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# THE Flash

PUBLICATION OF THE 78<sup>TH</sup> DIV. ASSN.

1942 - 1946

ARDENNES

RHINELAND

CENTRAL  
EUROPE

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE FRIENDSHIPS ESTABLISHED IN 2 WORLD WARS

VOLUME XXIX

DECEMBER, 1961 ★ JANUARY, 1962

NUMBER 5



*From All Of Us  
To All Of You*

*Merry Christmas*

**The 78th Division Veterans' Association**

EDWIN P. PARKER, Major General, Retired

*Honorary President*

ALBERT DeTITTA

*President*

## A Prayer On Christmas Day

To all 78th Division veterans, wherever situated, whatever the circumstance — To those wartime companions still wearing the uniform — on post or in some far-off outpost — To those reservists entrusted with the proud Lightning heritage —

During this day of world-wide rejoicing — of good will towards all men — let us join with our many chaplains of World War One, World War Two, and our Reserve Establishment in the spiritual acknowledgments which must transcend all other telepathic passages set to the memory of other Christmases, echoes of distant, presumably dismal, duty sentinalism.

And, clearly defined across the vast land separations, reaching out for each one of us to hear, comes the Yuletide Message of Joy and Hope from our two association Staff

chaplains, Rev. J. Harold Thomson of World War One Doughboy Service and Rev. John L. Cunningham of World War Two Chaplains Corps. That this day be more than a mere holiday, a gift exchanging time for jubilece, let us set aside an hour for prayer and contemplation, humbly aware that the voices of they who walked the desperate trails with us long years ago, whose spiritual consolations buttressed faith when all else seemed to have failed us, are raised in concerted supplience to the new born King, and prayers of Hope for the men they knew long years ago as lonely, disheartened, and homesick in the wake of a costly victory, or as misery-laden, snow coated defenders of a vague and precarious position, licking first wounds while surveying the hazard horizons thru which they must shortly pour their might — and their lives. Prayers will be said on Christmas Day. By those of us who will listen — they will be heard.



## General Parker Sparks Philly Chapter's First Meeting

World War Two Infantry Regiments Well Represented

(Report By: Staff Correspondent H. Ogden)

Philadelphia's Frankford Arsenal was closed on the evening of Nov. 10., but just a stone's throw inside the main gate the Officer's Club was anything but closed as 60 WW2 vets of the 'Lightning' Division assembled for the first meeting of the new Phila. Area Chapter. Led by General Parker and encouraged by the Phila. Area Committee as well as our N.Y. and North Jersey quartet of Ghegan, Drummond, Cohan, and Deyoe the new men on hand soon picked up the spirit of the 78th. Div. Assoc. Toward mid evening Don Adams took the floor and introduced in turn Col. Robert E. Leroy, Deputy Commander of Frankford Arsenal, Assoc. Pres. Albert DeTitta and Assoc. V.P. H. Ogden. High light of the meeting were 'Sparky' Parker who carried us back in a the remarks of our own Gen. Edwin P. sincere and forceful speech to the Divisions activation on a hot August day in 1942. Through the trials of training and replacements and finally onto the field of battle. behind the Phila. Area Chapter and help He urged the men who were present to get-carry on the 78th. Division Assoc. with the same courage and dispatch they had shown so well in combat. Many of the men present were taken back in memory to talks the General had made to his boys at Butner, Pickett, and on the eve of battle! The meeting then carried on in an air of complete informality and fellowship till long after the bar was closed when some of the die-hards gathered on the parking lot to get in a last few words. Men of the 310th. Inf. were really in force; nearly outnumbering the combined forces of the 309th. and 311th Inf. Regts. The Phila. Area Chapter is on the move; It's expanded Phila. Area Committee will be meeting again soon to critique and cast an eye to the future!

(Continued on page two)

*It's Albany, New York, --On April 28th, 1962*



## Rochester Big Guns Fire Annual Salute To Regimental Record

### 309 Artillery Dinner Enlivened

#### By Distant Guest Appearances

More than 175 members of the 309th Field Artillery Association gathered at the Doud American Legion Post for the group's 27th annual reunion dinner. The number included members of the organization from California, Illinois, Pennsylvania, the New England States and New Jersey as well as New Yorkers.

From Coral Gables, Florida, came Ed Zonneyville, John Conlie made the hop from Springfield, Illinois, Early Manby came in from Carnegie, Pa., and, in his first and only personal showing since 1919, Churchill McCrary from California copped the Long Distance acclaim of welcome.

About three car loads from the Metropolitan area, captained by Mayor Harry Thourot of Union City, N.J. brought the 78th Div. Executive Group and the Last Man's Club fun personnel into full focus, somewhat depleted in numbers but, as always, *ra'rin* to go...and GO THEY DID. The Hoboken Duo, George Standen, Carlos, the traveling squeeze box artist, led the group through the lively arts of old barracks' rousers, adding to the aim of conviviality always in any reunion plan.

