



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

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THE 43rd ANNUAL REUNION

August 17, 18 & 19 1989



Yeatman's Cove Park on the Riverfront
Cincinnati, Ohio

THE THUNDERBOLT
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83rd Infantry Division Association Inc.

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

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A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

*James C. Hanrahan 1947	John W. Robinette 1962	Mike Skovran 1976
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Charles Abdinoor 1959	Louis J. Volpi 1973	George Pletcher 1987
*Joseph F. Minotti 1960	Bernard O. Riddle 1974	
*Frank J. McGrogan 1961	Robert G. Taylor 1975	

*Denotes Deceased

It is hard to believe that we have come to the end of another year and the Reunion is just days ahead. Latest reports from Cincinnati are very encouraging for the Reunion as reservations are coming in at an ever increasing rate, which makes all of your officers happy to know we will be seeing so many of our buddies again.

At the May Executive Board meeting in Pittsburgh the host chapter with Ed Reuss in the lead, gave us a run-down on their plans to date for the 1990 reunion. Then we were given a tour of the facilities of the beautiful new Vista Hotel and then to the adjoining convention center where some events will be held. The Pittsburgh Chapter is to be commended for the hard work they have put into organizing next year's Reunion. While in Pittsburgh, Geri and I were able to see my old buddy, Sam Klippa (D Company's Godfather), as he and his lovely wife Fran, had us to their home for dinner, assisted by their daughter Diane. Sam has some health problems and will probably miss being in Cincinnati.

At the regular meeting of the Board the discussion of finances was the paramount issue, as we feel the Board must get a better handle on the general operations of the Association. We are receiving quarterly treasurer's reports and looking at ways to cut expenses, in addition it is planned to have a statement of operations, income and expenses for the fiscal year which ends on July 31, 1989 distributed to the members attending the Association meetings at the Reunion in August. Board member Wm. Minick has been of great assistance in streamlining the treasurer's books for record keeping and audit purposes.

At this time I wish to thank all of the Board members who have been associated with me this year for their diligence and contributions to our meetings, as we can only operate with a conscientiousness for such an Association such as ours. I especially want to thank Ames Miller, who will succeed me as chairman for his support throughout the year. Having been on the Board for four years now, Ames has come to understand the complexities of the operations of our Association.

This is my last message as chairman and I wish to thank the membership for allowing me to have served them as President and then the Executive Board. Last but certainly not least, to my wife Geri who has put up with my galloping around at reunions, chapter meetings, and other meetings. My deepest gratitude for being at my side and giving me encouragement to fulfill my duties.

83rdially
Ralph Gunderson

REMINDER!

If you have not paid your 1989 dues.

Please do so now.

This year is now coming to a close.

Please mail \$10.00 to:

Secretary- Treasurer
Robert Derickson
3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

**The
President's
Corner****Hello buddies and friends:**

Summertime -- Reunion time. It is almost here and all signals are go -- affordable for everyone.

We have a lot to offer. Not only in our Program but also in the City of Cincinnati -- Horse Racing -- Baseball -- Golf -- Zoo -- Kings Island -- Historic Places of Interests, etc.

There have been articles written, letters exchanged and phone calls made trying to discourage members from attending this reunion. Please ignore them as they are unfounded and untrue.

We have worked long and hard to make this reunion, not the greatest or the fanciest, but one all can afford and can enjoy, both the men and the ladies.

As I noted in my last message to you. You will be furnished a fact sheet of the minutes of the May Executive Board meeting and also a sheet listing the cash flow and expenditures. You, as members are entitled to know how your Association is conducting business that is important to your Association.

You can see the program for the reunion in the Thunderbolt. Please read it carefully. Also the Early Bird program is one of the better events that I can remember to be able to attend in the last several years. I think it will be a very fine program, affordable to all. Looking forward to seeing you in Cincinnati in August.

Call me if you have any questions.

Charley Schmidt
National President
Phone: 606-341-4318

PROGRAMS CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

This is my last message before I see you in August. I do hope "89" has been good to each of you and you'll be able to attend our 43rd reunion.

From all indications the problems we were having has been cleared up and we're looking for a very nice turn-out. Reservations at the hotel are coming in steadily but remember our block of rooms terminate on July 25th. After that the ones that are not spoken for goes back to the hotel. So get your reservations in. R.C. Hamilton informs me that the AD's are coming in, thanks to Larry Redmond. So keep them coming, we'll need all we can get. I understand the Early Bird Reservations are coming in. However there are several openings remaining.

Don't forget the Baseball Game on Thursday night. If you want tickets for this game between the Cubs and Reds, get in touch with me as quickly as possible. You'll be able to pick-up your tickets and pay for them upon arriving.

Oh yes, as I mentioned in the last Thunderbolt, transportation from the airport on The Jet-Port Bus is \$8.00 per person one way. However if a round trip ticket is purchased the price is \$11.00. This figure was not known when the last Thunderbolt went to Press.

See You At The Reunion.

Manny Goodridge



Greetings from the Secretary-Treasurer's Office

Here we are with the last issue of the Thunderbolt before the Reunion in Cincinnati. We met the first week-end of May at the Vista Hotel with the Pittsburgh Chapter as our hosts. What a beautiful hotel. I am sure you will all enjoy yourselves there. The Board met with the Cincinnati group for a report of all plans for the reunion in August. Come and enjoy yourselves. Great many things to do. Your program is in this issue.

The Pittsburgh group are working hard to come up with a wonderful reunion also. The women shopped all day while the Board met. Then that night we all went by Subway to Station Square for dinner at the Sheraton Hotel facing the water front. Then back by subway. An experience.

On Saturday after the Board was finished. Ralph and Geri, John and Mary Raikos and Pearl and I were the only ones left so John, Ralph and I took the Subway all over while the three women went shopping. We had a ball on that subway. We got to the end of the line and walked up the hill to the restaurant and as we walked in one of the waitresses remarked that she had been watching us three "YELLOW BIRDS" all the way down. We all had our Yellow 83rd jackets on that Vito had made us.

For the first time in the ten years that I have held this office I am late starting the Thunderbolt. I have had remarks about my going away and not getting the book out on time. I apologize to all of you. Pearl and I took our first real vacation and went with forty-one (41) other members of the 83rd to Europe. What a wonderful time. No bickering, no complaints. Just a happy bunch of people looking out for each other and making sure that everyone had a good time. We had so many Mayor receptions and greetings that some of the men remarked "We could get used to this." We had a very good bus driver and tour guide provided by Galaxy Tours. Jack and Roger did a wonderful job. If we asked to go somewhere they worked it in some way. I had been corresponding with a young man, Eddy Monfort in Belgium. We asked Jack on Sunday morning if he thought he could find the town. Ray Peloquin spoke French and did a lot of our interpreting for us. Anyway we saw on the map the town of CROSSROADS and Eddy had mentioned this in one of his letters so when we went through there we men got off the bus and went looking for information.

One of the lads in this town of Crossroads said that Eddy was a good friend of his and lived about three miles away, so off we went. Curtis Myers and Esther had been over last September and had met Eddy at that time. Anyway as we turned off the highway to get to this town there was Eddy standing in the middle of the road looking for the bus. You have never seen such a happy young man as this 19 year old seeing us approach. He waved and smiled. Brought tears to a great many eyes to see the welcome. Vito Palazzolo had made a jacket for us to present to him. When he saw it was us he ran to his home to get the cap that the people on the Battle of the Bulge Tour including Curtis and Esther had given him. Well, when we presented this jacket to him his eyes just glistened. The town people in this small town had to have a reception for us in their town hall. Everyone really enjoyed this pleasant afternoon in the quiet town that we had liberated so many years ago. A tribute to a young man who was interested in learning about the men who had fought to let the people keep their town. On the last day of the tour Joe Macaluso took over the reins of tour guide while Jack stayed at the hotel to make sure all our arrangements for our flight home the next day were okay. Joe did a good job at reading the map and

making Roger, our bus driver, understand all we were saying. Thanks Joe for a good job.

Fran Hostettler did not get his luggage until about the fourth or fifth day of our tour. The clothes the men wanted to lend him just did not fit. Hoss was very good natured about all of this. One night he washed out both pairs of the pants that he had. The next morning here came Sam Badgett, his room mate, and said we would have to wait on Hoss as he was trying to make the girl who took care of the rooms understand that he wanted an iron to try and press his pants dry.. He finally join us.

Mousy Farias and Tony Varrone took care of Grace Brick and hunted her up whenever she got lost which happened about once a day.

The Sengers missed their flight in Florida and missed one day of the tour. For all of those who have been to Paris you understand their driving pattern and for those of you who have not been there it cannot be explained.

James and Nancy Nichols made a movie of all the trip so we are all looking forward to hearing from James and seeing this movie. The country side is beautiful and we found the people all over to be very gracious.

Omaha Beach where the 83rd landed was very impressive. Really took us back in time. I hope that other members of the tour group will write and give you more of our experiences.

We are busy now with the Thunderbolt and getting prepared for the reunion. It will be here before we know it.

Please remember all of you that Pearl and I both love this job. We are not doing this for the money we get. If we were we would not stay in the job long. We are happy doing it, and we think a great deal of all you people out there.

I want to report that on May 15, I received here in the office an invitation to attend the dedication of the Ralph Neppel Wing of the hospital in Iowa. As the Thunderbolt had already gone out I sent a copy of the invitation to all chapters and to the BOARD CHAIRMAN for them to notify as many of the members as they could. I was sorry that Pearl and I could not attend but that was when we were going to be overseas. I was very happy that some of the men could attend this very memorable service to our one and only Congressional Medal of Honor of the 83rd. We are sorry Jean and all the rest of you that we could not be with you.

Bob

Medical Center Iowa City IA 52240

 **Veterans Administration**

May 15, 1989 in Reply Refer To: 354/120

*Mr. Robert Derickson
Secretary-Treasurer
83rd Infantry Division
3149 Stahlmeier
Hamilton, Ohio 45013-9102

Dear Mr. Derickson,


The purpose of this letter is to extend a personal invitation to all the friends of Ralph Neppel who are members of the 83rd Infantry Division, to participate in the dedication and naming of our Ambulatory Care Clinical Addition at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Iowa City, Iowa. This new clinical addition will be dedicated in honor of Ralph G. Neppel.

The welcoming ceremony will begin at the Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City on Saturday, June 10, 1989, at 10:00 a.m. Ample parking is available at the Arena. At the conclusion of this ceremony we will walk in mass to the VA Medical Center led by a colonial color guard and military band. There will be a short ribbon cutting ceremony followed by scheduled tours of this beautiful clinical addition.

We would certainly welcome any members of the 83rd Infantry Division to attend the dedication. If there would be any questions, or if I can be of assistance to those interested in participating in this program, please do not hesitate to call me. My phone number is 319-338-0581, Ext. 6461.

We expect a large turnout for this dedication and plan to provide special recognition to any members of the 83rd Infantry Division who would be in attendance at the ceremony.

Sincerely,


DAVID L. WAGNER, Chairman
Dedication Committee

Enclosure

"America is #1—Thanks to our Veterans"

The Ralph Neppel Dedication

Our National President, Charley Schmidt, Ames and Helen Miller, and myself met Lou Nolan and his wife Kate, and attended the Dedication Ceremony of the Ralph G. Neppel Clinical addition at the V.A. Medical Center in Coralville, Iowa on Saturday, June 10, 1989.

