



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 44 No.1

Fall Issue 1988

THE 43rd ANNUAL REUNION



Cincinnati's Taft Museum, five blocks from the City's center, houses one of the finest private art collections. It is one of many historic homes in a city known for its landmarks built in the early 1820's.

Cincinnati, Ohio

August 17, 18 & 19, 1989

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

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A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

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Joseph F. Minotti 1960	Bernard O. Riddle 1974	
Frank J. McGrogan 1961	Robert G. Taylor 1975	

*Denotes Deceased



The President's Corner

Dear "Buddies" and Friends,

It's an honor and a privilege to serve as the president of this wonderful 83rd Infantry Division Association and I, as do my officers, pledge to help this association grow larger and prosper greatly.

In 1978 - even though I was not privileged to have participated in it - the Reunion was held in Cincinnati and I understand it was a very good reunion. Now in 1989 you are coming back to Cincinnati - The Clarion Hotel in Cincinnati. We do not plan the greatest Reunion ever, but one that will be affordable for all who will be in a position to see their way to come and join in the fellowship and congeniality of their friends and "Buddies". This is the type of Reunion the Kentucky Chapter is planning.

We all look forward to our Reunion and the Kentucky Chapter is opening it's arms to you all especially those who possibly have not attended in years past. As we say here in my home state - "you all come". Each and everyone is welcome.

If I can be of assistance to anyone or any Chapter, please do not hesitate to write or call. Thanks again for your trust in me to serve as your president and my staff thanks you also.

Charles E. Schmidt
2512 Adams Court, Apt. 160
Covington, Kentucky 41017
(606) 341-4318



PAST PRESIDENT'S NOTE

It was an honor for me to serve as your National President of our great 83rd Infantry Association during the past year.

I would like to thank each one of you for your attendance to help make our 42nd reunion a success.

I also thank the Philadelphia Color Guard and Firing Squad and the Pittsburgh Color Guard for their appearance.

Thanks again to my Reunion Chairman, Al Belvedere and the ladies and men of the Philadelphia Chapter for their superb job.

Take care everyone and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Past President
George A. Fletcher



Retired Reunion Chairman's Corner

Hope everyone had a pleasant stay in Hershey, and everyone is home safe and sound.

I am happy to report we had a very successful Reunion. We had 1000 plus, people, attending. We had 614 Members registering, with a number of New Members also. It was a pleasure working with Goerge Pletcher and the Reunion Committee. Thanks to all of You who made this Reunion memorable. We have a great organization; lets keep it that way.

Hopefully, the financial report will be in the next issue of the Thunderbolt.

A number of people are needed to run a Reunion of this magnitude. I feel they all should get credit.

The Ladies' Crew behind the Registration Desk:

Jean Pletcher Marie Stevenson
Anna Belvedere Elsie Hauck & Friend
Lucy Volpi Virginia Palazolla - Detroit
Marge Daum

The Ladies Selling Raffles:

Martha Appleby Lorraine Schuster
Josephine Piscitelli Olive Ponzio
Josephine Mendelsohn
Thanks to Anna Marie Ponzio Caulkins for filling in for Anna an hour or so.

Men's Committee:

George Pletcher Lester Hauck
Albert Belvedere George Settle
Lawrence Redmond Joseph Ponzio
Louis Volpi Bernard Mendelsohn
Harry Stevenson Harry Kirby
John Daum Norm Schuster
William Appleby

We sure needed and appreciated the above mentioned people helping us.

One of the highlights of the Reunion was our own original 83rd Band, co-ordinated by Bob Smith and joined by Buddy King. All the Men in the Band should be commended. They were wonderful. As far as I am concerned, You are hired for all other Reunions.

Bill & Martha Appleby did an outstanding job at the Square Dance. Although, I didn't attend, Thank You Bill for running the Golf Tournament.

I understand all the Women attending the Cosmetic Demonstration, co-ordinated by June Zenz, enjoyed it.

Cliff Wooldridge did a great job on our Ad Book and Thank You Cliff for delivering them. He was very cooperative with the true 83rd Spirit.

I am happy to say that the Staff at the Hershey Lodge worked to our advantage in every way. We think they deserve to be considered in the future for a wonderful Reunion Site.

Although we had some trials and tribulations, it was still a pleasure planning our Reunion for the past four Years.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you in Cincinnati, August '89.

Albert Belvedere
Co. K -- 331st Inf.

EXECUTIVE BOARD CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The 42nd Annual Reunion is now history and again we had a well attended and enjoyable Reunion, thanks to the hardwork of the Philadelphia Chapter, through Past President George Pletcher and Past Reunion chairman Al Belvedere. It is encouraging to see so many men appear each year at their first Reunion, as they are the ones who help keep our attendance growing.

In taking over this position I am following a dedicated 83rder, Larry Leonardi, who, in his firm leadership this past year guided us through some stressful periods that eventually were resolved for the good of the Association. Thanks Larry, and I'll see you in Florida after the New Year begins.

Representing the Board I say welcome to our newest member, Lou Nolan, who I believe will become a valued addition.

President Charley Schmidt and Reunion Chairman Manny Goodridge are continuing to fine tune the program for the Cincinnati Reunion next year in August. Manny has been through all this before and knowing Charley's attentiveness to working on problems in the past I know they will have a cost conscious Reunion for us. Several people complained about the higher costs in recent years so we'll see how you all like this. Remember, it's you, the members who make the Reunion what it is.

The Board anticipates going to Pittsburgh next spring for a report there on the status of the 1990 Reunion. At the same time, Kentucky's final report to the Board will be given as to the finalization of costs and program.

Gentlemen, we can only maintain or increase our attendance at Reunions by keeping your buddies interested in attending. You can all help by keeping in touch with each other and asking all of them to be there so you can see them again. Everyone likes to think there will be a buddy waiting to see him at the Reunion.

Keep in good health till we meet again.

Ralph Gunderson



Greetings from the Secretary-Treasurer's Office

Another year has begun here in the office. Getting the report done for the reunion and getting the cards out to the men who have paid their dues but did not attend the reunion and getting the material ready to go to the printer keeps us busy. There are a few people who feel we do not do anything, but I would like for those people to visit this office anytime during the year and I believe they would change their minds. Maybe not.

In July, Larry and Sue Leonardi, George and Jean Pletcher came in here and we all went to Iowa City and Carroll, Iowa to present plaques to both Veteran Organizations that Ralph Neppel belonged to. Ralph's family, his wife Jean, his daughter Gail and son Brian were at both meetings. The people could not have been more hospitable to us than they were. Ralph's two brothers, Matthew and Arby, his sisters, Isabelle, Agnes and Arlene even met us for breakfast and toured us around Carroll showing us Ralph's homeplace, the Merle Hay Legion Post. We were very honored to have been given all the good memories that they gave to us. Thank you good people. On Sunday in Iowa City, Jean, Gail and Brian met us for church and then

took us to brunch before we started for home. Ralph wherever you are you have left a wonderful family. They are a delight to call our friends. We had a delightful trip. Just ask George and Sue to sing for you sometime. The women were in the back of the van and when it was time to play cards, George had to move back and be the fourth. George, Jean, Larry, Sue, Pearl and myself paid our own way completely for the trip to Iowa. This trip did not cost the organization anything except the cost of the plaques and the cost of the engraving on the marble base of the flag pole on Ralph's grave. The engraving stated that Ralph was a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, 83rd Division, W.W. II. There are pictures elsewhere in the Thunderbolt. The Philadelphia Chapter had a very good reunion at Hershey. I want to thank Helen Miller, Babe Freitag, Sue Leonardi, Bonnie Hoover and Bea Chavanne for the help at the registration desk. These people did a remarkable job. Pearl spent hours getting all the wives names typed for the Philadelphia Chapter so that they could have all the name tags made up before the reunion started. She had typed up all the membership cards and registration forms of all who had registered to attend the reunion. If we knew here in the office that you were going to attend the reunion all you had to do was pay your dues and pick up your card. If we did not know that you were going to be there than you had to stand in line. No matter that we were told we did nothing but sit at the desk and hand out cards and take money. It takes a lot of work and preparation to get all this done. Yes we know that we get paid \$3.00 for every active member and we are sure that we earn every bit of it. We thank all the people who helped us in any way. We appreciate it very much. We especially thank the Philadelphia Chapter for their wonderful hospitality to us and their kindness through all the reunion.

This \$3.00 amount that we get has to cover the expense of the office for the heating and electricity. A certain temperature has to be kept because of the computer. Some people think we are doing this job for the money and that we get paid an enormous amount. We do it because we love the job and you people out there who support us and the Association. You will never know what that support means to us and the association. You will never know what that support meant to us this year when we came home. Thanks to all of you who were so great.

We must now say Goodbye to Larry Leonardi who was a dedicated Board Member for his five year term. He finished his term being another out-standing Chairman for the Association. A good many night sessions had to be done through this past year. We will certainly miss he and Sue. A great friendship has been formed. I would like to say Thank You Larry, for myself and all the Association Members.

We say Hello to Lou Nolan and his wife Kate. Lou is from Minnesota and does not belong to a Chapter but will strengthen us in the parts of the country where we are weak in membership. We are glad to welcome them aboard. Be sure and meet him at the reunion in Cincinnati next August. You will find he and Kate are a wonderful pair.

Ralph Gunderson is our new Chairman for this year. I am sure that many of you know Ralph and his charming wife Geri. They will be ready to greet you next August.

This is it for this time men. All of you have a Happy Holiday Season with your families. We wish only the best for you in the coming year.

Bob Derickson
3rd BN.HQ. 329th



HISTORIAN CORNER

Dieppe was one of the most vital operations of the Second World War. It gave the Allies the priceless secret of Victory. If I had the same decision to make again I would do as I did before.

Lord Mountbatten of Burma

"Dieppe"

The following men are two of the many heroes of that day. Major John Foote (Victoria Cross) the Chaplain of the Hamilton Light Infantry (Canada) who carried, under deadly German fire, thirty wounded to the withdrawing boats from the beach back to England. When his time came to be evacuated he suddenly jumped overboard and swam back to shore. He preferred to share captivity with his regiment.

The other was Scotsman, Lord Lovat of Fraser, who, dressed in his uniform of a cashmere sweater and corduroy trousers, carrying a Winchester 30-30 rifle (as if at a match of which it became a hunt). He came ashore at the head of his Commandoes. Lord Lovat came in again on our "D" Day, dressed the same way but this time he brought his personal piper who piped he and his men onto Sword Beach. You may remember his character in "The Longest Day" movie.

My other cousin, oddly enough, Hugh Doheny, R.C.N.R.V., a Lt. Commander, brought me ashore on his L.C.I., at Normandie in July of 1944.

On "D" Day at the English Beach his ship hit a sea mine but made it back to England.

The English troops came ashore to music played over loud speakers from their fleet.

The information and pictures are from these sources -- Terrence Robertson's "Dieppe", "The Shame and the Glory", my cousins and my own W.W.II Library.

The Allies learned through their mistakes at "Dieppe" and put that to good effects at Normandy.

The Germans could not push us off the Beach and from the "Breakout" on, we were ever pushing!

One last word on "Dieppe" can hardly be counted as a success.

So much for the Shame and the Glory. Wasn't it ever thus for the Wartime Veterans??

William Kent O'Connell
Historian 83rd M.P.

P.S. Being of Newfoundland Ancestry they were Sea Captains and Ship Divers. I am partial to the Canadians so hence the "Dieppe" report.

Kent

RECONNAISSANCE IN FRANCE, THE DIEPPE RAID

The two main reasons for the Dieppe Raid appear to have been: Firstly political pressure by the Russians for large commando type raids from England on the German occupied coast of France in order to help the Russians by tying down German troops in the west and secondly and probably the main reason to gain experience for the future and as a rehearsal and training scheme for the eventual invasion of Europe.

Sir Winston Churchill has said in justification of the raid, "that until an operation on that scale (Dieppe) was taken no responsible general would take the responsibility of planning for the main invasion."

Why was Dieppe chosen? It was assumed in 1942 that the eventual invasion of Europe would require the capture of a port within the first twenty-four hours. This meant Cherbourg, Le Havre, Calais, etc. in order to allow merchant ships to disgorge troops and material. Dieppe was ideally suited being some 80 miles from the south coast of England.

Why were raw Canadian troops chosen? There appears to have been a political decision that the Canadian army sought in order to gain experience and restore moral to Canadian troops who have been inactive in England for more than two years. The Canadian army was also conveniently scattered on the south coast of England and its senior officers anxious to lead it into battle.

As to the raid itself, code named Jubilee, it appears to have been ill-fated from the beginning. The original assault code named "Rutter" was fixed for July 4th. Troops were embarked but the weather was unfavourable and the men were disembarked on July 8th and the operation cancelled completely. However, early in August a modified form of the original plan was put into execution with a cover of it being done an exercise to show American troops how it would have been done in July. The troops did not know they were on a real raid until they boarded their transports.

On the evening of August 18, 1942 the invasion flotilla consisting of Infantry Landing Ships, ex-merchant ships and channel ferries, Personal Landing Craft, Tank Landing Craft, Infantry assault boats and assorted other naval launches and auxiliaries the whole escorted by 6 Hunt Class destroyers set sail from Portsmouth and New Haven. The Force contained some 5,000 Canadian Troops of the 2nd Canadian Division. Two Battalions of Commandos and a contingent of Royal Marine Commandos.

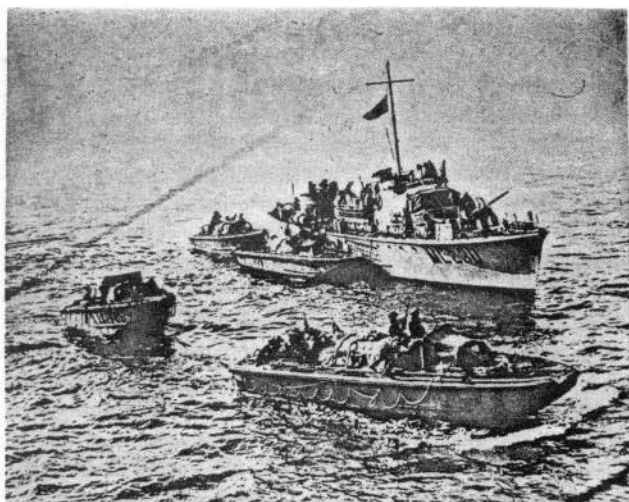
One, H.M.S. Calpe, was the Headquarter ship and aboard were the army Commander, General Hamilton Roberts Commanding Officer of the 2nd Canadian Division and the Naval Commander Captain Hughes-Hallett.

The first misfortune occurred when the No. 3 commandos on the left flank (east) ran into, by accident, a small German coastal convoy protected by E-Boats. The E-boats opened fire and detonated the unprotected commandos. This unfortunate incident was witnessed from the bridge of H.M.S. Calpe, but it was decided to press on instead of going to help the frail Commando assault boats as such intervention would bring attention to and endanger the entire force.

I might remark at this point that the original operation, Rutter, was predicted on the premise that the heavy German batteries on the high ground to the east and west of Dieppe would have to be taken out if there was to be any chance of success as it would be impossible to maintain the naval force off Dieppe in full view of the enemy batteries. This was to be accomplished by paratroops but for the actual raid, Jubilee, this task was to be performed by British Commandos. Secondly, the raid would be accompanied by heavy bombing of Dieppe by the Royal Air Force or battleship support. Both the air bombardment and the battleship support were eliminated for political reasons mainly that it would cause a heavy loss of French life at a time when delicate negotiations were going on with certain French circles over the French battle fleet at Toulon and the planned invasion of Algiers later in the year.

