



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
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Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year



**THE
PRESIDENT'S
CORNER**

FELLOW THUNDERBOLTS

By COL. BOB YORK

Looking through my regimental history book last evening I ran across a brief account of what the Christmas season was like just twelve years ago. We had moved from Luxembourg to the Hurtgen Forest. When we arrived we were greeted with Nazi propaganda leaflets informing us that we had been given a damnable Christmas present by being transferred to this section where "death awaits you behind every tree". As it turned out these leaflets were more factual than propaganda. Yours truly, in fact, stood too close to a mortar shell and spent Christmas in the hospital. Many others were less fortunate. Everyone was cold, wet, and miserable. Our misery was increased at that time when, having accomplished our mission of breaking out of the Hurtgen to the Roer River and looking forward to a well-deserved rest, we were immediately shifted to attack the northern shoulder of Von Rundstedt's counter-offensive which seriously threatened the entire



**BEST WISHES FOR A
MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM
YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD**



Western front. Not since the battle of Valley Forge, I believe, had any American Army had to fight under more miserable conditions. I was often amazed at what the human body could endure.

With these memories of the Christmas of 1944 in mind, it should be easier for us to count our blessings at this Christmas time.

On behalf of all the officers I wish every member of the Association a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

P. S. Will every member get a member in January.

1957 CONVENTION NEWS

By HARRY LOCKWOOD—329

On Tuesday evening, October 16, the New Jersey Chapter held its regular monthly meeting at the 71st Regiment Armory in New York City rather than Legion Hall in Cresskill where the previous meetings had been held.

All business was shelved except that of trying to choose the hotel which will be headquarters for the 83rd Annual Reunion August 15, 16, 17, 1957.

The convention committee, or at least that part of it in charge of hotel accommodations, gave a very detailed report and before the meeting ended two hotels were left from which to make a choice. After putting it to a vote it was decided that the Hotel Roosevelt at 45th Street and Madison Avenue will be the one that will act as host for the 83rd during convention time next.

It was a tough decision to make and required a lot of running around, conferences



**YOUR THUNDERBOLT STAFF
WISHES FOR YOU AND YOURS
THE VERY MERRIEST CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPIEST NEW YEAR**



with hotel powers that be and many discussions with and among the men of the New Jersey Chapter, and I'm sure that the choice we have made will receive a vote of confidence from the executive board in that the Roosevelt is one of the finest hotels in New York City, in the better part of town and just a few minutes from many of the points of interest.

Now the task at hand is to arrange the many other details but I am sure that with all the promised help and ideas we will really make this the one Reunion long to be remembered and talked about for a long time to come and I feel confident that we will bring out a lot of men and their wives who have not attended many of the previous ones.

In closing let me remind the fellow Thunderbolts that things will be humming from here on in and that I'll keep them posted on the progress we are making for the coming convention next August.

The boys of the New Jersey Chapter all join me in wishing everyone a most pleasant holiday and much success and prosperity in the New Year.

**THE
CHAPLAIN'S
CORNER**



Christ is Christmas

By BILL SHUMAN—Div. Arty. Hq.

With the approach of Christmas, all of us should ponder and ask "What is Christmas". None of us could answer the same but I feel you will agree that Christmas is more than just a yule log, some holly or Christmas Tree. And it surely is more than just giving of gifts—more than a big meal at home with our loved ones and friends. All those items of course are a part of our Christmas Season, but we should remind ourself that "*Christmas is Christ*" — *the Christ of giving, the Christ of love, freedom, justice and peace.*

The real joy of Christmas is a joy that nothing can take away, nor is it a joy that any earthly wealth can give. Christmas surely belongs forever to eternity. Christmas is the Birth of Freedom, for it is only by following Christ that we are free. Fixing our faith upon Him is the way of peace, joy and the life to come—one chief element of whose felicity is expressed in the words "They shall see His face".

Buddies, at this Christmas Season let us engage the vision of our souls afresh with God and Christ and the beauty of holiness. "Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God."

Let us all remind ourselves that a great life is itself living words, making real among us in the beauty and power of it what we could not otherwise understand.

No, Buddies—not until man puts aside hate, loftiness, evil passions, greediness, and all the other evil things that lead one astray, and walks the road that had its beginning at Bethlehem, will the real Spirit of Christmas and its peace illuminate the world in which we live.

As your Division Association Chaplain, I want to wish you and yours a Christmas that is Christ and acclaim to you the old, old story, "Glory, to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."



PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

REQUESTS HELP

By LEE TITUS—G-331

As most of you fellows know, publicity is the key to the growth of an organization. With ample funds to work with publicity is relatively easy to manage. We of the 83rd are not in the position to spend money to publicize our 1957 convention and to notify men of the existence of our association; therefore we must all pitch in and do our bit to encourage our buddies throughout the country to join the association and meet us in New York in 1957.

You may ask: "What can I do to help?" Here are a few things you can do right away.

1. Colonel York has requested numerous times that everyone send in his list of addresses to the National Secretary, George



MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

**THE NEW-MIAMI-VALLEY CHAPTER
DAYTON, OHIO**



Cooley. This is a very good idea, but go just a bit further, contact these men yourself. They are your close buddies and you should encourage them to join the Association and attend conventions. A personal note from you might give them more incentive to join.

2. Appoint yourself as your unit correspondent. Send out a form letter to all your buddies and let them know exactly who attended the previous convention. Inform them of the complete program. In other words make them *want* to belong.

3. Be an active worker. We need all the men we can get to be contacts for their local newspapers and TV stations.

4. If you have any ideas pertaining to a National publicity program, send them in.

5. If you have any contacts with newspapers, magazines or TV we need your help. We especially need someone who can get our convention information relayed through one of the wire services.

6. If there is an 83rd Chapter near you attend one of their meetings. If you desire to organize a chapter, we can send you list of every available name of men who live in your area.

7. When you send Christmas cards to your buddies add a few words of encouragement to join the Association.

Let each of us set a personal goal of at least one new member before August, 1957.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER**

**SEASONS GREETINGS
TO OUR
THUNDERBOLT BUDDIES
WASHINGTON, D. C. CHAPTER**

**SEASONS GREETINGS
TO OUR
THUNDERBOLT BUDDIES
PITTSBURGH CHAPTER**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
CLEVELAND, OHIO CHAPTER**

CHRISTMAS 1956

By HARRY LOCKWOOD—329

When Summer green turns to Autumn brown and then to Winter white
We suddenly begin to realize that Christmas is in sight
Another holiday season of tinsel, holly and toys
And laughing, happy faces of little girls and boys
Of family reunions, carolers and such
Visits from old friends we don't see very much
Decorated patios, terraces and lawns
Preparing the big dinner starting Christmas morn
The excitement and the tension and the joy you can't erase
And of course the sink full of dishes staring you in the face
The handful of greeting cards the postman left each day
You marvelled at his stamina as he trudged along his way
The gaily colored wrappings of the packages you see
There's something there for everyone beneath the Christmas tree
The neighbors cheerful greeting as they call and wave "Hello"
The warmth of the old hearth fire as the wind begins to blow
And so when winter white again returns to summer green
With another season known as spring sandwiched in between
Remember all this came about from ocean unto ocean
Through the expediency of fellowship, loyalty and devotion
Now in this festive holiday season and that for which it stands
For the freedoms which are our birthright that are missing in other lands
Let's all give "Thanks" and pray real hard it will always be that way
With peace on earth, Good Will toward men the order of the day.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
NEW JERSEY CHAPTER**

**SEASONS GREETINGS
TO OUR
THUNDERBOLT BUDDIES
WARREN, OHIO CHAPTER**
