



328th Infantry Combat Team

The Holiday Inn on the Boardwalk in Atlantic City where we held our reunion last October periodically publishes a newsletter titled Salute honoring military groups which they mail to me. Two of the items mentioned in the Spring 1997 issue dealt with men of the 328th.

One stated its a small world followed by just how small. During WWII, **Bernie Bunchet** of I Co. was wounded on the battlefield. A medic he had never met before, **Al Zottola**, rescued and treated him. Thirty-five years later, they ran into each other at a mall in Pittsburgh and discovered they lived only a few blocks from one another.

The other was a recollection of the war by **Charles Fretwell**, also of I Co. He said he wanted to share a part of the role of our infantry and the price the infantry units paid as they engaged the enemy in battle.

I Co. left Fort Jackson at full strength, 184 enlisted men and officers. During the seven months I Co. was in battle, 60 men were killed, 161 were wounded and 10 were missing in action. All told, a total of 800 men were on the company's roster at one time or another.

Nicholas Milcic, M Co., wrote and asked for the address of **John Welsh** of M Co. whose name appeared as an attendee at our reunion in the Nov. Dec. Doings. **Nicholas** is a member at large of the YDVA but was not on our mailing list. He is now.

Earl Schaad of Waterford, Ohio phoned me in February. He was in Florida visiting his daughter (1 of 13 children) and located my name on the internet. He was in I Co. and 3rd Bn Hq Co. He told me that when we were in Linz, I noticed that he needed dental work and arranged for him to see the dentist. Although **Earl's** name was vaguely familiar, I don't recall the incident nor remember him.

Henry Coltrane, Cannon Co., also was on the internet thanks to his granddaughter, **Christie**. He made contact with **William Fishkin**, also of Cannon Co. They separated in 1946 and **Will** has not been in contact with anyone from the Y.D. since then.

Will's address is 15055 San Jose St., Mission Hill, CA 91345. Phone (818) 361-5849.

George Fisher of K Co., attended the 328th luncheon in Boca Raton, FL in March. He said that 4 of the attendees were from the group of about 150 who came from the ASTP program in Providence College and joined the 328th in Tenn.

The four of them discussed dedicating a plaque to Providence College in memory of their buddies who did not return.

George would like to have all ASTP Providence College alumni contact him for this purpose. His address is 3456 S. Ocean Blvd., Suite 503E, Palm Beach, FL 33480. Phone (407) 585-7086.

Angelo Marcarelli called to tell me that **Frank Novicki**, C Co., medic, who has emphysema, is in the Gaylor Hospital, Wallingford, CT 06492.

I spoke with **Allen Gordon**, **Santo Maruca** and **Dave Wittner** recently. They all have medical problems. I guess the aging process is catching up with a lot of us.

Fred Puglisi, our Treasurer, has recovered nicely from an 8 day stay in the hospital in Dec. He and his wife **Denise**, went to their place on the Riviera, France the end of March and will return the middle of May.

Richard Dalbke of E Co., is going to the convention in St. Louis and wondered if the 328th would get together there. I hope so but will have to see if it can be arranged.

I know several who plan to attend including myself. The 328th has always had a good attendance at the Midwest reunions which indicates that we will be well represented there.

I will close on a sad note. Early in the evening of April 3rd, after the snowstorm, **Fran Gardner**, 80 Shawmut St., Quincy, MA 02169, Phone (617) 472-5610, phoned me. We chatted for a while about various things. He mentioned that the inclement weather bothered him somewhat due to his emphysema but otherwise everything appeared to be O.K.

The next day his wife, **Priscilla** called and said that **Fran** had died during the night.

Fran was in Hq Co., K Co., and 3rd Bn Hq Co. where he and I served together when **Fran** came to the 328th.

He was actively involved in our reunions from their inception up to the present time.