



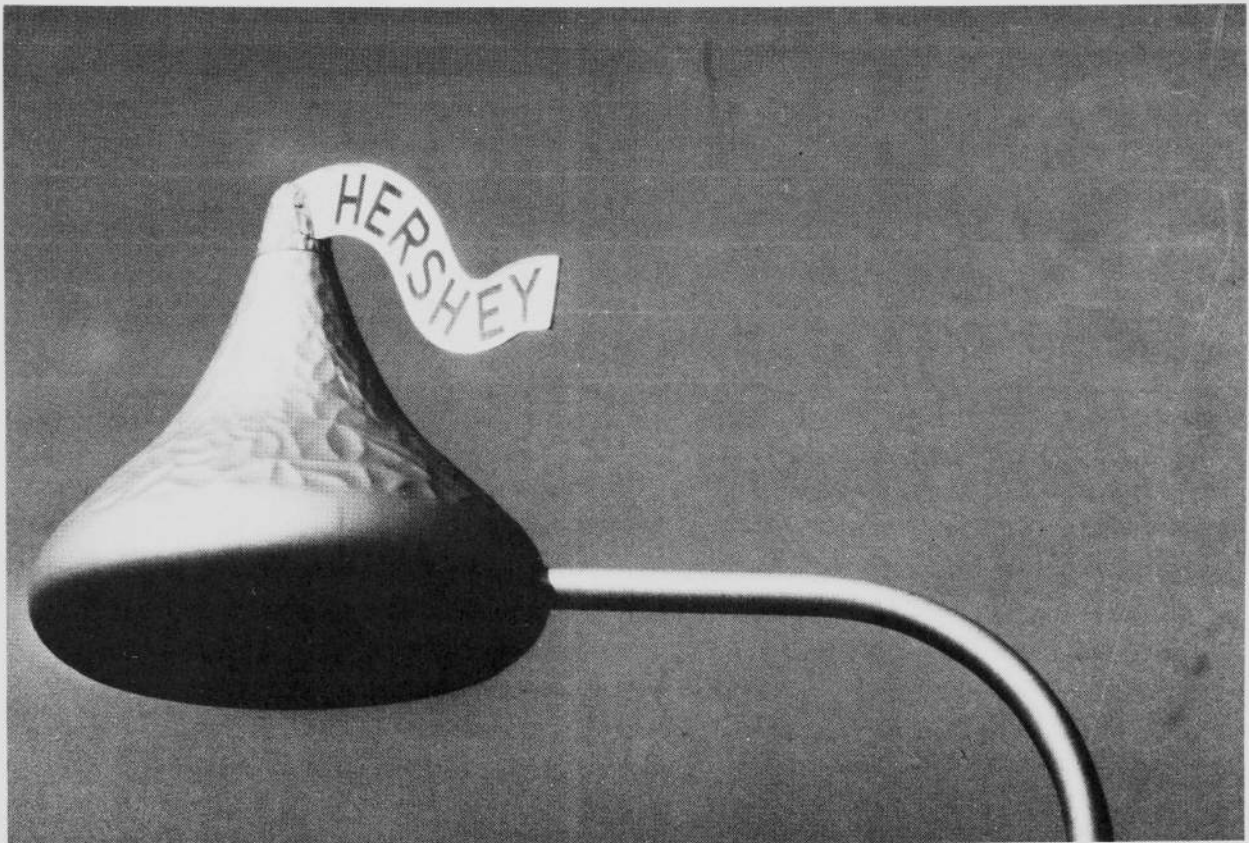
THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.
WORLD WAR II

Vol. 43 No.3

Spring Issue 1988

THE 42nd ANNUAL REUNION



These Hershey Kisses Streetlights will show you the way to Hershey Lodge
and Convention Center on September 8, 9, 10.

mark your calendar now

SEPTEMBER 8, 9 and 10

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

*James C. Hanrahan 1947	*Frank J. McGrogan 1961	Bernard O. Riddle 1974
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*Shelly Hughes 1949	*Manuel C. Martin 1963	Mike Skovran 1976
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*Harry W. Lockwood 1957	Casey Szubski 1970	Arthur Doggett 1983
Raymond J. Voracek 1958	*Charles Altomari 1971	Bernie Cove 1984
Charles Abdinoor 1959	*Harold H. Dopp 1972	Carroll Brown 1985
*Joseph F. Minotti 1960	Louis J. Volpi 1973	John Hobbs 1986

*Denotes Deceased



The President's Corner

Hi Buddies:

Well here we are finally enjoying this nice Spring Evening on our front porch. Jean and I hope that this message finds all of you well and able to enjoy the Spring weather too.

We went to Williamsburg, Va. for the Dixie Chapter meeting in March along with John and Margaret Daum, Lou and Lucy Volpi and Larry Redmond. We missed our Reunion Chairman, Al Belvedere and his wife Anne as they were to go along but unfortunately they both came down with a very bad virus.

Everyone had a good time and if they didn't it was their own fault. The accommodations and the meals were very good. I also wish to thank Bob and Pearl Derickson for taking us around in their van to see some of the sights around Williamsburg.

The plans for our 42nd Reunion are coming along real good. I want to thank Al Belvedere, our reunion chairman, for the super job he is doing on corresponding with Hershey Lodge and our ad book too.

To the men of L Co. 330 about our L Co. ad, send me five dollars and I will make up the ad. My address is on the inside of the front cover of the Thunderbolt. Thank you.

The Reunion Committee along with the rest of the Philadelphia Chapter are working hard for our reunion at the Hershey Lodge in September.

National President
George Pletcher
Co. L-330

union time, which is June 1st, perspective rooms will be given away, first come, first served. Refer to your Reservation Blank for the amount that pertains to you.

Meal Prices for people who do not intend to stay at the Hershey Lodge are as follows: (People living close to the Hotel).

Breakfast \$10.00 per day per person

Dinners w/entertainment \$30.00 per night per person

Sunday Brunch \$13.50 per person.

The above prices include tax and gratuities.

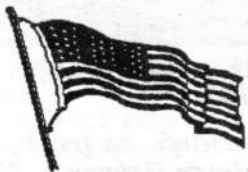
As you can see on the Tentative Schedule of Events, Friday morning we are going to have a Mary Kay make-up demonstration for the women. If you are interested, and we hope you are, please drop a post card to June Zenz, 1125 Cannon Ave., Bethlehem, Pa. 18015. June is the Coordinator and would like to know how many to prepare for. Please take the time to let June know. Thank you!

The ads are coming in nicely. A vote of thanks goes to our Philadelphia member, Larry Redmond, for a great endeavor as always. Of course, we need a lot more. Please don't wait for a reminder as we are hoping to keep the mailing cost down. Closing date for submitting ads is July 24th, 1988. The first portion of the ads will be going to print the first week in July. Our printer, this year, is an 83rd member, Clifton E. Wooldridge from Boston, Mass.

Sorry Anna and I missed the Dixie Chapter's meeting in Williamsburg. We were on the sick list; feeling better now. Hope to make the next one. George and Jean Pletcher, Lou and Lucy Volpi, Margaret and John Daum and Larry Redmond said they had a great time.

Until the next issue, God Bless You All, stay well, and be happy. Looking forward to seeing all of you in Hershey. The Philadelphia Chapter is working hard to arrange a good time for all.

Albert Belvedere
Co. K. 331st Inf



Reunion Chairman's Corner

HERSHEY LODGE, HERSHEY, PA. SEPT. 1988

Here's hoping everyone had a Happy Easter and to our Jewish friends, Happy Passover.

Reunion Report for 1988: Hershey Lodge, Hershey, Pa.:

I am happy to report that registrations for our reunion in September are coming in nicely. I feel we are going to have a sell-out of 425 rooms; so get your reservations in as soon as possible if you haven't already done so.

I was informed, by the Hershey Lodge, that quite a number of rooms have been blocked off by different chapters and units. However, down deposits have not been sent in as yet. Those who do not have first night's deposit on their rooms, 90 days prior to re-

The 83rd Infantry Division Association Incorporated was formed by three men (all residents of the District of Columbia and citizens of the United States). They are Alan F. S. MacKenzie, Gurney S. Jaynes and Daniel G. Hagman. This organization's birth date was in 1946 and is having it's 42nd Reunion in Hershey, PA September 8, 9, 10th. Departure date September 11, 1988.

The 83rd Infantry Division Association holds a reunion every year at different locations throughout the United States. By doing this it allows more men to have the opportunity to attend regularly. Now we are finding that our attendance is growing larger and larger since we have more fellows retiring and less family responsibilities. It is a wonderful sight and feeling to see these men meet up with old buddies they haven't seen since they were discharged. You can also make a lot of new friends that helped make the Division have the outstanding record it owns; from the time it landed on the Omaha Beach and Utah Beaches through Normandy, Ardennes, Brittany, Rhineland and Central Europe where we ended up 40 to 50 miles short of Berlin, to wait for the Russians to join us at the Elbe River.

Our Ad Book plays a very important role in making our Reunion a Success. Please send your ads to the following:

Type or print your ad, name, unit and address & zip. State size of 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:

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Nat'l Reunion Chairman
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1-(609)-859-9111

Nat'l Co-Chairman
LOUIS J. VOLPI
410 Merion Rd.
Merion, PA. 19006
1-(215)-664-5791

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.

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

*Thank you for any consideration given to our Association.
Reunion Chairman*

News

EXECUTIVE BOARD CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It's April and soon we'll be heading north to Pittsburgh. On our way back, Sue and I will stop over in Clearwater the weekend of April 29, to enjoy the company of our good friends attending the Florida Chapter meeting. They always make us "snowbirds" feel right at home.

We had the opportunity to attend the last meeting in January at Silver Springs near Ocala. It was a wonderful get together, as always, but there was a sad feeling of great loss not to have our dear friend and buddy Dave Benick there to enjoy it with us. There was no one more dedicated to the 83rd. I feel privileged to have known Dave and shared a friendship with him many years as a Co. A-331 buddy.

At that meeting, Paul Buchman introduced a very unique closing ceremony which he called "The Five Star Salute". It involved a line up of five bottles of different kinds of liquors, each representing a Battle Star earned by the 83rd. For Normandy, we had Calvados. For Brittany, it was Cognac, etc., etc. Thimble sized shot glasses were filled for each man from the first bottle. We all stood quietly, holding up our drinks while Paul proposed a "toast", honoring a remembrance for the Normandy battle star. Since this was repeated four times with four other liquors and four more battle star remembrance toasts, you can imagine what inner feelings of comradeship and brotherly love we had for one another when the meeting was adjourned. Thanks to Paul, I think we're all looking forward to another "Five Star Salute" at the April meeting.



L to R, R. Gunderson, W. Herhuth, J. Perry A solemn ceremony. "THE FIVE STAR SALUTE"

"D", 331st was well represented, as usual, with eleven men, including C.O. Harry Gravelyn. Also a welcome guest for the weekend was Sam Klippa who made the trip from Pittsburgh just to be with his "D" Co. buddies.

Received a nice long letter from another "D" Co. faithful, Norman Schuster, who said he had made plans to attend the January meeting too, but due to hip problems and more hospitalization, his plans had gone awry. Norm's doctor has promised he will be in fine shape to attend the Hershey reunion. We're all pulling for you, Norm. Get well soon!

Enjoyed a reunion with Platoon Leader, James Burt at the Florida meeting. He came down from Jacksonville. Met Jim for the first time since the war, at the Charleston reunion. While in Florida we have gotten together at each other's homes and tried to make up for a lot of lost years. We have also be-

come good friends with Jim's lovely wife, Martha, who has promised to attend the April meeting too.

Sue and I spent a couple of days with "A" buddy Chuck Caven and wife, Lu, from the Pittsburgh Chapter, wintering at Deerfield Bch. Since Delray is nearby, the four of us fulfilled our plan to visit our dear friend, Millie Benick.

Don't delay sending reservations for Hershey. Let's make this reunion one of the best, ever.

God Bless and Stay Healthy,

Larry Leonardi
"A" 331st



Greetings
from the
Secretary-Treasurer's Office

FROM THE OFFICE:

Hello Buddies:

Hard to believe that another Spring has arrived. Time to get outside. Next month your Board will be meeting in Cincinnati and making final plans for the Hershey Reunion with the Philadelphia Chapter and starting plans for the reunion in Cincinnati with the Kentucky Chapter. The Board works on two reunions at a time now. I hope that all of you have made plans to be with us in Hershey. The Philadelphia Chapter are all working hard on showing us a good time. Pearl and I are going early along with some more to get in a little touring of the area before the reunion.

The Kentucky Chapter met the middle of April at Louisville with Dan and Ann McCarthy in charge and we got to tour Churchill Downs. First time that Pearl and I had been back there since I got on the Board. The Derby always runs on the first Saturday of May and that was Board Meeting. A lot of changes have been made there. It was a beautiful sunny day and you could just imagine Derby Day and all the people there. It is amazing how the cost has gone up since we went.

We have lost quite a few members from death this year but we have also picked up a lot of new members who are just hearing about the 83rd. We manage to keep our count up. Thanks to a lot of hard work from some of our members who are constantly sending in names. Lot of men have time now to read their magazines and they are seeing it in them, and write them for information.

As you read elsewhere in the Thunderbolt Lt. General Robert York and Col. Robert T. Foster passed away. Col. Foster was a life member of the organization. We will have more on them in the next issue of the Thunderbolt. Jack Strauss and Leo Schneider informed us about General York and the Bank in Birmingham, Alabama informed us about Col. Foster.

We hope that all of you stay well and are able to enjoy the up-coming Summer and be ready to attend the reunion in Hershey, Pennsylvania. We look forward to seeing all of you there with us.

Bob Derickson
3rd Bn. Hq. 329th

memo:

DUES ARE NOW DUE IN THE OFFICE

I hope this will save us from having to send out reminders. Dues are due in the office. Some of you have not paid yet. Cannot understand why. PLEASE LOOK AT YOUR CARDS. IF IT DOES NOT SAY EXPIRES 1988 YOU ARE WAY OVERDUE. With postage the cost it is now we cannot keep sending you the Thunderbolt.

WE NEED YOU AND WE HOPE THAT YOU NEED US.
Get your \$10.00 in the office immediately.

Bob



Chaplain's Corner

Spring has sprung--the sun was shining this morning, and even though there is a lot of yardwork to be done after our wet Easter weekend, all Laura had to say was "It looks nice for nine holes of golf"--and you know what took priority. The golf course was in fairly good shape and it was a pleasure to loosen up the golf swing and absorb the fresh air. Then in the afternoon, a doctor's appointment was taken care of. I had my oil checked and was told that I'm good for a couple of thousand miles. No guarantee, but I'll take all the bonus time I can get.

I received notices about some of our buddies who have passed away: Louis Lavassa-Div. Hdqs.; David Miller - "A" 308th Engr.; Orlo L. Hoover - Hdqs. Btry. 323rd. Please keep sending these notices to us so we may relay the information to you. As Rags Rangnow said in his letter, these notices make you well aware of the sand and the hour glass.

Be aware of the change of schedule for our memorial services at the Reunion. Al Belvedere, our chairman, is planning them for Friday, which will leave you more time to visit the many tourist attractions in the area on Saturday.

This year we again want to remind all of you about Memorial Day, May 30, 1988. As proud and loyal 83rd men, I know your American Flags will be proudly displayed. It's just that we have to remind our children and grandchildren to make certain the "Stars and Stripes" are waving with pride in front of their homes. It's sad as you pass through many areas and just occasionally see a flag here and there. We must tell our youth that this is still the greatest nation in the world. We must instill patriotic pride in them, so that they never have to go through the horrors and hardships that we saw during our war years.

Just so we can finish this report with a smile, did you know that at the site of our reunion in September storage is available for 90 million pounds of cocoa beans at Hershey, Pa. - enough chocolate for 5.5 million candy bars.



Casey Kowalec
Chaplain

We have had word here in the Office from the Am South Bank of Birmingham, Alabama that **Robert T. Foster**, Life Member, passed away on October 5, 1986.

In the fall Issue of the Thunderbolt **Border D. Glazier** was listed in the death notices. No outfit was given. Emil Wehling was kind

enough to send us word that Border was a member of Regt. Hqs. 330th. Thanks Emil.

Just today received word from Jack Strauss that **Col. York** passed away on Friday, April 15. *More will be in the next issue.*

Sgt. Joe Doran "K" 331st May 7, 1987 word from Tony Marrone

William Barrett - "A" 308th - word from George Settle

M.L. Baker - Serv. 908th - Jan 12, 1988 word from O. L. Cook

Gene Cooley - "F" 330th - Nov. 7, 1987 word from O. L. Cook

Bernard C. Harris - "A" 331st - Mar., 4, 1988 word from Pat DiGiamme

Carl E. Laroache - 8/2/1987 word from Everett Rogers

Delbert Rinehart, Jr. - Regt. HQS. - 330th - Feb. 27, 1988 word from Leo Bo

Carl F. Fritz - "E" 331st - Dec. 3, 1987 word from Alfred Henry

William Frank McNeill - "C" 908th - 3/31/87 word from wife Marie

Lester Elkins - "K" 330th - Jan., 6, 1988 Word from wife Dorothy

Lewis T. Szopo - "C" 308th Engr. - 3/10/88 word from Ralph Barron

Donald P. Lebo - "E" 330th - 12/4/87 word from Larry Redmond

John Walker - "D" 330th - word from Larry Redmond

Charles R. McDonald - "F" 329th - 12/18/87 word from AM south Bank of Birmingham, Alabama.

Charles R. McDonald - "F" 329th - 12/18/87 word from wife

Henry E. Borchert - Service 324th- 2/13/88 - word from family

Charles Staples - "CN" 331st - word from Anthony Krukowski

Kenneth I. Suchland - 1/16/88 word from Bob and Lois Brinkman

Capt. Morris J. Shall - Medics 331st - 4/8/88 word from Dr. Charles P. Snyder

George Roupakis - Reported by Pat DiGiammerino

David A. Miller - "A" 308th Eng. - 1/18/87 word from Geo. Settle

Orlo L. Hoover - 323rd FA - Feb 22, 1988 - word from Amby Tynan

Louis Lavassa - Div. Hdqts. - March 31, 1988 - word from Ray Orsene

Karl Sauer - "L" 329th - Jan, 1987 - word from Earl Lindsey

Anthony J. Novak - 308th Medic - 3/15/88 word from Joe Adam

Col. Robert S. Higdon - 308th - Commanding Officer Medic - 7/26/87 word from Ralph Morgan

We have listed all who have come to this office. Our sympathy goes out to the families of these men and women of the 83rd. God be with them all.

LEARN TO LET GO

If you want to be healthy morally, mentally, and physically, just LET GO! Let go of the little annoyances of everyday life, the irritations and the petty vexations that cross your path daily.



Don't take them up, nurse them, pet them, and brood over them. They are not worth while. Let them go!

That little hurt which you got from your friend. Perhaps it wasn't intended, perhaps it was, but never mind, let it go! Refuse to think about it.

Let go that feeling of hatred you have for another, the jealousy, the envy, the malice - let go all such thoughts. Sweep them out of your mind, and you will be surprised what a cleansing and rejuvenating effect it will have upon you, both physically and mentally. Let them go; you house them at a deadly risk!

But the big troubles, the bitter disappointments, the deep wrongs, and the heartbreaking sorrows, tragedies of life, what about them? Why, just let them go too! Drop them, softly maybe, but surely. Put away all regret and bitterness, and let sorrow be only a softening influence. Yes, let them go, too, and make the most of the future.

Then, that little pet ailment to which you have been hanging on and talking about - LET IT GO! It will be a good riddance. You have treated it royally, but abandon it now; let it go! Talk about health instead, and health will come. Quit nursing that pet ailment, and let it go.



It is not hard after once you get used to the habit of it - letting go of these things. You will find it such an easy way to get rid of the things that mar and embitter life that you will enjoy letting them go. You will find the world such a beautiful place. You will find it beautiful because you will be free to enjoy it - free in mind and body.

REMEMBER - "Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless."

Casey Kowalec - 322 F.A.

