldo Odom	"C" 331st	
Ray Manning	"A" 329	November 1987
Lester Elkins	"K" 330th	Jan. 1987
David Benick	"A" 331st	Nov. 27, 1987
Emil Becker	"L" 331	Dec. 24, 1987
Clarence A. Gerling	"D" 331st	Dec. 23 1987
Nelson V. Hetrick		Sept 21, 1987
William Cook, Jr.	"A" 329th	February 1987

Thanks to all the people who are kind enough to send these notices either to Casey or Bob. Without you we would have no idea or any word of these. Again our sympathy to the families.

Casey Kowalec Chaplain



BUDDIES:

In September, I received the enclosed message from Paris, France. The town of Bourdon is near Chaumont in Cartern, France and was General Pershing's Headquarter during W. W. I.

When and if, the French lady sends me her story, I will publish it for your interest.

We passed through the area in our rush across France in 1944. The 83rd in 1918 did not fight as a combat team but were a replacement (Depot) pool.

One regiment, the then 332nd served in Italy.

Major General Edwin Glenn Commanded the Ohio Division.

They were more fortunate in casualties than us, having only sixty-seven (67) K.I.A. and 257 W.I.A.

Incidentally, I came overseas on their troopship, the H.M.S. Aquatania.

It took me hours at the Library persuing about twenty (20) W. W. I histories before I found the "Order of Battle of the U.S. Armed Forces" in the World War, American Expeditionary Forces Divisions" which I have enclosed. I also sent the Lt. Colonel material on our justly proud 83rd in W. W. II.

The reply of Lt. Colonel Johnston, in appreciation of my efforts is also enclosed.

"We Were The Best"

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

ONE LAST TIME: Any histories of the 329th and 330th even zerox copies, are needed for my archives.

**EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE, PARIS
APO New York 09777**

11 September 1987
U-3356-87

83rd Infantry Division Association, Inc
Mr. William Kent O'Connell
183 Acre Lane
Hicksville, New York 11801

Sir;

I have been contacted by a French lady whose family provided a rest and recuperation area to elements of the 83rd Infantry Division during the First World War. Her family's farm was located near the town of Bourdon, near Chaumont, in eastern France. She was 13 to 14 years old at the time, has fond memories of the American soldiers, and would like to write a short history of her family's experiences.

She would like to reconstruct certain events and dates. Could you, therefore, provide me a copy of whatever unit history you have of the First World War. I will see that it gets to her and ask that she provide to your association a copy of her completed works.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

M.L. (Gen) JOHNSTON
Lieutenant Colonel, USA
Assistant Army Attache

**EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE, PARIS
APO New York 09777**

17 December 1987
U-3472-87

Mr. William K. O'Connell C.M.R.
183 Acre Lane
Hicksville, Long Island, NY 11801

Dear Mr. O'Connell,

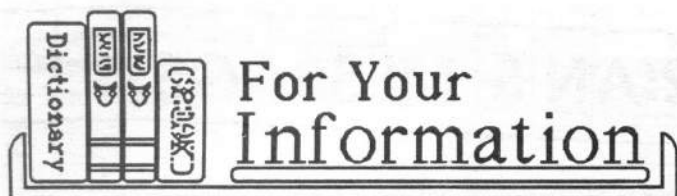
Thank you for your letter of this past 8 December. Thank you, especially, for your response to my request for information. I met with the French lady, Mrs. Germaine Graziani, and gave her that information. She was touched, especially, by the personal note and souvenir you included for her. She asked that I express to you her gratitude. You will certainly receive a copy of whatever memoirs she finally produces.

She reads English but doesn't write it very well. It is for that reason that she asked me to express to you her appreciation. Her project is proceeding very slowly as she has been in poor health over the past month or so. She appears to be recovering nicely and should be able to continue her research.

Again thank you on her behalf. Happy Holidays to you and yours.

Sincerely,

M. L. (Gen) JOHNSTON
Lieutenant Colonel, USA
Assistant Army Attache



83d DIVISION RECORD OF EVENTS

ORGANIZATIONS AND TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATE, AUG 5, 1917 - MAY 23, 1918

Aug 5, the War Department establishes the 83d Div, National Army, which is to be organized, at Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, Ohio; drafts, anticipated from 1917, from Ohio, 38,773, and Pa, 4,309 are designed to furnish personnel. Aug 13, the organization of DHQ is directed, and its commissioned personnel is ordered to report on or before Aug. 15. Aug 16, the Commanding General of Camp Sherman is directed to organize the Div in accordance with the Tables of Organization of Aug 8, 1917. Aug 25, Maj Gen Edwin F. Glenn assumes command; the program for the movement of selective service men to camps is announced. During the last week in Aug the - organization begins from a cadre of officers and men of the Regular Army, and from ORC and NA officers and men of the Regular Army, and from ORC and NA officers of the First Officers Training Camp at Ft Benjamin Harrison. Sept 5-10, the initial draft of 2,100 selective service men arrives at camp. Sept 19-24, an additional 17,200 arrive. During Sept systematic training begins. Oct. 3-8, a draft of 13,000 arrives at the camp. Oct 31, the Div approximates 22,800. Dec 14-19, the last drafts of 1917 furnish 800 to the camp. Mar 31, the winter losses have exceeded arrivals and the Div numbers less than 17,000. During Apr and May drafts, largely from Ky, Ohio, and Pa, complete the Div.

MOVEMENT OVERSEAS, MAY 24 - JUNE 28, 1918

May 24, Div moves via Camps Merritt and Mills to the ports of embarkation of Boston, Hoboken, New York, and Philadelphia. June 4, Adv Det sails from New York and lands June 11, in England. June 4-14, the troops sail and land, June 15-28, in England. After a brief stay in rest camps, the Div goes to Le Havre and Cherbourg.



ACTIVITIES OVERSEAS, JUNE 19, 1918 - JAN 8, 1919

June 19, DHQ, 331st Inf, and 332d Inf move to the 8th (Nogent Bassigny) Training Area. July 31, 329th Inf, 220th Inf, the machine gun battalions 308th F Sig Bn, and 308th Sup T move to Le Mans Area.

June 27, Div is designated as Depot Div. The 332d Inf, 158th FA Brig, 308th Am Tn, 308th Engrs, 308th F Sig Bn, 308th TM Btry, and 308th Sn Tn are

detached and serve as army and corps troops, July 2-10, training of divisional units in the 8th (Nogent-Bassigny) Training Area is supervised by the IV Corps. July 30, Div (less-detached units) concentrates in Le Mans Area. Aug 1, Div begins to function as the 2d Depot Div. During its existence 195,221 replacements, officers and men, drawn from personnel from the United States and casualties at large, are trained for the infantry, including machine gun units, ammunition trains and supply trains, and are forwarded to the advance zone. Aug 12, 49th Inf joins the Div, replacing the detached 332d Inf. The Economy Area, the city of Le Mans, the Forwarding Camp, the Belgian Camp, the Classification Camp, and Spur Camp gradually come under the control of this 2d Depot Div. Its district is divided into the following five areas for administrative purposes: La Suze (331st Inf) Laign'e-en-Belin (330th Inf), Ecomoy (329th Inf), Conlie (49th Inf), and Mayet (the three machine gun battalions). During Oct there is a maximum of 45,000 troops in the area. Dec 15-31, the American Embarkation Center, an organization which is formed at this time, relieves the 2d Depot (83d) Div.

FINAL TRAINING AND OPERATIONS OF DETACHED UNITS



332d Inf and 331st Hosp.

July 25, these units move via Mareille to Villafranca, Custozza, and Sommacompagna, Italy. Aug. 12, they proceed to Valeggio and train. Early in Oct the regiment moves to the north of the Teviso and makes frequent marches in the rear of the Piave River front. Oct 28-Nov 4, 332d Inf participates in the Vittori-Veneto Operation (Italy). Oct 27-28, the regiment assists in establishing bridgeheads at the Piave River. Oct 30, this regiment, as part of the Italian 31st Div (Br 14th Corps, Tenth Italian Army), participates in the pursuit of the Austrians from the Piave to the Tagliamento River; the 2d Bn crosses the Tagliamento under fire and reaches Villaorba on Nov 4, when the Austrian armistice becomes effective. Nov 21, 2d Bn 332d Inf arrives at Cattaro and sends troops into Montenegro. Nov 24, Hq and the 1st Bn 332d Inf moves to Treviso, the 3d Bn moves to Fiume. Mar 28-29, the regiment assembles at Genoa. Mar 29-Apr 4, these troops sail for the United States, the first contingent sails from Genoa on Mar 29, the second contingent from Marseille on Mar 29 and Apr 4.

158th FA Brig and 308th Am Tn. June 27, these troops move to the vicinity of Guipry and Maure-de-Bretagne. Aug 13, they continue to Camp Coetquidan for further training. Sept 18, they move to the vicinity of Bar-le-Duc. Sept 26-Nov 11, 158th FA Brig and 308th Am Tn participate in the Meuse-Argonne Operation. Sept 26-30, FA Brig is attached to the 32d Div, and later it is assigned to the V Corps as corps artillery. Sept 26, 322d FA, 308th TM Btry, and 308th Am Tn support the 91st Div. Oct 2, the FR 18th Div and 29th Div in Meuse-Argonne Operation. Oct 29, the brigade is assigned to the III Corps, and at-

tached to the 32d Div which it supports from Nov 9 to 11. Nov 17, the brigade is attached to the 32d Div during the march into Germany and serves with the Army of Occupation until Apr 23, when it proceeds to the American Embarkation Center, Le Mans.

308h Engrs and Tn. June 20, these troops are on duty with the SOS. July 22, they are attached to the I Corps and serve as corps engineers. July 28 - Aug 6, 308th Engrs and Tn participate in the Aisne-Marne Operation. Aug 12, they are attached to the III Corps. Aug 18 - Sept 9, 308th Engrs and Tn participate in the Oise-Aisne Operation. Sept 26 - Nov 11, 308th Engrs and Tn participate in the Meuse-Argonne Operation. Subsequently they form part of the Army of Occupation in Germany. May 16, 308th Engrs and Tn are relieved from the III Corps and on May 24 proceed to the American Embarkation Center, Le Mans.

308th F Sig Bn. July 7, this battalion is attached

to the III Corps and functions as the corps signal battalion. Aug 7-17, 308th F Sig Bn participates in the Vesle Sector, Aug 18-Sept 8, in the Oise-Aisne Operation, and Sept 26-Nov 11, in the Meuse-Argonne Operation. It forms part of the Army of Occupation in Germany for the remainder of its service with the III Corps.

RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES AND DEMOBILIZATION, JAN 9-OCT 8, 1941

Jan 9, all units of the former 2d Depot Div move to Brest. Jan 12, DHQ and the leading troops sail, and arrive, Jan 21, at Hoboken. May 5, 158th FA Brig sails from Brest. Aug 5, the last elements of the Div arrive at New York. The demobilization at Camp Sherman includes: Feb 11, Hq 116th Inf Brig, Feb 12, Hq 165th Inf Brig, May 24, Hq 158th FA Brig, Oct, 8 DHQ.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1987

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

On Normandy beach lay, expended, a small army

Editor's note: This is the famed D-Day Plus Two dispatch of Hoosier journalist Ernie Pyle. It is one of the best-known and most moving dispatches to describe the Normandy invasion, which occurred on June 6, 1944. Pyle, a native of Dana, attended Indiana University. He was a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for Scripps Howard newspapers. He was killed in the South Pacific in 1945.

By ERNIE PYLE

SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Normandy Beachhead, D-DAY Plus Two (By Wireless, delayed)

-I took a walk along the historic coast of Normandy in the country of France.

It was a lovely day for strolling along the seashore. Men were sleeping on the sand, some of them sleeping forever. Men were floating in the water, but they didn't know they were in the water, for they were dead.

The water was full of squishy little jellyfish about the size of your hand. Millions of them. In the center, each of them had a green design exactly like a four leaf clover. The good-luck emblem. Sure. Hell, yes.

I walked for a mile and a half along the water's edge of our many-miled invasion beach. You wanted to walk slowly, for the detail on that beach was infinite.

The wreckage was vast and startling. The awful waste and destruction of war, even aside from the loss of human life, has always been one of its outstanding features to those who are in

it. Anything and everything is expendable. And we did expend on our beachhead in Normandy during those first few hours.

For a mile out from the beach, there were scores of tanks and trucks and boats that you could no longer see, for they were at the bottom of the water-swamped by overloading, or hit by shells or sunk by mines. Most of their crews were lost.

You could see trucks tipped half over and swamped. You could see partly sunken barges, and the angled-up corners of jeeps, and small landing craft half submerged. And at low tide you could still see those vicious six-pronged iron snares that helped snag and wreck them.

On the beach itself, high and dry, were all kinds of wrecked vehicles. There were tanks that had only just made the beach before being knocked out. There were jeeps that had burned to a dull gray. There were big dericks on caterpillar treads that didn't quite make it. There were half-tracks carrying office equipment that had been made into a shambles by a single shell hit, their interiors still holding their useless equipage of smashed typewriters, telephones, office files.

There were LCT's turned completely upside down, and lying on their backs, and how they got that way I don't know. There were boats stacked on top of each other, their sides caved in, their suspension doors knocked off.

In this shoreline museum of carnage there were abandoned rolls of barbed wire and smashed bulldozers and big stacks of thrown-away lifebelts and piles of shells still waiting to be

moved.

In the water floated empty life rafts and soldiers' packs and ration boxes, and mysterious oranges.

On the beach lay snarled rolls of telephone wire and big rolls of steel matting and stacks of broken, rusting rifles.

On the beach lay, expended, sufficient men and mechanism for a small war. They were gone forever now. And yet we could afford it.

We could afford it because we were on, we had our toehold, and behind us there were such enormous replacements for this wreckage on the beach that you could hardly conceive of their sum total. Men and equipment were flowing from England in such a gigantic stream that it made the waste on the beachhead seem like nothing at all, really nothing at all.

A few hundred yards back on the beach is a high bluff. Up there we had a tent hospital, and a barbed-wire enclosure for prisoners of war. From up there you could see far up and down the beach, in a spectacular crow's-nest view, and far out to sea.

And standing out there on the water beyond all this wreckage was the greatest armada man has ever seen. You simply could not believe the gigantic collection of ships that lay out there waiting to unload.

Looking from the bluff, it lay thick and clear to the far horizon of the sea and beyond, and it spread out to the sides and was miles wide. Its utter enormity would move the hardest man.

As I stood up there I noticed a group of freshly taken German prisoners standing nearby. They



Ernie Pyle's column is one of the best-known of the war.

had not yet been put in the prison cage. They were just standing there, a couple of doughboys leisurely guarding them with Tommy guns.

The prisoners, too, were looking out to sea-the same bit of sea that for months and years had been so safely empty before their gaze. Now they stood staring almost as if in a trance.

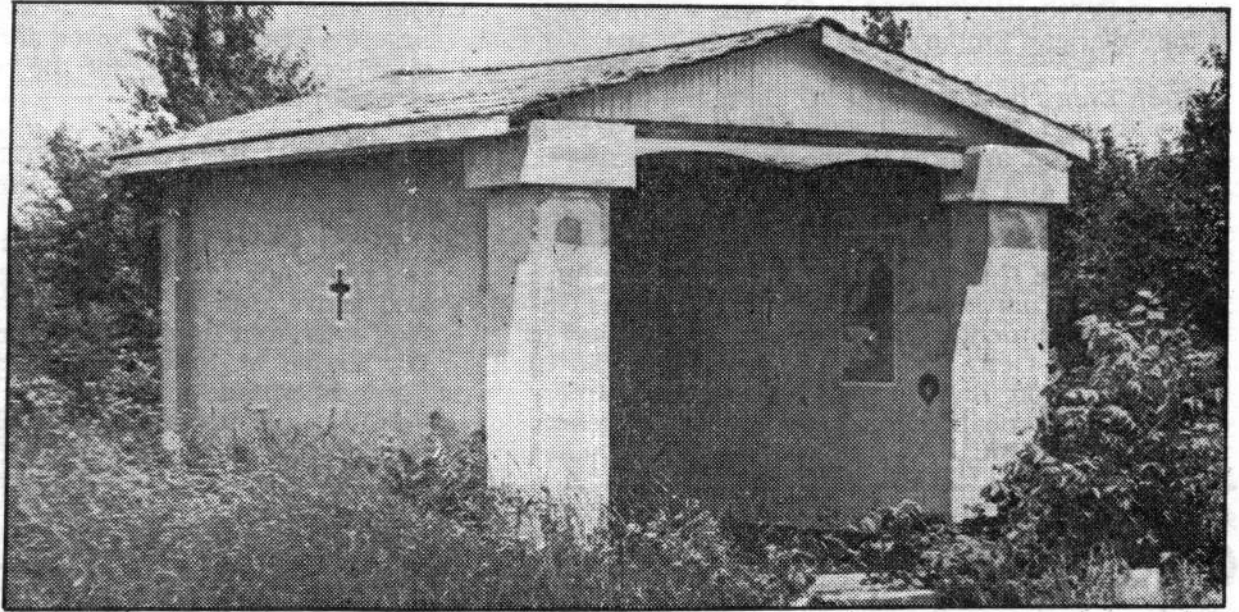
They didn't say a word to each other. They didn't need to. The expression on their faces was something forever unforgettable. In it was the final horrified acceptance of their doom.

If only all Germany could have had the rich experience of standing on the bluff and looking out across the water and seeing what their compatriots saw.

Camp hopes to restore POW chapel

*Historic
worship
place
built
at
Atterbury
in
World
War II*

By **FRED D. CAABINDER**
STAR STAFF WRITER



The 45-year old chapel has fallen on hard times, but Camp Atterbury officials plan to renovate it, landscape the area and add parking for visitors.

The "Chapel in the Meadow," one of the most unusual structures at Camp Atterbury near Edinburgh, is being evaluated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

It is the first definite step in nearly 45 years to place some mantle of protection around one of the most unusual artifacts of the war years in Indiana.

The tiny chapel was built in 1943 by Italian prisoners of war interned at the camp, then a major World War II training site.

When the 60-acre prisoner compound was dismantled, the chapel was saved by a far-sighted woman whose name seems lost to history. But the chapel and its grassy knoll have been largely left to the elements ever since.