Amongst the missing from the Last Man's Club caravan were Tommy Collins, Jerry Kamen, and Pete McKeever. The shocking news of Lolly Molteni's heart seizure and George Fagan's illness put a damper on some of the enthusiasm but, as those two great guys would have it, the spirit was carried on with a firm and dedicated determination by all the Lightning veterans who have sustained their comradeship down these many years that "The show must go on!"

The executive board of the 78th Div. Veterans' Association had President Al De Titta and Treasurer John Fuchs present to make an official reaffirmment of interest and support of individual unit affairs by the divisional organization and to promote the cause of comradeship and good relations.

The Dinner Chairman was Ben Silverstein, Toastmaster, Clarence W. Haller, and at the speakers table were: Henry M. Haubner, President, 309th Field Artillery Assn.; Albert De Titta, President, 78th Division Assn.; Harry J. Thourot, Past President,

## Miscellaneous Notes On Philly Get-Together

Assoc. V.P.'s Harold Pilcher and Harry Whitman gave Phila. a long distance helping hand by sending addresses from Missouri and Kansas. Also Mark Hoffman from Greensburg, Pa.

Geo. Constable Co. A 310 Inf. runs a Travel Agency in Upper Darby, Pa.

Vince Lodice K 309 Inf. is a Supervisor for Harbison Dairies in Phila.

Bill James I 310 Inf. is in the Insurance Business in Plymouth Valley, Pa.

Jim Doyle 310 Inf. and John Collins 311 Inf. both work for the Post Office Dept. in the Phila. area.

Howard Schultz 311 Inf. is in the Roofing Business in Collingdale, Pa.

Bill Jarrell 311th Inf, James R. Ferris, Ed Hollis, Walt Lion Jr. all 310 Inf. and many others sent letters or called expressing interest in the Philly Chapter; even though they could not be on hand for the first meeting.

Bill James I, Berny Dubrow D, Joe Wolfington E, Al Levy S., and Jim Carson Regt. H.Q. (all 310th Inf.) helped the men from the Regt. in their own localities.

## World War Two Histories Of 310th Infantry Available In Limited Quantity

Comrade John P. Riley, 107 Alger Ave., Providence, Rhode Island, has a number of illustrated copies of the above World War Two Unit History and has arranged to distribute them to members of the Association at the unusual low price of \$1.00 (one dollar) per copy, which includes Parcel Post charges. It's first come, first served, so get your order in, pronto.

78th Division Assn.; George M. Schwartz, Commander, 309th Field Art. Post, V.F.W.; C. Wrederick Jefferson, Chaplain, 309th Field Artillery Assn.; John Cook, Treasurer, 310th Infantry Assn.; Albert Villone, Commander, Doud Post American Legion.

The Presiding Officers for 1961 were recognized as follows: President, Henry M. Haubner; Vice-President, Carl W. Kramer; Secretary, Philip Guenther; Treasurer, Orr M. Sixbey; Chaplain, C. Frederic Jefferson; Sergeant-at-Arms, Townsend W. Thygesen. (Flash reporter: Pat Ryan, 309 F.A. Reg.)

## Philly Reunion

(Continued from page one)

Those who attended (and signed in) were:

### Div. Hdqrs.

Maj. Gen. Edwin P. Parker, 309th Inf. John Eden, Dave Yerkes, John Zajackowski, Felix Ginkewicz, Bob Murray, Al Rappaport, Warner Deyoe, John Ghegan, Seymour Cohan, Dave Kitts, and Ed Stein

### 311th Inf.

Bill Afflerbach, Tom Rossman, Bob Walsh, Mike Kosteleski, Bill James, Bernie Dubrow, Tom Cascaden, Geo. Nightlinger, Pitro Bossi,, Gil Stewart, Louis Pappas, Andy Lanni, Al Levy, Jim Carson, Jim Doyle, Ed Jacoby, Ed Kwiatkowski, Len Kalick, Herb Ferdman, Frank Ramsey, and Joe Lerro.

### 310th Inf.

Herb Humphries, Howard Schultz, Don Johnson, John Collins, Frank McLaughlin, Carl Kittleson, Geo. Carrullo, Russ Ertell.

### 307th F.A. Bn.

Don Adams, John Burns, Paul Oests, Joe Buschel, Bill Wampole, Clyde Deets, Bob Drummond and Stan Grabowski.

Assoc. Pres. Al DeTitta and Membership sec. John Fuchs, the only World War One veterans present, represented the parent organization.

