



THUNDERBOLT

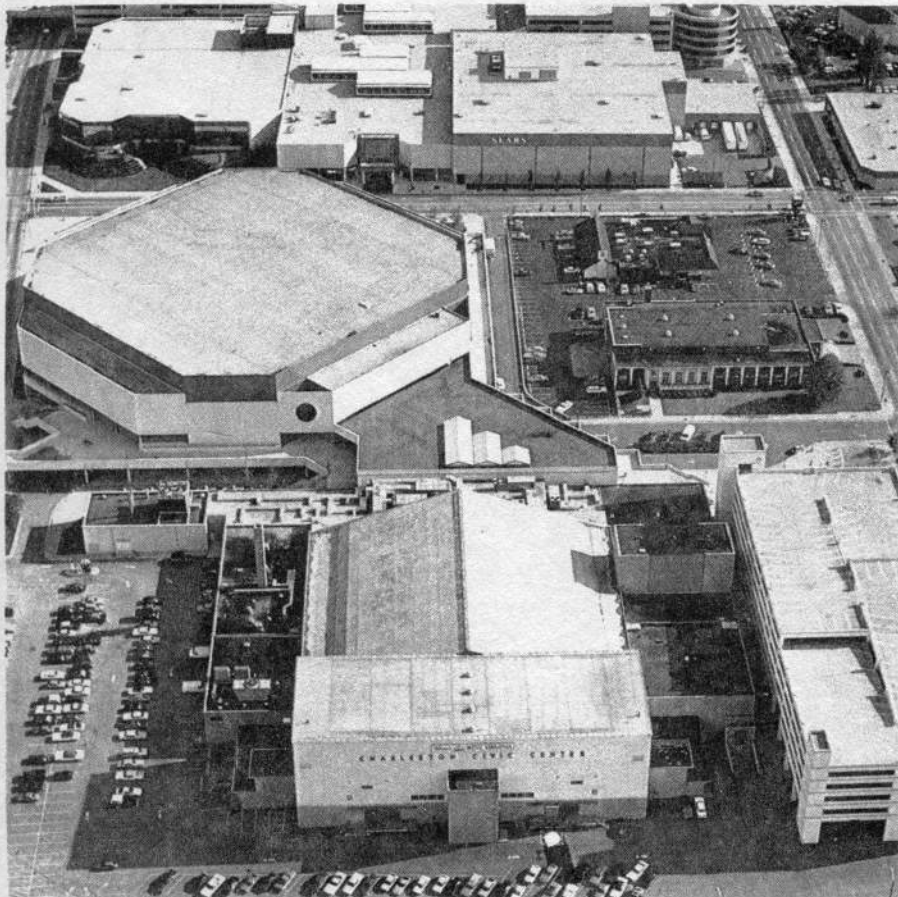
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A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL

*James C. Hanrahan 1947	*Frank J. McGrogan..... 1961	Bernard O. Riddle 1974
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Raymond J. Voracek 1958	*Charles Altomari 1971	Bernie Cove 1984
Charles Abdinoor 1959	*Harold H. Dopp 1972	Carroll Brown 1985
*Joseph F. Minotti 1960	Louis J. Volpi..... 1973	

*Denotes Deceased

This Issue Dedicated To The Memory of
John T. Piscitelli



Our own beloved John and his lovely wife Josie.

John Piscitelli, National Chaplain of the 83rd Infantry Division Association of World War II, passed away May 11, 1987.

He is survived by his wife Josephine, daughter Ida, son Anthony, and brother Edward. John had suffered with Lung Cancer for the last two years. The 83rd Division Association sends our condolences to his family. May you rest in peace John.



Norman Schuster presenting the Flag covering John's casket to Josie and her son and daughter.

Announcement of the viewing and funeral of John T. Piscitelli, National Chaplain, 83rd Infantry Division Assn.

John was laid out on Wednesday evening, May 13, 1987 at the Baldi Funeral Home on South Broad Street in Philadelphia.

In attendance at the viewing was 26 members of the Association, among them was our National President, John Hobbs, of Charleston, West Virginia, National Secretary-Treasurer Bob Derickson, of Hamilton, Ohio, 3rd Vice President, Jim Prentice of Hartford, Conn., Executive Board Member, Ames Miller of Columbus, Indiana, Past National President Pat DiGiammerino, of Malden, Mass., as well as three Past National Presidents from the Philadelphia area, Lou Volpi, Al Belvedere and Larry Redmond, along with several Chapter Members and several wives. There was a total of 26 men in attendance at the viewing.

At the Funeral on Thursday, May 14, 1987, in attendance were the National Officers named above as well as several Chapter members. A color guard and firing squad were provided by the Chapter as well as a bugler for Taps. John was given a funeral with all the honors he so well deserved. A marvelous job was done by both the Firing Squad and the Bugler.

John was a tremendous Chaplain and a great Association Member, very dedicated in both ways.



Al Belvedere and his men at John's funeral



The
**President's
Corner**

Dear Buddies:

This is my last time to be writing to you as President of this great organization, The 83rd Infantry Division Association. I sincerely hope that I will be able to serve this great organization in some way. As the West Virginia Chapter has never had the experience of hosting a reunion, it has sometimes been a bit trying. We appreciate the advice from the other Chapters. When you come to the reunion we hope that everything will be to your liking. We have tried very hard to please all of you and we hope that is what you will find.

The Executive Board met on May 15 and 16 in Harrisburg. I had the pleasure of meeting with them and went over all our plans with them. If you will recall in the last issue of the Thunderbolt we had set a tentative figure of \$75.00 for the registration fee. When the Board met the figure was lowered to \$60.00 per person.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Executive Board and other members of this great organization for all the support and suggestions that have been given to me since I became your President. It is with pride that I relinquish this office and am looking forward to seeing you in Charleston "Almost Heaven", West Virginia on August 20th, 21st and 22nd.

Remember the "Early Bird" on Wednesday night, August 19th.

We are planning a Patio Party during the Dog Races. If you wish to attend the Patio Party with us the complete cost will be \$11.00 per person. If you wish to attend dinner on your own at the races you may do so. The restaurant will be open for "Set-Down" dinners. You must pay \$5.00 per person for your transportation and admission to the Track. Please complete the application that is in the center fold and mail it immediately to me. John Hobbs, 1401 Camden Drive, Charleston, West Virginia 25301.

Your Buddy, **John Hobbs**, "B" 908th

Chairman's Message

These past three months have been a very busy time with reunion and association business.

In March Fran and I met with the Dixie Chapter in Williamsburg, Va. for their spring meeting. It is always a pleasure being with the Dixie Group. This meeting resembles a Mini-Reunion. They have a hospitality room open all day into the wee hours of the morning. The ladies furnish many tasty food items. The Saturday Banquet is complete with an open bar and a great dance band. John and Virginia Cox were the hosts for this meeting and are to be commended for a great job. This is a perfect example of what can be accomplished when members support their chapter. Thanks again, you were all great. Looking forward to being with all next March.

May 3rd-Fran and I along with Emil and Hazel Wehling, Fred and Addie Rein went to the Pines Hotel to join with the Boston Chapter for their Mini-Reunion. Joining us were Liz and Mike Skovran from Warren, Ohio. We eight shared a table for our meals and there shared many happy times. Again Pat and Ginny DiGiammerino and Bernie Cove did an outstanding job in our behalf. Thanks, you also were great.

Memorial Day-Fred, Addie, Fran and I were in Narbeth, PA. to march with the Philadelphia Chapter in the parade. We met in Lou and Lucy Volpi's restaurant to assemble and march to the start of the parade route. There the 83rd group took up their position in the lead and as they so often did as a fighting unit did an outstanding job. Heard during the march were comments from the on lookers such as, "there go the real soldiers." Philly, you did us proud.

Our Chaplain John Piscitelli passed away May 11th. John devoted much of his time serving this great association of ours. John also served on the executive board. He was also very active for the Philadelphia Chapter. He will be missed. It is people of John's character who are responsible for our having a successful association. Thanks for all you have done for your buddies.

May 14th to the 17th the Executive Board met in Harrisburg, PA. for our spring meeting. On the agenda were the final plans for the Charleston Reunion. Our President John Hobbs presented the program which should make for a very enjoyable reunion for those that are attending. We on the Executive Board have done our best to keep the costs down so that more of you can be with your buddies. Personally I

feel the location being in the heart of the city along with the options you have for attractions and restaurants will only add to your enjoying this reunion.

We also met with the officers who will be in charge of the Hershey Reunion. Al Belvedere, Louis Volpi and Norm Schuster with the Executive Board met with the Sales Manager from the Hershey Lodge. The purpose of this meeting was to try to make the best deal for the 1988 reunion. Because Hershey is a resort area the costs are geared to such. I believe that we made the best deal we could with the hotel representative. Anytime you members vote for a reunion site you should take this into consideration, when you approve the reunion site you approve the cost that goes with it. Don't blame the reunion committee or the executive board if costs are not to your liking. We are here to serve you members to the best of our ability and to keep the association strong. You members do your part.

This is my final message as your chairman. It has been an honor to serve you. It has also been an honor for me to serve with all the men and women who give so much to the association. The Executive Members who I will always respect and admire for their dedication are Manny Goodridge who was the first Chairman I served with. Next was one of the nicest gentleman I have ever met, Joe Macaluso. It was Joe who served as my mentor and helped me to assume the responsibilities of this office. Bob Taylor who with all the personal problems of Rita's illness gave so much of himself. William Chavanne who with a terminal illness came to the board meetings, traveling great distances at times to serve you. Larry Leonardi a great friend who will succeed me as chairman. Ralph Gunderson who I have recently become good friends with.

Ames Miller who in his quiet and gentle manner carries a big stick. William Minick a true southern gentleman who will be and is a great asset to us. John Raikos whose expertise has for so many years helped us in his office as Judge Advocate. Robert Grazier a new man on the block who has contributed much.

Bob and Pearl Derickson whose dedication and hard work as Secretary-Treasurer, Editor of the **Thunderbolt** and many other jobs that make our association the best. These dear people would call me sometimes at midnight to resolve a problem and while Bob and I talked, Pearl's typewriter could be heard in the background. I often wondered where they got their energy. Thanks Bob and Pearl you're wonderful.

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve you.

God Bless you all.

Stan Bielen 3



Greetings
from the
Secretary-Treasurer's Office

Happy Summer Days From The Office

Here we are at the beginning of summer. Another year has almost gone by. Again, we say it is a busy time here in the office. But, then when isn't it busy here. With over 1800 active members and that many inactive members this is a full time job for Pearl and I. Someone told me that no one is more important than another and that is true, but someone has to be in charge of all the records of the Association. An Executive Board member is elected for a five year term. It takes a few years to learn this business and it is a large business now. Some think I try to take over the running of the reunion. But you know we have built this organization up with a great deal of hard work by all members and a lot of time-consuming hours. I love to do it or else we would not be where we are today.

The President is elected for one year. There is no way he can learn everything in that amount of time. He must depend on someone to guide and help him through it. That is what the Office and the Executive Board are for. When I go to the accountant at the end of the year I must have records. With everything going on computer now there is no way that anything can be done wrong. There cannot be two or three 83rd accounts out in the organization. We are a tax exempt organization and there can be only one bank account under the name of 83rd. Your account may say Chapter account of the 83rd, but not 83rd account. I must know how many members we have, how many attended the reunion. How many first time members. The number of guests we had at the reunion. How long each one stayed and how much they paid. All figures must be turned in. I must know how many members I send the **Thunderbolt** to. The amount of postage used. This is just not a little business any more fellows.

We must follow our by-laws and guide lines set up by the Executive Board and the membership. I must see to that. All records have to be kept on office expenses and equipment. As I said before when a Board member is elected he is elected for five years. Each year one member goes off the Board and another one comes on. I know what has been done in the past and I am here to offer advice. I know that I am not the Chairman but all the Chairmen have been very good at communicating with the National Secretary-

Treasurer. When we go to a reunion we try to have things ready to go. I must have registration for our records. That must be done, men, or the Association will be called on the carpet by the IRS.

The Executive Board requests that I be in charge of registration because I am the one who has to answer for it. I am here as your elected officer. I try to do my best. I must have cooperation from the hotel and the host chapter. When we get your dues money in here we have an alphabetical list. We pull that card and make up your membership card and a zipcode card. Your envelope must be typed up and a personal letter goes to each one of you. You take 1800 times that and think what has to be done. We have requests for information. We already have approximately 100 new members plus. We have four sheets of information that goes out to every person who requests information. That is what keeps our membership up. In January we start sending out reminders to all who have not paid for the year.

Then, four times a year we do the **Thunderbolt**. We read every thing that comes to the office and edit it. If it is not legible for the printer we retype it. It then goes to the printer. When he has the first copy for us we proof that and then back to the printer. He then makes the copy for the book which we again check. It is then ready for printing. This takes about a month to get this all accomplished. When the book comes back here to the office, I address it all and sort it by zip code order, bag it and take it to the post office. With freebies which goes to other organizations and Va hospitals, all widows if they want the magazine, we have over 2000 pieces of mail to go out just with that mailing alone. We must keep track of people who have two addresses. One now for summer as well as winter. That is growing all the time. This is an explanation of some of the work that goes on here in the office. Just thought some of you might like to know. Come and visit us anytime. We are proud of this office and would love to have you see it. It is yours.