Authorities at Camp Atterbury, whose 68 square miles sprawl across Johnson, Brown and Bartholomew counties, have drawn up plans for renovating the chapel, landscaping the area around it and providing parking space for visitors.

An evaluation by the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana will determine, in part, how any renovation will proceed, explained Ann C. Davis, survey coordinator for Historic Landmarks.

But, although the historical evaluation may increase the chapel's status, the perennial problem of money still is a hurdle to overcome.

"We've had a lot of people interested in it, but when interest becomes money it gets a little more difficult," said Richard R. King.

King, a retired colonel and former commander of Camp Atterbury, is civilian chief of staff at the base and has a long-standing interest in the chapel.

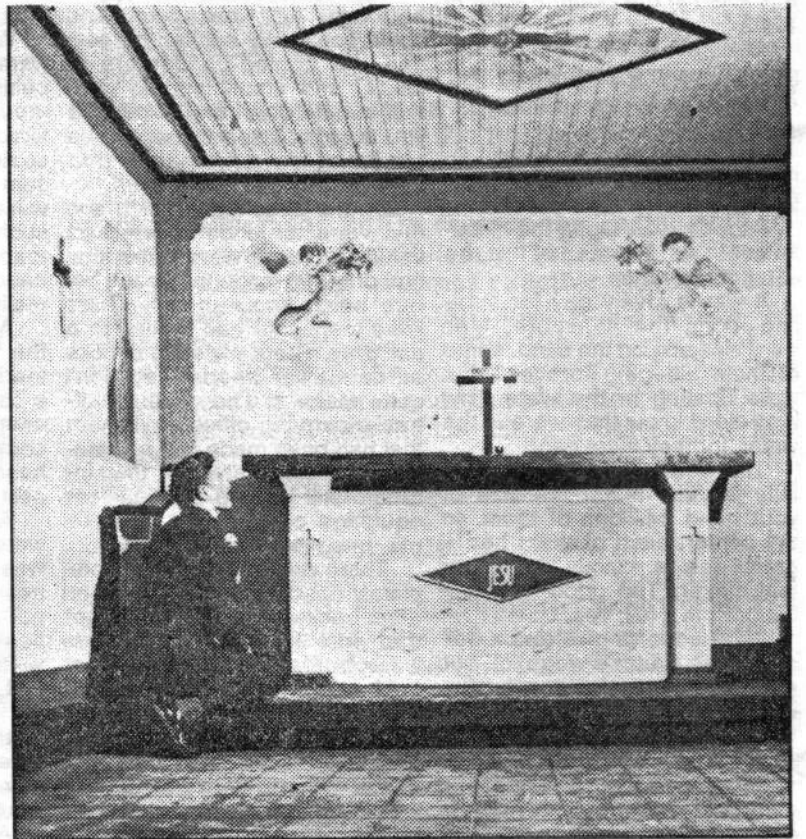
"It's going to take a little while, but the chapel has got to the point where repair is no longer appropriate. We're going to try to replace everything in kind, make it as authentic as we can," he said. "We'd like to upgrade it to where we feel it was when they left in 1946."

There are some factors that will complicate the historic evaluation. A major question is whether only the chapel structure is historic or whether the paintings inside have intrinsic historic value.

"If it's the paintings, we can't touch them up, only try to protect them," said Capt. Kathleen K. Clark, the post engineer, who has drawn up the plans for renovation. "If only the building is historic, then we can touch up the interior paintings."

"We're waiting on a ruling from the state."

Listing the structure on the national register would mean that federal funds cannot be used in inappropriate alteration of the chapel, Davis said. Private funds can be used for almost any kind of restoration unless blocked by the State Professional Review Board on Historic Preservation, she pointed out. In addition to setting up a review process, being on the national register creates an atmosphere of caution about



Several decades ago, the chapel interior looked like this.

altering artifacts.

And, since camp authorities are attuned to preservation, it is likely that the chapel will see better days. But money must be found.

Federal funds for such reservations have dried up, said Davis. Clark pointed out that the National Guard, which operates the military sections of Camp Atterbury, does not provide money for beautification. But she said post officials appear confident that certification of the chapel's significance an aid in collecting money from donors and organizations.

In addition to a survey by Davis, the chapel was part of an archaeological investigation of all of Camp Atterbury by Corps of Engineer evaluators from the Alabama District, said Clark.

And she feels that after the summer training season, which gives emphasis to living quarters and training facilities, the chapel may have a better chance at attention.

Camp Atterbury has undergone three lives. Opened in 1942, it was named for Brig. Gen. William Wallace Atterbury, native of New Albany, who was president of the Pennsylvania Railroad and built several railroads and harbors to aid the allies in World War I before leaving the service in 1919.

The camp trained 275,000 soldiers before it was deactivated in 1948. It reopened in 1950 at the outbreak of the Korean War and went into mothballs again in 1954. In 1969 the National Guard took it over.

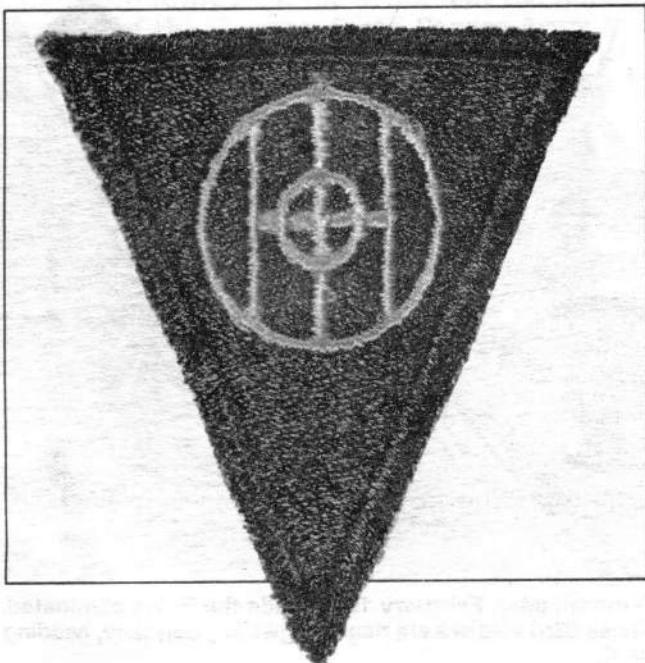
Part of the camp is used by the Job Corps, a U.S. Department of Labor program of vocational training; part of it is operated by the Division of Fish and Wildlife; and part is used by the Guard for training.

The 83rd at the Bulge

The insignia, honors and traditions of many Army Reserve units didn't begin with weekend drills and two weeks of annual training.

Many Army Reserve units, and many of the USAR's major commands, carry the lineage of outfits that saw tough fighting in the Nation's wars.

HERITAGE is a new department of *Army Reserve Magazine*. It will try to remind us of where we've gone before. And who we've been before.



This first installment is from a book published in 1944, *The Thunderbolt Across Europe*, by Sergeant Ernie Hayhow. It recalls some of the struggles of the 83rd Infantry Division in the Battle of the Bulge.

The 83d's insignia and honors are now carried by the 83rd U. S. Army Reserve Command, which hangs its hat in Columbus, Ohio.

"While we were engaging the enemy between the Hurtgen Forest and the Roer River, other German units launched their winter offensive. In what later became known as the 'Battle of the Bulge,' Germany's best Panzer and SS Divisions charged through thinly held Allied lines in Belgium and drove a wedge through the Ardennes Forest that reached a depth of some eighty-five miles and ran to a width of sixty miles at its base. The whole world held its breath as Field Marshal Von Rundstedt put into execution his ambitious plan of attack, aimed at separating and destroying the Allied armies. The enemy's offensive was spearheaded in the air by paratroopers and on land by hundreds of tanks from the Sixth Panzer Army. They were followed by crack SS troops, later by regular Wehrmacht units, and finally by members of the 'Volksgrenadier.' All the remaining power of the German armed forces was employed in this final major attempt to separate and defeat the Allied tide who had swept in from the beaches of Normandy to the western edges of Germany proper. Now the enemy sought to undo all that we had accomplished in six months of hard fighting. Momentarily the Germans had the advantage—advantage born of the element of surprise and of concentration of force. In many cases, whole Allied regiments and sometimes whole Allied divisions were cut off during the initially rapid advances of the German forces. This was Jerry's first major success since the fighting in Africa. His success was short lived.

"Jerry had either under-estimated or had failed to reckon with the amazing mobility of the American Army. Overnight, the Thunderbolt Division raced from Northern Germany into Belgium. We were employing the element of surprise now. The entire VII Corps had moved to a new scene of action. Now, without rest or let-up, we dashed from the outskirts of Duren to the vicinity of Rochefort, a distance of 75 miles, to hit the 'Bulge' at its tip. Slightly more than twenty-four hours after the last element of the 83rd moved away from the Roer River, other units of the Thunderbolt smashed Jerry's thrust right on the nose. We Buckshots of the 329th attacked Rochefort, which was an important roadcenter taken in the advance made by the enemy. The 83rd Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop had successfully screened our entry towards the German lines, and now the 329th, with the full support of all of the 83rd Division Artillery lashed out at Jerry to put an end to his advances and to destroy him before he could successfully withdraw from his self-made death trap.

"The German offensive had slowed considerably by the time the 329th reached the outskirts of Rochefort. But Jerry was by no means beaten; he was only catching his breath before attempting to exploit his initial gains. Company B of the 329th Buckshots entered Rochefort on December 28th and spent the rest of the year there alone. For the Ger-

mans succeeded in cutting off Company B from the rest of us. Repeated attempts to break through to the beleaguered Company were beaten back by the Hun's intense small arms fire and his direct fire from high velocity weapons. From time to time, Company B reported to us by radio, but this type of contact was uncertain as the radio batteries weakened. Our artillery rose to new heights as they blasted Rochefort almost continuously. We smoked the town and then set it on fire but still couldn't get through to our 'lost' company. Three days of intense shelling however, proved too much for the 9th Panzer Division, and they withdrew from the town. Company B, which had unofficially been given up as captured or destroyed, returned to its battalion. Because of skillful leadership and the fighting ability of every man, Company B had beaten off repeated attacks with the loss of only seven men wounded and none killed.

"We continued to employ the element of surprise against the Germans. As the 160th Brigade of the 53rd British Division relieved us around Rochefort, we side-slipped to the east and aligned ourselves with the 3rd Armored Division near the center of the northern edge of the bulge. Colonel Foster's 30th Regiment was attached to the "Spearhead" Division. The remainder of us were ordered to attack in close support of the armor and to finish off any Germans by-passed by the tankers. The 3rd Armored smashed at the Germans in force on the morning of January 3rd and advanced against stubborn resistance. The 83rd Division artillery was attached to them to give additional fire support. Then when we passed our infantry through the 3rd Armored their artillery came under our division control so as to give additional support to our doughs. Floret and Malempre were re-captured by our cohorts and then we passed through the 3rd Armored to seize a bridgehead across the Rance Rau, later across the Langlir River, and then to clear a passage through that part of the Ardennes forest known as Bois de Ronce.

"Certainly, no record of the Ardennes Campaign is complete without reference to the terrain and the weather. For in the snow-laden hills of the Ardennes Forest we fought the weather as much as we fought the Germans; indeed, the bitter cold and heavy snow took as large a toll in Allied casualties as did German bullets and shells."

"With the oil on their rifles frozen, with chapped faces and frozen hands and feet, riflemen of the 83rd Infantry Division fought continuously in the article-like climate of the Ardennes Forest for five days and nights, to pave the way for the 3rd Armored Division in the 'Battle of the Bulge'....The advances made by the 83rd were directly responsible for enabling the 3rd Armored to cut the vital St. Vith-Houffalize highway...-so spoke Commentator Robert Barr in one of his January newscasts over BBC.

"We had lived in the field during winter months in the States, but we had never experienced anything quite like this. We had to plow our way through deep snowdrifts, up and down mountain-sized hills, and against biting winds. We had to camouflage ourselves so that we blended with the whiteness-that whiteness that was everywhere. We had to stalk the enemy in the forest; we had to fight him during the day and to keep him fighting all through the night, and the next day, and the next night.

"We kept at Jerry until we had driven him from the woods, out into the open, in between the armored jaws of the First and Third Armies, driving south and north respectively. Our casualties equalled those of Normandy days, but this time most were due to the weather. We carried ammunition and food up to the front on our backs, for the huge snowdrifts prevented movement of tanks and halftracks.

"To survive called for great stamina and grit and a generous amount of good luck. Many of us did survive, and with us the memory of the Ardennes Campaign will be everlasting.



Reconnaissance troops of the 83rd Infantry Division move through Behain, Belgium during operations eliminating the "Bulge" on Jan. 11, 1945. They appear uncommonly cheerful; after all, Germans were dug in on the outskirts of town.



A month later, February 1945, finds the Bulge eliminated. These 83rd soldiers are near Cargweiler, Germany, heading east.

"The 83rd Infantry Division became of age in the Ardennes. It was there that we proved beyond all doubt that we had power, tactical skill, courage, and fortitude. Under conditions never before experienced, we hammered at the German's Panzer might. We out-fought the enemy, out-flanked him, drove him into a trap that brought his defeat. Day and night our attack continued. Langlir, Petite Langlir, Bihain, Bovigny, Courtil, and Honeyelez were the small towns which we captured after fierce fighting in bitter cold. But our victory in the Ardennes cannot be measured by towns captured or by miles gained. We did not advance far, as compared to some of our other successes, but we never fought harder, were never faced by stronger opposition than that which we encountered in the 'Bulge'.

"It was a three week endurance test which called for the 'impossible' in physical stamina, in self-confidence and in individual courage. 'The difficult we do right away; the impossible takes a little longer.' Perhaps it took us a little longer to advance a thousand yards in the Ardennes than it took us to reach the Rhine or to race to the Elbe, but we successfully achieved our mission and accomplished what appeared to be the impossible.

"Enemy counter-attacks were numerous and frequent, but each time we repelled them or destroyed them before they could actually start. Many times our artillery was unable to register on targets because of the weather. And yet, Langlir and Petite Langlir received some of the heaviest artillery concentrations ever employed in Europe. Thirteen artillery battalions-156-fired simultaneously on these two small towns fifteen different times to pave the way for the rifleman's capture of the targets.

"By the time we cleared the Bois de Ronce, swung east and occupied Courtil, Honeyelez and Bovigny, the Bulge had been considerably reduced. Then the 3rd Armored Division passed through our bridge-heads, shot off to the left, to the right and down the center to cut the all-important Houffalize-St. Vith Highway. This maneuver, together with the advance of the Third Army from the south, cut the remaining elements of the German Sixth Panzer Army in two and set the stage for the final elimination of the Bulge and the restoration of our original front lines in Germany.

"The 83rd was relieved, and we moved back to the vicinity of Hamoir, Belgium, where for the first time since we were committed last June, we were entirely out of contact with the enemy."

The above article was sent in by:

Raymond C. Bowsher
10550 O Lakeside Drive
Garden Grove, CA 92640

Thanks Ray for this article on our Heritage and bit of history. Keep up the good work.



One of the sneaky tricks of the Nazis during the Battle of the Bulge was using the Red Cross Emblem to get within the American lines. This ambulance was used for a sneak attack on an American position -- Company G, 329 Inf - with results that back-fired. See Paris Story. Phot by Pfc. Banks, 329 M. P. Platoon.

RESTRICTED
HEADQUARTERS TWELFTH
ARMY GROUP
APO 655
300.4(AG-P)

15 March 1945

SUBJECT: Temporary Duty.

TO: Judge Advocate, this headquarters.

Following O and EM, temp dy this hq, WP by MT o/a 16 Mar 45 fr present sta to temp dy for a period not exceeding eight (8) days at Hq, European T of Opns and such other places within the liberated areas as may be necessary to carry out the instructions of the Army Gp Cmdr and upon completion thereof, return to proper sta. Gov. MT atzd. TDN. Auth: Cir 113, Hq, European T of Opns, US Army, 22 Nov 44.

1ST LT WILLIAM F. DYER, 01286986

Pfc LADDIE LAWRENCE, 35562211

Pvt CLARENCE W. SMITH, 37699052

Pvt CHARLES WELLS, 37699125

By command of Lieutenant General BRADLEY:
D. C. THOMAS,

Major, AGD,
Asst Adj Gen.

RESTRICTED

GI'S DREAMED OF PARIS VISIT

"The Last Time I Saw Paris" was a nostalgic, sentimental song of World War II, as was Irving Berlin's popular World War I hit, "How You Gonna Keep 'Em Down On the Farm After They've Seen Paris?"

Either or both songs was capable of creating within the heart of every GI in the ETO a desire to visit the Capital of France, sometimes characterized as the most beautiful city in the entire world.

Even though my visit was the culmination of a long standing desire, its' inception came from, or was caused by the fast thinking, instant reaction, and expert marksmanship of two GIs from "G" Company, 329th Regiment.

Little did Pvts. Clarence W. Smith and Charles Wells suspect as they took up a defensive position along the Bovigny-Honyelez Highway. In the Belgium sector, on the night of 14 January 1945, that their actions on that date would result in four 329'ers spending four glorious days in this war-unspoiled city that still liked American soldiers. The four who profited from their action, including Smith and Wells, were Laddie Lawrence and myself.

The town of Honyelez was, and probably still is, not unlike dozens of other Belgium towns in that part of Europe. It consisted of several large, stone buildings that housed both people and animals. A large, ubiquitous manure pile dominated every front yard. The streets were of a material that resembled cobblestone; all very old and imposing.

When the Second Battalion, 329th moved into this section on that miserably cold January day, "G" Company was billeted in one of those large, drafty buildings that served both as living quarters and barn. The only people living in Honyelez on that day were those unable to escape during the Bulge battle; being mostly old men, women and young children, plus an array of Nazi troops who were honor bound, or crazy enough to defend it against the onslaught of the Americans.

There being nothing else to do with their time, the barn was full of cows, contentedly chewing cud as they took refuge from the constant artillery shelling.

These GIs had learned previously, either from experiences such as this or a farm background, that one redeeming asset of having cows around is their warm bodies. A fact soon learned was that these Honyelez cows were warm and friendly, and if one could withstand their odor and other unpleasantness, they offered a degree of comfort available today only under the radiant heat of an electric blanket.