Editors note: We congratulate the newly conceived area group on this first and highly productive effort. World War Two vets around the country please take note. It can be done!

## THANKS

The Phila. Area Committee wishes to extend a special note of thanks to Col. G.W. Eiffler - Commanding Officer of the Frankford Arsenal, and to Col. Leroy and Col. Barth for the use of facilities and for all the help and courtesy extended us. Also to Sgt. Johnson of the Officer's Club and other members of the Arsenal Staff and Guard Force who were especially helpful!

Past President E. Jerry Kamen has taken ownership of a home at 7031 N.W. 2nd St., West Hollywood, Florida. He has been in contact with comrades Van Ness of Lake Worth and Henry Wohlleb of Boynton Beach. Ben Herr also reports that progress is being made on consolidating 78th Div. Vets into a Florida Chapter of the Association.



## New Addresses:

Past Presidents Joseph Stulb, now a shore resident at 2256 Newark Ave., Manasquan, N. J., and Captain Leslie W. Matis, formerly of Headquarters, Air Base Group, San Francisco, Calif., is now located at 1892 Eastbrook Blvd., Winter Park, Fla.

## Under The Weather When We Were At Fort Dix

Comrade Bruce Shephard, 303rd Engineers, World War One, was in a hospital in Jersey City, being treated for a heart attack. Ed Rees, 312th Inf. Vet., undergoing tests to determine leg muscle difficulty. Eustachio Terzini, 309th Inf. Vet., WW2, was being treated for accident lacerations of the hand. Earl McCready, Co C., 303 F.S.B., WW1, now residing in retirement in St. Petersburg, Florida, was making recovery from a heart attack and John Riley, Providence, R.I. was ailing.

## Battle Star from Fort Dix

A real Ripleyism! Believe it or not, there is such an award in existence and to make it more intriguing, it is held by the very officer who supervised our reunion project, Major Harland Peck, Commanding the First Battalion, First Training Regiment. Without going into details, it is recorded that Major Peck, while stationed at Dix during the early stages of world war two, flew recon and observation missions over coastal waters, rendering valuable service to related branches of the defense operation of the time.

## Maid Service for Muddled Ex:

Somewhere amongst our gallery of snaps from Joe Stulb's lens recording of the reunion scene, last issue, there is a shot which, no doubt, confounded our non-attendees, the picture of several ladies playing housekeeper around the bunk area. Well, it's true. We actually had maid service and to those who envision old memories of Dough or Joe Buddies taking their beauty rest long years ago amidst rubble, rot, and ruin, let us dispel any thoughts that civilization has wrought any plush and delicate change on those self same guys. They are NOT going soft. They didn't ask for it. The fact is that a directive covering the rules of hospitality when civilian (or veteran) guests stay overnight makes this service, at a fee, a regulation measure.

## Loss of Face

Good samaritanism proved costly to Al Harpell's reputation as men's clothing expert. When General Parker's suit became unwearable from the hour long drenching at the Saturday morning review, the Flash editor supplied a blue blazer to harmonize with the general's slacks. Trouble was, Al is about forty five pounds heavier than he was when as proportioned and conditioned as Gen. Parker but he just don't believe it. Result: One lost reputation and one demonstration of good sportsmanship by Gen. Parker who wore the jacket anyway, probably to keep Al's ego alive in the delusion of youth and leanness perpetuated.

## Do You Just Belong?

*Are you an active member  
The kind that would be missed,  
Or are you just contented  
That your name is on the list?  
Do you attend the meetings  
And mingle with the flock  
Or do you stay at home  
To criticize and knock?  
Do you take an active part  
To help the work along,  
Or are you just satisfied  
To only just belong?  
Do you bring in new members,  
And help the old ones stick  
Or leave the work to just a few  
And talk about (the clique)?  
Now, think this over, member;  
For you know right from wrong.  
Are you an Active Member,  
Or do you Just Belong?*

Submitted by F. Wallace, Company B,  
316th Infantry, World War One.

## Events

### YOU ARE INVITED

To The Traditional  
78th Division Christmas Party  
By Host  
Mayor Harry Thourot  
At The Oasis Club  
Cor. 34th St. and Palisade Ave.  
Union City, N. J.  
On Thursday Evening, Dec. 21st.  
Dinner At 6:30 Sharp

### GRATIS

All 78th Division Veterans of both world wars are welcome. Please come but be sure and notify Harry Thourot so that he may estimate servings.

## Albany Reunion In The Making

Not completely committed, but definitely in the planning stage, is an April 28, 1962 advance against (or should we say 'for') the 78th Div. Stronghold of Albany, New York. Look for word from the Committee on details regarding this spring reunion. Note: We understand a number of 78th Div. (World War One) unit banners and guidons are still on display in the State House.