Now for the rest of my article: Again I have a very sad note to put in this article. As many of you know, John Piscitelli passed away early on Monday morning, May 11. We were given a call at about 7:00 a.m. by Al Bevedere. Pearl and I, together with Ames and Helen Miller left on Tuesday morning and drove to Wheeling, West Virginia where we met John and Freeda Hobbs. We all then drove on to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. We visited the National Cemetery on Tuesday evening after dinner. On Wednesday morning we got up and took the tour bus to the Eisenhower Farm. What a delightful place. So quiet and peaceful. We left Gettysburg about noon and drove on to Phila-

delphia. Got there in time to eat at Lou Volpi's restaurant that evening. Lou and Lucy were of course two very generous people. They had booked a room for each of us at a motel nearby. When we got back to the restaurant, there was Jim Prentice, Pat DiGiammerino, Norm Schuster.

We all went to the visitation that evening with the Philadelphia Chapter. The Philadelphia Chapter led the 83rd contingent in the Services. We were able to see Josie and her family. Thursday morning we were up early and drove to Lou's restaurant for breakfast. Then on to the funeral home for the services there. Then to the cemetery where all the 83rd'ers who were in attendance were in the Services. Very, very impressive. A very sad group who gave honor to our very devoted comrade of all these years. John, may you rest in peace and we know that you will because you were always there when needed. Josie, to you and your family we of the 83rd send our condolences. Please join us when you can.

After the services we all went to the Caterer's for a very generous lunch for all of us. Jim Prentice then led us to the Interstate and we were on our way to Harrisburg.

When we arrived at the Sheraton about 4:00 p.m. that afternoon most of the other Executive Board members with their wives and guests were there. We had our first board meeting on Friday morning at the Sheraton. Then we met the Philadelphia Chapter at the Hershey Lodge about 1:00 p.m. A very pretty spot. I am sure you will all be well pleased with it. We were given a tour of the Lodge before our meeting. More about this in the next issue of the **Thunderbolt**.

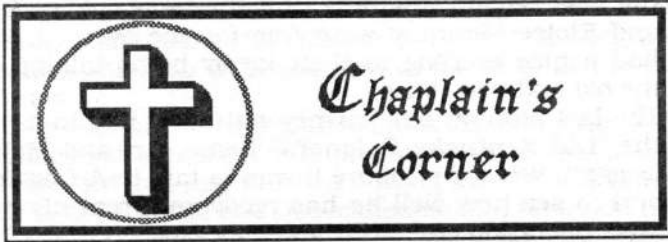
The Board met the next morning and the Philadelphia Chapter took us on a tour of Intercourse, Pennsylvania. Be sure and see it if you can. We were back at the Sheraton about 2:00 p.m. and had another meeting. John Hobbs gave a report about the reunion in Charleston. Everything is go. Early Bird and all events for Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening. We are pleased that the rates could be lowered to \$60.00.

We all hope that you will enjoy every minute of your reunion in Charleston. Again Pearl and I both wish all of you a wonderful summer. We will be with you in Charleston beginning the 17th of August. We must go in on Monday to get everything set up.

Bob

National Secretary-Treasurer

3rd BN HQ, 329th



Chaplain's Corner

It is a rainy evening after a hot, humid day, and time to write a report for the **Thunderbolt**. I know that I do not always bring good tidings, but my report means notifying you about some of your buddies who have passed away since the last issue.

John T. Piscitelli "C" 323rd Philadelphia, Pa.,

sent in by Bob Derickson and Larry Redmond

Jacob Schmidt,	"H"	330th
Joseph Zurad,	"E"	329th
Alonzo Warner,	Medic	330th
Frank McNeill,	"C"	908th
James R. Moore,	"B" & "D"	329th
Charles W. Martin,	HDQS.	324th
Carroll J. Gazzero,		No outfit
Devon V. Keihl,		No outfit
Francis E. Coyne,		No outfit
Claine Hansseal,		No outfit
Col. George W. Rhyne,		No outfit
Harold Bodiford,		No outfit

Some of the names have no unit attached, and some have become inactive. However, since they were 83rd men, we give them the respect and honor they deserve.

Manny Epstein called me from Florida to tell me Wilbur Campbell, "D" 331st passed away. Wilbur was at West Virginia in November, and how can I forget his firm handshake as he was leaving and saying, "I'll see you in August of '87." It was good hearing from Manny, and I want to thank him for the invitation to attend their chapter meeting at the Marshall home. I'll hang on to the raincheck.

A few words about my "goomba" John Piscitelli. He was an outstanding Chaplain who always was well organized for his duties. He did his reunion homework well, as was evident in the prayers and memorial services that all of you participated in. His format and protocol will be carried on by our future Chaplains.

If you believe in the Lord, by whatever name you call Him, you know that we shall all meet again - somewhere - someday. So, to John and the rest of our deceased buddies - A Message - Keep the beer cold and we'll once again share memories.

Remember - As our Cleveland Chapter philosopher Domenico Christoforo quotes: "It was not the apple in the Garden of Eden that caused the problems of the world, it was the **'Pair'** on the ground."

P.S. If you have a chance to talk to Al Klugiewicz

from Erie, Pennsylvania, at the reunion, have him tell you the story of how he thought a snow plow ran into his home this past winter - very funny. So if the "Good Lord Willin" and the creek don't run dry, we'll see you in Charleston, West Virginia in August.

Casey Kowalec

"C" Btry 322nd F.A.

Death Notices

Additional Death Notices that have come to the office:

Wilbur Campbell,	"D" 331st,	sent in by Dave Benick;
Joseph D. Roy,	"A" 330th,	sent in by John J. Houston;
Vance B. Tuttle,	"G" 331st,	sent in by Joe Macaluso;
Bea Tuttle,		passed away prior to Vance's death;
James R. Moore,	"B" & "D" 329th,	sent in by Zebe Lannon;
William D. Clark,		sent in by R.C. Hamilton;
Francis E. Powell,	"B" 331st, sent	in by daughter, Carol P. Grove;
Clyde O. Warren,	HQ. 331st,	sent in by James L. Burt
John F. Frawley,		sent in by Nick Francullo
Johnnie H. Ball,	"D" 330th,	sent in by Haran Martin
David Feig,	"A" 331st,	sent in by Dave Benick.

The entire 83rd sends their sympathy and condolences to all the families of these men who so bravely fought for their country and came home to raise their families in this free country. May they all rest in peace. As Casey has said, "We will all be together again some day."

Dear Comrade:

I'm interested in making contact with any member of the 83rd Division, 330th Inf Ref, 2nd Battalion, F Company who saw action in the capture of the village of Sterpigny, Belgium on or about Jan. 16, 1945.

Cordially,
David Fagen

News from the 783rd

Dear Bob,

Thanks, for what I hope will be the last time on the mailing. The day after I received your special mailing I received the slow boat to China.

Boy I was sure sorry to hear about John when I got to Art's. He will be another leader, surely missed, I always tell Art make sure you keep Bob and Pearl well or we're going to be in real trouble.

May I also add my thanks to the Oxford Press and the fine job they are doing with the Thunderbolt. Having done Church magazines I know full well all the problems you fellows are facing and solving, so thanks to all of you.

Ginny and I are looking forward to the reunion and being with you once again.

Sincerely,

Rags Rangnow

783 RD ORDINANCE

Can't believe it's time for the June column which means, you will be reading this at reunion time. From all indications, we should have another good turn out of from twenty to thirty of just the guys. The gals are always special icing to the cake.

Ginny and I just returned from a vacation and received a terrific letter from Gene DelPrete. He and Ginny are still dancing up a storm three nights a week. The son of a gun, belongs to all these "non-civilian" clubs "with a 60¢ beer and a 65¢ mixed drink." If we didn't know him better we would question the "Fred Astaire" part. While Gene's letter was long, informative and humorous he also had to give us the sad news that he would again miss this years reunion. You'll have to admit his excuse is the best. "My Mom will be 90 on August 20th and the five kids are going to have a big celebration in Baltimore's "Little Italy". "I can't argue with Gene on that except to get in a plug for reunions in September when the prices, traffic and temperature are all lower.

We had a terrific vacation mainly because we spent some wonderful days with Carl and Alyce Frederick. We saw how Miller beer was made and got some free samples. We also went back a few decades in Philadelphia time, as we thoroughly enjoyed a good "old" fashioned Memorial Day parade in Carl's home town. Carl and Alyce then saved the most fascinating part till last, a visit to "The House On The Rock." It's located just west of Madison Wis. and it has to be seen to be appreciated. It's really not a house, its an extravaganza of music machines, lights, splendor which had me repeatedly saying, "my gosh, this is fantastic." Our tour lasted five hours and we rushed the last hour because Carl's hunger pains. Please believe me, if you're ever in that area you have to make it a must stop and then get a free beer off of Carl!

Our luck ran out in Michigan when we tried to make contact with Jane Bond. Jane was visiting her daughter in Calif. and we were just at the right place but the wrong time. With the few extra hours at hand I looked at the map and picked out Munice, Ind. as

the next target. This time I hit the bulls eye, as Bill and Eloise Manning were free for the evening. We had a nice evening in their lovely home talking of the old and new times.

The last stop on our journey naturally had to be at the "Old Kentucky Colonel's" home, Art and Millie Doggett. What a pleasure it was to talk to Art again, and to see how well he has recovered from his bypass operation. Art still has some speech difficulty but heck, I know a certain Calif. former Lt., who never did understand him forty years ago! The Doggett's were again perfect Southern hosts. We cruised the Ohio River, floated in Millie's pool and brunchd at the Country Club. To top things off, Art arranged to have the seventeen year, periodical, Cicados, coincide with our arrival. To say the least it was an interesting, educational, noisy and crunchy experience. We had a wonderful trip in spite of the weather, for the sun is always shining with true friendships.

These mid year columns are tough simply because all you guys are too busy to report in. However we always hear from Lloyd Grayson and Doc Pfeifer, and they likewise enjoyed seeing one another in Calif. once again. Lloyd wasn't 100%, so Doc and Agnes took Evelyn out to eat and brought Lloyd a bucket of Kentucky Fried Chicken! Come to think of it, Doc didn't say where they ate but no he wouldn't do that! Lloyd is still up beat as ever, and of course Doc and Agnes saw the grandson again, so no further explanation is needed, on their successful mini vacation.

When we arrived at Art's home he informed us that John Piscitelli had died. This of course was a sad note as John and I had many a good telephone conversation. His presence will be sorely missed, not only by the Philadelphia Chapter but the whole 83rd Div.

This, and that, on some of the other fellows include Bill and Martha Appleby. Bill is in such good shape and doing so much work around "the place" that he hasn't had time to get in any golf. Wiggins will never believe that Bill! Its good to hear they are back into the swing of things calling square dances all over Pennsylvania.

We also talked to Earl or Fred Graham from Tulsa Okla. His good wife, Verdell says, I don't know why you call him, he never writes you, he's a terrible writer." I told Earl he was one of the crowd, as Metti Maris does all of George's writing too. You know I never thought of that before, but all our good Sgt.'s with all those stripes down their arms were never required to pass a writing test! Of course they all got high honors on the vocal test of, "Move it, move!" Just kidding; Jim Jones and Ray Downing. Just curious, are you fellows still six foot five? Oh yes, Earl seems to be doing well in spite of his banged up leg. He just doesn't travel as far.

Art gave me orders to see how Phil Barbara was doing so of course I call Phil -- a couple of times. I finally got an answer and embarrassed myself at 9:58 p.m. Sunday night. You guessed it Phil was sound asleep and for two minutes he thought I was President Reagan asking his advice on the Arms deal. Phil said he hadn't been feeling just right, it must of been something he ate as he had a spicely hot feeling. When I relayed this information to Art, "Old Doggett said,

its probably his time of the year for sex and poor Phil doesn't know the difference. I didn't prolong the conversation so we'll ask Ann to fill us in at the reunion.

A number of you asked about Alex Zakerchemey so I just called him and I'm happy to report he was stone sober and had just finished cutting his 185 foot lawn. He said he would call Doc sometime and he would try to get to the next reunion, if the cost wasn't too high. That's not much, but I guess it says a lot, so let's all count our blessings and get all we can out of today.

**Hut two,
Rags Rangnow**

Cleveland Chapter

HELLO BUDDIES:

Here it is June already and I darned near forgot to write up my news letter. Casey K. called and mentioned the thing to me and wanted to know the deadline for the news to be sent in.

I haven't been feeling up to snuff lately and have been more forgetful as time marches on. I desperately want some one to take over for me as I even have a problem writing now as my fingers go numb after a bit.

The Memorial Day Parade was a rather haphazard affair with the Cleveland Chapter outnumbering the members of the Post. We were there in strength with 14 members making it, which is good for our Chapter. The rifle salute was handled by Cleveland and the rifles once again were malfunctioning and sounded like machine gun fire. The rifles are old "03" Springfields and need to be melted down as scrap, and new type rifles such as M1 would be better, I think.

