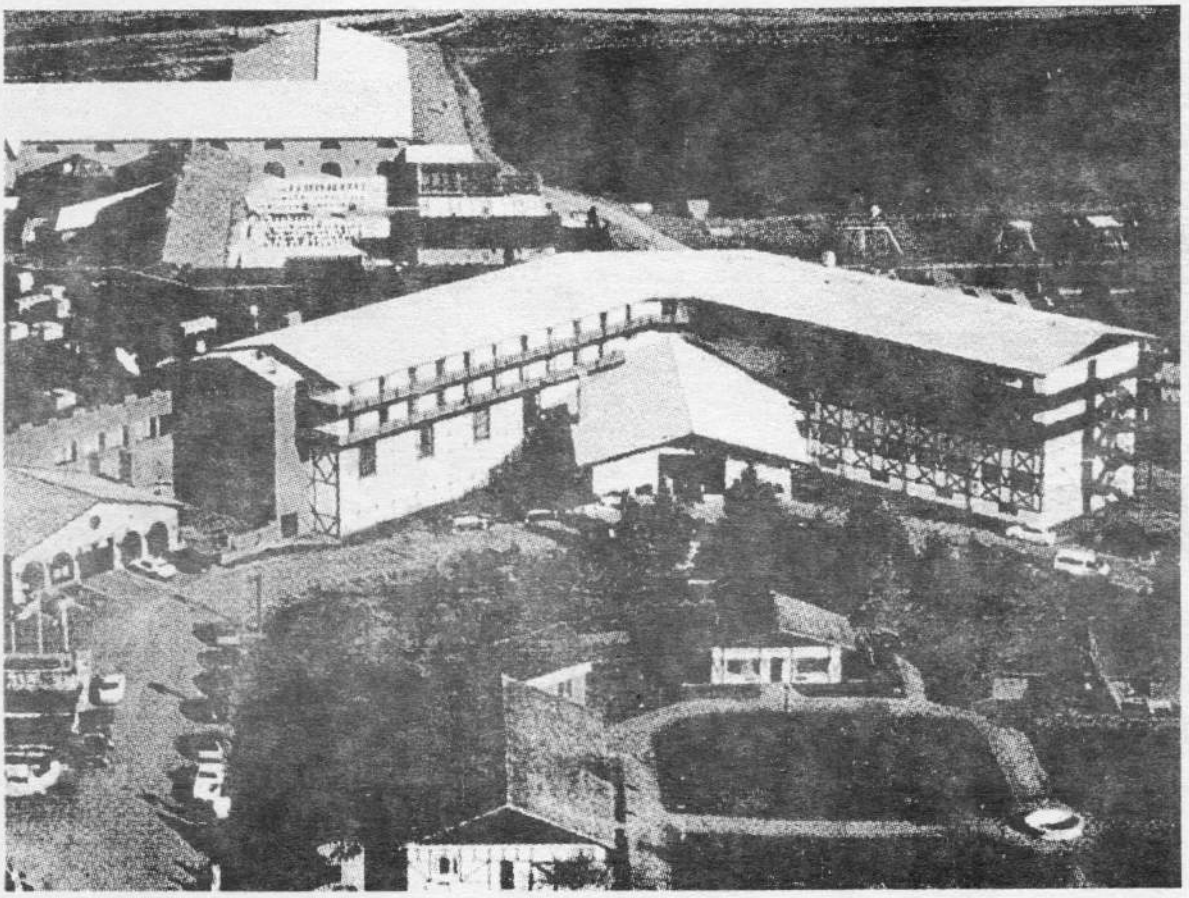
NORMANDY ARDENNES BRITTANY RHINELAND CENTRAL EUROPE

THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 55 Issue No. 1 **Winter Issue 1999**



Friar Tuck Inn Resort & Convention Center

54th Annual Reunion

Catskill Mountains, NY Sept. 6-7-8-9, 2000

THE THUNDERBOLT
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The THUNDERBOLT is written for all members of the 83rd Infantry Division World War II and is published at 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013-8907
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A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

*James C. Hanrahan..... 1947
Jack M. Straus..... 1948
*Shelly Hughes..... 1949
*Julius Ansel..... 1950
*Walter H. Edwards Jr..... 1951
Leo Schneider..... 1952
Finley Heyl..... 1953
* Lawrence J. Redmond..... 1954-55
*Lt. Gen. Robert H. York..... 1956
*Harry W. Lockwood..... 1957
*Raymond J. Voracek..... 1958
Charles Abdinoor..... 1959
*Joseph F. Minotti..... 1960
*Frank J. McGrogan..... 1961
John W. Robinette..... 1962
*Manuel C. Martin..... 1963
*Julius Boyles..... 1964
*Samuel Klippa..... 1965
*William M. Doty..... 1966
Albert A. Belvedere..... 1967
Vito C. Palazzolo..... 1968
Pat DiGiammerino..... 1969
Casey Szubski..... 1970
*Charles Altomari..... 1971
*Harold H. Dopp..... 1972
Louis J. Volpi..... 1973
Bernard O. Riddle..... 1974
Robert G. Taylor..... 1975
Mike Skovran..... 1976
Manlius Goodridge..... 1977
Joseph A. Macaluso..... 1978
*William J. Chavanne..... 1979
*Samuel Klippa..... 1980
Michael Caprio..... 1981
Ralph Gunderson..... 1982
*Arthur Doggett..... 1983
*Bernie Cove..... 1984
Carroll Brown..... 1985
John Hobbs..... 1986
George Pletcher..... 1987
*Charles Schmidt..... 1988
Edward Reuss..... 1989
Charles J. Lussier..... 1990
Edgar H. Haynes..... 1991
Ned Smith..... 1992
Louis Sandini..... 1993
William A. Minick..... 1994
Casey Szubski..... 1995
Floyd Richmond..... 1996
Keith Davidson..... 1997
R.C. Hamilton..... 1998
Pat DiGammerino..... 1999

* Denotes Deceased

NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE
Please Read Carefully

IT IS IMPORTANT TO FILL OUT THE 2000 PRE-REGISTRATION FORM AND SEND YOUR DEPOSIT CHECK OR MONEY ORDER OR CREDIT CARD NUMBER TO THE FRIAR TUCK INN. BY DOING THIS YOU WILL PICK UP ALL INFORMATION NEEDED WHEN YOU CHECK IN. BRING YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD FOR VERIFICATION IF NEEDED.

WE WILL HAVE A ON SITE COLLECTION TABLE FOR 2001 DUES, BUT I WOULD LIKE FOR YOU TO SEND 2001 DUES TO THE OFFICE BY JULY 31, 2000. IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL.

REMOVE YOUR PRE-REGISTRATION AND SEND IT IN NOW BEFORE YOU FORGET IT TO FRIAR TUCK INN RESORT.

YOU MAY CANCEL YOUR PRE-REGISTRATION IF NEEDED.

54nd ANNUAL REUNION
OF 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION
SEPT. 6 - 9, 2000

SEND ADS IN EARLY!

PLEASE Select size of Ad

FULL PAGE @	HALF PAGE @	THIRD PAGE @	QUARTER PAGE @
$60.00	$35.00	$24.00	$18.00

BOOSTER ADS are $5.00
Make check payable and send to:

83rd Infantry Division Assn. Reunion Fund
Wooldridge Press
74 Maple Street
Stoneham, MA 02180

URGENT - ACT NOW

Please mail your checks for the Ad Book as soon as possible. As you know, this money is needed to help pay for some expenses for our 54th reunion.

DEADLINE - AUGUST 1, 2000

PLEASE Type or Print Ad Clearly and State Size of Ad.

The President's Corner

Dear Friends,

Due to the sudden passing of our newly elected president, Albert King, I am once again elected National President for the year 2000 reunion. This will be held at the Friar Tuck Inn in the beautiful Catskill Mountains of New York.

In addition, a trip is planned for the Baseball Hall of Fame (which I understand is great), plus the area has many shops for the women to enjoy. There will be a shopping trip to Woodstock, also. All information will be in the Thunderbolt so you can make your reservations.

My Boston Chapter committee is working hand in hand with me for a successful reunion.

Also, please remember your ads, as they help a great deal toward the success of our reunion.

Sincerely,
Pat DiGiammerino

P.S. Happy Holidays to everyone.

Board Chairman

I want to thank the 83rd Division Association for electing me your Chairman and will due the best of my ability to serve you.

I hope you all had a safe trip home from Lexington Ky. We had a very good 53rd reunion, I wish you all my very best and hope you all have a great labor day weekend.

May you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday and Merry Xmas and Happy New Year.

I want to thank Sal Scicolone for doing a great job as the last Chairman of the 83rd Division Association and organization.

My sincere thanks and hoping to serve you well.

Board Chairman
August Farias, (Mousie)

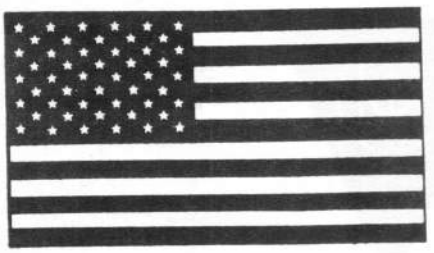
Past Board Chairman

The 53rd reunion of the 83rd Inf. Division was another great reunion. President R.C. Hamilton and his committee working with reunion planner Mitch Kirchner did an excellent job. I hope all who attended the reunion had a good time.

Being on the Executive Board and Board Chairman was a terrific learning experience. It was a great honor for me to serve on the executive board and working with a fine group of board members. I would like to thank everyone for the beautiful plaque presented to me. My congratulations and good luck to the new Board Chairman August Farias and new Board member John Prinzi. Let us all start to make plans to attend the reunion next year at the Friar Tuck Hotel. Looking forward to seeing everyone next year at our 54th reunion.

Past Board Chairman,
Sal Scicolone

Board ladies at Shopping Center



OLD GLORY

Deceased List

Our sympathy goes out to all the families of these veterans. We will miss all of them.

Name	Unit	Reported By
Arrigo, John A.	331st. Rec.	Pat DiGiammerino
Beavers, Robert Dale	"C" 329th	Charles Stahlhut
Blasko, Steve	783rd ORD	Wife
Boucher, Warren	"A" 908th	E. Massie & Charles Stine
Braverman, Arthur	Div. HQ.	Pat DiGiammerino
Dean, Raymond	A.T. 331st	Wife
Faubert, Frank M.	"G" Co. 331st	Pat DiGiammerino
Ferguson, William G.	"F" 329th	Robert Whitcomb
Gassert, Russell L.	"F" 329th	Daughter, Carol Brown
Hambrock, Howard O.	1st BNHQ 331st	E. Hambrock, Sister
Heinmiller, Curtis D.	"B" Bat. 322FA	Pat DiGiammerino
King, Albert G.	HQ, 330th	Pat DiGiammerino
Michaels, Harold	HQ 323rd	Pat DiGiammerino
Moderski, John W.	"G" Co. 330th	Pat DiGiammerino
Morris, Thomas L. Sr.	"D" 331st	Al Shrawder
Obryan, Ronald F.	"I" Co. 330th	Pat DiGammerino
Parravano, William	"G" 330th	Wife
Redden, James C.	"B" 308th ENG	Bill Davis
Spandau, Irwin B.	"G" Co. 329th	John DeSimone
Sublette, Vernon, Jr.	3rd Bn HQ 329th	Niece
Swank, LeRoy L.	"H" 330th	Wife
Swanson, Robert O.	"B" BTRY 322nd F.A.	Son, Richard Swanson
West, Clarence E.	"G" 330th	Mail returned
Wysong, Percy C.	"C" 324th FA BN	J.W. Nicholson
Wiselogle, Col. Chandler	1st & 2nd BN BN HQ 331st Inf	Joe Macaluso
Zahorsky, John	"D" 331st	Al Shrawder

A obituary correction from the 'Deceased List' of the last Thunderbolt. It was reported that- Stine, Charles B. had passed away reported by Warren Boucher. Should have read Warren Boucher passed away reported by Charles B. Stine.

From the Office.....

I first want to remind you about the Pre-Registration form which is a slip between the cover and the pages of this book. When you open your magazine if you should not find one please notify me by postcard or give me a call and one will be sent to you.

Second reminder we will be having an Ad Book again this year. This money is needed to help pay expenses for our 54th Reunion.

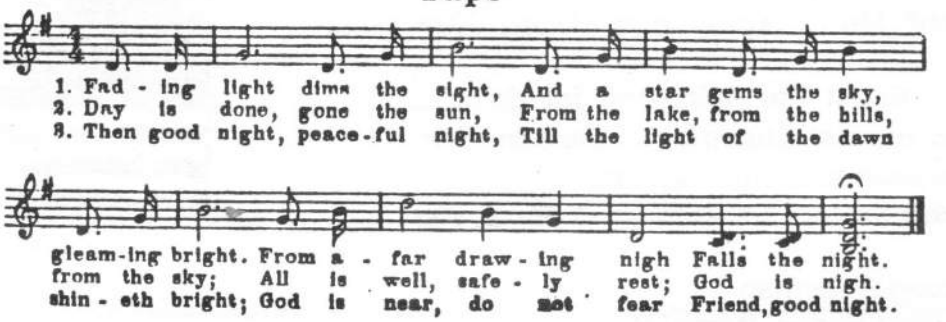
The Friar Tuck Inn Resort is a very good resort. It's handicapped accessible throughout the resort. Come and enjoy yourself with your buddies. I will end this message by saying thanks to all the members who attended our last reunion in Lexington, Ky.

Pearl and I wish you all a Happy Holiday season and New Year.

Bob Derickson
Secretary-Treasurer

For all that have not paid your 99 dues please do so right away. You can save us some postage by not having to send you a reminder. You can send your 2000 dues also.

Taps



Dear Bob:

It's hard to believe it has been nearly two years since I first spoke with you about the 1999 53rd Annual Reunion. Now it has come and gone and you'll soon be printing the information for 54th.

It has truly been a pleasure to work with you, and I thank you for giving me the opportunity. Oh, I know the board voted on it; but I also know you made a persuasive argument for bringing in a professional planner. Your knowledge and insight made my job easier. I trust I lived up to your expectations.

I wish you and Pearl the best as you prepare for her treatments. I know I don't need to tell you what a sweet lady she is. It was great to see her interact with the attendees she's known for so long. I could tell she was tickled with the recognition and plaque she received at the banquet.

I understand the planning for next year is being handled by a local chapter. However, if you need assistance of any kind, or want assistance for 2001 or beyond, please let me know. I'd be proud to help again.

Thanks again for your help, and thank you and your comrades for your service to our country.

Warmly,
Mitch Kirchner, CMP
President

"A" Co. - 331st L to R
James Burton, Larry Leonardi, Lou Nolan

HISTORIANS CORNER

Oct. 9, 1999

Mr. Robert Derickson,
Secretary/Treasurer
83rd Infantry Division Association
3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

Dear Bob:

On the advice of the organization's Judge Advocate, in order to avoid a potential conflict-of-interest situation in the future by holding two offices concurrently, I hereby tender my resignation from the office of "Historian" to take effect immediately.

I do this with mixed feelings. I believe I served the 83rd well during my term in that office. I was proud of that position and did all I could to fulfill the responsibilities of the office. I always felt privileged to be re-elected by the membership each year.

The culmination of my tenure was, of course, the designing and the complete orchestration of the 83rd's memorial dedication ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery on June 6th of this year. That, to me was the epitome of my service - my legacy, if you will. Anything I might have accomplished after that event would have been anti-climatic, in my opinion.

I look forward to serving the 83rd as a member of its Executive Board hoping to help perpetuate the division's magnificent accomplishments made more than a half-century ago, well into the NEXT century.

Remember, we were INDEED the very best.

B. John Prinzi
4433 Oakley Greene
Sarasota, FL 34239
Phone: 941-371-0844
Fax: 941-378-9186

MEMORIAL SECTION.....

June 6, 1999, once again they answered the call. They came by plane, train, bus and auto and yes some walked just like it was 55 years ago.

Finally the efforts of many faithful had paid off. A memorial to those men who served in the 83rd Division during World War II.

I was fortunate to be able to attend the ceremony along with many veterans and friends. Twas a day well spent. Every part of the ceremony left a lasting impression on each one present.

All on the program did all that could be expected of them plus more.

From the color guard, our Chaplain, Historian, the speakers (our very own) the singers, the wreath presentees, the bugler and each one present are to be highly commended. Each played a most important part in bringing it all together.

Many a tear was shed by those attending. This is good. We need this. Hopefully we will be drawn closer together as we journey through our lives because of our part in the events that brought us to this time in our lives. Always let us remember those who gave their all in service to their country and could not be there at this dedication.