We will need help from 78th Div. Vets residing in the area — so please volunteer your assistance to Albanyite Co-Chairman Phil Di Pace, 123 Yardboro Ave., Albany, N. Y. Full details next issue. . . . Reunion Co-Chairman Warner DeYoe.

How about it, Ed. Schieberling!

## Taps At Fort Dix

### Years Departures Intoned At Memorial Service

Andrew Rasmussen, Paul Gyori, Thomas Hogan, Ettore De Petrocellis, George Sauerhoff, Arthur Malo, William Kellner, Behnard Smith, Eugene Sullivan, Edward Allen Brophy, James Crane, John Baker, Lawrence Wygant, Samuel Naples, William Swanlund, Fred C. Uhlmann, Thomas H. Hayes (ww2), John Kirk, Gilbert Stange, Nelson Gordon, Harry S. Mustard, John F. Grimes, Alfred A. L'Heureux (pp), Frank J. Winters, Donald O. Bronson, J. Cyril Donohue, Thomas J. Murray, Harold Van Attasa, Elisio De Gante, Edward F. Glenn, J. Gardes, Frank Pawlowski, David W. Gobie, John R. Carey, Howard J. McCann, Charles Elmore, Edward A. Knight, James Gavin (ww2), Charles F. Joel, Joseph Willoughby, George C. Stroppe, Frank Ackerson, William Hanniflin, Franklin R. Perkins, Herman Greenebaum, Joseph Vassone, Harry A. Jenkins, Leon Barker, Ralph Del Guercia, George Heck, Charles H. Boorum, Arthur W. Robinson, John White, Anthony Ghio, Thomas P. Dunn, George J. Emony, George W. Burgner, George C. Stickel, Maurice C. Joy, Emil Sioransa, John Drobinske, Timothy Guthrie, Harry F. Smack, Fred Kwitchoff, William J. Halleran, Howard Mortis, Patrick Bray, Lawrence J. Brennan, Dennis Tyrell, Morris Gerber, William H. McQuilton, Jr.

End of Printed Obituaries.

Following Names Reported During The Convention At Dix:

Anthony De Santis, Theodore Wichern, Fred Ackerman, David Wines, T. Bryant Smith.

### Responsible For Our Success At Fort Dix

Post Commander - Major General Reuben H. Tucker, III

Assistant Post Commander - Brigadier General A. O. Connor

G. I. - Colonel Robert Cullis

Assistant Chief of Staff - Lieutenant Colonel W. H. Applegate

Post Information Officer - Major Marcus Bottorff

Assistant P.I.O. - Lieutenant Wade Nixdorff

The above names of key Post Officials were inadvertently omitted in our reunion story last issue. We certainly are duty bound to make this belated recognition and cheerfully acknowledge that without their help our gathering on our old birthplace could not have been held.



## CLOSE RANKS

Comrade Edward Andrews of 1069 Main St., Wakefield, R.I. passed away in North Kingston, R.I. on October 5th. Comrade Andrews was a world war one veteran of Co. K., 310th Inf.

(Flash reporter: J. P. Riley)

Comrade Pasquale Capuano, 65, of 139 Kearney St., Cranston R.I., proprietor of the Riviera Cafe in the Elmwood section left our ranks suddenly on October 8th in St. Joseph's Hospital. Comrade Capuano had gone to Fort Dix with the Rhode Island contingent in world war one but had remained on the post with the Infantry Depot Brigade.

(Flash reporter: W. McElroy)

Comrade James A. Slear of 820 Nostrand Ave., Brooklyn, New York, a world war one wounded by shrapnel on Sept. 1918 at St. veteran of Co D, 310th Infantry who was Mihiel left our ranks on October, 1961 while a patient in the Brooklyn V.A. Hospital. Comrade Slear, who was 68, was a noted newspaperman and had been a member of the news staff of the New York Times since 1925 and, for the past 15 years, had covered the N.Y. Supreme Court, the Appellate Division for the First Dept. and the N.Y. Surrogates Court. In 1912, before his military service and as a reporter for the old N.Y. World he was assigned to Police Headquarters and had covered the famous Lieut. Becker murder trial.

Comrade Chester Callahan, 107 Phyllis Ave., Buffalo, N.Y., a world war one veteran of Co. D., 303rd Engineers left our ranks in October 12th, 1961 after a brief illness. Comrade Callahan was a long time member of the association a constant and familiar figure at Lightning reunions, both mid-season and summer, and exemplified the spirit of sustained comradeship by his always expected presence and conviviality for which many association loyalties are noted. Comrade Callahan, a railroad man for most of his life, was also prominent in bowling circles in upper New York.