Casey Szubski will host our June meeting, and Al Klugiewicz will host the July meeting in Erie, Pennsylvania. Then the remainder of the warm months will be spent at Czech's Acres.

I hope to make the West Virginia Reunion, I haven't the slightest idea how I'll feel. Right now I would have to cancel out. Have been experiencing some bad times, loss of sleep and appetite. My Doctor has me on medication but I hate to think of popping pills the rest of my life.

Our members are all fine so far, hope we can keep on saying so. Casey Kowalec has his Mom to take care of and Laura has her Dad, both in their 90's so their free time is limited.

Here a few good facts about growing old:

You get winded playing chess.

You join a health club and don't go.

You look forward to a dull evening.

That's it for now, hoping to see you all in Charleston in August.

Stay nice and God Bless.

**Al Uridel
"CN" 329th**

Company H

HELLO BUDDIES:

As we come to the time to write our last letters for the year for our Great 'THUNDERBOLT', it brings to mind that another great year in the History of the 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC. is drawing to an end. Now that the month of June has arrived, it won't be long until August is here and we will either be headed for or be in West Virginia for our 41st Annual Reunion.

As we sit back and think, it doesn't seem possible that we have been meeting this many times. To those of you who have never attended a Reunion, you have missed the best years of your life. No one can appreciate the real meaning of a Reunion until they have attended and had the chance to see that Buddy that you last saw in Germany in 1945. It is like meeting with a long lost member of a Family. Once you have attended a Reunion you can appreciate the feeling it must be to those people who came from a Foreign Country many year ago and finally have a member of their Family come to visit them after being apart many years.

While on the subject of Reunions, I would like to personally thank each and everyone of you who contributed to our Ad Book. To many of you, you can't appreciate the real value of this book, to those who have taken an active part in a Reunion, you should know the real value of it. To many of you I have been a nuisance, sending letters to you like I have, but I have volunteered to assist with the book each year, and that is part of my job. To those of you who took a large ad in the book, I thank you and your support, I also thank those of you who only took a Booster Ad. Every dollar that came in is playing a big part in bringing you a successful Reunion. The cost of putting on a Reunion is getting out of this world, without the help of you men, our Registration fee would be so high that our attendance would be at a minimum.

Here it is time once again for another edition of the great 'THUNDERBOLT' to be made ready for the printer. I know that there are many of you who are tired of reading that letter from Larry Redmond. Well Buddies, I will gladly relinquish this job to any man who wishes to carry on, so long as he doesn't take over the job and then forget to get his letter in before deadline date.

As we read over each issue and get to that column referred to as the Chaplin's Steeple, we notice the list getting longer and longer each issue. In this last issue was one of the original Co. "H" men, Alan Bretzius, he was one of the first men in Co. "H" and got trans-

ferred to 2nd Bn. Hqs. then there was Leo Labuda another Co. "H" man, which leads us to believe that we are all getting older than we think. We lost one of the greatest men in the Association this year in Ralph Neppel, Ralph and I were very close, I was quite friendly with his Mother when she was living and had the pleasure of attending his Brother's Wedding.

Well Buddies, getting away from the morbid part of my letter to you, I wish to thank each and everyone of you who so generously contributed to the Co. "H" page in the Reunion Ad Book. I have worked with the book for years and it has been a great pleasure to me in spite of all the sarcastic letters I received. I sent out close to 2,000 letters this year which entails a lot of work, but I am proud to be able to help the Association. I have been a dedicated Member since I first joined it and will continue to be until I die.

Here's hoping to see many of you in West Virginia at the Reunion, remember we may not have the chance to attend many more.

**Your Buddy,
Larry Redmond**

Warren Chapter News

Meetings

The last "In House" meeting until November, was held in April at the home of Liz & Mike Skovran. The men and Ladies held separate meetings; then sat down to a delicious Roast Beef dinner, prepared by Liz. Our usual card game filled out the rest of the evening, with plenty of liquid refreshments served by that jovial bartender Mike Skovran.

In May we started our summer season with the men playing golf in the morning. After golf our vice president, George Bellay presided at the meeting, due to absence of Prexy Ray Voracek, who proved to wife Margaret, that he is the last of the big time spenders, by taking her on a month long Western Tour. Our lovely wives joined us at noon, with plenty of hot food to go along with the barbecued hamburgers, hot dogs and kielbasa, prepared by the summer picnic and golf committee, Babe Gautschi and Ted Halubka. The weather was perfect, the food and refreshments were great and there is nothing to surpass the great

feeling of friendship we have for each other, at our monthly meetings

Since this article will appear in the last issue of the "Thunderbolt" before the reunion in West Virginia -- Warren chapter members invite one and all to stop in for a drink at our C.P., which will be in the Elk River Town Center motel.

Our Deepest Sympathy To:

Charlie & Ann Tomazin -- Charlie's brother Edward, passed away in April.

George & Mary Cooley -- Mary's 94 year old mother, Mrs. Camela Gallo, passed away in May. Mary & George are former Warren Chapter members, now retired in Florida. It was sure great seeing these nice people again. Their son George, Jr., and wife Melanie, presented them with their first grandchild in March. A beautiful little girl and her name is Jennifer.

Gene Costanzo (Pittsburgh Chapter) -- Gene lost his son early in January and wife Yolanda passed away in late January.

Family of John Piscitelli: John served the 83rd Association for many years as Chaplain and will be missed by the entire Association.

Get Well Wishes to:

Joe Venuti -- Joe has been in and out of the hospital twice since March but still is in serious condition at home. Hang in there Joe. All Warren Chapter members are praying for your complete recovery.

OLGA Teringo -- Olga is now home recovering from major surgery performed in late May. We all pray for your speedy recovery Olga.

Congratulations To:

Millie and Dick Kelly: Granddaughter Rachel, presented Millie and Dick with their first Great-Grandson, Derek Wagner in May. Their daughter Janet is the proud Grandmother.

Elizabeth and Mike Skovran: on the birth of their second grandchild, this time a girl, born on Feb. 4th and named Abigale Elizabeth. The proud parents are Mr. and Mrs. David Skovran.

Pat and John Shamrock: on the birth of their eighth grandchild, a baby girl born May 11th and named Lindsay Danielle. Daughter Roberta and husband, Bill Templeton are the proud parents.

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

**Lee Titus
Chapter Reporter**

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER NEWS

First of all the New England Chapter has received a letter from Larry Redmond on the sad passing of our National Chaplain, John T. Piscitelli. Our condolences go out to his wife, Josephine and family. He will be missed by all members of the National Organization.

Our May meeting was held at Bill and Betty Davis's home in Newburyport, Massachusetts, and boy it was a great time even though the weather was not.

Betty and Bill received two calls. One from Jim Prentice that he could not make the meeting as he would be marching in Philadelphia with the Philly Chapter and also a call from Helen and Joseph Lichacz that they could not make the get together as Joe had neck surgery and he is doing o.k. He will be staying at his daughter's home in the Bermuda's for some rest. Al Tartaglia has just retired from Nation Wide Insurance Company as a claim adjuster. But he will be taking a part time job with Nation Wide Insurance Company as a heavy equipment trainer and will start that job on August 20. Good luck, Al, on your new part-time job, and retirement. Bill and Jeanette McKee are still busy with the Cottage's in Hampton Beach, New Hampshire.

We had a great day with Bill Davis's friend, Francis P. Noury. He is a WWII buddy, but not an 83rd. He was in the Anti-Tank 182nd Infantry of the America Division. He saw his action in the Pacific. Hope to see you more often, Francis.

Spike and Gloria McCartin stopped in and they will be off to their new condo in Newport Beach, California. They have a new grandson and that is Number 2. Spike comes from a family of 13 and all living.

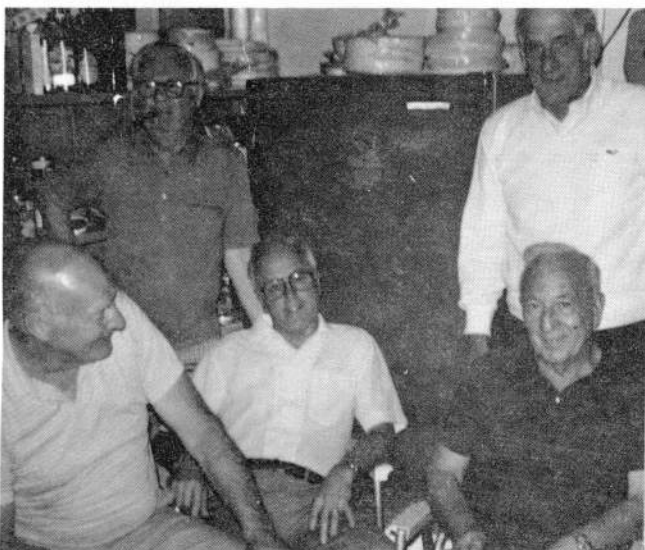


Having a great time.

Five boys in WWII and one in the Korean War. Father Frank, our Padre is the oldest. Two other brothers are also priests. Spike expects to be in heaven before us all. Ho! Ho! Ho!, and Gloria thinks otherwise.

Jim and Dot Brennan have a new granddaughter, Stephane Michelle born to Bernedette and Mike on April 7th. Bill and Betty Davis's daughter Judy was installed as a conductor of the Rebekka Assembly of Mass. Good Luck, Judy. Karl and Ingrid Burkhard's daughter Dr. Karin Lemp is on a delayed honeymoon, postponed from last year. Yes. Joe Petrucci is thinking of running for President of the U.S.A. as he thinks he can do a better job and as an Independent. What do you think, Tag?? Ha,Ha,Ha!!

Those who were at the Davises' were Lou and Emma



We will see you in West Virginia.



Just having a ball.



Rossi, Nick and Mary Francullo, Gloria and Spike McCartin, Jeanette and Bill McKee, Dot and Jim Brennon, Marie and Mike Champey, Helen and Jo Petrucci, Ann and Al Tartaglia, and Ingrid and Karl Burkhard.

Well, that's it for now.

Your buddy,
Nick Francullo
3rd Bn HQ. A.T. 330th

P.S. Lou Rossi is coming along fine and hopes to make the reunion.



What a good story...

BOSTON CHAPTER

On May 16th, we had a meeting in Westport, Ma. at the home of Charlie and Rita Lussier where we had a Luau Party. I must say the 37 people in attendance were well fed. It was an excellent time and Charlie made everyone take home a doggie bag.

Before our business meeting, Bocci was played. The "Italians" think they have this game to a science. However, the Irish, French and Polish can count correctly and now have the Bocci Title of the Boston

Chapter. Some of the older men had a joke session and the winning prizes went to Bob Hunnewell and Fred Sylvia both from 329th Infantry I Company. Hunnewell sang us a tune accompanied by Rita Lussier at the piano. He also wore one of his latest style hats, which was designed by himself.

Charlie Miller our famous President did a fine job keeping us up to date and what's ahead for the next months. Bills are all paid up plus the membership is going up in numbers. Arthur Waples from Alton, N.H. has done a wonderful job bringing in new members to the Boston Chapter, which was acknowledged by Pres. Miller. Arthur is a member of 908 FA Baker Btry.

It was mentioned at the meeting that Stuart Hitt did not make any soup for this affair. The late Mike Brick told me Hitt's 908 soup would make you forget everything. Before closing the meeting Charlie Lussier was commended for a job well done. Miller ended the meeting by thanking everyone for coming, especially Mike Malik, Walter Koss, and Frank Scott for traveling so far.

Ray Bjork of "H" Co. 330th beat everyone at horse-shoes. Ray has been very good for making meetings of the Chapter and 83rd reunion.

We all had more Chinese Food before returning home. Larry Arrigo said the last cup of coffee hit the spot.

Last night I attended the 50th Anniversary of the Italian-American Citizens Club of Ward Two, Malden, Ma. It was held at the Caruso Diplomat with one thousand people. Many of us from the 83rd Association enjoyed the Prime Rib dinner with the entertainment.

John Volpi, Ambassador to Italy, was the guest speaker. At 79 years this man is terrific. He gave us a lot of laughs and left us with a few serious thoughts.

The President of this Italian-American Club, Paul A. Condon is part Irish so I know the club will be run better than ever before. Ha! Ha! Congratulations to the Italian-American Club on their 50th Celebration.

Condolences to John Manek on the loss of his wife Eunice.

See you all in Charleston, W. Va.