In the event, while surprise was obtained and the Germans had no special warning of the attack, everything that could have gone wrong seemed to have gone wrong. The assault ships, one Canadian regiment, the Royals, went astray and as a result the infantry landed in broad daylight. The main landing in the center of the town ran into fierce opposition from Germans firing from buildings that would have been demolished from air bombardment or battleship support (incidentally, the navy insisted on carrying a high proportion of armory piercing shells rather than heavy explosive shells in order to protect themselves against German naval ships and thus they were of little help to the infantry).

The tanks that should have helped this frontal attack became bogged down on the beach and only one or two reached the promenade. Furthermore, the Colonel of the Tank Battalion was killed even before his tank could land. On the right flank the raid was more or less a success. The commandos on the right flank



Wooden LCP's

Major
John Foote, VC
Chaplain, Royal Hamilton
Light Infantry



MAJOR-GENERAL J.H. ROBERTS
Army Commander



A German photograph taken a few hours after the surrender. The tide has come in.

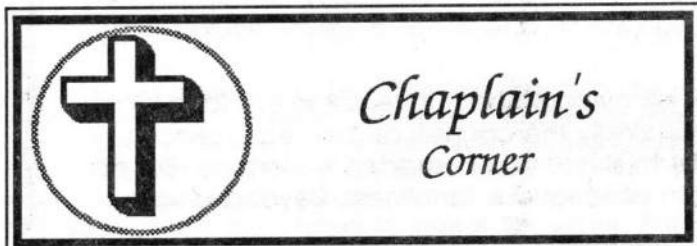
45 MGEON SERVICE		
TO : Cdr Corps <i>(initials)</i>		
FROM Maj Gen J H Roberts		
Originator's No.	Date	In reply to No.
	19	
<p>Very heavy casualties in men and ships Did everything possible to get men off but in order to get any home had to come to sad decision to abandon remainder. This was joint decision by Force Commanders. Obviously operation completely lacked surprise.</p>		
Time of origin.	Date and time of return at loft.	Number of copies sent.
1340	1655 19-5-41	
Sender's Signature <i>J. H. Roberts</i>		

Lord Lovat's took out the German batteries with the loss of only a few of their men and the Canadian troops on that flank had some success. Another major misfortune was a message received by General Roberts that the Excess Scottish had crossed the promenade and penetrated the town. This message which turned out to be false, caused Roberts to commit the floating reserve on the well known military grounds of "re-enforcing success. The floating reserve was badly mauled on its way in and though attacked gallantly added little or nothing to the battle in progress.

Space does not permit a detail account of the seven hour battle at Dieppe but it is safe to say the infantry did not achieve their objectives. Except Lord Lovat's Commandoes.

Retreat is always a most difficult military maneuver and nothing is more difficult than trying to take troops off a beach under heavy fire in broad daylight. The raid ended about one o'clock leaving some 2,000 troops ashore to be picked up as prisoners of war.

Was it worthwhile and that lessons were learned? In assessing these questions it has been said that for every soldier that died at Dieppe 10 were saved on D-Day. Secondly, that the false deductions the Germans took were of great value on D-Day. Captain Hughes-Hallet, the naval commander, conceived the idea of a floating harbour, the famous Mulberry harbours which made



The names listed below, which were not included in the Summer "88" issue, were read at the Memorial Service at Hershey, P.A. all total, we read 92 names.

Andrew A. Petras -
George Hajny -
Paul Scagnelli -
Louis R. Rossi -
Lt. A.B. Clark -
Charles A. Minyo -
Leo B. Woods -
Willard Keaton -
John F. Davis
Charles F. McElwee -
Edgar Renaud -
Joe Wade -
John Korpita -
John Kipchar -
Charles T. Jones-
John Donahue -
James E. Doering -
Leo Labuda
William Novak
Donald Lebo
Ted Gurgol
Hyman (Hap) Goldstein
Philip Meisl
Edgar Renaud
Joe Wade
Joe Venutti
John B. Swecker
Paul Scagnelli

"A" Co. 308th Engr.
"H" 330th
"A" Co. 308th Engr.
"A" Btry. 322 F.A.
"E" 331st.
HQ 908 F.A.
"F" 329th
3rd Bn. HQ 329th
"E" 331st
"M" 330th
"M" 330th
"D" 330th
"L" 331st
329th A.T.
HDQS 1st Bn. 329th A.T.
HDQS. 3rd Bn. 331st
"H" 330th
308th MEDIC
330th
"HQ" 330th
"E" 329th
"M" 330th
"M" 330th
324th
"A" 308th

Speaking for Matt Pintar and myself, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of you who participated in the Memorial Services Friday afternoon at Hershey, PA. We were blessed with beautiful weather, a wonderful

the D-Day land successful. Winston Churchill summoned up the success of the D-Day operations by stating "that without the bitter lessons learned at Dieppe, the later landings would not have succeeded." "General Montgomery later wrote "had there been no Dieppe, those who died in August 1942 might have lived for two more years to be killed in June 1944. There would have been no legacy of life saving information to inherit."

Finally a great deal of useful information was obtained about German radar equipment and this saved the lives of many allied airmen in the following years.

REMINDER!

Those who have not paid their 1988 dues, must do so immediately, or you will not receive your 1989 Thunderbolts. Please do so as soon as possible. We don't want you to miss out on any of the exciting issues!

Please mail \$10.00 to:

Secretary- Treasurer
Robert Derickson
3749 Stahlheber Road

turnout of people and even though we all share in making these services memorable ones, sometimes plans fall out of Rhythm. None of us are "pros" in organizing these functions. And it's only with your cooperation that the services turn out as well as they do.

Special thanks to Joe Zenz, Frank Bellino 329th; Nick Francullo, Karl Burkhart 330th; Manny Epstein, Junious Lowder 331st; Ambrose Tynan, Don St. John F.A.; Bill Appleby, Carl Frederick Spec. Units. These men represented our 83rd Div. Units by placing the wreaths and flags. Also, special thanks to Jean Pletcher, Anna Belvedere, and Lucy Volpi, who placed the wreath and flag remembering the deceased wives and children of our buddies.

Extra special thanks to our own Jim Burton, whose resonant singing voice and inspirational songs always bring misty eyes and a lump in the throat, to Bob Smith, Zeno King and the members of our own 83rd Div. Band, who just brought it all together with the appropriate rendition of memorial service and military marching melodies, to the gentleman (Norm Schuster's Religious Minister) who did such an outstanding set up of the P.A. system. Everything was loud and clear.

Who will ever forget the crowning touch as the flock of geese and ducks so majestically in "V" formation flew off into the "wild blue yonder" carrying the message to our 83rd buddies that they have been remembered and never will be forgotten. For a moment we all thought that the Firing Squad were getting the main course ready for Saturday's banquet. And did you notice that the lead duck had three chevrons on it's bill? We brought this to the attention of the Executive Board, and they all concurred that it must have been a "Duck Sgt."

If, for some reason, a deserving name of anyone was missed, do not have hurt feelings. We just try real hard to please everyone.

Sometimes, a little chaos can be helpful. Consider Columbus." He didn't know where he was going, when he got there, he didn't know where he was, and when he got back, he didn't know where he had been.

The Holiday Season is approaching, so at this time, From Our Home To Your Home, A Blessed Holiday Season, A Healthy New Year, and May The Peace Of The Lord Remain In Your Hearts.

Casey Kowalec
Chaplain

Personal Compliments:

To the Philadelphia Chapter for an outstanding Reunion, and to all of your members, wives, and friends who really went 110% out of their way to be such gracious hosts. It's almost impossible to please everyone, but you certainly gave it all you had.

We as members of a great organization should also go out of our way. We are all 83rd people, and when we see that someone is having a problem, be it table seating, reservations, directions, ect. to extend a helping hand, and make these people comfortable. Put yourself in their shoes, as it may be their first reunion.

Thanks to Rev. Francis McCartin, who was the celebrant of the Catholic Mass, to Kent O'Connell, Florentino Casile, Mary Francullo, the ushers, and to all of you who joined our choir in song with reverence to the Lord.

Thanks to the members of the 83rd Band, who made the Memorial Services so touching, and then later, entertained us in concert. I am looking forward to meeting you men one on one in Cincy.

I received a warm, friendly letter from George C. Settle 308 Engr. He included the following message that we should all reflect on.

GO PLACIDLY AMID THE NOISE & HASTE, & REMEMBER WHAT PEACE THERE MAY BE IN SILENCE. AS FAR AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT

surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly & clearly; and listen to others, even the dull & ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud & aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain & bitter; for always there will be greater & lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity & disenchantment it is perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue & loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees & the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labors & aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery & broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be careful. Strive to be happy.

Casey Kowalec

In Memory Of
ROBERT HOWARD YORK
Lieutenant General
United States Army (Retired)
28 April 1913 - 15 April 1988

Dear Bob:

Enclosed is the material I have prepared for the Thunderbolt issue commemorating General Robert H. York.

1. An introduction to the anthology.
2. Excerpts from the legacy.

A lot of time was put into this, I hope you have the space to use it.

Regards,
Jack M. Straus

Officers and Men From Other Units

---- Gen. York led by example - He became a qualified pilot, a sky diver, and a leader in parachute jumps required by the Division. He rode in the lead aircraft with the AF Wing Commander in the operations in the Dominican Republic. An operation for which parachute assault was expected but amended en route to air landing. During the operation he displayed his uncommon leadership capabilities in constant daily contact and supervision of the enlisted men in their combat operations. His task required daily contact also with the Ambassador, Corps Commander as well as foreign nationals of the Dominican Republic and South American (principally Brazil). As is well documented the operation was a complete success.--

Major General Edward P. Smith

**The Legacy Of This Great Man
Continues In Our Hearts
And Our Minds**

-- I first knew Gen. York when he as a colonel was head of the Tactical Department at the Infantry School at Ft. Benning.

Later in the Pentagon, I was a member of a team headed by Gen. York that spent two months in the Far East studying guerilla and counter-guerilla warfare.

As my supervisor and as an associate I always found Gen. York, first of all, approachable. The decision might not be in your favor but you always felt that you had had your day in court and that your position had received fair consideration. Despite differences of opinion his relations always remained courteous and based upon the issues involved, not personalities.

Over the years we had many conversations on leadership. In addition to the normal qualities, he always added "luck". He considered this to be the essential ingredient for command at any level, and particularly so in high command. He considered that he was endowed with more than the normal quantity of this vital element for successful command.

Although I never served under Gen. York in combat; I have a feeling that he possessed nerves of steel and that they were the result primarily of development in the performance of normal duties over the years, even extending this development to recreational activities. His and my natural abilities at golf were about equal, yet I seldom won any money from him. His ability to take the last few holes was phenomenal. He employed a self-discipline that he had developed through the years to bring out his best at critical times.

He was always considerate of subordinates and had no hesitation in championing their causes when he considered them right even though it might jeopardize his own career, or at least make him an enemy.

Several miles of wire were stolen. The cost of replacing the wire ran into several hundred dollars. The supply people under a policy approved by the commanding general wanted the young captain who was signed for the wire to pay for the loss. The matter finally worked its way up to the chief-of-staff for the installation. Col. York accompanied the captain to protest the action. After a lengthy discussion in which all logic and reason favored relieving the captain of liability, the chief-of-staff in desperation stated that as far as he was concerned the captain should pay, and added that, "every command has to have a son-of-a-bitch", inferring that this was the prime factor in his decision. After a few minutes of silence Col. York very calmly stated, "yes, (the officer's name), but there is no reason to be a son-of-a-bitch just to be one". That ended the argument and in the end the captain didn't have to pay.

Col. Dan Porter was assigned as advisor to a S. Viet Nam corps commander. (He had served under Col. York at Benning) During the latter part of his tour he turned in a very critical report on the conduct of the war to the Commanding General of U.S. Forces. This report produced a reaction that was about to result in having a very dedicated and intelligent officer relieved of his duties despite the fact that he probably had the most outstanding record of any corps advisor. Gen. York found out about the matter; went straight to the Commanding General; plead Col. Porter's case; and prevented a very unjust action from being taken.

In both these instances Gen. York championed individuals who in no way could further his career. In both instances he could have damaged his own. He considered that a wrong was being done in both instances and showed no hesitation in espousing their causes.

Robert L. Crouch, Jr.
Col. U.S. Army, Ret.
Class of '61

--- At the time I met him, General York was Deputy Chief of Staff for the Infantry Center. Fortunately, for me, he was the officer who handled at least the preliminary legal problems that arose.

I recall one time when a senior officer absolutely refused to pay for some damage that his teen age child had done accidentally to an automobile. This fellow stood on his "rights" that he was not legally responsible. The moral aspects of the case made no difference to him. It was simply the victim's tough luck. When the matter was presented to General York, he listened and then said "Why, John, this isn't even hazy. Of course, you've got to pay it.

- An officer has not only the law to obey, but he has just as strong an obligation to adhere to moral standards.

I've never known anyone with higher morals than General York. From there we can progress higher to his spiritual values. I have discussed religion with him many times. He is a true believer and a good Christian. He does not pay lip service to his beliefs, but lives it (them). I can attest that he has helped me on my quest for a higher, better life.

He is a competitor - but a fair one. He does not like to lose. I've played golf with him more times than I can remember. I recall many close matches. Frequently, I'd let the pressure get to me and "bogey" the later holes. Not him - the tougher I played the better he became. He won the matches often by closing strong. You could see his concentration improve if such was necessary. His competitive spirit extends to other areas. I used to fancy myself as a pretty good checker player. Played it as a youngster and enjoyed the game after that. One time in Washington (we were visiting with Bob and Grace) we somehow got started on checkers at \$1.00/a game. I must have lost at least \$25. - again the better I did - he managed to do a little better.

He could fly - can fly an airplane.

He invited me to come along for the lesson. It consisted of getting the small plane to a high altitude, cutting off the motor and then restarting the engine after the plane had fallen a few thousand feet. I guess I was a sickly green color when we finally came down - after doing this exercise for about a half dozen times or so. He couldn't understand why I was not really enthusiastic about the experience. But I never minded flying with him - always felt 100% safe.

General York - if I were to characterize him in a word - WAS and is - charismatic.

Physically - an athlete; socially - well liked and gracious; mentally - a West Point graduate and an accomplished scholar and writer.

I've never seen him "blow his top." I suspect he was displeased at times but it didn't show. When SNAFUs happened he took time out after taking recurrence. If training was needed - he saw that it was provided. He was very forgiving as long as the other person possessed a proper attitude and intent or motive. He could come down hard otherwise. He delegated and didn't interfere unless requested to help. He looked for the proper result or results and as long as one remained on the appropriate path there were no problems. He was always more forgiving of human frailties than I would have been.

Col. Ken Crawford

Although he is undoubtedly the most close-mouthed, highly-successful military leader I have ever known, concerning his own prowess, individual skills, and professional achievements, his assignment as Director of the Tactical Department of USAIS was widely hailed as a tremendously great windfall for USAIS and for the Army as a whole because he had already gained legendary fame and widespread prominence as a highly knowledgeable, shrewd, unshakeable, bold, conspicuously courageous, eminently successful combat infantry leader who had smoothly engineered his combat operations.