(Flash reporter: Harry Thourot and David Karlen)

From The 309th F.A. (Rochester) Report Deceased — 1960 - 1961: Jacob A. Van Hee, John R. Hardick, Raymond Miles, Richard T. Guinan, James S. Woods, George Campbell, Loren Charles, Richard B. Warren, Louis J. Mack, Frank J. Ruthven, Walter F. Doescher, Michael J. Dailey, Roydon M. Smith, Archibald Colebeck, Elmer B. Brown, William F. Kohler, August Beringer, Evan Searcy, Joseph T. Quarrel, Edward J. Meinhard, John D. Alexander.

Comrade George Romberger, 4516 Greenwood Ave., No. Seattle, Washington, a world war one veteran of Co. C., 303rd Field Signal Battalion left our ranks on July 21st, 1961, at the age of 68. He had joined the company in Feb. 24th, 1918 and his last recorded rank was that of corporal.

Comrade Romberger was proprietor of the Radium Soap Co. for many years and had sold his business in January of this year. He was a trustee of Lt. James Eagleson Post V.F.W. for over 26 years. He was best known to many unit headquarters as a "dispatch rider" and, a comrade recalls, it was during one of his many night deliveries that he suffered a most serious injury from a head-on collision. He had many times expressed an intention to come east to attend one of the reunions but events prevented. He had kept up correspondence since 1919 with the French family of Madam Gallois in Semur.

(Flash reporters: Mrs. Mary Romberger and John (Pop) Brooks.)

Comrade Frank J. Semple, one of Rochester's (N.Y.) most distinguished soldiers of world war one and holder of the D.S.C., French Croix de Guerre with palm, and the French Medaille Militaire for his action on Nov. 1st, 1918 during combat with Co 1 310th Inf. in the Bois de Loges, passed on at Auburn Memorial Hospital on Nov. 3rd at the age of 73. He had been gassed during service, was a first class private, and for a time was a bugler. He had moved to Auburn from Rochester a number of years ago.

*His citation with the DSC reads: "Private Semple, battalion runner, during the advance of his battalion through the woods with great gallantry and disregard of personal danger, carried a message from battalion headquarters to a detachment on the extreme left flank after two runners immediately preceding him had been killed endeavoring to deliver the same message."*

*"His path lay over ground continually swept by enemy machine guns and preceding runners had been killed in his sight. His success in delivering this important message materially aided the Battalion Commander in connecting up the units of his command and contributed largely to the final success of the operations."*

*Private Semple could not have been fairly censured for any failure to perform this mission."*

(Flash reporter: P. Ryan)

Comrade Edward S. Keatley, 66, of 1702 3rd Ave., Spring Lake, N.J. passed away on September 29th, 1961 at Fitkin Memorial Hospital after a long illness. A long time association member and a frequent attendee of Divisional Reunions, Comrade Keatley was a world war one veteran of the 303rd Engineers. He had retired last January as assistant supervisor of construction maintenance for the City of Newark.

World War One Officer  
Honored In Hawaii

Sweden's Royal Order of Vassa was awarded to retired Consul Harold P. Dahlquist at a ceremony in Hawaii late last summer, presented on behalf of His Majesty, Augustus Adolphus VI, King of Sweden.

Dahlquist, vice president and treasurer of the Oahu Transport Co, a native of New England and internationally known as a baritone singer in the late 1920's and early 1930's, served in the 310th Infantry in World War One as a 2nd Lieutenant of Company F. He is a resident of 612 Omaha Street, Honolulu.

(Flash reporter: George Walshek)

Comrade George Walshek, 310th Inf. vet, holds office in 3 veterans' organizations. Must be that Hawaiian climate that adds energy to retirement.

Two Signal Corps addresses — Charles Parker, 53 Arsdale Terr., East Orange, N.J., Hamilton (Ham Turner) Mintoma, Ala.

Harry Thourot reports our good friend Lolly Molteni, 303 Supply Train, has been hospitalized in the Hudson County Medical Centre, Jersey City, N. J., for a heart ailment. Here's hoping the illness is of remedial nature and a return to sound fitness soon and positive.

Wonderful to have our old Lightning stalwart, Past President, John Kennedy of New Hope, Pa., present at the last two executive meetings in Jersey City. The 311th Inf. World War One officer who edited The Flash and played such an important role in the management of association affairs up to the early forties came across the Delaware with our promising World War Two Vice-President and Flash colleague, Howard Ogden, 309th Inf. vet.

*Correction:* Name of Rudolph De Simone, 2019 S. Shepherd, Houston, Texas, whose membership was inaccurately reported as of the World War Two group, has been re-listed under World War One enrollments. We regret the error.