E.S. Massie
Dixie Chapter Reporter

A Deafening Silence
By Sue Chuzi (Florida Chapter)

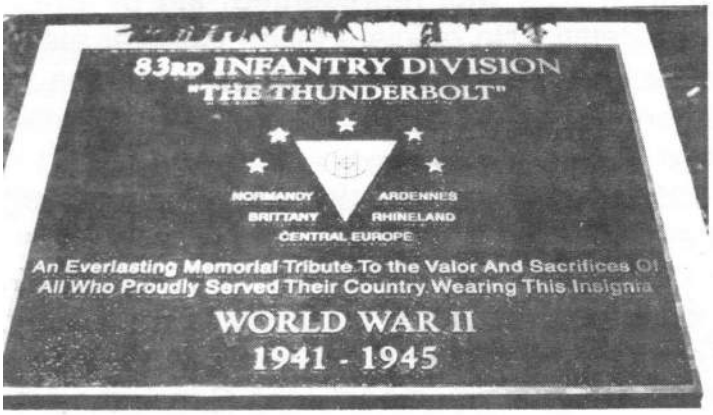
There is a deafening silence
All around your house.
It permeates every room
When you have lost your spouse.

To combat this horrendous 'noise'
You turn the TV on,
To drown out all your loneliness
Of knowing your spouse is gone.

When you come back at night
After an evening out,
The silence is a clap of thunder
With no lightening for a light.

His presence is all around
With pictures here and there,
You look at them and kiss them
And your lonely heart you bare.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 1999, 11:00 AM
at
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY
Arlington, Virginia



A PERMANENT GRANITE/BRONZE MEMORIAL TO HONOR FOR ALL TIME THE MEMORY OF ALL WHO SERVED IN THE 83RD DIVISION IN WW II WILL BE UNVEILED DURING A DEDICATION CEREMONY.

A MILITARY HONOR GUARD, COMPRISED OF MEMBERS OF THE ELITE U.S. ARMY MEMORIAL AFFAIRS UNIT FROM FT. MCNAIR WILL PRESIDE AT THE CEREMONY. IT WILL INCLUDE THE "PRESENTATION AND RETIREMENT OF THE COLORS", LAYING AN HONOR WREATH, AND THE SOUNDING OF TAPS BY THE UNIT'S BUGLER.

Dear Bob,

I attended the dedication of the monument at Arlington National Cemetery on Sunday, June 6, 1999. This was a memorial to honor all who served in the 83rd Infantry Division. The enclosed notice will give you more information.

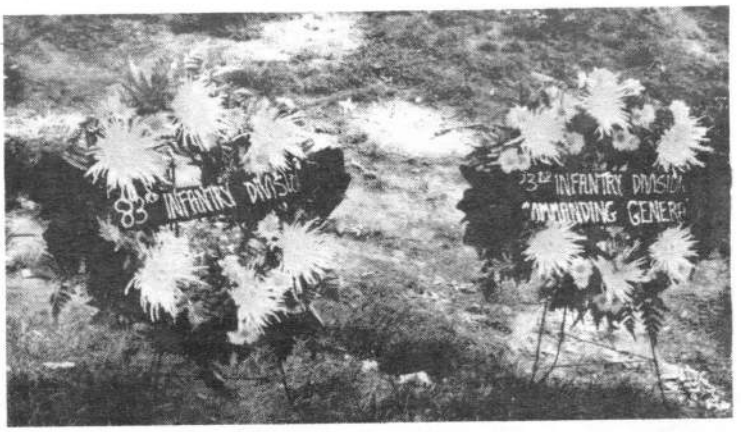
However I took pictures of the affair and am sending them to you as I am sure you want to publish them in our Thunderbolt.

Hope you can use these pictures.

Hope all is well with you and Pearl

Bernard Rosenberg
16 James Buchanan Dr.
Cranbury, NJ 08512

Gen. Macons grave with Bernard Rosenberg.



Two wreaths. One was placed on Gen. Macon grave, the other on the new 83rd Memorial Plaque.

Speakers at ceremony.

Members of the 83rd who attended.

Chapters

Michigan Chapter News.....

Congratulations to President Ralph Hamilton for giving us a great reunion in Lexington Ky. to those that weren't there, we missed you and if you were there, we enjoyed being together. We had four couples, from Michigan present namely, Robert Tailor and wife, Bruce Whinchell and wife, Charlie Mc'aullif and wife and of course Vito Palazzolo and wife. The hospitality room was always full and plenty to wet your taste buds was there for you to consume. All in all everything went well. We had about 400 for dinner on Saturday nite. The Memorial service was beautiful, Jim Burton had some help with the wife of our "Historian" John Prinzi, who sang together. Again Capt. Mac did a fine job conducting the Memorial service and his daughter, Monica did a great job with the tapes for music.

The Michigan chapter is gaining strength and we are all happy with our 3 meetings a year and those that go to Florida, during the winter Mo's will join us when they get back, we will be meeting the third Thursday in ---April---July---and Oct. These are our dates if you care to join us please contact me and I'll send you an invitation.

That's it for now
Vito Palazzolo, G 329th

Florida Chapter News.....

At the Reunion in Lexington, the Florida Chapter was well represented, led by President Pettiti. No official Florida Chapter meeting was held at the Reunion as it was felt no urgent business was requiring any action. Our next meeting will be on November 12, 13, 1999 at Lake Wales. Joe and Donna Camp are hosting.

Our meeting of April 23, 24, 1999 in Osprey, Florida was hosted by Al and Ruth Bensimon. This meeting was enjoyed by all and we were advised by our member, John Prinzi, the National Historian, concerning the installation of the monument for the 83rd in Arlington National Cemetery. This will be near the grave of General Robert Macon, our Division commander.

The Florida Chapter have approximately 70 paid up members and most attend at least one meeting during the year. Since Florida is a large state the meetings are moved around so that at least one is reasonably close to the members.

I remember greeting the following at the Reunion in Lexington: Al & Ruth Bensimon, Joe & Donna Camp, Manny Epstein, Harry & Barb Gravelyn, Walter & Esther Harding, Walter & Norma Koss, Larry Leonardi, Bill & Jeannette McKee, George & Carol Naylor, Mike & Nina Petitti, Al Shrawder, Joe & Ruth Stek, Bab & Gladys Taylor and Bruce and Jean Winchell.

The Florida 'Chapter Ladies Auxiliary headed by Gladys Taylor is active and they keep us on our toes with wonderful plans, ideas, sending cards. Contributing to the Veterans Hospitals - Sending get-well cards, and most of all caring for us. What would we do without them!!!

The election of officers for the year 2000 will be held at the November meeting. The slate of officers has not been announced as yet.

We hope to see Russel Antt, Roger Dennis, Arthur Haught, Scott Kost, Walter Marshall, John Miklos, Robert Radford, Frank Sharp, and Ned Smith in Lake Wales in November. Stay well til then.

Ralph Gunderson,
Corr. Reporter

Dixie Chapter News.....

Dixie Report Summer Meeting

Just got home in time to celebrate the holidays with my family at home having just celebrated with my service family in Winston Salem, N.C. Twas a great meet. Especially for me since last year I was unable to attend because of health problems.

Kathryn and I arrived to find things shaping up early. The Loukas were seemingly living at the hotel for about a week before and after the meet. Ms. Watkins (Elaine) busied herself making all comfortable and welcome. Ray Whitaker and June went all out for us. Flo Jackson helped us thru with all her little jokes from her country girl days.

The ladies shopped daily and really found bargains to brag about and brag they did!!

George Naglar brought a good report from Normandy having just returned from a 3 week trip. 40 + friends celebrated at our banquet, a grand affair catered by the Moravian Church arranged by our hostess Elaine Watkins. Twas worth the trip just to walk down the Hall of Memory and view the pictures on the wall of leaders in the church going back to 1832 or 167 years ago. Try to imagine what our great, great grandparents were doing way back then!!!

Business was conducted in orderly fashion. Our new slate of officers took office. John Cox, Pres., 1st VP, Marshall Keith, 2nd VP John Helms, Sec. Treas. Wm Minnick, Chap. F.M. Haney, Rep. E. Massie. A fine group deserves our full support. I'm looking forward to a great year. Even thou our numbers are fewer, our dedication is growing!!

Looking forward to seeing many in Dec., at Gatlinburg, March in Wmsburg., watch for the dates and plan to be with us to remember those who can't be with us and enjoy the fellowship of those who can!! I'm sure that the time will be well spent. See you there.

A good delegation plans to be at the National in August from the show of hands at our last meet.

A special treat this year was a visit to Mary and Felix Livingston who could not make our meet due to a conflict in scheduling. They were hosts of the Livingston family reunion and they are plentiful. They barbecued 980 lbs. of pork butchered the day before and cooked all night over wood fire and picked and seasoned and consumed. We were there in time for dessert. Of course all pitched in helping with the big event. Next year I'm trying for the whole affair.

Twas so good to be able to be there,

E. Massie

Table full of hungry "Early Birds"

Flo Jackson and Elaine Watkins

Ray Livingston, outgoing President and John Cox, Incoming President.

Marshall, Arthur and George

Dixie Report - Lexington Meet

At last I find time to collect my thoughts and reduce some of them to words to share with those able to attend our 53rd National meet of 83rd Div. Assn. and those wanting to be there but could not for what ever reason.

Tuesday finds me on site after a 600+ mile drive meeting "Early Birds" who appear to be living at the hotel as permanent residents.

Keeping busy, I record the first nineteen in this category. Then I'm overwhelmed by the members who come by all means. Buses, cars, boats, planes, trains and even campers and hitch hikers. Some really old timers and some for the very first time - all anxious to meet new and renew old aquaintances. Looking around I miss many I have looked forward to seeing but we move on the business at hand. Socializing is high on the list, sightseeing is right in line and just sharing time together is such a great experience. Everyone had a human interest story to share. Some fine lost comrades from years ago, some still search for buddies.

Dixie shows up in fine shape with 53+ members, widows and wives and friends. What a great group! I'm truly proud to be able to make such a report!

Many came a long ways at great expense to make my day. Thank you so much. We are especially proud of our widows making the effort to come and share with us in the joys and heart aches that make up each individual life experience.

It seems to me all things go well, refreshments, entertainment and business is handled in good fashion.

Especially enjoyable are the tours arranged for us. I find that I'll need to come back since I'm a slow looker and mover that I can't keep up with the crowd which always seems younger than me. I wonder how I got mixed up with all these young people.

Happy to be with those "A" 322 cannoneers again, Benbow, Sechest, Sihlenick, Zingg, Blandford also special to me are the "A" 908 delegation, Stine, Brick, Hudson.

Its so good to see these who we served with daily during the war years.

The dozens of comrades who were doing their duty at the same time unknown to us then. I have gotten to know, respect and love in these past 50+ years are truly a treasure to me!!! I hope to find many more in the years ahead and I believe will.

We look forward to next year already and make early plans to meet you there!!

Dixie meets the first weekend in December in Gatlinburg, Tenn. for the 26th year. In Williamsburg in March - come see us and celebrate with us. We have great hosts for these meets Flo Jackson, Carroll Brown, John and Virginia Cox. Let us see you there at one or both of these meets.

I'm missing so much seeing my friends from Warren, Ohio also Cleveland but enjoying so much the fellowship of those able to come! Keep it up!

Business is taken care of in order. The Memorial Service is touching and well attended. I believe this is the most important time of our meeting when we come together to publicly remember and pay respect to those who have given their all in combat or have passed to their reward in the past year. Let's never forget this!!

For all those wanting to be here but could not for what ever reason rest assured that we want you here and look forward to being with you again in the future. For all those who don't know about us and our group, were still searching for you!!

Yours

Ellsworth Massie

Best Western Westpark Hotel

1600 Richmond Road • Williamsburg, VA 23185

Tel.: 757.229.1134 • Toll-free reservations: 1.800.446.1062

Reservation form for

The 83rd Infantry Division
Dixie Chapter Reunion
Williamsburg, VA.
March 9, 10 & 11, 2000

Please complete the following information and return it with a minimum of one night's deposit. (31.76) Don't forget to mail it to Westpark Hotel by February 25, 2000. Once your reservation form and deposit are received, you will receive a hotel confirmation card. Come early or stay over at this rate if rooms are available.

Please reserve _____ Single Room(s)
No. of rooms (1 person)

_____ Double Room(s)
No. of rooms (2 persons)

Please circle smoking preference:
The smoking preference is a request only and not guaranteed. NON-SMOKING SMOKING

I will arrive: _____
Day of Week - Month - Date

I will depart: _____
Day of Week - Month - Date

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Deposit enclosed in the amount of $ _____ to guarantee reservation*
***Notification of cancellation must be received 48 hours prior to the arrival date to receive a full refund.**

Melba, Virginia and Dot

Kathyn, Tiny and Betty

322 "A" Btry celebrates with new hats.

908 "A" Btry. ready for action once more - Massie, Stine and Hudson.

Two old soldiers - friends meet again - Buford Funk and Earl McDonald

"A" 322 FA - together first time since 1945 - Sechrest, Blandford, Massie, Benbow.

President of Dixie John Cox & some of his crew taking care of business.

Men of Dixie carry on business in Lex., Ky. Seated - Hobbs, Atkocious, Brown Standing - Whitaker, Satterfield, Livingston, Massie, Naylor, Dalton, Cox.

Kentucky Chapter News.....

The Kentucky Chapter held their summer meeting on June 25th & June 26th at the College View Inn in Oxford, Ohio. It was hosted by Pearl & Bob Derickson with the help of their family. We had a picnic evening meal on Friday evening and Sat. afternoon which was enjoyed by Homer & Ruth Rickenbaugh, Fred & Doris McGowan, Earl & Bonnie Hoover, Al & Dorothy Henry, Floyd & Alberta Richmond, Chester & Helen Wilson, Paul & Doris Lear & Norman Weaks. Vi. I did not get there until Sat. afternoon. The crowd with exceptions of Norman Weake had already left for Middletown to see the traveling Vietnam Wall. Vi & I had seen the Wall in Washington D.C.

It was so nice seeing Doris McGowan, Norman Weaks & Pearl Derickson who all were not in the best of health. Vi is also having health problems.

My grapevine is not very good. I do not get reports on the members.

Our next meeting will be at Kodomo Ind., the weekend of October 22nd & 23rd at the Courtyard by Marriott. It will be hosted by Floyd & Alberta Richmond.

The 53rd. Reunion has come & gone. Vi & I went down on Friday. It was so nice seeing all our 83rd. Infantry Division members, wives & friends but due to Vi's health problems we left before the Memorial Service.

We reminiscent with Dixie Chapter members & Earl & Fran McDonald about the nite at Stone Mountain when Vi broke the stool I made for her to sit on. The comments made when it happened are memorable and we still laugh about it.

The members & wives of the Kentucky Chapter wish & hope all of you are in reasonable good health & we wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Wilson Day

1st BN. HDQS. 331st.

Philadelphia Chapter News..

We meet every two months, except July & August.

As in every year, we marched in the Memorial Day parade in Narberth, Pa. We held our own ceremony at our meeting place afterwards.

Some of our members have been under the weather, namely Lou and Lucy Volpe, Al Belvedere and Manny Lima. We will be glad to see them return.

We held our early chapter dinner on July 13th, fifteen members attended. Our next chapter will be held in December.

A few of us were on the 55th Anniversary tour of the 83rd in Europe. We visited Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, France and Germany. At the cemeteries visited, a list of our 83rd men was given to us. A ceremony was held at each one.

Outstanding was our reception at Sainteny France. First a ceremony at the memorial to the 83rd, then a wine reception followed by a very nice dinner in our honor.

We had four members at the 53rd reunion at Lexington. Illness kept our attendance down.

Some of our members went to the Boston Chapter Mini-reunion in September at the Friar Tuck Inn at Catskill, N.Y. It is an excellent place for our 54th National Reunion. (Chow hounds will love it here.)

HARRY KIRBY
Co. "C" 308th ENGRS

WWII COMBAT RESEARCH GROUP
9158 Rothbury Drive
Box 1941-45
Gaithersburg, MD 20886

My organization is interested in interviewing World War II veterans for an oral history project we are working on. Any information you can provide about your outfit, specifically addresses of veterans and/or newsletters listing same would be greatly appreciated.
We're a non-profit group that is dedicated to the preservation of the individual stories as told by the men who fought, bled and died for their country. We want the folks who were there to know we have not forgotten what the World War II generation accomplished. Our motto is, "Tellin' It Like It Was By Those Who Were There."

Thank you for your assistance.
Sincerely,
Michael H. Frederick
Researcher

New Jersey Chapter News.....

October 4, 1999

Can you believe it, this is the last Thunderbolt of the Twentieth Century. It's got to have some historical and sentimental value. With the admittance of our children and grandchildren into our membership, they could bring us into the 22nd century. Good thinking on the part of the Executive Board.