If these cows preferred GIs over Germans, no one knew it. They just kept chewing cud and burping in a language all their own. Not only did they lend lots of comfort as bedfellows, but they furnished breakfast next morning in the form of hot milk. You can't beat that for service.

One GI was so taken with the tender loving service received that he composed a ditty revealing his true feelings:

*When I marry/ I'll marry a cow/
Something I can ride/milk and plow/*

If memory serves, the main part of Honyelez was located on the west side of the highway, and a small building, something like an abandoned service station, hovered up against the roadway on the east side. In this building Smith and Wells set up an outpost, sans cows. The retreating Nazis had apparent-

ly used it for the same purpose for a panzerfaust was found inside. Having little to do, the Combat Commandos of Company "G", Smith and Wells took turns studying its function and eventually learned its use and purpose; while at all times keeping a watchful eye on the road in the direction of Bovingny, towards the south, and the Nazis.

Sometime during the early morning hours a vehicle was sighted traveling on the road toward the outpost. With the aid of field glasses, it was found to be an ambulance, clearly marked with a Red Cross emblem. This was not an unusual sight during this particular time and neither Smith nor Wells was unnerved or anxious at its appearance, because of the Geneva Convention rules.

When the ambulance came to within a few meters of the outpost, a shot rang out from inside the vehicle, and a bullet chipped stone off the building, just above the occupant's heads and too close for comfort. Almost instantly the outpost came to life with both Smith and Wells firing away as if their life depended on it--and it did! We may never know who, but someone within the building manipulated the German bazooka and opened fire on the vehicle moving toward them. Expecting an explosion capable of stopping a large tank, the men inside were surprised when all they saw and heard was the ambulance coming to a sudden stop, and a cloud of smoke and snow arising from its front. The head attached to the bazooka failed to explode but the force of its forward movement had stopped the ambulance in its tracks. The sound heard was described as when an unstoppable object comes in contact with an unmovable object.

From all this mass of rubble, noise, smoke and snow, an aggressive Nazi charged the outpost. He was bound on taking an American with him to Val-Halla, the home of the warrior gods, but this one expired from a dose of lead poisoning before he reached his goal. The other occupant of the ambulance waited until the smoke had settled and then came from the interior of the vehicle with his hands held high above his head. It must have been his lucky day, for he was allowed to surrender.

The story of such criminal conduct on the part of an enemy combattant was not immediately publicized and this lucky German was evacuated through the Regimental Prisoner of War cage, to Division cage and on to Army Prisoner of War confinement. It may have never been known except for a happening only a few days prior. On 22 December 1944 four American soldiers surrendered at LaMarche, Belgium and they were executed. The report of this happening was sent to all commands and unit commanders were ordered to report such crimes or atrocities. This merited a report and when it reached Col Crabill's Command Post he detailed me to make an investigation. This is where I entered the picture.

With the help of Sgt. Slagle, the best scrounger (by definition, to steal slyly) in the ETO, and Pfc. Banks, the platoon photographer, we loaded a jeep with needed supplies. Included were fruit bars, chewing gum, cigarettes, and a bottle of terrible tasting black rum, to be used in case we needed to bribe any friend-

ly natives, and off to "G" Company we went.

I can say with all honesty that January 1945 weather was the coldest I have ever witnessed. The temperature for weeks hovered at around zero; the snow reached all the way up one's legs to the kazoo, and the wind chill factor, (that was before we had heard of such or we would have frozen to death), was slightly above that registered at the North Pole.

For this safari I was clothed in long handle underwear, wool pants and shirt, a tanker uniform covering all this, and a heavy coat over all. Still this was not enough to keep me warm. If nature had called, I could not have answered.

Thinking about it now, I believe I would have expired had Slagle not observed this oasis of relief which at that time was the nearest embodiment to a heavenly home I have ever witnessed. I didn't know such thing existed, and all these years I have debated to myself as to whether it was reality or merely a dream. But just recently I read something about it that General Bradley had written, and now I feel content in telling about it.

In the midst of this forsaken land a pyramidal tent had been erected and the only furnishing inside it was a red-hot, oil burning stove. The temperature inside was a good 100 degrees and the opposite to the wind chill factor, the hot air factor, must have been 400 degrees plus. It was so hot inside that tent that breathing had to be slow and easy. To have gulped down a large draft of that wonderful, searing, scorching air would have been like wrestling with sudden death. It was wonderful! To have remained inside for more than a minute would have been impossible. But what a joy it was to run through that tent and gulp all the heat possible, both inside and out. Since I have convinced myself that this wasn't a fantasy, I keep thinking of the mechanical genius who thought of it and hope he received a medal for his trouble. Thank you, whoever you are.

Survived by the heat, and further embolden by a quick snort from the rum bottle, we were again on our way to "G" Company, and the beginning of our trip to Paris. We arrived without further incident and heard firsthand the story from Pvts. Smith and Wells.

After completing the investigation, shots of the ambulance, and a nice visit with the "Honyelez Cowboys", we returned to Regiment and prepared the report; submitted it to higher headquarters, and promptly forgot it.

The Division moved and suddenly it was March and we were in the vicinity of Neuss, Germany. Hindquarters finally caught up with headquarters and a Captain Zimmer from 12th Army Headquarters arrived at Regiment to interview Smith and Wells. He was impressed with their story. Zimmer apparently was a cracker jack investigator for after the original report reached him he found that on the day of the happening at Honyelez only one prisoner matching the description given by Smith and Wells had passed through the 83rd Division P. W. channels. What was more startling to me was the fact that even though more than two months had passed since the capture by Smith and Wells, they told Captain Zimmer that they could probably identify the

responsible soldier. I felt sure that having to leave such a nice place as Neuss, where the "Don't's", were being enforced was too much of a jolt to both Smith and Wells. Of course, all of you remember the "Don't's", just like you remember -- "Take charge of this post and all government property in view"-- your General Orders-- only the "Don't" began with, "Don't sleep, eat or live in the same house with Germans, marry a German nor have any other form of social intercourse with one" . They were about to have to give up all these nice privileges and go to Paris where the girls smelled nice, were anxious to be seen with a GI, loved infantry, had apartments, could get enough money from a sale of a carton of "Raleighs" to insure a night on the town. Out of hearing of Captain Zimmer, they asked me if I thought they could identify the German. I thought about it for a second, and in spite of the fact that I would have to leave all the privileges of Neuss, I thought I owed it to my country to go to that den of iniquity called Paris. And since I would be bird-dogging these unlucky GIs to Paris, I felt that I could identify the German, even though I had never laid eyes on him. Orders were published calling for temporary duty for:

"Following O and EM, temp dy this hq. WP by MT o/a 16 Mar 45 fr present sta to temp dy for a period not exceeding (8) eight days at Hq. European T of Opns and such other places within the liberated areas as may be necessary to carry out instructions of the Army Gp Cmdr and upon completion thereof, return to proper sta. 1st Lt. William F. Dyer, Pfc. Laddie Lawrence, Pvt. Clarence W. Smith, Pvt. Charles Wells.

It was signed: By command of Lieutenant General BRADLEY:

It was a wonderful trip. The German was identified, and we all returned just in time for a move to Holland and a few days of deserved rest. We didn't need any more recreation for a while.

1st Lt. William F. Dyer
01286986

January 8, 1988

Mr. Robert Derickson
83rd Infantry Division Assn.
3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, Ohio, 45013-9102

Dear Bob:

I am enclosing the suggested itinerary and copy for the proposed 83rd Division tour in 1989. It is self-explanatory in terms of the itinerary, inclusive features, prices, etc., but let me add a few comments.

First, the advertised prices are virtually "all-inclusive". There are no hidden costs. Included are the air fare, top first class hotels, most meals (only 3 lunches and 3 dinners are **not** included), ground transportation, portorage, sightseeing, tips and taxes on services provided, etc.

Second, we are showing "one price" now from New York instead of the land arrangements at one cost

and the air another which heretofore required everyone to add them together. This eliminates any guesswork concerning total costs. And with all meals but the three lunches and three dinners included, everyone can budget their funds before they leave.

Third, the prices are higher than any of us would like, but the tremendous drop in the dollar value versus foreign currency is well known through the publicity which has been in the news media constantly recently. But an important point to remember here is that it is "NOW OR NEVER" for the WWII veteran. We do not have the luxury of time on our side any longer, and the value of the dollar is almost inconsequential when compared to the singular importance that this trip will represent.

I have tried to find ways to economize, but my hands are tied presently unless we reduce the quality of the hotels and some services. I cannot find it in my conscience to do this as it really will be "the last hurrah" for many of the people, and they want top quality. I don't blame them. I would, also, even if I tried to reduce the price, since the trip includes so many of the essentials, it would simply pass added costs to them on arrival to Europe. So - in effect it is "Catch 22" - you're darned if you do, you're darned if you don't.

Fourth, we are prepared to 'guarantee' these prices (which, bear in mind, are for 1989 and if everything goes according to normal patterns, inflation alone will increase them by 10 to 15% in Europe) - **IF** full prepayment is made on or before **March 15th**, or if they opt to use the "time payment plan" which required 25% down by March 15th and a schedule of 25% payments each quarter until the payment is made.

For people who do not want to fly to New York, we will provide "selected gateway cities" (Chicago, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Dallas, etc.) for them to fly independently to Europe, at additional cost of course. However, in this circumstance, they will be responsible to make their own way between the arrival airport and hotel - and from the hotel in the departure city to the airport. Obviously, if their flight arrives at about the same time as the group flight, we'll take them in to the hotel or the reverse on the return. Naturally, we will give them written instructions and information on how to make these independent transfers. They are not expensive if they use the public transportation (airport buses) which are available everywhere. In Paris, in fact, the Air France Airport bus drops them right off at the very hotel we will be using.

Note in the itinerary that I have not been able to use the "central point" exclusively for you. This is because the 83rd fought over such a vast area - from Normandy to the Elbe. What I have tried to do is to ease the burden of long trips and one night stands. St. Malo is the one "bugaboo" in our planning because it is so extreme in its accessibility, but the way we have now scheduled it should make for an easy and pleasant trip. If you have any questions on this, call me. Observe also that we will use the train from Paris to Luxembourg in order to ease the pace and provide a new, exciting form of transportation. It

eliminates a full day on the motorcoach.

So - this is truly a "first class" trip -as we always try to give. No one can complain about the quality of the hotels (some are even deluxe in category but we have excellent prices there).

If you would like, I can send you a writeup for inclusion in your newsletter and I can provide you with camera-ready copy of the itinerary, etc., even a printed brochure you can staple in to the book. Look this over. Call me and we can discuss it. I can get it to you overnight by Federal Express in the same manner in which this is being sent to you.

I want 1989 to be a great year for the 83rd...and I can tell you unqualifiedly that we have the "major" centers in this one for you.

Kindest regards, as always.

Sincerely,
H.F. Ryder - President

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION 45TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS - EUROPE - 1989

Check your calendar! In less than two years we will celebrate the 45th anniversary of most of the major battles of World War II. In spite of the passing of so many years, plans are already being made to commemorate these historic events throughout Europe. D-Day will once again occupy center stage, and as the months pass, other actions will receive their share of deserved recognition.

The interest among our members--in fact, all veterans of World War II units--appears to be undiminished, indeed, growing. Part of this phenomena is the fact that millions of WWII veterans have reached retirement age where time and circumstances permit their participation when previous anniversaries have not

We're starting early this time to insure all of the arrangements we desire are available and in place without imposing undue pressures on the multitudes of people who are always involved in our successful return trips. The following itinerary has been prepared to provide a "middle of the road" approach, to enable everyone to participate and enjoy the trip regardless of whether it is their first or a repeat trip. It is always fun to return again to places like St. Malo, Normandy and Luxembourg. Our plans have taken past experiences and known wishes of many of our members into consideration.

JOIN US! The trip has been tailored to emphasize a more leisurely pace, eliminating long days of travel, yet allowing enough time in each of our WWII service areas to permit everyone to return to or see his "special places." This will be once again one of those extraordinary times when fun, camaraderie and momentous events combine to provide new memories that will last a lifetime. Remember, there is a very great demand for lodging and other arrangements so space is limited. **Sign up today!** Assure your part in another historic 83rd journey!



1989

Friday, June 2 - NYC/ALOFT.

Saturday, June 3 - PARIS. Arrive Paris and transfer to hotel. Balance of day free to rest and adjust to time change. This evening enjoy a Wine and Cheese reception and orientation meeting with our Tour Manager.

Sunday, June 4 - PARIS/NORMANDY. Depart Paris this morning, motoring direct to Normandy. Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant (provided). This afternoon, visit St. Lo with its Carillon Tower and Major Howe Monument. Continue to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Monday, June 5 - NORMANDY. Enjoy morning receptions at St. Hilaire and Sainteny with Official Mayoral Reception and lunch. This afternoon we will join the U.S. 45th Anniversary of D-Day ceremonies at Utah Beach.

Tuesday, June 6 - NORMANDY/STD. MALO. Drive via Coutances and Avranches to Mont St. Michel. Stop for lunch and a visit. This afternoon, continue to St. Malo for a Mayoral Reception with touring of areas as requested.

Wednesday, June 7 - ST. MALO/PARIS. This morning tour 83rd areas of interest, then continue via motorway to Paris.

Thursday, June 8 - PARIS/LUXEMBOURG. Morning free to explore the highlights of the "Queen City of Europe" and shop until the Official Reception (circumstances permitting) at City Hall. This afternoon, transfer to the Paris Railstation for our train journey to Luxembourg, enjoying dinner on board.

Friday, June 9 - LUXEMBOURG. A full day awaits us as we visit Hamm American Military Cemetery and lay a wreath to honor our fallen comrades. From here we will visit some of the 83rd former combat areas to include Dalheim, Remich, Besch, Mondorff, Trier, Osweiler, Echternach, etc.

Saturday, June 10 - LUXEMBOURG. Today, return to the 83rd Division Monument for a brief ceremony. Afterwards, meet CEBA friends (local citizens dedicated to the study and preservation of Battle of the Bulge artifacts) for a wreath ceremony at their G.I. Memorial, followed by a reception and luncheon.

Sunday, June 11 - LUXEMBOURG/HEERLEN. Enter Battle of the Bulge areas today enroute to Heerlen, Holland. Some of the towns will include Bastogne (home of the Mardasson Monument), Rocheford, Melines, Soy, etc.

Monday, June 12 - HEERLEN. A day of beautiful scenery as we tour the Huertgen Forest area with lunch (independent) in the medieval town of Monschau. Return to Margraten American Military Cemetery for a wreath-laying ceremony. We'll enjoy our Farewell Dinner tonight in Heerlen.

Tuesday, June 13 - HEERLEN/BRUSSELS/NYC. Early morning transfer to Brussels for return flights to New York.


INCLUSIVE TOUR PRICE FROM NEW YORK:


\$2479 per person


83rd INFANTRY DIVISION TOUR


TOUR CONDITIONS

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:


 **AIR FARES:** Low discounted air fare from New York on regularly scheduled airlines will be used and is included. Air fares are guaranteed once air tickets are issued; you will have to pay more if fares increase before date of departure. Add-on fares are available from Los Angeles, Dallas and Chicago.

 **HOTELS:** Twin rooms with private bath will be provided in firstclass and selected hotels. Single Room additional \$399.00.


 **MEALS:** Continental Breakfast will be provided daily. Table d'hote meals will be provided for lunch and dinner in accordance with the custom of each country and as follows: 6 lunches & 7 dinners.


 **TRANSFER:** Transfers of passengers and baggage from the airport to hotel, and vice versa, will be provided by motorcoach IF traveling on group flights.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION: Modern motorcoaches will be provided as required in the itinerary.

 **SIGHTSEEING:** Sightseeing programs as specified in the itinerary will be provided via motorcoach transportation, including the services of an English-speaking guide and appropriate entrance fees.

TIPS AND TAXES: are included on all prepaid services.

 **BAGGAGE:** Maximum free baggage allowance on motorcoaches is one normal-sized suitcase (not to exceed 62 inches or 44 pounds) per person. One small piece of hand luggage may also be brought, but must be carried by, and remain in possession of, its owner at all times (not to exceed dimensions of 45 inches). Excess baggage must either be stored or forwarded by express company at passenger's expense. Baggage capacity of motorcoaches is limited.

 **TOUR DIRECTOR:** A professional Tour Director will accompany the tour.

TOUR PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE: Airport/customs/ departure taxes, passports, any applicable visa fees, airport portorage, excess baggage charges, optional sightseeing, items not on table d'hote menu, laundry, liquor, mineral water, beverages with lunch and dinner, customary gratuity to motorcoach driver and Tour Director, and any other expenses of a personal nature.

PAYMENT: A deposit of \$200 per person is required to effect reservations. An interim payment schedule will be developed to ease the payment of the tour price. Final payment is due when billed, but not later than six weeks prior to departure. Airfares cannot be guaranteed until paid for in full with tickets written.

NOTE: Tour prices are based on a minimum of 40 participants per motorcoach and on rates (tariff and currency

exchange rates) in effect on January 5, 1988, and are subject to adjustment in the event of change.

CANCELLATIONS: for unforeseen and valid reasons in advance of departure are entitled to a full refund less actual expenses incurred and a \$25.00 per person service charge if written notice is received not later than six weeks prior to departure date. If cancellation occurs less than six weeks before departure date, deposits will be refunded, less actual expenses incurred and a \$60.00 per person service charge, plus any cancellation charges assessed against Galaxy Tours by hotels, transportation companies, airlines, and other purveyors of services. Unused services in the itinerary will not be refunded for less than three days activities and arranged in writing with Galaxy Tours prior to departure.

INDIVIDUAL CHANGES: All changes must be confirmed in writing. There is no charge for the first change. Every change thereafter will be assessed a \$25.00 per person, per change service charge. If less than 60 days before departure, the \$25.00 per person, per change fee will apply to all changes.