Dear Bob:

I just got around to the death notices and noted Joel Oliver without a unit. I recall him as Lt. in the 908th F.A.Bn. He may possibly have been promoted to Captain.

George Rhyne of the 83rd Signal Co. was also the Division Signal Officer. I believe that he ended up as a Col.

Regards,
Col. George Irvine

Lt. General Robert H. York died early Friday morning, April 15 at the U.S. Naval Hospital in San Diego, California.

During World War II, General York commanded the 331st Infantry of the 83rd Division.

The following story appeared in the Thunderbolt summer edition of 1969 when General York retired from the U.S. Army.

Thunderbolt June edition of this year will carry a spread with excerpts of General York's legacy written by men and officers of the First Division, the 331st Infantry, the 82nd Airborne and many other units who had served under him.

**Jack M. Straus
Regt. Hqs., 331st**

Twenty-five years ago, in Normandy, France on July 7, 1944 (then) Col. Robert H. York took command of the 331st Infantry Regiment of the 83rd Division.

Col. York was already a veteran of 11 major battle engagements and had fought in three D-Day landings at Oran, Sicily and Omaha Beach, heading an infantry battalion of the First Division. At 32, he became one of the youngest Regimental Commanders in the Army.

Today, after 31 years of military service, Lt. Gen. Robert H. York has retired. If ever a man deserves the tranquility and care-free benefits of retirement, he is General York for all of his devotion to the service of his country.

A front-line infantry regiment that was completely demoralized, having lost two regimental commanders in the first thirty days of combat and having suffered heavy casualties in their first engagement (after landing on Omaha Beach-D Day plus 12) against the entrenched forces of Nazi artillery and tanks in the Battle of the Normandy hedgerows, York's leadership transformed the 331st Infantry into a hard-hitting unit that went on to fight victoriously in five major campaigns in France,

Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany to establish a bridgehead across the Elbe River, 65 miles from Berlin, two weeks before V-E Day. The Esprit de Corps that prevailed in the 331st with York's leadership was unprecedented as its fighting men, in a matter of weeks, followed him in devoted admiration and respect.

General York was graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York in the Class of '38 and commissioned in the Infantry the same year. From the Gold Bar of a Second Lieutenant to the three stars of a Lieutenant General, York has held every combat command along the way.

General York was decorated 18 times with the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, The Bronze Star with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart with Five Oak Leaf Clusters, two French decorations the Legion d'Honneur and the Croix de Guerre with Palms; and along the Combat Infantry Badge, York wears the wings of a Military Pilot as well as the insignia of the Airborne Corps.

Since World War II, General York's military assignments included Commandant of the Cadet Corps at West Point, Military Attache in Singapore, Military Advisor in Vietnam and Commander of Fort Benning. As Commanding General of the 82nd Airborne Division he led the landings at Santo Domingo, at the direction of President Johnson, to help stabilize and restore law and order to the Dominican Republic; and to protect the lives of American citizens. In 1968, he took command of the 18th Airborne Corps.

His great, lean solid, battle scarred frame, his handsome face lined with vitality and eyes that always smile in contrast to the line of his determined lips that coalesce with a rugged jaw, York's mere presence always commanded respect.

Today, a vigorous 56, General York's personality still radiates. When asked: "Taking into consideration all of the strategy, sophisticated equipment, qualified leadership and intelligence information in the preparation of a battle, what in your opinion is the single most important asset to victory?" York simply replied: "The will to fight."

General Robert H. York joins those few in history, who have personified the immortal words of Will Rogers: "It's great to be a great man, but it's greater to be human."

**Jack M. Straus
Regt. Hqs., 331st**



H CORNER



"DIEPPE"

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"Dieppe occupies a place of its own in the story of War, and the grim casualty figures must not class it as a failure."

Sir Winston Churchill

It might be said that the first day of June 6th, 1944 occurred at 4:45 A.M. on July 19th, 1942, on the coast of France at the Port City of Dieppe. On that grim morning, twenty (20) Canadian Commandoes plunged over the bows of a L.C.P., and assaulted the cliffs. They used Nazi barbed wires as ropes to attack German Coasted Batteries. They succeeded without the loss of a man.

When they, the fortunate ones, were returned to England, they found out the raid had turned into a human slaughter and a fiasco.

This was a Canadian endeavor to test the German defenses and find out the problems of a future invasion.

The force consisted of the second Canadian Infantry Division, Royal Marine Commandoes and U.S. Rangers.

Not a tank got into combat, being 100% destroyed on the Beachhead on or before. There was an assault in daylight across a beach where each building overlooking the beach was a German fortress. The Canadians had nowhere to dig in or hide. IT WAS A MASSACRE!!!!

Their casualties were, for one day, equal to or beyond ours at Carentan and you know what a bloody time that was.

Of the engaged over all of 6,089 - 3,623 (59%) were K.I.A. or W.I.A. on the beach or fighting in the town of Dieppe.

Canadians (68%), Commandoes (23%), 1st Battalion of the U.S. Rangers, (26%), one of whom was the first G.I., in the E.T.O. to kill a German Soldier.

As an ex-Infantryman, I am writing only of the men on the ground. There were more units involved.

Remember this was the losses of an unbattle tested citizen soldiers in one seven hour long horrible day.

One thousand men never even made the beach and returned to England--They could not get ashore in face of the horrendous German fire.

In the next write up I will include pictures and a report by my cousin, Lt. Daniel O'Connell Dohney, 2.C. (aide to Major General J. H. Roberts, Army Commander.)

He was captured, luckily unwounded and became a P.O.W. of the Germans.

"We Were The Best"

Wm Kent O'Connell

Historian 83rd M.P.



FORT POLK MILITARY MUSEUM
P.O. DRAWER R
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5000
AFZX-PTM-POU

25 March 1988

Mr. William K. O'Connell
183 Acre Lane
Hicksville, New York 11801

Dear Mr. O'Connell:

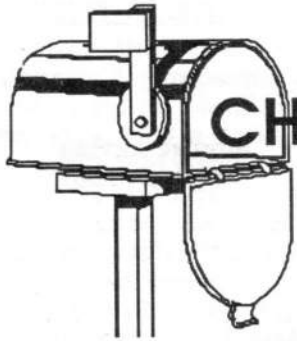
I have gotten your name and address from the U.S. Army's Roster of Organizations, in hope that your organization might be of assistance in helping this museum with an exhibit we are building. This proposed exhibit, will feature unit distinctive insignia's (or regimental crests) of the 3rd Armored Division, plus units that supported this division during the Battle of the Bulge. One such unit that was attached to the 3rd Armored Division, and is mentioned repeatedly in the narrative of the 3rd's history, is the 330th Infantry Regiment, a unit organic to the old 83rd Infantry Division. We are doing this exhibit honoring the 3rd Armored Division, because the 3rd Armored Division was the first occupants of the then new Camp Polk.

In this exhibit, I had intended to use the regimental crest (distinctive insignia) of the 330th Infantry, but while gathering up all the materials to be utilized in this exhibit, I came up short, one 330th Infantry "crest." The reason for this letter to you is, when you publish your next issue of the Thunderbolt, would you please ask in this newsletter if a ex-veteran from the 330th would be so kind as to donate one of his metal "crests" to this museum? The 330th played a big part in the Battle of the Bulge, and I think this unit ought to have a representative insignia in this exhibit.

Any assistance you can give me on the above matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
David S. Bingham, PhD
Director





CHAPTER NEWS

New Jersey Chapter

March 30, 1988

The winter kept the Chapter's activities down to just the monthly meetings. Now that spring has arrived we will get to work planning the social events for 1988. You will be notified by mail when the events will be held.

The exception to a rather dull winter was the retirement party held for Ted Guzek (Co. 1, 331). Ted's wife Irene along with their two daughters gave Ted a surprise party for his retirement after 33 years with the New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicles. A group from the chapter attended to wish Ted the best in his retirement.

Fred and Addie Rein were in Florida for part of February and March. They returned in time to attend the Williamsburg Meeting of the Dixie Chapter.

On March 24th, three couples from the New Jersey Chapter went to Williamsburg, Va. for the Dixie Chapter Meeting. Ted and Irene Guzek, Fred and Addie Rein and Fran and I want to thank Virginia and John Cox for being such wonderful hosts. The people in the Dixie Chapter are just wonderful to be with and make you feel so welcomed.

A word of caution, when and if you attend a Dixie Meeting don't hesitate to ask John Cox to recommend a good restaurant, but.....don't accept the name of the restaurant too hastily, give John an hour or two to come up with the correct name. John recommended we go to Greene's Restaurant. The directions were to follow this road and you can't miss it. We did as told and missed Greene's. Back and forth we traveled-no Greene's. We decided to stop at Captain Bill's to ask and found this to be the restaurant John had recommended. To continue, back at the hotel, Virginia asked John why he had sent us to Greene's instead of Captain Bill's. Upon our return to the hotel we had quite a few laughs over this and I vowed to expose John in my article.

In Williamsburg, seven men went in Bob Derickson's van to tour the Transportation Museum at Fort Eustace and then went on to Virginia Beach. The museum was interesting but the beach was cold, no bikinis, we had a lot of fun regardless.

It was great for me especially to see the following from 1st Bn. Hdqs. 331 at the meeting in Williamsburg. Mike and Liz Skovran, Buck and Mary Muldrow, Wilson and Vi Day and our former first sergeant Fred Fowler. Also Haran Martin told me he had visited with Leland Thornton at his home in

North Carolina. It is always nice to hear about those you shared time with in the service and to be remembered by them. I remember Leland as being a good officer who had the respect of his company. I've been told that Leland has a disability that prevents him from joining us at our meetings. Our best wishes to you and yours.

Come May 1st nine of the Jersey Chapter will attend the Boston Chapter Meeting at the Pines Hotel. We know Bernie Cove will go all out in preparing an enjoyable time for us.

Fran and I received a letter from Millie Benick. She wrote that she also lost her sister. Her plans are to attend the next reunion in Hershey with Ruth Feig. Looking forward to seeing them.

On the health report; Hazel Wehling is still in the nursing home, no improvement. Mary Sihlanick has problems getting around. Charlie Sihlanick has his arthritis acting up. Our wishes are for a return to good health for all of you in this association who are suffering.

That's it for now. Take care and God Bless You All.

Stan Bielen

1st Bn. Hdqs. 331 Inf.



MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Well, hi everyone! It is nice to wake up after the winter's hibernation. We really can't complain on our weather this winter. Cold yes, but no sloppy snow and rain to deal with. We hope that everyone had a nice Holiday Season, and that everyone is getting the itch and making plans to attend the reunion in Hershey this year.

Anna Maria and husband presented us with our first grandchild, a boy named David Thomas, after my son-in-law's father. David weighed in at 6 lbs. 10 oz. and 22 inches long. Not bad. We are real happy for them and of course OURSELVES.

Jack Daugherty calls me often, but I don't hear from the rest of the fellows from Michigan, so I guess everything is well with them. Jack and Hankie are Florida Bound on March 10 for 2 or 3 weeks.

Had a call from Lou and Lucy Volpi saying that Al and Ann Belvedere accompanied them on a two week tour of Florida in February and early March. It is nice when you can find time to travel.

Virginia and I keep making plans but no movement. It is one thing and another that keeps us from really deciding to make the move.

Well, that is about it for now. Hope for a better article next issue.

Get your shirts, jackets and caps for the up coming reunion. Till next time.

God bless all!

Vito Palazzola

Michigan Chapter
"G" 329th

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER NEWS

Well this has been a rough winter and it is about to turn now and we will be on the go again.

Received a letter from Spike McCartin that his brother, Reverend Joseph McCartin, O.M.I., passed away on January 6, 1987 at the age of 67. He had two strokes. He also was in Africa for twenty-five (25) years as a missionary.

We of the New England Chapter send our condolences to the McCartin family. Spike and Gloria are on the go again they have been out in California, to see their two daughters and also spent a week out to St. Martin's Island. Good Luck Gloria and Spike.

Lou Rossi is coming along fine and he is O.K. to make the reunion in Hershey, Pennsylvania, we hope.

Good old John Donahue is holding on, but can't travel too far and he misses our get togethers. We all miss you, John.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you guys from 3rd BN. 330th, A.T., Platoon at the reunion in Hershey in September.

Also heard from the Brennan's in R.I., and they are O.K. as are the Petrucci's and the Tartaglia's.

Talked to Bill and Betty Davis of Newburyport, Mass. and Betty's mother is not too good and one person must be at home with her at all times, so they are sort of tied up for a while.

We had a surprise visit this winter from our great couple from Florida, Mike and Nina Petitti. We had a little lunch and went to visit Lou and Emma Rossi and Dutchy and Helen Smith. It was a nice get together. I think they ran into a storm going back to Florida.

Bob and Ada Barber are spending some time in Mexico and enjoying it. Also got a little note from Wm. Kent O'Connell and he is doing O.K., and John and Esta Ferreira are also fine.

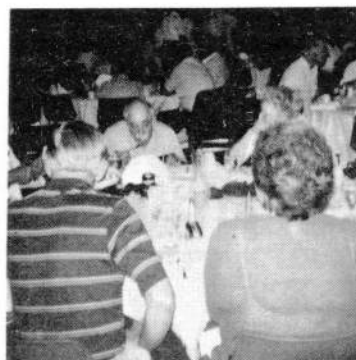
We missed seeing our write-up about the New England Chapter News in the Winter Issue of the Thunderbolt. Bob said he must have overlooked it. We all forgive you Bob, just don't let it happen again, okay? Ha Ha.

The New England Chapter hopes that Bob and Pearl are well on the road to good health again as Pearl had a broken wrist and Bob had the Balloon job done on him. We are all looking forward to seeing you both in September.

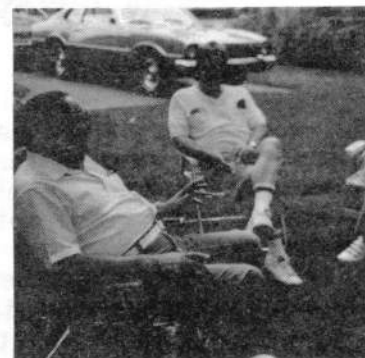
I just received a post card from August (Mouise)Farias and Hazel and they are in Florida. He said that he lost his pants at the Dog-track and also saw some baseball games.

Well, this is it for now.
Your Buddy,

Nick Francullo
3rd Bn. Hq. 330th A.T.



**Mouise having
a good meal**



**Another
War Story**



**Just
Relaxing**



**Great
Food**



**Joe Minotis
1st Reunion**

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER NEWS

After the winter doldrums, the Philadelphia Chapter is preparing for its Memorial Day Service to be held on Monday, May 30, in Narberth and we are expecting a good turnout this year. Please put this date and event on your schedule. Even if you are not able to march in the parade, we hope you will join us in our 83rd Service and Open House held immediately after the ceremonies at Lou Volpi's restaurant in Narberth.

As the Philadelphia Chapter is preparing to host the '88 Reunion, I wish to urge all members to send their reservations and deposits to Hershey Lodge as soon as possible as the reservations are coming in exceptionally fast. A significant number of reservations have already been received by the Lodge.

Members are also asked to send in their ads and boosters for the Reunion Ad Book as we need your support in this endeavor. The ads for the book are being handled by George Pletcher, Al Belvedere, Lou Volpi and Larry Redmond. Ads and/or boosters sent to any of these men will be taken care of promptly and will be deeply appreciated by the Association.

We are all hoping for improvement and recovery for those members of the Chapter who have been on our sick list this past winter. These include Charlie Bonafiglia, Bea Chavanne and Jean Pletcher.

Just before deadline, I received a call from Norm Schuster who told me he plans to enter Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia next week for major surgery and expects to be there for about a month. He is to receive two artificial hips. This will be the second replacement for the one hip. While the operation is extremely serious, Norm's disposition and determination are going to bring him through this to realize his doctor's promise that he will walk again. We will keep you posted on his progress as he has made a lot of friends among you.

John G. Daum
"D", 330th

DIXIE CHAPTER

I will start my report with the bad news first. We were sorry to learn that M. L. Baker died in surgery January 12, 1988. He had been in declining health for several months. The funeral was held at Whitmire, SC. Several Dixie Chapter members attended. We also were saddened by the death of Virginia Cox's (Mrs. John Cox) brother on December 28, 1987. We have been missing Clarence West who has had heart problems. Melba (Mrs. Lacy Satterfield) was in the hospital the last of December for surgery. We were glad she was able to be with us at our March meeting. Emory Culclasure had four by-passes the last of January. He is up and around now, but was unable to make it to our March meeting. John Bailey and his wife, Lorine, both had open heart surgery on the same day, March 3, 1988. I'm sure a little note would be appreciated by them.

Now for the good news--We have just returned from a successful Dixie Chapter meeting in Williamsburg, Va. We had 149 for our dinner on Saturday night followed by a wonderful band and lots of dancing and fellowship. Mrs. George Cox won the 50/50

pot. We were proud to have attending our meeting our National President and his wife, Jean & George Pletcher, also our National Secretary and Treasurer, Bob and Pearl Derickson. James Price from Hershey, PA was with us with plenty of interesting things to tell us about our National Reunion. We were proud to have so many of our Northern friends with us. Someone said we had 15 States represented. Thanks to our host, John and Virginia Cox for a very, very nice meeting. We have been invited to return to Williamsburg, Va. again next March for our meeting, so watch the Thunderbolt for the exact dates. Everyone come and join us.

We will be meeting June 16, 17 & 18, 1988 in Huntsville, Al., with F. M. & Vivian Haney and Chester & Roberta Gray as our hosts. They have a wonderful program planned for us, including a trip to the Space Center.

We voted for the Kentucky Chapter to join the Dixie Chapter in Gatlinburg, TN. for our Christmas party on December 1, 2, & 3, 1988. You will be hearing more about this later.

Reunion time is getting closer, so get those reservations in for Hershey.

Frank Jackson
Co. D, 330th Inf.

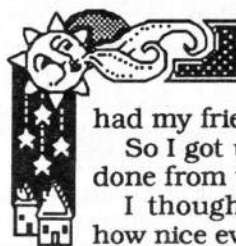
DIXIE CHAPTER

A little information on the folks in the Dixie Chapter. I will not mention all names of the people who had the flu but there were a count of twenty or even more. It was rough on some. Hospital patients were Clarence West who had a mild heart attack who spent some time in the hospital. Last report he was doing fine. Roy R. Wilson had a prostate gland operation, but doing great. Emory Culclasure underwent a four bypass heart operation. That also was a success. David Dillard had surgery on an artery that carried blood to the heart and lungs. They put a clamp on to keep blood clots from reaching the heart and lungs, which caused abscesses. They had to do surgery for abscess and leave this open to heal from inside due to being a diabetic the healing is slow. Plus later he fell and fractured his back having Rheumatoid Arthritis has put him in a wheel chair.

We hope that all of the above mentioned sick are back to normal or recovering and can be with us again soon.

If there are others not mentioned who have been ill we wish you well and our prayers go out to all.

Haran Martin
"C" 331st



I could not sleep last night, I had my friends on my mind.

So I got up and began to write, which I've done from time to time.

I thought about the Dixie Chapter and how nice everyone has been to me

And the 83rd Infantry National Association, how happy together we all can be

I thought of Comrades who've passed on,

and their families that's left behind.

I thought of some battles we fought, and our many buddies lost at the time.

I thought of our Memorial Service, each year when we honor our dead.

How good it feels to be alive, when the number of deceased is read.

As we pay another tribute of respect to all comrades who have died.

When the rifles fire-and the bugle sounds our hearts moan with deep sadness inside.

Our feeling when two songs are sung, my buddy and how great thou art.

Our Chaplain delivers and we all pray, while many others perform their part.

These Memorial Services that we attend, sends a message through our mind.

As we stand there giving thanks to God, for allowing us to be together another time.

Haran R. Martin
"C" 331st

PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

Nine members of the chapter attended the Dixie Chapter mini-reunion on March 24, 25, 26 in Williamsburg, Va. Going stag were: Gene Costanzo, Sam Klippa, Joe Danylo, John Gallo, Jim McCulla. Those escorted by their spouses: Ed Walsh (Dotty, Ed Reuss (Lee), Mike Kadylak (NA). Glowing reports were brought back by all that attended.