The dedication was attended by Ralph's wife Jean, their two sons, two daughters, three grandchildren. Ralph's brother and three sisters. There were also many dignitary's from the Local, State and Federal government plus many members from the V.A. American Legion and D.A.V. The Color Guard of the 3rd Battalion of the 3rd Army from Fort Snelling, Minnesota. They did an excellent job of Presenting and retreating of the Colors. The 34th Army Band of the Iowa National Guard presented the Musical Prelude at the Arena, then led the Procession to the Medical Center for the ribbon cutting by Jean Neppel. John Dane of the Chamber of Commerce gave a very inspirational tribute to Ralph Neppel that made those who attended so proud to have been in the 83rd Division and having the honor of knowing and serving with Ralph Neppel.

The Ralph G. Neppel Clinical Addition is really an up to date Medical Facility from the new ambulance entrance which speeds up taking care of the newly arrived patients, examination rooms, laboratories that can conduct all the modern day clinical and research needed in today's medicine to the In and Out patients with accuracy. This center is for all Veterans of all wars and it really made us wish that if we had to get sick this would be the place to be.

We wish that more members of the 83rd could have been there for this Dedication and made a better showing for the 83rd.

Wilson E. Days
1st Bn. HQ. 331st



Chaplain's
Corner

As one of our sport announcers would say as the Baseball Game is going into the ninth (9) Inning "We're roundin third and headin Home."

As you are reading this issue, many of us will be following our game plan to be meeting with our 83rd families in Cincinnati, Ohio.

There is still time to call in your reservations and the reunion Chapter people have a real "Old fashioned get together" planned for all of us.

Since the last report from your Chaplain and Bob Derickson, the following names are being added to our deceased list, to be read at the Memorial Services.

WILL BE READ AT MEMORIAL SERVICE

Paul J. Anderson	"A" 331st	Wife, Irene
Robert L. Berry	A.T. 330th	Wife, Ann
Ralph J. Blank	"B" 323rd	Wife, Merry
Lionel Blackwell	"B" 329th	Bob Uher
John J. Collins	322nd	wife, Beatrice
Jesse A. Cullen	"F" 331st	George Naylor
George DeFillips	"E" 329th	Manny Epstein
Albert DiSylvester	2nd BN. HQ. 329th	Wife Eva
Mariono J. DiMaria	MEDICS 331st	Word from Ned Smith

John V. Gonzales	"C"	From wife Marie
Charles J. Hoffman	"A" 331st	Larry Redmond
John Kepchar	"L" 331st	Wife, Ernestine
Peter A. Ferrelli	"K" 330th	Fred Messina
Paul Scagnelli	"A" 308th Engr.	Wife, Dorothy
Gerard B. Wilson	"C" 322nd	Larry Redmond
Warren W. Witt	"K" 330th	Fred Messina & Jim Alexander

Wm. J. Bullard "A" 331st Larry Leonardi

The sympathy of the entire 83rd goes out to the families of these 83rd men. MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN PEACE.

As of this report we have 52 names that have been sent in to us. The Cleveland Chapter had the Honor of Representing the 83rd Infantry Division Association in the Memorial Parade and services at Maple Heights, Ohio. We would like to applaud the Memorial Day Association of that city, but mostly we applaud those Americans who crowded the Parade Route and the display of the American Flag. The legs ached a bit from the long march, but it was a proud day for all of us.

Al Uridel and I made a pact, that we would have a drink at every Memorial Day parade. I can't remember the last one we missed. We always say, "Well, we made another one." We keep hoping for many more.

Have you ever met a person whose hat was too small for his head or seemed too big for his britches -- Or always sought status and recognition? Perhaps the following words may fit someone you know.

A MEASURE OF IMPORTANCE

*Some day when you're feeling important
Some day when your ego's in bloom
Some day when you're feeling
You're the most important man in the room
Take a bucket and fill it with water
Stick your hand in up to the wrist
Pull it out, and the hole that remains
Is a measure of how much you'll be missed
You may splash all you wish when you enter
Stir the water around galore
But you find when you finally leave it
It's exactly the same as before
So, as you follow your daily agenda
Always do the best that you can--
Be proud of yourself, but remember
There is no indispensable man.*

Casey Kowalec 322nd



The sign reads:
Truman Bridge
Gateway to Berlin
over the Elbe
Courtesy 83rd
Thunderbolt Division
Constructed by
295 Engr. BN.
992 Bridge Co.

Photo sent in by
Paul MacFarlane

A Heartbreaking Story

From The Bulge Battle

By William F. Dyer

There is little to remember about Trou De Bra, Belgium except for the replica of the grotto at Lourdes, France, which is located there; the massed 3rd Armored Division tanks firing day and night during the bulge battle; and one GI's "day of infamy", that has troubled me for almost half a century.

For others, especially Company B, 339th, the remembrance would include being cut off from the regiment for 42 combat hours, with low ammunition, little food, in this time frame.

Each is a story within itself, but the incident that is the subject of this piece is of the GI from the 3rd Armored who lost his cool and a finger.

Perhaps a few words of explanation as to all the other happenings in and around Trou De Bra would help to understand the who, what, when, where, why and how of the story, so we'll begin at the beginning.

The Grotto at Lourdes is located in the foothills of the Pyrenees Mountains in southwest France, along the Gave de Pau River, and has been a pilgrimage center since 1858. It is the scene of numerous visions of 14-year old Bernadette Soubirous. When she reported that the Virgin Mary appeared to her and told her of the healing power of the springs of waters at Lourdes, it was the beginning of visits by the sick to this place of relief.

To describe the massed firepower of the 3rd Armored would be difficult because an armored division usually moves and moves fast, but at this point in time - the bulge, the weather, the condition of the troops, all combined to make such static warfare necessary. In addition to the 3rd Armored artillery and tanks, the 83rd Division Artillery was attached to the armored division, just to make the cheese more binding. It appeared to be a planned maneuver, for the guns fired on schedule, day and night. If one had had a newspaper in hand it would have been easy to read just by the light of the firing guns. I remember thinking that this whole countryside is a great big gun, and the light from this big gun represents all the light given off by all the lighting since the beginning of time. If life hadn't been so miserable, one could almost feel sorry for the poor German soldier who was at the killing end of this big gun.

The typical GI, whether German, British, or American was completely worn out on January 5, 1945, the date of this event. He had been on the line for more than a week, his face and lips were chapped, his hands and feet almost frozen, his rifle was a heavy piece of cold iron that had to be coaxed to fire, his belly was empty and he wondered, "What the hell am I doing here?"

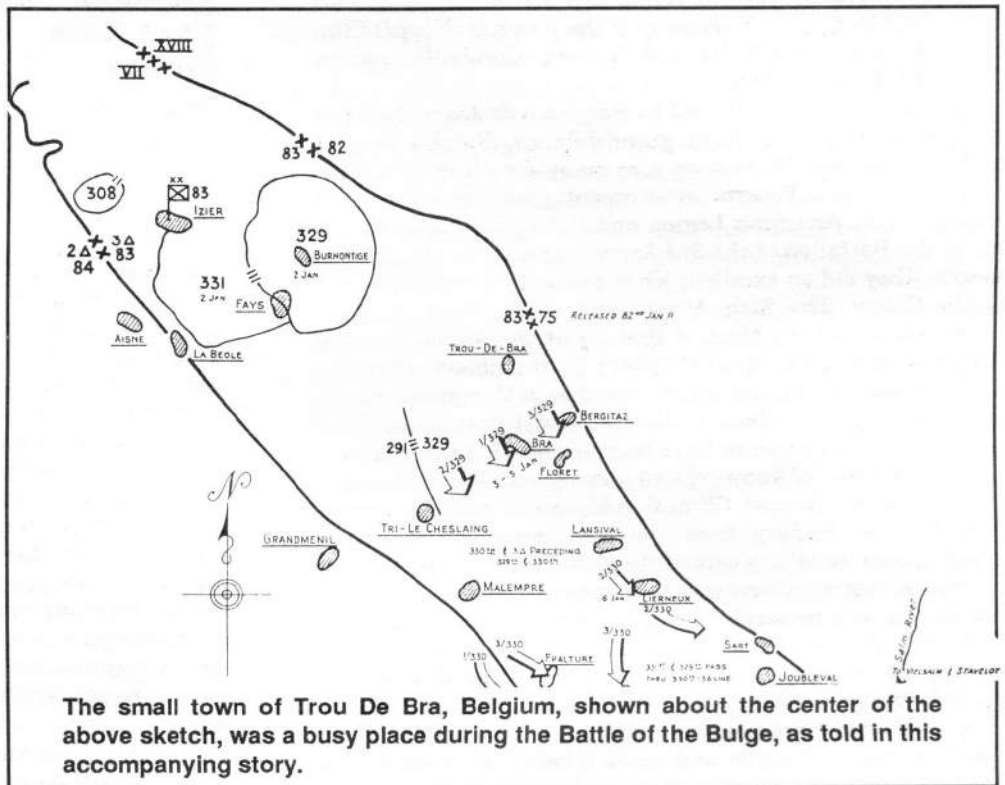
The 329th MPs, being manned by a group of people who could put to shame the doings of Ali Baba and his Forty Thieves (remember) when it came to liberating necessities, had found shelter in a bombed-out house, and had settled down for a long winter's nap. The time was about 1400 on January 5, 1945.

Cpl. Charles Schaffner, in charge of the CP, was visited by four men from an adjoining field artillery battalion. They reported finding a trail of bloody footprints in the vicinity of Trou De Bra. In addition to the footprints, which indicated someone in trouble, they found a pay data card, correspondence, receipts, etc., all in the name of a soldier from a regiment of the 3rd Armored Division. This was enough proof of a happening to call out the bloodhounds. So, Cpt. Schaffner, Pvt. W. H. Buckley, one of the original four who reported the incident, and I hit the trail.

We soon found a spot that appeared to have been a resting place for a GI as it had army issued articles strewn about. The articles included a rifle belt, with ammunition, an empty first-aid kit and a helmet. The trail then led through woods, across a creek, and onto a main road leading to the 329th Medical Aid Station at Trou De Bra.

Major John T. Mauldin, 329th Regimental Surgeon, remembered that a soldier from the 3rd Armored had been treated there several hours previously and had been evacuated through medical channels to the rear. Prior to leaving, this soldier had made a self-serving statement that no one had reason to question.

According to Major Mauldin, the young soldier reported being captured by the Germans and robbed of his belongings. He, fortunately or unfortunately, had escaped from the Germans and in trying to return to his unit had been caught in an artillery barrage suffering various wounds, including the loss of a finger from his right hand. His story, so vividly told, captivated his audience, and left them sympathetic to him. To them, either medical attendants or recently wounded GIs, it was the usual story of the lonely, lost, GI, faced with the realities of war, to which he was not accustomed. In short, he could have been killed.



The expression or adage- This old dog won't...hunt- was immediately applied by the MPs. The circumstances required more investigation. The story told Major Mauldin about being robbed of his personal effects could not have been true for they had been found along the bloody trail to the aid station.

On the strength of this and other conflicting information, a more thorough search was made. Entry to an empty building along the trail proved fruitful. Inside the basement, there was evidence of recent human habitation. All those things held precious by the average GI- raincoat, K-ration boxes, cigarettes, gloves, etc., were found. It was questimated that some soldier had occupied this area for at least two days.

These GI items weren't the only things found. Nearby was a bloody axe and a human finger. A clear cut case of self-mutilation was evident. All items, including the finger, were collected and turned over to the 3rd Armored Division provost marshal.

The facts of this incident, and the subsequent happenings to this unfortunate soldier have occupied a space in the recesses of my mind for almost half a century. When I first became acquainted with the case and learned that one of our GI's was capable of doing such a thing, I was incensed. My anger was of such magnitude that I could have prosecuted him to the extent of the law. In the interval since, however, I have had mixed thoughts and emotions about it.

At the peak of the war, I, like most of the GIs with whom I talked, feared what could happen to me. However, expressing this fear was the one thing I would never do. My real fear was that I would show fear, and the unlikely event of showing cowardice was unthinkable. Actually, a soldier could be so frightened that his insides trembled like a leaf in an autumn wind, but he was forbidden by his own code of behavior to ever show the slightest evidence of fear, and never to discuss this matter.