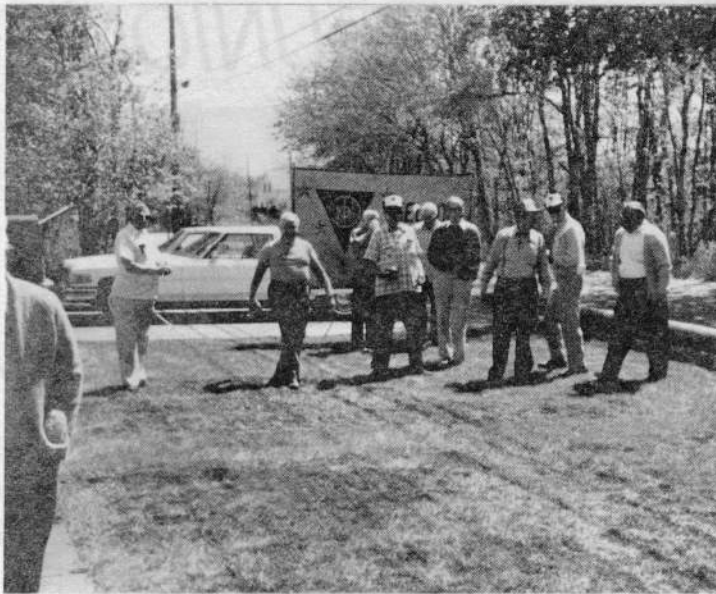
Amby Tynan

P.S. My son Charlie and his wife Sarah had a baby girl, Whitney Marie, born on March 26th, 1987. Many of you knew Charlie at the reunions over the years.

NOTICE

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

B o b



Bocce game at Charlie Lussier in Westport, Mass



Gang at Charlie & Rita Lussier's place in Westport, Mass.



Some of the Boston Chapter women at Lussier's place.



Arthur Waples, Nancy & Amby Tynan, Bob Hunnewell at 50th Anniversary



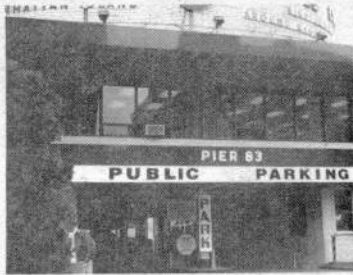
Boston Chapter at 50th Anniversary of Italian American Club



Nellie Messina serving soup at 50th Anniversary of Italian-American Club.

BOSTON CHAPTER MINI REUNION

On the first week in May, 1987, the Boston Chapter hosted a mini-reunion at the Pines Hotel in So. Fallsburg, N.Y. It was a very good turnout, with about 102 people attending. The hotel was sold out, so we were only allotted 52 rooms.



We had Stan Bielen and his wife from N. J., Emil and Hazel Wehling from N. J., and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rein from N. J., and Mike and Liz Skovran from Warren, Ohio. Other members came from New Hampshire, Maine, Conn., R. I., New York and Mass.

Sailing point for harbor tour.

The Hotel sponsored a tour of Manhattan Island. The tour, a ride on luxury buses to the Circle Line on the Hudson River, touring around Manhattan Island. The main attraction being the Statue of Liberty. A picnic lunch was provided by the Hotel and as if planned, the dock we sailed from was Pier 83. On our return to the hotel we were treated to a private cocktail party courtesy of Bernie Cove, with an open bar and all kinds of goodies.

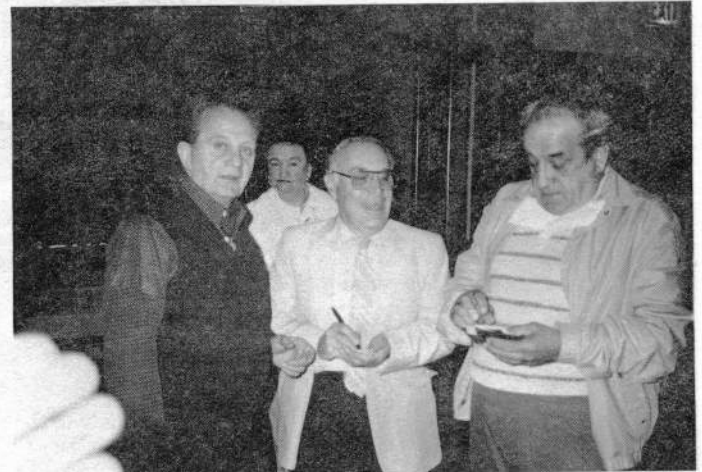


Mike Malik, Pat DiGiammerino & The Lady...Cold!! You Bet!

I met a buddy of mine, Phillip Africa, who I haven't seen since my discharge. When I introduced him to my wife Ginny, he said, you made a good choice.

While there, the Boston Chapter, picked up three new members.

Last year the movie, Sweet Lorraine, was being "shot" not too far from the Pines and Bernie Cove and some of his staff had parts in the movie, so on Tuesday we had an Oscar party and presented Bernie



Mike Malik, Ray Port (new member) & Pat DiGiammerino siging him up!

with his very own Oscar, for his part in the movie. Incidentally, the movie is now showing in theaters around Boston.

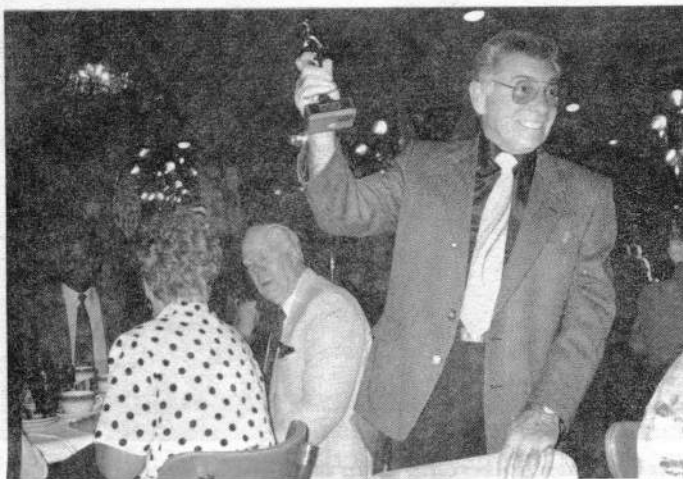
The Boston chapter is planning another mini-reunion and we will keep you posted.

Mr. Steve Erlich, President of the Pines Hotel, sends his best to the members of the 83rd Division Association, and wishes the West Virginia chapter a successful reunion.

Sincerely,
Pat DiGiammerino



Stan Beilen & friends at Mini Reunion

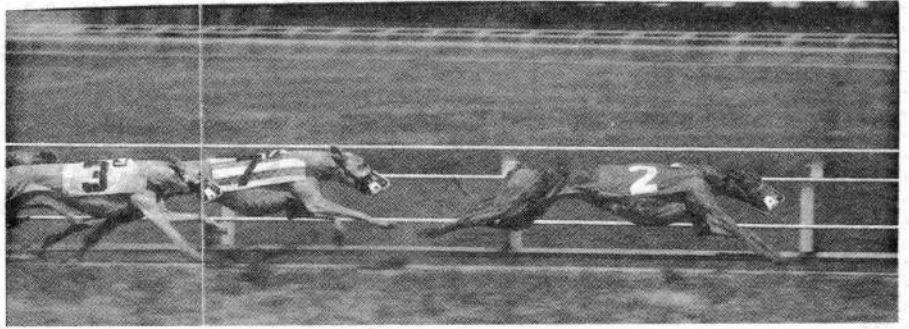


Bernie Cove & his very own Oscar.



83rd in full march...

Dog Track Racing....



An evening at the Tri State Greyhound Park! What better way to celebrate or to treat yourself to an exciting night out?

Tri State offers the best in sporting action - with plenty of seating, closed circuit TV, and more fast-paced excitement per mile!

So come out and join your buddies!

Please check if you want to attend Patio Party.

Complete and mail to: **John Hobbs, 1401 Camden Dr., Charleston, West Virginia 25302**

EARLY BIRD RESERVATION FORM WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1987

PATIO PARTY — \$10⁰⁰ per person

Enclosed is Payment of \$ _____ For _____ Persons

Name _____

Address Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone() _____ Patio Party () _____

Signature _____

PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1987

1-3 p.m. Registration Marriott Hotel
5 p.m. Dinner on your own
Tri-State Racing Dog Track

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 1987

7 a.m. Golfing on your own
Breakfast on your own
9-11 a.m. Registration Marriott Hotel
Noon Lunch On your own
Shopping on your own
Shopping information will be posted on bulletin board
1:30-3:30 p.m. Registration Marriott Hotel
Dinner on your own
8-9 p.m. Charleston Classics (Choral Group)
8-10 p.m. Open Bar-Hospitality Room-Marriott Ball Room

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 1987

Breakfast on your own
8-10 a.m. Registration
10-12 Noon Membership Business Meeting Marriott Ball Room

10 a.m. Shopping etc. City transportation will be available for touring
Lunch-on your own
1:30-4 p.m. Registration Marriott Hotel
2-4 p.m. Hospitality Room Open Bar - Grand Ballroom
6 p.m. Social Hour-Cash Bar-Civic Center
7 p.m. Dinner at Civic Center and Entertainment

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 1987

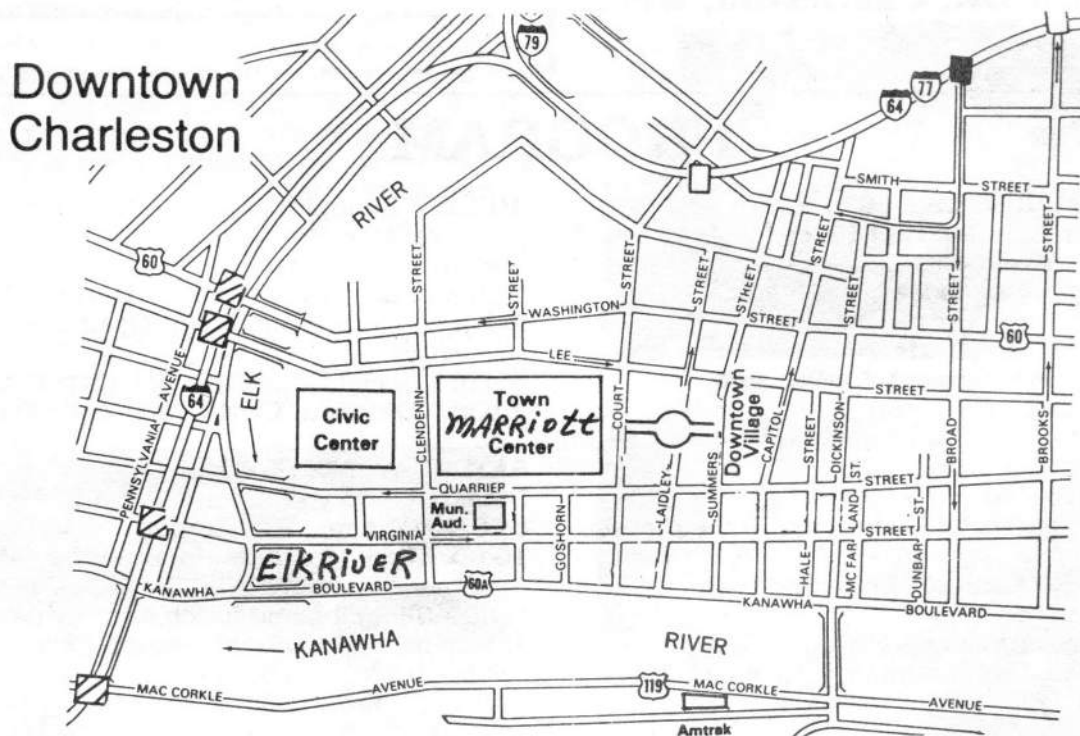
Breakfast - on your own
8:30-10:00 a.m. Registration
10:00 Noon Membership Business Meeting Ballroom-Marriott
Ladies-Shopping and lunch on your own
2:00 p.m. Memorial Service-Civic Center Fountain
2:30-4:30 p.m. Hospitality Room-Open Bar - Grand Ballroom
4:30-5:30 p.m. Mass Marriott Hotel
6:00-7:00 p.m. Social Hour-Cash Bar-Civic Center
7:00-12:00 p.m. Dinner Program and Dance

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 1987

Breakfast on your own and Farewell!

The 41st Annual Reunion

**The Marriott Town Center
Charleston,
West Virginia
August 20, 21, 22, 1987**



The Marriott is full!

Welcome the 83rd Infantry! for your convenience...

NOT TOO LATE TO SEND YOUR RESERVATION IN!

Reservation form — complete and mail to:



NUMBER TWO KANAHA BLVD. E.
CHARLESTON, WV 25301

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 304-343-4521

Locally Owned & Operated

All Major Credit Cards

RESERVATION REQUEST

\$35⁰⁰ FLAT RATE

I understand that this reseration may be cancelled if I call before 6 P.M., on day of arrival

To avoid duplication, please submit one reservation card only for a guest room to be shared by two or more people. And, to help with pre-registration, list all names of guests in this room.

- 1 Person - 1
- 2 persons - 2 beds

- 3 persons - 2 beds
- 4 persons-2 double beds

Please print names of guest or members:

1.		<input type="checkbox"/> Member <input type="checkbox"/> Guest
2.		<input type="checkbox"/> Member <input type="checkbox"/> Guest
3.		<input type="checkbox"/> Member <input type="checkbox"/> Guest
4.		<input type="checkbox"/> Member <input type="checkbox"/> Guest

Signature and address of confirmation

This Hotel has only one hundred (100) rooms left in our Block of Rooms. When these are filled your application will be forwarded to the Holiday Civic Center. The rate will be forty-nine dollars (\$49.00) Flat Rate. If this should happen your Thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) deposit that you sent to the Elk River will be accepted at the Holiday Civic Center and a confirmation will be sent to you from the Holiday Civic Center.