Our April meeting was held on Saturday, April 2 due to Easter falling on the first Sunday of the month. Despite the switch twenty-eight members were in attendance.

On Sunday, May 1 the chapter will be going on a boat ride cruising the Allegheny, Ohio and Monogahela Rivers from 7 p.m. to 11p.m. This event will take the place of our annual picnic and spring dance. Attendance at the picnic had declined in recent years. The spring dance had to be cancelled due to the lack of a suitable site in the Mon Valley (the usual site of the event). Prior to the ride a meeting will take place in the Steamboat Room of the Sheraton Hotel of Station Square. A hospitalty room will open immediately after until boarding time. The room will be open also at the conclusion of the ride.

SHORT NOTES: Our treasurer John Gallo toured the states of North and South Carolina and Florida during the past winter in search of buddies from the 308th Eng. At the time he experienced more inclement weather than we had up north. * The chapter Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, November 26 at our meeting site, the Brentwood VFW. *Bill and Betty Mattes spent the Easter holiday season in Texas. Betty had a thyroid operation on January 6 and recovered nicely. *Paul Diethrich had his left knee cap replaced on March 6th. In the near future he will have the right one replaced. This is being done in St. Margaret's Hospital in Aspinwall, Pa. * Our pres. Ed Walsh became a great grandfather for the eighth time on March 29. Alan Froehlich is the culprit. This matches his eight grandchildren. * On April 2 Joe and Juliette DeLuca celebrated 45 years of wedded bliss. Congrats. *Glad to see MP Bill Har-

rold back at the meetings. He was hospitalized for a heart attack awhile back but is back to normal. * Our chaplain Matt Pintar recently received a letter from Robert Burns of Westminster, California. This is the first time in forty-one years they have corresponded. *Speaking of correspondence your reporter was surprised to receive a letter from Don Rickert of Baltimore, Maryland. He served in the same platoon as I did. He was wounded near St. Lo. before the break thru in Normandy. He had no idea the 83rd Div. Assn. existed. He had noticed the reunion notice in the DAV magazine and wrote Bob Derickson for info. He has joined the association and is quite anxious to receive correspondence from any H-329th men. His address is Don Rickert, 146 Regester Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21212. He is planning on attending the upcoming Hershey reunion.

In closing I want to report that work is progressing on the 1990 reunion which the chapter will host in Pittsburgh. Committees have been formed and several sites are under consideration.

Fran Beerhalter
H 329



Cleveland Chapter

It sure feels good to see the green grass instead of snow. We have had our share of the white stuff. Glad to see it go. At our February meeting we had our annual election of officers for the coming year. Bob Grobelny, was elected President, Walt Meczka was reelected to Vice President and Treasurer for the umpteenth time.

Bob Uher is now Secretary and reporter, Hank Trzeciak was reelected Sgt. at Arms, Lou Donnelly was elected to three year trustee, Joe Lanza for a two year trustee and Casey Kowalec for one year trustee. This slate of officers was acclaimed by unanimous vote of the members. Later the audit by the trustees found the Chapter to be financially sound.

We hear that Ed Jocek was elected to the Commander of the D.A.V. Post in Maple Heights, Ohio, and Bob Grobelny was elected to Senior Vice President of the D.A.V. Congratulations to the both of you for your dedication in this work. Keep it up.

That Ted Gurgal had a real set back and is in the Cleveland Clinic for treatment. His buddies might want to drop him a line or send a card. It was good to see Ed and Jo Glinka at our last meeting. Come more often. The meals prepared by the Chapter beauties have been delicious, plus all the fattening Bake Stuff. The home made pizzas served every month by Ann Christopher, Mrs. Godfather. Excellent!!

Ed Cox and "Jake" Jakubowski are getting ready for bowling tournaments, while the rest of us are getting ready to start swinging with the golf clubs, especially Earl Lindsey, the Chapter Champ.

I'll close for now and think about Hershey.

Remember all people smile in the same language.

Bob Uher
"B" 329th

KENTUCKY CHAPTER NEWS

The days were bright and clear and our city never looks lovelier than when our pink and white dogwood, azalea bushes and tulips are in bloom--so it was when the Spring Meeting of the Kentucky Chapter was held at the Days Inn formerly Rodeway Inn in Downtown Louisville the week end of April 15, 16 and 17.

The turnout was so much better than expected and how pleased we were to see so many happy faces. There were thirty-two people who came for the tour of Hillerich and Bradsby Company Louisville Slugger Bat and Golf Factory. They are also known for their "Power Drive" golf clubs and the famous Hockey Sticks. Everyone seemed to enjoy this. All were given a Slugger bat as a souvenir. Ann was in her wheelchair and they gave her a full size bat. Irene Baker pushed Ann's walker along so that if Dan needed it, it would be available. The tour guides thought Irene was handicapped so they gave her a full size bat also. See what kindness gets you.

The group enjoyed dinner at the Hotel and then to the hospitality room for the rest of the evening. Guess who got stuck in the elevator. Pearl, Bonnie Hoover, and Nora Lee and Cecil Walter. The girls all blamed Cecil but they sure set off the alarm and had to be rescued.

Saturday the group was off to the race track. A tour of Churchill Downs with no horses. But it was a beautiful day and we all got to see behind the curtains. You could stand at the bottom of the grandstand and imagine Derby Day.

The group ate lunch at the Masterson's restaurant. Then back to the Hotel. Some of the women went shopping and the rest just stayed at the hotel. We had our meeting on Saturday night. Plans were made for meeting for the rest of the year. The Summer Picnic will again be held with Bob and Pearl Derickson in charge at the College View Motel. They have a full schedule planned for us beginning about 1:30pm on Friday. We will go and tour Lebanon and eat dinner Friday night at the Golden Lamb the most famous restaurant in Ohio. Then Saturday we will tour the Antique Farm Museum at the Hueston Woods State Park after eating breakfast there at the Lodge. Our meeting will be at three o'clock and then a catered dinner. There will be entertainment for Saturday evening. Come on all of you. Get in touch with Bob if you wish to join us.

Our Fall meeting will be in Owensboro, Kentucky with Wally and Fran Roberts in charge. They are working on their program for us. Then in December we will travel to Gatlinburg to join up with the Dixie Chapter. So a full year. The 1989 National reunion was then discussed at great lengths. That time is growing closer all the time.

One of the snacks that was brought by the members was some great peanut brittle made by our member Bill Ledger and his wife Nancy. Nancy doesn't take any credit for this but she must have given Bill encouragement. Anyway we are enclosing it for all the rest of you members. Hope you enjoy it as much as we did.

Peanut Brittle

by Bill Ledger, "E" 329th

2 cups white sugar

1 cup white Karo Syrup

1/2 cup water

14 oz. to 1 lb. of Peanuts / Salted or unsalted

3 tsp Baking Soda

Using a three (3) quart heavy saucepan, combine sugar, syrup and water. Bring this to a boil and cook to hard ball stage. (265 degrees on candy thermometer). Add peanuts, cook until syrup is light and amber color. Add baking soda and stir until very foamy. Pour onto lightly greased cookie sheet. Let cool and flex cookie sheet to remove.

Sorry the rest of you could not be with us.

We were disappointed that the restaurant at the Museum was closed but nearby is an English style restaurant "Masterson's" that not only gave us a short tour of their place but a 10% discount for being a Senior Citizen. We had 48 for dinner Saturday evening and 59 members with a good meeting in the hospitality room.

Most met for breakfast on Sunday and after expressing what a wonderful time, headed for home.

We are sorry that some had to cancel out and hope that the annual picnic hosted by the Derickson's June 10 and 11 will find many more happy 83rd fellowship friends around.

Until we meet again, take good care and God Bless.

Dan McCarthy
"M" 331st

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.

This is a poem written by our own Nora Lee Walters of the Kentucky Chapter. Wife of Cecil Walters, 308th Engineers

A TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND AND MRS. TOWNSEND

It was their wedding day October 2nd, 1924 that they joined hands and vowed, That down the road of life they would walk to meet the crowd.

Rex and Illa James Townsend have spent these many years, Their aim to help others, and calm the worlds fears.

There being no other mode of travel they walked mile after mile; She walked closely behind him in the traditional mountain style.

By the Holy Bible, his sermons they slowly prepared; That through their ministry lost souls would be spared.

In their parlor many Powell County couples were wed; To Christ, their family, friends and loved ones they led.

For many years, the Mt. Sterling radio broadcast was their goal; Over the air they sang, "What would you give in exchange for your soul?"

The scene has changed now, the story unfolds; There is a sequel here, that not everyone knows.

Brother Rex lives at Stanton Nursing Home now and his testimony is there, they say; Sister Illa's ministry continues in her own unique way.

She told me herself or I would not have guessed; Her way to bring the residents happiness is the way she has dressed.

She said, "I wear long gowns, red beads and bright colors and hues; I keep right on telling them God's good news.

Now listen, children, you will go far; If you brighten the corner wherever you are."

With love,
Nora Lee Walters



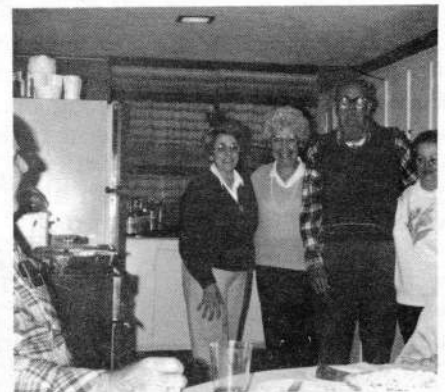
Jim Prentice, Jeanie Gove getting a "smooch" from Santa & Rita Lussier (Boston Chapter)



Bernie Cove Santa Claus & Rita Lussier at Anton's (Boston Chapter)



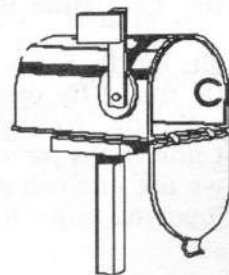
Time out for "chow". Boston Gang at Charle & Rita Lussier's house.



At Lussier's home C. Lussier, Livy Maynard, Ginny Dig, Bob Hunnewell Phyllis Scott (Boston Chapter)



Frank Scott, Walter Koss, Hy Goodman, Rita Lussier at Anton's (Boston Chapter)



CHAPTER NEWS & PHOTOS

BOSTON CHAPTER

Just returned from a vacation in Florida. Nancy and I drove down to Sarasota, Florida. Walter Harding had us out to dinner. The next day we went to Sebring, Florida to meet Ed Shively and Dick Brown. We had a fast Mini-Reunion. It was the first time I have seen Shively and Brown since 1945. They told 43 years of "Fish" stories. They told me they have met Richard Ammon from "A" Co. 331st in Sebring.

I also met Merton Johnston of 330th M. Co. in Spring Hill, Florida on the road. I spotted the 83rd sticker on his car. We had a quick chat. I hope to see him at our next chapter meeting.

Ray Bjork was operated on at the Boston Veterans Hospital in March. He is recuperating at his home and is doing well. Ray has had a rough year health wise.

Pat DiGiammerino has also been on the sick list. I phoned him last night and he says he is feeling better.

George Polites was operated on. I visited him at his home. I was so happy to see him feeling better. His wife and daughter give him the best of care.

We were sorry to hear Romeo Maynard's wife Livie was operated on. We are glad to hear that she is doing better.

I visited Lou Volpi in Phillie. He told me Jim Prentice was coming the next day but I could not wait for him. Jim is on the move which is good to hear. I hope to be with them in May for the parade.

The last meeting of the Boston Chapter was at the DiGiammerino's home. I was told a good time was had by all. Nancy and I were still travelling at the time.

The next meeting will be in New Hampshire in May. We are looking forward to that. The weather should be good with the winter snow behind us. More people should be there.

Charlie and Rita Lussier, AT 331st, lost brothers at the same time.

Tony Piantedosi lost a brother suddenly last week. Condolences to these families from the Greater Boston Chapter.

That's all for now so I can get this in the mail.

Amy Tynan

March 30, 1988

Dear Friends and Family of Bob York:

My name is Barbara, and I am writing this letter for my father. Dad wants to share with you what he is experiencing at this time in his life. It's an important and meaningful time for him, and he wants to share it with some of the people who have been so very important and meaningful to him and to his life. In this way, he wants for you to continue to be part of his life, and for him to be a part of your lives.

Last October, as Dad was dressing for a special occasion, a mini-reunion of the staff of the 331st Regiment, he noticed that his slacks were extremely loose, giving him his first indication that he had lost a significant amount of weight. He also realized that he was unusually tired, and short of breath. He worked with a very good Navy doctor, having numerous tests, but no conclusions were reached. On New Year's day he became quite ill, and was admitted to the hospital, where more tests were per-

formed. X-rays showed spots on the lungs, but follow-up tests could confirm nothing. As more tests were performed in March, cancer became a stronger and stronger suspicion, until the firm diagnosis finally evolved. Traditional medicine could offer no recommended treatment.

But as you know, Dad is a fighter. In addition, he is someone who others are inspired to fight for. And he wants to tell you, his loved ones, how gratified and touched he has been with how the people who are currently involved in his life have marshalled forces, and resolved to work with him to lick this thing. And also with how everything has fallen in place.

There are two non-traditional, non-conventional treatment methods that we are pursuing. One is taking a variety of non-toxic treatments at St. Jude's Clinic in Mexico, and the other is a macrobiotic diet and way of life. In fact, both treatments involve a drastic change in living patterns, to include reduction of stress (primary), moderate exercise, peaceful environment, deep breathing, lots of fresh air, etc., etc. Both approaches call for faith, a positive and happy attitude, determination, and discipline; all characteristics that you know my father has in abundance.

This experience has brought new loving and caring friends into Dad's life, which have added even more to the rich life he has had prior to this experience. At the clinic in Mexico he visits with people who were told by their American doctors that they had only months or weeks to live. Years later, as they take follow-up treatments, they are strong, healthy and happy. Many of the people who, like Dad, are there for the initial three-week treatment series, are so optimistic, and feeling better each day, that they laugh and chat, and it's hard to realize they are sick. Most have inspiring stories to tell.

As you might expect, this is a very difficult time for our Mother, Grace. She is currently experiencing a depression, for which she is hospitalized, with the hope and expectation that medication will lift her depression... any day now.

Dad also wants to share with you that for him, his four beautiful daughters have turned into four angels, in the support they are giving him. I can only add: how could we do otherwise, for a man who has given us so much love, care, and guidance; a man from whom we have learned and received so much. (Betty, Gail, and Carol are Grace and Bob's other daughters.)

The incidents of this past month have reaffirmed Dad's faith, both in his Lord and Savior, and his fellow man. He has been reminded of a favorite verse, from Isaiah 26:3: "Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose mind has stayed upon thee because he trusteth in thee"

Dad sends his love and best wishes to each of you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Donnadieu

P.S. Dad is currently staying with my husband, Don, and me, and Mom may be soon, so if you would like to write or call, our address is 10550 Viacha Drive, San Diego, Ca. 92124 (619-569-6833) Mom & Dad's address is: 6235 Caminito Buena Suerte, San Diego 92110 (619-265-7727)

Warren Chapter News

Spring has arrived in beautiful Ohio. The buzzards have returned to Hinkley, Ohio, the sap is running from the maple trees in Chardon, Ohio, John and Helen Caparanis, Joe and Angie Phillipone, Babe and Theresa Gautschi and Ted and Dolly Halubka, have returned from their vacation in Florida, John Shamrock, Liz Skovran and George Bellay are planning their gardens--The Voracek's, Gautschi's and Titus' are ready to open up their trailers at Paradise Lake--Our winter bowling league is almost finished and we are cleaning our golf clubs for the start of our Tuesday golf league--Prexy Dick Kelly has appointed John Shamrock as our summer picnic committee chairman and Ted Halubka and Joe Venuti volunteered to help him. He has scheduled our monthly picnic, golf and meetings for the third Sunday of each month, at Smelko's Ash Hills golf course and shelter house. The exception to these dates is July, when the whole gang drives out to Paradise Lake, for an all day affair. Of course everyone in the 83rd is always welcome to our affairs. Especially our friends from the Cleveland and Pittsburgh chapters--Just contact one of our members for directions.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY to Marge and Ray Voracek, on the death of Marge's sister Dorothy, in November, 1987.

To The family of John and Olga Teringo--John passed away in June, 1986 and Olga died eighteen months later, in January, 1988.

To Babe and Theresa Gautschi--Babe's brother John, died suddenly, March 7. It was quite a shock to Babe, as John was waiting for him to pick him up to go shopping, but expired just before Babe got there.

SICK CALL: George Bellay spent 21 days in the hospital in February and while he was there, wife Louise was brought in for a week. They both are back in good health now and have made two trips to Cincinnati, for the births of two more grandchildren. Daughter Sandra and husband, Andy Mann are parents of a beautiful little girl, Amanda, born March 9 and daughter Debbie and husband Bob Hanley had a husky little boy, Christopher, born March 19. (This makes three for the Bellay's).

CONGRATULATIONS ALSO, TO: John and Pat Shamrock, on the birth of their eighth grandchild, born March 2 to daughter Joanne and hubby Jim Hiliman--a boy this time and named Jonathan.

Birdie and Lee Titus, on the birth of their first great-grandchild...a lovely little girl, born March 31 and named Jennifer. Proud grandfather is Birdie and Lee's son, LeRoy, Jr. His son Marc and Michele are the proud parents.

NOTE: The Warren Chapter's active members now have a total of 46 children, 85 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Mike and Liz Skovran and Ray and Marge Voracek extend a tip of the hat and many thanks to the members of the Dixie Chapter, for their wonderful hospitality, at the Dixie Chapter 3-day March meeting in Williamsburg, Va.

MEETINGS:

January--Hosts-Joe and Vera Venuti
February--Hosts-Dick and Millie Kelly
March--Host for men's meeting-Charlie Tomazin
Hostess for ladies' meeting-Birdie Titus

At all three meetings--the food was great, the refreshments plentiful and cold and everyone went home with full bellies and warm feelings.

This winds up the news and activities to date, so once again from all of us, to all of you--Good Health, Good Luck and Happiness.

Lee Titus
Chapter Reporter

Florida Chapter News

I just don't know where to start this letter, but since I've been appointed to fill the office of Sec'y Treas. of the Florida Chapter for the rest of the remaining term, until election, I'm certainly going to try my best, to do what is expected of me.

We have lost a very true friend and officer of the Florida Chapter, Dave Benick. He will be greatly missed by all of our members as well as his friends and buddies of the 83rd Association. Our hearts go out to his wife Millie and his family.

Our January meeting was held at the Silver Lake Lodge on Jan. 29, 30, 31st in Ocala, Florida. Several people came early to enjoy the Silver Spring Park. It was hosted by Dana and Frank Sharpe and Yvonne and Lou Lizotte. Again we had a wonderful and entertaining weekend with all our members and guests. We had a good showing of our Chapter, and our dinner was represented by about 65 members and their wives and guests.

It was sure nice to see our good friend Sam Klippa again in our midst. We sure have missed him at our meetings. Thanks go to his friend and chauffeur who made it possible for him to be with us. Sorry I didn't get his name, for that I apologize.

One of our members John Stewart was back with us again after a long absence due to ill health.

Our new officers for the year 1988 are:

Walt Marshall Pres.
Frank Sharpe V. Pres.
Paul Buchman Judge Advocate
Lou Kranes Chaplain
Harry Shoemaker Sgt. at Arms

Due to the death of Dave Benick, Bill Herhuth appointed Sec'y-Treas. until the end of term.

Three members have joined our Florida Chapter, they are:

Jim Burt 331st
Al Shrawder 331st
George Lathrop 330th

Our next meeting will be held in Clearwater, Fla. and will be hosted by Bill and Dorothy Nagel on April 28, 29, 30th.

Bill Herhuth
Hdq. Btry. 324th



Co. 'H' 330th

Hello Buddies:

Once again I am getting my chance to put a few words in this issue of the "THUNDERBOLT" to you men of Co. H, 330th. I am sure that you as well as myself are mighty proud to have been able to serve in one of the best Units in the 83rd Infantry Division.