During the more than forty years that have passed since these thoughts and actions were a part of my everyday living, there has been a gnawing suspicion that such behavior may have been the root cause of battle fatigue. Which brings to mind this question: If there had been some outlet for those hidden emotions, could battle fatigue have been lessened?

In many oral history reports from soldiers of both armies during the Civil War there is talk about the celebrated rebel yell. Yankee soldiers tell of the effect it had on them. Many have said that chills would run up and down their spines and for some it caused their hair to stand on end. It was a fearful sound to hear and it could scare the hell out of one, they insist.

Other than frightening a few Yankee soldiers, what good did this yelling do for the Rebel soldier? Always the answer from the Rebel soldier when asked this question was: "When I went into battle I was scared to death, but when I started yelling the fear left and I was able to settle down and do my job."

After this interlude of musing, we are now back with a lonely, perhaps lost, line company GI from an armored infantry regiment, on the 13th day of the Battle of the Bulge- as many of you were. You may remember that this was a time of intense stress for everyone. Knowing this, and now attempting to answer the question of what possessed this young soldier to mutilate himself and then attempt to explain it all through a series of lies could be an exercise in futility.

One must remember that since his rank was private, he must have been very young, perhaps age 17-19, his training sparse, and experience in combat slight. Some GIs at this time were sent as replacements after only thirteen weeks training. Some reported to line companies during the night and were dead before ever being listed on the morning report. Perhaps this man was one of those short term trainees.

Army statistics show that during WWII, 49 soldiers were sentenced to death for desertion, but, mercifully, only one was actually executed." He was Pvt. Eddie D. Slovik from Detroit, and his date of execution was January 31, 1945. His death was within the time frame of the principal of this story. If statistics can help, it had been published that during this war the German Army executed 25,000 soldiers for desertion.

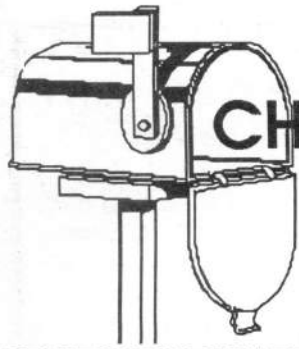
I never inquired and I never intend to ask what eventually happened to this young man with the missing finger. A report was made to the 3rd Armored Division and the case closed insofar as the 329th MP Platoon was concerned. I have often thought, however, about the final outcome.

The story of Company B and its 42 hours of hell in the town of Rochford should be told by one of the survivors.

*Slovik's story is told in the book "The Execution of Private Slovik" and is well worth reading.



Trou De Bra, Belgium is known for the replica of the Grotto at Lourdes, France, and the replica is located at this church. It isn't remembered by many GIs for this reason, but is vividly remembered because of the many events that happened during the last days of the Battle of the Bulge.



CHAPTER NEWS

KENTUCKY CHAPTER

The Kentucky Chapter held their Spring meeting at the Ramada Inn in Kokomo Indiana on the 21st and 22nd of April. The meeting was hosted by Alberta and Floyd Richmond who did a beautiful job of making arrangements for our rooms and bringing snacks and drinks to the Hospitality Room. They also invited everyone to their lovely home on Sunday morning for coffee and pastries before we all departed the area for our own home. We had forty members attending.

We were all saddened at the meeting to learn of the death earlier in the year of Carol Shrawder, wife of Allison Shrawder, "D" 331st. We all send our belated condolences to Al and his family. Carol was the type of person who dropped everything to help anyone who needed it. Vi and I will always remember the time she helped us locate a friend in Evansville. Carol and Al also took us different places of interest in Evansville when we visited them several years ago.

Manny Goodridge and National President Charley Schmidt brought us up to date on the up coming reunion. Outside of a few odds and ends every thing is shaping up for a good Reunion in Cincinnati.

I can't help but admire Manny and Avalon, Charley and Kathleen and my wife VI for all the time and effort they have put in trying to make this a great reunion. Ames and Helen Miller are also included in my admiration for doing their thing in Columbus, Indiana so that each and everyone will receive a remembrance you will always cherish.

At the time of this writing, my wife tells me there are still reservations available for our Early Birds at Forest View Gardens. Cut off date is July 26th for reservations, so get your checks in and don't miss this event.

I understand some of our Kentucky Chapter members are receiving inquiries as to what activities the host chapter has planned. This is going to be a basic reunion, one that is affordable to all members. Please refer to the Spring Issue 1989 of the Thunderbolt on pages 14 and 25. In addition to the activities planned for you, I would like to tell you about what is available.

If you are interested in going to the Cincinnati Art Museum, the Krohn Conservatory or the Zoo walk three blocks east on 5th Street to Main Street to the Bus Stop, take Bus 49. This Bus will take you to all three places. If you have a problem ask the driver for help. Now for all you airplane buffs, drive west on 6th street to the North Bound I-75 ramp, go north on I-75 to Dayton, Ohio about a hour drive, you will see signs that will direct you to the Air Force Museum where without a doubt you will really enjoy yourself. You will see planes from Wright Brothers first plane to the present day Space Ship. The best part is the admittance fee, it is free including parking. It is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and you can get food on the premises. Drive 55 per hour because the State Patrol is really watching for speeders along this route.

There are many fine restaurants in the downtown area from the Five Star Maisonette to all of the fast food franchises, but each and everyone must try our famous Cincinnati Chili. You may have Skyline, Gold Star, or Empress. Go in and order a 3 way. I know you will enjoy it.

We have two large department stores in downtown Cincy within walking distance of the Clarion. Lazarus is at 7th and Race and McAlphins is on 4th Street. At 38 West 5th Street is Saxony Imports, a very fine gift shop that sells, Hummels, Anri's, Tom Clarks, Beer Steins, Dolls and many other items. By Showing the card you will receive in your Ditty Bag you will receive a 20% discount.

The Reds will be in town playing the Cubs and I know some people are planning to attend the game on the evening of the 17th (refer to the Program Chairman's message on page 2 of the Spring Issue). The Stadium is only a 6 block walk from the Clarion.

We also have Taft Museum within walking distance of the Clarion. There is King's Island amusement Park about 30 miles North on I-71 and last but not least there are the 83rd members whom we all came to see and enjoy our visit with them.

Since I started this article, I and Manny Goodridge have received letters from a 83rd member telling us our articles in the Spring Issue were in bad taste. Since when is the truth bad taste? He also said the time to hang out dirty wash is on the meeting floor. I would like to point out that all members do not attend the meetings but the Thunderbolt reaches out to all members. As you members who went to the meeting last year in Hershey will recall, I was booed for asking for a outside audit. I personally do not think our articles were in bad taste, just telling it the way it is, nor do I compare our articles to dirty wash. At future meetings there should be some kind of control. According to the by-laws this should be accomplished by the Sergeant at Arms. Don't forget everyone still has Free Speech in the good old U.S.A.

I want to remind all of you that when you pack your bags for the trip, load them with compliments and leave the gripes at home. You will be surprised how light the bag will be.

Let us all pull together for a great reunion and a bigger and better Association.

Wilson Day
1st Bn. 331st

FELLOW 83rd'ers:

Enough is enough. In the last Thunderbolt the Kentucky Program Chairman made statements about me. I wish to have my say NOW and clear up a lot of false rumors. I regret my concern for the 83rd was so **misinterpreted and misused**. Only I know what I meant to accomplish and I don't need, nor want, to be second guessed on my intentions.

If you took the article at face value you would think most members of the 83rd received a copy of the newspaper article. There are around 1750 members and the truth is that less than TEN reprints were mailed and four of those to KENTUCKY CHAPTER MEMBERS.

The newspaper reprint was meant to inform out of town members of the other gathering of 50,000 in our city at the same time of our reunion. As of two weeks ago they are still expecting 50,000 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The reason blocks of rooms have not been blocked off is because this is not an organized convention such as ours, but individuals will book their own rooms on their own, if they are from out of town. The majority will be local people, but they still hope to attract people from the three surrounding states. I thought by mailing out the reprint it would allow the 83rd time to make any adjustments, if need be. It seems none will have to be made, so as Shakespeare said "It was much ado about nothing."

I very much resent the suggestion it was done to keep down the attendance of the reunion. Who in their right mind would believe that HOGWASH. Now even the program Chairman is saying quote, "This should have no bearing on what transpires with us." I am sure this was known all along. All who received the reprint are attending the reunion

continued ➤

NOT ONE IS STAYING HOME. I regret using the Thunderbolt to answer these charges. I don't think it was intended for all this bitterness that has gone on. Even an old soldier like me has the right to defend his good name. I will not let anyone, no matter who, bring shame to it. I love the 83rd and have worked hard when I had my health to make it a success. Our Owensboro reunion had the largest attendance ever and everyone says it was of the best. All of you told me how you enjoyed our Kentucky Hospitality. Kentucky Chapter still has a lot of good members who had no part in this fiasco.

I hope this article clears up a lot of misconception and false accusations. Get on with the business of the 83rd. My many friends do not believe the rumors, but if they do, that is their problem. Best of luck to the 43rd annual reunion.

There will be a luncheon at my home in Verona, Kentucky on Friday, August 18, 1989, after the business meeting. The time of the luncheon is 1 p.m., and I am sure Rags and Ginny Ragnow can show you the way to Verona. This luncheon will be for my buddies in the 783rd Ordinance Company. Mildred and I will be happy to see you all again.

Arthur Doggett
783rd Ordinance

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

The Florida Chapter started the New Year with our January Meeting in Ocala, Florida at the Silver Lake Lodge which we have visited several times in a very nice location. It was hosted by Frank and Ruth Brown.

For the early arrivals on Friday, we enjoyed a nice get together in our hospitality room, getting acquainted with new members and their wives and friends. It sure is nice to have a hospitality room, in that way everyone is together having a good time. The bar is always busy and the snacking is delicious, our compliments to the host and hostess.

Later in the evening we all went out to dinner at Ryans Steak House, quite a gathering, there were about 45 of us. We were happy to welcome three new members and their wives from the New England Chapter to our gathering. They were here in Florida, enjoying the sunshine. They were Karl and Ingrid Burkhard, Harry and Iris Benedetti, Mike and Marie Champey. Hope to see you again in Florida. We enjoyed having you join us and look forward to seeing you again, as you are more than welcome.

There are four new members who we have added to our Chapter, they are, Larry Leonardi, A-331, Sam Castelli, Serv. 329th, Harry Benedetti, H-330 and Ivan Bisbee, C-330. Good to have you with us, wives included.

We had a note from Bill Drugash who had a bypass on Jan. 6th and says he is fairly well, we wish him a speedy recovery. Gene Mason, Co. B. 331 suffered a heart attack, get well quick. Col. Granville, Sharpe who was ill and couldn't attend our last meeting is happy to report he is well now and will host our April meeting in Orlando on April 28 and 29th. For those who were unable to come to Ocala, we missed you and are looking forward to seeing you in Orlando. Stay healthy.

Our next meeting after the Cincinnati, Ohio, Reunion is being planned to be held in DeLand Florida in November at the Hilton Hotel. Plans are still in the offing. More details will be given in the next Thunderbolt. This is about it for now. We would like to have you Snowbirds join us in November. Please remember us then.

Bill Herhuth
324th Hdq. Btry. F.A.

This article was missed in the last issue. I'm very sorry about that Florida Chapter. I'll try my very best to see that it doesn't happen again.

Bob



Left to Right: Lloyd & Verleen Luthmeier, V.B. & Mildred Atchison, Bill & Lois Meyerhoeffer. — See related story on page 19



L to R: Dana Sharp, Alma Herhuth, Elizabeth Marshall, Gerri Gunderson, Yvonne Lizotte. Florida Sunshine Girls White Elefant Sale.