All who attended from the chapter want to express our sincere appreciation to R.C. Hamilton, Manny Goodridge and all the wonderful folks who had a part in putting on the reunion. It was a good one, with much to see and do. Being with all the 83rders from all parts of the country is always a very special time.

Those attending from the chapter were Tony Hroncich with Lena, Joe DePeri with his daughter Joann, her husband Joe with their two children Casey and Nina who was three months of at the time. Also Cookie Senica with Jim and Darlene and Maryann.

Always present at the reunions were Manny Epstein, George and Dot Foster, Sam and Edith Manzi and Charley Shilanick. OH!, I almost forgot Vitie Atrocious whose real name is Atkocious. For those who weren't at the reunion Pat DiGammerino our new present mis-pronounces his name and I think it's to get a laugh.

At the reunion we had the pleasure of meeting Erin and Lonnie Roland who reside in Lexington. Erin is Kent and Nancy O'Connell's daughter. They had their children Patrick and Meaghan with them. Kent was our Historian for many years.

Mike Skovran who wasn't at the reunion told Charles Jorden who attended to say hello for him. Hopefully, Mike can get his health back. We miss being with you.

Our chapter and association lost a good buddy when Ralph Stat passed away in June. Our heart goes out to Sally and her family for their and our loss. Manny, Fran and I went to the service for him. He was a highly decorated medic serving with G Company 329.

Also have to pass on the sad news that Ted Guzek (Co. A., 331) suffered a stroke in August. He is at the Kessler Institute in West Orange, New Jersey for rehabilitation. We're all hoping and praying for you Ted.

Many people at the reunion were asking me about George Waple's book, Country Boy Gone Soldiering. Hope sales have picked up George as I gave it an excellent review.

Was good to see Viola and Wilson Day at the reunion. Wilson had seen Fred Fowler and thought he would be at the reunion as he lives in nearby Louisville. Fred was First Sargent of 1st Bn. Headquarters Co. 331, always a real gentleman.

I got a letter from Ned Jones and as always enjoyed hearing from him. He still is keeping active in San Deigo area of California. Fred Klein called me to thank me for my comments about him in the summer issue of the Thunderbolt. He and wife Marcia were going to South Africa and then joining a photo safari in the area of Kenya. Hope you had a great time. When in New Jersey give me a call I'd love to hear about your trip.

Russ Whitehead called me to tell me he had received a call from Warren Boucher's wife when Warren died. Russ went to Rhode Island for the funeral. While there Warren's wife showed Russ a painting that Warren, a professional and accomplished artist had done of the 83rd in the Battle of the Bulge. This is a large painting about 5 foot by 3 foot and it was Warren's wish that it be donated to a museum on the condition that it must be displayed and not warehoused. I had mentioned to Russ he might suggest the Infantry Museum at Fort Benning. As of this writing I haven't heard of her decision.

Just had a call from Carolyn Voekner telling me she attended the meeting of the NJ Chapter of the Battle of the Bulge Group. The group let by Andy Andriano who she told me does a great job is having a meeting in Nutley in May 2000.

I just have to mention my good buddy Rags Rangnow, Rags, the ordinance group were at the reunion but they sure missed having you present. I'm keeping my promise to you that I'll have nothing but compliments written for you.

In closing, We of the chapter wish all 83rders a Happy Holiday Season and Good Health and Happiness in the New Millennium.

Stan Bielen, 1st Bn. Hdqs. 221

New England Chapter News

First of all we of the New England Chapter would like to thank John and Ester Ferriera for our July 25th cookout at their home in Chelmsford, Ma. and thanks John & Pauline Ferreira and Larry & Jenine Ferreira and also Ray and Jackie Constantinea for a great barbecue. You all did a great job and we love you all for that.

We had Chuck & Bernice Abdinoor of Dracut, Ma., Francis & Pat Hovey of Lowell, Ma., Bill & Betty Davis of Newburyport, Ma., Dutchy & Helen & Ernie Smith of Lynn Ma., Nick & Mary Francullo of Lynn, Ma., Bill & Jeanette McKee of Three Rivers, Ma., Jim & Dot Brennan of Warwick, RI., Americo & Marie George of Warwick, RI., John & Priscilla Walsh of Portland, Marine, Simon & Kathren Etzal of Conn., Burt & Rose Simons of Ct. and August Faris and Hazel from New Bedford, Ma., Joe & Helen Petrucci of No. Prov. RI., Al & Ann Tartaylia of Johnston, RI. We missed seeing the Burgess, Champey, Sullivans, Orsines, Collins, Burkhards, Judds, Buddy Balfe, Will Burdin, Merrells, and Henry & Eleanor Foss and all our good New England members and hope you are all O.K.

The reunion in Lexington, Ky. was a great time and a great turnout, seeing old buddies and saying to each other "We made it again" Ha!

Vitie Atkovius you have not changed a beat also it was great to met Scott & Cheryl Harrington and hope we will meet again next year. Stay in good health and hope dad can make it. Also good to see Bob Gongneth of Monroe Ct.

We enjoyed the sightseeing tours of the horse farms and the bourbon distillery and the candy shop.

Before the reunion we spent time in Owensboro, Ky. and Tell City Ind. with Mary's family and we had a hog roast which was out of this world and a great family reunion.

New England Chapter had a good turn out of the reunion with Chuck & Bernice Abdinoor, August Farias & Hazle, John and Ester Ferriera, Nick & Mary Francullo, Bill & Jeanette McKee, Jim & Dot Brennan, Vitie Atkocius and Mike & Nina Petitti and hope next year we can have more.

Received a note from Ray & Helen Rudd of Latham, N.Y. that they are doing O.K. but not able to travel too long. Also from Karl & Ingrid Burkhard of Carmel, N.Y. that they could not make the reunion as they had the Big Family reunion in Philadelphia, PA. and they are the senior members now. Hahaha and Ingrid had a knee replacement on Aug. 5 and will be recuperation.

We all will pray for a great recovery also in the end of May and two weeks in June they visited there origins - for Ingrid in Berlin and for Karl the Black Forest in Southern Germany. They traveled thousand miles by plane or train and locally by cousins by the dozens. One week most memorable was the Hot spring baths in Bad Heorenalb in the Black Forest.

They also visited Mike and Marie Champy, in Middletown, Ct. and Mike is not to well. They are both in their 80's

Thanks Karl and Ingrid for your info. Got a report from the Brennan's that after the reunion they drove down to the Kentucky Lakes with Mike and Nina Petitti. They said they enjoyed paddle boating around Lake Cumberland and meeting Nina's family and sightseeing with Mike and Nina in the area.

We were sorry to hear the one of our members, Cuddy George has had a few heart problems. He has a pace maker now and is doing much better.

I also got a letter from Jack Merrell of New Conaan, Ct. who was a Medic in Co. "M" 330th that he and his wife Rosemary are going to Europe on 9/14 and while there they are going to meet the pilot that strafed us and was shot down and captured and his name is Ernst Scheufele and he lives in Frankfort and they plan to have dinner together.

This will be a very interesting day for you, Jack. I will have more info and photos when Jack gets back.

Also got some info from Chuck Abdinoor and he said that the first time in many a year "A" Co. 330th had a beautiful turn out. We had seven men plus their wives and hope this continues.

Have not heard from John Maryer, miss them and hope all is well.

Heard from Father Frank, Spike Mclartin's brother, he is not able to travel to much, but still keeps going. Incidentily Gloria McCortin is going to California to be with her daughters. Will miss her but she plans to spend her summer in New England. Will sure miss her.

Father Frank just had a birthday, but I won't say how young he is, keep going Father Frank.

Was invited to the memorial service at the Cape for our past member Bob Hunnewell. Bob was a fixture at the reunions, never hardly missed one.

Joe Zenz was with Bob in the service and they were close buddy's. Will certainly miss him and the New England Chapter offer their Condolences to the Hunnewell family. He is buried at the U.S. Cemetery in Bourne, Mo.

The Ferreira's went to Atlantic City, N.J. after the reunion and incidently he did not get any speeding

tickets. That is a first Haha, probable met with Dutchy Smith, but don't follow in his footsteps. Oh yes on Nov. 11th Veterans Day 42 men from the City of Lynn who left high school between Sept. 1940 to Dec. 31, 1946 without obtaining their high school diploma will be awarded there long delayed diplomas, I was the 1st student to be drafted out of high school in the City of Lynn, on Oct. 12, 1942 and it will be a big day for the Francullo family.

Thats it!
Your Buddy, Nick Francullo
Hq. Co. 3rd BN 330th

Just got a letter from John and Stacy Marysz of West minster, Ma. and he has pneumonia and emphysema and takes oxygen for 24 hr. a day limiting his getting around.

Get well John, we all pray for you. We of the New England Chapter wish all the members of the 83rd Div. Association a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year .

Good Bless you all!!

330th Chuck & Nick - New England Chapter

Lexington, Ky. New England Chapter.

Nick, Chuck & Jim at reunion - New Eng. Chap.

Great Group - New England Chapter

Memorial Services - New England Chapter

Pittsburgh Chapter News.....

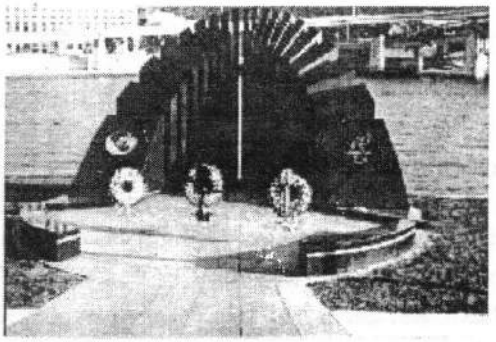
I wish to apologize for not submitting a column for the previous issue. Your reporter had the misfortune of losing a chunk of pension (namely the monthly payment of hospitalization.) I took a part-time job to compensate for this. Therefore, I missed the monthly meetings for three months. I am still working but on a schedule that allows me to have the weekends off.

The chapter has suffered from old age of members and ailments thereof, but still hanging on. We continue to have good turnout at meetings (the first Sunday of the month). Our attendance at meetings are in the upper teens. Frank Hornack is confined to a wheelchair from a recent infection. During the past summer former secretary Steve Blasko died. Greer Thompson is confined to the Country Meadows Rest Home. Mike Kadylak is still with us but unable to participate in chapter affairs, because of failing eyesight. Larry Leonardi had cataract surgery on his right eye recently. Former chapter member Glenn Wible's wife Nell (they reside in Florida) suffered a stroke last year. She recovered sufficiently to attend a class reunion this year of the Seneca High School in Penn Hills, PA. The school no longer exist. She was in the first graduating class. "Smokey" Alicandri Informs me that any member who desires can have a solid bronze grave marker (2" x 2 1/4") with Div. insignia for $95.00. This is available through the Catholic Cemeteries, Assn., Inc. of Pgh., Tom Strycula, agent. Anyone interested can contact him at (412) 366-6727. $100 was donated to the 83rd Monument fund which was dedicated this past summer at Arlington National Cemetery near General Macon's grave site. Sixteen members traveled by bus to the recent reunion in Kentucky. There is talk of a joint bus excursion to the upcoming reunion at the Pines with the Warren, Ohio chapter. Anyone from Warren can contact our secretary, Jim McCulla at 478 Teece Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15202, Joe Danylo and Sal Scicolone are the committee to present the officers for the next two years. Jim McCulla has requested that his name be not mentioned for secretary because of eyesight problems, but if no name is forthcoming he would continue on as long as possible.

The chapter Christmas party will be held this year at Dietch's Bar and Grille, 272 Freeport Rd., Blawnox, Pa. Sunday, December 5, 1999.

The following article was taken from the Northside (Pgh.) Chronile on-Line, a monthly publication since 1983. This article concerns the Korean War Veterans Association of Western Pennsylvania. Our John Marek who fought in the Korean War belongs to this organization.

Fran Beerhalter



The newly dedicated Korean war memorial in Clemente Park.

For many it has been called "America's Forgotten War." The Korean War raged June 25, 1950 until July 27, 1953, 1,115 days. During the conflict over 52,000 U.S. Soldiers lost their lives and another 8,000 plus are listed as missing. Among those who died in Korea were 906 from Western Pennsylvania.

Forty-six years later on July 27, 1999 on the North Shore of the Allegheny River in Roberto Clemente park those 906 and all the other Western Pennsylvania servicemen who served in Korea were remembered as a crowd of over 1,200 dedicated a 13-foot-high black granite monument in their memory.

Upset that so little notice has been taken of the Korean War, Ed Stevens, a veteran of the war, took up the cause of erecting a fitting memorial to those who fought and died in Korea. In 1991 he began to organize the Korean War Veterans Association of Western Pennsylvania. In 1993 the Korean War Veterans of Western Pennsylvania Memorial Fund was established that would raise the $700,000 for the memorial. The City donated the land for the memorial in 1994 and a dedication ceremony was held on the site. Four months ago ground was broken on the North Shore and those present promised the project would be completed by July for the anniversary of the armistice.

The memorial is of polished black granite columns that allow the sunlight to illuminate inspirational words like honor, county and duty. Around the monument is a 180 foot polished granite wall that contains the names of the 906 who died in the war from sixteen counties in Western Pennsylvania.

Boston Chapter News.....

Boston is very active holding monthly meetings with good attendance. Even with many illnesses they still show up. The meetings will be held earlier in the day during the winter months so everyone will be home before dark as a lot of us travel a distance.

On June 19th the meeting was held at Phyllis Scott's home in Florence, MA. Tony Piantedosi read the minutes of the May meeting as Hy Goodman was not present. Lou Sandini made presentations to Phyllis Scott, Chet and Lorrette Morely, Fred Sylvia and Charlie Lussier for all they have given over the years to the Boston Chapter. Phyllis was thanked for having the Boston Chapter at her home.

The July 17th meeting was held at Olivia Maynard's home in Westport, MA. It was a very hot day but Livies yard was nice and cool. We had a cookout which was great. We had a moment of silence for Bob Hunnewell and Al King. Al King was President of the Boston Chapter who passed away July 8th, 1999.

We had 28 members at this meeting. Thanks Livie for the use of your estate.

Lou Sandini has been working hard to get a new law passed in the State House in Boston, MA which would give Meal and Hotel Taxes to our Combat Veterans of all Wars. Lou has worked many hours with his connections in the state. We have high hopes that the Mass. Legislature will pass it this year. Boston Chapter thanks Lou Sandini for his long hours of work.

On August 7th the Boston Chapter traveled to the back roads of New Hampshire for a meeting at Chet and Lorrette Morely's Home. I was unable to attend this one but I was told it was a great time. Lorrette always has something to keep things alive while Chet talks about the good old days. Thanks to both of you for having us at your home.

We really enjoyed going to Lexington, KY to the Reunion. Thanks to Manny Goodridge for doing such an excellent job with the dining room. I really enjoyed being with Vitie Atkocius. He told me he was going to all the Baltimore games but I never see him on TV. Of course maybe his wife won't give him two bucks to go to the game. Vitie you fired all the brass. Ha! Ha! Vito Palozzolo your boys Bob Taylor, Bruce Winchell, and maybe a few more in the Chapter are running back to Florida by now. Its nice to have money Huh! Just remember to get them back up North for the next Reunion. We had a good trip back to Boston. Thanks for a nice reunion in Lexington, KY.

In September 44 attended our Boston Chapter Memorial Service at the Bourne National Cemetery for Robert Hunnewell. The Service was headed by Fred Sylvia who gave a marvelous tribute to Bob. Pat DiGiammerino, Lou Sandini, Al Remy and Charlie Lussier also spoke. My Buddy, God Bless America were a few of the songs played and the 83rd Firing Squad.

We went to 4:00 o'clock Mass at St. Margaret's Church. After mass, we went to Lindsey Restaurant for dinner. The 83rd 329th I Company can be proud of the arrangements made by Fred Sylvia for one of our own.

Amby Tynan
Boston Chapter

Part of the group after Memorial service for Bob Hunnewell - Boston Chapter

Chuck & Bernice Abdinoor, Lou Sandini & Pat & Ginny Di Giammerino & Amby Tynan, bring up the rear at Hunnewell's services - Boston Chapter

A tribute to Bob Hunnewell - Boston Chapter

Nancy Tynan wearing her new "Bonnet" - Boston Chapter

Al & Mary Silnerio from Penn. at Friar Tuck - Boston Chapter

Don Haley (striped shirt) first time attending any 83rd reunion - Boston Chapter

BOSTON MINI-REUNION

It rained and the sun came out for a couple of hours; then it rained again and the sun came out for a couple of hours. That's the kind of weather that greeted the Boston chapter in their mini reunion in early September. In spite of the weather, it was the most happy and enjoyable reunion ever held by the Boston Chapter. Those that came by bus were greeted with one of the best lunches imaginable when they entered the premises.