As time passes by, we are all getting older and our period of time in life is getting shorter and shorter. As you all know who are members of this Great Association, this year's Reunion will be held in Hershey, Pa. in September. It is time to get your reservations in so that you can join your Buddies and make this another great year in the History of our lives.

Many of you have never attended a Reunion, you just can't picture the thrill that is involved in going there and meeting a long lost Buddy that you haven't seen since you left Europe. Let us remember that each year another one or two of them are called to their great reward, so don't put off this visit until next year, make it today, that man you wanted to see may not be there next year.

I would also like to remind you men of Co. H, to send me a reply to those letters I sent you in regards to the ads. As I told you in the letter, the ad is only \$5.00 per name, but please send that extra \$5.00 so that name of a Buddy you once remembered will appear.

I was in Virginia a couple of weeks ago at a Dixie Chapter meeting and had the pleasure of meeting a couple of Co. H men there. I was disappointed that there weren't more of you men from the South there. Lets try to make this Reunion a Reunion to long remember. Come and meet Capt. Masters, Lt. Rudd and some of the others.

Your buddy,

Larry Redmond
Co. "H" 330th



Letter To The Editor:

Here it is time for another edition of the "THUNDERBOLT" to be prepared for the Press. Time goes by so quickly anymore that we hardly have one edition in the mail, when it is time for another to be printed.

Well Buddies, as you well know, the Greater Philadelphia Chapter is hard at work preparing for another great Reunion. Along with the work to be done comes the Ad Book for the Reunion. This is one of the most important parts of the Reunion preparation in that it gives the Reunion Committee some extra financial support to help with the planning at the least expense to the Registration fee.

Over the years I have helped the Reunion Committees with the work of mailing out letters and receiving ads which I forward to the Committee so that they have the necessary monies that they need. Again I ask each and everyone of you to lend your help to this great effort. As you well know that a full page ad costs \$60.00, a half page ad costs \$35.00 and a quarter page ad costs \$18.00, along with this

booster ads cost \$5.00 per name. We are not asking you to go out of your way to take the largest ad in the book, but we do ask you to help as much as you can. If you only care to take a Booster ad, send an extra \$5.00 or \$10.00 and send the name of a buddy who is deceased or whom you wish to remember. Please do this as soon as possible as we do need all the help we can get.

Two weeks ago I had the great pleasure of going to Virginia to attend a Dixie Chapter Spring Meeting, this was more of a Mini-Reunion than a meeting, there were representatives from all over including our National President as well as our Secretary-Treasurer. It was a wonderful affair and enjoyed by all.

Again, with the Ad Book, we ask returns as early as possible as there is a lot of work putting this book together.

Larry Redmond
Co. "H" 330th

323rd Report

Today I am in Florida on vacation with Nancy and making all the events in Orlando.

In the next few days I will be seeing Walt Harding, Bob Costello, Ed Shively and Dick Brown. Ed and Dick I have not seen for 43 years. I guess they must be "old" now. Huh!

George Polites was very sick in Dracut, Ma. He had an operation and I hope he is doing much better now.

Erwin Erhardt, Al Covi and others wrote Polites in the past month which was nice.

Don St. John is still into sports. Don and his wife Amy never change. They still look like a young couple.

Lois Shaner keeps in touch with me by telephone. Nancy is looking forward to seeing her on Cape Cod this summer.

Livie Maynard has been sick, I hope she is doing better.

George Connors wrote me a letter, which when I phoned home last night my daughter told me he wrote. I wish it arrived before I left home. I will call him next week.

I went to see Tony Piantedosi at work before leaving Boston. He looks wonderful. I had a long chat with him.

Hqrt. Btry. please send money for the Memorial page.

That's all for now.

Amby Tynan



OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY "M" 330TH

This is about another great reunion of the "M" 330th Infantry of the 83rd Division. Being the 6th of the Unit's Company reunion they were held in the years of 1975, 1978, 1981, 1985 and 1987 this being the best and they do get better every year they are held.

The 1987 was held at the Executive Inn in Owensboro, Kentucky. They came from far away states through the efforts of Jim and Martha Fowler from Anderson, South Carolina.

We went one day to the Job Center at Camp Breckenridge. What a change from those days back in 1943 when the 83rd trained there. There were thirty-two (32) men of the Company and most brought their wives. All had a wonderful time. If some of you 83rd Division members have never been to one of these mini reunions you sure have missed a time of a life time. See your old buddies, re-fight the war, talk of good and the bad times, and you will be surprised at how many new friends you will find at these get togethers. I've been to the division (was also held at Owensboro) and I have seen and talked to many of the original cadre that re-activated the 83rd. Many of us came from the Horse Calvary. Those of "M" Company that couldn't make the 1987 reunion, we all missed you. Please try to make the 1989 which will be held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in October of that year.

I have to thank Lester Elkins from "K" 330th because it was through him, and correspondence, that I attended the 83rd Division Reunion in 1983. I'm proud to be a Division member also. Come and join us. This is my second "M" 330th reunion. The first was in Helen, Georgia in 1985. We had gone to the "Cabbage Patch" hospital on Friday. This is where the original "Cabbage Patch Dolls" were made (Cleveland, Georgia). I had gone back on Saturday to get my forty-three (43) year old daughter an original and came back and showed it to all the members. They took pictures and I took it home to Minnesota. When I walked in to the group in Owensboro in 1987 all the ladies knew me (not by name) but all asked, "How's the baby?" They sure remembered the doll. The doll "Kassey" was for my daughter Susan's doll collection.

Anyone interested in "M" 330th goings on please write to Jim Fowler, P. O. Box 5013, Anderson, South Carolina, 29623.

With that, God Bless you all and good luck.

Bob Duncan

R. R. 1, Box 112

Hackensack, Minn. 56452

"M" 330th

The West Virginia Report

The West Virginia Chapter Meeting was held in New Cumberland, W. Va. at The V.F.W. Meeting Hall on March 20, 1988.

A Motion was made and passed to place an Ad in the Program Book for the Philadelphia Reunion. Several letters were read. One from the Barboursville Veteran's Home with thanks for the donation

for needy Veterans for Christmas and another letter about vacancies at the Veteran's Home.

We Wish to Thank Walter and Estella Soble for their work and Attendance in making plans for the meeting at The V.F.W. Meeting Hall and Many thanks to the V.F.W. Post for a meeting place and refreshments and goodies. We also wish to thank Ed Meeks and David Baker for their attendance and contributions. Attending from the Charleston area were: Chauncy and Tress Hunt, Paul and Mary Pauley, John and Freeda Hobbs, and Don and Esta Pettry. Door prizes were won by Esta Pettry and David Baker.

Although it was a long trip, a good time was had by all.

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

April 4, 1988

G COMPANY 331ST INFANTRY

Since April Fool's Day came last Friday, I checked the calendar and found out that an article was due into the Thunderbolt before April 10. We have a beautiful day here in New Orleans, so we try to forget the last few days when over 9 inches of rain fell on the city, and we had to get the piroques out. Once again we survived to live another day.

Everything seems to be going along fine. I talked to Mort Gaynor last week and he tells me his tomatoes are growing fine in the basement and he is waiting for a good day so he can plant them on the outside.

Kate Pangle tells me that Loyal is doing fine, he is not ready for another reunion, but maybe someday.

I also managed to get thru the Mardi Gras season, and I have been able to take things easy. I am starting to get ants in my pants, and look forward to some travelling.

We should all be looking forward to the reunion in Hershey, Pa in September. It is a real nice place for a reunion, but I am afraid the Registrations fees may be a little too high for a majority of the men. I was hoping that we could have our G Company meeting on the Wednesday before the reunion, but the cost may be out of our range. Before this issue of the Thunderbolt reaches you, I will have a letter out to the men of G Company, just to bring you up to date.

In the past few months I have been in contact with a former member of the 2nd Battalion, who has been in hiding for a number of years. Col. Laurence Laliberte. He has retired from the Army and is now living in his home town of North Adams, Massachusetts. It was good hearing from him after many, many years. We may even get him to a reunion one of these days.

I haven't heard from the Pittsburgh group, they should be busy making plans for the reunion in 1990.

I have been concerned about the Association for some months. I have requested a change in the by-laws, mainly because I felt the cost of running the association has continued to increase over the past

few years. My main concern is that we keep our cost in line so that all members of the association, the one that served so gallantly with the 83rd during the war, can become active and be able to participate in not only the membership of the association, but be able to attend the reunions. Far too many of the members are not signed up as members, because they cannot afford to pay the dues. We have to keep the dues at the present level of \$10.00 per year, if our expenses continue to grow, then we have to cut the expenses, not raise the dues. We also have to consider holding our annual reunion at sites where we can get rates that are satisfactory to all of the members, not just a few that are able to attend regardless of the cost.

We should continue to contact the members of G Company, so that we can increase the total membership for the unit within the Association. As we get older our friends of the past become more important to us. We should not lose contact with them, and we should make every effort to meet with them when the occasion arises. I have recently written to a number of the other division Associations, and find that they are also increasing the membership of the Associations. As people retire they seem to have more time to think about their buddies that they served with during the War.

Capt. Mac

MEN:

The above article written by Joe Macaluso seems to contradict our records. We are losing members through death and there are some who do not pay their dues each year. But since 1980 our membership has continued to increase every year and our annual reunion attendance of membership has increased also. The Executive Board has not considered increasing membership dues. I cannot understand where Joe is getting this information. We had 165 new members last year and I am fairly certain that we will have at least that many this year. The Reunion is held in different locations each year. That is so that members in all area will have the opportunity to attend a reunion. The Executive Board takes all these things into consideration when approving the Host Chapters site and program.

I will print any article that is written within reason but I will not allow any derogative article to harm the Association. The Executive Board does appreciate all comments and input for the betterment of the organization and they will study and give an answer both at the annual meeting and have a written article in the Thunderbolt.

**YOUR Editor and Secretary Treasurer
Bob Derickson**

Nazi Trains Duck Soup To 83rd FA

WITH 83rd INF. DIV.-

Some of the boys in a divisional field artillery battalion are knocking off German freight trains with their 155-mm. howitzers the same way they used to knock out ducks with a .22 rifle in U.S. shooting galleries.

At a distance of 15,000 yards or approximately nine miles and with limited visibility, the outfit has three locomotives and about 60 or more cars listed as "probables."

The men, members of the FA Battalion commanded by Lt. Col. George W. Irving, San Francisco, placed their guns 15,000 yards from a small railway terminal whose tracks run north and south. Thus all Jerry freight trains ran directly perpendicular to the muzzles of the 155s. When the forward observation post was placed within 9,000 yards of the tracks, the observer had good visibility of all trains coming through the terminus, although ridges on both sides of the yards prevented observation or accurate fire on tracks outside of the station area itself.

The boys then rested near their guns and waited. Soon, the forward observer noticed the smoke of a locomotive and he alerted the guns' crews. "Casey Jones coming around the bend," he hollered, and just as the engine pushed out beyond the ridge, he gave the order to fire. The Jerries suddenly found 100-pound 155-shells had completely blown up the locomotive and derailed 30 cars. The Yanks then casually distributed a few rounds among the cars to score their first successful train wreck.

Sgt. Atlas Adkins, of Sacramento, Ky., maintains that the whole procedure is very simple. "It's just like the old shooting galleries down in Louisville," he said. "You get yourself all set and then when the first duck sticks its little old head out from the side you just let loose with all you got. Except with these Jerry trains there, it's simpler than all that. If you bust up the locomotive, you can knock out the rest of the cars while they're sitting still."

Dear Fellow Redlegs,

Bob Derickson sent me three recent roster of the Association, si I suspected that I should do something useful with them, and I went through all three and made a list of all 324th members, and here it is. I am sorry that I failed to get the last four entries in alphabetical sequence. Some of the names and addresses date back to 1984 and may have changed.

I do not expect to get to the reunion in Hershey this year, but I am sure that some of you will, especially since Lou Volpi is co-chairman. Perhaps this list will help you to coordinate plans with each other. Hershey is not very far for most of you.

I have been to two reunions, and Eunice went with me to one. I did not find many men with whom I had personal acquaintance, but I did enjoy visits with Sam Bifano, Ben Chuzi, Bill Herhuth, Bill Hoolan, Nick Nicholson, Lou Volpi, Ray Voracek, Quentin Pease (now deceased), and two or three from Div Arty. Hq. It seems to me that there was someone else, but my memory slips.

One buddy, Ed Borchert, found his way clear out to the State of Washington a few years ago. If anyone else plans to visit the Pacific Northwest please let me know.

Eunice and I are in reasonably good health and extend our best wishes to you and your families.

Sincerely,

George W. Irvine

(Known to some as "Colonel George")

324th Field Artillery Battalion

Ralph M. Bergstresser, 421 E. Crawford Ave., Altoona, PA 16602

Sam J. Bifano, 94 Belmont St., Carbondale, PA 18407

Henry E. Borchert, 545 W. Neshannon #6, N. Wilimington, PA 16142

George W. Bossler, 1015 Walsh St., Lansing, MI 48912

Fred C. Bowers, 434 Orchard Spring Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15220

Everett M. Brewer, 3705 Lakota Rd., Alexandria VA 22303

Benjamin Chuzi, 1600 NW 85th Terrace, Plantation, FL 33322

Vincent J. Damico, 7112 Harford Rd., Baltimore, MD 21234

Harry Deming, 335 Clayton Rd., Ashley Falls, MA 01222

Harland P. Elbel, 1415 Collar Price Rd., SE, Hubbard OH 44425

Anthony Giannini, 1638 Packer Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19145

Joseph Harrington, 4519 South S.R. 33, Box 543, Leesburg, FL 32748

Charles W. Henry, 113 Pine St., Altamonte Springs, FL 32714

William A. Herhuth, Swiss Village, 27 Alpine Drive, Winter Haven, FL 33881

William J. Hoolan, 447 Fernwood Ave., Folsom, PA 19033

George W. Irvine, 4213-223rd Place, SE, Issaquah, WA 98027-9232

Robert Johnson, 2776 Northview, Cortland, OH 44410

Louis J. Kinnan, Box 111, Oakdale, NE 68761

Dominick Mauro, 46 Bonnie View Drive, Trumbull, CT 06611

John McClimans, 115 Lebbie Lane, Fairless Hills, PA 19030

James J. McGuffie, 983 Cortland Rd., SE, Warren, OH 44484

Joseph P. Mulligan, 737 Laurel Lane, Clifton Heights, PA 19018

J.W. Nicholson, 330-18th St., Wellsville, OH 43968

Willard A. Pugh, 22 Dorest Dr., Broomall, PA 19008

John Shamrock, 812 Coleridge Ave., NE, Warren, OH 44483

Julius Silagy, 1148 Clearview Ave., NW, Warren, OH 44485

Frank W. Spowart, 166 Hemlock Rd., Box 208, St. Marys, PA 15857

Lucian M. Szafarski, 182 Justo Lane, Seven Hills, OH 44131

H. Greer Thompson, 536 Somerville Dr., Pittsburgh,

PA 15243

Louis J. Volpi, 410 Merion Rd., Merion, PA 19066
Raymond J. Voracek, 5455 Beechwood, Maple Heights, OH 44137

John Walsh, 21 W. Kiddler St., Portland, Maine 04103

Gordon D. Williams, 927-2nd Ave., Altoona PA 16602

Hans M. Bielski, P.O. Box 212, Aberdeeen, WA 98520

Louis A. Lyne, 54 Haverhill St., #3H, Brockton, MA 02401

Joseph Venutti, 1374 Cranbrook Cr., NE, Warren, OH 44484

Claude Whitman, 236 Belmont Ave., NE, Warren, OH 44483

"B" 329th

It was nice to read and relive the Chapter in our life when we were cut off for three (3) days in the town of Rockefeller as reported in the last issue of the Thunderbolt.

I have written to Captain Hill but so far no answer, I did not have a good address of his. If you have one please contact him and get him to come to the reunion. I have got positive reports from Camel's, Trofimuk, Stek, Hennies, Spickler, and Hirko plus the regular of Pirkle, Taylor, Dickson, Kane, Ashburn and myself. If you have any address either send them to me or get them to come. I am sorry to report that Joe "Red" Conroy passed away. In case you forgot, he used to entertain us with his harmonica. He was good at it. My wife and I went to Pinehurst, N.C. to play golf, and I tried to look up Bill Walker, the company baker, but nobody was at home. I hope he makes it to Hershey. Please get someone else to come. It will be great to see you all. Maybe the Bill Janke's can make it also, and "Red" Geyer.

See You All
Bob Uher
"B" 329th

The 783rd

Its another long awaited spring day as I'm sitting by my back window, watching a big groundhog work his way up a rocky hill. The only problem is he's in Philadelphia and I'm sitting in Montgomery County. This just proves that groundhogs aren't too smart, he's on the wrong side of the railroad tracks!

This is a little late, but I was so long winded in the last issue, I couldn't take another page. I promised to bring you up to date on "Snooks" Snook. He kindly wrote a nice long letter and this is what he has to say for himself. Snooks is from Seattle and married Mary Jane from North Dakota, where they have spent many a summer vacation on "the farm." A farm with a lot of manure makes things grow, as we all know. It should come as no surprise that the Snooks have three grown children and six grandchildren.

Snooks was in Industrial Sales, has been retired two years and everyone is in good health. Mary Jane retires this June and as a going away present Snooks is going to drive her and the trailer to their first reunion. We will be anxious to see both of them

and hear the rest of the story.

Chuck Garrison also wrote a nice letter confirming his reunion reservations. We're sorry to hear about Peggy's faulty ticker and we hope she is able to maintain that semblance of good health. Charlie was to the Owensboro reunion so he hasn't met up with his former Lt. Ivan Gilman. He sent a message to him, "Tell him I'm looking forward to seeing him, in the past when he wanted to see me it was for no good, so I'm anxious to see what I have done now!" All I can add Chuck, is, you may be in for a bad time because my "Dear Censor" remembers everything I did!

Chuck is also retired and like the rest of us trying to improve his golf game. In speaking of his sex life he said, "Wow, if I write that you wouldn't be able to print enough copies!" Come on now, Chuck, who wouldn't, the publishers of "Ancient History" or "Masters & Johnsons?" Chuck sends everyone his best and just hopes our lives have been just as rewarding and fulfilled as his has been.

Bill and Martha Appleby stopped in for a nice surprise visit last week to discuss the reunion and ad book. You fellows get a big "A" on your report card as Carl Frederick tells me over two hundred dollars has been received. I also had to apologize to Bill for mentioning the "fruit" shape I called him in the last issue. Maybe I'll think of the proper fruit name before I finish this article, but I know it won't be banana.

We also talked to Alyce Frederick after her serious knee operation. Alyce is still smiling and coming along fine although she still has a full thigh cast. The other good news is Carl is supposed to retire next January. I know how "young" Carl is and I'm not going to tell. I just know Carl will enjoy the extra free time, if they allow him to retire.

I've had nice conversations with both Joe Brown and Ivan Gilman. Would you believe they had lunch together in Calif? You don't have to be told that after forty three years it was a very joyous and informative occasion. Joe has recovered from his lung operation quite well and celebrated the occasion by further visits to Mexico and Fla. Joe also called up Sam Hoffman and they too had a lunch together in Harrisburg. Sam is doing and looking well and we sure hope to welcome him to Hershey.

The only sad news I have to report is I found Leland Boyd among the deceased in Henderson N.C. I found his daughter, and his wife called me back and told me they were married in 1955. He had lung cancer for eight years and died at the age of seventy three. I'm sure we all remember Lee as the sincere quiet friend whom everyone liked.

Doc reports that Agnes is a little up in the air, without a kite. Seems they are ready for another Calif. grandperson and they don't know whether they should arrive during the birth or the first calm week home. Stay tuned. All we know is Lloyd Grayson will be glad to hear Doc's voice again.