RESPONSIBILITY: Galaxy Tours and/or its agents act only in the capacity of agent for carriers, hotels, bus operators, and other suppliers of services and shall not be held responsible for any injury or for any loss or damage caused by accidents or events beyond their control, or by any action or negligence of attendants of third parties who are not in their employ and on their payroll. The tour operator and/or its agents can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air, sea, or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. The right is reserved to substitute hotels specified for others of similar category. The right is reserved to make minor adjustments in the itinerary. Prices are based upon current tariffs and are subject to adjustment in the event of change. The right is reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour unless arrangements are made prior to departure. The issuance and acceptance of vouchers or tickets shall be deemed to be consent to the above conditions. In addition, transportation companies concerned shall not be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not on board their carriers. The passenger contract in use by the carriers concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies and the purchaser of the tour and/or passengers. The itinerary shown is planned at the time of issue of this flyer, but is subject to revision should circumstances make it necessary. Such revision will be shown on the individual traveling itinerary you receive before departure.

Copyright Galaxy Tours 1987



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

SOURCE OF FUNDS		INCOME
Ad Book		\$ 9,758.00
Registration		51,611.00
Crafts & Raffle		<u>2,755.98</u>
Total Income:		\$64,124.98
DISBURSEMENTS:		
Printing & Postage Ad Book		\$ 3,805.30
Printing Meal Tickets		79.80
Goody Bags		432.77
Memorial Service		86.10
Hospitality Room		3,369.06
Entertainment		2,061.05
Transportation		174.00
Meals (to Hotel)		55,000.00
Name Tags		180.00
Court Reporter		192.00
Miscellaneous Expenses		<u>89.90</u>
Total Disbursements:		\$ 65,469.98
	Loss	(\$1,345.00)
FUNDS DUE NAT'L HEADQUARTERS:		
Advanced Money		
(Loan) Treas.		\$ 800.00
83rd Parahenalla		
(sold at Reunion)		1,345.00
(From Nat'l Office)		
TOTAL DUE		
(National Treasury)		\$ 2,145.00

**Please See Page 20
for Reservation Application
For Europe 1989**



AMERICAN VET-FIND

P.O. BOX 1939
CLEVELAND, TEXAS 77328

Dear Veteran:

American Vet-Find is an organization whose goal is to locate and reunite veterans with their buddies and shipmates with whom they have lost contact through the years. American Vet-Find is a Database Computer Service run by veterans for veterans searching for lost friends and for veterans trying to organize outfit reunions.

We are requesting that the veteran furnish us with his or her name, including any nickname, address, phone number, branch of service, duty stations or outfits (including POW camps), company or divisions and the time frame spent at each. With this data entered into our computers we are able to sort veterans in many different ways, finding veterans and helping organizers of reunions locate the men and women with whom they served.

There is a one time charge of \$5.00 per veteran to enter your name in the computer and an additional charge of \$1.00 for each name searched and for reunion organizers a charge of 20 cents for each name searched (25 name minimum). There is no charge for change of address. The veteran will also have to furnish a self-addressed stamped envelope for each request made.

With the teamwork of all veterans, this service reunites veterans with friends who shared something very special. We need every veteran to participate in this veterans' service. If not for yourself, do it for the men and women you served with. They could be trying to find you!!

Please fill out the attached form and forward it to American Vet-Find. If you have any friends or relatives who served their country, send their name and address to us. We will forward forms to them. If you prefer, make copies of the attached form and pass them out.

Respectively,

American Vet-Find

DATA FORM

LAST NAME _____ MIDDLE NAME _____
FIRST NAME _____ NICK NAME _____
STREET ADDRESS / P.O. BOX _____ CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
PHONE NUMBER () _____
BRANCH OF SERVICE _____
SERVICE NUMBER _____
DUTY STATION _____
_____ TIME FRAME _____
DUTY STATION _____
_____ TIME FRAME _____
DUTY STATION _____
_____ TIME FRAME _____
DUTY STATION _____
_____ TIME FRAME _____
POW CAMP _____
_____ TIME FRAME _____

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE THIS FORM AND SEND \$5.00 TO:

AMERICAN VET-FIND
P.O. BOX 1939
CLEVELAND, TEXAS 77328

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION

45th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS - EUROPE - 1989

RESERVATION APPLICATION

GALAXY TOURS
 P.O. Box 234
 Wayne, PA 19087-0234
 (800) 523-7287 (toll-free outside PA); (215) 254-6600

Please make _____ reservations on the 83rd Infantry Division 1989 Tour.

Enclosed is \$ _____ representing \$200 per person deposit.
Please make checks payable to Galaxy Tours.

My name followed by Person(s) registering with me:

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Phone: Are Code: _____ Home: _____ Work: _____

I Desire: 2-in-a-room basis Single room at extra cost Willing-to-share, 2-in-a-room basis

Roommate if known: _____

If no roommate is available, single supplement applies.
Standard cancellation and responsibility clauses apply.

Signature: _____

Date: _____ Tour Number: 780

NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO PLANNED TO ATTEND THE REUNION IN CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA AND DID NOT COME

MARRIOTT	ELK RIVER	HOLLIDAY	TOTAL
38	25	8	70

NUMBER IN ATTENDANCE AT THE REUNION IN CHARLESTON

	MARRIOTT	ELK RIVER	HOLLIDAY	TOTAL
MEMBERS	338	134	28	500
GUESTS	292	124	24	440
TOTAL	630	258	52	940
MEMBERS WHO PAID DUES ONLY		DID NOT STAY IN HOTELS		13

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 42nd ANNUAL REUNION HERSHEY LODGE, HERSHEY PA. SEPTEMBER 8 - 9 - 10 DEPARTURE SEPTEMBER 11, 1988

Wednesday, September 7, 1988

Early Bird Special

10:00 a.m. - Noon - 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Registration	Convention Center
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Gettysburg Tour	On Your Own
8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Square Dance Night (For Beginners & Experienced) Caller William Appleby	Cash Bar

Thursday, September 8, 1988

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Registration	Convention Center
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Sit Down Dinner	Cash Bar
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Entertainment & Dance	Cash Bar

Friday, September 9, 1988

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Breakfast	Buffet
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Registration	Convention Center
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon	Business Meeting Cosmetic Illustration Women <u>Mary Kay</u> Coordinator - June Zenz	
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Memorial Service	
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Sit Down Dinner	Cash Bar
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Entertainment & Dance	

Saturday, September 10, 1988

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Breakfast	Buffet
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Registration	Convention Center
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon	Business Meeting Hershey Park & Hershey's Chocolate World	
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Catholic Mass	
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Banquet Dinner	Cash Bar
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Entertainment & Dance	Cash Bar

Sunday, September 11, 1988

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Brunch	
------------------------	--------	--

"FAREWELL! HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME"

(Subject to Additions & Deletions in the Future)

USAIR

District Sales Office
225 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Conventioneer,

USAir is please to announce a special air fare for your convention / meeting.

Conditions:

- * Please make reservations round trip through our 800 national numbers or Yellow Pages local USAir number. (800-428-4322).
- * Indicates at the time of booking that you are on a special convention fare (BE295Z) discount (25%). Please note: There are many promotional fares between cities. Our reservationists will make every attempt to secure the lowest fare possible for you.
- * For your ticketing convenience please fill in, detach and mail the bottom portion of this letter.

Thank you for flying USAir.

To be completed by the passenger:

Name (s) _____ Date of Travel _____

Origination City and Flight Number _____

Method of Payment: [] Check: Please make check payable to USAir

[] Credit Card: Name of Card _____

Account # _____ Expiration _____

Name on Card _____ Signature _____

(This signature authorizes USAir to bill card holder for above)

Mailing address of Passenger: _____

Mail completed for to:

USAir
225 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter 42nd ANNUAL REUNION OF 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION

**HERSHEY LODGE & CONVENTION CENTER, HERSHEY PA.
SEPTEMBER 8 - 9 - 10 DEPARTURE SEPT. 11 - 1988**

Name _____ Unit _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(TYPE OR PRINT YOUR AD CLEARLY IN THIS SPACE)

PLEASE CIRCLE THE SIZE OF AD YOU PREFER:

**FULL PAGE AT
\$60.00**

**HALF PAGE AT
\$35.00**

**QUARTER PAGE AT
\$18.00**

BOOSTER ADS ARE \$5.00.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: PHIL. CHP. REUNION FUND AND SEND TO:

GEORGE A. PLETCHER
2057 Roy Ave.
Abington, PA. 19001

ALBERT A. BELVEDERE
65 Westminster Dr., So.
Vincentown, N.J. 08088

LOUIS J. VOLPI
410 Merion Rd.
Merion, PA. 19006

SEND YOUR ADS EARLY, AS THEY PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR PROGRAM

Fellows, we hope to cut down on the cost of the ad book, by not mailing all of those letters requesting your ads. This ad form will be in the Thunderbolt for three (3) issues. Please cut out your ad from last year's book and clip to this form or re-write it on this form. We would like for you to get your ad in before May 1, 1988. This will give the printer time to set-up the book and print it. The Hotel application will be in the next two (2) issues of the Thunderbolt and we advise you to make your reservation EARLY. We have 425 rooms at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center and when those are filled we will have to make arrangements for the overflow. Thank you for your cooperation.

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter
42nd ANNUAL REUNION
OF 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION

SEPTEMBER 8 - 9 - 10 DEPARTURE SEPT. 11 - 1908
HERSHEY LODGE & CONVENTION CENTER, HERSHEY PA.

[Large empty rectangular box, likely a placeholder for a photograph or detailed program information.]

CHAIRMAN: JAMES J. ...
VICE CHAIRMAN: ...
SECRETARY: ...

BOOSTER CLUB AND SPONSORS

SPONSORS: ...
BOOSTER CLUB: ...



Cards & Letters

Dear Bob:

Please find enclosed my check for dues. I did receive a nice letter from Fred Willman of "E" 331st.

I answered his letter. There are a few addresses I wish I had. I am 65 now as I'm sure most of our Thunderbolt, World War II men are. Don't know how many years are left.

I was playing golf the other day (I'm just a duffer--but I sure enjoy being out there). Anyhow, they started to put me and my friend together with a foursome. One of the new players here to get some sunshine said he was from Harper Woods, Michigan. I said that I knew a man in the 83rd Inf. Division from Harper Woods by the name of Vito Palazzolo. This man said he knew him. I was in the E. T. O. with Patton. We had a very nice game and from then on my score even went down. Wish I could meet more men like him here in the Phoenix area. Anyhow we had fun. I did not get to the 83rd reunion. Wish they could have one in the West, but I realize most of the 83rd Division people were East of the Mississippi. I did get to the Cleveland, Ohio and Pittsburgh reunion which was a few years back.

Shelby, Ohio was my area. I was born and raised there. I was with the Mansfield tire and Rubber Company about thirty-three (33) years.

I wrote Fred Willman a little of my time with the 83rd Division. I took all my Basic Training with the 89th Infantry Division at Camp Carson, Colorado.

Then in the spring of 1943 they broke the 89th up and put us in replacement packages. I felt the 83rd Division a very good effective Infantry Division. It is kind of tough going into battle with all new faces (as a replacement). None of your old friends. The first day I asked a man who had hustled by me a couple of times, (how do you keep alive up here)? He kind of smiled and took hold of his rosary and I will always remember that confidential look. I was a machine gunner-then BAR man. A hell of a good gun. Then I carried the big radio on my back for our Lt., for the St. Lo bombing. A short bomb fell between my foxhole and the man in the foxhole on my right. I pushed the dirt over him. August 1st week was really one I'll remember. So many buddies killed and wounded. We were taking the brunt of the attack--very close in fighting. Then later, August 10th at St. Malo area my Lt. and I were in the front scouting and contacted a trench full of Krauts. They started shelling the area and I got hit with 88 shrapnel in the hip and body. Bob, I could fill this tablet with bits starting on the Normandy Beach.

Thanks for being our Secretary Treasurer.
SINCERELY,
Your buddie

John W. Stauffer
919 E. Granada Avenue
Apache Junction, AZ 85219



912 Edgar Street
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

November 19, 1987

Dear Bob,

Just received the fall issue of the THUNDERBOLT. It is a very fine edition-as usual. Miracle of Miracles-the 83rd Division Band is now an entity. We now have a mailing list which we use to write to each other and to call on the phone. As you know, I have been a member of the Association since 1947-but now there other members of the Band in the Association; and Mr. King is trying to recruit some more.

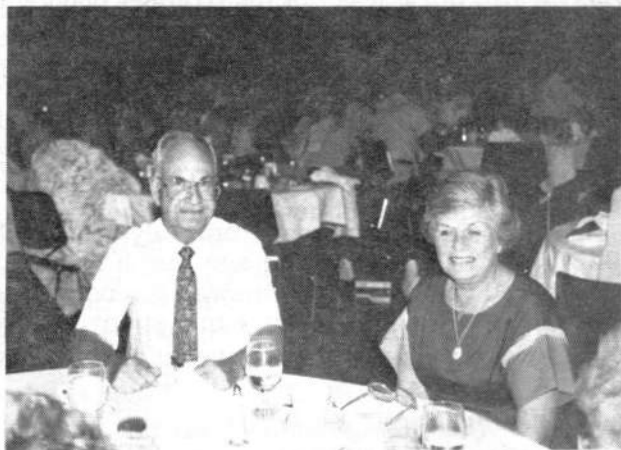
I see Don St. John-Field Artillery-now and then at the Heidelberg Club. We got acquainted; he graduated with one of my older brothers. His brother-in-law, Bill Shaner from Altoona and a member of the 83rd died recently of a heart attack.

I am appreciative of the fact that the 83rd Band made the news in the THUNDERBOLT. I played taps at the reunion and will do so in the future if you need me. I am the Public Affairs Officer and bugler for the Civil Air Patrol and recently received the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

Enclosed are some pictures taken at the Charleston Reunion. We had a get-together on Thursday night. Mr. King was our host. Perhaps you can use them in the next issue of the THUNDERBOLT; they are labeled on the back. It was our first reunion, and we enjoyed it very much. Also, enclosed is an article that appeared in the ALTOONA MIRROR for Veterans' Day. Perhaps, you can use it.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

Sincerely,
G. Arthur Yon
83rd Division Band



**Mr. and Mrs. Zeno King, Band Director
Charleston Reunion.**



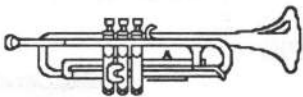
Band Member's Wives left to right: Mrs. Jim Harris, Mrs. Nick Aloisi, Mrs. Ray Oswald, Mrs. Art Yon. Charleston Reunion.



Band Reunion, Charleston Reunion, left to right: sitting, Mrs. A. Yon, standing, Art Yon, Mrs. Rilenberg, Mrs. Paul Couley, Mrs. Nick Aloisi, Nick Aloisi, Lenord Rilenberg; back to camera, Mrs. Z. King.

Veteran Recalls War Camp

By Kay Shepard
Staff Writer



G. Arthur Yon was a member of the Army band in World War II but it was not his trumpet playing that landed him in a German prison camp. It was his training as a medic.

"One day at Normandy (an officer) said, 'We need 30 men to fill in for the medics, so he picked out 30 and I happened to be one of those. We moved up toward the front line, which wasn't very far away,' Yon said.

He was a prisoner-of-war from July 1944 to May 1945 and during that time saw Adolf Hitler. Yon was drafted in 1942, while he was attending Indiana Teachers College. After time spent at Camp Breckinridge as a member of the Infantry Division

Band, Yon was sent overseas in 1944.

He had been in Normandy about a month when he was greeted by three tiger tanks and German soldiers carrying burp guns as he walked out of the first aid station.

He believes the group was captured because they may have set up behind German lines and the Allied troops had withdrawn the day before.

So the German troops found a group of unarmed men with red crosses on their helmets made from white tape and Mercurochrome.

Soldiers who could walk, were escorted out of the first aid camp with their hands over their heads. The wounded were left behind.

The first three months of his captivity were divided between walking and riding in box cars or trucks to get to Stalag-7 near Munich.

It was during his experience of working the fields that Yon caught a look at Adolf Hitler and may have been one of the last Americans to see the German dictator before his death.

Yon hid in a barn one day when Hitler's motorcade pulled up to the courtyard between the barn and the house. Yon saw Hitler get out of the car. It was in spring 1945.

Hitler's suicide was reported May 1, 1945.

"I was probably the last American to see him alive," Yon said.

After the war, Yon returned to the United States and continued at Indiana Teachers College. He spent 35 years as a business education teacher at the Holidaysburg High School and has been retired for four years.

After 43 years, Yon saw the band director at a reunion of the 83rd Division in Charleston, W.V. this summer.

Yon found out from the former band director that had he not gone to be a medic, he would have spent his time with the band guarding German prisoners instead of being guarded himself.



Co. 'H' 330th

HELLO BUDDIES:

Here it is time again to get our news in the "THUNDERBOLT," the Holiday Season is over and we are embarked on another great year, although the year begins for the 83rd Infantry Division Association in August each year, this is the beginning of a new year in the History of our great Country.

I sincerely hope that you all had a joyous Holiday Season, unfortunately to me, it wasn't a time for rejoicing. Some of you may already know, on September 29th, I had the misfortune of losing my wonderful Wife, Mary. She was rushed to the Hospital the night of the Reunion Banquet, and never came out. She fought a hard battle for years, but finally she was called to her eternal Kingdom. She will be sadly missed by plenty others as well as myself.

Well Buddies, as you know right after the first of the year, I have always hounded you men for your

contribution to the Ad Book for the coming Reunion. This year I don't intend to be as forceful as I have been in the past. I am going to trust to you men to reply and be as gracious as you can. I have been proud of Co. H over the years for the response that I have gotten, there have been a certain few that were extra generous which helped to make the Co. H ad what it has been. This year I am asking all of you to do your part, I usually ask you for a donation of \$5.00, this year I will ask you to put an extra dollar or two to help cover some of our deceased Buddies.

Again, I am mighty proud of having had the honor to serve in Co. H, during World War II, we were and still are the greatest.

**Your buddy,
Larry Redmond**



KENTUCKY CHAPTER

FALL MEETING

The Kentucky Chapter had their Fall Meeting at the Greenville Inn in Greenville, Ohio with Gale and Irene Baker as our host and hostess. Some of us arrived around noon on Friday. Gale and Irene had planned a day at the Glass Factory. If you ever get a chance you should go and see this place. They showed us all though the factory. How they heated the glass and baked it. Of course the ladies had to buy some of the candles that they made. A very interesting afternoon. Off to a very nice restaurant where we all had too much to eat.

