



THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 11, No. 1

WARREN, OHIO

October, 1957

DAYTON, OHIO in 1958!

The Miami-Valley Chapter, Dayton, Ohio, are already in full swing with the organization of committees and the formulating of plans for the next THUNDERBOLT Reunion to be held in Dayton, Ohio next August. All Dayton area men of the 83rd Division Association are invited to attend the Miami-Valley Chapter meetings and take part in the reunion planning. For more information contact Leo Boyd, 3523 Riverside Drive, Dayton, or Ed Fink, 2030 King Ave., Dayton, or Del Rinehart, 716 N. Gettysburg Ave., Dayton. As the news of the reunion comes in it will be printed in forthcoming issues of the THUNDERBOLT.

THUNDERBOLT

Official Publication

83rd Infantry Division Association

THE THUNDERBOLT is written by and for past members of the 83rd Infantry Division, World War II, and is published at 1459 Beechwood St., N. E., Warren, Ohio

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Dear Buddies:

The night of our Candle Torch memorial ceremonies at our Reunion in New York made me wander in thought as our good friend Ralph Neppel lit each candle or torch in memory of the departed of our great "Thunderbolt Division." My mind took me to the beautiful poem "In Flanders Fields" and thence to American's



Answer to that famous poem. Read it with me:

*"Rest Ye in peace, ye Flanders dead"
The fight that ye so bravely led
We've taken up. And we will keep
True faith with you who lie asleep
With each a cross to mark his bed,
In Flanders fields"*

*Fear not that ye have died for naught.
The torch ye threw to us we caught.
Ten million hands will hold it high,
And Freedom's light shall never die!
We've learned the lesson that we taught
In Flanders fields."*

83rd Inf. Div. Assn. Chaplain
Wm. O. "Bill" Shuman

SUBJECT: Open Letter

Dear Thunderbolts:

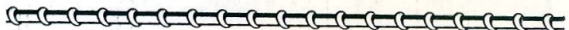
You've heard enough from me for the past year so I should be quiet. Nevertheless, I want to make just one final request before I bow out completely. I want to request each member to give my successor, Harry Lockwood, and his officers your support for the coming year. Harry has worked heart and soul for the Association since it was started. He has never spared himself in any way as far as Association affairs are concerned. In arranging for the convention held in New York this year, he devoted many many hours of his spare time to insure its success. No man in the Association is more deserving of the honor you have bestowed upon him and no man is more deserving of your support.



Our paid-up strength for 1956-57 was 750. If each of you who paid your dues last year will renew them right away, you will start Harry off with a bang. He and his officers will then be able to devote their time and energy to rounding up new members. In this way, the Association will continue to grow — something we all want. Send in those 1957-58 dues NOW.

Good luck, Harry.

Robert H. York
Colonel, Infantry



1957-58

ASSOCIATION DUES

ARE NOW DUE

GET THEM IN

NOW



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Buddies,

At the reunion we held this year in New York City, the one we have just completed, you bestowed upon me the honor of electing me your president for the ensuing year.

At that time, when I wasn't too choked up to talk, I graciously accepted that honor



with gratitude and humility, with gratitude because one can not help but be grateful for the opportunity of serving such as fine an organization as ours in such an honored capacity and with humility because when I think of all the men equally and in some cases far more qualified I can not help but be humble and flattered. To each and every one of you my heartfelt thanks and with your help and cooperation, I trust that when my term of office expires I may turn the gavel over to my successor with the pride and dignity of a job well done.

My predecessor, our good friend and buddy, Col. Bob York, during his tenure of office, among other notable achievements inaugurated a "Sponsor a Buddy" campaign which, I believe should be continued by all means and which I also think should be given a bit more response.

Many of you who come to the reunions year after year find that your buddies are conspicuous by their absence. It may be that unfortunate circumstances is the reason, it could be that they have lost track of you due to an aversion that a great many people have for writing, or that they may not even know that there is such an outfit as the 83rd Infantry Division Association. Whatever the reason it might be rectified by putting \$4.00 in an envelope with the name of a buddy, or even without the name of a buddy, to George Cooley, our Secretary-treasurer. He, in turn, will send a dues card to the person you specify or to some other Thunderbolt whom he may have on file. In that way you not only help a former buddy but you will also gain a friend and the association has gained a member.

Let's all do our bit and try to increase the membership of the association to 1000 members which actually is but a small percentage of what it should be.