And yet another nice long letter from Charlie Rohrer. Charlie has had the misfortune of losing two beloved wives. He is now happily remarried. He sold his lumber yards and has his winter home in Fla. with boat and golf clubs. He and the Harris boys

should have a lot to talk about as George and the family had the big yard in Williamsport, Pa. I just don't understand. We were all in the same section and these two guys strike it rich in Lumber. Gilman and Doggett did the same in oil All I struck was a bell in the Telephone Co.! But what the heck, I'm still better off than Litrenta, to you Bill, that's what happens when you don't answer my phone calls or letters.

This Hershey reunion should really be a fun affair for us as it will be a first reunion for Brown, Snooks, Hoffman and Garrison, Gilman and Rohrer and DelPrete have just been to one. It's going to seem like old home week and of course the purpose of this sentence is to inspire some of you borderline cases, to take advantage of this opportunity. We are expecting in the neighborhood of twenty five fellows, plus the wives, which will make for a good reunion.

In a few days Ginny and I are going to pack our bags for a nice trip around the country. We are driving and flying and hope to see Labbe's, Ernie, Him Christian, Earl Fred Graham, The Wiggins, Pat Gilman, the Graysons, Vin Musser, the Unfrieds and lastly the Doggets. I just wish we had the time to see everyone along the way, but this is about all I can chew off at one time. I hope Garrison also gets the message. He doesn't have to fear our "Dear Censor." Ivan has to have a big heart to invite me to sleep under his big roof. Stay tuned in the next issue for the details of meeting Chris, Earl, Lloyd and Vin for the first time in forty three years.

Hut Two!
Rags Rangnow

Hi Bob,

Boy I was shocked and sorry to hear about all your physical problems. I'm also glad that everything turned OUT as well as it did. They sure have made a lot of progress in treating our old hearts. We've had a couple of cases of the balloon job and these fellows have been doing very well for the past couple of years. If you do everything they tell you, I'm sure you will be fine.

Needless to say I was never a typist. Actually I learned to type by picking up a German typewriter in a factory. I played around with it for the rest of the war. Yes, I know, I'm still playing around with them.

In case you didn't catch it, would you please place Leland Boyd on the deceased list as relayed by his wife. He died in 1977.

I thought some of the fellows would be interested in the Stars & Stripes article I found in one of my wife's old letters.

As you can see by the 783rd article, we'll be coming Art's way in just about a month so maybe we'll see you then. If not, you and Pearl stay healthy, because I know what will happen to the organization without you two.

Strangle the thought!

Our best always,

Ginny & Rags





MEMORIES

908th Field Artillery Bn.

OVER HILL, OVER DALE, WE WILL HIT THE DUSTY TRAIL . . .
Vol. I, No. 1 November 9, 1987

PREFACE:

At the last reunion several members of the 908th mentioned that they thought a newsletter of some sort would help us to keep in touch with each other and recall common experiences. This sheet is a first attempt to do just that. If possible, it will be sent out three or four times a year. Starting with Camp Atterbury--then Tennessee Maneuvers--Camp Breckinridge--Camp Shanks--the SS **George Washington**--Wales--the LSTs--France--Luxemburg--Belgium--Germany. The input will come from members of the battalion--just short interesting accounts of the 908th as they remembered them.

REUNION NEWS:

At Charleston, WV. Hosted by John and Freeda Hobbs (B Btry). Others included were (any omissions are unintentional: Frank and Mary Adachowski (A), Mrs. Ralph Allen (B), Warren and Sue Boucher (A), Leland and Delores Boyers (A), Jack and Eleanor Clevenger (A), Grace Brick (A), John Cox (C), Joe Danylo (C), Jules Desgain (B), Manny, Avalon and Amy Goodridge (Sv), Del Jurden (Hq), Dick and Millie Kelly (Hq), Ed and Virginia Marquard (A), Alex and Ruth McDaniel (B), Jim Prentice (B), Francis Rood (C), Frank and Phyllis Scott (Hq), Charles Stine (A), Ed Tetlak (C), Dale Underwood (B), and Ed Williams (B). The weather, program, and hospitality were excellent. Eleanor C won a lot at the dog races--Warren B and Eddy M took good care of the guidon at the parties--and Eddy M, Del J, and Ed T found three different golf courses, and all the era. The food at the dinners and banquet was exquisite, and social hours made this a real SPIRIT festival. The reunion in 1988 will be at Hershey, PA, presumably the week after Labor Day. In 1989 it is scheduled for Cincinnati.

DO YOU REMEMBER CAMP ATTERBURY?

The battalion was activated on August 15, 1942, and the cadre trained while we were on our way to join in October. About everything seemed strange, and---do you remember the mud (what mud!); the laced leggings that we recruits put on the wrong legs and got tangled up; the '03 rifles that were coated with Cosmolene; the newly constructed living quarters (barracks) complete with butt cans; the PX with its 10 cent beer in paper cups; the terrible barbers; the rickety buses that took us to Indianapolis; pay days; marching to the training areas at double-time; the day-rooms; the family-style mess halls; KP; guard duty; Reveille and Retreat; GI parties on Friday nights to get ready for inspection on Saturday? The cadremen carried clipboards. A clipboard in one's hand made that person important--it was a symbol of authority! What about the officers? They were the best! How did they keep so neat in their pinks and greens--and the enviable doeskin short overcoats. Everyone in the outfit knows different

and interesting stories. Send them, and they will be printed in a following issue. Please keep them about this length. Undoubtedly, some of them may have to be edited, but we will try to include them. The next issue will include more about good old Camp Atterbury, and eventually we may get to Zerbst, across the Elbe River.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

I will try to publish this sheet as indicated above, provided there is sufficient interest. Unfortunately, I am still teaching full time, so this may pose a problem, but I will give it a try for a while. Let me know if this is worthwhile and if there is anything else you want to include within the space limits on this page. I will take care of the printing cost. If anyone wants to contribute to postage (there are about 30 addresses), let me know--don't send any money or stamps until we get some response. This looks like fun, and I hope it will promote some interest and help us to recall some of those "pleasant" MEMORIES. If you know of any member's address that is not on the official 83rd Association roster, please let me know or print them a copy and send it to them.

Del Jurden

4512 Sutton Court, Kansas City, KS 66106
Self-Appointed Editor

THIS IS THE ARMY, MISTER JONES. NO PRIVATE ROOMS OR
Vol. I, No. 2 February 1, 1988

EDITORIAL:

Reaction to the first issue of "MEMORIES" published on November 9th was very favorable. Many encouraging responses were received from various members of the battalion, so it seems appropriate to issue another blurb. Howie Carlborn says that the "908th is an outfit from World War II to be reckoned with. . ." and that this is a good idea to continue such an exchange as this. Manny Goodridge sent in an up-to-date list of members' addresses, which is appreciated. Nate Miller offered his support for this project and volunteered to pay the postage for this issue. THANKS A LOT, NATE. Personal stories were received from Bob Wessel and George Sites, and they are included in this paper. Phyllis Scott sent me Grace Brick's current address, so I was able to send her a copy. Thanks much for the encouraging words, and we will continue this as long as there remains some interest. This issue will deal mainly with the early days at Camp Atterbury, particularly during the period of "basic training." If there is another one, it will cover the later period at Atterbury, from the end of basic to the time when we packed up to go on the famous Tennessee Maneuvers.

HISTORICAL NOTE:

The 908th had a history well before many of us were introduced to it. As part of the 83rd Infantry Division, it was activated on August 13, 1917, at Camp Sherman, Ohio, and its units served in combat in France from June, 1918, until the Armistice was signed in November of that year. It was demobilized in October, 1919. Most of us entered the division after its reactivation on August 15, 1942, at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, when its organization was changed into a "triangular" division, with three combat teams and supporting troops. According to War Department regulations and directed by a new

command called Army Ground Forces, there was a schedule according to which the division would be formed and trained. For example, the higher brass were designated about seventy-eight days before activation, and the division commander and his staff arrived at Atterbury thirty-seven days before the division was formed; a week later they were joined by most of the officer and enlisted cadremen. The total number of cadre was 216 officers and 1,460 enlisted members; a proportional number were assigned to the 908th. Cadre training took place until the arrival of most of us in October and November, 1942.

The camp included newly constructed frame barracks and other buildings, and our first couple of weeks were devoted to drawing and becoming acquainted with equipment and personal weapons. Small arms for training were Model 1903 Enfield rifles, which were replaced later in January, 1943, with carbines. It was sometime before our new primary weapons arrived--the new split-trail 105-mm hydropneumatic howitzers. Some of the initial cannoner training was done on the 155-mm hydropneumatic howitzers, and most members of the new arrivals got a chance to act as novices in the gun crews. According to the Mobilization Training Program (MTP), our training was divided into three phases: the first was for thirteen weeks and was called individual or basic. It consisted of such subjects as military courtesy, discipline, sanitation, first aid, map reading, individual tactics, and drill. This was our abrupt exposure to life as soldiers. After the first week, more diverse and technical subjects were introduced. In the last month of basic our battalion was required to do the following (according to the directives): ". . . march out to a range, occupy a firing position, execute a firing problem, return to a bivouac area, conceal the howitzers, post guards, serve chow, and return to camp without lights." The weather, as most will recall, was miserable, and much of the training was conducted out-of-doors. We learned to march in the mud at the double quite a distance from the cantonment area to nearby woods where the cadremen would try to cram all the new ideas about the proper ways to do things into our heads. Basic training ended in February, 1942, and at that time many of us were given short furloughs. (The second and third phases of our training will be covered in the next issue).

NEWS ITEMS:

The 42nd Annual Reunion of the 83rd is slated for September 8-10 this year at the Hershey Lodge, Hershey, Pennsylvania. Information about the reunion will be forthcoming in the **Thunderbolt**, the official publication of the 83rd Infantry Division Association, Inc. If anyone is not a member of the association and wants to join, please contact Robert Derickson, 3747 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013. Bob is the Secretary-Treasurer of the organization. Our sympathies go out to the family of Joel L. Oliver, whose death was reported by Laurie J. Oliver. The **Thunderbolt** reported this with no address listed. The latest address I have for him is 7105 15th Ave. So., Minneapolis, Minn. 55400. Joel was commanding officer of Battery A.

ATTERBURY TALES:

From **Bob Wessel**: Hadn't thought about Camp Atterbury in quite a long time but your paragraph on the subject certainly brought back the quick memories. I thought about the mess hall. We could never quite believe how bad the food could be. I remember a spell when, right after Retreat, we would send someone to the mess hall to see what they had mangled. I came back one night and told my good friend Nate Miller that they were having sauerkraut and hot dogs and that no one could ruin that. Nate and I went to dinner and as we were leaving the mess hall, Miller said to me, "Well, wrong again." Camp Atterbury was a time when you couldn't really believe where you were and when you wondered if World War II would end before you had 30 years of service. Misery surely loves company and I must say that we had the best.

From **Del Jurden**: I remember one incident very distinctly that happened to me during basic training. For all you old "red-legs", you remember that an Orienting Line is an imaginary line from the gun position to a distant point--but I did not know that, and I don't think many of my fellow recruits knew it either. On one cold, miserable morning we double-time out to a woods and gathered around in the mud to listen to some instruction on how to take up firing positions with the '03 rifle. We had only started, when George Sites, the instructor, told me that we had forgotten to bring out the Orienting Line, so he sent me back to the supply room to fetch it. I started back and before I got 50 yards from the woods, some officer yelled at me, "On the Double!" I ran back and reported to the Supply room and asked Sergeant Griffin for the Orienting Line. He handed me a box about 18" long x 9" wide x 6" deep, all banded up and stamped "Orienting Line." I started back with my '03 slung over my shoulder and again some officer yelled, "Double Time, Soldier!", so I double-timed. We trained all morning, ate chow in the field, and marched back in the evening. I asked why we didn't use the item I struggled to bring to the training area, and George Sites said it was for a 155-mm howitzer and that we needed one for the 105, so I had to carry it back. A few weeks later I was working in the Supply Room and asked the Supply Sergeant what was in the box. He said it contained about a dozen or so red bricks. Do any of you remember being stuck with the Orienting Line?

From **George Sites**: I had about a year of service under my belt when I arrived at Atterbury as a cadremen from Fort Sill, Oklahoma in August of '42. I was 21 years old and a Staff Sergeant (with a clipboard). My first assignment was to C Battery, 908th, as Chief of Detail. I can remember giving instruction to the battery on forming for shelter-halves and pitching tents one morning in a driving rain. It was a real test of "following the training schedule." Another time I was instructing a group in field stripping an '03 rifle--including the bolt and cautioned them to be careful or a spring on the bolt could bounce out into their faces. Just as I said it the spring did just that and hit my eyebrow. I finished the class with blood running down my chin. I wonder if anyone remembers that embarrassing experience for old "G I George"?

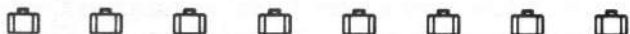
83rd INFANTRY DIVISION 45TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS - EUROPE - 1989

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!



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, portage, 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 **July 15th**, or if they opt to use the "time payment plan" which requires 28% down payment and a schedule of 25% payments each quarter until the payment are completed.

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

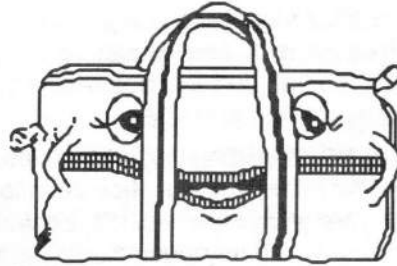
with camera-ready copy of the itinerary, etc., even a printed brochure you can staple in to the book. Look this over. Call me and we can discuss it. I can get it to you overnight by Federal Express in the same manner in which this is being sent to you.

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

SPECIAL OFFER GUARANTEED PRICES



**INCLUSIVE TOUR
 PRICE FROM
 NEW YORK:
 \$2479 per person**

If initial, per person deposits are received by Galaxy Tours **no later than July 15, 1988**, with payment made in full at that time, and the following payment scheduled adhered to, we will **GUARANTEE** the **1988** land price for **1989!**

This will be the last opportunity for guaranteed prices for the trip overseas in June of 1989. Those people that do not take advantage of the offer can still apply anytime on a first come basis until all vacancies are filled. At that time a small increase could be in effect. **NO GUARANTEE.**

Registration		
July 15, 1988		\$700 per person
October 1, 1988		\$500 per person
January 15, 1989		\$500 per person
April 1, 1989	Balance	To be invoiced

For those people who have already made the first deposit of \$200 your payment will still be \$500.00 for July 1. For those who have not paid previously and are just joining the group your payment is \$700.00 by the 15th of July. This will put you on schedule with the rest.

If interim payments are not made on a timely basis, land price guarantee will no longer apply. Airfares cannot be guaranteed until paid in full and airline tickets written. Credit cards may be accepted for airfare payment only.

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 \$700 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

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

Dear Bob & Pearl:

Just a few lines to let you know what is happening.

I came home from the hospital last Wednesday--today makes a week I am at home, and already getting bored, but can't do much about it.

They took my infected hip out and tried to put another one in right away because of my right hip, but it was so infected they couldn't put one in till they get rid of the infection. So I came home in the ambulance. I don't have a hip but have a "hickman" in my chest and Lorraine feeds antibiotics thru the hickman to get rid of the infection. This will be done for 4 weeks and then I go back to the hospital and get the hickman out and take antibiotics by mouth for 2 weeks and then go from there when they will put in a new hip. A home nurse comes in and gives the antibiotics for a week at a time and she also draws blood twice a week and takes it to a lab and they phone in the results to the infection doctor at the hospital to see how the infection is coming along.

At the hospital they put a 3" lift on my left shoe which I wear when I walk. I can walk with a walker but it goes pretty rough, but I can get in and out of bed by myself and get to the kitchen to eat and go to the bathroom. People say you can't walk without a hip, but the surgeon said I could and I am. I don't know but we may be talking about putting in a "hip" around June. They have to put one in before 6 months because of the muscles deteriorating. So I have to wait and leave that up to the surgeon.

The hospital I was at is one of the best there is and "Dr. Booth" (my surgeon) is tops--he promised he'd have me "back in the ball game."

It all depends when I get this hip in, maybe I can get the right hip out and replaced before the reunion--if not--I'll get the right hip in after the reunion. I DO WANT to make the reunion. Dr. Booth knows about the reunion and how I want to make it, so he is working on it. So much for me.

I sure hope things are working out for you people and your son in law is getting better. It sure is hell getting "something wrong with you." It just seems things never cease.

Lorraine is doing real good. She is working and her step father "baby sits" for me. He's home by himself and like he said he may as well sit here as sit at home. She is real good at giving me my antibiotics and says I'd better behave or she will cut off my antibiotics.

Take care--stay healthy--God bless you!

Love you all,

Norm Schuster 'D' 331
66 Fairview Avenue
Sellersville, PA 18960



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.
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Registration
Gettysburg Tour
Square Dance Night
(For Beginners & Experienced)
Caller William Appleby

Convention Center
On Your Own

Cash Bar

Thursday, September 8, 1988

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Registration
Sit Down Dinner
Entertainment & Dance

Convention Center
Cash Bar
Cash Bar

Friday, September 9, 1988

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

Breakfast
Registration
Business Meeting
Cosmetic Illustration Women
Mary Kay
Coordinator - June Zenz
Memorial Service
Sit Down Dinner
Entertainment & Dance

Buffet
Convention Center

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Cash Bar

Saturday, September 10, 1988

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

Breakfast
Registration
Business Meeting
Hershey Park &
Hershey's Chocolate World
Catholic Mass
Banquet Dinner
Entertainment & Dance

Buffet
Convention Center

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Cash Bar
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)

THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Washington, D. C.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

DATE: [Illegible]

TO: [Illegible]

FROM: [Illegible]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

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THE HERSHEY LODGE & CONVENTION CENTER
and
PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

proudly host the

42nd ANNUAL REUNION OF 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION

THE HERSHEY Lodge & Convention Center, Hershey PA
West Chocolate Avenue & University Drive, P.O. Box V, Hershey, PA 17033

Package Plan

Arrival: Thurs., Sept. 8th Departure Sun., Sept. 11, 1988
Rates: \$121.00 per person, per day - Single Occupancy
\$82.00 per person, per day - Double Occupancy
\$68.00 per person, per day - Trip Occupancy
\$ 62.00 per person, per day - Quad Occupancy

Modified American Includes:

3 Nights Accommodations, 3 Breakfast, 3 Dinners
3 Nights Entertainment and Dancing
State Occupancy Tax, Sales Tax and all Gratuities are included

Early Arrivals & Late Departures:

(prior to Thursday) and stayovers (Sunday & Beyond)
Room Rate Only:
\$75.00 per person, per day - Single Occupancy
\$37.50 per person, per day - Double Occupancy
\$25.00 per person, per day - Triple Occupancy
\$18.00 per person, per day - Quad Occupancy

European Plan Rates (No Meals included &
6% PA State Occupancy Tax.

Code # E16HT01

(Reservations received less than 30 days prior to group arrival, accepted on space available basis)

Arrival Date ____/____/____ Departure Date ____/____/____ Sharing With (if applicable) _____

Guest Name _____ Name _____
Street _____ Street _____
City _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

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No. of Rooms _____ Credit Card/guarantee Name _____ Expiration Date _____
No. of Guest _____ Card # _____
Courtesy Car Service from Harrisburg Int'l Airport (with prior arrangements only)

Arrival Time _____ Carrier _____ Flight # _____

If you are reserving more than one room, please send a list with all above information with this reservation form.

Chapter Name _____
If rooms are to be adjoining, please list names of persons who shall adjoin:

Please indicate if your desire: Wheelchair accessible room Name: _____ 1st Floor Room, Name: _____

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For arrival date _____ Departure date _____
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Deposit sent - date _____ Check Number _____ Amount _____

Or by Credit Card - One night's lodging will be charged against credit card account as a deposit.

() VISA () Master Card () American Express () Carte Blanche () Diners Club

A deposit of one night's lodging plus 6% tax or Package Plan Rate per night MUST accompany your reservation request. This deposit will guarantee your reservation and will be applied only for the confirmed day of arrival. Make checks payable to THE HERSHEY Lodge & Convention Center. Your deposit will be returned if a cancellation is received 48 hours prior to arrival.