General York's greatest attribute, which has a profound bearing on his entire being and performance is his utterly impeccable character. It appears that all of his traits and qualities are irrevocably controlled by the great, eternal moral laws and bedrock values on which our Nation was founded. He constantly sets such a forceful example of supreme honesty, trustworthiness, sense of responsibility, self-respect, pride in hard work and accomplishment, a subordination of his interests for the welfare of others, great respect for his subordinates and others, a fierce sense of patriotism, and other such noble qualities which are contained in his great code of Duty, Honor, Country.

Although he is an exacting, uncompromising taskmaster, and establishes highly demanding goals and standards, he is enormously admired and respected for being unquestionably fair, sensible, logical, reasonable, considerate, warm, approachable, decent, an attentive listener, and one who gives credit where credit is due.

General York is widely recognized for his great, immediately retrievable store of practical, reliable, essential facts, data and other technological and tactical information gained from his exhaustive, but ever-continuing professional education and acquisition of numerous individual skills such as becoming a fine aircraft pilot.

He is totally at ease and perfectly adapted in any company, whether he is discussing sensitive matters with the top governmental and military officials of another nation with great diplomatic aplomb, or chatting casually with gunners, drivers, jumpers or pilots in intricate, technical language.

He has established a remarkable record and earned wide admiration for the incredible, time-proven soundness of his judgements, decisions and interpretations, as a result of his extensive professional knowledge, his deep common sense, and his intuitive ability to anticipate changes, trends, new-developments and the resulting impact of such events.

His consistency in establishing and maintaining clear, well-understood standards, principles, philosophy, techniques and doctrine for use in staff functions, enabled him to rely on his staff to accomplish much of the routine work. By his employment of a fusillade of short, sometimes cryptic notes and questions, he was able to devote substantial time with the subordinate elements. In doing so, and as a result of his engaging, warm, disarming personality, his surprising ability to recall hundreds of names, places and events, his great enthusiasm and eagerness to express praise and admiration for individual as well as unit achievements, resulted in the establishment of genuine rapport, and dozens of warm, personal friendships.

General York exhibited the highest degree of self control and self-discipline of anyone I have ever known. He was never rude, insulting, intemperate or surly. When on occasion some hot-head vented his anger against some other staff member, General York never joined him in his tantrums, but with firm, temperate language calmed him quickly.

He was enormously calm, stable, bold and courageous in Viet Nam. At the time I was associated with him in Viet Nam, the Viet Cong had so completely infiltrated the populace that one never knew whether the Vietnamese who appeared to be a trusted soldier, sailor or airman, merchant, driver, peasant or fisherman, was in fact a friend or an undistinguishable cutthroat. Almost every road was subject to being minded, cratered, or the scene of overwhelmingly devastating ambushes. In fact, General York had lost a fine nephew, Capt. Don York, in an ambush against a motorized element of the ARVN Air Brigade in which Capt. York was an advisor. Some large areas were completely controlled by the Viet Cong. In spite of these treacherous conditions, General York calmly piloted his own light, un-armed, reconnaissance aircraft in order to give himself first-hand knowledge of the Viet Cong strongholds and other terrain characteristics. In addition, he constantly visited other areas of operations including active battle sites. As he was examining several helicopters which had been disabled and crashed as a result of enemy fires at the battle of Ap Bac near My Tho, a number of high explosive large caliber shells exploded almost on top of General York and few other officers, and he remained unbelievably calm compared to the others.

One of General York's most appreciated traits was that he didn't hesitate a particle to champion an underdog, if he believed the underdog was being treated unjustly, even though he was placing his own career in jeopardy by contesting the position of higher headquarters.

He was never a fence straddler on any occasion, but always expressed his honest opinion.

Col. (Res.) Daniel B. Porter, Jr.

From the day General York arrived until the day he left, there was no doubt in anyone's mind who the 82nd Airborne Division's Commander was. His standards were high. The officers, NCO's and troops saw him daily. He looked and acted the part of the Commanding General.

General York won the respect of all ranks by his constant presence, his ability to communicate with all ranks, by his inauguration of a hard realistic combat readiness training program that taught

his units how to maneuver, shoot, and communicate. He led by example. General York also instituted a program that taught all in the Division to use, operate, and maintain and repair every piece of equipment in the Division. This program helped get the Division combat ready on a 24 hour per day basis.

Because of this dynamic leader, the 82nd Airborne Division, when committed to the Dominican Republic, conducted all operations in a disciplined, professional manner. The Division operated like a well oiled machine.

Col. (Ret.) Robert C. Kendrick

The thing that I remember best and treasure most about my association with General York is the nature of the man. He was the sort of person that you could bum a cigarette from as you cruised along in the staff car and then, thirty seconds later ask him for a light and he'd just chuckle.

His decision to let his staff handle the visit of President Johnson to Ft. Bragg in the spring of 1968. General York had long promised some folks, as I believe, St. Benedict's College in Cullman, Alabama that he would come down to receive an award. As they had planned for this for a long time and apparently had gone to a lot of effort on his behalf, he made the decision to make the trip even with the President making an impromptu appearance at Bragg.

He remembers his friends and people in need.

There was an old vet at the VA Hospital, I believe his name was Johnny; and I think he was a little scrambled, but periodically General York would call him to say hello and let him know he wasn't forgotten.

I did not have the opportunity to serve with him in combat, but did see him under considerable stress during the Baltimore riots. He had walked into a mess. A nervous chain smoking state AG named Gelston, I think, waved at a pathetic situation map with a couple of vaguely placed goose eggs and as I recall, told General York that they had "2,000 to 4,000 troops on the streets- give or take a couple of thousand" or words to that effect. Meanwhile, only a few hours in the town, with this sort of information the Chief of Staff H.K. Johnson, was badgering General York with questions such as "If we give you so many troops can you guarantee to keep the lid on the place?". Through it all, General York displayed a quiet, dogged determination to get a grip on the situation and not go off half cocked.

He displayed similar traits of patience and grace during a coordination meeting with then Mayor Tate of Philadelphia. We met with Tate and his staff and Tate was just about insulting and belittling initially. By the end of an hour he was much better informed and had learned a lesson in good manners. In summary, I would say that General York is one of the finest persons I have ever known. He is tough and gentle, regular and refined, a great combination of soldier and human being.

John I. Collier
Aide to General York

General York's Acknowledgement

The letters from all the participants honored me far more than I deserved. Yet from the tone of each of the letters, I am persuaded that they come straight from the heart of each of you and I will treasure them to my dying day.

As I re-read each of your letters, I am struck by the fact that the honor you have bestowed on me and the success I enjoyed as your leader really reflects the dedication, the patriotism, the courage, and the loyalty of each of you to our common cause- victory over tyranny. It would be both unbecoming and unrealistic for me to get all the glory. These letters therefore really belong to each of you as well as to me. I only gave the orders, you men carried them out. It was you who put your lives on the line time and time again on the long track from Arzew in North Africa to the Elbe River in Germany. It was you who suffered the most danger and hardship. It was **you** who took all our objectives; and I salute you.

Lt. Gen. Robert H. York

World War II Division Buddies Renew Old Acquaintances

By ANDY POWELL
Staff Writer

GUNTERSVILLE - The horrors of war, experienced first hand by members of the 83rd Infantry Division in Europe during World War II, seemed far away this weekend in Guntersville as members of the Dixie Chapter of that division met to visit, renew old acquaintances and remember friends who never made it home.

F.M. Haney of Gadsden is host for the meeting, which will run through Sunday and is expected to attract about 100 former members of the division and their spouses.

There are about 2,000 members of the infantry association across the country. Haney said that each year there is a national meeting along with three yearly meetings of the different regional chapters.

Haney said there are about 250 members of the Dixie Chapter, which is the largest of all of the chapters.

He said 100,000 men served in the division, which had 11,500 casualties and 2,500 killed.

This is the first time the group has met in Alabama and members traveled from as far away as Maryland and Virginia to attend the reunion held at Mac's Landing.

Lacy Satterfield of Prospect Hall, N.C., remembered that as he was being shipped out of New York a voice came over the loud speaker saying, "Take one good look at the Statue of Liberty, some of you will never see it again."

The war and their experiences in Europe created a unique bond of friendship between men that time and distance can't erase, Haney said.

"When you were injured you couldn't wait to get back to the front because you had a buddy up front that needed you," he said.

The division participated in five campaigns in Normandy, Brittany, Central Europe, the Rhineland and the Ardennes, which included the Battle of the Bulge.

Frank Jackson of Olive Springs, Tenn., who saw action

in all five battles, said for him fighting near Normandy in the hedgerows - thick bushes that served as land boundaries in France - was the worst time because the division was facing the S.S., the Germans' best fighters.

Others remembered the cold and the snow at the Battle of the Bulge, which one man called Hitler's "last gasp," as the worst battle in which they fought.

While those attending the reunion reminisced about the war, quite often the discussion turned to what people have done since the war.

Haran Martin of Winston-Salem, N.C. said, "The war is something we can't forget and don't intend to forget but we don't dwell on it. I came to see the living, not the dead."

Satterfield said he and his wife have gone to Europe five times to see the areas where he was involved in action during the war. He said he plans to go back again this year.

Several others said they visited Normandy in 1984 on the 40th anniversary of the invasion.

The 83rd Infantry landed at Normandy shortly after D-Day and for some attending the meeting this weekend it is the 44th anniversary of their landing.

Leroy McManaway of Greenville, N.C., said he was hoping to see a friend he served with whom he has not seen for 44 years. He said the friends he had in the service were the "best friends that I ever had."

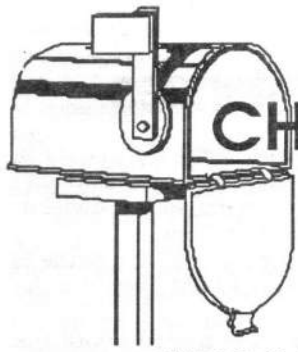
Wille Viglione, of Macon, Ga., who along with her husband, Tony, came to the meeting, said before her husband started attending the meetings several years ago, he never talked about the war. However, she said, he has begun to talk about it since then. She called the reunions "the best therapy in the world."

Viglione, who landed at Normandy six days after D-Day, said when he landed that besides being scared he was "looking for a place I could hide."

Martin, who serves as treasurer of the chapter, said, "We started out as fighters together, we wound up as friends and now we're family."



Putting up the Infantry division banner are, from left, Haran Martin of Winston-Salem, N.C., Lacy Satterfield of Prospect Hall, N.C., Jesse J. Pirkle of Rex, Ga., and F.M. Haney of Gadsden.



CHAPTER NEWS

CLEVELAND CHAPTER

Well another great reunion is now history and things are getting back to normal here in Cleveland. A big hand to the Philly chapter for a good show. We must be getting old, at 11 p.m. on Saturday nite. There were only about 20 couples dancing to darn good music must be the legs, age or both. The Memorial services were excellent, led by "Rev" Casey Kowalec. Jim Burton did his excellent job of "My Buddy", quite a few tears were shed, also the list is getting longer and longer of our deceased buddies. The Cleveland Chapter was well represented at the reunion. About 21 members and their beloved, enjoyed and had a good time at Hershey. A big salute to Joe Lanza and his wife Julie for setting up our CP, and seeing that everyone had enough of the goodies & refreshments for 3 days, also to Chet Czech and Emily for policing & keeping the C.P. Clean. There were enough jokes & stories told to last until the next reunion. It was too bad that Don Clark went to the hospital the day before the reunion. I'm glad to report that he is back home now and resting. Our best wishes to Bob Miller's wife Marge who left the reunion to return to the hospital in Cleveland. Hurry and get well so you can come to the meetings. Our deepest sympathy to Larry Coladangelo and his family on the death of his mother.

For good news I'm glad to report that Mike Mizerock and his wife Ann joined our Chapter. Welcome Home. We met at the home of Lan & Pris Donnelly in Salem, Ohio, where we were treated to a delicious rib dinner. Dom (Christopher) the Godfather was chief cook and bottle washer. Didn't know he could cook anything besides spaghetti. Overheard at the feast was that Lou Donnelly is president of the D.A.V. in Salem, Ohio. Congratulation at the July meeting we met at the home of Szubski's. Casey & Eleanor treated to another fine meal. They sure try to make you feel at home. We are trying to talk them in keeping the meetings at their home permantly. Steve Ferko and Al Lacinisk finally put their ball gloves away for the season. They played ball all summer in the Senior baseball league in Parma. I didn't think they could run anymore, but as usual I'm wrong. I'll close now with best wishes from the Chapter for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each and everyone. May Santa fill your stocking to the fullest with the best.

Bob Uher
Co "B" 329

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

Once again, we returned home from our annual reunion with a lot of good memories of meeting with our friends and to talk over old times. Hope everyone arrived home safe and sound and well.

Thanks to the Philadelphia Chapter members and their wives for their work and time to make a successful and fine reunion. The accommodations and hospitality was very gratifying.

Congratulations to Ralph Gunderson on becoming the chairman of the Executive Board. All of us in the Florida Chapter wish him the very best of luck. We know he will do a fine job as he is a true 83rd man.

I know many of our members were unable to attend because of illness and other commitments, and we sure missed you. We hope you are all feeling better and will be able to make our next meeting in St. Augustine, Fla. on Nov. 11-12th with Jim and Martha Burt as host and hostess. Make it a good one. It will be held at the Holiday Inn, Downtown U.S. 1 and Fla. A I A 1300 Ponce de Leon Blvd.

A Florida Chapter meeting was held in Hershey on Friday Sept. 9th with 23 members present. There may have been more there but did not attend the meeting, because of golf or of going sightseeing. There was a lot to see in Hershey and the surrounding areas. The new officers for 1989 were announced. Pres. Ned Smith - V. Pres. James Emanu-oil Sec. Treas. Bill Herhuth - Chaplain Ralph Gunderson and Sgt. of Arms Harry Shoemaker.

I would like to hear from our members, the Floridians, if you have any news or whatsoever to tell, so we can include these items in our write ups in the future for the Thunderbolt. Please forward the news to me or call me. Bill Herhuth, 27 Alpine Dr. Swiss Village, Winter Haven, Fla, 33881, 813-294-7175

May I say, we in Florida wish our buddies of the 83rd and their families, a Very Happy Holiday Season.

Bill Herhuth
324th Hdq. Btry.

PITTSBURGH REUNION REPORT "1990"

After careful consideration, and strick negotiations w/ hotels in the Pittsburgh area, the committee and myself finally came to the conclusion that our reunion will be held at the new "VISA" hotel. At this time a contract has been drawn up and will be signed by our chairman Sal Scicolone which is to be approved by the Executive Committee in May 1989. Details as I mentioned in Hershey, will be listed upon final approval, we believe everyone will be thoughtly satisfied. The dates will be August 16, 17, 18, 1990 and also an Early arrival planned for August 15, so don't forget to mark your calendars, we can assure you it will be one of the most "Gala Reunions" and most satisfying.

Edward Reuss
Pittsburgh Chapter

Random Thoughts on our 1989 European Tour

* The tour announced in our "Thunderbolt" (Spring issue) is already in a "go" position with enough reservations to assure its operation.

* Many of the receptions and 45th anniversary arrangements honoring the 83rd have been made. Restricted parking areas for the Utah Beach official ceremonies with exclusive tent and meal facilities and special permits for our motorcoach are also in order.