They all were immensely pleased with the size and location of their rooms.

The days were filled with activity, which included bingo and horse racing. While the men played bocce, the women were carted off by bus to do some shopping in the town of Catskill.

After dancing for a good while, there was a very good show every night. Comedian singers of the very finest quality. They kept us in stitches; especially one man who could imitate any of the famous singers. He was especially good on Elvis Presley.

The Hospitality room was quite large and was open all the daylight hours and some time after the show at night.

The food was unbelievably good; done American fashion. "Bacon in the morning, chicken for lunch, steak every night, the food was so tasty you'd eat everything in sight"

The members of the National who attend the annual reunion in the year 2000 will be very happy with this highly regarded location. It has 2 theaters one of which is very large and holds enough people to engage top notch performers from broadway itself. It has a dinning room that, when the curtains are parted. Will feed well over a thousand people. It has 5 swimming pools, two of them indoors. It provides sports of all kinds -- golf, tennis, bocce, indoors and out and you name it. It has good entertainment, music and dancing -- dance lessons, exercise classes. It has a simulcast theater for off track betting. The view of the mountains might almost be called dazzling -- when the sun is right. From the moment they enter the highly adorned and artistic lobby people begin to like the place and so will we of the 83rd.

The real highlight of the reunion was the Memorial ceremony. It began with the Ave Maria sung by Al Martino.

Then Louis Sandini opened the speeches by welcoming the large crowd and expressing his feelings in the passing of so many stalwart members of the Boston Chapter.

He then introduced the newly elected National

Vice President, John Tisdale, who went through the usual formalities of the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence, and then called upon the Chaplain Charlie Lussier, who gave a very fine invocation especially prepared by our honorary member, George Jurgiel.

Thereupon Vice President Tisdale called upon George Jurgiel who recited a Poem Especially honoring the 83rd Division:

A TRIBUTE TO THE 83RD INFANTRY
THE 83RD INFANTRY, AS WE DO SEE,
LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES FOR LIBERTY
IN THE 2ND WORLD WAR THEY ANSWERED THE CALL
TO PRESERVE THE FREEDOM FOR ONE AND ALL
LET'S NOT FORGET WHAT THEY DID DO
TO PRESERVE THE LIBERTY FOR ME AND YOU.
LIFE ON THIS EARTH, WE ALL CAN AGREE,
WOULD BE MOST DIFFICULT, WITHOUT LIBERTY.
AS WE LOOK ABOVE WE ALL DO SAY,
"GOD BLESS YOU 83RD INFANTRY
TILL JUDGEMENT DAY

George then sang My Country Tis of Thee.

Tisdale next called upon the new National President and President of the Boston chapter Pat Digiammerino to speak. Pat opened with a beautiful poem and almost broke with emotion. As he extolled the 83rd Division and told the crowd of the job before us --- to let the world know of our exploits because some historians seem to ignore us.

John Tisdale then called upon Al Silverio who did a fine job when he was then called upon to give the names of the Boston Chapter members who were deceased in the past year. He called upon Mike Caprio to lay the wreath upon the Cross. Mike stood at attention beside Al while the names were read then he recited this poem:

AS I LAY THIS WREATH UPON THE CROSS
WE 83RDERS FEEL THE LOSS
LITTLE DO WE HAVE TO SAY
ON THIS MEMORABLE DAY
THAT DOESN'T MAKE OUR HEARTS
BEAT LOUD
AND CAUSE US ALL TO FEEL SO PROUD
OF THE DEEDS YOU DID FOR US IN THE PAST
BROUGHT PEACE TO THE WORLD THAT
WILL ALWAYS LAST.

Then, as Mario Lanza sang "I WALK WITH GOD," Mike Caprio walked slowly out to the cross and laid the wreath. He then saluted along with the whole crowd for the length of the song. At ease was called.

Joe Macaluso then called the crowd to attention and the honor guard fired three rounds. This was followed by the bugle playing taps.

At ease was called as Kate Smith sang "How Great Thou Art" and then closed the singing with "God Bless America" (Of course all these things were done with tape.)

Charles Lussier, the Chaplain, then closed the ceremonies with his blessing.

Cleveland Chapter News.....

Hi!! Not to much to report this time. A lot of us could not go to the reunion this year. Some can't drive far, some not feeling too good, some had other reasons.

Bernice and I could not go because we had a wedding to go to. Our grand daughter, Jenny got married. She married Harley Ross from Columbia Station, Ohio. A fine young man. It was a very nice wedding. Old grandpa Grobelny had to flick away a tear at one point.

Our grandson, Scott and his wife, Amy are expecting there first child any time now. By the time this goes to print, Bernice and I will be great grandparents. - Wow!! are we getting old or what?!!

I called Paul Dallos the other day. He told me there were 17 from "D" company 331st. I think that's pretty hard to beat. - Congratulations! After the reunion they had a mini-reunion at Marion, Kentucky.

There were 10 that represented the Cleveland chapter. Paul and Mary Dallos, Bob and Joann Uher, Kid and Janet Williams, Jerry and Mary Ann Zingg, Charlie Sihlanick and Harry Adkins.

The Cleveland Chapter had a mini reunion at the V.F.W. home in Bedford since we could not make it to Lexington. There were 20 men and 16 ladies there. A nice time was had by all. Food and liquid refreshments were excellent.

Sunshine committee tells me that Mary Jane Owen had a gall bladder operation and is home and doing well. Keep up the good work Mary Jane.

This is all for this year. Hope everyone has a happy holiday and a happy and healthy new 2000 Year.

Stay Healthy,
Bob Grobelny
"A" Co. - 329th

COMPANIES

329 "B" Bag News.....

Well another good reunion is over and under the bridge. The hotel was great, but it was too cold there. We were very sorry we could not stay on Saturday when the balance of the best part of the reunion. "B" Co. had fairly good turn out, The Steks, Taylors, Bill Waddle and us also to the Hennies and the Meltons. They spent one day with us. It sure brought memories and names that we forgot all these years, we missed the Pirkles who had reservations but had to cancel out due to health problems. We all wish you and Carolyn our very best and good health. Cliff Melton gave me a newspaper article about our commander, Maurice Hill, who was one of the best company commanders in the division. He is in fairly good health. Capt. Hill made the reunion in Gatlinburg last year. Best of health and luck to you and your wife. Sorry to report that Lois Hirko passed away. The last time I saw her was in Indy, when she brought her son and daughter-in-law to the reunion. Our condolences to the family. "Red" Geyer called me - he is having a lot of health problems and on top of that he wants me to pray for rain and more rain as his crops are drying up. Al Trofimuk is getting signatures for a petition to investigate the Hines V.A. Hospital in Chicago. He wants to have an investigation of there sloppy methods and the shortages of personnel. Go get them all.

A short "B" Co. Story

We had an old Irish GI from Piston PA. who weighs about 120 lbs. His name was Winfield Scott, named after a Civil war general. A Lt. in the company had it in for Scotty one day at rifle inspection the Lt. took his rifle and said it was dirty. Scotty replied "Sir I've cleaned this gun for over an hour and it's clean" The Lt. took out a paper match and ran it over the bolt slide then put it in front of Scotty and said "What do you see" Scotty replied, "Sir all I see is a dirty match." The Lt. said "I will get you for this" Scotty said I'll be here". Scotty made as far as Luxenborg when he got sick and they sent him home. I heard he passed away a few years later.

Here is a picture of our leader and three "B" baggers at Gatlinburg.

P.S. I have a photograhic memory, but I don't get the same day service.

Happy Holidays and Y2K to all

"B" Co. Friends Forever

Bob Uher

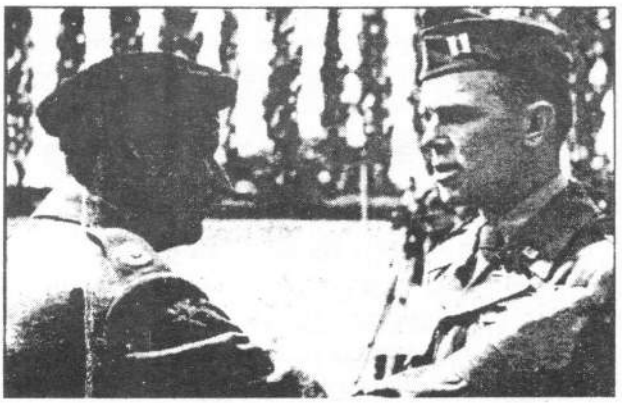
1-221-2012

L. to R. Standing: Jesse Pirkle, Bob Taylor Seated: Cliff Melton and Capt. Maurice Hill Taken at Gatlingurg, Tenn. Christmas of 1998

Veterans Day: Prentiss Countian was at the Battle of the Bulge

By Laura Cartwright

Correspondent



HONORED Maurice Hill is shown at right as he was being honored overseas.

Veterans Day -- and memories of the Battle of the Bulge -- hold special significance for Prentiss Countian Maurice L. Hill.

The Battle of the Bulge -- or Battle of the Ardennes -- was fought from Dec. 26, 1944, until Jan. 31, 1945. It constituted Germany's last major attempt to turn back the Allied invasion of Europe in World War II.

German forces under generals Gerd von Rundstedt and Hasso von Manteuffel drove a wedge -- the Bulge -- into Allied lines through the Ardennes on the Franco-Belgian frontier. They were halted chiefly by the U.S. 1st and 3rd armies, the latter under Gen. George Patton, and forced to retreat.

And a Major (then Lieutenant) Hill from Prentiss Coun-

ty was a part of that force.

Today, Maurice L. Hill lives in the Meadow Creek Community with his wife, the former Zana Caver. That has been the area he has always called home.

They live comfortably and happily with their memories of farm and agri-business life -- and of their children, David and Martha Ruth -- and a grandson, Logan.

During Veterans Day on Nov. 11, 1996, this World War II veteran's mind is bound to go back to that Battle of the Bulge -- because he was there.

An Associated Press journalist, Edward D. Ball wrote in 1945:

"Troops of the 83rd Infantry Division helped to blunt the tip of the German breakthrough thrust into Belgium and now are biting back into the enemy bulge on the First Army front.

"The 83rd went straight into action around Rochefort the night of Dec. 28 -- after a truck-borne dash from a Roer River front through the snow-whitened, moonlit German, Netherlands and Belgium countryside.

"During the night, Company B, 329th Infantry, commanded by Lt. Maurice L. Hill of Booneville, Miss., managed to knife into the town, while other units of the division crowded to the river outside Rochefort.

"During the next two days the Germans laid down massive artillery, tank and infantry fire from their part of town. Company B took to the cellars.

"Though Co. B was alive and kicking, the Germans believed they were not, and withdrew.

"Lt. Hill said, 'When we were out of contact, the krauts did their best to blast us to pieces, but we played tag with them and sniped them at every turn.'"

Cliff Melton from West Carrollton, Ohio, was in Hill's Company, and walked the same steps that he did. And today, he, too, remembers every detail.

He especially remembers details very clearly on Dec. 28 because "I spent my birthday in the town of Rochefort."

He continued, "On Dec. 27, during the Battle of the Bulge, B Company was ordered in the town of Rochefort with C. Company on the right.

"Capt. Hill gave his Company orders, and upon reaching the Homme River, we waded across waist deep in icy water instead of using the bridge. We advanced so fast that the enemy didn't know we were in town."B Company was attacked all night and day after they found out we were there. Capt. Hill out-smarted the enemy by occupying 10 or 12 buildings, and having his men change positions every time we were attacked. The enemy continued their attack for 42 succeeding hours, but B Company fought back and held their positions.

"On the morning of Dec. 30, we saw civilians on the streets -- and found that during the night the enemy had pulled out -- thanks to Capt. Hill and his leadership and the decisions made by the valiant men of Company B."

When Maurice Hill and his platoon finally secured their positions on a German river bank following the Battle of the Bulge, they flew what they believed was the first American flag ever flown on German soil. The three strips of red, white and blue material they had a seamstress stitch for them was a symbol for which they were proud to fight.

Melton continued, "Maurice Hill was one of the most respected officers in the armed forces. His coolness under fire and his decisions and leadership -- plus his ability to handle men and get the job done -- without leaving questions about the decisions he made.

"He was one of B Company's most respected and loved commanders. He was honest, and I don't think he ever gave an order in combat that he wouldn't do that job himself.

"He could lead us cross-country for miles with only a compass -- and would come where we were supposed to on the map.

"One day on the rifle range, I asked him where he learned to shoot. His reply, 'Chasing those Mississippi squirrels.' I liked his sense of humor. We needed that.

"I am proud to have served with him, and have known him as a buddy and a friend all these years. As my captain, I salute him."

Hill was a platoon leader (company commander) and lead 40 to 50 men through Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and into Germany before the war ended. His platoon carried 30-30 Springfield and carbine rifles plus light machine guns and a bazooka. Capt Hill also carried a 45 pistol.

Lt. Hill's tour had begun in France and he was involved in five major battles of World War II. He retired from the Reserve Officers Association (ROA) with the rank of major.

Upon his return to Prentiss County, Hill was asked by the mayor of Booneville, a WWII veteran also, to organize a National Guard Unit in Booneville.

He did and became its first commander. Two of his wife's brothers served with him in that unit -- W.L. and Harmon Caver; and his sisters' husbands, Howard Duncan and Germon Barron.

Maurice L. Hill has always been a man of vision, and a man who possessed the integrity to cause that vision to materialize. He has blazed trails in the poultry and swine industries and he has continued throughout his life involvement in farming.

The Battle of the Bulge took the kind of integrity that Major Hill kept with him -- and that integrity has made him a successful family man -- and a successful farmer and agri-business man.

Those men who were under him -- like Cliff Melton -- know that he was a leader that could save lives and that he did. All their lives were at stake, but through his leadership, most of them came home.

Today at 84, Maurice Hill says he felt he was allowed to live because of God's grace.

Veterans Days always have -- and always will have -- a special place in Booneville hero Major Maurice Hill's heart.

"G" Co. - 329th Inf. News.....

Twelve members attended the reunion in Lexington, Kentucky. They were Vito and Virginia Palazzolo, Tony and Lena Hroncich, John and Grace Askey, John Cupina, Bounce and Babe Freitag, and Lois Brinkman, along with son and daughter-in-law Tom and Carol Brinkman.

Virginia and Vito, and Babe and Bounce, visited Lois in Minster, Ohio prior to the reunion. They all played pinochle, with Babe getting high score - 8 aces. Everyone enjoyed Lois' delicious apple pie and lots of other goodies. While they were there, they visited Dot and Al Henry, and had a lovely dinner.

Lois picked us up at the airport in Dayton. She is quite the hot-rodder. She must take after her nephew the race car driver. Lois' son and daughter-in-law Tom and Carol drove us to Lexington. Carol made a wonderful picnic lunch for all of us. We enjoyed it at a rest-stop table, and beat a hasty retreat to the car when the rains came before dessert. We finished the chocolate chip cookies and muffins in the car.

We missed Sterling and Luella Rubright this year. We called them, and Sterling is hanging in there. Best wishes to both of them. Babe and Bounce will visit them in Pennsylvania in October. Also missed were Leonard and Etha Reynolds, Chet and Ruth Morgan, Ames and Helen Miller, Francis and Virginia Markums, and James and Bernice Griffen. Congratulations on the birth of Bernice's pups!

Babe Freitag

Babe & Bounce Freitag

Vito & Virginia Palazzolo

Tom & Carol Brinkman, Lois' Brinkman son & daughter-in-law.

L. to R: Grace Askey, Virginia Palazzolo, Babe Freitag, Lois Brinkman, Carol Brinkman.

Lois Brinkman, Dot Henry, Al Henry, Bounce Freitag at the Henry's farm.

Vito Palozzolo, Bounce Freitag, Tony Hroncich, John Cupina, Tom Brinkman and John Ashey.

"F" Co. - 329th News.....

OVER BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: Will be North '99 - Oct. 10-14, '99. At this writing registration at Ameri Host is 33 members and guests, from 10 states as far away as Texas. At our Memorial Services respects and acknowledged were the deaths of two comrades since North '98, William "Bill" Ferguson and Russell L. Gassert. The 53rd Annual Reunion, attending were George/Elva Fuller, Ed/Margaret Hammond, Bill/Lois Meyerhoeffer, Roy/Jeannette Robinson, George Thompson and Bob/Lavona Whitcomb. All seemed to enjoy seeing one another again, short for some longer for others since last they met. The writer personally felt Mitch's overall did a fine job. He seemed to be very available for any situation. President Hamilton handled the business meetings well and on a timely schedule. The Saturday dinner reservations were extremely well organized. The dinner and service during the meal was very good.