If you find it necessary to cancel your reservation...call the Lodge at (717) 533-3311 no later than 48 hours prior to arrival. Ask for and record the cancellation number given at the time of your call _____ and retain this number for three months. CHECK OUT TIME IS 1:00 PM...We cannot guarantee your occupancy before 4:00 PM, but we will do all that is possible to accommodate early arrivals.

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Mr. Bob Derickson
3749 Stahleheber Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013-9102

Dear Bob:

Reading a couple of stories in the latest issue of the Thunderbolt and noticing your invitation on page 35 to write stories and try to locate WWII buddies, I decided to finally take some action.

Being retired from the newspaper business since Nov., 1984, I now have some time to do some of the writing I've put off for so long. (Even though I still do write my weekly column in the local paper, since it had become a habit the past 27 years or so.) I hope you'll find the following suitable for the Thunderbolt and just maybe I can locate at least one of my old band in Germany in '44-5.

Having been last employed before the service as a comedian at the Renfro Valley Barn Dance in Kentucky, I tried to get into special services with no luck. They were needing machine gunners worse at the moment, so I wound up in Co. D, 331st Inf. at Camp Atterbury, Ind. After maneuvers in Tennessee they decided they needed me worse as an agent corporal when they activated 331st Cannon Co. I went all through the five ETO campaigns as a forward observer (one of two who did so without hospitalization - and we both had Purple Hearts.) I guess I'm ready to start my story now.

After bucking for special services through the five campaigns as a forward observer for Cannon Co., 331 Inf; when we got to our Army of Occupation post in Bavaria I got drafted into it for the remainder of my active service - thank heaven. Starting with a big all-GI regimental show, I was ordered to organize and direct a "hillbilly" band for the entertainment of the regiment. (The term, "country music," had not yet come into common use.) I didn't know where to start, but regimental special services had a big talent file. And the guys who joined me at the order of regiment were some of the greatest I ever met.

Nearly all of them outranked me, since they'd been where there was a big turnover in personnel. I'd had that, too, but they'd brought in replacements for the four lieutenants I'd lost. Only one of these fellows seemed to mind this rank business and he was soon replaced by a PFC when he asked to go back to his platoon sgt. job. The replacement was even greater and we hit it off fine. He was a fellow Kentuckian, James A. Sanders from the Bowling Green area where I'd had two years at Western Ky. State.

Another recruit for my band was Bud Hansen from Wisconsin. I'm not sure about his real name,

but I believe it was Alfred. He had been transferred from the Air Force and only saw a little time with the infantry before the war ended. He was not only good at our kind of music. He was a good jazz accordionist and pianist, too; and I'd had a little experience at that stuff, too. Bud wrote a regimental song that became official. Ever hear "The-Thirty-First?"

The only member of that band that I've seen in the almost half a century since then was our lead singer and rhythm guitar player, Hershell McIntosh from Stanton, Ky. He got me to go to the 1986 Dixie Chapter Christmas party in Gatlinburg, Tenn., where I met a lot of guys who'd served with the 83rd, but none from Cannon or D Co. He and I have become more alike over the years. We both showed up in Tennessee with almost identical beards and we both are diabetic now.

Another member of the band was Bill Thompson from someplace in Tennessee. There were a couple or three others who played with us from time to time, but this group, except Bud, made plans to stay together after we were discharged and try to make it in country music circles back home. I don't know about Sandy (Jim), but I don't think any of the rest of us ever worked at it fulltime again. Oh, I played with a five-piece dance combo for a couple of years on Saturday nites, and have done numerous guest appearances all over the southeast, even on TV; but I finally found my niche as a newspaperman.

Several of you fellows out there should recall that big show with the all-male chorus line that wound up throwing the oranges from their bras out into the audience. I think it was called the TTF Follies. In it, we took the name some city guys had had for us country boys and became the 331st Stumpjumpers. That's right. We were the guys who did some trick playing - especially Sandy, whom I introduced as: "the fiddlin'est fiddler that ever fiddled a fiddle, Fiddlin' Jim Sanders" He played it behind his back under his leg, etc. and never missed a note. Mac and I teamed up to play one guitar and Bill and I finally played guitar with one hand and mandolin with the other.

With nothing to do but loll around that gasthaus in Birnbach all day and practice, we got pretty good, if I do say so myself. Well, we did go swimming and fishing and marched to chow with Service Co. to the singing drills we'd learned maybe from the 92nd Div. back in good ole Camp "Mudderbury". (Or, was that Breckinridge? At 67 my memory isn't as good as it once was.) Mack, being the ranking man and having the best singing voice, was our drill sergeant.

After the regimental show, we operated a tavern for the TTF in the gasthaus and did a floor show every night. Running out of ideas after some time, we resorted to such things as throwing phonograph records at one another and smashing them against the walls (one of our biggest hit shows, incidentally.) I remember pantomining to the record of "One Meat Ball", which was popular then. That one was a biggie, too. We could have fun with almost any kind of activity then - especially after we heard about VJ Day. The future really looked rosy, and compared to what we'd been through, why shouldn't it?

Bud, Sandy, Mac and I teamed up to write several country songs, one or two of which we performed

around the regiment at company parties. We played for a lot of those and the food and drink we always had soon took up the slack in our uniforms. At one there were venison sandwiches galore, for instance. Someone had shot a deer. We got to polish up our style there, too. I think maybe we just might have made it in Nashville if we'd gotten together again later. Who Knows?

If you know of any of these guys, please let me know. I'm now on the 83rd roster, I think. Or I'd be happy to hear from any of you who would like to write. How could I ever have any better friends?

Sincerely,

Archie L. Lee,
Red Bay, Al.
35582



Ralph Wavra

Wavra recalls the weather as the enemy

by David Rossmiller

Ralph Wavra of Rolla remembers Christmas of 1944 for a special reason -- he was in the United States 83rd Division as it was retreating before the final German onslaught of World War II.

The 83rd had crossed into Germany near the Roer River when a mass attack in Belgium forced the division to pack up and hurry north to prevent a German

breakthrough toward the English Channel.

Wavra's outfit spent a spartan Christmas that year at Aachen, Germany, the ancient capital of Charlemagne's empire. There wasn't time for sight-seeing though. "The orders were changing so fast, they moved the kitchen three times before they finally got it settled to cook Christmas dinner," Wavra said. "We didn't have much time for a formal Christmas service or anything like that."

Before the Battle of the Bulge started, Wavra "had heard rumors flying that we (83rd Division) were going back to the United States -- but I sure found out differently."

The German attack, although focused on divisions north of the 83rd, threw the division reeling to keep on the flanks of the advancing Germans, who moved deep into Belgium's Ardennes forest. The enemy spearheaded the attack with paratroop drops and a tank charge of over 500 initial waves.

The 329th "Buckshot" Battalion, of which Wavra was a member, led one of the first counter-attacks

on the German positions, on the Belgian city of Rochefort, of cheese fame. The Germans continued to advance, however, said Wavra, and fighting was intense. The difficulties facing the soldiers were compounded by the intense cold of the winter and the deep snow that year.

Wavra said the cold did not compare to a North Dakota winter, "but then we were outdoors all the time we were fighting, we were cold all the time. If you knew what you were doing you would hang on all right in the cold, but some of those guys from down South weren't used to that kind of weather, they had never been in cold like that. You'd have to tell them to keep moving or put their overshoes on or they'd freeze," said Wavra.

"We were always out in the weather, for weeks on end," said Wavra. "We were aware of the (German offensive), but the weather was the real enemy, you had to fight that every minute."

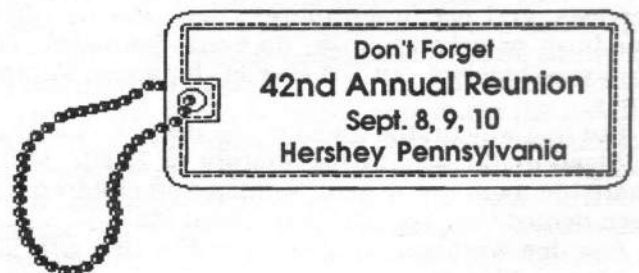
Wavra said his experiences earlier in the year advancing against the Germans in Normandy made him wary of the danger, but at the same time, "you couldn't really think about it." In the fierce hedgerow fighting and the costly march through the Norman countryside bristling with German mortars, artillery and heavy machine guns, Wavra had seen many buddies go down.

"Unless you'd lived through it you could never know exactly how it (hedgerow fighting) was. It was like a checkerboard, you'd take one row and they'd zero in on you with mortars and machine guns, then you'd have to take another one. One of the scariest things I ever saw in combat was the first time we were under fire -- the twigs from the hedgerow started snapping off and flying through the air. They were being cut by machine gun bullets," said Wavra.

Wavra's worries were compounded by the fact he had a wife and baby daughter at home. He said he was picked by a North Dakota draft board largely because he had recently moved to a different community and the local board was reluctant to pick too many local men. "Some people asked me, 'What are you doing here? Why did they pick you? We've got plenty of guys here who should go.'"

The 83rd Division participated in driving the German troops back and stabilizing the front lines once again. Wavra remained in the 83rd until the end of the war, crossing the Elbe with the division into what later became the Russian sector and then East Germany. "It was the job of our division to link up with the Russians," Wavra said.

Wavra was shipped back to the U.S. in May 1945 after Germany capitulated. He was discharged in November 1945.



Christmas On The Front Line

Rolla veterans remember a holiday away from home

by David Rossmiller

Over the years, Christmas has meant as many different things as there were people to have it, and the gift of Christmas has taken many forms. But most people, if asked what the gift of Christmas really is, would say being with family and friends once again, sharing a time of love and joy, but above all, peace on earth.

Unfortunately, for all too many people who have lived through the hardships and brutalities of war, Christmases past have been none of these things.

Two such men are Ray Miller and Joe Weidemann, both of Rolla, but each with a vastly different story and a very different history.

Miller, a North Dakota native, served with the U.S. Army in the Southwestern Pacific, taking part in such major campaigns as Guadalcanal, New Britain, the Philippines, Los Negros and the occupation of the southern half of Korea.



Ray Miller

Weidemann, who was born and raised in Germany, fought on the side of the Axis powers in the war, serving two years on the now legendary Russian Front with the German 5th Mountain Division.

Despite the differences of country, culture, background, politics and ideology, the two men, along with millions of others, were able to bridge all the gulfs between them at least for one brief day in the year - Christmas Day. It was celebrated by both men half a world apart in distance, and a world apart in outlook, but there was that one highest common denominator - Christmas.

By any ordinary measurements, the Christmas Ray Miller spent in 1944 was no present. He was jammed into a troopship on his way to the impending American invasion of Luzon, the main island of the Philippines. There was Christmas dinner and services, and not much more. There was no nighttime bash or extravaganza, no extra festivities. The ship was blacked out for fear of Japanese submarines.

But in a way, in the midst of the biggest, deadliest, hardest-fought war in the history of Earth, Miller shared in a gift many men, women and children had been denied that Christmas in 1944: life.

And Joe Weidemann also shared in this gift, life, in his two Christmases on the Russian Front, where

men were found frozen dead in the morning, gathered and stacked like discarded puppets; or discovered days after death, by men shocked even after all the suffering they had seen, almost devoured by lice, chewed on by rats.

"There was no exchange of fire on Christmas Eve. Not on our Christmas Eve (the German's--the traditional Latin Dec. 24 date) or on the Russians' (occurring on the Russian Orthodox religious calendar several weeks later)." said Weidemann. "We heard them sing, and they heard us sing-- we had lights showing, people could walk around without fear of being shot, there was absolutely not a shot fired."

From the frigid steppes of Russia to the tropical heat off New Guinea, from the 5th Division of the German Wehrmacht to the U.S. Army's 40th Division, there was not much in common between two men far apart on a Christmas Day in the year one thousand nine hundred and forty-four; not much, except perhaps worry, and fear, and loneliness; and a hope for the future called Christmas that, in some mysterious and inexplicable way, made it all seem bearable and distant, if just for one day.

Ray Miller served as a forward observer for both land and naval artillery fire in World War II. He commanded a squad of five men for most of the war, directing fire on enemy positions for the Navy near the shore, and for the Army further inland.

He was attached to the U.S. 40th Division, participating in often fierce action with the Japanese in the Solomons, the Bismarck archipelago and the Philippines, landing on three islands of that nation -- Luzon, Panay and Los Negros -- to help liberate it from the Japanese.

Two weeks after Christmas, Miller landed in the third wave on Luzon January 9, 1945. He said that as the Philippines was being liberated the people cheered and greeted the advancing Americans with enthusiasm. "Marching through one town, we saw a very good-looking Philippine girl up on a balcony, and she was wearing a wedding dress. She had vowed not to get married till the Americans liberated the island -- it was her wedding day," said Miller.



Joe Weidemann

Miller was "processed out" of the Army in December 1945 and arrived home in North Dakota just before Christmas. "It was 20 below. After three years in the tropics, man, I was miserable," Miller said.

He served in the U.S. Army Reserve after his discharge, retiring after attaining the rank of major.

Joe Weidemann was born in the southern part of what is now West Germany. He served with the German army from January 1943 until his capture by the French in May 1945 just before the German capitulation.

Weidemann was involved in some of the worst fighting of the war: "house-to-house, man-to-man fighting," he said. His outfit, the 5th Mountain Division, was equipped with heavy machine guns and skis, but we didn't need the skis much in Russia--too flat" he said.

With the vast steppes of Russia to maneuver on, the Germans and Russians were constantly cutting off hunks of armies, Weidemann said, "then you'd gather together and break out, and surround the enemy." He and his platoon were cut off on one occasion--some of his buddies advocated surrender. Weidemann replied with an expletive, and he and a comrade took up their machine guns and began marching toward their own lines.

On the way, a Russian tank spotted Weidemann and fired at him. "He fired straight, but too short," said Weidemann. "I went flying ass over teakettle, got up and kept running."

He was wounded three times, the first time he saw a Russian soldier on a hill above him raise his rifle and fire, shooting him through the elbow and torso. After a recuperative period of six months, Weidemann returned to action, again being wounded in December 1943, only days after Christmas. He was wounded again in January 1945 in Poland. He spent the rest of the war in the hospital.

He worked on a farm in France as a forced laborer after his capture for 2 1/2 years. "We earned 130 francs per month--that's enough for two packs of cigarettes and a bar of soap."

He escaped to Switzerland, then to Germany. Weidemann emigrated to Canada in December 1953. He has lived in Rolla for 18 years.

"There was no exchange of fire on Christmas Eve. We heard them sing, and they heard us sing....not a shot fired."



The Landing

I remember the name of the ship because I did a report on him in school--John Greenleaf Whittier. It was a large landing craft loaded with vehicles and troops. Some men were seasick as we rode out the storm off the French coast. As the seas moderated, other ships moved to the beach. We waited, watched aircraft fly over, slept and played cards. As the days passed, meals became skimpy and then dropped to once a day. Card games were played not for blood, but for food. I went down in the darkness three decks to where the truck carrying my gear was stored. With my life jacket red light I found the emergency D rations in my knap sack. It was the early vitamin-chocolate bar with the bitter taste. You had to eat it slowly or it returned.

When we finally landed on Omaha Beach, we were all concentrating on one thing--eating. A few miles inland we bivouaced near a battered farmhouse. We

ignored warnings of mines and booby traps to pull half grown vegetables out of the garden and we cooked a large Belgian hare that had returned to its cage. One of our city boys made a huge salad in a large chamber pot decorated with roses. He was very upset when I told him what a chamber pot was used for.

Around and Around We Go

The convoy was a mixture of vehicles from many units--Engineers, QM, Signal, etc. that had formed up to cross the Rhine River via pontoon bridge. A captain I had never seen before was roaming up and down the column rearranging things--heavy trucks first, then medium, light and jeeps at the end. I had already seen the Rhine and was half asleep.

A truck driver who knew the captain called him General Grant. I asked why? He was a West Pointer and the only one of his graduating class still a mere captain. The driver had heard Grant was at the bottom of his class (I looked it up--not quite). When we reached the pontoon bridge we saw sailors in whites. Hooting and hollering broke out. "Where's your battleship?" "Who does your navigating?" "You boys lost?"

We crossed and drove on for a while when my built-in sense of direction said we were heading west back to the river. Sure enough, we were on another pontoon bridge and could see the one we had first used downstream. The captain was screaming at his driver who yelled back he had told him it was the wrong way. We crossed eastward again and toured Germany for an hour before once more crossing the Rhine eastbound. By this time the sailors had signs up. "This bridge courtesy of the U.S. Coast Guard." "We Ain't Sailors!" As we crossed, some of them linked arms and sang, "Around and Around We Go."

I began to worry about fuel for both our jeep and our stomachs. A Colonel appeared red-faced, swearing and rather irate for some reason. He took over and we entered Germany to stay.

And I imagine the Captain in time made General, retired and wrote a book on how he won the war.

Hal O'Neill
83rd Signal

Echo Valley

A petty hassle between 83rd soldiers and local residents in a small town on the border of England and Wales resulted in Yanks being unwelcome there. Kids would chant, "Yanks-overpaid, oversexed and over here!" Incidentally, our Tennessee boys were upset at being called Yanks.--They repeatedly explained to their dates and others that they were **not** Yanks--they were Southern gentlemen.

When our large truck convoy moved south the word had been spread among the drivers. At five in the morning we began to drive into the valley where this town lay. As each truck came down the hill the driver turned the ignition key on and off repeatedly. The backfire was like rolling thunder echoing between the hills. Flocks of birds arose from the trees, dogs barked and most of the inhabitants were awakened. A further unexpected bonus resulted from a

large steel topped van squaring the arch in the town center by taking many bricks out of each side.

We then bid fond farewell to Echo Valley.

The Army Way

Shortly after arriving in Merrie Old England we were ordered to turn in all our white underwear, towels, and even handkerchiefs. Rumor had it that the dirty underwear would be put in shells to fire at the Germans. Another idea was that they were to be exchanged for dirty underwear from the Pacific War Zone. We were all issued olive drab underwear, towels and handkerchiefs to better conceal our dirt or us from the enemy.

Next, all vehicles were to be waterproofed so they could operate in several feet of water with two pipes above the windshield for air and exhaust. Our unit was taken to a stream to test the waterproofing at a shallow ford. The first truck disappeared completely, much to the delight of British spectators. We all got out of the topless truck and swam ashore. The British had told the officer-in-charge that the ford was a hundred yards upstream, but he knew better.

Shortly before heading for Normandy, orders arrived to remove all waterproofing and exchange olive drab underwear, towels and handkerchiefs for white. Many trucks had to be winched ashore at Omaha Beach due to wet engines.

Remember-there is the right way to do things and there is the Army Way!

Hal O'Neill
83rd Signal



Dear Bob:

I am sending a picture to be printed in the Thunderbolt of myself in my jacket, forty three (43) years after I was discharged. I want to say Hello to all my 331st, Company "K" buddies. I also want to say thanks a lot to Mr. and Mrs. Everett Rogers for stopping and visiting us at our home this past September. I hope to see all of you in Pennsylvania this September.

As ever,
Wilder C. Mathena
9910 Jerome Road
Dublin, Ohio 43017



How many of us in our 83rd land could get into their jackets, and look like Wilder?

83rd Infantry Division Association, Inc.
Mr. Robert E. Derickson
3749 Stalheber Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013
U.S.A.

Rudi Simons
Putstraat 6
3700 Tongeren
Belgium.
Tongeren 05.03.1988

Dear Mr. Derickson,

My name is Rudi Simons and I live in Tongeren, Belgium. I received your address from the US Army Military History Institute in Pennsylvania.

In my free time I do research about the war history of my home town in the Second World War. I hope to organize a exhibition about the crash airplanes in Tongeren area during that time. That where between the 12 and 15 planes from six different nationalitie's. Also several US Army planes.

I'am now almost four year busy with it and I hope to complete it on the end of this year.

I have written to several veteran associations in the hope the members of this could help me further with information etc....

It would be a great help for me and this research.

My request is, could it be possible to put a "call up" in your association paper?