* Local Mayors, their wives and Town Council members in the villages where the 83rd is honored at receptions will be "the guests of our 83rd tour group" with the cost already prorated into the inclusive tour price as a gesture of our friendship and appreciation.

Act NOW if you want to be assure of your place on this extraordinary tour. Hotel space is in great demand in Normandy and time is critical. Ask former tour participants of any six previous D-Day tours which Galaxy has arranged and operated for the 83rd and they will confirm it. Contact me for a copy of the tour program or see our Spring issue of "Thunderbolt."

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

Once again the men and women of the New Jersey Chapter attending the Hershey Reunion had a Ball!!!!

Our thanks go to George Pletcher, Al Belvedere, Lou Volpi and the men and women of the Philadelphia Chapter for hosting a fine reunion.

Those attending from the Chapter were - Joe and Hazel Barton, Stan and Fran Bielen, Al and Ruth Bensimon, Ted and Irene Guzek, Manny Epstein, Jdoe DePeri, Fred and Addie Rein, Bernie and Ida Rosenberg, Charley and Mary Sihlanick, Joe and Dorothy Skurka, Emil Wehling and also Anthony Hroncich, Sam Mazza with his wife. I like to list those who attended, for you who weren't able to attend. We missed seeing you and hope to see you at the next reunion.

Wait!!! I forgot to mention another member who attended, Mike and Liz Skovran. It's always great seeing them and enjoy having them with us.

The memorial service was again handled with precision. Thanks to Casey Kowalec and Matthew Pintar our very capable Chaplains. Joe Macaluso along with his platoon leaders, Casey Szubski and myself, did an outstanding job handling the marching units. A very solemn part of the service was when Robert Benick spoke and dedicated a Star of David, in the name of his father David Benick, to the association to be used at future memorial services. Millie and Dave were always very proud of their children and I'm sure never prouder than at the dedication.

Fred and Addie Rein went to Vandalia, Ohio to attend a mini-reunion of his basic training squad from Fort McClellan. He calls them the fifth platoon. Anyone know what he means by that remark? I was able to meet with them as I had been up to Bowling Green, Ohio visiting my son Ken who recently moved there pursuing a doctorate degree. My son drove me to Vandalia to meet Fred and Addie for the trip home. I enjoyed meeting his friends and also traveling with them on the way home.

On September 24th the chapter attended a Testimonial Dinner for John (Bucky) Polcari Past Commander of VFW Post 2867. Bucky has tended bar for our meetings at the post for the past 32 years. We have made him an honorary member of the New Jersey Chapter for his friendship and contributions of good fellowship which add to our enjoyable meetings. No one has given more of himself. It was a pleasure for us to attend and be a party to those honoring him.

Fran and I will be celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary Oct. 30th. On Oct. 12 we will cruise to Bermuda on the Nordic Prince to celebrate the occasion.

The New Jersey Chapter wishes you all a wonderful Holiday Season and good Health and Happiness in 1989.

God bless you all.

Stan Bielen
1st Bn. Hdqs. 331



Girls behind registration desk. Jean Pletcher, Marie Stevenson, Anna Belvedere, Marge Daum, Lucy Volpi. Bea Chivanne - background

October 5, 1988

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER NEWS

At our first meeting after returning from the great Reunion held at the Hershey Motor Lodge in September, we elected the following Philadelphia Chapter officers for the coming year:

George A. Pletcher - President
Lester E. Hauck - Vice President
John G. Daum - Secretary
Albert E. Belvedere - Treasurer
Louis J. Volpi - Chapter Chaplain
Harry J. Kirby - Sergeant-at-Arms
John Miklos - Sergeant-at-Arms
George C. Settle - Sergeant-at-Arms

We then planned a combination Officers Banquet and Christmas Party to be held on December 4 at Williamson's Restaurant in Horsham, Pa., as the holidays seem to start a little earlier each year making restaurant reservations a little more difficult closer to the holidays. Come to think of it, I've already seen some holiday decorations on sale for Christmas, and that's after we have just cooled off from that record breaking summer.

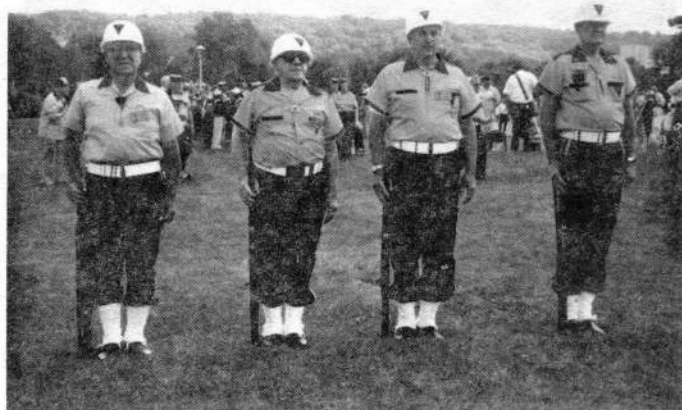
The Philadelphia Chapter Color Guard and Firing Squad has been asked, and has agreed, to take part on November 11 in the dedication of two additional memorials to be added to the War Memorial site now located in Narberth and cared for so faithfully by the residents of Narberth. The one memorial has been designed to honor the veterans of the Korean War, and the second memorial is to honor the veterans of the Vietnam War. That unity and awareness say a lot for the community of Narberth.

Our ailing comrade, Charlie Bonafiglia, is currently holding his own, and Norm Schuster is preparing for hip surgery in the near future. We would ask that you remember both of them in your thoughts and your prayers as they have been faithful members of the organization for such a long time.

We hope everyone is settled and just about finished their supply of Hershey chocolates and treats -- with the understandable exception of Lucy Volpi who had an awesome task presented to her the night of the banquet. When asked at our meeting last Saturday, she said she was holding up well under the challenge, particularly with the help she had been receiving from all the members of her family.

It was really good seeing everyone at Hershey, and our Chapter extends its thanks to all of you who attended. Even the weather was on its good behavior.

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



Memorial Services Firing Squad

LOUISIANA CHAPTER

Three members of the Louisiana Chapter spent a few days at the Hershey Lodge in Pennsylvania. The 83rd Division Association reunion was successful. A large number of members and their wives attended.

Laurence Armand, Izzy Labbe and Joe Macaluso had a great time. We are hoping that during the next year we will be able to meet for a gathering of the Louisiana Chapter. Any of the members from around the state that feel they would like to get together please contact me at 5353 Pasteur Blvd., New Orleans, La. 70122 or call at 282-1097 in New Orleans.

We have ten members listed on the Association roster as paid up members.

The Association is very active these days and each year we have an excellent turnout for the reunion. Join us at one of these reunions, there are many of your buddies attending.

Joe Macaluso

The West Virginia Chapter

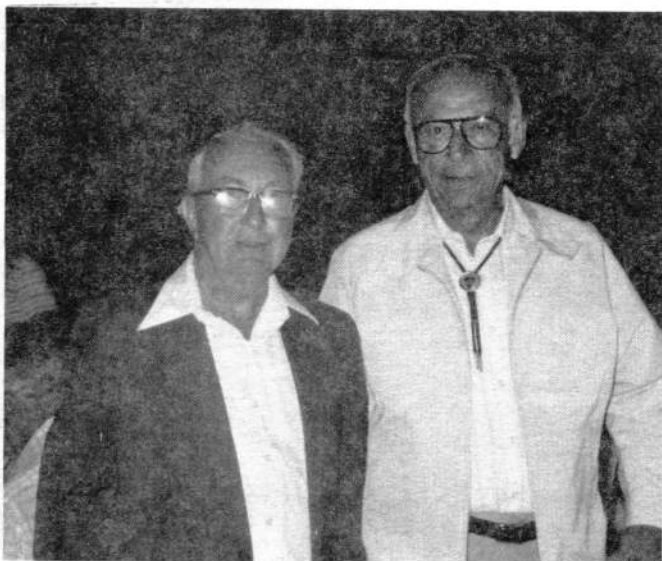
West Virginia was well represented at The Reunion in Hershey, PA. this year. Among those attending were: Charles and Reta Marsh, Albert Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Spurgeon, Clark and Elsie Johnson, Chauncy and Tressa Hunt, Arthur Blankenship, Fred and Cloda Statts, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Krukowski, Angelo Todesco, John and Freeda Hobbs, Paul and Mary Pauley, Don and Esta Pettry, Edward Ross, and Mr. and Mrs. John Pauly. (Sorry if I left anyone out). I think everyone had a good time.

The West Virginia Chapter met at The Rose City Cafeteria in South Charleston, W. Va. on September 25th, with a very good attendance. New Officers were elected: John Hobbs-President, Chauncy Hunt-Vice President, Walter Soble-Vice President, Don Pettry-Secretary Treasurer, and John Shepherd-Reporter. Door Prizes were won by Linda Dunkin and Chauncy Hunt.

Attending this Meeting were: Fred and Cloda Statts, Paul and Mary Pauley, James and Linda Dunkin, Don and Esta Pettry, John and Freeda Hobbs, Chauncy and Tress Hunt, and Walter Soble from New Cumberland.

That's all for now!

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



L to R: Don Pettry and Fred Statts
West Virginia Chapter



Chauncy and Tress Hunt

DIXIE CHAPTER

The Dixie Chapter wishes to thank George Pletcher and Albert Belvedere and staff for a perfect 4 day stay at the National Reunion in Hershey, PA. The food was delicious, and the ones who served it, were well trained for the job, even better organized than we were in combat. Thank God we were not defeated. The Hershey Lodge must be commended for a successful Military Operation, We are overwhelmed. We, the Dixie Chapter feel that our Southern Hospitality has been met. Give God the credit. He created all.

The Dixie Chapter had their third meeting for 1988 at Hershey PA. There were 26 present for meeting. The Dixie Chapter was well represented for the Annual Reunion. 4 new members were signed. The Dixie Chapter will hold their annual meeting at Gatlinburg on Dec. 1, 2, 3, 1988 and Williamsburg, VA, March 30, 31 and April 1st 1989, - Our meeting for May-June is being worked on by our Chaplain Robert Parsons and our 2nd V.P. James McCoy to be held in Nashville, TN. Hopefully, this in the Mill possibilities look favorable, there are many Comrades in the Nashville area that need us to have a revival, and tell them about the 83rd Association. If they can not come to us let's take it to them, there are many comrades who have never heard of our association, this is the Dixie Chapter signing off loud and clear - Ya'll cum - hear!

Sorry Leroy McManaway was unable to make the Hershey Reunion see you all again next year 1989 in Cinc - Ohio.

The Dixie Chapter of the 83rd Infantry Division Association will have their annual Christmas party December 2 and 3rd, 1988 at the Riverside Motor Lodge, Gatlinburg, Tennessee 37738. Phone (615) 436-4194. Room rates will be \$35.00 plus tax - single or double. Please make your reservations by writting directly to the Motor Lodge or by calling collect at (615) 436-4194. Hosting-Carroll Brown & Ruby, Wilson Day & Vie, Frank Jackson & Flo, Burton Sales & Trina. There will be a small registration fee to help cover costs of the bar, banquet, and other miscellaneous expenses. The banquet will be at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday evening December 3rd.

There will be entertainment on Friday evening then on Saturday you may do your Christmas shopping in the many unusual shops or visit the parade of Trees at the civic auditorium. Or even just sit around and reminisce. Bring a gift for exchange - man for man, lady for lady - not to exceed \$7.50, Mark which is which. KY Chapter will join in on the party - **BE SURE TO BRING YOUR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP CARD!!!** We look forward to seeing each of you and having a great time together again. HAPPY HOLI-

DAYS!!

A friendly note from your secretary & treasurer - A special Notice We have 260 members on our roster. Only 177 paid at this date 9-20-88. If you have not paid your dues please send them in, Thank You. We have lost eleven (11) members from roster due to death since I have been in this office. I send by prayers to each one that you stay well and healthy. You are my family and I love you all. Hope to see many at the Christmas Party - Don't forget Williamsburg Va. meeting coming in March 30th - 31st, April 1st. Mark these dates.

Secretary & Treasurer
Haran Martin
148 Queensburg Road
Winston - Salem, NC 27104

BOSTON CHAPTER REPORT

First of all we would like to thank the Phillie Chapter for an excellent reunion in Hershey, Pa. As in years gone by, they never fail us. It was a big success. A "Tip of the Irishman's Hat to Ye".

We enjoyed our Boston Chapter Room. It was nice to see Frank Scott, Charles Lussier, Mike Caprio, Larry Arrigo of the entertainment section. Lussier of Anti Tank 331st won first prize for his jokes. Second prize went to Bob Hunnewell for his music and third prize went to Ray Bjork, H Company 330th and Hy Goodman, 331st, for the Best Bar Tenders. I must add many of the wives did a marvelous job to make everyone comfortable.

Our next Boston Chapter Meeting will be held at Larry & Fran Arrigo's house on October 17th at 1:00 p.m. in Norwood, Ma. Fran always has a good time for us all.

The Boston Chapter is having a Christmas Party on December 17th at the 400 Club in South Easton, Ma. Santa will be making a stop. We will be looking forward to this for our Christmas Cheer.

Thats all for now so that I can get it in before the deadline.

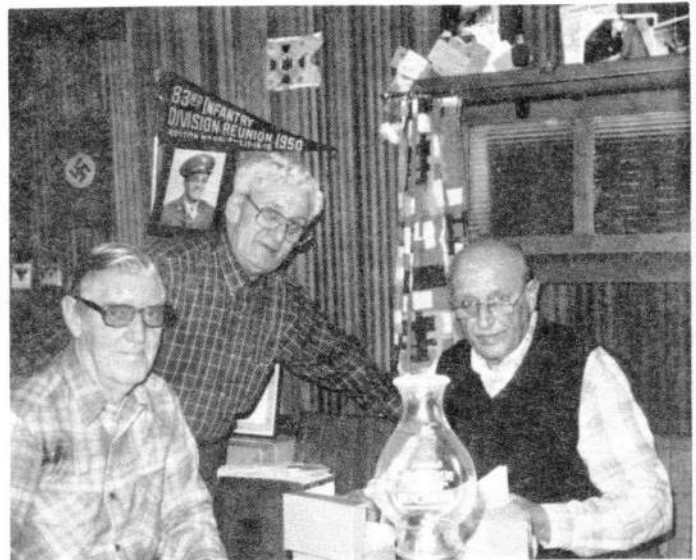
AMBY TYNAN
Boston Chapter



At Chet's Place in N.H. who lost it! James Printice, Hy Goodman, Amby Tynan



Fran & Larry Harrigo on their trip to the Islands.



Chet Morley, Hy Goodman, Mike Caprio
ATA meeting at Pat & Ginns home.



Charlie Miller, Frank Scott, Mike Amicone.
Boston Chapter meeting at Pat & Ginns home.