At this time I might say that the hospitality of the Lockwood Manse is extended to any of you who may be in the neighborhood; stop in, have a drink, have dinner and talk over old times and to you FELLOW TRAVELERS, you'll find me in the EAST, the eastern part of the country, that is.

I am looking forward to a big year, one that will go down in the annals of our association history. Quite often we have to be prodded in to doing things, it's so easy to let the other guy do it so, let's adopt the attitude that each of us is the other guy and in that way we can all say: "I did my share".

Again, thank you very much for the opportunity of serving as your president and if I can follow in the footsteps of those who have preceded me and do as good a job as most of them did I will be proud to have my name included among theirs in future posterity.

Don't forget the "Sponsor a Buddy Campaign" and watch us grow.

Sincerely,

Harry W. Lockwood, Pres.
83rd Infantry Division Assn.

WARREN CHAPTER ELECTS LEE TITUS PREXY

Lee Titus, G-331, was elected to head the Warren, Ohio Chapter for the year 1957-58. Other officers elected were: Dick Kelly, Hq.-908, 1st Vice Pres., Joe Sotak, Hq.-322, 2nd Vice Pres. The job Secretary-Treasurer will be handled by John Teringo, G-331. Our best wishes for a most successful year.

***now that we are back in our respective grooves again after another enjoyable Reunion, the boys, (and girls) are getting our new club rooms in downtown Warren, Ohio, ready for quite a round of social get-togethers and parties and dances. We are going to try to contact as many in the area that we can by phone and postcards so that as many as possible can help us take part in our Warren Chapter affairs.

The Warren Chapter members are very grateful to our past slate of officers for the wonderful job of running our Chapter this past year. Especially to Chuck Tomazin, B-322, and Andy Pankovich, Ser-330, who served us so faithfully in the jobs of President and Secretary-Treasurer for the past three years. A job well done that you can be proud of fellows.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

By DAVE ROSENBERG - F331st

Guest speaker General Clarence Huebner, former Divisional Commander of the big Red One Division, and our Col. Bob York's erstwhile Commander delivered a fine talk on the achievements of the Thunderbolt Division. His well received speech highlighted the 83rd Division's march across Europe, as he spoke every one became more proud to call himself a Thunderbolt. General Huebner also touched on the fine record of Bob York as an officer with the First Division. We of the 331st Division know full well of Bob York's ability.

Gracing the head table was a most attractive woman, capturing everyone's eye, her charm was evident. Our curiosity was soon satisfied as Col. Bob York claimed her as his own "bride". PS: Bob York has eyes for none but her. The both of them make the handsomest grandparents we have met. Those who were there will agree with us



Col. and Mrs. Robert H. York

One of the most touching moments of the entire reunion was the greeting extended to Ralph Nepple at his arrival. The hour was most late. Everyone left their rooms to congregate at the 45th Street entrance, at his arrival everyone broke out in cheers and applause. Then came a heart rending moment as George Kirk, heroic medic elbowed his way through the crowd, greeted Ralph Nepple, and proudly stated, "I can carry his bag, I carried him off the battlefield." This moment equally touched Ralph Nepple and he so stated as he spoke at the banquet.



Left to Right: Tom Gambon, Bob Walsh, M/Sgt. LaVern Belzer and George Kirk.

No reunion can be a one man affair. To our new President Harry Lockwood and the following men on his committee, Karl Burkhard, King Myers, Manny Epstein, Bob Walsh, Joe Pertusi, Emil Wehling, Vida Vitolasari, John Dinicola, Joe DiPerri, Joe Barta, Vinnie Arvidson, Dave Benick and Dave Feig our strongest commendation for a job well done.



Dave Rosenberg points to the birdie for a surprised Joe Pertusi and a happy (?) Harry Lockwood.

Speaking of jobs well done, this reunion was made more pleasant by the outstanding work done by our hostess Fern Lockwood. She was everywhere, smiling, helpful, eager to assist and make everyone's stay enjoyable. She was a one woman telephone answering service. An exceptional hostess, a wonderful woman, a true lady Thunderbolt.

This convention more than before were graced by the womanfolk and children. All the children were precious. Our meeting with the Cooleys and their adorable children, George Jr. and Maureen, and the Frank McGrogans fair daughter Barbara, sure were real thrills. These kids reflect the fine training of their parents.