Florida Chapter: Helen Mary, Fred Paiva, Ralph & Gerri Gunderson, Charles Henry, Dana - Frank Sharp.



Florida Chapter, Left to Right: Arline Nickell, Bill Nickell, Fran Myerson, Larry Myerson, Col. Granville Sharp, Frank Ruscitto.



Florida Chapter, Left to Right: Sargent of Arms Harry Shoemaker, John Clevenger.



L to R: Martha & Jim Bush, Larry & Sue Leonardi, Gene & Millie Mason. The Happy Group, Florida Chapter.



Florida Chapter: Host Col. Granville Shapr, Jim Burst, John Clevenger, Frank Sharp. The men have it!

FLORIDA CHAPTER

Our April meeting was held at the Quality Inn on April 28th and 29th in Longwood, Florida in a beautiful setting. It was hosted by Col. Granville Sharpe and Charles Henry. Their wives were unable to attend because of unforeseen circumstances, we surely missed them. Our congratulations to the two men for a job well done.

We were glad to see several members who have not been in attendance for some time and hope they keep coming in the future. There were 46 present at our dinner on Saturday which is a little smaller group than usual. Paul Buchman and his wife Berlye were on a trip to Israel. Mary and Dick Senger are looking forward to their European Tour with the 83rd.

At our dinner, an American Flag was presented to the Florida Chapter by Harry Shoemaker, in memory of his wife Evelyn, who passed away in December. She will always be remembered. Thank You.

Our get well wishes go to Parker Black and Bill Drugash. We miss you and hope to see you soon.

The next meeting will be at the Hilton Hotel in Deland, Fla. on Nov. 10th and 11th. For those of you who are interested in attending our gathering while in Florida, contact me at 813-294-7175 and I will send you the information. It's a beautiful hotel and I know you will enjoy it. Hope to see you then. Till the next time. Keep Healthy!

Bill Herhuth
Hdq. Btry. 324 F.A. Bn.

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



Bob Derickson
3749 Stahleheber Road
Hamilton, Ohio
45013-9102

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

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER NEWS

On May 20th our Chapter members were the guests of Helen and Ernest (Dutchy) Smith of Harwichport on the Cape. Their son, Jimmy and his wife were so kind as to offer us the use of his home. It is a beautiful house in a lovely spot with a view of the ocean. Mary and I were unable to attend as Mary's mother passed away that weekend in Owensboro, Kentucky, but I understand that everyone had a marvelous time and all feel that the Smith's deserve a standing ovation for this well planned and outstanding weekend. Those attending were, Jim and Dot Brennan of Worwich, R.I., Ingrid and Karl Burkhard of Carmel, N.Y., Mike and Marie Champey of Middletown, Ct., John and Ester Ferreira, Mary and Manny of Chelmsford, Joe and Helen Petrucchi of North Providence, R.I., Bill (Spike) and Gloria McCartin of Lowell, Mass., Bill and Jeannette McKee of Three Rivers, Mass., and last but not least Mike and Mina Petitti from Florida (What a nice surprise.) Thanks again Helen and Dutchy for showing us a fine time.

We also have some population news. Jim and Dot Brennan are going to be fifth time grandparents. Their daughter Chris and husband Dean expect their heir in January. I think Jim and Dot are becoming overwhelmed with all these grandchildren. Good Luck, Chris and Dean. Just received word from Bill and Betty Davis of Newburyport, Mass., that they have become great-grandparents again for the second time, Rachel Ann. Good luck Bill and Betty.

A few weeks ago we received the unpleasant news that one of our members, Burt Simons of Hamden, Connecticut, "I" 329th had a quad triple bypass. We understand he is home now and making progress. We are hoping that he will be able to be with us in Cincinnati.

Again, sorry the Francullo's could not make the May get together. We had a rush call to Owensboro, Kentucky that Mary's mother was very sick. We got there in time to see her as she passed away on May 20th at the age of 85. She left four (4) sons, six (6) daughters. There were thirty seven (37) grand children, forty-five (45) great grand children and two (2) great great grandchildren.

Condolences go out to Mary and Nick Francullo and the Estes family. Mary is the oldest of the ten children and I would like to send out a great thank you to Wallace and Frances Roberts of Owensboro, "E" 329th. They read the local obituary and saw Mary Francullo of Lynn, Mass., and they knew we were 83rd members and came to pay their respects to us. Boy, it was great to see them. This is what you call togetherness of the 83rd. Thanks again Wally and Frances. You made our day bright. Well, that is it for now.

Your buddy,
Nick Francullo
3rd BN. HQ. 330

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

June 9, 1989

Since I last wrote the activities of the chapter have been non-stop. Along with the regular meeting held every third Friday at the V.F.W. Post in Garfield, a number of chapter journeyed to the Dixie Chapter Meeting in Williamsburg. Included in the group were Irene & Ted Guzek, Fred & Alice Rein, Mike & Liz Skovran, Emil Wehling, Bucky Polcari, Fran & I. Also we had the pleasure of having with us Bill & Gloria McCartin of Lowell, Mass. On the way to Williamsburg the McCartins stayed in Fords for the evening and then followed us to Williamsburg the next day. It was great having them at our home and to celebrate the occasion we invited Fred & Addie and Joe DePeri to join us

at a local restaurant for dinner.

As usual it was great being with the Dixie Chapter again. We express our thanks to John & Virginia Cox for their wonderful southern hospitality. We also would like to acknowledge all the other members of the Dixie Chapter especially to their President Ellsworth Massie and the very able Secretary-Treasurer Haran Martin. Thanks again you - all!!!!!!

Note: to President Massie: The Swabbie from Jersey had such a great time that he plans to attend in '90. Maybe he can arrange for a tour of the Naval Base for a tour of the BOATS!!! For the uninformed the sailors hate to have their ships referred to as boats, but it gets such a great reaction from Bucky that we enjoy kidding him.

It was just a couple of weeks later that we again journeyed to the Pines Hotel for the Boston Chapter Mini-Reunion. As always, the Pines staff of Bernie Cove, Bruce Siegal and our waitress Diane and the bus-girl Carmen made our stay a very enjoyable one. The people attending from the Jersey Chapter were Fred & Addie, Joe & Dot Skurka, Mike and Liz. Emil, Manny Epstein, Fran & I and joining us were Ray & Marge Voracek from Cleveland. Our thanks to Pat and Ginnie and the rest of the Boston Chapter for being such gracious hosts.

If you want to win at the track, get in touch with Mike Caprio and Larry Arrigo. They have a system that's a winner everytime. Next year we plan to sit beside them at Monticello Racetrack and follow their every move.

We missed having the Guzeks with us at the Pines. They were babysitting for their daughter at that time. Irene lost her father recently and we of the chapter extend our deepest sympathy to Irene and her family.

We missed seeing Al Rinaldi in Williamsburg by a few hours. We were on our way to Virginia and Al was on his way to New Jersey for a speaking engagement. Hope you can make the reunion. If so, we're looking forward to seeing you then.

June 6th when some of you were in Normandy celebrating the anniversary of D-Day, Fran and I were guests of Fred and Addie for the D-Day ceremonies at Fort Dix. Their son-on-law and daughter are members of the British Officers Club and they were involved in the ceremonies. It was the first time I had been back to Fort Dix since 1945. The program started at the Chapel of The Four Chaplains. It was a very moving memorial service. It started with the Call to Worship by the Pipers, Introit-"Battle Hymn of the Republic" by the 19th Army Band, then Post of the Colors and Processional of Invasion Units, followed by the National Anthems of the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada. The services continued to the singing of the song America the Beautiful by those attending and then the Wreath Laying Ceremony. Anthony Watkins, Fred and Addie's son-in-law was one of the two British Officers who laid the wreath for the United Kingdom. Upon conclusion of the services we then went to the NCO Club for lunch, then later we were guests at Air Force Colonel Cristi's home at McGuire Air Force Base for a cocktail party. Fran and I want to thank Fred and Addie and Tony and Pat for letting us share that day with them.

I believe the ceremony is held every year, but the site is changed. If you have the opportunity to attend in the future, I would recommend going and don't forget to wear your Bolo-tie and other articles identifying you as a member of the 83rd. We were the back-up force for the invasion and considered as such part of the invasion.

So now it's off to Cincinnati to celebrate our own reunion. The New Jersey Members will attend en masse to join with fellow 83rdrs for the celebration.

God bless you all and keep you well.

Stan Bielen
1st Bn. Hdgs.
331 Inf.

BOSTON CHAPTER REPORT

Everything has been going well, having regular meetings monthly.

The April meeting was at Pat & Gin DiGiammerino home. I must say a good time was had by all. I had to jog for a week to take the weight off from overeating. For my friends in Sanger, Texas that is not clogging it's jogging. Ha! Ha!

A great turnout was had at the Pines Hotel the first week of May. There were groups from Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Vermont, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island and they all signed up to come next May. The food was exceptional as usual, and plenty of it: in fact the people kept telling the waiters "that's enough."

Many attended the harness racing at Monticello. Some won. The 8th race was won by #1, who was driven by John Marshall, who is the son of Manuel Marshall, a Boston Chapter member. Mike Caprio was picking winners for Larry Arrigo and Chet Morley. Believe it or not, they hit the Quinella and Perfecta in this race.

We celebrated New Years Eve in the springtime. They gave out hats, noisemakers, balloons, etc. To top it all off a champagne toast. The Pines also gave two cocktail parties, one on arrival and one the night before leaving. The Pines Hotel management really goes all out for the 83rd and friends. As usual the evening entertainment was exceptional. Some of us met some of our New York members for the first time, including Dom Varone and his wife, who were so impressed that they can't wait to go back again. When you meet Dom, ask him about foot, foot, foot, and foot, foot, foot.

Joe Lavinsky celebrated his birthday there. What are you now Joe - Thirty-nine and holding like the rest of us?

The June meeting will be at Amby Tynan's house. I will have them all starting diets for the reunion.

The July Meeting will be at Chet Morley's house in New Hampshire with a live show from his deck. Chet has some young ladies for the entertainment, last time it was excellent.

Hope to see you at the reunion in August.

Amby Tynan
Boston Chapter Reporter



Bernie Cove & friends from the Boston Chapter.

See page 11 for more Boston Chapter Photos



Lou Sandini and Ruth & Joe Lavinsky celebrating Joe's Birthday. Boston Chapter



The Houston' from Maine. Boston Chapter



Some of the Boston Chapter Members

BOSTON CHAPTER PHOTOS



Mr. & Mrs. Stan Beilen and Mr. & Mrs. Rein from New Jersey



Mr. & Mrs. Mike Skovran, Mr. & Mrs. Ray Vorachek from Ohio



Mike Caprio and part of his Rhode Island Group.



Chet Morley - N.H., Mike Amicone, Ginny DiGiammerino & Dom Varrone - N.Y.



Mike Malik and part of his group from Conn.

CLEVELAND CHAPTER REPORT

This report is being written on D-DAY + 45 years. It sure doesn't seem that long ago. All of the Chapters wanderers have returned home after weeks of vacations. The Coladangelo's returned from Florida, the Meczka's from California, the Kugiewicz's from Mexico, the Jocek's and Kowalec's from Atwood Lake.