## With The 308th Field Artillery In World War One

*Some months ago, after long urging, I undertook to clear out the top shelves of a closet which is euphemistically called "mine." I came across a box containing such things as a pair of spiral puttees, a single spur, shoulder bars, collar ornaments, dog tags, a half used field message book, etc. These mementos evoked a flood of memories, the smell of the wet woods, gas, Hi-Exp., wood smoke... and other things. The rattle and thud of gunfire, the whistle and KROMPF of "les arrives," the ceaseless drip of the rain, the Ford ambulances and struggling horses bogged down in the knee deep mud, the rain... The box also held a letter I wrote my wife in November 1918, and I am impelled to copy this-after deleting a few personal words - and send it to my comrades of 1918-1919 to crystalize our memories, and share the nostalgia of our brief days of high adventure.*

*Yours, Bruce Payne*

### Batteries Along The Front

A Personal Narrative

HOUDAINVILLE, FRANCE

Entry on November 22, 1918

Chapter One

There is very little to do here these days for a Captain acting as a Major and so I am going to try to recall, exactly as they occurred, some of the events of the past three months; a pretty short term of active service as things go in these days, but quite long enough for me. All anyone can say about War is not enough.

Well, as you have already heard about the trip on the train and the detraining at the little place called Chaligny, and the hike to Bicquelay, I'll let that part go. But we hiked 30 Km. to reach a point about 15 from where we started, which may or may not be an evidence of Army efficiency. After a few days in camp at Bicquelay, a peach of a place in a pine grove and good swimming within reach in the Moselle, I was taken one Sunday afternoon, around the 25th of August, on my first trip to the "Front". I carried a gas mask and even a pistol, in my greenness. I met and spent the night with the B.C. of "E" Battery, 7th F.A. They had an ideal position in another beautiful little grove of pines, everything clean, pits all dug, and an ideal echelon about a mile away. There was a very comfortable dugout for the B.C. This battery also had three 90mm. guns, an ancient vintage of French artillery, with no recoil od traversing gear. They were located along the road under camouflage, about 100m. from the other guns. I had a fine visit with the B.C. - a man of considerable experience in ours as well as the British F.A. - and gathered all the dope on the sector, and the necessary barrages, signals, etc. As you can remember, it was still pretty quiet on the Moselle at this time and this particular position was so far back of the lines it was almost out of the war. However, it appeared very real to us

all to really have our guns where they could hit a Boche - perhaps. I went back to the Battery the next day and sent up Chalmers and crews for the three 90's. He departed full of glee, and Sergeant Rosenstein was tickled to pieces to go as Gunner Sergeant.

We took the whole regiment up after a few days, effected the relief of the 7th in the most approved style, all in one night, and settled down in our camps. It was really - compared to later eventualities - like a camping trip in Maine. The men on guard had a tremendous time and I guess I was awakened three times per night to smell for gas or look at a rocket or a flare. But after all, I think our uneasiness was due more to eagerness than to nerves - we sure were keen to go.

After about a week of this, the Colonel, Wolley, Rogers, LeMans and I went forward and chose positions for a big show which we began to feel was coming. Never was I so discouraged. Up a fairly stiff slope from the road was the front edge of a patch of woods. The whole inside edge of these woods and about 20 yards in front, was a mass of barbed wire. There I was to put in my battery and the three (damned by this time) 90's and all within three days! I sent up Chalmers and aworking party and we went to it. They had to live there and, as we of course dared not light a fire or show a light, they had to live on cold rations. We were within 1000m. of the Boche here and, as he was beginning to be very nervous, his balloons and planes were interrupting our work every few minutes. We also had our first experience with shell fire, as the Boche was harassing the roads and woods more all the time as his uneasiness increased. I was making two trips a day to the new position and, as it was impossible to go all the way by horseback in day-time, I was darned tired and irritable. You will remember that I only had Chalmers when we left Vannes.

After going into position, I received Hall and Thomas, two 2nd Lieuts., Reserve Officers. I also had Behnken, and after him, I received Leaman, a Wisconsin N.G. officer, an older man and able, but who came to us with a chip on his shoulder. So I had the Battery split into three parts and all under strangers, a situation which I hated. We continued working on the new position, never knowing when we would be called upon to move into it. It was a hell of a job. I moved up there myself finally, and arranged for the rolling kitchen to make up a hot meal each night, which helped things out and work went better. You see we had to do this work and leave absolutely no trace for the Boche to photograph and locate us from. How we did damn the balloons and planes and wonder where in hell our planes were and why the Boche should be allowed to make his leisurely survey at a very low altitude with no interruption by us. In my inexperience, I was worried too by the appearance of flash lights on the slope behind the old position and by the fact that the old French peasant, on whose land we were, persisted in making plough tracks in

the field which accurately marked the limits of the gun positions. I used to try and tell him what the devil he was doing, but he took refuge in an exasperating failure to understand my French, and finally, by appealing to higher authorities, forced us to pay for some potatoes we had taken. I am still of the opinion he was a spy and, whatever he was, the fact remains that the first position was shot to hell the night after we moved out, indicating that the Boche knew exactly where we were.