HERE & THERE: Last I talked with T. Ballard and Billie the tornado had just blown thru Tulsa, OK. They had no damage. I had back surgery again (fusion of L-5 vertebrae. Margie Arnfield Roy's widow is now in a nursing home, due to a broken ankle, in Norwalk, OH area. Nice letter from Jeanette Dav, she has been traveling all around this planet. Hawaii, the Greek Isles and Cruise ship, climbing the Acropolis and Parthenon (nearly 14 stories), Istanbul, Turkey, the museum at the university of Chicago and visiting area restaurants, relaxing now (at the time she wrote) with the "Kids" in Wisconsin. As I have said before she's like the Energizer Bunny just keeps going and going. With all the water N.C. got the Keith's were able to stay dry. They were not able to get to Washington, N.C. to work for a few days. Deloris is recuperating from what has turned out to be a very bad break of her right hand at the thumb, (April 25th), which recently required surgery including a bone graft. Will get the details at North 99. The Lutkemeiers seem to be doing alright. Sounds like they are going to be more Home Bodies from now on. We'll miss them at our "Get Togethers" Bill/Arline Nickell weren't able to make the 53rd Reunion due to their son Dennis having back surgery, necessitating, their flying to Kansas to be with him. I understand the surgery went well. The Putnaks are both doing well, just can't get one or both out of PA. Address Changes: Roy Clemons 135 Darlene Dr. Wauseon OH 43567 - Ph 419-335-1861 - Sylvain Fishman, 420 Cheyenne Dr. Rm 113 - Jackson, TN. 38305-5412.

IN REMEMBRANCE: Russell L. Gassert June 29, 1922 - August 29, 1999. Joined "F" company at Camp Atterbury Indiana in October 1942. Served in all 5 campaigns of the 83rd, awarded the, Bronze Star, the Purple Heart with two oak leaf clusters, good conduct medals, the combat infantry badge and the EAME Ribbon. "Legs" as we all knew him was a good soldier, one of "F" Company's best Runners. He always got the messages thru. To Pauline and family from all of "F" Company please accept our sincere thoughts and prayers.

IN REMEMBRANCE: William G. Ferguson May 23, 1926 - July 9, 1999 - He sure was a jolly fellow - hard as it was for us to hear - sure makes a person think how short life is - he will really be missed - not many come down the road like Bill - Things won't be the same without Bill, these and others are all comments expressed verbally or written by various members as they learned of the loss, Yes! the death of our Buddy of many years William "Bill Ferguson". A faithful member and supporter of our Association. The man we all looked to keep "F" Company "Get Togethers" going Continuing service to his country in the Armys active and inactive reserve bill attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. For a short period he was in command of the 329th his old unit in World War II. Prayer Services were held in Livonia, Michigan July 11, 1999. Services were also conducted at 2:00 P.M. Tuesday, July, 1999 in the Cookeville Chapel - Cookeville, Tennessee. Burial with full military honors July 13, 1999 in the Paran Cemetery - Overton County, Tennessee.

To Margaret (Mrs. Wonderful) many have expressed their sympathies to you and may God's Love bring you Peace. What more can we say? We Loved Him Too!

COMING EVENTS: The time for South 2000 would be February 24-25-26-27-2000. If it is to be held you will be notified later.

J'EVER NOTICE: That more and more History?s' happened in our lifetime.

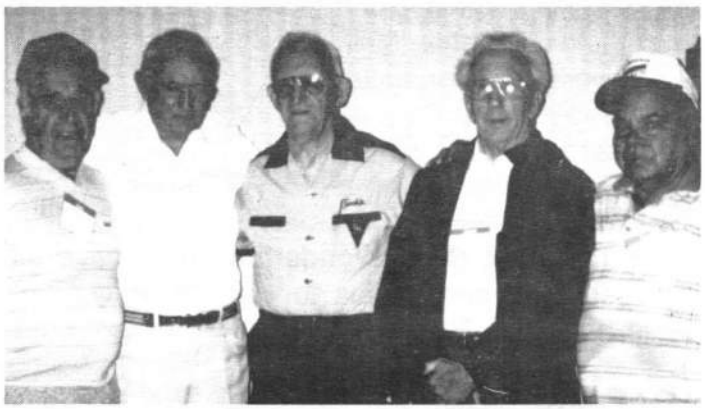
C.R. "Bob" Whitcomb
1314 Center Ln. Dr.
Ashland, OH 44805-3403

"A" Co. News.....

I must congratulate the Kentucky Chapter for running a most successful reunion, also to bring out the most members from "A" Co. 330th. This was the first time we had so many at one time. We filled one table plus had to use new England's table also. On hand was our true soldier Walter Pillion, who won a battlefield commission, and was our highly decorated soldier, also Shorty Glasser, Lyons, Seneca and yours truly, missed one man from Ct. but will get his name next time.

My apology, he & Lyons were here, for their first reunion. Paul Reed, could not make it also Frank Burgess, but will expect them next year, we are planning now to attend, we talked about old times, and I must say I was proud to have been in "A" Co. with these ex-soldiers. We also had our wives, also attending was "Butch" Klug. Arthur Klug was our Armorer, but passed on a few years ago, but she carrys on, in his memory, Thanks. It was also a great and sacred honor to lay a wreath, for the 330th Regt. with Nick Francullo, at our memorial service.

By Charles Abdinoor
B & A Co.



L. to R.: Abdinoor, Pillion, Seneca, Lyons, Classer - "A" Co. 330th.

323rd Report.....

I have not been writing this report as I did not think anyone was reading it. Due to complaints from HQ. Battery I will write it once more.

Walter Harding, Eddie McCouch, Erwin Erhardt, Willie Snodgrass, Pat DiGiammerino, and Johnnie Holt were at the reunion in Lexington, KY. We all sat together at the dinner with the exception of Pat who had to sit at the head table. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves at the dinner and dance.

Ed McCouch, Erwin and Norma Erhardt, Amby and Nancy Tynan went for a buggy ride with McCouchin charge of the horse. We went all over the town. It was a blast. Willie Snodgrass helped us out of the buggy and if I may say, he was much needed.

On my return home, I called Harold Michael at his home in Indiana. His son answered and told me that Harold had passed away on August 3rd. He had been looking forward to the 83rd Reunion. I called most of our men to tell them about Harold as he was so close to us all for 56 years. His talks over the years at our dinners were very enjoyable. We learned so much from him over the years. He certainly will be missed.

Dallas A. Williams is retired now. He is mostly a TV watcher. However, he tells me he is active in his Veterans Post in his area. Walter Koss is the active one Dallas.

Don Willis still has his golf cart to get him around the Golf Course. His wife Ann has to keep the score. Walter made it back to Florida from his back home in Indiana and the 83rd Reunion. Walter is a true 83rder like a few more of us.

My wife Nancy talked to Betty Covi. Al is doing very well now. They will try to make the next reunion in New York. This year at the reunion Willie Snodgrass brought his son and daughter. It's been years since we have seen them. Thanks to his daughter-in-law also for coming. It made our trip to Kentucky worth while. I talked on the telephone recently with Tom Houlette. He has to stay close to home now due to his health. It was great talking to him. Drop him a note if you get a chance.

Everyone should start planning to go to the Reunion next September. The price is right, 5 days-4 nights $369 per person. This covers everything, food, drinks, entertainment, tips all in the one price. Start making plans to meet the Old Gang of ours next September.

I promised the men at the last reunion I would get you out a newsletter which I will in the coming month. That's all for now.

Amby Tynan
323rd FA

"53rd AAA (AW) BN. Assn.

The 53rd Reunion of our group is now a thing of the past. Our numbers are dwindling, but our enthusiasm continues.

I am sorry to have to report that our good friend and Ex officer Dave Bell passed away in June, after a long fight with emphysema and other problems. He was a faithful attendee at our Reunions through the years. He was truly a gentleman and an officer, if there ever was one.

Another of our Ex Officers also passed away about the same day in June. George Edwards, "B" Battery Commander for most of our time with the 453rd. His wife also passed away within four days of George's demise.

Rockford (Rocky) Hamed also a great supporter of our group, passed away on July 29th. His wife preceded him in death about a month previous.

Others that have passed on, but notification had only been received since July, are Claude Beadles, and Wilber Steffey.

I am sure there are others that have not been recognized, but it is getting harder each day to locate the where abouts of those of our lost comrades, or their families.

Many of the Widows are surprised when they are contacted, and ask for information on the 453rd. as their husbands had never passed on any thing about their life in the military, for the family to try and understand what they went through. I have tried, as best I can to convey to them any information that I can, such as a History of the 453rd., were they can apply for his campaign medals etc.

Our group wishes to thank Jim Dalton, President and his wife Erma (Molly), treasurer, for their efforts extended on behalf of our members, for the past several years. Both individuals resigned this year because of more pressing health problems.

Our newly elected officers are Fred C. Pearson, President. (and if you value your life, don't call Irene the 'First Lady.) Lawrence Carman, Vice President. Lou Martin, Treasurer. Betty Dickens retained her dual position of recording and corresponding secretaries. Betty has held this job for the past few years, and is doing a bang up job.

A few weeks ago I was able to locate another of our former officers. Elmer Horton, whom no one had heard from in over 50 years, and after not to much persuasion, decided to make a showing at reunion. It was sure great to have he and his son Jim, attend and talk over old times. I hope he can talk his wife in to coming to our next Reunion in Akron Ohio next September. (Of course bring Jim too.) To bad they didn't stay longer.

Ron Massar, son of Steve, 'B' Battery 1st. platoon sergeant, also attended. He has been a supporter of the 453rd. in many ways. I have been trying to keep he and his family supplied with the goings on of our group since Steve passed away a few years ago. This is another incident were Dad never had to much to impart to his family about his service years. Steve had been with the outfit since Fort Bliss, were he came to us as part of the Cadre. Ron is a busy individual and had to leave early, as he was leaving for Germany on Sunday.

Another first timer was Eugene Scales from Fort Thomas Kentucky. I didn't get to spend to much time with him, but he was plenty busy visiting with his ex buddies from 'D' Battery.

Those attending this year came from Oregon, Washington, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Florida, Pennsylvania, and Maryland.

It was decided to have our Year 2000 Reunion in Akron, Ohio the first weekend after Labor Day. Lou Martin and Kathy will sponsor the Event, along with some help from others in the locality.

We were sorry to miss seeing the Creps, Rushes, Moores, Collins, Buzzards, that are usually faithful attendants. Fishing trips and family deaths, had stepped into prevent some from attending.

Others who were missed were the Plummers, Coles, and Krahenbuhls, who had indicated their plans to attend, but had to cancel because of health reasons.

Jim Hull's wife, Doris, the fighter she is, after all her physical problems insisted that they attend this year. Jim was assisted by his daughter in bringing 'MUM' to our get together. (That's the fighting English spirit in Doris.)

I just got word that Mike Morick, 'B' Battery is in the hospital with many problems.

Let's hope that he is able to fight this off, and get back home soon so that he can pester Lorraine. The Plummers are also having some severe health problems.

I am sure there are many more on the sick list, but if the information is not forthcoming I can't report it.

Communications is a very big factor in trying to keep an organization together, and the lack of it is disaster. Ask our secretary.

I had a phone call today from Henry Smith from 'L' Company 329th. Trying to find some information about a person by the name of Collie from Battery 'C' 438th. AAA. Sorry I couldn't help him, but perhaps some one reading this may know of some one in the 438th. that could give him some information. Another incident of Dad not telling his kids about some of the most important years of his life.

Haven't heard from 'RAGS' lately, talked to his Buddy, Frank Solonaty, 783rd Ordinance, and tried to get him to come to one of our local luncheons. I guess I didn't talk hard enough, perhaps next time.

The locals are planning another trip to Hubbard, Ohio to Henry Vanetta's Armament Museum, in late October or early November, before the weather gets bad. Just a day journey with a planned luncheon, more details will be sent to those within driving distance.

We wish to thank Al and Ruth Drysel, and their assistants, Joe and Mary Janick for the effort they put forth in hosting the Toledo reunion, and making it another memorable event. A special thanks to those who donated the little surprises that were handed out to all. Joe and Mary are associate members and friends of the Drysels. (Very faithful attendees) It was their efforts that provided the commemorative plates with the OOZELFINCH emblem. Something to put away with your memorabilia.

I've probably forgot some one, or something, and apologize before I get 'Chewed Out.' Isn't that what is known as **S.N.A.F.U.?** As usual Thelmer Cline, 'A' Battery, kept many entertained with his tall tales. I wonder how Mary can stand it, she has probably heard his stories so many times, she could tell them herself. Maybe she just doesn't listen to him. Although he didn't repeat any of his repertoire from last year.

Enclosed Pictures of some of those attending the reunion of the 453rd. AAA (AW) BN. Assoc. in Toledo in Sept. 1000.

Fred C. Pearson Roster Coordinator
453rd AAA. (AW) BN. Assoc.
5704 Middle Ridge Rd.
Madison, OH. 44057-2838.

Some of the Men 453rd AAA Reunion

Irene & Fred Pearson. 453rd AAA (AW) BN. Reunion 1999

Hitler sent 'em up and We shot 'em down!

783rd Ordnance Company.....

Summertime is over and Floyd has gone away. And here we are, as I write, just 99 days before the year 2000. Boy, remember your good old school days and the year 2000 seemed a million years away. Most of our grandparents were dying in their seventy's so we didn't give too much thought of making it this far. Now here we are, and how could anyone imagine that a little typewriter, with a screen and funny discs, had the possibility of fouling up our bank accounts or shutting down our electricity? Wiggins told me he wasn't taking any chances of getting caught short. He is leaving the outhouse door cracked open.

Of course the big news of the past summer was the 53rd annual reunion which I and a number of you didn't make. The good news is we were well represented by the old gang. Before the reunion I sent the prospective attendee's a letter requesting one of them to send me the details of the reunion. Well, they did me one better. Al Bensimon, Carl Fredericks, Sam Hoffman, Charlie Rohrer, Hersch Weaver and Ray Wiggins all wrote me their recollections of the good week they had. Sam and Vi Hoffman generously sent a package of goodies which included a neat 83rd Div. paper weight, plus the informative "AD" book. And thank you Doc Pfeifer for continuing to "ware the 783rd flag" in the AD book.

Charlie Rohrer also included some nice photo's. It was good to see Hersch and Midge Weaver back and looking so good. We were told that Bob Hammond had been under the weather but his good friends Jack and Jo Ann made sure he got to the reunion. Bob gets a gold star as I believe he has our best reunion attendance record. Al liked the tour of the beautiful horse farms and the interesting Kentucky distillery but he was disappointed that samples weren't available. Ruth told him he didn't need "seconds" he had plenty of "firsts" at Camp Breckinridge.

So everyone enjoyed themselves, especially breaking bread together and recalling the "good times." They also reported the best news was: next year's reunion would be held in the cool month of September, in the Catskills, where the girls will have a week of fun.

The one sad note of the reunion was hearing the sounding of taps for our good buddy Steve Blasko. Milly Doggett informed me that Steve died on June 10th. I then contacted Bert and at her request I sent a check in remembrance of Steve to the Alzheimer Foundation. Bert wants to thank each of you for your kind remembrances. Steve will be long remembered for his warm personality and his big smile.

In the early part of the summer, June 6, to be exact, Hersch and Midge represented the 783rd at the Arlington Memorial Cemetery to dedicate the Memorial of the 83rd Div. Hersch said it was an interesting and moving ceremony. We thank the Weavers for their participation. Hersch called me to see if I was going but I was already committed to help represent the 83rd in Reading, Pa. at the great, annual, WWII Memorial Show.

This is truly an event for all veterans of all the different branches of service. There were over 18,000 in attendance over the perfect weekend. And this year Jim Swope secured us a big field tent to serve as the 83rd Div. Hqs. In and around the tent were numerous artifacts on the history of the 83rd. including cots and the Company clerks desk with an old, filled, glass bottle of Coke. Jim had also provided us with hundreds of pamphlets graphically describing the history of the 83rd. I have to tell you these were three busy days of talking, talking and talking. Not to ourselves but to the hundreds of young and old who stopped by to learn about the "Rag Tag Circus."

Now I think it's only fitting that we recognize our fellow 83ers who gave of their time and energy, doing their part, to preserve the spirit of our freedom to the honor of our fallen comrades. I hope I didn't miss anyone during the onslaught of visitors.

Hap Reeser - Band
George Suchomelly - A 329
Shorty Schuster - D 331
Bill Way - Rec.
Bill Hutton - F 329
Buddy King - Band (Texas)Cliff Snyder - C 330 (NY)
George Apsokardu - 2nd B 331
Emmanuel Lima - K 331
Gordon Franke - Band
Ray Oswald - Band
Lou Volpi - 324
Wes Sutton - I 330 (Mich)
Art Yon - Band
Russ Whitehead - F 329
Alan Tatham - Hqs. Div. Art.
JIM SWOPE - History, High School Teacher young and handsome.