The Cleveland Chapter made another excellent showing on Memorial Day. The parade was held in Maple Heights, Ohio and was about two (2) miles long. I am proud to say nobody dropped out. We received many compliments from the bystanders on the way. It sure felt good to hear the applause while we marched by. After the march ended we heard some speeches dedicated to the fallen hero's. Ed Jocek gave a stirring speech on "What Is A Veteran"? Great speech Ed. After the speeches, the Chapter assembled at Czech Acres for our meeting get together. On behalf of the Chapter I would like to thank Donna and Tom Pudelski for the use of their home and grounds. They are wonderful host's. Donna is the daughter of Chet and Emily Czech. Mike Mizerock, head chef, cooked the Dogs and Burgers to perfection. All of the wives helped by bringing the salads and desserts. Was GREAT!

continued on next page ➤

While the men had their meeting the women had a hot card game. I don't know who won, but I saw a lot of smiles. Then after the meeting ended there were two poker games started and kept going until dark. I saw Ann M. Zerock taking I.O.U.'s from a lot of members. She must have made a killing. For the first time in the Chapter's thirty-six (36) year history, I'm sorry to say we ran out of beer. What a way to end a Happy Day.

Heard from the latrine.

The Szubski's are waiting for the stork to deliver their 2nd grandchild. Delores Jocek almost had a hole in one while on vacation. One more roll of the ball.

Al Uridel caught some big WALL-EYES. He has got picture to prove it. Now we believe him.

That the Kid William's daughter is an accomplished musician and is touring the States.

The Cleveland Chapter will have a C.P. in Cincinnati.

CONGRAT'S TO THE ABOVE.

Remember the (4) stages of senility

1. Forget Names
2. Forget Faces
3. Forget to Zip Up
4. Forget to Zip Down

See you all in Cincinnati. Keep a smile on your face.

Bob Uher "B" 329

PITTSBURGH CHAPTER REPORT

We had our meeting with the Executive Board on May 4, 5 and 6 at the "VISTA HOTEL" which will be our 44th Reunion site. I am pleased to report that not one word of complaint about the condition proposed was given. Usually when you get a group of people looking for fault they usually find some. It is nice to be working with such a fine group of people. We got the green light to go ahead which made us feel good, because there was a lot of effort so far put into this with every avenue carefully taken. We know it is all going to add up to a great reunion here in Pittsburgh area. Complaints about past reunions that we have heard, we will try hard to correct.

The list of members that attended were:

Executive Board

Ralph Gunderson	and Geri	Chairman
Ames Miller	and Helen	
Meadors Minick	and guest	
Jim Prentice		
Louis Nolan	and Kate	
Charley Schmidt		President
Manny Goodridge		Program Chairman
Bob Derickson	and Pearl	Secretary/Treasurer
John Raikos	and Mary	Judge Advocate

Pittsburgh Chapter

Ed Reuss	and Lee
Gene Costanzo	and Guest
Sal Scicolone	and Teresa
Joe Danylo	
Ed Walsh	and Dorothy
Jim McCulla	
Paul Dietrich	and Rita

One thing that had us deeply concerned was the fact that we had no one to take charge of our AD book. Sam Klippa who was originally scheduled to do this had to inform me that due to health problems he would rather decline. Sam really went thought the mill this past year due to his health. At our June 4th meeting I proposed the situation to Larry Leonardi and he accepted the job. We could not have found a better person for the job.

TAKE NOTE:

For any of you that may be interested the 87th Infantry is having their reunion at the same time at the other end of town at

the Hilton Hotel. They joined us in Normandy. There will be about 1000 attending their reunion. This will in noway interfere with us but in one way I guess it would be nice if we could get together and meet some of them. Gene Costanzo and his committee has finalized plans for our river cruise and dinner dance on the "Majestic" which is our new river boat. A deposit has been made for Thursday evening. This will be an event none of you will want to miss. The boat can accommodate 700 people. This will be an additional charge and not added to your registration fee. Details will be listed later. Gene is doing a wonderful job with his support and willingness. I am sure all of our events will be enjoyed. Will keep you informed as new things progress.

Ed Reuss

"I" & "HQ" 331st

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER NEWS

June, 1989

With Easter coming the last Sunday in March this year, we found ourselves thinking spring a little before nature was ready for us. For this reason, we decided on April (when nature was ready too), to get together for dinner on the last Sunday in April at Lou Volpi's restaurant -- at his invitation and as his guests. It was an excellent idea, as well as an excellent dinner prepared by Lou. His homemade chicken soup with fine noodles, as well as salad, and his chicken cutlets with ravioli, kept all of us quiet and busily engaged before relaxing for a while, and then sampling the delicacies the ladies brought for dessert. What a way to go!

After the limitations of winter, it was so good to see everyone. The most notable surprise was Norm Schuster who looks like a different person after his recent successful operation. He has lost unneeded weight and is now wearing clothes two sizes smaller. His whole appearance has changed so much for the better and his attitude is again positive, something a little hard to maintain at times when nothing seems to be working. Norm has started doing paintings again -- something that he has been interested in for some time. We saw a few of them which he bought to show us. They're good. Again I have to say, together he and Lorraine are certainly an unbeatable combination.

The traditional Memorial Day parade in Narberth was held again this year and it keeps getting longer and better. Surprisingly, there are as many parents as children participating as the community just keeps growing and expanding. While it used to be the children who were appealing with their decorated bikes and wagons, it's the parents we now notice (somehow looking younger and younger each year) who end up carrying the child in one arm and the wagon in the other, but staying in there to the end and really enjoying it. It is true that what goes around comes around, and these young people are becoming a visible part of a generation with a lot of promise and a lot of awareness. We're in good hands.

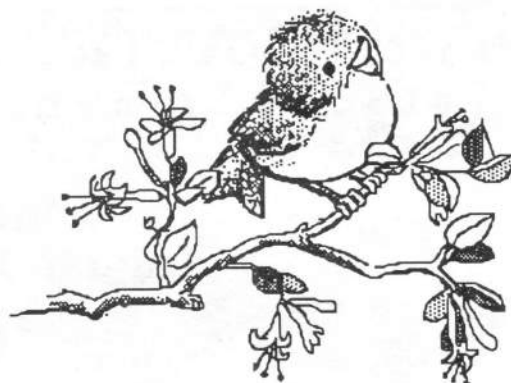
Now to get back to that other generation who also picked up the children. When marching time comes around each year, there's a lot of friendly humor and complaining about the parade route getting longer and longer. Actually, it is long, It's three-and-a-half miles long. This year there were nine men who marched: Al Belvedere, John Daum, Tony Harbon, Harry Kirby, Albert Otto, George Pletcher, Jim Prentice (who came down from New Hampshire), Harry Stevenson and Lou Volpi. The other members of the Chapter who attended our 83rd memorial service were John Miklos, Dave Rosenberg and Mike Russo.

Anne Belvedere and my wife walked from Lou's restaurant to the memorial park this year to see the 83rd arrive at the park. As they neared, they could hear the music in the distance coming from the opposite direction so they started walking faster as

continued on next page 15 ▶

Forest View Gardens

A Forest View Party Begins With You...



EARLY BIRDS, spend an evening at Zinzinnati's famous Bavarian style restaurant where it's always Oktoberfest. The acclaimed Forest View singing waitors, waitresses, instrumentalists present excerpts from Broadway Musicals and throughout the evening, your server will sing a song or aria just for you.

Complete the reservation form below if interested and mail to:

Wilson Day
5310 Ponderosa Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio, 45239.

Please Note:

This is your last chance to get your money and reservations in by July 26th. If after we fill the first seating and we do not have enough people for the second seating, we may have to return your money.

EARLY BIRD
 RESERVATION FORM

WEDNESDAY, August 16, 1989

COST \$25.00 per person

Name: _____
 Street: _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone _____
 Enclosed is payment of \$ _____
 For _____ persons

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 43rd ANNUAL REUNION

Cincinnati, Ohio
August 17, 18 & 19, 1989

Wednesday Aug. 16

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Registration
EARLY BIRD	Meal and Entertainment at FOREST VIEW GARDEN

Thursday, Aug. 17

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Registration
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.	Beer Party - Dancing

CONTACT MANNY GOODRIGE A.S.A.P. if you want tickets
for the CUBS - REDS GAME AT 7:35 p.m. AUG. 17

Friday, Aug. 18

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Registration
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon	Business Meeting
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon	Ladies Style Show
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Buffet
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.	Dancing

Saturday, Aug. 19

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon	Registration
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon	Business Meeting
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Parade & Memorial Service
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Catholic Mass
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Banquet Dinner
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.	Dancing

Sunday, Aug. 20
Have A Safe Trip Home

Philadelphia Chapter News Continued

there is a slight hill just before the parade comes into view. They arrived just in time to see the 83rd marching formation appearing at the top of the hill (they said it always reminds them of a John Wayne movie) and to hear two men who straightened up under the shade of a tree say in disbelief: "Those old-timer veterans can sure fool ya!" I guess you know -- they couldn't wait to tell us. All of this is to give you a bird's-eye view from that of the spectators.

Now, as we want to be fair, we are also giving equal time to the viewpoint of one who has marched on that parade route more than one time. Harry Kirby says it well in the following verse which he presented to Lou back at the luncheon held at the restaurant. This is for all of you who have experienced how much heavier the equipment can get as the last mile just never shortens.

*Another year we bring our ills
To march up Narbeth's hills.
It's a long, long way up to the top.
They never know just when to stop.*

*We march along another mile.
At all the cameras we must smile.
We never halt in cooling shade.
It's not too long before we fade.*

*Our minds must focus on the date
As guns and flags increase in weight.
All the speakers talk too long.
I would rather hear a song.*

*Next year when those marching bands
Narberth greets with clapping hands,
One more time the guns will blast
As Lou repeats -- "This one's the last!"
Harry Kirby*

We hope all has gone well with you this past winter. The days do dwindle down so that the oft used phrase, quality time, does take on new meaning. As Casey Kowalec reminded us recently with the "Desiderata" which he had submitted for publishing in the Fall Issue, 1988 of the Thunderbolt, we should "take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth." With these thoughts in mind (thank you, Casey, for the reminder), as of this date the Philadelphia Chapter has chartered a bus for members and their wives to attend the convention in Cincinnati. As the bus trips in the past have been so enjoyable and relaxing, we are looking forward to getting together with all of you one more time. Until then, do have an interesting and good summer.

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

Dear Bob,

June 7

These are some pictures taken from a spectator's point of view. I'm sending these to you to make any selection you wish.

Margaret Daum



These are the rifles preparing to take places across from the park.



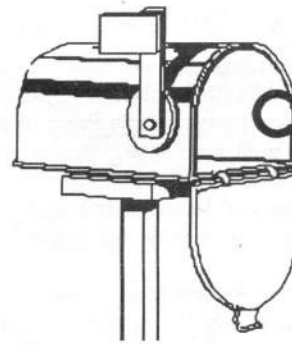
And these are the Girl Scouts wanting to know when the ceremonies were to begin.



These are the flag groups as they took their places where the main flag was to be raised. Harry Kirby is in the foreground - Harry Stevenson is next - Tony Harbon is next - and George Pletcher is the fourth.

Philadelphia Chapter

At Lou Volpi's "Rites of Spring" dinner held at his restaurant in April, the smiling faces are those of George Settle, Anne and Al Belvedere, Lucy and Lou Volpi, Martha and Bill Appleby, Elsie and Lester Hauck, Marie and Harry Stevenson, Jean and George Pletcher, Margaret and John Daum, Bea Chavanne, and Lorraine and Norm Schuster.



COMPANY NEWS

323rd REPORT

Walt Harding wrote me that Captain Bob Costello, Dick Brown and himself got together recently in Florida and had a wonderful time. It's nice to see these boys get together.

Ralph Morgan wrote me that he is looking forward to going to the reunion in Cincinnati, Ohio to check out the label on my bottle. Correction, only the contents are mine.

Willie Snodgrass wrote that he will be at the reunion along with Bill George, John Sabo and John Pollack.

Have not heard from Al Covi or Tom Houlette recently but have hopes of seeing them in August.

That is all for now.