Back to the Inn and the hospitality room for a great deal of talking and good fellowship with our friends.

On Saturday morning we all had breakfast at the Inn and then in the rain and fog we took off in cars for Wright Patterson Air Force Base where we all spent a delightful day.

We had our meeting that evening after a wonderful meal served by the Inn. We had our election of officers at this meeting. All officers were retained for another two years, with the exception of our news reporter and Dan McCarthy was elected to this office. Thanks Vi for a job well done for these past two years.

Many thought it should be one of the men so here I am. Bear with me. A discussion was held about the reunion in 1989. Our Christmas party was discussed. Irene had decorated the tables and Mary Belle Wright had door prizes to give out. Thanks people for a very good meeting. We all met for breakfast on Sunday morning before departing for home.

**Dan McCarthy
'M' 331st**

KENTUCKY CHAPTER

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Some of the Chapter met on Friday at the Clarion Hotel where the 1989 Annual reunion is to be held. Babe and Charlie Schmidt along with Manny and

Avalon Goodridge had planned a horse and buggy tour of the city for all those who came in on Friday.

On Saturday it was pretty well on your own until the meeting time. We had our meeting at three o'clock with Chester presiding. Our meetings for the coming year were planned at this time. The Spring meeting will be held in Louisville, Kentucky on April 15 and 16 with Dan and Ann McCarthy as our host and hostesses. We will be staying at the Days Inn in downtown Louisville. Our summer meeting will be our annual picnic with Bob and Pearl Derickson as our host and hostesses. We will again be staying at Ed and Kathy Derickson's College View Motel near Oxford. This will be on June 10 and 11. Our fall meeting will be in October at the Executive Inn in Owensboro, Kentucky with Wally and Frances Roberts as our host and hostesses. For our December meeting Wilson and Vi Day are going to see if we can meet in Gatlinburg, Tennessee at the same time as the Dixie Chapter as some of our members belong to both organizations and we meet at the same time.

Our thanks to the members who give of their time to plan and host these meetings. They all do it so cheerfully. That is what makes the 83rd so Great.

**Dan McCarthy
'M' 331st**



New Jersey Chapter

Jan. 5, 1988

We hope all of you enjoyed the holidays and our wish to you all is for a Happy and Healthy 1988.

The Chapter was very active during the past few months. We had a chapter dinner November 15th, at the 94th Bomb Group Restaurant in Fairfield, N.J. The place was ideal for us, and we plan on returning for another dinner. We had twenty members attending the dinner. The date enabled us to have Ruth and Al Bensimon (The Snowbirds) attend. They were off to their home in Florida right after Thanksgiving Day. Everyone in this Jersey Chapter is fun to be with and our get-togethers are just great.

Fred and Addie Rein hosted our Christmas Party at their home. Everyone who attended had a wonderful time. There were games and a grab-bag for all to enjoy. Joe Deperi brought along his video camera and recorded the party. We were then able to enjoy the party once again watching it on TV. The party was so successful, that upon leaving Irene Guzik was heard to say, "We'll be here next year at Christmas." Thanks Fred and Addie for all the great food and drink and for being the wonderful couple you are.

A group from the chapter were invited to a surprise birthday party for Irene Guzik given by her children on November 28th. Fran and I couldn't attend but those who did report they had a great time. A gentleman won't reveal a woman's age except to say she is past forty. "Irene STO LAT."

Fran's sister died Thanksgiving Day. She was a nurse who worked private duty at Bayonne Hospital. Her family and friends will miss the caring and

kindness she gave so generously.

Our dear friend and buddy Dave Benick passed away the day after Thanksgiving Day. Dave was a member of the New Jersey Chapter from it's beginning. He would travel all the way from Brooklyn to be with us at the meetings. He and Millie became very close to us and we enjoyed the many times we shared both here and after they moved to Florida. Both their children, Donna and Bobby, would attend the chapter affairs with their parents. The Benick Family was a important part of our group and we benefitted by their participation, their enthusiasm, and most of all their friendship. We will miss Dave but are thankful for the many years we had him as our friend. Our sympathy to the Benick family, we share your loss.

Our prayers are for Hazel Wehling. Hazel took a turn for the worst and Emil had to put her in a nursing home.

Manny Epstein came over to see me and we went on a tour of Princeton. Manny was trying to get me to join him in buying all the real estate in the Princeton area. Too rich for me!!! While there we stopped in to see Frank and Paula Reichmann. Frank was out visiting friends so we missed seeing him. Frank called my home later that evening, talked to Fran, telling her he is feeling better. We missed talking to Frank as Manny and I had gone out to dinner.

A group of Jerseyites will invade Williamsburg for the Dixie Chapter Meeting. We look forward to seeing you again and know we'll have a ball being with you again.

We plan on having another dinner meeting in the spring. We'll keep you informed as to the date. For those of you who haven't joined us yet, come-you won't be sorry.

Remember our meetings are held the third Friday of the month, at the VFW Hall in Garfield at 8 PM.

One other thing before I close. At the Philadelphia Chapter Meeting last October, I was there representing the 83rd Division Association to present to Josie Piscitelli the plaque honoring her husband John for the many years he served as our Association Chaplain. I'd like to thank the Philly Chapter and especially Al and Ann Belvedere for driving me to and from the meeting, and Lou and Lucy Volpi for their hospitality while at their home and also at the restaurant, also to their daughter Linda for her warm hospitality.

At the meeting were Jim Prentice (Executive Board), and a group from the Pittsburgh Chapter. Sam Klippa along with Gene Constanza, Joe Danaylo and Joe Gallo drove in to be at the meeting. It was a pleasure for me to be with you all and special thanks to the Philly women for all the wonderful food served after the meeting.

That's it for now. Take care and God bless you all.

Stan Bielen
1st Bn. Hdqs. 331 Inf.

P. S. Included with this article are photos from Joe Deperi's Daughter's wedding, Note: Dave and Millie Benick, front left. Also some from the Christmas Party.



New Jersey Chapter Christmas Party



Joe Deperi's Daughter's wedding, Note: Dave and Millie Benick, front left.

Pittsburgh Chapter News

I will start my report for this issue on the trip to Europe last summer by Gene Costanzo and Joe Danaylo. I had hoped to have it in for the last issue but misplaced my notes. They were touring France, Belgium, Germany and Luxembourg in a rented car and on this particular day were in Berlin, taking pictures of the wall between East and West Berlin. On the way back to their hotel in Echnertach they somehow got lost along the corridor and took the wrong turn, arriving in a city 50 miles from Berlin and unbeknowing at that time in the Communist sector. They decided to stay overnight at a local hotel. But lo and behold a woman receptionist recognized they were Americans and promptly called the police who had them imprisoned and their passports taken from them. During their internment Joe had an altercation with a police sergeant with fist-cuffs a near possibility. After almost twelve hours they were released, given their passports back and escorted out of town. The escort consisted of a vehicle in front and one in back. Apparently improving east-west relations does not involve members of the Pittsburgh Chapter.

In other news concerning Gene he recently returned from a week in the Bahamas richer by \$3,000 from the gaming tables. He also won a free trip to

anywhere in the U.S., courtesy of Eastern Airlines.

Our October meeting opened with a moment of silence for Mary Redmond who passed away. Bill Harrold suffered a heart attack in late summer and was life flighted to Shadyside Hospital in Pittsburgh from his home in Greensburg. He has not attended any meetings since then, but we hear he is recovering nicely. Frank Hornack was in the hospital for a few days in September. Our treasurer John Gallo had cataract surgery in August and October and now has 20/20 vision in both eyes. On October 23 the chapter sponsored a hospital party for ambulatory vets from an area VA hospital. They were treated to a luncheon, non-alcoholic beverages, an afternoon of games and bingo. This was held at our meeting site--the Brentwood VFW Post.

On December 24 Emil Becker passed away after failing health for several months. He was the oldest member of the Assn. being 89 years old. He was laid to rest from the John Syka Funeral Home in Ambridge, Pa. He was never seen without his favorite pipe. He was laid out with it in his lapel pocket. Also deceased was Wilfrid Puhl (K, 330) of Wexford, PA. of peritonitis. Although not a member of the chapter I had been in contact with him by phone and had hopes of getting him to join the chapter.

At the November meeting we welcomed a new member--James McCulla of New Brighton, Pa. In the Fall issue of the Thunderbolt (page 32) a column about him appeared. He is seeking a Pvt. Pechin who served with him in Co. C, 329th at Camp Atterbury, Ind. Anyone having any information can write him at the address given in the Fall issue.

Our chapter chaplain Matt Pintar was appointed assistant Assn. Chaplain by the Executive Board. Matt serves as chaplain for the 33rd Dist., American Legion, Dept. of Pa.

The chapter Christmas Party was held at the Airport Holiday Inn in Oakdale, PA on December 5 with 46 persons in attendance. \$50.00 was donated to the Toys for Tots campaign of the U. S. Marine Corps. Diane Klippa is area chairperson for this charity.

I have other items of interest but due to the length of the column for this issue they must wait until our next publication.

**"Fran" Beerhalter
H-329th**



News From The 783 Ord.

Boy, I can't complain I don't have anybody to write about. Bob Derickson moved the winter issue after Christmas, so now I've got lot of Christmas card news to relate.

Let's do the news in the gray and "bad" areas first, saving the good news to last. Bob Hammond informed Doggett that while he was in Texas he looked up Tom Martin and learned he had died. Bob will have to supply what details he has. I also finally found Bob McLaughlins former wife and two sons. Bob died of a heart attack in 1977. His son Ron was very much interested to hear about his Dad. I sent

him other info. on the 83rd and an article from our 783rd newspaper, praising Bob's winning softball hit.

Right before Christmas, Alex Zakerchemney's sister called to tell me Alex had died and was laid to rest on Dec. 19. This was extremely sad, as Alex lived with his ninety three year old, bedridden father, and Ruth has been taking care of them.

Lastly, I received a letter from Jackie Paulson to inform us that Larry died on Feb. 19th. He had been chronically ill with congestive heart failure for the last four years. "He always put up a great front, he just didn't want anyone to know he was that ill." The thought of these fine buddies bring back fond memories, we offer our condolences to their families.

You all know by now, that we have been pushing the Hershey Reunion by the letters you have received. I have been working on all the "unfound" fellows on the 783rd. Thanks to some found, old, attic, addresses of Ray Wiggins, I am happy to report that we have now found 122 of the Company. The recent finds are:

Vin Musser-13061 Farview-Space 6, Garden Grove, Calif. 92643 Phone 714-971-3249

Fliore Demarinis-31 Chase Ave. Springfield, Mass. 01108 Phone-413-737-2438

James Long-33 Wilcoxon Ave. Nixon Ga. 30263 Phone-404-253-0477

Sam Hoffman-138 Joya Circle, Harrisburg, Pa. 17112 Phone-717-540-1371

Norris Basham, 102 Elm St. Smyra, Tenn. 37167 Phone-615-459-3176

They have all promised to send me a thumb nail sketch of their lives, so in the interest of space I'll wait for them, rather than adlib. Vin Musser, from Small Arms, has a sad and strange life to tell. Shortly after moving to Calif. he had a breakdown and he went through a series of shock treatments which wiped out his whole wartime experience. Vin and I used to go to the front together to repair motors and when I called he wasn't so sure about my name. He finally said, "Didn't you have a nick name, a short one?" I was so pleased when he came up with "Rags!" I tried all your names but Vin said, "I'm sorry that the only thing I remember is getting seasick somewhere." Vin was a jeweler and he also lost those talents. He worked around the Post Office for seventeen years and he now seems rather content, and physically OK, at seventy one. He plays golf twice a week. I guess you know that call made my day and also his brothers. I found his brother in Ohio first, so I called him back, and they are now once again in contact. This story just proves what you can do, with just a little information. Look in your attics, maybe you'll be as lucky as Ray.

Does anyone have any info. on Woody Woodward, Walter Wilson, or Ernest Miller? Woody only lived three miles from where I'm sitting and Ray supplied me with the address. I ran right over and get zero information. I called every Woodward in the Philly book and couldn't find one relative. That's the luck of the dial, but look around, you just might have the right information. My barrel has run dry.

Now as paper space permits, the Christmas card news.

Louise Downing wrote a very up letter considering that Ray had a bad year. I was sorry to hear that Ray's kidneys were giving him trouble. Having lost one myself, eighteen years ago, I can empathize with him. They hope to make the reunion.

Joe Brown and Jim Jones (notice of ranking). These two are paired for a reason but first the news on Joe. We're both sorry to report, that Joe went into the hospital for a prostate problem and they removed a malignant lung lobe. Joe is still fiesty and at our last conversation he was doing well. His only concern, he didn't have anyone to sleep with at the reunion. This is where big-hearted Jones came in, a few more calls and Jim and Joe will now be sharing the same room at the reunion.

Bill Appleby is in fine shape (pear) and is going to do a good job on our reservations. He is going to appear in person and make sure we are all registered right.

Joe Stubber. Still revamping his home and looking forward to the Hershey happening.

The DelPrete's. They are still getting a kick and a shuffle out of life and we will see them this year "unless the dog has pups." A warning Gene, if they do, the whole 783rd will be over for Thursday lunch!

Received a nice note from Bill Manning, he said it was "beautiful" seeing ME! Paul Bryars, take note, Bill is planning to be at Hershey.

Bryars is also well, occasionally drinking Art's beer but keeping his golf game a secret from Phil Barbara. Phil says, "I'm signing up for the ranger course to reshape my beautiful body, for the rigors of beating that white-haired gentleman from Ohio." Phil's health must be good as he didn't complain about Ann's choices of restaurants.

Aubrey and Mata Wilcox are champs. Aubrey's sense of humor keeps him going. he has had three cancer operations in the last two years, "which is a bit much," and we'll all agree to that.

Hersh and Midge Weaver are both "feeling fine" and spent a nice month in sunny Ariz. with the kids. I hate them! The whole George Harris' are well and looking forward to the close-by Hershey.

Art and Millie Doggett have been in constant contact, giving orders and having a fine time visiting relatives and going to chapter meetings with Art's new diamond ring!

Frank Salontay got a nice letter out of that depressing Lake Erie snow belt and we hope to see him in Hershey without his "girlfriend", Lubchen, the steak eater.

Chuck and Peggy Garrison checked in, fit as a fiddle and they will also be at Hershey.

Received a nice surprise from Maxie Maxwell. He says he hasn't written a letter since the service! Now I hope he surprises us by appearing at Hershey.

Ernie Christian is very grateful to Bryars for his photo's of the reunion and he thinks I looked good! I always did like Ernie!

Easy and Lou Labbe are finally fully retired and loving the extra time with the eight grandchildren. Lou is excited about Hershey, she loves chocolates!

"Kip" Hobart Belt is still cutting grass and enjoying the exercise and hearing from Al Unfried.

Al and Bert Unfried seem very contented. Bert is working and Al is playing with his pieces of wood, until Hershey time. Bert needs a sweet vacation.

The automotive section of Troy Bishop, Percy Mohon, and Que Boyett, all sent cards with no messages, so we trust you all are flowing with lifes struggles.

Ed Perko ran into more bad luck with a messed up operation. They cut through the wall of his intestine and he ended up with major surgery. He's coming along and fully expects to make Hershey with one of his fine sons.

Good "old" Doc and Agnes will always be the same - up! They are cruising the oceans and flying to Calif. to see the new grandson and Lloyd Grayson, who also has been having more health problems, but amazingly he also is always up whenever we talk.

Ivan Gilman must also be put in here, before he gets the idea that, former 1st Lt's are now last. Ivan is flying to Hershey and driving back just so Pat has enough room for all "the stuff she buys!"

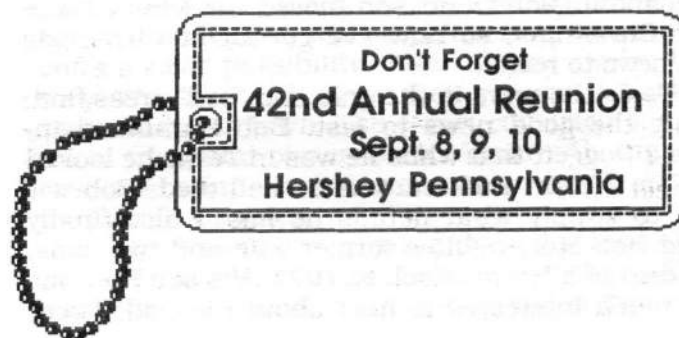
Phil Reese is still looking out for Bill Litrenta in South Philly and Bob Burns is well and happy in cold Mich. but he says he's getting too old to travel. Bob we're going to send you a page out of Jim Jones book. He's driving from Calif. again and solo. And so is "Snooky" Snooks for his first reunion! He's excited and so are we and my apologies for not getting your "history" in this issue.

Two others looking forward to 88 and feeling good, are Al and Ruth Bensimon and Herm and Norma Hackstock. One couple is basking in the sun and the other is cuddled by the fireplace waiting for the smells of the chocolate factory to call. Actually all four will end up in Fla. Steve Blasko also reported in from the sickly, warm State, and all is well with Steve. Steve is rightfully excited about his niece, Lori Blasko. She is trying out for the 88 Olympics, so keep your eyes on the T.V.

Lastly Carl and Alyce Fredericks. Carl is still working and Alyce has come up with a knee operation, just about now. They'll be cutting a rug at Hershey and thanks to Carl and Al Bensimon, and all of you, we have a record account for the add book. Carl just informed me he is up to \$200.00 so many thanks to all of you.

Sorry I was so long winded, but you made it all possible. The Hershey Reunion will be an exciting one. Appleby informs me he already has over twenty reservations, so don't delay, join the 1988 fun and do it NOW!