Laurette Morley & Her Sweet Adelines'.
Serenading the Boston Chapter

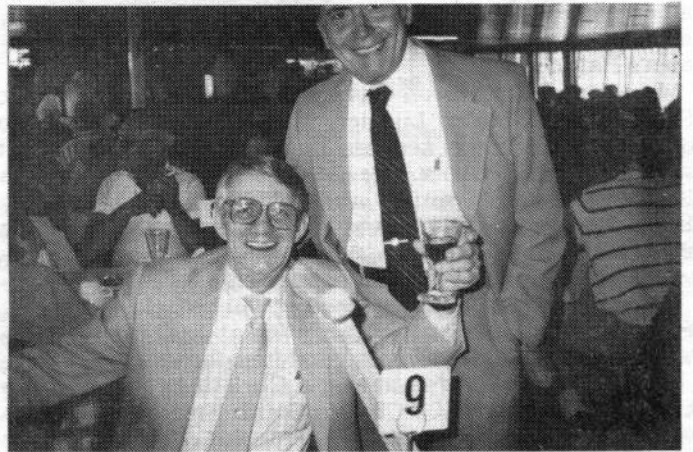
Scenes from our Sunday, May 1, 1988
Cruise aboard liner "Majestic"



PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

Reunion time has come and gone and while those attending were having a good time your reporter was undergoing prostate surgery. This occurred on Friday, September 9. Coming along nicely right now but still under doctor's care for another week.

After serving twenty-three years as secretary of the Pittsburgh Chapter Steve Blasko resigned at the July meeting. Jim McCulla was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Steve by President Ed Walsh. Also at the July meeting a new member was introduced. He is James E. Gatten of Scenery Hill, Pa. He served with the 83rd Recon. Greer Thompson celebrated 45 years of married life in June. Since July every meeting has had a lot of discussion for the upcoming 1990 reunion which will be held in Pitts-



Color bearers and color guards of the Pittsburgh Chapter at the Hershey reunion. L to R: Charles Caven, Sal Scicolone, Ed Reuss, Ezio Alicandri.

burgh. Committees have been formed and work is progressing. Along these lines our August 7 meeting was attended by the women of chapter members to request their assistance. Rita Dietrich and Lee Reuss were appointed as co-chairpersons. In the near future further joint meetings will be held. Immediately following this meeting a buffet luncheon was served. Word was received at the August meeting that Bill Harrold was back in the hospital with a recurring heart condition. He had to cancel his reunion plans. Ed Reuss' brother Richard died on August 7. Also at the August meeting Larry Leonardi gave a report on his trip to Iowa for dedication of various plaques in the memory of Ralph Neppel. The Christmas party this year will be held on Saturday, November 26 at the site of our meetings, the VFW Post 1810 in Brentwood, Pa.

THE WILLIAMSBURG WESTPARK HOTEL

1600 RICHMOND ROAD
WILLIAMSBURG, VA. 23185

RESERVATION FOR
THE 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION / DIXIE CHAPTER REUNION
WILLIAMSBURG, VA.
MARCH 30, 31 & APRIL 1, 1989

Please reserve: _____ Single Room (s) _____ Double Room(s)
No. of Rms. No. of Rms.

We will arrive: _____

We will depart: _____

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE NO. _____

ADDRESS: _____

DEPOSIT ENCLOSED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____ TO GUARANTEE RESERVATION

I WILL ATTEND THE SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET AND GUARANTEE DINNER FOR _____ No. of People

HOTEL POLICY

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN **FEBRUARY 28, 1989.**

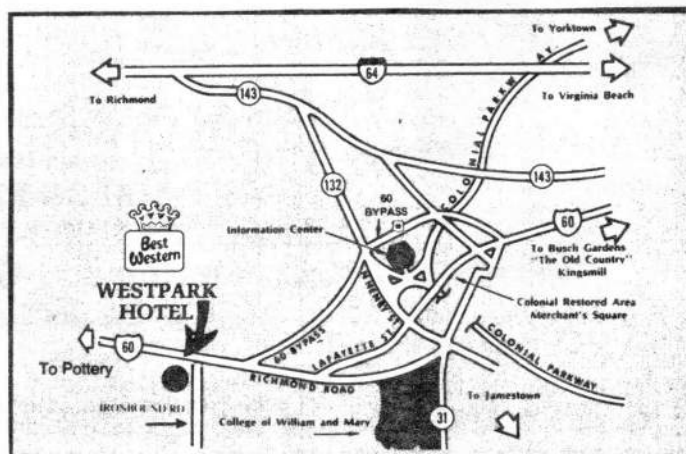
DEPOSITS FOR THE FIRST NIGHTS LODGING (\$25.00) MUST ACCOMPANY RESERVATION TO GUARANTEE THE ROOM. \$8.00 ADDITIONAL CHARGE FOR EXTRA PERSON.

RESERVATIONS FOR SATURDAY NIGHT'S DINNER BANQUET MUST BE GUARANTEED TO ASSURE A PROPER COUNT FOR PREPARATIONS.

DEPOSIT FOR ROOM FULLY REFUNDABLE WITH CANCELLATION NOTICE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN THREE (3) DAYS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL DATE.

CHECK IN TIME - 3:00 P.M.

CHECK OUT TIME - 11:00 A.M.



COME EARLY OR STAY OVER AT SAME PRICE, IF ROOMS ARE AVAILABLE

43rd Annual Reunion

Cincinnati, Ohio

August 17, 18 and 19, 1989

It's not too early to start planning for our next reunion, which will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Once again we had such a good time at Hershey, we don't want anyone to be left out at our next reunion.

Watch upcoming issues for more information on how you can be a part of the fun and excitement of getting together with old and new Buddies in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1989.

Cincinnati is such a beautiful city and we want to share it with everyone!

So Mark Your Calendars Now!

BOSTON CHAPTER REUNION 4th ANNUAL Pines Get-Together

Another great get-together is planned by the Boston Chapter at the Pines Hotel in the Catskills, So. Fallsburg, NY. on

April 30-May 4, 1989 (Sun-Thurs.)

All 83rd Members and their friends are welcome.



For any information, contact
**Bruce Seigel at The Pines at Toll Free
In NYS 1-800-36-PINES or
Outside NYS 1-800-431-3124
or Pat DiGiammerino at 1-617-322-2754 or
drop a line to Pat at 36 E. Border Rd., Malden, MA 02148.**

Cordially,
THE PINES HOTEL
Bruce B. Seigel
Director of Sales

continued from page 14

We, the members of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the 83rd Infantry Division association -- Joseph Danylo and Gene Costanzo will host a 45th Anniversary tour of Europe -- England - France - Luxembourg - Germany and Belgium.

This tour is from June 3 to June 16, 1989 for 16 days and 14 nights. We will visit the places of battle where the 83rd fought and military cemeteries where we left our men.

We will take part in the official 45th Anniversary Celebrations in Normandy American sector. Everyone on the mailing list of the 83rd will receive more information on this tour by mail.

For reservations call -- Windjammer Cruises & Travel Services: Outside of Pa. 800-245-6338 -- Inside of Pa. 800-472-1501. Tour hosts: Joseph Danylo and Gene Costanzo -- Pittsburgh Chapter 83rd.

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

First of all we of the New England Chapter would like to thank the Philadelphia Chapter and their wives for putting on such a fine reunion in Hershey, Pa. That Big Band on Saturday night topped it all off. It was great!

New England Chapter has over thirty three members at Hershey Lodge and I think we all put on a few pounds from all that food.

It was good to see Capt. Jack back on the road to good health again and also Clair, and we hope you will be able to make our Christmas Party. Was nice seeing Ray & Helen Rudd of Letham, N.Y., Charley Abdinoor has a little reunion with Lt. Paul J. Reed, Jr. of Co. A. 330th. don't wait that long again Paul, Ha. Ha.

We missed seeing Jim Barber of Conn., and Raynor Burcham of Proctorville, Ohio, Bill and Betty Davis of Newburyport, Miss., Dutchey & Helen Smith, Karl & Ingrid Burkherd, Emma Rossi & Al Tortaglia enjoyed the swimming pool.

Oh yes, before I forget we would like to welcome to the chapter Leon & Catherine W. Collins of Esmond, R.I.

We hope you enjoyed the reunion and hope to see you more at our get togethers and also we can't forget the 83rd Div. Band. It just made the memorial services outstanding.

Thank you buddies and we hope it will not be the last that we hear from you, you were **Great**.

Now on the sad side of the New England Chapter news. On July 13, 1988 we lost a good buddy in Lou Rossi, 16 Brook Rd., Lynn, Mass., 01902 of A. Co. 322 F.A. Lou was looking forward to this reunion very much and his reservation was in so Emma came with Dutchy and Helen Smith and enjoyed herself. It was hard but she made it like a true 83rd wife. Lou was our story teller and a fine person. Our condolence go out to his wife Emma and his entire family. We will miss him very much.

Also on Aug. 26, 1988 John J. Donahue, 4 Chadwick Rd. Burlington, Mass. 01803, 1st Bn Hq. Co. 329th Inf. At. Tank, past away. John had been sick for some time, but also looking forward to making this reunion if the doctors would give him the O.K., but he was turned down. John was our jokester of the Chapter. He also will be missed by all and our condolences also go out to his daughter Mrs. Morine Bass and family.

Just got a telephone call from the Brenons that they are off to Dayton, Ohio to babysit so that there daughter and husband Major David can go to the air Force Academy in Colo, for 10 yr. reunion.

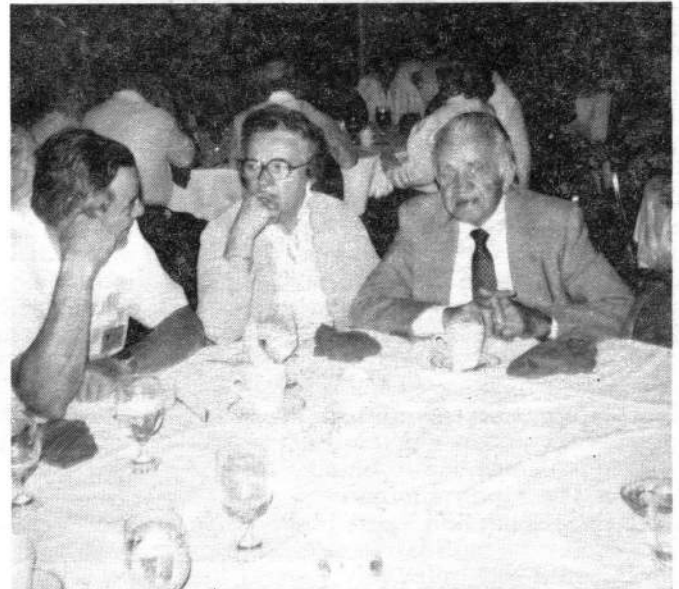
Well that is it for now.

Oh Yes. We of the New England Chapter would like to wish all the member and their family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year - God Bless You All.

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



Happy Reunion the Abdinoor & Paul Reed - New England



Mr. & Mrs. John Marysz enjoying it all - New England



Some of our happy New England Gang - New England



Mr. & Mrs. Ed Mudre of Conn. - New England



Love that food - New England



Great food Marle, Mike & Leroy - New England

STATESIDE

The two story barracks had two sergeant's rooms on each floor while the rest of us had bunks in a common room. Two sergeants sharing an upstairs room usually came in roaring drunk at two in the morning. They turned on the lights, dumped sleepers on the floor and blasted on a bugle one thought he could play. After a scruffle that left some with black eyes, bleeding noses and several smashed bunks, the pair were tied up and left under a cold shower until dawn. This had only a temporary effect. The next time they brought a dozen friends and the brawl brought the MP's. Under company punishment the whole barrack lost all passes and drew extra duty.

Word came that the two sergeants were to be transferred as cadre for another division. Revenge would have to be quick. While several offered the sergeants free liquor and told them how we would miss them, others worked swiftly in their room. The lights were disabled, the windows painted black and nailed shut, and the doorknob fixed to come apart. As soon as they were stumbling drunk they were put to bed by us, their buddies. When snores indicated a sound sleep, six stray dogs lured by hamburger were put into the room. The door was nailed shut and we waited.

Sometime after midnight, one of the sergeants awoke with a heavy weight on his chest. He tried to move and it growled at him. He arose screaming as a heavy, furry shape knocked him down. The lights wouldn't work and the door would not open. His buddy was yelling and cursing as dogs barked and dashed around the small room. They finally broke a window and got out on the roof.

A final touch - they both had fleas!

Hal O'Neill
83rd Signal

We Get Culture

During the transition from war to occupation the 83rd ended up in southeastern Bavaria on the frontiers of Czechoslovakia and Austria. One sunny afternoon, three of us in a jeep overtook a convoy on the Autobahn heading south. It was a mixture of German Army trucks, civilian three wheel trucks with a motorcycle engine over the single front wheel, German jeeps, French sedans burning charcoal and motorcycles with sidecars. Such convoys were not unusual and we began passing the slow moving vehicles. Two of us were asleep and the driver half asleep with the dash throttle pulled all the way out and the speedometer reading sixty.

Suddenly the driver yelled and hit the brakes - there were girls on the convoy - young, pretty, smiling, waving girls!

General Patton had decreed no fraternization with German civilians, but we didn't care. An MP road checkpoint stopped the convoy and we stopped too. The men and women (no children) spoke broken German with a strange accent. One of the buddies was Czech and he solved the mystery. We had a portion of the Royal Hungarian Symphony Orchestra and part of the Imperial Hungarian Ballet. They had been entertaining Hungarian and German troops in Russia and were now attempting to return to Hungary. They needed gasoline, charcoal and food to continue their journey. We agreed to provide them in exchange for a concert and ballet. Truck drivers from QM, Signal, MP's, etc., pooled their talents to acquire the fuel and food. We informed our buddies and by evening had an audience of a few hundred including officers. Beer, wine and Schnapp's joined the party and for some it lasted till dawn. The convoy then left for Hungary.

Upon returning to our unit, the acting CO charged the three of us with illegal fraternization and a court martial. We pointed out that it applied to German civilians and we had fraternized with Hungarians. It ruined his day.

Hal O'Neill
83rd Signal

331ST

Passing of a Co. E. "Warrior"

Circuit Judge Arthur B. Clark of Indianola died after suffering a massive heart attack.

Clark, 67, the senior judge of the 4th Circuit District, died after undergoing cardiac tests at St. Dominic Memorial Hospital in Jackson, Miss.

He served longer than any active circuit court judge in Mississippi, having served since 1959. The 4th District includes Sunflower, Washington, Leflore, Humphreys and Holmes Counties.

A native of Indianola, Clark attended the University of Mississippi in Oxford, and the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. He received his law degree from Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass.

He served as a first Lieutenant in Company E 331st 83rd Infantry Division of the U.S. Army during World War II. For his bravery during the war, he was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and two Clusters and the Distinguished Infantry Badge.

He was also captured in northern France and spent time as a prisoner of war.

Captured on July 4th 1944 "First Lt. Arthur B. Clark, Jr.", suffered through an operation without an anesthetic on a gangrenous hand wound while en route by truck to an old French army barracks prison.

Escaping from the prison, Lt. Clark was given sanctuary by an underground French family, and in the disguise of a peasant was moved from home to home until he could get back to the French lines. Rejoining his company in Belgium, he received injuries requiring front-line surgery and work up in a hospital in England.

After the war, Clark returned home to begin his legal career. He was a member of the American Judicature Society, the American Bar Association, the Mississippi Bar Association, the Sunflower County Bar Association, and the Mississippi State Trail Judges Association. He also served on the Commission on Judicial Ethics.

He will always be remembered.

A Co. E. Warrior'
Fred Willmann

Bob:

This is my last Article for the Thunderbolt and I wish you would print it just as it is. To my knowledge, you have to print Articles just as they are and this rule was never changed. I was very disappointed at the happenings at the Reunion this year and I'll not be there anymore.