Amby Tynan

783rd ORDINANCE

The question is did **Phil and Ann Barbara** bring Bob and Pearl Derickson back safely and in time to get the Thunderbolt out before the reunion? I'm just envious that we weren't able to take in that two week Normandy adventure. Phil will tell us all about the trip in Cinn. We'll give you ten minutes, before the whole Company, providing you don't start with a corny line like, "By the way Rags, I met your forty-five year old twin."

All the reports that I have point to another excellent turnout for the 783rd. One never knows about last minute sickness but right now it looks like we will have the best turnout since Owensboro, Ky. This has been the old team effort by which the Telephone Co. and the U.S. Postal Dept. have profited.

The Appleby's, Brown, Bryars, Downing, Doggett's, Labbe, Snook's and Wiggins (isn't it neat how I got those names in A, B, C order) have been on phone or writing to make this another great affair. Naturally all those fellows are coming plus Charlie and Pat Rohrer. Hendrix Weaver's. Frederick's, Jones, Hammond, Stubber, and the Hackstocks will be back with their nimble feet.

In talking to Mel Schlottman he was sitting on his Penna. Dutch fence, so I'm hoping he and Martha fell the right way. Last year George Harris said that was his last reunion but now his elder brother Ed is giving him second thoughts. I'm sorry to report Mettie Harris is still bed ridden so George spends almost every day at the Nursing Home.

On Sunday I had a nice conversation with Lloyd Grayson. He is still taking each day as it comes but he was a little saddened because of the fact he was not able to attend his granddaughters wedding the previous day. He sends his best wishes to each and everyone and he hopes we have the best reunion ever.

Had a delightful call last night from Easy and Lou Labbe. It always warms my heart to hear a Louisiana Walter Cronkite voice. They have had a tough spell of illness within the family but the sun is shining again, and they too, are looking for a nice Cinn. vacation.

There will be two extra added attractions for the 783rd at the reunion. On Friday Aug. 18, Millie and Art Doggett have issued

continued on next page ➤

an open house invitation to all of us for a 1 p.m. cookout. This will give all the fellows time to attend the Association morning meeting and the girls to decide what color slacks they will wear. Millie has also served notice to Mimi Wiggins, and anyone else, that she is going after the 1989 783rd Mrs. America title. I am looking for a Chaplain to be the judge. The Doggett's have a pool, out yonder in the back valley, so bring you suits to hot and humid Cincinnati.

Directions to Art's house are simple. Verona, Ky. is just about 24 miles from the hotel. You take I-75 into Ky., then at the fork you pick up the beginning of I-71, take that for five miles and get off at the Verona exit, cross back over I-71, traveling east for less than two miles to the only intersection in the twelve house town (house not horse, Phil) make a right, then a couple of bends, and at the bottom of a little hill, on the right. Art will have the dancing girls on the front lawn. A complete, drawn map will be issued at the reunion.

The second extra will be a 783rd golf get together. Paul Bryars has picked a course for us. Paul will attest to the fact, all these outings have problems because of time, weather and distance. As of now, the plans call for an 8:30 tee off, on Thursday morning. Its just so hard to get everything in, so lets hope every golfer is arriving Wednesday. Paul said, "I'm still having some trouble with the floaters in my eyes. Sometimes I follow two different floaters instead of the ball. However, it has also raised my enjoyment of watching Dolly Parton," Honest, he said all of that!

Ed Perko is the only true regular attendee of the reunions who will not be coming. His brother is having a big family affair for his 50th Wedding Anniversary and families should come first. He also reports his last handsome son is married so he's now keeping house alone.

We finally got the story on Snooks cancellation of last years reunion. His Mother unfortunately took a turn for the worse and Snooks had to make the arrangements to place her in a Nursing home. He has just bought himself a big new trailer and he'll be coming to his first reunion in 45 years.

Carl Frederick says he is having no trouble with his retirement. He is enjoying counting his and our money. That's another hint to send him a five dollar bill for the 783rds page in the 83rds ad book. Alyce took Carl (she's the working one) to Florida and they had a nice visit with Al and Ruth Bensimon.

Al and Ruth are having a busy summer both at the shore and Maine so we won't see their Smiling faces this August in Cinn. And, Phil Reese got his moving men to break his toe, but they didn't charge extra.

Just finished a conversation with Aubrey Wilcox and he sounded real spiffy. He is still taking chemo for his leukemia so he has his ups and downs of energy. If at all possible he's going to take the train to Cinn. Lets hope Aubrey's energy is high in late August.

While I was in the mood I also called Earl Graham. He and Verdell are hanging in there but Earl is wondering who the wise guy was who wrote about the "Golden Years". They still have their camper but they don't get around to use it much anymore. Earl asked specifically about Grayson and Harris. When informed of their "Golden Age" problems he indicated he wasn't eager to trade.

To end on a good positive note, Joe Brown has fully recovered from his lung operation. He is playing racquet ball and is keenly awaiting the challenge of the reunion. That's it for now, see you in Cinn. shortly.

Hut, two,
Rags Rangrow

P.S. The Gilmans are just fine, picking walnuts out of Walnut Creek and taking them up to their Siera cabin to munch on. Did you ever notice his two front teeth?

To The Men Of The 331ST INFANTRY REGIMENT:

In March of 1988, the Army lost one of its great leader-LTG Robert H. York. The men of the 331st Infantry will remember him as Colonel Robert H. York, who commanded our Regiment during World War II.

The men of the 331st Infantry were honored in having this outstanding officer as our Leader. He took over the Regiment when it was a defeated and demoralized outfit, when we felt that there was no way that we would come out of the War alive. However, due to his ability to recognize the problems and to come up with the correct solution, we not only survived, but we became one of the outstanding Regiments of World War II.

Walter Ashmore, who was on the Regimental Staff, has contacted a number of men that served with the Regiment, in order to set up some form of Memorial to Gen York.

As of now a Bronze Plaque will be placed at the Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, Ga. Also, we hope to set up some type of an Award to an Outstanding Student in Military instruction at West Point.

Any member of the 331st Infantry Regiment, or any other unit of the 83rd Division, who is interested in making a contribution to these Memorials can contact Walter Ashmore or Joseph Macaluso. More details will be given at the 83rd reunion in Cincinnati in August.

Looking forward to seeing you at the reunion.

Joe Macaluso
G Co 331st Infantry

Mr. Robert E. Derickson
3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013-9102

Dear Bob:

I enclose here with check in the amount of \$10.00 for my 1989-1990 dues.

There are several of us who served under the command of General York who are arranging memorials at both West Point and Fort Benning in his honor. A beautiful plaque has been approved for installation at Fort Benning. We are still working on a proper memorial for General York at West Point. These memorials will be given in honor of General York by the officers and men who served in the 331st Infantry Combat Team.

It is anticipated the total cost for both memorials will run approximately \$5,000.00. If there are any members who served in the 331st Infantry Combat Team would like to assist in financing these memorials if they will send a check to Walter G. Ashmore, Post Office Box 5026, Macon, Georgia 31208 they will be given proper credit.

You could mention this in the next issue of the Thunderbolt it would be appreciated.

I am looking forward to the reunion in Cincinnati in August.

Yours Truly,
Walter Ashmore

All Of Us Here
Wish Each And
Everyone Of You A
Save And Happy
4th Of July



908th FIELD ARTILLERY BN.

EDITORIAL:

I had not intended to send out another newsletter until after the reunion in August, since I had not received much response to the one that was sent out in December. However, I did receive some information from some of the old gang, so I will attempt another issue. The year has gone fast for many of us. My wife is slowly recovering, and last month she and I went to the University of Pittsburgh and pinned the gold bars on our son, John. He received a Regular Army commission in the Infantry and is now attending the Officers Basic Course at Fort Benning, Georgia. I hope to see many of you at the reunion in Cincinnati this Fall. Many thanks to JULES DESGAIN and WALT PICKETT, who contributed to help out on the cost of printing and postage for this edition.

Del Jurden

HISTORICAL NOTE:

The 908th opened its command post at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky, on 12 September 1943. It was good to get back to an encampment with PX's, dayrooms, mess halls, theaters, and weekend passes to Evansville, Indiana. The training at Breckinridge was intense, and we worked constantly with our Infantry Regiment in combined exercises for the six months we were there. Much of the training consisted of living in the field in adverse conditions throughout the Winter. Many of us, who were married, found ourselves getting up at 4:00 a.m. to get a bus to take us to bivouac areas where we had set up pup tents. Emphasis was on POM (preparation for overseas movement), and we spent many hours on the rifle ranges getting qualified with small arms. There were lots of night problems and exercises that lasted days on end. Speculation ran high on our next assignment, and there were plenty of places where the Division could be deployed. The North African campaigns had ended, but 5th Army and 15th Army Group were slugging it out with the Germans in Italy. Also, on the other side of the world there were a host of names that became famous, such as the Solomon Islands, New Guinea, the Gilberts, Bougainville, Tarawa, New Britain, and the Marshalls. It was anyone's guess until in late March, 1944, we were ordered to move to Camp Shanks, New York, for deployment in the European Theater of Operations. I did not get any stories from members of the battalion about Breckinridge, so try to recall some of them and also about our move to Camp Shanks, to England, and our experiences before we landed on the Continent. **PLEASE SEND IN SOME STORIES ABOUT BRECKINRIDGE, CAMP SHANKS, THE SS GEORGE WASHINGTON, ASTON PARK, AND BRYNY PYS!** Send to Del Jurden, 4512 Sutton Court, Kansas City, KS 66106.

NEWS ITEMS:

The 43rd Annual Reunion of the 83rd will be held at the Clarion Hotel in Cincinnati, Ohio, from August 17-19 this year. We know that this will be an excellent reunion, because our own Manny Goodridge is the Program Chairman. Let's make this a great success! Some of us will be "Early Birds" and will partake of the fun at Forest View Gardens. John and Eleanor Clevenger said they have already got reservations, as has yours truly, Jules Desgain sent a picture of some of the military equipment he has collected as a hobby--of course, it is all marked properly with "B 908 F A BN." One account in this newsletter was sent in by a vet who was not a member of the 908th-- R. T. Brooks was with the 3rd Battalion of the 329th Infantry. Thanks, Sergeant R.T.!

TENNESSEE AND KENTUCKY EPISODES:

From **Walt Pickett**: I guess I was about the only Texan in Service Battery, but I met and made friends from all over. One fellow from West Manayunk, PA, Stephen Kobylakiewicz, lost his false teeth in the Tennessee River when we were there on maneuvers. A bunch of us had gone to the Tennessee River to get

rid of the dust and have a good time. We were neck deep in water and suddenly Kobylakiewicz yelled out "Oh, my God, I lost my teeth." Well the current and rocks on the bottom prevented us from finding his teeth--we dove and dove trying to find them. He was a long time getting new ones. . . . we learned all over again how to take a bath out of a helmet when we couldn't find a river or stream to bathe in. . . . we went into Nashville in wrinkled khaki shirts and pants with dust still behind our ears. I never knew whether the Reds or Blues were winning any of the pitched battles. I sure found out the difference in a hurry when I reached Normandy. Also had a little trouble there, at first, couldn't tell if it was our shells going out or the Jerry's coming in!

From **Del Jurden**: One Saturday Russ Williams and I got a weekend pass and decided to go to the big city of Evansville (this was before I was married). We were a little late in getting a bus, but finally got one in the late afternoon and looked forward for some good food and drinks. As the bus stopped in Henderson, Kentucky, which was a normal stop, we noticed a big commotion at the Soaper Hotel, where there were several MP's trying to break up a heated argument between a soldier and a civilian. We got off the bus and saw that the soldier was Pfc. Royce Simmons. It happened that Royce had got off an earlier bus and fell asleep in the lobby of the hotel with a lighted cigarette in his hand. He had burned a place in one of the overstuffed chairs, and the proprietor was irate. We calmed him down, paid him some money, and got Royce on another bus headed for camp.