Hut two,
Rags Rangnow





Philadelphia Chapter Color Guard and Rifle Squad

PHILADELPHIA NEWS

While for quite some time the Philadelphia Color Guard and Rifle Squad have been leading the moving and impressive parade to the site of the memorial service held each year at our Annual Reunions, at the last two reunions they have been joined by the Pittsburgh Color Guard and the combination has been a genuine reflection of true "83rd" unity. Shown here are pictures taken at Charleston, W. Va. last August of the guard and firing squad in action under the command of Al Belvedere, First Vice President and Reunion Chairman for the Annual Meeting in Hershey in September of '88. Al has been a Past National President (1967) and he and Lou Volpi, Past National President (1973), have given a lot of time and effort to seeing that the equipment and gear needed each year are transported to and from the reunion site, and the practice necessary for the smooth execution of the ceremony is held. The joining of the two chapters for this ceremony is what comradeship is all about. And as the years pass, the deeper meaning of what we do each year to honor those of us not present becomes more apparent to all of us. Good job, fellas.

**John G. Daum
"D", 330th**



PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER NEWS

In late fall we held the Chapter officers' banquet at Charlie's Place in Bala-Cynwyd before the usual business meeting, and a good turnout by the members made it a special Sunday. To our great surprise and pleasure, seated at the end of a large reserved table, and obscured from immediate view, was our 1987 Chapter President, Norman Schuster, waiting to greet all of us and enjoying our looks of amazement at seeing him there. He has made remarkable progress after the very serious infection he developed in his artificial hip. He had been hospitalized these past several months. Lorraine too should be

noted as one of the outstanding uncapped nurses of the year for her cooperation with the hospital and her encouragement to Norman during this trying ordeal. Norman looks well, and his even enthusiasm for life and Lorraine's unflinching support have been a large part of that recovery.

On a much more somber note, we were saddened by the death of Mary Redmond, Larry's partner of many years. They worked well together over the years with the 83rd; and while Larry was aware of the seriousness of Mary's health problems, it is still such a loss to separate after such close interests in a lifetime together. All of us in the chapter have extended, and continue to extend, our sympathies to Larry at this very difficult time for him.

This year, for a variety of reasons, we held our Christmas party the first week in December and it was especially enjoyable as the first social gathering of the season. Lou Volpi and Lucy did an outstanding job with the dinner prepared at their restaurant for the occasion. With many preliminaries, the main course was surf and turf, and of course, each lady's contribution to dessert. It was an enjoyable way to start the holiday season as their tasteful Christmas decorations and decorated tables made it an instant holiday dinner party as Lou had closed the restaurant for the day.

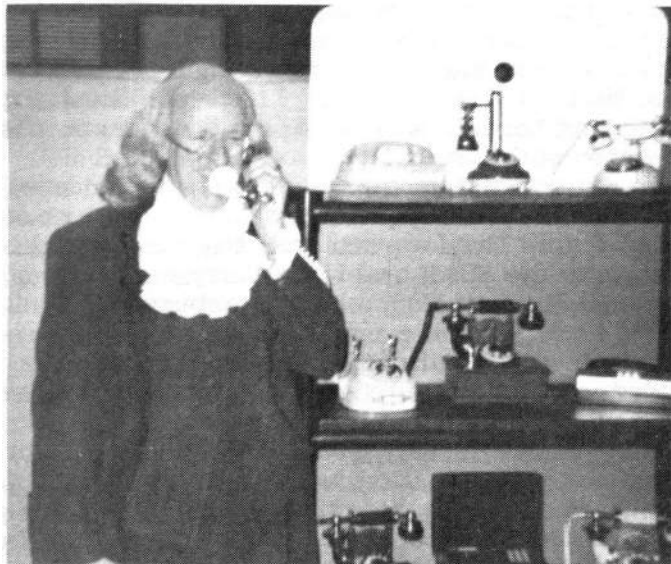
At such times, however, those not present are especially missed. Charlie Bonafiglia and Anne, two very faithful members of the Chapter over the years, were not present as Charlie suffered a stroke in the early fall, and while making improvement, is not able to do all he had done before being stricken. Our thoughts were with them both, especially at such a time.

Now that the new year has started, we are turning our sites towards preparations for the Annual Meeting in Hershey in September of this year. We hope to see many of you there and will have more details following in the next issue.

Have a good year, and a healthy one as well.

**John G. Daum
"D", 330th**





PHILADELPHIA NEWS

As you can see, neither rain, sleet nor hail can deter our versatile members, George Pletcher and Al Belvedere, from being prepared for any unforeseen circumstance in the year ahead. George was elected National President for this year at our Annual Reunion in Charleston, W. Va. last August, and Al was elected Reunion Chairman for the Annual Meeting in Hershey in '88. Too, while not in the picture, I would like to mention that Lou Volpi was elected Reunion Co-Chairman for the Annual Meeting in Hershey in '88.

Speaking of George, you might be interested to know that George is known by another name by many in Philadelphia. The Franklin Institute is one of our cultural assets as well as one of the architecturally outstanding buildings on the center city Parkway, and George worked at the Institute as a printer for twenty-one years before retirement. In the course of that time, he had an additional unusual responsibility. For his last ten years at the Institute, he was Ben Franklin as you can see from the picture shown here. During those ten years, he said he found it necessary to learn all he could about Ben and committed to memory many of Ben's sayings in order to answer the sometimes astute questions of the children coming through the Institute. These children had been well prepared by their teachers, and as a result, George found himself back to doing homework and memory exercises.

He told us too that over the years, as he learned more of the details of this man's life, he found himself often tying in similarities in his own life with that of Ben's. These are a few of his recollections. They were both printers. They were both born in January. Ben started the first fire company in Philadelphia and devised the brick firewall between the joined revolutionary houses to decrease damage. George was a volunteer fireman for some years in his own area.

From time to time George still hears from the Visitors Bureau asking if he can be Ben for a particular function. While the answer is no, it is nice to be re-

membered as one of the best Bens the Institute ever had, and this observation is shared by the staff at the Visitors Bureau-- and Jean.

**John Daum
'D', 330th**

At the reunion held in Charleston, W. Va., the membership of the National Association authorized a plaque to be presented to Josie Piscitelli in recognition of John's twenty-five years of service as our National Chaplain. Stan Bielen, the outgoing Executive Chairman, came to the Philadelphia Chapter meeting in October and made the presentation to Josie. Besides the chapter members present, we were joined by the newly elected Executive Board member, Jim Prentice, and by Sam Klippa, Gene Costanzo, Joe Danylo and John Gallo of the Pittsburgh Chapter.

It was a surprising and emotional moment for Josie. She knows more than anyone the effort given by John in those many years of dedicated service to the Association. We hope we were able to convey to her our awareness of a truly outstanding chaplain whose job was so well done.

**John G. Daum
'D', 330th**



Stanley Bielen making presentation to Josie Piscitelli in recognition of John's twenty-five years of service as our National Chaplain.



Philadelphia Chapter members and guests at the presentation to Josie Piscitelli in recognition of John's twenty five years of service.

GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

WARREN CHAPTER NEWS

Now that the holiday season is over and the winter is upon us, most of us can sit back in our chairs and watch our friends and neighbors shovel out their driveways and fight icy roads going to work. It sure is comfortable to know that you can watch it snow, rather than go out and play in it. The Warren Chapter mens Golf League finished our summer golf session, October 20th and we immediately set up our Bowling League for the winter. The old soldiers are getting back in shape now, but it was a rough two or three weeks of bowling, until we got rid of the aches and pains, sustained in our first session. Charlie Tomazin was our most consistent golfer for 1987, and bought the drinks only a few times. Our duffer of the year award, went to Mike Skovran, who kept us refreshed all summer.



SICK CALL

Walter Baranecky spent his three week Florida vacation in the hospital there. He is okay now and getting back in shape for the coming golf season.

Joe Venuti: Suffered another heart attack in November and stayed in the hospital for ten days. He bounces back pretty fast though, and is now our official bowling score-keeper.

Angie Phillipone: Is now home and feeling better, after a week in the hospital with a kidney problem.

George Bellay spent about a week in the hospital in December, but is back in good shape and bowls every week.

Olga Teringo just returned home after a three day stay in the hospital for tests, etc.. Olga is still under the weather, since her major surgery last May. Hang in there Olga, we are all praying for your complete recovery.

Millie Kelly also was in the hospital for four days with some painful dental problems. She is still being treated, but attends all of our functions.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO: Our old friend Mort Gaynor, who lost his brother before the holidays.

MEETINGS:

SEPTEMBER: Our annual steak fry and golf session was a huge success. Chef's Bellay, Gautschi and Halubka cooked the steaks to perfection.. Our annual election of officers followed our meal and our new slate of officers are;

PRESIDENT: Richard Kelly

V. PRESIDENT: Ted Halubka

SEC'Y-TREAS.: Mike Skovran

CHAIRMAN OF GOOD & WELFARE AND CHAPLAIN: Charles Tomazin

Many thanks to our outgoing officers, for jobs well done. Pres. Ray Voracek, V. Pres. George Bellay,

Sec'y-Treas. Mike Skovran and Good & Welfare Chairman: Charles Tomazin.

OCTOBER: This was our last outdoor golf and picnic session for 1987. We enjoyed the good food and refreshments, despite the rainy & cool weather. Many thanks to Babe Gautschi and Ted Halubka, who served as our summer committee and also our lovely ladies who prepared the fine food for our picnics. Marge Voracek made a big pot of beef stew which was delicious. Just about everyone had two helpings.

NOVEMBER: Ted and Dolly Halubka were our hosts for this meeting and once again, fine food and refreshments, plus our usual card game, sent us all home happy.

DECEMBER: We had 100% attendance at our annual Christmas party at Cafe 422, on the strip. Thanks to George Bellay and his committee, our Ladies Auxiliary, for their contribution of \$200.00 to our treasury, plus the Poinsettia plants, for door prizes and George Bellay, Helen Caparanis, Birdie and Lee Titus, for their handmade Christmas memorabilia's for the ladies.

That winds up the news and activities to date, so once again, from all of us in Warren, to all of you in the association....Good Luck, Good Health and Happiness for 1988.

Lee Titus
Chapter Reporter



G COMPANY 331st INFANTRY REGIMENT

December 2, 1987

Just received my Fall Issue of the Thunderbolt last week, and it reminded me that the next report from G Company was due in a couple of days.

We are all looking forward to the Holiday season, and I realize that by the time you receive your copy of the Thunderbolt the season will be over and we will be into the new year 1988. The reunion in Hershey, Pa is in September 1988 on the 8th, 9th and 10th of the month. You should be making your plans now, for the reunion, which should be a memorable one.

Last year in Pittsburgh, we decided that we should have our company reunion on the Wednesday before the Division reunion. In March of next year I will be able to give you more information on that. It doesn't look as if we will be able to get into the Hotel, where the Division will be Hosting the reunion. We will have to make other plans.

On the sad note, Mort Gaynor informed me that his brother, that was living with him, passed away in November. I believe that some members of the company had the pleasure of meeting Mort's brother. Loyal Pangle is still in there fighting, it would be nice if you would send him a card to let him know that you are thinking of him.

Beau Titus is still kicking and still trying to play golf. He informed me that he and Birdie will be great grandparents in the near future. I don't believe that

Beau and Birdie look old enough to be great grandparents.

I haven't heard from any other member since the reunion. Drop me a line to let me know how things are going with you. Members of G Company are always interested in buddies they served with.

Stan Bielen did inform me that Joe Kuzma attends the New Jersey Chapter meetings. We are still trying to get Joe to a reunion. Bob Goldstein is another one that has made a effort to attend, but still hasn't shown up. Maybe it is for the best, because if Bob and Gene Costanzo ever get together we may be in for trouble. We would like to see you Bob.

We should all make an effort to pay our membership dues for the year, this is one way that you keep up on the information from your buddies.

I have made my plans to attend the reunion, because last year I made a request for changes to the By laws, and I intend on being their to make sure those changes are passed. I want the members of the Association to be informed as to what is taking place in our Association. I do not want the Association to think that I am a Rebel, and trying to defy what the Board is doing, I want the members of the Association to be informed and to be told exactly what is taking place. The 83rd was a great Division, because we worked together as a unit and we were able to do a superior job, because we had communications with all units of the Division. The same should be followed with the 83rd Division Association. The Secretary and the Executive Board should make a better effort to inform the members as to what transpires within the Association.

Capt Mac



DIXIE CHAPTER NEWS

I received word from several Dixie Chapter members that the meeting in Columbia, S.C. in October was enjoyed by everyone. Thanks to Emory and Christy Culclasure and the others in that area. I was unable to attend due to a conflicting commitment. Fifty eight attended including several guests.

Flo and I returned today from a very successful Christmas party in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. We had our largest attendance--137. This included several visitors. Some of our folks came on Wednesday to enjoy the shopping and scenery. On Thursday about 20 were present. Then, Friday almost everyone came in. We had bingo on Friday night as well as a lot of visiting with each other. Saturday, we had tables loaded with good food. The ladies are so good to bring food. Then came Saturday night, our banquet meal, the arrival of Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus, exchanging Christmas gifts, and our annual dance. We had snow all Friday morning, then bright sunshine on Saturday. Gatlinburg is a beautiful place this time of the year, all decorated for Christmas.

We were happy to have Dick Riddle with us after having surgery in October. Sorry to learn M.L. Baker is back in the hospital again. Our prayers and thoughts are with him and his family. Also learned that Billy Walker had been seriously ill, having a

heart attack and a stroke close together. He is much improved and hopes to attend our meeting in March. John and Virginia Cox were missed. Virginia's brother is very ill and she needed to stay close home.

Our Christmas party next year will be December 2 & 3. Make plans now to attend. Everyone welcome.

I talked with Phil Simmons in Macon, Ga. tonight. He is recovering nicely from two surgeries he had in November.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Larry Redmond over the death of his dear wife, Mary. They were truly friends of the Dixie Chapter and we will miss her very much.

Everyone remember our next meeting on March 24, 25, & 26, 1988 in Williamsburg, Va. John & Virginia Cox will be our host. Get your reservations in early.

We are looking forward to meeting near Huntsville, Ala. on June 16, 17 & 18, 1988. F.M. & Vivian Haney and Chester & Roberta Grey will be our host.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Frank Jackson
Co D, 330 Inf.



BOSTON CHAPTER REPORT

First, thanks to Kent O'Connell for sending me that gallon of Irish spirit and all the history with it. God Bless you Kent for your good work.

Boston has been very active since the last issue of Thunderbolt. We had a meeting at the Arrigo's where Fran did an excellent job with the good food she served and of course Larry poured a little "Tea."

The next meeting was at the World Restaurant in Lynn, Ma. I was told that there was a good turn out. Nancy and I did not attend because of other commitments.

In November Charlie & Rita Lussier had the meeting at Lussier Estate. So many attended that they will have to make a larger parking area. The food was delicious. Charlie caught fish right out of the ocean that morning. He said he learned all this in the Anti Tank Co. 331st.

Thanks to all these nice people.

Last week we had our Christmas Party at Antones Restaurant in Somerville Bernie Cove and his wife came down from the Pines Hotel in the Catskills. His wife looks so young, I always make the mistake that it is his daughter but she does not mind it at all. The Restaurant was very nice. Santa came with his bag of presents. Kissing Mrs. Claus was great. I am still trembling. Nancy had a couple of glasses of wine and told me to drive all the way home in the wee hours.

On the sick list is our President, Charlie Miller and his wife who have had illness. Charlie tells me they are doing much better now.

Lou Drago had an operation. I met his wife shopping and she told me he is getting better each day. This is good news.

Jim Prentice has moved to New Hampshire and

loves his new home. Good Luck Jim.

Pat DiGiammerino was in to see me at work today. He tells me a lot of the Boston Gang have already made reservations.

A month after coming home from the reunion in West Virginia, my friend and Boston Chapter Member Bill Shaner from Altoona, Pa. died suddenly. A few of us 83rd men that knew him went to the funeral. He will be missed as he touched many of our lives. Our deepest sympathy goes to the Shaner Family.

That's all for now. Our next Boston Chapter meeting will be in January.

AMBY TYNAN
Boston Chapter



323rd Report

It is time again to write a few lines. I hope everyone has enjoyed the holidays.

Margaret Taylor wrote me that "Buck" Taylor had a stroke and is recuperating in the V.A. Hospital. Knowing James "Buck" Taylor, he will make a good come back. I may have him playing for the New England Patriots next season. His wife is a wonderful person which will also help him a lot. Taylor was the best "Top Kick" in the Army as we all remember him in the "Big" War.

Tom Houlette was back to Camp Atterbury and took a few snapshots of the old barracks this summer. I really enjoyed looking at them with all the memories they brought back of basic training 45 years ago. Tom had an operation since and is doing well.

Willie Snodgrass wrote that his family was all together for Thanksgiving. Willie really likes this. He also sent me some pictures of the last reunion.

Romeo Maynard's wife, Livie, attended a few Boston Chapter meetings. She has been very helpful with keeping our 323rd Bn. together. Livie is making plans to be at the next reunion.

A message to Dallas Williams from Frank Scott and Walter Koss. They want to know more about your doings in the E.T.O. This reporter would advise you to remain silent. Ha! Ha! Dallas, Walter and Frank will be at the next reunion, so make plans now to be there.

Sooner or later we will get some news from Don Willis. I think he is too "Old" for a reunion.

Walter Harding is keeping Florida in the news. Maybe he can get Captain Bob Costello to write a few lines. Maybe Morgan, Starbuck and Costello would plan to meet next September. This would get Pete Welterrede out of Michigan. What a table that would make. Huh! Just think, we made these guys real soldiers. Our job was well done.

I was in to see Tony Pinatedosi at work one day and we had quite a chat talking about everyone in the 323rd.

Our friend, Bill Shaner, passed away suddenly on September 20th. He attended the reunion in West Virginia in August. Many of us went to Altoona for

his funeral.

Bill was a soldier, and friend who gave us advice as we needed it. He was a good husband, father, grandfather, and friend to the neighborhood kids. His life touched many of us. Condolences to his family.

I must sign off for now and get this in the mail.

AMBY TYNAN
323rd F.A. Hq.t

P.S. Don't forget to send your donations for the memorial page. Hq. Btry



Florida Chapter

Dear Bob and Pearl:

In accordance with the recommendation of our new Chapter President, Walter Marshall, I am preparing the report for your next issue. Although it is with a heavy heart. Our beloved Secretary, Dave Benick, passed away on Friday, November 27, after successful heart surgery. But it was followed by complications. The funeral was held on Sunday, November 28 in Delray, Florida and was attended by 83rd's Richard Ammon, Charles Caven, Ben Chuzi, Leo Schneider, Harry Shoemaker and myself.