83rd Infantry Division History Book

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

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

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

OFFICE HOURS

OPEN MOST DAYS ABOUT 9 OR 10
Occasionally as early as 7, but some days
as late as 12 or 1

WE CLOSE about 5:30 or 6
Occasionally about 4 or 5, but
Sometimes as late as 11 or 12.

SOME DAYS OR AFTERNOONS, We
Aren't here at all, and lately
I've been here just about all the time,
Except when I'm someplace else,
But I should be here then, too.

"F" Company 330th Regiment

In the last week of October 1944 the 1st squad, 2nd Platoon, "F" Company of the 330th regiment outposted along the Moselle River in the small town of



Photo #1

Stadtbredimus, Luxembourg, which was three kilometers from the town of Remich (see Photo #1). Photo #2 depicts the house in Stadtbredimus where the 1st squad was quartered and where they enjoyed some good American style fried chicken prepared by "Mother Bloom" under the watchful eye of the Germans outposted in the town of Nennig, Germany. Photo #3 depicts the hills outside the town of Stradtbredimus where the 1st squad outposted each night



Photo #2

and where a German patrol met with fatal results on Halloween Night. This town also received a direct hit by a faulty German Rocket or Buss Bomb that failed to detonate on impact. The GI's that made up the squad were: Sgts' Champ Franks and Thomas Akins and PFC's Alan VanDevander, Sid Pigott Rudd, and Charlie Williams. Rex V. Ritz the company medic shared many of these experiences with the men of the 1st squad. Fred Turner and Bill Rudd were later

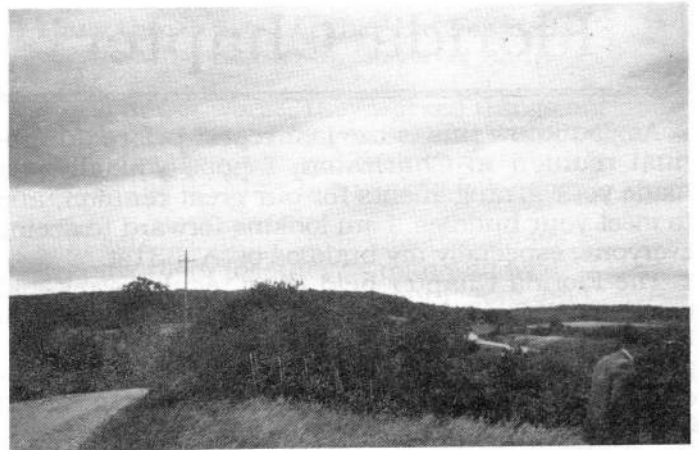


Photo #3

killed in action in the Hurtgen Forest while most of the others were wounded in that action.

I recently came into possession of a November 27, 1944, roster of the Second Platoon, "F" Company, 330th Regiment, 83rd Division, and I am particularly interested in finding the home addresses of those in the 1st Squad. I was hoping that if any of those men were members of the Association that you would be able to send me those home addresses so that I might contact them. I would appreciate any help you might give me in this regard.

S/Sgt.	Champ C. Franks	35714178
Pfc.	E (to) B. Wert	35444365
Pfc.	George P. Wood	33060789
Pfc.	Sidney NMI Pigott	34854994
Pfc.	Alan A. VanDevander	35092370
Pfc.	John R. Bloom	33873285
Pfc.	Roger NMI Biederstadt	39215342
Pfc.	Robert L. Sollock	38456397
Sgt.	Thomas G. Atkins	36578105
Pfc.	Fred D. Turner	39705162 (KIA)
Pfc.	William S. Rudd	33094488 (KIA)
Pfc.	Charles V. Williams	13127939

(Person Making Request)

I am sure some of the above men have died over the years, but I am very interested in finding any that might be alive and well. It would also be interesting if you know of any of the men that might have died. This particular group stayed together from Labor Day 1944 to December 6, 1944 when an number of those listed were injured in the Hurtgen Forest; for that reason we were a well knit group. I thank you in advance for any information that you might be able to pass along.

Sincerely,

Charles V. Williams
606 Lake Dr., W.
Smyrna, DE 19977

We have checked here in the office. If any of you men out there in 83rd land know anything about these men please let Charles know. Will be appreciated.

Florida Chapter

As you know this is the last report before our annual reunion in Charleston. I hope you all have made your arrangements for our great reunion, and to meet your buddies. I am looking forward to seeing everyone, especially my buddies of "A" 331st.

The Florida Chapter held their regular week-end meeting on May 1st and 2nd, at the New Port Richey. I was not able to attend this meeting, but from the report I received, it was a wonderful weekend. Elizabeth and Walter Marshall hosted this meeting, and if I know them, there must have been many surprises. On Friday evening a big group went to Tarpon Springs to eat at one of the finest restaurants in Florida called Pappos. On Saturday evening there were 64 present for dinner, which was probably our largest turn-out for a meeting. The reason Millie and I missed this meeting was because on May 1st our daughter Donna gave birth to a six lb, 2 oz. , baby girl named Jodi Paige. While in Connecticut we called Ruth Feig. I would like to let you know that Dave is in the hospital and is very ill. I hope and pray that

he will be with us in Charleston.

Also spoke to Sam and Ann Galati of Brooklyn, N.Y., and would like to report that the Galati's will be future Floridian's. They are moving to Boca Raton in December and will be Florida Chapter members. Upon returning to Florida, I received a call that the Florida Chapter lost a good buddy and friend of ours, Wilbur Campbell of Pittsburgh passed away. Wilbur attended just about everyone of our meetings. We will surely miss him. Yvonne Lizotte was not well but is recovering and is coming along fine. Hoping for a full recovery.

The next meeting of the Florida Chapter, after our reunion in Charleston, will be in Sarasota, hosted by Parker and Rose Black. Any buddy of ours, who will be in Florida about the first week in November and would like to attend our meeting, can contact me for all the information.

That is all for now and have a happy and healthy summer. Will see you all in Charleston.

**Dave Benick
"A" 331st**

P.S. Dave called and gave this information just before this went to the printer. David Feig passed away on June 6. David will be surely missed by his wife Ruth and family, and all 83rd'ers.

DIXIE CHAPTER NEWS

Everyone had a good time at the May 29, 30 meeting held in Atlanta at the Embassy Suite Hotel. Cost included free breakfast and afternoon cocktails.

Thanks to our hosts and hostesses. Tony and Wilene Viglione and Jessie and Carolyn Pirkle all things went smoothly. They worked hard to see that we all had fun. No one went hungry -- the snack table was filled with vegetable and fruit trays with dip and meat balls, etc. The evening meal on Saturday was attended by about 59. Willie had hoped for 60. The piano was rolled in and we all listened to old sing-a-long type favorites after dinner. This reporter did not attend the early evening dance on Friday, but those who did had a real good time.

Having the meeting in Atlanta brought in 5 new members and we are so glad to have them and will look forward to seeing all of you in the future so we can get better acquainted.

The 50/50 drawing was won by a new member, Russell Collins and he generously turned it back to the group funds.

The ladies enjoyed shopping and visiting and some of the men enjoyed the poker games.

Our son Vaughn and his family live in the Atlanta area and dropped by to see us. Glad to have you Donna, Heather and Candie. Vaughn brought his restored and shiny 1955 Chevrolet ambulance for us to see after he had spent the day with it attending a '55 - '56' '57 car show. Most of us were buying them new in 1955.

Being an officer of the Dixie Chapter requires much work. We appreciate those who accepted the call of duty for new officers.

President - George Naylor; V. President - Ellsworth Massie; 2nd Vice President - John Cox; Sec.-Treas. - Haran Martin; Chaplain - Bob Parsons; 18

Ass't Chaplain - F.M. Haney; Reporter - Frank Jackson

Many of us will see each other next at the National in Charleston, West Virginia and after that in October in Columbia, South Carolina. In the meantime, let's keep in touch as much as possible. Everyone come to our meetings when you can.

LeRoy McManaway

Sweating Out The Enemy.

War was so frightening
Fighting the enemy face to face.
With shells bursting all around
No one was safe any place.

Trenches and Fox Holes
Wet clothing - freezing cold.
Sweating out Enemy Fire
Will make a soldier grow old.

I often wonder how many
That I accounted for.
Only God knows the answer
I was merely a victim of war.

These thoughts still trouble me
Everything seems so unfair.
To have taken human lives
As if one really didn't care.

But what's done is done
We can't undo our wrong.
I thank God my protector
For I know he was along.

My Praise goes out to God
He brought me home safe.
He is my great redeemer
Through him I have faith.

He has forgiven me
From the sins that I've done.

That's how I live with myself
And no longer by the Gun.

Haran R. Martin
Co. C-331

Dear Bob and Pearl:

If you will, please report this in the Thunderbolt. Our reporter may not get these announcements in his report.

Melba Satterfield's father passed away on April 9, 1987. Lacy Satterfield's mother passed away on May 12, 1987. Both parents lived in Prospect Hills, North Carolina. Some of the Winston Dixie Chapter Group attended the services.

M.L. Baker, 908th Service, from Whitmire, S.C. is back in the hospital at Durham, North Carolina. M.L. has been ill since 1985. You may write and send his mail to his home address: M.L. Baker, 83 Tidmarsh Drive, Whitmire, South Carolina 29178.

Johnnie Ball is still in V.A. hospital in Salisbury, North Carolina, send mail to Hazel Ball at this address: 5131 Old Rural Hall Road, Winston Salem, North Carolina 27105. John has been in the hospital since September, 1986. "D" 330th.

See you in West Virginia
Our love Dot and Haran

Here is a poem compiled by Haran Martin in honor of he and Dot's 50th Wedding Anniversary and read at their celebration by their daughter-in-law. There were approximately 238 people registered for their party. They had 83rd members with their wives in attendance. Pearl and I wish we could have gone. Can't do all the things we would like to do. They renewed their wedding vows. Dot, did you think over what you were doing again? He really is a pretty good guy, isn't he. We are all glad for you and wish that everyone in the entire 83rd could have been there to offer their congratulations. We were in spirit.

BOB

FIFTY YEARS TOGETHER

Children of Haran and Dorothy Martin

Today we watched Mother walk down
the church isle in her wedding gown.
The pace of each step she took
with bright sparkling eyes she looked
and gave a smile to the crowd,
we know she felt wonderfully proud.

Everyone cried a few happy tears
knowing they had waited fifty years
These plans they had wanted so much,
to have a wedding in a church.

A wedding as such, doesn't happed everyday
where two sons give their mother away.
The daughter holds Daddy by the arm
as she gives Dad to their Mom.

The Preacher says both join hands,
now exchange your wedding bands, then
said you are bound for life, I now
pronounce you man and wife.

The children gather to their side
to watch Daddy kiss the Bride.
A kiss different from the ones before
one filled with meaning and much more.

A kiss of love with joy and tears
as thoughts reveal those past lovely years.

Many things together they have shared,
very few dull moments, they ever had.

For better or worse, they worked things out
which gave them fifty years, there's no doubt.
So, today they renewed their vows
Seems the first has been only a few hours.

God gets credit for their affectionate life,
keeping them together as man and wife.
Fifty years together was spent before, and
with your Blessings God, may we spend more.
Thank you God, you never let us fall,
Faith and Trust in you, who did it all.

331st

Dear Buddies:

I'm late again and want to get this in to the Editor right away. Too many bad things are happening anymore to me to remember the deadlines of the Thunderbolt and a lot of other things. I find it difficult to remember things that happened recently and yet I can remember many things that happened years ago. It goes with Old Age, I guess.

How about the wonderful Winter that we had? It's unbelievable. Who needs to go the warmer states when we have such good weather ourselves? Wish it would hold out for the rest of the winter, but the weatherman says today that we are going to have a drop of about forty degrees, and that means that we will experience more of that what should be. The weather has been so nice that our grass is growing a bit and our flowers are starting to come out.

Now is the time to start talking seriously about the Association and the upcoming Reunion, and the future Reunions. We are all growing older, we have a situation where our homes are paid off, our kids are out of school, most of our problems are minimal and we have vacations on our minds. Why not plan your vacation to be in Charleston, WV on August 20, 21 and 22 this year. You will have the time of your life.

Have you ever thought about being with your Buddies and rehashing old stories with them? You might hear the same stories each year, but they still sound different and interested just the same. Reunions are the joy of my life and always will be. come on out and get one of your Buddies to come with you. Wild and Wonderful West Virginia will welcome you with open arms.

For my Buddies in "D" company of the 331st Infantry, I hope you are planning to be with us this year. Time is running out for us and there is no better time to make plans for a wonderful time with your Buddies. It would be nice if you could come a day or two early and have a "D" Company Reunion before the Reunion starts. This way you can kill two birds with one stone, so to speak. I'd like very much to see some of you that come very seldom or those who have never been to a Reunion. Let me hear from you. It's always nice to hear from a Buddy.