From **Sergeant R. T. Brooks**: We were with the Blue Army. Col. Hallett Edson wanted to explore the territory beyond Caney Fork of the Cumberland River. We (Col. Edson, Capt. Loser, Capt. Reid Crowder and Cpl. R. T. Brooks) found a suitable place to cross the stream. We removed our clothing to keep them dry and carried them over our heads across the stream. We donned our clothing and proceeded several miles into Red Army territory. Col. Edson was older in age than we were, but that man could maneuver the hills like a mountain goat. He possessed uncanny durability. As we were returning to our assembly point, we experienced a cloud burst and were soaked to the bone. Again we took our clothes off to cross Caney Fork. I never understood why we took our clothes off. We could not have gotten any wetter by leaving them on! Capt. George C. White, Sgt. Donald Greenfield and troops were waiting with rubber rafts to cross the stream.

The following was submitted by Russ Williams last year after the Camp Atterbury edition, so it is presented here: Generals Milburn and McMahon walked into Bn Hq on Thanksgiving Evening. I was typing on a training schedule. Sgt. Blessing had gone down to the furnace to put on coal. Sgt. Hatcher, a cadreman and Cpl. Schwab. . . were there. Schwab was CQ and reported to the generals. General Milburn wanted the Bn CO. and all duty officers right now, Schwab went out flying for Bn Supply where gunnery school was being held. Blessing came in the door and then walked over to peek and see who had the light on in Col. Thompson's office. Bent a little to peer through the door, I never saw anyone straighten up so quickly and salute. . . In a minute doors flew open and officers dashed in puffing. . . I learned later that the two generals had dropped into HQ day room earlier. Everyone was a new recruit. Nobody noticed the generals. Milburn elbowed round and came to Paul Semancik. He pointed to the two stars and said "What is my rank?" Semancik said, and I believe it, "You must be a captain or something."



329th "B"

Nothing much to report on. Haven't heard from anyone but "YO" Trofimuk. Sent this picture of John Wojcieszak and his wife on their recent anniversary. The both of them have some health problems. John had a throat operation and his wife is recuperating from a stroke. His address is 1630 Oak Street, Chicago Heights, Illinois 60411. Please drop them a card. He was a machine gunner in the 4th Platoon.

Another short story on "B" Company when we landed on the Omaha Beach. Our company was supposed to go up in a column of two's instead of Indian file. An engineer stepped out of the tape to let us pass. He stepped on a bouncing betty and nearly wipe out "B" company. Lt. Phelps, Grant and Meeling were killed and 17 injured and never returned to the company. Four us got first aid and stayed with the outfit. Steve Sebens who later was killed remarked "They sure brought us to a dangerous area."

See you all in Cincinnati and bring a buddy with you.

Bob Uher
"B" 329th



John & Jean Wojcieszak
November 8, 1986



Dear Bob:

Enclosed is a picture of three couples from "F" 1st Squad, 1st Platoon--Lloyd and Verleen Lutkemeier, V.B. (Tex) and Mildred Atchison, and Bill and Lois Meyerhoeffer (photo on page 7). We met in Brandon, Missouri the 9th-12th of May, for a time of fun and enjoyment. We attended some Country Music Shows, had lots of good food and just enjoyed being together. Friday we all went to Eureka Springs, Arkansas and attended the "Passion Play". Others were supported to come but were unable to make it, George Thompson had to stay home to have a baseball field

named for him. We three couples will meet others from "F" Company in Cincinnati in August. We hope to see Roy and Jennette Robison, Bill and Arlene Nickells, Mr. and Mrs. Russell (Legs) Gassert, George Thompson, Ed Zerucha and Roy Clemens. We are still looking for former "F" Company members.

There was a baseball field named for George Thompson in Oakland, New Jersey. George is doing great work with the youth in his hometown. He has worked fifteen (15) years with youth in Oakland. He well deserves the honor. "Congratulations George Thompson".

V.B. (Tex) Atchison
212 Diane Drive
Sanger, Texas 72666
"F" 329th

Mr. Theodore R. Lowman, LTC USA Ret.
5012 Mosby Road
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23455
June 5, 1989

REF: Museum of the Liberation of Luxembourg

Mr. Robert Derickson
83rd Inf. Div. Association
3749 Stahlheber Rd.
Hamilton, OH 45013

Dear Mr. Derickson,

Best wishes to all of you who will be attending your reunion. As a veteran of WW II in Europe and the "Battle of the Bulge" in the 825th TB Bn, I always look forward to attending our reunions the next of which will be at Myrtle Beach, S.C., October 25-30, 1989.

As you meet and renew friendships, and recall events that first brought you together, I want to offer you an opportunity to participate in the founding of a museum in the southern part of Luxembourg which will be in remembrance of the Liberation of Luxembourg including "The Battle of the Bulge." I am sending a description of the museum to let you know where it is located, what it will contain, and other details.

In addition to the information provided in the inclosure, there are other possibilities for unit participation such as making space available for unit displays. Another idea is to have a space where the names of those who gave their lives will be inscribed by units. I will be grateful if you will send a list of those who gave their lives (KIA) in your unit to be included in the "Book of Remembrance." A list of those receiving Decorations will also be appreciated.

Please announce the opening of this museum when you meet at your next reunion. We will appreciate it if you will inform all those present that we are offering individuals an opportunity to support the museum by making a donation of \$10.00 for a LIFE Membership. If you publish a Newsletter, we will appreciate a short article about our museum for those who missed your reunion.

If you are willing to help in any way to support this museum, please let me know. If you, or your members, have suggestions, we will be glad to hear them for I feel like this should be a united effort for us who have survived to preserve the history and recognize the accomplishments and the sacrifices of our men, women, and units during the liberation of Luxembourg and the "Battle of the Bulge." The people over there still remember and appreciate us, and this is a way to keep the memories alive for future generations.

With sincere appreciation for your support,

Theodore E. Lowman
US Army Retired

MUSEUM OF THE LIBERATION OF LUXEMBOURG

A museum depicting the liberation of Luxembourg and the "Battle of the Bulge" will be opened at Soleuvre, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg as soon as construction and other arrangements can be completed. The museum will be situated on a five acre plot adjacent to the Luxembourg - Arlon - Brussels Autoroute. This is a key location since it will afford easy access to and from the autoroute as soon as the exit-entrance to this important highway is completed. The museum will be visible to passing motorists as well as those looking for it.

Mr. Guy Retter, who owns the property, has accumulated many US Army vehicles, communication equipment, weapons, and technical manuals as well as WW II uniforms, photos, and historical documents which will be displayed. A 1942 US Army Jeep, two Dodge Command Cars, an armored scout car, half-track, ambulances, amphibious vehicles (DKW) and several 2 1/2 Ton GMC trucks have been restored. A complete communication center hut and Corps Telephone Central in operational condition is already on display.

There are a number of concrete and masonry buildings on the site, including: an office, a photo-visual aids shop, an auto maintenance shop with tool kits and spare parts for all vehicles on hand, a warehouse, two vehicle storage buildings (one inclosed), and the main museum building which is about 60 feet wide and 180 feet long (about 1/2 completed). There is a second story over about one third of the building which is completed which will serve as a Snack Bar and rest area. One side of this second story is open with a view of the entrance and display area downstairs. A large picture window on the north end of the Snack Bar affords a view of another large display area which comprises the other two-thirds of the museum's ground floor.

The purpose of this museum is to depict the liberation of Luxembourg and the "Battle of the Bulge" in a highly visible and interesting manner to preserve for history the sacrifices and valor of the men, women, and units of the military services participating in those campaigns. This purpose will be accomplished by displays of vehicles, weapons, and equipment employed at that time, by films, documents, and publications that visitors may take with them. The stories of those campaigns and many unit and individual actions will unfold in an interesting, dramatic, and memorable fashion.

The owner has a strong desire and intention to honor as many of the units and heroes of those battles and actions as possible. This is to be accomplished by offering space to unit organizations inside the museum where displays depicting their high-lights can be set up. This will afford a unique means for unit organizations and veterans of those campaigns to have a direct input into the arrangement of displays. Outside the museum building there can be field installations such as outposts, camouflaged artillery positions, Command Posts and whatever it is desirable to set up with available space and materiel. On both sides of the entrance road to the main museum building monuments can be erected with Unit Insignia and distinctive plaques commemorating unit actions, or simply identifying units and places of employment.

There are other museums such as the fine museum at Bastogne, Belgium, and the Army of Luxembourg Museum at Diekirch, Luxembourg. But this museum is located in the southern part of Luxembourg where there are no such museums and this museum will not be in competition with them. It is also intended that this museum will be different and of a more technical nature in that some "cut-away" vehicle and equipment displays will be shown. The scope as described above is also unique.

There will be a small theater in the museum in which to show documentary action type films. As support and funds become available, hopefully by the 50th Anniversary of the liberation of Luxembourg, we will be able to offer a Convention Salon for the purpose of unit reunions on the site. The success of this project depends upon the outside help available. As you can see in the description of this museum as it is now, Mr. Guy Retter of Luxembourg, already has substantial investment in it.

Mr. Guy Retter met with the Minister of Defense of Luxembourg in December 1988 and received his sanction to proceed with the museum project. Now our support here in the United States to obtain the participation of the unit organizations concerned is needed. This provides a unique opportunity for American Veterans of the liberation and "Battle of the Bulge" to participate and to be recognized in the History of those campaigns in a most visible and long term way.

After the museum has opened and functioned for at least a year with receipts for admissions and sales of books, pictures, and souvenirs it should be self-sustaining. In order to open the museum before the anniversary of the Liberation of Luxembourg on September 19, 1990, Mr. Retter has asked me to initiate a publicity and fund raising effort in the United States, and to obtain as much support and participation in the project as possible. It is urgent that I determine at the outset how many of you are interested. I wish at the earliest possible date to organize a Museum Committee with representatives and a point of contact from each unit which participated in the liberation of Luxembourg and the "Battle of the Bulge." As soon as there is sufficient response, we will have a meeting to organize.

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

Anyone interested in this project please write to:

Mr. Theodore R. Lowman LTC US ARMY Retired.
5012 Mosby Road
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23455
Telephone: (804) 464-0829

ANYONE WHO WISHES TO INDIVIDUALLY SUPPORT THIS MUSEUM SHOULD CONSIDER BECOMING A "LIFE MEMBER." The contribution of a **one time** donation of \$10.00 will pay for a "LIFE MEMBERSHIP". A membership card will be issued. It will entitle the holder to free entry into the Museum anytime it is open. (First 200 to respond will be designated: CHARTER LIFE MEMBER.)

Application Form for Membership in:

MUSEUM OF THE LIBERATION OF LUXEMBOURG (SOLEUVRE)

SEND Dues to: Mr. T. R. Lowman, 5012 Mosby Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23455

LIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$10.00 (Check payable to: Liberation of LUX-Museum)

Name: _____

Birthdate: _____ Tel. _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Unit(s) To Which Assigned: _____

Wounded: _____ Date: _____

Captured: _____ Date: _____

List of Decorations: _____

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE

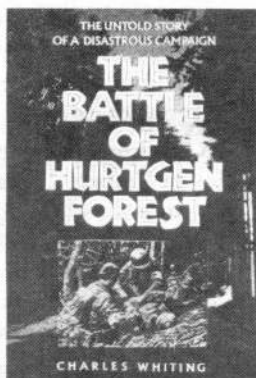
The Battle of Hurtgen Forest

The Untold Story of a
Disastrous Campaign

By Charles Whiting

The battle of Hurtgen Forest—September 1944 to February 1945—is a story never before fully told. A major forgotten battle.