Sam

Dear Buddies:

Here it is again, another Winter as you read this, my last column to the Thunderbolt from this office. Along with several others of you, I'll not attend another Reunion until the present regime is ousted.

I should talk about the Reunion in Hershey this year, but there is no doubt in my mind that you will hear plenty about it in the other Columns in this book.

My Company had 28 men present at the Reunion and that is what made my day for me after all the things that went wrong. Three new members were there and I didn't get to see them because they just stopped by to see the boys for a minute and then left. They were Lt. Deck, Ewell Cotney and Hancock. It was kind of late for them to appear at the Reunion but nice for the boys to see them after all these years. May they always see their way clear to come again next year.

The members present were:

Samuel Klippa, Captain Gravelyn and his wife, Ralph Gunderson and his wife, Allison R. Shrawder and his wife, William McKee and his wife, Frank Sabine, Frank Meyers, John Miklos, Bernard Cove and his wife, Dale Nan-

steel, Eugene Nolte, George Odenweller and his wife, Ewell Cotney and his wife, Albert Otto, Merle Akam and his wife, Harry Adkins, Lt. Deck, R.C. Hamilton and his wife, Henry Trzeciak, Andrew Churpak, Frank Sharp and Jimmy Lynch and his wife.

We have been leaders in the Division for many years now but never got the proper credit for it and I want to say So Long to all of them while I can. It's been nice knowing all of you all these years and may we see each other sometime at a Chapter Meeting somewhere.

If the Chapters will welcome me, I'll be attending their meetings from now on, or until we get a new Regime operating this Division. I'm now planning to be in Florida for their November Meeting and will spend a couple of weeks down there for my Winter vacation. The Dixie Meeting in Williamsburg, VA last year was very enjoyable and I'll be back there if they'll have me. I live near Warren, OH and Cleveland, OH and that is just a skip and jump away. I'll just drop in on them some time and surprise them.

To all of the people I won't be seeing anymore, So Long until we meet again or just run into each other somewhere. Best of luck, health and happiness to all of you in your later years. No doubt, some of you are surprised at this letter, but the last five years I have been hoping that this Division would steer a better course than it has.

Samuel Klippa
"D" 331st. Infantry

308 ENGR. BN. B. CO

Hi Buddies:

I saw the reunion get off to a great start, but I had to leave suddenly, my wife came down with a severe case of stomach Flu. We made the trip back to Texas, after much bad luck, engine trouble and several stops to let Doris rest.

We had a letter from Bill Coffey, he's back on crutches, that bad leg is acting up again, although his wife did say that he was in for a physical and the Doc gave him a clear report.

I called George Cox he said he had been hurting some and that's why he didn't make the reunion, same with Jim Redden, but he said he was doing much better.

Doris called Mary Di Ubaldo to see what happened to them, they had made reservations and never made it. Mary had a growth behind her eye and made several trips to a specialist, take good care of her Emil.

Also missed, Bill Davis, Joe Wallo, Bill Stimmel, and Sgt. Hicks.

Sure hope next year will be better for the Engineers.

Lou Tidd sent his regards to every one. I saw him in Fla., last winter, he's doing o.k.

As for me, I'm still plugging along, for a lift I hit the Chev Regal once in awhile.

Your Friend,
Frank Ball

APPRECIATION

To the Philadelphia Chapter for a great reunion. Good food, good programs, a lovely place to stay (even if we did get lost). On the whole just a great reunion. Also a special note of THANKS to the Dericksons (Pearl and Bob) who work so hard all year for our National Group. We do look forward to reading the Thunderbolt and know how much work is involved. As a part of the Kentucky Chapter we are so proud we can call them our friends.

Earl and Bonnie Hoover
Beaver, Ohio

323RD REPORT

At the reunion in Hershey was Al Covi, Don St. John, Willie Snodgrass, Les Taylor, Frank Wirth and myself. We certainly missed Bill Shaner, Orlo Hoover and Dave Nellies. These good men passed away this year. Our attendance in Headquarters Battery was down.

Dusty Starbuck was ill but called me from his sick bed and was doing better. We all wish him a good year.

Ralph Morgan was going into the hospital for minor problems. He has that old fighting spirit so he'll be o'kay.

I met Joe Malone, our famous cook, in Maine a few weeks ago and he still looks like a rookie. I will be seeing him again on a weekend in November along with Norman McCormack.

I forgot to mention George Connors was at the reunion. Also, Baker Battery had Leroy Rock and his family. They had to leave early to make the Dailey Double. Medling and his wife were at the same table to keep Leroy Rock in line.

Charlie Battery had a very good attendance. Dom Christopher was in full charge of the unit as the Captain had to leave early.

Walter Harding told me that he will be in Cincinnati next year.

That is it for now.

AMBY TYNAN
323rd FA

783RD ORDINANCE

Well, here it is, the report you have all been waiting so anxiously to receive --- the aftermath of the Hershey Reunion. Those of you who couldn't make it want to know who all were there and the lucky ones that attended could be a little fearful as I sit here with my poisoned-pen.

First off lets give a big pat on the back for all the members of the Philly Chapter who worked so long and hard to achieve another successful reunion. With all there previous experience, things never get any easier, so we tip our hats to all of you.

From the 783rd viewpoint we had a noble reunion! In all, we had a great group of forty-three, out of which twenty-three were 783rd men. For five of the fellows and five of the women it was their first baptism-of-fire and they all seemed to relish the fanfare.

For all the new comers, I'll try especially hard to say something nice. For all you other old "whats ah names," I won't promise to be so kind.

Possibly the biggest surprise was to see **Joe and Mary Orbin** for the first time. Those of us from Atterbury remember as he stayed with us through the Tenn. maneuvers before going to the Air Force. Joe remembered **Labbe** quite well as it was "**Easy**" who saved Joe from drowning in Tenn.

Then there was **Joe Hendrix** having a great time. He was the guy that gave me a hard time just to get a new pair of shorts. He's also the fellow that liked Atterbury so much, he moved from N. C. to Franklin, Ind., and we all remember those long marches through Franklin.

None of us are going to forget **Pat Rohrer** who brought along her caddie **Charlie**. No matter where I stood on the golf course I sure admired Pat's form. She also hits the ball well. Charlie hasn't changed a mite but now he fully realizes what he's been missing all these years.

What a real treat it was to see **Mel Schlottman** and to meet his good wife **Martha** for the first time. They drove up on Friday just in time for the Memorial service. After they finally found us they had such a good feeling that they got a room for the night. Mel had some excellent photo's, a rare one of me actually working.

We also had a first-time, guest speaker at our own co. reunion. A gray haired, athletic, handsome devil, going by the name of retired Lt. Col. **Joe W. Brown**. It seemed like

old times. It was hard to tell if **Jim Jones** was following Joe or Joe was following Jim. Of course there was a good reason for that as they were sleeping together. Well, you know what I mean they shared the same room. Joe's friend **Martha** is a delightful gal and **Art Doggett** really loved her brilliant red banquet dress. I know Joe had a terrific time because terrific people always have a good time.

The last of the new comers was by far the least, especially in **Ivan Gilman's** eye. His good wife **Pat** not only fit in like a kid glove but she was instrumental in procuring Ivan's safe arrival. As soon as Ivan landed in Philly he got his urge to relive George Washington's escapade of crossing the Delaware River. It was only Pat's calmly shouted, "Retreat Bud, Retreat Bud" command, that created a "U" turn on I-95 to bring them back to the Penna. turnpike and Hersey.

Also, for all of you who missed out at Hersey, you will be glad to know, surprised, alarmed, and possibly gratified to learn, that after we all left the 783rd Lt. Gilman was promoted to Captain and took over as Company commander. The moral of that story is, you can never tell what a man can do, if you get the load off his back.

Chuck and Peggy Garrison chalked up their second reunion. Chuck found the golf difficult but the partners interesting so they will be back next year.

Sam Candelieri and his fine brother, **Frank**, both deserve medals for attending. Sam for coming when he wasn't up to par and Frank for bringing him. Sam had radiation for cancer and then fell out of the hospital bed and broke his shoulder. We sure hope they have better months ahead. In the same vein **George Harris** and his brother **Eddie** deserve the same medal. **Mettie Harris** is now in a nursing home trying to recover from a severe stroke. George spends six hours every day there. They drove down from Williamsport just for the day. At 79 and 83 they show the old 83rd spirit and it was sure good to spend the afternoon with them.

Jim Jones won a what ever award for driving the longest distance-Calif. and back alone. It sure didn't hurt his golf game. He also drove the longest distances as **Phil Barbara** muttered in the shadows. Phil always adds some spice to a reunion and **Ann** gave the girls a great expensive idea. Instead of serving all your good china at a meal you go to the factory outlets and buy single, expensive settings and it makes a good conversation piece. Next year Ann can stay home!

In all fairness Ann, a lot of the blame should rest on Gilman's barless shoulders. Of his own free will, he chauffeured his wife **Pat**, **Millie Doggett**, **Mimi Wiggins** and **Ginny DelPrete** to all the factory outlets in Lancaster county. **Gene DelPrete** became a little concerned at 4 p.m. but at least he had a beauty nap which allowed them to once again be the last ones off the dance floor that evening.

Ed Perko flew in with his fine son **Jim**. Ed is looking and feeling fine after his recent bout with colon cancer. And what can you say about an almost married son, who gladly gives of his time to assure his Dad another happy reunion. His actions said it all.

Doc and Agnes Pfeifer were their usual bouncing selves, mingling with one and all with Doc telling some new accented jokes. It was also Doc's privilege to present **Ray Wiggins** with a Kentucky Colonel's award procured by **Art Doggett**. Not to be out done **Mimi** won acclaim in her own rights by apparently winning the Miss America contest in some obscure year. The year sure didn't matter to the fellows as they all signed for privileges on Mimi's bedroom door. - The hotel will never be the same.

No Philly Chapter reunion would work as well without the efforts of **Bill and Martha Appleby**. Bill called the square dance and ran the golf tournament plus a few favors for me, and Martha worked behind the scenes every day.

Bob Hammond arrived a day late from his Southern convention and then bounced around playing up his single

privileges to the hilt.

Dimple cheeked **Hersh Weaver and Wife Midge** shocked us all with the news that Hersh had a spring heart attack. The good news is Hersh looks better than the last reunion and this had to be good medicine as they both laughed their way through the week.

What can we say about **Easy and Lou Labbe**. They have attended so many reunions everybody now understands their unique lingo. You can imagine the ordeal we put a rookie waitress through with the likes of Labbe, Doc and **Carl Frederick's** cheese accent.

Speaking of **Carl and Alyce** they not only enjoyed the reunion but they accepted visiting rights to the **Bensimon's** on Long Beach, then the Rangnow's before slumming in the coal region of Appleby's Pottsville.

Al Bensimon will remember the reunion for the Boo's he received for daring to suggest a \$5.00 increase in yearly dues. It sure would add a little more prestige than our habit of being interrupted during the evening meal to cough up a few bucks for a common 50/50 practice. Maybe next year, Al, if good "old" **Ruth** allows you to attend.

That takes care of everyone (I hope) with the exception of **Doggett and Ginny**, that's my wife, not DelPrete's. Some things always being written about Art, so he had a good time, that's enough. Ginny gets a halo for being patient for awaiting my return from hither and you.

Now quickly, the other news. **Ernie Jim Christian** called to say "Hello" to all the fellows. **Norma Hackstock** also called two days before the reunion to inform us that **Her-man** was under the weather and they had to cancel. **Bill Manning** wired the hotel and wished us all the best. Bill has one of those backs and it went out at the wrong time, again. **Paul Bryars** has Queen Mary floaters in his eyes and is unable to drive for long periods of time. Yes, he is happy about next year's reunion's location. Lloyd Grayson also checked in to tell me he is feeling much better Physically and mentally.

Can you imagine, a contractor was redoing his kitchen. He had it all ripped apart and then he shot and killed himself. The cabinets were paid for but none knew where. That's enough to make anyone sick but all's well again.

The best for last. Ray Wiggins added to the 783rd history of honors by winning "closest to the hole." Under extreme pressure, with a six iron, he laid up eight inches from the 151 yard hole to win the coveted prize, a neat keg of beer. Jim Jones quietly remarked, "That's no big deal for Ray. He was always closest to the hole in Normandy."

I must cut this off, lets stay in touch.

Hut Two,
Rags Rangnow

329 'B' Bag

This was the best reunion I ever attended in a long time, because there were 14 members from old B. Co., of which 6 were for the first time. It was great to see Jiggs (Janke), J. Spickler, Al Trofimuk, Camels (Iemole), Lt. Cliff (Melton), and the biggest surprise of all Capt. (Hill) the old Company Commander. We had a good time of reminiscing how great we were. The Capt. is a gentlemen farmer in Booneville, Miss. We are talking him into having a "B" Co. reunion on his southern plantation. Everybody looked great including the faithful regulars, J. (Stek), B. (Walker), R. (Dickson), J. (Hirko), C. (Beams), J. (Pirkle), B. (Uher), and Likane although I never saw him. Incidentally Dickson was elected to office in his burg. Congratulations. We miss B. (Taylor) and J. (Hennies) at the reunion. People were asking about them. I heard the John (Wodjiesak) had an operation and isn't feeling to good. Capt. Jack (Pontlitz) has retired in Florida and is in ill health. I don't have their address, but if I do, I'll pass them on.

As of **June 22, 1944** Co. "B" Strength - 187. Replacements - 357- Returnees -233 Dead 85 - wounded 265 - now Battle

205? Injuries 45 and self-inflicted 3. More info in the next issue. Thanks to Mrs. Kitty (Thomas) for the addresses she sent to me her late husband, Ed's mailing list. If you have any address please send to me.

Bob Uher
Co "B" 329

"B" Btry 908 F.A. Bn.

We had a great group of 24 men and women representing Baker battery at the latest reunion held in Hershey, Pa.

In attendance were Mr. and Mrs. Ed Williams, Past President John and Freeda Hobbs, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bevins, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Waples, Mr. and Mrs. James Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bacha, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Wenzel, Mr. and Mrs. Jules Desgain, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Rudy, Mrs. Allen, Nelson Reisinger, John Prescott, Nick Bertovich, Eli Allison and Jim Prentice.

We certainly missed the McDaniels from Fla., the Underwoods from W. Va., Mike Jarmoska from Pa., and the Carpenters from Ohio. Certainly hope you all can make it to Cincinnati, next year.

We were all happy to see John Prescott from South Carolina, as it was his first reunion and the first time we had seen him since the war. It was great seeing him again and hope he is able to attend next year's reunion. Do want to thank Cathy Bertovich for watching the farm so Nick could make it to the reunion.

It was great seeing all of you at Hershey, Pa. and do hope we can have a larger turn-out next year in Ohio.

"Jim" Prentice

CO 'H' 330TH

HELLO BUDDIES:

Here goes that man again, only this time I am not writing to you asking for money, nor am I telling you to bury it so deep in your pocket that you can't find it when I do.

This time I am writing to tell you a little about our 42nd Annual Reunion that was just held in Hershey, Pa. Over the years we have had some tremendous Reunions, we owe a lot to those great Men who take on the job of putting on a Reunion, this is no easy task, I am well aware of the work involved as I have over the years pitched in to do my part, and thanks to you great men, I have been successful for my part.