All the roads were full of troops at night and guns were appearing in every conceivable cover - from the ubiquitous 75's to huge naval guns. A French battery of 105's were right near us and we (the Captain and I) became great friends. (It was right here that I began to love this man Cathey - and also Stedman). He, the Captain, assured me what I was trying to do was impossible, but we told him we ate such things. He was an enormous assistance in loaning me his data of the French artillery service by which I was able to find a tree whose coordinates were known, and so locate my #1 gun. I certainly would have been lost without him. These were exciting days for us rookies - we all knew something big was coming off, and the Boche did too. He was nervous as a cat, shelling anything and everything that looked like a target, making roads and crossroads at night more than interesting, and his infantry were using flares all the time, which we were close enough to get the benefit of.

I put the ration carts and caissons in Cathey's charge and he would bring them up each night. I went down to the crossroads to meet them and right on the dot I'd hear the rattle of wheels in the darkness and call out "Sergeant Cathey?" - "Yes, sir, right here, sir." We would go along together and as we were beginning to learn the Boche's methodical ways, we'd wait till he had strafed the crossroads and then go on. (The next day at about 3 P.M. the Colonel showed up, gave me the barrage and the information that "D" Day was the next day). By this time we had laid a stretch of narrow-gauge track down the slope from the guns to the road (kept it covered with grass by day) and we hauled ammunition and food up in quick order. We were helped a lot by rainy weather which made the Boche's observation difficult.

I finally got the order to move the guns up, and started just at dusk, September 10. Ran into a perfect jam of traffic and swore and raged tremendously, insisting absolutely on the right of way, which artillery going into action has over anything else. I carefully and earnestly and profanely impressed this basic truth on the hearts and souls of my section chiefs and was rewarded by seeing Sergeant Hunter quietly dismount, ascent a truck, eject the Q.M.C. driver, and drive the offending truck out of the way into the ditch. We got through in good shape and time - that was the evening Van was killed. (II).

(To Be Continued)



# The Flash

DECEMBER, 1961 ★ JANUARY, 1962

## Dedicated to LIGHTNING DIVISION CONTACTS

Founded in France in 1919 as the newspaper of the 78th Army Division. A.E.F. Revived June 16, 1932 as the official publication of the 78th Division Veterans' Association. Published in six issues each year — February, April, June, August, October, December — by the publication office of the 78th Division Veterans' Association, Inc., Cliffside Park, N. J. Subscription price \$2.00 per year, included in yearly membership dues of \$3.00. Entered at Cliffside Park, N. J., Post Office as Second Class Matter under Act of March 3rd, 1879.

PUBLICATION AND MEMBERSHIP OFFICE  
762 William Place, Cliffside Park, N. J.

Dues of \$3.00 for Association membership which includes the \$2.00 subscription to the FLASH for one year should be sent to JOHN FUCHS, 78th Division Membership-Secretary, Box No. 56, Cliffside Park, N. J. General correspondence material for the FLASH should be mailed to the Association Secretary, JOHN GHEGAN, 975-52nd Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

## McDowell "Steps Retraced" Appreciated

Dear Editor; A fine letter!

Erasing the years by such perusal, we found ourselves back in Nielles and Lart and the picket line and the rumble of the front and the glows and pyrotechnic tracings on the curtain of night, not to mention our agony of almost starvation under British ration distribution—and the bombing at Roellecourt, the bees that stuck in our jam whenever our special Div. Hdqrs. Detachment was able to scrounge up something to eat, the warm ale, the defeatist attitude by many of our allied soldiers, the night fires on the St. Pol-Roellecourt Road — ducking in one headquarters or another in and around Thiaucourt and diving into one hole or another along the Woevre much to the discomfort of the doughboy occupants who probably felt we should stand up and take our ration of shrapnel like a true sacrifice, or detecting the completely unpatrolled mess line of the 82nd Div. Headquarters in the opening near our marking time bivouac at Camp Robeau and passing the word along, or salvaging German wire along the Aire and, surrendering to the consolation of numbers, to join the file of doughs going somewhere safe until shell fire warned us it was in the wrong direction, or supervising the 310th Headquarters, switchboard in Mme Paquelin's Estaminet in Vic de Chassenay, or — Oh, so many things were brought back — into battle and the great recuperation in and around Semur. Many Thanks.