Leo Schneider and his lovely wife Shirley have that exceptional talent of making all feel at home. A more perfect team as host and hostess cannot be found. Southern hospitality personified, gracious, charming, sincere, are but mild adjectives to describe their mein. As in previous reunions their suite of rooms becomes everyone's stop sometime or other during the convention. 'Twas at their room that Major Walt Ashmore made his collect telephone call to Capt. Mike Snyder at 3 a. m. in the morning, of course everyone else chimed in with their greeting, poor Mike not enuff a big phone bill, no sleep . . .

We will always remember Sam Aiello as he greeted Major Harry Fleming, 908 FA Chief. His cry of joy and pleasure, his ear to ear smile made the trip to New York worthwhile to both. Harry Fleming will be remembered by all 2nd BN 331st men. His fire missions saved our back sides many times. With his forward observers he ventured always. In the midst of every attack Harry Fleming was present. Harry Fleming also had another pleasant surprise for all of us, his charming wife Kay.

Year in and year out, each convention finds Baker Company 331st well represented. As also a former B Company man I feel pleased to see them all with their wives. John Bernard, Curt Deisher, Hubert Edwards, John Guzik, Elmer Palm, Frank Powell, Bill Klutz, Les Schwadren, Frank Thompson and Charlie Lesser spent many a pleasant hour together. Their bull sessions are endless. Their comradeship a wonderful thing to behold, a joy to remember. We all can take a lesson from Charlie Lesser, coming from Seattle, Washington his courageous view of life, his overcoming of handicap, that would sour all of lesser strength, is remarkable and a lesson in courage.

Another Baker Company 331st man present was Frank Nappo of Union City, N. J. Frank and I shared many a fox hole together. A religious man, Frank overcame his physical weaknesses to carry on in a most courageous manner. All Third Platoon men will remember Frank and were glad to see him.

Truly one of the liveliest group present was the Philadelphia Chapter representatives. Our chapter room was always packed. Good fellowship prevailed. We of the Philadelphia Chapter take a back seat to no one. The liquid refreshments were endless, a temporary setback due to the slowness of getting ice cubes was over come. My good wife Ann led a foraging party and presto Phila Chapter had ice cubes to spare and enough to give all. It seems that the ice making machine was next door to our CP. Of course our fine singing voices needed a little help, so from another auditorium we "borrowed" a piano. We will never win prizes, but we sure can outsing everyother chapter. As Ann Rosenberg banged on the piano Sam Aiello, Al Belvedere, Joe Ponzi sang out like mad. The Redmonds, the McGrogans, the Belvederes, the Piscitellis, the Paulinos, the Digiambrosinos, Walt Sammler, the Volpes, and many countless others will remember the New York convention. We all had remarkable hectic joyous times. Our chapter room clearly depicted and teemed with good fellowship. The stories told by Ann Rosenberg will be remembered by all. All Phila Chapter men upbraided me for not bringing Ann to our monthly meetings, in fact they warned me either she attends or I stay home. O. K. fellows you win, but remember I warned you that girl is tremendous. . . .



Dave and Ann Rosenberg of the lively Philadelphia Chapter.

New York is a fine town for shopping Ruth Paulino, Vice President Ed's charming wife, treated herself royally. She now is the proud possessor of a huge diamond ring. The sparkle equals the light in her blue eyes. Since no woman can resist a bargain Ruth came back from Fifth Avenue with the "Rock" of Gibraltar . . .

The Warren Chapter are no slouches as hosts either. Their chapter room was a favorite stop for all. Drinks were on the house for all. At the banquet they made a tremendous hit with their embroidered string neckties, its startling design portrays the Warren Chapter's ability to initiate new steps, and be leaders. A grand bunch of men and women . . . When the dance band played the polkas, everyone yeilded the floor to the Warren and Cleveland chapter men. They sure can step . . .



Saturday night in the Warren Chapter C. P.



The largest group to travel by plane to the reunion was from the Warren, Ohio Chapter. Pictured above, *left to right*: G. Bellay, G. Kilpatrick, J. Teringo, C. Tomazin, Liz Skovran and M. Skovran, "Big nose" Titus and Roscoe Gauchey. Not pictured, Olga Teringo who drew the camera assignment.

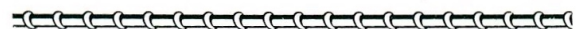


A part of the group of husbands and wives of "A" Battery 322nd FA BN.



The largest representation from any single Company at the reunion was from G Company, 331st Infantry. *Kneeling, left to right*: Bob Piette, Oscar Rutstein, John Teringo, Joe Philipone. *Standing rear*: Clyde (short-round) Flannery, Mike Mizerock, Les Gaynor, Lee Titus and Don Swartz.