For instance:

Wanted

Who was in Tongeren area during the Second World War? I'am searching for information and copy's of photos from crash airplanes in this area, but also other photos made in this area are very welcome. There was for instance a German Focke Wulf shot down on 24.12.1944 in Tongeren along the road to Bilzen. In Vreren stranded a US bomber in the first mounts of 1945.

The names of Tongeren area are:

TONGEREN (TONGRES), BERG, DIETS-HEUR, HENNIS, KONINSEM, (KONINKSHEIM), KETSINGEN, LAUW, MAL, MULKEN, NEREM, NEERREPEN, OVERREPEN, PIRIGEN, RIKSINGEN, s'HERENELDEREN, SLUIZEN, VREREN, WIDOOIE (BEDEUX).

It would be a great help I think if you could help me further. I hope also that I could help some of your members to bring them in contact again with people they know in this area.

If you could print this, would it be possible to receive a copy of that issue? It is for my archive and it would be also a nice memory for me.

I thank you in advance.

With friendly regards from out
Tongeren,

Yours faithfully,

(Rudi Simons)



GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

Dear Bob:

The Thunderbolt is responsible for bringing me in contact with an old platoon buddy, Bob Gotwalt. I had not heard from him in forty (43) years. In a phone conversation I learned Bob had a copy of a magazine article which described some combat activities of the 83rd Division in general, and the 83rd Recon troop in particular. If you haven't read the article, I thought you might wish to re-print it in the Thunderbolt. I believe it will be of interest to most members of our Association. At the time this article was being read in the United States, (Dec. 1944) we were very much involved in the Battle of the Bulge, so we did not read it at that time.

Many people did not realize that one troop of mechanized Cavalry was a part of every Infantry Division in World War II. Although we only numbered one hundred and forty four (144) men and five (5) officers, the 83rd Recon Troop was a definite part of the 83rd Infantry Division. This magazine article was written when the Division was in Brittany, although the writer does also refer to our activities during the Normandy Campaign.

The article paragraph I have encircled is a brief summary of our first combat mission, a nightly patrol into the swamps of Normandy. This occurred during the last week of June, 1944. The man missing on that patrol was the first combat casualty of the Troop.

The Recon Troop lost several good men in Normandy. On my first return visit to Europe in September 1986, I was amazed to learn that our first casualty T5 Smith is the only member of the Recon Troop permanently interred in St. Laurent Cemetery.

I was also amazed to learn only recently that our Troop Commander, Captain Drum, and my old platoon leader, Lt. Burton stayed in the Army as Career Officers. Drum retired as a Major. Burton retired as Lt. Colonel. Another ex-member of the Recon Troop, Gus Yatron, is serving in the U.S. Congress, House of Representatives.

I offer my sincere appreciation for the great amount of time and effort you and Pearl devote to the 83rd Division Association.

Respectfully,

James E. Gatten
Recon Troop

As I have said elsewhere in the magazine Pearl and I are going back next year on the tour. Pearl says we can blindfold her before she gets on the plane and then let her see when we get there. We will certainly have our thoughts with all of you men who were our buddies then and now. We can never in any way say enough about all the friends we have made in this organization. Thanks Jim.

Recon Troop

By Hamilton Greene

You couldn't see your hand before your face, but Divisional Reconnaissance Troop, 149 men in 49 vehicles, moved out of a thickly wooded bivouac in France without confusion. What they accomplished is told by Artist-War Correspondent Greene.

Somewhere in France

The night closed in and left us blind, but the bantam didn't slacken speed. We had a 50-calibre machine gun mounted in the back, and the perforated barrel jacket jounced and rattled six inches from my nose, yet I couldn't see it. The windshield was down, of course, and the rain stung like birdshot, but we stared ahead into the black, tearing wind, seeing nothing, following the road by instinct, and keeping our helmets close to the shoulders as a man will when he expects to be shot at.

I was very jumpy. We had crossed the Loire several hours before, but we still had many miles to go before we'd reach the town where we were to contact the British major. In happier days it would have been a pleasant trip, but tonight it was not, for from the moment we'd crossed the river, we rode in enemy territory.

Miles ahead a flash lit the sky and a moment later two green flares showed on the horizon, but we went on. In my nervousness I was about to ask the captain a question, when a flashlight waved from the roadside 50 yards ahead. We slowed to a stop and a voice called out in French. It was real French so I shouted "Americans." but there was no reply. I shouted again and the flashlight showed once more in a brief sweep, picking up dim pools of light on our wet helmets. Then feet pounded in retreat from the roadway and we heard hoarse commands from the cover of the ditch.

They were ahead of us and behind us and we could hear machine pistols snapping to off-safety.

Captain Drum crawled down from the gun seat and handed me his squirt-gun, saying, "Here, hold this thing a second." Then he walked forward into the darkness. I could hear him say a sentence or two and then the night came apart in a bedlam of wild cheers. Laughing and yelling, the Frenchmen swarmed from the ditches on both sides of the road. A few feet ahead of us I could just make out the dim outlines of a road block constructed of upended steel rails, capable of shearing our bantam to shreds.

The Frenchmen wore the armbands of the F.F.I. and they surrounded us and pounded our shoulders. They shook our hands. They produced a bottle. And in the flickering light of torches we could see pride and exhilaration in their faces. We were the first Americans they had seen, and they felt relief. Well, for that matter, so did I. But to Captain Heister Drum, Lieutenant Joe Walton and Corporal Earl Newton it was all in the days work, because these boys belonged to a Reconnaissance Troop, the mechanized version of the Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop which is an integral part of every Infantry Division.

At the time of which I write, their Division, the

83rd Infantry, was spread out along the length of the Loire valley, holding about 250 miles of the river on the north bank. But at the same time, the Division had very little idea of what enemy strength lay beyond the river to the south. Technically, the Division was guarding the river against possible attack, but actually it wanted to pin the Germans down, prevent their escape into Germany and force their eventual surrender.

G-2 had managed to get some clues as to the strength of isolated enemy pockets, but there were areas that they knew absolutely nothing about. There was a rumor that troops had landed at Bordeaux, but nobody knew if it were true. The F.F.I. had liberated certain towns, some of which we knew about, some of which we didn't. But the important thing to discover was, where were the Germans and how many?

Well, this was clearly a job for the Division Reconnaissance Troop, and in a few words Captain Drum had outlined the story for me. He wanted to take three men in an armed bantam and go south to Bordeaux to find out what the score was. All the bridges over the Loire were blown, of course, (in fact I had seen several of them go out myself in the days I had flown with Colonel Joe Kelly's Medium Bomber group,) but notwithstanding, Drum thought he could probably get across by some sort of ferry. From then on he would have to feel his way, getting his route information as he went along. G-2 would supply him with the name and location of his initial contact. This man would name the next contact, who would name the next, and so on. He would learn about available bridges and roads from each, and thus chart positions of the enemy. It sounded like something to do, so I went along.

Now, I can't tell the story of our four-day trip to Bordeaux and back because that is something of a yarn in itself, but in order to let you evaluate the work of a Reconnaissance Troop, I can indicate the type of information we brought back to Division G-2.

We had seen Major X---- as well as the parachutist Major Y---- and had seen their local organization of the F.F.I. Their problems were thus and so. So many thousand Germans were at point O and they frequently came into town R---- to buy potatoes. We had missed them by forty minutes. (Good thing, too.) Town N--- had been liberated by the F.F.I. on September 6th. Colonel M---- was receiving arms from the British. Yes, we had stood in the fields with the F.F.I. and watched the dark silhouettes of low-flying bombers come over in answer to their signals, and had seen the parachutes burst open against the night sky. Those oscillating iron containers had held so many guns.

There were so many Germans at this point here. And here. Sure, we had penetrated between two pockets. Bordeaux was free. The local F.F.I. was controlled by Monsieur T---- and he needed this list of things, thank you.

All the way down and back, the people had been jubilant and had welcomed us with spontaneous affection. The tears of some had been really moving but most of them had dug champagne and cognac out

of the cellars and hung the jeep with flowers. Some couldn't recognize our insignia and thinking us either German or Italian had run into the houses in obvious fright. These people had never seen a paper, or a photograph of Americans in uniform, and their confusion was understandable. The F.F.I. patrolled and guarded the roads in the liberated sections, and these groups of determined but trigger-happy young men sometimes had been hard to convince. That road block had made me 10 years older. All in all, had we had a good time? Who, Me? Why, yes. But the captain was only doing a job.

We turned in our report to Division G-2 and they asked a lot of questions. They had other sources of information so they went to work, and at length they pieced out a picture. It must have been a hum-dinger of a picture, because five days later some 18,000 Germans surrendered to the 83rd Division. Whatever else you might say, it was not a bad job of reconnaissance.

This particular stunt was a fair example of one of the many varied types of missions which Reconnaissance Troops are called upon to do. Reconnaissance, of course, is the primary move in any tactical operation, and a soldier does not so much as walk across the road unless reconnaissance of some sort has told him what he may expect on the other side of it. Differing situations require different tactics in gaining this information, therefore every field Division has need of a group of men especially trained to do this job. Combining the talents of a Mata Hari and a Sergeant York, a reconnaissance unit must be flexible, extremely mobile, able to scout singly or in force, able to withstand sudden attacks, and be ready to ladle out plenty of bullets at a split second's notice.

In times past, the reconnaissance job was handled by a troop of horses, but nowadays, naturally, the troopers ride on horsepower. They are equipped with the extremely fast M-8 armored car, mounting a 37 mm. cannon, a light machine gun, and a radio. They also use a number of bantams, each mounting a light machine gun. In addition, several service half tracks and trucks make the troop quite self sustaining. With each new mission, the captain decides what he will need in the way of vehicles, armed or unarmed, and men, mounted or dismounted. Whatever the job, the troop is expert in liaison, maintaining continual communication by radio or by word of mouth. This word may go by means of a platoon of M-8's shooting their way through a blast of hostile fire, or by a single blacked out bantam tooling down an inky lane, or by a man crawling face down through a swamp. One way or another the Reconnaissance Troop is required to find the answers and bring them back to Division.

This stuff takes a high degree of training. Beginning with infantry basic, the men are further trained in such bizarre activities as reading maps in a foreign language in complete darkness. They know compasses. They can cover territory in the dark which has never been seen in daylight, and yet know it the way you know your own back yard.

As for driving, it's fantastic! I've seen them move an entire troop of 49 vehicles and 149 men out of a

thickly wooded bivouac when no one could see his hand before his face, yet not lose anything more important than a canteen cup. That's all training, of course.

Most of them scout like an old-time Apache. The captain claims that if necessary, they will reconnoiter under a dropping of cow manure without visibly disturbing it. They are also experts in automotive maintenance, radio operation and repair, and can shoot from a moving vehicle at a moving target with any weapon from a slingshot to a cannon. It goes without saying that the I Q rating of a troop of this kind is really way up.

Typical of such groups is the Reconnaissance Troop with which I rode, commanded by Captain Heister Drum of Mifflinville, Pa. The captain, West Point 41, is a cavalry officer and still wishes he could command a troop of horses. But as a matter of fact, whether it involves gasoline or shoe leather, one jeep or a whole column, one man or two hundred, he thoroughly enjoys the bulk of the missions which Division has assigned to him.

The 83rd Division landed in France shortly after D day and began to mix it from the very beginning. They were part of General Bradley's First Army which finally broke through the bloody hedgerows of Normandy. Then when General Patton's tanks swept down the base of Brittany, wheeled eastward and went roaring up the road to Paris and beyond, the Division came rolling in their wake to mop up the debris.

They first secured St. Malo and Dinard, then moved down to the mouth of the Loire River, showing various units out into the Brest peninsula to help pocket the enemy in each of the Brittany ports. Next they extended themselves along the Loire valley to contain the southern line.

All this time, Drum's troop was out ahead, contacting the enemy, finding out his strength and disposition. They located enemy defenses sometimes by very ticklish methods such as the night Lieutenant Larry Burton took ten men in rubber boats across the swamp below Carentan, to see what sort of stuff Jerry had, on the opposite bank. Daylight found them still in the swamp, exposed as frogs on a lily pad, but they managed to hide their boats in the grass and work into the enemy shore. They discovered the German defenses built into the dikes, and in the process a Jerry machine gunner discovered them. The lieutenant liquidated both gun and gunner forthwith, but the patrol was consequently forced to withdraw in the daylight. They drew a rain of fire, but they got to their boats and towed them through the swamp grass up to their eyes in water, and after 36 hours got back to an American outpost with only one man missing. Unfortunately he was one of their best.

Sometimes they spotted gun positions by deliberately drawing fire, such as the time some of them walked over the causeway to the La Varde peninsula in Normandy, spraying the enemy bank with bullets in order to spot the guns that shot back at them.

When the Division moved into St. Malo and Dinard, the Recon job began to get rough. This was when the M-8's went charging down the roadways in ad-

vance of the Division, breaking through intersections where machine-gun posts or bazooka teams blasted at them from concealed positions. They sometimes met enemy patrols head-on and had to take them apart. Naturally these roads were under artillery fire all the time, and they lost some good boys. Sometimes they established liaison with isolated groups of Jerries when it seemed likely they would listen to reason and surrender. This might mean driving a jeep right up to the enemy outpost, to negotiate with a group of Germans who had their hands full of guns. There are more enjoyable ways to spend an afternoon.

Wherever they went they charted road blocks, and the condition of roads and bridges. If a bridge was intact, they examined it for possible concealed demolition charges. And they got so they could smell a mine pattern or a booby trap at 1000 yards.

Combat is not the primary function of the troop, but let no one infer that they don't know how. They vividly remember hedgerow country where the troop frequently held defensive positions for the infantry on line. But in that kind of warfare, defensive positions could become first line positions in less time than it takes to tell it. In fact all those missions in Normandy were virtual infantry action. Whether the troop was protecting a flank, establishing an OP or artillery spotting, it all added up to just plain hedgerowing.

But the war moved on and Drum's boys moved with it, probing for the enemy, working right and left, keeping contact with units on the flanks, moving forward when G-2 had a question still unanswered.

As I write this, the Division is on the move again. The captain has got my ear and whispered this and that. I've packed up my bedroll. There may be healthier ways to earn a living besides riding with a Reconnaissance Troop, but there's something about it....

January 28, 1988
97-34

Mr. James E. Gatten
R.D. #1, Box 158

Scenery Hill, Pennsylvania 15360

Dear Mr. Gatten:

Authorization is hereby granted for you to reprint the article "Recon Troop," which appeared in the December issue of our publication.

It will be necessary for you to credit the Magazine with the following credit line: "Reprinted by permission, **The American Legion Magazine**, Copyright 1944." We would also appreciate receiving a copy of the reprint.

Thank you for thinking of **The American Legion Magazine**.

Sincerely yours,

MICHAEL La BONNE
Editor



Marv Pieper • 1940

Marv Pieper's passion was being on the ski hill.

That ranged from his competitive days as a youth at Cameron in the 1930's to the judge's stand for the 1980 Olympic Games at Lake Placid.

In between, he served the Eau Claire Ski Club for nearly 40 years.

Pieper, who died suddenly Sept. 2 of last year, earned his spot in Lake Placid.

When the local club needed snow to pull off a tournament in the early 1950's, he went as far as Park Falls and barely escaped over cracking ice to truck the needed ingredient back to Eau Claire.

For a decade prior to the electronic age, his frozen fingers turned out the results of the Hendrickson and Silver Mine Hill tournaments by hand-always without a mistake.

He served as the Eau Claire Ski Club president and in many other capacities - one of the reasons the ski club exists today.

For his service, the club has named it's 100th anniversary tournament in his honor.

"You just couldn't find a fellow more dedicated to his sport," said long-time friend and fellow jumper Orv Gynnild. "He was so helpful to every organization he served."

In ski tournament calculations, Pieper made the transition from hand to computer - one of the first to master the program.

"It was in 1977 that we went to Ishpeming (Mich.) where Jim Denney (Duluth) first had a program for it," said son-in-law Reggie Gruhlke, who has taken over for Pieper in calculations at the Eau Claire tournaments. "We went to the computer in 1978 and we've had it ever since."

Pieper's expertise - he was Manager of Plant Accounting for Northern State Power Company until his retirement - gained him his job in Lake Placid, where he scored the 70 and 90-meter jumping events and the nordic combined.

In following years, Pieper gave way to Gruhlke and spent his winters in Texas.

Pieper, who picked up the nickname "Bud" in his early years, grew up on a farm near Cameron, where he began his ski jumping career on a slide in his backyard. He also participated in basketball and went on to become a top player for Cameron High School.

His early attachment to jumping can be noted from his diary, which he filled daily with his activities.

As a 12-year old in the winter of 1934, he made the following entries:

"Jan. 29 - Cold. 24 below. Stayed after school for whispering. Took milk to Hermans and skied a little.

"Feb. 8 - Did the chores. Went skiing on my hill after school. Jumped 12 feet. Fixed up ski hill for tomorrow.

"Feb. 9 - Basketball practice at noon. Went over to scaffold. Went down from trap-door. Stood six of seven times.

"Feb. 10 - Went over to scaffold. Went down about 20 times from top. Stood every time. Shellacked skis. One coat.

"Feb. 18 - Skied in tournament. Jumped 98 feet in trial run. Longest jump made in Class D. Longest jump 121 feet. Beat Clyde Jump. Didn't find out what place I got.

"Feb. 20 - Played marbles. Lost one and sold four for 2 cents. Practiced on guitar. Went to ski hill.

"Feb. 24 - Went over to scaffold. Very slow. 45 degrees. Went down once. No fun. Lit sideways and slid down on my face."

Pieper developed into an outstanding skier and by the time he was 18, he was winning honors in junior meets in this part of the state.

In 1940, he swept honors in a tournament at Ashland. The Ashland Daily Press of March 18 that year reported: "Marvin Pieper, Cameron, topped all jumpers for distance, doing 70 feet on his first jump and 71 on his second jump." He won the Class A competition and his picture appeared twice on the front page of the edition, just under a big headline that announced the meeting of Hitler and Mussolini at Italy's Brenner Pass.

By 1941, he had outgrown the juniors and came to Eau Claire to join the senior club and took part in several top midwest tournaments.

After serving four years in the Army, which took him overseas, he returned in 1946 and moved to Eau Claire, where he worked at U.S. Rubber before attending Vocational School.

In 1948, he married Margaret Sherman of Eau Claire and took a job at Northern States Power Company, which would determine his future. He grew to the position of Manager of Plant Accounting before his retirement in the early 1980's.

Meanwhile, he continued his ski jumping activities with the Eau Claire Ski Club. He was an active jumper until the mid-1950's, when he retired to play an even more important role - as a promoter and organizer.

He was one of the men involved in procuring the steel scaffold from Rockford, Ill., that replaced the old wooden scaffold at Hendrickson Hill and now makes up the tower at Silver Mine Hill.

He also figured prominently in the club's move to the big-time at 70-meter Silver Mine Hill, which has hosted three National championships since 1970.

"He was a lot of things to me - most of all a friend," said Gruhlke, a son-in-law and former jumper. "But his first love was always ski jumping."

Gruhlke is married to Pieper's oldest daughter, Sue. Two other daughters are Barb and Sally, who also both reside here. Pieper's wife died recently, just a few months after he did.

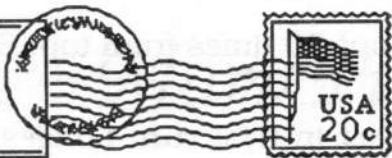
Pieper will be posthumously inducted as a charter member of the Eau Claire Ski Club Hall of Fame Feb.13. His daughters will be there to accept the award in his behalf.

The following day will be the Marv Pieper Memorial Tournament.

It's an honor that has been bestowed upon few. But Pieper earned it.

Ski jumping was his passion.

Letters to the Editor



Dear Bob:

Would you have any idea what ever happened to Father Lundy of the 330th?

Thank you,

Ray Williams "C" 330th

1051 Eastern Parkway

Louisville, Kentucky 40217

Can anyone help this man out?



Dear Bob:

I recently received a letter from Alexander Kahapea (Lt. Col, Ret) 135 Hokupaa Street, Hilo, HI. 96720. I served with him at Camp Wheeler, Macon, Georgia in 1942. He had such a great Army Career and then such tragedy after retirement that I wanted to share part of his letter with the 83rd of which he is a member.