Military History
20 black-and-white photographs;
6 x 9; 304 pages;
566753; \$22.95 hardcover



Thirty thousand American soldiers were killed or wounded in the longest battle ever fought by the U.S. Army, in a fifty-mile wooded area on the German-Belgian border called the **Hurtgenwald** or Hurtgen Forest. From September 1944 to February 1945, these men were sent to fight in what quickly became known as "the Green Hell" or "the Death Factory."

The battle, ill-conceived and clearly disastrous, was little-known outside of the theater of operations. High-level officers (right up to Eisenhower), actively sought to censor press coverage and to alter casualty reports. For the first time, the full story of this debacle has been retold by acclaimed military historian Charles Whiting. In hours of painstaking research and interviews with survivors from both sides of the conflict, Whiting describes, in graphic detail, the full dimensions of the nightmare in the forest. One horrifying statistic among many: most rifle companies who fought in the "Green Hell" suffered

50% casualties.

For months, the P.B.I., or Poor Bloody Infantry, fought and lived in inhuman conditions in the dense, dark forest. Cases of trench foot, combat fatigue, self-inflicted wounds and desertion, were rife. Shrapnel bursting down through the trees cut men to ribbons, German snipers picked soldiers off with ease, mines of all kinds were planted, and the bodies of the German dead were booby-trapped.

The ostensible reason for the assault on Hurtgen Forest, at least initially, was to protect the right flank of "Lightning" Joe Collin's VII U.S. Corps into the Reich. But, according to Whiting: "Even then it was totally unnecessary. The Forest could have been sealed off using the superior armor and air power at the disposal of the Top Brass. The Germans defending it would have posed no real threat to the American assault."

Much later the Top Brass claimed that the primary reason for the campaign was to capture strategically important dams on the Roer River, but this was not the case and was simply an attempt to save face and to rationalize the thousands of lives lost.

Whiting draws clear parallels between the almost unconscionable waste of lives in the Hurtgen campaign and of those lost in Vietnam: "So once again the sons of those men who had fought and died in the Hurtgen paid the same bitter price their fathers had done -- in their own blood. A generation later the Top Brass had created another Death Factory. Let us hope it was the last.

Charles Whiting is an acclaimed author of military fiction and nonfiction, including **Patton** and **Bloody Aachen**. He is a veteran of the European campaigns and he lives in England and Germany.

2/27/89

Dear Bob:

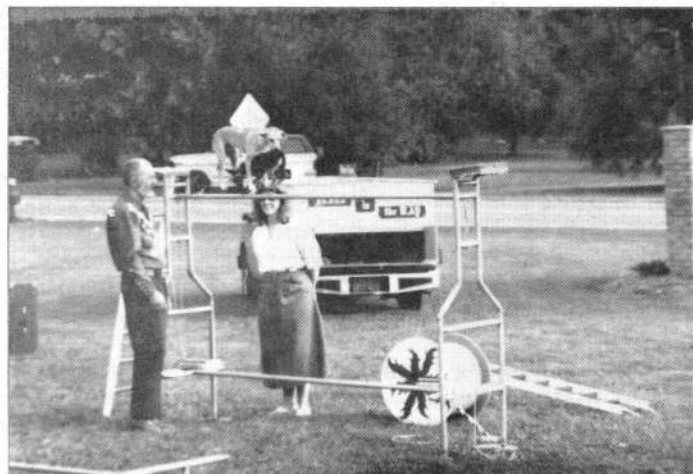
Hope this short letter finds you all in the best of health.

Enclosed is my dues and little over for where ever you decide it can be used.

I'm sorry I didn't make the reunion, but with seven it's hard to leave home with out them. In the summer I can get out with the dogs with my message against drugs to our young children and bring them the work of Christ our Savior.

I have enclosed pictures of what I do.

Your loving brother in Christ
Russell Whitehead
P.O. Box 326
Ringoes, NI 08551



G COMPANY 331st INFANTRY

June 20, 1989

I have delayed this article until I returned from my trip back to Europe, to help celebrate the 45th Anniversary of D-Day. Mort Gaynor and I, and my son Rick along with 40 other members of the 83rd and their wives enjoyed some 12 days of touring our old battlegrounds.

We paid a visit to Utah Beach, and then to the small towns of Sainteny and St. Hilarie in Normandy. We were wined and dined at each of these towns. The French people along the Normandy Coast still love the American and appreciate what we did for them over 40 years ago.

Then a trip to the Brittany Penseinsula and a visit to St. Malo and to St. Braic, where we presented the Mayor of St. Braic a picture of Gene Costanzo kissing the little girl.

We were joined in Normandy by other members of the 83rd - Gene Costanzo, Joe Dangelo, Jules Desgain, George Naylor, Bob Parsons.

In Paris we had the honor of Drinking Wine with the Mayor of Paris. We had a ceremony at the Arc de Triumph, then to the Hotel DeVille. We took a train riade from Paris to Luxembourg City, and spent a few days visiting the City and some of the surrounding towns that we had liberated, Wellinstein, Renich, Grevenmacher. Once again we were wined and dined by the people of Grevenmacher.

By this time Mort and I had adjusted to drinking of Champagne, Wine and Calvados.

In Holland, I had the opportunity once again of meeting with the fellow from Sustern. He and his wife were able to join with our group and dined with us for two evenings.

We did drive into Germany one day and visit the Hurtgen Forest Area. When we went through the town of Gey, Mort did not recognize it. We did visit the Cross roads in Birgel, where Ralph Neppel won his Medal of Honor.

We had a chance to visit some of the American Cemeteries in France, Luxembourg and Holland. There were about eight of the G Company Men who are still buried in Foreign Soil, Dellow, Kuforich, Sizemore, Tourgee, Moce. It is a tribute to the people of those countries - for keeping those cemeteries in such a beautiful Memorial to the American that lost their lives in the War.

Now we are on to Cincinnati in August, I had responses from some 28 members on the the Ad and I am looking for a good turnout. We plan on having a G Company meeting on Wednesday, August 16 in the Clarion Hotel.

Singleton informs me that Jim Porter is in poor condition in Ohio Valley Medical Center, Wheeling, WV 26003, Room 315, I hope that you can find time to drop Jim a line and let him know that G Company is still pulling for him.

I can assure you that in trip to Europe, I thought on the many memories that we had in those Countries, and my only hoep is that never again will we have to fight a War and nobody will win.

See you in Cincinnati!

Capt Mac



**43rd Annual Reunion
Cincinnati, Ohio
August 17, 18 & 19, 1989**

Please Review, Complete and Return the following form to
"Program Chairman", Manny Goodridge
621 Oak Street, Ludlow, Kentucky 41016.

The Clarion Hotel and the Kentucky Chapter of the 83rd Infantry Division Association cordially invites each member to attend the 43rd Annual Reunion to be held on August 17th, 18th and 19th, 1989 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Hotel Rates will be \$55.00 Per Room - This includes all taxes and will accommodate one (1) to Four (4) persons per room. (This rate does not include costs for added required equipment such as cots, etc. nor does it include parking)

Parking will cost \$4.00 per vehicle per day.

Registration costs, per person, will be as follows:

Aug 17th	Aug 18th	Aug 19th	Total
\$5.00	\$21.00	\$24.00	\$50.00

The above figures are costed on a per day basis. This will allow you to select any combination of days desired. However, you will note that the cost per person for the entire three day period is \$50.00 or \$100.00 per couple. (Admittance to all events is by ticket only)

NOTE: The above registration costs do not include your yearly dues, they will be collected separately by the National Secretary Treasurer, Robert Derickson.

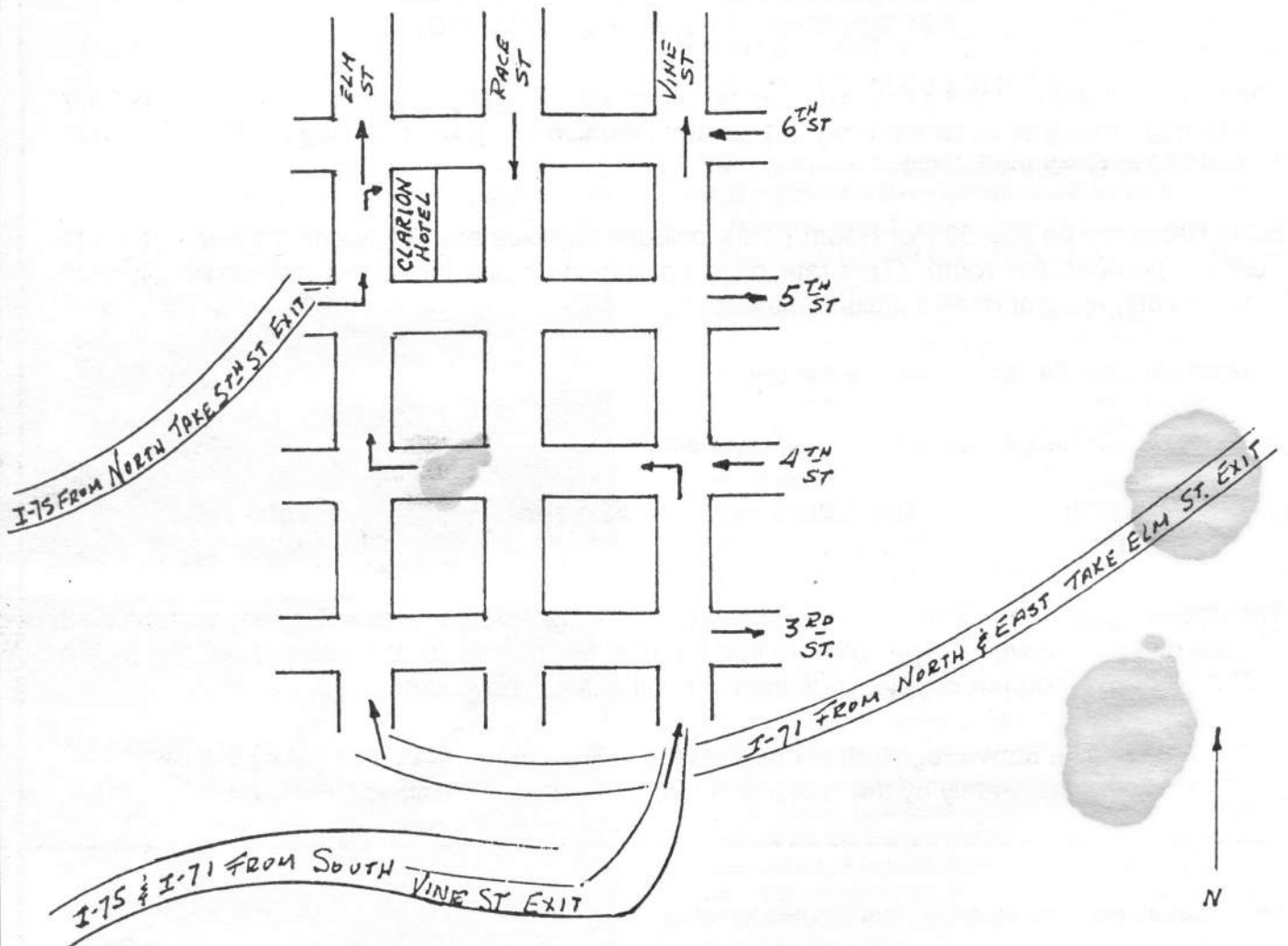
Please list all persons, by name, that will be attending:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____

What type of transportation will you be using? (Check One)

- Public _____
Private _____

Directions to the Clarion Hotel Cincinnati, Ohio



**83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
43rd ANNUAL REUNION
Cincinnati, Ohio
August 17, 18 & 19, 1989**

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

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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.**