This year in attendance at the Reunion from Co. "H" were the following. Capt. Jack Masters, Major Ray Rudd, (I sincerely hope that I have his Rank right this time) Lieut. Larry Quinn, Mike Champey, Paul Wayner, Leroy Swank, Karl Burkhard, Paul Novak, and last but not least Larry Redmond, I sincerely hope that I haven't forgotten anyone, I did make a mistake on the Co. H page in the Ad Book and forgot a man, and he was quite upset. I tried to make an apology, but it was not acceptable. It is not hard to forget one or two names, when you handle hundreds of them like I do every year.

Well Buddies, this was a very fine Reunion, it constituted a lot of hard work by the Reunion Committee, and they are to be commended. I had hoped to see more men in attendance, but I did learn from a few that they were ill, or their Wives were ill and they couldn't make it. We hope to see more of them next year in Cincinnati. I wish to extend a personal thanks to those of you who helped to make the Co. "H" page the great page that it was. Next year we hope to see it even greater.

Your buddy,
Larry Redmond

P.S. I did forget one name, William (Spike) McCartin, my apology.



G COMPANY 331st INFANTRY

We should congratulate the Philadelphia Chapter on a job well done at the reunion in Hershey. Men like George Pletcher, Al Belvedere, Lou Volpi, the Philadelphia Chapter, and all the ladies that helped to make a successful reunion.

I came home from the reunion feeling good, because I felt that I had accomplished what I set out to do. No, I did not get my changes to the by-laws passed, but I feel that now the membership of the Association has some ideas as to what is taking place within the Division Association.

To me I was happy, because I did see some new faces from G Company. There were Thirteen of us present. Mort Gaynor, Al Suess, Ed Walsh, Gene Costanza, Kenny Baird, John Rung, Harold Ladley, William Ripley, Conrad Groves. Selma Corder stopped by and spent a few hours with us. We had two pleasant surprises, Mike Mizerock came in to spend the few days with us, and a newcomer, Bob Goldstein. It is good to welcome our buddies to these reunions.

I had to keep a close eye on Goldstein and Costanza, thought they would be up to their old tricks. I must mention that Bob Goldstein wants me to say, that this time he did show, and that I cannot get on him for not attending. Welcome to the crowd, Bob, hope to see you at many more reunions.

I can't tell you how glad I was to see Mike and his wife,

Ann, I thought for a time that he had forsaken us, but Mike was his old self, still drinking a shot with a beer chaser. He did have to invite us to his room to eat some of his choice tomatoes and cucumbers from his garden.

Welcome to all of you and let's make a special effort to meet again next year in Cincinnati. I believe that next August we can schedule our G company reunion on the Tuesday and Wednesday before the Division reunion. Make your plans now.

We did miss having some of our buddies in Hershey, Joe Phillipone was due to come, but because of some unforeseen illness could not make the trip. Joe and Angie celebrated their 40th Anniversary on Sept. 24th-Hope they have many more years together.

We did miss Edgar Perry, Joe Mayse, Titus and Bab Gautchi. Gene was unsuccessful in his bid for the Executive Board, better luck next year, Gene.

Stan Bielen as he was cruising around in Hershey ran into a fellow Board member from the nearby area. He identified himself as James A Fall from Wonelsdorf, Pa. He was a member of G Company. A check of the replacements and casualties that I have, verifies this information. He has been added to the G Company roster. Since our next deadline is Jan. 10, I want to wish all of the men of G Company; and the men of the Association, a joyful Christmas, and a Healthy New Year.

Capt Mac

Advice for entering the 'real' world from the OEA Communique

The strains of Pomp and Circumstance will soon fade away. The rental company will quickly repossess your cap and gown. And your graduation gift money will hardly cover the security deposit on a studio apartment.

Congratulations, graduates, Welcome to the real world. There isn't any spring break in the real world. And Christmas vacation starts the night of Dec. 24 and ends shortly after the wrapping paper comes off.

It is a painful course that you are about to take; the lessons come unannounced. Your next final is final.

To aid your entry into the real world, a few of those who have gone before you have compiled some sage advice.

In the real world:

- Insurance premiums do not work like stock premiums. You pay them. They don't pay you.
- They aren't kidding when they say, "Wash whites separately."
- The rate of interest is what kills you, not the down payment.
- Never answer an advertisement seeking a "liberal roommate." You probably are not that liberal.
- Having a drink with the boys every night after works is a bad idea. Notice the boss doesn't do it. That's why (s)he's the boss and they are the boys.
- Nobody cares any more that you drank a six pack last night without throwing up.
- Your new neighbors are not likely to share your enthusiams for the Bon Jovi at full volume at 1 a.m.
- Cars need not only gasoline, but also oil, antifreeze, brake, and transmission fluid and about one-third of your annual wage.
- Buy an alarm clock that works.
- Grocery coupons are not socially unacceptable.
- Never date a woman whose father calls her "Princes." Chances are, she believes it.
- Never date a man who still goes shopping with his mother.
- Toothpaste will cover up holes in plaster, but only small holes.
- Buy good stuff. It lasts longer.
- If you don't like your job, quit. Otherwise, shut up.
- Soon people your age will be having children and buying garbage disposals. Learn to take an interst in both.
- There is no such thing as a self-cleaning oven.
- Be nice to the little people. You are still one of them.
- Shower curtains are replaceable.
- Never assume the large telephone companies are working in your best interest.
- Never date someone you work with, especially the boss.
- Trust no one. If your mother tells you she loves you, check it out.
- No one sells a car because it runs too well.
- At some point in your life, your family will be all you have. Treat them right.
- Never get married simply because you figure it is the time. Get married because you want to live with someone for the rest of your life, including days off and vacations.
- Everyone is lonely as some point in life. At least you will have company in that. Learning to deal with it is part of growing up. It's not the pretty part.
- The only thing worse than asking someone how much they make is telling how much you make.
- Find a friend with a swimming pool. Ingratiate yourself.
- Plastic garbage bags are not a luxury item. Look in the bottom of the wastebasket for proof.
- After years on the job, you become a commodity. Know it and sell it.
- Face up to it: You must dust.
- Find a friend who is a plumber.
- A \$15 haircut hardly ever lasts as long as a \$5 haircut.
- Never sit down in a car dealership until you have the deal you want.
- Irish Spring may or may not be a good soap, but it's one cheap bathroom deodrizer.
- Dirty laundry never goes away.
- Never run a tab in a bar that serves salted pretzels.
- Five years after graduating from high school, everyone becomes a varsity letterman.
- Never stop for groceries on an empty stomach.
- Barbecue grills make everyone a good cook.
- Never trust a landlord to make improvements after you have moved in.
- If you screw up, admit it.
- Hurry up and learn patience.

There you have it. Welcome to the real world.

World War II buddies together again

Auto maintenance veterans swap memories in Stockton

by MICHAEL FITZGERALD
The Stockton Record

They gathered around a picnic table and spread a big black-and-white army photograph of themselves taken in 1944.

"Who was that guy?"

"He shipped in from Jersey."

"It's kind of hard to remember names after 44 years."

Fifty-three men and their families had come from all over the country to Stockton for a reunion of the 142nd Ordnance Base Auto Maintenance (OBAM) unit, a motor-rebuilding outfit that served in France in World War II. They gathered Saturday in a picnic area at Oak Grove Regional Park and drank beer and played swing-era music and remembered.

"The first night we were in France we dug latrines," said 71-year-old Jack Hardman of Ogden, Utah. "Then the German planes came over and I ran and jumped into one. I landed on top of everybody else."

Drafted at the height of the war, December 1943, they had gone through basic training and mechanics' training together in the States, serving here-and-there stateside before finally shipping out of New York together in a six-ship convoy that zig-zagged across the Atlantic and the Mediterranean to Marseilles.

"Our motto was, 'Around the world with 12 crankshaft grinders and a football,'" said Chuck Foster. A crankshaft grinder was one of the machines they set up at "The Moat," an old French fortress in the walled city of Langres, several miles from the front.

That was where they ran their OBAM engine rebuilding shop, an assembly-line factory that rebuilt, tested and crated 100 Jeep engines a day, and 100 heavy General Motors engines and some Dodge engines, too.



REMINISCING: Veterans of World II pore over an Army photograph during a reunion at Oak Grove Regional Park. The are from left, Burrell Carver, Bob Stanford, Henry McSweeney and Bill Smith.

"I remember the snow," said Jack Hendry, 68, of Seattle. "It got up to 3 feet deep and dropped to zero degrees sometimes." Later, when the Germans started the Battle of the Bulge, they were called out into that snow to load ammunition onto trucks.

That was when they would work 10-hour days in the shop, then work all night loading ammunition, grabbing sleep wherever they could, eat whatever they could get. Some of the youngest guys, the unmarried ones like Bob Clauss, 62, of San Jose, got transferred into the infantry to fight the Germans around Salzburg.

Blame Monetary system for social ills

How long are people going to bury their noses in the sand while women and children are starving, have inadequate clothing and many are on the streets homeless?

Christmas comes along (the one time of year when people decide to give instead of get) and those who have amassed more than they can possibly use in their lifetime, ease their consciences by sanctimoniously bestowing gifts upon poor little children.

Where are those children now? How about giving a decent life to our children and to ourselves at the same time and start sharing the abundance Creation Universe has provided for all its children on this planet?

When are people going to wake up and start questioning the usury money system in which even the ruling class is slave to a system that reaps war, crime, disease and poverty and has people hypnotized to place the highest value in their lives on it instead of the necessities of life?

This ungodly money system has programmed a godless society. A society where even the church leaders who recognize the truth are afraid to speak of it because that's not what they get paid to do and they might lose their followers. Read Acts 4:32-35 and you will get the message. Jesus was teaching but that no one talks about, even in Sunday School. People are so hypnotized that they relegate the use of money to a god-inspired part of Creation Nature, as though no one would know how to live together on a planet, sharing and providing for one another as one humanity, one family.

Don't you imagine that with technology, science and computer electronics we now have, we could figure out how to feed, clothe and house everyone on one high standard?

What is it going to take for people to wake up to the facts of life and see that ever since the Soviet Union kicked the world bankers out of their country and began printing their own usury, free money, the world bankers and their scout troops, the Central Intelligence Agency, have been battling against the emerging socialist consciousness and they are in control of everything that is done by the military in the name of the United States people?

Will it have to be World War II that begins in the Middle East between the Arab nations and Israel (who, of course, will be backed by the U.S. -- both being controlled by the world bankers usury money)?

Let's grow up and take charge of our lives and find out just what this money system is that we allow to continue to limit progress and to reap war, crime, disease and poverty.

Del Rainer - Stockton



June 18, 1988

Mr. Robert Derickson
3749 Stahlheber Rd.
Hamilton, OH 45013

Dear Mr. Derickson:

Please excuse this intrusion, but I read your DAV Magazine notice about your 83rd Infantry Division meeting, and it was the 83rd which liberated six GIs, among them myself, on Aug. 15, 1944 from the German 77th Infantry Division.

That was at Fortress Paulus under Hill 26 near St. Briec in Brittany. I am writing the true story about us POWs adventures together with the 77th for 16 days as the 83rd, and at times the 8th Infantry Division, and aircraft chased us through such places as Dinan, St. Malo, Dol and Dinard. We were shelled, strafed or bombed almost daily, all the way to Festung Paulus.

If you were at any of those places or general vicinities, or might refer me to someone who was, I would very much appreciate hearing from you. I am enclosing a reply envelope.

Two of my fellow prisoners were Shorty England from Dalton, Georgia, and "Slim" Smith, a tall, lanky man who, I believe, also was from Georgia. I learned that Shorty died back home. Slim was killed in action shortly after our liberation, or so I heard secondhand.

A third POW was "Whitey" (or "Blondy"?), who may have been in the 83rd or else the 8th. The rest of us were in the armored infantry of the 4th Armored Division. Each of the six of us was captured in a different place. The 77th got me near Pontorson on the main highway leading from Avranches. When the Germans counterattacked my unit on the outskirts of Avranches I was left alone (someone's "oversight"). The Germans fired at me. I jumped into our halftrack, took the wrong road and wound up a POW, some eight to ten miles away. Of course, the fact that I had never driven any vehicle before in my entire life made things even more harrowing. I drove in first and second gear through hundreds of enemy troops. Unable to see me except through slits, noncoms or officers in a number of groups cleared their men off the road for me. After some shooting later, I panicked, turned around and tried to go back but could not work the low-low and regular gears correctly. That was it!

Hope you'll bear with all this babbling. If you get a chance, please drop me a line. I trust that your meeting will be great!

Sincerely,
Ackley C. Schuyler
enclosure
4 Laurel Ridge
Highway 54 West By-pass
Chapel Hill NC 27516

P.S. - Apologies For Typewriter -- And Typist!

Dear Bob,

Thank you for another good job for the 83rd. You and Pearl did wonderful work in 1988. *

Dear Buddies:

Thanks again to the members from "A" Btry, 908 F.A. who attended the great reunion in Hershey. Along with the wife and myself, we had the Boyers, Bouchers, Frank Adachowski and Mary, Grace Brick, the Stines, and Ed Tetlack. We all hope our members, missing because of illness, like Stu Hitt, Frank Palasky, Ed Marquard, and the Bernhardtts, can make it next year.

Thank You,
John Clevenger
"A" Btry - 908 FA
206 N. Utrecht St.
Ellenton, FL. 34222

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

HELLO BUDDIES:

Here we are back home once again after having just attended a very fine Reunion. The Greater Philadelphia Chapter can be proud for having sponsored a very fine Reunion. As usual we had our few complainers, we always look forward to a few complaints, it wouldn't be a perfect Reunion without complaints. That is how we know that everyone enjoyed it. Were it not for complaints, we would feel that everyone must have stayed in their room and not come out to see what they could find fault with.

Each year we come back and we read that this was the best Reunion ever, that is not quite so. Each year the Reunion Committee works very hard to put on a great Reunion, and each year they are successful up to a point. There is always something that is added to help make it a greater Reunion. This year we were fortunate in having something that has never been presented to us before, that was the original 83rd Infantry Division Band, who played for us at the Memorial Service and also outside the Hospitality Room after the Service. They were terrific, and brought back old memories to many who were present.

I am writing this letter in behalf of the Reunion Committees of this year and of the past years. I have had the great pleasure of working with many of them and know only too well how hard they have worked and what a thankless job it is. Over the years the cost of putting on a reunion has risen to such a point where it is almost impossible to give a Reunion without having a Registration cost that is out of the World. We must remember that many of us are now retired and living on a fixed income, but still want to be with our Buddies. Many of us sacrifice during the year to save that extra money for the Reunion. I would like to extend my personal thanks to those of you who so generously contributed to the Ad book, which helped the Committee very much. This Ad Book is a contributing factor to a successful reunion. Your help is needed even more in the years to come. Give generously to the Ad Book, your help is needed.

Larry Redmond

Persons wishing to submit notices to the Locator File should mail them to: Locator File, Army Times, Springfield, Va. 22159-0160. Please print or type your request and include as much information as possible about the individual you are trying to locate. Do not use abbreviations for unit names or organizations. Please limit request to one or two names - any more will not be published. Also list who should be contacted, with a complete address and phone number. Because of the volume of requests, each locator received will be published once a month.

Dear Bob and Pearl:

For my 50th came many out of stater's -- even Texas -- but none more representative than the 83rd Board and Former Board Members. A tribute not only to me but my brother Bill -- S/Sgt. -- "H" 330th.