Now if you talk to anyone of these fellows I'm sure they would all express the same feeling - "We wish all of you could experience this day in Reading." You can! Mark down June 2,3, and 4th of the year 2000!

Each quarter I try to call someone on the fringe area's of our group. Don Vandermergel was the

lucky fellow and fortunately I found Don well and contented. Don has been remarried for seven years. He has a good crop of soy beans and corn and he's also building an in-ground swimming pool for his daughter. He thought he was one of our old timers until I informed him that George Harris just rang his 90th bell.

George is still driving and having his nip of scotch. Hopefully, shortly, his good nephews, Keith and George, will have George settled in the nice retirement home in the area.

George has been very faithful, writing me a letter a month and each time "bitching" about the darn old typewriter.

My father Hen, Ivan Gilman, just turned 77 and he too has kept his confiscated, war, binoculars on my improving health. I only mention this as I know some of you were concerned inasmuch as we didn't make the reunion. In June I had all the cancer follow up tests, and touch my head, I came out "all clear!" I've played 15 rounds of golf, mostly just nine holes. My problems are back spasms of my MASSIVE back and groin muscles.Stan Bielen, 331st will never have this problem as they operated on his big, soft, heart! So Ginny and I opted to forego the long sitting rides and save up the energy for next year in the Catskills. You can watch Stan and I compare scars.

And finally just last Sunday we had a nice long talk with Jim Jones. His old homestead is keeping him very busy so you know his health is reasonably well for another young ten times eight-er. It seems impossible but it's true, there are only five of the Company that are under eighty. Naturally this doesn't include any of our cute, young, woman. Alyce Fredericks told me, "You know your getting old when you don't care where your wife goes, just so you don't have to go along." I don't know about Carl but right now I'm going to the Post Office. Oh, yes, a Merry Christmas to all.

Hut two,
Rags Rangnow

Late flash!

I goofed, my apology's to Joe Hendrix. My massive brain muscles had me typing so fast I left Joe out of the reunion. He spent two days with the group and then to leave to attend a funeral. Joe is just fine, thank you and he too will be joining the 80 yr. young club in a couple of months.

THE SATIRE OF WIGGINS

Many of us are moving or thinking about moving into a retirement home. Such is the case of my dear friend Ray Wiggins of the 783rd Ord. Co. He and Mimi live right outside of Kansas City and just recently exchanged their nice, modest home for the comforts of easy living. I asked Ray to tell me how he was managing his new life. With tongue in cheek Ray gave me the following reply.

"To get into this luxury life style you have to give up your home and nearly all your possessions and give the proceeds to the "establishment" aka Golden Pond, Lakeview Estates, Nursing Home, Extended Life Care and other enduring names.

For this you get living quarters about the size and comfort of a GI Pup-tent with a "Johnny-On-The-Spot" bathroom attached. The food offering is reminiscent of corn beef hash, chip on a shingle and battery acid to drink. There's also a little room called "Wellness Center" in case you come down with some life threatening ailment.

The long term costs in round figures is about $5,000 a month, not considering inflation and increases in taxes. What more could an old soldier want?

They do provide lots of entertainment and other things to keep your mind and body alert. We have three new busses. The highlight of the day is when they come by to pick up all of us who have signed up for a trip. For instance, to Hy-Vee, that's a Super Super-Market about five blocks away, to shop for supplemental food and just look around. About 20 of us go at a time so security is somewhat of a problem, although they do have a long rope with a knot tied in it about every 18". "We all have to line and grap hold of a knot. Your supposed to remember the name of the person in front of you. If you notice there is no one holding the knot in front of you, your to blow a little whistle and then the search is on for the lost soul. Sometimes that takes quite awhile, causes a lot of confusion but does amuse the other customers in the store. I like it best when two or more get lost at the same time.

At home we have to wear a little copper bracelet around your wrist or ankle. It is programmed like those gadgets they put on prisoners to monitor their movements. We use them so they can locate us if we wander off the reservation or walk in our sleep. If you intentionally leave camp you must let them know so they can turn the monitor off.

There are lots of other things to do. I don't have a golf card but I'll get a "Little Rascal" when they finish the golf course adjacent to my apartment."

So--you heard it from the horses mouth. Who would believe we would go from Normandy in 1944 to such luxurious living?

Rags Rangnow
783rd Ord.

G" Company 331st Inf.....

This year has been good to the Macaluso family, Mena, Monica and yours truly were able to attend the reunion at Lexington. Two weeks later Mena and I were able to attend the 110 Evac Hosp. reunion in Omaha.

On the trip to Europe I was able to meet Lt. Col. Faber's daughter. Col. Faber was our Battalion Commander in the states and for a short time in Europe, until he was killed at Sainteny. His daughter was 6 years old at the time of his death, strangely our meeting was in the town where her father was killed. I was able to contact Col. Patterson, the BN S-1, who probably knew Col. Faber more than anyone. He was able to get in touch with Elizabeth Faber Brusa in California.

I also met a young fellow, Arnold, his father was in the 329th. At the reunion, he wanted some information about the action across the Elbe River. I was able to make a copy of the map I had and also gave him some details and to what took place on April 13, 1945.

Lately, more and more young people have come up to me and thank me for the contributions our generation made during World War II. On the trip back to St. Braic I was able to meet with the two young ladies, who were teenagers, when their pictures were taken with Gene Costanzo kissing the little girl. I also was able to attend Mass at the little church in that town, where Father Cossette had said mass 55 years ago when we liberated the town.

Also I was able to meet a woman, who's father was the Finance Officer for the 83rd Division, she had married a Frenchmen from the town and is now living there.

In Holland I was able to spend some time with Martin Pesgens and his wife. I had met him some years ago, and in 1989 he and his wife had met with the 83rd group when they visited Herleen, Holland. Martin, is the caretaker for Daniel Moore's grave in the Margarten cemetery in Holland. The people of that area have adopted all of the graves in the American Cemetery. On Memorial Day in May there was an elaborate celebration at the cemetery.

The attendance at the reunion was relatively small compared to past years, which means we are getting older and many of us are not able to travel.

Even some of the regular that have never missed a reunion are now AWOL. The association tries to go to different areas so each one of us has an opportunity to make a reunion now and then. Next year 2000 the reunion will be Sept. 6-10 in the Catskills in New York and is being sponsored by the Boston Chapter. Kenny Baird and I were the only two from G Company.

I talked to Jeramiah Budd, who lives in North Carolina to see if he was in the path of the Hurricane, he has some wind and rain but no flooding. We are thankful so far this year that the hurricanes have stayed away from the Gulf of Mexico. Having been through a few of them I know what damage they can cause.

Haven't been able to contact any member of G company lately, however. I hope by the time of the next issue of the Thunderbolt I will have information on the well being of some of the men.

Since it is so near the holiday season, I hope each and every one of you has a nice Christmas, and may the year 2000 bring good health to all.

Joe Macaluso

D" Co. - 331st News.....

Well, its that time of year again so here is the scoop. The Reunion went off very well and why not? With the President, R.C. Hamilton and Al Shrawder as 2nd Vice along with 1st V.P. Manny Goodridge, who we made an Honorary member of D Company, it is impossible not to have a good Reunion.

We had 16 D Company members in attendance along with their ladies. Several of us, while at Kentucky Lakes, went over to see Willis Clark, who resides near Marion, Kentucky. I think he really enjoyed the group visiting him.

I am sure we were all shocked to hear of the deaths of Lt. Deck and Tom Morris. We have to feel fortunate that we are still here

to see and hear about our comrades. Our condolences to the families of Lt. Deck and Tom. I wish to thank Tom's daughter and wife Dorothy for informing us regarding Tom's death by e-mail.

Lt. Truman Miller and Gerald Boston were at their first Reunion in Lexington. It was such a pleasure to see them once again and meet their beautiful wives. Come back you guys, as we need to renew old friendships.

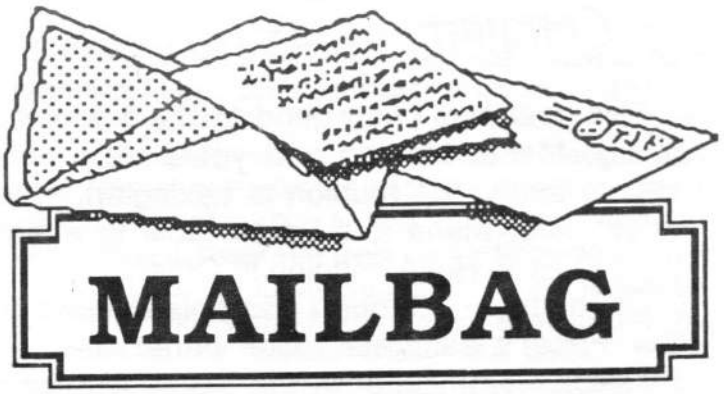
The Co. D regulars present were: Adkins, Akam, Barker, Cotney, Dallos, Gravelyn, Gunderson, Hamilton, Lynmch, McDermott, McKee, Mueller, Richter, and Shrawder.

As you know, Jimmy Lynch had a stroke last September, but was able to attend the Reunion. Keep plugging Jim, we need that Irish humor to spark us when we get down. Frank and Dana Sharp were all set to attend, and then Frank went and became sick so had to cancel at the last minute. Frank watch your health so we can see you in Florida and at the 2000 Reunion at Friar Tuck in New York. Norm and Lorraine Schuster says they are still having problems with their health. We hope to see he and Lorraine in New York. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers and I would appreciate if you sent a letter or phone call to them. They may be reached at 215-257-9183.

George and Polly Odenweller called to say they too were unable to attend. We are hoping for next year.

Now for some of you who have attended prior Reunions, what gives? I realize health problems, family emergencies, and some of those oddball occurrences cause you to miss a Reunion. **Please try to make it to 2000 Reunion if at all possible.** I remember what a veteran reunion attendee use to say to me *"Remember, it's later than you think"* How about Cancasci, Churpak, Lt. Clements, East, Fetzer, Hancock, Haught, Komlos, Lee, Miklos, Pflieger, Ryder, Sabine, and Trzeciak. Haven't heard about some of you as to why you can't make it. As I said before, there are occasions why you can't make it, and some of you wrote and called but I want those D Company guys who read this, remember to keep in touch with any one of us.

Ralph B. Gunderson



When I must leave you for a little while,
Please don't grieve & shed wild tears
and hug your sorrow to you, through
the years:

But start out bravely with a gallant smile
and for my sake & in my name.
Live on do all things the same

Feed not your loneliness on empty days
But fill each waking hour
In useful ways.

Reach out your hand In comfort & in cheer
And God in turn will comfort you &
hold you near & never be afraid to die

For God is waiting in the sky

Margie Lovejoy

Dear Bob:

Enclosed are two names to be put in the next Thunderbolt - I will need an extra copy of it, because Wiselogle's widow would like a copy of it.

The fellow's name in Wyoming, Ohio is Elwood Moore. I have no address, I called information and they were not able to give any info. He is the brother of Capt. Daniel Moore that was killed at the Elbe River, and is buried in the Margraten cemetery in Holland. The friend of mine in Holland is trying to get some information on Danny, because he is the caretaker of his grave site in the cemetery.

If you can get any information it would help.

Enjoyed the reunion.

Joe Macaluso, 5353 Pasteur Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70122-4135
504-282-1097

If anybody can give Joe any info he would appreciate it.

NAZI FLAG REMINDER OF LIFE LOST NEW YEARS EVE 1944

Archie and Betty Carlini of Corapolis, PA came to the 83rd Inf. Div. Reunion in Lexington to honor the memory of Archie's brother, Emilio Carlini of Co. C 308th Engineers who gave his life for his country on New Years Eve 1944 in the Battle of the Bulge. Archie, also served in World War II and was with the 1st Division that went in on Omaha Beach on D-Day.

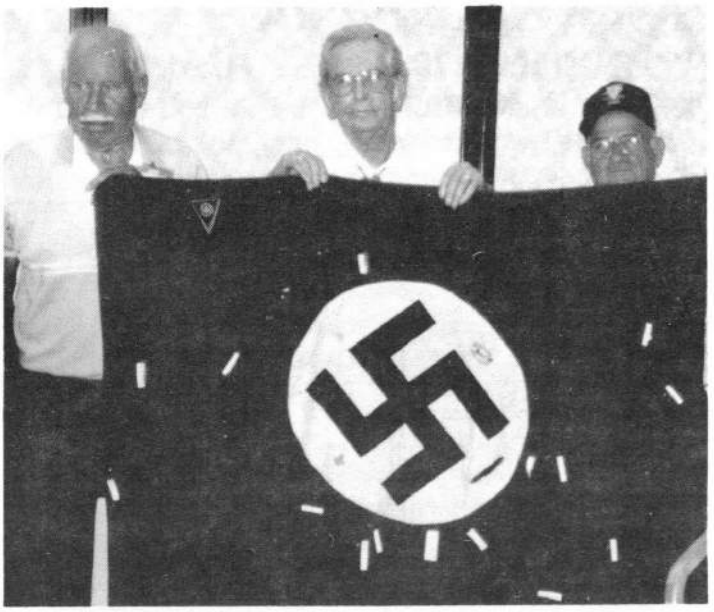
The Carlinis' brought from PA the Nazi flag that Sgt. Emilio Carlini had sent to Betty only a short time before he was killed in action. Emilio had about 250-300 men of Co. C autograph the war memento. Most of the names had no home town address.

It is 54 years later and the scene changes to a Leetsdale Grocery in PA. Archie and Betty Carlini spot a man wearing an 83rd Inf. Div. cap. It is John Marek of Sewickley, PA who provides the address of Sgt. Cecil Walters of Stanton, KY. Immediately, the Carlini and Walters family keep the postal service and telephone company busy exchanging pictures and mementos, which resulted in a beautiful relationship.

The Carlinis' were guests of Cecil and Nora Lee Walters the week of the reunion; they met Cliff Wooldridge, John Ferrell and Harry Kirby of Co. C 308th Eng. Cliff and Harry had also autographed the flag.

The banquet waitress and waiters at the Radisson, University of KY students from Czechoslovakia, when told the story of the flag were very interested. Cecil Walters told them he was sent to Pilson, Czechoslovakia, and some of the student said that was their home town.

Nora Walters
PO Box 98
Stanton, KY 40380-0098

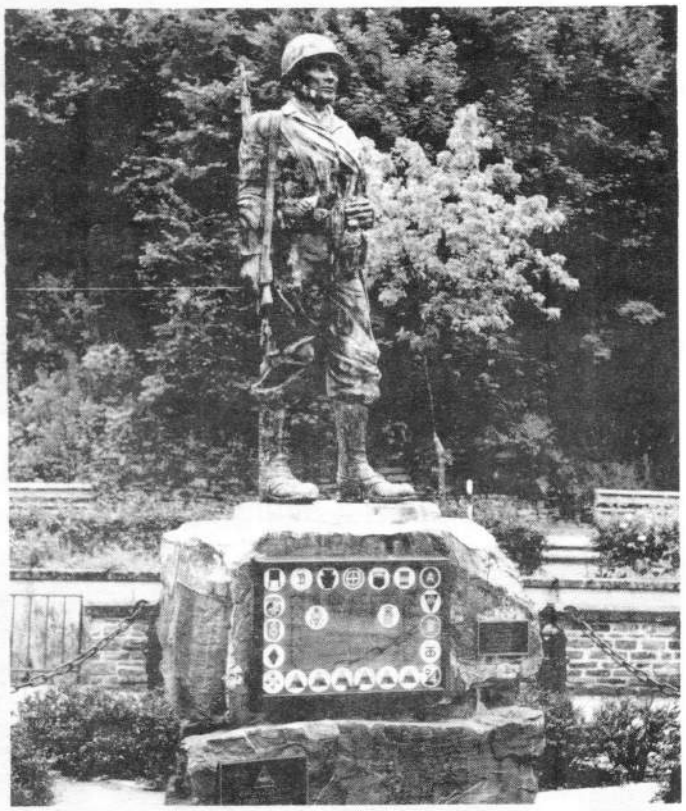


Cliff Wooldridge, Cecil Walters, Archie Carlini at Lexington Reunion - Carlini

Banquet waitress and waiters students at UK from Czechoslovakia.

Betty and Archie Carlini at Lex. for their first reunion.

A.C.H.G. Nouens
Vredestraat 173
6511 AD Nijmegen
The Netherlands



Probably you will be surprised to receive a letter from someone you do not know. Please, allow me to tell something about myself first.

My first name is Antoine, I was born in Eindhoven in 1973, studied law and graduated in Nijmegen where I still live. One of my hobbies is reading about The Battle of the Bulge and collecting WW II uniforms, paperwork etc. and find it interesting to visit the former battlefields, museums and monuments of the Ardennes.