Just a guy  
who was there

## Welcome Comrades

New Member by S.H. Smith - Robert J. Sargent, 553 Pierson St., Westfield, N.J. - 311th Inf., Co.A. New Members by Howard Ogden - Burnet D. Kitts, 1516 Harrison St., Philadelphia, Pa. - 309th Inf., Co K. and Rocco Quagliariello, 1 Harvin Road, Philadelphia, Pa. - 311th Inf. B2. and - Bernard Dubrow, 9228 Grace Lane, Philadelphia, Pa. - 310th Inf. D2. New Member by W.T. Mulligan - Earl G. Bennett, Chichester, New York-308 MGBn-B1. New Member by W. Mountney - William Eggeling, 1223 Newton Avenue, West Collingswood, N.J. - 311th Inf. B2. New Member by C. Armbricht, Jr. - Samuel N. Bandel, 1418 No. Hobart Blvd., Los Angeles, California -

308 FA-B1.

New Members signed by Phila. Area Chapter - William H. James Co I 310 Inf., WW2, Plymouth Valley, Pa. - Charles H. Manwiller, 309 Inf., WW2, Reading, Pa. - Stanley F. Grabowski, 303rd. Eng., WW2, Parkland, Pa. - Irv. Lopoten, 2nd. Bn. H.Q., 310 Inf., WW2 Phila., Pa. - Robert Walsh, A.T. Co. 310 Inf., WW2, Phila., Pa. - Edmund W. Kwiatkowski, Regt. H.Q. 310 Inf., WW2, Mt. Ephraim, N.J. - Edwin M. Jacoby, Co. B 310 Inf., WW2, Pennsauken, N.J. - George Carrullo Co. D 311 Inf., WW2, Phila., Pa. - Thomas J. Rossman, Co. K 310 Inf., WW2, Phila., Pa. - Frank Ramsey, Co. F 310 Inf., WW2, Hunting-ton Valley, Pa. - Paul F. Oeste, 307 F.A. Batt. C WW2, Phila., Pa. - John M. Burns, 307 F.A. Batt. C WW2, Phila., Pa. - G. Thomas Caseaden Jr. Co. L 310 Inf., WW2, Norristown, Pa. - William I. Wampole, 903 F.A. H.Q. WW2, North Wales, Pa. - Howard W. Schultz, 311th. Inf., WW2, Collingdale, Pa. - Gilbert Stewart, 310 Inf., WW2, Williamstown, N.J.

Philadelphia Area Membership Committee: John Eden, 1000 Cheltenham Ave., Phila., Pa. 309th Inf. Co. C - Russell Ertell, 15 Homestead Road, Levittown, Pa. 311th Inf., Co. K.

Number of new members enrolled by each of the following members:

W.W.I	Emile Parent	1
	A. Brignola	1
	Charles Keeler	1
	W.T. Mulligan	1
	C. Armbricht	1
	S.H. Smith	1
	W. Mountney	1
	By Inquiry	1

W.W.2	H.W. Pilcher	5
	Harry Whitman	2
	Howard Ogden	15
	John E. Ghegan	4

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## 78th Division Spotlights In Veterans' Day Parade

### Brig. Gen. Morss On Reviewing Stand

On Saturday, November 11th, several thousand marchers in Newark followed a red, white and blue stripe down the center of Broad Street, beginning at 11 a.m. Singled out for particular honors this year was the 78th Division, known as the "Lightning Division."

The 78th Division, Organized Reserve, now stationed at Camp Kilmer, sent units to march in the traditional parade. In the first World War, the 312th Infantry Regiment, whose original complement made up almost entirely of Newarkers, was part of the 78th. The 312th lost 300 men killed in action at St. Mihiel and in the Meuse Argonne offensives. Over 1000 men of the Regiment were either wounded or gassed during the battle action.

Representing the Division, Regimental Remnants of that early glory carried their memories of Grand Pre, Bois De Bonvaux, La Saucisse, Gois De Loges and the countless objectives of field and woods in their path as civilian participants in the ceremony, remembering the somewhat subdued and wineless exuberance they had mustered long years ago when confirmation of the big news reached them in the divisional concentration area of St. Menchould, France, when there were some fireworks, some firing of small arms, some expressions of jubilation, some sharing of whatever beverage could be scrounged, and the happy shock of survival guaranteed. The raw, cold soil was still there, the dank smelly blankets hung to dry within the shelter of dank, smelly farm and forest land. Whatever billets were available reeked of poultry and beast. The lice within the clothing seams knew of no armistice. Elsewhere in France, Lightning casualties were scattered all over the base hospital network, in Langres, Paris, Vichy, etc., recuperating, awaiting further surgery or treatment, many facing the grim prospect of a lifetime future of disability. Others of more recent tagging, were still undergoing emergency treatment at evacuation centres.

## Membership Secretary Report

Members in good standing	W.W.1	600
	W.W.2	418
	O.R.C.	2
		1020