As a parting word, it's impossible to catch all the fun at the convention and try to write about it. You must be there You won't miss a single one, once you get on the band wagon. Start now your plans to attend the 1958 reunion at Dayton, Ohio See you there. . . .



DAYTON, OHIO

IN

1958



New York Reunion A Smash Hit

11th Annual Convention

Spectacular Success

By DAVE ROSENBERG, F-331st

Our buddies of the New Jersey Chapter presented a smashing Broadway hit that had the SRO sign out. All Thunderbolts who attended were lavish in their praise for the fine program arranged by Harry Lockwood and his hard working associates. This reunion was marked by the increase in attendance by the wives and children of the Thunderbolts. This is a true barometer of the rise of the popularity of annual reunions. Thursday, Aug. 15, like the succeeding days were beautiful sun filled days. Mother nature did her bit to make the reunion a shiny success. Many Thunderbolts arrived early in the week and found Harry Lockwood and Col. Bob York ready to greet all and lend a helping hand to entertain and play the good hosts. All those who arrived on Thursday found the registration headquarters ready and speedily organized to greet and provide with a program that satisfied everyone. Tickets for tour of the most interesting U N Building and tickets for an outstanding tour of the fascinating New York Harbor. Thursday evening an entertaining cocktail party was well attended and enjoyed by all. The drinks were plentiful and were only topped by the joyous gay time had by all. The conclusion of the scheduled cocktail party was the but the beginning. A tour of the various Chapter C P's was a must for everyone. Good cheer abounded, good liquor, music, songs and even dances lasted til the wee hours. From their war time experiences of little sleep, the Thunderbolts made the Friday business meeting a well attended and interesting one. Col. Bob York skillfully conducted the meeting and no one can say that all National Association business was not conducted in an above board manner. The individual unit meetings followed and committees were named to draw up a slate of officers and arrive at the 1958 reunion site. Again tickets were offered for interesting tours, radio programs, television programs and Radio City Hall tickets. The evening program brought an interesting and spicy

stag beer party. Needless to say the female entertainers were greeted with enthusiasm and high spirits. At its conclusion the women folk joined the Thunderbolts and watched a kineoscope filming of a T V program that depicted the 83rd Division's capture of the St. Malo Fortress. Again all departed to the various chapter rooms to continue the never ending bull sessions and fun. By Saturday morning the registration of the Thunderbolts was at full blast. The Saturday meeting like the previous one was opened by Chaplain Bill Shuman. Col. Bob York presided over the well attended meeting. Unanimously the hard working sincere Harry Lockwood was elected President. The newly formed Ohio Valley Chapter offered the City of Dayton as the 1958 site and its offer was accepted.

The Saturday banquet and dance will be long remembered. The indoor memorial service truly a work of art. The splendid color guard of the First Army Corp trooped to the center of the floor, then in true keeping of the spirit of the occasion Chaplain Shuman read the heart rendering ode dedicated to our fallen comrades. Then with all lights dimmed, our Congressional Medal of Honor Winner Ralph Nepple lit memorial candles to commemorate each units deceased heros. This most touching candle light service will long be remembered.

Then while a sparkling Army band of the First Army Corp. regaled us with their fine music we dined. The meal was excellent and was enjoyed by all. The entertainment that followed was tops. No one could ask for a more complete one. Than dancing followed until two in the morning. Needless to say the Thunderbolt boys are swell dancers. Waltz, polka, fox trot, cha cha, tango or what have you, everyone danced. As in previous nights all Thunderbolts gathered until the next morning's light to talk, sing and make merry. This was a successful convention. Like all past ones, every one came away saying it would be a tough one to beat, yet somehow each new one does surpass the past ones. One has to attend one reunion and every succeeding one becomes a must. Take the test! Make Dayton, Ohio in '58, you won't regret it.

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

1459 Beechwood, N. E.

Warren, Ohio

Sec. 34.66, P. L. & R.

U. S. POSTAGE

P A I D

WARREN, OHIO

Permit No. 319

*J. Prentice
35 Bodwell St.
Hartford, 14 Conn.*

Form 3547 Requested

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP:

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City or Town _____ State _____

Co. _____ Regt. or Bn. _____

I have been honorably discharged from Army Service _____ or I am still on
active duty _____.

Enclosed check or money order \$(4.00) payable to:

83rd Infantry Division Association

1459 BEECHWOOD STREET, N. E., WARREN, OHIO

Date _____ Signature _____