I guess most of you have heard about the Trip to Europe by this time. I got a personal invitation from Mayor LeRond of St. Hilaire in France to attend the

Dedication of the Street to the Memory of the 83rd. Division and had to tell him that I could not attend because I can't fly anymore and the boat takes too long to get there. It is my hope that enough of you are planning to be there to represent the 83rd. on this most memorable occasion. The people in Normandy really treat the Americans well.

You know, its' funny that when I think about things to write in this column, there is enough to fill a book and yet when I sit down to write the article, nothing comes to mind like it should. Memory! Memory! It's getting bad.

I just want to wish all of you the very best of good luck, health and much happiness for now and in the future. God Bless all of you. It's getting later than you think and don't forget to make your plans to attend the Reunion in Charleston, WV.

Sorry this did not reach the office in time for the Spring Issue.

Dear Buddies:

These deadlines sure come around fast anymore and I am almost late this time. Better late than never though.

Time has ceased for a lot of our Buddies this year, a sure sign that age is getting the best of us. *Never has it been more apparent that the death toll is starting to catch up with us.* We are losing a lot of our Buddies faster than ever now, a sure sign that we are getting old. Just the other day, I took 35 names out of my files. It's impossible to know just how many of the other names in the files are still living.

There were seventeen of my close friends and relatives that passed away this year already. I just recently lost a good travel partner of mine, Wilbur Campbell of "D" Company 331st. Infantry. He had a severe Heart Attack. Our one and only Ralph Neppel has passed away along with our dear Buddy John Piscitelli who was our Chaplain for many years. Just yesterday at the Pittsburgh meeting I learned that David Fieg of "A" Company 331st. Infantry passed on.

All of this leads me to believe that "it's later than we think." Lets enjoy life to the fullest while we can. That's why I have been saying that we should get together with our Buddies at the Reunions and enjoy our friendships. Next year may be too late. Try to make Charleston, WV in August of this year and if you can't, next year the Reunion will be in Hershey, PA.

Yesterday was the Annivesary of "D" Day and I sat at home thinking about the boys that were in Carentan, France at the Dedication of "Place de la 83rd. Division." Wish I was there with them. I'm sure all of them had a super time. Certain circumstances prevented me from going this time, but I did write a letter for Mayor Lerond to read for me. This is what I wrote:

"Your Honor;

Please convey this message to all of my friends and to my Buddies from the 83rd. Infantry Division who are in attendance for the "Place de la 83rd. Division."I am terribly sorry that I cannot be with you for this very momentous occasion that will live in the memory of the members of this

Association.

Since World War II, I have made twelve trips to Europe and visited the beaches of Normandy ten of those times. I always met the finest people there and was always treated in a hospitable manner, especially by the Honorable Mayors.

Normandy always brought back memories of the Invasion of Europe and you can be assured that the Hedgerows are the forerunner. This Dedication today will remind all 83rd. visitors in the future, that they had done their part in ridding the area of a people that were attempting to rule the World. With this Dedication, the French people of Normandy are telling us that they appreciate what we have done for them, and will visit the "Place de la 83rd. Division" whenever they visit Normandy in the future.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank all of you in attendance, especially those of you that are responsible for this dedication. Maybe someday I will get a change to visit with you again. THANK YOU VERY KINDLY." Samuel Klippa.

This week I was suppose to go to Oxford, Ohio for the Kentucky Chapter meeting and Picnic with a good Buddy who was going to take care of the driving, but I had to back down for good reasons. SORRY KENTUCKY. Hope all of you had a good time and enjoyed yourselves.

Some of the boys in the Pittsburgh Chapter are going to Atlantic City on the 23rd. of June to spend some of their dollars and I am planning to go with them and come home richer than when I left. Ha! Ha!

At our meetings, most of the discussions now are about the Reunion in Charleston. From what we have been hearing, a great time is being planned for us. We should have a great crowd there because it is my understanding that both Hotels are filled up. There is plenty of Hotel space in the area if you don't have reservations.

Come on out and rehash those old War Stories with your Buddies and have a good time enjoying the company of old friends. You are sure to meet some of those long lost Buddies.

For those of you that would like address lists of those 83rdrs that live in your area, this will be the last chance to get them from me. I am destroying my State File after the Reunion because of the lack of requests. If you want them in certain Zip Code areas, it would be quite easy for me to still get them to you. I'm still going to keep the Alphabetical File and the Company File. The files are up to date as much as possible. I try to remove all of the Deceased as published in the Thunderbolt and update the addresses each year with the list the Secretary has made up each year.

To all of you that have not paid your Dues for 1986-87, please do so now and help keep this Association growing. To all of you who have never attended a Reunion, come to Charleston, WV and see just what you are missing. Don't put off for tomorrow what you can do today. It may never be done.

For all of you that are ailing, get well soon. God Bless all of those that have departed. Best of good luck, health and happiness to all.

**Samuel Klippa
Company "D" 331st. Inf.**

323rd News Report

I want to thank the few men that sent money for the Memorial Page in the 83rd Ad Book for Hq. Btry.

Erwin Erhardt spends his days following the Cincinnati Reds when he should be watching the Boston Red Sox.

Dave Nellies is doing very well fishing every day. He really has some fish stories to tell us at the reunion according to his wife, Nancy.

Tom Houlette sent me a letter which I was glad to receive. He is doing well now after all his operations.

Walt Harding is doing a good job keeping that old Florida gang together. He can certainly get Bob Costello out of the pool. Maybe he would get him up to Charleston for Don Pettry, Will Medling, Leroy Rock and Cal Baldwin of Baker Battery.

Eddie McCouch, Bill Shaner and Don St. John were all on the sick list but all are doing better now. Hope to get together with them real soon in Phillie for a weekend.

I am sorry to report that our friend and buddy for 45 years John Piscitelli passed away. I never knew a man that did not like John. It is a great loss to our Bn. as well as our 83rd Association. He did so much for the 83rd over the years. John was one of the best. Pat DiGiammerino attended the funeral representing the Boston Chapter and the 323rd FA Bn. which Pat was in Service Battery. Condolences to John's wife Josie and her family.

That's about all for now. See you at the reunion.

Amby Tynan

Pittsburgh Chapter News

At our May meeting a new member was introduced -- Michael Kadylak, formerly of 3rd BN. HQ. CO. of the 329th. It was a reunion of sorts for him and our chapter CHAPLAIN, Matt Pintar. They haven't seen each other in forty some years.

NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE -- I am pleased to report that John "Curly" Ruprecht is hale and hearty after a brief illness. The chapter has reserved forty (40) rooms at the Charleston Marriott, for the reunion in August. From all indications these all will be used. One of Mike Rudy's daughters is attending flight attendant's school in Texas. After a number of years of going to the reunions by himself, Mike is contemplating bringing his wife, Margaret this year. Greer Thompson spent three weeks in the middle of June in Plymouth, Minnesota with their daughter, Francine McNamee. Also spending some time away from home are Bill and Betty Mattes who spent some time in Houston, Texas visiting their 11th grandchild, Beverly. this also was in June. Paul and Rita Dietrich have returned home after



Ralph with Larry Leonardi

three months of slumming in California. Your reporter along with Charles Caven, Ed Reuss and Sal Sciocolne participated in the Verona-Oakmont, Pennsylvania parade and cemetery services on Memorial Day. Jules Desgain brought up the rear in his U.S. Army Jeep. Pictures were taken, but due to your reporter missing the June meeting I was unable to obtain them. On a sad note I must report the death of Wilbur Campbell in late April. This obituary appeared in the McKeesport Daily News.

WILBUR CAMPBELL -- Wilbur (Nep) Campbell, 69, of McKeesport died yesterday in McKeesport Hospital. Owner of Nep's Lounge in McKeesport, he formerly was employed by McKeesport Cigarette Co. and was member of St. Pius V Church, Pittsburgh Chapter 83rd Infantry Thunderbolts, Gen. Smedely D. Butler American Legion Post 701 and McKeesport Lodge 136, B.P.O. Elks. He served the U.S. Army during World War II and was the recipient of a Purple Heart.

Born in McKeesport, Feb. 1 1918, he was a son of the late Henry and Anna Coyne Campbell and the husband of the late Doris Taylor Campbell. Surviving are sons, Richard, Jeffrey and Henry of McKeesport, six grandchildren; and sisters, Alberta DeAngelis of White Oak and Dorothy Hacker of Fort Myers, Fla.

Friends were received from 7 to 10 p.m. today and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. tomorrow in Striffler's White Oak. Mass of christian burial will be celebrated Friday at 10 a.m. in St. Pius Church by the Rev. John Matthew Elanjileth. Burial was in Penn Lincoln Memorial Park.

Francis Beehalter
"H" 329

New Jersey Chapter

June 10, 1987

Because the Printer failed to include my article in the last issue of Thunderbolt, I hope that article will be included along with this article.

First I would like to correct the date I wrote on the marriage of Joe DePeri's daughter. The marriage will be held August 1, 1987 instead of the June date I gave.

Our meetings are being held as usual at the VFW Post in Garfield. We do enjoy them and invite more of you to attend.

The Chapter held a Dinner Meeting at the Forge Restaurant, Woodbridge this past May 31st. All agreed it was a fun time and was enjoyed by all. Attending were Bob and Carolyn Voelkner, Joe and Hazel Barton, Joe DePeri, Manny Esptein, Emil and Hazel Wehling, Fred and Addie Rein and Fran and Stan Bielen. Fred, Addie, Fran and myself made the arrangements for this affair. We missed those of you who had prior engagements. Al and Ruth Bensimon wrote to inform us they couldn't make it because they would be leaving on a New England Trip that day. Al wrote that they had a fantastic winter at their new Osprey, Florida home. Joe and Dorothy Skurka called to say they would be leaving for Las Vegas and a tour of the far west. Fred Klein called to tell us he would be out of town on Business. Always Great to hear from Fred as he was a foxhole buddy of mine. Ted and Irene Guzek had hoped to attend, something must have come up the last minute to keep them away. Frank Reichmann called me to tell me he hadn't been feeling well and couldn't be with us. Charlie and Mary Shilanick missed coming because of Mary not feeling up to par. Bernie and Ida Rosenberg couldn't make the dinner, but will make the next one. Invitations were sent out to others but they didn't respond. One I almost forgot, Capt. Jack Masters wrote me to tell me he couldn't come. We missed all who could not attend and hope to see you at the next affair.

Joe Kuzma (Co. G, 331) calls me often. Joe told me his son is a member of a Hard-Rock Band that recently cut a hit record. Joe in his youth auditioned for the Major Bowes Program. Must run in the family.

Congratulations to Dave and Millie Benick!! new grandparents to Jodi Paige. Born to Donna and Jules Berkowitz, May 1, 1987. "Musseltoff to you all." I hope that is the way it is spelled. The new granddaughter should bring you up this way more often, come join us when you can. We always enjoy your company.

A good number of the chapter have their reservations in for the Charleston Reunion. They are all excited and looking forward to joining with all in making this a great reunion.

OMITTED ARTICLE...

The New Jersey Chapter received the news of Ralph Neppel's passing with deep sorrow. All who knew Ralph admired him and will miss him. We in the Chapter express our deepest sympathy to Ralph's Family and Friends.

Joe Deperi's daughter will marry a West Virginia lad come June. They will live in West Virginia. Joe will of course be visiting. Lets see-to visit family he has a choice of Hawaii, Key West, Fla., and West Virginia. How lucky can you get. Our wishes are for a long and happy life for the couple.

Fred and Addie Rein had planned a trip to Florida. The night before leaving with the car packed ready to go, Addie took sick and had to spend 17 days in the hospital. Fortunately for both it happened at home instead of on the road. She is coming along fine now.

Received a letter and package from Beverly Cipperly. She had been cleaning her attic and came across some of Arnold's newspapers he had saved from Army days. She sent them on to me as she didn't have the heart to dispose of them and felt that I could find some use for them. It was nice to hear from her and to know she is coming along fine after a very difficult time.

We are planning a dinner meeting in Central Jersey sometime in late April. Will inform you how things went in the next issue.

Some of us are planning to join the Dixie Chapter in Williamburg and the Boston Chapter at the Pines Hotel. It's always great to be with your buddies. Hope the weather is good, looking forward to some golf at the Pines.

We were all glad to hear Wilson Day's illness was not as serious as first thought. Fran and I are looking forward to meeting with Vi there, pour the champagne please.

To Art Doggett we wish a speedy recovery. Hope we get to see you at Charleston.

April 15th the Haran Martins of the Dixie Chapter and at some futue date of the Jersey Chapter, because of his Joisey Accent, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Congratulations and God Bless You Both with many more years to come.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in Charleston.
That's it for now, God Bless you all.