Jim Prentice 200 miles "B" 908th

Stan and Fran Bielen 500 miles "HQ" Bn. 331st.

Al and Claudia Faedi 300 miles "T" 330th

Feel free to use an enclosed pictures. Met General York at the Pines in 1985 and also at West Point when I said Mass for the reunion in 1985 on the Point Parade Grounds. Maybe the first time in its History. Father Steve Lanza said Mass with me. His Dad is in the 83rd also. In Christ Jesus.

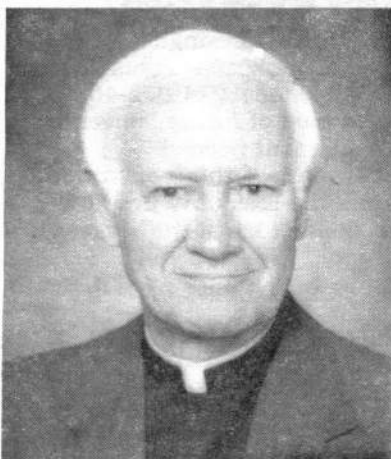
Father Francis P. McCartin



Left to right: Claudia Faedi, Father McCartin, Stan Bielen, Al Faedi



Left to right: Jim Prentice, Stan Bielen, Claudia Faedi, Gloria McCartin, Bill McCartin - S/Sgt. H - 330.



**Francis P. McCartin,
O.M.I.**

**50th Anniversary of
Priesthood**

**Ordained June 7, 1938
1938 - 1988**

Dear Bob:

There is a village two miles from Ellwood City named Wurtemberg. It is on Pa. State Route 488 which is the Ellwood City, Portersville Road. There is a U.P. Church there and a cemetery at the church. I saw a Tombstone there and a name on it read.

Lawrence N. Newton

1925 - 1944

Pvt. Col. 331 Inf.

83 Div. World War 2

My Co. was M. 331 Inf.

Thank You,

Mr. Clair Thornhill

R#1, Box 400

Ellwood City, PA 16117

**Veterans of the
Battle of the Bulge**

Dear Member,

As an active fellow veteran in veteran affairs and veteran organizations, I am requesting that the following news release be considered for publishing in your unit newsletter or magazine, and in a local newspaper of your choice.

**ATTENTION
VETERANS OF THE BATTLE
OF THE BULGE**

W.W. II Veterans who were awarded the Ardennes Campaign Battle Star are eligible for membership in this organization. For information, please write:

**Veterans Of The Battle Of The Bulge
P.O. Box 11129 Arlington, Va., 22210-2129
Attention: Neil B. Thompson, Vice President**

The Ardennes Campaign - 16 December 1944 - 25 January 1945 - and known as The Battle of The Bulge, and the greatest American battle of World War II. The Veterans of The Battle of The Bulge (V.B.O.B.) was founded in Arlington, Va., on 16 December 1981 as a non-profit educational veterans organization. Veterans of The Battle of The Bulge is composed of veterans who fought in that six-week Ardennes Campaign in Belgium and Luxembourg in fog, snow, rain and ice in the bitter cold 19544-45 winter and of relatives, friends and history buffs. In addressing the House of Commons following that battle, Sir Winston Churchill said "This is undoubtedly the greatest battle of the war and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever-famous American victory". Of the million participants in that battle, about 350,000 Americans survive.

The objectives of The Veterans of The Battle of The Bulge are:

- To perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices involved during the Battle
- To preserve historical data and sites relating to the Battle
- To foster international peace and good will
- To promote the friendship among the Battle's survivors and descendants

Thanking you for your cooperation,
Yours in comradeship,

**Neil B. Thomson,
Vice President/Membership
Veterans of
The Battle of The Bulge**

761 Linden Road
Hershey, PA 17033
October 6, 1988

Dear Bob,

Congratulations to you, Bob & Pearl, and all your co-workers for a great reunion in Hershey, PA. My special thanks to George Pletcher, Al Belvedere, and Louis Volpi for including me in their planning for the 42nd reunion. The band was overwhelmed with congratulatory praise on coming together again. Most of us had not seen each other for 43 years, so you know what a memorable experience we bandsmen shared.

On Saturday afternoon the band members and their wives gathered at my home for cocktails and a buffet lunch. I have enclosed a picture of the 21 bandsmen as well as a full group picture with wives present. We are looking forward to Cincinnati anticipating even a larger band!

Sincerely yours,
Robert W. Smith



Bandsmen (left to right) Lower level: Jim Harris, Sidney "Skiff" Skiffington, Bob Suhr, Art Yon, Leonard "Riv" Rivenburg, Elliott Jacoby, Emmett Pack, Dick Imhof, Vic Fuentealba, Paul Cooley, Marlin "Tony" Intrieri, Charles "Chuck" Franke, Phil June, Nick Aloisi **Upper level:** Jean Smith, Clarence "Hap" Reeser, Art Renner, Bob Smith, Zeno "Buddy" King, Ray Oswald, Wilson Zellner



Bandsmen and wives (left to right) First row: Buddy and Anita King, Gladys and Art Yon, Delores and Phil June, Doris and Bob Smith **Second row:** Bob and Alice Suhr, Jean and Esther Smith, Vi and Vic Fuentealba, Ethel and Chuck Franke, Margaret and Paul Cooley, **Third row:** Millie and Hap Reeser, Dick Imhof, Wilson Zellner, Ray and Nadine Oswald, Skiff Skiffington, Mary and Nick Aloisi, Tony Intrieri **Fourth row:** Elliott Jacoby, Peggy and Riv Rivenburg, Helen and Art Renner, Dorothy and Emmett Pack, Pauline and Jim Harris

I am sending you the words to two division songs. I'm sure many of the buddies recall them. Maybe you could publish them in a future "Thunderbolt."

Thanking you and hoping to play again in the band at Cincinnati I am.

Mr. Jean C. Smith
83rd Div. Band
321 No. 71st St.
Harrisburg, PA. 17111



*We are the men of the 83rd.
We are the men who will keep our word.
We were born in Ohio and raised all over the land.
And now we've got together, we made a damn good band.*

*We like to march with a song and a gun,
We like to fight - we do it for fun.
We'll lick the Japs and Germans yet
And stick them all with a bayonet.
'Cause we are the men of the 83rd.*



*We're the Thundering Herd from the 83rd
And fighting men are we.
We'll lick the maps of the dirty Japs
And march through Germany.
And if you see a man on leave
With a triangle on his sleeve,
You'll know he's a bird from the 83rd
And a fightin' son-of-a B.*



*And when we go into combat
We'll meet them with knife and gun.
They'll no sooner see us coming
Then we'll have them on the run.
And if you need a fightin' man
Just raise your voice and yell.
You'll get a bird from the 83rd
Who'll drive them straight to Hell.*



SOMETHING WONDERFUL HAPPENED AT THE 83RD CONVENTION AT HERSHEY!

The Great 83rd Division Band, which was formed at Camp Atterbury and played all across Europe - **played again** at the Memorial Service and at a concert in the Hershey Lodge.

Twenty of the original band members participated and we are trying to locate others. If you are a former member or want further information about this, contact either:

Ralph W. Smith
76 Linden Rd.
Hershey, PA 17033
Phone: 717-534-1274

or: Z. P. King
1211 Lexington Dr.
Corsicana, Texas 75110
Phone: 214-872-4050

This band would like to be a part of future conventions. However, instruments and equipment needed.

I have been appointed chairman of this committee by Ralph Gunderson, Chairman of the Executive Board. If you want to donate to this cause, contact me at the address below.

Ned B. Smith

SEND DONATIONS TO:
NED B. SMITH
4800 S.E. FEDERAL HIGHWAY
NO. 16
STUART, FLA. 34997



128 Forestine Avenue
Gadsden, Alabama 35901
August 24, 1988

Mr. Robert Derickson
Thunderbolt
3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

Dear Bob,

If possible, please furnish me information on Harlan K. Bowman, Company G 330th. Information such as, Platoon, date killed in action, home town, last known address and any other information available.

Thanks in advance for any help.

Hugh S. Clay
"G" Company
330th Infantry

Dear Hugh:

I copied this page from the recently published History Book of the 83rd. I have searched but find no other material on this man. I will print your letter in the next issue of the Thunderbolt which will be after the reunion. Sorry that I cannot help you anymore at this time.

A veteran's lament

Weep for all the men who fought
And weep for all who died.
Weep for every girlfriend,
Who could've been a bride.
The war it should've never been,
For it's left us teary-eyed.

...

We do not weep for the soldiers, though,
Who've come back from the War.
They've come back here as strangers
And with nary an open door.
It makes us sit and wonder,
What they were fighting for.

...

Vietnam was not the Hell,
That we've made the World here.
We treat soldiers like the enemies.
And it's like that every year.
They want to tell their stories.
Why can't we lend an ear?

...

They killed to make our country free
And they've watched their buddies die.
They don't like being strangers,
In this land of apple pie.
They want to put their pasts behind,
Where the eagles proudly fly.

GUY MINTUN
Stockton

The Soviet riddle

You can't trust the Russians. It is written everywhere, and it is no laugh.

After the events of the past year, who on earth can one trust? One can only look, listen, ponder, and pray.

They deride perestroika, the Soviet restructuring. What Gorbachev is aiming at is a new concept of equality for his people. Instead of all in the pot then divvy it up, he's saying "earn it." No wonder the good old boys are resisting.

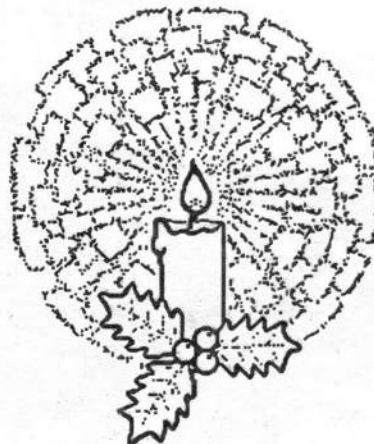
He says, in essence, if management can't manage efficiently, get out. And if some workers are on the ball and others are a drag, pay them accordingly. Beautiful dream, but likely to take a lot of his time.

Imagine trying to pull something like that in our country.

ELDA DAWSON
Stockton

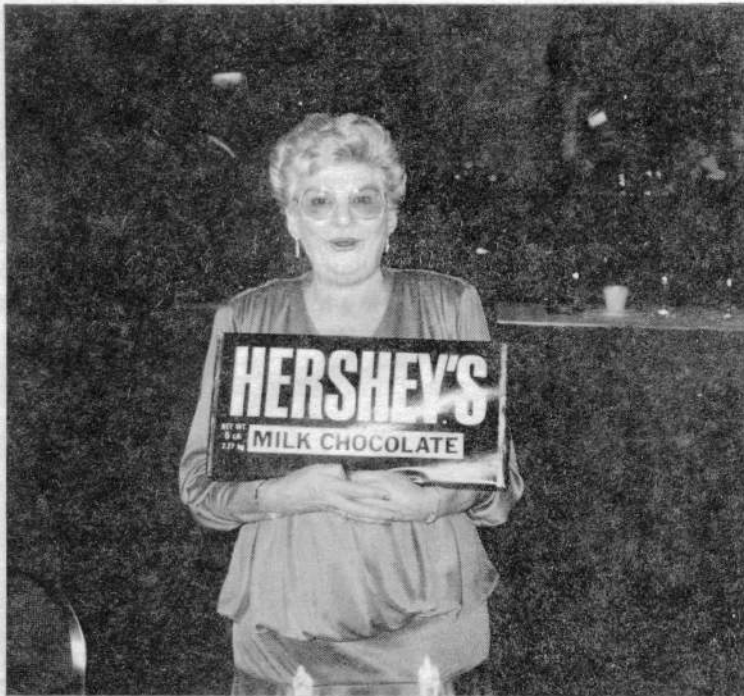


Best Wishes
for a
Merry Christmas



And a Shining New Year
From Our Families
To Yours

42nd Annual Reunion Hershey, Pennsylvania



Lucy Volpi's Prize at the Saturday Night Banquet Drawing



First time seeing each other in 40 years. What a joy!
Left to right: Ray Wall, Matthew Pintor, Robert Kect.



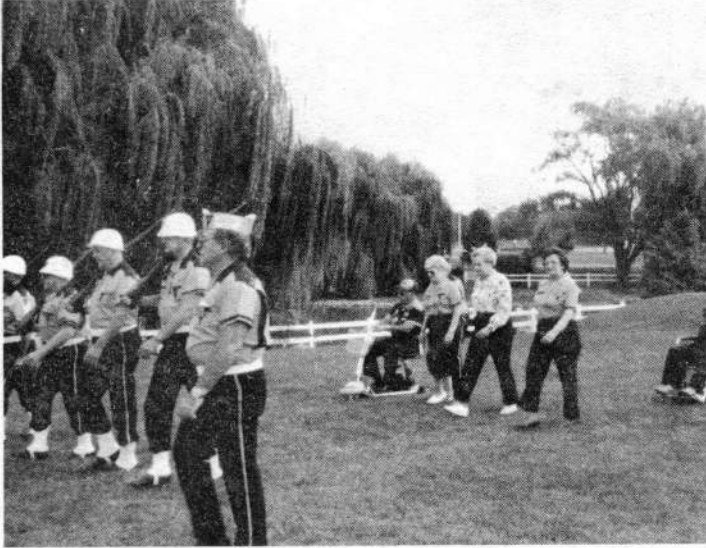
Memorial Service



Left to Right: Al Belvedere, Larry Redmond & Friends
- Friday evening entertainment.

42nd Annual Reunion

Hershey, Pennsylvania



Al Belvedere, Firing Squad, Girls Marching



Color Guard - 83rd Reunion



83rd Band
Together Again

42nd Annual Reunion Hershey, Pennsylvania



Rita and Charlie Lussier
Boston Chapter at Hershey



Helen & Tony Piatedosi
Boston Chapter at Hershey



Charlie Lussier and Hilda and Geo. Connors
Boston Chapter at Hershey

42nd Annual Reunion Hershey, Pennsylvania



Walter Koss, Hy Goodman, Norma B.
Boston Chapter at Hershey



Walter, Pat & Mike
Boston Chapter at Hershey



Sam Candellere, Vitie Atkocius, Livvy Maynard, Rita Lussler.
Boston Chapter at Hershey
C.P. Room



42nd Annual Reunion Hershey, Pennsylvania



Frank & Phylis Scott with Paul Gunderson
Boston Chapter at Hershey Reunion



3rd Bn. Hq. Co. 329th

Top Row Left - Right Mike Kadylak, Mary Kadylak, Pearl Derickson, John Raikos, Dick Riddle, Bottom Row Left - Right John Kanyuscsik Missing, Wife Chloe Kanyuscsik, Sam Bogett, and Bob Derickson.

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 Clarion Hotel
Cincinnati, Ohio.

The dates are: **August 17, 18 & 19, 1989**
Start making your plans to attend, now!

83rd Infantry Division History Book

AVAILABLE NOW

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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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME (please print) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, or TOWN & STATE _____

Company _____ Regiment _____ 83rd Division

Phone No. _____ Renewal _____ New _____

Please Enclose A Check or Money Order.

DUES \$10.00 PAYABLE TO:

Robert Derickson
3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

Office Phone:
513-863-2199

Date _____

Signature _____

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