Retired from the military service after 21 years of service and entered into the development business. After ten years in the business, I entered the Tripler Army Medical Center and was operated on my spinal cord C5-C6 for spinal cord compression. The C-5 vertebrae was fused to the C-6 vertebrae. The myelographic evidence showed significant calcium deposit fusion on C5-C6 spondylitic bar. The unforeseen results at that time, and after the operation, have placed me in the wheelchair for the last 12 years as a quadriplegic. This will be permanent for the rest of my life. Therefore, I will be very limited in my future travels. Spend most of my time in bed or at my desk busy writing. Have completed the following after age 65:

Book No. 1 "STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ON MALPRACTICE"

a. Author: Ale Hou Nalua (My Hawaiian Name)

Book No. 2 "ALIKA, THE HAWAIIAN" Volume I

a. Author: Alexander N. Kahapea

b. Publisher: Vantage Press, Inc.

516 West 34th Street

New York, NY 10001

Manuscript: "ALIKA, THE HAWAIIAN" Volume II

a. Author: Alexander N. Kahapea

b. Will place manuscript to publisher sometime next year. Pending the results of sale of Volume I.

I am sure he would like to hear from his old buddies.

Many thanks,

Tony Viglione

"I" 330th

I have Book #2 "Alika, The Hawaiian." Pearl and I both enjoyed reading this book. You would all enjoy reading this. Good luck Lt. Col. Kahapea.



Dear Bob:

In a recent issue of the Thunderbolt you mentioned the death of a Joel Oliver. I think he was our battery Commander, a Captain Joel Oliver, from the Milwaukee area.

He was Commander of "A" Btry, 908th F.A., and was a terrific Battery Commander, along with being a fine gentleman, and a nice person to deal with.

I would say there were very few men, who would have a bad word about him. After Frank Palasky left, as First Sgt. of "A" Btry, I had the job, and Captain Oliver was just great.

Thank you,

John Clevenger

206 N. Utrecht Street

Ellenton, Florida 34222

It must have rubbed off John, for you are a loyal member of the 83rd and great to support it with your generous donations to help any of our members. Thanks to you.

Dear Buddies:

We had a good group of "A" Btry 908th F.A., at our last reunion including Charles Stine and his wife Lois. We hope they come this year and join the Boyers, Adachowski's, Boucher's, Jurden's, Marquard's, Grace Brick, and Ed Tetlack. Let's make this one a great reunion.

Thank you,

John Clevenger

"A" Btry, 908th F.A.

Dear Bob:

I am not sure if I paid my 1987-88 dues or not. If not I enclose a check for \$30.00 to make up my back dues and also my 1988 dues. If I am overpaid please put the excess to good use.

Ever since my discharge in March 1946 I have been sending Christmas Cards to Lt. Hubert "Red" Degman and received one from him. We only corresponded at Christmas. This Christmas Card was sent by his wife, Dolores and notified me that Lt. Degman passed away in September 12, 1987 from a massive heart attack.

I also received a Christmas Card from an old buddy I haven't been in touch with since he was wounded in Barby, Germany on April 12, 1945. After forty-two (42) years I was really shocked to hear from him. I never attended a reunion before but I intend going to this years reunion in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Tex and I will be seeing each other there. I always was involed with Children's Sports, baseball and football. Just never took the time to renew old buddies.

Thanks a lot,

George H. Thompson

"F" 329th





CAMP BRECKINRIDGE KENTUCKY

'Flavor' of Camp Breckenridge put down on paper
Giants can die. And giants can be forgotten.

Union County author Peyton Heady finds that fact disturbing, and has taken steps to see that the "footsteps" of one of this area's giants aren't filled in by the sands of time.

Through research and photo collecting that's spanned years, Peyton has compiled a history of Camp Breckenridge. What's that you say? A sprawling military complex with soldiers who played such key roles in the winning of World War II couldn't possibly slip from the world's memory?

Maybe not. But Peyton isn't too sure. When he began sending out inquiries to the National Archives and Records, the Department of Military History and other agencies, he found, to his chagrin, that precious little has been put on paper about Camp Breckenridge.

"It isn't history until you write it down," says this slender fellow with the gentle expression and a thick head of hair that belies his 62 years. So he took it upon himself to write it all down.

The result is a 130-page book simply entitled "Camp Breckenridge, Ky." and filled with everything from aged newspaper clippings that have their own tales to tell to observations Peyton gleaned as a clerk with the post's civil engineering division during the Second World War.

He saw the place at the zenith of its existence, when it was a community in itself—some 36,000 acres, a housing capacity for 30,000 troops and 10,000 additional personnel, its own utility systems, air strip, a bakery with a 22,500-pound daily capacity, a laundry that washed 20,000 pieces of clothing in a 44-hour week, 12 dispensaries, and hospitals with a patient capacity of 2,635.

It had nearly seven miles of railroad, seven underground magazines for the storing of ammunition, a simulated "Japanese training village," 26 training areas (including a gas chamber) and rifle ranges—and plenty of recreational attractions that seemed far removed from the serious business of war.

There were two service clubs, two officers' clubs, and NCO club where the latest Andrews Sisters and Bing Crosby records could be heard on jukeboxes, and the jitterbug was THE dance to know.

There was (and still is) an 18-hole golf course; an athletic field, four movie theaters where one could see the idols of the day starring in films with patriotic themes, and an 86-acre lake called Des Islet by the Army and "Daisy Mae" by the locals.

Built in 1942, over the protests of many a landowner called upon by Uncle Sam to sacrifice prime farm acreage, the camp cost \$39 million and was named for Kentuckian John C. Breckenridge, U.S. vice president from 1856-60, and would-be president who was defeated by political upstart Abraham Lincoln. In 1865, he was named Confederate Secretary

of War.

Breckenridge no doubt would have approved of the military base that bore his name. It housed a number of major units, including the 98th, 83rd, 75th, and 35th, that played significant roles in breaking down the Nazi fortress, and, as those old newsreels proclaimed, "made the world safe again."

Peyton notes that four of the divisions from Breckenridge fought in the Battle of the Bulge, "that sealed the fate of the Third Reich."

Just as accents from all over the nation were heard at "Breck" so were the harsh-to-the-American-ear sounds of German. As many as 3,000 prisoners of war were housed at the camp, with most of them utilized as farm laborers in this agriculture-rich area.

According to the newspaper clipping in Peyton's book, those prisoners who worked outside the camp were paid 80 cents a day by the federal government. All the prisoners, regardless of work status, were granted 10 cents a day for "incidentals." Food, clothing and shelter were provided.

Peyton, who in his clerical position was in charge of 150 POWs, came to know a good many of them, and was fascinated with the artistic abilities of many of the Germans. For the price of a box of cigars, he commissioned one of them to paint his portrait.

The Camp Breckenridge history, of course, includes a section on the famous POW-painted murals in the former officers' club.

A newspaper clipping dated May 10, 1945, after the surrender of Germany, quotes one of the Camp Breckenridge POWs: "Germany has not been defeated. Hitler is not dead. The 3rd Reich will rise again." But there also was a quote from a prisoner, who said, "(I) am relieved that the war is over...The Nazi party is finished."

Causing Peyton to refer to the camp as a "zipper post, because it was opened and closed so much," Camp Breckenridge was deactivated in '49; reopened the following year for infantry training to supply troops for the Korean War, and then, in '53, again was put on standby status. From 1954 until '63, it was used for the training of National Guard Troops.

In 1963 the Department of Labor obtained 853 acres for use as a Job Corps training center. The remaining acreage, as a state historical marker at the center relates, was "acquired by individuals, city of Morganfield, and the state of Kentucky."

Peyton, who lives in Morganfield continues his 40-year-career with the U.S. Postal Service.

ORDER FORM:

Peyton Heady, 305 East Spalding Street, Morganfield, KY 42437

Please send me (____) copies of Camp Breckenridge at \$25.00 each, plus \$2.00 postage and handling.

I enclose \$ _____ TOTAL.... \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

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Dear Bob:

I received my Winter Issue of the Thunderbolt and I want to set the record straight on my beloved "C" Company, 83rd Division, about The Battle of The Bulge. We will start first with Winden, Germany where we were fighting and trying to take it. It took over three times into that town before it was secured. I lost a lot of my men both killed and wounded. I was wounded at Winden, Germany. I was blown through a wall and my neck was ripped by Shrapnel. Two of my men were killed by a Panzer Faust or as we in American call it a Bazooka. We received word on the radio that we were pulling back to get on trucks. We thought we were going to get a warm meal. I was wrong. When we heard heavy fire power, we passed the 3rd Armoured Division and we were told that they would back us up. Little did we know that we were going in to History as the things I am going to tell you is from a Sgt. who knows. We went into action with a briefing with one officer, myself and another Sgt. The town was Manhay, Belgium. We spread out and advanced over a large field. Before I get into anymore of the story, we relieved the 82nd Airborne troops who had suffered a lot of dead and wounded. Some men were in hysterics, some crying over the dead. They ran to get away from the line that is where you are the only one that is there with the enemy. We at that time had over 90 men. We had lost our Captain, and other officers and Sgts. As we were a mile or Kalometer as they say in Europe we came under heavy fire from our left front and my platoon leader was blown all to Hell with a Mortar Shell. It came too close. They pined us down and I went out and killed three men in the machine gun nest. We then moved to the left and as we started on December 16, and man we fought for four (4) days. Then we moved in to Behaen, Belgium. "C" Company at that time was down to fifty-seven (57) men. Little did "C" company know that the battle had just begun. They notified us that the Battalion was going to back us up as we started we had intensive fire and we dug in and we fought until January 1st. Then we had got into town and there were tanks everywhere. I was knocked out at that time with shrapnel wounds and I thought I was going to lose my fingers. I just wrapped it up with a rag and continued on into the fight. That was on the edge of the town and I was counting men. So many had died in my arms and some were freezing. It was below zero and snow on the ground.

We started with about thirty-three (33) of us left. We moved into town and at the fifth (5) house I had my teeth shot out and I was bleeding so I went down, but I wanted to continue. I could not see any of my men so I guess they were wounded or killed. "C" company kept going and I had to get to the Butcher Shop (that is what we called the Medical Station). They gave me Plastic Surgery and I lost all my teeth. In March I was back in action and as you know we fought to the Rhine River at Dusselldorf. But that is another story. Also at Lipstat, Germany we saved a Concentration Camp.

Raymond Bowsher
"C" 330th

I loved the 83rd Division and "C" 330th.
Thanks Bob for listening.

This man was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for distinguishing himself by Heroic Action against the enemy. This is the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device, The Purple Heart, Distinguished Unit Emblem. We thank you Raymond for telling this story. I know that it brings back many memories. Some good and some bad. We are all proud to be your friend.

EIGHTY-THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION



OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CITATION

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL
Staff Sergeant Raymond C. Bowsher, 35091735
Infantry, 330th Infantry
United States Army

For distinguishing himself by heroic action against an enemy of the United States on 6 January 1945 at Manhay, Belgium. When "C" company was unable to advance during operations south of Manhay, Belgium, because of heavy fire to its front, Sergeant Bowsher with a patrol undertook to locate the enemy position. His platoon sergeant was killed shortly after starting out, and Sergeant Bowsher immediately assumed command and helped reorganize the men. At one time, his patrol was surrounded by the enemy, and he located an automatic weapon position and neutralized it before it could effectively fire or inflict severe casualties upon the entire patrol. His coolness under fire and leadership contributed to the success of the mission. His courage and devotion to duty merit the highest praise and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Indiana.

memo:

DUES ARE NOW DUE IN THE OFFICE

I hope this will save us from having to send out reminders. Dues are due in the office. Some of you have not paid yet. Cannot understand why. PLEASE LOOK AT YOUR CARDS. IF IT DOES NOT SAY EXPIRES 1988 YOU ARE WAY OVERDUE. With postage the cost it is now we cannot keep sending you the Thunderbolt.

WE NEED YOU AND WE HOPE THAT YOU NEED US.
Get your \$10.00 in the office immediately.

Bob



Dear Bob:

Sorry I did not send in my renewal dues in August but I have had a few problems with my Mother in a nursing home and my wife not feeling too well.

Bob, I am also sorry to inform you of the death of Sgt. Joe Doran from "K" 331st on May 7th, 1987. His wife Anne, sent me a Christmas Card and a little note telling me of her loss.

Mannie Epstein, Sam Galati and myself were all in the same "K" with Sgt. Doran. I was with Joe from before the Battle of the Bulge until the end of the War. We have been corresponding for forty one (41) years.

Bob, if there is anyone who was in the same outfit and who served with Sgt. Doran and knew him quite well, maybe they would like to send their condolences to the family. Bob, try to have this put in the next edition of the Thunderbolt.

Mrs. Anne Doran
249 Milbank Avenue
Agnes Morley Heights, Apt. 408
Greenwich, Connecticut 06830

I hope I can make the next reunion in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Respectfully yours,

Tony L. Marrone

P.S. I do not know if Joe had joined the organization but if not would it be possible for you to send Mrs. Doran a copy just in case it makes the next issue. (1) copy-If there is any charge please bill me for it.

Dear Bob:

On July 8, 1944 fifteen (15) 83rd Division Bandsmen were captured near Carentan. We were among the ones chosen to relieve a litter bearer shortage at an Aid Station. Their names were Nick Aloisi, Nick Bardos, Harry Butanowicz, Gerald Boyer, Kenneth Fidler, Charles Franke, Elliot Jacoby, Emmett Pack, Robert Radford, Clarence Reeser, Al Sequin, Stanislaw Siok, Sidney Skiffington, Jean Smith and Arthur Yon. We were paired off, three (3) bandsmen with one corpsman.

If you have space I'd like to dedicate the following poem I wrote to these fifteen (15) bandsmen and all buddies who may have been captured and had similar experiences. NOTE: The BBC referred to was in a transient camp (Stalag IV at Muhlberg) and in the British compound.

A "Kriegies" Life

A Kriegies life was not much fun
The Jerries keep you on the run.
Moves from one camp to another
Thoughts of home and also Mother,
A bowl of soup, a hunk of bread
Were not enough to keep one fed.
A happy shout "Parcels are in,"
Brought to each Kriegies face a grin,
I'll trade my "cigs" for your "jelly"-
Anything to fill my belly.
Gee, I wish I'd get a letter,
Sure would make me feel much better.
I wish the folks at home could know.
Exactly how I miss them so.
The news we hear on BBC
Makes us think we will soon be free.
Not much to do, except to pray
The war will end--or mail today.

In addition to the review by General Patton referred to by "Buddy" King in the winter Issue of the Thunderbolt, I remember a visit by General Patton to Division Headquarters at Kiel Hall in England. The band and a company of the Division were formed in the courtyard.

Sincerely,

Jean C. Smith

83rd division Band

Bob, as of now five (5) of the above are known to be deceased.



**The Editor,
Thunderbolt**

3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

Dear Sir:

I have been informed by a member of his family that Col. Robert S. Higdon died on 26 July 1987. Col. Higdon was the Commanding Officer of the 308th Medical Battalion in our division from Camp Atterbury until just a few weeks before VE day when he was evacuated because of a serious illness. Col. Higdon remained in the Army Medical Dept. after the war and eventually became the Chief Dermatology Consultant to the Surgeon General.

Since many of our comrades who were wounded in combat were treated at the Clearing Stations set up by the 308th Medical Bn. I thought that the word of Col. Higdon's death would be of interest. Enclosed is a letter he wrote me in 1977 which gave his account of the activities of his unit in the ETO. I am sending it to you should you wish to write a more detailed account of what Col. Higdon and his unit contributed to our outfit.

Sincerely,

Ralph W. Morgan
Colonel, USA, (Ret.)
Hq. & Hq. Btry
323rd F.A. Bn.



May 6, 1977

Dear Ralph,

Thank you so very, very much for allowing me to see your copy of the book entitled, "Thunderbolt Across Europe." I have read every word of it and obtained many bits of information that I had never known before. For instance, I never was quite sure just where the 83rd Division was bivouacked in England prior to the invasion of Normandy. Now I know--even though our division was split up for a while--that we set up our camps in the Midlands.

Although I have never seen a copy of this book before (it was apparently published at just about the time I was hospitalized because of a generalized dermatitis which took me out of ten years of general surgery and put me into dermatology), I did get a copy of the folder which you have inside the front of your book. I am going to have to dig out my faded copy of the Daily Log of the 308th Medical Battalion, however, to double check on the number of casualties we had during those five major campaigns. I'm sure the figures in your book are probably correct but it seems to me that we had more than 15,013 battle casualties--otherwise, why would an original 15,000 man division have to have 25,923 replacements? During the Battle of the Bulge, my Clearing Station was admitting 150-200 soldiers a day because of frozen or semi-frozen feet. Inasmuch as we were able to treat them and return most of them to duty, however, maybe they didn't make the list of battle casualties but it sure took a lot of work to take care of them and to prevent them from getting gangrene of their toes or feet. Some of them really did wind up with amputations of some of their toes but most of them recovered without surgery.

Am sending you a copy of the travelog I wrote concerning our recent trip to Acapulco--it certainly wasn't cold there! With it is an extract of a Cracker Dictionary to help Northerners understand some of the expressions we Southerners use when we "tawk." It's funny, "idden" it?

Thanking you again for your courtesy and with warmest regards from both of us to both of you.

Thought I had finished this letter but just read your book for a second time and noticed that of the reported 15,013 battle casualties, 10,187 were returned to duty. Most of such returnees, I'm sure, were due to the efforts expended by both the officers and

enlisted men of my 308th Medical Battalion. That was a good outfit; it had to be good to save 98% of the wounded soldiers who were transported back to our Clearing Company in our battalion ambulances. I had forgotten the fact that our Clearing Company (I still refer to it as the Clearing Station) had three times the tentage of a Barnum & Bailey circus but it just so happens that we did--and you can just imagine what a job it was to move it rapidly (taking our casualties with us whom we hoped to return to duty) in the deep snow of the Ardennes. Those guys were really professionals when it came to the job of taking down and setting big tents back up in a hurry. We actually had two Clearing Stations (or platoons), one of which was always set up and the other on trucks so that the platoons could leap frog each other when we moved forward rapidly. We only had one set of doctors and enlisted men, however (despite the equipment for another Clearing Station always being packed on trucks), and it was sometimes unbelievable how hard they worked! But you and all the rest of us in the 83rd Infantry Division have every reason in the world to hold our heads up high and be proud of the record we made in fighting for our country. As the records clearly show, we accomplished our mission and that was the name of the game.

Thanks again for allowing me to read this very valuable and irreplaceable book.

Sincerely,

Bob Higdon

P.S: On July 4, when our division made its initial big attack, my Clearing Station established the unenviable ETO record of having admitted more wounded soldiers in one day than any other medical battalion during all of World War II. I didn't get any sleep for 72 hours but we saved most of them.

P.P.S: Strangely, I didn't see any mention of our division overrunning the infamous concentration camp named Buchenwald. That was one of the most heartbreaking experiences my medical battalion ever experienced. 50-60 political prisoners were dying per day in that terrible place and I was the first doctor to be called upon to do something about them. But I was a surgeon, didn't know anything about how to handle starving people, so we delightedly gave them all the food they could eat and they promptly vomited it. Then some more skilled doctors (internists) followed us up from an Evac Hospital and started feeding them with intravenous fluids until the prisoners could regain some of their strength and start eating solid foods.

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

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!

83rd Infantry Division History Book

If you ordered one of the History Books, you should have it by now, and know how wonderful it is. If you did not order one and would like to have one you may still get one.

The Reprint of 83rd Infantry Division (The Thunderbolt Across Europe) is now available. Send your order in with your check payable to: 83rd Infantry Division Association, Robert Derickson, 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013-9012.

The cost of the book is \$38.00 including postage and handling. This is a hard covered book and has in addition to the Thunderbolt Across Europe, two hundred and twenty-five (225) personal stories of 83rd veterans. Also a list of men killed in action and those that have died from wounds during the battles.

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.

3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, OH 45013

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BULLETIN

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

Bob