Stan Bielen
1st Bn. Hdqs. 331

Philadelphia Chapter

With the threat of snow diminishing, the attendance at Chapter meeting increased and we have had excellent turnouts for our April and May meetings. Because of this we were all looking forward to taking part in what has become a special tradition in Narberth on Memorial Day. The Philadelphia Chapter of the 83rd Division, as usual, again led the parade which at this point has expanded to include the whole community. All were a part of a ceremony through the town which culminated at the Town Memorial site where the words remembered, as well as the ceremony, brought back the meaning of how we were veterans and why we were there. Very special in all our thoughts that day was John Piscitelli, our beloved National Chaplain, who on so many occasions in the past spoke so eloquently of the spiritual meaning of the day. What a legacy of beautiful memories he has left with all of us. He was a man for all seasons who will be remembered for having quickly touched the heart of the matter with just a few words whenever the occasion arose for him to act as our chaplain. John passed away on May 10. At the services held in Philadelphia, the Chapter Color Guard joined the funeral procession, as did several national officers of the 83rd Division. John was saluted at gravesite by a rifle squad of those who had been close friends with him both in war and in peace. When the gun fire died away, the thought still left be expressed to John by all of us who knew him and loved him was -- rest in peace, John, you so bravely fought the good fight.

John G. Daum
"D", 330th

(small or large) can be accommodated **IF** you begin your plans now. There is no minimum guarantee imposed on you or your organization.

We believe that most veterans will want to visit other than just combat/service areas this time around. Therefore, we are preparing tours to include Paris and the beaches of Normandy for the 45th Anniversary. After that, we'll have five day visits to Switzerland, Austria and Germany, the Battle of the Bulge areas, and London. Plus, our most popular tour, "The G.I. Favorite" will be available as well.

If you prefer to follow your own unit's specific route of wartime service, we'll be happy to arrange that, too, but this will require a group of 40 participants.

We are prepared to provide you with a flyer for handout at your 1987 reunion, advising your members of plans for 1989. Simply call us on our toll-free line (800-523-7287 outside PA), and let them know your wishes. There is, of course, no charge for this service.

Let me add, too, that if you would like someone from my staff to attend your reunion and explain the plans for 1989, we will be glad to make such arrangements. Similarly, if you would like us to do a mailing to your membership or provide camera-ready material for your newsletter, we would be happy to do that as well.

Don't delay, if you even **think** that something might be considered. This will be the **LAST CHANCE** for most of us WWII veterans to participate. Please give your members that opportunity!

My staff joins me, as always, in sending best wishes.

Sincerely,
Hal F. Ryder
Lt. Col. (Ret.)

Managing Director

Dear Bob:

I read with much interest Richard A. Dickson's story about Capt. Shelton, entitled "The Battle before the war" in the last issue.

I, too, knew Capt. Shelton and always considered him as a very good friend. So, you can see that the article affected me very much.

I have written a companion article which I submit for publication, and I believe that such articles will spark more interest in the Thunderbolt.

Sincerely,
William F. Dyer

A TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN SHELTON

To be remembered and respected after forty years by a former enlisted man who served under you during basic training and later combat, is the highest tribute that can be accorded any commanding officer.

This hypothesis was proved in the excellent article by Richard A. Dickson entitled "The Battle fore the war" for which he commended Captain Orvel W. Shelton, former commander of Co. B 329th



Dear Bob:

The 45th Anniversary of D-Day and other important World War II actions will take place in 1989. It may seem a long way off, but it really isn't. This will most likely be the last of the big celebrations due to the advancing years of many WWII G.I.'s.

If you're even thinking about arranging something for your unit members and their families for 1989, now is the time to begin. Accommodations in Normandy, especially, are still limited for major events, and we have blocked off nearly all of the good facilities to take care of our former clients. The Paris Air Show is scheduled for June 1989 as well, making accommodations there at a premium also.

We are organizing a program to allow for individuals to take part, regardless of the number from their particular unit. However, if any one unit has 40 or more participants, we will run a "special trip" just for that unit. Thus, if you do undertake to do something in 1989, you are assured that any number

Infantry Regiment (Vol. 42, No. 3, Spring Issue 1987).

I concur with his findings for I, too, knew Captain Shelton.

Our paths crossed when we met at Ft. Benning, GA in April 1942 at the Infantry School, Class No. 30, Officer Candidate School.

Fresh from duty with the 32nd Division, a National Guard unit called to duty in October 1940 from Michigan and Wisconsin, we weren't the best soldiers in the world, but we thought we were.

The 32nd Division, not unlike other divisions of that day, both regular and National Guard, was ill prepared for war. This division was cited for its excellent record in WWI, but had done little between the years of 1918 to 1940. Guarding automobile plants in the vicinity of Detroit during the turbulent days of the 1930s strikes was about the extent of its preparedness.

Shortly after being called to active duty the division moved to Camp Beauregard, LA (named for a Confederate general), and the Camp quickly took the name of Camp Disregard, which name was given by a few Yankees who thought they won the War between the States.

The Rebs who found themselves in the 32nd, including Shelton and myself, thought the shoulder patch of the red arrow had something to do with fighting Indians, but we soon found this to commemorate the penetration of the Hindenburg Line in WWI.

Training was almost non-existent at first for housekeeping errands took all the time. However, a short time after arrival at Beauregard a new camp, Livingston, was opened and soldiering began in earnest.

Shelton had demonstrated even then that he had the making of a good soldier. Upon being assigned as instructor of machine gun, and having no field manual, Shelton wrote his own and taught from it. What a museum piece that manual would be for the Infantry School Museum, if it were only available today.

All that summer of 1941 the division participated in the Louisiana maneuvers in which the Red and Blue armies chased each other through swamps, over rivers, through towns and cities, and the former Weekend Warriors became hardened and disciplined. The fun stopped when the Japanese dropped bombs on Pearl Harbor and all our lives took a sudden change.

Like a bombshell, the 32nd lost one regiment, and received orders to get ready for the port of embarkation. A quick move found the division at Ft. Devens, Mass., getting ready for combat.

But again, those things that change men's lives happened with the publication of Special Order 97, by division, sending 77 men of the 32nd to the "Land of Cotton", from which they had just arrived. The order took men from the 126th, 127th and 128th Regiments, Hq & M.P. Co., 623rd Tank Destroyer Bn., 32nd Signal and 32nd Cav. Rcn.

As luck would have it, when we arrived at Ft. Benning I was assigned a bunk next to Shelton. On my other side was a former shoe salesman from

Podunk County, Somewhere. I hadn't been there for more than three hours when Podunk borrowed ten bucks from me. Shelton, on the other hand, busied himself with shining shoes, picking at his "piece," and in general being very army-like.

This behavior continued for days. Podunk talking, talking, talking and Shelton working, working, working. Not being accustomed to either, I did as little as possible except to stay away as much as I could from either of them.

To live within feet of a person for at least ten hours each day and to never hear the spoken word builds a situation that is intolerable, and I finally broke. Holding out my hand like a politician I said to Shelton, "I'm Dyer." To which he replied, without shaking hands, "Shelton". As to whether Shelton was timid or just didn't want to enter into friendships early, I shall never know. I didn't ask and he didn't volunteer any information. Shortly thereafter Podunk left this school and I never retrieved my ten bucks.

Time was in essence at Class 30. There was work to be done and done quickly. Many nights found several of us in the latrine studying for the next day's classes, but not Shelton. He disciplined himself by arranging a schedule of study and nothing interfered. He did, however, help me if some particularly difficult question arose.

At the end of the three months comprehensive training, we received our orders and most of us were assigned to Camp Atterbury, Ind., and on August 15, 1942 helped activate the 83rd Infantry Division.

To quote the "Buckshot" 329th History "The enlisted Basic Cadre from the 2nd Cavalry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas, the officers from the IRTC at Fort McClellan, Alabama and the 90 day wonders from Fort Benning, Georgia were the only men present for duty on the 15th of August, 1942, the day the 329th Regiment was activated."

Shelton and I were both assigned to the 329th but shortly thereafter I was transferred to the M.P. Platoon of Division Headquarters. This didn't spoil our friendship, however, and we were good friends, or as close as Shelton allowed anyone to be. One day I inquired of Shelton why he didn't speak to me at Fort Benning the first time I saw him. His answer. "You didn't speak to me". I remembered that I didn't. I do believe that had he lived we would be the best of friends today.

I didn't get too much from Shelton as to his former life. I did get him to tell me about breaking horses in order to make enough money to attend Texas A&M. And that he, like myself, migrated North because a job might be available; that we both found ourselves as soldiers with the 32nd Division and moved South again.

At Camp Atterbury Shelton was a diligent worker and his rapid promotions attested to his skill as an infantryman. He deserved to be commanding officer of an infantry company, and he was justly proud of Company B.

He, like many of us who were called the 90 day wonder, had problems with enforcing discipline. None relished the confinement of a soldier to the camp on weekend for some minor infraction, but we

did it with compassion. It had to be done. And so it was!

I didn't see Shelton much after we landed in England for the 329th was training in some far off land called Wales while we whooped it up at some dinky burg called Stoke-on-Trent. One day I asked Shelton about Wales and he described it as the place you always go uphill.

The last time I remember seeing Shelton was along the Carentan-Periers Road at a place dubbed Purple Heart Corner by Ernie Pyle. B Company was waiting to be committed and Shelton was at his CP. During the time I was there it was reported to Captain Shelton that one of the B Company men had shot himself in the foot and Shelton fairly exploded. He was so angry that the tears came to his eyes and I firmly believe this was the saddest day of his life. Just to think this could happen to one of his men. Before the day was finished Captain Shelton was no more. A sniper's bullet caught him in the head and he died instantly.

Only the memory remains.

Robert E. Derickson

I received my membership card, also the Fall and Winter issue of the Thunderbolt magazine. Enjoyed the stories, and other news. I think it is a wonderful magazine, especially the story about Norman "Shorty" Schuster, Winter Issue. I wonder if I might be able to get my story printed. I was never a hero and my only decoration was a purple heart - it is a "a story of a plain G.I. Joe" it might be of some interest to the fellows who joined the outfit later on during the war.

When I left the company to go back to the hospital in England I doubt if the company and fellow members ever knew what happened to me. Because no records were ever forwarded. They paid me every month according to what rank I said I held.

If you can't print it, please read it anyway, thank you.

James C. Shadden

April 20, 1987

To: John Walker, Capt. of Fritts, Sgt. Charles W. Barefoot, Members of Company D, 330th Reg., 83rd Inf. Div.

The words I am about to write could be called my story or it could be called God's plan for me, as it happened.

Until a few weeks ago, I had never heard of 83rd Inf. Div. Association, even though I was an original member of Company D, 330th, until I received my latest copy of the Purple Heart Magazine because of my membership in M.O.P.H. I saw a notice in it telling about your reunion to be held in Charleston, West Virginia this year. I had wondered for many years if there was such an event as reunions of the 83rd Inf. Div.

I joined the 83rd Inf. Div. in October, 1942 at Camp Atterbury, Ind. I was first placed in Company C, 330th. A short time later I was transferred to

Company D, 330th, and assigned to a machine gun squad. The fellows I can remember are Capt. Fritts; Sgt. Barefoot; Benedict, a kid from Chicago who was a First Gunner; Mullins, a fellow who looked to be much older than the rest of us; Moser, a kid that was killed soon after we reached France; Joseph Silverman, a kid that could get by with the least amount of clothing in bitter cold weather and not get cold, while the rest of us would be wearing two pairs of pants and extra underwear; another Jewish kid who was caretaker of the dayroom before we left Camp Breckenridge, that must have been "Rosie," and myself, a very shy, quiet type of person, a person you always thought about when someone was needed for guard duty, which I was selected a lot, but I only worked K.P. twice (2) during the 3 years, 2 months and 28 days I was in the army.

I remember my 21st birthday. We walked 21 miles in freezing rain and sleet to an area where we were to spend the night. When we got there we had to wade across a wide body of water to get to the other side where we had to go to set up camp. That night we could not build fires so we went to bed with our wet shoes on because they would be so frozen in the morning, we would not be able to get them on.

I remembered the trip to Tennessee and the walk back to Camp Breckenridge, our trip over into Ohio to set up our machine guns along miles of railroad because President Roosevelt's train was coming through. I remember the day that death first came to the men of the 83rd. It was not between the hedge rows of France, it was a long way from it. We were taking part in a field training exercise, in which we were to follow a rolling barrage of artillery. The idea was for one line of men to advance forward while the artillery was firing their shells ahead of us. The first line would drop and the next line would pass through them and advance forward. We either moved too fast or the artillery failed to advance their firing as they should. The shell fell among us, and the meat wagons spent the rest of the day hauling off the men that were hurt and killed.

By this time we could call ourselves soldiers for we had walked many a mile singing the song, "This is the Army Mr. Jones."

I remember the night before we left Breckenridge to ship overseas. I think every man of the 83rd had one wife and two girlfriends each to visit him that night. Every four feet of ground was occupied by someone, throughout the entire camp. All those blood shot eyes next morning! But it gave them something to look back on.