Dave and I had become very close in recent years, especially working together at the West Palm Beach Reunion in 1983. May he rest in peace. Our Chapter meeting was held on November 14, in Sarasota, Florida, hosted by our retiring President, Parker Black. There were forty-four (44) out to dinner on Friday Evening and we had sixty-five (65) at our Banquet on Saturday. This was our election year and the following were elected officers for the coming year.

President - Walter Marshall; **Vice-President** - Frank Sharp; **Secretary-Treasurer** - Dave Benick; **Judge Advocate** - Paul Buchman; **Chaplain** - Ralph Gunderson.

Our next meeting will be January 29-30 at the Silver Lake Lodge at Silver Spring (Ocala), Florida. For those interested in attending, please contact Frank Sharp at 50 South Fillmore Street, Beverly Hills, Florida 32665. "Snowbirds", are most welcome.

The Chapter now has sixty-five (65) paid up members and more are moving to Florida every year. Y'all come - Heah?

Ralph Gunderson

Want to share news about your Chapter or Company or maybe find a lost Buddy send your articles to:



Bob Derickson
3749 Stahleheber Road
Hamilton, Ohio
45013-9102

... and we'll try to get in our next issue of the great Thunderbolt.



Pictured left to right: John Shepherd, Don Pettry, Jim Dunkin, Kermit Barnett (Barboursville Veterans Home).

West Virginia Chapter

Hello Buddies:

When this news goes to press all the excitement of the Holiday's will all but be forgotten.

On behalf of the West Virginia Chapter, we hope all of you had a very merry Christmas and a glorious start on the new year. Seems like 1987 was a short year Don't you think?

Our Sept. meeting was held on Sunday the 27th at McCoy's Motor Lodge in Ripley West Virginia.

There was a good turnout at this meeting of members and their ladies.

John Hobbs spoke briefly on the reunion, and mentioned he had received several letters of congratulations for the effort he and the Chapter gave putting the reunion together.

Election of officer's was on the agenda at this meeting. They were as follows, Jim Dunkin returning to the gavel as President, Walter Soble - Vice President north. Chuancey Hunt - Vice President South. Don Pettry remaining as Secretary - Treasurer and your's truly as Staff Reporter.

Our December meeting also at the McCoy Motor Lodge on December 6th with another good turnout at this meeting. A moment of silent Prayer was led by John Hobbs in memory of those who lost their lives at Pearl Harbor, as well as our own buddies of WW. 2, and all wars.

Mrs. Hobb's read some letters for John. Our March meeting was reported to be up north in Glendale. The time and date is unscheduled at this writing.

After the meeting a social period followed, refreshments were served, a door prize was won by Jim Dunkin, a box of candy won by Freeda Hobbs and Don Pettry. After an hour or so of swapping stories and just having a good time, everyone headed for home.

On December 9th Jim Dunkin, Don Pettry and myself paid a visit to the Barboursville Veterans Home to present our annual contribution to be used for needy Veterans. Four of our members were unable to attend for various reasons. Mr. Barnett the Administrator and another Colleague took us to lunch, we ate with the residents, the food was deli-

cious, everything was spotless, we had a tour of the building. After two & a half hours we thought it was time to leave.

December 13th our Chapter had their annual Christmas Dinner at the Western Sizzler Steak House in Hurricane, West Virginia. The food was delicious as always. Everyone ate their share. Sixteen members and ladies were present.

Before closing I must mention its good to see Paul Pauley and Chauncy Hunt back on their feet and good as new after their stay in the hospital, nice going guys, stay well.

Until next time

Keep Smiling and think Chocolate

**John Shepherd
L & Hq 331**



CLEVELAND CHAPTER

Hope that everyone enjoyed the holidays and here's wishing all a better year in 1988.

Al Uridel after many years as the Cleveland Chapter Reporter has finally retired his mighty pen, next to his razor, clippers and bad jokes. Thanks Al for a great job over all the years.

A sincere thanks, and a big hand to Jim and Ruth Lindsey of Canton, Ohio, for planning for and hosting the Chapter's Annual Christmas party this year at the Hampton Inn in Canton. They made sure we all had rooms on one (1) floor and also furnished the hospitality room with snacks. After a few cocktails we went to the Four Winds Restaurant.

We all had an excellent meal, then returned to the hospitality room for more refreshments, songs and a bull session. The Grobelny's helped with the MUNCHIES. Most be getting old, the party broke up about 1:30 a.m. Everyone had a great time. Thanks again to all who helped. The Walt Meczka's spent the holidays with their son and family in California. The Larry Coladangelo's spent the winter in Florida. Lucky!!

Our deepest sympathy to Hank Trzeical on the loss of his brother. Hank was called back from the reunion for the funeral.

The Cleveland Chapter will have its election of officers at the February meeting. At this meeting the Chapter will be thirty-five (35) years old. This is one record we are very proud of. A salute to the best Chapter and to the Guy's and Gal's who have made this chapter the best. A lot of good memories. The Chapter meets on the third Sunday of the month. Anyone wishing to join and lives in the greater Cleveland area please call our recruiting officers Casey Szubski at 216-885-2554 for details. Anyone wanting directions to the Football Hall of Fame contact Jim Lindsey or the undersigned.

**Bob Uher
"B" 329th**



CLEVELAND CHAPTER

After promising to write a column many years ago, I finally got around to doing it. I recently heard from the Hennies, Steh's, Imemoles (Camels) Dicksons, Speckler, Hirko and myself, we are going to try to make it to Hershey this year. With all the regulars, Taylor, Walker, Pirkle, Ashburn, we should have a good turnout. I am waiting to hear from Bill Janko (a real hero) and also Capt. Nichols is still in bad shape. I did not have his correct address. My buddy George Nichols is still in bad shape. He recently fell down and slipped a disc, along with all of his other problems. We still keep in touch. I think he would appreciate a note. Drop him a line. His address is, George Nichols, Rte. 3, Box 180, Thomasville, Alabama 36784.

If you see or have an address of a buddy get them to come to the reunion. I'll have more news and details in the next issue.

Bob Uher
"B" 329th



HELLO BUDDIES:

I suppose that each and everyone of you are trying to get back on your feet after the great Holiday Season which has just passed us by. I sincerely hope that each and everyone of you had a Healthy and Happy Holiday.

Well Buddies, I am sorry to have to report that my most wonderful and gracious Wife, Mary, will no longer be with us. Unfortunately after several years of struggle with a serious Diabetic condition, she was called to her Eternal Reward. She will be sadly missed by many as well as myself. I had the great honor of having her for 46 wonderful years, now she is in the hands of God.

Well Buddies, now that we have reached the start of a new year in our life, it is time to start thinking about the great reunion that is ahead of us. The men here in the Philadelphia Chapter are hard at work trying to make this one of the greatest, if not the greatest Reunions we have ever had. Over the years I have taken a very active part in soliciting for the Ad Book, this year you will not be hounded by letters as the extra mailing takes up a lot of the money that could be used for the Reunion. You will not be hounded with reminder letters, so start figuring now what kind of an Ad you wish to take and send it in at once. The money is needed as soon as possible so that the Reunion Committee can plan on how much they have to put into the Reunion Program. Let us all remember, this Association is your Association, it

doesn't belong to any one individual. As we all know, we are all getting older, and each year that Chaplain's list gets longer. Let us all do our part while we can. This Association is the envy of many other Associations, that is only made possible by you the Members. God Bless You.

Larry Redmond



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

5413-B Backlick Road
Springfield, VA 22151-3960

(703) 642-5360
(FTS-389-3953)

Office Of: Adjutant General

Dear Reunion Coordinator:

The notice of your reunion was published in the Mar-April issue of our magazine.

Getting the word out to potential members is always a problem, especially true for the smaller organizations who have limited funds for public relations.

Accordingly, we were happy to help you and ask that you help us! Please take a few minutes at your reunion to make your members aware of our existence and give them our address to contact for additional information.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart is a congressionally chartered veterans organization exclusively for the "combat wounded." We have chapters throughout the United States.

We represent veteran's interests before Congress, the Veterans Administration, the Department of Defense, and elsewhere. In addition, the Order is proud of its key role in the National Service Program. The Order maintains a full time National Service Director who supervises the over 300 salaried and volunteer service officers -- all of whom have been accredited by the Veterans Administration. They provide assistance and representation for all veterans, their dependents and survivors in obtaining their rightful entitlements and benefits. All service is FREE.

For additional information on how to join, write or call:

Military Order of the Purple Heart
5413-B Backlick Road
Springfield, VA 22151
(703) 642-5360

Sincerely,
Frank A. Athanason
Adjutant General

Kansas City, Kansas
January 6, 1988

Dear Bob:

I was saddened to see in the death notices, the name of Francis E. Powell. He was the Platoon Sgt. of the Third Platoon-Company B, 331st Regt.-from Normandy till the end of the war on May 7, 1945. He was typical of the many fine, capable Platoon Sgts. of our 83rd Division.

I joined the Third Platoon as a replacement platoon leader in Normandy near Auxais in the swamps "marais" of the Taute River. I don't know that I need to describe that area, everyone knows. No one usually thinks of joining a Rifle Platoon in combat as a lucky day, but I was fortunate to become part of a platoon that Sgt. Powell had helped train at Camp Atterbury.

Francis had been wounded shortly after July 4, but he soon returned from the hospital to rejoin the platoon. From then on we were in Co. - B's third Platoon across Europe. We became well acquainted as we "dug in" every night for eleven months in the same area. Our Platoon was like the others in that we received replacements after every battle to keep our unit at 40 men. He immediately made the new men feel that they were important members of the platoon.

Powell was good at helping keep our morale up when we were low. He always had a grin, a twinkle in his eyes. We will never forget Sgt. Powell.

Sincerely,

Norman Kruse
Third Platoon - Co. B - 331st

Third Platoon Co. B-331st Regt. - 83rd Division



Front Row Lt to Rt.: Curtis Delsher, William Brown, Frank Ver-tucci, Charlie Moore, Clifford West, Harold Stone, O.C. Lindell Murray, Robert Cook; **Middle Row** Lt. to Rt.: Hugh Perry, Freddie Johnson, Robert Baker, Russel Royer, Elmer Palm, Charles Clutter, Louis Sakal, Anthony Barone, William Murphy, Rupert Narron, Stan Kabara, Lloyd Kosel; **Back Row** Lt. to Rt.: Francie Powell - Plt. Sgt., Earl Read, Grady Legg, Avelino Morales, David Rosenberg, John Sulka, Eli Pigeon, Emory Brown, Frank Nappo, Edward Harmer, Kenneth Myers, Floyd Gilstrap.

This picture was taken in Luxembourg just before Co. B. moved toward Canach on September 23, 1944. Many others, not in the picture, were in the platoon before and after this picture. David La Fontaine, Medic, came up from the Medical Bn. everytime we went to battle and we considered him as a member of our platoon.



A HAPPY NEW YEAR IN 1988

12827 North 42nd Drive
Phoenix, Arizona 85029
Phone: (602) 938-8272

Greetings from the Valley of the ☀:

As the easterners dig their way out from under six-foot snow drifts preparing for another "White Christmas," complete with chestnuts roasting on an open fire and sleigh rides through the woods to grandma's house; we here in the sunny climate of the South-West are busy shaking aerosol cans of fake snow preparing to spray it on our plastic-pine needle trees. Really, Christmas in Phoenix with the plastic Santa Claus decorations dangling from light poles on Central Avenue shouting "Ole," is like no other Christmas.

Let us stop and give some thought to the true meaning of Christmas. Each year it seems as if it is more commercial and fictional -- even the oldsters like us fall into the trap of it all. Let us remember to thank our Lord, Jesus Christ for His many gifts and let us strive to be more worthy in the future. May we enjoy to the fullest and let us strive to be more worthy in the future. May we enjoy to the fullest the meaning of this great Holiday Season with our families and friends.

Many of you know Eugene retired August 6, 1987. He was wondered what retirement really was -- we read the definition from the dictionary, "To withdraw oneself from business, public life or active service." After pondering over these words we decided he hasn't retired but just shifted to a new line of activity. It has been wonderful. Down deep one knows if you don't accomplish what was planned for today you have tomorrow.

We continued our wonderful vacation after seeing many of you at the reunion in Charleston, West Virginia. We visited some of you, phoned, others, and corresponded with others. We traveled almost 12,000 miles. We met wives and children of my buddies. This helps to make our big family closer and more complete.

For the ones who haven't heard we want to let you know that my good buddy, Carl LaRoach passed away August 2, 1987. Please remember his wife, Iva, in your prayers at this Holiday Season. He always wanted to attend one of the reunions but his health

never permitted him to do so.

We are looking forward to visitors from Tennessee -- Flo and Frank Jackson are coming December 8th. We're so excited and have many things planned to do.

This year we are leaving for Florida by car December 18th for the Holidays. We plan to go to West Virginia to see Mom and other members of our family in January. If you live in the south don't be surprised if you see us. Of course, we will call first.

Our warmest of wishes are extended to you and your entire family for a Merry Christmas! May the feelings of brotherhood, love, peace and tranquility last throughout the year!

Everett Eugene & Gene

Have a Happy Holiday Season.

Thanks for doing so much work for the 83rd.

Bob & Pearl You are special people.



December 1987

Dear Friends,

Here once again Christmas has rolled around, and it just doesn't seem possible that it is that time of the year. I have always heard the saying that when you start getting older that the time really goes by so fast, and I am beginning to realize how much truth there is to that saying. However, I am so thankful that I have been given the privilege to live this many years. How lucky we are!

The year of 1987 has been good to me. My health has been good, and I have been fortunate to travel a good bit again this year. That is one of the things that I enjoy so much about retirement. Just got back from our annual Dixie Chapter Christmas Party which was held in Gatlinburg, Tn. again this year. It snowed on us going up to Gatlinburg, and it was so beautiful in the mountains. We had 129 registered for the banquet on Sat. night, and I believe that was a record for us.

I attended two Executive Board meetings of the 83rd Div. Assn. this year. My friend, Meadors Minick, is on the executive board, and he asked me to go along. I did this as a guest. In May we went to Hershey, Pa. to look over the Hershey Lodge where our next reunion will be. We stayed in Harrisburg and went by van to Hershey. It was a most enjoyable trip. And then in November we went to Batesville, Indiana. We spent two nights in Oxford, Ohio and traveled to Batesville for the meeting. This, too, was very enjoyable. We ran into the forest fire in Kentucky and Tennessee.

Our reunion this year was in Charleston, W. Va. We had almost 1,000 people there, and it was a good reunion. Roscoe Lantz came in from Harrison, W. Va and it was the first time I had seen him since 1944. We really enjoyed seeing and talking with one another. Addie and Jean Hicks also were there.

They live about 100 miles from Charleston. It was good seeing them again also. Curtis and Clara Sharpe came up from S.C. to the reunion. That was about it from Co. F. It seems that our group has dwindled away from the reunions, but it is always nice seeing the other regular ones that attend. Hope that many of you will plan to come to Hershey in 1988. I look forward each year to seeing some of the people that I do not see from one reunion to the other. This way of keeping in touch means an awful lot to me. As most of you know I have attended 39 of the 41 reunions. I hope that I will be fortunate enough to attend a lot more.

I have been corresponding with Charlie Williams of Smyrna, Del. this year, and it has been a thrill for me to hear from Charlie. Those of you that belong to the Division Assn. have read his articles in the Thunderbolt, along with pictures that he had taken. It was through this that I got in touch with him, and we have really enjoyed this association. Charlie plans to come to Hershey next year, and I am looking forward to meeting him personally..

I hear from Don Clayton, Tom Broadfoot, and Burt Turner throughout the year. It has been a thrill for me to keep in touch with these fellows. Don spent time in Kansas visiting relatives and friends. His oldest son and wife presented Don and Maria with their sixth granddaughter in August of this year. I haven't been to Vegas in 2 years now, so it is time to make another trip there. I have visited with Don & Maria 6 times, and I do not feel that I have worn out my welcome. They are a great couple.

Several months ago I called Paul Steele in Akron, Indiana. I had not heard from him in several years, so I was concerned, Paul is fine. He and his wife Phyllis do arts and crafts. Paul makes clocks, and he said that they go to show just about every week-end.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

Regards,
"Cookie"
O.L.



Dear Bob:

Enclosed is my check for \$10.00 for 1987-88 dues. Sorry to be so late. In your files, would you by any chance have the ADDRESS OF two (2) very good friends -- front line buddies?

Edward Shipman -- Provo, Utah "E" Cook

Joseph Bohl -- Richmond Hill, N.Y. last known address. Platoon radio man and runner.

Thank you for any information?

Sincerely,
John DeSimone
"E" 330th

503 Broad Street P.O. Box 7
Hainesport, New Jersey 08036
PHONE: 609-261-0549

Hope someone out there can help John out.

Dear Buddies:

I'm writing just a few lines this time because of the Article below that concerns the wonderful Country of Luxemburg. I couldn't have described it better no matter how I tried and it tells of some of the places that I have not visited on all of my previous tours. For those of you that are planning to travel to Europe in the future (or in 1989 for the tour that is being planned by Gene Costanzo or Joe Danylo) this article should give you a good idea of where to and the places to visit.

Just one other thing before the article, and that is that we lost one of the oldest members in the Association (if not the oldest) and that is: Emil G. Becker. He was born on June 6, 1898 in Leetsdale, PA and died in Moon Township, PA on Christmas Eve, 1987. He was buried on December 28, 1987 in Ambridge, PA. He was regular attendee of most of the Pittsburgh Chapter and we are surely going to miss his knowledge of history and his good memory on just about everything. Emil was a great guy and never had a bad word to say about anyone.

Samuel Klippa
Company "D" 331st.

P.S. I had a lot of other news for this issue, but it would take up too much valuable space.

#####

TINY LAND WITH THE BIG HEART LUXEMBOURG IS MORE THAN GATEWAY TO EUROPE...

The little guy in the crowd is often in a tough situation. He feels he must strut around or show off to get attention. Not so with Luxemburg, one of the smallest countries in Europe.