Why did I write you?

- Because I am interested in personal stories/ experiences of WW II veterans and would like to get in contact with veterans of the 83rd Infantry Division who were in the Ardennes 1944-1945. As you probably will understand it is difficult to get in contact with American veterans when one is living in Europe/the Netherlands. Could you assist me?

- And because I wonder if the Association publishes something like a magazine/paper and if I could become a member of the Association.

It will be greatly appreciated if you would reply this letter and let me know if you can help me.

Thank you very much in advance.

Sincerely yours.
Antoine Nouens

Military History Preservation Society
Wm. T. Ripley
104 East Water Street
Pendleton, Indiana
46064

Hello. My name is Wm. T. Ripley. I am 27 years old and a graduate of Ball State University, where I majored in History. I would like to begin by telling you a bit about my projects.

Because of my interest in the Second World War I founded the organization mentioned above in 1986. Since that time it has grown to include both US and foreign uniforms, weapons, equipment, etc. I eventually hope to have a display facility for the public to come and view the artifacts. In the meantime items are taken out on display to schools, historical societies, libraries, and the like.

In 1987, to help the organization, I began contacting veterans of the Second World War. To date over 3,400 veterans from 32 countries have been contacted. All the replies are being compiled into a book of veteran "war stories" telling of the war as seen through the **veterans** eye, and not some "official" source.

I feel it very important to preserve the artifacts and memories of this violent era so present and future generations will remember the sacrifices made during this time. In addition to the projects mentioned above, I also do Civil War reenacting as a Private in Company H, 42nd Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

I was hoping that perhaps this letter might be printed in your newsletter. I am inviting all veterans of the 83rd to answer to the address above, telling stories of their time in service, especially, but not only, combat. Please be sure to include rank and unit as well, as well as a photo while in service if possible.

Thank you very much for your time and effort, and I hope to hear from you very soon. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Wm. T. Ripley

Dear Mr. Derickson,

I will not be able to attend the reunion of the 83rd Infantry on Aug. 18. I would very much like to hear any news about anyone in the Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion of the 329th Infantry. Could you please send me reports or contact information? A stamped envelope is enclosed.

Or if you prefer, you can email my daughter at treaster@ionet.net.

Thank you very much,
Paul Hartman
7308 Smoky Row Rd.
Greens Fork, IN. 47345
(765) 886-5388

Dear Mr. Derickson:

I found your name on the Internet associated with the 330th Infantry. I am interested in obtaining a history of the 330th Infantry, 83rd Division as my father, Myron Hemming, was with Company K from Camp Atterbury to the Elba River. I have several photos, news papers, etc. and would be glad to share them with other researchers.

Please let me know if anything is available and the cost.

Thank you,
Robert J. Hemming
1548 Eversham Place
Crofton, MD 21114
Hemming1@AOL.COM

A while back I wrote an article trying to locate someone that could have been with my brother, Michael Faisco who was killed in action in France 3 miles west of LaBarce France on July 27, 1944. The article gave a Co "L" 330th address but with no avail. So now I am looking for someone that could have been with him in England from June 1st to the middle of July 1944. I will list the address below from England. If anyone knew of him please contact me at the following address. There were two companies in England.

Michael Faisco
Co. "C" 83rd Inf. Division and
APO 15331
Salvatore Faisco
3156 Beachview Dr.
Toms River, N.J. 08753
(732) 270-8669

P.S. I am not sure if he was with the 330th or 331st. The address maybe could help you.

An Army Travels On It's Stomach

While cruising off the French coast near Normandy as guests on the John Greenleaf Whittier, the Recreation Director provided games of chance, up chucking (over the rail, please) and recollections. We were down to one meal a day due to a storm delaying our landing at Omaha Beach. The gambling stakes were not money, BUT for Food! Some players gobbled their winnings immediately.

Recollections involved recalling all the pubs we had visited between Liverpool and Southampton. All names had to be verified by others and the G.I. with the longest list would get all the free drinks he could hold upon our return to England, if ever. An old list survived - The Peacock, Green Man, Boot and Slipper, Bottle and Glass, Prince of Wales, Duke of Dorset, White Hart, Black Dog, Brewers Three, Newcastle Arms and Red Lion. No locations are given, but anyone visiting England today could do a bit of research.

Another recall game involved food, not of home, but of England - warm beer, burnt ale, bone filled fish and chips served on brown paper bangers and mash, boiled elderly mutton, etc. The game was cancelled because too many players needed to visit the rail (upchuck).

And then someone found the emergency rations in a lifeboat. All lifeboats were quickly stripped clean.

Upon landing and with no Mess Section in sight, we dug vegetables from gardens in an abandoned village, stewed a chicken in a helmet with the paint burnt off and survived.

The Message Center Section invited us to share their Special Stew. It was a wash tub full of meat, Spam, vegetables and gravy. The calf someone shot was so tough it had to be taken out of the stew. Later, we learned about aging meat - beef and venison. We also learned not to use a 50 caliber machine gun on a deer, the cooks claimed it makes too many bone splinters.

We had a debate on the odd shared bones from the stew - Dog? No, Cat. Never, Wild Rabbit. Raccoon, maybe? Another argument. No raccoons in Europe. Oh Yeah. Herman Goering imported them before the war. But that is in Germany, we're in France. They roam! But Roamin Raccoons are Italian! The argument broke up. My guess was Belgian Rabbit, those large bunnies kept in cages in people's backyard until they reached maximum weight.

But no problem - In those days we could digest anything!

Hal O'Neill , 83rd Signal

POW Chapel firebombed

By Sabine Vollmer

The Republic - Columbus, Indiana

CAMP ATTERBURY -- Arson is suspected in two fires that severely damaged a historic chapel at Camp Atterbury built by Italian prisoners of war during World War II.

The second fire hit Friday morning after workers repairing damage from the first one, about nine days ago, broke for lunch.

"This is not a flippant act of vandalism," said Sgt. Cecelia Ellis, Camp Atterbury's public affairs coordinator, as she viewed the damage.

"This is an act of hate."

State Fire Marshal David Lepper and Johnson County Sheriff's Department detectives and deputies searched the area for evidence. Friday afternoon. Arson investigators of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms were notified, The chapel is federal property.

"It looks like accelerants were used," Lepper said.

But he couldn't tell whether the evidence stemmed from the first or second suspicious fire.

Later Friday, an anonymous caller told the Johnson County Daily Journal in Franklin that the fire was set because of allegations of government misconduct in the 1993 Branch Davidian fire in Waco, Texas, now under investigation.

In the first incident at Camp Atterbury Sept. 2, the roof of the chapel had been soaked with kerosene or diesel fuel and set on fire, Camp Atterbury commander Col. Charles Adams said. The flames smoldered for a while, then went out on their own.

When the damage was discovered the next day, the accelerant had streaked the murals Italian World War II POWs had painted by hand on the chapel's inside walls, using paint made from berries and their blood.

Two of the Italian POWS returned to Camp Atterbury last month for the 10th Annual Prisoner of War Chapel Reunion. About 3,000 Italian POWs were held at Camp Atterbury during World War II.

Worried about copycats and vandals seeking attention in an increasing number of church arsons statewide, Adams said he kept quiet about the first fire.

Four state prison inmates had been nailing shingles on the chapel's roof and painting the pail blue outside walls Friday morning.

A fisherman at nearby Stone Arch Lake heard an explosion and saw flames licking the chapel's wooden roof about five to 10 minutes after the repair crew left for lunch at 11:10 a.m. Friday, Adams said.

At 11:22 a.m. Friday, Nineveh volunteer firefighters responded to the second suspicious fire at the chapel. When they arrived, flames were visible, and smoke billowed from the roof, said Assistant Fire Chief Dale Catron.

Within about 15 minutes the fire was extinguished, but fire, water and smoke damage left the chapel's wooden ceiling sagging and marred murals on walls and the ceiling.

At 1:05 p.m., an anonymous caller phoned the Johnson County Daily Journal newspaper to take responsibility for the arson.

According to the Franklin newspaper, the caller said:

"We want to relay the reason for the POW chapel. It's Waco. We want to let the government know we accept their declaration of war, and this is the first of a series."

Then, the caller hung up, the Journal reported.

Because the 56-year-old chapel has mainly historical value, Camp Atterbury officials have yet to assign a dollar amount to the damage.

The chapel has long been the target of vandalism.

In 1990, renovation of the three sided, one-room building removed evidence of camp fires, random shots fired at the concrete walls and human waste and restored the murals.

Glass and steel doors were installed to protect the interior.

But in 1991, anti-Catholic messages and symbols were spray painted on the chapel's outside walls. One of the glass door panels was knocked out of its frame, and three small religious statues were missing from the altar.

The Italian POWs dedicated the chapel to the Blessed Mother Mary in 1943. The federal government maintains the building as an important historical site.

Again, anti-Catholic flyers were left in the chapel's door shortly after Camp Atterbury celebrated its 10th annual POW chapel reunion Aug. 8.

It's unclear whether the incident is related to the Sept. 2 fire, Ellis said.

But she believed another incident at the chapel, reported by a security guard Sept. 3 or 4, is related.

The security guard had driven to the chapel, which is surrounded by a fenced-in grassy area and woods, to check on the building, Ellis said.

When she left her car, the security guard heard somebody in the woods yell at her to get back into the car and leave.

Ellis believed somebody had been watching the chapel from the woods to determine when the repair crew would leave for lunch Friday.

A police dog searching Friday about noon led its handler straight into the woods, members of the repair crew said.

Also, a wooden ladder was left leaning against the chapel's outside wall. Among the evidence collected at the scene was a set of what investigators called "fresh, oily fingerprints" on the fence.

In the afternoon, several visitors pulled into the gravel parking lot next to the chapel.

Most had watched a Channel 8 newscast Thursday night about the Sept. 2 fire. They came to see the damage and learned the chapel had burned again.

"I was telling everybody it'll be OK," Ellis said while she watched visitors arrive, look, shake their heads and leave.

"I guess I didn't knock on wood enough."

But the chapel has been rebuilt before, she added, "and it will be rebuilt again."

Sent in by Helen L. Miller, Columbus, In. 47201

Soldiers who saved Pvt. Ryan are fading away

Veterans: VFW posts are struggling for life as generations change.

By Dirk Johnson
The New York Times

BERWYN, ILL. - The old soldiers talked about the days, not so long ago, when they skated across the dance floor at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2378, swinging as if the songs would never end.

"It would get so packed the walls would bulge," said George Alexander, a World War II veteran, standing near a row of empty bar stools at the veterans' lodge in this old blue-collar Chicago suburb. "Now we go to a lot of funerals."

As time conquers the heroes of World War II, and the nation loses more than 1,000 veterans a day, VFW posts around the United States are struggling to survive. With membership falling, nearly 300 of the nation's 10,000 VFW posts have folded in the last few years, unable to shoulder property taxes on the halls.

In a move to save these halls, lawmakers in Illinois have enacted a bill that reduces taxes on property owned by veterans; groups by 85 percent, and freezes them at that level.

"The generation that saved Private Ryan is leaving us, unfortunately," said Dennis Culloton, a spokesman for Gov. George Ryan of Illinois, who signed the tax-relief measure. "They were there for us when it counted. Now it's our turn to be there for them."

Fading generation

Nearly 550,000 veterans died in 1998, the majority of them World War II soldiers. The number of deaths yearly is projected to grow to 620,000 in 2008, according to Ken McKinnon, a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and then start to decline.

About 25 million Americans alive today have served in the military. Of these, 19 million are over 50. The survivors of World War II are in their mid-70s and older, with most Korean War veterans at least 70. The average age of the Vietnam War veteran is 51. There are believed to be about 3,500 veterans of World War I, all of them at least 95, McKinnon said.

Some 16 million Americans served in World War II, eight times the number of troops now active in all branches of the military. Six million of the World War II soldiers are still alive, and about 4 million Korean War veterans are still living.

But the deaths of veterans are coming in such large numbers that military bases are having a difficult time sending honor guards to the funerals of all those who served in the military. Unable to send a bugler to play at every funeral, the Defense Department now uses a tape-recorded version of taps for the memorial services of some veterans.

Simple expectations

"We didn't expect a lot from life, our generation," said Andrew Stevenson, 70, a veteran of the Korean War who still remembers the cold winds like a razor blade ripping over the mountain. "We wanted to get out of high school, get a car, get a girl, get a house, have some kids and just sit out on the front steps and talk. Kids today they don't look at things that way."

Besides being a lodge for veterans, the VFW hall, a fixture of the old neighborhood, has long served as a sort of working-class country club, a place for wedding receptions, anniversary parties, class reunions.

The Berwyn post, a yellow brick building with a green cannon out front, was a place where veterans could "have a home away from home," as Bill Lincoln, a 71-year-old World War II veteran, put it.

"Kids today just aren't joiners," said Tom Kissell, the membership director for the national VFW. "The lodge mentality is no longer there."

But Kissell acknowledged that the membership problems went deeper and were a legacy of the generation gap between the World War II and Vietnam veterans, a chasm that never quite closed.

"There are still a lot of hard-nosed old-time veterans who think the only war this country ever fought was World War II," Kissell said.

Even now, the older veterans in the Berwyn hall talk about the pot-smoking by men in Vietnam. For their part, some of the Vietnam men say they rankled the older veterans by speaking frankly about politics and patriotism.

Hyatt, a 70-year-old Korean War veteran, scarcely able to contain his displeasure.

But many of the Vietnam men say they never felt welcome in the veterans' clubs.

Kissell, the VFW official and himself a Vietnam veteran, said the young men returning from Southeast Asia were often given short shrift.

"I feel our government was wrong in Vietnam," Kissell said, but he acknowledged that many older veterans consider it wrong to dissent when a country is at war. "We sacrificed 58,000 kids who never got the chance to grow up. And if I saw another Vietnam developing, I would do everything in my power to keep my sons out of it."

Warren H. Hutchens, K-330th
14316 Suffolk St.
Westminster, CA 92683-4852

Dear Friend,

One day while showing my grandson pictures of the T.T.F., a little news paper fell out from among the sheets. From reading the associations Thunderbolt the first name I ran across was Cpl. James R. Prentice of Hatford, Conn. and T5 Edward Horrox, Manville, R.I. So I decided to read on and lo and Behold look what I found.

NAZIS OWN DISQUISE & RICKSMACK BACK. I hope he reads it correctly.

Mr. Derickson if you can find a little corner to put it in I certainly would appreciate it.

Thanks a million,
P.F.C. Basil Polinsky
Co. 'A' 331st Inf.

The T.T.F.
Somewhere in Germany
Saturday, March 10, 1945
Vol. 1, No. 11

FOXHOLE INTERVIEWS

QUESTION: How do you feel about the Army's non-fraternization policy with German civilians?

Pfc. Vannie Griggs of Richmond, Ky., Co. C radio operator. I don't need any army regulation to keep me away from German civilians. There are too many unpleasant thoughts in my mind. I blame them for my being in uniform. I blame them for my being here. And alot of my buddies would still be alive today. I don't even like to talk to them in the performance of duties. As for their girls. I don't give it a thought. Let's get this war over with so I can get home to my wife.

S/Sgt. Theodore Fyala, Co. A machine gun section sergeant. A 65 dollar line doesn't keep me away from any Germans. I just don't have any feeling of friendship at all. There's always a tendency for a man coming from the line to seek friendship with civilians. But there's absolutely no such desire with me. In the States, I didn't feel any anymosity toward the German nation. But as soon as I hit Normandy, that's all I needed. The hatred that's developed will be a long time in leaving.

R.I., Co. F Rifleman You can't relax as long as you're in Germany. Fraternization with civilians may be tempting because it's relaxing for men after a battle. But as long as you are on German soil, you can't relax. Nobody outside of an American uniform is your friend. You can't trust a German. They may appear friendly to you and maybe some of them are sincere but we are not the ones to judge who's who. Those that are happy to see us here are in the small minority. And you can't determine who they are. I'm on the alert everytime I leave the CP.

S/Sgt. Paul Painter of Troutville, Va., Co. I squad leader. I'm all for that regulation. But even if it didn't exist I couldn't be friendly with Germans. That feeling of sincerety isn't there. You can't help liking the people in France, Luxembourg and Belgium because they always tried to do so much for you. But even if these German people gave us a hearty welcome I wouldn't trust them. There's spies among them without question. The war isn't won and we must be security minded more than ever. Look at all the civilian snipers we had to wipe out. Hell, I've seen too much of these Jerries. And no one need tell me to stay away. I'd do it anyway.