When we arrived at Camp Shanks, I saw the most snow I ever had saw in my life. Next morning the snow was up to the windows. They tried to call us out for roll call, we refused to go out. They then rang the chow bell, we all crawled out the windows, but they stopped us and made us go through the roll call first. On April 6th we went aboard ship bound for England. It was the Queen Elizabeth, sister ship bound for England. It was the Liverpool, England about fourteen (14) days later. Then we took a train to New Castle, England and set up camp at Kell Hall, a castle that had belonged to Henry the Eighth and Ann Bolen. then we went to Wales and into the

mountains. It was the first time I have seen swamp land and marshes on top of a mountain. We then moved to the coast of France, but before we did General George Patton came by to talk to us. What he told us, was for us to open the road to St. Lo, France enough so that he could get his tanks onto the road. Then he said you can throw away your little tools that you dig fox holes with, you won't have time for digging because we are going to Germany.

I can remember once when we were aboard ship that Sgt. Barefoot was told by one of the officers high-up to get us up on our feet and run us around the ship, but Sgt. Barefoot said no! no! no! no way, they are all sick already. I wonder what Barefoot's rank was at the end of the war. I would have voted for him to be a Major or some high rank.

Now begins the part that I feel was God's plan for me. he had his hand on my shoulder all the way.

We had relieved the 101st Air Borne Paratrooper near Caretan, France, after Caretan fell. We went on outpost duty, just holding on to what we had gained until the morning of July 4th, 1944. We were sitting on the high ground overlooking the swampland of Normandy. At about dusky dawn the artillery of the 83rd opened up with such magnitude that the sky and heavens was lit up, the ground trembled and the devil was seated from his throne in hell. We all looked in the direction of Germany and knew we were on our way. It was a clear message to Hitler that we would not be stopped, and the 83rd was coming to kick the bad boy's butt.

On July 7th we got stalled down. The 90th Division on our right fell behind. The Germans came in on the 83rd's flank. We set up our machine guns to cover the withdrawal of the rifle troops. When the rifle troops got clear our guns were running hot, it was time for the machine guns to pull back. I was the last one to pull back. When I raised to go I felt something hit me in the arm. I knew the Germans could see me and I remembered what I had been told in training, that you never let them capture your gun, because they might use it to kill you. So there was a stagnant pool of water nearby that was about lake size so I flipped the machine gun into it. I crawled and ran and crawled some more. I got back to the company area. My arm was hurting so I was sent back to the aid station. The doctor there did not take a good look or x-ray, he passed it off as a rock had flew up and hit me in the arm, sent me back to the company. A few days later I could not use the hand at all, so I was sent to a field hospital near the beach. They loaded all the wounded on a LST converted to a hospital ship. We wound up in England at the 40th General Hospital. They pronounced that gangrene had set in and there was a bullet in the arm. They said they could get the arm well and the bullet out but my hand would never be much use again. I was reclassified and with a notation that I was never to be sent to a combat zone again. Should I hate the doctor at the aid station for his incompetence? No it was all God's plan to save my life. I was discharged from the army on December 25, 1945, came home raised daughters and grandsons that are good church goers.

James Shadden

June 20, 1987

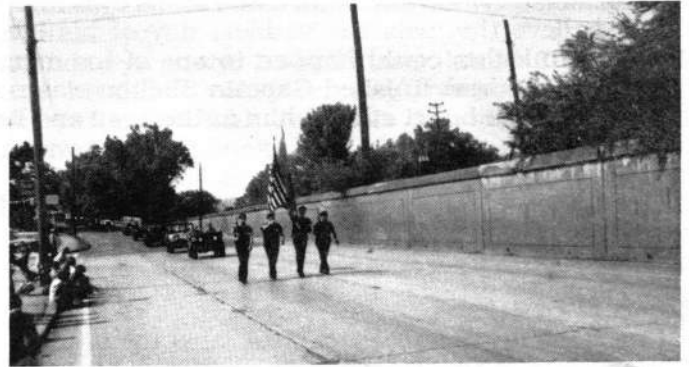
Hi Bob:

A little late but I just got the picture's from our Memorial Day Parade held in Oakmont, Penn., and since our 83rd made such a good turnout thought you would certainly want to publish it in the Thunderbolt.

Our honor guard who is Ed Reuss, Charles, Caven, Fran Beerhalter, and Sal Scicolone plus Jules Desgain with his jeep and 2 1/2 ton truck.

This is the Pittsburgh Chapter

**Thank You
Ed Reuss**



Pittsburg Honor Guard: Memorial Day Parade, Ed Reuss, Charles Caven, Fran Beerhalter and Sal Scicolone, plus Jules Desgain.



Jules Desgain and his Jeep.

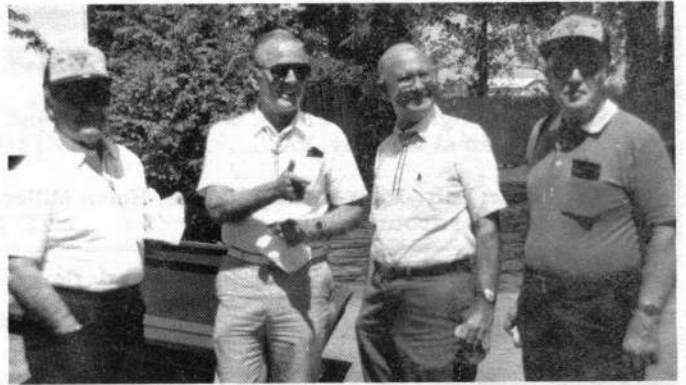


Jules Desgain's 2 1/2 ton truck

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING—HERSHEY, PA.



Your Board...a very happy group!



Al Belevedere, Stan Bielen, Meadors Minick and Bob Derickson at Board meeting in Hershey, Pa.



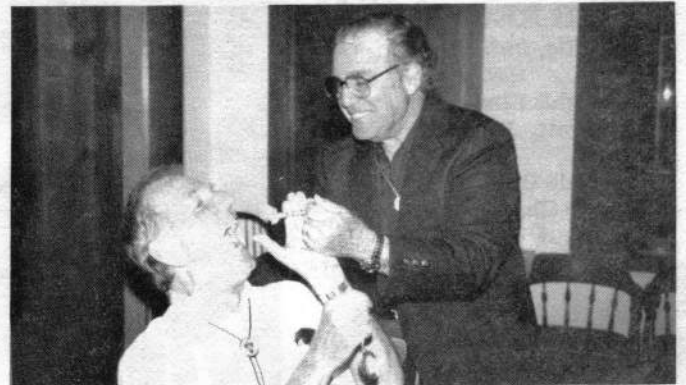
Helen Miller presenting Bob and Pearl with a fruit bowl and cake for their 45th Wedding Anniversary at board meeting in Hersey.



This is Stan's dessert at Hershey, PA. Looks like it belongs to everyone else.



Pearl and Bob with their cake from the Executive Board at their 45th



Al Belevedere feeding Stan Bielen his dessert at Hershey, PA.

Visit to Gettysburg

John & Freeda Hobbs, Pearl and Ames and Helen Miller at the Eisenhower home.



In the Amish Country in Pennsylvania. Plan a trip to these beautiful spots next year.

HARRISBURG & HERSHEY MUSEUM— 1988 Reunion Site

On the right: Al and Anna Belevedere, Lou and Lucy Volpi visiting Museum at Hershey, PA

Below: Left: John & Mary Raikos, Helen Miller at dinner Saturday night in Harrisburg

Below: Right: Stan Bielan, Bob & Pearl Derickson at dinner in Harrisburg meeting with Philadelphia chapter.

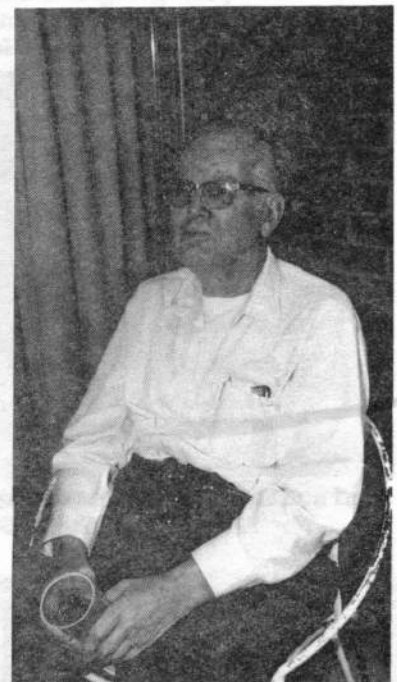
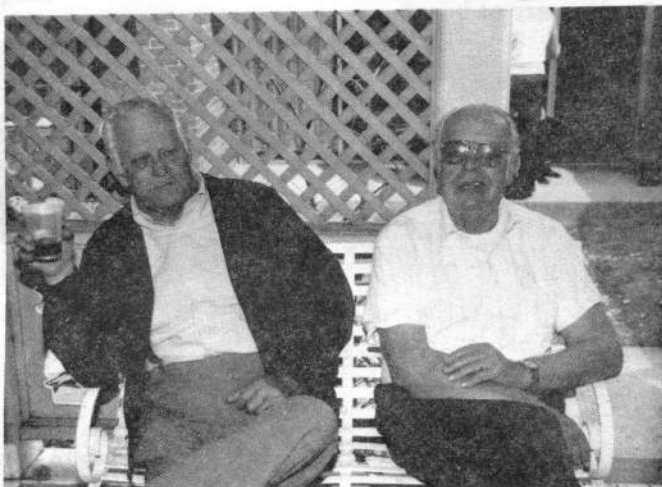


KENTUCKY CHAPTER REUNION

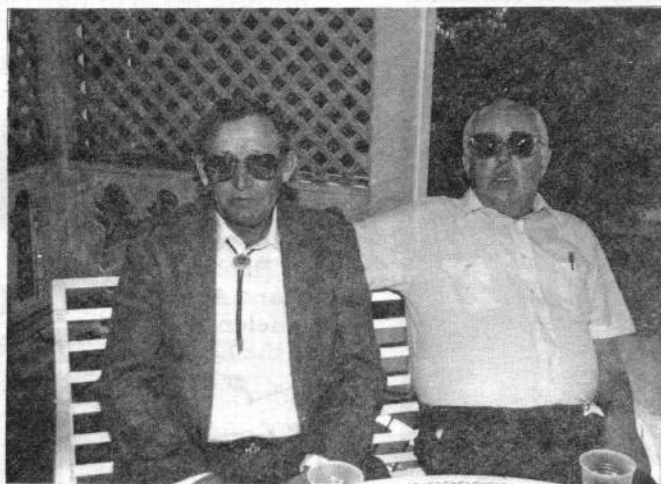
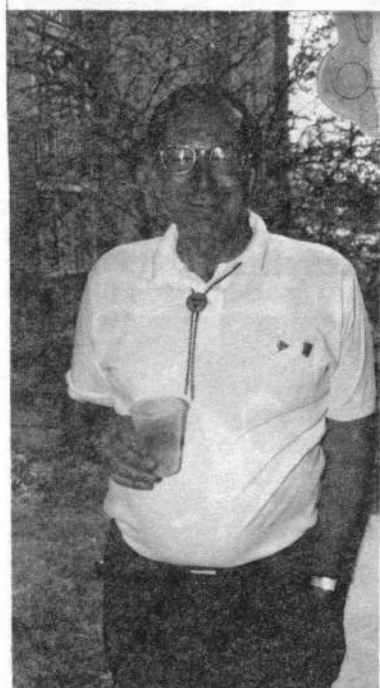
Clarksville, Indiana—March 1987

At the right: Elmer Day and Art Doggett. Doesn't Art look good?

Below: Gale Baker of the Kentucky Chapter



Above: Henry Whelan of the Kentucky chapter



At the left: Earl Hoover and Owen Jones.

A message to all 83rd members...

Anyone wishing to purchase shirts, coats, and caps may write to: Vito C. Palazzolo, 20000 Lancaster, Harper Woods, Michigan 48225 for information.

He will send you an application form.

National Lapel Pins, Bolo Ties and Necklaces
\$5⁰⁰ each

(Postage and Handling Included) Contact the Association Office

83rd Reunion will be held at the Marriott Town Center
in Charles, West Virginia.

The dates are: **August 20-21-22, 1987.**

Start making your plans to attend, now!

DELINQUENT DUES NOTICE

This will serve as the official notification to those of you who have not paid your dues for the year 86/87, which are due on or before August 1st, 1987.

Please refer to your 83rd membership card. If it shows August 31st, 1986, and you have not paid your dues in the last month, you are delinquent. So, respond immediately and provide the financial support that is needed for the continuity of your association.

On the other hand, if you are in such financial circumstances that you require assistance, please notify your Secretary so that a confidential notation can be placed on your record, and we will continue your membership.

Our thanks go out to all of you who responded promptly to our dues requests, and to the many of you so generously contributed additional amounts to help a buddy. It is our sincere hope that those who have not paid their dues to date, will be taking care of this in the very near future.

Bob Derickson, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

THUNDERBOLT DEADLINES

Deadline for ALL articles to be published in Thunderbolt must be at this office by
Sept. 10; Dec. 10; March 10; and June 10.

Robert Derickson, 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, OH 45013

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, OH 45013



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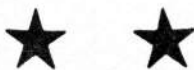
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Company _____ Regiment _____ 83rd Division

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Robert Derickson
3749 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013



Office Phone:
513-863-2199

Date _____

Signature _____

BULLETIN

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

Bob