Checking in at only 999 square miles, and surrounded by big-league tourist favorites France, Germany and Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg is content to go about its business. It shows its heart only to those who take the time to find it.

Perhaps that's because for more than 400 years, up until 1867, Luxemburg was occupied at various times by Austrians, Burgundians, Spaniards, Prussians and the French. In this century, the Germans moved in and took over during both world wars. No wonder the national motto is "We wish to remain what we are."

What they are is a nation of 367,000 hard-working people who officially speak French. Some also speak a German-derived dialect called Letzeburgesch. Their constitutional monarchy is headed by a Grand Duke, and their capital shares host duties for the European Economic Community. Unemployment is virtually unknown, and thanks in part to a thriving steel industry, it enjoys one of the highest per capita incomes in the world.

But of all the visitors to Europe, only a small percentage explore Luxemburg. The baby-boom generation knows it mostly as the destination of Icelandic Air, the bargain airline of the waves of low-budget

travelers doing the 1960s version of The Grand Tour. They land in Luxemburg, and immediately disperse into other countries. Today's visitors overlook it often because they don't know it's there.

What they miss is the discovery of a compact country with the romance of castles, vineyards and medieval towns, all within easy distance of a distinctive European capital. And nowhere else in Europe are Americans as welcome. Luxemburgers vividly remember their liberation from the Nazis in the 1944-45 Battle of the Bulge by General George S. Patton's Third Army. Patton is buried in the American cemetery near the airport.

Luxemburg's history goes back to 963 when Count Sigfrid took possession of a small castle called Lucilinburhuc, which means "little fortress" (and eventually yielded the name Luxemburg). It was part of a massive sandstone outcropping, called The Bock, bounded by the Petrusse and Alzette rivers.

Over centuries, engineers bored and built it into an astonishing military fortification, creating miles of tunnels in the rock, with large caverns called casemates to house cannons. It seemed everyone in Europe wanted control of it, but finally the tide of history turned in favor of the residents in 1867, when the French and Prussians met in London and declared Luxemburg a "perpetually neutral" grand duchy.

The Brock still stands in the middle of the city, its empty casemates keeping watch. You can explore some of the tunnels during summer, entering at the Place de la Constitution, but you can grasp the whole picture by taking the Petrusse Express.

The little rubber-tired train takes you on a hour long excursion (\$5 adults, \$3.75 children) through the deep Petrusse ravine around the stony fortress. The train continues through the Grund, the lower town where narrow-fronted, steep-roofed houses still look hundreds of years old, to the Rham Plateau. From there you can see the panorama of beige stone buildings along the distant edge of the ravine.

City streets twist around the curious topography, and 60 bridges cross the ravine and two rivers. It adds to the medieval sense of the city, but not all of it is ancient. Luxemburg, a city of 75,000 has become a banking center of Europe boasting 120 banks.

Luxemburg City is good for walking, and I recommend the old quarter known as the Fish Market, where streets are cobbled and little restaurants abound. You might miss the Grand Ducal palace, which looks like a private residence, except for the coat of arms and guard at attention at the gate. For livelier sightseeing, stroll from the Place de la Constitutions, overlooking the Petrusse, through the place Guillaume, which has a busy outdoor market two mornings a week, through the Place d'Armes, to the Grand Rue where the best shops are.

Once you've explored the city, set out into the countryside. It's easy driving, and you can see a lot since the country is less than 60 miles long. One third of it is forested, and you're among tall trees only a minute or two after driving out of the city. The Ardennes region in the north is verdant farm-

land on rolling hills, with little towns tucked into their curves. On many slopes are remains of some of the more than 100 castles in Luxemburg.

The best-restored castle, and most attractive destination in the north, is Vianden. the town of 1500 inhabitants nestles along the Our River, and above it perches the step-gabled stronghold, parts of which date back to the 10th century. It's a steep walk up to the tour the castle (\$2.25 adults, 75 cents children), which is still in restoration, but the view alone is worth the effort.

The town is accustomed to visitors, and its hanging flower baskets and outdoor cafes add to its appeal. Especially renowned is the lovely old Hotel Heintz, founded in 1788, which is partly in an old monastery. Most of the celebrities who come to Luxemburg have dined or slept there.

Nothing in Luxemburg is very far away. A relaxed driving tour can take you easily to Clervaux, where you can tour a Benedictine abbey and another castle (and a few miles away, see the beautiful 6th Armored Memorial on the Skyline Drive in Heinerscheid); to Ettelbruck, to visit the Patton museum; or to the spa and casino at Mondorf-les-Bains.

A particular popular excursion is southeast of the capital, along the wine route. The Mosel River valley has been producing grapes for splendid dry wines since Roman times. Though Germany is on the other bank, Luxemburg vineyards have the southwest exposure, and natives feel their Mosel wines are superior. You can determine for yourself at any of the many restaurants along the route that fronts the river, or in the Chateau de Stadtbrediumus (in town of the same name), where you can buy wine by the glass or the case.

Be sure to stop in at the Wine Museum at Ehnen (\$1.50 adults, 75 cents children), which displays antique equipment for tending vines, crushing grapes and bottling wine. If you've had too much wine, or aren't eager to get back to the city just yet, stroll through the lovely cobbled streets of Ehenen and have dinner at the Hotel Simmer. The restaurant has a well-deserved Michelin star. You can be back in your hotel in the city in half an hour.

With castles, medieval cities and its own special wines, little Luxemburg offers the most romantic aspects of Europe in a pocket-size package, one well worth exploring.

Sam Klippa

✉ ✉ ✉
FRANKLY SPEAKING
BY
JOHN WALKER, JR.
CO "D" 330th

Dear Buddy:

I trust that everyone had a Merry Christmas and that each will have a prosperous New Year.

According to the notes I received from some of you, most of our fellows are in the retirement stage.

I really don't know how many of our Co. "D" men belong to the 83rd Association and keep their dues

paid. I believe somewhere in the 25 or 30 bracket would be about right. The dues are only \$10.00 per year and most of us would like to keep our "D" Company page in the Thunderbolt. If at all possible try to do both.

I was swamped with Christmas cards from Co. "D" this year. Here is a list of those I heard from. I received a nice long note from Steve Ferko, he is retired now, working out in the gym couple times a week, playing softball in the summertime and staying close to home. His mother is 95 yrs. old. Ted Gurgel is back on the well list and back on golf course. Paul Schick our old mail man would like to see more of us attending reunions. Francis Barham plans to attend next reunion, also for the first time a nice note from Walter Rosenberry who was Staff Sgt. of Third Platoon Mortors. Walter was wounded at St. Lo. He wants all the guys in the third platoon to know he asked about them. Milo McDanial still lives in Georgia and would like to hear from more of Co. "D" men.

James Fairfield is retired now and plans to get around a little more than normal. The following is the rest of the list of Co. "D": James Diantoni, Alfred Cus-tean, Frank Baily, Joe Bizzaro, Robert Thompson, Charles Barefoot, Lt. Harold Felton, Paul Smith Lt. Robert Harrell, Joe Gray, Lt. Felix Marraand, John Daum, Claude Dodd, Lt. George Tangolas, Pete Srylo, Clarence Zimmerman, and last but not least Norman "Punjab" Fjelstad.

In order to create a little more interest in what we are trying to do, I will send a copy of this letter to our entire roster and try to update some of the addresses. If you know of any changes, please let me know.

During the present time I am in contact with about thirty people I believe this figure could be doubled.

In closing for this time let me say it was great to hear from so many this past year. Let's keep in touch.

John Daum



Dear Bob and Pearl:

Thanks so much for your fine Reunion in Charleston, and for your help and interest in getting the "Band" back together.

We're going to have a bunch in Hershey this year. I'll keep in touch and let you know how we're coming along.

Please accept my personal best wishes and the appreciation by all of us in the 83rd Band.

Buddy King
83rd Band



83rd DIVISION BAND

The Band's participation in the reunion was begun in 1986 when three members, Jim Harris, Emmett Pack and Zeno King met in Knoxville. We enjoyed the reunion and especially our meeting after so many years. This year in Charleston was even better! The three above were joined by Nick Alosis, Paul Cooley, Ray Oswald, Leonard Rivenburg and Arthur Yon. Yon, from Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania was the bugler playing "Taps" for this year's Memorial Ceremony.

The 83rd Division began in 1942 with two bands, the 330th Infantry Band directed by Warrant Officer Robert W. Smith and the 83rd Division Artillery Band under the direction of Warrant Officer Zeno P. King. After the 1943 Tennessee Maneuvers, the two (2) bands were combined and became the 83rd Division Band assigned to Division Headquarters. Overseas the members in addition to their musical duties served as Security for Division Headquarters as Medics (Stretcher bearers) in France, and as P.O.W. and property guards on the march through Europe. At the end of hostilities, the band returned to its musical duties and was greatly in demand for Parades, programs, dances and all kinds of occasions where Music is called for until the Division returned to the United States.

A memorable occasion was the review held for General Patton at Pocking Airport. The General's first remark upon stepping from his plane was that "The Band's nickel-plated helmets blinded the pilot."

We are continuing our efforts to locate former members. So far, forty-one (41) living members has been found, in all areas of the country. Some since the war have entered professions, some in business and many stayed in music as an occupation, either playing or teaching.

The Hershey Reunion should be well attended and those of us who made the Charleston meeting are keen in our anticipation of the great time we know we're going to have this year in September.

We send our "Thanks" to John Hobbs and his associates for making the Charleston Reunion so enjoyable.

Zeno P.
"Buddy"
King
83rd Band



Dear Bob and Pearl:

Was good to see you again at the reunion. Did not have much time together. Next year we hope to come earlier. As we had just got back from a Cruise to Bermuda, we only came on Wednesday. Not enough time to visit with everybody. You two get TOO BUSY. As always each reunion is great. Hope you keep up with the good health and always smiling faces.

Love
Babe Freitag

Hope you can put this picture in the Thunderbolt.

Since 1968 Lois Brinkman of Ohio and Luella Rubright of Pennsylvania have been purchasing material and patterns at the reunions. They wear the dresses they have made. Quite a record for 19 YEARS.

Dear Bob:

I went in the army in June, 1941 and was inducted at Fort Thomas, Kentucky. I was sent to Fort Riley, Kansas in the Cavalry for Basic Training. When the war started I was sent to Tucson, Arizona with the 14th Cavalry, 2nd Cavalry Division. When the 83rd was formed at Camp Atterbury, I was sent there as Staff Sgt. to train the Draftee's, the N.C.O. from the Cavalry opened at Atterbury. Later after maneuvers we went to Camp Breckenridge. In April of 1944 we went to Camp Shank, New York for overseas duty. After staying in Wales we left for France and fought in five (5) battles: Normandy, Britain, Rhineland, Ardennes, Central Europe and The Battle of the Bulge. Besides the five (5) Battle Stars, I received the Bronze Star and the Combat Infantry Badge. When the war ended I was sent back to the States to Norfolk, Virginia, then to Camp Atterbury again for my discharge which was September 27, 1945. My birthday which was a great present. After I got out I went to work for eight (8) years for Newport Kentucky Steel Company. I got married on September 14, 1946. My wife Beatrice and I raised three girls, Debi, Peggy, Betty and a son Nichols. We have four (4) grandchildren.

After I left the Steel Company I went to work as a grocery and Produce Manager for twenty-five (25) years. I am now retired and was 72 years old on September 27, 1987.

If any "C" 329th, buddies come to Cincinnati look me up or give me a call at 513-232-2169.

Nick J. Cifardini
6597 Knotty Pine Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45230

Letters to the Editor



December 14, 1987

Dear Bob,

The arrival of the Fall issue of the Thunderbolt reminded me of my delinquent dues -- You'll find an enclosed check. More letters to the Editor were featured in this issue than in past ones. I find many of these letters to be interesting. Having more of them adds more life to the Thunderbolt, so please keep printing them.

Last September my wife and I visited the Camp Atterbury - Columbus, Indiana area. I'd heard that some old 1942 barracks at Atterbury were still standing and I had to satisfy my curiosity. Turning right at the gate and seeing W.W. II buildings on the near horizon sent a chill down my back. The old barracks and buildings in the area bounded by Gatling Rd. and Schoolhouse Rd. from 21st to 26th Street are still there. I remembered that the 323 HQ buildings were located at the corner of 24th St. and Gatling Rd. -- so I got to visit my old barracks No 646. I experienced an overwhelming sense of nostalgia, especially when I climbed the rickety steps to see the 2nd floor, which was my home for seven months. Anyone desiring to see the old part of Atterbury should visit the area soon, because who knows how much longer the 1942 buildings will remain standing.

Then down the road to Columbus, a town I visited a few times on pass, while at Atterbury. I remembered it as a typical midwestern town with nothing special going for it. But today it is most untypical! One brochure says, "This town of 30,000 is America's densest concentration of contemporary architecture." Modern architecture began here with the First Christian Church, designed by Eliel Saarinen in 1942. Then after the war 50 public private buildings have been designed by renowned architects such as Eero Saarinen, I. M. Pei, and many others. We took a two hour mini-bus tour which shows it all. A walking tour around the renovated down town area (10 square blocks) shows 16 of the sites.

I found my trip into the past at Atterbury, and marveling at the present day architectural wonders in Columbus, Indiana, to be a worthwhile experience.

Respectfully,

Thomas W. Houlette
316 Hall Ave.
Sidney, Ohio 45365



Waldo Odom sent in by Haran Martin

IN MEMORIAM

Two great pals in Europe, Sgt. Waldo Odom, and P.F.C. Haran Martin had some narrow escapes, and some fun. Haran left his "C" 331st Infantry Regiment of the 83rd Division. One day in September, 1945, he bid Waldo good-bye with a sad feeling of leaving without his friends.

But the Point system gave Haran an early break. Both Haran and Waldo were wounded but fought together to the Elbe River Crossing, and helped to Establish the Bridge Head, and meet the Russians. Then we moved back and did some training for the C.B.I. or Japan, then later the war came to an end in the Pacific and things changed. Back to leaving Europe and coming home. I heard about the 83rd Division Association. I joined and asked Sgt. Waldo Odom. It seems he had no contact with any one of the "C" 331st members or the 83rd. When the history book arrived there was a write up on Waldo and family. I immediately wrote him a letter and he returned an answer. We talked on the phone a few times and then later the Dixie Chapter had a meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, where we met for our first time in 42 years. This was June 1, 1987. Waldo and me had lots to talk about, but most of all he was looking forward to his first National Reunion. But less than two (2) months later Waldo passed away of a heart attack. This happened on July 29, 1987 in Louisiana while he and Gladys were visiting their family. Those last days will be a treasured memory for me.

May God Bless and Keep his Family in view with his love and prayers.

Haran Martin
"C" 331st

83rd Infantry Division Association, Inc. World War II 42nd Annual Reunion
Hershey Lodge, Hershey PA. September 8, 9, 10, 1988

War Tales Show Love Of Country

DEAR ANN LANDERS: This is a plea for compassion for the 71-year-old bore who turns every conversation into an opportunity to talk about World War II. He deserved better than you gave him.

I am not obsessed with the subject, but I feel as he does. Nothing in my life was as important as my participation in that war. Although I have raised a fine family and owned a successful business, my service in that war was my only lasting contribution to the country that I love.

I talk about World War II, but only with those who were there. They are the only people who would understand. Forty years later, when I knelt among the crosses in Normandy, tears streaming down my face, people asked, "Did you know him?" I replied, "Yes, I knew them all."

Be patient with us, Ann. Our ranks are becoming thinner every day. Soon there will be none left of a generation that thought freedom was worth dying for.

If you print my letter, please withhold my name, I am - A Veteran in Rockport, Tex.

DEAR FRIEND: Your gentle message was received and duly recorded. I'm sure I'll be more patient with World War II stories from now on. Thank you for a lesson in compassion and understanding.

Dear Mr. Derickson,

Years ago, I sent Sam Klippa some fillers for the 83rd publication from my files. I had worked on an Army Weekly and more recently on a V.F.W. newsletter. Fillers are for unused space on your page layout. There are books of ready made fillers, but I used to create my own or cull them from other sources.

Some examples of fillers -

Facts -

Dr. Gorrie invented the first ice-making machine in 1851.

Humor -

What is the difference between a fort and

a fortress?

A foretress has breastworks.

Poems and Jingles

The next thing we'll pray for
We'll pray for a wench
O Lord,, may we have one
And may she be French!
Used in WWI and WWII from an English Poet

For All Hallows Eve - Always keep tight
hold of Nurse For fear of finding something worse.!

- from an English Nanny in Newcastle - under
- Lyme

BUDDIES

The fields are green and the sky is blue
The orchards are in blossom, too
But Death is in the perfumed air
For a sniper's bullet doesn't care
If young or old or wise
As it enters, between the eyes
I take Bert's wallet and personal stuff
And on his cigs I'll sadly puff
For he would do the same you see.
If the sniper had drawn a bead on me.
I wrote this well after Normandy - can't recall who
Bert was and I don't smoke. Must have used my poetic
license.

Have you forgotten yet?

Look up and swear by the green of the Spring that
you'll never forget --
On an English village WWI monument

May Dame Fortune ever be with you
And may you never meet her daughter --

Miss Fortune

Now to the meat of this missive - You sent me a roster
in 1986 so three of us could attempt to begin a chapter on
Long Island. This is to report that we failed to obtain
sufficient responses. One of the three joined the Boston
Chapter and makes the trip from time to time.

Again many thanks for the roster.

If none of the fillers are used, I'll not be offended.

Take Care and God Bless,

Harold J. O'Neill
83rd Signal

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, Necklaces, and 83rd Caps

\$5⁰⁰ each

(Postage and Handling Included) Contact the Association Office

83rd Reunion will be held at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey Pennsylvania.

The dates are: **September 8-9-10, 1988**
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 87/88, which are due on or before August 1st, 1988.

Please refer to your 83rd membership card. If it shows August 31st, 1987, 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 Oct. 10; Jan. 10; April 10; and June 10.

Robert Derickson, 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, OH 45013

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.
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3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

Office Phone:
513-863-2199

Date _____

Signature _____

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 for all your cooperation. *Send old and new address.*

Bob