PFC Vannie Griggs

S/Sgt. Theodore Fyala

S/Sgt. Paul Painter

Name Unknown

Ivan Helps Joe Dig Up Hiding SS

The Anglo-Russian alliance was brought closer home in the taking of Neuss when three Russians, held prisoners by the Jerries, aided men of Co. L in rounding up the enemy. Pointing out a house hiding an SS man. One of the Russians accompanied Pfc. Alfred Levy, Chicago, Ill. Pfc. Clarence Hochberger, Fargo, N. Dakota, and Pfc Darlan Jones, Marshall, Texas, to investigate.

While taking an SS trooper, a shot was fired at them from the haystack in a vacant field. They went to the haystack to discover an observation tower.

The Russian made the SS trooper climb up the tower to draw any possible fire. The trooper returned immediately with one of his comrades who had changed to civilian clothes. From here the Russian with the aid of his companions pointed out other suspicious areas.

Thanks Boys, Have A Cig - Said the Nazi

T/5 Edward Horrox, Manville, R.I., Service Battery 908 FA Bn., and Cpl. James R. Prentice, Hartford, Conn., Battery B, 908 FA Bn., were riding in their jeep when they saw a German soldier come out of a dugout. Horrox put on the brakes. Prentice leveled his carbine. The German waved his handkerchief.

With a look of relief on his face, the Jerry reached into his pocket and pulled out a package of cigarettes which he offered to the men as he expressed his thanks for being captured. A civilian in the states may have broken the German's arm reaching for this treasure. Horrox and Prentice refused. To them nothing is more fraternal than smoking.

Buckshot in Rear End Makes Jerry Jitterbug

Kentucky's own Pfc. Willard Cornelius, Co. I bazookaman, felt right at home last week during the melee of a German counterattack. Spotting a tank from the window of a house, Cornelius with the aid of Tec 5 Curtis Kimball, Saugus, Mass., prepared to shoot. The bazooka wouldn't fire. Throwing down the weapon, Cornelius picked up a double-barreled shot gun which had been lying in the room. Hurrying to the window he stuck his head out. The tank was gone but a Jerry infantryman was coming around the corner of the building.

Cornelius let go a volley from both barrels that had the surprised Heinie dancing down the road.

Said he "There's nothing more reliable than a shotgun".

'L' 329th Inf. sent in by J. I. Lamb, 7751 Custer Cove, Southaven, MS. 38671-4527.

This is Gilbert King of Mass. and J.I. Lamb. Haven't seen each other for 54yrs.

Robert Keck and his wife.

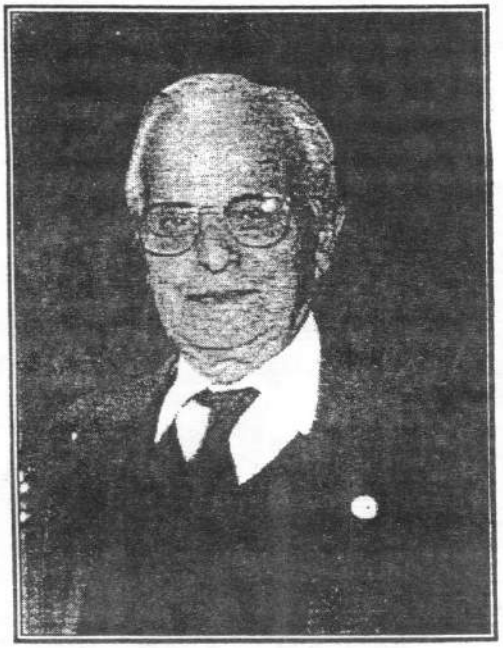
Jaunita and grandson

Jaunita and son-in-law

This is my life.....

John DeSimone --A STRONG HEARTBEAT AT Queen of Peace!!

You recognize his car - the 1986 Chevy "Celebrity" It is the one with the bumper falling off, and the trunk wide open, filled with boxes for the poor. This man is to be honored - a true "Celebrity" with a heart that, like his car, is always wide open and filled with life and love that is shared so generously, with every breath he takes.



John "D." was born in Philadelphia in 1915. He came to Hartford, New Jersey in 1921 where he lived with his mother and seven brothers and sisters. It was here that he acquired his life long love for gardening and the ultimate flavor of a tomato!

When we entered World War II, our country called and John responded enthusiastically and with a dedication to the USA that to this day is a large part of his being. In 1942, he found himself going from taking care of medical records to being a frontline combat medic in Europe. John is always willing to share stories of the time he spent with the 83rd Infantry Division.

For 35 years John owned the service station at Marne Highway and Hartford Road. After retiring he moved to Hainesport in 1982 and joined the Queen of Peace Parish.

From that moment his life has given meaning, vitality and heart to the word volunteer, both at Church and beyond. He started by raking leaves and worked his way up to hedge clipping! Today, wherever there is a need, you can find John. He opens the Church and sets up for daily Mass; he feeds the animals; he stuffs the bulletins and carries them over to the church; he collects the trash; he takes Confirmandi to the Camden Soup Kitchen; he helps organize CCD materials for classes, etc., etc., etc.

His efforts extend far beyond the boundaries of OLQP. Since 1984 he has been a vital part of the Cathedral Kitchen, Inc. in Camden. They provide dinners for the homeless and families in difficult times. His Young At Heart Award from Healthcare Medicare and the JC Penny Golden Rule Award are just a few of the ways he has been publicly honored.

Knowing John loves to read prompted me to ask, "Why not stay home and read a book? Where does this holy energy come from?" He is convinced that his energy comes from the love of everything he is doing. "It keeps me young", he says. "That and the Upjohn multiple vitamin I take everyday!" Incredibly, with all he does each day, he still gets the reading done.

The people at Queen of Peace are really the reason our own Energizer Bunny keeps spreading joy and "hanging around." (No such thing for John.) He applauds Father Dan for the ways he has brought the parish to life and surfaces potential in the lives of people. "Folks don't just come to mass and go home anymore", observes John. They are part of a community.

As I sat interviewing John for this article, I realized that I had accumulated enough information about John "D" to do an early pre-canonization process! His humility, faithfulness, sense of humor and love for humankind shine through everything John does.

My personal thought at this moment was, I see John every morning at mass. As I come running in at the last moment, John has already been there for 30 minutes of prayer and solitude. At the time of Communion, I receive Jesus, the Bread of Life. I move forward to the Minister of the Cup, John DeSimone. I take the cup, look at John and see an authentic reflection of the Jesus I just received. I have often been quoted as saying "just being with John "D" lifts you and carries you through the day".

Thank you John, for sharing your life, your spirit, your heart, your energy and your sense of humor with all of us here at Queen of Peace.

The Beat goes on.....
By: Sister Pat McGinley, SSJ

Dear Mr. Derickson,

I have received your name from a website message board regarding information about the 83rd Infantry Division. My father, William Oscar Sabom, now deceased, participated as a 1st Lt. with the 83rd, 330th Infantry, Co. K. in the landing on Omaha Beach D-day plus 10. He was wounded at Culot on July 5, 1944. That was the end of his service. My brother and I are trying to make sense of some letters he left in boxes, and would like to know if there is a place to obtain the information on the official reports of action and rosters of the platoons. We would like to match the secondary sources with the official report. Also, is there a place to begin to locate, in order to contact, some of the people named in the letters.

Thank you for any help you might be in researching this period of our father's life.

Margaret Sabom Bruchez
P.O. Box 990
College Station, TX 77841

Dear Mr. Gore: Thanks for the Purple Heart

Columns by Larry A Hicks,
Dispatch/Sunday News columnist
York Sunday News

The following is an open letter to Vice President Al Gore and his wife, Tipper:

Dear Al and Tipper,

First, please accept my apology for being so informal in my salutation. You don't know me at all, and I only know you from what I read and see on TV, but you seem like the sort of folks who wouldn't mind if a complete stranger called you Al and Tipper, I hope I'm right about that.

Anyway, the purpose of this letter is to extend to you my personal thanks and appreciation for your having become involved in West York resident Lawrence F. Rizzuto's quest to finally receive the Purple Heart he earned on July 4, 1944, while serving in the U.S. Army during the invasion of Normandy.

Rizzoto's story: I understand you both have read a column I wrote several months ago about this situation, but to refresh your memory, Lawrence was serving as a Tech Sgt. in Company E, 331st Infantry when he was wounded in his lower left leg by shrapnel from a German bomb.

"We were going across a swamp with mud up to our butts," Lawrence said. "It was so thick you couldn't walk; you almost had to slide through it. Our lieutenant was out in front of us, and he got shot by a machine gunner. He stood under a tree and was still drawing fire, so two of us went up there and pulled him down. We couldn't even return fire because our guns were clogged with mud.

"That's when the bomb hit the tree above us. The tree just burst into pieces and shrapnel was flying all around. That's when I got hit," he said.

Around noon that day, the Germans overtook Lawrence's position, and he was captured by the 17th SS Panzer Division of the German Army near Normandy, France.

For almost a year, Lawrence and about 40 of his fellow prisoners of war were moved from place to place by the Germans. He was given a POW number: 50138, and was held at POW camps in Notre Dame (Starvation Hill), Chateau-Thierry, Alencon, Chartres, Chalon, Trier XII D, Muhlenberg IV B and KristenNuest ADT III C.

More often than not, the living conditions were awful. It was either too hot or too cold. The food was bad. The sleeping conditions were worse. No showers. No changes of clothing. "When we marched from the railroad station at Triers to the camp, the German people spit at us, threw stones and hit us with their fists. The guards never tried to stop them," Lawrence said.

Bug soup: He vividly recalls a meal called "Whispering Grass" soup -- "that is some kind of grass cooked in water, and the only meat in it were the bugs that lived in the grass." He remembers clearly a gentle French woman who provided him with a glass of warm milk with a pat of butter melted in it.

He recalls an occasional meat sandwich -- "They didn't tell us what the meat was, and we didn't ask. We just ate it." And he remembers times when the POWs' only meal was what they could scavenge from the Germans' garbage.

That all ended June 30, 1945, when the POWs were freed by the Russians, after the Russians mistook them for Germans and fired upon them, killing many American soldiers. The POWs boarded trains near the Russian border headed for

Lawrence Rizzuto of West York, shown here in his World War II uniform, received a phone call from Vice President Al Gore last week informing him he would receive his long-overdue Purple Heart next month.

Odessa, a Russian city on the Black Sea. From there, they were loaded onto boats and taken to Italy.

Army bureaucracy, a fire that destroyed some of his military records in St. Louis, the misspelling of Lawrence's name on his honorable discharge papers and the passage of 55 years variously have been blamed for his not receiving a Purple Heart.

As you well know by now, however, Lawrence is entitled to a Purple Heart. There are numerous references to his leg wound on physicians' reports made at various times in the last 20 years after examinations by Veterans' Administration doctors.

That's why I asked in my earlier column: Is anyone out there listening? Can anyone help?

You responded: Thankfully, you opened your hearts to this story.

I know of your involvement because I received a telephone call Thursday from Bunny Burson, a spokeswoman for the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and she told me that your personal intervention on Lawrence's behalf -- "Tipper and I decided that we should try to help him," I believe you said -- has expedited the issuance of his Purple Heart.

I also know that you placed a personal call to Lawrence Wednesday afternoon and took 10 or 15 minutes out of your busy day to speak with him on the telephone. Believe me, you made his day, his week and his month by your generosity.

Al, you told Lawrence he'd have his Purple Heart "in the next two or three weeks." That's the best news he's heard regarding his Purple Heart in 55 years.

The last I heard, plans are being made for Lawrence to receive his Purple Heart during Sunday morning services at his church, St. Rose of Lima, in mid-September. He's ecstatic about that.

As I'm sure you realize, government bureaucracy is too often a difficult thing for the average person to slice through. Without your help, we might not have managed to cut through it on our own. You've done a good deed here. And it hasn't gone unnoticed.

A personal invitation: Given your role in making all of this possible, I think it'd be wonderful if you could make the presentation yourselves. I know you're busy folks, what with running a presidential campaign and continuing to fulfill your vice presidential duties, but York is only two hours away from Washington, D.C. If you find yourself with some free time that Sunday morning you'd surely be welcome to pay us a visit. What a wonderful surprise that would be for Lawrence.

Consider it a campaign trip, if you like, since we do have a plentiful supply of Democrats here in York, Pa.

Once again, Al and Tipper, thank you very much for your involvement in this matter.

Lawrence appreciates it. His family and friends appreciate it, too.

Sent in by Mr. Robert E. Gotwalt, Recon Troop

Dear Mr. Derickson,

Sorry it has taken so long for me to get back with you. I received the 83rd Thunderbolt book in fine shape. With your permission, I would like to borrow it for a few more weeks.

I have established a web site for the 83rd Infantry Division on the internet. I know that you do not use the internet, but I hope that you have a friend or relative that will show the site to you, so that you may see what we can do. I would imagine that you local library would have access.

The address of the site is httpL//members.xoom.com/83rdInfDiv Anyone with internet experience will understand the address.

Of course, I do not have a great deal of information on the site yet, but hope to, if we can begin to get members of your association familiar with the site. Do you think it would be possible to mention the website in the next issue of your Association magazine? I will write up a short description, that you may, or may not, use at your discretion. It follows:

A new Internet web site is being built, dedicated to the 83rd Thunderbolt Division. It will contain the history of the Division, plus individual stories, photos, diaries, death notices, reunion information and just about anything else that the members would like to see displayed.

The site is being developed by James West, a member of the Camp Atterbury Museum Association. Similar sites have already been developed for the 106th Golden Lions, the 31st Dixie and the 38th Cyclone. Mr. West is a veteran of both the Army and the Air Force. His goal is to have a site in place for every Division that passed through Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

There is no charge for the service. Any information or photos submitted, remain the property of the individual and the individual may request changes or withdrawal of the information at any time. Submissions will not be checked for historical accuracy but entered as received. There is no form to fill out - just send whatever you want to the address below. Email submissions also accepted.

The Internet address of the 83rd Infantry Division web site is:

http://www.members.xoom.com/83rdInfDiv

You may also want to take a look at the site for the 106th, to get some ideas of what you may send. That address is:

http://www.members.xoom.com/GoldenLions

Send inquires, stories, etc. to James West, 4223 S. Shelby 750 W., Franklin IN 46131-9205, or email at jimwest@shelbynet.net. Phone (317) 729-5779.

A site has also been developed for Camp Atterbury itself. It is at http://www.shelbynet.net/~usaf71stsos

Hope that wasn't too long. You may modify in any way you see fit.

I believe we can really make a "go" of this site. The 106th site grows daily. It was advertised in their CUB magazine only this week, and 23 people have sent articles to date.

We can include information of your upcoming reunions, member news, deaths, etc. There is no limit in what we can do. I borrowed a few copies of your Thunderbolt magazine from the museum, and was surprised to see they were donated by Col. Lewis Tenney. He is on the Museum Association with me, but I never made the connection until now.

I appreciate your help.
James West
4223 S. Shelby 750 W
Franklin, IN 46131-9205

1945 - 2000

55 years ago next April the Battle for Berlin ended for the 83rd Div. at Barby, Walternienburg and Zerbst on the Elbe river. Some of your German counterparts, German veterans of 1945, are having a reunion at Walternienburg Germany April 14, 16, 2000. Any of you, American comrades that wish to come and commemorate will be warmly welcome.

For details write: Horst Reinhold
207 - 1 Peppermint Lane
Naples, FL 34112

TEL (040) 536-8846 GREVENAU 1 B
Fax (040) 536-8886 D-22391 Hamburg

Why?
By Sue Chuzi

Why am I so stupid
As to make the same mistake twice?
Perhaps I should swallow my pride
And ask for some advice.

Why can't I follow instructions
Printed so carefully?
But I find them all beyond me
To figure out mechanically.

Sometimes it's really not my fault
When written by a foreign firm;
Their instructions are so obtuse
And their English makes me squirm.

Why is it that after
I have toiled and am almost through,
There's always a piece missing
Be it just a tiny screw.

Why when I am missing a part
I seem to have others to spare.
Oh why can't it come all assembled
So I don't have to struggle and swear!

A MESSAGE TO ALL 83RD MEMBERS.....

Anyone wishing to purchase coats and caps may write to:
Vito C. Palazzolo, 20000 Lancaster, Harper Woods, Michigan 48225
for information. He will send you an application form.

83rd Reunion Will be held at
The Friar Tuck Inn Resort
in the Catskill Mountains, N.Y.
Dates are
Sept. 6-7-8-9, 2000

DUES ARE DUE NOW FOR 2000 ($15.00)

THUNDERBOLT DEADLINES

Deadline for ALL articles to be published in Thunderbolt must be at this office by Oct. 10, Feb. 10 and May 10.
Robert Derickson,
3749 Stahlheber Road,
Hamilton, OH 45013 - 8907

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BULLETIN

When you move and change your address, **PLEASE,** send 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.***